

**NAME OF THE PROJECT:** Capacity Development to the Justice System to Prevent delays in trials and to clear backlog of cases

**BACKGROUND:**  
The project aims to clear existing backlog of criminal and civil cases both in the Magistrate and High Court (estimated at over 700) thereby reducing the congestion in most prisons across the country and enhance the justice delivery system. The project also seeks to develop the operational capacity of the judiciary by providing adequate human and material resources.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Over 401 backlog cases out of 700 had been disposed of, through the newly established Special Backlog courts.
- The provision of logistics and equipment, the recruitment of additional staff enhanced the operational capacity of Magistrate and High courts.
- Judgments which used to be hand-written are now being typed and delivered speedily due to the availability of computers.
- All Judges and some Magistrates have benefited from basic computer literacy training.

**CONSTRAINTS/CHALLENGES:**

- Clearance of more backlog cases resulted in more convictions, and sending more people to the already crowded prisons.
- A large number of institutions involved in the project makes coordination challenging.
- Recruitment of qualified legal personnel remains a challenge.
- Initially UNDP's rules and regulations were not well understood by the national partners (already addressed)

**FINANCIAL STATUS:**

Total Budget: USD 2,048,016  
Expenditure: USD 1,169,320

**PLANS TO SPEED UP THE DELIVERY:**

- An international justice and human rights advisor has been recruited to provide the expertise in addition to the important logistical support.
- A full day workshop on UNDP policies and procedures with all partners was held to enhance their understanding and thereby improve the quality and speed of project implementation
- Regular dialogue will be continued with other parties such as MIALGCD and SLP to expedite the implementation of other components of the project