



**Multi-Partner Trust Fund]**  
**MPTF OFFICE GENERIC FINALPROGRAMME<sup>1</sup> NARRATIVE REPORT**  
**REPORTING PERIOD: FROM 07.2020 TO 12.2020**

<p align="center"><b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Title: Provision of essential food and non-food-items assistance for migrant returnees and their communities affected by COVID-19 in Anuradhapura district</li> <li>• Programme Number <i>(if applicable)</i></li> <li>• MPTF Office Project Reference Number:<sup>3</sup> TUNSLS000 # UN Sri Lanka SDG – MPTF</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Country, Locality(s), Priority Area(s) / Strategic Results<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p><i>(if applicable)</i> Country/Region Sri Lanka</p> <p>Priority area/ strategic results</p> <p>Outcome : Access to food provisions and hygiene kits enable protection in the short term for the COVID-19 affected migrant returnees and their host communities.</p>																											
<p align="center"><b>Participating Organization(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme</li> </ul> <p align="center">International Organization for Migration</p>	<p align="center"><b>Implementing Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National counterparts (government, private, NGOs &amp; others) and other International Organizations</li> </ul>																											
<p align="center"><b>Programme/Project Cost (US\$)</b></p> <p>Total approved budget as per project document:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>MPTF /JP Contribution<sup>4</sup>:</td> <td align="right">52.411.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• by Agency <i>(if applicable)</i> IOM Agency Contribution</td> <td align="right">52.411.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• by Agency</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Government Contribution <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p>Other Contributions (donors) <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p><b>TOTAL:</b> \$ 52,411</p>	MPTF /JP Contribution <sup>4</sup> :	52.411.00	• by Agency <i>(if applicable)</i> IOM Agency Contribution	52.411.00	• by Agency		<p align="center"><b>Programme Duration</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Overall Duration <i>(months)</i></td> <td align="center">5 months</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Start Date<sup>5</sup> <i>(dd.mm.yyyy)</i></td> <td></td> <td align="right">24.07.2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Original End Date<sup>6</sup> <i>(dd.mm.yyyy)</i></td> <td></td> <td align="right">31.12.2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Actual End date<sup>7</sup> <i>(dd.mm.yyyy)</i></td> <td></td> <td align="right">31.12.2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system?</td> <td align="center">Yes</td> <td align="center">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td align="center"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td align="center"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expected Financial Closure date<sup>8</sup>:</td> <td></td> <td align="right">30 April 2021</td> </tr> </table>	Overall Duration <i>(months)</i>	5 months		Start Date <sup>5</sup> <i>(dd.mm.yyyy)</i>		24.07.2020	Original End Date <sup>6</sup> <i>(dd.mm.yyyy)</i>		31.12.2020	Actual End date <sup>7</sup> <i>(dd.mm.yyyy)</i>		31.12.2020	Have agency(ies) operationally closed the Programme in its(their) system?	Yes	No		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Expected Financial Closure date <sup>8</sup> :		30 April 2021
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<sup>1</sup> The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects.  
<sup>2</sup> Strategic Results, as formulated in the Strategic UN Planning Framework (e.g. UNDAF) or project document;  
<sup>3</sup> The MPTF Office Project Reference Number is the same number as the one on the Notification message. It is also referred to as “Project ID” on the project’s factsheet page on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#).  
<sup>4</sup> The MPTF/JP Contribution is the amount transferred to the Participating UN Organizations – see [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)  
<sup>5</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)  
<sup>6</sup> As per approval of the original project document by the relevant decision-making body/Steering Committee.  
<sup>7</sup> If there has been an extension, then the revised, approved end date should be reflected here. If there has been no extension approved, then the current end date is the same as the original end date. The end date is the same as the operational closure date which is when all activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MPTF / JP have been completed. As per the MOU, agencies are to notify the MPTF Office when a programme completes its operational activities. Please see [MPTF Office Closure Guidelines](#).  
<sup>8</sup> Financial Closure requires the return of unspent balances and submission of the [Certified Final Financial Statement and Report](#).

**Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Eval.**

Evaluation Completed

 Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Evaluation Report - Attached

 Yes  No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy***Report Submitted By**

- Name: Minoli P. Don
- Title: Project Manager
- Participating Organization (Lead): International Organization for Migration
- Email address: [mdon@iom.int](mailto:mdon@iom.int)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key project achievements:

In collaboration with the Anuradhapura District Secretariat and ground level partner SAFE Foundation, IOM delivered assistance to a total of **1,163 beneficiaries**. Out of the total beneficiaries, 666 were women (278 under 18 years) and 497 were men (228 below the age of 18).

The support comprised relief packages of dry food rations for 115 vulnerable migrant returnee families, 115 low-income families in the community and 295 individual beneficiaries in eight shelters. The food items provided were sufficient for a period of one month.

Additional support in the form of hygiene items were provided to the residents of the eight shelters. These shelters housed victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), expectant mothers, orphans, differently abled persons and elders.

IOM's strategic planning and coordination contributed to this rapid response and efficient delivery of food and non-food items (NFI) assistance across the Anuradhapura district. The project activities were carried out adhering to the COVID-19 safety protocols and hygiene practices to prevent COVID -19 transmission risks.

### I. Purpose

The humanitarian assistance project entitled: *Provision of essential food and non-food-items assistance for migrant returnees and their communities affected by COVID-19 in Anuradhapura district* was funded by the Government of Australia and implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The project is funded from under a broader COVID-19 funding pool of the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund .The project aimed to provide assistance to improve safety and living conditions of the most vulnerable migrant returnees and their host communities affected by COVID-19 in Anuradhapura district, through provision of essential food and non-food items.

**Outcome 1:** Access to food provisions and hygiene kits enable protection in the short term for the COVID-19 affected migrant returnees and their host communities.

**Output 1.1:** 600 persons of migrant returnee and low-income families and 200 persons in 3 shelters worst affected by COVID-19 receive food provisions.

**Output 1.2:** 200 persons in 3 shelters have access to hygiene kits.

### II. Assessment of Programme Results

Contributing to Outcome 1, the project achieved 100 per cent timely service delivery of essential food items and hygiene items as planned. This support provided short term relief to COVID-19 affected migrant returnees and vulnerable members of their host communities. The project contributed to the National COVID-19 response plan for migrant workers, Sri Lanka Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) formulated by the Government that calls for support from the UN agencies in areas of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Food and shelter and the UN Sri Lanka’s framework for socio-economic response. The project primarily contributed to SDGs 2, 6 and 10.

A selection of project photographs is attached in Annex 1.

**Output 1.1: 600 persons of migrant returnee and low-income families and 200 persons in 3 shelters worst affected by COVID-19 receive food provisions**

A total of 1,163 individuals were assisted with dry rations and other food items. This comprised 392 individuals from 115 migrant returnee families, 476 individuals from 115 low income households and 295 individuals in eight shelters. The food items provided were sufficient for a period of one month for families and shelters. The contents of the relief package consisting of food items/dry rations are presented in Annex 1. The beneficiaries were selected from all 22 divisions of Anuradhapura district. Table 1 below provides a breakdown of beneficiary assistance.

**TABLE 1:**

Target group	Total No. of beneficiaries	Breakdown of beneficiaries				
		Total	Women	Men	Girls (below 18 yrs.) *Included in total women breakdown	Boys (below 18 yrs.) *Included in total men breakdown
Vulnerable migrant returnee families	115 families	392	202	190	47	64
Low income families	115 families	476	265	211	137	109
Shelter occupants	295 shelter occupants in 8 shelters	295	199	96	94	55
TOTAL		1,163	666	497	278	228

*Note: The number of girls and boys 18 years of age are included under the total number of women and men respectively. The number of girls and boys is also separately depicted for reference purposes in the above table.*

Most migrant returnees among the above group have returned after January 2020 from the following countries listed below. Some are either without employment or are engaging in informal daily paid work or agriculture. The relief packages were individually handed over to beneficiary families.

**TABLE 2:**

<b>Country of return</b>	<b>No. of migrant returnees</b>
Bahrain	02
Ethiopia	01
Jordan	04
Kuwait	42
Lebanon	02
Malaysia	01
Maldives	08
Oman	07
Qatar	21
Saudi Arabia	10
Singapore	01
South Korea	01
UAE	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>

All eight shelters were visited by IOM and SAFE Foundation staff and the items were handed over to the shelter managers for further distribution to the residents who include victims of SGBV, expectant mothers, orphans, differently abled persons and elders.

The SOS village Director of the Children's shelter remarked: *On behalf of SOS Children's Village Anuradhapura, I want to extend my heart-felt thanks for the commitment of your organization during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your helping hands in providing dry rations and sanitary equipment were a great relief for us to cover the huge running costs of our shelter in this unexpected situation. Once again thank you so much for your generous donation to our organization and we truly appreciate your commitment to our children.*

Details of the eight shelters assisted are presented in Table 3 on page 6:

**TABLE 3:****Output 1.2: 200 persons in 3 shelters have access to hygiene kits**

	Name of shelter	Area / division in Anuradhapura	Specific target group in shelters	Total No. of beneficiaries in shelters			Children below 18 yrs	
				Total No. of beneficiaries in shelters	Women	Men	Girls	Boys
1	Happy Home (Special needs Vocational training Centre)	Madyama Nuwaragam Palatha	Differently abled	34	32	2	13	-
2	SOS village	Nagenahira Nuwaragam Palatha	Orphans	152	107	45	80	41
3	Vocational Training Foundation for persons with disabilities	Kekirawa	Differently abled	31	18	13	1	-
4	Lurdu Matha Elders home	Nochchiyagama	Elders	28	17	11	-	-
5	Suwa Sarana Elders home	Thirappane	Elders	18	12	6	-	-
6	Sahana children's home	Nochchiyagama	Orphans	14	-	14	-	14
7	Rajarata community centre	Kekirawa	Victims of Gender based violence/ expectant mothers	5	5	-	-	-
8	Vocational training centre for the visually impaired	Ipologama	Differently abled	13	8	5	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>295</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>96</b>	94	55

As indicated in Table 3, **295** beneficiaries in **8** shelters were assisted with hygiene items. The contents of the relief package consisted of hygiene items including household cleaning products, hand sanitizer, baby diapers, tooth brushes, tooth paste, shaving kits, towels, bedlinen, dignity kits (sanitary pads etc.). Special kits with baby *items (shown in photo right)* were provided to five expectant mothers at the shelter for SGBV victims.

These shelters were identified by the Anuradhapura district secretariat officials, namely the women development officer, social welfare officer, and child protection officer, in coordination with SAFE Foundation and IOM. The list of shelters to be assisted was also endorsed by the Anuradhapura District Secretariat.

**Distribution in Anuradhapura**

IOM arranged the transportation of the goods from Colombo to Anuradhapura through OVKILO International (Pvt) Ltd. Six lorries (five 14.5 ft lorries and one 20 ft lorry) were used for the transportation

and distribution of items. All six lorries, accompanied by IOM vehicles, departed Colombo one day prior to the scheduled distribution event.

IOM in collaboration with the Anuradhapura district secretariat and SAFE Foundation organized the handover of food and non-food items on 24 August 2020 to the beneficiaries and shelters covering all 22 divisions in Anuradhapura. Held at the Anuradhapura District Secretariat, the event was attended by dignitaries H.E Mr. David Holly - Australian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr. Sarat Dash - IOM Chief of Mission to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, Ms. Hanaa Singer - UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka and Mr. R.M. Wanninayaka - District Secretary of Anuradhapura.

The event was attended by approximately 80 participants comprising of beneficiaries, journalists, divisional secretaries, district secretariat officials, IOM and SAFE Foundation staff.

Following the symbolic handover of items by dignitaries to selected beneficiaries at the district secretariat premises, lorries carrying the goods and items departed to identified divisional secretariat premises and distribution points to distribute goods to the rest of the beneficiaries. All beneficiaries were requested in advance to be present at the identified divisional secretariats to receive their relief aid. IOM and SAFE Foundation officers were present at each of these distribution points with relevant divisional secretariat officials. Signatures were collected from the beneficiaries to confirm and acknowledge the receipt of goods

This event gained wide media attention. Some of the Media articles published pertaining to the event (web links) are listed below:

- [Daily news](#)
- [Daily Mirror FT](#)
- [Colombo Gazette](#)
- [News First \(Video\)](#)
- [Channel Eye \(Video from 20:15\)](#)
- [IOM Sri Lanka Website](#)
- [Australian High Commission in Sri Lanka \(Twitter\)](#)
- [IOM Asia and Pacific \(Twitter\)](#)
- [Hanaa Singer \(UN RC – Twitter\)](#)

### **Qualitative assessment:**

The project was highly successful meeting or exceeding the project targets as outlined in the results framework in spite of the difficult environment due to COVID-19 restrictions.

IOM together with the Anuradhapura District Secretariat and SAFE Foundation distributed additional relief packages to 15 low income and 15 vulnerable migrant returnee families on 12 November 2020 with remaining funds making a cumulative total of 115 low-income households and 115 vulnerable migrant returnee families assisted through the project.

Since most of the items were purchased by IOM from different suppliers in Colombo, IOM had to hire a warehouse facility to store food and NFI items for a few days, since the food and hygiene kits required safe storage until these were transported to Anuradhapura district. Subsequent to the purchase of all the above items in bulk, storage, packing other value additions and transport to Anuradhapura were done in coordination with the service provider OVIKLO International (Pvt) Ltd which is an international logistics and supply chain solution company possessing the global food storage safety certification and ISO 9001:2015 Certification Achievement for the provision of logistic services such as warehouse storage. IOM project staff were present to provide necessary instructions and for monitoring and inspections when

packing and loading of goods took place at the warehouse. Infection prevention control mechanisms and other safety and hygiene practices were followed during the entire process.

All the food packages and different types of hygiene kits were packed and loaded to the trucks under the supervision of IOM staff to ensure compliance with hygiene measures. The packers and the truck drivers were instructed to follow safety precautions to avoid COVID-19 transmission. Disposable hand gloves, face masks and hand sanitizers were provided to all the labourers and the truck drivers. IOM staff were present during all the stages of logistics of this project.

All the boxes were printed in white with the logos and visibility of the donor (Government of Australia), Government of Sri Lanka, IOM and SAFE Foundation. The IOM officers monitored the entire process throughout the process of unloading of food and NFI items by the suppliers to the warehouse to packaging, labelling and sealing to ensure quality delivery.

### **Partner participation**

On 12 August 2020, IOM facilitated the project introductory meeting with the participation of the district secretary of Anuradhapura and 21 local government officers (Women-7, Men-14) attached to district and divisional secretariats in Anuradhapura. These field level officers represented diverse areas including foreign employment, child protection, women's development and social welfare. IOM, SAFE Foundation and the district secretary explained the mechanism for the delivery of assistance under this project. IOM further highlighted the contribution made by the Government of Australia to assist the vulnerable families and shelters in Anuradhapura.

### **Beneficiary selection**

IOM collaborated with its ground level partner, the SAFE Foundation (SF), a local NGO based in Anuradhapura district with experience delivering humanitarian assistance to communities. Several consultative meetings and discussions were held between the Anuradhapura District Secretariat (DS), IOM and SF to develop a vulnerability criterion to select the beneficiaries and plan delivery of assistance to the 22 divisions of Anuradhapura district. (See figure 1.)

Forms to collect beneficiary data (low-income households, vulnerable migrant returnee families and shelters) were developed by IOM in coordination with the DS and SAFE Foundation. Data collection was conducted adhering to IOM's data protection policy and with the informed consent of the beneficiaries.

The Anuradhapura District Secretary, through official correspondence, notified the divisional secretaries of all 22 divisions of Anuradhapura to identify and nominate the most vulnerable low-income families and vulnerable migrant returnees who returned to Sri Lanka after January 2020. The data collection included the head of household's name, address, contact number, number of family members (gender desegregated), number of children below the age of 18, main source of income/ employment details, and monthly income. For migrant returnees, additionally, the last country of employment and passport details were requested.

The divisional secretaries (DS) tasked field level government officers attached to DS offices to assess the family background and income levels of the families in each division and to carry out the necessary verification checks

***Selection of vulnerable low-income households:*** Primarily, the Grama Niladhari (GN/Village administrative officers/heads) deal with grassroot level communities on a regular basis regarding their administrative matters. GNs coordinated the selection of low-income families and carried out the verification checks. Personal details such as name, age, address, national identity card number, contact details, present occupation, monthly income and number of family members were obtained by the GNs from



the head of the household of the low-income families. The GNs identified 115 low-income vulnerable families representing all 22 divisions.

***Selection of vulnerable migrant returnee families:*** Concurrently, the Foreign Employment Development Officers (FEDOs) based at each divisional secretariat obtained the details of vulnerable families with migrant returnees (returned to Sri Lanka after January 2020). Each returnee's country of destination, passport number, returned date, number of family members, current source of income was obtained and verified by the FEDOs. 115 vulnerable migrant returnee families representing all 22 divisions were identified by FEDOs.

Following the completion of verification checks by the said officers, lists of nominated and recommended beneficiaries were submitted to each of the 22 divisional secretaries. Upon careful review by the divisional secretaries, endorsed lists were sent to the district secretariat.

At the district secretariat, these lists were further reviewed and vetted by a committee comprising of Foreign Employment Development Officers Coordinator, Administrative Grama Niladhari, Additional district secretary based at the Anuradhapura district Secretariat. The lists were thoroughly checked against the vulnerability/selection criteria. IOM and SAFE Foundation closely monitored the selection process.

***Selection of shelters:*** Eight shelters impacted due to COVID-19 were identified by the district secretariat (with support from *inter alia* women development officers, child protection officers, social welfare officers etc. based at district secretariat) in collaboration with IOM and SAFE Foundation. These shelters accommodated victims of SGBV, expectant mothers, orphans, differently abled persons and elders. SAFE Foundation made visits to all eight shelters to assess the eligibility to receive assistance.

Upon receiving the vetted final lists of beneficiaries from all 22 divisions and shelters and with the recommendation made by the above district secretariat committee, the beneficiary lists were reviewed and endorsed by the district secretary. The endorsed lists were officially shared with IOM.

Throughout the beneficiary identification process, IOM and its implementing partner SAFE Foundation closely monitored the selection process. Random verification checks were conducted to ensure that the assistance is delivered to the most vulnerable segments of the community and to avoid possible duplication of assistance under any ongoing government assistance programme.

IOM selected a random sample of beneficiaries from the lists provided and visited 16 beneficiary families (eight low-income households and eight vulnerable migrant returnee families) on 11 August 2020 to monitor and verify the selection. This step contributed to transparency and accountability in the beneficiary selection. IOM was joined by SAFE Foundation, FEDO Coordinator, FEDO-Thirappane division.

Equal participation of men and women was ensured throughout project implementation. From planning stages to receipt of food and non-food item assistance. Special consideration was given to incorporate gender-based needs for women, men and children. Hygiene kits were specially designed to meet the requirements of women and children including the victims of SGBV. When assisting the eight shelters different groups were selected for assistance such as SGBV victims, orphans, elders. Baby kits and hygiene items were provided to expectant mothers at the shelter for SGBV victims.

## 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.

	<b><u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)</b>	<b>Source of Verification</b>
<p><b>Objective:</b> <sup>9</sup>To improve safety and living conditions of the most vulnerable migrant returnees and their host communities affected by COVID -19 in Anuradhapura district through provision of essential food and hygiene kits.</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> # of persons whose needs in relation to the core essential food and hygiene are met  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 800</p>	<p>1,163 (666 women; 497 men) in Anuradhapura districts were assisted with hygiene food items and hygiene kits.</p>		<p>Project reports</p>
<p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Access to food and hygiene kits enable protection in the short term for the COVID -19 affected beneficiaries</p> <p><b>Indicator:</b> : % of beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex, diversity) reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe and accessible, timely, accountable, and participatory manner  <b>Baseline:</b> 0  <b>Planned Target:</b> 80%</p>	<p>100% of beneficiaries listed in the identified beneficiary lists received humanitarian assistance in a safe, and timely manner. The assistance was delivered in locations which beneficiaries could easily access and participate. Signed forms acknowledging assistance receipt were obtained.</p>		<p>Informal interviews</p>
<p><b>Output 1.1:</b> 600 persons from migrant returnee and low income families and 200 persons in 3 shelters worst affected by COVID-19 receive food provisions</p>			
<p><b>Indicator 1.1.1</b> # of migrant families who receive food assistance  <b>Baseline:</b> 0</p>	<p>115 migrant returnee families received food items (Total 392</p>		<p>Distribution records/onsite observation</p>

<sup>9</sup> Although the objective is not listed in the original reporting template, it is added here since it was in the approved project results matrix and has reportable results during the project timeframe.

<b>Planned Target:</b> 100	individuals in 115 returnee families. 202 women; 190 men)		
<b>Indicator 1.1.2</b> # of low-income families who receive food assistance <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 100	115 low income families received food items (Total 476 individuals in 115 low income families; 265 women; 211 men)		Distribution records
<b>Indicator 1.1.3:</b> # of shelters receiving food/dry rations <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 3	8 shelters with 295 occupants		Onsite observation
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Minimum 200 persons in 3 shelters have access to hygiene kits <b>Indicator 1.2.1</b> # of persons who received hygiene kits <b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Planned Target:</b> 200	295 (199 women; 96 men) shelter occupants in the 8 shelter		Distribution records Onsite observation

### iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

No project evaluation was budgeted or requested for this short project.

The humanitarian assistance was successfully delivered to targeted beneficiaries despite the following challenges encountered during the project period:

Obtaining government approvals for project activities is typically a lengthy process. This was made even more challenging due to the parliamentary elections which took place on 5 August 2020 as most government officials were involved in election related duties. However, IOM was able to successfully garner the support of the district secretary and additional district secretary through discussions and by highlighting the importance of this emergency humanitarian assistance. The said officers promptly issued instructions to field level local government officials to expedite beneficiary data collection and identification. The officers at the Anuradhapura District Secretariat played a key role in the successful and timely delivery of assistance to the beneficiaries.

IOM has continued to make field visits to Anuradhapura district during the COVID-19 health crisis to monitor beneficiary selection and attend essential meetings and consultations. Some locations in Anuradhapura were declared as isolated areas due to COVID-19. However, with necessary safety precautions, government approvals and in coordination with SAFE Foundation and the Anuradhapura district secretariat, IOM was able to promptly implement the project within the project period.

This emergency assistance project was implemented during COVID-19 risks and challenges. Procuring items / services during lock down periods and organizing field visits to Anuradhapura district was challenging and took a considerable amount of time. However, owing to prior planning and close coordination and linkages with the relevant senior local government officers. IOM was able to successfully deliver assistance within the project period.

### iv) A Specific Story (Optional)

#### **A helping hand in trying times**

Mrs. Sujatha Kumari Anuradh is from Anuradhapura district. She is a mother of four children and found herself destitute. Her husband is physically disabled and in their desperation, he pushed her to extremes to find an income to survive. Two of her children were ordained as monks and placed in a temple and she was left with responsibility to care for her other two children and husband without any means of income. Their half-built house, limited living space and a meager income through daily wage work, put Sujatha and her family in dire straits. Therefore, she decided to go in search of greener pastures abroad and decided to work as a domestic aide in Saudi Arabia. Sujatha left Sri Lanka in May 2019 and worked for nine months abroad. During her foreign employment she had to switch between three households and had to toil day and night to complete her daily tasks. She suffered continuous physical and mental abuse in the houses she worked and sought the help of Saudi police to escape from her abusive employers. She was handed over to the Sri Lankan safe house in Saudi Arabia and was returned to Sri Lanka.

As a returnee mother with no savings and a job she had to face the economic difficulties during the COVID-

19 pandemic. She struggled to make ends meet. During the pandemic, Sujatha was informed of the IOM food ration assistance supported by the Government of Australia, through her local government officers attached to Medavachchiya Division. Through a vulnerability assessment conducted by the government officials in Anuradhapura and verified by SAFE Foundation, a local NGO and a grassroots level partner organization of IOM, Sujatha was deemed eligible to receive assistance through the project. IOM and SAFE Foundation delivered and monitored the distribution of items to beneficiaries.

With profuse gratitude Sujatha expressed the below:

*“I went abroad with lots of hope and dreams to work there for two years. I couldn’t send a penny to my family though I worked abroad and had to endure physical and mental abuse. I couldn’t find any work after my return due to pandemic. My neighbors and relatives helped in ways they could, but it didn’t keep the fire burning so long in my house. Through the Divisional Secretariat my family was selected to benefit from the food assistance supported by Australia. We consumed the dry food with thrift and the food pack lasted for three months in my household. It was a help which will never be forgotten by my family. It kept hunger away from my poor family for an entire quarter of last year which was the most difficult period for my family and myself. We pray and wish well to all the organizations who supported my family during these trying times of the pandemic.”*



**Image above:** Sujatha and her family speaking to IOM and SAFE Foundation during a monitoring visit.

Annex 1: Selection of project photographs.

## Annex 1 to IOM final report for UN Sri Lanka SDG Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)

### Provision of essential food and non-food-items assistance for migrant returnees and their communities affected by COVID-19 in Anuradhapura district

#### Map of Project Supported Areas

Divisions in Anuradhapura District assisted through the project.

1. Galenbindunuwewa
2. Galnewa
3. Horowpothana
4. Ipalogama
5. Kahatagasdigiliya
6. Kebithigollewa
7. Kekirawa
8. Mahavilachchiya
9. Medawachchiya
10. Mihintale
11. Nachchadoowa
12. Nochchiyagama
13. Nuwaragam Palatha
14. Nuwaragam Palatha East
15. Padaviya
16. Palagala
17. Palugaswewa
18. Rajanganaya
19. Rambewa
20. Thalawa
21. Thambuttegama
22. Thirappane





**Photos above:** Packing and loading of project-supported items at the warehouse and close supervision by IOM officers. © IOM 2020,



**Photos above:** Project team field visit and monitoring the selection of beneficiaries ©IOM 11 August 2020; Project orientation meeting held at the District Secretariats Office, Anuradhapura. © IOM 12 August 2020



**Photos above:** Transporting the items to Anuradhapura District Secretariat © IOM 23 August 2020; Donor and IOM officials travel to Anuradhapura for the distribution. © IOM 24 August 2020.



**Photos above:** Project manager and IOM team prepare the goods for distribution in Anuradhapura; Sample visibility label afforded to all distributed goods acknowledging the contribution of the Government of Australia, Government of Sri Lanka, IOM and implementing partner SAFE Foundation. © IOM. 24 August 2020;





**Photos above:** Some of the content of the dry food items packages; Special kits with baby *items* were provided to five expectant mothers at the shelter for victims of sexual and gender-based violence. © IOM



**photos above:** Handover of goods in Anuradhapura district by the High Commissioner of Australia to Sri Lanka, the UN Resident Coordinator, and IOM Chief of Mission © IOM. 24 August 2020.



**Photo above:** Handover of goods by the IOM Project Manager at a shelter in Anuradhapura district; A mother and her child enjoy the package of goods © IOM 24 August 2020.