PROJECT DOCUMENT

"Strengthening Rule of Law and Human Rights to Empower People in Tajikistan, Phase Two"



Project Title: Strengthening Rule of Law and Human Rights to Empower People in Tajikistan, Phase Two

Project Number: 00100592

Implementing Partner: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME in Tajikistan (UNDP)

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PAC Meeting date:

Brief Description

UNDP Tajikistan's "Strengthening Rule of Law and Human Rights to Empower People in Tajikistan – Phase Two" project is the follow-on to the earlier "Strengthening Rule of Law and Human Rights to Empower People in Tajikistan – Phase One" project, which will run from January 2014 to June 2018. It is broadly similar to the first phase, in that it emphasizes access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized persons, but it will build on the achievements and lessons learned of Phase One and will further widen the access to justice for vulnerable and marginalized groups and individuals.

Key activities of the project will include (1) the provision of free legal aid, and the gradual transition to a government-operated and government-funded system of free legal aid; (2) the support of Tajikistan's accession to, and compliance with, various international human rights conventions; (3) continuing support and capacity building of the Tajik Ombudsman's Office, (4) support for policy dialogues on Rule of Law issues at a regional / provincial level across Tajikistan, (5) working to develop a law on free legal aid, and (6) Capacity development of judiciary to enhance quality of information provided to the population.

The vision of the Project is to create a justice system whereby all people in Tajikistan can access justice, by having an affordable, high-quality, state run system of free legal aid, in a country where people, in particular the vulnerable and marginalised, know their rights and duties in respect of free legal aid and accessing justice. Therefore, the Project's Theory of Change reads as follows: If people, in particular the most vulnerable, especially women and persons with disabilities, are empowered to make legal claims in an accessible and effective justice system, while the Government has the capacity to provide free legal aid and engage in policy dialogue with its citizens, then their rights to access justice will be enhanced and protected.

Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD or GPD):

UNDAF: People in Tajikistan have their rights protected and benefit from improved access to justice and quality services delivered by accountable, transparent, and gender responsive legislative, executive and judicial institutions at all levels

Indicative Output(s) with gender marker: GEN2

Total resources required:		
Total resources		
allocated:	MFA Finland:	\$1,857,000
	MFA Norway:	\$300,000
	SDC (parallel funding)	\$1,705,000
	Government:	
	In-Kind:	\$57,0001

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Agreed by (signatures):		
Government	Government	UNDP
Mr. Rustam Shohmurod, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan	Mr. Zarif Alizoda, Human Rights Commisioner of the Republic of Tailtistan	Mr. Jan Harfst, Country Director, UNDP
Date:	Date	Date:
This is the estimated in-kind contribution of	of the government to cover SALAC expenditu	DP 3

I. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Tajikistan is a landlocked, mountainous country in Central Asia. According to the 2010 census the population of Tajikistan was 7.5 million, but with a rapidly expanding population, current estimates place it at 8.5m or slightly higher.² The GDP per capita is \$2,517, making it a low-income country.³ Tajikistan's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2014 is 0.624. This puts the country in the medium human development category, positioning it at 129 out of 188 countries and territories. It is the lowest in the Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States region. Between 1990 and 2014, Tajikistan's HDI value increased from 0.616 to 0.624, an increase of 1.4 per cent or an average annual increase of about 0.06 per cent.⁴

During the period 1996-2014 Tajikistan was in transition from the old Soviet system towards a relatively open democracy, with guaranteed freedoms and free economic development. Reforms have been started in multiple sectors, including in legal aid and civil registration. Despite the progress in the legislative sphere and the commitment by the Government to the reforms, key challenges remain in relation to their implementation, in particular lack of financial means, weak institutional and professional capacities and poor inter-ministerial coordination. Since 2014, a political crackdown or retrenchment has rolled back a number of the country's gains in human rights. However, strengthening rule of law and increasing access to justice issues remain a priority for the Government of Tajikistan, as lack of access to justice and a weak rule of law are perceived as root causes of economic vulnerability, social exclusion, violent extremism and inequalities.

Tajikistan has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.357, ranking it 69 out of 155 countries in the 2014 index. In Tajikistan, 15.2 per cent of parliamentary seats are held by women, and 95.1 per cent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 91.2 per cent of their male counterparts. For every 100,000 live births, 44 women die from pregnancy related causes; and the adolescent birth rate is 42.8 births per 1,000 women of ages 15–19. Female participation in the labour market is 58.9 per cent compared to 77.1 for men.⁵ On the Gender Development Index (GDI)⁶ Tajikistan has a GDI value of 0.952. Tajikistan has a number of formal legal protections for the rights of women; however, the application of these laws is often weak or absent. As the The Asian Development Bank's Country Gender Assessment for Tajikistan notes:

Women face specific barriers to justice, not only in cases of domestic violence, but for other human rights violations, largely due to their frequent lack of legal literacy. Early and polygamous marriages are prohibited under Tajik law, but they nevertheless take place through religious ceremonies. The official number of divorces increased 1.3 times from 2010–2013 (one in every 14 marriages ends in divorce), although the actual divorce rate is higher given the rise in men initiating them through repeating "talaq" (very often conveyed by migrant husbands via telephone or SMS text). For women in unregistered marriages, divorce initiated by "talaq" is sufficient grounds for eviction by in-laws, with no legal rights to claim child support or joint property, as customs do not accord women rights to immovable property...

Judges have very limited experience applying either domestic or international legal norms in gender-based discrimination cases. While more than half of judges (57%) have heard cases concerning violations of the rights and freedoms of women and girls, only 11.2% relied on the Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and

² http://countrymeters.info/en/tajikistan

³ http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/HDI

⁴ Human Development Report 2015, Tajikistan, UNDP available at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/TJK.pdf

⁵ Human Development Report 2015, Tajikistan, UNDP available at http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/TJK.pdf

⁶The GDI measures gender inequalities in achievement in three basic dimensions of human development—health (measured by female and male life expectancy at birth), education (measured by female and male expected years of schooling for children and mean years for adults aged 25 years and older); and command over economic resources (measured by female and male estimated GNI per capita). https://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_themes/country-notes/TJK.pdf

Women... Only 7% of judges applied the provisions of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (in cases involving women or men), and the majority of judges relied only on basic legislation, that is, the Family Code, Criminal Code, and Labor Code, which have limited discrimination provisions.⁷

A national gender policy was passed in 2010, the National Strategy for Enhancing the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan, which listed concrete actions to improve women's participation in education, the labor market, entrepreneurship, and in politics. However, the National Strategy does not identify responsible agencies, and lacks timeframes with milestones, funding sources, and monitoring plans. Furthermore, gender policy at the national level is often not manifested locally, and gender mainstreaming in subnational planning is sporadic or absent. Overall, the Rule of Law extends only intermittently and unreliably to women in Tajikistan.

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) also face major obstacles to accessing justice. While Tajikistan has several laws on the books dealing with PWD issues, in practice these are not effectively enforce. Tajikistan is not a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and does not have a coherent legal framework for dealing with these issues. Mainstreaming of PWDs barely exists. Funding for PWD issues and problems is very low; for legal issues relating to PWDs, it is almost nonexistent.⁸

According to the Constitution, the judiciary in Tajikistan is independent and protects the rights and freedoms of people, state's interests, organizations, institutions, law and justice. Over the past fifteen years, the Tajik government has undertaken a number of legislative and policy reforms to create the framework for an effective justice system. Most of these legislative reforms are of relatively good quality. However, full implementation of laws is lacking behind, and judicial and legal institutions remain constrained by the low level of resources budgeted for this sector. The judicial system remains weak, overburdended and largely under the control of the executive, and tthere is a lack of public trust in the judicial system. The number of qualified criminal lawyers is among the lowest in the world (less than 700 for a country of 8 million people). The Union of Lawyers is new, only weakly funded, and has not firmly established independence. Thus access to justice has been, and remains, a significant development challenge.

The Ombudsman's Office has seen its capacity dramiatically increased in the last five years. The Ombudsman now enjoys widespread political support and is able to effectively investigate and report on a wide range of human rights issues. However, much work remains to be done, particularly in the areas of support for PWD rights, CRPD accession, anti-torture work, and visits to closed and semi-closed institutions.

Theory of Change

Phase I of the Project saw significant progress in the provision of free legal aid. This included the provision of legal aid to over 13,000 people across Tajikistan and the creation of a new government agency (SALAC) within the Ministry of Justice, with responsibility for providing free legal aid. In Phase I, based on CMS data, approximately 68% of the LAC clients were women, about 8% were PWDs, and at least 75% were poor. Other vulnerable groups served by the LACs included refugees, stateless persons, and retired/elderly persons

⁷ "Tajikistan Country Gender Assessment", Asian Development Bank, 2016. Available online at https://www.adb.org/documents/tajikistan-country-gender-assessment-2016.

⁸ Phase One of the project records a specific example from 2015. In the summer of that year, because of an economic slowdown, the Government of Tajikistan issued a decree dismissing all government workers who had income from another government source – i.e., all those who were receiving pensions, veteran's benefits, etc. The policy goal was to give government jobs only to persons who had no other source of income. However, many PWDs receive small government pensions. As a result, these PWDs were fired from their jobs. (Note that this would have been formally illegal if Tajikistan had signed the CRPD). One of the project's lawyers brought two lawsuits on behalf of PWDs; they were settled out of court. Tajik law does not allow for group or class action lawsuits, so the project was unable to directly assist more than a few of the people affected, but as a result of the project's lawsuits the decree was quietly relaxed the following year and some PWDs were able to get their jobs back. That said, it was a clear example of how PWDs lack effective protection under existing law.

⁹ As of December 2016, the total number of consultations funded by MFAF was 13, 182. This number is expected to exceed 16,000 by the end of Phase I.

whose sole or major income was a pension. It is estimated that less than 10% of the LAC clients did not fall into one of these vulnerable groups.

The beneficial effects of free legal aid have been significant. They have included direct economic benefits¹⁰, social benefits, and greatly increased legal knowledge and confidence among clients of the legal aid centers (LACs). These people represent a proof-of-concept: most of them were members of vulnerable groups, but they were able to see their rights protected.

Phase I also seeked to link the provision of free legal aid to a larger pattern of government engagement with legal rights, including (1) dialogue with civil society (through the policy dialogue process); (2) close engagement with, and support to, the Ombudsman's Office; and (3) support to Tajikistan's accession to, and compliance with, international human rights conventions. The experience of Phase I showed that these aspects were interlinked. For instance, the LACs' work with persons with disabilities (PWD) helped the project advocate more effectively for Tajikistan's accession to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.¹¹ In the other direction, work on CEDAW compliance on gender-based violence (GBV) issues led directly to trainings for LAC lawyers on GBV, public outreach on these issues, and close work with SALAC and the Ombudsman's Office on integrating gender issues into their planning. Legal aid through the LACs, the Ombudsman's Office, the work on human rights conventions and the policy dialogue are all connected and can feed into each other. Therefore, the theory of change for Phase II is as follows:

"If people, in particular the most vulnerable, are empowered to make legal claims in an accessible and effective justice system, while the Government has the capacity to provide free legal aid and engage in policy dialogue with its citizens, then legal rights will be enhanced and protected."

II. STRATEGY

Strategic Context

When Phase I was planned in 2013, it was anticipated by both parties — UNDP, and MFA Finland — that if the project was successful, a second phase would likely be required. This was because it was expected that Phase I would see the beginning of a number of initiatives (i.e., the creation of a state-operated system of free legal aid, increasing the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office, bringing the Government to the point of signing CRPD) but would not have time to see them through to completion.

This has been the case. Phase I saw a number of key achievements, including a dramatic expansion of the provision of free legal aid, a broad increase in public awareness of legal rights, the creation of Tajikistan's first Regional Policy Dialogue, and the creation of a new state agency for free legal aid. However, these achievements require further investment in order to be secure. The state agency (SALAC) has been established, but it is very new and is a long way from being sustainable. It still requires significant financial and administrative support and capacity building, including training. The Policy Dialogue meetings at national and regional levels have been steadily expanded, and the fact that the dialogue is ongoing is itself promising given the difficulties of civil society. However, it has only one actual result so far (the Concept on Free Legal Aid) in terms of actual changes to law or policy. In the most recent UPR Cycle (May 2016), the GoT made a commitment to signing the CRPD; at this writing (May 2017), signing is expected in late 2017 but the government will need technical support to achieve accession and real compliance.

¹⁰ No formal analysis of the economic impact of free legal aid in Tajikistan has yet been done. In 2016, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Aid provided the RoL project with a small grant to study the economic and social impact of free legal aid on persons with disabilities (PWDs); as of early 2017 this study is ongoing, and results are expected later this year.

In the summer of 2016, UNDP attempted to make a simple, "back of the envelope" calculation of the impact of free legal aid as part of a Cost-Benefit Analysis for Phase Two of the Access to Justice Project. (A copy of this Cost-Benefit Analysis is attached as Annex #&&.) This calculation suggested that every dollar spent on free legal aid would produce approximately \$2.75 in direct economic benefit – money received by LAC clients such as child support, alimony payments, unblocked pensions, and so forth. The indirect social benefits were estimated to be much higher, but could not be calculated easily.

¹¹ Tajikistan agreed to sign the UNCRPD in May 2016.

Phase II overview; outcomes and anticipated benefits

Like Phase I, Phase II has been developed employing human rights based approach, which helps to understand how laws, social norms, traditional practices and institutional actions negatively or positively affect access to justice for the people of Tajikistan. By adopting a human rights based approach (HRBA), the Project is people-centred and links demand by rights holders for better justice outcomes. Through capacity development of duty-bearers (SALAC, the Ministry of Justice, the Ombudsman's Office, etc.) the project will increase the ability to access justice for rights holders, in particular marginalised groups and individuals, that will lead to better rights protection for all.

This approach implies that a strong emphasis will be placed on the empowerment and participation of the people of Tajikistan, in particular vulnerable groups, especially women and persons with disabilities, in improving access to the justice system. Adopting an HRBA will ensure that the Project's strategies and activities are developed and implemented in a way that supports and promotes self-advocacy, capacity building and empowerment of people in Tajikistan, including vulnerable groups. Crucially, putting a rights-based approach into practice means engaging with the people of Tajikistan to advance their rights, rather than them simply being treated as beneficiaries of interventions. It also implies a robust engagement with the justice system.

Outcomes. The project's activities will be built around two broad outcomes, as follows:

- Vulnerable rural population of Tajikistan, including women and persons with disabilities, enjoy better
 protection of their rights and access to justice and are empowered to defend their rights and
 interests.
- 2. State bodies and justice sector actors are better able to provide access to justice and uphold rule of law and protect the rights of vulnerable people, including women and persons with disabilities.

These outcomes, and the activities anticipated under them, separate broadly into supply and demand-side drivers for reform: Outcome 1 is that people are empowered to defend and demand their rights, while Outcome 2 is that state bodies and justice actors are better able to supply them. The outcomes are similar to the outcomes for Phase I, but have been adjusted to reflect lessons learned (including the 2015-16 midterm evaluation conducted by NIRAS) and changing resources. The outcomes and their associated outputs and activities are discussed in more detail in the next section.

Anticipated benefits. Besides the direct benefit the people of Tajikistan will gain through a state run and funded system of legal aid and in being able to access justice, the State will also benefit since effective legal aid services have been linked to improving the performance of the justice system and public administration in many areas. Data gained through the Case Management System (CMS) can lead to more rational, evidence-based and effective decision-making. This can foster greater social cohesion and increase accountability. A functioning legal aid system, as part of a functioning justice system, has an impact on reducing the length of time suspects are held in police stations and detention centres. It also protects and safeguards the rights of victims in the criminal justice process.

The Project will have a number of benefits. Some of these can be measured in financial terms, for example, retirement and other government benefits, payment of alimony and child support and the transfer of property rights to their rightful owners. Many, however, cannot be measured. For instance, LACs sometimes work to register school-age children with ZAGS so that they can enter school.¹² The benefits of improved childhood enrolment in primary school, while real, are primarily social; any economic benefits will probably accrue after the lifespan of the Project. Similarly, Phase II will work to enhance awareness of legal rights; the benefits of this are real, but will be difficult to measure economically. Some benefits can be partially quantified; for instance, improvements to law enforcement will bring both tangible economic benefits and

¹² CMS data suggests that child registration cases are around 4%-5% of the LACs' work: not a major component, but every LAC will get a number of these cases every year.

less tangible (but still very real) social benefits such as an increase in closed cases, faster and fairer resolution of issues, and so forth.

The anticipated benefits include the following:

- Improved access to justice generally, especially for women and PWDs and particularly in rural areas
- Reduced cost of justice to individuals
- · Improved perception of law enforcement and justice in general
- · Increased transfer of resources to women and children
- · Greater input from civil society, including women's groups, into the process of making law and policy
- Strengthened social contract between rights holders/duty bearers.

Phase II will therefore continue and expand upon the successes of Phase I, while adjusting the outputs and adding several new activities. The new phase will have three major goals: to ensure that high quality free legal aid is widely available to people across Tajikistan, in particular for rural people, women and people in vulnerable situations, such as persons with disabilities; to help Tajikistan accede to, ratify and comply with key international conventions on the rule of law; and to help enhance access to justice services generally for ordinary Tajik citizens.

Gender as a cross-cutting principle

As a cross-cutting principle, Phase Two will continue to engage strongly with issues relating to women's justice needs. Women in Tajikistan are especially adversely affected by lack of access to justice. The experience of Phase I has shown this across a wide range of issues, from alimony and child support to differential treatment in inheritance and property division. This experience has been confirmed by the recent (2016) Gender Assessment for Tajikistan carried out by the Asian Development Bank, which addressed a number of the same issues that the project has regularly seen arise in its work:

The most frequently cited barrier to women accessing justice is their reduced legal literacy. In fact, research shows that citizens on the whole have a poor understanding of their rights and very rarely exercise them to resolve legal problems... A detailed survey of 1,300 women and girls, conducted under an ADB pilot project in four districts of the Rasht Valley demonstrated that women's knowledge of their rights concerning issues that impact them the most is particularly limited. When asked generally what rights women have in Tajikistan, 80% of respondents were unable to answer...

In addition to financial and other constraints, a lack of trust in formal justice mechanisms underpins women's inaction in protecting their rights. Of surveyed women, 10.4% did not exercise their rights because they believed nothing would change. Women are much more likely to approach elder relatives and friends or the mahalla chairperson for legal advice than they are to turn to specialists. Social pressure also restrains women from fully protecting their rights. In rural areas especially, women are "prevented from seeking access to their rights by constraints placed on them by family members and the community."

Therefore, the project will incorporate gender issues into its outcomes wherever possible, and will particularly seek to to address gaps in womens' access to justice.

Lessons Learned

A number of lessons were learned from Phase I. These will inform planning and strategy for Phase II.

The Ministry of Justice has been an effective and helpful partner, and the project has forged a very close
relationship with the current MoJ leadership. While this relationship has been extremely positive, it does
bring the risk that a change in MoJ leadership (i.e., a new Minister) would require a "restart" and the

building of a new set of relationships from scratch. (This is addressed in "Risks", below.) A key lesson learned here is that the ongoing cultivation of a close and trusting relationship with the Ministry, especially at the Deputy Minister / agency head level, is crucial.

- The provision of free legal aid has proven an effective tool for enhancing and protecting legal rights, especially the rights of women, PWDs, the poor, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups.
- The Ombudsman has proven an enthusiastic and effective partner. A change in personnel here is less of
 a concern, as the Project has been deeply involved in creating the structures and policies of the current
 Ombudsman's Office. That said, the Ombudsman is a small office that will continue to need support to
 be an effective advocate for human rights.
- The Policy Dialogues have proven effective in bringing government stakeholders and CSOs together. These stakeholders often do not communicate effectively with each other. Simply getting them in the same room together has been useful and productive. The Regional Policy Dialogues (RPDs) have also proven to be an effective tool for clarifying national policy initiatives to state and nonstate actors at the regional level. RPDs also encourage the flow of information and opinions in the opposite direction, from local to national.
- The Policy Dialogues have proven less effective (so far) in bringing formal, concrete recommendations
 up from a grass-roots level to the government. In part this is because of capacity issues, which are a
 continuing concern throughout the project so far. In part this is because Tajikistan is going through a
 crackdown on civil society at this time, and this is having a chilling effect on the willingness of CSOs to
 offer comments that could be interpreted as criticism.
- The electronic Case Management System (CMS) installed in Phase One has been successfully installed and used. It has great potential for use as an analytical tool; however, at this time it is primarily a tracking and record-keeping system. Up to now, nobody in the Ministry or SALAC currently has the capacity to use CMS to its full potential, i.e. by using it to generate analytical reports. The lesson learned here is that a significant investment in capacity building is required in order to get the most benefits out of this system.
- During tender processes it was noted that many NGO applicants particularly non-national or regional NGOs and CSOs – had difficulty meeting the requirements of a simple tender, in part because of a lack of writing and analytical skills. This is likely to be an ongoing issue. If NGOs are to be long-term partners, someone must engage with them to develop these skills. The CSO Network is aware of this issue and has incorporated it into their planning.
- GoT stakeholders are ambivalent about OPCAT. On one hand, after two years of moving towards OPCAT
 accession, the GoT formally refused agreement to accession in May 2016. On the other, the GoT
 continues to support anti-torture work, and in developing its action plans has included OPCAT-related
 activities. Private discussions with key stakeholders indicate that the OPCAT question is still open.
- GoT stakeholders, especially the MoJ, have been more receptive to the idea of a state-supported free
 legal aid system when it is presented as a system of social aid that tends to support social stability. In
 discussions with GoT stakeholders, the project has consistently emphasized this aspect of the system.
 This should be viewed as the frame for presenting free legal aid and all related activities going forward.

Linkage to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

The universal importance of access to justice and the Rule of Law was reflected most recently in the Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015 by 193 UN member states. The new agenda promotes sustainable development based on peace, just and inclusive societies, respect for human rights, the rule of law and effective and accountable institutions. This project will be linked to three UN SDGs: Goal 16, Goal 10, and Goal 5.

Goal 16 provides new and unprecedented space for strengthening the rule of law, justice, and security and promoting human rights. It commits Member States to: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels." The goal and the entire SDG agenda embrace the core elements of a social contract between state and society, as they seek to ensure a match between people's expectations of what the state and other actors will deliver (the services contained in the goals, as well as safety, rule of law and a fair justice system, legal identity, access to information and opportunities for participation) and the institutional

capacity available within the state and other actors to meet those expectations. The targets for Goal 16 speak to protecting fundamental freedoms, promoting participation, non-discrimination and access to justice, and elevating civil and political rights relative to human rights standards. In particular, Target 16.3 obliges states to "Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all."

The project also links to UN SDG 5, Gender Equality. Goal 5 promotes gender equality and the need for empowerment of all women and girls given their disadvantaged roles and discrimination in many societies. The legal aid work, in particular serves sub-goal 5.2 (eliminating violence towards women and girls), while the Policy Dialogue platform, by including women and women's groups, serves sub-goal 5.5 (women's participation in decision-making).

Goal 10 commits to "reduce inequality within and among countries" and eliminate discrimination in laws, policies and practices. The provision of free legal aid tends to reduce inequality. The project also works to change Tajikistan's laws, both directly (passing new laws such as the Law on Free Legal Aid) and indirectly (passing CRPD and other conventions that will result in multiple reforms to the laws, with most changes tending to reduce or eliminate discrimination.)

Links to Tajikistan's National Development Strategy (2016-2030)

Tajikistan's National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS) describes itself as "a continuous effort to preserve national unity, implementation of principles of social justice and economic effectiveness, ensuring public security and improving wellbeing of the population." Several sections of the NDS are particularly relevant to Phase II of the project. Section 3.1 ("Effective Public Administration") includes a list of several key national priorities; under these, SALAC and the legal aid system connect to Priority 1 ("Enhancing political and legal institutions to ensure fundamental rights"), the Regional Policy Dialogue (Outcome 5) and work with improving gender sensitivity in legislation (Outcome 6) are relevant to Priority 6 ("Enhancing legislation and increasing the quality of the lawmaking process"), and the public awareness and outreach programs connect to Priority 7 ("Enhancing legislation and increasing the quality of lawmaking process"). Further down the document, Section 5.5. ("Social Welfare") does not mention CPRD directly, but does cover "the social protection of vulnerable groups (including Persons with Disabilities) under Priority 3. Finally, legal aid also links to Section 5.8 ("Reducing Social Inequality"), Priority 2 ("Improving access to basic social services"), as the GoT has made it clear that it views access to legal aid as a basic social service.

The proposed Outcomes to Phase II are also consistent with the current (2015-2017) Judicial Legal Reform Program (JLRP) of the Republic of Tajikistan¹⁴, particularly Part VII ("Evolvement of Free Legal Aid") and the recommendations dealing with the improvement of forensics.

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Expected Results: Outcomes and Outputs

OUTCOME 1: Vulnerable rural populations of Tajikistan, particularly women and persons with disabilities, enjoy better protection of their rights and access to justice and are empowered to defend their rights and interests.

Rural populations in Tajikistan have significantly less access to government services generally, and to access to justice in particular. In Phase I, most ROL LACs were located in Tajikistan's smaller cities and towns; only one was located in Dushanbe, while more than half were located in towns with 20,000 people or less. This trend is expected to continue through Phase Two.

¹³ Mid-Tem Development Programme for the Republic of Tajikistan 2016-2030. The "Program" mentioned here is the current judicial reform program, which ends in 2017.

¹⁴ The current JLRP expires at the end of Phase I. A new JLRP is expected to be approved in the second half of 2017.

Output 1. Women and PWDs in targeted areas gain increased legal literacy, human rights awareness, and access to legal information, and are better able to access national laws and institutions to defend their rights and interests.

In Phase I, the project worked on education and empowerment of women in two particular target areas – Rasht and Ghanchi. In Phase II, the project will continue working in these areas, but will expand to a third town (Panjikent) as well.¹⁵

The project will support implementation of the "State Programme on Human Rights Education for 2013-2020", particularly activities related to persons with disabilities and issues of domestic violence. This will be an "opportunistic" activity that will depend on the particular needs of the communities in Phase II, as brought out in discussions with OPWDs, other CSOs, and possibly through the Regional Policy Dialogues. Pursuant to this, the project may conduct public awareness activities in target areas on human rights and access to justice issues. Educational activities may be conducted through local NGOs. If resources allow, the project may undertake activities related to judicial and/or legislative transparency. 17

Output 2. Regional Policy Dialogues become a key platform for advocating policy change, and regional civil society has the capacity to contribute effectively.

Regional Policy Dialogues. Regional policy dialogues are held every six months in a different one of Tajikistan's four regions (oblasts).18 RPDs were instituted because senior policy makers rarely visited the oblasts, and almost never did so in a coordinated manner. The RPDs bring together policy makers from the capital including the Minister of Justice and other high-ranking officials; local authorities; and local NGOs and representatives of civil society. The RPDs to date have been successful both at bringing forward local concerns to central policy makers and at communicating central policy to local actors. It is anticipated that this activity should and will continue into Phase II, with an expansion of the role of CSOs, enhanced connection with the national-level Policy Dialogue, and possibly linkages to work on the conventions in Output Two. For instance, once the CRPD is signed, Regional Policy Dialogues could be used to collect local input on compliance with the Convention, and also to communicate the intentions of central policymakers as compliance moves forward. This same process may be used for the Law on Free Legal Aid once it is passed. Work with regional CSOs. The long-term goal will be to make the RPDs an independent and sustainable activity that will continue after the project has shut down. This may require the establishment of one or more permanent staff positions in the MoJ and/or the creation of a secretariat, possibly associated with the CSO Network. As part of this, the project will provide capacity development to regional CSOs on issues that are expected to come up before the RPDs, particularly CEDAW, CRPD, and gender and disability related issues generally. At least 20 regional CSOs will be given training on analyzing data in order to make policy recommendations; it is anticipated that most of these will eventually make presentations at RPDs. Of these

¹⁵ Project staff are familiar with Rasht and Ghanchi and have built up contacts there. Panjikent was chosen because it is distant from, and socioeconomically different from, the other two, and also because it has an active CSO community. A number of lessons were learned from this experience (see the Annual Report for 2016) about coordinating among various agencies; these will be applied going forward.

¹⁶ It will be "opportunistic" because the State Programme is not very detailed on these issues. That said, it was a step forward for the State Programme to even address these issues at all, and it does provide a framework for cooperation with the GoT on new issues as they arise – subject, as always, to availability of resources.

¹⁷ The project has a draft Concept Note for an activity on judicial transparency, and the CTA has been trying to secure donor funding for it. There is an ongoing legislative transparency activity under the SDC-funded Access to Justice project, which supports a website that makes laws and regulations available to the public.

¹⁸ To date, RPDs have been held in three of the four regions: Sughd, Khatlon, and the Region of Republican Subordination (Rasht). The fourth region, GBAO, is in eastern Tajikistan; it is the largest, most mountainous, least populous and most distant of the four. Although GBAO includes more than half of Tajikistan's land surface, only about 5% of the population lives there. Traveling to GBAO can be challenging, especially in winter. Because of this, in Phase I the project has not held a Regional Policy Dialogue in GBAO yet. It is hoped that this will happen at least once in Phase II, but this will depend on timing, availability of resources, and commitment from local counterparts, especially MoJ.

regional CSOs, at least two will be women's CSOs, and at least two will be OPWDs.19 The project will also strengthen regional CSOs' capacity to monitor secondary free legal aid.

OUTCOME 2: State bodies and justice sector actors are better able to provide access to justice and uphold rule of law and protect the rights of vulnerable people, including women, and persons with disabilities.

Output 3. A sustainable state-run system of primary free legal aid is developed, which will provide highquality free legal aid, particularly to women and PWDs.

The project worked to provide free legal aid all throughout Phase I. The goals in Phase II will be to (1) complete the transfer to a system that is 100% operated and at least 70% funded by the government, and (2) make the system long-term sustainable, while ensuring that (3) it continues to be free to most people; (4) continues to provide high-quality legal aid; and (5) continues to be particularly sensitive to the needs of women and PWDs.

Support to SALAC LACs. Phase I has been supporting the SALAC LACs with financial support to salaries, office rental, and so forth. The GoT has partially matched this with in-kind contributions, namely office space and the use of government facilities. This will continue into Phase II. At this time, half of all SALAC LACs are supported by the RoL project, and half are supported by its sister project, the SDC-funded Access to Justice Project (SDC A2J). This, too, will continue through Phase II20.

It is anticipated that financial support to the SALAC LACs will begin to decrease in 2019 as the Government assumes more of the financial burden of supporting the LACs. In 2019 the government should provide 30% of financial support, rising to 50% in calendar year 2020. By the end of Phase II (December 2021), the government should be providing 70% of all financial support to the SALAC LACs. UNDP will facilitate dialogue between the MoJ and the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the necessary funding is made available.

Phase II will also provide other forms of support to the SALAC LACs, including training, capacity development, and the development of referral paths both into and out of the LACs. In particular, the project will work to maintain and expand the referral paths that have been developed with Women's Resource Centers, such as those that are currently being operated across the country by OSCE.21

Number of persons assisted. The number of persons expected to be assisted by Finnish-funded LACs will be as follows.

Table 1 Numbers of persons assisted by RoL LACs, 2018-2021

Year	SALAC LACS Supported by RoL project	Anticipated number of clients per SALAC LAC	Total SALAC clients	Ombudsman LACs Supported by RoL project	Anticipated number of clients per Ombudsman LAC	Total Ombudsman clients	Total clients (SALAC + Ombudsman)
2018	10	216	2,160	3	240	720	2,880
2019	12	252	3,024	3	180	540	3,564
2020	15	288	4,320	3	120	360	4,680
2021	15	300	4,500	3	120	360	4,860
Total	clients served	, 2018-21	14,004			1,980	15,984

¹⁹ Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPWDs) in Tajikistan are generally organized at the national level, so the project may work with a regional branch or chapter instead.

²⁰ At least until November 2020.

²¹ The referral paths were developed originally in 2015, and are intermittently renewed. The idea is simply to refer women who have complex needs from our LACs (which can only help with legal matters) to their WRCs (which cannot give much legal assistance, but can help women with counseling, medical help, finding a job, etc.) The idea is simple, but the execution is complicated by the fact that LACs and WRCs are not always located in the same towns.

The table does not include NGO-funded LACs, because the RoL project will no longer be funding these in Phase II.²² Swiss LAC numbers are included in Table &&, below.

The figures for "anticipated numbers of clients/LAC" change over time for both the SALAC and Ombudsman LACs. In the case of the SALAC LACs, this is because the experience of the project has shown that it takes at least two years for a LAC to "ramp up" to full production. This is partly because LAC lawyers become more efficient with experience, and partly because most LACs are located in small cities and towns where "word of mouth" is the strongest advertisement. The Ombudsman's LACs are currently processing about 27-30 clients/month, or 330 to 360/year. They can do this because they have been established for years and the lawyers are very experienced. The SALAC LACs are expected to start at 18 clients/month, or 216/year, and gradually rise to about 25 clients/month over the course of Phase II. (Note that since SALAC is constantly opening new LACs, at all times it will be a mixture of older LACs with newer, less productive centers.)

The Ombudsman LACs move in the other direction: from their current level of processing 330-360 clients per year, they will steadily decline until 2020, when they will only process about 120 per year. This is because the Ombudsman LACs are expected to gradually move to a "hybrid" model, where they are providing some legal aid, but also are spending much of their time and effort monitoring the local human rights situation, reviewing human rights complaints, and generally acting as satellite offices of the Ombudsman.²³

The total number of clients anticipated is therefore **15,984.** Of this figure, it is expected that at least 65%, or **10,390**, will be women. It is further expected that at least 6%, or **959**, will be PWDs.

The 6% figure for PWDs is lower than the comparable figure for Phase 1, which was 8%. This is because Phase 1 had a single LAC that was dedicated to PWDs. It is not clear whether SALAC will be willing and able to support sich a specialized LAC. The project will encourage SALAC to do so, in order to ensure the PWDs have equal or at least comparable access to free legal aid; until a commitment has been made, however, it is more appropriate to use a more conservative figure.

<u>Support to SALAC administration</u>. SALAC came into existence in early 2016. As with the LACs, Phase I is currently funding half of the cost of the new SALAC administration, with the other half coming from the SDC A2J project. This will continue through Phase II; as above, the government will gradually take on increased financial responsibility, rising to 70% by 2021.

In addition to direct financial support, Phase II will provide SALAC's administration with training, organizational and technical assistance, and capacity development, and may fund a study tour in 2018 or 2019. It is intended that, by the end of Phase II, SALAC will be fully able to carry out its duties from a technical and administrative point of view²⁴ and will not need any further capacity development.

New law on free legal aid. Currently, the provision of free legal aid is governed by the "Concept on Free Legal Aid" passed in July 2015. However, this is a Presidential decree rather than a law. It was sufficient to allow the creation of SALAC, but will require additional expansion and codification to support the long-term establishment of a state system of free legal aid. Work on this may begin in 2017, but it will certainly continue into Phase II.

<u>Legal aid studies</u>. The project will help SALAC and other stakeholders conduct legal-aid related studies and research in order to target aid effectively. It is expected that at least two studies will be carried out in Phase II, each focusing on a particular aspect of free legal aid, whether legal, social, or economic. One possible study could be on the economic impact of free legal aid, which would allow a proper calculation of the cost-effectiveness of money spent. Another could be a short survey of private lawyers and law firms on their pro bono work, to see how it is carried out and how it might interact with state-supported free legal aid. Yet

²² The last NGO-operated LAC under the Rule of Law project closed in November 2016. A single NGO-run LAC is expected to operate for six months in July-December 2016, but while it will be under the Rule of Law project, it will be cofounded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

²³ This transformation is consistent with the recommendations made by Mr. Mikko Puumalainen, former Ombudsman of Finland, in his Functional Analysis of the Ombudsman's Office, carried out in 2014. Mr. Puumailainen praised the efforts of the Ombudsman's LACs, but also noted that over time they should move away from the business of providing legal aid, as this would gradually be taken over by SALAC. In 2014 SALAC did not exist, but in Phase II the project will begin carrying out Mr. Puumailainen's recommendations.

²⁴ From a financial point of view, it will continue to need support until the end of 2022.

another might be a gap analysis of access to justice for PWDs; the project has a great deal of anecdotal evidence on this, but no formal analysis has ever been done.

Output 4. High quality secondary free legal aid is provided via SALAC and the Union of Lawyers.

The project's LACs have occasionally provided secondary free legal aid (SFLA) – that is, legal aid that involves going to court, or to a similar hearing in front of some state body. SFLA is distinct from primary free legal aid (PFLA), which merely involves counselling, advice, and assistance short of an actual trial or court hearing. Historically, most of the LACs' work has been PFLA; only about 1% of all LAC clients have had cases that needed to go to trial.²⁵

Secondary free legal aid. The Government of Tajikistan has been planning for years to develop an organized system of free legal aid to criminal defendants. (A system exists, but it is severely flawed and is not giving good results.) There is strong political support for this within the government.²⁶ Beginning in Q3 2017, Phase I will begin piloting a system of secondary free legal aid for criminal defendants. The initial pilot programme expected to be in four districts outside of Dushanbe. Two will work through SALAC, while the other two will work through the newly organized Union of Lawyers.

Assuming that the pilot programme shows good results, it will be modestly expanded in Phase II. It is not anticipated that Phase II can possibly support a complete criminal defense system for Tajikistan. Rather, the goals will be (i) to have a clearly functional, fully sustainable model of criminal defense operating in several locations in line with UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice System; (ii) to be able to determine which model (SALAC, Union of Lawyers, both depending on location, or something else entirely) is most effective and appropriate; and (iii) to attract either donor cofunding, or funding by the GoT, to continue and expand the programme beyond the end of Phase II.

In addition to direct financial support, this activity may include training, capacity development, public outreach, and workshops with judges, prosecutors and police to introduce the new system. This activity will be divided more or less evenly between the Swiss A2J project and the Rule of Law project.²⁷

Table 2 Secondary free legal aid

Year	Total number of districts with state-provided secondary free legal aid (SFLA)	clients per district	Total SFLA clients
2018	4	15	60
2019	6	20	120
2020	8	20	160
2021	10	20	200
Total clients	served, 2018-21		540

The number of clients will rise only once (from 15 per district in 2018 to 20 per district thereafter) because piloting will already begin in 2017, and also because most of the providers will already be experienced criminal aid providers. Therefore, it is expected that the ramp-up will be faster than with primary free legal

²⁵ While SFLA cases only accounted for about 1% of all LAC cases, the LAC lawyers, in the aggregate, spent about 10% of their time on these cases. This is because SFLA cases are usually much more complex and time-consuming than ordinary client cases.

²⁶ This may seem paradoxical, given that Tajikistan does not have a strong record of respecting the human rights of criminal defendants. However, the GoT is actually embarrassed by this, and wants to improve. It should be noted that the vast majority of criminal cases in Tajikistan do not have a political element.

²⁷ "More or less" meaning about 50%, with some variation possible because the different pilot districts may generate different costs. The goal is to divide the costs as equally between both projects as possible.

aid. The total numbers are much smaller because secondary free legal aid is much more time-consuming than primary. Many primary cases can be handled in a few hours, with a phone call or two or simply by directing the client to the right office. Secondary cases, on the other hand, are court cases; at a minimum they involve court appearances, and they may often involve going to trial. It is expected that they will take days or weeks of a lawyer's time. Also, secondary cases may be particularly time-sensitive, as it is important to ensure that the accused person gets access to legal aid early in the criminal justice process.²⁸

Many or most SFLA cases will be criminal cases. As a result, the number of female clients is expected to be much lower. Based on available evidence, women are less than 5% of all criminal cases and less than 2% of all convicts in the prison system. The RRF tentatively assigns a figure of 5% to women clients. If the actual figure is lower, the project may consider asking SALAC and the Union to give priority to women in providing FSLA.

SFLA will require the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation system. At the heart of this will be an electronic Case Management System (CMS). It is expected that the CMS system will be based on an existing system already developed by the American Bar Association (ABA-ROLI) for the Union of Lawyers, and further that it will be deployed by early 2018 at the latest. Like the existing CMS for primary FLA, this one will monitor all cases, with information about the nature of the case, demographic data about the client, amount of time spent, and resolution. It will also include the ability to randomly assign cases to lawyers within a district.²⁹

<u>Legislative analysis</u>. There is not currently any analysis of legislation relating to the provision of free legal aid. As noted, the constitutional right in criminal cases has existed for many years, but while legislation has mentioned it, the details have not been effectively addressed. The project will conduct an analysis of existing legislation and regulations, and will provide the GoT with a report with recommendations for legislative amendments.

<u>Output 5. The capacity of national human rights and justice institutions to implement international human rights standards is increased.</u>

Tajikistan completed its most recent (second) UN Universal Periodic Review in May 2016. Based on that, the GoT has made a number of commitments to changes in its human rights framework (for instance, to sign and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and has developed a draft National Action Plan for carrying out these commitments. The project will work with the GoT on particular conventions (CRPD, CEDAW, OPCAT) while remaining ready to act "opportunistically" to advance accession or compliance when necessary.

This output includes general support to the Ombudsman's Office, including support in protecting and promoting human rights, including the development of expertise related to gender equality and issues of persons with disabilities. In particular, the Ombudsman's Office should be able to comply with the Paris Principles, and should also be capable of implementing a National Preventive Mechanism against torture. (There is not currently an NPM, but the GoT has left the option on the table.) The project will also help the Ombudsman's Office carry out the goals of its current Strategic Plan for 2016-2020³⁰, and will help it draft a new Strategic Plan for the next five years (2021-25).

Continuing support to Ombudsman's Office. Phase I has supported the Ombudsman's Office since the beginning, with training, technical support, consulting services, development of materials, a study tour, and more. A particularly close and special relationship with the Finnish Ombudsman's Office has developed, which has included two trips to Finland.³¹ As a result, the Ombudsman's Office has grown dramatically in terms of budget, number of employees, competence, capacity, and public image. It is still a small office and it still faces significant constraints, both internal (funding, capacity) and external (political and legal limits on

²⁸ A useful reference here is UNODC's guidebook on justice and prison reform, which includes a discussion of legal aid. See http://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/eBook-early access to legal aid.pdf.

²⁹ Where possible, this system will be designed to follow international best practices, particularly UN guidelines (see footnote immediately previous).

³⁰ Drafted with project assistance in 2015.

³¹ The Tajik Ombudsman was also invited to visit the Finnish Delegation to the United Nations in New York in May 2015.

its activities). Nonetheless, the Ombudsman's Office of Tajikistan must be considered one of the major success stories of Phase I.³²

Phase II plans to continue this engagement. As in Phase I, this will include training, capacity building, and technical support. Cooperation with SDC A2J will continue. However, the assistance will be more advanced and more targeted, as the Ombudsman's Office is already capable of functioning at a basic level. Specialized trainings may include how to defend the rights of particular groups – i.e., children, refugees, or people with disabilities – how to develop and implement long-term strategies, and how to negotiate and interface effectively with other government agencies. The long-term goal will be to have a strong, sustainable, independent Ombudsman's Office that complies with the Paris Principles and that is able to effectively advance human rights across Tajikistan. Consistent with this, the project will work to convince the GoT to establish a National Preventive Mechanism against torture. The Ombudsman's office should also be able to conduct trainings on the monitoring of trials, courts, police and so forth, and ideally would also have the capacity to produce special reports highlighting issues of access to justice and/or providing recommendations to the justice sector.

The project will also work to ensure that the Ombudsman's Office continues to be an effective protector of the rights of women and PWDs. In 2015-16, the project helped the Office develop a gender analysis and conduct gender sensitivity trainings. This work will continue, and will be expanded to include work on and with PWD issues.

Upgrading the Ombudsman's Office from "B" to "A status. The current National Action Plan on the Universal Periodic Review has the Ombudsman's Office fulfilling all the formal requirements to acheive "A" status by the end of 2020. (Note that this is not the same as actually receiving accreditation to "A" status.) This is optimistic but the project will be engaged with the relevant committees. The government has stated that it will produce an action plan for achieving "A" status by the end of 2017. If it appears that the project can intervene effectively to assist the Ombudsman's Office in accomplishing this, it will do so, subject as always to availability of resources.

CRPD. The GoT agreed to ratify the CRPD in May 2016. However, it is still some distance away from joining. The current draft Action Plan envisions signing by the end of 2017, but ratification only by the end of 2020. Much work remains to be done to prepare Tajikistan for ratification and full compliance. In the summer of 2015, the project prepared a report that can serve as a road map for many of the activities (training, public outreach, development of new standards, etc.) that will be required. In Phase II the project will work with this road map to help the GoT make the necessary reforms. It will also conduct an analysis on the exact sets of changes that need to be made to existing legislation. (The 2015 analysis covered part of this ground, but did not go into detail, and also will be three years out of date by the beginning of Phase II.)

The project will also conduct workshops and seminars with key stakeholders on international standards and norms of national legislation related to PWD rights. Activities along these lines were carried out in 2015-16, but there have been none since the new UPR cycle began in June 2016. The emphasis will be on preparing key stakeholders for full accession by 2020 and for compliance thereafter.

The project will continue to coordinate with the UN Promotion of the Rights of People with Disabilities (PRPD) project and WHO on PWD issues, as it has in Phase I.³³

<u>Support to OPCAT; Anti-torture; Visits to closed and semi-closed institutions</u>. During Phase I, the project worked on a number of UN conventions. For instance, the project was a member of the Anti-Torture coalition of NGOs and INGOs, participating in a variety of activities including prison visits and the training of doctors to detect torture, and supporting the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism. This led to some positive results, but it did not lead to the creation of an NPM, nor to the hoped-for outcome of Tajikistan

³² This is one of several areas where success is due in part to the very close cooperation with the SDC A2J sister project. A2J focused more on consulting and analysis, while Phase I RoL activities emphasized training and capacity development, but the two projects were complementary and mutually supporting.

³³ PRPD and WHO work on different issues with PWDs, i.e. WHO focuses on health issues such as access to treatment, prosthetics, medical training and the like. There's no direct overlap, but in Phase One the project stayed in contact with them and met from time to time to discuss common issues.

joining OPCAT. At the Universal Periodic Review of May 2016, the recommendation that Tajikistan should join OPCAT was "noted", meaning that the GoT had no intention at that time of joining.

That said, work with OPCAT compliance in general, and the Anti-Torture Coalition in particular, will be continued in Phase II. Based on private discussions with Ministry staff, the project's management believes that the decision not to join OPCAT represented a delay rather than a permanent rejection. The GoT continues to support anti-torture initiatives and OPCAT is still on the table.³⁴

The project will continue to support work towards eventual OPCAT accession, possibly in the next UPR cycle. It will also continue to support anti-torture work and the Commission's visits to closed and semi-closed institutions, including with technical support insofar as resources allow. Insofar as it appears feasible, it will work towards the eventual development of the "Ombudsman-Plus" model of OPCAT compliance.

Opportunistic support to other conventions as needed. While keeping its main focus on CRPD, the project will stand ready to engage opportunistically with other conventions as they arise. At this time, there are a number of other international conventions that are under consideration by the GoT. It is not currently possible to guess which ones might plausibly be supported in 2019 or 2020. However, throughout Phase II the project will remain alert to opportunities to support those conventions that will enhance the rule of law.

Support to the Forensic Center at the Ministry of Justice. MoJ has requested support for its new Forensic Center. Phase I of the project supported the creation of Tajikistan's first DNA lab. This would be a logical extension, and would also fit the general goal of enhancing access to justice services. The Forensic Center will provide analysis of evidence for police, prosecutors, and other rule of law stakeholders. It will need equipment, training, and outreach to police and prosecutors to make sure they understand how to interact with it (i.e., evidence chains). This would be ongoing throughout Phase II.

<u>Technical assistance on gender analysis.</u> UNDP will provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice and to the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan to develop their capacity on gender analysis of legislation to advance gender equality in lawmaking and policy reforms. Currently, this capacity is quite limited or entirely lacking. The MoJ regularly drafts legislation, particularly in the Rule of Law field, but has no personnel who are particularly trained in gender analysis of legislation or in drafting legislation that is gender-sensitive. The Parliament rarely drafts legislation but regularly reviews and approves it; here, too, there is almost no capacity for gender analysis. This has been remarked upon by donors (for instance, in the Rule of Law Working Group) for years, but up until now no donor has engaged with the issue.

The project will provide training, which may involve bringing in an outside expert (possibly from UNDP's Istanbul Regional Hub), and will follow up with gender analyses of Rule of Law-related legislation that is passed during the course of Phase II.

<u>Data collection: Gender.</u> The CEDAW Committee has drawn attention to the "lack of detailed statistical data, disaggregated by sex, age and nationality" of particularly disadvantaged groups of women, including refugees, seniors, migrants, women left behind by male migrants, and the disabled of all ages. The project is very aware of this problem; for instance, attempts to get information on PWDs for an analysis of their legal needs found that there is little or no segregated information on the number of PWDs by gender, age, or types of disability.

The project lacks resources to do detailed statistical work, as this can be quite expensive. However, the project will explore using micronarratives and other means of alternative data collection in order to improve access to useful data. Phase I has already taken a first step in this direction by using a small grant from the Dutch MFA -- \$27,000 – to fund a study on the social and economic impact of free legal aid on PWDs.

³⁴ Tajikistan has a somewhat negative image as a poor human rights performer. In the case of anti-torture initiatives, this is undeserved. The GoT appears to be sincerely opposed to torture and has been willing to allow the Anti-Torture Coalition to carry out its work. It has not made this a top priority, but neither has it actively resisted the ATC's efforts.

Output 6. State bodies and justice sector actors are better able to provide access to justice and uphold rule of law and protect the rights of vulnerable people, including women and persons with disabilities.

The analysis of legal aid consultations provided to the population by the State Agency 'Legal Aid Centre' shows that women comprise about 2/3 of legal aid clients, while persons with disabilities comprise 8.4%. In view of this, the project will contribute to better protection of the rights of vulnerable population groups, especially rural women and persons with disabilities. The project will target the staff of the Supreme Court, specifically the Press Secretaries and Focal Points of the Supreme Court at the national and regional levels for more effective and transparent communication of court decisions. The project will also target mass media representatives for more effective media coverage of court decisions.

Funding and Resources

Funding. Phase I was originally designed to last exactly four years, from January 2014 to December 2017. However, in September 2015 the Agreement between UNDP and MFA Finland was amended to add an additional six months to the project's lifespan, extending it to June 2018. No additional funds were provided for this extension. Instead, the annual budgets for 2016 and 2017 were cut to provide a "rump" budget of EUR 150,000 for the half-year in 2018. This Note assumes that this payment will continue, but that it will now overlap with the first year of Phase II. This gives the following overall funding levels from MFA Finland:

Table 3 Funding from MFA, by calendar year

Year	Phase II funding, '000s of EUR
2018	300 (+ 150 from Phase I)
2019	45035
2020	500
2021	450
Total for Phase II:	1,700

SDC and the Access to Justice project. Co-funding for work with legal aid will come from the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC). SDC currently funds the Access to Justice project, which is complementary to the Rule of Law project and shares staff and office space. In November 2016, SDC approved a second phase for the Access to Justice Project; this phase began in December 2016 and will continue until November 2020. The exact level of SDC funding for legal aid will vary from year to year, as Access to Justice funds a number of other activities, but will be in excess of \$150,000 per calendar year through 2020.

At this time, project staff reasonably expect, based on discussions with SDC, that SDC may fund a third phase for the Access to Justice project. However, this will not be confirmed until early 2020 at the earliest. Therefore, this document makes the conservative, worst-case assumption that SDC funding will end in November 2020.

<u>UNDP resources</u>. Over the period December 2016-November 2020, SDC will invest about \$1.7 million in supporting free legal aid. This money will be spent through the SDC-supported UNDP Access to Justice project, in parallel with MFAF funding of the Rule of Law project. SDC will also invest in the policy dialogue

³⁵ In an e-mail dated 11 November 2016, the MFA set out a proposed budget for Phase II. The budget given here is identical to that proposed budget, with one exception: it moves EUR 50,000 of spending from 2021 to 2019, since otherwise 2019 will be an unusually "thin" year with just EUR 400,000 of spending. In an e-mail exchange on 3 February 2017, the project CTA asked MFA if EUR 50,000 could be moved from 2021 to 2019, and was told that it might be possible. This budget assumes that it will be.

at the national level, which will support and coordinate with the MFAF-funded Regional Policy Dialogues. For the duration of SDC Phase II (November 2020), administrative costs will be split between the two projects equally.

UNDP can also access a number of non-financial internal resources, including experts from its Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH). This proved useful in Phase I, when IRH, jointly with the OHCHR Regional Office of Central Asia, convened the first ever Regional Consultation for Central Asian NHRIs in November 2016 in order to promote sub-regional cooperation and peer-to-peer support between NHRIs of Central Asia. The Conference resulted in a number of recommendations to strengthen the role of NHRIs in Central Asia in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in a human rights compliant manner. The outcomes of the Conference indicate that NHRIs in Central Asia would benefit significantly from a sub-regional approach for the many advantages it brings. It is believed that peer-to-peer support among NHRIs in the region can greatly enhance their knowledge and professionalism, and ultimately impact national policy formulation and implementation that is compliant with international human rights standards. Work with this will continue through Phase II, subject to available resources.

The Rule of Law Project is also in regular contact with its sister project in Kyrgyzstan (also Finnish-funded), and the two regularly exchange information. In Phase II this cooperation will be strengthened and may include one or more site visits between the two projects.

Partnerships

<u>Ministry of Justice</u>. The primary partner to the Project is the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan (MoJ) and its subordinated bodies, particularly SALAC. The MoJ as the senior beneficiary of the project will be closely involved in the implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation of programmatic results. The MoJ will also continue to chair the National and Regional Policy Dialogues.

The Project built a strong relationship with the Ministry in Phase I; it is anticipated that this will continue into Phase II. This relationship extends to SALAC, which is to a great extent the creation of the Project. At this time, SALAC is dependent on the Project for technical and administrative support. It is anticipated that over the period 2017-19, SALAC will gradually grow to be largely independent of this type of support.

The Ombudsman's Office. The Ombudsman's Office is also a major strategic partner of the project. The Ombudsman's Office is responsible for a number of key initiatives, including Tajikistan's interaction with several key international conventions; it advocates for signing and accession (i.e., in the cases of CRPD and OPCAT) and also monitors compliance with conventions that Tajikistan has already signed. It is also the GoT partner in the Anti-Torture Coalition. Like MoJ, Ombudsman's Office will also play a key role in the Policy Dialogue between the State Institutions and CSOs. Under the present initiative, the Ombudsman's Office will be specifically engaged and contribute to implementation of Output 2, namely in advocacy for ratification of OPCAT as well as UNCRPD.

The project intends to continue enhancing the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office to comply with Paris Principles and support the creation of National Preventive Mechanism – the "Ombudsman plus" model - to conduct monitoring of closed and semi closed facilities. Additionally, the project will continue to support and strengthen the capacity of local representations of Ombudsman to provide legal aid for marginalized and vulnerable population, including women and persons with disabilities.³⁶

<u>The Union of Advocates</u>. The Union of Advocates is the new national Bar Association, which replaced the old system (of multiple regional bar associations) in 2015. The Union may be an important secondary partner, though this depends sensitively on the development of the Union over the next year.³⁷ After four years of Phase I, the Project is now familiar with most of the key players in civil society, and can adapt its

³⁶ The project has supported two or three of these "Ombudsman LACs" throughout Phase I.

³⁷ The Union of Advocates is new, and is currently quite small, with less than 500 qualified members. It remains to be seen whether it will have the capacity to serve as a key partner in Phase II.

strategy to fit their particular strengths and capacities. (The Union of Advocates is a partial exception here, as it is a new organisation that is still undergoing development.)

OHCHR. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) will also support implementation of Output 2, and will specifically be involved in strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ombudsman's Office. OHCHR will also contribute to advocacy efforts for accession/ratification of UNCRPD, OPCAT, and compliance with CEDAW. While doing so, OHCHR will work closely with and build technical capacity of the NGO Coalitions, particularly the NGO Coalition on CRPD and the NGO Coalition Against Torture. The project anticipates close cooperation with OHCHR and possible co-funding, depending on how closely project activities align with OHCHR's capacities.

<u>UNICEF</u>. Through its programmes aimed at supporting child care reforms and juvenile justice system reform, UNICEF aims to (1) increase the number of children referred to preventive and alternative community based centres for correctional rehabilitation, and (2) increase cases of children heard in child friendly courts presided by specially assigned judges. Through existing platforms for dialogue such as the DCC Working Group on Rule of Law and Access to Justice, Policy Dialogue group meetings, etc., UNDP will ensure joint policy formulation and implementation efforts of UNDP and UNICEF as well as other key development players so that vulnerable population groups have enhanced access to justice.

<u>CSO Network.</u> The CSO Network is a loose "umbrella" organization of Civil Society Organizations; it currently has 17 members, including three women's CSOs and two OPWDs. It was established in 2016 with Project assistance. It is expected that it will be a secondary partner to the Project throughout Phase Two. The Network's primary function will be to deliver recommendations and other inputs into the Policy Dialogue; however, the Project will be alert to opportunities to use the Network in other ways, thus building its capacity and strengthening the ability of member CSOs to influence public policy and law.

NGO Coalition on CRPD and the NGO Coalition Against Torture. The project has worked with these two NGO Coalitions throughout Phase I, and will continue to do so in Phase II. If resources allow, the project may do trainings or other capacity development, or help the NGO Coalitions with applying for grants or other funding.

Additional partnerships will be sought with development partners, including but not limited to UN Agencies, INGOs and NGOs that are active in Access to Justice based on their comparative advantages and strengths and the contribution they can make towards furthering the goals of the Project. In Phase I, the Project brought in other UN agencies (UNICEF, UNWOMEN and UNHCR) to provide training to LAC lawyers; this may be continued or expanded in Phase II.

Coordination among Rule of Law stakeholders

Coordination among justice sector stakeholders will take place through the following platforms:

- Policy Dialogue platforms, including national, (regional), and local Policy Dialogues and the annual Rule of Law Forum
- Twice-yearly Project Board meetings;
- DCC Rule of Law Working Group meetings chaired by UNDP;
- Regular meetings with GoT counterparts, particularly at the Deputy-Ministerial and agency head levels;
- Regular meetings with NGO and CSO counterparts, particularly but not exclusively through the CSO Network.

As noted above, during Phase I the Project engaged very intensely with GoT and CSO stakeholders, building relationships that are expected to last through Phase I.

Scaling Up

<u>SALAC</u>. Cooperation with SALAC will require gradual scaling up over the course of Phase II. In 2017, SALAC operates ten of the country's 20 LACs. It is anticipated that by 2020, SALAC will operate all of Tajikistan's LACs, except for a small number (between two and four) that may continue to be operated by the Ombudsman's Office.

As noted above, this document generally makes the conservative assumption that SDC funding will not continue beyond Q4 2020. However, in the case of SALAC, the presence or absence of SDC funding will make a significant difference in the number of LACs that can be supported in the final year of the project. Therefore, two alternative scenarios are presented here: one with and one without SDC funding.

Table 4 Anticipated number of LACs, 2017 - 2021

Year	SALAC LACs (Finnish / SDC)	NGO LACs (Finnish / SDC)	Ombudsman LACs (Finnish / SDC)	Total LACs
2017	12 (6/6)	4 (1/3)	5 (3/2)	21
2018	20 (10/10)	3 (0/3)	5 (3/2)	28
2019	24 (12/12)	0	5 (3/2)	29
2020	30 (15/15)	0	5 (3/2)	35
2021 (without SDC)	15 (15/0)	0	3 (3/0)	18
2021 (with SDC)	30 (15/15)	0	5 (3/2)	35

It is anticipated that the number of SALAC LACs will grow steadily over the first two years of Phase II, and then stabilize in the last two years. The figure of 30 LACs is approximate and will depend on model(s) selected after the piloting period; it also assumes that GoT follows through on its financial commitment to co-fund the LACs.³⁸

The number of Ombudsman LACs is also uncertain and may vary slightly. As noted above, the Ombudsman LACs will gradually shift from being pure legal aid centers to being "hybrid" centers providing some legal aid but also acting as regional human rights monitors and satellite offices for the Ombudsman.

<u>Policy Dialogue</u>. The Regional Policy Dialogues (RPDs) will also be gradually scaled up to include more CSOs, cover more topics, and link more effectively with national and regional level policy dialogues. The exact extent of scaling up here will depend sensitively on available resources and also on continued political will; the project will not want to risk the long-term sustainability of the RPDs.

Links with other projects

Access to Justice. Since December 2012, UNDP Tajikistan has been implementing the "Access to Justice in Tajikistan" Project (A2J Project). The A2J Project is funded by the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC). Phase I of the A2J Project lasted four years (December 2012 – November 2016). Phase II will last another four years (December 2016 – November 2020). A third phase has been discussed and is possible.

The Access to Justice Project and the RoL Project are both part of UNDP Tajikistan's Rule of Law and Access to Justice Programme. The two Projects have worked together since January 2014. The entirety of the RoL Project, along with the UNDP-administered components of the Access to Justice Project, have been run by UNDP staff. The two Projects have complemented and reinforced each other, leading to more sustainable results. The A2J Project co-funds SALAC, along with Rule of Law; it is also operating 11 LACs, in parallel with

³⁸ It is anticipated that the new Law on State Guaranteed Legal Aid will be passed in 2018, replacing and expanding the existing Concept on Free Legal Aid. This section should be adjusted accordingly once the new law comes into force.

the LACs operated by RoL. The A2J Project also is responsible for the National Policy Dialogues and the annual Rule of Law Forums, which are linked to the Regional Policy Dialogues organised by the Rule of Law Project.

It is anticipated that cooperation with the RoL Project will continue without a break into Phase II. The two will continue to work closely together until the end of the RoL Project's current phase in November 2020.

Other projects. The Access to Justice Project will co-operate where relevant with other on-going UNDP and non-UNDP projects in Tajikistan. This includes the Project for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (PDV) and the Support to Civil Registration System Reform in Tajikistan Project (CR Project). Synergies will also be explored with other donor projects, such as OSCE's Women's Centers, ICRC, and GIZ's Legal Reform activities. At a regional level, the project will work closely with its sister project, the MFAF-funded Access to Justice project in Kyrgyzstan. Cooperation will also be explored with the new Japanese-funded regional project on PVE -- "Strengthening Community Resilience and Regional Cooperation to Prevent Violent Extremism in Central Asia" — as this project will include activities on civic engagement and knowledge sharing that could be relevant.

Co-ordination will include knowledge exchange, exchange of methodologies and know-how, invitations to participate in relevant meetings, events, workshop, and general information sharing. The Policy Dialogue Platform may provide an opportunity to discuss co-operation between the Projects and the promotion of policy reform recommendations. As the PDV Project winds down, it is possible that Phase II may take on some of that Project's activities, subject to available resources and the mutual agreement of UNDP, MFAF and SDC. Cooperation with the CR Project will certainly include information sharing and the development of referral paths for LAC clients with registry-related problems.

Risks and Assumptions

A number of risks, both external and internal, have been identified in carrying out the activities of this Project. These are reflected in the Risk Log (Annex 1). Some of the more important risks are summarized here.

Political destabilisation, insurgency and armed conflict. This might cause a shift in the priorities of the Government agenda, hence it might entail changes in the action plans of public bodies involved in the reform process. The mentioned risk might suspend the course of the reforms. In case of facing the risk, the Project management response, in line with conflict sensitive project management principles, guided by the "do no harm" ethos, will be immediate and efficient through regular UNDP Senior Management and Project leadership with the Government counterparts; in case of necessity, respective changes will be introduced and implemented within the reform framework.

Legislation, government policy and practices not implemented due to weak capacities, lack of coordination and/or low finances. To mitigate this risk, the Project leadership will conduct a semi-annual review of the Project's progress, through half-year and annual reports and through Project Board meetings twice per year.

Lack of motivation/political will to implement reforms, including on judicial openness. For the comprehensive implementation of the reforms, motivation and political will of the Government of Tajikistan is required. Currently, the political will is at the required level; however the fulfilment of the agreed joint priorities, especially at the institutional level is required. The main instrument to mitigate these risks are the existing dialogue platforms including the Policy Dialogue Platform.

GoT no longer wishes to engage in Policy Dialogue. The level of this risk is perceived as low, because the GoT has engaged strongly with the Policy Dialogues at both the national and regional levels since 2013. However, the risk does exist, because the decision to continue with the Policy Dialogue platform is inherently political.

The GoT does not follow through on its financial commitments in 2019-21. If this happens, the Project does not have resources to make up the shortfall, so the development of free legal aid will be sharply curtailed.

This risk can be mitigated by bringing the Ministry of Finance into discussions and by obtaining clear commitments from the highest levels of the Ministry of Justice well in advance of CYs 2019 and 2020.

An additional issue is the possibility that SDC will not commit to another phase of funding for the Access to Justice (A2J) project after November 2020. The status of a possible third phase for A2J will not be known until the spring of 2020 at the earliest. However, as noted above, the Project is making the conservative default assumption that SDC will not fund a third phase, and is not planning any activities that require cofunding from the RoL Project after November 2020. Therefore, this is not considered a "risk".

Knowledge & shared learning

The knowledge products produced during Phase I (i.e., the reports dealing with the challenges and costs of CRPD accession and the "road map" to compliance) have been distributed to interested stakeholders, both directly and through dissemination to the mailing list of the Rule of Law Working Group of the DCC.³⁹ As this practice has proved effective in the past, it will be continued throughout Phase II. Knowledge on completed or transferred activities will also be shared with concerned institutions such as the Notary Office, ZAGs, and the Civil Registry Reform Project.

To ensure institutional memory, all knowledge products and reports from Phase I will be kept on file for the duration of Phase II, and will be shared with other stakeholders as appropriate⁴⁰. However, knowledge management not be limited to the development and storing of singular products. It will instead be introduced as a cross cutting approach across both Outcomes. This means that the RoL Project will document the various levels of results in a systematic fashion.

The Project will furthermore strengthen mutual learning and exchanges of experiences within the Project and between partners. It will be of particular importance to ensure that the transfer of knowledge from NGO-run LACs to SALAC is managed well. The Project will also ensure the establishment and maintenance of mechanisms to ensure follow up on recommendations from the Policy Dialogue, including the National Rule of Law Forums.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC/TrC)

Given the tendency of shrinking democratic space and increasing concerns of human rights violations reported in Central Asian countries, sub-regional cooperation among NHRIs of Central Asia has been prioritized and promoted by UNDP and its partners.

As noted above, the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub convened the first ever Regional Consultation for Central Asian National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in November 2016. The purpose of this consultation was to promote sub-regional cooperation and peer-to-peer support between NHRIs of Central Asia. The Conference resulted in a number of recommendations to strengthen the role of NHRIs in Central Asia in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in a human rights compliant manner. The Conference was attended by representatives of the Ombudsman's Offices from across the Central Asian region.

In view of the context in which NHRIs in Central Asia operate, the regional partnerships, will enable NHRIs in Central Asia to be more exposed to the global and UN agenda on human rights. This will in turn foster strong, independent, and interconnected NHRIs in Central Asia through: (a) strengthening NHRIs' functional and substantive capabilities, managerial set-up, administrative efficiency and regional interconnectedness; and (b) establishing a conducive environment for developing a legal and normative framework for Paris Principle-compliant NHRIs.

³⁹ The Rule of Law Working Group is a subcommittee of the Donor Coordination Council (DCC) that includes all donors and international NGOs working on Rule of Law issues. The Working Group meets ten times per year to discuss rule of law issues, coordinate activities, and (when relevant) make recommendations to the DCC as a whole. Regular attendees include UNDP, HELVETAS, OSCE, USAID, DFID, UNICEF, OHCHR, the EU, the INL, the World Bank, and the US Embassy. UNDP chairs the Working Group.

⁴⁰ One forum for sharing is the Rule of Law Working Group of the Donor Coordination Committee, which meets regularly. The RoL WG is chaired by UNDP, and for the last two years by the project's Chief Technical Advisor. Useful and interesting documents are regularly shared on the WG's mailing list.

It is clear that peer-to-peer support among NHRIs in the region can greatly enhance their knowledge and professionalism, and ultimately impact national policy formulation and implementation that is compliant with international human rights standards. Therefore, in Phase II the project will continue to support regional coordination, subject to available resources.

As noted above, the project has fostered a very close cooperation between the Tajik Ombudsman and the Ombudsman's Office of Finland. It is expected that this will continue through Phase Two.

As noted above, in Phase II the project will particularly work to increase and tighten cooperation with the MFAF-funded Access to Justice project in neighboring Kyrgyzstan which has a lot of similarities (work on legal aid; focus on persons with disabilities, etc) but also differences which could be beneficial for each country to learn from (eg Tajikistan's legal aid efforts are focused on civil cases, while in Kyrgystan this work is focused on criminal cases, etc). Since both projects are funded by MFAF, this is a good example of triangular cooperation.

Other forms of South-South and triangular cooperation will be actively investigated and pursued, as resources allow.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Project Management

Geographical scope. The project will be implemented in Tajikistan, with activities in all four regions of the country (Sughd, Khatlon, RRS and GBAO)⁴¹. In each region, UNDP already has a long-term presence and partnerships with the government and civil society at sub-national levels. In all regions, UNDP has existing projects and/or local offices which can be used both for cost savings and to ensure that the project builds on the achievements and also the systems, infrastructure and partnerships established and maintained through the existing projects.

The main project office shall be located in Dushanbe, for ease of coordination with the MoJ, the Ombudsman, and other GoT stakeholders. Project administration will be carried out at the UNDP Tajikistan Country Office.

<u>Financial Arrangement</u>. The Project will be implemented in accordance with the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), meaning that funding will flow through UNDP and that UNDP will be responsible for the overall management, backstopping and monitoring of the Project in line with UNDP's Programme and Operational Policies and Procedures.

The project shall be a unitary project with its own budget. Administrative costs including salaries, office rent, vehicles and overhead will be split evenly (50% each) with the Swiss-funded Access to Justice project at least through the end of that project (November 30, 2020).⁴² If the project mobilizes additional resources (i.e. through grants from other donors) it may, with the consent of MFAF, spend these funds through the project.

The project will be subject to GMS equivalent to 8% of the total project cost. The project is subject to audit according to UNDP rules and procedures. Direct Project Costs⁴³ will apply for project and development effectiveness activities.

⁴¹ Geographical challenges may limit the scope of project activities in GBAO, as this is Tajikistan's most distant, most mountainous, and least populated region. However, at a minimum the project will carry out legal aid activities and will work with local paralegals and OPWDs.

⁴² Independent consultants whose work pertains only to a single project shall be funded only by that project. For instance, the RoL project does not work with training of bailiffs, but the Swiss A2J project does. Therefore, if the A2J project hires a consultant to train bailiffs, that consultant would be funded 100% by Swiss A2J.

⁴³ Organizational costs incurred in the implementation of a development activity that can be directly attributed to the development activities conducted by UNDP Country Office staff and also the costs incurred by UNDP to support project implementation by Operations units both at CO and HQ level, including services related to finance, procurement, human resources, administration, issuance of contracts, security, travel, assets, general services and information and communications technology.

The project will file financial reports twice per year (January and July, along with the annual and half-year reports) with MFAF. MFAF may request interim financial reports at its discretion.

Cost Efficiency and Effectiveness

<u>Effectiveness</u>. The effectiveness of the project will be ensured through approaching both the supply and demand sides of rule of law. On the demand side, public education, outreach, and work with CSOs such as women's groups and OPWDs will help ensure that people are empowered to defend and demand their rights. On the supply side, creation and expansion of the state-run LAC system, the passage of new laws, and accession and compliance with CRPD and other international HR conventions will help ensure that state bodies and justice actors are better able to supply them. The adjustments made since Phase I are consistent with recommendations in the 2015-16 midterm evaluation conducted by NIRAS.

UNDP has a strong and well-established field presence across Tajikistan. The project will fully utilise the existing knowledge, as well as organizational infrastructure including local and regional offices, and partnerships with local development actors for effective implemention of the project activities.

<u>Efficiency</u>. UNDP's comparative advantage includes its specialised technical expertise and knowledge base on rule of law and access to justice issues generally, and on implementing them in Tajikistan in particular. UNDP also brings the ability to discuss both policy and implementation with GoT counterparts at all levels, from local officials to Ministers and Presidential advisers.

The project's efficiency is also enhanced by the relationship with the Swiss-funded A2J project. By sharing staff, offices and administrative costs, these projects are both able to devote more resources to implementation.

<u>Sustainability</u>. It is envisaged that by the end of the programme (1) SALAC will be a fully functional, long-term sustainable government agency administering at least 15 LACs across all four regions of Tajikistan, and (2) SALAC will obtain the majority of its funding from GoT internal sources and not MFAF or any other donor. This will be accomplished by an ongoing program of capacity building, combined with a commitment on the part of the GoT to gradually assume responsibility for funding.⁴⁴ Over time, MoJ will be empowered to assume greater responsibility for sustainability of the benefits of the free legal aid system.

Similarly, an ongoing programme of capacity development at the Ombudsman's Office will help to ensure that it will be an effective and sustainable NHRI long after the end of Phase II.

It is expected that capacities and institutional mechanisms developed by the project will assume a life of their own and allow the development of more nuanced and indigenous approaches to Rule of Law-related challenges in the future. Sensitisation of society on these issues, especially with regard to gender and PWD, will increase the potential for self-generated local community solutions. Development of local know-how, expecially at the CSO level, and extraction of lessons from piloted initiatives will allow the replicability of successful experiences in the country and regional context.

On the structural level, the programme will dedicate efforts to building capacity of its partners at the level of government agencies and their regional branches, town and municipal authorities, and key development partners among non-state actors, many of whom start from a fairly low level in addressing rule of law challengs.

On the policy level, there are clear signs that government is committed to these initiatives, particularly the provision of free legal aid, the strengthening of the Ombudsman's Office, and eventual accession to CRPD. Discourses are taking place and some state resources have already been allocated for these purposes. The project will engage with the developing process of legislative and policy changes on rule of law issues and is

⁴⁴ One of the recommendations of the NIRAS report was that the project include the Ministry of Finance in discussions to help ensure GoT commitment to co-funding. The project has already begun doing this, inviting the MoF to the national-level Rule of Law policy dialogues about the future of SALAC and its funding. This relationship will be continued and expanded in Phase II.

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V. RESULTS FRAMEWORK

protected and benefit from improved access to justice and quality services delivered by accountable, transparent, and gender responsive legislative, executive and judicial institutions at all levels Intended Outcome as stated in the UNDAF/Country [or Global/Regional] Programme Results and Resource Framework: People in Tajikistan have their rights

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Global/Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:

Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan:

	FINAL	Year	Year Year Year FINAL	Year	Year	Year	Value			
DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS	of data	(by frequency collection)	TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)	TARG		LINE	BASELINI	SOURCE	OUTPUT INDICATORS	EXPECTED OUTPUTS
									ct Number:	Project title and Atlas Project Number

justice and are empowered to defend their rights and interests. Outcome 1 Vulnerable rural population of Tajikistan, including women and persons with disabilities, enjoy better protection of their rights and access to

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Number of participants of public awareness campaigns ready and willing to approach state in stitutions and legal aid centers to defend their rights and/or submit complains disaggregated by women and disability status	Number of awareness- raising campaigns and initiatives launched by DPOs and gender focused CSOs		Number of people gaining awareness of their rights, disaggregated by women and disability status	national laws and institutions to defend their rights and interests.	human rights awareness, and access to legal information, and are better able to access	Wornen and PWDs in targeted areas gain increased legal literacy,	Output 1
 Develop the capacity (training, mentoring and peer-to-peer support) of DPOs and gender focused CSOs to provide free legal information (paralegals) Support establishment of the e-Knowledge and Resource center for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities 	 Support development of a referral mechanism for DPOs and gender focused CSOs to legal aid providers and state institutions 	Activity 1.2: Legal information and access to national laws and institutions for women and persons with disabilities	Rights, including on persons with disabilities, gender equality and DV issues Support DPOs and gender focused CSOs in public awareness campaigns	 Support conduction of field public awareness campaigns of Ombudsman and other stakeholders on Human 	 Support implementation of the State Programme on Human Rights Education for 2013-2020 	Legal literacy and human rights awareness for women and persons with disabilities	Activity 1.1:
	Stakeholder s`reports:		Project reports:				
There is no knowledg e and resource centre promoting rights of persons with	2 DPOs; 1 Gender focused CSO	disabilities	23,093 of which, 54% women and 2% persons				
	2016		2016				
At least 30%	4		2,000				
At least 30%	7		2,000				
At least 30%	2		2,000				
At least 30%	1		2,000				
ready and/or willing to approach state institutions to defend their rights	At least 2400 PWDs and women are	(h	women and at least 10% (2,000) are PWDs	8,000, of which at least 60% (12,000) are			
			Risk: inability of regional CSOs to report effectively.	outreach (in case of radio, TV or newspapers), CMS, SALAC reports.	Questionnaires, lists of participants, estimates of media		

Support regional CSOs in conducting studies and research on gender, DV, disability and justice sector related issues at the regional level		resulting from regional Policy Dialogue meetings, including those proposed by DPOs and gender focused CSOs	als	Dialogues become a key platform for advocating policy change, and regional civil society organisations have the	Manufacture 1871
 Support regional CSOs in conducting studies and research on gender, DV, disability and justice sector related issues at the regional level 	 Support regional CSOs in self-organization and coordination to effectively conduct dialogue with local governments and other state institutions 	Develop capacity of CSO Network on Rule of Law members in the regions to effectively discuss policy issues at different policy dialogue meetings	Activity 2.2. Capacity building of Regional civil society organizations for their meaningful participation in Policy Dialogue	Support conduction of regional Policy Dialogue meetings in GBAO, Rasht, Khatlon and Sughd	Activity 2.1. Regional Policy Dialogue for advocating policy changes
					reports
		(w		
			2017		
			1		
			N		
			1		
			N		
			6		
		Increased pressure on CSOs leading to reluctance to participate	Change in State Champions affecting policy dialogue	Risks:	of participants, minutes of the RPD meetings

		 A new Law on Free Legal Aid is drafted 	provided by GoT for SALAC LAC activities	 and disability status Amount of funding 	 Number of persons receiving quality free legal aid on civil cases provided by state-operated LACs, disaggregated by women 	Output 3 A sustainable state-run system of primary free legal aid is developed, which will provide high-quality free legal aid, particularly to women and PWDs.
Commission on Monitoring and evaluation of the free legal aid system in policy discussions with other stakeholders, including Ministry of Finance for financial sustainability of state run legal aid Conduction of cost benefit analysis of the system and provision of recommendations on the most optimal free legal aid system models to guide	Support gradual transition of state -run free legal aid system to the Government • Provide support to the	Activity 3.2.	 Conduct trainings for SALAC lawyers based on needs assessment 	 Support SALAC in establishment of adequate internal monitoring and evaluation mechanisms 	 Improve the quality of state run legal aid through supporting CSO in monitoring and reporting to MoJ on performance of state-run legal aid centers; 	Activity 3.1. Develop a sustainable staterun system of primary free legal aid Support SALAC and MoJ in further expansion of state run legal aid centers in pilot districts
						Project reports, CMS data, client satisfaction surveys of LAC clients
was adopted in July 2015. There is no law on legal aid.	Concept Note on state run		10% (in kind)	with disabilitie s (2016)	4,801 of which 2,701 are women and 231	
	2017		2017		2017	
			10% (in kind)		2,880	
Craned	New law		10% (in kind)		3,564	
			30%		4,680	
			50%		4,860	
			end of 2021	50% funding provided for SALAC		which at least 65%, or 10,390, are women and at least 7%(959) are PWDs
		funding	government priorities can result in insufficient			CMS data, SALAC reports Risk: change in leadership at MoJ

 Number of secondary free legal aid cases is provided through SALAC and Union of Lawyers Availability of M&E mechanisms for quality secondary free legal aid Availability of analysis of current legislation on SFLA and implementation status 	Output 4 High quality secondary free legal aid is provided via SALAC and the Union of Lawyers, particularly to women and PWDs.	
Support SALAC and MoJ in establishment of first model of secondary free legal aid system in pilot districts (at least 4 districts annually) Support SALAC in establishment and functioning of sound M&E mechanisms of secondary free legal aid system Support dialogues among SALAC, Union of Lawyers, MoJ, CSOs and other state justice sector institutions in the piloting process of the free secondary legal aid Activity 4.2. High quality secondary free legal aid via the Union of Lawyers and MoJ in establishment of second model of secondary free legal aid system in piloting districts	Ac Hig leg	formulation of the Law on legal aid
	Project reports, CMS data	
M&E and CMS exist for primary FLA only; no M&E system for secondar y legal aid No analysis of current legislatio n on SFLA	10	
2016	2017	
M&E system for SFLA develop ed, and CMS system deploye d	120	
Analysi s carried out and recom mendat ions for policy change s provide	160	
	200	
	300	
Functioning CMS and M&E system for both PFLA and SFLA	780	
relations between MoJ and Union of Lawyers	Risk: loss of political commitment to providing secondary free legal aid	

Number of trainings on human rights monitoring are conducted for Ombudsman's public consultation offices.	 Ombudsman compliance with Paris Principles; 	 Status of UN Convention Status of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities signing in Tajikistan. 	Output 5 The capacity of national human rights and justice institutions to implement international human
 Support conduction of a needs assessment on transformation of Ombudsman's public consultation offices in the regions from providing legal aid to monitoring of human rights situation Support 3 Ombudsman's public consultations offices to conduct monitoring of human rights situation; 	trainings on international standards and norms of national legislation related to Rights of the Persons with	 Support preparation process on signing of the UNCRPD Support conduction of analysis of the legal acts in compliance with the core principles of the UNCRPD and draft recommendations to amend the relevant legislation Support conduction of 	Activity 5.1 The capacity of national human rights and justice institutions to implement international human rights standards
			Project reports, UPR tracking
0	Status B	During UPR Cycle 2, the GoT committe d to join UN CRPD CRPD	
2017		2017	
1		Signed 45	
4			
-4		Ratified	
1	Improve d status		
presented to GoT 4	Amendment s to the Law on Ombudsman have been	UNCRPD has been signed (2018) and ratified (2020)	
			Risk: GoT may not carry through with its UPR commitments

⁴⁵ Based on the GoT's draft UPR plan of April 2017, signing is expected by 12/17 and ratification is expected in 2020.

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					Amendments to the Policy on gender issues	# of gender specific trainings and workshops	the Monitoring Group.	" for the state of
related legislation for representations of MoJ, Ombudsman and Parliament	 draft recommendations Support conduction of workshops on gender analysis and rule of law 	specific concerns related to CEDAW implementation and	 Provide technical support to CSOs to analyze gender 	and procedures	Activity 5.2. Promote gender equality through enabling policies	 Provide support to conduct monitoring visits to closed and semi-closed institutions by the Monitoring group under the Ombudsman office 	Strategic Plan of the Ombudsman office (2016-2020) and development of the new plan for 2012-2025	 Support implementation of the
3	y gender review of draft legislatio	require obligator	n do not	Current		1	20 monitorin g visits	
				2017		2017	2017	
						1	Ch	
		-15				1	5	
						1	G	ly,
of legislatio n	conduct obligator y gender analysis	introduc ed to	ments to Policies	Amend		0	Û	1
ō.	2 2 2 4 4		0			ω	20	3
					sensitive	Risk: some human rights related recommendations	monitoring visits	GoT policy towards

 Status of policy paper; 	 Number of press conferences conducted for improved interaction with population and mass media 	 Number of press secretaries (focal points) and mass media trained on the basis of information accessibility of courts, work with public and mass media, segregated by gender, 	 Number of Supreme Court we bsite visits by the population 	Output 6 State bodies and justice sector actors are better able to provide access to justice and uphold rule of law and protect the rights of vulnerable people, including women and persons with disabilities.
Activity 6.2. Tajikistan (Supreme Court) establishes legal framework enabling judiciary to disclose information • Development and advocacy of a policy paper on information openness		press secretaries of courts and mass media representatives	Work with design and content of court web sites	Activity 6.1. Strengthened capacity of judiciary to provide high quality judicial services, including timely and reliable information to people across the country
		Governmen t reports	Project Reports	Supreme Court Websites
No Law "On opennes s of judicial	TBD during Q1 2018	0	15,412 visits of Supreme Court website	
2017	2017	2017	Octobe r, 2017	
Draft is finalise d	4	60	visits for each regional court	At least 22,000 per month, includin g 1,000
Draft is submitt ed to the Parlia ment	4	50	1,000 visits for each regiona	At least 24,000 per month, includi
Draft Law "On Openness of judicial information developed and submitted	Eight PC to be conducted for improved interactions with the population and mass media, including 30% women	least 30 media repr. are trained, out of which at least 30% are women	website; 80 focal points are trained: at	46,000 website visits per month, including 1,000 visits per month/regi onal Court
	Risk: Lack of motivation/political will to judicial openness	Conferences Conferences Government reports; Project level monitoring reports;	Training reports (gender segregated); Monitoring of media	Data collection methods: Website visits monitoring (monthly);

							nows impromore,	flows implemented:	the review of information	# of recommendations (from			
										(0	on"	informati
										1107	2047		
										C	S		
											s		
d	implement	will be	judiciary	Flows within the	Information	review of	from the	resulting	dations	recommen	At least 5	ramamen	One

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Overview. In accordance with UNDP's programming policies and procedures, the project will be monitored through the multiple modalities. Data sources for M&E will include:

Monitoring Plan

Annual Project against UND identify project	Learn Learn And integrate	Monitor and Manage Risk Environment conducted in audit policy to	Progress data aga in the RRF will be assess the progres achieving the agre LAC usage will be and will inform pro SALAC and LACs	Monitoring Activity
The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making	Knowledge, good practices and lessons will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	Identify specific risks that may threaten achievement of intended results. Identify and monitor risk management actions using a risk log. This includes monitoring measures and plans that may have been required as per UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. Audits will be conducted in accordance with UNDP's audit policy to manage financial risk.	Progress data against the results indicators in the RRF will be collected and analysed to assess the progress of the project in achieving the agreed outputs. Data on LAC usage will be obtained from the CMS and will inform project decisions relating to SALAC and LACs.	Purpose
Annually	At least annually	Quarterly	Twice per year, or in the frequency required for each indicator.	Frequency
Areas of strength and weakness will be reviewed by project management and used to inform decisions to improve	Relevant lessons are captured by the project team and used to inform management decisions.	Risks are identified by project management and actions are taken to manage risk. The risk log is actively maintained to keep track of identified risks and actions taken.	Slower than expected progress will be addressed by project management.	Expected Action
n/a	NGO partners, other UN agencies	n/a	n/a	Partners (if joint)
				Cost (if any)

Project Review (Project Board)	Project Report	Review and Make Course Corrections
The project's governance mechanism (i.e., project board) will hold regular project reviews to assess the performance of the project and review the Multi-Year Work Plan to ensure realistic budgeting over the life of the project. In the project's final year, the Project Board shall hold an end-of project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to socialize project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences.	A progress report will be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, consisting of progress data showing the results achieved against pre-defined annual targets at the output level, the annual project quality rating summary, an updated risk long with mitigation measures, and any evaluation or review reports prepared over the period.	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making.
Twice per year	Annually, and at the end of the project (final report)	At least annually
Any quality concerns or slower than expected progress should be discussed by the project board and management actions agreed to address the issues identified.	Includes midterm and final reports)	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality will be discussed by the project board and used to make course corrections.
Board members, including representatives of MFAF, SDC, MoJ, Ombudsman, and others – see below	For midterm and final reports, ndependent contractor(s) procured as per UN regulations (see below)	n/a
	\$47,000	

Evaluation Plan

		1
Final Evaluation	Mid-Term Evaluation	Evaluation Title
MoJ, Ombudsman	MoJ, Ombudsman	Partners (if joint)
n/a	n/a	Related Strategic Plan Output
31 December 2021	31 December 2019	Planned Completion Date
MFAF, Project Board	MFAF, Project Board	Key Evaluation Stakeholders
\$25,000	\$22,000	Cost of Funding
MFAF project funding for Year Four (2021)	MFAF project funding for Year Three (2020)	Source of Funding

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	L CAMPED AGENTES						
		Y	Y2	Y3	Υ4	Funding Source	Amount
						MFAF	40,000
Output 1:	1.1 Activity	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000		
Gender marker:	1.2 Activity	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	MFAF	60,000
	Sub-Total for Output 1						
	O A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	10,000	12,000	10,000	13,000	MFAF	45,000
Output 9.	2.1 Activity	10,000		-			110,000
Carpar 1:	2.2 Activity	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	MFAF	
Gender marker:	Sub-Total for Output 2						
Output 3:	3.1 Activity	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,851	MFAF	280,851
						MEAN	120,000
Gender marker:	3.2 Activity	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	MFAF	
	Sub-Total for Output 3						220,000
2		80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	MFAF	000,000
	4.2 Activity	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	MFAF	200,000
Gender marker:	Sub-Total for Output 4						

⁴⁶ Changes to a project budget affecting the scope (outputs), completion date, or total estimated project costs require a formal budget revision that must be signed by the project board. In other cases, the UNDP programme manager alone may sign the revision provided the other signatories have no objection. This procedure may be applied for example when the purpose of the revision is only to re-phase activities among years.

						TOTAL
MFAF	40,180	31,863	33,905	31,608		General Management Support
MFAF/MFAN	17,147	17,142	17,142	17,162		Monitoring
MFAF	30,000		30,000		EVALUATION	Evaluation (as relevant)
					Sub-Total for Output 2	
MFAN			38,261	66,961	6.2 Activity	Gender marker:
MFAN			59,778	135,000	6.1 Activity	Output 6:
					Sub-Total for Output 2	
MFAF	50,000	55,000	50,000	40,000	5.2 Activity	Gender marker:
MFAF	60,000	60,000	50,000	50,000	5.1 Activity	Output 5:

et

'Strengthening Rule of Law and Human Rights to Empower People in Tajikistan' Project phase II and Access to **Judicial Information Project** COMBINED BUDGET FOR48

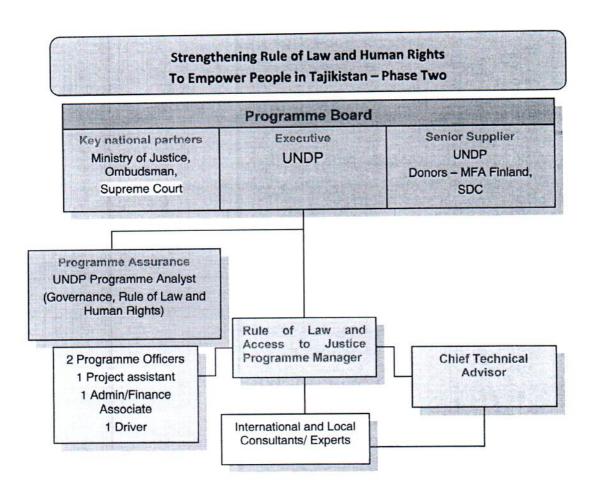
			BUDGET		
Outputs, Activity Results and Activities	Whole Project duration	2018	2019	2020	2021
				All figures a	All figures are provided in USD
Description of activities:	1,862,629	560,927	465,449	381,151	455.102
Seminars and trainings	102,498	48,000	34,498	10,000	10,000
Contractual services	661,467	203,000	176,000	133,227	149,240
Transfers and grants to counterparts	425,000	110,000	105,000	110,000	100.000
International Technical Consultant	80,000	20,000	20,000	20.000	20,000
Travel (local, int)	67,000	37,000	10,000	10,000	10.000
National staff (Programme Manager, 2 Pr. Officers - cost- sharing, PA)	219,126	50,800	44,800	37,800	85,726
National staff (Admin. Finance Assistant, Driver)	88,511	21,127	17,124	17.124	33 136
IT Equipment, vehicle running costs (maintenance and fuel), furniture	82,249	32,000	24,249	15,000	11,000
Communication (internet, mobile phones, etc)	24,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	5,000
Office rent	75,000	19,000	17,000	15,000	24,000
UNDP CO support costs	28,000	10,000	8,000	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	9,778	4,000	2,778	2,000	1,000
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	134,593	21,162	49,142	17.142	47.147
International Consultant (mid-term evaluation)	25,000		25,000		

⁴⁸ For detailed budgets as approved by donors, please refer to Annex 3

	GMS (8%)	OVERHEAD COSTS	MONITORING	National Consultant (final evaluation)	International Consultant (final evaluation)	National Consultant (mid-term evaluation)
GRANDTOTAL:						
2,157,000	159,778	159,778	74,593	5,000	25,000	5,000
628,656	46,567	46,567	21,162			
555,758	41,167	41,167	19,142			5,000
430,156	31,863	31,863	17,142			
542,429	40,180	40,180	17,147	5,000	25,000	

VIII. GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Project will be implemented in accordance with the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), meaning that funding will flow through UNDP and that UNDP will be responsible for the overall management, backstopping and monitoring of the Project in line with UNDP's Programme and Operational Policies and Procedures. The Project will be based at the UNDP Tajikistan Country Office. It will be implemented as per the Project Organisation Structure below.



GMS. In accordance with the decision and directives of UNDP's Executive Board reflected in its Policy on Cost Recovery from other Resources, the contribution should be subject to cost recovery for indirect costs incurred by UNDP headquarters and country office structure for providing General Management Support (GMS) services. To cover GMS costs, the contribution shall be charged a fee equal to 8 per cent.

<u>Project Board</u>. During Phase I, a joint Steering Committee (now the Project Board) was established for greater coordination of donor funding. Given the positive outcomes of the joint work, the same approach will be applied in Phase II. The Project will be overseen by a Project Board, which will meet regularly at least twice per year. The Committee will include UNDP senior management, MFAF representatives, and representatives of the Ministry of Justice and the Ombudsman's Office. Key CS partners may be invited to attend, comment, and make presentations.

The Project Board for the Project will be responsible for making consensus based management decisions for the Project when guidance is required, including recommendations for UNDP approval of Project work plans and revisions. In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with corporate UNDP standards that shall ensure best value to money, fairness, integrity,

transparency and effective international competition. In case consensus cannot be reached, final decision shall rest with the Board.

The Project Board will:

- Provide overall leadership, guidance and direction in successful delivery of Outputs and their contribution to Outcomes under the Project;
- Be responsible for making strategic decisions by consensus, including the approval of substantive revisions of the Project, i.e. changes in the Project document;
- Approve annual work plans, annual reviews, and other reports as needed;
- Meet at least twice per year either in person or virtually to critically review Project implementation, management risks, and other relevant issues;
- Address any relevant programming issues as raised by the Project;
- Provide guidance on new Project risks and agree on effective and feasible countermeasures and management actions to address specific risks.

The Project Board shall also have the power to approve expenditures that are outside of an Annual Work Plan of the project, if such expenditures are deemed useful and appropriate to the project's goals. Requests for such expenditures may be raised by project management at a Board meeting or, if time sensitive, then in writing submitted to every member of the Board.

<u>Project Quality Assurance</u>. Project Quality Assurance (PQA) is the responsibility of the Project Board as well as UNDP Tajikistan Country Office, which will carry out objective and independent Project oversight and monitoring functions. This role ensures appropriate Project management milestones are managed and completed.

The Project Support staff provide Project administration, management and technical support to the Programme Manager as required. Project Support and Project Assurance roles will be kept separate in order to maintain the independence and thus the effectiveness of Project Assurance. The Project support staff will include, but not be limited to a finance assistant, administrative assistant and Project driver.

The following are some of the items that will regularly checked by the Project Assurance throughout the Project as one means of ensuring that project activities remain relevant, follow approved plans and meet the planned targets with quality.

- Maintenance of engagement and collaboration throughout the Project between the members of the Project Board;
- Beneficiary needs and expectations are being met or managed;
- Risks are being controlled;
- Project continues to reinforce and add value to the Country Project, overall CO access to justice and rule of law portfolio and initiatives of other members of the UN Country Team such as UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA in Tajikistan;
- Acceptable solutions to implementation obstacles are being developed;
- The Project remains viable;
- Internal and external communication is working;
- UNDP rules and regulations are being observed;
- Any legislative constraints regarding the running of the Project are observed;
- Adherence to UNDP corporate results-based monitoring and reporting requirements and standards;
- Quality management procedures are properly followed; and
- Project Board's decisions are followed up, and Project revisions are dealt with fully in line with required UNDP procedures.

Finally, an Operational Group shall be established for the Project composed of the Programme Manager, Project support and the UNDP Country Office Project and Operational support teams. The Group will meet

regularly to discuss the planning and implementation of Project activities, inputs, contracts, payments, reports and related issues.

A detailed breakdown of staffing can be found in Annex I, below.

Reporting. Regular narrative and financial reports shall be prepared by UNDP. These will include, but not be limited to, half-year reports covering the first six months of every calendar year (due by the end of July each year); Annual Reports covering each calendar year (due by the end of January each year); and a Final Report, to be submitted within 60 days of the end of the project. All reports shall be submitted to MFAF and the Project Board.

In accordance with the UNDP Executive Board decision 2012/18 of June 2012, all audit reports issued by the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) since 1 December 2012 shall be publicly disclosed on this website, one month after they have been issued internally.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/accountability/audit/internal_audits/.

IX. LEGAL CONTEXT

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of (country) and UNDP, signed on (date). All references in the SBAA to "Executing Agency" shall be deemed to refer to "Implementing Partner."

This project will be implemented by UNDP in accordance with its financial regulations, rules, practices and procedures only to the extent that they do not contravene the principles of the Financial Regulations and Rules of UNDP. Where the financial governance of an Implementing Partner does not provide the required guidance to ensure best value for money, fairness, integrity, transparency, and effective international competition, the financial governance of UNDP shall apply.

X. RISK MANAGEMENT

UNDP (DIM)

- UNDP as the Implementing Partner will comply with the policies, procedures and practices
 of the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS.)
- 2. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the [project funds]⁵⁰ [UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document]⁵¹ are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq sanctions list.shtml. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under this Project Document.
- 3. Social and environmental sustainability will be enhanced through application of the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (http://www.undp.org/ses) and related Accountability Mechanism (http://www.undp.org/secu-srm).
- 4. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will: (a) conduct project and programme-related activities in a manner consistent with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards, (b) implement any management or mitigation plan prepared for the project or programme to comply with such standards, and (c) engage in a constructive and timely manner to address any concerns and complaints raised through the Accountability Mechanism. UNDP will seek to ensure that communities and other project stakeholders are informed of and have access to the Accountability Mechanism.
- 5. All signatories to the Project Document shall cooperate in good faith with any exercise to evaluate any programme or project-related commitments or compliance with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards. This includes providing access to project sites, relevant personnel, information, and documentation.
- 6. UNDP as the Implementing Partner will ensure that the following obligations are binding on each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient:
 - a. Consistent with the Article III of the SBAA [or the Supplemental Provisions to the Project Document], the responsibility for the safety and security of each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's custody, rests with such responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient. To this end, each responsible party, subcontractor and subrecipient shall:
 - put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
 - ii. assume all risks and liabilities related to such responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.
 - UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed

⁵⁰ To be used where UNDP is the Implementing Partner

⁵¹ To be used where the UN, a UN fund/programme or a specialized agency is the Implementing Partner

- a breach of the responsible party's, subcontractor's and sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.
- c. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will take appropriate steps to prevent misuse of funds, fraud or corruption, by its officials, consultants, subcontractors and sub-recipients in implementing the project or programme or using the UNDP funds. It will ensure that its financial management, anti-corruption and anti-fraud policies are in place and enforced for all funding received from or through UNDP.
- d. The requirements of the following documents, then in force at the time of signature of the Project Document, apply to each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient: (a) UNDP Policy on Fraud and other Corrupt Practices and (b) UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations Investigation Guidelines. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient agrees to the requirements of the above documents, which are an integral part of this Project Document and are available online at www.undp.org.
- e. In the event that an investigation is required, UNDP will conduct investigations relating to any aspect of UNDP programmes and projects. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will provide its full cooperation, including making available personnel, relevant documentation, and granting access to its (and its consultants', subcontractors' and sub-recipients') premises, for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions as may be required for the purpose of an investigation. Should there be a limitation in meeting this obligation, UNDP shall consult with it to find a solution.
- f. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will promptly inform UNDP as the Implementing Partner in case of any incidence of inappropriate use of funds, or credible allegation of fraud or corruption with due confidentiality.

Where it becomes aware that a UNDP project or activity, in whole or in part, is the focus of investigation for alleged fraud/corruption, each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient will inform the UNDP Resident Representative/Head of Office, who will promptly inform UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI). It will provide regular updates to the head of UNDP in the country and OAI of the status of, and actions relating to, such investigation.

UNDP will be entitled to a refund from the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient of any funds provided that have been used inappropriately, including through fraud or corruption, or otherwise paid other than in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Project Document. Such amount may be deducted by UNDP from any payment due to the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient under this or any other agreement. Recovery of such amount by UNDP shall not diminish or curtail any responsible party's, subcontractor's or sub-recipient's obligations under this Project Document.

g. Each contract issued by the responsible party, subcontractor or sub-recipient in connection with this Project Document shall include a provision representing that no fees, gratuities, rebates, gifts, commissions or other payments, other than those shown in the proposal, have been given, received, or promised in connection with the selection process or in contract execution, and that the recipient of funds from it shall cooperate with any and all investigations and post-payment audits.

- h. Should UNDP refer to the relevant national authorities for appropriate legal action any alleged wrongdoing relating to the project or programme, the Government will ensure that the relevant national authorities shall actively investigate the same and take appropriate legal action against all individuals found to have participated in the wrongdoing, recover and return any recovered funds to UNDP.
- i. Each responsible party, subcontractor and sub-recipient shall ensure that all of its obligations set forth under this section entitled "Risk Management" are passed on to its subcontractors and sub-recipients and that all the clauses under this section entitled "Risk Management Standard Clauses" are adequately reflected, mutatis mutandis, in all its sub-contracts or subagreements entered into further to this Project Document.

XI. ANNEXES

- 1. TORs of key management positions
- 2. Risk Log
- 3. Detailed Budget
- 4. Worplan on Output 6 (Norwegian Project)

Annex 1: TORs of key management positions

UNDP Project Staff

1. National Project Manager

Funding level: 25 per cent until November 2020, 100 per cent thereafter⁵²

The Project Manager will be in charge of overall Project management. He will manage the administrative part of the Project, and assure the timely implementation of activities consistent with the Logical Framework and each year's Annual Workplan.

2. Policy and Legal Advisor

Funding level: 58 per cent until June 2019 from MFA Finland (48%) and MFA Norway (10%), 50% from MFA Finland until November 2020, 100 per cent thereafter.

The Policy and Legal Advisor will be closely engaged with SALAC as an Advisor, particularly with regard to secondary legal aid. He will also be responsible for liaising with the CSO Network and collecting their inputs for the Policy Dialogue process.

3. Capacity Development Advisor

Funding level: 58 per cent until November 2020, 100 per cent thereafter

The CDA will be responsible for all UNDP's capacity building activities, including training of NGOs, training of advocates, and work with the CSO network. S/he will deliver capacity building both directly and through trainers, and will work with other UN agencies and Projects to leverage their capacities as needed.

4. Project Assistant (PA)

Funding level: 100 percent from MFA Norway until June 2019.

The Project assistant will mainly support the Project on programmatic issues related to capacity development of judiciary. PA will be in charge of organizations of trainings and workshops for judiciary. 10% of PA's time would be dedicated to Access to Justice Project related activities.

UNDP Project Management Unit

The PMU will provide strategic guidance and technical support to the design of methodologies and procedures, the internal quality management assurance including financial management and financial control.

Programme Analyst (UNDP Country Office)

Funding level: 10 per cent

⁵² This section continues the conservative assumption that SDC funding will end in November 2020. All UNDP Project staff will receive 50 per cent funding until November 2020. If SDC funding continues, or some equivalent source of funding is found, this group will continue to receive 50 per cent funding for the remaining duration (November 2020 – December 2021, or thirteen months) of the Project. If SDC (or some equivalent) funding is not available, this group will receive 100 per cent funding for the last 13 months of Phase II, after November 2020.

The Programme Analyst provides quality assurance and oversight, and ensures that project budgeting, planning, and activites are carried out consistently with UNDP regulations, national laws, and national assistance plans as relevant.

<u>Programme Associate/Governance, Rule of Law and Human Rights (UNDP Country Office)</u>
Funding level: 10 per cent

The Programme Associate's responsibilities will include data collection, analysis and processing to document the evidence on the Project successes and lessons learnt; developing and implementing M&E Operational Plans; producing high quality reports based on data collected from the field; contributing to the delivery of training programmes for staff members and national stakeholders on the use of recommended reporting, monitoring and evaluation formats and guidelines; and follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of the short-term and long-term external capacity development support in policy dialogue and capacity development component.

Short-term Consultants

Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant for Mid-Term Evaluation

Funding level: 20 days in Project Year Three (2020)

A M&E Consultant will be procured to conduct the Mid-Term Evaluation, using UNDP procurement rules in consultation with MFAF. It is expected that the Evaluation will take place in the first half of 2020.

Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant for Final Evaluation

Funding level: 22 days in Project Year Four (2021)

A M&E Consultant will be procured to conduct the Final Evaluation, using UNDP procurement rules in consultation with MFAF. It is expected that the Evaluation will take place in the second half of 2021.

Short-term CTA (UNDP)

Funding level: 60 days per year

A full-time CTA was budgeted in Phase I, but this was only possible because SDC agreed to cofund 50% of the cost. SDC is providing limited co-funding in Phase II; therefore, the position would be part-time (around 25%). 15% would be covered by SDC and around 10% would be covered by Finland.

The Project will revert to having a part-time CTA to provide targeted technical advice and assist with reporting and the drafting of legal documents. The part-time CTA will be an an international consultant who is familiar with Tajikistan and with the relevant Rule of Law technical issues faced by the project. S/he may be based outside of Tajikistan, but will make regular visits to the country, with frequency and duration depending on the precise nature of deliverables.

International/National Experts/Consultants

Additional support will be provided through the recruitment of national and international consultants as required in order to provide expert policy and technical advice and assistance.

Award

*	Description	Date Identified	Туре	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
				(1= low, 5= high)					
_	Political destabilisation, insurgency and armed conflict.	31 May 2017	Political	Probability 1 Impact 5	Maintain neutrality and conflict-sensitivity in action: adapt programme to the complex context.	Senior Management	CTA		
2	Legislation, government policy and practices not implemented due to weak capacities, lack of coordination and/or low finances.	31 May 2017	Regulatory	Probability 2 Impact 3	Close coordination with key institutions to develop alternative strategies	Project Manager / CTA	CTA		
ω	Lack of motivation/political will to implement reforms, including on judicial openness.	31 May 2017	Political	Probability 3 Impact 3	Continued engagement with GoT across multiple platforms, including Development Forum, National Development Council, and regional and national Policy Dialogues	Project Manager / CTA	CTA		
4	GoT no longer wishes to engage in Policy Dialogue.	31 May 2017	Political	Probability 2 Impact 2	Demonstrate utility of Policy Dialogue through development of relevant legal documents and policy changes	Project Manager / CTA	CTA		
S.	The GoT does not follow through on its financial commitments in 2019-21	31 May 2017	Financial	Probability 4 Impact 3	Keep MoF engaged in on-going discussions; maintain commitment from MoJ at highest levels	Project Manager / CTA	CTA		
6	There is a dramatic change in either personnel or policies at key local counterparts, particularly the MoJ	31 May 2017	Organization al	Probability 5 Impact 2	Work quickly to rebuild relationships with new counterparts	Project Manager / CTA	CTA		
7	The capacities of CSO/NGO Partners do not develop as anticipated.	31 May 2017	Other	Probability 3 Impact 1	Engage closely with CSO and NGO partners and continue capacity development work with them	Project Manager / CTA	CTA		
00	A severe recession, currency shock, or other economic turmoil.	31 May 2017	Financial	Probability 2 Impact 2	Careful financial planning, get GoT financial commitments confirmed well in advance	Senior Management	CTA		

Annex 3:

'Strengthening Rule of Law and	BUDGET d Human Rights to E	307044	e in Tajikistan' ।	Project phase II	
			BUDGET		
Outputs, Activity Results and Activities	Whole Project duration	2018	2019	2020	2021
				All figures o	ire provided in U
Description of activities:	1,590,851	377,927	376,671	381,151	455,102
Seminars and trainings	40,498	10,000	10,498	10,000	10,000
Contractual services	558,467	136,000	140,000	133,227	149,240
Transfers and grants to counterparts	410,000	100,000	100,000	110,000	100,000
International Technical Consultant	80,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Travel (local)	40,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
National staff (Programme Manager, 2 Pr. Officers - cost-sharing)	199,126	37,800	37,800	37,800	85,726
National staff (Admin. Finance Assistant, Driver)	88,511	21,127	17,124	17,124	33,136
IT Equipment, vehicle running costs (maintenance and fuel), furniture	54,249	15,000	13,249	15,000	11,000
Communication (internet, mobile phones, etc)	24,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Office rent	69,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	24,000
UNDP CO support costs	20,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	7,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,000
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	128,593	17,162	47,142	17,142	47,147
nternational Consultant (mid-term evaluation)	25,000		25,000		
National Consultant (mid-term evaluation)	5,000		5,000		
nternational Consultant (final evaluation)	25,000				25,000
National Consultant (final evaluation)	5,000				5,000
MONITORING	68,593	17,162	17,142	17,142	17,147
OVERHEAD COSTS	137,556	31,607	33,905	31,863	40,180
GMS (8%)	137,556	31,608	33,905	31,863	40,180
GRANDTOTAL:	1,857,000	426,696	457,718	430,156	542,429

Note:

Staff costs distribution is as follows:

FY2018 - FY2020:

PM: SDC - 75%; MFAF - 25%; POs: SDC - 42%; MFAF - 58%; AFA: - SDC - 44%; MFAF - 56%; Driver: SDC - 56%; MFAF - 44% In FY2021

PM: SDC - 75%; MFAF - 25%; POs: SDC - 42%; MFAF - 58%; AFA: - SDC - 44%; MFAF - 56%; Driver: SDC - 56%; MFAF - 44%

"ACCES	BU SS TO JUDICL	BUDGET FOR "ACCESS TO JUDICIAL INFORMATION' PROJECT"	ON' PROJECT	4
		BUDGET		
Outputs, Activity Results and Activities	Total	2018 (12 months)	2019 (6 months)	Comments:
		All figu	All figures are in USD	
Description of activities:				
<u>Activities</u>	232,000	157,000	75,000	
Conduction of a legal analysis, development and advocacy of a policy paper on judicial information openness	40,000	25,000	15,000	Includes expenditures related to support to the working group on legislation review, support in elaboration of a draft policy documents on judiciary information and advocacy
Modernization of 5 regional court web pages and Supreme Court and link district court's web pages to regional court's web page. Training of focal points to maintain the web page	15,000	15,000	1	USD 2,500*6 Courts
Best court web page (from the point of view of access to information and interactions with the population) competition (2 times)	12,000	6,000	6,000	Annually (2 during project lifespan)
Study Tour on information openness (shortlist of countries with the best practices to be proposed by UNDP and agreed with the donor)	27,000	27,000	-	1 study tour for at least 10 Supreme Court staff, including Press Secretaries from National and Regional Courts
Training for press secretaries/Mass Media	37,000	25,000	12,000	Covers training costs for 80 Press Secritaries, focal points and 30 mass media representatives (travel, meals, venue, equipment, etc)
Consultantcy fees (Judiciary opennes etc)	16,000	9,000	7,000	Includes fee of an international consultant to design and deliver trainings to Press Secretaries, focal points and mass media representatives
Equipment of the Press Centre of Supreme Court and regional courts	25,000	15,000	10,000	Includes equipment of Supreme Court and two pilot regional courts
Support in organisation of Press Conferences and Seminars at the regional level	25,000	13,000	12,000	Includes on job training, mentoring and coaching for Press Secretaries to practice public speaking skills during the public events

Publication and dissemination of Project materials, including Supreme Court Decisions	15,000	10,000	5,000	
Support in elaboration and implementation of the Judicial-Legal Reform Programme for 2018-2020	20,000	12,000	8,000	Includes support to the Working Group on elaboration and implementation of the Project related activities on judicial information
Administrative costs	45,778	30,000	15,778	
Vehicle running cost	3,000	2,000	1.000	
Salary of staff (Project assistant – 100%); Programme Officer 10% for				
•) • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	20,000	13,000	/,000	
Rent of office	6,000	4,000	2,000	
Direct project costs	8,000	5,000	3,000	
Monitoring costs	6,000	4,000	2,000	
Miscellaneous	2,778	2,000	778	
Total expenditures	277,778	187,000	90,778	
GMS (8%)	22,222	14,961	7,261	
GRANDTOTAL:	300,000	201,961	98,039	

Workplan 'Access to Judicial Information' project for 2018-2019

			2018	18		2(2019	100 E			2018	2010
	Outputs, Activity Results and Activities	QI	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	90	Responsible	Resources	Budget description	Budget	2019 get
Output 1: Strengthened capacity of judiciary to provide high	Description of activities:	ă										
quality judicial services, including timely and reliable	Activities									200		
information to people across the country	Activity result 1.1. Work with design and content of court web sites:											
Indicators: Number of Supreme Court website visits by the population	Work with the Supreme Court and Oblast Courts to appoint focal points responsible for web page development	×						Supreme Court		Contractual services-companies	58,000	29,000
Number of press conferences conducted for	Modernization of 5 regional court web pages and Supreme Court and link											
improved interaction with population and mass media	district court's web pages to regional court's web page. Training of focal points to maintain the web page		×	×	×	×				DPC	5,000	3,000
number of press secretaries (focal points) and mass media trained on the basis of information accessibility of courts, work with public and mass media, segregated by gender;	Conduction of the best court web page (from the point of view of access to information and interactions with the population) competition (2 times)			×	×	×	×	EoP	UNDP Supreme Court	Consultancy	9,000	7,000
Targets: 46,000 websiie visits per month. including 1,000 visiis per monthiregional Court website	Activity result 1.2 Capacity development of the press secretaries of courts and mass media representatives									Misc.	2,000	778
80 Jocal points are trained; at least 30 media representatives are trained, out of which at least 30% are women	Work with the Supreme Court and Oblast Courts to appoint focal points in districts courts on PR		×					UNDP		Salary	13,000	7.000
Eight press conferences to be conducted for improved interactions with the population and mass media, including 30% women	Equipment of the Press Centre of Supreme Court and regional courts		×	×	×	×	×			Travel	27,000	

						submitted to the Parliament At least 5 recommendations ro the review of Information Flor judiciary will be implemented	Targets: Draft La	 Status of policy paper: # of recommendations (from the information flows) implemented. 	disclose information	Court) establishes legal
						submitted to the Parliament At least 5 recommendations resulting from the review of Information Flows within the judiciary will be implemented	Targets: Draft Law "On Openness of judicial information" developed and	 Status of policy paper: # of recommendations [from the review of information flows] implemented: 	disclose information	Court) establishes legal
Grandtotal:	GMS: 8%	Total:	Support in elaboration and implementation of the Judicial-Legal Reform Programme for 2018-2020	Study Tour on information openness (shortlist of countries with the best practices to be proposed by UNDP and agreed with the donor)	Conduction of a legal analysis, development and advocacy of a policy paper on judicial information openness	Establisment of an inter agency working group on policy review regarding judcial information accessibilty	Activity result 2.1 Development and advocacy of a policy paper on information openness	Support in organization of Press Conferences and Seminars at the regional level	Publication and dissemination of Project materials, including Supreme Court Decisions	Media Media
	350		×		×					
			×	×	×	×			×	
	Days Days		×	×	×			×	×	×
			×	×	×			×	×	×
			×		×			×	×	×
			×		×			×	×	×
					Press secretaries			Oblast and district courts		
			,							
300.000				Admin. Costs	Monitoring	Training/Workshop	Publication	Office rent	Equipment	Vehicle running cost
201 061	14,961	187,000			4,000	38,000	10,000	4,000	15,000	2,000
201 961 98 030	7,261	90,778			2,000	24,000	5,000	2,000	10,000	1.000

Reference map: Location of UNDP Legal Aid Centers in Tajikistan, early 2017

