

**Application for three (3) months No-Cost Extension of US/INL, SLCS and UNDP project: “From Prisons to Corrections: *Promoting Institutional Reforms of the Sierra Leone Correctional Service*”**

<p><b>Project Title:</b> <i>From Prisons to Corrections: Promoting Institutional Reform of the Sierra Leone Correctional Services (SLCS)</i></p>	<p><b>Recipient UN Organization(s):</b> UNDP</p>
<p><b>Project Contact:</b></p> <p>Mr. Samuel Doe</p> <p>Country Director</p> <p>Address: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 55 Wilkinson Road, P.O. Box 1011, Freetown, Sierra Leone</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:samuel.doe@undp.org">samuel.doe@undp.org</a></p>	<p><b>Implementing Partner(s):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sierra Leone Correctional Service</li> <li>- Civil Society Organisations</li> </ul>
<p><b>UNDP Atlas Award ID:</b> 00090095</p> <p><b>Project Number:</b> 00102631</p>	<p><b>Project Location:</b> Sierra Leone - Nationwide</p>
<p><b>Brief Project description:</b></p> <p>In 2014, the government of Sierra Leone adopted the Correctional Services Act, aiming to transform the country’s prisons from punitive to correctional facilities where human rights of inmates are respected. The corrections project works to ensure that the institutional capacity of the correctional service is improved in accordance with international human rights standards targeting inmates and staff as well as to ensure the safety and security of society.</p>	<p><b>Total project budget:</b> USD 1,500,000</p> <p><b>US/INL contribution:</b> USD 1,080,000</p> <p><b>UNDP contribution:</b> USD 420,000</p> <hr/> <p><b>Project Start Date:</b> 1 October 2016</p> <p><b>Initial Project End Date:</b> 31 December 2018</p> <p><b>Revised End Date:</b> 31 March 2019</p>

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

On 21 September 2016, the Sierra Leone Correctional Service (SLCS), US Department of State – Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (US/INL) entered into a 27 months project titled *From Prisons to Corrections: Promoting Institutional Reform of the Sierra Leone Correctional Services*. The project commenced on 1 October 2016 with a total budget of USD 1.5 million (US/INL and UNDP). It has the following two outputs:

1. Institutional capacity of Correctional Facilities is improved in accordance with international human rights standards for inmates and staff
2. Capacity of SLCS staff strengthened to ensure the welfare of inmates and the safety and security of society

As detailed in the 8 quarterly progress reports submitted in 2016 – 2018, the project has in the past 26 months worked consistently towards achievement of the outputs and key milestones; including but not limited to:

1. Review of the Sierra Leone Correctional Service legal framework – Correctional Act 2014 and the Prison Rules 1961 by the technical working group (TWG) which has been submitted for Ministerial and Correctional Council approval in October 2018;
2. Development of the assessment and classification tool for the Correctional Service which has been implemented in the Freetown - Pademba Road Male Facility and the Freetown Female Facility. Presently the SLCS is working with the Police and the Judiciary to establish memoranda of understanding (MOUs) for information sharing concerning sentenced offenders before rolling it out to all Correctional Facilities across the country;
3. Establishment of the Prison Courts by the Judiciary to review pre-trial and remand population cases and decongest the Correctional Facilities. The Courts have reviewed more than 1,000 cases across the country, which has resulted in fast-tracking of cases, preparation of 424 indictments by the Law Officers Department and releases of more than 100 inmates that were found to be held without real evidence. 166 inmates released were further supported by Prison Watch Sierra Leone to reintegrate back to society;
4. Finalisation of the Accommodation Master Plans which have been presented to the Ministry of Internal Affairs in 2017 and in 2018 when the new government entered office. The plans have provided important information on actual capacity and made concrete suggestions to optimize the capacity of the facilities and informed the rehabilitation works for selected facilities as well as initiation and boosting of key industries, including agriculture and animal husbandry, carpentry, tailoring, soap making. The industries managers trained at the International Correctional Training Centre in Canon City, Colorado have implemented learnings which has contributed to enhance correctional industries in provincial centres such as Mafanta and Moyamba. The earning scheme provided by law has been reactivated and so far, 246 sentenced inmates (21 female and 225 male) and in furtherance, 73 SLCS Officers have been trained to effectively manage the Industries Programme and also continue training of inmates;
5. The Human Rights Audit and Action Planning has been successfully implemented by the SLCS. All 19 Facility Managers, 19 Deputy Managers and 4 Public Relations Officers and 10 Senior

Management in Freetown have received training on the UN Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners (Mandela Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules) and the Human Rights Audit tools. In furtherance, the National Action Plan for all 19 correctional facilities has been developed and is being implemented across the country with regular monitoring visits by the Monitoring and Evaluation Office. This has demonstrated visible improvements in enhancement of conditions of detention for inmates and working conditions for staff; including but not limited to introduction of family visits, contact with the outside world – radio, tv and newspapers provided in some facilities, access to food, water and sanitation improved as well as the expansion of recreational spaces.

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

Despite the above-detailed progress towards achievement of the outputs, UNDP is requesting for a 3 month no-cost extension (NCE) to enable the finalization of Action 1.1.1.: *Support the SLCS to establish effective detainee and inmate file and case management* and Action 2.1.3.: *Improve the health and wellbeing of inmates through the refurbishment of health infrastructures*. These actions have suffered some delays as detailed in progress reports under the project.

In early 2017, UNDP initiated the recruitment process for the file and case management needs assessment and identification of suitable electronic case management system for the SLCS in close collaboration with the senior management of the institution. The recruitment process had an initial delay due to lack of qualified technical proposals submitted in the first round of advertisement. In September 2017 however, a successful bidder was identified, and work commenced. At the same time, SLCS had with support of the Open Society Institute West Africa (OSIWA) recruited a consultancy firm Fix Solutions that was working on implementing a biometric system in the two main correctional facilities in Freetown (male and female).

The US/INL and UNDP project is however broadly targeting all 19 Correctional Facilities as the needs assessment together with the human rights audits and the technical assessments made by the senior correctional consultant had identified that it was essential to ensure proper filing and case management as well as strengthening oversight of the provincial correctional facilities. Therefore, UNDP engaged the SLCS and the Fix Solutions together with IDTLABS in seeing how the two systems could possibly be integrated to ensure that they were also mutually complementary. This however proved difficult at the outset as the Fix Solutions consultancy firm was concerned about sharing its business model with IDTLABS and especially the backend solution.

In the meantime, IDTLABS proceeded with development of the tailored electronic case management system for the SLCS while negotiations were held with the Fix Solutions by SLCS, UNDP and OSIWA and later also the two individual software companies.

In August 2018, Fix Solutions finally agreed to collaborate with IDTLABS which would allow for the full integration of the two case management systems and the remaining components of the electronic case management system to be developed. The following timeline for completion has been submitted by the IDTLABS on 26 November 2018:

Activity phase	*Estimated timeframe	Comment
Information sharing - ERP data structure	1 week	Ongoing
Create custom SLCS module for integration	1 week	Pending
Send adjournment information to SLCS application	2 weeks	Pending
Send "to prison" sentence information to SLCS application	1 week	Pending
Create module to adjust rest API module to allow SLCS application to read case	2 weeks	Pending

Therefore, the finalization of the development of the electronic case management system is expected to be completed by 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January 2019 also depending on the availability of the SLCS Senior Management to approve the system.

The procurement of the hardware will commence in December and can be installed consecutively with the development of the case management system. However, the training and capacitation of SLCS Officers including the Monitoring and Evaluation Office can only commence once the system is approved by the SLCS senior management. The training is expected to be completed within 4 weeks following approval of the case management system.

The refurbishment of selected correctional facilities health infrastructure, including sanitation has progressed well and works have been finalized in Bo, Kambia, Kono, Mafanta and Port Loko, except for Kenema and Waterloo where work is still on-going. For Kenema, the contractor had not finalized the rehabilitation works to the satisfaction of the UNDP Consultant Civil Engineer who has requested further improvement on work so far done by the contractor. For Waterloo there were delays in identifying qualified contractor, but this was finally achieved and works have commenced.

Measuring qualitative and quantitative improvements so far achieved since the start of the project, it is worth mentioning that this support has contributed to the achievement of the following:

- Ensuring access to water in the facilities through new water wells; refurbishment of toilets and washing facilities has profoundly improved the conditions of detention in the targeted centers by the provision of clean, healthy and safer environment;
- The finalisation of the refurbishment works for the Waterloo facility will contribute to decongesting the Freetown Pademba Road Facility for up to 200 remand inmates that are attending court sessions in Waterloo;

The finalization of the refurbishment and infrastructure works in Kenema and Waterloo will be completed by January and early March 2019 respectively. At the same time, the no cost extension will ensure that the UNDP with support from the Consultant Civil Engineer can monitor and certify work done in accordance with professional standards.

These changes in timelines have therefore prompted UNDP to request from the US/INL a three (3) months no cost extension of the project to ensure the effective achievement of **Activity Result 1.1. Case**

***Management system in place in selected Correctional Facilities and effective processes are well-established to classify the detainees and Activity Result 2.1. Capacity of the SLCS is improved to uphold human rights of Inmates.***

Upon completion of the activity by 31 March 2019, UNDP would submit a final narrative and financial report to the US/INL by no later than 30 April 2019.

Signed on behalf of US/ INL

Signed on behalf of UNDP, Sierra Leone

Name:

Name: Samuel G. Doe



Title:

Title: UNDP Country Director

Date:

Date: 28-11-2018