

United Nations Development Programme



PRG/4450/29/06/2023

29 June 2023

Dear Mr. Masaharu,

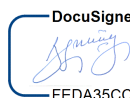
Final Narrative Report of "Regional and National Capacities for Counter-Piracy and Response in the Gulf of Guinea" Project

We are delighted to inform you that the above-mentioned project: **Regional and National Capacities for Counter-Piracy and Response in the Gulf of Guinea** has been successfully implemented from March 2022 to March 2023.

We have the honour to transmit the final narrative report in line with the reporting obligation of UNDP under the project for your record. The final financial report will be submitted by March 2024.

We wish to reiterate our appreciation for the usual support of the Government of Japan which enabled the implementation of this important project and look forward to our continued partnership.

Yours Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

FEDA35CC358041A...

Mr. Lealem Berhanu Dinku
Deputy Resident Representative

Mr. Kato Masaharu
Head of Development Cooperation
Embassy of Japan
No 9 Bobo Street, off Gana Street,
Maitama – Abuja.

Attached: Final Narrative Report



From
the People of Japan



Regional and National Capacities for Counter-Piracy and Response in the Gulf of Guinea

Project Number: 00132814

Output Number: 00130636

Project Final Report

(March 2022 – March 2023)



A Section of Dignitaries at the Official Project Launch with Representatives from MLAILPKC, UNDP, Japanese Embassy, MFBNP, Navy and Nigerian Army, 7th June 2022 – photo: UNDP

Project Summary

Country: Nigeria

Project Duration: 12 months

Project Budget: US\$376,238

Annual Budget: US\$376,238

Donor	Annual budget US\$
Japan	376,238

Cumulative expenditure: US\$332,992

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Responsible Parties: UNDP & MLAILPKC

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Acronyms

AWP	Annual Work Plan
BMATT	British Military Advisory Training Team
CPD	Country Programme Document
GTAG	German Technical Assistance Group
GOG	Gulf of Guinea
IMB	International Maritime Bureau
IP	Implementing Partner
LPAC	Local Project Appraisal Committee
MFBNP	Ministry of Budget and National Planning
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MLAILPKC	Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre
NN	Nigerian Navy
OSSAP	Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President
PDT	Pre-deployment Training (PDT)
POTI	Peace Operations Training Institute
PSOs	Peace Support Operations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Agency
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

1. Executive Summary

Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) has been a recurrent phenomenon and poses serious concerns to the countries bordering the area and the international community as a major international economic route. The rate of piracy and criminalities in the region has been alarming over the past few years. It was reported that 27 of the world's 28 recorded kidnapping at sea incidents in 2020 occurred in GoG while 623 seafarers were exposed to kidnapping in the region as compared to 8 seafarers that suffered a similar threat elsewhere within the period. The frequency of the attacks and violence is taking tolls on the operational capacities of the navies and the general economic well-being of the countries, as well as, the coastal communities of the region. Piracy in GoG discourages foreign investments, weakens state control of coastal and offshore areas, slows the development of the blue economy, and emboldens illicit trades and illegal fishing. Piracy equally terrorizes the seafarer communities. The activities of the pirates remain a serious threat to trades and businesses of the coastal communities and retard the economies of the GoG countries particularly Nigeria. The realization of this, especially to international trade, made the Government of Japan through UNDP Nigeria to support the Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre (MLAILPKC) to gain capacity to run counter-piracy courses for relevant stakeholders in GoG countries. The current project is consolidating on the achievements recorded under the previous intervention – Capacity building on anti-piracy for Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peacekeeping Centre (MLAILPKC), Kaduna.

This project seeks to complement regional and national authorities' visions and efforts at ensuring a reduction in the activities of pirates in GoG region by consolidating on the pilot anti-piracy project implemented by MLAILPKC in 2021. It assists the Centre to organize more counter-piracy courses and acquire multilingual facility for effective conduct of the courses through an output: i) Governments and key institutions in GoG region's knowledge and expertise on the menace of piracy and mitigating measures deepened.

The project entails capacity building of MLAILPKC as an institution that would contribute to the reduction of the influence of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea. The countries of interest in the Gulf of Guinea include Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cote d' Ivoire, DRC, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Togo and the Gambia. The overall objective is to fully institutionalize the training capacity to conduct counter-piracy courses at MLAILPKC towards mitigating the negative impacts of piracy on regional security, trade and development in collaboration with the Nigerian Navy, as well as, peace support operations (PSO) mandates.

Key Achievements

The project was able to achieve the following result within the quarter:

Project Launch: The project was officially launched at the National Defense College, Abuja on 7th June 2022 with varied critical stakeholders in attendance to kick-start the implementation of the project. Organizations represented at the launch were the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning (MFBNP), Embassy of Japan, Ministry of Defense, Nigerian Army Headquarters, Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Air Force, UNDP, MLAILPKC and its Board Chairman, and media amongst others. Wide media coverage ensured good visibility of the project and partners, especially the Government of Japan.



Section of Dignitaries at the official project launch with Representatives from MLAILPKC, UNDP, Japanese Embassy, MFBNP, Navy and Nigerian Army, 7 June 2022, NDC - photo: UNDP

GoG Countries' Capacities to Counter Piracy Enhanced: 40 (10 women inclusive) persons from 7 GoG countries benefitted from and had their capacities built/strengthened on core principle and practice of combating piracy organized by MLAILPKC from 7th – 28th October 2022. The beneficiaries were drawn from the Navies, Armies, Marines, Coast Guards and relevant government institutions of the GoG member states including Angola, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The participants expressed satisfaction at the quality of the course, skills and knowledge gained and undertook to apply it in their various assignments to ensure that the influence of pirates is reduced to the barest minimum in the GoG region. The network established among the participants across the GoG member states will enhance a more effective and integrated approach to tackle maritime crimes and piracy in the region. This course, which consolidated and built on the two anti-piracy courses earlier organized by the centre, further enriched its mandate and reinforced its institutional capacities to conduct high-quality courses on counter piracy.



A cross section of participants in core principle and practice of combating piracy course, Nigeria Army Resource Centre, Abuja, 7-28 October 2022. Photo: MLAILPKC

Residency Maritime Rules of Engagement on Interception and Counter Piracy Operations Strengthened: 32 persons (8 women inclusive) benefitted from the residency maritime rules of engagement course on interception and counter-piracy operations. The weeklong course, which ran from 23-27 January 2023, drew beneficiaries from relevant institutions in Nigeria including the Nigerian Navy, Nigeria Police, Nigerian Army and ministries, departments and agencies. All the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction at the course and undertook to apply the skills gained in their assignments.



A cross section of participants in residency maritime rules of engagement course, Nigeria Army Resource Centre, Abuja, 23-27 January 2023. Photo: MLAILPKC

Upgrading of the Centre's Language Laboratory: The language laboratory at the Centre, which had been dysfunctional, was reactivated, upgraded and functional. The initial plan was to establish a simulation facility and a new language laboratory but the estimated cost based on competitive procurement process was huge (far outweigh the project budget for the activity). It was, therefore, decided that reactivating and upgrading the existing language laboratory at the Centre was worthwhile. This conclusion was in synch with the decision of the Ministry of Defense to gradually move the Centre to its permanent site in Abuja. The upgraded language laboratory accommodates 60 audiences at once.

Challenges

Insecurity: Widespread insecurity in the IP's location hindered the conduct of the project activities at MLAILPKC hence implementation of all project activities within the reporting cycle were undertaken in Abuja. This enabled all key stakeholders, including the Embassy of Japan and the Nigerian Navy to participate in the project events.

Mandate for Anti-Piracy: The Nigerian Navy, having the mandate and expertise to counter maritime crimes, initially expressed its concerns over the choice of the MLAILPKC as implementing partner and its technical capacity. However, through continued engagements and meetings with the Nigerian Navy at the highest level, all parties concluded that MLAILPKC was selected as the implementing partner because of its independence from the military and its track record of strong strategic

partnership with the Embassy of Japan and UNDP. The Centre, however, implemented the project in collaboration with the Nigerian Navy as technical lead.

COVID 19: Even though some COVID-19 restrictions were still in place, the project was implemented effectively in adherence to COVID-19 protocols.

Key lessons learnt

- Execution of all planned project activities outside of the IP's location in Abuja **ensured effective participation and safety** of partners and participants;
- Continuous training of MLAILPKC staff on UNDP regulations and rules, project finance and management, as well as, to frequently engage with the Centre on planning of project activities well ahead of implementation period helps to speed up project delivery.
- Deliberate and constructive engagements with partners, including the Nigerian Navy, on all aspects of the project implementation build confidence and trust required for the effective and smooth implementation of project activities, and timely and quality delivery of project resources.

Budget

The total project budget is **US\$376,238**. The provisional expenditure as of 15th June 2023 was **US\$332,992 (89%** of the total project budget). This equally represents the provisional cumulative expenditure since the project implementation commenced in March 2022.

2. Situation Background

Violent conflicts in many countries of the world and particularly in Africa have continued to increase both in complexities and numbers. This violence, which is mostly due to lack of good governance, political wrangling, inequality, citizens' agitation for quality life and inability to access essential services of life, has resulted in political instability, wanton destruction of lives and property, mass displacement of the civil population and destruction of key development infrastructures. Often, citizens ventilate their displeasures through violent extremism, radicalization, and violent mass protests.

Lack of good governance and political instability often result in weakened economy with attendant inability of the government to provide basic services and good welfare for the citizens. Low access to education, inadequate basic healthcare services, lack of essential infrastructure critical to the citizens' well-being and progress, and high unemployment have often pushed many people to engage in criminal acts that exacerbate insecurity both to citizens and the economy. Such illicit acts include kidnappings, cattle rustlings, armed robbery and piracy. Piracy and maritime crimes in the Gulf of Guinea, especially in Nigeria waters, have been phenomena causing damages to government and private investments, as well as, hampering the economy. The rate of piracy and criminalities in the Gulf of Guinea have been increasing over the years with most of the maritime crimes happening in Nigeria waters. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) reported that in the last two months of 2019, 41 kidnappings occurred in Nigeria waters; more than half of the annual total¹. In 2018, 22 incidents occurred on Nigeria waters and eight of the eleven vessels fired upon worldwide were in Nigeria waters². The activities of these criminal elements have continued unabated and Nigeria

waters are considered the most dangerous and unsafe in the world. The pirates pose serious threat to trades and businesses along the corridor and retard the economies of the Gulf of Guinea countries particularly Nigeria. This calls for concerted actions to reduce the influence and activities of piracy in the area.

Despite Nigeria's persistent impressive performance in the global peace support missions, she has been unable to convert and arrest the growing illicit maritime crimes in the Gulf of Guinea, such as, piracy, kidnappings and violent attacks on ships and crews around West Africa coast. This makes the Gulf of Guinea the most dangerous waters for seafarers. The need to build the capacity of key institutions in the West Africa sub-region to delve into the root causes of illicit maritime activities, design appropriate plans and strategies including human capacities, and organize regular training on anti-piracy is apropos.

The mandate of the MLAILPKC is to deliver realistic training support to potential peacekeepers for the multidimensional challenges of contemporary Peace Support Operations (PSOs). Since inception, the Centre has trained about 85,000 troops on Pre-deployment Training (PDT) and over 1,500 persons on individual PSOs courses drawn from Nigerian Armed Forces, paramilitary organizations, Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), civilians and allied countries. To achieve the goals of its mandate, MLAILPKC partners with key international organizations, among which are German Technical Assistance Group (GTAG), Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI), British Military Advisory Training Team (BMATT), United Nations Fund for Population Agency (UNFPA), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). With remarkable performance since its establishment, continuous assistance to the institution to realize its mandate, as well as, imbuing in it the capacity to lead regional efforts at curbing maritime crimes in the Gulf of Guinea through research and capacity development is desirable. This project, therefore, will build the capacity of MLAILPKC to understand the root causes of piracy in GoG, develop training curriculum, have a pool of anti-piracy facilitators and run courses on anti-piracy programme.

3. Progress towards development results

3.1 Contribution to longer-term results

The longer-term development results entail institutional capacity strengthening of MLAILPKC to research to inform policy and decision-making processes including those related to the PSO environment and national development and conduct courses on anti-piracy. MLAILPKC as a specialized training institution contributes to the training requirements necessary for the formulation of a legal and regulatory framework for PSOs and conflict prevention.

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)/Country Programme Document (CPD) Outcome 1.4: Strengthen national capacities for peace building including reduction of small arms violence at national and sub-national level.

Summary achievements based on CPD Outcome 1.4 target

CPD outcome target	Summary achievement to date	Status Ongoing, Delayed, Completed
Target 1.4.3: 10 national institutions including CSOs/ Networks with improved capacity for conflict prevention and peace building.	The project supported the training of multi-sectoral partners on counter piracy towards improved economy of GoG Member States.	Ongoing
Overall		Ongoing

3.2 Progress towards project outputs

Project Output 1: Governments and key institutions in GoG region's knowledge and expertise on the menace of piracy and mitigating measures deepened.

Summary achievements against 2022 Annual Work Plan (AWP) targets

Indicator (as they appear in the AWP)	Indicator Target (2021) (AWP indicator targets)	Summary achievement during the quarter	Status: <i>Ongoing, Delayed, Completed</i>
1.1 # participants trained on residency maritime rules of engagement.	30	32 (8 women inclusive) benefitted from the residency maritime rules of engagement on interception and counter-piracy operations course. All the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction at the course and undertook to apply the skill gained in their assignments.	Completed
1.2 # of participants trained on core principles and practice of combating piracy.	30	40 (10 women inclusive) gained skill and knowledge on core principle and practice of combating piracy. The beneficiaries undertook to apply the skills and knowledge acquired to ensure that influence of piracy is drastically reduced in GoG region.	Completed
1.3 Simulation facility and language laboratory in place	1	The language laboratory at the Centre, which had been dysfunctional, was reactivated, upgraded and functional. It accommodates 60 people at once. The decision to reactive and upgrade the language laboratory was borne out of the huge amount being demanded by the vendors. The cheapest vendor cost far outweigh the budget hence the decision became desirable.	Completed
			Completed

Description of Results

Indicator 1.1: # of participants trained on residency maritime rules of engagement; baseline: 0.

The capacity of 32 persons (8 women inclusive) was built on residency maritime rules of engagement on interception and counter-piracy operations. All the beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the knowledge acquired and undertook to apply the skill gained in their assignments. The course built on the pilot anti-piracy courses ran in 2021. This is the first time that the Centre would organize this course since it commenced implementation of the anti-piracy project in 2021 as part of its overall anti-piracy capacity building courses.



A cross section of participants at the residency maritime rules of engagement course on interception and counter piracy operations, Nigeria Army Resource Centre, Abuja, 23-27 January 2023. Photo: MLAILPKC.

Indicator 1.2: # of participants trained on core principles and practice of combating piracy; baseline: 0.

40 persons (10 women inclusive) gained skill and knowledge on core principle and practice of combating piracy. The beneficiaries undertook to apply the skills and knowledge acquired to ensure that influence of piracy is drastically reduced in GoG region.



Group photograph at the opening ceremony of the core principles and practice of combating piracy, Nigerian Army Resource Centre, Abuja, 11 October 2022. Photo: MLAILPKC.

Indicator 1.3: Simulation facility and language laboratory in place; baseline: 1.

The language laboratory of the Centre, which had been dysfunctional, was upgraded and functional for an audience of 60 people. The initial plan was to establish a simulation facility and a new language laboratory but the estimated cost based on competitive procurement process was huge (far outweigh the budget). It was, therefore, decided that reactivating and upgrading the existing language laboratory at the Centre was worthwhile. This conclusion was in synch with the decision of the Ministry of Defense to gradually move the Centre to its permanent site in Abuja.

3.3 Human Interest Story

The project seeks to complement regional and national authorities' visions and efforts at ensuring a reduction in the activities of pirates in GoG region. It equally consolidates on the pilot anti-piracy project implemented by MLAILPKC in 2021 and assists the Centre to organize more counter-piracy courses and acquire multilingual facility for effective conduct of the courses. The third session of the counter piracy courses (APC 3-22) organized by the Centre held from 7th – 28th October 2022 wherein 40 (10 women inclusive) persons benefitted. The participants shared their experiences and benefits from the course as follows:

Mrs. Lynda Oyeleke (Nigerian): It was a rare opportunity to deepen my knowledge on the giant strides of the Nigerian navy and their counterparts in the Gulf of Guinea and the efforts of the UNDP and the government of Japan in tackling the danger of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea region. The course was very remarkable as it gave us the assurance that the perennial problem of regional piracy activities in the Gulf of Guinea is being confronted head on in a new tactical dimension through training of professionals.



Lt. Commander Lewis Asukwo Ukut, Nigerian Navy: It is worthy to state that the course was well planned and executed. Participants were accommodated and well fed. Also, transportation from the lecture venue to the hotel was provided. It is my prayer that the course be sustained and most importantly, participants who had undergone the course and probably carried roles in anti-piracy operations be added as **observers** in the conduct of subsequent courses. For Course 3 of 2022, it was a balanced class not just based on theory but experience from practical knowledge.



CDR Simao Capolo Capolo, Angola Marines: Before this course I knew nothing about the modus operandi of the pirates but currently I can speak deeply about it. I learnt from APC 3-22 the root causes of piracy which is very important because almost all GoG countries don't care about the coastal communities, and I noticed that this is a very precondition to reducing piracy in the region. The experience of Nigerian Navy also teaches us how to deal better with the decision makers in matters of equipping the Navies for a better maritime security. Before the APC I, I had no idea about the anti-piracy law from Nigeria, which is a central platform for legal fight to piracy phenomenon. I learnt from the very experienced facilitators on anti-piracy issues.



Capt. David Ngwa Chendi, Cameroon Marines: I acknowledged the importance of the course to reduce the menace of pirates in GoG. I was impressed by the delivery of lectures on the varying topics on the geography and geostrategic of GoG, causes of piracy, their modus operandi, their effects on global economy and member states, and examining existing methods in countering piracy in GoG. 'The choices of these lecturers with erudite learning and rich experiences in the domain of piracy gave participants a deep-seated awareness of the maritime domain as far as GoG is concerned and the need to secure it through a holistic approach like having international partners like Japan to sponsor many more of such courses, the need for cooperation amongst member states in combating piracy and other crimes with GoG', he observed.

'Cameroon Navy is planning to enhance quick impact projects with coastal communities and improve on the exchange of information within the Zone 'D' and the neighbouring Nigerian Navy. More government agencies have become aware off the maritime domain and the need to secure

it. A recent bill to prosecute pirates was examined in the parliament. These government efforts will consolidate the objectives of the counter piracy course', he stated.



4. Cross cutting issues

4.1 Gender results

Gender results	Evidence
Gender result 1: Gender equality and parity in the project implementation was prioritized. 20 out of 73 participants at the project launch were women and 25 percent of the 40 beneficiaries of the counter piracy course on core principle and practice of combating piracy were women; and 8 out of 32 attendees of the residency maritime rules of engagement were women.	Evidence 1: MLAIKPKC and UNDP reports.

Gender strategy: The project has an explicit gender mainstreaming objective which seeks to retain a target of 30 percent participation for women. In this regard, the project collects, disaggregates, and analyses all data by gender; ensure that Terms of Reference for project IPs, consultants and staff includes gender sensitivity; guarantee that the project's publications and public information activities were gender sensitive; and ensure the integration of gender sensitive results and indicators into programme/project analysis and performance assessment.

4.2 Partnerships

The project was a product of partnership among three entities: Japanese Government, MLAILPKC and UNDP Nigeria to strengthen the capacity of MLAILPKC on anti-piracy. In implementing the project, MLAIKPKC partnered with GoG countries, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Ministry of Defense, Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Airforce and Nigeria Police in selecting and mobilizing relevant participants to undertake the training on residency

maritime rules of engagement. Partnership with these institutions helped to achieve the project targets for the reporting period.

4.3 Environmental Considerations

The project took appropriate actions to ensure that its implementation was environmentally sensitive and ensured environmental consciousness in all project plans and processes. These included environmental considerations during consultations, planning and activity implementation. It also took step to mitigate any direct negative impact on environmental and climate change within the reporting period. This included compliance with UN policy on use of plastic products. Nonetheless, continuous efforts were exercised to monitor and obviate any unintended negative impact that the project implementation might have on the environment and climate change.

4.4 Sustainability

UNDP worked through existing statutory organizations and did not create parallel structures that might not be sustained after the end of the project. In that vein, the project was designed to complement regional and national authorities' visions and efforts at ensuring a reduction in the activities of pirates in the GoG, as well as to actualize its mandate. Being a national institution with mandate to train operational and tactical level officers and civilians that can be deployed on PSOs missions and has been doing this and will continue to do this with or without assistance from any donor, MLAIKPKC has the capacities and resources to sustain and expand the scope of this assistance. It has regular budgetary provisions to ensure continuity of this assistance, building on experience gained from this intervention.

4.5 Visibility

The project took appropriate measures to publicize Japan/UNDP initiative in partnership with MLAIKPKC using appropriate communication channels and mass media. All communications related to the implementation of the project were well publicized (see further information on the 'Evidence' on page 18), and publicity materials carried Japanese, UNDP and MLAIKPKC logos. All press releases and advertorial acknowledged that the project was implemented with funding assistance from the Government of Japan.

The project organized a launch event that signaled commencement of the project implementation and publicized the role of Government of Japan and UNDP in supporting regional peacekeeping efforts. The Embassy of Japan, Abuja, actively participated in all project activities conducted within the reporting period including the project launch.

4.6 South to South and Triangular Cooperation

Guidance: List the types of South to South and Triangular Cooperation that the project was involved in during the year. Which countries (1st column) and type of cooperation (2nd column)

Country	Type of cooperation
N/A	

4.7 Strengthening national capacity

Results achieved	Institution	National capacity strengthened
1) Capacities of 72 beneficiaries including 15 expatriates were strengthened on two counter piracy courses.	GoG Navies, Armies, maritime institutions and MLAILPKC.	MLAILPKC

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

Key M&E activity (monitoring visit, evaluation, review exercise)	Key outcomes/ observation	Recommendation	Action taken
M&E activity 1			
M&E activity 2			

6. Risk management

Risks	Mitigation Measures
1. Inability of the Centre to achieve gender balance in programme beneficiaries due to socio-cultural and religious biases, and male dominance of the targeted institutions.	UNDP continued to emphasize the need for and the importance of ensuring gender balance in project participation by partners at meetings and in formal communications. This helped to raise gender consciousness thereby increasing the number of women's participation in project activities.
2. Uneasy relationship between the MLAILPKC and the Nigerian Navy over mandate on maritime related activities is a threat to project implementation.	UNDP in collaboration with the Centre ensured that the relationship with the Nigerian Navy and NIMASA was cordial and that all partners participated in all aspects of the project implementation and made desirable contributions. UNDP leadership role resulted in the Nigerian Navy's unalloyed commitment to the success of the project. Effective engagement of Naval authorities safeguarded their commitment and participation in project events
3. The protracted COVID-19 pandemic and continuous imposition of mitigating measures by the government to curb its spread may affect timely delivery of the project.	UNDP engaged with the Centre to review government protocols and directive on COVID-19 pandemic and adopted measures for unceasing project implementation regularly. These included development of scenario plans and identified strategies to respond to the different scenarios.

7. Challenges

Insecurity: Widespread insecurity in the IP's location hindered the conduct of the project activities at MLAILPKC hence implementation of all project activities within the reporting cycle were undertaken in Abuja. This enabled all key stakeholders, including the Embassy of Japan and the Nigerian Navy to participate in the project events.

Mandate for Anti-Piracy: The Nigerian Navy, having the mandate and expertise to counter maritime crimes, initially expressed its concerns over the choice of the MLAILPKC as implementing partner and its technical capacity. However, through continued engagements and meetings with the Nigerian Navy at the highest level, all parties concluded that MLAILPKC was selected as the implementing partner because of its independence from the military and its track record of strong strategic partnership with the Embassy of Japan and UNDP. The Centre, however, implemented the project in collaboration with the Nigerian Navy as technical lead.

COVID 19: Even though some COVID-19 restrictions were still in place, the project was implemented effectively in adherence to COVID-19 protocols.

8. Lessons Learned

- Execution of all planned project activities outside of the IP's location in Abuja **ensured effective participation and safety** of partners and participants;
- Continuous training of MLAILPKC staff on UNDP regulations and rules, project finance and management, as well as to frequently engage with the Centre on planning of project activities well ahead of implementation period helps to speed up project delivery.
- Deliberate and constructive engagements with partners, including the Nigerian Navy, on all aspects of the project implementation build confidence and trust required for the effective and smooth implementation of project activities, and timely and quality delivery of project resources.

9. Evidence

o List evidence of achievements of the project towards the outputs during the reporting period – see example below

Report Section	Title	URL link
Output 1	(Maritime First, 7 June 2022): "Gulf of Guinea: Nigeria's Peace-keeping Centre, UNDP Launch Counter-Piracy Project".	Gulf of Guinea: Nigeria's Peace-keeping Centre, UNDP Launch Counter-Piracy Project – Maritime First Newspaper
Output 1	(NAN, 8 June 2022): "Gulf of Guinea: Nigeria, Japan, UNDP launch counter-piracy project".	Gulf of Guinea: Nigeria's, Japan, UNDP launch counter-piracy project - News Agency of Nigeria (nannews.ng)
Output 1	(THIS DAY, 7 June 2022): "Agwai: Influx of Illicit Arms Encouraging Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea".	Agwai: Influx of Illicit Arms Encouraging Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea – THISDAYLIVE
Output 1	(Newsdiary, 7 June 2022): "Gulf of Guinea: Nigeria's peacekeeping centre, UNDP launch counter-piracy project".	Gulf of Guinea: Nigeria's peacekeeping centre, UNDP launch counter-piracy project - Newsdiaryonline
Output 1	(NNN, 7 June 2022): "Influx of illicit arms encouraging piracy in the Gulf of Guinea – Agwai".	Influx Of Illicit Arms Encouraging Piracy In The Gulf Of Guinea – Agwai - Nigeria News July 29, 2022 (nnn.ng)
Output 1	(NAN, 8 June 2022): "Influx of illicit arms encouraging piracy in the Gulf of Guinea – Agwai".	Influx of illicit arms encouraging piracy in the Gulf of Guinea – Agwai - News Agency of Nigeria (nannews.ng)
Output 1	(Newsdiary, 7 June 2022): "Influx of illicit arms encouraging piracy in the Gulf of Guinea – Agwai".	Influx of illicit arms encouraging piracy in the Gulf of Guinea – Agwai - Newsdiaryonline

Output 1	(National Accord, 7 June 2022): "Influx of illicit arms encouraging piracy in the Gulf of Guinea – Agwai".	Influx of illicit arms encouraging piracy in the Gulf of Guinea – Agwai - National Accord Newspaper
Output 1	(Newsspecng, 7 June 2022): "Gulf of Guinea: Piracy discouraging foreign investment, trade...Japanese envoy".	Gulf of Guinea: Piracy discouraging foreign investment, trade...Japanese envoy - Newsspecng
Output 1	(The African Gong, 8 June 2022): "Gulf of Guinea: Nigeria's peacekeeping centre, UNDP launch counter-piracy project".	Gulf of Guinea: Nigeria's peacekeeping centre, UNDP launch counter-piracy project – The African Gong
Output 1	(Daily Trust, 8 June 2022): "Japan, UN Partner Nigeria to Secure Gulf of Guinea".	Japan, UN partner Nigeria to secure Gulf of Guinea Dailytrust
Output 1	(Vanguard News, 29 October 2022): Gulf of Guinea: FG Calls for Stronger Ties Against Piracy".	https://www.vanguardngr.com/2022/10/gulf-of-guinea-fg-calls-for-stronger-ties-against-piracy/
Output 1	(Real News Magazine, 12 October 2022): Japan Committed to Security of Nigeria, W/Africa – Envoy".	https://realnewsmagazine.net/japan-committed-to-security-of-nigeria-w-africa-envoy/
Output 1	(Leadership Newspaper, 11 October 2022): "Federal Govt Urges Synergy on Piracy in Gulf of Guinea".	https://leadership.ng/federal-govt-urges-synergy-on-piracy-in-gulf-of-guinea/
Output 1	(NAN News, 11 October 2022): FG Calls for Synergy to further Tackle Piracy in Gulf of Guinea".	https://www.nannews.ng/2022/10/11/fg-calls-for-synergy-to-further-tackle-piracy-in-gulf-of-guinea/
Output 1	(NAN News, 23 January 2023): "Piracy in Gulf of Guinea in Downward Trend – UNDP".	https://www.nannews.ng/2023/01/23/piracy-in-gulf-of-guinea-in-downward-trend-undp/

Output 1	(NAN News, 23 January 2023): "Minister Hails Military's Fight Against Piracy in Gulf of Guinea".	https://www.nannews.ng/2023/01/23/minister-hails-militarys-fight-against-piracy-in-gulf-of-guinea/
Output 1	(Leadership Newspaper, 24 January 2023): Nigeria Behind Decline in Piracy in Gulf of Guinea – UNDP".	https://leadership.ng/nigeria-behind-decline-in-piracy-in-gulf-of-guinea-undp/
Output 1	(News Specng online, 24 January 2023): "Nigerian Army Inaugurates Anti-Piracy Course (APC) 4".	https://newsspecng.com/2023/01/23/nigerian-army-inaugurates-anti-piracy-course-apc-4/
Output 1	(Apa News, 23 January 2023): "Nigerian Minister Lauds Role of Military in Fight Against Piracy in Gulf of Guinea".	http://apanews.net/en/news/nigerian-minister-hails-militarys-fight-against-piracy-in-gulf-of-guinea/
Output 1	(NAN News, 28 January 2023): FG committed to eradicating sea piracy, other crimes.	https://www.nannews.ng/2023/01/28/fg-committed-to-eradicating-sea-piracy-other-crimes-minister/
Output 1	(Vanguard Newspaper, 29 January 2023): FG committed to eradicating sea piracy, other crimes.	https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/01/fg-committed-to-eradicating-piracy-other-crimes-minister/

10. Financial Summary

Outputs /Activity Result		Current Annual Budget (US\$)	Expenditure (March – December 2022)	Expenditure January – March 2023	Cumulative expenditures March 2022- March 2023	% Expenditure (Cumulative)
		Output 1: Governments and key institutions in GOG region's knowledge and awareness on the menace of piracy and mitigating measures deepened.				
Activity Result 1.1	Conduct a stream of 5-day residency maritime rules of engagement course on interception and counter-piracy operations for 30 participants selected from maritime institutions and related security agencies in GOG member states.	78,700	24,868	47,307	72,175	92%
Activity Result 1.2	Organize a stream of 21-day counter-piracy course on the core principles and practice of combating piracy for 30 participants selected from government institutions, maritime industry, and policy makers in GOG member states	149,800	182,910	0	182,910	122%
Activity Result 1.3	Establish a simulation facility and a language laboratory	47,443	3,460	18,049	21,509	45%
Activity Result 1.4	Monitoring & Communication.	7,500	0	0	0	0
Project Management (Project Staff Costs and DPC)		57,123	31,749	0	31,749	56%
Audit		3,762	0	0	0	0
Monitoring and Evaluation		3,762	0	0	0	0
General Management Support (GMS)		28,148	19,469	5,180	24,649	88%
Programme total		376,238	262,455.94	70,536	332,992	89%
Coordination Levy – 1%		3,762				
Grand Total		380,000				

Photo Gallery – Counter-Piracy Project – March 2022 – March 2023

1. Counter-Piracy Project Launch, National Defense College, Abuja, 7 June 2022



Photo 1: Group picture at the project launch, National Defense College, Abuja, 7 June 2022



Photo 3 Cross section of dignitaries at the project launch, NDC, Abuja, 7 June 2022



Photo 2: Special guests at the project launch, NDC, Abuja, 7 June 2022



Photo 4: Remarks delivered by the UNDP Team Lead GPS at the project launch, NDC, Abuja, 7 June 2022

2. Technical Committee Meeting, UN House, Abuja, 15 July 2022



Photo 5: Group photograph at the Technical Committee meeting, UN House, Abuja, 15 July 2022



Photo 6: UNDP Team Lead GPS at the technical committee meeting, UN House, Abuja, 5 July 2022



Photo 7: The Commandant of MLAILPKC and Commando robbing minds



Photo 8: Cross section of participants at the Tech Committee meeting

3. Counter-Piracy Course on the Core Principles and Practice of Combating Piracy – 7-28 October 2022



Photo 9: Group photograph at the Nigerian Army Resource Centre, Abuja



Photo 10: Facilitator instructing participants for the group work



Photo 11: Participants during group work



Photo 12: Facilitators



Photo 13: Intervention from a participant from Cameroon



Photo 14: High table with the commandant MLAILPKC, representatives of the Japanese Embassy



Photo 15: Remarks delivered by the Japanese Defense attache



Photo 16: Opening remarks by the Commandant MLAILPKC



Photo 17: Cross section of participants

4. **Residency Maritime Rules of Engagement on Interception and Counter-Piracy Operations Course, Nigerian Army Resource Centre, 23-27 January 2023**



Photo 18: Group photograph



Photo 19: Group photograph



Photo 20: High table at the closing ceremony, Nigerian Army Resource centre, Abuja, 27 January 2023.



Photo 21: Commandant MLAILPKC at the graduation ceremony with a participant



Photo 22: UNDP Team Lead GPS at the graduation ceremony with a participant



Photo 23: Commandant MLAILPKC and UNDP Team Lead GPS



Photo 24: Cross section of participants



Photo 25: Cross section of participants



Photo 26: Cross section of participants



Photo 27: Cross section of participants



Photo 28: Cross section of participants



Photo 29: Commandant MLAILPKC and SGOH at the closing ceremony