United Nations Peacebuilding Fund

GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME[1] NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 31 DECEMBER 2011

Programme Title & Project Number	Country, Locality(s), Thematic/Priority Area(s)[2]
• Programme Title: Promoting non-violent, free and credible elections through enhanced participation of non-state actors • Programme Number *(if applicable)* PBF/SLE/A-8 • MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[3] 00077292	*(if applicable)* *Country/Region: Sierra Leone* *Thematic/Priority: Democratic Governance*

Participating Organization(s)	Implementing Partners
• UNDP *(The report on the PBF components of the project is included in the broader Annual Report on the Election Basket Fund)*	• UNIPSIL, PPRC, IMC, Inter Religious Council for Sierra Leone

Programme/Project Cost (US$)		Programme Duration
PBF Contribution: • *by Agency (if applicable)*	$5,0000,000	Overall Duration *24 months*
Agency Contribution • *by Agency (if applicable)*		Start Date[4] *01-01-2011*
Government Contribution *(if applicable)*		End Date (or Revised End Date)[5] 31-12-2012 Please note that the overall Electoral Support Programme has a life cycle of 4 years and ends 31-12-2014
Other Contributions (donors) *(if applicable)*		Operational Closure Date[6] 31-12-2015
TOTAL:		Expected Financial Closure Date 01-06-2016

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.	Report Submitted By
Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach* ☐ Yes X No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy* Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach* ☐ Yes X No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*	o Name: Barbara-Anne Krijgsman o Title: Head of the Business Development and Oversight Unit o Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP o Email address: barbara-anne.krijgsman@undp.org

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[1] The term "programme" is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

[2] Strategic Results, as formulated in the Performance Management Plan (PMP) for the PBF; Sector for the UNDG ITF.

[3] The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to "Project ID" on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

[4] The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the MPTF Office GATEWAY

[5] As per approval by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

[6] All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MPTF Office.

I   Background

Since 2004, UN and its partners have supported Sierra Leone's Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) to implement a strategic planning and reform process, as well as prepare for and administer the 2007 elections, the country's second national election since the end of the 11-year civil war in 2002. With the successful conduct of these elections, local elections in 2008 and by-elections held since, Sierra Leone has made important gains in the consolidation of its post-conflict democracy and progress towards self-sufficient administration of its own elections. Yet significant concerns remain going into the next electoral cycle. A fragile political situation characterized by political polarization and regional and ethnic divisions could become exacerbated during the complex 2012 electoral process that involves the conduct of presidential, parliamentary and local council elections with a possible presidential run-off election. This, combined with a weak economy including high levels of unemployment, particularly among youth, could negatively impact on electoral disputes and conflict management around the electoral process. The potential for conflict related to the electoral process is of utmost concern to the Government, civil society and the international community. All intend to focus their support on fostering an environment that is conducive to the holding of credible elections and strengthening mechanisms that administer and oversee the electoral process and party competition in that process.

This Programme, managed by UNDP and implemented in close cooperation with UNIPSIL, is expected to contribute to these objectives. Specifically, by the programme's end, it is expected that three main intended outcomes will be achieved, namely: 1) Electoral institutions have the capacity to administer technically sound, credible and sustainable elections (with progressively less international support); 2) Improved public confidence and participation in the electoral process; and 3) Election-related conflict managed for peaceful polls (before, during and after).

II   Executive Summary

Output 1.1
National Electoral Commission
The National Electoral Commission (NEC) under its current leadership is taking bold steps towards national ownership of electoral management. NEC has throughout the preparations for the November 2012 elections led the process of defining the parameters for the biometric voter registration (BVR) and all other aspects of elections including the reform of the electoral law. NEC continued throughout 2011 to administer by-elections with no international support. NEC is improving its communications with all stakeholders as evidences by the piloting of the biometric voter registration in open view of the public and in its consistent participation in the Election Support Programme Steering Committee.

NEC has increased the technical foundation of the electoral process addressing some of the concerns from the 2007 elections related to the voters register and the time required for announcement of results. These challenges will be addressed through the introduction of biometric voter registration and a decentralized

tallying and result system. NEC should be commended for these bold decisions.   While considerable capacities have been build in NEC overtime, it should be recognized that the technical complexity of the new elements introduced in the electoral process 2012 means NEC still requires international technical support, which in many cases may be requested at the last minute when the capacity limitations are obvious. There are, and will be, aspects of NEC's management of the electoral processes which may not fulfil the expectations of international partners but technical support coupled with constructive engagement is the only way NEC can overcome the challenges of managing the complex 2012 electoral administration.

A successful 2012 election will be a concluding step for Sierra Leone's peace consolidation process and NEC is fully aware of the crucial role the Commission has to play. Following are some of the challenges and suggested way forward.

Voter Registration
Constitutionally NEC is mandated to update the voters register once in three years. NEC has opted for Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) for the 2012 voters register update. The specifications for the BVR and the procurement of materials were successfully completed in 2011 with support from the Electoral Basket Fund (EBF). However, the challenge of rolling out BVR in a country like Sierra Leone is a monumental one. BVR requires technical expertise at each of the 2999 voter registration centres (VRC) and Sierra Leone is short off IT skills given its literacy levels and the state of educational opportunities available. NEC's IT department's capacity to provide leadership of the implementation of BVR is insufficient with a lack of forward planning and team work. NEC is very likely going to face challenges in the conduct of BVR, and the timeliness of de-duplication exercise and printing of voters' cards for distribution with a targeted starting date of 4 June 2012. The success of the BVR in Sierra Leone is determined by the accurateness of the Final Voter Register. Beyond the BVR, NEC's IT department will require continued support in terms of IT advisory for de-duplication exercise, set up of national datacenter, printing of voters cards, design of ballot paper and setup of regional tally centres.

Voter Education
NEC completed voter education messages and training manuals, with support from the Elections Basket Fund (EBF). Voter education ahead of the BVR started late but was scaled up the weeks before the roll-out. However, as was clear from the reactions from the public during the first phase of registration, voter education was not sufficient leaving significant knowledge gaps, particularly on how the phased approach of registration will work. NEC's shortcoming is due to at least two overarching factors, one structural and one operational. Structurally, the department in NEC tasked with educating voters is the same department tasked with training all registration, exhibition, and polling staff. This has created competing priorities for an already thinly staffed unit. Thus far, training of staff has been given priority to the detriment of voter education. There is an urgent need for a policy decision by NEC to split the unit in separate units for training and voter education with dedicated staffing for each. This will ensure better preparations and focused work environment. Operationally, NEC has not done a sufficient job of **a)** outsourcing voter education work to organizations with expertise in this area, and **b)** partnering and sharing information with organizations. NEC has adopted a largely centralized approach to an activity that could benefit from coordinated decentralization.

These two large issues must be overcome if the quality of voter education is to improve. The solution that NEC has identified, Ward Electoral Education Committees (WEECS), can seemingly address these issues and being at the grassroots level could initiate a dramatic change of thinking in illiterate and rural voters. NEC believes that through the WEECS millions of voiceless voters will be able to know their rights and effective use of those rights to elect responsible representatives. This novel idea of WEECS has attracted cautious questioning from those who believe political parties may exploit WEECS to their advantage and subsequently undermine NEC's independence. There is an ongoing debate to resolve this concern.   Furthermore, operationally, with members from a cross section of society, NEC will be de facto sharing information with organizations in a better manner than is currently the case.   From a structural perspective, WEECs can ease the workload of NEC staff.

Electoral Legal Reform
The need to make Electoral Laws of Sierra Leone compatible with international standards and global best practices as well as to make it accessible to key stakeholders cannot be over-emphasized. The National Electoral Commission initiated legal reform process resulted in far reaching recommendations which were debated between participants drawn from all key electoral stakeholders and subsequently validated. The legal reform is a slow and protracted process, thus timing constitute a major challenge. Any fundamental changes to an electoral law should be enacted or amended sufficiently in advance of 2012 Election to enable political participants and voters adequate time to become informed of the rules of the election process. As electoral law reform is a politically sensitive issue, efforts have been made to build consensus from major stakeholders, especially political parties. The consensus building efforts also resulted in shifting of timelines for adopting the legal reforms Bill.

Training and Procedures
The success of large operations, updating a voter register, exhibiting a Provisional Voters Register (PVR) and conducting an elections, depends on having relevant and accurate procedures and a large number of permanent and temporary field staff well trained on the procedures. The NEC Training Department is under staffed, structurally ill placed and a source of confused messages. Despite not being the primary responsibility of EBF advisory team, the NEC Training Department was assisted in developing a range of manuals and quick reference guides. Without such assistance, there was no assurance of accurate training material being available in time for the training of staff for the BVR.

Operations
NEC has shown significant capacities in the area of field operations and coordination. The team is led by a dedicated individual capable of seeing the big picture and always listening to concerns and advice from field office colleagues. The very fact that mechanics of BVR is in place despite a number of challenges still to be overcome, speaks for the successful capacity building of the NEC Operations Department. However, looking ahead towards the November elections, the Operations Department will require significant international expertise in managing the decentralized result system – another first for NEC Sierra Leone.

Capacity development
Capacity development remains a much talked about topic within the NEC. There are different expectations and interpretations within the Commission and staff of what capacity development entails. The differences in opinions include if the training should, and is, targeting senior levels only or if more sustainable capacities would be built by focusing on more junior technical staff expected to stay with the Commission in the medium term. The capacity building of NEC is facing the familiar challenge of building institutional capacity: how to ensure that capacities built in individuals are retained and serve the interests of the institution. Given the opportunities and better remuneration elsewhere, capacity building can be expected to be a continued need and NEC needs to pay attention to knowledge sharing and management.

Planning and Coordination
During 2011 substantial time was spent during the Election Steering Committee meetings encouraging NEC to present a realistic budget for the 2012 Elections. To date, detailed electoral budget is not available highlighting planning challenges within the NEC. Similarly, BVR preparations faced several planning and coordination snags resulting in frequent alterations of BVR timelines. Planning in general, and forwarding thinking in particular, should be strengthened to address the lack of coordination between the senior technical teams and the Commission and the strengthen a culture of technical-policy discussions. This would ensure that policy decisions by the Commission are made on the basis of solid technical information and feedback. To address this weakness in the planning process, NEC has established a planning cell to review critical issues well in advance, i.e. policy decisions concerning various milestones in the electoral calendar including procurement of electoral material, recruitment and training of polling staff, polling procedures etc. The planning cell will convene regular technical directors meeting (operations, training, voter education and IT departments) and act as a feedback channel to the Commission for making policy decisions.

Output 1.2
Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC)
The Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) is recipient of funds from EBF to enhance its operational capacities to fulfil its mandate effectively and proactively. Although during the reporting period the PPRC has received significant operational support, its ability to lead, when relevant, has come under scrutiny. The Commission under the new Chair still adjusting the demands placed on it under the Political Parties Act and the 1991 constitution to regulate the conduct of the parties. The management of the Commission could benefit from an international consultant that will act as a Special adviser to the Chair. The perceptions of PPRC being a toothless body can be explained by: a) Perceptions of weak leadership by the PPRC Chairman and internal management challenges; b) lack of enforcement capacity embedded in law. The pending approval of the amendments to the Political Parties Act 2002 would give the PPRC an expanded mandate empowering the Commission to have quasi-judicial authority. Many are of the view however, that the present mandate of the PPRC, without changes in the legal framework, allows the Commission to take more proactive action than what was seen in 2011. The expectation on PPRC is that it should play its constitutional role to ensure political parties contest 2012 elections without resorting to violence and turmoil. There is an urgent need for PPRC to focus on mandate implementation and embark on inter-political dialogue. PPRC has not performed when it comes to reporting requirements for funds received from the EBF, including the PBF funded component of the EBF.

Output 2.1, 2.2, and 2.4

Non State Actors

Since the approval of the Non State Actor project component funded by the PBF in December 2010, and the appointment of the SLPP flagbearer, the political environment has become increasingly polarized, narrowing the space for reasoned debate, impartial news reporting, and dialogue over policies and issues rather than party or regional affiliation. It is against this background, that the Non State Actor component opened a window of public space in which actors feel encouraged to advocate for issues of peaceful political competitions, national unity and cohesion. Its support provides a forum for actors from respected traditional, social, religious, civic and other institutions to commit to political neutrality and propagate tolerance and non- violence.

Non state actors across the social spectrum have responded to take up the opportunities provided by the project. While relatively modest sums have been disbursed, in 2011, the impact in terms of social mobilization and public visibility has been noticeable. The All Political Parties Women Association (APPWA), which is now fully constituted countrywide has raised the profile of women within the political parties and enhanced their participation. The All Political Parties Youth Association (APPYA) now registers a membership of nearly 2000 executives represented in all constituencies drawn on an equitable basis from the four main political parties. Through sustained outreach, the Association has gained public visibility and recognition. APPYA's active presence and engagement during 2011 by- elections helped to defuse tensions. Similarly, the District Code of Conduct Monitoring Committees (DCMCs), now set up countrywide and duly capacitated, have contributed to resolve conflicts. Working closely with the political parties, UNIPISL has identified key operational support for the parties enabling them to interact more effectively with their members as well as the electorate. Engaging constructively with political parties has not only contributed to positively stimulate internal party processes, but has also strengthened channels of communication between the PPRC, UN and the political stakeholders, which will become increasingly relevant in the run-up to the 2012 elections. The reactivation of the National Council of Paramount Chiefs, and the adoption of a code of conduct by the Chiefs, amidst continued allegations of efforts by political parties to undermine the neutrality of the traditional rulers, laid the foundations for further support to and efforts by the Council to strengthen its independence. Supporting outreach in all parts of the country, renowned Sierra Leonean artists, the Interreligious Council, and other players have met with communities countrywide, and have engaged local politicians to recommit to the principles of political tolerance and non- violence. Throughout these encounters, the public has responded well and echoed the call for tolerance, underscoring the popular demand for peace and a rejection of mobilization by the political elite for partisan interests.

While a significant number of activities have already been implemented in 2011, UNIPSIL in close cooperation with UNDP and partners also prioritized the careful planning of joint activities, the majority of which will be rolled out in 2012. Following a period of intensive preparation, most plans have been established. Moving towards the elections in November 2012, the number of activities by all NSA partners will multiply; their detailed sequencing will need to foster synergies between the different components. Throughout implementation in 2011, constraints on the part of some of the Implementing Partners in relation to monitoring and reporting have become apparent, which in the past has led to delays in implementation and to a significant waste of time and human resources. Faced with a plethora of activities and limitations to ensure ample monitoring, it will be a challenge to ensure adequate follow- up of the various activities. In an increasingly

polarized and politicized environment, it will also be crucial that the programme continues to be seen as politically neutral throughout its clusters. Continued outreach to the programme's stakeholders as well as further streamlining of procedures with partners will thus remain to be important.

Output 2.3
Media monitoring and improved reporting standards
Under this output the aim is to enable the media to report freely and fairly on the electoral process. For this to happen, the work in 2011 has been two pronged. For one, focus on the capacity of IMC in its Watchdog function. Towards that, the relationship between District Councils (DCs) and community radios were clarified where the programming of said radios should be done through the Board of the community radios and not by the DCs but where the community radios can promote the priorities of the DCs. For 2012 – focus for IMC will be training of journalists on standards as well as strengthening their monitoring capacity of the media towards the November elections. Second, support was also provided to Cotton Tree News (CTN). This umbrella organisation works with 26 community radios across the country. This support enabled CTN to broadcast 34 hours on Voter Registration alone. Seen that the turn out for voter registration has been quite substantial so far, part of this could be attributed to the fact that local radios have been broadcasting messages educating people and encouraging them to register. Further role for CTN, is to ensure that adequate standards are maintained by journalist in news gathering and reporting which will be the main focus for 2012.

Output 3.1
Electoral Offences Courts (EOCs)
Because of the yet-to-be adopted Electoral Legal Reforms no planned activities with regards to EOCs were undertaken. The resulting savings will be use to extend the duration of EOCs in 2012 to cover the voter registration period.

Output 3.2
ONS/SLP
Electoral Security
The Elections Security Strategy has been developed to capture the security challenges of the various phases of the elections and reviews the roles and responsibilities of the security apparatus. It elaborates on the integrated approach being adopted, with a view to providing a safe and secure environment, to enable all stakeholders to freely participate in the electoral process, with let or hinder.

Threat Assessment
The National Threat Assessment (NTA) has been developed around issues of youth unemployment, criminality and anti-social behaviours, political intolerance, restiveness in mining communities, environmental degradation, and social responsibilities by companies, expectations regarding standard of living, corruption,

cultivation and illicit use of marijuana, proliferation of ghettos and even fraudulent activities. Aside from all those, are historical factors of past conflicts, activities of state and non-state actors, gender harassment and discrimination against the physically-challenged, coupled with the nefarious postures of secret societies, among others. Given the dynamism of threats however, there is the possibility for the nature and or level of the highlighted threats to change dramatically in the course of the electioneering year, thereby necessitating the flexibility in the review of the NTA. For example, although, some hot spots have already been identified, they might diminish to low threat areas, whereas, areas identified as Low threat, might move on to High threat. Nevertheless, the NTA provides the criteria and parameters employed in the deployment of men and materials during the elections.

Development of Operational Plans
Operational plans have already been developed for the electoral cycle, but will be modified in line with NEC calendar. They are however subject to reviews, in view of certain emerging issues, which would have been captured under threat assessment. No financial cost has been incurred so far. In view of the meteoric rise in the number of polling stations to 8,889 for the 2012 elections, an Integrated Elections security committee, being robustly coordinated, by the Office of National Security (ONS), has been formed. Membership includes, SLP RSLAF, SLPS, NFF JSCO, NEC, Civil Society, PPRC, MIA, IMATT and UNIPSIL. Since the strength of the SLP, which now stands at a little above 10,000, is inadequate to police the said polling stations, the other services, including the Chiefdom police, will provide institutional support to the SLP, who have primacy in internal security. As part of ONS activities, the National Security Council Coordinating Group concluded a tour of all the regions including Kono, (13-16/12/2011) meeting with the PROSECs and DISECs on the need to be alive to their responsibilities on providing a safe and secure environment. But it needs to be stated that the trip was funded by the ONS, who thought that the amount provided for it was insufficient.

Training
Ten SLP trainers developed elections-specific training modules, while 20 trainers imparted the same on 128 others, who would train 10, 500 personnel of the Police RSLAF, Prisons, Fire Force and Chiefdom Police nation-wide. The training modules included but not limited to, Electoral Laws, Human Rights, Code of Conduct for Police officers, Gender issues, protection of the vulnerable and use of firearms An initial 814 personnel have already gone through the training in the Western area. But crowd control training will commence in the first quarter of 2012.

Communication equipment and vehicles
Development of specifications for SLP communication equipment and radio spare parts was completed. It is expected that procurement of 100 hand-held radios would have been completed by the first quarter of 2012, as funds have been disbursed in that direction. The base radio and its outfit have already been received though. On the issue of vehicles, the SLP have since come to the conclusion, that procuring spare parts for some 19 trucks would be a waste of resources, and have therefore appealed, that funding should be directed at procuring if even two new trucks, with the same amount

Integrated Communication Strategy
The security sector, with the advice of UNIPSIL, has developed an elections security communication strategy, to provide a framework within which the security sector institutions can be adequately prepared, to perform security-related duties with professionalism, gender sensitivity, impartiality and credibility, thereby

ensuring that a safe and secure environment is created for all, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized groups to freely partake in the electioneering process. It is germane to state that this strategy was developed in collaboration with the Civil Societies. Funding for this aspect is still being considered by the donors, for possible intervention.

Budgetary provision:
The SLP alone had presented a budget of $16m, which the GoSL has reviewed downwards to about $3m. In fact, the GoSL will only make e a total sum of $4m available to the security sector. In addition, the Election Basket Fund is also providing $1.7m, which runs through to 2014 in certain cases. Consequently, the security sector has now reviewed its strategy to conform to available funds.

III   Progress Table

INTENDED OUTPUTS	INDICATIVE ACTIVITIES	PROGRESS TOWARDS RESULTS
OUTCOME 1: *Electoral institutions have the capacity to administer technically sound, credible and sustainable elections (with progressively less international support)*		
Output 1.1. The National Electoral Commission's administration of elections is improved **Baseline:** Solid capacity of the NEC to administer elections, albeit still with significant international support and uneven capacity between HQ and districts; compared to previous NEC, high level of independence and credibility; need for immediate voter registration update and longer-term solution; slow results transmission system and need for electoral law reform **Indicators:** • Preparations to register estimated 3.5 million eligible voters completed in 2011 which include procurement and installation of VR equipment, recruitment and training of VR staff, electronic mapping of VR center and pilot testing. • 4 regional and 1 HQ election results tallying centers established and operational • Capacities of 170 staff and	1.1.1 Support to voter registration process	Extensive support towards the preparation for the 2012 biometric voter registration was maintained during the 4th quarter with following objectives achieved: **Preparations for 2012 Biometric Voter Registration (BVR)** • Following the delivery of 20 training kits and 20 generators in late September to NEC, the remaining 780 BVR kits arrived in Sierra Leone in October. The remaining 780 generators for BVR kits also arrived in the month of October. • The five million operational biometric voter registration forms arrived in Freetown on 25 October 2011. At the Freetown Port container terminal a seal to the container carrying operational VR forms, in 42 pallets, was found broken. Given the sensitive nature of the material, on 30 November 2011, a joint inspection of all 42 pallets was undertaken by the representatives from NEC, SLP, NRA, Port Authority, Customs, Container Terminal management, National Shipping Company and UNDP. The inspection and verification process established that all 42 pallets were intact and no sign of tapering was found. • The hardware and software for a national datacenter and four regional datacenters arrived in the month of November and December. • 950 pre-packed Voter registration stationary centre kits, together with replenish stationary items were delivered to NEC on 30 December. • With regards to the secure storage and provision of technical support centre both Face Technologies and NEC encountered challenges. NEC could not complete in time the renovation of its Wellington warehouse for safe storage of above-mentioned critical voter registration material. On the other-hand, venue identified by Face Technologies to be used as Technical Support Centre was found to be insecure and hazardous by the ONS security assessment. As a practical compromise, NEC and Face Technologies combined

Commissioners of NEC • strengthened through the conduct of specialized trainings • 20 electoral laws amended **Responsible Parties:** NEC, UNDP **Total Budget:** $24,906,491		resources, jointly refurbished the Wellington warehouse and agreed to work together from a single facility. Subsequently, NEC was able to securely store BVR kits, generators, voter registration forms, and national data centre equipments at its Wellington warehouse and Face Technologies was able to establish its technical support centre at the same facility. Currently, NEC technical staff, UNDP BVR expert and Face Technologies technical team are operating from the NEC Wellington warehouse. • Subsequent to the late August acceptance tests of voter registration system software, pilot testing of BVR kits was undertaken from 1 - 3 November 2011 in 14 electoral districts of Sierra Leone. For this purpose mock biometric voter registration was carried-out to test the VR software in field conditions. Pilot testing was also necessary to determine the registration time per registrant, the in-kit AFIS matching system, generator fuel consumption rate and operational procedures. In the interest of transparency and inclusiveness range of accredited observers from civil society organizations and political parties observed the BVR pilot testing. The pilot exercise and feedback collected allowed NEC and Face Technologies to further refine VR operational procedures and VR software respectively. The revamped customized voter registration software was completed by mid December. The final User Acceptance Test (UAT) of BVR system, hardware and software, is scheduled for 9 January 2012. • A refresher training workshop for all Regional Chiefs, DEOS, ADEOs, and IT Focal Persons was conducted in order to address technical and operational issues which were identified during the pilot test. • Despite receiving national and regional data centre equipment in December 2011, actual setup of national datacenter is behind schedule for reasons including late decision on the location for national data centre and refurbishment of the earmarked facility. This will become a cause for concern if central setup is not completed by mid February 2012. The establishment of four regional centers has been put on hold pending availability of suitable facilities and selection of locations. This decision with regards to the regional centers mean central datacenter will have to accommodate the regional centers' servers.

- Programme advisors assisted in the development of several training manuals and quick reference guides for several categories of staff namely VR centre staff, Regional Field Coordinators, Ward Coordinators and District Electoral Officers.

- Majority of voter registration staff (10 IT software engineers, 30 IT focal persons (two per district), 400 Ward Coordinators (Kailahun 30, Kenema 33 , Kono 28, Bombali 30, Kambia 25, Koinadugu 25, Port Loko 34, Tonkolili 28, Bo 30, Bonthe 22, Moyamba 24, Pujehun 22 , Western Rural 20 and Western Urban 49, 2400 VR centre saff) were recruited by NEC. Specific training programmes for various categories of staff were implemented with the exception of VR centre staff whose training commenced from 15 January 2012.

- The BVR timeline was revised to accommodate certain unexpected challenges of recruitment and customization of BVR system. For the revised BVR timeline please refer to Annex A.

- GPS coordinates for all 3000 VR centers were captured through an exercise which saw close collaboration between NEC, Sierra Leone Statistics, and a Ghanaian university. The exercise commenced on 4 Dec and concluded on 11 December. Following the GPS coordinate gathering exercise, BVR kits movement plan was developed.

Voter Education for BVR
- Following approval of NEC Q4 work plan necessary funds were provided to NEC which included substantial finances for the BVR voter education.

- NEC signed an MOU with the Independent Radio Network (IRN) and 27 stations have been designated for radio discussion programmes nation-wide.

- Skits on BVR were developed for TV and video centres. The skits have been provided to the various districts and SLBC TV for daily broadcasting.

- NEC met with Paramount Chiefs in Koinadugu, Southern Region, Kenema and Kailahun districts respectively in order to update them on the current status of the NEC's activities

		and their role in preparation for the 2012 BVR and elections.
		• At the 4th Election Steering Committee on 05 December 2011, NEC presented a concept paper for Ward Electoral Education Committees (WEECs). The WEECs are designed to assist NEC reach the ward level with voter education for the BVR and throughout the electoral process. The status and engagement of WEEEs in voter education activities is not known at the time of writing this report.
		• The impact of the NEC voter education activities on the general voting population could not be assessed yet at the time of writing this report.
		Others
		• With regards to the joint outsourcing of VR de-duplication exercise and printing of Voters' card the work on *Invitation to Bid* (ITB) document commenced in Q4. The specifications for AFIS de-duplication have been developed pending completion of specifications for voters' card. At the request of NEC, services of a printing expert are being engaged to finalize voters' card specifications in Q1 2012.
	1.1.2 Regional/district office strengthening, including to provide decentralized results tally function	• District site feasibility study for setting up of district/regional tally centers was conducted in conjunction with the GPS coordinate gathering exercise in Q4. The report on the feasibility study is expected in Q1 2012.
	1.1.3 Capacity development and specialized training (IT, election operations, and procedures)	• As per NEC's Q4 work plan, the following trainings were scheduled for Q4. - Financial Management Training for District and Assistant District Election Officers. - In-house short trainings for NEC staff working in IT, Admin & Finance, Logistics, Procurement, Human Resources departments. • In the absence of Q4 2011 progress report from NEC it cannot be confirmed if abovementioned trainings were indeed conducted.

| 1.1.4 Legal reform to consolidate electoral laws/regulations/procedures including results system | • The Legal Technical Committee to move the legal reform process forward held its sittings at the Law Reform Commission in October, November and December. The final document not only contains recommendations on electoral reforms but also include consolidated Electoral Laws. This is done for ease of reference, accessibility and bringing together provisions contained in a number of different Acts. The report was thereafter forwarded to the Attorney General's office for cabinet consideration.

• The report by the Technical Legal Committee include recommendation on the following:
  - Declaration of the date for the conduct of public elections
  - Eligibility for the office of president
  - Forfeiture of parliamentary seats
  - Qualifications for appointment to the Electoral Commission
  - Tenure of commissioners
  - Voter Registration
  - Refund of Eligibility fees paid by candidates
  - Campaign Activities
  - Elections petitions and Decisions
  - Media access
  - Enforcement provisions relative to the media
  - Elections Observation
  - Rights and Obligations of Elections observers
  - Nullification/Invalidation of votes
  - Sanctions/Penalties for Electoral offences

• Subsequently, the Law Officers Department and Legal Draftsmen in the AG's office have redrafted the proposed amendments into a Bill, which shall be laid before the Parliament for passage into Law. If everything goes as planned, the revised Electoral Law 2011 (Bill) would be tabled in Parliament in near future.

• An information sharing meeting on Legal reforms, was held at Miatta Conference Centre on the 3rd October, 2011. |

	1.1.5 Support to organization of all elections (Presidential, Parliamentary, Local, by-elections and possible referendum post-elections) as well as follow-up (e.g., boundary delimitation post election	• NEC was requested at the 3rd Steering Committee meeting held on 15 September 2011 to review its 2012 Election budget in line with the funding commitments by the GoSL and EBF i.e. maximum of US$ 18 million from GoSL and approximately US$ 7 million from the EBF. 2012 Election budget was presented to the first Steering Committee in 2012.
	1.1.6 Post-election evaluation of lessons learned	To be addressed in 2013.

Output 1.2. Political Party Registration Commission is able to maintain dialogue among political parties and promote their constructive, non-violent participation in the electoral process
 	
Baseline:
No permanent Chair; weak capacity of the PPRC; inability to fulfill functions without significant international support; conflict management potential not fully tapped
 	
Indicators:
• Legislative framework for PPRC developed and amended
• PPRC Staff and offices operating effectively in all regions
• # of political violence cases effectively solved/handled by PPRC
• PPRC resource centre and used by all
	1.2.1 Capacity development and specialized training (with a focus on the new staff)	• The following staff of the PPRC benefitted from a training conducted in Ghana:
		   (i) Internal Auditor
		   (ii) Finance Manager
		   (iii) Information and Technology Officer
		   (iv) Finance Officer
		
		• The expected benefits of the training on the work of the Commission are as follows:
		   (i) Reduction in errors in the day to day financial transaction of the Commission;
		   (ii) Expeditious presentation of all financial reports and management accounts;
		   (iii) Regular upgrade the Commission's asset register;
		   (iv) Improved performance on the information technology services of the PPRC;
		   (v) Increased staff confidence & capacity in financial management and internal auditing;
		   (vi) Increase the capacity of the Internal Auditor to easily detect fraud and audit payroll;
		
		• The service of an IT firm was engaged to design and host the Commission's website. All equipments for the web design have been received. The web site is part of the communications strategy of the Commission. The development of the website is underway.

political parties **Responsible Parties: PPRC; Political Parties; UNDP; UNIPSIL** **Total Budget: $2,916,9**	1.2.2	Regional office space secured	• Support was provided to pay for the regional offices in Kenema (East), Makeni (North), Bo (South) and Freetown (Western Area). This has contributed to create visibility for the Commission and build its institutional capacity. • Procurement of office equipment and furniture for 4 PPRC regional offices is ongoing in collaboration with the National Procurement Authority. Items procured are specifically aimed at building the capacity of regional offices in executing the mandate of the Commission and in contributing to peaceful elections. Items procured through competitive bidding include conference tables and chairs, shelves, office tables etc. • The Commission procured books on governance, political parties and accounting for its four regional offices. The resource centers are to be put at the disposal of operatives of political parties to build their capacities in areas relating to democracy, party financing, reporting and non-violence.
	1.2.3	Public outreach and research capacity of the PPRC developed	• Press Releases were published and announced through the print and electronic media respectively. The main themes of the releases included political tolerance, non-violence and calls on political parties to adhere to the political parties code of conduct and other terms of their registration. This action contributed to a relative peaceful political atmosphere in the country. • Outreach activities were carried out using the electronic media countrywide. The main themes on which the public were sensitized included mandate and functions of the PPRC, non-violence, political tolerance, gender equality, political parties and the democratic process and political parties code of conduct.
	1.2.4	Legal reform to consider widening the mandate of the PPRC, granting it authority to sanction violations of the Code of Conduct for Political Parties	• Further to the PPRC organized workshop on the proposed amendments to the Political Parties Act 2002, consultations were held with political parties, the Law Reform Commission, Office of the Attorney- General and civil society organizations. The draft legal document is now being forwarded to the Law Reform Commission and a technical Committee will be established to formulate the recommendations into a draft Bill of the Political Parties Act.

		• The proposed recommendations to political parties Act 2002 and some provisions of the 1991 Sierra Leone Constitution are:
		   - Expanding the mandate of the Commission to be more robust;
		   - Political Party Financing;
		   - Appointment and removal of Commissioners from office;
		   - Restrictions and the time limit for complaints;
		   - Name of the Commission be amended to reflect the mandate: National Political Parties Commission (NPPC); and
		   - Empower the Commission to have quasi-judicial authority.

	1.2.5 PPRC-sponsored training of political parties and inter-party dialogue (PBF)	• With the selection of a presidential candidate by the SLPP, UNIPSIL has resumed engaging the political parties for inter party dialogue. The dialogue, which had been hold up by uncertainties relating to the SLPP flag bearer, is now planned for early 2012.
	1.2.6 District monitoring committees strengthening, including through pre-election perception studies (PBF)	• Following a successful pilot project of District Code of Conduct Monitoring Committees (DCMC), in which party representatives, civil society and other stakeholders have been capacitated in conflict mediation, prevention and resolution, the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) started to roll out a national programme. In all 14 districts, DCMCs started holding regular sessions, helping to defuse tensions and acting as early warning mechanisms. As a sign of the increasing visibility and credibility of the DCMCs, the District Security Committees took to referring cases of tensions to the DCMCs.
	1.2.7 Review of policies and Constitution of Political Parties	• **NTR**

OUTCOME 2: Improved public confidence and participation in the electoral process		
Output 2.1. CSOs are able to monitor the electoral process and promote broad civic and voter education **Baseline:** No real civic education completed in 2007 electoral cycle (focus on voter education/information); failure to craft specific messages targeted at women, youth; short-term domestic observation but weak long-term observation that focuses on voter registration, nominations, campaign period **Indicators**: • # of civic and voter education media messages in local languages nationwide • Domestic CSO observation efforts extended into pre-electoral period **Responsible Parties: CSOs; UNDP; UNIPSIL** **Total Budget: $2,900,000**	2.1.3 Coordination of Civil Society activities. In particular substantive coordination between NEW and NEC/PPRC/ development partners and coordination between NEW and CSO partners	• ***The following is a brief overview activities being undertaken in CSO domain.*** - NEW observed the pilot test of BVR 1-3 November and issued a report. - NEW met with NEC on 29 December to improve coordination efforts. - The National Coordinating Committee, the civil society body implementing the CSO Strategic Plan for elections, constituted itself. Thematic leads in electoral education, observation, safety and security, oversight, and organizational development created work plans. These work plans were developed later than planned and, as a result, activity implementation will begin in Q1 of 2012. - The NCC briefed development partners at the EBF Steering Committee meeting on 5 December. - The NCC provided input to the NEC on the content of voter education messages. - The NCC coordinated activities with the CSO Platform, a civil society forum in part facilitated by UNIPSIL, in order to avoid duplication of activities.

Output 2.2. Political parties play a constructive and informed role in the electoral process **Baseline:** Highly contentious political environment; limited inter-party dialogue; low capacity of most political parties to develop messages, select candidates, mount campaigns and monitor polls; limited access of parties to resources and networks; inadequate focus by parties on youth and women in the ranks and in leadership positions **Indicators:** • # of political party agents trained in their roles and electoral process • Youth leaders engage productively in the electoral process • # of successful intra- and inter-party dialogue held on emerging issues • # of political party platforms that are issue based • % increase of women candidates (as compared to 2007 cycle) • # of youth associations involved in the electoral process (monitoring, etc) • # of activities implemented by APPYA and APPWA	2.2.1 Training of party agents (done by NEC/PPRC, directly or via a third-party). (PBF)	• To be addressed in 2012
	2.2.2 Promotion of intra or inter party dialogue and flexibility to respond to needs in this area that may emerge during the programme's lifespan. (PBF)	• Working closely with the political parties, UNIPISL has identified key infrastructural support for the political parties enabling them to communicate more effectively with their members as well as the electorate. Based on selection criteria laid down by PPRC, as part of this support, vehicles and motorcycles have been supplied to the SLPP, APC, PMDC and NDA. Procurement of other support items, including communication equipment, has been initiated by PPRC and is scheduled to be delivered in January 2012. • Engaging constructively with the political parties, including the provision of essential infrastructure and equipment, during the reporting period, opened up space for dialogue between the UN and the political stakeholders, which will become increasingly relevant in the run-up to the 2012 elections. Also in the spirit of enhanced cooperation, the President has announced the holding of regular meetings with all political parties. In a related development, the Sierra Leone Police has organized, on 12 December, a meeting with political parties, which resulted in the lifting of the ban on political rallies imposed by the police after the incidents of political violence in Kono and Bo in September 2011. Regrettably, the event was not attended by the SLPP and NDA, which points to the continuing need for inclusive dialogue as foreseen under this programme.
	2.2.3 Youth leader training programmes, including support to inter-political party youth projects.(PBF)	• After its successful launching by the President in December 2011, the All Political Parties Youth Association (APPYA) has established chapters in all the country's 112 constituencies. Comprising members of the SLPP, APC, PMDC, and NDA, the Association is now fully set up and operational at all levels throughout the country. A list of national executives has been produced and disseminated. To enhance financial management, accountability and sustainability, a financial manual has been developed and distributed to the various branches. • In addition, motorcycles were delivered to the APPYA regional and district chapters to

implementing their strategic plans (such as joint outreach activities, etc) **Responsible Parties: PPRC; Political Parties; UNDP; UNIPSIL** **Total Budget: $1,845,000 (PBF)**		enhance their mobility and outreach capabilities. At the APPYA office in Freetown, political party youths convene regularly for meetings and consultations. • In addition, APPYA has completed a tour of regional review meetings, as well as strategizing sessions with PPRC and UNIPSIL on the national and regional level, which resulted in the adoption of an action plan covering up to the end of 2012. Implementing the plan, in December 2011, 88 district, regional, and national APPYA executives met in Bo and participated in trainings on advocacy, leadership and project management. Also in December, the participating executives then split into teams to replicate the sessions in all district capitals where constituency members participated. All in all nearly 2000 APPYA members countrywide took part in the event, which also helped to bring APPYA executives together to boost the Association's esprit de corps, generate unity of purpose and provide an opportunity for members to interact ahead of the 2012 activities. • APPYA was actively engaged in by- elections conducted in 2011, and sensitized voters on peace and tolerance. APPYA's presence in a number of cases could defuse tensions which appeared like leading to violence. APPYA's contributions in this regard were publicly recognized by PPRC, NEC, and others. • Through sustained media outreach on TV, radio and through press conferences, the Association has gained public visibility and recognition. APPYA was invited, by independent sponsors, to monitor the Liberian elections in October 2011, and held talks with counterparts to form a similar association in Liberia. Liberian political youths, in December 2011, paid a return visit to Sierra Leone. Engaging with political party elders, the Association can be expected to contribute towards a culture of dialogue between the political parties. During the incident of political violence in Bo, for instance, in September 2011, the APPYA Bo district chapter as well as the national executive have issued press releases, and appeared on TV, condemning the incident. APPYA is now regularly invited to contribute to consultations and other state functions, and is utilizing these platforms to advocate for the 10% youth quota recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

| 2.2.4 | Work with parties to develop gender strategies, gender wings, and training of women leaders and candidates (follow up with those elected through parliamentary/local governance initiatives). (PBF) | • The All Political Parties Women Association (APPWA) held a three day national convention in Bo where President Koroma officially launched the association. A national executive was elected and regional coordinating committees were constituted. The regional committees serve as the link between the national and constituency bodies and aim to strengthen APPWA's visibility at the local level. Subsequently, district executive chapters were also formed.

• With UNIPSIL and partners, the Association developed a two- year action plan setting priorities for 2011 – 2012. At the opening of an APPWA Freetown office on 2 December, at a central location easily accessible to the public, representatives from all political parties expressed their commitment to political tolerance and working together.

• APPWA also embarked on a media outreach campaign and has informed the public on its objective of collectively increasing women's level of participation in political processes, through radio discussion programmes and televised discussion programmes and interviews. The Association also held coordination meetings with the female parliamentary caucus, female councilors and civil society organizations advocating in diverse ways for an increase in women's political participation. This will usher in a more robust approach where the efforts of all the groups will be channeled and coordinated for a greater impact.

• Also during the reporting period, SLPP, APC, and NDA, have drafted and subsequently adopted gender policies. While down streaming and dissemination of the SLPP, APC and NDA policies has started, the PMDC gender policy is still in the drafting stage. SLPP, on its part, conducted a workshop on dissemination of gender policy and commenced a training of trainers programme to popularize the policy. Footage from all activities is currently edited for a documentary.

• Through these activities, APPWA has not only significantly raised the profile of women within the political parties, but has also been instrumental in pushing the 30% bill. The bill will be a breakthrough to enhance women's participation in positions of government and public leadership. Together with other women advocacy groups, the Association has met the President over the issue, and has started planning for a women's conference in early 2012 to |

		further accelerate the legislative process.
Output 2.3. Media monitoring and improved reporting standards **Baseline:** Media frequently contributes to political tension rather than defusing it; low journalistic standards for reporting on electoral activities; particularly poor treatment of women candidates; dependence on most of the population on radio reporting **Indicators**: • # of monitoring visits by the IMC nation wide • # of non-compliance cases with	2.3.1 Support Independent Media Commission (IMC) to monitor and enforce the Media Code of Practice	• All District Councils nationwide were trained by IMC on the relationship of DCs with community radios; the role of Station Managers; how the programme of DCs can be promoted through community radios.
	2.3.2 Support training on Media Monitoring	• **NTR**
	2.3.3 Support to radio-based news reporting (e.g., SLBC, Cotton Tree News, others)	• Cotton Tree News managed to broadcast over 40 hours of programming on Voter Education; Youth; Democratic Governance; Religion and Society on top of their regular news and current affairs programming. • A training and technical needs assessment for community radios was done to prepare for the 2012 activities where further training and equipping of said community radios will be undertaken.

the Media Code of Practice documented and resolved • # of monitors deployed nationwide to gather and analyse information and address disputes involving the media • Gender biased reporting against female candidates is effectively addressed (as compared to 2007 cycle) • # of radio-based reporting on the electoral process that are professional and unbiased and broadcast in local languages **Responsible Parties: IMC; Media; UNDP; UNIPSIL** **Total Budget: $1,180,000** **$340,000 (PBF)**	2.3.4 Support dialogue with and among editors (Editors Guild) and Sierra Leone Association of Journalists on responsible reporting as well as the establishment of media code of conduct or other mechanisms to enhance the support to the media for a peaceful election. (PBF)	• The Independent Radio Network (IRN), facilitated by the Independent Media Commission, during the reporting period, held a national meeting with IRN member radio stations. At the meeting, community radio stations countrywide strategized how to support peaceful and violence free elections. Modalities for outreach and coherent messaging were put in place. • With the Guild of Editors, building on the successful establishment of the organization in 2010, a programme of activities leading up to the end of 2012, aiming at promoting responsible journalism, has been set up.
Output 2.4. National unity and cohesion for a peaceful election **Baseline:** Professional groups and associations, such as inter-religious coalitions, academia, artists and musicians, and traditional and indigenous groups have played constructive role in reducing tension and promoting national cohesion, but are fragmented and lack the necessary resources. **Indicators:** • # of peaceful, inclusive and non-	2.4.1 Support to the inter-religious council to organize a national dialogue on diversity and politics and a peaceful political completion (PBF)	• Partnering with the Office of Diaspora Affairs, the Interreligious Council (IRC) has conducted a nationwide peace torch campaign. In the context of the 50 Year Independence Anniversary celebrations, a peace torch was carried throughout the country across all of Sierra Leone's districts, climaxing in a national event on 27 April in Freetown. Runners from all ethnic background carried the torch while community representatives, women, youth, police and other professional groups transmitted messages supporting national cohesion and unity. The political parties participated in the event and used the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to overcome partisanship and regional divisions. • During the reporting period, UNIPSIL facilitated a strategic review with the Interreligious Council. Together with the National Justice and Peace Commission as Implementing Partner, an action plan until the end of 2012 has been set up and submitted for disbursement.

• violent political events organized • % reduction in the number of ethnic and regional incidents of violence based on comparison with 2007 elections • # of sensitization campaign on violence prevention conducted by the CSOs • # of artistic and sports events organized in the framework of peaceful elections • # of ad hoc mediation activities conducted by traditional authorities. **Responsible Parties: CSOs, Amputee's Association, Fourah Bay College, Njala University, Inter-religious Council, Artists for Peace, traditional groups, National Youth Commission, UNIPSIL** **Total Budget: $1,982,337 (PBF)**	2.4.2 Support to artists for peace and musicians to spread the message of non-violence, ethnic tolerance and peaceful elections. (PBF)	• Working with the Artists for Peace, a song featuring peace messages in relation to the elections, highlighting the need for tolerance, inclusion, and voting based on issues rather than party or regional affiliations, has been developed. In the presence of large crowds at a popular open-air location in Freetown, the song was launched on 16 December. In between performances, popular artists called upon Sierra Leoneans, and in particular those in official functions, to promote tolerance and celebrate violence free elections 2012. Representatives from the political parties as well as the PPRC, the National Commission for Democracy and other national stakeholders, in their contributions, also echoed the call for non-violence. • In a national tour covering 12 districts which attracted significant crowds and public attention, the Artists for Peace engaged key district stakeholders, including the district political party leaders, and elicited their public commitment for peace.
	2.4.3. Support to traditional and indigenous groups to exercise neutrality and have positive influence in managing tensions and potential conflicts before, during and after the elections. (PBF)	• From 19 – 22 April, a National Council of Paramount Chiefs (NCPC) was convened in Bo. Representatives from the National Electoral Commission (NEC), ministries and development partners acknowledged the importance of the chieftaincy system in promoting good governance and called upon chiefs to maintain impartiality. A landmark event in the post-colonial history of Sierra Leone, it provided an opportunity for Paramount Chiefs to gather, reactivate the Council and elect a national executive, emphasizing the need for political neutrality and committing to principles of gender equality to combat practices inimical to human rights. The event resulted in the adoption of a Code of Conduct to be adhered to by Paramount Chiefs. • With the National Council of Paramount Chiefs, consultations were held in Makeni, in September 2011, to develop a two-year action plan to popularize the Code of Conduct adopted in Bo and to strengthen the neutrality of the Paramount Chiefs. A system of focal points in the districts has been established for the further roll-out of the plan. • In Mapaki chiefdom, Northern Region, a pilot project engaging youth in sport activities and supporting a local community centre, geared towards community tolerance building, has started. Spanning up to the end of 2012, the project is expected to enhance community

		resilience and promote political tolerance in particular among youths. Mapaki was the first chiefdom declared "Arms Free" after the end of the conflict.
	2.4.4 Enhancing coordination with learning institutions and academia in promoting national debate and dialogue on non-violence and participatory elections. (PBF)	• With the Peace and Conflict Studies Department of Fourah Bay College (FBC), a nation-wide debate series, taking place at eight tertiary campuses and involving politicians and other key stakeholders, has been set up. As FBC failed to implement the activity using direct payments, an implementing partner is being identified. • Partnering with FBC, a programme of activities has been set up with "Young Women in University Politics" (YWUP). Currently, tensions on campus have led to a postponement of campus elections, as well as resulted in a ban on political activities on campus. It is expected that YWUP, with the endorsement of campus authorities, would bridge the divide on campus between rival camps affiliated to the political parties and promote women's political participation. The proposal is under final review.
	2.4.5 Promote non-violence amongst youth through sports. (PBF)	• Sport is a recurrent and cross cutting issue within the NSA programme. The youth engagement project in Mapaki chiefdom is using football matches as a conduit to promote tolerance. Similarly, sport events have also been incorporated into the APPYA action plan.
	2.4.6 Support to CSO for violence reduction to enable a peaceful election. (PBF)	• In order to better coordinate activities with Civil Society, as partners to this project, a Non State Actor CSO platform has been set up. The Platform comprises CSO partners countrywide, and is arranged around thematic areas. A strategy workshop, in Bo on 24 – 25 September, resulted in an operational plan that shall guide all Non State Actor CSO related activities towards 2012. The action plan has been aligned with activities foreseen by the Civil Society Elections Engagement Committee (CSEEP) under the auspices of the National Election Watch, and has also been coordinated with donor partners contributing to other election related civil society activities. An Implementing Partner has been identified, and roll out is expected in early 2012.

OUTCOME 3: Election-related conflict managed for peaceful polls (before, during and after)		
Output 3.1. The electoral dispute resolution mechanism is strengthened **Baseline:** Electoral courts exist but do not receive many cases and do not have capacity to deal swiftly with others **Indicators:** • Electoral disputes are effectively, timely and satisfactorily addressed • Regional electoral dispute courts are operational • % of cases brought to court and solved in an effective manner **Responsible Parties: Judiciary/EOC; UNDP** **Total Budget: $655,000**	3.1.1 Electoral Offences Court strengthened (temporary body) to handle timely resolution of disputes	• According to the schedule received from the Judiciary the Electoral Offences Courts (EOCs) will be set up during the last week of February or 1st week of March 2012. the Courts will sit for 12 months. • There will be six Electoral Offences/Petitions Courts. Three in Freetown and three in the Provinces, one in each Provincial Capital. The provincial Electoral Offences Courts will have also operate in additional to the provincial capitals i.e. EOC in Makeni will also sit in Portloko, EOC in Kenema will also sit in Kono, and EOC in Bo will also sit in Moyamba. • Judiciary has also estimated for operational support for the EOCs which includes IT equipments, internet facility, vehicles, motor bikes, generators fuel and other office support. The budget from Judiciary is expected in 2012 Q1.
	3.1.2 EOC/NEC/PPRC training to judges and magistrates	• The planned training for Judges, Magistrates, Public Prosecutors, SLP AIGs, Senior Police Prosecutors, and the SLP Director of Legal Services, could not take place in Q4. The Judiciary would like to hold this training exercise once pending Electoral Legal Reform Bill is passed by the parliament. Now this training is schedule to take place in Q1 2012.
	3.1.3 Crisis management plan for electoral disputes	• **NTR**
	3.1.4 NEC-led public education campaign on the role of the courts	• **NTR**
Output 3.2. National Electoral Security Plan implemented and improved capacity of SLP to safeguard elections (UNIPSIL lead)	3.2.1 Provide support to the Office of National Security	• The National Security Council Coordinating Group (NSCCG), concluded a tour of all the regions including Kono, (13-16/12/2011) meeting with the Provincial Security Committees (PROSECs) and District Security Committees (DISECs), on the need to be alive to their responsibilities on providing a safe and secure environment, not only for the forth-coming general elections, but at all times. This tour was however financed by the ONS. Instead of two

Baseline: ONS lead on electoral security planning and positive experience of 2007 to draw on; low capacity of and public confidence in the SLP to play its role to secure the polls and voters; experience of SLP in 2007 generally positive **Indicators:** • Electoral security plan put in place at least one year ahead of 2012 polls and involving NEC and PPRC • Reduced incidences of electoral violence • # of electoral related offences and occurrences of violence effectively addressed by the SLP • Presence of SLP in all elections registration and polling centres nationwide **Responsible Parties: ONS; SLP; UNDP; UNIPSIL** **Total Budget: $1,054,140**		• roving meetings provided for under the Work Plan for 2011, the NSCCG opted for four and decided to fund it. The EBF thereto, might be channelled into other meetings during the course of 2012. • To a certain extent and in general terms, threat assessment has been done but not in specific and particulars. The changing faces of threats that might impact variously on the electoral process makes it complex. Consequently, threat assessment is an on-going process that cannot be concluded in one fell swoop. It requires constant reviews and the concomitant financial implication cannot be over-emphasized.
	3.2.2 Strengthen the institutional capacity, logistics, infrastructure and impartiality of the SLP	• Police Communication equipment and spare parts have already arrived and delivered to the UNDP for onward delivery to the Sierra Leone Police. Officers of the Communications Department of the SLP have inspected them already and are in the process of taking delivery of the items. It is believed that the 100 hand-held radios as part of the communication package would arrive very soon and delivered accordingly.
	3.2.3 Training SLP, Chiefdom Police, Fire Force, Prison and MACP personnel on functions during elections, incl. role of electoral courts, sensitization on gender-based violence; training to focus on other areas as well including human rights, roles and responsibilities when assigned to polling centers and polling stations	• The selection and training of 128 Sierra Leone Police (SLP) Junior Trainers, who would conduct elections-specific training for 10,500 SLP, Prisons, Fire Force, Military Assistance to Civil Power personnel and Chiefdom Police personnel was completed. Also, the initial training of 801 of those had been carried out. That training was meant to be introductory and a crash programme, with a view to ushering participants to the training proper, which will take place sometime in 2012. Procurement of training supplies for 128 junior trainers was also completed.
	3.2.4 Provide UN assistance to the SLP through appropriate and timely UNIPSIL/UNPOL deployment, particularly to safeguard voters and polling materials	• Operational Plans for the various phases of the elections have already been developed, with no costs yet. It is pertinent to mention that since this is tied to Risk/Threat Assessments, which are dynamic in nature, the need to revisit them is necessary. In other words, when the need arises to review those plans, the cost of doing so may be necessary.

	3.2.5 Crowd Control training to SLP personnel assigned public order responsibilities	• **NTR**

Programme Start up		
Output: PMU ensures well managed and well coordinated implementation of Election Programme as approved by LPAC and amendments approved by the Steering Committee. **Baseline:** No running programme **Indicators:** • Core PMU staff in place by early 2011 • PMU established and operational • Regular minuted Steering Committee meetings held • Strategic documents developed and implemented (AWP, operational plans, etc…) • Regular reports submitted **Responsible Parties: UNDP** **Total Budget: $3,024,873**	Establishment of PMU; Regular Steering Committee meetings; Monitoring, evaluation and reporting; EAD/DPA monitoring mission; Audits; Final project evaluation	• A short-term VR/Information Technology (IT) Advisor continued to provide strategic IT and process advice to NEC pending the conclusion of the recruitment of a long-term VR/IT Specialist. • EU-UNDP Civil Society Adviser joined PMU on 20 October 2011. Civil Society Adviser held coordination meetings with Search for Common Ground and National Coordinating Committee on 4, 18, 23, 28 November; and 6 and 16 December. As SFCG and the NCC are now responsible for outputs 2.1.1, 2.1.2; the Civil Society Adviser is assisting with elements of output 2.1.3. • PMU is still without an Operations Manager. As an interim measure a secondment from other UNDP offices in the region is being pursued. • A national Finance Associate joined PMU in October 2011. • Recruitment of an Asset Management Associate is in its final stages. • Regular Steering Committee meeting for 4th quarter took placed on 05 December 2011. • EBF budget was revised to reflect actual disbursements for 2011. The final document was shared with the EBF partners. • Inventories of programme assets provided to National counterparts were prepared. • Four Capacity assessments were held to determine the ways in which to engage with new implementing partners for PBF funded activities under the Non-state Actors Project. • Development of 2012 AWPs started with expected submission to all concerned parties before the 1st Steering Committee for 2012.