## Concept Note Template
### Peacebuilding Fund Project
#### Peacebuilding Priority Plan – Sri Lanka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title: Reconciliation</th>
<th>Recipient UN Organization(s): UNDP, UNICEF, WHO, IOM, and UNFPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Implementing Partner(s) – name & type (Government, CSO, etc):**

**Government**
- Directorate of Mental Health of the Ministry of Health Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine (MoH)
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- Family Health Bureau of Health Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine
- Health Education Bureau of the Ministry of Health Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine
- Ministry of Women and Child Affairs District Secretariat (DS) in target areas
- Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare
- Provincial Director of Health Services (PDHS)
- Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS)
- Ministry of Education (MoE)
- National Institute of Education (NIE)
- Ministry of Higher Education and Highways
- Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training
- National Education Research and Evaluation Center (NEREC)
- Provincial Department of Education (PDE)
- Zonal Department of Education (ZDE)
- Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation (MNIR)
- Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR)
- Ministry of National Dialogue, Co-existence and Official Languages
- Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM)
- District and Divisional Administration

**CSO**
- Women Rural Development Society
- Others to be identified

**UN Agencies**
- UNESCO
- UNV
- UNWOMEN

### Project Description:

*One sentence describing the project’s scope and focus.*

### Financing

*Peace building Fund: USD 1,800,000.00*

*Other source:*
The project aims to contribute to national reconciliation efforts with specific focus on innovative initiatives that aim to strengthen inter-ethnic relationships and mutual understanding to support vertical consensus, and that can be up-scaled in the future. It also includes a focus on strengthening psychosocial support systems, in light of the peacebuilding and transitional justice processes that are taking shape, and thus aims to contribute to healing and reconciliation at the community level.

Members of the Community Support Organizations will support service delivery at the community level.

**Government Input:**

While Government counterparts at national level will use their exiting service structure and human resources to assist the implementation of activities, provincial level partners will assist in coordination, delivery and monitoring of activities.

**Other:**

**Total Project Cost:**

- **Proposed Project Start Date:** October 2016
- **Proposed Project End Date:** September 2019
- **Total duration (in months):** 36 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender Marker Score²: 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score 3 for projects that have gender equality as a principal objective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score 2 for projects that have gender equality as a significant objective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score 1 for projects that will contribute in some way to gender equality, but not significantly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score 0 for projects that are not expected to contribute noticeably to gender equality.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Priority Plan Outcome to which the project is contributing:** Reconciliation: Sri Lankan Society with Peaceful co-existence and a sense of belonging

**Project Outcomes:**

1. Coherent network mechanisms designed and established to promote dialogue, build consensus towards reconciliation and provide early warning and response to emerging conflicts, including from a gender perspective

2. Education system, including governance, policies and curricula, strengthened to promote reconciliation and social cohesion

3. Psychosocial care and support system, including coordination, assessment, monitoring and evaluation strengthened to foster reconciliation among deprived communities

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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*. 
1. **Rationale for the project (½ page)**

Sri Lanka is taking forward a number of reform processes, including setting up of the institutional framework and policies required for its peacebuilding and transitional justice process. Currently, the Government has in place two Ministries whose mandate is to promote national integration and reconciliation, and national dialogue, co-existence and official languages. Alongside the district and divisional service delivery arm of the Government, the Ministry of National Co-existence also has co-existence Societies registered under its purview. The Government has also set up the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM) and the Office of National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) at the national level. Civil Society has been actively engaging in different peacebuilding processes since 2015, in partnership with the aforementioned government institutions. Given the large number of stakeholders involved in the peacebuilding process, and considering these institutions are active in different spheres of work, building consensus and cohesiveness on the national agenda for peace, and the respective roles in this regard is crucial. Against this backdrop this project will look to focus on developing the components of infrastructure for peace, for dialogue and early warning, through pilot models at the local level networked into a coherent national architecture.

Education has been recognized as a key factor for promoting peace and reconciliation. A lot of focus has been on exchange programmes, however the report of the National Policy on Education for Social Cohesion (2008) has highlighted two other key pre-conditions that together can result in substantial change towards peace and reconciliation, namely curriculum revisions and school to university level models aimed at strengthening competencies among young Sri Lankans for analyzing and resolving conflict as well as promoting peace within their communities. Moreover the report pointed out that, while there were many initiatives that had happened over the years bringing together students from different backgrounds, little had been documented about the effectiveness of such programmes. Therefore, the second component of the project aims to (1) revise and implement school curricula that strengthen the development of competencies related to the conflict resolution, conflict prevention and promotion of peace, (2) enhance the capacities of principals, teachers and school communities to prevent and resolve conflict and promote peace and (3) strengthen systems for research, monitoring and evaluation to inform relevant policies and programmes.

Finally noting the need for increased psychosocial support, in light of peacebuilding and transitional justice processes that are taking shape, it is important to ensure that psychosocial systems are strengthened to provide the required support to the communities in a timely manner. As a third component, the project will develop targeted interventions to respond to mental health issues including trauma and suicide and provide support to victims and survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and women from Female Headed Households (FHHs). As such the project will (1) build the capacity to provide mental health and psychosocial support at the community level, (2) develop a Victim Case Management Protocol, (3) upgrade the Mental Health and Psychosocial Health Information System and integrate it within a national platform and (4) strengthen national and sub-national mechanisms to provide psychosocial support to the victims and survivors of SGBV.

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3 Including officers located at the District/Divisional level across the country.
1. **Objective of PBF Support** (1-2 pages)

Theory of Change: IF authorities committed to peacebuilding and healing develop, through inclusive consultative processes, policies and strategies that provide opportunities and mechanisms for groups involved in and affected by the conflict to interact and share lessons and experiences, AND to jointly participate in rebuilding, reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts between and amongst communities, THEN prospects for creating a society that is tolerant and lives in harmony are greatly enhanced.

The project aims to implement this theory of change through the following three project cluster areas:

1. **Infrastructures for Peace and Dialogue**

**Outcome 1:**

*Sri Lanka has in place a coherent network of mechanisms designed to promote dialogue, build consensus and provide early warning and response to emerging conflicts.*

The Project proposes to bring the relevant stakeholders together, including the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation, Ministry of National Dialogue, Co-existence and Official Languages, Ministry of Justice, ONUR and relevant District and Provincial authorities alongside civil society to agree upon a framework that helps build a dynamic network of institutions, with the skills, capacities, resources, and tools to help build constructive relationships, and coherent structures, that enable the roll out of dialogue and early warning mechanisms in Sri Lanka, towards enhancing resilience and preventing relapse into violence.

To this end, technical support will be provided to develop the required terms of reference and clarify process flows to review and consolidate relevant existing policies and action plans. Additionally, with a focus on strengthening existing capacities, the project will support to conduct practical trainings on conflict sensitivity and principles of ‘do no harm’, together with conflict mitigation/transformation and support to design a simple and practical early warning and response system, and promote and adapt the concept of Infrastructures for Peace.

Outputs (and relevant UN agency) and key activities:

**Output 1.1:** National level infrastructure for promoting dialogue and early warning in place.

a. Provide technical support to clarify and build consensus around a national level institutional framework\(^4\) and vocabulary required to support a model for meaningful dialogue and early warning at the local level.

b. Provide exposure/knowledge on the models of Infrastructure for Peace for dialogue and early warning, including through South-South exchange and technical support to adapt a model for Sri Lanka

c. Develop training curricula such as on conflict sensitivity for public sector officials towards institutionalizing dialogue and early warning practices.

**Output 1.2:** A cohesive local level institutional arrangement, that builds on government and civil society structures, with capacitated human resources to promote dialogue and early warning, piloted in target locations.

a. Identify civil society organisations/networks, including religious leaders and Co-existence Societies to form platforms to foster a culture of dialogue and engage in the design of a pilot early

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\(^4\) Informed by a mapping of existing structures and institutional mandates.
warning mechanism for emerging conflicts and natural disasters with particular focus on youth (linking to existing disaster management platforms and on-going UNV project)\(^5\)
b. Identify priority issues that require resolution at the local level, initiate dialogue to bridge trust deficit and build momentum on peace building.
c. Strengthen capacities of identified civil society organisations/networks and frontline government officials through practical trainings and awareness.
d. Support to create/strengthen dialogue facilitator pool at the local level from amidst the identified networks and frontline government officials.
e. Support to adapt/design of a model and tools which facilitate increased communication at the community level and pilot the early warning model.

**Output 1.3**: The Sri Lankan experience in piloting a model for Infrastructure for Peace documented
a. Strengthen local capacities to monitor the overall process and any resulting changes
b. Identify key lessons learnt on the process of adapting the model

## 2. Peace Education

**Outcome:**
*Education system, including governance, policies and curricula, are strengthened to promote reconciliation and social cohesion.*

Working closely with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the National Institute of Education (NIE), the UN’s support for Peace Education will be informed by recommendations from recent review of the National Policy on Education for Social Cohesion and Peace, that was supported by UNICEF and approved by the MOE led Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee in October 2016. UNESCO will collaborate with UNICEF in facilitating the research component and establishing networks among the higher education entities. UNICEF’s effort will also compliment the exiting work done by German Technical Cooperation (GIZ) on Education for Social Cohesion and Peace.

Outputs (and relevant UN agency) and key activities:

**Output 2.1:** School curricula are revised and implemented to strengthen the development of competencies related to the conflict resolution, conflict prevention and promotion of peace ((UNICEF, GIZ and UNESCO)

a. Set up and support curriculum review panel consisting of academia and think tanks
b. Support awareness raising and sensitization on the need for curriculum revisions in History (both secondary education subjects), including through exchange visits of curriculum review panel members to other countries.
c. Transform Civic Education from a theory towards a practical based subject.

**Output 2.2:** Principals, teachers and school communities have enhanced capacities to prevent and resolve conflict and promote peace (UNICEF, GIZ and UNESCO)

a. Support research on violence in different settings such as at home, on the way to school and in school; including through a gender assessment of school learning environments - school-related gender-based violence.

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\(^5\) Linking to the UNV project “Integrating volunteerism to strengthen community resilience for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation - Supporting the Sri Lanka Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (SLCDMP)”
b. Promote awareness on the need to protect children from abuse, violence and exploitation.
c. Develop teacher development materials for positive disciplining and skills-building to support conflict resolution.
d. Piloting of models and scale up good practices.

Output 2.3: Systems for research, monitoring and evaluation are strengthened and inform policies and programs towards promoting peace through Education (UNICEF, GIZ, and UNESCO)

a. Establish a research and information management hub.
b. Develop an Education for Social Cohesion research strategy and capacity for implementing it through relevant stakeholder institutions.
c. Develop dissemination strategy and establish network among similar research initiatives in other countries.

3. Psychosocial Support

Outcome:
National and community based multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms are strengthened to monitor and provide psychosocial support to address health inequities faced by groups with high unmet needs, including conflict affected people, victims and survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Female Headed Households (FHHs).

WHO will work closely with the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine to enhance psychosocial care and services. Taking into consideration the available capacities on the ground for psycho-social care, the strategy will focus on immediate community level support whilst also supporting Provincial and Regional partners to put in place strategies that aim to strengthen capacities for individual care in the longer term. UNFPA will closely work with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Forum/s against GBV and Civil Society Organizations in strengthening the systems that provide psychosocial support for the victims of SGBV which is an essential element of peace building of the country. IOM meanwhile will work with the relevant line ministries (MoH), Transitional Justice Mechanisms (OMP, Reparations Office, Truth Seeking Mechanism), CSO’s and victim associations to develop Victim Case Management Protocol and mechanism to facilitate seamless, victim friendly and confidential referral and support for all victims in need of psychosocial support. The Victim Case Management Protocol will represent the link between the transitional justice and regular institutions.

Outputs (and relevant UN agency) and key activities:

Output 3.1: Capacities at community level are strengthened to provide mental health and psychosocial support and Mental Health and Psychosocial Health Information System is upgraded and integrated to the national platform (WHO)

a. Community level programmes to address drivers of violence
   I. Capacity building of Community Support Organizations to address violence in their communities (a project piloted through the PBF – IRF to be reviewed and extended to other districts)
   II. Programmes to address violence related to alcohol and substance abuse.
b. Pilot the establishment of a Provincial Mental Health Action Plan that is built on the National Action Plan to address issues most relevant to each province (Eastern Province).
c. Establish referral pathways between multiple stakeholders in providing comprehensive psychosocial support to the beneficiaries. (a project piloted through the PBF – IRF to be reviewed and extended to other districts)
d. Conduct the National Prevalence Study on Mental Health Disorders and address issues identified as part of the study (whilst also using data as part of M&E strategy)
e. Implement the Suicide Prevention Strategy at the district level (Mannar, Trincomalee, Monaragala, Polonnaruwa).
f. Facilitate data collection, monitoring of trends and evidence based policy development for the means of addressing of health inequalities at the RDHS level in 2 districts.

Output 3.2: A protocol system for Victim Case Management is developed (IOM)
a. Provide practical and standardized guidance to regular and transitional justice institutions and organizations engaged in psychosocial counselling and support service provision programmes to ensure survivor-centric, confidential service provision and a needs-responsive referral system for victims to access psychosocial and health assistance
b. Focus on the needs of conflict affected, victims of SGBV and women from FHHs
c. Provide training on the use of the Protocol at the central, provincial and district level
d. Identify and establish referral pathways between regular institutions (line ministries such as MoH) and transitional justice institutions (such as future OMP, Reparations Office, Truth Seeking Mechanism)

Output 3.3: National and sub-national mechanisms are strengthened to provide psychosocial support to the victims of SGBV (UNFPA)
a. Support the implementation of the section on psychosocial support of the Policy Framework and National Plan of Action to address SGBV with a special focus on health sector and empowerment and prevention sector
b. Support the implementation of psychosocial support and counselling sections of Behaviour change communication strategy guide on GBV
c. Support the national and subnational forums against GBV to increase their capacity in providing psychosocial support and coordination

While the project aims to address the needs of vulnerable communities from targeted geographical areas such as conflict affected and plantation regions, it will also work at a national level, including on relevant policies and action plans. This dual approach will ensure that solutions are sustainable and grounded within the realities of Sri Lankan communities throughout the country. In doing so, the lead agencies will closely work with other contributing UN agencies and development partners such as GIZ, USAID and DFAT.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

In relation to the Infrastructure for Peace component, the project proposes a primarily qualitative approach of recording processes and strategies adopted by the various stakeholders throughout the duration of the project against defined benchmarks. As part of this approach, the project will aim to build monitoring pathways for communities to channel their ideas, observations and concerns. Baseline data may also be extracted from findings of the peacebuilding perception survey conducted in 2014 and 2016 and Consultations Task Force Reports, subject to public availability of the same.

With support from the World Bank and GIZ, the project proposes to conduct base and end line sample surveys on civic education to measure the impact on attitudinal changes. These surveys will assess the status of democratic and civic competencies of young people. A similar research study was conducted by
the National Education Research and Evaluation Centre in 2003, which will facilitate the implementation of these planned surveys. This effort will also complement above mentioned peacebuilding perception surveys.

The existing data collection mechanisms of the MOH, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Ministry of Education will be utilized to gain baseline data in the project regions with regard to psychosocial aspects and will be analyzed pre and post project implementation. Further, qualitative data from the community will be gathered through surveys focusing on specific indicators addressed through the community programmes. At a national level, the prevalence study will be used as a platform to gather data as well.

The more detailed Monitoring and Evaluation framework including at output level will be provided with the full project document.

3. Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES</th>
<th>UNDP</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>IOM</th>
<th>UNFPA</th>
<th>TOTAL (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Staff and other personnel</td>
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<td>5. Travel</td>
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<td>7. General Operating and other Direct Costs</td>
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