



**Application for 6 months No-Cost Extension of INL, Judiciary and UNDP project:  
*Promoting Transparency in Sierra Leone's Judiciary***

<p><b>Project Title:</b> <i>Promoting Transparency in Sierra Leone's Judiciary</i></p>	<p><b>Recipient UN Organization(s):</b> UNDP</p>
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<p><b>UNDP Project Number:</b> 00090095</p>	<p><b>Project Location:</b> Sierra Leone - Nationwide</p>
<p><b>Brief Project description:</b></p> <p>The Project will introduce a sentencing policy and guidelines as well as amend the current bail policy in line with the new Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) once enacted and support effective implementation of that policy through training, awareness raising and mentoring of all justice chain actors as well as implementation of a pilot case management system</p>	<p><b>Total project budget:</b> USD 1,500,000</p>
	<p><b>Project Start Date:</b> 1 July 2015</p> <p><b>Initial Project End Date:</b> 30 June 2017</p> <p><b>Revised End Date:</b> 31 December 2017</p>

62

## 1. BRIEF PROJECT BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF OUTPUTS

On 10 June 2015, the Judiciary of Sierra Leone, UNDP and INL entered into a two-year project titled *Promoting Transparency in Sierra Leone's Judiciary*, now commonly referred to as the Bail and Sentencing Project. The project commenced on 1 July 2015 with a budget of USD 1.5 million. It has the following two outputs:

1. Sentencing and bail policies and guidelines are adopted by the mandated judicial authorities
2. Sentencing and bail guidelines are in place and consistently applied

As detailed in the quarterly progress reports 2015-2016, the project has in the past 18 months worked consistently towards achievement of the outputs and has made good progress in achieving key milestones (see Annex 1 for revised Project Planner and Timeline), including but not limited to:

1. The establishment of the Working Group (WG), led by the Judiciary comprising senior members of the justice institutions and civil society, and which has created a forum not only for developing the much needed sentencing and bail instruments but also discussing the main challenges faced within the justice sector resulting in enhanced coordination in the justice chain;
2. In-depth review of relevant legislation and practice on bail and sentencing through thematic presentations using the expertise available in the WG, 13 national outreach activities ensuring consultation of key stakeholders and beneficiaries that has informed the development of the draft policies. The WG has furthermore contributed to the review of the Criminal Procedure Bill which is reflected in the draft instrument now with Cabinet;
3. South – South visit to the Judiciary of Ghana and related justice and security institutions has been successfully achieved and has resulted in the Judiciary of Sierra Leone regularly exchanging and sparring with their Ghanaian Counterpart on the development of their Strategic Plan finalized in June 2016;
4. Exchange and dialogue with two Senior US Federal Judges allowed rich discussions with the WG members and justice institutions on best practices and how to instigate reforms in the sector, a key follow-up has been the Judiciary establishing a Public Relations Office and initiating the development of a communication strategy;
5. Achievement of two comprehensive drafts of the bail and sentencing policies that has been reviewed by the Rules of the Court Committee twice and substantive feedback has been submitted to the Legal Drafter for incorporation;
6. Assessment of the case management needs of the Judiciary and identification of appropriate and innovative Justice APP that is contextually suitable and viable in the Sierra Leonean context that faces challenges in terms of lack of utilities, low internet bandwidth and deficient literacy levels; which will ensure for long-term sustainability and for the APP gradually to be rolled-out throughout the justice chain with the support of government, UNDP and donor funds.

## 2. EXPLANATION FOR THE NO-COST EXTENSION REQUEST

Despite the above-detailed progress towards achievement of the outputs, UNDP is requesting for a 6 months no-cost extension (NCE) to enable the finalization of all activities as stated in the project document, which have suffered some delays also closely related to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) crisis.

The INL and UNDP project "*Promoting Transparency in Sierra Leone's Judiciary* commenced on 1 July 2015 towards the end of the EVD crisis, which was officially declared over in March 2016. The project plan and



timeline, although well-planned in consultation with the Senior Management of the Judiciary and the justice chain, still suffered serious delays as the institutions were still recovering from the crisis. The said crisis had resulted in the departure of key staff and exacerbated the backlog of criminal cases and overcrowded detention facilities which needed the immediate attention of the Judiciary and related justice institutions. The UNDP project team worked closely with the Judiciary to get the project timeline and implementation back on track, however the initial delays still affected the overall timeline and implementation of the project, which is the *raison d'être* behind this no-cost extension request.

The no-cost extension will allow for successful completion and consolidation of the achieved outputs for further inclusion in the new Rule of Law Programme 2017-2019.

The activities prompting the NCE request are detailed at length in the following:

**Output 1, Activity Result 1.2: *Sentencing guidelines produced in partnership with the Judiciary, Law Officers Department, Police and Legal Professionals and outreach material developed and disseminated***

**Action 1.2.3 Support to ensuring adoption of the guidelines by the mandated judicial authorities**

The completed drafts of the bail and sentencing policy were submitted to the Rules of the Court Committee (RoCC) in late October and the first review took place on 9 November 2016, and the bail policy has since been reviewed twice. The documents are close to completion and are presently with the legal draftsman for finalization, and the timeline for approval of the Bail Policy will be early January 2017. The sentencing policy will equally be completed in January 2017, but cannot be approved before the Criminal Procedure Bill has been enacted, which is expected by ultimo March 2017.

UNDP has already contracted the company responsible for design, layout and printing of the policies, so upon approval these can immediately be published.

The Judiciary's Public Relations Officer has initiated work on the Judiciary's communications strategy and developed a concept note for ensuring a comprehensive outreach plan and informational materials ensuring for immediate dissemination once the policies are approved.

**Output 2, Activity Result 2.1: *Training modules developed and implemented with selected Police Investigators, Judges, Magistrates, Prosecutors, Registrars, Defence Counsel and Civil Society***

**Action 2.1.1. – Action 2.1.5. Develop Training Curricula and Train Key Justice Stakeholders**

This activity has not progressed as planned, as it has awaited finalization of the bail and sentencing policies. UNDP agreed in October 2016 to support the development of a comprehensive outline for the Judicial and Legal Training Institute Curriculum and 4-6 training modules, including on bail and sentencing, ethics, case and court management as well as a training module on the new CPA.

A consultant team has been successfully recruited to this extent, on the basis of a terms of reference developed in full partnership with the Judiciary.

Action 2.1.1. – 2.1.2. will be completed by April 2017, as well as the Training of Trainers that will allow the Judiciary for the full scale roll-out of the training to 200-300 judicial staff, and key stakeholders across the justice chain, including Police Prosecutors, the Law Officers Department, the Legal Aid Board, the Bar Association and civil society organisations working within the justice sector.

Once, the training of trainers has been completed, the Judicial and Legal Training Institute will be capacitated to complete the trainings of the target groups, which will be expected to be completed by 31 October 2017, both taking into account the rainy season and the August recess of the Courts.



**Output 2, Activity Result 2.2: A case management system is set-up and implemented in Judiciary HQ and selected areas to ensure for better management and monitoring of the uniform application of the Sentencing guidelines and policies**

**Action 2.2.1 – 2.2.5 Implementation of - and training on the new Case Management System**

As previously reported, UNDP has had difficulties in acquiring the necessary expertise for initially the needs and feasibility assessment of the Case Management System (CMS), and later for actual development of the software for the Justice APP.

In the time of writing, UNDP has completed the feasibility assessment and tested the pilot APP and recruited all necessary technical expertise for the achievement of activity result 2.2. The CMS Software consultancy firm will be expected to commence their work on 19 December 2016.

This has delayed the achievement of the implementation of the case management system and is one of the main reasons for the request for extension to ensure effective implementation of the new Justice APP and that court staff are capacitated to operate and manage the new Justice APP system once implementation is finalized. However, due to UNDP now having acquired all the necessary technical expertise this action should be completed in accordance with the timeline provided in Annex 1.

**Output 2, Activity Result 2.3: Citizens are aware of the introduction of sentencing guidelines and their implications**

**Action 2.3.1. – Action 2.3.2. Development of informational materials and outreach sessions**

This activity has been bolstered by the support of the new Judiciary Public Relations Officer that has since inception of his contract, developed several press releases, messages and videos that has been disseminated via popular Whatsapp forums as well as appeared on SLBC and in radio discussions on the progress of the bail and sentencing project.

The Judiciary Public Relations Officer together with the UNDP are presently developing a comprehensive plan for ensuring outreach on the progress and final bail and sentencing policies across the country, including but not limited to informational materials, pamphlets, cartoons/posters for the Courts, as well as jingles, radio talk shows and supporting community based organizations to setup dramas on bail and sentencing.

This will enable the effective achievement of activity result 2.3. following the approval of the bail and sentencing policies.

Finally, upon completion of all activities, the last two months of the NCE will be dedicated to wrapping up activities and finalizing narrative and financial reports for INL. Please refer to Annex 1 for the revised timeline for completion of activities.

**Signed on behalf of INL**

**Signed on behalf of UNDP, Sierra Leone**

Name:

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Title:

Title: Country Director a.i.

Date:

Date: 02 Feb 2017