

**Project Quarterly Report
July - September 2008
Capacity Development of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone**

Executive Summary

Starting in June 2007, the project focused at the beginning on major procurement activities aiming at the establishment of a fully equipped, furnished and functioning office for the HRCSL. By mid 2008, as the major procurement activities were completed and the human resource capacity has been enhanced, project shifted its focus to programmatic issues and activity based support to facilitate the promotion of human rights and monitoring of implementation of the TRC recommendations. In August, the project, among other PBF projects, requested a 6 months extension to conclude all the planned activities. At the end of September, the delivery rate stands at **82 %**, and the project is on target to conclude activities by the end of 2008. Major achievements of this quarter include the following:

Human Rights Protection:

- Training sessions of chiefs and other traditional leaders on human rights held in Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western Area.
- Training for members of civil society organizations and HR Committees in the provinces on the monitoring of the implementation of the Child Rights Acts and the Gender Justice Laws conducted

Human-rights promotion/National policy formulation:

- The first Annual State of Human Rights Report in Sierra Leone detailing achievements, challenges, and recommendations was launched by the President in the Kroobay Slum in Freetown

Strategic Interactions/Organizational Development:

- The Commission's Complaints, Investigations and Inquiry Rules developed into a Legislative Instrument
- A series of sessions within the Commission were conducted to finalize the 5 year Strategic Plan of the Commission, and the development of operational plan with estimated budget is near completion

The major activities planned for the 4th quarter of 2008 include the following: Baseline survey on the knowledge, attitude and perception of human rights in Sierra Leone; Development of the website of the HRCSL; Official opening of regional offices in Bo, Kenema, and Makeni; Formulation of the National Human Rights Action Plan.

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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. Starting in June 2007, the project carried out major procurement activities in 2007, aimed at the establishment of a fully equipped, furnished and functioning office for the HRCSL. Since 2008, the focus areas have been programmatic issues 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 (July - September 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"> • 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 and procedures on handling complaints nationwide • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first Annual State of Human Rights Report in Sierra Leone detailing achievements, challenges, and recommendations was launched by the President in the Kroobay Slum in Freetown • Training sessions of chiefs and other traditional leaders on human rights held in Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western Area. • Training for members of civil society organizations and HR Committees in the provinces on the monitoring of the implementation of the Child Rights Acts and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights monitoring and reporting • Travel support to witnesses and victims • Monitoring the implementation of child rights & gender justice laws • Training on traditional leaders on human rights 	<p>the Gender Justice Laws conducted</p>
<p>Output 2: A fully equipped, furnished and functioning office for the HRCSL</p>	
<p>Planned Activities</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent for 3 regional offices for 2 years • Remaining procurement of equipments and office furniture • Maintenance, repair and fuel support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 regional offices in Bo, Makeni, and Kenema identified and secured • Additional procurement of equipments for regional offices undertaken
<p>Output 3: Management and Human Resource capacity established and strengthened</p>	
<p>Planned Activities</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct training for Commissioners and staff in human rights issues and organizational management • Institutional Development Advisor recruited • Draft and finalize legislative instruments for the work of the Commission • Rules and procedures for receiving and adjudication of complaints established, published, and disseminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission's Complaints, Investigations and Inquiry Rules developed into a Legislative Instrument • Institutional Development Advisor (IDA) with extensive experience in establishment and operation of national human rights institutions has been recruited to provide overall guidance and backstopping on the operation of the Commission
<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 series of sessions within the Commission were conducted to finalize the 5 year Strategic Plan of the Commission, and the development of operational plan with estimated budget is near completion • Operational support such as fuel support and procurement of stationery conducted

V. Qualitative Achievement

- As the major procurement activities were completed and the human resource capacity was enhanced, project shifted its focus to programmatic issues and activity based support provided to facilitate the promotion of human rights and monitoring of implementation of the TRC recommendations
- In August, the project, among other PBF projects, requested a 6 months extension to conclude all the planned activities. At the end of September, the delivery rate stands at around 82 %, and the project is on target to conclude activities by the end of 2008
- Generally, there are early indications that the functions of the Commission so far is contributing to the increased access to justice by Sierra Leoneans since the procedures are friendly compared to other means of formal justice, especially in a country where many are poor, illiterate and marginalized.
- 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 3rd Quarter 2008	2008 Total Expenditure
Personnel	431,000	86,529	265,167	
Training	109,000			
Supplies and commodities	140,000	59,643	46,297	
Equipment	559,982	382,367	14,391	
Travel	75,000		2,152	
Miscellaneous	107,500	15,396	22,132	
Management	99,574	15,860		
Total:	1,522,055.70	559,784	350,139	685,761

VII. Constraints/Challenges

- Some of the activities planned for the period, such as training of civil society organizations on the Commission's rules of procedure for complaints, are yet to be carried out due to the human resource and management capacity of the Commission
- Inadequate funding from the government continues to create a situation where the Commission is mostly reliant on PBF for its operation and activities including regular operational costs

VIII. Management Response

- Finance Analyst has been recruited to assist the Commission in the project implementation and in order to expedite the implementation and to assure that UNDP procurement and

financial policies are followed

- The project has recruited a Institutional Development Advisor (IDA) with extensive experience in national human rights institution to provide overall guidance and backstopping on the operation of the Commission