

UN PEACEBUILDING FUND EMERGENCY WINDOW PROJECT

Regional UN Organization	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Project Contact	UNDP Contact		
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Project Title Supporting the Implementation of the Joint Communiqué Independent Review Panel.	Project Location Freetown		
Brief Project Description This project aims to provide funding for the work of the Independent Review Panel in determining the cause of the incidents of political violence and intolerance that occurred in Pujehun, Freetown and Kenema in March 2009.	Tatal, 630 000		

Development Goal and Key Immediate Objectives

This Goal of the project is to promote good governance.

As requested by President Ernest Koroma in a constitutional instrument dated 29 September 2009 the Independent Review Panel, will be charged with:

1. Reviewing and determining the circumstances as well as establish the facts relating to the incidents of political violence that occurred during March 2009 in Pujehun, Freetown and Kenema, as well as the roles and responsibilities of political parties, law enforcement agencies or any other persons or groups in relation to the incidents of political violence and intolerance;

2.Making necessary findings or conclusions that shall provide a full understanding of the circumstances that resulted in the incidents; and

3. Recommending measures to be taken and mechanisms to be put in place to effectively prevent the occurrence of any such incidents in the future.

It is expected that the Panel's work shall in the medium to long-term contribute to the following outcomes:

1) Reduce political violence and intolerance; 2) Promote transparency, 3) Help foster reconciliation between the political parties; and 4) Advance adherence to the 2 April Joint Communiqué.

Outputs and Key Activities:

- 1. Refurbish and equip an office space for the Chairperson of the Panel and Panel members;
- 2. Provide sitting allowances for the Chairperson and Panel members;

3. Provide air transport to Kenema and Pujehun;

4. Hire a vehicle to transport Panel members while in Kenema and Pujehun;

- 5. Provide DSA for the Chairperson and Panel members while in Kenema and Pujehun;
- 6. Provide stationery and photocopying services;
- 7. Provide sensitization and publicity and
- 8. Provide access to communication (Top-up).

On behalf of:

Signature

Date

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Government of Sierra

Leone

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COMPONENT 1: Background

Sierra Leone has made progress in consolidating the democratic gains achieved particularly through the well acclaimed 2007 presidential and parliamentary elections as well as the 2008 local council elections. However, minimizing political intolerance and violence remains a challenge. A recourse to violence as a means of advancing political supremacy still unfortunately obtains. With the conclusion of the 2007 elections, there were occasional clashes between supporters of the ruling All Peoples Congress (APC) and the major opposition, the Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP). The SLPP offices in Freetown and Bo were pelted with stones in 2008. In February 2009, a local council by-election, in Ward 323 of Soro Gbema Chiefdom Pujehun District, generated serious political tensions between sympathizers of the SLPP and the APC. Properties were damaged in altercations between party supporters and consequently the elections were deferred to March 2009. The difficult security conditions created by the elections caused the movement of some people across the border to Liberia.

On 13 March 2009, a large crowd of supposed APC sympathizers pelted the offices of the SLPP in Freetown with stones and other objects. Vehicles in the SLPP offices, including one belonging to the Secretary-General of the party were burnt during the incident. Reports were received of an attempt to set ablaze, sometime between the 13 and 14 of March, a vehicle belonging to the Resident Minister for the Eastern Province in Kenema. In view of the deteriorating situation, Vice-President Sam Sumana suspended the broadcast operations of the radio stations affiliated with the SLPP and the APC on 14 March. These were believed to have contributed to the very tense political atmosphere. However, on 16 March, the SLPP offices in Freetown were stormed by presumed APC sympathizers resulting in considerable damage to the premises and injuries. There were allegations that some women in the vicinity of the SLPP offices were raped and sexually assaulted. The ERSG and other senior UNIPSIL staff personally intervened at the SLPP offices to secure the release of a number of SLPP party members who were trapped in the premises.

Following a bi-party dialogue initiated by the ERSG and the Political Parties Registration Commission, and with support from the international community in Freetown, a Joint Communiqué was signed between the SLPP and the APC in the presence of President Koroma on 2 April 2009. The Communiqué condemned all forms of violence and political incitement, provocation and intimidation. It called for an Independent Review of the events which led to incidents of political violence in March 2009 as well as a Commission to investigate allegations of rape and sexual violence against women at the SLPP headquarters on 16 March 2009. The Commission on sexual violence completed its work and submitted a report to the Government at the end of August 2009. Regarding the incidents of political violence, President Koroma, by a constitutional instrument dated 29 September 2009, established the Independent Review Panel. The three-person Panel is chaired by Mr. E.E.C. Shears-Moses and Brigadier Kahota Mustapha Dumbuya and Mr. William Jessie Siafa.

COMPONENT 2: Project Justification

In light of the foregoing, it is, at the outset, important to determine the cause of the incidents and how the related problems arose. To that end, the establishment of the Panel is a step in the right direction. The creation of the Panel is a good indication that the Government wishes to ensure that there is transparency in governance. Accordingly, the Panel strengthens the good governance goals foreseen in the Agenda for Change or the Poverty Reduction Strategy II. Inasmuch as the Panel will examine the circumstances surrounding the acts of political violence it will, at the same time, create grounds for political reconciliation, build trust and promote dialogue between the political parties. The work of the Panel advances human rights, the rule of law and enhances efforts at addressing impunity because it has a mandate to ascertain the roles and responsibilities of a number of key stakeholders during the incidents. 3

The establishment of the Panel projects a positive image of the country. It underlines the willingness of the Government to honor its obligations under the 2 April Joint Communiqué in view of the fact that the Communique called for the creation of the Panel. Further the Panel will boost ongoing efforts to secure adherence to the Joint Communique. The Panel strengthens bi-partisanship in the country because the major opposition, the SLPP, was afforded an opportunity to present its nominees to the Panel. For all these reasons, the project should be funded by the PBF.

COMPONENT 3: Logical Framework Analysis

This project aims at promoting good governance.

In achieving the objectives of the Panel shall, in the medium- to long-term, contribute to:

1. Reduce political violence and intolerance;

2. Promote transparency;

3. Help foster reconciliation between the political parties and;

4. Advance adherence to the 2 April Joint Communique.

The Independent Review Panel that has been established has the key tasks of:

1. Reviewing and determining the circumstances as well as establish the facts relating to the incidents of political violence that occurred during March 2009 in Pujehun, Freetown and Kenema, as well as the roles and responsibilities of political parties, law enforcement agencies or any other persons or groups in relation to the incidents of political violence and intolerance;

2. Making necessary findings or conclusions that shall provide a full understanding of the

circumstances that resulted in the incidents; and

3. Recommending measures to be taken and mechanisms to be put in place to effectively prevent the occurrence of any such incidents in the future.

To achieve these objectives, the Panel shall be supported with the following deliverables:

1. Refurbish and equip office space for the Chairperson of the Panel and Panel members;

2. Provide sitting allowances for the Chairperson and Panel members;

3. Provide air transport to Kenema and Pujehun;

4. Hire a vehicle to transport Panel members while in Kenema and Pujehun;

5. Provide DSA for the Chairperson and Panel members while in Kenema and Pujehun;

6. Provide stationery and photocopying services;

7. Provide sensitization and publicity; and

8. Provide communication access.

It is expected that this support will enable Panel members to remain independent and impartial in the execution of their duties as well as meet the objectives outlined in the constitutional instrument establishing the Panel.

COMPONENT 4: Budget

Category	Item	Number of Items	Unit Cost (USD)	Total Cost (USD)
Supplies, commodities, equipment and transport	Office refurbishment	1	1,500	1,500
	Top up phone cards	20	10	200
	Transport in Kenema/Pujehun	10 days	100	1,000
	Fuel	55 gallons	5	275
Personnel (staff, consultants, travel and training)	Sitting allowance (Chairman)	50 days	150	7,500
	Sitting allowance (two members)	50 days each	100	10,000
	Sitting allowance (Secretary)	50 days	50	2,500
	Salary (two secretaries)	50 days each	10	1,000
	Salary (stenographer)	50 days	10	× 500
	DSA (Chairman)	6 days	50	300
	DSA (Members)	6 days each	50	600
	DSA (Secretary)	6 days	50	300
	DSA (support staff)	6 days each	35	420
	DSA (Four support staff)	6 days each	35	1,050
3. Training of counterparts			1	
4. Contracts				
5. Other direct costs	Radio announcements	20	3	60
	Contingency funds	77 - 3770 - 1442 - 2140 - 2140 - 2140 - 2140		1,882
Sub-total				
6. Indirect costs**	7% GMS for UNDP			1,963
Total				30.00

COMPONENT 5: Management Arrangements

The project is a short term project. The management shall be done by UNDP, the recipient agency, in close collaboration with the Panel.

A three-person Project Steering Committee that shall comprise of two representatives from UNIPSIL, and one from UNDP shall meet on a weekly basis or when so determined to ensure the implementation of project. Other persons may be invited to join the Committee. The Project Steering Committee will provide overall guidance for managing the project and will be tasked with critical decisions linked with the provision of the aforementioned deliverables of the project.

All costs, if any, incurred by the Panel in excess of the amount provided for in the attached budget shall be recompensed by the Government of Sierra Leone.

COMPONENT 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

The project requires the delivery of mainly outputs that are mainly in the nature of services. Accordingly, the monitoring of the project shall be done by UNDP and the Secretary of the Panel so as to ensure that the deliverables accord with this proposal.

The activities of the Panel shall be evaluated on the basis of a report to be produced no later than three weeks after the conclusion of the activities of the Panel. However, at the discretion of UNDP and the Secretary of the Panel, an interim report maybe produced.

COMPONENT 7: Analysis of Risks and Assumptions

There is no serious negative impact realistically expected from this project that will hinder its successful implementation. One risk however may be achieving the deadline stipulated in the constitutional instrument. Another concerns the independence of the Panel. To this end, the project accepts assurances of the Government that Panel members will in the discharge of their duties not be subject to the influence of the Government or any concerned parties.