



PEACEBUILDING FUND

PROJECT DOCUMENT COVER SHEET

Project Title: Promoting human rights culture through support to the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone	Recipient UN Organization: OHCHR
Project Contact (OHCHR): Ms. Beatriz Balbin Address: UNIPSIL Human Rights Section Telephone: 076-800 016 Email: balbinb@un.org	Implementing Partner(s): Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) Ms Francess Alghali, HRCSL Executive Secretary Address: Telephone: 076-603 194 E-mail: piagielaverley@yahoo.com
Project Number: PBF/SLE/C-3 (extension/phase II)	Project Location: Sierra Leone
Project Description: This project intends to continue the support provided to the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone in the accomplishment of its strategic plan which aims at promoting the creation of a human rights culture in Sierra Leone.	Total Project Cost: \$1,905,000 Peacebuilding Fund: \$600,000 Government Input¹: \$1,022,000 Other (expected): \$183,000 (UNFPA) \$100,000 (OSI) Total GoSL and PBF: \$1,622,000

¹ Including: \$200,000 – Running costs; \$62,000 – Rent savings; \$760,000 – Salaries.

<p>The project will specifically support the strengthening of the Commission’s regional presences and enhance its human rights monitoring and investigation capacity.</p>	<p>Project Start Date and Duration: 1 March 2012 to February 2013</p>
<p>Gender Marker Score²:</p> <p>Addressed to the Sierra Leonean population in general, at least 52% of beneficiaries shall be women</p>	
<p>PBF Priority Area(s) and Outcomes: PBF priority area 2: Promote coexistence and peaceful conflict resolution PBF Outcome 7: Exercising of fundamental human rights by general public improved to redress enduring practices of political and economic exclusion, e.g. through support to institutional HR mechanisms, safeguard and oversight arrangements for the promotion of fundamental HR</p>	
<p>Outputs and Key Activities:</p>	
<p>Output 1: Strengthened outreach capacity of the Commission (Goal 6,7)</p>	
<p><u>Key Activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of Commissioners and staff • The provision of Logistic and communication support to the HRCSL regional offices • Support to the projects of HR Committees • Sensitization activities on human rights • Publication of IEC materials • Support advocacy on the Disability Act and UN Convention on disability • Joint activities with grass root level women organizations on women’s rights 	
<p>Output 2: Human Rights situation throughout the country monitored and reported through the enhanced capacity of the Commission (Goal 1, 8)</p>	
<p><u>Key Activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine and thematic monitoring of human rights and publication of thematic reports • Publication of state of human rights report- 2011 • Logistic support to the Directorate of Monitoring • Training workshops for HR Committees on human rights monitoring • Strategic meetings with government authorities on monitoring findings 	

² The PBSO monitors the inclusion of women and girls in all PBF projects in line with:

- SC Resolution 1325 (inclusion of women in prevention and resolution of conflict and in peacebuilding)
- SC Resolution 1612 (protection of children affected by armed conflict);
- SC Resolution 1820 (prevention of sexual violence and women in situations of armed conflict); and
- SC Resolution 1888 (re-enforcing Resolution 1820)
- SC Resolution 1889 (re-enforcing Resolution 1325)

PBSO measures inclusion of women and girls at project planning stage based on intended results and allocated budgets. PBSO also monitors and documents the progress and results of these projects separately to inform the SC and UN system.

Output 3: Quasi-judicial function of the Commission strengthened (Goal 1 Strategic Plan)

Key Activities:

- Support to investigate human rights violations and conduction of public hearing
- Provision of logistic support to the Directorate of complaints and investigation
- Study visits for the new Commissioners on quasi-judicial functions
- Transport and emergency medical support to the victims of HR violation
- Establishment of complaint mechanisms in all districts where the Commission does not have presence
- Production of contextualized manual on complaint handling
- Establishment of complaint management system (computer database)
- ToT for HR Committees on complaint mechanism of the Commission

Co-chairs of the DEPAC

Mr. Michael von der Schulenburg

Signature

Executive Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations

Date & Seal 24 Jan. 2012

Honorable Dr. Samura Kamara

Signature

Minister of Finance and Economic Development

Date & Seal 24/1/12

Mr. Vijay Pillai

Signature

Country Manager of the World bank

Date & Seal Jan 18, 2012

Recipient Organization

Ms. Béatriz Balbin

Signature

Representative, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Date & Seal 17.01.2012

National Implementing Partner

Ms. Frances Alghali

Signature

Executive Secretary, Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone

Date & Seal 12/01/2012

COMPONENT 1: Situation Analysis

Sierra Leone has emerged from a ten-year civil conflict, but continues to suffer its consequences. There has been significant effort in promoting human rights in the country. However, the underlying causes of the conflict have not been fully dealt with, and a number of human rights challenges identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission still remain to be addressed if the prevailing peace and stability is to be consolidated. Low level of enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights remain among the biggest challenges and others include weakness of the justice sector, discrimination against women, child labor, and gender based violence, in particular female genital cutting.

The Human Rights Commission established in 2006 as an independent state institution to protect and promote human rights is making progress in delivering its services to the people of Sierra Leone. The UN Peace Building Fund has been instrumental in enhancing the capacity of the Commission since its establishment. For example, in 2007, the Commission received 1.5 Million USD which was used for the operationalization of the Commission and again in 2011, the Commission received 200,000 USD to strengthen its outreach activities.

The Commission has demonstrated through actions that this is a significant institution to work towards establishing a human rights culture in the country. The Commission has already published its two annual reports on the state of human rights and the third report is about to come out in public. Recently the Commission did a public hearing of a human rights violation case involving more than 235 ex-army personnel and advanced recommendations to the government to pay their entitlements. The Commission has time and again recommended to the government on crucial human rights issues. The Commission's involvement in the UPR process is also laudable as the Commission could provoke the government and civil society to prepare their reports for the UPR. Considering the important role the Commission has been playing, the International Coordination Committee of National Institutions (ICC) has recently accredited the Commission as "A" status.³ The Commission has established regional offices in four regions though with a skeleton staff.

The Commission has been housed in a rented building since its establishment. The government has recently allocated a place for the Commission which is significant for the sustainability and it is expected that the Commission will soon move to the new premises. However the regional offices will have to continue occupying the rented houses as there is no plan for the government to provide any permanent place.

UNIOSIL, UNIPSIL and UNDP continued to support the HRCSL including by providing training for the appointed commissioners, and assisting the HRCSL implement a number of other initiatives.

While the HRCSL has developed its capacities to discharge its obligations, it requires on-going support both to ensure it fully professionalizes its current staff and has the wherewithal to carry out important programming and to reach out to districts outside Freetown. Currently the funding provided by the Government is not enough to implement its strategic plan 2009-2011 and a failure now to continue

³ The International Coordination Committee of National Institutions, which is a forum of national human rights institutions, reviews the functioning of national institutions and assesses whether they comply the basic international standard as set out in the Paris Principles, in particular, their independence and accredits at various levels. HRCSL was graded at the highest level "A"

support the HRCSL would mean that the institution would be almost incapacitated and that the people of Sierra Leone would be deprived of an agency capable of protecting and promoting human rights

COMPONENT 2: Narrative Section: Project justification

The project has a direct link to peacebuilding process in the country. The lasting peace cannot be achieved in Sierra Leone without creating a culture of respect of human rights. A strong state mechanism to address human rights violation is a key to minimize conflict in the societies. Still a large population is not fully aware of their rights and responsibilities. The civil society, which plays a crucial role in human rights advocacy, are still weak and the Human Rights Commission has very limited access to communities where there are more human rights issues and problems.

The Commission adopted its strategic plan in 2009 to address human rights challenge in the country but suffered with critical funding gap. The strategic plan of the Commission is in the process of review but it is assumed that the basic goal of the Commission will not change and the activities to be supported under this project are among the core functions of the Commission.

The government has been providing funding to the Commission to cover administrative costs including salary and recurrent administrative expenses. The Commission in 2010 also received funding from Irish Aid in the amount of 413,530. Similarly UNIFEM, UNDP and IRC have provided USD 15,000, 50,000, and 15,000 respectively to carry out some of the activities under the strategic plan. The OHCHR has recently approved USD 50,000 for the Commission to carry out sensitization activities on the UPR recommendations. While this support is instrumental, it is severely inadequate to implement a range of activities envisaged in the strategic plan.

This project aims at supporting the Commission in three substantive areas.

a) Enhancing the Commission's outreach capacity

The Commission has extended its office to four regions to ensure better access to communities and address human rights issues on the ground. The government has been providing salary and operational cost and the PBF Fund has paid for office space until 2012. However, these regional offices lack support for mobility to constantly visit various districts and interact with partners and government authorities. Therefore the project aims at procuring vehicles for four regional offices. Similarly the project plans to support effective communication by procuring projectors and support for internet. In addition, there is a need for exposure for regional level staff to international training which will equip them to discharge the responsibilities. The project also plans for sensitization programmes targeted to communities. Human Rights Committees operating in all districts are crucial civil society partners of the Commission and there is a need for constant support to them to maintain engagement as these Committees also lack capacity in terms of resources and training and the project aims at supporting them.

b) Strengthening of the Commission's monitoring capacity

With technical support from UNIPSIL Human Rights Section/ OHCHR, the Human Rights Commission has recently established a Monitoring and Research Directorate to coordinate one of

the core functions of human rights monitoring and publication of the state of human rights report every year. The project aims at supporting the directorate and also publication of the 2011 state of human rights report, refresher training to human rights committees on human rights monitoring and interactive programmes with national authorities on monitoring findings among others. The project will also support monitoring and publication of thematic human rights reports.

c) Strengthening of the Commission's Quasi-Judicial capacity

The effective implementation of quasi-judicial power of the Commission is crucial in addressing human rights violations and providing redress to victims of violations. Through the support from UNDP, the Commission, among many pending matters, has completed recently a public hearing on a human rights violations case involving 235 ex-servicemen of the government and made a landmark decision recommending that the government pays their entitlement. There is lack of resources to effectively investigate into human rights violations and sustain this momentum and therefore, the project aims at supporting investigation of complaints and also public hearings. The project has anticipated that there will be a batch of some new Commissioners in the end of this year as the tenure of the existing Commissioners is expiring. The project will also provide them induction and also a study visit of strong African Commissions to study the quasi-judicial operations. There is also a need to establish a complaint mechanism in the districts where the Commission does not have presence. The human rights Committees are best placed to collaborate in this and the projects provide support in this area. The project will also support the establishment of a database of complaints and human rights violations.

COMPONENT 3: Logical Framework (including implementation strategy)

This project will act as a catalytic fund to the Commission. The project has proposed the procurement of vehicles for the field offices which is crucial to ensure that it has access to the communities. As the government will take care of maintenance of the vehicles and recurrent cost, this will be a sustained support to the Commission. The staff members of the Commission no longer depend on project for salary which now they get from the government. The project will enable the Commission to demonstrate its competence to deliver.

The Commission will engage and collaborate with its civil society partners to implement the activities of the project. The Commission will also outsource civil society in particular; human rights committees or other partners and also hire consultants in the area where the Commission lacks expertise. The programme will focus more in the districts aimed at reaching out the communities through its regional offices. A strong partnership will be developed with civil societies that will also work as focal point for the Commission in the area where the Commission lacks its presence.

Part 1 (Strategic Level): Logical framework

Objectives	Measurable indicators/Targets	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p>PBF Priority Area</p> <p>2 Promote co-existence and peaceful conflict resolution</p>	<p>Extent to which the HRCSL works in conformity with international standards (Paris principle) both in monitoring and in handling complaints (Quasi-judicial capacity)</p>	<p>State of human rights report</p> <p>Reports of other organizations such as Amnesty International reports</p>	<p>The country continues making progress in consolidating peace through enhancing democratization and good governance</p>
<p>PBF Outcome(s)</p> <p><i>(7)Exercising of fundamental human rights by general public improved to redress enduring practices of political and economic exclusion, e.g. through support to institutional HR mechanisms, safeguard and oversight arrangements for the promotion of fundamental human rights</i></p>	<p>Enhanced capacity of the National Human Rights Commission and civil society to monitor and investigate human rights violations</p>	<p>Public Reports of the Human Rights Commission</p> <p>Reports of civil societies on human rights</p> <p>Recommendations by the Commission on a number of issues</p>	<p>The staff strength of the Commission remains intact</p> <p>The Government complies with the recommendations of the Commission</p>
<p>OUTPUTS</p> <p>Strengthened outreach capacity of the Commission (strategic goal1)</p>	<p>Increased number of staff trained on human rights</p> <p>Provision of vehicles and improved internet facility for HRCSL field offices</p> <p>Number of meetings with human rights committees and sharing of reports by the Committees</p> <p>Number of sensitization activities in the communities</p> <p>Number of HR Committees get logistic support and support to implement projects</p> <p>Publication of IEC Materials, posters, banners, and user friendly human rights documents, and state of human rights report</p>	<p>Reports of the activities</p> <p>Inventory of the procured items</p>	<p>The Commission will have full strength of staff at HQ and regional offices</p>

Human rights situation in the country monitored and reported through enhanced monitoring capacity of the Commission	Number of training workshops for human rights Committees on human rights monitoring Number of interactive programmes with authorities on monitoring findings Publication of state of human rights report	Reports of the workshops Inventory of projects	The government continues supporting human rights work
Enhanced quasi-judicial capacity of the Commission (strategic goals 4,2,5)	Number of cases investigated and number of public hearing carried out Mechanism established in a number of districts to receive complaints	Reports of the Commission	The Commissioner effectively engage in this area of mandate of the Commission

Part 2 (Implementation Level): *This table describes what will be implemented, by whom, how, and how much.*

PBF Outcome: (One table for each PBF Outcome)

Output 1 Strengthened outreach capacity of the Commission (Goal 6, 7 of HRCSL Strategic Plan)			
Main Activities	Inputs	Rough Cost Estimate	Person(s) responsible for mobilizing inputs
Training of Commissioners (Induction for the new Commissioners)	Trainers, stationary, DSA, lunch etc	15,000	
Two International training for the field staff	Participation fees, DSA, ticket	10,000	
Procure four wheel drive vehicles (Hilux) for regional offices in Bo, Kenema, Makeni and Freetown	Procurement	160,000	
Four Digital Cameras for Regional Offices	Procurement of cameras	1,600	
4 Power point projectors including screens and four laptops for the regional offices to conduct trainings and sensitization activities	Procurement of camera, projectors, screens	12,000	

Four generators for training and sensitization activities in communities	Procurement of generators	4,000	
Support to regional offices to procure internet services for modem and mobile top-up cards	Procurement of internet services and top-up cards	5,000	
Support to the projects of Human Rights Committees to be implemented in communities	Project cost/logistic	30,000	
Number of sensitization activities carried out through community radio and other electronic and print media and meetings on human rights	Production of radio programmes and refreshment, travel	20,000	
Publication of IEC Materials, posters, banners, and user friendly human rights documents targeted to communities	Consultant to develop materials, and printing costs	10,000	
Training of trainers for law enforcement agencies targeted to the authorities in the provinces	Refreshment, transport, hall rental	15,000	
Support advocacy on dissemination and implementation of the Disability Act and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities	Workshops expenses	15,000	
Joint activities with grass root level women organizations to carryout sensitization activities on women's rights	Project cost	20,000	
	Total Output 1	317,600	
Output 2- Human Rights situation throughout the country monitored and reported through the enhanced capacity of the Commission (Goal 1, 8)			
Routine monitoring and monitoring of thematic human rights issues and publication of thematic reports	Cost for developing monitoring guidelines and cost for travel and publication of report	30,000	
Publication of the State of Human Rights Report 2011 of the Commission	Printing cost of the Report workshop expenses for dissemination of the report	32,000	
Procurement of a laptop and a digital camera for the Directorate of Monitoring and Research	Procurement of a laptop	1,600	
Training workshops for human rights Committees on human rights monitoring and advocacy	Travel, DSA, and refreshment	15,000	

Strategic meetings with government authorities on monitoring findings (in districts and in Freetown)	refreshment	10,000	
	TOTAL OUTPUT 2	88,600	
Output 3- Quasi-judicial function of the Commission strengthened (Goal 1 Strategic Plan)			
Conduct enquiry and investigation on human rights violations	Travel cost and related expenses	20,000	
Conduct 4 public hearing on human rights issues including in the regions	Travel, advertisement consultant, hall rental	40,000	
Hiring of the services of lawyer in complaint handling	Consultancy	10,000	
Procurement of a laptop and a digital camera for the Directorate of Complaints and Investigation	Procurement of a laptop camera	1,600	
Study visits for the Commissioners and executive secretary on the operation of quasi judicial function of the Commission	DSA, ticket	15,000	
Transport cost and emergency medical support for victims/ witnesses who are unable to pay	Transport cost	15,000	
Establishment of complaint mechanisms in all districts where the Commission does not have presence (in 9 districts) with the support of HR Committees	Stationary, communication support and stipend for the focal point	18,000	
Production of a contextualized manual on complaint handling	External Consultant	12,000	
2 training of trainers for human rights committees on complaint mechanism of the Commission	Refreshment, hall rental, stationary	12,000	
	Total Output 3	143,600	
Total core activity cost (outputs 1-3)		549,800	
Monitoring and evaluation of the project audit cost and bank charges		10,948	
TOTAL ACTIVITY COST		559,800	
7% to total project administration cost (approximate amount)		39,252	
GRAND TOTAL		600,000	

COMPONENT 4: Budget

PBF PROJECT BUDGET	
CATEGORIES	AMOUNT
1. Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	215,800
2. Personnel (staff, consultants and travel)	67,000
3. Training of counterparts	162,000
4. Contracts	
5. Other direct costs	115,948
Sub-Total Project Costs	560,748
Indirect Support Costs**	39,252
TOTAL	600,000

* See the UNDG Harmonized reporting to Donors for Joint Programmes approved in 2006 and available on <http://www.undg.org/docs/9442/Explanatory-Note---Annex-D.doc>.

** The rate shall not exceed 7% of the total of categories 1-5, as specified in the PBF MOU and should follow the rules and guidelines of each recipient organisation. Note that Agency-incurred direct project implementation costs should be charged to the relevant budget line, according to the Agency's regulations, rules and procedures.

COMPONENT 5: Management Arrangements

An MOU will be adopted between the implementing OHCHR and the Commission for a smooth implementation of the project which will highlight the payment modalities, procurements and the role of both partners in implementing the project. OHCHR/The Human Rights Section of UNIPSIL will provide necessary technical backup for the implementation of the project.

The project will establish a Project Steering Committee to provide strategic guideline in the implementation of the project. The Committee will consist of the representative of the Ministry of Finance, representative of civil society, UNIPSIL Human Rights Section, the Human Rights Commission, and representative of the recipient UN agency. The first meeting of the Committee will be held before the commencement of the project and the Committee will meet quarterly to review the progress in the implementation of the activities envisaged in the project and provide strategic guidelines for the smooth implementation of the project.

The Commission will develop a comprehensive work plan in one document highlighting the activities to be supported under various budgets/projects within the Commission to avoid duplication and overlapping in the activities. Coordination and collaboration with various factors including civil society and UN Agencies will be a key factor in ensuring synergy in the implementation process.

COMPONENT 6: Monitoring and evaluation

The Project Steering Committee will play an active role in monitoring and evaluation of the project. The Commission shall produce quarterly progress reports for review of the Steering Committee.

A mid-term evaluation will be conducted after 9 months of the implementation of the project with technical support from the OHCHR/UNIPSIL. The report and outcome of the evaluation will be shared with local and international partners. The final evaluation of the project will be done by an external evaluator as agreed to by all the stakeholders to the project. The terms of reference will be approved by the Steering for such evaluator. The evaluation will also cover financial aspect, implementation process and whether or not outputs were achieved. The final evaluation report will be published and shared among stakeholders.

COMPONENT 7: Analysis of risks and assumptions

The success of the project is tied up with the commencement of the project. Effective implementation of the project also depends on the staff strength of the Commission. Currently the Directorate of human rights education is vacant.

The tenure of the current Commissioner will end in December 2011. The effective implementation of the project will also depend on timely appointment of Commissioners after the expiry of tenure of the existing Commissioners.

Clear understanding on the role of recipient agency and timely disbursement of fund is also crucial for speedy implementation of the planned activities which requires continued support from international partners, civil society and the government. The Commission should provide policy guidelines for the implementation of the project and responsibility of implementation should be given to various divisions, and offices with timelines.