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From Prisons to Corrections: Promoting Institutional Reform of the Sierra Leone Correctional Services

1st Quarterly Progress Report

October – December, 2016

**UNDP 27 months project funded by the US Department of State, Bureau of
International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)**

Project Overview

Reporting Period	1 October – 31 December, 2016
Donor	US Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)
Country	Sierra Leone
Project Title	From Prisons to Corrections: Promoting Institutional Reform of the Sierra Leone Correctional Services (SLCS)
Project ID (Atlas Award ID)	00090095
Outputs (Atlas Project ID and Description)	00102631
Implementing Partner(s)	Sierra Leone Correctional Services and UNDP, Sierra Leone
Project Outputs	<p>Output 1: Institutional capacity of Correctional Facilities is improved in accordance with international human rights standards for inmates and staff.</p> <p>Output 2: Capacity of SLCS staff strengthened to ensure the welfare of inmates and the safety and security of society.</p>
Project Start & End Dates	1 October, 2016 - 31 December, 2018
Total Project Budget	USD 1,500,000 (INL: 1,080,000\$; UNDP:420,000\$)
2016 Annual Work Plan Budget	USD 27,000
Total resources spent during reporting period	USD 8,000
Actual average monthly burn rate	USD 2,500
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ANNEX 2 – REPORT CIM-ICMTC TRAINING TRIP IN COLORADO USA.....**ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.**

I. Executive summary

The enactment of the Sierra Leone Correctional Services Act of 2014 stemmed from the Government of Sierra Leone's commitment to transform the country's prisons from punitive to correctional facilities where human rights of inmates are respected. This legislative reform came on the heels of several recommendations from national and international bodies to address the human rights abuses currently common in prisons and resulting largely from overcrowding, lack of adequate infrastructure and resources, lack of capacity amongst some prison staff and the poor functioning of the justice sector. With funding from the US Department of State/INL and UNDP and together with the Sierra Leone Correctional Services (SLCS), a project titled '**From Prisons to Corrections: Promoting Institutional Reform of the SLCS**' was developed to assist the Government of Sierra Leone and the SLCS in particular to improve on the conditions of detention, the rights of detainees, the welfare, safety and security of detainees, staff and society.

The 27 months project that started on 1st October, 2016 to run till 31st December, 2018 has 2 outputs focusing mainly on *improving the institutional capacity of the SLCS in accordance with human rights standards for inmates and staff (Output 1) and strengthening the capacity of the SLCS staff to ensure the welfare of inmates and the safety and security of society (Output 2)*.

These outputs will contribute through interventions to support the SLCS to implement their Strategic Plan for the improvement of life in correctional facilities, through activities relating to decongestion, improved file management, inmate classification and assessments, establishment of prison industries to build skills of inmates and also work towards self-sufficiency of the facilities in terms of food and furniture, training of prison staff on the Mandela Rules (Minimum Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners), carrying out human rights audits of pilot facilities through trained staff and monitoring improvements, further enabling legislative reform through drafting of new prison rules and improvements in the health and welfare of inmates.

This 1st quarterly report details progress against targets in the period from 1st October to 31st December, 2016. The project was successfully launched on 3 November 2016 and it received high-level participation from all key justice and security institutions as well as his Excellency the Vice-President Victor Foh. All stakeholders voiced their commitment to support the process of building resilient justice and security sector structures and appreciation to the INL/US Department of State for their support to this important project. (See detailed launch report attached)

The first month of the project saw 10 SLCS Senior Management Officers, including the Director General together with the UNDP Rule of Law Programme Specialist receive training at the International Correctional Management Training Centre (ICMTC) in Colorado, USA in October 2016 on Correctional Institutional Management (CIM) – which ensured that the participating officers developed action plans that have among other things instigated procedural changes within the SLCS and will continue to serve as a precursor for change during the lifespan of the project and beyond.

Following, the launch UNDP has worked with SLCS Senior Management to plan the sequencing of all activities to ensure effective implementation. This has included meetings to discuss components of 'terms of references' for recruitment of the necessary expertise and also to include further institutions within the Review Committee/Working Group that will be responsible for reviewing the Correctional Act, undertaking the Human Rights Audit together with the SLCS and developing new prison rules.

The development of the Accommodation Master Plan and Industry Master Plan will be led by an experienced consultant, together with the SLCS and Ministry of Works and a national civil engineer/architect.

Discussions with the SLCS Senior Management also touched on the conduct of the human right audit with support from the Raul Wallenberg Institute and the Dignity and that will potentially both be supporting the project in the revision of the Correctional Act, development of correctional rules, the conduct of the human right audit and staff training through an established Working Group (WG). In furtherance, Kenya has been identified and agreed by SLCS and UNDP for the South – South visit, as it is one of the few countries in the world where the Prison Service has carried out the Human Rights Audit against the *Mandela Rules* and at the same time in recent years reviewed and revised its Correctional Act as well as instigated and implemented several reform initiatives.

All these recruitment processes have been initiated and will be finalised in January 2017, so that targeted activities can be rolled out in quarter 1 and 2 of 2017.

II. Activity Progress Updates (Progress towards Outputs)

Output 1: Institutional capacity of Correctional Facilities is improved in accordance with international human rights standards for inmates and staff				
Output Indicators	Activity	Baseline	Target	Current status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % change in Correctional Centres population during project period; • # skills training facilities established/refurbished; • #inmates engaged in production and earning scheme; profit/savings for prisons • # Correctional Officers and sentenced prisoners certified • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action 1.2.2.: Development of Accommodation Master Plan • Action 1.2.3.: Industries plan for inmates produced and pilot phase implemented including equipping workshops, training inmates, setting up inmate earning scheme and tracking success/profit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present estimated capacity of Correctional Services is 1,895. • Current prison population is 3,314 whereof 1,825 are on remand/trial • Limited industry available to inmates who are most time idle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills training facilities established/refurbished with 250 inmates engaged in production and earning scheme; profit/savings for prisoners; • 100 Correctional Officers certified as trainers and 500-600 sentenced prisoners will have received professional certification of skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to the official launch of the SLCS project on 3rd November, 2016 UNDP was part of a delegation of SLCS Senior Management who attended a Correctional Institutional Management at the International Correctional Management and Training Centre in Colorado, USA. After the launch of the SLCS Project, UNDP has engaged the SLCS management on the implementation of the project as well as follow up from the action plan developed from the ICMTC. This will continue to be the case throughout the lifespan of the project. Discussions on project implementation have led to the finalization of terms of reference for the recruitment of an international consultant to develop both accommodation and industry master plans. • To ensure that available space across detention facilities is adequately captured in the accommodation master plan, additional terms of references are being developed for the recruitment of a local consultant civil engineer/architect to help develop designs and drawings that will be incorporated in the accommodation master plan to serve as an advocacy tool for alternative sentences and decongestion of facilities. The services of the

				civil engineer/architect will also be required to develop bill of quantities for the refurbishment of detention structures as per the project document.
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Output 2: Capacity of SLCS staff strengthened to ensure the welfare of inmates and the safety and security of society

Output Indicators	Activity	Baseline	Target	Current status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Correctional Rules developed (Yes/No); # correctional facilities benefitting from human right audit exercise; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 2.1.1. Support the SLCS and partners to draft the new Correctional Rules in compliance with international standards and train officers for implementation. Action 2.1.2. Support SLCS to carry out human rights audit of facilities (including a South-South 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaic prisons rules still in place. No basic human rights audit conducted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New correctional rules developed and consistently applied by the SLCS; At least 4 correctional facilities are audited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions have been held with the SLCS Senior management on both activities. UNDP has interfaced with the Raul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) and Dignity(Danish Institute Against Torture)and working across the world, including in Kenya on their contribution to the drafting of the Rules and the conduct of the pilot human rights audits and training of SLCS staff to replicate the exercise. Both RWI and Dignity have previously been involved in reviewing the shortcomings of the 2014 Correctional Act and setting-up the SLCS led Committee to review the Act and draft prison rules in line with the Mandela Rules In December 2016, SLCS with support from UNDP identified additional institutions and stakeholders to be included in the Review Committee, including a drafts person from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Judiciary. The Committee will have its initial meeting in January 2017 when

	Exchange) and develop action plan for improvement.			all stakeholders have returned to office after the holidays. Terms of reference have been developed and will be finalized by the Committee members. The sequencing of activities under the project is being reviewed to ensure that activities are implemented in a sequence to strengthen impact and sustainability of interventions.
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III. Schedule

1. Are all project personnel in country?

The Rule of Law Programme Specialist was in-country at the beginning of the quarter but has been on annual leave by mid-December. The INL Project Manager has been in post throughout the reporting period. The Programme Associate has been in-country for the majority of the reporting period except for a couple of leave days taken to attend to social and family matters.

2. Are project activities Ahead of Schedule, on schedule or behind schedule?

This is on schedule and the preparatory planning and consultation with SLCS and MIA including on the Annual Work Plan 2017 will help expedite implementation.

The project team has developed the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2017 in collaboration with the SLCS and the document is now being reviewed by the Programme Management and Support Unit (PMSU) and the SLCS one final time before signature.

3. List significant project activities/events planned for the next 3 months?

- Development of the Accommodation and Industry Master Plans.
- Conduct pilot human rights audit for Pademba Road Correctional facility
- South – South visit to Kenya Prison Service and related institutions
- Development of new correctional rules for the SLCS.
- Initiation of the pilot Prison Courts and legal aid scheme to reduce the pre-trial and remand detention population.

IV. Other

Recruitment of expertise to support implementation of the project:

The implementation of the SLCS project will involve massive expertise locally and internationally. The project team has started most of the recruitment processes. To ensure celerity, some expertise will be recruited through UNDP rosters while some will be advertised through the normal recruitment channel. These processes might be delayed depending on which is used. The project team will ensure that delays are minimized which will benefit project implementation.

Against this backdrop, it is anticipated that the project will receive support from the retired Director General of the Ghana Prison Department. The idea was flagged to the SLCS Senior Management for their comment and observation. Their comment to the idea seemed to indicate there was little enthusiasm from their end as they considered the Ghana Prison Department to be similar to what obtained in Sierra Leone before the enactment of the SLCS Act of 2014. However, the UNDP project team remains convinced that the SLCS would highly benefit from the expertise of the retired Director General especially vis-à-vis advocacy with government for securing increased support to the Correctional Service and overcoming challenges in a context very similar to the Ghanaian. UNDP has hence invited the retired Director to serve as a guest speaker to the Review Committee in early February 2017 to provide a synopsis of the Ghanaian experience with Prison Reform. This will allow for further exploring and discussion of areas of project support with the SLCS.

IV. Annexes