

UNDP in The Gambia



Strengthening Rule of Law and Enhancing Justice and Security Service Delivery in The Gambia (UNDP RoL Project)

Overall Project Budget 2019: \$722,966 (93% delivery)

Overall Project Budget 2020: \$1,470,000

Funding Gap 2020: \$1,000,000

Unbudgeted Activities: \$456,000

Total \$1,456, 000 (49.8% funding gap)

2019 Strategic Partnerships: Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Civil Society Organizations, German Police Support Team, GIZ, and UNICEF.

2020 Strategic Partnerships: In addition to the above, the project will engage with: UK Judiciary Program, UNFPA, OHCHR, Gambia Law School, and more CSOs to increase access to justice for citizens in rural areas.

Objectives: The UNDP RoL Project endeavors to strengthen the resilience of Rule of Law institutions to provide quality justice services to citizens with particular attention to the needs of women, children and survivors of human rights violations. Through reforms, strategic and policy level support coupled with on the ground interventions, the project supports the justice sector to restore public trust and confidence in the rule of law sector. The UNDP RoL project works in close partnership with the Judiciary, Police, Prisons, Ministry of Justice, the National Agency for Legal Aid (NALA) and ADR providers to use data and evidence to identify gaps, build institutional and personnel capacities and plan for medium- and long-term success. The draft Rule of Law Roadmap provides a 5-year strategy to guide the sector as a whole towards the achievement of shared goals, address cross cutting challenges and better coordinate the justice chain. The project also reaches out to citizens, empowering and educating them to exercise their rights and hold institutions to account.

Primary Beneficiaries: Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Police, Prisons, Gambia Bar Association, National Agency for Legal Aid, Alternative Dispute Resolution Secretariat, Gambia Law School, General Legal Counsel and Civil Society Organizations.

Secondary Beneficiaries: Users of justice services, citizens, particularly women, children and survivors of human rights violations.

Key Achievements of 2019:

Community Policing Initiative

A Community Policing Strategy & Implementation Plans were completed. A Pilot was conducted in 3 localities (urban, peri-urban and rural) namely Kunkujasng (West Coast Region), Bakadaji (Upper River Region) and Njaba Kunda (Nprth Bank Region). The Community Policing Pilot Report & Recommendations, alongwith the Stratety and Implementation plans have been endorsed by the MOI, IGP and community stakeholders.

The initiative endeavors to foster trust and confidence in the Police at the local and national levels. Community



Workshop on CP Strategy and Implementation Plan

Policing includes gathering and analyzing reported crime data to inform police leadership on targeted training and deployments.

Rapid Prison Assessment and Case Management

The project completed a Rapid Prison Assessment Report which includes a Photo book & Short Video Documentary. The RPA report and accompanying documentation have been endorsed by the DG of Prisons and MOI. To address the backlog of cases, particularly those held in remand, the Project supported a Prison Case Management Plan with a 5 day training for 20 Prison personnel on case and asset management.



Training of Prison Staff on Case and Asset Management

Rule of Law Roadmap

A sector wide 5year Rule of Law Roadmap has been developed by all key Rule of Law stakeholders including CSOs and NGOs aligned to the National Development Plan. The Roadmap provides a thorough analysis and assessment of shared sector wide goals, outputs and activities which can be measured and monitored.

Increased Prosecution of SGBV Related Crimes



Training of MOJ-SGBV unit and Police Prosecutors

10 Police Trainers, 5 state counsels from the MOJ-SGBV unit, 25 Police Prosecutors and a social worker were trained on how to prosecute and investigate SGBV cases. The course included sessions on interviewing techniques for survivors of SGBV, particularly women and children, and a SGBV Handbook has been developed and embedded in the Police Training School.

Prison Legal Aid Desk and Mobile Legal Aid Clinics

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Prison Service, the Gambia Bar Association (GBA) and the National Agency for Legal Aid establishing Prison Legal Aid Desks in 2 out of the 3 prisons in The Gambia.

The Mobile Legal Aid Clinics was launched in 7 localities, in and outside the Greater Banjul Area in partnership with NALA, GBA, ADR Secretariat, the Department of Social Welfare and the Cadi Court.



Mobile Legal Clinic, Pakau Village

Radio Program Series

A live radio program series was launched in September 2019 with Q radio and Radio Gambia to raise awareness and foster discussion with citizens on Rule of Law, access to justice, Human Rights and SGBV related cases.

Improved access to justice especially for women and children who are victims of serious human right violations

The project intends to continue its support to extend access to justice to communities (particularly in rural areas) and prisoners through the MLACs and PLADs. To facilitate the reforms process, the project will provide technical support for revisions to the Legal Practitioner's Act and the Evidence Act. To ensure justice practitioners are up to date on changes to the law, the project endeavors to establish the first Continuing Legal Education Program in the Gambia. By extending legal aid and ADR services, revising legislation to mandate pro bono services and allowing prisoners access to legal advice, the project endeavors to bring justice closer to those most in need. The radio shows, CSOs, community influencers and MLACs create awareness and engage the public on rule on law access to justice issues.

Establish Community Policing

The project will continue its partnership with the Gambia Police Force to transform its policing engagement towards a more client and community centered approach.

Strengthened justice service delivery system

The project seeks to support the Judiciary and the MOJ through capacity development, technical advice on legislative reform, institutional strategic planning, prosecuting SGBV crimes, improving case management systems, and the development of curriculum, particularly in relation to emerging transitional justice issues. The project intends to support the dire needs of the Prison Service through infrastructure renovations, capacity development of Prison staff, improved prisoner rehabilitation and social integration programs with particular attention to juveniles and women in detention.

Sector coordination, planning and implementation to achieve NDP goals

The project will complete a National Public Perception Survey for rule of law, access to justice and security. It is expected to be finalized by May 2020 and set the benchmarks to support more informed programmatic interventions based on citizen perceptions of justice needs and priorities. The project's knowledge products

from 2019 (5-year Rule of Law Roadmap, Rapid Prisons Assessment Report, Prisons Photobook and Documentary, Community Policing Strategy, CP Implementation Plan and Pilot Report, SGBV Handbook for Prosecutors) will be launched in early 2020.

The UNDP RoL Project works in coordination with sister UN and development partner programs focused on the Transitional Justice, SSR and Constitutional reforms processes. Multi-year funding support is in dire need to ensure that the progress and gains from these temporal and critical processes are captured by a resilient Rule of Law sector. The window to build capacity of personnel, embed policies and practices that create more resilient justice institutions and assure citizens that the justice sector can provide quality services is narrowing. In this window is a great opportunity to ensure that The Gambia's justice sector is able to meet the expectations of its citizens.

For more information on how to engage or to share ideas, contact Mariam Njai Communications Analyst at: mariam.njai@undp.org / Tel: (+220) 3303180

United Nations Development Programme
One United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212) 906 5000
www.undp.org