

JOINT PROGRAMME DOCUMENT

1. Cover Page

Country: Sri Lanka

Programme Title: Expanded Support for Durable Resettlement and Reintegration in Sri Lanka (EDRR)

Programme Duration: 25 months.

Anticipated start/end dates:
01 March 2023 – 31 March 2025

Fund Management Option (s):
Pass through

Managing or Administrative Agent:
UN SDG MPTF

Total estimated budget* USD 1,732,101 (GBP 1,500,000)

UNDP: USD - 1,103,644

IOM: USD - 611,136

Administrative Agent Cost (1%): USD 17,321

* Total estimated budget includes both programme costs and indirect support costs

Participating UN organizations

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Azusa Kubota
UNDP Resident Representative -Sri Lanka

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Sarat Dash
Chief of Mission – IOM Sri Lanka and Maldives

Contents

1. Executive Summary	03-04 pages
2. Situation Analysis	04-10 pages
Brief Gender Analysis and strategy	
Details of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugee Returnees	
Rehabilitated ex- Combatants	
Women headed households (WHH)	
Ongoing support for already resettled families	
3. Needs of the beneficiaries	11-15 pages
Infrastructure and basic support services	
Improvement of housing	
Livelihood development	
Mental Health and Psychosocial support (MHPSS)	
Strengthening Community Based Organizations (CBO's)	
4. Strategies, including lessons learned and the proposed joint programme	15- 23 pages
Theory of Change	
Lessons Learned	
The proposed joint programme	
Outcome/ output/ key activities	
Sustainability of results	
5. Results Framework	23- 30 pages
6. Management and Coordination Arrangements	31- 31 page
7. Fund Management Arrangements	31-32 pages
8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting	32- 34 pages
Monitoring and Reporting Plan	
Evaluation plan	
9. Legal Context or Basis of Relationship	34-34 page
10. Work plan & budgets	38-38 pages

1. Executive Summary

Despite the progress made under the resettlement related programming in the past, and notable gains made through the Joint Programme for Peace (JPP) from 2019 to 2022 in the area of durable resettlement and reintegration, many people, belonging to former conflict affected groups continue to require support in finding durable solutions to address economic constraints, access to sustainable livelihoods, recover civil and legal documents which would facilitate access to needed services, regaining access to lands lost during the conflict, and in some instances integration into existing community structures. Additionally, The COVID-19 pandemic and the prevailing economic crisis in Sri Lanka has exacerbated the socio-economic hardships faced by conflict affected communities, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable groups amongst them, including women headed households.

The proposed project, “Expanded Support for Durable Resettlement and Reintegration in Sri Lanka (EDRR)” aims to support the resettlement and sustainable reintegration of former conflict-affected communities with due consideration for conflict and gender sensitivities. Under the proposed project, UNDP will implement its activities in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts while IOM will implement targeted activities in the Jaffna district. The Project will also focus on strengthening community groups, especially more vulnerable groups to be able them to directly engage and interact with the state to obtain the services they require thereby ensuring sustainability of the newly resettled and existing resettled communities. The main target beneficiaries will comprise internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugee returnees with special consideration to women-headed households, ex-combatants, youth, community-based organizations (CBOs)/rural development societies and the local level government structures.

The selection of the direct beneficiaries of the project will be collective and participatory, to be executed using a well-defined selection criterion developed jointly with relevant government departments/ CSOs and CBOs. The selection criteria will be disseminated among the community to ensure the transparency. The final beneficiary lists with acquired scores will be displayed at the relevant government offices in view of maintaining transparency and to address grievances, if any.

The proposed EDRR project will be implemented jointly by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The project is in line with Sri Lanka’s National Policy on Durable Solutions for Conflict-Affected Displacement (2019) and contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) strategic priority 3 (Social Cohesion and Inclusive Governance and Justice). Further, the Economic Development Framework - A Northern Province Masterplan¹ (August, 2018), published by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka emphasizes the importance of investing in people to ensure their ability to participate in development.

There are approximately 5,000 families which still require support and assistance. It’s included the families returned since 2015 in the resettlement area and expected families for further release of land belonging to the IDPs and refugees from Indian refugee camps during this project period. Out of this, UNDP will be assisting 1,500 families with livelihood, shelter, home grading and socio-economic infrastructure under this project and IOM will

The project seeks to meet the objective through the following outcomes and outputs:

EDRR Outcome 1: Return, resettlement and/or local integration of conflict-displaced persons in the Northern and Eastern Provinces supported in a sustainable, safe, and dignified manner, based on confidence in state and nonstate mechanisms for rebuilding lives and communities.

Output 1.1: Increased access to inclusive and citizen-centric state and non-state support services, including community infrastructure.

Output 1.2: Increased livelihood opportunities for resettled community groups that are durable, climateresilient and context-specific

Output 1.3: Resettling Communities, in particular PWDs and female-headed households are socially reintegrated with the help of Community based structures including CBOs and Producer Organizations including women-led organizations/ CBOs.

The project will be jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Organization for Migration (IOM). The UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) in Sri Lanka will coordinate administrative functions as the secretariat for UN Sustainable Development Goals Multi-Partner Trust Fund (SDG MPTF). The project will be implemented in close coordination with and collaboration of the respective district and divisional secretariats in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. The respective agencies will also collaborate with local civil society organizations (CSOs) to capacitate and empower them to ensure sustainability of interventions made under the project. CSOs will be selected based on their level of experiences, capacity, resources, legal status, implementation methodology, financial stability, accountability, and credibility. UNDP/ IOM will also provide necessary capacity building supports for the selected CSOs (workshops, trainings etc.) during the contractual period, and will conduct coordination meetings, reviews, and discussions in a periodical manner to assess and review the progress of the project.

2. Situation Analysis

Due to the protracted conflict in Sri Lanka between 1983 to 2009, there remains a large number of returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), women headed households and communities that are subject to extremely vulnerable situations. Even as 13 years has elapsed since the end of the armed conflict and several gains made with contribution from the Joint Programme for Peace (JPP), there are significant actions required for full resettlement of conflict displaced families in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, the gains made in terms of resettlement related programming are now under threat owing to the current economic crisis in Sri Lanka and the associated political turmoil. Gains made in the resettlement in the post conflict context in the Northern and Eastern Provinces remain precarious.

It is understood that the Government of Sri Lanka, together with the military are making arrangements to release additional lands which were formerly held by the military in stages.¹ This process of land releases which commenced in 2010/2011, apart from the 2015-2019 period, has been strained. Nonetheless, the land release process has immensely helped people who lived in welfare camps as well as refugee returnees in terms of restoration of their rights to property, to livelihood and dignity.

Based upon the decision to reduce military presence in private lands in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Batticaloa Districts, a total land extent of 34,274 acres belonging to the High Security Zone and Board of

¹ [Sri Lanka only partly met UN promise to release military-held land, study finds | Verité Research \(veriteresearch.org\)](https://www.veriteresearch.org/)

Investment was released. Of this, a total 16,775 acres were released prior to 2015 while the balance 17,499 acres were released post 2015. It is understood that, at minimum, 7,393 acres of lands are still occupied by the army, navy and the police. There are ongoing efforts to further release lands in the Northern Province, particularly in Tellippalai Divisional Secretariat division in Jaffna and Pachchilaipalli Divisional Secretariat division in Kilinochchi.² However, there are developments where certain extents of land in Trincomalee and Batticaloa have been declared as forest land³, further complicating this matter.

Similarly, since 2009 there has been substantial investment in the reconstruction and development of infrastructure in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, by the former Ministry of Resettlement particularly in sectors such as transportation, water supply, energy, and urban infrastructure. These provinces have seen an expansion in private sector investment, including private enterprises both from within the region and from outside. Governance institutions at local level have been involved in post-conflict recovery of the districts, including the reactivation of community-based organizations (CBOs). The relevant reactivation of communitybased structures including CBOs will promote integration and social cohesion, creating a more conducive environment for resettlement. Despite commendable gains, the Northern and Eastern Provinces still have yet to attain post-conflict recovery for the benefit of all communities. Northern and Eastern Provinces had poverty headcount ratios – the proportion of the population living below the poverty line — of 7.7 % and 7.3 %, respectively. This was notably higher than the country’s overall poverty headcount ratio of 4.1 % reported in 2016. According to data from the Department of Census and Statistics, all four districts with double-digit poverty headcount ratios are among the five districts identified for the proposed project (Mullaitivu 12.7%, Kilinochchi 18.2%, Batticaloa 11.3%, and Trincomalee 10%).

The ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka, has pushed (and continues to push) those who are just above the poverty headcount back into poverty and made the poorest even more vulnerable. It’s anticipated 10% of Sri Lanka’s 22 million people have slipped beneath the poverty line as a result and millions more are losing jobs, health care and food security. In this context, it is especially relevant and critical to continue extended assistance to ensure the conflict-affected vulnerable populations in the North and East are supported to achieve durable return and resettlement solutions.

The provision of durable solutions – be it economic, humanitarian or security-related has been slow due to many factors including the current political and economic crisis, lack of coordination and efficacy of timely responses by the relevant government authorities and the limited number of agencies operational on the ground. The need to address the sectoral gaps and requirements of returnees in these newly released lands is now a priority as is supporting the effective coordination and timely responses of the state agencies responsible for the provision of durable solutions for retuning families.

The absence of pre-determined arrangements for release of land also leads to a considerable amount of time for finalizing the type and levels of support for returnee families. In several instances, lands are released for livelihood whilst withholding those for residential areas and vice versa. This creates additional burdens for

² District Administration, Resettlement unit.

³ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/our-lands-are-under-threat-say-tamils-in-sri-lankaseastern-province/article34346590.ece>

families who live with host families and in rented houses. Absence of coordination for the resettlement plan between inter- departments including national and provincial leads to loss of time and resources.

Brief Gender Analysis and strategy:

Gender based inequality is observed as a common within the resettlement component as it is limiting the access to resources, opportunities, information and integration of women and other vulnerable categories including LGBTIQ communities compare to men. Women are even more vulnerable in engaging in livelihood activities as their mobility is also restricted according to the social norms which is providing more space and scope for men to execute their livelihood activities with minimum constraints. According to the government data approximately 70% of the resettled women have very limited access to Livelihood and thereby low-income generation. Meanwhile it was observed during the monitoring missions of UNDP that the support provided to resettled women have been automatically transferred and/or managed by men in the families.

While resettled households are a target beneficiary group, proposed project will also focus the large number of war widows and women heads of household who bear the burden of family maintenance and require considerable support. The unemployment rates of women are more than double that of men among returnees, and there is a large concentration of economically active women engaged in unpaid family labor, particularly in the agricultural sector. Women are disadvantaged by the horizontal and vertical gender divisions in the labor market which excludes them from higher income-generating occupations and impedes their upward occupational mobility through the “glass ceiling” to the highest decision-making positions. Sector-wise, women are concentrated in low productivity and low-income agriculture and fishing sectors. Most female agricultural workers are farmers who own or operate smallholdings, own home gardens, or are agricultural wage workers. They are trapped in poverty at subsistence level by low productivity and low economic returns which are characteristic of the agricultural sector. Therefore, economically disadvantaged women benefit significantly through women-led sales outlets and marketing of local produce which involves them in the supply chain and provides a steady source of income for them.

Gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls has also is also a pressing issue. Despite the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, the incidence of domestic violence continues to be high. Lack of awareness of legislation, the passive acceptance of violence by many victims, and unequal gender–power relations in families and society have made it possible for perpetrators to engage in such violence with impunity. The proposed project aims to educate women using accessible information about what gender-based violence is, its different forms, possible legal remedies and existing support measures through workshops on legal awareness and engaging in continuous dialogue. The program firmly believes that a returnee woman who has acquired complete knowledge about the application of the law can protect herself and her dependents from violence. Therefore, the proposed project will place special emphasis and measures strategically to address gender gaps in provision of support to strengthen the durable resettlement.

During the monitoring and evaluation process, gender disaggregated data will be collected to ensure the gender equality targets are met. Gender sensitive needs assessment and market surveys will be ensured, and women entrepreneurs and producers will be consulted to identify means and tools for supporting women. Similarly, during the identification and selection of staff, service-providers and partners, their gender-related experiences, competencies, and commitments will be considered. In addition, women’s groups and women entrepreneurs will be engaged as resource-persons and gender sensitization programmes will take place for civil societies and government institutions on gender balance, social inclusion, and diversity. The proposed project will mainstream

approaches and activities to address gender-specific constraints faced by women and the specific challenges faced by women entrepreneurs will be taken into consideration and addressed to promote a more equal environment.

Details of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugee Returnees

The total number of resettled Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as at 2021 total to 214,921 families or 736,480 individuals, while resettled refugee returnees as at 2021 total to 4,490 families and 14,354 individuals. The table below presents the accumulated statistics of these categories during the period of 2009 to 2021.

Total Resettled family details from 2009 to 2021

Districts	IDP Returnees		Refugee returnees		TOTAL returnees	
	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals
Jaffna	39,175	125,233	1,571	4,640	40,746	129,873
Kilinochchi	47,721	146,015	665	1,327	48,386	147,342
Mullaitivu	45,553	137,592	374	924	45,927	138,516
Trincomalee	35,869	138,573	1,718	6,870	37,587	145,443
Batticaloa	46,603	189,067	162	593	46,765	189,660
TOTAL	214,921	736,480	4,490	14,354	219,411	750,834

Source: District administration

Resettled family details from 2015 – 2022 July

Districts	IDP Returnees		Refugee returnees		TOTAL returnees	
	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals
Jaffna	6,452	23,037	877	1,972	7,329	25,009
Kilinochchi	400	1,400	226	527	626	1,927
Mullaitivu	68	188	173	381	241	569
Trincomalee	1,565	6,260	626	1,466	2,191	7,726
Batticaloa	558	2,235	105	401	663	2,636
TOTAL	9,043	33,120	2,007	4,747	11,050	37,867

Source: from District administration

In terms of present demand there are **3,029** IDP families with **9,182** individuals to be resettled in the target districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Batticaloa. Of these, 245 families have been living at 19 welfare centres in Jaffna District for over 30 years.

Districts	IDPs at welfare centers		IDPs with Host communities		TOTAL IDPs	
	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals
Jaffna	245	807	2,175	6,465	2,420	7,272
Kilinochchi	-	-	184	660	184	660
Mullaitivu	-	-	1	5	1	5
Trincomalee	-	-	262	652	262	652

Batticaloa	-	-	162	593	162	593
TOTAL	245	807	2,784	8,375	3,029	9,182

Source: District administration

There are currently 9,812 IDPs currently living at welfare centers or with host communities, as their land is still in high Security Zones. While some developments are taking place to relocate the families living in welfare centers, the remaining individuals will return depending on further developments on decisions taken by the Government to release land.

It should be noted that all welfare centers are currently on private lands and landowners have been pressuring the IDPs to vacate their lands. This state of uncertainty about the location of the welfare centers has caused the residents and the authorities to neglect maintenance of the centers. Many instead look towards the Sri Lankan Government scheme to assist landless IDP families which initially started with the provision of LKR 300,000 to purchase approximately 0.125 acres of land for them to resettle. This amount has currently been increased to LKR 700,000.

Recognizing ongoing issues and the need for escalated and continuous support, this project has been designed to support the durable resettlement and reintegration of communities and build confidence and trust in the reconciliation process. The project intends to ensure this by providing resettling communities with essential basic services along with access to sustainable livelihood and income generation opportunities, meeting the needs and demands of all concerned parties, especially vulnerable groups.

Programming in relation to resettlement and reintegration of refugee returnees is aimed towards addressing the current gap in post-return support services. Thus, there is a need to strengthen the sustainability of their reintegration. Although Sri Lanka's civil conflict drew to a close 12 years ago, most Sri Lankan refugees living in India have not returned. Most have lived in Tamil Nadu for 12-30 years, awaiting durable solutions. According to State authorities, the refugee returnees are in urgent need of livelihood support as they do not receive comprehensive livelihood support from the GoSL or from local CBOs. This phenomenon has posed challenges to their sustainable reintegration. Many youths from the refugee returnee community encounter challenges securing employment in line with their acquired skills and qualifications. Providing targeted and tailor-made livelihood assistance to the refugee returnee families would ensure their sustainable return and reintegration. Since 2010, 14,354 individuals/refugee returnees from 4,490 families have returned to Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts.

There are still **22,181** refugee families with **63,680** members from Northern and Eastern Provinces living in 108 camps in India. Out of these, 698 families and 460 single members are willing to return to Sri Lanka immediately. Further, another 1,062 families and 760 individuals are willing to return but not immediately due to other commitments. Information on the Sri Lankan refugees disaggregated by district in the camps in India is presented below. In addition, around 10,000 families are living outside camps.

A survey conducted in 2021 by OfERR Ceylon in the refugee camps at India revealed that since January 2022, 208 refugee returnees have returned from India through facilitation of UNHCR. In addition, a number of families have also returned spontaneously. Further 100 –150 returnees are expected to return in future. Approximately 200 refugee returnees who have returned in the past will be considered in this programme.

Sri Lankan Refugees in camps in India

Districts	Families	Members
Jaffna	2, 253	7,815
Kilinochchi	2,267	6,029
Mullaitivu	947	3,291
Mannar	6,947	19,390
Vavuniya	6,524	18,440
Trincomalee	3,215	8,605
Batticaloa	28	110
TOTAL	22,181	63,680

IOM's internal assessments and learnings from the previous JPP project indicate that when refugee returnees return to their communities, they frequently face economic constraints, challenges due to lack of access to civil and legal documents, and social exclusion as they are new to the existing community structures. This has a negative impact on returnees' mental health, and can lead to depression and anxiety. COVID-19 and the prevailing economic crisis has further exacerbated the socio-economic hardships faced by these marginalized communities and require focused attention. Improving their access to employment is also one of the mid-long-term recommendations made by the UN Advisory Paper: Immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 in Sri Lanka. Further, the Economic Development Framework - A Northern Province Master Plan, published by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, emphasizes the importance of investing in people to ensure their ability to participate in development.

Rehabilitated ex- Combatants

The return of ex-combatants could have also worsened the real or perceived vulnerability of local populations. Even after the considerable lapse of time, the ex-combatants still need focused and sustainable support to succeed in making the transition from military to civilian life. It is to be noted that unemployment is a major issue for this group despite them being officially rehabilitated. Disabled individuals-particularly, those who were injured during the war, face challenges in securing employment. Many ex-combatants face severe financial challenges managing their day-to-day needs. They continue to face enormous difficulties due to lack of self-employment training, lack of resources and a lack of opportunities. Some former ex-combatants are engaged in farming, poultry, and agriculture, with government-sponsored loan schemes. The focus on the sustainable reintegration of ex combatants should also be supported by interventions that focus on both the families of ex combatants and their respective communities, without whose support sustainable reintegration cannot be achieved. There are over 11,000 rehabilitees in the North and East: Jaffna (3,960), Kilinochchi (3,242), Mullaitivu (2,704), Batticaloa (429) Trincomalee (706) out of which only a very few cases assisted with livelihood and other sustainable reintegration options. This group would require livelihood support, psychosocial support and career guidance training. Further, those ex-combatants who became disabled during the war require mobility aids such as wheelchairs and crutches to restore control over their body movements as well as their self-confidence and independence.

Women headed households (WHH)

As in many other post-conflict contexts, women typically endure more post-conflict recovery challenges as they assume greater economic responsibilities and hardships in post-conflict environments. Further, these challenges are exacerbated due to pre-existing vulnerabilities and human security challenges they face during transition periods.

As per the district administration, as of 2021, there are 73,262 women headed households in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu. Of these 42,688 are from Jaffna. Moreover, the 2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey data indicates that the proportion of women headed households in two of the programme districts—Mullaitivu (28%) and Batticaloa (32.3%)—exceeded the national figure of 25.8%, with Batticaloa being the district with the highest proportion of such households. By contrast, 2020 Labour Force Survey data indicates that the female labour force participation rate in all five programme districts falls below the national figure of 32%. At 15.4% Trincomalee District had the lowest rate of all districts—less than half the national rate.

IOM internal assessments/field observations indicate that Sri Lanka's post-conflict environment has had harsh social and economic ramifications for women-headed households. Women in post-conflict Sri Lanka face profound and multi-faceted vulnerabilities, especially due to their new roles as primary breadwinners of their families. Furthermore, their roles as caretakers often tend to limit their mobility, and the freedom to grasp opportunities in pursuing work outside of their homes. Particularly within a post-conflict context, many women who face displacement or loss struggle to make the transition towards accessing formal or waged labour. This lack of education and transferable skills has been recognized as a lasting and detrimental cause for sustainable reintegration. Elements of personal/customary laws applicable to these communities (e.g. Thesavalamai law applicable to Tamils in the Northern Province) may also contribute additional barriers to female land ownership. More assistance is needed to boost their livelihoods and empower them with required life skills, financial literacy, networking and other support.

Ongoing support for already resettled families

There has been an ongoing support provided to return of refugees from Tamil Nadu and IDPs returning to newly released lands in high security zones and cleared mine fields through previous resettlement support phases. Every year, families returning to their place of origin who have not been supported by agencies and have unmet needs, e.g. Livelihood, WASH, land clearance, shelter etc. These families will be catered to during project implementation to further support and/or scale-up their livelihood engagement to ensure their sustainable stay in the country.

3. Needs of beneficiaries:

Each newly released area and resettling community have its own mixture of inherent developmental advantages and issues. The baseline assessment covered areas of social, environmental, economic and governance related aspects. Specifically, it was sought to identify needs of the resettling communities, with special focus on women, youth, elderly, disabled and ex-combatants' categories within the community. The assessment was analysed location specific conditions related to land, water, disasters, climate conditions before supporting appropriate livelihood and income generation programs. This also seek to understand local government capacities and immediate issues, needs of the institutions to be able to support the resettlement process. Resettling communities are faced with several challenges as they return to homes that are badly damaged or destroyed; polluted wells and ponds; overgrown agriculture and paddy fields; unusable roads, bridges and other basic public facilities and lack of equipment and resources to restart earlier livelihoods. Fishing communities residing in coastal villages are often unable to resume their livelihoods as fishing channels and access routes remain inaccessible and/or restricted. Most

of the resettled families need basic documents and registration to engage fully with DS office and GN to obtain services to support income generation.

Infrastructure and basic support services

Provision of basic infrastructure and livelihood has become the highest priority of the returnees. As families move back home, assistance to help them rebuild their livelihoods is essential for ensuring a rapid recovery and smooth transition towards sustainable resettlement/reintegration. Further, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the prevailing and increasingly dire economic crisis, the families have lost their livelihoods and sold their properties and other assets to meet their daily needs. It is understood that IDPs return to recently released land, some of which are their ancestral homes/lands, that were under military control, while returnees from welfare camps in Tamil Nādu, India generally resettle into government lands. Both groups/communities require additional support to access the necessary basic services. However, practically when communities move back to the newly released areas, they find that shelter is temporary, that essential basic services like road networks, health clinics, water, schools, are limited, non-existent or still in the process of being provided. Further, they also face difficulties in accessing/processing legal and identity documentation through government departments. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) have specific requirements to enable them to lead a functional life, including mobility aids such as wheelchairs and crutches, increased and more appropriate livelihood support, psychosocial and self-motivation training, skill training, and integration into the wider community.

Improvement of Housing

Housing is the most pressing need identified by the District Administrations Office. The provision of housing will facilitate the return of IDPs who have been living in welfare centres for more than three decades. Many IDPs are vulnerable, with very poor economic conditions. If they're not provided with adequate housing, they may not be able to return and will continue to live in welfare centres. With many welfare centres located on private lands, they are at risk of closure due to landowners pressuring them to vacate their lands. As a partial solution to the problem, the Government has developed schemes to assist landless IDP families. One mechanism involves providing state land, and another scheme involves IDP families owning land in their place of origin or elsewhere with support from the district administration office. Through this scheme the Government proposes to support IDP families in purchasing a maximum of 20 perches of land. Initially this began with the provision of LKR.400,000 to purchase 20 perches of land, which then increased as LKR.600,000. In addition to this, funding would also be provided for the construction of houses with toilet facilities. The Government estimated cost for completing such housing would be LKR 1,400,000 with a maximum 50 % contribution from the Government. This contribution would be insufficient for IDPs relocating from welfare centres and for women headed households to complete the homes as they already face significant hardships just to meet their daily needs. Presently, 110 families who relocated from welfare centres require additional support to complete houses in the Jaffna district. In addition, another 125 vulnerable families in resettlement locations also require assistance to complete their houses. (Jaffna 50, Kiilinochchi & Mullaitivu 25, Trinco & Batticaloa 50). With a minimum LKR.500,000 needed to complete a house.⁴

Livelihood development

Communities that are in the process of resettling, in general, require secure opportunities to enable members can earn a decent living. While many returnee households have a primary source of income, such income avenues remain at subsistence levels and many of them are still aid-reliant. Despite receiving the livelihood package, these families encounter numerous challenges in rebuilding their original income ventures.

⁴ District Administration, Resettlement Unit

Their plight is further exacerbated by the limited enabling environment resettling communities have, to support their livelihoods. The majority of income-earners do not have the adequate technical, entrepreneurial, and managerial capacities needed to transform their income-generating activities into market-based livelihoods, and face significant challenges when competing alongside persons, products, or services in an increasingly value-added market environment. While micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are critical for promoting growth and

are especially valuable in generating employment opportunities for women and youth, the potential of MSMEs in the Northern districts are curtailed by low levels of technology, lack of technical and managerial skills, lack of access to credit, and smaller markets and market-shares.

The livelihood opportunities for the youth in IDP or refugee families are also negatively impacted due to the lack of vocational training qualifications. It is observed that many families do not have the resources to support their children/youth to undertake vocational training courses and acquire the nationally recognized National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) that help them secure decent employment in any part of the country or abroad to support their families financially. The IOM field assessments also indicate that the lack of skills, especially among the youth, lead to higher unemployment rates, frustration and substance abuse. As such, the youth in IDP or refugee families or within the marginalized communities would immensely benefit from skilling, upskilling or re-skilling interventions.

A broad-based needs assessment was commissioned by UNDP in 2018 to understand the economic growth and sustainable development options for the Northern Province, as a holistic way forward. This will create a better understanding of local ground level needs, as well as why previous assistance succeeded or failed. The needs analysis relates to newly resettled communities and thus form the basis of this proposal. In addition, a project-based assessment was conducted in each district in-coordination with Government counterparts and other stakeholders.

Interventions under this output are designed to inject much-needed livelihood inputs and business development support to provide greater food security and durable solutions for returning families. Based on the initial needs assessment in resettled areas, fisheries, agriculture and livestock related interventions have been identified as necessary to sustain the livelihoods of returned and resettled families. In addition to this, complementary business development and capacity development trainings took place to ensure longer-term impact of planned interventions.

Resettlement areas face considerable environmental pressure due to increased demand for land and natural resources. They are also prone to drought and floods which can adversely impact crops, access to sea, internal fishing channels and farming. The proposed project will be guided by environmentally friendly and disaster-risk-sensitive considerations and will adhere to internal environmental policies and procedures. Awareness-raising on the environment, coastal conservation, waste management and climate change will be addressed through targeted trainings on sustainable production practices, resulting in not only improved quality and quantity of production, but also more effective land usage with minimal impact on available natural resources. The proposed agricultural activities (e.g., home gardening) are explicitly designed to be sustainable and environmentally friendly. They are also an effective a strategy to enhance household food security and nutrition.

The proposed project mainstreams environmental sustainability by building climate resilient livelihoods. For example, in 2018 and 2021, by creating a community cashew cultivation project on 55 acres of land in Maruthankerny and Pachillaippalli DS divisions, UNDP was able to prevent illegal sand mining in these areas. These efforts were sufficient to prevent flooding during the monsoon season. In addition, UNDP and IOM ensure vegetative regeneration in the area by providing seedlings/saplings to resettled families, restoring the vegetative coverage which was destroyed during the conflict and during subsequent demining processes. Similarly, village level environmental protection was ensured through raising farmers' awareness on climate change, smart agriculture and cash for work programmes which carried out to clear land and coastal areas of resettled villages.

Seeds and saplings were also provided during community fencing programs to demarcate the villagers' land, set village boundaries and in some area's bamboo saplings were planted along riverbanks to protect river /tank embankments. Bamboo plants were selected for this purpose as they prevent soil erosion, and they emit 35 per cent more oxygen into the atmosphere than most other plants.

Overall, these environmental resources-based conflicts reduce the total social welfare in the post conflict development context. Hence, the project will strengthen the existing community-based organizations for consensus building amongst different users through natural resource governance mechanisms and collective actions. Through strengthening collective actions and proper environmental governance mechanisms, the project will ensure equitable sharing of environmental resources amongst different users while minimizing the exploitation of natural environmental resources.

This project will also further strengthen the working relationship with key stakeholders like the Central Environmental Authority, the Department of Coastal Conservations and the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Needs	District: Current Needs				
	Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu	Trincomalee	Batticaloa
Livelihood	4,653	6,250	300	1,480	520
New houses	9,689	1,462	1,218	8,235	2,544
Repair of houses/Incomplete houses	2,436	400	228	7,678	3,498
Sanitation facilities	-	1,800	1,491	6,607	5,076
Repair of drinking water wells	171	250	-	-	-
Repair of Agro wells	65	50	-	-	-
Construction of common buildings	75	-	-	-	-
Repair of common buildings	05	-	-	-	-
Repair of internal roads	255	-	-	-	-

Source: District administration- March 2022

These figures indicate the overall unmet current needs of the above-mentioned districts among the total resettled families (219,411). Due to limited resources, consideration has been given to families who have been returning since 2015. As UNDP was unable to fulfill the needs of families returned during 2009- 2015, those families were excluded from the assistance. Therefore, the district/divisional administrators insist that UNDP include those caseloads as well.

Since 2015, 11,050 families returned to Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts. Among those families, around 60% (6,630) are fall into vulnerable groups. However, only 3,150 vulnerable families have been assisted with livelihood support through UK, EU, and Norway funding. There are remainder of approximately 3,500 families which still require support and assistance. In addition, there are possibilities for further release of land belonging to the IDPs and refugees from Indian refugee camps during this project period. Although some development is underway to relocate families who are living in welfare centers, the resettlement of IDP families who are living with host communities depends on future land release programs by GoSL.

Total returned families 2015-2022	Among them vulnerable population (60%)	Assisted families (From UK, EU, Norway funding)	To be assisted	Plan to support under EDDR (UK)	Gap
11,050	6,630	3,150	3,480	840	2,640
IDP families are expected to be resettled/ relocated over a two-year period					500
Expected refugee returnees returned from India within 2 years (source OfERR/ UNHCR)					1000
TOTAL Gap					4,140

In consideration of the current economic crisis, the design and development of the project will also be conducted in consultation with Government partners, such as District and Divisional Secretaries, for required approvals and regular reporting on progress. Sectoral livelihood assistance will be facilitated in consultation with Provincial departments such as the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Provincial Department of Animal Production and Health, Provincial Department of Cooperative Development. These departments will be closely involved in project formulation, implementation, review, and monitoring, and will be consulted for technical expertise, extension services, and trainings.

Mental Health and Psychosocial support (MHPSS)

Further, the refugee returnees, ex-combatants, IDPs, youth and other communities in vulnerable situations would benefit from psycho-social support to assist them develop coping strategies to reduce distress associated with the various challenges they are experiencing in their day-to-day lives due to economic hardships, unemployment, challenges in resettlement or other issues. Further, post-conflict reconstruction is a complex process. Those who were affected by war, may also need additional focused support to manage ongoing distress and face new challenges to survive in a society where conflict has destroyed most of the social, economic, and human capitals. Peer group support sessions, individual or group counselling to help them effectively reintegrate has been identified by the IOM field assessments, as one of the crucial needs.

Strengthening Community Based Organizations (CBO's)

Community based organizations play a significant role in promoting social cohesion and integration of the resettling communities, therefore, working with community-based organizations is critical. Strengthening newly formed and existing CBOs will help address the needs, demands, prejudices and norms affecting social cohesion. In addition, the capacity building of CBOs will ensure the continued support for target beneficiaries following the conclusion of the project, supported CBOs will be registered under the respective government line department and the Divisional Secretariat and these close linkages between CBOs and the DS will ensure continued function and monitoring of CBOs.

4. Strategies, including lessons learned and the proposed joint programme

The holistic approach of support proposed in this joint project is in-line with and contributes to Sri Lanka's National Policy on Durable solutions for Conflict- Affected Displacement (2019). UNDP and IOM will collaborate with a wide array of stakeholders including the respective district and divisional secretariats in the Northern and Eastern provinces, civil society organizations, local partner organizations and academia when implementing the project.

The proposed project will contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) strategic priority 3 (Social Cohesion and Inclusive Governance and Justice) which focuses on *“ensuring that more inclusive, participatory, and transparent governance systems and mechanisms are in place at all levels that effectively, efficiently and equitably pursue progress towards the SDGs whilst leaving no-one behind, whilst promoting a peaceful, inclusive and cohesive society and enable all people to deal with the past, be empowered, engaged and enjoy human rights and justice”*.

Building on the former Joint Programme for Peace (JPP) launched in 2019, the proposed project provides for scaled up/expanded support to displaced or conflict affected communities and for the development of complementary initiatives for strategic, coherent, and sustainable support towards Durable Solutions and Resettlement. To ensure advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment and to strengthen the positive role played by young people in peacebuilding, Gender and Youth are integrated as cross cutting themes across all activities proposed under the project.

The proposed project will employ a three-pronged strategy which includes direct support for beneficiaries, enabling them to initiate and/or continue their livelihood activities. The proposed project will also focus on strengthening state and non-state actors to activate community-based structures to promote and ensure the reintegration of resettled communities. The strategy has been further refined to support women headed households and PwDs, to ensure their durable resettlement, social reintegration, and access to sustainable livelihoods, enabling them to contribute towards community development in collaboration with state and non-state actors.

Theory of Change:

This project is specifically designed to ensure the durable resettlement of the newly resettled and refugee returnees who are displaced due to the armed conflict in Sri Lanka. According to the problem analysis and strategies designed, the theory of change is designed as follows to achieve the indented results of the joint project.

if resettling communities are provided with access to essential and basic services such as shelter, water and sanitation facilities, **and** sustainable livelihood and income generation opportunities with skills development and market linkages **and** support for social reintegration through comprehensive and trustful measures, aligned to

economic crisis and the evolving context, and a systematic, transparent, conflict-sensitive, geologically sensitive approach to reintegration **then** the returned, resettled communities in the northern and eastern provinces have durably resettled with improved living standards and trust and confidence towards state and non-state mechanisms ensuring durable resettlement and reintegration. This is **because**, the support provided by the project may strengthen the state and non-state system to support the resettled and refugee returnees with enhanced livelihood and income generation that further improve the living standards of the concerned people.

Building on this theory of change the project intends to ensure that newly resettling communities are provided with durable resettlement opportunities in selected conflict affected districts across the Northern and Eastern Provinces. The provision of sustainable livelihoods. The core needs of resettling communities revolve around their ability to re-start their lives in the newly released land, including by accessing necessary basic services, economic opportunities, and psycho-social support. The overall aim of this area of intervention is to revitalize economic opportunities at the community level by providing access to productive inputs, skills trainings, equipment and vital infrastructure, and increasing local employment.

Lessons Learned:

The proposed project will scale up successful resettlement work implemented by UNDP and IOM since 2009, including through previous funding under the Joint Programme for Peace (JPP). Some of these previous inputs include providing livelihood support, skills development and vocational training, psycho-social support to communities including IDPs, refugee returnees, ex-combatants, and women-headed households, empowering youth and strengthening rural development societies.

UNDP has longstanding, successful engagement as the lead agency supporting the roll out of the National Durable Solutions Policy for Resettlement. Of the approximate 17,300 acres of land released so far, UNDP assistance has directly covered over 1/3 (over 6,000 acres) including advocacy and lobbying for the release of these lands.

Furthermore, IOM has provided resettlement assistance to 240,000 IDPs following disaster or conflict, with 75,000 former conflicts affected IDPs transferred from an emergency relief stage to long-term stabilization through enhancement of community resilience and livelihood assistance. From 2004-2009, IOM has also supported 34,090 individuals in their return and reintegration from India and as the lead UN entity for Migration, continues to assist migrant/refugee returnees to sustainably reintegrate to communities.

UNDP and IOM have established strong working relationships with local governments, having closely collaborated throughout the planning and implementation processes. UNDP's and IOM's comparative advantage in implementing this project is its long history of engagement with sub-national structures in Sri Lanka, and the support it has provided in improving livelihoods, strengthening governance structures, revitalizing community based organisations and in improving local economic development.

The proposed joint programme:

The proposed joint EDRR project will be implemented jointly by UNDP and IOM with the overall objective of enabling the resettlement and sustainable reintegration of conflict-affected communities in the North and East of Sri Lanka. The recommendations emanating from the report of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights during the 49th session of the UN Human Rights Council held from 28 February to 1 April 2022, also emphasizes the importance of releasing military acquired lands back to the communities, recognition of the rights of victims and continuing to promote reconciliation, accountability and Human Rights. The proposed project is further in-line with and contributes to Sri Lanka's National Policy on Durable Solutions for Conflict- Affected Displacement (2019) and

the National Policy on reparations which was endorsed by the Government of Sri Lanka in 2021. The latest policy on reparations further highlights the need for livelihood support, land rights, provision of housing, development of community infrastructure and psychosocial support for aggrieved communities.

Under the proposed project, UNDP will implement activities in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts while IOM will implement targeted activities in the Jaffna district. The beneficiaries will comprise IDPs, refugee returnees, women-headed households, ex-combatants, youth, community-based organizations (CBOs)/rural development societies and the local government structures. To avoid duplication, IOM and UNDP will closely coordinate and implement actions in pre-identified grama niladhari⁵ divisions / locations.

CSOs / implementing partners of the project will be selected through a competitive process which includes assessing their past experiences, capacity, resources, legal status, implementation methodology, financial stability, accountability, and credibility. Due diligence assessments will be undertaken prior to selecting the CSOs as partners. Both UNDP and IOM will conduct necessary capacity building programmes (workshops, trainings etc.) during the contractual period. Further, regular coordination meetings, reviews, and discussions will be conducted

in a periodical manner. Regular monitoring of CSO activities will be undertaken by UNDP and IOM field as well as main offices. Progress reporting (both narrative and financial) will be required from the CSO partners throughout the contractual period.

IOM will target a minimum of 1200 individuals (direct beneficiaries) through different interventions. It is expected that through the quick impact infrastructure, counselling space upgrading a minimum of 300 community members will further be indirectly benefitted. More specifically, IOM will reach 350 families (approximately 1000 individuals benefitting) assisted through sustainable livelihood support, skills development interventions and MHPSS support, 100 youth through career guidance/vocational training, 50 MHPSS officers/service providers, 10 Women rural development societies (reaching minimum 200 members of WRDS), 5 counselling spaces (a minimum of 250 indirect beneficiaries), 3 quick impact infrastructure (a minimum of 250 indirect beneficiaries) in Jaffna district.

UNDP targeted 5,535 beneficiaries directly through various interventions such as livelihood support (490) home gardening (130) socio economic infrastructure (1,300), shelter support (240) cash for work programmes (100), strengthening CBOs (1,000), capacity building for Government Officials (200), mobile documentation programmes (1000), psychosocial support (150) and other trainings such as idea generation, advanced skills development, value addition, self-motivation, career guidance, property rights and GBV (925). In addition, 2500 returnees aim to benefit indirectly through this project in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts.

The project seeks to meet the objective through the following outcomes and outputs:

EDRR Outcome 1: Return, resettlement and/or local integration of conflict-displaced persons in the Northern and Eastern Provinces supported in a sustainable, safe, and dignified manner, based on confidence in state and non-state mechanisms for rebuilding lives and communities.

⁵ Administrative structures/locations at village level

This outcome will contribute to the strategic objectives outlined in the terms of reference under the SDG Fund. Specific outputs designed in a collective manner will contribute to the Outcome and will consider the current context and policy priorities of UNDP and IOM. The key activities planned under each output have been clearly discussed and crafted based on addressing the local and basic needs of the beneficiaries.

Output 1.1: Increased access to inclusive and citizen-centric state and non-state support services, including community infrastructure.

Given the wide array of issues and challenges the conflict affected communities including IDPs and refugee returnees face, psychosocial support officers and counselling officers attached to the district and divisional secretariats as well as other non-government MHPSS service providers in Jaffna district will be capacitated on providing effective MHPSS support services and their knowledge and skills on providing psychological first aid (PFA), psychosocial interventions, stress management, cognitive therapy communication skills, facilitating individual and group counselling sessions etc. At present, many divisional level offices do not have counselling friendly spaces to provide MHPSS support to communities whilst also respecting the confidentiality/privacy of the individuals. IOM will assess the requirements of such offices and support them with establishing/creating counselling friendly spaces (By partitioning, providing material/equipment needed for such offices to effectively support communities etc.). In order to effectively respond to the MHPSS issues and support the conflict affected communities with coping strategies, resilience, needed psycho-social support, individual or peer group counselling sessions will be facilitated through the project and referrals will be made to relevant counselling officers attached to district and divisional secretariats, mental health units in hospitals and specialized NGOs providing MHPSS support.

Key Activities:

- 1.1.1. Build knowledge, capacities and infrastructure of state and non-state actors to provide mental health and psycho-social support services in Jaffna District
- 1.1.2. Provide direct individual or peer group counselling sessions and/or referrals to conflict affected communities requiring MHPSS support
- 1.1.3. Support local level state actors to conduct needs assessment of their locality using the "deep-listening tool".
- 1.1.4. Facilitate institutional strengthening of relevant state and non-state actors to handle emergencies.
- 1.1.5. Capacitate local level state and non-state actors to improve their ability to maintain inclusive option for PwDs. (Mobility Equipment)
- 1.1.6. Strengthen existing accountability mechanisms to report and respond to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and other forms of exploitations in service delivery.
- 1.1.7. Support to complete the shelter and other basic facilities to ensure physical protection

Output 1.2: Increased livelihood opportunities for resettled community groups that are durable, climate-resilient and context-specific

Beneficiaries identified through a vulnerability screening tool will be supported through a sustainable reintegration model under the project. The needed livelihood support will be provided following individual or group consultations with beneficiaries where they will be guided to effectively identify suitable business/livelihood options after carefully assessing market opportunities. Based on a reintegration plan developed for each returnee, in-kind support (material, equipment or voucher as appropriate) will be provided. Entrepreneurship and skills development training will be conducted to enhance their knowledge and skills including financial literacy and business management and to create market linkages. Further, the project will seek to provide the necessary infrastructure such as access to water and roads, benefiting the newly resettled communities.

The Project will aim to revitalize economic opportunities at the community level by providing access to productive inputs, equipment and vital infrastructure across agriculture, livestock, dairy, fisheries and business development sectors. Interventions will focus on facilitation of market access and enabling linkages with Government and private service providers to support sustainable employment opportunities. Technical support will also be provided including capacity building on business management and marketing, facilitation of market linkages, mentoring, support for value addition and to scale up businesses. Productive inputs will be provided according to actual needs and will be accompanied by relevant training to ensure environmentally friendly use of inputs start-up support to viable business ventures.

UNDP's comparative advantage in implementing this project is its long history of engagement with sub-national structures in Sri Lanka, and the support it has provided in improving livelihoods, strengthening governance structures, revitalising community-based organisations and in improving local economic development. In sum, the project will use a mix of approaches to ensure cost efficiency and effectiveness. It will use a portfolio management approach by both leveraging mechanisms established through older projects for resettlement such as the Support to Durable resettlement (SDR) project, Support to Sustainable Resettlement (SSRS) project, Catalytic Support to Peacebuilding (CSPB) project, Resettlement in Newly Released Areas (RNRA) project, and work closely with existing projects. This will help to strengthen synergies and complementarity between different initiatives and assist in providing an integrated local development support. UNDP is already partnering with Provincial Councils and CSOs in these districts and has a presence in District and Divisional Coordination Committees, and District and Divisional Agriculture Committees. This will help to strengthen synergies and complementarity between different initiatives and assist in providing an integrated local development support. The project will continue to scale up UNDP's best practices, such as its work mobilizing and empowering community organizations to work with local authorities in the North and East through its CDLG programme to ensure they receive the support that's required. UNDP will also build on its existing strong field presence in the districts of the North and East. The project will also bring in other best practices from other UNDP projects such as its livelihood work, work with youth enterprise development, disaster resilience and climate change adaptation, access to legal services, psychosocial support, etc. The project will scale up these best practices employing these tools and options where and when appropriate, tailor making it to local needs.

Key Activities:

1.2.1. Provide immediate equitable livelihood inputs for newly resettled communities with specific attention to PWDs and women-headed households.

1.2.2. Support resettled communities with innovative income generation and livelihood opportunities.

1.2.3. Facilitate market linkages for established livelihood initiatives

1.2.4. Establish immediate basic livelihood related infrastructure for newly resettled communities.

Output 1.3: Resettling communities, in particular PWDs and female-headed households are socially reintegrated with the help of community-based structures including CBOs and producer organizations including women led organizations/ CBOs

Following a mapping exercise, identified community structures such as CBOS and women’s rural development societies (WRDS) will be strengthened and capacitated to effectively operate and provide services to the conflict affected communities. They will be provided necessary material, equipment and grants for their revolving fund to carry out their operations. Further, they will be provided with training on effective management and operation of their collectives and on effective services provision for conflict affected communities.

Key Activities:

1.3.1. Re/activate CBOs, including women rural development societies (WRDS) and strength to address the needs, demands, prejudices and norms affecting social integration.

1.3.2. Establish local level state, non-state and citizen interaction platforms for dialogue and dispute resolution.

The proposed project responds to immediate resettlement needs of IDPs and returnees while supporting previously resettled communities to sustain durable resettlement, through enhanced service delivery and access to new opportunities as envisioned in the Durable Resettlement Policy.

UNDP and IOM have a long history of engagement with sub-national structures in Sri Lanka and have provided extensive support to resettling communities in improving dwelling, livelihoods, strengthening governance structures, revitalizing community-based organizations and in improving local economic development.

Through UNDP’s ongoing support to Parliamentary development initiatives, the agency will engage national level decision-makers to effectively contribute to and address priority areas of the project, especially through the existing Parliamentary committee systems. The current Law Reform Agenda of the GoSL, to which UNDP provides technical assistance, has also placed special focus on developing sustainable mechanisms (including required substantive and procedural legal reform and as well as Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms) for the legal protection of economic and property rights of marginalized communities (including women)

There is also synergy between the proposed project activities and UNDPs existing resilience building and agricultural livelihood development projects, including the “Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project” funded by GCF and implemented by the UNDP and Ministry of Irrigation especially in Trincomalee, Districts. UNDP is already partnering with Provincial Councils and CSOs in these districts and has a presence in District and Divisional Coordination Committees, and District and Divisional Agriculture Committees. This will help to strengthen synergies and complementarity between different initiatives and assist in providing an integrated local development support.

Further, partnerships fostered under UNDPs Regional Business and Human Rights project will provide an entry point for advocacy to gain support from private sector partners for resettled communities. More specifically, through due diligence processes, working with businesses that have operations in resettled areas, to ensure livelihoods and the rights of these communities are not negatively impacted. The project will continue to scale up UNDP's best practices, such as its work in mobilizing and empowering community organizations to work with local authorities in the North and East through its Capacity Development of Local Governments (CDLG) programme to ensure the proposed project receives the support required.

UNDP and IOM will also build on their existing strong field presence in districts in the North and East. The project will also utilize best practices from other UNDP and IOM projects such as its livelihood work, work with youth enterprise development, disaster resilience and climate change adaptation, access to legal services, psychosocial support, etc. The project will scale up these best practices employing these tools and options where and when appropriate, tailor making it to local needs.

Due to limited resource allocation the selection of all divisions was not possible, however, when new divisions are selected, proposed interventions will be necessary. This action will also continue the activities from the previous projects, working to reactivate and/or develop existing capacities of local-level institutions and state-led structures which are essential to ensure the durable resettlement of families. This may include, as appropriate, CBOs, Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Producer's groups, Rural Development Societies, and Women's Rural Development Societies (WRDS). This is expected to empower returning families to engage with local Government service providers and other duty bearers, to enhance social capital, trust and solidarity among the poorest and most marginalized. This will in turn provide support to prioritize the immediate transition recovery needs and address sectoral gaps in the GN division targets.

All IOM and UNDP projects are implemented in collaboration with GoSL. IOM brings global expertise and national experience to all projects in Sri Lanka which contribute to sustainable capacity building of partners in GoSL and the civil society. IOM's work in the country is facilitated through its head office in Colombo and field offices in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Batticaloa. IOM brings a total staff strength of over 140 members in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka country office is further supported by thematic experts in the IOM Regional Office of Asia Pacific in Bangkok and the IOM Headquarters in Geneva.

IOM's extensive assistance in the country since 1990 has reached multiple types of vulnerable migrants, including those stranded abroad due to conflict or disaster, assisted voluntary returnees, Sri Lankan refugees who have returned from India, victims of trafficking, internally displaced people and former combatants. This assistance has reached more than 150,000 individuals returning from abroad who were supported with return and/or reintegration and assistance for 240,000 internally displaced people to return and reintegrate into home areas following disaster or conflict within the country. In areas of high migrant return or high irregular migration IOM has implemented extensive community development projects. Since 2002, IOM has constructed and reconstructed more than 100 community and productive infrastructures, complete with capacity building for community based and civil society organizations and local government officers, along with community members using the facilities. Thousands more have been reached through community and productive infrastructure projects following conflict and disaster affected displacement.

In particular, the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme is a core global IOM activity and has provided vital assistance to tens of thousands of migrants returning home every year. The AVRR programme in

Sri Lanka to return home and restart their lives in Sri Lanka. Of these, more than 6,200 returnees also received a comprehensive livelihood development package, further supporting sustainable return.

IOM's counter trafficking, protection, border management, migration health, operations and movements service portfolios further complement the interventions made under a wide array of projects implemented by IOM Sri Lanka. Since 2007, IOM's counter trafficking programmes have supported the GoSL and the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF), which comprises 18 key government ministries and departments, in the development and implementation of the National Strategic Plan to Combat Human Trafficking. IOM also provided technical support to the GoSL to develop the National Migration Health Policy and the National COVID-19 response plan for migrants.

Sustainability of results:

When implementing activities, UNDP and IOM will seek to ensure the sustainability of interventions made under the project. For instance, when capacitating State officials, awareness will be created on effective service delivery provision and support to the vulnerable communities. By partnering with long standing local CSOs, the project will ensure that linkages are created, and the beneficiaries are able to reach out when guidance, training or any other support is required beyond the project period. By strengthening Women Rural Development Societies, the project will seek to link the women-headed households and other vulnerable communities for continuous skills development and business development / income generation activities. Further by providing vocational and business development/skills training, financial literacy to women headed families and youth, they will be empowered to secure and engage in decent and productive employment. Overall, by collaborating with and capacitating the local government authorities, strengthening CSOs/CBOs and Rural Development societies, the project will seek to create a sense of ownership among the government and other non-government stakeholders at grassroots level and continue needed interventions through them even beyond the project period.

Identified best practices, including community-driven processes and enhanced government engagement and buy-in will continue to be a core part of project implementation. The proposed project will, where relevant work with leading specialized Government service providers such as the Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), Industrial Services Bureau (ISB), Sri Lanka Standard Institute (SLSI), Institute of Post-Harvest Technological unit (IPHT). The project will also work with other and other localized government departments such as the Department of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries, Department of Animal Production and Health, Department of Small Industries, and Department of Cooperative Development to provide specialized services to individuals and/or Partner Organization (POs) to ensure new product development, technology enhancement, quality assurance and standardization.

Linkages with the formal financial sector will be established to allow beneficiaries to obtain financial assistance to ensure expansion of activities beyond the project period which will be vital for the growth of business-related interventions. At the conclusion of the project, specific outputs such as infrastructure facilities will be handed over to the respective POs or decentralized local government bodies for maintenance.

The project's strategy of strengthening CBOs and local government capacities has also been developed to promote sustainability. Capacity building of CBOs and government institutions will ensure continuing support for target beneficiaries, following the conclusion of the project. Capacity of CBOs will also be built in terms of administration and management, for them to function independently and finance their activities following the completion of the

project. Additionally, supported CBOs will be registered under the respective government line departments and the divisional secretariat and these close linkages between CBOs and the DS will ensure the continued functioning and monitoring of CBOs.

5. Results Framework

Result	Objectively Verifiable Indicator (OVIs)	Baseline	Interim targets	End line	Target date	Achieved target	Reasons for variation	Means of verification	Responsible agency	Assumptions
Overarching objective:										
Multiple partners at all levels of society promote justice, foster social cohesion, and prioritize sustainable and secure integration of conflict displaced persons for achieving durable peace in Sri Lanka.										
Outcome 1: Return, resettlement and/or local integration of conflict displaced persons in the Northern and Eastern Provinces supported in a sustainable	1.A: Percentage of beneficiaries reported that their incomes increased (Disaggregated by categories such as Youth and Women/ Women Headed Households (WHH), Ex combatants)	0	40% by December 2023	60%	31.03.2025			End-line survey with target beneficiaries.	UNDP	There will be adequate resource including external resource team available for the survey. The situation will be conducive to conduct the field survey.

e, safe, and dignified manner, based on confidence in state and non-state mechanisms for rebuilding lives and communities.	1.B: Percentage of targeted population that report having improved living standards. <i>as assessed in the baseline assessment in terms of increased incomes, better access to facilities, education, health, medical and household assets, savings and MHPSS.</i>	0 (for the target beneficiaries)	40% by December 2023	60%	31.03. 2025			UNDP annual perception survey amongst resettled families	UND P/ IOM	
--	---	----------------------------------	----------------------	-----	-------------	--	--	--	------------	--

	1.C: <i>Percentage of the targeted resettled population that report increased feelings of confidence and trust in the resettlement process based on access to livelihood services.</i>	20% (Total resettled population – Sample)	30% by December 2023	50%	31.03.2025			UNDP perception survey of resettled families	UNDP / IOM	1.C: <i>Percentage of the targeted resettled population that report increased feelings of confidence and trust in the resettlement process based on access to livelihood services.</i>
Output 1.1: <i>Increased access to inclusive and citizen-centric state and non-state support services, including community</i>	1.1.1: <i>Percentage of beneficiaries who have a positive opinion of the counselling services provided.</i>	0	30%	60%	31.03.2025			Annual review of the project reports and CSO reports.	IOM	The project implementation is conducted without any interruption. CSOs produce reports timely.

infrastructure.	1.1.2: Percentage of target beneficiaries satisfied with legal and other related services provided by state and non-state actors (UNDP).	Overall, 20% (WHH – 20%. Excombatants – 25%. Youth – 10%)	N/A	60%	31.03.2025			End line survey and Annual review of the project reports and CSO reports	UNDP	Collecting data can be conducted frequently .
	1.1.3: Percentage of beneficiaries who demonstrate an increase in skill or knowledge of the topics covered in the training. (Disaggregated by sex)	0	20% by end of October 2023 50% by end of October 2024 (Disaggregated by sex)	70%	31.03.2025			Annual perception survey Feedback forms/post training evaluation assessments	UNDP / IOM	There will be adequate resource including external resource team available for the survey. The situation will be conducive to conduct the field survey.

	1.1.4 A Percentage of the target local state actors confirmed that they deliver citizen-centric gender services.	0			70%	31.03.2025			<i>Annual perception survey or assessments</i>	UNDP/ IOM	The situation will be conducive to conduct the field survey.
	1.1.4 B The percentage of the target local state actors confirmed that they deliver citizen-centric PWDsensitive services.	0			70%	31.05.2025			<i>Annual perception survey or assessments</i>	UNDP/ IOM	The situation will be conducive to conduct the field survey.

	1.1.5: Percentage of resettled families confirmed that they are protected physically	0			80%	31.05.2025			<i>Review of project reports and direct monitoring</i>	UNDP	CSOs and Government reports are available on time.
Output 1.2: Increased livelihood opportunities for resettled community groups that are durable, climate resilient and	1.2.1: Number of target families benefitted from sustainable livelihood opportunities, established/create d by the project within the project period.	0	180 by end of October 2023 540 by end of October 2024	617 (UNDP 267 And IOM 350 –	31.03.2025				<i>Annual review of the project and CSO reports. Direct monitoring and monitoring reports.</i>	UNDP	CSOs and Government reports are available on time.

[illegible]

Output 1.3: Resettling communities, in particular PWDs and female headed households are socially reintegrated with the help of community-based structures including CBOs and producer organizations including women-led organizations/ CBOs.	1.3.1: Percentage of CBOs and Producer Organizations of the resettled communities that demonstrated effective functioning (Regular meetings, Financial Management, etc)	0	20% by end of October 2023 40% by end of October 2024	60%	31.03.2025			Annual CSO assessment and project report reviews	UNDP and IOM	The project implementation is conducted without any interruption. CSOs produce reports timely.
structures including CBOs and producer organizations including women-led organizations/ CBOs.	1.3.2: Percentage of returnee/ resettled persons reported that they have communitybased structures/ platforms to share and resolve the social issues related to social reintegration.	0		25%	31.03.2025			Annual CSO assessment and project report reviews.	UNDP	The project implementation is conducted without any interruption. CSOs produce reports timely.

Refer to Annex A: EDRR – Indicator Definition – UNDP-IOM

6. Management and Coordination Arrangements

This project will be managed and jointly implemented by UNDP and IOM over a span of 30 months. The SDG Fund Secretariat, housed at the UN Resident Coordinator's office will be responsible for the Joint Programme partners, providing strategic direction, coordination, compiling annual work plans and narrative reports, calling and reporting on Steering Committee meetings, facilitating evaluation, and reporting back to the Steering Committee⁶.

UNDP and IOM will form a technical committee for the project consisting of relevant technical and project focal points (a minimum of two officers from each organization) and will convene quarterly internal meetings to closely coordinate the implementation arrangements. Assigned project managers from UNDP and IOM will be responsible for the implementation of the activities undertaken by each agency.

A project coordination committee will be formed consisting of at least one representative from UNDP and IOM, SDG Fund Secretariat and the donor. Coordination committee meetings will be convened bi-annually by the SDG Fund Secretariat to discuss the progress, share updates, challenges and best practices. Meeting minutes will be shared by the SDG Fund Secretariat following for such meetings.

At ground level, all project activities will be closely coordinated with the respective local administration (district and divisional secretariats and other relevant government departments, particularly in terms of identifying and assisting the beneficiaries). Both IOM and UNDP will collaborate with local CSOs/NGOs with a view to empowering and capacitating them to actively support the conflict affected communities and ensure sustainability of interventions. Both UNDP and IOM have extensive field presence and offices in the Northern and Eastern provinces and the activities will further be closely coordinated and monitored through them.

7. Fund Management Arrangements

Pass-through fund management mechanism will be utilized under this project by the participating UN agencies (PUNOs)-UNDP and IOM, in order to achieve the most effective, efficient and timely implementation. Under the Pass-through fund management mechanism- the administrative agent (AA) – Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) will pass through funds to PUNOs who will manage their own funds. The AA will be responsible for effective and impartial fiduciary management and financial reporting to the donor. Each PUNO will assume full programmatic and financial accountability for funds disbursed by the AA. Each of the above PUNO will implement the project in accordance with their financial guidelines and procedures and the budgets/expenditure will be regularly and closely monitored.

⁶ <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/Guidance-Note-on-Joint-Programmes.pdf>

PUNOs will prepare certified financial reports as per the agreed timelines and at the end for the entire project. AA will consolidate the financial report in consultation with the respective organization headquarters’ finance departments and submit to the donor.

Both UNDP and IOM will collaborate with CSO partners when implementing the project and the grants will be disbursed to them by PUNOs in line with the UNDP’s and IOM’s organizational guidelines. The progress made under the project, implementation and their financials will be closely monitored by PUNOs.

8. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

The implementing entities – UNDP and IOM, are responsible for continuous monitoring of programme performance against specific outputs and in relation to contributions to relevant outcomes. The SDG Fund Secretariat will consolidate programme-level information in a central, results-based management system. Performance data is gathered at outcome and output levels, linking program-related and financial result indicators so evaluators can measure the Fund efficiency and effectiveness. UNRCO will be responsible for oversight of the monitoring and evaluation of programmes.

Both UNDP and IOM will conduct regular and ongoing general monitoring of project activities, results, risks and financial reports.

- (a) Activity monitoring will be done in line with the workplan developed and activities will be closely monitored and by the respective project managers. Specific activities will be assessed periodically to the progress and quality, as well as changes resulting from those activities, and documented in monitoring reports which will subsequently be incorporated/reflected in project reports.
- (b.) Results monitoring will be done in line with the Results Monitoring Framework developed for the project, that builds on the log frame with more specific plans for responsibilities and timeline for data collection and analysis of each indicator.
- (c) Rsk monitoring will follow aa Risk Management Plan which will be , monitored and updated as needed by the project managers of UNDP and IOM. Risk monitoring entails identifying risks based on the operating environment, and assigning risk treatment actions.
- (d) Financial monitoring, will be done by the project managers of UNDP and IOM who will regularly track costs by input against the planned expenditures as per the approved budget, using data and reports from the financial management system of each agency.

Monitoring and Reporting Plan:

Activity	Purpose	Frequency	Expected Actions
----------	---------	-----------	------------------

1. Track progress results	Assess progress against agreed outputs by matching progress data	Quarterly and/or in the frequency required by the indicators.	- At least 1 joint field visit with the donor within the programme period. - Field monitoring spot checks by UNDP and IOM.
	against results indicators in the results framework.		
2. Monitor and Manage Risks	Identify specific risks that threaten achievement of results. Monitor risk management actions and course corrections.	Quarterly	Review project progress and implementation – project management actions taken to manage risk.
3. Project Quality Assurance	Project quality assessed against UNDP's and IOM's quality standards	At the design stage, at the Implementation stage and by the end of the project	QA review areas of strength and weakness by project management and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.
	to identify strengths and weaknesses.		
4. Reporting	A results-oriented, evidence-based progress report presented.	As per the requirement from the SDG Fund Secretariat reporting guidelines, the results-oriented report with the financial statements to be provided.	Collect evidence-based inputs from partners and prepare the report. UNDP and IOM as recipient Agents will compile the narrative reports and submit a consolidated report through RCO.

Evaluation Plan:

Evaluation title	Type of evaluation	National priority	EDRR Results Framework	UNDP's strategic framework	IOM's strategic framework	Planned completion date	Key evaluation stakeholders

Joint Project Final evaluation: Support to Durable Resettlement	External independent Joint Project Evaluation	National Policy on Durable Solutions - Policy for Conflict affected displacement.	Multiple partners at all levels of society promote justice, foster social cohesion, and prioritize sustainable and secure integration of conflict displaced persons for achieving durable peace in Sri Lanka.	No one left behind centreing on equitable access to opportunities and a rights-based approach to human agency and human development.	Will be undertaken also in line with IOM Sri Lanka's country strategy and evaluation frameworks . IOM adopts a whole-of-government and whole of society approach to achieve sustainable development	31 March 2025	District and Divisional Secretariats in North and East Relevant CSOs Beneficiaries groups/ CBOs
					outcomes for all.		

Regular reviews: UNDP and IOM will conduct quarterly review meetings to discuss the progress and coordination arrangements in place, build synergies and complement activities where feasible, discuss challenges/risks and find solutions and share best practices emanating from the project.

Evaluation: UNDP and IOM will conduct a joint external evaluation at the end of the project- which will be commissioned by UNDP as the lead agency. . The evaluation costs are budgeted under the project. The external evaluation arrangements will be planned, and arrangements will be made 4 months prior to the end of the project. The evaluation framework will be jointly developed by UNRCO, UNDP and IOM. project performance including effectiveness in terms of quality of activities and achievement of results (at output and outcome levels, including progress in reaching the indicator targets) efficiency of implementation processes, as well as relevance and coherence of project design and the likely impact and sustainability of the project will be assessed through the evaluation planned under the project.

Monitoring: UNDP and IOM has a strong and extensive field presence in the Northern and Eastern part of the country and the activities will be monitored through the field officers as well as visits made by the project team based in Colombo.

Reporting: Reporting will be done in line with the Memorandum of Understanding of the SDG MPTF between the PUNOs and the SDG MPTF.

UNDP and IOM will be individually responsible for preparing annual and final narrative and financial reports. Annual narrative reports will be submitted to UNRCO by both UNDP and IOM within preagreed reporting periods. Quarterly updates will be submitted as required by each PUNO to the UNRCO. Based on the narrative reports / updates submitted by PUNOs, UNRCO will prepare consolidated narrative reports /updates to the donor. UNDP and IOM will prepare certified financial reports (annual and final) as per the agreed timelines and at the end for their components of the programme. The Administrative agent (of the UN SDG MPTF) will be responsible for consolidating financial reports submitted by PUNOs. A common reporting format will be adopted by UNDP and IOM.

9. Legal Context or Basis of Relationship

The SDG Fund Secretariat and PUNOs (UNDP and IOM) will perform activities in line with the internal administrative arrangements and the MOU (on the operational aspects of the programme) between the PUNOs and the MPTF office (UN Sri Lanka SDG MPTF).

IOM has established its presence and implements programmes in Sri Lanka pursuant to the Cooperation agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and IOM entered into on 26 June 2001. At the country level, IOM's strategic priorities are detailed in the IOM Sri Lanka Country Strategy. The proposed project will contribute to the broader thematic areas of resettlement, social cohesion and reconciliation whilst building on the linkages with both central and local government actors and other non-government stakeholders.

UNDP will implement the proposed project under UNDP Sri Lanka's Flagship Portfolio on SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The Portfolio's underlying long-term strategy is to address governance deficits and to strengthen the effectiveness of key national institutions, both nationally and sub-nationally, as well as support the government with the durable resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, as a contribution to sustainable peace and inclusive socioeconomic development in Sri Lanka. UNDP will be implementing the project in close cooperation with Government Agents (GA's) in target districts and will work with Provincial Councils for livelihood development and improved service delivery.

10. Work plans and budgets

Work Plan for: Expanded Support for Durable Resettlement and Reintegration in Sri Lanka (EDRR)

Period: 1 October 2022- 31 March 2025

UN organizationspecific targets (Outputs)	UN organization	Indicative Key Activities									
			Time frame			Implementing Partner	Planned budget (in USD)				
			Y1	Y2	Y3			Source of Funds	Budget Description	UNDP	IOM
Output 1.1: Increased access to inclusive and citizen-centric state and non-state support services, including community infrastructure.	IOM / UNDP	1.1.1: Build knowledge, capacities, and infrastructure of state and non- state actors to provide Mental Health and Psycho-social Support Services				State and Non-state actors		Costs for training venue, meals, refreshments, resource person fees, travel allowances, training material, Cost for material, equipment, renovation of MHPSS spaces	2,527	18,156	20,683
	IOM	1.1.2: Provide direct individual or peer group counselling sessions and/or referrals to					Don or (UK)	Cost for venue, meals, resource persons,	0	3,352	3,352

		conflict affected communities requiring MHPSS support				referrals			
	UNDP	1.1.3: Support local level state actors to conduct needs assessment of their locality using "Deep-listening tool".				Costs for training venue, meals, refreshments, resource person fees, travel allowances, training material,	1,404	0	1,404

						Cost for material, equipment,			
	UNDP	1.1.4: Facilitate institutional strengthening of relevant state and non-state actors to handle emergencies.				Costs for training venue, meals, refreshments, resource person fees, travel allowances, training material, Cost for material, equipment,	9,690	0	9,690
		1.1.5:				Costs for training venue,			


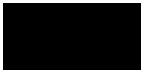
	UNDP	Capacitate local level state and non-state actors to improve their ability to maintain inclusive option for PwDs. (Mobility Equipment)				meals, refreshments, resource person fees, travel allowances, training material, Cost for material, equipment,	2,008	0	2,008
	UNDP	1.1.6: Strengthen existing accountability mechanisms to report and respond to SGBV and other forms of exploitations in service delivery.				Costs for training venue, meals, refreshments, resource person fees, travel allowances, training material, Cost for material, equipment,	5,056	0	5,056
	UNDP	1.1.7: Support to complete the shelter and other basic facilities to ensure physical protection				Construction materials, labors, etc	334,457	0	334,457
Output 1.2: Increased livelihood opportunities for resettled community groups that are durable, climate-resilient and context-specific	UNDP / IOM	1.2.1: Provide immediate equitable livelihood inputs for newly resettled communities with specific attention to PWDs and female-headed households.				Livelihood support (equipment, material, vouchers and other items) to beneficiaries' partner CSO costs for monitoring, Transport cost, food, accommodation and other site visit costs for exposure visits of beneficiaries	191,792	-314,371	506,163

	UNDP / IOM	1.2.2: Support resettled communities with innovative income generation and livelihood opportunities.				Costs for training venue, meals/refreshments, resource persons, travel allowances, training courses and material	54,069	- 28,174	- 82,243
	UNDP	1.2.3: Facilitate market linkages for the established livelihood initiatives				Cost for trainings and venue, consultant fee	16,976	0	16,976
	UNDP / IOM	1.2.4: Establish immediate basic livelihood related infrastructure for newly resettled communities.				Material, equipment, construction and renovation costs	36,300	16,760	53,060
Output 1.3: Resettling Communities, in particular PWDs and female-headed households are socially reintegrated with the help of Community based structures including CBOs and Producer	UNDP / IOM	1.3.1: Re/activate CBOs, including WRDS and strength to address the needs, demands, prejudices and norms affecting social integration				Cost for material, equipment, construction, renovation, Costs for training material, venue, meals/refreshments, resource	23,372	- 14,087	- 37,459
Organizations including women led organizations/ CBOs						person fees, travel allowances, training material			

	UNDP	1.3.2: Establish local level state, non-state and citizen interaction platforms for dialogue and dispute resolution		Cost for trainings and venue, consultant fee	7,303		7,303
Total for the Outcome					684,954	394,900	1,079,854
Project Personnel costs					228,477	162,070	390,547
Project Operational costs					93,298	14,185	107,483
Project M&E					- 24,714	-	24,714
Sub-total Project Budget					- 1,031,443	571,155	1,602,598
Indirect Support Costs (7%)					- 72,201	- 39,981	112,182
Total Budget					- 1,103,644	- 611,136	1,714,780

* Please find the budget in the Excel file (2 sheets).

Signatures:

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
<p>Azusa Kubota Resident Representative - UNDP - UNDP Sri Lanka</p> <p>DocuSigned by:  86AA9091189A41D...</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>PARCO Kristin Chief of Mission – IOM Sri Lanka and Maldives</p> <p>Digitally signed by KAFLE Sugandha Date: 2024.12.03 09:29:38 +05'30'</p> <p></p>