UNDP New Deal Support Facility:
Implementation overview
Third quarter 2014

The third quarter of 2014 continued to see progress in implementation of the New Deal at country level as well as on the global level with support from the UNDP facility. The funding situation of the facility improved significantly with a commitment of support from Finland of EUR 2 million made at the IDPS Steering Group meeting in Washington in October. With this grant, the facility is closer to being fully funded, and we are able to plan for a continued level of implementation activity in 2015.

The crisis emerging from the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in Sierra Leone and Liberia has caused New Deal activities to slow down or come to a stop in these countries. The allocations made in the second quarter were not fully implemented when the crisis started and we do not expect any significant further spending under these allocations in the remainder of 2014. However, UNDP Country Offices in Freetown and Monrovia are now engaged in discussions about how to apply a New Deal lens in the EVD response.

On the background of discussions at the Fourth Global Meeting in Freetown in June 2014, preparations for high level missions to Guinea Bissau and CAR to launch New Deal processes have been on-going in the third quarter and made some progress, although renewed unrest in CAR is now causing a high level mission to this country to be postponed until early 2015. Furthermore, UNDP made an allocation from the facility to DRC to support a process to develop a prioritized and costed integrated program to implement priorities identified in the fragility assessment as well as in the Addis regional framework. In Somalia and Afghanistan, there is also renewed momentum in implementation, leading up to important international conferences on these countries later in 2014.

In many of these countries, monitoring and indicator frameworks are an important part of national processes, and this may create opportunities for demonstrating practical use of PSG indicators as negotiations about the post 2015 framework and a possible SDG 16 begin.

A position as g7+ liaison officer in New York was advertised and interviews conducted, but final steps in the recruitment process continue to await consultations with the group of g7+ Permanent Missions in New York. When recruitment proceeds, the liaison officer could provide important support for the g7+ during the negotiations on the post 2015 framework. Arrangements were also made to support Minister Marah in his capacity as g7+ Chair.

There have been fewer meetings on the New Deal in the third quarter compared to the very busy second quarter. UNDP supported participation of the g7+ in a meeting with representatives of the G20 in Seoul.

We expect that activities will continue at a similar level in the rest of 2014 with one or two further country allocations. Implementation of the allocation to DRC will continue, but the EVD crisis will hold back implementation of the New Deal back in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

As before, this overview is divided in country sections (deliverable A under the facility), and a section on global support (deliverable B and C). We have chosen not to repeat information on countries where we have no new information. Our goal is to provide a general update on activities with an emphasis on the specific support from the UNDP facility and the impact of this support. We do not aim to provide a complete summary of all New Deal implementation activities.

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Country activities

(Deliverable A)

Afghanistan

Afghanistan endorsed the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States in 2011 and has established a New Deal coordinating structure based within and led by the Ministry of Finance and also seconded a staff member to the g7+ secretariat based in Timor Leste.

Afghanistan established the Tokyo Mutual Accountability Framework (TMAF) in July 2012 that builds on New Deal TRUST and FOCUS principles without explicitly recognizing this. The 5 thematic areas in the TMAF draw on the 3 New Deal PSGs, but do not cover them fully as security and justice are not included. In 2012, the Government’s aid management policy was finalized which builds on the TRUST principles.

In Q3 of 2014, the Ministry of Finance, with the support of UNDP, launched a planned New Deal study with a group of 4 national research experts that have started a literature review and an analysis of the 5 PSGs. This has been possible with the existing grant of USD 300,000 in 2013 from UNDP in support of New Deal implementation. The new Government under President Ashraf Ghani is expected to take a positive interest in this work.

Within each PSG area, an indicator framework template has been developed together with a research proposal that outlines data collection methodology, sampling methodology, inductive and deductive approach, stakeholders to be interviewed and a questionnaire. This is supported by an extensive literature review and review of relevant documents (TMAF, London Conference documents, ANDS, Transition Documents prepared by Bank etc). UNDP is currently exploring how to engage international consultants in support of this work – perhaps remotely in light of the security situation. The overall level of inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders in this stage of the study remains limited.

It is expected that the New Deal study could lead to a fully developed PSG based indicator framework that would strengthen monitoring and reporting on progress under the TMAF, and enable deeper dialogue between government and donors. The framework could inform and potentially translate into the upcoming national development plan for the Transformation Decade (2014-2019).

MoF has also indicated an interest in conducting an assessment on better understanding the importance of transitioning from aid effectiveness to development effectiveness in the Afghanistan context by looking at using country systems, undertaking joint risk assessments, pooled financing mechanisms, linking up to the 2015 post MDG framework and the 22 National Priority Programmes. This could help strengthen the aid effectiveness related parts of TMAF monitoring and dialogue, and be one of several ways to follow up on on-going discussions about development financing leading up to and following the London conference in December.

The Afghan Government has asked that a revision of the TMAF is postponed until the senior official meeting for the spring 2015, which may allow the New Deal study and other New Deal inspired work to better inform this. President Ghani is establishing a committee to work on the preparation of the London Conference and to engage with international actors.

UNDP Afghanistan remains in discussion with MOF and UNDP HQ about organizing a workshop on Using Country Systems in Afghanistan as agreed in the IDPS Implementation Working Group. UNDP is also reaching out to the group of lead donors and other interested bilateral donors in Kabul to explore ways to revitalize donor engagement in the New Deal process and build on the momentum created by the new government and the London conference.
UNDP’s contributions and impact in Afghanistan

- UNDP HQ allocated USD 300,000 in 2013 to support the New Deal process in Afghanistan and conduct a New Deal study.
- In Q3 2014, The Ministry of Finance and UNDP Afghanistan have now launched the study with a group of national consultants. This has provided the basis for a PSG indicator framework.
- UNDP is reaching out to bilateral donors in Kabul to build on the momentum and explore opportunities to deepen work on use of country systems, joint risk assessments and pooled financing mechanisms.

Central African Republic

With the onset of the crisis in CAR and the coup in March 2013, the debate about implementation of the New Deal came to a pause. Before this, in 2012, some progress had been made including preparations for a compact and a fragility assessment and the selection of the EU and France as the lead donors for the New Deal. In light of the prospects for improvement of the situation with a transitional government in place and a new peacekeeping operation under deployment, the Fourth Global Meeting of the IDPS in Freetown in June concluded that the International Dialogue would work towards a high-level, joint mission to CAR to promote stronger international engagement in the country based on the New Deal.

The CAR Ministry of Planning has indicated that it is interested in using the New Deal as re-engagement and planning framework for the post-conflict phase, and the lead donors as well as the World Bank and the Africa Development Bank have indicated readiness to support this.

In Q3 of this year, preparations for the high level visit have begun with discussions about a concept note and outreach to actors on the ground. Options for logistics and the program for the visit have been explored. Due to the security situation in October, the visit is now planned for early 2015. UNDP has supported these preparations through its Country Office in Bangui and facilitated contacts with MINUSCA.

Preparations have been on-going for an allocation from the support facility as a component of a larger project to restore and strengthen aid management capacities. This support could be provided quickly, and enable the national New Deal focal point to become an effective part of the aid management structure of Government and convene a series of initial and light consultations, mapping and assessment work. This would not be a new or additional track, but support work that is already planned or is taking place in support of the existing Urgency Plan of the CAR Government for the period 2014-2016. The situation in CAR does not yet allow a fully-fledged fragility assessment or compact process, so initial steps will need to be more limited and help prepare the basis for further work as soon as possible.

UNDP also remain engaged in the establishment of a UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for CAR, in line with the New Deal’s focus on integrated and coordinated aid and pooled financing in close cooperation with the EU, the World Bank and other donors. The possibility of conducting a joint risk assessment as part of the process of launching the fund continues to be under discussion.

DRC

A government led, inclusive fragility assessment was conducted in DRC in 2012 with support from UNDP. National development priorities for the five PSGs were identified as part of this exercise, and a fragility spectrum was developed. This has informed subsequent strategy and planning efforts, including by the UN. Furthermore, through subsequent consultations, key challenges and priorities together with suggested national indicators
were summarized in fragility matrices for each of the five PSGs, and these provisional indicator lists have been submitted for review by the national statistical office.

In 2013, the Addis Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for DRC and the Great Lakes Region was launched, with a set of priorities and a monitoring framework, which includes many of the same issues and areas as the fragility assessment and New Deal indicator framework for DRC. In the first half of 2014, work was started on an integrated program with costed priorities and a monitoring framework that would link these two existing frameworks and become a basis for focused national implementation and progress towards peacebuilding and statebuilding goals.

In Q3 of 2014, an allocation of USD 240,000 was made from the New Deal support facility to support the finalization of the work on the integrated framework and inclusive consultations on this. The budget will enable UNDP to provide two national consultants and one international consultant in support of this work, and to help organize consultations in locations outside Kinshasa as well as a final validation workshop in Kinshasa and the launch of the program. The concept note for this work is now being consulted by the Government with the donor community in Kinshasa. The work will take place in parallel with consultations on aid management and aid transparency related to the TRUST part of the New Deal and the Global Partnership, and UNDP will work to strengthen links between these two tracks. On this basis, it is the intention to move towards a New Deal compact or Mutual Accountability Framework, and the integrated program can also inform work on the PRSP II and the ‘Vision 2035’ planned for 2015 according to the FOCUS part of the New Deal.

UNDP also continues to prepare recruitment of a g7+ liaison officer for Francophone Africa to be based in Kinshasa and housed in the Ministry of Finance.

**UNDP’s contributions and impact in DRC**

- DRC established an inclusive fragility assessment in 2012 that led to the subsequent development of ‘fragility matrices’ for each of the five PSGs with key challenges and priorities and a proposed set of national progress indicators.
- In 2014, work was started on an integrated program on the basis of the fragility matrices as well as the Addis regional framework from 2013.
- In Q3 2014, UNDP provided an allocation from the New Deal support facility of USD 240,000 to support the completion of the integrated program, which can provide the basis for a New Deal compact.

**Guinea-Bissau**

Following the 2012 coup, most international development partners have either stopped their aid or channeled their support through CSOs. Key traditional donors significantly reduced their staff presence in the country. Furthermore, staff and financial capacity of the UN system (UNCT, UNDP, UNIOGBIS) and IFI’s has been limited.

Following a g7+ mission to Guinea Bissau in March 2014 with UNDP support, key stakeholders in Guinea Bissau, including the transitional government, UN agencies, donors and UNDP, indicated interest in implementing the New Deal, including a Fragility Assessment and a compact and work around a pledging conference and revised aid and financing architecture.
In March 2014, a delegation from the g7+ led by the then g7+ Chair, H.E. Emília Pires, visited Guinea Bissau and conducted a series of discussions and consultations with the Transitional Government of Guinea-Bissau on a potential Fragility Assessment. The group included the g7+ Secretary General as well as the Coordinator of the IDPS, and g7+ Focal Points from Liberia, South Sudan and Sierra Leone. The mission sensitized major stakeholders within the government and civil society to the g7+ and the New Deal, and shared lessons learned from Fragility Assessments in other countries.

The visit concluded that work on a Fragility Assessment should be postponed until a new Government came to power after the planned elections. The group also discussed the potential for Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation between Guinea-Bissau and Timor-Leste. In parallel to the g7+ mission, UNDP conducted a mission to Guinea Bissau to sensitize key UN, donor and Civil Society partners to the New Deal.

After two rounds of presidential election, in April and May 2014, José Mário Vaz won the elections and a new government came in, providing a basis for reengagement with the international aid community. The International Dialogue agreed at its 4th global meeting in Freetown in Sierra Leone in June to conduct a high-level mission to Guinea Bissau to sensitize and assess the added value of a New Deal approach. Guinea Bissau is currently facing an urgent need for financial support, and this also needs to be balanced with developing a structured medium-term vision and plan.

In Q3 of 2014, the Ministry of Finance and Planning reached out to the International Dialogue to request support for sensitizing national stakeholders to a New Deal approach in the country, including through the high level mission agreed at the Freetown meeting. This mission is now being planned with participation of the DAC Chair and Minister Emília Pires as special envoy of the g7+ and including a high level part as well as a technical part.

The mission is currently expected to take place in late November. The overall objective of the mission will be to brief national stakeholders about the New Deal and share experiences from other g7+ countries, assess government, UN system and donor partner buy-in to a New Deal approach and discuss support needs for taking the framework forward. The g7+ remains committed to providing support for this process on a fragile-to-fragile basis along with partners in the IDPS, and several focal points from other g7+ countries are expected to be represented in the mission. The UN Peacebuilding Commission configuration and Brazil as Chair of the PBC have also taken a positive interest in the New Deal process in Guinea Bissau.

UNDP is ready to support the mission and provide an allocation from the support facility to enable follow-up activities and a sustained process.

At the same time, the Government is preparing for a donor roundtable with UNDP support in early 2015. Preparations for this follow a traditional roundtable approach and New Deal planning is not yet envisioned as part of this. The objective of the Government is to mobilize resources in the short term for an emergency response to country needs.

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**UNDP’s contributions and impact in Guinea-Bissau**

- In connection with a g7+ mission to support fragility assessment in March 2014, funded through UNDP’s New Deal facility, a UNDP HQ mission to Guinea-Bissau was also conducted to share methodological guidance and lessons learned.
- At the fourth global meeting of the IDPS in Freetown in June, it was decided to organize a high level mission to Guinea-Bissau.
- In Q3 2014, the new government has reached out to the IDPS to request the mission. UNDP is ready to provide an allocation from the support facility to enable sustained follow up.
Liberia

The Government of Liberia with the US and Sweden as lead donors agreed in 2012 to implement the New Deal in Liberia, and a fragility assessment was undertaken and a fragility spectrum was developed, as well as a list of draft national PSG indicators. In 2013, a national plan – the Agenda for Transformation - and a vision document – Liberia Rising 2030 - were launched, reflecting the PSGs and based on the New Deal recommendations of ‘one vision – one plan’. Liberia also developed and launched a New Deal dashboard to track aid disbursement across the five PSGs. In early 2014, momentum picked up again with agreement to move towards a compact.

To support this process a mission from UNDP HQ visited Monrovia in May 2014, and as an outcome of this, it was agreed that compact would aim to achieve the New Deal PSGs and link these to the Agenda for Transformation as the ‘one plan’. It was also agreed that a compact would provide a basis for increasing the use of country systems.

Furthermore, the UNDP HQ mission developed a proposal for funding from the New Deal support facility with an initial amount of USD 244,200 to facilitate New Deal implementation that was agreed with government and the lead donors. UNDP subsequently supported a consultancy in May and June 2014 that produced an inventory of use of country systems by international aid agencies in Liberia. The consultancy to develop an outline and a roadmap for the compact was carried out in mid-June and provided the basis for a high level meeting led by the Minister of Finance on 3 July that confirmed the agreement and the way forward.

The crisis following the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) has now put further activities to implement the New Deal on hold. However, the mapping of use of country systems has provided a basis for discussions in the early recovery cluster about how to protect and strengthen national capacities during the on-going crisis and in the international response to it. Among other things, the mapping study documents that before the outbreak, the health sector in Liberia received the largest proportion of aid through use of country systems compared to other sectors.

UNDP's contributions and impact in Liberia

- A UNDP HQ mission supported consultations among key stakeholders in Monrovia in May 2014, and this provided the basis for agreement on moving forward with a compact in Liberia. An initial allocation of USD 244,200 was provided as an allocation from UNDP’s New Deal support facility.

- A consultancy financed from this allocation developed an outline and a roadmap for a compact, and a second consultancy was conducted to produce an inventory of use of country systems and a report produced.

- This has provided background for discussions in the early recovery cluster about use of country systems in the ongoing EVD response.

Sierra Leone

A nationally led and inclusive fragility assessment was conducted in June 2012 and a fragility spectrum completed. The Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018) was subsequently launched in July 2013 with priorities covering all the 5 PSGs, and is considered the “One Vision, One Plan” for Sierra Leone. Draft national PSG indicators were also produced and are currently under review by the national statistical office. In early 2014, Sierra Leone agreed a Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF) with its development partners with the intention of reporting on progress on its results framework, including a set of PSG indicators on a quarterly basis.

A mission from UNDP HQ took place in April and consulted with the Government, key donors, civil society and other stakeholders and developed a draft proposal for the support facility with a total budget of USD 271,550. This included funding for
the Fragility Assessment consultancies and logistics, as well as support for government capacity to monitor and report on the Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF).

On this basis, and with support from UNDP as well as the World Bank, Sierra Leone conducted an update of its original fragility assessment in May and June 2014. A team of consultants was recruited jointly with the WB to support Government in updating the Fragility Assessment. This country-owned and led process included discussions focused on the 5 PSGs and selected indicators in highly inclusive process at the local level in all 14 districts leading to a strengthened joint understanding of remaining fragility issues among national and local stakeholders.

The fourth global meeting of the IDPS was held on the 18th June 2014 in Freetown, hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone. At the meeting, the Sierra Leonean Minister of Finance, Kaifala Marah was confirmed in his new position as co-chair of the IDPS, succeeding Emilia Pires. It has been agreed to provide focused support under the allocation from the New Deal support facility to facilitate his activities as a g7+ chair, including support capacity for communication and coordination related to his new role.

The government’s committed efforts to combat the EVD has greatly affected and crowded-out the implementation of New Deal activities in Sierra Leone. The main activities affected are printing and dissemination of the 2104 Fragility Report, updating of the dashboard of the Mutual Accountability Framework and recruitment of additional staff for government aid coordination office. However, support for Minister Marah’s g7+ chairing role proceeds as planned. Furthermore, at the meeting of the IDPS Steering Group in Washington on 13 October, Minister Marah offered to produce a note on the use of country systems in the EVD response in Sierra Leone, and UNDP has offered to support this work through the support facility.

A draft of the fragility report is yet to be finalized. Officials at DACO in collaboration with the international consultants are still working on the initial draft, which is expected to be completed in 2014. The Minister is expected to present findings of the report to colleagues in cabinet before it is printed and disseminated.

**UNDP’s contributions and impact in Sierra Leone**

- USD 271,550 was provided as an allocation from UNDP’s support facility in April 2014.
- A team of consultants was recruited to support Government in updating the Fragility Assessment. A highly inclusive consultation process in all the 14 districts took place leading to a strengthened joint understanding of remaining fragility issues among national and local stakeholders.

**Somalia**

After a slowdown in early 2014, the New Deal process has picked up considerable momentum in the in the middle of the year, and Somalia is currently the g7+ country with the most advanced New Deal implementation process. The Federal Government of Somalia has formed an inter-ministerial task force with the lead ministries involved in the coordination for each of the five Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals to advance the implementation of the Compact priorities through PSG Working Groups. The Aid Coordination Unit within the Ministry of Finance is taking the overall lead role in coordinating both Somali and international partners in the implementation of Compact.

Discussions on how to formalize the role of the states, regions and interim regional administrations in the coordination and implementation of the Compact are ongoing with the objective to strengthen the state formation process through the New Deal implementation.

Programmatic coordination and dialogue continues at the sector level between Somali stakeholders and the international community through the PSG Working Groups. The Working Groups are led by a designated FGS line ministry
with the support of the UN and co-led by a donor partner. The PSG Working Groups have reached out to the states and regions to ensure participation of Somali stakeholders.

The Somalia Development and Reconstruction Facility (SDFR) and its Steering Committee provide strategic oversight and guidance for the implementation of the Compact, including commitments related to policy, financing and aid delivery. The SDFR SC agreed to develop a roadmap for the use of Somalia Public Financial Management systems for donor aid spending which will be presented at the HLPF in Copenhagen. The SDFR SC also serves as the Steering Committee for the multi partner funds that are being established to channel donor funding in support of the Compact. Currently two funds are operational—the UN administered Multi Partner Trust Fund and the World Bank administered Multi Partner Fund. Donors have shown some reluctance on the use of the national funding streams of the UNMPTF.

At its meeting in August, the SDFR Steering Committee endorsed a set of initial funding priorities for both funds. As a next step, programs will be developed jointly with the FGS for these priorities. It is expected that the benchmarks that are currently developed to guide channeling of donor resources through government systems will facilitate greater use of the national funding stream over time. A joint UN/WB project has been launched to strengthen and develop the capacity of the Aid Coordination Unit and establish harmonized templates for projects and reporting on SDFR projects.

The High Level Partnership Forum is the main platform for dialogue and policy discussion on Compact implementation, and the next meeting will take place in Copenhagen on 19-20 November. This meeting will take stock of joint progress and challenges to date in the implementation of the Compact and agree on the necessary actions and steps required to achieve the Somali Compact goals by 2016. It will draw on the 2014 New Deal Annual Progress Report for Somalia, which will be co-authored by the Federal Government of Somalia and development partners. As part of the preparation for the report, the PSG Working Groups have been requested to submit a progress review to the Aid Coordination Unit.

With preparations for the Copenhagen meeting in the Q3 of 2014, discussions about additional follow-up steps to the New Deal compact have been on-going. This includes work on establishing a framework for monitoring of progress towards the PSGs and the New Deal compact through national indicators and risk assessment linked with the SDFR.

**UNDP’s contributions and impact in Somalia**

- UNDP HQ provided USD 250,000 in May 2013 to finance national capacities and consultations in the lead up to the New Deal compact development. As a result of this process, the compact was launched in October 2013.

- In Q3 2014, the first compact progress report is being prepared for the meeting of the High Level Partnership Forum in Copenhagen in November. A monitoring framework based on national PSG indicators is being established.

- The SDFR is being operationalized through strengthened capacity of the government Aid Coordination Unit and harmonized templates for project documents and reports.

**South Sudan**

A fragility assessment was conducted in the second half of 2012 with support from UNDP, including a staff secondment, and a decision to establish a New Deal compact was made. An extensive consultation process was launched to prepare for this in the fall of 2013, including a series of local consultations in the 10 states of
South Sudan. However, the draft compact was never finalized and agreed due to the fighting that began in December 2013.

In 2014, the situation in South Sudan and lessons learned from the compact process have been discussed among stakeholders, including at the fourth global meeting of the IDPS, and the agreement was that the New Deal process would be resumed as soon as the situation allows it. Extensive discussions among donors on the principles of engagement during the conflict both at Juba and HQs levels also touched upon the issue of New Deal Compact. While it is clear that the current conflict environment is not conducive for reengaging local authorities on the New Deal process, there is a suggestion on reviewing the fragility assessment during the upcoming dry season.

**Timor Leste**

Timor-Leste undertook a fragility assessment in 2012, and as part of this process, national PSG indicators were identified and a fragility spectrum was drafted. The outcomes of the fragility assessment were presented to stakeholders and development partners at a workshop attended by the UN Secretary General Ban–Ki Moon in 2012. In 2013, Timor-Leste established a New Deal Implementation Task Force led by the Ministry of Finance. Timor-Leste also identified focal points from relevant government institutions for each of the five PSGs.

In 2013, the Government announced the establishment of the Development Policy Coordination Mechanism (DPCM) for the Government Five-year Programme 2012-2017 and the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030. This mechanism serves as a tool to coordinate and monitor governmental actions and development partner assistance under four sectors. PSGs primarily relate to two of these sectors: the Governance/Institutional Development Strategic Sector and the Economic Strategic Sector.

The New Deal continues to enjoy high-level government support and buy-in from the highest political level, including from the Office of the President and Prime Minister. Earlier in 2014, Timor Leste’s Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão became a Special Advisor to the g7+ and, since stepping down as g7+ Chair in May 2014, Timor-Leste’s Minister of Finance Emilia Pires has become a Special Envoy for the g7+ and the New Deal. The country provided financial support — following the release of the g7+ statement of solidarity for member countries dealing with the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease — to Guinea-Bissau to combat the crisis, and, based on the performance of Timor-Leste’s Petroleum Fund, engaged with South Sudan on potential fragile-to-fragile knowledge exchange pertaining to natural resource management. Timor-Leste also continued through the g7+ to advocate for the adoption of the post-MDG Sustainable Development Goal 16.

In Q3 of 2014, the Government proceeded with New Deal implementation, including district level consultations to raise awareness about the g7+ and the New Deal, assess progress in the implementation of the fragility assessment and reach consensus on the path towards development. Timor-Leste also continues its plans to develop One Vision, One Plan, the Compact, the Trust Assessment and a follow-up Fragility Assessment in 2015. To this end, UNDP continues to be engaged in consultations with the Government of Timor-Leste on possible new initiatives as part of the national New Deal process.
Global Level Support

*Travel facilitation (deliverable B)*

In Q3 2014, UNDP supported travel for participation of 8 g7+ representatives in the G20-g7+ roundtable discussions in Seoul, Korea, in August. The roundtable shared experiences and views between the two groups on thematic areas such as economic growth and infrastructure development, and on opportunities for stronger cooperation, as well as follow-up steps, including a formal contact with the host of 2014 summit in Brisbane in November. The g7+ Secretariat has confirmed that the 8 g7+ representatives funded by UNDP did participate in the meeting as expected, although three additional potential participants had to return to their home countries (CAR, Guinea Bissau and Togo) as they did not get visa in time during their stop-over, partly because of EVD related concerns. All trips supported in Q3, were on economy class according to UNDP’s rules.

With only 8 trips in Q3 and a similar low number expected in Q4, we now have less concern about the tendency in the first half of the year for travel costs to be significantly above planned numbers. However, as there are several important high level meetings planned for 2015, the overall spending on travel from the facility at the end of the two-year period is likely to exceed the budget for this. Given our current funding situation and expected spending on country support and strengthening of g7+, we do not anticipate that this will create significant constraints.

*Strengthening of g7+ (deliverable C)*

After discussions in Q1 on Terms of Reference for a g7+ liaison officer in New York with the Permanent Missions in New York, a final version was endorsed by the g7+ at the global level in Q2. In Q3, the post was established and advertised. The final steps for getting the liaison officer in place continues to await further consultations with the g7+ Permanent Missions in New York to ensure that we provide solid cooperation and a good basis for the work of the liaison officer. The liaison officer could not least be important for supporting the engagement of the g7+ in the negotiations on the post 2015 framework.

Discussions about the Terms of Reference of a g7+ liaison officer in Africa to be located in Kinshasa were completed in Q3 and a final ToR was approved. It is expected that this post will be established and advertised in Q4.

Finally, it was agreed to provide support for Minister Marah in his function as g7+ Chair from the support facility in the form of a highly experienced national staff, initially on a consultant basis. This will allow the Minister and his senior staff to remain in close contact and coordinate effectively with the g7+ Secretariat in Dili and the IDPS Secretariat in Paris. There is a strong need for the Ministry and the Government to focus its attention and capacity on coordination of the international response to the EVD crisis, so a continued effective functioning as g7+ chair will require additional support.

With the additional funding for the facility, UNDP has begun discussions with the g7+ Secretariat about options for how to implement the remaining budget under deliverable C, which is also meant to strengthen the capacity of the g7+ in Dili.
# Financial overview

30 September 2014

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UNDP, October 2014

<sup>1</sup> USD 1,497,777 of this received as first and second tranche in Q1-Q3 2014.
<sup>2</sup> Allocations made to Liberia, Sierra Leone and DRC. As of 30 September, USD 131,019 is disbursed from these allocations.
<sup>3</sup> Based on expected additional allocations to Guinea Bissau and CAR
<sup>4</sup> Based on continued low frequency of travel in Q4 as in Q3.
<sup>5</sup> Expected allocation for two-year contract of g7+ liaison officer in New York.
<sup>6</sup> 8% General Management Services of grants according to UNDP policies and procedures mandated by the Executive Board.