

**MPTF OFFICE GENERIC ANNUAL PROGRAMME¹ FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE 2021 – MAY 2022**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Ensuring human rights compliant response by Justice Law and Order Sector actors to COVID-19, including addressing overcrowding in detention facilities Programme Number (if applicable) MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 00127621 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p>(if applicable) Country/Region Uganda</p> <p>Priority area/ strategic results Life-Saving Services, Multisectoral Cash & Social Protection:</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <p>UNODC OHCHR</p>	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uganda Law Society, Uganda Prison Service (UPS)
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: MPTF /JP Contribution⁴: 31,817.74 USD</p> <p>Agency Contribution UNODC – 60,000 USD</p> <p>Government Contribution (if applicable)</p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) (if applicable)</p> <p>TOTAL: 91,817.74 USD</p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration (months) 12 Months</p> <p>Start Date⁵ June 2021</p> <p>Original End Date⁶ May 2022</p> <p>Current End date⁷ May 2022</p>
<p>Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy Mid-Term Evaluation Report – if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>	<p align="center">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Sharon Nyambe Title: Head of Office Participating Organization (Lead): UNODC Email address: sharon.nyambe@un.org

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

³ The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁵ The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

⁷ If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities.

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (of results)

The project steering committee officially approved a request re-programme UNODC-OHCHR towards the ongoing Uganda Prison Service mass vaccination exercise. As a result, over 18, 630 prisoners from prisons in the Central region, South Western region and Southern Region have been vaccinated against Covid-19. UNODC allocated an additional 60,000 USD to increase scope and impact of the project. In partnership with the Uganda Law Society (ULS) a prison decongestion program aimed at enhancing access to justice, improving welfare, and increasing legal awareness for inmates and juveniles as well as increasing capacity for prison officers was launched. During the period installation of video conferencing equipment was finalized in three additional prison sites, these are facilitating virtual court hearings and ensuring that prisoners have continued access to justice. 18 laptops were also procured for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) to support business continuity and linkage to courts and prisons for virtual court sessions.

I. Purpose

- Provide the main objectives and expected outcomes of the programme in relation to the appropriate **Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) and project document (if applicable) or Annual Work Plan (AWP).**

II. Results

In 2021, the UN Uganda Multi-Partner Trust Fund Steering Committee Meeting project steering committee meeting held in 2021, officially approved a request to re-programme funds for the UNODC-OHCHR project “*Ensuring human rights compliant response by Justice Law and Order Sector actors to COVID-19, including addressing overcrowding in detention facilities*” towards the emergency vaccination needs of prisoners. This was envisaged to prevent the spread of COVID 19 in prisons and prevent any fatalities of both convicted and pre-trial prisoners. As a result, over 18,630 prisoners from prisons in the Central region, South Western region and Southern Region have been vaccinated against Covid-19.

UNODC allocated an additional 60,000 USD to increase scope and impact of the project. In partnership with the Uganda Law Society (ULS) a prison decongestion program aimed at enhancing access to justice, improving welfare, and increasing legal awareness for inmates and juveniles as well as increasing capacity for prison officers was launched. The project is being implemented in the Districts of Jinja, Gulu, Arua, Mbale and Mbarara in partnership with key stakeholders like State Attorneys, the Judiciary, and Probono lawyers among others. The project focuses on vulnerable and marginalized groups such as People eligible for mandatory bail, women with children in detention, persons with severe illnesses, the elderly and Minor or petty offenders particularly those who were arrested and detained for violation of the COVID 19 restrictions. Approximately 150 prisoners per region will be reached through legal aid and legal representation within five regions amounting to 750 prisoners.

During the period installation of video conferencing equipment was finalized in three additional prison sites, these are facilitating virtual court hearings and ensuring that prisoners have continued access to justice. 18 laptops were also procured for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) to support business continuity and linkage to courts and prisons for virtual court sessions.

Conducted an assessment of six prison sites of Masaka Main Prison, Kitalya Mini-Max Prison, Jinja Main Prison, Kakiika High Security Prison, Luzira Upper Maximum-Security Prison and Luzira Women Maximum Security Prison in preparation for the project roll out.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

(Due to the reprogramming of funds towards the mass vaccination of prisoners, the project was not able to make progress in the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level. However, with the launch of the prison decongestion project in April 2022, progress was made on the identified areas during the second and third quarters of 2022 as indicated in the table below)

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p>Outcome 1⁸ Enhanced access to justice for prisoners on remand and to be remanded in select prisons and reduction in prison overcrowding</p> <p>Indicator: 1.1a Decrease in the number of unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population in target prisons</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target: 30%</p> <p>1.1b Percentage of inmates who received legal aid who are released during the special sessions</p> <p>Baseline: Planned Target: 70%</p>	65%	As a result of the lengthy process of formal hearings during criminal full trials 495 prisoners received legal aid out of the planned 750. However, the project managed to reach 1045 prisoners who received legal awareness and sensitization in the four regions of (Jinja 206, Mbale 330, Arua 143, Mbarara 122 and Gulu 244)	Reports from ULS

⁸ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p>Output 1.1.1 Technical and functional support is provided to relevant JLOS institutions to organize extraordinary sessions to handle cases</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.1a Number of special sessions initiated Baseline: Planned Target:5</p> <p>1.2.1 Existing legal aid structures are scaled-up and legal aid is provided to at-risk prisoners on remand. Indicator 1.2.1a Number of prisoners who receive access to free legal aid services Baseline: Planned Target: 1000</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1540</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>Reports from ULS</p> <p>Reports from ULS</p>
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iii) A Specific Story (Optional)

- This could be a success or human story. It does not have to be a success story – often the most interesting and useful lessons learned are from experiences that have not worked. The point is to highlight a concrete example with a story that has been important to your Programme in the reporting period.
- In ¼ to ½ a page, provide details on a specific achievement or lesson learned of the Programme. Attachment of supporting documents, including photos with captions, news items etc, is strongly encouraged. The MPTF Office will select stories and photos to feature in the Consolidated Annual Report, the GATEWAY and the MPTF Office Newsletter.

Problem / Challenge faced: Describe the specific problem or challenge faced by the subject of your story (this could be a problem experienced by an individual, community or government).

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda, and the measures put in place to curb its spread, significantly exacerbated the already existing challenges such as the overcrowding of prisons, with additional persons having been sent to prisons for contravening the COVID-19 restrictions. The overcrowding of prisons - with the occupation standing at above 312% of holding capacity level - exposed persons in confined and overcrowded situations to a higher risk of infection as well as other human rights concerns. In enforcing the Presidential Directives to combat COVID-19, state security forces arrested many persons suspected of flouting the Directives, thereby further clogging a system that is already overwhelmed with overcrowding. Between 4000 and 6000 thousand persons were reported to have been arrested at the height of the pandemic across the country. Since the outbreak of the COVID pandemic, Uganda Prison Service was severely affected due to the exposure and limited means to prevent transmission and enable social distancing since it continued to receive prisoners in large numbers during the pandemic.

Programme Interventions: How was the problem or challenged addressed through the Programme interventions?

During the UN Uganda Multi-Partner Trust Fund Steering Committee Meeting project steering committee meeting held in 2021, UNODC officially requested for permission to re-programme funds for the UNODC-OHCHR project “*Ensuring human rights compliant response by Justice Law and Order Sector actors to COVID-19, including addressing overcrowding in detention facilities*” towards the emergency vaccination needs of prisoners. This was envisaged to prevent the spread of COVID 19 in prisons and prevent any fatalities of both convicted and pre-trial prisoners. As a result, over 18,630 prisoners from prisons in the Central region, South Western region and Southern Region have been vaccinated against Covid-19.

Result (if applicable): Describe the observable *change* that occurred so far as a result of the Programme interventions. For example, how did community lives change or how was the government better able to deal with the initial problem?

Prisoners have been vaccinated and this has enabled the ease of restrictions in prison settings. As a result, prisoners now can be visited by their relatives and can access their lawyers and legal aid service providers including the Uganda Law Society who have embarked on a prison decongestion initiative in the districts of Jinja, Mbarara, Gulu, Arua and Mbale.

During the implementation period, we were able to offer legal representation and advice to 494 prisoners, 458 were male and 36 were female. Of these, 100 were represented in Gulu, 108 in Mbarara, 95 in Jinja, 109

in Arua, and 82 in Mbale. 1,045 inmates were sensitized to in the four regions (Jinja 206, Mbale 330, Arua 143, Mbarara 122 and Gulu 244.

The legal representation was in form of bail applications, full trials and plea bargain sessions where some inmates were released from custody and others given lighter sentences.

Throughout the project 11 judicial officers 9 state attorneys and 21 advocates including Lap advocates participated in the sessions across all the 5 regions of Mbale, Gulu, Arua, Jinja and Mbarara.

Key Results

- 130 prisoners were given community service after our intervention
- 54 prisoners were convicted and sentenced
- 35 dismissed cases for want of prosecution
- 3 prisoners were released on bond
- 22 cautioned and released
- 7 reconciled
- 9 proceedings terminated pending re-arrest
- 4 were acquitted
- 5 prisoners paid fines and case closed
- 2 prisoners opted out
- One had no case to answer
- One declined plea bargain

Lessons Learned: What did you (and/or other partners) learn from this situation that has helped inform and/or improve Programme (or other) interventions?

There is need to strengthen alternatives to imprisonment especially for petty or first-time offenders and this should be made priority in emergency situations as was noted during the COVID 19 pandemic.



III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)

- Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken.

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

The UN Uganda Multi-Partner Trust Fund Steering Committee Meeting project steering committee meeting held in 2021, approved a request for re-programming of funds for the UNODC-OHCHR project “*Ensuring human rights compliant response by Justice Law and Order Sector actors to COVID-19, including addressing overcrowding in detention facilities*” towards the emergency vaccination needs of prisoners.

V. Resources (Optional)

- Provide any information on financial management, procurement and human resources.
- Indicate if the Programme mobilized any additional resources or interventions from other partners.