

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**  
**COUNTRY:** Sri Lanka  
**TYPE OF REPORT:** ANNUAL  
**YEAR OF REPORT:** 2020



<b>Project Title:</b> Promoting the Participation of Youth and Women in the Peacebuilding Process											
<b>Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:</b> PRF 00105731											
<b>If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund  <b>Name of Recipient Fund:</b>	<b>Type and name of recipient organizations:</b>  <b>RUNO UNFPA (Convening Agency)</b> <b>RUNO UNV</b> <b>RUNO UN WOMEN</b>										
<b>Date of first transfer:</b> 26 May 2017 <b>Project end date:</b> 30 September 2020 <b>Is the current project end date within 6 months?</b> Project completed on 30 September 2020											
<b>Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project											
<b>Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):</b> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Recipient Organization</b></th> <th><b>Amount</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UNFPA</td> <td>\$ 410,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNV</td> <td>\$ 300,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UN WOMEN</td> <td>\$ 500,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="right" colspan="2">Total: \$ 1,210,000.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 97%  *ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE*</p>		<b>Recipient Organization</b>	<b>Amount</b>	UNFPA	\$ 410,000.00	UNV	\$ 300,000.00	UN WOMEN	\$ 500,000.00	Total: \$ 1,210,000.00	
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<b>Gender-responsive Budgeting:</b>  Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: \$500,000.00 Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women’s empowerment: \$591,950.24											
<b>Project Gender Marker:</b> GM3 <b>Project Risk Marker:</b> Choose an item. <b>Project PBF focus area:</b> 2.2 Democratic Governance											

**Report preparation:**

Project report prepared by: Poorani Radhakrishnan (UNFPA), Sam Stembo (UNV) and Prashani Dias (UN WOMEN)

Project report approved by: Ritsu Nacken, Representative (UNFPA), Sharmalee Jayasinghe, Country Coordinator (UNV), Ramaaya Salgado, Country Focal Point (UN Women)

Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes

## **PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS**

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500 character limit):

The project concluded implementation on 30 September 2020, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project has achieved 99% delivery, based on current estimates. Operational closure is ongoing. All project activities have been completed however, delays were faced due to Government imposed lockdown measures (curfew, restrictions on gatherings, suspension of events and implementation of work from home modality) enforced in March. Activities planned for Q1 were postponed to Q2 & Q3 with changes to delivery method (virtual consultations, teleconferencing etc.) based on the country's political and COVID context. The end of project evaluation commenced in August 2020 and will conclude in November. Adapting to the current situation, the evaluation employed remote data collection methods and field visits, in-person interviews etc. where possible.

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000 character limit):

N/A. The project evaluation will conclude in end November 2020, which will be followed by operational closure and final reporting.

**FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION:** summarize **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500 character limit):

Outcome 1: The project has enhanced capacity of youth-led/focused organizations to better engage young people in peacebuilding initiatives through the localization of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security. Through the establishment of the steering committees and consultations at the Provincial level, the project has enabled youth to positively engage with key Government stakeholders, provide their perspectives and contribute to the development of youth policies and initiatives at the sub-national level. Further, through the establishment of the Youth Peace Panel the project has helped young people to build their confidence, enhance their collective power and enabled them to contribute to peacebuilding initiatives.

Outcome 2: The Multi-Party Dialogues (MPDs) were the first of its kind to be conducted to build consensus across political parties on issues such as on community development, environment protection and combatting drug/alcohol abuse at the local level. They were well-received and the ongoing capacity building and follow-up assessments indicate that there has been a high level of engagement by local councillors following the MPDs: this includes establishment of women's committees within councils, collaboration across parties & communities on various issues such as drug abuse, waste management. and replicating good practices like village town halls; and strengthened collaboration between councillors and public officials.

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project's positive effect on the people's lives. Include

direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000 character limit):

*“Being a member in the Youth Peace Panel is recognition, encouragement and mentorship for youth peace advocates and peacebuilders in Sri Lanka. From the workshops conducted for the YPP members, we have got a thorough understanding on how to develop an advocacy project that can make meaningful change in the society. At present, the workshops have been an investment for the YPP members to develop their empathetic understanding, knowledge and skills, but in the very near future, it will also reap the benefits for the entire Sri Lankan Youth community as our advocacy projects have the potential to create change and root structural and cultural injustice, which we can be seen in the present context.” – Janith Prabashwara Perera, YPP member*

*“We have 3 female members in our local council, yet I hadn’t thought to engage with them, the custom is for men and women to work separately. I was able to create close connections with everyone present at the MPD; through this platform provided by UN Women, I’ve embarked on many projects. Together we were able to move forward and tackle issues systematically. We helped the welfare society and allocated ministerial grant monies to scholarships urgently needed. We offered stationery & equipment to the educational department. We honoured religious places and set up meetings to discuss our future projects in this area.” – Male councillor, Galle*

*“The benefit from working on a project like this goes beyond fighting cancer. We learn to fight as one Sri Lanka and have no differences dividing us.” - The winner of V-Award 2018, volunteering for peacebuilding.*

## **PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME**

**Outcome 1: Youth are actively and positively engaged in the peacebuilding process so that their voices are reflected in key policy and decision-making processes and outcomes at the national and sub-national levels**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:** Completed

**Progress summary:** (3000 character limit)

There is increased awareness among young people about the important and positive role they play in maintaining and promoting peace. They have an increased understanding of identity, diversity, conflict, peace and sustainable development goals; enhanced communication, conflict analysis, advocacy and leadership skills; increased self-confidence and are able to understand the perspective of diverse people. Youth leaders engaged in designing and implementing interventions to bring positive change and build peace in their communities. They are working at the local and national level to address issues related to youth and peacebuilding.

Youth leaders mobilized and brought together young people from Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim communities to create open dialogues on youth and peacebuilding issues. Such dialogues promoted stronger social cohesion within communities. The Youth Peace Panel (YPP) comprising 30 young people engaged with peers and stakeholder to gather views and data to advocate for policy changes to promote peace and youth participation. The initiatives focused on advocating for (1) reimplementation of the youth quota to ensure youth representation in

governance (2) a social media policy to address fake news and hate speech, and (3) change in school curriculum to promote social cohesion. The YPP received training on advocacy and design thinking process and applied the new knowledge and skills in designing and implementing the initiatives. The YPP members will continue their advocacy initiatives post project completion.

These youth-led initiatives will contribute to creating greater visibility for young people's concerns, enable them to actively engage in the peacebuilding process, participate in policy and governance structures, and engage with and influence decision-makers on youth and peacebuilding issues.

Engagement with the Provincial Youth ministries for the drafting of policies and action plans has enabled them to incorporate youth perspectives in their activities. They are also positive towards the approval and implementation of the plans by relevant authorities.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:**

*(1000 character limit)*

Women's participation has been ensured in all project activities in order to promote young women as leaders. For instance, 55% of the participants who attended training for youth leaders were females. Further, there was a gender balance in the trainers as well, including specific sessions dedicated to women's empowerment in youth, peace and security.

**Outcome 2: State decision-making processes are more equitable and inclusive to enable women's meaningful participation and leadership in governance and peacebuilding.**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:** Completed

**Progress summary:** *(3000 character limit)*

There is increased capacity among women local councillors on governance & peacebuilding and increased awareness and capacities among national & subnational institutions on ensuring gender-responsive policies/plans. They are better able to analyse problems from a gender perspective, develop gender-sensitive policies and have increased confidence to engage within council debates and submit council proposals.

The opportunity for frank discussion and focus on collaboration resulted in impact beyond the local level. Initial results indicate that women councillors have increasingly engaged within their councils, having strengthened relationships across parties, across councils – including male councillors, public officials and civil society – compared to little to no engagement previously. This has led to better collaboration as seen by an initiative by male and female councillors from opposing parties to focus on environmental concerns across councils in Galle district, replication of good practices such as the 'village townhalls' by other local councils of Kurunegala, and formation of 'Women's Committees' within local councils based on joint proposals put forward by councillors. Such collaboration promotes inclusive decision-making, better community development, and stronger social cohesion within communities, as revealed by the 10 capacity building programmes and follow-up assessments conducted in January and February 2020.

These are results from the MPDs which convened councillors to build cross-party consensus to facilitate peacebuilding at the local level. It covered 16 districts convening 300+

representatives from 208 (of 341) local councils and 29 political parties. It led to a stronger sense of understanding/kinship, irrespective of party lines, given the common problems affecting each district and the common challenges women councillors faced.

Follow-up assessments planned for March 2020 were delayed due to COVID-19 lockdown measures. Feedback forms indicate an increase in knowledge, confidence and skills of female local councillors, and building of multi-stakeholder networks, which has enabled positive, sustainable changes within local councils. The remaining 5 follow-up assessments were conducted remotely in August 2020 via teleconferencing. With the completion of the project evaluation, an overall analysis will be available to gauge full impact of Outcome 2.

**Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:**

*(1000 character limit)*

In several MPDs and subsequent programmes, young people who are current contributors to local level governance or displaying interest in this area were invited to participate - this included local councillors, members of the Sri Lanka Youth Parliament, CSO activists, and officials such as those working with the National Youth Services Council at the district level.

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

<p><b>Monitoring:</b> Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)</p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? <i>Yes</i></p> <p>Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? <i>Yes</i></p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation tools have been developed to measure the impact of different activities. Pre- and post-evaluations were conducted for training and dialogues during the reporting period.</p>						
<p><b>Evaluation:</b> Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? No</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required): 36,900.00</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations <i>(1500-character limit)</i>: The evaluation was commissioned in August 2020. The evaluation team conducted field visits, FGDs and interviews with project beneficiaries, UN agencies and partners in August and September. Owing to some delays due to lockdowns imposed by the ‘second wave’ of COVID-19 in October, the report will be finalised by end November.</p>						
<p><b>Catalytic effects (financial):</b> Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Name of funder:</td> <td>Amount:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Govt. of Japan</td> <td>\$ 40,000 for the MPDs (conducted by this project)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Govt. of UK*</td> <td>\$120,000.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>*UNFPA received funding from the Government of the United Kingdom through the Joint Programme for Peace</p>	Name of funder:	Amount:	Govt. of Japan	\$ 40,000 for the MPDs (conducted by this project)	Govt. of UK*	\$120,000.00
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	(JPP) for building the work done through the PBF supported project.
<p><b>Other:</b> Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>The Presidential Elections in November 2019 brought in myriad changes, including the withdrawal in February 2020 from UNHRC Resolution 30/1 and others adopted after 2015. This has had limited impact on the work undertaken under the project given the strong relationships that have already been established.</p> <p>The most significant risk during this reporting period is the impact of COVID-19 on project activities. The lockdown measures have delayed implementation of planned activities. However, the project adjusted to these circumstances and explored virtual methods of engagement. For Outcome 1, the training for YPP was delivered online and the development of youth action plan for the Eastern province was conducted through telephone consultations and other means. For Outcome 2, the remaining 5 follow-up assessments were undertaken via teleconferencing rather than physical meetings to ensure participants' safety while targeting project completion.</p>

**PART IV: COVID-19**

*Please respond to these questions if the project underwent any monetary or non-monetary adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

- 1) Monetary adjustments: Please indicate the total amount in USD of adjustments due to COVID-19:

\$

- 2) Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications:

Delivery of F2F activities were changed to online due to COVID restrictions on conducting events. This did not have a large financial implication as the only change in terms of budget was the cost of venue. The saving was used for providing additional workdays for consultants to develop online course materials and conduct sessions remotely and to cover personnel cost of implementing partners for the additional month of implementation.

- 3) Please select all categories which describe the adjustments made to the project (*and include details in general sections of this report*):

Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications

- Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery
- Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management
- Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma
  
- Support the SG's call for a global ceasefire
- Other (please describe):

Majority of the activities were completed by 2019 with very few activities remaining to be completed in 2020. Therefore, the pending activities were completed and substantive adjustments were not made to re-programme in order to respond to the pandemic other than changing the modality of meetings and consultations, described above.

If relevant, please share a COVID-19 success story of this project (*i.e. how adjustments of this project made a difference and contributed to a positive response to the pandemic/prevented tensions or violence related to the pandemic etc.*)

Not applicable.

**PART V: 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)*

	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>End of project Indicator Target</b>	<b>Indicator Milestone</b>	<b>Current indicator progress</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)</b>
<b>Outcome 1</b> Youth are actively and positively engaged in the peacebuilding process so that their voices are reflected in key policy and decision making processes and outcomes at the national and sub-national levels.	Indicator 1.1 % of youth engaged in peacebuilding process who feel that they have been able to positively contribute	0	40%		UNV conducted a survey amongst NYSC members. 66% of survey respondents felt that they have positively contributed.	
	Indicator 1.2 % of youth population who feel the peacebuilding process is inclusive and responsive, disaggregated by sex	n/a	20%		UNV conducted a survey amongst NYSC members. 46% of survey respondents felt that the peacebuilding process is inclusive and responsive.	
	Indicator 1.3 # of national and sub-national policies and recommendations on peace and reconciliation consulted with young people	0	4		Youth were engaged in consultation for the development of provincial youth policies and action plans in the 4 provinces. YPP members have implemented 3 advocacy projects to advocate for policy changes.	COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures delayed engagement with stakeholders in Eastern province and implementation of advocacy projects.

Output 1.1 Increased capacity of youth-led and youthfocused organizations to engage in peacebuilding processes/inc luding UNSC Resolution 2250	Indicator 1.1.1 Number of youthled and youthfocused organizations supported to increase young people engagement in peacebuilding through dialogue, awareness raising and knowledge exchange	0	5		Target met - 5 UN National Volunteers placed to mainstream UNSCR2250 at CSOs and NYSC.	
	Indicator 1.1.2 # local youth consulted for policy priority setting disaggregated by gender, geographical location, population group	150	500		Target met - reached 500+ youth from the 4 targeted locations.	
	Indicator 1.1.3 [%] of Youth representation within subnational level institutions and/or processes.	0%	20%		Target met: Provincial level steering committees in the Central, Southern, Northern provinces include representation of youth	COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures delayed engagement with stakeholders in Eastern province.
	Indicator 1.1.4 % of youth that perceives or report volunteering having a positive contribution on peacebuilding	n/a	70%		Target met - 71% of survey respondents reported that volunteering has a positive contribution to peacebuilding	
Output 1.2 Increased capacity of national, provincial and subnational level institutions to engage youth	Indicator 1.2.1 Amount of budget secured within key institutions (specify which institutions) at central, provincial and district level in targeted locations dedicated to youth.	2016 budget: North – 2mn East – 1mn South – 5mn	North – 2.5mn East – 1.25mn South – 6.25mn Central – 27.5mn		Not met: Youth policies and action plans have been drafted for 4 provinces. Approval to operationalize the draft was not achieved.	COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures delayed engagement with stakeholders in Eastern province. Changes in the political environment, absence of functioning provincial councils caused difficulties in

in peacebuilding and linkages are created for policymaking and programming		Central – 22mn				developing the budgets for action plans and subsequent inclusion in the national budget.
	Indicator 1.2.2 National Youth Peace Panel established and operational.	0	1		Target met: Multi-stakeholder consultation completed and Terms of Reference for YPP was developed. 30 member YPP panel has been established. Capacity building programme comprising 3 training courses has been completed.	The final capacity building programme was planned for March. However, it was conducted in June due to COVID-19 situation.
	Indicator 1.2.3 # of policies that are formally considered by the National Youth Peace Panel.	n/a	2		Target met: YPP have implemented 3 advocacy projects with the aim to influence policy changes.	COVID-19 lockdown measures delayed progress on implementation of advocacy projects.
<b>Outcome 2</b> State decision-making processes are more equitable and inclusive to enable women’s meaningful participation and leadership in governance and peacebuilding.	Indicator 2.1 Number of cross-party initiatives conducted by local authorities to enhance women’s leadership/governance.	0	5	Yearly targets established and revised in line with internal plan.	Target met – The MPDs covered 16 districts convening 300+ representatives from 208 (of 341) local councils & 29 political parties.  10 capacity building and follow-up assessments were completed in January and February 2020. 5 follow-up assessments were conducted virtually in August/September 2020.	As noted earlier, this indicator, baseline and target have been revised to note shift in strategy (detailed in 2019).
	Indicator 2.2 Number of gender-responsive local plans developed	0	4		Target met – Five action plans developed at provincial level for Southern Province; Northern and Eastern	As noted earlier, this indicator has been revised to note shift in strategy.

					Provinces; North Western; and Central Provinces). Local level plans developed through MPD capacity building programme (completed for Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Matale and Galle).	
	Indicator 2.3 # of times women politicians and women's groups in targeted communities come together to discuss common community positions.	0	8		Target met – 10 MPDs have been completed in 5 Provinces / 16 districts. Attendees convened again for the capacity building and follow-up assessments in January and February 2020. 5 follow-up assessments were conducted virtually in August/September 2020.	The remaining 5 follow-up assessments planned for March 2020 have been postponed following the island-wide curfew imposed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus epidemic.
Output 2.1 Increased capacity among select women political candidates and local leaders (women and men) to promote engagement of women in governance and peacebuilding processes.	Indicator 2.1.1 % of targeted women leaders who are aware of key information related to governance and peacebuilding processes and procedures.	0	At least 50% of targeted women leaders		To be assessed based on final evaluation. Capacity building on gender-sensitive policy making conducted for all 5 Provinces.	
	Indicator 2.1.2 Number of those trained who are able to cite at least one example of applying the training in their work by three months after training.	0	At least 50% of trained people.		To be assessed based on final evaluation. 7-day course on leadership and social change with a focus on peacebuilding completed.	

Output 2.2 Increased capacity of national and sub-national institutions, including political parties, to ensure policies, plans, and budgets are gender-responsive.	Indicator 2.2.1 Number of municipalities capacitated on collective leadership at the local level.	0	5		Completed. 10 Capacity Building Programmes (subsequent to the MPDs) were conducted in 2019 and Jan/Feb 2020. The MPDs convened elected officials from local authorities across 16 districts, approx. 208 of 341 local authorities in Sri Lanka (i.e. approx 61%)	As noted earlier, this indicator, baseline and target have been revised to note shift in strategy.
	Indicator 2.2.2 % of people who believe that presence of women in leadership positions leads to improved policy-making.	N/A	At least 75% of those trained.		To be assessed from final evaluation and analysis of feedback from participants. Forum on reforms within political institutions completed. Forums with political parties on increasing women's representation within parties completed in all 5 Provinces.	Target has now been defined from "TBD" to "At least 75% of those trained".
Output 2.3 Women leaders promote increased civic engagement on issues related to governance, reconciliation and TJ.	Indicator 2.3.1 Number of women leaders at national, provincial and local level in target locations who use social media platforms to engage with the public.	0	25		Complete. Additional training for 39 women officials in Ampara and Galle districts was provided on basic computer literacy and use of social media.	
	Indicator 2.3.2 Number of social media advocacy campaigns designed and supported.	1	4		Completed. ● 1 trilingual video disseminated on women's peace activism: viewed 140,096 times & reached 190,478 people.	

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 trilingual month-long advocacy campaign “30 Days of Sri Lankan Feminism” conducted: 28,181 Twitter impressions &amp; reached 23,091 people on Facebook (at Nov 2019)</li> <li>● 1 (offline) billboard campaign on peace &amp; coexistence displayed in Jaffna &amp; Kurunegala in June 2019.</li> <li>● 1 video discussion series on Women and Co-existence, titled #OurLivedRealities: reached 360,615 people and had 27,710 online engagements (as at Feb 2020).</li> </ul>	
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