



**Peacebuilding Fund Joint Steering Committee
Monrovia, Liberia**



July 31, 2014

Dear ASG Cheng-Hopkins:

Subject: Extension of the Implementation of the Liberia Peacebuilding Programme

We are pleased to present our compliments and express appreciation for your letter of 29 July 2014 addressed to the Co-chairs of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) Joint Steering Committee (JSC) in Liberia informing that the PBF's contribution to the Liberia Peacebuilding Programme (LPP) through the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility (PRF) has expired, having reached the maximum of three years. We are also grateful that we can apply for an extension of LPP implementation, which has focused primarily on supporting security sector reform and on strengthening the rule of law through the Justice and Security Regional Hubs concept.

We want to underscore that the Hub initiative is an important part of the Government of Liberia's (GoL) short-term plan for the de-concentration and decentralization of justice and security services at regional and county levels to which the JSC and the United Nations (UN) Mission in Liberia in partnership with the GoL are committed. It has also proven highly impactful, as the full operation of the Gbarnga Hub has resulted in the greater effectiveness of security response to incidents; increased prosecution and free legal representation of cases; and greater access to justice for inhabitants of the region, with the simultaneous operation of all three magisterial courts to accelerate case processing.

In view of the above, the Co-chairs and the Justice and Security Board (JSB) have considered your letter and agreed upon practical steps, a realistic timeline and benchmarks for the extension of LPP implementation, considering the establishment of regional hubs 2 to 5. These are included in the Appendix, along with a more detailed report on LPP implementation progress.

As a measure to prevent delays in the future, the Justice and Security Joint Programme (JSJP) is currently being restructured to enhance its effectiveness. It is our hope that the new structure will enhance our decision making process and timely project implementation, and ensure continued project cost effectiveness.

We, therefore, herewith request the "no cost extension" of implementation of the LPP and PBF allocation to December 2017.

Please accept, your Excellency, the assurances of our highest esteem.

Sincerely yours,

Morris M. Dukuly, Sr.
Minister
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Co-Chair JSC

Amara M. Konneh
Acting Minister
Ministry Finance &
Economic Planning
Co-Chair JSC

Antonio Vigilante
Deputy SRSG / CDG
United Nations Mission in Liberia
Co-Chair JSC

Mrs. Judy Cheng-Hopkins
Assistant Secretary General for Peacebuilding Support
Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office
United Nations Headquarters

Annex 1

Progress Updates on the Regional Hubs

Hubs 2 & 3

It may be recalled that the Hub concept shifted to the prioritization of service delivery over infrastructure development and as such, the initiative is no longer the literal interpretation of a physical concentration of infrastructure and co-location of service providers, but more of a figurative notion, highlighting a coordinated strategy, with focus on building existing relevant services within a specified region. To date, of the six priority services approved for roll out in Hubs 2 and 3, four of the six services are being provided:

Service	Institution Responsible	Status
Free Legal representation at circuit and magisterial courts – Public Defenders (x5)	The Judiciary	Deployed and providing services
Prosecution of cases at circuit court level – Legal Counsels (x9)	Ministry of Justice	
Public information about hub services, referring complaints to justice and security institutions and referring citizens to existing services - Public Outreach Officers/Coordinators (x5)	Ministry of Justice	
Monitoring of human rights compliance by justice and security actors - Human Rights Monitors (x10)	INCHR	
Providing psychosocial, legal and medical referral support to survivors of SGBV crimes – Victim Support Officers (x4) and Case Liaison Officers (x4)	SGBV Crimes Unit, MOJ	Shortlisting completed. Interview scheduled but stalled due to Ebola outbreak.
Providing legal education to citizens on how to access the justice system – CSOs (Justice Advisory Service)	UNDP	Direct implementation by UNDP.

The main delays have however been with the construction of key infrastructure which is important, especially as it relates to the deployment of PSU officers in the southeast counties of Liberia, where giving its volatile past, coupled with its poor accessibility security presence is minimum.

For Hub 2, the delays has been caused by decision to use existing dilapidated buildings which brought on long negotiations with other GoL institutions outside the sector, such as the Telecommunications Building for the provision of security services given the previous land identified for the hub is 6 KM from the town center, making access to services difficult. In addition to this delay, locating a building / land for the provision of justice service is only just being realized, further stalling the start of construction. Besides the challenging road conditions of the southeast, the onset of the rainy season and

the directed focus on service delivery in the absence of key infrastructure during the development of the project document.

It is also worth mentioning that the Structure in place for the implementation of the Justice and Security Joint Programme (JSJP) including the Justice and Security Board had been going through a restructuring process which took some time. With the restructured Justice and Security Policy Board now in place, better coordination and oversight for the implementation of the JSJS can be assured.

In Hub 3 (Zwedru), the Hub land is 4 KM from the town center and the Judiciary land (4 acres) is only 2 KM from the town center. In a JSB meeting it was decided to use the Hub land for construction as it was not far from the town center. The GoL has allocated in its fiscal budget for 2014/2015 the amount of 1m for the construction of Hub 3. Initial plans has been drawn and delivered to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP).

Hub 4 & 5

Regarding Hubs 4 & 5, the survey and processing of title deeds is being completed by the Land Commission. Given the experience with the implementation of the proposals for regional hubs 2 & 3, which were developed in a three phase approach: services, infrastructure and back stop support; we have proposed that for hubs 4 & 5, there is simultaneous implementation of services as well as key infrastructure to begin in 2016 – 2017 with the two hubs being constructed at the same time. However, preliminary activities for the provision of services such as: recruitment and training, public support outreach and awareness and other necessary procurement processes for equipment logistics and supplies will be by mid-2015. Because the locations for hubs 4 & 5 are very accessible (Buchanan, Grand Bassa and Tubmanburg, Bomi Counties) the establishment of the hubs will be much easier and faster than the south-eastern counties where hubs 2 & 3 are located.

Meanwhile, following the completion and full operationalization, the Gbarnga Regional Hub has shown some impact: the forward basing of Police Support Unit (PSU) officers has demonstrated their ability to effectively respond to and quell security incidents, thereby improving security and public perceptions of security through quicker response capacity; the provision of additional qualified and trained personnel has increased the prosecution and free legal representation of cases and the newly completed court facility is simultaneously operating all three magisterial courts to accelerate case processing, thereby increasing access to justice for the people of the region.

Annex 2

LPP PROPOSED EXTENSION TIMELINE AND BENCHMARKS

Hubs 2 & 3

Indicator	3 rd Qtr 2014	4 th Qtr 2014	1 st Qtr 2015	2 nd Qtr 2015	3 rd Qtr 2015	4 th Qtr 2015
	Activities					
1.1: Justice sector institutions have adequate human capacity to provide key justice services	X 1. All 6 priority services rolled out! 2. Procurement of mobility and logistics completed and delivered.					
1.2: Infrastructure and operational arrangements in place to provide key justice services <i>UNOPS has allocated 12 months for renovation and 18 months for new build, due to rain affect.</i>	X 1. Hub 2 – transfer for land deeds for Telecommunications building signed by President. Judiciary land acquired. 2. Project document forwarded to PBSO for funding and funding released.	X 1. Hub 2 – procurement and bidding commences 2. Construction / renovation starts! PS – note that justice and judicial services are currently being provided from the Admin Building.	X Hub 2 – note that justice and judicial services are currently being provided from the Admin Building.	X Hub 2 – note that justice and judicial services are currently being provided from the Admin Building.	X Hub 2 – renovation complete. PSU officers deployed!	X Hub 2 – construction of circuit court facility complete. Provision of justice and judicial services in new facility. Hub 2 – note that these services are currently being provided from the Admin Building.

Indicator	3 rd Qtr 2014	4 th Qtr 2014	1 st Qtr 2015	2 nd Qtr 2015	3 rd Qtr 2015	4 th Qtr 2015
	3. Hub 3 – USSIM funding made available.	3. Hub 3 – if funding released, same process as Hub				
1.3: Criminal and civil management systems in place	Activities under this output indicator requires funding of approximately US\$953,200 (Hub 2); US\$781,200 (Hub 3).					
1.4: Justice and security community based justice & accountability services available to citizens	<p>1. PSO officers and coordinators are currently providing services in Hubs 2 and 3 = ongoing!</p> <p>2. Human Rights officers are currently providing services in hubs 2 and 3 = ongoing</p> <p>3. SGBV Crimes Unit staff = complete recruitment and pre-deployment training</p>	<p>X PSO officers and HR monitors – provide outreach and monitor human rights violations</p> <p>SGBV Crimes Unit = deploy staff</p> <p>SGBV Crimes Unit = conduct outreach to citizens on outreach</p>	<p>X PSO officers and HR monitors – provide outreach and monitor human rights violations</p> <p>SGBV Crimes Unit = conduct outreach to citizens on outreach</p>	<p>X PSO officers and HR monitors – provide outreach and monitor human rights violations</p> <p>SGBV Crimes Unit = conduct outreach to citizens on outreach</p>	<p>X PSO officers and HR monitors – provide outreach and monitor human rights violations</p> <p>SGBV Crimes Unit = conduct outreach to citizens on outreach</p>	<p>X PSO officers and HR monitors – provide outreach and monitor human rights violations</p> <p>SGBV Crimes Unit = conduct outreach to citizens on outreach</p>

Indicator	3 rd Qtr 2014	4 th Qtr 2014	1 st Qtr 2015	2 nd Qtr 2015	3 rd Qtr 2015	4 th Qtr 2015
	4. SGBV Crimes Unit – conduct perception survey					
2.1: LNP/PSU prevents and responds effectively to security incidents in communities					X This indicator is tied to the completion of the renovation for the provision of dorms for PSU officers and a funding gap for their logistics.	
2.2: LNP/ Crime Scene Department (CSD) responds to effectively reported crimes						
2.3: Fleet management system for justice and security agencies is operational for the region						
4.2: Infrastructure and operational arrangements in place to provide integrated border	X BIN/BPU officers – procurement of 1 set uniforms fro 167 officers	X				

Funding gap for activities under this indicator.

This indicator does not have funding in the current allocation. Funding gap of US\$97,208 (Hub 2) and US\$97,208 (Hub 3)

Indicator	3 rd Qtr 2014	4 th Qtr 2014	1 st Qtr 2015	2 nd Qtr 2015	3 rd Qtr 2015	4 th Qtr 2015
5.2: Justice advisory, human rights monitoring, advocacy and support services provided by CSOs to communities in xx Counties	X	X				

Hubs 4 & 5

Activity	Timeframe
Using the newly formed Sector Finance Committee, conduct consultations with key stakeholders and develop results framework for hubs 4 and 5	December 2014/January 2015
Develop and finalize project proposal for combine service delivery and construction of key infrastructure and request funding. Seek AWP approval from JS Policy Board.	February and March 2015
Roll out priority services in Hubs 4 and 5 by strengthening institutions with qualified personnel – requires recruitment, predeployment training and procurement of logistics and mobility.	2nd and 3rd Qtr 2015
Conduct bidding process and award contracts for construction	1st and 2nd Qtr 2015
Initiate initial activities – i.e. topographic survey, site clearing and leveling and access roads.	3rd Qtr 2015
Begin simultaneous construction in Hubs 4 and 5	4th Qtr 2015
Construction period	4th Qtr 2015 to 4th Qtr 2016
Deployment of LNP/PSU and BIN/BPU officers and the provision of security services	1st – 2nd Qtr 2017
Operationalize Hubs 4 and 5 with support from GOL fiscal budget 2016/2017 and the provision of justice services.	1st - 4th Qtr 2017