**LIBERIA PEACEBUILDING FUND**

**QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT**

**AS OF 30 JUNE 2009**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Recipient UN Organization:** | UNDP | | **PBF Priority Area:** | | Priority Area 3- Strengthening State Capacity for Peace Consolidation | | |
| **Implementing Partner(s):** | Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC) | | | | | | |
| **Project Number:** | PBF/LBR/E-8 (PBF/PP/R5/A3/01) | | | | | | |
| **Project Title:** | Supporting the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission | | | | | | |
| **Total Approved Project Budget** | 500, 000 | | | | | | |
| **Funds Committed:** | 317,355 | | **Percentage of Approved:** | | 63.5% | | |
| **Funds Disbursed:** | 138,241 | | **Percentage of Approved:** | | 43.6% | | |
| **SC Approval Date:** | 27 February 2009 | | | | | | |
| **Expected Project Duration:** | Eighteen (18) Months | **Forecast Final Date:** | | 30 September 2010 | | **Delay (Months):** | 27 February- 31 March 2009 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Outputs:** | **Progress:** | **Percentage of planned:** |
| Functional LACC Secretariat | * Professional services have been hired to handle computers networking and other equipments; * The following logistics were also procured: * Two (2) Land Cruiser Jeeps ; * Office Equipments: 10 computers, 2 printers, 10 UPS, 1 scanner, 2 photocopiers (Light and Heavy Duty); * Office Furniture: desks and chairs, conference table, cabinets, book shelves and accessories; and consumables. | 100% |
| Public Awareness and Sensitization | * In furtherance of its manifestation to create public awareness and sensitization, LACC has undertaken the following exercises: * County forum in Montserrado County to educate the public on the Mandate of the Commission was held in June of 2009 * Printed and distributed 5,000 assorted copies of LACC brochures and informational materials in June of 2009     Since the beginning of the Anti-Corruption Awareness Campaign, the aim of which included: (Educating the public about the ills of corruption, and informing the citizenry of the role each Liberian in the fight against corruption); the following has been achieved:   * **Zoe Banjay of Liberia-** Designed and produced Anticorruption Jingles/ Songs, Two (2) in Liberian English, and to be aired and televised nationwide; designed and produced Two (2) Anticorruption dramas in Liberian English, which will also aired and televised nationwide. * **Making Enterprises-** Designed and conducted a week of capacity building training/ workshop for 60 participants, including Media, CSOs and staff members of LACC in Monrovia. * **Youbioma Printing Press**- Designed, printed and distributed 5,000 Booklets of LACC Act, alongside 5,000 assorted copies of LACC brochures and informational materials nationwide. * Printed and distributed LACC Act in total of 4, 000 copies to stakeholders in June of 2009; printed and distributed assorted copies of LACC brochures and informational materials in total of 5,000; printed 300 anti-corruption T-shirts and banners. All of these activities were held in June of 2009. * **University of Liberia Student Union (ULSU)** - In collaboration with the LACC, and under the auspices of UNDP, conducted the, “WUO GARBIE TAPPIA MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES” at the University of Liberia on June 24, 2009. * From Media institutions, CSOs, Print House, proposals are being solicited, received, vetted, and contract awarded to carry out the following activities across the Country, particularly in the outstanding 15 counties of Liberia: * **MEDIA GROUP/ PRINT HOUSE-** Recruited through the competitive bidding requirement of UNDP toserve as National Consultant for the Commission, to design, layout and print a quarterly newsletter for LACC for the 3rd and 4th Quarters. | Contracts signed but disbursement yet to be made |
| Training and capacity development for LACC staff and other relevant anti-corruption agencies | * Supported and facilitated human resource capacity development training on “Government Anti-Corruption Methods” for the Executive Chairperson of LACC at the International Law Institutue in Washington, DG. This activity was held in the United Stated in May of 2009. * Supported and facilitated human resource capacity development training for two (2) senior officers of LACC: Chief Investigator, Chief Intelligence Officer. This activity was held May of 2009 in Gaborone, Botswana. * Supported and facilitated capacity building training for six (6) investigators of LACC on “Anti-Corruption Case Development.” The activity was held in May of 2009. | 11% |
| Relationship with other anti-corruption agencies | * The LACC and the National Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), acting through its National Advisory Committee, held discussions aimed at resolving differences and finding common ground in order to forge ahead in the fight against corruption. As a result of this endeavour there is an increasing collaboration between the LACC and CSOs, including the Centre for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL), a one time rival of LACC.   Additionally, as a way of reaching out and presenting its case to stakeholders, the international community and national institutions, the Commission has made representations at the following levels:   * USAID * UNMIL * IMF * AU * The Vice President and President of the Liberian Senate * The Speaker of the House of Representatives   Also, the Commission has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the UNDP to facilitate the release of funds to procure fuel for use of generator and utility vehicles at the LACC. The MOU also aims at addressing the immediate need of the Commission and to achieve functionality as key institution of good governance by building operational and public engagement capacity consistent with the Annual Work Plan document signed between the Government of Liberia and UNDP in January of 2009; | 3% |

|  |
| --- |
| **Qualitative achievements against expected results:** |
| * The National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) recognizes corruption as a central hurdle to development and political legitimacy in the past, affirming that the problem could very well incapacitate existing efforts of development and peace in Liberia, if scantily addressed. To effectively tackle such challenge of corruption that threatens peace and development, alongside exhibiting the elements espoused for good governance, an array of anti-corruption and integrity and peace promoting initiatives have been launched, one of which includes the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), a Peace Building project—key instrument in the fight against corruption and the building of integrity systems in Liberia. * LACC has made momentous strides leading to the establishment of frameworks critical to the exhibition of a high sense of integrity, accountability and transparency, as a way of alleviating public discontent and of course, rebuilding confidence in good governance that would ultimately guarantee peace and stability in Liberia. * With parallel funding from the UNDEF, advances were made to engage wide spectrums of stakeholders, including, members of the international community, CSOs, the Government of Liberia, etc. However, considerable issues are yet to be addressed, including, the passing of outstanding legislations: Liberian Public Servants Code of Conduct, Corrupt Offenses Act, Whistle Blower Act, and the Freedom of Information Act. Also, highlighted by the Commission as fundamental constraints, are the issues of inadequate logistical and budgetary supports. * Procurement of one van to support mobility of the investigators through UNDEF parallel funding. * LACC has constantly demonstrated an elevated sense of integrity, accountability and transparency, particularly in the realms of managing, reporting and accounting for donor funds, building alliances and breaching barriers, all of which are critical in alleviating public discontents and peace building. However, it is recommended that future support for this project be maximized and shifted towards institutional and human resource capacity building activities of the Commission, and the implementations of appropriate measures and programmes, geared toward investigating, prosecuting and preventing acts of corruption, including educating the public about the ills and consequences of corruption. Of note, there has already been approved funding under the PBF grant to respond to the immediate need of the Commission to achieve functionality as key institution of good governance by building operational and public engagement capacity. |