**[Peace Building Fund]**

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

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

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| *Programme No:* PBF/EMER/10 ***MDTF Office Atlas No:*** 71440, 71472, 71489 *Programme Title:* Political Reconciliation, Promotion of Peace and Restoration of Political and Democratic Institution |  | *Participating Organization(s):*  UNDP, UNIPSIL |
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| *Implementing Partners:* National counterpartsPolitical Party Registration Commission, Political Parties, National Medias, National NGOs, Artist Group, Inter-Religious Council, Amputee Sports ClubInternational Organizations Search for Common Ground |  | *Programme Budget (from the Fund):* USD 946,950.00 |
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| *Programme Duration (in months):* Start date[[3]](#footnote-3): June 2009  End date: June 2010   * *Original end date:* December 2009 * *Revised end date:*  June 2010   Budget Revisions/Extensions:   * *Extension was approved:*  5 January 2010 |

# Purpose

In March 2009, Sierra Leone was hit by the biggest eruption of violence since the end of the conflict in 2002.Violent clashes involving the supporters of the two main parties resulted in multiple injuries and destruction. On April 2, the two parties publicly pledges to work together to prevent further political violence in the country. In a Joint Communiqué signed in front of President and witnessed by the ERSG, the All Peoples Congress (APC) and the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) vowed to “work jointly in preventing all forms of political incitement, provocation and intimidation”. The immediate objectives of the programme, therefore, are to;

1. Ensure that political parties and their supporters engage in a respectful and professional attitude towards their opponents, state institutions and policy issues;
2. Ensure that efforts of political leadership are backed up by a general consensus within the public opinion in particular the youth;
3. Foster non-partisan media to address the issue of partisanship and the role media played in further exacerbating the conflict.

The expected outputs of the programme to achieve objectives above are as follows;

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| * Objective 1 | * Political reconciliation * Professionalization of political parties’ leadership advanced |
| * Objective 2 | * Trust building enhanced and peace promoted, particularly among youth and general public awareness of the processes |
| * Objective 3 | * Non-partisan media supported through greater monitoring capacity of the Independent Media Commission * Ethic and legal training of journalists |

This programme has several implementing partners to achieve the objectives as follows;

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| * Objective 1 | * PPRC, Political Parties, Sierra Leone Association of NGO, Search for Common Ground, Independent Radio Network, Civil Society Movement |
| * Objective 2 | * PPRC, Political Party Youth Leaders, Artist United for Peace Building, Inter-Religious Council, Amputee Sports Club |
| * Objective 3 | * Independent Media Commission |

# Resources

*Financial Resources:*

The total amount of US$ 946,950.00 has been approved on 11 June as a programme budget for this year.

*Human Resources:*

To implement the programme, following Human Resources were on board in 2009;

[International]

* Technical Advisor (UNDP/UNIPSIL Youth Employment and Conflict)
* Civil Affairs Officer (UNIPSIL)
* Communication Officer (UNIPSIL)
* UNV Programme Manager (UNDP Youth and Peacebuilding)

[National]

* Programme Associate (UNDP)

Among the staff mentioned above, the programme funded only Technical Advisor for four months (July-October 2009).

# Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The programme has been directly executed by UNDP in collaboration with the UNIPSIL Political and Peace Consolidation Unit and Strategic Planning Unit. UNDP provided operational advice on practical implementation and procured all inputs using its rules and policies as well as ensured timely collation and consolidation of reports from all implementing partners. Regular monitoring and evaluation have been undertaken by UNIPSIL and UNDP jointly collaborating with Filed Officers of UNIPSIL and UNDP when the activities were conducted in other districts.

# Results

***Political reconciliation***

In order to minimize political tension between political parties after experienced violent confrontation in March 2009, a Communiqué was signed on 2nd April by both parties to work jointly in preventing all forms of political incitement, provocation and intimidation. While urban, politically sensitive communities are aware of the Communiqué, there remains limited knowledge on the content and message it portrays. Also, due to lack of access to media and infrastructural constraints, some communities are still insufficiently aware of the Communiqué and the specific commitments entered into by the political parties. Therefore, in order to enable the constituents hold the signatories of the Communiqué to account, its dissemination has been recognized as critically important.

In this regard, in consultations with stakeholders including media practitioners, civil society organizations as well as drama groups such as SLANGO, Civil Society Movement, Independent Radio Network, Talking Drums, a programme was designed to develop dramas and jingles on the theme of the Communiqué, in Sierra Leone’s five main indigenous languages (Krio, Mende, Temne, Limba and Kono). A video version of the drama as well as an abridged audio version was produced for further screening and dissemination over radio which is planned in 2010. So far following have been produced, circulated and aired.

* Production of a 30 minutes video recorded drama performance on the core messages of the Communiqué in each of the following languages: Krio, Mende, Temne, Limba and Kono.
* Production of a 20 minutes abridged version of each of the video dramas, adapted to audio rather than visual consumption, for radio dissemination.
* Production of a 90 second jingle in each of the following languages: Krio, Mende, Temne, Limba and Kono.
* Production of M&E assessment questionnaire for audiences at chiefdom level.

***Professionalization of political leaders***

Addressing critical leadership gaps within the political parties, as part of wider political reconciliation, was identified as one crucial component. Weak political party structures, characterized by insufficient leadership skills have continued to compound these difficulties. The political parties themselves, namely the All Peoples Congress (APC), Sierra Leone Peoples Party (SLPP) and Peoples Movement for Democratic Change (PMDC) have recognized the challenges ahead. The events facilitated an honest stock – taking by the parties of ‘where we are, how we got there, and where do we want to go’.

Process of introspection on roles and responsibilities were facilitated to answer critical questions, such as; the leadership and performance of other (“successful”) countries particularly in the South-South region; and what lessons can we as the elite learn from them? Also, Concrete measures on how to improve processes and interfaces within and between parties and government institutions were identified. This activity has helped brought about political reconciliation and promoted peace within the country.

***Trust building enhanced and peace promoted among the public***

Since the implementation of the Joint Communique depends to a large extent on its understanding by a wide range of stakeholders, in particular traditional, non-traditional leaders and the youth, various activities were organized to help the political leadership communicate on the progress towards the agreements of the Communiqué. This included public artistic events promoting peace, respectful attitude towards women, and reestablishing trust among the public contributed by artists, youth leaders of political parties, and religious authorities. To achieve these targets, five major activities were conducted and achievements are summarized as follows;

***National Peace Songs Concert***

* + - * Two peace songs were launched with peace rally and national concert by the President and Artist United for Peace Building which consists of 45 Sierra Leonean musicians.
      * Participants were more than 1,000, youth in particular, and songs were broadcasted by radio.

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***Outreach Concert by Artist United for Peace Building***

* Regional concerts were held in six districts and more than 3,000 community members joined the activities in total.
* Artists delivered the message of ‘Campaign against Violence’ as the dissemination of the Joint Communiqué.

***Inter-Religious Council National Workshop***

* 105 religious leaders from the nationwide gathered to represent initiatives to be exemplary to political leaders who look up to their religious leaders for direction and guidance.
* Religious leaders facilitated the panel discussion on ‘Inter-Political Party Collaboration for National Development’ among 4 major political party leaders.

***Political Party Youth Leaders Workshop***

* 36 youth leaders of 4 major political parties and CSOs joined the workshop for 4 days with subjects of leadership, good governance, democracy, conflict resolution, gender and development.
* The participants marked the workshop as 4.53 as an average score out of 5.0 and emphasized the most significant outcome is the establishment of 4 inter-party groups for outreach activities overcoming the strong political division.

***Political Party Youth Leaders District Outreach***

* 4 inter-party groups conducted outreach programme in 8 districts to disseminate the knowledge and messages that they learned from the workshop.
* In each district, more than 500 political and non-political youths from all areas and groups of youth participated in peace rally, workshop, radio discussion and football matches.
* Political Party Youth Leaders held the Lesson Learnt Workshop upon the completion of 1st Round Outreach in 8 districts and shared various lessons and experiences. This exercise is being extended through UN radio discussion toward the 2nd Round Outreach to cover remaining 7 districts. The main purpose of this exercise is contributing to increase the capacity of programme/problem analysis, the team building and to disseminate the message of Political Party youth leaders.

These campaigns and concerts have increased awareness of non-violence and peace building among the public from the grassroots level upwards.

***Non-partisan media supported through enhancement of IMC***

Violent partisan clashes were exacerbated by programming on party-operated radio stations. The IMC who is charged with this responsibility monitoring the media has limited budget and human resources, and no presence outside Freetown, therefore, it has been critical to monitor political commentary, reporting on the more than 40 radio stations operating in Sierra Leone and to pro-actively promote reasoned dialogue between the major parties on national and local broadcast outlets.

This programme in 2009, therefore, supported in enhancing the monitoring capacity of the IMC through;

* Deployment of a network of trained 25 media-monitoring volunteers across the country;
* Establishment of a regional office in Bo;
* Sensitization of 60 media managers and reporters in the legal and ethical norms of the IMC’s media Code of Practice in Eastern and Northern Provinces.

This has ensured professional and ethical journalism and enabled quality partisan free reporting. The regional office in Bo is now effectively operational and has trained monitoring volunteers to monitor various media and broadcasting houses which have potential risks of political propaganda.

**Key partnership and inter-agency collaboration on progress analysis and strategic planning**

The programme was designed by UNIPSIL and the national counterpart to implement Joint Communiqué and UNDP was appointed as the recipient of the fund and to manage the process of programme implementation. As the first major attempt of programme co-implementation between the integrated peacebuilding mission and UNDP, the achievement of this year clearly showed the further potentials on effective programme implementation of emergency support in political and social areas.

**Implementation Constraints**

Despite the urgent needs to implement the programme, some IPs were not able to submit the required documents in timely manner. Consultative meetings were made for each IP to revise the budget, time schedule and registry documents for proper programme preparation and implementation.

**Lessons Learned**

Since the programme involves various implementing partners, the differences and gaps in capacities of financial accountability among the partners have been identified. The partners, those which did not have enough experiences in programme cooperation with UNDP, required sufficient time to have a consultation to enhance the capacity of financial accountability. Pointing out this limitation as one of the constraints above, this showed an important lesson for UNDP and UNIPSIL to develop more practical fund disbursement and programme implementation plan to utilize the process as the opportunity for partners to build and strengthen their capacities to implement and manage the programme effectively and efficiently.

# Future Work Plan

The activities to be implemented in 2010 include the following;

* Screening of video drama at all chiefdoms and radio show nationwide.
* Inter-Political Parties Retreat
* Establishment of Resource Centre
* Political Youth District Outreach (2nd Round in 7 districts)
* Artist United for Peace Building (2nd Round in 4 districts)
* Amputee Football Games in 4 districts
* Training of radio editorial and management personnel in Freetown.

# Abbreviations and Acronyms

|  |  |
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| APC | All Peoples Congress |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| ERSG | Executive Representative of the Secretary-General |
| IMC | Independent Media Commission |
| PMDC | Peoples Movement for Democratic Change |
| SLANGO | Sierra Leone Association of NGO |
| SLPP | Sierra Leone People’s Party |
| UNIPSIL | UN Integrated Peacebuilding Mission in Sierra Leone |
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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)