**Annex 1**

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|  | Insert Fund specific logo, if applicable |

**Guinea Bissau Peace Building Fund**

**ANNUAL programme[[1]](#footnote-1) NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December 2009**

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| *Submitted by:*Tracey Hebert, Director, Senegal Operations Centre - UNOPS, DakarTraceyH@unops.org  |  | *Country and Thematic Area[[2]](#footnote-2)*Guinea-Bissau – Security and Justice Sector Reform |
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| *Programme No: PBF/GNB/B-2****MDTF Office Atlas No:*** *Programme Title:**Rehabilitation of Military Barracks.* |  | *Participating Organization(s):*  |
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| *Implementing Partners:* ***Ministry of National Defense***  |  | *Programme Budget (from the Fund):**For Joint Programme provide breakdown by UN Organization*UN Org A:UN Org B: |
|  |  | Etc. |
| *Programme Duration (in months):*Start date[[3]](#footnote-3): 29 May 2008End date: November 2010* *Original end date : November 2009*
* *Revised end date, if applicable*
* *Operational Closure Date*[[4]](#footnote-4)*, if applicable:*

Budget Revisions/Extensions:*List budget revisions and extensions, with approval dates, if applicable*  |

# Purpose

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Guinea-Bissau is going through a process of relative and fragile peace which needs to be reinforced and consolidated through concrete measures aimed at preventing attempts to compromise an already-difficult situation through the use of force for purposes of justifying an action or resolving a dispute.

There is an urgent need to consolidate peace in Guinea-Bissau through the promotion of normal functioning of state institutions and in accordance with democratic norms and constitutional measures.

The economic and financial situation in Guinea-Bissau does not permit the country to resolve the crucial and pressing problems it faces. Consequently, Guinea-Bissau can only confront this difficult situation through the support of the international community, particularly the United Nations system.

In this connection, Guinea-Bissau Armed Forces personnel are faced with the difficult problem of living in precarious and inhuman conditions in the military barracks – the dormitories are dilapidated, with bathhouses in an advanced state of degradation. These facilities lack water and electrical supply or alternative sources of electricity and are without proper kitchens or dining halls. These deficiencies have transformed the military barracks into places where diseases can fester and where safety is at risk given the crumbling walls and falling roofs.

As almost all the military barracks were built in the colonial period and not been maintained over the years, they are in an advanced state of dilapidation. The military barracks project aims to

1) Rehabilitate 33 military barracks in 11 localities, in order to improve the living conditions of more than 4,000 military personnel, and

2) Create a safe environment in the military barracks, thus reducing prospects for discontentment and revolt. One of the overall objectives of this project is to reinforce the process of peace stabilization.

Implementing this present short-term project for the rehabilitation of dormitories, service areas, water supply and bathhouses could be seen as the government being proactive and the international community partnering to achieve the consolidation of sustainable peace and stability.

The project was designed to be executed in four sectors, corresponding to the 4 geographical areas involved, and implementation will start simultaneously in theses four areas. This approach will help facilitate follow up and monitoring, as well as ensure that the impact of the project is felt across the board.

* East sector : Bafata and Gabu
* South sector: Quebo and Buba
* North sector: Cantchungo and Buba.

# Resources

***Financial Resources****:*

The total budget allocated to the project is USD 1,905,000 including a 7% indirect cost estimated at US $ 124,626.17.

According to the technical team and following the assessment made, the budget of US$ 1,905,000 allocated to the project is not sufficient to meet the real needs. Therefore, the national implementing partners suggested excluding the dormitories and services areas and to rehabilitate only the sanitation areas, the kitchen areas and the dining halls. The technical team also recommended the selection of units/surfaces to be rehabilitated during the first phase.

***Human Resources****:*

During the first quarter 2009, a team of 04 staff were recruited in the UNOPS Unit in Guinea Bissau: 01 civil engineer, 01 senior technician and 01 Liaison Officer. One International Architect was also recruited as Project Manager.

UNOPS has set up an operational Unit to start field study and technical evaluation of water bore holes of the military barracks and units to be rehabilitated (Bissau, Quebo, Buba, Mansoa, Canchungo, Gabu and Bafata). The study was carried out in order to prepare the statement of works.

During the last quarter of 2009, UNOPS technical team has been strengthened: 2 national architects and 1 administrative assistant have been contracted while the international architect in charge of the coordination of the project has concluded her contract end of December 2009.

After a competitive process, the position of the international architect has been fulfilled by a national architect who is also appointed as project manager for the coordination of the project’s activities.

# Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

At the onset of the project’s activities, the technical team started the field study and technical evaluation of water bore holes of the military barracks and units to be rehabilitated in order to prepare the statement of works.

Since the budget of USD 1,900,000 allocated to this activity is remarkably inferior to the actual needs, the national implementing partners suggested to exclude the dormitories and service areas and to only rehabilitate the sanitation areas, the kitchen and the dining halls. Based on this, the Statement of works was drafted and submitted to the Ministry of National Defense for official approval in June 2009.

In August 2009, the Management Committee presented a reformulation of the project which took into consideration the total rehabilitation of the units located in Gabu, Quebo and Amura, including a new chronogram of the activities. The reformulation affected the output number 1 of the project document since it was anticipated that the total number of rehabilitation would be 3 units instead of total/partial rehabilitation of 10 units as initially projected.

In December 2009, the project Management Committee was set up and its Terms of references were approved by National Steering Committee (NSC) during its 10th meeting held on December 10, 2009. The appointment of the management committee had been confirmed by a ministerial order to ensure the functioning of the body and avoid disruption of their activities, in case of any reshuffling affecting the Ministry of National Defense.

The project reformulation which foresees the total rehabilitation of the units located in Gabu, Quebo and Amura (provided that the remaining funds are sufficient) has been approved by the National Steering Committee and the related assessments are ongoing.

# Results

During the last quarter, UNOPS Regional Director carried out field mission to facilitate the starting up of the rehabilitation works. After several meetings with the national implementation partners, UNOPS made a proposal of Terms of Reference for the Management Committee constitution, UNOPS provided a copy of the financial report about the expenses made so far by the project to the Ministry of Defense and formally proposed to concentrate the remaining financial resources in the total rehabilitation for 2 or 3 units instead of using these resources for the partial rehabilitation of a higher number of units. Consequently, the output 1 of the project document has been revised.

The Ministry of Defense accepted the proposal and communicated through on the 30th of November the list of the 3 units to be totally rehabilitated: Gabu, Quebo and Amura in Bissau provided that the funds available are sufficient.

# Future Work Plan

After the completion of the assessment made in three barracks, the technical team of the project will provide a detailed budget in order to assess if the amount available within the project is sufficient for the total rehabilitation of the 3 units. The assessment of Gabu and Quebo will be finalized by end of January 2010 while the Amura fortress will be finalized in mid February 2010.

The bids related to the works in Gabu and Quebo will be launched on March / April 2010 and the evaluation of the offers will be officially concluded early May 2010. The rehabilitation works in Gabu and Quebo are expected to start by mid-May 2010.

In order to reduce the rehabilitation works costs, UNOPS will provide building materials, while the military will provide the manpower through its military engineering. UNOPS will provide the technical supervision of the works in Amura fortress.

The rehabilitation works in the military barracks in Gabu and Quebo are expected to start during May 2010 for 5 to 6 months duration.

1. The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. E.g. Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Thematic Window for the Millennium Development Goals Fund (MDG-F); etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)