



# SRI LANKA SDG FUND



## 2024 RESULTS REPORT

A SHARED INVESTMENT  
IN SRI LANKA'S FUTURE



# SRI LANKA SDG FUND



# 2024

## RESULTS REPORT



## FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR

I am pleased to present the 2024 Results Report of the UN Sri Lanka SDG Fund. The work we have accomplished, as captured in the pages of this report is a powerful testament to our enduring commitment to building a peaceful, resilient, and inclusive Sri Lanka.

The importance of pooled funding has never been greater. Globally, 30 percent of voluntary contributions for development activities are channeled through inter-agency pooled funds.

In Sri Lanka, the UN Sri Lanka SDG Fund is the primary instrument for joint UN interventions. Notably, the Fund supported 75 percent of all UN joint investments in the country in 2024.

Our work in 2024 was marked by a focus on resettlement and reintegration; fostering social dialogue for peace and crisis prevention; strengthening early warning systems, digitisation, and combating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

Sri Lanka's recent presidential and parliamentary elections concluded peacefully and transparently, demonstrating the country's commitment to democratic governance amid political change. In this context, the Fund's peacebuilding investments—particularly those aimed at countering hate speech and addressing the pervasive challenges of misinformation and disinformation—proved especially timely.

The Fund continued to support resettlement and reintegration initiatives, working hand in hand with government and civil society actors. This vital work, remains on track to conclude by March next year. Additionally, our continued technical support for independent institutions tasked with addressing the legacy of conflict further cemented our commitment to long-term reconciliation and justice.

We also earmarked a new initiative to support inclusive social dialogue at both national and local levels. Key gains included improved access to services, targeted livelihood and psychosocial support, and strengthened grassroots leadership. Enhanced early warning systems and data-driven programming also contributed to conflict prevention and national reconciliation.

Through the resilience window, a key milestone was the launch of our initiative to digitally revolutionise Sri Lanka's Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system—a key step in accelerating progress towards the SDGs and aligning with the government's broader vision of a digital economy.

Further, focused investments on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence reached vulnerable populations across 10 districts, with essential sexual and reproductive health services and strengthened healthcare systems despite operational challenges.

On resources, the Fund secured new contributions and pledges from the Peacebuilding Fund and the Joint SDG Fund, notably thanks to the EU. We also secured new funding and commitments from Canada and the UK. We are grateful to all our contributors for their support.

Looking ahead, guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and aligned with the new government's vision, we will deepen our focus on key national priorities—supporting digitalisation, addressing land and resettlement issues, updating the integration strategy, and promoting gender equity and youth empowerment. Alongside a continued emphasis on gender equity and youth empowerment, we remain committed to advancing a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable future for all.



**Marc-André Franche**

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka



Contributing Partners



Joint  
SDG Fund



UN  
Peacebuilding  
Fund



Canada



United  
Kingdom



Australia



European  
Union



United  
States

Participating Entities in 2024



Implementing Partners



Government

Department of Probation and Childcare Services  
Department of National Planning  
Department of Project Management and Monitoring  
District Secretariat Badulla  
District Secretariat Batticaloa  
District Secretariat Gampaha  
District Secretariat Jaffna  
Industrial Development Board  
Information Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka  
External Resources Department  
Mediation Boards Commission  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Ministry of Digital Economy  
Ministry of Fisheries  
Ministry of Health and Mass Media  
Ministry of Justice  
Ministry of Labour  
Ministry of Plantation Industries  
Ministry of Public Administration, Local Government & Provincial Councils  
Ministry of Women and Child Affairs  
Prime Minister's Office  
Provincial Departments of Education  
Public Utility Service Commission  
Registrar General Department  
Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority  
Vital Statistics Division - Department of Census and Statistics  
Vocational Training Authority



Private Sector

CEFE NET (Business Development)  
Employers Federation of Ceylon (EFC)  
Kantar Lanka Private Limited



Civil Society

AHAM (AHAM Humanitarian Resource Center)  
Alliance Development Trust (ADT)  
Centre for Child Development (CFCD)  
Centre for Policy Alternatives  
Chrysalis  
FACTUM  
Hashtag Generation  
Mannar Women's Development Federation  
MHPSS.NET (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Component)  
National Christian Evangelical Alliance Sri Lanka  
OfERR Ceylon  
OPEnE  
Trade Unions  
Women In Need (WIN)  
Women Rural Development Societies (WRDS)  
World Vision Lanka



Other Partners

French News Agency  
Human Rights Commission  
Legal Aid Commission  
Ocean University  
Office for Reparations  
Office on Missing Persons  
Sri Lanka Broadcasters' Guild  
Sri Lanka College of Journalism  
University of Colombo  
University of Jaffna  
University of Kelaniya  
Vital Strategies



2024 AT A GLANCE

The Sri Lanka SDG Fund, established in 2020, operates with a strategic framework designed to mobilise resources for joint UN initiatives, with a strong focus on resilience and peacebuilding. Over the years, it has garnered support from key contributors, including Australia, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and the Joint SDG Fund, mobilising over \$40 million to date. This substantial backing has significantly bolstered efforts to strengthen resilience and promote peace across the nation. In 2024, the Fund successfully mobilised nearly \$5 million commitments from contributors.

In 2024, peacebuilding investments made through the Fund played a pivotal role in supporting the reintegration and recovery of conflict-affected communities, particularly in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Communities experienced improved stability and social cohesion through enhanced access to housing, legal identity, and essential public services. Psychosocial support contributed to emotional well-being and successful community reintegration, while targeted livelihood support and skills development boosted economic security—particularly among women and marginalised groups. Revitalised community-based organisations further empowered grassroots leadership and inclusive decision-making. Conflict prevention capacities were enhanced through strengthened early warning systems, including efforts to counter digital threats such as hate speech and disinformation. Evidence generated through perception surveys and reparations mapping informed responsive, inclusive programming and contributed to national reconciliation and accountability processes.

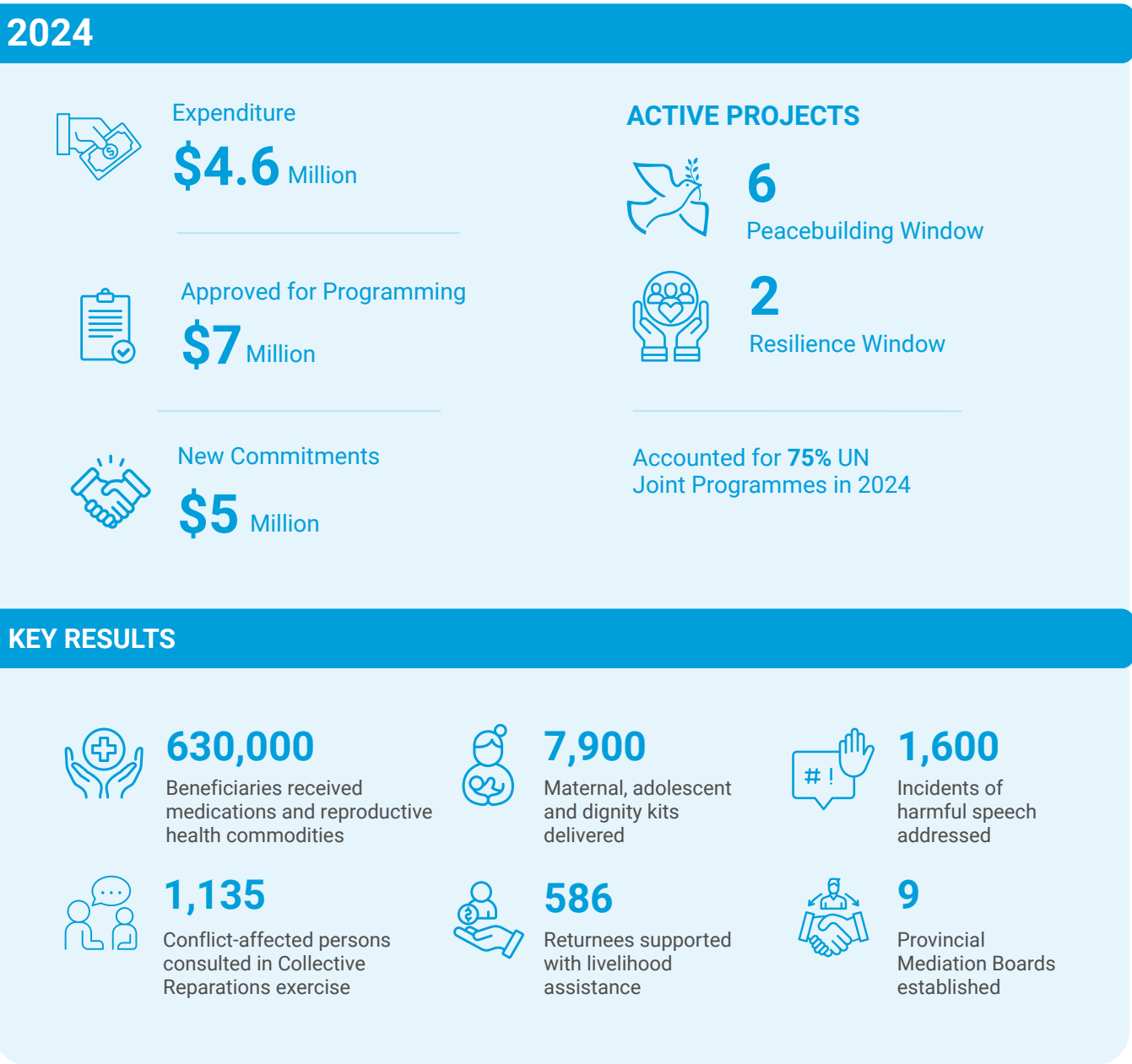
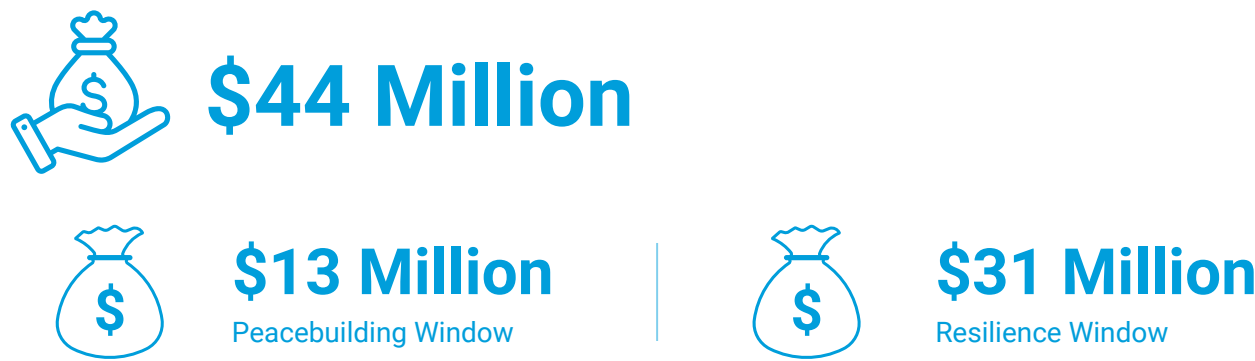
Similarly, the Fund’s Resilience Window prioritised digital transformation, a key driver of sustainable development. Aligned with the Government of Sri Lanka’s digital-focused development strategy, initiatives such as the One Registry program kick

started critical work on modernizing Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems—to enhance essential service delivery, strengthen accountability, and restore public trust in institutions. In parallel, humanitarian assistance channelled through the Fund addressed the ongoing multidimensional crisis in the country. Targeted interventions focusing on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence reached a substantial portion of the intended population across ten districts. Despite operational challenges, the initiative effectively delivered life-saving services to vulnerable populations, reinforcing national healthcare systems and contributing to improved well-being and social stability. Efforts also addressed medicine shortages and continuity of care, while supporting the resilience of women, girls, and marginalised communities.

Together, these distinct yet complementary efforts contributed to strengthening Sri Lanka’s institutional resilience and social fabric—advancing both digital governance and human security in a challenging context.

Looking ahead, the Fund is poised to address sensitive and emerging issues, drive transformative change, and foster innovative solutions. By strategically directing resources toward underfunded development sectors, the Fund underscores its unwavering commitment to tackling urgent challenges and accelerating Sri Lanka’s progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. In advancing these efforts, the good offices of the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office will be instrumental in facilitating dialogue, building consensus, and navigating political sensitivities to ensure the successful implementation of these investments. Through targeted interventions and sustained partnerships, we will continue building a more resilient, peaceful, and inclusive future for all Sri Lankans.

TOTAL FUND PORTFOLIO SINCE 2020





# PEACEBUILDING



Photo: UNDP Sri Lanka





# Accelerating Resettlement in Northern and Eastern Provinces



The Peacebuilding contributed to support a joint initiative implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to facilitate the sustainable resettlement and reintegration of conflict-affected communities in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces.

These regions, which bore the brunt of the country's prolonged civil conflict, continue to face significant challenges in rebuilding communities and restoring livelihoods. Many families remain displaced, and the scars of war continue to affect social cohesion and economic stability.

The programme specifically targets internally displaced persons, returnees, women-headed households, ex-combatants, youth etc. in these regions, aligning with Strategic Priority 3 of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) which covers Social Cohesion, Inclusive Governance, and Justice. To this end a review of support provided by the United Kingdom, carried out in 2024, to resettlement related programming in Sri Lanka noted a positive and "significant difference in the lives of thousands of resettled refugees and internally displaced persons in the north and east of Sri Lanka."

In 2024, the programme made significant strides in supporting the resettlement and reintegration of conflict-affected communities, improving access to livelihoods, shelter, public services, and psychosocial support.

A household monitoring survey conducted in February 2025 revealed that 80% of targeted individuals reported increased disposable income, resulting in moderate improvements in living standards. Furthermore, 75% of resettled families expressed higher confidence in the resettlement process, largely due to enhanced access to livelihood services.

The programme also strengthened institutional capacities to deliver vital services. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) units within local health, women's, and disaster management departments were upgraded, improving service delivery across key sectors.

This broad approach, focusing on income security, livelihood development, shelter, and public services, contributed to sustainable resettlement and reintegration of vulnerable IDPs and returnees across Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, and Batticaloa districts, in alignment with government priorities.

Progress was achieved in promoting economic stability, social inclusion, and community participation. A total of 586 returnees received equitable livelihood assistance to restart income-generating activities in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, dairy, and small businesses—especially benefiting women-headed households. Additionally, 352 individuals received business and technical training, gaining the skills to generate income through innovative ventures.

Community-based organisations (CBOs) and Women's Rural Development Societies (WRDS) were also strengthened, with over 61% of CBOs demonstrating improved functionality. Livelihood opportunities were provided to 350 families, supporting long-term economic independence through sustainable income-generating activities.

To enhance financial resilience, cash grants were allocated to 10 Women's Rural Development Societies (WRDS) for business expansion, supporting ventures such as grocery stores and tailoring. In-kind support was provided to Women's Rural Development Societies (WRDS) for activities like batik production and event rental services.

Youth engagement was also prioritised, with 62 students receiving National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) initiative. Additionally, 432 individuals gained access to vital civil documents—enabling improved access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.

Legal, psychosocial, and counselling services reached over 200 displaced persons and returnees, contributing to higher satisfaction rates among beneficiaries.

Finally, training for 32 government officials in Kilinochchi on preventing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) resulted in a notable increase in knowledge and capacity, further strengthening the programme's long-term impact.



**80%**  
reported increased disposable income



**75%**  
reported increased confidence in resettlement processes



**586**  
returnees supported with livelihood assistance



**432**  
individuals received civil documentation



**211**  
displaced persons & returnees received MHPSS services

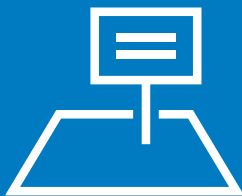




# Land and Peacebuilding

Land disputes centred on access, control, and distribution remain a major challenge to peacebuilding in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Post-conflict contestations frequently involve the state, military, and agencies like the Departments of Archaeology, Wildlife, Forest, and the Mahaweli Authority.



50

unresolved state-citizen land disputes identified in the Eastern Province between 2020 and 2024



**Pictured:** Newly released land in Palaly, an area which has been under Sri Lankan military occupation for over 30 years.  
**Credit:** UN Sri Lanka



# FROM DISPLACEMENT TO HOPE



Photo: UN Sri Lanka



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## “My name is Arundhavamalar and this is my story...”

“I was born in 1980 in a village in Palali where I grew up with my eight siblings. My mother was a homemaker, and my father was a fisherman. My village had around 30 families living peaceful lives.

Most the villagers were farmers and fisherfolk. I went to school in Palali North Government Mixed Tamil School with other children from my village where we studied and played.

With the intensification of the civil war, like many others, my family was displaced from our home in Palali. We left our house on 13th August 1990 and moved to Palavy welfare centre in Polikandy, Point Pedro. We tried to return to our village after the 2004 Tsunami but were displaced once again in 2005 due to the resumption of the civil war.

We moved to Vanni and many other places including Valajarmadam and Mathalan. In 2009, we moved to Jaffna by boat and had to reside in the Allarai Internally Displaced Persons site in Chavachcheri. From there, we eventually came back to where we started our displacement journey in Polikandy.

During this time, our life was very tough. We relied heavily on the support of family members, especially my elder brother and his business, to secure our livelihood and both my children struggled in obtaining an education. Eventually, we came back to Palali in 2023 and received our house there in 2024.

Today, with the support of the United Nations, the Government, and our savings, my family and I have managed to rebuild our homes, and our community is beginning to thrive again.

Having a house of one’s own brings me immense happiness. Truly, there are no words to describe the happiness I feel about owning my own home.

While we were displaced, if the owner of a house we were staying in asked us to leave, we had no choice but to move. Today, no one can ask us to leave, and we are determined to stay here. My family and I feel content and safe now.

I received fishing nets from a civil society organization supported by the United Nations, and now I sell dried fish to support my son and elderly, bedridden mother. I gave some of my fishing nets to my younger brother, which supports him and also supplements my income. Today, I can support my children and take care of my mother in peace in our own home.

I sincerely hope that other people like me who were displaced and affected by the war will also be able to receive land and support to re-build their homes, their livelihoods, and their lives.”

- Palaly to Polikandy - 1990
- Polikandy to Mathalan - 2005
- Mathalan to Valaiyarmadam - 2007
- Valaiyarmadam to Chavakachcheri - 2009
- Chavakachcheri to Polikandy - 2010
- Polikandy to Palaly - 2023



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Peacebuilding Window

# Strengthening Institutions and Social Cohesion

Sri Lanka's peacebuilding efforts include transitional justice and social cohesion, however the progress of transitional justice mechanisms has been slow, and public trust remains low, particularly in minority communities. These challenges hinder efforts to build national unity and foster lasting peace. Noting these matters the peacebuilding window saw the close of two social cohesion related interventions in 2024 and the launch one new initiative on social dialogue,

In 2024, the Fund's Peacebuilding Window supported the Office for Reparations (OR) and the Office on Missing Persons (OMP) through a project titled Support for Strengthened Reconciliation Processes and Increased Access to Credible Reparations Mechanisms. This initiative, jointly implemented by IOM, UNFPA, and WHO, worked to strengthen reconciliation efforts and ensure that reparations are more person-centered and accessible. This 2-year intervention came to a close in October 2024.

A key achievement of the intervention was the development of an upgraded Information Management System (IMS) for the OR, which included digitizing over 5,700 files and entering more than 17,600 data points. This enhanced data accessibility substantially supports the ongoing reparations process.

The "Collective Reparations" exercise, launched in 2023, continued in 2024 across the districts of Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi. Through consultations involving more than 1,000 conflict-affected individuals, community-based organizations, and government officials, gender-disaggregated data was collected, shedding light on shared needs such as loss of livelihoods, access to health services, and the demand for memorialisation. The consultations also highlighted challenges related to land conflicts and, gender and ethnic disparities in reparations.

In response, approximately 250 project concepts were developed to address these needs. These

proposals were further refined with government input and are set to guide future reparations programming.

In terms of economic empowerment, the programme supported 430 individuals (290 women, 140 men) in conflict-affected communities through collective livelihood initiatives. These included vocational training in Aari embroidery, handloom weaving, and solar panel installation, providing participants with technical skills and employment opportunities.

Female-headed households in Jaffna benefited from the renovation of the Ammachchi Traditional Food Center, enhancing both infrastructure and financial literacy training to improve resilience.

Efforts to improve access to education and psychosocial support were prioritized, particularly in conflict-affected regions. At Vephaiyadi Kalaimahal Maha Vidyalaya in Ampara district, the school infrastructure was upgraded, with new sanitary facilities installed to improve the learning environment for female students.

In addition, educational materials were provided to enhance the learning experience for 628 students (345 girls and 283 boys). Transportation support was also provided to ensure that 24 differently abled students (7 girls and 17 boys) in Batticaloa enabling them to safely pursue their education and skills development.

Psychosocial support reached 152 individuals from both Tamil- and Sinhala-speaking communities across several districts, helping them to overcome trauma and reintegrate into society.

Through counseling, and community-based interventions, individuals reported significant improvements in mental well-being and social reintegration. This support was crucial in fostering healing and social cohesion in communities affected by conflict.

Sustainable Development Goals



Participating UN Organisations



The UNDP-led initiative on strengthening human rights-based approaches to drug control in Sri Lanka aimed to address the rising concern around substance use and dependence, which is increasingly viewed as both a public health and security threat. This initiative, which concluded in 2024, saw the development a comprehensive policy brief on Drug Control and Treatment was developed by a leading Sri Lankan human rights expert. The brief provided actionable recommendations to the government, national authorities, and development partners, supporting the implementation of a more human rights-centered approach to substance abuse control and prevention.

In a collaborative effort to address ongoing social challenges, the Social Dialogue for Peace and Crisis Prevention project was launched by ILO, UNFPA, and UNESCO in 2024. The initiative aimed to create inclusive platforms for dialogue at both national and local levels, focusing on resolving issues related to the economic crisis and social stability.

By the end of 2024, the project had established nine Provincial Mediation Boards, providing a space for communities to engage in peacebuilding and resolve local disputes. Additionally, the project initiated consultations with the Ministries of Education, Power, and Energy to integrate youth and women's issues into national dialogue, laying the groundwork for more inclusive and sustainable policies.



1,135  
conflict-affected persons  
consulted in Collective  
Reparations exercise



250  
project concepts developed to  
address community needs



430  
individuals supported through  
collective livelihood initiatives



152  
individuals received  
psychological support



9  
Provincial Mediation  
Boards established





# EMPOWERING TEACHERS THROUGH SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Joseph Stalin, Secretary of the Ceylon Teachers' Union, believes that for real progress in Sri Lanka's education system, teachers need more than just a voice—they need the power to influence decisions that directly affect them.

He sees the Social Dialogue for Peace and Crisis Prevention project, implemented by the UN through ILO, UNESCO, and UNFPA, as a crucial step toward addressing long-standing grievances and improving industrial relations within the education sector.

For Stalin, the establishment of workplace forums under this initiative offers an unprecedented opportunity to bring together diverse voices within the education system. However, he is clear that these forums must not just be a platform for discussion. They must also carry real decision-making power.

"If we want these forums to work, they must have the authority to make decisions and implement them. Otherwise, they become just talk shops", Stalin explains.

The Social Dialogue project is structured to ensure that teachers and other education sector workers are not only heard but empowered to act. By fostering an environment of genuine collaboration and inclusion, the project is addressing the deep-rooted issues that have long hindered effective communication and resolution in the sector.

For Stalin, this is a turning point. He views the project as a chance to reform the decision-making processes that have left teachers and other frontline education workers feeling marginalized. If successful, the initiative could be a catalyst for real change, giving teachers the tools to resolve disputes and improve working conditions for all.

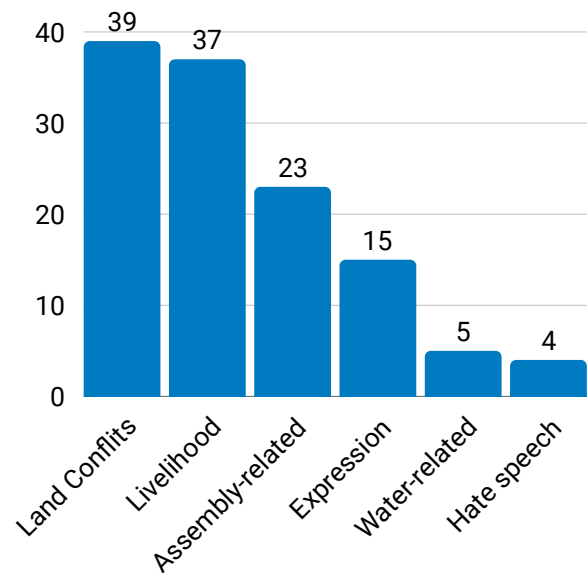
"Previous attempts to establish mechanisms for dispute resolution failed because the power dynamics remained unchanged."

Pictured: Joseph Stalin, Secretary of the Ceylon Teachers' Union  
Credit: ILO Sri Lanka

# Early Warning and Early Response

In 2024, the Fund’s Peacebuilding Window supported the strengthening of the Early Warning Systems (EWS) in Sri Lanka to identify and respond to trends in conflict indicators. This was achieved through a joint intervention by UNDP and UNICEF. The initiative focused on upgrading the Sri Lanka Crisis Risk Dashboard and enhancing the distribution of early warning knowledge products to key partners. Key findings and trends were captured in two bulletins released in [September](#) and [October](#) 2024.

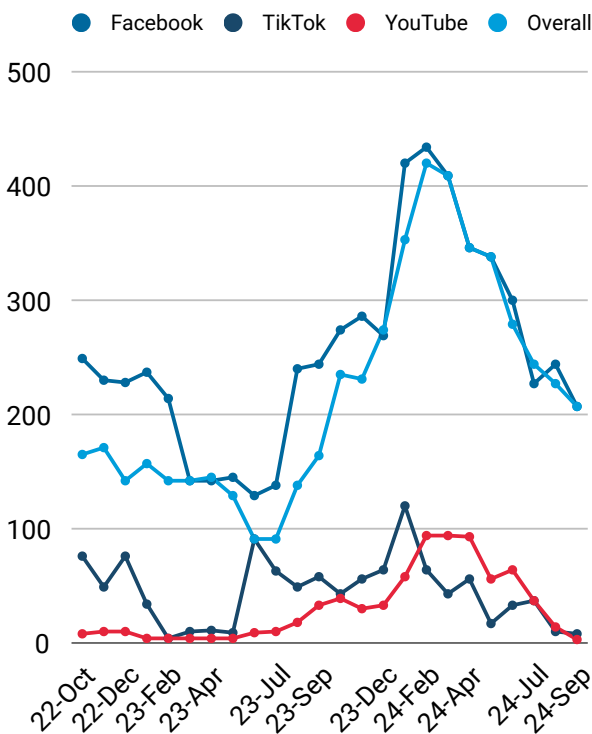
A major focus of the project was addressing the digital threats posed by hate speech and disinformation. The project identified 2,800 harmful online narratives, of which 1,600 were countered through engagement with civil society organizations and tech platforms. In addition to the traditional EWS knowledge products, which include monthly and quarterly briefs with restricted circulation, the project introduced monthly public bulletins. These bulletins tracked trends in harmful online speech, such as hate speech, disinformation, and harassment, and provided actionable advice on how to address and counter these threats.



Additionally, offline data revealed 123 conflict-related incidents, and 93 instances of religious violence between January to December 2024—51 against Christians, 22 against Hindus, and 20 against Muslims.

Grassroots peacebuilders played a vital role in monitoring conflict dynamics, initiating local dialogues, and using digital tools responsibly. 16 recipients of EWS data incorporated it into their programming, including initiatives focused on development and peacebuilding. Additionally, five data pipelines on conflict-related trends were enhanced through partnerships with CSOs.

Early warning insights were shared with over 160 UN and development stakeholders and were included in the October 2024 UNHCHR report. Over 988 peacebuilders were mobilized to monitor localized data, with 34 reporting daily incidents. A national perception survey, conducted in July–August 2023 with 6,171 respondents, provided real-time public sentiment, which informed ongoing peacebuilding efforts.



Breakdown of identified month-on-month harmful speech by Social Media Platform.



## Understanding Challenges to Peacebuilding

46%

lack awareness of transitional justice mechanisms like the OMP and OR

87%

are concerned about governance; 82% about justice access

49%

believe violence can be justified to fight injustice—an increase since 2019







MOHOMMED

KAVEENA

WASALA

NISHADI

## UNDO DOESN'T WORK IN REAL LIFE

In April 2025, the United Nations in Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Mass Media, launched a powerful public awareness campaign *UNDO Doesn't Work in Real Life*.

Implemented by UNDP and UNICEF, the campaign is designed to address the growing threats of harmful speech, misinformation, and disinformation, particularly in digital spaces.

The initiative has quickly resonated with a wide audience, especially among young people and social media users, through emotionally charged storytelling that promotes empathy, accountability, and responsible communication.

The campaign features five video narratives, each highlighting the real-life consequences of online actions—from misinformation-fueled misunderstandings to divisions caused by hate speech. These stories powerfully remind viewers that, unlike the digital world, real life offers no “undo” button.

The campaign’s early results reflect its strong public impact. Within its first week, the videos accumulated nearly 680,000 views across Facebook and YouTube, with over 529,000 of those views coming from Facebook alone.

The videos featuring the stories of Nishadi, Kaveena, and Mohamed saw particularly high engagement, with strong view-to-impression ratios indicating the audience’s deep connection with the messages.

Strategic placements on leading Sri Lankan news platforms, including Daily News, Dinamina, and Thinakaran, added over 835,000 impressions.

These efforts, combined with hundreds of direct clicks to the campaign’s official site, [cantundo.lk](https://cantundo.lk), have significantly amplified its reach and impact.

Despite challenges around securing pro-bono media slots during the provincial election period, the campaign successfully elevated the voices of vulnerable communities, driving important conversations on digital responsibility.

With further promotions already underway and a second phase of roadblock advertising scheduled, the campaign is set for continued outreach and lasting impact.

As it evolves, “UNDO Doesn't Work in Real Life” stands as a timely intervention, promoting digital responsibility and contributing to broader efforts to strengthen social cohesion in Sri Lanka.





# RESILIENCE





# Preventing Violence, Improving Health



In 2024, the initiative *Provision of Lifesaving SRH/GBV Services to the Most Vulnerable People in Sri Lanka* continued to strengthen national efforts to stabilize essential services and enhance resilience, particularly among women, girls, and marginalized communities.

The initiative employed a targeted, multi-sectoral approach to ensure equitable access to high-quality, sustainable sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response across ten priority districts. As a result, 817,725 individuals directly accessed essential health and protection services, significantly improving community-level health outcomes.

Critical infrastructure upgrades such as at the Central Drug Storage facility of the Family Health Bureau now ensures the preservation of family planning supplies, mitigating risks from power disruptions and extending product viability.

Through comprehensive training delivered to regional staff of the Medical Supplies Division at the Ministry of Health, essential skills in temperature control and proper storage was significantly strengthened—helping reduce waste and ensuring the sustained availability of essential reproductive health commodities for women and girls of reproductive age across all regional health divisions

In addition, a total of 1,039 protection personnel have been trained with advanced, multidisciplinary skills to provide integrated, survivor-centered GBV services, ensuring comprehensive support across health, legal, psychosocial, safety, and livelihood sectors.

The provision of essential medicines, family planning commodities, and non-medical supplies under this project had a measurable impact on national health outcomes, particularly in maternal and child health.

Sri Lanka’s infant mortality rate has decreased by 2.42% (2024) from the previous year, with the current rate standing at 6.282 per 10,000 live births. This improvement highlights the positive impact of ongoing support to the country's health system.

UNFPA’s consistent supply of family planning commodities ensured uninterrupted service delivery, especially in areas with low contraceptive prevalence, through key national partners like the Family Health Bureau and the Family Planning Association.

This initiative came to a successful conclusion in mid-2024.



**Pictured:**  
N.G. Kamalawathi runs Akasa, a network of self-help groups dedicated to creating opportunities and empowering women to live with dignity and independence.  
  
The organisation’s safe house in the town of Thalawa specializes in helping women and girls with disabilities who have faced abuse.



630,000

beneficiaries received medications and reproductive health commodities



624

providers trained on reproductive health in emergencies with a focus on life-saving services



13

Mobile clinics provided care in remote/underserved communities



7,900

Maternal, adolescent and dignity kits delivered





# EMPOWERING FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS

Madhawi is a seasoned Public Health Midwife (PHM) with 16 years of experience serving communities in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. Throughout her career, she has worked on the front lines during floods, tsunamis, epidemics, and the long-running North and East conflict, providing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services to those in crisis.

Despite her extensive experience, it was not until recently that Madhawi had the opportunity to undergo specialized training in the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH in Crisis Situations. Reflecting on her past, she shared, "While we had hands-on experience in delivering SRH services during crises, we lacked a structured, professional framework. The MISP training filled that gap."

The training, designed to address key aspects like the prevention of sexual violence, HIV, and STIs, empowered Madhawi and her colleagues with the tools to provide a more survivor-centric and effective response in emergencies. "The training was practical, using real-world scenarios to help us understand and apply core concepts," Madhawi recalled.

One of the key outcomes of the MISP training was its impact on teamwork and coordination. Madhawi explained, "We were given a clear framework for delivering SRH services, ensuring that all staff—medical officers, public health inspectors, and PHMs—were aligned and ready to respond in a crisis."

Now, as a trainer herself, Madhawi is excited to share her newfound knowledge with other health workers, strengthening their ability to deliver life-saving SRH services during emergencies.

The MISP training has transformed her approach to crisis response, ensuring that vulnerable populations have access to more comprehensive, sensitive, and effective SRH care when they need it most.

Madhawi's story highlights the transformative power of capacity-building initiatives like MISP, equipping health professionals to deliver critical SRH services even in the most challenging circumstances.



# Support for an Inclusive Digital Economy



The *Transforming Local Administrative Data Collection Systems Joint Programme* is modernizing Sri Lanka’s outdated, paper-based Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system, which has long been a barrier to legal identity and access to essential services, particularly for marginalized groups such as rural communities and persons with disabilities.

By transitioning to a modern, interoperable digital CRVS system aligned with Sri Lanka’s national Digital Economy Vision and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, this initiative will empower 1.27 million citizens, reduce registration time by 50%, and integrate three key government agencies into a unified digital infrastructure. This will lay the foundation for inclusive service delivery and data-driven policymaking across the country.

To kickstart this transformation, a comprehensive systems mapping and governance analysis was completed and validated by stakeholders. This defined the roadmap for the digital transformation. As the final step of the mapping process, the Functional Requirement Specification was finalized and verified with the Registrar General’s Department (RGD), outlining the scope of the digital system to be designed and implemented.

Building on this momentum, an inter-sectoral Business Process Re-engineering (BPR) study is being initiated to optimize the key government entity’s business processes, ensuring that the RGD functions in an interoperable manner alongside other relevant government sectors.

Following the BPR study, the project will initiate the procurement of a service provider for system development, ensuring that the technical infrastructure meets both global standards and national requirements.

In addition, the inaugural Steering Committee Meeting convened key government stakeholders to review progress, agree on the role of the committee, and approve the Annual Work Plan for 2025.

The project, officially launched in Sri Lanka with high-level government participation—including the Prime Minister—was branded ‘OneRegistry’, symbolizing a unified registry of citizens’ data.

A knowledge-sharing session was held for relevant government officials and stakeholders on topics such as Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Digital Public Goods, CRVS, and Digital Transformation. This ensured alignment among partners and national priorities in implementing a secure, interoperable, citizen-centric digital CRVS system.

Meanwhile, efforts are underway to finalize the strategy for a National Advocacy Campaign. This initiative aims to raise public awareness and engage communities in the digital registration process. Once completed, a service provider will be procured to implement the campaign, ensuring the widespread dissemination of key messages and mobilizing citizen participation.

Additionally, initial work on the project’s Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities has already begun to track progress and ensure the effectiveness of the initiative.



1.27M

Sri Lankans affected

50%

Reduction in civil registration time

500,000

New legal identities registered



# The Fund Secretariat

The Fund Secretariat continued to serve as a strategic and management hub for coordination among Fund partners. Its contributions spanned resource mobilisation, monitoring and evaluation, policy guidance, programmatic support, and communications.

The Secretariat also led the drafting and finalisation of the Fund's updated investment priorities, ensuring alignment with the national development and peacebuilding objectives of the new government, as well as with the UNSDCF.

With the support of the Peacebuilding Team, the Secretariat provided technical and strategic guidance to partner UN agencies in the design of joint initiatives on social dialogue, land conflict and resettlement, and early warning and hate speech. Through its field office in Jaffna, the Secretariat delivered timely political and development analysis, enabling the UN Resident Coordinator and the RCO to proactively engage on political, human rights, and socioeconomic issues in the Northern and Eastern provinces. The Secretariat also coordinated field visits by the UN Country Team and development partners, facilitating ground-level insights to inform strategic advocacy efforts.

The Fund Secretariat continued to play the coordinating role in the effective implementation of Fund-supported initiatives. It provided coordination and administrative support throughout the project selection and revision processes, ensuring alignment with Fund priorities and strategic guidance. The Secretariat closely monitored project progress, both physical and financial, and where issues related to project management and delivery emerged, the Secretariat followed up with implementing agencies to ensure that remedial actions were taken and progress was tracked.

Management support was extended for the operational closure of completed projects, helping to ensure compliance with multi-partner trust fund operational closure procedures. In addition, the Secretariat advised implementing agencies on communication strategies and led Fund- and Window-level visibility efforts to raise awareness and promote the results and impact of the Fund's work across the country.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Steering Committee convened in June with the government's participation, where the Fund's performance was also discussed.

At the Fund-level, two Strategic Level Steering Committee meetings were convened during the year. The Steering Committee approved the Fund's revised Terms of Reference in March. The updated document reflects efforts to promote greater operational efficiency and uphold transparency in Fund operations.

The Secretariat also introduced a new platform to provide operational-level updates to partner UN agencies and Contributors. These quarterly meetings aim to facilitate timely engagement on initiatives under the peacebuilding and resilience windows, fostering collaboration at the early stages of project development. The first meeting was held in November 2024.

Looking ahead, with the policy direction of the new government becoming increasingly clear, the Secretariat will undertake a review of the Fund's investment priorities to ensure continued relevance for the 2026–2027 period. Under the direction of the Resident Coordinator, the Secretariat remains committed to mobilising additional resources and supporting UN agencies in delivering catalytic and high-impact initiatives.

## Focus in 2025

### Peacebuilding



Reducing land conflicts and accelerating resettlements of displaced families in the Northern and Eastern Provinces



Reducing hatespeech and disinformation



Strengthening peacebuilding actors

### Resilience



Digital transformation



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