



Ministry of Environment

**Build Resilience to Climate Change and Climate Variability of
Vulnerable Communities in Mullaitivu District of Sri Lanka**

Inception Workshop Report

7th December 2023

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Sri Lanka

Project Overview

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Title | Build Resilience to Climate Change and Climate Variability of Vulnerable Communities in Mullaitivu District of Sri Lanka |
| Objectives | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To improve climate related socio-economic outcomes in the targeted fishing and agricultural communities through the implementation of community-based adaptation solutions2. To support climate resilient development and increase institutional and community capacity to adapt to the changing and variable climate. |
| Duration | 7 th December 2023 – 6 th December 2025 (24 months from the Inception Workshop) |
| Budget | Two Million (2,000,000) US Dollars |
| Implementing Entity | United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) |
| Executing Entities | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. National Level: Ministry of Environment2. Local (District) Level: District Secretariat; Central Environment Authority; Department of Agrarian Development; Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources; Department of Forest; National Building Research Organization; Disaster Management Center3. Community Level: Selected NGOs, CSOs, FOs, Women Groups |

Summary

Mullaitivu District in Sri Lanka, highly vulnerable to climate change, faces multifaceted impacts such as saltwater intrusion, declining water quality, coastal erosion, and damage to coastal habitats. Recognizing these challenges, UN-Habitat initiated a two-year project titled “Build Resilience to Climate Change and Climate Variability of Vulnerable Communities in Mullaitivu District of Sri Lanka.” This project, funded by the Adaptation Fund with a budget of 2 million USD, aims to enhance climate resilient development and bolster the adaptation capacity of communities in Mullaitivu District. The Agreement of the project was signed by both parties on 13th July 2023. As per the agreement, the official start date of the project is considered to be the date of the project inception workshop.

The report consists of the proceedings of the inception workshop held on 7th December 2023, at the Mullaitivu District Secretariat. Attended by 125 participants, including key government figures, community members, and UN-Habitat staff, the workshop focused on outlining the project's objectives, planned activities, deliverables, and implementation strategies. Notably, it facilitated engagement with stakeholders, gathered feedback through question-and-answer sessions, and emphasized community involvement. This inception workshop marked the launch of the project, and the official commencement date of the project.

Moreover, the report provides a comprehensive overview of the project's implementation arrangements, timeline, and the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting plan. It captures the essence of the workshop discussions, along with visual documentation in the form of photographs, showcasing the collaborative efforts and strategies to address climate change challenges in Mullaitivu.

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List of Abbreviations

| | |
|------|-----------------------------------------|
| AF | Adaptation Fund |
| AOC | Agreement of Cooperation |
| CBO | Community Based Organization |
| CIA | Community Implementation Agreement |
| CPM | Country Program Manager |
| DS | Divisional Secretary |
| EE | Executing Entity |
| ESS | Environmental and Social Safeguards |
| FC | Field Coordinator |
| FO | Farmer Organization |
| GA | Government Agent (= District Secretary) |
| GN | Grama Niladhari |
| GoSL | Government of Sri Lanka |
| UN | United Nations |
| LKR | Sri Lankan Rupees |
| MoE | Ministry of Environment |
| NSC | National Steering Committee |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| PMO | Program Management Officer |
| Q&A | Question and Answers |

1. Project Background

1.1. Brief Situation Analysis

Sri Lanka, situated at the tip of the Indian subcontinent, is an island with a humid tropical climate. Shaped by extensive faulting and erosion over time, its diverse topography comprises three (3) distinct elevation zones: the central highlands, the plains, and the coastal belt. This coastal belt, about 1,600km long and rising up to around 30m above sea level, features sandy beaches, bays, and lagoons, and is home to roughly 30% of the country's population of over 22 million.

The nation is significantly vulnerable to climate change, ranking 104th out of 185 countries in the 2021 Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index. Nearly 96% of natural disasters in Sri Lanka are caused by the climate change impacts, including flooding, droughts, landslides, and high winds.

Mullaitivu District, located approximately 340km northeast of Colombo, is in the eastern part of the Northern Province, bordered by the sea to the east. Encompassing an area of approximately 2,516.9km² (including forests but excluding large inland water bodies), this district accounts for 3.8% of the country's total area. Forests cover 64.1% of the district's land, while agriculture, rangeland, water bodies, and built-up areas account for 16.9%, 5.2%, 8.7%, and 5.1%, respectively.

The economy of the district primarily depends on agriculture and fishing, supported by livestock and forestry. Nearly 23,680 families are engaged in agriculture, while 4,850 families are involved in the fisheries sector. The district holds suitable land for paddy cultivation covering 164.99km² and boasts a coastal belt and lagoons ideal for developing the fisheries sector, well known for crab and prawn cultivation.

Mullaitivu District is considered as one of the districts with a very high vulnerability to climate change. It is frequently affected by disasters, particularly during the annual monsoon season. Droughts, floods, strong winds, lightning, and coastal hazards significantly impact the district, resulting in water salinity, lack of drinking and agricultural water, water pollution, reduced crop yields, increased soil erosion, etc. These have caused considerable socioeconomic loss over several years.

The physical, socio-economic, and environmental conditions exacerbate the district's vulnerability. The increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events, along with temperature rises, pose challenges to crop growth, water resources, and soil fertility, affecting over 337,000 people across eight Sri Lankan districts, including Mullaitivu. To address this productivity issue, farmers indiscriminately use synthetic agrochemicals as a strategy, even more adversely affecting the environment.

Water resource vulnerabilities, including fluctuating reservoir levels, reduced stream flow, declining water quality due to salinity, coastal erosion, and damage to coastal habitats, exacerbate existing challenges. The district's socio-economic resilience to disasters signifies its residents' struggle to cope and recover from shocks. This struggle arises from a combination of factors, such as poverty incidence, limited

income sources, financial exclusion, and restricted access to social protection, ultimately leading to a low likelihood of long-term recovery and heightening the district’s vulnerability to climate change.

1.2. Project Objectives and Target Areas

To address the challenges faced by the Mullaitivu District, UN-Habitat initiated a two-year project, **“Build Resilience to Climate Change and Climate Variability of Vulnerable Communities in Mullaitivu District of Sri Lanka.”** The goal of this project, funded by the Adaptation Fund with a budget of 2 million USD funded, is to support climate resilient development and increase capacity for climate change adaptation of target communities in the Mullaitivu District. Specifically, this project aims;

1. To improve climate related **socio-economic outcomes in the targeted fishing and agricultural communities** through the implementation of community-based adaptation solutions
2. To support **climate resilient development and increase institutional and community capacity** to adapt to the changing and variable climate.

To achieve these objectives with limited resources, three (3) Divisional Secretariat (DS) Divisions of Mullaitivu District - **Maritimepattu, Puthukkudiyiruppu, and Welioya** – have been identified as project areas among the six (6) DS Divisions of Mullaitivu District. Puthukkudiyiruppu DS Division has the highest estimated poverty headcount index (35.66%, 8,466 people in poverty), followed by Maritimepattu (28.61%, 8,096 people in poverty) and Welioya (18.25%, 1,249 people in poverty). Therefore, targeted interventions are imperative to enhance resilience and alleviate climate-induced vulnerabilities in these areas.

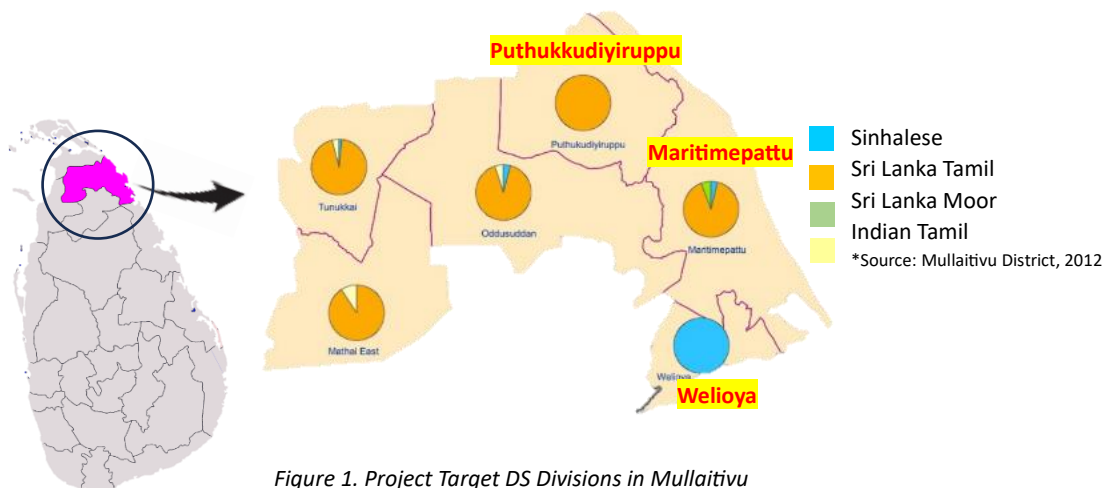


Figure 1. Project Target DS Divisions in Mullaitivu

1.3. Project Components and Expected Results

The project comprises two main components; **1) developing resilient and adaptive livelihoods** in the three (3) DS divisions in Mullaitivu District and **2) addressing capacity needs and gaps in adaptation measures** that can reduce vulnerability to climate change and increase coping capacity. While Component 1 focuses on reducing vulnerability to climate-related risks by providing infrastructure support and promoting climate-resilient agriculture and fisheries to enhance income and capacity, Component 2 aims to deal with climate change by developing climate change adaptation strategies through capacity building. It involves facilitating dialogues among stakeholders, conducting awareness campaigns, and other initiatives in the targeted areas. For detailed information including the budget for each component, please refer to Table 1. Project Components and Expected Results.

Table 1. Project Components and Expected Results

| Project Components | Expected Outcomes | Expected Outputs | Budget (USD) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Developing resilient and adaptive small-scale infrastructure and ecosystems for improvement of livelihoods in the three (3) selected Divisional Secretariat (DS) Divisions in Mullaitivu District | Strengthened livelihoods with increased incomes for vulnerable communities dependent on fishery and agriculture | 1.1 Reduce vulnerability of coastal communities to face risks of climate change by collaborating on (a) measures to minimize saltwater intrusion into freshwater bodies and agricultural land through 1km earth bund formation, (b) renovate 15 minor tanks for water storage, drinking and irrigation, (c) construct 22 disaster-resilient toilets and (d) renovate 3km existing evacuation route | 1,200,000 |
| | | 1.2 Promote climate resilient sustainable agriculture and increase productivity with climate resilient crops (e.g., groundnut, coconut) in 18 acres of coastal lands | 65,000 |
| | | 1.3 Increase income of vulnerable fishing households, in particular women and youth through value-added fish processing and rehabilitating 1.5km mangroves for improved lagoon fishery | 203,205 |
| (A) Component 1 | | | 1,468,205 |
| 2. Address capacity needs and gaps in adaptation measures that can reduce vulnerability to climate change and increase coping capacity | Improved effectiveness and climate adaptation planning and implementation to increase coping capacity in addressing climate variability | 2.1. Participatory vulnerability/risk assessments to mainstream community-based climate change adaptation in local development plans and promote climate change/disaster resilient local development plans | 125,000 |
| | | 2.2. Share knowledge and lessons through documentation of climate resilient actions for increased adaptive capacities | 75,000 |
| (B) Component 2 | | | 200,000 |
| (C) Project Execution Cost (9.5%) | | | 175,104 |
| Total Project Cost (A+B+C) | | | 1,843,309 |
| (D) Implementing Fee (8.5%) | | | 156,691 |
| Grand Total (A+B+C+D) | | | 2,000,000 |

2. Inception Workshop

2.1. Workshop Overview

The project inception workshop convened on 7th December 2023, at the Pandaravanniya Conference Hall of the Mullaitivu District Secretariat, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. A total of 125 participants attended the workshop, comprising 31 women and 94 men, including the Government Agent, the Deputy Chief Secretary (Planning) Northern Provincial Council, Divisional Secretaries, government officials, international and local NGO staff, women’s group members, farmers and fishers, and UN-Habitat staff. The workshop was facilitated by Mr. Anver Khan, the Deputy Project Manager of UN-Habitat, in Tamil, Sinhala and English languages.

The objectives of this workshop were 1) to provide a detailed overview of the project, including its planned activities, expected deliverables, and implementation strategies; 2) actively engage and seek collaboration from relevant stakeholders for implementation of project activities; 3) to gather feedback and host Q&A sessions, particularly emphasizing involvement from community members; and 4) to officially launch the project, marking the commencement of the project duration.

The workshop was participated by all key stakeholders including executing entities and was inaugurated by lighting the traditional oil lamp by Mr. A. Umamaheshwaran, the Government Agent (GA) of Mullaitivu District, and representatives of the beneficiary groups. In his opening remarks, the GA highlighted the critical significance of climate change and the need for adaptation in the region, emphasizing the workshop’s unique opportunity for collective collaboration and contribution to the project’s success.



Figure 2. Oil Lamp Lighting by the Government Agent



Figure 2. Oil Lamp Lighting by Monitoring & Reporting Advisor of UN-Habitat

The inaugural session of the workshop was an introduction to UN-Habitat and the project, delivered by Mr. Laxman Perera, Human Settlements Officer of UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia & the Pacific and Officer in Charge of the Sri Lanka Country Programme. Subsequently, by Mr. Mohammed Aleem, the Project Manager, and Mr. Anver Khan, the Deputy Project Manager provided a comprehensive overview of the project’s scope, deliverables, and implementation strategies. Lively discussions and productive Q&A sessions followed, while stakeholders reassured of their continued support and commitment to the project and its implementation.

2.2. Introduction to the Project – Mr. Laxman Perera (Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat)

Mr. Laxman Perera, who virtually participated in the workshop, delivered the inaugural address of the workshop with an overview of UN-Habitat’s role in addressing climate change across countries in the region. He highlighted the organization’s collaborative efforts with international climate bodies including Adaptation Fund and global urban and regional networks to enhance resilience in the face of climate change.

UN-Habitat has been partnering with the Adaptation Fund (AF) in countries in the region including Cambodia, Lao PD, Pakistan, Mongolia, Vietnam, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and so forth. The AF has financed over 100 million USD for climate adaptation for UN-Habitat. These projects primarily focus on initiatives on improving climate adaptive capacity of the countries at national, sub-national and community level that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, protect ecological assets, facilitate effective adaptation of communities, etc. The scope of these initiatives encompasses diverse areas such as policy guidance, vulnerability mapping, capacity building, and infrastructure development.



Figure 3. Workshop Backdrop

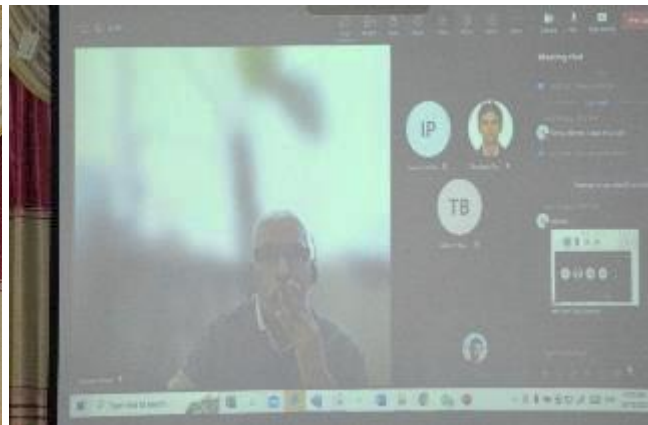


Figure 5. Mr. Laxman, Human Development Office of UN-Habitat, Briefing on UN-Habitat

He highlighted that UN-Habitat collaborates with networks of urban and regional planning professionals to foster the development of climate-proof planning practices. He also emphasized the

organization's efforts in consolidating various action plans at the national, regional, and local levels, as well as strategies aimed at achieving common climate-related goals. These initiatives have been developed by UN-Habitat for the benefit of all stakeholders. Moreover, he underscored UN-Habitat's proficiency in handling climate change adaptation and expressed a commitment to sharing a relevant knowledge repository to enhance understanding and collaboration.

Furthermore, he shared lessons learnt from prior projects, including the importance of continuous community engagement through regular dialogues with community leaders and local governments. He highlighted instances where design changes were necessitated due to duplicated investments, resulting in a long review process that proved time-consuming. Meeting targets, particularly regarding small-scale infrastructure, faced challenges such as cost escalations, prompting the need for meticulous monitoring and review of construction plans. He also underscored the significance of comprehensive and accurate reporting to minimize gaps in fund transfer.

He expressed gratitude to the Government Agent and various departments for their consistent and unwavering support since the inception of the project. He acknowledged their ongoing interest and commitment to shaping the way forward for the project in the district.

2.3. Project Overview – Mr. S. L. Anver Khan (UN-Habitat)

Mr. Anver Khan commenced his address by introducing UN-Habitat's activities in Sri Lanka. He stated that with more than 44 years of operational and policy-level experiences within the country, UN-Habitat possesses extensive experience and expertise in the project areas. Notably, from 2005 to 2021, UN-Habitat has facilitated construction of over 42,000 houses and 545 infrastructure facilities in Northern and Eastern areas in Sri Lanka, benefiting more than 450,000 people through owner and community-driven approaches.

He then presented the project development process, which was significantly supported by the Ministry of Environment (Climate Change Secretariat). The project was also designed in alignment with the priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), namely the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts in Sri Lanka (2015-2025).

Commencing in September 2019, the project's initial steps involved multiple bilateral meetings with the Ministry of Environment (MoE), during which Mullaitivu District was identified as vulnerable to climate change. Over the subsequent 18 months following the initial step, a comprehensive consultative process with local stakeholders at both District and Divisional levels was followed. Consultations with the District Secretary/Government Agent (GA) were even conducted via digital media platform during the challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The consultative process at the District and Divisional levels with local stakeholders is an on-going process to ensure optimum participation in project actions. The data and information were further verified prior to the development of the full proposal.



Figure 6. DPM's presentation



Figure 7. DPM talking about the overview

He then provided an overview of the project, outlining its objectives, components, implementing and executing entities, and key partners. He also elaborated on the benefits of this project in economic, social, and environmental dimensions as follows.

Table 2. Benefits of This Project

| Economic | Social | Environmental |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate-Smart Agriculture and Income Growth 2. Resilient Communities and Infrastructure 3. Gender-Inclusive Adaptation 4. Capacity Development for Employment 5. Reduced Social and Economic Impact | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced Social Networks for Disaster Protection 2. Increased Adaptive Capacity 3. Empowering Marginalized Groups 4. Social Wellbeing Through Climate-Resilient Infrastructure | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced Social Networks for Disaster Protection 2. Increased Adaptive Capacity 3. Empowering Marginalized Groups 4. Social Wellbeing Through Climate-Resilient Infrastructure |

2.5. Management Arrangements – Mr. M.S.M. Aleem (UN-Habitat)

Mr. M.S.M Aleem detailed outline of the establishment and responsibilities of the National Steering Committee, the implementing entity and its roles and responsibilities, and the establishment of a project support team at the district level. The project support team comprises technical agencies aimed at providing essential technical support for project execution entities at the local level.

He offered a detailed description of project activities, starting with an overview of the budget allocation. This was followed by a succinct explanation of the activities under the five (5) outputs. The detailed presentation was made possible, in large part, by the active participation of community members.

His presentation also covered the crucial aspect of ensuring compliance with technical standards and the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) standards, as adherence to national technical standards

and legislation is mandatory. Moreover, the implementation of ESS is essential for prevention of exacerbating vulnerabilities due to the project.

The project follows Adaptation Fund's Environment and Social Policy and Gender Policy, as well as UN-Habitat's Environmental and Social Safeguards System (ESSS) Version 3. These policies and checklists will guide the compliance throughout the project, including the technical design stage of sub-projects and monitoring activities.



Figure 8. PM making a presentation



Figure 9. Participants listening to the PM

2.6. Discussions and Q&A

After the presentations, dynamic discussions and Q&A sessions ensued, addressing a variety of topics. Notably, farmers actively expressed their opinions, concerns and posed questions. Relevant government officials as well as UN-Habitat engaged by answering the questions, providing potential solutions, and fostering vibrant exchanges among stakeholders. The opinions given in this session will be thoroughly reviewed and revisited after consulting with relevant stakeholders.

- 1) **Saltwater Intrusion Earth Bund** - A concern was raised by a farmer regarding the earth bund. In response, Divisional Secretary of Puthukkudiruppu proposed a practical solution. He suggested utilizing the soil from two or three irrigation tanks abandoned for a long duration for constructing the earth bund. This approach not only serves the purpose of deepening the tanks for better water retention but also offers a resource for preventing flooding in the respective areas. The suggestion was warmly received, and as the discussion progressed, the Senior staff member of UN-Habitat emphasized the importance of keeping groundwater recharged. He highlighted that this is particularly crucial for improving groundwater quality and building resilience against drought conditions.
- 2) **Cascade System in Irrigation** - Subsequently, a cascade system in irrigation was discussed. Mr. Aleem articulated that the system can be established by linking a series of irrigation tanks,

including abandoned minor tanks for better water management. Mr. Kirupasuthan, Deputy Chief Secretary (Planning) Northern Provincial Council, shared insights, mentioning the successful implementation of a cascade system in the Thunukkai DS Division, which continues to function effectively to this day. Mr. R. Kajenthiran, the President of Vallipunam Farmer Society, recommended developing minor irrigation tanks such as Siraldaiparichankulam and Valanchiyakulam, which is crucial for agriculture. In response, Mr. Praneetharan, Asst. Commissioner, Dept. of Agrarian Development, confirmed that the suggested tanks have already been incorporated into the project.



Figure 10. A community member asking a question



Figure 11. Add. Secretary of Dept. of Agrarian Dvp't speaking

- 3) **Development of Minor Tanks** - Expanding on discussion, the Mr. Aleem emphasized UN-Habitat's focus on the development of minor tanks to boost agriculture. As an illustration, he stated that if the current cultivation spans 100 acres, through the development of minor tanks, it is possible to increase it by additional acres. The objective is to empower farmers to seamlessly cultivate both the Maha (rain-fed) and Yala (irrigated) seasons without interruptions.

Mr. S. Pratheepan, a farmer from Kumulamunai East, recommended the implementation of cascade methods for the following tanks namely: Vidathalkulam, Poonkulam, Varinjankulam, and Sangakulam. Additionally, it was proposed to rehabilitate Aarachchiamurippukulam and Sinnakulam tanks in the project.

Mr. M. Jeyakumar from the Farmer Cooperative Society in Kallappadu emphasized the agricultural potential of the Paalaikkadduvankulam tank, noting that its water is well-suited for cultivation. However, he highlighted the challenge posed by the absence of irrigation infrastructure such as regulators, turn-outs, and channel improvements. To tackle this issue, it was affirmed by Mr. Praneetharan, Asst. Commissioner, Dept. of Agrarian Development that the tank has been included in the project, and initiatives will be undertaken to implement the required improvements.

- 4) **Improvement of Parayanaru Road** - Mr. M. Sathasivam from Mullaiyawalai, CBO, emphasized the necessity of addressing various activities particularly the improvement of Parayanaru Road leading

to the Coconut plantation. He highlighted the challenges faced by farmers who incur higher transportation costs for agricultural inputs and produce due to the road's poor condition. For instance, if the standard transport cost for bringing a bag of fertilizer is LKR 200, farmers end up spending LKR 400. Mr. Sathasivam requested assistance in developing the road.

In response, the Assistant Commissioner of Agrarian Development explained that Parayanaru Road falls under the jurisdiction of the Road Development Authority, and they had expressed their willingness to address the issue. However, it was noted that this matter was brought to the attention to Honorable Charles Nirmalanathan, a Member of Parliament during his recent visit to Mullaitivu. The complexity arises from the road's significance as a link between Mullaitivu District and Trincomalee District involving sensitive community issues. Despite the recognition of the road's importance, Mr. Praneetharan, Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Agrarian Development indicated that addressing this concern would require a substantial amount of funding, making it unsuitable for inclusion in the current project.



Figure 12. PM and DPM answering participants' questions



Figure 13. A community member asking a question



Figure 14. A community member giving his opinion



Figure 15. GA responding

- 5) **Enhancing Evacuation Routes** - Mr. S. Kokularajah, Assistant Director of the Disaster Management Centre, underscored the significance of evacuation paths and emphasized the need to enhance and expand existing evacuation routes without causing disruption to the biodiversity system in the area. During the discussion, representatives from the Forest Department expressed their

commitment to supporting the development of mangrove forests. This initiative is expected to create breeding grounds, nurseries, and shelter for various species.

- 6) **Importance of Conserving Fish, Training, and Careful Selection of Beneficiaries** - Ms. Umamahal, Divisional Secretary of Maritempattu and Mr. Jayanthan, Divisional Secretary of Puthukkudrippu and the Fisheries Department underscored the importance of conserving and adding value to fish primarily through the utilization of locally available resources. They have emphasized the necessity of providing proper training and establishing market linkages for home gardening, especially for drought-resistant crops. Furthermore, they stressed the need for a careful selection of beneficiaries based on proper criteria, given the high number of people requiring support.
- 7) **Enhancing Irrigation System and Sanitation Facilities** - Mr. WDN Srimanna, Divisional Secretary, Welioya, highlighted the necessity for sanitation facilities, particularly disaster-resilient toilets, in the region. However, he noted that while several home garden interventions have been implemented in the area, there is still a lapse in the improvement of irrigation systems. He suggested that the focus should be redirected towards enhancing irrigation systems instead of home garden activities.

Mr. Paraneetharan, Assistant Commissioner at the Department of Agrarian Development, indicated that progress has been made on the 15 minor irrigation projects proposed for this project during the project concept stage in 2020. Many of these tanks have undergone renovation with support from other funding sources. He mentioned that an updated list of the prioritized tanks, complete with detailed estimates and designs, will be submitted in the second week of January 2024. Mr. Paraneetharan was formally requested to submit the list of tanks along with a justification letter to UN-Habitat by Mr. M.S.M. Aleem.

2.7. Closing Remarks – Ms. Sejin Kim (Monitoring and Reporting Advisor, UN-Habitat)

The workshop closed with a reflection from Ms. Sejin, Monitoring and Reporting Advisor of UN-Habitat. Her closing remarks, she emphasized the workshop's pivotal role in establishing a solid foundation for the next phase of this transformative project. Emphasizing the need for inclusive participation, Ms. Sejin pledged to engage in comprehensive technical consultations with stakeholders, including relevant government bodies, local communities, and other executing organizations.

She requested all stakeholders involved to extend their support and collaborate. Expressing gratitude, she acknowledged the valuable contributions made by participants, their unwavering dedication to the workshop, and their integral role in advancing the project. The commitment and a shared vision for sustainable progress showcased in the workshop serves as a beacon guiding all stakeholders.

2.8. Future Plan and Follow-up Actions

The project is officially launched with the inception workshop. To kickstart the implementation phase, the initial tasks necessary for advancing this project will be undertaken in the coming months. The following tasks outlined in Table 3 will be implemented to advance the project.

Table 3. Follow-up Actions

| No. | Task | Due Dates | Progress |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Recruitment of Field Coordinator (FC) | End of January, 2024 | TOR has been prepared and are now ready for advertising |
| 2 | Signing Agreements with Executing Entities | From February to June, 2024 | CBOs and local partners have been identified in the project areas for project execution, and their capacity assessment will be conducted upon the recruitment of a Field Coordinator (FC) |
| 3 | Development of Detailed Work Plan | End of February, 2024 | A detailed implementation work plan and outlining key milestones will be developed in consultation with the respective line departments. |
| 4 | Establishment of Project Support structure Involving Technical Agencies in the Field | End of February, 2024 | Terms of Reference (TOR) will be developed for the formation of the Project Support Team, which will be led by the Government Agent (GA). This team will be tasked with providing technical and operational support to the local partners. |

3. Brief Project Implementation Plan

3.1. Implementation Arrangements

For this project, **the Ministry of Environment (MoE)** will act as the **‘Executing Entity (EE)’** at the national level, bearing the responsibility of managing the project in accordance with the agreed work plan and the budget. The Ministry will also undertake the overall responsibility of project coordination.

At the District level, relevant government entities including the District Secretariat, Central Environment Authority, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Forest Department, among others, will be the EEs. At the community level, selected NGOs, Community-Based Organizations (CBO), Farmers Organizations, Women’s groups will play a role of the EEs.

UN-Habitat will serve as the **AF Multilateral Implementing Agency** of the project, supporting the MoE. It will, together with the appointed team, oversee and coordinate the overall management with a special focus on the adherence of the project to AF policy guidelines, conduct monitoring, provide technical backstopping and report to the AF ensuring that the project meets the standards, rules, and regulations of both the AF and UN-Habitat.

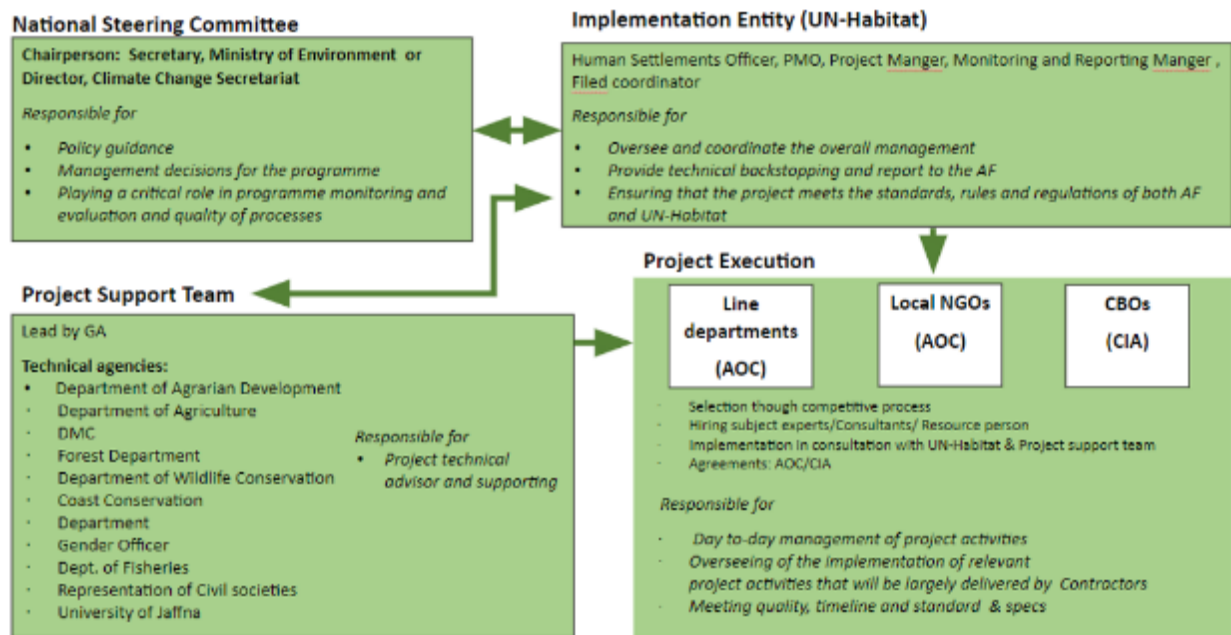


Figure 16. Implementation Modality

The National Steering Committee (NSC) will be established as the governing body of the project, comprising key stakeholders including UN-Habitat; Secretary of the MoE; Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture; Director of the Climate Change Secretariat; Director of the Disaster Management Centre; Representatives from the National Planning Department; Department of External Resources; Central

Environmental Authority; and the Department of Project Management and Monitoring. Additionally, if necessary, representatives from the Department of Agrarian Development, Forest Department, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Coast Conservation Department, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources etc. will also be invited.

While the NSC is an entity to make key decisions pertaining to project implementation, technical agencies such as the Department of Agrarian Development, Department of Agriculture, and Coast Conservation will provide technical assistance. The NSC meeting will take place on a bi-annual basis in the MoE, in Colombo.

3.2. Timeframe

The Agreement for this project was signed by both parties on the 12th of July 2023. As the official project inception date is same as the date of the project inception workshop date, the official project period of 2 years commenced from the 7th December 2023 and will end on 6th December 2025. A rough project timeline is provided in Table 4 while a detailed work plan, including key milestones, will be developed by the end of February 2024 in consultation with the respective line departments.

Table 4. Project Timeline

| Activity | | Y1 | | | | Y2 | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
| Output 1.1. | Reduce vulnerability of coastal communities to face risks of climate change by collaborating on measures to minimize saltwater intrusion into freshwater bodies, rehabilitate minor tanks for water storage, drinking and irrigation, and evacuation routes | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Output 1.2. | Promote climate resilient sustainable agriculture and increase productivity with climate resilient crops (e.g., groundnut, coconut) in coastal lands | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Output 1.3. | Increase income of vulnerable fishing households, in particular women and youth through value-added fish processing and rehabilitating mangroves for improved lagoon fishery | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Output 2.1. | Participatory risk assessment and planning to help mainstream community-based climate change adaptation | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Output 2.2. | Share knowledge and lessons through documentation of climate resilient actions for increased adaptive capacities | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

3.3. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting

Throughout the project duration, comprehensive monitoring activities, formal and informal, will be implemented. Daily and ad-hoc monitoring will be carried out by the Field Coordinator, based on the project needs. Additionally, field site visits will take place on a bi-annual basis by relevant staff of UN-Habitat, including Country Programme Manager (CPM), Programme Management Officer (PMO), and Monitoring and Reporting Advisor.

Monitoring activities are expected to provide updates and data for progress reports, although the official reporting frequency remains annual. These activities will track the project progress against the detailed workplan as a baseline, identifying possible risks and solutions, collect project-related data, and ensure compliance with the Environment and Social Safety guidelines stipulated by the Adaptation Fund and UN-Habitat. Moreover, a feedback mechanism will be instituted, from the community level to the government level, to maintain project alignment and mitigate potential issues or grievances.

The final evaluation of the project will be conducted by an independent evaluator selected by the Implementing Entity. The final evaluation report will be submitted within nine (9) months after the project is completed. A financial information audit will also be conducted by external consultants in adherence to the UN-Habitat regulations.

Based on the Agreement, reports will be submitted four (4) times, with this inception report being the first. The next report will be the 1st Annual Project Performance Report and the reporting period will be 7th December 2023 to 6th December 2024. The 2nd annual report will cover the period from 7th December 2024 to 6th December 2025. Following the completion of the project, a project completion report will be submitted within six months, and a final evaluation report will be provided within nine months, after the project completion, respectively.

Responsibilities for data collection lie with the FC, whereas overall oversight and management are under the purview of the Monitoring and Reporting Manager. For a detailed reporting schedule, please see Table 3 below.

Table 5. Reporting Schedule

| Reports | Due Dates | Person in Charge | Notes |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Inception Report | 6 th Jan 2024 | Monitoring and Reporting Manager of UN-Habitat Colombo Office | Within one (1) month after the inception workshop |
| 2. Annual Project Performance Report | 6 th Feb 2025 | Monitoring and Reporting Manager | On a yearly basis, after the start of project implementation and no later |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | of UN-Habitat Colombo Office | than two (2) months after the end of the reporting year |
| 3. Project Completion Report | 6 th Jun 2026 | Monitoring and Reporting Manager of UN-Habitat Colombo Office | Within six (6) months after the project completion |
| 4. Final Evaluation Report | 6 th Sep 2026 | Monitoring and Reporting Manager of UN-Habitat Colombo Office | Within nine (9) months after the project completion |

Annexes

A. Workshop Agenda

AGENDA

Inception Workshop

Adaptation Fund Project on Climate Change Mitigation

December 07th 2023 (Thursday)

**Build Resilience to Climate and Climate Variability of Vulnerable Communities in
Mullaitivu District of Sri Lanka**

Funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by UN-Habitat

District Secretariat, Mullaitivu - Conference Hall,

| Time | Details |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.00 AM – 10.10 AM | Registration of invitees |
| 10.10 AM – 10.20 AM | Welcome and lighting the oil lamp |
| 10.20 AM – 10.25 AM | Welcome Address Mr. A. Umamaheshwaran , Government Agent, Mullaitivu |
| 10.25 AM – 10.30 AM | Address- Hon. P.S.M. Charles , Hon. Governor, Northern Province |
| 10.30 AM - 10.40AM | Introduction to the Project- Mr. Laxman Perera , Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asisa & the Pacific, Fukuoka, Japan and In-charge of UN-Habitat Sri Lanka Office |
| 10.40 AM – 11.00 AM | Project Overview – Mr. S.L. Anver Khan , Deputy Project Manager, UN-Habitat |
| 11.00 AM – 11.20 AM | Project <u>scope</u> , deliverables, implementation methodology- Eng. M.S.M. Aleem , Project Manager, UN-Habitat |
| 11.20 AM – 11.40 AM | Discussion and Way forward |
| 11.40 AM – 11.50 AM | Closing Remarks – Ms. Sejin Kim , Monitoring & Reporting Advisor, UN-Habitat |
| 11.50 AM – 12.00 | Vote of thanks – S.L. Anver Khan , Deputy Project Manager, UN-Habitat |
| 12.00 Noon | Lunch |

B. List of Participants of the Workshop

Inception Workshop
Adaptation Fund Project on Climate Change Mitigation

December 07th 2023 (Thursday)

Build Resilience to Climate and Climate Variability of Vulnerable Communities in Mullaitivu District of Sri Lanka
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| 04 | M.v. vijayantha upul | Adfo/forest | 0778062002 | wijayanthakupul@gmail.com | |
| 05 | W. Sugeesanth | ACAP | 076335212 | | |
| 06 | A. Johnstha | ADO | 0772427533 | anujohnstha@gmail.com | |
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| 08 | S. Gurupalan | Addl. GA | 0705757292 | gurupalaseg@gmail.com | |
| 09 | S.L. Anuradha | SPM UNK | ✓ | | |

Inception Workshop
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| No | Name | Designation/ Institution | Contact Number | Email | Signature |
|----|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 10 | R. K. Jenthiram | vallipunam | 0770280329 | Envision of peace | |
| 11 | A. Jeevarasa | vallipunam | 0774980765 | " | |
| 12 | Dr. Sugeesanth | Regions | 0776391892 | Dr. Sugeesanth | |
| 13 | Dr. Anura | District Secretariat | 0772707581 | " | |
| 14 | Dr. Pradeep | UNEP/UNEP/UNEP | 0763687585 | pradeep@unep.org | |
| 15 | P. Anuranga | Kunulammuni center | 0775375383 | " | |
| 16 | G.G. Dina Ranjana | waliya | 0743590311 | " | |
| 17 | K.A.D.K. Hemantani | waliya | 0762959550 | " | |
| 18 | H.M. Chandani Kumari | waliya | 0763985127 | " | |
| 19 | B. Laxman | UNEP/UNEP/UNEP | 0769690765 | B. Laxman | |

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| No | Name | Designation/ Institution | Contact Number | Email | Signature |
|----|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| 20 | Dr. J. Jayasinghe, F.R.S. | Dr. J. Jayasinghe - Lect | 0772479362 | B. J. Jayasinghe | [Signature] |
| 21 | E. Jayasinghe | Executive Director - UN-Habitat | 0772874518 | - | [Signature] |
| 22 | M. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 077252284 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 23 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0767644209 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 24 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 077288841 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 25 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0779674609 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 26 | E. Jayasinghe | Executive Director - UN-Habitat | 0774453038 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 27 | E. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0776385335 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 28 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0766685482 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 29 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0778168931 | [Signature] | [Signature] |

**Inception Workshop
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| No | Name | Designation/ Institution | Contact Number | Email | Signature |
|----|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 30 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0770349267 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 31 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0773726032 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 32 | E. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0775948295 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 33 | E. Jayasinghe | AD | 0774019040 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 34 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0772620200 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 35 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 36 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0771536109 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 37 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0776582097 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
| 38 | Dr. Jayasinghe | Executive Director | 0771317645 | [Signature] | [Signature] |
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| 41 | <i>[Handwritten Name]</i> | B. Opn. R. Sini | 077206654 | <i>[Handwritten Email]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 42 | <i>[Handwritten Name]</i> | B. Opn. R. Sini | 0778944481 | <i>[Handwritten Email]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 43 | <i>[Handwritten Name]</i> | P. D. S. | 0760334079 | <i>[Handwritten Email]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 44 | <i>[Handwritten Name]</i> | B. L. Ganesan | 0772219320 | <i>[Handwritten Email]</i> | <i>[Signature]</i> |
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| 53 | M. Anasagara | Dr. Gnanam Foundation | 0782266274 | | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 54 | U. Kinitha | IS Office PTK | 089232054 | | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 55 | N. Sajeewa | CEA / EO | 0772270822 | | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 56 | J. Senthusha | DS Office PTK - DO | 077482332 | | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 57 | T. Jayantha | ADP | 0776062716 | | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 58 | Y. Mathuseetha | DeTO | 0997439255 | | <i>[Signature]</i> |
| 59 | <i>[Handwritten Name]</i> | <i>[Handwritten Designation]</i> | 0774743310 | | <i>[Signature]</i> |

Inception Workshop
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| 64 | R. Ajitha | Part-time Lecturer | 0775731685 | | |
| 65 | E. Sathidevi | Part-time Lecturer | 0960363826 | | |
| 66 | S. S. S. | ASST | 0767640136 | | |
| 67 | R. S. S. | ASST | 0788093111 | | |
| 68 | S. S. S. | | 0779691291 | | |
| 69 | S. S. S. | | 0770784881 | | |

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| 84 | D.P. Srinathi Athukorala | AD / DPA Mullaitivu | 0769023414 | - | |
| 85 | J.I. Chandrika | NOIFG | 0719116305 | - | |
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| 89 | S. Niroshan | media | 0773722029 | - | |

Inception Workshop
Adaptation Fund Project on Climate Change Mitigation

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| 90 | D. Masekumar | O.E.S | 077905351 | - | |
| 91 | S. Balakumaran | O.E.S | 0770426226 | - | |
| 92 | K. Jeyarajaw | CCO | 0718822828 | - | |
| 93 | P. Uthayakumaran | DM | - | - | |
| 94 | Rajitha Kumar | DM | - | - | |
| 95 | Ranjan | DM | - | - | |
| 96 | M.S.M. Aheem | Project manager | 0773262288 | ataame@unhcr.org | |
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| 99 | M.A. Croos | Dere | 0770302261 | - | |

Inception Workshop
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| 100 | V. Keegan | OES | 077274612 | | V. Keegan |
| 101 | C. J. E. Peries | T.O | 0229178284 | | C. J. E. Peries |
| 102 | T. S. Culas | Engineer | 0776915386 | tjulas@gmail.com | T. S. Culas |
| 103 | S. Arusiya | Do | 0775061912 | | S. Arusiya |
| 104 | P. Sathesana | DO | 0773586715 | | P. Sathesana |
| 105 | K. Kirisanthony | Do | 0766486244 | | K. Kirisanthony |
| 106 | P. Kajitha | DO | 0774711967 | | P. Kajitha |
| 107 | S. Sirtulka | DO | 0774616987 | | S. Sirtulka |
| 108 | A. Janaththan | DO | 0775672151 | | A. Janaththan |
| 109 | M. Sumanthar | DO | 077414663 | | M. Sumanthar |

Inception Workshop: "Build Resilience to Climate and Climate Variability of Vulnerable Communities in Mullaitivu District of Sri Lanka"

Time:- 10.00 AM

Date:- 07.12.2023

Bandaravannayan Conference Hall of District Secretariat, Mullaitivu

| S/N | Name | Designation | Name of the Institute/Company | E-mail Address | Contact No | Signature |
|-----|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1 | S. Chandiko | DO | Planning | | 0764303762 | S. Chandiko |
| 2 | S. Pirathayya | DO | Planning | | 0761562168 | S. Pirathayya |
| 3 | S. Usha | DO | " | | 077-3614734 | S. Usha |
| 4 | N. Selvarasa | DO | " | | 0770958199 | N. Selvarasa |
| 5 | S. Jayarasa | DO | " | | 0776711665 | S. Jayarasa |
| 6 | T. Suman | DO | " | | 0774427069 | T. Suman |
| 7 | B. Jayarasa | OES | " | | 0772882161 | B. Jayarasa |
| 8 | V. Vijayarasa | OES | " | | 0773659116 | V. Vijayarasa |
| 9 | S. Karuna | DO | EB | | 0767855369 | S. Karuna |
| 10 | S. Gayathri | DO | Environment | | 0771226481 | S. Gayathri |
| 11 | D. Sumanthar | CEO | UN-Habitat | | 0779314821 | D. Sumanthar |
| 12 | A. Sumanthar | Principal | UN-Habitat | | 0773912221 | A. Sumanthar |
| 13 | A. A. R. Hakan | | | | 0771677029 | A. A. R. Hakan |
| 14 | Co. Secy | UN-Habitat | UN-Habitat | | 0774232451 | Co. Secy |
| 15 | A. Kamaleshwaram | PTK | UN-Habitat | | 0221415324 | A. Kamaleshwaram |
| 16 | B. Sumanthar | UN-Habitat | UN-Habitat | | 0773182948 | B. Sumanthar |

C. Communications on the Workshop

The workshop was publicized across multiple platforms, such as the local news, District Secretariat's Facebook page, and UN-Habitat's Website and social media channels. Here are the respective links to the publications.

1) DAN News (Local News)

https://www.facebook.com/askmediadannews/videos/1966224733777124/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C&mibextid=Nif5oz



*A screen shot from the video

2) Mullaitivu District Secretariat's Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/askmediadannews/videos/1966224733777124/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C&mibextid=Nif5oz

3) UN-Habitat's Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/100068841522436/posts/pfbid02kuqndAe78qn7kvC7PmNHc1UYzkKq6QJMTEKR2vx0DqF1dBSVdtrjhgaNtxznLRkl/?mibextid=Nif5oz>