**Strengthening Rule of Law, Security, and Human Rights in Sierra Leone (January – March 2019, Q1 Updates)**

The first quarter primarily focused on signing the Annual Work Plan and drafting and finalising agreements between the UNDP Rule of Law team and implementing partners. Letters of Agreement (LoA) were signed for the Justice Sector Coordination Office (JSCO), Legal Aid Board (LAB), Humanist Watch SL (HUWASAL), Prison Watch SL, and the Centre for Accountability and Rule of Law (CARL). A No-Cost Extension was signed for IDTLabs. The drafting process to renew the LoA for the Judiciary was a significant feature of this quarter. Time during this quarter was spent preparing for several significant activities scheduled for the second quarter: a visit from INL/US donor, and the development of a Terms of Reference for a consultant to evaluate this project and another.

Several High Court Justices attended training in Ghana on strengthen the Judicial Learning and Training Institute in Sierra Leone.

While the Bail Regulations have been approved, the Sentencing Regulations are still in the process of finalisation, as they require the Criminal Procedures Act (CPA) to first be adopted. The CPA was submitted to the Ministry of Justice Senior Legal Drafter for approval.

Under this period, the position for a national consultant for LAB was advertised to conduct mapping of legal aid services across the country. This quarter was also used to prepare for paralegal refresher training on Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism, facilitated by LAB, which was scheduled for the second quarter.

The Public Relations Officer was confirmed as being funded by the project until the end of the year. The Judiciary came to the agreement that the position will continue to be funded internally once the year ends. This demonstrates how effective the PRO officer has been. The PRO was instrumental in printing and distributing 500 copies of the Bail Regulations to all judicial staff, prosecution, defence, local government, paramount chiefs, and communities across this country. Supplementary to this, HUWASAL carried out 5 radio ‘Justice Hours’, where they discussed the Bail Regulations and answered questions on access to justice and the work of the Judiciary.

Court monitoring and community outreach by CARL, Prison Watch, and HUWASAL began in this quarter. 1,017 cases were monitored in total. 402 students and teachers and 400 community residents in Moyamba and Kono were reached on the Bail Regulations.

The Justice App is undergoing an update to version 2. This is being done alongside IDTLabs and the Judiciary. This activity is expected to conclude in the second quarter and training will begin in the third.