

**SECRETARY-GENERAL'S PEACEBUILDING FUND
PROJECT DOCUMENT TEMPLATE**



PBF PROJECT DOCUMENT
Length: Max. 12 pages (plus cover page and annexes)

Country: Sierra Leone	
PROJECT TITLE: Enhance strategic direction, coordination, and peacebuilding impact of PBF portfolio in Sierra Leone	
Project number / from MPTF-O Gateway portal (for existing projects):	
PBF project modality: <input type="checkbox"/> IRF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRF	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund Name of Recipient Fund:
List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed by the type of organization (UN, CSO etc.): UNDP and OHCHR (on behalf of UN RC) List additional implementing partners, governmental and non-governmental:	
Approximative project start date¹: April 2024 Project duration in months:² 30 months Geographic zones for project implementation: Sierra Leone	
Does the project fall under one of the specific PBF priority windows? <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition between different UN configurations (i.e., peacekeeping mission withdrawing) <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project	
Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization): UNDP: \$ 1,103,466 OHCHR: \$ 325,473 Total PBF: \$ 1,428,939 <i>*The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account. The coordinating agency must prove that the project has spent/committed at least 75% of the previous tranche and submit all the PBF reports due covering that same period.</i>	
Any other existing funding for the project (amount and source): USD 300,000 from OHCHR Total project budget: \$ 1,728,939	

¹ Note: the project start date is the date of the first transfer.

² The maximal duration 18 months for IRF projects and 36 months for PRF projects.

PBF 1st tranche (60%):	PBF 2nd tranche* (40%):	__ tranche	__ tranche
UNDP: \$ 662,080	UNDP: \$ 441,387	XXXX: \$ XXXXXX	XXXX: \$ XXXXXX
OHCHR: \$ 195,284	OHCHR: \$ 130,189	XXXX: \$ XXXXXX	XXXX: \$ XXXXXX
Total: \$ 857,363	Total: \$ 571,576		

Two-three sentences with a brief project description and succinct explanation of how the project is time sensitive, catalytic, and risk-tolerant/ innovative:

The main objective of the project is to ensure improved coordination, quality, oversight, monitoring and evaluation and strategic communications of the PBF portfolio in Sierra Leone, including by ensuring gender and human rights' mainstreaming in the portfolio, by establishing a PBF Secretariat within the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and supporting the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to deploy a Senior Human Rights Advisor (SHRA) to the RCO.

Summarize the in-country project consultation and endorsement process prior to submission to PBSO, including through any PBF Steering Committee where it exists:

The project is the result of consultations among various actors, including the RCOs, UN Country Team (UNCT), and PBF's donors. In addition to the proposals and recommendations resulting from these consultations, the project takes, also, into consideration the priorities of the Government of Sierra Leone as indicated in the Mid-Term National Development Plan 2018-2023 and the recommendations accepted by the Government of Sierra Leone at the 3rd circle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR 2022) as well as a range of analyses on conflict drivers.

Project Gender Marker score³: 2
Specify % and \$ of total project budget allocated to activities in direct pursuit of gender equality and women empowerment (GEWE): \$ 440,238 equivalent to 30.81%

The PBF Secretariat has the responsibility to support UN agencies and all implementing partners in ensuring that GEWE is mainstreamed across the conceptualization and implementation of all PBF project proposals, with additional support on ensuring a strong peacebuilding and human rights lens in projects supporting GEWE as a principal or significant objective (GM2/3). It will make sure that progress reports and synergies of project interventions clearly support and demonstrate tangible and sustainable progress towards GEWE.

Project Risk Marker score⁴ : 0

³ **Score 3** for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective (at least 80% of total budget allocated to gender equality and women empowerment).

Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective (at least 30% of total budget allocated to gender equality and women empowerment).

Score 1 for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 15% of budget).

⁴ 0 = low risk to achieving outcomes

1 = medium risk to achieving outcomes

2 = high risk to achieving outcomes

Select PBF Focus Areas which best summarizes the focus of the project (select ONLY one)⁵: 4.3 Governance of peacebuilding resources and PBF Secretariat






If applicable, **UNDAF outcome(s)** to which the project contributes: Outcome 2. By 2023, people in Sierra Leone benefit from more gender and youth responsive institutions that are innovative, accountable, and transparent at all levels and can better advance respect for human rights and the rule of law, equity, peaceful coexistence, and the protection of boys and girls, women and men including those with disabilities.

If applicable, **Sustainable Development Goal** to which the project contributes: SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions and 17 Partnerships for the Goals.

<p>Type of submission:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New project</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Project amendment</p>	<p>If it is a project amendment, select all changes that apply and provide a brief justification:</p> <p>Extension of duration: <input type="checkbox"/> Additional duration in months:</p> <p>Change of project outcome / scope: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Change of budget allocation between outcomes or budget categories of more than 15%: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Additional PBF budget: <input type="checkbox"/> Additional amount by recipient organization: USD XXXXX</p> <p>Brief justification for amendment:</p> <p><i>Note: If this is an amendment, indicate any changes to the project document in RED colour or in TRACKED CHANGES, ensuring a new result framework and budget tables are included with clearly visible changes. Any parts of the document which are not affected, should remain the same. New project signatures are required.</i></p>
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⁵ (1.1) SRR, (1.2) Rule of law, (1.3) DDR, (1.4) Political dialogue;
 (2.1) National reconciliation; (2.2) Democratic governance; (2.3) Conflict prevention/management;
 (3.1) Employment; (3.2) Equitable access to social services
 (4.1) Strengthening of essential national state capacity; (4.2) extension of state authority/local administration;
 (4.3) Governance of peacebuilding resources and PBF Secretariat.

PROJECT SIGNATURE:

<p>Recipient agency⁶</p> <p><i>Name of Representative:</i> Frederik Ampiah</p> <p><i>Signature</i>  UNDP</p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i> 25/03/24</p>	<p>Representative of National Authorities</p> <p><i>Name of Representative</i> Kenyah Barlay</p> <p><i>Signature</i> </p> <p><i>Title</i> Minister of Planning and Economic Development</p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i> 25/03/24</p>
<p><i>Name of Representative:</i> Abdul Fofana for Kim Taylor</p> <p><i>Signature</i> </p> <p><i>OHCHR</i></p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i> 19/03/24</p>	
<p>Resident Coordinator Seraphine Wakana</p> <p><i>Signature</i> </p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i> 25/03/2024</p>	<p>Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) Elizabeth Spehar</p> <p><i>Signature</i> </p> <p>Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support</p> <p><i>Date & Seal</i> 27 March 2024</p>

⁶ Please include a separate signature block for each direct recipient organization under this project.

I. **Peacebuilding context and rationale for PBF support (4 pages max)**

a) A summary of **conflict analysis findings** as they relate to this project.

Sierra Leone has endured the devastating impact of the civil war in the 1990s; the Ebola virus disease outbreak from 2014 to 2016 and the connected economic shock caused by the collapse of the price of iron-ore, the country's main export commodity; the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020, compounded by the impact of the increased price of fuel in 2022 due to the Russia-Ukraine war. In this context of instability, Sierra Leone continues to suffer from broad range of shocks in all sectors which threaten peace, stability social cohesion and the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. These include: (1) high poverty rates and socio-economic shocks; (2) climate shocks, food and water insecurity; (3) political violence and inadequate access to justice; (4) conflict over use of rural land; (5) vulnerable and porous borders; (6) gender inequality; and (7) high population of unemployed youth, 8) widespread use of drugs. Instability and inequity within this context and its potential to spark violent incidents is illustrated by the civil unrest that took place on 10 August 2022 and violence during the 2023 electoral campaign and subsequent 26 November 2023 violent events, which the government classified as a failed *coup d'état*. Efforts to respond to this context require strategic direction and coordination to enhance the peacebuilding impact of PBF projects and integration of a right-based approach.

The context in Sierra Leone, and the possible drivers for conflict are further explained below:

1. **Poverty**

According the 2019 Multi-dimensional Poverty Index, Sierra Leone is among countries with the highest concentration of poverty with 59,2% of the population identified as multi-dimensionally poor in 2019⁷. The **poverty rate** is estimated to have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. Extreme poverty in rural areas rose from 9% to 13%, although it remained unchanged nationally. Sierra Leone has shown a minor improvement in the United Nations Development Programme **Human Development Index (HDI) score**, with an increase of 0.025. Sierra Leone's HDI value for 2021 is 0.477, which puts the country in the low human development category and keeps it ranked 181 out of 195 countries and territories. Life expectancy at birth and average years of schooling increased by 5.4 years and 0.9 years respectively while the Gross National Income per capita decreased by 2.8%. The poverty rate and HDI are detrimental to sustaining peace in Sierra Leone.

Rural poverty is 86.3%, in comparison to 37% in urban areas. With about 75% of the population below 35 years, the youth are significantly affected by poverty with most young men and women (49.8 and 60% respectively) working in the informal sector. The centrality of youth is, therefore, particularly salient in contributing to social cohesion and sustaining peace in the country, chiefly in the current context of socio-political divisions (see further below under at-risk youth). The Peacebuilding State-building goal 1 under the New Deal on inclusive politics of the Roadmap "Walking out of Fragility"⁸ recommends the inclusion of more women, youth and persons with disability in political decision-making processes. Youth groups have always been politically active but not necessarily linked to

⁷ "The most recent survey data that were publicly available for Sierra Leone's MPI estimation refer to 2019. Based on these estimates, 59.2 percent of the population in Sierra Leone (4,987 thousand people in 2021) is multidimensionally poor while an additional 21.3 percent is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (1,790 thousand people in 2021). The intensity of deprivations in Sierra Leone, which is the average deprivation score among people living in multidimensional poverty, is 49.5 percent. "

<https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country->

[Profiles/MPI/SLE.pdf?_gl=1*1suqxc*_ga*MTgxODMzNDMyNC4xNzA1NjYxMzgw*_ga_3W7LPK0WP1*MTcwNjUzMDA4MC4yLjEuMTcwNjUzMDA4Ny41My4wLjA](https://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/Country-Profiles/MPI/SLE.pdf?_gl=1*1suqxc*_ga*MTgxODMzNDMyNC4xNzA1NjYxMzgw*_ga_3W7LPK0WP1*MTcwNjUzMDA4MC4yLjEuMTcwNjUzMDA4Ny41My4wLjA).

⁸ Ministry of Planning and Economic Development report on Roadmap "Walking out of Fragility" and assessment 2019.

specific political parties. However, the relationship between youth and state institutions, chiefly the Police, has been frequently marked by antagonism, which has led to violent incidents.

Instability associated with the dire socio-economic situation has the potential to culminate in violent protests in Sierra Leone. On 10 August 2022 there was a spate of violent incidents and civil unrest. It occurred in Freetown and three other districts (Western Rural District, Bombali District and Northern District). Citizens demonstrated against the government to protest against unemployment, economic hardship and injustice. These protests are a clear illustration of the volatility caused by the socio-economic situation: the protestors demanded “a reduction in fuel prices, economic relief for indebted families, fair prices for agricultural products, employment and labour rights, security, and protection.”⁹ This incident further escalated due to the confrontation between security forces and protestors and had a consequential impact – namely, regulatory measures were imposed attempting to control the crowd, including a curfew. As a result of these demonstrations, it was reported in the media that public and private property were damaged and people were killed and detained. The intensity of the violent incidents and confrontation between the people and security personnel exemplify the threat to peace, instability, and lack of social cohesion.

2. Climate change, and food and water insecurity

Climate change and its associated shocks contribute to the potential for conflict. Extreme weather-related floods accounted for 90% of Sierra Leoneans affected by disasters in 2018¹⁰. Exacerbated by widespread tree cutting, disasters threaten food security and the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations, most of them rural. Freetown is losing \$30 million a year because of extreme heat and humidity, a study concluded.¹¹ With its population spending over 90% of their working hours in non climate-controlled conditions, the city is paying a price for reduced human productivity. Without adaptation and reduced global emissions, by 2050, around 120 days a year will be as warm as the current 10 hottest days. As a result, human and economic losses will rise.

Predicted climate change will have devastating consequences for agriculture and food, increasing food insecurity. Malnutrition and diseases are likely to increase. This is of concern as Sierra Leone already has one of the highest rates of child mortality in the world, yet higher temperatures are likely to increase incidences of diarrhea, seafood poisoning, and the presence of dangerous pollutants in the environment. Further, there is an increased likelihood of severe droughts, floods and storms which threatens agriculture, fisheries, as well as infrastructure and hydroelectric power production. Finally, extreme heat and economic losses are predicted. Deforestation due to rural-urban migration exacerbates some of the effects of climate change. Freetown’s equatorial climate barely varies through the year. This means that the working residents of the Sierra Leonean capital are continuously exposed to high temperatures. Without corrective measures, by 2050, economic losses will rise to the equivalent of \$150 million. As most workers survive on low incomes, this lost value has disproportionate impacts on individuals’ well-being and ability to escape hunger.

Indeed, according to the World Food Programme (WFP), in a 2022 report, 73% of Sierra Leoneans are **food insecure**. Annual consumer price inflation (year on year) for January 2023 stood at 38.48%, with food inflation reaching 47.51%. GDP growth in 2022 was revised downwards to an estimated 2.8% from an earlier forecast of 5.9%. The country’s nascent economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic was disrupted in 2022 by a net negative terms-of-trade shock with the onset of the war in Ukraine. The overall fiscal deficit was projected at 5.0% of GDP in 2022. The economy is mostly

⁹ IFRC, Sierra Leone: Civil Unrest - Operation Update Report 1 (2022) (<https://reliefweb.int/report/sierra-leone/sierra-leone-civil-unrest-operation-update-report-1-dref-ndeg-mdrsl012>)

¹⁰ CRS (2021) FREETOWN, WESTERN AREA PENINSULA WATER FUND BUSINESS CASE TECHNICAL REPORTS (<https://www.crs.org/stories/freetown-water-fund-business-case-technical-reports>)

¹¹ WFP (2022) Restore. Energize. Empower. WFP’s Climate Action in Sierra Leone.

agrarian, with agriculture contributing 57.5% to the GDP in 2022. Food insecurity is expected to worsen due to the effects of climate change in Sierra Leone.

Further, **water security** is a major concern for Freetown, “which struggles to meet the water demands of its population amid mounting challenges associated with environmental degradation and climate change. The city, designed for only 400,000 inhabitants, is now home to more than 1.2 million people and it is expected to add 535,000 more residents by 2028.”¹² Water security is further threatened due to deforestation of the Western Area Peninsular Forest Reserve (WAPFOR). This poses a serious threat to Freetown as it is the catchment area for the Guma Valley reservoir, which supplies 90% of Freetown’s drinking water. In March 2022, WFP satellite images proved the loss of over 4,000ha of trees. Despite a legal framework being in place to protect the reserve, unregulated human activity has contributed to WAPFOR’s decimation. The impact of climate change on the economy and livelihood of Sierra Leoneans has the potential to exacerbate the above discussed instability caused by the dire social economic situation.

Considering the above analysis, climate change and conflict prevention are key areas for consideration in future projects.

3. Political Violence

Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Council elections were held on 24 June 2023. A new electoral system, based on proportional representation in the form of district block was used for the parliamentary and local council elections, while the presidential and mayorship elections were based on simple majority first past the post. Based on an ACLED report, by early 2020, Sierra Leone found itself at levels of **political violence** that were higher than at any time since the end of the war. This included physical clashes between supporters of political parties, particularly during elections; physical confrontations between opposition supporters and security institutions as well as among communities’ members and local leaders with a political undertone, also triggered by hate speech disseminated through social media. The same report explains that during the period 2019-2022, Sierra Leone has experienced one of the highest levels of political disorder per capita among countries in the region that are not in conflict¹³. Following the announcement of electoral results in 2023, a political deadlock between the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) and All People’s Congress (APC) parties took place, lasting about 4 months. It ended through the mediation of African Union, ECOWAS, and the Commonwealth. A political agreement mediated between the parties will have to be implemented in the coming months. On 26 November, violence erupted again in the capital Freetown with heavy gun fire and release of prisoners from the maximum-security prison. The government classified the events as an attempted coup and effected some arrest of current and former military and Police officers and some civilians, including the former President, who was put under house arrest and charged to Court on allegation of treason, among other charges.

4. Conflict over use of rural land

Land use and historical poor protection of rural land user’s rights has led to conflict resulting in severe harm and in some cases deaths. There has been conflict between local communities and foreign companies that have cleared huge tracts of land for palm oil and sugarcane plantations in recent years.¹⁴ A new Customary Land Right Act and Land Commission Act were enacted in 2022. These Acts provide for the protection of customary land rights, the elimination of discrimination under customary law and the management and administration of any land subject to customary law. The Acts covers the following matters: right to acquire land; elimination of discrimination concerning

¹² CRS, The Nature Conservation (2021) *Western Area Peninsula Water Fund Assessing the Return on Investment for Nature-Based Solutions for the Western Area Peninsula and Freetown, Sierra Leone Final Business Case: March 2021* (Page 4).

¹³ <https://www.afrobarometer.org/countries/sierra-leone/>

¹⁴ Reuters (2022) Sierra Leone passes new laws to boost landowners’ rights (<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/sierra-leone-passes-new-laws-boost-landowners-rights-2022-08-08/>)

gender, tribe, religion, social and economic conditions, ethnicity and ensuring accountability and transparency in the allocation and management of the land rights; family land title; community land and public land; protected, conserved and ecologically sensitive areas. The new laws will enforce compensation to the landowners for the industrial/extractive use of their land. The Customary Land Rights Act and the Land Commission Act empower local landowners to negotiate the value of their land with investors and prevent it being leased out without their express consent. The Acts also include provisions on responsible investment and leasing, including registration of land, prohibition of investment in protected areas, common resources, compensation for loss of crops, survey of land; procedures for avoiding displacement and resettlement of a community; land tenure disputes; miscellaneous provisions concerning amendments of previous acts. The laws aim to promote peace and end conflicts over land usage. However, the extent to which the laws will be implemented, and upheld, and potential conflict sparked by the significant change in regulatory powers is to be determined.

5. Borders and border vulnerability

Due to the porosity of **borders and border vulnerability**, threats to peace occur at the borders of Sierra Leone with Guinea and Liberia. Long-standing conflicts between cattle herders and farmers along Sierra Leone's borders could intensify, compounded by climate change, water and food shortages and unsustainable livelihoods of women and men. With increasing numbers of cattle herders migrating from Guinea into Sierra Leone, herders-farmers conflicts, if left unaddressed, could escalate, and destabilize both regions. A PBF cross-border project addresses a critical gap on cross-border peacebuilding between the cattle herders and farmers in Falaba district and Faranah prefecture, including non-climate adaptive and non-disaster proofed livelihoods, border management and coordination of cross-border cattle movements and data gaps. Effective and strong coordination of PBF projects addressing key cross-border factors is critical to support cross border peace. A new PBF cross-border project with Liberia has also been developed.

Sierra Leone chairs the g7+ and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State building, (IDPS) working on peace promotion and consolidation. These platforms include local chapters of civil society organizations operating in Mano River Union (MRU), which will be consulted in the development of future cross-border projects. Critical border areas prone to border conflicts will be also analysed as possible areas of intervention, such as the Yenga area. The MRU Secretariat will continue to be consulted.

6. Gender inequality

Women and girls in Sierra Leone face a range of barriers to social inclusion, including weak access to education (and especially in remote communities), health services, legal rights, as well as limited participation and representation in elected and appointed positions. Women's participation in electoral processes is limited by the cost of fees for nominating candidates, registration of political parties, the conditionality to be present in every part of the country with logistical/financial implications as well as the requirement to resign from public office a year before contesting elections. Attempting to address these and other issues that hinder women's political participation, the government, in 2022, enacted the *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Bill (GEWE)*. The *GEWE* bill advocates for special measures for women and girls' access to education and health as well as to political participation.

7. At-risk youth

In 2019 an UNCT assessment on **at-risk youth** identified family cohesion and parental guidance as key to preventing young people from engaging in unsocial behaviors and violence. A study carried out by UNICEF Sierra Leone in 2019 on violence against children revealed that the use of harsh punishments including burning, flogging/beating, inflicting pain on sensitive body parts and confinement are widespread across all regions and ethnic tribes. According to the 2017 Multiple

Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), use of violent discipline had increased by over 20% between 2010 and 2017, with 86.5% of children aged 1 to 14 years having experienced some form of violent discipline in the household or at school, compared to 64.8 per cent in 2010. Such levels of abuse of youth can be attributed partly to the legacy of past conflicts, which have created a culture of high tolerance toward violence and desensitization to suffering, exacerbating negative mental and emotional impacts. Notwithstanding these challenges, youth civil society organizations have demonstrated strong desire and capacity for promotion of peace.

The All-Political Parties Youth Association (APPYA) has been instrumental in the past to mitigate and prevent youth engagement into violence, including young people from the slums who are usually recruited as party marshalls by unscrupulous politicians. The inter-party approach to the youth in the slums helped to demonstrate that politics should not necessarily be associated with violence and that there are other systems to channel grievances, avoiding being manipulated. The Association was recently reactivated with the support of PPRC, UNDP and Peace and Development Advisor and their first retreat was held at the end of April 2022, during which they agreed on their main joint workplans, including commitments to peaceful conduct and respect of rule of law during the 2023 elections.

8. Human Rights Issues

Sierra Leone has ratified key international human rights treaties and has been working to strengthen its national reporting mechanisms through the revamped National Reporting Mechanism to Treaty Bodies (NRM). It has continued also to make efforts to align its domestic laws with regional and international human rights obligations through, for instance, the ongoing constitutional amendment and other legislative and institutional reform processes. However, the government is yet to ratify some other key human rights conventions, including the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Optional Protocol of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD); the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; the Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Sierra Leone underwent the third circle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2021 and committed to fully implement the 216 accepted recommendations out of 274 that it received from Member States. During the same UPR process, Sierra Leone made voluntary pledges of reviewing the Sexual Offenses Act of 2019 and bringing it in line with international standards on child rights, finalize the constitutional review process and abolish the death penalty. The death penalty was subsequently expunged, but much remains to be done to ensure that no one is left behind in the enjoyment of human rights. Discrimination against women, including harmful traditional practices and gender-based violence, continue to be reported across the country, as well as harsh and sometimes life-threatening detention conditions. Forced labour, child labour especially in the artisanal diamond and gold mining sectors and child trafficking remain key areas of improvement.

While the repeal of Part V of the 1965 Public Order Act has significantly contributed to the promotion of individual liberties and an expanded democratic space, misinformation, hate speech, including in political discourses, and dis-information, including through social media platforms remain a major challenge.

On 10 August 2022, human rights violations were reported during security forces interventions to tackle demonstrations. The President set up a Special Investigation Committee (SIC) to “examine both the immediate and underlying causes, sources of financing, execution, and consequences of the insurrection, as well as the response of the security forces”.

Sierra Leone conducted the Presidential and Parliamentary elections in June 2023 amidst a climate of inciteful and hateful speeches. Instances of violence, leading to some deaths, were also reported. For instance, on June 25, a woman was allegedly shot by the Police at the APC headquarters in Freetown in what has on the one hand been described by the Police as an attempt to dispel an unlawful assembly and on the other hand described by opposition political party as assassination attempt on the flag bearer or at a minimum, an unprovoked and disproportionate use of force by the police and other security agents.

PBF support in Sierra Leone and information on the PBF Joint Steering Committee

Since 2007 to 2023, the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has invested USD \$79 million in Sierra Leone. Working closely with the then Security Council mandated United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) and with the UNCT, the PBF has supported a wide range of peacebuilding projects in Sierra Leone, contributing to the state-building processes, conflict prevention and resolution.

Building on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report, early PBF support focused on strengthening institutions for inclusive democratic governance, reconciliation, access to justice and protection of human rights, improved security, promotion of dialogue, and gender equality. From 2013 to 2016, the PBF support focused on helping to support a smooth transition from the UNIPSIL to the UNCT, which took place in March 2014, following a resolution of the UN Security Council. The PBF helped to further strengthen the country's human rights mechanisms. In particular, the institutional capacity of the National Human Rights Commission as well as relevant Government and CSO partners was increased in the areas of (i) Business and Human Rights, (ii) the protection of women and girls from SGBV and (iii) the protection and promotion of the rights of people with disabilities. As a result, the Human Rights Commission developed the very first National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights as well as an annual report. SGBV cases were expedited before the Family Support Units, along with better monitoring of prisons' conditions and contributing to the release of unlawfully detained prisoners. Conflict resolutions mechanisms were also strengthened with the setup of a network of 50 insider mediators and 30 youth monitors in six districts to address community tensions and act as early warning ambassadors. They were instrumental in helping prevent over 100 Ebola-related conflicts. Community dialogues were also promoted as a means of discussing issues of community concern inclusively and avoiding conflict. Through the support to broad participation of women as political actors and peacebuilding ambassadors at national and local levels.

Since 2018, the PBF support to Sierra Leone has focused on specific conflict-related issues, identified by the UN and the Government as priorities and where the PBF and the UN can contribute to innovative solutions. In particular, the PBF has dedicated greater attention to land-related conflicts, with a focus on disputes with extractive industries/concession companies as well as on women's access to land. More recently, PBF has been supporting youth and women engagement in dialogue, elections and local conflict prevention. It has also enabled cross-border peacebuilding interventions between Sierra Leone and Guinea with another intervention between Sierra Leone and Liberia under preparation. Four new projects were approved by the PBF in 2022, and are under implementation, as follows:

- "Promoting the creation of an enabling environment for the conduct of peaceful elections and the strengthening of social cohesion in Sierra Leone," related to the 2023 national elections and the post-elections' period (\$3,000,000)

- “Youth in Politics and Peacebuilding” to be implemented by an international NGO working in Sierra Leone (\$1,900,000)
- “Empowering Youth Bike Riders as Sustainable Agents of Peace in Sierra Leone” (\$1,900,000)
- “Localization and Working -Together for Peace: Repositioning Women-focused CSOs for Sustainable Peace in Sierra Leone” (\$2,000,000)

Despite significant progress made since 2007, the above conflict analysis illustrates the continued need of PBF investments in contributing to peace and security in a wide range of sectors as the PBF remains the most strategic Multi-donor Trust Fund of the UNCT in terms of project awards and the only one specifically focused on peacebuilding and social cohesion. Sierra Leone not only ranks low in the human development category, but also suffers from numerous shocks and high inequality, and therefore greatly requires support in peace, development and strengthening social cohesion. Sierra Leone continues to be formally eligible to PBF investments under its Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility till the end of 2025, after which the Government and the UN System, led by the UN RC, will re-assess and discussion with PBSO and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs whether a new request for eligibility is warranted. The PBF Secretariat will play a key role in supporting this process.

There is currently no dedicated high level PBF Joint Steering Committee in Sierra Leone. Rather, the PBF portfolio, as part of all UNCT projects, benefits from the thematic discussions held at the Development Partnership Committee (DEPAC) and, in partnership with line Ministries, aligns its priorities to the decisions made at the DEPAC meetings as well as to the National Development Plan. The DEPAC, is co-chaired by the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, the UN RC and the World Bank Country Director, and serves as a vital platform, facilitating dialogues among government, development partners, private sector, and NGOs, to address critical developmental challenges and formulate actionable recommendations, which translate into projects and programmes. During the period of this new project, the RC’s Office and the MOPED will consider and decide on the establishment of either dedicated DEPAC meetings on PBF coordination or establish a Joint Steering Committee on the PBF. If such a committee is established, the PBF Secretariat will support its functioning.

- b) A brief description of how the project aligns with/ supports existing Governmental and UN **strategic frameworks**, how it ensures **national ownership**, and any relevant past or current projects

This project aims to support the design, oversight, implementation, monitoring and visibility of the PBF project portfolio and, as such, it contributes to the UN’s ongoing engagement in and support for Sierra Leone, in line with UNSDCF 2020 - 2024. It should be noted that the UNSDCF, developed with and endorsed by the authorities in Sierra Leone in 2020, prioritizes the need to strengthen social cohesion and reconciliation in Sierra Leone (Outcome 2) noting that the UNSDCF aims to ensure “inclusive institutional frameworks (gender, youth and disability responsive) for peace, citizen’s voices and participation for social cohesion”. Outcome 2 is an enabler for the outcomes and SDG-related priorities, especially SDG 16.

This project aligns with the Government of Sierra Leone’s strategic approach to sustainable development. Recalling that the government selected and prioritized two SDG accelerators (SDG4 - Inclusive Education) and (SDG16 - Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), this project resonates with SDG16 which is one of the accelerators to the government’s transformational agenda. Goal 16 aligns with the broader human rights framework by promoting societies that respect and uphold individual

rights, as well as the right to privacy, freedom of expression, and access to information. As such, this project is one of UNCT's efforts to align and accompany the government in making a clear link between these two accelerators and other SDGs and ensuring that UNCT programmatic tools including the Common Country Analysis (CCA), which is being developed, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2020-2024) incorporate these dimensions. The project also aligns with and support the United Nations RC and the UNCT in integrating human rights into their programmes and activities, in particular the UNSDCF and other key strategic planning tools, including by building UNCT capacities to apply a human rights-based approach to their programmes and activities.

The UN in Sierra Leone has peacebuilding and human rights technical and advisory capacities, in the form of a Peace and Development Advisor - deployed by the UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme on constructing national capacity for conflict prevention, who has acted as PBF focal point since 2016 up to date- and a Human Rights Advisor - deployed by OHCHR - hosted in the RCO.

The UNSDCF 2020-2024 is budgeted at \$371.3 million, of which \$90.2 million was obtained by the end of 2022. The cumulative amount of expenditure by year-end 2022 was \$76.2 million, reflecting a strong delivery rate of 84%. Guided by the UNSDCF Joint Financing and Resource Mobilization Strategy that was drafted and approved by UNCT in 2021, several previously awarded joint programmes continued in 2022, including those funded by the PBF, Migration MPTF, the Human Security MPTF, the UNPRPD MPTF, and Joint SDG Fund.

The UNCT has vast experience in implementing peacebuilding and social cohesion interventions since 2004 and has established relationships that can be mobilized to explore new and innovative ways to promote social cohesion and peacebuilding. In its work on peacebuilding and social cohesion, the UNCT coordinates with the UN in Sierra Leone Youth Task Team, the United Nations Youth Advisory Group, and the Gender Thematic Group.

II. Project content, strategic justification, and implementation strategy (4 pages max Plus Results Framework Annex)

a) A brief description of the project content

The Peace and Development Advisor has been coordinating all PBF related activities and providing necessary support to agencies. As the PBF Portfolio has continued to increase in size and scope and is operating in a complex political and socio-economic context, there is a need for a dedicated PBF Secretariat to manage the delivery of the portfolio, to ensure efficiency and successful implementation of PBF-funded projects. The PBF Secretariat will report to the RC through the Peace and Development Advisor, and will coordinate with the Senior Human Rights Adviser, to ensure alignment of the PBF portfolio with the UN's broader peacebuilding work in Sierra Leone.

As per the usual arrangements, the PBF Secretariat will be hosted in the RC Office and contribute to the broader peacebuilding programming agenda of the UN in Sierra Leone, in partnership with the host government. The PBF Secretariat will implement the following work streams: i) provide oversight and quality control of PBF support throughout design and implementation, including identifying opportunities for engagement through analysis and consultations, and strengthening capacity of recipient entities; ii) serve as an interface between the PBSO and PBF projects, providing updates on the progress of the portfolio to PBSO, and other stakeholders as needed; iii) ensure the inclusion of gender and youth themes in PBF interventions; iv) facilitate M&E and communications on the PBF portfolio; and v) ensure synergies of PBF projects with other relevant UNSDCF programming, with

those implemented by international partners, and will seek to establish and strengthen new partnerships to catalyze the results of PBF investments.

In providing technical and coordination support to the PBF portfolio, this project does not plan to support one strategic result versus another, as it will support all the projects being developed and implemented and ensure that they are gender sensitive. Further, the PBF Secretariat is not involved in the actual implementation of PBF projects.

b) **Project result framework**, summarizing major project interventions.

The project will include the following specific interventions (activities that have cost implications are highlighted in blue):

Outcome 1: The PBF portfolio is well coordinated to ensure synergies and greater impact in the design and implementation of PBF projects

Output 1.1: The PBF Secretariat is functional within the UN RC Office

- A1.1.1** Recruit Secretariat staff: project coordinator (P4) and M&E (IUNV).
- A1.1.2** Set up PBF Secretariat Office within the UN RC Office (office furniture and equipment).
- A1.2.3** PBF Secretariat capacity development supported, as needed, including participation in PBSO community of practice and relevant training courses and potential PBSO country travel.

Output 1.2: PBF portfolio programs respond to PBF programming quality criteria and to joint UN and Government peacebuilding priorities

- A1.2.1** Update mappings of peacebuilding actors (UN, Government, CSO, TFP) and interventions; identify funding gaps and programmatic entry points for PBF projects in line with PBF Strategic Results Framework.
- A1.2.2** Work closely with the Peace and Development Advisor, support regular updates of the conflict analysis in close collaboration with the UN, Government, CSO and Development partners and support the UN and Government review and discussions on potential PBF re-eligibility request in 2025, including the potential submission process
- A1.2.3** Facilitate coordination and strategic support to ensure design quality of PBF projects in collaboration with UN entities in Sierra Leone and at HQ, Government, CSO and TFPs prior their submission to PBSO for approval.
- A1.2.4** Ensure at least 30% of the PBF funds are allocated to gender/women empowerment and that youth and women are effectively included strongly in all PBF interventions, including through facilitating UN agencies' contacts and partnerships with NGOs/CSOs.
- A1.2.5** Support the UN System and NGO/CSO partners to apply for the Fund's annual competitive Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative, including provision of information and support with technical comments and coordination/pre-selection of proposals.
- A1.2.6** Strengthen capacities of PBF recipient organizations and partners for a conflict sensitive approach, peacebuilding, M&E, and gender and youth sensitive peacebuilding programming, including through provision of tailored training and workshops, as needed.
- A1.2.7** Support the PBF portfolio, PBF recipient entities, RC and the UNCT in integrating and applying a human rights-based approach to their programmes and activities, including the UNDAF and other key strategic planning tools. (OHCHR)

A1.2.8 Provide advice, training and technical assistance to the Government and stakeholders on engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures. (OHCHR)

Output 1.3: Coordination mechanisms between projects and keys partners are created and enhanced to achieve strategic results of the PBF portfolio and ensure coherence/synergies between PBF projects and activities.

A1.3.1 Support the oversight role of the RC within the framework of the peacebuilding programming, in close collaboration with the Peace and Development Advisor.

A1.3.2 Establish a standing coordination mechanism between UN agencies implementing PBF projects (monthly meetings or more often if needed).

A1.3.3 Create a regular coordination mechanism at the technical level (Technical Committees) between implementing UN agencies, the Government, CSO and PBF projects (quarterly meetings or more often if needed – at portfolio or at project level), and pending decision from the RC and Government, potentially a PBF Joint Steering Committee

A1.3.4 Ensure synergies between projects during the design and implementation phases

A1.3.5 Organize, if applicable, regional meetings or other relevant travel as agreed with PBSO, especially within the framework of regional and cross-border projects.

A1.3.6. Strategic engagement with IFIs on coordination and synergies and active search for opportunities for PBF catalytic effects and complementary support

Outcome 2: Improved result tracking, learning and communications on PBF portfolio progress and impact.

Output 2.1: Quality monitoring and evaluation of the PBF portfolio is ensured.

A2.1.1 Support UN recipient agency design of and provide oversight of quality M&E plans for all PBF projects, both individually and in collaboration with each other to prevent duplication among PBF projects, and between PBF projects and other peacebuilding projects in the country.

A2.1.2 Review and help to ensure quality of the semi-annual, annual and final PBF project reports.

A2.1.3 Support independent assessment studies of the PBF portfolio, which PBSO may conduct as well as provide quality oversight to individual project evaluation deliverables, in close cooperation with project recipient entities.

A2.1.4 Regularly conduct field missions to monitor PBF projects and deliver mission reports to share with the RCO and PBSO/DPPA regional desk.

A2.1.5 Facilitate dialogue between benefiting communities and the PBF Secretariat via community monitoring mechanisms and ensure voices of the beneficiaries are strategically used to promote shared responsibilities.

A2.1.6 Ensure knowledge and best practices management and communication via appropriate platforms for future peacebuilding activities.

A2.1.7 Prepare and implement the M&E Plan for monitoring of PBF portfolio level results, including through contributing to high level data collection, cost-shared with PBF and other projects, and in partnership with government entities and/or other development partners, to enable monitoring against the strategic indicators.

A2.1.8 Draft the annual progress report of the PBF portfolio progress and any further needs ahead, through a consultative process and submit it to the PBSO at the end of every year.

Output 2.2 Improved visibility and evidence-based advocacy of the PBF Portfolio and its progress and lessons, and to support catalytic effects

A2.2.1 Develop a communication strategy to promote visibility of the PBF activities and results in the country and among a range of stakeholders, including through storytelling.

A2.2.2 Support UNCT and partners to improve visibility and catalytic impacts of the PBF activities in the country and internationally, in partnership with the project level efforts.

A2.2.3 Document, analyze and disseminate lessons learned from PBF projects execution in Sierra Leone and the region.

A2.2.4 Support RCO/PBF recipient entities in implementing the multi-stakeholder outreach communication strategies to raise awareness on PBF-funded work, enhance understanding on PBF comparative advantage and favor catalytic effects, including to various donors and to IFIs.

A2.2.5 Support resource mobilization efforts of PBF recipient entities to follow-up on PBF projects results/impact.

Targets

The targeted groups are: PBF Steering and Technical Committees, UN agencies, implementing partners of the PBF projects (government and NGO), UN RCO, and relevant development partners.

c) Provide a project-level ‘theory of change’

If the PBF Secretariat is established and efficiently supports the design, development, oversight to implementation, M&E and reporting of PBF projects, as part of the PBF portfolio, and provides strategic oversight and guidance as well as support for strengthened human rights’ based approaches, **then** the PBF projects will have a more significant and coordinated peacebuilding impact and will be more likely to resolve bottlenecks quickly, sustain their results and to catalyze effects and funds with the Government and development partners. **Because** there will be improved coordination, quality, oversight, monitoring and evaluation and strategic communications of the PBF portfolio in Sierra Leone.

d) Recipient organizations and implementing partners

The RC has designated UNDP to be the agency responsible for the administrative and programmatic management of the PBF Secretariat project. In addition, OHCHR has been designed to be the additional recipient in this project to enable the PBF financial contribution to the Human Rights’ Adviser post. The choice of UNDP as the entity to administer the PBF Secretariat is due to UNDP’s strong engagement in peacebuilding programming (including with funding from the PBF), and its experience in administering the Peace and Development Advisor and administering the funds of the Senior Human Rights Adviser (SHRA) in Sierra Leone.

As per the agreed MOU between PBSO and UNDP on the operation and management of PBF Secretariats, UNDP, in this project, provides operational support, including administrative and procurement services, and manages the PBF Secretariat staff recruitments under guidance of the RCO and with involvement of PBSO. It is important to note that the PBF Secretariat is responsible for managing the implementation of the activities and related expenditures, as per the PBF Secretariat project document. For these services UNDP charges Direct Project Costs (DPC), in addition to the 7% of GMS. All positions are fully funded by PBF.

e) Project staffing, management and coordination

The PBF Secretariat will be situated at the UN RCO and have substantive reporting obligations to the UN RC, through the Peace and Development Advisor (as agreed with the RC), and, indirectly, to PBSO. The Secretariat will have the following composition:

- PBF Coordinator (P4 – International)
- M&E/ Communications Officer (UNV Specialist– International)

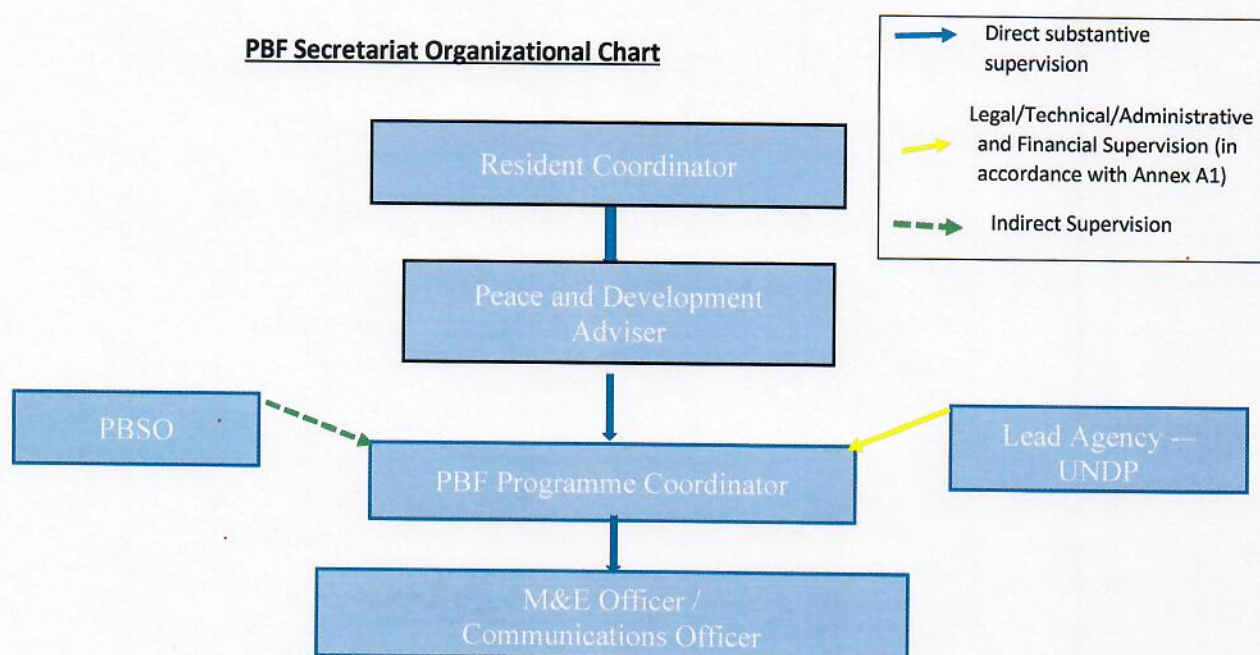
Specific terms of reference will define in detail the responsibilities of each Secretariat staff member. The RC remains accountable for the quality delivery of the PBF Secretariat.

As per the agreed PBSO-UNDP MOU on the operation of in-country PBF Secretariats, UNDP will be the administrative agency and, in this capacity, will ensure administrative and contractual management of Secretariat staff. There is no formal substantive reporting line of the PBF Secretariat to UNDP in-country, only a Quantum-related reporting line respecting UNDP's administrative role in the project, which allows the PBF Secretariat project to be managed/implemented. As the Secretariat will have some activity budget, as per this project document, this will require that the PBF Coordinator can access project management features in Quantum and other UNDP mechanisms under this standalone project to be able to directly manage activities and associated costs in UNDP tools. As such, for the operational management of the PBF Secretariat Project, namely in Quantum, whose authorizations are required in the system for the PBF Secretariat to be able to implement its work/manage the PBF Secretariat project, the PBF Coordinator will report to a designated senior UNDP Officer. This senior UNDP officer will also be responsible for entering the PBF Coordinator's performance appraisal into Quantum, after liaising with the RCO and the PBSO Officers in NY, who will provide the substantive performance appraisal. Other staff of the PBF Secretariat report to the PBF Coordinator.

With regards to recruitment, UNDP will administer the recruitment processes on behalf of RCO and PBSO. As such, RCO and PBSO will lead on and be included in all stages of recruitment, including the development of job descriptions and Human Resources Recruitment Strategies, as well as participating in the different stages of the recruitment process. To differentiate UNDP-administered staff of the PBF Secretariat from staff working in support of UNDP Country Offices, at the time of position establishment, the position data for these roles will clearly reflect the UN entity on behalf of which the PBF staff perform their functions (e.g. RCO, DPPA-PBSO). In that sense, it will not affect the delivery of the Country Office.

In addition and separately, through this project the PBF will also fund 50% of the RCO's Human Rights Adviser's salary for a period of two years from the start of this project, through OHCHR as the recipient Agency. The HRA will work closely with the PBF Secretariat, as relevant, and support the human rights approach of the PBF portfolio.

Below is a picture of the Secretariat organizational chart.



a) **Risk management**

Risks	Probability	Impact	Mitigating strategies
- Lack of information on implementation by recipient agencies	Medium	Low	Secretariat to collaborate with agencies to improve information sharing / maintain substantive link and exchanges with agencies
- Delays to submit narrative and financial reports	Medium	Low	Close monitoring of agencies to ensure efficient narrative and financial reporting through one-to-one ad-hoc and quarterly meetings.
- Insufficient national ownership	Low	High	Engage all partners participate in the technical meetings during project design and implementation
- Challenges for agencies and Government to jointly supervise projects in the field	Medium	Medium	Plan joint missions for UN agencies and partners (government and CSOs).
- PBF Secretariat does not meet according to planned timeline	Medium	Low	Designate alternative to back up absent Secretariate members
- Procurement processes slow down project execution	Low	Medium	Prepare procurement plan at start of project – have quarterly updates of the procurement plan and avoid delays

- Potential disagreements between agencies regarding project execution	Medium	High	Engage all agencies in operational planning of activities during project inception and implementation process. Request mediation from RC when the need arises. Have substantive engagement with agencies and anticipate delays that might occur. Consult agencies and have common understanding on corrective actions to address implementation challenges that might arise
- Fragmentation, duplication, and weak coordination among projects	Low	Low	Quarterly coordination meetings, joint field visits to promote learning and synergies among projects. Inform on PBF funded projects' complementarity with agencies ongoing Programme to avoid having them as standalone initiatives
- Pressure on the Secretariat to prioritize potential fund recipients or implementing agencies to fill their internal funding gaps/priorities	Medium	High	Development of clear and agreed-upon criteria for funding of activities; oversight by PFB Secretariat via reporting requirements and quarterly meetings.
- Lack of quality, analytical, innovative project ideas coming from the agencies and lack of use of lessons learned.	Low	High	Regular consultations with implementing agencies, exchanges with Results Group 4 (oversees Outcome 5 UNSDCF on social cohesion), and sharing of expertise and knowledge through Peace and Development Advisor support
- Unsustainability of achievements/gains especially regarding gender and youth	High	High	Have clear exit strategy with resources mobilization strategy – ensure long term peacebuilding interventions are reflected in the RF-NDP and adequate resources allocated
- Inability to raise 50% of counterpart funding of the Senior Human Rights Advisor (SHRA)	Low	High	Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and RC would be intensifying local and global funding efforts to complement 50% of the PBF contribution.
- Low engagement between government and Senior Human Rights Advisor (SHRA)	Low	High	The RC will help to strengthen relationship between the SHRA and relevant state institutions, especially the National Human Rights Commission.

b) Monitoring and evaluation

The PBF Secretariat will ensure quality monitoring and evaluation and learning across the projects through convening coordination meetings for project teams, to review implementation progress and challenges and to provide technical support to project M&E requirements, as needed, including oversight for the project M&E plans, collection of baseline and endline data, realization of perception surveys, external evaluations and major research efforts, and community-based monitoring (CBMs) etc., while the actual monitoring of project progress remains the primary responsibility of the implementing agencies of those projects. The Secretariat will also conduct routine PBF project monitoring field visits, sometimes with government partners and CSO implementing partners, to promote joint monitoring efforts and greater local ownership and to provide spot-checks on project progress. The Secretariat will also review and provide comments on draft project reports for PBF semi-annual, annual, and final reports.

In addition to supporting the monitoring efforts and obligations of individual projects through oversight and technical advice/ capacity building as needed, the Secretariat will all undertake additional efforts to monitor higher level peacebuilding progress at the portfolio level, including against the PBF Strategic Results Framework indicators. This will include identifying source of data and supporting analysis of this data as well as ensuring inclusion of adequate monitoring budgets in the PBF projects to contribute to data collection, as relevant. It may also include technical and financial contribution to peacebuilding and social cohesion surveys and other data collection exercises to fill gaps in the PBF Strategic Results Framework data collection, where relevant. Finally, it may include technical capacity support to government and non-government entities collecting such relevant data and helping ensure synergies in data collection and better data sharing. In all this, the Secretariat will ensure relevant gender, youth and any other disaggregation in monitoring methodologies.

The Secretariat will also provide regular updates to the RC, PDA, UNCT, and PBSO on progress made in the PBF portfolio, synergies between the intervention and alignment with the MT-NDP in contributing to the SDGs. In addition, the Secretariat will work with the PDA in the consultations and preparation of the annual strategic report that the RC submits to PBSO at the end of each calendar year on the portfolio progress and future needs.

c) Project exit strategy / sustainability

The project will pay particular attention to national ownership of the project achievements by working closely and collaborating with partners to enhance the participation of relevant government entities and other stakeholders. This will enhance the mainstreaming of key PBF initiatives in their programmes to ensure sustainability of interventions in Sierra Leone. The same support will be given to CSOs to enhance their participation to improve results and impact in the long term. This will be facilitated via the full engagement of all partners in project design, monitoring, supervision and M&E. Furthermore, partners will be engaged to participate in documenting and analyzing lessons learned. Should the PBF eligibility of Sierra Leone be extended beyond 2025, this project may be extended by PBSO.

III. Project budget

Please provide a brief justification for the proposed budget, highlighting any specific choices that have underpinned the budget preparation, especially for personnel, travel or other indirect project support, to demonstrate value for money for the project.

Annex A.1: Project Administrative arrangements for UN Recipient Organizations

(This section uses standard wording – please do not remove)

The MPTF Office serves as the Administrative Agent (AA) of the PBF and is responsible for the receipt of donor contributions, the transfer of funds to Recipient UN Organizations, the consolidation of narrative and financial reports and the submission of these to the PBSO and the PBF donors. As the Administrative Agent of the PBF, MPTF Office transfers funds to RUNOS on the basis of the signed Memorandum of Understanding between each RUNO and the MPTF Office.

AA Functions

On behalf of the Recipient Organizations, and in accordance with the UNDG-approved “Protocol on the Administrative Agent for Multi Donor Trust Funds and Joint Programmes, and One UN funds” (2008), the MPTF Office as the AA of the PBF will:

- Disburse funds to each of the RUNO in accordance with instructions from the PBSO. The AA will normally make each disbursement within three (3) to five (5) business days after having received instructions from the PBSO along with the relevant Submission form and Project document signed by all participants concerned;
- Consolidate the financial statements (Annual and Final), based on submissions provided to the AA by RUNOS and provide the PBF annual consolidated progress reports to the donors and the PBSO;
- Proceed with the operational and financial closure of the project in the MPTF Office system once the completion is completed by the RUNO. A project will be considered as operationally closed upon submission of a joint final narrative report. In order for the MPTF Office to financially close a project, each RUNO must refund unspent balance of over 250 USD, indirect cost (GMS) should not exceed 7% and submission of a certified final financial statement by the recipient organizations’ headquarters.);
- Disburse funds to any RUNO for any cost extension that the PBSO may decide in accordance with the PBF rules & regulations.

Accountability, transparency and reporting of the Recipient United Nations Organizations

Recipient United Nations Organizations will assume **full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds disbursed to them by the Administrative Agent**. Such funds will be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives, and procedures.

Each RUNO shall establish a separate ledger account for the receipt and administration of the funds disbursed to it by the Administrative Agent from the PBF account. This separate ledger account shall be administered by each RUNO in accordance with its own regulations, rules, directives and procedures, including those relating to interest. The separate ledger account shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules, directives and procedures applicable to the RUNO.

Each RUNO will provide the Administrative Agent and the PBSO (for narrative reports only) with:

Type of report	Due when	Submitted by
Semi-annual project	15 June	Convening Agency on behalf of all

		consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual project progress report	15 November	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
End of project report covering entire project duration	Within three months from the operational project closure (it can be submitted instead of an annual report if timing coincides)	Convening Agency on behalf of all implementing organizations and in consultation with/ quality assurance by PBF Secretariats, where they exist
Annual strategic peacebuilding and PBF progress report (for PRF allocations only), which may contain a request for additional PBF allocation if the context requires it	1 December	PBF Secretariat on behalf of the PBF Steering Committee, where it exists or Head of UN Country Team where it does not.

Financial reporting and timeline

Timeline	Event
30 April	Annual reporting – Report Q4 expenses (Jan. to Dec. of previous year)
<i>Certified final financial report to be provided by 30 June of the calendar year after project closure</i>	

UNEX also opens for voluntary financial reporting for UN recipient organizations the following dates

31 July	Voluntary Q2 expenses (January to June)
31 October	Voluntary Q3 expenses (January to September)

Unspent Balance exceeding USD 250, at the closure of the project would have to be refunded and a notification sent to the MPTF Office, no later than six months (30 June) of the year following the completion of the activities.

Ownership of Equipment, Supplies and Other Property

Ownership of equipment, supplies and other property financed from the PBF shall vest in the RUNO undertaking the activities. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by the RUNO shall be determined in accordance with its own applicable policies and procedures.

Public Disclosure

The PBSO and Administrative Agent will ensure that operations of the PBF are publicly disclosed on the PBF website (<http://unpbf.org>) and the Administrative Agent's website (<http://mptf.undp.org>).

Appendix B: Project Results Framework (MUST include sex- and age disaggregated data)

Outcome	Output	Indicators	Means of verification/ frequency of collection	Indicator milestones
Outcome 1: The PBF portfolio is well coordinated to ensure synergies and greater impact in the design and implementation of PBF projects		<p>Outcome Indicator 1 a: Delivery rate of all PBF projects in Sierra Leone is effective through the support of the PBF Secretariat for improved coordination and peacebuilding impact</p> <p>Baseline: Coordination and knowledge of PBF procedures of stakeholders in place.</p> <p>Target: all submitted projects are (1) approved by PBSO (ideally without conditions); (2) their implementation is on track, including with personnel hired, baselines completed and partnerships established within first 6 months (at design phase and at implementation) or bottlenecks identified and rectifying measures proposed without delays; (3) any no cost extension request is well justified and submitted three months prior to project end</p>	Project report	

	<p>Output 1.1 PBF Secretariat is functional within the RC Office</p> <p>Output related activities: A1.1.1 Recruit Secretariat staff. A1.1.2 Set up PBF Secretariat Office within the UN RC Office (office furniture and equipment). A1.2.3 PBF Secretariat capacity development supported, as needed, including for participation in PBSO community of practice.</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.1.1: PBF Secretariat set up and functional</p> <p>Baseline: No Secretariat (PDA acting as PBF focal point)</p> <p>Target: Secretariat established with two staff hired, equipped and located in RCO.</p>	<p>ToRs, Project report</p>	
	<p>Output 1.2 PBF portfolio programs respond to PBF programming quality criteria and to joint UN and Government peacebuilding priorities.</p> <p>A1.2.1 Update mappings of peacebuilding actors (UN, Government, CSO, TFP) and interventions; identify funding gaps and programmatic entry points</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.1: PBF project teams' effectiveness to response to projects' management standard and requirements (projects design, implementation, result reporting and M&E processes) enhanced.</p> <p>Baseline (2023): Medium</p> <p>Target: High – all projects have M&E plans, baselines, progress tracking and regular coordination meetings identifying bottlenecks, synergies and joint strategies</p>	<p>Concept notes and ProDocs, Copy of mandatory reports, emails attesting to timely submission of reports</p>	

	<p>entities in Sierra Leone and at HQ, Government, CSO and TFPs prior their submission to PBSO for approval.</p> <p>A1.2.4 Ensure at least 30% of the PBF funds are allocated to gender/women empowerment and that youth and women are included strongly in all PBF interventions, including through facilitating UN agencies' contacts and partnerships with NGOs/CSOs</p> <p>A1.2.5 Support the UN System and NGO/CSO partners to apply for the Fund's annual competitive Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative, including provision of information and support with technical comments and coordination/ pre-selection of proposals.</p> <p>A1.2.6 Strengthen capacities of PBF recipient organizations and partners for a conflict sensitive</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.3: Number of training or consultation sessions organized or facilitated by the PBF secretariat for project teams on quality design, implementation, M&E and result reporting of PBF funded projects.</p> <p>Baseline: consultations on projects design, implementation and reporting in place.</p> <p>Target: weekly sessions and regular trainings targeting PBF project teams and partners on design, implementation, M&E and reporting of PBF funded projects; pro-active engagement with RC and Agency Heads of project bottlenecks and</p>	Copies of meeting reports	
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	<p>approach, peacebuilding, M&E, and gender sensitive peacebuilding programming, including through provision of training and workshops, as needed.</p> <p>A1.2.7 Support the PBF portfolio, PBF recipient entities, RC and the UNCT in integrating and applying a human rights-based approach to their programmes and activities, including the UNDAF and other key strategic planning tools.</p> <p>A1.2.8 Provide advice, training and technical assistance to the Government and stakeholders on engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures</p>	<p>Output Indicator 1.2.7: PBF project team, RC and UNCT mainstream human rights in the design, implementation and reporting of programmes and activities.</p> <p>Baseline: YES</p> <p>Target: All projects include reports on human rights</p> <p>Output Indicator 1.2.8: Number of human rights mechanisms that government and other stakeholders engage</p> <p>Baseline: 3 successive UPR reports submitted;</p>	<p>Midterm and final project reports of PBF implementing entities, and public statements of the RC and Head of AFPs</p> <p>Number of treaty reports submitted and pending</p>	
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		4 outstanding and overdue treaty body reports. Target: 4 th UPR report drafted and submitted; 4 outstanding treaty body reports prepared and submitted.	
	Output 1.3 Coordination mechanisms between projects and key partners are created to achieve strategic results of PBF portfolio and ensure synergies/coherence among projects and activities A1.3.1 Support the oversight role of the RC within the framework of the peacebuilding programming, in close collaboration with the	Indicator 1.3.1: weekly meetings between UN agencies implementing PBF projects, to ensure coordination. Baseline: ongoing but ad hoc weekly coordination, RCO engagement not always possible Target: 4 per month x 24 months with strong Secretariat engagement and synergies with clear workplans and identification of joint partnerships, approaches, learning and exit strategies	Meetings reports
		Indicator 1.3.2: Together with the PDA, strengthen capacities of UN agencies on conflict and gender sensitive	Ex ante and ex post evaluation

	Peace and Development Advisor. A1.3.2 Establish a standing coordination mechanism between UN agencies implementing PBF projects (monthly meetings or more often if needed). A1.3.3 Create a regular coordination mechanism at the technical level (Technical Committees) between implementing UN agencies, the Government, CSO and PBF projects (quarterly meetings or more often if needed – at portfolio or at project level). A1.3.4 Ensure synergies between projects during the design and implementation phases A1.3.5 Organization, if applicable, of regional meetings within the framework of regional projects and ensure coordination with other countries involved. A.1.3.6 Strategic engagement with IFIs on	approaches, peacebuilding programming, and M&E. Baseline: Basic knowledge on mentioned topics exists. Target: Improved knowledge of agencies on conflict and gender sensitive approaches, peacebuilding programming, and M&E as demonstrated through project design and evaluation findings		
		1.3.3. (Pending joint decision between Government and RC), establishment and functioning of a PBF Joint Steering Secretariat or dedicated session in the current DEPAC system to provide overall strategic oversight to the PBF portfolio Baseline: Only project level committees for PBF Target: A representative JSC established with RC and Government co-chairing (or DEPAC with RC, MOPED, World Bank co-chairing), and with presence of international partners, IFIs, and CSOs, and meeting at least annually to discuss the PBF portfolio		

Outcome 2: Improved result tracking, learning and communications on PBF portfolio progress and impact	coordination and synergies and active search for PBF opportunities for PBF catalytic effects and complementary support	1.3.4 Evidence of IFI awareness of PBF portfolio and opportunities for collaboration and opportunities for collaboration Baseline: 1 country's COVID-19 recovery strategy funded by PBF and developed in partnership with World Bank Target: IFIs represented in the Steering Committee/DEPAC meetings		
		Indicator 3. Increased visibility and collaboration of the PBF programme with stakeholders and initial catalytic effects registered. Baseline: constant interaction with donors but not necessarily specific to the PBF portfolio Target: developed visibility material showcasing achievements of the PBF and proposing ideas for concrete collaboration / catalytic effects and initial catalytic effects achieved		
	Output 2.1. Ensuring quality monitoring and evaluation of the PBF portfolio	2.1.1 Existence and analysis of data to help monitor the overall progress/ contribution of the PBF portfolio		
	A2.1.1 Support Agency design and provide oversight of quality M&E	Baseline: baseline and endline data available at project level and sometimes missing, no overall meta- analysis		

	<p>plans for all PBF projects, both individually and in collaboration with each other to prevent duplication among PBF projects, and between PBF projects and other peacebuilding projects in the country.</p> <p>A2.1.2 Review and help to ensure quality of the semi-annual, annual and final PBF project reports.</p> <p>A2.1.3 Support independent assessment studies of the PBF portfolio, which PBSO may conduct as well as provide quality oversight to individual project evaluation deliverables, in close cooperation with project recipient entities.</p> <p>A2.1.4 Regularly conduct field missions to monitor PBF projects and deliver mission reports to share with the RCO and PBSO/ECAD.</p> <p>A2.1.5 Facilitate dialogue between benefiting communities and the PBF</p>	<p>Endline: Stronger data available, including through perception surveys and/or community-based monitoring, and analysed at PBF portfolio level and as a contribution to UNSDCF reporting</p> <p>2.1.2 Timely submission of annual strategic RC report to PBSO on PBF portfolio, informed by data and analysis related to portfolio performance and portfolio relevant themes and indicators</p> <p>Baseline: RC's strategic annual reports timely submitted</p> <p>Target: 2 RCs annual reports timely submitted (2024 and 2025) with relevant quality and accepted by PBSO</p>		
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			<p>Secretariat via community monitoring mechanisms and ensure voices of the beneficiaries are strategically used to promote shared responsibilities.</p> <p>A2.1.6 Ensure knowledge and best practices management and communication via appropriate platforms for future peacebuilding activities.</p> <p>A2.1.7 Prepare and implement the M&E plan for monitoring of PBF portfolio level results, through contributing to high-level data collection, cost-shared with PBF and other projects, and in partnership with government entities and/or development partners, to enable monitoring against the strategic indicators.</p> <p>A2.1.8 Draft the annual progress report of the PBF portfolio progress through a consultative process and</p>			
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	submit it to the PBSO at the end of every year.			
	<p>Output 2.2 Ensure strong communications and visibility of PBF Portfolio and its progress and lessons</p> <p>A2.2.1 Develop a communication strategy to promote visibility of the PBF activities and results in the country and among a range of stakeholders, including through storytelling.</p> <p>A2.2.2 Support UNCT to improve visibility and catalytic impacts of the PBF activities in the country and internationally, in partnership with the project level efforts.</p> <p>A2.2.3 Document, analyze and disseminate lessons learned from PBF projects execution in Sierra Leone and the region.</p> <p>A2.2.4 Support RCO/AFP in implementing the multi-stakeholder outreach</p>	<p>Indicator 2.2.1. PBF Communications strategy in place</p> <p>Baseline: None</p> <p>Target: one communication strategy in place and distributed to key partners with more partners demonstrating understanding of scope of PBF portfolio</p> <p>Indicator 2.2.2. Number of visibility stories on PBF projects developed.</p> <p>Baseline: stories developed at project level</p> <p>Target: 6 per year at project level and one PBF global newsletter per year contribution</p>		

	communication strategies to raise awareness on PBF-funded work, enhance understanding on PBF comparative advantage and favor catalytic effects. A2.2.5 Support resource mobilization efforts of AFPs to follow-up on PBF projects results/impact.			

Annex C: Checklist of project implementation readiness

Question	YES	NO	Comments
1. Have all implementing partners been identified?	xx		
2. Have TORs for key project staff been finalized and ready to advertise?		xx	Pending to be finalised
3. Have project sites been identified?	XX		
4. Have local communities and government offices been consulted/ sensitized on the existence of the project?	Xx		
5. Has any preliminary analysis/ identification of lessons learned/ existing activities been done?	N/A		
6. Have beneficiary criteria been identified?	XX		
7. Have any agreements been made with the relevant Government counterparts relating to project implementation sites, approaches, Government contribution?	XX		
8. Have clear arrangements been made on project implementing approach between project recipient organizations?	XX		
9. What other preparatory activities need to be undertaken before actual project implementation can begin and how long will this take?			Quantum related activities and UNDP work plan

ANNEX D: BUDGET

Totals				
	UNDP	OHCHR	Totals	
1. Staff and other personnel	\$ 700,000	\$ 304,180	\$	1,004,180
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	\$ 21,477	\$ -	\$	21,477
3. Equipment, Vehicles, and Furniture (including Depreciation)	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$	20,000
4. Contractual services	\$ 112,230	\$ -	\$	112,230
5. Travel	\$ 85,570	\$ -	\$	85,570
6. Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	\$ -	\$ -	\$	-
7. General Operating and other Costs	\$ 92,000	\$ -	\$	92,000
Sub-Total	\$ 1,031,277	\$ 304,180	\$	1,335,457
7% Indirect Costs	\$ 72,189	\$ 21,293	\$	93,482
Total	\$ 1,103,466	\$ 325,473	\$	1,428,939

Performance-Based Tranche Breakdown				
	UNDP	OHCHR	TOTAL	Tranche %
First Tranche:	\$ 662,080	\$ 195,284	\$ 857,363	60%
Second Tranche:	\$ 441,387	\$ 130,189	\$ 571,576	40%
Third Tranche:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
TOTAL	\$ 1,103,466	\$ 325,473	\$ 1,428,939	

Annex E : List of PBF projects 2007-2023

Peacebuilding Fund							
Peace Building Fund Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative		Approved		Christian Aid Ireland	'Uman, Land En Kol At' (Women's Land for Peace)- Women Lead Transformative Pathways to Peace Through Natural Resources Management.	\$1.9 million	
Peace Building Fund Cross-border project Liberia-Sierra Leone		Full proposal developed		IOM/WFP Liberia and Sierra Leone	Strengthen social cohesion and border security between Liberia and Sierra Leone	\$4.0 million	
Peace Building Fund Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative		On going from Dec 2022 – Dec. 2024		UNDP / UNCDF	Empowering Youth Bike Riders as Sustainable Agents of Peace in Sierra Leone	\$1.9 million	
Peace Building Fund Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative		On going from Dec. 2022 – Dec. 2024		UN WOMEN / UNDP / <i>World Vision</i>	Localization and Working-Together for Peace: Repositioning Women focused CSOs for Sustainable Peace in Sierra Leone	\$2 million	
Peace Building Fund Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative		On going from Dec. 2022 - Dec. 2024		<i>Catholic Relief Services</i>	Youth in Politics and Peacebuilding	\$1.9 million	
Peace Building Fund Country proposal 2022 (fast track process in support to the election)		On going August 2022 – August 2024		UNDP / UNICEF	Promote the creation of an enabling environment for the conduct of peaceful elections and the strengthening of social cohesion in Sierra Leone	\$3 million	
Project Id	Status	Country	Project	Theme		Budget	
134257	On Going	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-491: Empowering Youth	Dialogue and Coexistence		1,995,450	
132863	On Going	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/B-11: Promote the crea	Dialogue and Coexistence		3,000,000	
130053	On Going	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-452: Women for Water &	Dialogue and Coexistence		1,499,070	
129231	On Going	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-425: Building cross bo	Dialogue and Coexistence		2,541,258	
126042	On Going	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF- 417: Inclusive Confl	Dialogue and Coexistence		1,360,000	

124562	On Going	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/D-3: Empowering youth	Dialogue and Coexistence	3,000,000
119354	Operationally Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-339: Promoting Women's	PBF Immediate Response	300,000
117938	On Going	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/D-2: Mitigating locali	Youth Empower/Employ-W2	3,000,000
113030	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-253: Creating Peaceful	PBF Immediate Response	1,500,000
108243	Operationally Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-207: Improving Women's	PBF Immediate Response	2,187,368
105794	Operationally Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-175: Conflict Preventi	PBF Immediate Response	2,999,798
92065	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-95: Support efforts to	PBF Immediate Response	525,000
91756	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF/94:Developing national	PBF Immediate Response	1,515,100
88454	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-77: UNIPSIL & UNDP Pro	PBF Immediate Response	2,780,000
87954	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-72: UNIPSIL Support to	PBF Immediate Response	298,061
83757	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-57 Women participation	PBF Immediate Response	331,648
77296	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/C-4 Gender-based viole	Human Rights -W1	450,000
77295	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/C-3 Human Rights Cultu	Human Rights -W1	800,000
77294	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/C-2 Reparations Progra	Human Rights -W1	1,550,000
77293	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/C-1 PBF Coordination O	Human Rights -W1	100,000

77292	Operationally Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/A-8 Non-State Actors	Democratic Governance -W1	5,011,757
77001	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/B-10 Peace Museum	Security -W1	195,000
76881	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-25 Amputees SLE	PBF Immediate Response	100,000
75810	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/IRF-21 Support SLE Police	PBF Immediate Response	961,350
73673	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF DCB Sierra Leone	Direct Cost Budget	229,957
73335	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/J-4 Independent Review	PBF Unallocated -W1	25,000
71613	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/J-2 Women's Participat	PBF Unallocated -W1	45,261
71612	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/E-2 Strengthening CSOs	Public Administration-W1	140,000
71611	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/B-9 Regional Cooperati	Security -W1	130,000
71610	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/A-6 Attitudinal and Be	Democratic Governance -W1	140,000
71609	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/A-5 Parliament	Democratic Governance -W1	700,000
71608	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/A-7 INPBS	Democratic Governance -W1	1,650,000
71607	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/J-3 Refurbishment of S	PBF Unallocated -W1	69,550
71605	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/J-1 Independent Invest	PBF Unallocated -W1	29,463

71304	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/EMER-11 Sierra Leone Polic	PBF Immediate Response	999,870
71303	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/EMER-10 Political Reconcil	PBF Immediate Response	946,950
66695	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/I-1 Emergency Support	Energy_and_Power -W1	9,000,000
66694	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/E-1 Govt's Capacity En	Public Administration-W1	348,125
66693	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/D-1 Youth Enterprise D	Youth Empower/Employ-W1	4,080,907
66692	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/B-8 Impr. Reform./Just	Security -W1	1,610,933
66691	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/B-7 Support to the Off	Security -W1	1,582,436
66690	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/B-6 Rehab. of WatSan F	Security -W1	1,955,706
66689	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/B-4 Capacity Developme	Security -W1	3,959,773
66688	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/B-3 Emergency Support	Security -W1	1,822,824
66687	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/B-2 Capacity Developme	Security -W1	1,522,056
66686	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/B-1 Improved Public Or	Security -W1	1,042,565
66685	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/A-4 Impl of the Repara	Democratic Governance -W1	3,000,000
66684	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/A-3 Gender Capacity	Democratic Governance -W1	802,640

66683	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/A-2 Capacity Building	Democratic Governance -W1	349,034
66682	Financially Closed	Sierra Leone	PBF/SLE/A-1 National Elections	Democratic Governance -W1	1,598,727
			TOTAL		75,782,637