

PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT COUNTRY: Sri Lanka
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL:
 FINAL
YEAR OF REPORT: 2018-2020



United Nations
Peacebuilding

Project Title: Hidden Challenges: Addressing Sexual Bribery Experienced by Female Heads of Households, including Military Widows and War Widows in Sri Lanka to Enable Resilience and Sustained Peace

Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway: 00113000

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:

UN Women (Convening Agency)
UNDP

Date of first transfer: 8 November 2018

Project end date: 31 October 2020 (extended through a six-month no-cost extension)

Is the current project end date within 6 months? This project has reached completion (project end date: 31 October 2020)

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	\$ 1,100,000
UNDP	\$ 400,000
Total:	\$ 1,500,000

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 61%

ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE

Gender-responsive Budgeting: 100.0% (within current reporting period)

Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: USD 1,500,000 (100%)

Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: USD 861.188.87

Project Gender Marker: GM3

Project Risk Marker: 1 Medium Risk

Project PBF focus area: 2.3 Conflict Prevention/Management

Report preparation:

Project report prepared by: UN Women, UNDP

Project report approved by:

- 1) Hanaa Singer
Resident Coordinator
United Nations - Sri Lanka

- 2) Mohammad Naciri
Regional Director, UN Women Office for Asia and the Pacific

- 3) Faiza Effendi
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP - Sri Lanka

Did PBF Secretariat review the report: No

NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:

- *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
- *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
- *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
- *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*

PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

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

The project has achieved a significant rate of completion as of 31 October 2021¹. The media campaign on sexual bribery (SB)² reached completion, engaging over one million individuals online and across Sri Lanka through radio and print media. The economic empowerment³ trainings and grant-provision and the trainings on leadership skills development⁴ reached completion, though the project was unable to complete certain components due to COVID-19 related restrictions. Progress was made under Outcome 2 with the completion of the paralegal training manuals⁵ and the development of ‘respectful workplace guidelines for the public sector’⁶, which have been entrusted to the State Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD)⁷ as the key government entity taking the initiative forward. A Code of Conduct⁸ on SB and sexual harassment (SH) in the public sector was developed jointly with the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption (CIABOC). The joint final project evaluation has been completed and its key findings are explored in section III.⁹

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

Project implementation concluded on 31 October 2020.¹⁰ The project team has operationally closed the project as of 31 December 2020 and is preparing for financial closure in 2021, in accordance with the donor agreement.

¹ Revised project end date following a six-month no-cost extension from 1 May to 31 October 2020.

² Please refer to the Social Media Awareness Raising Campaign Report, which was included as Annex 1 to the 2020 Annual Report to the PBF.

³ Please refer to the Progress Report on the Economic Empowerment Component, which was included as Annex 2 to the 2020 Annual Report to the PBF.

⁴ Please refer to the Participants’ Training Handbook in local languages, which was included as Annex 3 to the 2020 Annual Report to the PBF.

⁵ Please refer to the Paralegal Training Manual and Resource Book, which was included as Annex 4 to the 2020 Annual Report to the PBF.

⁶ Annex 1 - Respectful workplace guidelines for the public sector.

⁷ The former Ministry of Women and Child Affairs is now a State Ministry with a wider portfolio that is inclusive of Pre-Schools and Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education Services.

⁸ Please refer to the Code of Conduct on SB and SH, which was included as Annex 5 to the 2020 Annual Report to the PBF.

⁹ Annex 2 - Final Evaluation report

¹⁰ Annex 3 - Project Timeline

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

In 2019, at project launch, SB was a hidden issue with limited recognition as a form of violence experienced by Sri Lankan women. By October 2020 the project had effectively demonstrated that SB is a form of corruption perpetuated by officials and experienced by vulnerable women with important inroads made towards *institutionalizing* SB and SH standards and responses for the public sector at sub-national and national levels. At *societal* level, the project has substantially raised awareness of SB among the general population and key stakeholders, such as women development officers and public officials, with close to two million people engaged on the issue.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 added a layer of complexity to the project implementation, particularly when responding to beneficiaries at a time of crisis, in adherence to principles of ‘do no harm’ while ensuring sustainability of core project interventions.

Following conclusion of implementation, the project has continued to make a positive impact by raising awareness to garner support and funding for further advocacy on SB. On 9 December 2020, during the period of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (25 November to 10 December), UN Women, UNDP and their main civil society organization (CSO) partner, conducted a panel discussion titled: “Hidden Challenges: COVID-19 and dealing with sexual bribery.” The panel was a culmination of the project’s key achievements and included a public pledge to development partners to rally around the issue, which requires momentum, particularly to enable female heads of households (FHHs) to have improved opportunities to influence the peacebuilding and development processes necessary to advance Sri Lanka towards a cohesive and inclusive society.

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project’s positive effect on the people’s lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000 character limit):

The project used a two-pronged approach of: 1) economic empowerment; and 2) leadership skills development to promote FHHs, including military and war widows, as agents of peace, while enabling them to stand up against sexual exploitation, including SB. Among the 1,107 FHHs that were mobilized through 61 collectives, over 400 women were trained on economic skills and over 120 women were trained on leadership skills. In addition, over 200 women leaders from 60 women’s groups were equipped with tools to act against SB, while the project sensitized over 1.7 million people on SB and SH via:

- 1) National social media campaign named ‘The Open Secret’
- 2) Online ([article 1](#), [article 2](#) and [article 3](#)) and print news¹¹ in three languages
- 3) Radio and television talk shows, in three languages
- 4) Twelve in-person puppet shows¹² on SB and on challenging social stigma, reaching 1,268 (994 female) people in the target districts.

These interventions boosted beneficiaries’ confidence while improving their understanding of their rights and access to justice. Bolstered by increased awareness and opportunities to speak openly, target FHHs

¹¹ Please see the Print Media Stories, which were included as Annex 8 to the 2020 Annual Report to the PBF.

¹² Please see the Puppetry Photographs, which was included as Annex 9 to the 2020 Annual Report to the PBF.

were empowered to be agents of change and meaningfully contribute to peacebuilding efforts, as demonstrated by the quotes below.¹³

“We were pushed to a corner by society. Our opinions did not matter. But things have changed now. We are able to stand up for ourselves and for our families, because we know our rights.”
– Padma*, Anuradhapura.

“We faced many difficulties, mainly because we had no knowledge about our rights as women and as humans. Through the knowledge received from this programme, we now understand our rights and the legal avenues that we can pursue to address the challenges that we face as female heads of households. Now we are strong! We are aware of the institutions that we can visit to solve our problems and take action. We have the confidence and the strength.”
– Sriyani*, Kurunegala.

“We are a group of women who have directly and indirectly suffered from the conflict. We are the most able group who can champion the message of peace, and the importance of bringing peace to our society.”
– Vinothini*, Kilinochchi

*Pseudonym

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 FHHs (including military and war widows) have sustainable livelihoods, and access social support services with dignity.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Completed.

Progress summary: (3000 character limit)

The project has improved conditions for FHHs including military and war widows, to overcome vulnerability to SB and strengthened their agency through the empowerment and sensitization of

¹³ Please see the Success Stories of Project Beneficiaries, which was included as Annex 10 to the 2020 Annual Report to the PBF.

stakeholders.¹⁴ These efforts are contributing to transform beneficiaries' lives as they access public services with dignity and build economic resilience and have their voices heard in decision-making processes, especially in relation to conflict prevention/mitigation.

Awareness-raising campaigns reached diverse audiences and served as a call to action for accountability and against SB. Dissemination was carried out in accessible, creative formats¹⁵ reaching 1,268 (994 female) individuals in-person and 1.7 million online. Over 20,600 Facebook comments demonstrated community engagement, helped challenge societal taboos, and offer concrete action to pressure public officials who are often the perpetrators.¹⁶ This was to be complemented by the development of a complaints platform¹⁷ to record cases of SB and SH called 'Akshi,'¹⁸ although the platform was not finalized prior to the project end date of 31 October 2020 due to COVID-19 related factors.¹⁹ The CSO partner envisions taking forward the initiative through alternate sources of funding.

The project established a robust network of 61 women's collectives that can act as critical support and empowerment systems for women to challenge the root causes of SB and SH. Some 200 leadership representatives from these collectives gained in-depth understanding of relevant topics and the tools to respond to SB and SH challenges.²⁰ Ninety women development officers and other public officials, and 112 representatives from 66 CSOs²¹ across the three districts improved their technical knowledge and skills through a series of trainings, enabling them to better serve the needs of beneficiaries.²² Eighty-nine beneficiaries (46 from Kurunegala, and 43 from Kilinochchi) were [trained on leadership skills and enhanced their knowledge on peacebuilding](#). Planned training in Anuradhapura that intended to reach 45 beneficiaries, was unable to proceed due to COVID-19 restrictions. Two women-led partner CSOs, the Women Development Center (WDC) and Women in Need (WIN), were contracted to enhance the provision of legal assistance - accessed by 106 beneficiaries (29% under sexual bribery and 71% under SGBV) - including the commencement of legal action for 16% of those receiving legal assistance in the 3 districts. WDC commenced legal action of 8 cases in Anuradhapura, 4 in Kurunegala and 6 in Kilinochchi. Legal awareness programmes were undertaken at the community level using electronic and social media platforms given Covid-19 mobility and travel restrictions.

On women's economic empowerment (WEE), over 400 beneficiaries were provided with [first-line trainings on product development and business management](#). In addition, 301 beneficiaries (93 from Kurunegala, 97 in Anuradhapura and 111 in Kilinochchi) were provided with second-line trainings on financial literacy, business planning, pitching a business and business proposal development, which enabled the provision of 277 grants (85 in Kurunegala, 95 in Anuradhapura and 97 in Kilinochchi) in

¹⁴ Stakeholders include direct beneficiaries, government and civil society actors and local communities.

¹⁵ Formats included 'The Open Secret' Facebook page in Sinhala, Tamil and English; puppet shows; radio spots; television; newspaper articles.

¹⁶ Please see Social Media Awareness Raising Campaign Report (Annex 1 accompanying the 2020 Annual Report) and the Final End-Project Report submitted by the Implementing Partner, appended as Annex 4.

¹⁷ Please see the Complaints Reporting Platform supporting documents, which were included as Annex 12 to the 2020 Annual Report to the PBF.

¹⁸ *Akshi* is a Sanskrit word which is relatable in both Sinhala and Tamil languages. Translates to: "A Watchful Eye."

¹⁹ Significant preparatory work took place to establish the complaints platform, including an action plan for implementation, developed in partnership with the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption. The implementing partner intends to mobilize funds to take this work forward. The unspent budget allocated from the project for this activity will be returned to the PBF upon financial closure of the project.

²⁰ Please see the Final Report submitted by IP (Annex 11 to the 2020 Annual Report).

²¹ Annex 5 – List of CSOs

²² Please see the Final Report submitted by IP (Annex 11 to the 2020 Annual Report).

amounts up to approximately USD 600 per beneficiary²³. Per the final evaluation, 79% of women surveyed reported that after receiving business training they had improved their business, while 16% indicated that they had started a new business. Given that beneficiaries were supported to identify and develop business plans and viable livelihoods, the socioeconomic benefits are anticipated to be substantial and particularly essential given COVID-19 economic setbacks.²⁴ Project partners on the ground are continuing to monitor changes of income levels of beneficiaries in an attempt to measure the impact of upscaling their business ventures.²⁵

Three enterprise trainings for young people (children of FHHs) were undertaken in response to a request by the young people who accompanied their mothers for the business trainings.²⁶ The request was accommodated as it was in line with the project strategy to break triggers of conflict and strengthen the peace dividend. Given COVID-19 restrictions the diversity fairs could not be conducted, instead mini-market fairs and a follow-up programme was undertaken in the three districts to ensure sustainability to the interventions.²⁷

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome: (1000 character limit)

The rights-based project results framework was structured to empower marginalized women to overcome poverty and vulnerability in order to facilitate their meaningful contribution to peacebuilding and development processes. The approach targeted diverse stakeholders and challenged gender norms and structural factors that reinforce inequality and perpetuate isolation. Training interventions reached target beneficiaries, civil society, and public officials, encouraging them to adopt gender-responsive perspectives and practices. Awareness-raising on SB and SH exposed stakeholders and the public – especially youth via social media – to information on the harmful gendered narratives and underlying socioeconomic, cultural and power dynamics in the daily experiences of the beneficiaries.

Via business and financial skill trainings for economic resilience, where training modules were especially designed for FHHs (taking into account childcare considerations), the agency of FHHs and accompanying young women (i.e. daughters, sisters) was strengthened to challenge inhibitions that discourage women from entering the mainstream competitive economy. Barriers such as access to and ownership of resources and the lack of women entrepreneurs and business leaders were addressed through provision of 277 grants.

Outcome 2: Increased commitment of public institutions to prevent and respond to SB and to protect Female Heads of Households (including military and war widows) from sexual exploitation.

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Partially Completed.

Progress summary: (3000 character limit)

²³ Grants were distributed in each of three districts, up to a funding ceiling of LKR 120,000. Beneficiaries received grants as cash and/or in-kind goods and services.

²⁴ The final evaluation report provides further details, including beneficiary feedback on the trainings.

²⁵ Please see the Success Stories of Project Beneficiaries, which was included as Annex 10 to the 2020 Annual Report to the PBF.

²⁶ Annex 6 - Business Adaptation for Youth

²⁷ Annex 7 - Mini-Market Fairs and Follow-Up Programmes

Changes in personnel at key state institutions and the government's focus on elections significantly hampered Outcome 2 progress since October 2019. Following the Presidential Election in November 2019, two new ministers were appointed at the MWCD, followed by the successive appointment of five Secretaries²⁸. The heads of the CIABOC and the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute resigned and/or were pending replacement. These factors undid early gains made by the project to build partnerships and coordinate major activities to improve prevention and response mechanisms. Subsequently, the project worked to re-establish commitments and reintroduce project aims. Collaboration with the MWCD was strengthened through work on the paralegal training manual²⁹ and the 'respectful workplace guidelines for the public sector'³⁰; as well as with CIABOC on the Code of Conduct on SB and SH³¹. The committees are expected to be more supportive to survivors than previously and perpetrators, when identified, will face punitive measures through existing processes for public officials. The MWCD has approved both initiatives, however completion of trainings were not possible during the project timeline and will be taken forward through other funding sources. The MWCD, under new administration, has proposed measures to ensure a respectful workplace and learning sessions to prevent SH and SB alongside the setup of anti-SH committees. These decisions resulted from discussions initiated by UNDP and UN Women. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 field officers and government officials were not able to receive the in-person training planned for October 2020.

COVID-19 not only led to delay and/or cancellation of some planned interventions, the negative ramifications of the crisis included economic hardships and heightened vulnerabilities of women to gender-based violence and sexual exploitation due to the increased presence of frontline security personnel, such as the police and military as part of the government's response measures. This underscored the project's strategic relevance.³² Given that beneficiary livelihoods were threatened and government priorities centred on relief efforts, UN Women and UNDP proactively examined ways to adapt implementation modalities towards emergency relief measures to help alleviate the negative effects of COVID-19 on FHHs and to sustain engagement. The project's WEE component provided important support to many beneficiaries whose livelihoods were threatened by the pandemic. The proposed business options also encouraged beneficiaries to adapt to a 'new normal.' For many beneficiaries the economic strengthening programme was well-timed as they faced significant reduction in household income due to the death or retirement of their husband.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome: (1000 character limit)

The rights-based project results framework was structured to empower marginalized women to overcome poverty and vulnerability in order to facilitate their meaningful contribution to peacebuilding and development processes. The approach targeted diverse stakeholders and challenged gender norms and structural factors that reinforce inequality and perpetuate isolation. The project promoted women's empowerment, including of youth, through the development of knowledge products and tools to support institutional responses to SB and SH and through collaboration with the MWCD as a key actor for the promotion of supportive responses to survivors and punitive measures for perpetrators.

²⁸ Refer Annex 3 - Project Timeline

²⁹ Please see the Paralegal Training Manual and Resource Book (Annex 4 to the 2020 Annual Report)

³⁰ Refer Annex 1 - Respectful workplace guidelines for the public sector.

³¹ Please see the Code of Conduct SB and SH (Annex 5 to the 2020 Annual Report).

³² For more information please see: <https://thediplomat.com/2020/04/how-to-enforce-covid-19-emergency-measures-without-putting-women-at-risk/>.

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

<p>Monitoring: Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit).</p> <p>1) UN Women and UNDP obtained regular M&E progress updates from implementing partners (IPs) on a quarterly and annual basis.³³</p> <p>2) The Project Activity and Indicator Tracker tool³⁴ managed and updated quarterly by UN Women provides a consolidated snapshot of the most-up-to-date progress towards set targets.</p> <p>3) The Centre for Equality and Justice (CEJ), the main IP, carried out field visits to assess district-level IPs’ adherence to the M&E procedures, while assessing the progress made through conducting focus group discussions with beneficiaries in all the three target districts.</p> <p>4) UN Women provided technical feedback to ensure evidence-based reporting and to capture necessary project information to track progress through proper data collection methods, including registration sheets and questionnaires.</p> <p>5) UNDP provided regular monitoring of the project using their critical results pathway analysis, while undertaking monitoring field visits to the project locations. UNDPs field presence further strengthened project monitoring in Kilinochchi and enabled the clearing of an administrative bottleneck faced by the CSO partner on the ground, obtaining approval from the District Secretariat to train beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? Yes</p> <p>Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? Yes</p> <p>Per the no-cost extension, the Project Results Framework now reflects the inclusion of “FHHs” in output and outcome level targets and indicators. The findings from the baseline perceptions survey, completed by an independent firm in December 2019, informed updates to Indicator 1a under Outcome 1.³⁵</p>
<p>Evaluation: Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period?</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required): USD 30,000</p>

³³ Please see Annex 4 Final End-Project Report Submitted by IP

³⁴ Please see Annex 8 M&E Project Activity and Indicator Tracker

³⁵ Please see the Baseline Perceptions Survey Report, which was included as Annex 14 to the 2020 Annual Report to the PBF.

<p>The final evaluation was completed.</p>	<p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (1500 character limit): A joint final evaluation³⁶ of the project was completed. Key findings are outlined below. Detailed findings and recommendations are provided in the annexed evaluation report.</p> <p>1. <u>Relevance:</u> The project’s innovative topic and design was aligned with the PBF’s focus on innovation towards the protection of women. However, the introduction of a sensitive topic, such as SB, tends to be more difficult to address and the project faced resistance from government structures.</p> <p>2. <u>Efficiency:</u> The project was successful in establishing and strengthening FHH collectives, exceeding the original target of 12 groups to 61. FHH reported that being part of the collectives helped to create bonds among themselves. However, COVID-19 suspended in-person meetings and the long-term sustainability of these groups in the future is in question. Some 90% of evaluation respondents indicated that their knowledge on SB had increased significantly since participating in the training and awareness programmes promoted through the collectives.</p> <p>3. <u>Sustainability:</u> The project has contributed to bringing the issue to the notice of national policymakers, however, given the implementation constraints of the project, there is no evidence of behaviour change on the part of government officers, however, all stakeholders in the implementation chain are willing to continue work in this area.</p> <p>4. <u>Gender Equality and Human Rights:</u> The project was found to be gender responsive³⁷ with a strong focus to address the needs of women as voiced by them, helping them to be more financially independent and well-informed about their rights.</p>
<p>Catalytic effects (financial): Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.</p>	<p>Name of funder: Government of Japan Amount: USD 117,000</p> <p>The Government of Japan contributed USD 117,000 to the UN Women “Women, Peace and Security” programme, which expanded the scope of the project’s WEE component conducted in two divisions within the</p>

³⁶ See Annex 2 - Final Evaluation report

³⁷ Ranked 3 on a scale of 1 to 3, 1 being the lowest gender marker and 3 being the highest.

	<p>Kilinochchi district. The funding supported pilot interventions aimed at strengthening the entrepreneurial skills of FHHs, including military and war widows, and providing select beneficiaries with business grants to improve livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>The positive feedback garnered from field observations and interviews with beneficiaries who have taken part in the pilot have signalled the effectiveness of the methods used (i.e. trainings and beneficiary/grant selection processes).</p> <p>The lessons learned from pilot interventions facilitated the successful scaling up of the project’s WEE components, with the implementing CSO partner for the pilot, (Chrysalis) going on to lead interventions in the remaining two divisions in Kilinochchi and in the districts of Anuradhapura and Kurunegala.</p> <p>Name of funder: Government of Australia Amount: USD 51,000</p> <p>The Government of Australia provided USD 51,000 to UN Women as a one-time COVID-19 emergency relief fund. UN Women, in partnership with the project’s district-level implementing partner – Viluthu – directed these funds towards economic stimulus packages for project beneficiaries affected by the COVID-19 pandemic from Kilinochchi.</p>
<p>Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? <i>(1500 character limit)</i></p>	<p>The approval of a no-cost extension through 31 October 2020 provided an opportunity for project implementers to collectively review progress and plan for six months given the project context and ongoing challenges.</p> <p>However, COVID-19 related restrictions on physical gatherings and inter-district travel affected planned activities and intervention methods given that most actions were designed to be held in-person and within groups. A joint review and planning exercise were undertaken to identify a feasible, impactful implementation plan. Alternative online/digital implementation modalities (i.e. Zoom) were adopted where possible. Moreover, project implementors had to align activities with approved national health and safety guidelines within a ‘new normal’ setting (i.e. increase the number of trainings to accommodate smaller gatherings, which imposed an additional time constraint). In addition, general elections held in August 2020 added another layer of complications for the project.</p>

	<p>As a result, programming was stalled for four of the six months of the no-cost extension period. The project team worked to expedite implementation as much as possible, however, Sri Lanka faced a resurgence of COVID-19 cases for a third time. Project implementation halted once again, and several pending activities did not reach fruition by the project end-date.</p>
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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:

None: Challenges and additional expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19 were covered within budgeted activities.

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

The project team reviewed the timeline, sequencing of activities, methodology, implementation strategy, communications strategy and results framework in order to mitigate adverse effects resulting from COVID-19. Project implementors aligned activities with approved national COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, which resulted in time and implementation constraints (i.e., having to increase the number of trainings to accommodate smaller gatherings; using online conferencing such as Zoom). In some cases, the project team was unable to carry out activities prior to the project end date of 31 October 2020. Outcome specific details are provided below:

Outcome 1 relied heavily on field-level interactions with project beneficiaries, and faced severe setbacks in terms of completing the SB/SH complaints reporting platform; leadership/peacebuilding trainings; and the conclusion of diversity market fairs, which would have brought together all project beneficiaries and stakeholders that had undergone many tiers of trainings, thus creating a productive environment for networking and cementing a solid platform for further advocacy and engagement.

Outcome 2 expected results were heavily reliant on engagement with public institutions. In addition to the unavoidable administrative and political challenges faced related to staff turnover and the elections, due to COVID-19, government stakeholders had to prioritize national health and in response to the pandemic. Given this, training of public officials on gender and SB; legal aid clinics; and technical support to state and public sector institutions on integrating or adopting measures to address SB and SH were unable to take place. While MWCD was keen to collaborate on key interventions, the project was not granted a second no-cost extension due to the ongoing pandemic.

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): Strengthening the peace dividend among youth (children of widows/FHH)

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.*)

The project team was alerted to a pressing need for COVID-19 emergency relief by project beneficiaries from low-income backgrounds. Given that the PBSO had advised recipient UN organizations to not use project funds for COVID-19 emergency relief, the project team mobilized alternate funds for this purpose. In partnership with the district-level implementing partner, Viluthu, the project provided economic stimulus packages to affected beneficiaries in Kilinochchi. This emergency-relief initiative enabled project implementors to return to the field once mobility restrictions were lifted and continue to positively engage with the same beneficiaries on project-related interventions.

PART IV: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

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

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Outcome 1 Empowered FHHs (including military and war widows) have sustainable livelihoods, and access social support services with dignity	Indicator 1 a % of FHHs (including military and war widows) who are subjected to SB and sexual exploitation when accessing services. Proxy Indicator: % of FHHs (including military and war widows) report that people in their area have to resort to SB to obtain services	23.8% of FHHs (including military and war widows) report that the people in their area have to resort to SB to obtain services	Reduced to 15%	-	Achieved: An 8.8% reduction (from 23.8% to 15%) was measured through the end line telephone survey ³⁸ conducted during the project final evaluation.	The indicator and initial baseline (50%) and target (25%) were updated per the baseline perceptions survey. The revised indicator serves as a <u>proxy</u> to determine the prevalence of SB among the target population as there is no other reliable method/source available to capture the prevalence. Field reports highlighting the strong reluctance of beneficiaries to report SB cases informed the decision for a conservative, albeit realistic target of a reduction to 15%.

³⁸ A remote telephone survey was conducted to accommodate challenges to mobility experienced as a result of COVID-19.

	Indicator 1 b % of FHHs (including military and war widows) beneficiaries who have used the grant provided to establish or upscale an existing business venture, disaggregated by widow type.	0%	At least 50% of grant recipients	-	Assessment underway: 79% improved existing business and 16% started new enterprises. Business skills and proposal development trainings have been completed for 277 FHHs including military and war widows in the 3 districts (85 in Kurunegala, 95 in Anuradhapura and 97 in Kilinochchi).	Grant provision has been completed. The percentage of FHHs who have used the grant to establish/upscale an existing business venture was assessed in the final evaluation (Annex 2). 79% of FHH/ widows surveyed indicated they had developed/ improved an existing business venture after undergoing the trainings and 16% indicated they had started a new business.
Output 1.1 FHHs (including military widows and war widows) have increased knowledge of their rights and have access to complaint mechanisms on bribery.	Indicator 1.1.1 # of widows' collectives inclusive of FHHs formed/strengthened	0	12 collectives (across 3 districts)	-	Exceeded: 61 collectives and self-help groups (across 3 districts)	District level implementing partners expanded outreach to additional divisions, resulting in a higher number of collectives/ groups and mobilized women than anticipated.
	Indicator 1.1.2 # of FHHs (including military and war widows) that are members of collectives formed/strengthened who have increased knowledge of their	0	750 (across 3 districts)	-	Exceeded: 1,107 FHHs (192 war widows, 311 military widows, 604 FHHs) across 3 districts have been mobilized and received multiple awareness raising and capacity building trainings.	District level implementing partners expanded outreach to additional divisions, resulting in a higher number of collectives/ groups and women mobilized than anticipated.

	rights, disaggregated by type of widow					
	Indicator 1.1.3 % of FHHs (including military and war widows) trained to access legal and other services, disaggregated by type of widow.	0	70% of FHHs/widows within collectives trained	-	Partially achieved: 34% FHHs and military and war widows, as representatives of women's collectives and self-help groups, received capacity development training on relevant laws and regulations, mental health coping strategies and identifying and responding to at-risk behaviour among children (382 of 1,107 collective members).	Beneficiaries have participated in informal and formal trainings and discussion sessions led by the trained representatives, with indicator progress at 34%. Note, at conception, the project anticipated reaching 70% of FHHs across 12 collectives, however during implementation, a far greater number of collectives were established (61 collectives with 1,107 members).
	Indicator 1.1.4 # of users accessing the online/offline complaints reporting platform.	0	100	-	Not achieved: Preliminary work to develop the complaints platform completed. Activity did not reach completion due to delays related to COVID-19.	The activity was not completed as planned, due to the delays encountered as a result of COVID-19.

Output 1.2 The civil society is strengthened to provide services for the protection of victims of sexual exploitation and SB	Indicator 1.2.1 # of CSOs who are increasingly providing services, information and referrals for FHHs including war and military widows	0	10	-	Exceeded: 66 CSOs ³⁹ from Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Kilinochchi and Colombo have strengthened their capacity to serve the needs of FHHs and military and war widows.	Follow-up and monitoring activities were cancelled due to COVID-19.
	Indicator 1.2.2 # of FHHs (including military and war widows) provided with legal assistance through CSOs	0	50	-	Exceeded: 106 clients accessed legal assistance (29% under sexual bribery and 71% for SGBV)	Activity completed. 2 CSOs namely, Women In Need (WIN) and Women Development Centre (WDC) contracted to provide legal assistance to FHH. 7 legal assistance sessions/clinics held physically by CSOs in the 3 districts supported by several online sessions using WhatsApp and messenger and through phone calls. Awareness programmes using social media were conducted for community stakeholders and individual groups with close to 500 viewers on social media reached to provide legal assistance to 106 FHHs including military and war

³⁹ Please refer to Annex 5 - List of CSOs

						widows (Kurunegala - 4; Anuradhapura - 92; Kilinochchi - 10). Of the legal assistance provided, 29% was under sexual bribery, while 71% was under SGBV.
	Indicator 1.2.3 # of complaints filed by FHHs (including military and war widows).	0	20	-	Partially Achieved: 18 (legal action commenced 4 in Kurunegala; 8 in Anuradhapura and 6 in Kilinochchi).	Activities corresponding to indicator 1.2.2 and 1.2.3 did not take place as planned due to the reluctance of beneficiaries to report and file SB cases in court and pursue legal support when/if available.
Output 1.3 ⁴⁰ FHHs, including military widows and war widows increase their entrepreneurial knowledge and skills	Indicator 1.3.1 # of FHHs (including military and war widows) who are trained to commence a business or enterprise.	0	280 military and war widows	-	Exceeded: Over 400 military and war widows underwent first line training, of which 301 received financial and business management training, culminating in the awarding of 277 grants.	Activity completed. The increased mobilization of beneficiaries through collectives led to higher numbers of beneficiaries being trained.
	Indicator 1.3.2 # of FHHs (including military and widows) provided with	0	200 military and war widows (based on the strength and	-	Exceeded: 277 FHH, including military and war widows in Kurunegala (85 FHH), Anuradhapura (95	Activity completed. Follow-up actions, including the completion of the diversity market fairs bringing together the trained beneficiaries and

⁴⁰ For reference, indicator 1.3.3 was eliminated in consultation with the PBF during the second reporting cycle in 2019.

	grants, disaggregated by type of widow.		quality of proposals submitted)		FHH) and in Kilinochchi (97 FHH) provided with grants.	grant recipients from all three districts did not take place as planned due to COVID-19 related delays, followed by the project concluding on 31 October 2020.
Outcome 2 Increased commitment of public institutions to prevent and respond to SB and to protect FHHs, including military and war widows from sexual exploitation	Indicator 2.1.a # of circulars/ guidelines/ policies which incorporate explicit commitment and/or accountability measures within the public sector to prevent and respond to SB and exploitation	1	2	-	Exceeded: 3; 1.Circular on adopting zero tolerance policy with regard to sexual bribery and sexual harassment 2.Code of conduct on sexual bribery 3. Respectful workplace guidelines formulated, inclusive of SH- and SB-related information for the inter-ministerial anti-SH committees.	Activity completed. Follow-up and monitoring activities were cancelled due to COVID-19.
	Indicator 2.1.b # of complaints received and action taken by the Anti-SH Committees	0	5	-	Not achieved: 0; Based on consultations with MWCD, the Anti-SH Committees will integrate structures for victims to seek support in accordance with existing grievance/ complaints mechanisms.	Activity not completed due to significant implementation delays faced at the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. The new administration at MWCD has indicated commitment to take this initiative forward.

Output 2.1 The capacity of public institutions and officials are built to prevent and respond to bribery and to protect Female Heads of Households, including military and war widows from sexual exploitation.	Indicator 2.1.1 # of sensitisation programmes held for public officials on SH policies, legal frameworks, guidelines on response mechanisms, and accountability measures.	0	20	-	Exceeded: 44; The programmes were initiated with appropriate safety measures in place (i.e. small group settings and social distancing).	Activity completed. Significant implementation delays were faced at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Follow-up and monitoring activities were cancelled due to COVID-19.
	Indicator 2.1.2 # of public officials who complete the course on handling bribery complaints, including sexual bribery, harassment and exploitation	0	50	-	Not achieved: 0; A training module on gender and sexual bribery was completed. The trainings did not take place prior to the closure of the project due to COVID-19 related delays.	Activity not completed due to significant implementation delays faced at the onset of COVID-19 pandemic.
	Indicator 2.1.3 # of legal aid clinics conducted by capacitated local public officers on	0	At least 15 legal aid clinics	-	Not achieved: 0; The paralegal training manual was finalized and training was scheduled for October but was unable to take place prior to closure	Activity not completed as planned. Although the training manual was produced, legal aid clinics did not take place due to significant implementation delays related to Government

	preliminary assistance to survivors on possible legal remedies.				of the project due to COVID-19.	administrative changes and COVID-19.
Output 2.2 Strengthen existing accountability mechanisms to report and respond to sexual bribery and exploitation.	Indicator 2.2.1 # of public institutions with established and functioning Anti-SH Committees.	10 established though not functioning	12 established and fully functioning	-	Partially achieved: 10 Anti-SH Committees were established, however, they are not fully functioning due to changes in administration and the transfer of public officials in charge of the Committees. The planned trainings were hampered by these changes and by COVID-19. Efforts were made for Committees to be sensitized using online tools, however, the project end-date coincided with the appointment of an administration that was more committed to take forward project activities. Moreover, government institutions faced challenges	Activity not completed due to significant implementation delays faced at the onset of COVID-19 pandemic.

					accessing digital tools and standard routines, as officials were working from home where digital support was not available given the operational modality of the government.	
	Indicator 2.2.2 # of state/public sector institutions provided with technical support to integrate/adopt measures on addressing SB and exploitation	0	4	-	Not achieved: 0; The activities did not take place prior to the closure of the project due to COVID-19 related delays.	Activity not completed due to significant implementation delays faced at the onset of COVID-19 pandemic.