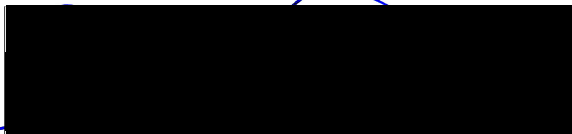


UN Sri Lanka Multi-Partner Trust Fund

Programme Title	COVID-19 development response to support marginalised estate rural communities in Nuwara Eliya and Badulla Districts in Sri Lanka
Country/Region	Nuwara Eliya and Badulla Districts of Sri Lanka
Priority area/ strategic results	Result 1: Improved safe water and environmental sanitation for poor and vulnerable communities Result 2: Improved awareness on safety and health measures, and hygiene practices and supporting children and youth
Organisations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
Implementing Partners	UN-Habitat in partnership with District Secretariats of Nuwara Eliya and Badulla
Overall Duration	6 months
Start date	25 th May 2021
End date	25 th November 2021
Amount	USD 100,000
Final report submission	15 th December 2021
Final financial report submission	25 th December 2021
Proposed project submitted/report(s) to be submitted by	 Dr Chanaka Talpawewa, Country Programme Manager for Sri Lanka and the Maldives chanaka@unhabitat.lk chanaka.talpawewa@un.org +94 712 697 212

1. BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 crisis comes with an unprecedented dire economic outlook and Sri Lanka has been experiencing the consequences of the pandemic for over 1 year. South Asia Economic Focus expects a severe economic slump in each of the eight countries in the region, instigated by halted economic activities, collapse of trade, and greater strain in the banking and financial sectors. The State machinery continue to assist the vulnerable communities including low-income households, Samurdhi beneficiaries, pensioners and disabled persons. However, the near-poor are still unable to absorb the economic shock. The impact of the pandemic on low-income households engaging in day wage livelihoods and self-employment continue to experience severe hardships.

The estate and communities in peripheral rural villages experience a variety of socioeconomic constraints, including lack of access to Universal Basic Services (UBS), specifically, healthcare, food, shelter, shortfalls in access to productive assets like land, social infrastructure and basic utilities, especially, water, sanitation and electricity. Majority of estate communities live in dismal and unhealthy *line rooms*, which were constructed more than 150 years ago during the British rule, with poor drainage facilities, ventilation, and

safe water and sanitation. These dwellings are home to families and extended families with around 6 to 10 individuals including children occupying the compact space, the living conditions in peripheral rural villages are no exception. The return of migrant workers from high risk zones of COVID-19 to Nuwara Eliya and Badulla Districts has now posed a risk of further spreading of the pandemic. As a result, these communities are highly prone to health-related risks, including the risk of occurrence of subsequent waves of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The proposed project has given special emphasis to health response and health security. The project will also contribute towards household economics recovery in a reduced scale, with importance being given to children of vulnerable families. In addition, the project will target towards (but not limited to) children and youth with disabilities, and female-headed households and widows.

2. TARGETED LOCATIONS

The project will be implemented in selected estates and peripheral rural villages in Haguranketha and Walapane Divisional Secretariat Divisions of Nuwara Eliya District; and Badulla and Bandarawela Divisional Secretariat Divisions in Badulla District.

3. OBJECTIVE(S)

The overall objective is to improve emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic in poor and marginalised estate and rural communities of Nuwara Eliya and Badulla Districts. UN-Habitat intends to achieve the overall objective through the following strategic objectives,

1. Improve safe water and environmental sanitation for poor and vulnerable communities.
2. Improve awareness on safety and health measures, and hygiene practices and supporting children and youth.

The interventions are intending to contribute to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 and indirectly to SDG 8 and Sri Lanka COVID-19 Development Response Plan of the Australian Government with special emphasis on health security and to a lesser extent on economic recovery.

4. EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

Result 1: Improved safe water and environmental sanitation for poor and vulnerable communities

Large and densely populated zones with high prevalence of poverty and significant migration are more vulnerable to COVID-19 pandemic. As mentioned above, majority of estate communities live in dismal and unhealthy *line rooms* with poor drainage facilities, ventilation, and safe water and sanitation. These dwellings are home to families and extended families with around 6 to 10 individuals including children occupying the compact space.

A continuous supply of safe water, and provision of sanitation and hygienic conditions is vital in protecting human health during all infectious disease outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Ensuring good and consistently applied water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and waste management practices in communities, homes, schools, marketplaces, prisons, health care facilities, etc. will further help to prevent human-to-human transmission of the COVID-19.¹ However, an improvement in WASH interventions with the onset of COVID-19 was not observed in the estate sector and peripheral rural areas.

¹ WHO (2020). *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene*. Retrieved from https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/news-events/wash-and-covid-19/en/

UN-Habitat intends to collaborate with District Secretariat (DS), the Government Agent (GA), Medical Officers of Health (MOH) and will seek the assistance of Regional Directorate of Health Services (RDHS), estate and rural hospitals, management of respective estates, members of Estate Workers Housing Cooperative Societies (EWHCSs), Local Authorities (LAs) and other relevant stakeholders.

1.1 Improving adequate sanitation and handwashing facilities for vulnerable families living in line rooms and preschools and in the Field Mother and Child Health Centre (FMCHC) in Estates and rural areas.

1.2 Provide equipment and technical support to improve the current water purification process run by the municipality and support water quality assessment in three (3) locations.

Result 2: Improved awareness on safety and health measures, and hygiene practices and supporting children and youth

Enhancing outreach activities and improving promotional/communication campaigns are paramount in curtailing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. The Health Promotion Bureau, along with World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has developed an emergency communication campaign to create awareness among communities and wider public on how they can protect themselves and their loved ones from COVID-19 through correct hygiene practices. However, there still remains gaps in communicating critical risks and countering misinformation. As the nation is implementing the exit strategy of the lockdown and the island-wide curfew lifted, awareness on safety and health measures and hygiene practices become even more important to restrain possible spread of COVID-19, especially in plantation communities where poor sanitation and bad hygiene practices are observed. The health messages will focus on catering to communities with lower literacy rates² with the purpose of supporting a positive behavioural change in hygiene practices. UN-Habitat intends to collaborate with MOH and will seek the assistance of, the GA, RDHS, estate hospitals, management of respective estates, members of EWHCS, clergy of all religious groups and community leaders of Community-Based Organisations (CBOs). Moreover, purposeful efforts and consistent multi-stakeholder engagement would eliminate social stigma associated with COVID-19, foster trust to eliminate lapses in reporting COVID-19 cases, and volunteering for testing and quarantine.

In addition, the Asia United Nations Network on Nutrition, comprising the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), WHO and UNICEF, is concerned about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the nutrition status of those most affected, predominantly the poor and vulnerable. The Asia United Nations Network on Nutrition is urgently calling upon all Governments, donors and partners to take action to protect the nutritional status of the most vulnerable families and individuals.³

In the rural and estate sector home gardens considerably contribute to the household nutrition and income. Moreover, empirical studies have shown home gardening as a promising approach to enhance household food security and wellbeing. With the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government is also encouraging home gardening.

UN-Habitat intends to promote home gardening among selected children from vulnerable families in collaboration with District Agricultural Directors, Social Services Officers and Child Rights Promotion Officers of the District Secretariats of Nuwara Eliya and Badulla Districts. This will facilitate in enhancing household food security and nutrition.

² Even though Sri Lanka has a high island-wide literacy rate, the literacy rate among plantation workers stand at only 66 per cent.

³ UNICEF (2020). Joint statement on nutrition in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/joint-statement-nutrition-context-covid-19-pandemic-asia-and-pacific>

- 2.1 Customise and disseminate trilingual messages (with special emphasis on bilingual material in Sinhala and Tamil) on safety and health measures, and hygiene practices through existing Youth Clubs
- 2.2 Mobilise public addressing system of Government, RDHS, MOH Office, religious institutions, and public transport to convey messages on safety and health measures and hygiene practices.
- 2.3 Through the RDHS provide guidance on occupational safety and health measures and hygiene practices to estate management.
- 2.4 Train selected children from most vulnerable families for rainwater harvesting and wastewater reuse and support them in organic home gardening.

5. IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY

The project will adopt a people-centric approach throughout the project cycle, where stakeholders, including communities will also be actively involved in identification, verification, implementation, and monitoring. The people-centric approach drives communities towards development and bridging inequalities by and within themselves. The people-centric approach enhances community engagement and mobilisation strengthening the owner driven approach and systems for meaningful participation of all people in the respective communities including the women, children, youth and persons with disabilities acting as change agents.

A mixed method of implementation will be practiced, which would empower the communities--some activities will be implemented through already established Community-Based Organisations (and those that are currently registered with the District Secretariat) under Community Implementation Agreements (CIAs). The rest of the activities will be directly executed by UN-Habitat in partnership with and support from the Government institutions.

Strong collaborations with the District Secretariat, Nuwara Eliya and Badulla (including Child and Women Development Units, Child Rights Promotion Branch, Social Services Branch, Agriculture Division and Information Centre), Regional Directorate of Health Services (including the COVID Team of the Regional Directorate of Health Services), Office of the Provincial Director of Health Services (Central and Uva Provinces), Local Authorities, Estate Workers Housing Cooperative Societies, and where necessary, Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government, Ministry of Mahaweli, Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development, Department of Agrarian Development and other relevant institutes and organisations will be utilised in the implementation of the proposed activities.

UN-Habitat already has personnel working in the aforementioned localities, therefore, planning and implementation of the proposed activities will be rapid.

6. UN-HABITAT VALUE ADDITION

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, otherwise known as UN-Habitat, is the United Nations agency responsible for human settlements. UN-Habitat contributes to the overall objective of the United Nations system to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. Our partners range from Governments and local authorities to a wide international cross-section of Non-Governmental Organisations and civil society groups. UN-Habitat assists Sri Lanka through a range of interventions focused in on promoting sustainable human settlements. Our operational thematic areas are; (1) Post-disaster emergency, recovery and reconstruction; (2) Land and housing; (3) Disaster risk reduction and management; (4) Environment and climate change; (5) Urban planning and governance; (6) Pro-poor settlements upgrading; (7) Water and sanitation; (8) Community infrastructure; (9) Social inclusion and protection.

Cooperation between the Government of Sri Lanka and UN-Habitat has a long tradition, with UN-Habitat providing assistance through a range of national programmes since 1978. Our **emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation projects** included, (1) *Emergency Shelter Relief for Flood Affected Families in Colombo and Gampaha Districts in Western Province* (June to December 2017); (2) *Emergency Shelter Relief for Flood and Landslide Affected Households in Kalutara and Galle Districts* (June to December 2016); and (3) *Post-Tsunami Rebuilding Community Infrastructure and Shelter Programme* (2005 to 2009); (4) *Post-Conflict Recovery and Reconstruction Programme* (2005 to 2016); in addition, (5) UN-Habitat successfully completed a **COVID-19 emergency response and recovery project** recently, ‘*Emergency support and special assistance to marginalised estate and rural communities in Nuwara Eliya District in Sri Lanka to minimise health hazards of COVID-19 and socioeconomic implications of the pandemic*’ (5 months).

We are working in the Central and Uva Provinces since 2016 assisting 1,615 families (more than 6,500 direct beneficiaries) in settlement development and provision of permanent housing. Our approach towards development is holistic with a strong focus on the right to an adequate standard of living, which not only includes housing and utilities, but also adequate nutrition. Social protection is one of our key priorities and aim to reduce poverty and vulnerability of communities through promoting vocational training and securing employment, enhancing their capacity to manage economic and social risks, ensuring household nutrition (through organic home gardening). We emphasis on mainstreaming cross-cutting themes such as gender, youth, human rights and climate change (and environment). The work of UN-Habitat in estate settlements, especially advocacy initiatives has increased awareness on integration of these vulnerable communities into mainstream administrative process. UN-Habitat brings in a wealth of experience and technical expertise in the area of emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation.

UN-Habitat has a strong rapport with the Government of Sri Lanka and has worked with a myriad of Ministries, Authorities and affiliated institutions. The focus areas and the activities proposed in the current concept note have been developed in consultation with the District Secretariat, Nuwara Eliya and Badulla (including Child and Women Development Units, Child Rights Promotion Branch, Social Services Branch, Agriculture Division and Information Centre), Regional Directorate of Health Services (including the COVID Team of the Regional Directorate of Health Services), Ministry of Mahaweli, Agriculture, Irrigation and Rural Development, Department of Agrarian Development, LAs, and relevant Government authorities/affiliated institutions, and will also support the Government of Sri Lanka in assisting in COVID-19 emergency response and recovery planning. The interventions will be well coordinated with respective entities, responsible in order to avoid duplication, especially the District Secretariats. The Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government is responsible for the overall supervision of the proposed project.

7. BUDGET

Number	Results and Activities	Budget (USD)
Result 1	Improved safe water and environmental sanitation for poor and vulnerable communities	80,500.00
1.1	Improving adequate sanitation and handwashing facilities for vulnerable families living in line rooms and preschools and in the Field Mother and Child Health Centre (FMCHC) in estates and rural areas <i>(including grants through Community Implementation Agreements (CIAs), staff/personnel cost, contractual services, equipment, travel cost etc.)</i>	63,000.00
1.2	Provide equipment and technical support to improve the current water purification process run by the municipality and support water quality assessment in three (3) locations <i>(including grants through CIAs, staff/personnel cost, contractual services, equipment, travel cost etc.)</i>	17,500.00
Result 2	Improved awareness on safety and health measures, and hygiene practices and supporting children and youth	13,000.00
2.1	Customise and disseminate trilingual messages (with special emphasis on bilingual material in Sinhala and Tamil) on safety and health measures, and hygiene practices through existing Youth Clubs <i>(including staff/personnel cost, travel costs, contractual services, supply and communication material)</i>	2,000.00
2.2	Mobilise public addressing system of Government, RDHS, MOH Office, religious institutions, and public transport to convey messages on safety and health measures and hygiene practices <i>(including staff/personnel cost, contractual services, equipment, travel cost etc.)</i>	5,000.00
2.3	Through the RDHS provide guidance on occupational safety and health measures and hygiene practices to estate management <i>(including staff/personnel cost, contractual services, equipment, travel cost etc.)</i>	3,000.00
2.4	Train selected children from most vulnerable families for rainwater harvesting and wastewater reuse and support them in organic home gardening <i>(including grants, staff/personnel cost, contractual services, equipment, travel cost etc.)</i>	3,000.00
Sub-total		93,500.00
Overheads and Project Support Costs (PSC)		6,500.00
Total		100,000.00

8. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Expected Accomplishments	Indicators	Baseline	Targets	Monitoring Mechanism Info/Data Sources	Data Collection Methods	Frequency and Persons Responsible	Key Assumptions and Risks in Achieving Outputs
Outcome 1: Improved safe water and environmental sanitation for poor and vulnerable communities. Indicator: Number of facilities improved; Number of persons having access to improved safe water and sanitation facilities. Baseline: To be verified. Planned target: TBD							
Output 1.1 Adequate sanitation and handwashing facilities for vulnerable families living in line rooms and preschools and in the Field Mother and Child Health Centre (FMCHC) in estates and rural areas improved.	*Number of Sewerage network(s) and sewer treatment tank(s) improved.	Zero	*Sewerage network and sewer treatment tank in three (3) line room settlements (Kelegalle, Sekuni-Niwasa and Bambarakelle) improved.	*Progress review meetings. *Progress and assessment reports. *Progress and assessment reports of the GA and RDHS.	*Primary data collection through field visits/discussions/meetings. *Project progress reports. *District progress reports.	Monthly project progress meeting Responsible: Engineer, Deputy Project Manager Weekly progress reports. Responsible: Field staff	Prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation improves, and a lockdown/curfew not imposed. Experiencing a peaceful 2020 Sri Lanka Parliamentary Elections. No major (natural or manmade) catastrophic events occur in the target areas.
	*Number of common toilet(s) with features of disability access improved.	Zero	*Common toilet with features of disability access improved in one (1) location .				
	*Number of WASH facilities in preschools and FMCHC(s) improved.	Zero	*WASH facilities in three (3) preschools (Magasthodka, Mahinda Mawatha and Bornetha) and two (2) FMCHCs improved.				
	*Number of washing station(s) with tank and stand, and plumbing completed.	Zero	*Washing station with 250 l water tank and stand, plumbing completed in ten (10) locations .				
Output 1.2 Equipment and technical support to improve the current water purification process run by the municipality provided and supported the assessment of water quality assessment.	*Number of current water purification process improved.	Zero	*Water purification process in three (3) locations improved (Bonvista, Toppaz, Wijathapura).	*Progress review meetings. *Progress and assessment reports. *Progress and assessment reports of the GA.	*Primary data collection through field visits/discussions/meetings. *Project progress reports. *District progress reports.	Monthly project progress meeting Responsible: Engineer, Deputy Project Manager Weekly progress reports. Responsible: Field staff	Prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation improves, and a lockdown/curfew not imposed. Experiencing a peaceful 2020 Sri Lanka Parliamentary Elections. No major (natural or manmade) catastrophic events
	*Number of Benchtop pH meter(s) purchased and distributed.	Zero	* One (1) Benchtop pH meter purchased and distributed to one (1) LA.				
	*Number of colour chart(s) purchased and distributed to LA(s) to measure the pH and Chlorine levels.	Zero	* One (1) colour chart purchased and distributed to one (1) LA to measure the pH and Chlorine levels.				

							occur in the target areas.
Outcome 2: Improved awareness on safety and health measures, and hygiene practices and supporting children and youth Indicator: Number of persons who gained knowledge; Number of children/youth with disabilities trained. Baseline: To be verified. Planned target: TBD							
Output 2.1 Customise and disseminate trilingual messages (with special emphasis on bilingual material in Sinhala and Tamil) on safety and health measures, and hygiene practices through existing Youth Clubs.	*Complete the customisation of bilingual posters in consultation with the RDHS.	Zero	*Customisation of posters completed.	*Progress review meetings.	*Primary data collection through field visits/discussions/meetings.	Monthly project progress meeting	Prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation improves, and a lockdown/curfew not imposed.
	*Number of customised bilingual posters printed.	Zero	* One thousand (1,000) bilingual posters printed.	*Progress and assessment reports.	*Project progress reports.	Responsible: Engineer, Deputy Project Manager Weekly progress reports.	Experiencing a peaceful 2020 Sri Lanka Parliamentary Elections.
				*Progress and assessment reports of the GA.	*District progress reports.	Responsible: Field staff	No major (natural or anthropogenic) catastrophic events occur in the target areas.
Output 2.2 Mobilise public addressing system of Government, RDHS, MOH Office, religious institutions, and public transport to convey messages on safety and health measures and hygiene practices.	* Number of public announcing events conducted to create awareness.	Zero	* Fifteen (15) events conducted through public transport.	*Progress review meetings.	*Primary data collection through field visits/discussions/meetings.	Monthly project progress meeting	Prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation improves, and a lockdown/curfew not imposed.
				*Progress and assessment reports.	*Project progress reports.	Responsible: Engineer, Deputy Project Manager Weekly progress reports.	Experiencing a peaceful 2020 Sri Lanka Parliamentary Elections.
				*Progress and assessment reports of the GA.	*District progress reports.	Responsible: Field staff	No major (natural or manmade) catastrophic events occur in the target areas.

Output 2.3 Through the RDHS provide guidance on occupational safety and health measures and hygiene practices to estate management.	*Number of awareness programmes/workshop conducted.	Zero	* Three (3) awareness programmes/workshops conducted.	*Progress review meetings. *Progress and assessment reports. *Progress and assessment reports of the GA.	*Primary data collection through field visits/discussions/meetings. *Project progress reports. *District progress reports.	Monthly project progress meeting Responsible: Engineer, Deputy Project Manager Weekly progress reports. Responsible: Field staff	Prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation improves, and a lockdown/curfew not imposed. Experiencing a peaceful 2020 Sri Lanka Parliamentary Elections. No major (natural or manmade) catastrophic events occur in the target areas.
Output 2.4 Train selected children from most vulnerable families for rainwater harvesting and wastewater reuse and support them in organic home gardening.	*Number of children/youth with disabilities trained.	Zero	* Thirty (30) children/youth with disabilities trained.	*Progress review meetings. *Progress and assessment reports. *Progress and assessment reports of the GA.	*Primary data collection through field visits/discussions/meetings. *Project progress reports. *District progress reports.	Monthly project progress meeting Responsible: Engineer, Deputy Project Manager Weekly progress reports. Responsible: Field staff	Prevailing COVID-19 pandemic situation improves, and a lockdown/curfew not imposed. Experiencing a peaceful 2020 Sri Lanka Parliamentary Elections. No major (natural or manmade) catastrophic events occur in the target areas.

9. WORK PLAN

Number	Results and Activities	(Last week) May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Result 1	Improved safe water and environmental sanitation for poor and vulnerable communities								
1.1	Improving adequate sanitation and handwashing facilities for vulnerable families living in line rooms and preschools and in the Field Mother and Child Health Centre (FMCHC) in estates and rural areas.								
1.2	Provide equipment and technical support to improve the current water purification process run by the municipality and support water quality assessment in three (3) locations.								
Result 2	Improved awareness on safety and health measures, and hygiene practices and supporting children and youth								
2.1	Customise and disseminate trilingual messages (with special emphasis on bilingual material in Sinhala and Tamil) on safety and health measures, and hygiene practices through existing Youth Clubs.								
2.2	Mobilise public addressing system of Government, RDHS, MOH Office, religious institutions, and public transport to convey messages on safety and health measures and hygiene practices.								
2.3	Through the RDHS provide guidance on occupational safety and health measures and hygiene practices to estate management.								
2.4	Train selected children from most vulnerable families for rainwater harvesting and wastewater reuse and support them in organic home gardening.								
Reporting									

10. PROJECT MONITORING, REPORTING AND COMMUNICATION/VISIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

UN-Habitat has internal expertise in project monitoring, apart from which, field personnel of UN-Habitat and Government stakeholders will continuously monitor the implementation of the project.

Method of reporting on decisions

- Methods of reporting on decisions will be via formal correspondence (letters) if it is Government institutions and via email if it is within UN-Habitat. Where necessary, UN RCO will be informed either via formal correspondence (letters) or email.
- The final report will have a narrative consisting of the final financial progress report. The final report, where necessary, will also capture the decisions taken.

Communication/visibility requirements

Communications and visibility actions for this project will be developed to ensure maximum visibility for the donor, Government of Australia, based on the guidelines provided. Photographs that capture the progress of activities that are published on social media will be shared with DFAT and RCO.