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United Nations Development Programme

## MCG COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by: Rule of Law Project Manager

Date Submitted: 4 May, 2017

1. MCG Committee Meeting to Discuss 2 Proposals from the Humanist Watch Salone (HUWASAL) and the Prison Watch Sierra Leone (PW-SL) held on May 3, 2017 at UNDP CO Conference Room from 2pm to 3:45pm

2. **Objective:** To discuss the proposals as submitted by partners to ensure they contribute to the overall outcome of the Rule of Law Project and to review budgets developed by UNDP for targeted interventions and to provide clarity as to UNDP corporate requirements for working with NGOs/CSOs.

### 3. Summary:

The Rule of Law Project was developed in 2016 to run from 2017-2019 to support justice and security sector partners within the justice chain to improve the delivery of services closer to the populace. Under the civil society component for 2017, the support will require developing the capacity of a NGO to provide assistance to victims of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) through a grant and establishing local structures to identify gender violence cases, refer and follow up to minimize compromise. In addition, the support would be extended to a non-governmental organization working on corrections reforms, the Prison Watch Sierra Leone (PW-SL). The support to the PWSL will focus on strengthening the justice chain through the assistance in the collection of data and monitoring of the prison courts.

### 4. Project Proposals from HUWASAL and PWSL

Proposals from the IPs together with draft budgets were submitted to the Committee members for the reviews and acquaintance. The HUWASAL provide information on the nature of interventions they will be undertaking in the 3 districts of Kenema, Kono and Kailahun in the East Province. They stated that support will be extended into the Kono district for the first time building on grants they are currently implementing with the UNDEF. Emphasis was laid on anchoring their interventions on community referral structures and focal points they will be establishing to assist them with SGBV occurrences and advocacy on women's rights to property, land and inheritance. The HUWASAL also provided background on the support they have been providing under the SGBV component of UNDP since 2009. This has enabled the HUWASAL to handle over 490 SGBV cases contributing to 132 convictions. With their awareness raising components on women's rights, they have been able to reach over 17,000 people across communities of interventions.

Under the PWSL proposal, they revealed that they would be developing the capacity of 20 monitors who will in turn provide support to the Sierra Leone Correctional Services (SLCS) in the identification of cases that will be heard during the Prison Court that would be organized within the justice and security sector chain. The PWSL will also utilize 12 of the monitors trained to collect data on inmates on lengthy pre-trial detention as well as those detained for minor offences so future scaling up of the Prison Court sittings.

### 5. Comments and Suggestions from MCG Review Panel

After a careful review of the proposals, the Committee provided much useful insights as follows:

- **HUWASAL:** It was recommended that the proposal from the HUWASAL should be slightly revised to take into account the following: a). inclusion of details on communities beneficiaries of the support (name of villages and chiefdoms); b). Request for the partner to make available any data base on previous cases submitted; c). Coordination with the Family Support Unit (FSU) of the Police and harmonization of data with the FSU and with the Legal Aid Board at district levels where both institutions are operating; d). Need to provide clear indication on strides made for sustainability; e). Budget to be reduced to actual interventions UNDP can fund with focus on strengthening monitoring and reporting systems; (including the establishment of referral focal points); f). Budget breakdown by district; g). HUWASAL to throw light on its selection criteria of victims of SGBV and sustainability of their interventions.

Responding to the comments, the HUWASAL revealed that all their SGBV components have been implemented in collaboration with the FSU of the SLP. On the selection criteria, the partner revealed that victims are received based

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on the severity of offences suffered and the vulnerability level of the families. Data harmonization is challenging as not all cases going through the FSU are referred to HUWASAL and vice versa. On the issue of providing further details on community beneficiaries, the partner agreed to provide a revised concept proposal with all data provided. On the issue of existing data developed from previous interventions, the HUWASAL revealed that they have established a data base on all cases previously supported in Kenema and Kailahun and that data is available with details on victims and families beneficiaries under previous support. On the budget breakdown, the intervention with the partner covers 3 districts and all items and persons required to provide support under the project are specifically itemized under the budget. Further breakdown might not present a holistic picture of the support. On sustainability, the partner revealed that most of their interventions were implemented directly with community focal points with the establishment of referrals points and monitors in areas of implementation. In addition, key institutions of redress of SGBV offences such as the FSU of the SLP form an integral part of the IP's implementation strategy. Other structures such as the Rainbow initiatives are constantly engaged and part of partnership.

The IP's proposal was cleared pending the incorporation of recommendations made.

- **Prison Watch Sierra Leone:** The following comments were made by the Committee members: a). The criteria on the reintegration component should be very well defined in advance to avoid raising too much expectation from beneficiaries; b). Details on selection criteria for beneficiary inmates; c). Clarity on number of monitors to support the process; d). Throw light on how cases will be distributed by District.

Responding to the recommendations and comments made, the PWSL clarified that inmates to be reintegrated would be selected from those released during the Prison Court sittings and those coming from distant places would be prioritized and other criteria would be included in the assessment including the vulnerability factor. Further, a total of 20 monitors would be trained and capacitated for the collection of data. 8 out of the 20 monitors would be assigned to collect data across the locations where the Prison Courts will be sitting while 12 out of the 20 will be assigned to collect data on pre-trial detainees across the remaining correctional facilities. Social workers from the PWSL will conduct follow up visits to released inmates.

The IP's proposal was cleared pending the revision of the reintegration component to provide additional clarity and ensure unnecessary expectations are not raised from the part of released inmates.

#### **6. UNDP Corporate requirements:**

The representative from the UNDP Programme Management and Support Unit (PMSU) provided information on the status of assessment for each of the partners. The HUWASAL was HACT-assessed in between 2013-2014 and as such fell out of the programme cycle. However, the UNDP Country Office has conducted monitoring missions covering the partner within the last 2 years. Based on the fact that the HUWASAL last assessment is remote, the PMSU revealed that only a maximum of \$30,000 could be provided to the partner as grant. The partner revealed that their registration certificate has been renewed for 2017 and they have also submitted a copy which has been shared with the Committee.

On the support to the PWSL, it was revealed that they were HACT-assessed in 2016 and were within the UNDP programme cycle. In addition, they have submitted their registration certificate which has also been shared with the Committee members. It was recommended that the entire suggested grant to the PWSL be awarded (\$30,000).

#### **7. Reason for Continuous Engagement of the PWSL and the HUWASAL**

The PWSL has been working on prison reforms for more than 15 years and their work was instrumental in the passing of the Sierra Leone Correctional Services Act, 2014. While they have been consistent in advocating for improved conditions for detainees, they have also maintained an excellent working relationship with the SLCS senior management which has enabled them to gain access to all detention facilities across the country. The PWSL contributed significantly in the implementation of UNDP support during the EVD crisis and they are the only partner to rely on for meaningful work in correctional reforms in Sierra Leone. The HUWASAL has developed a community-led approach to addressing SGBV occurrences in the Eastern Region districts of Kenema and Kailahun since 2009. The approaches include working with community leaders and opinion holders to influence women's participation and address issues of domestic and sexual violence. Their approaches of awareness raising include the utilization of local leaders and other local stakeholders to influence change. Overall, they have through their interventions produced expected results under UNDP interventions including since 2009 the contribution to over 132 convictions on SGBV matters, sensitization on SGBV reaching over 17,000 people and establishing community referral points to sustain their engagements on sexual and domestic violence at community levels. The HUWASAL would be

extending their work to the district of Kono, making it a suitable institution to partner with in the Region on women's human rights.

**8. Projects Budgets**

The project budgets will be finalized together with the MCGs to incorporate all the issues raised by the Committee. The MCGs will be subsequently submitted to the PMSU for final review and clearance before signature by Senior Management.

**9. Conclusion:**

The Committee recommended that agreements to be entered into between UNDP and the 2 IPs should be based on approved budget ceiling and revisions should be made as above recommended.

**10. Follow-up**

The UNDP Focal Point for these MCGs, the ROL Project Manager would ensure finalization of agreements taking into account comments and recommendations made. Further details will be shared with the Committee members.

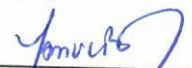
| Actions to be taken   | By Whom  | Expected Completion Date  |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up with ALL IPs to ensure comments and recommendations are incorporated into proposals and budgets</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ROL Project Manager</li> </ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 2 days</li> </ul>                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up with IPs for finalization of MCG Agreement</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ROL Project Manager</li> </ul>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within 2 days</li> </ul>                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up with IPs on Implementation of agreements</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ROL Team</li> </ul>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout project implementation</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up with partners for report submission on implementation</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ROL Project Manager and Team</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly</li> </ul>                         |


**11. Participants at the meeting**

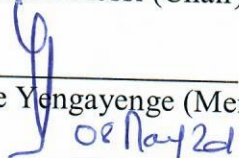
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simonetta Rossi (Chair)</li> </ul>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Daisy Foday (Member)</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Samuel Palmer (Member)</li> </ul>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walter-Neba (Secretary to Committee)</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annette Nalwoga (Member)</li> <li>Carine Yengayenge (Member)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HUWASAL: Christopher Briama (Coordinator); Antonius Lamin Lansana (Programme Manager); PWSL: Mambu Feika (Director); Judith Benjamin (Admin and Information Officer); John Caulker (Finance Manager)</li> </ul> |

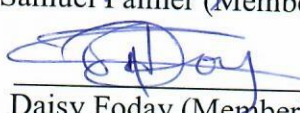
*The following signatures signify that the above participants agree that the content of these minutes is a faithful account of discussions during the above-mentioned meeting of the MCG Committee:*

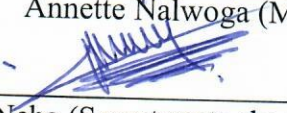
  
Simonetta Rossi (Chair)

  
Samuel Palmer (Member)

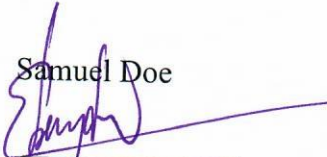
  
Annette Nalwoga (Member)

  
Carine Yengayenge (Member)  
08 May 2017

  
Daisy Foday (Member)

  
Walter-Neba (Secretary to the Committee)

Approved by:

  
Samuel Doe  
Country Director