PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: Sri Lanka
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL FINAL
DATE OF REPORT: June 2018

Project Title: Support to Sri Lanka to promote national unity and reconciliation efforts through targeted technical assistance to ONUR and the Northern Provincial administration and Eastern Provincial administration.	
Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: 00098786	

PBF project modality:	If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:
☒ IRF ☐ PRF	☐ Country Trust Fund ☐ Regional Trust Fund **Name of Recipient Fund:**

List all direct project recipient organizations (starting with Convening Agency), followed type of organization (UN, CSO etc):
UNDP

List additional implementing partners, Governmental and non-Governmental:
Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR), World Health Organization (WHO) and Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils and the Northern Provincial administration (NPC) and Eastern Provincial administration (EPC), Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA)

Project commencement date[1]: 26/05/2017
Project duration in months:[2] 29 months

Does the project fall under one of the specific PBF priority windows below:
☐ Gender promotion initiative
☐ Youth promotion initiative
☒ Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions
☐ Cross-border or regional project

Total PBF approved project budget* (by recipient organization):
UNDP: $ US$ 1,150,000.00
    : $
    : $
    : $
Total: US$ 1,150,000.00
*The overall approved budget and the release of the second and any subsequent tranche are conditional and subject to PBSO's approval and subject to availability of funds in the PBF account

How many tranches have been received so far: All

Report preparation:
Project report prepared by: Krishna Vellupillai, UNDP
Project report approved by:
Did PBF Secretariat clear the report:
Any comments from PBF Secretariat on the report:

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[1] Note: commencement date will be the date of first funds transfer.
[2] Maximum project duration for IRF projects is 18 months, for PRF projects – 36 months.

Has the project undertaken any evaluation exercises? Please specify and attach: A final lessons learned exercise will be carried out in July 2018. In addition, lessons learned exercises were also undertaken in relation to two specific activities, namely the schools programme and the community dialogue initiative, (reports annexed).

PART 1: RESULTS PROGRESS

1.1   Overall project progress to date

Briefly explain the **status of the project** in terms of its implementation cycle, including whether all preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (1500 character limit):

> The project ended on 31.02.2018. Initially the project was to conclude on 31.08.17, however, UNDP received a 5-month No Cost Extension (NCE) to complete outstanding activities and re-programme balance funds that became available due to an inability to carry out certain activities that had been planned at the onset. During the NCE period, all re-programmed activities presented in the NCE request letter as alternatives, were completed.

Given the recent/current political/peacebuilding/ transition situation/ needs in the country, has the project been/ does it continue to be **relevant** and well placed to address potential conflict factors/ sources of tensions/ risks to country's sustaining peace progress? Please illustrate. If project is still ongoing, are any adjustments required? (1500 character limit)

> The project remained highly relevant during its entire implementation period and indeed many of its objectives and strategies continue to resonate. As such, follow-up activities have been designed under the PBF-PRF Reconciliation Project and the EU-Catalytic Support to Peacebuilding Project, to take forward some of the catalytic results achieved through this project. Several key government institutions have also taken forward/scaled-up initiatives undertaken through this project.

In a few sentences, summarize **what is unique/ innovative/ interesting** about what this project is trying/ has tried to achieve or its approach (rather than listing activity progress) (1500 character limit).

> The project provided the space to test several pilot interventions. Each of the models thus tested represented key innovations, particularly on the part of government institutions; and have since been/ or are in the process of being scaled up.
>
> Examples include:
>
> The creation of a pool of translators, who could be accessed online. The pilot, which was carried out in partnership with ONUR culminated in the launch of the Bashawa.lk website, which was eventually insitutionalised within the Official Languages Department.
>
> A community dialogue model using government frontline officers trained as facilitators was piloted. However, an evaluation, pointed out that a dialogue facilitated by government officials alone was more likely to leave out "difficult questions". A

scaled- up national-level version of this pilot is to be lauched by ONUR soon. While the curricula borrows heavily from the pilot, it also takes into account the evaluation's suggestion of ensuring a more diverse facilitator pool.

A multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, psychologists, community social workers, drama therapists and psychosocial researchers came together to develop 10 modules on strategically empowering communities to respond to community psychosocial needs. This programme named 'Manohari' was piloted in Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi with the participation of community leaders and community mental mental health professionals with support from the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS).

Considering the project's implementation cycle, please **rate this project's overall progress towards results to date**:
on track

In a few sentences summarize **major project peacebuilding progress/results** (with evidence), which PBSO can use in public communications to highlight the project (1500 character limit):
The project kick-started a number of key conversations that set the stage for the government to begin proactively engaging in peacebuilding. While, the political transition of 2015 provided the political space for this, there was a parallel need to mobilise support within key government instiutions to push for government-led initatives that address the root causes of conflict and promote peace. As such, the project provided incentive; coming forward with not only financial support for quick win-initiatives to provide a flavour for what was possible, but also to provide knowledge and testing grounds to engage in new ways, using new approaches and strategies that were results oriented.

Apart from the pilot models described above, the project also secured broad consensus for a participatory and consultative model of development planning, that also has a special focus on vulnerable communities and their needs. The district development plans that were developed through these processes, also consolidated data across sectors (agriculture, fisheries, health education, etc.) providing a holistic picture of the true needs of war affected communities and contributing indirectly to a more pro-poor national budget in 2017. The project also provided support to Provincial Councils in the North and East to improve systems and processes that would enhance revenue generation on the one hand, thereby ensuring greater autonomy, but also enhance efficiency in service delivery.

In a few sentences, explain how the project has made **real human impact**, that is, how did it affect the lives of any people in the country – where possible, use direct quotes that PBSO can use in public communications to highlight the project (1500 character limit):
Vulnerable communities were consulted during the development planning processes that took place in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, providing them with a voice to raise their needs and grievences.

In addition, the Manohari Community Based Violence Prevention Programme made a direct and real impact on its participants. While the prorgramme was initiated on a small scale under this project, the almost immediate impact that has to date been sustained by the communities in the areas it was tested, justified the scaling up that is currently been done thought the PBF-PRF Reconciloation Project.

"The anger is everywhere," says Nayaga Seelan Antonita, adding, "every person has it, but they don't realise what results it has.". Antonita is a mother of two, who lives with her husband and mother-in-law. The 44-year-old works at a Community Service Organization in Mullaitivu, and has an air of calm competence about her. It's hard to imagine there was a time when Antonita struggled with bursts of uncontrollable anger. It wasn't until she attended Manohari, a community-based violence prevention program, that she says she was able to identify her problem. By taking lessons from the course to her community, she found her own life transformed.

If the project progress assessment is **on-track**, please explain what the key **challenges** (if any) have been and which measures were taken to address them (1500 character limit).

> The project encountered a number of challenges that required it to adapt its activities over the course of implementation. Notwitshanding, some re-programming of funds was required, together with a NCE period, in order to fulfill broader project objectives.
>
> Details of key challenges encountered, together with ways in which the project responded are as follows:
>
> Capacity building on M&E for peacebuilding with ONUR did not take place despite the project having initially envisaged ONUR as eventually becoming the "watch dog" for reconciliation initiatives in the country. ONUR staff were unable to commit to the process despite numerous attempts on the part of UNDP to convene meetings and capacity building sessions on the subject. Subsequently, a partnership was achieved with the former Ministry of National Integration and Reconcilation (MNIR) and the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA) to take forward this area of work.
>
> Additionally, funds allocated for technical assistance to ONUR to develop the National Reconciliation Policy were not accessed as ONUR. Notwithstanding, ONUR was able to develop the policy on its own.
>
> The Northern Provincial administration took an executive decision not to produce a Provincial Development Plan. Therefore, a decision was taken to direct support to district development planning processes. However, to ensure continued provincial engagement, provincial sector agencies were engaged at the district level to provide inputs to the DDPs.

If the assessment is **off-track**, please list main reasons/ **challenges** and explain what impact this has had/will have on project duration or strategy and what **measures** have been taken/ will be taken to address the challenges/ rectify project progress (1500 character limit):
NA

Please attach as a separate document(s) any materials highlighting or providing more evidence for project progress (for example: publications, photos, videos, monitoring reports, evaluation reports etc.). List below what has been attached to the report, including purpose and audience.
Annex 1- Photographs and quotes
Annex 1 Report on the Inter-school, cross-cultural programme
Annex 3 Assessment report of the dialogue initiative

1.2   Result progress by project outcome

The space in the template allows for up to four project outcomes. If your project has more approved outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.

<u>**Outcome 1:**</u> Sri Lankan society with a well coordinated and coherent system to advance national unity and reconciliation among its people

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

Progress summary: *Describe main progress under this Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration), including major output progress (not all individual activities). If the project is starting to make/ has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context. Where possible, provide specific examples of change the project has supported/ contributed to as well as, where available and relevant, quotes from partners or beneficiaries about the project and their experience. (3000 character limit)?*

As noted above, activities carried out under this project contributed towards kickstarting national peacebuilding goals including designing and testing initatives to address affected communities' needs, and supporting to identify and mitigate conflict triggers. A number of these models have since been or are being scaled up, including primarily, through government led/financed programmes.

Key achievements include the following:

The institutionalisation of the bilingual resource pool, that culminated in the bashawa.lk website under the Department of National Languages. This is a valuable resource to ensure language rights of all Sri Lankans are upheld but also practical language challenges are also addressed.

ONUR has committed to a budgetary allocation to scale up the pilot dialogue initiative to a national level programme . UNDP carried out independent reviews of key activities carried out by ONUR, including the dialogue initiative with a view of documenting lessons learned. These reviews generated critical feedback and learning that proved invaluable in the design and implementation of initiatives thereafter. continuing dialogue initiatives are vital to improving trust and interaction between communities as well as their relationship with the State and this project was able to pvoide a model to test and review and scale up.

 The Mental Health Information Management System developed under the project, mapped existing mental health access points, including community outreach centres, into a digital platform using GIS. This will enable rational distribution of resources and services. Correlating the data against other decisive factors such as road access and population density also assisted in identifying ways to improve service delivery. The modules developed will be utilised as part of WHO's interventions under the PBF- PRB Reconcilidation project.

Support provided to the Northern and Eastern Provinces enabled the relevant departments and offices to carry out a participatory planning process, and strengthen capacity of staff to consider the needs of the people most affected by the conflict. This in turn contributes to a process of effective and unbiased delivery of services, one of the key drivers of peace.

Outcome 2:

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

Progress summary: *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

Outcome 3:

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: on track

Progress summary: *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

Outcome 4: NA

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Please select one

Progress summary: *(see guiding questions under Outcome 1)*

1.3   Cross-cutting issues

National ownership: How has the national government demonstrated ownership/ commitment to the project results and activities? Give specific examples. (1500 character limit)	All pilot initiatives carried out under this project have been institutionalised and or/scaled-up by government entities, using government funds. The development plans are government owned documents that will be used for planning and implementation of development initiatives in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. The former MNIR together with SLEvA initiated a national discussion on M&E for reconcilation through this project. A plan to instutionalise systems and instruments for tracking reconciliation iniatives and their results, was also being discussed; however, following dissolution of the MNIR, this conversation will need to be re-started with new stakeholders.
Monitoring: Is the project M&E plan on	M&E for this project was carried out by UNDP internal

track? What monitoring methods and sources of evidence are being/ have been used? Please attach any monitoring-related reports for the reporting period. *(1500 character limit)?*	M&E officers in collaboration with the partner institutions. Tools used have included, partner reports, direct consultations with participants/partners and feedback forms and review meetings. In addition, UNDP also commissioned external assessments of key pilot projects (reports attached) to serve as knowledge products of this project.
Evaluation: Provide an update on the preparations for the external evaluation for the project, especially if within last 6 months of implementation or final report. Confirm available budget for evaluation. *(1500 character limit)*	The evaluation for this project will take the form of a lessons learned exercise. It will also be coupled with the evaluation of IRF- Peacebuilding Secretariat Project. The TOR has been finalised will be advertised shortly. Following selection of the evaluators, the process is likely to take place in June- July, with the report estimated to be ready by the end of July.
Catalytic effects (financial): Did the project lead to any specific non-PBF funding commitments? If yes, from whom and how much? If not, have any specific attempts been made to attract additional financial contributions to the project and beyond? *(1500 character limit)*	Funding was secured from the EU as part of the EU-Catalytic Support to Peacebuilding Project (CSPB), to support development planning and Pronvicial Councils strengthening processes in 5 other provinces. Funding was also secured under the same project to support initiatives focusing on strengthening communications relating to reconciliation.
Catalytic effects (non-financial): Did the project create favourable conditions for additional peacebuilding activities by Government/ other donors? If yes, please specify. *(1500 character limit)*	This PBF IRF project was catalytic in a number of direct as well as indirect ways. Directly it provided an opportunity to engage the government on quick-win initiatives focusing on reconcilation and test new models and approaches of collaboration. Indirectly, through its close collaboration with ONUR, the project was also able to advocate for the National Reconciliation Policy, which ONUR produced on its own. Activities and results of this project are also being taken forward by government institutions, the UN (with support from PBF and the EU) as well as organisations such as GiZ through its EU- funded, Reconciliation project.
Exit strategy/ sustainability: What steps have been taken to prepare for end of project and help ensure sustainability of the project results beyond PBF support for this project? *(1500 character limit)*	The project ended in March 2018. All steps taken to ensure sustainability have borne considerable success as noted above, particularly in relation to government engagement and ownership.
Risk taking: Describe how the project has responded to risks that threatened the achievement of results. Identify any new risks that have emerged since the last report. *(1500 character limit)*	When the project was initially designed it was envisaged that ONUR would be supported with institutional capacity enhancement through the provision of strategic planning, technical support and M&E training. However, ONUR did not access this support. Instead, it requested support to design and implement quick-win and pilot initiatives. The

| | project needed to adapt to this while continuing to provide technical input and capacity enhancement informally.

Similarly, the project also had to adapt to the Northern Provincial Council's decision not to produce a Provincial Development Plan. Therefore, a decision was taken to direct support towards district development planning processes in three of the northern districts. However, to ensure continued provincial engagement, provincial sector agencies were engaged at the district level to provide inputs to the district development plans. |
|---|---|
| **Gender equality:** In the reporting period, which activities have taken place with a specific focus on addressing issues of gender equality or women's empowerment? *(1500 character limit)* | This project did not focus specifically on gender equality or empowerement issues; however, the impacts of a number of initiatives benefited women specifically. During the development planning data collection and validation processes, women and women's groups were specifically consulted. Furthermore, the Manohari programme described above also targeted predominantly women. |
| **Other:** Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500 character limit)* | |

1.3 INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT*: Using the **Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments**- provide an update on the achievement of **key indicators** at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation.* Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Outcome 1 Sri Lankan society with a well coordinated and coherent system to advance national unity and reconciliation among its people	Indicator 1.1 Level of trust and interaction across ethno-religious communities*	51% (trust) 21% (interaction)	Increased	The indicator on trust increased from 51% in 2014 to 63% in the 2016. This has further increased to 66% in 2017 as per the national peacebuilding perceptions survey.	Detailed breakdown of indicator Survey question: People of other ethnic-religious groups are just as trustworthy as those from my group Strongly Agree: 2014 = 15% 2016 = 21% 2017 =23% Somewhat Agree: 2014 = 36% 2016 =42% 2017 =43%	The indicator on interaction was not included in the 2016 perceptions survey. Therefore it was proposed to proceed by tracking the trust indicator
	Indicator 1.2 Percentage of people that strongly believe the country is making progress in reconciliation*	32%	Increased	57% belive the Government is doing a very good/good job with achieving reconciliation. (2017 natoinal	This indicator has dropped 8% points since 2016 (65%), which is a reflection of deep polorisation of ethno-religious communities.	

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
				peacebuilding perceptions survey)		
	Indicator 1.3					
Output 1.1 Key mechanisms and processes (elements of a roadmap) for national unity and reconciliation commenced under the guidance of ONUR	Indicator 1.1.1 Number of events in different districts where ONUR is working with District Administration and civil society to facilitate dialogue	0	Initiatives in 3 Districts (Anuradhapura, Jaffna, and Ratnapura)	Through this programme a pool of 23 (16M;7F) facilitators were created and trained. In turn, this pool conducted 226 awareness programmes and 21 community dialogue initiatives for a total of 6511 (2443M; 4068F) community members in the 3 targeted districts.	The number of facilitors continued to shift due to drops outs and some replacements. In the final pool of 23 facilitators, 17 are frontline government officers, 5 are religios leaders and 1 a community leader.	
	Indicator 1.1.2 Number of women and youth	0	Overall 100 men, women and young	Alcohol prevention programme;325	It is difficult to ascertain exactly how many persons accessed pyschosocial support through the project as much of	It is estimated however that more than 100

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
	accessing psychosocial support through the project		people in each of the Districts targeted by the Project (the gender and age disaggregated target to be determined following District level consultations)	M; 350 F from 208 families in Poothanvayal, Mullaitivu) Manohari Community based violence prevention programme; (55 participants) Mental Health Information Management System; Increased coordination among mental health stakeholders- training for 33 officers	the project's initiatives were designed to improve the structures and processes that are available to make access easier and of a better quality.	individuals from each districts would benefit from this project due to initiation of community based processes as well as enhancing access points for potential clients.
Output 1.2 Northern Provincial administration and Eastern	Indicator 1.2.1 Development plans formulated for the Northern Province and	No plan currently in place in the North, and the Eastern	Development Plan in place following a consultative process and	District Development Plans were formulated in the districts of Jaffna,	Initially the plan was to develop Provincial Plans for the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Following an executive decision by the Northern Provincial Council not to develop a plan,	…developed through the EU- Support to District Development Planning

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Provincial administrations enabled to produce strategic plans and strengthen revenue generation to support development activities that address the priorities of conflict affected people.	Eastern Province following a consultative process where women and youth engagement is prioitised	Plan runs from 2012-2016	including attention to the needs of vulnerable groups (i.e. women and youth)	Kilinochchi, Mullaithivu and Trincomalee districts. The planning process has improved coordination between district and provincial entities; community members including youth and women participated in DDP development procces	the project decided to supoort district development plans instead. The Eastern Provincial Plan was subsequently…	Programme, which has already supported the development of the Batticaloa disitrct plan.
	Indicator 1.2.2 Number of staff trained in skills including planning, monitoring, budgeting and reporting	ad-hoc training provided to staff	At least 1 training in planning, monitoring, budgeting and reporting conducted for identified staff in the	A total of 648 planning officers were trained on Results Based Management (inclusive of planning monitoring, budgeting and		

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
			North	reporting skills)		
Output 1.3	Indicator 1.3.1					
	Indicator 1.3.2					
Outcome 2	Indicator 2.1					
	Indicator 2.2					
	Indicator 2.3					
Output 2.1	Indicator 2.1.1					
	Indicator 2.1.2					
Output 2.2	Indicator 2.2.1	0				
	Indicator 2.2.2	0				
Output 2.3	Indicator 2.3.1					
	Indicator 2.3.2	0				

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Outcome 3	Indicator 3.1					
	Indicator 3.2	0				
	Indicator 3.3					
Output 3.1	Indicator 3.1.1	0				
	Indicator 3.1.2	0				
Output 3.2	Indicator 3.2.1					
	Indicator 3.2.2					
Output 3.3	Indicator 3.3.1					
	Indicator 3.3.2					
Outcome 4	Indicator 4.1					
	Indicator 4.2					
	Indicator 4.3					

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)	Adjustment of target (if any)
Output 4.1	Indicator 4.1.1					
	Indicator 4.1.2					
Output 4.2	Indicator 4.2.1					
	Indicator 4.2.2					
Output 4.3	Indicator 4.3.1					
	Indicator 4.3.2					

PART 2: INDICATIVE PROJECT FINANCIAL PROGRESS

2.1 Comments on the overall state of financial expenditures

Please rate whether project financial expenditures are on track, delayed, or off track, vis-à-vis project plans and by recipient organization: *on track*

How many project budget tranches have been received to date and what is the overall level of expenditure against the total budget and against the tranche(s) received so far (500 characters limit): All tranches have been received and there is 100% utilisation.

When do you expect to seek the next tranche, if any tranches are outstanding: N/A

If expenditure is delayed or off track, please provide a brief explanation (500 characters limit): N/A

Please state what $ amount was planned (in the project document) to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment and how much has been actually allocated to date: An explicit allocation for gender empowerment was not made under this project. All activities however, engaged women.

Please fill out and attach Annex A on project financial progress **with detail on expenditures/ commitments to date using the original project budget table in Excel**, even though the $ amounts are indicative only.