|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Insert Fund specific logo, if applicable |

**LIBERIA PEACEBUILDING FUND**

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

**REPORTING PERIOD: 28 aPRIL – 28 FEBRUARY 2010**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Submitted by: Isabel Crowley  UNICEF Liberia  E-mail: [icrowley@unicef.org](mailto:icrowley@unicef.org)  Tel: +2316702281 |  | Country and Thematic Area[[2]](#footnote-2) Priority Area 1: Fostering National Reconciliation and Conflict Management (with strong linkages to Priority Area 2: Critical Interventions to Promote Peace and Resolve Conflict) |
|  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Programme No: PBF/PP/R3/A1/01 ***MDTF Office Atlas No:*** Programme Title: Youth Empowerment Services for Peace Building and Stability |  | Participating Organization(s): UNICEF |
|  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Implementing Partners:National counterparts (government, private, NGOs & others): Ministry of Youth and Sports  * *International Organizations, including NGOs:* ***Action AID Liberia; and Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY)*** |  | 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): 28/04/2009  End date: 27/10/2010   * *Original end date: 27/10/2010* * *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 |

### **I. PURPOSE**

Given the vulnerability of youth generally and especially in Liberia, young people must have access to a range of integrated services. Liberia lacks adequate structures that can provide the civic and political space for youth to positively and substantially participate in mainstream decision-making and related activities in the political, economic and social spheres. Fostering youth empowerment and the social cohesion of youth in Liberia is an essential step in the direction of breaking the vicious nexus between youth marginalization and conflict. By supporting community-based initiatives that target out-of-school youth and providing them with leadership and life skills, the project under Priority Area 1 of the Peacebuilding Fund aims to reduce the likelihood of Liberia’s youth being easy to mobilize for violence or other anti-social activities.

This report highlighting the progress made so far in the implementation of the project “Youth Empowerment Services for Peacebuilding and Stability”. The overall program aims at integrating youth in to local economic, social and political systems and to reduced the propensity for alienated youth to be drawn into destructive and violent structures and actions.

The key expected outcomes are the following:

1. Enhanced capacity of targeted youth population to assume leadership, participate in local and national policy networks and decision making processes and to contribute to peace and development.
2. Targeted youth are empowered to use their capacities, skills, opportunities and energies constructively to enhance non-violence, peaceful co-existence and assume civil responsibilities on all levels of society.
3. Improved understanding and knowledge about youth issues leads to “youth sensitized” local and national policy making structures.

The program contributes as well to Component 4, Youth Empowerment and Social Cohesion of the Joint Programme for Youth Empowerment and Employment.

### **II. RESOURCES**

***Financial Resources***

The funding management for this programme component has largely been a combination of pass-through and parallel fund mechanisms. Funding thus far received is as follows:

Peace Building Fund: USD 1,000,000.00

DANIDA: USD 158,882.92

UNICEF: USD 61,250.00

GOL - MoYS: USD 50,500.00

**Total**: **USD 1,270,632.92**

***Human Resources:***

* A Project Manager, 1 project assistant, 1 Ministry of Youth and Sports focal point (paid using DANIDA contribution) /National Coordinator and a driver.
* A consultant, who has overall responsibilities to the project and liaises with the NGO undertaking field implementation.

### **III. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING ARRANGEMENT**

UNICEF’s partner in implementing the project is the Ministry of Youth and Sports. An international NGO (Action Aid Liberia) and a series of youth groups under the Federation of Liberian Youth are undertaking field implementation in the two counties of focus.

* Monthly monitoring and support supervisory visits made to project counties by the project steering committee members.
* Ongoing discussions with Population Council on the support of the establishment of a Youth Development Index.

### **IV. RESULTS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Results** | **Percent of completion** |
| 1. Enhanced capacity of targeted youth population to assume leadership, participate in local and national policy networks and decision making processes and to contribute to peace and development. | * A capacity needs assessment on leadership skills of youth between 15 to 24 years was conducted with key stakeholders in Monrovia and local youth organizations in Grand Cape Mount and Grand Bassa Counties. * A draft leadership skills training resource pack was tested during ToT training of 60 peer educators from local youth organizations in Cape Mount and Grand Bassa Counties. * The leadership skills training manual was validated by key stakeholders such as MYS, MOE, MoGD, FLY and local youth organizations. * The leadership skills training manual was finalized and is in the process of printing. It includes trust building, communication and participation in community decision making. * Capacity building for local youth organizations: Local youth organizations were strongly involved in the consultation process as well as in the rolling out of the project in the field. * Local youth organizations and communities selected beneficiaries for the youth community trainings which will target 5000 youth in Grand Bassa and Cape Mount Counties. | 30% |
| 1. Targeted youth are empowered to use their capacities, skills, opportunities and energies constructively to enhance non-violence, peaceful co-existence and assume civil responsibilities on all levels of society. | * The capacity needs assessment; the draft peacebuilding training resource pack; and capacity building for local youth organizations; and the 5000 youths selected for training as mentioned above also covered this result. * The leadership skills training manual in print includes self-respect, anger management, and entails a section on human rights and civic education. * Consultation process brought together youth leaders and community leaders in order to give input in the design of the training resource pack and the roll out of the program. | 30% |
| * 1. Improved understanding and knowledge about youth issues leads to “youth sensitized” local and national policy making structures. | * + - During the assessment phase, community leaders were sensitized on the importance of youth participating in community decision making structures, taking responsibility and the constructive role youth can play in conflict resolution.     - Identification of 30 outreach communities in Cape Mount and Grand Bassa counties. Conducting of trainings in remote areas will further improve the understanding of local community leaders and decision makers of the challenges youth are facing.     - Cape Mount and Grand Bassa county authorities are fully aware of the project and sensitized on youth issues | 35% |

### **V. FUTURE WORK PLAN**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Expected Outcome** | **Results** |
| 1. Enhanced capacity of targeted youth population to assume leadership, participate in local and national policy networks and decision making processes and to contribute to peace and development. | * Roll out of leadership skills training for 5000 youth in 30 outreach communities and 5 youth centers in Grand Bassa and Cape Mount counties. * Certification of those who successfully completed the course |
| 1. Targeted youth are empowered to use their capacities, skills, opportunities and energies constructively to enhance non-violence, peaceful co-existence and assume civil responsibilities on all levels of society. | * Roll out of peacebuilding training for 5000 youth in 30 outreach communities and 5 youth centers in Grand Bassa and Cape Mount counties. * Certification of those who successfully completed the course |
| 1. Improved understanding and knowledge about youth issues leads to “youth sensitized” local and national policy making structures. | * 8 Community peace festivals held * Radio shows on local radio stations on the leadership and peacebuilding trainings * Youth Centers report regularly on youth issues. Reports are widely disseminated to local communities, local youth organizations, county authorities and key stakeholders at central level * Leadership skills and peacebuilding training manuals are available at the youth centers as resource materials. |
| 4. Project monitoring, evaluation and supportive supervision | * The establishment of a Youth Development Index is effectively supported. |

### **VI. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION**

The expenditures until February 2010 are reflected below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Items** | **Amount allocated** | **Amount spent** |
| 1. Personnel | 141,600.00 | 45,600.00 |
| 2. Contracts | 350,000.00 | 109,460.40 |
| 3. Training | 260,000.00 | 53,435.00 |
| 4. Transport | 106,900.00 | 85,600.00 |
| 5. Supplies and Commodities | 2,000.00 | - |
| 6. Equipment | 46,000.00 | 46,000.00 |
| 7. Travel | 7,500.00 | 870.00 |
| 8. Miscellaneous | 16,000.00 | - |
| 9. Agency support | 70,000.00 | 65,400.00 |
| **Grand total** | **1,000,000.00** | **406,365.40** |

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)