

## **PROJECT PROPOSAL**

### **Assisting vulnerable women-headed households affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting curfew within the Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts**

**Proposed by UN Women together with Viluthu**

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UN Women, as the lead UN agency championing gender equality and the empowerment of women, believes that the needs of women and girls should be at the centre of response and recovery efforts targeting the COVID-19 pandemic.

Women are at the frontline as essential service providers of Covid-19 prevention and response efforts and tend to be disproportionately affected by the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic that has exacerbated pervasive gender inequalities and discriminations facing women across the board.

Therefore, it is paramount that the needs of women in the context of the pandemic, including those of female health-care workers and survivors of gender-based violence, as well as direct impacts related to women and girls' unpaid care work, sexual and reproductive health and rights are addressed.

At present, UN Women works together with Viluthu to promote the socio-economic empowerment of women-headed households in the district of Kilinochchi through a project titled *"Addressing Sexual Bribery Experienced by Women Heads of Households including Military Widows and War widows in Sri Lanka to Enable Resilience and Sustained Peace"*.

Viluthu is a non-governmental organisation registered under the present Companies Act as a non-profit Limited by Guarantee which was founded by Activist Late Shanthi Sachithanandam in 2003. Viluthu has played an instrumental role in grassroots women's mobilisation, capacity building and empowerment in different areas and spheres. Viluthu founded, strengthens and continues to support Samsam (Women's Federation) and Amara (Women Heads of Households) Forums that spans over 20,000 members in the North, East and North West Provinces.

Viluthu has a close links and longstanding relationships with these community groups that has prompted the need to put forward this proposal for provision of urgent relief that is needed in the districts of Jaffna and Kilinochchi. It must be also mentioned that Viluthu is supporting women in other districts such as Mannar, Trincomalee and Mullaitivu with the support of our other partners.

**Detailed below is the concept to be rolled-out by UN Women and Viluthu in aid of women headed households affected by COVID-19 and the resulting curfew situation in the districts of Jaffna and Kilinochchi.**

#### **Background:**

At the start of the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the country initially went into a lockdown mode on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and thereafter the Government of Sri Lanka has called for strict curfew measures since 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020 in order to prevent and control the spreading of the virus. The curfew period has continued for over a month island-wide. Although curfew was lifted intermittently in the Northern Province, restrictions to mobility, still continue pose challenges for communities to undertake day-to-day functions, particularly income generation and livelihood activities.

The AGA estimates, that in the District of Jaffna alone more than 64,000 families could be identified as very vulnerable due to the imposed restrictions and are in need of immediate support. Likewise, the District Secretariat offices in Kilinochchi have also put forward a similar call seeking support from organisations such as Viluthu to aid vulnerable communities. Most families have witnessed periods of starvation or having essential needs unmet. In the Northern Province alone, it is estimated that around 121,506 families need immediate assistance by way of dry rations and food supplies.

In this pandemic, women, (particularly vulnerable and very vulnerable groups including but not limited to women heads of households; women with disabilities; women with injuries/physical or developmental conditions that prevent them from functioning in income generation but who do not fall directly under the disability category; and women ex-combatants) have been disproportionately affected as they rely mostly on daily income generation activities including micro industries (traditional) and home based farming or gardening. The reduction of mobility, and the closure/suspension of markets and modes of public transport have further impeded these challenges.

During this curfew period, women have been facing multiple challenges including sourcing food, as carers of dependents with debt burdens increasing. There have been economic and health implications that will have long lasting effects and not be limited to a short-term period. In addition to the struggles of isolation, these added burdens have entrapped women further in the poverty cycle. Currently, the Government is taking some measures to help as many with the limited resources available though schemes such as Samurdhi, which however provides a very limited monthly amount (usually LKR 5,000). The communication to Viluthu and other NGOs from the District Secretariats demonstrates the constraints to support the thousands that urgently need assistance.

#### **Proposed actions:**

Based on the rapid assessments and one-to-one discussion had with District government officials, below is the summary of proposed actions along with cost estimations. The affected families and women need continued support in the coming months in just surviving through this period till the environment enables them to engage in continued livelihood activities and reduces the care burdens of women (including food sourcing for their dependents which include children and the elderly) and will seek to prevent the severe food and nutrition crisis faced at present.

##### **(a) Delivery of relief packs**

The relief packs that are intended to be distributed will contain both dry food rations and hygiene materials as follows: rice, dhal, wheat flour, Soya meat, oil, cowpea/chickpea, tea, sugar, garlic, salt, dry fish, spices and hygiene materials such as sanitary napkins, soap and washing soap/powder. Each pack is estimated at **Rs. 7,500 each**. The actual amounts of the individual items will differ from DS to DS/ district to district based on response from the network of women leaders on items needed, however, the value of the pack will remain the same.

##### **(b) Beneficiary criteria and process**

Viluthu will be working closely with related government offices GS/DS in the respective districts as allocated when carrying forward this relief effort. Vulnerable women will be prioritised as beneficiaries and the process will involve the following steps:

- Basic criteria:
  - Women should be members of Amara, Samasam, Women Rural Development Society, WOWD or similar CBO.
  - Women selected must have any added vulnerability- ex: WHH/FHH, Women with Disabilities, members of families of the missing or disappeared, marginalised group such as ex-combatants or any other such category.

- Women who have not received dry ration or similar goods or cash grant that sustains them for the estimated 4 week/1 month period.
- The final criteria will be agreed upon by the district Samasam and Amara leaders and which contain conditions such as: details of number of minimum household member number, income levels for the past one month, previous assistance received/not received as relevant. The leaders will also agree on items packs for the relevant DS/District in order to respond according to the needs.
- Based on agreed criteria by the women leaders, beneficiary lists in the selected areas will be prepared and shared with the relevant DS/District officer responding/coordinating/appointed to coordinate with Viluthu and the final list will be agreed to by the said officer.
- Materials will be sourced according to Viluthu's procurement guidelines, which includes obtaining a minimum of 3 quotations for the relief, health and protection items and services such as packaging, delivery and transport.
- Packing of relief items and sorting/supporting will be done through the support of volunteers of the said relevant groups and networks.
- Each of the packages will have coding numbers and details of source of support and process and a contact number for complaints to ensure transparency and accountability. A log of these relief packages will be maintained by the coordinator appointed for this task.
- Delivery vehicles - lorries and vans will be utilised to transport goods and personnel (accompanied by Viluthu and government officials). All volunteers and personnel involved will be provided protective materials for handling of goods and for their safety.
- Pamphlets in local languages incorporating the Ministry of Health's instructions to be followed during the pandemic will be circulated, as remote communities have indicated a low knowledge of the virus, its spread, consequences and prevention measures.
- The confirmation of beneficiaries receiving the aid packages will be obtained via a signature or a thumbprint (with their full name as per the NIC, NIC number, address and contact details if any) and confirmed by the relevant government officer/representative and relevant coordinator/staff appointed by Viluthu.

**(c) Time period for proposed actions: 4 weeks**

**d) Target geographic areas and number of families to be supported by this intervention:**

- Jaffna: Thenmaratchi, Sandilipay, Uduvil, Point Pedro, Nallur (Ariyalai Poompukar): 300 families\*
- Kilinochchi-Karachi and Poonakary : 662 families\*
  - More support has been requested by Viluthu and numbers have been determined by the extent of resources available.

**e) Expected results:**

- Reducing burden of sourcing food in vulnerable communities for the proceeding month making it available for them to cover other costs incurred with any income earned or to address debts so that they do not get into debt traps further
- Addressing nutrition concerns in women and children
- Addresses immediate needs concerning shortage of food and financial resources for the same

**Estimated Budget\***

Personnel	Description	LKR	USD = 184.52
<b>Staff allowances/salary and other related benefits</b>			
Head Office: finance and administration department responsible for procurement  Jaffna and Kilinochchi teams- SCMs  Coordinators' fee	Covering only percentage of actual time allocated for the procurement and delivery of relief packages	180,000	975.50
Volunteer per diems covering travel and food and refreshments	10 volunteers x Rs.1600 x 10 days	160,000	867.10
<b>Transport</b>			
Transport - delivery	Colombo Jaffna delivery Jaffna to Kilinochchi Kilinochchi delivery	350,000	2152.70
Internal transport for coordinator/personnel	Jaffna and Kilinochchi	20,000	108.54
Internal travel for women leaders	60 x 500	30,000	162.50
Accommodation and food and refreshments	3 nights (4 days) for 4/5 personnel in Kilinochchi  In Jaffna	5000 x 4 x 3 = 60,000 1500 x 4 x 5 = 30,000 1500 x 3 x 5= 22,500	609.6
<b>Communication</b>			
HO, Jaffna team, Kilinochchi team Phone , internet and other communications	6 x Rs.500 personnel Rs. 5000	8,000	43.35

<b>Materials</b>			
Packaging materials, printing	Rs.250 x 962 bags/boxes Packaging/printing services Delivery charges	240,500	1303.38
Health, sanitising, protective material.	Masks, gloves, sanitiser, handwash, etc. for the entire project period for personnel, volunteers, government officers accompanying team, meeting of women leaders	200,000	1083.89
Stationary materials, pamphlets	Paper, printing, photocopy, pens and other items	10,000 48,100	54.19 260.60
<b>Storage</b>			
Storage space rent	Quotations to be received- only estimation	50,000	270.90
<b>Relief packs</b>	Rs.7,500 x 962	6,975,000	39,101.45
Administration costs incurred		73,808	400.00
7% management fee (UN Women)		665,434.47	3606.30
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>51,000.00</b>

\* UN Women is in a position to rapidly transfer the funds to the partner via a direct contracting modality.

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**Approved by:**

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Name: Mohammad Naciri  
Title: Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific  
UN Women ROAP  
Date: 13 August 2020

## Emergency Funding Budget

### Emergency PROJECT BUDGET\*

<b>Total Resources for the transfer (US\$)</b>	51,000.00
<b>% of Indirect Costs</b>	
<b>Total Indirect Costs</b>	3,336.45
<b>Total Direct Costs</b>	47,663.55

PROJECT BUDGET			
	CATEGORY	Total Amount (US\$)	UN WOMEN
1	Staff and other personnel costs		
2	Supplies, Commodities, Materials		
3	Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation		
4	Contractual Services		47,663.55
5	Travel		
6	Transfers and Grants to Counterparts		
7	General Operating and Other Direct Costs		
	<b>Total Programme Costs</b>	<b>47,663.55</b>	<b>47,663.55</b>
8	Indirect Support Costs**	<b>3,336.45</b>	3,336.45
	<b>TOTAL Pass-Through Amount Approved</b>	<b>51,000.00</b>	<b>51,000.00</b>

\* This is based on the UNDG Harmonized Financial Reporting to Donors for Joint Programmes approved in 2012.

\*\* Indirect support cost should be in line with the rate or range specified in the Joint Programme Document and MOU and SAA for the particular JP. Indirect costs of the Participating Organizations should not exceed 7% of Total Programme Costs

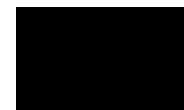
All other costs incurred by each Participating UN Organization in carrying out the activities for which it is responsible under the Fund will be recovered as direct costs, in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution 62/209 (2008 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review principle of full cost recovery).

**Approved by: Mohammad Naciri**

**Title: Regional Director**

**& Officer-in-Charge of UN Women Sri Lanka/**

**Signature:**



**Date: 13 August 2020**

**Project budget by Outcome, Output and Activity**

Outcome/ Output	Outcome/ output/ activity formulation:	Budget by recipient organization in USD - <b>UN WOMEN</b>	Percent of budget for each output reserved for direct action on gender equality (if any):	Level of expenditure/ commitments in USD (to provide at time of project progress reporting):	Any remarks (e.g. on types of inputs provided or budget justification, for example if high TA or travel costs)
<b>OUTCOME 1: Empowered military and war widows have sustainable livelihoods, and access social support services with dignity</b>					
<b>Output 1.1:</b>	<b>Vulnerable women-headed households are supported during the COVID-19 pandemic, to reduce care burdens and address immediate needs concerning shortage of food and financial resources.</b>				
Activity 1.1.1	Procure and distribute emergency relief packs to vulnerable women-headed households in Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts.	47,664	100%		
<b>SUB-TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:</b>		<b>47,664</b>			
Indirect support costs (7%):		3,336			
<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:</b>		<b>51,000</b>			