Through its earlier Access to Justice Projects (2004-2008 & 2009-2012), UNDP became a key partner to the Sri Lankan Government for access to justice programming. Both projects contributed to increasing the awareness of local communities about their rights and the legal and judicial mechanisms to protect them. They also helped to improve legal aid service delivery and access to legal documentation, particularly in the conflict-affected Eastern and Northern parts of the country. At the national level, these initiatives contributed to strengthening the capacity of justice institutions to deliver justice more effectively. They also built a sound and diverse network of relevant stakeholders, providing a good basis to move towards more upstream support—in particular for strengthening policy dialogue on justice sector reform. Based on those projects, and under UNDP’s new Country Programme Action Plan, the Strengthening Enforcement of Law, Access to Justice and Social Integration in Sri Lanka (SELAJSI) Programme, will focus on ensuring that gains in the justice sector are institutionalized, systematized and scaled-up. By doing so, the Programme will also contribute to supporting several of the commitments made by the Government of Sri Lanka, namely the National Plan of Action to implement the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC), National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (NAP-PPHR 2011-2016) and the National Policy Framework for Social Integration, which have made important recommendations towards reconciliation and strengthening the rule of law in Sri Lanka. The Programme will also build on efforts from civil society organizations, especially women’s and youth organizations, to engage in social integration and reconciliation actions in the country, and provide platforms to strengthen partnerships amongst different groups and persons.
Programme’s Focus Areas and Expected Results

Output 1 - Coordination, co-operation and systems between justice, police and prisons enhanced in three “area models” for an effective, efficient and equitable legal system and administration of justice

The Programme will support the whole penal chain—police, prosecution, courts and prisons—in three pilot areas to be able to deliver more equitable and fair justice. Strategies for institutional strengthening will be a priority for all actors at sub-national levels. While the focus will be determined by capacity assessments, the goal is to find coordinated and innovative solutions that improve administration of justice by prioritizing and sequencing interventions that affect the most vulnerable and marginalized, especially women, children, minority groups and differently-abled people. In doing so, the Programme seeks to strengthen confidence and trust between the population and the state, contributing to improved social cohesion and integration.

Output 2 - Improved access to justice for vulnerable populations through systematized legal aid service provision and dispute resolution mechanisms accessible to all

At the sub-national level the Programme will support coordinated legal aid service delivery; at the national level it will support the development of a national legal aid strategy. This work will build on UNDP’s former Access to Justice projects through which the Legal Aid Commission (LAC) evolved into a solid governmental institution providing legal aid services to more than 12,000 beneficiaries through 12 of its offices. The Programme will facilitate the coordination of legal aid service provision between NGOs and the LAC with a view to promoting a central mechanism for quality control and a referral system for institutions involved in the penal chain.

Output 3 - Capacities of state and non-state actors strengthened for comprehensive and coordinated response to address sexual and gender based violence (SGBV)

The Programme will support the Government to implement the actions foreseen in the NAP-PPHR and the LLRC Action Plan, as well as several recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. While there is strong and active support and campaigning against SGBV through government and non-governmental institutions, these are faced with many challenges and the response lacks a national coordination mechanism combining the efforts of various actors. Under this Output, the Programme aims to support the Government and strengthen its capacities to come up with a coordinated and comprehensive response to address SGBV.

Output 4 - Institutional capacities strengthened for improved administration of justice, strategic planning and policy development for a longer-term sector wide approach to justice, police and prisons

The overall objective of this Output is to ensure that at the national level all previous Outputs contribute gradually to institutionalizing and systematizing interventions in the five year planned duration of the Programme. It seeks to ensure that institutional capacity building support will help realize institutional linkages, identify mutual entry points for cross-sector planning and create the foundations to initiate and lead on reform for the justice sector in a more holistic and comprehensive way.

Output 5 - National institutions and actors (state and civic) have strong capacities for policy-making and policy actions aimed at promoting dialogue, social integration and reconciliation

Work around this Output aims at improving the enabling environment for policy dialogue and policy action on social integration and reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

Output 6 - A more aware public, especially youth and women, engaged in social integration and reconciliation actions

This Output will support greater awareness and mobilization for social integration and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. The strongest resource for social integration and reconciliation is the understanding, willingness and capacity of people to take these processes forward. This Output recognizes the contributions of multiple stakeholders and will facilitate synergies to undertake specific social integration and reconciliation activities. As such, this component will build partnerships between government institutions and civil society organizations, including women’s and youth organizations, to support efforts for social integration.
Why Consider Partnering with SELAJSI?

⇒ The Programme promotes increased coordination and sequenced approaches to sub-national and national level interventions: for example the first phase of the Programme will concentrate on capacity and process development at the local level while building elements of institutional capacity development at national level; increasingly the Programme will assist the government in strengthening national upstream policy development and implementation aimed at fostering more effective institutions and national unity.

⇒ The Programme supports national authorities and institutions to systematize processes that help deliver social integration and justice services efficiently, while ensuring that good practices at national level are mirrored and supported at the sub national level and vice versa.

⇒ The Programme promotes a sector-wide approach to justice and social integration by increasing the engagement of national authorities in strategic and coordinated planning and policy development.

⇒ The Programme tackles social integration and reconciliation as long-term and multiple processes. Careful consideration has been given to mapping longer-term change and ensuring capacities for continued work beyond programme-based life-spans. In addition, understanding that social integration and reconciliation entail the convergence of multiple processes that move a society towards addressing inequalities and building or strengthening relations, the Programme focuses on reaching and involving key opinion-makers and groups - political, civil society and religious leaders, the media, etc - with the power, ability and influence to facilitate those processes and act.

⇒ The Programme promotes context sensitive interventions and regionally differentiated approaches: While the Programme provides an integrated multi-dimensional approach, implementation of those activities will be context specific, including accommodating the varying needs and capacities in different areas. The Programme will work closely with local authorities and stakeholders in order to identify priorities and appropriate processes as well as key target groups and type of activities.

⇒ The Programme promotes a ‘gender equality perspective’, for example by ensuring the collection and interpretation of sex/age disaggregated data and conducting gender analysis to better inform Programme design and implementation. The Programme will prioritize in particular women’s access to justice services and women’s participation and decision-making in the rule of law architecture and social integration policy formulation and actions.

Implementing Partners

The Implementing Partners of UNDP in this Programme will be the Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration (MNLSI), the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms (MRPR) and the Ministry of Child Development and Women’s Affairs (MCDWA).

UN Agencies working in the Programme’s priority areas will also partner in this initiative.

Other Partners

⇒ Government Analyst’s Department
⇒ Legal Aid Commission
⇒ Judicial Service Commission
⇒ Judges Training Institute
⇒ Courts in “area models”
⇒ Attorney General’s Department
⇒ Legal Draftsman’s Department
⇒ Prisons Department
⇒ Prison services in “area models”
⇒ Ministry of Defence
⇒ Department of Police
⇒ Police stations in “area models”
⇒ Ministry of Land
⇒ Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils in “area models”
⇒ Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs
⇒ Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka
⇒ Registrar General’s Department
⇒ Registration of Persons Department
⇒ Bar Association of Sri Lanka
⇒ Civil society, and non-governmental, women’s and youth organizations
Funding Framework, Budget and Implementation Modality

The Programme offers an opportunity to establish an integrated, flexible and coherent partnership with interested donors through a uniform framework agreement with annual work plans and one Programme Board to strategically lead and review progress on the ground. Key aspects of such a funding framework will include an increasing move towards non-earmarked funding. This allows for donors to support a strategic programming approach and provides UNDP with a flexible funding source for a specific set of thematic outcome-level interventions. At the same time this enables the efficient use of resources through reallocation when necessary, based on coherent delivery and strategic needs. The Programme intends to evolve from single year to multi-year commitments, allowing predictable funding sources to help UNDP Sri Lanka plan for medium term development interventions in partnership with national stakeholders. The Programme’s partnership principles are modeled on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and will include joint assessments, monitoring, evaluations and reviews. This provides an opportunity for rigorous debate beyond financial accountability, including analyses on the effectiveness of current development policy. The Programme will promote national ownership and minimize transaction costs through harmonization of financial and narrative reporting and accountability mechanisms. The estimated cost to implement the Programme over the next five years is estimated at USD 11 million, and development partners will be called upon to pledge resources and become partners in this initiative.

The Programme on Strengthening Enforcement of Law, Access to Justice and Social Integration in Sri Lanka will be nationally implemented (NIM) by the Ministries of National Languages and Social Integration; Justice; Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms and Ministry of Child Development and Women’s Affairs respectively, and as detailed in the 4 individual Annual Work Plans signed by each of the implementing partners (IPs) and UNDP. The 4 IPs will each be responsible and accountable for the implementation of their respective projects. These 4 individual projects will collaboratively contribute to achieving the overall outcome of the programme framework. The IPs may enter into agreements with each other as Responsible Parties (RPs) to assist in delivering project outputs. In addition, each of the IPs may enter into agreements with other organizations or entities as RPs, to assist in successfully delivering project outputs. RPs are directly accountable to the IP in accordance with the terms of their agreement with the IP. IPs use RPs in order to take advantage of their specialized skills, to mitigate risks and to relieve administrative burdens.

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Implementing Partners

Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration (MNLSI)

Ministry of Justice (MOJ)

Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms (MRPR)

Ministry of Child Development and Women’s Affairs (MCDWA).