

**PBF PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

**COUNTRY:** Sri Lanka

**TYPE OF REPORT:** Semi-annual

**YEAR OF REPORT:** 2020



United Nations  
Peacebuilding

<b>Project Title:</b> Promoting the Participation of Youth and Women in the Peacebuilding Process <b>Project Number from MPTF-O Gateway:</b> PRF 00105731											
<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>  <b>RUNO UNFPA (Convening Agency)</b> <b>RUNO UNV</b> <b>RUNO UN WOMEN</b>										
<b>Date of first transfer:</b> 26 May 2017 <b>Project end date:</b> 30 September 2020 <b>Is the current project end date within 6 months?</b> Yes											
<b>Check if the project falls under one or more PBF priority windows:</b> <input 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>UNFPA</td><td>\$ 410,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>UNV</td><td>\$ 300,000.00</td></tr><tr><td>UN WOMEN</td><td>\$ 500,000.00</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Total: \$ 1,210,000.00</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>Approximate implementation rate as percentage of total project budget: 95% *ATTACH PROJECT EXCEL BUDGET SHOWING CURRENT APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURE*</p>		Recipient Organization	Amount	UNFPA	\$ 410,000.00	UNV	\$ 300,000.00	UN WOMEN	\$ 500,000.00	Total: \$ 1,210,000.00	
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<b>Gender-responsive Budgeting:</b> Indicate dollar amount from the project document to be allocated to activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: \$500,000.00. Amount expended to date on activities focussed on gender equality or women's empowerment: \$481,685.33											
<b>Project Gender Marker:</b> GM3 <b>Project Risk Marker:</b> <b>Project PBF focus area:</b> 2.2 Democratic Governance											
<b>Report preparation:</b> Project report prepared by: Poorani Radhakrishnan (UNFPA), Sam Stembo (UNV) and Prashani Dias (UN WOMEN) Project report approved by: Ritsu Nacken, Representative (UNFPA), Sharmalee Jayasinghe, Country Coordinator (UNV), Ramaaya Salgado, Country Focal Point (UN Women) and Resident Coordinator Did PBF Secretariat review the report: Yes											

### **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.*

### **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):

The project has reached the final stages of implementation and is on track for completion by 30 September 2020 despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Implementation of project activities were put on hold in Q1 due to Government imposed lockdown measures (curfew, restrictions on gatherings, suspension of events and implementation of work from home modality) enforced in March. Activities have been postponed to Q2 & Q3 with possible changes to delivery method (virtual consultations, teleconferencing etc.) based on how the situation develops in the immediate future. The end of project evaluation has been planned for a period of 4 months – June to September 2020 and preparatory work is underway. Contracting of an external agency for the conduct of the evaluation has commenced. Adapting to the current situation, the evaluation may employ remote data collection methods if field visits, in-person interviews etc. is not possible.

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):

A project closure event is planned to be held in September to share experience, disseminate good practice and lessons learnt. This would need to be re-thought based on the country context in August/September.

**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):

Outcome 1: The project has enabled youth-led/focused organizations to better engage young people in peacebuilding initiatives through the localization of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security. Through the establishment of the steering committees and consultations at the Provincial level, the project has enabled youth to positively engage with key Government stakeholders, provide their perspectives and contribute to the development of youth policies and initiatives at the sub-national level. Further, through the establishment of the Youth Peace Panel the project has helped young people to build their confidence, enhance their collective power and enabled them to contribute to peacebuilding initiatives.

Outcome 2: The Multi-Party Dialogues (MPDs) were the first of its kind to be conducted to build consensus across political parties on issues such as on community development, environment protection and combatting drug/alcohol abuse at the local level. They were well-received and the ongoing capacity building and follow-up assessments indicate that there has been a high level of engagement by local councillors following the MPDs: this includes establishment of women's committees within councils,

collaboration across parties & communities on various issues such as drug abuse, waste management . and replicating good practices like village town halls; and strengthened collaboration between councillors and public officials.

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):

*“Being a member in the Youth Peace Panel is recognition, encouragement and mentorship for youth peace advocates and peacebuilders in Sri Lanka. From the workshops conducted for the YPP members, we have got a thorough understanding on how to develop an advocacy project that can make meaningful change in the society. At present, the workshops have been an investment for the YPP members to develop their empathetic understanding, knowledge and skills, but in the very near future, it will also reap the benefits for the entire Sri Lankan Youth community as our advocacy projects have the potential to create change and root structural and cultural injustice, which we can be seen in the present context.”*  
– Janith Prabashwara Perera, YPP member

*“We have 3 female members in our local council, yet I hadn't thought to engage with them, the custom is for men and women to work separately. I was able to create close connections with everyone present at the MPD; through this platform provided by UN Women, I've embarked on many projects. Together we were able to move forward and tackle issues systematically. We helped the welfare society and allocated ministerial grant monies to scholarships urgently needed. We offered stationery & equipment to the educational department. We honoured religious places and set up meetings to discuss our future projects in this area.”* – Male councillor, Galle

## **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: Youth are actively and positively engaged in the peacebuilding process so that their voices are reflected in key policy and decision-making processes and outcomes at the national and sub-national levels**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress: On track**

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

There is increased awareness among young people about the important and positive role they play in maintaining and promoting peace. They have an increased understanding of identity, diversity, conflict, peace and sustainable development goals; enhanced communication, conflict analysis, advocacy and leadership skills; increased self-confidence and are able to understand the perspective of diverse people. Youth leaders are engaged in designing and implementing interventions to bring positive change and build peace in their communities. They are working at the local and national level to address issues related to youth and peacebuilding.

Youth leaders mobilized and brought together young people from Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim communities to create open dialogues on youth and peacebuilding issues. Such dialogues promoted stronger social cohesion within communities. The Youth Peace Panel (YPP) comprising 30 young people have designed four initiatives that they will take forward in order to advocate for policy changes to promote peace and youth participation. The initiatives focus on advocating for (1) reimplementation of the youth quota to ensure youth representation in governance (2) a social media policy to address fake news and hate speech, (3) change in school curriculum to promote social cohesion, and (4) changing war monuments to peace monuments. The YPP received training on advocacy and design thinking process and applied the new knowledge and skills in designing the initiatives.

These youth-led initiatives will contribute to creating greater visibility for young people's concerns, enable them to actively engage in the peacebuilding process, participate in policy and governance structures, and engage with and influence decision-makers on youth and peacebuilding issues.

Consultations with youth and Government stakeholders for the development of the youth policy and action plan for the Eastern Province and the development of an annual action plan for the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Coalition for supporting the implementation of UNSCR 2250 were planned during the reporting period. However, little progress has been made due to COVID-19 lockdown measures implemented in the country.

**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)  
Women's participation has been ensured in all project activities in order to promote young women as leaders. For instance 55% of the participants who attended training for youth leaders were females.

**Outcome 2: State decision-making processes are more equitable and inclusive to enable women's meaningful participation and leadership in governance and peacebuilding.**

**Rate the current status of the outcome progress:** On track with significant peacebuilding results

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

There is increased capacity among women local councillors on governance & peacebuilding and increased awareness and capacities among national & subnational institutions on ensuring gender-responsive policies/plans. They are better able to analyse problems from a gender perspective, develop gender-sensitive policies and have increased confidence to engage within council debates and submit council proposals.

The opportunity for frank discussion and focus on collaboration resulted in impact beyond the local level. Initial results indicate that women councillors have increasingly engaged within their councils, having strengthened relationships across parties, across councils – including male councillors, public

officials and civil society – compared to little to no engagement previously. This has led to better collaboration as seen by an initiative by male and female councillors from opposing parties to focus on environmental concerns across councils in Galle district, replication of good practices such as the ‘village townhalls’ by other local councils of Kurunegala, and formation of ‘Women’s Committees’ within local councils based on joint proposals put forward by councillors. Such collaboration promotes inclusive decision-making, better community development, and stronger social cohesion within communities, as revealed by the 10 capacity building programmes and follow-up assessments conducted in January and February 2020.

These are results from the MPDs which convened councillors to build cross-party consensus to facilitate peacebuilding at the local level. It covered 16 districts convening 300+ representatives from 208 (of 341) local councils and 29 political parties. It led to a stronger sense of understanding/kinship, irrespective of party lines, given the common problems affecting each district and the common challenges women councillors faced.

Follow-up assessments planned for March 2020 have been delayed due to COVID-19 lockdown measures. Due to limited access to feedback forms, results from previously held assessments cannot be translated & analysed at this time. The remaining 5 follow-up assessments are expected to be completed in August 2020 either via teleconferencing or through in-person workshops, depending on the prevailing situation in the country, and in line with UNCT advisories. With the completion of the assessments, an overall analysis will be undertaken to gauge full impact of the MPDs.

**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)**

In several MPDs and subsequent programmes, young people who are current contributors to local level governance or displaying interest in this area were invited to participate - this included local councillors, members of the Sri Lanka Youth Parliament, CSO activists, and officials such as those working with the National Youth Services Council at the district level.

**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? <i>Yes</i></p> <p>Has the project launched perception surveys or other community-based data collection? <i>Yes</i></p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation tools have been developed to measure the impact of different activities. Pre- and post-evaluations were conducted for training and dialogues during the reporting period. The MPD evaluations will be translated and analysed once offices and vendors are fully re-opened.</p>
<p><b>Evaluation:</b> Has an evaluation been conducted during the reporting period? No</p>	<p>Evaluation budget (response required): 35,000</p> <p>If project will end in next six months, describe the evaluation preparations (1500 character limit): The TOR for the final evaluation was prepared, reviewed and</p>

	<p>finalised by the 3 agencies along with inputs from PBSO. The RFQ was published on 4 May 2020 and the selected institution is expected to be contracted in June. The timeline has been revised noting the possible impacts of COVID-19 in relation to the evaluation. We anticipate that the general election when announced may have an impact on the evaluation.</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>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Name of funder:</td> <td>Amount:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Govt. of Japan</td> <td>\$ 40,000 for the MPDs (conducted by this project)</td> </tr> </table>	Name of funder:	Amount:	Govt. of Japan	\$ 40,000 for the MPDs (conducted by this project)
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<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>	<p>The Presidential Elections in November 2019 brought in myriad changes, including the withdrawal in February 2020 from UNHRC Resolution 30/1 and others adopted after 2015. This has had limited impact on the work undertaken given the strong relationships that have already been established.</p> <p>The most significant risk during this reporting period is the impact of COVID-19 on project activities. The lock down measures has delayed implementation of planned activities. In adjusting to the situation, online delivery methods are being explored. For Outcome 1, the training for YPP will be delivered online and the development of youth action plan for the Eastern province will be conducted through telephone consultations and other means. For Outcome 2, the remaining 5 follow-up assessments can be undertaken via teleconferencing rather than physical meetings to ensure participants' safety while targeting project completion.</p>				

## **PART IV: 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> Youth are actively and positively engaged in the peacebuilding process so that their voices are reflected in key policy and decision making processes and outcomes at the national and sub-national levels.	Indicator 1.1 % of youth engaged in peacebuilding process who feel that they have been able to positively contribute	0	40%		UNV conducted a survey amongst NYSC members. 66% of survey respondents felt that they have positively contributed.	
	Indicator 1.2 % of youth population who feel the peacebuilding process is inclusive and responsive, disaggregated by sex	n/a	20%		UNV conducted a survey amongst NYSC members. 46% of survey respondents felt that the peacebuilding process is inclusive and responsive.	
	Indicator 1.3 # of national and sub-national policies and recommendations on peace and reconciliation consulted with young people	0	4		Steering committees to facilitate the development of provincial youth policies were set up and provincial youth policies and action plans have been drafted for 3 provinces.	COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures have delayed engagement with stakeholders in Eastern province.

Output 1.1 Increased capacity of youth-led and youth-focused organizations to engage in peacebuilding processes/including UNSC Resolution 2250	Indicator 1.1.1 Number of youth-led and youth-focused organizations supported to increase young people engagement in peacebuilding through dialogue, awareness raising and knowledge exchange	0	5		Target met - 5 UN National Volunteers placed to mainstream UNSCR2250 at CSOs and NYSC.	
	Indicator 1.1.2 # local youth consulted for policy priority setting disaggregated by gender, geographical location, population group	150	500		Target met - reached 500+ youth from the 4 targeted locations.	
	Indicator 1.1.3 [%] of Youth representation within subnational level institutions and/or processes.	0%	20%		Ongoing: Provincial level steering committees in the Central, Southern, Northern provinces include representation of youth	COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures have delayed engagement with stakeholders in Eastern province.
	Indicator 1.1.4 % of youth that perceives or report volunteering having a positive contribution	n/a	70%		Indicator met - 71% of survey respondents reported that volunteering has a positive contribution to peacebuilding	

	on peacebuilding					
Output 1.2 Increased capacity of national, provincial and subnational level institutions to engage youth in peacebuilding and linkages are created for policymaking and programming	Indicator 1.2.1 Amount of budget secured within key institutions (specify which institutions) at central, provincial and district level in targeted locations dedicated to youth.	2016 budget: North – 2mn East – 1mn South – 5mn Central – 22mn	North – 2.5mn East – 1.25mn South – 6.25mn Central – 27.5mn		Ongoing: Consultation workshops have been completed in 3 provinces.	COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures have delayed engagement with stakeholders in Eastern province.
	Indicator 1.2.2 National Youth Peace Panel established and operational.	0	1		Ongoing: Multi-stakeholder consultation completed and Terms of Reference for YPP was developed. 30 member YPP panel has been established. 2 capacity building programmes completed.	The final capacity building programme was planned for March. However, it has been moved June with online delivery due to COVID-19 situation.
	Indicator 1.2.3 # of policies that are formally considered by the National Youth Peace Panel.	n/a	2		Ongoing: YPP are developing 4 advocacy projects to influence policy changes.	COVID-19 lockdown measures have delayed progress on implementation of advocacy projects.
<b>Outcome 2</b> State decision-making processes	Indicator 2.1 Number of cross-party initiatives conducted by	0	5	Yearly targets established and revised in	Ongoing. The MPDs covered 16 districts convening 300+ representatives	As noted earlier, this indicator, baseline and target have

<p>are more equitable and inclusive to enable women's meaningful participation and leadership in governance and peacebuilding.</p>	<p>local authorities to enhance women's leadership/governance.</p>			<p>line with internal plan.</p>	<p>from 208 (of 341) local councils &amp; 29 political parties.</p> <p>10 capacity building and follow-up assessments were completed in January and February 2020. 5 follow-up assessments are pending.</p>	<p>been revised to note shift in strategy (detailed in 2019).</p> <p>The remaining 5 follow-up assessments planned for March 2020 have been postponed following the island-wide curfew imposed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus epidemic. To be rescheduled for Q2/Q3 in 2020 or conducted via teleconferencing.</p>
	<p>Indicator 2.2 Number of gender-responsive local plans developed</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>4</p>		<p>Completed. Five action plans developed at provincial level for Southern Province; Northern and Eastern Provinces; North Western; and Central Provinces). Local level plans developed through MPD capacity building programme</p>	<p>As noted earlier, this indicator has been revised to note shift in strategy.</p>

					(completed for Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Matale and Galle).	
	Indicator 2.3 # of times women politicians and women's groups in targeted communities come together to discuss common community positions.	0	8		10 MPDs have been completed in 5 Provinces / 16 districts. Attendees convened again for the capacity building and follow-up assessments in January and February 2020. 5 follow-up assessments are pending.	The remaining 5 follow-up assessments planned for March 2020 have been postponed following the island-wide curfew imposed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus epidemic.
Output 2.1 Increased capacity among select women political candidates and local leaders (women and men) to promote engagement of women in governance and peacebuilding processes.	Indicator 2.1.1 % of targeted women leaders who are aware of key information related to governance and peacebuilding processes and procedures.	0	At least 50% of targeted women leaders		To be assessed based on final evaluation. Capacity building on gender-sensitive policy making conducted for all 5 Provinces.	
	Indicator 2.1.2 Number of those trained who are able to cite at least one example of applying the training in their work by three months after training.	0	At least 50% of trained people.		To be assessed based on final evaluation. 7-day course on leadership and social change with a focus on peacebuilding completed.	

Output 2.2 Increased capacity of national and sub-national institutions , including political parties, to ensure policies, plans, and budgets are gender-responsive.	Indicator 2.2.1 Number of municipalities capacitated on collective leadership at the local level.	0	5		Completed. 10 Capacity Building Programmes (subsequent to the MPDs) were conducted in 2019 and Jan/Feb 2020. The MPDs convened elected officials from local authorities across 16 districts, approx. 208 of 341 local authorities in Sri Lanka (i.e. approx 61%)	As noted earlier, this indicator, baseline and target have been revised to note shift in strategy.
	Indicator 2.2.2 % of people who believe that presence of women in leadership positions leads to improved policy-making.	N/A	At least 75% of those trained.		To be assessed from final evaluation and analysis of feedback from participants. Forum on reforms within political institutions completed. Forums with political parties on increasing women's representation within parties completed in all 5 Provinces.	Target has now been defined from "TBD" to "At least 75% of those trained".  Access to participants' feedback (collated in Jan/Feb 2020) for translation and analysis has been restricted due to the COVID-19 lockdown measures from March 2020.
Output 2.3 Women leaders	Indicator 2.3.1 Number of women	0	25		Completed. Additional training for 39 women officials	

<p>promote increased civic engagement on issues related to governance, reconciliation and TJ.</p>	<p>leaders at national, provincial and local level in target locations who use social media platforms to engage with the public.</p>				<p>in Ampara and Galle districts was provided on basic computer literacy and use of social media. Advanced storytelling and social media campaigning workshop conducted for civil society representatives in July 2019 in Colombo.</p>	
	<p>Indicator 2.3.2 Number of social media advocacy campaigns designed and supported.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>4</p>		<p>Completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 trilingual video disseminated on women's peace activism: viewed 140,096 times &amp; reached 190,478 people.</li> <li>● 1 trilingual month-long advocacy campaign “30 Days of Sri Lankan Feminism” conducted: 28,181 Twitter impressions &amp; reached 23,091 people on Facebook (at Nov 2019)</li> <li>● 1 (offline) billboard campaign on peace &amp; coexistence displayed in</li> </ul>	

					<p>Jaffna &amp; Kurunegala in June 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1 video discussion series on Women and Co-existence, titled #OurLivedRealities: reached 360,615 people and had 27,710 online engagements (as at Feb 2020).</li> </ul>	
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