

TOTAL:

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.

Evaluation Completed

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Evaluation Report - Attached

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ABBREVIATIONS

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FHH	Female Headed Households
HRCSL	Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka
IP	Implementing Partner
JPP	Joint Programme for Peace
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LAC	Legal Aid Commission
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
OR	The Office for Reparations
ORIMS	Information Management System
OMP	The Office on Missing Persons
ORIMS	Office for Reparations Information Management System
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PSU	Psychosocial Support Unit
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project ‘Support for strengthened reconciliation processes and increased access to person-centered, comprehensive, and credible reparations mechanisms in Sri Lanka’ is jointly implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and The World Health Organization (WHO) and is funded under the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF). Key results achieved are outlined below.

1. Building Trust and Fostering Inclusivity in Conflict-Affected Communities: Despite an initial context of low public confidence and persistent mistrust, particularly among Tamil communities in the North and East, over 6,000 conflict-affected individuals were reached through community consultations and collective reparations initiatives, significantly helping to restore trust within these communities and fostering a more inclusive and effective reparation process. The findings of the community needs mapping exercise supported the Office for Reparations (OR) with the process of allocating budget resources within its annual budget to address the critical needs identified by the communities, particularly in the areas of livelihoods, psychosocial support, and education, to the extent possible within available resources. These participatory efforts marked a critical shift towards a rights-based and victim-centric approach for implementing state-led reconciliation mechanisms.

2. Promoting Psychosocial Wellbeing and Resilience in Conflict-Affected Communities: The project significantly expanded access to mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services for conflict-affected communities. Key achievements included establishing and operationalizing a dedicated Psychosocial Support Unit (PSU) within the OR, MHPSS delivery through the case management system, formation of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support - Civil Society Organization (MHPSS-CSO) networks delivering localised support and capacity building of MHPSS professionals ensuring that the psychosocial needs of affected communities were met effectively. Integration of MHPSS into reparation services addressed long standing gaps and social stigmas, promoting holistic recovery and resilience.

3. Strengthening Government Capacity for Effective Reparation and Justice Delivery: Targeted capacity building activities for government officials from the OR, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL), and Legal Aid Commission (LAC) improved institutional performance across several critical areas, including case management, and gender-sensitive and survivor-centered service delivery and redress for those affected by the legacy of conflict. A series of comprehensive training programmes, including residential training sessions, were organised as part of the capacity-building initiative. To ensure the sustainability of these efforts and the long-term application of the skills acquired, a knowledge management system was introduced and piloted at the OR. This system was designed to facilitate ongoing learning and support the continued development of staff capabilities.

4. Streamlining access to information on applications for reparations: The development and operationalisation of the ORIMS was a significant achievement under the project. The introduction of ORIMS effectively addressed inefficiencies in application tracking and communication. By transitioning from paper-based records to a secure digital platform, the project enhanced service delivery, reduced response times, and improved transparency for both applicants and OR staff.

5. Assessing the capacities of the Office on Missing Persons: In collaboration with Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), IOM facilitated an independent and comprehensive needs assessment for the Office on Missing Persons (OMP from April to September 2023). The assessment

involved key stakeholders, including OMP officials, government representatives, victims' families, and civil societies, and identified several institutional and capacity gaps, and lack of political will that hindered OMP's institutional and technical capacities to deliver its primary mandate to search and trace missing persons. The report recommends addressing institutional and capacity gaps to enhance the OMP's ability to fulfil its mandate as an independent agency established through the constitutional council, as a crucial part of safeguarding the rights of victims in line with the international standards and commitments and assisting the nation in addressing its past. The findings of the needs assessment are being utilized by various stakeholders, including the OMP, to make informed decisions and improve the effectiveness of the agency's operations.

I. Purpose

The project "*Support for Strengthened Reconciliation Processes and Increased Access to Person-Centered, Comprehensive, and Credible Reparations Mechanisms in Sri Lanka*" focused on providing continued technical support to the government in enhancing the reconciliation process. This was achieved by increasing access to person-centered, comprehensive, and credible reparations mechanisms. The ultimate aim of the project is to strengthen public trust in the state by reinforcing reconciliation and reparation processes, ultimately contributing to lasting peace.

The project contributes directly to the Priority Area 1: "Dealing with the Past" under the thematic window Peace and aligns with Outcome 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), which focuses on ensuring access to justice, human rights, and reconciliation for all.

II. Assessment of Programme Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

Outcome 1: Partners at all levels of society work together to promote reconciliation through an effective and trusted reparations process using gender sensitive and victim centric approach fostering, cohesion to achieve durable peace in Sri Lanka

The expected outcome of the project was largely achieved, as the project created opportunities and structures for government institutions, civil society, and victim groups to collaborate on the reparations and reconciliation process guided by these principles. Building trust and fostering inclusiveness in conflict-affected communities has been a key achievement of the project. The following activities significantly contributed to this goal, supporting both output 1.1 and output 1.2.

The project contributed to strengthening institutional frameworks for gender-sensitive and victim-centric reparations, with four independent institutions adopting improved approaches to service delivery and outreach. However, while trust-building initiatives were implemented effectively, broader perceptions of reconciliation progress remain limited. Only 25 per cent of surveyed individuals perceived meaningful advancement, emphasizing the need for a more comprehensive national approach that addresses justice, truth-seeking, and accountability alongside reparations.

Output 1.1: The Office for Reparations has the capacity and technical knowledge to lead the implementation of the National Reparations Policy and Plan of Action, in partnership with other stakeholders, to influence better service provision towards reparations.

To ensure a rights-based and victim-centered approach to reparations, a comprehensive mapping exercise was conducted by the OR, supported by the project, to inform and guide the OR's efforts in assisting

conflict-affected communities. The mapping was carried out across three districts in the Northern Province, covering all 15 divisional secretariats in Kilinochchi, Mannar, and Mullaitivu, and engaging over 1,000 individuals, including persons with disabilities, ex-combatants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and female-headed households (FHHs) (see Annex 1 for the disaggregated data on the participants). These in-depth consultations, focus group discussions (FGDs), and key informant interviews (KIIs) allowed community members to directly engage with the OR staff, including the Director General, to voice their concerns, and articulate their demands. This direct engagement marked an important first step in rebuilding trust between the OR and affected populations.

Based on the findings of the mapping exercise, the OR is currently in the process of allocating budget resources within its annual budget to address the critical needs identified by the communities, particularly in the areas of livelihoods, psychosocial support, and education, to the extent possible within available resources. This approach sets an important precedent for implementing a rights-based and victim-centric framework for reparations. Additionally, the mapping revealed key barriers to reconciliation in Sri Lanka over the decades, including challenges around to memorialization, land disputes and ongoing demands for truth regarding enforced disappearances. Another significant finding was the detrimental effect of drug abuse and the inaction of law enforcement authorities on social cohesion within communities. These insights provide valuable information that can guide diverse stakeholders, including government and non-governmental organizations, in designing their interventions. The mapping identified approximately 200 community-driven projects, which were validated by the Government Agents of the three districts (see Annex 2 for the draft Mapping Study). This draft mapping study is pending OR approval for public release.

Recognizing the importance of continued engagement, the OR is committed to expanding such mapping efforts to other districts in the Northern and Eastern Provinces to further identify and address collective needs. This ongoing process will ensure that reparations initiatives remain responsive, inclusive, and aligned with Sri Lanka's broader transitional justice efforts and the long-term recovery of conflict-affected communities.

In line with the priorities identified, a total of 31 collective reparations projects were implemented, exceeding the target of 15. The provision of collective reparations, as outlined in the OR Act No. 34 of 2018, was a central priority of the project, particularly given the heightened trust deficit and the post-economic crisis context. These addressed urgent needs in education, healthcare, economic empowerment, women's empowerment, disability inclusion, and social cohesion. These projects directly benefited 3,364 women, 2,414 men, 231 persons with disabilities, and 212 school students, contributing to trust-building and reinforcing the OR's responsiveness (see Annex 3 for a detailed list of the collective reparation projects implemented). A key milestone in this process was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the OR and IOM on November 2, 2023, which facilitated the first-ever collective reparations programme for aggrieved communities in Sri Lanka.

An activity to raise awareness on reparations through CSOs was removed from the project following challenges in identifying a willing implementing partner. Despite outreach efforts, multiple CSOs declined to participate due to the prevailing trust deficit in state-led transitional justice processes. A potential partnership with the National Peace Council was discontinued after the closure of OR's application window, limiting the activity's relevance. The decision to discontinue was communicated to the donor through a no-cost project revision in December 2023.

Promoting psychosocial wellbeing and resilience in conflict-affected communities has been another key achievement of the project. MHPSS is crucial for post-conflict recovery, yet in the Sri Lankan context, it is often sidelined due to competing priorities and societal taboos surrounding mental health. The MHPSS interventions under the project leveraged existing structures, such as the case management system and

established CSOs working on MHPSS, rather than creating new structures, to ensure sustainability and long-term impact.

Promoting psychosocial wellbeing and resilience in conflict-affected communities was a key achievement under Output 1.1. Recognizing the lack of dedicated institutional capacity to deliver psychosocial support within reparations programming, the project supported the establishment of a Psychosocial Support Unit (PSU) of the OR was established on January 5, 2023, under the direction of the Chairperson of the OR. To enhance the unit's capacity, two consultants were recruited and assigned to assist with the operations of the PSU under the project. Since its establishment, the PSU provided direct support to over 200 families, benefiting a total of 696 individuals (384 women and 312 men) through the case management system supervised by the unit.

3. Strengthening government capacity for effective reparation and justice delivery has been another key achievement under the project supporting output 1.1. Facilitated by a distinguished group of resource persons, including established professionals in the areas of expertise, the programme covered a diverse array of thematic areas such as the impact of disruptive events, discrimination, working with vulnerable groups, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), equity and equality, gender sensitivity, social cohesion, reconciliation, community dialogues, democracy, transitional justice, participatory rural appraisal, needs assessment, SWOT analysis, stakeholder mapping, conflict management, goal setting, and action planning. The training also equipped officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify community problems, design impactful projects, implement interventions proficiently, and conduct thorough monitoring and evaluation.

Training was conducted for a total of 95 (49 women & 50 men) by IOM and UNFPA comprising below:

A total of 36 (16 women and 20 men) case managers were trained to address the multifaceted needs of conflict-affected individuals and families, focusing on the most vulnerable groups, including the elderly, displaced persons, FHHs, and persons with disabilities.

In addition to this, a series of capacity building workshops were conducted by UNFPA on gender sensitive and inclusive service delivery to the OR, HRCSL and LAC. UNFPA conducted two trainings one for case managers and one for legal aid officers and HRCSL for 59 participants (29 women & 30 men.) Please refer to Annex 4 for the details of the capacity development programmes conducted for the government officials. A knowledge management system was also introduced at the OR to sustain capacity development.

4. Streamlining access to information on applications for reparations has been one of the notable achievements of the project. Prior to the intervention, individuals who had submitted applications for monetary compensation for the losses suffered during the conflict faced significant challenges in tracking the status of their claims. These applications were stored physically, making it difficult not only for applicants to access information but also for staff to manage and process the files efficiently. This lack of accessibility led to extended delays, contributing to applicants' frustration and deepening the existing trust deficit between victims and the institutions responsible for reparations.

To address this, ORIMS was developed under the project. As part of this initiative, approximately 40,577 files—some dating back to 1987—were digitized and uploaded into the system. This massive digitization effort was made possible through the deployment of United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) by IOM, who played a key role in ensuring accurate and secure data entry.

ORIMS is designed not only to manage data related to monetary compensation, but also to track other forms of support provided to victims, including psychosocial assistance. The system has significantly improved

transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the reparations process, and has laid the groundwork for a more victim-centered and responsive approach to transitional justice.

Output 1.2: Victim groups and communities have the skills and knowledge to effectively engage with state reparations and reconciliation processes, advocating for marginalized and vulnerable groups to be able to access reparations mechanisms and other needed support.

The case management system, introduced under the previous project funded by the UN Joint Programme for Peace (JPP), was effectively utilized under this project to deliver MHPSS services to conflict-affected communities. Case managers were trained under the project and continuously supported through technical supervision by the PSU of the OR, ensuring the system's efficient operation and its ability to address the psychosocial needs of those affected by the conflict.

The trained 36 (16 women and 20 men) case managers were deployed. Each case manager was assigned with five cases, and worked over six months to conduct home visits, assess individual needs and develop tailored case management plans. The identified needs spanned various domains, including health requirements, counseling support, housing, and access to essential information.

The case managers played a crucial role in identifying and addressing the mental health and psychosocial needs of the affected individuals during their home visits. The support provided was not limited to immediate problem-solving; instead, it emphasized building enduring relationships and referrals. This approach ensured that the assistance extended beyond the closure of individual cases, fostering a sustained and supportive community environment for the conflict-affected population. This resulted in the successful resolution of over 200 cases (200 families referenced under output 1.1) contributing to a more sustained, community-level psychosocial support structure.

Through the partnership with Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Network (MHPSS.net) and the support of the Institute for Health Policy-MHPSS, the project established 56 district-level MHPSS CSO networks at the grassroots level during September to December 2023. This exceeded the target and marked a significant achievement in building localized psychosocial support ecosystems for those seeking reparations. The networks enhanced the intra-district MHPSS referral systems and linked practitioners to an emerging referral mechanism involving a minimum of ten CSOs and two training programmes. This included conducting capacity-building sessions for 60 (34 women and 26 men) MHPSS professionals from the Northern and Eastern Provinces on referral processes, resource mapping, and engagement with the MHPSS Referral Support Sri Lanka network. Additionally, support was extended to participating CSOs to strengthen district-level MH and PS networks, thus reinforcing district-level referral systems and facilitating their participation in the MHPSS Referral Support mechanism. Furthermore, the project contributed to enhancing protocols and support systems within the MHPSS Referral Support network to efficiently manage intra-district and inter-district referrals, ensuring effective assistance for individuals in need of mental health and psychosocial support.

The project also mapped 27 CSOs actively involved in MHPSS initiatives in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, resulting in the identification of 56 district-level operations. This effort yielded several outputs and outcomes. Firstly, an adaptable mapping tool was developed and validated to suit the project's context and requirements. The mapping tool was translated to ensure accessibility and usability overcoming linguistic barriers. The evaluation of these mappings facilitated the identification of gaps and potential access points for psychosocial support services, particularly for individuals seeking reparations, thereby contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of the MHPSS landscape in the targeted provinces.

The Manohari psychoeducation training of trainer programme successfully trained 81 (42 women and 39 men) counseling teachers and in-service advisors (ISAs) through three two-day sessions in the Northern Province. The sessions focused on the Manohari methodology, covering four or five modules to ensure thorough understanding and implementation. Moreover, the project facilitated ongoing support and follow-up for the semi-formal networks of trained teachers, ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of psychoeducation initiatives within the targeted communities. This practical impact extended beyond the initial training sessions, as it established a framework for continuous learning and improvement. By providing consistent support and follow-up, the project ensured that the trained teachers are equipped with the necessary resources and guidance to effectively implement psychoeducation initiatives in their respective communities. Pre- and post- evaluations indicated enhance quality and ownership of mental health interventions and empowerment among the teachers, enabling them to adapt and innovate based on the specific needs and challenges faced by their communities. As a result, the project contributed to building a more resilient and supportive environment for addressing mental health issues and promoting overall well-being.

To help victim groups and communities better understand and access state reparations and support services, UNFPA organised two workshops in Jaffna and Vavuniya Districts. A total of 100 participated in the two training workshops representing all five districts of Northern Province (Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, Mannar and Mullaitivu). The workshops reach four subnational forums. The workshop in Vavuniya District, which was held on 4 and 5 July, 2023 was attended by 48 individuals, 33 were female and 15 were male. The workshop in Jaffna District, which was held on 6 & 7 July, 2023 was attended by 52 individuals, 30 were female and 22 were male.

The workshops have achieved remarkable results. Out of 100 participants, a notable percentage (31%) initially expressed being "not at all aware" of the role of sub-national forums, the post-evaluation indicates a remarkable transformation. Through the workshop, 20 participants have reflected that they are "extremely aware," showcasing a substantial increase in awareness regarding the crucial role of sub-national forums in engaging the community with reparations mechanisms and other essential support.

All the participants gained a deeper understanding of human rights, including the truth about human rights violations, the activities of the Human Rights Commission, and the Office of Missing Persons (OMP). They also learned about the available benefits from the Reparation Office and the types of reparations that can be provided, as well as descriptions of rights and responsibilities. Attendees acquired knowledge about various aspects of reparations, including the process, how to access services from the Human Rights Commission and the Office of Reparation, and how to submit documents for compensation. Additionally, they learned about missing persons-related matters, gender equality issues, and the services available to people with special needs. The workshop fostered a sense of empowerment and group cohesion among participants, leading to a healthy attitude towards seeking justice and resolving conflicts. Moreover, attendees gained clarity on how to navigate legal mechanisms, understand government reparation policies, and promote racial unity and understanding within their communities.

Output 1.3: Select Independent Institutions, the Office on Missing Persons, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) and the Legal Aid Commission have strengthened capacities in case management, survivor centric service delivery and redress for those affected by the legacy of conflict.

A comprehensive needs assessment of the OMP was completed on 1 September 2023. This assessment was conducted by a team of independent consultants, led by an international expert in transitional justice and supported by two national legal consultants. The team undertook extensive field visits, engaging with a wide range of stakeholders, including victims, CSOs, and government representatives to collect inputs and

perspectives that informed the assessment. A critical component of the process was the analysis of the legislative provisions of the OMP Act, to clarify its scope and mandate, addressing widespread misconceptions on OMP's role and previously hindered reconciliation efforts. The needs assessment was shared with the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) and the OMP on 4 September and 6 October 2023, respectively. The consultants presented the findings of the report to the RC and colleagues in RCO, OHCHR and IOM on 21 September 2023. A presentation of the needs assessment for development partners was delivered on 26 March 2024.

In response to the needs assessment, the OMP initiated several institutional reforms. Noteworthy among these are:

- Establishment of a dedicated Tracing Unit, comprising seven officials: the Head of Unit, two Senior Tracing Officers, and four Tracing Officers;
- Revision of the OMP Strategic Roadmap for 2025–2027, informed by the needs assessment;
- Formation of a National Steering Committee on Missing Persons, chaired by the Presidential Secretariat, comprising 28 institutional representatives.

For detailed findings and recommendations, please see Annex 5: Needs Assessment Report.

Qualitative assessment

The programme has made substantial progress toward its overarching goal of fostering reconciliation in Sri Lanka through a victim-centric, gender-sensitive, and rights-based reparations process. The achievement of the expected outcome “partners at all levels of society work together to promote reconciliation through an effective and trusted reparations process”—can be assessed as largely successful, with key achievements across institutional strengthening, community engagement, psychosocial support, information management, and policy enhancement. The programme significantly contributed to restoring trust in state institutions, particularly the OR through structured, participatory mechanisms. The *community mapping*, and *collective reparations* exercises allowed victims to directly inform policy and receive targeted support, which was pivotal in shifting perceptions of state responsiveness. Over 1,000 individuals were consulted across vulnerable and marginalized groups in the North during the mapping exercise, creating a participatory platform that aligned institutional actions with real community needs. The implementation of 31 collective reparations projects benefiting nearly 6,000 individuals further solidified community trust and addressed tangible development and psychosocial challenges. MHPSS successfully integrated into reparations programming—often overlooked in post-conflict settings—through the establishment of a dedicated Psychosocial Support Unit at the OR, deployment of 36 case managers, and creation of district-level CSO networks. These efforts addressed trauma and built community resilience, supporting sustainable peacebuilding. The development and operationalization of the *ORIMS* was a milestone. It digitized over 40,000 records dating back to 1987, streamlining data management, improving transparency, and facilitating access for both applicants and institutional actors. The independent OMP needs assessment not only clarified legislative mandates but also influenced key institutional reforms, such as the creation of a dedicated Tracing Unit and a revised strategic roadmap (2025–2027), with national coordination mechanisms involving 28 government stakeholders.

Through collaboration between IOM, UNFPA, WHO and OHCHR, the programme avoided duplication, addressed cross-sectoral needs (e.g., MHPSS, legal frameworks, gender-based violence), and presented a unified approach to the government and communities. UNFPA's expertise was instrumental in mainstreaming gender-sensitive service delivery across key institutions, while OHCHR provided crucial

guidance on transitional justice standards. Joint learning and monitoring visits promoted real-time adaptation and accountability, helping to address operational challenges—such as the difficulty in CSO engagement—with transparency and agility.

Strong collaboration with the OR and OMP was central to results. Government buy-in enabled meaningful policy shifts (revised strategic roadmap of OMP), resource allocation, and long-term ownership of reparations mechanisms. Despite initial reluctance from CSOs to engage in state-led processes, open and transparent negotiation with CSOs and victim groups facilitated grassroots involvement, victim support, and community-driven project interventions. Deployed for the digitization process, UNVs played a critical role in making reparations data accessible, laying a strong foundation for ORIMS and demonstrating the value of youth and volunteer engagement in post-conflict recovery. Persons with disabilities were both consulted and directly supported through tailored interventions. The reparation projects specifically considered and addressed accessibility needs as much as possible, aligning with the principle of “leaving no one behind”.

All components of the programme were implemented with a deliberate and thoughtful gender lens. Female-headed households, women victims, and female professionals were actively engaged throughout the project cycle—in consultations, trainings, and the design of interventions. To facilitate women’s participation, especially those with caregiving responsibilities, child-friendly spaces were provided during community consultations, and participants (primarily women) were allowed to bring a caretaker for their children to training sessions. Special attention was also given to ensuring the safety and inclusion of women ex-combatants, with targeted measures to encourage their participation in a secure and supportive environment.

The project team consistently respected the language rights of community members, recognizing the critical role of linguistic inclusion in advancing reconciliation efforts. All consultations were conducted in the native languages of the participants, ensuring full and meaningful participation. Sign language interpreters were made available whenever required to support individuals with hearing impairments. In addition, clinical psychologists accompanied the team during field visits to provide on-the-spot psychosocial support, recognizing that discussions may trigger trauma among participants.

The programme has successfully laid the groundwork for a more responsive, inclusive, and credible reparations process in Sri Lanka. By engaging communities, strengthening institutional capacities, addressing psychosocial needs, and leveraging strategic partnerships, the project contributed significantly to national reconciliation efforts. The catalytic funding from MPTF/JP, combined with effective UN coordination, enabled this transformation and opened avenues for sustained recovery and peacebuilding.

Capacity-building for selected institutions

UNFPA facilitated capacity-building initiatives reach 133 participants from selected independent institutions, including the Office on Missing Persons (OMP), Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL), and the Legal Aid Commission (LAC). Workshops conducted on women's rights, sexual and gender-based violence, and reproductive health aimed to enhance awareness and understanding among staff members. These sessions equipped participants with the knowledge and skills needed for survivor-centric service delivery and case management, contributing to the overall strengthening of institutional capacities.

UNFPA in collaboration with Jaffna Social Action Center (JSAC) organized two workshops for the staff members of Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) under the topic of ‘Women’s rights, Sexual and Gender based violence and reproductive health’ on the 2 & 3 of October, 2023 in Colombo. Total of 46 (41 women and 5 men) HRCSL staff members participated in the workshop representing Colombo, Matara, Anuradhapura and Badulla Districts. A large majority of them were Management Assistants. They consisted of Development officers, Project Accountants and Trainees.

The second workshop for HRCSL and other selected government officials from Northern and Eastern provinces on women's rights, sexual and gender-based violence and reproductive health. Total of 26 (15 female and 11 male) participated including the staff members of implementing partners, legal aid officers, HRCSL officers, state actors and other front-line SGBV workers. The overall goal of organizing this workshop is to raise awareness among state actors, front-line workers, decision-makers on gender dynamics, the importance of considering the specific needs of women and girls, and their role in supporting their access to basic rights to services. The specific objectives of the workshop were;

- a) Strengthen key stakeholder's awareness of gender roles, expectations and issues and their impact on the community's day-to-day life.
- b) Improve the knowledge on women's rights, sexual and gender-based violence and reproductive health for legal aid, HRCSL and other front-line workers.
- c) Develop an understanding of basic gender concepts and their application to the long-term implementation of programming and initiatives.

The third workshop on enhancing case management and survivors-centric service delivery for officers of the Human Rights Commission in Sri Lanka and the Legal Aid Commission (LAC). The training participants included legal aid commission 20 officers (18 female and 2 male), 41 HRCSL officers (20 female and 21 male)

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka:

- Are you aware of the Mandate of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka?
- Are you aware of the services provided by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka?
- What is your level of awareness on how to access the services of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka?

The pre-post evaluation data highlights a substantial increase in all the 46 participants' awareness regarding the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. Across all three questions, participants have significantly enhanced their understanding of the mandate, services provided, and how to access the services of the Human Rights Commission.

These outstanding results underscore the success of our workshops in empowering participants with enhanced awareness and knowledge, contributing to a more informed and engaged community.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP**s - provide details of the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why.

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
<p>Outcome 1: Partners at all levels of society work together to promote reconciliation through an effective and trusted reparations process using a gender sensitive and victim centric approach fostering, cohesion to achieve a durable peace in Sri Lanka.</p> <p>Indicator 1A: # of independent institutions adopt gender sensitive and victim centric approaches (IOM, UNFPA, WHO) Baseline: 0 Planned Target: Interim: 2 Endline: 4</p>	<p>4 (OR, OMP, HRCSL, and LAC)</p>	-	<p>Annual reports of the Office of Reparations, Survey Reports, Attendance sheets of the trainings</p> <p>Annual reports of OMP, HRCSL and LAC)</p>
<p>Indicator 1B: % of sample group who agree that Sri Lanka is making progress on reconciliation Baseline: 0 Planned Target: Interim: NA Endline: 70%</p>	<p>25%</p>	<p>While the trust-building initiatives related to the Office for Reparations and the broader reparations process have been successfully implemented, their impact on reconciliation remains limited when pursued as a standalone effort. Sustainable progress on reconciliation requires a comprehensive approach that includes truth, justice, and accountability. Ongoing issues such as the demand of answers for enforced disappearances, land disputes, and contested memorialization efforts continue to</p>	<p>Data collected for the mapping study</p>

		undermine reconciliation.	
<p>Output 1.1 The Office for Reparations has the capacity and technical knowledge to lead the implementation of the National Reparations Policy and Plan of Action, in partnership with other stakeholders, to influence better service provision towards reparations.</p> <p>Indicator 1.1A: # of officers successfully completing capacity building interventions Baseline: 0 Planned target: Interim:30 Endline: 60</p> <p>Indicator 1.1B: # of collective reparation pilot initiatives completed by the OR supported under the project Baseline: 0 Planned target: Interim: 10 Endline: 15</p> <p>Indicator 1.1C: # of mapping assessments completed to identify the requirements of collective reparations in the affected communities. Baseline: 0 Planned Target: Interim: 0 Endline: 1</p>	<p>95 (49 women & 50 men)</p> <p>(IOM) 36 (16 women & 20 men) officers (staff of OR, Regional Reparations Officers, Case Managers, National Integration Promotion Officers and Development Officers) in November and December 2023. (UNFPA conducted two trainings one for case managers and one for legal aid officers and HRCSL for 59 participants (29 women & 30 men)</p> <p>31</p> <p>1</p>		<p>Assessment Report</p>

<p>Output 1.2: Victim groups and communities have the skills and knowledge to effectively engage with state reparations and reconciliation processes, advocating for marginalized and vulnerable groups to be able to access reparations mechanisms and other needed support.</p> <p>Indicator 1.2A: # CSO MHPSS networks formed (IOM) Baseline: 0 Planned target: Interim: NA Endline: 1</p> <p>Indicator 1.2B: # of subnational level forums engaged (UNFPA) Baseline: 0 Planned target: Interim: 2 Endline: 4</p> <p>Indicator 1.2C: # of community members reached through national and sub-national level forums (UNFPA) Baseline: 0 Planned target: Interim: 50 Endline: 100</p>	<p>56 district-level CSO MHPSS networks formed during September to December 2023</p> <p>4 sub-national level forums engaged through 2 community workshops for leaders representing various social forums) from DS Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Jaffna, and Kilinochchi</p> <p>(2 workshops Jaffna and Vavuniya) Jaffna 48 --33 women & 15-- men community level leaders from Vavuniya in a work shop on 4 & 5 July 2023 52 --30 women & 22 men-- from Jaffna participated in a workshop on 6 & 7 July 2023)</p>	<p>Instead of one national network, district level networks were established hence the target difference.</p>	<p>Training reports, Implementing partner reports Registration lists</p>
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	100 (63 women and 37 men) reached through subnational forums.		
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<p>Output 1.3: Select Independent Institutions, the Office on Missing Persons, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) and the Legal Aid Commission have strengthened capacities in case management, survivor centric service delivery and redress for those affected by the legacy of conflict</p> <p>Indicator 1.3A: # of assessments conducted (IOM) Baseline: 0 Planned target: Interim: NA Endline: 1</p> <p>Indicator 1.3.B: # of officers from OMP, HRC and LAC trained in case management (UNFPA) Baseline:0 Planned Target:60 Achieved Target: 133</p>	<p>1 Needs assessment conducted on the Office on Missing Persons completed 1 September 2023.</p> <p>133</p> <p><u>(Administrative officers</u> 46 (41 women and 5 men) HRCSL staff members participated in the workshop representing Colombo, Matara, Anuradhapura and Badulla districts.</p> <p><u>Senior level officers</u> 20 (18 females and 2 males) legal aid officers, 41(20 females and 21 males) HRCSL officers</p>		
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iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

- Report on any assessments, evaluations or studies undertaken relating to the programme and how they were used during implementation. Has there been a final project evaluation and what are the key findings? Provide reasons if no programme evaluation have been done yet?

As part of the project, two key assessments were undertaken: a needs assessment to evaluate the institutional and technical capacities of the Office on Missing Persons (OMP), and a mapping exercise to identify the collective needs of conflict-affected communities.

The OMP needs assessment proved valuable in several ways, notably by informing the institution's strategic planning and operational decisions. It has also served as a useful resource for the UN and development partners in deciding on targeted interventions in collaboration with the OMP.

The mapping exercise, meanwhile, captured the collective needs and priorities of conflict-affected populations. These community-identified priorities have the potential to influence the policy direction and programming of the Office for Reparations (OR). Notably, several projects proposed through the mapping process—designed by the communities themselves—have now been prioritized for implementation using OR's annual budget. This represents a meaningful shift away from a traditional top-down model toward a more participatory, community-driven approach.

- Explain challenges such as delays in programme implementation, and the nature of the constraints such as management arrangements, human resources etc. What actions were taken to mitigate these challenges? How did such challenges and actions impact on the overall achievement of results? Have any of the risks identified during the project design materialized or were there unidentified risks that came up?

Although the project had a duration of 25 months, implementation was suspended between March and July 2024 while the costed extension was under review. Additionally, the launch of the collective reparations initiatives experienced delays due to the time required for negotiations with the government. As this was the first time the Office for Reparations (OR) engaged in providing collective reparations, extensive discussions were necessary to clarify roles and responsibilities. Changes in OR leadership also posed a significant challenge, affecting the continuity and progress of several project activities. One major delay stemmed from the time taken by OR to review and approve the MoU on collective reparations with IOM. Given the politically sensitive nature of OR's work, the institution required substantial internal deliberation before formally entering into the agreement, which consequently delayed the rollout of the collective reparations programme.

Another notable challenge was the difficulty in identifying a suitable implementing partner (IP) from civil society for the awareness-raising component. Many CSOs declined to engage with OR due to the deep-rooted trust deficit between the communities and the institution. This obstacle was addressed by strategically revising the intervention through a project revision. Instead of focusing on awareness-raising about the Office for Reparations and its mandate, the revised approach centered on gathering community perspectives—specifically their expectations, needs, and views on how the OR should address them. This shift enabled the project to maintain community engagement while remaining sensitive to the local context and dynamics.

The politicization of reconciliation efforts, coupled with the national elections in 2024, posed additional challenges to project implementation. These dynamics created a sensitive political environment, affecting stakeholder engagement, delaying decision-making processes, and, at times, limiting the visibility or momentum of project interventions.

- Report key lessons learned and best practices that would facilitate future programme design and implementation, including issues related to management arrangements, human resources, resources, etc. Please also include experiences of failure, which often are the richest source of lessons learned.

Rights-Based and Victim-Centered Approach: A rights-based and victim-centered approach was critical in ensuring the project's relevance and impact. Ensuring that the voices of affected communities, including marginalized groups, were prioritized allowed for more responsive and inclusive interventions. For future projects, it is essential to maintain direct engagement with communities through consultations, mapping exercises, and participatory needs assessments. This fosters a sense of ownership and aligns reparations efforts with the real needs of the communities.

Best Practice: Direct community consultations, including focus groups and key informant interviews, helped identify specific needs that shaped the reparations process. As a result, communities felt their concerns were heard, building trust between them and state institutions like the Office for Reparations (OR).

Language and Cultural Sensitivity: Ensuring access to services and communication in the local language of the community is essential for successful project implementation. The project's attention to language rights and providing access to interpreters (including sign language interpreters when necessary) helped improve inclusivity and trust during consultations and interventions. This is a vital lesson for future programming, especially in post-conflict settings where communities may feel alienated by the state.

Best Practice: Offering services and consultations in local languages, and ensuring that communication is accessible for all, including those with disabilities, helped create an inclusive environment that is sensitive to the cultural and linguistic needs of the population.

Community Ownership and Participation: A significant lesson learned was the importance of community ownership of the reparations process. Shifting from a top-down approach to a more community-driven model proved to be effective. Engaging local stakeholders, including victim groups and civil society organizations, in the design and implementation of reparations projects enhanced their ownership and helped to overcome the prevailing trust deficit with the state.

Best Practice: The mapping exercise that involved communities in identifying their collective needs and demands was a significant step in ensuring that reparations were tailored to their real concerns. Additionally, involving communities in decision-making, such as prioritizing projects for implementation, ensured that the reparations process reflected their needs and desires.

Experiences of failure

Challenges in Engaging Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): Engaging CSOs to raise awareness on reparations was more challenging than anticipated due to the lack of trust between communities and state institutions. Despite efforts, the difficulty in finding implementing partners (IPs) for this task highlights the ongoing skepticism and mistrust surrounding state-led transitional justice processes.

Lesson Learned: The challenge with engaging CSOs illustrates the importance of early trust-building activities with local organizations and the need for sustained outreach to ensure their buy-in. Future

projects should consider embedding CSOs more closely in the design phase to strengthen collaboration.

iv) A Specific Story (Optional)

- This could be a success or human story. It does not have to be a success story – often the most interesting and useful lessons learned are from experiences that have not worked. The point is to highlight a concrete example with a story that has been important to your Programme.
- In ¼ to ½ a page, provide details on a specific achievement or lesson learned of the Programme. Attachment of supporting documents, including photos with captions, news items etc, is strongly encouraged. The MPTF Office will select stories and photos to feature in the Consolidated Annual Report, the GATEWAY and the MPTF Office Newsletter.

Please see Annex 6

Annex

- Annex 1- Disaggregated data of participants of the mapping exercise
- Annex 2- Draft Mapping Study (Final approval from OR is pending)
- Annex 3- List of collective reparation projects
- Annex 4- Capacity building programmes
- Annex 5- OMP needs assessment
- Annex 6—Human story

IMPORTANT:
 FGD 1 = Youth/Elders
 FGD 2 = Gov. Officials
 FGD 3 = Persons with Disabilities

Kilinochchi

Division	Session Type	Session Date	Gender (Male)	Gender (Female)	Total Participants	% Male	% Female	OR Presence	DS Presence
Karachchi	CC	23/07/2024	11	21	32	34.375	65.625	Yes	Yes
Karachchi	FGD 1	11/08/2024	5	21	26	19.231	80.76923	Yes	No
Karachchi	FGD 2	11/08/2024	7	8	15	46.667	53.33333	Yes	No
Karachchi	FGD 3	11/08/2024	8	8	16	50	50	Yes	No
Pachchilaipalli	CC	24/07/2024	6	19	25	24	76	Yes	Yes
Pachchilaipalli	FGD 1	12/08/2024	2	27	29	6.8966	93.10345	Yes	No
Pachchilaipalli	FGD 2	12/08/2024	3	19	22	13.636	86.36364	Yes	No
Pachchilaipalli	FGD 3	12/08/2024	5	13	18	27.778		Yes	No
Poonagary	CC	9/08/2024	4	22	26	15.385	84.61538	Yes	No
Poonagary	FGD 1	22/08/2024	7	18	25	28	72	Yes	No
Poonagary	FGD 2	9/08/2024	7	8	15	46.667	53.33333	Yes	No
Poonagary	FGD 3	22/08/2024	12	9	21	57.143	42.85714	Yes	No
Kandawalai	CC	10/08/2024	11	17	28	39.286	60.71429	Yes	Yes
Kandawalai	FGD 1	27/08/2024	13	11	24	54.167	45.83333	Yes	No
Kandawalai	FGD 2	10/08/2024	9	6	15	60	40	Yes	No
Kandawalai	FGD 3	27/08/2024	8	10	18	44.444	55.55556	Yes	No

Kilinochchi

Division	Total Male	Total Female	Total Participants	% Male	% Female
Karachchi	31	58	89	34.83146067	65.16853933
Pachchilaipalli	16	78	94	17.0212766	82.9787234
Poonagary	30	57	87	34.48275862	65.51724138
Kandawalai	41	44	85	48.23529412	51.76470588
Total for Kilinochchi	118	237	355	33.23943662	66.76056338

Kilinochchi

Session Type	Total Male	Total Female	Total Participants	% Male	% Female
CC	32	79	111	28.829	71.17117117
FGD 1	27	77	104	25.962	74.03846154
FGD 2	26	41	67	38.806	61.19402985
FGD 3	33	40	73	45.205	54.79452055
Total for Kilinochchi	118	237	355	33.239	66.76056338

Mannar

Division	Session Type	Session Date	Gender (Male)	Gender (Female)	Total Participants	% Male	% Female	OR Presence	DS Presence
Madhu	CC	16/07/2024	7	17	24	29.167	70.83333	Yes	Yes
Madhu	FGD 1	29/08/2024	10	10	20	50	50	No	No
Madhu	FGD 2	29/08/2024	8	7	15	53.333	46.66667	No	No
Madhu	FGD 3	29/08/2024	8	1	9	88.889	11.11111	No	No
Mannar Town	CC	15/08/2024	7	18	25	28	72	Yes	Yes
Mannar Town	FGD 1	16/08/2024	8	10	18	44.444	55.55556	Yes	Yes
Mannar Town	FGD 2	15/08/2024	8	11	19	42.105	57.89474	No	No
Mannar Town	FGD 3	28/08/2024	9	7	16	56.25	43.75	No	No
Manthai West	CC	13/08/2024	5	19	24	20.833	79.16667	Yes	Yes
Manthai West	FGD 1	16/08/2024	8	10	18	44.444	55.55556	Yes	No
Manthai West	FGD 2	13/08/2024	6	14	20	30	70	Yes	No
Manthai West	FGD 3	30/08/2024	12	6	18	66.667	33.33333	No	No
Musali	CC	14/08/2024	18	6	24	75	25	Yes	Yes
Musali	FGD 1	30/08/2024	12	8	20	60	40	No	No
Musali	FGD 2	14/08/2024	13	4	17	76.471	23.52941	No	No
Musali	FGD 3	28/08/2024	1	0	1	100	0	No	No
Nanattan	CC	17/07/2024	10	15	25	40	60	Yes	Yes
Nanattan	FGD 1	30/08/2024	11	11	22	50	50	No	No
Nanattan	FGD 2	27/08/2024	7	9	16	43.75	56.25	No	No
Nanattan	FGD 3	28/08/2024	4	2	6	66.667	33.33333	No	No

Mannar					
Division	Total Male	Total Female	Total Participants	% Male	% Female
Madhu	33	35	68	48.52941176	51.47058824
Mannar Town	32	46	78	41.02564103	58.97435897
Manthai West	31	49	80	38.75	61.25
Musali	44	18	62	70.96774194	29.03225806
Nanattan	32	37	69	46.37681159	53.62318841
Total for Mannar	172	185	357	48.17927171	51.82072829

Mannar					
Session Type	Total Male	Total Female	Total Participants	% Male	% Female
CC	47	75	122	38.525	61.47540984
FGD 1	49	49	98	50	50
FGD 2	42	45	87	48.276	51.72413793
FGD 3	34	16	50	68	32
Total for Mannar	172	185	357	48.179	51.82072829

Mullaitivu									
Division	Session Type	Session Date	Gender (Male)	Gender (Female)	Total Participants	% Male	% Female	OR Presence	DS Presence
Manthai East	CC	15/08/2024	9	9	18	50	50	Yes	No
Manthai East	FGD 1	26/08/2024	16	9	25	64	36	Yes	No
Manthai East	FGD 2	15/08/2024	9	4	13	69.231	30.76923	Yes	No
Manthai East	FGD 3	26/08/2024	10	3	13	76.923	23.07692	Yes	No
Maritimepattu	CC	30/07/2024	13	4	17	76.471	23.52941	Yes	No
Maritimepattu	FGD 1	17/08/2024	22	3	25	88	12	Yes	No
Maritimepattu	FGD 2	17/08/2024	6	9	15	40	60	Yes	No
Maritimepattu	FGD 3	17/08/2024	5	9	14	35.714	64.28571	Yes	No
Oddusudan	CC	14/08/2024	15	4	19	78.947	21.05263	Yes	Yes
Oddusudan	FGD 1	25/08/2024	15	10	25	60	40	Yes	No
Oddusudan	FGD 2	14/08/2024	7	9	16	43.75	56.25	Yes	No
Oddusudan	FGD 3	25/08/2024	2	13	15	13.333	86.66667	Yes	No
Puthukkudiyiruppu	CC	31/07/2024	12	8	20	60	40	Yes	No
Puthukkudiyiruppu	FGD 1	24/08/2024	16	5	21	76.19	23.80952	Yes	No
Puthukkudiyiruppu	FGD 2	24/08/2024	7	7	14	50	50	Yes	No
Puthukkudiyiruppu	FGD 3	25/08/2024	7	8	15	46.667	53.33333	Yes	No
Thunukkai	CC	16/08/2024	10	5	15	66.667	33.33333	Yes	No
Thunukkai	FGD 1	23/08/2024	14	11	25	56	44	Yes	No
Thunukkai	FGD 2	16/08/2024	8	9	17	47.059	52.94118	Yes	No
Thunukkai	FGD 3	23/08/2024	7	5	12	58.333	41.66667	Yes	No
Weli Oya	CC	16/08/2024	6	9	15	40	60	Yes	No
Weli Oya	FGD 1	27/08/2024	9	21	30	30	70	Yes	No
Weli Oya	FGD 2	26/08/2024	6	11	17	35.294	64.70588	Yes	No
Weli Oya	FGD 3	27/08/2024	0	7	7	0	100	Yes	No

Mullaitivu					
Division	Total Male	Total Female	Total Participants	% Male	% Female
Manthai East	44	25	69	63.76811594	36.23188406
MaritimePattu	46	25	71	64.78873239	35.21126761
Oddusudan	39	36	75	52	48
Puthukkudiyiruppu	42	28	70	60	40
Thunukkai	39	30	69	56.52173913	43.47826087
Weli Oya	21	48	69	30.43478261	69.56521739
Total for Mullaitivu	231	192	423	54.60992908	45.39007092

Mullaitivu					
Session Type	Total Male	Total Female	Total Participants	% Male	% Female
CC	65	39	104	62.5	37.5
FGD 1	92	59	151	60.927	39.07284768
FGD 2	43	49	92	46.739	53.26086957
FGD 3	31	45	76	40.789	59.21052632
Total for Mullaitivu	231	192	423	54.61	45.39007092

Northern Province					
District	Total Male	Total Female	Total Participants	% Male	% Female
Kilinochchi	118	237	355	33.23943666	66.76056338
Mannar	172	185	357	48.17927171	51.82072829
Mullaitivu	231	192	423	54.60992908	45.39007092
Total 3 Districts	521	614	1135	45.9030837	54.0969163

Northern Province					
District	Total Male	Total Female	Total Participants	% Male	% Female
CC	144	193	337	42.73	57.27002967
FGD 1	168	185	353	47.592	52.40793201
FGD 2	111	135	246	45.122	54.87804878
FGD 3	98	101	199	49.246	50.75376884
Total 3 Districts	521	614	1135	45.903	54.0969163



Office for
Reparations



MAPPING

THE COLLECTIVE NEEDS OF
CONFLICT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

IN KILLINOCHI, MANNAR, MULLAITIVU



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Mapping the Collective Needs of Conflict Affected Communities

In Kilinochchi, Mannar, and Mullaitivu

An initiative of the Office for Reparations (OR) with the support of International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Foreword

As the Chairperson of the Board of the Office for Reparations, it is my privilege to present this mapping study on collective reparations in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. This study represents a significant step in addressing the collective needs of conflict-affected communities across 15 divisions in Mannar, Kilinochchi, and Mullaitivu, where the scars of decades of conflict are still deeply felt. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for its invaluable technical and logistical support in conducting this study. Their expertise and commitment have been instrumental in designing and implementing a robust methodology, facilitating consultations with over 1,100 affected individuals, and ensuring inclusivity and transparency throughout the process.

Providing collective reparations is a critical component of the Office for Reparations' mandate under the Office for Reparations Act, No. 34 of 2018, and the 2021 Policy and Guidelines on Reparations. Unlike individual or monetary reparations, which address individual losses, collective reparations are designed to redress the shared harms experienced by communities as a result of the conflict. As defined in the Act, collective reparations are “measures that are intended to recognise the right to an effective remedy and benefits to the communities or groups of aggrieved persons.” These measures include, among others, means of remembrance of deceased persons, such as memorials; development of infrastructure; educational programmes, training, and skills development initiatives; and community development programmes or services. By addressing the collective impact of conflict, these reparations promote reconciliation and social cohesion, ensuring the reparations process contributes not only to individual healing but also to restoring the dignity and well-being of entire communities, in alignment with the principles outlined in the 2018 Act and the 2021 Policy and Guidelines.

Through this mapping exercise, my office and I have gained invaluable exposure to the realities faced by conflict-affected communities in the Northern Province. For many, this was the first opportunity to interact directly with the Office for Reparations, sharing their lived experiences, frustrations, and hopes for the future. These interactions provided essential insights into the current collective needs of these communities, offering a deeper understanding that will guide and inform the Office's work in the years to come. This engagement has reaffirmed our commitment to provide community-driven collective reparations programmes that are inclusive, relevant, and impactful.

With the completion of this mapping exercise, the Office for Reparations has already allocated part of its annual budget to fund collective reparations projects identified through this process. While maintaining ownership of reparations provisions, the Office will also seek the support of donors to assist in the implementation of these projects, ensuring they meet the needs and expectations of affected communities. Additionally, the Office is committed to continuing the mapping of collective needs in other districts and divisions not yet covered, building on the momentum of this initiative. Through these efforts, we strive to fulfil our mandate of providing meaningful reparations, fostering reconciliation, and contributing to a more inclusive and peaceful future for all Sri Lankans.

Mrs. Dhara Wijayatilake

Chairperson of the Board of the Office for Reparations

Foreword

As the Chief of Mission for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Sri Lanka, it is with great pride that I reflect on IOM's role in supporting the mapping study on collective reparations, as well as our longstanding commitment to addressing the legacies of conflict in this country. Over the years, IOM has played a pivotal role in advancing reconciliation and social cohesion by fostering sustainable resettlement of displaced populations, facilitating durable solutions for refugee returnees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), reintegrating former combatants and refugee returnees, and integrating psychosocial support into community recovery efforts. Since 2015, following the establishment of key reconciliation initiatives, IOM has worked closely with the government to operationalise the Office for Reparations, strengthening its capacity to provide effective and inclusive reparations to those affected by the conflict. Since the establishment of the Office for Reparations, IOM has contributed to projects aimed at strengthening reconciliation processes through accessible, credible, and person-centred reparations mechanisms. Through this support, pilot collective reparations initiatives have been implemented, and efforts have been made to build the Office's capacity, incorporating mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to enhance community resilience and trust.

Collective reparations hold immense relevance in post-conflict Sri Lanka, serving as both a cornerstone of the reconciliation agenda and a vital mechanism for addressing the shared needs of affected communities. By focusing on collective measures, such as improving infrastructure, enhancing access to services, and fostering economic opportunities, reparations can help rebuild trust, promote social cohesion, and restore dignity to communities that have endured the lasting impacts of conflict. In the current post-economic crisis context, collective reparations also play a critical role in advancing development, bridging gaps in accessing essential services, and empowering communities to recover and thrive. While the ownership of this mapping exercise and the implementation of collective reparations lie with the Office for Reparations, IOM is proud to have supported this effort through our technical expertise and logistical contributions, ensuring the process was transparent, inclusive and community driven.

IOM is pleased to learn that collective reparations will remain a focus of the Office for Reparations' activities, alongside the continued mapping of needs in the Northern Province. These initiatives are critical to addressing the lingering challenges faced by conflict-affected communities and acknowledging the suffering experienced by those affected by the conflict,

fostering a sense of inclusion. We stand ready to support the Office in its vital work, ensuring that reparations are inclusive and impactful. IOM also remains committed to seeking donor funding to assist in the implementation of specific collective reparations projects, reinforcing our shared goal of fostering reconciliation, development, and long-term peace in Sri Lanka.

Ms. Kristin B. Parco

Chief of Mission for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Sri Lanka

Executive Summary (2 pages) - To be included following the approval of key findings

Introduction

The concept of reparations goes beyond monetary compensation to include broader measures related to reconciliation, peace, and economic development in post-conflict contexts. Reparations are one of the key pillars of transitional justice, potentially having the most tangible impact on victims in such settings. The “Basic Principles on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law” adopted by the United Nations in 2005, provide international recognition of victims’ right to reparations. Reparations are defined as “measures to redress violations of human rights by providing a range of material and symbolic benefits to victims or their families as well as affected communities”.¹ Any reparations initiative must be guided by international standards, including victim-centred and rights-based approaches.

Several attempts have been made in Sri Lanka in the past, including the establishment of the Rehabilitation of Persons, Properties and Industries Authority (REPPIA) in 1987, to provide compensation to victims affected by conflict or civil unrest. REPPIA was established as a consequence of the July 1983 violence, with a mandate to provide compensation and financial assistance to affected persons, properties, and industries. Victims of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka have received monetary relief from REPPIA since late 1980s for loss of life and property damage. Aside from this monetary assistance for affected victims, REPPIA had no mandate to provide any other form of reparations. This limitation became a serious concern in the post-conflict context, as the armed conflict in Sri Lanka inflicted immense suffering on people from all the communities across the island and demands for other compensation increased.

The 26-year armed conflict between the State armed groups and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a non-state militant group, ended in 2009, leaving hundreds of thousands of victims of grave human rights violations including disappearances, torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, displacement, forced recruitment into non-state armed forces, and forcible evictions. , Those affected also lost their land, property, and assets. The

¹ United Nations General Assembly, *Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law*, Resolution 60/147, 16 December 2005, available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/basic-principles-and-guidelines-right-remedy-and-reparation>.

devastating impacts on individuals and communities raised the pressing need for comprehensive reparations in post-conflict Sri Lanka.

The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) established the Office for Reparations through a Parliamentary Act² in 2018 establishing a broader scope for reparations. The Act defines reparations as “measures that are intended to recognise the right to an effective remedy and benefits for an individual aggrieved person or communities.” The OR was established in line with the GoSL commitment at the 30th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) through co-sponsoring Resolution 30/1 in 2015, reaffirmed by UNHRC Resolution 34/1 in 2017. The preamble of the Act emphasises a rights-based approach, highlighting the potential of reparations to contribute to reconciliation for the well-being and security of all Sri Lankans, including future generations. Notably, the Act specifies that receiving reparations shall not preclude conflict-affected individuals from pursuing any other legal remedies or rights.³

The OR has faced critical challenges since its establishment, resulting in slow progress and a significant trust deficit in the communities. Although the OR was primarily established to provide remedies to the people affected by the armed conflict, it is a permanent body with a broad mandate to provide remedies/reparations to those affected by any political unrest or civil disturbances. As such, the OR prioritised compensation provision and other forms of reparations for victims of the 2019 Easter Sunday attack shortly after becoming operational in 2018. In 2020, Sri Lanka faced multiple socio-economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by an economic and a subsequent political crisis in 2021 and 2022 respectively, which shifted the national focus to socio-economic recovery, sidelining the reparations process.

To navigate this critical challenge of trust deficit in the OR and to address the ongoing needs of conflict-affected populations, the OR initiated the provision of collective reparations with support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Since 2018, IOM has been a key partner in supporting the drafting of the Office for Reparations Act, as well as the development of related policy and guidelines on reparations in 2021. Additionally, IOM has played a crucial role in operationalising the OR through support for stakeholder training, community discussions to shape policy areas, policy guideline booklets, and consultants to

² *Office for Reparations Act, No. 34 of 2018*, Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Available at: <https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/acts/gbills/english/6107.pdf>.

³ Article 12 (2) of the *Office for Reparations Act, No. 34 of 2018*.

assist with day-to-day operations. In recent years, IOM has assisted the OR implement livelihood programmes and psychosocial support activities, including the establishment of a dedicated Psychosocial Support (PSS) Unit.⁴

The term “collective reparations” is defined in the Act as “*measures that are intended to recognise the right to an effective remedy and benefits to the communities or groups of aggrieved persons.*” The Act includes “means of remembrance of deceased persons, including memorials, development of infrastructure, educational programmes, training, and skills development programmes, and community development programmes” as examples of such measures under collective reparations.⁵ While the Act emphasises non-discrimination, facilitation of reconciliation and sensitivity to the experiences of all aggrieved persons as the conditions to provide collective reparations, it also stipulates that the design of collective reparations shall be informed by consultations with affected people.⁶

In this context, the OR, as the duty bearer, conducted the present mapping exercise to identify the collective needs of conflict-affected communities in the Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, and Mannar districts in the Northern Province after piloting collective reparations in late 2023 and in line with its mandate under the OR Act.⁷ The technical aspects of this exercise, including methodology development, conducting consultations, engaging with communities and local authorities, as well as data collection, analysis, and interpretation, were supported by IOM to ensure effective implementation and broader stakeholder participation, while maintaining the government’s central role in the reparations process.

The exercise involved detailed consultations with more than 1,135 affected individuals across 15 divisions in the three districts. Participants included persons with disabilities, ex-combatants from non-state armed forces, victims-survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, IDPs, refugee returnees, victims of enforced disappearances, and victims of torture, representing different genders and age groups. While these consultations informed the mapping study, they also provided a platform for the OR and the conflict-affected communities to discuss frustrations, disappointments, agreements, and disagreements. Many participants highlighted

⁴ As part of the current IOM-led, *Support for Strengthened Reconciliation Processes and Increased Access to Person-Centered, Comprehensive, and Credible Reparations Mechanisms in Sri Lanka*, which began on September 28 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding has been concluded between IOM and the Office for Reparations.

⁵ Article 27 of the *Office for Reparations Act, No. 34 of 2018*.

⁶ Article 12 (1) (e) of *Office for Reparations Act, No. 34 of 2018*.

⁷ The pilot initiatives are listed in Annex 1 of this document.

that this was their first opportunity to directly express their views and demands regarding reparations to the Office.. IOM provided its technical and financial support to conduct the mapping study.

Methodology

In the context of Sri Lanka, collective reparations are essential for acknowledging and redressing the collective harm experienced by communities affected by the conflict, particularly in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Hence, this current mapping exercise focuses on identifying the collective needs and challenges that conflict-affected communities face as direct or indirect results of the prolonged conflict in Sri Lanka. The methodology of this study, designed and implemented by IOM in consultation with the OR at each stage, is based on the international standards on transitional justice initiatives including the United Nations Secretary General's guidance note on transitional justice⁸, and complies with the Office for Reparations Act in Sri Lanka.

The methodology used in this mapping study focuses on having in-depth conversations with the communities, acknowledging the victims' experiences and empowering them as rights-holders. Recognising that collective reparations succeed when affected communities are meaningfully involved in the design and implementation, the mapping study adopts a community-driven approach as its primary methodological process, enabling conflict-affected communities to take ownership of this initiative and reaffirm their dignity. This approach centres on the voices, experiences, and leadership of the local population, ensuring that the reparations are relevant, effective, and sustainable.

The primary objective of the mapping study is to identify the needs or challenges faced by the communities collectively as direct or indirect results of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka. Although the OR has identified all eight districts in the Northern and Eastern provinces as victim clusters, as a pilot initiative, the mapping study is being conducted only in Kilinochchi, Mannar, and Mullaitivu. The OR has committed to replicating the study in the remaining districts. The secondary objectives of the mapping study include first, acknowledging the conflict-affected communities as right holders by recognising the collective harms they have suffered and second, creating a platform for mutual interaction between the conflict-affected communities and the OR.

⁸ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Transitional Justice: A Strategic Tool for People, Prevention and Peace*, 2023. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/guidance-note-secretary-general-transitional-justice-strategic-tool>.

Data Collection Methods

The data was collected through broad community consultations, focus group discussions (FGDs), and key stakeholder interviews. The data collection process was guided by the IOM data protection principles, including lawful and fair data collection, specified and legitimate purposes, informed consent, confidentiality, and data security. Participants were informed of the purpose of data collection, and their written consent was obtained before collecting the data. They were also made aware of their right to opt out, withhold information, or withdraw from the consultation at any time.

A gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive approach was adopted during data collection. For example, both women and men were allowed to bring their children and a caretaker if needed, and all venues were accessible to elderly persons and persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities were given the right to bring a caretaker when needed, and in these instances, travel allowances were also paid to the caretakers. A sign language interpreter was arranged, although no such need was raised during the consultations. Additionally, data collection team also included clinical psychologists who were equipped to support participants who might experience distress due to the sensitive nature of the discussions.

Community Consultations

The data collection process began with a community consultation in each division. Approximately 25 to 30 community members, including men and women over 18 years, from all *Grama Niladhari Divisions* (GNDs) in the division, participated. During the consultation, participants were asked to identify the needs or challenges that they face as communities as direct or indirect results of the conflict. Semi-structured questionnaires, complemented by targeted conversation prompts, guided the discussions. This approach allowed for both structured and spontaneous dialogue, encouraging community members to share detailed information and personal stories that may not emerge in a strictly structured interview format. These consultations were crucial for understanding the nuanced ways in which different segments of the community experience the aftermath of conflict and for tailoring reparations to effectively address these varied impacts. The consultations also fostered mutual interaction between the Office for Reparations and conflict affected populations. The data collected was used to categorise the broader needs prioritised by the community members.

Table 1: Number of participants in the community consultation

District	Total	Men	Women
Kilinochchi	111	32 (28.8%)	79 (72.1%)
Mannar	122	47 (38.5%)	75 (61.4%)
Mullaitivu	104	65 (62.5%)	39 (37.5%)

The community consultations allowed the team to gather accurate data, develop contextually relevant interventions, and identify existing resources—such as human capital, organizational structures, and past experiences—that can serve as strengths in implementing the proposed interventions. . Consultations were held in all 15 divisions across the three districts, led by the Divisional Secretaries and officials from the Office for Reparation, including the Director General, Director or Assistant Director and the District Reparations Officer. IOM provided technical support through its Community Volunteers (UNVs) and technical staff to facilitate the consultations. Data was collected in writing, with informed consent recorded from all participants.

Focus Group Discussions

Once the broader needs of the affected communities were identified through community consultations, three FGDs were held in every division with three groups: first elderly persons and youth; second, persons with disabilities, and third, government officials working on social issues at local level, including teachers, principals, public health midwives, public health officials, child rights protection officers, development officers, and women development officers. The FGDs aimed to gather in-depth information and details on the broader identified needs, including concrete project ideas related to each need. Semi-structured questionnaires were used to guide the FGDs and to collect written data.

Table 2: Number of participants in the focus group discussions

District	FGD 1 – with elderly and youth			FGD 2 – with persons with disabilities			FGD 3 – with government officials		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Kilinochchi	104	27 25.9%	77 74%	73	33 45.2%	40 54.7%	67	26 38.8%	41 61.1%
Mannar	98	49 50%	49 50%	50	34 68%	16 32%	87	42 48.2%	45 51.7%
Mullaitivu	151	92 60.9%	59 39%	76	31 40.7%	45 59.2%	92	43 46.7%	49 53.2%

The FGD with the elderly persons and youth sought to incorporate a transgenerational perspective into reparation initiatives, acknowledging intergenerational trauma and the transgenerational impact of conflict on communities. The discussions promoted mutual understanding between generations and helped challenge misconceptions through experience-sharing. According to the National Census of 2012, approximately 8.7 percent of Sri Lanka’s population, or 1.6 million individuals, live with disabilities, with women comprising 57 percent of this group.⁹ However, there is no official data on the proportion of persons with war-related disabilities in Sri Lanka. Nevertheless, various stakeholders have acknowledged that the conflict resulted in thousands of persons with disabilities, particularly in the war-affected areas of the Northern Province, further exacerbating their vulnerabilities. Therefore, special attention was given to gather their unique needs compared to others and ensuring their meaningful inclusion in the initiative through scheduling FGDs with persons with disabilities. The FGD with government officials aimed to gain an objective understanding of the issues and needs of

⁹ 2012 Census of Population and Housing Report, [Department of Census and Statistics](#)

the communities without subjective bias, as officials work with diverse communities in the divisions. However, this proved challenging as many government officials are also members of the affected communities.

Data Analysis and Data Validation

The gathered data was analysed by the IOM using both qualitative and quantitative methods, followed by interpretation to derive the findings of the mapping study. The data analysis and interpretation were conducted by independent external consultants hired by IOM. The results include around 200 specific project ideas to address the collective needs or challenges of the affected communities. The findings were validated through the key stakeholder meetings with the community-based organisations (CBOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), journalists, human rights defenders, counselling officers, and the members of the local government authorities in the relevant divisions and districts. After validation, they were submitted to the relevant Divisional and District Secretaries for verification.

This approach acknowledges that the State is the sole duty bearer for the provision of reparations, including the duty to consult with affected communities, while CSOs and other actors should support the process to ensure the collective reparations initiative is effectively implemented. In this context, collaboration among government agencies, CSOs, international partners, and local stakeholders remains critical for the success of collective reparations efforts. By forging partnerships and coordinating activities, duplication of efforts can be avoided, resources can be pooled, and synergies can be created to maximise impact. While the State remains the sole provider of reparations, external support from donors and international partners, in accordance with the legal framework can complement state efforts by channelling funds through appropriate mechanisms.¹⁰ Engaging a wide range of stakeholders ensures the mapping process is inclusive, transparent, and accountable to the affected populations.

Authoring the Mapping Study

The final report was written in English and translated into Sinhala and Tamil. It was then shared with all relevant stakeholders including the community members who contributed to the mapping exercise.

¹⁰ Article 16(1)(c) of the *Office for Reparations Act, No. 34 of 2018*.

Findings

The findings presented in this section reflect the voices, experiences, and perspectives of conflict-affected communities. Rather than focusing solely on externally defined priorities, these findings capture how community members themselves perceive their main needs and describe their struggles. Communities are concerned that reconciliation initiatives led by government and non-government entities often follow a pre-determined approach—implementing interventions based on assumed needs without sufficiently consulting the people most directly affected by conflict. This has led to gaps in addressing the broader socio-economic, psychological, and infrastructural challenges that communities continue to face.

By contrast, the findings outlined here emerge from a rights-based and victim-centred approach. This methodology described earlier ensure that interventions are designed not just with communities in mind, but with their active participation, respecting their agency in shaping responses to their own realities. This participatory approach acknowledges that sustainable peace and development are not just about delivering services but about ensuring that affected populations have a say in decisions that impact their future. Importantly, sustainability and ongoing monitoring have been central concerns raised by communities themselves, who have emphasised the necessity of long-term solutions rather than short-term assistance. These elements have been integral in mapping the collective needs for potential interventions.

The conflict-affected communities have prioritised the following five needs to address the collective challenges they face as the direct or indirect results of the prolonged armed conflict in the province.

- Livelihood assistance
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

-
- Infrastructure development
 - Education support
 - Support to promote sports and culture

Livelihood Assistance

Conflict-affected populations in the Northern Province encounter numerous challenges in rebuilding and progressing their livelihoods in the post-conflict context. These difficulties stem from factors such as the loss of breadwinners, lack of access to lands, depletion of natural resources and assets, deterioration of social and mental well-being of communities, and disrupted business networks. Unemployment and a lack of livelihood opportunities have spurred an increase in illegal businesses, microfinance-related issues, poverty, malnutrition, school dropouts, early marriages, domestic violence, and drug abuse, further exacerbating the existing vulnerabilities in the post-conflict context.

The Parliament Sectoral Oversight Committee on microfinance issues revealed that 2.8 million rural individuals have been adversely affected by the microfinance crisis, with 2.4 million of them being women.¹¹ Studies indicate that the most affected are women from conflict-affected zones in the Northern and Eastern provinces.¹² According to a report from the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Tomoya Obokata, these microfinance schemes targeted vulnerable women, leading to severe issues such as sexual and labour exploitation, irregular migration, and suicides.¹³ Data from the Ministry of Defense in 2020 indicates that drug abuse in the Northern Province has increased since 2018.¹⁴ Studies show a connection between the rising use of illegal drugs in conflict-affected areas and broader socio-political

¹¹ Sri Lanka Parliament, *The Sectoral Oversight Committee on Alleviating the Impact of the Economic Crisis focus on the parties aggrieved by the impact of the microfinance crisis in Sri Lanka*, Parliament of Sri Lanka, 13 February, 2024. Available at <https://www.parliament.lk/en/committee-news/view/3897?category=33>.

¹² Arambepola, C., & Romeshun, K. (2019). *Debt at My Doorstep: Microfinance Practices and Effects on Women in Sri Lanka* (p. 8). Centre for Poverty Analysis. Available at <https://www.cepa.lk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2019-Arambepola-and-Romeshun-Debt-at-My-Doorstep-WPS-30.pdf>.

¹³ United Nations Human Rights Council, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, Tomoya Obokata: Visit to Sri Lanka*, A/HRC/51/26/Add.1, 6 July, 2022. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5126add1-visit-sri-lanka-report-special-rapporteur-contemporary-forms>.

¹⁴ Ministry of Defense, Sri Lanka, (2020), *Handbook of Drug Abuse Information*, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB).

problems like disappearances, missing relatives, and extreme poverty.¹⁵ Additionally, the affected communities reported a close correlation between unemployment, a lack of livelihood opportunities, and the rise of illegal activities such as sand mining, timber trade, and drug trafficking. Government officials working with these communities noted that poverty is a primary cause of many social issues including violence against women and children, malnutrition, school dropouts, and early marriages. They emphasised that these outcomes are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. These issues not only undermine the social and economic well-being of the affected population but also precipitate violence and tensions, thereby significantly hindering reconciliation efforts in the country. It is crucial that these challenges are addressed by enhancing livelihood opportunities, which is often a difficult endeavour in a post-conflict context. Enhancing livelihood opportunities is also essential to ensuring the dignity of conflict-affected populations, enabling them to rebuild their lives with resilience and self-sufficiency. The conflict-affected communities specifically mentioned that the depletion of natural resources and infrastructure, including water reservoirs sources, irrigation systems, and encroachment or acquisition of lands, are significant factors impacting their livelihood opportunities in the post-conflict context. While acknowledging the long-standing efforts of state and non-state actors in supporting the livelihoods of conflict-affected people in the Northern Province since the end of conflict, the affected communities highlighted that such initiatives often failed to tailor their approach to the post-conflict context.

Data-driven support system: One of the key issues highlighted by the affected population in all three districts is inappropriate targeting of beneficiaries. They claimed that livelihood assistance often reaches the same group of beneficiaries or people who are not in need. Political influence, bias, and discrimination contribute to this issue. A lack of data and coordination among the relevant state and non-state actors was identified as a significant cause. A woman community member in Kilinochchi, complained that: “*The same person is given five cows by*

¹⁵ See for instance, Dissanayake, L., Jabir, S., Shepherd, T., Helliwell, T., Selvaratnam, L., Jayaweera, K., Abeysinghe, N., Mallen, C., & Sumathipala, A., (2023). *The aftermath of war; mental health, substance use and their correlates with social support and resilience among adolescents in a post-conflict region of Sri Lanka*, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health, 17(1), 101. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-023-00648-1> ; Somasundaram, D., & Sivayokan, S, (2013), *Rebuilding community resilience in a post-war context: developing insight and recommendations - a qualitative study in Northern Sri Lanka*. *International Journal of Mental Health Systems*, 7, 3. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1186/1752-4458-7-3>; *Sri Lanka's Northern Province faces a rising drug problem post-war*, BBC Sinhala, 4 April 2016. Available at: https://www.bbc.com/sinhala/sri_lanka/2016/04/160404_smbp_north_drug_use.

different NGOs while a person who does not have a single cow has been waiting to receive some sort of assistance, at least a cow for months.”

To address this gap, the projects included in this mapping study recommend developing a comprehensive digital data system on livelihood assistance in all three districts to enhance coordination, transparency, and equitable distribution of resources.

Demand-driven approaches to livelihood support: The affected population also highlighted that the provision of similar livelihood support to several beneficiaries in the same geographical location leads to market saturation and lowers profits. A Divisional Secretary in Mannar district highlighted that *“non-government organisations often provide cows to the beneficiaries in Mannar, however, the demand for milk in Mannar district is comparatively low. Without adequate market facilities and resources, people face many challenges in rearing these cows and generating income.”*

Community-driven livelihood initiatives: Government officers at the local level have noted that past livelihood initiatives have failed due to the lack of interest and commitment from beneficiaries. Conversely, beneficiaries argue that they need to be involved from the outset. Initiatives that are designed without beneficiary engagement often fail to align with the skills, abilities, needs, and resources available within communities, leading to their unsustainability. Therefore, in-depth discussions with beneficiaries should be a prerequisite for designing these initiatives, as emphasised by the communities.

Lack of marketing facilities: Discussions with affected communities highlighted significant challenges in expanding their businesses due to limited access to marketing facilities. A major barrier is transportation constraints, as the lack of available and affordable transport options prevents many from reaching markets to sell their goods. This challenge is further exacerbated by poor road conditions, which hinder mobility and limit economic opportunities, particularly in remote areas. Security concerns and high crime rates also emerged as key issues, especially for women, who expressed fears about commuting long distances, particularly at night, due to safety risks. Additionally, communities struggle to develop e-marketing capabilities, citing limited digital literacy, lack of training, and financial constraints as barriers to accessing online platforms that could expand their market reach.

Constant knowledge and information exchange: The lack of knowledge and information exchange on the livelihoods supported is another common challenge highlighted by both the affected communities and the government officers. A community member in Kilinochchi

district said, *“I was given a machine to grind rice to make rice flour. However, I was not trained on how to use it. I had to struggle for more than two weeks to know how to use the machine. Finally, I was able to find a person who had previously used the machine and learned from him.”*

Integration of sustainability and monitoring plans: The participants from all three districts highlighted that livelihood initiatives often fail to integrate monitoring and sustainability aspects. Since most of the livelihood initiatives are supported by NGOs and INGOs under different projects, there is no coordinated, constant, and long-term follow-up or monitoring mechanism. Even though the existing government structures have the potential to integrate such a monitoring mechanism into livelihood initiatives, the lack of data and coordination often prevent this from happening.

Failure to incorporate sustainability aspects of a project during the project design process is another key challenge in running the livelihood initiatives for the long-term. Participants highlighted how easily sustainability aspects are overlooked. Divisional Secretaries in Mannar highlighted that most NGOs do not consult either the government officials or the community members before designing and implementing a project. Therefore, they often fail to consider the sustainability of such projects or the broader needs of beneficiaries.

For instance, a community member in Kilinochchi noted that despite receiving livelihood support, some individuals still lack access to basic utilities like electricity in their homes, limiting their ability to fully benefit from the assistance provided. This highlights the critical need for livelihood initiatives to be designed with a comprehensive understanding of the beneficiaries' overall living conditions and infrastructure challenges.

A Divisional Secretary in Mannar also explained that *“most of the people in Mannar now have cows which were given by different NGOs. Still many NGOs keep giving cows as livelihood support. However, Mannar does not have grazing lands, hence, feeding the cows has become an expensive task for the beneficiaries. On the other hand, they don't get sufficient profit from the cow milk as there is no marketing opportunity and they sell their milk to the companies for lower prices who come and collect the milk.”*

It is crucial to understand the local context including opportunities, threats, needs and available resources better, before designing any livelihood initiatives. While there are many useful tools available to assess contexts, which are easily adaptable to post-conflict settings, it is equally important to consult with relevant government officials, community members, and other

stakeholders. Further, livelihood initiatives should promote social cohesion and reconciliation in conflict-affected communities by eliminating social exclusion and marginalisation of vulnerable groups.

The focus group discussions suggested that both men and women face similar livelihood challenges, reflecting the shared vulnerabilities of conflict-affected communities in the Northern Province. The post-conflict environment has exacerbated economic hardships, limiting access to stable employment, financial resources, and market opportunities. Across all three districts, unfair selection of beneficiaries, lack of transport facilities, inadequate monitoring, and barriers in obtaining raw materials emerged as the most common challenges for both men and women. Additionally, limited marketing opportunities, financial constraints, and land access issues further hinder economic recovery. However, women consulted reported specific challenges that deepened their economic insecurity. Without land ownership, many struggle to access bank loans and are forced into high-interest microfinance schemes, where some face sexual bribery in exchange for leniency. The dual burden of being both breadwinners and caregivers limits their ability to secure stable employment, while balancing income-generating activities with caregiving responsibilities further restricts their mobility and economic opportunities. These compounded challenges further increase their vulnerability, leaving them at greater risk of economic dependence and social marginalisation.

Dedicated FGDs with persons with disabilities revealed that they face significant barriers to livelihood opportunities across all three districts, with unfair selection of beneficiaries emerging as a common issue. In Kilinochchi, challenges include a lack of recognition of persons with disabilities' needs, inadequate technical support, and accessibility issues in government buildings, along with land acquisition problems and limited marketing opportunities. In Mannar, lack of physical access is the primary barrier, compounded by unfair beneficiary selection, insufficient training, and weak monitoring. In Mullaitivu, key issues include unfair selection, limited marketing opportunities, and inadequate project follow-up. While persons with disabilities in Kilinochchi seem to struggle with institutional barriers, those in Mannar mentioned more physical accessibility challenges, and those in Mullaitivu, market limitations and poor monitoring. Addressing these challenges requires inclusive policies, targeted technical support, and stronger oversight to ensure persons with disabilities full participation in sustainable livelihoods.

Livelihood projects listed in the mapping study are identified by the communities and recommended by the relevant government authorities in the three districts. The affected communities have taken ownership of the following projects while active support and collaboration of relevant government authorities is ensured. IOM strongly recommends the relevant government authorities, UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs, and other key stakeholders involved in promoting livelihoods to consider implementing the following projects as they are identified by the people who are in need. Furthermore, IOM strongly recommends undertaking a baseline study, SWOT analysis, or context analysis using any recognised tools before designing or implementing any livelihood initiative.

Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

“We once lived in a society deeply rooted in cultural values and moral principles, both before and during the conflict. In those times, we didn't face issues like divorce, rape, child abuse, drug addiction, suicide, domestic violence, or extramarital affairs.”

The communities and government officials across the three districts largely echoed these sentiments, emphasising that such social problems were non-existent before or during the conflict. Although they have not directly linked these issues to unresolved trauma or psychosocial challenges in the post-conflict era, many are deeply concerned whether these problems are the results of a deliberate political effort to dismantle Tamil culture. They support this concern by pointing to both the inaction, and at times even active support, of law enforcement in enabling the drug trade within these communities. This claim is alarming as it exacerbates existing ethnic cleavages and mistrust between communities.

The psychosocial challenges faced by these communities cannot be fully understood without considering the lingering effects of unresolved trauma in the post-conflict context. For instance, a lawyer involved in a child abuse case recounted the story of a disabled, ex-combatant mother, struggling with poverty, who resorted to corporal punishment as a coping mechanism. This illustrates the ways in which unresolved trauma can lead to harmful behaviours, impacting family life.

Unresolved Trauma and its Lingering Effects

In Sri Lanka's journey of conflict recovery, psychosocial support for the affected communities is often sidelined in favour of other priorities such as truth, accountability, justice, development,

land issues and reconciliation. However, providing MHPSS is a crucial pillar of post-conflict transitional justice, helping victims process trauma, restore dignity, and support long-term peace.¹⁶ The United Nations defines transitional justice as a holistic approach encompassing truth-seeking, criminal justice, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence, with MHPSS integral to each dimension.¹⁷ A people-centred and transformative approach is essential, as unresolved trauma fuels inter-group mistrust, institutional scepticism, and negative predispositions towards “others.”¹⁸ When combined with reparations, MHPSS can help resolve grievances, dismantle entrenched prejudices, and prevent future violence. If victims’ suffering is ignored and passed down through generations, it becomes a major risk factor for renewed conflict.¹⁹ Integrating MHPSS into transitional justice fosters reconciliation, strengthens social cohesion, and creates the foundation for lasting peace. However, failure to address the psychosocial needs of a conflict-affected communities often leads to distrust and persistent culture of violence, as has been observed in Sri Lanka.

Ambiguous Loss: The Psychological Toll of Missing Loved Ones

The psychological toll on communities in the Northern Province, especially those who have experienced “ambiguous loss”—a term that refers to the profound uncertainty that arises when families do not know the fate of their loved ones—has been significant.

“I have believed in astrology since I was young. I got married at the age and in the manner the astrologer advised. Now, the same astrologer insists that my son is alive and will come back. As his mother, it's my duty to find him. He may be holding onto the hope that my parents will somehow locate him.” - A mother of a disappeared son in Mullaitivu

¹⁶ United Nations, Guidance Note on Transitional Justice, OHCHR, July 2023. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/guidance-note-secretary-general-transitional-justice-strategic-tool>. See as well Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), *Integrating Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Peacebuilding: A Mapping and Recommendations for Practitioners*, 2023. Available at: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-reference-group-mental-health-and-psychosocial-support-emergency-settings/iasc-guidance-integrating-mhpss-and-peacebuilding-mapping-and-recommendations-practitioners> and Brandon Hamber, *Transitional Justice, Mental Health, and Psychosocial Support: Renewing the United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice*, OHCHR, 2023. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/transitionaljustice/sg-guidance-note/SG-GuidanceNote-TJ-Mental-Health-digital.pdf>.

¹⁷ United Nations, Guidance Note on Transitional Justice, OHCHR, 2023, p. 25. See as well Virginie Ladisch and Clara Ramírez-Barat, *The Search for People’s Well-Being: Mainstreaming a Psychosocial Approach to Transitional Justice*, International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), September 2024, p. 17 and following. Available at: https://www.ictj.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/ictj_report_mhpss-tj_sept2024_1.pdf.

¹⁸ United Nations, Guidance Note on Transitional Justice, OHCHR, 2023, p. 18.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

Such unresolved grief blocks cognitive and emotional processing, leaving individuals unable to move forward. This stagnation does not only hinder their psychological wellbeing but also impacts their social and economic wellbeing.²⁰ As another father of a disappeared son remarked, *"It has been 15 years. We have never celebrated any functions or festivals at our home. We are putting them on hold—even my daughter's wedding. We will have all parties together on the day my son comes."* This prolonged impasse in the grieving process and coping mechanisms, marked by the absence of closure, perpetuates emotional distress and inhibits resilience.

Unacknowledged Losses and Hidden Trauma

At the same time, victims have pointed out that many conflict-related losses remain unrecognised. One woman recounted experiencing a miscarriage at five months due to a bomb attack, a trauma never officially recorded or acknowledged. It remains unclear whether the Sri Lankan legal framework or the Office for Reparations Act includes provisions for such losses, leaving many mothers to grieve in silence. Integrating these hidden traumas within MHPSS frameworks is essential, not only to acknowledge their psychological impact but also to ensure that victims' rights are recognised while guaranteeing that they are not excluded from receiving other forms of reparations and support. By acknowledging these often-ignored forms of suffering, MHPSS interventions can better assist survivors while ensuring that mental health needs to receive equal attention alongside legal and material reparations.

Gendered Trauma: The Double Burden on Women

In addition, other gendered experiences of trauma have compounded the challenges. During the consultations, widows, wives of political prisoners, and women whose husbands or sons have disappeared, spoke about the strain of assuming dual roles. Forced to act as both breadwinners and caretakers without necessary support systems, these women also bear the weight of societal expectations to adhere to traditional gender norms. This combination of responsibilities and expectations, often without adequate assistance, heightens their psychological distress. Moreover, their gender-related vulnerabilities further deepen trauma in an already precarious existence.

The Surge in Drug Abuse and Its Detrimental Effects on Social Cohesion

²⁰ Pauline Boss, (1999), *Ambiguous Loss: Learning to Live with Unresolved Grief*, Harvard University Press (HUP).

The rise in drug abuse in the post conflict context as discussed earlier, along with its associated social ills, not only undermines the social and economic well-being of affected populations but also acts as a major barrier to peacebuilding and reconciliation. Studies from 2020 show that drug abuse has risen in the Northern Province since 2018, exacerbating existing issues. The connection between rising drug use and broader socio-political problems, including disappearances, missing relatives, and extreme poverty, is stark. In conflict-affected areas, unresolved trauma, combined with the stress of daily survival, has led many to use substances as a coping mechanism. Furthermore, communities report that the increase in unemployment and a lack of livelihood opportunities are driving many towards illegal activities, including drug trafficking and consumption.

These issues, compounded by the trauma of war, create an environment where drug abuse becomes not just a personal issue, but a community-wide challenge. The combination of economic hardship, social disintegration, and unresolved grief has pushed many towards illicit coping mechanisms, such as drug use, further destabilizing the region. This drug abuse, in turn, fuels cycles of violence and social breakdown, undermining efforts to heal the wounds of war. Individuals dependent on drugs often become alienated from their communities, and this alienation, combined with the trauma they carry, complicates reconciliation processes and hinders social cohesion.

To mitigate the impact of drug use on social cohesion and reconciliation, there needs to be a multifaceted approach that addresses both the economic and social root causes. Reconciliation efforts can play a pivotal role in this regard by promoting community healing, fostering trust, and offering economic opportunities that reduce dependence on illicit activities. By creating an environment where individuals are not only able to heal from the past but also find sustainable livelihoods, drug abuse can be significantly reduced. Furthermore, strengthening social bonds through inclusive dialogue, providing mental health support, and engaging communities in meaningful post-war rebuilding processes will contribute to a healthier, more cohesive society, ultimately reducing the factors that fuel drug abuse and violence.

The Vicious Cycle of Socio-Economic Hardship and Mental Health

Moreover, the socio-economic conditions in post-conflict Sri Lanka—marked by land disputes, denial of rights, increased poverty, and lack of access to essential services like healthcare, education, and sanitation—further intensify mental health and psychosocial challenges. Poverty and insecurity make it nearly impossible for individuals and families to focus on

emotional healing when their basic needs are not met. The lack of access to essential services limits the opportunities for economic and social mobility, creating a vicious cycle where mental distress and socio-economic hardship reinforce one another. Counsellors and community leaders underscored that immediate investment in MHPSS is critical to breaking this cycle. Such investments would not only enhance the health and economic wellbeing of communities but also promote social cohesion and reconciliation. Failure to provide psychosocial support risks leaving communities entrenched in cycles of violence, deepening divisions and distrust. A holistic approach that includes mental health support, alongside efforts to address socio-economic issues, is essential for sustainable peace.

The Need for Comprehensive MHPSS in Post-Conflict Recovery

However, implementing effective MHPSS interventions requires cultural sensitivity and an understanding of local needs. Many communities emphasised the importance of designing interventions that are both culturally appropriate and rooted in the local context. Specific groups, such as victims of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), ex-combatants, and persons with disabilities, are often stigmatised within MHPSS interventions. To avoid further marginalisation, interventions should be designed with care, through consultation with affected communities, ensuring that no additional harm is caused. Adhering to the “do no harm” principle is essential in this process.

Communities themselves expressed a clear preference for community-based approaches to addressing psychosocial issues, rather than relying on external, foreign-driven interventions. There is a preference for leveraging locally available support systems and traditional coping mechanisms to build resilience. Empowering communities to address their own psychosocial needs—by enhancing local capacities and enhancing community support structures—will be more effective in the long term than relying solely on professional mental health services. By doing so, communities can exercise greater agency and resilience, enabling them to navigate their recovery process in a way that feels more authentic and less imposed from outside.

In conclusion, psychosocial support must be seen as a foundational aspect of reparations and post-conflict recovery. The psychological scars of conflict, if left untreated, undermine the potential for social cohesion, reconciliation, and lasting peace. For true healing to occur, addressing mental health needs is as critical as addressing economic and social concerns. By integrating MHPSS into the recovery process and ensuring that interventions are culturally

appropriate and community-driven, Sri Lanka can pave the way for a more resilient, peaceful future—one where individuals and communities can heal and rebuild, together.

Infrastructure Development

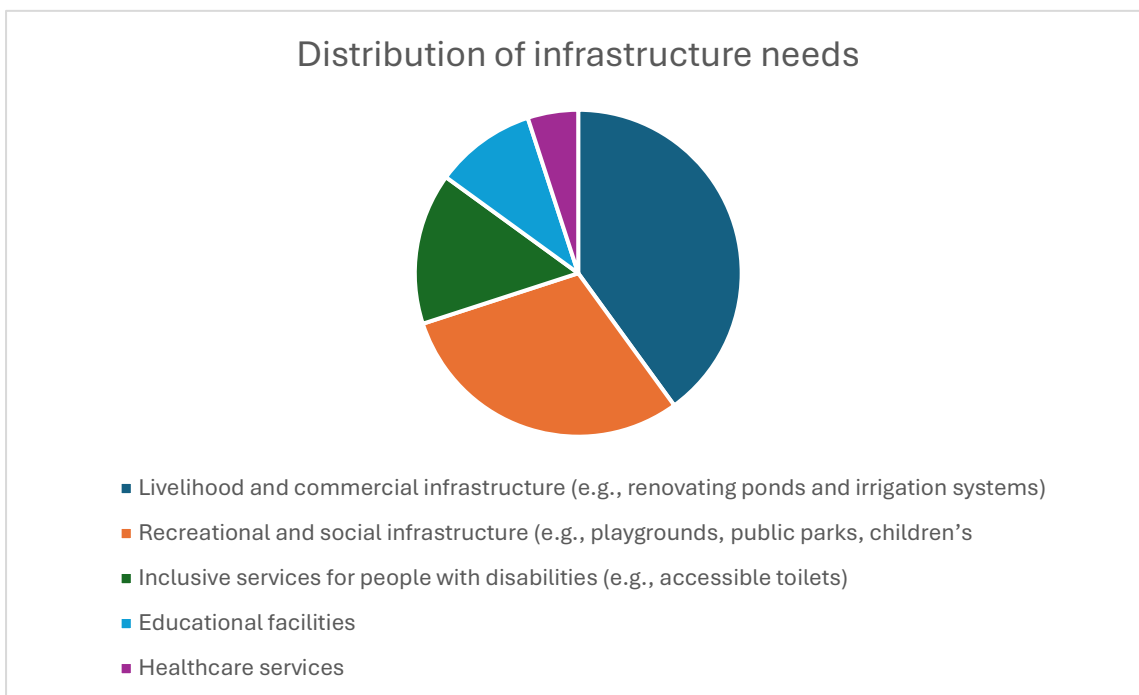
The internal armed conflict, which lasted around 30 years left extensive infrastructure damage in the Northern and Eastern Provinces in Sri Lanka. However, major strides have been made post-conflict to renovate and develop the infrastructure in these provinces. The mapping study revealed that approximately 75 per cent of participants expressed some level of satisfaction with the infrastructure development since the end of the conflict.

Despite these advancements, a major concern has emerged: the lack of inclusivity in the infrastructure, which has left persons with disabilities unable to fully access these services. This issue has become even more pressing in the post-conflict context, given the increasing number of persons with disabilities as a result of the conflict. In all three districts, persons with disabilities highlighted the daily challenges they face due to the lack of accessible facilities in public spaces, including hospitals.

Another major issue concerns the housing built under the resettlement schemes. Communities in the affected districts have raised two primary concerns: first, the poor quality of resettlement housing, as many houses constructed under specific schemes do not meet minimal living standards. While these concerns have been voiced by communities, they have not been substantiated through comprehensive assessments. The second issue involves the abandonment and misuse of houses. Several houses built under the schemes are not continuously used for residential purposes. Instead, they often serve as temporary shelters or are abandoned altogether, with some even being used for illicit activities. It is recommended by government officials that a comprehensive survey be conducted on the houses built under the resettlement schemes to identify the shortcomings, gaps, and overall impact of these structures. This survey will provide valuable insights into the living conditions of resettled communities, enabling policymakers to address critical issues such as housing quality, sustainability, and suitability for the families. By understanding these challenges, targeted improvements can be made to ensure that resettled communities have access to safe, comfortable, and long-term housing that meets their needs and supports their integration into the post-conflict society.

Communities also face significant challenges due to inadequate transportation facilities, especially in remote areas. The lack of accessible transportation has serious consequences, such as increased school dropout rates and limited economic opportunities. In response, local communities have requested that the OR coordinate with the Sri Lanka Transport Board to ensure that buses are made available in these remote locations.

The mapping study identified various infrastructure needs across the three districts. These needs can be grouped into several categories: It is worth noting that while healthcare infrastructure itself is not a significant issue in these districts, the lack of medical equipment and staff remains a major challenge.



An interesting observation from Mannar district was the identification of gender-related infrastructure needs. Specifically, women victims of domestic violence highlighted the absence of a safe house in the district. This lack of space forces women to remain in close proximity to their perpetrators. Furthermore, women in Mannar have also emphasised the need for a day-care centre, which would enable them to seek employment outside the home.

The post-conflict infrastructure development in Northern Sri Lanka has made commendable progress, but important gaps remain in terms of inclusivity, housing quality, transportation, and specific infrastructure needs. Addressing these concerns, particularly for vulnerable groups like people with disabilities and women, will be crucial in ensuring sustainable and equitable infrastructure development in the region.

Promotion of Culture and Sports

Culture plays a crucial role in the post-conflict context of Northern Sri Lanka. Many communities feel that their cultural values were lost in the aftermath of the conflict, which has contributed to a rise in psychosocial issues such as divorce, crime, and abuse. However, these communities strongly believe that reviving and restoring their cultural values can help address and alleviate these ongoing social challenges.

“Our pride and identity are reflected in our culture, its values, and expressions. But after the conflict, our cultural values have faded. We feel our identity is slowly disappearing, and that’s a painful reality to accept.” – A community leader from Mullaitivu

One of the key concerns raised by communities regarding cultural expressions is the systemic barriers they face in engaging with their culture, particularly in relation to land acquisitions and encroachments.²¹

“When we speak of land, it’s not just the physical space—it holds our traditions, history, and collective memory.”- An elderly woman from Kilinochchi

This deep connection between land and cultural identity has led communities to perceive land acquisitions as deliberate efforts to dismantle their cultural heritage, fostering tensions and inter-ethnic disputes that are visible in the country today.

Further, unresolved trauma plays a significant role in the communities’ disconnection from cultural practices, contributing to the erosion of traditions. However, this disengagement is not a voluntary choice; it is an involuntary coping mechanism adopted as a result of trauma. The fragmentation of community networks—caused by displacement, resettlement, and migration—is another key factor weakening community cohesion, making it difficult to organize and sustain sports, recreational and cultural activities.

Other major challenges include the lack of infrastructure for such activities, insufficient funding, damaged facilities, limited access to trained coaches and instructors, and a shortage of equipment—all of which can be addressed through financial investments.

²¹ The issue of land is explored in detail in the following section, while this one focuses on the cultural implications.

While many community members believe that the increasing use of drugs plays a major role in users disengagement from their cultural practices, many also feel that the lack of opportunities and facilities to engage in sports or cultural activities has made members more vulnerable to negative influences. Likewise, although unresolved trauma may disconnect communities from their culture, may believe that reviving cultural practices could help those affected heal. In this way, unaddressed trauma and harmful influences, such as substance abuse, can hinder cultural engagement, whereas a revival of cultural practices can serve as a means of healing and recovery.

In conclusion, the promotion of cultural, sports, and recreational activities is essential to rebuild the social fabric and enhance social cohesion in post-conflict northern Sri Lanka. By reviving cultural values and creating opportunities for engagement, psychosocial challenges faced by communities, can be reduced including trauma, substance abuse, social fragmentation, and other psychosocial issues. Reconnecting with cultural practices not only strengthens individual and collective identity, but it also fosters unity, resilience, offers a sense of purpose and belonging and as a result healing within communities.

Recognising the vital role of both culture and sports, the current mapping study highlights several potential projects suggested by community members themselves. These community-driven initiatives are crucial because they reflect the needs and priorities of the people directly affected by the conflict. By allowing community members to take an active role in shaping the recovery process, such initiatives foster a sense of ownership, empowering individuals and strengthening the long-term sustainability of these efforts. These projects aim to revitalise cultural practices and expand access to sports, providing the necessary infrastructure, funding, and support to make these aspirations a reality. Through these initiatives, communities can begin to reconnect with their heritage, address the negative impacts of unresolved trauma, and work toward a more inclusive and harmonious future.

By prioritising the promotion of culture and sports, we not only honour the collective history of these communities but also provide pathways for healing, empowerment, and long-term social well-being.

Other Key Findings

Ethnic Dimensions of Reparations in Sri Lanka

The mapping exercise was conducted in 15 divisions across three districts where Tamil-speaking populations predominantly reside, except for the Weli-Oya division in the Mullaitivu district, which is currently populated by Sinhalese. Weli-Oya, previously known as *Manalaaru*, was historically home to Tamil farmers. *Manalaaru* was incorporated into the Mahaweli System L²² through a gazette notification, after which Tamils residents were evicted and Sinhalese settlements were established. Tamils from the Northern Province objected to the government's land acquisition and Sinhalese resettlements, asserting that these measures were attempts to undermine Tamil culture and their demographic presence in the region. A case was filed against the gazette notification in the Trincomalee High Court. Today, Weli-Oya functions as a division with 28 *Grama Niladhari Divisions* (GNDs) and over 12,000 residents.

Despite the conflict ending in 2009, the effects of the armed conflict remain visible in Weli-Oya. Infrastructure is underdeveloped, with many roads unpaved and buildings constructed for various projects left incomplete or abandoned. The community also faces significant challenges related to water scarcity, affecting both drinking and agricultural needs, the latter being the primary source of livelihood in the division. Other difficulties include limited access to essential services, such as transportation and healthcare. Community members spoke at length about the impact of the conflict. Many youths have turned to illegal drugs, while there are high rates of domestic violence and underage pregnancies. The community also suffers from a lack of job opportunities, widespread poverty, and a high prevalence of illnesses, including chronic kidney diseases. Although similar issues exist in other mapped divisions, Weli-Oya residents expressed deep frustration, believing they lack support for recovery due to their ethnic and geographic identity.

During the consultations with the residents of Weli-Oya, they said that they have faced conflict since the 1990s including massacres, disappearances, and civilian killings by the LTTE. They noted that this was the first time they had heard of the Office for Reparations. Victims of

²² Mahaweli System L is a highly militarized colonization scheme within the Mahaweli Development Programme in Weli Oya, northern Sri Lanka, aimed at resettling displaced families and developing agricultural land, with a focus on water management, community development, and infrastructure. It enabled the insertion of a loyal Sinhala population into a sparsely populated strip between the Tamil-inhabited areas in the north and Tamil-and Muslim-inhabited areas in the east, thereby driving a geographical wedge into the claimed Tamil homeland ('Tamil Eelam'). Please see: [State Facilitated Colonization of Northern Sri Lanka – 2013 - Groundviews](#)

disappearance explained that they had not registered with the Office on Missing Persons (OMP) or received compensation from the OMP or the OR due to a lack of awareness of the system and its procedures. The OR has confirmed that neither it (2018-present) nor its predecessor, the REPPA (1987-2018), had received any applications for monetary compensation from Weli-Oya.

One woman's statement during the consultations captured the sentiments of Weli-Oya victims regarding transitional justice and the ethnic dimensions of victimhood: *“Conflict ended in 2009. We (the people in Weli-Oya) have not been recognised as victims of the armed conflict to date. There is a perception that only the Tamils have been affected by the conflict. No one asked us what we lost or what we needed. Therefore, we are not interested in engaging in these discussions now.”*

As reflected in the above statement, dominant narratives on armed conflict and transitional justice in Sri Lanka often assign ethnic labels to victimhood and human rights abusers exacerbating existing polarisations among different communities. This narrative has emerged as most victims demanding justice belong to the Tamil community, with their demands focusing primarily on crimes committed by state actors such as the armed forces and law enforcement authorities. However, crimes perpetrated by the LTTE against Tamil, Muslim, and Sinhalese communities, including child recruitment, forced evictions, political assassinations, and massacres, are often overlooked. This neglect mirrors the decades-long marginalisation of Weli-Oya victims. Assigning ethnic labels to victims or perpetrators is a concerning indicator of potential future conflicts, undermining efforts toward transitional justice and reconciliation while further eroding trust. It is therefore essential that the OR considers the ethnic dimensions when providing reparations without prejudicing the ‘minority rights approach’ to transitional justice, as highlighted by Mihlar²³

Language has also been a critical dimension of Sri Lanka's conflict, with policies such as the Official Language Act No. 33 of 1956, commonly known as the Sinhala Only Act, serving as a key trigger that led to the civil conflict. The Act, which made Sinhala the sole official language of Sri Lanka, marginalised Tamil speakers and fuelled long-standing grievances over political and economic exclusion. As part of community consultations, many affected communities have emphasised that the proper provision of reparations is also hindered by

²³ Farah Mihlar, *Contending with Identity and Minority Rights in Transitional Justice: The Case Study of Sri Lanka*, The International Journal of Human Rights, published online on 4 June 2024. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13642987.2024.2355269>.

language barriers. Many have stressed that reparation initiatives should be conducted in their languages to ensure accessibility and trust. The ability to communicate in Tamil, Sinhala, or any relevant local dialect fosters meaningful engagement, enabling victims to fully understand their rights, share their experiences, and navigate the reparation process without linguistic barriers. The meaningful representation of minority communities conversant in local languages within the OR, other transitional justice mechanisms, civil society organisations and the UN agencies promoting peace and reconciliation is therefore crucial for ensuring inclusivity and building confidence among affected populations.

The consultations also revealed that the needs of affected communities vary among different communities. Tamil victims often demand or expect public recognition and acknowledgements of past harms, as well as measures to promote collective healing through religion, ritual, art, culture, and memorialisation. In contrast, the Muslim and Sinhalese communities prioritise restitution and restoration of their resources and economic status. This does not imply that Tamil communities devalue restitution or restoration, nor that Muslim and Sinhalese communities do not value acknowledgment and recognition. Rather, each community prioritises its needs based on its specific experiences, while still considering other aspects important.

Thus, the OR should ensure that the various needs of different communities are considered when designing reparation programmes. This requires recognising and addressing the distinct experiences of ethnic communities, whose unique histories of loss and marginalisation have shaped their priorities and perceptions of justice. By doing so, the Office can foster trust and engagement across communities, mitigating polarisation and enhancing the legitimacy of transitional justice initiatives.

Implementing reparations programmes that are inclusive and sensitive to ethnic disparities is not merely a matter of addressing historical grievances but is vital for building a sustainable framework for reconciliation. Meaningful consultations with Tamil, Muslim, and Sinhalese communities are essential to identify their specific needs and ensure equitable resource allocation. Transparent and participatory processes will contribute to healing ethnic divisions, affirming the shared goal of unity and coexistence while ensuring that all victims, regardless of their ethnicity, feel seen and supported in their recovery journeys.

Demand for Memorialisation

"We cannot bring them back, but we can make sure they are not forgotten. A memorial is not a luxury. It is something every family deserves." — A mother from Mannar whose two children were killed.

Memorialisation serves as a visible testament to the victims' experiences and a commitment to ensuring that the violence they endured will not be forgotten. For the families of the disappeared and the deceased, it offers the promise of remembrance and the assurance that their losses will not be erased from history. They view it as a way of honouring the memories of those who perished or disappeared during the conflict. For communities in the North, where the scars of war are most visible, the construction of memorials, commemorative events, and the preservation of significant sites are regarded as crucial steps toward closure.

"No amount of money can bring us peace, even a compensation of LKR 500,000. What truly comforts us is gathering with other grieving mothers and lighting a simple five-rupee camphor in memory of our lost children." — A mother of a missing person in Kilinochchi

The request for memorialisation is one of the common demands from the victim groups from Tamil communities across the three districts during the consultations. These requests sometimes turn into frustrated questions directed at higher officials from the Office for Reparations. For instance, during a consultation in Mannar, a woman leader of a CBO asked the Director: *"The Act allows memorialisation as a form of Reparations. Then, why are we prevented from memorialising our loved ones? Why doesn't the OR ensure this right for us?"*

Legal Framework for Memorialisation

Memorialisation is widely recognised as a form of reparation under international human rights law. According to the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation, states have a duty to "ensure measures of satisfaction, including memorials, as part of reparative efforts to address the needs of victims"²⁴. Symbolic reparations, such as

²⁴ United Nations General Assembly, *Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law*, Resolution 60/147, 16 December 2005. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/basic-principles-and-guidelines-right-remedy-and-reparation>.

memorials, are vital for acknowledging suffering and enabling societies to move forward in a spirit of unity.

Section 2 of the Act identifies the formulation and implementation of policies on reparations as one of its objectives. These include specialised policies on public education, memorialisation, and addressing the needs of children, youths, women, victims of sexual violence, and persons with disabilities, subject to cabinet approval. The Act also outlines memorials as a method of commemorating deceased individuals, defining them as a form of collective reparations.

The policy of Office for Reparations defines memorialisation as follows²⁵:

“Memorialisation contemplated under the Act addresses the emotional need of the families and loved ones to grieve, commemorate and remember the dead, and not to initiate a public display of political slogans or protests. It is dedication to the collective victims that is contemplated under the Act, for instance dedicating a public space such as a park to all lives lost during the entire conflict without distinction, or to all those who lost their lives in a particular incident such as the Easter Sunday Attack, or a museum that records the history of communal harmony that has existed in history etc., excluding the commemoration in any manner of terrorists or separatists.”

Memorialisation is often misused and/or misunderstood as a means of promoting or celebrating terrorism or advancing political agendas, thereby preventing genuine victims from commemorating their loved ones. While it is important to address fears of reigniting historical tensions and divisions in proceeding with memorialisation efforts, it is equally critical to understand the genuine demands of the victims. Despite these provisions and the legal recognition of memorialisation, communities often encounter challenges in realising their right to memorialisation, as highlighted by the victims’ voices.

“We are not just asking it for political agendas, but a space where we can honour the memories of our loved ones. This is our right, and it is part of our healing process.” — A father of a missing person in Mannar

²⁵ Office for Reparations, *Policy and Guidelines on Reparations*, 2021, p. 25. Available at: https://www.reparations.gov.lk/web/images/2021/Policy_and_Guidelines_final.pdf.

Memorialisation also means different things to different communities, reflecting the diverse ways in which people navigate trauma and remembrance. In Mullaitivu, for example, some survivors requested that the heavily damaged Vadduvaikkal bridge remain untouched as a lasting symbol of their experiences during the conflict. Others, particularly in Mannar, expressed the opposite view, calling for the renovation of all damaged buildings to prevent constant reminders of past traumas. These differing perspectives highlight the need for reparation efforts to be tailored through meaningful consultation, ensuring that memorialisation initiatives align with the specific needs and desires of affected communities.

In post-conflict settings worldwide, memorialisation has been recognised as an effective tool for reconciliation. According to the United Nations guidelines on reparations, memorialisation offers victims and their families “symbolic measures of recognition” that contribute to “restoring dignity, memory, and justice” to those affected.²⁶ Public memorials and spaces for remembrance enable societies to confront painful histories, acknowledge losses, and commit to preventing such tragedies from recurring.

“Memorials are not about reopening old wounds. They are about remembering, so we can heal together. We need the space to grieve and honour those we lost.” — A wife of a missing person in Mullaitivu

Recommendations for Memorialisation

To address the challenges and maximise the impact of memorialisation, the following recommendations are proposed. Inclusive dialogue between the government and affected communities should be prioritised to ensure that memorialisation efforts are inclusive, respectful, and sensitive to diverse perspectives. Engaging in meaningful discussions with those directly impacted will help create memorials that genuinely reflect their needs and concerns. Furthermore, memorials should serve as non-politicised spaces of memory, dedicated to collective mourning and reflection rather than political messaging. Establishing spaces where all Sri Lankans, regardless of background, can come together to remember the past can foster unity and healing. Additionally, memorialisation efforts should be community-led, with affected families and local leaders playing a central role in shaping how their loved ones are remembered. Community involvement ensures that memorials reflect the values and

²⁶ United Nations General Assembly, Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation, Resolution 60/147, 2005. Available at <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/basic-principles-and-guidelines-right-remedy-and-reparation>.

priorities of those most affected. Finally, international support and best practices should be leveraged to help Sri Lanka navigate the complexities of post-conflict memorialisation. Learning from global experiences can provide valuable insights while ensuring compliance with international human rights standards.

Memorialisation as a Step Towards Sustainable Peace

Memorialisation is not only a way of addressing the past but also an investment in the future. By acknowledging the pain and suffering of the past, Sri Lanka can create the foundation for reconciliation and social cohesion. The affected communities have made it clear that memorialisation is not a political act but an expression of their desire for recognition and dignity. However, for these efforts to be meaningful, they must reflect the diverse ways in which individuals and communities process loss. Some seek to preserve the remnants of war as symbols of resilience, while others wish to restore what was lost to ease the burden of painful memories.

“We must remember, not to dwell in the past, but to ensure a better future for all Sri Lankans.”
— A community leader from Mullaitivu

This sentiment underscores that remembrance is not about division but about unity. By creating inclusive spaces for memorialisation that acknowledge both tangible and invisible wounds, Sri Lanka can foster a shared understanding of the conflict’s impact across all communities. Such efforts can build trust, heal historical wounds, and serve as a foundation for sustainable peace.

Demand for Truth and Justice: Issue of Disappearances

“It has been many years, but we still don’t know what happened to our loved ones. All we ask for is the truth, so we can have peace.” — A family member of a missing person from Mannar

Families of the disappeared continue to face significant challenges, particularly in coping with the emotional and economic toll of their loved ones’ absence. The uncertainty surrounding the fate of their family members has had far-reaching effects on their psychological well-being, economic stability, and social integration. The psychosocial impact of living in limbo is profound. As noted by Dr. Pauline Boss, the disappearances leave the victims with ambiguous “loss”, as families are unable to mourn their loved ones due to the lack of information about

their whereabouts.²⁷ Consultations during the mapping exercise with medical professionals and CSO representatives revealed that many families of the disappeared continue to experience long-term mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which are aggravated by ongoing uncertainty.

“We continue to search for answers. Every day without news is another day of suffering. I can feel him breathing, I just do not know where.” — A wife of a missing person from Kilinochchi

The OMP was established in August 2016 following the enactment of the Office on Missing Persons Act, No. 14 of 2016, by Parliament. Although the Act was passed in 2016, the OMP only became operational in 2018 after the appointment of its seven commissioners. The primary mandate of the OMP, as outlined in Section 2(a) of the Act, is to search for and trace missing persons.²⁸ However, consultations with the victims' families have revealed that nearly six years into its operation, the OMP has yet to gain the trust of these families.

It was observed that some victims who were initially denied any form of compensation for their missing loved ones began applying for such compensation during and after the economic crisis. They did so with the understanding that receiving compensation would not prejudice their right to know the truth. However, many other victims strongly refused to accept any form of reparations, including compensation, from either the OR or the OMP. They have also chosen not to participate in any state-led transitional justice mechanisms. These victims prioritise truth and justice above all other forms of relief or remedy, even though they face dire financial challenges due to the loss of their primary breadwinners during the conflict.

The persistent denial and trust deficit can be attributed to the government's ongoing failure to provide the truth to the families of the disappeared, the slow progress of the OMP, and other ongoing rights violations against minority communities.

“We handed over our children, trusting they would return. Decades have passed without answers. Where are our children? We need to know to find peace and engage in peacebuilding.” — A mother of a missing person from Mullaitivu

²⁷ Pauline Boss, (2002), *Ambiguous Loss: Working with Families of the Missing*. The Lancet, 360(Suppl. 1), p. 39–40. Available at: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(02\)11815-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(02)11815-0).

²⁸ *Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016*, Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Available at: <https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/acts/2016/14of2016.pdf>.

Concerns were also raised about the delay from the OR and the OMP in reaching out to the families of the disappeared. Affected communities expressed frustration over these delays, feeling unheard for years. They noted that their grievances, needs, and preferences have not been adequately acknowledged by the OR or the OMP.

Some victims appreciated the OR's current outreach efforts and shared additional challenges they face beyond emotional suffering. They provided suggestions for addressing the needs of the families of the disappeared, which have been developed into project ideas and incorporated in the following section of this study. These suggestions underscore the need for a more collaborative approach among key stakeholders.

It is, therefore, essential that the OR closely engages with the families of the disappeared to assess their social, economic and emotional needs while taking all possible precautions to prevent revictimization or traumatisation. This engagement must be complemented by strengthened collaboration with the OMP and CSOs. Such partnerships can enhance outreach efforts, streamline support services, and address the multifaceted challenges faced by families of the disappeared.

The OR should also ensure that its livelihood and psychosocial support programmes prioritise families of the disappeared, acknowledging their compounded vulnerabilities and unique needs. Comprehensive programmes aimed at economic empowerment and mental health support should form a cornerstone of the OR's initiatives, recognising that addressing these areas is crucial for the recovery and resilience of affected families. By working in close coordination with the OMP and CSOs, the OR can build trust and deliver more effective, targeted solutions, ensuring that the families of the disappeared receive the support they need to navigate their ongoing struggles.

Land Conflicts and their Impacts

Land-related issues remain one of the most pressing and unresolved challenges in post-conflict Sri Lanka, particularly in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, where land acquisitions, encroachments, displacement, forced evictions, and competing claims over land have deepened social and economic vulnerabilities.²⁹ Decades of conflict resulted in widespread land loss, with many communities forcibly displaced and unable to reclaim their properties due to

²⁹ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), *Situation of Human Rights in Sri Lanka: Comprehensive Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, A/HRC/57/19, 27 August 2024, p. 9. Available at: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g24/138/18/pdf/g2413818.pdf>.

administrative hurdles, ongoing military occupation, and state-driven land acquisitions. Despite some land releases in recent years, significant portions of land remain under military control or are repurposed by state agencies, such as the Department of Archaeology, the Mahaweli Authority, and the Forest and Wildlife Departments, limiting access for displaced families.³⁰ Additionally, contested land settlements and state-facilitated resettlements have raised concerns over demographic shifts and the erosion of historical land ownership patterns. The slow pace of restitution, coupled with legal barriers and bureaucratic delays, continues to hinder affected communities' ability to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.³¹ These unresolved land disputes not only perpetuate economic hardships but also serve as a significant barrier to reconciliation and long-term stability in the region.

During the community consultations conducted during the mapping exercise and focus group discussions in Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi, participants repeatedly raised concerns about the large-scale acquisition of land by state institutions, particularly the military, the Forest Department, Department of Wild-life, and the Department of Archaeology. Communities reported that lands previously used for agriculture, grazing, or other livelihood/residential purposes had been taken over by state entities, often without transparent processes for restitution. These land acquisitions have not only displaced communities but have also undermined the social, cultural, and religious rights of minorities, deepening grievances and fuelling distrust. In Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi, participants emphasised that military-occupied lands had not been returned despite repeated appeals, while in other areas, land traditionally used for farming has been absorbed into protected zones, restricting access and eroding traditional livelihoods. In several locations, land acquisitions by the Department of Archaeology have further heightened tensions, particularly where sites historically used for Hindu worship have been reclassified. As an elderly participant in Mullaitivu expressed:

"We worshipped 'Aadhishivan' in 'Kurunthormalai' for generations. Now, it is claimed as a Buddhist sacred place, which not only hurts our religious sentiments but also prevents us from practicing our religious rights."

Beyond cultural and religious concerns, state-led land acquisitions have also severely impacted local economies, particularly in the agricultural and livestock sectors. Across all three districts, communities reported that traditional grazing lands had been absorbed into forest reserves,

³⁰ Ibid., p. 9.

³¹ Ibid., p. 9.

depriving cattle farmers of essential pastureland and threatening their livelihoods. The issue was particularly pronounced in Mannar and Mullaitivu, where herders struggle to sustain livestock due to the increasing scarcity of designated grazing areas. In Kilinochchi, an incomplete government initiative to establish a livestock farm has further highlighted the consequences of inadequate land-use planning. Participants expressed frustration over the absence of clear policies to regulate land access for economic activities, stressing that land disputes not only weaken local economies but also create further divisions, obstructing reconciliation efforts. Without inclusive and transparent land policies, these unresolved conflicts will continue to exacerbate tensions and undermine long-term peacebuilding efforts.

A key challenge exacerbating these disputes is the lack of legal documentation for land ownership, which continues to hinder resettled and returning families. Communities across Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi reported that land they had previously occupied had been absorbed into state-controlled areas, reclassified as forest reserves or wildlife zones, or otherwise rendered inaccessible, preventing them from securing formal ownership. In many divisions, the absence of official deeds for resettlement areas has left families in a state of legal limbo, restricting their ability to access housing assistance, claim compensation, or establish legal rights to their land. Additionally, participants highlighted delays in issuing land permits, which have prolonged insecurity and uncertainty, particularly for vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, and women headed households who struggle to navigate bureaucratic processes. In some cases, lands designated for specific groups, including persons with disabilities, had been forcibly occupied by others, exacerbating tensions and displacement. Throughout the three districts, affected populations expressed frustration over the complexity and inefficiency of land administration, emphasising the urgent need for clear, accessible, and expedited legal mechanisms to resolve outstanding land claims and ensure tenure security.

The discussions also highlighted environmental concerns related to land use, particularly illegal sand mining, which was identified as a major threat to sustainable land management. In Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi, participants reported that unregulated sand mining was depleting natural resources, lowering land levels, and contributing to soil erosion. In some coastal areas of Kilinochchi, communities raised concerns that seawater infiltration into local wells was linked to land degradation caused by excessive sand extraction, affecting water quality and agricultural viability. Across the districts, participants called for stronger enforcement of environmental regulations to prevent unauthorised exploitation of land and resource depletion.

Recommendations to Address Land-Related Challenges

To address these ongoing challenges, several key recommendations were made. The degazetting of lands demarcated as forest reserves, wildlife zones, or archaeological sites is essential where such classifications have restricted access to communities dependent on these lands for agriculture, resettlement, and livelihood purposes. A comprehensive review of state land classification policies should be conducted to assess whether reclassified lands can be returned to their original owners or utilised for essential community needs. Additionally, the expedited issuance of land deeds and permits must be prioritised, particularly for IDPs and refugee returnees, widows, and persons with disabilities, who face significant administrative hurdles in securing legal ownership. The restitution of military-occupied lands is another critical step, ensuring that lands no longer required for security purposes are returned to their rightful owners. Ensuring access to the religious and cultural sites of minority communities must be prioritised, as land acquisitions have increasingly restricted access to historically significant places of worship and cultural heritage sites. Furthermore, the formal allocation of designated pasturelands is necessary to support livestock farming, addressing the concerns of cattle herders who have lost access to traditional grazing areas. Alongside these efforts, stronger enforcement of environmental regulations is crucial to prevent illegal land exploitation, particularly sand mining and deforestation, and to promote sustainable land use.

Land remains one of the most contested and sensitive issues in Sri Lanka's post-conflict recovery, and its resolution is critical for long-term stability and reconciliation. The persistent challenges surrounding land tenure insecurity, military occupation, bureaucratic obstacles, environmental degradation, and inadequate land-use planning highlight the urgent need for transparent and community-driven interventions. Across Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi, communities emphasised how land acquisitions by state departments have prevented them from enjoying their religious and cultural rights, reclaiming land, obtaining legal documentation, and accessing designated grazing areas, hindering economic recovery and social cohesion. The impact of state-led land acquisitions, competing claims over public lands, and environmental exploitation further exacerbates tensions, making it clear that land governance must be addressed as part of a broader reconciliation and reparations framework. As this mapping exercise has underscored, land-related concerns must be approached through collective reparations that respond to the shared needs of conflict-affected communities. Ensuring equitable land policies, sustainable land management, and community-driven

restitution initiatives will be essential in fostering trust, economic empowerment, and lasting peace in the Northern Province.



PROJECT IDEAS

TO THE IDENTIFIED NEEDS OF
THE CONFLICT
AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

2024



Mullaitivu

Division	<i>Maritimepattu, Puthukudiyiruppu</i>	<i>Maritimepattu, Oddusuddan, Manthai East</i>
Location	<i>Maritimepattu – 46 GN division Puthukudiyiruppu – 19 GN division</i>	<i>Maritimepattu (4 hospitals, 2 PMCU) Oddusuddan Divisional Hospital Manthai East Hospital</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Psychosocial: Promoting the well-being of conflict-affected women</u></p> <p>This project aims to implement a psychosocial program through the government and CSOs to address the basic self-care requirements of conflict-affected women. They often overlook their own well-being due to their roles as primary earners and housekeepers following the conflict. The project will include activities such as therapy sessions, health and wellness workshops, skill development training, physical activities, and access to healthcare services, including strengthening community support networks for women's well-being.</p>	<p><u>Health: Assessing and addressing the healthcare needs of the hospital</u></p> <p>This project aims to conduct a needs assessment to identify the essential requirements for expanding and equipping hospital wards in the identified hospitals. Based on the assessment, the project will address the identified construction and equipment needs. Currently, the lack of adequate facilities poses significant challenges for people in accessing proper healthcare services.</p>
Targeted beneficiaries	500 Conflict-affected women	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved mental health and reduced trauma symptoms among conflict-affected women. • Better self-care practices and health outcomes for women. • Stronger community support networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced access to quality healthcare services. • Improved healthcare infrastructure in the hospitals.
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS will be responsible for the implementation	Availability of necessary human resources and existing infrastructure Hospitals will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	20 Mn (10 Mn per division)	30 Mn (10 Mn per division)



Division	<i>District level</i>	<i>Maritimepattu, Oddusuddan</i>
Location	All 06 divisions	<i>Maritimepattu Divisional Hospital Oddusuddan Divisional hospital in Viththiyapuram</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Psychosocial: Building Capacities of Divisional and District Secretariates</u></p> <p>This project aims to build the capacities of the 06 Divisional Secretariates and the District Secretariat to provide disability-inclusive services. The persons with disabilities highlighted the strong need for strengthening inclusive service delivery by the DS offices. Capacity building includes needs assessment, provision of equipment, infrastructure development, and training.</p>	<p><u>Health: Establishment of a laboratory</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct and equip a laboratory in the identified divisional hospitals. The lack of a laboratory in the hospital results in significant delays in community members receiving their test results, and having to travel long distances to seek lab tests.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	District Secretariate, 05 Divisional Secretariates, and the government officers attached to them.	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened inclusive service delivery Enhanced well-being of persons with disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faster access to diagnostic services for patients. Reduced travel burden for the community members.
Resources available and sustainability/maintenance plan	<p>DS will provide the necessary supports</p> <p>Introduction of the knowledge management and transferring systems</p>	<p>Availability of existing infrastructure</p> <p>The hospital will be responsible for the maintenance</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	24 Mn (4 Mn per division)	24 Mn (12 Mn per hospital)

Division	<i>Maritimepattu</i>	<i>Maritimepattu</i>
Location	Mullaitivu livestock Breeders Co-op Society <i>Maritimepattu</i>	Mullaitivu <i>Maha Vidyalayam</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of a factory for dairy products</u></p> <p>This project aims to build a factory for processing, storing, and preserving dairy products and to build its capacities to operate efficiently. The absence of such facilities prevents villagers from fully using their local resources.</p>	<p><u>Culture: Construction of auditorium</u></p> <p>This project aims to build a fully equipped auditorium, as the school currently lacks a facility for events, assemblies, and educational programs.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Fifteen (15) community members	560 students
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income and employment opportunities • Strengthened women's empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the overall learning environment • Enhanced social and emotional well-being of students, teachers, and the broader community • Create a safe space for open dialogues and discussions • Promote community healing through the art
Available resources and sustainability plan	State building is available which needs to be extended WRDS will be responsible for the maintenance	The School and Zonal Education Department will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	42 Mn (Building Repair – 1.8 Mn, Store Room – 20 Mn, Machinery - 20.2 Mn)	30 Mn

Division	<i>Maritimepattu, Puthukkudiyiruppu, Thunukkai, Welioya</i>	<i>Maritimepattu</i>
Location	<i>Maritimepattu - Mullaitivu R.C Girls School Puthukkudiyiruppu - 06 schools Thunukkai - Thunukkai Central College Welioya - Aliwanguwa Maha Vidyalaya</i>	<i>Nandikadal Lagoon</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<u>Education: Construction/ Renovation of Library equipped with ICT tools</u> This project aims to construct or renovate libraries equipped with ICT tools including computers and digital knowledge repositories in the identified schools. Establishment of computer rooms, provision of educational equipment, and expanding the selection of books will be done following a needs assessment. The current lack of resources limits the knowledge available to the community members.	<u>Infrastructure: Construction of barrage at Nandikadal lagoon</u> This project aims to construct a barrage to regulate water inflow and manage water levels in the <i>Nandikadal</i> Lagoon. Currently, the community experiences issues such as poor water management, flooding, droughts, and decreased agricultural productivity due to the absence of such facilities.
Targeted beneficiaries	Approximately 4000 students	Community members of Maritimepattu
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved digital literacy and learning outcomes. Increased student readiness for a technology-driven future. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved water management Reduced likelihood of flood and drought Enhanced agricultural productivity
Available resources and sustainability plan	The school and Zonal education office will be the custodians/ responsible entities	Irrigation Department will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	90 Mn (10 Mn per school)	4 Mn
Division	<i>Maritimepattu</i>	<i>Maritimepattu</i>
Location	<i>Vadduvaikal</i>	<i>Maritimepattu</i>

Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of Vadduvaikal Bridge</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a new bridge in <i>Vadduvaikal</i> keeping the damaged one as a memory. The current condition of the existing bridge poses significant risks to community transportation and safety, particularly during the rainy season.</p> <p>Note: <i>Vadduvaykkal</i> is the severely damaged bridge in <i>Mulliwaikaali</i>, which was the site of the final battle in May 2009. The communities in Mullaitivu have requested the construction of a new bridge, while preserving the damaged bridge as a memorial of their suffering during the final days of the conflict.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of a Building for the Persons with Disability Association</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a building for the Disability Association to facilitate its operations and activities subject to the non-availability of an existing building that could be used for this purpose. The lack of a separate place to conduct meetings and gatherings hinders the social marginalization of the persons with disabilities mentioned.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members	955 Persons with Disability
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access for community members • Increased safety • Promoted sense of recognition and reconciliation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved accessibility and support for persons with disabilities • Strengthened community engagement and inclusion efforts
Available resources and sustainability plan	RDA will be responsible for the implementation and maintenance	State land is available Pradeshiya Sabha will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	5 Bn	4.5Mn

Division	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>	District level
Location	<i>Manthuvil (MU/38)</i>	
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Health: Establishment of a Primary Medical Care Unit (PMCU)</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a building in <i>Manthuvil</i> to establish a Primary Medical Care Unit. This facility will be utilised by health officers in the division to conduct clinics for pregnant mothers, children under the age of five, persons with disabilities, chronic diseases, and the elderly. Currently, people have to travel long distances for fulfilling their basic medical needs.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Supporting Memorialization through Cultural Expressions on Remembrance Day</u></p> <p>This project aims to assist communities, through civil society organizations (CSOs) and the University of Jaffna, in commemorating those lost during the conflict on Remembrance Day (May 18). The initiative will use traditional arts such as dance, art, music, drama, and literature to focus on themes of new reality, memory, and identity, in accordance with Sri Lanka's legal framework.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to healthcare • Increased safety of community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for communities to adapt to post-conflict realities, fostering unity and resilience. • Preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. • Strengthened capacities of CSOs • Creation of safe spaces for dialogue, contributing to long-term peace.
Available resources and sustainability plan	State land and buildings are available RDHS will be responsible for the maintenance	TBD
Approximate budget in LKR	5 Mn	5 Mn

Division	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>
Location	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i> Base Hospital	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i> APC and <i>Udayarkaddu</i> APC
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Health: Enhancement of nephrology unit</u></p> <p>This project aims to identify the essential requirements for expanding and equipping the nephrology unit at the base hospital in <i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>, and addressing the identified construction and equipment needs through targeted project implementation. At present persons with chronic kidney diseases face difficulties due to lack of such needs.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood and Infrastructure: Renovation and capacity building of an Agrarian Service Centre</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the Agrarian Service Centre and build its capacities to function as a seed paddy production facility, provide necessary equipment, and offer training to farmers and individuals involved in agriculture and home gardening. Currently, the absence of such a facility affects farmers' cultivation activities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Patients with chronic kidney diseases	Approximately 700 Farmers
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to healthcare • Increased comfort and safety when seeking healthcare • Increased quality of life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased service delivery by the APC • Increased availability of seeds and equipment • Decreased travel cost
Available resources and sustainability plan	State building available at the hospital premises	The Department of Agriculture will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	100 Mn	15Mn

Division	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>
Location	<i>Iranapalai</i>	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Infrastructure: Fish Storage Facility</u></p> <p>This project will build a fish storage facility in <i>Iranapalai</i> to preserve daily catches. Without this facility, fishmongers lose income as there is no place to store unsold fish for the next day.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Factory to produce coconut-based products</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a factory to produce coconut-based products such as oil and rope. Currently, the economic opportunities for local coconut cultivators are limited due to the absence of local processing facilities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Fishmongers and fishermen	Twenty-five (25) women
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income for fishermen • Reduced reliance on middle vendors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased economic and employment opportunities • Strengthened collective engagement and women empowerment • Developed skills among community members
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>¼ Acre state land is available</p> <p>Ceylon Fisheries Corporation (CFC) will be responsible for the maintenance</p>	<p>1/2 Acre state land available</p> <p>Coconut Development Authority (CDA), WRD, and Department of Industries will be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	30 Mn	8 Mn

Division	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>
Location	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i> Divisional Hospital
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Building the capacities of women mushroom cultivators</u></p> <p>This project aims to enhance the capabilities of women mushroom growers in the division by providing technical knowledge, financial management skills, value addition techniques, marketing strategies, and the necessary equipment for mushroom cultivation. Community consultations indicated that women in the area encounter difficulties in securing employment opportunities; thus, this initiative will enable them to engage in mushroom cultivation as a source of income generation.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Constructing toilet facilities in the Divisional hospital</u></p> <p>This project aims to improve access to hospitals by building ramps, providing wheelchairs, and constructing accessible toilets. Currently, these hospitals lack the necessary facilities, hindering access for persons with disabilities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	50 women headed households	Persons with disabilities and the elderly in Puthukkudiyiruppu
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowered women with home-based income opportunities • Increased local production of mushrooms and mushroom-based products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to healthcare for persons with disabilities • Enhanced dignity and safety in public hospitals for persons with disability
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Climate conditions conducive to mushroom cultivation</p> <p>DS and the Agriculture department will ensure the sustainability and follow-up of the project</p>	The Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) and DS office will be responsible for the maintenance.
Approximate budget in LKR	7.5Mn	10 Mn

Division	Entire District	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>
Location		<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu west</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Promoting small and medium-scale collective entrepreneurship</u></p> <p>This project aims to form a group of conflict-affected people with the same entrepreneurship interests and ideas and to build their capacities to run successful entrepreneurship. This project will address the high levels of malnutrition, poverty, and unemployment in the district as highlighted during the discussions with the communities.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Renovation of Saubagya building</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the <i>Saubagya</i> building, which serves as a training center aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities for women-headed families and vulnerable individuals. Currently, the building facilitates activities such as tailoring and handloom production; however, the lack of a stable electricity connection impedes the effectiveness of its service delivery. This project will focus on renovating the building by installing a 3-phase electricity connection.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	25 SMEs (each SME may include 5-10 members, and the groups should ensure the representation of women and persons with disabilities as applicable)	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerged new SMEs • Increased livelihood opportunities • Increased economic stability • Decreased poverty and malnutrition rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced community engagement • Enhanced livelihood opportunities for women and vulnerable individuals. • Improved service delivery
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Training centers available to conduct training</p> <p>DS office will be responsible for the implementation and follow-up</p>	DS will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	20 Mn	1 Mn

Division	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu, Thunukkai</i>	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>
Location	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu – Sencholai</i> <i>Thunukkai - Yogapuram</i>	22 schools in <i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>

Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Sports: Rehabilitation of playground</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the playgrounds, provide sports equipment, and modernize it while making the space safer. The absence of adequate facilities has resulted in the neglect of these playgrounds and their misuse for illicit activities.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Building Capacities of schools</u></p> <p>This project aims to build the capacities of the 22 schools to ensure disability inclusive education. Capacity building includes needs assessment, provision of equipment, infrastructure development, and training.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members, particularly youth	Xx children with disabilities
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced community engagement and unity. • Improved recreational facilities. • Reduced illicit activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased inclusivity • Increased acceptance of persons with disabilities • Increased advocacy and lobbying for persons with disabilities
Available resources and sustainability plan	UC will be responsible for the maintenance	School teachers can be trained as trainers to deliver annual student awareness programs effectively and sustainably.
Approximate budget in LKR	10 Mn (5 Mn per division)	2 Mn

Division	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i>	<i>Oddusuddan</i>
Location	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu</i> Division	<i>Viththiyapuram</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Education: Innovative spaces and systems for children</u></p> <p>This project aims to create a space equipped with both technological and traditional tools to nurture children's innovative skills and encourage independent invention. The goal is to inspire students to go beyond the syllabus and textbooks, fostering creativity and critical thinking. Currently, students lack interest in studies due to the absence of opportunities for exploration and hands-on learning beyond the existing curriculum.</p>	<p><u>Health: Provision of an Ambulance to the <i>Oddusuddan</i> Hospital</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide an ambulance for the <i>Oddusuddan</i> Hospital. Currently, the hospital lacks adequate emergency transport to transfer patients to Mullaitivu Hospital for further or life-saving treatments.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Students	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced creativity and innovation among schoolchildren. Increased student engagement through hands-on learning opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More convenient access to healthcare Ability to address urgent health needs
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p><i>Vidatha</i> Centre building is available at the Divisional Secretariate</p> <p>DS will be responsible for the maintenance</p>	The hospital will be responsible for the Maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	1 Mn	20 Mn

Division	<i>Oddusuddan</i>	<i>Oddusuddan</i>
Location	01 Divisional Hospital (DH) and 01 Primary Medical Care Unit (PMCU)	Divisional Hospital
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of disability accessible toilets</u></p> <p>This project aims to assess the availability of accessible toilets in the identified hospital and PMCU. Based on this assessment, new accessible toilets will be constructed as needed. Community consultations identified a substantial deficiency of accessible toilets in these facilities, resulting in considerable difficulties, particularly for persons with disabilities.</p>	<p><u>Health: Re-construction of hospital road</u></p> <p>This project aims to reconstruct the road leading from the hospital gate to the main building. At present, patients experience transportation difficulties due to the deteriorating state of the road, resulting in delays and discomfort. The compromised surface affects ambulances and other vehicles, particularly impacting critically ill patients and those with limited mobility, thereby obstructing timely access to medical care and inducing unnecessary stress.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	200 Persons with disabilities and the elderly	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the safety and comfort of persons with disabilities and elderly. • Support persons with disabilities to confidently access the hospital, and use the facilities with dignity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved patient access to hospital facilities and services. • Enhanced transportation efficiency for ambulances and vehicles.
Available resources and sustainability plan	The hospital will be responsible for the Maintenance	The hospital will be responsible for the Maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	4 Mn (2 Mn per hospital)	1.25Mn

Division	<i>Oddusuddan</i>	<i>Oddusuddan</i>
Location	<i>Viththiyapuram</i>	<i>Kathaliyar Sammalankulam</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of a Palmyra-based product factory</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a factory for the production of palmyra-based products by renovating an existing building and enhancing operational efficiencies. The trained beneficiaries will utilize this facility collectively for their production activities. The lack of such a facility has led to the wastage of valuable natural resources that could otherwise provide a source of income for the community.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of a garment factory</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a garment facility for unemployed youth in the district. Community consultations have revealed that youth unemployment has significantly increased, leading to numerous adverse effects including higher poverty levels, domestic violence, irregular migrations, consequent human trafficking, and increased engagement in illicit activities. Currently, there are no large factories in the district providing employment opportunities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	40 community members	200 Families
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income for community members • Increased use of locally available resources • Increased skill-building and self-sufficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased employment opportunities • Reduced illicit activities including irregular migration
Available resources and sustainability plan	A building is available	Department of Industries will be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	1 Mn	20 Mn

Division	District level	<i>Oddusuddan</i> <i>Manthai East</i>
Location		Divisional Library and Ayurvedic Hospital – <i>Oddusuddan</i> <i>Manthai East - Palinagar</i> Disabilities Society building Divisional Library in <i>Manthai East</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<u>Psychosocial: Establishment of a place for Memorialization</u> This project aims to establish a memorial space to honor those lost in the conflict, offering a dedicated venue for annual commemorations. It will provide families and the community with a place to pay tribute to their loved ones while supporting emotional healing and easing psychological burdens.	<u>Health: Enhancing access for people with disabilities</u> This project aims to improve access to the identified facilities by building ramps, providing wheelchairs, grab bars, and spacious interiors, and constructing accessible toilets. Currently, these facilities lack the necessary facilities, hindering access for persons with disabilities.
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Entire community members	XX Persons with disabilities and the elderly in <i>Oddusuddan</i> 308 members of the <i>Palinagar</i> Disabilities Society
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted psychosocial well-being • Promoted reconciliation • Contributes to address the trauma • Built trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access for persons with disabilities • Increased inclusivity • Increased communal bonds
Available resources and sustainability plan	TBD	<i>Pradesiya Sabha</i> and <i>Palinagar</i> Disabilities Society will be responsible for maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	5 Mn	4 Mn (1 Mn per toilet complex)

Division	<i>Oddusuddan</i>	<i>Oddusuddan</i>
Location	<i>Thirumurukandi</i>	DS Office
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Infrastructure: Accessible Toilet Facilities for Disabled Persons at Thirumurukandi Bus stop</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct two disability-accessible toilet facilities at <i>Thirumurukandi</i>, a key bus stop where buses traveling from the North to Colombo or South frequently stop for breaks. The current toilet facilities are not accessible to individuals with disabilities, creating significant challenges for them.</p>	<p><u>Digitization and Enhanced Storage of Land Documents</u></p> <p>This project aims to digitize the physical land documents at the Land Branch of the Divisional Secretariat Office and provide adequate storage facilities such as cupboards and computers. The storage of physical documents poses the risk of damage and loss, and retrieving information from physical documents is also challenging.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members and Passengers	6000 Families
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved accessibility for passengers with disabilities. • Enhanced convenience for North-South travelers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved storage of land documents
Available resources and sustainability plan	<i>Pradesiya Sabha</i> will be responsible for the maintenance	Ds Office will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	2 Mn	1 Mn

Division	<i>Oddusuddan</i>	<i>Welioya</i>
Location	27 GN Division	<i>Sampathnuwara</i> Hospital
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Infrastructure: Completion of Incomplete Houses in Oddusuddan Division</u></p> <p>This project aims to finalize the construction of partially built houses in the <i>Oddusuddan</i> DS Division. These residences were initially started in 2019 with government funding; however, due to subsequent changes in governmental policies, their completion was hindered. Consequently, residents are currently residing in these unfinished structures, lacking adequate and basic facilities.</p>	<p><u>Health: Addressing the healthcare needs of the hospital</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate and expand the dental ward at <i>Sampathnuwara</i> Hospital. The renovation will involve expanding the unit and providing essential equipment, machinery, and beds to improve service delivery. Currently, the limited facilities make it challenging for people to access dental healthcare.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	523 Families	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased sense of security, hope, and dignity • Privacy for households is ensured • Safer spaces for Women and Children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to dental care • Increased comfort and safety when seeking healthcare
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS will be responsible for the monitoring	State land is available within the hospital premises. <i>Sampathnuwara</i> Hospital will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	523 Mn	5 Mn

Division	<i>Welioya</i>	<i>Welioya</i>
Location	All the schools in <i>Welioya</i> (07 schools)	<i>Sampathnuwara</i> <i>Kiriibbanwewa</i> Primary Healthcare center
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Psychosocial: Provision of sexual education</u></p> <p>This project aims to develop a comprehensive sexual education (CSE) manual for teachers in <i>Welioya</i> schools, specifically targeting students aged 14-17 to help them recognize sexual abuse and seek support. Teachers will receive training to use the manual effectively in an age-appropriate manner. A brief program will also be conducted to raise awareness among parents, ensuring they can provide support at home. Community feedback has indicated a rise in teenage pregnancies and sexual abuses in the area.</p>	<p><u>Health: Provision of equipment to the hospitals</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide essential equipment to <i>Sampathnuwara</i> Hospital, including four wheelchairs and two ICU beds, and to <i>Kiriibbanwewa</i> Hospital, including two beds, forty chairs, and two wheelchairs. The current lack of such equipment and furniture prevents residents from utilizing the medical facilities at these hospitals, resulting in them going to either <i>Polonnaruwa</i> or <i>Mullaitivu</i> hospital.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Over 705 students in seven schools in <i>Welioya</i> , their parents, and teachers.	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced awareness among teenagers • Reduced pregnancies and early marriages • Increased parental awareness on sexual abuse and violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased facilities in the hospitals • Increased access to safe and comfortable healthcare
Available resources and sustainability plan	Schools and Zonal education office will be responsible for utilizing the manual	Hospitals will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	1 Mn	1.5 Mn

Division	<i>Welioya</i>	<i>Welioya</i>
Location	<i>Kalyanapura III</i>	<i>Hansawila</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Infrastructure: Provision of clean drinking water facilities</u></p> <p>This project aims to develop infrastructure for delivering clean drinking water by constructing a building that houses a tube well and water filter. This initiative seeks to provide the village's community members with reliable access to safe drinking water, addressing the current challenges many face due to the lack of such essential facilities.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of a tube well</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a tube well for the <i>Hansawila</i> Grama Niladhari division, which already has a water filter. Currently, many community members in this area do not have access to clean drinking water.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members of the village (115 families)	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced access to clean drinking water • Reduced waterborne/ water-associated diseases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to clean drinking water • Reduced infections and illnesses
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Land is available near the community hall for this need</p> <p>The Urban Council will be responsible for the maintenance.</p>	<p>State land is available</p> <p>The Urban Council will be responsible for the maintenance.</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	2 Mn	0.5 Mn

Division	<i>Welioya</i>	<i>Welioya</i>
Location	<i>Welioya</i>	<i>Ahatugaswewa and Monarawewa</i> clinic centers
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Psychosocial: Awareness program on teen pregnancies and child marriages</u></p> <p>This project aims to raise awareness among teenagers on the impacts of teen pregnancies and child marriages through midwives and health officials. Community members have highlighted teen pregnancies and early marriages as significant and growing challenges in their area.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Installation of a Motor and Pump Line for Tube Wells in Clinic Centers</u></p> <p>The project aims to install motors and pump-line tube wells in all clinic centers located in <i>Ahatugaswewa</i> and <i>Monarawewa</i> by utilizing the existing infrastructure. Presently, the lack of access to clean water creates significant challenges for patients.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	750 youth in <i>Welioya</i> , and 50 health officials.	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised awareness among teenagers, reducing pregnancies and early marriages. • Enhanced skill-building and teachers trained as program facilitators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to clean water for patients. • Enhanced healthcare services and patient well-being.
Available resources and sustainability plan	Human Resources: Trained health officials who assist at-risk youth and provide continuous support.	PMCU will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	1.5 Mn	0.5 Mn

Division	<i>Welioya</i>	<i>Welioya</i>
Location	<i>Sampathnuwara hospital and the Kiriibbanwewa Primary Health Care center</i>	<i>Sampathnuwara National School</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Health: Enhancing access for people with disabilities</u></p> <p>The project aims to improve hospital accessibility by building ramps, providing wheelchairs, and constructing accessible toilets. Currently, these hospitals lack the required facilities, limiting access for persons with disabilities.</p>	<p><u>Education: Refurbishment of the cultural hall and auditorium</u></p> <p>This project aims to equip the school auditorium, as the school lacks a facility for events, assemblies, and educational programs.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Persons with Disabilities	Students
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to healthcare for persons with disabilities. Enhanced dignity and safety in public hospitals for persons with disability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the overall learning environment Supporting social and emotional well-being of students, teachers, and the community Providing a safe space for open dialogues and discussions Facilitating community healing through art
Available resources and sustainability plan	The Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) and DS office will be responsible for the maintenance.	The School and Zonal Education Department will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	1 Mn	08 Mn

Division	<i>Welioya</i>	<i>Welioya</i>
Location	<i>Athavatunuwewa</i>	Kalyanapura I
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Cultivation of Pineapples</u></p> <p>This project aims to train and equip 50 beneficiaries in pineapple cultivation, covering technical aspects, basic finance management, and providing a set of plants and basic equipment. Currently, those interested in cultivation face difficulties without access to such facilities.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of Solar-Powered Rice Mill for Local Paddy Farmers</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a solar-powered rice mill to support local paddy farmers by generating employment opportunities and decreasing dependence on intermediary vendors. This initiative seeks to resolve issues related to the low selling prices received by farmers and their significant reliance on external vendors.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Fifty (50) beneficiaries from Athavatunuwewa	Local paddy farmers
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased employment opportunities. • Increased income for local paddy farmers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced reliance on middle vendors. • Increased income for local paddy farmers.
Available resources and sustainability plan	Agriculture Officers monitor the project with the Divisional Secretariat and Mahaweli Development Authority	A partially built building from the Farmers Association is available. The Department of Agriculture will be responsible for the monitoring and the Farmers Association will manage the operations.
Approximate budget in LKR	05 Mn	30 Mn

Division	<i>Weliyoa</i>	<i>Weliyoa</i>
Location	<i>Nikawewa - South</i>	<i>Ahatugaswewa and Janakapura</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Provision of moving shops to community members in <i>Nikawewa</i></u></p> <p>This project aims to provide mobile shops to 25 local vendors in <i>Nikawewa</i>. As permanent shops and their products face risks from elephants, other wild animals, and floods, mobile shops can mitigate these threats.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Cultivation of peanuts</u></p> <p>This project aims to train and equip 50 farmers per village for peanut cultivation. Participants will be selected based on land availability and will receive training in cultivation techniques and basic finance management. They will also be provided with plants and essential equipment to start their farming activities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	25 local vendors including families of the missing, women-headed households, and persons with disabilities	50 farmers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced safety and security Expanded sales opportunities Reduction of losses and damages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced employment opportunities and efficient use of local resources Improved skills and increased capacity among local farmers
Available resources and sustainability plan	Development Officers (DOs) attached to the DS will be responsible for monitoring and follow-up	Agriculture officers will be responsible for the monitoring through Divisional Secretariat.
Approximate budget in LKR	3 Mn	4 Mn

Division	<i>Welioya</i>	<i>Welioya</i>
Location	<i>Sampathnuwara National School</i>	Schools in <i>Welioya</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Sports: Provision of mats for Karate</u></p> <p>This project is intended to supply mats for Karate at Sampathnuwara National School. These mats will be used by students during tournaments. The current lack of these necessary resources limits the students' participation and development in the sport.</p>	<p><u>Education: Needs assessment and provision of musical and band equipment</u></p> <p>This project aims to conduct a needs assessment for the seven schools in Welioya and provide musical and band equipment where needed. Community consultations indicated that the absence of these facilities has limited student participation in sports and cultural activities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Students at Sampathnuwara National School	Students in Welioya
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced participation in sports contributes to healthier lifestyles. • Improved opportunities for engagement in sports at the district level through skill and ability development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased students' engagement in music and cultural activities. • Facilitating community healing through art. • Supporting social and emotional well-being of students.
Available resources and sustainability plan	Sampathnuwara National School will be responsible for the maintenance	The school will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	0.5 Mn	2 Mn

Division	Welioya	Welioya
Location	Elders Home in <i>Nikawewa</i> Left	<i>Ekamuthu</i> society for persons with disability
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Psychosocial: Provision of Musical Equipment to Elders Home</u></p> <p>This project aims to supply musical equipment like keyboards, guitars, and percussion instruments to the elders' home in <i>Nikawewa</i>. This facility also serves as a community hub for elder societies in the area, where such amenities are currently lacking, limiting social and cultural activities.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Provision of Musical Equipment to the Persons with Disabilities Society</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide musical equipment, including 5 small drums, 5 <i>udekki</i> drums, 4 cymbals, 2 drums, 1 <i>serpina</i>, 1 <i>bafal</i>, 3 microphones, 3 guitars, 3 flutes, and 2 violins to the <i>Ekamuthu</i> society. Currently, the absence of such facilities limits opportunities for social and cultural engagement among individuals with disabilities in the area.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Elderly persons in Welioya	170 persons with disability who are members of society
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased quality of life • Increased psychosocial wellbeing • Increased social interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced psychosocial wellbeing for persons with disabilities • Improved engagement and inclusivity within communities
Available resources and sustainability plan	The equipment will be utilized and maintained by the elderly care facility.	<i>Ekamuthu</i> society and the DS office will be responsible for the maintenance.
Approximate budget in LKR	1 Mn	1 Mn

Division	<i>Thunukkai</i>	<i>Thunukkai</i>
Location	Twenty Pre-schools in <i>Thunukkai</i>	<i>Alankulam</i> and <i>Therankandal</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Education: Need assessment and provision of furniture</u></p> <p>This project aims to assess needs and supply essential furniture and infrastructure improvements, including desks, chairs, blackboards, and drinking water tanks, for twenty preschools in <i>Thunukkai</i>. The absence of these facilities greatly hinders student engagement.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Establishment of a water purification plant for drinking water</u></p> <p>This project aims to build two water purification plants to supply clean drinking water to the community members of <i>Alankulam</i> and <i>Therankandal</i>. Currently, residents in these areas encounter difficulties due to insufficient access to clean drinking water, leading to various health concerns.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Students of 20 pre-schools in <i>Thunukkai</i>	Community members of <i>Alankulam</i> and <i>Therankandal</i>
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased quality of education • Increased student attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to clean drinking water • Increased health and wellbeing • Decreased risks of illness and infection
Available resources and sustainability plan	The zonal education office and the school will be responsible for the maintenance	State land is available Urban Council will be responsible for the maintenance.
Approximate budget in LKR	2.5 Mn	8 Mn

Division	<i>Thunukkai</i>	<i>Thunukkai</i>
Location	<i>Mallavi Base Hospital - Thunukkai</i>	<i>Barathi Nagar</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Health: Enhancement of nephrology and Maternity ward</u></p> <p>This project aims to conduct a needs assessment to identify the requirements for expanding the nephrology and maternity wards at Mallavi Base Hospital, including necessary equipment and infrastructure improvements. Based on the findings, the project will provide the needed construction upgrades and equipment to increase the facility's capacity and services, addressing the current challenges patients face in accessing adequate healthcare support.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Supporting mushroom cultivation</u></p> <p>This project aims to supply individuals with disabilities with tools for mushroom cultivation, seeds, and necessary training, including financial literacy. Furthermore, the project aims to develop market connections to assist these households. The lack of self-sustaining income sources contributes to challenges such as poverty, illnesses, and economic instability.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members	50 persons with disabilities
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved healthcare access • Enhanced comfort and safety in healthcare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased employment opportunities for persons with disabilities • Enhanced availability of organic mushrooms and related products in the region
Available resources and sustainability plan	The hospital and the RDHS office will be responsible for the maintenance	DS office and Agriculture department will be responsible for monitoring and the follow-ups.
Approximate budget in LKR	Nephrology Unit: 40 Mn Maternity ward: 50 Mn	5 Mn

Division		Thunukkai
Location		Thunukkai DS
Tentative title of the project and brief project description		<p><u>Infrastructure: Inclusive Market Building in Thunukkai Town</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate Thunukkai's market building by adding ramps, widened pathways, and assistive facilities to make it accessible for persons with disabilities. The current infrastructure does not include these features, which limit participation and livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries		At least 50% of persons with disabilities
Potential impact		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased inclusivity • Increased opportunities for income and employment • Increased acceptance and communal bonds
Available resources and sustainability plan		Pradeshiya Sabha will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR		8 Mn

Division	<i>Thunukkai</i>	<i>Thunukkai</i>
Location	<i>Thenniyankulam</i>	<i>Thirunagar</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of paddy dry and store, and provision of drying machine</u></p> <p>This project aims to build a paddy storage facility, drying floor, and provide drying machines to enhance post-harvest processing for local farmers. The lack of these facilities results in high losses, poor quality, and reduced marketability, burdening farmers while intermediaries make profit.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of a Factory for Palm-Based Productions</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a factory equipped with the necessary machinery to produce palm-based products. Additionally, it will provide three months of training to 30 selected farmers, focusing on technical skills, machinery operation, and financial management. The training targets farmers already working in agriculture and those interested in entering this field. Currently, the lack of such a facility limits the effective utilization of local natural resources and reduces farmers' potential income.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Local paddy farmers	Palm cultivators
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces post-harvest losses and enhances product quality. • Increases farmers' income and market competitiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income for farmers • Increased use of locally available resources • Increased skill-building and self-sufficiency
Available resources and sustainability plan	State land is available DS office and agriculture department will be responsible for the maintenance	State land is available DS office and agriculture department will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	20 Mn	30 Mn

Division	<i>Manthai East</i>	<i>Manthai East</i>
Location	<i>Manthai East</i>	<i>Naddankandal</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Renovation of a weaving mill</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate and reactivate a weaving mill that was abandoned during the conflict. It also seeks to provide weavers with good quality threads and basic financial management awareness. The absence of such a facility limits employment opportunities for community members skilled in weaving.</p>	<p><u>Health: Structural Renovation and provision of equipment and furniture to the Naddankandal hospital</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the <i>Naddankandal</i> hospital, which was damaged during the conflict. Before its demolition, the <i>Naddankandal</i> hospital provided services to numerous community members living throughout the <i>Manthai</i> East Division.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	20 community members	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income for community members • Increased skill building • Continuation and engagement of a traditional skill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restored essential healthcare services for the local community • Improved access to quality medical care
Available resources and sustainability plan	Ds Office will be responsible for the maintenance	The hospital and RDHS will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	1 Mn	5 Mn

Division	<i>Manthai East</i>	<i>Manthai East</i>
Location	<i>Ampalpuram</i>	<i>Pandiyankulam Pradeshiya Sabha</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p>Livelihood: Establishing Freshwater Fisheries</p> <p>This project seeks to purify <i>Ampalpuram</i> ponds and provide comprehensive training in fish breeding, feeding, and disease management to 50 fishermen. Additionally, the project will supply essential fishing equipment, such as nets, to the local fisheries department for the fishermen's use. The current lack of such facilities poses challenges for the livelihood of fishermen living far from the sea.</p>	<p><u>Education: Renovation of Library equipped with ICT tools</u></p> <p>This project seeks to renovate the library damaged during the conflict, by providing it with ICT tools such as computers and digital knowledge repositories and increasing the number of books. The current insufficiency of resources restricts the knowledge accessible to community members.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Members of fishery community (at least 50% of women)	Community members including students.
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income opportunities. • Promoted skills among community members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Access to Knowledge and Digital Resources • Improved Educational and Skill Development Opportunities
Resources available and sustainability/maintenance plan	DS office and the Department of Fisheries will be responsible for the maintenance and follow-up	DS office and the <i>Pradeshiya sabha</i> will be the custodian/ responsible entity
Approximate budget in LKR	1 Mn	10 Mn

Division	<i>Welioya, Manthai East, Thunukkai</i>	<i>Thunukkai, Manthai East, Welioya</i>
Location	<i>Welioya Division Manthai East – Pandiyankulam Thunukkai - Mallavi</i>	<i>Thunukkai - Thenniyankulam - Kumulamunai bridge, Puththuveddivan – Iyankulam Manthai East – Sivapuram (Kuththu Paalam) Welioya - 18th Bokkuwa, Athavatunuwewa</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<u>Infrastructure: Construction of a children's park</u> This project aims to construct a children's park with necessary play infrastructure, an office, toilets, huts, and benches. Without access to a well-maintained playground, children lack opportunities for leisure activities.	<u>Infrastructure: Renovation of Bridges</u> This project aims to renovate the existing bridges (as identified above) with structural repairs and enhanced lighting. The bridges currently have safety concerns due to damage sustained during the conflict.
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community Children	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement in sports • Enhanced well-being of children • Increased physical activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer-lasting bridges • Improved safety for pedestrians and vehicles.
Available resources and sustainability plan	The <i>Pradeshiya Sabha</i> will be responsible for the maintenance	Road Development Authority (RDA) will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	6 Mn per division	<i>Thunukkai – 200 Mn Manthai East – 50 Mn Welioya – 6 Mn</i>

Division	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu, Oddusuddan</i>	<i>Maritimepattu, Puthukkudiyiruppu, Oddusuddan, Thunukkai</i>
Location	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu Division Oddusuddan - Muththaiyankaddu pond in Karuvelankandal GN Division</i>	<i>Maritimepattu – 20km fence Puthukkudiyiruppu – 30km fence Oddusuddan – 27 GN fence Thunukkai division</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p>Infrastructure: Renovation of Canals from Agricultural Ponds to Paddy Lands</p> <p>This project seeks to renovate the canals connecting agricultural ponds to paddy fields in order to enhance irrigation efficiency and water management. Currently, there are challenges in maintaining consistent agricultural production due to the lack of efficient irrigation systems, particularly for cultivating crops during both the dry and wet seasons.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of elephant fence</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct an elephant fence at points where elephants frequently enter villages. Currently, the absence of such safety measures exacerbates the human-elephant conflict and results in the destruction of agricultural yields.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Farmers in the divisions	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to water for agriculture. • Expanded fishing opportunities within the division. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced human-elephant conflict and protects crops. • Enhanced safety and livelihoods.
Available resources and sustainability plan	The Irrigation Department will be responsible for the Maintenance	Materials and Skilled labours are available
Approximate budget in LKR	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu - 45Mn Oddusuddan – 60 Mn</i>	<i>Maritimepattu – 25 Mn Puthukkudiyiruppu – 45 Mn Oddusuddan – 25 Mn Thunukkai – 6 Mn</i>

Division	Maritimepattu, Puthukudiyiruppu, Thunukkai	<i>Maritimepattu, Puthukudiyiruppu, Oddusuddan, Thunukkai, Manthai East</i>
Location	Maritimepattu - 46 GN Puthukudiyiruppu – 19 GN Thunukkai – 20 GN	<i>Maritimepattu – Mulliyawalai market Puthukudiyiruppu – Puthukkudiyiruppu, Uadaiyarkaddu and Visuwamadu Markets Oddusuddan market Thunukkai market Manthai East market</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<u>Infrastructure: Renovation of houses built under the schemes</u> This project aims to renovate homes in the specified Divisions. Many incomplete houses, started by various projects and previous governments, need to be finished. Currently, families live in temporary shelters that are vulnerable to adverse conditions during rainy and drought seasons.	<u>Infrastructure: Construction of ramps for persons with disabilities in the Market</u> The project aims to improve market access by building ramps and accessible toilets. Currently, markets lack these facilities, limiting access for persons with disabilities.
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	<i>Maritimepattu - 198 families Puthukudiyiruppu – 323 families Thunukkai – 173 families</i>	Persons with disabilities
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced housing, safety, and livelihood. Supports growth amidst Maritimepattu's population surge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater access and livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities. Enhanced inclusivity and strengthened communal bonds.
Available resources, sustainability plan.	The National Housing Development Authority will be responsible for the follow-up and the completion	Maintenance by <i>pradesiya shaba</i>
Approximate budget in LKR	<i>Maritimepattu - 100.Mn Puthukudiyiruppu – 1810 Mn Thunukkai – 110 Mn</i>	2 Mn per market
Division	<i>Maritimepattu, Thunukkai, Manthai East, Welioya</i>	<i>Oddusuddan, Thunukkai, Welioya</i>
Location	<i>Maritimepattu - Koddukinattukerny tank, Theanthoockkulam, Thothimoddaikulam,</i>	<i>Oddusuddan - 26 school Thunukkai – 18 schools</i>

	<i>Neeravikulam, Arumugaththankulam Thunukkai – Therankandal Manthai East - Moonrumurippu, Vannivilankulam, Oddaruththakulam, Ampalpuram Welioya - Welioya Division</i>	<i>Welioya - Halamabawewa Primary school</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<u>Infrastructure: Renovation of Agricultural Ponds</u> This project aims to renovate agricultural ponds to improve water management, irrigation, and crop yields. These resources were damaged during the conflict.	<u>Infrastructure: Need assessment and construction of a drinking water tank</u> This project aims to conduct a needs assessment and build a drinking water tank in identified schools to provide access to clean water. Currently, children do not have access to clean water, which affects their physical health.
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members	Students in the particular divisions
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded waterways contribute to agriculture and biodiversity. Increased fishing and the growth of the local economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved health and well-being of students and staff. Increased school attendance.
Available resources and sustainability plan	The Irrigation Department will be responsible for the maintenance plan	The school will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	Maritimepattu: 42 Mn, Thunukkai: 60 Mn, Manthai East: 16.5 Mn, Welioya: 35 Mn.	0.5 Mn per division

Division	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu, Oddusuddan, Welioya</i>	<i>Maritimepattu, Puthukkudiyiruppu, Thunukkai</i>
Location	<i>Puthukkudiyiruppu - 22 schools Oddusuddan – 26 schools Welioya – 07 schools</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Maritimepattu - Mu/Mullaitivu maha vidyalayam, Mu/Vidiyanantha collage</i> <i>Puthukkudiyiruppu - Puthukkudiyiruppu Central College</i> <i>Thunukkai - Kodaikaddiyakulam, Mallavi, Yogapuram Maha Vithiyalayam schools</i>

Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Infrastructure: Need assessment and renovation of toilets</u></p> <p>This project aims to conduct a needs assessment and renovate school toilets to improve hygiene, particularly for girls. The project will also ensure accessibility for children with disabilities. Currently, the broken facilities contribute to infections and health risks for the children.</p>	<p><u>Education: Establishment of special education units</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish Special Education units in schools, equipped with the necessary tools. Currently, the absence of dedicated education units for children with disabilities results in their attendance in mainstream classes.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Students in the particular divisions	Special need children
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved sanitation facilities and promoted health conditions • Increased school attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased inclusivity • Increased engagement of special needs children • Increased skill-building and specialized care
Available resources sustainability plan	The school will be responsible for the maintenance	<p>Teachers and building/ spaces are available</p> <p>School and the zonal education office will be responsible for the maintenance</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	1 Mn per school	3 Mn per school

Division	<i>Maritimepattu, Puthukudiyiruppu, Oddusuddan, Thunukkai, Welioya</i>	<i>Maritimepattu, Puthukudiyiruppu, Oddusuddan, Thunukkai, Manthai East</i>
Location	<i>Maritimepattu - Mu/Mullaitivu Maha Vidyalayam Puthukudiyiruppu - Puthukkudiyiruppu Central Collage, Udayarkaddu Maha vidyalayam, Visuvamadu Maha vidyalayam Oddusuddan - Muththuvinaayagapuram Maha Vithiyalayam Thunukkai - Kodaikaddiyakulam, Mallavi, Yogapuram Maha Vithiyalayam Welioya – all 07 schools</i>	<i>Maritimepattu - Mullai Malar Development Organization (DPO) Puthukudiyiruppu division Oddusuddan division Thunukkai division Manthai East - Palinagar</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<u>Education: Need assessment and establishment of science laboratory</u> This project aims to conduct a needs assessment and subsequently construct and equip science laboratories in schools. Currently, students undertaking ordinary and advanced level examinations lack the essential facilities for studying science subjects, despite the requirement to take examinations in these areas.	<u>Sports: Provision of sports equipment and training for Persons with Disabilities</u> This project aims to supply necessary sports equipment to a club or society for persons with disabilities in each division. Additionally, a 6-month training program will be conducted to develop their skills in using such equipment. Currently, the absence of these provisions restricts the participation of persons with disabilities in sports.
Beneficiary types and numbers	School children	Persons with disabilities
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced skills and knowledge of students in science Improved educational opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced youth sports participation and opportunities. Strengthened community through sports, social activities.
Available resources Sustainability Plan	DS office and Zonal Education Department will be responsible for monitoring and follow-up	Club/ committee available
Approximate budget in LKR	1.5 Mn per division	5 Mn per division

Division	Thunukkai, Manthai East	Maritimepattu, Manthai East
Location	Thunukkai – Mallavi Manthai East - Pandiyankulam	Maritimepattu - Mullaitivu Roman Catholic school Manthai East - Pandiyankulam Maha Vidyalayam School
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<u>Sports: Construction of indoor stadium</u> This project aims to construct an indoor stadium with modern technology and amenities. The community has noted the absence of such entertainment or sports facilities.	<u>Education: Renovation of schools</u> This project aims to provide the school with classrooms, desks, chairs, and blackboards. The conflict severely affected the schools, leaving them without adequate facilities for students.
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members, particularly youth	416 students of the Mullaitivu Roman Catholic school 340 students of the Pandiyankulam Maha Vithiyalayam
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved sports facilities • Improved social cohesion and community engagement. • Improved Physical and mental well-being. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased comfort and safety of students when in school • Improved students attendance
Available resources and sustainability plan	State land is available UC and DS offices will be responsible for the maintenance	State land is available The school will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	20 Mn per division	5 Mn per school

Division	Maritimepattu, Puthukudiyiruppu, Thunukkai, Manthai East	Maritimepattu, Puthukudiyiruppu, Oddusuddan
Location	Maritimepattu Puthukudiyiruppu Thunukkai - Aninchiyankulam Manthai East - Pandiyankulam, Kollavilankulam	Maritimepattu – 40 sports club Puthukudiyiruppu – 25 sports club Oddusuddan – 17 sports club
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<u>Culture: Construction of cultural hall</u> This project aims to develop a cultural hall that will function as a community center for hosting events, workshops, and performances. This initiative seeks to address the existing lack of resources available for local arts and community engagement.	<u>Sports: Needs assessment and provision of sports equipment to the sports clubs</u> This project aims to supply essential sports equipment to sports clubs based on a thorough needs assessment. Presently, the absence of such provisions restricts youth involvement in sports activities.
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members	Youth members of the sports club
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced social cohesion, • Increased opportunities for local arts • Enriched cultural landscape for community members • Enhanced community engagement and cultural appreciation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased youth participation and opportunities in district-level sports. • Strengthened community through sports, social activities.
Available resources and sustainability plan	Urban Council Rent out the facility for private events to generate additional cost for maintenance	Maintenance by the Sport Club and the Pradeshiya Sabha
Approximate budget in LKR	30 Mn per division	1 Mn per club

Division	Puthukkudiyiruppu, Welioya, Thunukkai	Mullaitivu
Location	Puthukkudiyiruppu – 19 GN division Welioya – 09 GN division Thunukkai – 20 GN division	All the schools in Mullaitivu
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Provision training for Self-employment creation for Persons with disabilities</u></p> <p>This project aims to identify persons with disabilities interested in entrepreneurship, provide training on idea generation, develop business plans, supply necessary tools, and conduct quarterly monitoring and evaluation. Some businesses face challenges due to inadequate needs assessments, lack of market analysis, and the provision of resources that may not align with beneficiaries' interests.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Awareness programs on mental health and psychosocial care</u></p> <p>This project aims to implement a six-month mental health awareness program for students, focusing on their psychosocial needs in the post-conflict context, including issues related to drug use. School principals, teachers, and parents have emphasized the significant need for psychosocial support among school children.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Persons with disabilities	Students from 23 schools
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased inclusiveness in entrepreneurship • Increased livelihood of the persons with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved well-being of school children by addressing traumas. • Enhanced resilience among school children.
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Training centers available to conduct training</p> <p>Resource persons available</p> <p>Staff available to work at the divisional level</p>	<p>Human resources: Counselling teachers at school and counselling officers attached to DS offices</p> <p>DS office and Zonal education will support conducting the programs</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	20 Mn	6 Mn per division

Division	District level
Location	
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Psychosocial: Awareness of child protection</u></p> <p>This project aims to increase parental awareness of child protection due to high rates of child abuse, including corporal punishment, in the district. According to 2024 data, Mullaitivu has the second highest rate of child abuse in the Northern province.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	1000 families
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced domestic violence and child abuse. • Enhanced wellbeing of children.
Available resources and sustainability plan	The District Counselling officer and DS office will be responsible for the monitoring and follow-up
Approximate budget in LKR	6 Mn

Mannar

Division	Madhu	Madhu
Location	<i>Madhu Division</i>	<i>Sothinagar</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood: Power loom training</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide technical knowledge to 15 conflict-affected women on making power loom products and threads. Handloom cloth and garments have a significant market in Sri Lanka, but weavers are often exploited by middlemen. The project will connect beneficiaries directly to local shops, ensuring higher income for the weavers.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Provision of moving shops to community members in Sothinagar</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide mobile shops to 25 local vendors in <i>Sothinagar</i>. Since permanent shops and their products are susceptible to damage from elephants, other wild animals, and floods, mobile shops can help prevent such harm.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	15 women	25 local vendors (including at least 12 women)
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income • Increased skills • Strengthened collective engagement and women empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased safety and security • Increased sales opportunities • Prevention of losses and damages
Available resources and sustainability plan	Women Development Officers (WDOs) attached to the Divisional Secretariate (DS) will be responsible for monitoring and follow-up	Development Officers (DOs) attached to the DS will be responsible for monitoring and follow-up
Approximate budget in LKR	21 Mn	3 Mn

Division	Madhu	Madhu
Location	<i>Poomalarnthan</i>	<i>Periyaandivirichchan East</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of daycare centre</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a daycare centre to address increasing cases of child abuse and supports women's economic empowerment.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of public toilets for persons with disabilities</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct accessible public toilets for persons with disabilities and the elderly, featuring ramps, grab bars, and spacious interiors to ensure safety and convenience. Currently, there are no such accessible toilets in this area, despite the presence of XX number of disabled residents.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	25 Children	Person with disabilities
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased child protection and well-being • Strengthened economic empowerment of women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased safety and comfort of persons with disabilities and the elderly • Increased access to toilets
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>State land is available</p> <p>DS office will be the custodian/ responsible entity</p>	<p>State land is available</p> <p>Availability of human resources for cleaning and maintenance through the DS office</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	10 Mn	8 Mn

Division	Madhu	Madhu, Nanattan
Location	<i>Pandivirichchan Hospital</i>	<i>Madhu Nanattan</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Health: Provision of oxygen cylinders for the Pandiviruchchan Hospital</u></p> <p>This project aims to supply 10 oxygen cylinders to improve the emergency medical care, as the current shortage hinders the effective management of medical emergencies.</p>	<p><u>Health: Provision of wheelchairs, equipment, and artificial limbs for persons with disabilities in Madhu</u></p> <p>The project aims to supply 50 wheelchairs or artificial limbs to individuals with disabilities, particularly those who sustained injuries due to the conflict. Many of these individuals have lacked access to essential mobility equipment for decades due to financial constraints.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Local community	50 persons with disabilities
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved emergency medical care and service delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced mobility
Available resources and sustainability plan	Medical Office of Health (MOH) in Madhu will be responsible for the maintenance.	DS officers are responsible for ensuring the appropriate use of wheelchairs, including reallocating them to other individuals in need upon the death of the current user.
Approximate budget in LKR		6 Mn per division

Division	Madhu	Madhu
Location	17 GN divisions	Kakkajankulam Maha Vidyalayam school
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Education: Provision of bicycles to schools</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide 25 bicycles to the school for students who live the farthest from the school premises. Students will use the bicycles during their time pursuing education at the school and return them upon completing their education.</p>	<p><u>Renovation of school building</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate and upgrade an existing school building, focusing on repairing structural damage, repainting classrooms, improving sanitation facilities, and enhancing the overall learning environment for students. Additionally, modern classroom equipment and essential safety features will be installed to create a secure and comfortable educational space. Beyond infrastructure improvements, this initiative will also generate employment opportunities for 20 local workers, including those facing economic challenges.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	325 students at present	400 Students at present
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access to education • Reduce barriers in transportation • Promote independence • Increase school attendance • Increase academic performance for those who live far from school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced learning environment • Ensuring better safety and modern facilities for students • This project will also create 20 local jobs, contributing to community development and economic recovery
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS and relevant GNs	Zonal education will maintain
Approximate budget in LKR	26 Mn	50 Mn

Division	Madhu and Manthai West	Madhu
Location	<i>Kaddaiyadampan School-Madhu Karunkandal Roman Catholic Tamil Mixed School-Manthai West Moonraampiddi and Eachchalavakkai Schools</i>	<i>Periyapandiviruchchan, Thatchana MaradaMadhu, Keerisuddan, and Sinnapandiviruchchan schools</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<u>Education and Culture: Construction of auditorium</u> This project aims to build a fully equipped auditorium, as the school currently lacks a facility for events, assemblies, and educational programmes.	<u>Education: Provision of laboratory equipment</u> This project aims to provide science and technology laboratory equipment to students undertaking ordinary and advanced level education in the above schools. These schools currently lack the essential laboratory facilities required for students to effectively study science subjects and prepare for mandatory examinations.
Expected beneficiaries	1760 students at present	560 Students at present
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting overall learning environment • Enhanced social and emotional well-being of students, teachers, and the broader community • Create a safe space for open dialogues and discussions • Promote community healing through the art 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced skills and knowledge of students in science • Improved educational opportunities
Available resources and sustainability plan	The Zonal Education Department will be responsible for monitoring and follow-up	DS office and Zonal Education Department will be responsible for monitoring and follow-up
Approximate budget in LKR	30 Mn per school	1.5 Mn

Division	Madhu	Madhu, Nanattan
Location	<i>Periyapandivirichchan School</i> <i>Sinnavalajankaddu School</i>	<i>Iranai iluppankulam</i> <i>Vankaalai</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<u>Education: Renovation of school toilets</u> This project aims to renovate the school toilets. The existing facilities are unusable and lack adequate water supply, posing a health risk to students, particularly girls. This situation increases their vulnerability to illnesses and infections, which can adversely affect their overall health and hinder their educational pursuits.	<u>Culture: Construction of cultural hall</u> The objective of this project is to construct a cultural hall that will serve as a community centre for events, workshops, and performances. This initiative addresses the current shortage of resources for local arts and community engagement.
Expected beneficiaries	700 students at present	XX local community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved mental and health well-being • Improved academic performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced social cohesion • Increased opportunities for local arts • Enriched cultural landscape for community members • Enhanced community engagement and cultural appreciation
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS office and Zonal Education Department will be responsible for monitoring and follow-up	Urban Council Renting out the facility for private events to generate additional funds for maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	2 Mn	30 Mn per division

Division	Madhu, Nanattan, Musali	Madhu
Location	08 schools in Madhu 08 schools in Nanattan All Musali division schools	12 preschools in Madhu
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<u>Sports: Provision of sports equipment</u> This project aims to supply essential sports equipment to the schools enabling students to access quality gear. Without proper equipment, school sports programmes cannot be effectively implemented, impacting the sports-related education experience.	<u>Education: Provision of essential materials for preschool</u> This project aims to provide age-appropriate educational and play materials. The identified preschools lack the necessary materials which hinders the effective learning and development of the preschoolers.
Expected beneficiaries	2500 Students at present	600 students at present
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased opportunities for sports and engagement • Enhanced social interaction and teamwork • Increased resilience among students • Sports as a healthy alternative for substance use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced learning environment • Promoted cognitive and physical development. • Fostered creativity and passion for learning.
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS office and Zonal Education Department will be responsible for monitoring and follow-up	DS office and Pradeshiya Sabha will be responsible for monitoring and follow-up
Approximate budget in LKR	5 Mn per division	5.2 Mn

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar Town
Location	<i>Selvanagar</i>	<i>Panankaddukoddu and Pesalai</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of coconut-based products factory</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a factory to produce coconut-based products such as oil and rope. Currently, local coconut cultivators face limited economic opportunities due to the lack of local processing facilities.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Renovation of fisheries cooperative building</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the fisheries cooperative building, which is currently unusable. At present, fishermen face challenges in storing, selling, and conducting other related activities due to the lack of proper facilities.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Local coconut cultivators Conflict-affected women (as employees)	XX Local fisheries
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income and employment opportunities • Strengthened collective engagement and women empowerment • Developed skills among community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created safe spaces for open dialogues and discussions • Fostered community engagement, contributing to the economic development of the fishing community
Available resources and sustainability plan	State land is available Coconut Development Authority (CDA) and Department of Industries will be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance	The fisheries department will be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	8 Mn	25 Mn

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar Town
Location	<i>Thalaimannar and Pallimunai West</i>	<i>Thalaimannar</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood support: Provision of crab traps</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide crab traps to young individuals engaged in crab harvesting, who currently have limited opportunities due to the lack of proper equipment. They will also be connected with local fisheries officers to gain knowledge on sustainable crab harvesting, as well as best practices for storage and transport.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of a public park and establishment of a Jetty service in the coastal area</u></p> <p>This project aims to develop a public park in the Mannar coastal area, including a children's play area, an open gym, and improved jetty services for tourism. The absence of a public park and adequate jetty services currently limits local economic growth and tourism development.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	30 young individuals	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of sustainable employment • Increased income • Empowerment of youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income of local vendors, businesspersons • Increased tourism-related activities • Increased social interaction between different communities
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS office will monitor the usage of the traps through fisheries department	District secretariat and Divisional secretariat will be responsible for the maintenance and follow-up
Approximate budget in LKR	2.5 Mn	23 Mn

Division	Mannar town	Mannar Town
Location	<i>Ujirththarasankulam</i>	<i>Mannar Town and Thalaimannar</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of a dairy product factory</u></p> <p>This project aims to build a factory for storing and preserving dairy products. The absence of such facilities prevents villagers from fully utilising their local resources.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of a market</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a market building to address the deficiencies of existing market spaces, which often suffer from poor layout, insufficient lighting, and inadequate accessibility.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	15 community members (at least 8 women), Local cattle farmers	30 local vendors (at least 15 women)
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income and employment opportunities • Strengthened women's economic empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income opportunities. • Promoted local economy
Available resources and sustainability plan	State building is available and needs to be extended Department of Industries will be responsible for maintenance	State land is available Pradeshiya Sabha will be responsible for maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	26 Mn	7 Mn

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar Town
Location	<i>Periyakadai</i>	<i>Ujilankulam, Puthukkamam and Perijanavatkulam</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood: Refurbishment of fish market</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the fish market to address the challenges faced by the local fishmongers. Upgrades include improved refrigeration, better drainage, and more efficient waste management to maintain hygiene.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Drying machine and floor construction for post-harvest processing</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a drying machine and drying floor to enhance post-harvest processing for local farmers. Farmers often face significant post-harvest challenges due to inadequate drying methods, leading to crop spoilage, reduced product quality, and lower marketability. The machine will efficiently remove moisture from crops, reducing spoilage and improving product quality.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	XX Fishmongers	Local farmers
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved facilities for the income generation • Enhanced market operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced post-harvest processing efficiency for local farmers • Reduced spoilage and improved product quality
Available resources and sustainability plan	Market building is available Urban Council (UC) will be responsible for the maintenance	State land is available DS office will take responsibility for the maintenance
Approximate budget for LKR	30 Mn	23 Mn

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar Town
Location	<i>Panankaddukoddu west</i>	<i>Gimron Nagar and Savakkaddu</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Infrastructure: Renovation of community centre</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate a community centre for social, educational, and recreational activities. The existing community centre is unusable and lacks essential amenities.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Establishment of children's park</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a children's park. Currently, there is no such park available for children to engage in outdoor play and recreational activities, which limits their social and cognitive development.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Community members	Children from the community
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened community engagement and collaboration. • Promoted inclusivity. • Promoted reconciliation through art and culture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened community engagement • Increased well-being of children
Available resources and sustainability plan	RDS will be responsible for the maintenance	State land is available UC will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	3 Mn	5 Mn

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar Town
Location	Mannar Bus Stand and Market	Mannar Town
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of toilets</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct disability-accessible toilets at the Mannar Bus Stand and Market as the existing toilets are not accessible to persons with disabilities.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of safe house</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a safe house for women and their children affected by physical and sexual abuse and violence. The number of women and children impacted by domestic violence has increased during the post-conflict period. The absence of a dedicated safe house leaves them without protection, often compelling them to remain in unsafe environments with the abusers.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	XX Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly	Women and Children
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased safety and comfort of persons with disabilities and the elderly • Support persons with disabilities in confidently accessing the market and bus stand, enabling them to use the facilities with dignity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened safety and security for women in post-conflict context • Enhanced well-being of women and children
Available resources and sustainability plan	UC will be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance	<p>State land is available</p> <p>Sustainability will be ensured through the coordination with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and the Social Services Department, while the DS will be responsible for the operation and management of the safe house</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	2 Mn	15 Mn

Division	Mannar	Mannar
Location	All Schools in Mannar	District level
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Psychosocial: Awareness programmes on mental health and psychosocial care</u></p> <p>This initiative aims to implement a six-month mental health awareness programme for students, addressing their psychosocial needs in the post-conflict context, including substance use. School principals, teachers, and parents have identified a strong need for psychosocial support among schoolchildren.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Building Capacities of Divisional and District Secretariates</u></p> <p>This project aims to strengthen the capacities of the five Divisional Secretariats and the District Secretariat to provide disability-inclusive services. Persons with disabilities have emphasised the urgent need to improve inclusivity service delivery at DS offices. Capacity-building will include needs assessment, provision of equipment, infrastructure development, and training.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Children from schools	District Secretariate, five Divisional Secretariates, and the government officers attached to them.
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved well-being of school children by addressing traumas Enhanced resilience among school children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened inclusive service delivery Enhanced well-being of persons with disabilities
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Human resources: Counselling teachers at school and counselling officers attached to DS offices</p> <p>DS office and Zonal education will support conducting the programmes</p>	<p>DS will provide the necessary supports</p> <p>Introduction of the knowledge management and transferring systems</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	6 Mn per division	20 Mn

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar Town
Location	10 schools in Mannar town division XX schools in Musali	St. Xavior Girls college
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<u>Education: Provision of Bicycles to School Children</u> This project will provide 250 bicycles to students who live the farthest from school. Currently, many students drop out due to transportation challenges. The project aims to address these by enabling students to attend school without difficulty. Bicycles will be returned upon the completion of their education.	<u>Education: Renovation of toilets for girls</u> This project aims to renovate school toilets as the existing facilities are unusable and lack an adequate water. This poses a health risk to students, particularly girls, increasing their vulnerability to illnesses and infections. Such conditions can negatively impact their overall health and hinder their educational pursuits.
Expected beneficiaries	25 Students from each school All schools in Musali	1500 Students
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced school dropouts • Increased access to schools • Enhanced educational opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved mental and health well-being • Improved academic performance
Available resources and sustainability plan	Schools and the Zonal education office will be the custodians/ responsible entities	The school and the Zonal education department will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	18 Mn for each division	2 Mn

Division	Mannar Town, Musali	Mannar Town
Location	<i>Mannar Town</i> <i>Arippu and Silavaththurai</i>	Thoddaveli GTM School
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<u>Education: Renovation of Library equipped with ICT tools</u> This project aims to renovate the local library by equipping it with ICT tools, including computers and digital knowledge repositories, and expanding the selection of books. The current lack of resources limits access to knowledge for community members.	<u>Education: Provision of Educational Equipment</u> This project aims to provide educational equipment, including computers and multimedia tools. The school currently lacks resources to develop computer literacy and technology skills among students.
Expected beneficiaries	Community members including students	550 students at present
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Access to Knowledge and Digital Resources • Improved Educational and Skill Development Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved digital literacy and learning outcomes • Increased student readiness for a technology-driven future
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS office and Zonal Educational Office will be the custodian/ responsible entity	The school and the Zonal Educational Office will be responsible for the maintenance.
Approximate budget in LKR	10 Mn per library	2 Mn

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar Town Nanattan Manthai West
Location	<i>Mannar Divisional Secretariat</i>	<i>Pallimunai and Parappankandal</i> Association of Persons with Disabilities (Sudar Oli) in Vankalai – Nanattan <i>Thevanpiddi</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<u>Culture: Construction of community centre</u> This project aims to construct a community centre to serve multiple purposes, including community engagement, cultural and artistic performances, and temporary shelter for individuals in need during disasters. Currently, no such facility exists for community activities or disaster relief.	<u>Sports: Provision of sports and musical equipment</u> This project aims to provide sports and musical equipment for individuals with disabilities, who currently lack access to such leisure and skill-building opportunities.
Expected beneficiaries	Local communities	Associations of Persons with Disabilities in <i>Pallimunai and Parappankandal</i>
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have a safe place to stay during disasters • Promoted local arts, culture and community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased skill development and self-confidence • Enhanced social inclusion and future opportunities
Available resources and sustainability plan	State land is available DS office will maintain the space Additionally, the community centre will be available for rental, providing an opportunity to generate extra income for maintenance.	DS office will be the responsible entity
Approximate budget in LKR	30 Mn	1 Mn per division

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar Town, Manthai West
Location	<i>Eluththoor</i>	<i>Thoddaveli GTM School</i> <i>Santhipuram GTM School</i> <i>Uppukkulam Methodist Tamil Vidyalayam</i> <i>Karunkandal RCTMV and</i> <i>Vaddakkandal GTMS</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<u>Infrastructure: Renovation of water tank</u> This project aims to renovate the <i>Eluththoor</i> water tank to enhance its storage capacity and water quality while also raising awareness about water conservation. currently, water scarcity is a significant issue in the areas.	<u>Education: Provision of musical equipment</u> This project aims to provide musical equipment to identified schools, as they currently lack these resources.
Expected beneficiaries	300 families	2350 Students at present
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved water access and storage capacity • Enhanced community awareness of water conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted arts and culture • Enhanced collaboration and engagement among students • Enhanced psychological well-being of students
Available resources and sustainability plan	UC will be responsible for the maintenance	The schools and Zonal education office will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	20 Mn	1 Mn per division

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar town
Location	<i>Mannar town</i>	<i>Periyakadai, Panankaddukkoddu west, Southbar and Erukkalampiddi</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Infrastructure: Ecosystem Restoration</u></p> <p>This project aims to remove invasive plant species that deplete natural resources. This initiative will involve replanting native species to restore the ecosystem in Mannar, thereby improving soil quality, enhancing biodiversity, supporting carbon sequestration, and creating employment opportunities. This project will address environmental degradation while promoting local economic growth.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Coastal Restoration</u></p> <p>This project aims to restore coastal ecosystems by planting mangroves and Palmyra trees, enhancing biodiversity and shoreline protection. Currently, coastal erosion, habitat loss, and environmental degradation occur due to the lack of coastal vegetation.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Community members	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved soil quality, biodiversity, and reduction of natural disasters • Enhanced local employment and sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restored biodiversity and protected coastlines • Increased community engagement in environmental conservation
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS office will be responsible for maintenance	Department of Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management, and DS office will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	3 Mn	10 Mn

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar Town
Location	<i>Southbar and Santhipuram</i>	<i>Emilnagar, Panankaddukoddu west and east, and Eluththoor</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of a saltwater bund</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a saltwater bund to protect agricultural lands from saline intrusion. Currently, there is a significant risk of freshwater contamination.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Improving Water Management</u></p> <p>This project will construct retaining walls for ponds and renovate drainage canals to enhance water management. Currently, the identified locations face soil erosion, flooding, and water quality issues.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Local Communities	1000 households
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced fresh water, soil quality, and agricultural productivity • Increased community resilience and sustainable livelihoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced water management and flood prevention • Improved community resilience and environmental sustainability
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS office and UC will be responsible for the maintenance	UC will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	8 Mn	90 Mn

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar Town
Location	<i>Thalaimannar village</i>	<i>Mannar town</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood: Build the palmyra processing capacities</u></p> <p>This project aims to build the Palmyra fruit pulp processing capacities of the Palmyra Cooperative Society. Currently, the cooperative society's limited processing capabilities restrict production.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of a nature park</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a nature park to provide recreational space for the community, featuring walking trails, picnic areas, and educational signage. At present there is no such recreational space in the division.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	XX community members	Local community
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased local employment opportunities • Economic growth through sustainable resource utilisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced biodiversity • Improved psychosocial well-being • Improved social interactions
Available resources and sustainability plan	Palmyra Society be responsible for the maintenance	UC and DS will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	10 Mn	30 Mn

Division	Mannar Town	Mannar Town
Location	<i>Mannar town</i>	<i>Vidatha, Mannar town</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Sports: Renovation of the stadium</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the stadium, as athletes and spectators are currently facing difficulties in using the facility. The renovation will include repairing the seating areas, locker rooms, and washrooms.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Entrepreneurial incubator centre for conflict-affected communities</u></p> <p>This project aims to build an incubator centre to support local entrepreneurs and small businesses by providing office space, technology access, and mentorship. It addresses the lack of resources, training, and networking opportunities for startups in conflict-affected areas, fostering innovation and economic growth.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Community members, particularly the youth	Local entrepreneurs
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved sports facilities and community engagement • Improved psychological well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosted local entrepreneurship and economic resilience • Strengthened community collaboration and sustainable development
Available resources and sustainability plan	UC and DS offices will be responsible for the maintenance	State building is available
Approximate budget in LKR	30 Mn	10 Mn

Division	Manthai west Nanattan	Manthai West
Location	<i>Savirikulam, Sannar, Eachchalavakkai- Manthai west Madhukkarai - Nanattan</i>	<i>Kaththankulam</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<u>Infrastructure: Rehabilitation of playgrounds</u> This project aims to renovate playgrounds in three identified villages. The lack of adequate facilities has led to the neglect of these spaces and their misuse for illicit activities.	<u>Livelihood: Establishment of solar-powered rice mill for local paddy farmers</u> This project proposes establishing a solar-powered rice mill to support local paddy farmers by creating job opportunities and reducing reliance on middle vendors. This initiative aims to address the issues of low selling prices for farmers and their high dependency on external vendors.
Expected beneficiaries	Community members particularly the youth and children	Local paddy farmers
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced community engagement and unity Improved recreational facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced reliance on middle vendors Increased income for local paddy farmers
Available resources and sustainability plan	UC will be responsible for sustainability	State land is available Department of Agriculture will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	12 Mn	25 Mn

Division	Manthai West	Manthai West
Location	<i>PallaMadhu</i>	
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of market</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a fruit and vegetable market with a solar-powered cold storage room. The existing market lacks proper storage facilities, forcing local cultivators and vendors to sell their products to middlemen due to the absence of a cooling system.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Support for home gardening</u></p> <p>This project aims to empower women-headed households in resettlement villages by providing gardening tools, seeds, and essential training, including financial literacy. Additionally, it will establish market linkages to support these households. The absence of self-sustaining income sources and nutritious food options exacerbates existing issues such as poverty, malnutrition, and economic instability.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	30 local vendors and cultivators (at least 15 women)	150 women-headed households
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income opportunities • Promoted local economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income opportunities • Strengthened women empowerment • Increased physical and mental well-being of women-headed households
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>State land is available</p> <p>UC will be responsible for the maintenance</p> <p>Solar-powered cooler room for sustainable energy use</p>	<p>DS and the Department of Agriculture will be responsible for continues knowledge transfer, monitoring, and follow-up</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	17.5 Mn	4.5 Mn

Division	Manthai west	Manthai west
Location	All GNDs	<i>Vellankulam, PallaMadhu and Adamban Hospitals</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Psychosocial: Awareness on child protection</u></p> <p>This project aims to raise parental awareness of child protection, as the incidence of child abuse, including corporal punishment, is currently high in the division.</p>	<p><u>Health: Enhancing access for persons with disabilities:</u></p> <p>This project aims to improve access to three public hospitals by building ramps, providing wheelchairs, and constructing accessible toilets. Currently, these hospitals lack the necessary facilities, hindering access for persons with disabilities.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Parents from all GNDs	Persons with Disabilities
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted parenting practices in conflict-affected areas • Reduced child abuse • Increased Physical and mental well-being of children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to healthcare for persons with disabilities • Enhanced dignity and safety in public hospitals for persons with disability
Available resources and sustainability plan	Human resources: Counselling Officers, Child Rights Protection Officers, and Women Development Officers	The Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) and DS office will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	5 Mn	10 Mn

Division	Manthai west	Manthai west
Location	<i>Suvarnapuri AMK school</i>	<i>Thevanpiti Roman Catholic Tamil School</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Education: Renovation of a school building</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate a partially completed school building by constructing classrooms and toilets. The building was demolished during the conflict and has not yet been fully rebuilt. Due to the lack of facilities, students face significant challenges in their studies.</p>	<p><u>Education: Renovation of a school building</u></p> <p>This project aims to complete the construction of a partially built school that was demolished during the conflict and has not yet been fully renovated. The lack of facilities poses significant challenges for students in their studies.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	450 students at present	300 students at present
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved learning environment • Enhanced student safety and well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved learning environment • Enhanced student safety and well-being
Available resources and sustainability plan	The school and Zonal education office will be responsible for the maintenance	The school and Zonal Education office will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	15 Mn	30 Mn

Division	Manthai west	Manthai west
Location	Primary school of <i>Veddaiyanmurippu</i>	<i>Maruthonduvan</i> and <i>Vellaankulam</i> Schools
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<u>Education: Renovation of children's park</u> This project aims to renovate the children's park at the primary school, which is currently unusable. Students currently have no access to other leisure activities within the school premises.	<u>Education and Infrastructure: Construction of compound fence</u> This project aims to build a perimeter fence around the school. The absence of a fence poses a safety risk for both students and teachers and enables illegal activities after school hours.
Expected beneficiaries	260 students at present	600 students at present in both schools
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased social interaction of children • Enhanced physical and mental well-being of children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced safety for students and teachers • Promoted secured environment for education
Available resources and sustainability plan	The school and Zonal education office will be responsible for the maintenance	The school and Zonal education office will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	1.5 Mn	3 Mn

Division	Manthai west	Musali
Name of the place	<i>Adampan</i>	<i>Musali</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<u>Sports: Construction of indoor stadium</u> This project aims to construct an indoor stadium equipped with modern technology and amenities. Community members have emphasised the need for such a facility, as the lack of sports and entertainment options often leads youth toward illicit activities	<u>Infrastructure: Construction of public park</u> This project aims to develop a public park featuring a children’s play area, an open gym, and green spaces. Community members have highlighted that the lack of such recreational facilities contributes to increased mental stress and illicit activities in the area.
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members, particularly the youth	Community members
• Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved sports facilities • Improved social cohesion and community engagement • Improved physical and mental well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved psychosocial well-being • Improved social interactions
Available resources and sustainability plan	State land is available UC and DS offices will be responsible for the maintenance	State land is available Pradeshiya Sabha will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	20 Mn	25 Mn

Division	Musali	Musali
Location	Musali Division villages	<i>Arippu west</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of paddy storage</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a paddy storage facility to support local paddy cultivators. Currently, the absence of such facilities leads to high post-harvest losses, allowing intermediaries to gain most of the profits while farmers bear the burden of hard work.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood and infrastructure: Renovation of the outboard engine service room</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the boat engine service room, which currently lacks proper ventilation and modern tools. These deficiencies reduce the efficiency and safety of maintenance and repair work, resulting in delays in boat servicing, prolonged downtime, and disruptions to maritime activities.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Local paddy farmers	XX of Local Fisherman
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to store products until the appropriate time, allowing farmers to demand better market prices • Improved income stability for farmers • Reduced post-harvest losses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased operational efficiency and reduced downtime • Improved safety and working conditions
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>State land available</p> <p>Agricultural Cooperatives Authority (ACA) will be responsible for the maintenance</p>	<p>Old building available</p> <p>The Department of Fisheries will be responsible for maintenance</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	10 Mn	10 Mn

Division	Musali	Musali
Location	<i>MarudaMadhu, Veppamkulam, Potkerny, Poonochchi, Pandarawali and Arippu</i>	<i>Akaththimurippu</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of a dam</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a dam in the canal in <i>Nedumkulam</i>, including the renovation of six sub-tanks. Challenges in accessing a reliable and consistent water supply for agricultural activities due to inadequate water storage and distribution systems lead to reduced agricultural productivity, especially during dry seasons.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of canals from <i>Ahaththimurippu</i> Dam to other sub-dams</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct canals in the waterways in <i>Ahaththimurippu</i>. There are challenges in maintaining consistent agricultural production due to the lack of efficient irrigation systems, particularly for cultivating crops in both the dry and wet seasons. The absence of proper waterways between the <i>Ahaththimurippu</i> Dam and sub-dams limits access to water for irrigation, restricting farming potential and reducing productivity.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Local farmers	Local farmers
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced agricultural productivity • Sustainable farming and economic growth • Ability to cultivate during dry season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased agricultural productivity • Sustainable water management • Improved livelihoods for farmers
Available resources and sustainability plan	Irrigation Department will be responsible for the maintenance	450 acres of agriculture land available Irrigation Department will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	500 Mn	300 Mn

Division	Musali	Musali
Location	<i>Vellimalai and pandaaraveli</i>	<i>18 GNDs</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Infrastructure: Water source development</u></p> <p>This project aims to develop essential infrastructure, including wells, pumps, and storage tanks, to supply clean water to resettled communities in this area. Presently, these communities encounter difficulties accessing clean water due to saline groundwater.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Capacity building of Grama Niladhari offices</u></p> <p>This project aims to enhance the capabilities of the GNDs in providing inclusive services based on a thorough needs assessment. The capacity-building efforts will include training, the provision of equipment, and infrastructure development, including the construction of at least six GN offices.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	##Community members	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured access to safe drinking water, reducing waterborne diseases • Contributed to long-term community well-being and resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved community access to services. • Fostered better relationships with government officials • Ensured accessibility for persons with disabilities
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Natural water sources are available in <i>Murunkan</i></p> <p>The national water supply and DS office will be responsible for the maintenance</p>	<p>State lands are available</p> <p>DS will be responsible for the maintenance</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	20 Mn	30 Mn

Division	Musali and Manthai West	Musali
Location	<i>Poonochchikkulam(Musali), Vaddakkandal, Vannakulam, Adampan(Manthai west)</i>	<i>Silavaththurai</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Health: Renovation of a Primary Health Care Clinic Centre</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the Primary Health Care Clinic Centre. The patient wards, consultation rooms, and waiting areas lack functionality and comfort, impacting care. Additionally, the electrical, plumbing, and ventilation systems do not meet current health and safety standards.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Renovation of Market</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the existing local market due to its inadequate infrastructure, including an inefficient layout, insufficient lighting, and lack of inclusive accessibility. The renovation will involve repairing damaged stalls, upgrading drainage systems, and improving waste management facilities.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Community members	Community members and local vendors
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to health facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased income opportunities Promoted local economy
Available resources and sustainability plan	RDHS Will be responsible for the maintenance	Urban Council will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	15 Mn per each division	2 Mn

Division	Musali	Musali
Location	Musali Divisional Hospital	<i>Arippu National College and Sinhala Gamanna School</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Health: Provision of equipment for maternity wards and labour rooms</u></p> <p>This project aims to supply medical equipment for labour operation theatres and delivery rooms. Labour services at this hospital were suspended due to the lack of essential equipment following the conflict. Initially, a comprehensive needs assessment will be conducted to evaluate the hospital's operational and human resource capacity.</p>	<p><u>Education: Construction of science lab</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct and equip schools with a science and technology laboratory for students pursuing Ordinary and Advanced Level education. These schools currently lack the essential laboratory facilities required for students to effectively study science subjects and prepare for mandatory examinations.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Pregnant mothers and the newborns	850 school students at present in both schools
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved maternal and neonatal Health • Enhanced healthcare efficiency • Reduced maternal and fatal mortality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced skills and knowledge of students in science • Improved educational opportunities
Available resources and sustainability plan	RDHS will be responsible for the Maintenance	DS office and Zonal Education Department will be responsible for monitoring and follow-up
Approximate budget in LKR	11.5 Mn	16 Mn

Division	Nanattan	Nanattan
Location	Nanattan	Vankalai, Naruvilikkulam, Achchankulam
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of factory to produce tinned fish</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a facility for producing tinned fish, utilising locally sourced fish. Currently, there are no similar factories in the region. External vendors purchase fish from local fishermen at low prices, add value to these products, and subsequently sell them at higher prices. This practice adversely affects the efforts and earnings of the local fishing community.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of packaging incubator centre</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a packaging incubator to support local businesses with sustainable packaging solutions. Small-scale vendors, in particular, face challenges in accessing affordable and eco-friendly packaging, limiting their ability to compete in the market and meet environmental standards. The lack of modern packaging equipment and knowledge about sustainable practices further hinders business growth and innovation.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Local fishermen and fishmongers	Local vendors
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased value-addition for raw products • Increased income for local fishermen/fishmongers • Economic growth of the division 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved local businesses • Enhanced local jobs • Stimulated economic growth • Enhanced market competitiveness
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>State land is available</p> <p>The planning and Industrial office will be responsible for maintenance and monitoring</p>	<p>State land is available</p> <p>DS office will be responsible for maintenance and monitoring</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	20 Mn	3 Mn

Division	Nanattan	Nanattan
Location	<i>Irattikkulam</i>	<i>Moddakkadai</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of fruit, vegetable and fish market</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a market dedicated to the sale of fruits, vegetable, and fish markets. Local vendors struggle to access a dedicated and safe space for selling their products, which limits their ability to reach customers and impacts their income.</p>	<p><u>Education: Renovation of children's park</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate a children's park. Without access to a well-maintained playground, children miss out on opportunities for leisure activities.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	30 local vendors	Community children
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided a secure and communal space to sell goods • Increased income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement in sports • Enhanced well-being of children • Increased physical activity
Available resources and sustainability plan	State land is available Pradeshiya Sabha will be responsible for the maintenance and monitoring	The Pradeshiya Sabha will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	12 Mn	6 Mn

Division	All divisions	Nanattan
Location	All divisions including in <i>Vanchiankulam</i>	<i>Nanattan</i>
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Livelihood: Training on Aari embroidery</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide training on Aari embroidery to conflict-affected youth who lack economic independence, and employment. Through the project, selected beneficiaries will receive threads and equipment, along with technical to support the management of their businesses.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of fish market</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a fish market to support local fishermen who face challenges in accessing a proper and reliable marketplace to sell their catch. These challenges result in inconsistent sales and lower incomes. The new fish market will include proper waste management systems, storage facilities, and easy access for community members.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	10 young individuals from each division	Local fishermen/fishmongers
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed skills among community members • Improved livelihoods by providing essential business management training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained income from fisheries • Provided a safe space for vendors and offer villagers convenient access
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Divisional Industrial Department will be responsible for the maintenance</p> <p>Beneficiaries will be promoted to establish a collective centre on Aari work in Mannar</p>	<p>State land is available</p> <p>Pradeshiya Sabha will be responsible for the maintenance</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	2.5 Mn	5 Mn

Division	All five Divisions	Nanattan
Name of the place		<i>Vankalai, Naruvilikkulam, Achchankulam</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Formation of grazing Land for Cattle Farming</u></p> <p>This project focuses on developing grazing land for cattle farming. Currently, farmers encounter challenges such as limited land and low-quality grazing areas, leading to decreased productivity.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of milkfish cultivation</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a sustainable milkfish cultivation initiative. Although it is both sustainable and profitable, milkfish cultivation is infrequently practiced due to limited resources and knowledge. The project will set up fishponds with adequate aeration and water management for optimal growth. Local farmers will receive training on breeding, feeding, and disease management.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Local farmers	Members of fishery community (at least 50% of women)
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained cattle farming • Increased income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income opportunities. • Promoted skills among community members.
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>DS Office and Veterinary department will be responsible for the maintenance</p> <p>State land is available subject to land release</p>	DSoffice and Department of Fisheries will be responsible for the maintenance and follow-up
Approximate budget in LKR	10 Mn Per Division	5 Mn

Division	All five Divisions	All five Divisions
Name of the place		
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Heavy vehicle training for youth</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide heavy vehicle driving training to selected youth, particularly those from women-headed households and families of the missing. Currently, Mannar lacks in-district capacity for heavy vehicle driving and relies on drivers from other districts. The trained youth will receive the necessary certificates and licenses to enhance their employment opportunities.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Enhancing Sustainability through Crop Diversification</u></p> <p>This project aims to promote crop diversification in paddy fields to enhance agricultural sustainability and improving farmers' livelihoods. By introducing various crops alongside paddy, it reduces dependency on a single crop, improves soil health, and strengthens climate resilience. Farmers will receive training in intercropping techniques, using complementary crops like legumes and vegetables. Demonstration plots will showcase successful practices, and community engagement will encourage widespread adoption of diversified cropping systems.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	100 young individuals	200 farmers
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Job opportunities • Increased income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced agricultural sustainability • Created additional income sources • Improved food security • Fostered community engagement through shared knowledge and experiences
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS office will be responsible for Monitoring and follow-up Heavy vehicle driving school in Dambulla	Deputy Director of Agriculture (DDA) under Department of Agriculture will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	10 Mn	12 Mn

Division	All five Divisions	All five divisions
Name of the place		All hospitals and clinic centres
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Renovation of agricultural ponds, canals and irrigation tanks</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate agricultural ponds, canal, and tanks to improve water management and enhance crop irrigation. Many of these water resources have been damaged during the conflict, affecting agricultural productivity and water availability for farming communities.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of disability accessible toilets</u></p> <p>This project aims to assess the availability of accessible toilets in all hospitals and clinics across the district. Based on this assessment, new accessible toilets will be constructed where needed. Community consultations in all five divisions have highlighted a significant lack of accessible toilets in hospitals, causing considerable hardship, particularly for persons with disabilities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Local farmers in Madhu	Persons with disabilities
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced agricultural productivity Sustainable farming and economic growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased safety and comfort of persons with disabilities and the elderly Increased access to toilets
Available resources and sustainability plan	Irrigation Department will be responsible for the Maintenance	Availability of human resources for cleaning and maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	70 Bn (Madhu), 55 Mn (Mannar town), 200 Mn (Musali), 60 Mn (Nanattan), 50 Mn (Manthai West)	4 Mn per division

Division	All five Divisions	All five Divisions
Name of the place		All National and Provincial schools in Mannar
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Education: Vocational training in motor mechanics and automobile technology</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide vocational training in motor mechanics and automobile technology to selected youth, particularly those from women-headed households and families of the missing. Currently, Mannar lacks in-district capacity for motor mechanics and automobile services, relying on workers from other districts. The trained youth will receive the necessary certifications, enhancing their employment opportunities and self-sufficiency.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Awareness programme on teen pregnancies and intimate partner violence</u></p> <p>This project aims to conduct a six-month awareness programme on the impact of teen pregnancies and intimate partner violence for youth aged 14-19 years in all schools within the Mannar Town division. School principals, teachers, and parents have identified a strong need for raising awareness among school children to address these critical issues effectively.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	30 young individuals	2500 students at present (14-19 years old)
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Job opportunities • Increased income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowered youth with knowledge about teen pregnancy and intimate partner violence • Increased knowledge to identify warning signs and access support
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS office will be responsible for Monitoring and follow-up	HR: School teachers can be capacitated in delivering the programme to ensure sustainability MOH and DS office will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	50 Mn per division	4 Mn per division

Kilinochchi

Division	Karachchi /Kandawalai /Poonakary /Pachchillaipalli	District level
Location	Karachchi	All four divisions
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Health: Addressing malnutrition among children</u></p> <p>This project aims to tackle child malnutrition by empowering parents through needs-based assessments. It includes knowledge transfer programmes, the promotion of food-based livelihoods, fostering collaboration among young parents, and regular monitoring. Malnutrition is a significant issue in the district.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Building capacities of Divisional and District Secretariates</u></p> <p>This project aims to strengthen capacities of the four Divisional Secretariats and the District Secretariat to efficiently deliver inclusive public services. Communities have identified a strong need for strengthening public service delivery. Capacity-building efforts will include needs assessment, provision of equipment, infrastructure development, and training.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	3000+ children aged below 05	District Secretariat, four Divisional Secretariats, and government officers attached to them
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved well-being of children • Increased livelihood opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better governance, leadership, and service delivery <p>Strengthened cohesion, trust, and stability</p>
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Human resources: CRPO and DS officers</p> <p>DS office will be responsible for the implementation and follow-up</p>	<p>DS will provide the necessary supports</p> <p>Introduction of knowledge management and transferring systems</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	5 Mn per division	20 Mn

Division	Kilinochchi	All 04 divisions
Location	Kilinochchi	
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Psychosocial: Action research on suicide prevention</u></p> <p>This project aims to conduct action research on suicides in Kilinochchi. According to the most recent data, Kilinochchi recorded the highest suicide rate in 2016. Academics and psychosocial experts emphasise the need to examine this issue through the lens of post-conflict sensitivities and address it through both preventive and curative approaches.</p> <p>Note: Community consultations indicate a rise in suicide incidents within the district. However, no recent official data is currently available to corroborate this trend.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Research on Gender-based violence in post-conflict context</u></p> <p>This project aims to conduct comprehensive participatory research in Kilinochchi district to identify the key reasons and root causes which increased gender-based violence (GBV). Communities have highlighted GBV as a significant issue affecting society in the aftermath of the conflict. However, no recent research has focused exclusively on Kilinochchi within this post-conflict context. The research will generate evidence-based recommendations for policy reforms, government entities, donors, and civil society organisations to develop targeted interventions and support mechanisms.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members	Community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased suicide rate • Promotion of the well-being of people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified key findings on gender-based violence in Kilinochchi • Suggested recommendations to develop projects to address the issues in the current situation
Available resources and sustainability plan	Availability of existing data at government agencies	Availability of existing data at government agencies
Approximate budget in LKR	5 Mn	2 Mn

Division	All divisions	Karachchi / Kandawalai/ Poonakary
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Location		Konavil/ Piramanthararu
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Capacity-building programme on agricultural productivity</u></p> <p>This project aims to implement a six-month capacity-building programme aimed at enhancing the skills of beginners in agricultural production. The programme will include knowledge transfer, as well as financial and technical assistance to support participants in establishing and sustaining agricultural activities.</p> <p>The initiative seeks to address youth unemployment, engage retired individuals in productive activities, ensure agricultural sustainability, and promote the optimal use of natural resources.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of a handicraft production and marketing facility</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a handicraft production and marketing facility and enhance its capacity to operate efficiently. At present, the absence of such center results in the underutilisation of local natural resources.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	50 individuals at the introductory level in agriculture or agricultural entrepreneurship (at least 50% of women)	20-25 community members (at least 50% persons with disability and women)
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved agricultural output • Stable food supply and income • Engagement of retirees in productive activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced local employment and economic opportunities • Effective utilisation of local resources • Added value to the raw materials
Available resources and sustainability plan	The Department of Agriculture and DS office will be responsible for the monitoring and follow-up	Department of Industries will be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	5 Mn/division	6 Mn

Division	Karachchi	Karachchi /Kandawalai /Poonakary /Pachchillaipalli
Location	KN/ Jeyanthinagar-Karachchi	Resettlement villages in Kilinochchi
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Capacity building on Batik production</u></p> <p>This project aims to enhance the skills of conflict-affected youth in producing Batik cotton garments by utilising locally available resources such as cotton and traditional Batik techniques. The initiative will include the establishment of a Batik production center to support sustainable livelihoods within the community. Consultations with the youth in <i>Karachchi</i> have indicated that a lack of sufficient skills and technical capacity has hindered their efforts in Batik production. This project seeks to address these gaps by providing targeted training and resources.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Capacity-building on cattle farming</u></p> <p>This project aims to empower cattle farmers in the resettlement villages by enhancing their skills and knowledge through essential training, including financial literacy. Additionally, the project seeks to establish market linkages to support these farmers through the farmers' cooperative society. The lack of adequate skills and resources has led to increased animal losses, poor health conditions among farmers, and negative economic impacts. This initiative aims to address these challenges by equipping farmers with the necessary expertise and market access to improve their livelihoods sustainably.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	50 young individuals (at least 50% of men)	40-55 per division (at least 50% of women)
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed skills among community members • Improved livelihoods by providing the essential business management training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased livestock productivity • Improve animal and farmers' health • Increased economy of the farmers
Available resources and sustainability plan	The Divisional Industrial Department will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring	DS office will be responsible for the implementation
Approximate budget in LKR	1.9 Mn	0.5 Mn per division

Division	Karachchi/Kandawalai/Poonakary	Entire District
Location	Karachchi	
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of dairy product factory</u></p> <p>This project aims to build a factory for processing, storing, and preserving dairy products and to build its capacities to operate efficiently. The absence of such facilities prevents villagers from fully using their local resources.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Promoting small and medium-scale collective entrepreneurship</u></p> <p>This project aims to form a group of conflict-affected people with shared entrepreneurship interests and ideas and to build their capacities to run successful businesses. This initiative will address the high levels of malnutrition, poverty, and unemployment in the district as highlighted during discussions with the communities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	15 community members (at least eight women), Local cattle farmers	25 SMEs (each SME may include five to ten members, and the groups should ensure the representation of women and persons with disabilities as applicable)
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income and employment opportunities • Strengthened women's empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergence of new SMEs • Increased livelihood opportunities • Greater economic stability • Reduced poverty and malnutrition rates
Available resources and sustainability plan	State building is available which needs to be extended WRDS will be responsible for the maintenance	Training centers available to conduct training DS office will be responsible for the implementation and follow-up
Approximate budget in LKR	26 Mn/Per Division	20 Mn

Division	District level	District level
Location		
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Development of a digital data repository</u></p> <p>This project aims to gather comprehensive data on individuals with disabilities, encompassing their demographics, needs, access to services, skills and business interests, and academic and employment status. The collected data will be digitised, maintained, and regularly updated by the District Secretariat. This initiative is designed to address current challenges arising from the lack of such data, which often leads to duplication in service delivery and inefficiencies in beneficiary selection processes.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Mobilisation and empowerment of invisible victims</u></p> <p>This project aims to mobilise and economically empower invisible victims, enabling their participation in reconciliation and peacebuilding. Many invisible victims are not involved in these initiatives, leaving their trauma unhealed voices unheard, while also making them economically vulnerable. The project seeks to build their capacity to engage in public life, including reconciliation efforts.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Approximately 13,131 Persons with Disability	150 community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced fair selection of beneficiaries • Developed monitoring system • Developed reliable data • Increased inclusivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced trauma • Reduced risk of re-victimisation • Strengthened economic resilience of invisible victims
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>The existing data will be incorporated/ utilised</p> <p>The District Secretariate office will be responsible for the maintenance and regular updates of the database</p>	District Women Federation will be responsible for the monitoring and follow-up
Approximate budget in LKR	10 Mn	1 Mn/per division

Division	All Division	Karachchi/Kandawalai /Poonakary
Location	xx	Malayalapuram/Punnai Neeravi, Kandawalai, Kallaru/Aalangen and Mullangavil
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Education: Provision of bicycles to school children</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide 250 bicycles to students living farthest from school. Currently, students drop out due to transportation challenges. This initiative seeks to address these by enabling students to attend school without difficulty, with the requirement to return the bicycles upon completing their education.</p>	<p><u>Education: Construction of Library equipped with ICT tools</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct local libraries in seven villages by equipping it with ICT tools, including computers and digital knowledge repositories, and expanding the selection of books. The current lack of resources limits the knowledge available to the community members.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	25 students from each school	Community members including students
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced school dropouts • Increased access to schools • Enhanced educational opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced access to knowledge and digital resources • Improved Educational and Skill Development Opportunities
Available resources and sustainability plan	Schools and the Zonal education office will be the custodians/ responsible entities	DS office and Zonal education office will be the custodian/ responsible entity
Approximate budget in LKR	18 Mn per division	28 Mn (four per library)

Division	Karachchi, Kandawalai, Poonakary, Palai	Karachchi
Location		Vocational Training Authority (VTA)
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Development: Capacity building on fund mobilisation for officials at the DS office</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide a six-month programme on fund mobilisation for government staff to enhance their skills in attracting donors and securing funding divisional-level project needs. Additionally, the project will develop a method for knowledge transfer. The lack of such capacities has resulted in the DS office relying solely on government funding for years.</p>	<p><u>Education: Expansion of educational units or courses at the Vocational Training Authority (VTA)</u></p> <p>This project aims to support the expansion of education units within the VTA to include a wider range of courses, such as sewing, cosmetology, automobile mechanics, mechanical skills, and hotel management, as recommended by the community and government officials. Community consultations have indicated that, due to the lack of such facilities, students are required to move to other districts to access vocational training.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Government officials	Approximately 1000 students per year
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased development in the district • Developed skills of government officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced career opportunities for students • Developed skills for effective learning
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS office will be responsible for the implementation, monitoring, and follow-up	VTA will be responsible for the sustainability
Approximate budget in LKR	20 Mn (5 Mn per division)	16.5 Mn

Division	District Level	<i>Karachi, Poonagary</i>
Location	12 schools (three schools per division)	Kilinochchi Madhya Maha Vidyalayam Mulankavil Maha Vidyalayam
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Education: Career guidance and skill promotion programme for school children</u></p> <p>This project aims to offer career guidance and skill promotion programmes for students awaiting O/L and A/L exam results in collaboration with the Vocational Training Authority (VTA) the Ministry of Higher Education. The project will identify the students' interests and provide foundational training to enhance their skills. Additionally, it will equip them with critical thinking abilities to further develop their skills into viable business ideas.</p>	<p><u>Education: Establishment of a special education unit</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish dedicated special needs education units in the identified two national schools, where such resources are currently unavailable. The absence of these units limits the engagement of special needs children in their studies.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Students awaiting O/L and A/L exam results	Xx number of special needs children
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowered students with career clarity • Enhanced entrepreneurial potential among students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted inclusivity and equal opportunities for all students • Fostered academic growth of children with special needs
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Sustainability: The students who have received training and successfully developed their skills will be committed to imparting their knowledge and expertise to the next cohort.</p> <p>The Zonal education office will be responsible for the monitoring and follow-up</p>	The Zonal education office and the school will be responsible for the monitoring and follow-up
Approximate budget in LKR	18 Mn (1.5 Mn per school)	2 Mn (1 Mn per school)

Division	Karachchi	Karachchi
Location	<i>Mayavanoor</i>	<i>Kanakapuram</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Revitalisation at Puluthiy Aru Lift Irrigation Project funded by government</u></p> <p>This project aims to restore the <i>Puluthiy Aru</i> Lift Irrigation Project, which was launched in 2014 with government funding but has been non-functional for the past three years due to high electricity costs. The project seeks to install solar panels and solar water pumps to address this issue, following a comprehensive needs assessment of the project's current status.</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Construction of a building for the Persons with Disability Association</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a building for the Persons with Disability Association to facilitate its operations and activities, given the non-availability of an existing building for this purpose. The lack of a dedicated space for meetings and gatherings contributes to the social marginalisation of persons with disabilities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	1000+ Farmers	1940 Persons with Disability
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased agricultural Productivity • Sustainable water management • Improved Livelihoods of farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to support for persons with disabilities • Increased community engagement of Persons with Disabilities
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>The Irrigation Department will be responsible for the monitoring and follow up</p> <p>The farmers and their association will be responsible for the maintenance</p>	<p>State land is available allocated for this project, in front of the MPCS building</p> <p>Pradeshiya Sabha will be responsible for the maintenance</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	46 Mn	20 Mn

Division	District level	District level
Location	3 schools per division	<i>Kandawalai, Poonakari, Pachchilaipalli, Karachchi</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Education: Building capacities of schools to raise fund</u></p> <p>This project aims to build the capacity of teachers, parents, and children to effectively fundraise to provide educational kits to children in need, thereby reducing barriers caused by poverty. Teachers will receive annual fundraising training, parents will be trained in recycling and organising quarterly markets, and children will learn crowdfunding basics. The project will be implemented in three phases: training sessions, pilot fundraising events, and full-scale implementation with ongoing support.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Skill recognition and development</u></p> <p>This project aims to identify 200 unrecognised skilled workers, such as electrical workers, solar power technicians and domestic laborers, and transform them into certified professionals through training in collaboration with the VTA and the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau. Many experienced but uncertified workers struggle to find proper jobs and fair pay due to a lack of formal recognition. Additionally, when migrating for work, they often remain in low-paying positions as they are not classified as skilled workers.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Teachers and students of the selected 12 schools	200 uncertified skilled workers
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased funds for school equipment • Enhanced fundraising skills among stakeholders in school • Improved educational access for vulnerable children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced job opportunities and higher wages. • Improved skill recognition
Available resources and sustainability plan	Ministry of Women and Child Affairs will be responsible for the maintenance	Responsible entity
Approximate budget in LKR	24 Mn (2Mn per school)	10 Mn

Division	Karachchi, Kandawalai	Karachchi
Location	<i>Brahmandanaru pond, Kallaru pond</i>	Northern Provincial Sports complex
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Renovation of agricultural ponds</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate two identified agricultural ponds to improve water management and enhance crop irrigation. The water resources were damaged during the conflict.</p>	<p><u>Sports: Renovation of the sports complex</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the sports complex, as athletes and spectators are currently face difficulties in using the facility. The renovation includes repairing the seating areas, locker rooms, sports equipment, and washrooms. This is the only sports complex available in the Northern Province.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Local Farmers from 42 <i>GNDs</i>	Community members, particularly the youth in the Northern Province
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Agricultural Productivity • Sustainable Farming and Economic Growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved sports facilities and community engagement • Improved psychological well-being
Available resources and sustainability plan	Irrigation Department will be responsible for the maintenance	Department of Sports will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	294 Mn	30 Mn

Division	Karachchi	Karachchi
Location	Schools in Yakkachchi and Vattakachchi	Malayalapuram
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Education: Renovation of school building</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the identified partially completed school buildings, including the construction of classrooms and toilets. The lack of facilities has created significant challenges for students in their studies.</p>	<p><u>Education: Construction of a library equipped with ICT tools</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a local library equipped it with ICT tools, including computers, digital knowledge repositories, and an expanded selection of books. If a suitable building is available in the district for this purpose, no new building will be built. The current lack of resources limits access to knowledge for community members.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	1200 - 1800 students at present	Community members including students
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved learning environment • Enhanced student safety and well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced access to knowledge and digital resources • Improved educational and skill development opportunities
Available resources and sustainability plan	The school and Zonal education office will be responsible for the maintenance	State land is available (near the Vanneri GS office) DS office will be the custodian/responsible entity
Approximate budget in LKR	4.2 Mn	2 Mn

Division	Karachchi	Kandawalai, Poonakari, Pachchilaipalli, Karachchi
Location	Karachchi	All the village-based clubs
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Infrastructure: Renovation of Tamil Sanka Building</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate Tamil Sanka cultural hall, which will serve as a community center for events, workshops, and performances. This initiative seeks to address the current shortage of resources for local arts and community engagement.</p>	<p><u>Sports: Provision of training and sports equipment to sports clubs</u></p> <p>This project aims to supply essential sports equipment and provide training to sports clubs, enabling community members to access quality gear. Without proper equipment and training, sports programmes cannot be effectively implemented, impacting the overall sports experience and development.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members	Community members including young individuals
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced social cohesion, • Increased opportunities for local arts • Enriched cultural landscape for community members • Enhanced community engagement and cultural appreciation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased opportunities for sports and engagement • Enhanced social interaction and teamwork • Increased resilience among students • Sports as a healthy alternative for substance use
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Urban Council (UC) will be responsible for the maintenance</p> <p>Rent out the facility for private events to generate additional cost for maintenance</p>	Pradeshya Sabha will be responsible for the maintenance.
Approximate budget in LKR	12 Mn	4.5 Mn

Division	District level	Kandawalai , Karachchi, Poonagari
Location		
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Sports: Strengthening sports clubs and associations of persons with disabilities to promote inclusive sports</u></p> <p>This project aims to implement a six-month capacity-building programme for sports clubs and associations for persons with disabilities to promote inclusive sports. The programme will focus on fundraising, hiring trainers, and organising an annual sports meet, supported by an initial seed fund. Training will be provided to ensure the sustainability and independence of these initiatives. Currently, persons with disabilities do not receive sufficient and equitable opportunities to participate in sports, despite their strong willingness and interest.</p>	<p><u>Culture: Capacity-building of Araneri teachers to promote social cohesion</u></p> <p>This project aims to implement a six-month capacity-building programme for Araneri teachers, designed to foster social cohesion within the community. The programme will equip them with skills to strengthen unity both within and between communities. Additionally, they will be trained to critically analyse teaching methods to prevent the misinterpretation of religious concepts in ways that could undermine other religious communities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	120-180 persons with disabilities	Araneri class teachers and student at present
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced well-being of persons with disabilities • Enhanced capacities of sports clubs and Associations for persons with disabilities • Increased social transformation skills and community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured positive adaptation of lifestyle for the community members • Ensured long-term community cohesion
Available resources and sustainability plan	resp	res
Approximate budget in LKR	7 Mn	15 Mn

Division	Kandawalai, Poonakari, Pachchilaipalli, Karachchi	Kandawalai/ Poonakary
Location		Brahmandanaru, Punnai Neeravi, Naathan Thittam
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<u>Sports: Capacity-building for selected sports coaches</u> This project aims to enhance the capabilities of identified sports coaches in using sports as a tool for healing, stress relief, and promoting a healthy lifestyle in collaboration with the Ministry of Sports. The trained sports coaches will be equipped and supported to organise an annual event that fosters community healing, social cohesion, and reconciliation.	<u>Livelihood: Establishment of a groundnut processing factory</u> This project aims to establish a facility for producing groundnut-based products, utilising locally sourced groundnut yield. Currently, there are no similar factories in the region. External vendors purchase groundnuts from local farmers at low prices, add value to these products, and subsequently sell them at higher prices. This practice adversely affects the efforts and earnings of the local farming community.
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	500-700 Athletes	50 local farmers
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced athletic skills • Increased capacity of coaches • Development of social and conflict transformation skills among youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased value-addition for raw products • Increased job opportunities and income for local farmers • Economic growth of the division
Available resources and sustainability plan	The Department of Sports will also be capacitated to sustain this initiative	The DS office will be responsible for the monitoring
Approximate budget in LKR	15 Mn	25 Mn

Division	Kandawalai	District level
Location	Brahmandanaru, Mayilvaahanapuram	
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of a coconut oil production facility</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a coconut oil production facility to process the abundant coconuts from the region, which are currently exported to other districts for processing. By setting up this facility locally, the initiative will enable the community to process and market coconut oil directly, reducing dependency on external processing centers. The facility will be equipped with machinery for extracting and refining coconut oil and will provide training to local workers on production techniques.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: establishment of a place for memorialisation</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a memorial space to honor those lost in the conflict, offering a dedicated venue for annual commemorations. It will provide families and the community with a place to pay tribute to their loved ones while supporting emotional healing and alleviating psychological burdens.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Local coconut cultivators Conflict-affected women (as employees)	Entire community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased value-addition for raw products • Increased job opportunities and income for local farmers • Economic growth of the division 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted psychosocial well-being • Promoted reconciliation • Contributes to addressing trauma • Trust built
Available resources and sustainability plan	State land is available Coconut Development Authority (CDA) and WRD will be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance	TBD
Approximate budget in LKR	3 Mn	5 Mn

Division	Kandawalai/ Poonakary	Kandawalai
Location	Punnai Neeravi/ Mulankavil, Matuvil Nadu West	Puliyampokkanai, Punnai Neeravi, Brahmandanaru, Kandawalai
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of a poultry farm</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a poultry farm, leveraging available local resources to support persons with disabilities who are interested in poultry farming. The initiative will involve knowledge transfer and capacity-building programme and setting up the necessary infrastructure for poultry production, including housing, feed systems, and healthcare facilities for the birds.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Capacity-building on improving quality of livestock and production</u></p> <p>This project aims to strengthen the capacities of livestock farmers by enhancing grazing practices, providing technical support, and introducing improved livestock breeds and management techniques.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	100-140 persons with disabilities	40-60 families in the community
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased income and employment opportunities • Strengthened collective engagement and empowerment of persons with disabilities • Developed skills among community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained livestock farming • Increased income opportunities
Available resources and sustainability plan	Veterinary Department will be responsible for the monitoring and follow-up	Grazing lands are available Veterinary department and DS office will be responsible for the maintenance.
Approximate budget in LKR	1 Mn	0.2 Mn

Division	<i>Kandawalai/ Pachchilaipalli/ Poonakary</i>	<i>Kandawalai/ Poonakary/ Pachchilaipalli</i>
Location		<i>19, XX, XX schools in Kandawalai, Poonakary, Pachchilaipalli respectively</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Psychosocial: Promoting ethical use of social media</u></p> <p>This project aims to implement a six-month awareness programme focused on promoting the ethical use of social media. The programme will address issues such as hate speech, the spread of disinformation and misinformation, excessive use of social media, and misogyny. Consultations with local communities have indicated that the inappropriate use of social media has led to numerous adverse consequences in the region, including an increase in suicide rates.</p> <p>Note: According to recent data, Kilinochchi has been recorded as the district with the highest number of suicides.</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Awareness programmes on mental health and psychosocial care</u></p> <p>This initiative aims to conduct a six-month mental health awareness programme for school children, addressing their psychosocial needs in the post-conflict context including issues such as drug usage and early child marriages. School principals, teachers, and parents have identified a strong need for psychosocial support among school children.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Youth and university students	Approximately XX students
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved mental health • Enhanced community cohesion • Increased responsible behavior both online and offline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved well-being of school children by addressing traumas • Enhanced resilience among school children
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS office and local CSOs will be responsible for supporting the initiative	Human resources: Counselling teachers and counseling officers attached to DS offices DS office and Zonal education office will be responsible for supporting
Approximate budget in LKR	13.5 Mn	3 Mn

Division	Kandawalai	<i>Kandawalai</i>
Location	All the villages	<i>Kandawalai- Vilai poomi ground Korakkankaddu GN Division.</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Psychosocial: Campaign to create awareness on child marriage</u></p> <p>This project seeks to conduct a campaign aimed at increasing awareness of child marriage and its adverse effects. The initiative will encompass capacity-building programmes for government officials engaged in child protection, educators, and counselors focusing on enhancing the social and cultural activities of the children and providing comprehensive sexual and reproductive education.</p> <p>Note: Consultations with communities have indicated a rise in the incidence of child marriages within the division. However, no official data is currently available to corroborate this</p>	<p><u>Infrastructure: Renovation of playgrounds</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate the playgrounds in the identified three villages. The absence of adequate facilities has resulted in the neglect of these playgrounds and their misuse of illicit activities.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members in the division	Community members, particularly young individuals and children
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced child marriages • Improved gender equality and women empowerment • Increased opportunities for education and social development for women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced community engagement and unity. • Improved recreational facilities. • Strengthened informal sports networks
Available resources and sustainability plan	An establishment of a network against child brides, composing the people trained will replicate this programme in other divisions and district	UC will be responsible for sustainability
Approximate budget in LKR	2 Mn	7.5Mn

Division	Kandawalai	Kandawalai
Location	Kandawalai	Puliyampokkanai
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Drying floor construction for post-harvest processing</u></p> <p>This project will construct a drying floor to improve post-harvest processing for local farmers. Farmers often face significant post-harvest challenges due to inadequate drying methods, leading to crop spoilage, reduced product quality, and lower marketability. The drying floor will efficiently remove moisture from crops, reducing spoilage and enhancing products quality.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of Paddy Storage</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a paddy storage facility to support local paddy cultivators. Currently, due to the lack of such storage facilities, post-harvest losses are high, and intermediaries gain most of the profits while the farmers bear the brunt of the hard work.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Local farmers	Local paddy farmers
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced post-harvest processing efficiency for local farmers • Reduced spoilage and improved product quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Income Stability for farmers • Reduced post-harvest losses.
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>State land is available</p> <p>DS office will take responsibility for the maintenance</p>	<p>State land available</p> <p>Agricultural Cooperatives Authority (ACA) will be responsible for the maintenance</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	10 Mn	20 Mn

Division	<i>Kandawalai</i>	Kandawalai
Location	<i>Kandawalai</i>	Kandawalai
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Culture: Capacity-building of instrumental musicians</u></p> <p>This project aims to develop the capacity of instrumental musicians, leveraging their talent to foster community resilience and unity. The project will include training, musical instruments, and resources to enhance their instrumental skills and knowledge, including the establishment of a recording room. In addition, the project will facilitate community music events and music therapy programmes to support emotional healing and stimulate economic growth.</p>	<p><u>Culture: Supporting and Mentoring Rural Artisans</u></p> <p>This project aims to support rural artisans by providing opportunities, training, and equipment to showcase their skills and connect with wider audiences. By identifying and mentoring local craftsmen, the initiative seeks to elevate their craft by providing them with resources and guidance to enhance their work. The project will focus on organising exhibitions, workshops, and networking events to introduce these artisans to new markets and potential buyers.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community musicians	50- 75 community artisans
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved musical proficiency among local musicians • Strengthened community bonds and a sense of belonging • Advanced emotional resilience and creative expression • Increased economic opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostered growth of traditional rural arts • Enhanced economic opportunities for the skilled and passionate artisans
Available resources and sustainability plan	Department of Fine Arts under the University of Jaffna will be responsible (negotiations need to be done)	Availability of skilled and passionate artisans Department of Industries will be responsible for the implementation
Approximate budget in LKR	100 Mn	2 Mn
Division	District level	<i>Kandawalai</i>

Location		<i>Kandawalai</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Psychosocial: Supporting memorialisation through cultural expressions on Remembrance Day</u></p> <p>This project aims to assist communities, through civil society organisations and the University of Jaffna, in commemorating those lost during the conflict on Remembrance Day (May 18). The initiative will use traditional arts such as dance, art, music, drama, and literature to focus to explore themes of new reality, memory, and identity, in accordance with Sri Lanka's legal framework.</p>	<p><u>Culture: Supporting community-led revitalisation of traditional arts</u></p> <p>This project is designed to empower local communities to rejuvenate their traditional village arts, such as <i>Bharatanatyam, Kummi, Kolattam, and Karagattam</i>. The initiative will focus on promoting traditional arts education, facilitating apprenticeships and mentorships, supporting public art and performances, and utilising digital platforms and technologies to enhance their visibility and sustainability.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members	Community level artisans
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for communities to adapt to post-conflict realities, fostering unity and resilience • Preservation and promotion of cultural heritage • Strengthened capacities of CSOs • Creation of safe spaces for dialogue, contributing to long-term peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted cultural continuity and cultural diplomacy • Enhanced economic empowerment • Promoted cultural tourism and global exchange
Available resources and sustainability plan		Department of Fine Arts under the University of Jaffna will be responsible (negotiations need to be done)
Approximate budget in LKR	5 Mn	10 Mn
Division	District level	Pachchilaipalli
Location	95 GNDs	Palai Town

Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Health: Provision of Specialised Equipment for persons with disabilities</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide essential specialised equipment including prosthetic limbs, artificial hands, braces, and vision aids to persons with disabilities with a focus on those who have become disabled due to the conflict. The initiative will prioritise supplying high-quality, customised devices to enhance mobility and daily functioning for individuals who have been without such essential equipment for decades due to financial constraints.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Construction of local production sales centre</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a local production sales centre dedicated to selling locally harvested produce. Presently, there are no specialised sales centres apart from regular markets, which results in increased involvement of middle vendors.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	60 - 80 persons with disabilities	Local farmers and community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved the quality of life and independence of persons with disabilities • Improved physical and mental well-being of persons with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced reliance on middle vendors • Increased income for local farmers
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS officers are responsible for ensuring the appropriate use of provided equipment, including transferring them to other individuals in need upon the death of a current user, if appropriate	<p>State land is available</p> <p>Department of Co-operative Development & Pachchilaipalli Multipurpose Co-operative Society will be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	11 Mn	10 Mn

Division	<i>Pachchilaipalli</i>	<i>Pachchilaipalli</i>
Location	<i>Pachchilaipalli</i>	<i>Pallai</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of a factory for Coconut and Palmyra products</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish a factory to produce value-added products and create local and international marketing linkages by leveraging locally available resources. Currently, there are no similar factories in the region. External vendors purchase raw yields from local farmers at low prices, add value to these products, and subsequently sell them at higher prices. This practice adversely affects the efforts and earnings of the local community.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Provision of crab-traps</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide crab traps to young individuals involved in crab harvesting. These individuals have limited income-generation due to the lack of crab traps. They will be connected with local fisheries officers to gain knowledge on sustainable crab harvesting, as well as best practices for storage and transport.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	30 women-headed households	30 young individuals
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced employment opportunities • Stimulated local economy and promoted sustainable industry practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of sustainable employment for young individuals • Increased income • Empowered youth
Available resources and sustainability plan	State land is available Department of Industries will be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance	DS office will monitor the usage of the traps through the fisheries department
Approximate budget in LKR	3 Mn	2.5 Mn

Division	<i>Pachchilaipalli</i>	<i>Pachchilaipalli</i>
Location	<i>Maruthankeni and Puloppalai</i>	<i>Pallai</i>
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Expansion of marine resources</u></p> <p>This project aims to establish an integrated coastal aquaculture model in Kilinochchi, combining shrimp and crab farming with practices such as mangrove restoration, organic farming, and eco-friendly fishing techniques. A six-month training programme will equip local fishermen with these techniques, enhancing their potential to generate income. Currently, due to the lack of such provisions, coastal resources are not fully utilised, leading to shifts in biodiversity.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishment of a coir fiber production facility</u></p> <p>This project aims to set up a coir fiber production facility in Pallai, utilising locally available resources. This initiative will create employment opportunities, particularly for women in the community.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Fishermen in the division	Approximately 50 women-headed household
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved coastal resource management and biodiversity conservation • Increased income opportunities for local fishermen and communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased value addition for raw products • Increased household income levels • Increased employment opportunities
Available resources and sustainability plan	DS office and Department of Fisheries will be responsible for the maintenance and follow-up	DS office and Department of Industries will be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	4.5 Mn	10 Mn

Division	Pachchilaipalli	Poonakary
Location	Pachchilaipalli persons with disabilities association	Vaadiyadi
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Psychosocial: Supporting community yoga practices for persons with disabilities</u></p> <p>This project aims to implement a year-long yoga programme for individuals with disabilities, tailored to their specific needs. It will include facilitating yoga classes as a pilot programme, training local instructors on inclusive practices and trauma-informed approaches, and creating a supportive environment for individuals with disabilities to share experiences and build resilience while ensuring the project's sustainability.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Establishing a traditional food production centre</u></p> <p>This project aims to construct a traditional food production centre in <i>Poonakary</i>, making homemade nutritious food available to the community. Community consultations have revealed that many people, especially working parents, often rely on fast food due to the unavailability of homemade meals. This centre will cater to individuals and families seeking access to wholesome, traditional food.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	120 – 150 persons with disabilities	10 - 15 women-headed families and at least 50% of persons with disabilities
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved physical health and mobility among participants • Enhanced mental well-being and reduced symptoms of trauma • Strengthened social bonds and community resilience • Empowered local instructors with skills in inclusive and trauma-informed yoga practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to healthy, homemade food options • Improved nutrition for children of working parents • Improved income for the women headed households and for persons with disabilities
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Helpage Sri Lanka already conducts yoga sessions for persons with disabilities; hence, this effort can be replicated in collaboration with them.</p> <p>The social service department will be responsible for the monitoring</p>	<p>State land is available</p> <p>DS office will be responsible for the monitoring and maintenance</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	1 Mn	3 Mn

Division	District level	District level
Location	All four divisions	All four divisions
Tentative title and brief description of the project	<p><u>Psychosocial: Awareness on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)</u></p> <p>This project aims to implement an awareness programme that incorporates training, public outreach, and education on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Consultations with conflict-affected communities, particularly women-headed households and women with disabilities, have underscored a rise in instances of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).</p>	<p><u>Psychosocial: Action research on intergenerational effects of conflict and conflict-related trauma among school children</u></p> <p>This project aims to conduct an action research study to identify the intergenerational effects of conflict and conflict-related trauma among school children. The study will also investigate how conflict and trauma influence relationships and interactions among children and within their wider communities.</p>
Expected beneficiaries	Government officials (<i>Grama Niladharies</i> , all staff of Divisional and District Secretariates, and police officers)	Children from schools
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of SEA-free service delivery • Strengthened trust within communities • Enhanced physical and mental well-being 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed psychological challenges in school children affected by intergenerational trauma • Examined trauma's impact on social relationships and community dynamics • Developed evidence-based strategies to support healing, reconciliation, and social cohesion among affected populations
Available resources and sustainability plan		Available data in schools and DS offices
Approximate budget in LKR	2 Mn per division	6 Mn

Division	District level	Kandawalai
Location		
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Development: Mapping and repurposing abandoned, damaged, and unused buildings</u></p> <p>This project aims to conduct a district-level assessment to identify abandoned and unused public buildings, including those damaged during the conflict, and repurpose them based on current needs. Damaged buildings will be renovated before reassignment. The construction needs identified in this mapping study will be prioritised in the repurposing process.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: Renovating and modernising the rice mill of MPCs</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate and modernise a rice mill to expand rice processing activities in the village and create self-employment opportunities for women. By upgrading the mill, the initiative will enhance local rice production capabilities. The project will include the development of milling infrastructure, procurement of necessary equipment, and training for women in rice milling and business management.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Community members	Local farmers and community members
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective utilisation of existing resources • Fulfilling the construction needs of the district in a cost-effective manner • Decreasing the likelihood of illicit activities in abandoned buildings within the district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported economic development • Improved food security • Empowered women through entrepreneurial opportunities and community integration
Available resources and sustainability plan	Data in the District Secretariat	Department of Cooperative Development will be responsible for the maintenance
Approximate budget in LKR	1 Mn	30 Mn

Division	Karachchi	District Level
Location		
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Livelihood: Renovation of rice mill and adding solar power features</u></p> <p>This project aims to renovate a rice mill by incorporating solar power features to generate job opportunities and decrease reliance on middle vendors. The initiative addresses the challenges of low selling prices for farmers and their high dependency on external vendors.</p>	<p><u>Livelihood: capacity building for women on market linkages</u></p> <p>This project aims to enhance the skills of women and persons with disabilities to market their products both locally and internationally, including through e-markets. Currently, limited market linkages reduce potential sales opportunities. The project will include training on quality enhancement, marketing strategy development, digital marketing techniques, customer relationship management, and organising networking events.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Local paddy farmers	Women and persons with disabilities
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced reliance on middle vendors • Increased income for local paddy farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased sales and revenue • Enhanced market access • Development of communities and empowerment of women and persons with disabilities
Available resources and sustainability plan	<p>Building is available</p> <p>DS office will be responsible for the maintenance</p>	<p>DS office and Department of Industries will be responsible for the implementation, monitoring, and follow-up.</p>
Approximate budget in LKR	30 Mn	10 Mn

Division	District level	District level
Location		
Tentative title of the project and brief project description	<p><u>Strengthening family empowerment and socio-economic well-being through capacity-building</u></p> <p>This project aims to build capacity for married couples to promote family resilience by reducing domestic and intimate partner violence. It will collaborate with organisations providing income generation initiatives, integrating financial independence into training. This helps women reduce dependence on abusive partners and enhances economic family resilience. The initiative includes targeted training for CSO group members, needs assessments, continuous monitoring, and follow-up support. Emphasising non-violent communication and mutual respect, the project will include workshops and interactive sessions to improve overall family well-being, including parenting.</p>	<p><u>Education: Innovative spaces and systems for children</u></p> <p>This project aims to provide a space with technological and traditional tools to nurture children's innovation and independent invention. The goal is to inspire students to move beyond the syllabus, fostering creativity and critical thinking. Currently, students lack interest due to limited opportunities for exploration and hands-on learning.</p>
Targeted number and type(s) of beneficiaries	Married couples (including newly married) and village CSO members	Students
Potential impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowered couples to create supportive, resilient families • Ensured safe and harmonious family environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced creativity and innovation among school children • Increased student engagement through hands-on learning opportunities
Available resources and sustainability plan		
Approximate budget in LKR	2 Mn	10 Mn



Collective Reparation Initiatives for the conflict affected victims- 2023 and 2024

No	Project title	District and DS division	Key stakeholders	Targeted beneficiaries (segregated data)	Project description	Objectives/ Impact
01	Vocational Training Centre for YPWDs (Phase I)	Kilinochchi, Ariviyal Nagar	Ministry of Women, Child Affairs & Social Empowerment	No of students: 46 Female: 27 Male: 19	The disabled students included the persons with lack of intellectual capacity and persons who cannot walk. However, they faced difficulties in continuously engaged in their studies residentially due to having no proper dining facilities at this centre. Therefore, OR with support from IOM helped complete the work of the dining area.	The right to education is ensured for the young persons with disabilities.
02	Renovation of health clinic and livelihood centre	Polonnaruwa, Welikanda DS	Welikanda DS, MoH, SLITA	No of beneficiaries: 1188 Female: 650 Male: 538 Muslim 827 & Tamil: 361	Renovated the damaged building to be used for multi-purposes such as health clinic and community activities and renovation of another abandoned building to be used as a livelihood centre for women from female headed households.	The right to access health services, community gathering and women empowerment.
03	Collective livelihood support for	Kilinochchi, Poonakary DS	Poonakary DS	No of beneficiaries: 15 vulnerable entrepreneurs	This project aims to establish a comprehensive collective livelihood support system tailored for vulnerable	Facilitated sustainable economic empowerment and resilience among

	vulnerable entrepreneurs			affected by the conflict and their families (nearly, 63 people – 37 female & 23 male	entrepreneurs facing economic hardships in Kilinochchi district. By fostering a sense of community and collaboration, the initiative seeks to empower these individuals through skill development, access to financial resources, and mentorship programs. Through targeted interventions, such as training workshops, and networking events, the project aspired to enhance the resilience and sustainability of businesses operated by vulnerable entrepreneurs. By fostering a supportive ecosystem, the collective livelihood support initiative endeavors to create lasting positive impacts on the economic well-being of these individuals, ultimately contributing to their long-term success and community development.	vulnerable entrepreneurs by implementing comprehensive collective livelihood support programs aimed at enhancing their skills, fostering community collaboration, and creating opportunities for socio-economic advancement
04	Collective livelihood support for aggrieved women	Puttalam	Alliance 5 Pvt Ltd, Muslim Women Development Trust (MWDT)	No of beneficiaries: 10 women from female headed households and these	This project aims to empower and uplift aggrieved women from Internally Displaced Persons Families in Puttalam, who have been affected by conflict, by providing comprehensive collective	Established and implemented a targeted collective livelihood support initiative for aggrieved women from Internally Displaced Persons

				women and their families are IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) due to the conflict.	livelihood support. Through skill-building initiatives, community collaboration, and targeted resources, the project seeks to enhance the economic resilience and well-being of these women, fostering a pathway towards sustainable recovery.	Families in Puttalam, addressing the impact of conflict by providing skill development, economic opportunities, and fostering community resilience.
05	Collective reparations for missed educational for students at Abdeen School with majority of students from Internally Displaced Persons Families	Puttalam	Puttalam DS, Puttalam District and Zonal Education Office, Abdeen School	No of beneficiaries: 250 students – 139 female students & 111 male students. Most of these students are from Internally Displaced Persons Families. (IDPs)	This project aimed to provide collective reparations for missed educational opportunities by supporting 250 students, predominantly from Internally Displaced Persons Families, at Abdeen School in Puttalam.	The right to education is ensured through this initiative and this collective reparation will be an acknowledgement by the OR for the damage these families of IDPs had due to conflict.
06	Provision of a vehicle to the Vocational Institute for Disabled persons	Batticaloa	Women's Ministry Batticaloa DS	No of students: 36 Female: 13 Male: 23 Sinhala: 01 Tamil: 19 Muslim: 04	The disabled students included the persons with lack of intellectual capacity and persons who cannot walk. However, they faced difficulties in accessing their health services as they did not have a vehicle. IOM provided a vehicle	The right to access health services of the disabled students is facilitated. Right to movement is ensured.

				Christian: 01		Right to vocational education is ensured.
07	Vocational Training Centre for YPWDs (Phase II)	Kilinochchi, Ariviyal Nagar	Ministry of Women, Child Affairs & Social Empowerment	No of students: 46 Female: 27 Male: 19	The disabled students included the persons with lack of intellectual capacity and persons who cannot walk. However, they faced difficulties in continuously engaged in their studies residentially due to having no proper dining facilities at this centre. Therefore, OR with support from IOM will help complete part of critical work of the dining area. Phase II	The right to education is ensured for the young persons with disabilities.
08	Amachchi – Healthy Food Centre – Food for Peace	Jaffna District, Delft DS (Kurikadduwan)	Jaffna DS	No of beneficiaries: 20 women who are conflict affected and female headed households under Samurdhi Scheme. Female: 20 Male: 0	The Kurikattuvan is a gateway to two popular pilgrimage places. People from all ethnic groups of Sri Lanka regularly cross this point. Introduction of traditional food of Jaffna to other people of different groups, it will assist to introduce our cultural cuisine and this centre will support to promote ethnic harmony among others. Meanwhile, this centre will support to uplift the livelihood of Women headed families who were severely affected by the conflict.	To empower women headed families. To increase the High demand for the traditional food. To provide this collective livelihood support as a form of collective reparations.
09	Empower Her – Production	Polonnaruwa, Welikanda DS	Welikanda DS, MoH, SLITA	No of beneficiaries:	Initiate livelihood support project of producing sustainable	To improve the financial wellbeing of

	of low-cost re-usable sanitary napkins for vulnerable female in the local communities			<p>05 female in terms of livelihood opportunities and 650 female in the locality will be benefited.</p> <p>Female: 655</p>	<p>sanitary napkins by female in the division to serve the vulnerable female in the community to eradicate period poverty.</p>	<p>selected women from low income households in the division by creating a livelihood opportunity of manufacturing sustainable, eco-friendly and reusable sanitary napkins.</p> <p>To reduce the period poverty at the village level by increasing the accessibility and affordability to sustainable reusable and environmentally friendly sanitary napkins.</p> <p>To help prevent girls from missing school and women from missing work by ensuring that they have access to affordable quality sanitary products.</p>
10	Threads for Hope - Batticaloa	Kalawanchikudy & Ariyampathy DS Divisions.	District Secretariat, Divisional	No of beneficiaries: 26 aggrieved	Improvement of handloom production through the provision of further training to	To increase the financial literacy of twenty-six (26)

			Secretariat, Industrial Development Authority, Potential buyers (Vigo & Jahe Weavers)	women with 13 groups of women engaged in handloom production.	aggrieved women engaged in the business	<p>identified aggrieved women who have previously engaged in the production of handlooms as livelihoods in Bataloa District in order to empower them to sustain in the market.</p> <p>To provide sewing equipment to thirteen identified aggrieved women to support them to restart their livelihoods.</p> <p>To facilitate thirteen (13) groups headed by aggrieved women who have engaged in handloom production to seek market opportunities.</p>
11	Threads for Hope - Ampara	Navithanveli DS	District Secretariat, Divisional Secretariat, Industrial Development Authority,	No of beneficiaries: 38 aggrieved women – most of them from female	Improvement of handloom production through the provision of further training to aggrieved women engaged in the business	To increase the financial literacy of thirty eight (38) identified aggrieved women who have previously engaged in the production of

			Vidatha Resource Centre	headed households.		<p>handlooms as livelihoods in Navithaveli Divisional Secretariat in Ampara District in order to empower them to sustain in the market.</p> <p>To facilitate three groups headed by aggrieved women who have engaged in handloom production to seek market opportunities.</p>
12	Stitching Dreams - Jaffna	Vali South West -Sandilipay DS	District & Divisional Secretariats	No of beneficiaries: 40 young women from Sandilipay DS division.	Financial empowerment of young women in Jaffna through training on Ari Embroidery	<p>To equip 40 young women in Sandilipay division, Jaffna with knowledge and technical skills on design and creation of Ari embroidery work by comprehensive training in order to empower them to generate income.</p> <p>To provide training materials and necessary machineries to the working center</p>

						to support their livelihoods.
13	Light for life - Ampara	Navithanveli DS	District Secretariat, Divisional Secretariat, Industrial Development Authority, Vidatha Resource Centre	No of beneficiaries: 09 aggrieved female	Financial empowerment of aggrieved families through Candle making Livelihood Development Project	<p>To provide technology and hands on experience on value added candle making to 09 aggrieved females in Sorikkalmunai 01 village in Navithanveli Division of Ampara District.</p> <p>To provide financial literacy, value addition, packaging and marketing techniques to 09 aggrieved females for long term sustainability of their income.</p>
14	Light for life - Batticaloa	Manmunai North & Eravurpattu DS divisions	District Secretariat, Divisional Secretariat, Industrial Development Authority, Vidatha	No of beneficiaries: 08 women from female headed households	Financial empowerment of aggrieved families through Candle making Livelihood Development Project	To provide technology and hands on experience on value added candle making to 08 female headed aggrieved females in Manmunai North and Eravurpattu divisions of Batticaloa District.

			Resource Centre			To provide financial literacy, value addition, packaging and marketing techniques to 08 female headed and aggrieved females for long term sustainability of their income.
15	Collective reparations for missed educational for students at Abdeen School with majority of students from Internally Displaced Persons Families – Phase II	Puttalam	Puttalam DS, Puttalam District and Zonal Education Office, Abdeen School	No of beneficiaries: 250 students – 139 female students & 111 male students. Most of these students are from Internally Displaced Persons Families. (IDPs)	This project aimed to provide collective reparations for missed educational opportunities by supporting 250 students, predominantly from Internally Displaced Persons Families, at Abdeen School in Puttalam. (Toilets, Equipment, etc)	The right to education is ensured through this initiative and this collective reparation will be an acknowledgement by the OR for the damage these families of IDPs had due to conflict.
16	Aari work-Kayts	Jaffna	Kayts DS	No of beneficiaries: Direct: 27 young women Indirect: Families of the beneficiaries	This project aimed to provide Ari Embroidery training for 20 days and to provide training material and tools for the training. Also, sawing machines (5 nos) for the training centre under the Divisional secretariat were given	Increase of the monthly income of the beneficiaries (27). Project progress monitoring is carried out with Divisional

					for the empowerment of the beneficiaries.	Planning unit and RO, Jaffna
17	Coloring Hands – Jaffna	Thenmaradchi	Thenmaradchi DS	No of beneficiaries: Direct: 37 women	<p>This project aimed to build the capacities of the women beneficiaries making palmyra handicrafts.</p> <p>Under the project, 3 days training on making Winnowing fans, Hand Fan and round trays was provided. In addition, awareness on value addition, finishing and durability of products and awareness regarding the incorporation process of small-scale business enterprises was built. Coloring material, tools and equipment and wooden cupboards (2) to store products were given to the beneficiaries.</p>	Increase of the monthly income of the beneficiaries (27)
18	Stitching Dreams – Aari work	Kiran, Batticaloa	Kiran DS	No of beneficiaries: Direct: 20 young women. Women in Kiran division willing for tailoring. Indirect: Their families	<p>This project aimed to conduct a 20-day Ari Embroidery Training Program to enhance the vocational skills and economic opportunities of targeted beneficiaries. To support the training, the project provided essential training materials and tools, ensuring participants had access to the necessary resources for effective learning. As part of the first phase of support, three sewing machines</p>	<p>Increase of the monthly income of the beneficiaries (20)</p> <p>Project progress monitoring is carried out with Divisional Planning unit and RO, Batticaloa.</p>

					<p>were supplied to the training center operating under the Divisional Secretariat, contributing to the long-term sustainability of the initiative. In the second phase, the project further strengthened the center's capacity by providing six additional sewing machines, enabling continued support and skill development for a broader group of beneficiaries.</p>	
19	Stitching Dreams – Aari work	Valaichenai , Batticaloa	Valaichenai DS	<p>No of beneficiaries: Direct: 20 young women. Women in Kiran division willing for tailoring. Indirect: Their families</p>	<p>This project aimed to conduct a 20-day Ari Embroidery Training Program to enhance the vocational skills and economic opportunities of targeted beneficiaries. To support the training, the project provided essential training materials and tools, ensuring participants had access to the necessary resources for effective learning. As part of the first phase of support, three sewing machines were supplied to the training center operating under the Divisional Secretariat, contributing to the long-term sustainability of the initiative. In the second phase, the project</p>	<p>Increase of the monthly income of the beneficiaries (20)</p> <p>Project progress monitoring is carried out with Divisional Planning unit and RO, Batticaloa.</p>

					further strengthened the center's capacity by providing six additional sewing machines, enabling continued support and skill development for a broader group of beneficiaries.	
20	Solar power training	Mannar-Nanattan	Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA), the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL), Experts from the University of Jaffna and SLSEA-registered solar power service providing companies	No of beneficiaries: Direct: 16 young individuals Indirect: families of beneficiaries	This project aimed to conduct a comprehensive training programme to enhance the skills and employability of selected beneficiaries. The programme was delivered through the engagement of a qualified resource person, ensuring both theoretical and practical aspects were effectively covered. To enrich the learning experience, the training included facilitated practical sessions and field visits to power plants, allowing participants to gain firsthand exposure to industry operations. Furthermore, the project coordinated with the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA) and beneficiaries to identify and pursue employment opportunities within the energy sector. It also collaborated with the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) to support	After the training, beneficiaries were recruited part-time or full-time by solar power service providing companies, based on their manpower needs. Also the trained beneficiaries are directed to solar power service providing companies in other districts as per the needs by SLSEA. Further, beneficiaries can obtain National Vocational Qualification Level 3 after completion of the training and using practical experience working with companies.
21	Solar power training	Mannar-Nanattan		No of beneficiaries: Direct: 16 young individuals Indirect: families of beneficiaries		
22	Solar power training	Vavuniya		No of beneficiaries: Direct: 21 young individuals Indirect: families of beneficiaries		
23	Solar power training	Batticaloa		No of beneficiaries: Direct: 21		

				young individuals Indirect: families of beneficiaries	beneficiaries in obtaining National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 certification, strengthening their credentials and access to job opportunities.	
24	Solar power training	Trincomalee		No of beneficiaries: Direct: 52 young individuals Indirect: families of beneficiaries		
25	Support for education to the conflict affected schools	Ampara-Navithanweli	Zonal Educational Office, Navithanweli DS	No of beneficiaries: 181 girl students	This project aimed to construct separate toilet facilities for girls at Veppayadi Kalaimahal Vidyalaya, addressing a critical need for improved sanitation. The lack of adequate toilet facilities had been a major contributing factor to school dropouts and low attendance rates, as many female students faced challenges due to the absence of appropriate sanitation infrastructure.	Increased attendance of female students Decreased dropouts Increased psychosocial wellbeing of female students
26	Support for education to the conflict affected schools	Ampara-Navithanweli	Zonal Educational Office, Navithanweli DS	No of beneficiaries: 328 students	This project aimed to improve the educational facilities and overall learning environment for students at Veppayadi Kalaimahal Maha Vidyalaya, Ampara. As part of this initiative, the project provided essential sanitary napkins, dustbins, and storage boxes to ensure the	Increased opportunities for education Increased psychosocial wellbeing of female students

					<p>hygiene and well-being of the students, particularly girls. Additionally, school equipment was supplied to enhance classroom experience and support the students' educational development. These interventions were designed to create a more conducive and inclusive environment, fostering better attendance and learning outcomes.</p>	
27	Light for Life project –on value addition	Ampara-Navithanveli	Navithanveli DS	No of beneficiaries: 15 women headed households	<p>This project aimed to support beneficiaries in starting their own production ventures by providing raw materials essential for initiating their businesses. The project also included hands-on training to equip participants with the practical skills required for production processes. In addition, financial literacy training was offered to enhance their understanding of managing business finances effectively. A key focus of the project was to raise awareness on value addition and finishing techniques, enabling beneficiaries to enhance the quality, appeal, and marketability of their products, ultimately increasing their value in the market. Furthermore, a</p>	Increase of the monthly income of the beneficiaries (20).

					marketing network was created to help connect the beneficiaries with potential buyers, facilitating market access and fostering long-term business growth.	
28	Handloom project	Manmunai Pattu, Manmunai South Eruvilpattu Division, Batticaloa	Particular DS Divisions	No of beneficiaries: 13 groups including 89 individuals	This project aimed to empower beneficiaries by providing raw materials necessary to kickstart their production activities. It included hands-on training to equip participants with the practical skills required for efficient production processes. In addition, the project offered financial literacy training, enabling beneficiaries to better manage and grow their businesses. A strong focus was placed on raising awareness of value addition and finishing techniques, helping participants enhance the quality and market appeal of their products. To further support their business growth, the project facilitated the creation of a marketing network, connecting beneficiaries with potential buyers and broadening their market access.	Increase of the monthly income of the beneficiaries.
29	Light for life	Manmunai North division, Batticaloa	Manmunai North DS division,	No of beneficiaries: Direct: 8 families. (Two groups)		
30	Handloom project	Navithanveli division, Ampara	Navithanveli DS Division	No of beneficiaries: 3 groups including 38 individuals		
31	Light for life	Navithanveli division, Ampara	Navithanveli DS Division	No of beneficiaries: Direct: 15 women headed households		

Capacity building workshop series

Date and duration	Participants	Content	No of participants and gender disaggregation	Medium
13 December 2022	Staff of Office for Reparations	-Improving mental health - Self-care in the workplace -team building	Total: 19 Women: 11 Men: 8	English
January 2022	Staff of Office for Reparations Regional Reparation Officers Case managers National Integration Officers	-Gender sensitive approaches -Victim centric approaches - Do No Harm principle	Total: 72 Women: 32 Men: 40	Sinhala and Tamil
1 st of February 2023- 3 rd of February 2023	Case managers	MHPSS Refresher training	Total: 36 Women: 16 Men: 20	Tamil
7 th of February 2023-9 th of February 2023	Case managers	MHPSS Refresher training		Sinhala
17 th and 18 th November 2023	Staff of Office for Reparations	-Gender inclusivity -Referral pathways	Total: 23 Women: 17 Men: 6	Sinhala and Tamil
1 December 2023		-Communication skills	Total: 31 Women: 22 Men: 9	
8 and 9 December 2023		-leadership skills -organizational skills -project cycle management	Total: 39 Women: 21 Men: 18	

Report on Assessment of Needs of the Office of Missing Persons¹ of Sri Lanka

¹ Prepared by Eduardo González with the assistance of Manisha Dissanayake and Vyshnavi Manogaran.

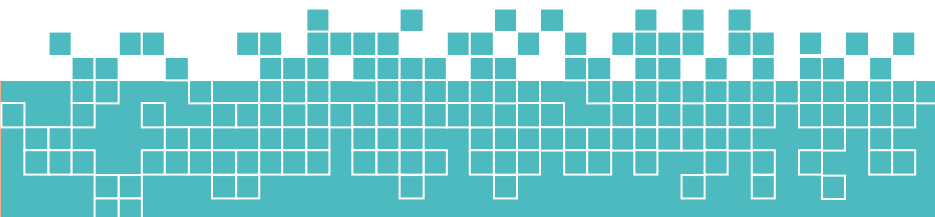


Table of contents

1. CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 1.1. Victims of forced disappearances in Sri Lanka
- 1.2. Establishment of the OMP
- 1.3. The establishment of the OMP
- 1.4. Operationalization of the OMP²

Conclusion

2. THE LEGAL MANDATE OF THE OMP

- 2.1. The Objectives of the OMP
- 2.2. Accountability and humanitarian approaches in the OMP: connection and tension
- 2.3. General Powers of the OMP and Practical Considerations
- 2.4. Powers of Investigation of the OMP
- 2.5. Additional Functions and Duties of the OMP
- 2.6. The Tracing Unit of the OMP
- 2.7. The Victim and Witness Protection Division of the OMP
- 2.8. Assistance, funding and protection afforded to the OMP

Conclusion

² Annual reports of the OMP 2018-2021

3. INSTITUTIONAL AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY GAPS

3.1. Institutional commitment

3.1.1. Context and leadership

3.1.2. Staff motivation

3.1.3. Defining the mission of the OMP

3.2. Technical capacity gaps

3.2.1. Need of a national plan on search for the missing

3.2.2 Tracing capacity

3.2.3 Engagement with the families of the missing

3.2.4 Provision of services to families

3.2.5. Budget, staffing and offices

3.3. Assessment of risk

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Concerning the OMP

4.2. Concerning the government of Sri Lanka

4.3. Concerning civil society and survivors' organizations

4.4. Concerning international agencies

“Secrets turn powerless in the open air.”

- Michael Ondaatje. *“Anil’s Ghost”*

Introduction

The human rights violations caused by enforced disappearances in Sri Lanka cannot be exaggerated. Thousands of individual families have been subjected to the torturous grieving caused by the uncertain fate of a loved one and denial of truth and justice. Community memories are marked by the continuous, open wound of unresolved injustice. The public sphere is disrupted by repressed fears and trauma bursting into scene, weakening political processes of reconciliation.

The damaging power of disappearances resides in uncertainty, denial of a range of human rights and silence. The only efficacious response to these violations grounded in secrecy is knowledge: ensuring that society and individuals have full access to the truth about what happened, and that the country has the opportunity to discuss its traumatic past openly, anchored on rights and factual information.

This report provides an assessment of the institutional capacities and technical tools at the disposal of the institution charged with establishing the fate and whereabouts of persons disappeared or missing in relation with the conflicts experienced in Sri Lanka: the Office on Missing Persons (hereinafter referred to as the “OMP”).

Born out of formal commitments before the international community and nationwide consultations, the OMP is an indispensable institution for any genuine policy of reconciliation in Sri Lanka, based on the respect of human rights and the rule of law. The OMP is endowed with the legal powers necessary to protect the rights of the families of missing persons, with an approach that is primarily humanitarian.

Despite its importance, the OMP is in a precarious position, with very limited resources and capacity, which imperils its core function of establishing the fate or whereabouts of missing persons. The resulting underperformance feeds disappointment and distrust from harmed communities, especially in the North and East, which runs counter the objective of fostering reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

The situation of the OMP is partly the result of technical weaknesses resulting from governmental neglect, especially during the administration of Pres. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, which withdrew from the commitments Sri Lanka had made at the Human Rights Council, and dismissed the demands from the families of the missing.

The ongoing precariousness of the institution and its problematic relationship with its most important constituency, the families of the missing, resulted in adaptive strategies focusing on deliverables other than the core function of tracing. A focus on prevention and awareness, while critically important, should not be an adaptive result of the difficulties to clarify the fate of the missing. The fundamental expectation of Sri Lankan communities, as demonstrated by nationwide consultation and ongoing demands, is to provide the truth about the incidents of missing persons, providing their relatives and their communities with an opportunity to grieve appropriately. Without the demonstrated commitment to clarify the events of the past, it is highly unlikely that the OMP will have the credibility and capacity to prevent recurrence.

The international community should actively engage with the OMP to ensure that the essential technical capacities of the office are developed to effectively trace missing persons. This process should go beyond the mere transfer of resources and capabilities: it requires a clear definition of commitments with the leadership of the OMP, a political environment conducive to holistic transitional justice strategies, and an active role of the families of the missing. Any technical contribution to the OMP should identify indicators of performance and iterative evaluation on the core function defined by the legal mandate: clarifying the fate and whereabouts of the missing.

The OMP must use effectively and creatively the legal tools provided in its legislation to develop the technical instruments it needs and to ensure the human resources necessary. Such instruments include an effective national plan for the search of the missing, a comprehensive registry of missing persons and sites of burial, a definitive protocol for psychosocial support, an effective communications strategy including formal platforms of community participation, an effective protection strategy and a bank of genetic information.

Some of these needs have been already identified by the OMP, which has started a process of strategic planning and has proposed opportunities for collaboration with relevant actors. What is needed is a process of alignment on multiple dimensions: between the legal functions of the OMP, its strategic priorities, the needs of the harmedauthr communities and the governmental political will. The international community, based on careful assessment of whether that alignment is taking place, should contribute with its political support and technical expertise.

This report starts by (1) situating the OMP in the political context of its inception and evolution so far, in order to understand its current situation, which is contrasted with (2) the powers provided by its legal framework. Then, (3) the report describes the gaps between the key functions of the OMP and its actual capacities. Finally (4) the report makes recommendations on a number of areas and identifies instruments for the international community to productively engage with the OMP.

Methodology

This assessment has been carried out between April and July 2023. It was guided by good practices learned in the field of transitional justice including contextual specificity, the centrality of victims, the value of consultation, objectivity, comprehensiveness and confidentiality.

The methodology combined analytical and interactive activities. The analytical approach included the desk review of the legal mandate of the OMP, its annual reports, managerial information, academic articles and review of press. The review included documentation created at the time of the OMP establishment, such as the report of the Consultation Task Force and planning documents of the Secretariat for the Coordination of Reconciliation Mechanisms and international reports on human rights in Sri Lanka.

The interactive approach interrogates the perspectives on the OMP from the standpoint of key stakeholders in the institution, in civil society, including victim organizations and government, using structured interviews. The interviews sought to identify the understandings of the OMP mandate, awareness of challenges, levels of trust and identification of the conditions that would be most conducive to a productive tenure by the OMP.

The consultancy team interviewed various stakeholders in conducting this study. This included current and former and current officials of the Office on Missing Persons (OMP), Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM), Consultations Task Force(CTF), Office for Reparations, United Nations, Sri Lanka as well as- representatives Victims, families/relatives of the missing and Civil Society.

1. CONTEXTUAL CONSIDERATIONS

This section covers the evolution of the OMP, discussing (1.1.) the historical context of forced disappearances in Sri Lanka, (1.2) the governmental decision to establish the OMP, (1.3.) the political controversies surrounding its establishment and the consequent delays, (1.4.) its implementation and (1.5.) the stress of operating under a complex and often adverse political environment.

1.1 Victims of forced disappearances in Sri Lanka

Internal armed conflicts in Sri Lanka have resulted in numerous human rights violations including forced disappearances. The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), an extreme-left organization, unleashed two insurrections, in 1971 and 1987, in the Sinhalese-majority South and Center regions of the country, which were responded by the security forces with extreme methods resulting in massive abuse, including forced disappearances. The number of disappearances related to the JVP insurrections are estimated differently according to sources, between 30,000 and 60,000³. The notoriety of disappearances led to the creation in 1994 of three commissions of inquiry, the most comprehensive of which covered the conflict in the Southern and Western regions⁴.

³ Asian Human Rights Commission, 2006. Sri Lanka: The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka has stopped investigations into 2000 disappearance cases to avoid having to pay government compensation to the victims. [Online] Available at: <http://www.humanrights.asia/news/ahrc-news/AS-169-2006/>.

⁴ Priscilla Hayner. Unspeakable Truths. 2002. Chapter V.

The disappearances of this era arguably left a strong culture of disenchantment and impunity, as the commissions' reports had weak follow up and did not result in positive identifications of the disappeared. In the areas affected by the conflict between the JVP and the government, the primary victims of disappearances were young Sinhalese men⁵.

The conflict between the government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) offered a different outlook. While JVP insurgency represented a left-wing insurgency and ideological rationale based on class, the LTTE warfare represented secessionist insurgency based on ethnicity⁶. Fought between 1983 and 2009 mostly in the Northern regions, governmental repression that first was applied to young men suspected of radical leftist convictions, fell upon Tamil persons suspected of separatism sympathies⁷. During the conflict with the LTTE significant numbers of Sri Lankan servicemembers from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Police disappeared while on duty. According to the Paranagama Commission, 5,000 Sri Lankan Army personnel disappeared during the civil conflict⁸. Members of the Muslim minority were also targeted by violence and disappearances during the conflicts, even though those cases have received less visibility, as submitted by relatives of the victims to the Consultation Task Force⁹.

⁵ Nations Unies, Conseil Economique et Social, Commission des Droits de l'Homme. 8 January 1992. (E.CN.4/1992/18/Add.1). Rapport sur la visite à Sri Lanka de trois membres de Groupe de travail sur les disparitions forcées ou involontaires (7-18 octobre 1991).

⁶ Samaranayake, G. (1997). Political violence in Sri Lanka: A diagnostic approach. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 9(2), 99–119. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09546559708427405>.

⁷ Reuters, 2009. *Timeline: Sri Lanka's 25- Year Civil War*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-srilanka-war-timeline-sb-idUSTRE54F16620090518>>.

⁸ Shenali Waduge, 2022. Sri Lank: Who are the “Missing” who are the “Dead” & who are killed?, Official web page of Ministry of Defense, Sri Lanka. [online] Available at: https://www.defence.lk/Article/view_article/845

⁹ Final Report of the consultation Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms. November 2016. Vol. 1 Chapter IV

Along these decades of conflict, then, communities of all ethnicities and regions, members of civil society and state institutions were harmed by the crime of disappearances. The Consultation Task Force identified fifteen different methods and contexts in which disappearances took place¹⁰. The question of the missing, then, is hardly the concern of one ethnicity, one specific historical juncture or one modus operandi, and any representation of it as such is a disservice to the victims and, ultimately, to the cause of reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

1.2 Establishment of the OMP

The establishment of the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission in 2011¹¹, as well as the appointment of the Panel of Experts by the United Nations (UN)¹² to advise the Secretary-General on alleged violations of international human rights during the final stages of the Sri Lankan Civil War, indicated a significant tension between the government of Sri Lanka and the international community regarding accountability. There was a robust debate at the Human Rights Council, where Sri Lanka adopted a defensive position, resisting calls for effective accountability¹³. This attitude would change after the electoral victory of Maithripala Sirisena in 2015 on a platform of national reconciliation, and dissenting from Sinhala nationalist discourse. The Sirisena government presented an opportunity for Sri Lanka to establish a different approach

¹⁰ Consultation Task Force. Op cit. p. 180.

¹¹The Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation, <https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/report-commission-inquiry-lessons-learnt-and-reconciliation>

¹²Report of the Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka, <https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/report-secretary-generals-panel-experts-accountability-sri-lanka>

¹³ Res/19/2, Promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka, <https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-res-19-2/#:~:text=2.,3>, Res/22/1, Promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka, <https://www.right-docs.org/doc/a-hrc-res-22-1/>

to the issue of accountability, accepting the need to genuinely examine the allegations of serious human rights violations committed in the conflict. The HRC Resolution on "Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability, and Reconciliation" co-sponsored by Sri Lanka, broke with a trajectory of international isolation and proposed a comprehensive set of judicial and nonjudicial measures to comply with Sri Lanka's human rights obligations.¹⁴

As a result, the Sri Lankan government committed to establish four transitional justice mechanisms: the Office for Missing Persons, the Office for Reparation, the Commission for Truth, Justice, Reconciliation, and Non-Recurrence, and a Judicial Mechanism with a Special Counsel as part of the transitional justice agenda. The resolution also included commitments on non-recurrence such as the revision of laws that facilitated human rights violations (Prevention of Terrorism Act¹⁵) and preventing new abuses, through ratification of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons Against Enforced Disappearances

Such an ambitious program included also a commitment to establish those institutions on the basis of comprehensive consultations with communities across the country, for which a Consultation Task Force¹⁶ (CTF) was established, with the participation of civil society leaders. Further, an ad hoc Secretariat for the Coordination of Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM) was established to facilitate the work of the CTF and ensure the efficient establishment of the four mechanisms and their mutual coordination.

¹⁴ Human Rights Council, Res. A/HRC/RES/30/1, "Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka", 14 October 2015. P-2

¹⁵ Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act No 48 of 1979, <https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/prevention-of-terrorism-3/>

¹⁶ ICRC, Final Report of the Consultation Task Force on Reconciliation Mechanisms, <https://missingpersons.icrc.org/library/final-report-consultation-task-force-reconciliation-mechanisms-volume-i-sri-lanka>

Regrettably, political support to the program adopted in Resolution 30/1 eroded in the face of strident opposition by Sinhala nationalist sectors. The government proceeded in an inconsistent manner, providing contradictory public messages, changing constantly the pace of establishment of the mechanisms and marginalizing the work of the CTF. Regarding the OMP, the government saw its establishment as a “low hanging fruit”, since it was proposed as an institution with a humanitarian approach that probably would not provoke resistance from sectors opposed to accountability. The government acted quite quickly to pass legislation establishing the OMP, even before the full consultation process led by the CTF was finalized. Still, after passing the Act in parliament, the President took a long time to gazette the law¹⁷ which only took place after an amendment and internal consultations to address concerns from the Defense sector.

Eventually, Sri Lanka would establish only two of the four instruments proposed in the HRC Resolution: the OMP and the Office on Reparations. Additionally, complying with some of its commitments on prevention, in March 2018, the Sri Lankan government criminalized enforced disappearances by passing the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance Act. Both the OMP Act and the ratification of the Convention on Enforced Disappearances resulted in significant controversy, due to the resistance of Sinhala nationalistic sectors who portrayed the legislation as a potential attack against the armed forces of Sri Lanka¹⁸.

The OMP, as a permanent and independent state entity, is in charge of determining the fate and whereabouts of people who went missing or were disappeared in the

¹⁷Sri Lanka Brief, Establish the Office of Missing Persons without any further delay, 2017.07.23, <https://srilankabrief.org/establish-the-office-of-missing-persons-without-any-further-delay/>, Amnesty International, Sri Lanka – Victims of disappearance cannot wait any longer for justice, published on 2017 April 03, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2017/04/sri-lanka-victims-of-disappearance-cannot-wait-any-longer-for-justice/>

¹⁸Amnesty International, Sri Lanka – Victims of disappearance cannot wait any longer for justice, published on 2017 April 03, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2017/04/sri-lanka-victims-of-disappearance-cannot-wait-any-longer-for-justice/>

context of the conflict, political unrest, or civil disturbances, or as a result of enforced disappearances. The OMP Bill was introduced in Parliament on 22 June 2016, and the Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration, and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016 (hereafter referred to as the "Act") was passed on 11 August 2016. The OMP was operationalized on February 28, 2018, by appointing seven commissioners, led by Mr Saliya Pieris P.C., based on the recommendations of the Constitutional Council.¹⁹

The primary objective of the OMP in Sri Lanka is to search for and trace missing persons.²⁰ To fulfil this objective, the Act endows the OMP with extensive powers including powers to examine witnesses²¹; summon persons to provide statements or produce any document or thing in such persons possession²²; carry out excavations and/or exhumations of suspected grave sites²³. Additionally, the OMP can make recommendations to relevant authorities towards reducing incidents of missing persons²⁴; protect the rights and interests of missing persons and their relatives²⁵; identify avenues of redress²⁶; collect data related to missing persons including data obtained by other institutions; and centralize all available data in a database established under the Act.²⁷

¹⁹ Establishment of the OMP, <http://www.omp.gov.lk/about/establishment-of-the-commission>

²⁰ The Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration, and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016, section 2(a)

²¹ The Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration, and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016, section 12(c)(i)

²² The Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration, and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016, section 12(c)(ii)

²³ The Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration, and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016, section 12(d)

²⁴ The Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration, and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016, section 2(b)

²⁵ The Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration, and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016, section 2(c)

²⁶ The Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration, and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016, section 10(d)

²⁷ The Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration, and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016, section 10(e)

1.3 The establishment of the OMP

The OMP Act was passed into law only a month after being introduced but, after passage, it took a year and a half to fully operationalize it. This peculiar discrepancy in timing—precipitous passage, slow implementation—revealed the tensions raised by the question of the missing in the Sri Lankan political sphere.

When the OMP Bill was introduced in Parliament in July 2016, it was portrayed by Sinhala nationalist sectors as a betrayal against the country and the armed forces²⁸. The bill's presenter was only able to read a portion of their prepared speech about the importance of the OMP in Sri Lanka as opposition parliamentarians disrupted the proceedings. The OMP Act was enacted without a debate, with the majority of the members of the governing coalition casting their votes²⁹ among disruption. The passage of the Act resulted in street demonstrations of dissatisfaction by nationalist sectors.³⁰

Aside from resistance from Sinhala nationalists, Tamil relatives of the disappeared in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern regions had mixed feelings about the OMP as they believed that the purported humanitarian focus of the institution detracted from the objective of prosecuting the crime of enforced disappearances. Additionally, they suspected the government acted in bad faith, instrumentalizing rapid passage of the

²⁸ 'Office on Missing Persons' to betray the armed forces – Mahinda, Adaderana.lk, 20 July 2016, <https://www.adaderana.lk/news/36142/office-of-missing-persons-to-betray-the-armed-forces-mahinda>

²⁹ Chandanie Kirinde, 'OMP Bill Bypasses JO Lost in Its Floor Show,' *Sunday Times*, 14 August 2016, <https://www.sundaytimes.lk/160814/columns/omp-bill-bypasses-jo-lost-in-its-own-floor-show-204748.html>

³⁰ Army personnel urge OMP Act withdrawal, *Daily Mirror*, 13 August 2016, <https://www.ft.lk/News/army-personnel-urge-omp-act-withdrawal/56-561351>

OMP Act to avoid international scrutiny³¹. The Act was passed in such an expeditive manner that the members of the CTF, which would only finalize its report in November 2016, complained that their proposals had not been fully taken into consideration³².

A year and a half would pass after passage of the Act for its implementation to finally start. However the Act was not gazetted immediately and took a while to do so. . A combination of factors explained this delay, including pressure from the political opposition and resistance in the Defense establishment. In March 2017, the government introduced one amendment to the Act³³, eliminating a provision that authorized the OMP to enter into agreements with national or foreign persons or entities to obtain information or training. Considering the numerous attacks the Act received against its core functions, the amendment was the lesser of many possible objections³⁴. The former President assigned the OMP under the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation (MNIR), a position he held personally, on July 19, 2017³⁵. He specified a date for the Act to enter into operation only on September 21³⁶, acting in his capacity as Minister. He would name the members of the OMP only in February 2018.

The rapid process of parliamentary approval of the Act, without a chance to fully incorporate the CTF suggestions eroded trust. Families and civil society organizations criticized the bill-drafting process as a "secret process" as the government failed to

³¹ Lasse'e, I. "The Sri Lankan Office on Missing Persons: Truth and justice in tandem?" *International Review of the Red Cross* (2017), 99 (2), 619–639.

³² Report of the Consultation Task Force. November 2016. Vol 1. Pp. 197-199

³³ A Bill to Amend the Office on Missing Persons Act, n. 14 of 2016. March 21 2017.

³⁴ Parliamentary Hansard, 2017, Vol 21.

³⁵ Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka n. 2028/45, July 19, 2017.

³⁶ Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka n. 2036/21, September 12, 2017.

take into account the work of the Consultation Task Force with the intention, people believed, to present results in front of the international community. Also, they raised specific concerns about the humanitarian approach, which could result in weakening accountability³⁷, or basic conceptualization issues like the use of the concepts of missing and disappearances³⁸

Later, the delays after passage of the Act created the conditions for active demonstrations from aggrieved families in the North and East, denouncing the OMP as yet another pointless state tool³⁹. Notably, some families urged that the international community intervene in order to resolve the enforced disappearances through judicial international mechanisms⁴⁰. However, it is also worth noting that, despite criticizing the procedure to pass the bill, most civil society organizations considered the establishment of the OMP as a positive move since, in principle, it would be not just a reporting institution but an actual tracing institution⁴¹.

1.4 Operationalization of the OMP⁴²

Throughout the five years after its creation, the OMP has faced several challenges. There was no any institutional setup for the OMP office when it was established in 2018, in spite of advance planning by the SCRM. And the first slate of commissioners dedicated most of their work to create tools for its operations and obtain necessary resources. During the first two years, the OMP held numerous regional-level

³⁷ Ruki Fernando, "Sri Lanka's 65,000 Disappeared: Will the Latest Missing Persons' Office Bring Answers?" *The Wire*, 14 June 2016, <https://thewire.in/world/sri-lankas-disappeared-will-the-latest-missing-persons-office-bring-answers>.

³⁸ *ibid*

³⁹ *ibid*

⁴⁰ Cronin, K. and Krystalli, R., 2020. Lanka The things they carry: Victims' documentation of forced disappearance in Colombia and Sri. *European Journal of International Relations*, 27(1), pp.79-101. [online]. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1354066120946479>.

⁴¹ Sri Lanka Brief, It Would Have Been Better If The OMP Was Given More Power – Brito Fernando, 21 August 2016, <https://srilankabrief.org/it-would-have-been-better-if-the-omp-was-given-more-power-brito-fernando/>

⁴² Annual reports of the OMP 2018-2021

consultations commencing in May 2018, released one interim report (2018) and three annual reports (2018, 2019, 2020), and established regional offices in Batticaloa, Matara, Mannar and Jaffna.

The OMP played an observer role in court cases on investigation of human remains and exhumation of mass graves, but it has not initiated a case by itself.⁴³ It observed the exhumation and excavation of five suspected gravesites in Mannar, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi. In the case of Mannar, the OMP assisted the investigation by providing financial assistance to carry out carbon dating of skeletal remains.⁴⁴

The member of the OMP also started in 2018 the practice to formally commemorate the International Day on the Victims of Enforced Disappearances to signify solidarity with the victims and seeking to improve the trust of families of the disappeared.

The OMP has assisted families to secure Certificates of Absence for families, after verifying the situation of the missing individuals through reports communicated to the families and referred to the registrar authorities. The OMP has recommended interim relief to be prioritized to relatives of the missing during the COVID crisis, and it referred families to local programs on financial aid, housing development, educational support, employment quota to the government for the benefit of the disappeared families.⁴⁵ However, few families have actually benefited from these services.⁴⁶

The OMP was also able to access the records of past commissions of inquiry to devise a centralized database of cases, and in November 2020, it published lists of complaints of missing and disappeared persons whom it has registered.⁴⁷ The list includes cases

⁴³ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Sri Lanka, 12 January 2021, A/HRC/46/20

⁴⁴ Mannar mass grave: results of carbon dating tests made public, <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/53663/mannar-mass-grave-results-of-carbon-dating-test-made-public>

⁴⁵ Office on Missing Persons, Annual Report (2018)

⁴⁶ The Office of Missing Persons Didn't Achieve Anything, The Morning, <https://www.themorning.lk/articles/121038>

⁴⁷ List of Missing and Disappeared Persons, <http://www.omp.gov.lk/missing-persons>

that are within the OMP's mandate and cases that require further clarification in order to determine whether they fall within the OMP's mandate. The list comprises 14,988 missing persons based on complaints compiled and received by the OMP, as well as those missing from the army, navy and the air force.⁴⁸

However, the OMP annual reports indicate that, the office has not been able to clarify the fate or whereabouts of the missing. The OMP has explained this failure as the result of severe challenges faced in recruiting staff at the approved government salary scales, and the covid pandemic staffing restrictions that delayed the processing of complaints⁴⁹.

Aside from functional difficulties, the OMP has experienced controversy regarding the nomination of some of its members. According to the OMP Act, the OMP must have seven members, with backgrounds in fact-finding, investigation, human rights law, international humanitarian law, humanitarian response, or other areas relevant to the OMP's duties. The first commissioners were chosen in 2018, and their tenure ended in February 2021, although the first Chairperson resigned in October 2020. This first board was generally well received by civil society organizations as it was perceived as balanced, from persons with a record of human rights activism to former military.

Many nominations after the expiration of the terms of the first slate of commissioners have caused controversy.⁵⁰ Following the resignation of the previous commissioner Saliya Pieris, former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa named Upali Abeyratne, a former Supreme Court judge, as the new chairperson of the OMP in December 2020. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights called the appointment “deeply troubling”, since he had served previously in a “Presidential Commission of Inquiry on Political Victimization” a commission that “obstructed and intervened in judicial proceedings

⁴⁸ Office on Missing Persons, Annual Report (2020), <http://www.ompsrilanka.org/storage/app/uploads/public/604/847/009/604847009edfb770550416.pdf>

⁴⁹ Annual Report of Office of Missing Persons, 2019

⁵⁰ Amnesty International. (2022). *Sri Lanka: Still no answers: An update on the rights of victims of enforced disappearances in Sri Lanka*. [online] Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa37/5278/2022/en/>

on several emblematic human rights cases, including disappearances”⁵¹. Other appointments resulted in strong criticism. In May 2021, a former police chief was appointed as a member of the OMP deepening mistrust.⁵²

Shiraz Noordeen, a prominent attorney, appointed by former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to a three-year term as a Commissioner of the Office of Missing Persons, beginning on December 13, 2021, quit in April 2022, citing the Foreign Ministry's inability to settle OMP concerns and the ministry's intervention in OMP matters.⁵³

The growing weakness of the OMP after 2019 was consistent with Sri Lanka's withdrawal from international commitments, and with the Sinhala nationalistic rhetoric. Still, the OMP was not dissolved, only kept in a state of minuscule capacity, probably as a weak measure with some value to present some form of action before the international community⁵⁴.

Any governmental calculation regarding the role of a weak OMP became immaterial by mid 2022 when the political crisis resulted in the fall of the Rakapaksa administration and the presidency of former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who had held the same position under former President Sirisena during the period in which the country committed to implement a comprehensive transitional justice strategy. As part of all-party dialogues, Wickremesinghe called to solve the ethnic divisions of the country through reconciliation policies, including the question of missing persons⁵⁵. The

⁵¹ Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka. Report from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. February 9, 2021. A/HRC/46/20

⁵² Appointment of former police chief to OMP “obliterates any chance of truth and justice”, says ITJP. Tamil Guardian, June 31, 2021. Amnesty International. (2022). *Sri Lanka: Still no answers: An update on the rights of victims of enforced disappearances in Sri Lanka*. [online] Available at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa37/5278/2022/en/>

⁵³ Methmalie Dissanayake, OMP Commissioner Noordeen resigns, May 3, 2022. <https://ceylontoday.lk/2022/05/03/omp-commissioner-noordeen-resigns/>

⁵⁴ Chulani Kodikara, The Office on Missing Persons in Sri Lanka: Why Truth Is a Radical Proposition, *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, Volume 17, Issue 1, March 2023, Pages 157–172, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijtj/ijado05>

⁵⁵ President says all political parties should unite to resolve “ethnic issue”. Adaderana.lk December 14, 2022.

President has been consistent in his encouragement to take again on the agenda of reconciliation that was interrupted during the previous administration⁵⁶.

The fact is that, despite concerns that the institutions established during the infancy of the transitional justice process (i.e., the Office on Missing Persons and the Office of Reparations) would see their end and be rendered defunct, those institutions are still alive to this day. Furthermore, while it cannot be denied that tensions will remain about the specific mandate of transitional justice institutions, efforts are still in place by varied organisations and entities to ensure that Sri Lanka complies with its obligations toward victims.

The question as to whether there is political will on the part of the incumbent government to implement and bring to fruition transitional justice mechanisms and initiatives cannot be answered beyond any shadow of doubt. However, recent statements by President Ranil Wickremesinghe that the Office on Missing Persons must expedite efforts to trace missing persons as well as efforts to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission is indicative of the fact that the President is in support of a transitional justice agenda. Also, the budget of the government for the year 2023 included an allocation of funds for the Office on Missing Persons and the Office of Reparations, demonstrating that—even in an environment of extreme economic constraints—the government is, at the very least, cognizant that these issues are very much relevant for the country.

At the very least, public statements and initiatives of this nature may be cited by stakeholders and activists in holding the country's leadership accountability, and will be seen by officials, including in the OMP, as providing parameters to act effectively.

⁵⁶ Prez says OMP expedites efforts to locate missing persons. Daily Mirror. 9 August 2023.

What is less clear is whether the transitional justice agenda and mechanisms enjoy the support from the wider political establishment in Sri Lanka, particularly the Parliament and the governing structure.

However, there is clear interest on the part of the OMP leadership to revive its capacity and fulfil their legal mandate, as demonstrated in formal requests for cooperation to the international community. Such a proactive attitude, incidentally, tests the challenge raised by the 2017 amendment to the OMP Act, which suppressed a provision on the OMP capacity to seek assistance: presenting a request for technical assistance takes the view that the Act is silent on such actions, not prohibitive.

Conclusion

The establishment of the OMP was an important milestone in the transitional justice agenda in Sri Lanka, as it is the first permanent state institution with a mandate to search for the missing. However, the political will around its operations eroded almost immediately after passage of its Act.

The first slate of commissioners worked to set up the key tools for effective work, and a constructive relationship with families of the disappeared, but most elements of progress were incapacitated or reversed under the Rajapaksa administration, especially under the second chairperson. If the OMP was not simply dissolved, some argued that it may have had some usefulness as a human rights half-measure that could be presented internationally. If that was the calculation, the political crisis of 2022, resulting in the change in makeup of government, created a new political situation, more conducive to a revitalization of the OMP.

2. THE LEGAL MANDATE OF THE OMP

This section of the report traces the powers, duties, functions and overarching mandate of the Office on Missing Persons (hereinafter referred to as the “OMP”) as set out in the Office of Missing Persons (Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration and Discharge of Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”). An analysis of the Act will demonstrate that wide powers have been conferred upon the OMP by the legislature, so that it may achieve its objectives, as set out in Section 2, as follows:

“... ensure that necessary measures are taken –

- (a) to provide appropriate mechanisms for searching and tracing of missing persons, and to clarify the circumstances in which such persons went missing, and their fate;*
- (b) to make recommendations to the relevant authorities towards reducing the incidents of ‘missing persons’ within the meaning of this Act;*
- (c) to protect the rights and interests of missing persons and their relatives as provided for in this Act⁵⁷;*
- (d) to identify proper avenues of redress to which such missing persons or their relatives may have recourse.”*

It must be noted at the very outset that the OMP has legal personality, and may sue in its corporate name (Ref: Section 3(2)).

2.1. The Objectives of the OMP

The mandate of the OMP is set out in Section 10 (1) of the Act, as follows:

⁵⁷ Must be read in light of Section 14 of the Act, which provides as follows: “In exercising its powers under this Act the OMP shall ensure that the rights of missing persons and relatives of missing persons shall be enforced on a basis of equality without regard to status and without discrimination on any grounds whatsoever.”

“(a) to search for and trace missing persons and identify appropriate mechanisms for the same and to clarify the circumstances in which such persons went missing;

(b) to make recommendations to the relevant authorities towards addressing the incidence of missing persons;

(c) to protect the rights and interests of missing persons and their relatives as provided for in this Act;

(d) to identify avenues of redress to which missing persons and relatives of missing persons are entitled and to inform the missing person (if found alive) or relative of such missing person of same;

(e) to collate data related to missing persons obtained by processes presently being carried out, or which were previously carried out, by other institutions, organizations, Government Departments and Commissions of Inquiry and Special Presidential Commission of Inquiry and centralize all available data within the database established under this Act;

(f) to do all such other necessary things that may become necessary to achieve the objectives under the Act.”

The language and inherent nature in which the mandate of the OMP is couched in the aforementioned provision, indicates that the mandate of the OMP (expressed in terms of actions) is not only broad, but also demands a holistic approach to addressing the issue of missing persons in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, the mandate of the OMP is not circumscribed by limitations as to time, and the actions set out in Section 10 (1) of the Act may be performed in respect of missing persons “notwithstanding the time period in which such person became a missing person” (Section 10 (2)).

The definition of the term ‘missing person,’ in the interpretation section of the Act (i.e., Section 27) however, stipulates as to who may be deemed a missing person for the purpose of the Act. As per the said provision, a missing person is one whose ‘fate or whereabouts are reasonably believed to be unknown’ and who is ‘reasonably believed to be unaccounted for and missing’ in connection with or due to:

- (a) Sri Lanka’s civil war which took place in the North and East;
- (b) being a member of the armed forces or police identified as missing in action;
- (c) political unrest or civil disturbance; or
- (d) an enforced disappearance as defined in the International Convention on Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances.⁵⁸

In this light, the following may be noted in respect of the mandate of the OMP.

- Sections 10 (1) (a) and 10 (1) (d) allow for the identification of appropriate mechanisms to search for and trace missing persons and provide avenues of redress, respectively. Given that the Act does not make any stipulations as to these ‘mechanisms,’ the OMP is afforded a degree of flexibility to determine the manner in which searching and tracing may take place, and how redress to victims may be provided. As such, it may avail itself of existing processes and mechanisms, or even create new avenues for the same (by reading the aforementioned provision with Section 10 (1) (f)).
- The Act provides for engaging ‘relevant authorities’ in Section 10 (1) (b) by conferring upon the OMP the power to make recommendations to address the incidence of missing persons. It may be useful to read this provision in light of Section 12 (e) of the Act, as will be discussed under “Powers of Investigation of the OMP.” The use of the word ‘incidence’ in this provision lends itself to the OMP’s ability to make

⁵⁸ Defined in Article 2 as follows: “... the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law.” It must be noted that the inclusion of this definition is important (and telling) due to the fact that it does not relate merely to causal connections in relation to disappearances, but weaves into the legal framework, the element of criminal liability vis-à-vis disappearances. This is relevant as it lends itself to the fact that the OMP is not exclusively focused on humanitarian approaches and does not, in any way, derogate from justice and accountability objectives.

recommendations as to preventative measures, to ensure the non-recurrence of disappearances.

- Section 10 (1)(c) provides for the protection of “*the rights and interests of missing persons and their relatives as provided for in this Act,*” and therefore underpins the statutory rights of missing persons and their relatives. In other words, the mandate of the OMP extends to securing any and all protections, rights and redress afforded to missing persons and their relatives under the Act. It is pertinent to note that this provision necessarily lends itself to the protection of rights and interests of a judicial or legal nature, i.e., the full complement of rights that must be afforded to victims and their families to obtain an effective remedy, including judicial inquiries. It is therefore clear that the OMP must ensure in its work, a balance between humanitarian and justice approaches, in order to give full effect to the intent and purpose of this provision, and therefore, the Act.
- The mandate of the OMP in terms of data collection and collation is broad, as demonstrated by Section 10 (1)(e), and includes the collation of data and centralization of all available data obtained by a multiplicity of entities, irrespective of the time period in which such data was collated, allowing for depth and variety in information and data gathered by the OMP.
- Section 10 (1)(f) demonstrates that the OMP is largely unfettered in realizing its mandate. The use of the words “*to do all things necessary to achieve the objectives under the Act*” allows for broad discretion to do any and all things that the OMP deems necessary to effectuate its objectives. It must be noted that since what is ‘necessary’ has not been defined in the Act, the OMP need only demonstrate tangential links between any particular course of action and an obligation or objective under the Act, in order to fulfil or perform such obligations or objectives.

2.2. Accountability and humanitarian approaches in the OMP: connection and tension

A question often arises as to whether a humanitarian and an accountability-based mandate may both be effectuated by the OMP, or whether an inherent tension between the two

renders them mutually exclusive. This is an ongoing international debate, where leading voices like the International Committee of the Red Cross has advocated for a humanitarian approach as the leading principle⁵⁹, and emerging practice seeks a balance of perspectives. In Sri Lanka, this tension is expressed even in the terms used to conceptualize the problem. Wijenayake⁶⁰ notes that the term ‘missing’ does not impute or allude to criminal liability or fault, while the term ‘disappeared’ relate to enforced disappearances which necessarily trigger the arm of the law. In this vein, the use of the word ‘missing’ in the title of the OMP may result in the perception that the Act and its entire scheme does not engage accountability by way of criminal sanction.

Wijenayake warns that the notion that the OMP is purely a humanitarian institution without any linkage to accountability is a misconception. “An exclusively humanitarian approach may not always be at ease with certain international obligations, in particular those related to the investigation and prosecution of international crimes...”⁶¹ which is why the practice of current institutions of search for the missing fall along a spectrum between humanitarian and justice orientations. In highly politicized environments, like Sri Lanka, the polarizing nature of political debate has “... falsely dichotomized the humanitarian and the criminal approaches, thereby presenting victims with an artificial and unfair choice between truth and justice.”⁶² The OMP Act provisions draw a balance of both orientations and keeps a number of capacities to protect the rights of victims, including criminal accountability. Pragmatically, the objectives of the OMP to trace missing persons and to contribute to criminal investigations, converge and cohere. This convergence and coherence must be utilized to make more effective and streamline the work of the OMP, particularly in relation to the collection of evidence and conducting of investigations and inquiries.

As referred to above, it may reasonably be argued that the manner in which rights vested in victims and their families are couched within the scheme of the Act, mandates the OMP to ⁶³ “go beyond a passive tolerance of criminal prosecutions in order to actively help families of missing persons to refer matters to other authorities.” In subscribing to a holistic interpretation of the provisions of the Act, read together, it may be argued that the OMP has

⁵⁹ Monique Crettol and others. Establishing mechanisms to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons: a humanitarian approach. In *International Review of the Red Cross* n. 905, August 2017.

⁶⁰ Wijenayake, V. “The Office on Missing Persons in Sri Lanka: The importance of a primarily humanitarian mandate.” *International Review of the Red Cross* (2017), 99 (2), 641–662.

⁶¹ *Ibid*

⁶² Lasse’e, I. “The Sri Lankan Office on Missing Persons: Truth and justice in tandem?” *International Review of the Red Cross* (2017), 99 (2), 619–639.

⁶³ In light of provisions such as Section 12(i) of the Act.

“a primarily humanitarian mandate which facilitates links to prosecutorial mechanisms so as not to hinder the families’ ability to exercise their right to a judicial remedy through criminal prosecutions” but not an exclusively humanitarian approach.⁶⁴

A critical issue to understand how the Act deals with this tension is Section 13 (2), which has given rise to the concern as to legislative intention to remove the mandate of accountability from the OMP. The said provision states as follows: “*The findings of the OMP shall not give rise to any criminal or civil liability.*”

At the same time, Section 12 (i) states: “*where it appears to the OMP that an offence within the meaning of the Penal Code or any other law, has been committed, that warrants investigation, the OMP may, after consultation with such relatives of the missing person as it deems fit, in due consideration of the best interests of the victims, relatives and society, report the same to the relevant law enforcement or prosecuting authority: such report will provide information relating to the missing person’s civil status (such as the name, age and gender of the missing person), the place(s) or district(s) in which the missing person was last seen and the date thereof...*”

In the polarized debate about the OMP and ever since, different readings of the Act will emphasize the importance of either section, be it to decry the possibility of a linkage to accountability or to express concern about the possibility of impunity.

However, it must be noted that while Section 13(2) relates to investigations conducted by the OMP itself (which cannot result in criminal or civil liability of perpetrators of an offence), while Section 12(i) refers to a situation in which the OMP does not play an active role in conducting an investigation, but merely reporting a suspected offence to law enforcement or prosecuting authorities. The Act therefore provides for two distinct roles the OMP may play, so that the said provisions cannot be read together. It must be further noted that Section 12(i) is a mere referral of facts (the missing person’s civil status, such as his/her name, age and gender), and the place(s) or district(s) and date in which such person was last seen, and does not relate to the OMP actively participating in a criminal investigation a case of a missing person.

⁶⁴ Wijenayake, V. “The Office on Missing Persons in Sri Lanka: The importance of a primarily humanitarian mandate.” *International Review of the Red Cross* (2017), 99 (2), 641–662.

To clarify, once the OMP reports a suspected offence to the relevant authorities under Section 12(i), the matter is brought within the purview of such authorities and cannot be deemed to be an investigation of the OMP which may not result in criminal or civil liability. The same is true in relation to excavations and exhumations conducted in pursuance of orders of court sought by the OMP.

As such, it is pertinent to note that an individual seeking the assistance of the OMP is not compelled to forego or compromise on his/her quest for justice or accountability before the law.

The tensions in the Act are a challenge, particularly given that the interpretation of the said provisions have not been subject to a test in a court of law. It is however, possible to argue that this is not detract from the fact that the OMP is conferred to a broad mandate and wide powers (as noted previously in this report) in respect of the search for missing persons, which is its primary function and purpose, while its justice mandate may be delineated and circumscribed by various provisions in the Act.

In any event, the OMP may play several roles in criminal investigations and justice-related endeavors contemplated by the Act, such as applying for an order of a Magistrate's Court under Section 12(d), which, as noted in this section below, triggers the process in relation to excavations and exhumations of grave sites. The observer role the OMP may play at such excavations and exhumations is critical: it may provide checks and balances in signaling irregularities or issues in the process, act as a conduit between government processes and families of missing persons in terms of providing information, and may provide support to such families. The results of exhumations and excavations may result in severe shock to families of missing persons, and the OMP, as an entity with a primarily humanitarian mandate, may be better placed and equipped to provide support (including psycho-social support) to such persons, in comparison to government or judicial entities.

The OMP may also explore possibilities of supporting criminal justice mechanisms and obtaining information and findings from such mechanisms, in order to further its own statutory objectives and duties (there is no preclusion in the Act to such activities and it is arguable that the OMP may explore such possibilities, particularly in light of the broad powers conferred on it in relation to the search for missing persons⁶⁵ and the ability of the OMP to receive and collect data⁶⁶). This may be pragmatic in light of the fact that criminal investigations and tracing exercises employ and rely on the same type of evidence (for instance, DNA collected at a mass grave or site).

Furthermore, and as noted above, the OMP may also play an important role in referring cases of missing persons to law enforcement authorities, thereby actively connecting families of missing persons with government authorities, which is of critical importance given that the former may lack the know-how and ability to do so. The OMP is in a unique position to do this, given that its mandate is primarily in relation to the tracing of missing persons and is likely to be provided with more information of cases of missing persons, in comparison to other government entities.

2.3. General Powers of the OMP and Practical Considerations

The general powers conferred on the OMP provide for future needs and practical arrangements in respect of its daily functioning.

Section 11 of the Act sets out in the following general powers of the OMP:

⁶⁵ As per section 12(c) and (e) of the Act, among others.

⁶⁶ As per section 10(1)(e) of the Act.

- (a) to make rules to ensure the effective functioning of the OMP;
- (b) to issue from time to time, rules and guidelines, which may include gender-sensitive policies, to be followed by all staff of the OMP relating to the exercise, performance and discharge of its powers, duties and functions;
- (c) to appoint and dismiss staff and consultants and to request secondment of public officers to the OMP;
- (d) to establish from time to time, and in addition to those Units and Divisions specifically mentioned in this Act, such Committees and/or Divisions and/or Units as are required for the effective administration and functioning of the OMP, and shall also have the power to delegate such powers and functions as are necessary to such Committees, Divisions and Units.

Section 26 further provides for the OMP's power to make rules, and states as follows:

“(1) The OMP may make rules for matters for which rules are required to be made under this Act.

“(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be tabled before Parliament and shall be published in the Gazette within a reasonable period not exceeding three months.”

The OMP is vested with the discretion to make rules, where such rules are necessary under the Act. However, it must be noted that in order for such rules to be valid, they must be tabled before Parliament and published by way of a Gazette notification, within three months from the date of the promulgation of the same.

The administration of the OMP is provided for by way of a Secretariat as set out in Section 16 (1) of the Act, which states as follows:



“The OMP shall have a Secretariat which shall be charged with the responsibility for the administration of the affairs of the OMP.”

The delineation of the roles and duties of the OMP and the Secretariat assumes importance and is relevant here: it is reasonable to presume that the intention of the legislature was that the OMP itself is unencumbered with administrative concerns and practical affairs, and that it may devote its resources and energies to fulfilling its mandate and statutory duties and obligations. This effectively places upon the Secretariat a statutory duty to ensure the smooth administrative of the affairs of the OMP.

Finally, while the head office of the OMP must be situated in Colombo, the OMP may establish any number of regional offices as it deems necessary to achieve its mandate (Ref: Section 3(3)).

The need to ensure the effective independence of the OMP (both in terms of substance, practice and perception) must be reiterated in this instance. Concerns as to the independence of the OMP have been expressed in the document titled “Strategic Roadmap 2023 – 2027” published by the OMP in February 2023, which, at page 6, states as follows:

“The OMP Act was amended in 2017 (No. 09 of 2017), and Section 11 (a) of Act, No. 14 of 2016 repealed. According to this amendment, the OMP faces difficulties serving as an independent institution as the clause focuses on the fact that entering into agreements, as necessary to achieve the mandate of the OMP, with any person or organization [the S11(a)] is no longer permissible until otherwise the funds are channeled through various channels. Whatever funding comes in via independent functions/operations should be channeled through the Department of External Resources.”

The reliance of the OMP (as a result of the aforementioned amendment to the Act) on other entities to enter into contractual agreements and obtain funding for its own work, is perceived as detracting from its independence. This requires the attention of the Government of Sri Lanka and other stakeholders, particularly given that this concern emanates from the OMP itself. We are of the view that the independence of the OMP must not only be aspirational, but that the OMP must be allowed to exercise independence in relation to the substance of its work, and that it must also, equally, be perceived as independent. The perception of independence by the families of victims and the wider public is critical, particularly in an environment where faith in the OMP and the wider transitional justice process is waning.

2.4. Powers of Investigation of the OMP

Section 12 provides for a plethora of investigative powers in respect of the OMP. Salient features of such powers are highlighted below.

- The OMP may receive complaints pertaining to missing persons from any person or entity, irrespective of the time period such person became a missing person (reiterating (Section 10 (2) of the Act, as stated above). It is clear that the Act does not stipulate the manner in which complaints must be made, so as to ensure greater ease of access to the OMP (Ref: Section 12 (a)).
- The OMP may initiate inquiries and investigations into the whereabouts or circumstances pertaining to a missing person pursuant to complaints received, and may prioritize inquiries or investigations in respect of specific incidents (Ref: Section 12 (b)).
- The OMP may take “all necessary steps” to investigate cases of missing persons as per Section 12 (c) of the Law. This confers broad investigative powers and discretion on the OMP, and it must be noted that the list of five actions enunciated in the said provision are non-exhaustive and do not in any way, limit the actions the OMP may take.
- Section 12 (d) engages the court system, in carrying out excavations and exhumations and allows the OMP to act as an observer in the same. However, it must be noted that while the aforementioned ability to act as an observer is statutorily provided for, the

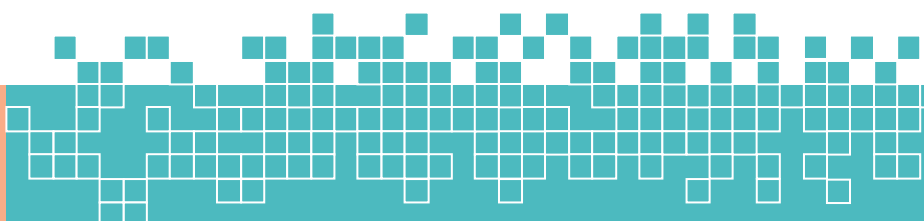
OMP does not necessarily have any other powers or functions in the process of excavating and conducting exhumations in a grave site. In most instances, excavations and exhumations are conducted by the Criminal Investigation Department of Sri Lanka (CID), with a judicial medical officer (JMO) of the relevant area present. In certain instances, where a crime is reported to the police, the police may call on 'scene of crime officers' (SOCO's) specializing in forensics and the investigation of crime scenes. Entities with observer status in an excavation or exhumation have limited standing and ability to participate in the process, and may only observe the same, and provide information or evidence, when called to do so. However, excavations and exhumations may only be conducted subsequent to obtaining an order by a Magistrate's Court, and the OMP plays an important role in triggering the said investigative processes.

- Section 12 (e) engages a host of other public authorities and individuals therein, and also places on such public authorities, a statutory duty to assist the OMP. While this provision makes reference to assistance by way of providing information and producing documents, it must be noted that this list is not exhaustive and it may be argued that so long any assistance is not *ultra vires* the power of a relevant public authority or illegal, and reasonably sought, such authorities are legally bound to accede to the requests of the OMP.
- Section 12 (f) and (g) relate to the issuance of search warrants to aid in the course of investigations, and allows entry to specified officers of the OMP to places of detention, police stations, prisons and so on.

The aforementioned provisions, which provide for varied actions and holistic powers, indicate the primacy of the obligation of tracing placed on the OMP. Read together, these provisions convey the unequivocal and unambiguous intention of the legislature that the OMP is, first and foremost, an instrument to trace and clarify the status of missing persons in Sri Lanka.

2.5. Additional Functions and Duties of the OMP

Section 12 provides for several functions and duties of the OMP, salient features of which are highlighted below.



- The OMP is mandated to, in certain circumstances and under certain conditions, issue reports so as to enable the Registrar General to issue Certificates of Absence and Certificates of Death (Ref: Sections 13 (1) (a) (i) and (ii)).
- The OMP is 'charged with' providing information relating to the whereabouts of a missing person (subject to certain conditions), the status of ongoing investigations, and the fate of missing persons upon the conclusion of an investigation, to relatives of missing persons (Ref: Sections 13 (1) (b), (c) and (d), respectively).
- The functions and duties of the OMP extend to victim-centered, holistic initiatives that go beyond tracing and searching for missing persons, which are as follows:
 - administrative assistance, welfare services and psycho-social support (Ref: Section 13 (1) (e));
 - recommendations as to reparations, which may be compensation, the provision of other administrative and welfare services including psycho-social services, or any other form of compensation (given that the list in Section 13 (1) (f) is non-exhaustive);
 - the development and enforcing of a system for victim and witness protection (Ref: Section 13 (1) (g)). Given that the manner and means of developing and enforcing such a system has not been expressly set out in the Act, the OMP may develop and enforce its own system (within its own powers and mandate and the bounds of the law) and may also avail itself of the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act, No. 4 of 2015;
 - referral of informants to relevant authorities, law enforcement or prosecuting authorities and mechanisms through which administrative relief may be sought (Ref: Section 13 (1) (i));
 - creation of public awareness on missing persons with a view to creating public support for relatives of missing persons; and

- recommendations to public authorities (Ref: Section 13 (1) (k)), subject to certain conditions.

2.6. The Tracing Unit of the OMP

Section 17 of the Act provides for a tracing unit, and states as follows:

“(1) There shall be a Tracing Unit of the OMP, which shall be responsible for tracing and searching for missing persons and for assisting in clarifying the circumstances of such disappearance, and the whereabouts and fate of such missing person.

(2) The Tracing Unit shall be headed by an Executive Officer appointed by the OMP and shall include competent, experienced and qualified investigators, including those with relevant technical and forensic expertise.”

The aforementioned provision indicates the following:

- the responsibilities of this unit relate to the tracing of, and search for missing persons, and provision of assistance in clarifying the circumstances of disappearances and the whereabouts and fate of missing persons;
- Section 17(1) does not stipulate which actions may be undertaken in this exercise, and therefore the OMP may, in its discretion, employ resources to trace and search for missing persons in a manner of its choosing (within its own powers and mandate and bounds of relevant laws);
- Section 17(1) does not stipulate as to who the OMP may assist in clarifying the circumstances disappearances and the whereabouts and fate of missing persons. Therefore, it may be argued that the OMP may assist victims’ relatives, the general public, government officials, public authorities and other entities.

- Section 17 (2) states that the tracing unit “shall” include “competent, experienced and qualified investigators, including those with relevant technical and forensic expertise.” This lends itself to a statutory duty on the part of the OMP to staff the tracing unit with the said investigators, without whom the very existence of the OMP would be ineffective.

2.7. The Victim and Witness Protection Division of the OMP

Section 18 of the Act provides for a victim and witness protection division within the OMP, and states as follows:

“(1) There shall be a Victim and Witness Protection Division within the OMP that shall protect the rights and address the needs and concerns of victims, witnesses and relatives of missing persons.

(2) The Victim and Witness Protection Division shall be headed by an Executive Officer appointed by the OMP.

(3) The Division shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection of victims and witnesses who engage with the OMP.

(4) The Victim and Witness Protection Division may provide or facilitate the provision of administrative services and welfare services including psycho-social support to victims, witnesses and relatives of missing persons.

(5) The Victim and Witness Protection Division shall inform victims and witnesses of all the uses or potential uses, of information provided.

(6) The Victim and Witness Protection Division may coordinate with other law enforcement agencies where it deems necessary.

The aforementioned provision indicates the following:

- Given the use of the terms ‘appropriate measures,’ in subsection (3), it is arguable that the Victim and Witness Protection Division is conferred with a degree of discretion to protect victims and witnesses engaging the OMP. This discretion effectively means that so long as they may be reasonably and objectively be deemed appropriate, the OMP may employ any measure or means of its choosing (within its own powers and mandate and the bounds of the law).
- Subsection (4) further allows for the provision or facilitation of administrative and welfare activities.
- There is a duty (couched in mandatory terms) on the part of the Division, to inform victims and witnesses of how the information provided by them may be used, set out in subsection (5).
- Subsection (6) provides for the engagement of law enforcement agencies, at the discretion of the Division (the use of the word ‘may’ signifies that this engagement is not mandatory, but is another tool provided to the OMP to fulfil its mandate and statutory duties).

2.8. Assistance, funding and protection afforded to the OMP

The Act provides for a range of support to the OMP and its officers, including funding, the creation of offences in respect of persons obstructing its work or acting in contravention of the Act and the protection of officers from suit.

6. Financing: there is a mandatory obligation on the part of the State to provide to OMP with adequate funds from the Consolidated Fund, to facilitate the discharge of its functions (Ref: Section 19).

7. Salaries: salaries of members of the OMP will be charged on the Consolidated Fund. No reductions may be made to such salaries during the term in which a member is in office(Ref: Section 20).
8. Raising funds: the OMP is vested with the power of raising its own funds, both within and outside Sri Lanka (Ref: Section 21). However, as referred to above, the amendment to the Act now prescribes the manner in which such funds may be received by the OMP. This may result in practical challenges, including delays in the receipt of funds, and therefore, impediments to the work of the OMP, as well as concerns as to its independence.
9. Offences: the OMP is afforded a great degree of protection by the creation of a range of offences set out in Section 24 (1) of the Act. These offences pertain to, *inter alia*, interference with the OMP, acting in contravention of the OMP law, non-compliance with the OMP and confidential information.
10. Protection from legal action: the OMP, as well as its members, officers or servants are afforded a certain degree of protection from civil or criminal proceedings by way of Section 25 (2) (a) – (c). However, it must be noted that the orders, decisions, acts or omissions by the OMP and its members, officers or servants are amendable to review, and may be challenged by way of an application before the Supreme Court if they are in contempt of the authority of the OMP.

Conclusion

The inherent manner in which the OMP Act is drafted and powers of the OMP are couched, allow for a broad interpretation, creating a balance between the need for justice, as well as its primary but not exclusive humanitarian objective of tracing missing persons. As reiterated above, the OMP must exploit the potential and powers vested in it by the legislature, and provide for the varying needs of victims' families (i.e., truth as well as justice). The adoption of a humanitarian approach should not exclude and it is not supposed to exclude a justice approach.

A fully operational OMP must remain emboldened to pursue both truth and justice, and may even extend its work to truth-seeking, given that its statutory powers are well-suited to the same. Overall, it is pertinent that the Act is interpreted in a manner that animates the intention of the legislature, and results in tangible, practical and holistic support for victims and their families. It is the proactive role of the OMP which will create realities in the balance between both approaches, to be tested in the courts.

3: INSTITUTIONAL AND TECHNICAL CAPACITY GAPS

The current leadership of the OMP affirms its intention of reviving the capacities of the Office. In interactions with the authors of this report, the Chairperson and the Executive Director cite their professional record tackling complex challenges as evidence of their commitment. They also point to the fact of their reaching out to the international community as indication of a proactive stance.

At the same time, securities about leadership commitment, by themselves, are not enough to ascertain the likelihood that a given course will be maintained. Institutional commitment and political will are notoriously difficult to assess, but it is reasonable to believe that the current leadership of the OMP senses an opportunity in the current political environment: President Wickremesinghe is encouraging demonstrable progress in reconciliation policies, and the fortunes of adversaries of the reconciliation process have declined.

Regarding technical capacity, the OMP does have a legal framework that enables it to comply with its tracing mandate, and to explore different potential functions complementary to the core mandate. However, an acute weakness regarding human resources, operational tools and training creates significant implementation gaps. The OMP itself has identified those gaps and priority areas to focus on: processing complaints and managing information; engaging effectively with families of the missing and providing them with support; and securing institutional development.

This report proposes that, in addition to the gaps identified by the OMP, there is an urgent need for the development of indispensable operational tools through a consultative and participative process, so that there is a better chance that authorities and civil society develop

ownership around the search for the missing. The OMP needs to develop an effective national plan for the search of the missing, in coordination with governmental institutions and, within that process, develop additional instruments, such as a comprehensive registry of missing persons and sites of burial, definitive protocols for psychosocial support and protection, an effective communications strategy including formal platforms of community participation, and a bank of genetic information. These instruments will be partly described in this section with a more detailed approach in the final section, on recommendations.

3.1. Institutional commitment

In order to avoid subjective judgments on a difficult concept like political will, it is important, as much as possible, to identify indicators of institutional commitment: its leadership position after a history of resource scarcity and, at some point, neglect; the motivations and professionalism of its staff; and the way it envisions a possible strategic relaunch.

3.1.1. Context and leadership

The current chairperson of the OMP is the third to lead the institution in little more than five years of its establishment. The first chairperson, Mr. Saliya Peiris led a batch of members broadly representative of several sectors of Sri Lankan society appointed by the Constitutional Council in February 2018. The appointment took place roughly a year and a half after passage of the OMP Act, in a context marked by governmental cooling of its support to transitional justice and concerns expressed by the Ministry of Defense regarding the Act⁶⁷.

As a result, the initial leadership of the OMP dealt with high expectations and active willingness from several stakeholders to engage, including victim organizations, civil society and the international community. The first three public reports of the OMP⁶⁸, covering the period until the end of 2020, indicate a complicated institutional scenario, where the OMP had strong obstacles to ensure resources in order to recruit and offer attractive salaries. At the same time, though, they indicate a strong commitment by the Board to engage with communities and families and side with their demands, including providing legal assistance to families and observing exhumations.

In fact, during this initial phase, the observation of exhumations was not a passive affair: the OMP warned that the investigative powers of the magistrates were not used in a consistent manner, and proposed specific measures to ensure the chain of custody and adopt

⁶⁷ Letter of the MOD to the Hon. Mangala Samaraweera. Jan 2017

⁶⁸ OMP Annual reports 2018, 2019, 2020

multidisciplinary approaches to the investigation of skeletonized human remains⁶⁹. The OMP has also observed judicial cases presenting legal opinions in favor of the right of victims to participate actively⁷⁰.

The institutional evolution of the OMP faced the intervening factor of Gotabaya Rajapaksa's administration, who expressed dissatisfaction with the transitional justice agenda that his predecessor had co-sponsored at the UN Human Rights Council. From late 2019 to July 2022 half of the time of existence of the OMP would be marked by a new situation, marked by the withdrawal from the HRC resolutions. In fact, in the context of threats to reconciliation and charged rhetoric, the authorities stopped consideration of the other transitional justice mechanisms that had also been proposed (a truth commission and a justice mechanism). The OMP, the authorities announced, would "be continued, with appropriate adaptation in line with government policy framework⁷¹".

The most challenging period was the year 2021 almost completely marked by the chairpersonship of retired Supreme Court justice Upali Abeyratne, whose nomination raised distrust among civil society and victim families, due to his perceived proximity with the government. The impact of that period on the institution was demoralizing, with little attention paid to institutional development, the revision of previous decisions causing stagnation around the preparation of the lists of the missing, and societal resistance. The guidance received from top was focused on optics: to "close cases" or reduce numbers. This would result in weeding out false allegations, reducing duplications and providing some form of relief to families in cases under the mandate. The quantitative focus on the number of cases may have resulted in contradictory decisions regarding the situation of servicemembers missing in action: at some point they were taken out of the lists as it would probably reduce overall numbers, but then included again, as it would be unacceptable to exclude their relatives from possible benefits.

The current chairperson, appointed in December 2021 has been consistent in supporting a process of strategic planning for the OMP and seeking partnerships. In addition, the tumultuous end of the Rajapaksa administration weakened the pressure of nationalistic

⁶⁹ Office on Missing Persons. Annual Report 2020. Pp. 11-14

⁷⁰ Provincial High Court of Northern Province Holden in Vavuniya [Case Number: HCV/REV/327/2020]

⁷¹ Human Rights Council. Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. 9 February 2021.

discourses and attitudes hostile to the reconciliation agenda. Paradoxically, the lower expectations created around the OMP after a long period of governmental neglect may be providing a conducive scenario for the institution to revise its strategic position and build capacities.

At the same time, the chairperson has been criticized for public declarations devaluing the experience of the families and repeating denialist versions about the missing. Criticism was fair and robust, and such an incident has not been repeated since. Validation of the families' feelings and capacity to communicate correctly under pressure are essential needs at the helm of the OMP, and failure to demonstrate them is a reason for concern.

The perceptions of the current leadership gauged for this report, both within the OMP and without, move in the band between cautious optimism and conditional support. The institution may benefit from the perceived pragmatism of its leadership and, above all, by a more conducive political environment resulting in better chances for governmental cooperation. A strong note of caution is that after such a long period of neglect and controversy, groups of families have given up on engagement and a strong discipline of message would be needed to create opportunities for dialogue.

3.1.2. Staff motivation

The work of the OMP, and any similar institution, is inherently taxing. Dealing with narratives of profound trauma is distressing, the inability to provide solutions is frustrating. Strong subjective motivation, professionalism and teambuilding are required, but it is difficult to foster those characteristics in an environment marked by scarcity of resources, retention difficulty and weak training.

This report found a variety of attitudes among staff, going from frustration at the incapacity to address the pain of families that are representative of the communities the staff comes from, to lack of motivation from seconded staff that doesn't see this work as substantively different from their original assignments in other state institutions. Among the former, there were declarations of empathy with families, anecdotal references to situations where the staff used their own personal resources to visit families and make an extra effort. Among the latter, there was the recognition that they had received little or no training and were unable to understand the specifics of the institution and its legal mandate.

In such a situation, it becomes possible for staff to vent frustration outside of the institution itself. While all staff cited lack of resources as a key explanation for the weak performance of the OMP, some blamed the families of the missing themselves as a disruptive factor, due to their tactics of public pressure via demonstrations or criticism. Another attitude that may emerge is cynicism regarding the importance of the task or the pain from the families harmed.

The OMP has already identified lack of training as a significant weakness: staff may be satisfied that they know the legal basis for the work of the OMP but, when questioned about specifics most demonstrate only marginal knowledge about the OMP Act or the processes by which the OMP is supposed to deliver its results.

3.1.3. Defining the mission of the OMP

The impulse to revive the capacities of the OMP exists in spite of a long time of neglect and disruption during the previous government. However, there is a potential risk in the institutional culture adapting to the situation of weakness by focusing on deliverables that are achievable with relatively low resources, or else by looking into tasks that are less likely to provoke political resistance.

The current leadership has developed a strategic plan⁷² setting out the institutional vision and mission, core outcomes and “key focus areas” to pursue in the period 2023-2026. The ideas proposed are consistent with interviews conducted with leadership and staff of the OMP in the preparation of this report.

The vision and mission are enunciated in a language broadly consistent with the OMP Act in letter and spirit: affirming rights as part of a national reconciliation process.

Vision: A country where everyone enjoys justice and the reconciliation process is enriched.

⁷² Office on Missing Persons. Strategic Roadmap 2023-2025. February 2023

Mission: To protect the rights of the missing and disappeared, as well as their families, as part of the national reconciliation mechanism.

However, the outcomes derived from the mission and vision seem to indicate a problematic detraction of the core function of searching and tracing the missing in order to “clarify the circumstances in which such persons went missing and their fate”⁷³. Indeed, the core outcome is defined as “Non-recurrence of people going missing and disappearing in the future and ensuring the rights of people who have gone missing and disappeared” which is specified in three dimensions: prevention, protection and provision of remedial options.

None of these outcomes is unambiguously enunciated as clarification of the fate and whereabouts of the victims. In fact, the orientation toward prevention has been explained by leading staff as an intention to reposition the OMP as a preventative institution whose success should be measured by avoidance of new cases including some who are not clearly in the scope of the Act, such as victims of the 2004 tsunami or victims of trafficking of persons. Only the third outcome, “provision of remedial options” is focused on the cases of the past, but it is defined as “support and guidance—by referring promptly and ensuring that missing people and their families understand how and where to access help and support.”

Core Outcomes	Outcome 1: (Objective)	Outcome 2:	Outcome 3:
Non-recurrence of People going missing and disappearing in the future and ensuring the rights of people who have gone missing and disappeared	Prevention measures Reducing the number of people who go missing – through preventive strategies, education work and early intervention in cases where children, young people and adults repeatedly go missing.	Protection measures Reducing the risk of harm to those who go missing – by ensuring local agencies provide a tailored, risk-based response to cases of missing children, young people, and adults and that they work together to find the person and to close cases as quickly as possible at a local and national level.	Provision of remedial options Providing missing people and their families with support and guidance – by referring promptly and ensuring that missing people and their families understand how and where to access help and support.

Source:

OMP Strategic Roadmap 2023-2025

⁷³ OMP Act, Section 2 (a)

This does not mean the strategic plan abandon entirely the focus on tracing and clarification. In fact, it proposes eight focus areas:

- Victim and right-holders protection
- Families, relatives and victims support
- Tracing, prevention and operationalize law and order
- Effective remedy and right to justice
- Right to investigation
- Right to reparation
- Right to the truth
- Protecting the relatives' rights.

An OMP capable to deliver results on those eight areas would be substantively superior to the current situation. It would be an effective institution to verify credible allegations within the mandate, monitoring judicial cases, supporting families to find reparation and better communicating its results. The scenario proposed by the strategic plan is a step in the right direction. Still, it would not be enough: the explicit purpose of the OMP at its creation and the societal expectation expressed in nationwide consultation is that this would be a qualitatively different inquiry from previous ones, clarifying what actually happened to the victims: solving cases and not merely closing files.

This report is inclined to judge the intention from the OMP leadership to relaunch the institution as genuine, both as a result of personal professionalism and an enabling political environment. Also, core staff in headquarters and local offices have demonstrated resilience while going through a challenging journey. However, institutional willingness, must not conform itself with deliverables that, while significant, would not really address the core task of the OMP. This is, therefore, a political orientation that requires platforms of dialogue and engagement to evolve in a direction consistent with the expectations of the victims and the commitments of Sri Lanka at the inception of the OMP.

3.2. Technical capacity gaps

The OMP is in a precarious position. At its current levels of capacity and allocation of resources it is not possible that it will comply with its core objective and significantly contribute to reconciliation. As this report has indicated in the previous section, this is not merely a “technical” issue but a political one, directly related to the willingness to boldly revert a situation of neglect and patiently re-establish relations with an alienated community of victims.

The first capacity gap of the OMP concerns the distance between what its legal mandate allows and what the Office is prepared to do, and requires the development of a holistic and balanced strategy to guide the institution but also gain support in across government and society. From this gap, others derive: the gap between the objective of identification and the scarce capacity to trace; the gap between the agency of victim’s families and the disposition of the OMP to engage with them; the gap between the needs of families and the capacity to deliver services and protection to them; and finally the gap between the needed resources and the existing resources.

3.2.1. *Need of a national plan on search for the missing*

Sri Lanka does not have a national plan on search for the missing, which, under the extensive powers provided by the Act could be initiated by the OMP. A national plan is the coherent set of actions by governmental institutions, based on the fulfillment of state obligations with the common goal of resolving a problematic in a measurable manner.

The UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances⁷⁴ has developed guiding principles for the search of disappeared persons, and it defines the framework of the search as a “comprehensive policy” with objectives that should include at least “the prevention of enforced disappearances, the clarification of earlier disappearances, the appropriate

⁷⁴ Committee on Enforced Disappearances Guiding principles for the search for disappeared persons** May 2019 CED/C/7

punishment of perpetrators and the adoption of measures for the protection of victims, among other measures to ensure non-repetition of enforced disappearances.”

As indicated in the previous section, the OMP does have a strategic plan, but it still fails to fully address some critical elements necessary for a coherent policy:

- A clear enunciation of the national and international legal framework applicable to the search for the missing and disappeared including, in the case of Sri Lanka, the OMP Act and the Act on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances⁷⁵.
- A clear recognition of the public policy problem posed by the phenomenon of missing persons and disappearances, as the rate of resolution of cases is null so far, identifying the causes for the problematic situation.
- An identification of those governmental plans and agencies with which the search for the missing would create synergies, and forms and responsibilities to develop such collaborations.
- An identification of operational goals and phases of the process of search, with a clear indication of capacities required.

Comparative experience provides some useful examples being developed in countries where, like in Sri Lanka, disappearances were extensive in the context of conflicts, and where the state has only recently developed national plans.

In Peru, the National Plan⁷⁶ proposes five priority strategic goals over a decade that cover the different aspects of the problematic:

- To improve the effectiveness of humanitarian investigation on the fate or whereabouts of the persons disappeared during the period of violence 1980-2000

⁷⁵ Full citation

⁷⁶ Plan nacional de búsqueda al 2030

- To increase the application of a humanitarian approach across all the institutions charged with the search for disappeared persons
- To increase the results of the analysis of human remains in order to identify the persons disappeared during the period of violence 1980-2000
- To reduce the adverse psychosocial effects caused by the disappearances and the process of search of the persons disappeared during the period of violence 1980-2000
- To increase the participation of the relatives of the disappeared in the search process, applying an intercultural perspective and a gender perspective.

In Colombia⁷⁷, the methodology of the search is clearly described in four phases and a special situation, each of which includes specific activities, leading responsibilities and performance indicators:

- The collection of information
- Analysis and verification of information
- Recovery and scientific-technical process of identification
- Devolution and dignified treatment of human remains
- Urgent procedure in the case of emergency situations

3.2.2 Tracing capacity

Currently the OMP does not have the capacity to effectively clarify the fate or whereabouts of the missing, so that its tracing activities are mostly reduced to the verification that complaints fall within the scope of the Act and constitute credible allegations, so that files are included in a list for purposes of deriving the families to services and benefits that could be relevant for them, such as relief, reparation or the issuance of Certificates of Absence.

As the cases are established as falling within the scope of the Act they should be referred to a Tracing Unit to investigate whether institutions of the state have information about the missing persons. The OMP, however, does not have in-house capacities to conduct the

⁷⁷ Plan nacional de búsqueda. Comisión de búsqueda de personas desaparecidas

investigation, so it works with police officers seconded from the Criminal Investigation Department.

This creates several difficulties: as investigating cases where the apparent perpetrator belongs to the security forces could create a conflict of interest, those cases are not investigated. The cases that arrive to the unit –not involving necessarily security forces—are sometimes resolved crossing information from governmental records, but these cases feed the narrative that the problem of the missing is an exaggeration: police officers seconded to the OMP interviewed for this report indicated that they had been able to clarify 154 cases including situations where the missing person had emigrated or moved to another area of the country. Such information, if widely publicized by the OMP would cause the impression that the Office discredits the wide majority of cases where the explanations are less innocent and the perpetrators belong to the state. In such a situation, the OMP has opted for not formally communicating the cases, which is problematic in itself.

The process of tracing requires also a searchable database compiling the information received by the OMP, both from previous inquiries and new testimonies. Staff at the OMP and former members have indicated that there is no such instrument: 39,146 files from different sources⁷⁸, compiled with different types of information have to be examined manually to produce a list reducing duplications or confusions caused by language. In the absence of capacity to develop their own software, the lists are contained in a simple Excel software, which results in data risk due to malware or weak protection of the server.

Perhaps the most significant weakness though is not really the lack of in house tracing capacity or the difficulty to create an authentic registry, but the fact that in the current situation there is no way to link individual complaints to concrete sites of burial in the terrain. There are no guiding hypotheses on incidents because there is no contextual analysis of the crime of enforced disappearance.

This means that, even in the case of finding human remains, which has occurred, there is no way to link them to specific incidents and, correspondingly, where there is information on

⁷⁸ OMP report 2020, OMP letter of collaboration to UN June 2022

specific incidents there is no capacity to know where to look. A mere list, as much as it is useful, is not enough: there is a need to identify patterns such as the agents typically involved in disappearances at different historical moments, locations and the modus operandi of the crime.

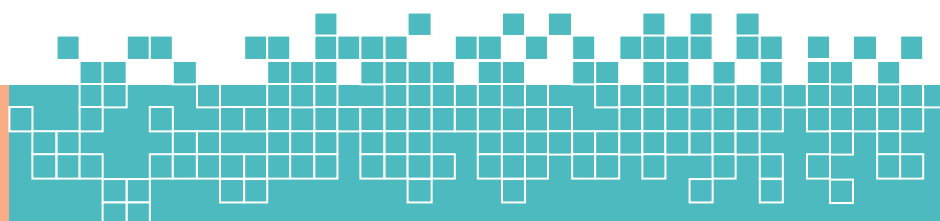
The parallel convergence of a list of complaints and findings of remains does not guarantee effective tracing if there are no hypotheses to put them together: for example, are these findings consistent with an incident of “white van” kidnapping reported in the area? Are they consistent with armed clashes that resulted in the disposal of remains? Are there reports of massive captures or surrendering? Are there credible reports of trafficking of persons? As stated above, the CTF identified fifteen different patterns in which disappearances and missing cases took place, each of which would help to link up the process of receiving information from the relatives and examination of remains, otherwise there is no way to know where to look and who to look for.

As the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances has indicated the search requires the exploration of “all reasonable hypotheses concerning the person’s disappearance... based on all available information, including that provided by the relatives or complainants, and the use of scientific and technical criteria; they should not be based on preconceptions regarding the individual circumstances and characteristics of the disappeared person.⁷⁹”

It is only at this point, when a hypotheses links names and possible locations that additional specialized capacities become relevant, such as forensic anthropology and archeology, or laboratory capacity for DNA analysis. Otherwise, the OMP, even if it could initiate investigations according to the Act, will not be in the position to do so and be reduced always to an observer role in judicial inquiries, which is paradoxical and inefficient for an institution that was established in the logic of primarily a humanitarian and nonjudicial approach.

What constitutes the gap in the area of effective tracing, then can be summarized in this way:

⁷⁹ UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances. Guiding Principles for the Search for Disappeared Persons. May 8, 2019. CED/C/7. Principle 8



- Tracing as verification of credible cases needs to become effective investigation on the fate and whereabouts of persons, on the basis of the analysis of patterns, reasonable hypotheses and exhaustive antemortem information.
- Information must to be effectively usable and searchable through comprehensive and unified registries, for disappeared persons and sites of burial.
- The OMP needs to train and retain its own tracing and investigation capacity and, eventually, its own specialized forensic anthropological and archeological capacities.

3.2.3 Engagement with the families of the missing

A harmonious relationship between the OMP and the families of the missing, based on trust and respect is a sine qua non requisite for the successful search. It is the families who have relevant antemortem information, they have conducted already efforts of search focusing on potential agents and locations. Beyond pragmatic considerations, the families have the right to obtain the truth about the fate of their loved ones and to participate actively in the process⁸⁰. The process of engagement with the families should integrate a gender perspective and an intercultural perspective.

The current situation is quite removed from that ideal. Decades of marginalization, false promises and mistreatment have resulted in a fragmentation of situations by the families of the missing. In the preparation of this report, families were interviewed in four different locations and not two families had the same priorities. The spectrum of attitudes included the complete rejection of any search conducted by the OMP or any Sri Lankan government institution, the demand for a genuine governmental search, the resignation to a secondary objective beyond the determination of the fate of the missing, such as compensation, or the refocusing on prevention so that no more families experience the same harm. This dispersion of views is a rational response to the extreme situation of powerlessness and trauma created by the disappearance: families use their capacity of agency in the way that their existing experiences and information allows and it would be unreasonable to demand of them attitudes of cooperation that the OMP and other government agencies have not earned yet.

⁸⁰ Ibid, Principle 5

The OMP needs to take those attitudes seriously. Currently, it is common to find staff members indicating that the demonstrations by families are a problem or do not respond to genuine needs but are the result of some form of political manipulation. In fact, the current OMP strategic plan explicitly identifies victims' protests and diaspora opinion as a risk to the mission of the OMP and to its image, instead of seeing them as legitimate attitudes that need to be engaged with.

Such an attitude of respectful engagement requires instruments that the OMP doesn't have, including a proper communications and outreach unit and a platform of participation for families. In fact, the strategic plan recognizes that the form to overcome distrust and lack of knowledge about the OMP requires consistent efforts of transparency. Such instruments need to have an actionable gender perspective and intercultural perspective.

Regarding communications and outreach it is clear that a comprehensive strategy, staff and training are lacking: the public presence of the OMP is reduced to occasional press coverage, always focused on weaknesses and often eliciting negative perceptions. The website and social network presence of the OMP are extremely weak, with scarce following and visibility, and the content is limited to formalistic institutional communication.

Regarding participation by families and civil society, this has been absent from the transitional justice process since the work of the Consultation Task Force which conducted surveys and focus group discussions across the entire country to gather views on the judicial and nonjudicial processes of accountability, including the OMP. Also the OMP Act did not foresee any specific platform for family participation as part of the structure of the Office.

The OMP Act authorizes the OMP to issue rules and guidelines that are gender-sensitive⁸¹. This cannot be emphasized enough in order to facilitate a constructive interaction with families: in Sri Lanka the work of mourning for the missing has been feminized: it is women who disrupt the public sphere by giving a political dimension to the traditional family roles, in particular motherhood. As it has happened in other countries, mothers have taken to the national agenda by empowering their role of undeniable witnesses: they know because they

⁸¹ OMP Act Art 11 b (original 2016, amended to 11a 2017)

themselves gave birth to persons whose existence is denied or minimized by political power. Female activism, sustained over time has kept the question of the missing in the national and the international agenda: discarding its effectiveness was an unwise decision from previous governments.

The phenomenon of disappearance has specific consequences on women, legally, psychologically and in socio-economic terms⁸². The disappearance of men, traditionally allotted the role of breadwinner and head of the family, throws women's lives in disarray, creating opportunities for engagement with them, the key constituency for the OMP: legal advice and support to use certificates of absence for legal matters, receiving tailored psychosocial support and reparation beyond a logic of mere relief, focusing on transforming the conditions of female subordination that were at the roots of victimization.

Given the story of the problematic of the missing in Sri Lanka, an intercultural perspective is also indispensable. Given the characteristics of the conflicts suffered in the country—class and generational confrontation during the JVP insurrections in the Sinhala south, ethno-religious conflict in the North and East, missing servicemembers from all ethnicities—disappearances have created a universe of victims representative of all cultures and ethno-religious identities. It is impossible to properly understand the shock caused by disappearances without recognizing the specific religious and cultural specificity of mourning the dead and dealing with ambiguous loss. One indicator of lack of intercultural capacity may be the difficulties to breach the language barrier, but this is only one of the most evident and by no means the only one. Psychosocial support and relief should be culturally situated to understand the mechanisms of coping and mourning of the relatives, according to their identity⁸³.

Finally, it is also essential to develop a child-friendly perspective for the work of the OMP. In fact, SCRUM together with UNICEF carried out an international seminar on the participation of children in transitional justice, identifying numerous areas of interest for the OMP. UNICEF had documented by 2018 around 750 cases of disappeared minors⁸⁴ and about 130 that had been resolved by the Family Tracing and Reconciliation Unit. Children are also among the relatives of those missing and are very likely to carry with them the consequences of

⁸² Comisión nacional de búsqueda de México. Búsqueda de personas desaparecidas con perspectiva de género.

⁸³ Guatemala manual de Búsqueda de personas desaparecidas por causa del conflicto armado y experiencias después del reencuentro. Peru. Plan nacional de búsqueda al 2030, Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos del Perú.

⁸⁴ Saudamini Siegrist: Child Rights in Transitional Justice Processes in Sri Lanka: Study to Document the Work and Expertise of the Family Tracing and Reunification Unit - Department of Probation and Child Care Services-Northern Province. Draft. December 2018

intergenerational trauma. They have, like the rest of their families, a right to understand and participate in the process of reconciliation, which requires a sensitive, protective and educational approach.

Within the powers granted by the Act, the Office could for example propose the establishment of a dialogue platform with civil society and families. In Peru, one of the instruments of the National Plan of Search is a Multisector Working Group, formally established within the Ministry of Justice⁸⁵ gathering representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Health, five victim organizations, four leading human rights NGOs and a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

There is good reason to believe that the OMP would not be opposed to establishing this type of platform adapted to the realities of Sri Lanka. The Office has consistently organized meetings with relatives even in conditions of distrust and disruption, also the Office has supported the legal right of the families to actively participate in the process of search and investigation of burial sites⁸⁶.

3.2.4 Provision of services to families

Psychosocial support

The interviews carried out to families in the course of the preparation of this report made clear that the relatives experience acute situations of risk and trauma. Perpetrators and opportunist actors have used the desperation of the relatives to extract resources from them while disseminating cruel rumors. Fake or decontextualized information circulates among families feeding both hope and despair, and the families have consistently reported harassment from the intelligence services of the armed forces and police.

⁸⁵ Resolución ministerial 0269-2020, Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos del Perú.

⁸⁶ Provincial High Court of Northern Province in Vavuniya [Case Number: HCV/REV/327/2020]

An illustrative example is the narrative reported by families in Mannar and Jaffna as information circulating in the media and social networks. According to this version, a prominent Sri Lankan doctor had admitted that recently, the government of Sri Lanka had provided 35,000 human eyes to Pakistan, which was inexplicable without an extensive operation of harvesting of human organs consistent with the killing of thousands of disappeared persons. Such a grim narrative was referred with deep terror and conviction, but, in fact, it was a badly circulated version of a journalistic story on the work of the Sri Lankan Eye Donation Society since 1967⁸⁷.

Such a story is one destructive manifestation of the phenomenon of ambiguous mourning experienced by the relatives of the missing: in the absence of clarity regarding the ultimate fate of the loved ones, narratives fill the space, providing possible explanations, maintaining the urgency and keeping the pain active. Without a trauma healing perspective it is dubious that families will be in a situation to constructively engage with any institution focused on the search of the missing, even if the distrust was not so profound as it already is.

The OMP has a family support unit with fairly junior staff, but it has been able to provide support in its five offices. When interviewed, staff have indicated that their training is limited and that they have very little resources to follow up on cases. The OMP does have a protocol on psychosocial support that was developed back in 2019 and has not been substantively revised since. The protocol resulted from the consultation with Sri Lankan experts and it is similar in methodology to protocols currently used by the Office on National Unity and Reconciliation, but its effectiveness is limited by scarce resources.

Protection of participants

The work of the Office is unlikely to be successful if participants in the process are not protected against adverse results, yet all families interviewed referred to forms of harassment by the intelligence services including intrusive home visits, photography at demonstrations or meetings. This situation runs counter to well established international principles stating that “during the search process, the competent authorities should ensure the protection of the

⁸⁷ FT Daily, 6 December 2021. “Sri Lanka donated to us 35,000 eyes but we lost sight: Pakistan ophthalmologist”

victims at all times, regardless of the level of involvement that they choose to have in the search.”⁸⁸

Officials recognized this problematic pattern and indicated that the current government has remonstrated intelligence services for this kind of attitude, which has allegedly reduced the incidents. The OMP does have a protection strategy prepared in 2020, but it remains unable to effectively apply it for lack of personnel. The positions for a head of the protection unit and three senior protection officers are vacant for lack of resources.

It is important to indicate that filling gaps regarding protection do not necessarily require the establishment of a complex capacity⁸⁹: protection can result from appropriate cooperation with the families themselves, communities or civil society organizations, including increase capacities of self-care and safe practices.

Legal advice

The OMP does not have an active legal advice unit, so that support is provided on an ad hoc basis, when senior staff has the possibility to interact directly with families. As a result information is provided in forms that the families find to be confusing or even that other institutions of the state do not fully understand.

A good example concerns the issuance of Certificates of Absence, whose novelty in Sri Lanka⁹⁰ resulted in a need by the OMP to engage actively with the Office of the Registrar General⁹¹ to ensure that district registrars understood the significance of the document and avoid confusions with the certificate of death. Thanks to the OMP, then, families have been able to obtain Certificates of Absence that help them to deal with legal consequences of the disappearance of a loved one.

⁸⁸ UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances. Guiding Principles for the Search for Disappeared Persons. May 8, 2019. CED/C/7., Principle 14.

⁸⁹ South Asian Center for legal Studies “Operationalizing the OMP” chapter 3

⁹⁰ Registration of Death (amendment) Act 16 of 2016, Section 8A to E and G

⁹¹ OMP annual reports 2019, 2020, 2021

However, an unforeseen difficulty has been identified: the certificates have a limited time of validity. They expire after only two years, so they have to be renewed periodically. This makes little sense and results in onerous procedures for the families. It would be more appropriate to ensure that the certificates of absence have a longer time of validity or else are permanent unless eventually the absent person returns or is effectively determined to have died.

Another, more fundamental, challenge is the fact that not all families consider the certificates to be a central demand and they may even see them as similarly damaging as a certificate of death. The notion that a document closes the search and provides some finalization to the process torments relatives of the missing. Anxiety about the meaning of the certificates and fear about the intentions of government to abandon any search for the missing can be quite damaging psychologically, leading to misinformation and further trauma⁹².

Referral to reparation

The OMP has also referred cases to the Office on Reparations, and it maintains a space of periodic coordination with the OR. It also had an important role requesting emergency relief for families of the missing during the COVID 19 crisis⁹³. Officials at the Office on Reparations, interviewed for this report indicated that they have observed that families of the missing experience confusion regarding their right to reparation: some believe that any benefit is contingent to having a certificate of death or a certificate of absence. The Office on Reparations, however, does not require any such document: it is enough that the name of the disappeared person is included in the OMP lists.

3.2.5. Budget, staffing and offices

The OMP operates with a small fraction of the budget and personnel that was originally planned for it by the Secretariat for the Coordination of Reconciliation Mechanisms, in

⁹² “I can’t bring back the dead”: Sri Lanka Leader Ends Search for War Missing. The New York Times. January 21, 2020

⁹³ OMP Annual Reports. 2020 and 2021

consultation with international experts, the ICRC and examination of relevant international experience⁹⁴.

SCRM planned for a staff of 324 persons with an annual recurrent salary cost of 213 million Rupees. The cadre approved by the Department of Management Services (DMS) however was reduced to 255 persons of whom only 29 are currently hired at a yearly wage budget of 23.6 million Rupees⁹⁵. Some key functions are fulfilled through secondments, as is the case of the tracing unit and some staff at the regional offices, taking the total numbers to 61 persons⁹⁶. The OMP operates with a staff that is a fifth of its original planned capacity.

The ethnic composition of the staff is a key element to establish rapport with families and civil society. The regional offices are reflective of the ethno-religious identity of their local environment. Indeed, the regional offices in Kilinochchi (8 staff) and Jaffna (12 staff) are exclusively staffed by Tamil professionals. The regional office in Matara (4 staff) is fully staffed by professionals identifying themselves as Buddhist. The offices in Mannar (5 staff) and Batticaloa (7 staff) have Tamil, Muslim and Christian staff. The head office, based in Colombo is largely Buddhist: only three persons in a staff of 24 are Tamil. This constitutes an enormous challenge that would require a complete revision of staffing criteria and an intentional effort to ensure a much larger ethnic diversity.

Taking into account that families of the missing have a strong female leadership, the gender composition of the offices is also a significant issue. The OMP in general is a majority-female institution: two thirds of the staff members are women. In the regional offices of Kilinochchi and Jaffna, women are three quarters of the staff. In the other regional offices—Mannar, Batticaloa, Matara—the staff is at gender parity. The Head Office is largely female: three quarters of the staff are women. However, the numbers in favor of female staffing do not automatically translate to female leadership: only one of the five regional offices (Mannar) is led by a woman. In the head office, there is gender parity among the heads of units.

The salary scale approved is quite inadequate for the delicate nature of the work conducted and the experience needed. Only four persons are hired at a higher management scale with very modest salaries: the highest current salary including a number of allowances is 198,000

⁹⁴ SCRM. Office on Missing Persons. Budget Allocation 2017. Also Budget Allocation Final 2018.

⁹⁵ Salary documents facilitated by the OMP, annual audits contained in reports.

⁹⁶ Staff roster facilitated by the OMP. See table at the end of this section.

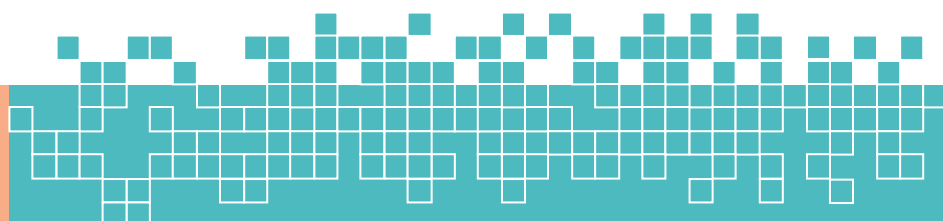
Rupees. At such scales it is extremely difficult to attract or retain qualified personnel, and the OMP has struggled to ensure that higher scales are approved or that personnel with non-permanent contracts are effectively retained⁹⁷. As an example, the OMP originally received about 20,000 applications to fill its original cadre, but at the scales approved the absolute majority of applicants did not have the required abilities. Worse, staff that had been contracted on a non-permanent basis and were already trained were rejected by the DMS resulting in the loss of essential staff, including Tamil-speaking case managers, which resulted in directly weakening the possibility to communicate with families. Currently, the OMP has an open call for applications for fifteen vacancies in critical positions, but none has been filled yet⁹⁸.

Put in an impossible situation, the OMP has been forced to work without fully staffed essential units. As indicated above, the OMP doesn't have a full in house tracing and investigation unit or a legal, policy and research unit. Mostly, the heads of units must make do with junior or seconded staff, which has negative effects in terms of efficiency and staff motivation, and commitment to mission. Similarly, the OMP has been unable to establish all the offices originally foreseen and it has only five: Matara, Jaffna, Batticaloa and Mannar established in 2019 and Killinochchi established in 2021.

⁹⁷ Office on Missing Persons. Annual report 2020

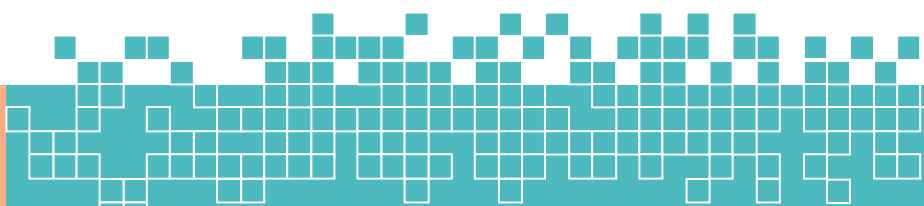
⁹⁸ <https://logs.lk/office-on-missing-persons-job-vacancies-2023/>

Table: Current staffing of the OMP



#	Name	Designation	Sex	Ethnicity	Religion
Head Office					
1	Mr. J. Thatparan	Executive Director	Male	Tamil	Hindu
2	Mr. A. N. Nuwan	Head Of Data Management	Male	Sinhala	Buddhism
3	Ms. Nayomi Weerasinghe	Acting Head of Human Resources & Administration	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
4	Mr. S.N.C.W.M Dharmakeerthi	Actg. Head of F&P	Male	Sinhala	Buddhism
5	Ms. Chandra Malini	Actg. Head of Tracing	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
6	Mr. Kanishka Hewavitharana	Victim and Family Support Officer	Male	Sinhala	Buddhism
7	Ms. Roomini Perera	Victim and Family Support Officer	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
8	Ms. L. A.I.K. Perera	Development Officer	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
9	Ms. D.L.N. Lasanajee	Development Officer	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
10	Ms. S. T. Sewwandi	Development Officer	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
11	Ms. H.V.K. De Silva	Development Officer	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
12	Ms. S.N. Vidarapathirana	Development Officer	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
13	Ms. Thanuja Dilrukshi	Development Officer	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
14	Ms. R.A.S. Privadharshani	Development Officer	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
15	Ms.N.T.B.M. Marasinghe	Development Officer	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
16	Ms. Rasangi Anuruddika	Management Assistant	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
17	Ms. J. Nimesha Kumari	Management Assistant	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
18	Ms. D.A.D. K. Ekanyaka	Management Assistant	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
19	Mr. S.D.P. Samarasinghe	Management Assistant	Male	Sinhala	Buddhism
20	Ms. H. L. D. S. Jinawanthi	Management Assistant	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
21	Ms. Deuni Withanage	Management Assistant	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
22	Ms. M. Sadojah	Management Assistant	Female	Tamil	Hindu
23	Ms. M. D. Dharsani	National Coordinator	Female	Tamil	Hindu
24	Mr. Sumedha Rajeev	Driver	Male	Sinhala	Buddhism
Matara Regional Office					
25	Mr. G. D. Prashan	Regional Coordinator	Male	Sinhala	Buddhism
26	Mr. R. A. Aditha Ekmal	V&FSO	Male	Sinhala	Buddhism
27	Ms. T.G.S.Lanka	Development Officer	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
28	Ms. K. D. I. M. Senarathne	Development Officer	Female	Sinhala	Buddhism
\					
29	Ms. Rasna Mubarak	Regional Coordinator	Female	Muslim	Islam
30	Mr. N. R. Thuram	V&FSO	Male	Tamil	Christian
31	Ms. S. Fathima Safana	Management Assistant	Female	Muslim	Islam
32	Mr. T.S. Niroshan	Development Officer	Male	Christian	Catholic
33	Mr. K. Mayoaran	Development Officer	Male	Tamil	Hindu
Batticaloa Regional Office					
34	Mr. A. M. Culas	V&FSO	Male	Tamil	Hindu
35	Ms. A. McLani	Management Assistant	Female	Tamil	Hindu
36	Ms. R. Jesni	Management Assistant	Female	Tamil	Hindu
37	Mr. A. M. M. Mufeen	Development Officer	Male	Muslim	Islam
38	Mr. A. C. M. Rinosan	Development Officer	Male	Muslim	Islam
39	Mr. T. Logendra	Development Officer	Male	Tamil	Hindu
40	Ms. Panchawaram	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Hindu
Kilinochchi Regional Office					
41	Mr. V. N. Jade Peries	Acting Regional Coordinator/ V&FSO	Male	Tamil	Christian
42	Ms. L. Gobiga	Management Assistant	Female	Tamil	Hindu
43	Ms. P. D. N. Culas	Management Assistant	Female	Tamil	Christian
44	Mr. A. Jeevathasan	Development Officer	Male	Tamil	Hindu
45	Ms. J. Kowsala	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Hindu
46	Ms. S. Thavaneethamalar	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Hindu
47	Ms. M. C. Consalas	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Christian
48	Ms. K. Thevapriya	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Hindu
Jaffna Regional Office					
49	Mr. T. Selvakumar	Regional Coordinator	Male	Tamil	Hindu
50	Ms. S. Krishaliny	V&FSO	Female	Tamil	Hindu
51	Ms. Srikantharuban Sukanja	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Hindu
52	Ms. K. Vanitha	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Hindu
53	Mr. F. Sirangan	Development Officer	Male	Tamil	Hindu
54	Ms. M. Savidri	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Christian
55	Ms. P. Penipamathan	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Hindu
56	Ms. V. Mathuraj	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Hindu
57	Ms. K. Thivya	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Hindu
58	Mr. M. Kennathasan	Development Officer	Male	Tamil	Hindu
59	Ms. B. Navanitharaj	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Hindu
60	Mr. K. Sayanthan	Development Officer	Male	Tamil	Hindu
61	Ms. P. Sivajini	Development Officer	Female	Tamil	Hindu

3.3. Assessment of risk



The gaps identified in this section present an opportunity for engagement, since the need is clear, but the history of the OMP, as explained in section 1, is a cautionary tale regarding the disconnect between stated political commitment and realities, mediated by instability and intrinsic tensions. Therefore, any opportunity to respond to institutional and technical capacity gaps should be confronted with at least four clear risks:

- Political instability modifying negatively the structure of opportunity for measures of transitional justice.
 - Associated threats could include the fall of the current government, the reactivation of extreme political tendencies hostile to reconciliation and negative signals that discourage OMP members to be proactive.
- Reputational risk derived from negative practices by the OMP partners or from lack of measurable progress in the core functions of the OMP.
 - Associated threats would be acts of hostility and polarization against families, lack of professionalism by very junior or untrained staff, lack of measurable progress in concrete metrics (processing of complaints, identification of patterns, association of complaints and hypotheses, participation in exhumations, effective tracing and resolution of cases, devolution of mortal remains or reunions).
- Risk to the security of participants in the OMP process or their capacity to participate actively and freely.
 - Associated threats include the reactivation of ethnic violence targeting human rights defenders and victim organization leadership, continued hostility and harassment by security forces, revictimization due to lack of appropriate attention to psychosocial needs.
- Risk to the independence and professionalism of the OMP
 - Associated threats include intrusive policymaker involvement in the decisions of the OMP, renewal of members without consideration to a proven record and technical expertise, intrusive administrative practices weakening the capacity of the OMP to conduct its programs autonomously.

It is beyond the limits of this study to evaluate the actual likelihood of each of these threats or envision plausible scenarios in the complex political realities of Sri Lanka, but any engagement to bridge the gaps identified in this chapter should include measures of mitigation or exit strategies that are clearly understood by all the participants.

Specifically, the four identified areas of risk and their associated threats would require at least the following measures for impact reduction.



- Political instability threats call for constant communication with the national authorities to establish clear expectations on political support, as well as active communication of transitional justice standards to ensure that no policy initiatives harm the OMP mission.
- Reputational risk requires the establishment of transparent conditions for cooperation with iterative evaluation, including, for example, periodic reports by embedded experts, periodic meetings with the leadership of the OMP, meetings with families to assess the evolution of levels of confidence in the process.
- Risk to the security of participants in the process requires a strong prioritization of the capacities of protection by the OMP and clear messaging to the national authorities to indicate that practices of harassment to victims are unacceptable.
- Risk to the independence and professionalism of the OMP can be countered with formal communication of criteria to appoint members of the Board, establishment of good practices of transparency, and the development of a proper communication strategy for the Office.

4: RECOMMENDATIONS

This report has examined the context-related and legal capacity of the OMP to discharge its functions, the real commitment of its leadership to do so and the technical capacity it has to do so. The report is of the view that in spite of a complex context, the legislation does endow the OMP with a comprehensive mandate that can be independently interpreted and developed by the members of the Board, as well as effective powers to discharge its duties. Concerning commitment, this report adopts a position of cautious optimism. The OMP leadership seems committed to revive an institution badly weakened by a period of institutional neglect, but its commitment requires a bold process of recentering on the core tracing function of the Office.

The third question must be responded in the negative. Currently the OMP is far from having the technical capacity to successfully discharge its functions. It does not yet have a genuine national plan focused on the search function, it is unable at current levels of capacity to effectively communicate with families and deliver support to them, and it suffers from severe understaffing. Also, while the OMP could benefit from stronger partnerships with other Sri Lankan institutions, better alliances in themselves may not be sufficient to resolve the lack of technical capacity. Governmental resolve will be needed to enable the OMP adopt a proactive position and international cooperation may play a significant role to revive the institution.

The following recommendations address the gaps between function and capacity, and identify priorities for different stakeholders. Achieving an OMP that can effectively discharge its duties and contribute to reconciliation requires an alignment of the willingness of all stakeholders.

4.1. Concerning the OMP

- The OMP should continue its process of strategic planning using its document “Strategic Plan 2023-2025” as a basis so that it evolves in the direction of a comprehensive National Plan for the Search of Missing Persons. Specifically, this requires the OMP to clarify the following in its current strategic considerations
 - (a) to reaffirm the OMP’s commitment to the core function of tracing and determining the fate and whereabouts of missing persons under the OMP Act

as a core outcome as well as commitment to the relevant elements of the Act on the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances,

- (b) to ensure that the analysis of risk and context is permeated by an intention to collaborate with victims' families, taking seriously their rights, concerns, demands, and a gender perspective, an intercultural perspective and a child-friendly perspective.
 - (c) to include explicit performance indicators on the effective clarification of the fate of missing persons and the successful identification of remains.
 - (d) to formally include the goals of updating the OMP protocol of psychosocial attention and OMP strategy of protection, that have not been updated since 2019 and 2020 respectively.
 - (e) to reiterate to the government the need to build in-house capacity for tracing without recourse to secondment from police agencies, as well as an appropriate Legal and Policy Unit.
 - (f) to ensure that the strengthening of the database includes beyond the listing of missing persons, consistent categories of antemortem information, and that a second registry is created on sites of burial, suspected, examined or confirmed.
 - (g) to strengthen the capacities and commitment to mission among the staff in the local offices, and directing the offices to actively seek cooperation with victim families, consistently offering information and finding synergies with relevant local authorities, such as the Office on Reparations.
- The OMP must address families' mistrust head on, with an approach of transparency regarding its procedures but also its situation after a long period of institutional weakness and neglect. The families deserve to know not just the information about their loved ones, but the indicators of the state real commitment to support the search. This requires the careful elaboration of a communications strategy that, at a minimum strengthens the effectiveness of public information, discipline of message, careful planning of interactions with families.
 - The OMP needs to be also transparent regarding its considerations on the potentials or limitations of its foundational document, the Act. Since the OMP considers that the amendment of 2017 weakened the independence of the institution by hindering its capacity to enter in agreements, the Office should seek workable alliances to revert the amendment.
 - In use of the powers provided by the Act, the OMP could start a process of formalized participation with civil society and families, examining several options, including the

creation of a consultative platform with the participation of concerned ministries, families, civil society and international institutions. Civil society participation should also be formally proposed as a criteria for the government to consider in future cycles of renewal of the Board of the OMP.

- Strengthen mechanisms of coordination with the Office on Reparation to identify synergies. The two institutions should examine together their role in a comprehensive transitional justice architecture including truth-telling and criminal justice, assuming that the government of Sri Lanka continues a process of re-engagement with an agenda of national reconciliation.
- To actively participate in the discussion concerning the design and preparation of a potential Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), affirming that both the OMP and a potential TRC should be grounded on the explicit recognition of the right to the truth for victims and society at large. Also, the OMP should identify the forms and conditions in which information should be shared with the TRC for anything that benefits victims.

4.2. Concerning the government of Sri Lanka

- The government of Sri Lanka should indicate its support to the independence and effectiveness of the OMP as part of a renewed commitment to the national reconciliation agenda, in a holistic perspective similar to the policies that were neglected or abandoned in 2019. This must include:
 - (a) Publicly signaling its respect for the independence of the OMP and its support for its work, authorizing the appropriate institutions to revise the authorized cadre for the Office and its salary scale. While the conditions of economic crisis continue, the government could prioritize targeted revisions of the cadre to ensure the establishment of the Tracing and Investigations Unit and the Legal and Policy Unit.
 - (b) To consider the re-establishment of a coordination institution for the reconciliation mechanisms, on the model of the previous Secretariat for the Coordination of Reconciliation Mechanisms.
 - (c) To ensure that current consideration of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission⁹⁹ is fully consistent with current best practices in the field of transitional justice, ensuring effective powers for such a commission, holistic

⁹⁹ TRCSL Concept Paper. National Unity and Reconciliation Commission of Sri Lanka.

- understanding of victim rights, clear linkages with criminal accountability and capacity to share information with the OMP and the Office on Reparations.
- (d) Engaging with the OMP and members of parliament to study the appropriateness and feasibility of reverting the 2017 Act to amend the original OMP Act, and restoring the capacity of the Office to directly enter into agreements with national or international persons or organizations.
 - (e) To ensure that future renewals of the members of the OMP Board are conducted by the Constitutional Council using criteria that are publicly known and include a record of support for human rights and successful public or private practice and performance. Study the possibility to amend the OMP Act to ensure that future Boards include a magistrate with the capacity to issue orders so that the OMP can initiate processes of search and identification with more effectiveness.
 - (f) Instructing the ministries concerned with the missing to cooperate with the OMP as well as the other reconciliation institutions. This must explicitly include circulars to the authorities of Defense and Interior to cease any form of harassment or vigilance of families of the missing or activities of the OMP.

4.3. Concerning civil society and survivors' organizations

- To actively seek instruments of coordination across the universe of families harmed by disappearances, with an intercultural perspective, in order to revert the current dispersion of positions regarding the problematic of the missing and, in general, policy proposals on transitional justice and reconciliation.
- To take the initiative of conforming a platform of engagement and dialogue with the OMP, in a spirit of mutual transparency, with the objective to contribute to the process of strategic planning of the OMP and the tasks needed to revive its capacities.
- To prioritize programs of support to the relatives of the missing, fostering strategies of psychosocial support and trauma healing, helping families to counter situations of revictimization such as false information, economic exploitation, and other forms of abuse.

4.4. Concerning the international community

- The international community should honor the proposals of collaboration presented by the OMP in the framework of the current needs assessment, ensuring that any cooperation includes actionable metrics for progress in the core function of tracing and determining the fate or whereabouts of the missing. The international community could, when relevant, explore the model of embedding international expertise in the OMP and the involvement of special procedures, which was used in the time of the SCRM, to ensure a functional mechanism for channeling knowledge, sharing information and facilitating cooperation.
- To subject cooperation to a detailed analysis of risk that considers the following risk areas:
 - Political instability modifying negatively the structure of opportunity for measures of transitional justice.
 - Reputational risk derived from negative practices by the OMP partners or from lack of measurable progress in the core functions of the OMP.
 - Risk to the security of participants in the OMP process or their capacity to participate actively and freely.
 - Risk to the independence and professionalism of the OMP

A detailed analysis should include, for each of these areas of risk, concrete threats and scenarios, identifying their likelihood and mitigation measures.

- To approach the governmental authorities to signal that the condition for international re-engagement with the OMP is an environment of transparency, respect for the independence of the OMP, respect for the rights of the families and active monitoring and reporting to the relevant international fora such as treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council.
- To use the Strategic Plan 2023 – 2025, with appropriate revisions as indicated in this document to develop objective indicators of performance that can be continuously evaluated, in order to measure the effectiveness of collaboration in the priority areas.
- To leverage access to international comparative experience, in particular concerning the several national institutions for the search of the missing and disappeared that have been established relatively recently and that have faced challenges comparable

to those experienced by the OMP. This should prioritize a South-South approach identifying good practices from different mechanisms, for example:

- (a) The use of intercultural and interethnic approaches to the search in countries like Cyprus, Guatemala, Peru
 - (b) The development of national forensic archeological and anthropological capacities in South Africa
 - (c) The experience of families organization and cooperation with search institutions in countries like Colombia
 - (d) The experience of a children-sensitive approach and capacities in the tracing of separated or trafficked children, as in Guatemala or Argentina
- To foster coordination between the international community and the International Committee of the Red Cross to ensure a common approach to re-engagement with the OMP, sharing criteria of prioritization, measurement of progress, forms of technical support including embedded expertise, financial support and risk assessment.

Success Story

Reparations Healed: Komalam's Journey from Despair to Empowerment

Yoganathan Komalam's life was forever changed by the conflict. Her husband was left permanently disabled, and with two young daughters to care for, she was forced into the role of sole provider and caretaker. The war had not only taken away her family's security—it left behind deep emotional scars, financial burdens, and the constant pressure of survival.



In the face of these overwhelming challenges, Komalam made a bold decision. She took out a loan and started a small handloom business, hoping it would bring stability to her family and dignity to her life. She bought three handloom machines and began working tirelessly. But despite her dedication and determination, she struggled. Without access to proper marketing or business guidance, her products didn't sell. She couldn't repay the loan, couldn't support her family, and couldn't continue paying the few women she had employed. Eventually, with a heavy heart, she closed the business she had built with so much hope and hard work.

With no other options, Komalam took up a daily-wage job in an orphanage. Two years passed, and the weight of the unpaid loan and her worsening family situation became unbearable. She was emotionally exhausted, yet the dream of restarting her business lingered—her only hope of breaking free from the cycle of poverty and despair. But the barriers remained the same: no capital, no business knowledge, no marketing support, and no one to turn to.

That's when Komalam was connected to the Office for Reparations through her local Divisional Secretariat. In partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the reparations program offered her something she hadn't received before—not just

financial help, but belief in her potential under the project.

She was enrolled in the project and received in-depth training in both business management and technical skills specific to the handloom industry. She was also given raw materials and the machinery needed to relaunch her business. Just as importantly, she was offered emotional support. Through a series of mental health sessions, the project helped her begin to heal from the trauma that had haunted her for years. Once the training was complete, Komalam was introduced to marketing networks, giving her a real pathway to success.

Months later, the results speak for themselves. Komalam is now recognized as a successful entrepreneur. She earns between 50,000 and 60,000 Sri Lankan rupees in profit each month and has created employment for more than ten other women—many of whom are also survivors of the conflict. Her business is not just a source of income; it's a symbol of resilience and renewal for an entire community.

“I started providing free training for young, vulnerable women in handloom production,” Komalam shared. “It's my way of giving back for what I received from the project. I believe we build peace and reconciliation when we understand the pain of others and give them a hand. I also refer other conflict-affected women to the Office for Reparations, so they can find the support they need, too.”

Komalam's story is not just one of personal success. It is proof that reparations can heal. When survivors are given a chance—not just to survive, but to rebuild with dignity—they become leaders in reconciliation, in healing, and in hope.