European Union Catalytic Support to Peace Building in Sri Lanka

Contract No: 2016/383/-112

Progress Report

April 2017 to April 2018
EU Catalytic Support to Peacebuilding Programme Progress Report, May 2018

1. Background and Introduction

This report comprises a progress update of activities carried out under the EU Catalytic Support to Peacebuilding Programme (EU-CSBP), during the period April-2017-April 2018. Work under all outcomes has progressed, albeit amidst rising challenges to peacebuilding initiatives, and the governance reform agenda within the country. These challenges and risks are described in detail under each outcome area, together with their corresponding impact on planned activities. In some instances, they have forced the project teams to adopt a more flexible approach, seeking alternative means to achieve goals. These changes have also been described in the narrative provided below.

The strengths of the programme including its capacity to catalyze opportunities for peacebuilding and broader governance reform, continues to stem from the fact that all areas supported under this programme are directly aligned to priorities within the Sri Lanka Peacebuilding Priority Plan. As such, the interventions are those where the UN has a distinct comparative advantage and potential to add value through its normative mandate, access to technical expertise, impartiality and previous experience and partnerships.

The EU's support has been complemented on a number of outputs with support from the UN Peacebuilding Fund, U.S. State Department, as well the British High Government, and has been noted as such, where relevant. The combined integrity that this partnership between the UN EU, and British Government, brings has helped the Programme to leverage partnerships across a wide range of state and non-state actors to take forward activities and project objectives.

2. Assessment of the current project implementation status and results against Project Outcomes

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<th>Immediate Outcome 1: Significant progress made in the implementation of the Government’s commitment on transitional justice as expressed in the UNHRC Resolution</th>
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<td><strong>Progress towards Outcome:</strong> There has been a significant slowing down in momentum on progress towards fulfilling commitments on Transitional Justice (TJ) under A/HRC/Res/30/1. This has been primarily due to a rapid politicization of these processes, and the government becoming increasingly defensive in the face of an apparent consolidation of the support base of Joint Opposition (JO) and its political rhetoric that steadfastly opposes the Government’s TJ and Reconciliation agenda. Thus, while this Outcome was designed primarily to support the setting up and operationalization of the TJ mechanisms, at the time of writing, only the Office of Missing Persons (OMP) had been set up and its Commissioners only received their formal appointment in March 2018. As such, the activities needed to be adapted to the changing context while continuing to fulfill broader objectives. During the first few months of the project, therefore, activities focused primarily on advocacy. Subsequently, the project has commenced provision of technical support to key institutions and is also focused on filling data gaps and gathering other empirical evidence critical to furthering the transitional justice process.</td>
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<th>Output 1.1 High-level or specialized technical expertise provided to the Government on transitional justice together with support to CSOs to sustain advocacy and support victims’ interests.</th>
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<td>Despite the overall decline in momentum, the project was able to provide critical support at pivotal junctures to sustain and direct the TJ discourse and advocate for implementation of TJ mechanisms. As such, the following activities were completed or are being carried out during the reporting period:</td>
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<td>• <strong>Learning Visit on Transitional Justice</strong>- Visit from Colombian experts/officials working on Transitional Justice to Sri Lanka during 21-25th August 2017, for engagement with the Government of</td>
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Sri Lanka to share their experience. Catalina Diaz (Former Director of Transitional Justice of the Ministry of Justice and Law, and worked for 5 years at the International Center for Transitional Justice in NY and Bogota) and Brigadier General Juan Carlos Ramirez (Chief of the Legal Counsel Services of the Army of Colombia, and a member of the TJ Roundtable of the Defense Sector with a focus on the benefits to be awarded to members of the armed forces in TJ framework of the Colombia peace agreement) were the representatives that undertook the official visit to Sri Lanka, at the invitation of the Government. As part of the overall visit, the Colombian experts/officials, met with Senior Government officials, conducted a 2-day closed door workshop to share their experiences and lessons, and also engaged with the UN and civil society. Materials for the workshop were also produced/shared by the experts

- **CSO Advocacy** - In consultation with OHCHR, the Programme also supported the local civil society organization, Families of the Disappeared (FoD) to Commemorate International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, on 30th August 2017, through the provision of a grant. The programme brought together families/mothers of the disappeared to share their experiences, and also advocate the Government of Sri Lanka to operationalize the Office of Missing Persons (OMP). An estimated 1100 family members of the disappeared came together from Ampara, Batticaloa, Hambantota, Matara, Galle, Colombo and Gampaha.

- **UNICEF project to support ensuring child rights in transitional justice processes** – In March, 2018, following the appointment of the Commissioners of the OMP, UNICEF signed an agreement with UNDP, tapping into the flexible fund available under this Outcome for priority actions to support TJ processes. The project intends to provide high quality and necessary technical expertise to the OMP and other relevant government agencies: to ensure the cases of missing children will be handled as a priority in line with the Government’s commitments under the TJ process and the UN CRC requirements; and to find appropriate and relevant solutions to the mandate and work of the Family Tracing and Reunification Unit in Kilinochchi in view of the establishment of the OMP. This project will also be co-funded by PBF. UNICEF has currently hired the technical consultant and begun other preparatory work on this sub project.

- **Research on Militant Buddhism** – In collaboration with the International Crisis Group, the UN commissioned a study on the perceived rise in Militant Buddhism and its potential impact on reconciliation processes in the country, including the transitional justice process. Research is ongoing, and the expected to be completed in June.

- **Conflict Mapping and Archiving Project** - The UN, in collaboration with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC), Australia and the South Asian Centre for Legal Studies (SACSL), Sri Lanka, will be working on this mapping project which presents a unique and critical opportunity to support the TJ process in Sri Lanka and form a basis from which research, investigation and judicial strategies can be developed. Not every case or incident can be investigated by the TJ mechanisms – they will need to prioritize the cases, issues and violations. In order to do this effectively, comprehensive mapping is essential. In January 2017, the PIAC commenced the mapping in response to the evolving TJ landscape in Sri Lanka. It developed a database mapping the conflict and related violations for the period 1983 to 2009 across Sri Lanka. The information collected during this phase has been preserved in a user-friendly database. The aim of phase two that will be supported by the UN under the EU CSPB project will be to develop it further to function as a direct material resource for the TJ mechanisms. This initiative will be jointly funded through the EU CSPB and PBF projects.

- **Support for high level visits of OHCHR** – The project also supported several visits of key OHCHR staff to Sri Lanka to engage in advocacy and high-level negotiations and for the Senior Humans Rights Advisor to visit Geneva for the UNHRC sessions.

### Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Strategies

- Delays on the part of the Government in taking concerted steps to operationalize the transitional justice mechanisms: while the law for the establishment of the OMP was passed in 2015, it took more than 6 months to pass the Amendment to the Law, and a further 2 months to determine the operationalization date as 15th September 2017.

- There is a lack of clarity as to who the current champions for the transitional justice agenda are, particularly following the change of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the position of Minister of Finance and Media. However, as the Minister of Finance and Media, is looking to take forward
communications relating to Transitional Justice, with the support of the UN. The UN is providing the support of a high-level international technical expert on TJ communications, and 2 UN Volunteers in this regard, supported in part through Outcome 2 of the EU CSPB project.

- Transitional Justice process continues to be viewed as an externally driven process, with low levels of national ownership. Political instability in the country is seemingly increasing with the voice of the Joint Opposition against the peacebuilding and transitional justice process growing stronger.
- In order to sustain the TJ process, the UN is working closely with civil society organisations to ensure that a degree of pressure continues to be exerted on the government to fulfill obligations under the Resolution.

**Additional information:**

Activity 1.1.2 of the original indicative activity plan: “Support to visits and activities in Sri Lanka of the Special rapporteur on Truth, Justice, Reparations and Guarantees of Non Recurrence” was removed and monies relocated to Activity 1.1.1 “Operation of flexible fund to respond to requests for technical support on transitional justice”.

Additionally, as the activities needed to be adapted, changes to budgetary categories continue to be required to ensure activities are carried out per the broader objectives. For example, a number of activities that were previously planned to be carried out through contractual services, including for example, the placement of technical expertise within the TJ mechanisms, did not take place. These actions that have been substituted with grants to organisations to perform specific functions such as mappings violations and, research and advocacy. While much of this is already reflected in the amended budget document, further changes maybe necessary and will be communicated with the EU in due course.

Activities under the TJ components of the projects, including the EU CSPB project are becoming increasingly difficult to implement in a straightforward manner. As such, creative avenues need to be found to strengthen the discourse on human rights as well as put in place structures and processes that can sustain the broader objectives of Transitional Justice even if the process itself is dismantled, either expressly, or implicitly through continued inaction on the part of the government. Support to civil society advocacy and awareness initiatives, conflict/violation mapping exercises, and technical support to strengthen existing mechanisms are therefore, some of the key characteristics of an adaptive approach to TJ programming within an unstable and unpredictable political context.

**Immediate Outcome 2: Public display greater awareness and willingness to engage constructively in the peacebuilding process**

**Progress towards Outcome:** It is still too early to measure if activities carried out under this outcome have had an impact on public perceptions and its willingness to engage constructively in the peacebuilding process. Notwithstanding, a number of key activities that carry with them to potential to influence public opinion are currently underway.

As reported previously, there were significant delays in initiating activities under this outcome, largely due to the fact that they needed to be undertaken primarily in collaboration with the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM) and until October 2017, there was a lack of clarity with regards to the status of the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms whose mandate was scheduled to end in December 2017. In October 2017, its mandate was extended until March 31, 2019. The UN subsequently entered into fresh discussions with SCRM in relation to taking forward planned initiatives.

In the meanwhile, however, the UN RCO office and UNDP also began exploring other avenues to engage in building public support. Therefore, activities that are being carried out under this outcome also include provision of technical support directly to the Ministry of Finance and Mass Media, and the design and
dissemination of creative content in collaboration with NGOs and private content creators/organisations to influence public opinion. While the initiatives themselves are focused on enhancing communication and visibility of the TJ and reconciliation processes, they have been designed to be local driven and organic processes and not attributable to any external party, including the UN or the EU.

**Output 2.1 Clear and consistent communication strategy on peacebuilding in place and implemented by the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms**

An international transitional justice communications and media expert was brought down to support the Ministry of Finance and Media on special request of the Minister. The expert formerly attached to the International Centre for Transitional Justice provided the Ministry with support to develop a framework and strategy for communicating Transitional Justice and building core capacities of relevant personnel of the Ministry as well as other related institutions based on identified capacity gaps. The Consultant’s contract was subsequently extended to assist the government to implement the strategy. A majority of the in-country and remote assistance provided by the expert during his extended contract period focused on operationalization of the proposed Communications Unit on TJ and reconciliation. The expert also developed a comprehensive annual workplan to be implemented by the unit. However, there are considerable delays and slow progress from the side of the Government in setting up the Unit as envisioned, with full time staff seconded from other government departments. The UN continues to support the identification and recruitment of programme officers needed to operationalize the communications unit through SCRM under the guidance of the IC. In addition, the expert worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/SCRM to develop key messages for the HRC sessions in March 2018. He also provided urgent analysis and recommendations on how best to shape the government’s response to incitement and hate speech, as communal violence escalated in the Ampara and Kandy Districts earlier this year.

Following the appointment of the Commissioners of the OMP in March 2018, the expert’s assistance was also sought in formulating a communications plan to disseminate key information on the OMP. Advice on possible outreach campaigns for the OMP was provided.

The technical and capacity assistance provided to the Ministry of Finance and Mass Media through this project also included two United Nations Volunteers specialized on communications to support with key functions including content development for mainstream and social media.

The project also supported an independent communication campaign through Bax Media to prompt the public to think about peacebuilding in a positive way through messages devoid of rhetoric. The campaign aims to positively influence young people through social media and to certain extent mainstream media. The campaign targets the Sri Lankan public aged 18 – 40, and will produce simple key messages that can be easily shared on platforms such as WhatsApp and other social media platforms in addition to more traditional, media such a radio. At the This campaign currently is ongoing and can be referred to through the Facebook page ‘Sri Lanka Together.’ There will be no UN/EU branding or visible affiliation with the campaign or its content that aims to remain locally driven.

Similarly, the project is also supporting Search for Common Ground (SFCG) to develop a television drama series focusing on issues of TJ and reconciliation to be aired locally. This initiative is jointly supported by this project and the UN PBF. As with the Sri Lanka Together campaign, the teledrama - to be called “Tri-loka” - will be designed and aired locally with little or no external interference and no visible affiliation to the UN/EU or even SFCG.

Under this outcome, the EU and the UN as part of their joint programming completed the Situational Risk Analysis (SRA) for four provinces, namely East, North, North Central and South, with the objective of understanding the prevailing conflict triggers and resilience dynamics at provincial level. Using a qualitative research methodology, the SRA examined the political, social, environmental and economic contexts and possible future trajectories for each of the provinces. The overall objective of the situational risk analysis was to contribute to an effective and informed policy and programmatic response in support of peacebuilding for the government, civil society, UN and development partners, and in particular for the
operationalization of the Peacebuilding Priority Plan. The findings of the SRA were presented at an event jointly chaired by the Foreign Secretary, EU Ambassador and the RC. The peacebuilding board members, including representatives from the President's and Prime Minister's Office and other key ministries, ambassador, political counsellors from the like-minded donor group, members from the civil society and development partners joined the presentation and discussion. The lead consultant of the SRA also conducted a conflict sensitivity training for EU and UN programme staff, which facilitated further dialogue and discussion on the application of findings emerging from the SRA and cross learning across the organizations.

### Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Strategies

As noted above, the lack of clarity in relation to the mandate and functioning of the SCRM delayed some of the planned activities under this outcome during the initial stages of project implementation. There also continues to be delays in the setting up a Communications Unit within the SCRM as planned. A decision will be taken during the upcoming months on alternatives, to the proposed activities in this regard (including the allocation of five UNVs to the unit and a proposed training for journalists and media personnel on TJ and reconciliation), should the unit not come into being soon.

### Additional information:

Funding under Outcome 2 of this Programme was aimed primarily at Communications, Media Engagement, and Peacebuilding Sentiment Analysis, working in partnership with the SCRM. However, funding from this component was reprogrammed to also undertake the Situational Risk Analysis, which was undertaken as a Joint Initiative by the European Union Delegation in Sri Lanka and the UN/UNDP in Sri Lanka.

### Immediate Outcome 3:

**Progress towards Outcome:** The CSPB Project has been able to initiate critical catalytic support to all the key state institutions targeted through this Outcome. While it is too early to relate the projects contribution towards the Outcome level results, progress towards a number of individual output level results have been achieved or is work in progress. Notwithstanding, governance related initiatives, particularly those bearing the flavor of reform, have become increasingly precarious, as the national unity government faces difficulties in maintaining its coalition amidst a fluid and uncertain socio-political context. Developments such as the further falling out of the two main political parties constituting the national unity government, holding of provincial council elections and/or the roll-out of transitional justice mechanisms, may have impacts on the sustenance of the national unity government given the mounting opposition and counter-rhetoric from the Joint Opposition. A real or perceived risk to the sustenance of the national unity government may in turn have adverse consequences on ongoing constitutional, legal and policy reforms; and have especially serious repercussions for those initiatives relating to good governance, reconciliation and peace-building. At local government level, all five provinces have started interventions identified under output 3.3 and there is a significant progress in implementing activities and budget utilizations.

**Output 3.1 The constitutional reform process is supported through technical assistance and informed by best practice.**

It is important to note at the outset that UNDP’s technical assistance to the constitutional reform process is being provided on a strictly confidential basis given the potential risks to jeopardizing the process on account of “international” involvement, which is a point of contention by inter alia the “Joint Opposition” and Janatha Vimukthi Perumana (JVP).

Whilst initial briefs of comparative research and analysis on thematic areas under discussion for a new Constitution were provided to the Constitutional Assembly Secretariat using funds from the Government of Norway, subsequent briefs were prepared with CSPB Project funds. These briefs included the areas of separation of powers, and centre-periphery relations.
Whilst the creation of the Constitutional Assembly website (http://english.constitutionalassembly.lk/) was assisted by UNDP with initial funding from the Government of Norway, improvements, updates and maintenance was carried out with funds from the CSPB Project. In addition, the CSPB Project supported the monitoring and updating of analytics for the Constitutional Assembly blog and social media accounts. This has resulted in information and key documents relating to the constitution-making process being available in the public domain in a timely manner.

The CSPB Project also supported, on a confidential basis, a national Conference on Constitutional Reforms in June 2017 to create greater awareness of and support for the ongoing process. The Conference was attended by the Prime Minister, Members of the Constitutional Assembly, foreign envoys and other high-ranking officials. The former Deputy Chief Justice of South Africa, His Excellency Justice Dikgang Moseneke, spoke on “Reaching a Consensus on the Constitution – the South African Experience.” In addition, the Expert Panel to the Constitutional Assembly Steering Committee presented the 6 subcommittee reports on Fundamental Rights; The Judiciary; Law and Order; Public Finance; Public Service; and Centre-Periphery Relations. These reports had been prepared with earlier assistance from UNDP which provided comparative research and analysis on these areas. Media releases – especially of the opening session were telecasted/broadcasted over most TV/radio news stations. This created public awareness that a serious national endeavor of Constitution-making was in fact taking place. It was also the first public forum at which the Prime Minister (as Chairman of the Steering Committee) openly conveyed important information in detail, such as on the nature of the process and on Steering Committee deliberations.

The Draft Interim Report of the Steering Committee was tabled and debated in the Constitutional Assembly end 2017. The CSPB Project provided research and technical editing assistance for preparation of the report.

Thereafter, a mandate was given by the Prime Minister who is the Chairman of the Steering Committee, that media awareness regarding the reform process should be conducted by the Constitutional Assembly Secretariat. Therefore, from January 2018, UNDP’s technical assistance has been focused on the Secretariat’s task of raising public awareness about Constitutional reform. The reform process is currently awaiting direction from the political actors. The date for the next meeting of the Steering Committee has been scheduled for 24th of May 2018.

**Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Strategies**

- Should there be a further deterioration or even break-up of the national unity government and/or Provincial Council elections commence in 2018, there is a substantial risk of the attention of the Parliament/Constitutional Assembly leadership as well as MPs being diverted to election activities in their constituencies. This can potentially affect work envisaged with the Constitutional Assembly Secretariat, Parliament and/or Provincial Councils, and may have a significant impact on the timing of planned activities. Quick adjustments may need to be made within the programme and management framework of the CSPB Project, in consultation with the EU.

- Given the confidentiality and uncertain timelines of the constitution-making process, it has been very challenging to identify high quality professional researchers and communications consultants to provide technical assistance for the constitution-making process. A roster was created with those few candidates who satisfied the minimum requirements. However, it has been very difficult to retain these consultants on a continuing basis due to the uncertain nature of the process and therefore the duration of the consultancies, as well as technical assistance needs being requested by the Steering Committee with extremely short turn-around times.

- Should the constitution-making process face further delays and challenges (including those that cannot be accurately/easily assessed due to the evolving political economy context), the remaining planned technical assistance on the constitutional reform process with respect to comparative research and public outreach, may require quick revisions or reprogramming.
Additional information:

It is suggested that the current indicator, “Research briefs inform the discourse of the constitutional assembly” be amended to include the phrase “or its sub-committees.” In addition, it is also suggested that a new indicator be included reading: “The Constitutional Assembly is supported to disseminate information on the Constitution-making process to the public”. Towards this end, on a confidential basis, the project provided 2 full-time researchers to support the Constitutional Assembly Secretariat with comparative research, analysis, public outreach and other technical assistance for a new/amended Constitution. The researchers have also contributed to the reconfiguration and maintenance of the Constitutional Assembly website, as well as its communications for public outreach. This has resulted in information and key documents relating to the constitution-making process being available in the public domain in a timely manner.

Output 3.2 Parliamentary Committees supported to discharge their functions effectively

The Parliamentary Advisory Board to development partners supporting Parliament requested that a workshop on operationalization of the 25% quota for women in local government be organized. Following a request by Hon. Sudarshini Fernandopulle, Member of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender, and the Women Parliamentarians’ Caucus, the CSPB Project commissioned the People’s Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) to present findings of preliminary interviews and research on women’s representation and participation in the political party structures in Sri Lanka. On 25 July 2017, a half-day Workshop on Operationalization of the Quota for Women in Local Government Elections for Leadership and Members of Political Parties was held in Parliament. The workshop comprised of firstly a panel discussion on opportunities and challenges on the quota for women in local government elections. The second session was on comparative experience-sharing on advancing women’s political participation in the United Kingdom, Pakistan and the South Asian region by respective MPs from these countries and an expert on comparative experience, together with an overview on the status quo of women’s representation in political party structures in Sri Lanka. The latter presentation was made by the Executive Director of People’s Action for Free and fair Elections (PAFFREL), based on the research commissioned under the CSPB Project.

Based on a request for support made by the Speaker and the Secretary General of Parliament, the CSPB Project provided technical assistance to the Parliament Secretariat on the thematic sessions of the 8th Conference of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians from 4-6 October 2017. This entailed providing substantive notes on thematic sessions for the speeches of the representatives from Sri Lanka. The research areas included the conference’s role as a platform for parliamentarians of South Asia to work towards achieving SDGs; promoting parliamentary diplomacy and open parliament in the digital age; the role of parliamentarians in the preservation of cultural and archeological heritage in the South Asia Region; economic empowerment of women for poverty alleviation; and countering violent extremism among youth to prevent terrorism, and empowering youth to combat human trafficking, modern slavery and illegal trafficking in drugs.

As part of the technical assistance requested by the Speaker and Secretary General under the CSPB Project, UNDP retained in March 2018 an international expert on parliamentary public outreach and communications to advice and provide guidance. The expert prepared an assessment report of the current framework, procedure and practice following a first mission to Sri Lanka, during which he consulted key MPs from most of the political parties and active parliamentary committees, as well as parliamentary staff. The expert met with and advised/made recommendations as to how to enhance the quality of interaction between the Parliament, Parliamentarians, citizens, civil society organizations, community groups and schools. This advice included a strategy and actions for establishing a dedicated Communications Directorate for Parliament (including preparation of its mission, staffing table and job descriptions). The

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1 The development partners supporting Parliament include UNDP, USAID, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, and International Republican Institute,
expert also provided guidance for establishing a visitor’s centre; the design of age-specific video clips to increase public awareness; and reworking of the website using modern infographics.

Technical assistance is also being provided by UNDP through the CSPB Project for opening committee meetings to the public and media. Recent revisions were made to the Standing Orders that allow for more transparency in the work of the committees. However, one of the main obstacles is the provisions in the Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act. A working group consisting of senior officials from the Parliament Secretariat, the Attorney General’s Department and the Legal Draftsman’s Department has been constituted to facilitate the review and amendment of the legislation. Following working group deliberations, a first draft of the amendment has been prepared by the Legal Draftsman’s Department and presented to the Secretary General of Parliament, the chair of the working group. The final working group meeting will be held shortly, to finalize the proposed amendments.

### Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Strategies

- The worsening political uncertainty following the local government elections, proposed no commission motion against the Prime Minister, and the proroguing and reconstitution of Parliament, has resulted in diverse agendas and disarray amongst MPs and political parties. This also has a bearing on the day-to-day work of the Parliamentary Secretariat.
- Securing the participation of MPs for systematic and continuous knowledge-sharing and training activities has proved to be very challenging for reasons above, as well as Parliament’s tight work schedule coupled with the unavailability of Parliamentarians on non-parliamentary sitting weeks due to constituency work. There is also a high demand by the development partners assisting Parliament for allocation of time for their respective activities. This has an impact on the meaningful participation of MPs and effectiveness of organizing workshop style knowledge-sharing and training activities. Knowledge sharing and training activities for Parliament as a whole, or a large number of MPs, is limited by and-large to ½ day sessions at most. In addition, UNDP is increasingly engaging in capacity development/knowledge sharing of a one-on-one nature or in small groups of MPs and staff. This is reflected in, for instance, UNDP’s technical assistance to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Sustainable Development and its 4 clusters.
- Although the Standing Orders have been amended to enhance transparency of parliamentary committee meetings, and the necessary amendments to the Parliament (Powers & Privileges) Act is underway, the biggest challenge is changing the negative attitudes of some of the MPs and officials of Parliament to enhance public outreach. Fortunately, the Speaker and Secretary General are providing leadership and ownership to these processes, which contribute to mitigating the challenges and risks involved.

### Additional information:

- The indicators have been revisited in order to make them more specific and measurable, and proposed changes have been communicated to the EU. In addition, substantive and/or timeline changes to certain sub-activities may be necessary to address evolving challenges. These deviations will be shared with the EU should they have significant impact at the activity level.

### Output 3.3 Provincial level institutions capacitated to be able to respond to service delivery requirements with increased effectiveness, transparency and inclusiveness

To improve the revenue generation and collection of Provincial Revenue Developments, it was identified to strength the revenue collection system with an improved web based revenue management system in all five provinces including North-Western, North-Central, Central, Uva and Sabaragamuwa provinces. A team of 25 staff from the revenue departments of all five provinces were able to gain a better understanding of efficient revenue systems through an exchange programme to the Revenue Department

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2 Particularly on account of the budget formulation period, the Constitutional Assembly sessions, and work of active committees such as the Committee on Public Enterprises.
of the Southern Provincial Council. The web based systems are currently being rolled-out in all five provinces. Procuring of IT equipment including servers and computers has already been completed.

Several trainings on effective revenue generation were given to the staff of departments of provincial revenue in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services delivery in provincial revenue departments. Approx. 500 officers from the provincial revenue departments have benefited from relevant trainings as a result. The details are below:

- 50 Staff officers of Provincial Revenue Department from all five provinces were provided a 2 days residential training on immovable property evaluation through Department of State Evaluation Management, University of Sri Jayawardhanapura. This workshop is mainly focused to enhance the skill on property valuation which is highly benefit to the department for future revenue collections.
- 25 revenue department officers in 5 provinces participated to one-week residential training on GIS and applications through the university of Peradeniya
- Central provincial council revenue department Conducted 8 days training programme on programming and data base management for 7 revenue department officers at national institute of cooperative development- Polgolla
- North Central revenue department conducted two awareness programmes for Notaries, Banks and Land Registrars in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa district for 114 participants (male- 79, female- 35).
- Uva province revenue department Conducted 02 days workshop on Identifying new revenue sources & Managing , implementing, existing revenue sources with 45 participants. Further, they conducted and exposure visit to Western Provincial Revenue Department to get ideas about systems, administration and documentation methods which are using by Western Provincial Revenue Department.
- Sabaragamuwa province conducted an exposure visit to Uva province revenue department to observe the business registration system. Subsequently, they visited southern provincial council to observe the online business registration system. They are in the process of introducing online business registration system for the Sabaragamuwa province by connecting all divisional secretariats.

The introduction of IT based information management systems, Citizen Charter Systems, Front Office Systems has strengthened the service delivery of provincial council. Proving relevant trainings to staff has enabled them to provide better services delivery as well. Awareness programmes on provincial laws and statues, the Right to Information Act and rolling out the Citizen Charter were carried out with project support benefiting over 1000 officers from the relevant Provinces. Through Project facilitation, the North-Western province is in the process of developing and improving a management information system for the local authorities; the Central province has started to establish a Front Office System for local authorities and they are in the process of setting up of front office management system, postal management system and leave and work programs management systems for provincial land department and chief secretary’s office. The Uva province has introduced cadre management system to the Provincial Council and they are in the process of developing a web based mail managements system, asset management system, store management system and registry system. They have conducted a two-day workshop on developing effective job descriptions for provincial employees, benefiting 40 participants.

The project has also supported capacity needs assessments in all five provinces which has enabled to address the priority needs and carryout initiatives to address these particularly in terms of developing Human Resource Development Plans and addressing the knowledge gap around the area of SDGs.

Output 3.4 A consultative planning process, incorporating the principles of sustainable development undertaken in each target District and Province
All five provinces have initiated the development of five-year vision oriented, SDG integrated Provincial Plans. This Multi-stakeholder process is a starting point for transformation from exclusion to inclusion of all sectors. Through the participatory development of the Provincial Plans, provinces will have enhanced information management, budgeting, co-ordination, monitoring and reporting functions and improved practices on. Conflict sensitivity, sustainable natural resource management and disaster risk mitigation. Trainings and awareness programmes related to the Provincial Plan development process have been conducted for relevant officials in all 5 Provinces, in addition to community consultations. Local University expertise has been sourced in wherever possible, and links have been made with other Provinces to learn from best practices. Some of the key highlights of project supported initiatives are below:

- **North Western Provincial Council** - An introductory workshop was conducted for provincial departments benefiting 27 officers (Male 17, female 10). A One day result based planning workshop was conducted for sector based planning officers directly involved in developing provincial plans, benefiting 70 officers (Male-39 ,Female-31). Consultation workshops were conducted for fisheries, livestock, tourism, industries, education, agriculture and infrastructure sectors with 355 sector level provincial officers (Male 145,Female-210).

- **North Central Provincial Council** - 27 divisional workshops and 30 sector workshops have been completed and the Provincial Planning Department is in the process of data collection. A Data collection book has been prepared and printed. The Provincial planning secretariat has established a GIS unit by purchasing 6 computers. They have started to develop provincial land use plan.

- **Central Provincial Council** - The provincial planning secretariat conducted an awareness programme on Result oriented 5 year multi-Sector planning for 85 Senior Officials of the Provincial Council.(Male-41, Female 44). 3 community consultation meetings were conducted with 110 participants (Male-40, Female-70 Sectoral Workshops in 6 Main Sectors were conducted with 340 participants (Male-167, Female 173). Subsector level workshops were conducted with 255 participants (Male 115, female-140). Validation workshops were conducted with sector heads with 75 participants (35 Male, 40 female).

- **Uva Provincial Council** - 16 sectoral workshops have been completed for Native medicine, Province road and Transport, Agriculture, Animal Production, estate Infrastructure, Rural Electricity, Inland Fisheries, Irrigation, Housing and Cooperatives, Local Government, Education, Sport & Land, Cultural and Religious Affairs & Tourism and Small Industry with 460 participants (Male- 262, female- 198) and result frameworks have been developed. 5 community consultation meetings were conducted with rural development societies, famer organizations and women societies benefiting 231 participants (Male-89, Female-152).

- **Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council** - Stakeholder analysis has been completed. A Results Based Management workshop was conducted for 60 planning officials of provincial institutions (Male- 34Female- 26). Sector consultations have been started.

Furthermore, following a request by the Chief Minister of the Northern Province, the Central Government requested UNDP to carry out a needs assessment for the Northern Province in 2016, which UNDP agreed to with CSPB funding. After a prolonged period of consultation with the Chief Minister on the scope of the Terms of Reference to address concerns largely of a political nature, the document was finalised in October 2017. The Needs Assessment is expected to inform policies, strategies and action plans with respect to the development of the Northern Province. This includes informing the 2019 budget strategy, which in turn will inform the subsequent multi-year (rolling) budget for the Northern Province.

The Assessment comprises of a three-fold process: Phase I is an overall scoping exercise, and involved a literature review and ascertaining data adequacy, through an assessment of multiple reports and sources of data. Phase II involves the collection of primary data and analysis, to address gaps in information and analysis. Phase III comprises of compilation of draft report, having a stakeholder consultation on the draft report, and finalisation of the report.

A Steering Committee has been set up, chaired by Mr. R. Paskaralingam, Adviser to the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs. The Committee comprises the Northern Provincial Council,
External Resources Department, National Planning Department, the Department of Census and Statistics, the Ministry of Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Hindu Religious Affairs, the European Union, the World Bank and UNDP. The Chief Minister and his Board of Ministers were interviewed in March 2018, and further consultat in April. A stakeholder consultation organized by the Northern Provincial Council is scheduled for 25 May 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Strategies</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Due to local government election which was held in January, most of the project activities were delayed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• As Sabaragamuwa and North Central Provincial councils have been dissolved, there is a delay in the approval process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• It took an inordinately long time to finalize the Terms of Reference for the Northern Needs Assessment, primarily due to the concerns brought to the table by the Chief Minister which were largely of a political nature. Hence, the TOR was only finalized in October 2017, which gives very little time to complete the Assessment for informing the next Budget strategy of the government.</td>
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<td>• In addition, the stakeholder consultations in the North in which the Chief Minister wants to be involved, have also been delayed innumerable times due to various reasons beyond UNDP’s control. However, this is now scheduled for 25 May. At least the headline findings and key recommendations will be ready by June/July 2018 to inform the 2019 Budget strategy.</td>
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Output 3. 5: Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) has strengthened its complaints investigation mechanism and capacity to engage in advocacy, reporting and outreach.

UNDP continues to support the HRCSL with technical assistance for planning, implementation and coordination. Progress on key activities is as follows:

- **Revamping of websites of HRC** – Revamping of the HRCSL website is being processed in consultation with HRCSL officials and 80% of the process is successfully completed.

- **Research on required prison reforms** - A research team has been operated under the guidance of HRCSL, and the team is visiting 21 prisons located island wide. The final report is expected to be launched in mid-October 2018, and is expected to identify recommendations to address gaps within the prison system and related entities through this report. This will be an effective document for SL Government/donors to provide required follow-up support to enhance the standards of prison systems. A main feature is that HRCSL is arranging “unannounced” prison visits as per the special mandate given to them from the HRCSL ACT No 26 of 1994. These “unannounced visits” gives a massive impact for the study since researchers are able to understand the actual situation within the prisons. Further, they conduct interviews without presence of a jailor and therefore prisoners are more comfortable to reveal information. The Sample size of the survey is 4000 (including inmates and prison officials from different staff categories). Given the extensive nature of the study, up to 10 University students are expected to participate in providing assistance to conducting the study along with the 7 researchers.

- **Conducting priority staff trainings for HRCSL staff as per the training plan, including development/upgrade of manuals**: 4 training themes were planned for this activity: Constitutional protection of fundamental rights, Transitional Justice, UN treaty bodies and international human rights mechanisms, Economic Social and Cultural Rights. Two comprehensive workshops were conducted for the staff on the Constitutional Protection of Fundamental Rights. Both workshops were two days residential workshops. Two manuals that were in the development stage at HRCSL (Inquires and Investigations Manual, and the Standard Operating Procedures for visiting places where persons are deprived of liberty) were translated into Sinhala and Tamil. These translations were distributed to the staff at the second training session for their comments and suggestions via workings groups consisting of staff members that were formed to review the manuals.

- **Conducting TOTs for the Army and the Police** - Initial meeting with the representatives of the Directorate of Human Rights and Human Rights Law of the Sri Lanka Army, and the Police
Training College were held and representatives were given questionnaires, in order to gather information on previous TOTs held, the topics covered, the manuals that are currently being used, etc. The representatives presented HRCSL with topics which they think are important, and in which their trainers are lacking in knowledge for follow up action.

- **Carry out innovative activities to promote Human Rights** – HRCSL held International Women’s Day celebrations on March 08, 2018. The report titled ‘Empowering Women in the Informal Sector: A Human Rights Agenda’, was launched on the day, and the project supported the printing of 4500 copies of the report, which were distributed to government and non-governmental representatives at the launch, and were also sent to all the 10 Regional Offices to be distributed to government and non-governmental sector representatives and stakeholders in the regions.

- **Conduct trainings on human rights for State Officials and Civil Society Organizations** - Discussions are underway to see the possibilities and feasibility of conducting an awareness programme for the newly elected female representatives at the local government bodies, from the local elections of 2018. With the 25% female quota, in order to increase female leaders’ participation in governance, HRCSL can play a vital role in assisting the expansion of their knowledge and skills. HRCSL staff trainings were extremely useful for the staff since they provided effective opportunities for them to discuss technical difficulties occurring in HR violation cases. In the first Fundamental Rights training HRCSL staff paid unannounced visits to places where persons are deprived of liberty. Staff went in 6 teams to 6 different locations such as police stations, child detention centers, prisons, women’s rehabilitation center, foreign detention center. In one of these places, staff identified a detainee suspected of being tortured at the center. HRCSL took *suo motu* action on behalf of this person and a case is ongoing.

- **Development of materials to create awareness on the role of HRC, how to make a complaint to HRC and related information** – Material development is underway. Videos, handbooks, posters are being designed and developed and printed.

- **Training needs assessment** – The project is supporting the HRCSL’S Training Need Assessment. The assignment is underway and will be completed in August 2018.

- **Development of automated case management system** – The project provides assistance for HRCSL to develop an automated case management system in order to provide an efficient service for general public and also to enhance its transparency. 80 % of the system is completed.

**Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Strategies**

- Government appointment of staff for the HRCSL has still not taken place and is in turn a challenge for UNDP to engage with the Commission for the implementation of activities. On the request of HRCSL, UNDP has embedded a UN Volunteer who provides coordination assistance to UNDP and HRCSL.

- Securing the services of suitably qualified consultants / consultant companies who are willing to undertake short-term assignments and able to work in the national languages posed a challenge to the timely initiation of some activities, as indicated above. The delay in the training needs assessment in particular causes delays to follow up activities as well such as development of curricular and conducting training sessions for the HRCSL staff and identified target groups. UNDP is exploring alternative methods of procurement, such as the services of a recruitment company to expedite the selection process.

- The project is getting excellent dedicated support from the present Commission members of HRCSL. However, the designated focal point for UNDP at the HRCSL is a Commission member. The term of office of the current Commission members ends mid-2018. This creates concern regarding the lack of continuity of a focal point at HRCSL, in the absence of a regular staff member being identified by the Commission for this purpose. It is hoped that this issue will be addressed with the appointment of staff members to HRC in the near future.

**Output 3.6 The National Police Commission has strengthened its capacity to engage in its core functions and engage in public outreach**
The project continues to provide support to the National Police Commission (NPC) to improve overall service delivery. Key highlights of support are as below:

- **Community Consultations** - Four community consultations have been held with active support from the public.
- **Technical consultation** – Two Technical Consultations were held and professionals who participated at this event contributed immensely with innovative ideas to uplift the standards of NPC and SLP. The UNDP recruited rapporteur participated at this event and the official report will be submitted to NPC and UNDP in due course.
- **Strengthening the investigation capacity of NPC** - A series of residential training for 327 officers on Preliminary Investigation Skills at The Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA) is in progress.
- **Conducting of priority trainings as per the training plan and as per the capacity assessment** – Human rights training for the NPC staff was conducted and a Gender training is being organized.
- **Gender Related Studies for National Police Commission** - A two fold study is in progress focusing on 42 Police Women & Children Bureaus located in SSP Divisions (Analysis on Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT), analysis of gender sensitivity, effective case management) and An Analysis of Women Police Officers and their deployment in the structure of the Sri Lanka Police and the Challenges faced by them in their course of work - with a Special focus on Gender Biases. A research institute namely "CENWOR" has been recruited for this study and they are liaising with the Commissioners on same. NPC is planning to make recommendations to the government /SLP based on findings.
- **Training needs assessment** - Preliminary discussions were held and the assignment will be officially started shortly.
- **Development of communication strategy** – UNDP faced challenges identifying a suitable consultant following multiple advertisements. A suitable consultant has now been identified and the recruitment process is underway.
- **Modification of job description of all categories of staff of NPC** - This assignment is completed and final report has been submitted to the NPC. Modified job descriptions are being incorporated to the identified positions.
- **Revamping of websites of NPC** - Website revamping is underway and expected to finish in August 2018. The design/structure of the website is expected to facilitate NPC’s public outreach.
- **Development of materials to express role of NPC, how to make a complaint to NPC and related information** – Material development is underway. Videos, handbooks, posters are being designed and developed and printed. It is expected to screen these videos in awareness raising programmes, Community Consultations and in other occasions as required.

**Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Strategies**

- Securing the services of suitably qualified consultants who are willing to undertake short-term assignments poses a challenge to the timely initiation of some activities such as workflow process analysis.
- UNDP continues to encounter challenges with the NPC in relation to securing the necessary in-house capacity to take forward a number of initiatives. Continuous and hands-on technical support is being provided by UNDP with regard to planning, implementation and coordination of the CSPB programme activities.
- UNDP has requested a progress Review meeting in the Month of May in 2018 to discuss how best to expedite the remaining activities supported by the project.

**Additional Information**

The NPC has requested changes in the Work Plan, omitting certain activities – such as the drafting of the Police Commission Act, development of disciplinary procedures for the Sri Lanka Police, workflow process re-engineering and some aspects of training for NPC investigators. Further NPC has suggested to develop an automated case management system for their Appeals branch and also establish a disciplinary division using financial allocations given against the above. UNDP is in discussion with the NPC to seek clarity on these and negotiate alternatives.
Immediate Outcome 4: UN catalytic engagement with resettlement and durable solutions has supported wider political transition, peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts in Sri Lanka

Progress towards Outcome:

All assessments have been completed including partner selections and implementation is well underway. All partners are actively involved in forming the necessary community structures such school development committees (SDCs), pre-school management committees, mother group groups, child rights monitoring committees (VCDCs) and Child Wellbeing Core Groups. Capacity building programmes have also been carried out for school/pre-school teachers, health staff (midwives, nurses, doctors etc.), child rights promotion officers (CRPOs) and keys officials at divisional level on water recharging mechanisms. While construction & renovation of schools/pre-schools, health centers and WASH facilities are well underway in Trincomalee, majority of the construction & renovation works in Jaffna will commence in May 2018. Though the construction/renovation works in North and off-shore procurements have got delayed, clear timelines and monitoring systems have been established to ensure timely completion of all activities.

Output 4.1 : Evidence based strategy for implementation of the National Policy on Durable Solutions for Conflict Affected Displacement is in place

As informed to the EU delegation in Colombo and Bangkok, UNDP has continued to face challenges with the Ministry of Resettlement and External Resource Department in enter into a Letter of Agreement on rolling out the National policy on Durable Solutions. The Secretary of the Ministry has changed twice since the planning of this project which has contributed to the serious delay. Following several rounds of discussion, an agreement was finally reached on 18th May between UNDP and the Ministry of Resettlement, and steps are under-way to formalize the Letter of Agreement and joint action plan. At Provincial and District Level, trainings on the durable solutions policy have been organized, and translation of Durable Solution Policy to Sinhala and Tamil has been completed.

Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Strategies

• The biggest challenge has been a lack of awareness and understanding of the policy amongst government both at the National as well as sub national level. Continued training and awareness is therefore required. As such, the programme will focus on providing this training as means to address this issue.
• Consolidated data on resettlement (population, access to services and infrastructure, etc.) continues to be inadequate to inform decision making. The project will support initiatives planned through the Ministry to create a national level data base on resettlement.
• The Secretary of the Ministry has changed twice over since the planning of this project which has in turn caused several delays due to negotiations having to start from the beginning with each new Secretary.

Output 4.2 : Vulnerable households in the Northern Province supported to secure their land tenure rights

The Agreement of Cooperation was between the Ministry of Land and Parliamentary Affairs was signed on 15th Dec. 2017. The Survey Department completed survey plans for three thousand one hundred and forty six (3146) allotments of land for the preparation of LDO permits. These survey plans were submitted to the Land Commissioner Generals’ Department of the Northern Province. Action on procurement of services and equipment for the Survey Department has been initiated. Four thousand three hundred sixty one (4361) land tenure documents were processed since the inception of the project, which included the provision of 3907 LDO permits and 454 grants. Seven thousand five hundred and seven beneficiary households had improved access to land tenure during the reporting period as a result of project activities. Needs assessments for trainings to be conducted for GoSL officials at local and divisional level were completed at the time of reporting.
### Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Strategies

- Communication between central and provincial departments was weak, which resulted in lack of awareness on the project at provincial and district level. UN-Habitat teams in Colombo and the field facilitated better communication between the central and provincial departments.

- Trade union action by government surveyors resulted in delays in surveying land allotments. UN-Habitat collaborated with the Provincial Surveyor General of the Northern Province to reschedule surveys to be carried out under the project. UN-Habitat also negotiated to expedite the release of incentives to surveyors for surveys completed during the reporting period.

- Delays in transferring project funds to the provincial departments due to government procedures adopted by the Ministry delayed procurement of goods and services, thereby delaying the enhancement of capacities of the departments. UN-Habitat worked closely with the Chief Accountant of the Ministry of Land to obtain treasury approval for the utilisation of funds.

### Output 4.3: Targeted resettled communities have access to an integrated and sustainable package of socio-economic services to help them rebuild their lives

UNDP and UNICEF completed introductory meetings with government officials in the Northern and Eastern Provinces (including Government Agents, Divisional Secretariats and technical departments) to orient them on the key objectives of the project and gain an understanding on the key district priorities. The agencies then held meetings to strategize on next steps, including a needs assessment and conflict sensitive analysis, to inform the design of a sustainable socio-economic services package that provides durable solutions to help resettled communities rebuild their lives. In this regard, the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) was brought on board to conduct the needs assessment, conflict analysis and to document lessons learnt throughout the duration of the project.

CEPA has completed the needs assessment in Jaffna and Trincomalee Districts, based on which baselines were identified and beneficiaries selected in consultation with relevant government stakeholders. Further, the needs assessment validated priorities previously identified in relation to the immediate needs of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), namely housing, livelihoods, water and sanitation, education, health and infrastructure. Subsequent to the completion of the needs assessment, UNDP and UNICEF, with technical guidance from CEPA, formulated the Theory of Change (TOC) for the integrated package of interventions targeting resettled communities. In line with this TOC, areas for integration between UNDP and UNICEF were further strengthened and an integrated work plan was developed. CEPA also supported the agencies with the conduct of a baseline survey both in Jaffna and Trincomalee, which fed into the project results framework, particularly the setting of targets. In addition, a conflict risk analysis was conducted with government stakeholders and community members, which has highlighted areas of tension, intra-community division and potential triggers of conflict. This conflict analysis assisted the agencies in ensuring that the project is conflict sensitive in terms of the selection of project partners, locations, mode of operation and prioritization of issues to be addressed through the project.

Another key component of the project is the design of a social accountability mechanism. In this regard, OfERR Ceylon has been selected as the responsible NGO partner in the North that will work together with the agencies and CEPA in establishing a social accountability mechanism. Partner selection in the East is currently being finalized. This mechanism will ensure that project implementation processes are citizen centered, results-oriented and sustainable.

The key interventions conducted during the reporting period jointly by UNDP and UNICEF are outlined below under the relevant thematic areas:

*Education*

*Jaffna*
- School Self-Assessment (SSA) and School Development Planning (SDP) activities have been completed in nine (out of nine) targeted schools. The School Attendance Committees were also formed and mobilized to identify dropouts and students irregularly attending school. As a result, two student dropouts have been successfully enrolled back in school and 10 students received support to regularize their attendance.

- Pre-school improvement plans have been developed for all (out of 11) targeted pre-schools and 21 pre-school teachers have been trained on Early Childhood Development Standards (ECDS). 191 parents have also received awareness on ECDS.

- Preparation of estimates have been completed for the classroom repair/renovation works in schools and pre-schools. Chief Secretary approval received for pre-school works in April 2018 and work will commence in May 2018. For schools, works will commence once approval is received by the Chief Secretary.

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- A Construction Monitoring Committee has been formed for the project with membership comprising of government education authorities, school principals, government engineers and technical officers and UNICEF technical specialist. Estimate preparation, tendering and awarding of the contracts have been completed and repair/renovation work commenced in four (out of four) targeted schools.

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Trincomalee

- 33 committee members from four (out of four) School Development Committees (SDCs) and six (out of six) Pre-school Management Committees from the targeted schools and pre-schools were trained to better understand their roles and responsibilities and also improve their engagement with the school management and government education authorities.

- Baseline data collection activities were completed targeting 100 (out of 978) children to assess their numeracy and literacy skills. 55 school and pre-school teachers and respective Government officials received training on catchment area mapping and another 32 received training on multi-level teaching techniques representing four (out of four) schools and six (out of six) pre-schools.

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Health & Nutrition

Jaffna

- A total of 47 mothers’ support groups (out of 40) have been formed and trained. Rural Health Assistants (RHA) supported by the project have been oriented on their roles/responsibilities and mobilized in communities. Their Terms of Reference has been revised in consultation with the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) and Medical Officer of Health (MOH). The RHAs received training on child and maternal nutrition; use of the child health and development record; management of malnutrition; and establishment of home gardens as a sustainable technique to promote organic food production for consumption by families.

- Estimates have been prepared and the procurement process is ongoing for the establishment of a Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU), Pre-Mature Baby Care Unit (PBU), Communicable Disease Isolation Unit and a Lactation Management Centre at the Thellipalai Base Hospital. Procurement of maternal and pediatric equipment and the ambulance for the Thellipalai Base Hospital is ongoing.

Trincomalee

- A total of 19 mothers’ support groups (out of 30) have been formed and its members trained. Mothers have received training on the importance of breast feeding; complimentary feeding; maternal and adolescent nutrition; and preparation of nutritious meals through practical food preparation demonstrations carried out by midwives. Mothers also learned about the prevention of infectious diseases; immunization; interpretation of the Child Health Development Record; intake of vitamins and other micronutrients; and early childhood development.

- Through a five-day capacity building programme, 150 health officials (nurses, midwives, medical doctors and other health workers) have been trained on topics related to safe drinking water, hygiene practices, oral care, obstetric care, newborn care, emergency perinatal care, anemia and teenage pregnancies.

- 62 pre-school teachers from Sampoor and Muttur DS divisions also received training on nutrition, oral health and the management and treatment of Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children.
- UNICEF also supported the conduct of perinatal death reviews at the Base Hospital in Muthur. During these meetings, cases of prenatal and perinatal deaths were reviewed and actions taken to prevent future incidences.
- The construction of a maternity ward at the District Hospital, Sampoor has achieved 45% completion and the refurbishment of the maternity ward and labor room at Base Hospital, Muthur has achieved 75% completion. Procurement of an ambulance for the District Hospital, Sampoor is ongoing.

**Child Protection**

**Jaffna**
- 19 Child Befrienders were trained to provide basic psychological support and referral to counseling services for those who have experienced trauma. 12 'Child Wellbeing Core Groups' in 12 GNs were formed in all targeted villages. The members of the core group include: government workers, community leaders, youth, NGO workers and ordinary villagers. These core group members are now being trained to identify children in need of counseling and other support enabling the core group to function as a village level system that responds to psychosocial issues.
- 10 (out of 12) Village Child Development Committees (VCDCs) were formed and initial training provided so they could identify vulnerable families and at-risk children in need of support; conduct case conferences and refer families to necessary support services. Nine children's clubs have been formed and activities have been initiated. 8 CBO forums were also formed in 8 GNs and training provided to CBO members to discuss common issues and needs of the GN division and strengthen their capacity to address social protection issues together with UNDP.
- The module preparation for capacity building of police officials and training of day care centre staff and parents eligible for adoption are under way.
- Preparation of estimates is ongoing for the establishment of a Gender based Violence (GBV) desk at the Tellipali Hospital. Preparatory work to obtain necessary approvals to establish a day care center in progress. An assessment of the requirements is also underway to develop a database for the Provincial Department of Probation and Child Care Services (DPCCS).
- The mine risk education programme has reached a population of 6,621 (out of a target of 18,000) while supporting the identification, reporting and coordination to clear 25 mines, 324 Unexploded ordnances (UXOs), including 358 bullets, since the commencement of the project.

**Trincomalee**
- 5 (out of 5) Village Child Development Committees (VCDCs) have been formed. 75 VCDC members received training on child rights, roles and responsibilities of VCDCs; prevention of child abuse; and referral processes and systems. Further, 397 community members received awareness to advocate for children's rights in their communities. The NGO partner along with VCDCs also assessed 89 children's cases and two cases were referred to Probation Officers and Child Rights Promotion Officers for their support.
- 186 youth and children received training on leadership and life skills and another 138 youth and children were trained in drama as part of the End Violence Against Children programme. The awareness created through drama reached nearly 5,000 youth in the targeted communities. The mine risk education programme also reached 1,093 people (out of target of 2000) during the reporting period.
- The estimates have been prepared and are awaiting necessary approvals from national level to commence renovation of the Women and Children's Police Desk. The work is also in progress to upgrade the database management system of the DPCCS.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

**Jaffna**
- Preparation of estimates completed for construction of WASH facilities in nine (out of nine) schools and seven (out of seven) pre-schools and work will commence in May 2018. Training programmes have been completed in nine schools on personal hygiene, including menstrual hygiene management, handwashing and oral health – 197 students benefited from the trainings.
- 268 government stakeholders, including community leaders, have been trained and 376 people in targeted communities have been made aware on water conservation and management practices.
- One existing 23,000 liter tank has been repaired and another 30,000 liter new rain water harvesting tank construction is in progress at Thelepalai Hospital.
- 20 water recharging mechanisms have been completed. UNICEF also held discussions with UNDP to support construction of water recharging mechanism for 4 agro wells and model home gardening activities.

Trincomalee
- Construction of 20 (out of 60) household latrines and supply of water connections to 20 (out of 75) households is nearing completion.
- Construction of 4 (out of 8) WASH facilities in schools and 2 (out of 5) in pre-schools have already been completed benefiting 977 children and 45 pre-school children respectively. Upgrading of toilets for use by female teachers and adolescent girls with sanitary pad disposal facilities for better menstrual hygiene practices is in progress in 4 schools.
- Forming of health clubs in 8 schools is also in progress. Hygiene promotion materials have been finalized with the Medical Officer of Health (MOH). Hygiene promotion sessions will be organized once the WASH facility construction work has been completed.
- Sector-based Livelihoods Support
  - UNDP has completed a survey of existing support, capacity development gaps and institutional linkages where necessary. In Trincomalee, UNDP conducted 20 focus group discussions. In Jaffna a detailed household survey of 600 individuals was used. Based on the survey findings, UNDP adopted a sectoral approach to provide livelihood assistance on agriculture, fisheries, livestock and business development etc. and will process relevant input supply and related trainings directly to resettled families in 2 DS Divisions in Jaffna and 5 villages in Muthur DS divisions.
  - Further, with the guidance of UNDP, OIERR Ceylon was able to establish institutional partnerships with both National and Provincial departments such as Dept. of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Provincial Dept. of Agriculture, Provincial Dept. of Animal Production and Health, Dept. of Rural Development, Dept. of Agrarian Development and Industrial Development Board etc. Especially OIERR Ceylon entered a MoU with Provincial Dept. of Animal Production and Health for procurement of animals and extension services.
  - Furthermore, to strengthen the social accountability aspects of the resettled communities and service providers, together with CEPA, both UNICEF and UNDP prompted the in-process monitoring mechanism at divisional level. This process has been now in-built within the mandate of the partner NGO to promote the idea of social accountability and engage community and government officials to involve the monitoring and follow-up support as well. In the same line, this has been formalized at the divisional level. A monthly stakeholder consultative meeting is convened by the divisional secretary to ensure smoother implementation of project activities in a participatory manner.

Establishing and or strengthening community service centres
- In order to ease the access to service deliveries for the resettled communities a multi-purpose centre is constructed in Thaigiddy South GN Division and ready for occupation. This centre will operate as a one-stop-shop where under one roof all necessary public services are offered. Especially officers like Grama Sevaka, Samurdhi Development Officer, and Development Officer and Rural Development Officers will be stationed in this centre on public days. Furthermore, this centre is equipped with conducting common meetings, gatherings, training and monthly health clinics etc. In addition, the centre will have a women and children`s desk to assist community referrals where necessary.
- In Trincomalee, there are five community centers identified and preparation of estimates is progress. Locations to fix solar lights were also identified with the consultation of UNICEF and Partner organization.

Support to Divisional Secretaries to improve their administrative and livelihood service provision
- Through project’s NGO Partner – OfERR Ceylon, the Tellipalai DS Office was supported with IT equipment (a laptop) to enable improved IT based data management and monitoring of resettlement related work; which has eased the easy access of information with minimum time spent.

Construction and Renovation of Economic Infrastructure

- Based on CEPA’s need assessment and project’s gender considerations, the project provides assistance to construct a traditional food production and sales centre in Valalai GN division of Kopay DS division. This centre will be managed and maintained by Valalai Women Rural Development Society (WRDS) which comprises over 60 women members and majority of them are women headed households. It is expected to cater all kinds of customers such as school children, fishermen, construction workers and native residents on a daily basis, as both Valalai and Palali North coastal resettled area lacks this type of food sales centre.

- In Trincomalee support was extended for seed production, processing and sales in Muthur East. The existing committee was reformed and provided training on capacity building and business development. The Department of Agriculture released land to the society on a long-term lease basis. The building process will start on May 2018.

- Support was also extended for milk collection, value addition and marketing to Muthur East Dairy Development Co-op Society. A village level committee has been formed to support the society and 2 locations have been identified for the milk centres. A needs assessment helped identify machinery and equipment and they are being sourced. Beneficiary selection process is ongoing for individual business development to promote local enterprise.

- The momentum for development for the region has also initiated development of the surrounding areas. For example, three societies were selected for support under the Muthur East Fisheries Union and according to their request the Predeshiya Sabah has approved the renovation of the sea access road in Soodaikuda. The preparation of the estimate is in progress.

Challenges, Risks and Mitigation Strategies

A key challenge is the designing of a package of interventions that considers and is responsive to the diverse and constantly changing contextual factors in both the Northern and Eastern Provinces. For e.g. specifically in the Northern Province, individuals and families are still in the process of returning to their places of origin while others are awaiting the release of their lands. Comparatively in the Eastern Province, majority of the returns and resettlement occurred in 2012 and 2015.

Another challenge is the complexity and over-lap created by other resettlement and development initiatives that are being implemented parallel to this project by the same project implementers and key stakeholders. Notwithstanding, the work carried out in the pilot locations will adopt an approach that is more holistic, indeed this was one of the objectives that drove the need for this pilot. CEPA will be monitoring the project throughout the duration, suggest course correction and gather information and practical recommendations on the progress made in the pilot locations vis-à-vis the Policy. In addition, support will be provided to the Ministry to create a database which helps to streamline all resettlement related interventions and retain files of resettled families.

Further, Provincial Dept. of Animal Production and Health have made it difficult for NGOs facilitating assistance related to livestock; especially procurement of cattle and goats within the district or province, as they are not supporting the increase of animal population in the province. Instead procurement from other provinces is highly recommended. The OfERR Ceylon entered in to a MoU with the department to facilitate the process enabling easy access to animals from other provinces.

In terms of coordination, support will be provided to the Ministry of Resettlement to create a database which helps to streamline all resettlement related interventions and retain files of resettled families. In addition to the coordination systems established for the project, UN agencies will participate in divisional and district coordination mechanisms and also support the establishment of a national coordination system for re-settlement. Hence, these systems for coordination, will support to implement the
resettlement and development initiatives in a coherent manner while adopting to the changing context on
the ground. CEPA will be monitoring the project throughout the duration, suggest course correction and
gather information and provide practical recommendations on the progress made in the pilot locations vis-
à-vis the Policy. Social accountability mechanisms will also be built-in to the project to strengthen
community based feedback systems.

UNICEF has experienced delays in off-shore procurement of supplies such as ambulances due to time
taken to receive Tax/duty exemptions and lengthy production & delivery processes involved. Thus,
UNICEF has taken measures to following up with the necessary officials to obtain the required
documentation and set clear schedules with deadlines for the suppliers for the production and delivery of
supplies while closely monitoring the process.

Lengthy processes involved with Government partners (especially in the Northern province) in finalizing
of estimates and selection of contractors, have delayed the commencement of construction/rehabilitation
works of health facilities. Thus, UNICEF has established clear millstones with Government partners to
ensure timely selection of contractors and completion of construction.

Construction of Latrines in Trincomalee were delayed due to delays in receiving the beneficiary list from
the authorities and due to shortage of sand required for construction. Several rounds of meetings were
held with the district authorities requesting to expedite finalizing of beneficiary lists and to prioritize
provision of sand to project activities. Further to improve quality of construction work due to lack of skills
of the labours, UNICEF has mobilized the support of Technical Officers from Government and NGOs.

Training programmes for Government officials (especially for the Health Sector) most often get postponed
due to their busy schedules and conflicting priorities. Hence, UNICEF has taken measures to schedule
the training programmes well in advance and book the calendars of government officials also in advance
to ensure their availability to participate in the programmes.

Additional Information

Based on the needs assessment report, and baseline outcomes, agencies re-defined the results
framework of the project and defined the package of support in-line with the Policy on Durable Solutions
for Conflict Affected Displacement and the overall framework of the Peace Building Priority Plan.

3. Gender Considerations

In general, all project interventions have taken care to ensure women’s participation and voice. As such,
the following steps have been taken to directly or indirectly address gender issues in peacebuilding and
reforms processes:

- Gender considerations have been identified to be factored in to the situational risk analysis.
- The organizing of a workshop on operationalization of the 25% quota for women in local
government in collaboration with USAID, WFD, UN Women and UNDP. The workshop was
intended to provide knowledge to Members of Parliament on opportunities and challenges that will
be faced in operationalizing the 25% quota for women at the upcoming local government elections.
Given that one of the main impediments for women’s effective political participation is the lack of
opportunities at the political party level, comparative experiences from UK political parties and
Pakistan were incorporated into the sessions. An overview of women’s representation in political
party structures in Sri Lanka was provided by Mr. Rohana Hettiarachchi, Executive Director of
PAFFREL, based on the research commissioned under the Project.
- The preliminary discussion papers prepared to inform the deliberations of the Clusters of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Sustainable Development, took into consideration and flagged the gender dimensions of key issues under the respective SDGs.
- The work of the international expert on parliamentary public outreach and communications includes advice and recommendations as to how to enhance the quality of interaction with citizens, civil society organizations, community groups and schools. This includes women and girls.
- The NPC is conducting a study on the women and child desks at police stations, in order to address gender sensitivity particularly when dealing with sexual and gender-based violence complaints and special needs of women and children in interactions with the police. The study will also include an analysis of the representation of women in the Sri Lanka police force and issued faced by policewomen.
- Women headed household and single women headed families especially who lived in the welfare centres are highly considered during the selection of beneficiaries. According to CEPA’s need assessment, it is stated that this category of women fall into highest structural inequalities and social divisions, resulting in weak socio-economic conditions in the community.
- UNICEF and partners have ensured adequate gender representation in all interventions and partners have also been informed of the importance of keeping a record of gender disaggregated data. For example, due to the measures taken to encourage female participation in all activities, girls and women's participation has been almost equal to boys' and men’s in village child development committees and in children’s/youth clubs.
- Further, even when conducting training programmes (for example, in schools & in pre-schools), female resource persons have been given priority over males. Also, venues for training programmes have been selected giving priority to women’s privacy and safety concerns. These actions taken have contributed to increase girls and women’s participation in project activities.
- During school construction work, safety and protection of children, especially of girl children has been ensured by making it compulsory for the contractors to sign the Organizational Child Protection policy and making contractors and labours aware on the child protection measures that need to be followed.
- The menstrual hygiene management (MHM) programmes has contributed to improve the awareness and skills of 53 adolescent girls on how they should carefully manage their menstrual season and ways to safely dispose their sanitary napkins.

4. Visibility

Branding guideline for the 18-month Programme has been developed in consultation with partner agency communication focal points and shared with the EU for clearance. The guideline will ensure that the visibility and branding remain consistent throughout the course of the project.

Visibility items required for the project launch (i.e. video and pull-up banners) and stakeholder consultation meetings have been designed in consultation with partner UN agencies. They were used recurrently during the project launch, stakeholder consultations, project briefing ad kick-off meetings and even at the community consultations as necessary.

A 2:14 min animated video was developed, as an introduction to the programme. It covers the plan which identifies 4 interlinked national priorities: transitional justice, reconciliation, good governance and, resettlement and durable solutions. The video shows the contribution of the EU and identifies the key stakeholders that will be engaged through the programme. The video has been uploaded on YouTube and has been promoted via social media: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTYgl3xL1c

As agreed by partner UN agencies and the EU, a common webpage for the programme has been designed and is hosted at the UN Sri Lanka website as it is a joint programme. The webpage which is hosted on the
United Nations Sri Lanka website, includes key information regarding donor, total budget, implementing partners, duration of project and partners with a background note on the formulation of the programme. The webpage has been created according to the programme guidelines and therefore displays EU logo together with implementing UN agency logos: https://lk.one.un.org/our-work/catalytic-support/

A consultant is being hired to support the communication work more effectively on the overall project – particularly the successes of the programme through human-interest stories. A series of ten case studies that link ongoing projects conducted in the Northern Province across all 3 implementing agencies and will capture the key successful interventions/impact of projects. The stories and the photographs, will be used for short 600-800 word articles and will be featured via communication channels.

A videography team will capture the key successful interventions/impact of projects along with interviews from key stakeholders. 10 social media videos (1:30 duration) will be edited and created highlighting interventions of all 3 agencies. These videos will feature the official branding along with the EU logo and partner UN logo’s, and will be promoted via social media platforms.

With regard to the Durable Solution Policy, extracts of the policy to be included in a reader friendly brochure which will be disseminated among relevant ministries. This user friendly brochure would include the purpose of the policy, what the policy covers, rights and entitlements of displaced, refugee returnees and displacement- affected persons, and who is responsible to uphold the policy. The brochure would include EU logo and implementing UN agency logo’s. Extracts of the policy will also be animated and would include the purpose of the policy, what the policy covers, rights and entitlements of displaced, refugee returnees and displacement- affected persons, and who is responsible to uphold the policy. Dissemination will be via social media and other media platforms and will include EU logo and implementing partner UN agency logo’s.

An event was organized by the Ministry of Health office in Tellippalai to commemorate world water day on the 22nd of March 2018. At this event, UNICEF together with its partners organized exhibits to promote safe use and sustainable consumption of water with the intention of creating awareness and promoting ground water recharging & rainwater harvesting systems. The exhibition also promoted organic cultivation, healthy eating practices, traditional foods and drinks, use of organic fertilizers and safe methods of purifying and storing water. From pregnant mothers to school children participated in the exhibition.

Northern Provincial Department of Education’s awareness creation session on Rain Water Recharging Promotion supported by UNICEF has been uploaded to the following site: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhdECItbInQ

In Santhosapuram in the Trincomalee District, a hand wash facility was declared open on March 8th 2018 at the Santhosapuram Kiravatkul Vidyalayam when the EU delegation visited the school. Children were encouraged to wash their hands particularly before eating and after using the latrines after the establishment of the handwashing facility. The handwashing facility will benefit 86 students (45 girls and 31 boys).

5. Key Lessons

The first phase of the programme has provided a range of lessons and guidance to take into consideration in the following months. While some of them were linked closely to respective outcomes, others provide general guidance.

Most importantly, the need for scenario planning coupled with identifying a set of alternative actions based on each scenario has been raised as a lesson under all components of this programme. This is particularly given the nature of the current political climate and resultant uncertainty. In addition, several other lessons were identified in relation to programme implementation. Following are key amongst these:
- When supporting the organization of workshops/learning events for the Government, it is critical to ensure the Government has sent out invitations for the events well in advance, and secured required confirmations at the necessarily competency levels.

- When engaging international experts, who do not speak English, it is important to review the most suitable approach for translations i.e. review what matters most - accuracy of the translations, speed of translation or other, it is important therefore to know the audience beforehand.

- While feedback questionnaires/other appropriate tools are useful to share during training sessions/workshops to obtain feedback from the participants, where possible more creative means of assessing feedback should also be introduced.

- The need might arise where grants to civil society organizations would need to be provided on a case by case basis, taking in to account the wider objective to which it contributes. This is particularly important in relation to initiatives which relate to advocacy, as advocacy work needs to be undertaken in a timely manner. Additionally, UNDP needs to be able to respond quickly to such requests for support.

- Environmentally friendly advocacy practices need to be encouraged and supported among civil society. It would be useful to include the need for environmentally friendly practices in all calls for proposals, and in funding agreements.

- Advocacy events which require the mobilization and location transfer of large groups of community members is cost intensive, and requires a large amount of logistical support, including on basic services such as access to water and sanitation facilities.

- With regard to livelihood assistance, an emerging theme was, that despite numerous assistance programmes having been conducted thus far, there were continued requests for livelihood related assistance. The findings revealed that there are very limited value chains or market linkages created for the beneficiaries, thus limiting the sustainability of the intervention. This is merely because of absence sufficient enabling factors and less activeness of actors in the value chains. Focus therefore needs to address wider community needs rather than individualized support.

- Formation of a Construction Monitoring Committee in the Eastern Province for school construction work has simplified the overall management of the construction work. This method has enabled the management of the construction work to be done by a one single team rather than having few technical officials spread across multiple schools. This team approach has allowed the possibility to concentrate expertise of multiple stakeholders (i.e. government education authorities, the school principals, government engineers & technical officers and UNICEF technical specialist) in a well-coordinated manner to monitor construction work. Further, this method provides a platform to quickly make decisions to resolve issues/bottlenecks identified in order to assure the same standard of quality is maintained across all school construction carried out through the project.

- Making it compulsory for the contractors involved in school construction to sign an Organizational Child Protection Policy and making them aware on the child protection measures has contributed to create a safe and a protective environment for children especially for girl children during school construction when schools are made accessible to outside contractors and to their labours.

- UNICEF learned that conducting training programmes in the form of practical/hands on training rather than in the form of a lecture based training is a better approach. Especially for health training programmes, participants have requested the trainings to be more interactive with practical
exercises, focusing on the application of the learnings and group work to engage participants to discuss and learn from others’ experiences.

6. Summary of Controls

According with HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer) framework, partners will be subjected to micro assessments, programmatic monitoring visits, spot checks and scheduled audits. For all Partnership Cooperation Agreements above USD 100,000s, micro-assessments will be carried out.

Two partners of UNICEF that have exceeded USD 100,000 for the project are: Organization for Elankai Refugees Rehabilitation (OFFER-Ceylon) & Coordinating Centre for Community Development (CCCD). A micro-assessment has been carried out for OFFER-Ceylon in November 2014, which is valid for 5 years. A micro-assessment will be carried out for CCCD. In addition, all project partners of UNICEF have been subjected to at least one programmatic visit and partners who exceed expenditure of USD 50,000s will also be subjected to a financial spot check.

7. Annexes

1. Progress Against Logical Framework
2. Pictures and Media
3. Indicative Action Plan
4. Budget Forecast
5. Grants Awarded
6. Procurements Exceeding USD 15,000
7. Management Declarations- UNICEF, UN-Habitat, UNDP
## Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the Administrative Agent

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* Annual report information differs from data provided by the Country Office due to mapping. Corrections will be made in subsequent periods.