Project Title: Promoting Women's Engagement in Waste Management to Prevent Conflict in Sri Lanka **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: 00118836**	
If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: ☐ Country Trust Fund ☐ Regional Trust Fund **Name of recipient fund:**	**Type and name of recipient organizations:** **RUNO** UN Women **(Convening agency)** **RUNO** UNOPS

Date of first transfer: 22 November 2019
Project end date: 30 November 2021
Is the current project end date within 6 months? Project completed on 30 November 2021

Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:
☒ Gender promotion initiative
☐ Youth promotion initiative
☐ Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions
☐ Cross-border or regional project

Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):
Recipient organization   **Amount**

UN Women $ 1,000,000
UNOPS $ 500,000

                  Total: $ 1,500,000

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 97% (tentative)
ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE

Gender-responsive budgeting:

Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: $ 1,204,915.52 (80%)
Amount expended to date on activities focused on gender equality or women's empowerment: $ 1,211,236.55 (81%)

Project gender marker: GM3
Project risk marker: Medium
Project PBF focus area: 2.3 Conflict Prevention/Management

Report preparation:

Project report prepared by: UN Women and UNOPS

Project report approved by:

1) Hanaa Singer
   Resident coordinator
   United Nations Sri Lanka

2) Ramaaya Salgado
   Country focal point
   UN Women Sri Lanka

3) Sudhir Muralidharan
   Country manager a.i. Sri Lanka and the Maldives
   UNOPS Sri Lanka

Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes

List of abbreviations and acronyms:

LA	local authority
NDI	National Democratic Institute
PBF	UN Peacebuilding Fund
PM	*praja mandala* (community-based groups)
PS	*pradeshiya sabha* (sub-type of local authority)
SWM	solid waste management
UC	Urban Council
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
VDP	village development plan
YTF	Youth Task Force

PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Briefly outline the status of the project in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary or preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1,500-character limit):

The project concluded implementation on 30 November 2021, and has achieved 97-per cent delivery, based on current estimates. The end-of-project evaluation was expected to be completed by mid-April 2022, based on approval from the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) for additional time to complete the evaluation. However, the evaluation could not be finalised as the external evaluators did not integrate collective feedback from the Reference Group established for this evaluation. In consultation with PBF, UN Women and UNOPS are exploring the possibility of a limited scope review being conducted, using any unspent project balances.

All project activities have been completed, though implementation strategies had to be changed to adapt to the volatile operating context. This included significant impact to the project caused by several waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project sought a six-month no-cost extension in April 2021, which was approved. The additional time proved to be critical for the completion of activities, though the project continued to grapple with pandemic-related challenges during this period. Lockdown restrictions prevented public gatherings of any nature, which meant that alternative modalities such as virtual capacity-building programmes were conducted, which brought its own set of challenges related to poor internet connectivity and low digital literacy of participants. Import restrictions further constrained the availability of materials required to strengthen solid waste management (SWM) infrastructure as well as implement solutions proposed by local authorities (LAs) and *praja mandala* (PM), which are community governance mechanisms unique to Sri Lanka and affiliated to LAs.

Despite such challenges, the project has achieved nearly all output indicator targets and exceeded several, as noted in Part V of this report.

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, e.g. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings. (1,000-character limit):

N/A

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: Summarize the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1,500-character limit):

Overall, the (unfinalized) external evaluation, conducted by an international and a national consultant from December 2021 to March 2022, reveals that "the project using SWM as a transformative tool increased social cohesion and brought together the four inter-religious communities – Muslims, Catholics, Hindus and Buddhists – to identify their problems and possible solutions, who started living together in harmony, re-building together what had shattered their peace. More capacity building and community mobilization efforts are still needed to continuously change people's attitudes on co-existence."

It further notes that "the project brought changes in attitudes, behaviour, practices and systems. It brought together the fragmented communities. […] Through capacity building on conflict resolution, SWM programmes and community mobilization activities, communities have

acquired knowledge, skills, competencies and confidence. They know modalities of convening and working together and are able to find solutions to their problems without confrontations irrespective of their diversity, ethnic, cultural or religious differences." The project provided a wide range of skills and capacity building on conflict management, conflict resolution, collective leadership, and participatory rural development processes, alongside institutional awareness on improving existing SWM systems.

> Outcome 01: Empowered women across ethno-religious communities in target districts undertake critical leadership roles in community decision-making and contribute to diffusing local triggers of conflict:

More women, youth, minorities and displaced people are actively involved in community-level governance and decision-making, providing direct inputs to and receiving benefits from LAs in Puttalam and Mannar, which have diverse ethno-religious demographics. This has been supported by the project's work on strengthening/establishing 48 PMs. As a result, women's engagement and leadership in PMs and thereby in community decision-making have increased – with 72 per cent of PM leaders being women at the project's conclusion in comparison to 40.9 per cent prior to the project, well exceeding the target of 50 per cent intended by the project.

Further, 48 female local councillors in Puttalam and Mannar are better capacitated with the skills to fulfil their mandate as elected representatives and have the confidence to identify and implement solutions. This is in part due to the capacity building, peer-exchange, community dialogues, and networking through the newly established District Women Councillors' Caucus, along with technical and financial support, provided by the project.

> Outcome 02: Enhanced SWM systems with the capacity to resolve conflicts related to SWM are in place that involves the effective engagement of strengthened communities, particularly women

There were several occasions where communities had conflicts with other communities in close proximity as well as conflicts between the public and the LAs. For example, tensions over dumping of waste impacted ethno-religious divides, when a Muslim religious leader was affected by mismanagement of a dumpsite near his personal property, which ultimately was torched and resulted in severe environmental pollution, as the fire took more than a week to be doused. This resulted in legal action being taken though a verdict is currently pending. Understanding the potential for grievances between communities exacerbating due to this and other such conflicts, the project intervened by providing LAs with capacity building on proper management of the waste management and composting facilities and dumpsites along with capacity building for the communities on the importance of good waste management practices and its benefits. The project also demonstrated appropriate techniques for dumpsite closure which LAs are now practising. Further, communities in the village were educated to support the LAs in the effective dumpsite management.

Misunderstanding and conflict between composting facility staff who were women and LAs were also resolved through the project. Staff in the facility did not work during the rainy season due to the flow of the leachate from the dumpsite. Therefore, all waste was transported to the dumpsite as the staff were not prepared to work outside the facility. In particular, the facility environment was not suitable for work and occupational health and safety was an issue. The project facilitated to rectify the leachate issue by constructing the retaining wall to prevent

leachate flow from the dumpsite to the compost facility. As these issues were resolved through the project, the staff are now able to work in a safe working environment.

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive human impact. May include anecdotal stories about the project's positive effect on the people's lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2,000-character limit):

The re-establishment of PMs has revived community interest in a governing mechanism that was inactive. The engagement of more women in leadership roles within the PM was welcomed by the community. Kaweeda Manohari, 48, a member of the Chilaw Municipal Council in Puttalam said, "Recently, I had to be a mediator to a conflict between two parties". "Since it was fresh in my mind, I was able to use some of the techniques I learned at our training to help the two parties arrive at a compromise and push for a legal solution to their issue." Further, the initiation of quick-win mobilization activities, diversity kitchen programmes and Youth Task Force (YTF) forums within a COVID-19 setting have encouraged all stakeholders to adopt principles of 'do no harm' with inclusive approaches to engage target beneficiaries including women and youth.

Through the project, Rajeshwari Diaz, 46, from Mannar, has learned not only proper waste management but also the importance of collaboration and ways to manage such conflicts. "Before making decisions and jumping to conclusions, we should think about others' feelings and views," she noted.

Finally, the views expressed by the LAs at one of the District Town Halls organized by the project in September 2021 is testimony for the impact of the project on the positive behaviour change in communities which are now taking the route of peaceful discussions and negotiations with LAs when resolving issues related to SWM instead of aggressive confrontations which was the norm previously. This development has strengthened the rapport between the LAs and communities to engage and find solutions in a spirit of goodwill and has increased the commitment of LAs towards the project objectives. Additionally, it denotes a more unified approach of communities when tackling issues, even when community members belong to diverse ethno-religious groups.

In evidence of this, at the conclusion of the project, the Department of Local Government for the North-Western Province informed in writing that "the project has immensely supported LAs and communities in Puttalam and Mannar to set up a better platform to prevent conflict by bringing three key elements of social cohesion, women's leadership, and solid waste management together", further noting it to have been an impactful project where stakeholders had the opportunity to experience the intended changes of the interventions.

Links to impact stories:
https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/09/more-women-leaders-are-needed-in-waste-management
https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2021/09/un-women-helping-to-boost-the-role-of-sri-lankas-women

PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME

Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.

- *"On track" refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.*
- *"On track with peacebuilding results" refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.*

If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.

Outcome 1: **Empowered women across ethno-religious communities in target districts undertake critical leadership roles in community decision-making and contribute to diffusing local triggers of conflict**

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: ***On track with peacebuilding results***

Progress summary: *(3,000-character limit):*

More women, youth, minorities and displaced people are actively involved in community-level governance, providing direct inputs to and receiving benefits from local authorities (LAs) in Puttalam and Mannar. This has been supported by the project's work, which strengthened or established 48 *praja mandala* (PMs), local community governance mechanisms that are affiliated to LAs (exceeding the project's target of 45 – Indicator 1.2.1). Of these, 19 PM reformed and 29 PM were newly established. This resulted in increasing women's engagement and leadership in PMs – with 72 per cent of PM leaders being women actively engaging in community decision-making (exceeding the project target of 50%), with SWM providing a unique entry point for such engagement. Through the project's interventions, women community leaders have improved their skills in mitigating and resolving conflicts at the community level. The (unfinalized) evaluation reveals that the "the formation and reactivation of PM have contributed to social harmony, since most of its members belong to different ethnic groups, who have been encouraged to work together to address a major problem [i.e. SWM] in their villages."

Communities with diverse ethno-religious demographics are better capable of collectively identifying, strategizing, and designing solutions for common issues. Forty-five village development plans (VDPs) were developed collectively by PM members, government officials, and community members to resolve key problems and needs, following a participatory whole-of-community approach to identify community issues. Multi-stakeholder dialogues identified 15 recommendations, of which at least five were implemented by the project. Together, at least 50 initiatives were identified and implemented, exceeding the project target of 45 under Indicator 1.1.1. Though limited by the time available to see the full implementation of the VDPs, which are for a duration of two to four years, some local councillors have referred to these plans in their efforts to secure budget allocations for their respective villages, which would result in benefits for all constituents. Based on the prioritization of the PMs, the project provided initial support towards the implementation of 45 proposals designed collectively by PMs (inclusive of women), such as compost production, and polythene recycling (achieving

targets under Indicators 1.1.2 and 1.2.2). The initiatives served to reduce waste in the environment and provide employment for PM members, whilst also facilitating joint action by a range of community stakeholders in the implementation of these proposals.

In particular, the PMs enabled communities to link with LAs. Communities understood that gaps in service provided by LAs could be addressed by PMs, which acted as an interface between the two. LAs also benefitted from more engaged and better aware citizenry as a result of the actions of the PMs. Previously, communities would view SWM as the sole responsibility of LAs to resolve, but following the project, communities are well aware of their own role in not only SWM but also other community issues, and actively participate in discussions with LAs on possible solutions. The benefits of having a PM were felt by LAs in Kalpitiya, one of the divisions targeted by the project, who then took steps to establish PMs in the remaining locations, allocating their own funds to do so. In addition, certain local governments engaged PM representatives in budget planning for the 2022 fiscal year, and all local governments in project locations committed to enabling the PMs' long-term sustainability.

Notably, 48 female local councillors in Puttalam and Mannar are better capacitated to fulfil their role as elected representatives and have the confidence to identify and implement solutions to issues. This is in part due to the capacity building, dialogues, peer-exchange and networking through the new District Women Councillors' Caucus established by the project in Puttalam, along with technical and financial support provided by the project. (The Caucus for Mannar was established before the project.) The project strengthened capacities within and amongst both caucuses, achieving the target under Indicator 1.2.1.

Additionally, activities such as the 'Diversity Kitchens' brought together people from different communities to share their cuisine and culture, helping strengthen intra- and inter-communal bonds. The project was also successful in engaging the existing inter-religious groups and committees at district levels to address existing negative perceptions on peacebuilding work, and challenge the prevailing attitudes about waste disposal in both districts. Religious leaders participated in the community mobilization activities, where they shared messages on effective SWM, and the need for harmony and women's leadership within communities. These mobilization activities also helped promote the leadership of PM in villages.

In total, 248 PM members, including 218 PM leaders (85 men, 133 women) and 40 YTF members (17 young men, 23 young women) also have strengthened their capacities to identify and diffuse conflicts and reduce ethno-religious intolerance in their communities, exceeding the target of 200 under Indicator 1.1.4. More than 75 per cent of those trained reported increased individual capacities, exceeding the project's target of 50 per cent (Indicator 1.1.3). Additionally, on average across the five project locations, 81 per cent of capacitated local councillors and government officials reported improved knowledge and capacity on non-violent conflict resolution; 79 per cent on mediation skills; and 84 per cent on collective leadership, well exceeding the target of 50 per cent set out under Indicator 1.2.3. Further, the PMs provided an opportunity for community members to take collective ownership of solutions to address current issues that affected everyone, regardless of religion, ethnicity, gender, age and political affiliation. These activities contributed to improved understanding and co-existence among communities, particularly after the divisions sowed by the Easter Sunday attacks in 2019[1].

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[1] UN (2019). 'Hateful attacks' pushing Sri Lanka backwards, UN advisers warn, urging an end to 'discriminatory practices' that feed intolerance. Available at: https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/05/1038471

Attitudes towards waste – one identified potential trigger of conflict between communities in Puttalam – have changed as a result of the project's work, as communities and LAs now view waste as a resource and an income opportunity. The project supported SWM-related initiatives designed and led by women councillors in all five LAs to promote the leadership of women councillors as well as develop the physical capacity of LAs to improve service delivery in relation to SWM (achieving the target of five under Indicator 1.3.1). In addition, the project developed separate SWM Master Plans for all five LAs through a series of extensive consultations with stakeholders and community representatives (exceeding the target of four under Indicator 1.3.2). Several PM initiatives have been linked to private-sector and state institutes, ensuring their sustainability. LAs also now monetize waste from private-sector buyers. Additionally, 1,340 households benefitted from greening initiatives (well exceeding the target of 1,250 under Indicator 1.3.3), of which a selected 800 benefitted from capacity building on monetizing waste.

It is of note that more young people are engaged in raising community awareness on environmental issues and have developed innovative solutions to tackle waste, such as installing collection points for segregated waste and inventing an 'eco-brick' made of crushed plastic (patent pending). This is due to the formation and capacity building of four YTFs attached to the LAs in Puttalam through the project. This has been highly successful, and the commissioner of local government for the North-Western Province has instructed all Puttalam LAs to establish YTFs.

The (unfinalized) evaluation specifically notes that through this project, women have gained capacity to raise their voices and are capable of taking decisions. There is increased knowledge and capacity among women to identify and respond to emerging conflicts within and amongst communities; women's engagement with local municipalities is also increased related to policy and decision-making; and women are more economically and socially empowered. Women from marginalized communities, especially those involved in the PMs, have direct access to LAs. The election of women to leadership positions within PMs support women's greater representation and participation; they have confidence to hold public office and serve members of the public. (Initially, these positions were dominated and almost fully occupied by men.)

Additionally, the evaluators have further noted that "rather than speak directly about peacebuilding, the project approach is the best way to build peace and harmony in society while simultaneously focusing on another social burning issue. All religious leaders, political leaders and decision-makers have highly appreciated the approach taken under the project."

Indicate any additional analysis on how gender equality and women's empowerment and/or youth inclusion and responsiveness have been ensured under this outcome: *(1,000-character limit)*

The project, in its conceptualization and design, took into consideration the gendered roles that position women within families and communities and motivate individuals to support intolerant ideologies. It also considered the gendered division of household labour that results in women being mostly responsible for waste management, and that leads them to play critical roles in responding to environmental degradation at the community level.

The project recognized that women's community engagement and leadership results in greater responsiveness to citizens' needs, while women's economic empowerment has long-lasting impacts aimed at countering violent extremism. Therefore, any solutions related to waste management, and communal tensions, require the meaningful participation of women. In line

with this, the curriculum developed by UN Women in 2020 for the series of multi-stakeholder dialogues and capacity-building initiatives invested in discussions on gender roles, norms, and relations related to SWM to mitigate stereotypical attitudes regarding a woman's role within the household.

By regularly revisiting the implementation plan and strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic to adapt to its consequences, the project attempted to operate within an inclusive rights-based framework of empowering women through economic skills development, leadership capacity development and the enhancement of skills pertaining to conflict prevention and resolution.

The (unfinalized) evaluation states that "the project empowered women across ethno-religious communities through capacity building which increased their knowledge, skills, confidence and awareness to engaging more to solve not only community conflicts and their problems but also supported their livelihoods through income generation from SWM."

Outcome 2: Enhanced SWM systems with the capacity to resolve conflicts related to SWM are in place that involve the effective engagement of strengthened communities, particularly women

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: *On track with peacebuilding results*

Progress summary: *(3,000-character limit)*

The project has extensively reduced the perception of unequal service delivery by LAs related to waste management and tensions in the community by distributing resources in an equitable manner. Four LAs and their communities, targeting 3,073 women and 1,780 men, were equipped with resources and knowledge to improve the SWM system, exceeding the target of three LAs under Indicator 2.1.1. This includes capacity development of 34 PMs, exceeding the target of 33 under Indicator 2.2.1. Now, all targeted LAs in Puttalam have prepared their service delivery schedule, and shared it with the general public. This has created transparency and understanding about the service delivery and its frequency. Local communities were involved in the planning process and their requirements were addressed through participatory planning.

Further, the general public in the district were educated on best practices including waste segregation and hazardous nature of the waste. The project has facilitated the expansion of waste collection services, reduced contamination and ensured occupational health and safety. It has also improved the regularity of the service delivery, with 100 per cent of collected waste diverted to either a composting facility or designated location, well exceeding the target of 60 per cent under Indicator 2.2. Equally, 100 per cent of the organic waste diverted to the composting facility were processed, exceeding the target of 60 per cent while 100 per cent of recyclable waste was processed and stored, exceeding the target of 30 per cent under Indicator 2.3. The two composting facilities supported by the project (achieving the target under Indicator 2.4.1) are a sustainable mechanism by which LAs now monetize waste, with 44 per cent of the compost produced by the Puttalam Urban Council (UC) and 40 per cent by the *pradeshiya sabha* (PS) (sub-type of local authority) of Kalpitiya being converted into revenue – which exceeds the target of 30 per cent under Indicator 2.1.2. At least 6 tonnes of compost per month is produced, achieving the target under Indicator 2.4.2.

Through the project, two mechanisms were established by LAs that involve the participation of women in resolving issues related to waste in their communities; these consist of an issue register, and regular meetings, exceeding the target of one mechanism under outcome Indicator

2.1. Seventy-three trained women leaders took part in these meetings and in general there has been more than 50-per cent participation of women in all activities.

Several programmes convening diverse community and SWM-related stakeholders on a common platform were organized through the project. These included clean-up programmes, compost-making programmes and public education programmes. The project brought down the number of illegal dump sites to two (from 10), exceeding the target under Indicator 2.3.1. The project provided awareness on good SWM practices to 29,180 households in the target locations, more than double the target of 11,000 households under Indicator 2.2.3. Of a total of 73 women leaders trained, there are 50 active leaders, achieving the target of 50 under Indicator 2.2.2. Thus, this project has created a common vision of city cleanliness. Having a common goal and direction has reduced the possible conflict and tension amongst the communities. Today, the community in the target areas have started to segregate waste: This was a primary goal in the service delivery, and it will lead to other development initiatives of the LAs.

As a part of the project initiatives, isolated and marginalized communities were included in the coverage of service delivery offered by LAs. For example, the waste collection area in Puttalam UC was divided into 11 wards, and regular services were given to communities residing in wards 1 - 9 where most of the community were native to the locality. Migrant communities, particularly those who had been displaced years earlier during Sri Lanka's conflict, living in wards 9, 10 and 11 were isolated from the SWM service delivery for several years. The project has introduced an inclusive solid-waste collection system where both host and migrant communities were considered in the collection process. This has therefore improved the relationship between the State and such marginalized communities, whose concerns have been neglected.

The project also served to provide more efficient and digital tools to track the service delivery to ensure its effectiveness. Monthly meetings, physical recordings and WhatsApp were other techniques introduced to communicate grievances. Prior to the project implementation, LAs received at least one to three complaints daily, but this has dropped to zero following the conclusion of the project. Operational aspects, challenges, potential solutions, and new interventions were discussed during the meetings with the communities. It was noted that the compliance rate for the service delivery has now improved to more than 70 per cent.

Lack of resources was a simple and common reason for not providing services to marginalized communities. The project delivered six waste-collection tractors and 10 trailers to ensure inclusion of marginalized communities. Another reason for not being provided equal services was the lack of adequate facilities to securely dispose of waste. The compost facility was flooded with leachate during the rainy season. Construction of the retaining wall between the compost facility and dumpsite to prevent leachate penetrating was completed. Mismanagement of the dumpsite was another reason for not providing equal services to various communities. The project has assisted LAs to manage SWM processes in a sound manner. This has yielded that service delivery is ensured regardless of ethnicity, gender, host and migrant community status.

Collectively, the improved SWM system has reduced ethnic divisions and tension. It ultimately contributed to the social harmony of the project areas.

Notably, the (unfinalized) evaluation states that "the project developed the capacity and supported LAs in waste management. Initially, the national and local-level authorities did not have the capacity and technology to manage SWM. Nevertheless when this project came, it

supported LAs in collection, segregation and disposal of wastes which the LAs had [previously] failed to manage […] The provision of infrastructure facilities has enhanced SWM systems to some extent by LAs, which has reduced community conflicts caused by waste-related issues and has increased community satisfaction up to 70 per cent", well exceeding the target of 60 per cent under Indicator 2.4. It further stated that "combining hardware and software makes a project very successful. The right knowledge combined with the right facilities is a powerful combination."

Indicate any additional analysis on how gender equality and women's empowerment and/or youth inclusion and responsiveness has been ensured under this outcome: *(1,000-character limit)*

In order to have a better waste management system, more focus has to be given at the source of waste generation, where women play an important role. The project focused on the source of waste generation and committed to improve leadership of the village-level community by linking village-level women with LAs. Local women were involved in developing service delivery schedules and a complaint mechanism was set up to ensure regular service delivery. However, the workforce in the LA was dominated by men. The expectations and concerns of women and households need to be reflected at the LA level in order to provide better services through their engagement and voice at this level. Therefore, the general public (including 3,073 women) was educated through various events or activities.

However, without continuous advocacy, support for the waste management system may falter, leading to non-compliance in the long run. Therefore, it is important to look for long-term funding support or continuous short-term support to improve behavioural and attitude changes.

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Monitoring: Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1,000-character limit)	**Do outcome indicators have baselines**? Yes
UN Women and UNOPS provided substantial technical support on monitoring and evaluation during the reporting period.	**Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection?** Yes
Monthly project review meetings were held to follow up on the implementation of the consolidated workplan and targets, expenditure and emerging challenges resulting from COVID-19 restrictions.	The project undertook a baseline and perception survey at the inception, as a pre-requisite to inform the subsequent implementation. Further, the findings of the baseline and perception survey were used in establishing missing baselines and targets in the Results Framework.
The Project Monitoring Framework was updated on a regular basis by the project team, along with the periodic updates to the Risk Log. Based on the findings of the Baseline and Perception Survey (Annex 2), the Project's Results Framework was revised to reflect emerging challenges, while identifying realistic targets in	The project has also conducted a perception survey on the waste management service delivery in communities. The survey was conducted in three LA areas using random distribution sampling. A total of 307 individuals were selected for the survey. Of those, 175, or 57% were female. More than 70% of the participants expressed that they are happy with the current SWM services, which have been technically supported by the project.

consultation with all project implementing partners. In addition to the project's monitoring framework, UNOPS set up a monitoring system at the local-authority level aimed at observing SWM service delivery in a transparent and accountable manner. Due to travel restrictions from recurring waves of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the project, monitoring field visits were cancelled and limited to virtual meetings, surveys, pre- and post-training evaluations.	
Evaluation: Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?	Evaluation budget (response required): $ 38,660 If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1,500-character limit)*: The final evaluation commenced in November 2021 and was to conclude by mid-April 2022, following a request from UN Women and UNOPS for additional time, which was generously granted by PBF. However, the lack of responsiveness by the external evaluators to integrate the collective feedback from the Evaluation Reference Group has resulted in the evaluation not being finalised. In consultation with PBF, UN Women and UNOPS are exploring the possibility of conducting a limited review of the project to understanding its effectiveness and contributions to peacebuilding in the targeted locations.
Catalytic effects (financial): Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.	Name of funder: Amount: National Democratic Institute (NDI) $ 70,000 NDI has provided the project's main civil society implementing partner with this funding towards continuing the capacity building and support to the four -YTFs initiated by the project.
Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1,500-character limit)*	The project team faced challenges to implementation throughout 2020 and 2021, due to COVID-19. The delays imposed by the pandemic affected the sequence of activities that were organized in a linear fashion. The pandemic lockdowns and national health and safety regulations intermittently restricted access to project areas and stakeholders, and resulted in a larger number of sessions convening a smaller number of participants per activity,

	which placed a strain on project resources (i.e. staff time, costs and timeline).
	In 2021, the project team also encountered a new challenge posed by the Puttalam UC indicating that the establishment of efficient SWM systems would result in a decrease in waste generation, thus decreasing job security for those employed within the SWM cycle. As a result, a decision was taken to divert the focus of community-based interventions to the PS in Puttalam, in consultation with, and the agreement of the Department of Local Government.
	Further, the project team had to conceptualize most interventions to unfold via hybrid (online/offline) or full online modalities, as a mitigation measure in response to the recurrent waves of the pandemic in the country.
	Due to the economic condition of the country, which saw the enactment of import restrictions in 2021, there was a significant shortage in the availability and supply of building materials and hardware items. For example, based on a Gazette notification (legal notification), the price of 50 kilogrammes of cement was around LKR 1,098 ($ 5.5). However, the price of the item available in the market was 23% higher than the legal price. Further, suppliers only agreed to sell bags of cement to customers who also bought tor bars, the steel bars used for reinforcing concrete construction. Suppliers were not prepared to provide quotations to the items that the project team wanted to purchase.
	The project team experienced several political challenges during the implementation of the project. These led to several discussions with all concerned parties, which delayed project activities. These include undue influence to support a specific constituency, and in relation to procurement of supplies. The project team was able to negotiate and navigate through all these challenges through discussions with the relevant stakeholders, which were satisfactorily resolved.

PART IV: COVID-19

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

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

$ 0.00

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

The team reviewed and revisited the project's timeline, sequencing of activities, methodology and implementation strategy, communications strategy and results framework in order to mitigate any adverse effects resulting from delays to implementation.

The prolonged and persisting COVID-19 pandemic brought about a renewed responsibility for the project team to approach interventions through the lens of inclusivity within the project's existing gender-responsive peacebuilding objectives. Regardless of the situation posed by the pandemic, extensive programmes were organized through virtual and physical means and the project was able to make significant progress and move towards meeting required milestones.

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

☒ Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications
☒ Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery
☐ Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management
☒ Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

☐ Support the SG's call for a global ceasefire
☐ Other (please describe):

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

N/A

PART V: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

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

	Performance indicators	Indicator baseline	End of project indicator target	Indicator milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for variance or delay (if any)
Outcome 1 Empowered women across ethno-religious communities in target districts undertake critical leadership roles in community decision-making and contribute to diffusing local triggers of conflict.	Indicator 1.1 % of women in leadership and decision-making roles in local councils and PM in target communities.	1) 22.4% of women in leadership and decision-making roles in local councils in target communities. 2) 40.9% of women in PM leadership positions are women. 3) Only 8.3% women councillors out of total women councillors in all five LGAs are elected members. Others are	1) 30% 2) 50% 3) 10%	Multi-year targets not defined	Final targets: (1) The indicator remains at baseline level as there were no local council elections during the project period. (2) Target exceeded, with 72% of women in leadership positions within PMs. (3) The indicator remains at baseline level as there were no local council elections during the project period. Substantial progress towards achieving this indicator was made during the reporting period, with community mobilizations around the (re)establishment of PMs and completion of leadership and capacity-building initiatives. This provided a platform for women community leaders to engage in key decisions. District Women Councillors' Caucuses were set up strengthening women's leadership and participation in decision making.	

	nominated to fill the 25% women quota.				
Indicator 1.2 % of perceived prevalence of ethno-religious tensions in target communities.	34.1% of key stakeholders perceived prevalence of ethno-religious tensions in target communities.	25%		Multi-year targets not defined	*Requires information from the evaluation for the final target reached.* Progress towards the indicator has been made by promoting the message of reconciliation and peace with the engagement of local religious leaders and communities under various initiatives. Religious leaders continue to participate, particularly in the Diversity Kitchen mobilization programme that aims at diffusing triggers of conflict through cultural exchange. Further, the series of 10 multi-stakeholder dialogues and two district townhalls offers a platform to bring a diverse group of 500 including LAs, government officials, religious leaders, community leaders and members, youth, media members, across both districts to discuss pertinent issues on SWM.
Indicator 1.3 % have confidence that women leadership can influence diffusing local triggers of conflict.	1) 33 % are "very confident or confident" about women's ability to respond to conflict with tact and professionalism and to prevent violent situations from escalating further. 2) 37 % are "very confident or confident" that women have the ability	1) 50% 2) 50%		Multi-year targets not defined	*Requires information from the evaluation for the final target reached.* PMs were re-established and strengthened through various mobilizations, series of multistakeholder dialogues and leadership and capacity-building initiatives, as described above, in addition to the establishment of caucuses of women councillors for Puttalam and Mannar districts, towards achieving conflict resolution and peacebuilding around SWM. Strengthened PMs have demonstrated leadership in organizing household greening initiatives, identification of community-based solutions, 57 'quick-win mobilization activities' including diversity kitchen programmes that brought different communities together around SWM and enhanced

		to avoid situations that automatically spark violent conflict.			community cohesion, which can influence local triggers of conflict.	
	Indicator 1.4 % of the perceived inclusivity of community-based mechanisms to address critical issues such as SWM in target communities.	0%	50%		*Requires information from the evaluation for the final target reached.* The series of multi-stakeholder dialogues, capacity-building initiatives, and Community Action Grants to PMs to implement community-based solutions facilitated by the project through VDPs provided and promoted more opportunities to address SWM issues.	
Output 1.1 Increased knowledge and capacities among women to identify and respond to emerging conflicts within and amongst communities.	Indicator 1.1.1 # of community-based solutions identified for implementation through multi-stakeholder dialogues.	0	At least two interventions per dialogue.		*Target exceeded: at least 50 interventions in total* There were 45 VDPs with community-based solutions developed and implemented by PMs, with the assistance of the project. Of the 15 recommendations brought forward by participants in the 5 multi-stakeholder dialogues, at least five were completed in the course of the project (with its support).	
	Indicator 1.1.2 # of identified community-based solutions provided with implementation support.	Eight (by LAs in 2019)	53 (45 new)		*Target achieved.* There were 45 VDPs with community-based solutions developed by PMs with enhanced leadership skills provided through various mobilization initiatives and a series of multi-stakeholder dialogues, provided with implementation support with Community Action Grants being awarded.	
	Indicator 1.1.3:	0	At least 50%		*Target exceeded.*	

	% of trained women community leaders who report increased capacity to identify and diffuse conflicts and reduce ethno-religious intolerance in their communities.				*When compared with the pre- and post-test results, overall 75% of trained community leaders reported increased capacity.* Women leaders received training and enhanced their leadership capacity. They were successful in engaging the existing inter-religious groups and committees at district level to address existing negative perceptions on peacebuilding work and challenge the prevailing attitudes about waste management and disposal.	
	Indicator 1.1.4: # of target community members capacitated on peacebuilding, social cohesion, and community development issues, including SWM.	0	At least 200		*Target exceeded.* A total of 248 community members, inclusive of 218 PM leaders (85 men and 133 women) and 40 YTF members (17 young men and 23 young women) were capacitated to promote peace and tolerance amongst communities. Peace and reconciliation amongst different communities were promoted through the diversity kitchen programme carried out by 41 PMs in their respective locations to celebrate and share their cultural and religious diversity.	
Output 1.2 Increased women's engagement with local municipalities related to policy and decision-making on critical	Indicator 1.2.1 # of PMs and women's councillors' caucuses established or strengthened to better address community issues.	1) 18 PMs 2) 0 women's councillors' caucuses established.	1) 45 PMs newly established or re-activated (10 per division, 40 in Puttalam, 5 in Mannar); 2) Two women's caucuses (one per district) established and functioning.		*Target exceeded.* (1) 48 PM were (re)established; (19 PM reformed and 29 PM newly established) (2) Two women's councillors' caucuses, for Puttalam District and Mannar District, respectively, have been established and are functioning	
	Indicator 1.2.2	0	45 new initiatives		*Target achieved.*	

issues including SWM.	# of PM-level peacebuilding and SWM initiatives, implemented with Community Action Grants.				45 PMs received Community Action Grants for their VDPs, which are being implemented with follow-up support provided by YTF.
	Indicator 1.2.3: % of trained local councillors and government officials who report increased capacity to mitigate existing and potential triggers of conflict and adopt inclusive and collective leadership principles.	0	At least 50%		*Target exceeded.* On average across the 5 locations, 81% had improved knowledge and capacity on non-violent conflict resolution; 79% on mediation skills; 84% on collective leadership. 163 participants (155 women, 8 men) comprising 129 PM and YTF members, 12 local councillors and 22 local public officials were capacitated on conflict analysis and resolution along with collective leadership principles. Additionally, 218 PM members enhanced their capacities in relation to dispute resolution, team building and leadership. Thus, a total of 381 community stakeholders were capacitated.
Output 1.3 Economically and socially empowered women, are ready to change gender relations and improve practices of environmental remediation amongst target communities in Puttalam and Mannar	Indicator 1.3.1 # of women and youth led SWM initiatives designed jointly with LAs and Community stakeholders receives additional support from authorities	0	5		*Target achieved.* LAs and women councillors identified and validated 5 initiatives to resolve conflicts associated with SWM.
	Indicator 1.3.2 # of LAs capacitated in promoting/providing income-generation opportunities for women through monetizing of waste	0	At least four		*Target exceeded.* 5 LAs: Puttalam PS, Arachchikattuwa PS, Chilaw UC, Kalpitiya PS, Mannar UC.

	Indicator 1.3.3 # of households supported in adopting to household-level greening approaches in target communities.	0	1,250 (five divisions x 250 households)		*Target exceeded.* In total, 1,350 households were provided with material and equipment in adopting to household-level greening, while 800 out of them were provided with further training on product development and income generation.	
Outcome 2 Enhanced SWM systems with the capacity to resolve conflicts related to SWM are in place, which involve the effective engagement of strengthened communities, particularly women.	Indicator 2.1. # of mechanisms set up by trained LAs, and which involve the participation of trained women in supporting to resolve or address issues related to waste in their communities.	0	At least one per local body with at least 20% participation of trained women.		*Target exceeded.* At least two mechanisms in the project target district have been established. A register has been issued, and regular meetings fixed to resolve issues related to waste in the community. Seventy-three trained women leaders took part in these events and in general there has been over 50% participation of women in all activities.	
	Indicator 2.2. % LA solid waste collected and managed at the facilities (aligned to SDG 11.6.1).	25%	60% of waste collected will be managed at the facility.		*Target exceeded.* A full 100% of collected waste diverted to either facility or designated location.	
	Indicator 2.3 % waste recycled (aligned to SDG 12.5.1).	0%	1). 60% of degradable waste processed. 2). 30% non-degradable waste processed.		*Target exceeded.* A full 100% of the organic waste diverted to the compost facility was processed. 100% of recyclable waste diverted to the facility was processed and stored.	
	Indicator 2.4 % of households satisfied with public service provision by LAs in SWM.	40%	60%		*Target exceeded.* A total of 70% of beneficiaries who took part in the survey are satisfied.	

					Effective engagement of women in the planning process of LA vested the responsibility with the community and has encouraged households to prepare themself to support waste-collection systems. Accordingly, 29,180 households (of whose occupants 65% are females) have enhanced knowledge and skills to support SWM practices implemented in the partner LA area.	
Output 2.1 LAs in target geographic areas have enhanced technical capacity to provide services related to SWM	Indicator 2.1.1 Number of LAs provided with capacity building and technical advisory on managing and delivering SWM services.	0	At least three		*Target exceeded.* Four LAs. A minimum of six programmes were organized in each LA during the reporting period. Engaged 431 (50% female) LA staff to ensure sound understanding about SWM systems including the operation of dumpsites and impacts of improper disposal-site management. LAs have already taken legal action against violators.	
	Indicator 2.1.2 % quantity of compost converted to revenue out of the total quantity of compost produced.	0	30%		*Target exceeded.* A total of 44% of the compost produced by the Puttalam UC is converted into revenue. Further, 40% of the compost produced by Kalpitiya PS is converted into revenue.	
Output 2.2 Public education and increased community awareness and	Indicator 2.2.1 # of LAs and PMs trained on SWM,	10	43 (33 new)		*Target exceeded.* In 4 LAs, 34 PMs (Kalpitiya - 11, Chilaw 13, Arachchikattuaw -10) trained on SWM.	

knowledge on SWM	Indicator 2.2.2 # of women team leaders and champions trained to SWM practices,	0	50		*Target achieved.* Of a total of 73 women leaders trained, there are 50 active leaders.	
	Indicator 2.2.3: # of residents made aware of good SWM practices,	100	11000		*Target exceeded.* 29,180 households (65% of females) were made aware of good SWM practices.	
Output 2.3 Closure of illegal dumping sites	Indicator 2.3.1 # of illegal dumping sites,	10	4		*Target exceeded* by 2 by bringing down the illegal dump sites from 10 to 2; Clean-up programmes and demonstration programmes by the project-educated staff to convert open dumpsites into control dumpsites.	
Output 2.4 Improved Waste Management capacity at SWM Facilities	Indicator 2.4.1 # of SWM facilities with composting capacity,	1 (functioning)	3 (Additional 2 will be functional during the intervention)		*Target partially achieved.* 2 facilities.	There is no suitable land to construct another facility. The total number of centralized compost facilities will remain at two. However, one recycling centre was constructed.
	Indicator 2.4.2 Quantity of compost produced,	3 tonnes per month,	6 tonnes per month.		*Target achieved.* At least 6 tonnes / month.	Due to the pandemic, compost production was suspended for more than three months. However, the average production of the Puttalam UC was 3.5 tonnes per month. Another 1.5 tonnes per

					month was reported from the Kalpitiya LA.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Revised Results Framework

Annex 2: Baseline Report, Perception Survey and Stakeholder Mapping

Annex 3: Conflict & Political Analysis

Annex 4: Gender Analysis

Annex 5: Value Chain Analysis and Mapping of Private Sector Actors Working on SWM

Annex 6: Reports from Dialogues, Capacity Building Programmes, Townhalls

Annex 7: Selected Materials on SWM Initiatives