PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
COUNTRY: Sri Lanka
TYPE OF REPORT: SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL: ANNUAL
YEAR OF REPORT: 2021

Project Title: Protecting the Rights Space to Foster Peace in Sri Lanka **Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:** 00125636	
If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund: ☐ Country Trust Fund ☐ Regional Trust Fund **Name of Recipient Fund:**	**Type and name of recipient organizations:** UNOPS (Convening Agency) UNODC
Date of first transfer: **UNOPS :** 5th February 2021 **UNODC** : 27 January 2021 **Project end date:** 5th August 2022 **Is the current project end date within 6 months?** No	
Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows: ☒ Gender promotion initiative ☐ Youth promotion initiative ☐ Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions ☐ Cross-border or regional project	
Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization): **Recipient Organization Amount** UNOPS $ 1 150 000 UNODC $ 350,000 Total: $ 1 500 000 Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: *ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE* **Gender-responsive Budgeting:** 80% Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: 1,202, 314 Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment:	
Project Gender Marker : GM3 **Project Risk Marker:** 1 **Project PBF focus area:** 2.3 Conflict Prevention/ Management	

Report preparation:
Project report prepared by: UNOPS and UNODC
Project report approved by:
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Country Manager Sri Lanka and the Maldives
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2) Dr Suruchi Pant
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UNODC Regional Office - South Asia
Did PBF Secretariat review the report: In the absence of a PBF Secretariat in the country, the RCO office did.

PART 1: OVERALL PROJECT PROGRESS

Briefly outline the **status of the project** in terms of implementation cycle, including whether preliminary/preparatory activities have been completed (i.e. contracting of partners, staff recruitment, etc.) (1500-character limit):

During the timeframe covered under this report, the project resumed its implementation phase following successive periods of lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic and is now completing its delayed mobilization activities : UNOPS has established two offices in the Northern and Easter provinces of Sri Lanka, secured approvals to operate from local district secretariat authorities and is finalizing the recruitment of the teams who will lead the provision of the services in support of the civil society. Similarly, UNODC formed affiliations with main stakeholders and grassroots organisations.

To date, the project teams have consulted with 108 key stakeholders and currently identified an additional 124 Civil Society Organisations including 55 women or women supporting groups - of those 124, 50 have confirmed to date their interest and shared their requirements for support. This includes also the Legal Aid Commission and the Bar Association regional offices and their marginalized recipients of legal assistance.

The project has also initiated the implementation of the following activities :
- CSO capacity mapping
- Referrals of individual cases to protection mandated stakeholders
- Design of curriculum, information and awareness material for trainings in project management, finance management, protection and access to justice and legal assistance
- Planning for the provision of financial assistance and grants
- Design and Provision of protection referrals to relevant stakeholders
- Design, Programming and Coding of the online platform

Please indicate any significant project-related events anticipated in the next six months, i.e. national dialogues, youth congresses, film screenings, etc. (1000-character limit):

The project will roll out the provision of support and services for civil society actors while taking into consideration the safety and security of project personnel and CSOs partners in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and protection related issues in Sri Lanka.

UNOPS will launch the CSO dedicated online platform for partners to access resources and access to the proposed services and equipment while scaling up progressively the provision of

such services and equipment based on partners requirements and needs in developing their knowledge and skills to adapt to challenging operational environment, receive financial assistance, equipment and tools to pursue their work. UNOPS will also organise some of these activities for the local authorities responsible who oversee the civil society organisations work.

Protection mechanisms will be carefully rolled out expanding from the work done these past months in consultation with OHCHR.

UNODC will resume its access to justice and legal aid training activities in support of legal aid providers supporting marginalized communities and civil society actors.

FOR PROJECTS WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF COMPLETION: summarize **the main structural, institutional or societal level change the project has contributed to**. This is not anecdotal evidence or a list of individual outputs, but a description of progress made toward the main purpose of the project. (1500 character limit):

In a few sentences, explain whether the project has had a positive **human impact**. May include anecdotal stories about the project's positive effect on the people's lives. Include direct quotes where possible or weblinks to strategic communications pieces. (2000 character limit):

PART II: RESULT PROGRESS BY PROJECT OUTCOME

Describe overall progress under each Outcome made during the reporting period (for June reports: January-June; for November reports: January-November; for final reports: full project duration). Do not list individual activities. If the project is starting to make/has made a difference at the outcome level, provide specific evidence for the progress (quantitative and qualitative) and explain how it impacts the broader political and peacebuilding context.

- ▪ *"On track" refers to the timely completion of outputs as indicated in the workplan.*
- ▪ *"On track with peacebuilding results" refers to higher-level changes in the conflict or peace factors that the project is meant to contribute to. These effects are more likely in mature projects than in newer ones.*

If your project has more than four outcomes, contact PBSO for template modification.

Outcome 1 - Women peacebuilders have greater means to operate safely
Rate the current status of the outcome progress: Delayed

Progress summary: *(3000 character limit)*

The project teams have completed the revision of the sequencing of activities, updated work plans and timeline following the three periods of lockdowns related to the Covid-19 pandemic imposed in Sri Lanka throughout the months of February, May-June and August to October 2021 totaling close to 4 months out of 9 months of implementation period.

As part of its protection objective, this project was able to establish and pursue its monitoring of the shrinking civic space, human rights violations and policy changes affecting communities, civil society, women peacebuilders and human rights defenders to ensure the

activities rolled out are relevant to the challenges faced, and adapted to the rapidly changing environment they operate in

The CSO capacity mapping exercise enabled the project team to capture the specific requirements of 50 groups from the civil society to be delivered in the coming months in 5 districts, including from 11 women groups. It also enabled the project team to update and adjust operational scenarios, barriers and opportunities after two years of pandemic coupled with socio-economic hardships impacting the civil space to actively engage and pursue its critical work. Such information has been integrated into the design of the relevant curriculums and protection tools and referrals given to relevant stakeholders.

Additionally, steps have been taken to incorporate recent operational directives from the local authorities regulating the type of activities authorised to be conducted and implemented with communities : technical advisory with 2 local NGO coordinators from 2 district authorities and relevant partners have started to attempt to preserve some operational space of said partners while also ensuring their compliance with government official mandatory reporting. Steps are being taken to prepare all partners for their operational and financial reporting requirements and mitigate risks related to the loss of their registrations and approvals to pursue their operations next year[1]. The launch of the online CSO dedicated platform will also enable their safer reporting and access to such dedicated services in the future while financial grants planned for the end of the year will enable the pursuit of some critical programmes in 2022.

Finally, this project has also resumed access to justice initiatives for marginalized communities and civil society organisations starting with members of the Bar Association. These activities aim to connect women legal aid providers with women groups and civil society organisations members to establish informal networks of solidarity if and when needed. These are particularly important in light of the high prevalence of arrests reported and documented this past year across the country, and the need to build resilience and greater access to legal protection mechanisms for such organisations and peacebuilders.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:

This first outcome aims to enable women groups and women supporters to pursue their work by contributing to build resilience, protection and survival mechanisms. This will in turn aim to contribute to the strategic empowerment of civil leaders, vulnerable communities and contribute to de-escalate potential conflict triggers to ethno-religious tensions in the country. Project teams have incorporated gender parity and gender sensitive management processes, gender disaggregated information management systems and mapping of the CSO and women groups have been primarily consulted and identified as recipients of the services.

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[1][In the year 2020, Mullaitivu district had 13 organisations removed from the official district list.]

Outcome 2: State authorities have greater means to protect and provide assistance to vulnerable and marginalised victims

Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On track

Progress summary: *(3000 character)*

With the objective of enhancing access to justice, UNODC has initiated activities in protection. As the first step, UNODC formed affiliations with main State stakeholders and relevant grassroot counterparts including the Ministry of Justice, the Legal Aid Commission, Bar Association of Sri Lanka and Community Based Organisations (CBOs). The outcomes of this will contribute to provide enhanced access to justice to peacebuilders and human rights defenders who come into contact with the criminal justice system and are particularly vulnerable.

The focus is on linking legal practitioners with women peacebuilders and CBOs providing an opportunity to address the fear of stigmatization, cultural perceptions, social alienation, and lack of faith in law enforcement and the judiciary and to change their perception in obtaining assistance from existing legal aid providers and reliance on the criminal justice system. In addition, attention was bestowed on identifying their role as a legal aid provider and protection agent for the civil society. UNODC is able to understand the needs and nature of legal aid programs necessary for building capacity to address and overcome the existing slow, tardy and ineffective procedures.

UNODC has completed a mapping to identify capacity of women's groups in the formal and informal justice sector and developed information and awareness material for guidance on legal aid matters to provide these actors with greater means to provide assistance.

Giving due consideration to the 'United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems the information material developed will be made available to the community organizations, isolated marginalized groups and to the public in local government offices and educational and religious institutions. Special focus will be paid on the rights of a person suspected of or charged with a criminal offence in a criminal justice process and on the availability and accessibility of legal aid services provided in police stations, detention centres, courts and prisons.

UNODC has also started preparatory work for activities planned for the next quarter namely the gap assessment for witness protection and the design of the training for the witness protection processes and mechanisms.

By identifying the barriers to the legal aid avenues available for women and marginalised sections of the society to access to justice, the project aims to bridge the gap with state and nonstate actors and women organisations in accessing justice and protection mechanisms.

By establishing regional protection networks and mechanisms between judicial practitioners and women peacebuilders, HRDS and organisations will have greater access to justice and protection means when conducting their critical work.

Indicate any additional analysis on how Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and/or Youth Inclusion and Responsiveness has been ensured under this Outcome:

This second outcome aims to further support the remaining allies within the government (the Legal Aid Commission, the Ministry of Justice, the Bar Association) to support and protect the targeted civil society and communities. This is particularly true for women leaders and activists to partner with key stakeholders within the Government to play an active role in protecting them, their voice and their work and help de-escalate any conflict triggering tensions.

PART III: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Monitoring: Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit) This project will be monitored based on the defined project framework prepared jointly by UNOPS and UNODC. UNOPS and UNODC have had 4 joint planning meetings in first 8 months and UNOPS conducted 10 field missions including one with OHCHR. UNOPS has also now established field presence enabling closer field monitoring.	Do outcome indicators have baselines? This has been updated on the basis of recent mapping exercises Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? CSO Capacity Mapping exercise
Evaluation: Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? No - this is usually scheduled during the last 6 months of the project.	Evaluation budget (response required): Approx US$20K will vary with Covid 19 restrictions and adjusted methodologies. If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations *(1500 character limit)*:
Catalytic effects (financial): Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.	Name of funder: N/A Amount: N/A
Other: Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? *(1500 character limit)*	

PART IV: COVID-19

Please respond to these questions if the project underwent any monetary or non-monetary adjustments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1) Monetary adjustments: Please indicate the total amount in USD of adjustments due to COVID-19:

   $ N/A

2) Non-monetary adjustments: Please indicate any adjustments to the project which did not have any financial implications:

UNOPS has taken steps to adjust the provision of support and training remotely and online via the online platform - this requires careful programming and design of the tool which requires longer time than anticipated to ensure CSOs safe access and protection of data and requested services.

UNODC has taken steps to conduct interviews for the Assessment online due to the current COVID situation which severely limited the study research as access to some of the persons and groups identified to be interviewed. In addition, most of the documents also obtained electronically.

3) Please select all categories which describe the adjustments made to the project (*and include details in general sections of this report*):

☑ Reinforce crisis management capacities and communications
☐ Ensure inclusive and equitable response and recovery
☐ Strengthen inter-community social cohesion and border management
☐ Counter hate speech and stigmatization and address trauma

☐ Support the SG's call for a global ceasefire
☐ Other (please describe):

If relevant, please share a COVID-19 success story of this project (*i.e. how adjustments of this project made a difference and contributed to a positive response to the pandemic/prevented tensions or violence related to the pandemic etc.*)

PART V: INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

*Using the **Project Results Framework as per the approved project document or any amendments**- provide an update on the achievement of **key indicators** at both the outcome and output level in the table below (if your project has more indicators than provided in the table, select the most relevant ones with most relevant progress to highlight). Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, state this and provide any explanation.* Provide gender and age disaggregated data. (300 characters max per entry)

	Performance Indicators	Indicator Baseline	End of project Indicator Target	Indicator Milestone	Current indicator progress	Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)
Outcome 1	Indicator 1.1	Outcome Indicator 1.1. % of increase of empowered women peacebuilders in the targeted locations civil society representation Baseline: 10% Target: **30% of the**	TBD		55 women groups consulted, 11 currently enrolled in the project.	CSO Mapping rolled out in one province to date due to successive lockdowns and

		women peacebuilders				
	Indicator 1.2	Outcome Indicator 1.2 % increase in the perception of confidence and improved protection among targeted women groups and women peacebuilders

Baseline: 30% of the consulted CSOs ranked safety as 6 to 8 on the scale of impact severity on their operations out of 10

52% requested the provision of protection mechanisms | **TBD** | | 26 individual CSO groups have confirmed requests for protection trainings and mechanisms out of 50 who provided their requirements. | |

		Target: 50% of the CSO partners enrolled in this project				
Output 1.1	Indicator 1.1.1	Output Indicator 1.1.1 # of combined direct support interventions provided to the civil society targeted partners and women groups Baseline: 0 Target: At least a combination of 50	**50**		12 direct interventions	
	Indicator 1.1.2	Output Indicator 1.1.2 % of trained women who report increased knowledge and	**50**		Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	

| | | skills in financial management

Baseline: 0
Target: At least 50% | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Indicator 1.1.3. | Output Indicator 1.1.3 # of civil society actors with audited accounts at the end of the project

Baseline: 0
Target: At least : 10 | **10** | | Finalized for 2 actors and ongoing for 8. | |
| Output 1.2 | Indicator 1.2.1 | Output Indicator 1.2.1 # of Women groups and women | **15** | | Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start | Call for proposal to be launched in December 2021 |

		supporting groups recipients of grants by the end of the project				
		Baseline: TBD Target: 15				
Output 1.3	Indicator 1.3.1	Output Indicator 1.3.1 # of women groups, women supportive groups and women peacebuilders equipped with ICT technology	**10**		Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start	

		Baseline: 0 Target: 10				
	Indicator 1.3.2	Output Indicator 1.3.2 # of women groups, women supportive groups and women peacebuilders equipped with communication tools Baseline: 0 (TBD) Target: 5	**5**		Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	
Output 1.4	Indicator 1.4.1	Output Indicator 1.4.1: # of women from women peacebuilders received training and skills on protection mechanism	1000		Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities	Lockdown in place due to Covid-19 Activities initially programmed in October 2021 were cancelled at the request of the RC and are currently undergoing reprogramming integrating a revised conflict-sensitive approach.

		Baseline : TBD - 0 Target : 1,000				
	Indicator 1.4.2	Output Indicator 1.4.2: # of women from women peacebuilders and women CBOs received information on access to justice mechanisms Baseline : TBD - 0 Target : 200	200		Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	Lockdown in place due to Covid 19 Activities initially programmed in October 2021 were cancelled at the request of the RC and are currently undergoing reprogramming integrating a revised conflict-sensitive approach.
	Indicator 1.4.3.	Output Indicator 1.4.3 : # women participating in civil society dialogues organised by the project	1500			

		Baseline : 0 Target: 1500				
Output 1.5						
Outcome 2 State authorities have greater means to protect and provide assistance to vulnerable and marginalised victims	Indicator 2.1 # of women from women peacebuilders received training and skills on protection mechanism	Baseline:	1000		Consultant is recruited	Lockdown in place due to Covid 19
	Indicator 2.2 # of women from women peacebuilders and women CBOs received information on access to justice mechanisms	Baseline: TBD - 0	200		Consultant is recruited	Lockdown in place due to Covid 19

	Indicator 2.3					
Output 2.1	Indicator 2.1.1	Output Indicator 2.1.1 # of trained local authorities and legal practitioners on legal aid mechanisms in targeted locations Baseline:TBD Target:50%	**50%**		Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	
	Indicator 2.1.2	Output Indicator 2.1.2 # of trained local authorities and legal practitioners on witness in protection targeted locations Baseline : TBD Target : 50%	**50%**		Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	

Output 2.2	Indicator 2.2.1					
	Indicator 2.2.2					
Output 2.3	Indicator 2.3.1					
	Indicator 2.3.2					
Output 2.4	Indicator 2.4.1					
	Indicator 2.4.2					
Outcome 3	Indicator 3.1					
	Indicator 3.2					
	Indicator 3.3					
Output 3.1	Indicator 3.1.1					
	Indicator 3.1.2					
Output 3.2	Indicator 3.2.1					
	Indicator 3.2.2					
Output 3.3	Indicator 3.3.1					

	Indicator 3.3.2					
Output 3.4	Indicator 3.4.1					
	Indicator 3.4.2					
Outcome 4	Indicator 4.1					
	Indicator 4.2					
	Indicator 4.3					
Output 4.1	Indicator 4.1.1					
	Indicator 4.1.2					
Output 4.2	Indicator 4.2.1					
	Indicator 4.2.2					
Output 4.3	Indicator 4.3.1					
	Indicator 4.3.2					
Output 4.4	Indicator 4.4.1					