



**MAPPING STUDY OF WOMEN'S SELF-
HELP GROUPS IN ANURADHAPURA,
KILINOCHCHI AND KURUNEGALA,
SRI LANKA**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This mapping exercise aims to understand women's experiences with self-help groups in three districts in Sri Lanka, namely, Anuradhapura, Kilinochchi, and Kurunegala to identify potential areas of engagement in the future. It identifies with the strong presence of women's rights activism in the country. The key findings of the mapping exercise help to understand the issues faced by women heads of households. It provides elaborative personal narratives of women to substantiate the claim that gender-based discriminations significantly hinder every aspect of women's lives. The women from Anuradhapura highlight issues faced by women widowed by the death of their military husbands. The women from Kilinochchi speak of socio-cultural and economic challenges of women heads of households who have either lost their husbands in the war or through enforced disappearances. The women from Kurunegala share that the widows of military husbands continue to be mistreated by society. Most women speak of sexual exploitation, including sexual bribery. The women emphasise the fact that women are a significant part of society. Hence, the lack of development and underdevelopment of women certainly takes a toll on the overall wellbeing of society. The experiences of women indicate that there is a need for regularising intervention programmes that aim to support women heads of households from a women's rights-based perspective. The self-help groups can be an effective platform to promote women empowerment. Based on the insights drawn from the voices of women, the exercise makes several recommendations that can positively influence the formation, functions, and values of women self-help groups in the selected districts.

Keywords: Post-war Sri Lanka, Women's Groups, Self-help Groups, Intervention Programmes, and Women Heads of Households.

MAP OF SRI LANKA



INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (the CEDAW Convention, 1979¹) provides a framework on how to assess the real situation of women who experience intersectional discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status, age, and religion. Sri Lanka ratified CEDAW in 1981.

Gender-based discrimination against women in Sri Lanka is multifaceted and closely connected to the violent history of the three decades long war that ended in May 2009. In reality, the majority of people, who had been directly affected by the war in terms of loss of loved ones, loss of property, livelihoods and everyday lives, are distressed by the assumed ‘state of peace’ (Maatram Foundation, 2015). The conflict between ethnic groups still exists. The precariousness of everyday lives, even in the context of post-war, plays a significant role in the lives of people across the country. For instance, violence within and between communities, especially violence against women and girls, lack of access to infrastructural benefits, limited and/or no access to land that one owns or has cared for an extended period of time (mostly during the time of war), lack of job opportunities, and the consequences of accumulated trauma and unaddressed psychosocial problems. Since 2009, Sri Lanka has also been affected by communal tensions triggered by religious extremists. While this mapping exercise was being carried out, a series of brutal blasts killed hundreds of lives in different parts of the country. Since then, there have been attacks on the Muslim community in some parts of the country, including Kurunegala². The country is once again in a state of emergency.

Gender-based discrimination often intersect with the dynamics of such ongoing violence based on ethnicity and religion. Subsequently, the history of women’s rights activism has also remained dynamic to be able to address emerging issues that discriminate women in various contexts. For instance, women’s involvement in labour movements, land resolution, against ethnic divisions, anti-militarisation efforts, peacebuilding movements, and against violence against women (Abeysekera, 1999; de Alwis, 1997; de Mel, 2007; Kodikara, 2012; Jayawardena, 1986). In

¹ <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

² <https://groundviews.org/2019/04/22/easter-sunday-attacks-key-updates/>
<https://himalmag.com/easter-sunday-blasts-sri-lanka-april-2019-tisarancee-gunasekara/>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/04/28/opinions/sri-lanka-attack-threatens-fragile-peace-ananda-jegathesan>
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/apr/23/sri-lanka-violence-minorities-christians-muslims>
<https://ices.lk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/The-Chronic-and-the-Entrenched-Mr.-Gihan-Book-FINAL-WEB-PDF.pdf>
https://www.academia.edu/37434371/The_Constitutional_Practice_of_Ethno-Religious_Violence_in_Sri_Lanka
<https://www.cpalanka.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Dynamics-of-Sinhala-Buddhist-Ethno-Nationalism-in-Post-War-Sri-Lanka.pdf>
<http://www.ft.lk/article/617872/Religious-violence-in-Sri-Lanka:-A-new-perspective-on-an-old-problem>
<http://thepicturepress.org/intolerance-and-islamaphobia-in-post-war-sri-lanka/>

this context, women mobilising in groups to show their resilience and strength has been an essential element in the history of women's rights work in Sri Lanka (de Alwis, 1997; Samuel, 2006). It is a strategy started by women's movements and later expanded by governmental and non-governmental organisations, for example, saving groups started by livelihood programmes and Women's Rural Development Societies.

This mapping exercise is the first activity of a long-term, multifaceted intervention project for women heads of households, including women deserted and widowed by their military husbands, women with disabled husbands, and women who lost their husbands in the war or with missing husbands due to political and socio-cultural turmoil of the war-torn country. The intervention proposes to engage with women in groups that identify as self-help groups (SHGs). The current mapping exercise indicates that gathering in small or large groups is not a new concept to women.

The findings of the mapping exercise provide insights on the relevance of women's groups (as the term self-help group is not in the everyday vocabulary) and issues that women like to highlight. Moreover, it also provides a broader view on how women's groups can be improved in the future to be better advocates for themselves as well as women from their communities.

A few recurring concerns shared by the women residing in certain Grama Niladhari (village officer) divisions of Anuradhapura, Kilinochchi, and Kurunegala districts in Sri Lanka include lack of access to livelihood activities, protection issues, the social stigmatisation of single womanhood and widowhood, and the need for women's organising in small groups to work towards their wellbeing. It was noted that the primary reason that motivates most women to come together in small groups was to find a livelihood opportunity. Initially, they said that they came with the hope of obtaining some livelihood assistance. However, when probed to reflect on their everyday experiences related to enhancing the overall wellbeing of themselves and their families, the women elaborated their realities beyond the apparent financial struggles. They also elaborated on the need to mobilise in diverse small groups to be empowered.

The mapping exercise suggests an evolving approach to SHGs where questions such as - i) what are the socio-political, cultural, and economic factors affecting the lives of women heads of households, ii) how do SHGs assist women to manage these factors and ensure their wellbeing, and iii) what are the methodological challenges within the model of SHGs and how can these be addressed without losing the aim to promote women's empowerment – must be continually addressed and approached with a critical gender-sensitive perspective to ensure positive changes in the lives of women heads of households, their families, and communities at large.

METHODOLOGY

The mapping exercise aims to identify women’s SHGs and collectives in certain villages of Anuradhapura, Kilinochchi, and Kurunegala districts of Sri Lanka. It also sought to identify gaps both in terms of issues and geographical locations. This exercise helped to explore the need for new SHGs and future collaborations in particular contexts.

Based on insights from a desk review and a few initial discussions with staff of partner organisations of the Centre for Equality and Justice (CEJ), the method of data collection primarily applied qualitative methods such as individual interviews and focused group discussions (FGDs). The guiding questions mainly focused on the formation, functions, and issues addressed by SHGs and collectives. They also attempted to understand the nature of women’s involvement in such groups and collectives and their purposes along with strategies, if any, identified by women.

District	DS Divisions Covered	Number of Interviews Conducted	Number of Focused Group Discussions Conducted
Anuradhapura	Kekirawa, Vilachchiya, Kebitigolawa, and Anuradhapura Town	9	5
Kilinochchi	Karachchi, Poonakary, Pachchilaippalli,	6	9
Kurunegala	Ibbagamuwa, Mawathagama, Polgahawela, Rideegama, Maho, and Wariyapola	8	3
Total		23	17

The number of participants in a focused group discussion varied between 10 and 15 with a few exceptions. The CEJ partner organisation in each district selected the participants from a number of Grama Niladhari (village officer) divisions. All participants were women from different socio-economic backgrounds. The youngest participants were in their early twenties and the oldest were in their late sixties. A majority of them were married women with children, except a few. Some have support from their extended families. Most do not. The category of female heads of households include those separated from their husbands, missing husbands, deserted by their husbands, divorced, widows, and women living with husbands who are unable to generate an income due to their disability. ***In the context of this report, the term ‘women heads of households’ represent these categories.*** One or two staff members of the partner organisation were present at almost all interviews and FGDs. It helped to create rapport with the participants that will be helpful for future interventions that emerge from this mapping exercise.

The mapping exercise was conducted in Sinhala and Tamil. There was an interpreter involved to facilitate the fieldwork in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala as the researcher's knowledge of Sinhala language was limited. A brief explanation of the purpose of this exercise was given at the beginning of each interview and FGD by the CEJ partner staff member in each location. The partner organisations decided the venue and time of each discussion in consultation with the participants and the researcher. Building a rapport with most participants was not a challenge as most of them had known the partner staff for a while. The participants were not treated as passive objects of this exercise. They were treated as autonomous subjects with preferences to share their viewpoints or not. The word choice of the researcher was carefully selected not to imply any prejudices in terms of social, cultural, economic, sexual, and political backgrounds. No judgement was shared or expressed. Confidentiality was assured to all participants. Their real names have been changed.

The researcher ensured that the research space was open to all kinds of voices to be heard. There was no space for hierarchies of any form to dominate one voice over the other. The voices of the participants were also not limited by existing theoretical frameworks on women's SHGs. Shaping women's voices according to theoretical frameworks can be a limitation. For that reason, this report does not manipulate what was shared by the participants to support a concept or a theory. It accommodates a few studies to emphasise the claims made by the participants. The content of this report relies on context-specific fieldwork conducted in certain parts of Sri Lanka. No generalisations can be justified. The translations in English attempts to keep the depth of meanings and feelings as expressed in Sinhala and Tamil. Hence, the translations might not be grammatically adequate in English.

INSIGHTS ON EXISTING WOMEN’S SELF-HELP GROUPS

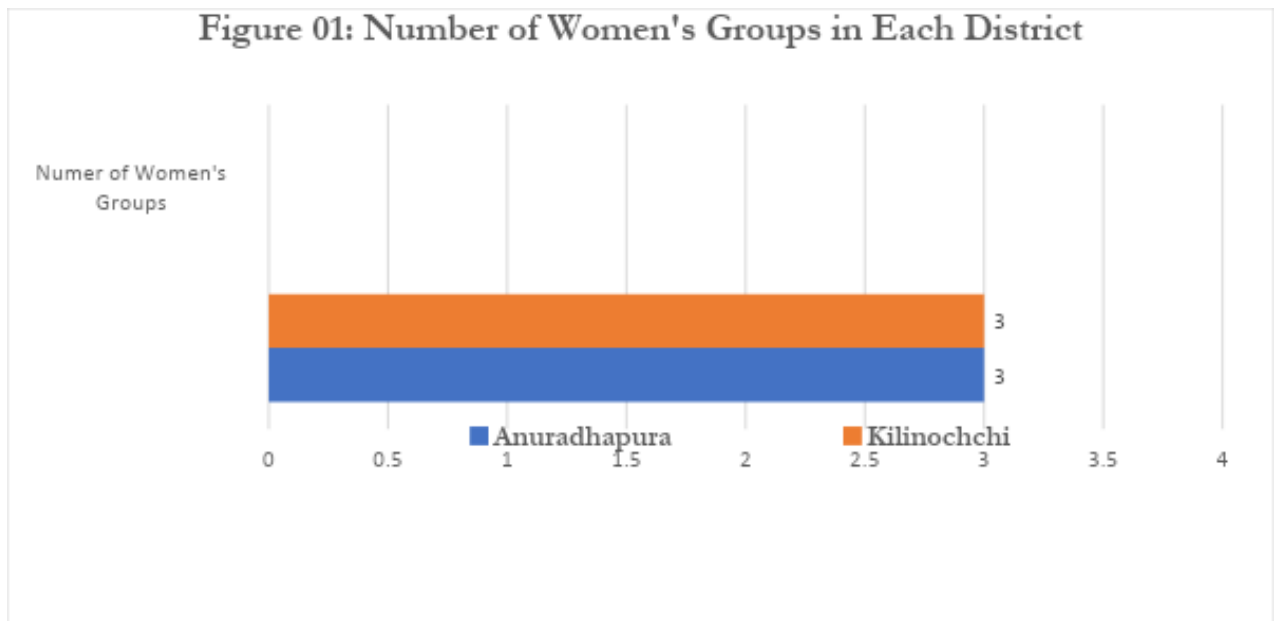
An Overview of Existing Groups

This section provides an overview of groups that women who participated in the mapping exercise represent. The data has been segregated by geographical locations and associated CEJ partner organisations. Table 02 provides the names and an approximate number of members of each group that exist in areas where CEJ partner organisations work in the three districts. It also shows the groups that have only women.

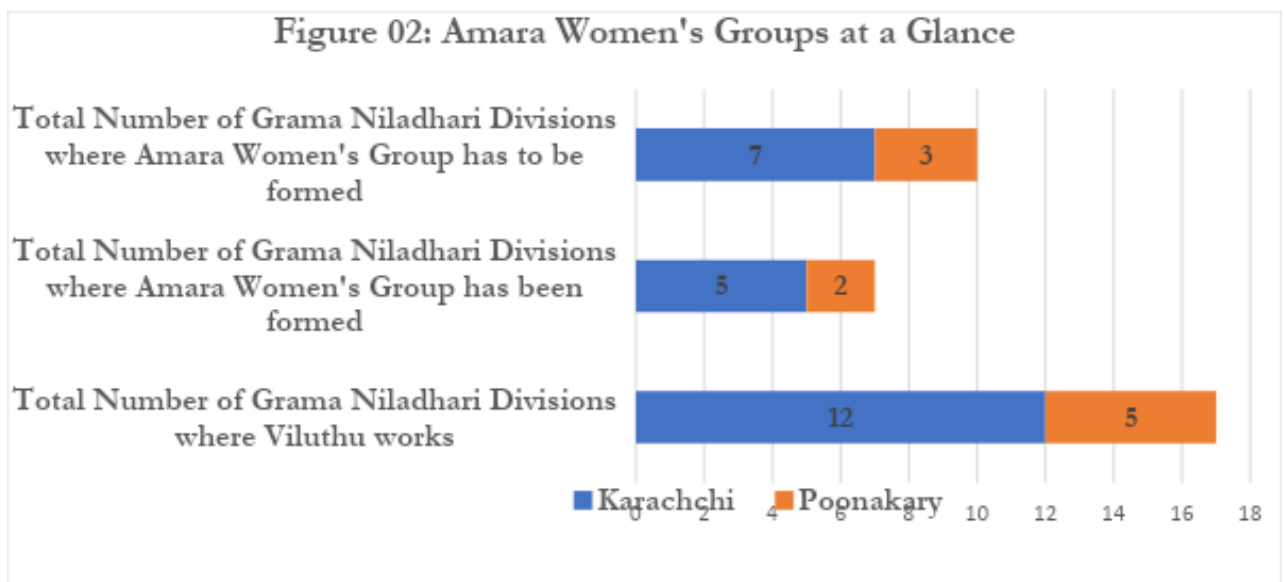
Names of the District	Names of the Partner Organisation	Name of Existing Groups	Is it a Women’s Group?	Total Number of Groups
Anuradhapura	Rajarata Praja Kendraya (RPK)	Ranaviru Sewa Authority	No	5
		Women's Group	Yes	2
		Women's Community Based Organisation	Yes	1
		Funeral Society	No	1
		The Network of Community Leaders	Yes	1
		Samurdhi	No	1
Kilinochchi	Jaffna Social Action Centre (JSAC), Viluthu Centre for Human Resource Development	Sirakukal Women's Group	Yes	16
		Samurdhi Group	No	18
		Women's Rural Development Society	Yes	24
		Amara Women's Group	Yes	10
Kurunegala	Women's Resource Centre	Ranaviru Sewa Authority	No	5

Out of the groups that participated in the mapping exercise, there are six types of groups in Anuradhapura, out of which three are women’s groups. In other words, 50% of existing groups in Anuradhapura has been formed to support only women. As shown in Table 02, there is only one group in Kurunegala, and it is not exclusively for women. According to the above table, 75% (three out of four) of the existing groups in Kilinochchi are women’s groups. The group called ‘Amara Women’s Group’ has been formed by Viluthu Centre for Human Resource Development,

one of the partner organisations of CEJ. Both Anuradhapura and Kilinochchi have three women's group in each district, and Kurunegala does not have a group exclusively for women (shown in Figure 01 & 02);



In Kilinochchi, Amara Women's Group has been established in some villages by Viluthu. The following graph provides an overview of where they exist and the number of villages where they need to form the group;



The next three tables provide **the purpose of the existing groups and issues identified by women that are addressed within the groups** segregated by geographical locations. According to the participants of the mapping exercise, none of them have been identified as SHGs neither by the organisers nor by the members of these groups. Please refer the section on definitions and ambit of SHGs (immediately after the following tables) for more details on this.

Table 03: Existing Groups in Each Divisional Secretariat in Anuradhapura District and Issues Identified by Women				
Names of Divisional Secretariat	Existing Self-help Group	Existing Group/Society	Purpose of the Group/Society	Issues Identified by Women
Vilachchiya	None	Ranaviru Sewa	To provide welfare facilities to families of deceased military personnel and disabled soldiers	Social tabooing of widows and lack of sustainable support to women heads of households
		Women's Group	To provide livelihood assistance to women heads of households	Isolation of women heads of households and lack of protection for single women
Kebitigolawa		Women's Community Based Organisation	To provide livelihood assistance to women heads of households and promote group savings among women	Financial difficulties of women heads of households; social tabooing and isolation of widows, and lack of protection for single women
		Funeral Society	To assist a family with funeral services	
		The Network of Community Leaders	To support survivors of gender-based violence and to provide livelihood assistance to women heads of households	
Kekirawa		Samurdhi	To provide dry food rations and loan facilities to families living under poverty	Isolation of women heads of households, Social tabooing of widows, and lack of protection for single women

Table 04: Existing Groups in Each Divisional Secretariat in Kurunegala District and Issues Identified by Women				
Names of Divisional Secretariat	Existing Self-help Group	Existing Group/Society	Purpose of the Group/Society	Issues Identified by Women
Ibbagamuwa	None	Ranaviru Sewa	To provide welfare facilities to families of deceased military personnel and disabled soldiers	Lack of livelihood support and mental health assistance to military widows and lack of access to information concerning women heads of households
Nikaweratiya and Maho				Lack of livelihood support to military widows and women heads of households and lack of access to sexual and reproductive health rights of single women
Rideegama, Mawathagama and Polgahawela				Lack of livelihood support to military widows and women heads of households; lack of access to sexual and reproductive health rights of single women; lack of assistance to women affected by gender-based violence; lack of assistance with mental health and wellbeing of single women; lack of knowledge on social services available to single women; and lack of technical skills such as financial management of livelihood ventures
Kurunegala				Lack of assistance to women affected by gender-based violence
Wariyapola				Lack of livelihood support to military widows and women heads of households and lack of access to sexual and reproductive health rights of single women

Table 05: Existing Groups in Each Divisional Secretariat in Kilinochchi District and Issues Identified by Women

Name of Divisional Secretariat	Existing Self-help Group	Existing Group/Society	Purpose of the Group/Society	Issues Identified by Women	
Pachchilaippalli (Palai)	None	Sirakukal Women's Group	To provide livelihood support to women heads of households and promote group savings	Financial difficulties of women heads of households; social tabooing and isolation of single women, especially women heads of households; and divisions within communities based on gender and caste differences	
		Samurdhi Group	To provide dry food rations and loan facilities to families living under poverty		
		Women's Rural Development Society	To support women's development through loans and other intervention programmes		
Karachchi		None	Amara Women's Group	To support women heads of households affected by the war	Lack of livelihood support to women heads of households; socio-cultural and financial difficulties of everyday lives of widows and single women; and sexual harassment, including sexual bribery
			Samurdhi Group	To provide dry food rations and loan facilities to families living under poverty	
			Women's Rural Development Society	To support women's development through loans and other intervention programmes	
Poonakary		None	Amara Women's Group	To support women heads of households affected by the war	Financial difficulties of women heads of households and sexual harassment, including sexual bribery
			Samurdhi Group	To provide dry food rations and loan facilities to families living under poverty	

		Women's Rural Development Society	To support women's development through loans and other intervention programmes	
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Definitions and Ambit of Self-help Groups

The mapping exercise reveals that the term ‘self-help group’ is not widely applied in the context of Northern, North Central and North Western regions of Sri Lanka. Finding the equivalent in Sinhala and Tamil during translations showed that it was not a common term used in the everyday language of the community. The participants came up with different articulations of what the equivalent term for SHG.. When the word self-help gets translated in the local languages, it becomes self-explanatory. Interestingly, it was found that a few development organisations use the term. However, the aspects of self-help did not sound very relatable to most women as they are still in the process of identifying their potential and becoming self-help groups.

The studies on existing SHGs suggest that the livelihood and microcredit programmes mainly operate on the assumption that SHGs are an effective mechanism to promote the economic empowerment of women. Some studies challenge this assumption based on everyday realities of women in several parts of the world where development programmes are multiplying on this hypothesis (Kumar, 2014). The research by Batliwala (1995) has shown that economic empowerment is not based on the mere access to an income generating activity but also equality on socio-cultural and political aspects. On the contrary, Hashemi et al. (1996) states that The economic empowerment does not mean the empowerment of women in all other aspects of their lives. Such concerns have generated a plethora of discussion on this subject. Hence, the effectiveness of SHGs has been repeatedly assessed almost in all parts of the world, including Sri Lanka (Atteraya, Gnawali & Palley, 2016; Self Help Group Approach Manual published by KNH, 2014). The current mapping exercise also supports the argument that economic empowerment alone is not sufficient to uplift the lives of single women and their families.

In Sri Lanka, several organisations have adopted the SHG approach to mobilise women in small groups and advocate for their rights. For instance, Kindernothilfe (KNH), Organization for Elangai Refugee Rehabilitation (OfERR), Ceylon, Saviya Development Foundation, and Socio-

Economic, Ecological, Religious, Virtuous Empowerment (SERVE)³. They use the term SHGs. The approach primarily relies on the agency of marginalised and vulnerable people. In other words, SHGs must be created by the people for the people. They will need assistance to get mobilised. Their capacities need to be developed to be better advocates for themselves. That is what these above mentioned organisations try to do. They offer technical assistance for people to mobilise in groups. They consider this as an effective approach to community mobilisation and strengthening the vulnerable populations (Self Help Group Approach Manual published by KNH, 2014). According to OfERR Ceylon, SHGs help to bring women together to work towards their empowerment. Usually, 12-15 women from similar backgrounds are mobilised in a group. When forming these SHGs, OfERR Ceylon offers a ‘crash course’ to explain the goals and features of the group. They also outline their roles and responsibilities by looking at successful examples of SHGs from across the country. Gradually, they empower them both socially and economically⁴. The partner organisations of CEJ have also engaged in organising women in groups for various purposes at different point of time. For instance, the Amara Women’s Group, formed by Viluthu, aims to support women heads of households affected by the war.

The working definition of women SHG offered by the women heads of households participated in this mapping exercise is, ***women SHGs are those that empower women to challenge oppressive norms, structures, and practices that continue to violate the lives of women. They strongly feel that when articulated as collective voices, women’s issues and problems will get significant visibility, which will increase the likelihood to find appropriate solutions.***

³ <https://www.servek.org/our-partners/self-help-group-approach/>
<http://www.oferrceylon.com/publications/success-stories/test-heading/>
https://www.kindernothilfe.org/About+us/How+we+work/Self_Help+Groups-p-344.html
https://www.unodc.org/southasia//frontpage/2012/March/sri-lanka_-empowering-women-and-vulnerable-communities-to-strengthen-democracy-and-good-governance.html

⁴ <http://www.oferrceylon.com/publications/success-stories/test-heading/>

FINDINGS

Several findings emerged from this mapping exercise. The following list is a summary of key findings that are elaborated in the subsequent sections;

- ✓ The gendered struggles of women heads of households are often overlooked by intervention programmes designed by government and non-government organisations
- ✓ Women heads of households do not know what to do or how to react when government officers and other service providers demand sexual favours from them. It is their financial vulnerability that makes them go to government officers and service providers in search of some assistance.
- ✓ The social policing aspect of gendered struggles shows that cultural symbolisations of widows, social shaming of women heads of households, name-calling of women who do not fit into socio-cultural expectations of them, and women being blamed for the deaths of their husbands in the battle are some of the significant limitations of women heads of households that hinder their lives.
- ✓ Single motherhood bears significant burdens imposed upon them by society, including restricted mobility and constant surveillance on how they bring up their children.
- ✓ Women with a disability within the demography of women heads of households are often excluded from intervention programmes
- ✓ Lack of access to different types of income-generating activities that are available to women heads of households
- ✓ Psycho-social wellbeing of women heads of households must be addressed in relation to all forms of marginalisation that they experience
- ✓ The term SHG is not popular among the participants of this mapping exercise. However, almost all of them are part of a women's group or a local society in their village or town. The most popular groups include Ranaviru Sewa, Samurdhi group, Funeral Society, Women's Rural Development Society, and Amara Women's Group. Few organisations have previously initiated women's groups, However, they did not continue to support them. Eventually, the women lost trust and interest. Those women's groups are not functional.

The following sections further elaborate on the findings of this mapping exercise. The first half focuses on issues of women heads of households. The latter half focuses on the potential of women organising as SHGs and/or women's groups.

SECTION 1: GENDERED STRUGGLES OF WOMEN HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS

“The wives are often blamed for the deaths of their husbands saying that it is due to their bad luck. The women are taken as bad luck when their husbands die”

FGD, Kekirawa, Anuradhapura

The gendered realities of Sri Lanka show that women, especially single women from the population that has been directly exposed to adversities of the war, continue to experience multiple forms of marginalisation. Research reports illustrate that socio-cultural tabooing of issues related to violence against women still significantly silence many women in the post-war context of Sri Lanka (Saroor, 2014). Women activists, along with the support of women from the affected communities, have been fighting the battle of getting oppressed while battling against the dominant formulations of nationalism and violence (De Mel, 2001). Increasing incidents of threats to women’s security and the challenges faced by women’s groups have jeopardised their functions (De Mel, 2007; Kumudini, 2006). The complexities of domestic violence across the country show that the extent of abuse that women are subjected to significantly hinders their wellbeing, let alone development or growth (Kodikara, 2012). Several research reports produced by the CEJ and FOKUS WOMEN⁵ elaborate on the impacts of different forms of violence and marginalisation on the lives of women from different parts of Sri Lanka.

The mapping exercise supports their claims. It reveals that the gendered social constructions of women, including widowhood, socio-culturally, sexually, financially, and legally marginalise single women and women heads of households. Although the political aspects have not been directly mentioned, it remains an essential aspect of marginalisation. The following subheadings encapsulate one of the significant findings of this mapping exercise, which is the dynamics of marginalisation of women heads of households.

1.1 Social Policing and Exploitation Faced by Women Heads of Households

The social and cultural aspects of marginalisation of women heads of households often overlap. The widows are expected to carry symbolisations that are both gendered and discriminatory. These symbolisations are often used as tools for social tabooing and shaming.

For instance, the widows cannot wear colourful clothes or dress well, cannot speak to men, cannot have a significant life as a widow, they are not expected or welcomed at functions and occasions, they must not have a social life, men cannot visit their homes, they cannot be seen having a regular life as others, and finally, if they do any of the above, there will be name calling

⁵ Please see the list of reference

and they are considered as bad women. More often, they are called by derogatory terms that imply that they are sexually objectified widows.

Often, the widows spoke about how difficult it was at the beginning. The same challenges are there even now. However, over the years, they have become better at facing them. The society has not changed much. **Most people often try to take advantage of these women who do not have a man in the house.** The everyday life experiences of the widows show that they live for their children. Sadly, society does not allow them to have an independent life for themselves. The following quote captures the bitter reality that forces them to live in isolation;

“We cannot wear nice clothes. A man cannot visit their homes. Everyone’s eyes are on us. We simply cannot live our lives. We cannot show that we have moved on. We live for our children. We tolerate all these ill treatments from society just for our children” – FGD, Vilachchiya, Anuradhapura

Besides, the widows often bear the blame for having killed their husbands with their ‘bad luck’. The group of women from Kekirawa, Anuradhapura also shared that with time, they learn to cope with such social isolation and social tabooing all by themselves. Similar concerns echoed in almost all voices captured in this exercise. The women also pointed out a memory lapse where the significance of the recent past has been forgotten;

“During wartime, we had the respect. Now, people have forgotten that there was a war. People do not realise that the war was ended because of the soldiers, especially those who gave their lives to get freedom. If the war is back, people will be reminded again” – FGD, Kekirawa, Anuradhapura

According to the women, even the soldiers do not respect them, which raises the question, is it the memory of the war that was forgotten or the women as victims of war who are quickly forgotten.

Support Structures

The following **experience of Kamala also sheds some light on the essence of a supportive social structure as women heads of households are more likely to seek justice from social leaders instead of law enforcement officers;**

“As widows, women face a lot of problems related to their safety and security. People think that these women do not have anywhere to go and no one would speak up for them. So, they take the women for granted. They approach us with proposals to marry them. But they do not really mean that. They just want to take advantage of us and later leave us. We, the single women, have to be very strong to be able to stay away from such men who try to harm us. We do not go to the police. We go to the monk at the Pansela (Buddhist temple)” – Kamala, Gonamariyawa, Anuradhapura

The women also shared that **gender hierarchy within and between the genders significantly jeopardises the lives of women heads of households.**

“We are humiliated by wives of living soldiers. They have money. They have full freedom as their husbands are still with the military. Even some soldiers themselves speak ill of the military widows” – FGD, Kekirawa, Anuradhapura

Hence, a gender sensitive society, including social leaders, play a vital role in the development of women heads of households and their communities at large.

1.2 Struggles of Single Motherhood and Childbearing

The participants of this mapping exercise confirm that there is an expectation of single mothers by the society to bring up their children well and provide an adequate life to their children. Instead, **the mobility of widows is constantly limited by the community.** However, the expectation remains the same, and the widows somehow have to fulfil it. They are often blamed for the bad behaviour of their children. The burden of motherhood is very significant as they are single parents. Whether the children turn out to be helpful or not, the single mothers carry a huge responsibility. They hope that one day, the children will be supportive of them.

The group of women from Ibbagamuwa, Maho & Wariyapola in Kurunegala shared that it is difficult to find jobs for their children. A few of them have sons who are in their early twenties. They are unable to find a sustainable job. The sons are grown to be irresponsible. They do not feel responsible for earning an income and looking after the family. They are not actively looking for a job either. The women struggle a lot to fulfil their needs. One single mother has taken loans to send her son abroad to study. He had demanded that she must send him abroad to study. He is a 21-year-old. She tried to educate him abroad by putting herself in debt for the rest of her life. She thinks that he is struggling there and that makes her worry. **She continues to suffer from the burden of motherhood, both financially and psychologically.**

1.3 Disability

The socio-cultural construction of womanhood has been noted by **the lack of interest to involve women with disabilities and overall psychosocial wellbeing of women heads of households.** A group of women from Kanagapuram, Kilinochchi pointed out these two are vital categories, however, often ignored by service providers as many women heads of households who have a special need and/or psychological problems hardly come out of the house. They are unable to participate in meetings. Hence, they are left out. This is an important finding, which could not be substantiated by the information gathered in this mapping exercise. However, it is an important

finding to be included in the future endeavours of similar studies and/or intervention programmes.

Here is the change that women seek in society;

“The society has to change the way it looks at us. The society must stop making assumptions about our lives and behave as if our lives are open for everyone to talk about” – FGD, Mawathagama, Kurunegala

1.4 Economic Issues of Women Heads of Households

The discriminatory **social restrictions imposed on women heads of households by society limits their scope of income generating activities**. The following experience of a single mother with children illustrates how society makes it impossible for her to do the job according to her skills;

“I am suffering a lot to engage in an income generating activity as the community would not allow it. My job is cleaning fishing nets. So, fishermen come to my house to leave their nets. I clean them. They come in the evening to get the nets back. The community speaks ill of me. They spread rumours that I have relationships with all the men who come to my house. Both women and men spread this rumour. It had cost me a lot. For a period, I had to stop my work. We are poor. My family is dependent on this income. After a while, I gathered courage and restarted my job. I cannot let my children starve just because of these rumours” – FGD, Poonakary, Kilinochchi

According to many narratives of women heads of households, the socio-cultural marginalisation takes a toll on the financial wellbeing of the women and their families.

It was repeatedly noted across the districts that economic problems are a significant limitation for women heads of households. Often, they find it difficult to move forward without a steady income. One of the reasons being that men are the owners of material resources such as land, the house, and equipment or machinery. When women lose their husbands, or their husbands leave them, often, the women are left with nothing. They either go back to their maternal homes or continue to live on their own. They become women heads of households. They literally have to start from nothing to rebuild their lives. The main cry of the group of women from Iyakachchi in Kilinochchi was about **poverty, which echoes in almost all discussions carried out for the purpose of this mapping exercise**.

Lack of Access to Resources and Skill Development

The mapping exercise shows that they do not have access to resources. It also shows that quite often, the survival itself is in question. Simultaneously, the women heads of households suffer from lack of access to skills development, limited mobility, and increased demands of family responsibilities and caregiving. Most women heads of households live with their immediate families members; their children. In some instances, either one or both parents live with them

too. In other words, the women may have dependents at home to take care of, yet, are the sole breadwinners. Often, they are overburdened by the need to be caregivers as well as breadwinners among many other roles that they play on a daily basis.

1.5 Incidence of Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Bribery among Women Heads of Households

Experiences related to sexual exploitation and sexual bribery seems to be one of the significant findings of this mapping exercise. The women heads of households who have been subjected to sexual bribery strongly feel that it is one of the main factors that make women vulnerable and feel helpless as there is not much focus on the issue. According to them, the experiences of violence against women in the communities are not topics of conversation especially sexual bribes demanded by public officers. There are silences around various experiences of violence against women in communities and sexual bribes asked by public officers hits the top of that list.

According to a study conducted by FOKUS WOMEN titled “Living in Shadow: The Status of Military Widows in Sri Lanka” in 2016, argues that the women of female-headed households are subjected to sexual violence due to their widowhood. The study states;

“...32 women stated they were asked for sexual favors or were victims of sexual bribery by government officers when attempting to obtain services at government offices. In the meantime, 35 women stated that they were victims of financial bribery. The most often cited issue was mental harassment at the hands of government officers, such as scolding, mentioned by 77 women...” (FOKUS WOMEN, 2016)

The current mapping exercise reiterates the above finding. It sheds more light on the extent of the problem of sexual exploitation, including sexual bribery. The women confirmed that they are often sexually objectified. That is, they are often seen as easy targets by men. The women also confirmed that men in power ask for sexual bribes. They said that it is not shared widely or spoken in public. As a result, it happens in secret. It is a huge problem. However, it does not get addressed.

1.5.1 Sexual Exploitation

The following quote captures the fear and pain that women heads of households experience almost on a daily basis where they are just viewed as sexual objects that can be exploited.

“When we were young widows, everyone took us for granted. They expected us to give sexual favours. We were considered as easily accessible women. Many men had approached

us with the wrong intentions. When we go somewhere to get some work done, they immediately take us for granted and expect us to say yes to their proposals, which are often sexual. We had to be strong and resist such ill treatments. **Now that we are older than what we were those days, they do not approach us like that. They do not ask directly. Indirectly they indicate. We can feel in their body language and the tone. Indeed, not everyone is like that. But most men try to take advantage of us, especially when we were young. When a husband dies a woman's world collapses. It is hugely problematic. But we do not know how to change that. We survive.** However, our lives could be better if we have more income to meet the needs of our children. The progress is very slow. Often, we get stuck due to many social obstacles” – FGD, Vilachchiya, Anuradhapura

Another group of women from Kilinochchi pointed out that they have heard of sexual exploitation by a few Tamil men from the diaspora who financially support women and expect sexual favours in return. They recognise it as a form of sexual harassment.

“We have heard that sexual bribery is taking place. Not necessarily by govt officers. Mostly by Tamil men who live abroad. They give money to women and later ask for sexual favours. Or even sexually abuse them. **Single women – those living by themselves are targeted more by men. They continue to harass them**” – FGD, Palai, Kilinochchi

A group of women from Mullaipoonga in Kilinochchi said that they get a lot of nuisance calls and harassment on the road. They expressed that being treated like this is equivalent to torture. They also realised that they have to be stronger than ever before to be able to face such men in their societies.

1.5.2 Sexual Bribery

A group of single women heads of households from Polgahawela and Mawathagama in Kurunegala shared, “*we feel like killing those men. But we are unable to do anything about them. We just avoid going back to them. There is no justice. We try to get our job done through women officers*”. One of them added, “*an army officer asked for a sexual bribe. I complained to the higher officer. That officer was transferred*”. The women also pointed out that it is not the solution as he goes to a different location and does the same.

A group of women from Mawathagama, Kurunegala shared that the issue of sexual bribery must be stopped for the sake of their children. They fear that the younger generation, including their daughters in early twenties, might get affected by it and the impacts could be worse than their times. They suggest that ensuring the financial stability of women heads of households will reduce the vulnerability of women being sexually objectified by public officers. **The women strongly feel that if they have access to a regular income, they do not have to go to these officers or even if they have to go to them, the officers will treat them with dignity.** Additionally, they

suggest that women's leadership must be strengthened, and the government must appoint more women public officers to address women's issues in societies.

A group of women from Kanagapuram, Kilinochchi, were furious over the kind of sexual exploitation they face as single women. A mother who is still looking for her son: was mistreated by a military officer from the Criminal Investigation Department in Vavuniya when she had gone in search of her son. First, he had asked for her telephone number. Later, before she left the office premises, the officer had called and asked her to come alone to his office. She understood that he expected sexual favours from the way he spoke. *"I was terrified. I ran out of the office. Later, I changed my telephone number too. I never returned to that office or any other military office. I only go to the human rights office to find out about my son"*.

A woman from Ibbagamuwa, Kurunegala, shared similar experiences of having been asked for a sexual bribe by a military officer when she tried to care for her disabled husband at an army hospital in Ragama. Another woman shared that she started to get unwanted messages from a government officer in Jaffna after she had gone there to obtain some documentation. She assured that widowed women are often sexualised. *"Men often expect that we need to do them sexual favours to get a service done. They feel as if it is their entitlement"*.

1.5.3 Sexual Bribery Leave Women with a Sense of Helplessness

Often, women do not know what to do or how to react when government officers and other service providers demand sexual favours from them. Almost all women who participated in the mapping exercise ominously shared that it is their financial vulnerability that makes them go to government officers and service providers in search of some assistance. They think that if they have access to a regular income within their scope of engagements, they would not have to face such men in their lives. Because they do not know what to do when it happens as they are in need of some help, which makes them vulnerable. In other words, the agency of women is significantly compromised in the hands of corrupt public officers, especially those who ask for sexual bribery.

"It happens at the police station. It also happens at DS offices. We often do not get the service that we deserve when something like this happens. We are not powerful to challenge them. When there is a male officer who asks for sexual favours to get the work done, most women do not give in. They go back home and forget about the need. It never gets fulfilled. Some women do give in. **They undergo a lot of trouble afterwards. If they have children, it gets even worse. The children of such women who give in go through more problems.** They are government officers. They cannot ask like that" - FGD, Kekirawa, Anuradhapura

One woman among them said:

“My divorce case was delayed by a year and a half due to an officer at the court who did not pass my file as I did not entertain his request for my phone number. He kept asking. I refused for a long time saying that I do not have a phone. Later I had given a number of one of my old male relatives. He must have got angry about that. They delayed my case so much. I used to cry everyday” - FGD, Kekirawa, Anuradhapura

Vaani shared a similar experience where she fears that **sexual bribery can never be tolerated and that she fears that eventually sexual bribery will be normalised;**

“The Divisional Secretariat in Poonakary, a few years ago, behaved in a way that indicated that he expected certain favours from us, the single women. He used to give me nuisance calls and speak inappropriately. I scolded him. I changed the number. **He created problems for many women. Eventually, he was transferred. But the problem has not gone away. He will continue to ask for sexual bribe somewhere else. There was no disciplinary action taken.** We do not know what the punishment is for such behaviour of government officers. Some women are vulnerable. I escaped from his trap. Men like him use this vulnerability. Some women say yes. Because they do not have anywhere else to go. A government officer can never ask for sexual bribe. They take us for granted. Instead of protecting us, they misuse us. They are not children. We cannot teach them that. They must know it. The more they ask for sexual bribe, the more it will become a regular thing” – Vaani, Mudkomban, Kilinochchi

Devi’s husband was never around since the birth of their daughter. She is 26 years old and her daughter is 5 years old. They live by themselves. Devi goes to work at a seafood processing company. A couple of times, government officials had asked for a sexual bribe from Devi. This is her experience;

“*The Officer* at the Divisional Secretariat office got my telephone number when I had applied for a water well. He harassed me over the phone. He uses different numbers and I cannot identify his name to avoid any contact with him. Even this morning, I had gone to the DS office for some other work and he immediately came out when he saw me. He teased her. **He thinks that he could do anything to me just because he is in power. This has happened in the past too.** There is a Grama Sevakar (village officer) who keeps harassing women. There was a livelihood officer who asked sexual favours from single women. This was in 2014. Later, he was transferred to Mannar. I have also got nuisance calls from the police. Because of my husband’s bad behaviour, I had to go to the police station a few times. They take your number. Then they misuse it” – Devi, Pallikudha, Kilinochchi

A few other women reconfirmed that *‘the officer’* from the Divisional Secretariat has asked for sexual bribe. Unfortunately, no legal action has been taken against those officials who are likely to ask for sexual bribe from single mothers with children.

The women also shared that their freedom has been compromised:

“We live with a huge weight in our hearts due to this widowhood. Yes, the country is in peace. There is freedom to go any part of the country. However, we do not feel that we have freedom. Women are still bound by many limitations from the society” - FGD, Ibbagamuwa, Kurunegala

According to Premavathi and Sriyani from Anuradhapura town,

“Some men genuinely come forward to help us. But most men are not like that. They try to take advantage of us. We cannot go to government offices without being accompanied by a male relative. If we do not have male relatives, we take one of our children with us. The officers look at us differently. We could tell from their gazes that their intentions are not good. Also, that they expect some kind of sexual favour from us. We end up not going back to those men again. Legal action needs to be taken. But we cannot file the complaint. We are poor and helpless. We could be targeted and they could do anything to us”

However, women heads of households firmly believe that legal action is the solution to punish men who ask for sexual bribe. They also hope that it will help to reduce this crime. However, they feel vulnerable to make a complaint against a public officer.

The gendered struggles of women heads of households portray different kinds of marginalisation faced by women. Often, women worry about their children and dedicate their lives to their children. When asked what they do for leisure, most women did not have an answer. **The idea of leisure or doing something for themselves does not exist for them.** Some said they like to laugh as they did during the interactive sessions and icebreakers. A few had gone on trips, which is a rare occurrence.

The women heads of households have also pointed out the changes that they wish to see in societies. These changes can be transformed into aspects of women’s empowerment. Hence, the gendered struggles of women heads of households also **call for a multidimensional understanding of women’s empowerment that ought to be promoted in all kinds of interventions with women in these societies.** Most importantly, such an elaborated understanding of women’s empowerment will play a vital role in the formation, functions, and the success of SHGs. The findings of this mapping exercise reiterate that the notion of women’s empowerment must be broadened and transformed into intervention programmes if **meaningful positive changes** are to be brought in the lives of women heads of households and their families.

SECTION 2: POTENTIAL MODELS OF SHGS

The mapping exercise draws on the experiences of women heads of households who are part of various groups, including women's groups, to substantiate the findings on the potentials of SHGs. There were four different types of SHGs identified while conducting the mapping.

Women's Groups

Anuradhapura, Model 01

The following story on the formation of a women's group illustrates the success of a single woman who mobilised women in her village that eventually gave birth to the women's group in Gonamariyawa, Anuradhapura in 2012. The mobiliser woman was 28 when she influenced seven other women and started a women's group, which is still functioning. She is the president of this group. Here is their story shared by three women who were among the initial eight women to start this women's group;

“Our interest in women's rights brought us together. The women in our village suffer from different problems. For instance, financial struggles, unequal treatment, and violence in the household. We did not know what to do and whom to reach out to. Coming together as a group of eight women at the beginning, made us believe that there are others and we could do something about our problems. Eventually, we formed the society. We learned how to function as a group, where to go, and whom to talk to in order to find solutions to our problems. We spoke about our problems with one another. Many women think that it is not appropriate to talk about their problem, especially when it comes to violence against women. We slowly changed that. The society is a space where women can come together to speak about their problems. When we reach out to the Grama Niladhari or any other officers as a group of women, they take us seriously. Fewer chances to ill-treat us or misbehave with us. Women like us who live in poverty do not have access to a steady income. Therefore, when we go to the officers to get some service done, they ask for sexual bribe. In the beginning, we used to come together to share our problems and frustrations. Eventually, we started to talk about how to find solutions to our problems. We began to develop our knowledge on women's rights and services that are available for women, especially single and widowed women. We started to engage in our own income generating activities. We went for different kinds of training, mostly in income generating activities. Gradually, we became trainers ourselves. It has been an empowering journey together with women like us”

One of them, who was widowed by the death of her military husband had to wait for eight years to get her husband's pension. A few times she had gone to an army camp⁶ with one of her older brothers. They asked her to come repeatedly. One time she had taken her daughter. After a few visits, the major of that camp asked her to come alone. He had said, ‘come alone. I will help you’. She stopped going there after that. She knew that he was expecting something else from her. She

⁶ The name of the camp has been removed for ethical reasons

said, “I had never been anywhere by myself. How could I have gone to the camp alone? I did not like the way he asked me to come alone”.

She was 28-years-old when this incident happened. Now she is 50. Due to the inappropriate conduct of that army officer, she did not get the pension for eight years. She could not send her older son to school. That had affected her a lot. She gave up on the pension until one of her relatives joined the army from her village. He helped her to get the pension without having to face the major who wanted to meet her alone. She had not shared this incident even with her mother. She was ashamed to share that something of this sort has happened to her. Eventually, she joined this group of women. She was one of the first eight women who came together to start the group. She felt comfortable to share this incident with the women. The pension was not backdated to those eight years that she did not have access.

It appeared that **women did not have any understanding of the difference between a salary and a pension.** All they know is that the pension is significantly less than the salary. There seems to be no transparency of the transition from getting a salary to getting a pension. The experiential knowledge that they gain from one another is what keep them strong to face any challenge in life. Someone else would have gone through it before them. According to them, sharing helps to learn from one another. It also helps to identify more ways to face a challenge or similar challenges.

Kilinochchi, Model 02

Another inspiring experience comes from a woman who has paid the price for being socially active yet wishes to engage in women’s organising in the future. Shanthi is a 38-year-old woman with three children. She lives on an isolated plot of land Mullaipoonga, Kilinochchi. Her husband left her in 2010 soon after he got her pregnant with their third child. The older son goes for a daily labourer job. She feels very unsafe. She rears chicken. The older son also rears some pigeons and sells them. They have a small home garden too. She goes to the mental health clinic every month at Kilinochchi hospital. She was the president of the women’s group started by a women’s organisation⁷. She is the treasurer of the Women’s Rural Development Society (WRDS) women’s group. She was very active and worked for the development of her village. However, a recent incident plotted against her by the people who brew illicit liquor close to her house has caused her physical and psychological harm. When she was advocating to stop the illicit liquor brewing, those who benefit from this business have set fire to the Palmyra trees in the backyard. It had also damaged their only toilet. It happened a few months ago. The toilet is unusable. They

⁷ Sirakugal

go to the bush at the back of the house, which is not safe either. She feels very insecure. When the children go to school and work, she locks herself inside the house and does not come out until they return home.

Shanthi thinks that women are scared to do any work for the community. However, she is certain that it has to change. **Shanthi believes that women must come together despite the obstacles. It always strengthens them when they do.** She likes to re-join a women's group as her activities have been put on hold after the incident. She feels that there is a need for all women heads of households to be united with one another. They could do activities together. Indulge in income generating activities together and share the profit. Also, they could keep one another safe. They do not have to be left alone. The women can also voice their problems together so that no woman is targeted alone by the perpetrators. Shanthi likes to re-establish the group that Sirakugal had started. They were called Malligai (Jasmine flower) group. They used to meet regularly and engage in home gardening. They also acted in dramas and other cultural events, which helped them to laugh. They played games. These were women's social entertainment. She wants to re-organise them and do more activities that promote unity among them.

Kilinochchi, Model 03

Similarly, Malar points out **the financial inequality that women face in society**. She thinks that mobilising women in groups where the main purpose can be to enhance their financial wellbeing, however, not limited by it. Malar too proposes to remobilise an already existing group;

“Women get less wages for the same job done as men. They do not get enough financial recognition for all their hard work. So, it is important to have financial security for women, which will take care of many issues that they face. Already suffering women do not have time or the energy to participate in meetings without a substantial benefit, like some kind of assistance to ease their financial burden. If we were to mobilise them, we need to offer them a few solutions to their problems, mainly, the financial struggles to make their lives a little better. They will come for training workshops. We can give them leadership skills. The existing groups can be strengthened. We are 25 women in our group. I am sure there are more single women heads of households. We need to gather information from the GS and mobilise them too. New groups must be formed. But we must keep all our previous learning in mind when planning to mobilise new groups” – Malar, Mawadiyamman, Kilinochchi

Anuradhapura, Model 04

In Anuradhapura, after they had formed the group through RPK, this group has access to different kinds of training offered by various organisations such as FOKUS WOMEN, The Canadian International Development Agency, and the Task Force (they are regular participants of the task force). This is a unique situation in Anuradhapura due to the functions of RPK.

This mapping exercise shows that women are not passive receivers of discriminatory practices. They are also active agents of change that they wish to bring. They find different ways to address discriminatory practices. According to the women from Anuradhapura, Kilinochchi, and Kurunegala, women's groups mobilise to voice their needs and concerns with the hope to find solutions. They wish to obtain trainings on leadership skills, coping strategies, stress management, various income-generating activities, financial management, developing good business plans, accountability and transparency aspects of group functions, advocacy strategies, analytical skills, communication skills, empathetic listening skills, motivational skills, Tamil language skill, interpersonal relationship building skills, and effective mobilisation.

2.1 Experiences of Existing Groups

The women stated that the existing groups mostly focus on social issues concerning financial benefits. The social concerns include supporting a family that loses a member, cleaning of public places, helping a family to organise almsgivings, and leisure activities. The financial benefits include savings, livelihood support, and loan facilities. The groups that are exclusively for women mostly focus on savings and income generation.

Ranaviru Sewa is a mixed group of all genders and different ages. The families of deceased soldiers and disabled soldiers are part of this group. The Ranaviru Sewa Authority governs it. According to a group of women from Kekirawa, Anuradhapura, not everyone is happy with this group. There are a lot of disappointments and frustrations due to lack of services obtained. In Kurunegala where Ranaviru Sewa is the only existing group, the women feel that the benefits that they get from this group are slowly subsiding. They also think that soon after the end of the war, the military men were celebrated more than the military widows. However, it has been changing lately, where even the military men do not get as much attention from society as they did before.

However, there are a few exceptions like the Amara Women's Group in Kilinochchi. As illustrated in the following quote, the newly formed Amara Women's Group hopes to voice their needs. They are committed and encourage one another in shaping the future of the group.

“As part of the Amara Women's Group, we meet once every three months. We also meet when a need arises, like today. Many needs of women are not fulfilled by any organisation as yet. We are happy to be part of this group. Something might work out, eventually. We recognise that we must participate with commitment” – FGD in Ramanathapuram, Kilinochchi

The women from Kurunegala stated that their experiences with the Women's Research Centre, the partner organisation of CEJ in Kurunegala, have been **rewarding**. Even though they have not

formed formal groups as such, the women already feel that they are a group after having participated in a few meetings.

“Joining the WRC group was very empowering. We have had a series of meetings. It will be good to form like a women’s group to support one another through that group. For example, getting livelihood support” – Ashila and Renuka, Ibbagamuwa, Kurunegala

Another group of women from Kurunegala shared that they **find strength in one another** when they come together as a group. They feel that it brings them **hope and a firm sense of unity**. The women acknowledged that they **learn new skills** when they function as a group. According to them;

“We gain knowledge by attending meetings like this. We learn about other women’s problems. We learn about financial management and group management when we function as a group and manage the group savings. When we come together as a women’s group, there is a sense of unity. We are united as widows. As single women. Unity gives us strength and hope. We can face any challenge as a group” – FGD, Ibbagamuwa, Kurunegala

Similarly, a group of women from Anuradhapura shared that gathering as women’s groups **bring them happiness**, and it had played a significant role in **transitioning into the widowhood**. As detailed in the quote below, they feel that without the help of other women who were going through similar experiences, it would not have been possible for them to cope with their situation as widows.

“The beginning of widowhood was tough. We almost had no one to support us. When we came in touch with groups and societies, we learned from other women’s experiences. Coming together gave us the courage to face our problems and move forward. Unity is our strength” – FGD, Vilachchiya, Anuradhapura

The above experiences of women heads of households clearly illustrate that mobilising in groups significantly benefits them. Firstly, it helps women to free themselves from the socio-cultural barriers that limit themselves within the domestic sphere. As previously pointed out (in the section on gendered struggles of women heads of households), these barriers significantly hinder the development and empowerment of women heads of households. As pointed out by the women, the transition takes time. Hence, the formation of SHGs must be planned according to the gendered socio-cultural barriers of a specific geographical location. For instance, women from Anuradhapura states that participating in women’s group meetings helped them to transition into widowhood by learning from other women’s experiences.

Secondly, women heads of households have pointed out that women’s group meetings have brought them happiness, hope, and a sense of unity. In other words, being part of a women’s group offers some psychological support to women. It also offers to build a sense of community.

As noted by the KNH's approach to SHGs, **creating a sense of community while attending to psycho-social needs of the vulnerable population is a critical step in formulating SHGs.** The current mapping exercise reiterates that. Finally, the experiences of women suggest that mobilising in groups offer an opportunity for them to learn new skills. It helps to empower women socio-culturally, economically, and politically.

2.2 Challenges of Existing Groups

Concurrently, the women heads of households also pointed out the challenges in coming together as women's groups. According to a group of women from Iyakachchi, Kilinochchi, a women's groups that existed before are not functional anymore. It was challenging to mobilise women, given their responsibilities. **As women heads of households, they hardly have enough time to manage everything by themselves.** Making time for additional meetings is often impossible. However, they regularly attend WRDS meetings, which happens once a month. Other than that, they do not make time for anything else.

“We do not know how to get together as women that does not involve a saving. We have never come together as women's groups anything other than saving groups – like Samurdhi. We are unable to imagine it. We also need the support of all women” – FGD, Iyakachchi, Kilinochchi

The women also pointed out the **existing fractures within the group members, such as caste differences.** In Ithavil, Kilinochchi, there seems to be a caste element that played a role in who could speak. Most women were not comfortable to speak up. They did not trust each other to speak out. They repeatedly mentioned that they are scared to speak up as they fear that it will not be treated as confidential with all participants.

At another FGD, issues related to **caste, financial vulnerability, and the likelihood of giving bribes** surfaced. As illustrated in the following quote, the women strongly feel that no group can exist without addressing these issues;

“Women hardly speak of their problems, especially when they are sexually abused or misused by men, they have trusted that would never harm them. There is definitely monetary bribery happening where govt officers take money to provide a service or when filling a government post. Due to this corrupted system, the qualified ones do not get the jobs they deserve. Caste plays a major role in getting women together. We cannot mobilise without taking such issues into consideration” – FGD, Palai, Kilinochchi

Moreover, there were issues of trust among group members.

“It is difficult to speak about our problems. We do not have any space to speak about our problems. We hardly speak about our problems even with these groups. Trust is a big issue” – FGD, Palai, Kilinochchi

The trust issues with the formation of the group itself were also highlighted. For instance, when speaking of Ranaviru Sewa, one of the staff members of the partner organisation added;

“I have done a small study. In that study, the military widows shared their frustrations with the society saying that their needs are not taken care of. They are called for meetings and made to wait for a long time. They shared that they are very disappointed by them. Because the benefits that they get are very minimal or close to nothing for the time they spent on meetings and coming together” – FGD, Kekirawa, Anuradhapura

Another group of women shared about **lack of motivation** to form groups:

“Women are asked to mobilise in groups so that organisations can give a loan and/or offer livelihood support. As long as we know, this is the only purpose for mobilising women in groups. Our hope is that such efforts eventually bring us livelihood support. We come together like this to talk about our problems with the hope that our problems get visibility and organisations and the government offer us support based on such sharing” – FGD, Poonakary, Kilinochchi

In Kanugahawewa, Anuradhapura, there seems to be a **generational gap** between young and old women. The older women are not aware of the problems faced by young women. All are women heads of households, either widows or deserted by their husbands. Older women think that violence against women is not a problem in their village. However, a young woman spoke of her experiences of living with a violent husband who eventually left her with two children. She is still fighting in court to get maintenance from him. She mentioned that the older women were aware of her lived experience of domestic violence but do not want to spend time in understanding the trauma she endeavoured. She also said that there is no sense of justice in their village. According to her, even the officials who must promote justice for all do not believe in justice.

When speaking of their lived experiences with the groups, women also shared their **disappointments regarding the lack of access to justice in any form**. For instance, the experience of a woman from Vilachchiya, Anuradhapura who has been deserted by a disabled soldier/husband, shows the complexities of her life as a single woman with a child who has no social support. The husband was abusive. She took care of him for a long time when he was bedridden. Over the years he became addicted to drugs and started to ill-treat her. About 18 months ago, she left him as she could not tolerate it anymore. Her sister gave a piece of her land. Little by little, she built a house on it. She has a son. Even now, the husband’s family speaks ill of her for leaving him. She encourages the son to visit his father. Because she does not want her son to not know his father. However, her husband and her mother-in-law are not appreciative of it. Now, they are trying to take the house she has built. Once he has even tried to set fire to the house. She filed a complaint at the police. They did not act upon it as he is a disabled ex-soldier. . Her

narrative shows that the women expect some kind of a reparation process to be facilitated by groups that they are associated with.

2.3 Women's Organising

Despite their challenges and frustrations, **the women expressed a strong sense of desire to be involved in women's organising for women.**

“We must build trust and increase confidentiality when we come together to share our problems. Single women must be exclusive groups – all members of the group must know the purposes of gathering in groups – must know the history of an existing group – awareness is very important. We must believe that there is a use in gathering as a women's group” – FGD, Mudkomban, Kilinochchi

Two more women from the same location shared their views on **the need for women's organising in groups.** According to them, engaging in social work helps them in self-perseverance and self-healing. They think that they become better advocates for themselves and for other women in their community;

“A collective voice is more powerful than a single voice. We managed to mobilise and close down the liquor brewing in our neighbourhood. Social service is good for self-motivation and being courageous. Also, important to build confidence. It is healing too – talking to another woman who has gone through similar experiences helps to heal our wounds. It helps to improve our leadership skills. We become better advocates to voice our issues” – Vaani and Mala, Mudkomban, Kilinochchi

The strong desire for women's organising emerges from the notion that women's rights are human rights, too;

“Soldiers battle in the battlefield. We, their wives, battle with society. We are also heroes. But we are not celebrated as heroes. Only soldiers get celebrated like that. But we are the ones who have been managing everything at home and in the society in their absence. We are the fathers and mothers too. We play multiple roles. The responsibilities are endless. We suffer quite a lot, physically and emotionally” – FGD, Kekirawa, Anuradhapura

Similarly, a sense of **women's empowerment through power and self-confidence** was shared;

“Women must be empowered with power and self-confidence. Coming together will motivate them to fight for their rights. Legal support must be made available to women too. Women have to show to society that we are strong. We must not give up on us” - Premavathi and Sriyani, Anuradhapura town

The women envision the **shared space for women's organising as empowering:**

“Women coming together to solve a problem is always empowering. We try to help each other and move forward together as much as we could. It is very difficult. We live in poverty” – FGD, Vilachchiya, Anuradhapura

“A collective voice is more powerful than an individual voice. We could get to know about other women's problems. We will not tell our problems to strange women. This can be a space for us to come together as women and speak about our problems. We could support

each other. When we ask men for help, there is a change for them to misuse or abuse us. Whereas asking women for help is much safer” – FGD, Mullaipoonga, Kilinochchi

The women want it to be consistent too, especially given that access to financial resources can further complicate the lives of women heads of households. Mallika’s thoughts adequately capture these aspects;

“Women in our village function in groups and carry out livelihood activities. When we do work collectively, it is better for us to manage our other responsibilities. As single women, there are a lot of responsibilities to be fulfilled. We also conduct a weekly public market to sell the products we produce. We have a good market. Women suffer from financial loans they get from small financial institutions. They just give loans. No one thinks about their repaying capacity. As a result, after a little while, women are unable to repay the loan. Some organisations approach us to work with women heads of households. Later, they stop coming here. We are unable to contact them over the phone too” – Mallika, Iyakachchi, Kilinochchi

A group of young widows from Vilachchiya, Anuradhapura with small children said that they wish to be part of women’s groups. **They desire to seek support and be helpful to one another.** They are finding it difficult to adjust to the recent change in their lives. They get no support from their families. At present they are not part of any group as such. But they wish to. According to them, the main purpose is to come together to support one another and find economic ventures.

The participants of this mapping exercise have **a clear vision of why and how they wish to come together in groups.** In other words, the women heads of households have clear visions of the formation and functions of SHGs. The chain of thoughts goes as, first, women need to form groups. They must have initial discussions with the Grama Niladhari to get their support. Without their support, the women’s groups cannot function. If they are unaware of any activity, some of them create problems. They do not like to keep them in the dark. Maintaining good working relationships with government officials is vital.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations emerge from the wishes and visions that women heads of households hold for SHGs, the observations made by CEJ partner organisations and CEJ. They aim to provide some directions to the CEJ partner organisations to move forward.

Recommendations for New and Old SHGs

- ✓ Create SHGs at the village level⁸. One group must consist of 15 – 20 women. They must come from different backgrounds. Their differences must be celebrated. Homogenous groups will not help to break the socio-cultural, political, and economic limitations enforced upon women in societies. It will also not help to understand one another beyond the apparent differences.
- ✓ When forming new SHGs, take into account that women have all these barriers and bringing them together cannot happen in a short period.
- ✓ The lack of trust among group members is a recurrent issue that most women heads of households pointed out across districts. Hence, not only the existing groups to address this concern but also the new groups to be formed with a strong sense of trust and identify mechanisms to deal with issues arises due to lack of trust.
- ✓ The functions of SHGs must promote the economic empowerment of women. However, it must never be limited by it.
- ✓ A holistic understanding of women's empowerment that focuses on challenging the underlying values and norms which systematically create suffering for women must guide the process of designing the purposes and functions of SHGs⁹.
- ✓ The existing and new SHGs must identify instances where women are marginalised – within the group and outside in the community – because they come from a different caste. Simultaneously, activities must be planned to challenge caste-based divisions.
- ✓ Build a strong sense of community among the members of SHGs. For instance, the essence of maintaining confidentiality must never be compromised at any cost.
- ✓ When planning group meetings, ensure to accommodate women with disabilities. For logistical convenience, women with disabilities must never be excluded from SHGs.

⁸ New women's groups must be formed with a sensitivity of mobility issues of women heads of households. Due to their increased responsibilities and social policing by society, they must not be burdened by having to travel far to attend a group meeting. Hence, the groups must be formed in each village.

⁹ For example, every aspect of SHGs (from formation to functions) must be guided by socio-cultural, political, and economic empowerment of women. They must also be context-specific.

- ✓ Leisure activities for women must be one of the main functions of SHGs. Women do not have to gather only to speak about problems. They must come together to laugh and have a good time in general.
- ✓ Activities that will provide psycho-social support must also be part of the functions of SHGs. For example, poetry writing and reading in groups and spend the day at one of the members' house to relax and do whatever the women feel like doing.
- ✓ Register the SHGs with the local government authorities. Only then will allow women to start income-generating activities¹⁰.
- ✓ All SHGs must maintain a good working relationship with community-based government officers to ensure smooth functions.
- ✓ Continue to provide skill development training workshops for women to help them grow as strong and independent women with dignity, choices, and freedom. These workshops must be conducted in local languages.
- ✓ The meeting locations must not be too far where the distance becomes an obstacle for women heads of households. It must promote practices that are disabled friendly and child-friendly as most women heads of households have young children that they cannot leave at home.
- ✓ Conduct field trips to other SHGs to learn from one another. It will also help women to understand the problems faced by women from different backgrounds¹¹
- ✓ Identify various talents of women and guide them towards pursuing their dreams and carrier options¹²
- ✓ Encourage women to address issues that have been tabooed for too long.¹³

¹⁰ like the Ammachchi shop

¹¹ For example, women SHGs from Kurunegala prefers to visit SHGs in Jaffna and Kilinochchi. They are all war affected. However, they are from different ethnic, class, caste, and religious backgrounds. The women from Kurunegala and Anuradhapura might have dealt with disability (by nursing their disabled husbands). However, most of them do not have a disability themselves. At the same time, there are disabled women heads of households in Kilinochchi. Bringing women heads of households from different backgrounds help to develop a strong sense of unity among them. According to the women, it strengthens them.

¹² For instance, one of the participants of the FGD conducted in Kurunegala had written a poem to share with other women. The FGD was started by reading her poem. During the discussion, she managed to improvise the poem and read the revised version at the end of the FGD. The same group of women also sang songs and ensured that the meeting space was filled with laughter towards the end of the discussion. Such traits must be recognised and promoted in all functions of SHGs.

¹³ In Anuradhapura, the women heads of households pointed out that violence against women used to be tabooed due to socio-cultural values. However, the hard work of women's groups across the country has brought it out. There still is invisibility when it comes to certain kinds of violence against women, such as marital rape. However, there is progress too.

Location Specific Recommendations

Based on the above challenges, the mapping exercise identifies the following location-specific issues that must be addressed by the existing and/or new SHGs;

- ✓ In Kurunegala, more women SHGs must be created and both old and new SHGs must prioritise to address the needs of widow and women heads of households
- ✓ There are no women SHGs in Kurunegala. Thus, this is an excellent opportunity for the Women's Resource Centre to have a fresh start where these recommendations can be applied for the first time.
- ✓ In Iyakachchi, Kilinochchi, the sustainability of existing women SHGs must be prioritised. Also, when forming new groups, strategies to ensure sustainability must be addressed right at the beginning as there is a tendency not to strengthen existing groups
- ✓ In Ithavil, Kilinochchi, existing fractures within the group members, like caste differences, must be addressed in a way that allows all women heads of households to be part of a group and have equal access to opportunities
- ✓ In Palai, Kilinochchi, old and new women SHGs must address issues related to caste, financial vulnerability, and the likelihood of giving bribes
- ✓ In Poonakary, Kilinochchi, continuous effort must be made to address lack of motivation among group members of the existing women SHGs
- ✓ In Kanugahawewa, Anuradhapura, the generational gap among existing women SHGs must be acknowledged and respected. They must make sure that for women from different ages can share their experiences and needs, and there is a shared empathy despite the generational gap of group members.

Issue Specific Recommendations on Sexual Bribery

- ✓ Issues related to sexual bribery must become a frequent subject of discussions in SHGs. The women must be encouraged to speak about it. Within the group itself, the members must support those who share their experience without any judgements.
- ✓ Women SHGs must seek additional information on instances where a sexual bribe was asked and identify context-specific ways to address it with the support of an extended network of SHGs.
- ✓ Old and New women SHGs must promote and strengthen women's leadership among the members to expose public officers who ask for a sexual bribe.
- ✓ The government must appoint more women public officers to address women's issues in societies.

- ✓ Legal action must be taken against corrupted public officers and sexual bribery must be treated as a grave form of bribe
- ✓ Expand the understanding of justice for women beyond the narrow definitions based on gendered hierarchies right from the beginning. For instance, transferring a corrupt public officer who asked for a sexual bribe to a different location must not be considered as justice served.

CONCLUSION

In many cultures, women often come together in groups for a range of reasons. However, categorically they fit into two divisions. First is the formation of groups to obtain material benefits. An example is the '*chit group*,' which is an informal savings group where women participate in regular savings throughout the year. Every year, they share the savings with one woman who is unanimously selected by them (Karmakar, Mehta, Ghosh, and Selvaraj, 2011). Second is the formation of groups as women's organising – both formal and informal – to address social, cultural, economic, and political injustices against them. For instance, the Cloth Line Project, WECAN Campaign, One Billion Rising, and the Sri Lanka Campaign for Peace and Justice.

According to this mapping exercise, the women heads of households wish to merge both these categories in SHGs. They define women SHGs as groups that empower women to challenge oppressive norms, structures, and practices against them. Indeed, economic development becomes the primary concern of SHGs as women heads of households often struggle to make ends meet. However, they do not wish to be limited by it. Sustainable and meaningful participation of women heads of households is an essential component of SHGs. They firmly believe that the collective voice of women generated in SHGs will help them seek justice and bring changes in society. According to them, the underlying driving force and the overall functions of SHGs must be based on an in-depth understanding of socio-cultural, economical, and political empowerment of women. There are several factors that the women have highlighted to govern the functions of SHGs. Among those, equal access to all across the differences – such as ethnicity, age, caste, and disability – and the need to work at the village level to ensure the continued participation of women heads of households have been repeated by many. Further studies that aim to understand these aforementioned and related aspects more deeply can benefit from this intervention project in general.

The report ends with the words of one of the participants of this mapping exercise. As pointed out earlier (footnote 12), this is the portion that she wrote during the discussion;

*“...Time is slowly passing by
Time is coming closer for us to leave
We are all thankful for the programs
As I stop here, a good day to all...”*

Priyanka Jayathilaka, Kurunegala, 02 April 2019¹⁴

¹⁴ That is her name; she wrote the poem in Sinhala.

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Annex 2_Overview of Women's Collectives_as of Sep 2019

District	Partner	No. of groups	No. of members	War Widows		Military widows/ wives		Other Widows/FHH			Spouse affected by long term sickness	Divorced	Abandoned by husband	Unmarried/Sin gle	Missing - non military
				Husband disappeared/ missing	Husband dead/ killed	Husband disappeared/ missing	Husband dead/ killed	Husband disabled	Husband dead due to natural cause	Husband disabled					
Kilinochchi	JSAC	9	144	5	21				64	5			47	2	
	Viluthu	14	258	4	91				93	1	15	50		4	
Anuradhapura	RPK	17	358	6	28	18	74	9	148	17	0	27	30	0	1
Kurunegala	WRC	14	176			27	138	11							
Total		54	936	15	140	45	212	20	305	23	15	77	77	6	1

SUMMARY

Type of FHH	No of members
War Widows	155
Military widows	257
Military wives (Husband disat	20
Other FHH	504
Total	936

Organization		JSAC										
Source		Received from Keerthika Oct 17, 4:18 PM (was inserted in the narrative)										
Data		As of 30,Sep 2019										
Category	DS Division	GN Division	No. of groups	No. of members	War Widows		Other FHH			Divorced	Abandoned by husband	Unmarried/ single
					Husband disappeared/ missing	Husband dead/ killed	Husband dead due to natural cause	Husband disabled	Spouse affected by long term sickness			
War widows	Pachchilappalli	Itthavil	1	24	1	2	7	2			12	
		Malvil& Urvaniyanpattu	1	17	1	5	1				10	
		Vannankerni -North	1	25	1	1	16				7	
		Thampakamam	1	10		2	4				3	1
		Mullaiyady	1	28	2	6	12				8	
		Muhavil	1	12		4	4				4	
		Iyakachchi	1	14		1	8	2			2	1
		Vinayakupuram	1	8			7				1	
		Kottandarkulam	1	6			5	1				
		Total	9	144	5	21	64	5			47	2

Organization Viluthu
Source Received from Jeevitha Oct 22
Data As of 30,Sep 2019

Category	DS Division	No. of groups	No. of members	War Widows		Other Widows/FHH	Husband disabled	Spouse affected by long term sickness	Divorced	Abandoned by husband	Unmarried/Sin gle
				Husband disappeared/missing	Husband dead/killed						
War widows	Karachi	8	176	2	74	62	1	12	23		2
	Poonagari	6	82	2	17	31	0	3	27		2
		14	258	4	91	93	1	15	50		4

Justification: fztuJ tUkhdK; fpiif;fhj ngz; xUtu; jkI FLk;g nghWg;Gf;fs; midj;ijAk; vw;Wf;nfhS;Sk; ngz;fshd fztDhy; iftPlg;gl;ltu;> fztD; ,aw;if> tpgj;J> jw;nfhIy Mfpatw;why; kuzk; mile;j FLk;gq;fis Nru;ej ngz;fs;> fztD; my;yJ gpUjhd tUkhdK; ngw;Wf;nfhLf;fSla FLk;g mq;fj;ituf;f; fhzhky; Mf;fg;glI (fztD;> kfd;) FLk;gq;fis Nru;ej ngz;fs;> jpUkzkfhJ jdpj;J tho;fPd;w ngz;fs; fztu; Aj;jk; kw;Wk;

Organization	RPK																						
Source	Received from Iroshan Thu, Oct 17, 2:42 PM . Update based on phone call with Rupa 21.10.2019 morning (Added on the Military missing from column AL to column K)																						
Data	As of 30_Sep 2019																						
Category	DS Division	ALL FHH		Military widows/wives			Military wives		Other FHH				Other Widows/FHH						No. of groups	No. of members			
		No. of groups	No. of members	Husband disappeared/missing	Husband dead/killed	Husband disabled	No. of groups	No. of members	Husband disappeared/missing	Husband dead/killed	Husband disabled	Abandoned by husband	No. of groups	No. of members	Husband dead due to natural cause	Husband disabled	Spouse affected by long term sickness	Divorced	Abandoned by husband	Unmarried/Sin gle	Missing (non military husbands)	No. of groups	No. of members
Military widow	Vilachchiya	3	70	4	9	3	1	16	4	15	3	3	1	25	20	2		3	4		0	1	29
	Manupa (NPC)	2	45	2	13	1	1	16							21	1		4	3		0	1	29
	Kebithigollewa	3	65	2	11	2	1	15	2	11	4	3	1	20	20	1		5	3		1	1	30
	Kekirawa	3	43	1	7		1	8		2		3	1	5	21	2		4	3		0	1	30
	Galenbinduna Wewa	2	45	4	10	1	1	15							21	2		4	3		0	1	30
	Nanupa (NPE)	2	45	4	11	1	1	16							20	1		5	3		0	1	29
	Galnewa	2	45	1	13	1	1	15							25	1		2	2		0	1	30
	Sub total Total	17	358	18	74	9	7	101	6	28	7	9	3	50	148	10	0	27	21	0	1	7	207

Organization	WRC					
Source	Received from Sumika Oct 17, 5:03 PM, updated based on phone conversation with Padma 21.10.2019					
Data	As of 30,Sep 2019					
Category	DS Division	No. of groups	No. of members	Military widows/wives		
				Husband disappeared/missing	Husband dead/killed	Husband disabled
Military widows	Polgahawela	2	22	2	20	
	Rideegama	2	21	2	19	
	Ibbagamuwa	2	28	5	23	
	Galgamuwa	1	12	2	10	
	Nikaweratiya	1	15	4	11	
	Wariyapola	2	31	3	17	11
	Kurunegala	3	36	7	29	
	Mawathagama	1	11	2	9	
	Total	14	176	27	138	11

**The Methodology and Timeline of the
Perception Survey on Reconciliation and
Peacebuilding among Military and War
Widows in Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and
Kilinochchi Districts of Sri Lanka**

Submitted By Social Scientists' Association

To

UNWomen

On

15th August 2019

Methodology

The main expectation of this survey is to understand the views of military and war widows towards peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives. The proposed methodology captures the objectives of the research and presents the data collection methods which will be adopted in the study.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Identify the nature and extent of military/ war widows' engagement with, and perceptions of, peacebuilding and reconciliation initiatives.
2. Understand the differences between military widows vis-à-vis war widows in terms of their participation in, and perceptions of, peacebuilding and reconciliation interventions.
3. Recognise differences of military/ war widows vis-à-vis women in general in terms of their participation in, and perceptions of, peacebuilding and reconciliation interventions.

In order to fulfil these objectives, SSA proposes to adopt both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The quantitative section of the study will consist of 510 questionnaires administered in the Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Kilinochchi Districts. The qualitative component will comprise of 30 interviews will be evenly distributed across the aforementioned districts.

Quantitative Component

The quantitative component of the study will be conducted among two distinct groups; war/ military widows, and average men and women.

Sampling

The total sample of 510 will be divided into two components. The first component will be conducted with 300 military and war widows. This sample will be equally distributed among the three targeted district, and the district sample would be 100. The sample will be selected based on the quota sampling method as follows:

1. SSA will communicate with the local partners and develop a list of war/ military widows within each district. The list will include information of name, age, level of

education, employment, date of death of husband, the rank of husband (in the army) at the point of death, and contact details.

2. The research team will administer the survey among war/ military widows who will be purposively selected from the above-mentioned list. Respondents will be selected in such a manner as to ensure that the diversity among war/ military widows are captured. The primary purpose of following this process is to ensure a heterogeneous, widely spread sample.
3. After the selection process, SSA will contact the respondents whose details were entered in the list to fix appointments with each of them to survey with them.

The second quantitative component will consist of 210 questionnaires, which will be administered among men and women. The views of 70 persons from each district (35 female and 35 male) will be captured in this component. Respondents will be selected based on a stratified random sampling method. This sample ensures a comparison of the participation of war/ military widows in reconciliation and peacebuilding initiatives vis-à-vis people in general.

Questionnaire Development and Administration

The research team will draft a questionnaire for the study based on the findings from the scoping visit and the desk review. The questionnaire will be designed to gather the data required to sufficiently fulfil the objectives mentioned above. UN Women programming team will be consulted to improve and fine-tune the questionnaire. The final draft of the questionnaire will be carefully translated into Sinhala and Tamil and uploaded on to Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), which will protect the confidentiality of the data. A pilot of the questionnaire will be administered among ten persons in each of the three districts of Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Kilinochchi prior to deployment.

A team of 20 female field enumerators will be selected from a pool of enumerators for purposes of data collection. They will be provided comprehensive training prior to entering the field. The training will not only instruct enumerators in the contents of the questionnaire and field techniques to be employed but, will also sensitise the survey enumerators on gender equality, sensitivities within a post-conflict context and rights-based approaches to be considered when undertaking the survey.

Upon the conclusion of the training, enumerators will enter the field. Respondents will be

selected based on the sample outlined above. Furthermore, informed consent will be obtained from all respondents prior to commencing the interview.

The table below summarises the quantitative component of the study.

Table 1: Allocation of Research Samples- Quantitative Data Collection

District	Respondents	Numbers	Total
Kurunegala	Military Widows	100	170
	Females	35	
	Male	35	
Anuradhapura	Military Widows	100	170
	Females	35	
	Male	35	
Kilinochchi	War Widows	100	170
	Females	35	
	Male	35	

Qualitative Component

The qualitative component of the study will be used firstly to inform questionnaire design and secondly to better understand the data emerging from the survey. SSA proposes to conduct a scoping study in all three districts prior to developing the survey. During this phase of the study, interviews will be conducted with partner organisations, war widows and relevant government officials in each district. The information received through these interviews will be useful in better conceptualising the research itself and informing the content and structure of the questionnaire.

The second phase of the qualitative data collection will be utilised to make sense of the survey data. Upon the analysis of the survey data, the research team will return to the field to conduct interviews among war widows in each district to probe further into some of the findings which emerge from such an analysis. This phase would not only provide in-depth qualitative data on the experiences and perceptions of war/military widows but would also enrich the quantitative data gathered through the study.

The table below summarises the proposed qualitative data collection methods.

Table 2: Allocation of the Research Sample: Qualitative Data Collection

District	Participants	Method	Numbers
Kurunegala	War/ Military Widows	In-Depth Interview	8
	Local Partner Organisations	KII	1
	Government Officials	KII	1
Anuradhapura	War/ Military Widows	In-Depth Interview	8
	Local Partner Organisations	KII	1
	Government Officials	KII	1
Kilinochchi	War/ Military Widows	In-Depth Interview	8
	Local Partner Organisations	KII	1
	Government Officials	KII	1

Table 2: Allocation of the Research Sample: Qualitative Data Collection

Timeline

In order to achieve the methodology outlined above, SSA proposes the following timeline:

	August		September				October				
	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5
Scoping Mission											
Drafting Questionnaire											
Pilot Survey											
Finalising Questionnaire											
Enumerator Training											
Data Collection											
Data Analysis											
Qualitative Data Collection											
Report Writing											
Feedback on the Report											
Final Report Submission											

Table 3: Timeline for Study

Tentative Dates for field visits

Pilot Survey: 13th and 14th September 2019

Data Collection: 22nd September to 11th October 2019

Qualitative Data Collection: 15th to 19th October 2019



SURVEY AMONG MILITARY AND WAR WIDOWS ON PERCEPTIONS OF RECONCILIATION

SOCIAL SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

05TH NOVEMBER 2019

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- Identify perceptions of and attitudes towards reconciliation among war widows in Kilinochchi, and military widows in Kurunegala and Anuradhapura
- Identify perceptions of prevalence of sexual bribery in the Anuradhapura, Kurunegala and Kilinochchi districts

METHODOLOGY

- Quantitative Component
 - Anuradhapura District
 - 55 Military Widows
 - 70 male and female respondents in household survey
 - Kurunegala District
 - 71 Military Widows
 - 70 male and female respondents in household survey
 - Kilinochchi District
 - 90 War Widows
 - 70 male and female respondents in household survey

LIMITATIONS

- External Influences
 - Elections
 - Gurukanda incident
- Influence of administering questionnaires
 - Looking at each other's answers
 - Discussing answers
 - Project components already implemented in some areas

WAR WIDOWS AND MILITARY WIDOWS

- Challenges in identifying 'widows'
 - Self-identification as widows even though abandoned.
- Challenges in mobilizing military widows
- Diversity within the sample of project beneficiaries
 - Military and War widows
 - Married but husband is disabled
 - Abandoned, Divorced persons as well

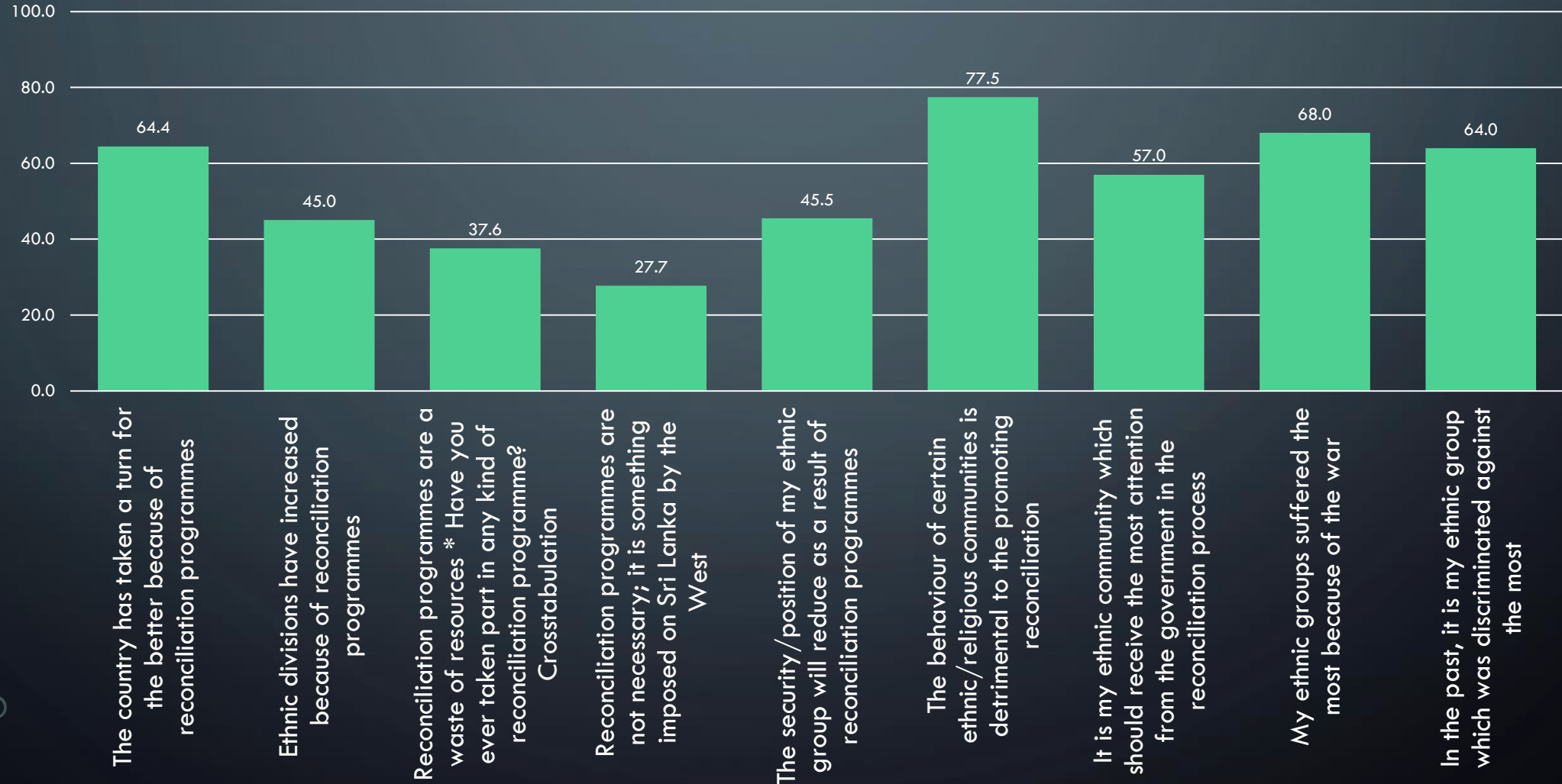
WAR WIDOWS AND MILITARY WIDOWS

- Differences between military widows in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala
 - Kurunegala more vocal, educated, economically secure as opposed to Anuradhapura
- Military widows in Anuradhapura more similar to war widows in Kilinochchi than military widows in Kurunegala

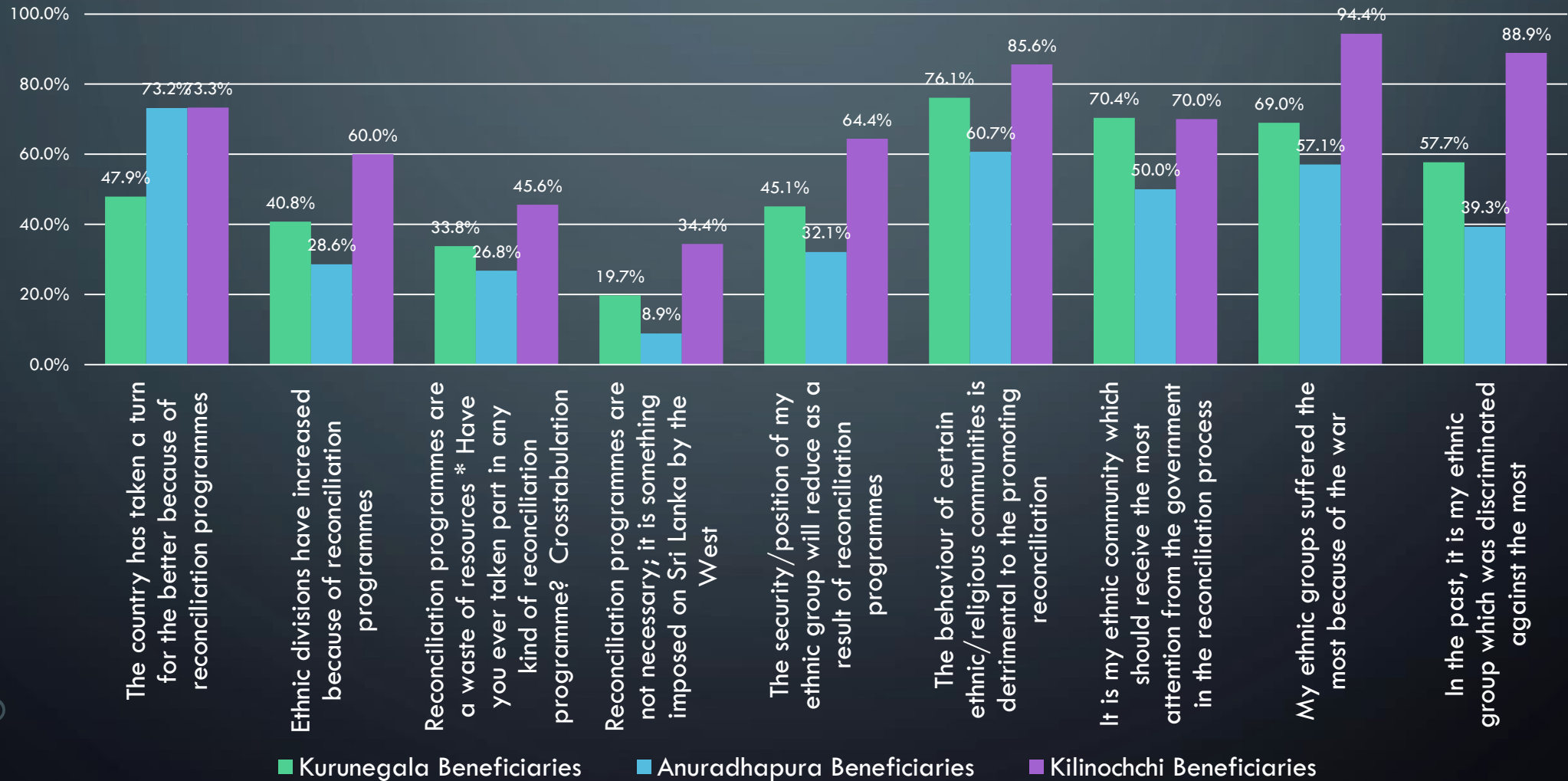
KNOWLEDGE OF RECONCILIATION

- Most people did not know what reconciliation was
 - 41.5% - No Understanding
 - More beneficiaries in Kurunegala (43.8%) have at least a good understanding of reconciliation compared to beneficiaries in Anuradhapura (33.9%) and Kilinochchi (26.7%).
 - More than 50% of beneficiaries in Kilinochchi (54.4%) reported that they have no understanding of reconciliation.
 - Changed questionnaire
 - Often asked “You tell us what it is, then we will write.”
- Even among those who know, important to distinguish between knowledge and attitudes.
 - Even though Kurunegala has most knowledge about reconciliation, also the most hostile district.

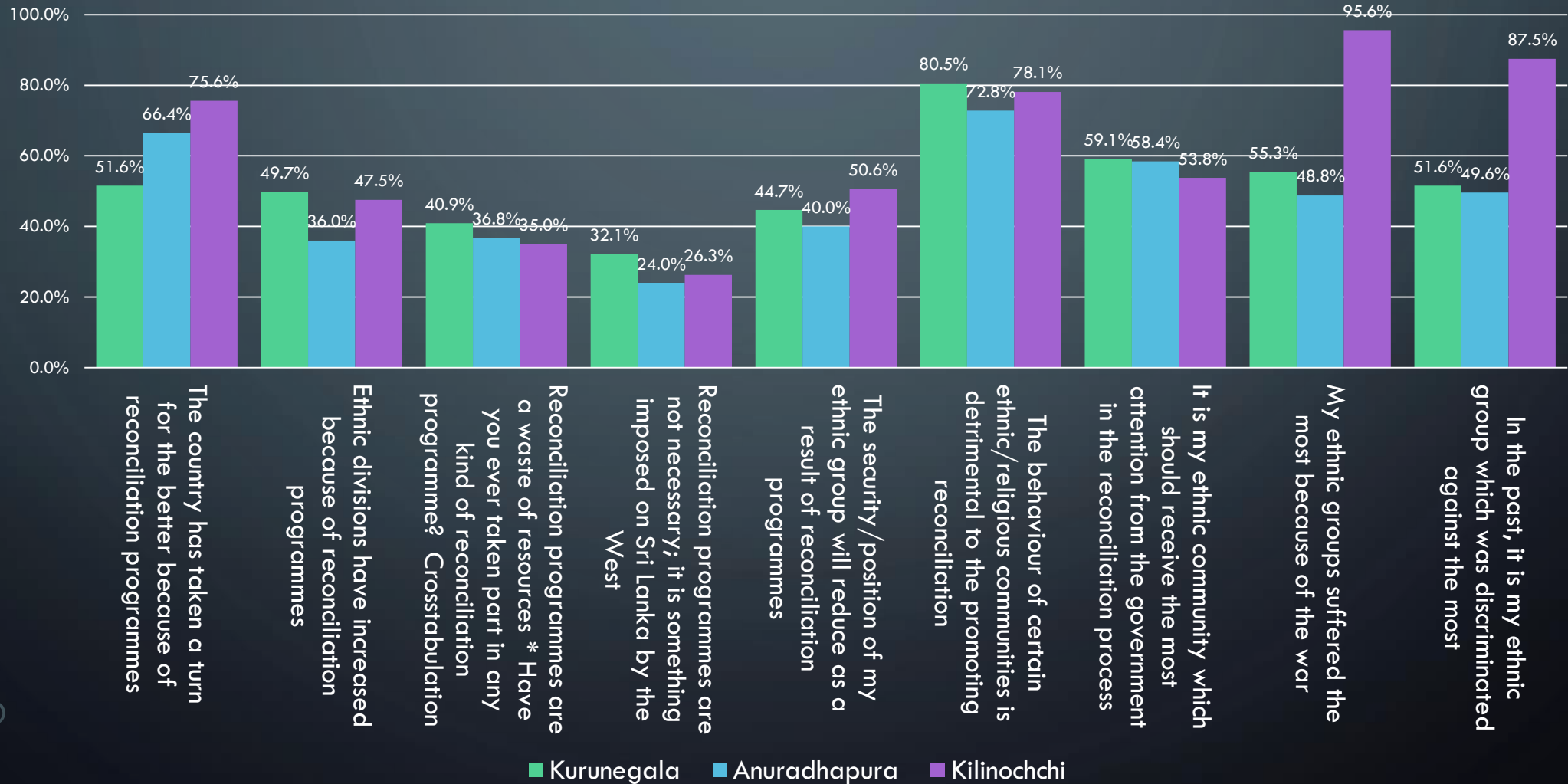
ATTITUDES TOWARDS RECONCILIATION



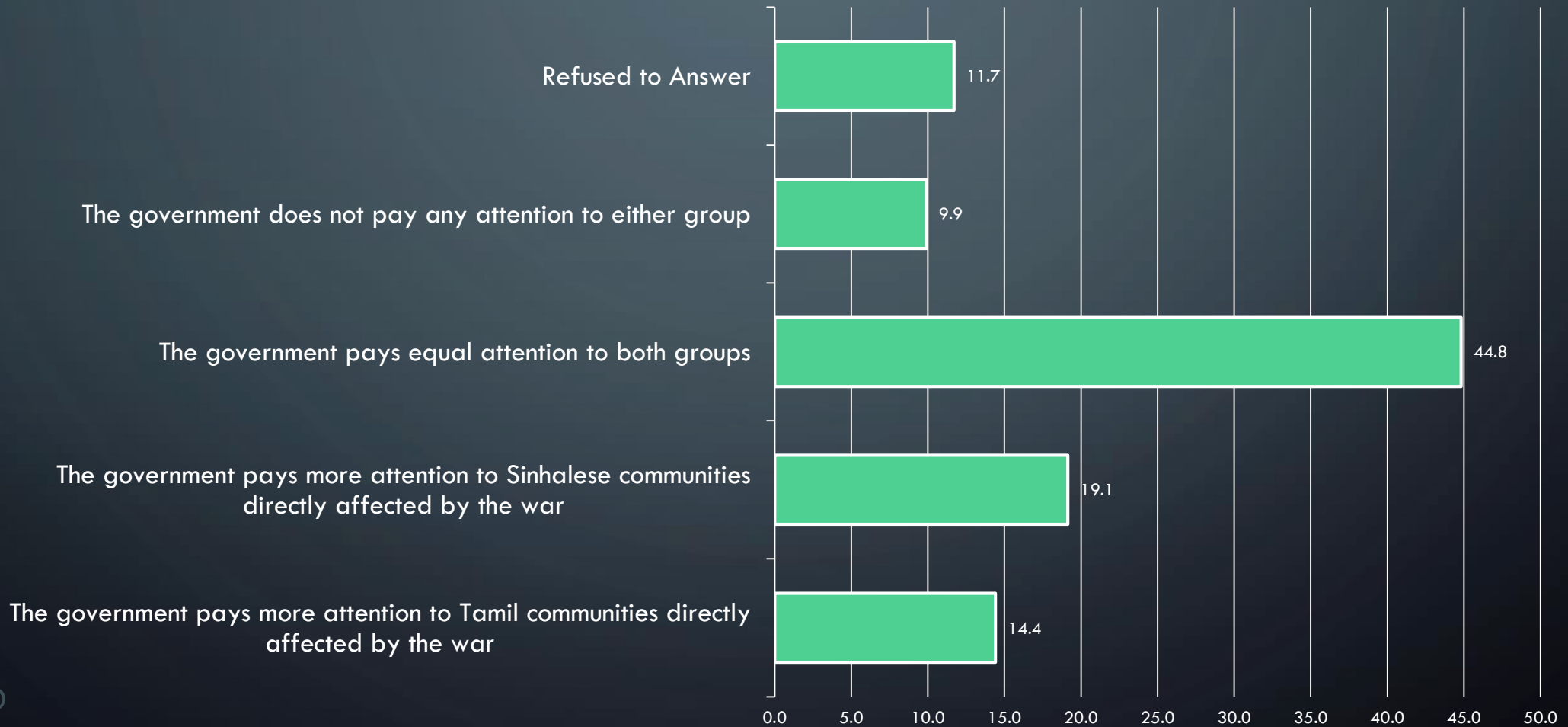
ATTITUDES TOWARDS RECONCILIATION – BENEFICIARIES AND DISTRICT BREAKDOWN



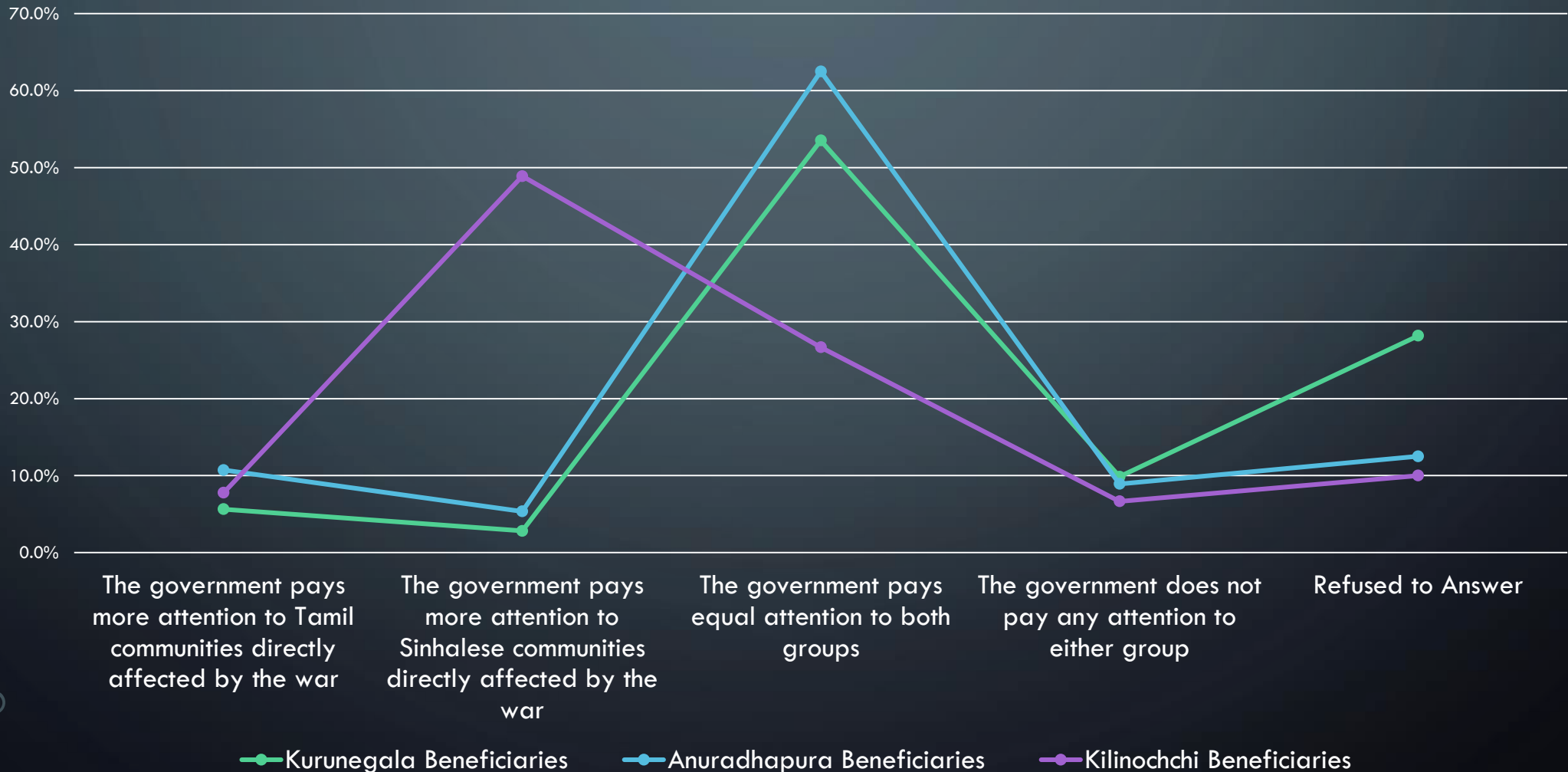
ATTITUDES TOWARDS RECONCILIATION – DISTRICT BREAKDOWN



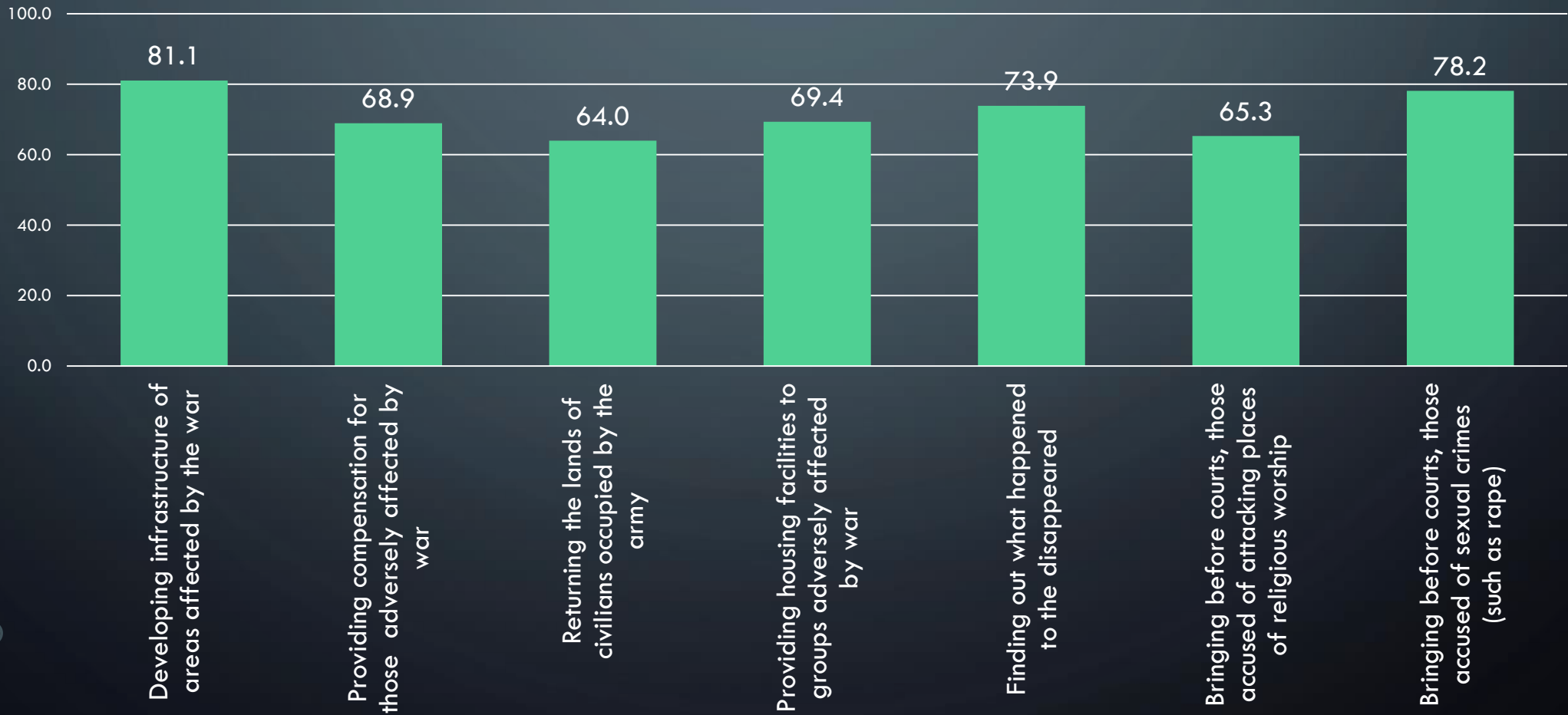
PERCEPTION OF GOVERNMENT



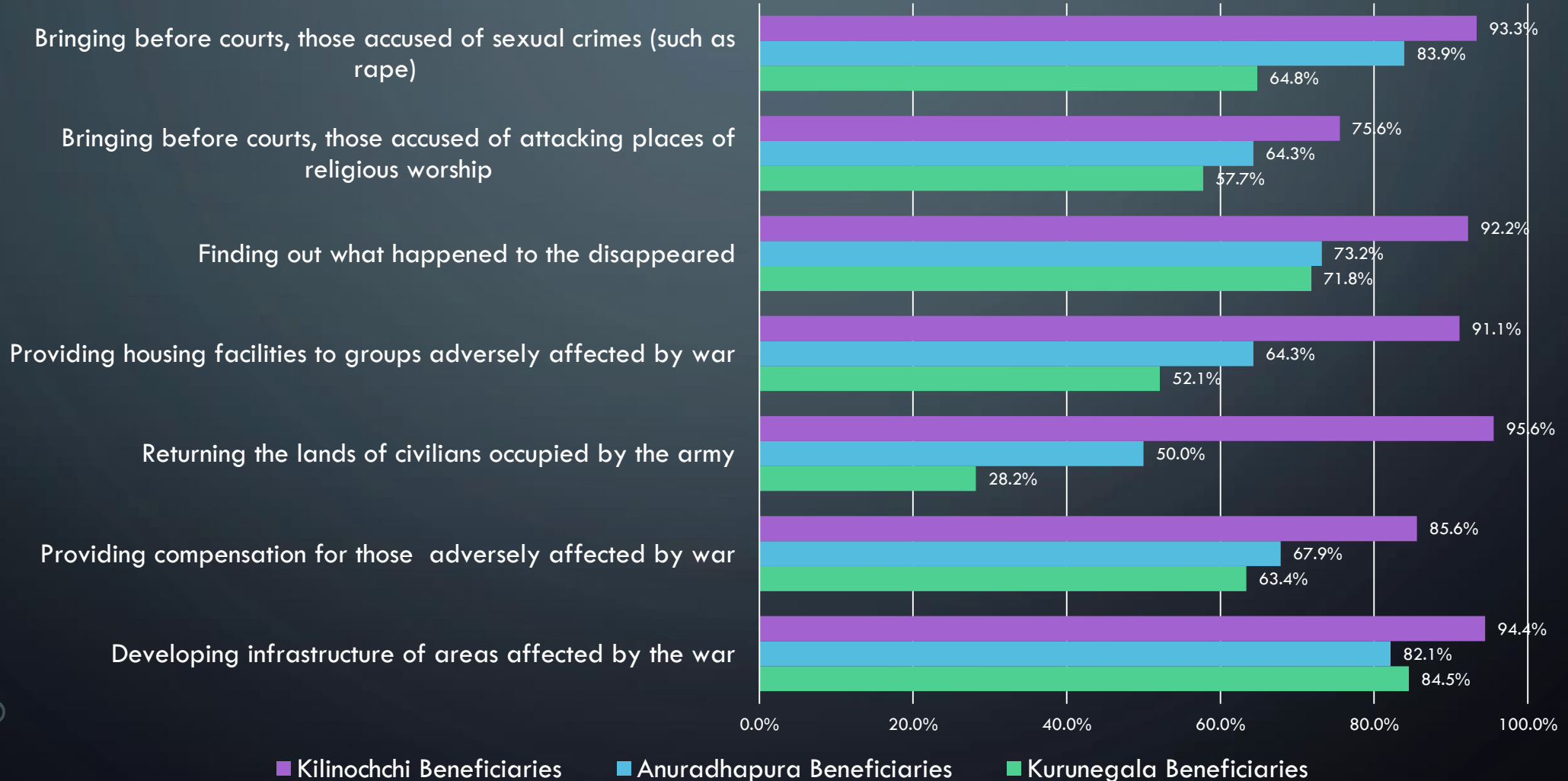
PERCEPTION OF GOVERNMENT – DISTRICT AND BENEFICIARY BREAKDOWN



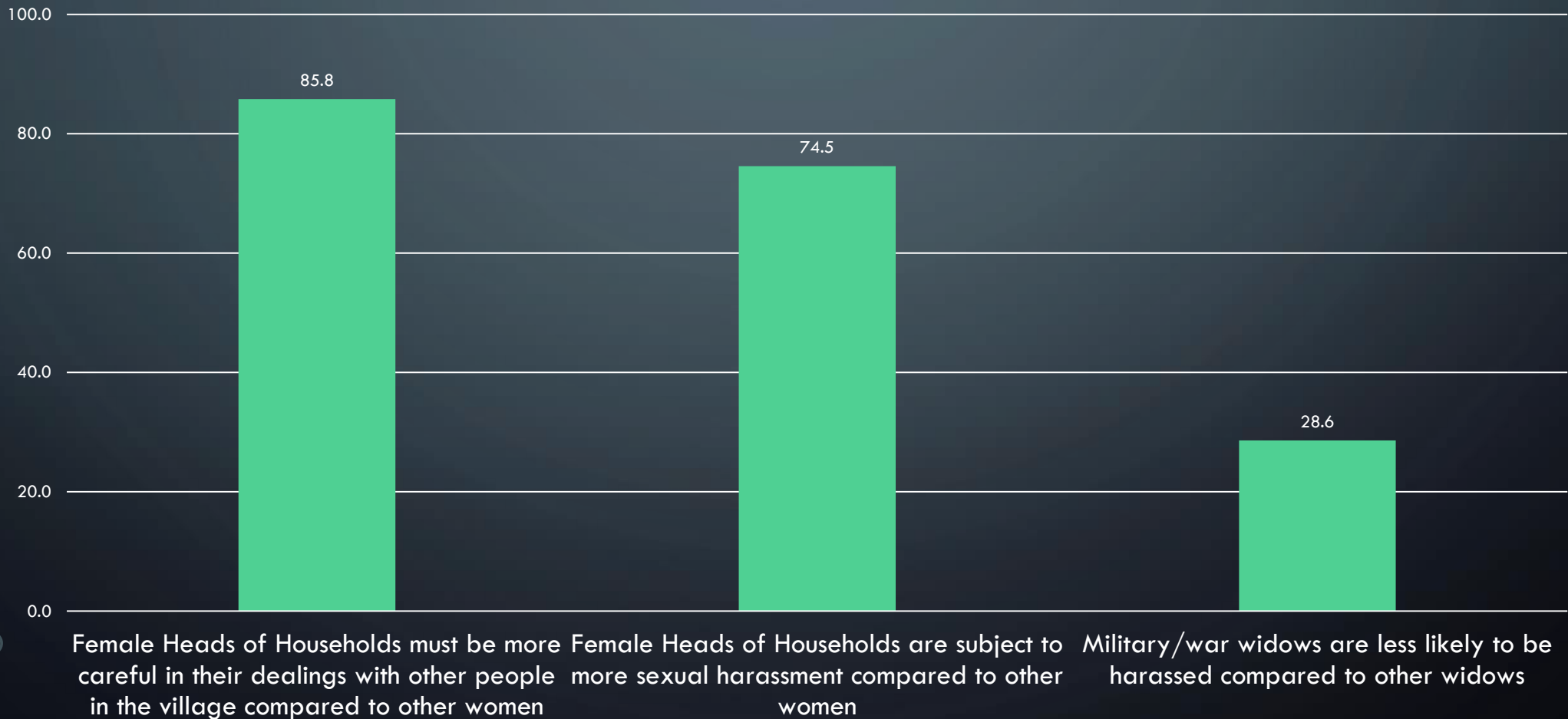
RECONCILIATION PRIORITIES



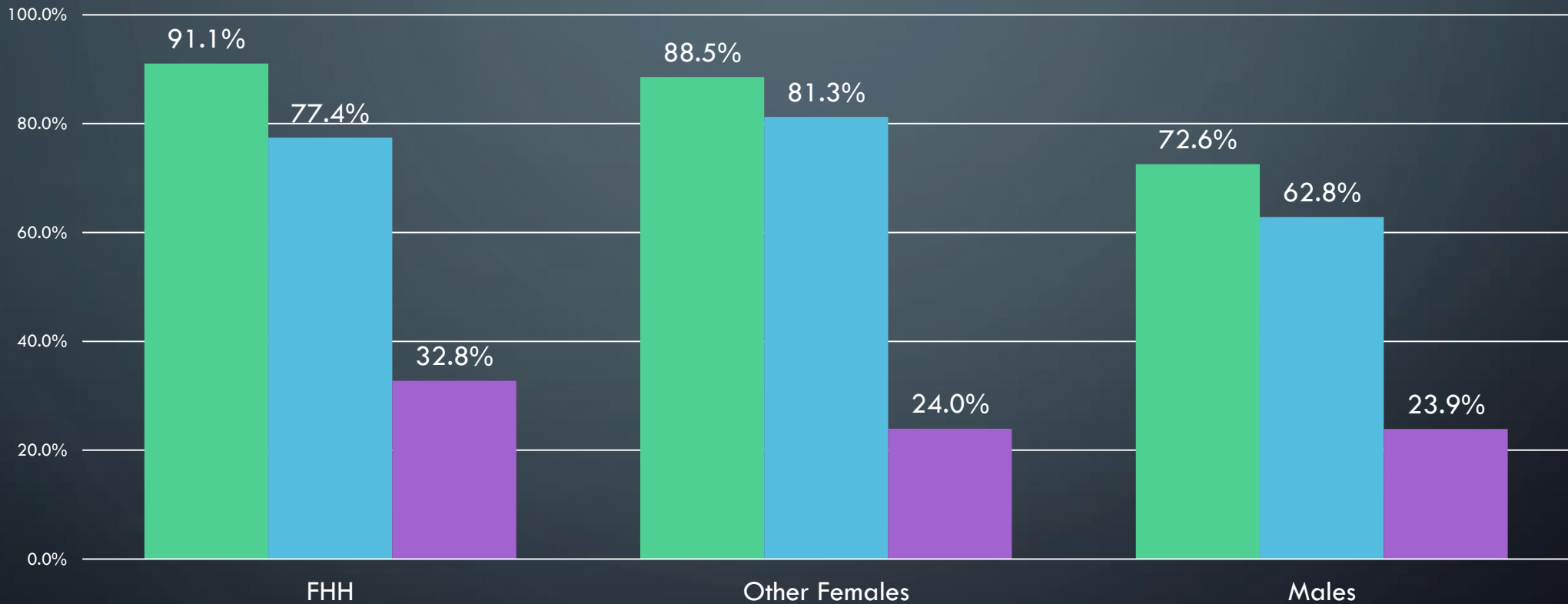
RECONCILIATION PRIORITIES – DISTRICT AND BENEFICIARY BREAKDOWN



PERCEPTIONS OF FEMALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS

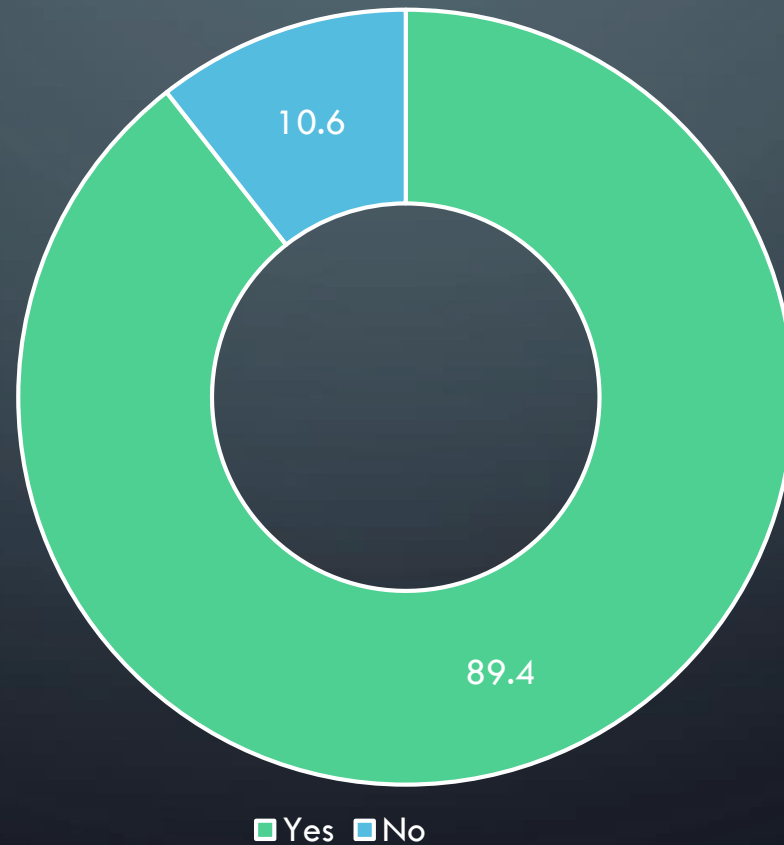


PERCEPTIONS OF FHH – GENDER BREAKDOWN

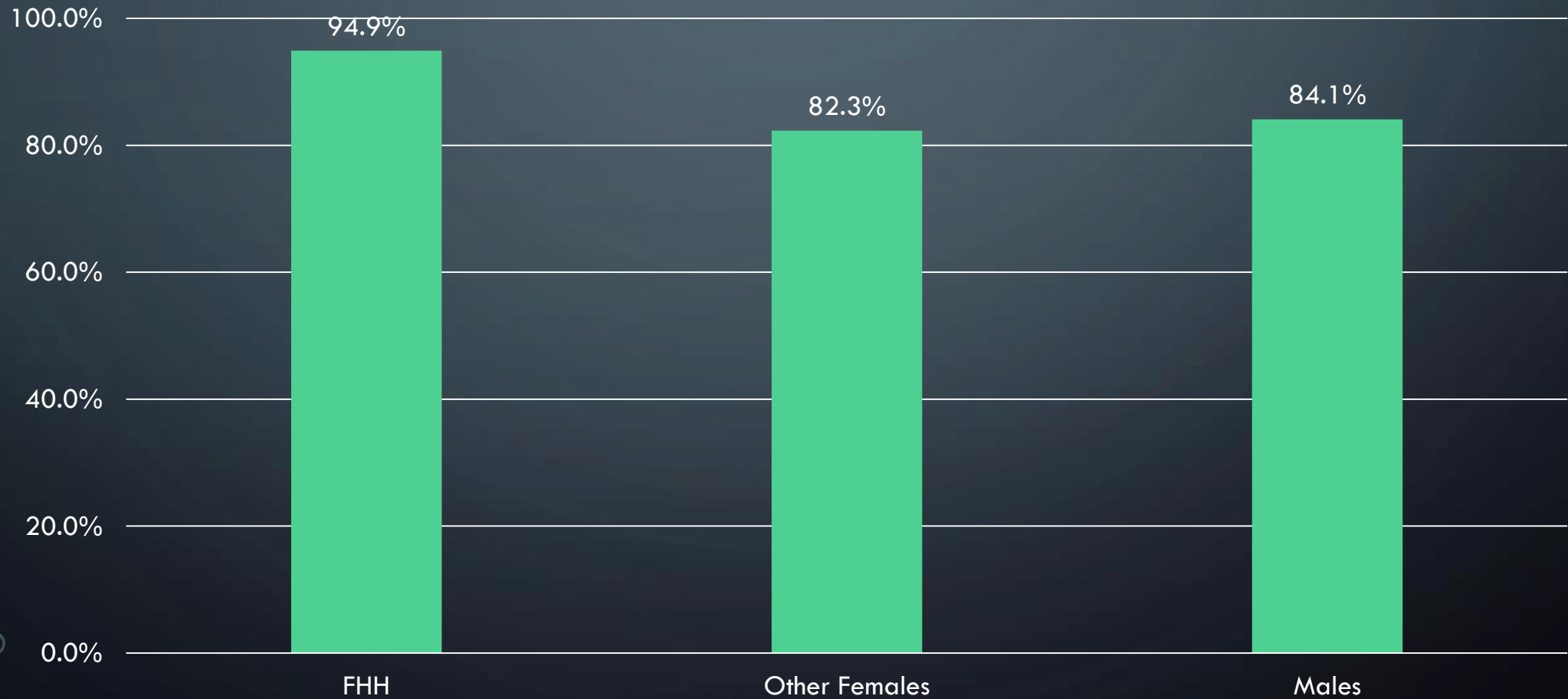


- Female Heads of Households must be more careful in their dealings with other people in the village compared to other women
- Female Heads of Households are subject to more sexual harassment compared to other women
- Military/war widows are less likely to be harassed compared to other widows

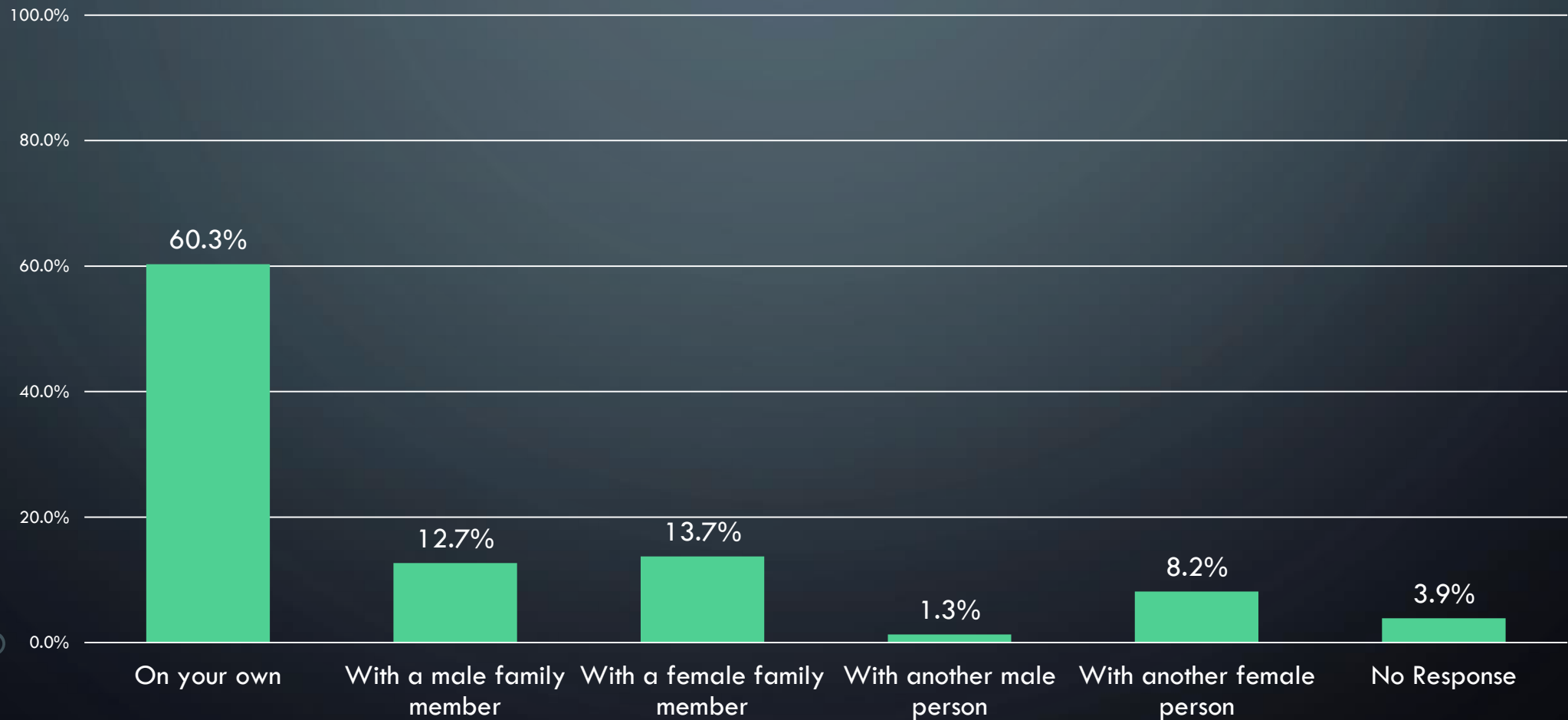
ENGAGEMENT WITH THE STATE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS



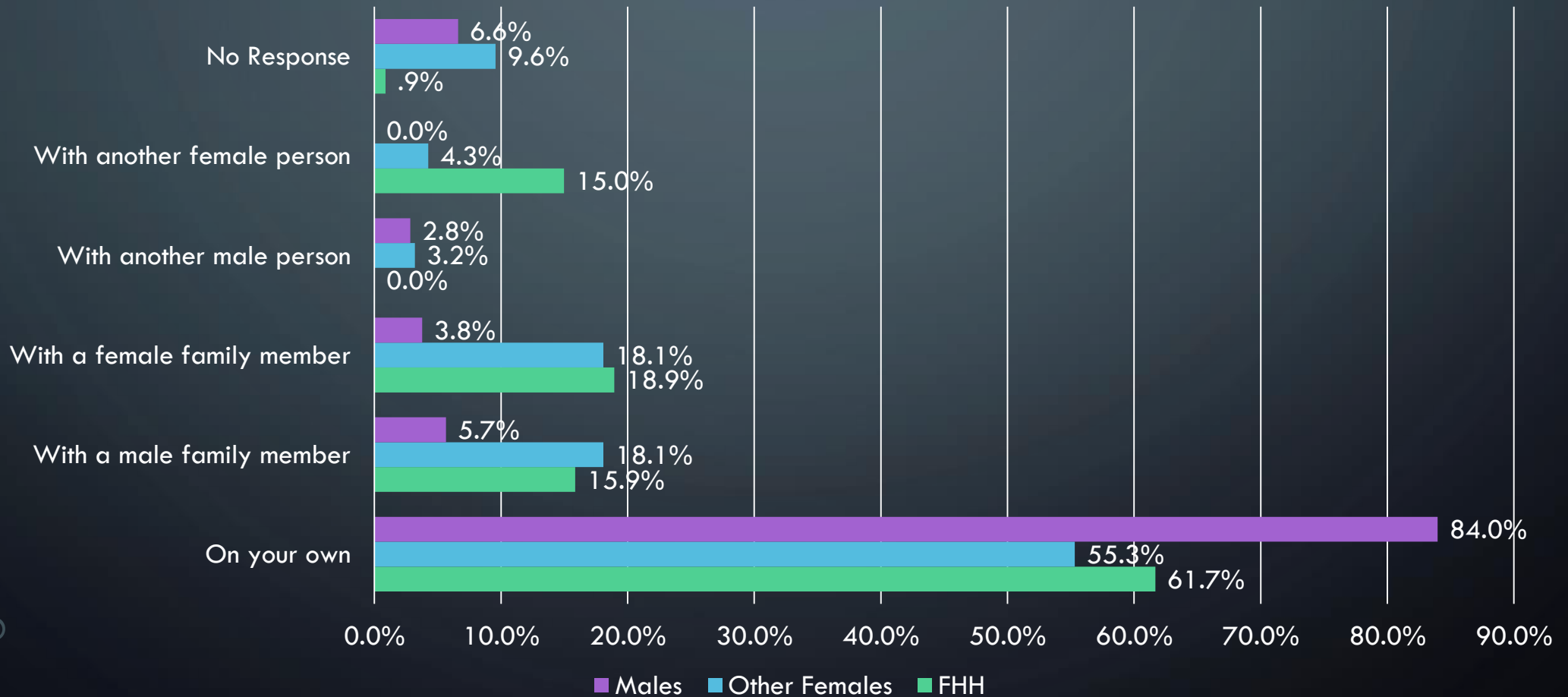
ENGAGEMENT WITH THE STATE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS – GENDER BREAKDOWN



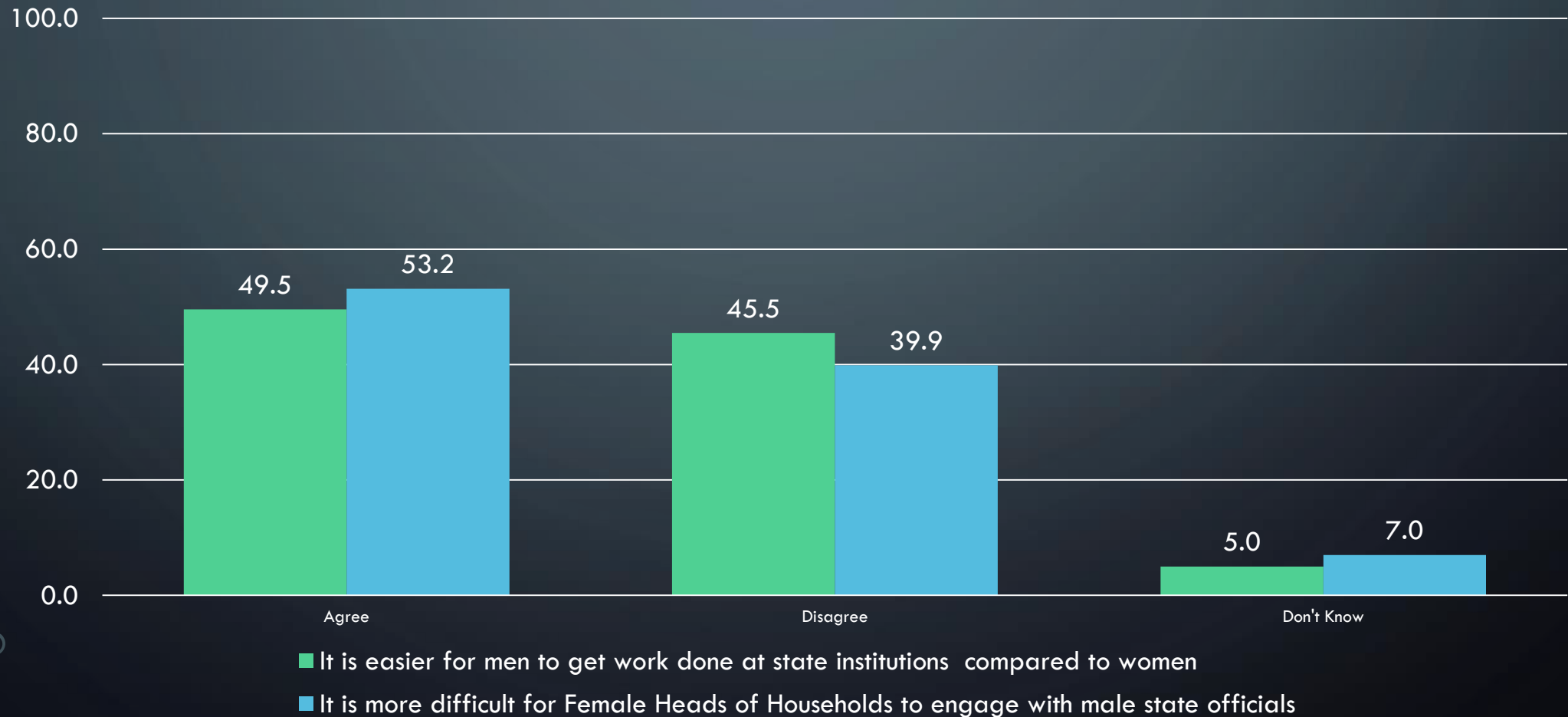
WITH WHO DID YOU GO?



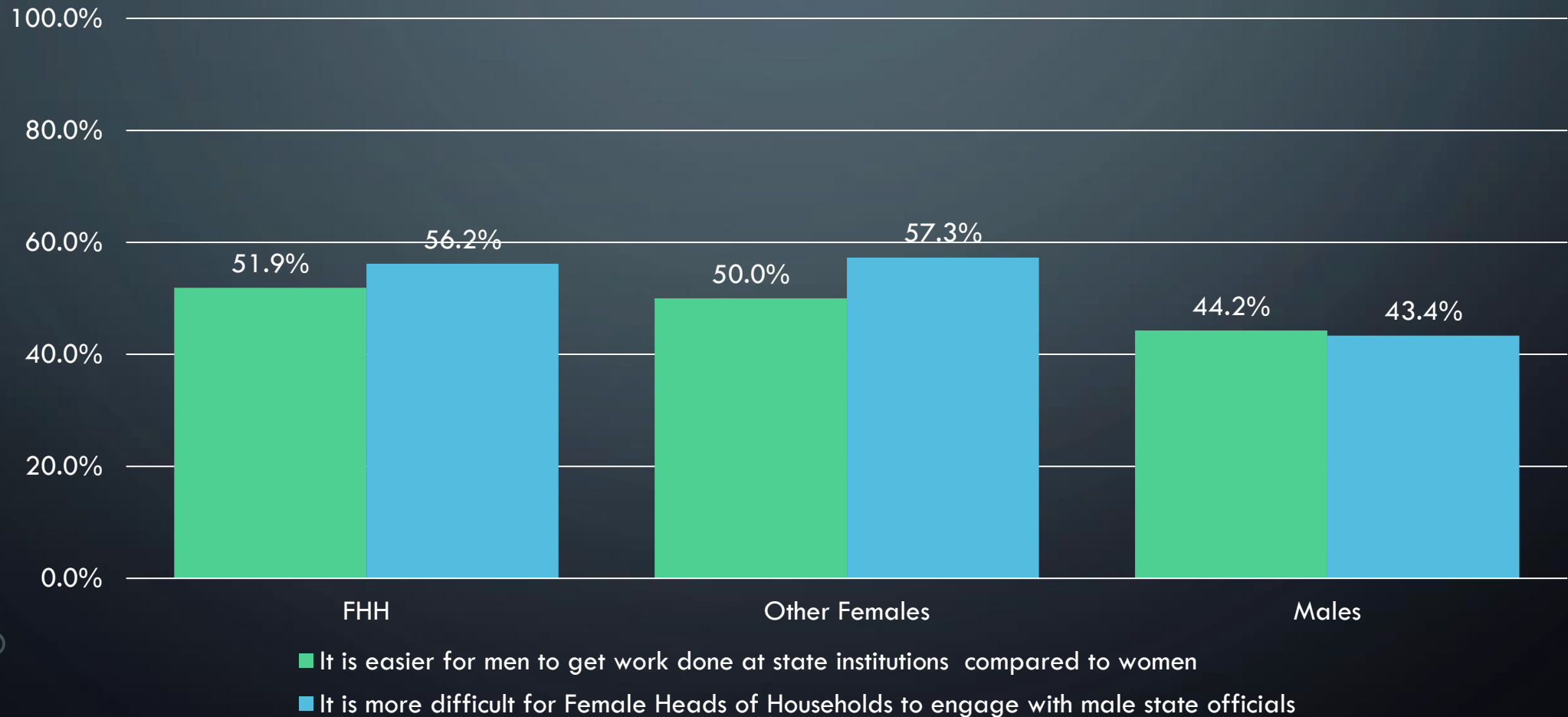
WITH WHO DID YOU GO? – GENDER BREAKDOWN



PERCEPTIONS: GETTING WORK DONE AT STATE INSTITUTIONS



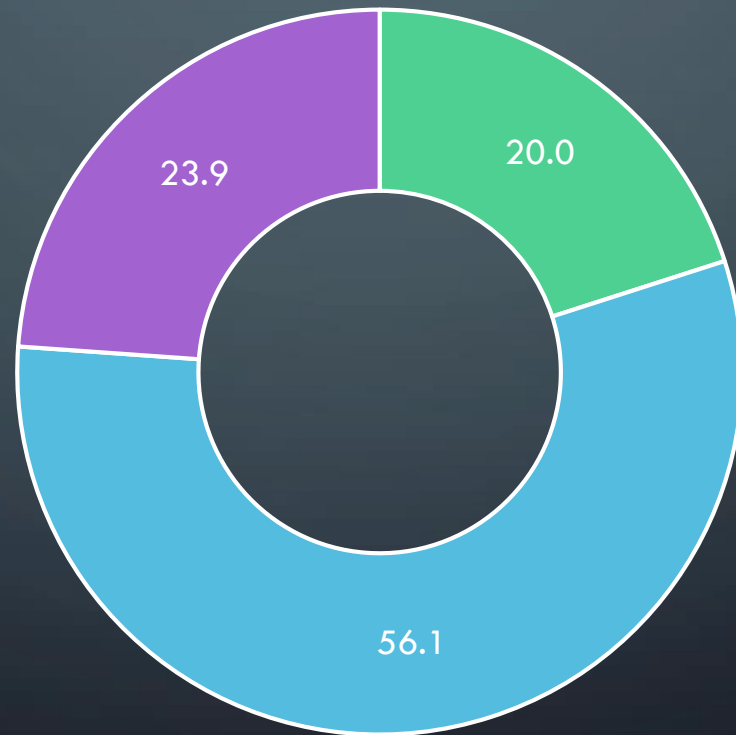
PERCEPTIONS: GETTING WORK DONE AT STATE INSTITUTIONS – GENDER BREAKDOWN



DO YOU THINK THAT WAR/ MILITARY WIDOWS ARE MORE AT RISK OF HAVING UNWANTED DEMANDS BEING MADE OF THEM FROM STATE OFFICIALS COMPARED TO OTHER WOMEN?

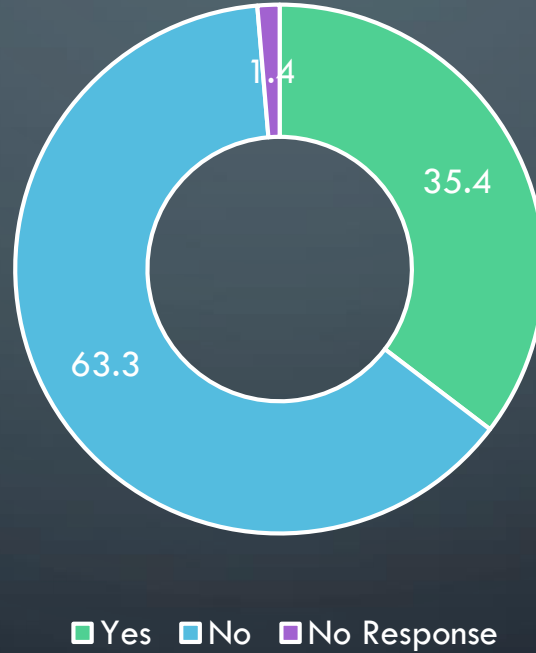


TO WHAT EXTENT DO PEOPLE IN THIS AREA HAVE TO PROVIDE SEXUAL FAVOURS TO OBTAIN STATE SERVICES

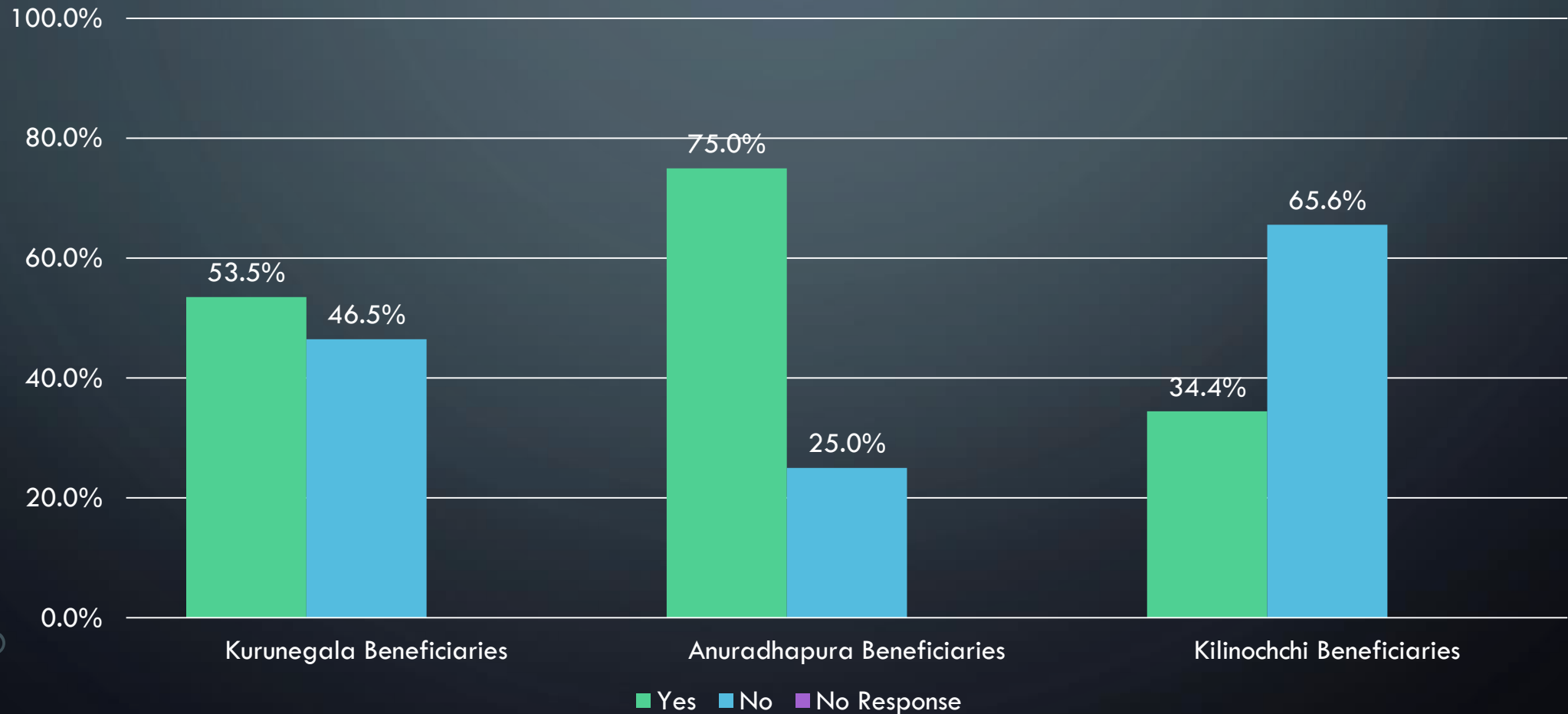


■ Used in this area ■ Not used in this area ■ Don't Know

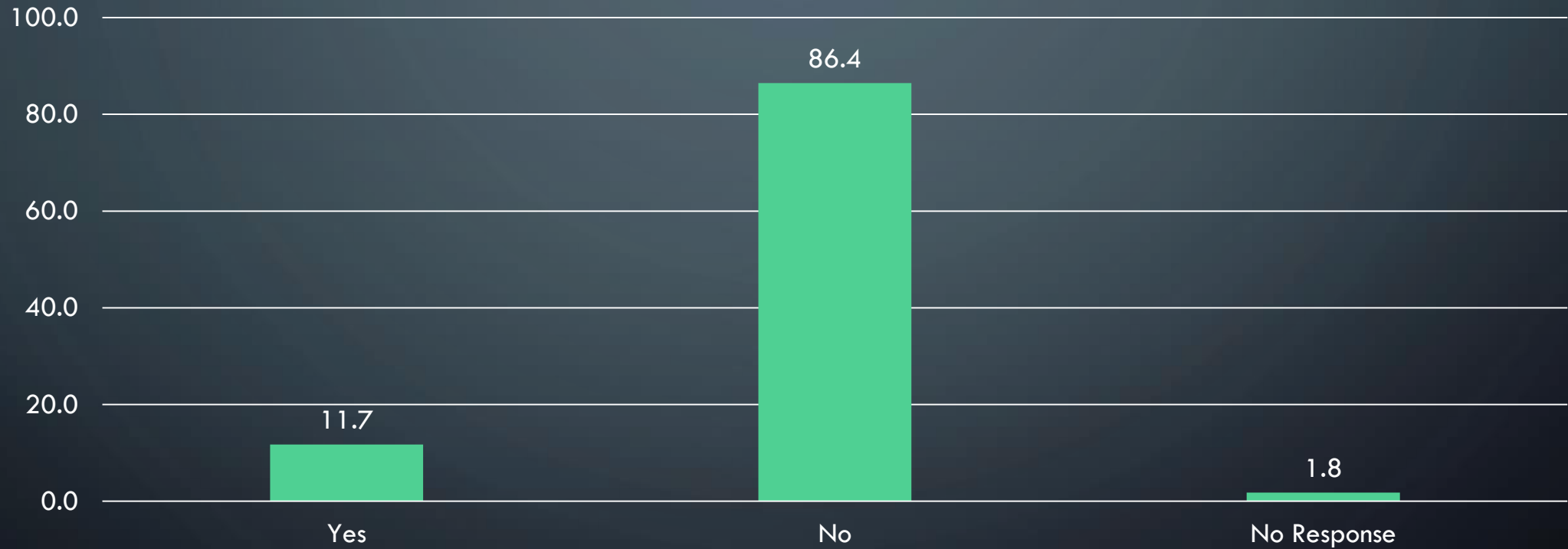
DO YOU KNOW ANY INSTANCES IN WHICH A WOMAN HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO UNWANTED DEMANDS BY A STATE OFFICIAL IN EXCHANGE FOR RECEIVING A GOVERNMENT SERVICE?



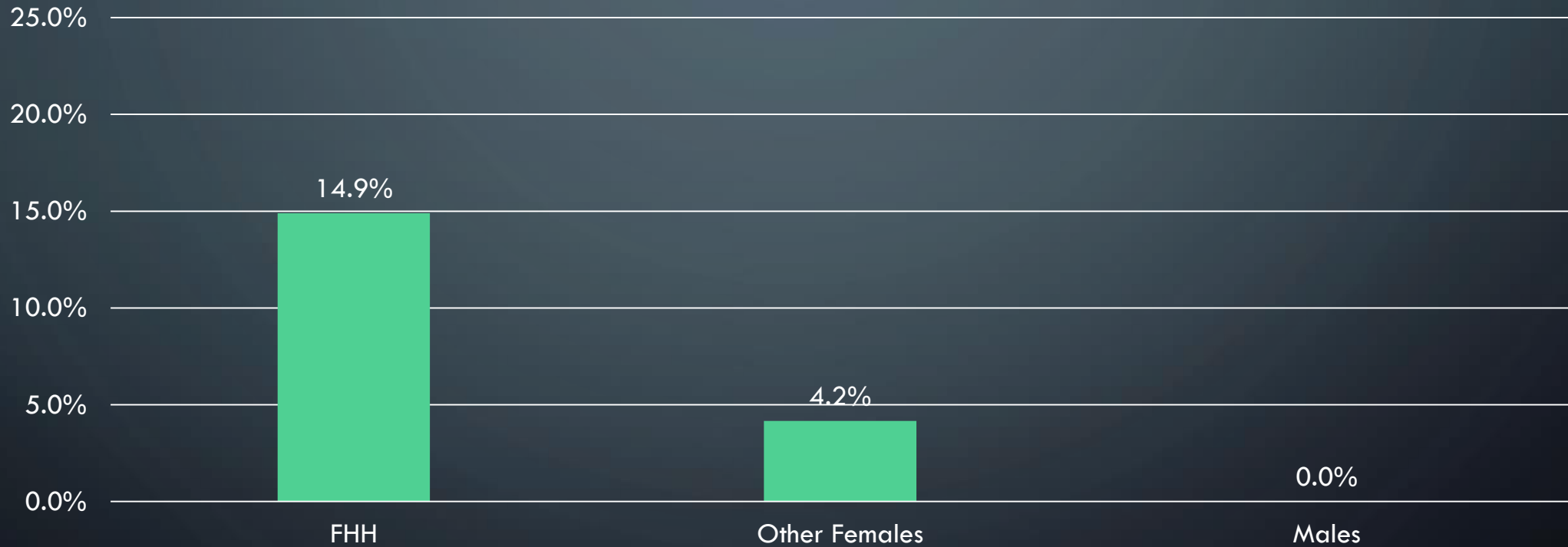
DO YOU KNOW ANY INSTANCES IN WHICH A WOMAN HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO UNWANTED DEMANDS BY A STATE OFFICIAL IN EXCHANGE FOR RECEIVING A GOVERNMENT SERVICE? – DISTRICT AND BENEFICIARY BREAKDOWN



HAVE YOU BEEN SUBJECTED TO SEXUAL BRIBERY?



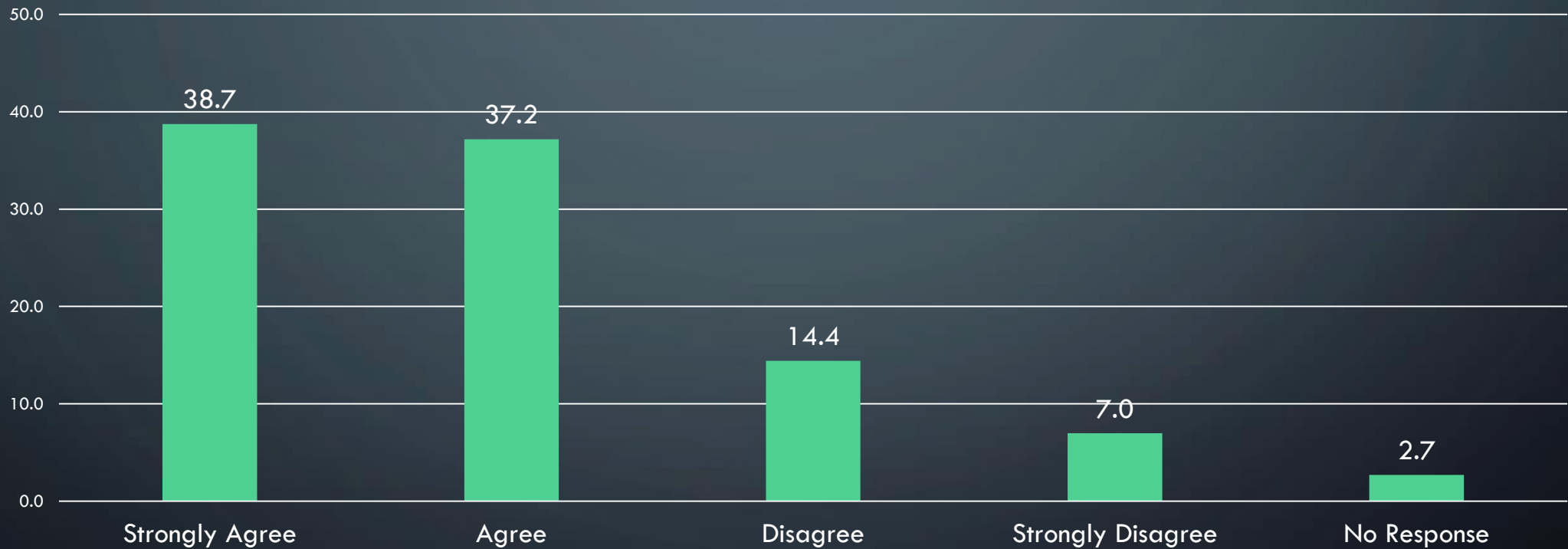
HAVE YOU BEEN SUBJECTED TO SEXUAL BRIBERY? – GENDER BREAKDOWN



HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO COMPLAIN?



COMPLAINING WILL CAUSE MORE ISSUES THAN IT SOLVES



Inception Report :

Develop and deliver of a Training Package on Women's Economic Empowerment in the Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Kilinochchi districts of Sri Lanka



Submitted to UN Women

Submitted by Chrysalis and ISB

23rd August 2019 (Draft)

4th September 2019 (Final)



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1. Introduction

This inception report sets out the methodology for the assignment that builds on the proposal submitted and the objectives set out in the terms of reference. These have been further refined and developed through discussions with the UN Women Team. There will be further opportunities for UN Women to comment on the draft report prior to its finalization.

UN Women as the lead agency, UNDP and the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone development is implementing the project called “ Hidden Challenges: Addressing Sexual Bribery Experienced by Military Widows and War Widows in Sri Lanka to Enable Resilience and Sustained Peace” which aims to empower military widows (predominantly Sinhalese widows in the North Western and North Central Provinces) and war widows (predominantly Tamil widows in the Northern Province) by addressing the high incidence of sexual bribery and exploitation against them, which also acts as a significant barrier to their socio-economic advancement and perpetuates vulnerability and intergenerational conflict. It will empower widows and their families by improving access to information and services, supporting formation of widows’ collectives, and supporting sustainable income-generation. It will also collaborate with public officials and state institutions to increase their commitment to prevent and respond to bribery and to protect military and war widows from sexual exploitation. This will be complemented by the strengthening of civil society to hold systems and decision-makers accountable.

This assignment will focus on the livelihoods component of the said project that seeks to economically empower female-headed households (FHHs) in the Kurunegala, Killinochchi and Anuradhapura districts. Chrysalis together with the Industrial Service Bureau (ISB) of Kurunegala will conduct a needs assessment to understand the gaps in skills and capacities of FHHs (that will include military widows and war widows); undertake a value chain analysis in identified sectors to understand market opportunities for FHHs; as well as develop a customized action plan, intervention strategies and training curricula for business skill-development trainings and providing in-kind services. It is envisaged that this component of the said project will help to understand the challenges and opportunities FHHs face when engaging in businesses in the 3 districts, and thereby strengthen their capacities so to support them in setting up and running viable and resilient businesses.

This assignment will contribute to achieving Output 1.3 – that is to increase the entrepreneurial knowledge and skills of military widows and war widows - of the Hidden Challenges: Addressing Sexual Bribery Experienced by Military Widows and War Widows in Sri Lanka to Enable Resilience and Sustained Peace project.

Focus Areas : As per the terms of reference (ToR), the districts of Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Killinochchi will be the focus of this assignment. Following a meeting with UNWomen on the 7th of August, the divisional secretariats divisions listed below are those the ongoing project focuses on and hence those this assignment will operate within. The meeting on the 22nd August with UNDP and UN Women further defined the actions in District. In Killinochchi FHHs outside the 3 divisions indicated below will be mobilized.

Table 1 : Project locations

Districts	DS divisions
Kurunegala	Kurunegala
	Polgahawela
	Rideegama
	Mawathagama
	Ibbagamuwa
	Wariyapola
	Nikaweratiya
Anuradhapura	Kekirawa
	Nuwaragam Palatha Central
	Mahawilachchiya
	Kebitigollewa
Kilinochchi	Karachchi
	Poonakary
	Pachchilapalli
	Kandawalai (additional division)

2. Context

Women consist of 52% of the population in Sri Lanka, however they only account for 36.4% of the labour force compared to men who account for 74.91.² For a country experiencing an ageing population and the consequent demographic changes, women's potential remains untapped as a key driver of sustained economic growth. Though small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) contribute to 53% of the country's GDP, women only account for 10% of those involved in SMEs³. Amongst them less than 30% own productive assets while less than 10% of the SMEs are owned by women. Further socio-cultural norms and beliefs tend to influence the types of businesses women and men engage in. For example women are more likely to be involved in home gardening, dress making or beauty culture, businesses that can be operated from their homes allowing them to balance reproductive and productive expectations.

Since 2017, Sri Lanka has had a national SME policy (2017) and an action plan (2018) in place, further it has introduced the *Enterprise Sri Lanka* initiative to strengthen micro and small medium enterprises (MSME). But structural barriers have prevented these from succeeding. For example the lack of access to new technologies, sustainable farming practices, poor knowledge of business development in relation to agribusiness opportunities, lack of skilled labour for SME growth and weak access to economic infrastructure has inhibited growth in both the agriculture and industry sectors as repeatedly identified by studies. Chrysalis's own experience has shown, that gender stereotypes play a critical role in defining women and men's choices and how they operate businesses. Which is often based on the empirical expectations they gather from their day-to-day life and existing business practices. This affects women differently when it comes to equality in opportunities, accessing opportunities, and achieving results and benefits. For the some 1.2 million households categorized as female-headed households (23.5 % of all households in the country)⁴ the situation is much bleaker. Not simply a phenomenon limited to the former war affected parts of the country, such household's account for over 20% of those in every province.⁵

In the former conflict affected areas while the conflict has most likely contributed to the creation of FHHs, the lack of systematic data collection of such households, has limited an accurate understanding of causes, trends, characteristic and thereby needs and vulnerabilities. The same is very likely when it comes to FHHs nationally. Despite the limitations posed by poor categorization, existing statistics, micro studies and anecdotal evidence suggests that FHHs, are particularly vulnerable and often some of the poorest families in the country. While traditional gender relations and norms shape women and their families' socio-economic status and wellbeing, the cultural taboos associated with widows and other FHHs often compounds their vulnerabilities and abilities to overcome these.

² 4th quarter 2017 – Department of Census and Statistics.

³ Ibid

⁴ According to the latest Census Departments' report based on data collected from 2012 to 2013. Fourth Quarter of 2017, Department of Census and Statistics.

⁵ Ibid

For the thousands of war and military widows (often categorized as FHHs), in addition to facing the challenges of becoming the primary income earners they need to also negotiating deeply entrenched patriarchal beliefs and behaviors. These will often than not undermine their mobility, access to and control of resources, networks and markets while increasing their exposure to sexual and domestic violence. Specific security, economic realities and societal dynamics in particular areas such as the former conflict affected areas will further reinforce or compound risks women face. FHHs do 'what they have to do' in order to survive the material and spatial disruption they encounter. Adverse effects from a post-war financing drive have left many persons working on several jobs. A reliance on micro financing, and the habit of serial and multiple loan-taking from a variety of sources has led to a culture of debt that is normalized by the intense financing of the post-war years, while a lack of access to physical markets and a lack of access to ongoing up-skilling is driving debts.

While drafting the National Plan for Women Headed Households has been a step forward, progress has been slow to finalize and implement. Recently the Government Task Force on Women-Headed Households (WHHs) with development actors began working with FHHs to develop their capacities as entrepreneurs. Driven by the government strategy of creating an entrepreneur-based economy. While SMEs have proven to be critical sources of income, the need for nuanced services that understand the particularities and are sensitive to the experiences of such households is critical. The challenges such households face are numerous, on one hand they are often the poorest, often stigmatized and ostracized, the women heading these households often face discrimination and lack the social support and networks needed to set up and successfully operate and grow income generating activities.

In August, 2018 Chrysalis undertook a series of rapid consultations with Divisional Secretariat, CSO and networks in the districts of Killinochchi, Kurunegala and Anuradhapura. While there were some differences in experience due to the specific contexts, the similarities were more apparent. The following is a brief overview of the main findings that require deeper investigation.

Societal Restrictions : FHHs in the three districts have to deal with socio-cultural expectations that limit their mobility, access to networks and markets as well as the type of economic activities they chose to engage in. In addition to the practical difficulties the women faced such as limited mobility due to child care demands or poor skills, these are compounded by socio-cultural norms and customs. Amongst the Tamil community, widows are often ostracized as being unlucky, spouses of ex-combatants are often socially ostracized as attracting increased scrutiny from security personnel. For military widows, the need to uphold dead soldiers honor means they are discouraged from engaging in economic or social activities that may be viewed as bringing dishonor.

Control Over Assets : The lack of control over assets or resources was voiced in all the districts. Patriarchal inheritance laws that favor men often determine control over productive assets such as land. For example in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala women talked of how they had to leave homes following the death or disappearance of husbands since they were not entitled to ownership. Even in those situations where they had constructed houses on their parents land they have had to leave since they would not inherit the land. Often than not women would have to buy land in order to own it given the inheritance laws. Though all military widows are entitled to their dead husbands pensions, these are reduced once the

deceased pensionable age is reached or when the women re-marry. Further military widows are often not eligible for other grants schemes since they receive this allowance.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV): FHHs in all the districts are at a greater risk of sexual and gender based violence due to their specific vulnerabilities. In Killinochchi district, younger women (below the age of 35 years) heading such households were seen as more vulnerable to SGBV. They often have few or no employable skills and are responsible for young children, this burden coupled with the social stigma of being a FHHs or widow, often forces them to engage in high risk economic activities.⁶ They are often more likely to be coerced into exchanging sexual favours for services. Military widows in Kurunegala indicated similar experiences. Further in all the districts, the women were likely to form abusive alliances with men that entrench them in vicious cycles of abuse and further social vulnerability. For example once a war widow remarries, she will only receive half of the military pension, so in an effort to protect this income they choose to cohabit with men or live with men who have such pensions so to gain additional help in repaying debts, leading to further economic hardship and social stigmatization for example.

Statistics: Table 1 lists the registered FHHs in Killinochchi as obtained from the Killinochchi Divisional Secretariat officials, (Statistical Handbook – 2018)

Sn	Division	Total Families	# of FHH	War widows
1	Karaichi	24601	3722	828
2	Kandawalai	8386	1167	399
3	Poonakari	7512	1044	263
4	Pachchlaipalli	4012	599	137
5	Total	44511	6532	1627

Similar data for Kurunagela and Anuradhapura will be collected during scoping missions.

Current Livelihoods: In all the districts, such households were primarily reliant on agricultural economic activities (e.g. home gardens, animal husbandry, value addition to seasonal food crops). Mostly unskilled, such economic activity is highly dependant on climate variances, irregular and lower wages, thus resulting in lower incomes, higher debts and poor nutritional outcomes for households. Most were home based, allowing the women to balance their reproductive and productive roles. Home-based economic activities were also seen to be more 'acceptable' for women particularly FHHs. In all the districts FHH were broadly engaged in tailoring, food processing, beauty culture, floriculture, farming, and animal husbandry or tailoring. Some military widows were reportedly not engaging in income generating activities since they receive the government allowance despite having debts to pay off. Across the districts, the lack of mobility, market linkages, information on markets, livelihood support, poor financial literacy and loan traps were common challenges faced by FHHs.

⁶ Greater clarity is required to ascertain how prevalent and wide-spread such activity is since there is little recorded evidence.

Value chains FHHs are part of include agriculture (rice, fruit, coconut based), fishing (Killinochchi), dairy, coir making (Killinochchi), livestock husbandry, floriculture (Kurunegala) and food production.

Capacity of Service Providers: Though there are some government services extended to FHHs in all the districts, how sensitive these are to their needs and vulnerabilities is questionable, while available resources is limited. In all the districts Women Development Officers (WDOs) or Military Welfare Officials (Seva Vanitha Officers) in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala are responsible for providing services to FHHs. Comparatively FHHs in Killinochchi seemed to have more support from a range of NGOs than households in the other two districts. Women's collectives were also found to be providing some support to FHHs in the districts.

3. Literature Review on Female Headed and Military and War Widows

FHHs, though an old phenomenon, is a new term widely used, yet there is no consensus about what exactly constitutes an FHH. FHHs are broadly identified as residential units where no peer adult male resides, or in the most extreme instances, where there are no adult males.⁷ FHHs are also identified as those where an adult male is physically present, but does not contribute to the household income due to infirmity, illness or other. FHH entered the development discourse as an indicator of household poverty and often used as a proxy not only for women's poverty, but also to indicate poverty in general.

The end of the decades long protracted armed conflict in Sri Lanka left a vast majority of women as widows to single-handedly manage their lives and their households. The Household and Income Expenditure Survey (2012/13) estimates that 1.2 million households (23% of households) are FHHs.⁸ However, other sources estimate that there some 90,000 women widowed in the North and the East⁹ while some 9,000 military widows in the other parts of the country.¹⁰ FHHs in both war affected regions and other parts of the country are a distinct demographic social segment with specific needs, vulnerabilities and disadvantages that need special attention.¹¹ The mapping of socio-economic services to FHHs in the Northern Province highlights the lack of a consistent definition that excludes certain groups such as elderly and single women from access to programmes.¹²

In Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu, women who are heads of households face profound and multi-faceted vulnerabilities due to their new roles as primary breadwinners. Loss of family members, economic assets, and livelihood opportunities are amongst some of the reasons for the number of FHHs to rise. The figure, 60,757 women-headed families in the North¹³ does not include the wives of missing, disappeared or political prisoners. Hence, the excluded women are forced to live without state service provision allocated for FHHs. Women from poor households, especially those who are household heads or elderly, face enormous hardships and must struggle to ensure their family's economic survival. Many were displaced from their homes and had faced psychological trauma. Being single parents, these women take over multiple roles: as the sole breadwinner, reproductive responsibilities in terms of caring and raising children, looking after the elderly and sick in the family while looking after themselves. Moreover, their roles as caretakers often limit their mobility, and the freedom to seize opportunities when pursuing work outside homes. Even though the resilience of these women is clear in how they respond to the daily challenges they and their families face; the

⁷ United Nations. (1991). *The world's women 1970-1990: Trends and statistics*. New York, NY: United Nations.

⁸ Dept. of Census and Statistics, *Household Income and Expenditure Survey*

⁹ What the Women Say : Elusive Peace, Pervasive Violence: Sri Lankan Women's Struggle for Security and Justice.

<http://www.icanpeacework.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/What-the-Women-Say-SriLanka-Brief-Spring-2013.pdf>

¹⁰ CEJ, Sexual Bribery of Military Widows in Sri Lanka. <http://cej.srilanka.org/wp-content/uploads/Sexual-Bribery-Of-Military-Widows-English.pdf>

¹¹ United Nations, Sri Lanka, 2015. Mapping of Socio-Economic Support Services to Female Headed Households in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka

¹² Ibid

¹³ Northern Provincial Council, Statistical Information 2016, available at www.np.gov.lk [Accessed 21 November 2017]

repressive socio-cultural and political structures have played a critical role in compounding women's poverty and vulnerabilities the post-war context.¹⁴

FHHs (including widows, and wives of missing persons) have become the target audience for microfinance companies. Unaware of the conditions laid in agreements these women are compelled to take more loans to pay off those taken previously, thereby trapping them into debts that see them paying cumulative interest and monthly loan instalments. As a result, some women have become prey to sexual exploitation of debt collectors.¹⁵

An ongoing study by Chrysalis on women entrepreneurs in the Northern Province¹⁶ identifies multi-layered challenges. The discouragement from families, immediate neighbours, and community by way of not accepting, recognizing and appreciating their economic endeavours increases their isolation and marginalization in society. Lack of awareness of procedures and processes when it comes to obtaining financial services, requirement of guarantees from state officials and deeds have at times led to sexual bribery. While positive social norms appreciate and recognize women as entrepreneurs, the negative social norms control woman's mobility and linkage with the outer world; undermine their economic independence and sexuality; and finally reinforce traditional reproductive and productive roles of men and women.

Providing an overview of the current legal and constitutional framework for addressing sexual bribery in Sri Lanka, a research study on sexual bribery of military widows in Sri Lanka discusses ten case studies of military widows located in the districts of Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Galle. It presents that out of the 16 sexual bribery incidents reported only 2 widows lodged complaints. However, none of the complaints were taken seriously and none of the perpetrators were punished resulting in a heavy psychological toll on the military widows. The study further highlights the women's feelings of disgust, shame, sadness, anger and disillusionment during and after the incident. The widows close family and friend have played a supporting role in resisting the demands of sexual bribery. The majority of the sexual predators were state representatives and since they have not been officially charged, they remain in positions of authority with impunity to continue such behaviour. Often military widows choose to not seek redress because of the social stigma and fear of reprisals from the military and the government.¹⁷


Taking the issues into consideration, the Ministry of Women and Child Development Affairs crafted a National Action Plan on Women Headed Households. The Draft Policy aims to enhance the health and wellbeing of FHHs, and to address the economic and psychosocial needs of FHHs so as to actively involve them in the reintegration and reconciliation process. This policy recognises that development interventions must look beyond the material deprivation FHHs face and explore the different types of risks that make them particularly susceptible to exploitation and harassment, which is directly related to their gender. The

¹⁴ Chrysalis (2017) Women's Representation and Sexual and Gender - Based Violence: Impact of Low Representation of Women in Decision Making Bodies on Combatting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the North of Sri Lanka, December 2017

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ The research seeks to validate the definition for female entrepreneurs and understand the policy and normative environment in Northern Sri Lanka.

¹⁷ CEJ, Sexual Bribery of Military Widows in Sri Lanka. <http://cejsrilanka.org/wp-content/uploads/Sexual-Bribery-Of-Military-Widows-English.pdf>

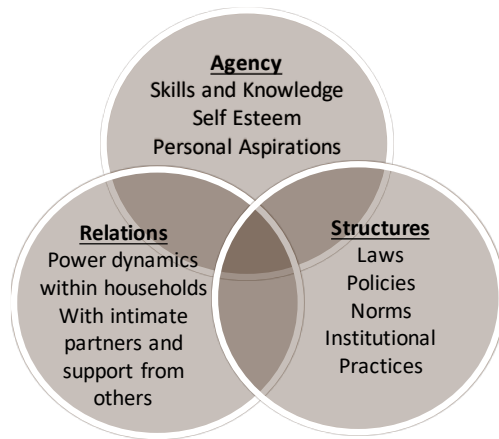


action plan addresses the issues of FHH under 5 thematic areas: 1). health and psychosocial services; 2) livelihoods development and food security; 3) support services; 4) personal security; and 5) social protection.¹⁸ The Centre for Female Headed Households established in Kilinochchi sets out to provide services and is managed under the direction of the District Secretariat of Kilinochchi.

¹⁸ National Action Plan on Women Headed Households Draft – Version 2 (27 th February 2017) Ministry of Women and Child Development Affairs

4. Analytical Frameworks

Chrysalis will use CARE International's Gender Equality Framework (GEF) to analyze and identify the root causes that perpetuate inequality so to specifically address challenges linked to limited access and opportunities experienced by women in each of the sectors. Following the Women's Economic Empowerment theory of change will also be used.



Agency: Staff/beneficiaries/stakeholders
Woman's and men's own knowledge, skills, abilities, self-esteem, and personal aspirations.

Structures: Societal/organizational norms, customs, institutional practices, and policies that shape his/her choices in life

Relations: Power dynamics within the peers, company, with colleagues, household and intimate partners. Support from others and relationships through which s/he negotiates his/her path.

The Framework utilizes 8 core areas of inquiry to understand in depth the gendered implications. These areas will provide the framework for the analysis.

1. Sexual/gendered Division of Labor
2. Household Decision Making
3. Control of Productive Assets
4. Access to Public spaces and services
5. Claiming Rights and Meaningful Participation in Public Decision Making
6. Control Over One's Body (self-esteem)
7. Violence and Restorative Justice
8. Aspirations and Strategic Interests

The Framework has been tried and tested in many countries and sector. It provides an in-depth understanding of the discrimination and inequality experienced by women. Chrysalis will also refer to the UN Women Gender Framework and strategy for guidance.

However, since economic empowerment of women requires further effort as it envisages better control over decision-making, drawing on this gender transformative approach a theory of change for women's economic empowerment has been developed by CARE and Chrysalis. It is as follows:

“If women’s agency and ability to influence economic decision-making (individually and collectively) is increased and utilised in inclusive and effective spaces for negotiation;

if women’s productive/economic role is expanded and recognised within households and wider society as well as promoted, upheld and respected by power-holders;

then women will have greater and more equal access to and control over economic resources, opportunities and assets as well as ultimately achieving equal benefits and return for their economic contribution.”¹⁹

This theory change will be refined following the needs assessment and detailed to meet the requirements of FHHs (with an emphasis on military and war widows) by:

- Understanding the key obstacles preventing women from overcoming economic exclusion.
- Identifying effective pathways for women to become economically empowered.
- Understanding the value of increased economic empowerment as a route towards gender equality, overcoming social injustice (stigma and marginalisation) and increasing their economic independence and resilience.

ISB and other partners will be exposed to the framework and theory of change by Chrysalis to enable them to understand and identify the multi-facets of economic empowerment within the district contexts and facilitate application of research tools and training methods at each step of implementation.

¹⁹ CARE International, Women’s Economic Empowerment Strategy 2015.

5. Methodology and proposed deliverables

i) Inception Stage:

Chrysalis proposes a collaborative approach to initiate engagement between UNWOMEN, Chrysalis and ISB. To develop agreements and consensus on methodology, concepts, processes, approaches and administrative requirements between partners and partner staff (including trainers) a workshop will be organized. The team is expected to be familiar with the frameworks on Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment, National SME and the WHH policy and any other relevant UN Women frameworks. This will be a critical first step to ensuring consensus and ownership and consequently success of the action. So far Chrysalis has met with UNWOMEN twice and as a result changes have been made to the action timeline.

A meeting with the implementing partners for different components²⁰ has been convened on the 5th of September to ensure that there is substantial repetitive outreach to the target groups without hampering their routine livelihoods activities in the *Maha* cultivation season (September to January). Both UNWOMEN and the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development have written introductory letters for Chrysalis and ISB informing the Government Agents of the 3 districts of the specific assignments. Further, UNWOMEN introduced Chrysalis to the local partners. This was following with the exchange of information and concerns between partners to make sure that the assignment is relevant, feasible and accessible to the target group of women. Chrysalis is proposing to have a strong coordination focal point to coordinate work between the partners since there is overlap in terms of target groups (see challenges section for further details).

Chrysalis is yet to scope the likely stakeholders at national and district level to gain their views and understand their current work. This will be included during the needs assessment stage in each district. The current set of stakeholders are – the 4 local partners, other CSOs working FHHs, Women's Self Help Groups and CBOs, Women Development Officers in the selected DS divisions, Sewa-Vanitha divisions of respective districts, financial service providers (formal and informal), business development service providers (non-financial services), Chambers of Commerce, Women's Chamber of Commerce at the national and provincial levels, National Enterprise Development Authority, Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development, FHH Secretariat and the Divisional Secretaries. The scoping exercise will be completed at the end of the needs assessment and a section will be included in it as organizational capacity to address FHH issues at different levels and their program and staff capacities as it is required to inform deliverable 8.

²⁰ Centre for Equality and Justice for forming and strengthening "Self Help Groups" and for advocacy, to be implemented through local partners. They are JSAC and Villithu in Killinochchi, Praja Raja Rata Kendraya in Anuradhapur and Womens Centre in Kurunegala. Social Scientist Association will be conducting the perception survey.

ii) Needs assessment:

The proposed needs assessment and value chain analysis fulfil the purpose of a gender analysis of FHH in the project districts. Chrysalis proposes a participatory methodology for both. The needs assessment will lead to a better understanding of the skills and other capacity gaps of FHHs, and map former and existing programs/projects aimed at enhancing skills. Also, during the need assessment, it is expected that primary and secondary data will be collected on potential value chains in each target districts. This will be important in selecting 3 potential value chains for each target district. Field data collection will fulfil the parameters laid out in the ToR. It will include an analysis of the context, challenges and capacities of FHHs in the three districts to manage businesses in general and specifically to be included in value chains. The possibilities and barriers to participate in the three selected value chains will also be identified within the geographic specificities, capacities of organizations (state – non state) and perceptions regarding women in business (especially single mothers, widows).

Needs Assessment Methodology

The specific objectives of the needs assessment will be to :

- Gain an in-depth understanding of the issues, consequences and root causes related to gender inequality that threaten FHH livelihood activities.
- Identification of normative, practical, strategic barriers and negative social norms and practices that obstruct the engagement of FHHs in livelihood, business and micro enterprises at all levels.
- Identify the gendered implications in relation to the implementation of the Widow Policy and other relevant policies and action plans.
- Identify clear directives and guidance regarding gender transformative outcomes in relation to women's economic empowerment of FHHs.
- Specific recommendations for capacity building of government and private sector operatives as service providers and mentors for FHHs.
- Identification and validation of 3-4 value chains which FHHs can take part in with substantial control over benefits (both financial and non-financial).
- Specific recommendations to develop a training module which enhances skills, attitudes and capacities of the women to engage in viable and sustainable enterprises (build agency), enhance their ability to transform relations within their homes and community that help them to build, sustain and fully benefit from their business activities (change relations) in a conducive environment.

The above set of objectives will be translated into a set of key questions and operational questions through a research framework (see Annex 1).

Tool: Chrysalis will adopt CARE's Social Norms Analysis Plot (SNAP) tool developed using the GEF Framework – it is developed to measure if and how norms are working and changing; through qualitative vignettes; and survey questions to understand norms around FHHs in businesses. Each tool will gather data on agency, structure and relations which will be

triangulated. Findings will be drawn on with the idea of addressing norms, structures and key challenges in the operational environment together with skills development. Through this study, business development and growth needs of the FHHs, and the 3 specific value chains will be identified.

Sampling: A potential project participant list will to be obtained from CEJ and its partners from the selected Divisional Secretariats. Depending on the scoping meetings it will be consolidated on based on where focus should be. Depending on the needs, consent to participate, commitment and feasibility of continuation in trainings, the list of participants will be finalized. Priority will be given to those women that are already engaged in livelihood/business activities. A total of 60 women and 10 men in each district will be surveyed.

Field Operationalization: Chrysalis will design and apply a range of participatory methods including 2 mini workshops focusing on FHHs, 1 focus group discussion (FGD) with men, 5 key informant interviews (KIIs), 3 in-depth interviews per district with beneficiaries. For data collection across a wider range of other stakeholders from institutions, a set of state officers and BDS providers (listed under stakeholders) will be interviewed using the tools developed using the same research framework. Field coordination of these actions will be organized by Chrysalis in Kilinochchi and ISB in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala. It is also important to organize in consultation with the respective partner in each district.

Data collection: A field team will collect data through interviews based on the research framework and tools designed and tested in the relevant locations. Researchers will audio record responses (following consent) and details will be recorded in transcript formats. Then the data will be entered into tables in soft formats. Most of the data will be processed *insitu* with the respondents, triangulated and validated.

Data Analysis: A software, InViVo, will be used to analyze the data and preliminary findings will be drawn based on the research framework. Any outstanding findings will be flagged, and a nuanced understanding of such findings will be explored with the 4 local partners and ISB.

Validation: Findings will be shared with UNWOMEN for immediate feedback to embark upon value chain analysis based on PACA methodology.

Reporting: A combined report will be submitted after completion of the value chain analysis.

iii) Value Chain Analysis:

The purpose of this exercise will be to identify at least 3 value chains that FHHs are ensured with corrective approaches and enhances substantive equality for them. In these value chains they should be able to find opportunities, participate, take decisions, and make the best out of the benefits (both financial and social).

Generally, a thorough value chain study consists of 3 phases and during the preliminary meeting with UNWOMEN, elements of the below will be incorporated as per the context. The TOR notes that the value chain analysis needs to be conducted after the needs assessment. A survey frame will be developed with the findings of the needs assessment to meet the needs of FHHs and one that is sensitive to their constraints yet enhances their abilities to break through stigma and barriers. Key questions and tools will be appropriated to match the traits of women from FHHs. A criterion will be developed to identify the value chains that FHH were involved in mostly through consultations and interviews and to measure their productivity, profitability and livelihood support. There will be KIIs and FGDs with FHHs, state officers, private sector organizations (both formal and informal) to select the value chains based on the criteria developed with the same groups. This is to make sure their selections are plausible taking into consideration the requirements of the FHHs.

As with the needs assessment the value chain will be shaped by the Gender Equality Framework and Women's Empowerment Framework so to ensure its relevant to FHHs and specifically military widows and war widows. The following questions will be considered during the process when detailing the methodology during the needs assessment.

1. Identification of value chains and reasons for FHHs including the military and war widows to join in the respective segment and their efforts to make innovations, opportunities and benefits created by their economic engagement.
2. Analyze capacities used to enter the value chain, strategies applied to negotiate gendered division of labour and personal skills, abilities, information, knowledge or attitudes needed to be able to control productive assets.
3. Identify customs and norms that shape women's options for economic engagement, value given to such work, income difference, available policies, laws, services to support women and their accessibility to such services
4. Map out the organizations / livelihood networks women are linked with and benefitted from.

Value Chain Analysis

Phase i: Value Chain Selection Phase - 3 of the most potential value chains for each target district will be selected based on a pre-determined Value Chain Selection Criteria. Size and relevance, growth potentials, value addition potentials, intervention potentials, of the value chains will be included in a typical value chain selection criterion. Based on the needs assessment findings, a long list of potential value chains will be prepared. Finally, 3 potential and relevant value chains for each district will be selected based on the above selection criteria.

Phase ii: Value Chain Analysis Phase – The growth potentials of identified value chains to be evaluated with a high emphasis on their market potentials will be done. This is nearly a pre-market assessment, considering the future market potential and the availability of technology, raw materials and skills. Based on the availability of time and other resources, a series of mini workshops, FGDs and KIIs will be conducted with different value chain actors, service providers and rule makers. It will identify opportunities and access to these and to the benefits for FHHs. Based on the needs assessment findings and the value chain selection process, their relevance to FHHs will be assessed during this phase.

Phase iii: Intervention Designing Phase – Based on the findings of the value chain analysis a set of interventions will be prepared in order to capacitate the target FHHs, so that they could use the identified opportunities in the respective value chains effectively and efficiently. In developing interventions, a special focus will be kept on filling existing and/or future skills and other capacity gaps of the target group FHHs and institutes that provide various support service for them. Findings will be shared with UNWOMEN and recommendation finalized. Detailed out approaches on how FHHs can better engage in the selected value chain will be operationalized with self-help groups, state and non-state officers and the four local partners.

Value Chain Analysis Methodology

Process: The three steps described above will be operationalized using the following process. It is a tested method in Sri Lanka called LOCA based on an ILO model (PACA). The value chains identified during the needs assessment will be detailed out and evaluated through the seven steps in the table.

Table 3: Sequence of a LOCA (Local Competitive Advantage) Exercise

Steps	Purpose
1. A hypotheses workshop	Where is the LOCA Team clarifies its expectations,
2. Preparation	Recruitment of the LOCA Team Organization of workshops and interviews
3. Kick-off Workshop	Inform local stakeholders about the purpose of the LOCA Gather information on local economy
4.LOCA Fieldwork	Mini-workshops to gather information about specific sectors of the local economy Interviews to get in-depth information
5.Results Workshop of the LOCA Team	Elaborate diagnosis Elaborate practical proposals
6.LOCA Presentation Event	Present diagnosis and proposals to local stakeholders Get feedback and suggestions for implementation.
7.Way Forward Workshops	Implementation of value chain engagement

Sampling frame: A rough outline of a sampling frame will comprise of a sample similar to that of the needs assessment. However the number will be decided once the needs assessment field work is completed. However it will not exceed 60 FHHs. A set of state and non-state actors who will be identified by FHHs participants during the needs assessment to be included.

Filed operationalization will be rapid and fed by the needs assessment, data collection and analysis will be similar to that undertaken for the needs assessment. Eventually the findings will be presented to the stakeholders and validated in each district.

iv) Revisiting the proposed Action Plan and Developing a LFA:

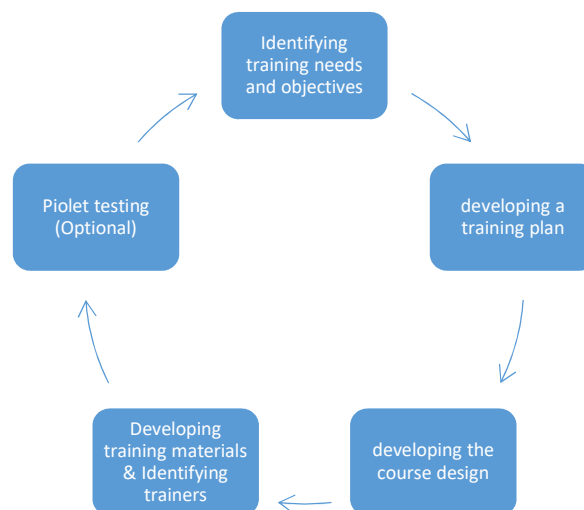
Based on the desk review and set objectives of the different projects combined for this assignment, the needs assessment and the value chain analysis will include concrete recommendations that will inform its strategy. As mentioned in the TOR, the action plan will be revisited based on the agreed intervention strategy, including the budget, log frame and a revised timeline. The log-frame will be prepared with the idea of a limited time frame, realistic deliverables and the context during that period. A beneficiary selection criterion and a process will be developed based on the findings and will be validated with UNWOMEN.

v) Development of Training Curriculum:

Training modules will be developed based on the specific needs of FHH particularly war and military widows. The basis of the module development will be to set up business goals for women from the FHHs to navigate existing challenges within their intimate relations, community and the overall context. Each session will be designed to strengthen women's agency and ability to build relations and negotiate challenges posed by structures. Some principles of the Kolb Cycle²¹ of adult learning will applied during this phase.

The standard curriculum development cycle will be followed in developing curricula for technical trainings, business planning trainings/financial literacy and marketing trainings. The specific needs of the FHHs for identifying business opportunities and engaging in businesses will be taken into serious consideration throughout the training development cycle. The following diagram illustrates the standard training development cycle.

Figure: Training Program Development Cycle



²¹ A learning styles model developed in 1984. Kolb's experiential learning theory works on two levels: a four-stage cycle of learning and four separate learning styles. This theory is concerned with the learner's internal cognitive processes.

Identifying training needs: Based on the needs assessment findings and Value Chain Analysis the training needs of FHHs will be identified and prioritized in relation to technical capacity building, business planning/financial literacy and marketing capacity building. The objective and scope of the technical trainings may be broad based on the types of value chains selected. For example, if the garment value chain is selected the potential technical training may be – sewing, embroidering, pattern marking, fashion designing. However, the scope of business planning, financial literacy and marketing training is more specific (will be discussed below).

Developing a training plan : The second step will follow three types of training programs– technical, business planning and marketing trainings. The training plan thus will include the followings for each training type :

- Tentative course title
- Training objective and scope
- Target group
- Key course topics and generic course activities
- Estimation of development time
- Required resources
- Course duration

Course design: The third step, course design will include curriculum development, syllabus formulation and determination of necessary instruction methods, media and instruction materials. ISB is a pioneering organization in conducting business planning and marketing trainings. Therefore, the business planning and marketing training curriculum that are already available with ISB will be collected and reviewed in order to increase the efficiency of this activity.

Developing training materials and identifying trainers: After developing curriculums and the syllabus the necessary training materials will be developed. Then, the necessary trainers will be identified. Trainers for conducting business planning and marketing trainings have been already identified. However, after identifying technical training needs the suitable technical trainers and training institutes will be identified.

vi) Validation:

After UNWOMEN reviews the preliminary findings, along with a training curriculum (modules) and action plan to deliver Business Development training and services delivery will be finalized.

vii) Training

To deliver the training in the three districts a 'training delivery plan' will be developed with ISB and CEJ, the four local partners and UNDP. Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development will be consulted as and when necessary as the state stakeholder on FHH. Trainees will be selected through an application process in which their availability and commitment for the capacity building process with all the actors (CEJ and local partners) also should be checked to reduce drop-outs. Further, participants will be selected on the basis that 75% of them will be willing to commit and continue their engagement and priority will be given to women who are already running a business/livelihood activity.

Training venues with the least disturbances and that are acceptable to FHHs members (some might not willing to go to a hotel, but prefer a government institutes) will be selected to suit their demands (based on the needs assessment).

Coordinators based in each district will work closely with the local partners to mobilize the participants. All approvals from state, logistics including training venue, informing participants, organizing training materials and coordinating needs of the trainers will be carried out by coordinators. Trainers for each category will use local languages (Tamil in Kilinochchi and Sinhala in Kurunegala and Anuradhapura) and will be selected on the basis of their track records. Further to that,

- All training materials will be translated into local languages.
- Programs will be conducted in a place, which is in close proximity to participants' residence.
- Special needs of women will be considered in planning and conducting training programs (e.g. care for babies and young children during the training periods).
- Conducting pre-training and post training evaluation in order to measure knowledge and skills gains.
- Planning and implementing a strong monitoring and supervision arrangement to ensure the quality of all the trainings conducted.

a. Training Phase 1:

Product Development training will target 90 individuals each from Anuradhapura and Kurunegala and 180 from Killinochchi will be chosen. The methodology will include a Design Thinking Process that will comprise of a five step process - empathizing with the affected, defining the problem, ideating through to challenging assumptions and creating prototype and test solutions. ICT will be a key component of the technology training and when it comes to the application of appropriate technologies. State technology service providers like NERD and Inventors Commission will be included in building awareness on how to access technological services. A business canvas will be developed targeting both business and self-development (including life skills identified by the needs assessment) using a women's economic empowerment and sustainability lens.

The objective of the product development training is to take the participants through a process where they identify products and services that can benefit a segment in their society and solve a problem, hence create a market.

As the design thinking process envisages, the training will provide them an opportunity to explore their potential, enhance lateral thinking, problem identification, problem solving and leadership skills. The core of the training will be organized around empathizing, defining the problem, ideating, creating a prototype and testing solutions. There will be several sessions within the training where the participants practically develop prototypes and find ways to reach promising value chains in their districts.

b. Training Phase 2

Financial literacy for women is an area both Chrysalis and ISB are involved in. The participants will be guided through modules that are 2 days long that help them to understand basic skills and apply them. The business plans developed during Phase 1 will be validated and further improved by ISB. The business canvas will serve as an important description of the businesses that empower the women to describe and pitch their businesses to key stakeholders. Business management training will also be provided to understand and respond to practical challenges opposed to being a theoretical exercise. They will be following sessions that will consist of watching, thinking, doing, feeling (Kolb Cycle) process. A transparent application process will be used for the selection of 100 women in Kilinochchi under the observations of the trainers during Phase 1.

The objective of the business planning training/financial literacy is to develop business planning skills/financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills. Entrepreneurship skills development, business idea generation, screening, SWOT analysis, goal setting, business plan preparation will be essential components of the business planning training/financial literacy. At the end of the business planning training/financial literacy a business plan will be prepared for each project beneficiary.

c. Training Phase 3

The participants will learn the four Ps (product, price, place and promotion) and will be introduced to exchange values, pluriactivity, negotiation, networking and the use of ICT or social media for marketing. Training will target 90 participants each in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala and 180 in Killinochchi districts.

The objective of the marketing training is to develop the marketing skills of the target group. Identifying potential markets, market segmentation, target marketing, positioning, market strategies, branding, will be the essential components of the marketing plan. At the end of the marketing training a marketing plan will be prepared for each project beneficiary. The training principles to be followed in conducting the business planning/financial literacy will be followed here as well.

viii) Training of front-line officials:

The training of 48 front-line officials is proposed on not only the three value chains but to help them also understand the challenges faced by FHHs in the selected value chains. As part

of the training the trainees will understand gendered implications, as well be equipped with coaching techniques and exit strategies. 2 workshops across the 3 sectors will be done in the 3 districts, amounting to 18 workshops.

A training plan will be developed to train all the state officers since they belong to different administrative structures and provide various services. The training curriculum will include gender transformative approaches, gender norms, substantive equality, gender analysis of interventions, and affirmative action in each of the value chains. Sometimes these trainings could be inclined towards gender sensitization as experienced in other districts.

ix) Workshops connecting mentors and mentees:

Mentors will be selected through a process involving the Chambers of Commerce and based on their relevance to each value chain. They will be organized in 5 mentees: 1 mentor ratio and will be working as a self-help group guided by the mentee. They will meet on a monthly basis and share their learning, issues and find collective solutions. WDOs in their DS divisions will be also assigned to moderate the group and link them with necessary service providers. As such there will 7 people in one self-help group.

IF the timeframe allows, a mentor and mentee standard operational procedure will be developed in a participatory manner. It is expected to continue beyond the action.

Mentor awareness on supporting businesses run by FHHs will be enhanced through a dialogue process and the mentees will be organized into self-help groups. Four local partner organizations will be involved in the process to ensure safety, security and dignity of both parties.

There is serious consideration for mentors to sign a 'code of conduct' given the specific vulnerabilities of the FHHs while the dignity of both parties needs to be protected during this process.

x) Diversity Markets

Chrysalis has conducted a diversity market in 2016, where food, handicraft and folk art diversities were brought together from different ethnic groups to demonstrate the beauty and strength of diversity. With the lessons from that, a diversity market will be organized in Killinochchi²² allowing an opportunity to demonstrate products and skills of FHH building a dialogue on what they can do together. A common venue will be selected leading to a festive season (if possible).

As the FHH go through the trainings to identify a product they can develop, build their skills on starting/strengthening a way to generate income, the diversity market will enable them

²² The initial agreement was to do one diversity market in each district. With the 22nd August, meeting with UNDP and UNWOMEN agreed to do one in Killinochchi. The savings to be utilized to take FHH from Killinochchi to the diversity markets in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala which was not originally planned.

to get exposed to new markets and opportunities. The diversity market is expected to bring entrepreneurs from within the district to a common location to display their goods and services. This will enable the upcoming entrepreneurs to connect with the experienced directly and learn the tricks of the trade. Further, this activity will facilitate connecting state officers, private sector to the entrepreneurs. Both ISB and Chrysalis are connected to successful businesses and market fairs like The Good Market in Colombo within the district or adjoining district.

xi) Experience-sharing sessions

Purpose of this exercise is to bring FHH from different places to share their strengths, successes and lessons to build solidarity among women who faced difficulties and overcome them. On the other hand they will motivate women who have gone through similar difficulties in their life to overcome them, build networks and push the agenda of FHH to various duty bearers. Chrysalis will lead this in Kilinochchi (based on the meeting on 22nd August) bringing FHH from all four DS divisions and create a platform for them to reflect and share their positive roles and experiences. Innovative methods will be applied to unveil the silences and facilitated discussions and stories will be documented.

A few selected women will be linked with existing networks and platforms that Chrysalis nurtures under other interventions it does in the district.

xii) In kind support:

Chrysalis has already developed a business pitching process in another project location. It includes a selection criterion, call for proposals/business plans, coaching, pitching events and selection of grantees on merit. A complaint mechanism will be established to handle grievances and resolve conflicts that may arise as a result of the selection.

In kind support process is one activity in particular that is most likely to generate conflicts. In order to address such eventualities, Chrysalis has developed the following process;

- I. Planning for the pitching process
- II. Develop a criteria and scoring method with stakeholders
- III. Selection of a non-partisan panel for the pitching exercise
- IV. Call for business plans
- V. Shortlisting based on criteria
- VI. Coaching sessions for pitching for the selected beneficiaries
- VII. Pitching event
- VIII. Selection of grantees
- IX. Publication of grantee list and scoring
- X. Establish and operationlise complaints mechanism
- XI. Schedule asset and equipment - procurement plan
- XII. Call for quotations, Purchase and delivery of assets and equipment

The above process will be followed while taking care to reduce negative impact on non-recipients of the in kind grant. The name lists of the recipients and their relative scoring will be displayed at the DS offices for transparency and a complaint mechanism will be established to ensure grievances were handled in the most amicable manner.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

The log-frame will be prepared with the idea of limited time frame, realistic deliverables and context within that period. A draft M&E plan will be developed that will inform the baseline study to be undertaken in the three districts by SSA, it will be finalized based findings, while the needs assessment and value chain analysis will further inform its refinement. All partner staff will be trained in M&E standards and norms. Reporting formats and databases will be drafted and standardized in consultation with partners and the donor. Chrysalis and ISB have extensive experience in reporting to donors including the EU and UN as well as sharing key learning with the private sector and the wider public via mainstream and social media. Success stories and learning will be captured via testimonies, vignettes and case studies from all the three districts. All the selected participants will be given a logbook and asked to record business activities (including ledgers), challenges and learning. A monitoring, evaluation and learning plan will be developed which identifies such qualitative data gathering as well as quantitative output and results data.

Based on the documents a final lessons document will be prepared for wider distribution.

7. Considerations

1. There are many actors involved in the implementation of the project, who are assigned to different tasks. Their efforts should be coordinated and sequenced to achieve the best and most sustainable results.
2. Local partners are already overstretched in terms of their capacities and staff. It is beneficial to all the stakeholders to consider their workload and accommodate a facilitating role so to support the four local partner organizations. In the meantime it is recommended to coordinate activities with them in each district to ensure long-term engagement between beneficiaries and the local CSOs.
3. The project interventions are targeting the same group of women in the three districts. They will be participating in skills development and capacity building by CEJ and local partners at the same time as this initiative's skills development. The beneficiaries will be over stretched in terms of time and commitment. Therefore the timing of field activities should be coordinated to cushion disruption to their routines, societal barriers and family commitments. Timing of trainings should also be flexible (or be staggered) to meet their time demands as much as possible. Given that participants may be unable to attend back to back trainings across all three stages, the timeline might need to be extended.
4. The needs assessment is yet to be done, the results will alter the project strategy and action plan, as per discussions so far. There should be a readiness to accommodate affirmative action on behalf of the partners requiring the UN organizations to be flexible to ensure effectiveness of the activities.
5. In kind support in the three districts are handled by different partners and reaches only a small group compared to the number who will participate in the capacity

building process (approximately 200 - 360 will be selected). Transparency will be critical in mitigating and resolving conflicts that may arise as a result of selection biases and perceived or real conflicts of interest. (It is therefore advisable to be clear about the selection and criteria development). And the 'grant bottom line and ceiling' should not vary within the same district between different partners as it may raise suspicion among the beneficiaries without knowing the back ground of different allocations. It may be difficult to explain it to every stakeholder within the project period as well.

6. Given the lack of clarity when it comes to defining FHHs, it is critical that all parties are clear as to what the characteristics of a FHHs, which groups are included or not so to avoid confusion or conflicts in relation to selection for example.

8. Timeline

No.	Deliverables	Target Date
Inception		
1.	Drafting of Inception Report including detailed methodology, workplan and timeline.	5 August 2019 23 August 2019
2.	Finalizing of Inception Report	10 August 2019 30 August 2019
Data Collection		
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Drafting of needs assessment • 2. Drafting of value chain analysis • 3. Drafting of action plan, intervention strategy and training curriculum 	19 August 2019 23 September 2019
Data analysis, validation of findings and submission of action plan		
4.	PowerPoint presentation of initial needs assessment and value chain analysis findings	20 August 2019 26 September 2019
5.	Finalizing of both and action plan	30 August 2019 30 September 2019
Implementation: Business skills-development of FHHs (including military and war widows)		
6.	Delivery of 3x3 sector-specific trainings in Kurunegala and Anuradhapura; and 3x6 sector-specific trainings in Kilinochchi	15 September 2019 15 October 2019

No.	Deliverables	Target Date
7.	Delivery of 3x3 sector-specific trainings in Kilinochchi	30 September 2019 30 October 2019
8.	Delivery of 3x3 sector-specific trainings in Kurunegala and Anuradhapura; and 3x6 sector-specific trainings in Kilinochchi	15 October 2019 15 November 2019
9.	2 workshops per identified sector across the 3 districts (For Front-line government officials)	30 September 2019 30 October 2019
10.	1 workshop on mentoring for identified mentors (in Colombo); and 3 workshops per district (corresponding to each identified sector) – Connecting mentors and mentees	30 October 2019 30 November 2019
11.	Selection of the best 60 business plans	31 December 2019 31st January 2019
12.	Program agenda for facilitation of exposure visit per district.	28 February 2020
13.	Sharing of success stories and communication material on a monthly basis.	28 February 2020
Final evaluation and validation		
14.	Drafting of report capturing all the activities undertaken in each district – 1 report per district	15 March 2020
15.	Final report per district that incorporates comments/feedback from UNWOMEN	31 March 2020



9. Annexure

Research Framework to identify the needs of military and war widows in Kilinochchi, Anuradhapura and Kurunegala districts

Objective	Research Questions	Information needed	Questions	Date collection method	Stakeholder Category
<p>1) Explore the socio-cultural and economic status of female headed in each district.</p>	<p>1.1 What is the profile of military and war widows?</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of military and war widows</p> <p>1.1.2 Their age, education attainment</p> <p>1.1.3 Economic and social engagement (see 2.3.1)</p> <p>1.1.4 Social security benefits</p> <p>1.1.5 Relationship status of FHH.</p>	<p>1.1.1.1 How many military and war widows in each district?</p> <p>1.1.1.2 What is their age, and educational attainments?</p> <p>1.1.1.3 What social security benefits have they received from the state? If not why?</p> <p>1.1.1.4 What is the situation of their intimate relationships?</p> <p>1.1.1.5 How do they feel about themselves?</p> <p>1.1.1.6 How do others percieve them? (family and neighbours)</p> <p>1.1.1.7 What are the support networks for them?</p> <p>1.1.1.8 What are the social expectations from FHH? WW/MW?</p>	<p>Desk review, KII</p>	<p>Divisional Secretariat, District Planning Division, Women Development Officer, Ranawiru Sewa Authority</p>
	<p>1.2 What are the socio-cultural and emotional issues that influence war</p>	<p>1.2.1 Socio-cultural issues faced</p>	<p>1.2.1.1 What are socio-cultural issues that military and war widows face?</p>	<p>KII & Mini Ws</p>	<p>Military & War Widows, Women’s groups,</p>

Objective	Research Questions	Information needed	Questions	Date collection method	Stakeholder Category
	and military widows' participation? What challenges do they face at their family, neighborhood, community, work, market, and external service provision (finance, state, and civil society)?	<p>1.2.2 Challenges at family, intimate relationship, neighborhood, community</p> <p>1.2.3 Challenges at their work</p> <p>1.2.4 Challenges in the market (where they sell their product)</p> <p>1.2.5 Challenges from financial services, state and civil society</p> <p>1.2.6 Beliefs that restrict/hinder women's economic engagement</p> <p>1.2.7 Social norms that hinder and support single women (military and war widows) engaged in business</p> <p>1.2.8 Policies and programmes that support / focus on war widows and military widows</p>	<p>How do these issues influence their participation?</p> <p>1.2.2.1 What are the challenges that come from their family, intimate relationship, neighborhood and community?</p> <p>1.2.3.1 What challenges do military and war widows face at their work (both their own economic engagement and their workplace)?</p> <p>1.2.4.1 What are the opportunities and challenges for FHH on accessing Business Development Services?</p> <p>1.2.4.2 What challenges do they face at the market place?</p> <p>1.2.5.1 What challenges and obstacles do military and war widows face from the financial services, state and civil society service provision?</p> <p>1.2.6.1 What are the beliefs that restrict/hinder women's economic engagement?</p> <p>1.2.7.1 What are the social norms that hinder and support single women (military and war widows) engaged in business?</p>		Divisional Secretariat, District Planning Division, Women Development Officer, Ranawiru Authority, NGOs, Financial Institutions

Objective	Research Questions	Information needed	Questions	Date collection method	Stakeholder Category
		1.2.9 Legal framework pertaining to war and military widows	1.2.8.1 What are policies and programmes that support / focus on war widows and military widows? 1.2.8.2 What do single women (military and war widows) think about these services and products? 1.2.9.1 Is there a legal gap that needs to be addressed to ensure protection military and war widows?		

Objective	Research Questions	Information needed	Questions	Date collection method	Stakeholder Category
2) Identify their skills and capacity gaps, current economic and social engagement, their awareness about existing market and former and current capacity enhancement service provision.	2.1 What personal skills, abilities, information, knowledge or attitudes will a military and war widow need to be able to negotiate control over productive assets?	2.1.1 Personal skills and abilities 2.1.2 Skill development trainings followed 2.1.3 Challenges and obstacles faced when obtaining such training 2.1.4 Perceived capacity gaps	2.1.1.1 What capacities (personal skills and abilities) do military and war widows possess? 2.1.2.1 What are the capacity building opportunities in general they received? 2.1.2.2 What are the capacity building opportunities received to start and continue an income activity? 2.1.2.3 What do they think about the capacity building training opportunities? 2.1.3.1 What challenges and / or obstacles faced when attending capacity building training? 2.1.4.1 What additional capacity building needs do they have? 2.1.4.2 What requirements do they have in attending trainings?	KII & Mini Ws	Military & War Widows
	2.2 What were the skills enhancing projects/ programmes held in selected districts?	2.2.1 Former capacity enhancement projects and programmes in each district 2.2.2 Present capacity enhancement	2.2.1.1 What were the former capacity enhancement projects and programmes held in each district? 2.2.1.2 Who delivered and their outreach?	KII	Military & War Widows, Women's groups, Divisional Secretariat, District Planning

Objective	Research Questions	Information needed	Questions	Date collection method	Stakeholder Category
		programmes in each district	2.2.2.1 What are the current capacity enhancement projects and programmes held in each district? 2.2.2.2 Who deliver? And outreach of each project or programme		Division, Women Development Officer, Ranawiru Authority, NGOs
	2.3 What are their current economic engagements? How do they want to get involved in economic activities? What is their knowledge about the existing market? What strategies have military and war widows used to negotiate gendered division of labour?	2.3.1 Current economic engagement 2.3.2 Level of future economic engagement 2.3.3 Knowledge about market place on their selected trade 2.3.4 Strategies used to negotiate gendered division of labour	2.3.1.1 What do military and war widows do to earn an income? 2.3.1.2 Is this their choice? If not why? 2.3.1.3 What is their choice occupation? Is this realistic? 2.3.2.1 What is their expectation about their future economic engagement? 2.3.3.1 What is their knowledge / awareness about the market place based on the choice trade? 2.3.4.1 How do women interact/negotiate : In household management; In interaction with clients or bosses; In relating with service providers and officials?	KII & Mini Ws	Military & War Widows
	2.4 What are their current social engagements?	2.3.5 Social organisations they are linked 2.3.6 Obstacles and constraints, they face when engage in social	2.3.4.1 What social organisations (CBOs) are they linked with? 2.3.6.1 What are the opportunities for them and obstacles and constraints do they face when	KII & Mini Ws	Military & War Widows, Women's groups,

Objective	Research Questions	Information needed	Questions	Date collection method	Stakeholder Category
		and community work / organisations	engage in social and community work / organisations?		
3) Describe the sexual and gender-based violence war and military widows experience and redress mechanism available at each district.	3.1 What types of sexual and gender – based violence do single women (military and war widows) face? What support services are there for them to access? Who are the state and non-state actors that provide support services?	3.1.1 Types of sexual and gender- based violence military and war widows experienced 3.1.2 Support services obtained 3.1.3 Available support services	3.1.1.1 What are the types of sexual and gender- based violence military and war widows experienced? 3.1.2.1 Are they aware about the support services offered by the state and NGOs? 3.1.2.2 What support services did they obtain? 3.1.2.3 How did they get to know about the support services? 3.1.2.4 How satisfied are they about the service provision? 3.1.2.5 If they did not obtain support services, why? 3.1.3.1 What are the support services available in each district?	KII	Military & War Widows, Women’s groups, Divisional Secretariat, Women Development Officer, Ranawiru Authority, NGOs

Objective	Research Questions	Information needed	Questions	Date collection method	Stakeholder Category
<p>4) Map out the key actors, and platforms that provide services to military and war widows, their capacity and perceptions, and additional capacity needs to serve military and war widows.</p>	<p>4.1 What capacities do state and non-state actors have to provide an effective and efficient service to military and war widows? What additional capacity do the state and non-state actors need</p>	<p>4.1.1 State and non-state actors' capacity 4.1.2 Additional capacity needs</p>	<p>4.1.1.1. What knowledge and skills do the state and non-state actors have to provide effective and efficient service to military and war widows? 4.1.2.1 What additional capacity do the state and non-state actors need</p>	<p>KII</p>	<p>Women's groups, Divisional Secretariat, Women Development Officer, Ranawiru Authority, NGOs</p>
	<p>4.2 What is the perception of state and non-state actors about military and war widows and their business engagement?</p>	<p>4.2.1 Perception of state and non-state actors about military and war widows and their business engagement</p>	<p>4.2.1.1 What do you think about military and war widows' involvement in economic activities?</p>	<p>KII</p>	<p>Women's groups, Divisional Secretariat, Women Development Officer, Ranawiru Authority, NGOs</p>
	<p>4.3 What are the structures (formal and informal) available for women engaged in business</p>	<p>4.3.1 Formal and informal structures for women engaged in business (military and war</p>	<p>4.3.1.1 What are the formal structures where women make collective voice?</p>	<p>KII & Mini Ws</p>	<p>Military & War Widows, Women's groups, Divisional</p>

Objective	Research Questions	Information needed	Questions	Date collection method	Stakeholder Category
	(military and war widows) to make collective voice?	widows) to make collective voice	4.3.1.2 What are the informal structures where women make collective voice? 4.3.1.3 What services are these formal and informal structures provide for women entrepreneurs? 4.3.1.4 How these structures can be improved to create an enabling environment for women entrepreneurs?		Secretariat, Women Development Officer, Ranawiru Authority, NGOs
5) Identify key value chains in each district.	5.1 What are the key value chains in each district?	5.1.1 Value chains in each district	5.1.1.1 What are the economic activities military and war widows engaged in? (see above 2.3.1.1) 5.1.1.2 What are the value chains that the above economic activities are linked with? 5.1.1.3 Where are they mostly engaged in and why?	KII & Mini Ws	Military & War Widows, Divisional Secretariat, District Planning Secretariat, Value chain expert

Anti-Sexual Harassment Committee Meeting

24th Oct 2019, Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development

In attendance:

Additional Secretary -Admin/ Finance, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs

Ms. Swarna Sumanasekara, National Committee on Women

Ms. Sujeewa Palliyaguruge, Director (Development), Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development

Ms. Saduni Rajapaksha, Assistant Secretary (Development), Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Dry Zone Developmentxc

Ms. Roshini – Development Officer

Ms. Bimali Ameresekere, Gender Specialist, UNDP

Ms. Lihini Ratwatte, Project Officer – Peacebuilding, UN Women

Ms. Shyamala Gomez, Executive Director, CEJ

Ms. Ando Anthapan – Project Manager, CEJ

Ms. Naduni Madumali – UNV with UNDP

Discussion:

The meeting began with Ms. S. G. Palliyaguruge, Director (Development), Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development (MWCADZD) briefing the new Additional Secretary on the work that has taken place so far through the Committee in minimizing sexual harassment in work places. In explaining the objective of the meeting, she mentioned that although ministries have been requested to set up committees to inquire on sexual harassment at workplaces and the composition has been specified, no guidelines on the functions of the committee has been issued.

It was informed to the committee members that only 10 ministries - namely: Ministry of Lands and Parliamentary Reforms, Ministry of Internal & Home Affairs and Provincial Councils & Local Government, Minister of Plantation Industries, two departments in the Uva Provincial Council, ministries in the North Central Province – have set up internal committees to inquire into the complaints. However, it was added that 19 ministries have been successful in appointing gender focal points within their workplaces. The Additional Secretary added the need to call for a common meeting with the chairpersons, secretaries of these harassment committees at the Ministry of Women in order to obtain consensus of the scope and roles. Further he added that a two week time period to be given to the other ministries to set up the committees.

A copy of the guidelines to these harassment committees, developed by the Ministry of Women were shared among the attendees; however, the further need to refine them and to translate the guidelines into English and Tamil was raised by the members.

After the initial discussion, it was unanimously agreed by the members present that the above anti-harassment committee to function as a 'Support Group' to assist victims of sexual harassment within workplaces, as the powers of the anti-sexual harassment committee to take decisions on remedial action was limited and dismissal of public sector officers was in the hands of the Public Administration that would

follow the current accepted process. Hence several points were discussed in relation to the nature of the committee to be setup so that there will be no harm done to victim survivors. These include:

1. The composition of the 'Support Group' to be a total of 6 members (comprising of one additional secretary, a director, a development officer and a representation from the management assistant level) including an additional independent member from an outside entity
2. Of the initial 5 members, a minimum of 3 members to be female
3. No trade unions to be represented within the composition of the membership
4. Confidentiality, integrity and high ethical standards and individuals with good character to be taken into consideration in appointing the members
5. Focal points to be appointed from the all hierarchies of the organizations to receive complains
6. An ombudsman/ two ombudsmen to be appointed in addition to the membership of the support group
7. The code of conduct of the members should include mechanisms and guidelines on ways to maintain confidentiality, privacy and documentation of complains
8. Guidelines to be drafted separately for committee members and for staff
9. To set up a 'buddy mechanism' to enable the staff of the lower ranks to reach out for support in an event of victimization
10. To encourage other forms of reporting in addition to written submissions

Finally, the need to obtain advice from Dr. Deepika Udagama – Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and key official of the Public Administration on the proceedings and powers of the Anti-sexual harassment committee / Support Group was highlighted.

Action points:

A soft copy of the existing guidelines to be shared with the other member organizations by the Ministry of Women & Child Affairs.

Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development to schedule a meeting with the Human Rights Commission and the Public Administration as a matter of priority to obtain their feedback on the possible powers of the anti- SH committees.

Ministry of Women to circulate a note to all the 31 ministries instructing them to set up the support groups/ anti-sexual harassment committees

A list of names of possible persons who could sit in the support group/ committee as the 6th independent member to be compiled with inputs from the organizations/ CSOs working in the areas of addressing SH.

**LETTER OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND
THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD AFFAIRS, AND DRY ZONE DEVELOPMENT
ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY FRAMEWORK AND NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION
TO ADDRESS SGBV, AND ADDRESSING SEXUAL BRIBERY AND EXPLOITATION
WHEN UNDP SERVES AS IMPLEMENTING PARTNER**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

1. Reference is made to the consultations between officials of the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as "UNDP") in Sri Lanka and officials of The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and Dry Zone Development (herein after referred to as the "MWCADZD") with respect to the realization of activities by MWCADZD in the implementation of the project No. COL/A2J/115060/111210/MoW/01 titled Implementation of the Policy Framework and National Plan of Action to address SGBV and addressing Sexual Bribery and Exploitation, as specified in Attachment 1: Project Document, to which UNDP has been selected as implementing partner.
2. In accordance with the Project Document and with the following terms and conditions, we confirm our acceptance of the activities to be provided by MWCADZD towards the project, as specified in Attachment 2: Description of Activities (hereinafter referred to as "Activities"). Close consultations will be held between MWCADZD and UNDP on all aspects of the Activities.
3. MWCADZD shall be fully responsible for carrying out, with due diligence and efficiency, all Activities in accordance with its Financial regulations, rules and other directives, only to the extent they are consistent with UNDP's Financial Regulations and Rules. In all other cases, UNDP's Financial Regulations and Rules must be followed.
4. In carrying out the activities under this Letter, the personnel and sub-contractors of MWCADZD shall not be considered in any respect as being the employees or agents of UNDP. UNDP does not accept any liability for claims arising out of acts or omission of MWCADZD or its personnel, or of its contractors or their personnel, in performing the Activities or any claims for death, bodily injury, disability, damage to property or other hazards that may be suffered by MWCADZD, and its personnel as a result of their work pertaining to the Activities.
5. Any subcontractors, including NGOs under contract with MWCADZD, shall work under the supervision of the designated official of MWCADZD. These subcontractors shall remain accountable to MWCADZD for the manner in which assigned functions are discharged.
6. Upon signature of this Letter, UNDP will make payments to MWCADZD, according to the schedule of payments specified in Attachment 3: Schedule of Activities, Facilities and Payments.
7. MWCADZD shall not make any financial commitments or incur any expenses which would exceed the budget for the Activities as set forth in Attachment 3. MWCADZD shall regularly consult with UNDP concerning the status and use of funds and shall promptly advise UNDP any time when MWCADZD is aware that the budget to carry out these Activities is insufficient to fully implement the project in the manner set out in the Attachment 2. UNDP shall have no obligation to provide MWCADZD with any funds or to make any reimbursement for expenses incurred by MWCADZD in excess of the total budget as set forth in Attachment 3.

8. MWCADZD shall submit a cumulative financial report each quarter. The report will be submitted to UNDP through the UNDP Resident Representative within 30 days following those dates. The format will follow the standard UNDP expenditure report [a model copy of which is provided as Attachment 4]. UNDP will include the financial report by MWCADZD in the financial report for sub-project No COL/A2J/115060/111210/MoW/01 titled Implementation of the Policy Framework and National Plan of Action to address SGBV and addressing Sexual Bribery and Exploitation.

9. MWCADZD shall submit such progress reports relating to the Activities as may reasonably be required by the project manager in the exercise of his or her duties.

10. MWCADZD shall furnish a final report within 3 months after the completion or termination of the Activities, including a list of non-expendable equipment purchased by MWCADZD and all relevant audited or certified financial statements and records related to such Activities, as appropriate, pursuant to its Financial Regulations and Rules.

11. Equipment and supplies that may be furnished by UNDP or procured through UNDP funds will be disposed as agreed, in writing, between UNDP and MWCADZD.

12. Any changes to the Project Document which would affect the work being performed by MWCADZD in accordance with Attachment 2 shall be recommended only after consultation between the parties.

13. For any matters not specifically covered by this Letter, the Parties would ensure that those matters shall be resolved in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Project Document and any revisions thereof and in accordance with the respective provisions of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the MWCADZD and UNDP.

14. The arrangements described in this Letter will remain in effect until the end of the project, or the completion of activities of MWCADZD according to Attachment 2, or until terminated in writing (with 30 days' notice) by either party. The schedule of payments specified in Attachment 3 remains in effect based on continued performance by MWCADZD unless it receives written indication to the contrary from UNDP.

15. Any balance of funds that is undisbursed and uncommitted after the conclusion of the Activities shall be returned within 90 days to UNDP.

16. Any amendment to this Letter shall be effected by mutual agreement, in writing.

17. All further correspondence regarding this Letter, other than signed letters of agreement or amendments thereto should be addressed to Resident Representative, UNDP Sri Lanka [202-204, Baudhdhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07] and copied to Programme Manager - SDG 16 Portfolio [202-204, Baudhdhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07].

18. MWCADZD shall keep the UNDP Resident Representative fully informed of all actions undertaken by them in carrying out this Letter.

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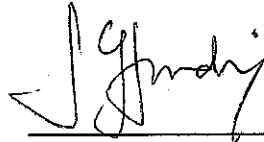
19. UNDP may suspend this Agreement, in whole or in part, upon written notice, should circumstances arise which jeopardize successful completion of the Activities.

20. Any dispute between the UNDP and MWCADZD arising out of or relating to this Letter which is not settled by negotiation or other agreed mode of settlement, shall, at the request of either party, be submitted to a Tribunal of three arbitrators. Each party shall appoint one arbitrator, and the two arbitrators so appointed shall appoint a third arbitrator, who shall be the chairperson of the Tribunal. If, within 15 days of the appointment of two arbitrators, the third arbitrator has not been appointed, either party may request the President of the International Court of Justice to appoint the arbitrator referred to. The Tribunal shall determine its own procedures, provided that any two arbitrators shall constitute a quorum for all purposes, and all decisions shall require the agreement of any two arbitrators. The expenses of the Tribunal shall be borne by the parties as assessed by the Tribunal. The arbitral award shall contain a statement of the reasons on which it is based and shall be final and binding on the parties.

21. If you are in agreement with the provisions set forth above, please sign and return to this office two copies of this Letter. Your acceptance shall thereby constitute the basis for your participation in the implementation of the project.

Yours sincerely,

Signed on behalf of UNDP

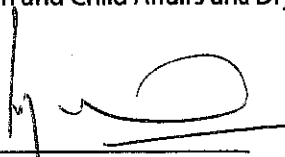


Faiza Effendi, Deputy Resident Representative

Date: 11 September 2019



Signed on behalf of Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development



Dharshana Senanayake, Secretary

Date: 20/09/2019

Dharshana Senanayake
Secretary
Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and
Dry Zone Development
"Sethsiripaya" (2nd Stage) 5th Floor
Battaramulla.

Attachment 1

PROJECT DOCUMENT

Implementation of the Policy Framework and National Plan of Action to address SGBV and addressing Sexual Bribery and Exploitation	
Project	SDG 16 Portfolio Project M2 - Improved Access to Justice and Gender Justice (Project ID: 17979) Country M2 - Finance Local Government - Gender Mainstreaming Initiative (Project ID: 28977)
Objective	Strengthening the implementation of the National Plan of Action on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) - including sexual exploitation and sexual bribery - strengthening anti-sexual harassment committees of schools, Media and related initiatives of the MWCA, Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development
Locations	National
Duration	July 2019 – December 2020 - Project ID: 17979 - Under Improved Access to Justice July 2019 – June 2020 - Project ID: 28977 - Under Finance Local Government

A. Background

UNDPs new area of support to the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development (MWCADZD) builds on the Strengthening Enforcement of Law, Access to Justice and Social Integration (SELAJSI) Programme of UNDP from 2014-2016, findings and lessons learnt from the SELAJSI mid-term review, and the interim programme developed in 2017 to better respond to the current context in Sri Lanka. Following the end of these two programme cycles, UNDPs Governance programme has re-organized itself under a new SDG 16 Portfolio programme aligned to the current country programme of UNDP (2018 -2022).

A major achievement under the gender/ response to SGBV component of the SELAJSI programme implemented through the MWCADZD was the granting of cabinet approval for the National Plan of Action to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Sri Lanka (NPOA to address SGBV) in June 2016, which was compiled with technical and coordination support from the Project. Follow-up work in operationalizing the plan and provision of gender/ SGBV training took place during the interim period. The SELAJSI Programme also established and strengthened district level SGBV referral systems in the three SELAJSI area models of Anuradhapura, Batticaloa and Ratnapura. During 2018, this programme was extended and SGBV referral programmes were held in Jaffna and Kurunegala districts, while also covering several divisional level SGBV referral discussions through CSOs that provided legal assistance, shelter support, counselling and divisional level awareness programmes to prevent SGBV.

Besides these key achievements support was provided to the MWCADZD under the SELAJSI programme for the following focus areas:

- Strengthened Ministry to enter data collected on widows and Female Headed Households (FHH) in Sri Lanka into the Ministry database.
- Supported legal aid clinics at divisional level through the National Committee on Women (NCW) and the Women's Bureau engaging with the Legal Aid Commission (LAC) and CSOs to strengthen access to justice for those vulnerable to SGBV.
- Supported the states effort to compile the 8th State Party Report to the CEDAW Committee
- Strengthened all Police Women and Child Bureaus and Desks in the three SELAJSI area models of Anuradhapura, Batticaloa and Ratnapura.
- Strengthened all MWCA's Women and Child Units at divisional and district level in the three SELAJSI area models of Anuradhapura, Batticaloa and Ratnapura.

- Strengthened the capacity of all field officers of the Ministry on gender / SGBV/ case Management/ counselling in the SELAJSI area models following the manual developed by SLFI for the Ministry
- Conducted awareness programmes on prevention and response to SGBV in the SELAJI area models through the NCPA and DPCCS, targeting children and adolescents.
- Developed IEC materials (audio-visual and print) to address SGBV, policy dialogues and advocated on policies and implementation/ reform of laws on areas applicable to SGBV.

Given the continued need to program on enhancing gender equality and addressing SGBV which remains a pervasive problem; and building on the achievements and momentum generated through the SELAJSI programme, UNDP through its 'Inclusive Justice' and 'Gender and Peace' projects under the SDG 16 Portfolio proposes to take forward work in two specific areas with the MWCADZD. The first area of support (Outcome 2) relates to strengthening both the state and non-state capacities to respond to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) – especially implementation of the National Plan of Action on SGBV. In this respect, lagging areas as well as expanding on lessons learnt will be undertaken. The second (Outcome 3) relates to addressing sexual bribery and exploitation among military and conflict affected widows in Anuradhapura, Kurunegala and Killinochchi under the 'gender and peace' initiative of UNDP.

Attachment 2

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

Project number: COL/A2J/115060/111210/MoW/01

Subproject title: * Under UNDP SDG 16 Portfolio Outcome 2 - Improved Access to Justice: Inclusive Justice – Focus on SGBV and
 * Under UNDP SDG 16 Portfolio Outcome 3 - Enhance Local Governance: Gender and Peace – Addressing SE and SB among Military and War Widows

Results to be achieved by Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development (MWCADZD)

Responsible agency/institution	Proposed Key interventions
Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development OUTCOME 2: Improved Access to Justice— Response to SGBV (Project 117979/115060)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MWCADZD to coordinate and implement further the National Plan of Action (NPOA) to address Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) including – sectoral meetings/ Steering Committee Meeting/ other related activities 2. Provide guidance to the selected IT developer to complete MWCADZD's requirements for an IT-based progress dashboard system wi: Improved h physical and financial targets for priority planning and monitoring progress of the NPOA to address SGBV (2016 – 2020). 3. Organize and conduct district level referral meeting in 2 new districts and follow up by compiling reports from district/ divisional secretariats 4. Establish and strengthen Vigilant Committees - Women's Bureau 5. Develop short video clips on engaging men to be shared on social media - National Committee on Women (NCW) 6. Capacitate select officers linked to the project at the Ministry
OUTCOME 3: Enhance Local Governance - Address SE & SB among Military and War Widows (Project 112897/111210)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Organize workshops at National and in the targeted districts to sensitize public officials on Officials on SB and SE (at least 10 workshops) 8. Formulate a module on provision of legal assistance for field officers of MWCADZD in S/T/E 9. Support a national level workshops on provision of legal assistance for WDOs and relevant officers.

10. Organize and conduct approximately 7 legal clinics at district level

OUTCOME 2: Improved Access to Justice (Project 117979/105060)

Output 2.2: State and non-state justice sector actors strengthened to deliver victim-centric services on areas including SGBV, victims and witness protection, and transitional justice

Activity 2.2.2: Support Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development (MWCADZD) to implement the National Plan of Action to address SGBV including strengthening the referral system at district level;

- Activity 2.2.2.1 Support and Strengthen the MWCADZD to coordinate and operationalize the National Plan of Action (NPOA) to address SGBV
- 2.2.2.2. Strengthen the referral system of SGBV cases to penal chain in the identified districts and at central level - through MWCADZD's
- 2.2.2.3 Strengthen Vigilant Committees at GN level to address SGBV and identify safe spaces
- 2.2.2.4 Strengthen initiatives of the MWCADZD on engaging with men through the Men Engage Alliance

OUTCOME 3: Enhance Local Governance (Project 112897/111210)

OUTCOME 3.8: Increased commitment of public institutions to prevent and respond to bribery and to protect military and war widows from sexual bribery and exploitation.

Output 3.8.1: Capacity of public institutions and officials are built to prevent and respond to bribery and to protect military and war widows from sexual bribery and exploitation

3.8.1.1. Sensitization of public officials on sexual bribery and sexual exploitation as crimes, using 'puppetry' and 'forum theatre'

3.8.1.3. Capacities of the MWCADZD are enhanced to provide legal assistance through Women Development Officers, Counselling Assistants (and other relevant officers) on sexual bribery and exploitation in safe spaces

Output 3.8.2 Strengthen existing mechanisms to report and respond to bribery, including sexual bribery.

3.8.2.1 Activity - Technical support to the formation/ re-establishment of anti-sexual harassment committees in public institutions as per the directive issued by the MWCA.

Work to be performed by Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development

Outcome 2: Project 117979/115060	
Output 2.2: State and non-state justice sector actors strengthened to deliver victim-centric services on areas including SGBV, victims and witness protection, and transitional justice	
Activity 2.2.2: Support Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development (MWCADZD) to implement the National Plan of Action to address SGBV including strengthening the referral system at district level;	<p>Support to implement and coordinate the NPoA to address SGBV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MWCADZD to coordinate and implement the National Plan of Action to address SGBV - Participation and follow-up at sectoral meetings (11 sectoral meetings) by appointed MWCA officers - Re-convene the Steering Committee to ensure successful implementation and monitoring of the NPoA, and organize the Steering Committee meetings and recommendations - Conduct 2 new district referral meetings and follow-up (where possible according to budget and timeline) - Conduct follow-up discussion at district level/ communication with key officials to obtain status of district/divisional referral system - Establish and strengthen vigilantes through the Women's Bureau at GN level (setup 3 vigilantes committees) - Establish Technical Committee to review, provide feedback and finalize the short video clips on engaging men developed by Men Engage Alliance to be shared on social media by the NCW as part of its advocacy campaign.
Outcome 3: Project 112897/111210	
Output 3.8.1: Capacity of public institutions and officials are built to prevent and respond to bribery and to protect military and war widows from sexual bribery and exploitation	
Activity 3.8.1.1. Sensitization of public officials on sexual bribery and sexual exploitation as crimes, using 'puppetry' and 'forum theatre.'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize workshops to sensitize officials on SB & SE at national and in the targeted districts (Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Kilinochchi)
Activity 3.8.1.3. Capacities of the MWCADZD are enhanced to provide legal assistance through Women Development Officers, Counselling Assistants (and other relevant officers) on sexual bribery and exploitation in safe spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support formulation of a module on provision of legal assistance for field officers of MWCADZD in S/T/E - Identify WDOs, Counselling Officers (and other relevant officers) to follow and organise a national level residential training & possible TOT on providing legal assistance as para-legal officers - Organize and conduct minimum of 7 legal clinics (in the targeted 3 districts) linking with CSOs in relevant divisions led by capacitated officers of the Women's Bureau.

Output 3.8.2 Strengthen existing mechanisms to report and respond to bribery, including sexual bribery.	
3.8.2.1 Activity - Technical support to the formation/ re-establishment of anti-sexual harassment committees in public institutions as per the directive issued by the MWCA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a Handbook for SH Committees including SE & SB - Sensitize SH Committees on the Handbook - Awareness programmes on addressing SE and SB

Description of inputs:

UNDP will provide the financial assistance to implement the above proposed interventions engaging with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development who will be responsible to implement the interventions in collaboration with the relevant departments and Agencies as relevant. MWCADZD will be the key responsible entity to implement, monitor and coordinate the project interventions in a sustainable manner.

Furthermore, relevant institutions under/ engaging with the MWCADZD shall ensure the maintenance and continuance of the systems developed through the activities of this agreement.

Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development:

- Facilitate timely reporting as stipulated in the Letter of Agreement.
- Coordination of sectoral meeting and progress monitoring of the NPoA to address SGBV.
- Coordination and logistics for the district referrals, vigilant committees, para-legal training of WDO and related officer and legal clinics at district level and other related activities as per the LOA.
- Liaise with project partners including UN Women, Centre for Equality and Justice and their partners at district level (in Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Killinochchi) in training provided to widows (conflict and military) and the provision of livelihood grants and the diversity markets.
- Support/ Assist the work of consultants contracted by UNDP to ensure the smooth implementation of activities as identified in the LOA.

United Nations Development Programme:

- Undertakes the recruitment of consultants to coordinate initiatives identified in the LOA and contract MenEngage Alliance and other printing requirements as relevant.
- Contract short-term consultants and contract nominated CSOs to undertake work given their past experience and niche in working with the Ministry.

- Technical guidance for the design and review of activities undertaken by the MWCADZD, including technical input at sectoral meetings under the NPoA to address SGBV, SGBV referral meetings, vigilant committees, Legal Assistance Manual and legal clinics.
- Additional monitoring support and quality assurance of activity implementation.
- Coordination and facilitation to establish linkages with initiatives carried out under other UNDP or UN Agency and development partner supported Projects/Initiatives.
- Financial resources up to a maximum of LKR 5,200,000 to support the activities listed above and with the understanding that the Implementing Partner will carry out these activities as well as logistical and other arrangements (please refer to detailed activities and budget below).

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES AND PAYMENTS

Start Date: 09 September 2019

End Date: 30 November 2020

Activity	Planned Budget	Total Budget	Planned Budget	Total Budget
<p>Output 2.2: State and non-state justice sector actors strengthened to deliver victim-centric services on areas including SGBV, victims and witness protection, and transitional justice</p> <p>Output Indicators: % of sector-specific priorities that have commenced/ completed vis-a-vis the sectoral plans under the NPoA to address SGBV</p> <p># of divisions within targeted districts and # of districts that have strengthened SGBV referral systems</p> <p>Activity-level indicators:</p>	<p>2.2.2.1 Support and Strengthen the MWCADZD to coordinate and implement the National Plan of Action (NPoA) to address SGBV</p>	<p>2.2.2.2 Strengthen the referral system of SGBV cases to penal chain in the identified districts and/ or at central level - through MWCADZD interventions and follow-up linking with all key stakeholders</p>	<p>MWCADZD to coordinate and implement the NPoA to address SGBV/ includes support to Steering Committee meetings/ sectoral meetings/ key activities as identified</p> <p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical input at sectoral meetings • Technical input to strengthen and convene the Steering Committee, finalize and re-visit TOR for Steering Committee, and support the Steering Committee Meetings and recommendations. Direct payment for meetings • Provide Technical input and follow-up to complete Progress Dashboard • Conduct 2 new district referral meetings and follow-up (where possible according to budget and timeline) • Conduct follow-up discussion at district level/ communication with key officials to obtain status of district/ divisional referral system 	<p>50,000</p> <p>50,000</p> <p>50,000</p> <p>400,000</p>

<p>UNDP UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2020-2021 2020-2021 2020-2021</p>	<p>Complementary contribution by UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile feedback received from reporting format for referral meetings held at district /divisional level • Identify key stakeholders as relevant to participate in district referrals. Link CSOs divisional referral with MWCADZD. • Directly support 1 identified Referral meeting 	<p>600,000</p>	<p>100,000</p>	<p>300,000</p>	<p>200,000</p>
<p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP Technical support the Women's Bureau to establish and strengthen vigilant committee at HN level. District Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and strengthen vigilant committees through the Women's Bureau at GN level (setup at 3 vigilant committees) while linking with other GNs/ divisions for replication. 	<p>750,000</p>	<p>300,000</p>	<p>300,000</p>	<p>150,000</p>
<p>2.2.2.3 Strengthen Vigilant Committees at GN level to address SGBV and identify safe spaces (through Women's Bureau)</p>	<p>2.2.2.4. Conduct programmes at district/ div and national level engaging with men and boys as changemakers on enhancing gender equality and preventing VAW&G linking with the Men Engage Alliance Sri Lanka (through Women's Bureau)</p>	<p>600,000</p>	<p>100,000</p>	<p>300,000</p>	<p>200,000</p>
<p># of state/ non-state persons (W/ M) attending sectoral meetings # of activities commenced in each sectoral plan # of activities completed in all sectoral plans -Multi-sectoral Steering committee to guide and monitor the NPoA to address SGBV established and functional, # of members key sector leads attending steering committee meetings (W/ M), # of steering committee meetings held # of district referrals held # of W/ M participating at referral meetings Targets end of project: 30% - 60% of Activities in all sectoral plans of NPoA to have commenced Completion of 1 new district referral meetings</p>	<p>2.2.2.3 Strengthen Vigilant Committees at GN level to address SGBV and identify safe spaces (through Women's Bureau)</p> <p>2.2.2.4. Conduct programmes at district/ div and national level engaging with men and boys as changemakers on enhancing gender equality and preventing VAW&G linking with the Men Engage Alliance Sri Lanka (through Women's Bureau)</p>	<p>600,000</p>	<p>100,000</p>	<p>300,000</p>	<p>200,000</p>

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECT OUTPUTS and indicators including annual targets	PLANNED ACTIVITIES List all activities to be undertaken during the year towards stated outputs	Planned Budget Budget Description	Total Amount (IKR)	Schedule of payments		
				Tranche 1 (IKR) Aug-Dec 2019	Tranche 2 (IKR) Jan-Apr 2020	Tranche 3 (IKR) May-Nov 2020
		<p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP Technical support to Women's Bureau to initiate programs targeting men and boys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback/ Technical Committee input to develop short video clips to be shared on social media on engaging men & boys including addressing stereo typical behaviour by the NCW - direct support by UNDP <p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP Contract Men Engage Alliance Sri Lanka (as requested by NCW, MWCADZD) to develop short video clips to be shared on social media in partnership with NCW</p>	-	-	-	
	<p>2.2.2.5 Undertake a social media campaign on engaging men and boys to promote gender equality and address gender stereo typical behaviour linking with the Men Engage Alliance of Sri Lanka (through National Committee on Women)</p>	<p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacitate select officers at MWCADZD/ NCW on reporting/ taking meeting minutes and mentor them in taking forward the project. 	-	-	-	
Sub-total Outcome 2			1,900,000	850,000	1,050,000	400,000
UNDP Outcome 3: Enhance local Governance, Exploitation and Sexual Bribery among Military Widows and Conflict-affected Widow (Project 12897/1/1210)			800,000	400,000	400,000	
Output 3.8.1: Capacity of public institutions and officials are built to prevent and respond to bribery and to protect military and war	<p>3.8.1.1. Sensitization of public officials on sexual bribery and sexual exploitation as crimes, using 'puppetry' and 'forum theatre' and other innovative methods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize workshops at National level and in the districts of Kurunegala, Anuradhapura & Kilinochchi and relevant divisions to sensitize public officials on SB and SE (approximately 6 - 10 programmes) 				

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EXPECTED contribution to project OUTPUTS and indicators including annual targets	PLANNED ACTIVITIES List all activities to be undertaken during the year towards stated outputs	Planned Budget		Schedule of payments		
		Budget Description	Total Amount (LKR)	Tranche 1 (LKR) Aug-Dec 2019	Tranche 2 (LKR) Jan-Apr 2020	Tranche 3 (LKR) May - Nov 2020
widows from sexual bribery and exploitation		<p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Forum Theatre group to support sensitization sessions Technical support to awareness programmes on SH & SB linking UN Women & CEJ and partners. 				
	<p>3.8.1.3. Capacities of the MWCADZD are enhanced to provide legal assistance through Women Development Officers, Counselling Assistants (and other relevant officers) on sexual bribery and exploitation in safe spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulate a module on provision of legal assistance for field officers of MWCADZD in S/T/E with technical assistance from UNDP. Identify WDOs, Counselling Officers (and other relevant officers) to follow and organise a national level residential training & possible TOT on providing legal assistance as para-legal officers Organize and conduct minimum of 7 legal clinics (in the targeted 3 districts) linking with CSOs in relevant divisions led by capacitated officers of the Women's Bureau. <p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical support to compile module on para-legal assistance including SE & SB in S/T/ E and print module including select materials for training. Technical assistance to conduct training and contract training venue/centre / resource persons/ travelling etc. for the 	1,500,000	500,000	1,000,000	

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION TO PROJECT OUTPUTS and indicators including annual targets	PLANNED ACTIVITIES List all activities to be undertaken during the year towards stated outputs	Planned Budget		Schedule of payments		
		Budget Description	Total Amount (tKR)	Tranche 1 (tKR) Aug-Dec 2019	Tranche 2 (tKR) Jan-Apr 2020	Tranche 3 (tKR) May-Nov 2020
Output 3.8.2 Strengthen existing mechanisms to report and respond to bribery, including sexual bribery.	WDO legal assistance training & related support					
	3.8.2.1 Activity - Technical support to the formation/ re-establishment of anti-sexual harassment committees in public institutions as per the directive issued by the MWCA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Handbook for SH Committees including SE & SB Formulate Code of Conduct for public officials Sensitize SH Committees on the Handbook. <p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical support to develop Handbook for SH Committees and resource person costs as identified by the Ministry Technical support to develop a Code of Conduct for Public Officials and resource person costs as identified by the Ministry for awareness raising on the document developed. Printing handbook and Code of Conduct. Technical support to conduct sensitization sessions at MWCADZD and other relevant Ministries. Quality assurance of all materials developed 	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	-
Sub-total Outcome 3			3,300,000	1,400,000	1,900,000	-
TOTAL MWCADZD (Outcome 2 & Outcome 3)			5,200,000	1,850,000	2,950,000	400,000

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Note:

- Adjustments within each of the sections may be made in consultation between UNDP and the Government institution. Such adjustments may be made if they are in keeping with the provisions of the Programme Support/ Project Document and if they are found to be in the best interest of the project.
- *Expenditures in this LOA to be followed by the government circular and financial guidelines to make sure the transparency of the financial transactions. Any special programme, event and services related payments to be approved by Secretary/ Add. Secretary (Development) within the limitation of the budget line in the agreement*
- **The First tranche of funds will be transferred to the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development (through Treasury) upon signing the LOA. The second tranche of funds will be disbursed upon expending 70% of the first tranche of funds and upon submission of an expenditure report.**
- **Quarterly Narrative and Financial reports to be submitted to UNDP (as per UNDP reporting requirements) by 31st December 2019, 31st March 2020, and 30th June 2020. A Final Report capturing, inter alia, results achieved as per the outputs (including lessons learnt/best practices) within thirty (30) days after the completion of the Activities or expiration or prior termination of this Agreement. Each report must be written in the English language and must, inter alia, contain information on;**
 - Activities carried out under the Agreement during the reporting period
 - Progress towards achieving the deliverables during the reported period
 - Corresponding indicators, baseline sources of data, and data collection methods
 - Any new issues, risks, challenges and opportunities that should be considered in implementing Activities
 - Financial data, including cash receipts and disbursements incurred by the MWCA, reconciliation of outstanding advances during the reporting period.
 - Cumulative financial data demonstrating satisfactory management and use of UNDP resources
 - The MWCADZD to provide additional reports related to the Activities as may be reasonably required by UNDP in keeping with its regulations, rules, policies and procedures

Prior to the finalization of all material including print and audio-visual material produced as per the activities stipulated under this Letter of Agreement the MWCADZD agrees to consult with UNDP in order to ensure that the Visibility Guidelines of UNDP are adhered to.

MODEL UNDP EXPENDITURE REPORT

Reporting Period _____

EXPECTED CP OUTPUTS and indicators including annual targets	PLANNED ACTIVITIES <i>List all activities to be undertaken during the year towards stated outputs</i>	Planned Budget		Payments and Expenditures	
		Budget Description	Amount Rs.	Payments received Rs.	Expenditures Balance
<p>Output 2.2: State and non-state justice sector actors strengthened to deliver victim-centric services on areas including SGBV, victims and witness protection, and transitional justice</p> <p>Output Indicators: % of sector-specific priorities that have commenced/completed vis-à-vis the sectoral plans under the NPoA to address SGBV</p> <p># of divisions within targeted districts and # of districts that have strengthened SGBV referral systems</p> <p>Activity-level Indicators:</p>	<p>2.2.2.1 Support and Strengthen the MWCADZD to coordinate and implement the National Plan of Action (NPoA) to address SGBV</p> <p>2.2.2.2. Strengthen the referral system of SGBV cases to penal chain in the identified districts and/ or at central level - through MWCADZD interventions and follow-up linking with all key stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MWCADZD to coordinate and implement the NPoA to address SGBV/ includes support to Steering Committee meetings/ sectoral meetings/ key activities as identified Complementary Contribution by UNDP Technical input at sectoral meetings Technical input to strengthen and convene the Steering Committee, finalize and re-visit TOR for Steering Committee, and support the Steering Committee Meetings and recommendations. Direct payment for meetings Provide Technical input and follow-up to complete Progress Dashboard 	150,000	50,000	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct 2 new district referral meetings and follow-up (where possible according to budget and timeline) Conduct follow-up discussion at district level/ communication with key officials to obtain status of district/ divisional referral system Complementary contribution by UNDP Compile feedback received from reporting format for referral meetings held at district /divisional level Identify key stakeholders as relevant to participate in district referrals. Link CSOs divisional referral with MWCADZD. 			400,000

<p># of state/ non-state persons (W/ M) attending sectoral meetings</p> <p># of activities commenced in each sectoral plan</p> <p># of activities completed in all sectoral plans</p> <p>-Multi-sectoral Steering committee to guide and monitor the NPoA to address SGBV established and functional,</p> <p># of members key sector leads attending steering committee meetings (W/ M), # of steering committee meetings held</p> <p># of district referrals held</p> <p># of W/ M participating at referral meetings</p> <p>Targets end of project:</p> <p>50% - 60% of Activities in all sectoral plans of NPoA to have commenced</p> <p>Completion of 1 new district referral meetings</p>	<p>2.2.2.3. Strengthen Vigilant Committees at GN level to address SGBV and identify safe spaces (through Women's Bureau)</p> <p>2.2.2.4. Conduct programmes at district/ div and national level engaging with men and boys as changemakers on enhancing gender equality and preventing VAW&G linking with the Men Engage Alliance Sri Lanka (through Women's Bureau)</p> <p>2.2.2.5 Undertake a social media campaign on engaging men and boys to promote gender equality and address gender stereo typical behavior linking with the Men Engage Alliance of Sri Lanka (through National Committee on Women)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly support 1 identified Referral meeting • Establish and strengthen vigilant committees through the Women's Bureau at GN level (setup at 3 vigilant committees) while linking with other GNs/divisions for replication. <p>Complimentary Contribution by UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support the Women's Bureau to establish and strengthen vigilant committee at HN level. District Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize programmes targeting men and boys at div/ district & national level (as relevant) to promote gender equality and address negative stereo typical behaviour & masculinities • Organize innovative programmes to address VAW & G engaging with men and boys as changemakers <p>Complimentary Contribution by UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support to Women's Bureau to initiate programs targeting men and boys <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback/ Technical Committee input to develop short video clips to be shared on social media on engaging men & boys including addressing stereo typical behaviour by the NCW - direct support by UNDP <p>Complimentary Contribution by UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract Men Engage Alliance Sri Lanka (as requested by NCW, MWCADZD) to develop short video clips to be shared on social media in partnership with NCW 	<p>600,000</p> <p>100,000</p>	<p>750,000</p> <p>300,000</p>	
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<p>Subtotal Outcome -02</p>		<p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP Other: Capacitate select officers at MWCADZD/ NCW on reporting/ taking meeting minutes and mentor them in taking forward the project.</p>	<p>1,900,000</p>	<p>450,000</p>	
<p>Output 3.8.1: Capacity of public institutions and officials are built to prevent and respond to bribery and to protect military and war widows from sexual bribery and exploitation</p>	<p>3.8.1.1. Sensitization of public officials on sexual bribery and sexual exploitation as crimes, using 'puppetry' and 'forum theatre' and other innovative methods.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize workshops at National level and in the districts of Kurunegala, Anuradhapura & Kilinochchi and relevant divisions to sensitize public officials on SB and SE (approximately 6 - 10 programmes) <p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Forum Theatre group to support sensitization sessions Technical support to awareness programmes on SH & SB linking UN Women & CEJ and partners. 	<p>800,000</p>	<p>400,000</p>	
	<p>3.8.1.3. Capacities of the MWCADZD are enhanced to provide legal assistance through Women Development Officers, Counselling Assistants (and other relevant officers) on sexual bribery and exploitation in safe spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulate a module on provision of legal assistance for field officers of MWCADZD in S/T/E with technical assistance from UNDP. Identify WDOs, Counselling Officers (and other relevant officers) to follow and organise a national level residential training & possible TOT on providing legal assistance as para-legal officers Organize and conduct minimum of 7 legal clinics (in the targeted 3 districts) linking with CSOs in relevant divisions led by capacitated officers of the Women's Bureau. 	<p>1,500,000</p>	<p>500,000</p>	

		<p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support to compile module on para-legal assistance including SE & SB in S/T/ E and print module including select materials for training. • Technical assistance to conduct training and contract training venue/centre / resource persons/ travelling etc. for the WDO legal assistance training & related support 			
<p>Output 3.8.2 Strengthen existing mechanisms to report and respond to bribery, including sexual bribery.</p>	<p>3.8.2.1 Activity - Technical support to the formation/ re-establishment of anti-sexual harassment committees in public institutions as per the directive issued by the MWCA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Handbook for SH Committees including SE & SB • Formulate Code of Conduct for public officials • Sensitize SH Committees on the Handbook. <p>Complementary Contribution by UNDP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support to develop Handbook for SH Committees and resource person costs as identified by the Ministry • Technical support to develop a Code of Conduct for Public Officials and resource person costs as identified by the Ministry for awareness raising on the document developed. • Printing handbook and Code of Conduct. • Technical support to conduct sensitization sessions at MWCADZD and other relevant Ministries. • Quality assurance of all materials developed 	<p>1,000,000</p> <p>500,000</p>		
<p>Subtotal Outcome 03</p>		<p>Total</p>	<p>3,300,000</p> <p>1,400,000</p>		
			<p>5,200,000</p>		<p>1,850,000</p>



BI-ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by: Centre for Equality and Justice

Reporting period: Feb- Jun 2019

1. Progress Towards Results

In the past six months, what progress have you made on your way to achieving your expected outcomes/results?

Please describe how the outputs completed and activities in the last six months are contributing to the achievement of the corresponding outcome. *Please provide the answers following the order of your Programme Monitoring Framework Please use evidence (figures, testimonials etc..). Max 3 pages*

CEJ has successfully carried out the preparatory work during the first four months, contributing to the two main outcomes of the project. The completed work has laid the foundation for the earmarked activities for the upcoming quarter. Four months into the commencement of the project, it is still too early to measure the impact of the implemented activities. Nevertheless, it is safe to state that the project has the potential to influence and inform the discourse on sexual and gender-based violence in Sri Lanka as it progresses into its next quarter.

Below is the description of the activities/ outputs implemented during the reporting period, listed in the order of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework, and how they have contributed/ will contribute to achieving the 2 main outcomes:

Outcome 1: Empowered military and war widows have sustainable livelihoods, and access social support services with dignity.

Output 1.1 Military widows and war widows have increased knowledge of their rights and have access to complaint mechanisms on bribery.

A total of six key activities including creating/ strengthening of Self Help Groups (SHGs), awareness-raising, legal aid, development of Sexual Bribery (SB) complaint App, soft skills training and support to deal with at-risk children will contribute to the achievement of Output 1.1. The completion of the mapping of SHGs and the commencement of field visits by partner organizations to form/ strengthen SHGs across the districts have been the key sub-activities contributing to the progress of the project during the reporting period. The mapping report will inform and shape the rest of the project activities. The SHGs will play a key role in the empowerment of Military Widows (MWs) and War Widows (WWs) through livelihood support (provided by UNDP) and access social support services with dignity.

Activity 1.1.1 Create/ strengthen collectives of military and war widows with a focus on asserting their rights and eliminating all forms of abuse.

1.1.1.1 Mapping existing SHGs and collectives:

The mapping of SHGs is the first key activity completed during the reporting period. CEJ is in the process of reviewing the final draft and aims to finalise the report within July 2019. The exercise was commissioned to identify women's SHGs and collectives in certain villages of Anuradhapura, Kilinochchi, and Kurunegala districts of Sri Lanka. It also seeks to identify gaps both in terms of issues they face and the lack of SHGs in

specific geographical locations. In this process, the exercise helps to explore the need for new SHGs and future collaborations in particular contexts. The findings of this report will guide the CEJ and its partners to form/ strengthen SHGs, and is a core element of this project. The findings of the mapping report confirm the need for MWs and WWs to be empowered and made aware of their rights to take remedial action. Addressing these gaps through the earmarked activities will enable CEJ and its partners to assist the women to access social support systems and sustainable means of livelihood with dignity. The draft mapping report on SHGs was presented to the 4 partner organizations in June with the aim of sharing the findings and addressing gaps before finalising the report.

Please see Annex 01 for the latest draft of the mapping report.

1.1.1.2 Form New SHGs/ widows' collectives:

The four partners across the three districts have worked closely with relevant networks in their respective districts, which has led to the identification/ formation of 21 SHGs. CEJ Partner organisations will continue to work with the identified groups and communities, guided by the mapping report in the next quarter. CEJ will work closely with the partners to provide them with the necessary technical support to build the capacity of these SHGs, and disseminate the findings of the mapping exercise to identify the most vulnerable communities in need of the interventions.

Overview of the SHGs identified to be formed/strengthened through this project.

Districts	No. of SHGs/ collectives identified or formed
Anuradhapura	8
Kilinochchi	6
Kurunegala	7

Anuradhapura: **RPK** has identified collectives across 3 DS divisions who are also part of the existing Samurdhi societies and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) from Manupa (Nuwaragam Palatha – Central), Kebithigollewa and Mahavilachchiya. As the findings of the mapping study indicate, some of these collectives consist of female only members, while others have both male and female members. RPK will continue to engage with these collectives to form SHGs with female only members to create a platform for MWs and build their capacity and knowledge of their rights to tackle the issue of SB.

Kilinochchi: **Viluthu** has formed a total of 3 SHGs (referred to as Amara forums) in Ramanathapuram, Selvanagar, Uruthirapuram- West (GN Divisions). Meetings were carried out across Mutkomban, Sinnapalvarayankattu, Saamipulam, Palikuda, Nedunkulam, Jeyapuram North, Jeyapuram South (07 villages in 04 GN Divisions in Poonakary), Ramanathapuram, Mavadiyamban, Civic Centre, Uthayanagr-East, Kanakapuram, Jeyanthinagar, Uruthirapuram (10 villages in 4 GN Divisions in Karachi). These gatherings targeted female heads of households, including WWs in order to form them into functioning groups to address issues faced by them, including the issue of SB. Members from Jeyanthinagar-North, Jeyanthinagar-South declined to join the formation of SHGs due to their engagement with income generating livelihood activities for daily wages. **JSAC** has been able to identify 2 groups during the mapping exercise. These groups were initially formed by the Sirakukul organization and have been inactive, till identified by JSAC. JSAC will continue to work with the groups and engage with the WWs to form 3 new SHGs targeting nearly 100 WWs.

Kurunegala: WRC has mobilized more than 50 MWs who have previously engaged with WRC to make them aware of the initiatives of the current project to tackle the issue of SB. A total of 7 SHGs have been identified

including a new group of MWs in Nikaweratiya. WRC hopes to target more MWs in Galgamuwa, Abanpola and Polpithigama which are remote villages and often do not benefit from such initiatives.

Partner organizations shared the following observations on the forming of SHGs. CEJ will provide necessary guidance to the partner project staff to take these factors into consideration when forming/ strengthening SHGs in the next quarter.

- The generation gap of the participants makes it difficult for younger women to talk openly about issues they face. The same finding was also reflected in the mapping exercise. Partner organizations will consider the age gaps of the members when forming new groups to ensure that this will not hinder the formation/ functioning of the SHGs.
- Women with disability being unable to join the groups due to their inability to participate in the SHGs was highlighted as a concern. Though this could not be substantiated by the information gathered in this mapping exercise, CEJ and its partners will ensure the inclusion of disabled women in the SHGs.
- There are certain areas in the North where women have joined the civil protection service. This requires them to wear the army uniform, causing them to be isolated from the community. Further, existing social issues such as caste issues (in Kilinochchi) also become a barrier in mobilizing women from certain villages. The partner organization staff will handle the inclusion of such women in a sensitive manner and ensure they are not left behind due to stigma arising at the community level.
- Mobilizing women to join SHGs is a challenge as most of the MWS/ WWS are breadwinners and/ single parents raising children with minimal support from family, friends or community. The venue, and time of gathering for SHG meetings will be decided in consultation with these women to encourage and increase their level of participation.

Activity 1.1.2 Conduct community-wide awareness programmes on “breaking the taboo” in relation to sexual bribery and exploitation through participatory methods such as ‘puppetry’ and ‘forum theatre’.

1.1.2.1 Awareness programmes in each district:

CEJ will use creative mediums such as puppetry and interactive theatre to raise awareness among women and government officers across selected communities. CEJ aims to carry out these programmes towards the end of 2019.

Power of Play PVT LTD (PoP) is a company that utilizes performing arts for communication, education and awareness, with a special focus on puppetry. Traditional folk tales are adapted to reflect current socially critical issues and draw attention to taboo topics via dynamic dialogue supported by colloquial humour, music and mix of live actors interacting with the puppets. The puppets used in this particular campaign were 3D rod puppets from Indonesia, customized to feature well-known Sri Lankan characters from the classic folk tale, Mahadanamuththa and his modern golas – adapted to include multiple genders and ethnicities that add up to the 21 st century Sri Lankan society. Mahadanamuththa puppets are commissioned by many organizations to effectively communicate messages vital to change attitudes and behaviours in public and corporate settings.

CEJ reached out to Power of Play towards the latter half of 2017 to partner in an on-going campaign to shed public awareness on sexual bribery faced by women in Sri Lanka. PoP summarized the key learnings of the research into an entertaining puppet show which would be followed by a question and answer session facilitated by qualified authorities on this particular subject. The puppet show was created as an ideal conversation-starter, as CEJ felt that approaching the issue creatively would garner better feedback than presenting the raw findings of the report by itself.

Performance synopsis: Sri Lanka has a long tradition of ritualistic healing performances – where an individual or community is blessed to rid themselves of a common evil. PoP employed this tradition as the base of the play, where the main female protagonist (Pol Baa Muuni) was possessed by a demon (who turns out to be the public official who requested the sexual bribe) so Mahadanamuththa and the golayas conduct a thovile (ritualistic healing) to exorcise the unwanted demon. The whole community is shocked when the identity of the demon is revealed at the climax of the play as this particular public officer is an upstanding member of the community. At this point, the play opens out to audience interaction with the question ‘What would you do if this happened to you?’. Once the audience provides feedback, the play closes with the message that we must stand against this as a community and demand the state to assume responsibility to safeguard its most vulnerable citizens.

1.1.2.3 Social media awareness raising

CEJ will commence its social media plan in 3 phases in the next quarter. a) Phase 1 will unpack the issue of SB, how and where it happens in Sri Lanka and who is victimised b) Phase 2 will delve into the cost factors exploring the economic, social, legal costs of the issue c) Phase 3 will be a call for action and the need to listen and avoid shaming the affected parties .

An initial field visit was carried out by the CEJ Communications Officer of CEJ to each partner organisation to discuss the plan and ways to proactively engage partners and beneficiaries in the process and to help localise the plan. Useful information and material were collected during this visit by way of gathering pictures and stories which record the women’s individual personalities, outside of their experiences with SB. These narratives and pictures will place an emphasis on the fact that a sexual bribe could be asked of anyone.

All participants who shared their experiences were made aware of how CEJ intends to use the material which may be shared via social media or mainstream media platforms. They were also made aware of how their anonymity will be protected by CEJ in the use of the information and pictures. The interviews were carried out in a very sensitive manner by providing them with the space to view the photographs taken. Any photos they did not feel comfortable with were deleted.

Activity 1.1.4 Develop a pilot complaint reporting platform to report incidents of sexual bribery and exploitation, available online, through a mobile application and offline via SMS messaging, with geo-tagging location features.

CEJ has carried out preparatory work to start implementing the development of the pilot App in the upcoming quarter. The response from the initial engagement with MWs, WWs, State parties and other service providers have been favourable and positive, reconfirming the need for such a unique App to both prevent and address the issue of SB.

As a first step, CEJ has held consultative meetings with a total of 33 MWs and WWs from the 3 target district to gather their input in developing the App. The set of questions were used to guide the FGDs and assess the various aspects concerning the development of the App, such as smartphone penetration in villages, use of local language, user-friendly features of the phones, access to the internet, trust in law and other complaint mechanisms.

Please see Annex 02 for guiding questions and notes from the 3 FGDs.

A brief background of the mobile application and what CEJ is hoping to build was shared with the partners and the participants. It was also explained that such an application is vital to increase the number of complaints being lodged at present and that this, in turn, could be a lobbying tool to strengthen the current legislation on sexual bribery.

Below is an overview of the FGDs

District	No. of participants	Age	Key discussion points
Kilinochchi	10	30-70	Women were sceptical of how making these complaints will benefit women. It was subsequently explained that only 6 cases have been reported to CIABOC since 2015. Of these, there have been 4 convictions and two cases are still pending. If more cases are reported, authorities will be compelled to take action against the behaviour of public officials and punish offenders. Once this information was shared, the women were more forthcoming in their answers. When asked about access and cost related to internet / Wi-Fi some women felt that the internet is expensive. Some areas they live in are very remote for even phone calls, as it is not clear and the phone signal is weak.
Kurunegala	12	36-56	There were 12 participants at the FGD, out of which three were employed by the government. The women were forthcoming with their opinions and felt a stronger network was needed to support the making of complaints. At least three women were confident enough to take a recording to the police, if a public official had acted inappropriately. Others felt more needed to be done, such as separating the Women and Children's affairs desk from the police station. Further, all women felt that a place which processes these complaints should be as independent as possible.
Anuradhapura	11	24-59	One of the key points raised was that women felt uncomfortable to reach out to the police in their areas. They preferred to talk to an organisation like RPK that they were familiar with. Most participants did not have smartphones, and did not have access to Wi-Fi. Some women felt that others should not know that the group members are in possession of a platform or application that can make such complaints. Having such an application on a phone alone can result in unwanted rumours and harm a reputation in their social contexts.

General observations of the women:

Some women stated that they would like to complain but we're not sure if our phones will come to mind. They also fear of the lack of trust among the community at large and the un-willingness of people to accept

or believe in their complaints. Women also spoke of the stigma associated with the absence of their spouse as some people always assume these women's intentions are rarely good. They also mentioned that they don't like talking about these experiences even at home because many people think their character and reputation will be ruined. Women were willing to support other women victimised by the issue of SB if anonymity is protected and if they can trust the victim.

CEJ hopes to partner with Citra¹, a social innovation lab, established as a joint initiative between the Ministry of Science, Technology & Research, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sri Lanka. It uses foresight and innovation tools to prototype and test development solutions to ensure they are agile and holistic before nation-wide implementation. CEJ has had preliminary meetings with Citra. CEJ is also looking for private actors/ companies with a strong commitment to transparency to help in the app-building process and endorsing the application.

Given the sensitive nature of information which needs to be processed in order to build the mobile application, and Citra Lab's previous experience of working with other state institutions which has also required handling of sensitive data, they are an organic fit for the task at hand.

CEJ also hopes to take a broad, cross-sectoral approach in building an application which is not limited to input from traditional stakeholders like the police, public servants, and potentially key partners, CIABOC. We hope to involve the potential end users, prominent members of the tech industry, and Telcos as well, to ensure the application has a continued use and large body of active endorsers.

Citra Labs, unlike other enterprises in the digital solutions industry offer a service where all stakeholders are brought together in a unique manner, which will encourage not only CEJ but our partners/ endorses to take strong, meaningful ownership over some aspect of the mobile application.

Given the specialized nature of the application and the sensitive nature of information which needs to be processed, it is assuring that Citra Labs is a subsidiary of the UNDP which is also a partner in this initiative. CEJ understands that Citra Labs pays meticulous attention to detail and is familiar with the UNDP's standard not only in terms of delivery but accountability and process transparency as well.

Outcome 2: Increased commitment of public institutions to prevent and respond to sexual bribery and to protect military and war widows from sexual exploitation

Output 2.1 The capacity of public institutions and officials are built to prevent and respond to bribery and to protect military and war widows from sexual exploitation.

Activity 2.1.1 Sensitisation of public officials on sexual bribery and sexual exploitation as crimes, using 'puppetry and forum theatre' to communicate the message in a non-contentious manner.

CEJ hopes to collaborate with the service providers indicated under Activity 1.1.2.1 to sensitise public official. Progress will be reported in the next quarterly report.

Activity 2.1.2 Development of a special training programme for public officials on handling complaints of sexual exploitation and sexual bribery in consultation with public training institutes such as SLIDA/SFFI

Following advocacy efforts in the past year, CEJ has received the support of the SLIDA to incorporate a module on sexual bribery into their anti-corruption curriculum. CEJ will follow this up further in the upcoming quarters to further develop the module into a special training programme for all public officials, equipping them to prevent and take action against SB in their workplaces.

SLIDA is the premier public-sector training organization in Sri Lanka for the development of knowledge and improvement of skills in Public Administration and Management. All Sri Lankan Administrative Service

¹ <http://www.citralab.lk/content/citralab/en/home.html>

officers go through the SLIDA training programme. Following discussions with the Director-General, the CEJ Executive Director, a lawyer by training with over 25 years of experience in teaching and training, was invited to draft a module on sexual bribery which has now been incorporated into the Good Governance and Anti-Corruption syllabus of SLIDA. The inclusion of a module on sexual bribery will serve as a strategic means to capacitate Government officials who go through their mandatory training at SLIDA. The very first lecture on this module was conducted by Ms. Gomez in September 2018. The lecture was attended by 20 officers, both male and female.

Output 2.2 Strengthen existing accountability mechanisms to report and responsibility mechanisms to report and respond to sexual bribery and exploitation

Activity 2.2.1 Technical support to the formation/ re-establishment of anti- sexual harassment committee in the public institutions as per the recent directive issues by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs.

CEJ has held initial discussions with Ms. Swarna Sumanasekara, Chairperson of the National Committee on Women at the MoWA who has shown keen interest in building capacity of relevant officers within the Sexual Harassment Committees. She has also assured her support with the other initiatives to sensitise public officials on SB. Further progress will be reported in the next quarterly report.

2. Good Practices and Innovations

Was there any strategy used during the past six months that was particularly successful and that you could consider a good practice to be replicated by you or other organizations in the future? If so, why do you think it was so successful? Do you consider it an innovation?

Please describe any activity, strategy or methodology that has demonstrated to be effective in achieving positive (either expected or unexpected) outcomes and that had never been tried in the same way before. Please let us know how the idea to do it came about and if you either consulted and/or tested it with beneficiaries first. Please explain why you consider worth it sharing with other stakeholders.

Max 1.5 pages

The strategies and methodologies CEJ and partner organizations consider successful and innovative are listed below:

- Giving visibility to the issue of sexual forms of bribery: This is the only known ongoing project in Sri Lanka primarily addressing sexual bribery. Based on the former work carried out by CEJ on the issue of SB since 2016 and the positive developments that have taken place thus far, confirms that this project will yield positive outcomes during and beyond the project period.
- Working with SHGs on the issue of SB gives women the agency to control their lives. Working with them to design coping strategies and other means of dealing with SB is a unique aspect of this project.
- Holding FGDs with women on the APP has helped to get an idea of how community women think and these conversations will help in the design of the APP. The user-friendly bottom up approach will help CEJ to strategize for an effective and efficient platform that is user-friendly and simple.
- Partners reported that the initial research studies conducted on SB by CEJ provided a basis and was used as a source of knowledge that could be transmitted to the women to make them aware of SB.
- Another partner reported that during the mobilizing of 60 MW, it was easier for them to understand about SB due to them having been made aware of SB through the puppet shows organized by CEJ during the last year. Puppetry is an effective means of mobilizing women.
- The holding of small group discussions is an effective methodology that can be adopted for mobilizing. Individual one on one meetings were useful in situations where women, especially MW preferred to share their personal experience individually rather than within the groups.

Preparatory Work

CEJ has commenced on preparatory work for the following activities during the past few months since the commencement of the project. These innovative and unique approaches have been inspired by the past SB related work carried out by CEJ and the responses received from women from the grassroots.

- Tailor made puppetry and forum theatre on the issue of sexual exploitation and SB (Activity 1.1.2.1) will bring communities (possibly victims and perpetrators) to a common platform to tackle the issue in a non- confrontational manner, and serve as an effective way of impacting people and getting the message across in a manner that appeals to them. The approach of using folklore through puppetry in a humorous manner has proven to be effective in the past year in reaching women and helping them to feel at ease to discuss SB, which is considered a taboo topic among the communities.
- CEJ will also build the first online and offline platform in the form of a mobile application which will allow victims/ potential victims to bring forward their complaints on sexual bribery. This would be a unique means of giving visibility to the issue of SB and also provides a means for women to seek redress without having to reveal their identity, which is very often a primary concern of the victims. The App would also serve as a platform to gather data based on geo- tagging to record the prevalence of SB, which in turn will add value to preventive measures that can be taken by the relevant authorities.
- CEJ will launch a sticker campaign and provide women with the opportunity to decide their local government offices are 'safe zones'. While similar campaigns on various issues such as the dengue campaign has been carried out in the past, this campaign on SB will be unique as it provides women and other villagers the opportunity to hold public officials directly accountable for their actions.

3. Stories of Change

Looking back over the reported period, is there a story (from an individual or from a community) that exemplifies the most significant change that has resulted from your programme?

Even if transforming the world for social cohesion is a long-term process, sometimes a small change in one individual can symbolize a huge change for a family, community or country. We are interested in big positive changes but also in small but powerful stories, as together we can learn from both. Please explain what the contribution of the programme was to achieve this change and why you have chosen this particular story. *If possible, please provide the full name of the person(s) involved in the story and one or more quality photographs as attachments, for possible use in UN Women publications (if so, we will contact you beforehand for clearance). You can provide more than one story if relevant. Max 2 pages*

Below are some quotes extracted from the initial SHG mapping report which indicate the potential the project has to impact on vulnerable MWs and WWs. These quotes indicate the need for women to have more opportunities and space to share their experiences, which CEJ believes will be created through the formation of SHGs.

"We used to be shattered, initially. Now, we are immune to those ill words. Initially, we used to cry a lot and did not come out of the house. We do not think there is any use in engaging with these people who speak ill of us. No point in trying to change them. They will never change. We hear from one ear and let it out from the other. This is the reality even now. Sometimes, it is still hurtful and we cry" – FGD, Kekirawa, Anuradhapura

"When we were young widows, everyone took us for granted. They expected us to give sexual favours. We were considered as easily accessible women. Many men had approached us with the wrong intentions. When we go somewhere to get some work done, they immediately take us for granted and expect us to say yes to their proposals, which are often sexual. We had to be strong and resist such ill treatment. Now that we are older than what we were those days, they do not approach us like that. They do not ask directly.

Indirectly they indicate. We can feel in their body language and the tone. Indeed, not everyone is like that. But most men try to take advantage of us, especially when we were young. When a husband dies a woman's world collapses. It is hugely problematic. But we do not know how to change that. We survive. However, our lives could be better if we have more income to meet the needs of our children. The progress is very slow. Often, we get stuck due to many social obstacles" – FGD, *Vilachchiya, Anuradhapura*

"We have heard that sexual bribery is taking place. Not necessarily by govt officers. Mostly by Tamil men who live abroad. They give money to women and later ask for sexual favours. Or even sexually abuse them. Single women – those living by themselves are targeted more by men. They continue to harass them" – *Palai, Kilinochchi*

"We must stop sexual bribery. The young children are going to be affected by it even more than we did. We must address the main problem, which is financial instability. If women have access to a regular income, they do not have to go to these officers. Also, create safe spaces for women. Women's leadership must be promoted and strengthened too. There must be more women officers who are approachable. Only then we can begin to deal with the problem of sexual bribery" – FGD, *Mawathagama, Kurunegala*

"I did not want the salary even. I just wanted him to get well and be able to walk again. He was bedridden. I only cared about his wellbeing. But his family did not like that. They were after his salary. I was 28-year-old then. Now I am 51. For the past 15 years, he had deserted me. He lives with his mother. He also constantly tries to spread ill words of her. I have two sons. Both of them are supportive of me. They do not like their father. Actually, he was never around to take care of them. He did nothing for them. The older son is married now. My sons treat me like a god. They know how much I suffered to bring them up. I went abroad as domestic help. I was there for a few years. I have been back for a few years. I did a saloon course in Kandy. Now, I am trying to establish a business here. Sadly, the society and my relatives believe him as he is a disabled soldier. No one believes me, except my sons. We are not divorced. He is just playing with my life. Recently, he started to come to our house. I live with my sons. They do not speak to him. He just comes to see me. Once, I had given my telephone number to an army officer when my husband was getting the treatment from Ragama hospital. He called me late in the night and spoke inappropriately. He asked whether I would go with him. He spoke in a sexual tone. I was certain that he was expecting me to get sexual with him. I told him that women like me look up to officers like him. Therefore, not to speak like this ever with any woman. I hung up. Later, I changed the number. Women often do not speak about these experiences. This is the first time I have shared about this experience. Thanks for listening to me. It is a big problem in our society, especially to single women. Our safety is often at stake. If a fellow army officer asks for sexual favours, who else will protect us. This has to be changed" – *Samudra, Ibbagamuwa, Kurunegala*

"But we have also experienced where some have got their phone numbers and later give them nuisance calls or ask them to do some kind of favours in the wrong way. It happens at the police station. It also happens at DS offices. We often do not get the service that we deserve when something like this happens. We are not powerful to challenge them. When there is a male officer who asks for sexual favours to get the work done, most women do not give in. They go back home and forget about the need. It never gets fulfilled. Some women do give in. They undergo a lot of trouble afterwards. They stop coming to the Ranaviru society. We hardly get to know about what happens to them. It is highly tabooed and they feel shy to share their experiences with us. If they have children, it gets even worse. The children of such women who give in go through more problems. For instance, they get married at a young age and their lives get changed completely. If we resist and tell them that we will tell others, they might stop asking such favours. They might be ashamed of their behaviour and stop doing it. They are government officers. They cannot ask like that - FGD, *Kekirawa, Anuradhapura*"

“My divorce case was delayed by a year and a half due to an officer at the court who did not pass my file as I did not entertain his request for my phone number. He kept asking. I refused for a long time saying that I do not have a phone. Later I had given a number of one of my old male relatives. He must have got angry about that. They delayed my case so much. I used to cry everyday” - FGD, Kekirawa, Anuradhapura

4. Story of Organizational Change

Looking back over the past six months, is there a story that exemplifies a significant internal change in your organization that has resulted from the involvement in this programme?

This can include for example changes in the positioning of the organization in the national/regional/international political scenes or within the civil society movement, or changes in your organization or attitudinal changes among the staff. *Max 1 page*

N/A

5. Programme Context Analysis

Has your work been affected positively or negatively during the past six months by any events or changes taking place outside of your organization? How have you dealt with those changes?

Examples can include changes in political context, changes affecting beneficiaries, environmental challenges, etc. *Max 2 pages*

The Easter bombings on 21st April targeting churches and luxury hotels has been the worst attack Sri Lanka has experienced since the end of the ethnic war in 2009, claiming over 250 lives. Investigations have revealed the alleged attackers to be members of an extremist Islamic group. This revelation resulted in mob violence across the country targeting Muslim communities. This violence brought the country to a standstill, with the imposition of island wide curfews and social media bans. The extent of economic loss is expected to be significant.

While the deadly attacks have had a short term adverse effect on the implementation of project activities, the intervention to tackle Sexual Bribery (SB) through the empowerment of targeted women remains relevant. From an economic perspective, it is the lowest level of society which will eventually suffer the brunt of losses made at macro level. These losses will adversely impact on Female Heads of Households (FHH) and war widows who are preyed upon by corrupt officials responsible for the provision of basic services. Failing to address this issue will push the affected women further into a vicious cycle of poverty and disempowerment, cutting them off completely from direct or indirect engagement in peacebuilding processes in the long term.

In the aftermath of such destructive attacks, the project duration, sequencing and methodology needs to be revisited, in light of the current volatile political climate and simmering ethnic tension in the country. New security restrictions due to the prevailing emergency regulations, exacerbated anti Muslim sentiments, and the possibility of further attacks and communal and political unrest needs to be factored in.

Reports from partner organizations summarized below provide an overview of challenges faced in the past three months following the Easter attacks.

- Restrictions on community gathering and the need to postpone planned activities.
- Imposition of Emergency Regulations, curfew and increased checkpoints disrupted field visits, meetings and communication.

- GA and DS informed field officers to not hold community level gatherings, meetings after the Easter Sunday attacks
- Lack of community willingness to meet and gather as groups
- Staff and beneficiaries were reluctant to travel during this period. This was especially a challenge in project areas of Viluthu as there is an increase in the level of surveillance and security measures. This has become a hindrance to both project staff and beneficiaries, as the checkpoints are on frequently travelled roads. CID officials had also questioned the beneficiaries before the start of the meetings. These cause travel delays and have created a sense of fear as they feel threatened by these measures. Therefore, more time is needed to hold planned meetings.

While CEJ has taken measures to mitigate and counter other forms of risks indicated in the proposal, an attack of this scale and nature was not anticipated. CEJ has carried out initial discussions with UNW in Colombo and will continue discussions on measures that can be taken to avoid the adverse effects on the overall implementation of the project.

6. Partnerships

What were your partnerships during the reported period? Have your partnerships with other organizations or entities affected programme implementation and/or its sustainability? Did you establish any new partnership or identify new groups you would hope to reach in the future?

UN Women greatly values the establishment of partnerships with traditional and non-traditional stakeholders from different areas (including from government, private sector, academia, media, religious institutions, research and innovation, arts, etc). Please elaborate on your partnerships and share any successes or challenges you have experienced working with them. *Max 2 pages*

Listed below are partnerships established by CEJ and partner organizations:

- District level implementing Organizations- Women's Resource Centre (WRC), Rajarata Praja Kendraya (RPK), Viluthu and the Jaffna Social Action Centre (JSAC)
- Non- Government- Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL), CITRA, Women in Need, Power of Play, Disabled women's organization (AKASA)
- Government-
 - National level: Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption (CIABOC), Sri Lanka Police (SLP), Ranaviru Seva Authority (RSV), Sri Lanka Institute for Development Administration (SLIDA), Legal Aid Commission (LAC), Right to Information Commission (RTIC), Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL), District and Divisional Secretariats of the three project areas.
 - District level: Women Development Officers, Grama Niladhari, Divisional Secretaries, Social Service Officers, Developed coordination with NGO forum, Ranaviru Women's Association and Police Women's & Children Bureau

CEJ has engaged with key stakeholders including the CIABOC, MoWA, MoJ and TISL during the reporting quarter. CEJ made the officials aware of the project and key initiatives and discussed areas for possible collaboration. Outcomes of all such meetings have been positive, as the officers have indicated interest in continuing to engage with CEJ to tackle the issue of SB at the highest level.

CEJ will continue to collaborate with CIABOC, HRC and other relevant stakeholders in developing the pilot complaints reporting platform to report incidences of sexual exploitation and sexual bribery (Activity 1.1.2 of Outcome 1). Meetings held with Ms. Subhashini Siriwardana, Assistant Director General of CIABOC in February indicated interest and willingness of the Commission to support endeavors to tackle the issue of sexual bribery. At the request of CIABOC, CEJ has submitted a request letter to the Director General outlining the key activities of this (under both outputs 1 and 2), requesting the continuous support of CIABOC for the implementation of activities.

CEJ also held fruitful meetings with Ms. Swarna Sumanasekara, Chairperson of the National Committee on Women at the MoWA who was supportive of initiatives to work with the Sexual Harassment Committees and other initiatives to sensitise public officials on sexual exploitation and sexual bribery (under output 2).

Viluthu has been able to reach out to stakeholders through other ongoing projects' activity meetings (through the head office) awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives. The subject of SB and SE has been taken forward in the district with women and stakeholders. This has provided an opening to include sensitive subjects of addressing SB with stakeholders (This included general petitions to stakeholders-elected members such as a Minister of Parliament and Local Government members on issues faced by WHH which included SE and SB).

7. Beneficiaries

How are you involving your programme beneficiaries? How are you seeking feedback from them with regards to the implementation of activities and strategies used? What kind of feedback have you received and what are you doing to address any possible concern or issue?

In your proposal, you described the target populations of beneficiaries that your programme would reach. In this section, please share the ways in which you are reaching out to these groups (media campaigns, trainings etc.), as well as how are you meaningfully involving the beneficiaries in the programme implementation and how you are taking their inputs into account. Please also describe any challenges or successes you are experiencing in supporting, reaching or working with them.

Max 2 pages

Military widows and war widows:

As elaborated under Activity 1.1.1.1 on page 1, CEJ commissioned the mapping study with the involvement of partner organizations, military widows and war widows across the three districts. As per the design of the project implementation of the other activities will be informed by the mapping exercise. The method of data collection primarily applied qualitative methods such as individual interviews and FGDs. The CEJ partner organisation in each district selected the participants from a number of Grama Niladhari (village officer) divisions.

All participants were women from different socio-economic backgrounds. This platform provided the participants, who are also the direct beneficiaries of this project, to openly share their concerns and challenges with the awareness that their input was taken into consideration in shaping the earmarked interventions for the rest of the project duration. The researcher ensured that the research space was open for voices to be heard. There was no space for hierarchies of any form to dominate one voice over the other. The voices of the participants were also not limited by existing theoretical frameworks on women's SHGs. Shaping women's voices according to theoretical frameworks can be a limitation. For that reason, this exercise did not manipulate what was shared by the participants to support a concept or a theory.

Given the nature of the issue in discussion, women from certain villages were reluctant to openly discuss the issues, and some denied the prevalence of SB. However, CEJ was able to navigate through these barriers with the support of the partner organizations' staff. Building a rapport with most participants was not a challenge as most of them had known the partner staff for a while. The participants were not treated as passive objects of this exercise. They were treated as autonomous subjects with preferences to share their viewpoints or not. The word choice of the researcher was carefully selected to imply any prejudices in terms of social, cultural, economic, sexual, and political backgrounds. No judgement was shared or expressed. Confidentiality was assured to all participants. Their real names have been changed. The mapping exercise was conducted in Sinhala and Tamil. There was an interpreter involved to facilitate the fieldwork in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala as the researcher's knowledge of Sinhala language was limited. A brief explanation of the purpose of this exercise was given at the beginning of each interview and FGD by the CEJ partner organization staff member in each location. The partner organisations decided the venue and time of each discussion in consultation with the participants and the researcher.

8. Feedback for UN Women

Is there something you would like to share with us about your communication and work with UN Women during the reported period? Do you have any suggestions for us?

Max 1 page

The project was scheduled to commence in January 2019. However, the contract between UN Women (UNW) and Centre for Equality and Justice (CEJ) was signed only on the 22nd of February 2019 and the first tranche received by CEJ on the 25th of March 2019. Although the work plan annexed to the contract between UNW and CEJ outlines the duration of the project to be from November 2018 to May 2020, it must be noted that the project contract was signed on 22nd March and funds came into the CEJ account only on the 25th of March 2019.

Recruitment of suitable project officer and M&E officer has been a challenge. CEJ called for applications on social and mainstream media since Dec 2018 calling for applications, which has been unsuccessful. In the interim, CEJ has been working with consultants and a (paid) intern who have supported the project team to carry out the activities during the reporting period, to mitigate delays in implementation.

Risks: The Presidential Election is anticipated to be held in at the end of 2019. CEJ will factor in the possible delays and make necessary alterations in the work plan to mitigate the adverse effects on relevant project activities.

Overall CEJ has successfully managed to mitigate adverse effects due to the above mentioned unforeseen delays and constraints by taking proactive measures. The preparatory work carried out an early stage of the project mitigated the delays due to late commencement of project, the Easter bomb attacks and the mob violence that followed. The Easter attack has given rise to communal tension discriminating against religious and ethnic minorities across the country. CEJ and its partners will continue to closely monitor the developments in the targeted areas and carry out the activities in a safe and sensitive manner in the upcoming quarter.

9. Communications and Knowledge Management

Please provide details on knowledge materials and communication products you developed during the programme, specifying the audience reached and the dissemination strategies you used. Please use the knowledge management and communication list template with relevant links and references to annexes as appropriate.

Max 2 pages

Progress will be reported in the next quarter.

10. Photos

Please share with us a selection of the best photographs from the programme. At least 15 high resolution pictures with photo caption

Please refer to Annex 03

11. Awards, Special Recognition and/or Media Coverage

Please indicate any awards, special recognition and/or media coverage that you have received as a result of / in relation to this programme. Kindly also add links to any relevant website.

Max 1 page

N/A

12. Annexes

Please upload and supporting materials including training materials, copies of publications, manuals, communication pieces, and any other relevant supporting document produced during the reporting period.

[Annex 01: Latest draft of the mapping report](#)

[Annex 02: Guiding questions and notes from the FGDs.](#)

[Annex 02: Photos](#)

13. List of Acronyms

CEJ	Centre for Equality and Justice
CIABOC	Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption
DS	Divisional Secretariat
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GN	Grama Niladhari
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
TISL	Transparency International Sri Lanka
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Photographs

1. **Training project partners on financial compliance, rules and regulations:**
4th and 5th April 2019, Ramada Hotel, Colombo



2. Training project partners on Monitoring and Evaluation and Resource-Based Management:

31 July - 1 August 2019, Cinnamon Lakeside, Colombo



3. Project Stakeholder Meeting

5th September 2019, Galle Face Hotel, Colombo



4. Data collection sessions for Needs Assessment and Value Chain Analysis

Anuradhapura



Kilinochchi



Kurunegala





29th October 2019

UN WOMEN

Sri Lanka

Dear Sir/Madam,

Addressing sexual bribery experienced by Military Widows and War Widows in Sri Lanka to enable resilience and sustained peace- defining of target group and Women Heads of Households within the project

Viluthu has specifically worked in building Women Heads of Households (WHH) groups and networks since the year 2011. We have worked with conflict affected women since our inception in 2003, however, having recognised that WHH have specific concerns and needs and added vulnerabilities and are marginalized even within women's groups, we sought to build the first ever formal regional network of Women Heads of Households in Sri Lanka.

This network christened themselves as Amara (meaning eternity) in order to reflect the term widow not suiting the heterogenous group that they consisted of and that it was derogatory in social and cultural context. Since then, we have worked on advancing their rights and concerns in policy and plan and to participate, engage and inform State processes and mechanisms. In this line, our work has explored not only concerns and needs of this category, but to also understand the heterogenous nature of the group, given that the State at that time did not have any specific definition for WHH. This evolving definition at present, following national level consultations in 2015 and regional level consultations in 2018-2019, is described below. We wish to stress that the said categories of women all have similar and different and specific concerns and needs as the impact and affect of challenges, vulnerabilities and marginalization differs amongst them.

The categories of WHH under Amara found in the District of Kilinochchi thus far include:

- a) Widows- Women whose husbands died of natural, accidental causes or suicide
- b) Widows- Women whose husbands died in war
- c) Women separated from their husbands
- d) Women who are divorced
- e) Women whose husbands have deserted them



- f) Women whose husband/child who was the head of the family or bearer of the income for the household missing
- g) Women whose husband/child who was the head of the family or bearer of the household responsibility/ income generator for the household has disappeared
- h) Women who husband/child who was the head of the family or bearer of the household responsibility/ income generator for the household is in prison (political detainees)
- i) Women (unmarried) living alone having lost close relatives such as siblings and/or parents- (through death/disappearance/missing)
- j) Women whose parents/siblings have died and have taken up the mantel as head of household with dependents (siblings/nephews and/or nieces/grandparents/older relatives)
- k) Women living alone or with dependents as head of the household who are living with any disability (natural/ caused by war)
- l) Women living alone or with dependents as head of household who have a disability that makes them unable to participate equally in income generating activities (caused by the war) but do not come within the national definition of women with disability
- m) Women who have been ex-combatants that are living alone or is head of the household with dependents (not married or husband is missing/dead/disappeared)

We wish to impress upon you that it would one, be discriminatory to only select women who have been made widows as a consequence of war, when the other categories described above, also include women directly affected by the war, head of their household, face similar challenges etc. Secondly, limiting women who have become widows for the time period till 2009, is also not possible as even though the war ended in 2009, we recognize that conflict has continued and so has the impact of war beyond that period.

Viluthu has represented Women Heads of Households/ Female Heads of Households in many national and international forums, platforms and consultations including the CEDAW Review in 2017. Our regional Amara Network has included more than 20,000 women heads of households in our efforts to mobilise for advocacy and to reach out for advancing rights and addressing needs. Having worked with these women directly, we strongly urge that such differentiation not be made, and that the above categories elaborated above be included within our target groups in the abovenamed project. Even the preliminary mapping done under the project above named has indicated that within mobilized groups/forums at present (self help groups) we have a diverse group of women and is not limited to war widows within the limited definition presented under the project earlier. We are in the process of rechecking the data collected, as the political environment has been at present rife with intimidation and threat, that women are afraid to state honestly what different categories that they belong to given the upcoming elections. Any attempt at such differentiation or alienation of women from the above project based on such limited definition would in fact harm our strong and open relationship with this grassroots group that we have nurtured.



We hope that you will consider our request for inclusion of women heads of households within the project given the above reasons above. We strongly urge this inclusive and wide definition for the project in order to strengthen sustainability and ownership of the process by the women themselves.

Yours faithfully,

Maithreyi Rajasingam

Executive Director

cc to:

Shyamala Gomez

Executive Director

Centre for Equality and Justice

VILUTHU
Centre for Human Resource Development
Reg. No. GA 44
No. 191, Bauddhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 00400
Sri Lanka



Jaffna Social Action Center

(Registered Under the Voluntary Service Organization at National Secretariat for
Non Governmental Organizations Reg No- L-144812)

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Head office
18/1, Kailasapillaiyar Kovil Road,
Nallur, Jaffna

T.P/Fax: 021 2223699
E-mail : jsacjaffna@gmail.com

Web : www.jsacsrilanka.org

Shyamala Gomez.
Executive Director,
Centre for Equality and Justice,
325A 1, Thimbirigasyaya Road,
Colombo 05.
24th of October 2019.

கனம் அம்மணி,

மாற்று இலக்குக் குழுவினை உட்சேர்ப்பதற்கான நியாயப்படுத்தல் தொடர்பானது

போர்க்காலத்தில் கணவனை இழந்த war widows பச்சிலைப்பள்ளி பிரிவில் பாலியல் இலஞ்சம் மற்றும் பாலியல் சுரண்டல் போன்ற பிரச்சினைகளுக்கு முகம்கொடுத்துவருகின்ற அதேவேளை போர்க்காலத்தில் கட்டாய ஆட்சேர்ப்பிலிருந்து தம்மைக் காப்பாற்றிக் கொள்வதற்காக உடனடித் திருமணம் செய்து தற்பொழுது கணவனுடன் எவ்விதத் தொடர்புமற்று கணவனால் கைவிடப்பட்ட இளம்பெண்களும் அதிகளவில் பாலியல் இலஞ்சம் மற்றும் பாலியல் சுரண்டல் போன்ற பிரச்சினைகளுக்கு முகங்கொடுத்து வருகின்ற தன்மை பச்சிலைப்பள்ளியில் காணப்படுகின்றது. குறித்த ஒரு செயற்றிட்டம் இடம்பெறும் பிரதேசத்தில் Do No Harm Concept இற்கு ஏற்ப ஒத்ததன்மையான பிரச்சினையுடன் காணப்படும் இரு குழுவினரையும் உள்ளீர்க்கவேண்டிய தேவை காணப்படுகின்றது. ஏனெனில் ஒத்த பிரச்சினையுடன் காணப்படுவோரில், ஒரு குழுவினரை மாத்திரம் உள்வாங்கி செயற்றிட்டத்தினை நடைமுறைப்படுத்தும்போது எதிர்பார்க்கும் வெளியீட்டினை முழுமையாக அடையமுடியாது போகக்கூடும்.

அத்துடன், பச்சிலைப்பள்ளியில் உள்ள 18 கிராம சேவகர் பிரிவுகளிலும் யுத்த விதவைகள் 138பேர் காணப்படுகின்றனர், என்பதனை பெண்கள் அபிவிருத்தி உத்தியோகத்தரினால்(WDO) தரப்பட்ட தரவுகள் புலப்படுத்துகின்றன. எனினும் ஒவ்வொரு கிராம சேவகர் பிரிவிலும் 1 தொடக்கம் 19 வரையிலான war widows காணப்படுவதாக தரவுகளில் குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ளது. கிராம சேவகர் பிரிவுகளிற்கிடையிலான தூரத்தினைக் கருத்திற்கொண்டு இத்தரவினடிப்படையில் war widows மாத்திரம் இலக்குக் குழுவாகக் கொண்டு சுய உதவிக் குழுவினை அமைப்பதோ அல்லது குழுக்களுக்கிடையிலான கலந்துரையாடலிலோ போதியளவு பங்கேற்பு அனைவரினாலும் வழங்கப்படுமா என்பதும் கேள்விக்குரியதாக அமைந்தது. அத்துடன் பெண்கள் அபிவிருத்தி உத்தியோகத்தர் குறிப்பிட்டதன் அடிப்படையில் இத்தரவுகளானவை மாறுபடக் கூடியவை என்றும், ஏனெனில் குறிப்பிட்ட தரவு யுத்தகாலத்தின் பின்பு சேகரிக்கப்பட்டது என்றும், தற்பொழுது அதிகளவில் மீள்குடியேற்றத்திட்டம் வழங்கப்படுவதனால் பலர் வேறு இடங்களில் சென்று

Regional office- Kilinochchi
136 A, Kandy Road,
Paranthan.
T.P- 021-3217707 & 0212280333
E.mail- jsackilinochchi@gmail.com

"Working for Change"

Regional office- Mannar
8/1, Field Street,
Mannar.
T.P- 023-2251733
E.mail- jsacmannar@gmail.com

குடியமர்ந்துள்ளதாகவும் தெரிவித்தார். அத்துடன் இங்கு காணப்படும் war widows அதிகளவானோர் வயதானவர்கள் என்றும் அவர்களினால் குறித்த செயற்திட்டத்திற்கான பங்கேற்பானது குறைந்தளவிலே கிடைக்கப்பெறும் என்றும் தெரிவித்தார். மேலும் பச்சிலைப் பள்ளி பிரதேசத்தில் அதிகளவில் போரினால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட இளம்பெண்கள் காணப்படுகின்றனர் என்றும் அவர்களில் அதிகளவானோர் கணவனால் கைவிடப்பட்டோர் என்றும் தெரிவித்ததுடன் குறித்த இளம்பெண்களையும் உள்வாங்கியதனடிப்படையிலான செயற்திட்டமே முழுமைபெறும் என்று பரிந்துரை வழங்கியதற்கமைய, இவர்களையும் உள்ளீர்ப்பதனால் பாதிட்டில்(budget) எவ்வித பாதிப்பும் ஏற்படாத பட்சத்திலும் மாற்று இலக்குக் குழுவாக கணவனால் கைவிடப்பட்ட பெண்களும் உள்வாங்கப்பட்டனர்.

மேலதிக கவனத்திற்கு, போரின் விளைவால் நலிவடைந்த பெண்களான; மாற்றுவலுவுள்ள கணவனையுடையோர்(போர்க்காலத்தில் ஊனமுற்ற கணவன்மார்), முதிர்கன்னிகள்(போர்க்காலத்தில் பெற்றோர், சகோதரத்தை இழந்து உறவினர் வீட்டில் வசிப்போர், திருமணத்திற்கான சீதனம் எனும் வழக்கமுறைமையற்ற தன்மையால் திருமணம் செய்யாதுள்ளோர்), மற்றும் போர்க்காலத்தின் பின்பு குடும்பச்சீர்குலைவினை அடிப்படையாகக் கொண்ட குடும்ப வன்முறையால் கணவன் தற்கொலை செய்துகொண்டதனடிப்படையில் பெண்தலைமைக் குடும்பமாக உருவாகியுள்ள பெண்களும் இக்குழுக்களில் உள்வாங்கப்பட்டனர். இவர்களில் இத்தாவில், இயக்கச்சி, தம்பகாமம், முகாவில், முல்லையடி போன்ற கிராமசேவகர் பிரிவிற்சூட்டப்பட்ட பெண்தலைமைத்துவக்குடும்பப் பெண்கள் இப்பிரச்சினைகளுக்கு அதிகளவில் முகங்கொடுப்பதாகத் தெரிவித்ததனடிப்படையில் இப்பிரதேசப் பெண்கள் இலக்குக் குழுக்களாகத் தெரிவுசெய்யவேண்டி ஏற்பட்டது.

நன்றி.

இங்ஙனம்
.....

ந.சுகிர்தராஜ்

இணைப்பாளர்,

யாழ் சமூக செயற்பாட்டு மையம்(JSAC)





රජරට ප්‍රජා කේන්ද්‍රය

RAJARATA PRAJAKENDRAYA

ලි.ප.ල.ම.ප. 17.1.3. ස්ථේ 17.

E- Mail: rajarataw@yahoo.com

T.P. & Fax 025-2264982

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2019.10.22

CEJ ආයතනය

තිඹිරිගස්සාය, කොළොඹ 05.

ප්‍රිය මහත්මියනි,

ව්‍යාපෘති ඉලක්ක ප්‍රජාව හා ව්‍යාපෘති ක්‍රියාත්මක ප්‍රදේශ වෙනස්වීම සම්බන්දවයි

UNW ආයතනය, CEJ ආයතනය හා රජරට ප්‍රජා කේන්ද්‍රය වන අප ආයතනය එක්ව ක්‍රියාත්මක කරනු ලබන රණවිරු වැන්දඹුවන් හා යුද්ධයෙන් වැන්දඹු වූ කාන්තාවන් මුහුණ දෙන සැහවුණු අභියෝග ආමන්ත්‍රණය කිරීම සඳහා වන ව්‍යාපෘතියේ ඉලක්ක ප්‍රජාව හා ව්‍යාපෘති ක්‍රියාත්මක ප්‍රදේශ පහත සඳහන් කරුණු හා අවශ්‍යතාවයන් හේතුවෙන් වෙනස් කිරීමට සිදු වූ බව දැනුම්දෙමි.

1. රණවිරු වැන්දඹුවන් වැඩි පිරිසක් ගල්නැව, නැ.නු.ප හා ගලෙන්බිඳුණුවැව යන ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසයන් හි සිටීම නිසා එම ප්‍රා.ලේ කොට්ඨාස තුළ ද ව්‍යාපෘතිය ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම අත්‍යවශ්‍ය වීම.
2. හඳුනාගත් කාන්තා ගෘහමුලික පවුල් (FHH) වලින් බහුතරයක් මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතියේ ඉලක්ක කණ්ඩායමට අදාළ නොවූව ද වෙනත් හේතූන් නිසා වැන්දඹු වූ කාන්තා ගෘහමුලික පවුල් (FHH) මගහැර ව්‍යාපෘති සේවාවන් සැපයීම ප්‍රායෝගික නොවීම හේතුවෙන් ඔවුන්ව ද ව්‍යාපෘති ප්‍රතිලාභීන් ලෙස එක්කර ගැනීමට සිදුවීම.
3. රණවිරු වැන්දඹුවන් හා යුද්ධය හේතුවෙන් වැන්දඹු වූ කාන්තාවන් ට අමතරව කාන්තා ගෘහමුලිකයින් (FHH) ද මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතියේ ඉලක්ක ප්‍රජාව වශයෙන් එක් කරගන්නා ලෙස කාන්තා ජාල විසින් ඉල්ලුම් කිරීම හා අදාළ ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම්වරු විසින් එසේ කිරීමට නිර්දේශ කිරීම.

උක්ත අවශ්‍යතාවයන් හා නිර්දේශයන් හේතුවෙන් ව්‍යාපෘතියේ ඉලක්ක ප්‍රජාව වූ රණවිරු වැන්දඹුවන් හා යුද්ධයෙන් වැන්දඹු වූ කාන්තාවන් යන පිරිසට අමතරව ව්‍යාපෘති බලප්‍රදේශ වන කැකිරාව, ගලෙන්බිඳුණුවැව, ම.නු.ප, නැ.නු.ප, මහවිලච්චිය, කබිතිගොල්ලැව හා ගල්නැව යන ප්‍රදේශයන් හි ප්‍රජාවගේ ඉල්ලීම හා ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම්වරුන්ගේ නිර්දේශය මත උක්ත ප්‍රදේශයන් හි වාසය කරන කාන්තා ගෘහමුලිකයින් (FHH) හා සාමන්‍ය හේතු නිසා වැන්දඹු වූ කාන්තාවන් ද මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතියට එක්කර ගැනීමට සිදුවූ බව දැනුම්වත් කර සිටිමි.

මෙම සංශෝධනය සඳහා UNW ආයතනයේ නිර්දේශ හා ඔබ ආයතනයේ අනුමැතිය ලබා දීම හා ආන්තික වූ සියලුම වැන්දඹු කාන්තාවන් වෙනුවෙන් සේවය කිරීමට අවස්තාව ලැබීම පිළිබඳ ස්තූතිය පුද කර සිටිමි. ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම්වරු විසින් නිර්දේශ කරන ලද ලිපි හැකි ඉක්මනින් ඔබ වෙත එවීමට කටයුතු කරන්නෙමි.

ස්තූතියි,

.....

ශීලා රත්නායක

විධායක අධ්‍යක්ෂක

රජරට ප්‍රජා කේන්ද්‍රය

R.M.S.Rathnayaka
 Executive Director
 Rajarata Praja Kendraya
 No.410, Olukaranda,
 Kekirawa.



ස්ත්‍රී සම්පත් මධ්‍යස්ථානය
 பெண்கள் வள நிலையம்
 Women's Resource Center

2019.10.24.

ව්‍යාපෘති සම්බන්ධීකාරක

“හිඬින් වැලේනජර්ස්” ව්‍යාපෘතිය

CEJ සහ UNWomen

කොළඹ

ව්‍යාපෘති සම්බන්ධීකාරකවරියන් වෙත,


ඉහත ව්‍යාපෘතියට ආබාධිත සෙබලුන්ගේ බිරින්දෑවරුන් 11 දෙනෙකු සම්බන්ධ කර ගැනීම පිළිබඳව

ඉහත ව්‍යාපෘතියට අදාළ කුරුණෑගල දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ ප්‍රතිලාභීන් හඳුනාගැනීමේදී වාරියපොල ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාශයේ නව කණ්ඩායම් ගොඩනැගීමේදී ඒ සඳහා කටයුතු කළ වනිතා සංවර්ධන නිලධාරී තුමිය විසින් සැමියන් ආබාධිතව ඇති පවුල්වල කාන්තාවන්ට ද පැමිණෙන ලෙසින් දැනුම් දී ඇත්තේ වැරදීමකිනි.

එහෙත් ඔවුන් පැමිණියාට පසුව ආපසු හරවා යැවීමට නොහැකි වූවෙන් මෙම පිරිසද(කාන්තාවන් 11 දෙනෙකු) අදාළ මූලික සාකච්ඡාවට සහභාගි විය. මෙම කාන්තාවන් කියා සිටියේ තම සැමියන් ජීවත් වුවද ඔවුන් ආබාධිත බැවින් පවුලේ ගෘහමූලිකයින් ලෙසින් වගකීම දරමින් කටයුතු කරන්නේ කාන්තාවන් බවයි. එහෙයින් ඔවුන් ද මෙම වැඩසටහනට ඇතුළත් කර ගන්නා ලෙසින් ඔවුන් ඉතාමත් ඕනෑකමින් ඉල්ලා සිටින්නට විය. එම හේතුවෙන් මෙම ආබාධිත යුද හමුදා සෙබලුන්ගේ බිරින්දෑවරුන් ද මෙම කණ්ඩායමට එකතු වී ඇත.

තම ආබාධිත සැමියන් රැකබලා ගනිමින් පවුලේ සහ සමාජයේ සියලුම බර දරමින් විවිධ පීඩාවන්ට මුහුණ දෙමින් කටයුතු කරන මෙම කාන්තා පිරිස අදාළ ව්‍යාපෘතියට සඳහා ඇතුළත් කර ගැනීම සුදුසු යැයි අප සංවිධානය කල්පනා කරයි.

මේ සම්බන්ධයෙන් ඔබගේ අවධානය යොමු කරන මෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටිමු.

ස්තූතියි
 මෙයට,

 සුමිතා පෙරේරා
 සම්බන්ධීකාරක

Sumika Perera

Coordinator

Women's Resource Center