

United Nations  Nations Unies

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21 October 2020

Dear Mr. Ahonsi,

Thank you for your submission of the project proposal “*Empowering youth at risk as resources for sustaining peace and community resilience in Tonkolili and Kenema districts in Sierra Leone*” to the Secretary-General’s Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). I am pleased to inform you that the Peacebuilding Support Office, following the review by the Peacebuilding Review Group and the recommendation of the Project Appraisal Committee, has approved the project under the Peacebuilding and Recovery Facility with a total budget of \$3,000,000 to be implemented by FAO, UNDP and UNFPA for 24 months.

This project aims to empower youth at risk to become resources for sustaining peace, community resilience and social cohesion in the targeted districts. It also aims to strengthen youth voices in decision-making and to strengthen the key security and civilian authorities and institutions which respond to the needs of youth at risk. We look to this project to demonstrate results in terms of youth empowerment and violence reduction and to enable you to expand this support through other sources. This will require a strict Do No Harm approach from the implementing agencies, close coordination with your office, with various Government entities and with community representatives and youth associations, and careful targeting and sequencing of project interventions.

As per the PBF Guidelines, PBF project funds will be disbursed by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office in two instalments. The first tranche represents 70% of the project budget and the second 30%. The second tranche will be transferred following a demonstrated project financial implementation rate of at least 75% of the first tranche and the submission of any PBF reports required during that period. The payment of the second tranche is also contingent on availability of funds in the PBF. Prior to the disbursement of funds, we also expect agencies implementing PBF projects to ensure the timely financial closure of all PBF projects

Mr. Babatunde Ahonsi
United Nations Resident Coordinator for Sierra Leone
Freetown

that have ended.

As you are aware, monitoring and reporting on peacebuilding impact is a core responsibility of the Fund's mandate. This includes: a) ensuring timely submission of the PBF project progress report due annually on 15 June and 15 November and a PBF end-of-project report; b) ensuring robust monitoring of project progress, risks and results and advising PBSO if project amendments are required or if obstacles arise that may impact project outcomes; and c) managing a high-quality independent evaluation, engaging PBSO in the evaluation process.

Please note that all entities receiving an allocation from the PBF are obligated to ensure the visibility of the Fund. This should include both the identification of success stories within routine reporting as well as through the recipient United Nations organization's strategic communications products.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your team in Sierra Leone. I trust you will keep us apprised of the situation in the country and any issues which may have an impact on this or any other PBF projects.

Yours sincerely,



Oscar Fernández-Taranco
Assistant Secretary-General
for Peacebuilding Support

cc: H.E. Mr. Alie Kabba
Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone
to the United Nations