

# JUSTICE REFORM PROGRAMME (JURE)



2022  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



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**List of acronyms used in the report.**

ADR	Alternate Dispute Resolution
BASL	Bar Association Sri Lanka
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CELP	Centre for Environmental Law and Policy
CIABOC	Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption
CLE	Continuous Legal Education
CSHR	Centre for the Study of Human Rights
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DPCCS	Department of Probation and Child Care Services
EU	European Union
GAD	Government Analyst's Department
HRCSL	Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka
JMO	Judicial Medical Officers
JURE	Justice Reforms Programme
LAC	Legal Aid Commission
LK	Sri Lanka
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
NAPVCW	National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses
NISD	National Institute of Social Development
NPC	National Police Commission
OIC	Officer in Charge
PDM	Public Defenders Mechanism
PWD	Persons with disabilities
RTIC	Right to Information Commission
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SSW	Social Service Workforce
UN	United Nations
UNCAC	United Nations Convention against Corruption
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

## **1. Description**

EU – Sri Lanka Justice Reform Programme – JURE

01/01/2022 to 30/12/2022 (first annual progress report).

## **2. Assessment of the implementation of the action activities and its results**

### **2.1 Executive summary of the action**

#### **Overall Country/ Sector Context**

2022 marked the onset of Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis since its independence, sparking a wave of public protests and civil unrest (April – July) and political upheaval that has devastated people's lives and livelihoods, with the poorest and most vulnerable bearing a heavy brunt of the crisis. The country's socio-economic and political crisis has far-reaching implications on the justice sector, with possible reduced funding for the sector (including the courts, police, probation and law enforcement) which will impede the administration of justice. Additionally, the crisis will lead to an increase in the legal needs of the community as a result of aggravated socio-economic issues (including rising gender-based violence, debt, foreclosure, unemployment, homelessness etc.). Concurrently, the decreasing ability to privately fund these needs will necessitate enhanced legal aid programmes to support marginalised populations to assert their rights and access justice. The potential multiplication of legal disputes within the current socio-economic context, the steady escalation in crime rates in 2022, fuel shortages, and rising incidences of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) have further strained the justice system and will lead to increased case backlogs and delayed administration of justice. The financial difficulties that accompany an economic crisis will result in a higher number of disputes triggering an increase in litigation, from both businesses and individuals, which will set progress back further. The crisis has also worsened child justice and protection concerns with reports of increasing demands from families to place their children in institutions; rising accounts of domestic violence and child abuse; and limitations in resources of social and justice services to adequately address these issues.

The depth of the ongoing socio-economic crisis has created an opportunity to drive transformative changes to the country's justice sector and served to underscore the project's rationale for building an improved and responsive justice system, with improved transparency and accountability. Accordingly, JURE will seek to launch the National Policy and Strategic Action Plan on Legal Aid and strengthen the capacities and outreach of legal aid service providers around the country as a timely intervention given the increased demand for legal aid. The current context has led to a renewed focus on anti-corruption measures, as one of the key objectives of the IMF-supported programme which will be to accelerate structural reforms to address corruption vulnerabilities.

2022 also marked the revival of the constitutional reform process with the passing of the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution in Parliament in October 2022. The Amendment does not significantly curtail the powers of the executive, however, one of the key highlights was the re-establishment of the Constitutional Council which will be tasked with appointments of members of independent commissions, including the Election Commission, the Public Service Commission, NPC, the Audit Service Commission, HRCSL and CIABOC. This is expected to enhance the independence of institutions and will be a key entry point for JURE to strengthen the overall reforms agenda for the sector. The JURE programme will be implemented amid these socio-political developments and will seek to leverage the opportunity offered by the crisis for deep reforms, while skilfully navigating prevailing sensitivities, to build stronger systems of justice that are people centred.

#### **Overview of the action's implementation**

**The Project's Description of Action was revised and finalised** in December 2022, following a significant restructuring of the Logic Model undertaken in early 2021. The targeted interventions originally identified underwent multiple iterations subsequent to the repeated changes to the administration and political and socio-economic developments.

**In relation to monitoring and evaluation**, the Results Framework of the Project has been revised and finalised in consultation with both agencies and the EU. Realistic and SMART indicators, baselines, annual milestones and end-of-the-project targets have been identified considering the emerging context. M&E tools and templates were also designed and customised to collect process-level and result-level data from partners and external experts. The M&E plan for 2023 was developed identifying activities, budgets and timelines for monitoring, research and evaluation. Observations/field visits have been scheduled to collect data, validate reported results and assess programme impact once the partners are on board for implementation. Further, the risks to project implementation were monitored, and new and emerging risks and possible mitigation actions were identified.

**The Gender Action Plan (GAP) was finalised** in December 2022 following extensive consultations with sector stakeholders (including civil society), both agencies and the EU. Findings from the national review of the justice sector implementation of the National Action Plan on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and the review of the National Policy on Gender Empowerment informed the drafting of the GAP. A review of Governments' international commitments on gender was also conducted as it relates to the justice sector. Feedback received from the EU Gender Specialist and the EU Delegation was also incorporated.

During the reporting period (January to December 2022) which consists largely of the inception phase (- Aug 2022), substantial progress was made in securing the buy-in of and consulting with all key stakeholders listed in the DOA. **Key requirements and a first set of prioritised areas of intervention where policy/legal, and institutional reforms will be supported have been identified for target justice sector institutions** including the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC), Human Rights Commission (HRC), Legal Aid Commission (LAC), University of Colombo (UOC) on legal education, Government Analyst's Department (GAD), National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), Department of Probation and Child Care Services (DPCCS), Attorney General's Department (AGD), National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses (NAPVCW) to strengthen their capacities to enhance access to justice and formal agreements to this effect will be signed by Q1 2023.

As Sri Lanka underwent a period of cascading crises in 2022, including an unprecedented economic crisis and a nationwide protest movement, JURE interventions were focused on crisis response to ensure the continued protection of human rights and enhanced legal assistance and support. JURE has supported enhanced coordination mechanisms within the justice sector including actors in the judicial medical service, legal aid, and human rights functions to ensure more streamlined and speedy support for victims/ witnesses covering protection, assistance and legal representation for individuals. Technical assistance is being provided to pioneer a sustainable Coordination Mechanism between the Legal Aid Commission (LAC), the Bar Association (BASL) and the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses (NAPVCW) to ensure swift assistance to victims/witnesses. Significant progress was also made in close collaboration with the Human Rights Commission (HRC) to ensure enhanced promotion and protection of human rights in situations of concern through crisis response interventions as further detailed in Section 2.2. Technical assistance was extended to the HRC Committee appointed to develop 'Guidelines on Police Conduct during Public Protests' in line with international standards and best practices following an increase in the number of arrests as well as allegations of excessive use of force in police action against protesters taking part in the public protest movement. Assistance was provided to the HRC to strengthen their ability to conduct independent field inquiries and facilitate effective and swift inquiries into human rights violations. UNICEF has also accelerated its work to support families to mitigate the impacts of the crisis and prevent children from being institutionalized. In addition, UNICEF provided support to the National Child Protection Authority, to keep the 1929 Child Helpline Functional 24/7 and also to the Police to support their work on data collection and response. With prison overcrowding becoming a pressing issue that requires strategic interventions, UNDP's technical advocacy with the judiciary and the MOJ resulted in the establishment of a committee (chaired by a Supreme Court judge) to develop a National Sentencing Policy Act. Further, during the reporting period UNDP also supported MOJ's legal division in the formulation of key legislation including the Amendment to the Penal Code (Statutory Rape), Amendment to the Community Based Corrections Act, Amendments to the Debt Conciliation Board Act and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act among others (further details provided in Section 2.2 - Results and activities).

## 2.2. Results and activities

### **Outcome 1: Improved access to justice for all, in particular women, the poor and persons in vulnerable situations**

#### **Output 1.1. Efficient and accessible legal aid including legal representation for vulnerable communities (including women, IDPs, PwDs and children)**

Under Output 1.1, **key gaps within the legal aid sector and recommendations to enhance the provision of efficient and meaningful legal aid services to all individuals irrespective of background and social status, were identified** following the completion of a legal aid stakeholder mapping and capacity assessment. UNDP has also initiated updating the **Strategic Action Plan of the cabinet – approved National Legal Aid Policy** to reflect the changes in the legal aid landscape since plan development in 2016. **Best practices from comparative jurisdictions in the area of public defender mechanisms and key recommendations to address issues faced by indigent accused individuals** were identified following the completion of a comparative study on public defender mechanisms pertinent to Sri Lanka. The project has also initiated **a coordination mechanism between the police, LAC and the Department of Probation and Child Care Services to support children to access legal aid.**

##### *Activity 1.1.1. Enhance the capacity and scope of the LAC, BASL and other legal aid service providers to provide efficient and efficacious legal aid services (UNDP)*

**Key challenges that prevent sufficient and meaningful legal aid services from being delivered were identified** following the completion of a stakeholder mapping and capacity needs assessment of the legal aid sector in Sri Lanka. The study examined the current state of legal aid through a stakeholder mapping exercise of 31 key stakeholders, and consultations with regional legal aid centres of the Legal Aid Commission (LAC), private lawyers of the Regional Associations of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka ('BASL'), current users/beneficiaries of the RLACs, police stations and other relevant government departments, academic institutions and CSOs. The study presents short-, medium- and long-term recommendations for reforming the legal aid sector. One of the key short-term recommendations from the study is to re-define the eligibility criteria for legal aid and re-define the concept of legal aid to include legal advice and mediated settlements, which would warrant changes to "deserving persons". It was also proposed that legal aid services are scaled up through strategic links between BASL and LAC. A key midterm recommendation was to ensure that LAC lawyers have exposure to continuous professional development and a reward system to motivate them to take up these cases. As a long-term recommendation, it was proposed that the 09 Provincial Panels of Expert Lawyers are set up in order to scale up the legal aid workforce to match with the current needs.

The study also proposes establishing a new administrative mechanism for providing legal aid services through the LAC with contributions from private legal practitioners, CSOs, and a strong referral system by the police, district secretariat offices, and grassroots community organisations. The study further calls for a recognition of the right to legal literacy and the right to legal aid under the Constitution and a scaling up of legal aid services nationwide to match the need for access to justice for deserving individuals and communities. In line with the recommendations of the study, the programme will work with the LAC to introduce innovative mechanisms through individual and institutional capacity development of the LAC, enhancing LAC's partnerships and coordination efforts, and through legal aid awareness campaigns. This intervention is timely in light of the increasing legal needs of communities as a result of the ongoing socio-economic crisis and will support enhancing the accessibility of the justice sector to ensure an effective and integrated human rights-based approach to the sector.

As a direct follow-up to the study, **capacities of and links between LAC centres were strengthened through a training and networking session for LAC lawyers.** 117 Legal Aid Officers and Assistant Directors

(103 women, 14 men) increased their understanding of newly enacted laws and recently amended laws and procedures, especially laws relating to women and children and civil and criminal legal procedures following the session held in December 2022. Feedback from the participants indicated that the sessions were very timely and provided an opportunity to clarify doubts about recent legal developments in order to provide enhanced legal advice to the public as well as to recognise and address human rights violations. The session helped legal officers to improve their skill development and stress management to better manage the stressful demands of their profession. The programme was instrumental in strengthening the linkages between LAC centres dispersed around the country, and the LAC will establish a regular coordination mechanism to support sharing of best practices and continued professional development towards enhanced legal aid for their communities.

#### *Activity 1.1.2. Operationalize the cabinet-approved National Policy and Strategic Action Plan on Legal Aid (UNDP)*

Recognising the pressing need for the revision and operationalisation of the National Policy and Strategic Action Plan on Legal Aid 2023 - 2027, **UNDP has secured buy-in from the MoJ to this effect and finalised a plan for the public launch of the policy alongside a public sensitisation programme on the services provided by the LAC.** UNDP has commenced work with the MoJ, LAC, BASL and other key stakeholders on revisions to the policy to reflect the changes in social demographics and dynamic and institutional make-up of other service providers in this field since policy development in 2016.

**A comprehensive package of support highlighting key prioritised areas of intervention was developed to strengthen LAC's role in providing effective services to indigent clients and vulnerable communities.** UNDP's partnership with the LAC will focus on the national legal aid policy launch; partnership creation between other legal aid service providers and potential donors to identify areas for collaboration; expand the scope of criminal legal aid beyond bail and develop a related fee schedule to encourage representation; conducting training for prison staff and officers; and expand public visibility on the LAC's mandate with a focus on vulnerable and marginalised communities.

As noted in the inception report, UNDP also focused on advocating for the government economic welfare package to be extended to the indigent female clients of the legal aid commission reliant on court-ordered maintenance from their partners for survival.

#### *Activity 1.1.2 a) Provide technical support to the Legal Aid Commission to strengthen access to child-friendly legal aid (UNICEF)*

Several consultations were held with the LAC and the Department of Probation and Child Care Services (DPCS) to discuss how children can be better supported through the legal aid system. Whilst legal aid services are available, referrals of children as victims or alleged perpetrators are very rarely made, so the key piece with regard to access to legal aid for children will involve – ensuring that all Legal Aid Officers and Staff are trained on key principles and guidelines of providing legal aid to children and that there is a mechanism in place – between the police, legal aid and probation to refer cases of children. This mechanism will be set up through a project to support the release of children detained with adults. As a start, a ToR for an individual consultant is to be drawn up so that a national consultant can work with the LAC and collect resources currently available to develop Guidelines on Child-Friendly Legal Aid, which the Legal aid lawyers will be trained on thereafter.

#### *Activity 1.1.3. Improve and strengthen the “Assigned Counsel system” in High Courts and Magistrate's Courts and improve the knowledge and capacity of lawyers especially those working on pro-bono cases (UNDP)*

The study on the “Assigned Counsel system” is close to completion, and both studies will be validated in the first quarter of 2023. UNDP will develop a strategy for the expansion of legal representation in partnership with the relevant sector stakeholders leveraging the research and will work closely with key stakeholders to secure buy-in for select prioritised interventions.



**Best practices from comparative jurisdictions in the area of public defender mechanisms were identified** following the completion of a comparative study on public defender mechanisms pertinent for Sri Lanka in line with international standards. The study underscored the need for a holistic approach in addressing issues faced by indigent accused individuals, in relation to capacity building of the Sri Lanka Police Force and the National Police Commission (and other independent commissions), the Attorney-General's Department and Judicial Medical Officers. Furthermore, the importance of improving awareness of alternative dispute resolution and enhancing the work of CSOs working with indigent, marginalised and ostracised communities to obtain legal justice were other identified areas for intervention which UNDP will prioritise for support through JURE.

*Activity 1.1.3 a) Provide training and support to Lawyers to ensure age-appropriate representation for children*

Although a mapping of the justice sector workforce and training needs was initiated in collaboration with the regional office, significant progress was not made during the reporting period on this activity line and will be reported on in the next reporting cycle.

*Activity 1.1.4 Enhance sensitivity and responsiveness, by training, of 'first point of contact' individuals such as JMOs, police officers, other similar professionals especially when assisting girls and women victims of violence (UNDP)*

This activity will be reported on in the next reporting cycle.

*Activity 1.1.5. Develop sustainable mechanisms to provide for legal protection of economic and property rights of vulnerable communities and women including legal protection from predatory lending) (UNDP)*

UNDP commenced discussions with the Debt Conciliation Board to understand key requirements and has planned to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to assess the gaps in the legal frameworks and institutional capacities in the legal protection of the economic and property rights of vulnerable communities and women. The needs assessment will inform structural changes and amendments to the law and UNDP will work towards enhancing the identified sustainable mechanisms for increased legal protection.

From a gender perspective, the project learnt at the inception phase that alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as mediation are dominated by males in practice. Women and other marginalized groups in general have a lack of access to and control over resources such as land, capital, credit, labor, training, skills development and opportunities for decision making. As such, the project's focus on strengthening commercial mediation for lower liquid claims and micro level financing issues by strengthening special mediation boards will specifically have a positive impact on women.

Moreover, the project started discussions on how to operationalize the small claims court due to be established in January 2023. The small claims court will provide a swift and affordable system to resolve disputes below LKR 1.5 million. The system will help vulnerable communities with liquid claims to arrive at a settlement or resolve disputes within a short period of time. As this is a new process, the project intends to carry out awareness programmes on this widely to lawyers, judges, court staff and the public. The project also intends to set up separate small claim court houses as model courts in selected areas in the country.

**Output 1.2. Equal Access to Justice strengthened including through language mainstreaming across the justice sector (through improved translation/interpretation capacities)**

Under Output 1.2, a **language gap analysis and development of a language mainstreaming strategy across the justice sector has been initiated** as a key step to mainstream language within the justice sector. UNDP will also look to **expedite the translation of Bills through the customization of translation software** for the Legal Draftsman's Office.



Activity 1.2.1. Enhance capacity for legislative drafting, translation & consolidation and simplification of laws and set up a sustainable mechanism that facilitates (real time) public access (including online) to laws and subsidiary legislation (UNDP)

UNDP has taken the strategic step to mainstream language within the justice sector to support the sector to proactively cater to the national language policy requirements at all stages. UNDP secured the buy-in of the Ministry of Justice and developed a concept note for the revision of the Legislative Enactments outlining the total number of laws that require consolidation, revision, translation and the strategic prioritisation of the specific laws over the next three years and the use of modern methodology. UNDP is in the process of supporting the customization of an existing digital translation software in collaboration with the University of Moratuwa (UOM) for the Legal Draftsman's Department (LDD), which will significantly reduce the time spent on the development of Legislative Enactments in all three languages. The customization requirements for the software have been identified in consultation with the LDD and UOM, including features to ensure confidentiality, data security and consistent legal terminology etc.

Activity 1.2.2. Improve interpretation and translation services at all stages of judicial proceedings (including through special translation units in Courts) (UNDP)

A language gap analysis was initiated under this activity during the reporting period, and the methodology for the study has been established. The gap analysis will inform a language mainstreaming strategy and a translation strategy to be developed in collaboration with the Official Languages Department and Sinhala Dictionary Office and the Official Languages Commission.

Discussions were held with the MoJ and the JSC on the establishment of special translations units and buy in was secured to initiate these initiatives from next year.

Activity 1.2.2 a) Update and translate legal documents relevant for all children in contact with the law.

This activity line will be reported on in the next reporting cycle.

### **Output 1.3. Improved legal awareness amongst the public (especially vulnerable communities)**

Under Output 1.3, the project has **initiated collaborations with LAC, NAPVCW, the University of Colombo, and CIABOC to increase legal awareness among the public.** Discussions have also commenced on improving the **curriculum and digital infrastructure of the Sri Lanka Law College.** The project is also working to **improve awareness on child rights** and laws related to children in collaboration with the HRC.

Activity 1.3.1. Conduct awareness raising programmes on Justice for Children and the law in relation to young people and ensure its inclusion in curriculum reform (UNICEF)

A series of consultations were held with the HRCSL on legal awareness and child rights. A key issue noted was the lack of awareness of child rights among rights holders and duty-bearers alike. A proposal was developed by the Commission for support in the following areas: developing child-friendly modules on child rights to be incorporated into the school education curriculum and used in outside school platforms (children's clubs and scouts' programmes); and capacity building sessions for National Colleges of education, pre-school teachers and teachers in charge of discipline. This will be implemented in 2023.

Activity 1.3.2. Improve the capacities and level of awareness of right holders (including vulnerable groups), CSOs (non-state organisations, think tanks, lawyers, law faculties and colleges and professional research institutions) involved in access to justice, defense of human rights, children and women's rights and support their dialogue with duty-bearers including on environmental justice (UNDP)

Following discussions with the University of Colombo's Faculty of Law, the Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR) and the Centre for Environmental Law and Policy (CELP), UNDP has identified prioritised areas of intervention which will inform the agreement to be signed with the University in January 2023. Drawing from the discussions UNDP held with environmental sector stakeholders, including practitioners, CSOs and academia, JURE will work with CELP to advocate the enactment of the Climate Change Act in Sri Lanka and will strengthen the knowledge and skills of the judiciary and law enforcement officials on environmental justice so that justice is meted out, whilst enhancing people's trust in the justice sector in handling these issues. In partnership with CSHR, UNDP will work to inculcate a human rights-based approach and gender sensitivity in prison administration. Further, Divisional Secretaries and Parliamentarians will also be capacitated on human rights-based approach to decision making through interventions rolled out in partnership with CSHR. The database on simplified fundamental rights case law will benefit not only legal professionals but citizens and CSOs who come forward to exercise their fundamental rights.

A video is being developed on the mandate of the LAC and the services available in order to promote public awareness of the Commission and to encourage the public to avail themselves of their rights.

In order to support the development of a legal awareness strategy for justice sector institutions, a contextual analysis and scoping study on legal awareness were initiated during the reporting period. The targeted awareness strategy will seek to enhance public awareness of rights, entitlements/obligations, protection and remedial measures as well as recent legal developments.

The Programme will also support the LAC to revamp its website to enhance public outreach and improve visibility of available services. A team was recruited for this purpose during the reporting period and the key requirements for the website were identified.

## Outcome 2: Improved accountability, transparency and credibility of the justice system

### Output 2.1. Strengthened data collection, analysis and dissemination capacities of government institutions, sector professionals, CSOs and other accountability organizations on justice sector performance for the public

Under Output 2.1, a **data mapping exercise has been initiated** covering the justice sector and an assessment of routine data for the child justice sector has been initiated to improve capacities to collect and analyse data. The project will also work with the Department of Prisons to support **databases pertaining to children**.

*Activity 2.1.1. Capacity building of justice sector institutions to collect and analyse disaggregated data (including on gender-based violence and environmental justice) as well as to disseminate these data (public access and monitoring of statistics) (UNDP)*

Recognising the importance of systematic data collection and analysis to identify and prioritise gaps to be addressed in the data capacities of the different legal sectors (civil, criminal or commercial), inform legislative reform as well as to hold the justice system accountable, UNDP secured the buy-in from the MoJ to conduct a mapping of the systematic data collection, analysis and dissemination capacity of the sector. The mapping will highlight key recommendations to inform the project's activities on mainstreaming data management across the sector, enhance tracking of SDG 16 indicators, and contribute towards the establishment of a nationally owned data repository.

*Activity 2.1.1 a) Improve the collection, analysis and use of routine data on Justice for Children and undertake research on key J4C issues (UNICEF)*

Progress was made on the activities related to routine data and research. An international consulting firm "CORAM" international was selected through a competitive process and the inception meeting was held with the MoJ, NCPA and DPCC. The assessment will assess the routine data being collected and databases in use by different departments; set baselines on key child protection indicators; examine data handling and safety issues; and make recommendations on establishing and improving systems, databases, and data gaps. The inception visits and piloting of tools was carried out in November 2022. The full data collection phase is planned for February to March 2023 and the final report due in April 2023.

In addition, the preparatory groundwork to conduct an action-research on children deprived of their liberty was completed, and the inception report delivered. The action-research process will begin in 2023. Finally, the Terms of Reference for a national survey on violence against children and adolescents have been drafted and are awaiting sign off by the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment.

*The International consultant from CORAM International is pictured administering the questionnaire to the Chairman of the Victim and Witness Protection Authority on their data management system to facilitate the data collection on routine data on Justice for Children.*



*Activity 2.1.2. Enhance the criminological knowledgebase of the Sri Lanka Police through targeted research to promote evidence-based policy and reform (UNDP)*

In light of the escalation of crime rates due to the ongoing socio-economic crisis, UNDP is supporting the Sri Lanka Police and the NAPVCW to identify key gaps in the criminological knowledge base to support evidence-based policy reform. One of the key areas discussed was the existing limitations in crime data collection, and the need to take into account the reclassification of crime undertaken recently. UNDP will leverage the findings of the pioneering island-wide Criminal Victimization Trends Study and the Existing Crime Trends Study (supported by UNDP) to facilitate evidence driven development of the national sentencing policy/ guidelines.

*Activity 2.1.3. Enhance the trust between the justice sector and the public through the development and implementation of a communication strategy for the justice sector (UNDP)*

UNDP is in the process of onboarding an agency for this intervention, and further details on this activity will be reported on in the next reporting cycle.

**Output 2.2: Increased capacities of different justice sector actors to develop and implement codes of ethics and professional conduct.**

Under Output 2.2, a **code of conduct is being developed for HRC** to enhance integrity and transparency in the operations of the Commission. A **road map was developed with the National Institute of Social Development** to establish standards for professionals engaged in criminal justice processes for children, including Probation Officers and social workers, towards promoting greater professionalization in the social work sector. A **mapping of the Justice for Children Workforce was undertaken** during the reporting period as a key step towards identifying key gaps to be addressed to strengthen the workforce.

*Activity 2.2.1. Support the Judicial Service Commission to better regulate the discharge of judicial function of judges through the introduction and improvement of policies (including non-discriminatory human resources policies), manuals, procedures and processes (UNDP)*

Technical discussions were held with the Judges Training Institute and the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) which have helped identify priority areas for support, including amending JSC Circulars, updating the judicial manual, and developing bench books for civil, criminal and commercial law among other interventions to strengthen the discharge of judicial functions.

### Activity 2.2.2. Develop/revise codes of conduct and procedural manuals for sector professionals (UNDP)

A Code of Ethics has been developed for the HRCSL to be observed by all Commissioners, members, employees, staff, representatives of associations, and any person cooperating and working with the Commission. The Code includes clear guidelines for personal and professional conduct and the establishment of strict working protocols to ensure due diligence, verification of information sources, clear and transparent complaints procedures and maintenance of accurate records. The Code of Ethics will be validated by the HRC prior to adoption and will help to ensure integrity and transparency in the operations of the Commission, protect against conflicts of interest and help enhance public trust. A Code of Ethics for the Sri Lanka Police and the Prisons Department is also under discussion.

### Activity 2.2.2 a) Provide support to the professionalisation of the justice for children workforce and the development of Codes of Conduct and HR Policies that support child friendly justice (UNICEF)

During the reporting period, the Social Service Workforce (SSW) Steering Committee was formed with the participation of key stakeholders including the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, the National Institute of Social Development (NISD), and members of the Association of Social Workers. Seven meetings were conducted in 2022 resulting in the development of a road map for the professionalisation of social work. Currently, the NISD is mapping the SSW and developing ethical standards and key competencies, which will pave the way for effective social service workforce planning and development.

In 2023, UNICEF is planning to contract an institutional consultant to support the NISD in the implementation of this comprehensive roadmap. This will notably include working on the availability, components and gaps of the training courses offered in the field of social work in Sri Lanka; developing key standards for social work practice (in relation to children and young people) and developing a model to pilot practice supervision for the social service workforce in Sri Lanka.

### Activity 2.2.3. Support the establishment and implementation of a plan of action to strengthen women's representation within the sector (UNDP)

The project's Gender Action Plan is being developed in close consultation with the EU and is expected to be finalised by January 2023.

## **Output 2.3. Strengthened capacity of independent institutions to carry out their mandate**

Key areas of support towards strengthening the capacity of independent commissions (notably CIABOC and HRC) were identified following detailed technical discussions. A Child Rights Unit was established in October 2022 and the project will continue to support the Unit for effective operationalization to ensure child-friendly justice services.

### Activity 2.3.1 Strengthening the capacity of independent institutions to implement their respective mandates (HRC, NPC, CIABOC) (UNDP)

#### **Human Rights Commission**

**The people's right to peaceful assembly, including protests, was strengthened following the development of guidelines on Police Conduct during Public Protests in line with international standards and best practices with the input of a panel of legal experts.** Given the increasing number of arrests as well as allegations of excessive use of force in police action against protesters taking part in the public protest movement, the Guidelines helped the HRC to exercise its mandate in the promotion and protection of human rights in situations of concern. Further UNDP's support to the HRCSL to carry out their inquiry mandate (including in the field and to secure technical expertise for fact finding missions ensured



that justice was meted out to civilians who were impacted by the spate of arrests connected to the protests. UNDP also supported to obtain the services of a digital expert to enhance the quality of digital evidence of these incidents. The investigation process also enabled the Commission to **identify gaps in existing crowd control mechanisms; provide guidance to law enforcement officials on the use of force (especially the use of lethal weapons in crowd control operations); and ultimately safeguard people's right to protest.**

As discussed previously, a **Code of Conduct for the HRCSL has been developed** and will be validated and adopted by HRC.

Key areas for support for the HRC were identified and will be formalised through an agreement in January 2023. The collaboration will cover continued support to strengthen the capacity of the HRC to provide effective inquiry and investigation services in line with the Commission's Strategic Plan; safeguard the human rights of plantation sector workers by addressing human rights infringements; expand public outreach through establishing two district offices and a mobile service; and provide reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities in the workplace among other interventions. UNDP will also support the HRC to enhance its video conference system and technical specifications in this regard have been obtained. With the increase in complaints of human rights violations against the backdrop of the economic crisis, JURE will also support introducing a sustainable mechanism to clear the backlog of over 5000 files pending investigation and support swift intervention.

### Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC)



*International Anti-Corruption Day event, December 2022*

Over 200 Integrity Officers representing divisional-level administrative units around the country strengthened their awareness of fighting corruption and ensuring transparency and integrity in their work following the 'International Anti-Corruption Day' event held in December 2022. The event helped establish the position of 'Integrity Officers' as leading the fight against bribery and corruption at the DS level; increased public

awareness on anti-corruption through the dissemination of an e-magazine; and served to identify key trends that can be used to address corruption. Following the event, 60 Integrity Officers were appointed for 60 Divisional Secretariat offices island wide to lead efforts within the local institutions to mainstream accountability, transparency and integrity in all operations; increase public awareness; and maintain oversight on functions of local institutions to address vulnerabilities to bribery or corruption. An e-magazine to educate the public on addressing corruption and bribery was also launched and will be released twice a year and uploaded to the CAIBOC website.

**The capacity of CIABOC to steer national efforts against bribery and corruption was strengthened through increased international exposure and collaboration** following the training of two CIABOC staff members as part of the capacity-building programme for Focal Points and Governmental Experts participating in the second cycle of the Mechanism for the Review of Implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption held in November 2022 in Austria. CIABOC staff members strengthened their understanding of dealing creatively with new forms of corruption during emergency situations (including new models and types of corruption under emergency procurement during COVID-19); analytical and prosecution skills; and design of corruption prevention awareness programs. The training has strengthened motivation among staff to root out corruption as evidenced by participant feedback on plans to intensify their efforts to lobby the Government to bring in a new law for the recovery of assets, and to ensure that national procurement guidelines will integrate recent developments to improve transparency.

UNDP has finalised key areas of intervention to strengthen the capacity of the CIABOC in enhancing anti-corruption and accountability mechanisms and improving public outreach and engagement, following a series

of extensive stakeholder consultations, and will sign an agreement in this regard in January 2023. The intervention will focus on enhancing the independence, effectiveness, and operational framework of CIABOC to enable strengthened investigation and prosecution through improvements to the legal, institutional and policy frameworks for combating bribery and corruption. In particular, UNDP will support efforts to **(1) Prevent corruption**: identify indicators to assess corruption; introduce a code of conduct for legal officers **(2) Promote Value based education and community engagement** through capacity building of public officials, education officials, prefects and school directors. **(3) Institutional strengthening of CIABOC and other Law enforcement agencies** through developing facilities with a modern IT infrastructure for evidence rooms and inquiry hearing rooms; and developing software for e-asset declarations. **(4) Supporting law and policy reforms**: conducting a stakeholder consultation on draft laws (bribery Act, CIABOC, Proceeds of Crime Bill).

#### Activity 2.3.2.a Strengthen the role of targeted independent institutions to independently monitor child rights and provide age-appropriate justice services (UNICEF)

*UNICEF supported the HRC to open a new Child Rights Unit on October 1st Childrens Day, which operates a Child Rights Desk prioritising issues and concerns on Child Rights.*



UNICEF held a series of consultations with the Human Rights Commission (HRC) regarding its role in independently monitoring child rights. Presentations on the various options, including having a separate Children's Ombudsmen for Sri Lanka or a desk specialised in child rights within the HRC, were made. As a result, the HRC launched a Child Rights Unit at the HRC on the 1st of October 2022. At present, the HRC is developing a detailed proposal to support the functioning of the new Child Rights Unit. This agreement will be signed and supported in 2023.

### Outcome 3: Improved efficiency and quality of justice

#### Output 3.1. Efficient and age-appropriate child justice services available for every child in contact with the law

UNICEF participated in **committees related to law reform on the Children and Young Person's Ordinance (CYPO)** and the prohibition of corporal punishment ensuring that the best interests of the child and international best practices are integrated. JURE also scaled up support for DPCCS to provide **services for children coming into contact with the law** as victims, in need of care and protection and as alleged perpetrators. During the reporting period, 571 children have been prevented from institutionalisation, 203 children have been reunified with their families and 312 families received family-strengthening support.

#### Activity 3.1.1. Provide technical support to law reform legal drafting and the development of training materials related to J4C (UNICEF)

The reform process of the CYPO continued during the reporting period. The Programme provided technical support to look into the reform of the outdated provisions in the CYPO, in light of the best interests of the child and international best practices. The new draft Bill is now with the Legal Draftsman's Department for review. UNICEF is also part of an NCPA committee to reform legal provisions with regard to corporal punishment, as well as a committee on ensuring provisions of the Child Rights Convention are incorporated



into Sri Lankan law. Finally in 2022, following dedicated advocacy efforts by the UNICEF team, amendments to the CYPO were made including the recognition of 16-17-year-olds as children before the law and the repeal of articles that condone corporal punishment. In 2023, UNICEF will support the Government to implement these new provisions.

*Activity 3.1.2. Provide technical and financial support for case management within the penal chain, backlog clearance and Digital Case Management and Tracking (UNICEF)*

In 2023, discussions were held with the MoJ regarding this activity and a concept note was developed to support a series of workshops to develop a common understanding of the backlogs in cases related to children - from the police identification of a case right through to the verdict in court. This process of assessment and then identifying and addressing the strategic bottlenecks will continue in 2023.

Bottlenecks hitherto identified include the lack of human resources in the form of attorneys, stenographers, and translators, the need to improve laws, the government's inability to maintain hardware, equipment and training programmes, including the foreign training of specialists that have come to a standstill, the absence of resources for legal research such as access to legal search engines, lack of standard operating procedures and guidance such as a prosecutor's handbook. The absence of an electronic file tracking system was another contributor to the delays in processing children's case files.

*Activity 3.1.3. Provide support to implement a diversion system for children in conflict with the law (UNICEF)*

Setting up a diversion system for children in conflict with the law – Whilst the reform of the CYPO is ongoing and may take some time, the programme began to look at what measures could be taken within the existing legislation to support the diversion of children. Several discussions with the Mediations Board Commission were held to advocate for an expansion of the scope of the Mediations Boards Act to divert children who are in conflict with the law from the criminal justice process. In fact, this is already possible for petty theft. A detailed proposal and budget from the Mediations Board Commission are now under preparation.

Release of children in conflict with the law from Certified Schools – One of the key objectives for reform within the J4C sector is to reduce the number of children in detention and then also to reduce the amount of time children spend in detention. Even for minor crimes and misdemeanours, children are handed 3-year sentences with limited possibilities for review. There are also limited funding options for Probation Officers to support children to return home early and be provided with opportunities to reintegrate and return to a productive life. Through the programme discussions were held on this intervention with Uva, Northern, Eastern and Western Provinces, and proposals are under development.

*Activity 3.1.4. Conduct an analysis of Child Justice related Sector Plans and a Child Justice budget analysis (UNICEF)*

In 2022, UNICEF produced a Child Protection Budget Brief as part of a project undertaken by the Social Policy Section. This overview of the budget available for child protection in Sri Lanka will form the basis for more in-depth work on specific services in 2023, that will be funded by the JURE Programme.

*Activity 3.1.5. Provide support to strengthen child-friendly services for all children in contact with the law, including both the separation of children detained in prisons from adults and children alleged as perpetrators of crimes from children in need of care and protection (UNICEF)*

In 2022, UNICEF supported the National Probation and Child Care Commissioner and seven of the nine Provincial Departments of Probation and Childcare to develop concrete and costed action plans to support the implementation of the National Policy on Alternative Care. The provincial-level plans were then consolidated into a National Action Plan for the country. UNICEF also provided targeted technical and financial support to implement the plans in six provinces: Northern, Eastern, Central, Southern, Sabaragamuwa and Uva.

A major focus of the policy is on children who are in contact with the law as victims, as alleged perpetrators and for those in need of care and protection. The policy objective is to move from institutional care and detention to family-based care and rehabilitation. **During the reporting period, 571 children (256 boys and 315 girls) have been prevented from institutionalisation, 203 children (94 boys and 109 girls) have been reunified with their families and 312 families received family-strengthening support, including enhancing the economic capacities of selected women-headed families. In addition, 21 children in detention had their cases reviewed and were reunified early from certified schools and detention centres.**

This support for front-line services is crucial given the current crisis and also provides the opportunity for front-line workers to experiment with new ways of managing cases, both for children in conflict with the law and for children in contact with the law as victims or in need of care and protection. If the funding is available for alternatives to institutionalisation and detention, Probation Officers innovate with alternative care options and prevent unnecessary detention.

With regard to the separation of children from adults in detention, UNICEF met with the Prison's Commissioner to discuss an intervention that would enhance justice for children in the prison setting. Now that the amendments to the CYPO have been approved: UNICEF proposes to support the implementation of these amendments which include identifying the children who are currently in detention with adults; on a case-by-case basis, supporting their release on bail or transfer to a facility under the purview of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services. Coordination between the Prisons Department, Department of Probation and Childcare Services and the Legal Aid Commission will be essential to make this a success.

*Activity 3.1.6. Undertake an analysis of infrastructure needs and then provide support for the construction of Child-Friendly Spaces within the Justice Sector (UNICEF)*

In 2022, UNICEF held several consultations with the MoJ and the Department of Prisons to discuss infrastructure needs in relation to children incarcerated with their mothers. UNICEF is exploring the options available to make these detention facilities more child-friendly, whilst also ensuring that the detention of mothers and their children is in-line with international best-practice, including minimising the presence of children in prisons through probation interventions.

In addition, an assessment of court infrastructure from a victim-sensitive and child-friendly lens was discussed with the MoJ. UNICEF is contributing to the development of a child-friendly infrastructure needs assessment of the justice sector. As UNDP too has a similar interest in learning about infrastructure needs in the High Courts, Magistrate Courts etc, it will be conducted jointly. TORs have been developed on the assessment of court infrastructure and will provide recommendations on the way forward.

Initial meetings with the MOJ have led to the realisation that the activity should be done in partnership with the Engineering Division of the Ministry of Justice, yet at the same time closely linked with the expertise that UNDP and UNICEF would bring in ensuring that international norms, standards, and best practices related to child-friendly and victim centric accessibility in infrastructure is kept central.

Another intervention that the government has expressed interest in is the construction of video evidence recording facilities for the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) in the Forensic Medicine Departments of the University of Ruhuna and the University of Peradeniya. UNICEF staff already visited the proposed site for the unit of the University of Ruhuna in the Faculty of Medicine, Galle and initiated the links between the NCPA and the University to enter into a memorandum of understanding between the two organisations to start the video conferencing unit.

*Activity 3.1.7. Undertake an innovative and case-based capacity building programme to ensure efficient and age-appropriate justice for children (UNICEF)*

In 2022, UNICEF initiated a process to map the justice (for children) sector workforce, as part of a regional survey commissioned by UNICEF's Regional Office for South Asia. In 2023 UNICEF developed the TORs for the Training Needs Assessment of Justice for Children workforce. This mapping will include an analysis of the training provided to the workforce and gaps in capacity. This work will provide the basis for developing a more comprehensive training plan.



*Training for Women and Children's Desks Police Officers on child-friendly police procedures*

During the year, UNICEF provided introductory training sessions on working with victims of abuse and developing more efficient child-friendly justice services for 324 police officers from the Women and Children's Desks (in Colombo, Negombo, Anuradhapura and Ampara). The training has increased the knowledge of Police Officers on the protection of children and women as well as investigative methods towards

supporting child friendly and efficient services. The impact is demonstrated by an increasing trend of police officers referring child-related cases to Probation Officers as required by the CYPO (Children and Young Persons Ordinance), a fact many police officers hitherto were unaware of. Other aspects of the training included interactions with the Judicial Medical Officers, the ability of police to refer children in conflict with the law to mediation boards and an introduction to diversion.



*Training program for Attorneys of the Attorney General's Department on child friendly legal procedures. The image depicts a mock trial on how to proceed with a child giving evidence.*

In addition to the training for Police Officers, 87 new lawyers joining the Attorney General's Child Abuse Unit and 61 Judicial Medical Officers improved their capacities on managing cases of child abuse and child-friendly justice following a two-day training programme.

*Activity 3.1.8. Provide support to the set-up and functioning of a National Steering Committee for J4C / Probation (UNICEF)*

Due to the many changes in leadership in the child protection sector in 2022, it has been hard to make significant progress on setting up coordination mechanisms. The DPCS has set up a National Committee to monitor the implementation of the Alternative Care Policy and this then may be the best forum to discuss J4C more broadly.

### **Output 3.2. Strengthened policy and legal reforms in line with international standards, norms and best practices**

MOJ was supported to **initiate and update policies, legislations and regulations** through the provision of technical expertise to identify key areas of reform and enhance coordination between JURE and the Ministry.

*Activity 3.2.1 Assist the Ministry of Justice (especially the legal and reforms units and the thematic law reform committees), the Law Commission of Sri Lanka and other targeted justice sector institutions to initiate and update policies, legislations and regulations (UNDP)*

JURE focused on select key policy and legislative reforms, in the areas of criminal and civil justice with specific reference to sentencing, disability inclusion, whistle-blower protection, legal aid and crime prevention among other areas as outlined below. The inception phase of the Programme was instrumental in identifying the key focus areas for legislative reform with input from key stakeholders in the sector.

Technical assistance was provided to review / amend the following bills:

1. Child Protection and Justice Bill
2. Civil Procedure Code (Amendment)
3. Penal Code (Amendment) (Statutory Rape) - has been sent to the Attorney General (AG) for the Certificate of Constitutionality.
4. Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill - I.e., addressing gaps in the Law of Rape and making rape of boys a crime) - has been sent to the AG for the Certificate of Constitutionality.
5. Community Based Corrections Bill (Amendment) - has been sent to the Attorney General (AG) for the Certificate of Constitutionality.
6. Contempt of Courts, Tribunals and Institutions Bill: is with the Legal Draftsman for the inclusion of the observations made on the Bill.
7. Debt Conciliation (Amendment): due to be considered by representatives of the Bar Association together with the Minister.
8. Matrimonial Causes Act (Family Law Act): The Minister of Justice gave his observations on the Matrimonial Causes Bill and the Committee is currently in the process of incorporating the suggested amendments
9. Mediation (Special Categories of Disputes) Act (Amendment)
10. Notaries Ordinance (Amendment) Act
11. Prevention of Frauds (Amendment) Act

Technical assistance was provided to the law reform committees to draft: a) a new Act (repealing the existing act) on Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses (cabinet approval secured July 2022); b) a Special Act on Protection of Child Victims of Crime and Witnesses; c) Amendments to the Children and Young Persons Ordinance. Technical assistance included inputs on international standards, norms and best practices on the subjects with the integration of human rights considerations.

Necessary support was received from the Ministry of Justice to initiate the launch of the Report on the Existing Sentencing Trends in Sri Lanka and to initiate the development of National Guidelines on the subject. UNDP is serving on the Legislative Reforms Committee established to draft the National Sentencing Guidelines Act for Sri Lanka. UNDP is also supporting the drafting of the Compensation Mechanisms (including the establishment of the special Compensations Board), Standard Operating Rules and Procedures on Witness Protection (admission and termination of protection – Civil and Criminal), and the drafting of the Memorandum of Understanding for Protection.

**UNDP ensured that the proposed Disability Rights Bill comprehensively addresses specific issues faced by PWDs** by supporting the Ministry of Justice to proactively consult the PWD community to obtain their insights and feedback on the proposed Bill through a series of consultations with over 10 key PWD CSOS.





UNDP supported the submission of the recommendations to the Ministry. *Meeting between DROs, MoJ and UNDP on Disability Rights Bill*

In order to support the justice sector to mainstream disability inclusion, UNDP initiated a study to assess the current status of disability inclusion towards informing a comprehensive disability-inclusive justice sector strategy. This study will cover an assessment of existing legal structures and mechanisms to support PWDs to access justice; reasonable disability-related

accommodations; related capacities and knowledge of justice sector actors on engaging with PWDs and will inform a policy paper with recommendations.

### **Output 3.3. Increased management, administrative and technical capacities and improved processes of the justice actors, through expansion of digital solutions, skills development and enhancement of infrastructure**

Development of a **rapid digital strategy for the justice sector was initiated**, and key areas for support were identified including digitization of court systems, digitised evidence, electronic filing and e-payment gateways. JURE also supported the expansion of **remote court hearings and remote legal counselling** to facilitate uninterrupted access to justice.

#### *Activity 3.3.1. Strengthen digital transformation within the justice sector (e-justice) through digital court hearing, digital case flow management/tracking, remote legal counselling, court automation, and the promotion of digital tools to improve legal literacy of sector professionals (UNDP)*

**UNDP has supported the expansion of remote court hearings and remote expert testimony to ensure uninterrupted access to justice** following several discussions with the MoJ, JSC, sector institutions (including the LAC, Police, Government Analyst's Dept, Judicial Medical Service, NAPVCW, Prisons Department). UNDP partnered with VWPA to support 12 victims/witnesses to safely testify before magistrate/high courts from undisclosed locations using remote testimony in 2022. LAC also utilised the Zoom facility to conduct uninterrupted and much-needed counselling for 69 indigent clients during the reporting period to facilitate the protection of fundamental human rights and personal liberties.

Following the disruptive shocks unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP is supporting the MoJ to re-equip the justice sector for a post-pandemic era through increasing integration of digital solutions. The programme in consultation with MoJ (and in coordination with USAID to avoid duplication) has undertaken to develop a Rapid Digitization Strategy identifying clear/select entry points to be supported by JURE. The strategy will identify and roll out digital solutions for the sector, including digitization of court systems, digitised evidence, electronic filing and e-payment gateways. The digitization strategy will be critical to clear case backlogs and ensure timely access to justice; improve operations and resilience of the legal system and will help to restore the confidence of foreign investors as well.

**Law students were kept updated on recent developments of the law, both nationally and internationally**, following support provided to access law journals, including Lexis Nexis, Oxford University Press and Law Lanka. 120 documents were accessed through the Lexis Nexis platform revealing an active use of the journal to support legal research.

#### *Activity 3.3.2. Roll-out capacity building support for justice sector personnel and targeted institutions on selected thematic subjects (in line with international best practices) and on*

overall administration, transparency and accountability, sensitivity and responsiveness (UNDP)

UNDP is making slow progress on entering into an agreement with the Ministry of Justice to implement activities to support the achievement of this output. UNDP has identified key areas for support to enhance the capacity of the Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association (SLWLA) and will focus on developing a strategic plan for the organization and strengthening its networks.

**Capacities of the Legal Draftsman's Office in legal drafting are being strengthened** through two selected high-level officers who are being supported to pursue a Master of Law (LLM) degree in Drafting Legislation, Regulation and Policy by Distance Learning at the University of London. This will be followed by TOTs and further capacity building to ensure cascading of learnings to the wider department.

The project has identified key areas for strengthening the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses to enhance victim and witness protection mechanisms following a series of consultative discussions with the Authority. In particular, JURE will focus on increasing awareness of the legal framework and implementation among public and justice sector actors; expand service delivery through enhanced research, collection of crime data and electronic case management; and improve redress and compensation mechanisms for victims/witnesses.

**Activity 3.3.3. Set up peer to peer contacts, on a pilot level, with courts and professionals in other jurisdictions to assist Sri Lankan judges and sector professionals in enhancing competency and efficiency across the sector (UNDP)**

This activity line will be reported on in the next reporting cycle.

**Activity 3.3.4. Provide assistance for the development and delivery of a formal continuous professional development programme targeting judges and lawyers (UNDP)**

UNDP has concluded discussions with the Law College and has identified key areas for support, including curriculum development and support for the establishment of a digital learning and management system and other digital infrastructure.

**Activity 3.3.5. Review and improve existing work processes within the justice sector through the implementation of the reforms agenda (UNDP)**

UNDP has identified key areas of support in consultation with the Government Analyst Department. Prioritised areas of interventions notably include capacity building; support for digitalization and enhancing laboratory equipment on case management and forensic investigation; and support for policy adoption to improve decision-making.

**Activity 3.3.6. Support Court Administration as a stand-alone discipline and pilot the introduction of "court administrators" to assist judges in the management of the Courts (UNDP)**

This activity line will be reported on in the next reporting cycle.

**Activity 3.3.7. Strengthen prison reforms and the existing Community-Based Correction mechanism as a viable response to reduce prison overcrowding (UNDP)**

UNDP is in the process of identifying the needs and requirements of prisons and community-based correction centres and will leverage the insights from its recently completed prisons reforms study to ensure evidence-based reforms.

*Activity 3.3.8 Carry out court infrastructure needs assessment and develop infrastructure planning tools with special focus on victim-sensitive infrastructure (including safe rooms for victim/witness statements, court testimony (including remote testimony), victim shelters/safe houses) (UNDP)*

UNDP is in the process of finalising the terms of reference to conduct a needs assessment to identify recommendations to enhance victim-centric infrastructure (including child-friendly, gender-sensitive and disability-friendly considerations) in the justice sector (including the High Courts and Magistrate courts). The assessment will be conducted in collaboration with UNICEF, the Engineering Department of the MoJ and will integrate regional and international norms, standards, and best practices.

**Output 3.4. Strengthened commercial and alternate dispute resolution mechanisms to provide expeditious remedies and create an investor-friendly environment**

The **inception phase of the assessment on commercial mediation and ADR mechanisms has been completed**, which has helped to identify key priorities in strengthening arbitration and commercial mediation-related policy-level work. JURE also initiated discussions to operationalize activities of the Task Force on Enforcement of Contracts (including establishing e-payment gateway systems and automation of court processes). UNDP also held discussions with the Board of Investment, National Intellectual Property Office and other sector institutions on expediting their regulatory functions.

*Activity 3.4.1. Review and improve existing commercial laws and work processes pertaining to commercial cases (UNDP)*

An eminent legal practitioner in the commercial law sector in collaboration with UNDP has developed an activity plan to strengthen commercial and ADR mechanisms following the completion of a wide range of stakeholder consultations. Some of the key areas of support to streamline commercial law within the legal system include the creation of a specialised investment court for high-value commercial disputes; developing digital trial hearing mechanisms; instituting case management reforms; and capacity building of judges, lawyers and non-judicial officers. UNDP also held discussions with the MOJ on supporting the recently appointed Presidential Taskforce for Enforcement of Contracts (tasked with eliminating delays in enforcing contracts and expediting commercial litigation processes) and will support some of the key activities identified by the Task Force such as the development of e-payment gateway systems and developing a commercial high court website in this regard.

*Activity 3.4.2. Strengthen and improve process of the Commercial High Court and District Courts for expeditious justice delivery for commercial matters (UNDP)*

The project held several discussions with the Registrar of Companies, National Intellectual Property Office, Corporate Lawyers Association and BASL to identify and design potential activities that JURE can support to improve the commercial law sector. UNDP held several discussions with MOJ and identified prioritised areas for interventions, including conducting virtual trials for commercial disputes and enhancing commercial high court registries in transcribing and transcription activities.

*Activity 3.4.3. Support the establishment of an Investor's Court, Pre-Trial Court and Small Claims/Standard Form Court (UNDP)*

Several rounds of discussions were held with MOJ to support developing the laws relating to pre-trial conferencing and investor's court. Initial discussions were also held with MOJ on operationalising the newly established small claims court.



*Activity 3.4.5. Carry out legislative and institutional review/assessment of ADR mechanisms (including commercial mediation and international arbitration mechanism), support the development of specialized ADR mechanisms and processes and provide capacity and awareness raising support on ADR mechanisms to sector institutions/professionals and the business community (UNDP)*

The inception study on commercial mediation and ADR mechanisms (including the assessment on commercial mediation and feasibility of supporting the international arbitration centre) has been completed by The Asia Foundation following detailed discussions with a wide range of stakeholders. This has helped to identify the best course of action in formulating arbitration and commercial mediation-related policy-level work given the changing economic dynamics. The outline for JURE prioritisation on commercial mediation and ADR mechanisms will be refined leveraging the findings of the inception study and also conducting dedicated discussions with industry specialists (including from the business community). A Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Analysis and Action Plan has also been developed by the partner to effectively consider and address systemic barriers to gender equality and challenges faced by women, PWDs and marginalized groups, as part of the overall approach to strengthen commercial mediation.

**Output 3.5. Established mechanisms/platforms for improving cooperation and coordination between justice actors**

The donor coordination mechanism, led by MOJ, has been initiated to ensure streamlined resources and coordinated efforts across donors to strengthen the justice sector.

*Activity 3.5.1. Review and revise coordination protocols (including between sector secretariats and across sectors – medico/legal) and establish new protocols where necessary, including IT based protocols (UNDP)*

During the reporting period, the project completed the preparatory arrangements for a donor coordination meeting to be held in January 2023 with the engagement of various stakeholders led by the MoJ. The meeting will help to enhance streamlined resources and the establishment of a coordination protocol, including a regular coordination meeting, to support coordinated efforts across donors to strengthen the justice sector.

*Activity 3.5.2. Support sector coordination on evidence-based assessments such as sector strategy, investment plan strategic budgeting and disbursement and sectoral strategy evaluation, expenditure reviews and other related assessments and sector engagement with the parliamentary committee on Justice (UNDP)*

This activity will be reported in the next cycle.

**Cross-Cutting Issues**

Justice sector institutions have been supported to incorporate **human rights-based approaches** through the project's focus on enhancing a responsive and accountable approach to service delivery. JURE have supported interventions aimed at ensuring the justice system is accessible to all individuals, irrespective of their socio-economic status, background, ethnicity or gender. The project has identified key interventions to ensure enhanced access to legal aid for those all, especially for vulnerable individuals in poorer economic classes. Disability has been mainstreamed across all three outcomes of the project, covering both considerations relating to physical accessibility as well as disability-inclusive legal policies and procedures

to ensure that PWDs have equal access to the justice system and their rights are upheld and protected. UNDP is supporting a study to assess the current status of disability inclusion towards informing a comprehensive disability-inclusive justice sector strategy. Additionally, the interests and needs of the PWD community have been proactively integrated into the proposed Disability Rights Bills through pioneering consultations with the PWD CSO community following UNDP advocacy with the MoJ. JURE has included disability-friendly considerations as a key feature in the needs assessment in assessing the degree of victim-centric infrastructure in the justice sector and informing recommendations. JURE is proactively mainstreaming language within the justice sector to support the sector to proactively cater to the national language policy requirements at all stages, and that all citizens are able to access key legislation in the language of their choice. UNDP is also working towards the re-establishment and operationalization of the Special Translations Unit at the Court of Appeal aimed towards ensuring that all people have access to such court proceedings in a language they can understand.

**Gender equality and women's empowerment** were also integrated into JURE programming through the development of a Gender Action Plan which recognises the disproportionate impacts of weak governance and justice systems on women, as well as the significant number of female survivors of SGBV. The project also encouraged gender-focused research and partnerships, including with the Women's Lawyers Association, to foster gender-responsive decision-making. Gender equality considerations have also been integrated within JURE's approach to strengthening commercial mediation through the development of a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Analysis and Action Plan.

The project has prioritised **public participation** and empowerment of rights holders through a consistent focus on expanding opportunities for public outreach and engagement across activities. A key area of support has been on strengthening public outreach mechanisms of the LAC, HRC, CIABOC and other justice sector actors to support the public to overcome barriers in accessing services and holding public officials to account. Additionally, the project will support the development of a holistic public awareness strategy on human and fundamental rights and access to justice with key stakeholders.

JURE has initiated efforts towards enhancing the **availability of quality data** to inform decision-making through securing the buy-in of the MoJ to conduct a mapping of the systematic data collection analysis and dissemination capacity of the sector.

JURE has tapped into new **partnerships to put forward innovative approaches** to achieve its objectives; a new partnership with the University of Moratuwa is being pursued to customise an existing translation software to reduce the time spent on translating Legislative Enactments in all three languages. This will mark a first for the justice sector and can be leveraged to address delays in finalising legislation.

### 3. Beneficiaries, target groups and other cooperation

#### **Relationship between implementing organizations and state authorities, beneficiaries and other third parties (including other donors, CSOs, NGOs etc) in implementing the action:**

As discussed in the inception report, JURE held a series of discussions (bilateral and joint) with donors, other development partners working on justice sector programmes, and key sector partners. Consultations with justice sector stakeholders including the MoJ, Judicial Service Commission (JSC), Chief Justice (CJ), Sri Lanka Judges Institute (SLJI), Legal Draftsman's Department, Attorney General's Department, Legal Aid Commission, Judicial Medical Service, Government Analyst's Department, Sri Lanka Police, National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses (VWPA), Human Rights Commission, Prisons Department, Bar Association (BASL), Faculties of Law (Universities), and Civil Society have informed project interventions in identifying gaps to be addressed and best practices to be scaled up. Follow up bilateral discussions were also held to validate the prioritization. The CSO engagement consultation also facilitated an open dialogue on the gap between the sector and the public and mooted suggested strategies for enhanced coordination. The consultation, through ensuring the active engagement of key civil society stakeholders, was instrumental in identifying key areas towards integrating a human right-based approach to the justice sector and enhancing the responsiveness of the justice system. Recognising the financial constraints faced by the justice sector as a result of the economic crisis, discussions were held between UNDP and USAID, JAICA and KOICA to streamline support from development partners, enhance synergies and avoid duplication in pushing forward the justice reform agenda. The MoJ hosted a Development Partner (DP) Coordination Forum in June 2022 with each of the DPs including EU, UNDP, UNICEF, USAID, GIZ, JAICA, KOICA, UNODC presented their areas of focus. In addition, UNICEF held consultations with relevant NGOs and the ICRC who intervene in the Justice for Children sector to ensure there was no overlap with existing programmes.

At the same time, the programme began a process to map the justice (for children) sector workforce. This was part of a regional survey commissioned by the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia. In March 2022, a 2-day residential workshop was conducted to ensure all key partners were informed about the JURE project and that time was given to stakeholders to discuss the Outcomes, Outputs and ensure that all the key activities were captured. The Justice for Children Consultation was held on May 24<sup>th</sup> with 39 participants from national and provincial stakeholders including Government Departments, NGOs, UN Agencies and the EU, and input from the consultation was incorporated into the revised Description of Action. Finally, under the inception phase planned activities, UNICEF the programme held consultations with the NCPA, the DPCCS and the Police to discuss the routine data collection system for Child Justice and Protection.

The inbuilt flexibility of the JURE programme enabled UNDP and UNICEF to support **crisis-response interventions** in light of the ongoing economic crisis and mass public protests in the country. UNDP swiftly supported a pioneering collaboration between the NAPVCW, the BASL and the Legal Aid Commission to enable victims/witnesses to safely provide remote testimony from an undisclosed location to ensure uninterrupted access to justice. UNDP also supported HRCSL to conduct independent field inquiries on alleged human rights violations and supported the development of guidelines to regulate police conduct during protests to protect people's right to protest and safeguard human rights. UNICEF has also accelerated its work to support families to mitigate the impacts of the crisis and prevent children from being institutionalized. In addition, UNICEF provided support to the National Child Protection Authority, to keep the 1929 Child Helpline Functional 24/7 and also to the Police to support their work on data collection and response.

UNDP and UNICEF have also developed synergies, especially on overlapping intervention areas such as legal assistance, access to data, integration of child's rights within the HRC, and case management. Regular project coordination meetings were held between UNDP and UNICEF project colleagues to highlight bottlenecks and advance progress on common entry points. For instance, UNDP and UNICEF will jointly work towards an assessment of court infrastructure from a victim-sensitive and child-friendly lens, integrating disability-friendly and gender-sensitive considerations.

#### **Synergies between JURE and other UNDP and UNICEF Projects**

JURE has built on **synergies** with other projects where possible to amplify results and ensure a more holistic approach to the support provided. As part of UNDP's programming on **Business and Human Rights (BHR)**, a By-Law was drafted to address unregulated microfinance institutions from exploiting communities, with an emphasising on protecting vulnerable groups (including women-led SMEs) from predatory lending. Several discussions are underway at the Local Government level to secure buy-in and adoption, and UNDP will build on this work through JURE's work with the Debt Conciliation Board. On **capacity building of the judiciary**, UNDP strengthened the capacities of 310 High Court judges and Magistrates on the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act. JURE will follow-up on this intervention to support the increased use of Victim Impact Statements prior to sentences and award of compensation as key best practices identified through the session. JURE will also build on UNDP's engagement with CSOs on **environmental justice**, including interventions on environmental legal aid clinics conducted for communities affected by business-related human rights violations, to push forward greater public awareness, enhance research on environmental justice and support public interest litigation through legal aid clinics. JURE will also tap into UNDP's broader work on **enhancing transparency and accountability** in local governance, whereby 134 local authorities are being supported to improve audit compliance and new procurement guidelines are being developed to bring about greater transparency in procurement processes. JURE's support to CIABOC on updating the national procurement guidelines to take into account new types of corruption under emergency procurement will be reflected in local governance frameworks as well. UNDP has also supported the development of a common Citizen Charter as part of its local governance work, and JURE will support Integrity Officers to create greater awareness on the Citizen Charter and to align local institutions with the objectives of the Charter. UNDP is also working with UNFPA on a new project to enhance a justice sector approach to addressing **sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)** against women and girls, and gender minorities and has secured funding from the Government of Canada for this initiative. The National Stakeholder Consultation on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Access to Justice convened by UNDP as part of JURE has informed the design of project interventions, which have been designed to ensure strong synergies with JURE.

#### 4. Visibility

The reporting period largely covers the inception phase of the project, during which project efforts were focused largely on identifying priority areas of work, navigating political sensitivities and crisis response, resulting in reduced opportunities for engagement on communications and visibility.



*Representatives at the launch of the Justice Reform Programme (JURE)*

The JURE project was [launched](#) in February 2022 with representatives from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The launch was widely covered by key national media outlets as documented in the Communications and Visibility Update document in the annexure of the report. The branding exercise was completed with an agreement to finalise logo usage, and key project initiatives were shared on social media.

**Annexed Documents**

Annexure 1: Financial report

Annexure 2: Communications and Visibility Update - JURE 2022

Annexure 3: Results Framework

Annexure 4: Updated action plan activities of the project (2023)



## JURE Launch 2022 Media Coverage

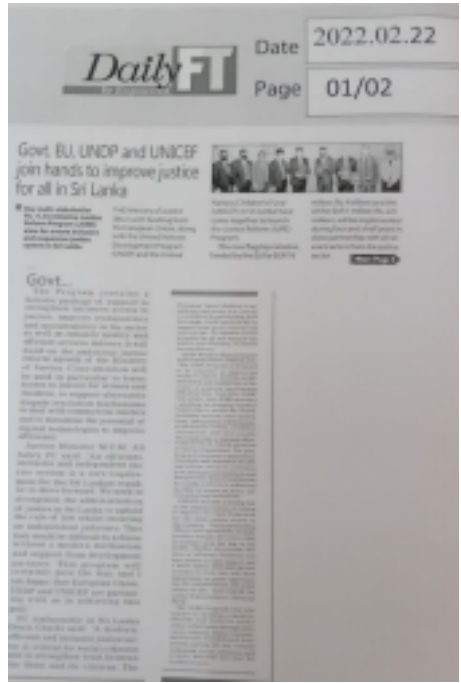
	Newspaper/ Outlet	Date	Title	Link
01	Ministry of Justice	21 Feb	Ministry of Justice, the European Union (EU), UNDP and UNICEF join hands to improve justice for all in Sri Lanka	<a href="https://moj.gov.lk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=287:ministry-of-justice-the-european-union-eu-undp-and-unicef-join-hands-to-improve-justice-for-all-in-sri-lanka&amp;catid=17&amp;Itemid=208&amp;lang=en">https://moj.gov.lk/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=287:ministry-of-justice-the-european-union-eu-undp-and-unicef-join-hands-to-improve-justice-for-all-in-sri-lanka&amp;catid=17&amp;Itemid=208&amp;lang=en</a>
02	European Union in Sri Lanka	21 Feb	Ministry of Justice, the European Union (EU), UNDP and UNICEF join hands to improve justice for all in Sri Lanka	<a href="https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sri-lanka/111185/ministry-justice-european-union-eu-undp-and-unicef-join-hands-improve-justice-all-sri-lanka_en">https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/sri-lanka/111185/ministry-justice-european-union-eu-undp-and-unicef-join-hands-improve-justice-all-sri-lanka_en</a>
03	UNDP Sri Lanka	21 Feb	Ministry of Justice, the European Union (EU), UNDP and UNICEF join hands to improve justice for all in Sri Lanka	<a href="https://www.lk.undp.org/content/srilanka/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2022/JURE_launch.html">https://www.lk.undp.org/content/srilanka/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2022/JURE_launch.html</a>
04	UNICEF Sri Lanka	21 Feb	Ministry of Justice, the European Union (EU), UNDP and UNICEF join hands to improve justice for all in Sri Lanka	<a href="https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/press-releases/ministry-justice-european-union-undp-and-unicef-join-hands-improve-justice-all">https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/press-releases/ministry-justice-european-union-undp-and-unicef-join-hands-improve-justice-all</a>
05	The Morning online	21 Feb	Ministry of Justice, EU, UNDP & UNICEF join hands to improve justice for all in SL	<a href="https://www.themorning.lk/ministry-of-justice-eu-undp-unicef-join-hands-to-improve-justice-for-all-in-sl/">https://www.themorning.lk/ministry-of-justice-eu-undp-unicef-join-hands-to-improve-justice-for-all-in-sl/</a>
06	NewsWire	21 Feb	EU to give 18 million for SL justice reform	<a href="https://www.newswire.lk/2022/02/21/eu-to-give-18-million-for-sl-justice-reform/">https://www.newswire.lk/2022/02/21/eu-to-give-18-million-for-sl-justice-reform/</a>
07	Daily FT online	21 Feb	Govt. EU, UNDP and UNICEF join hands to improve justice for all in Sri Lanka	<a href="https://www.ft.lk/front-page/Govt--EU--UNDP-and-UNICEF-join-hands-to-improve-justice-for-all-in-Sri-Lanka%C2%A0/44-730931">https://www.ft.lk/front-page/Govt--EU--UNDP-and-UNICEF-join-hands-to-improve-justice-for-all-in-Sri-Lanka%C2%A0/44-730931</a>

08	Economy Next	21 Feb	Sri Lanka launches justice reform programme with EU, UN funding	<a href="https://economynext.com/sri-lanka-launches-justice-reform-programme-with-eu-un-funding-90694/">https://economynext.com/sri-lanka-launches-justice-reform-programme-with-eu-un-funding-90694/</a>
09	Lanka Business Online	21 Feb	European Union, UNDP & UNICEF join hands to launch Justice Reform Programme in Sri Lanka	<a href="https://www.lankabusinessonline.com/european-union-undp-unicef-join-hands-to-launch-justice-reform-programme-in-sri-lanka/">https://www.lankabusinessonline.com/european-union-undp-unicef-join-hands-to-launch-justice-reform-programme-in-sri-lanka/</a>
10	Colombo Page	21 Feb	Sri Lanka Ministry of Justice launches program to reform judiciary	<a href="http://www.colombopage.com/archive_22A/Feb21_1645455706CH.php">http://www.colombopage.com/archive_22A/Feb21_1645455706CH.php</a>
11	Lanka Business Online	21 Feb	European Union, UNDP & UNICEF join hands to launch Justice Reform Programme in Sri Lanka	<a href="https://www.lankabusinessonline.com/european-union-undp-unicef-join-hands-to-launch-justice-reform-programme-in-sri-lanka/">https://www.lankabusinessonline.com/european-union-undp-unicef-join-hands-to-launch-justice-reform-programme-in-sri-lanka/</a>

12	News First online	21 Feb	Sri Lanka joins international partners for Justice Reform Program	<a href="https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/02/21/sri-lanka-joins-international-partners-for-justice-reform-program/">https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/02/21/sri-lanka-joins-international-partners-for-justice-reform-program/</a>
13	Dinamina online	21 Feb	සැමට යුක්තිය පදනම් කරගත් අධිකරණ පිරිනිසාසිකරණ වැඩපිළිවෙලක්	<a href="http://www.dinamina.lk/2022/02/21/%E0%B6%85%E0%B6%B0%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%AB/141634/%E0%B7%83%E0%B7%90%E0%B6%B8%E0%B6%A7-%E0%B6%BA%E0%B7%94%E0%B6%9A%E0%B7%8A%E0%B6%AD%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%BA-%E0%B6%B4%E0%B6%AF%E0%B6%B1%E0%B6%B8%E0%B7%8A-%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%9C%E0%B6%AD%E0%B7%8A-%E0%B6%85%E0%B6%B0%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%B4%E0%B7%8A%E2%80%D%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%AD%E0%B7%92%E0%B7%83%E0%B6%82%E0">http://www.dinamina.lk/2022/02/21/%E0%B6%85%E0%B6%B0%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%AB/141634/%E0%B7%83%E0%B7%90%E0%B6%B8%E0%B6%A7-%E0%B6%BA%E0%B7%94%E0%B6%9A%E0%B7%8A%E0%B6%AD%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%BA-%E0%B6%B4%E0%B6%AF%E0%B6%B1%E0%B6%B8%E0%B7%8A-%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%9C%E0%B6%AD%E0%B7%8A-%E0%B6%85%E0%B6%B0%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%B4%E0%B7%8A%E2%80%D%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%AD%E0%B7%92%E0%B7%83%E0%B6%82%E0</a>



				<a href="#">%B7%83%E0%B7%8A%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%AB-%E0%B7%80%E0%B7%90%E0%B6%A9%E0%B6%B4%E0%B7%92%E0%B7%85%E0%B7%92%E0%B7%80%E0%B7%99%E0%B6%BD%E0%B6%9A%E0%B7%8A</a>
14	Tamil Guardian	21 Feb	EU pours billions of rupees into Sri Lanka's justice system whilst Tamils continue protests	<a href="https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/eu-pours-billions-rupees-sri-lanka-s-justice-system-whilst-tamils-continue-protests">https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/eu-pours-billions-rupees-sri-lanka-s-justice-system-whilst-tamils-continue-protests</a>
15	The Island online	22 Feb	Ministry of Justice, EU, UNDP and UNICEF join hands to improve justice for all in Sri Lanka	<a href="https://island.lk/ministry-of-justice-eu-undp-and-unicef-join-hands-to-improve-justice-for-all-in-sri-lanka/">https://island.lk/ministry-of-justice-eu-undp-and-unicef-join-hands-to-improve-justice-for-all-in-sri-lanka/</a>
16	Dinamina online	22 Feb	අධිකරණ ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ පරතිසංස්කරණවලට යුරෝපීය සංගමයේ බිලියන 4ක්	<a href="http://www.dinamina.lk/2022/02/22/%E0%B6%85%E0%B6%B0%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%AB/141692/%E0%B6%85%E0%B6%B0%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%B7%E0%B6%AB-%E0%B6%9A%E0%B7%8A%E0%B7%82%E0%B7%9A%E0%B6%AD%E0%B7%8A%E2%80%8D%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%BA%E0%B7%9A-">http://www.dinamina.lk/2022/02/22/%E0%B6%85%E0%B6%B0%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%AB/141692/%E0%B6%85%E0%B6%B0%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%9A%E0%B6%B7%E0%B6%AB-%E0%B6%9A%E0%B7%8A%E0%B7%82%E0%B7%9A%E0%B6%AD%E0%B7%8A%E2%80%8D%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%BA%E0%B7%9A-</a>

				<a href="#">%E0%B6%B4%E0%B7%8A%E2%80%8</a> <a href="#">D%E0%B6%BB%E0%B6%AD%E0%B7</a> <a href="#">%92%E0%B7%83%E0%B6%82%E0%B</a> <a href="#">7%83%E0%B7%8A%E0%B6%9A%E0</a> <a href="#">%B6%BB%E0%B6%AB%E0%B7%80%</a> <a href="#">E0%B6%BD%E0%B6%A7-</a> <a href="#">%E0%B6%BA%E0%B7%94%E0%B6%</a> <a href="#">BB%E0%B7%9D%E0%B6%B4%E0%B</a> <a href="#">7%8F-</a> <a href="#">%E0%B7%83%E0%B6%82%E0%B6%</a> <a href="#">%9C%E0%B6%B8%E0%B6%BA%E0%B7</a> <a href="#">%99%E0%B6%B1%E0%B7%8A-</a> <a href="#">%E0%B6%B6%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%</a> <a href="#">BD%E0%B7%92%E0%B6%BA%E0%B</a> <a href="#">6%B1-4%E0%B6%9A%E0%B7%8A</a>
17	Daily FT	22 Feb		

18	Thinakaran	22 Feb		
19	Veerakesari	22 Feb		

20	Dinamina	22 Feb		
21	Mawbima	22 Feb		
22	The Morning	22 Feb		

23	Daily News	22 Feb		
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Social media coverage of:

Disability Rights Law - <https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1539095906305585152>  
(1926 Impressions | 130 engagements)

Anti-Corruption Day - <https://twitter.com/UNDPSriLanka/status/1601224740110503936>  
(723 Impressions | 69 engagements)

### Annexure 3: Log frame matrix (Results Framework)

	Results chain:  Main expected results	Indicators	Baseline	Target (2022)	Current Value	Means of Verification (Sources of data)	Responsibility	REMARKS
<b>Impact (Overall Objective)</b>	Improved independence of judiciary and responsive justice system in Sri Lanka	<b>1.0:</b> Number of amendments or new laws brought to enhance independence of judiciary and responsive justice system	0	0	0	Parliament, Publication bureau	UNDP/ UNICEF	The impact level indicators are not planned to be monitored during the present reporting period and the indicator value is expected to remain at the baseline level.
		<b>2.0:</b> Rule of Law score (as measured by the World Bank Worldwide Governance indicators) **	53.37 (Lowest -0 to highest-100 rank) - 2020	53.37	Update not available at the source.	World Bank Governance Reports	UNDP	The impact level indicators are not planned to be monitored during the present reporting period and

								the indicator value is expected to remain at the baseline level.
		3.0: Country score in the World justice project Rule of law index**	Global Rank: 76/139 with a score of 0.50 – in 2021	76	Global Rank: 74/140 with a score of 0.50 – in 2022	<a href="#">The World Justice Project</a>	UNDP	<p>The impact level indicators are not planned to be monitored during the present reporting period and the indicator value is expected to remain at the baseline level.</p> <p>However, the global ranking for the reporting year has progressed positively to the level expected in 2025 by JURE.</p>



		4.0: Number of children in conflict with the law subject to a diversion order or non-custodial sentence (mediation)	TBD			Mediation Board, Department of Probation, Police and Department of Prisons		BL, T will be established before end of Q1 2023
		5.0: Number of new laws and regulations conform with international treaties and conventions	0	0	0	Parliament, Publication bureau	UNDP/UNICEF	This impact indicator is expected to remain at the baseline level and not planned for monitoring during the reporting period.
Outcome(s) (Specific Objective 1)	S01: Improved access to justice for all, in particular women, the poor and persons in vulnerable situations	1.1: Number of people directly benefiting from legal aid interventions supported by JURE (disaggregated by women, men, children, etc.)	0	TBD	TBD	LAC, CSOs, Institutions Records (NVWPA)  Survey results at institution level and Project annual reports	UNDP/UNICEF	BL, T will be established before end of Q1 2023.  Further the progress of this Outcome level indicator is not monitored during the reporting period.

		<p><b>1.2:</b> Level of knowledge/awareness among citizens of their rights/available measures to access justice</p> <p>(a. No knowledge b. Poor c. Average d. High)</p>	TBD		TBD	Perception survey, end-line survey	UNDP/UNICEF	BL, T will be set from the findings of Perceptions survey in Q2 of 2023. Procurement process is in progress to recruit a survey firm for this purpose.
		<p><b>1.3:</b> Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism (SDG 16.3.3)</p>	Total number of complaints 959015 (2019 SD Council)	TBD	Update not available at the source	UNDP, OECD, UNODC (custodian agencies), Dept of Census & Statistics, SD Council	UNDP	For this Tier 2 SDG indicator, Sri Lanka still reports only partially. When country targets are available for this SDG indicator, it will be possible to update. Coordination work is in progress in this regard.

<b>Outcome(s) (Specific Objective 2)</b>	<b>S02:</b> Improved accountability, transparency and credibility of the justice system	<b>2.1:</b> No of new Reports published of performance and other information by MOJ and key sector institutions	0	0	0	Independent institutions data/statistics/reports  M&E progress reports  MOJ and key sector institutions	UNDP/UNICEF	This outcome level result is not monitored for the reporting period and expected to remain at the baseline level.
		<b>2.2:</b> Percent change of cases responded in a timely manner disaggregated by Commissions and type of case.	HRC- 5096 out of 8983 (2019);  NPC - 1893 out of 1893 100% (2021);  CIABOC -69 out of 2335 (2021);	-	N/A	HRC and NPC progress reports	UNDP	The progress of this outcome indicator is expected from year 2 and therefore not reported for the present reporting period.
		<b>2.3:</b> Percentage of actors within the justice and accountability sector that have a positive perception of its	TBD		Annual target not set and depends on the	Perception Survey	UNDP/UNICEF	Baselines and annual targets will be established before the end of Q2 of

		efficiency, transparency, performance and independence* (disaggregated by sex, age and disability/social group, and type of case: criminal, civil or administrative)			perception survey findings.			2023 based on the findings of the perception survey.  Procurement process is in progress to recruit a survey firm for this purpose.
		<b>2.4:</b> Extent to which an overarching J4C Data System is in place  (a) Not in place, b) initial stage, c) in progress, d) In place. e) Operational	a) Not in place:	a		J4C Routine Data System (Routine data is regularly collected, analysed and used for decision making)	UNICEF	The assessment is underway - to determine the next steps to put the system in place
		<b>2.5:</b> Proportion of population confident in their ability to access legal information and assistance if needed (source: UNDP PRAIA Group)	TBD		N/A	Perception survey	UNDP	Baselines and annual targets will be established before the end of Q2 of 2023 upon the completion of the

								<p>perception survey.</p> <p>Procurement process is in progress to recruit a survey firm for this purpose.</p>
		2.6: % of women representation at decision making levels within the justice system (disaggregated by types of position)	TBD		N/A	Outcome of the mapping done under GAP	UNDP	Baselines and annual targets will be established before the end of Q2 of 2023
<b>Outcome(s) (Specific Objective 3)</b>	<b>S03:</b> Improved efficiency and quality of justice	3.1: Number of pending cases in the Sri Lankan Judicial system (disaggregated by type of case: civil, criminal, commercial, administrative etc.) – as a proxy:	762,452 (2021) MoJ Statistics	-	-	monitoring reports and annual review of the policies /plans of improvements pursued	UNDP	Only the final target is set and no annual targets to be monitored in between. The indicator will be finalized before the end of Q2 of 2023.
		3.2: Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (disaggregated by	64.58% (SL SD Council 2020)	58	Update not available	Dept. of Prisons. UNODC, SD Council, Dept of	UNDP/UNICEF	Frequency of update depends on the custodian agency

		age, sex) (SDG16 indicator 16.3.2/ UNSDCF 4.2)				Census & Statistics, MOJ reports		reporting on this indicator.
		<b>3.3:</b> No. of new policy documents introduced by justice sector institutions.	0	0	0	Ministry of Justice reports and M&E  Reports of the Ministerial (Parliamentary) Consultative Committee on Justice	UNDP	This outcome level result is not monitored for the reporting period and expected to remain at the baseline level.
		<b>3.4:</b> Number of mechanisms in place to Improve the regulatory functions of the Registrar of Companies	0	0	0	Ministry of Justice reports and M&E  Reports of the Ministerial (Parliamentary) Consultative Committee on Justice	UNDP	This outcome level result is not monitored for the reporting period and expected to remain at the baseline level.



		<b>3.5:</b> Percentage of disputes referred to ADR disaggregated by the type of mediation board (commercial mediation and Debt conciliation Board)	Debt – TBD; Commercial – 0;	Debt – TBD; Commercial – 0;	Debt – TBD; Commercial – 0;	MOJ reports/ Partner reports	UNDP	<p>This outcome level result is not monitored for the reporting period and expected to remain at the baseline level.</p> <p>Missing values will be established before the end of Q2 of 2023</p>
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>1.1:</b> Efficient and accessible legal aid including legal representati	<b>1.1.1:</b> Number of new legal aid mechanisms) introduced with project support.	0	0	0	Partner reports/	UNDP	Government buy-in secured for operationalization of the National Policy and Strategic Action Plan on Legal Aid

	on for vulnerable communities (including women, PwDs, children)	<b>1.1.2:</b> Number of new institutions registered with LAC (Legal Aid Commission)	0	0	0	LAC progress/ annual reports	UNDP	<p>2023- 2027</p> <p>Key challenges that prevent sufficient and meaningful legal aid services from being delivered and recommendations to provide access to justice for all were identified,</p> <p>Capacities of and links between Legal Aid Commission centres were strengthened.</p> <p>Best practices from comparative jurisdictions in the area of public defender mechanisms were identified</p>
	<b>1.2:</b> Equal Access to Justice strengthened including through language mainstreaming across the justice sector (through	<p><b>1.2.1:</b> Status of developing the justice sector language strategy</p> <p>(Status: 1. No strategy 2. Gap analysis in progress 3. Strategy being developed 4.</p>	Status: 1	1	2	Progress reports, consultants' reports	UNDP	The language gap analysis was in progress strategic step to mainstream language within the justice sector initiated to support the sector to proactively cater to the national

	improved translation/interpretation capacities)	Strategy Available)						language policy requirements at all stage
		<b>1.2.2:</b> Number of justice sector actors/institutions supported to mainstream the national language policy of Sri Lanka	0	0	0	MOJ/Justice sector Reports;  Progress reports	UNDP	A concept note developed for the revision of the Legislative Enactments outlining the total number of laws that require consolidation, revision, translation and the strategic prioritization of the specific laws over the next three years and the use of modern methodology.
		<b>1.2.3:</b> Number of laws translated into all three languages disaggregated by existing laws and new laws	0	0	0	MoJ and LDD records	UNDP/UNICEF	
		<b>1.2.4:</b> Number of manuals and guidelines developed for rights-holders to enhance their understanding and their ability to access the justice system	0	0	0	Progress reports, consultants' reports  Manuals / Guidelines	UNDP	
	<b>1.3:</b> Improved legal awareness amongst the public (especially vulnerable	<b>1.3.1:</b> Number of legal awareness initiatives introduced targeting vulnerable communities	0	0	0	Survey on public awareness  Institutional reports	UNDP	To reduce lack of legal awareness and child rights, a proposal is under development with the HRC, and

	communities)	1.3.2: Number of awareness creation initiatives conducted by non-state actors with the support from the project (disaggregated by type, thematic area)	0	0	0	Partner progress reports/ consultant's reports.	UNDP/U NICEF	a contextual analysis and scoping study on legal awareness was in progress towards a legal awareness strategy for justice sector institutions
		1.3.3: Number of grassroots CSO strengthened with legal awareness with project support	0	0	0	Institutional reports/partner reports		A team came on board to revamp the website of LAC to enhance public outreach.
<b>Outputs</b>	2.1: Strengthened data collection, analysis and dissemination capacities of government institutions, professionals, CSOs, and other accountability organizations on justice sector performance	2.1.1: Number of reports/studies, research/surveys, data sets, press releases and other information material produced, published and disseminated by the justice sector institutions and other relevant actors with project support (disaggregated by type of information/research product)	0	0	0	Survey reports and institutional reports	UNDP	Secured buy-in from the government to conduct a mapping of the systematic data collection, analysis and dissemination capacity of justice sector.  A targeted strategy to enhance the criminological knowledge base was being finalized. A key area considered

	for the public	<b>2.1.2:</b> Number of mechanisms introduced and supported to improve data availability to measure related SDG 16 targets	0	0	0	Institutional reports	UNDP	was the existing limitations in crime data collection, and the need to take into account the reclassification of crime undertaken recently. UNICEF Initiated the assessment of the routine data collection system for justice for children and began a 2-year action-research process on children deprived of their liberty.
		<b>2.1.3:</b> Number of indicators out of the 15 juvenile justice indicators for which the system is in place for monitoring/updating	0	0	?	Juvenile Justice Indicator reporting for Sri Lanka	UNICEF	
		<b>2.1.4:</b> Number of studies undertaken on justice for children's issues, with support from the project disaggregated by type	0	0	?	Partner progress Report/Research studies	UNICEF	
	<b>2.2.</b> Increased capacities of different justice sector actors to develop and implement codes of ethics and	<b>2.2.1:</b> Number of justice sector actors/institutions that have revised/developed, adopted and implement internal procedures, including codes of ethics and professional	0	0	0	M&E, Institutional reports	UNDP	<p>A code of conduct was developed for HRC and was under review.</p> <p>A road map was developed for the National Institute for Social Development to work towards the</p>

	professional conduct	conduct and guidebooks						professionalisation of social work.  Development of the Gender Action Plan was in progress.
		<b>2.2.2:</b> Number of mechanisms introduced and improved with project support to address and resolve ethical violations by the justice sector actors.	0	0	0	M&E, Institutional reports/ partner reports	UNDP	
		<b>2.2.3:</b> Number of internal procedures including code of ethics and professional conduct, standard operating procedures, and document formats developed;	0	0		Partner progress Report/Research studies	UNICEF	

	2.3. Strengthened capacity of independent institutions to carry out their mandate	2.3.1: Number of initiatives facilitated to achieve institutional mandates disaggregated by the institution.	0	0	0	<p>Commissions reports</p> <p>Annual Budget Reports</p> <p>GANGHRI Ratings (HRCSL)</p> <p>UNCAC peer review reports and Jakarta Principles on Anti-Corruption Agencies</p> <p>Institutional Assessment Reports</p>	UNDP	<p>Key areas of support towards strengthening the capacity of independent commissions (CIABOC and HRC) identified.</p> <p>Over 200 Integrity Officers representing divisional-level administrative units around the country strengthened their awareness of fighting corruption and ensuring transparency and integrity in their work.</p> <p>The people's right to peaceful assembly, including protests, was strengthened with the development of guidelines on</p>
		2.3.2: Percentage of requests/complaints resolved by the targeted institutions (disaggregated by	0	0	0	<p>M&amp;E and Progress reports, reports of the</p>	UNDP	<p>Police Conduct during Public Protests in line with international standards and best practices with the input of</p>



		institution and type of request/complaint) upon project support				institutions		a panel of legal experts.  A Child Rights Unit was established at HRC in October 2022 for effective operationalization to ensure child-friendly justice services.
		<b>2.3.3:</b> Number of public outreach initiatives conducted by the targeted independent institutions (disaggregated by institutions and type)	0	0	0	Monitoring reports/partner reports	UNDP	
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>3.1.</b> Efficient and age-appropriate child justice services available for every child in contact with the law	<b>3.1.1:</b> Number of amendments of laws related to children in line with international standards on child friendly justice, ready for submission to cabinet by MOJ with project support	0	0	2	Communications from the Ministry of Justice	UNICEF	With technical inputs from JURE, the reform process of the Children and Young Person's Ordinance (CYPO) continued. The draft Bill was with the Legal Draftsman's

		<b>3.1.2:</b> Status of the System for diversion in place and functioning	Framework exists for 1 Offence  Mediation Boards Act covers petty theft by children  1 Offence	Directives/circulars issued on diversion and the treatment of children in the criminal justice system	1	Diversion System	UNICEF	Department for review.  Case management support was provided for 652 children and 312 families at provincial level.  471 children (216 boys and 255 girls) have been prevented from institutionalization and 181 children (84 boys and 97 girls) have been reunified with their families.
		<b>3.1.3:</b> Number of child friendly J4C spaces rehabilitated or constructed	3	3	3	Project M&E System and reports	UNICEF	Family Strengthening support was provided for 312 families to prevent delinquency and institutionalization.
		<b>3.1.4:</b> % of justice sector professionals trained with project support to work with (a) child offenders and (b) child victims (disaggregated by key justice sector institutions)	TBC after the J4C workforce mapping	TBC after the J4C workforce mapping	TBC		UNICEF	A mapping of the Justice for Children Workforce was in progress towards a more

		<b>3.1.5:</b> Status of the National Steering Committee for J4C  (Status: 1. Not existing, 2. being setup, 3. in place but not functional, 4. functional)	No national steering committee for J4C/ Child Probation	(1) Members of the national steering committee identified – at least 2 meetings held	Committee established for Alternative Care by the Department of Child Care and Probation Services - this Committee met once	Committee Reports	UNICEF	comprehensive training plan.
	<b>3.2.</b> Strengthened policy and legal reforms in line with international standards, norms and best practices	<b>3.2.1:</b> Number of policies, laws and regulations updated/developed with the participation of CSOs disaggregated by updated & newly developed; Civil & criminal; and substantive & procedural,	0	0		MOJ and other partner progress reports/reviews,  Laws, Policies, SoPs, Circulars	UNDP	Law reform committees were drafting a) a new Act (repealing the existing act) on Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses (cabinet approval secured July 2022); b) a Special Act on

		<p><b>3.2.2:</b> Number of justice sector institutions that have adopted and implemented applicable international standards, norms and best practices through their policies, guidelines, schemes and internal operating procedures with project support</p>	0	0		<p>Institutional reports and</p> <p>/Policies /Circulars /SOPs</p> <p>Institutional reports/l egislation (draft)</p>	UNDP	<p>Protection of Child Victims of Crime and Witnesses; c) Amendments to the Children and Young Persons Ordinance. Launch of the Report on the Existing Sentencing Trends in Sri Lanka and to initiate the development of National Guidelines on the subject were in progress.</p> <p>Ensured that the proposed Disability Rights Bill comprehensively addresses specific issues faced by PWDs</p> <p>A study to assess the current status of disability inclusion towards informing a comprehensive disability-inclusive justice sector strategy was initiated.</p>
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	3.3. Increased management, administrative and technical capacities and improved processes of the justice actors through expansion of digital solutions, skills development and enhancement of infrastructure	3.3.1: Number of justice sector individuals provided with enhanced administrative, technical, and IT capacity disaggregated by type of officials/professionals	0	0		MOJ and other Partner progress reports/r reviews, Consultants' reports	UNDP	Development of a rapid digital strategy for the justice sector was initiated and supported the expansion of remote court hearing and remote legal counselling to facilitate uninterrupted access to justice.
		3.3.2: Number of targeted justice sector institutions that introduced and expanded digital technology	0	0	0	Institutional assessment, MOJ and other Partner progress reports/r reviews, Consultants' reports	UNDP	Rapport with the line ministry strengthened with the placement of a legal consultant at the Ministry of Justice. Law students received enhanced awareness and updates on recent developments of the law, both nationally and internationally,
		3.3.3: Number of process manuals, and regulations developed for improved efficiency and effectiveness including by formally enabling use of IT (e.g., change to evidentiary rules, procedures for	0	0	0	MOJ and other Partner progress reports/r reviews, Consultants' reports	UNDP	Areas for support were being identified for Sri Lanka Women Lawyers' Association (SLWLA), Government Analyst Department, Legal Draftsman's Office,

		giving evidence remotely)						the Law College, Prisons and Community-based Correction Centres
		<b>3.3.4:</b> Number of institutions that synchronized infrastructure with applicable victim and vulnerable categories centric procedures with support from project	0	0	0	MOJ/MW A, and other CSO partners	UNDP	
	<b>3.4.</b> Strengthened commercial and alternate dispute resolution mechanisms to provide	<b>3.4.1:</b> Number of commercial laws, policies, regulations and procedures and practice manuals developed and reviewed with support from the project	0	0	0	MOJ reports  Institutional reports  M&E reports	UNDP	The inception phase of the assessment on commercial mediation and ADR mechanisms completed.  Work initiated to operationalize activities of the

	expeditious remedies and create an investor-friendly environment	<b>3.4.2:</b> Number of new fora (courts and processes) and mechanisms (e.g., pvt commercial mediation centers) related to commercial matters introduced with support from the project.	0	0	0	MOJ and other Partner progress reports/r eviews, Consultants' reports	UNDP	Task Force on Enforcement of Contracts (including establishing e-payment gateway systems and automation of court processes).  Initial discussion completed with the Board of Investment, National Intellectual Property Office and other sector institutions on expediting their regulatory functions.
		<b>3.4.3:</b> Number of knowledge products on investment and commercial law and commercial dispute resolution, including contract enforcement, developed and made available targeting prospective investors	0	0	0	Partner progress reports  M&E report, Reviews	UNDP	An activity plan developed to strengthen commercial and ADR mechanisms subsequent to a wide range of stakeholder consultations.
		<b>3.4.4:</b> Number of training and courses on commercial law and commercial dispute resolution including debt conciliation conducted for sector professionals	0	0	0	Partner progress reports  M&E report, Reviews	UNDP	Dialogue continued with the MOJ on supporting the recently appointed Presidential Taskforce for



		disaggregated by type (training or course)						<p>Enforcement of Contracts.</p> <p>priority areas identified for interventions, including conducting virtual trials for commercial disputes, and enhancing commercial high court registries in transcribing and transcription activities, developing the laws relating to pre-trial conferencing and investor's court, operationalizing the newly established small claims court.</p> <p>A Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Analysis and Action Plan has also been developed to effectively consider and address systemic barriers to gender equality and challenges faced by women, PWDs</p>
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								and marginalized groups, as part of the overall approach to strengthen commercial mediation.
	3.5. Established mechanisms /platforms for improving cooperation and coordination between justice actors	3.5.1: Number of mechanisms including Circulars and proactive directives put in place for improved cooperation/ coordination/ efficiency in the justice sector disaggregated by type/category	0	0	0	Institution s  M&E  ndum of anding,  periodical ation s,  new /regulations alized courts	UNDP	The donor coordination mechanism, led by MOJ, has been initiated to ensure streamlined resources and coordinated efforts across donors to strengthen the justice sector. The preparatory arrangements completed for a donor coordination meeting to be held in January 2023.
		3.5.2: Number of District Case Flow Management Committees established	0	0	0	MOJ/Partn ts	UNDP	



#### **Annexure 4 - Updated action plan activities of the project (2023)**

European Union - Sri Lanka Support to Justice Sector (JURE) Project										
Outcome	Output	Activities	Indicative Activities	Sub Activities	Agency & Implementing Partner		2023			
					UNDP	UNICEF	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
Outcome 1: Improved access to justice for all, in particular women, the poor and persons in vulnerable situations	Output 1.1. Efficient and accessible legal aid including legal representation for vulnerable communities (including women, IDPs, PwDs, children)	Activity 1.1.1. Enhance the capacity and scope of the LAC, BASL and other legal aid service providers to provide efficient and efficacious legal aid services	Establish periodic coordination amongst legal aid service providers to capitalize on services provided to the public based on the findings of the legal aid service providers mapping and capacity assessment.		LAC, BASL, CSOs					
			Based on the findings of the legal aid service providers mapping and capacity assessment, support targeted capacity development initiatives.							
		Activity 1.1.2 Operationalize the cabinet approved National Policy and Strategic	Support the updating of the cabinet approved National Legal Aid Policy and Strategic Action Plan in collaboration with MOJ, BASL and LAC		MOJ, LAC, BASL					

		<b>Action Plan on Legal Aid</b>	Support the Ministry of Justice and Legal Aid Commission to organize the launching of the Policy and the Action Plan and operationalization of the same							
		<b>Activity 1.1.2 a) Provide technical support to the LAC to strengthen access to child-friendly legal aid</b>	Hire an individual consultant to develop the guidelines on child-friendly legal aid and then provide training for the LAC officers on the guidelines			LAC				
			Based on the recommendations of the J4C Workforce mapping and information related to training needs, deliver a robust in-service training program for: the legal fraternity including State Counsels and the Private Bar (BASL) and for civil society legal aid providers related to child representation			MoJ, BASL, Civil Society				
		<b>Activity 1.1.3 Improve and strengthen “Assigned Counsel system” in High Courts and Magistrate’s Courts and improve the knowledge and capacity of</b>	Complete the study on the Assigned Counsel System with stakeholder discussions and comparative analysis to identify recommendations for Sri Lanka		MoJ and others					
			Support the relevant sector stakeholders to implement selected findings of the two studies on criminal legal aid - (Public Defender							

		lawyers especially those working on pro-bono cases	Mechanism, conducted last year and Assigned Counsel System)							
		Activity 1.1.4 Enhance sensitivity and responsiveness, by training, of " first point of conduct" individuals such as JMOs, Police officers, other similar professionals especially when assisting girls and women victims of violence.	Implementation of key recommendations of the Gender Gap Analysis of the Police Force		UNDP					
			Roll out of the paralegal training at national and sub-national level among WDOs and Counselling Assts to initiate legal clinics and identify SGBV survivors.		Min of women and child affairs					
		Activity 1.1.5. Develop sustainable mechanisms to provide for legal protection of economic and property rights of vulnerable communities and women, including legal protection	Conduct capacity needs assessment of the Debt Conciliation Board		Debt Conciliation Board, MoJ					
			Based on the findings of the assessment, provide support to the Debt Conciliation Board to enhance capacity							

		from predatory lending								
	<b>Output 1.2. Equal Access to Justice strengthened including through language mainstreaming across the justice sector</b>	<b>Activity 1.2.1. Enhance capacity for legislative drafting, translation &amp; consolidation and simplification of laws and set up a sustainable mechanism that facilitates (real time) public access (including online) to laws and subsidiary legislation</b>	In collaboration with the University of Moratuwa, operationalize a customized translation software for the Legal Draftsman's Office to expedite translation of Bills.		University Moratuwa, LD and MoJ					
			Simplification of selected key legislation/legislative enactments and key provisions of selected laws (including Penal Code, the Consumer Affairs Act, Domestic Violence Act, Companies Act, National Environmental Act)		Legal professionals/academics					
			Updating the glossary							
			Conduct media campaign on selected laws, including on traditional media and social media (including on laws enacted in the past 6 months)		Media organizations					
			Support the setting up of the mechanism to print a supplement to the Legislative Enactments every five		MoJ					

			years and update and print Sri Lanka Law Reports							
		Activity 1.2.2. Improve interpretation and translation services at all stages of judicial proceedings (including through special translation units in Courts)	Lay the groundwork to set up a Special Translations Unit in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, in collaboration with the MoJ, AC and SC		MoJ, AC and SC					
			Support the development of a language mainstreaming strategy, in consultation with justice sector stakeholders		Research organization					
			Introduce Code of Conduct for ISD and Sworn Translators							
		Activity 1.2.2 a) Update and translate legal documents relevant for all children in contact with the law	Update and translate legal documents relevant for all children in contact with the law and provide direct support for translation services to the AGD			AGD				



	<b>Output 1.3. Improved legal awareness amongst the public (especially vulnerable communities)</b>	<b>Activity 1.3.1. Conduct awareness raising programmes on Justice for Children and the law in relation to young people and ensure its inclusion in curriculum reform</b>	Conduct awareness raising programmes on Justice for Children and the law in relation to young people and ensure its inclusion in curricula of relevant institutions			HRC/NCPA/MoE				
		<b>Activity 1.3.2. Improve the capacities and level of awareness of right holders (including vulnerable groups), CSOs (non-state organizations, think tanks, lawyers, law faculties and colleges and professional research institutions) involved in access to justice, defense of human rights, children and women's rights</b>	Support the development of a CSOs engagement strategy for the sector with input from the justice sector stakeholders to improve collaboration between CSOs and the sector		Research team					
			Support the implementation of selected initiatives of the CSO engagement strategy in collaboration with the justice sector stakeholders and CSOs.		CSOs, MoJ and other stakeholders					
			Conduct awareness raising campaigns (including media campaigns) on selected civil (including Small Claims Court), criminal (including Bribery Act) and commercial laws (including arbitration) and remedial mechanisms collaborating with Ministry of Justice, Law Faculties, CIABOC, HRC.		CSO, UOC, CIABOC, VWPA, HRC, IADR Centre					

		<b>and support their dialogue with duty-bearers including on environmental justice</b>	Supporting the University of Jaffna, Peradeniya and Colombo to set up/strengthen Legal Aid Centre and the Clinical Legal training mechanism, environmental justice, improving mooted skills, legal English, specialised skills on analysing case law and collaborating with UOJ to conduct research on selected areas of the law		UOC, UOJ, UOP					
			Support the development of Sri Lanka Law College curriculum including Legal English and on latest ADR mechanisms, provide digital infrastructure including Learning Management Systems.		Council of Legal Education					
<b>Outcome 2: Improved accountability, transparency and credibility of the justice system</b>	<b>Output 2.1. Strengthened data collection, analysis and dissemination capacities of government institutions, sector professionals, CSOs, and other accountability organizations on justice sector performance for the public)</b>	<b>Activity 2.1.1. Capacity building of justice sector institutions to collect and analyse disaggregated data (including on gender-based violence and environmental justice) as well as to disseminate these data (public access and monitoring of statistics)</b>	Complete the data mapping exercise covering the justice sector to understand existing data management processes, gaps, and potential improvements.		Research team					
			Support Prisons Department to enhance prison related research.		MOJ, Department of Prisons					
			Support the sector with SDG16 indicator tracking							

		<b>Activity 2.1.1 a)</b> <b>Improve the collection, analysis and use of routine data on Justice for Children and undertake research on key J4C issues</b>	Finalize the assessment of the routine data collection system in the J4C sector and support efforts to implement the recommendations of the J4C data assessment at national level and in at least 3 provinces			MoJ/CORAM International				
			Undertake an Action-Research for children deprived of their liberty in Sri Lanka			LHRD				
			Undertake the bidding and contracting with an institution to undertake a national violence against children and adolescent survey - <b>to provide baselines for SDG indicators</b>			MoWCA/NCP A/DCS				
		<b>Activity 2.1.2.</b> <b>Enhance the criminological knowledgebase of the Sri Lanka Police through targeted research to promote evidence-based policy and reform</b>	Conduct capacity assessment of Sri Lanka Police (Criminal Records Division) and support to enhance institutional and individual capacities, including data management and related skills		Department of Police					

		<b>Activity 2.1.3. Enhance the trust between the justice sector and the public through the development and implementation of a communication strategy for justice sector</b>	Develop the communication strategy for the justice sector to enhance trust between the sector and the public and provide support to implement the key findings (linked to awareness raising work in outcome 1 as well)		Research Team and Justice sector stakeholders					
	<b>Output 2.2. Increased capacities of different justice sector actors to develop and implement codes of ethics and professional conduct</b>	<b>Activity 2.2.1. Support the Judicial Service Commission to better regulate the discharge of judicial function of judges through the introduction and improvement of policies (including non-discriminatory human resources policies), manuals, procedures and processes</b>	Support the Judicial Service Commission to develop policies, manuals, procedures and processes		JSC					
		<b>Activity 2.2.2. Develop/revise codes of conduct and procedural</b>	Develop/revise codes of conduct and/or procedural manuals for Prisons, JMO, Inquirer of sudden deaths, HRC,		Police, Prisons, JMO, Inquirer of sudden deaths, HRC					

		<b>manuals for sector professionals</b>								
		<b>Activity 2.2.2 a) Provide support to the professionalization of the justice for children workforce and the development of Codes of Conduct and HR Policies that support child friendly justice</b>	Support the National Institute of Social Development to implement the roadmap for professionalizing social work in Sri Lanka			NISD				
			Provide support to the professionalization and recognition of the social services and justice for children workforce and the development of Codes of Conduct and HR Policies that support child friendly justice			MoJ				
	<b>Output 2.3. Strengthened capacity of independent institutions to carry out their mandate</b>	<b>2.3.1 Strengthening the capacity of independent institutions to implement their respective mandates (HRC,</b>	Strengthen individual and organizational capacity of HRC - this includes support to their inquiry and investigation mandate, setting up of sub offices in Nuwara Eliya and Rathnapura Districts to safeguard plantation sector community, and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.		HRC					

		<b>JSC, NPC, CIABOC)</b>	Strengthen individual and organizational capacity of CIABOC - this includes training on upcoming amendments to the law, facilitating international and domestic expertise to develop the asset declaration online system		CIABOC				
			Conduct a capacity needs assessment of the NPC		NPC				
		<b>Activity 2.3.2.a Strengthen the role of targeted independent institutions to independently monitor child rights and provide age-appropriate justice services</b>	Provide technical and financial support to the Child Rights Unit within the Human Rights Commission to independently monitor child rights and provide age-appropriate justice services			HRC			
			Support the process of reporting to the CRC Committee and the follow-up on recommendations			MoWCA			
<b>Outcome 3: Improved efficiency and quality of justice</b>	<b>Output 3.1. Efficient and age-appropriate child justice services available for every child in</b>	<b>Activity 3.1.1. Provide technical support to law reform legal drafting and the development of training materials related to J4C</b>	Participate actively in Committees and provide technical support and advocacy for legal reforms related to children, including amendments to the CYPO; passing of a new Child Justice Bill; and ensuring that corporal punishment is prohibited in all settings			MoJ/NCPA			

	contact with the law	Activity 3.1.2. Provide technical and financial support for case management within the penal chain, backlog clearance and Digital Case Management and Tracking	Through a series of workshops, provide technical and financial support to assess the backlog of children's cases in the criminal justice system and address major bottlenecks at each stage: <b>Study on Identification of Bottleneck of the procedure-Reduce the case flow delays (AGs, GA, Child Probation, NCPA and Courts)</b>			MoJ				
		Activity 3.1.3. Provide support to implement a diversion system for children in conflict with the law	Provide technical support to develop a legal framework for Diversion and make amendments to the Mediation Board Act			Mediation Board/MoJ				
			Provide support to implement a diversion system for children in conflict with the law (using existing legal provisions) in 3 or 4 Provinces			DPCCS				
			Support the development and implementation of national and provincial plans for diversion of children in conflict with the law and the prevention of juvenile delinquency			DPCCS				

		Activity 3.1.4. Conduct an analysis of Child Justice related Sector Plans and a Child Justice budget analysis	Hire an individual consultant to conduct an analysis of Child Justice related Sector Plans and a Child Justice budget analysis			MoJ/MoWCA				
		Activity 3.1.5. Provide support to strengthen child-friendly services for all children in contact with the law, including both the separation of children detained in prisons from adults and children alleged as perpetrators of crimes from children in need of care and protection	Provide support to strengthen child-friendly services for all children in contact with the law - including both the separation of children detained in prisons from adults; and the separation of children alleged as perpetrators of crimes from children in need of care and protection - focus on 6 Provinces for 2023			MoJ/DPCCS				
			Support for the separation of Children in the care of female convicts in the prison			MoJ/Prisons Dept				



		<b>Activity 3.1.6.</b> <b>Undertake an analysis of infrastructure needs and then provide support for the construction of Child-Friendly Spaces within the Justice Sector</b>	Undertake an analysis of infrastructure needs and then the provision of support for the construction of Child-Friendly Spaces within the Justice Sector; Upgrading Juvenile Magistrate's Court			MoJ				
		<b>Activity 3.1.7.</b> <b>Undertake an innovative and case-based capacity building programme to ensure efficient and age-appropriate justice for children</b>	Based on the J4C workforce mapping and an overview of needs in the sector, develop an innovative and case-based programme of capacity building to ensure efficient and age-appropriate justice for children			DPCCS/MoJ				
		<b>Activity 3.1.8.</b> <b>Provide support to the set-up and functioning of a National Steering Committee for J4C / Probation</b>	Provide support to the setting up and functioning of a National Steering Committee for J4C / Probation			DPCCS				



	enhancement of infrastructure	literacy of sector professionals									
		Activity 3.3.2. Roll out capacity building support for justice sector personnel and targeted institutions on selected thematic subjects (in line with international best practices) and on overall administration, transparency and accountability, sensitivity and responsiveness	Provide targeted capacity building support to Legal Draftsman's Department based on a capacity GAP assessment		LD, MOJ						
			Provide targeted capacity building support to Government Analyst Department -this includes support to enhance capacities in forensic sciences, explosives an ICT skill, support to obtain accreditation on efficiency, development of ICT policy and case backlog clearance.		GAD, MOJ						
			Provide targeted capacity building support to Victims Witnesses Protection Authority to implement the VWP Act, training programmes for the officers of the Authority and Police Protection Division (technical), Judiciary etc. / Redesigning the witness box		VWPA, MOJ						
			Provide targeted capacity building support to Police		Police						

			Provide training for court administrators to minimizing the administrative burden on judges		JSC, MOJ					
			Provide training for non-judicial staff including on Small Claims Court processes		JSC, MOJ					
		<b>Activity 3.3.3. Set up peer to peer contacts, on a pilot level, with courts and professionals in other jurisdictions to assist Sri Lankan judges and sector professionals in enhancing competency and efficiency across the sector</b>	Conduct judicial symposiums for knowledge exchange on selected topics		JSC					
		<b>Activity 3.3.4. Provide assistance for the development and delivery of a formal continuous professional development programme</b>	Training for judges and lawyers including on Small Claims Court and community-based correction processes		JTI					

		targeting judges and lawyers							
		Activity 3.3.5. Review and improve existing work processes within the justice sector through the implementation of the reforms agenda	Implementation of key recommendations identified in the pioneering assessment on bottlenecks to Case Flow Management within the Criminal Justice Sector with close collaboration with justice sector stakeholders		Relevant judicial stakeholders				
			Support to develop and operationalize guidelines on court administrators		MOJ, JSC				
			Conduct assessment of the workflow processes of court registries and develop a streamlining mechanism and pilot implementation of the findings in DC registries		MOJ, JSC				
			Develop a SOP /Guidelines for non-judicial court staff						



		<b>Activity 3.3.8. Carry out court infrastructure needs assessment and develop infrastructure planning tools with special focus on victim-sensitive infrastructure (including safe rooms for victim/witness statements, court testimony (including remote testimony), victim shelters /safe houses)</b>	Complete the court infrastructure needs assessment and provide support for selected victim-centric infrastructure development		UNDP					
			Establish/strengthen PWD Access for Courts		MoJ /JSC					
	<b>Output 3.4. Strengthened commercial and alternate dispute resolution mechanisms to provide expeditious remedies and create an</b>	<b>Activity 3.4.1. Review and improve existing commercial laws and work processes pertaining to commercial cases</b>	Support the MOJ to effect legislative reforms relating to Commercial laws		MOJ /JSC					
			Support the activities in the Enforcement of Contract Task Force such as setting up the e-payment gateway system and Commercial High Court Website.		MOJ					





		<b>Activity 3.4.3. Support the establishment of an Investor's Court, Pre-Trial Court and Small Claims/Standard Form Court</b>	Strengthen the operationalization of newly established Small Claims court, through the model courts set up in Colombo and Kandy. Training on Small claim courts for the Judicial Practitioners, lawyers and Non-Judicial Staff		MOJ /JSC					
			Support establishment of Pre-Trial Commercial Court / conferencing and operationalization pre-trial process		MOJ/JSC					
			Support to develop a time-management system for pre-trial process for expeditious resolution of cases							
			Prepare a Judges manual on pretrial conferencing and small claims courts							
			Develop Judges' manual and lawyers' manual on pretrial conferencing (commercial) and small claims courts							
			Support the establishment of an Investor's Court to facilitate expeditious resolution of disputes relating to foreign investments		MOJ/JSC					

		<b>Activity 3.4.5.</b> <b>Carry out legislative and institutional review/assessment of ADR mechanisms (including commercial mediation and international arbitration mechanism), support the development of specialized ADR mechanisms and processes and, provide capacity and awareness raising support on ADR mechanisms to sector institutions/professionals and the business community</b>	Conduct a comprehensive assessment of commercial mediation from a micro as well as macro perspective		TAF						
			Develop a National Policy and Strategic Action Plan on mediation		TAF						
			Strengthen the International ADR Centre		TAF						
			Development of commercial mediation related laws		TAF						
			Provide capacity and awareness raising support on ADR mechanisms to sector institutions/corporate professionals and the business community		TAF						
	<b>Output 3.5.</b> <b>Established mechanisms/plat</b>	<b>Activity 3.5.1.</b> <b>Review and revise coordination</b>	Conduct a mapping of the intra-sector coordination needs within the criminal justice sector		MoJ						

	forms for improving cooperation and coordination between justice actors	protocols across the different actors within the sector and establish new protocols (where necessary) including IT-based protocols	Conduct a medico-legal coordination needs assessment		MoJ/JMO						
			Support the establishment and management of a DP coordination platform		MOJ						
		Activity 3.5.2. Support sector coordination on evidence-based assessments such as sector strategy, investment plan strategic budgeting and disbursement and sectoral strategy evaluation, expenditure reviews and other related assessments and sector engagement with the parliamentary committee on Justice	Support the Ministry of Justice to establish a sectoral mechanism to coordinate sector strategies, investment plans, strategic budgeting and disbursement with relevant sector stakeholders.		MOJ						