

UN-HABITAT

# SRI LANKA COUNTRY REPORT 2023

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# COUNTRY CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Sri Lanka is a Lower Middle Income country, strategically situated in the Indian Ocean.



7.8731° N, 80.7718° E



65,610 km<sup>2</sup>



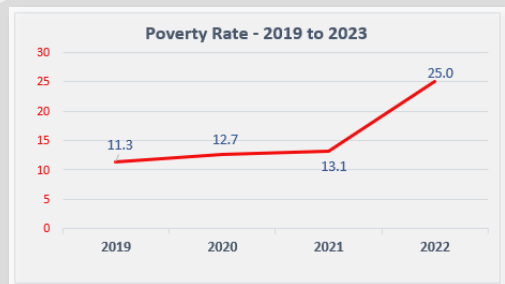
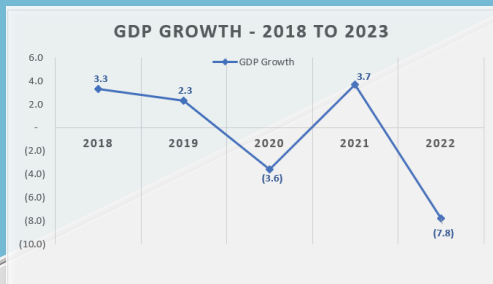
22.1 Million (2021)



USD.75.3 Billion (2022)

## Economic crisis

A Humanitarian Needs Plan was launched in June 2022 for USD 47 Million to assist 1.7 million people, which has been extended to cover 7 million persons with a resource requirement of USD 149 Million until the end of 2023.

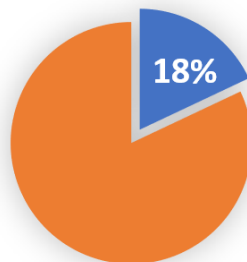


## Urbanization

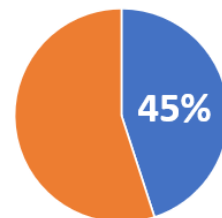
Sri Lanka's urbanization is unplanned for the most, and consists of urban sprawl and ribbon developments along major arterial roads.

Official urbanization rate does not reflect the actual level of urbanization in Sri Lanka.

Re-definition of urban areas and improved urban data collection are urgent needs



Urban Population



Population living in areas with urban characteristics

## Basic urban services and infrastructure

2

High degree of equity in rural-urban distribution of basic infrastructure and services coverage .



92%



94%



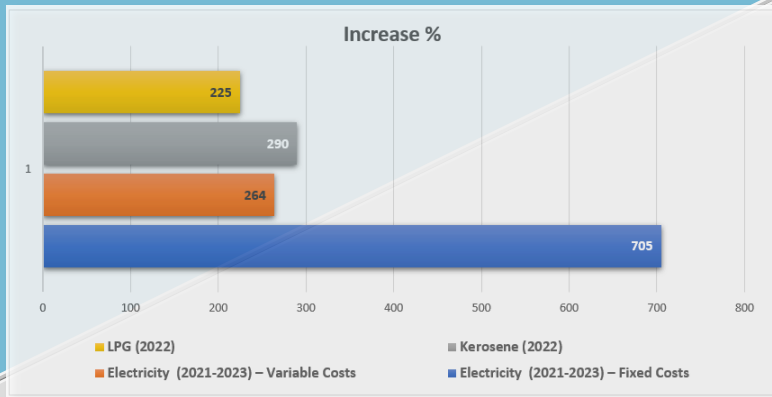
100%



57.7% access to treated pipe borne water

## Access to domestic energy

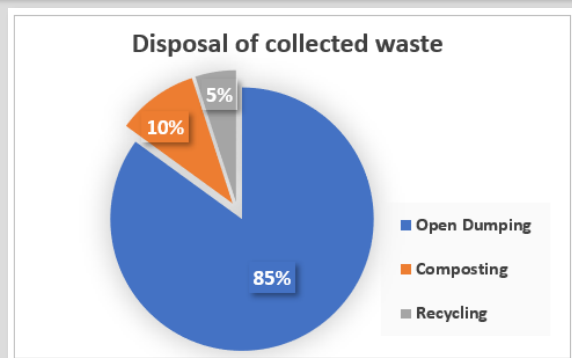
Exponential increase in fuel costs and electricity tariffs since 2022



Energy poverty in over 32% of urban poor and plantation households

## Waste management

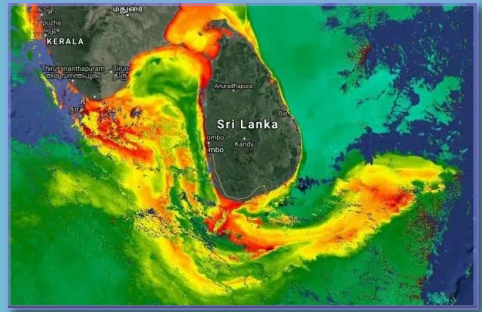
27% Waste collection rate



## Marine pollution



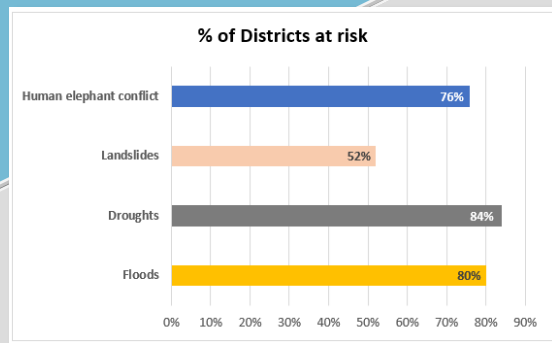
**Over 90%** marine litter are plastics



**MV Express Pearl shipping disaster of June 2021 discharged 75 billion small plastic pellets into the ocean**

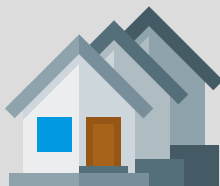
## Climate change impacts and disaster risk

Average annual losses due to natural disasters is equivalent to 0.4% of GDP



## Housing, Land and Property

Urban poor, conflict affected and plantation communities lack access to safe and adequate housing and secure land tenure.



**800,000 Housing units required**





# PORTFOLIO OF PROJECTS

4

## Recent projects (2020—2023)

**2012-2022:** Housing for Vulnerable Communities by Government of India

**2019-2020:** State of Sri Lankan Cities Report

**2020:** Emergency support and special assistance to marginalised estate and rural communities in Nuwara Eliya District in Sri Lanka to minimise health hazards of COVID-19 and socioeconomic implications of the pandemic

**2021-2022:** Re-think Buildings - Multi-agency support to UNCTs in mainstreaming resource efficiency in the housing, buildings and construction sector

**2022-2023:** Emergency Support Initiative for Green Building-based Prevention and Control Measures for Vulnerable Communities

**2018-2023:** Social Survey and Preparation of Resettlement Plan for - Kelani Valley (Maradana – Avissawella) and Mainline (Maradana to Rambukkana)

**2020-2023:** Mainstreaming “Leaving No One Behind” in national urban policies and programmes, (SDG 11 & 6) in South Asia

**2021:** COVID-19 development response to support marginalised estate rural communities in Nuwara Eliya and Badulla Districts in Sri Lanka

**2022-2025:** Strengthening socioeconomic resilience of communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in Central and Uva Provinces of Sri Lanka

**Total Value : US\$16 million**

## Accomplishments

- ⇒ 19,558 poor and vulnerable households from conflict affected areas and plantations enjoy improved housing
- ⇒ State of Sri Lanka Cities Report published, and database launched
- ⇒ Socio-economic surveys and Resettlement Action Plans for Kelani Valley and Mainline Railway expansions formulated
- ⇒ Sustainable Housing and Construction Roadmap 2020-2050 published and launched
- ⇒ 176 households and 15 community buildings from conflict and disaster affected Mullaitivu District supported with energy efficient bio-mass cook stoves and solar lighting systems
- ⇒ Regional Directors of Health Services of Nuwara Eliya and Baulla Districts supported through provision of equipment and PPEs during the COVID 19 pandemic
- ⇒ 9,800 persons supported through improved water sanitation facilities including renovation of 49 toilets and establishment of 47 handwashing stations during the COVID 19 pandemic in the Nuwara-Eliya and Badulla Districts
- ⇒ 152 farmers and 30 vulnerable households from Nuwara-Eliya District supported with agricultural inputs

## Partners

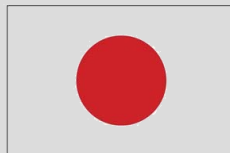


Government of Sri Lanka



भारत सरकार

Government of India



Government of Japan



KOICA  
Korea International  
Cooperation Agency



**One planet**  
Multi-Partner Trust Fund  
for SDG 12



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

6

### Renewable Energy for Sustainable Prosperity

“Emergency Support Initiative for Green Building-based Prevention and Control Measures for Vulnerable Communities” aims to reduce the urgent risks associated with poor living conditions of houses in disaster and conflict affected areas and to contribute safer and cleaner cities in the Asia and Pacific region during the COVID-19 pandemic through green building initiatives. The project was implemented by UN-Habitat with the financial assistance of the Government of Japan. Theerththakkarai village in Chilawaththai Grama Niladhari Division where, Karthika and Thilidas lives is one of the villages supported under the project. 171 households



including Karthika and Thilidas family and 15 community buildings were

supported with fuel efficient cook stoves and a solar lighting system through this project.

Karthika, 32 years, wife, Homemaker –“We were using candles for lighting purposes, which cost around LKR 5,000 (USD16) per month. This is money that could have been spent on food, medicine and school books for our son. We cooked our dinner in daylight and sometimes we were



forced to spend the night at a

neighbor's house as we did not have proper lighting at home”. Lack of lighting compromised the safety of my family, especially on days my husband went fishing. Now my life has improved greatly due to solar lighting and the energy efficient cooking stove. I am able to prepare



quality food and the efficiency of the stove has helped in reducing the cost of fuel and time spent to collect fuel wood. I am able to use Palmyra charcoal which is cheaper than coconut charcoal, and the stove is similar to a LP gas stove with no smoke.”

Thilidas, 34 years, husband, Fisherman – “I limited fishing to late morning and dusk due to concerns of the safety of my family. This reduced my income to around LKR 35,000 (USD110) per month, which was not sufficient to provide three meals a day for our family”.



“The off grid solar panel has provided power supply during the night for lighting. Now I am comfortable to leave my family in the night to go fishing and therefore, I am able to earn more.”

Sahursan, 12 years, son, student –“I found it difficult to study and complete

my homework due to poor lighting. We were unable to afford sufficient candles and kerosene for me to study during the night. I therefore, tried to finish homework during school hours without playing with my friends. I even got punished as I was not able to complete my homework.”

‘I am now able to spend more time on studies during the night, I am able to join my friends to play and I do not get punished anymore for not attending to homework. I am now joined by two friends, Kansika, studying in grade 10, and Sansihan, studying in grade 3 during the night for studies. I am happy that I am able to help my friends. We had lighting when the entire village went dark during power cuts.’

Government Agent, Mullaithivu District – Mr. K. Vimalanathan –“The green building project is a timely project, as the people face immense difficulties due to the power and economic crisis in the country, People have been facing great difficulties in managing their expenses and obtaining electricity at least to light up their houses for educational and other essential activities. This project has fulfilled their basic requirement of obtaining electricity and freedom from respiratory diseases which helped them to lead a healthy life through smoke free energy efficient cook stoves”.



# PROJECT PROPOSAL 1

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<b>Project Name</b>	Construction of 1,500 Permanent Houses for Vulnerable Households in the Lagging Regions of Northern and Eastern Provinces and Plantation Communities of Central and Uva Provinces of Sri Lanka
<b>Partners</b>	Ministry of Urban Development and Housing Ministry of Estate Housing and Community Infrastructure District and Divisional Secretaries Plantation Human Development Trust National Building Research Organization (NBRO) Estate Workers' Housing Cooperative Societies (EWHCS) CBOs
<b>Timeframe</b>	36 months
<b>Location</b>	Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya Districts in the Northern Province, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee Districts in the Eastern Province and Nuwara-Eliya District in the Central Province and Badulla District in the Uva Province
<b>Estimated Budget</b>	USD 20,000,000
<b>SDGs Alignment</b>	 
<b>Target Beneficiary Group</b>	Vulnerable households in conflict affected communities and plantations

## Context

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Although homelessness is low in Sri Lanka access to safe and adequate housing is an issue particularly in returnee conflict affected communities and plantation households living and working tea plantations.

Estimates place permanent housing needs in the conflict affected Northern and Eastern Provinces at approximately 98,231 and 120,761 respectively. IDPs and refugees who have returned to their lands after the conflict continue to live in damaged houses or transitional shelters constructed on their return over 10 years ago. Deprived of economic opportunities due to lagging development of these areas vulnerable households who have failed to migrate to greener pastures, continue to live in poverty in substandard housing. Reconstruction of houses through self-financing is not an option due to the lack of disposable income to invest in construction. The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) through the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation intended to construct 50,000 permanent housing units for conflict affected and displaced people of the Northern and Eastern Provinces in 2017 with funding from the decentralized budget, of which only 8,520 houses have been completed to date.

The plantation sector holds a significant share in Sri Lanka's national economy. The population serving in the plantation sector



consists mainly of Tamils of Indian Origin descending from persons brought to Sri Lanka from South India to work in tea estates during the British rule. Small attached houses, arranged in rows, called 'line rooms', constructed more than 150 years ago



during the British rule, are the common form of housing for families in plantation areas. Line rooms numbering about 160,000 and some



temporary sheds providing shelter to families in the estates are now in a state of disrepair. Poverty and landlessness has prevented these communities from constructing their own houses. The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) has only been able to provide approximately 25,000 individual houses and some water and sanitation projects to uplift the living standards of these communities, during last two decades. The Government of India has supported these communities with construction of 4,000 housing units through the community driven approach, which is now nearing completion, and preparations are underway for construction of an additional 10,000 housing units. Provision of adequate shelter with basic needs, especially access to healthcare, are key factors that influence worker families to remain in the estates and lead a decent life which will ultimately lead them to work efficiently and increase production.

## Purpose

The project aims to improve the quality of life for conflict affected communities and plantation households through provision of support to construct safe and adequate housing. Further the project aims to improve social cohesion through reducing inequities within and between communities and contribute

to local economic development through improving capacities of the construction value chain.

## Description

The project will support 1,000 poor and vulnerable households in conflict affected Districts in the Northern and Eastern Provinces to construct houses through the owner driven approach where the homeowner will take the lead in decision making and managing construction of the houses supported and facilitated by UN-Habitat, government authorities and local government. UN-Habitat will also support these households to resolve land ownership issues prior to construction in order to ensure tenure security.

500 poor and vulnerable households from plantations in the Central and Uva Provinces will also be supported to construct houses through the community driven methodology, where the owners are represented by the Estate Housing Cooperative Societies, as most adult beneficiaries are employed full time in the plantations. Construction will be implemented in close collaboration with Ministry of Estate Housing and Community Infrastructure, Regional Plantation Companies and the Plantation Human Development Trust. Technical support and approval will be obtained from National Building Research Organization for landslide mitigation.

The implementation modality outlined here builds on the experience and success of past housing programmes, including the Indian Housing Project (IHP) in the Northern Province and Central and Uva Provinces and the North East Housing Reconstruction Programme (NEHRP).

## Strategy

A Project Steering Committee will be established under the co-leadership of the Ministries of Urban Development and Housing and Estate Housing and Community Infrastructure to guide and monitor project progress. At the district and

local levels, UN-Habitat will work with the respective District and Divisional Secretaries, Plantation Human Development Trust and Regional Plantation Companies to obtain necessary approvals, initial beneficiary lists, grievance redressal processes etc.

Owner beneficiaries and Housing Cooperatives will be the focus of the project to drive implementation on the ground which will ensure a sense of ownership and sustainability. The initiative will be supported by the Urban Basic Services Branch at UN-Habitat Headquarters and the Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP).

## Expected accomplishments

The project will have the following Outcomes and Outputs

### Outcome 1

1,500 poor and vulnerable households from conflict affected areas and plantations enjoy safe and adequate housing

#### Output 1.1

1,000 houses constructed by owner beneficiaries in conflict affected areas through the owner driven approach

#### Output 1.2

500 houses constructed by Estate Workers' Housing Cooperatives for poor and vulnerable plantation

households through the community driven approach

### Outcome 2

Local economies strengthened through short term cash inflows and long term capacity development

#### Output 2.1

500 construction tradesmen and youth trained in improved construction practices and technologies

#### Output 2.2

Strengthened local supply-chains through locally procured labour and materials

## PROJECT PROPOSAL 2

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**Project Name** Improving Access to Safe, Affordable and Sustainable Domestic Energy Options for Poor and Marginalized Households in Urban and Plantation Areas

**Partners** Ministry of Power and Energy  
Sustainable Energy Authority  
District and Divisional Secretaries

**Timeframe** 30 months

**Location** Colombo and Gampaha Districts in the Western Province and Nuwara-Eliya, Badulla and Ratnapura Districts from Central, Uva and Sabaragamuwa Provinces respectively

**Estimated Budget** USD 8,500,000

**SDGs Alignment**



**Target Beneficiary Group** Poor and marginalized households from urban underserved settlements and plantations



## Context

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The severe economic crisis in Sri Lanka has more than doubled the poverty rate from 11.3% in 2019 to 25% in 2022. A key sector affected by the economic crisis has been the Sri Lankan energy sector which is highly dependent on imported fossil fuels. Households throughout the island were severely impacted in meeting domestic energy needs particularly for lighting and cooking in 2022 due to affordability and accessibility factors. With a nearly 100% electrification rate, and 37% of all electricity generated consumed by the household sector, the majority of households and homebased industries faced severe challenges in continuing with day to day activities due to interruptions in power supply and exponential increase in electricity tariffs. Although interruptions to power supply have been resolved at present, the increase in electricity tariffs continued unabated until 2023 with the poorest households consuming less than 30 units per month experiencing almost 1200% increase in tariffs in 2023. Urban poor and plantation communities who have been the worst affected by the economic crisis are most impacted by the energy crisis due to reduced household incomes and high dependency on electricity for lighting, kerosene oil and Liquefied Petroleum Gas for cooking. UN-Habitat's small

sample survey conducted in underserved urban settlements in Colombo, Gampaha and Nuwara-Eliya Districts in June-July 2022, revealed that 32% of surveyed households were energy poor in terms of affordability. This figure is estimated to be closer to 50% due to two subsequent tariff increases which resulted in a weighted average of 705% increase in fixed costs and 264% increase in variable costs of electricity. Further it was revealed that 87% of surveyed households used Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) combined with other fuels for cooking, the majority of these households switched to primitive, polluting and unsustainable cooking fuels and cooking stoves due to severe shortages and price increases of LPG. At the peak LPG prices rose to 300% of pre 2021 prices. Switching to unclean energy sources for cooking resulted in respiratory issues in many households due to poor ventilation in kitchens.

While it is recognized that safe and clean energy should be affordable and accessible to all, the lack of access to safe and affordable domestic energy in the poorest and most vulnerable households have negatively impacted all persons particularly women and children as educational activities, daily household chores, home based livelihoods and indoor air quality have been negatively affected.



## Purpose

The project aims to improve access to safe and affordable renewable energy options for poor and marginalized communities from urban informal settlements and plantations in the Western, Central, Uva and Sabaragamuwa Provinces. While such interventions will improve the quality of life all persons and particularly women and children, the intervention will contribute positively to the Government of Sri Lanka's commitments to UNFCCC to transition to renewable energy.

## Description

The project will support poor and marginalized households from urban underserved settlements with small solar lighting systems to meet basic lighting needs, thereby easing their burden on payment of electricity bills.

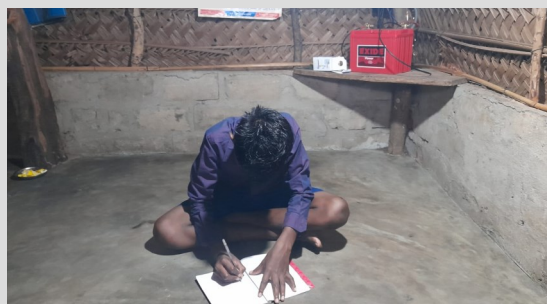
In plantation areas, solar radiation is not available continuously through the day as the rainfall and cloud cover is high. Micro hydro systems which have been abandoned due to national electricity grid connection, in these areas will be revived after feasibility studies to provide electricity for poor and marginalized households for basic lighting purposes.

Selected energy poor households and other vulnerable households in urban underserved settlements and plantation communities will be

supported through the provision of energy efficient bio-mass cook stoves to reduce their expenditure on LPG and kerosene, and replace smoke emitting firewood with efficient and clean bio-mass to ensure healthier indoor air quality. Communities will be supported to establish manufacturing units of fuel efficient cook stoves and charcoal from coconut shells, usually discarded from households.

In urban areas and plantations, where compostable waste is easily acquired, home and community based bio-gas systems will be established for cooking purposes and generation of electricity.

The project will be built upon the success of "Emergency Support Initiative for Green Building-based Prevention and Control Measures for Vulnerable Communities (2022-2023)" implemented in the conflict, flood and drought affected Mullaithivu District, where 171 poor and vulnerable households and 15 community buildings were supported through renewable energy options for lighting and cooking.



## Strategy

The project will be implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Power and Energy with technical support from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Sri Lanka. At district and local level UN-Habitat will partner with the respective District and Divisional Secretaries to obtain necessary approvals, initial beneficiary lists, grievance redressal

processes etc, while a community driven approach will be adopted, where local community based organizations will drive project implementation at ground level to ensure a sense of ownership and ensure sustainability. The project will be backstopped by the Urban Basic Services Branch at UN-Habitat Headquarters and the Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP).

## Expected Accomplishments

The project will have the following Outcomes and Outputs

### Outcome 1

Improved living conditions of poor and marginalized households from urban underserved settlements and plantation areas through provision of safe affordable and clean domestic energy options

#### Output 1.1

4,000 households from underserved urban settlements in the Western Province supported with small solar lighting systems

#### Output 1.2

25,000 households from urban underserved settlements and plantation areas supported through energy efficient bio mass cook stoves

#### Output 1.3

1,250 poor and vulnerable

households from plantation areas supported through electricity provided by reviving abandoned micro hydro- electricity schemes of 25-50 KW capacity

#### Output 1.4

1,000 households from underserved urban settlements and plantation communities supported through installation of bio-gas systems for cooking and electricity generation

### Outcome 2

Local livelihoods improved through manufacturing of cook stoves and bio mass based fuel

#### Output 2.1

25 micro enterprises supported to manufacture energy efficient cook stoves and coconut charcoal.

25 local artisans and technicians trained to construct domestic and community bio-gas systems

## PROJECT PROPOSAL 3

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<b>Project Name</b>	“Live and let live” – Community Driven Human Elephant Conflict Mitigation for Safe and Resilient Settlements
<b>Partners</b>	Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government Ministry of Agriculture District and Divisional Secretariats of the Anuradhapura and Kurunegala Districts Department of Agrarian Development Department of Wildlife Conservation NGOs Village level CBOs Village level Farmer Organizations
<b>Timeframe</b>	5 years
<b>Location</b>	Anuradhapura and Kurunegala Districts in North Central and North Western Provinces of Sri Lanka
<b>Estimated Budget</b>	USD 5,000,000
<b>SDGs Alignment</b>	   
<b>Target Beneficiary Group</b>	Vulnerable communities in Human Elephant Conflict affected settlements from Anuradhapura and Kurunegala Districts of Sri Lanka



Image source: SLBC News (Dec-13-2019)

## Context

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The Asian elephant is considered an endangered species, which inhabits 62% of the land area including 44% of the land area of Sri Lanka inhabited by humans, which has given rise to the Human Elephant Conflict (HEC). As a result Sri Lanka is ranked highest in the world annual elephant deaths and second highest in human deaths due to HEC. The problem has continuously escalated in numbers and geographical extent, culminating in record high numbers of human and elephant deaths in 2022, where 145 persons and 433 elephants were killed due to HEC .

The majority of persons losing lives due the human elephant conflict are productive males between 51-60 years of age, which results in significant social, psychological and economic impacts on the families. The approach used to mitigate the human-elephant conflict was formulated in 1959 and prescribed limiting elephants to Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) protected areas. Although DWC has made substantial efforts to limit elephants to protected areas for over 60 years, surveys show that 70% of elephant range is in landscapes shared with people. The failure to confine elephants to protected areas is mainly due to biological factors, including protected area carrying capacity, ecological requirements and behavior of elephants and their response to management actions. The measures taken by DWC to restrict elephants to protected areas by large scale elephant drives from development areas, translocation of

problem elephants, erection of electric fences on administrative boundaries of DWC protected areas, and the use of “elephant thunders” (very loud fire-crackers) have all contributed to increased aggression in elephants towards humans as most measures are confrontational. These measures have not reduced the human injuries and deaths and property damage including damage to agricultural crops, particularly during storage of paddy harvests. As a result, HEC causes considerable losses to vulnerable communities which also have high levels of poverty. Misreporting of incidents due to HEC by media and politicization of these incidents has made it a sensitive social and political issue, which further compounds the problem.

GoSL has realized that a paradigm shift in the approach to HEC mitigation is needed, and as such a science based National Action Plan for Human Elephant Conflict Mitigation was developed in 2020. The National Action Plan recommends a change in the approach to human-elephant conflict mitigation, based on wider stakeholder participation and prioritizing protection of settlements and cultivations from elephant depredation. The Action Plan proposes activities providing results in the short, medium and long term, as effective conflict mitigation requires concurrent and long-term implementation.

Electric fencing has proven to be the only effective method of preventing depredation by elephants that can be used at a scale to mitigate HEC in Sri



Lanka. The correct use of electric fencing is to provide protection where it is needed and not as a boundary marker. Electric fences for HEC mitigation should only be installed at the border between elephant habitat and human-use areas, which is the most significant difference between fences in the past and what is being proposed under the National Action Plan.

A Presidential Committee was appointed in October 2022 to “facilitate, and oversee the implementation of the National Action Plan for Human Elephant Conflict Mitigation”, which demonstrates commitment at the highest levels of Government to address HEC. It is proposed that the National Action Plan will be implemented initially in the Anuradhapura and Kurunegala Districts and based on the outcomes, it will be expanded to all districts affected by HEC. These two districts were selected based on high HEC incidence in the Anuradhapura District and the predominance of fragmented forest patches unsuitable for supporting elephant populations in the Kurunegala District.

**Purpose**

To ensure safer habitat for humans and elephants through community driven HEC mitigation measures.

**Description**

The project interventions focus on reduction of vulnerability of human settlements vulnerable to HEC, through harnessing the strengths of affected communities and local level administration systems including

Divisional Secretaries and village level officials.

Communities and local administrative officials will be facilitated to develop HEC mitigating settlement plans by UN-Habitat and experts on HEC prevention. The plans will consist of the type, location and extent of HEC mitigating infrastructure, costs for construction and maintenance, roles and responsibilities of implementing the plans including the roles of the affected communities.

Building upon the success of 50 village electric fences and 25 paddy-field electric fences implemented in the Kurunegala, Hambantota, Trincomalee and Anuradhapura Districts which have been operating successfully for up to 12 years, community-based electric fencing will be adopted as the most effective measure for providing immediate relief to communities from elephants raiding cultivated fields and home gardens or causing damage to houses with stored grain. Community-based electric fencing differs from traditional electric fencing in that it directly provides protection to communities where it is needed, rather than seeking to enclose elephants in designated habitats. Community-based fences are mostly ‘exclosure’ fences, which prevent elephant intrusion into cultivated fields or settlements. They will be constructed and maintained by the communities that are protected by them. In addition to providing the labour for construction and maintenance, bearing part of the cost of fence material by communities reinforces their sense of ownership and is crucial for its success. There

are two main types of community-based electric fencing: Permanent fences that protect settlements (village electric fences) and seasonal fences that protect seasonal cultivations such as paddy field electric fences. The most appropriate implementation agency for village fences is the Divisional Secretariat and for paddy-field fences, the Department of Agrarian Development due to their close working relationship with communities at grassroots level and the presence of officials at each village. Short-term actions will immediately reduce crop and property losses in areas where implemented. Countrywide reduction in HEC will be proportionate to the geographic scale of implementation and a significant reduction is expected over a two to three year period if implemented widely and fully.

In addition, the Action Plan calls for the relocation of existing electric fences to the ecological boundaries to expand elephant habitat, increase community capacities to deal with HEC including increased awareness, insurance for lives and crops and penalization of offenders against elephants which will be addressed through the project in target areas.

## Strategy

UN-Habitat will be guided by the Presidential Committee established to facilitate and oversee the implementation of the National Action plan for HEC mitigation in collaboration with the relevant ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local

Government and the Ministry of Agriculture, at the highest level.

The new institutional mechanism that has been agreed by the Government for the implementation of community based village and seasonal agricultural fences will be responsible for implementation of project activities at local level. Dedicated units responsible for community-based fencing established under Divisional Secretariats and the Department of Agrarian Development under the guidance of the Presidential Committee will be the key government partner at ground level. The Department of Agrarian Development, who have already commenced implementing the seasonal paddy field fence program in the Anuradhapura District will partner with Farmers' Associations at village level to implement seasonal paddy field fences. This new institutional model will be optimized by UN-Habitat in implementation of the "Live and let live" – Community Driven Human Elephant Conflict Mitigation for Safe and Resilient Settlements initiative.



Image source: Daily News (Feb 15 2021)

## Expected Accomplishments

### Outcome 1

Settlement plans developed and HEC mitigating settlement and agriculture protection infrastructure constructed, operated and maintained by vulnerable communities and farmers

#### Output 1.1

40 nos. participatory HEC mitigating settlement plans developed in areas vulnerable to HEC

#### Output 1.2

40 communities of approximately 100 families each supported with community based village electric fencing

#### Output 1.3

8,000 acres of seasonal agricultural land supported with seasonal agricultural electric fencing

#### Output 1.4

50 km of existing non-community electric fencing relocated to ecological boundaries to protect vulnerable areas/elephants

#### Output 1.5

40 communities supported with solar

street lighting in vulnerable roads and under-brushing the sides of local roads to increase visibility

### Outcome 2

Increased community resilience to deal with HEC impacts

#### Output 2.1

120 awareness programmes conducted in vulnerable communities on how to co-exist with elephants while sharing their landscapes

#### Output 2.2

100 poor and vulnerable households supported with insurance premiums for life and assets

#### Output 2.3

100 high risk and possible perpetrators of wildlife offences supported with training and investment for alternative livelihoods including elephant viewing tourism

#### Output 2.4.

Establish community early warning system when elephants approach village fences and/or enter the community

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