

Improving the Rule of Law & Access to Justice in Sierra Leone Annual Report December 2014



¹ Pictures left to right, Pujehun Magistrate Court UNDP A2J monitoring field trip July 2014; Demonstration of the Tippy-tap system during German Kooperation Sierra Leone (GEKO-SL) Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Awareness and Sensitization workshop in Sanda Taindaren Chiefdom September 2014; COOPI Community Learning Meetings, Mamusa, Lunsar, Port Loko District, June 2014.

Project Title: Improving Rule of Law & Access to Justice in Sierra Leone
United Nations Development Programme

Grant Period: 2013/14

Grant Amount: \$1,496,219 (TRAC \$427,726, Irish \$818,493, BCPR \$250,000)

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Acronyms

ADR	Assessment of Development Results
AfP	Agenda for Prosperity
ADDO	Arch Diocese Development Office
ADP-SL	Action for Development Programme Sierra Leone
AWP	Annual Work Plan
A2J	Access to Justice Programme (UNDP)
CAHSec	Community Action for Human Security
CBO	Community Based Organisation
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale
CPA	Criminal Procedure Act
CPD	(UNDP) Country Programme Document
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DN	Dignity Now
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
FSU	Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police
GEKO-SL	German Kooperation Sierra Leone
HUWASAL	Humanist Watch Sierra Leone
HRCSL	Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone
HRYC-SL	Human Rights Youth Coalition Sierra Leone
IP	Implementing Partners
JSCO	Justice Sector Coordination Office
JSRSIP II	Justice Sector Reform Strategy and Investment Plan II
LOD	Law Officers' Department
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MSWGCA	Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs
NCE	No-cost extension
NIMIRIGHTS	Nimiyama Human Rights Movement
PBF	Peace Building Fund
PW-SL	Prison Watch Sierra Leone
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SLP	Sierra Leone Police
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UPHR	United for the Protection of Human Rights
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Programme Background and Context

This report details progress in the implementation of UNDP's Improving Access to Justice Project in Sierra Leone for the period 1 January 2014 – 31 December 2014; however key programme achievements and challenges faced, which were detailed in the mid-year report, are not included here. The report outlines progress on every activity from the Action Work Plan (AWP) (annex 1), and addresses the importance of sustainability in realising results. A cumulative financial report is contained in annex 2. It is hoped that this report will facilitate further dialogue with key counterparts and stakeholders, including the programme's donors and development partners.

The Improving Access to Justice and Rule of Law Programme in Sierra Leone (the Programme) has since 2009 worked with the overall objective to support the consolidation of peace and stability with a focus on ensuring that justice institutions and human rights oversight mechanisms are easily accessible throughout the country. Focus in the present project cycle 2013-2014 has been to support justice institutions in building their capacity for effective and equitable justice service delivery with a special focus on trying suspected perpetrators - and supporting victims of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV). As an integral part of the human rights based programming, the Programme has supported the Human Rights Commission Sierra Leone (HRCSL) to further establish themselves as an effective oversight and accountability mechanism and enhance capacity of civil society organizations to monitor the effectiveness of justice institutions and support victims of SGBV to claim their rights, seek redress and access necessary medical attention as well as referral mechanisms for protection. The Programme has also focused on ensuring women's rights to property and land under the framework of the three gender laws and the draft Land Policy².

The Programme's continued relevance has been ensured by its alignment with national strategic frameworks including the Justice Sector Reform Strategy and Investment Plan (JSRSIP II) 2011-14 which complements the Government of Sierra Leone's 'Agenda for Prosperity' 2013-2018. The Programme is also consistent with the United Nations Transitional Joint Vision for Sierra Leone (2013-14) and UNDP's Strategic Plan 2008-2013 and 2014-2017 specifically on Rule of Law and Access to Justice. Furthermore, consistent guidance from the Project Board and regular meetings with partners under the Programme, ensure the continued relevance of interventions.

2014 has been a challenging year for the UNDP A2J Programme. This report is written in the context of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa, the first case of which was confirmed in Sierra Leone in May 2014. The outbreak of EVD led to the President of Sierra Leone on declaring a state of public health emergency on 31st July 2014. The state of public emergency and associated regulations has affected all branches of government, including justice institutions, and has had severe

² The new Director of Surveys and Lands is facilitating the finalization of the memorandum of understanding for Cabinet discussion. The Cabinet discussion and presentation to Parliament was initially scheduled for 2014, however it is uncertain if it will take place this year due to the Ebola crisis.

socio-economic impact on the populace. The crisis still has a stronghold on the country; although there have been signs of improvement in the first affected areas; epicenters have shifted from the East to the North and West. As of 10 December 2014 there were 6,457 confirmed cases of EVD in Sierra Leone, with 1,648 confirmed EVD deaths. There has been an average of 500 new confirmed cases per week since 24th November 2014.³

In August 2014, the UNDP Country Office embarked on a re-programming process to contribute to effectively aid and halting the EVD crisis as well as alleviate some of the secondary impacts. This reprogramming focused on supporting government strategies as well as the overall international and national response to the EVD crisis in the Mano River Region. The A2J Programme staff equally reviewed the present Programme and followed up with all partners to carefully assess possible impacts of EVD on planned activities and results. Based on these discussions selected interventions were redirected to assist justice institutions and civil society partners in combatting the Ebola virus (Summary information of the re-programming will follow below and detailed information in Annex 1). In October 2014, an assessment of the challenges faced by partners and the strong focus on Ebola response activities as the crisis continued, led to the A2J application to Irish Aid and MPTF for no-cost extensions (NCE). These have been granted for 1 January – 31 March 2015.

1.2. Key achievements, Re-programming for Ebola response and challenges 2014

The Law Officers' Department (LOD) and UNDP, formally presented the newly developed strategic plan to H.E. the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone in April 2014 and had worked towards securing implementation until the EVD crisis escalated. The purpose and structure of the LOD strategic plan sets out a total of six sections as follows – (i) strategic direction of the LOD including expenditure priorities for the coming years (2013-2017); (ii) summary of the overall justice sector and the relationship between the various stakeholders; (iii) result of the functional review of the LOD; (iv) discusses the external environment and its impact on the LOD; (v) sets out the strategic directions, plans, implementation and challenges and (vi) provides an indication of the supporting budget associated with the strategic plan. The Legislative Drafting process continued as part of the in-house trainings for core LOD staff, and a finished product (Legislative Drafting Manual and Guidance Notes for Parliamentary Counsels) has been produced. 500 copies each are being printed currently, and will be made available to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), in order to guide the Legislative process. The LOD has overall continued its operation, however postponed its core trainings due to the EVD crisis; core trainings have instead been re-scheduled for early 2015.

In the first six months of the year, the reach of the SGBV Saturday Courts had been extended to include Makeni – and ad-hoc sittings in Pujehun. The case processing length for SGBV cases had reportedly⁴ been reduced profoundly and the backlog of cases in Freetown Magistrate Court had been cleared with enhanced collaboration among justice actors. The availability of minimal witness support funds was raised as a key indicator for improving the case processing time. However, after the escalation of the EVD crisis several factors had adverse effects on Court sittings, including quarantines, which

³ EVD Situational report, WHO/EOC Sierra Leone 10 December 2014.

⁴ Narrative reports submitted in the first half of the year, include statistics to this end, but no further data has been received since May 2014.

instigated infrequent and in some areas no sittings of both the Mobile Courts and also the SGBV Saturday Courts. This situation has been exacerbated by unavailability of key staff, including the Consultant Master and Registrar. As part of the Ebola response, UNDP engaged the Judiciary which instigated the submission of a proposal to mitigate the impact and ensure for Court sittings albeit in an adapted form, hold extra court sittings to clear backlogs and fast-track juvenile cases. Finally, to put in place key Ebola preventive measures within the Courts (detailed in Annex 1). However, the Judiciary has due to the above-mentioned challenges been unable to submit narrative and financial reports and finally on 28 November 2014 after several communications UNDP has suspended the LOA until these are provided. Clear conditions have also been communicated for the NCE to include the Judiciary in 2015. UNDP A2J has drawn key lessons from the challenges faced by the Judiciary, including the lack of coordination between justice institutions that has been exacerbated during the EVD crisis, and any future partnership and support to the Judiciary will be informed by these.

In July, SLP trained 28 FSU Officers on the SOP and guidelines on the SGBV case management. The topics covered included, *the role of SLP, professional policing ethics, the FSU mandate and ethics, the role of the Ministry of Social Welfare Children and Gender Affairs, International Human Rights standards, conducting effective investigations, stages of the interview (do's and don'ts), search warrants, bail and arrest, GBV referral protocols, guidelines on age assessment and the SOPs*. UNDP monitored the training, found that it was progressing well and provided some guidance on issues for improvement. However, due to the escalation in the EVD crisis and the emergency restrictions in place the remaining trainings were cancelled and the funds used for the EVD response.

The work of the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) has also been affected by the crisis and the programme support has therefore been adapted to ensure that the Commission can effectively provide oversight of the Ebola response throughout the country, helping to minimize human rights violations. Certain rights can be legitimately derogated from during a public state of emergency; however the role of the Commission is essential to ensure that other rights are not compromised during this particularly tense and fragile time. HRCSL has been monitoring the situation closely and continues to receive and investigate complaints from the public. For example the Commission recently carried out an investigation into unrest and police violence in Kono, which was followed by a short report and recommendations. The Commission also closely monitored the 'Ose to Ose Tok' campaign and used findings to engage with government and security forces. A report has also been published by HRCSL detailing their findings and recommendations. Furthermore, the HRCSL recently played an active role in the Office of National Security (ONS) led Training of Trainers on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for quarantines, roadblocks, burials, general awareness of EVD prevention and key human rights and gender issues (see case study below).

After the clearance of the audit report for the 2011-2013 PBF-funded project, the Commission has heeded the advice of UNDP to strengthen their financial management capacities both through the hiring of a new Director of Finance and Internal Auditor and receiving regular capacity building support from the UNDP Programme Finance Staff. Internal issues at the Commission put a hold on the disbursement of Irish Aid funds to the Commission during 2014 but remaining funds have been earmarked for the first quarter of 2015, as agreed by the donor.

During the last quarter of 2014 UNDP also initiated support to the Justice Sector Coordination Office (JSCO). This support was relatively modest and mainly focussed on their work to help operationalise

the Legal Aid Board. It also helped to cover running costs of the JSCO in the context of Ebola, when their earmarked funds had been reallocated. The JSCO used the support from UNDP to take the lead on coordinating the justice sectors response to Ebola – such as putting in place preventative measures in court rooms. Meetings and consultations were also held to review the Justice Sector Reform Strategy and Investment Plan II (JSRSIP II) and to draft the third strategy. Finally the JSCO also used part of the support to drive the enactment of the new Criminal Procedure Act (CPA), which will be central to justice sector reform in Sierra Leone. By the end of the short project the new CPA had been gazetted and 200 copies printed. Pre-legislation meetings with parliament have yet to be held.

Women and children continue to suffer gravely from sexual and domestic violence. As reported during the first half of 2014, sexual violence continues to be on the increase across districts of operation. From January-December, 2014, a total 7 CSO IPs were provided with support to provide assistance to victims of SGBV, their families and witnesses to strengthen initiatives to access justice at community levels. A total of 959 cases were recorded across 8 districts of intervention. Medical support was provided to 665 women and girls with 307 of them sheltered. A breakdown of offences stands as follows: sexual penetration-525 cases (sexual offences against girls under 18 years); rape-59, domestic violence-199; physical assault-56. Out of 959 cases, 520 were charged for trial before magistrates courts with 207 committed to the high courts. Only 129 convictions have been recorded with 173 matters still undergoing investigation while 130 have been compromised. Numerous challenges continue to hamper the successful implementation of this component with the EVD outbreak at the forefront. Because of the current crisis, there are very limited numbers of medical personnel willing and ready to treat SGBV survivors. Most cases recorded by IPs are transported to locations where the EVD crisis is not too severe before medical personnel can attend to them. The arrest of suspects has proved to be difficult and costly during this period as SLP personnel are more engaged in manning quarantined homes, road blocks or other EVD-related duties. The EVD crisis has led to a spike in the number of SGBV cases with girls under 18 years increasingly at the receiving end of violence. Out of 959 cases, more than 60% (525 cases) are offences committed against minors. There is need for SGBV interventions to be scaled up during this period to ensure women and children are protected against sexual assault and harassment.

These findings have instigated UNDP A2J to engage three of its CSO partners (Humanist Watch Sierra Leone (HUWASAL), Nimiya Human Rights Movement (NIMIRIGHTS) and Dignity Now (DN)), under the stewardship of the HUWASAL, to conduct a SGBV study in three districts of Sierra Leone, i.e. Kenema, Kailahun and Kono. It seeks to establish the prevalence of SGBV before and during the crisis, to assess the accessibility of medical and psycho-social support as well as deferral mechanisms and if cases have been prosecuted. This study will make key recommendations to inform UNDP's future interventions during early recovery post-Ebola crisis and will be completed during the no-cost extension.

Within the entire year, 520 SGBV cases were charged to court however with only 129 convictions secured. This number and information received from CSOs depicted the slow pace of court sittings across the country and challenges faced by the Judiciary. In order to effectively respond to the Ebola crisis, in September the remaining funding of the CSO/CBO court monitoring scheme was deferred to other CSO EVD and SGBV activities. The A2J programme close partnership with a substantial amount of Civil Society Organisations (Community Action for Human Security (CAHSec), West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Arch Diocese Development Office (ADDO), United for the Protection of

Human Rights (UPHR), DN, Human Rights Youth Coalition Sierra Leone (HRYC-SL), Action for Development Programme Sierra Leone (ADP-SL), HUWASAL) have greatly assisted in UNDP's overall Ebola response and ensuring outreach to remote communities, e.g. raising general awareness of Ebola in remote and rural areas, putting in place EVD preventive measures, monitoring human rights violations, including continued support for SGBV victims – despite the crisis and addressing the backlog of remand prisoners awaiting trial. Through UNDP support to a new partner CSO partner, Prison Watch Sierra Leone (PW-SL) for a legal representation scheme, 154 inmates have been granted bail, discharged or sentenced with alternative fines to imprisonment terms. 443 cases have been identified for litigation across the country. The interventions supported have been an integral part of UNDP's re-programming and close synergies have been established with other programmes, including the Security Sector Reform Project.

In terms of the CSOs working on property and land rights, key activities were unachievable due to the restrictions made by the emergency declaration and the project taking place in the quarantined areas. Government discussions and adoption of the draft Land Policy has also been postponed. However, the CSOs had made good progress until mid-2014 and key goals set-out have still been met (see Annex 1 for details), and furthermore the activities achievable within the context of Ebola have been scaled up. On 8 December 2014, COOPI received UNDP approval to reallocate funds from two of the cancelled activities to contribute to the overall Ebola response. The planned activities focuses on empowering 200 community women and traditional leaders, which are already key target groups of the property and land rights project, to play key roles in the fight against Ebola as well as ensure that basic EVD preventive kits are made available in selected communities of the 4 districts⁵ of the project. Two of COOPI's districts of operation are at present worst effected by Ebola and a third has been a new hotspot for EVD cases, so the activities are timely and will hopefully contribute to halting the spread in these districts.

1.3. Looking ahead – 2015

At present the A2J programme is already preparing and looking towards the new CPD 2015-2018 and the UNDAF 2015-2018 and has just at the 3rd and 4th Quarter Project Board meeting discussed priorities for the NCE as well as ideas for the future programme.

The NCE period will commence 1 January 2015 and preparations for mapping-out activities are currently ongoing, including the development of the AWP and countrywide field missions of the CSO Coordinator to discuss needs and monitor activities of CSO partners and Magistrate Courts is also taking place in December. The above-detailed new activities will be included and the extension will allow A2J partners to finalize those activities and interventions which have been delayed and are still feasible in the context of EVD crisis. Furthermore, the NCE will allow further time to collate information and data as well as for UNDP to carefully plan the next A2J programme in what will hopefully be in the post-Ebola and recovery period. This will also match the initiation of the CPD 2015-2018, as its starting date has been moved forward to 1 April 2015 due to the crisis.

⁵ Western Area, Port Loko, Bombali and Kono.

The ideas for the new A2J programme discussed with the Project Board include addressing dysfunctional and systemic issues in the justice system, targeting bringing down the large numbers of pre-trial and remand detention (currently 70 %) which is assumed to have been exacerbated during the crisis due to the decreased functioning of the Courts⁶ and restrictive emergency regulations leading to more arrests, the effective implementation of the CPA – once passed, law reform generally, and legal literacy. The key components of the new programme will be strategically chosen based on lessons drawn from the present Programme, and the recommendations of the Assessment of Development Results (ADR) 2013 including focus on ensuring and improving overall access to justice and building capacity of the Judiciary. The latter will also be informed by the evaluation of UNDP's support to the 'Mobile Courts'⁷ if chosen as a strategic priority.

2. Progress Achieved

See Annex 1 – Progress Against Planned Activities Matrix.

3. Sustainability of Project Activities

UNDP places sustainability at the forefront of planning and implementation of all programme activities. At the earliest stages of planning with national institutions, as various interventions are discussed and agreed, the question of how activities will be sustained in the long term after donor funds are phased out is at the forefront. The success of this approach is evidenced by activities which UNDP initially supported and that are now fully funded by the Sierra Leone Government. UNDP no longer pays top-up fees to Judges, Magistrates or Law Officers for example. Similarly, UNDP does not support justice institutions in any significant way with large vehicles, and large infrastructure. UNDP's support to the justice sector since the end of the conflict has moved from hard infrastructure support to soft capacity building activities.

As outlined above, the government and justice institutions still face numerous challenges, including in Communication, Coordination and Cooperation – as well as being under-resourced and lacking capacity. Furthermore, a key issue is still the lack of incentives for qualified staff to give long-term investment in terms of dedication to government justice institutions. Many leave office as they cannot sustain themselves and their families on the present conditions of service that government provides. This is a central issue, as they could potentially be 'key-development Champions', ensuring sustainability and fostering capacity building. Therefore despite the progress made in 2014, including the announcement of a 15 % government increase in salary to police, prison officials etc., there are still systemic issues that need to be addressed to ensure sustainability. Responding to these sustainability issues will be a key priority of the future A2J programme and support to justice institutions will include advocacy and dialogue vis-a-vis the government, as well as engagement with implementing partners to ensure capacity building and national ownership of programmes.

⁶ Data will also be included to this extent in the IP partner's reports under the UNDP support.

⁷ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/crisis-prevention-and-recovery/evaluation-of-undp-s-support-to-mobile-courts-in-drc--sierra-leo/>

As described in the executive summary, the EVD crisis has exacerbated existing challenges as well as added new ones. However, the crisis has also evidenced the adaptability and capacity of key supported institutions and partners, including the HRCSL and civil society partners, as the whole re-programming under A2J has included the continuation of key interventions and activities, albeit in an adapted form. Moreover, it has allowed for the careful crafting of new activities to assist in the efforts of the government and the international community to combat Ebola. The new prioritised activities will be sustainable in the sense that the new programme will carry forward and build on key achievements, as well as use knowledge and data collected by, among others, the SGBV study. Furthermore, as already described, the UNDP evaluation of support to the Mobile Courts⁸, key recommendations of the UNDP ADR 2013 will be utilised to further inform the design and focus of the new project. This will naturally include revisiting the Agenda for Prosperity 2013-2018⁹ post-Ebola to ensure that immediate needs of justice institutions and human rights oversight mechanisms receive due attention also in the expected new Justice Sector Reform Strategy and Investment Plan that will follow the present (2011-2014).

In terms of specifics to ensure sustainability of programme activities and outcomes, UNDP Project Management has included focus on:

- Increased National ownership – Implementing Partners have been the lead in almost all of the re-programming and identified the key areas of intervention. Regular consultations and meetings have been held with partners, also those temporarily out of the country (Judiciary Consultant Master and Registrar, COOPI Management). UNDP involves partners in all levels of decision-making, which is also shown through the recent Project Board meeting which included discussions of NCE and future programme priorities and ideas. UNDP places emphasis on the fact that our partners are best placed to decide key areas of priority and we then provide technical support and guidance when needed or requested. This is key to ensure that the partners are the key drivers of fostering sustainable change.
- Strengthened partnerships and collaboration – UNDP Sierra Leone plays a key role in its support to both national institutions and civil society organisations working in support of access to justice. Recent examples are the UNDP facilitation of CSO meetings that contributed to coordinating their activities during the ongoing EVD response. Key achievements and best practices were discussed and allowed the CSOs to exchange lessons learned and challenges faced and possibly address these in a more coordinated manner. Discussions also enabled CSO IPs to highlight UNDP’s strong presence at community levels and ways to foster fruitful partnerships for improved community interventions

⁸ It was recommended that supporting mobile courts should not be limited to the supply side of justice (allowances, fuel and stationary for circuit courts) but should also target the demand side of justice (raising awareness among the population about the role and objectives of a mobile court and establish mechanisms to assist vulnerable groups to claim their rights and understand the legal procedures). This will be addressed should the support continue.

⁹ The AfP 2013-2018 in terms of Justice Sector Reform focuses on making justice accessible locally, ensuring that justice is expedited, and that rights and accountability are respected (Itinerant Courts is a priority, strengthen local courts and implement the provisions of the Legal Aid Act and equipping the Legal Aid Board p. 121 – 122) Furthermore, the government indicates that it will support Districts to host resident Magistrates.

- Capacity development – in all of its engagement with national institutions and CSOs, the project places very strong emphasis on capacity development so that activities can continue efficiently even after UNDP has phased out its support. A recent example is the EVD re-programming where engagements with the CSOs evidenced their strong capacity to adapt resources to effectively respond to the crisis. Furthermore, the UNDP Programme Associate and Finance Officers support partners in overcoming financial reporting challenges and in the case of the HRCSL, support will be increased for a period of time to enhance the Commission’s financial reporting capacity.

4. RISK LOG

Description (Nature of Risk)	Date Identified & Type	Impact & Probability	Counter Measures/Mitigating Actions	Owner	December 2014 Update on Risk and UNDP Response
<p>Inability to sustain justice and security sector reform strategic interventions in the face of dependence on development partners to meet the needs of national justice and security systems</p>	<p>2009 Strategic & Political</p>	<p>The effectiveness and relevance of the project will be considerably undermined</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>Continued engagement with Government to ensure that resources allocated to justice sector are increased. Future focus will increasingly be on advocating for government to improve conditions of service for the LOD and the Judiciary, as there are no incentives for people to ensure long-term commitment to the public sector.</p>	<p>Government</p>	<p>UNDP continues, through the JSCO, and donor level meetings to highlight the need for a joint response to encourage the Government to provide enhanced budgetary support to the justice sector. UNDP also places a strong emphasis on sustainability. The recent national budget for 2015, indicates a most-warranted salary raise for Public Sector Workers, including Police, Prisons and this indicator of priority will be utilised by the UNDP to further discussions on how to increase support and sustainability for building strong and effective justice institutions.</p>

<p>Increased gap in quality of justice services between urban and rural areas impacting on overall access to justice</p>	<p>2013 Strategic</p>	<p>Public dissatisfaction in rural areas leading to increased reliance on informal justice mechanisms and potential rise in insecurity, particularly for women</p> <p>High</p>	<p>Enhanced support for Mobile Courts throughout the country, implementation of Local Courts Act and support for public legal awareness activities, enhanced support for Saturday SGBV Courts.</p>	<p>Government/UN system/NGOs</p>	<p>Gaps in the quality of justice services continue to prevail. However, support to Mobile Courts, Saturday Courts, combined with support for CSOs has enabled vulnerable and poor survivors as well as their families to access medical services, travel distances to visit police stations for investigations, and access court sittings for litigation in the first half of 2014.</p> <p>UNDP EVD reprogramming has partially mitigated the lack of functioning of the Courts through the engagement of CSO in a legal aid scheme in Prisons to bring down the unwarranted no. of Prisoners on remand. Furthermore, despite the crisis CSO has continued to support SGBV victims.</p> <p>Engagement by UNDP Senior Management with the Judiciary to overcome challenges in</p>
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					terms of functioning of the Courts, which has been exacerbated during the EVD crisis. This is still on-going at present and the whole future engagement and support to Judiciary will be subject to increased attention and review during the NCE period.
Delay in constitutional reform guaranteeing gender equality over and above respect for customary law and practice	2013 Regulatory & Strategic	The project will be limited in its efforts to achieve one of its key outputs in advancing women's rights, particularly in rural communities Medium	Support to the Constitutional Review Committee and to CSOs working on the Constitutional Review, particularly around women's rights.	Government /UN System/NGOs	The UNDP Constitutional Reform Project has continued although in adapted form during the EVD crisis. Technical advice and assistance is being provided to the Constitutional Review Committee via UNDP's Constitutional expert. Consultations are being held with key groups to gather their input before drafting, including the Judiciary Subcommittee. Sustained media outreach has been helping to inform the public and UNDP support to CSOs on the Constitutional review has had a strong focus

					on gender equality and women's property and land rights.
Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone restricts and delays activities	2014	<p>The restrictions being placed on public gatherings in Sierra Leone in an attempt to halt the spread of the Ebola virus has had a serious impact on activities such as trainings and workshops. In addition, the time and resources of government partners will be stretched due to dealing with the crisis.</p> <p>High</p>	<p>UNDP reviewed activities with partners in August and September to decide what was and what was not feasible to implement without jeopardizing the safety of any personnel/beneficiaries and without countering restrictions placed by the government where sought. Certain partners earmarked to contribute to the fight against Ebola could be also allowed to use some of the funds – this was explored in August/September.</p>	Government/UN system/CSOs	<p>UNDP reviewed all activities and re-programmed in September 2014. This has ensured for support to key partners effective response and overall contribution to halt the Ebola crisis. Furthermore, this has ensured for the continuation of key programme activities, including but not limited to support to SGBV victims. (Detailed in the above and Annex 1). The re-programming has put in place creative measures to implement projects without jeopardizing the safety of any personnel/beneficiaries and without countering restrictions placed by the government.</p>

5. Case Studies

Case studies are from the second half of the year only. Please refer to mid-year report for case studies from the first half of the year.

5.1. A2J Programme Case Studies

The HUWASAL helps a Victim of Gang-Sexual Penetration to access Urgent Medical Help

As the EVD crisis continues to ravage Sierra Leone, sexual and domestic violence has been reported to be on the increase. In 9 days (from 4-12 December, 2014, the HUWASAL has recorded and supported 11 cases of sexual penetration (sexual abuse of persons under the age of 18)). Two (2) of such cases were recorded while UNDP was monitoring the work of the IP on the 12th of December, 2014 in Daru, Kailahun District. The first case that needed urgent attention was the sexual penetration of a girl aged 13 by 2 adults aged around 35 and 29. The offence occurred in a locality called Sandaru which is situated about 36 miles from the nearest police station which is in Daru. After a brief police investigation into the matter, the case was transferred to Kenema Town about 47 miles away for speedy medical attention as the victim was bleeding and presented signs of acute illness as a result of the sexual assault. The victim was transported to Kenema Hospital with assistance from UNDP after being provided urgent first-aid in Daru with support from the IP. Support was also provided to the Police in Daru who wasted no time to apprehend one of the suspects in the matter two (2) days later. The victim was immediately admitted for treatment. The serious challenge remaining - is getting a doctor to endorse the victim's medical form which can then later be utilized as evidence for prosecution. This is vital as doctors are reluctant to appear in court and testify especially during the EVD crisis coupled with incessant court adjournments. The victim is currently responding to treatment and the IP has provided victim and family with some clothes, toiletries and accommodation as well as subsistence allowance.

DN assists 5-year-old Victim of Sexual Penetration and Family to access Medical Support and Magistrates Court for Preliminary Investigations

Often sexual and domestic offences are committed against victims by close relatives, persons in a position of trust or persons living in the same neighbourhood. In the case of the 5 year old (identity known by DN), the girl was with quite some certainty sexually penetrated by a 41 year-old miner in Panguma Village in the Lower Bambara Chiefdom in Kenema District. The victim is living with her father as her mother died of Ebola in early October this year. The father is a cleaner in the community health unit in Panguma Town. The father left the 5 year old girl in the care of the suspected perpetrator every day before departing for work. The suspect used his authority to prevail on the child to sexually abuse her. He handed her a note of Le 1,000 (about \$2) and firmly cautioned her not to reveal the ordeal to anyone. The resulting illness and bleeding alerted the father who took the victim to the Panguma Health Unit where they were referred to Kenema Government Hospital which is about 27 miles away on a rough terrain. While supporting the victim and her father to go through the medical process, the UNDP IP was also faced with the challenge of assisting them access justice through court litigation. The numerous roadblocks did not allow victim and father to reach Kenema Town on numerous occasions since they did not have a pass. In collaboration with the UNDP CSO Coordinator, the IP was able to assist the victim, her father and 1 witness to get a pass to travel to Kenema for

preliminary investigation to be conducted by the Magistrates Court (MC). However, numerous court adjournments have stalled the process with the matter yet to be concluded at the level of the MC.

Woman gets Access to Her demised Husband's Property after Intervention of UNDP Court Monitors

Yeama aged 36 lost her husband in 2012 and was summoned before the Local Court (LC) at Kpetewoma in Moyamba District in March, 2014 by her late husband's brother. The complaint against Yeama was that the piece of land left behind by her late husband was jointly bought with his family. At the LC level, Yeama lost the case on the ground that the property was family owned. During one of the community outreach sessions organized in September by the Moyamba Court Monitoring Sub-cluster, Yeama interfaced with the Court Monitors and explained her ordeal. The Monitors provided some basic paralegal advice to Yeama building on the Devolution of Estates Act, 2007. The subsequent intervention of Court Monitors led them to interface with the Paramount Chief, the land holding family and other concerned parties. In an open and frank discussion with all the parties, a decision was reached to hand over the said plot of land and all its documents to Yeama with immediate effect, as the distribution of property at the death of a spouse provides for in the Devolution of Estate Act, of 2007.

5.2. Ebola-response Re-programming Case Studies

The HRCSL engagement with ONS on ToT - in the context of the EVD crisis

In late November, the HRCSL played an active role in the ONS led training of Trainers on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for quarantines, checkpoints, burials, general awareness of EVD prevention and key human rights and gender issues. Two staff from the Commission were part of the team of master trainers who facilitated the training of trainers in Bo. The trainees were 42 participants – 14 SLP, 14 RSLAF and 14 HRCSL/District Human Rights Committee staff. The training of trainers in Bo took place over a period of three days. After the training, 14 teams of three – one personnel from SLP, one from RSLAF and one human rights expert – were deployed to the 14 districts. Each team carried out three one day trainings to mixed groups of participants from SLP, RSLAF and civil society. Overall the trainings reached over 2,000 people nationwide. The main aim of the training was to roll out SOPs for quarantines and checkpoints, the development of which was supported by UNDP through ONS, so that they are adhered to by SLP and RSLAF personnel implementing security regulations on the ground. However the trainings have also gone a long way to build relationships between security forces, human rights groups and civil society, which is essential for the halt of EVD in Sierra Leone and also has a long-standing positive impact on peace and stability in the country. The HRCSL played an invaluable role in the training, emphasizing human rights issues that are key in ensuring both protection of fundamental rights and minimizing potential conflict drivers during the crisis. HRCSL's engagement and involvement during the EVD crisis certainly speaks to the increased and growing capacity of the Commission.

GEKO-SL EVD Awareness and Sensitization Campaigns in Sanda Taindaren Chiefdom

With the support of UNDP, GEKO-SL held several EVD general awareness and sensitization activities with communities in the Sanda Taindaren Chiefdom from 5-7 September 2014. Due to government ban on public gathering under the state of public health emergency, the 15 communities sensitized were divided into three groups at Malonthon, Robureh and Rogbin communities. The communities selected by GEKO-SL are more remote and deemed vulnerable in terms of access to health care and knowledge of Ebola and the overall spread of the disease in the country. The participatory sessions

were highly appreciated by the communities as they provided briefings on key Ebola messages from the Ministry of Health and fostered an environment allowing for questions that had troubled these same communities for some time. The Tippy-tap system (picture front-page) was well-received during the demonstration and participants vowed to ensure that they would share their knowledge within their communities. EVD prevention kits were distributed to community representatives to ensure hand-washing practices as well as chlorine and Dettol to clean communal facilities such as Mosques and Churches. Finally, focal points have carried out house-to-house sensitization campaigns to reach community residents from their home and to distribute a made soap traditionally called 'Africana soap' which is cheap and locally accessible.

HRYC-SL engages Local Residents in Bagruwa Chiefdom in Moyamba to Harvest Rice for Two (2) quarantined Families

The rapid spread of the EVD in Sierra Leone has brought an increase in the number of quarantined houses, road blocks and isolation of some districts, chiefdoms and villages. These measures are however affecting the most vulnerable particularly those living in rural isolated and hard-to-reach communities. During the door-to-door sensitization on EVD in November 2014, the HRYC-SL network in Moyamba came across two (2) neighbouring families (the Almamy Sesay and Joseph Bangura) that have been quarantined without food for 11 days in Kandegbuma Village in the Bagruwa Chiefdom in Moyamba District. Both families have lost 2 and 1 members respectively and were living in conditions of abject poverty in 2 thatched houses with no food, water or items of basic necessity such as soap, toiletries etc. The HRYC-SL network assisted them with food and non-food items to take them to the end of the quarantine period and provided them with adequate information on EVD prevention and response in their context, especially how to care for sick family members at home. During the interactive session with both families, it was discovered that the rice produce of both families had not been harvested because of the quarantine. After the session, the HRYC-SL project staff engaged the Town Chief in Kandegbuma Village who together mobilized some community youths and agreed on a date to assist both quarantined families to harvest their rice. The harvesting was successful and carried out under the authority of the Town Chief and the IP. This case depicts the situation most rural communities and urban people are faced with during the crisis.