

Quarterly Reporting Template for US/INL Funded Projects

Period covered by the report: 1 July 2015 - 30 September 2015

1. Context	
Project/Sub-programme Number	
Title	Strengthening Institutional Capacities in the Penal Chain and Access to Justice in Sri Lanka
Duration (years/months)	3 Years
Starting Date	23 September 2013
Location(s) *	National and Sub-National
Responsible Office:	
UNODC Regional / Country or Thematic Programme Outcome to which this programme/project directly contributes *	
Executing Agency	UNDP
Government Implementing Agency/Partners *	<p><u>2013 and 2014</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration ▪ Ministry of Justice ▪ Ministry of Prisons Reform and Rehabilitation ▪ Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs <p><u>Since January 2015</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ministry of Public Administration, Local Government and Democratic Governance (<i>including</i> National Languages and Social Integration division) ▪ Ministry of Justice (<i>including</i> department of Prison Reforms and Rehabilitation) ▪ Ministry of Women's Affairs <p><u>Since September 2015</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of National Dialogue • Ministry Women and Child Affairs • Ministry of Justice & Law Reforms
UNODC Overall Budget	USD\$ 705,000
Donor(s)	US-INL through UNDP-Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (formerly Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery)

1.1 Summary of quarterly Achievements against set targets /Project Summary

After a relatively settled second quarter in terms of governmental stability, the third quarter was again beset with uncertainty as the country prepared for the next set of national elections – the Parliamentary elections held on 17 August. These elections saw the United Front for Good Governance with the backing of President Maithripala Sirisena, win a majority of seats in Parliament, though falling short of an absolute majority by a few seats. This led to the formation of a government of national unity under the premiership of Mr Ranil Wickramasinghe. While many looked forward to a more streamlined and rationalised set of ministries, approximately 47 Cabinet and 19 State ministries were formed, leaving the number of ministries not much less than under the government of former President Mahinda Rajapakse. With the establishment of new ministries and appointment of new secretaries, SELAJSI saw its Programme Board alter again, with all of the Board members representing the government changing for a second time this year. The lead Ministry for the broader SELAJSI programme is now the Ministry of National Dialogue, and of particular relevance to the Access to Justice component, the Secretary Ministry of Justice who had been in post for many years, retired and a new Secretary is now in place.

1.1 Summary of quarterly Achievements against set targets /Project Summary *contd.*

Access to Justice work continued by and large as planned. A meeting of the national case flow management committee was held, with the participation of the Minister of Justice and the Secretary Ministry of Justice. The findings from the Batticaloa district case flow management meeting were presented and areas for better linkages between the district and national level justice institutions were discussed, with certain steps agreed to expedite the flow of cases. The second district case flow management meeting was held in Ratnapura, along the lines of the first meeting held in Batticaloa in the second quarter, highlighting the need for and agreeing to greater collaboration and coordination amongst criminal justice sector actors. The institutional needs assessment which is complementary to the case flow management work, attempting to identify specific issues faced by individual institutions in the law enforcement system, is progressing well with the research team having had detailed interviews with several institutions this quarter. The clearing of the backlog of narcotics cases, cases of persons detained for long periods under Emergency Regulations, and complaints to the public petitions unit, continued at the Attorney General's Department. The timeline for formulation of the National Legal Aid Policy had to be revisited due to certain questions from the Legal Aid Commission which needed to be addressed before proceeding further. According to the latest developments the Ministry of Justice seems keen to move ahead with finalising the Policy, with a near final draft expected in November. Preliminary work on production of public awareness material on the Victim and Witness Protection Act got underway. Legal aid clinics were conducted at the Batticaloa and Ratnapura prisons following the agreement with the Legal Aid Commission.

Consolidation of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Code in all three languages is moving forward, despite some delay arising from a change in the status of the consolidated legislation which was brought up during the process of consolidation. While the initial work began on the basis that the consolidations would not have the status of a strictly official version (due to the intricacies of the procedure for obtaining this status), it has now been brought to our notice that these consolidations could have official status by the application of a particular statutory provision. The work was therefore somewhat re-tracked to accommodate this positive development. The consolidations of the two laws would be completed in the fourth quarter.

The main focus of the gender component of SELAJSI was to move ahead swiftly with developing the sectoral action plans which would form the National Action Plan to address Gender Based Violence (GBV). The nine sectoral committees are all in the process of preparing their plans, with some nearing completion. Furthermore, given the changes in political context and recent increase in space for direct engagement of civil society organizations, the project has taken increased efforts to engage civil societies for dialogues and processes both at national and sub-national level, particular in establishment of referral mechanism for responding to GBV, and establishment of sub-national case-flow management committees. In addition, the project is also in the early stages of establishing direct-support to non-state actors such as Women In Need for provision of legal and counselling support to GBV survivors that would complement support services already provided through Police Women and Child desks.

2. Planned and Unplanned Results Achieved

In the following sections, please use the tables provided to answer these questions:

- (1) List and describe all intended and unintended results from this quarter.
- (2) List any evidence that proves intended results were achieved.
- (3) What was the cause of any unintended results?
- (4) How was the evidence gathered?

2.1 Outcome(s) and outputs

Outcomes and Outputs <i>Planned Results (US term)</i>	Progress against identified performance indicators <i>Achieved Results (US term)</i>	Means of Verification <i>Evidence and Data Collection (US term)</i>	Comments. Please explain any variance between planned and achieved activities, outputs and outcomes	Total outcome expenditure/advance excluding project support costs (PSC), in US\$, as of Quarter 3 – 2015
Outcome: Communities empowered and institutions strengthened to support local governance, access to justice, social integration, gender equality, and monitoring, promotion and protection of human rights in alignment with international treaties and obligations and in alignment to the constitution of Sri Lanka.				
<p>Activity Result 1: Reduced criminal justice delays through improved case management and pretrial procedural mechanisms between penal chain actors in 1 “area model”(1.1)</p> <p>Baselines: 1. # of backlog cases to be established during Year-1 2. # of priority cases identified in 1 area model penal chain to be established in Year-2</p> <p>Process indicators: 1. Case Management Committee established and in operation in 1 area model 2. Staff trained on use of case-management systems</p> <p>Output indicators: 1. % priority cases addressed in the area model penal chain 2. Increased efficiency in the criminal justice process</p>	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Case Management Committees are in the process of being established. Initial meetings have been held at each area model district 2. On-going <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cases to be expedited have been identified. 2. To be determined through project evaluations. 	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting minutes, participant attendance lists 2. Training attendance lists, training agendas/curricula <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reports, case tracking formats 2. Project reviews (mid-term, endline) 	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delays in obtaining required approvals to establish committees. The project is seeking alternative options. 2. System has yet to be established, due to reason above. <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Though slightly delayed, key initial steps have been taken and the processes are moving forward. 	<p><i>USD 4760.00 (Cash Advance released in Q2-2015)</i></p> <p><i>USD 1,255.00 (Expenditure recorded in 2015)</i></p> <p><i>USD 13,625.24 (Expenditure incurred in Q3-2015, but not recorded)</i></p> <p><i>USD 21,606.33 (Total Expenditure Recorded to date)</i></p>

Outcomes and Outputs <i>Planned Results (US term)</i>	Progress against identified performance indicators <i>Achieved Results (US term)</i>	Means of Verification <i>Evidence and Data Collection (US term)</i>	Comments. Please explain any variance between planned and achieved activities, outputs and outcomes	Total outcome expenditure/advance excluding project support costs (PSC), in US\$, as of Quarter 3 – 2015
<p>Activity Result 2: Increased coordinated legal aid service delivery for vulnerable and marginalized populations, including through the establishment of referral mechanisms at sub-national level (2.2)</p> <p>Baselines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> No formal referral system in place between ADR mechanisms, paralegal service providers, legal aid service providers and justice and security institutions No recognition of paralegals as formal legal aid service providers. Absence of standardized training and accreditation for paralegals. Many recommendations of the 2010 LAC capacity assessment have not been implemented # of LAC capacity assessment recommendations not implemented to be determined in year-1 <p>Process indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Formal referral system established between ADR mechanisms, paralegal service providers, legal aid service providers and justice and security institutions <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Para legals formally recognized as legal aid service providers Standardized training and accreditation system for para-legals established # of recommendations of the 2010 LAC capacity assessment implemented 	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Referral Mechanism was established in Batticaloa district. <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Paralegals have yet to be identified. Training and accreditation system has yet to be developed Implementation of recommendations are on-going 	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Case tracking formats, meeting minutes, reports, case studies <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> List of official recognized paralegals from relevant authority, copies of recognition document Training manuals and curricula documents, accreditation policy document Reports 	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The project was able to influence the Legal Aid Commission to prioritize the development of a Legal Aid Policy. Once the policy is developed, it would provide guidance on referral systems and appointment of paralegals <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting development of Legal Aid Policy – final Policy due in November. As above Ongoing 	<p><i>USD 67,933.00 (Cash Advance released in Q2-2015)</i></p> <p><i>USD 2,246.00 (Expenditure recorded in 2015)</i></p> <p><i>USD 6470.90 (Expenditure incurred in Q3-2015, but not recorded)</i></p> <p><i>USD 31,320.16 (Total Recorded Expenditure to date)</i></p>

Outcomes and Outputs <i>Planned Results (US term)</i>	Progress against identified performance indicators <i>Achieved Results (US term)</i>	Means of Verification <i>Evidence and Data Collection (US term)</i>	Comments. Please explain any variance between planned and achieved activities, outputs and outcomes	Total outcome expenditure/advance excluding project support costs (PSC), in US\$, as of Quarter 3 – 2015
<p>Activity Result 3: Capacities of law enforcement and judicial institutions strengthened to efficiently handle SGBV cases and ensure equal access to legal and judicial protection for SGBV victims (3.3)</p> <p>Baselines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No National Action Plan on SGBV. Comprehensive and current data on prevalence of SGBV not available. Domestic violence law adopted but some gaps remain. There is no operational referral system of SGBV from mediation boards to the penal chain. # of cases filed under Domestic Violence Act of 2003 to be determined by baseline study conducted in year-1. <p>Process indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation to combat violence against women reviewed by mandated institutions. <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> National action plan on SGBV formulated. # of activities implemented from the National Action Plan on SGBV. % increase in the number of domestic violence complaints referred by the Mediation Boards to the penal chain (as a proxy for the operationalization of the system). 	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Development of National Framework and National Action Plan on GBV has been initiated, this includes a consultative process across various sectors, where relevant legislation would be reviewed <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Process of developing the NAP is ongoing NAP is in the process of being developed To be determined. Referral mechanisms are at the initial stages of being formalized at the area models. 	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation and reports <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Final draft of NAP Reports, case studies Case tracking formats, reports, case studies 	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Process is ongoing <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Process is on-going Process is on-going TBD 	<p><i>USD 43,342.19 (Cash Advance released in Q3-2015)</i></p> <p><i>USD 25,006.40 (Expenditures recorded in Q3-2015)</i></p> <p><i>USD 43,222.39 (Total Expenditure Recorded to date)</i></p>
<p>Activity Result 4:</p> <p>Improved institutional capacities for efficiency and effectiveness of the justice sector at national level, including strategic planning and cross-sectoral management skills for the formulation and implementation of policies, laws and plans (4.2)</p>	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Victims and Witness Protection Act was passed in Feb 2015. At least 01 introductory discussion was initiated through the Legal Aid Commission as 	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion minutes, participants list <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Official notification of establishment of unit, 	<p>Process Indicators</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This activity is on-going <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Priorities of Ministry has shifted immediately following the Jan 2015 elections. 	<p><i>USD 62,154 (Cash Advance released in Q2-2015)</i></p> <p><i>USD 16,423 (Expenditures recorded in Q2-2015)</i></p>

Outcomes and Outputs <i>Planned Results (US term)</i>	Progress against identified performance indicators <i>Achieved Results (US term)</i>	Means of Verification <i>Evidence and Data Collection (US term)</i>	Comments. Please explain any variance between planned and achieved activities, outputs and outcomes	Total outcome expenditure/advance excluding project support costs (PSC), in US\$, as of Quarter 3 – 2015
<p>Baselines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No language unit in the MOJ to formulate and coordinate implementation of a language plan for the justice sector, including recommendations by the Speedy Trial Committee. 2. Lack of consolidated legislation and translations in both official languages of Evidence Ordinance, Penal Code, Judicature Act, Criminal Procedure Code and Civil Procedure Code. 3. Limited awareness amongst lawyers of the latest international and regional developments in criminal justice and public law (Constitutional and Administrative) 4. The draft Bill on Assistance and Protection to Victims of Crime and Witnesses was tabled in June 2008. The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in its Special Determination 1/2008, SCM 02.04.2008, suggested changes to the draft law of which many were incorporated by the Ministry of Justice into an “Amended Version” issued on 28 July 2009. <p>Process indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. # of dialogue/advocacy events between the criminal justice system stakeholders on passage of the Protection of Victims and Witness Bill <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Languages Unit established in the MoJ to formulate and coordinate implementation of a language plan for the justice sector 2. # of key pieces of legislation consolidated and translated into both official languages 3. Draft amendments to Criminal Procedure Code prepared to decrease case delays and remand population 	<p>part of a sensitization programme for Police officers. Awareness campaign is in the process of being finalized, will be launched in Q3</p> <p>Output indicators:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Language Unit has yet to be established 2. 02 pieces of legislation have been translated (Penal Code & Criminal Procedure Code) and in the process of printed for dissemination. 02 more will be initiated (Evidence Ordinance & Judicature Act) 3. On-going 	<p>draft of language plan, evidence of implementation of language plan (reports, photos, case studies)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Copies of translated legislation, reports/case studies of how translated documents have been used 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. This activity if on-going. 3. This activity if on-going. 	<p><i>USD 35,060.92 (Expenditures incurred in Q3-2015, but not recorded)</i></p> <p><i>USD 76,518.14 (Total Expenditure Recorded to date)</i></p>

Outcomes and Outputs Planned Results (US term)	Progress against identified performance indicators Achieved Results (US term)	Means of Verification Evidence and Data Collection (US term)	Comments. Please explain any variance between planned and achieved activities, outputs and outcomes	Total outcome expenditure/advance excluding project support costs (PSC), in US\$, as of Quarter 3 – 2015
			Total 2014 (Excluding PSC)	127,736.62
			PSC	46,121.00
			Total Expenditure for 2014 (Including PSC)	173,857.62
			Total Expenditures recorded for 2015	44,930.40
			Total expenditure incurred, but not recorded	55,157.05
			Outstanding Cash Advances	178,189.19
			Total Expenditures Recorded to date	218,788.51

2.2 Unplanned Results

Unplanned Result	Cause of result
N/A	N/A

3. Progress against Implementation Plan

3.1 Progress this quarter

As at the end of September 2015, the outstanding cash advance is **USD 178,189.19** which includes **USD 43,342.19** released for Output 3 in the third quarter (Q3), and **USD 134,847.00** released for output 1, 2 and 4 in the second quarter (Q2) to the project implementing partners for on-going activities. Overall, the final expenditure recorded to date is **USD 218,788.51**. A further **USD 55,157.05** has been incurred as expenditures by the implementing partners in the third quarter (Q3), but has yet to be recorded. An additional **USD 100,000** is expected to be expended by implementation partners by the end of the year.

Current Progress (please indicate)							
On track		Slightly delayed	X	Delayed		Ahead of plan	

Activity Result 1: Reduced criminal justice delays through improved case management and pretrial procedural mechanisms between penal chain actors in 1 “area model”

PROGRESS OVERVIEW:

The third quarter built upon the progress at sub-national level in the previous quarter, with the convening of the National Sub-Committee on Case Flow Management with the active participation of the Minister of Justice. This proved to be an effective forum to raise and explore ways to address issues of coordination and collaboration between criminal justice institutions identified at the first District Committee on Case Flow Management. The quarter also saw the establishment of the second District Committee on Case Flow Management, this time in the area model of Ratnapura, along similar lines to the one established in Batticaloa. Complementing the work on increasing effectiveness in criminal case management, the research to identify specific bottlenecks faced by different institutions in the penal chain commenced. The backlog of narcotics cases, cases of persons detained for long periods under Emergency Regulations, and complaints to the public petitions unit, continued to be cleared through the project’s support to the Attorney General’s Department.

Further details related to specific activities conducted in this regard are listed below:

Area Model Case-Flow Management (CFM) Committee

Following the success of establishing the CFM Committee in Batticaloa in June 2015, at the request of the Ministry, the Project extended this initiative to a second area-model district and was successful in establishing the CFM Committee in Ratnapura on 16th July 2015. The first sitting was attending by senior officials from the Penal Chain Institutions including the Police (Crimes Division and the Women and Children’s Bureau), Judicial Medical Officer, State Counsel, National Child Protection Authority, Department of Probation and Child Care Services, Legal Aid Commission, Prisons and the Corrections Department, and the Ministry of Justice. Equipped with the knowledge on the key challenges to Case Flow Management as was discussed at the CFM meeting held in Batticaloa, the technical team was able to steer the meeting in order to identify the practical challenges (both procedural and other) unique to Case-Flow Management within Ratnapura district. While a number of obstacles identified remained common to both Batticaloa and Ratnapura, a key challenge for the expeditious dispensing of cases was the delay in filing indictments by the Attorney General’s Department. The primary reason for the delay is the excessive case backlog to be processed by the limited number of state counsel attached to the Department coupled with the general practice by the High Courts of scheduling approximately 7-10 trials per day. A key recommendation tabled by the participant institutions was to explore the possibility of establishing provincial Units of the Attorney General’s Department with a view to reducing the delays associated with receiving advice from the Central Department. In the interest of adopting a similar approach to the monitoring of CFM within the selected districts, the Ratnapura police undertook to expedite 10 selected priority cases by coordinating with the State Counsel. The key challenges along with the decision taken at the meeting will be tabled at the next meeting of the National Case-Flow Management Committee.

The second meeting of the CFM committee in Batticaloa has been tentatively scheduled for 12th November 2015.

National Case Flow Management Committee

The second meeting of the National CFM Committee was held on 14th July 2015 and was Chaired by the Hon. Minister of Justice and the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice. The key challenges identified at the Batticaloa meeting including the backlog of case reports pending from the Judicial Medical Officer and the Government Analyst were

presented at the meeting and Government Analyst and the Chief Judicial Medical Officer discussed the reasons for the delay and undertook to expedite the cases listed as pending by the Batticaloa Police.

A presentation of the Literature Review on case flow management was presented by Verite Research and issues that remain relevant during a period of a decade were highlighted. The Draft Questionnaire to be used when conducting interviews with the Penal Chain Institutions for the Institutional Needs Assessment was also presented and the participants were requested to share their views/feedback on how best to refine it in order to reflect the current challenges was also presented.

A significant outcome of both the National and Batticaloa CFM meetings was that the Government Analyst, with a view to ascertaining the backlog of case reports pending from her Department, requested the Inspector General of Police to issue a directive to all Senior Deputy Inspectors of all police stations island-wide to share a list of pending cases reflecting the Government Analyst Department Reference Number so as to expedite the submission of reports. Consequently, the Government Analyst successfully cleared the backlog of case reports submitted by the Batticaloa police within the month of July 2015.

Institutional Needs Assessment on the Challenges to Case Flow Management Within the Penal Chain Institutions

Following the National Case Flow Management meeting (July 2015) at which the Questionnaire/Tool for the Institutional Needs Assessment was fine-tuned and finalised, the Ministry of Justice proceeded to submit requests to the Attorney General, Inspector General of Police, Government Analyst, Chief Judicial Medical Officer, President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Chairman of the Legal Aid Commission and the Commissioner General of Prisons requesting that senior officials be nominated from each institution to participate in the assessment. Subsequent to the approvals, one-to-one interviews are currently being conducted with senior officials from the various divisions within the penal chain institutions. Thus far, interviews have been conducted with Senior Additional Solicitor General's from the Criminal Division of the Attorney General's Department, Head/Directors of the Police - Crimes Division, Criminal Investigation Division, Women and Children's Bureau and the Criminal Records Division, the Government Analyst, Chief Judicial Medical Officer, Bar Association of Sri Lanka, and the Legal Aid Commission. Interviews with the Prisons Officials and the Judiciary will be conducted within the months of October/November. A number of key issues pertaining to the delays in criminal justice case flow management as well as suggestions for reform were identified during the interviews.

Upon completion of the interviews, the data would be tabulated and the preliminary draft of the report would tentatively be submitted to the Ministry of Justice during the 3rd week of December 2015.

Case Prioritization within the Attorney General's Department (AGD)

The Ministry of Justice entered into a memorandum of Understanding with the Attorney General's Department in May 2015 after which the Department recruited 8 Attorneys-At-Law and assigned them to the a) Narcotics Division b) Public Complaints (Mahajana Pethsam) Division and to the Division charged with handling the cases pertaining persons held in detention for prolonged periods of time under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The Attorneys commenced work on 1st June 2015. In light of the current policy discourse on the cases of persons detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (as to whether a release may be effected for certain cases) the Department would only be commencing activities assigned to this Division once a final decision on the subject has been taken by the authorities. The Department therefore assigned the attorneys within this division to the Child Abuse division and embarked on clearing the backlog of cases relating to grave sexual abuse of children.

The attorneys assigned to the narcotics division successfully attended to complete 216 files during the period 2nd June to September 2015.

The "Mahajana Pethsam" (Public Petitions) Unit was established to facilitate a more streamlined and expeditious response to public complaints pertaining to case delays and a total of 80 files were completed during the period June-September 2015.

The three attorneys assigned to the CH Unit (Child Abuse Unit) attended to a total 117 case files out of which draft indictments/advise letters were submitted in relation to approximately 65 cases and a total of 47 messages were dispatched to the Police and a total of 13 completed case files were approved.

Activity Result 2: Increased coordinated legal aid service delivery for vulnerable and marginalized populations, including through the establishment of referral mechanisms at sub-national level

PROGRESS OVERVIEW:

A draft of the national legal aid policy ensuring equal access to legal services for all, is under consideration with the Ministry of Justice. Despite challenges associated with securing the full buy-in of all stakeholders, the Ministry continues to indicate that the policy will be finalised within the fourth quarter. Work on preparation of the public

awareness material for the Victim and Witness Protection Act commenced this quarter. Pursuant to the agreement entered into with the Legal Aid Commission in the last quarter, legal aid clinics were held in the prisons of two area models, Batticaloa and Ratnapura.

Further details related to specific activities conducted in this regard are listed below:

National Policy on Legal Aid

The Consultant tasked with developing the policy in consultation with the Legal Aid Commission (LAC) presented the preliminary draft policy and strategic action plan to the commissioners of the LAC in September 2015. While the draft generated extensive discussion and debate, the Ministry of Justice also explored alternative means of moving forward with the policy and securing parliamentary approval. Given that the Policy would be an initiative of the Ministry of Justice, the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice undertook to table it before the cabinet with the approval of the Minister of Justice. The Draft Policy is currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Justice and upon the satisfactory completion of the technical review, the cabinet memorandum/paper would be drafted by the Ministry for submission to the Cabinet for approval.

Support on Victim and Witness Protection

The reporting quarter continued the extensive technical discussions on the operationalization of the Victim and Witness Protection Act that was passed by Parliament on 16th February 2015. The Technical Coordinator supported the Ministry of Justice draft the Order Paper that was subsequently gazetted in order to operationalise the selected parts/chapters that would be brought into operation forthwith. The Technical Coordinator also supported the Ministry of Justice to draft the letters of appointment to all ex-officio members appointed to the Board of the National Authority on Victims of Crime and Witnesses and also submitted a list of suggested nominees to the five positions in the Authority dedicated to experts on the subject. Furthermore, technical input was provided to the discussions on the establishment of the Authority and the specifics on infrastructure needs and the subject-specific needs that should be reflected in the physical infrastructure and layout of the building which would cater to the varying needs of the victims of crime and witnesses.

Technical support was also rendered to the Ministry of Justice to initiate discussions with the Ministry of Law and Order and the Police on the establishment of the Police Division on assistance and protection to victims of crime and witnesses as provided for in the Act.

Following two comprehensive briefing meetings at which the content of the newly enacted Law was extensively discussed and outlined, a number of advertising agencies were requested to present their bid for a public awareness campaign on the rights and entitlements of victims of crime and witnesses. The Presentations were held early September and the agencies that have been selected are currently being submitted to the Board determining the tender processes at the Ministry of Justice. The Project envisages developing the campaign material (print and electronic) and mapping out the locations in which the campaign would be carried out upon identifying and finalising the selection of the agencies.

Legal Assistance to Prisoners

The Legal Aid Commission conducted 12 legal aid clinics (one day clinics) at Colombo Remand Prison, Magazine Prisons in Colombo. One 2 day clinic was held at Batticaloa Prison, 2 day clinic at Anuradhapura Prison and a one day clinic was held at Kuruvita Prison in Ratnapura district.

Altogether 358 remand prisoners were interviewed during the Prison clinics (158 in Colombo Remand Prison and Magazine Prison, 58 Remand Prisoners in Batticaloa Prison, 73 Remand Prisoners in Anuradhapura Prison and 69 Remand Prisoners in Ratnapura Prison).

41 bail applications and motions are filed in the Magistrate Courts in Colombo District to reduce bail conditions and to obtain bail. 37 applications are filed in the High Courts in Colombo District to reduce bail conditions and to obtain bail for the remand prisoners. Most of these cases are still progressing and the decisions have not yet been informed to the Legal Aid Commission. 13 referrals were made to the Attorney Generals Department requesting expediting of filing of charges against some remand prisoners who are in the Prison for a long time without initiating court proceedings.

The cases selected for legal aid support in Batticaloa, Anuradhapura and Ratnapura District are being prepared for initiating proceedings. Preliminary arrangements such as collecting supporting documents and case reports are being done by the respective centers. The following number of cases are to be filed in each court :

Name of Prison	Magistrate Court Cases	HC cases
Batticaloa	50	20

Ratnapura	50	20
Anuradhapura	50	20
CRP/ Magazine	70	30
Methsewana	30	
Total	250	90

Activity Result 3: Capacities of law enforcement and judicial institutions strengthened to efficiently handle SGBV cases and ensure equal access to legal and judicial protection for SGBV victims

PROGRESS OVERVIEW:

Work on SGBV this quarter focused on expediting the formulation of the National Action Plan to address Gender Based Violence. Technical committees for all nine sectors of this multi-sectoral action plan were established and all technical committees have met and commenced work on their sectoral plans, with some nearing completion. Work began on entering the data on female headed households received from across the country, into the E-Women database of the Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs, with a view to arriving at a comprehensive picture of this vulnerable segment of the population on whom systematic information is currently lacking.

Further details related to specific activities conducted in this regard are listed below:

National Framework and National Action Plan (NAP) on GBV:

The 9 sectors identified in the NAP to address GBV include: (1) Prevention and Response to GBV through Education, (2) Health Response to GBV, (3) Foreign Employment and vulnerabilities of GBV (4) Economic Development and Employment - addressing issues of GBV at the workplace and need for economic development to prevent/ respond to GBV (5) Empowerment and Prevention, (6) Justice and Law Reform, (7) Media and GBV, (8) Disaster management and prevention/ response to GBV and (9) Prevention, protection and responding to GBV against Children. The two national Consultants Dr. Lakshman Senanayake and Ms. Sriyani Perera have engaged extensively with the sector teams to assist in the formulation of the sector plans. Relevant government ministries and UN agencies that are engaged in the above sectors as well as leading civil society organizations (NGOs/ INGOs) are part of the technical team meetings.

In addition to the materials developed earlier by the lead consultants such as the concept note of the NAP to address GBV, TOR of the Chairperson/technical lead of each technical committee, TOR of committee members, and standard format to compile NAP on GBV for technical committees a Background Report format which will give the present status of each sector has been developed to enable easy reporting and to ensure consistency. The compiled first draft of the National Action Plan on GBV is expected to be ready for review in early December 2015.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Referral System

District level multi-sectoral referral symposiums on GBV were held in Anuradhapura and Ratnapura districts in the last quarter. The referral symposium brought together participants which included among others: Police Women and Child Desks, officers of the MWA's Women and Child Development Units based at district offices, officers of the GBV Hospital Desks, Chairpersons/ trainers of Mediation Boards, the district Judicial Medical Officer (JMO), civil society groups, police training school officials, State Counsel, shelter staff, and other district committee representatives. The referral model developed by the Ministry and UNDP was shared at these meetings.

The MWCA will commence district level follow-up meetings beginning with Ratnapura and Batticaloa in early November 2015 with Anuradhapura towards the end of Q4. The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs through its own funds will be setting up a shelter in Ratnapura (as there is none at present), which will further strengthen the SGBV referral system in Ratnapura.

Advocating for implementation, review, amendment and introduction of legislation/ policies to combat violence against women

The National Committee on Women (NCW) takes the lead in the Ministry in advocating for the implementation, review and amendment of laws and policies that affect women and policies that combat Violence against women. In October a Forum discussion will be held by NCW on giving value to the unpaid work of women who are home makers or engage in agriculture or the family enterprise. This is intended to address discrimination which results in the low or no value given to women's work at home and in the fields which also leads to domestic violence. The Policy Dialogue of the Forum discussing the National Human Rights Action Plan will also take place end November, during the 16 days of Activism.

Advocating on laws

Due to elections held in August, it was not possible to have any legal clinics in Anuradhapura. These are now planned for the last quarter of the year.

Raising Awareness to combat violence against women - Develop (Audio visual / print) and disseminate materials related to combat violence against women

A brochure with the contact numbers of the police, W&C Units and hospital desks which was printed in Sinhala & Tamil was reprinted in Tamil as all Tamil leaflets were distributed. These leaflets as well as DVDs on GBV prevention/ response dramas produced by NCW (copying supported by UNDP-SELAJSI) are also being distributed at the same time. This initiative supports materials related to combat VAW and will support initiatives to strengthen the referral system as well.

Support collection of gender disaggregated data on crime and identify measures to address priority issues on violence against women

- The MWA initiated a process to collect data on widows as well as Female Headed Households (FHH) in Sri Lanka, given their vulnerability to GBV as well as other situations. At present the MWA has 30,000 filled data forms on widows and FHH with the MWA data entry unit (that is those which have been received from DS level) to be entered to the e-women database. Support is extended for a period of 5 months towards the data entry function of the 30,000 forms received on FHH, being a group vulnerable to VAW. The estimated number of forms which are yet to be received from the Divisions amount to over 700,000 forms island-wide, which too will have to be entered into the e-women database.
- Discussions on a 'common data-base format' for the collection of GBV data is being discussed as there are many formats that have emerged. MWA has commenced training WDOs on the common data collection format. The officers in Ratnapura will be trained under UNDP support in the next quarter.

Support the mapping and development, if required, of curriculum, training modules and training techniques on SGBV for all justice sector institutions and actors

The project hopes to roll-out the training manual on SGBV developed by the Sri Lanka Police in collaboration with UN Resident Coordinator's Office. The manual is already being rolled out in the Police College in Kalutara for new recruits. During roll-out, few errors in translation were identified, and the manual is currently being reviewed prior to further dissemination.

SELAJSI will focus on using the revised manual to strengthen capacities of in-service officers attached to the police Women and Children's desks in the 3 area models and at the Head Office in Pagoda. This discussion is in process.

Gender/ GBV sensitization of police officers attached to the women and child police desks: 6 police officers (5 female and 01 male) from Batticaloa are following a course on counselling conducted by the National Institute of Social Development (NISD) through its Batticaloa centre. Another 20 police officers are enrolled at the Anuradhapura and Colombo centers; 07 female and 4 male officers at Anuradhapura, and 07 female and 01 male officers at Colombo. The total number of police officers following the course had dropped to 26 due to work demands & inability to comply with minimum NISD attendance requirements. Therefore the MWCA has placed 14 (female) Women's Development Officers to follow the course at the Anuradhapura center. Therefore, in total, there are 40 officers (33 female and 07 male) following the course. The duration of the course is 21 months.

Activity Result 4:

Improved institutional capacities for efficiency and effectiveness of the justice sector at national level, including strategic planning and cross-sectoral management skills for the formulation and implementation of policies, laws and plans

PROGRESS OVERVIEW:

A new development on the consolidation of the Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, opened up the opportunity for this work to be provided the status of an official legislative consolidation. This involved certain changes to the process followed hitherto and some revisiting of the work already done. Despite the delay thus caused, the consolidations in all three languages will be completed in the fourth quarter. Discussions took place with a view to commissioning a study on sentencing trends, to support the development of sentencing guidelines; this study will be done in the next quarter.

Further details related to specific activities conducted in this regard are listed below

Translation and Consolidation of Core Legislation (Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure)

The Ministry received the finalized versions of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Act (in Sinhala, Tamil, and English Languages) and the hard copies were submitted to the Government Printer for layout. The initial proof of the Penal Code (in all three languages) and the Criminal Procedure Code (in Sinhala and English Languages) was handed

over to the Ministry by the Government Printer for proof reading on 30th June 2015. The consultants reviewed these proofs and handed over the proof read copies to the Ministry in July. A significant development subsequent to the handing of the proof read copies was the decision taken by all consolidators and the Secretary to the Ministry of Justice to follow the format adopted in the principle enactments (1956 & 1979 versions) as opposed to the revised version (1985) as initially planned. The reason being that the “Statutory Reprints Ordinance” permits the Minister of Justice to authorize/order the reprint of any law which copies would receive the official seal of approval and can be considered as a copy that could be cited/used in Court without it being submitted through the formal (lengthy) procedure of being passed by parliament. In light of this development, a decision was taken to re-visit the consolidated drafts of the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code and incorporate the changes as relevant during the period 1956/1979 – 1986. The consolidators completed this exercise and submitted the amended versions of the draft consolidated documents to the Ministry of Justice on 15th October 2015. The Draft is currently being submitted to the Government Printer with a request for a second proof.

The consolidation of the Evidence Ordinance in Sinhala and Tamil languages also commenced during the last week of September 2015.

Extensive Study on Existing Sentencing Practices in Sri Lanka

Implementing a key decision taken at the last meeting of the Thematic Sub-Committee on Sentencing, the Ministry of Justice signed a Memorandum of Understanding with former Attorney General, Mr Palitha Fernando to conduct a comprehensive study on existing sentencing practices/trends in Sri Lanka. Following extensive discussions, the strategy for the Study was developed and it was decided that the study would be conducted on decided cases in High Courts in the island over a period spanning three years (2012-2015) in order to ascertain the general pattern of sentencing. The Ministry of justice will also secure the services of 10-15 legal researchers to carry out the extraction of the case data on all case files pertaining to ‘Murder, Rape, Narcotics, and Armed Robbery’ during the aforementioned 3 year period. The Ministry is presently engaged in the processes associated with securing the necessary approvals to access the case files for the study.

Legal Draftsman’s Department

The Training programme was launched in December 2014 and is currently being conducted by the British Council Colombo. The officers of the Legal Draftsman’s Department completed the primary level coursework and are currently engaged in the intermediary level course work. Specific lectures on legal drafting were conducted by the Legal Draftsman Mr Arunashantha De Silva in July 2015.

Establish a thematic Sub-Committee on Sentencing

Following the first meeting of the thematic subcommittee on Sentencing Policy in November 2014, the TOR for the Committee was finalized and includes the following:

- Develop a paper based on the existing judicial decisions
- Discuss the criteria for granting suspended sentences
- Examine the existing practices in relation to sentencing and make judges aware of these practices/judgments.
- Existing training modules of the Judges Training Institute to include the existing practices identified above

The Ministry of Justice is currently in the process of securing the expertise and services of former Attorney General, Mr Palitha Fernando to conduct an extensive study on existing sentencing practices based on reported cases. The Study will also highlight proposed recommendations for the sentencing policy.

Establish a National Steering Committee on Justice.

A National Steering Committee on Justice (NSCJ) was established and launched on 16th June 2014. The NSCJ is Chaired by the Hon. Minister of Justice and consists of senior representatives of all institutions relating to the Justice Sector. Under the aegis of this Committee, Sub Committees were established on Sentencing, Case Flow Management and Electronic Case Tracking Mechanism. Additional thematic Committees will be established on Judicial Mediation, and Criminal Profiling. The next sitting of the National Steering Committee is tentatively scheduled for November 2015.

Strengthen the capacity of the Cyber Surveillance Unit of the National Child Protection Authority in order to expedite criminal cases

Discussions are on-going with the National Child Protection Authority on the possibility to extend support to strengthen cyber surveillance operations conducted by its CSU.

3.2 Staffing, management and coordination arrangements

The four Technical Coordinators based at each of the Implementing Partner Ministries, continued to work on the Project, providing essential technical and coordination support. The Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) for the SELAJSI Programme also came on board in mid-December 2014 and has since been involved in undertaking consultations with the Implementing Partners and other key partner entities, in order to best support the Programme in 2015. While based at the office of the National Languages and Social Integration Division now based at the Ministry of National Dialogue, the CTA spends time at all IP Ministries and is involved in key meetings. The Project Implementation Units within the Ministry of Justice and Law Reforms and the Ministry of Women & Child Affairs continued to be in place and continue to support project activities during the reporting period.

The CTA, four Technical Coordinators and Programme Analyst meet on a monthly basis to share progress, exchange ideas and, where possible, coordinate activities. The second SELAJSI Programme Board meeting (PBM) for 2015 was held on July 9th 2015 during which project progress, changes to AWP based on context changes and challenges faced for implementation was discussed. Refocusing of programming in the Annual Work Plans at sub-activity level included:

- Strengthening Access to Justice Project:
 - Re-focus towards greater support to operationalize Victim and Witness Protection Act
 - Baseline assessment of bottlenecks in law enforcement process is reprogrammed to identify bottlenecks in relation to police and JMO handling of cases
- Gender Based Violence
 - Funds allocated for the Study on rape is channelled towards the on-going formulation of the National Action Plan on GBV

Since the already developed GBV Handbook (through UN-RC office) is under review, training is likely to be rolled out in 2016. Therefore, the funds allocated for the rolling out of GBV Handbook for police is now moved to GBV referral system activities

Consensus was reached among all IPs on the changes to AWP as well as addressing challenges. The third Programme Board meeting, with new Project Directors will be held on November 5th, 2015.

4. Any significant issues, problems or challenges (internal and external) encountered and action taken or required.

4.1 Key issues, problems and challenges

Summarise key issues, problems or challenges that the project has encountered in the reporting quarter, why these occurred, and what has been done, or needs to be done, to address such problems / issues. Highlight the key management actions that need to be taken to help ensure project benefits are maximized and sustained. Do you foresee any challenges in the next quarter?

Summarize any major evaluation or project steering committee/ tripartite meeting findings on the project (from the reporting quarter) – if available, annex relevant minutes. Complete below table in solution-oriented fashion, if applicable

The second SELAJSI Programme Board meeting (PBM) for 2015 was held on July 9th. The discussion of the meeting focused on activity progress to date, challenges in implementation, and plans for the remainder of the year. Given the changes in political context during the first half of the year, much of the time was spent on reviewing and revising annual work plans, ensuring that planned activities were still relevant and practical. Accordingly, work plans were adjusted and all changes were presented to and approved by the Board.

Issue, problem or challenge	Steps taken to resolve issue	Status of issue (i.e. resolved, unresolved)	Additional measures to be taken if unresolved
Challenge of conducting the baseline/casefile study on the challenges within the penal chain – Delay in securing the necessary approvals and the	Reformulated the Study to an ‘Institutional Needs Assessment on the	Resolved Institutional Assessment is	

Issue, problem or challenge	Steps taken to resolve issue	Status of issue (i.e. resolved, unresolved)	Additional measures to be taken if unresolved
confidentiality of the information on the case status etc.	Bottlenecks/Challenges to effective case flow within the penal chain institutions?	currently being conducted with key interviews nearing completion	
Challenge in securing approval from the Judicial Services Association to secure the participation of the magistrate in the regional Case Flow Management Committees Challenge of securing approval to secure the participation of court registrars			Awaiting the JSC response, failing which, the Ministry of Justice intends to establish the committees with the support of the Police, State Prosecution, Judicial Medical Officer, and Prison.
Support collection of gender disaggregated data on crime and identify measures to address priority issues on violence against women	MWCA held a meeting on taking this forward with NCW & the data unit at MWCA. The decision was to commence data collection workshops.	workshops on data collection & data entering have commenced for all officers of MWCA.	
Need to initiate discussions to identify & address service delivery gaps within the Attorney General's Department and the judicial system on SGBV/ rape cases.	Preliminary meeting held with UN teams from UNICEF & UNDP and other experts that are able to shed light on the way forward.		This activity is also addressed with reference to rape by the Access to Justice component under MOJ. Hence funds after requesting approval from INL have been shifted to complete the NAP to address GBV which among others, will also look at resolving service delivery gaps at the Attorney General Department.

4.2 Continued relevance or proposed course-corrections

The relevance and quality of the project design needs to be reviewed on an ongoing basis, given likely changes in operating context, policies, partner needs, etc. Also – some (original) project documents may need to be revised because they turn out to be of inadequate quality (e.g. vague or overambitious objectives, outcomes, indicators, etc). This is a part of risk analysis and management.

If outcomes, outputs, activities or inputs need to be modified in light of any significant changes in the operating environment or through lessons learned during implementation, these should be noted in this section. Proposals for re-design should also be described, and if necessary a project revision document prepared and submitted.

Despite the recent parliamentary elections in August 2015, and subsequent changes in Ministry leadership and their respective portfolios, project activities have been moving forward as planned. In anticipation of potential delays due to the elections, the programme has, as much as possible, obtained any required approvals from Ministry officials for the major activities planned and identified alternative modalities (such as direct UNDP contracting) to expedite activities and ensure they move forward.

During the second quarter, the SELAJSI annual works plans for 2015 was reviewed and revised at sub-activity level in light of the changes in context and emerging priorities and needs of the new Government, which resulted in minor modifications in programme approach. These revisions were presented to the programme board in July 2015, and was accepted (details listed above). However, a number of already

planned activities, such as the development of a National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence, aligns closely with the new Government's interests. Emerging interests, such the implementation of the recently passed Victims and Witness Protection Act, also align well to the existing SELAJSI framework. Accordingly the work plan was revised such that these activities receive prominence and benefits from the current momentum to move these initiatives forward.

Also given the recent changes in context, the space for direct engagement with civil society organizations has increased significantly. Therefore, increased efforts have been taken to place an emphasis on both, increased engagement of civil societies for dialogues and processes both at national and sub-national level, as well as for directly contracting selected civil societies for provision of community-based legal aid at sub-national level. The project is currently in the early stages of establishing direct support to non-state actors, such as Women in Need, for (1) the provision of legal assistance to GBV survivors, (2) the rolling out of the Guidelines for Women's Shelters that was recently finalized by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and (3) improving the availability of bi-lingual counselling and legal aid services at Police Women and Child units.

5. Work plan for next quarter

- (1) What parts of the program do you expect to implement in the next quarter?

Outcome/Output <i>Result Area (US term)</i>	Relevant Outcome/ Output Indicator(s)	Perceived Challenges for Next Quarter?
Activity Result 1: Reduced criminal justice delays through improved case management and pretrial procedural mechanisms between penal chain actors in 1 "area model"(1.1)		Some delays are anticipated in securing approval/coordination/implementation of overall activities due to the political, institutional and administrative changes that have/and continue to take place post the January 2015 Presidential Election. Multiple changes within the political administrative and structural context anticipated following the forthcoming General Election.
Conduct the Penal Chain Institutional Needs Assessment. Share findings with the National Committee on Case Flow Management.		Delays experienced in conducting interviews with the high ranking officials of the police and the attorney general's department in light of competing priorities within each institution
Conduct the second meeting of the Case Flow Management Committees in Batticaloa and Ratnapura. Follow up on the decisions taken at the previous meetings.		
Continuation of the clearance of the backlog of narcotics cases, child abuse cases and cases of persons held in detention for prolonged periods of time at the Attorney General's Department. Follow up on initiatives undertaken to strengthen the Public Complaints division at the Attorney General's Department.		
Activity Result 2: Increased coordinated legal aid service delivery for vulnerable and marginalized populations, including through the establishment of referral mechanisms at sub-national level (2.2)		Some delays are anticipated in securing approval/coordination/implementation of overall activities due to the political, institutional and administrative changes that have/and continue to take place post the January 2015 Presidential Election. Further delay, lack of clarity anticipated both

		ahead and post General Election 2015.
Submission of the National Policy on Legal Aid for Cabinet Approval		
Sensitization programmes on the victim and witness protection law held for the Police		
Public awareness on the victim and witness protection law initiated.		Slight delays anticipated in light of the importance of the establishment of the National Authority and Police Division ahead of the public campaign encouraging victims of crime/witnesses to demand their rights and entitlements as per the newly enacted law
Provision of legal aid for prisoners-Extension of support beyond filing bail applications		
Support the establishment and operation of Special Land Mediation Boards in selected districts		
<p>Activity Result 3: Strengthen the capacity of MWCA to lead the development of a National Policy Framework and National Action Plan on eliminating SGBV:</p> <p>The drafting of sector specific plans on GBV have commenced with some plans reaching completion. A national consultation will be held where the draft sector plans are presented to get a wider feedback on the NAP to address GBV.</p>		The changes in the political climate in Sri Lanka may cause delays, especially if Ministries are changed after the next election.
<p>Advocate for Review of Policies / laws on SGBV –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - Dialogue on the unpaid work of women in the informal sector and as homemakers will be held. Issues of discrimination will be also discussed. - Policy dialogue on the progress made under the NHRAP will be discussed in the next quarter. - Discussions on the follow-up activities of the implementation of the anti-Sexual Harassment Policy at the workplace. To be undertaken within the Ministry by setting-up a committee to address complaints, as well as setting up such committees in the other ministries. - Initiate discussions on the adoption of Shelter guidelines, given that the MWCA is setting up several shelters for victim survivors of GBV 		
<p>Strengthening the referral system of SGBV:</p> <p>Commence a sustainable district level Referral Forums to strengthen the SGBV referral pathway and to further go down to the divisional level. Divisions to be selected according to those that are reporting the most number of SGBV cases. This will commence in Ratnapura and Batticaloa in November.</p>		
Develop (Audio visual / print) and disseminate materials related to combat violence against women (on implementation of laws, review/ amendment of legislation		

<p>and new laws -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-print brochure in Tamil to strengthen referral system. - Formulation of a IEC material on the 16 days theme In the next quarter - Printing in Tamil & Sinhala an advocacy document on the work done by the JMO for all field workers, trainers, teachers and other officials as relevant. 		
<p>Support collection of gender disaggregated data on crime and identify measures to address priority issues on violence against women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue support to the data entry function of the 30,000 forms received on female headed households (FHH)/ widows, being a group vulnerable to VAW. The estimated number of forms which are yet to be received from the Divisions amount to over 700,000 forms island-wide, which too will also have to be entered into the e-women database. - Discussions to be initiated to take forward the GBV data collection component of the e-women database. Workshop to be held in Ratnapura in the next quarter. 		<p>Delays may be experienced in finalizing the GBV datasheet due to coordination issues within the Ministry.</p>
<p>Capacities of law enforcement and judicial institutions strengthened to efficiently handle SGBV cases and ensure equal access to legal and judicial protection for SGBV victims (3.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion to be held between the MWCA and the IGP and director of training, Director Women and Children's police desks to take initiative forward. Already discussed with the Police Bureau for the Prevention of Abuse of Children and women - Roll-out of SGBV manual developed by UN RC's office for in-service law enforcement officers attached to the police women and children desks through the Kalutara Police Academy. 		<p>Some delays are anticipated in securing approval/coordination/implementation of overall activities due to the political, institutional and administrative changes that are expected to/that have/and continue to take place post the January 2015 Presidential Election.</p> <p>Roll-out of SGBV police manual will be delayed due to revisions which need to be made following comments received from a group of gender trainers.</p>
<p>Identify and address service delivery gaps within the Attorney General's Department and the judicial system on SGBV/ rape cases. Attempting to initiate discussion to take this forward</p> <p>As activity is being addressed under a broader Access to Justice activity and thus funds re-allocated to take forward the NAP on GBV and strengthen the referral system.</p>		
<p>Activity Result 4: Improved institutional capacities for efficiency and effectiveness of the justice sector at national level, including strategic planning and cross-sectoral management skills for the formulation and implementation of policies, laws and plans (4.2)</p>		<p>Some delays are anticipated in securing approval/coordination/implementation of overall activities due to the political, institutional and administrative changes that are have/and continue to take place post the January 2015 Presidential Election.</p> <p>Multiple changes within the political administrative and structural context anticipated following the forthcoming General Election.</p>
<p>Conduct a study on existing sentencing</p>		<p>Securing necessary approvals from the Chief</p>

practices in Sri Lanka based on decided cases		Justice/Attorney General in order to access the relevant case files
Conduct the meetings of the National Steering Committee on Justice & the National Committee on Case Flow Management.		
Finalise the consolidation of the penal code and criminal procedure code as per the decision to revert to the principle enactment. Printing the same. Continuing the consolidation of the Evidence Ordinance and the Judicature Act.		
Continue technical discussions on the implementation of the newly enacted victim and witness protection legislation and the establishment of the National Authority and Police Division on Victim and Witness Protection		Administrative and procedural delays associated with securing necessary cadre approvals, and physical space/infrastructure for the establishment of the Authority and Police Division