

# THE NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

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*A Programme Proposal for the Government of Sri Lanka  
by UNFPA as the Chair and on behalf of the Gender  
Theme Group of the United Nations, Sri Lanka*

*August 2015*

## **Abstract**

*The proposed programme adopts a multi-sectoral, integrated approach, and functions as a comprehensive plan to address the issues of WHHs in Sri Lanka. A core intervention 'menu', common to each category of WHH has been designed taking into account the five intervention areas - health, livelihoods, support services, security and social protection, that will be implemented simultaneously to all selected beneficiary WHHs. Subsequently, the core menu will be accompanied by a number of add-on interventions reflecting certain characteristics of WHHs - the number of dependents (if any), age, experience of war, residence - rural, urban or estate.*

*The proposed initiative, commencing from the district of Kilinochchi, will select 260 WHH with diverse backgrounds and vulnerabilities in each district, and serve a total of 6,500 WHHs across 15 selected districts. The ownership of this programme will fall under the portfolio of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA). This programme is designed for a 4 year time period.*

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## **Abstract**

The marked increase in women-headed households (WHH) is arguably one of the most significant features of post-war Sri Lanka. To address the needs of WHH the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) seeks the assistance of donor organizations to implement a comprehensive nation-wide initiative addressing multiple, yet inter-connected concerns of women-headed households.

The proposed programme adopts a multi-sectoral, integrated approach, and functions as a comprehensive plan to address the issues of WHHs in Sri Lanka. A core intervention 'menu', common to each category of WHH has been designed taking into account the five intervention areas – health, livelihoods, support services, security and social protection, that will be implemented simultaneously to all selected beneficiary WHHs. Subsequently, the core menu will be accompanied by a number of add-on interventions reflecting certain characteristics of WHHs – the number of dependents (if any), age, experience of war, residence – rural, urban or estate.

The proposed initiative, commencing from the district of Kilinochchi, will select 260 WHH with diverse backgrounds and vulnerabilities in each district, and serve a total of 6,500 WHHs across 15 selected districts. The ownership of this programme will fall under the portfolio of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA). MoWA's structure at the national level will provide the conceptual and the administrative support for this initiative, while the ministry's district- and divisional-level structure will implement the interventions on the ground. This initiative will be implemented in a staggered manner, in which the initial stage will be dedicated to identifying needs of WHHs in the selected districts, building the capacity of the field staff of ministries that will assist implementation, and customizing the specific intervention menus based on the results of the needs assessment and in consultation with civil society actors. This programme is designed for a 4 year time period.

GoSL realizes that the number of vulnerable WHHs in the country far exceeds the number of WHH that will be served by this initiative and MoWA's existing resources are insufficient to finance the proposed initiative. To this end, GoSL invites and encourages donors and implementing organizations to fill the gaps in coverage, by implementing the activities outlined in this proposal. UN agencies, INGOs, local civil society organizations (CSOs), chamber of commerce, and private sector actors are invited and encouraged to assist the smooth implementation of this national initiative either by funding the initiative and/or directly implementing the activities outlined in this proposal. A central unit at MoWA in Colombo will monitor and oversee all implementing activities carried out by donors and implementing organizations.

## 1. Background

The marked increase in women-headed households (WHH) is arguably one of the most significant features of post-war Sri Lanka. The demographic reality in Sri Lanka is that the proportion of WHH has been consistently increasing since the 1970s, reaching nearly one-quarter of all households by 2009/10<sup>1</sup>. According to the most recent Household and Income Expenditure Survey (2012/13), it is estimated that out of 5.2 million households in Sri Lanka, 1.2 million households or 23 percent of the households are women-headed households<sup>2</sup>. This is a worrying trend given decades of global research evidence emphasising WHH as an indicator of poverty<sup>3</sup>.

Recent evidence suggests that Sri Lanka's 26-year internal armed conflict is an important factor contributing to the upward trend in WHH particularly in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of the country. Currently, there are 58,121 WHH in the Northern Province<sup>4</sup> and a number of studies reveal the, multi-faceted vulnerabilities faced by members of these households, many of which were produced by the war, but have been deepened and entrenched in the post-war period.

To address the needs of WHH the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) seeks the assistance of donor organizations to implement a comprehensive nation-wide initiative addressing multiple, yet inter-connected concerns of women-headed households. The proposed national initiative is intended to address multiple and overlapping vulnerabilities of WHH and is envisaged as an inclusive, participatory and responsive intervention integral to the broader development processes in Sri Lanka. This initiative will fall under the purview of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) that will serve as the main coordinating institution providing monitoring and oversight. While MoWA will also implement this programme, serving all vulnerable WHHs in the country is a work in progress which requires additional capacity building of the Ministry. Where gaps in coverage are identified, GoSL invites the donor community to support the national initiative by implementing the activities outlined in this proposal. MoWA will monitor and oversee any non-state implementation of the proposed initiative.

The proposed programme adopts a multi-sectoral, integrated approach, and functions as a comprehensive plan to address the issues of WHHs in Sri Lanka.

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Statistics, Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, 2002, 2005, 2006/7, 2009/10, 2012/13.

<sup>2</sup>Census of Housing and Population, 2012. [Population by relationship to head of household, marital status, sex, and sector.](#)

<sup>3</sup>Globally, FHH are identified as vulnerable populations based on the evidence that women account for a disproportionate number of the poor worldwide, and that male-headed households usually have multiple advantages due to the relative power they garner by virtue of their gender..

<sup>4</sup>Department of Statistics, Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2012/13.

## Women-headed Households: the National Overview

WHHs in Sri Lanka are not confined to a particular geographical location or a residential sector. At the district level, the percentage of WHHs around the country was 19-27 percent in 2012/13<sup>5</sup>. When a sector-wise comparison was made, the highest proportion of WHHs was found to be in urban areas<sup>6</sup>. The proportions of WHHs are increasing in all three sectors – urban, rural and estate – with the highest increase recorded for the estate sector.

Province	WHH (%)	Age Group (%)				Marital Status (%)			Level of Education (%)			Chronic Illness/ Disability (%)
		Less than 25	25-39	40-59	60+	Never married	Married	Widowed/Separated	No schooling	Up to grade 10	Passed O/L and above	
Western	22	1	12	44	44	4	27	69	3	66	30	31
Central	25	2	18	47	34	2	46	52	9	66	25	24
Southern	7	1	15	38	46	6	34	61	10	66	24	26
Northern	24	2	14	49	34	5	14	81	3	79	18	26
Eastern	23	4	32	38	27	1	33	65	9	76	15	18
North-western	25	1	20	47	32	4	37	59	6	70	24	20
North-central	24	2	34	41	24	1	26	73	6	76	18	22
Uva	23	1	23	42	35	2	40	59	15	62	23	22
Sabaragamuwa	22	1	12	41	46	5	27	68	9	71	19	24
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>

### Snapshot of WHH Characteristics

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Age</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 60% of female heads are under 60.</li> <li>• The highest concentration is within the age group 40-59.</li> <li>• 20% of women heading households are below 40.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Marital Status</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 32% of female heads are married.</li> <li>• While a majority are widowed, there is a substantial proportion of FHHs due to separation or divorce.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7% have no schooling (this figure is twice the national figure).</li> <li>• 27% have only primary education.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Employment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment of female heads is below 35%</li> <li>• in the estate sector 52% are employed, but in precarious employment.</li> <li>• 22% indicated that they are unable or too old to work.</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup>with the highest proportion recorded in Batticaloa district (27.1%)

<sup>6</sup>Department of Statistics, Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, 2002, 2005, 2006/7, 2009/10, 2012/13.

## Types of WHHs

The term WHH has a different meaning for different women, which has implications from programmatic and policy perspectives. The use of the term in a conventional way means that some women who are indeed WHH would be missed by recovery and development interventions and policy approaches when beneficiary inputs are sought<sup>7</sup>, selection is undertaken and assistance provided. It could also have implications on the nature of assistance that is provided to such women. Often WHH are seen as a homogeneous group and all levels of state decision making - national policy level, implementation level and at the community level. However, the reality is much more complex.

WHH's need to be differentiated based on the following characteristics:

1. **Dependents**
2. **Age**
3. **Experience of war**
4. **Residence**
5. **Other factors:** social power imbalances (ethnicity, caste, and class)

WHHs can be broadly categorized, into 5 groups:

- a) **Widows (approx. 50% of all WHHs):** Irrespective of whether the focus is on conflict or non-conflict areas, widowhood is identified as the main cause for female headship. However, there are separate sub-categories of widows whose circumstances could decide how the spouse died. Differentiation can be observed between women whose husbands died of natural causes, suicide, and killings by either the government forces or the militants.
- b) **Married (approx. 30% of all WHHs):** a considerable proportion of WHHs with married heads could partially be attributed high rates of internal and international labour migration of males resulting in the emergence of de facto WHH at the place of origin. There is a different reality in war-affected areas, where a noticeable proportion of married female heads are due to disappearances of male spouses during the civil war.
- c) **Separated/Divorced (approx. 15% of all WHHs):** the second main reason for female headship after widowhood is family dissolution/separate; relatively high proportions of abandoned female heads were reported (34%) in micro-studies<sup>8</sup>. Unlike for men, propensity of remarriage for women, especially those with children, is less due to socio-cultural reasons; the majority of divorced and legally separated women in Sri Lanka have at least 1-2

<sup>7</sup>Households with disappeared male members are a case in point.

<sup>8</sup>Perera, M. (1991). Female headed households – A special poverty group. In Centre for Women's Research (Ed.), *Women, Poverty and family survival* (pp. 27-64). Colombo, Sri Lanka: Centre for Women's Research.

children and end up managing households. In war-affected areas, there is high prevalence of separation and/or divorce of marriages contracted during the war. These unions typically occurred between very young adults or children and have experienced long periods of displacement, disruption of education and abject poverty.

- d) **Never married/single (approx. 4% of all WHHs):** approximately 4% of WHHs are managed by a female that is single or never married. At the national level, “never married” female heads (with or without dependents) seem to be slightly more prevalent in the urban sector compared to rural and estate sectors. Among this category of WHHs, an estimated 62% is above age 50 while 24% is aged between 40-49 years<sup>9</sup>.
- e) **Female ex-combatants:** Female ex-combatants also form a small proportion of female heads of households in the North and East. The estimated number of female ex-combatants is 3,000<sup>10</sup>. Some of them have young children and the majority of them are married and their husbands are either killed, disappeared, detained or being rehabilitated (if they were combatants). They are among the most vulnerable groups in new resettlement areas as the communities perceive them as threats due to their previous perceived or actual involvement with the LTTE. They have difficulty in reintegrating, with fewer prospects for education, employment and relationships due to the prevailing social stigma.

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<sup>9</sup>Metthananda, T. (1990). “Women in Sri Lanka: Tradition and Change.” In S. Kiribamunne & V. Samarasinghe (eds.), *Women at the cross roads* (pp.41-71). Colombo, Sri Lanka: International Centre for Ethnic Studies.

<sup>10</sup>Groundviews (2012). “Female ex-combatants of LTTE in post-war Sri Lanka.” 02/24/2012.

## **2. Program Narrative of the National Initiative for Empowering Women-headed Households**

The Government of Sri Lanka believes that interventions addressing the issues of WHH should be multi-pronged, customized and informed by further analyses that unpack this diversity. The proposed initiative is premised on these diverse pathways to emergence of WHHs and encourages donors and implementers to intervene in a manner that is sensitive to- and helps improve the current plight of WHHs in Sri Lanka. This initiative entails several areas of intervention – health, livelihoods, support services, security and social protection - that are intended to be implemented simultaneously to the same set of beneficiaries. The rationale for this multi-pronged approach is that many of the vulnerabilities experienced by WHHs overlap and efforts must be taken to address them simultaneously so that gains in one area does not result in losses in another area. Areas of health, livelihoods, support services (i.e. legal, alternative childcare, awareness-raising on SGBV), security and social protection are identified as core inter-connected issue areas and customized interventions for each WHH, based on its type and context, will be applied by implementing agencies. An additional intervention that supports engagement in policy reform is included with the realization that there is room for improvement in the national policy framework in relation to addressing issues of WHHs.

### **A multi-sectoral Approach to Address Issues of WHH**

Several UN agencies and other international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) are currently supporting specific interventions of which Female Headed Households (WHH) including war widows are among the beneficiaries. These organizations include United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), International Labour Office (ILO), World Food Programme (WFP), UN Women, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), The Indian Housing Project, Swiss Labour Assistance, CARE International, Oxfam Sri Lanka, World Vision Sri Lanka, FOKUS and Berendina. A number of Sri Lankan non-governmental organizations also have ongoing interventions of which WHH are supported as some of the most vulnerable of groups.

While the ongoing efforts are positive and have contributed to the betterment of the lives of individuals in WHHs, the assumptions about homogeneity among WHHs may leave behind some of the serious issues concerning WHH unaddressed. In most of the current development efforts, WHH are not targeted as a diverse group with varied and multi-faceted issues, but as a simple category identified as “most vulnerable.” While identification of WHH as the most



vulnerable beneficiaries is a positive step, interventions are rarely tailored to address their overlapping vulnerabilities. Rather, they are often subjected to the same programmatic interventions applied to other beneficiaries. Another limitation in current approaches is that they often focus on one facet of experiences of a WHH (i.e. livelihoods), the success of which is contingent upon other issues (i.e. health, nutrition, food security, resilience against climate shocks and security, etc.). The evidence thus far points to the trend that the potential impact of a particular intervention (i.e. livelihoods) is diluted or lost altogether given the failure to address other challenges faced by WHHs. As such a siloed approach to development interventions is often implemented in the field, which in turn may not yield lasting results. The proposed initiative aims to address the existing disconnect between sectoral interventions and adopt a multi-sectoral approach to improving the lives of WHH.

For a list of UN agency and other interventions of WHH, see **Annex 1**.

### **Timeline of the Proposed Initiative**

The proposed initiative is planned for a period of 4 years. Year 1 will be dedicated to setting up the national programme and building the capacity of government agencies and CSOs that will implement the programme in the country, and ensure all stakeholders involved in these initiatives understand their own roles and responsibilities and have the skills and confidence to address issues pertaining to gender equality and women's empowerment including WHH. In years 2 and 3, the initiative will be implemented in selected districts of the country. The selection of districts will be based on a criterion ranking vulnerability of WHH in each district. Year 4 will focus on putting in place sustainability mechanisms for the programme to continue in the districts that were part of the initiative in years 2 and 3, and also extend the programme to remaining districts in Sri Lanka.

### **Operationalisation of the National Initiative**

A core intervention 'menu', common to each category of WHH has been designed taking into account the five intervention areas – health, livelihoods and food security, support services, and social security and protection. Subsequently, the core menu will be accompanied by a number of 'add-on' interventions reflecting certain characteristics of WHHs – the number of dependents (if any), age, experience of war, residence – rural, urban or estate. It should be noted that the core interventions are envisaged to be implemented simultaneously to all selected beneficiary WHHs. The simultaneous intervention method is a unique feature of the proposed initiative. Illustrated below are the core menus for each category of WHH.

### Summary of Core Interventions Menu

1. **Health:**Referral service to access health facilities and counseling services + reproductive health and nutrition services provided by FPA and WDO personnel. These services will be available to the head of the household and any other member (i.e. dependent, live-in partner, legal partner) of the household.
2. **Livelihoods:** Tailored livelihoods support (grants and/or other inputs of production) market access and linkages with the private sector, skills training, productive asset creation, high-quality agricultural extension services, resilience building activities for climatic shocks, scholarships and apprenticeships based on existing skills, preferences, assets, health and familial commitments. Insurance coverage for WHH engaged in farming, fishing and other livelihood activities of which the yield is contingent upon climatic changes. Interest-free loans for qualifying WHH and debt restructuring of selected most vulnerable WHHs. A compulsory savings scheme for WHHs.
3. **Support services:** legal aid for land disputes and ownership issues, tailored psychosocial services provided by MoWA field staff, and public and private alternative childcare services for dependents (if any).
4. **Security:** legal services at police stations for SGBV, child sexual abuse, exploitation and child labour related issues; fast response services for aforementioned issues.
5. **Social protection:** Samurdhi allowance, targeted school feeding programmes, PAMA allowance, Disability allowance (if applicable), maternity vouchers for pregnant female heads of households and/or family members, pensions for qualifying WHHs (above 60 years), compulsory savings scheme, educational allowance to self and/or dependents (if any).
6. **Policy engagement (upstream) and awareness-raising (community-based):** engagement in policy reform at the national level, and awareness raising programmes at the community level, (i.e.) on social stigma associated with widows, divorced/separated females, female ex-combatants and survivors of SGBV; reproductive health issues among FHH; financial literacy, management and compulsory savings; disaster risk reduction; and

### **Intervention Area 1: Health**

By supporting the current work of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and building the coordinating capacity between MoH, MoWA and the Family Planning Association (FPA), this component aims to improve physical, mental and reproductive health of women heads of households and other members living with them. Recognising that good health is a crucial precondition for growth and mobility in other areas of life, this component will support WHHs full and equal access to comprehensive, high-quality and affordable physical and mental health care, information, nutrition education and services throughout their life cycle.

## **Intervention Area 2: Livelihoods and Food Security**

This component intends to build on current and former livelihood assistance programmes carried out by the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Ministry of Economic Development (MED), various UN agencies and other development partners, with a view to effectively empower WHHs by enabling them to establish sustainable, long term employment. Recognising the diversity of skills, assets and vulnerable circumstance of WHHs, the livelihoods interventions are varied and have built-in safety nets that will in turn help WHHs move out of poverty.

## **Intervention Area 3: Support Services**

WHHs often have to carry a double-burden: balancing productive and paid labour with unpaid care work. WHHs care work responsibilities often impede their engagement in stable employment, and contribute to worsening financial conditions. To address the double-burden carried by WHHs, this component aims to build on current and former support services relating to affordable housing, childcare, mental health care and other services carried out by the MoWA, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and the Department of Probation and Childcare Services, with a view of creating an enabling environment for WHHs to improve their quality of life.

## **Intervention Area 4: Security**

The threat of violence and exploitation is a reality for most WHHs. The fear of violence and intimidation further restricts women's movement and impinges on their education and livelihood activities and the culture of impunity that is pronounced in most parts of the country leave WHHs with no redress. Given the bleak state of affairs, the aim of this component is to address the systematic repression of women's rights and SGBV issues pertaining particularly to WHHs by supporting the ongoing work of MoWA and CSOs. Gender and protection concerns are linked determinants of the levels and types of risk to which people of different sexes and ages are exposed. In accordance with the "do no harm" approach, programmes and interventions must not create, exacerbate or contribute to gender inequalities or discrimination, and must mitigate risks of GBV.

## **Intervention Area 5: Social Protection**

WHHs face multiple constraints and barriers that can limit opportunities available to them and further push them into pervasive poverty and physical insecurity. Addressing gendered forms of vulnerability across the life cycle of WHHs can lead to gains in gender equity, poverty reduction and human development, which is crucial for unlocking economic potential for pro-poor growth. The proposed programme intends to build on current and former social protection mechanisms carried out by the Ministry of Social Services (MSS), the Samurdhi Authority and the Department of Pensions, with a view of creating an enabling environment for WHHs to improve their quality of life. Where the state is lacking in capability or will, other delivery

models include contracting out, NGO provision, co-provision, community-based approaches or working with the private sector.

### **Intervention Area 6: Policy Engagement and Awareness Raising at the Community level**

A comprehensive programme to empower WHHs must include efforts to reform policies where there are gaps and limitations in addressing the issues of WHHs. **The proposed initiative intends to build the capacity of MoWA to increase engagement with other government ministries, donor community, the private sector and CSOs to advocate a national policy on WHHs and improve the legislative framework addressing the issues of WHHs.** Other areas of policy engagement are: lobbying for a quota for WHHs in all housing schemes (state- and donor-funded) in the country; advocacy efforts to increase attention paid to WHHs in national health policies, the regulatory environment for micro- and small businesses, land policy and related institutional practices, decent work regulations, social protection schemes, national action plan to address GBV and right to information. In addition to these policy areas, this intervention area aims to build the capacity of MoWA to initiate the formulation of a national policy on Corporate Social Responsibility in which private sector actors' demonstrate sincere and meaningful engagement with issues of WHHs. Parallel to the process of "upstream" policy engagement, this intervention area aims to build the capacity of grassroots CSOs to implement awareness raising programmes about issues faced by WHHs (i.e. stigma). The aim of this intervention is to usher in positive attitudinal changes regarding WHHs, which in turn will contribute to tolerant and compassionate communities. While the awareness-raising component is clustered into Intervention Area 6 of this proposal, programmatically, this will be incorporated into activities in each Intervention Area (see logical framework). Another strategy in increasing awareness about WHHs at the community-level is to build the capacity of MoWA to enter into partnerships with media institutions in order to design and implement media campaigns (radio, TV, newspaper) on WHH issues.

Premised on the realization that WHHs are diverse and have varied vulnerabilities contingent upon a number of characteristics (i.e. the number of dependents, age, experience of war and resident), various "add-on" interventions will be applied to different types of WHH.

The add-on interventions, to be included in the customized package for each WHH are illustrated next. It should be noted that the add-on interventions have qualitative differences in that they are tailored to address specific issues faced by different types of WHHs and their varied contexts.

### WIDOWS

- Support services
  - Tailored psychosocial needs to deal with a loss of spouse
  - Retrieval of legal documentation of dependents (i.e. birth certificates), particularly in war-affected areas
- Social Protection
  - Widows' allowance

### MARRIED

- Support services
  - Tailored psychosocial needs to deal with a disappeared/disabled spouse, and/or abandonment
  - Retrieval of legal documentation of dependents (i.e. birth certificates), particularly in war-affected areas

### NEVER MARRIED/SINGLE

- Support services
  - Tailored psychosocial needs to deal with the pressure of being a WHH
  - Retrieval of legal documentation of dependents (i.e. birth certificates), particularly in war-affected areas

### **DIVORCED/SEPARATED**

- Support services
  - Tailored psychosocial needs to deal with divorce or separation
  - legal aid to file for divorce
  - legal aid to resolve child custody issues
  - Retrieval of legal documentation of dependents (i.e. birth certificates), particularly in war-affected areas

### **FEMALE EX-COMBATANTS**

- Support services
  - Tailored psychosocial needs to deal with the trauma of war
  - Counseling programme to reintegrate ex-combatants into society
  - Retrieval of legal documentation of dependents (i.e. birth certificates), particularly in war-affected areas

## Programme coverage and MoWA's administrative capacity

Table 1 presents the number of WHHs in each district of Sri Lanka

Table 1. Number of WHHs in Sri Lanka, by district

District	Number of Households		
	Total	Female-headed	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,251,155</b>	<b>1,270,293</b>	<b>24.2%</b>
Colombo	577,779	134,397	23.3%
Gampaha	604,205	138,833	23.0%
Kalutara	305,319	67,753	22.2%
Kandy	347,159	90,971	26.2%
Matale	129,078	32,639	25.3%
NuwaraEliya	178,226	48,258	27.1%
Galle	271,624	70,618	26.0%
Matara	205,722	50,916	24.7%
Hambanthota	156,735	34,989	22.3%
Jaffna	139,078	32,755	23.6%
Mannar	22,743	4,561	20.1%
Vavuniya	41,961	9,723	23.2%
Mullaitivu	24,750	5,333	21.5%
Kilinochchi	27,511	5,749	20.9%
Batticaloa	135,652	36,727	27.1%
Ampara	165,532	40,704	24.6%
Trincomalee	95,529	22,290	23.3%
Kurunegala	440,944	113,956	25.8%
Puttalam	203,547	48,561	23.9%
Anuradhapura	231,771	62,342	26.9%
Polonnaruwa	110,575	28,972	26.2%
Badulla	209,956	49,847	23.7%
Moneragala	120,546	25,092	20.8%
Ratnapura	285,059	55,502	19.5%
Kegalle	220,154	59,261	26.9%

The proposed initiative, commencing from the district of Kilinochchi, will select 260 WHH with diverse backgrounds and vulnerabilities in each district, and provide tailored and simultaneous assistance based on the type of WHH and the context as outlined above. The target of 260 beneficiaries per district is based on the number of operating WDOs and CAs available to serve each household<sup>1</sup>. There are 331 Women Development Officers (WDO) and 331 Counseling Assistants (CA) in the island, scattered across 25 divisional secretariats. There are 25 WDOs and 10 Counseling Officers (CO) in district secretariats. While in theory, an average of 13 WDOs and 13 CO personnel operate in each Divisional Secretariat, there is a staffing deficiency in the Northern districts, which is currently being addressed by MoWA. If the number of targeted beneficiaries is 260 per district, each WDO and CA at the divisional secretariat will be serving, on average, 20 households during the programme cycle<sup>1</sup>. **In total, this programme aims to target 6,500 WHHs in Sri Lanka.**

## Donor Community Contribution

GoSL realizes that the number of vulnerable WHHs in the country far exceeds the number of WHH that will be served by this initiative and MoWA's existing resources are insufficient to finance the proposed initiative. To this end, GoSL invites and encourages donors and implementing organizations to fill the gaps in coverage, by implementing the activities outlined in this proposal. UN agencies, INGOs, local civil society organizations (CSOs), chamber of

commerce, and private sector actors are invited and encouraged to assist the smooth implementation of this national initiative either by funding the initiative and/or directly implementing the activities outlined in this proposal. MoWA will monitor and oversee all implementing activities carried out by donors and implementing organizations.

### **Selection of WHHs**

The proposed initiative aims to serve a total of 15 districts within a 4-year time period. The selection of these districts will be based on the following criteria: 1) the proportion of WHH of all households in the district; and 2) the level of vulnerability among WHH as per existing evidence. Observing the dire circumstances of WHH in the North and Eastern Provinces owing to the effects of the civil war, GoSL intends to target all districts of the North and the East during the 4-year programme period. Noticing the trends in poverty among WHHs in urban areas, the programme will also include the largest metropolis – Colombo as a targeted district during the programme period.

### **Programme implementation**

This initiative will be implemented in a staggered manner, in which the first six months will be dedicated to identifying needs of WHHs in the selected districts, lobbying for buy-in and support from District Secretaries, Divisional Secretaries, Directors of Planning at both district and divisional levels and Grama Niladharis (GN), training MoWA's field staff and field officers of other ministries that will assist implementation, and customizing the specific intervention menus based on the results of the needs assessment<sup>11</sup>. The proposed initiative will target to serve all selected districts from the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the programme and will continue until the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year. The final year of the programme will focus on strengthening the sustainability mechanisms and fund raising required to continue the interventions beyond the 4<sup>th</sup> year (Annex 3 for timeline).

### **National Centre for the Empowerment of Women-headed Households and the Monitoring Unit at MoWA**

The proposed initiative will commence in the district of Kilinochchi in the Vanni region as the latter is recognized by GoSL as one of the most underserved areas of the country. One in every five households in Kilinochchi is women-headed and the district records a poverty headcount ratio of 12.7, nearly twice the national average. Recognizing devastation to lives caused by the experience of war and displacement, and the harsh living conditions of WHHs in war-affected areas, GoSL aims to implement the national initiative vis-à-vis a National Centre for the Empowerment of Women-headed Households (NCEWHH) that will function as the coordination hub for the proposed initiative. NCEWHH will fall under MoWA and it will be staffed by five programme officers and a national WHH programme coordinator. This entity will coordinate

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<sup>11</sup> See Section 3 – logical framework for a list of activities.



directly with the monitoring unit at MoWA (in Colombo) to maintain a consistent and clear flow of communication on activities and progress of the programme. Donor funding is needed for staffing this institution and MoWA will undertake the operations of this programme<sup>12</sup>.

Building the capacity of this institution will take place in Year 1, which is dedicated to coordinating the activities of the national initiative. The five programme officers in NCEWHH will each coordinate activities under an assigned intervention area (i.e. health, livelihoods, support services, security, and social protection) and will serve as focal points that liaise with MoWA, other government ministries, donors, CSOs and the private sector. The programme officers will work closely with WDO, CO, and CA cadre at the district and divisional level and coordinate all relevant activities directly with the district and divisional levels. As such, all staff of NCEWHH will be held responsible to effectively carry out both upstream and downstream coordination activities which in turn will contribute to smooth functioning of the programme.

For more details on implementation, please refer to the logical framework in Section 3.

### Roles and Responsibilities of GoSL

The ownership of this programme will fall under the portfolio of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA). MoWA’s structure at the national level will provide the conceptual and the administrative support for this initiative, while the ministry’s district- and divisional-level structure will implement the interventions on the ground<sup>13</sup>. More specifically, WDO, CO and CA personnel at the district and divisional level carry out the activities of this programme, maintaining clear channels of communication with NCEWHH staff and field officers of other ministries. The aforementioned MoWA field personnel will also be responsible for monitoring and data collection of beneficiary households. While a majority of the implementation will be carried out by MoWA, the ministry will be supported by other government ministries to implement interventions on sectors that are not familiar to MoWA.

Intervention Area	Implementing Ministry	Oversight
Health	Ministry of Health	MoWA
Livelihoods	Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Technology and Research, Ministry of Power and Energy, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Disaster Management,	MoWA
Support services	Department of Probation and Child Services	MoWA
Security	Ministry of Justice	MoWA
Social protection	Ministry of Social Services	MoWA
Policy engagement	MoWA	MoWA

<sup>12</sup> The five programme officers and the National Programme Coordinator will be hired as consultants to MoWA. Their TORs will be drafted by MoWA and the hiring process will be carried out by MoWA.

<sup>13</sup> For a diagram of MoWA’s national, district and divisional structures, please refer to **Annex 2**.

The Provincial Councils, together with District Secretariats will play a role in support the planning of activities for each province and the provincial structures (i.e. Provincial ministries of health, etc.) will support the implementation of activities carried out by WDOs. The proposed programme aims to leverage the collective power of women's groups, which act as a platform for empowerment. Women's Rural Development Societies (WRDS) provide a valuable entry point. In particular, WRDS will act as a support structure/mechanism which would provide technical advice and support for the implementation of this programme.

### **Sustainability of the Proposed Initiative and Risks**

- **Institutional dimension:** the proposed initiative will fall under MoWA and implemented through MoWA's structure at the district and divisional levels. A specific unit situated in MoWA (Colombo) will have oversight over all operations related to this programme. Building the capacity of the WDOs and implementation of the decentralized centre to address the concerns of WHH are seen as steps towards continuity and sustainability of this programme. Replicating the NCEWHH in every province may be considered in future phases of this initiative. By engaging with other government ministries and provincial councils, it is hoped that MoWA will make efforts to mainstream this programme into regular activities of these institutions. Involving provincial councils in the planning process and in some of the activities implemented in districts, is envisaged as an effort to encourage decentralized structures to take ownership over- and addressing issues of WHHs.
- **Logistics dimension:** during Year 1 of the programme, the capacity of the NCEWHH and MoWA's field staff will be increased to continue coordination activity during and after the programme period. With additional funding and continuation of the programme beyond the initial 4 years and beyond the 15 districts selected for the initial phase, it is hoped that NCEWHH will have satellite offices in each province, with each coordinating and managing the programme at the provincial level.
- **Economic dimension:** after the initial 4 years of donor funding, MoWA must take steps to finance the initiative. By mainstreaming the activities of the proposed initiative to regular activities of other state institutions, it is hoped that MoWA will continue with the programme even after the end of 4 years. By forging alliances with private sector actors, and MoWA's efforts to push for a national policy on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), mandating a certain percentage of corporate profits to be contributed to development processes of communities, it is hoped that private sector funding will be channeled to fund this initiative.
- **Community dimension:** the proposed programme invites and encourages Women's Rural Development Societies' (WRDS) and CSO participation, at the grassroots level. It is hoped that CSOs and WRDS structure will continue to champion the cause of WHH even after the end of the first 4 years.

- Environmental dimension: the proposed initiative will consider all possible environmental implications and negative impacts on the environment will either be avoided or mitigated during the programme cycle.
- Equity dimension: to ensure equitable treatment of all WHH, the processes of beneficiary selection and the delivery of services will be made public and transparent.

## **Annex 1: Current Interventions targeting Women Headed Households in Sri Lanka**

Several UN agencies support specific interventions targeting Women Headed Households (WHH) including war widows:

### **UNESCO**

UNESCO is implementing a project with funds from the US Embassy for 80 war widows. The project concentrates on handloom, business training and design development and is being implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

UNESCO will be providing support on design development: they have just completed an initial survey on handicraft development in the Northern and Eastern Provinces in collaboration with the National Crafts Council (NCC).

One of the areas that UNESCO plans to work on is to provide a sample book on designs/motifs for each region in order that the products made will also support cultural identities in each of the respective regions. The sample book and marketing support for the products are yet to be integrated as the weavers trained have only just completed basic handloom training.

### **UN Habitat**

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) is an implementing agency that provides technical and managerial expertise for 1) the assessment of human settlement development constraints and opportunities; 2) the identification and analysis of policy options; 3) the design and implementation of housing and urban development projects; 4) the mobilization of national resources; and 5) external support for improving human settlement conditions. In all of UN Habitat's programmes, women-headed households, elderly and disabled are identified as vulnerable categories and given priority in the beneficiary selection process. These groups are also given priority assistance in order to ensure their safety and welfare.

### **UNDP**

UNDP has provided technical support and was a co-organizer of the policy dialogue (with Fokus Women and Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs) held to finalize the widows policy/ female headed policy of the Ministry of Women's Affairs on 31st October 2014.

Given that female headed households/ widows are vulnerable to SGBV, the Ministry has requested support from UNDP-SELAJSI to enter information already gathered on female headed households/ widows into the Ministry's database. UNDP is providing some basic support to complete this initiative at present under SELAJSI support provided to enhance data collection (3.1.8 AWP- SELAJSI) of the Ministry. The information has already been gathered in most locations by WDOs and Ministry.

The Governance for Local Economic Development programme has conducted livelihood programmes, where women were given priority. Women groups – such as producer organisations – were provided

with skills training in business development and value addition processes. They were also provided with access to financial institutions to obtain credit, as well as grants for entrepreneurship purposes. In particular, a Crab Processing Centre is due to be unveiled in Kayts, Northern Province, specifically for women, as a village-based industry, benefitting 150 women.

### **UNFPA**

UNFPA supported the installation of the Gender Information Management System (e-women database) within the Ministry of Women's Affairs. The database currently captures information on war widows and GBV, and will include data on other women-related issues as well.

### **UNHCR**

UNHCR implements livelihood assistance programmes targeted at Female Headed Households, some of which include war widows as beneficiaries.

### **WFP**

One of WFP's key objectives is to reduce under-nutrition among children and pregnant and lactating women, and strengthen resilience of vulnerable communities where a significant number of Women Headed Households (WHH) are reported as a result of the thirty-year old war in the Northern Province.

WFP's current initiatives are to enhance implementation of the Government's Multi-Sector Plan of Action for Nutrition (MSPAN) to reduce stunting, wasting, underweight, and micro-nutrient deficiencies; develop capacity and inform policy decisions; and integrate targeted supplementary feeding in existing health services through the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) where the WHH play a major role.

WFP's Country Programme will support the government's efforts to address key micronutrient deficiencies, providing nutrition education to targeted WHH groups to support the government's advocacy effort to promote the consumption of fortified foods in the country.

Additionally, WFP strengthens resilience of vulnerable households, including WHHs, to shocks and adaptation to climate change. The least resilient households, including WHH, will benefit from livelihood diversification through marketable skills training for income generation and asset creation.

The asset creation activities will benefit both men and women through the construction / reconstruction and upgrading of feeder roads, land reclamation, use of water catchment technology, mangrove planting to mitigate the risk of sea-level rises, and rehabilitation and maintenance of the extensive system of tank reservoirs. WFP's counterparts will conduct community consultations to design and develop seasonal activities taking into account women's triple gender roles, while ensuring equal opportunities for women and men.

### **IOM**

IOM has helped war widows from 2004 to 2007 and from 2010 to present through livelihood development assistance programs in the North and East and will continue to do so for the next two years. Much of IOM's past work had been in the context of reintegration of ex LTTE cadres. No programs however targeted solely FHH and war widows as such but they all had a large number of FHH and war widows benefitting from them.

### ILO

ILO provides Income Generating Assistance for vulnerable groups including FHH and war widows. The beneficiaries are supported with technical training, business training, equipment, raw materials and capital for operation to establish individual income generating activities. The ILO Local Empowerment through Economic Development (LEED) Project in Northern Province for example, targets income generating activities in several sectors including fruit and vegetable cultivation, fisheries sector and other field crop production.

### FAO

In the aftermath of the war in Sri Lanka, FAO has assisted families to move from food aid to food production in the shortest time possible, helping them to replenish their assets and rebuild their livelihoods. FAO has provided around 400 000 month-old chicks to families to boost egg production, with priority given to women-headed households. FAO is working with four other United Nations agencies on a new programme for integrated development with conflict-impacted communities in seven districts through 2017.

### UN Women

Although UN Women is new to Sri Lanka, it is the only UN agency to actively follow up on the implementation of the commitments made by the Government of Sri Lanka in the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). As such, WHHs are an important target group for UN Women's activities in Sri Lanka in the future.

### Non-UN interventions on WHH

Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), Indian Housing Project and European Commission<sup>1</sup> include WHH as a vulnerable group in housing reconstruction projects in the North and East.

CARE International includes WHH in their anti-poverty interventions in the plantation sector and in war-affected areas.

Berendina includes WHH in their livelihoods and micro-finance interventions in 7 districts including the plantation sector and in war-affected areas.

Oxfam Sri Lanka includes WHH in their livelihood and SME interventions.

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<sup>1</sup> UN Habitat is the implementing agency for European Commission funded housing projects and the Indian Housing Programme.

Fokus Sri Lanka has looked into the plight of WHH in relation to the violation of their human rights.

Sahana Sri Lanka and Terre des Hommes: Sahana Sri Lanka in a one year partnership with Terre des Hommes (a swiss NGO) is supporting 20 WHH in the North either through alternative livelihoods or by supporting their existing ones.

International Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation: In 2012 the ISLF initiated a three year project to strengthen the livelihoods of war widows in 14 villages in the Vanni region through dairy farming.

The MJF Charitable Foundation: In 2011, 100 war affected women were provided with livelihood support. In 2012 the project was expanded to Batticaloa and grants were awarded to war affected women. The foundation's Small Entrepreneur Programme empowers cottage industries run by female headed households. Assistance is given in the processing of dry fish and dress making.

The Sri Lanka Peace Collection (SLPC): SLPC is an outcome of the Sri Lanka War Widows Livelihood Development Project. It involves the training of war widows in handloom textile weaving for the foreign and local market. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Export Development Board and the National Enterprise Development Authority have extended their support. The programme takes place in Mannar and Mullaitivu.

Mangrove protection project – in the East: Alternative job training and micro loans are provided for groups responsible for the upkeep of mangrove forests. Half of the loan recipients will be widows.

Family Planning Association: Opened a center in Killinochchi in March 2014, donated 400 packs of dry rations to war widows and single mothers in Puthukkudiyiruppu, Mullaitivu and Jaffna districts with the support of the Sri Lankan army and the Puthukkudiyiruppu police station.

Standard Chartered Bank: implements a micro finance initiative targeted at war widows - to empower women in financial literacy and provide credit facilities for starting up their own businesses.

The department of Rural Development

- Works through Women Development Centers in divisions in the Northern Districts.
- The Women Development Centers provide skill development training at divisional level. The vulnerable young women / widows have benefitted through 27 Women Development Centers in Northern Province. At these centers, 72 "Dress making and Handicraft" and 70 "Beauty culture and Home Science" skill trainings have conducted with 2629 beneficiaries from 2009 to up to date. – it does not specify which year this means
- These centers have registered under the "Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission" at National level for future benefits.
- Vocational training for youth (men & women) has been conducted by the department for their self employment and income generation. 14 nos skill development vocational training have conducted in Killinochchi, Jaffna and Vavuniya Districts and 385 nos beneficiaries are benefitted from 2009 to up to date. Specially year 2009, 3 nos skill development vocational training programme had conducted at Vavuniya Kathirkamar welfare center. The PTF approved Non Government Organizations (NGO) and International Non Government Organizations (INGO) have been given support to grass root people of resettled area to increase their income generation and stand of living through registered RDS and WRDS at divisional level by various

ways. Such are given infrastructure facilities, revolving loan for income generation activities , small / medium scale income generation projects and capacity & skill Development training for society members. The Divisional Rural Development officer co- ordinate and monitor the programme for successful implementation

#### Income generation activities under the Department of Rural Development

- Small Scale Milk Processing Unit Kidasuri WRDS – Vavuniya Town (2009)  
Beneficiaries - Society members and female headed households.  
Funding - 0.9 mn of PSDG
- Small Scale black gram & Rice grinding Industry (Machineries) Cheddikulam WRDS Vavuniya (2009)  
Beneficiaries - Society members and female headed households  
Funding – 0.2 mn Of PSDG
- Providing Pulse processing machine for Small Scale grinding industry Vengalacheddykulam WRDS Vavuniya (2010)  
Beneficiaries - Society members and female headed households  
Funding – 0.275 mn Of PSDG
- Establishment of Small Scale Milk Processing Unit Selvapuram WRDS – Manthai West, Mullaitivu (2010)  
Beneficiaries - Society members and female headed households  
Funding – 0.8 mn Of PSDG
- Issuing of sewing machines to resettled areas - Jaffna & Kilinochchi (2011)  
Beneficiaries – Vulnerable women / widows  
Funding – 3.750 mn Of PSDG

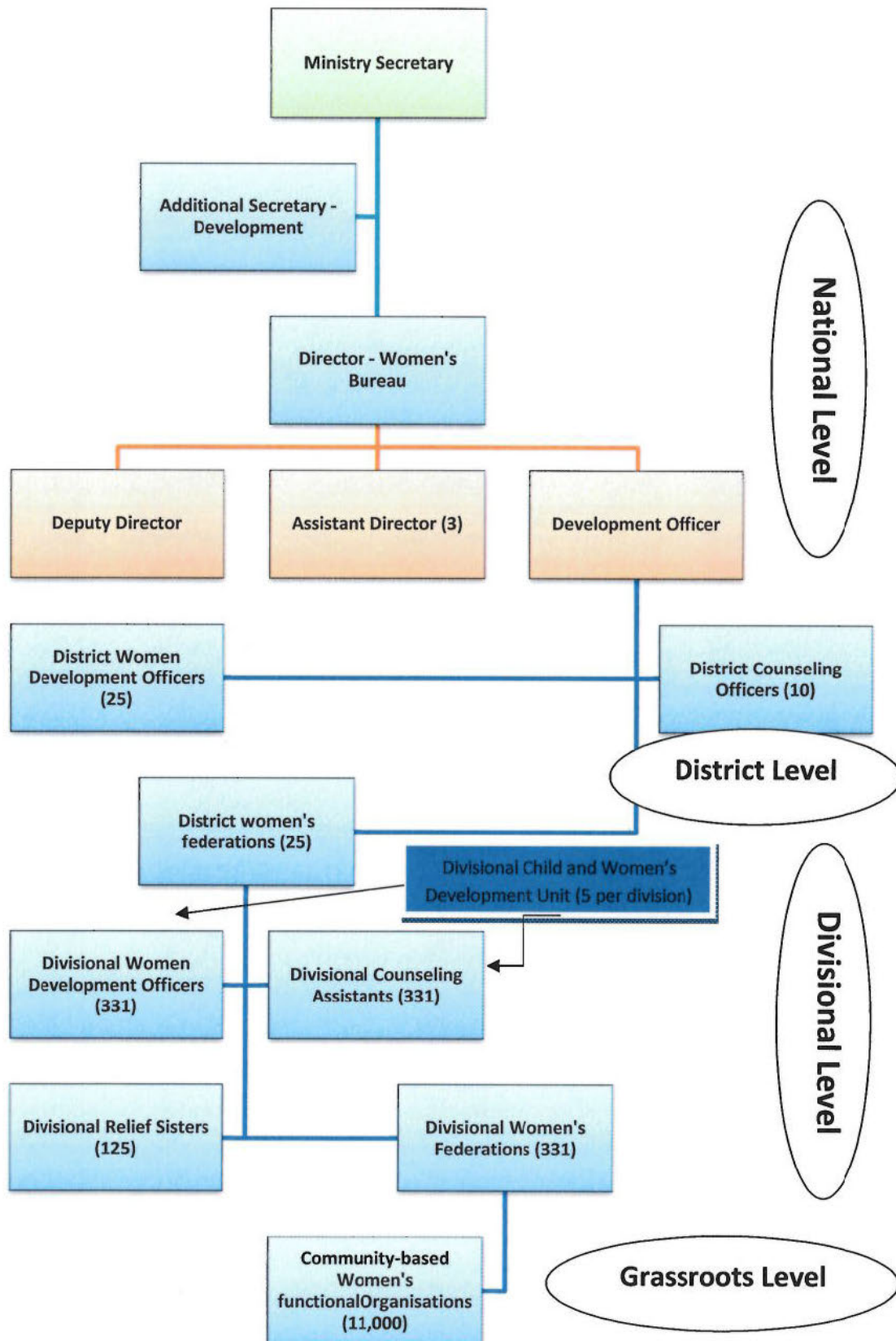
Empowerment Scheme for Widows – Sri Lankan Government, Ministry of Women’s Affairs: The scheme will cover widows in Jaffna, Killinochchi, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Ampara, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa. The focus of the programme will be on awareness generation, improvement of skills and the provision of technical assistance. 5 crore rupees has been sought out by the cabinet.

#### Diaspora-funded initiatives on WHHs

A multitude of organizations, self-identified as ‘Sri Lankan diaspora’ from UK, Australia, and the United States are currently funding initiatives that target WHHs vis-à-vis grassroots CSOs. The exact number of diaspora-funded initiatives has not been investigated to date, and hence is unknown. It is important to note that a significant proportion of diaspora funds are consistently channeled to savings accounts of people in war-affected areas as organized, in-kind assistance mechanisms. Interventions of this nature have been criticized for fostering dependency among beneficiaries of such funds.



THE STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS



**Annex 3: Programme Timeline**

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National consultative process to discuss the programme for WHHs</li> <li>2. Selection of districts for the programme</li> <li>3. Setting up the National Centre for the Empowerment of Women-headed Households (NCEWHH) in Kilinochchi</li> <li>4. Needs assessment of WHHs in selected districts</li> <li>5. Capacity building of MoWA field cadre</li> <li>6. Evaluation of existing data on WHHs</li> <li>7. Start-up activities in each intervention area (see budget for details)</li> </ol>	<p>8. Implementation of activities in intervention area</p>	<p>9. Implementation of activities in intervention area</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME</p> </div>	<p>10. Implementation of activities in intervention area</p> <p>11. Final evaluation of the national programme</p>

### 3. Logical Framework for the National Initiative for Empowering Women-headed Households

Programme-wide general expected outcome: Increased number of empowered WHH in 15 districts in Sri Lanka

#### General Programme-wide Activities

Outcome	Activity	Output	Progress Indicator	Implementing body	Monitoring and oversight
Increased sensitivity of all involved government ministries and their field staff about the importance of a multi-pronged approach to addressing the diverse needs of WHHs.	G1: 2-day national-level workshop on WHH issues conducted by a panel of experts.	Clarity among gov't ministries and their field staff about the conceptualisation of the initiative + Outcome document based on the workshop	Statements by all stakeholders indicating their commitment to addressing the concerns of WHHs	MoWA	MoWA
Increased agreement among all involved government ministries, UN agencies, other development partners and CSOs about the content, structure and implementation about the national programme for empowering WHHs.	G2: 1-day consultation between government agencies, UN agencies, other development partners and CSOs about the national programme for empowering WHHs.	Consensus among all stakeholders + Outcome document based on the consultation	Inputs for improving the content, structure and implementation of the programme - Outcome document reflecting changes to the content, structure and implementation based on the consultation	MoWA	MoWA
Increased sensitivity of all involved government ministries and their field staff about the way in which notions of privilege and	G3: 1-day sensitization training on gender, ethnicity, caste and class conducted by a team of experts.	Trained cadre of gov't officials and their field staff + Training manual + workshop documentation + trained WDOs and other ministry staff	Active engagement of participants and statements about how participants intend utilizing the workshop content to improve their	MoWA	MoWA

disadvantages are shaped by factors such as gender, ethnicity, caste and class.				activities related to the national programme.		
Increased capacity of the National Centre for Empowering WHH in Kilinochchi.	G4: Funding support for the start of the National Centre: equipment, staffing and training.	Fully-functional National Centre for Empowering WHH with tri-lingual and trained cadre well-equipped to coordinate with MoWA and conduct execute activities outlined by the National Programme for Empowering WHH.	Timely commencement of- and smooth operation of the National Programme, starting in Kilinochchi.	MoWA	MoWA	MoWA
Increased capacity of MoWA to monitor the progress of the programme by collecting data on WHHs on all Intervention Areas.	G5: Evaluation of the existing data collection format by an expert in research methods.	Evaluation/review report with recommendations for improvement.	Revised an improved data collection format based on expert recommendations.	MoWA	MoWA	MoWA
	G6: Comprehensive needs assessment of all WHH in a given district	Analysis of issues and a clear strategy of tailored interventions	Tailored interventions for selected beneficiaries	MoWA	MoWA	MoWA
	G7: Mapping of current interventions on WHHs in the war-affected areas.	Analysis of WHH-targeted programmes and gaps in programming	Tailored interventions for selected beneficiaries	MoWA	MoWA	MoWA
Increased know-how, clarity and mandates among government ministries and their field staff about roles and responsibilities in implementing the national programme.	G8: 2-day training programme on implementation, maintaining communication and coordination channels and data collection throughout the course of the	Clarity among govt field cadre about implementation + Training manual + workshop documentation + trained WDOs and other ministry staff	Active engagement of participants and statements indicating their knowledge about implementation.	MoWA	MoWA	MoWA

Increased quality of the national database through timely maintenance.	programme. G9: Monthly technology support to check the smooth running of the database + Monthly spot checks by a technology professional.	User-friendly database consisting of comprehensive information on WHHs.	Feedback in the form of review notes by the technology professional.	MoWA	MoWA
Improve evidence-based programming strategy through periodic evaluation of the national programme.	G10: Mid-term review of the national programme + public hearing/discussion on the mid-term review + final evaluation of the national programme + public hearing/discussion on the progress of the national programme.	Mid-term review + final report + dissemination event	Systematic documentation programme implementation.	MoWA	MoWA
Increased capacity of MoWA's monitoring unit to coordinate activity of the national programme	G11: Final evaluation of the national programme+ public hearing/discussion on the mid-term review + final evaluation of the national programme + public hearing/discussion on the progress of the national programme. G12: Funding support to put in place a WHH monitoring unit at MoWA	Final evaluation report + dissemination event	Systematic documentation programme implementation.	MoWA	MoWA
	Fully-functional WHH monitoring unit with trilingual and trained cadre well-equipped to coordinate with NCEWHH in Kilonichi and report on activities outlined by the National Programme for Empowering WHH.		Timely coordination, monitoring and reporting activities of the national programme.	MoWA	MoWA

**Intervention Area 1: Health**

Outcome	Activity	Output	Progress Indicator	Implementing body	Monitoring and oversight
Increased capacity of WDOs to support WHHs to access appropriate, affordable and quality physical and mental health care, information and related services.	C1.1: Mapping of existing health services in each district	Publicly available report based on the mapping exercise	Increased knowledge of MoWA about available services and gaps in health services in each district	MoWA + MoH	MoWA
	C1.2: 2-day refresher course for WDOs on existing referral services to access health facilities and counseling services and instructions on how to improve coordination between WDOs and health professionals in a given locality.	Trained WDOs better equipped to play the coordination role + refresher course material	Better coordination between WDO cadre and local health professionals + Number of referral logs + Number of WHH using referral services	MoWA + MoH	MoWA
Increased capacity of WDOs to raise awareness and usage of preventative programmes that promote women's health among WHHs.	C1.3: District-level meetings between WDO cadre and health professionals every 3 months to discuss emerging health issues, response and services.	Steps taken to improve the coordination between MoWA and MoH meeting minutes	Better coordination between WDO cadre and local health professionals + Number of referral logs + Number of WHH using referral services	MoWA + MoH	MoWA
Building the capacity of MoWA and FPA to raise	C1.4: Production of a documentary on the issues	High quality inputs for awareness raising	The number of group discussions with	MoWA + FPA	MoWA

awareness about sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and sexual reproductive health issues among WHH.		initiatives	screenings of the documentary + reaction to- and the response of the targeted WHHs		
Building the capacity of MoWA and FPA to raise awareness about the health risks caused by domestic violence, sexual assault and substance abuse among WHHs.	C1.5: Group discussion on the issues (screening of the documentary at the discussions)	Informed and productive awareness raising engagements targeted for WHHs + + number of group discussions	The number of group discussions + reaction to- and the response of the targeted WHHs	MoWA + FPA	MoWA
	C1.6: Regular visits by FPA personnel and WDOs to beneficiary HHs.	Increased WHH interaction with WDO and FPA cadre.	The number of visit logs + increased confidence among WHH about WDO and FPA cadre	MoWA + FPA	MoWA
Increased capacity of WDOs to monitor the physical and mental wellbeing of WHHs.	C1.7: Increasing the frequency of monitoring, data collection and data entry regarding health issues of WHHs	Complete and in-depth qualitative data on health of WHHs + Electronic submission notices sent to WDOs at the end of each month	Updated and comprehensive database on WHH physical and mental wellbeing.	MoWA	MoWA
	C1.8 Training programmes on nutrition education and household food consumption for mothers' groups to uplift households' malnutrition and micro-nutrient deficiencies	Trained WDOs equipped to carry out programmes on nutrition education and household food consumption for mothers' groups to uplift households' malnutrition and micro-nutrient deficiencies.	Number of attempts to educate households on nutrition and household food consumption for mothers' groups to uplift households malnutrition and micro-nutrient deficiencies	MoWA + MOH	MoWA

### Intervention Area 2: Livelihoods

Outcome	Activity	Output	Progress Indicator	Implementing body	Monitoring and oversight
Increased capacity of MoWA and MED to apply gender analysis into the design and implementation of livelihood programmes, with an emphasis on tailored support to WHHs.	C2.1: 2-day Training workshop conducted by a resource panel on how to apply gender analysis to design and implement livelihood programmes.	Finalised design and implementation plan for the livelihood Intervention Area of the National Programme for WHH informed by the training.	The number of WHHs participating in rehabilitating local infrastructure for cash/payment + living wage paid to WHHs for work + decent work environment as perceived by WHH.	MoWA + MED	MoWA
Increased capacity of MoWA and MED to apply gender analysis into the design and implementation of livelihood programmes, with an emphasis on tailored support to WHHs.	C2.2: 2-day value chain analysis and business modeling workshop in each district to identify opportunities for women's participation in markets and implement area-specific models by utilizing the network of divisional women's federations.	Application of value-chain analysis in specific livelihoods as interventions reflected in the district-specific project documents. Area-specific business and coordination plan for each field of production.	Number of WHH producers with consistent access to local, regional and international markets. Number of divisional women's federations assisting selected WHHs with coordinating market activity.	MoWA + MED	MoWA
	C2.3: 1-day training programme for selected WHH entrepreneurs in the food industry to produce processed and value-added products.	Training manual + workshop documentation + WHHs trained in food processing and value-added edible products	The number of producers among WHHs that produce high quality processed and value-added edible goods consistently.	MoWA + MED	MoWA



	C2.4: Training course for WHH in traditional skills.	Training workshops coordinated with relevant government ministries and private sector actors + WHHs trained in traditional skills	Number of WHHs trained in traditional skills		MoWA
	C2.5: Scholarship scheme for women to learn non-traditional skills at VTA institutes	Training workshops coordinated with relevant VTAs and private sector actors + WHHs trained in non-traditional skills	Number of WHHs trained in non-traditional skills	MoWA + MED + VTA + NAITA + Private sector	MoWA
	C2.6: Skills training programme for women to introduce skills that are not yet gender-assigned (i.e. beekeeping)	Training workshops coordinated with relevant VTAs and private sector actors + WHHs trained in these skills sets	Number of WHHs trained in identified non gender-assigned skills	MoWA + MED + VTA + NAITA +private sector	MoWA
	C2.7: Small-grants scheme for self-employment (micro- and small enterprises) among selected WHH	Grants channelled to selected WHH in installments	% of WHHs (among total selected for livelihood support) with sustainable micro and/or small enterprises at the end of the project cycle	MoWA+ MED + private sector	MoWA
	C2.8: Interest-free loan scheme for self-employment (micro- and small enterprises) among selected WHH	Loans channelled to selected WHH	% of WHHs (among total selected for livelihood support) with sustainable micro and/or small enterprises at the end of the project cycle	MoWA+MED + private sector	MoWA
	C2.9: Meetings	Formal agreements	Increased number of	MoWA + MED +	MoWA

	convened by MoWA to encourage men and women to take VTA courses in non-traditional skills by negotiating with VTA schools to reserve 10% of slots in their courses for gender-tied skills.	with VTAs and enrollment of men and women in programmes with reservations.	men and women enrolled in VTA programmes on gender-tied skills	VTA + NAITA + private sector	
Increased capacity of MoWA and MED to improve micro-meso-macro linkages for women's enterprises by providing employment intermediation services and apprentice programmes.	C2.10: Meetings convened by MoWA and MED, together with local Chambers of Commerce and private sector actors on facilitating employment intermediation services.	Formal agreements for trainee placements in local businesses	Number of trainees working in local businesses.	MoWA + MED + local Chambers of Commerce	MoWA
Increased capacity of MoWA and MED to facilitate debt restructuring programmes for the most vulnerable WHHs	C2.11: Implement debt restructuring programmes for the most vulnerable WHHs in partnership with banks, other credit institutions. UN and other development actors and CSR departments of large corporates.	WHHs with zero outstanding debt	Number of WHHs that have zero debt throughout the project cycle	MoWA + MED + Private sector + UN agencies + Other INGOs	MoWA
Increased capacity of MoWA and MED to support organised producer groups among WHHs.	C2.12: Networking event for domestic and regional groups of women producers	A set of best practices and follow-up action based on interactions between producer groups	Stronger domestic and regional networks of women producers + well-functioning rural economic cooperatives for women +	MoWA + MED + Private sector + UN agencies + Other INGOs	MoWA

				networking event		
	C2.13: Coordination desk at the National Center for WHH producer groups.	Regular coordination efforts bringing producer groups in a district and/or connecting district-level producer groups with regional, national and international groups	Usage level of the coordination desk	MoWA + MED + Private sector + UN agencies + Other INGOs		MoWA
	C2.14: Establishing and supporting the function of a central buying office and storage facilities for different types of women entrepreneurs	Well-equipped and staffed buying office offering a range of storage facilities for different types of entrepreneurs from a given district.	Usage level of the buying office and storage facility.	MoWA + MED + Private sector + UN agencies + Other INGOs		MoWA
Increased capacity of MoWA and MED to facilitate access to domestic and international trade fairs, arts, and crafts bazaars	C2.15: Sponsorships and briefings for WHH producers to buy stalls at national trade fairs twice a year.	A minimum of 2 producers per district and one producer group per district to be sponsored per year.	Number of WHH producers that participated in national trade fairs during the project cycle.	MoWA + MED + Private sector + UN agencies + Other INGOs		MoWA
Increased capacity of MoWA and MED to develop niche and solidarity marketing campaigns geared towards European and American buyers, ethical trade and ICT: Launch marketing campaign by partnering with private sector actors to promote products by WHH.	C2.16: Meetings with European and American buyers and/or conference participation by MoWA and MED officials in networking events aimed at solidarity marketing, ethical trade and ICT.	A minimum of one marketing campaign during the course of the project + partnerships with the private sector, both national and international	Coverage, frequency and quality of the marketing campaigns + increased sales of WHH produced goods	MoWA + MED + Private sector + UN agencies + Other INGOs		MoWA
Increased capacity of MoWA	C2.17: Update	Well-equipped	Usage level of ICT	MoWA + MED +		MoWA

<p>to facilitate ICT access through community centers: Updates in ICT machinery and training of ICT professionals in the community centers.</p>	<p>machinery in community centres</p>	<p>community centers with updated and usable machinery</p>	<p>services by WHH</p>	<p>Ministry of Technology and Research</p>	
	<p>C2.18: TOT of National Centre for WHH professionals to train ICT community centres about state-of-the-art ICT for business applications.</p>	<p>Trained cadre of ICT professionals in community centres</p>	<p>High quality ICT services delivered to WHHs</p>	<p>MoWA + MED + Ministry of Technology and Research</p>	<p>MoWA</p>
<p>Increased capacity of Ministry of Power and Energy to provide energy information and appropriate technology to increase energy access for men and women, particularly small and marginal farmers and the landless.</p>	<p>C2.19: Launch energy services extension workshop for WHH entrepreneurs</p>	<p>Number of trained WHH in energy access workshops + Workshop documentation</p>	<p>number of WHHs using energy extension services</p>	<p>MoPE + MoWA</p>	<p>MoWA</p>
<p>Increased capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to support WHHs in organic/sustainable agricultural production</p>	<p>C2.20: Training course, production inputs and technical advice on organic farming.</p>	<p>Number of WHHs engaging in organic farming + Training manuals + workshop documentation</p>	<p>Number of new WHHs earning consistent living wages through organic farming</p>	<p>Department of Agriculture</p>	<p>MoWA</p>
<p>Increased capacity of MED and MoWA to support WHHs in small business management.</p>	<p>C2.21: Training programme in small business management, basic financial literacy and human rights issues for women informal sector vendors and micro-entrepreneurs.</p>	<p>Number of trained WHHs in small business management and financial literacy and HR + Training manuals + workshop documentation</p>	<p>% increase in WHHs in small business entrepreneurship during the course of the project.</p>	<p>MED + MoWA</p>	<p>MoWA</p>

Increased capacity of MoWA to Facilitate dialogue between District Secretariats and large corporate actors to invest in areas subjected to the intervention and offer employment to WHHs.	C2.22: Meetings convened by MoWA that connect large corporates and local government actors.	Number of meetings convened + number of investments made during the programme period.	% increase in WHHs employment and/or supply opportunities to private businesses in the district.	MoWA + MED + local national Chamber of Commerce + private sector	MoWA
Increased capacity of grassroots CBOs to implement awareness programmes on disaster risk reduction.	C2.23: Awareness raising initiatives about disaster risk reduction for all targeted WHHs.	Number of awareness initiatives conducted by CBOs during the course of the project.	Increased awareness among WHHs about stated issues.	MoWA + Ministry of Disaster Management + local CBOs	MoWA
Increased capacity of the Department of Agriculture to increase the number of agricultural extension officers and improve the quality of their services to WHH producer groups	C2.24: Recruitment of an additional 150 agricultural extension officers to be stationed in the districts that are targeted by the national programme	Number of qualified agricultural extension officers hired	Increased capacity of the Department of Agriculture to extend services to target populations	Department of Agriculture + local CBOs	MoWA
	C2.25. Training programme for all agricultural extension service officers on state-of-the-art agricultural extension services that could be offered in the areas targeted by the programme	Number of trained agricultural extension officers in high quality and context-specific extension services	Decrease the ratio of agricultural extension officers to WHH farmers	Department of Agriculture + local CBOs	MoWA
	C2.26. Regular agricultural extension services provided to selected WHHs	Number of visits and awareness programmes conducted by agricultural extension officers in target WHH	Increased knowledge and improved agricultural practices and productivity among participating WHHs	Department of Agriculture + local CBOs	MoWA

			households			
	C2.27 resilience building livelihood activities such as introduction of alternative livelihoods and livelihood diversification( livestock rearing, seaweeds, ornamental fish, fruit gardens, vertical agriculture in urban settings), etc.	Introduce building livelihood activities such as introduction of alternative livelihoods and livelihood diversification( livestock rearing, seaweeds, ornamental fish, fruit gardens, vertical agriculture in urban settings), etc.	Number of training programmes and production inputs provided to WHHs to develop alternative livelihoods and/or diversify livelihoods	Number of new WHHs with sustainable livelihoods and/or diversify livelihoods.	Department of Agriculture + local CBOs	MoWA
	C2.28. Train and support WHHs on home-based rice and finger-millet fortification and marketing	Train and support WHHs on home-based rice and finger-millet fortification and marketing	Number of training programmes, production inputs and market linkages provided to WHHs to develop home-based rice and finger-millet fortification and marketing.	Number of new WHHs with sustainable home-based rice and finger-millet fortification enterprises.	Department of Agriculture + local CBOs	MoWA
	C2.29. Support with technical inputs and micro-credit facilities to develop agro based enterprises to market traditional food items	Support with technical inputs and micro-credit facilities to develop agro based enterprises to market traditional food items	Number of training programmes and production inputs provided to WHHs to develop agro-based enterprises to market traditional food items.	Number of new WHHs with sustainable agro-based enterprises to market traditional food items.	Department of Agriculture + local CBOs	MoWA
	C2.30. Train and support WHHs on food processing using local fruits and vegetables	Train and support WHHs on food processing using local fruits and vegetables	Number of training programmes and production inputs provided to WHHs to process local fruits and	Number of new WHHs with sustainable local businesses in processing fruits and vegetables.	Department of Agriculture + local CBOs	MoWA

	<p>C.2.31 Provide livelihood support to improve HH level nutrition( backyard livestock, homesteads, perennial fruit plantation etc)</p>	<p>vegetables</p> <p>Number of training programmes and production inputs provided to WHHs to raise backyard livestock, homesteads, and/or develop perennial fruit plantations.</p>	<p>Number of new WHHs with sustainable backyard homesteads, and/or develops perennial fruit plantations.</p>	<p>Department of Agriculture + local CBOs</p>	<p>MoWA</p>
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### Intervention Area 3: Support Services

Outcome	Activity	Output	Progress Indicator	Implementing body	Monitoring and oversight
Increased capacity of Ministry of Justice to provide efficient legal aid and representation for WHHs.	C3.1: Provision of legal aid on land access through legal aid clinics.	Legal aid clinics in areas with high concentrations of WHH + % of WHH participating in legal aid clinics	Increase in the number of resolved land disputes among WHHs	Ministry of Justice	MoWA
	C3.2: Land titling programme targeting WHHs.	Mobile land titling clinic in every GND	Increase in the % of WHH with clear land titles	Ministry of Justice	MoWA
	C3.3: Adopt and implement a 5-year strategic plan for the justice sector, with an emphasis in justice service delivery for WHH.	5-year strategic plan	Specific commitments to address legal issues of WHHs in the 5-year plan	Ministry of Justice	MoWA
Increased capacity of MoWA field officers - WDOs, counseling officers and counseling assistants - to assist WHHs with psychosocial support.	C3.4: Develop a training programme to address issues specific to psychosocial issues of WHH and women in general.	Course material for the training programme	Heightened awareness and a nuanced understanding among service providers about psychosocial needs of WHHs.	MoWA	MoWA
	C3.5: Training and sensitisation programme for WDO, CO, and CA field officers to provide psychosocial counseling to various types of WHHs	Trained WDO, CO, and CA cadre	Increased capacity of service providers on providing high quality and nuanced psychosocial counseling to WHHs.	MoWA	MoWA
Increased capacity of grassroots CBOs to implement level	C3.6: Meetings convened among CBOs and district GBV forums to establish community-	Truth-telling programme for every community	% of WHHs participating in these mechanisms	MoWA + CBOs	MoWA



transitional justice programmes for WHHs	based truth-telling mechanisms.					
Increased capacity of the Department of Probation and Child Services to expand the coverage and the quality of alternative childcare.	C3.7: Funding + technical support provided through trainings for field staff of the Department of Probation and Child Services.	Number of new alternative childcare services offered in war-affected and rural areas.	Increased % of WHHs using alternative childcare and cresh services	Department of Probation and Child Services	MoWA	
	C3.8: Meetings with large-scale and medium-scale employers to discuss offering cresh services in offices and factories.	Number of new cresh services established in offices and factories.	% of female heads of households with dependents seeking employment or employed during the programme period	Department of Probation and Child Services	MoWA	
Increased capacity of local CBOs to conduct awareness campaigns addressing social stigma by using innovative forms of communication.	C3.9: Awareness raising initiatives about social stigma associated with widows, divorced/separated females, female ex-combatants and survivors of SGBV.	Number of awareness initiatives conducted by CBOs during the course of the project.	Increased awareness among WHHs about stated issues.	MoWA + local CBOs	MoWA	
Increased capacity of Registrar General's Office to assist WHHs with document retrieval of WHHs	C3.10: Mobile clinics in each district organised by MoWA field staff and the Registrar General's office to retrieve legal identification documents of WHHs and dependents.	Number of retrieved personal documents (i.e. birth certificates, marriage certificates, etc.)	WHHs with complete identification records.	MoWA + Registrar General's Office	MoWA	

**Intervention Area 4: Security**

Outcome	Activity	Output	Progress Indicator	Implementing body	Monitoring and oversight
Increased capacity of decentralised coordinating and implementing bodies to respond to GBV, child sexual abuse, exploitation and child labour issues at the district-level.	C4.1: Establish, convene and support district-level GBV forums bringing together central government field staff (WDO, CA, CO, Relief Sister, etc.) + members of provincial ministries of health + CBOs + Grassroots CSOs working on GBV issues.	Monthly stakeholder meetings + awareness initiatives on GBV + yearly policy briefs on GBV	Documented process of addressing GBV + awareness initiatives launched by one or more stakeholders + law engagements with enforcement on addressing GBV issues + engagements with national legislative processes on addressing GBV + improved coordination between law enforcement and WDOs in responding to stated issues + low incidence of stated issues	MoWA	MoWA
Increased capacity of law enforcement agencies to improve the quality of response to all reported cases of GBV, child sexual abuse, exploitation and child labour issues at the district-level.	C4.2: Mandatory yearly sensitisation trainings and other capacity building activities to enhance law enforcement officers' sensitivity and response to SGBV and other stated issues.	Sensitisation training programmes conducted for enforcement officers of all ranks.	Faster response times to stated issues + low incidence of insensitive and harmful approaches to handling stated issues + increased reporting of stated issues	MoWA + law enforcement agency	MoWA
Increased capacity of	C4.3: Periodic meetings between district GBV forum members and law enforcement officers to discuss response to stated issues. C4.4: Training programme	Meetings convened every 3 months.	Increased awareness among law enforcement officers about GBV issues + faster and effect response to GBV issues	MoWA	MoWA
		Updated state-of-	Accurate and high-quality data on	MoWA	MoWA

WDOs to collect data on GBV, child sexual abuse, exploitation and child labour issues prevalence and response.	Improved witness protection programmes for witnesses and survivors of sexual abuse and violence.	for WDOs on accurate and efficient data collection on stated issues.	the-art tracking system for cases of stated issues.	stated issues	
	C4.5: Funding, technical support and training programme for law enforcement agencies to improve witness protection programmes specifically relating to stated crimes.	C4.5: Funding, technical support and training programme for law enforcement agencies to improve witness protection programmes specifically relating to stated crimes.	Information sharing events organised by law enforcement and WDOs to raise awareness about this programme	Increased usage of witness protection programme	Law enforcement agency
Increased legal assistance to survivors of SGBV, child sexual abuse, exploitation and child labour issues.	C4.6: Funding and technical support to SGBV and other stated issues related legal aid desks operating in police stations.	C4.6: Funding and technical support to SGBV and other stated issues related legal aid desks operating in police stations.	Legal aid desk in each police station staffed by a legal professional sensitized in and specializing in stated issues.	Usage level of legal aid desks	MoJ + law enforcement agency
					MoWA

**Intervention Area 5: Social Protection**

Outcome	Activity	Output	Progress Indicator	Implementing body	Monitoring and oversight
Increased capacity of the Ministry of Social Services to offer social protection based on universal categorical transfers.	C5.1: Funding earmarked for WHHs + timely disbursement + use-friendly, convenient and effective delivery of social protection for WHHs.	WHH recipients of PAMA	% of WHH that received PAMA	MSS	MoWA
		WHH Samurdhi recipients	% of WHH that received Samurdhi	Samurdhi Authority	MoWA
		Widows allowance for qualifying WHHs	% of WHH that received widows allowance	MSS	MoWA
		Maternity vouchers for pregnant women in WHHs	% of WHH that received maternity vouchers	MSS	MoWA
		Disability allowance for qualifying WHHs	% of WHH that received disability allowance	MSS	MoWA
		Pensions for qualifying WHHs	% of WHH that received pensions	Department of Pensions	MoWA
Increased capacity of the Ministry of Social Services and the Ministry of Education to offer meal programmes to school children.	C5.2: Funding earmarked for areas with high concentration of WHHs + timely disbursement of funds + high-quality meals with high nutritional value.	School mid-day meals programme for dependents of WHH	Number of new school meal programmes in areas where WHH concentration is above a specific threshold.	MSS	MoWA
Increased capacity of the Ministry of Social Services to offer	C5.3: Funding earmarked for dependents of WHHs + timely disbursement + use-friendly,	Educational allowance provided for	% of educational allowances given to dependents of WHHs	MSS	MoWA

educational allowance systems for dependents of WHHs.	convenient and effective delivery of social protection fo WHHs	dependents of WHH			
Increased capacity of the Ministry of Economic Development to offer Weather Index Insurance for WHHs.	C5.4: Funding earmarked for WHHs engaging farming, fishing and other livelihood activities of which the yield is contingent upon climatic changes + timely disbursement + use-friendly, convenient and effective delivery of social protection fo WHHs.	Weather Index Insurance coverage for qualifying WHH	% of Weather Index Insurance coverage provided for WHHs	MED	MoWA
Increased awareness among WHH about types and means of access about various social protection measures available to them.	C5.5: Localized awareness campaigns targeted at WHHs	Community meetings + door-to-door visits by WDOs	Number of awareness initiatives completed in a district	MoWA	MoWA
Increased capacity of MoWA to establish a compulsory savings scheme for participating WHHs in partnership with the Treasury	C5.6: Funding earmarked for matching WHH savings + use-friendly, convenient and effective delivery of social protection for WHHs.	WHH participants of the compulsory savings scheme	% of WHH that are part of the compulsory savings scheme	Ministry of Finance	MoWA

**Intervention Area 6: Policy Engagement**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Progress Indicator</b>	<b>Implementing body</b>	<b>Monitoring and oversight</b>
Increased engagement between MoWA and grassroots- and national CSOs in the formulation, adoption and effective implementation of the national policy for WHHs.	C6.1: Lobbying and meetings to discuss policy content	National WHH policy	Implementation of a comprehensive WHH policy	MoWA	MoWA
Increased engagement between MoWA and the Ministry of Housing and Samurdhi to implement a quota for WHHs as beneficiaries in all housing programmes.	C6.2: Lobbying and meetings to discuss policy content	Amendments to national policy and regulatory frameworks reflecting the quota for WHHs in housing programmes	Implementation of a quota for WHHs in housing programmes	Ministry of Housing and Samurdhi	MoWA
Increased engagement between MoWA, MoH and grassroots- and national CSOs in improving the National Health Policy.	C6.3: Lobbying and meetings to discuss policy content	Amendments reflecting inputs based on WHH issues	Implementation of initiatives that reflect inputs by MoWA and CSOs	MoWA + MoH + CSOs	MoWA
Increased engagement between MoWA and other government ministries on improving the regulatory environment to facilitate SME access to finance and business services - with a particular focus on WHH.	C6.4: Lobbying and meetings to discuss policy content	Amendments to SME policy and regulatory framework	A just regulatory environment that enables WHHs start and sustain SMEs.	MoWA + other ministries	MoWA
Increased engagement between MoWA and media institutions to lobby government and private media institutions to launch ad campaigns and TV and radio programmes on WHH issues	C6.5: Lobbying and meetings to discuss policy content	Radio, print and TV media programmes on WHH issues	Increased awareness among the public on WHH issues	MoWA + State and private media organisations	MoWA
Increased engagement between MoWA, other ministries and CSOs to strengthen	C6.6: Lobbying and meetings to	Legislative reform on land issues reflecting	Efficient and just legal processes that	MoWA + relevant	MoWA

accountable national land institutions, pressing for widespread consultation and transparent debate, and ensuring a focus on war-affected and excluded populations	discuss policy content	inputs by MoWA and CSOs	are tailored to address land-related issues faced by WHH	government ministries + CSOs	
Increased engagement between MoWA, other government ministries and development actors to adopt and implement long-term measures aimed at improving productivity and working conditions in the informal economy facilitating formalization; encouraging entrepreneurship; and supporting productive, decent employment in the formal economy	C6.7: Lobbying and meetings to discuss policy content	A national action plan on decent work	long-term policy measures, followed by implementation processes addressing decent work	MoWA + other ministries + trade unions + CSOs	MoWA
Increased engagement between MoWA and other government ministries and legislators to implement better and context-specific social protection measures for WHHs.	C6.8: Lobbying and meetings to discuss policy content	a social security allowance (that corresponds with a living wage) for life for all WHHs + pension scheme for elderly female heads of households.	Improved and context-specific social protection measures provided for WHHs	MoWA + other govt ministries	MoWA
	C6.9: Lobbying and meetings to discuss policy content	Adoption of a national policy to grant an allowance to all elderly female heads of households (above 60 years of age)	Implementation of an allowance system for elderly female heads of households	MoWA + other govt ministries + CSOs	MoWA
Increased capacity of district-level GBV forums and the MoWA to provide technical support to formulate, adopt and implement a national action plan to address SGBV	C6.10: Lobbying and meetings to discuss policy content	A comprehensive national SGBV policy	Effective and efficient response to SGBV supported by a strong regulatory framework.	MoWA + district and national GBV forums	MoWA

Increased engagement between MoWA, other government ministries and CSOs to support measures that increase WHHs' access to information and improve transparency.	C6.10: Lobbying and meetings to discuss policy content + media engagement	A comprehensive right to information act (applicable to both state and the private sector)	Proportion of WHHs with information on state and private sector activity in their areas	MoWA + other govt ministries + CSOs	MoWA
Increased engagement between MoWA, other government ministries and CSOs to design, formulate and implement a national policy on corporate social responsibility as a financing option for development interventions	C6.11: Lobbying and meetings to discuss policy content + media engagement	Adoption of a comprehensive CSR policy	Implementation of a comprehensive CSR policy	MoWA + other govt ministries + CSOs	MoWA