Project: PBF/SLE/A-8: Promoting non-violent, free and credible elections through enhanced participation of non-state actors (Project ID: 77292)

I

Background

Since 2004, UNDP and its partners have supported the Sierra Leonean National Electoral Commission (NEC) 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 10-year civil war in 2002, and the first without the supervision and major logistical support of the international community and UN peacekeepers. Building on the earlier success stories Sierra Leone 2012 Election became a concluding step for Sierra Leone's peace consolidation process and NEC has greatly contributed to this positive lookout through its important and crucial role in managing the 2012 Elections. In 2012 NEC conducted and managed a technically complex election in a competent, fair and credible manner. With the successful conduct of these elections, and local elections and by-elections held since, Sierra Leone has made important gains in the consolidation of its post-conflict democracy and towards self-sufficient administration of its own elections. The 2012 elections passed peacefully and were deemed credible and transparent by international observers. However, as also noted by various observers groups, there remain significant capacity gaps which, if not addressed in 2013 and 2014, could once again result in reliance on the international community. There remain a fragile political situation featuring political polarization and regional and ethnic divisions which could become exacerbated leading to the 2016 and 2017 electoral processes. This, combined with a weak economy including high levels of unemployment, particularly among the youth, could negatively impact on electoral disputes and conflict management around the electoral process. The potential for conflict related to the electoral process remains a concern to the Government and the international community. Both intend to focus their support on continuing fostering an environment that is conducive to the holding of credible future elections and strengthening mechanisms that administer and oversee the electoral process and party competition in democratic manner. This programme is directly implemented (DIM) by UNDP Sierra Leone in consultation with the programme's beneficiaries and other programme partners. The Programme is implemented in close cooperation with UNIPSIL is expected to contribute to the above mentioned objectives. Specifically, by the programme's end, it is expected that the 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   Half Year 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
 	
Baselines:
• 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.
• Longer-term voter registration solution not in place.
• Operational and structural arrangements within NEC not appropriate to the operations of NEC.
• Women participation in electoral processes and management still lacking.
• PAE 2012 in place but requires review to ensure adequate participation by all Sierra Leonean.
• Engagement with electoral stakeholders still weak.
 	
Indicators:
	1.1.1 Strengthening of Voter Registration Capabilities	**Relocation of Central data system to NEC HQ**
		- NEC's central data system was relocated from Wellington to NEC HQ in first quarter of 2013. Despite the well-intentioned and technically sound decision of relocation day-to-day management necessary for running NEC's central data system remain a concern for the programme.
		
		   • Having the data system located at Wellington removed the ICT Department from physical proximity to the rest of NEC staff at HQ, which posed an administrative burden on the Commission.
		   • Poor electricity conditions at Wellington were not ideal to sustain such technology.
		   • The relative remoteness of Wellington causes significant time delays in conducting routine database queries.
		- Unavailability of necessary operational utilities, promised before the relocation, and continued lack of interest by NEC IT department in maintaining what is undoubtedly *heart of NEC election operations* means relocation of the system has not achieved its intended goal of 24/7 operational NEC data centre.
		
		- UNDP ICT advisor, until his departure on 30 May 2013, extensively engaged NEC IT department and NEC senior management on issues responsible of non-operational data centre. However, combination of circumstances, outlined below, meant that no headway was made in Q2:
		
		Training of NEC IT department personnel
		- UNDP's ICT Advisor has trained ten staff of the IT department on management of existing computer equipment, database management, and the results software.
		
		- NEC IT staff was engaged in all trainings, but it became clear that staff capacity is weak when the training topics shifted from hardware management to software management and development – necessary for owning the process and customizing IT applications without external advisory.
		
		NEC Disaster Recovery system (DRS)
		- Prior to the relocation of central Data system the NEC DRS was located at HQ during the Election Period. The relocation of central data server meant that DRS and main Server are

- Limited Voter ID card, Voter list printing and deduplication facility established.
- National and in-house training programmes for senior, middle and junior staff of the Commission conducted
- Post election review conducted
- NEC participated in Legal Reform and Constitutional Review.
- Boundary delimitation planning initiated.
- Increase number of women participating in INEACE programme.
- Comprehensive review of NEC HR policies concluded.
- Independent review of WEECs management and strategy conducted.

Responsible Parties: NEC and UNDP

Total Budget: $2,322,720.00

now housed at the same location. This is not an ideal situation whereby in the event of accident/ disaster both data servers could be knocked out resulting in potential lose of entire election data and backup.

- Therefore NEC has been advised to find a new location for the DRS. Given that 2013 and beyond would see extensive cooperation between NEC and NRS it is advisable to house DRS at NRS. This way NEC and NRS could act as each other's backup and at the same time, have a live and up to date database at all time.

- Furthermore, move of DRS to NRS could also benefit from World Bank's ongoing initiative of creating intranet backbone between the various government departments. This prospect was discussed in a meeting between UNDP and the World Bank held on 25th May 2013. It was agreed that provided NEC and NRS are agreed on NRS being located at NRS then the link between NRS and NEC could be prioritize.

- However, recent thinking emerging from NEC confirms its preference of operating in isolation. NEC is not in favor of relocating DRS at NRS premises instead NEC would prefer DRS being based in Wellington which would be a repeat of same operational difficulties as faced by the central data system. To this extent NEC has submitted an extensive list to UNDP of hardware associated with such relocation which in programme's view is not a value-for-money decision.

- It is also worth pointing that there is no lack of electricity generation in the event of unavailability of national power. There are 27 powerful generators currently stored at Wellington warehouse of NEC.

- It is worth noting that an expensive and elaborated infrastructure setup by the Programme for central data system in Wellington failed to manage post election 24/7 operation not because of the lack of hardware but as a result of the lack of interest by NEC IT department in maintaining data centre operations. There is persistent finger pointing by every NEC department with some degree of responsibility towards maintaining 24/7 operations but no sign of attempts to rectify the situation either at department head levels or at the senior management level.

- NEC Chair has been advised, in a written advisory note, by UNDP CTA that as long as ad-hoc approach by the IT department towards data centre operations combined with punctuated interest of NEC senior management is maintained the goal of attaining real national ownership remains a distant reality. The same note also encouraged NEC to explore possibilities of relocating DRS at NRS as a concrete sign of cooperation as agreed in the recently signed MoU

between the two institutions.

Limited in-country voter ID card printing and de-duplication facility
- Procurement process for both services has been initiated by UNDP with Invitation to Bid (ITB) document soon to be circulated among potential service providers.

- UNDP CTA in his meetings with NEC has voiced his concerns that existing management situation of NEC central data system, investment of worth one million USD, encourage little in undertaking yet another substantial procurement for NEC IT department fearing similar fate for both facilities may follow – substantial investment by international community accompanied by lukewarm appreciation and no ownership by national partner.

ICT Technical Advisory to NEC
- UNDP ICT advisor concluded his assignment on 30 May as per NEC 2013 AWP. Future, technical advisory services will be provided by the ICT advisory currently under recruitment under NRS 2013 AWP. The new ICT advisor will commence his/her duties on 20 August 2013.

BVR Kit management training
- From 18 – 20 March as concluding part of the BVR technical support contract, service provider Face Technologies, returned to Freetown to train IT staff in BVR Kit management. Participants were taught, from scratch, how to set up, install, configure, and maintain the BVR Kits. All the scripting techniques used by Face Technologies were explained and demonstrated to participants. The majority of participants would be able to set up a secure environment, deploy existing, modified or new software on any of the kits as well as on any new or additional kits if required by NEC in future.

	1.1.2 Assistance in establishment of Central Civil Registry	- After Steering Committee decision of 21 March of placing this activity under the newly created Outcome of Civil Registry, main focus of this activity has shifted to ensuring cooperation and coordination between NEC and NRS. Such coordination is necessary in developing a common approach, relaying on common assets and human capacities, towards future voter registration in Sierra Leone.
		- On 03 March meeting between NEC and NRS was held where it was agreed that earlier signed MOU between two institutions needs to be amended to accommodate post election work which may see utilization of current NEC VR database by the NRS.
		- NEC and NRS agreed to amend the MOU ASAP and distribute a signed copy to the EBF so that donors and UNDP are aware of the progress. It was also agreed that only after the

		- amendment in place technical staff could formulate what technical assistance would they need to merge the databases and to produce a national ID utilizing NEC VR database. - The next NEC – NRS coordination meeting is scheduled for 17 April 2013.
	1.1.3 Capacity development and specialized training (IT, election operations, and procedures)	- The NEC Executive Secretary participated in an EC-UNDP Thematic workshop on Sustainability in Electoral Administration held in Mozambique. - Staff of the IT Department were trained IT training on the BVR and elections management applications (reported under 1.1.1). - With regards to this activity bulk of Q2 was spent by the Programme advisors and NEC identifying appropriate capacity development initiatives for NEC staff. These consultations resulted in a capacity development matrix subsequently incorporated into the revised NEC 2013 AWP. The 2013 AWP was finally agreed upon and signed by NEC and UNDP on 17 June 2013. - All capacity development work was put on hold in the month of June because of the approaching Village Head elections for Western Region. As consequence of this UNDP Programme was informed that NEC personnel would not be available in the month of June. Programme took a management decision of sending advisors back to safeguard against unnecessary cost implications associated with their stay in Sierra Leone. - After discussions with NEC on the availability of staff and taken in account availability of engaged advisors it has been agreed that various capacity development trainings will resume in the mid-second half (9th September) of 2013. Following would be covered under the programme: • Development of election calendar - A tool for operational planning • Electoral logistics • Methodologies for Training-the-Trainers (ToT) • Practical Asset Management • Foundation training on procurement of goods and services - preparing standard specifications for electoral commodities, basics mechanisms and development of procurement timelines, Procurement both international and national. • Development of effective training manuals • Specialized technical training on M&E techniques • Review and structural reorganization of NEC (taking into account on ongoing review

		undertaken by NEC) - In Q1 UNDP's ICT Advisor provided trainings to NEC IT department on the following: • Management of existing computer equipments • Various database systems and management of database • Results management software and hardware • Nomination and Results Tally System Software • BVR Kit management - The NEC ICT staff had a firsthand opportunity of putting their training into practice on the 04 May 2013 Bye-Elections in Port Loko. The IT department personnel prepared from scratch a desktop computer as a district server. They also configured four laptops as Nomination Registration and Election Result Data capture terminals. Although it was a localised exercise this was a good exercise nonetheless. Same learning could be applied to when preparing larger setup such as at ward, district and regional level.
	1.1.3 Review and Legal Reform	- **NTR** – work planned for Q3 and Q4.
	1.1.4 Support to Boundary delimitation	- **NTR** – work planned for Q3 and Q4.
	1.1.6 Post-election evaluation and research	- A one day post elections lessons learned workshop was held on 21 February at the Commission's Headquarters at Tower Hill, Freetown. This occasion brought NEC Commissioners and staff from four Regions and 14 electoral districts to share the elections' experience of 2012. - The workshop was compressed to a day from initially planned three-day activity hence the quality of the program suffered as a result. NEC staff did generate lessons learned, but there was not sufficient time to explore issues in depth and move analysis of activities past a consideration of the quality of inputs i.e. the quality of vehicles NEC rented, or slow payment of exhibition staff) toward a critical review of intended outcomes (i.e., how NEC's material delivery strategy and capacity affected the overall quality of election operations). - Following the workshop NEC recognized the need to have a more substantive lessons learned activity conducted – incorporating donor, observer, and national stakeholder feedback. Smaller and focused lessons learned workshops are planned for the 2nd Quarter. **Lessons Learned Workshop** - After a number of preparatory meetings with NEC Executive Secretary and approval by the NEC Commission, a NEC-UNDP Lessons Learned (LL) Workshop took place from 15 to 17 May,

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2013 in Freetown with the participation of NEC Executive Secretary, 19 NEC Senior Management Staff (7 Directors, 8 Chiefs of Unit and 4 Regional Chiefs) and UNDP Advisers.

- Through dedicated working groups and plenary discussions, the workshop covered three main areas:

  - Operations
  - Training and Procedures
  - Result management.

  Participants identified and debated shortcomings encountered during the last elections together with relevant solutions and capacity development needs to be included in 2013 NEC Annual Work Plan. Working groups findings were then discussed and agreed upon during a plenary sessions and recorded in the Lesson Learned Matrix. The resulted Lesson Learned Matrix has been integrated into the approved NEC AWP for 2013

- Beyond the several specific issues and capacity development needs identified two major cross-cutting electoral management deficiencies have surfaced during the 3-day workshop namely Planning and Coordination of electoral processes at NEC.

- The need for dedicated training on Planning and Coordination has explicitly emerged in several instances during the workshop. Nevertheless, another parallel trend has materialized highlighting the need to couple technical/managerial capacity development with wider institutional behavioral analysis. In fact, while gaps in planning and coordination processes and activities could be "formally" bridged by training, it is not clear how to "substantially" entrench and apply new coordination and planning mechanisms given what has been noticed to be a resistance to change in management practices.

- Recruitment process for an independent post election evaluation has been initiated. It is expected that independent evaluator will commence his/her assignment by 20 August 2013.
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<td>1.1.7 Gender Mainstreaming</td>
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- NEC has been asked to identify potential women candidates for the INEACE programme. Furthermore, NEC has been advised that nominations list should be drawn after consultations between NEC, civil society and other interested institutions making sure that large spectrum of women benefit from the initiative.

- Planned review of gender and disability policies of NEC, funded by the Programme, was discussed between UNDP and NEC. It has been agreed that EBF support will be built upon the work already being undertaken by a GoSL funded national consultant currently reviewing
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		various HR policies of NEC.
	1.1.8 Achieve greater engagement with all stakeholders	- After various reviews of NEC AWPs following has been approved with respect to the activity: • Quarterly stakeholder workshops with civil society, political parties • Independent review of WEECs management and strategy • Dissemination of information on legal reform • Electoral education targeting first-time voters currently in secondary school - Independent review of WEECs management and strategy is now part of the approved 2013 AWP. Recruitment process for an independent national consultant will commence in Q3.
	1.1.9 Decentralized Result System	- It was confirmed by NEC at the SC meeting held on 27 June 2013 that for future general elections, result tallying system will be decentralized at district level. - To achieve this ambitious goal Programme has already extended several trainings to NEC on the IT aspects of result management system which were put good use on 4 May bye-election. However, larger rolling out of decentralized district system in 2014 would require development of several SOPs and setup of District Result Tally Centers for which EBF will be providing support in remaining two quarters of 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 **Baselines:** • Limited awareness among members of political parties about the reason for the existence of political parties. • PPRC has no comprehensive communication strategy. • PPRC has challenges with	1.2.1 Political education among political parties and its national membership enhanced	- At the conclusions of the November 17th, 2012 multi-tier elections, the PPRC through its statutory role of monitoring the conduct of Political Parties made clear to all the parties what it observed throughout the electoral process. Some of the major challenges observed by the commission during its monitoring of the concluded elections were the weakness in the capacities of some political parties, in trying to shape the political will of the people. Lack of knowledge among the supporters of political parties was striking to the Commission. - The Commission proposed to embark on a Political Education programme which after several discussions now has been made integral part of PPRC 2013 AWP funded by the EBF. - The Commission met supporters from all the regions. No or very little dissemination of key political parties' documents and resulted ignorance of political parties' supporters were seen as one of the very many challenges faced by the political parties. The Commission has therefore decided that such regular dialogue and training for the leadership of Political Parties will continue in Q3 and Q4. - The Commission has developed a concept paper for Inter-Party dialogue on the Constitutional

personnel capacity in campaign and party financing and disclosure monitoring. • PPRC regional offices operational but require further support· • PPRC Bill yet to be reviewed and pass by the parliament. **Indicators:** • Increased awareness by political parties' members and public about political parties. • PPRC improved communication with target audience. • Strengthened capacity of personnel for campaign and party finance monitoring. • Database on parties developed, data collected and analyzed. • Increased dissemination of information on the performance of political parties. • Legislative framework for PPRC		Review process. The dialogue will acquaint Political Parties with the earlier recommendations made by the Constitutional Review Committee of 2006 of which current Chairperson of PPRC was member. - The Commission had a working session with members of the House of Parliament in a move to capacitate parliamentarians on the filling and submission of campaign finance forms for contestants for the elections. This is a statutory requirement which all contestants must comply with. The training capacitated MPs on the processes and it is expected that by extension Political Parties benefit too.
	1.2.2 PPRC Regional offices operational	- As part of enhance operational capacities of regional offices, as well as the HQ, and safe guarding of assets PPRC developed an assets management guidelines which was presented at the SC meeting held on 27 June 2013. - Through this asset management plan PPRC has start maintaining at each regional office an asset register containing vital statistics or PPRC deployed assets. - As per the asset management plan inventories are updated on a monthly basis. It has been also agreed with the PPRC that quarterly EBF asset focal point physical verification visits will continue until all assets are handed over to PPRC. Such quarterly visits are also serve an encouragement to PPRC regional offices to regularly implement PPRC asset management plan.

developed and amended.
 	
Responsible Parties: PPRC, UNDP, UNIPSIL
 	
Total Budget: $457,496.00
	1.2.3 Public outreach and research capacity of the PPRC developed	- As part of enhance operational capacities the Commission has developed ToRs for the hiring of a Communications Consultant.
		
		- The expected output of this consultancy is to contribute to strengthening PPRC's HQ and regional capacities for more effective communication in support of Commission's Political Education initiative. This consultancy is expected to last for a period of seven months.
		
		- Under this activity PPRC is working towards instituting a system to disseminate policy briefs on political parties and their activities which would serve as a vehicle for policy advice. Following thematic areas have been identified under this initiative namely:
		
		    • Communication and internal challenges with political party constitutions
		    • Gender Policy and its Implementation by Political Parties
		    • Youth Exclusion and Violence in political parties
		    • Engagement of Political Parties on State Policies and programmes

	1.2.4 Legal reform to widen the mandate of the PPRC, granting authority to sanction violations of the PP Code of Conduct	- The Commission has commenced an internal review of the PPRC Draft Bill and furthermore, consulted the Law officers Department of the Ministry of Justice to effect changes. Schedule for consultations and engagements have been finalized and this will guide the review process.
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 **Responsible Parties: NEW, CSEEP** **Total Budget: N/A**	2.1.1 Coordination of Civil Society activities. In particular substantive coordination between NEW and NEC/PPRC/ development partners and coordination between NEW and CSO partners.	_**Note Output 2.1 is no longer part of the EBF as was originally planned and appeared in the pro doc.**_
Output 2.2. Political parties play a constructive and informed role in the electoral process	2.2.1 PPRC-sponsored training of political parties and inter-party dialogue (PBF)	- A MCG has been signed with the Justice and Peace Commission on 7 June for the rehabilitation and handover of the National Council of Paramount Chief national office in Bo. - During the reporting period, eight Joint Border Security and Confidence Building Unit (JBSCBU) meetings were held, providing a platform for cross- border collaboration between

Baseline: • Remaining contentious political environment. • Limited or no inter-party dialogue. • Low capacity at most political parties. • Limited access of parties to resources and networks;. • Inadequate focus by parties on youth and women in the ranks and in leadership positions. **Indicators**: • Increased trust and unity between and amongst political actors. • Significant progress towards the 30% gender bill realized. • All Political Parties Youth Association is functional. • PPRC resolving party disputes professionally and promoting improved party governance with little or no external intervention. **Responsible Parties: PPRC; Political Parties; UNDP; UNIPSIL**		communities, and also putting in place communication channels for security agencies. - Five Capacity Building on Border Security and Management trainings were conducted for members of JBSCBU. - One Cross border Sports and Athletics day was organized in Koindu. - In addition, MRU held a Mano River Women Peace Network (MARWOPNET) consultation meeting, in Freetown from 11-12 June bringing together MARWOPNET representatives from Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, and Guinea. - Terms of Reference for the research into root causes of a perceived regionalism and options for the management of diversity have been revised, and procurement action initiated by UNDP. - UNIPSIL followed up with Mr. S. Berewa in relation of the purchase of copies of his book on *Governance, Leadership, Conflict and Nation Building in Sierra Leone.* Regrettably, no copies are yet available to be procured. - A Micro Capital Grant for the resolution of community based conflicts in Kholifa Rowala Chiefdom, Tonkolili district, has been signed with WANEP on 28 May. The IP has supplied an operational plan, and has started community engagement. - An additional MCG with Hope Sierra Leone promoting community resolution is pending review by senior management, and may not be implemented. - LOA has been signed with PPRC on 4 June 2013. - Together with PPRC, the interparty dialogue contained in the LOA has been re-conceptualized to revolve around the constitutional reform process, targeting three high- level inter- party consultations between 10 parties, to take place in Freetown. - It has been reported by NSA/UNIPSIL that despite frequent interactions with PPRC, UNIPSIL has not received concept notes for the Intra party retreats.
Total Budget: $ 558,527.00 (PBF) (include $85,000 NSA PIU operations, & $59,968 for pending IP payments)	2.2.2 District Monitoring committee strengthened for mediation and conflict resolution in the post-election cycle (PBF)	- Following signing of the LOA with PPRC on 4 June, despite frequent interactions with PPRC, regrettably, no operational plan has yet been received from PPRC for the support contained in the LOA to the DCMCs.

	2.2.3 Review of policies and Constitution of Political Parties (PBF)	- Following the establishment of an interparty youth wing committee, and with inputs from a UNIPSIL legal expert, the APPYA constitution has been reviewed and a draft produced.
	2.2.4 Youth leader training programmes, including support to inter-political party youth projects.(PBF)	- Without external funding, with a view to promote sustainability, APPYA has produced two monthly newsletters distributed to national and international partners and stakeholders. - A revised operational plan for the APPYA activities contained in the LOA is expected from PPRC. UNIPSIL has also temporarily suspended activities out of Freetown pending the retrieval of a PA system supplied to the Association in 2011.
	2.2.5 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)	- A revised operational plan for the APPWA activities contained in the LOA is expected from PPRC. - APPWA partnered with local organizations, Parliamentarians and councilors to promote the gender equality bill and community engagement on the constitutional review and what it means for rural women. Also, APPWA held meetings with the First Lady's Office and the Ministry of Gender to engage traditional stakeholders on gender equality programmes. - UN Women, as implementing partner for a training programme for female parliamentarians, has not yet programmed activities.

Output 2.3. Media monitoring and improved reporting standards **Baselines:** • Media frequently contributes to political tension rather than defusing it. • Low journalistic standards for reporting on electoral activities. • Dependence on most of the population on radio reporting **Indicators**: • # of monitoring visits by the IMC nationwide. • # of monitors deployed nationwide to gather and analyse information and address disputes involving the media.	2.3.1 Support Independent Media Commission (IMC) to monitor and enforce the Media Code of Practice	- During the period under review, the IMC observes that radio services remain largely professional, with intermittent breaches. The public broadcaster the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) received technical support from the Commission and the United Nations. There are still significant challenges that they need to overcome. - The IMC with its limited staff was not able to include the monitoring of online Services in any substantial manner. This remains a challenge to overcome. With the introduction of electronic media service monitoring Stirlitz in February, the Commission hopes to improve its monitoring of online Services in a more professional manner. - During this reporting period the IMC produced IMC Media Watch which provided information on trends of political reporting before and after General Elections. The Commission also produced the "getting it Right" publications which primarily focused on New Information Communication Technologies and their implications for West Africa - Eighteen Field Media Monitoring Notebooks were purchased for the 16 National Media Monitors and basic MS Office training of media monitors will be conducted and equipment assigned once the field monitors are re-instated i. e contracts are renewed. - The IMC has finally procured the Stirlitz Media Monitoring Software and accounting software and arrangements finalized for their installation.

• # of radio-based reports that are professional and unbiased. **Responsible Parties: IMC, Media, UNDP** **Total Budget: $ 56,241.00**	2.3.2 Support to radio-based news reporting (e.g., SLBC, Cotton Tree News, others)	- During the period under review, CTN provided training for station managers and journalists from partner community radio stations. - CTN received interns from partner community radio stations and introduced the interns to the essentials of professional newsroom, editorial meetings, news gathering and interviewing techniques, news writing skills, technical editing and programme production. - CTN continued linking up with its network of 26 partner community radio stations across the country, facilitating the clusters of community radio stations (constituting teams) to gather and broadcast news and current affairs information after the general elections. - During the period under review, broadcasting equipment were procured and supplied to CTN to enhance its operations following a thunder and lightning which damaged critical equipment. Furthermore, the CTN also finalized the merger with Radio Mount Aureole making the two institutions to now operate as a single entity. - *EBF supported part of this activity has been concluded in Q1.* - *Media work is continuing under separate funding and a programme*

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, the Law Officers' Department, UNDP** **Total Budget: $ 293,117.00**	3.1.1 Electoral Offences Court strengthened (temporary body) to handle timely resolution of disputes.	- The Courts are continuing to sit as required. Since the submission of the last report in April 2013, no new matters have been brought to court. - EOCs 2013 AWP was approved on 21 March 2013 with understanding that EOCs work will be completed by end June 2013. In line with the SC decision support to EOCs concluded in Q2. - Only pending financial matters will be dealt in Q3 of 2013. - As a conclusion to EBF support to Judiciary the Law Officers Department for EOCs final detailed reports by both institutions on the work of EOCs will be produced in Q3.
Output 3.2. Support to Security Sector (UNIPSIL lead) **Baseline:** being developed **Indicators:** being developed **Responsible Parties:** pending **Total Budget:** pending	3.2.1 Support provided to the Office of National Security for the review and upgrade of the National MACP policy for use in elections.	- UNIPSIL/UNPOL held discussions with the ONS leading to the setting up of a Committee to implement activities related to the *National MACP policy for use in elections*. Upon the establishment of this Committee, series and sequencing of activities were established and detailed budgets prepared to cater of each activity.

	3.2.2 Strengthen the institutional capability, logistics and accountability of the SLP.	- **NTR**
	3.2.3 Effective management of SLP assets and training the SLP nationwide on equipment care.	- The UNDP has undertaken the procurement of the computers and accessories for delivery to the SLP for establishment of effective asset management of SL assets. - UNDP Procurement solicited bids from service providers for the development of Asset management software.
OUTCOME 4: Strengthening Civil Register to support NEC with a technically sound, credible and sustainable Voter Register		
	4.1.1 Roadmap for development of an Integrated National Civil Register	- After several consultative meetings NRS 2013 AWP was agreed and signed on 19 June 2013. - Following the signing of the AWP Minister of Interior asked UNDP to extend technical assistance to carry out extensive activities detailed in the 2013 AWP. - Recruitment process for a Civil Registration Coordination expert has been initiated. It is expected that the Civil Registration Coordination expert will commence his/her assignment by 15 August 2013.
	4.1.2 Utilization of current NEC BVR Database	- Revised MoU between NRS and NEC was signed on 22nd May 2013. Among other things, the two institutions have agreed to work on having an integrated database and a uniform National identity Card by June 2016.
	4.1.3 Printing and distribution of new National ID Cards	- **NTR** – work planned for Q3 and Q4.
	4.1.4 Realignment of legal mandate of relevant agencies	- Recruitment process for a legal expert has been initiated. It is expected that the legal expert will commence his/her assignment by 30 August 2013. • NRS inform the SC meeting of 27 June 2013 that highest on the list of concerns is the need to ensure security of the system, integrity of the data, and protection from abuse of individuals' private information.
	4.1.5 Assist in Establishment of district level Civil Registry locations	- **NTR** – work planned for Q3 and Q4.
	4.1.6 Harmonization and synchronization of relevant agencies' ICT systems	- Recruitment process for an IT expert has been initiated. It is expected that the IT expert will commence his/her assignment by 20 August 2013.
Programme Management		

| Output 0: PMU ensures well managed and well coordinated implementation of Election Programme as approved by LPAC and amendments approved by the Steering Committee.

Baselines:
• Well managed and coordinated programme in place.
• Programme assets tracked and inventories administered.

Indicators:
• Regular minuted Steering Committee meetings held.
• Strategic documents developed and implemented.
• Regular reports submitted.
• Technical advisory being provided to national counterparts, if requested.

Responsible Parties: UNDP

Total Budget: $800,000.00 | • Regular Steering Committee meetings.
• Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
• Programme audit
• Asset management
• Technical assistance to national partners
• Coordination with all national and international partners | - The 12th 13th and 14th Steering Committee *Stocktaking and Forward Planning* meeting for *the Support to the Electoral Cycle in Sierra Leone, 2011 – 2014* for the first half of 2013 were held on 13 February, 21st March and 27 June respectively. The meeting was not a SC meeting as such, but one of stocktaking to explore ways to retain momentum in the post-election period and incorporate lessons learned. Following observations were made by the SC:
 • All outcomes of the programme were coordinated through the regular meetings of the SC, which met 12 times during 2011 and 2012. The frequency of SC meetings was increased when pending issues necessitated. Subsequently, the 10th, 11th, and 12th SC meetings were held on 01 October, 29 October and 08 November respectively.
 • All key stakeholders, including NEW representing civil society, participated consistently in the SC meetings and at relevant levels.
 • The Minister of Finance himself co-chaired all of the SC meetings since the approval of the programme.
 • The SC allowed inter-governmental discussion on cross-cutting issues.

- UNDP technical advisors continued their assistance to PPRC and NEC in development of their respective AWPs which were approved and signed prior to the 27 June meeting of SC.

- The PMU continued its financial management of Peace Building Fund and the PMU Operations Manager continued to be the focal point for the NSA project being led by the UNIPSIL. The inability of NSA engaged IPs in fulfilling their reporting obligations agreed under the signed agreements is noted with great concern.

- UNDP Country Office Management Audit by the Office of Audit and Investigation from UNDP HQ took place in June covering period from January 2012 to 31st March 2013. As part of their audit, they reviewed programme and project management control. To that end, Elections Project was among the sampled projects to be reviewed. PMU was able to provide all the documents and information requested and any additional clarification required. Final draft report for the observations made and their recommendations so as to provide Management responses is still awaited.

- A dedicated audit for the Election programme for 2012 is scheduled to commence from 15 August 2013.

- WFP has agreed to extend the usage of their warehouse with reasonable cost until end of December 2013. The signed Agreement to this effect is in place and the disbarment has been made for the whole period. It is worth point that WFP-UNDP agreement represents a substantial financial saving and value for money decision. |

		- UNDP has confirmed to the NEC that assets procured through EBF for NEC or multiple use by other national institutions will only be handed over to respective institutions once current election programme comes to an end on 31 December 2014. This confirmation became necessary after NEC requested UNDP to handover all assets to NEC procured by current election programme. - PMU Operations Manager conducted training to PPRC staff at HQ and from the Provinces on Programme and Financial Management. The main objective of this training was to enhance their capacity to be able to effectively deliver on agreed development results in a timely manner relevant to their daily work. More emphasis was on timely implementation and reporting on all agreed activities as per approved work plan, and utilization of the resources more efficiently and effectively to reach the targeted beneficiary group ***PMU- Asset Management*** - A wide range of equipments required for various stages of the electoral cycle were procured in 2011 and 2012 using EBF and PBF. These assets include biometric voter registration system, central data centre hardware and software, VSAT communication systems for decentralized result management system, hundreds of desktops, office furniture etc. - After the elections abovementioned assets have been stored at the WFP warehouse, under UNDP supervision, until they are handed over officially to national partners as and when authorized by the SC. For proper accountability according to the UNDP Policies and Procedures on regular basis physical asset verification is undertaken and Fixed Asset Register is maintained by the PMU. - Furthermore, a comprehensive Asset Register has been compiled and being regularly updated by PMU for all assets which are at national institution and Implementing Partners for Non State Actors programme. - For the purpose of accountability and transparency the Asset Register is signed by all relevant programme partners upon conclusion of every periodic physical verification cycle which is every three months. The Register include new assets purchased, description of asset, identification, value of asset, acquisition date, location and current custodian. - <u>The main challenge facing UNDP is the continuous storage of these assets because WFP could only afford to allow the use of warehouse until end of May 2013. Being a UN common system property the cost of WFP warehouse is negligible to the programme. For post May needs programme would require its own warehouse which will come at substantially higher cost to the programme.</u>