




UN Sri Lanka Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Programme Title	Improving maternal and childcare health system for COVID-19 response
Country/Region	Sri Lanka
Priority area/ strategic results	Outcome: Pregnant women and children infected with the COVID-19 virus have improved access to life-saving medical and ICU treatments in prioritized hospitals. <u>Output 1:</u> Six Maternal and Neonatal High Dependency Units (HDUs) for COVID-19 patients established in six prioritized hospitals. <u>Output 2:</u> Essential and life-saving equipment provided to Level II and Level III HDUs in 10 selected hospitals.
Organization that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme	UNICEF
Implementing Partners	Ministry of Health (MoH), Family Health Bureau (FHB)
Overall Duration	6 months
Amount	USD 1,020,950
Proposed project submitted/report(s) to be submitted by	 <i>Christian Skoog</i> <i>Representative</i> <i>UNICEF</i>

1. BACKGROUND

With the spike of COVID-19 cases after the Sinhala/Tamil New Year celebrations in mid-April 2021, Sri Lanka's public health resources and capacities are over-stretched. By end June 2021, the total number of COVID-19 confirmed cases had risen to 259,089 with 3,077 deaths reported. The month of June 2021 saw a sharp increase of COVID-19 spread with 69,848 confirmed patients and 1,550 deaths (101% increase of deaths).

Amongst them 12 maternal deaths were recorded due to COVID-19. Currently, more than 30,594 patients, including 260 pregnant women, are receiving treatment in hospitals. Many provinces have reported that their hospital beds and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds are occupied by COVID-19 patients and there are reports that in some areas, COVID-19 positive patients were requested to stay home due to the lack of hospital bed capacity.

2. OBJECTIVE(S)

Support to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other Government of Sri Lanka counterparts to implement Sri Lanka's COVID-19 Health Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan

3. TARGETED LOCATIONS

Family Health Bureau (FHB) of the Ministry of Health - the focal point for maternal and newborn health in the country - has identified 49 hospitals where facilities for Maternal High Dependency Units need to be improved, through a gap analysis conducted by the FHB. Of these, six hospitals would be selected through discussions with the FHB for upgrading at the time of equipment distribution.

4. EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

UNICEF and WHO received urgent requests from the Family Health Bureau (FHB), under the Ministry of Health (MoH), to provide lifesaving support to pregnant women and children infected with the COVID-19 virus. With the rapid escalation of cases since mid-April 2021, increasing numbers of pregnant women and children are being infected, with a daily average of 250 – 300 antenatal and postnatal cases reported. As of end-June 2021, FHB reports indicate that 2,200 pregnant women are infected with the COVID-19 virus.

The MoH has identified 116 hospitals as treatment centers to manage pregnant mothers with COVID-19 based on geographical access. To-date, UNICEF has mobilized funding from its Global Thematic Emergency resources, to establish six High Dependency Units (HDUs) for pregnant mothers with COVID-19 in three public hospitals.

Further, the MoH has requested for over \$16m worth of equipment to strengthen 42 HDUs in Level II and 8 HDUs in Level III hospitals. UNICEF is already supporting 1 HDU at each Level. UNICEF is also providing oxygen supplies to all Level II and Level III hospitals in the Western Province, which reported the highest number of cases and deaths so far and in Sabaragauwa Province where new facilities were set up to handle a backlog of over 1,000 patients requiring hospitalization.

With the valuable funding from the Australian Government, UNICEF can achieve the following results:

Outcome: Pregnant women and children infected with the COVID-19 virus have improved access to life-saving medical and ICU treatments in prioritised hospitals.

Output 1: Six Maternal and Neonatal High Dependency Units (HDUs) for COVID-19 patients established in six prioritised hospitals.

In consultation with the MoH and WHO, and based on a long-standing relationship with the Biomedical Engineering

(BME) section of the MoH on COVID-19 procurements, UNICEF will procure and distribute essential equipment to help establish six Maternal and Neonatal High Dependency Units (HDUs) in six hospitals that would facilitate the timely management of high-risk pregnant mothers and infants identified with COVID-19. The equipment includes: HDU Beds, Multipara Monitors – Basic, Syringe Pumps, Adult Suckers and Infusion Pumps.

Output 2: Essential and life-saving equipment provided to Level II and Level III HDUs in 10 selected hospitals.

Based on the request from the MoH, UNICEF will procure and provide essential and life-saving equipment to Level II and Level III HDUs in 10 selected hospitals. This will include High Flow Nasal Oxygen Therapy, Advanced Multipara monitors, BIPAP machines, CPAP machines and ventilators.

5. BUDGET

Results and Interventions		Budget in USD
Provision of equipment to strengthen to the health system	Provide essential equipment for Maternal and Neonatal High Dependency Units (HDUs) for COVID-19 patients in 6 prioritized hospitals	428,734
	Provide equipment, including High Flow Nasal Oxygen Therapy, to Level II and Level III HDUs in 10 hospitals.	525,425
Sub-total		954,159.00
HQ Cost Recovery (7%)		66,791.13
Total		1,020,950.13

6. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Expected Accomplishments	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Monitoring Mechanism Info/Data Sources
Outcome: Pregnant women and children infected with the COVID-19 virus have improved access to life-saving medical and ICU treatments in prioritized hospitals.	# of pregnant women and children that have access to life-saving medical and ICU treatments in the targeted hospitals over a 1-year period	0	Average of 300 pregnant women and children	MoH/FHB records
Output 1: 6 Maternal and Neonatal High Dependency Units (HDUs) for COVID-19 patients established in 6 prioritized hospitals.	# of Maternal and Neonatal High Dependency Units (HDUs) for COVID-19 patients established	71	6 additional DHUs	MoH/FHB records
Output 2: Essential and lifesaving equipment provided to Level II and Level III HDUs in 10 selected hospitals.	# of hospitals with Level II and Level III HDUs provided with essential equipment	Not available	10	MoH/FHB records

7. WORK PLAN

Number	Results and Activities	Aug 21	Sept 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22
1	Provide essential equipment for Maternal and Neonatal High Dependency Units (HDUs) for COVID-19 patients in 6 prioritized hospitals						
2	Provide equipment, including High Flow Nasal Oxygen Therapy, to 1 Level II and 1 level III HDU in hospitals.						

10. PROJECT MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMMUNICATION/VISIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

UNICEF Sri Lanka has a robust and systematic monitoring and reporting system that assesses and reports on progress at output, outcome and impact levels. In terms of its procurement experience and capacity, throughout the COVID-19 response, UNICEF has demonstrated its technical expertise on medical supplies and equipment and in-depth market knowledge (local and international). In addition, UNICEF follows a robust, competitive, transparent process resulting in a cost-effective procurement process that delivers value for money.

Procurement will be led by UNICEF Sri Lanka's supply team, with support by health specialists. UNICEF has a strong working relationship with the MoH, which has helped facilitate the required technical clearance of items and UNICEF maintains an active database of reliable local suppliers for repeat orders when needed. For offshore procurement, UNICEF's Supply Division in Copenhagen is involved, to facilitate access to a wide range of essential products and ensure best value for money for globally procured items.

Below is an indication of the competitive process UNICEF uses*:

1. UNICEF receives procurement request from Government (with specifications)
2. UNICEF initiates bidding and identifies eligible companies that meet identified requirements
3. Technical clearance of items by Ministry of Health
4. UNICEF identifies successful supplier (based on technical clearance and value for money)
5. UNICEF issues purchase order to supplier
6. Third party inspection for quality assurance (if needed)
7. Delivery to Ministry of Health.

This initiative will be promoted as a joint initiative that is funded by DFAT and supported by UNICEF. UNICEF will organize a handover event with the Ministry of Health, along with a press release to acknowledge this timely support.