

**[Peacebuilding Fund]**

**ANNUAL programme NARRATIVE progress report**

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

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| *Submitted by:* United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) |  | *Country and PBF Priority Area:*LiberiaPriority Area 2.2: Critical Interventions to Promote Peace |
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| *Programme No:* PBF/LBR/D-10*MDTF Office Atlas No:* 00072813*Programme Title:* Small Grants to support initiatives for peace consolidation in Liberia |  | *Participating Organization(s):*UNHCR |
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| *Implementing Partners:*  Liberia Peacebuilding Office (PBO)  15 Liberian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) /Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations(CBOs) |  | *Programme Budget (from the Fund):* *$462,606* |
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| *Programme Duration (in months):*12 months Start date[[1]](#footnote-1): 16 December 2009  End date: 10 November 2010 |

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# NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

# Purpose

The objective of the project is to enhance managerial and financial capacities of Liberian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to address violent conflict factors that threaten durable peace and stability in Liberia. Critical outcomes of this intervention include;

1. 75% of CSOs implementing projects under the PBF small grants have improved technical and institutional capacities within the 12 months duration of the projects;
2. Partnership and coordination amongst peacebuilding efforts and organizations established over a 6-month period;
3. At least 70% of targeted communities live in reconciliation, social tensions reduced and inter-intra community dialogue for peace consolidation increased over a 12-month period.

***Project relation to the Liberia PBF Priority Plan***

The project will contribute to one of the Liberian PBF Priority Area, “Critical Interventions to Promote Peace”.As the United Nations Missions in Liberia (UNMIL), responsible for peace and security for all Liberians and residents, is amidst its drawdown, particularly in troop strength, consolidation of peace and stability is imperative. Realizing peace and stability requires concerted and joint efforts of every partner playing different roles at different levels of the Liberian society. Evidently, the role of civil society in this process is extremely important and necessary.

Liberian CSOs have been seen to be key partners to the Government of Liberia, UN and the international community as a whole, through providing meaningful contributions to facilitate and maintain peace in Liberia. On the other hand, their technical capacities related to peacebuilding, effective financial and narrative reporting, program design, proposal development are essential areas determined to be weak on the part of most local CSOs. This has limited the chance for CSOs to access funds from the PBF.

It was against this background that the Small Grants project was approved in April 2009 by the Liberia Joint Steering Committee (JSC) to enhance quantity and quality of engagement of local CSOs in peacebuilding. Unless this opportunity is granted, major gaps would remain for peace consolidation in Liberia.

# Resources

***Financial Resources***

The project is 100% funded by PBF and there have not been any revisions of the budget. The project was approved on 9 September 2009 and the funds were transferred from MDTF to UNHCR HQ in Geneva on 16 December 2009. Due to the financial reform undergoing in UNHCR, the funds has not yet to be transferred to the Country Office in Liberia, which has been a major concern in regard to keep the momentum of the selected NGOs as well as timely delivery of the project outputs and outcomes.

***Human Resources***

* National Staff committed to the project:
  + PBO:
    - Funded by PBF: 1 Finance Officer, full-time.
    - Funded by PBO: 1 Programme staff, part-time.
* International Staff committed to the project:
  + UNHCR:
    - Funded by UNHCR: 1 Programme staff, part-time.

# Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The project will be implemented by the PBO under the standard UNHCR sub-agreement applicable to all UNHCR implementing partners. The sub-agreement will be further operationalised by the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding among UNHCR, PBO and 15 selected organizations. UNHCR, as a recipient agency, will receive funds from the MDTF. The PBO, as an implementing partner, will then disburse funds directly to the 15 selected organizations.

UNHCR, in close coordination with the Ad-hoc JSC Committee and the PBO, will provide direct oversight supervision through its existing field offices to ensure timely implementation and monitoring of the small grants projects. The JSC-Ad hoc Committee in consultation with UNHCR will also monitor implementation of the projects through the PBO. Monitoring tools will include work plans, performance indicators, reports and Monitoring and Evaluation. UNHCR and the PBO will develop joint monitoring indicators and system to be adapted for use of this project.

Monitoring findings will be shared with specific feedback, if available, for the purpose of quality control and improvement, where necessary. The project will also recruit a competent Finance Assistant who will assist selected organizations in submission of financial and narrative reports through coaching and training of staff in selected organizations. The Finance Assistant will be hired by the PBO and sit in the PBO office, but yet responsive to UNHCR. UNHCR shall provide training to the Finance Assistant to ensure that the financial reporting is compliant with UNHCR reporting regulations.

As a UNHCR implementing partner, PBO will follow established UNHCR procurement procedures. PBO will also ensure the compliance with the UNHCR procurement procedures of the selected organizations.

# Results

The initial plan called for starting in September 2009. However, funding was received in 16 December 2009 at UNHCR HQ due to the number of delay occurred at various levels. From there, funding has yet to be transferred to the Country Office in Liberia. Therefore, the project has yet to be fully operationalised while the groundwork has been laid for the actual implementation of 15 projects in anticipation of the arrival of the funds.

The JSC constituted the JS Ad-hoc Committee to develop Terms of Reference and flexible criteria which would allow CSOs/NGOs and CBOs to access funds through a competitive process of submission of quality project proposals. At the end of October 2009, the call for proposals was advertised throughout the country with the help of UNMIL Civil Affairs. Out of 99 proposals received, 40 proposals were shortlisted and 15 proposals were approved by the JS Ad-hoc Committee. The proposals approved vary in geography and in type of issues to be addressed, ranging from psychosocial distress, SGBV, inter-religious conflict, inter-ethnic conflict intertwined with land disputes, to distrust between public officers and citizens. A list of the projects approved is attached to the annex.

The CSOs will be notified their selection in early January 2010 and will fine-tune their proposals based on the recommendation from the JS Ad-hoc Committee. The commencement of the projects will depend on the funds arrival in the Country Office in Liberia. Further delay of the funding transfer would pose a serious challenge of keeping momentum on the Small Grants.

# Future Work Plan

15 selected organizations are going to be informed of their selection earlier in 2010 and will fine-tune the proposals based on recommendations by the Ad-Hoc committee. The recruitment of a Finance officer will begin in January 2010. The implementation of 15 projects will commence as soon as the funds are transferred to the Country Office in Liberia.

# Performance Indicators (optional)[[2]](#footnote-2)

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| PBF | Peacebuilding Fund |
| PBO | Peacebuilding Office |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organizations |
| CBO | Community Based Organizations |
| UNMIL | United Nations Missions in Liberia |
| JSC | Joint Steering Committee |
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ANNEX

**15 projects approved under the Small Grants Project**

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| **No.** | **Organization** | **Project Title** | **Project Location** | | **Duration (Month)** | **Budget  USD** | **Project Description** |
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| **1** | CAP, Children Assistances Program, Inc. | Capacity Building Training in Psychosocial Support Skills | Maryland | Harper and Pleebo | 6 | 26,000.00 | The project aims to assist 10 war-affected communities in overcoming their traumatic experience by putting in place community based psychosocial support mechanisms through counseling services by 30 trained community volunteers, support group formation and referrals network for conflict resolution. |
| **2** | PBRC, Peace Building Resource Center | Strengthening Conflict Prevention Initiatives over Land Dispute in Western Liberia | Gbarpoul, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount |  | 5 | 26,000.00 | This project aims to reduce land disputes through community as well as county level consultations on the nature of conflict and training for peace committees in 6 conflict prone communities in 3 counties. |
| **3** | Tiyatien Health, Inc. | Peacebuilding and the Margins: Participatory Empowerment of Women and War-affected Youth in Southeastern Liberia | Grand Gedeh | Zwedru and Tchien | 12 | 26,000.00 | The project aims to empower rural women and war-affected youths through enhancing participation in decision making process by using photovoice, providing community-based psychosocial services and increasing self-reliance by job creation. |
| **4** | JPC, Justice and Peace Commission, Regional | Enhancing Community Capacities for Conflict Management and Reconciliation in Liberia (CMR) | Bomi, Bassa, Gbarpoul, Cape Mount, Margibi, Montserrado and R. Cess |  | 10 | 26,000.00 | The project aims to strengthen and institutionalize on-the-ground capacity of 7 County Peace Committees to manage and mitigate, and where necessary, respond to local conflicts within their communities in constructive and non-violent ways. |
| **5** | LLUEHW, Liberians United to Expose Hidden Weapons | Promoting Peace and Reconciliation Amongst Community Structures in Bomi County | Bomi |  | 9 | 26,000.00 | The project intends to promote peace and coexistence and to resolve conflict in 10 communities in Bomi County through media awareness and education campaign, community interactive forums, capacity building for CBOs and establishment of a Peace Building e- Resource & Training Center. |
| **6** | LINNK, Liberia NGOs Network ( with FAH, Farmers Against Hunger & WAVAP, War Victims Assistance Program) | Muslim & Christian dialogue for peaceful coexistence | Monrovia | Clara Town, Duala, Jacob Town | 6 | 26,000.00 | The project aims to promote harmonious relationship between Christian and Muslims as well as to reduce poverty in three slam communities in Monrovia through interactive peace forums, youth peace tournaments, peace education in schools and micro-finance services. |
| **7** | NEPI, National Ex-combatant Peace Building Initiatives | Community Based Support for Peace & Reconciliation | Lofa | Vahu, Kolahun & Foya | 9 | 26,000.00 | The project is to strengthen and expand constituencies for peace in 6 districts in Lofa County through establishment of community based peace and reconciliation service systems and promotion of healing process through psychosocial support by trained self-help groups. |
| **8** | Childrensmile Humanitarian Network Inc. | Community Safety Initiative | River Cess | Central River Cess &Timbo | 12 | 26,000.00 | The project aims to advance women’s equality Rivercess County through community sensitization on women’s human rights, establishment of SGBV intervention network and economic empowerment for women. |
| **9** | FIND, Foundation for International Dignity, Gbarnga office – Bong County | Peacebuilding and good governance in Fuman District Bong County ("Bong Mines") | Bong | Fumah | 12 | 26,000.00 | The project aims to transform the conflict in Fumah District in Bong County between District officials and citizens, especially youths through mediation between conflict parties, training the leaders, setting up a mediation committee and working groups implementing small projects to improve development. |
| **10** | CUPPADL, The Citizens United to Promote Peace and Democracy in Liberia & UMABGCO, the Union of Muslim Association of Bomi and Gbarpolu Counties | Peace Building Initiatives Project | Nimba, G. Cape Mt. and Lofa | Bain-Garr/Ganta (Nimba), Porkpa (G. Cape Mt.) & Quodu Gboni (Lofa) | 12 | 26,000.00 | This project aims to enhance inter-religious and intra-ethnic understanding through dialogues on citizenship, religious and ethnic tolerance and conflict reporting, mediation and transformation in 3 counties. |
| **11** | RICCE, Rural Integrated Organization |  | Nimba | Tappita | 7 | 26,000.00 | The project is aimed at enhancing social cohesion by establishing Peace Clubs in communities, providing TOT for women and youths in conflict resolution, prevention and management to serve community peace volunteers. |
| **12** | WONGOSOL, Women's NGO Secretariat of Liberia | Supporting Local Transitional Justice Action | Monrovia, Bomi, G. Cape Mt. and Gbarpolu |  | 5 | 26,000.00 | The project aims to provide 15 pilot communities with the knowledge and capacity to initiate their own action plans on ways to respond to the legacies of the Liberian conflict, thereby promoting community-owned and long-term reconciliation strategies. |
| **13** | CEDE, Center for Democratic Empowerment | Promoting Land Reform & Conflict Management in Post War Liberia | Nimba |  | 10 | 26,000.00 | The project is to support Land Reform commission to promote equitable and productive access and security of tenure to the nation's land through sensitization by Radio, town hall meeting, creation of peace club at high school etc. |
| **14** | WANEP | Community Women Peace and Security Initiative | Montserrado, Bassa & Bomi |  | 12 | 26,000.00 | The project promotes Women’s CSOs' capacity building, networking and collaboration for conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuiding. |
| **15** | WE4SELF, Women Empowerment for Self Employment | Creative Craft Skills Development for Peace Building | Sinoe | Greenville City | 7 | 26,000.00 | The project intends to enhance social cohesiveness of the community by reducing poverty and promoting conflict resolution through provision of two essential life skills training (straw baskets plating and country cloth weaving) while simultaneously providing psychosocial support (sports and cultural activities) for 40 ethnically diverse women. |
|  | **Total Funding Requested (USD)** | | | | | **390,000.00** |  |

1. The start date is the date of the first transfer of funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. E.g. for the UNDG Iraq Trust Fund and the MDG-F. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)