



United Nations  
Peacebuilding

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

**COUNTRY: SRI LANKA**

**TYPE OF REPORT: ANNUAL**

**YEAR OF REPORT: 2021**

**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

**Type and name of recipient organizations:**

- RUNO** UN Women (**Convening Agency**)
- RUNO** UNOPS

**Name of Recipient Fund:**

**Date of first transfer:** 22 November 2019

**Project end date:** 30 November 2021

**Is the current project end date within 6 months?** Yes

**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):**

<b>Recipient Organization</b>	<b>Amount</b>
UN Women	\$ 1,000,000
UNOPS	\$ 500,000
Total: \$ 1,500,000	

Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 89%

**\*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: USD 1,204,915.52 (80%)

Amount expended to date on activities focused on gender equality or women’s empowerment: USD 1,211,236.55 (80.75%) (within current project reporting period)

**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:**

3R	Re-use, Reduce, Recycle
DKP	Diversity Kitchen Programme
HHG	Household Greening
LA	Local Authority
PM	<i>Praja Mandala</i> (community-based groups)
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
QWM	Quick Win Mobilization
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

### ***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 achieved significantly and gathered momentum during 2021, despite the intermittent halting of core implementation due to several waves of the COVID-19 pandemic during the reporting period.

The assessments/studies that were intended to inform implementation were concluded, despite prolonged delays to field data collection imposed by the pandemic. The Results Framework (Annex 1) of the project was also revised based on the recommendations of the baseline survey enabling effective monitoring and reporting. Further, the findings of the 4 studies undertaken by the project were shared with the stakeholders at a virtual symposium.

The project undertook initiatives to improve service delivery and support to local communities reaching 4,500 households from the 48 Praja Mandalas areas (PMs – community-based groups). This included a series of quick-win mobilisation (QWM) initiatives, Diversity Kitchen Programmes (DKP), Household Greening (HHG) initiatives, public clean-up campaigns, compost making, and waste handling. The PMs led the entire organization and coordination of these events subsequent to the capacity building programmes conducted by the project. Such programmes helped to promote women’s leadership within the PMs and contributed towards promoting peace and reconciliation amongst the multi-ethnic communities. PMs were further strengthened with 45 PMs receiving action grants, enabling them to implement their Village Development Plans (VDPs) developed to resolve identified issues related to SWM in their respective communities. Religious leaders too continue to engage and participate in the PM activities and their presence has influenced peaceful behaviour and conflict mitigation among communities.

The capacity of identified male and female champions was enhanced to lead the behavioural/relational changes at the community/local level with the engagement of PMs and the Youth Task Force (YTF), which was established as the next layer of PM leadership and to promote youth engagement and build their capacity in SWM. The YTF’s participation in all mobilization initiatives has been invaluable and a strength to the PMs in implementing VDPs by promoting Participatory Rural Appraisal practices at the community level and advancing the greening initiative in which 1350 households have received greening equipment and materials. All four YTFs continue to promote 3R practices in both physical and social media platforms. A [Facebook campaign for youths of Puttalam](#) district to promote 3R practices and peacebuilding has reached a total of 17,636 active engagements for all published posts thus far.

The project successfully completed a series of 10 multi-stakeholder dialogues, 5 capacity building programmes and 2 district Townhalls that convened a total of 664 stakeholders which

provided them with a common open platform to discuss issues related to solid waste management (SWM), cross-cutting areas such as gender and develop inclusive solutions and plans in relation to SWM in their target communities. It also highlighted the contributions and relevance of the project and provided feedback for improvement.

District Women Councillors' Caucuses were established in the two districts, and the women councillors and LAs are implementing initiatives they conceptualized to resolve conflicts associated with SWM with support from the project. Consultations for engaging LAs and potential private sector partners on creating income-generating opportunities for women and youth through the monetizing of waste collection were completed and recommendations were made to revise the SWM policies and strategies of LAs.

The project team engaged in alternative implementation methods to ensure the above results amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic.

**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):**

The final independent evaluation of the project will commence from mid-November and is expected to be completed by mid-February 2022.

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

Outcome 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:

The key research pieces undertaken by the project, including the baseline assessment (Annex 2), the conflict and political analysis (for the project to effectively engage mainstream peacebuilding and conflict prevention at the community level - Annex 3) , and the series of multi-stakeholder dialogues on issues and solutions related SWM conducted in the two districts indicate that the original context within which the project was conceptualised has changed at the ground-level. The prolonged COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated multi-layered community tensions with clear ethnic and religious undertones. The project's efforts through a series of multi-stakeholder dialogues, capacity building programmes, district town halls, mobilization of PMs including the quick-win initiatives with the participation of state officials, to engage women, youth, religious leaders, and key stakeholders across ethnic and religious divides enabled staying engaged towards achieving its peacebuilding objectives including its clear mandate to encourage women's leadership in conflict resolution. Enhanced engagement of women with LAs and a change of behaviour towards peaceful approach to resolving issues, mainly of SWM, was conspicuous in the comments made by LA officials at the recently concluded District Townhalls organized by UN Women. Accordingly, LAs observe and appreciate that the communities now resort to discussions and negotiations with the LAs instead

of resorting to heated confrontations like in the past, attributing the change of behaviour as an outcome of 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

During this period, the main contribution was to focus on developing infrastructure and capacity building programmes. Leachate generation and continuous open burning was hindering operations of solid waste management facilities. Once a neighbouring community set fire to the dumpsters that burnt for few days and local authorities needed a huge effort to control it. The project realized that it was due to lack of proper management of the facility and dumpsites and intervened with continuous education programs especially for the LA staff and the general public to have a deeper understanding of the waste management practices and its benefits. The project supported the LA to construct a retaining wall to prevent leachate entering the compost facility. Dumpsites in Puttalam Urban Council area were covered using the ‘sandwich’ techniques that were well received by the communities.

36 Praja Mandalas in Puttalam have enhanced capacity in compost production (using the ‘lean’ technique), 3R and business development and they now have the ability to clearly classify different types of plastic that can be used as raw materials in enterprises. The nine block business model was introduced, to 108 PM members (70% were women), as a planning tool to enter into a business. They were linked to local authorities to establish partnerships.

**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 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 mobilisation activities, diversity kitchen programmes and 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 project interventions, households have begun to segregate waste by themselves at the point of generation. Some have even started to use processed organic waste as plant nutrients which indicates the households are starting to play their role in waste management. Dilushani Fernando, a social worker and community leader in Puttalam said: “I learned a lot about waste segregation and the economic benefits of upcycling while reducing waste. Now I always think twice before throwing away something. I use it to create something new instead. This is what I hope to teach young children in my community.” The segregation of waste at household level has also improved the occupational health and safety of the workers as the risk of physical injury due to glass, metal and hazardous waste is less with already sorted waste. LAs have said that “segregation has eased waste collection services”. Further, through the project community mobilization initiatives, diverse members of the community have volunteered to collectively

clean their beach and public places in solidarity with LAs to highlight the importance of keeping the public places clean and keep vigilance on illegal waste disposal.

Finally, as mentioned above, the views expressed by the LAs at the District Town Hall organized by UN Women recently 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.

Furthermore, it could be seen that local authorities and the public comply with new directives developed by the local government with the support of the project team. Therefore, it could be noted that the project has delivered positive human impact. (Please refer to the progress under Outcome 2 for additional information.)

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***

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

The reporting period was marked by intermittent halting of core implementation due to recurring waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the project’s implementation strategy was regularly revisited by the project team to ensure the achievement of this outcome. It enabled clear pathways for collaborative implementation, which proved to be a valuable result despite stagnated periods of implementation.

The re-establishment of PMs formed the basis for beneficiary mobilisation which led to the creation of Women Councillors’ Caucuses in the two districts, thus initiating a strong platform for women community leaders to engage in key decisions. Accordingly, 48 PMs with a membership of 50 each (76% women) were re-established, and 48 PMs (Puttalam - 39, Mannar - 9) have enhanced capacity for SWM and peacebuilding (Total 176; F-127, M-49). 45 PMs received action grants to implement their Village Development Plans that were developed with technical support from the project. PM members, along with members of the YTF took the leadership in initiating 57 quick-win mobilisation activities such as Diversity Kitchens, SWM related awareness campaigns such as HHG, beach cleaning activities and sports tournaments, with a diverse cross section of participants of youth, religious leaders, community member, LA staff, and government officials. This resulted in the strengthening of PMs, which were mostly defunct, in playing a pivotal role in SWM.

DKs were another opportunity to engage PMs in community cohesion where members from diverse cultural backgrounds (Sinhala, Tamil, and Muslim) prepared unique cuisines based on their cultures which were shared amongst all, that enhanced mutual community understanding and respect for diversity. A total of 968 beneficiaries including 259 youth from 41 PMs actively engaged in these programmes in both districts. Under the HHG, 1,340 households have enhanced awareness on SWM and have received equipment and material support such as compost bins, home gardening tools, eco-friendly substitutes etc, and nearly 200 (M-50, F-150) received further capacity building in SWM. Youth in the YTF are involved in following up with PM members and households and promoting Participatory Rural Appraisal practices

at community level to resolve issues related to SWM. To support and engage religious stakeholders within the conversation of SWM and its potential for conflict amongst communities, inter-religious committees were identified as platforms. Religious leaders continue to engage and participate in the PM activities and their presence has influenced peaceful behaviour and conflict mitigation among communities.

Awareness-raising and public-education programmes conducted during the reporting period have increased women's engagement with local authorities, particularly as an entry-point to decision-making on issues stemming from ineffective SWM. Post-training evaluations show on average a 50% increase in the knowledge on SWM practices (Out of 222 women). For participatory solutions on SWM, LAs and women councillors and PMs have agreed on proposals, which are implemented through the support of the project. Further engaging the LAs with private sector partners on creating income-generating opportunities for women and youth through the monetizing of waste collection, a dialogue was initiated to provide recommendations to revise the SWM policies and strategies of LAs by identifying areas for collaboration with private sector for income generation.

664 (including 90% women) were able to develop shared solutions to pertinent common issues on SWM and other community issues at the series of 5 multi-stakeholder dialogues, 5 women centred dialogues, 5 capacity building programmes and 2 district town halls organized by UN Women offering an extended platform that brought together a diverse group of beneficiaries, including LAs, gov. officials, religious leaders, community leaders and members, youth, media members, across both districts. According to participants it was the first time an array of different stakeholders came together openly on a common topic, and it enabled them, in particular heads of LAs, to understand the expectations of different stakeholders in SWM. PM members displayed the need for capacity building in presenting their views and issues to ensure their active and meaningful participation in local government decision making in the future. For many it was also the first time they met their political representatives in the local council and a good opportunity to expand networks for collaboration. Some local councils expressed their desire in including SWM activities within their next annual plans and budgets. These dialogues and subsequent events were based on the fact that the gendered division of household labour results in women being mostly responsible for waste management and their community engagement results in greater responsiveness to citizens' needs, often increasing cooperation and delivering more sustainable peace.

**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 project, in its conceptualisation and design, has taken into consideration the gendered roles that position women within families and communities to influence the motivations that drive individuals to support intolerant ideologies. It also considers the gendered division of household labour that results in women being mostly responsible for waste management, hence they play critical roles in responding to environmental degradation at the community level.

The project recognises 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 in the recent series of multistakeholder 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.

**Outcome 2: 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**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:** *On Track*

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

Local Authorities were able to deliver regular services that were ad-hoc and demand based previously. With the project interventions waste collection has become a regular service done according to a regular schedule based on geographic zones. Following COVID-19 health guidelines, field level activities were completed to improve service delivery with support from local communities. House to house awareness programmes, clean-up programmes, home compost making programmes, demonstration of compost production and waste handling are some of the initiatives undertaken during this period. Following the community engagement and capacity building activities, the public started to dispose of segregated waste appropriately when handing over to LAs. For example, the waste collection area was divided into 11 wards and regular services were given to communities residing in ward 1 to ward 9 where most of the community were the host community. Migrant communities living in wards 9,10 and 11 were isolated from the solid waste management 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. Community representatives were part of the planning process of waste management service. Notably, compliance rate of the solid waste segregation system was more than 70%. Monthly meetings at the local authority level have been organized and now local authority leaders organize these meetings. Operational aspects of the solid waste management system were discussed in the meeting. Six waste collection tractors with trailers and ten additional trailers were procured and provided to partner local authorities to further expand the service delivery. This has enabled the LAs to treat collection from all residents in a fair manner.

Construction of a retaining wall to stop leachate reaching the compost facility was completed and leachate did not enter the compost facility during periods of seasonal rainfall. Therefore, the compost production could be continued even during rainy seasons. Design and design review for the temporary recycling facility was completed and construction of the facility is under way, at the time of writing. Further, dumpsite closure demonstration activities and clean-up programmes and the closure of the Puttalam dumpsite was completed and local authorities were practicing control dumping. Closure of the Chilaw dump site was in progress, at the time of writing.

The project has established a platform where people could convey their opinion and voice for their rights. There was a communication gap among the public, the management and waste management staff. Therefore, local authorities decided upon required services based on

available resources. However, the project has linked the community, Praja Mandala, local authorities, and other stakeholders. Praja mandala were equipped with tools (one cubic meter bag - 5 and wheelbarrows - 8) to collect recyclable waste and process them. This has encouraged them to initiate business initiatives. This has created an opportunity for households and communities to address their issues not only linked to solid waste management but also other aspects like requirement of drainage cleaning, condition of roads, etc.. Women leaders were able to take part in the planning process of LAs and were able to influence/motivate the communities to use waste for their own benefit rather than handing over to LA for disposal.

**Links to self explanatory evidence: Case Study – Clean-up programme -**[\(1.Attachments - Google Drive, Compost production by LA in Puttalm - 2.Attachments - Google Drive](#)

**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)*

Waste management is one of the areas where the workforce is dominated by men. Decisions have been taken by local authority staff who are predominantly men as well. The project has focused at the household level, where it is predominantly women who have had to directly deal with waste management at household level. Their expectations and concerns need to be reflected at the local authority level in order to provide better services through their engagement and voice at this level. Therefore, the general public (women – 3039) was educated through various events or activities. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the project organized 115 formal events (Chilaw UC - 41 activities, Arachchikattuwa PS- 35 activities, Puttalam UC - 27 activities, Kalpitiya PS - 12 activities). These were mainly one to one meetings, events or activity on internal institutional marketing with local authority to negotiate with key staff to make them understand the expectation of the public and local authorities. The purpose of such meetings were to explain the roles of both public and government counterparts and create a platform for the community to voice their needs. 8,700 leaflets were distributed in this regard. For instance, there were different understandings between the community residing in Curusapadu village and their local authority. Even though other local communities were prepared to comply with the waste management system introduced by Urban Council Chilaw, the Curusapadu community did not want to comply with the local authority rules, they openly commented that they were neglected by the Local Authority. The project team had continuous dialogues with youths in the village, fishing society, religious leaders and other community stakeholders. After more than a year of negotiation and discussion with relevant stakeholders, they were agreeable to continuously support the waste collection policy and regulations set by the Chilaw Urban Council.

However, without continuous advocacy, support to the waste management system may lead to non compliance in the long run. Therefore, it is important to look for long term funding support or continuous short tems support is required to bring down behavioural changes.

**PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

<p><b>Monitoring:</b> Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)</p>	<p><b>Do outcome indicators have baselines?</b> Yes Missing baselines and targets for <u>four</u> indicators under Outcome 1 indicators and <u>two</u> indicators under Outcome 2</p>
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<p>UN Women and UNOPS have provided substantial technical support on Monitoring and Evaluation during the reporting period.</p> <p>Monthly project review meetings are held to follow-up on the implementation of the consolidated workplan and targets, expenditure and emerging challenges resulting from COVID-19 restrictions.</p> <p>A Project Monitoring Framework is updated on a regular basis by the project team. (Annex 4). Based on the findings of the Baseline and Perception Survey, the Project’s Results Framework was revised to reflect emerging challenges, while identifying realistic targets in consultation with all project implementing partners (Annex 5).</p> <p>In addition to the project’s monitoring framework, UNOPS has set up a monitoring system at the local-authority level aimed at observing SWM service delivery in a transparent and accountable manner.</p> <p>Due to travel restrictions from a resurgence of few Covid-19 waves during the reporting period, monitoring field visits were cancelled and limited to virtual meetings.</p>	<p>were established based on the findings of the baseline and perception survey.</p> <p><b>Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? Yes</b></p> <p>The project undertook a baseline and perceptions survey at the inception, as a pre-requisite to inform the subsequent implementation. Further, the findings of the baseline/perception survey were used in establishing missing baselines and targets in the Results Framework.</p> <p>The project has also conducted a perception survey on the waste management service delivery in communities. The survey was conducted in three local authority areas using random distribution sampling. 307 (175F and 132M) individuals were selected for the survey. 57% of them are female. More than 70% of the participants expressed that they are happy with the current solid waste management services, which have been technically supported by the project.</p>				
<p><b>Evaluation:</b> Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? No evaluation of the project was scheduled to be conducted during the reporting period.</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required): USD 38,660</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (<i>1500 character limit</i>):</p> <p>The final evaluation is scheduled to be conducted from November 2021 to mid-February 2022, and the recruitment process was initiated in October 2021, once the TORs were approved by PBF HQ.</p>				
<p><b>Catalytic effects (financial):</b> Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.</p> <p>Not at this current stage of the project.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Name of funder:</td> <td>Amount:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	Name of funder:	Amount:	N/A	N/A
Name of funder:	Amount:				
N/A	N/A				

<p><b>Other:</b> Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? (1500 character limit)</p>	<p>The project team faced challenges to implementation throughout the year 2020 and 2021, due to Covid-19. Due to the delays imposed by the pandemic, this affected the sequence of activities that were organised in a linear fashion.</p> <p>The pandemic lockdowns and national health/safety regulations intermittently restricted access to project areas and stakeholders, the number of participants attending project-specific activities, which placed a strain on project resources (i.e. staff time, costs and implementation timeline).</p> <p>The project team also encountered a new challenge posed by a local authority in Puttalam (Urban Council) indicating that the establishment of efficient SWM systems would result in a decrease in waste generation, thus creating consequences of 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 Pradeshiya Sabha (second-tier local authority) in Puttalam.</p> <p>Further, the project team had to conceptualise 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.</p> <p>Due to the current economic condition of the country and import restrictions, there was a significant shortage in the availability/supply of building materials and hardware items. For example, based on the current Gazette notification (legal notification), the price of 50 kilograms of cement price was approx. LKR 1,098 (USD 5.5). However, the price of the item available in the market is 23% higher than the legal price. Further, suppliers demanded that in the event of purchasing tor bars only, was it possible to purchase cement bags. Suppliers were not prepared to provide quotations to the items that the project team wanted to purchase.</p> <p>The project team experienced several political challenges during the implementation of the project and it leads to several discussion and delayed the project activities. The project team was able to negotiate and navigate through all these challenges through discussions with the relevant stakeholders.</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:

\$ 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 current pandemic situation, extensive programs 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.)*

The new dynamics emerging from a COVID-19 context has made the project team more cognizant of adhering to 'do no harm' principles, while encouraging inclusive modalities for beneficiary engagement. It is expected that this renewed approach to implementation would help diffuse ethno-religious sensitivities resulting from socio-economic and socio-political consequences of the pandemic, that can be verified by the final evaluation of the project scheduled to be commenced along with the closure in end November 2021.

**PART V: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

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

	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>End of project Indicator Target</b>	<b>Indicator Milestone</b>	<b>Current indicator progress</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)</b>
<b>Outcome 1</b> 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 Praja Mandala 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 councilors out of total women councilors in all 5 LGAs are elected members. Others are	1) 30%  2) 50%  3) 10%	Multi-year targets not defined	Substantial progress towards achieving this indicator has been made during the reporting period with community mobilizations around the (re)establishment of PMs and completion of leadership/capacity building initiatives. This provided a platform for women community leaders to engage in key decisions. District Women Councilors’ Caucuses were setup strengthening women’s leadership and participation in decision making.  Accordingly, 48 PM were re-established (100% completed) and to promote the leadership of PM, 57 QWMA activities were conducted. PMs took leadership in developing VDP and received action grants for the SWM solutions they identified. Awarding identified Women and men as Champions in SWM is also expected to strengthen the leadership and decision-making roles at the community and local levels.  The Final Evaluation is expected to verify the indicator targets.	

		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	Updating the final indicator value is an expected finding at the Final Evaluation. However, 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 aimed at diffusing triggers of conflict through cultural exchange. Further, the series of 10 multi-stakeholder dialogues and 2 District Townhalls offered a platform to bring a diverse group of 500 including LAs, gov. 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 % have '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 % have 'very confident or confident' that women have the ability	1) 50%  2) 50%	Multi-year targets not defined	PMs were re-established and strengthened through various mobilization, series of multistakeholder dialogues and leadership/capacity building initiatives, as described above, in addition to the establishment of Caucuses of Women Councilors for Puttalam and Mannar districts, towards achieving conflict resolution and peacebuilding around SWM. Strengthened PMs have given leadership in organizing Household Greening initiatives, identification of community based solutions, 57 QWMA activities including Diversity Kitchen Programmes that brought different communities together around SWM and enhanced community cohesion that can influence local triggers of conflict.	

		to avoid situations that automatically spark violent conflict.			Final indicator value is expected to be updated at the Final Evaluation	
	Indicator 1.4 % of the perceived inclusivity of community-based mechanisms to address critical issues such as solid waste management in target communities	0%	50%		The series of Multi-stakeholder dialogues, capacity building initiatives, and Action grants to PMs to implement community based solutions facilitated by the project through Village Development Plans provided and promoted more opportunities to address SWM issues through community based approaches.  Final indicator value is expected to be updated at the Final Evaluation.	
Output 1.1 Increased knowledge and capacities among women to identify and respond to emerging conflicts within/ amongst communities.	Indicator 1.1.1 # of community-based solutions identified for implementation through multi-stakeholder dialogues	0	At least 2 interventions per dialogue		Target exceeded.  45 Village Development Plans with community-based solutions developed by PMs with enhanced leadership skills provided through various mobilization initiatives and a series of 10 Multi stakeholder dialogues, received Action Grants from the project for their implementation.	Progress was made towards increasing knowledge and capacity of women amidst COVID-19 restrictions that delayed the accomplishment of planned activities.
	Indicator 1.1.2 Number of identified community-based solutions provided with implementation support	8 (By LAs in 2019)	53 (new 45)		45 Target achieved;  45 Village Development Plans 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 Action Grants being awarded.	

	Indicator 1.1.3: % of trained women community leaders who report increased capacity to identify and diffuse conflicts and reduce ethno-religious intolerance in their communities	0	At least 50%		164 women leaders who were identified through multi-stakeholder dialogues (out of 166), received training and enhanced their leadership capacity. They were successful in engaging the existing inter-religious groups/committees at district levels to address existing negative perceptions on peacebuilding work and challenge the prevailing attitudes about waste management and disposal.  Though there is anecdotal evidence, the final indicator percentage value is expected to be updated at the Final Evaluation.	
	Indicator 1.1.4: # of target community members capacitated on peacebuilding, social cohesion, and community development issues, including solid waste management	0	At least 200		184 religious leaders, youth, community members capacitated and Peace and reconciliation amongst different communities were promoted through the Diversity Kitchen programme carried out by 41 PMs in their respective locations to celebrate 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 Praja Mandala and Women's Councillors' Caucuses established/strengthened to better address community issues	1) 18 PMs 2) 0 Women's Councillors' caucuses established	1) 45 Praja Mandala newly established or re-activated (10 per division, 40 in Puttalam, 5 in Mannar);  2) Two Women's Caucuses (one per district) – Women caucuses primarily for Puttalam		Target achieved; 48 Praja Mandalas were (re)established; (19 PM reformed and 29 PM newly established) and 2 Women's Councilors' Caucuses for Puttalam District and Mannar District each established	COVID-19 restrictions that delayed the accomplishment of planned activities contributing to this output result. However, progress was made towards increasing women's engagement with local authorities despite these challenges.

issues including SWM	Indicator 1.2.2 # of Praja Mandala level peacebuilding and solid waste management initiatives, implemented with Community Action Grants	0	45 New initiatives		Target Achieved: 45 PMs received Action Grants for their VDPs which are being implemented with follow-up support provided by YTF.	Indicator has limited progress as Capacity building initiatives for LA officials and Councilors were delayed due to government staff were busy over other government priorities.
	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%		Final indicator value is expected to be updated at the Final Evaluation.  In addition to the capacity development for government officials and councillors, the project got them engaged in the multistakeholder dialogues, mobilization initiatives around PMs, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) of Village Development Programmes in participation with YTF to mitigate existing and potential triggers of conflict and adopt inclusive and collective leadership.	
Output 1.3 Economically and socially empowered women, ready to change gender relations and improve practices of environmental remediation amongst target communities in	Indicator 1.3.1 # of women and youth led solid waste management 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	This output was substantially delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions.
	Indicator 1.3.2 # of local authorities capacitated in promoting/providing income-generation	0	At least 4		4 LAs. Target achieved; In addition to the capacity building in this regard, the two district Townhalls included 2 sessions out of the 4 sessions directly related to income	

Puttalam and Mannar	opportunities for women through monetising of waste				generation with the participation of panels of experts in the country.	
	Indicator 1.3.3 # of Households supported in adopting to household level greening approaches in target communities	0	1,250 (5 divisions x 250 households)		Target exceeded; 1350 households were provided with material and equipment in adopting to household level greening while 800 out of them were provide further training on product development and income generation.	
<b>Outcome 2</b> 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	Indicator 2.1. # of mechanisms setup by trained local authorities that involves the participation of trained women in supporting to resolve/address issues related to waste in their communities	0	At least 1 per local body with at least 20% participation of trained women		Target Achieved: At least 2 mechanisms in the project target district have been established. Issue register and regular meetings fixed to resolve issues related to waste in the community. 73 trained women leaders took part in these events and in general there has been over 50% participation of women in all activities.	The COVID - 19 pandemic restricted implementation of the project outputs that are expected to contribute to this Outcome. The project locations were closed multiple times and the local authority staff were also victims to the pandemic. Despite these challenges, the project made substantial progress towards this Outcome: Items that have low economic value were delivered to the dumpsite.
	Indicator 2.2. % local Authority 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 Achieved: 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 achieved: 100% of the organic waste diverted to the compost facility were processed. 100% of recyclable waste diverted to the facility was processed and stored.	
	Indicator 2.4 % of HH satisfied with public service provision by local authorities in SWM	40%	60%		70% of beneficiaries who took part in the survey are satisfied.  Effective engagement of women in the planning process of local authority vested the	

					responsibility with the community and has encouraged households to prepare themselves to support waste collection systems. Accordingly, 29,180 households (65% of females) have enhanced knowledge and skills to support solid waste management practices implemented in the partner local authority area.	
Output 2.1 Local Authorities in target geographic areas have enhanced technical capacity to provide services related to SWM	Indicator 2.1.1 Number of local authorities provided with Capacity Building and technical advisory on managing and delivering SWM services	0	At least 3		4 (Target exceeded)  A minimum of 6 programmes were organised in each LA during the reporting period.  Engaged 431 (50% female) local authority staff to ensure sound understanding about solid waste management systems including the operations of dumpsites and impacts of improper disposal site management. Local authorities have already taken legal action against violators.	Due to restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, activities under this output were slow to progress.
	Indicator 2.1.2 % quantity of compost converted to revenue out of the total quantity of compost produced	0	30%		44% of Urban Council Puttalam of the produced compost is converted into revenue. 40% of Pradeshiya sabha, Kalpitiy of the produced compost is converted into revenue.	
Output 2.2 Public education and increased community awareness and knowledge on SWM	Indicator 2.2.1 Number of local authorities and Praja Mandalas trained on SWM	10	43 (33 new)		Target achieved; In 4 Local Authorities, 34 PMs (Kalpitiya - 11, Chilaw 13, Arachchikattuaw -10) trained on SWM.	Due to restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, activities under the outputs were slow to progress.
	Indicator 2.2.2 Number of women team leaders/champions trained to SWM practices	0	50		Target achieved; Active women Leaders 50 out of a total of 73 women leaders trained.	

	Indicator 2.2.3: Number 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 Number of illegal dumping sites	10	4		Target exceeded by 2 by bringing down the illegal dump sites from 10 to 2; Clean up programs and demonstration programs by the project educated staff to convert open dumpsites into control dumpsites.	
Output 2.4 Improved Waste Management capacity at Solid Waste Management Facilities	Indicator 2.4.1 Number of SWM facilities with composting capacity	1 (functioning)	3 (Additional 2 will be functional during the intervention)		2	There is no suitable land to construct another facility. The total number of centralized compost facilities will remain at 2. However, one recycling center was constructed.
	Indicator 2.4.2 Quantity of compost produced	3 tons per month	6 tons per month		At least 5 tons / month	Due to the pandemic, compost production was suspended for more than 3 months. However, the average production of the Puttalam UC was 3.5 tons per month. 1.5 tons per month was reported from the Kalpitiya local authority.

## ANNEXURES

### [Annexures in the Google Drive:](#)

Annex 1: Revised Results Framework

Annex 2: Baseline & Perception Survey and Stakeholder Mapping (*Final draft in the process of being edited*)

Annex 3: Conflict and Political Analysis (*draft*)

Annex 4: Project Monitoring Framework

Annex 5: Selected Pictures/Case Stories/Videos of SWM initiatives:

#### [Capacity Building Initiatives](#)

3Rs - Reduce, Reuse & Recycle – Monetizing waste

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>

**Case Study – Clean-up programme -1.**[Attachments - Google Drive](#),  
**Compost production by LA in Puttalm - 2.**[Attachments - Google Drive](#)

Link to YouTube Videos:

[Video on women's leadership](#)

[Video on gender and waste management : Sinhala | Tamil](#)