

United Nations Development Programme



**Country: Ethiopia
Initiation Plan**

Project Title: Support to Judicial Reform in Ethiopia

Expected UNDAF/CP Outcome(s): UNDAF/CPD Outcome 12: By 2020, key Government institutions and other stakeholders utilize enhanced capacities to ensure equitable, efficient, accountable, participatory and gender-responsive development

Expected CPD Output(s): CPD Output 4: Democratic and oversight institutions (House of Peoples' Representatives, NEBE, Office of the Federal Auditor General) enabled to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation, representation, democratic elections and gender equality

Initiation Plan Start/End Dates: July 2019 – December 2020
Implementing Partner: United Nations Development Programme

Programme Period:	Jul 2019 - Dec 2020
Atlas Project Number:	<u>001103369</u>
Atlas Output ID:	_____
Gender Marker:	GEN2

Total resources required	<u>USD 1,220,000</u>
Total allocated resources:	
• Regular	<u>USD 120,000</u>
• Other:	
o Donor (SIDA):	<u>USD 1,100,000</u>
o Government	
Unfunded budget:	_____
In-kind Contributions:	_____

Agreed by:	
Mr. Turhan Saleh	
Resident Representative	
UNDP Ethiopia	
Signature:	
Date:	7/7/19

Brief Description

Since 1995, Ethiopia has adopted a multiparty parliamentary system and a federal structure devolving power to nine regions and two city administrations. It has embarked on a process of capacitating the governance architecture; reforming the civil service, building capacity of democratic institutions, strengthening rule of law, deepening decentralization and improving the delivery of basic services. Gains were recorded in broadening opportunities for political participation, advancing human rights and rule of law and improving democratic practice. Nonetheless, and despite notable progress recorded, there is a long way to go in terms of ensuring good governance, consolidating democracy, rule of law, protection of human rights, prevention of violent conflicts, managing diversity and promoting social cohesion.

Since his ascendancy to the helm of power in Ethiopia, Prime Minister (PM) Dr. Abiy Ahmed has launched a series of bold and comprehensive reforms unprecedented in the history of the country. At the heart is the goal to promote sustainable peace, reconciliation, and inclusion in Ethiopia; strengthen justice and the rule of law, accountable systems of governance, and improve the democratic space to accommodate all peoples, interests, and views in Ethiopia; and promote economic integration for peace and prosperity with Eritrea and in the Horn of Africa region.

On the rule of law, the PM has embarked on legal and judicial reforms. He established the Legal and Justice Affairs Advisory Council (LJAAC), under the leadership of the Office of Attorney General (OAG) with primary mandate in enhancing legal reform and making the justice sector independent and credible, to restore public confidence in the judicial system and the rule of law. The recent appointment of the new Chief Justice (a woman for the first time in Ethiopia's history) was also notable as an attempt to ensure a new influx of dynamism into the judiciary branch of government and reconfirming a clear investment in rule of law and access to justice. The PM also initiated a series of institutional reforms in the key justice sector/rule of law; the Prison department was folded under the Attorney General, the newly established Ministry of Peace (MoP) includes the Federal Police department, while the Supreme Court has seen its mandate and institutional capacity strengthened.

UNDP is currently engaged through the Governance and Democratic Participation Programme (GDPP) in supporting Justice Sector Reform and extends through this programme technical assistance to the OAG, to the LJAAC and to the MoP. The primary objective of this Initiation Plan is to enable UNDP to expand its support to all justice sector stakeholders in Ethiopia, and more specifically to the Supreme Court in advancing the judicial reform agenda that has been prioritized by the Supreme Court as one of the strong pillars of advancing RoL and A2J in Ethiopia.

In doing so, UNDP will support the Supreme Court and other actors in the justice sector to implement immediate/quick-win initiatives that would enable the Court to showcase results and improvements. Among its support activities, the project will support will be provided for conducting the justice forum organized by the Justice Steering Committee that comprises of the Federal Supreme Court, the Office of the Attorney General, the Federal Police Commission, the Addis Ababa Police Commission and the Federal Prison Administration. It is designed to have two major components, i.e. public dialogue on the challenges of the justice sector in the transition period and use of visual arts and innovative communication to promote the ideals of rule of law and justice throughout the justice forum month. The justice forum for this year aims at re-connecting the justice sector institutions with the public and re-gaining confidence of the public. The justice forum is organized with the theory of change that:

The justice sector institutions approach the public with new communication strategy that the public can relate with its everyday life, it will create a ground for both (the public and the justice sector institutions) to come close, identify gaps and influence one another.

The three-year Federal Courts Reform Project Plan (2019-2021/2022) has been developed with UNDP's support. The three main strategic goals are: strengthen judicial independence, accountability, and transparency, increase access to justice and legal empowerment and improve court performance (efficiency and effectiveness). Selected activities of the Reform Project Plan will be implemented as quick win initiatives under this initiation plan. And serve as an entry point for a more long term support plan/project that UNDP and the Supreme Court would be devising as a second phase..

UNDP has plans to design a comprehensive long-term joint rule of law and justice sector programme that would support justice sector institution development, strengthen judicial institutions and evidence-based programming for UN/DP interventions. An in-depth assessment of the justice system in Ethiopia will be conducted in collaboration with other sister UN agencies. The assessment will provide baseline for justice reform initiatives as well as promote evidence-based justice reform policies and programmes.

I. PURPOSE

- *Provide technical assistance to the Supreme Court and to enable the fulfillment of its constitutional mandate and strengthen the independence of the judiciary.*
- *Identification and implementation of quick-wins initiatives that would enable the advancement of Rule of Law and Access to Justice.*

II. EXPECTED OUTPUT

- *Output 1: Technical assistance to the Supreme Court, and the National Justice Sector Steering Committee provided*
- *Output 2: Specific quick-win initiatives supported and advancing Rule of Law and Access to Justice.*
- *Output 3: Federal Courts Reform Project Plan (2019-2021/2022) supported.*

III. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The implementation of the Initiation Plan is fully aligned with the GoE coordination structures and those of UNDP's project governance structures. The management of the project will be performed taking into account guidance from the National Justice Sector Steering Committee led by the Supreme Court and will use the Steering Committee and Technical Committee of GDPP for programmatic matters as needed.

The Supreme Court will assign responsible person/s for handling all matters related to the implementation of the Initiation Plan including following up implementation, reporting and monitoring of the project.

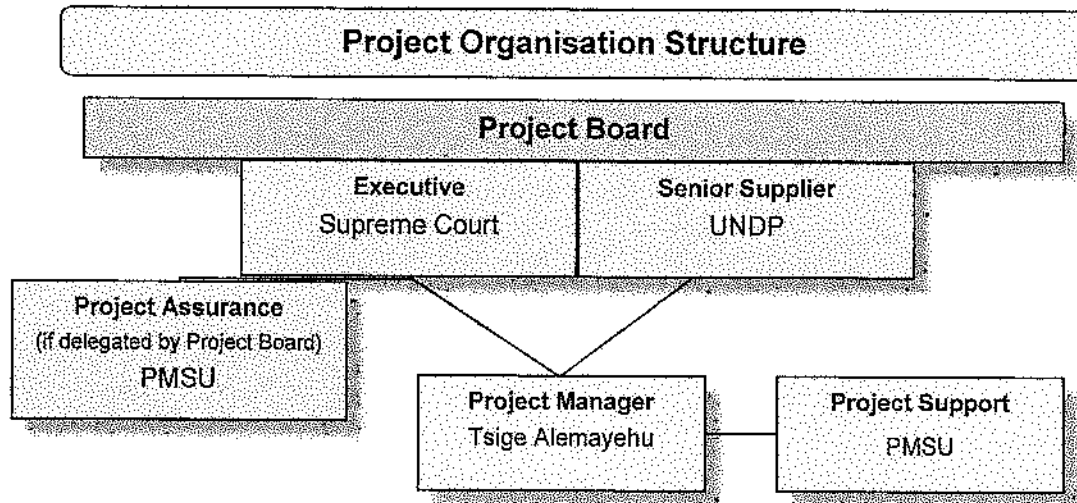
A Letter of Agreement will be signed between the Federal Supreme Court and UNDP for the implementation of specific activities of the Initiation Plan. This will imply a transfer of funds to the Supreme Court for the implementation of activities, noting that the accountability for effective implementation of these specific activities will remain with UNDP. Monitoring and Evaluation mechanisms will be put in place to ensure quality implementation and results reporting.

From UNDP perspective, the following officers/structures will be directly involved in the implementation and monitoring of this particular project:

*Mr. Shimels Assefa, Team Leader of Governance and Democratic Participation Programme
Mr. Christophoros Politis, Chef Technical Advisor in Governance and Democratic Participation Programme*

The following individuals will work as a team to implement the planned activities in the Initiation Plan:

*Ms. Tsigie Alemayehu, Programme Analyst, Governance Unit
Mr. Yared Belete, Communications Analyst, Governance Unit*



IV. MONITORING

The monitoring activities are supposed to be conducted throughout the duration of the project, i.e., for 18 months by the team. Monitoring is abided by the UNDP Monitoring and Evaluation (hereinafter referred to as M&E) manual.

Partnership Management Support Unit (hereinafter referred to as PMSU) will also undertake support to programme monitoring and evaluation, quality assurance, annual workplans, submission of annual and quarterly reports as per the tools and templates in the UNDP M&E manual.

The project will develop M&E plan and undertake regular monitoring and evaluation as per the UNDP M&E manual.

Baseline: Indicators: Number of quick-wins. Targets: quick-wins identified and implemented	2.1.1. Public dialogue on Challenges of the Formal Justice System During Transition and the Way Forward	UNDP	SIDA; UNDP	Action 2.1.1.: Provide support for conducting the workshop	18,000.00
	2.1.2. Rule of Law promoted through Innovative Communication and Visual Arts	UNDP, Federal Supreme Court	SIDA; UNDP (75K)	Action 2.1.2.: Support various visual art and communication related activities	162,000.00
Output 3: Transparency, outreach and performance of the Judiciary enhanced Baseline: Federal Courts' Reform Project Action Plan (2019-2022) developed. Indicators: # assessments, trainings, communication strategy, % backlog reduced, 1 judicial Reform Project office established Targets:	Activity 3.1: Support the Supreme Court in implementing activities for enhancing the performance of the judiciary				
	Activity 3.1.1. Conduct Assessment on Federal-Regional Cooperation and Establish Trust Fund to Support State Courts	UNDP/ Federal Supreme Court	SIDA	Action 3.1.1. National expert to support the SC, Provide capacity building and logistic support to regional courts	50,000.00
	Activity 3.1.2. Establish Judicial Training Program		SIDA	Action 3.1.2. Expert to conduct assessment, design curriculum; conduct trainings	255,000

<p>Activity 3.1.3 Conduct activities aimed at enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment in courts</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>UNDP/ Federal Supreme Court</p>	<p>SIDA</p>	<p>Action 3.1.3. Expert(s) to support gender auditing in federal courts; research on female court users' need -Develop Work Place Anti-harassment and Anti-Discrimination Policy -Create mentoring and coaching Platform for female judges & staff</p>	<p>80,000.00</p>
<p>Activity 3.1.4.: Strengthen Public Relations</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>UNDP/ Federal Supreme Court</p>	<p>SIDA</p>	<p>Action 3.1.4.: -Recruit consultants to set up Public Relation offices at all levels of federal courts -Select/employ, train and assign court speakers •Equip the new offices with necessary materials</p>	<p>40,000.00</p>
<p>Activity 3.1.5. Strengthen Mandatory Out of Court Dispute</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>UNDP/ Federal</p>	<p>SIDA</p>	<p>Action 3.1.5.: Conduct assessment and</p>	<p>80,000.00</p>

	Resolution in Selected Cases							Supreme Court	consultation on ADR in Ethiopia and feasibility of assigning cases for mandatory out of court dispute resolution •Identify types of cases that could be assigned to mandatory mediation and propose legislative review •Establish a court annexed mediation office	
Activity 3.1.6. Introduce Public Legal Education	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	UNDP/ Federal Supreme Court	Action 3.1.6.: Establish legal and justice clubs in primary and secondary schools •Organize student-court discussion and awareness creation forums	30,000.00
Activity 3.1.7. Conduct Judicial Mapping	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	UNDP/ Federal Supreme Court	Action 3.1.7.: •Conduct assessment and consultation for geographical re-zoning and zoning of federal courts •Propose legislative review	50,000.00

