

Project Quarterly Report
April - June 2008
Capacity Development of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone

Executive Summary:

Starting in June 2007, the project has focused at the beginning on major procurement activities aiming at the establishment of a fully equipped, furnished and functioning office for the HRCSL. As the major procurement activities have been completed and the human resource capacity has also been enhanced, project has now shifted its focus on programmatic and activity based support provided to facilitate the promotion of human rights and monitoring of implementation of the TRC recommendations. Major achievements of this quarter include the following:

Human Rights Protection:

- Monitoring on human rights situations in local elections campaign activities is being conducted in the East, South, North and Western regions in the country by human rights officers of the HRCSL
- UNDP participated in designing and teaching of a week long induction session on national , regional and international human rights standards for recruited staff

Human-rights promotion/National policy formulation:

- The Annual State of Human Rights Report detailing the achievements, challenges in the country, and recommendations has been developed and presented by the HRCSL to the President and Parliament in June
- First 500 copies of the report are being produced

Strategic Interactions:

- A two day brainstorming retreat for the development of a five year strategic plan was conducted in January 2008.
- A four day workshop on the formulation of the Strategic Plan was conducted between 8 – 11 May facilitated by guests from the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
- A draft 5 year Strategic Plan of the HRCSL developed after a 4 day formulation workshop in Bo in May with technical support by UNDP

Furthermore, funds are now being disbursed and preparation being conducted for activities including the following: a) Training of civil society organizations and focal points on HRCSL rules of procedure for complaints, b) Training on traditional leaders on human rights, c) Public education, d) Monitoring the implementation of child rights & gender justice laws

**Project Quarterly Report
April - June 2008**

I. Project Title:

Capacity Development of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone

II. Project Background

The overall aim of the project is to bring about an improvement in the human rights situation in the country by ensuring speedy redress for victims of human rights violations, ensuring the reports reaching government on human rights violations are properly addressed, promoting culture and respect for human rights through public education, and by establishing a library and documentation center. Specific objectives include a) Training of human rights commissioners, staff, CSO's and volunteers; b) carrying out investigations/inquiries on human rights violations; c) monitoring and implementing TRC recommendations; and d) producing and disseminating reports and human rights issues. The project started in June 2007, and in 2007, major procurement activities were conducted aiming at the establishment of a fully equipped, furnished and functioning office for the HRCSL. In 2008 focus areas will be programmatic and activity based support provided to facilitate the promotion of human rights and monitoring of implementation of the TRC recommendations, as well as the strengthening of management and human resources capacity of the HRCSL.

III. Key Outputs of the Project

1. Improved culture & respect for human rights & the implementation of the TRC recommendations monitored
2. A fully equipped, furnished and functioning office for the HRCSL
3. Management and Human Resource capacity established and strengthened
4. HRCSL 5 year strategic plan developed involving Government, UN, Civil Society and Development Partners, DFID, Irish Aid & implemented

IV. Planned Activities and Achievements (April - June 2008)

Output 1: Improved culture & respect for human rights & the implementation of the TRC recommendations monitored	
Planned Activities	Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train Commissioners & staff on human rights investigations and inquiries • Produce the state of Human Rights Report and print 2000 copies of the report • Baseline survey on perceptions and status of the human rights situation in the country • Training of CSOs, HRCSL focal points and public officials on HRCSL rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In May, UNDP participated in designing and teaching of a week long induction session on national , regional and international human rights standards for recruited staff • UNDP provided technical support for the development of the Annual State of Human Rights Report which was presented by the HRCSL to the President and Parliament in June • First 500 copies of the report are being

<p>and procedures on handling complaints nationwide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Plan of Action for Human Rights • Sensitization on TRC recommendations • Human Rights education (including TRC sensitization) & national sensitization • Handling of complaints of human rights violations • Human rights monitoring and reporting • Travel support to witnesses and victims • Subscription to international HR institutions 	<p>produced</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring on human rights situations in local elections campaign activities is being conducted in the east, south, north and western area by human rights officers of the HRCSL • Funds are being disbursed and preparation being conducted for following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Training of civil society organizations and focal points on HRCSL rules of procedure for complaints b) Training on traditional leaders on human rights c) Public education d) Monitoring the implementation of child rights & gender justice laws
---	--

Output 2: A fully equipped, furnished and functioning office for the HRCSL

Planned Activities	Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent & operationalization of regional offices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Transportation of furniture b) Provision of electric generators 3 c) Sign boards d) Support staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative capacity strengthened through the establishment of internet facilities at the HRCSL HQ • Operational capacity strengthened through the delivery of 5 vehicles and 10 motorbikes

Output 3: Management and Human Resource capacity established and strengthened

Planned Activities	Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train Commissioners & staff in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Organizational development and management b) Financial management • Production and distribution of complaints handling rules of procedures • Management & human resource capacity building of staff of HRCSL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Staff salary increment b) Regular staff salary c) Allowance for Commissioners and Executive Secretary • Recruitment of core staff • Recruit Institutional Development Advisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 core staff of the HRCSL have been recruited since the inception of the project • The HRCSL Public Information Officer attended a month-long training in Egypt

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial sustainability plan 	
<p>Output 4: HRCSL 5 year strategic plan developed involving Government, UN, Civil Society and Development Partners, DFID, Irish Aid & implemented</p>	
<p>Planned Activities</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic plan development and production • Operational support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Vehicle maintenance & repair formerly used by TRC b) Stationery & office supplies for HQ & regions c) Servicing of equipments and fittings d) Fuel support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A two day brainstorming retreat for the development of a five year strategic plan was conducted in January 2008. • A four day workshop on the formulation of the Strategic Plan was conducted between 8 – 11 May facilitated by guests from the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights • A draft 5 year Strategic Plan of the HRCSL developed after a 4 day formulation workshop in Bo in May with technical support by UNDP

V. Qualitative Achievement

- As the major procurement activities have been completed and the human resource capacity has also been enhanced, the project has now shifted its focus on programmatic and activity based support provided to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and monitoring of implementation of the TRC recommendations
- Institutional frameworks such as Rules of Procedure for handling complaints have been finalized. This bolsters the effective promotion and protection of human rights in Sierra Leone
- HRCSL has contributed to increase access to justice through speedy redress to especially indigent victims who have suffered human rights violations
- HRCSL has contributed to policy and legislative formulation on critical human rights issues such as gender, child rights, and speedy release of prison inmates who have completed their sentences. This has, to some extent, sensitized government on the human rights cases to work towards meeting its international human rights obligations
- Increased credibility and heightened level of confidence in the HRCSL through public interaction and education for the promotion and protection of human rights

VI. Financial Status

Description	Total Project Budget US\$	2007 Total Expenditure	Expenditure for 2nd Quarter 2008	2008 Total Expenditure
Personnel	431,000	86,529	51,509	
Training	109,000		4,780	
Supplies and commodities	140,000	59,643	73,955	
Equipment	559,982	382,367	2,655	
Travel	75,000		7320	
Miscellaneous	107,500	15,396	51722	
Management	99,574	15,860		
Total:	1,522,055.70	559,784	191,942	271,155

VII. Constraints/Challenges

- Lack of government funding thereby limiting the operational capacity of the HRCSL
- Non competitive staff salaries continues to make it difficult for the HRCSL to recruit and retain staff
- Absence of requisite procedures and guidelines from PBSO especially regarding project budget revision has been a challenge
- Insufficient human resource capacity to fast-track implementation

VIII. Management Response

- In order to expedite project delivery, in May, UNDP recruited a Peacebuilding Fund Project Coordinating Officer who is now assisting the Country Office in processes leading to effective formulation, management and reporting of all UNDP implemented PBF projects and providing operational support
- Regular meeting of Steering Committee meeting of HRCSL/PBF project to approve changes (meeting held in April 2008)
- Budget revision increasing budgets for staff remuneration and operational and office running costs have been approved by the project Steering Committee and has been implemented
- Regular consultative meeting of HRCSL, UNDP and UNIOSIL
- MOA to be formulated to guide project implementation and clarify roles and responsibilities