### Project Title: Participation of Youth and Women in the Peacebuilding Processes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient UN Organization(s): UNFPA, UNV, and UN Women</th>
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</table>

### Implementing Partner(s): Potential Partners

**State Actors:** Prime Minister’s Office; Secretariat for the Coordination of Reconciliation Mechanism (SCRM); Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs; Ministry of National Co-existence Dialogue and Official Languages; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Vocational Training and Skills Development; Ministry of Women and Child Affairs; Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government; Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance; National Human Rights Commission; Election Commission; Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission; Parliament; National Youth Services Council and National Youth Corps and other relevant national and local actors.

**Non-State Actors:** Network of national and local youth groups; women-led and civil society groups; political parties; women’s caucuses; People’s Action for Free and Fair Elections; international and local social media groups; international and national NGOs; youth-led or youth focused civil society organizations; Volunteer-involving organizations (VIOs); selected universities/academia, and the private sector.

### Project Description:

The project will empower women and youth to participate and engage in governance and decision-making processes and responses related to sustaining peace and security in Sri Lanka at all levels.

### Financing:

- **Peacebuilding Fund:** 500,000USD (Youth); 500,000USD (Women)
- **Other sources:** UNV 200,000USD (conditional); UNFPA 180,000USD; UN Women 30,000USD
- **Government and CSO Input:** Staff time and technical expertise
- **Other:** 100,000USD (Private Sector for Output 3.2)

**Total Project Cost:** 1,510,000

**Proposed Project Start Date:** January 2017

**Proposed Project End Date:** December 2019

**Total duration (in months):** 36

### Gender Marker Score:

3

**Score 3 for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective.**

### Priority Plan Outcome to which the project is contributing:

**Governance Pillar Outcome:** Sri Lankans feel safe, and trust the Government to effectively, efficiently, equitably and transparently respond to their needs.

**Focus Area:** Women and Youth in Peacebuilding

**Strategic Priorities:**

- Support to women’s empowerment and participation in peacebuilding, in particular political participation
- Identify and support strategies and approaches for increased youth participation in peacebuilding activities

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1 PRF project duration must be within the approved dates for the Priority Plan (September 2016 – August 2019)

2 PBSO monitors the inclusion of gender equality and women’s empowerment all PBF projects, in line with SC Resolutions 1325, 1888, 1889, 1960 and 2122, and as mandated by the Secretary-General in his Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender Responsive Peacebuilding.
Project Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Youth leaders strategically linked to decision making processes at national and subnational levels to enable youth voices to be reflected in peacebuilding and reconciliation outcomes through localizing of UNSC Resolution 2250.

Outcome 2: Increased leadership and participation of women in post-conflict governance structures and peacebuilding processes at all levels.

Rationale for the project (½ page)

In the aftermath of war in 2009, although there has been an increased emphasis on the contribution of Sri Lankan women to peacebuilding, young people have been left at the margins of setting up the nation’s peacebuilding and development agenda. With over a quarter of population remaining below the age of 29, investment in today’s youth population, particularly for young women, can position Sri Lanka to achieve demographic dividend assuming that investments in health, education and decent jobs are guaranteed. There needs to be a deliberate effort to invest in young people living in rural areas and to establish mechanisms and platforms that can be utilized by this cohort.

In conflict- and violence-affected contexts, young people are commonly perceived as either perpetrators or victims of violence with young men usually assumed to be the primary perpetrators and young women the primary victims, especially of sexual and gender-based violence. Yet the lived realities of young people in these contexts are much more complex than these stereotypes suggest. Some young people may be both direct victims and perpetrators of violence; others may be neither, but instead have to use their skills and resources to survive and support themselves and their families. This analysis holds the same for Sri Lanka. Concerns by some practitioners and policy makers regarding youth vis-a-vis their role in politics and conflict are ambivalent. There are fears that youth will engage in radical or the “hastened or wrong type” of politics. Conversely, there is also a wide recognition that as “future leaders,” youth has a role to play in peacebuilding and development in the country. Of late, the country has witnessed increasing evidence that demonstrates that Sri Lanka’s youth are largely peaceful agents and assets. As an example, over 660,000 young men and women from Sri Lanka were engaged in the consultation on the post-2015 development agenda through the “MY World” Survey. Likewise, out of 8.6 million people volunteering in Sri Lanka, 40% are youth and they clearly believe that volunteering contributes greatly to the development of the country. The meaningful and active engagement of youth, through dialogue and volunteering, can have a significant impact on young people’s lives also in terms of preventing violence and extremism as it fosters social capital, reinforces mutual understanding and solidarity.

Despite the Government’s high-level commitments on gender equality and women’s empowerment, there are still low-level representations and participation of women in governance and decision-making and this has been a concern for several decades. Research has shown that Sri Lankan women often face formidable obstacles to women’s active participation in politics – from legal barriers to paucity of financial resources, lower levels of education (especially for minority groups and those that are affected by war), less access to information,

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4 National Youth Policy 2014 of Sri Lanka defines youth as those belonging to the age category 15-29


unfavourable cultural predilections, practical obstacles, and a deprivation of rights that has left them with limited opportunities to acquire political experience to run for national and local offices. The challenges are exacerbated by the country’s post-conflict environment characterized by a volatile political and security situation, the political dominance of a group of elites (typically male), the possibility of failing to include women in peace, security and recovery processes and systems, and other limiting factors.¹¹ There is significant evidence that the most challenging gap that remains concerns the participation of women in peace processes and post-conflict political transactions, even as empirical evidence reveals a strong connection between the inclusion of women in peace processes and more durable and stable peace.²² It is also important to underscore that compared to other development indices, political participation of women has the widest gender gap, and in countries experiencing conflict or undergoing transition, political participation is not generally prioritized by local and international actors. Post-conflict environment may however offer unique opportunities to institute changes in the political structure and culture to promote recognition and realization of women’s right to participate fully and equally in politics.

This project fully supports the participation of youth and women in the post-conflict environment, argues the importance of investing in youth and women in peacebuilding and addresses existing assumptions and theories of change regarding youth and women and peacebuilding³³. The project ensures consistency with the UNSC Resolution 2250 (Youth, Peace and Security) and UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820 (Women, Peace and Security) and complements the UNSG Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding.

Objective of PBF Support (1-2 pages)

Theory of Change

IF women and youth of diverse backgrounds, ethnic groups, age and geographic regions are mobilized and engaged as actors and stakeholders in governance and decision making, and peacebuilding, THEN trust is built amongst the diverse population and State institutions thus sustaining peacebuilding efforts; BECAUSE women and youth become meaningful and empowered agents of transformative change, contributing towards a culture of peace.

This theory is based on normative and empirical studies in particular those linked to Women, Peace and Security agenda, and Youth’s Participation in Peacebuilding. For women, it underscores that “when women are empowered as political leaders, countries experience positive developments in education, infrastructure and health.”¹⁴ Where rates of gender development and empowerment are higher, human rates of development and standards of living are also higher.¹⁵ Women’s political participation leads to “citizen-responsive legislatures and a pro-democracy agenda.”¹⁶ By helping women become participating members of a democracy, one can look to mitigate conflicts or stop conflicts before they begin.”¹⁷ This helps bring new issues to the table and clarity to existing obstacles, which resonates more broadly across population and makes solutions more sustainable.¹⁸ For youth, the recently completed Evaluation of Child and Youth Participation in Peacebuilding is a multi-country, multi-agency, multi-donor evaluation aimed at assessing the impact of child and youth participation in peacbuilding.¹⁹ The evaluation broadly found that “young peacebuilders often became more aware and active citizens for peace; young

¹¹ Consultations with women’s organizations and local officials in the North and the East highlighted the urgent need for “catalytic interventions” to prepare for the 2017 Local and Provincial Council Elections and to achieve longer-term systemic changes in women’s political participation. Women’s participation and leadership is essential to ensure women’s needs and rights are protected in Constitutional reforms and that women’s socio-economic empowerment, mental health, safety and security are taken seriously and addressed with financial and political commitments.


Outcomes, Outputs, Activities

Outcome 1: Youth leaders strategically linked to decision making processes at national and subnational levels to enable youth voices to be reflected in peacebuilding and reconciliation outcomes through localizing of UN SCR 2250.

This outcome has two main outputs which include, first the capacity development of selected youth-led/focused organizations and second, establishment of key platforms for youth engagement in peacebuilding and decision making at national level and sub-national levels. While there are a number of downstream interventions currently ongoing with youth in Sri Lanka that aim to engage them on issues related to peacebuilding, this initiative is especially innovative in that it aims to strategically link empowered and motivated youth with key national and provincial policy making processes. Through providing real openings for youth to engage, the project aims to catalyse not only the interest amongst youth to engage, but also to capacitate their voices to help shape the future of the country and sustain peace. The Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs will be a key partner, with the relevant Provincial Councils and other institutions engaging in the second output. The UN will also seek to work with a broad array of youth focused civil society organisations including for example the Guides, Scouts, Rotary, Sri Lanka Unites, YMCA, and YMBA. Various ongoing programmes of relevant UN agencies will add further value and impetus to the delivery of this outcome.

Output 1.1. Increased capacity of youth-led and youth-focused organizations to engage in peacebuilding processes.

Activity 1.1.1: Strengthen capacity of youth led and youth-focused organizations on peacebuilding including mapping of activities in peacebuilding; training youth at community, schools and universities on the five key elements of SCR 2250 on the importance of their role in peacebuilding through inter-generational, inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogues and translating them into action.

Activity 1.1.2: Mapping of how volunteerism and citizen engagement can be leveraged for the prevention of violent extremism, adding to the knowledge of the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security and feeding into an Asia-Pacific Regional Peace consultation and action plans.

Activity 1.1.3: Enhance awareness on young volunteer’s contribution to peacebuilding and conduct outreach youth-led activities, including Volunteer Awards 2017.

Activity 1.1.4: Strengthen Volunteer Involving Organizations (VIOs) working on peacebuilding to enhance programming and volunteer mobilization.

Activity 1.1.5: Conduct youth leadership trainings on peace to enhance youth participation and mobilization in preventing violent extremism.

Activity 1.1.6: Mobilize university students (both in private and public institutions) through Road to Adulthood, work on CRHE and actions against GBV for peacebuilding.

Activity 1.1.7: Set up “Social Change-maker Labs” - an online platform for youth-led innovative peacebuilding initiatives to implement SCR 2250 by connecting youth leaders with necessary resources and technical expertise and organizing a youth-led communication and social media campaign, including the identification of champions for peace.

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20 Ibid.
21 These could include Scouts, Guides, Rotary, Sri Lanka Unites and others present within the select geographic regions.
22 It will look at practical applications of the five sections of SCR 2250, which are Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnerships and Reintegration respectively.
23 The Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security is linked to the SCR 2250 and it is seeking to address the critical gap in young people’s participation and to help overturn negative stereotypes by highlighting and promoting young people’s voice, agency and leadership in building sustainable peace. The Study, through a strong focus on the role of young people in conflict prevention, will also contribute to “sustaining peace” as recently defined by United Nations Member States at the conclusion of the 2015 Peacebuilding Architecture Review.
24 The timeline for the Progress study includes a regional consultation for Asia Pacific in 2017 and a final report presented to the Security Council in December 2017.
Activity 1.1.8: Conduct pre and post monitoring and evaluation of the capacity building programmes of youth-led and youth-focused organizations and the youth leadership trainings, in peacebuilding and decision making processes.

Output 1.2. Increased capacity of national, provincial and sub-national level institutions to engage youth in peacebuilding and linkages are created for policy-making and programming.

Activity 1.2.1: Establish a National Youth Peace Panel, with equitable representation, to participate in decisions taken on policies and plans that have an impact on young people within Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs (Youth Division). This activity also includes the collection of data and good practice examples linked to SCR 2250 for informed decision-making.

Activity 1.2.2: Support the Provincial Administrations in priority areas in developing action plans backed with financial resources for youth resulting from provincial level policy dialogues. Issues affecting youth in post conflict environment will be prioritized such as employment, livelihood, skills development, education, health services and access to services.

Outcome 2: Increased leadership and participation of women in post-conflict governance structures and peacbuilding processes at all levels

For a holistic approach to women’s leadership and participation in post-conflict governance structures and peacebuilding processes, this outcome centres on three inter-related approaches: Firstly, this outcome focuses on networking and building the capacity of political parties and networks of women and women’s caucuses together with relevant state and non-state actors to catalyse political parties to address and remove all barriers that discriminate against the participation of women, to develop their capacity to analyse issues from a gender perspective, and to adopt policies to promote the ability of women to participate fully at all levels of decision-making within those political parties. This will also include measures and benchmarks to address inequalities, promote women’s political participation and leadership. Secondly, this outcome recognises the growing role of social media to advance women’s political participation with a two-pronged approach: (a) potential/qualified women candidates will be trained to effectively use social media to interact with electorates/citizens and vice versa to launch and sustain successful political careers; and (b), social media tools created by women’s organizations will be employed to advocate for women’s political participation and engagement in peace, security and recovery in the country. Thirdly and finally, this outcome builds on the results from UN Women, UNDP and OHCHR programmes and other initiatives by established organizations (e.g. Institute for Democracy Electoral Assistance, National Democratic Institute, International Federation for Electoral System, IKnoW Politics) in the field of women’s participation in peace processes and political transition negotiations relevant to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This outcome also capitalizes on local women and CSO groups with proven capacity and

25 The Terms of Reference for selection of panel and its objectives will be drafted with the participation of both Government and non-Government experts. Also, practices such as the Canadian Prime Ministers Youth Council are relevant and could be referred to.

26 For example, in decision affecting labour markets and employment, those who are represented on the Panel should be invited to participate in processes involved with the Ministry of Labour.

27 North, East, South and other identified areas, which show poor post-conflict and socio-economic development indicators.

28 This would be in line with the key elements of UNSCR 1325 that include participation, conflict prevention, protection, and relief and recovery.


30 In Sri Lanka, research has shown that representation of women leaders in traditional and broader media was highlighted as one of the obstacles for women to achieve greater political gender parity. The same study notes that: “media organizations give prominence to far less important programmes if implemented by male politicians. This gives them publicity at national level. However, only limited group is aware about the important services rendered by women at grassroots level. In the run up to 2015 elections, some individuals and groups used social media for spreading public interest messages during election period and these groups may be tapped for women’s advancement in politics. Latest figures indicate that 1 in 4 Sri Lankan’s regularly use the Internet. Facebook tops social media use with over 2.5 million accounts by end of 2014. Other popular platforms are Twitter (micro-blogging), Instagram (photosharing), YouTube (videosharing) and instant messaging services such as Viber and WhatsApp. A 2015 study by HARVARD Kennedy School Shorenstein Centre on Media, and Public Policy; Facebook; and Women in Parliament Global Forum, confirms that social media are a political equalizer. They are a resource with a significant impact and unlike other resources (such as campaign, financing, professional networks or traditional media coverage,) they have a very low entry cost. This means that women, who are frequently at a disadvantage when competing for resources, have equal access to social media.

31 UNDP NHDR draft Chapter 4 Women’s political participation and representation mentions a large number of political training and awareness programmes for women have been held by organizations such as Sisihala Kathawibwadi, Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, National Committee for Women, Women’s Bureau, National Peace Council, South Asia Partnership in Sri Lanka, National Democratic Institute, Association for War-affected Women, Viluthu, Ministry of Women Empowerment/UNDP, Women for Peace and Good Governance, Ministry of Youth Affairs/NSD. These organizations have trained over 5,000 women during 1994-
expertise in conducting women’s empowerment programmes that advocate for gender equality and women’s political participation in their communities. More importantly, this outcome provides the platform to bring together key government institutions such as the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Ministry of Policies and Economic Affairs (4 Departments and Institutions), Ministry of Local Government and Local Councils (Provincial Councils and Local Government; and Development) and the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance (Academic and Training Division) to build their capacity on post conflict gender-responsive governance and peacebuilding. Strong partnership is envisaged with the Academic and Training Division of the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance (SLILG) to strengthen the capacity of elected officials and local authorities to give greater impetus to mainstreaming of women, peace and security issues at the national and local development plans and strategies particularly in post-conflict and high-risk areas.

Output 2.1. Women political candidates from all social and ethnic backgrounds are supported and empowered to compete for local government posts and capacities of local leaders (women and men) are strengthened to promote post conflict governance reforms at all levels.

Activity 2.1.1: Map, engage and consult women and CSO groups to identify women leaders and assess their capacity levels, gaps and needs in relation to their engagement and participation in post-conflict peacebuilding processes.

Activity 2.1.2: Support “catalytic interventions” to prepare women for the 2017 Local and Provincial Council Elections, which will aim to achieve long-term systemic changes in women’s political participation.

Activity 2.1.3: Train a pool of session facilitators and experts on women’s leadership programmes (with a focus on post-conflict peacebuilding processes including for example politics, protection of women, conflict-prevention and national reconciliation) with agreed common core messages.

Activity 2.1.4: Roll out a capacity building programme on women’s leadership with a focus post-conflict peacebuilding processes.

Activity 2.1.5: Conduct pre and post monitoring and evaluation of the capacity building programme on women’s leadership in support of women’s political participation.

Activity 2.1.6: Support to national institutions to ensure that national and local development plans and strategies integrate women, peace and security in post-conflict and high-risk areas.

Output 2.2. State authorities have capacity to operationalize 25% gender quota for local government and put in place 30% gender quota policy and action plan for Provincial Council.

Activity 2.2.1: Support series of forum of registered/recognized political parties to develop effective strategies to increase women’s participation in political parties.

Activity 2.2.2: Support reforms to political institutions in collaboration with women party activists within and outside party structures, women candidates and elected officials.

Activity 2.2.3: Support series of forum to support cross party networks of women and women’s parliamentary caucuses.

Activity 2.2.4: Support series of advocacy events to lobby for the legislation of minimum 30% nomination seats for female candidates at the Provincial Council.

Activity 2.2.5: Support the development of gender-sensitivity programmes for Election Commission Electoral Officers on enhancing women’s participation in electoral processes as part of peacebuilding efforts.

Activity 2.2.6: Support the Election Commission on developing civic education and advocacy initiatives with a focus on women’s participation as voters and candidates.

2015 period.


33 This will include targeted inventions that political parties and a variety of actors can take to empower women following an electoral cycle approach: (1) foundation strategies for internal party organization (2) strategies in the pre-electoral period (3) strategies in the electoral period (4) strategies in the post electoral period.

34 Good practice examples of women’s caucuses as an effective forum for bringing women together across political party lines will be shared.
Output 2.3: Innovative use of social media as a tool to help women to achieve greater political parity and advance women’s participation in post-conflict governance structures and peacebuilding processes.

Activity 2.3.1: Support to provide training to potential/qualified women candidates, women and CSO groups, and solidarity networks to partner with established social media groups (international and local) to enable effective use of social media to promote women’s political participation.

Activity 2.3.2: Support to women leaders to manage social media and engage with the public on the contributions and benefits of women’s participation in post-conflict governance structures and peacebuilding processes.

Target Groups
Youth: Youth between the ages of 15-29. The project will also allow space for young people who were impacted by the war and lost their ‘youth-years’.

Gender: Women of all ages regardless of sexual identity and gender orientation, ethnicity, political affiliation, faith and religion.

Geographical areas
North, East, South and those regions with poor socio-economic development indicators.

Monitoring and Evaluation
Robust monitoring and evaluation will be put in place using participatory impact assessment tools. The key implementing partners and UN will jointly conduct reviews and evaluations to assess programme performance, modify strategies to achieve greater effectiveness, identify lessons learned and expand good practices. It will produce knowledge management tools and products to strengthen collective operational learning.

Budget

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<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES</th>
<th>UNFPA(^{35})</th>
<th>UNV</th>
<th>UN Women(^{36})</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials</td>
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\(^{35}\) UNFPA will co-finance through its annual programmatic work at both national and subnational levels. This also includes a grant for Social Change Makers Laboratory project.

\(^{36}\) The proposed budgets are estimates only and subject to change.

\(^{37}\) This allocation would cover the mobilization of four project-related national UN Volunteers for two years and not core staff.