



United Nations  
Peacebuilding

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

**COUNTRY:** Sri Lanka

**TYPE OF REPORT:** SEMI-ANNUAL, ANNUAL OR FINAL: SEMI ANNUAL

**YEAR OF REPORT:** 2021

<b>Project Title:</b> Protecting the Rights Space to Foster Peace in Sri Lanka									
<b>Project Number from MPTE-O Gateway:</b> 00125636									
<b>If funding is disbursed into a national or regional trust fund:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Country Trust Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Trust Fund  <b>Name of Recipient Fund:</b>	<b>Type and name of recipient organizations:</b>  UNOPS (Convening Agency) UNODC								
<b>Date of first transfer:</b> <b>UNOPS :</b> 5th February 2021 <b>UNODC :</b> 27 January 2021 <b>Project end date:</b> 5th August 2022 <b>Is the current project end date within 6 months?</b> No									
<b>Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Youth promotion initiative <input type="checkbox"/> Transition from UN or regional peacekeeping or special political missions <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border or regional project									
<b>Total PBF approved project budget (by recipient organization):</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Recipient Organization</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>UNOPS</td> <td>\$ 1 150 000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNODC</td> <td>\$ 350,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Total: \$ 1 500 000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Recipient Organization	Amount	UNOPS	\$ 1 150 000	UNODC	\$ 350,000	Total: \$ 1 500 000	
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Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: *ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE*  <b>Gender-responsive Budgeting:</b> 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:									
<b>Project Gender Marker :</b> GM3 <b>Project Risk Marker:</b> 1 <b>Project PBF focus area:</b> 2.3 Conflict Prevention/ Management									

**Report preparation:**

Project report prepared by: UNOPS and UNODC

Project report approved by:

1) Sudhir Muralidharan  
Country Manager a.i. Sri Lanka and the Maldives  
UNOPS - Sri Lanka

2) Alan Cole  
Acting Representative and Country Representative  
UNODC Sri Lanka

Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes - Reviewed by the RCO Focal Point and Approved by the UN Resident Coordinator

### ***NOTES FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT:***

- *Avoid acronyms and UN jargon, use general /common language.*
- *Report on what has been achieved in the reporting period, not what the project aims to do.*
- *Be as concrete as possible. Avoid theoretical, vague or conceptual discourse.*
- *Ensure the analysis and project progress assessment is gender and age sensitive.*
- *Please include any COVID-19 related considerations, adjustments and results and respond to section IV.*

### **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):

#### **Status of the project**

The official notification for the approval of this project was received on 21st January 2021, first tranches of funds from the fund were received on 5th February 2021 to UNOPS headquarters and 24th February to the Sri Lanka account.

During the first semester of the project, UNOPS led the planning and mobilization of resources for the implementation of all 5 pillars of this project namely protection, project management (Project Management, Finance management, Grants management, Communication), Financial grants, Technical assistance (IT support, Procurement support) and Support to creative and artistic medium.

This was done in the midst of a third surge of Covid-19 cases leading to prolonged restrictions of movements during the month of May and June 2021 hampering primarily the set-up of the field office setup in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka.

Steps have been taken to identify, rent and set up field offices in Mullaitivu and Batticaloa districts with the support and recommendation of UNDSS and the recruitment is ongoing for core functions and positions of each pillar both at Colombo and field level.

From April 2021, the project team reached out to 39 partners - including women peacebuilders - across 5 districts in the Northern Province to pursue the consultation process initiated at the project design phase and further tailor the assistance and support required by the members of the civil society in the proposed 5 pillars. Meetings with 6 partners were also held in the East during a joint OHCHR and UNOPS mission in April 2021 and a similar roll out is scheduled once the team is recruited and on board in the Batticaloa office.

Furthermore, UNOPS officially informed the local authorities of the start of the project in all 5 districts of the Northern Province through meetings and discussions with all five representatives from the local authorities at the district level, their respective Planning Directors and NGO coordinators attached to the districts who supported this initiative. Steps are being taken to ensure adequate reporting and close coordination.

UNOPS and UNODC held close working sessions, joint meetings with partners and field visits with OHCHR from the onset of the implementation. UNOPS will seek technical advice from OHCHR on the protection pillar and in particular for the following activities :

- Identification and referral of CSO partners who could benefit from protection activities / services
- Referral of protection / HR CSO who could provide support/be a resource for the provisions of protection activities
- Consultation in the design of protection tools provided to partners
- Consultation for protection training and curriculum development
- Provision of Digital security tailored for protection purpose

Finally, the implementation of the following activities/outputs were initiated :

- Provision of protection referrals to relevant actors/sister organisations
- Design and implementation of CSO KAP Assessment
- Design and programming of the online CSO support platform
- Design and implementation of data security protocols for the project and its partners
- Provision of IT technical support

## **UNODC**

UNODC is implementing one of the five core assistance pillars with UNOPS i.e., protection, access to justice and legal assistance has taken preliminary measures to build working affiliations with the main stakeholders and the following activities have been completed:

- (a) Ministry of Justice (MOJ) – meetings and discussions were held with MOJ to inform about the assistance program and to identify the requirements in relation access to justice and legal aid;
- (b) Legal Aid Commission (LAC) – Meetings with the Chairperson / discussions with Legal Officers and in relevant districts/ identifying target groups for capacity building sessions from LAC and other service providers in the areas/ identifying dates for the capacity building activities;
- (c) Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) - Meeting with the President/ discussions with the members of the Provincial Bar Association in identified districts and provinces;
- (d) Grass Root Level organizations (GRLO) - Discussions (online due to Covid-19) were held with GRLOs in Northern and Southern Provinces (through District Secretariats) to identify their role as a legal aid provider and protection agent.

In addition, the following aspects have been considered with the aim of effective implementation of activities;

- Identifying the key areas for rights-based programming for access to justice and legal aid:
  - Analysed different degrees of vulnerability with regard to the target group/s, and selected those groups who may be more seriously impacted as priority beneficiaries by analysing existing assessments and reports;

- Lack of understanding about the fundamental rights as citizens;
- Lack of understanding about availability of legal aid especially how to reach out to LAC and other available resources;
- Unavailability of legal remedies within the reach.
- Assessed the capacity of both the claim holders and duty bearers to address the problem and aims to ensure there are capacity development strategies for both sides by making connections and existing work programs and issues;
  - Lack of training and capacity building;
  - Lack of financial support from the state and other relevant entities;
  - Slowness and ineffectiveness of existing procedures

UNODC has completed the recruitment process for taking two consultants on board for -baseline assessment and consultations to identify women groups capacity in formal and informal justice and developing information material for guidance to legal aid.

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 pursue its implementation while taking into consideration the safety and security of project personnel and its CSOs partners in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and other protection issues in Sri Lanka.

UNOPS will aim to implement the following key activities :design and launch of the CSO online support platform, online trainings in Project Management, Finance Management, Grant Management Financial grants for CSOs and artists, and expansion of the provision of IT support.

UNODC will organise meetings with legal aid providers and grassroot level women's organizations with the aim of identifying their roles in facilitating legal aid. The objective of these activities will focus especially on women led organizations. protection aspects of victims and witnesses of crime and how they should be provided with rights-based approaches to voice their status in addition to be provided with the necessary legal mechanisms.

**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):

While it is premature to capture any direct impact of the project so early in the project cycle (4months out of 18) , the project team has noted increasing collaborative dialogue at regional level on resilience building and operational space, consensus on the timeliness of this intervention for many HRDs and activists and overall support for this initiative beyond what the project had initially identified. The project team has also received requests from additional

stakeholders and partners to be considered for integration in the platform along with requests to expand to Southern districts in 2022.

## **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: On track with limited delays**

**Progress summary:** (3000 character limit)

Given the short time implementation timeframe covered by this report (4 months) combined to the Covid-19 restrictions which negatively impacted the establishment of the field presence in both Northern and Eastern provinces, the project was not able to achieve meaningful impact at the outcome level through its activities. In light of the current restrictions linked to the current situation, the project’s timeline, sequencing of activities, workplans, and strategy are being updated to fast-track the finalization of the setup and recruitment as well as trigger the remote/online mechanisms built in at the design phase in relevant pillars. These measures aim to reduce and prevent any further adverse effects impacting the implementation of the project.

The project team is also monitoring and documenting the shrinking operational space, human rights violations and policy changes affecting the civil society and women peacebuilders in particular - these include incidents, structural and operational barriers preventing these CSOs, women organisations and HRDs to conduct their regular activities, support their communities, meet, travel, communicate and operate. While the delays have affected the timely roll out of the service platform, the provision of services for the civil society organisations and its women groups, remains highly relevant and necessary under the current context. The increasing number of requests for support and services received are a testimony of the timeliness of this intervention vis a vis the current context in the country as it aims to empower and build resilience amongst groups identified at risk through the provision of tailored skills, equipment and services identified by them.

As such, workplans are currently being adjusted to ensure the design of curriculum in project management, grant management, the provision of legal assistance, financial coaching and

training are addressing the concerns and the needs raised by the CSO partners when experiencing restrictions limiting their activities, private financial partners inquiring their banking practices and surveillance questioning their activities. These will aim to increase skills, practical knowledge of the partners when dealing with the authorities to ensure their compliance, safety and protection.

In addition, procurement processes are ongoing for the sourcing of specialised IT equipment and services to safeguard data protection and privacy along with IT technical services including digital archiving and protection.

Critical partnerships have been established by UNOPS with protection mandated agencies and key stakeholders to ensure protection, safety and security towards safer working modalities and practices amongst CSOs, including stress management and self care for women groups at risk.

These activities are currently predominantly being implemented for the actors of the Northern Province in Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, Mannar and Jaffna districts and will be rolled out similarly in the East in the next quarter. They will also be further informed by the findings and results of the CSO Partner survey which partners have to fill prior to be integrated on the support platform. The upcoming launch of the online platform will then complement and act as alternate means of support when physical access/mobility is restricting the operations of the two satellite offices.

**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.

**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:** Ongoing - On track

**Progress summary:** (3000 character limit)

UNODC has taken preliminary measures to build working affiliations with the main stakeholders ie., Ministry of Justice, Legal Aid Commission, Bar Association of Sri Lanka and Grass Root Level organizations (GRLO) with the aim of providing increased access to justice opportunities to whom come into contact with the criminal justice system and are particularly vulnerable. Specifically, linking with GRLOs provided 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.



The Baseline Assessment on Legal Aid /Access to Justice Available to Women and Marginalized Communities and the development of information material for guidance has been initiated. Main findings identified the lack of capacity of actors working at grass root level to support and provide legal aid and access to justice and protection for various rights violations and conflict escalation as main problems. The assessment will provide an understanding into the current legal aid and access to justice programs and capacity of accessing legal aid by most vulnerable sectors of the society, especially women and marginalised groups. This activity serves as a starting point for evidence-based technical assistance.

The anticipated approach for the Baseline Assessment includes the development of an assessment plan with the collection of information through desk-based research and focused analysis of available secondary information. The analysis will be supplemented through communication with key national stakeholders, including government agencies, law enforcement services, non-governmental organization (NGO) counterparts and other experts through phone calls, videoconferencing, and if possible, in-person meetings. The findings from the Baseline Assessment report will be shared with GoSL.

The development of information material for guidance to Legal Aid : Giving due consideration to the ‘United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems’ and in order to guarantee the right of persons to be informed of their right to legal aid, advocacy material will be developed consisting of information on the right to legal aid and what such aid consists of. This will include the availability of legal aid services and how to access such services and other relevant information. These will be made available to the community organizations, isolated and marginalized groups and to the general 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.

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

*(1000 character limit)*

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**

<p><b>Monitoring:</b> Please list monitoring activities undertaken in the reporting period (1000 character limit)</p>	<p>Do outcome indicators have baselines? Not yet - these will be defined after the completion of the CSO KAP survey based on its findings and request for support received.</p>
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<p>This project will be monitored based on the defined project framework prepared jointly by UNOPS and UNODC. UNOPS and UNODC have had 2 joint planning meetings in the first 4 months and UNOPS conducted 6 field missions including one with OHCHR.</p>	<p>Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? No</p>
<p><b>Evaluation:</b> Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? No - this is usually scheduled during the last 6 months of the project.</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required): Approx US\$20K will vary with Covid 19 restrictions and adjusted methodologies.</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (1500 character limit):</p>
<p><b>Catalytic effects (financial):</b> Indicate name of funding agent and amount of additional non-PBF funding support that has been leveraged by the project.</p>	<p>Name of funder: N/A      Amount: N/A</p>
<p><b>Other:</b> Are there any other issues concerning project implementation that you want to share, including any capacity needs of the recipient organizations? (1500 character limit)</p>	

**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.

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)

	<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Indicator Baseline</b>	<b>End of project Indicator Target</b>	<b>Indicator Milestone</b>	<b>Current indicator progress</b>	<b>Reasons for Variance/ Delay (if any)</b>
<b>Outcome 1</b>	Indicator 1.1	Outcome Indicator 1.1. % of increase of empowered women peacebuilders r in the targeted locations civil society representation  Baseline: TBD Target: TBD	<b>TBD</b>		<b>To be reviewed</b>	The new indicator will be reviewed and updated after the baseline survey on CSO capacity has been conducted and results finalised.

	Indicator 1.2	Outcome Indicator 1.2 % increase in the perception of confidence and improved protection among targeted women groups and women peacebuilders  Baseline: TBD Target: TBD	<b>TBD</b>		<b>To be reviewed</b>	The new indicator will be reviewed and updated after the baseline survey on CSO capacity has been conducted
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	<b>50</b>	<b>TBD</b>	2 - Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start and after results of the baseline survey.	

		Target: At least a combination of 50				
	Indicator 1.1.2	Output Indicator 1.1.2 % of trained women who report increased knowledge and skills in financial management  Baseline: 0 Target: At least 50%	<b>50</b>	<b>TBD</b>	Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	
	Indicator 1.1.3.	Output Indicator 1.1.3 # of civil society actors with audited accounts at the	<b>10</b>	<b>TBD</b>	Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	

		end of the project Baseline: 0 Target: At least : 10				
Output 1.2	Indicator 1.2.1	Output Indicator 1.2.1 # of Women groups and women supporting groups recipients of grants by the end of the project  Baseline: TBD	15	TBD	Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	

		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  Baseline: 0 Target: 10	<b>10</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>1</b> - Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	
	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)	<b>5</b>	<b>TBD</b>	Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	



		Target: 5				
Output 1.4	Indicator 1.4.1	Output Indicator 1.4.1: # of women from women peacebuilders received training and skills on protection mechanism  Baseline : TBD - 0 Target : 1,000	1000	TBD	Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	
	Indicator 1.4.2	Output Indicator 1.4.2: # of women from women peacebuilders and women CBOs received information on access to justice mechanisms	200	TBD	Progress towards this indicator will be updated once activities start.	

		Baseline : TBD - 0 Target : 200				
	Indicator 1.4.3.	Output Indicator 1.4.3 : # women participating in civil society dialogues organised by the project Baseline : 0 Target: 1500	1500			
Output 1.5						
<b>Outcome 2</b> 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%	<b>50%</b>	<b>TBD</b>	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%	TBD	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					
<b>Outcome 4</b>	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					