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**Sri Lanka UN SDG MPTF**

**MPTF OFfice GENERIC ANNUAL programme[[1]](#footnote-2) NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 6 May – 6 august 2021**

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| Programme Title & Project Number | |  | Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results[[2]](#footnote-3) | |
| Programme Title: Procurement of urgent medical supplies for COVID-19 response  Programme Number *(if applicable)*  MPTF Office Project Reference Number:[[3]](#footnote-4) 00126974 | | *Country/Region:* Sri Lanka/National | |
| *Priority area/ strategic results:* Resilience | |
| Participating Organization(s) | |  | Implementing Partners | |
| UNICEF | | Ministry of Health | |
| Programme/Project Cost (US$) | |  | Programme Duration | |
| Total approved budget as per project document: $91,390.84  MPTF /JP Contribution[[4]](#footnote-5): $91,390.84   * *by Agency (if applicable)* |  |  | Overall Duration *(months)*  *6 months* |  |
| Agency Contribution   * *by Agency (if applicable)* |  |  | Start Date[[5]](#footnote-6) *06.05.2021* |  |
| Government Contribution  *(if applicable)* |  |  | Original End Date*[[6]](#footnote-7)* *06.08.2021* |  |
| Other Contributions (donors)  *(if applicable)* |  |  | Current End date[[7]](#footnote-8)*06.08.2021* |  |
| TOTAL: $91,390.84 |  |  |  |  |
| Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval. | |  | Report Submitted By | |
| Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*  Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*  x  Mid-Term Evaluation Report *– if applicable please attach*  Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy* | | * Name: Watsala Jayamanne   Title: Programme Officer (Emergency Response & Resilience)   * Participating Organization (Lead): UNICEF * Email address: wjayamanna@unicef.org | |

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With a spike in the COVID-19 outbreak after the Sinhala/Tamil New Year celebrations in Sri Lanka in mid-April 2021, many pregnant mothers and children were infected with the virus. During the months of August and September 2021 alone, 5,020 pregnant mothers were infected with COVID-19 and, in total, 56 pregnant mothers have died due to COVID-19 complications since the beginning of the pandemic in Sri Lanka. In the early months of the third wave, more that 50-60 per cent of the patients admitted to hospitals, including pregnant mothers, were oxygen dependent. Therefore, oxygen therapy was urgently required for patients.

Through this valuable funding, the maternal and neonatal High Dependency Unit (HDU) facilities in nine identified hospitals in the Western province were strengthened with oxygen supplies for continuous provision of quality care for a population coverage of more than 10,000 pregnant mothers and children that reach out to the selected hospitals during a one-year period.

This initiative ensured the availability of sufficient quantities and quality of oxygen treatment facilities and equipment in Western province priority hospitals, which increased the capacity of these hospitals to cater to increasing numbers of highly oxygen-dependent COVID-19 patients. In addition, the intervention also reduced the time and resources required to transport patients to various hospitals in search of oxygen treatment facilities, given the high rate of patients that required oxygen during that time.

# Purpose

UNICEF aimed to strengthen the maternal and neonatal HDUs in nine identified hospitals in the Western province through the provision of urgently required oxygen supplies.

# Results

1. **Narrative reporting on results:**

The valuable funding contributed to achieving the following critical results for pregnant women and children affected by COVID-19.

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

UNICEF provided oxygen supplies for maternal and neonatal HDUs in nine identified hospitals in the Western Province. This ensured provision of quality care for more than 10,000 pregnant mothers and children reaching out to the selected hospitals during a one-year period.

**Output 1: Procurement of urgent lifesaving medical equipment to improve ICU treatment of high-risk COVID-19 patients in Western Province hospitals**

Since the start of May 2021, Sri Lanka experienced a surge in COVID-19 cases with a daily average of nearly 2,000 confirmed patients. The most densely populated Western Province reported the highest prevalence of COVID-19 cases (60 per cent). The trajectory of the COVID-19 third wave was putting a strain on the country’s health system; therefore, it was vital for humanitarian agencies to support improvements in healthcare facilities to cater to the increasing number of COVID-19 patients in the Western Province.

With valuable financial support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), UNICEF procured and delivered 58 jumbo oxygen cylinders, 233 bull nose oxygen cylinders, 221 oxygen regulators and 2490 oxygen masks for both adults and children to one COVID-19 dedicated Level III Hospital (BH Homagama) and eight Level II Hospitals that are managing COVID-19 patients, including those who require high dependency care, such as oxygen therapy, across the Western Province. In addition, 10 fire extinguishers, an essential requirement along with oxygen supplies, were also provided to the selected hospitals in the Western Province.

**Challenges, lessons learned & best practices:**

In April 2021, the Western Province, which reported the highest number of cases of COVID-19 in the country and the epicenter of the crisis, prepared a plan to upgrade the hospitals catering to increasing numbers of patients. Unlike in previous COVID-19 waves, during the third wave, more than 50 per cent of patients admitted to hospitals were oxygen dependent. The Provincial Directorate of Health Services Office identified that the hospitals required additional oxygen supplies to meet the rising oxygen demands in the Province. The availability of this data and plan helped inform UNICEF, and other key partners, on how to contribute towards meeting these urgent needs. Based on this, UNICEF was able to complete the supply procurement process within a very short timeframe, allowing hospitals to use these most urgently needed oxygen supplies in providing life-saving services.

**Qualitative assessment:**

Oxygen supplies, which was an urgent need at the time, were provided to nine key hospitals caring for COVID-19 oxygen dependent patients. UNICEF’s partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH), Bio Medical Engineering Division and the Provincial Directorate of Health Services, Western Province, enabled a very fast and timely response, including quick evaluation and approval of supply items, which resulted in saving many lives.

**ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:**

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|  | **Achieved Indicator Targets** | **Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)** | **Source of Verification** |
| **Outcome 1[[8]](#footnote-9)** Pregnant women and children infected with the COVID-19 virus have improved access to life-saving medical and ICU treatments in prioritised hospitals in Western Province  **Indicator:** # pregnant women and children have access to lifesaving medical and ICU treatments in prioritized Western province  **Baseline:** 4500  **Planned Target:** 10,000 more mothers in targeted hospitals over a one-year period | Average of 10,000 pregnant women and children have access to life-saving medical and ICU treatments in the targeted hospitals over a 1-year period | Target achieved | MoH and Western Provincial Department of Health data sources |
| **Output 1.1** Procurement of urgent lifesaving medical equipment to improve ICU treatment of high-risk COVID-19 patients in Western Province hospitals  **Indicator 1.1.1:** # of hospitals with Level II and Level III HDUs provided with essential equipment and oxygen supplies in Western province  **Baseline:** 25  **Planned Target:** 9 | Nine (9) hospitals with Level II and Level III HDUs provided with essential equipment and oxygen supplies in Western Province | Target achieved | MoH/Family Health Bureau (FHB) records |

**iii) A Specific Story (Optional)**

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| **Problem / Challenge faced:**  Rapid escalation of COVID-19 cases in the Western Province from April 2021, placed immense stress on the public healthcare system and hospitals as the number of oxygen dependent COVID-19 patients rapidly increased. The Provincial Directorate of Health Services already had plans to upgrade facilities with oxygen therapy in selected hospitals in the event of a rapid surge of cases. This preparedness plan could be immediately implemented with the funding support of DFAT, through UNICEF, to rapidly contribute to addressing this urgent requirement.  **Programme Interventions:**  Existing long-standing strong partnerships between UNICEF and the Ministry of Health at national and provincial levels, as well as in-house health and procurement technical expertise and coordination were critical in efficiently delivering the programme interventions within a short period of time.  **Result:**  The nine hospitals upgraded in the Western Province through this project are now admitting more oxygen dependent COVID-19 patients, which have eased the patient load burden in adjacent hospitals. Now, oxygen dependent COVID-19 patients could be managed closer to their homes, ensuring less mental stress for the patient and their families. These improved facilities have enabled treatment efficiency and also helped improve the work satisfaction of, severely overstretched and fatigued, health staff.  **Lessons Learned:**  The importance of being prepared, from the onset of the pandemic, for the worst-case scenario is a clear lesson learned. The third wave of COVID-19 was worse than expected, and the vigilance of the provincial authorities to step up services and flexible funding from donor agencies mitigated the potential large scale damage this could have caused. |

**III. Other Assessments or Evaluations (if applicable)**

Not applicable.

**IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)**

No programmatic revisions.

**V. Resources (Optional)**

Not applicable.

1. The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document; [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org/) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlined in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)