**PBF PROJECT FINAL report**

**COUNTRY:** Sierra Leone

**TYPE OF REPORT: FINAL:**

**YEAR of report: End of Project Report, August 2020**

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| **Project Title:** Creating Peaceful Societies through women’s improved access to management of natural resources, land tenure rights and economic empowerment in Sierra Leone.  **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: UNJP-SIL-050-PBF** | |
| **If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:**  Country Trust Fund  Regional Trust Fund  **Name of Recipient Fund:**   1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) 2. International Labour Organization (ILO) | **Type and name of recipient organizations:**   1. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): **Lead Agency** 2. International Labour Organization (ILO)   **List of other Implementing Partners, Government & NGOs**   1. Ministry of Lands, Housing and Environment 2. NAMATI 3. Green Scenery 4. Sierra Leone Labour Congress 5. Community Aid Network Sierra Leone (CAN-SL) 6. United for the Protection of Human Rights (UPHR) 7. West Africa Network for Peace Building (WANEP) |
| **Date of first transfer:** January 2019  **Project end date:** August 2020  **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** Yes | |
| **Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:**  Gender promotion initiative  Youth promotion initiative  Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions  Cross-border or regional project | |
| **Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):**  **Recipient Organization Amount**  FAO $ 1,000,000  ILO $ 500,000  **Total: $ 1,500,000**  Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: **92.5%**  \*ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE\*  **Gender-responsive Budgeting:**  Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: **$ 1,200,000 (80%) of total project budget allocated to GEWE**  Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: **$912,000** | |
| **Project Gender Marker[[1]](#footnote-1):** 3  **Project Risk Marker:** Low  **Project PBF focus area:** 3.2 Equitable access to social services | |
| **Report preparation:**  Project report prepared by:   1. **Dr. Samuel Mabikke (FAO)** 2. **Mr. Dino Corell (ILO)**   Project report approved by:  1. **Dr. Nyabenyi Tito Tipo (FAO)**  2**. Mr. David Dorkenoo (ILO)**  Did PBF Secretariat review the report: No | |

***NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:***

1. *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
2. *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
3. *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
4. *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*

**PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS**

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500 character limit):

Project implementation is completed and all activities finalized in the Bo, Kenema, Bombali and Port Loko Districts.

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc**.** (1000 character limit):

A final independent Evaluation is ongoing. FAO’s Office of Evaluation (OED) is leading the final Evaluation in close collaboration with ILO and PBSO Evaluation officers.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500 character limit):

This project has significantly contributed to addressing the key drivers of discrimination against women’s access to land and property rights with a view to establishing and sustaining peace and social cohesion in the communities.

The project applied innovative methods through the use of geospatial technology “Solutions for Open Land Administration (SOLA)” an Open Tenure software developed by FAO with a gender-sensitive, community-based approach to systematically demarcate family land parcels across four districts; Bo, Kenema, Bombali and Port Loko in Sierra Leone. The project has also built the capacity of community stakeholders on land tenure and the adoption of Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR) mechanisms. The project established a Community-Based Conflict monitoring system to detect the drivers of conflicts within the communities. A total of **80 Community Peace and Conflict Monitors (60 females and 20 males)** were trained on how to monitor land related disputes and other discriminatory practices that could trigger violence and social instability. To ensure sustainability, the conflict Monitors in all the targets chiefdoms are now members of the Chiefdom leadership/committees. The capacity of **over 800 community members** was strengthened on gender and land rights. A Training of Trainers (ToT) capacitated **33 gender and land rights champions** who in turn trained over **750 community members (190 male and 560 female) on gender and land right and alternative to disputes resolution mechanism (ADR)**

According to a survey conducted by one of the implementing partners, WANEP, most respondents indicated that land related conflicts were better (55.2% women/47.3% men) or much better (43.4% women/51.8% men) since the beginning of the project. Key informant interviews conducted as part of the exercise found that the project also helped beneficiaries play active roles in promoting peaceful coexistence in their various communities. In addition, more than 95 per cent of respondents were of the opinion that interaction between people from different ethnic/religious background should be encouraged in the classroom, contributing to social cohesion at the community level.

Building on progress made in land tenure and conflict resolution, the project improved agricultural practices and opportunities of the same target group. Civil society partners were capacitated through a training-of-trainers approach to roll-out training at the community level to 425 beneficiaries (329 female/96 male) on entrepreneurship; 640 beneficiaries (497 female/143 male) on financial education; and 450 beneficiaries (365 female/85 male) on cooperative development. A total of 200 volunteers (154 female/46 male) were trained on occupational safety and health (OSH) and reached out so some 6,000 neighborhood farmers.

In order to address the drivers of land degradation, deforestation and climate change, 2,500 beneficiaries of which 80% are women farmers have been trained in Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices to better manage natural resources and protect their environments. OSH volunteers were also trained in CSA and are now in a position to reach out to neighbourhood farmers both on OSH and CSA.

The project has increased women’s land tenure security through the systematic demarcation and mapping of land boundaries, increased capacity on gender, land rights and economic empowerment of women farmers. According to the above mentioned survey, a majority of 400 respondents indicated that the income of their business or cooperative as well as their access to skills, knowledge and productive assets had increased since the beginning of the project. They were also of the opinion that their ability to cooperate and network in the economic sphere had changed.

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project’s positive effect on the people’s lives. Include direct quotes where possible or web links to strategic communications pieces. (2000 character limit):

Through sensitization and awareness raising campaigns, the project succeeded in addressing most of the discriminatory practices that militate women’s participation in decisions-making regarding land and other productive assets. As a result of the training on gender and land rights and capacity building activities for local authorities and chiefs, there is a positive change in the minds set of both men and women regarding women’s rights to own land and other productive assets.

Through the project over 50% women beneficiaries have been appointed on decision making structures/ committees in all the 16 Village Area Land Committees (VALC) established in Kenema, Bo, Bombali and Port Loko districts. On top of this, women are gradually taking up leadership e.g. in Port Loko district, two gender champions, Ms. Ya Bomposseh Kamara and Ms. Ya Bowarah Turay have both been appointed as the first female Town Chiefs of Matete and Mabain Villages respectively. Such positions were traditionally reserved for men. Apart from awareness raising and other capacity development initiatives to reduce discriminatory practices against rural women’s access and ownership of land and other productive assets, the PBF project has strengthened community governance through development of Community Byelaws and Village Area Land Committees (VALC) in all the villages as stipulated in the National Land Policy. Among the criteria for VALC leadership, the National Land Policy recommends at least 40% women. The establishment of VALC was done in collaboration with the Chiefdom Councils and with facilitation from NAMATI – a Legal empowerment CSO partner in the PBF project.

Through training on Cooperative Development and Financial Education, women farmers have formed Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA). This has enhanced their Savings and Loan portfolio through the sale of their agricultural produce. Given that access to financial services is a key factor in eliminating poverty and generating local development, women farmers who are members of the VSLA can obtain small loans to cover expenses such as school fees and medical bills without selling productive assets. As a result, VSLA members experience significant improvements in household income, health and wellbeing, and an overall improved quality of life.

Rosint Community in Port Loko District focuses on farming as income generating activity and committed to starting corporate saving. Salamatu Conteh, a farmer and chairlady of the women’s group at Rosint Community, grows pepper, okra and cucumber. She found the financial education training useful for the settings of goals and spending, and is keen to ensure the training is shared with husbands to foster collaboration in financial matters of the home.

Salamatu Conteh of Rosint Community in Port Loko District

Anecdotal evidence and feedback from implementing partners suggests that training provided has influenced the perception of male household members on women’s engagement in economic activities. Women farmers who joined Cooperatives reported that they could increase their contribution to household incomes, which was acknowledged by spouses and community members. Support has been provided to women farmers and existing farming groups including on improved agricultural practices and the establishment, management and governance of agricultural cooperatives. Some farming groups have decided to form cooperatives and a total of (8) eight Cooperatives registered with the Department of Cooperatives under the Ministry of Trade and Industry[[2]](#footnote-2).

**PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME**

*Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.*

1. *“On track” refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the work plan.*
2. *“On track with peacebuilding results” refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.*

*If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.*

**Outcome 1:** Land related disputes and discriminatory practices against rural women’s access and ownership of land, other productive assets are reduced, and women’s decision making increased at all levels**.**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:** On track with significant peacebuilding results

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

**Outcome 1**: has three (3) main outputs.

**Output 1.1:** *Drivers of land and gender related conflicts, which lead to discrimination and exclusion of women, have been mapped and documented* in 6 chiefdoms. Through conflict profiling and mapping over 26 existing land conflicts were mapped and 16 resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms to avoid escalating violence.In summary,

1. A total of 112 (78 Female and 34 Male) participants were reached during the conflict profiling in 8 chiefdoms
2. Field visits were conducted in all eight chiefdoms to map gender and land related conflicts. The scoping exercise was done in the form of town hall and community engagement meetings, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) in the communities studied.
3. Also face-to-face interviews were conducted with key stakeholders and land-owning families to further understand the depth of the conflicts in each community. The participants included, key stakeholders like Chiefs, Local court clerks, women in leadership positions like mammy queens, heads of secret societies, youth groups and other community people. **Details on this output can be seen in the Partner (WANEP) report attached.**

**Output 1.2:** *Increased participation of women within the selected chiefdoms in decision-making on the allocation and ownership of land through their active involvement in the implementation of the National Land Policy (NLP)****.***

Under this output, FAO in collaboration with the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and Government built the capacity of women and local authorities to understand their land rights and engage in peaceful processes and effect policies on women’s rights and participation in decision making. Key influential persons like Paramount Chiefs, local leaders and mummy queens were targeted to transform their communities as Agents of Peace and Non-Violence.

Through targeted training on conflict analysis, peacebuilding and alternatives to dispute resolution mechanisms, the capacity of all Traditional Authorities (like Paramount Chiefs, Section Chiefs, Mommy Queens, and Women’s Leader) in the target chiefdoms has been strengthened and this has contributed significantly in breaking the discriminatory practices that affect rural women in decision making, property right and land right. WANEP used the simplified version of the National Land Policy to produce awareness raising campaign materials in the eight (8) chiefdoms. Some of the materials were translated into 4 local languages (Krio, Limba, Temne and Mende) and produced posters and handbills with picture depicting peacebuilding and women land rights messages for proper comprehension. Over 1,000 simplified pocket size versions of the National Land Policy and 400 copies of the National Land Policy Implementation Plan were disseminated. Tan Audio version of the simplified National Land Policy was produced in Krio, Temne, Limba and Mende languages to cater for audiences that cannot read and write. Jingles in four local languages have also been produced and are aired on radio programmes to increase awareness on peacebuilding and women's access to land. To ensure inclusion and accountability with stakeholders, radio discussion programs are organize across major radio stations at regional and national level, targeting traditional authorities, Civil Society Organisation, Non, governmental Organisations, major line ministries and land owning families.

*Training of Paramount Chiefs, Mummy Queens and Local Leaders, Golden Tulip Hotel, Freetown Photo Credit: FAO/Momodu, 2019*

**Output 1.3:** *Family and community lands within selected chiefdoms are Systematically Demarcated and Mapped using innovative tools like Solutions for Open Land Administration (SOLA)/ Open Tenure geospatial technology* giving special reference to land parcels owned and or used by women**.** At the project inception phase, FAO in collaboration with Partners and the Ministry of Lands conducted a scoping exercise to engage in consultation with districts and chiefdoms authorities, relevant stakeholders and other key line Ministries to finalize and Select the specific communities where the systematic demarcation and mapping of land parcel will take place in the targets districts and chiefdoms.

*FAO Scoping Mission – Inception meeting with the local communities.*

*Photo Credit: FAO/Momodu, 2019*

Upon completion of stakeholder consultation and finalization of the community selection process, FAO in collaboration with the implementing partners and the Ministry of Lands engage all the land owning families and local authorities in the selected communities to fully introduce the project aims and objectives and benefit of selecting their communities. Over 320 young men and women of which 30% were young women(above 18 years) were aggregately selected from the land-owning families to be trained as Para-Surveyors to use Innovative geospatial technologies (SOLA & Open Tenure) for mapping and recording of land rights.

While preference was given to women through strong recommendation from FAO and the CSOs, majority of the Para-Surveyors were inevitably men as some of the women admitted to be physically incapable of traversing the rough terrain of thick forests, hills and swamps for very long hours (7 hours on average) during the mapping exercise. The male to female ratio after this inevitable turnover was however appreciable at 70:30.

*Training of young men and women as para-surveyors to Map their Family and Village land boundaries. November 2019 – February 2020. Photo Credit: FAO/Momodu, 2020*

Over 320 young para-surveyors (30% women, aged 18-35 years) have been trained in the 16 communities in Kenema, Bo, Port Loko and Bombali district to fully participate and witness the mapping of their family lands.

With increasing land tenure insecurity and incidents of land grabbing that have escalated violent conflicts in Sierra Leone, systematic demarcation and mapping of customary land rights is a high priority of the government. The PBF project addressed this urgent need through use of innovative geospatial technologies (SOLA & Open Tenure). FAO with partners in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands have **mapped 111 family land parcels** amounting to a **total of 21,484 acres in 11 village communities** in Port Loko, Bombali and Bo districts collectively. The mapping process in Kenema district was halted due to a violent conflict related to land grabbing which prompted the Court to issue an injunction on the chiefdom land.

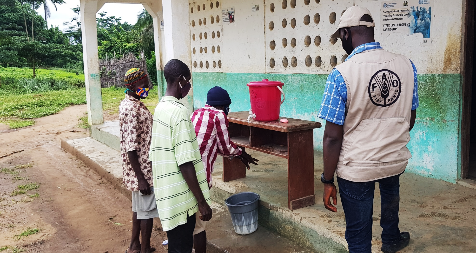
 



*Village and Family Lands Customary Mapping Exercise*

*Photo Credit: FAO/Momodu, November 2019 - February 2020*

The validation of cadastral maps for 111 land owning families was completed in Bo, Bombali and Port Loko Districts following clear standard operating procedures for COVID-19. This exercise gives communities the opportunity to ascertain and validate their land boundaries on the maps before the printing and final handover of the maps is conducted by both FAO, government and partners. 149 Cadastral maps were printed amounting to 21,484 acres for final handover to 111 land owning families ranging from Bo 63 maps, Bombali 42 maps and Port Loko 44 maps respectively.

C:\Validation Photos 2020 SOLA\20200716_130808.jpg 

*Validation of Family and Village Maps at Bo, Bombali and Port Loko Districts*

*Photo Credit: FAO/Momodu, July 2020*

**Training/support of women farmers on Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in Port Loko District**

To ensure that rural women have access to options of economic activities that will increase their resilience, Green Scenery in collaboration with FAO through the PBF project trained 180 women farmers on Village Saving and Loan Association as a self-reliance initiative. Since financial institutions such as Banks, other schemes etc. are not easily available or accessible in their communities, access to financial means is a decisive factor in eliminating poverty and enhancing local development. The Village savings and loan association will serve as a remedy to address such issues. The Village Saving and Loan Association is a micro-finance model under which savings groups formed at community level. It is bound to reduce poverty by supporting vulnerable groups such as women financially and socially. This model is a self-manage group that does not receive any internal or external assistance to contribute as savings. It provides a secure place to save monies and it can be accessed easily. It makes provision for loans to take care of social issues and create opportunity for members to improve on their household health and wellbeing which speaks to the objectives of the peace building fund project. The Village Saving and Loan Association serve as a back bone for women’s empowerment particularly rural women farmers.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

The PBF project set a Gender Marker of 80% on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE). Under the project, the capacity of implementing partners has been strengthened on how to design, monitor and evaluate peacebuilding results in livelihoods and employment interventions. During a meeting in Freetown in November 2019, key indicators were developed in order to measure the contribution of implementing partners to social cohesion and social justice at the community level in line with the theory of change developed in the framework of an ILO/PBSO partnership[[3]](#footnote-3). The project enhances women’s access to and control over land and supports their economic empowerment while sensitizing stakeholders and the broader community about gender-sensitive approaches as well as women’s land rights and their role in enterprises. It raises awareness on the demarcation of boundaries and promotes the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

FAO has developed a gender sensitive communication strategy that captures and reinforces the importance of realizing the full range of women’s human right, gender equality women peace and security.

Awareness has been increased on women customary land rights and peace through outreach and community engagement activities such as radio programmes in different languages across the country, the dissemination of information, education and communication materials depicting various peacebuilding messages on women’s access to land and productive assets.

Apart from awareness raising and other Capacity Development initiatives to reduce discriminatory practices against rural women’s access and ownership of land and other productive assets, the PBF project has strengthened the community governance through development of Community Byelaws and Village Area Land Committees (VALC) in all the villages as stipulated in the Sierra Leone National Land Policy. The Village Area Land Committees capture 40% women inclusion.

**OUTCOME 2:** Women are empowered to increase their agricultural economic opportunities and develop women-led cooperative businesses

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:** On track.

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

Complementing activities under Outcome 1, ILO and FAO built on progress made in the areas of women’s access to land, rights and decision making and worked with the same target group to build and strengthen women’s ability to manage and organize small and cooperative businesses in agriculture. In line with restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, some activities had to be adjusted and delivered remotely.

Implementing partners have been capacitated through a training-of-trainer model in the areas of gender-sensitive enterprise development, financial education, the establishment and management of cooperatives, occupational safety and health (OSH) at work as well as Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). This has enabled respective civil society organizations to roll-out training to project beneficiaries at the community level. Gender champions identified by the project and other relevant stakeholders also benefited from these courses. This approach ensures that capacities remain within the project communities beyond the end of the project. Trainers have successfully cascaded the training to numerous beneficiaries and are in a position to provide information and advice going forward. Volunteers have been capacitated on both OSH and CSA and can benefit beneficiaries beyond the end of the project.

Output 2.1 Business management skills and resilience of women farmers strengthened.

Under the project, a training of trainers was organized in ILO’s Gender and Entrepreneurship Together (GET Ahead) programme for representatives of implementing partners as well as gender champions from the project districts. The training covered adult learning, presentation and facilitation skills as well as practicing and networking, among others. Subsequently, trained trainers were in a position to cascade training on gender and entrepreneurship to a total of 425 beneficiaries across all project communities of which 329 were female and 96 male. Areas covered by the training included marketing, communication, operations, finance, risks, decision making, negotiations and support networks. According to one of the implementing partners rolling-out the training, the following topics were of particular interest to participants: managing cash, selling to customers, costing and pricing as well as leadership. The CSO partner also reported that the training helped to dispel myths on why businesses were failing as well as stereotypes about women in businesses. Sensitization workshops were conducted to raise awareness on and discuss the role of women in businesses. Analyses of value chains as well as skills gaps were conducted in the project communities. A survey conducted by a CSO partner towards the end of the project confirmed that a large majority of respondents were of the opinion that both women and youth could become entrepreneurs in their respective communities.

*Sensitization workshop on women in businesses, Port Loko District, December 2019*

Output 2.2: Women farmers’ capacity on forming and managing agricultural cooperatives enhanced.

A training-of-trainers on cooperative development was conducted for 18 trainer candidates to enable them to train farmers willing to establish cooperatives or to improve the management and governance of existing cooperatives. Participants prepared action plans to cascade training to women farmers in the project communities.

*Training-of-trainers on cooperative development, Makeni, Bombali District, November 2019*

Throughout the project, implementing partners have been in a position to cascade training in the area of cooperatives development to a total of 450 beneficiaries of which 365 were women and 85 men. According to one of the implementing partners, beneficiaries of the training planned to develop existing groups into cooperatives. Follow-up coaching provided to trained trainers confirmed the desire of framers to form cooperatives. As mentioned above, a total of eight cooperatives were registered during the implementation period of the project. It was also observed that a number of trainers continued to provided cooperatives’ training beyond the framework of the project.

*Roll-out of cooperatives development training, Kenema District, January 2020*

Output 2.3 Women farmers have strengthened their financial capabilities and have access to gender sensitive financial products.

The ILO conducted an assessment of the supply of and demand for financial services in Sierra Leone.[[4]](#footnote-4) Among others, the study refers to limited financial, technical and managerial capacities of financial service providers (FSPs); reveals that dispersed populations and inadequate transportation and communication facilities lead to high unit delivery costs for FSPs; and that terms and conditions of financial products are often not suitable for micro-, small- and medium enterprises. Entrepreneurs whose businesses are farming related are availed short-term loans while they would need an adequate agricultural credit facility. Agricultural loans were mostly for processing and trading, while farmers needed agricultural loans for primary production. Other barriers facing women appear to include gender biases, customary practices and negative perceptions. The study also notes limited knowledge on business planning among rural farmers, limited business and financial knowledge and skills among MSMEs, a lack of separation between business and personal resources and an absence of collateral[[5]](#footnote-5). A Women’s Entrepreneurship Self-Check (WE Check)[[6]](#footnote-6) conducted in collaboration with the National Youth Commission (NAYCOM) confirms the potential of financial services for women’s socio-economic empowerment while acknowledging that women continue to be excluded from such services, in particular in rural areas. According to the We Check report[[7]](#footnote-7), factors that limited credit availability in particular for women-led SMEs included a lack of start-up capital, inadequate awareness of existing credit schemes, high interest rates, lengthy loan application procedures and a lack of collateral. During a survey conducted among NAYCOM clients, some 80 per cent of women indicated access to finance as a challenge in starting a business. Capacities of financial institutions to offer gender-sensitive financial services in rural areas were supported through the delivery of ILO’s Making Microfinance Work training programme. The training strengthened capacities of 20 practitioners to diversify their product portfolio with a focus on offering gender-sensitive products in rural areas as well as on addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Follow-up assistance was provided to the participating institutions and the impact of the training could already be seen in the product profile of MFIs. Due to COVID-19 related restrictions to in-person meetings, the course was conducted online.

Under the project, the ILO capacitated CSO partners, gender champions and other stakeholders on its financial education training programme, who cascaded it to a total of 640 farmers in the project communities of which 497 were women and 143 men. This training builds capacities of entrepreneurs to make informed decisions about earning, spending, borrowing and using financial services effectively. A trainer’s manual on financial education has been adapted to the Sierra Leone context in collaboration with another ILO project that promoted Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). According to one CSO partner, some farmers had been of the opinion that there was no need for savings as their incomes were small. Participants saw the need to save and vowed to do so by establishing separate family and business purses or using a local cash-box. Farmers were informed about financial institutions in the proximity of their communities and some newly formed cooperatives expressed interest in opening bank accounts. Feedback on the financial education training suggests that most women were willing to save with banks as it was a way to access funds for production or business.

Output 2.4: Women farmers benefit from improved safety and health at work to increase productivity.

Training provided on occupational safety and health helped farmers know about possible health dangers and how to apply proper handling and storage of materials during farming activities. According to an implementing partner rolling out the training at the community level, “farmers strongly believed that proper storage and handling of farming materials and products can increase productivity and prevent damage, tiredness and accidents while working on their farms”. Farmers also confirmed that the knowledge acquired helped to protect against heat and hazardous chemicals. Trained OSH “volunteers” were in a position to reach out to a total of around 6,000 farmers using the WIND checklist. Towards the end of the project, a refresher webinar was organized on the “Prevention and Mitigation of COVID-19 at Work” with a particular focus on workplace risk assessment and control for COVID-19.

OSH outreach to neighborhood farmers, Mapaki, Pakimassabong Chiefdom, Bombali, July 2020

**Output 2.5** *Women are trained on improved Agronomic and Climate Smart Agricultural practices*

Under this output, 2,500 beneficiaries (80% women) have been trained in good agronomic and climate smart agriculture focusing on groundnuts, cassava, and rice and pepper value chain. During the baseline assessments, majority of women farmers were using slush and burn method while degradation soils and forests for charcoal business. Due to limited knowledge on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), women farmers lacked the proper skills for planting, mulching, soil and water management as well as post-harvest management. To cascade CSA to other farmers and create a sustainability strategy, FAO and ILO collaborated to train 20 trainers from existing CSO partners, who cascaded the training to 200 farmers across the target districts. These farmers had previously been capacitated in the area of Occupational, Safety and Health (OSH), on Good Agricultural Practices, Climate Smart Agriculture and Soil Fertility Management. The idea behind the training of the OSH Volunteers was to create a platform for additional farmers across the target districts to benefit from training on OSH and Climate Smart Agriculture and Soil Fertility Management.

The CSA training was dedicated for the enhancement of women’s knowledge in farming within the context of climate change. Hence the rationale of this training is to increase women farmers’ knowledge to undertake the best practices in their agricultural activities, particularly to refrain from using fertilizers, burning cleared farms and there by planting their crops by taking advantage of appropriate climatic conditions and sustainable agricultural conservation practices. Over 650 copies on Climate Smart Agriculture and Agronomic practices Handbooks were printed and distributed to literate heads of farming groups across the targets districts. Supplemented by posters and jingles, the heads of the various farming groups the manual was interpreted to train the rest of the group members who cannot read and write.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:** *(1000 character limit)*

Under this outcome, an attempt has been made to raise awareness of male and female community members in all project Districts on the role of women in business leadership positions through dedicated sensitization workshops. According to observations by project partners, interventions improved the way some men perceived the engagement of women in businesses. According to one of the implementing partners, “men realized that allowing their (…) spouses to own and manage (…) businesses will bring more income into the home and reduce the financial pressure on them”.

While the project targeted mainly women farmers, men have also participated in a number of training activities in all project communities**.** Beneficiaries and implementing partners highlighted the need to involve men in capacity building activities to ensure buy-in and sustainability. Gender champions have been instrumental in facilitating and rolling out trainings at the community level. **All women’s cooperatives currently being mentored also have male members**, who often provide logistical and secretarial functions such as transport and record keeping. It is expected that training provided under the project leads to strengthened roles of women in the respective cooperatives. The involvement of young women in project activities was mandatory for all implementation partners. Young women constitute some 30% of beneficiaries.

The capacity of implementing partners has been supported with regard to the monitoring and evaluation of peacebuilding results in livelihoods and employment interventions including through a workshop held in Freetown in November 2019. According to one of the CSO partners, men “reaffirmed that trainings are very relevant to domestic, community and national peace.”

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Monitoring:** Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)  **A mid-term evaluation** was conducted focusing on the following objectives:   1. To assess progress made with regard to women’s access to land and other productive assets 2. To assess the level of women’s access to financial services 3. To have clear knowledge of disputes resolved among land owning families and neighbouring communities 4. To assess the level of women’s leadership roles in their various communities 5. To assess the impact of the livelihood support given to women farming groups. 6. To assess peacebuilding results in line with the community Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms | Do outcome indicators have baselines?  Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? |
| **Evaluation:** Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?  Mid-Term Evaluation has been conducted. A Final Independent Evaluation is currently being conducted. | Evaluation budget (response required): **97,500 USD**  If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*:  A final independent Evaluation is currently being conducted. |
| **Catalytic effects (financial):**  Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project. | Name of funder: Amount:   1. **US$ 183,000** from Federal Republic of Germany to enhance the enabling environment for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems. 2. **US$ 370,000** from DfID to promote Responsible Land Investments in Sierra Leone 3. **US$ 300,000** from a Flexible Multi-Donor Mechanism (FMM) basket to upscale the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Governance of Tenure of Land (VGGT), Responsible Agricultural Investments, among others. 4. **US$ 100,000** from The World Bank to support the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Country Planning in development of the Customary Land Rights Bill and The National Land Commission Bill. |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500 character limit)* | The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and measures put in place to contain it had an impact on the timely delivery of some activities. The Final Independent Project Evaluation is currently being conducted and will be finalized in January 2021. |

**PART IV: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

*Using the* ***Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments****- provide an update on the achievement of* ***key indicators*** *at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation.* Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)

|  | **Performance Indicators** | **Indicator Baseline** | **End of project Indicator Target** | **Indicator Milestone** | **Current indicator progress** | **Reasons for Variance/ Delay**  **(if any)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome 1**  Land related disputes and discriminatory practices against rural women’s access and ownership of land and other productive assets are reduced and women’s decision making increased at all levels. | Indicator 1.1  Percentage (%) of reported land dispute cases in targeted areas addressed and resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism | 0 | **30%** of reported land dispute cases in targeted areas addressed and resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism |  | 61% of reported land conflicts resolved | 1. 26 land conflicts were reported and 16 were resolve through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanism during the mapping exercise. (61% cases resolved) 2. Additionally 33 conflicts were mapped during the conflict mapping done by WANEP. |
| Indicator 1.2  Number: (#) of Community education and sensitization campaigns on land policies and laws conducted | 0 | **12** Community education and sensitization campaigns on land policies and laws conducted. |  | **15** Community education and sensitization campaigns on land policies and laws conducted | 1. Sensitization and awareness raising on peacebuilding, gender and land rights has been conducted in all 16 communities of the 8 Chiefdoms in Port Loko, Bombali, Bo and Kenema district. 2. Radio discussions and jingles on peace and women's land rights in local languages are on-going across the country 3. Based on the community demand for more information during the community education and sensitization campaigns, additional sensitization and awareness campaigns were conducted |
| Indicator 1.3  Percentage (%) of rural women with increased access and ownership to land and other productive assets | 0 | 30% of rural women with increased access and ownership to land and other productive asset |  | 50% | 1. As a result of the project interventions, more women have reported having increased access to and ownership of land and other productive assets 2. Discriminatory practices are slowly decreasing as men are getting more aware of the provisions of the National Land Policy and Constitution |
| Output 1.1  Drivers of land and gender related conflicts which lead to discrimination and exclusion of women are mapped and documented | Indicator 1.1.1  An analysis of the land and gender drivers of conflicts in the targeted area. | 0 | 6 chiefdoms Conflict Mapping completed |  | Above 100% | 1. Land conflict mapping conducted in eight (8) chiefdoms |
| Indicator 1.1.2  Number of Chiefdom Conflict Profiles updated | 0 | 6 Conflict Profiles to be updated |  | Above 100% | 1. Conflict profiles for eight (8) chiefdoms updated |
| Output 1.2  Increased participation of women within the 6 selected chiefdoms in decision-making on the allocation and ownership of land through their active involvement in the implementation of the National Land Policy (NLP | Indicator 1.2.1  1 Percentage (%) of women on decision making structures/ committees on land at all levels | 0 | 40% of women on decision making land committees |  | 50% women elected on Village Area Land Committees | 1. Village Area Land Committees (VALC) established in all 16 communities with 50% women representation in Kenema, Bo, Bombali and Port Loko |
| Indicator 1.2.2  Number (#) of copies of simplified National Land Policy and Implementation plan produced.  Number (#) of awareness raising materials, jingles produced in English and the local languages (Temne, Mende & Krio) | 0 | 500 copies of NLP and 400 copies of NLPIP to be printed |  | 1000 copies of land policy pocket guide to be printed in English. And translated in audio version into Krio, Mende, Limba and Temne. | Posters, fliers, billboards in addition to National Land Policy have been produced and disseminated across the country. |
| Output 1.3  Family and community lands within selected chiefdoms are Systematically Demarcated and Mapped using innovative tools like Solutions for Open Land Administration (SOLA)/ Open Tenure geospatial technology giving special reference to land parcels owned and or used by women. | Indicator 1.3.1  Number (#) of Village and Family Land Maps produced and validated by the community | 0 | 18 village maps from 8 chiefdoms |  | **90%** | 1. The Mapping process has been completed in 3 districts Bo, Bombali and Port Loko. About 111 family lands parcels have been mapped totalling to 21,484 acres of land systematically demarcated and mapped. |
| Indicator 1.3.2  Number (#) of CSOs contracted to conduct Community Sensitization and Awareness Building | 0 | 3 CSO's contracted to conduct Community Sensitization and Awareness Building |  | **100% completed** | 1. About 40% of the overall budget has been disbursed through the three (3) Civil Society Organizations namely; Namati, Green Scenery and West African Network for Peacebuilding –WANEP to implement various components of the project. In additional, other Community Based Organizations like UPHR have been included in Port Loko district |
| **Outcome 2**  Women are empowered to increase their agricultural economic opportunities and develop women led cooperatives. | Indicator 2.1  Percentage (%) increase in income of supported cooperatives and businesses. | 0 | At least 5 per cent. |  | Women farmers have been trained on business practices, financial education and the establishment and running of cooperative businesses. | 1. According to a survey conducted by one of the implementing partners, WANEP, 45% of women and 50.9% of men were of the opinion that the income of their business or cooperative had increased since the beginning of the programm (9% of women and 17.9% of men thought it had increased a lot. |
| Indicator 2.2  Percentage (%) of rural women with increased access to skills, knowledge and productive assets | 0 |  |  | Women farmers have been capacitated in the areas of business development, financial education and cooperative development. | 1. According to a survey conducted by one of the implementing partners, WANEP, 48.6% of women and 47.3% of men were of the opinion that their access to skills, knowledge and productive assets had increased since the beginning of the project (another 31.9 per cent of women and 25.9% of men thought it had increased by a little and 17.7% of women and 25.9% of men by a lot). |
| Indicator 2.3  Positive changes in attitudes and perceptions of participants ability to cooperate and network effectively in the economic sphere | 0 |  |  | Capacity of community stakeholders to cooperate effectively has been strengthened. | 1. According to a survey conducted by one of the implementing partners, WANEP, 52.8% of women and 52.7% of men were of the opinion that their ability to cooperate and network in the economic sphere had changed since the beginning of the project. |
| Output 2.1  Business management skills and resilience of women farmers strengthened. | Indicator 2.1.1  Number of context-specific training tools produced | 0 | 2 |  | Training material on women in entrepreneurship produced |  |
| Indicator 2.1.2  Number of persons benefiting from entrepreneurship trainings (disaggregated by sex, age, location | 0 | 300 (80% women aged ≥20 years) |  | 425 beneficiaries trained (76% women) | 1. Trained trainers of CSO partners were able to cascade the training to additional beneficiaries in the project communities. |
| Indicator 2.1.3: Number of people participating in sensitization workshops on women's integration in business leadership (disaggregated by sex, age, location) | 0 | 60 |  | 205 | 1. CSO partners were able to reach more beneficiaries in the roll-out of sensitization workshops than initially planned. |
| Output 2.2  Women farmers’ capacity on forming and managing agricultural cooperatives enhanced using adapted ILO tools 27 (e.g. Think.Coop, Start.Coop, Manage.Coop, My.Coop). | Indicator 2.2.1  Number of context-specific training tools produced | 0 | 2 |  | Training tools on forming and managing agricultural cooperatives adapted |  |
| Indicator 2.2.2  Number of trainers trained on cooperative support | 0 | 9 |  | 18 trainers trained (9 of whom women) | 1. Through the training-of-trainers conducted, it was possible to double the number of trainers trained. |
| Indicator 2.2.3: Number of people receiving cooperative skills training | 0 | 300 |  | 450 beneficiaries trained (81% women). | 1. CSO partners have been in a position to increase the number of beneficiaries reached by 50% compared to the end of project target. |
| Output 2.3  farmers have strengthened their financial capabilities and have access to gender sensitive financial products | Indicator 2.3.1  Number of assessments and gender self -analysis conducted | 0 | 2 |  | 2 | 1. An assessment of the supply of and demand for financial services in in Sierra Leone, based on a 2017 assessment, as well as a WE Check Action Report on Gender and Entrepreneurship Programmes of the National Youth Commission were conducted. |
| Indicator 2.3.2  Number of financial service providers offering gender sensitive financial products to women farmers; | 0 | 3 |  | Assessment undertaken and training course on managing product diversification for financial service providers conducted. | 1. While microfinance institutions are present in all project districts offering various products and services, challenges with regard to access to finance for women farmers remain as identified above. While the impact of training activities on the product profile of MFIs could already be seen, it would be difficult to determine the number of financial service providers offering gender sensitive financial products because of the project intervention. |
| Indicator 2.3.3: Number of people trained on financial education (disaggregated by sex, age, location) | 0 | 300 |  | 640 beneficiaries trained (82% women). | 1. CSO partners have been in a position to more than double the initial target. |
| Output 2.4  Women farmers benefit from improved safety and health at work to increase productivity | Indicator 2.4.1  Number of women trainers trained on occupational safety and health in agriculture | 0 | 6 |  | 25 trainers have been trained including 12 men. | 1. It was possible to train four times as many trainers including men 2. Towards the end of the project, a refresher webinar was organized for trained trainers on prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 at work. |
| Indicator 2.4.2  Number of volunteer women farmers trained | 0 | 30 |  | 200 beneficiaries trained (77% women) | 1. CSO partners have been in a position to train 154 women farmers instead of 30 as initially planned. In addition, 46 men have been trained as well. The volunteers have also been trained in Climate Smart Agriculture. |
| Indicator 2.4.3 Number of farmers trained by trained farmer trainers | 0 | 200 |  | Around 6,000 | 1. Volunteer farmers were in a position to reach out to significantly more farmers than initially targeted. OSH volunteers also supported the roll-out of Climate Smart Agriculture. |
| Output 2.5 Women are trained on improved agronomic and climate smart agricultural practices | Indicator 2.5.1  Number (#) of women trained on improved agronomic and climate smart agricultural practices | 0 | 2,000 women aged ≥20 years to be trained on improved agronomic and climate smart agricultural practices |  | 2,500 beneficiaries (80% women) trained in good agronomic and climate smart agriculture focusing on groundnuts, cassava, rice and pepper value chain | 1. The project exceeded the target by 500 additional indirect beneficiaries who shared boundaries with the targeted beneficiaries. This was considered in order to build peace and social cohesion among the targeted communities and their immediate neighbors with whom they share land boundaries. |
| Indicator 2.5.2  Number (#) of reports printed and disseminated on Climate Smart Agriculture | 0 | 600 copies of climate smart agriculture to be printed and disseminated |  | 650 copies of Climate Smart Agriculture Training manuals disseminated | 1. Additional printing of training manuals on Climate Smart Agriculture in Sierra Leone was done |

1. **Score 3** for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective

   **Score 2** for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective

   **Score 1** for projects that contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly (less than 15% of budget) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The cooperatives are: Village Hope Coop Society and Tawopaneh Coop Society, Bombali; Maconteh Coop Society and Bureh Coop Society, Port Loko; Katawovahun Farmers Coop Society and Ngoyila Farmers Coop Society, Bo; and Ngoyila Farmers Dev. Coop Society and Gayayeiyei Agric. Dev. Coop Society, Kenema. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For more information, please refer to ILO Handbook on How to design, monitor and evaluate peacebuilding results into employment programmes: <https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/instructionalmaterial/wcms_712211.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The study complemented and updated findings of the an assessment conducted in 2017 taking into account recent trends, the specific needs of women in rural areas, challenges associated with COVID-19 pandemic as well as an additional District, i.e. Bombali. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. ILO 2020: Assessment of and demand for financial services in Sierra Leone. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. WE Check is the updated version of the Female and Male Operating Small Enterprises (FAMOS) tool [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. We Check Action Report - Gender and Entrepreneurship Programmes of the National Youth Commission [↑](#footnote-ref-7)