



**SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE OF ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICE AND BUILDING
BACK BETTER FROM COVID-19
MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINAL PROGRAMME¹ NARRATIVE REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD: 14 JUNE 2022 – 31 DECEMBER 2023**

<p align="center">Programme Title & Project Number</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme Title: Support for Maintenance of Essential Health Service and building back better from COVID-19 Programme Number <i>(if applicable)</i> MPTF Office Project Reference Number:³ 00132253 	<p align="center">Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results²</p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i> Sri Lanka</p>
<p align="center">Participating Organization(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Health Organization (WHO) 	<p align="center">Implementing Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health
<p align="center">Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document: USD 695,713 MPTF /JP Contribution⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> Agency Contribution <i>by Agency (if applicable)</i> Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i> Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i> <p>TOTAL:</p>	<p align="center">Programme Duration</p> <p>Overall Duration <i>(months)</i> – 15 months</p> <p>Start Date⁵ (14.06.2022)</p> <p>Original End Date⁶ (31.08.2023)</p> <p>Current End date⁷(31.12.2023)</p>
<p align="center">Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.</p> <p>Assessment/Review - if applicable <i>please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy Mid-Term Evaluation Report – <i>if applicable please attach</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Date: dd.mm.yyyy</p>	<p align="center">Report Submitted By</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name: Dr. Shalala Ahmadova Title: Public Health Administrator Participating Organization (Lead): WHO Email address: ahmadovasha@who.int

¹ The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.

² Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;

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](#)

⁴ The MPTF or JP Contribution, refers to the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations, which is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

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](#)

⁶ As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.

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.

NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sri Lankan health system is currently facing a dual challenge of a prolonged global pandemic and an unprecedented economic crisis.

Sri Lanka has reported 672 629 cases and 16 888 deaths as of 27 November 2023. COVID-19 has changed the healthcare system substantially both on the supply and demand sides and the extent of the impact - the combined direct and indirect implication for health due to COVID-19 is yet to be fully understood and the effect of the pandemic on the health system is remaining. Therefore, recovery efforts must include continued preparedness and response for building back better. Superimposed on this now was the most catastrophic economic and financial crisis to hit the country since independence leading to the depletion of foreign exchange reserves affecting supplies for the health sector including priority medicines and equipment. Ensuring availability of essential medicines, supplies and equipment at all levels was essential to guarantee the service continuity and the quality of care afforded. Furthermore, it was vital to make recommendations for informed policy decisions on recovery and building back better through analysis of existing evidence and identifying best practices from other countries.

In this context, WHO country office prioritized the support in bridging the essential medicines gap through provision of first line anti-tuberculosis drugs, support in bridging the essential medical equipment gap through provision of 60 patient warmers and conducting of evidence synthesis activities for the development of the health systems recovery plan.

I. Purpose

To support the Ministry of Health in maintaining uninterrupted delivery of essential services through the provision of essential medicines and medical equipment and for evidence generation for health systems strengthening

II. Results

World Health Organization Sri Lanka with the support of donors has been supporting the Ministry of Health since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen the capacity of the government curative health care facilities in COVID-19 patient management through the provision of essential medical equipment and supplies. This has led to the strengthening of the health system at all levels of care ensuring that the system is capable of providing services not only for COVID-19 but for all other similar diseases. Although a significant proportion of the equipment gap has been addressed during the past 2 years, crucial shortages are still present in the system which has been exacerbated by the economic crisis faced by the country at the moment leading to the depletion of foreign exchange reserves to critically low levels. The Bio Medical Engineering Division of the Ministry of Health conducted an equipment survey of all government curative institutions of the country in 2022 and identified a priority list of equipment which was needed urgently to ensure the continuity of essential service provision. One such item identified was patient warmers which is an essential item for management of patients especially at ICU settings. Accordingly, WHO procured 60 patient warmers based on the requirements and specifications provided by the Ministry of Health, through WHO's global procurement services. The procured equipment was handed over to the Ministry of Health to be distributed as per national requirement.

Furthermore, the World Health Organization also supported the Ministry of Health in meeting the country's anti-TB drug requirements to ensure timely and appropriate treatment for individuals diagnosed with TB, thereby preventing further transmission of the disease and reducing its overall burden on public health. To this end, the procurement of anti-TB drugs was initiated and managed by WHO global procurement services, and the drugs were delivered to the Ministry of Health in December 2023. The activity supported in procuring 13 different types of anti-TB drugs amounting to USD 460,480.

In addition, WHO Country Office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and development partners, conducted a series of analytical activities to identify key policy reform options to safeguard the country's primary health care approach while addressing evolving needs and improving health sector resilience. The recommendations of this exercise were consolidated into an evidence-backed policy options document aimed at guiding interventions towards building back better essential health services to advance UHC and health-related Sustainable Development Goals. Further, WHO supported the Ministry of Health in the development of health financing strategic directions, conducting a national survey to assess the impact of the economic crisis on households as well as conducted a review on the reorganization and financial sustainability of the Sri Jayewardenepura Hospital, which is a government owned, not for profit, public sector tertiary health facility which levies user fees for its services. WHO recruited an International Professional Staff member as the health systems lead of the WHO Sri Lanka through this fund to oversee and provide technical guidance for the all the above critical activities undertaken to strengthen the health system.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP** - provide an update on the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why, as well as plans on how and when this data will be collected.

	Achieved Indicator Targets	Source of Verification	Key Assumptions and Risks in Achieving Outputs
<p>Outcome 1^[1]: Ministry of Health supported in provision of uninterrupted essential health services</p> <p>Indicator 1: Percentage of newly diagnosed TB patients initiated on first line anti-tuberculosis drugs <u>Baseline:</u> 100% <u>Planned Target:</u> maintenance of 100% level</p> <p>Indicator 2: Percentage of operating theatres of government curative institutions with at least a single functional patient warmer <u>Baseline:</u> To be identified <u>Planned Target:</u> reach 100%</p> <p>Indicator 3: Number of policy briefs/ technical reports generated to support the development of a recovery plan <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Planned Target:</u> At least 3</p>		<p>Surveillance system of National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Disease (NPTCCD)</p> <p>Medical Equipment information system of the Bio Medical Engineering Division</p> <p>Management, Development and Planning Unit of Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Requested items are available in the local and/or international market and can be delivered based on agreed timeline</p> <p>Full cooperation of implementing partner</p> <p>Price escalations due to the current economic situation of the country</p>

^[1] Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be **as outlines in the Project Document** so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p>Output 1.1 All 1st line anti-TB drugs (11 types) purchased in sufficient quantities</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.1 Number of drugs purchased <u>Baseline:</u> 0 <u>Planned Target:</u> approx. 6 million units of 11 types of 1st line anti-TB drugs purchased</p> <p>Output 1.2 Patient warmers purchased to fulfill the national requirement</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.1 Number of patient warmers purchased Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 60</p> <p>Output 1.3 International/local technical experts recruited to support the Ministry of Health in evidence generation activities for the development of the recovery plan</p> <p>Indicator 1.3.1 Number of consultants recruited Baseline: 0 Planned Target: 3</p>	<p>Procured 13 different types of anti-TB drugs worth USD 460,480.</p> <p>60 patient warmers purchased</p> <p>01 international professional staff member recruited</p>	<p>NPTCCD</p> <p>Medical Equipment information system of the Bio Medical Engineering Division</p> <p>MoH/ WCO country office</p>	
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