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# Report

## Final Evaluation of the Network Engage Transform (NET) Project

Submitted to Chrysalis



Photo 1: project beneficiaries, Chrysalis & its partner staff and stakeholders at a final symposium in Colombo, photo credits: Chrysalis



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## Nucleus Services | Nucleus Foundation



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## List of Abbreviations

AL	Advance Level
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDO	Community Development Organization
CEDAW	Convention on The Elimination of All Forms Of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DSD	Divisional Secretariat Division
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy And Human Rights
EU	European Union
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GCE	General Certificate of Education
GN	Grama Niladhari
INGO	International Non Government Organization
KII	Key Informant Interview
LLRC	Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission
NET	Network Engage Transform Project
NGO	Non Government Organization
NHRAP	National Human Rights Action Plan
NPC	Northern Provincial Council
OECD	Organisation For Economic Co-Operation and Development
OL	Ordinary Level
OO	Overall Objective
PDVA	Prevention of Domestic Violent Act
PS	Pradeshiya Sabha
RDS	Rural Development Society
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SO	Specific Objective
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WANT	Women's Action Network for Transformation
WAS	Women's Affairs Societies
WDO	Women's Development Officer
WRDS	Women's Rural Development Societies

## Executive Summary

Chrysalis an affiliate of CARE International and implements the NET (Network, Engage, Transform) project under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), which is a thematic funding instrument for EU external action aiming to support projects in human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy. The objective of the project is to promote women's voice and meaningful political representation to prevent and address sexual and gender based violence in 6 Divisional Secretary Divisions (DSDs) in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts in the North of Sri Lanka.

The project targeted 420 women leaders from 60 Women's Rural Development Societies and Women's Affairs Societies (WRDS/WAS), 6 Gender-based Violence Forums and other networks, including 60 State officials working for the benefit of 60,000 women spread over 6 Divisional Secretariat Division (DSDs) in Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi. Chrysalis partnered with the Women's Action Network for Transformation (WANT) and the Community Development Organization (CDO) to implement the action.

The final evaluation of the NET project was carried out with the objectives of: 1) determining the overall project impact, 2) assessing the degree to which the NET project has achieved expected results and reached the objectives and 3) capturing key lessons learned and best practices to enhance the impact of future programming. The evaluation employed a mixed method approach of qualitative and quantitative methods. This included a review of secondary data, key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), case studies and a sample survey of project beneficiaries.

The sample comprised of 261 NET project beneficiaries (201 women and 60 men) and 60 control group members (48 women and 12 men). 30 KIIs were conducted with 30 main stakeholders of the project. 4 FGDs, 2 per district, were conducted with representatives of women's societies and forums/ networks targeted by the project. 6 case studies were done to triangulate the data gathered above, and give a more qualitative insight about the project interventions and its impacts on the beneficiaries.

Relevance: In Sri Lanka 17 percent of ever-married women age 15-49 have suffered from domestic violence from their intimate partner. Only one forth (28 percent) of women who suffered from domestic violence sought help<sup>1</sup>. Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts report very high incidents of domestic violence with Kilinochchi having the highest level of domestic violence at 50 percent. Furthermore, according to the District Health Survey (DHS) of 2016, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) was also highest in Kilinochchi at 49.6 percent.

Expected results were: 1). Increased leadership capacities of 420 Women to be effective political representatives on issues related to SGBV, 2). Women's networks and alliances strengthened to address SGBV in the northern province and 3). Influence and advocate for the implementation of relevant SGBV policies and laws. It was hoped that these interventions would lead to the achievement of the objectives of increased political representation of women in local governance and strengthening women's leadership to be able to address issues related to SGBV.

Effectiveness: Participation was high in the exposure visits and coaching and mentoring programs, while it was comparatively less in networking and advocacy events. Overall most the participants had rated the interventions of the project as either good or very good. Through the training sessions, they developed knowledge and awareness about concepts such as RTI (Right to Information), SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence), NHRAP (National Human Rights Action Plan), LLRC (Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission) and PDVA (Prevention of Domestic Violence Act). (Source: FGD with representatives of women's societies).

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [http://www.statistics.gov.lk/social/DHS\\_2016a/Chapter13.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.lk/social/DHS_2016a/Chapter13.pdf)

Indicator 1.1 420 women negotiate and obtain services and solutions related to SGBV: A total of 434 women and 193 men are cited as beneficiaries of the project. The target of the project was 420 women to obtain solutions related to SGBV, figures indicates that the project has reached the desired number of beneficiaries.

Indicator 1.2. 75 percent of participating women leaders develop demonstrable (individual and group) skills, capacities and networks to identify and address SGBV: 97 percent of women in Kilinochchi and 99 percent in Mullaitivu said that they had improved their capacities as individuals to varying degrees. 99 percent of women each in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu said they had improved their capacities. These improved capacities are evidenced by the findings of the KIIs and FGDs. Hence the indicator has been achieved.

Indicator 2.1: 80 percent of participating women leaders establish functional links with at least 10 networks and institutions from diverse backgrounds including networks lead by men: The number of networks among the women from the NET beneficiaries' groups are higher than the number of networks among the control group members. However, findings indicate that the indicator of 80 percent of women leaders establishing links with at least 10 networks has not been achieved.

Indicator 2.2: 70 percent of participating women leaders, receive positive responses from the networks and establish follow up action: 54.7 percent of women in Kilinochchi and 47.5 percent of those in Mullaitivu had either extremely positive or positive relationships with their networks. Even though the relationships with the networks of project beneficiaries are more positive than those of the control group, findings indicate that the indicator of 70 percent of participating women leaders, receiving positive responses from their networks has not been achieved.

Indicator 3.1: 80 percent of participating women work together with national mechanisms to monitor and influence relevant sections in National Plan to address SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA: FGDs and KIIs indicate that the NET project has been instrumental in introducing these platforms (SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA) to the project area, however the achievement of the indicator of 80 percent of participating women working together with national mechanisms to monitor and influence relevant sections in National Plan to address SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA has not been achieved.

Indicator: 3.2: State and non-state actors recognize the representation of participating communities in local and national consultations: findings show that state and non-state actors recognize the representation of participating communities in local and national consultations more than they had before signifying that this indicator has been achieved.

Indicator 3.3: State and non-state agencies use local examples from participating women leaders to demonstrate a scalable model for preventing SGBV: findings show that state and non-state agencies use local examples from participating women leaders to demonstrate a scalable model for preventing SGBV, hence this indicator has been achieved.

Specific Objective 1: To facilitate increased political representation of women in local governance"

Specific objective 1, indicator 1: 70 of women and men in the communities targeted by the project support the representation of women in formal and informal institutions: the indicator 70 of women and men in the communities targeted by the project support the representation of women in formal and informal institutions has been met.

Specific objective 1, indicator 2: 80 Women Leaders influence implementation of LLRC, NHRAP and other policies and policy recommendations at all levels to address SGBV: the indicator 80 women Leaders influence implementation of LLRC, NHRAP and other policies and policy recommendations at all levels to address SGBV has not been achieved as the



numbers of women leaders that used these platforms were less than 50 percent across all platforms. The reach and usage of the LLRC and NHRAP in the regions is limited and stakeholders have been critical of the effectiveness and implementation of these platforms.

Specific Objective 2: To strengthen the leadership and influence of women leaders from all social divides to address SGBV

Specific objective 2, indicator 1: 80 of community members across all divides of the society accept the newly built leadership of women: 85 percent of NET beneficiaries believed that women leaders were accepted more than they had before, hence the indicator of 80 percent community members across all divides of the society accepting the newly built leadership of women had been achieved.

Specific objective 2, indicator 2: 70 of the women CBO's targeted by the action access SGBV services in a transparent and accountable manner: above 80 percent in Kilinochchi and above 90 percent in Mullaitivu rated the performance of the CBOs in a positive note indicating that the indicator of 70 percent has been reached.

Overall objective: To promote the voice and meaningful political representation of women to prevent and address SGBV in Northern Sri Lanka

Overall objective indicator 1: 75 percent of women participating in the action demonstrate improved perceptions and satisfaction regarding the safety, coexistence and inclusivity of women in decision making in project districts: 75 percent of women in Kilinochchi and over 90 percent of women in Mullaitivu rated all aspects (safety, coexistence, inclusion) positively by 2018. Highly significant improvements of these aspects can be seen between pre-project (2015) and post project (2018) timelines. The overall objective indicators stating that 75 percent of women participating in the action demonstrate improved perceptions and satisfaction regarding the safety, coexistence and inclusivity of women in decision making in project districts has been achieved.

Overall objective indicator 2: 75 percent of Women in participating Women's CBOs increase and expand their links/networks locally and nationally: the indicator 75 percent of Women in participating Women's CBOs increase and expand their links/networks locally and nationally has been achieved.

Overall objective indicator 3: Women in 6 DS divisions. influence key decision making processes and decision makers and hold them accountable for sustainable and coherent responses to SGBV and women's participation: the use of the various services by women leaders as described above, indicates that the indicator women in 6 DS divisions, influence key decision making processes and hold decision makers accountable for sustainable and coherent responses to SGBV and women's participation has been achieved.

Efficiency: The resources allocated to the project were sufficient to meet the requirements. The gains in the exchange rate with the increased value of the Euro against the Rupee was beneficial to the project. Friendly relationships were maintained with WANT and CDO the co applicants of the action. Training was provided on establishing and maintaining proper financial procedures. Planning was done every six months. Detailed discussions were taking place regularly. Every activity was discussed and agreed together, advance plans were submitted and approved. The management of the risks by the project had been adequate and did not hinder any activities of the project.

All reports to donor have been submitted on time. Project implementation process has been documented and reported against planned indicators in reports submitted to the donor. The project also supported the publication of several documents with lessons learnt and process followed.

**Sustainability:** The representatives of the women's societies when asked which activities introduced by the project they would continue, said they would continue activities related to SGBV and prevention of domestic violence. They mentioned the SGBV forum and awareness on gender equality in firms and factories, campaigns against alcoholism in villages and attitude change awareness for political parties as activities they would continue. Collaboration with local and regional organizations and community centres, preparation of action plans and their implementation would also be continued. The women's societies also plan to conduct awareness sessions on SGBV, LLRC, RTI, PDVA and NHRAP in the region.

Chrysalis had gained recognition as one of the main players in the field of governance and advocacy. The Ministry of Women's Affairs invites Chrysalis for its meetings and discussions related to developing policy, Chrysalis is the only Civil Society Organisation invited for these discussions.

**Impacts:** The community accepts women leaders more than they did before, women have been elected to the Pradeshiya Sabhas. Voting among women has increased, and women are more aware that they should vote for women during elections. Key informant believed that the women leaders that emerged from the project would be role models for future leaders. Beneficiaries can use the skills and knowledge gained through the project in their future roles as leaders. Some will contest at upcoming local government elections.

**Visibility:** In the implementation of all activities related to the NET project, it was ensured that EU was acknowledged as the participant and funding source of the action. All visibility activities were in line with the EU's Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Actions (2010). All communication and visibility activities were closely coordinated with the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives to ensure the action highlights the impact of the EU support.

**Recommendations:**

Expected Result 1: Increased leadership capacities of 420 women to be effective political representatives on issues related to SGBV

1. Conduct more networking events such as the symposium conducted in Colombo in the project location to obtain the support of stakeholders in the regions.
2. Provide livelihood or enterprise development support to women leaders in addition to political empowerment so that they are economically enhanced to be able to participate in activities and interventions.
3. Introduce more activities for the groups that have been formed to ensure that they sustain themselves, link them to government institutions that can support their continuation, replicate and disseminate tools and programs developed among other similar groups in other locations.
4. Include psycho social counselling
5. and training into future training and capacity development training for women leaders.
6. Introduce new and timely elements such as sexual harassment in the work place and corruption into training programs developed for the future.
7. Further improve the referral mechanisms introduced by the project so that they can be implemented more effectively.

Expected Result 2: Women's networks and alliances strengthened to address SGBV in the Northern Province

1. Establish more networks comprising women's organisations and local government authorities so that safe houses can be provided to victims of SGBV and domestic violence including women and children.
2. Expand grassroots level networks to include more men so that both men and women can work together in issues related to addressing SGBV.

3. Avoid duplication of activities, discuss and collaborate with other stakeholders implementing similar interventions and leverage resources so that actions are not duplicated.
4. Identify women leaders with potentials from the regions and districts and link with the networks already formed so that their lobby and advocacy powers are enhanced through increased numbers.
5. Identify new women leaders and implement training for them so that their capacities are developed to be able to enter local government politics at the next election.

Expected Result 3: Influence and advocate for the implementation of relevant SGBV policies and laws

1. Promote the integration of gender into all components of programs and ensure gender balance is encouraged and maintained across all platforms.
2. Ensure that capacitated women and continued to be supported and encourage and advocate for women leaders that are willing to contest at local government elections are provided the necessary support by their party leaders and decision makers within the political hierarchy.
3. Expand activities introduced by the project to other areas (DS divisions and districts) through government institutions and other who are implementing similar actions.
4. Develop a model based on the process followed and lessons learnt from the NET project that can be used to address issues of SGBV and domestic violence that can be replicated elsewhere to ensure that policies and laws are enacted to support victims.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background

Chrysalis is a Company Limited by Guarantee and an Affiliate of CARE International in Sri Lanka. The organization works with local communities, private sector, government and local and international civil society to promote gender equality, promote the voice of women and youth and ensure economic empowerment. Chrysalis implements the NET (Network, Engage, Transform) project under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), a thematic funding instrument for EU external action aiming to support projects in human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy. The project works to enhance the women's political leadership program with the aim of setting up community-driven mechanisms primarily led by women. It supports women by equipping them with the skills, tools, and networks through which they can effectively negotiate, lobby and engage regional and national state and non-state actors in their effort to address and prevent Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

The overall objective of the NET project is to promote women's voice and meaningful political representation to prevent and address sexual and gender based violence in 6 Divisional Secretary Divisions (DSDs) in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts in the North of Sri Lanka. Specific objectives are to: 1) Facilitate increased political representation of women in local governance and 2) Strengthen women's leadership from all social divides to address SGBV. Expected results include increased leadership capacities of women to be effective political representatives on issues related to SGBV, strengthened women's networks in the Northern province and advocacy for the implementation of relevant SGBV policies and laws.

The NET project targeted 420 women leaders from 60 Women's Rural Development Societies and Women's Affairs Societies (WRDS/WAS), 6 Gender-based Violence Forums and other networks, including 60 State officials working for the benefit of 60,000 women spread over 6 Divisional Secretariat Division (DSDs). It was hoped that the action would benefit an estimated 75,000 women living in the districts of Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi. Chrysalis partnered with the Women's Action Network for Transformation (WANT) and the Community Development Organization (CDO) to implement the action.

The NET project commissioned Nucleus Services Private Limited to carry out the final evaluation, to make an independent assessment of the project. This report documents the process and outcomes of that evaluation.

### 1.2. Objective

The objectives of the evaluation were to:

- » determine the overall project impact, by assessing the project achievements related to the overall objective, specific objectives, and expected results considering the indicators of the logical frame work.
- » assess the degree to which the NET project has achieved expected results and reached the objectives.
- » capture key lessons learned and best practices to enhance the impact of future programming.

The evaluation assessed the activities based on the defined OECD DAC (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Development Assistance Committee) criteria of impact, effectiveness, relevance, efficiency and sustainability.

### 1.3. Research Design Methodology

The evaluation employed a mixed method approach of qualitative and quantitative methods. This included a review of secondary data, key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), case studies and a sample survey of project beneficiaries.

Project documents including, project proposal, baseline, mid-term review and interim reports prepared by Chrysalis were studied in fine tuning the research design. Questionnaires and guidelines were developed based on the indicators and intended impacts of the project design and available in English and Tamil. The field work was conducted by experienced researchers. Field interviews were conducted in Tamil and English based on the language competencies of the interviewees.

Kick off workshop: was conducted with the project team and partners at the Chrysalis Kilinochchi office. A meeting was planned and carried out also with the partner staff of WANT and CDO together with the research team to discuss the way forward and field plan.

Key Informant Interviews: 30 KIIs were conducted with 30 main stakeholders of the project including representatives from Urban Councils, University of Jaffna, Ministry of Women's Affairs of the Northern Provincial Council, Pradeshiya Sabhas (PS), District Secretariats, Divisions Secretariats (DS) and the co applicants of the project WANT (Women Action Network for Transformation) and CDO (Community Development Organisation). The list of KIIs was developed in consultation with the Chrysalis team.

Focus Group Discussions: 4 FGDs, 2 per district, were conducted with representatives of women's societies and forums/ networks targeted by the project in the districts to obtain their feedback, on impact, challenges, lessons learnt and experiences in implementing the project in the districts and determine the extent to which the project has achieved the expected outcomes.

Case studies: 6 case studies were done to triangulate the data gathered above, and give a more qualitative insight about the project interventions and its impacts on the beneficiaries.

Sample Survey: initially it was planned to carry out a sample survey of 201 women leaders from the project target group of 420 leaders and a control group of 60 women leaders from these DS divisions who have not been engaged by the project (10 per DS Division). However, in consultation with the Chrysalis project team the sample was revised as described under 1.4 below, to include men as well as women:

#### 1.4. Sample

The sample comprised of 261 NET project beneficiaries (201 women and 60 men).

Table 1: Sample of respondents of the survey

	Project beneficiaries		Sample for survey		Control group	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Kilinochchi	210	116	119	19	14	06
Mullaitivu	224	77	139	34	34	06
Total	434	193	258	53	48	12

## 1.5. Profile of respondents of the survey

The profile of the respondents of the survey is provided in the table below:

Table 2: Profile of respondents of the survey

Description	Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu	
	Beneficiary	Control group	Beneficiary	Control group
Average age in 2018	37.70	31.29	36.49	33.88
Ethnicity – Tamil (percentage)	100	100	100	100
Civil status (percentage)				
Unmarried	25.4	40	23.7	40
Married	67.5	40	72.7	52.5
Separated	2.6	00	1.4	00
Divorced	1.8	05	0.0	2.5
Widowed	2.6	15	2.2	5.0
Level of education (percentage)				
None	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
Up to grade 5	10.1	5.0	0.7	7.5
Grade 5 to 10	26.9	20.0	12.2	15.0
Ordinary level	39.5	30.0	54.7	32.5
Diploma	16.0	40.0	30.9	42.5
Advance level	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Degree and above	3.4	5.0	0.7	2.5

## 1.6. Limitations

Since the project was already completed, extra efforts had to be exerted to engage the partner staff and the beneficiaries of the project. Most staff of the two implementing partners CDO and WANT were no longer engaged by these organisations.

Getting appointments with the key informants also took more time than originally envisaged as many had busy schedules, being important actors within local government authorities. This also caused delays in completing the field work.

Identifying respondents for the control group was challenging as there are many projects and donors working in the area of local governance and many of these projects and programs implement similar activities. Search for Common Ground Sri Lanka, USAID, UNDP and others have implemented projects supporting the engagement of women in leadership positions in local government authorities. Since the control group needed to include male and female leaders that had not participated in any donor or project supported programs it was quite challenging.

## 2. Context

### 2.1. Changes occurred in the context since start of the project

The project was initiated in February 2016, and was implemented by CARE at the time. In December 2016, CARE began its transition into Chrysalis with CARE Sri Lanka ceasing field level operations. The transition was complete by the end February 2017 and Chrysalis took on the field level implementation of the project<sup>2</sup>.

The transition from CARE to Chrysalis caused some delays in the implementation of the project as the project activities came to a standstill until the transition was complete. Due to the financial component also been transferred partners had to be requested to return the funds which could subsequently be channelled through Chrysalis. Special permission was granted by the EU to adjust project activities and implementation within the transition. Staff also had to be recruited newly with the transition causing some staff turnover as well. This delayed the project by three to four months. The project “restarted” in May 2017 with the changed modality of implementation. The baseline survey of the project was commissioned during this time. Chrysalis has received two no cost extensions for the NET project, the first from February to April 2018 and the second from May to July 2018. Despite these changes, the NET project has been able to conclude activities successfully. (Source: Kick off meeting with Chrysalis team).

### 2.2. Validity of the assumptions made in the project design

The specific objectives of the project were to facilitate increased political representation of women in local governance and to strengthen the leadership and influence of women leaders from all social divides to address SGBV. To this end certain assumptions were made at the time the project was designed:

NGOs receive Divisional and District Secretaries’ approval to work in the district: The Divisional Secretariats collaborate closely with the project and supported activities. For example, the women leaders for engagement of the project were selected in consultation with the respective DSs. Chrysalis maintain close coordination and collaboration with the government stakeholders in the two districts building on the experiences of CARE prior and its prior experience of implementing many projects in the North.

The political environment in Sri Lanka does not worsen for NGOs: with the change in government in January 2015, the negative perception toward NGOs was somewhat reduced. The government appointed in 2015 has been more conducive towards the functioning of NGOs.

Elections will not disrupt smooth implementation of activities: local government authorities (Pradeshiya Sabhas) were dissolved in May 2015. Elections for new PSs were postponed several times until new laws were brought on delimitation of local government wards. The local government elections were held in February 2018, under a mixed electoral system which also allocated a 25 quota for women. Thus, rather than disrupting the implementation of activities the new law (25 quota for women) complemented the activities of the project as the trained women leaders could not aspire to enter local government authorities under this system. Due to the nature of project activities during the time leading up to elections some of the public activities and events were not allowed and could not be conducted.

Women's participation in project activities is not restricted due to security and natural disasters: specific security concerns or natural disasters did not affect the project region during the time of project implementation. Sometimes, socio cultural factors hinder women’s participation in activities away from their homes, such as study tours entailing overnight stays away from home, however this did not affect the progress of project activities.

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<sup>2</sup> Source: NET Progress report, July 2017

Changes in the personnel will not impact the project implementation: even though there was staff turnover due to the transition from CARE to Chrysalis, other than delaying the project by a few months the change in personnel did not affect activities much.

Expected results of the project included Increased leadership capacities of women, strengthened networks to address SGBV and advocating for policies conducive to overcoming SGBV. The assumptions were made that: 1) There is a conducive atmosphere for women's participation, 2) There is no significant negative response from men's groups/religious groups and that 3) Partners are able to work without political interferences. Overall these and the above assumptions made at the stage of designing the project held true and remained valid during implementation of the project.

### 2.3. Changes in actors, relationships, policies, trends and triggers

Other than the transition from CARE to Chrysalis the project did not face any major changes related to the above factors. The 25 quota for women introduced at the local government elections complemented the activities of the project by providing women leaders a political platform through which they could bring their issues to the limelight. This opportunity will also come into play at the next provincial council elections.

## 3. Relevance:

### 3.1. The extent to which stated problems are addressed

Domestic violence is defined as "any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life" (United Nations 1993). In Sri Lanka 17 percent of ever-married women age 15-49 have suffered from domestic violence from their intimate partner. Only one forth (28 percent) of women who suffered from domestic violence sought help<sup>3</sup>. Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts report very high incidents of domestic violence with Kilinochchi having the highest level of domestic violence at 50 percent. Furthermore, according to the District Health Survey (DHS) of 2016, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) was also highest in Kilinochchi at 49.6 percent<sup>4</sup>.

The overall objective of the project was to promote women's voice and meaningful political representation to prevent and address sexual and gender based violence in 6 Divisional Secretary Divisions (DSDs) in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts in the North of Sri Lanka. The objective of the project aims at addressing the issue of gender based violence in the project region which has been identified as a major concern.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: [http://www.statistics.gov.lk/social/DHS\\_2016a/Chapter13.pdf](http://www.statistics.gov.lk/social/DHS_2016a/Chapter13.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Source: [http://www.searo.who.int/srilanka/documents/country\\_profile\\_on\\_gender-based\\_violence\\_in\\_sl.pdf](http://www.searo.who.int/srilanka/documents/country_profile_on_gender-based_violence_in_sl.pdf)



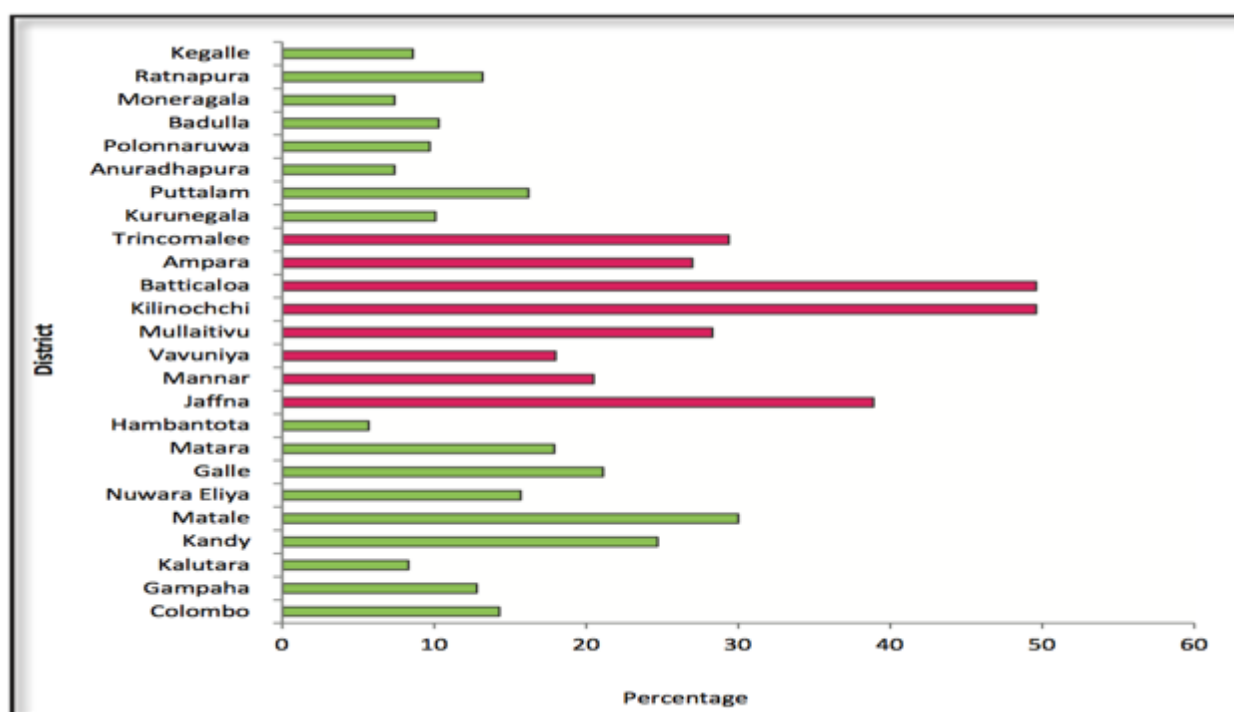


Figure 1: Domestic violence by district, source DHS Survey 2016

### 3.2. Consistency of proposed interventions

The proposed interventions were categorised under three main result areas and are summarised below:

1. Expected Result 1: Increased leadership capacities of 420 Women to be effective political representatives on issues related to SGBV: women leaders were identified and selected using a consultative process and including consultations with the Divisional Secretariat. Capacity building programs were conducted for them and included training, exposure visits, coaching and mentoring.
2. Expected Result 2: Women’s networks and alliances strengthened to address SGBV in the northern province: SGBV networks in the region were mapped and strengths and weaknesses of these groups/networks/services and what opportunities exist to effect change were identified and assessed. Forums were carried out with community groups, members from the Northern Provincial Council, Parliamentary Women’s Caucus (PWC) and other authorities to discuss implementation of LLRC/NHRAP recommendations. Linkages were facilitated between civil society and women leaders. CBO leaders were encouraged to participate in forums addressing SGBV and men sensitized to include women in CBOs and other local organizations.
3. Expected Result 3: Influence and advocate for the implementation of relevant SGBV policies and laws: networks were developed between regional and national levels for advocacy and awareness raising. Women’s groups were familiarized with national platforms such as LLRC and NHRAP with a view to using them to bring regional issues to national focus.

It was hoped that these interventions would lead to the achievement of the objectives of increased political representation of women in local governance and strengthening women’s leadership to be able to address issues related to SGBV.

### 3.3. Quantitative and qualitative description of indicators

The log frame of the project with the indicators is given below:

Table 3: Log frame of the NET project

Intervention logic	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement
<b>Overall Objective</b>	
O1 – " To promote the voice and meaningful political representation of women to prevent and address SGBV in Northern Sri Lanka "	75 of women participating in the action demonstrate improved perceptions and satisfaction regarding the safety, coexistence and inclusivity of women in decision making in project districts. 75 of Women in participating Women's CBOs increase and expand their links/networks locally and nationally Women in 6 DS divisions. influence key decision making processes and decision makers and hold them accountable for sustainable and coherent responses to SGBV and women's participation.
<b>Specific Objectives</b>	
SO1– "To facilitate increased political representation of women in local governance"	SO1: 70 of women and men in the communities targeted by the project support the representation of women in formal and informal institutions. SO1: 80 Women Leaders influence implementation of LLRC, NHRAP and other policies and policy recommendations at all levels to address SGBV.
SO-2 "To strengthen the leadership and influence of women leaders from all social divides to address SGBV"	SO1: 80 of community members across all divides of the society accept the newly built leadership of women SO2: 70 of the women CBO's targeted by the action access SGBV services in a transparent and accountable manner.
<b>Expected results</b>	
R1 – "Increased leadership capacities of 420 women to be effective political representatives on issues related o SGBV"	1.1 420 women negotiate and obtain services and solutions related to SGBV. (R1) 1.2. 75 of participating women leaders develop demonstrable (individual and group) skills, capacities and networks to identify and address SGBV.
R2 – "Women's networks and alliances strengthened to address SGBV in the Northern Province"	2.1 80 of participating women leaders establish functional links with at least 10 networks and institutions from diverse backgrounds including networks lead by men (R2) 2.2 70 of participating women leaders, receive positive responses from the networks and establish follow up action
R3 – "Influence and advocate for the implementation of relevant SGBV policies and laws"	3.1 80 of participating women work together with national mechanisms to monitor and influence relevant sections in National Plan to address SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA 3.2 State and non-state actors recognize the representation of participating communities in local and national consultations 3.3 State and non-state agencies use local examples from participating women leaders to demonstrate a scalable model for preventing SGBV

A quantitative and qualitative description of the indicators against which changes are measured is discussed under chapter 4 below.

## 4. Effectiveness

### 4.1. Delivery of planned interventions to beneficiaries

The following activities were implemented by the NET project from 2016 to 2018:

1. Orientation Program at DS Divisional level
2. Basic training on Gender at village level
3. International Women's Day event 2018
4. Basic voter education on new electoral system and women quota
5. A residential capacity building workshop for women
6. Exposure visits
7. Interactive session with selected women leaders
8. RTI workshop
9. Interaction with strong Political leaders
10. Validation workshop by ASKE
11. 16 days activism campaign
12. Awareness creation on newly introduced electoral system and the women's quota for frontline officers of NPC and the Ministry of Women's Affairs
13. Capacity Building as Preparation for the 2018 Local Government Election
14. Basic gender sensitization training workshop
15. Workshop on Roles and Responsibilities of PS
16. Individual coaching and mentoring sessions for the selected candidates
17. Preparation of individual candidate profiling through lengthy discussion
18. Challenges and Constraints Women and Men Candidates Face during their Election Campaigning Process of the Local Government Election
19. Vote for women campaign
20. Implementing 14 community action plans
21. Baseline Report To Establish the Baseline Status for the Logical Framework of the Network Engage and Transform (NET) Project
22. Women's Representation and Sexual and Gender Based Violence: Impact of low representation of women in decision making bodies on combatting sexual and gender based violence in the North
23. Study on women's political leadership and reduction of violence against women
24. RTI sessions for community members ( one day per division)
25. Public Speaking
26. Training in gender sensitization and GRB for newly-elected council members
27. Training in instrumental, national and international commitments (LLRC,NHRAP, CEDAW, UNSCR, DV Act) ( Three days per division)
28. Exposure visits for state officers and LG members

Respondents of the survey were asked about their feedback to the interventions of the project, their responses (for both districts) are provided in the table below. Figures are provided as percentages:

Table 4: Feedback about project activities

	Training programs	Exposure visits	Coaching & mentoring	Networking events	National seminar – Jaffna	Voice walk	Advocacy program	Networking with WRDS & WAS
Very bad	0.4	1.6	1.2	2.7	2.3	2.7	3.9	4.3
Bad	0.4	1.9	1.9	2.7	4.3	3.1	2.3	3.1
Moderate	17.4	21.7	25.2	22.1	23.6	22.9	13.6	20.2
Good	45.3	35.3	40.3	29.1	33.3	30.6	39.1	32.6
Very good	36.4	29.5	22.1	22.1	13.6	13.2	23.3	19.8
Not participated	0.0	10.1	9.3	21.3	22.9	27.5	17.8	20.2

All of the beneficiaries had participated in the training programs. Participation was high in the exposure visits and coaching and mentoring programs, while it was comparatively less in networking and advocacy events. Overall most the participants had rated the interventions of the project as either good or very good.

Members of women’s groups mention that they have developed their capacities through these programs. They also appreciated the opportunity to share experiences with women political leaders and the exposure they received through the various field visits to other regions. The mentoring and coaching sessions and the development of action plans had also contributed to the organizational development of their CBOs. Through these sessions, they developed knowledge and awareness about concepts such as RTI (Right to Information), SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence), NHRAP (National Human Rights Action Plan), LLRC (Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission) and PDVA (Prevention of Domestic Violence Act). (Source: FGD with representatives of women’s societies).

Representatives of women’s societies mentioned that they had convinced men too, to support their cause:

We brought men (spouses/siblings) for the sessions held by the project and through mentoring and coaching methods and individual meetings men were convinced to support women in the process. The introduction of the 25 quota for women to enter local government politics was explained to them. – FGD with women’s group in Thunukkai, 28.09.2018

Findings indicates that planned interventions have been delivered to the beneficiaries, men and well as women. The interventions and the resulting outcomes are explained in more detail in the following chapters of the report.

#### 4.2. Achievements of expected results

The extent to which each expected result has been achieved based on the log frame is described below based on findings of the evaluation.

Result 1: Increased leadership capacities of 420 women to be effective political representatives on issues related to SGBV

Indicator 1.1 420 women negotiate and obtain services and solutions related to SGBV

Respondents of the survey were asked how many women faced with sexual and gender based violence they have supported during the last 3 years. The average number of SGBV cases supported by the project beneficiaries are compared with the average number of SGBV cases supported by the control group in the table below:

Table 5: Average number of SGBV cases addressed by respondents

District	Project beneficiaries			Control group		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Kilinochchi	0.86	1.71	2.06	0.25	0.70	0.75
Mullaitivu	0.71	1.14	1.37	0.37	0.77	1.45
Total	0.78	1.40	1.69	0.33	0.75	1.22

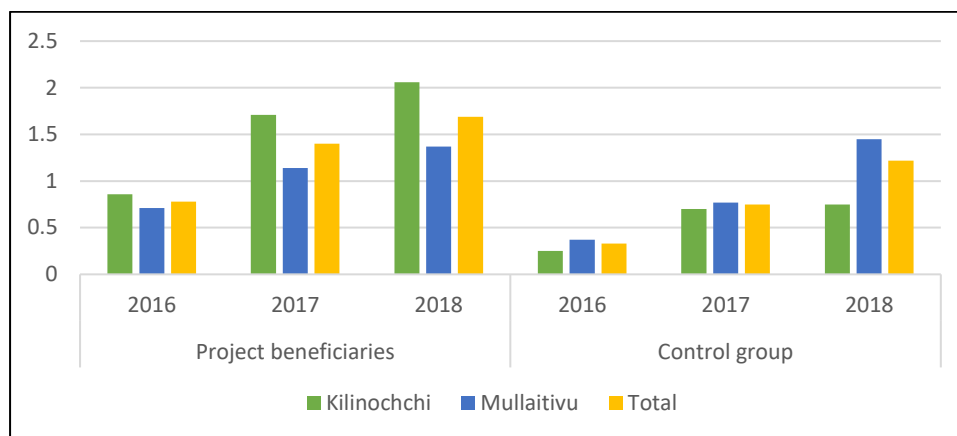


Figure 2: Average number of SGBV cases addressed by respondents

As indicated in the above table and figure, there has been an increase in the average number of SGBV cases supported by the project beneficiaries through the three years of the project. The number and increase is higher in the Kilinochchi district compared with Mullaitivu. Among the control group the number of cases of SGBV supported is lower than among the beneficiaries, the cases supported in Mullaitivu are higher than those supported in Kilinochchi.

Through the activities of the project including training programs, exposure visit and networking events such as the women's day celebrations women leaders developed their capacity to speak out against SGBV. The activities enabled experience sharing with those in other regions and building networks with women politicians as well as the Northern Provincial Council. The symposium held in Colombo offered an opportunity to further expand these networks. A petition was developed on the provision of micro credit to women in the Wanni region, which was handed over to the Minister from the Northern Provincial Council Ms Ananthi Sasitharan, through these activities the women developed contacts with other politicians including male politicians and government officers such as the District Secretary. (Source: FGD with representatives of Women's Societies).

Women were empowered and capacitated to be able to deal with issues related to SGBV through the project interventions. Women who were willing to take up leadership positions were identified and promoted. Even though it is usually difficult to engage women in leadership in the north due to social and cultural inhibitions, the NET project succeeded in doing so. They were provided the exposure to be able to develop confidence to be able to take on the mantle of leadership in their localities. (Source: KIIs with stakeholders).

Achievement of indicator: A total of 434 women and 193 men are cited as beneficiaries of the project. The target of the project was 420 women to obtain solutions related to SGBV, figures indicate that the project has reached the desired number of beneficiaries.

Indicator 1.2. 75 percent of participating women leaders develop demonstrable (individual and group) skills, capacities and networks to identify and address SGBV

Respondents were asked to what extent their capacities as individuals and as a group had developed because of project activities.

Table 6: Capacity development as individuals

	Capacity development as an individual				Capacity development as a group			
	Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Completely	31.0	26.3	22.9	20.6	31.0	15.8	32.4	26.5
Somewhat	33.0	31.6	32.4	35.3	29.0	47.4	20.0	41.2
Neutral	18.0	21.1	25.7	44.1	29.0	21.1	33.3	29.4
A little	15.0	21.1	19.0	0.0	10.0	15.8	13.3	2.9
Not at all	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0

Most beneficiaries (men as well as women) rated the extent of capacity development high for individual as well as group categories. The capacity development as individuals was rated higher by women in both district while the capacity development as a group was rated higher by men in both districts. This could indicate that men appreciated the opportunity to work in groups and network more than the women.

The beneficiaries of the NET project, have taken up issues related to SGBV and domestic violence and fight on behalf of the victims. Prior to this project participation in CSO was less whereas now they participate and even take on roles such as secretary, vice chairman and treasurer and board member of those societies. At the women's day celebrations in March 2018, beneficiaries of the project handed over a petition against SGBV to the District Secretary and male Member of Parliament from the region. A case of domestic violence in Nagapaduwan where a woman with five children was assaulted by her husband was take up and dealt with by the women leaders with the support of the Women's Development Officer (WDO) and the Grama Niladhari of the area. (Source: FGD with representatives of Women's Societies).

Key informants cited several instances where capacitated women had handled incidents of SGBV. A woman who had been subject to domestic violence had overcome it and was now engaging in politics. A beneficiaries in Udayarkattu had handled a case of domestic violence successfully. Women representatives elected to the Pradeshiya Sabhas bring up issued related to SGBV at those forums. A man who was going to commit bigamy was identified and stopped. A man who made a 15 year old girl pregnant was taken to course. Many cases of domestic violence have been identified and passed on for action to the Police. GBV forums are regularly held at DS office. Under the coordination of the DS office and the WDO, women are invited to bring up their issues in these fora. Women's groups in Valluvarpuram established a forum in 2018 and the victims affected by domestic violence are being safe guarded and their spouses are being referred to counselling. The children are also kept at safe houses. 10 to 12 such cases have been handled up to now. Cases of SGBV and domestic violence are being identified and addressed in many locations as a result of increased awareness. (Source: KIIs with stakeholders).

Achievement of indicator: 97 percent of women in Kilinochchi and 99 percent in Mullaitivu said that they had improved their capacities as individuals to varying degrees (completely to a little). 99 percent of women each in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu said they had improved their capacities. These improved capacities are evidenced by the findings of the KIIs and FGDs as described above. Hence the indicator has been achieved.

**Result 2: Women’s networks and alliances strengthened to address SGBV in the Northern Province**

**Indicator 2.1: 80 percent of participating women leaders establish functional links with at least 10 networks and institutions from diverse backgrounds including networks lead by men**

Women (and men) leaders that participated in the survey were asked how many links they established with other networks in the last 3 years, and how many of them were led by women:

Table 7: Number of links established with other networks

	NET Beneficiaries				Control group			
	Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
10 or more	3.0	0.0	1.0	5.9	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0
7 to 9	4.0	0.0	7.6	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4 to 6	18.0	5.3	23.8	23.5	7.1	16.7	11.8	0.0
1 to 3	47.0	78.9	56.2	44.1	50.0	50.0	64.7	66.7
None	28.0	15.8	11.4	17.6	42.9	16.7	23.5	33.3

Most of the leaders had between 1 and 6 networks in all districts and within both genders. The networks among project beneficiaries was higher than those among the control group except among the men in Kilinochchi. 16.7 percent of men among the control group in Kilinochchi had a network of 10 or more.

Interviews with key informant interviews from different institutions indicates that in addition to developing new networks the women have also connected with the various government and other institutions working to prevent gender based violence. These institutions include local government authorities, universities, organisations providing legal services, local NGOs working to prevent SGBV, the Pradeshiya Sabha, Divisional Secretariat and others. Discussions with key informants indicates that the contacts between the supported women and these institutions have also been established and improved as a result of the project.

When asked how many of these networks were led by women the respondents gave the following answers:

Table 8: Number of networks led by women

	NET Beneficiaries				Control group			
	Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Men only	0.0	0.0	1.0	6.5	7.7	0.0	26.5	16.7
Women only	39.1	18.8	19.2	12.9	15.4	16.7	2.9	0.0
Both men and women	60.9	81.3	79.8	80.6	76.9	83.3	70.6	83.3

Most of the networks appear to be led by both men and women. A higher number of women led only networks are in Kilinochchi.

Groups have been formed in the villages to fight against SGBV and domestic violence. When cases are identified the Grama Niladhari and the Police are contacted. Sometimes the local politicians get involved in dealing with the issue. Women leaders keep track of women headed households, those with persons with disabilities and families of persons that have disappeared. Their needs are identified and they are guided to the service providers that can support them such as the Grama Niladahari and the Samurdhi officer. The women leaders have been trained on how to deal with issues of SGBV and domestic violence and they can link the affected persons to the relevant authorities. Networks have been developed also with INGO and NGOs.

For example, the RDS and WRDS in Kannakinagar, Punnaineeravi raise funds from such INGOs and NGOs for catering to the needs of these women. (Source: FGD with representatives of Women’s Societies).

Through the project advocacy platforms and networks have been initiated. They have formed village level safety networks that are linked to the Federation that has been newly established. The elected women and trained leaders work in these group to eliminate the issues of SGBV and domestic violence. In Tharumapuram for example the WRDS which has 1000 women members was linked to the federation with the support of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs of the Northern Provincial Council. Inter regional networks have also been formed as a result of the exposure visits to other regions (Kandy, Hambanthota). (Source: KIIIs with stakeholders).

Achievement of indicator: The number of networks among the women from the NET beneficiaries’ groups are higher than the number of networks among the control group members. However, findings indicate that the indicator of 80 percent of women leaders establishing links with at least 10 networks has not been achieved.

Indicator 2.2: 70 percent of participating women leaders, receive positive responses from the networks and establish follow up action

Women leaders covered by the survey were asked what type of relationships they had with these networks.

Table 9: Types of relationships with networks

	NET Beneficiaries		Control group	
	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu
Extremely positive	34.9	25.3	7.7	14.7
Mostly positive	19.8	22.2	7.7	8.8
Neutral	43.0	46.5	53.8	55.9
Negative	2.3	6.1	7.7	14.7
Extremely negative	0.0	0.0	23.1	5.9

Most of the women leaders supported by the NET project indicated that they had either extremely positive or mostly positive relationships with these networks. No one among the project beneficiaries had any negative relationships with the networks. Among the control group most respondents had a neutral relationship with their networks with some even having extremely negative relationships. Relationships among networks in Kilinochchi appear to be more positive than those in Mullaitivu.

When asked how many activities they had implemented with these networks 50 percent of the women said they had implemented only one activity, 23 percent had implemented two to four activities and 7 percent had implemented more than five activities. 20 percent had not implemented any activities.

A women’s federation has been established in August 2018, and will work towards expanding support activities for affected women. There are also development committees affiliated to the DS office, and people’s committees established in 2018 with women leaders, youth and government officials. An employee’s network has been set up to offer support services to employees of garment factories. This network is in the process of compiling a database. Social security networks in the villages comprise of the Grama Niladhari, Development Officer, Samurdhi Development Officer, Police and Principle of schools. These networks will continue to provide support services to women. (Source: FGD with representatives of Women’s Societies).



Achievement of indicator: 54.7 percent of women in Kilinochchi and 47.5 percent of those in Mullaitivu had either extremely positive or positive relationships with their networks. Even though the relationships with the networks of project beneficiaries are more positive than those of the control group, findings indicate that the indicator of 70 percent of participating women leaders, receiving positive responses from their networks has not been achieved.

**Result 3: Influence and advocate for the implementation of relevant SGBV policies and laws**

Indicator 3.1: 80 percent of participating women work together with national mechanisms to monitor and influence relevant sections in National Plan to address SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA

Respondents were asked if they were implementing any activities related to the above. The numbers that responded in the affirmative are given below:

Table 10: Implementation of activities related to SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP & PDVA

	NET Beneficiaries		Control group	
	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu
SGBV	33.0	43.8	35.7	53.9
LLRC	30.0	33.3	21.4	20.6
NHRAP	25.0	22.9	21.4	11.8
PDVA	42.0	40.0	35.7	17.6
Average for all 4 platforms	32.5	35.0	28.6	26.0

Overall the number of women that responded as yes when asked if they were working with mechanisms such as SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA was low. The average for all four platforms was 32.5 percent in Kilinochchi and 35 percent in Mullaitivu. The average among control group was lower than that of the project beneficiaries, although the percentage of women in both districts that worked in SGBV was slightly higher among the control group than among the project beneficiaries. As the control group was identified for taking leadership roles in the community (to be comparable to the women leaders supported by NET), they could be taking us this issue more within their communities.

Representatives of the women’s societies that participated in the FGDs were asked if they are implementing any activities related to the following:

Sexual and Gender Based Violence: a case came up where a woman from Thevipuram was tied up and mistreated by the Police in Puthukudiyiruppu. It was subsequently identified that the woman was mentally ill. The case was taken up by the women’s society and taken to the district court. This was due to the awareness created among the community about SGBV. (Source: FGD with representatives of women’s society, Puthukudiyiruppu, 28.09.2018).

Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC): even though representatives of women’s societies were aware of the LLRC, only a few meetings had been held including a campaign on those that had disappeared in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. They have collected information and compiled a database of such persons.

National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP): representatives of the women’s society in Thunnukkai and Poonakary had not heard of the NHRAP. Members in Puthukudiyiruppu said they participated at a Campaign conducted against Mahawali resettlement, 500 women members participated in this and a protest against militarization in Keppapilavu. The women’s society in Karachchi had also participated at the protest in Keppapilavu.

Prevention of Domestic Violence Act: all groups knew about the PDVA. They identified issues arising out of domestic violence through individual visits by the women leaders. The cases

were identified by these leaders and handled through the Women's Development Officer, Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Inspector or the Police. Awareness sessions are being conducted and follow up is provided through a referral system.

Key informants were asked if their institutions are implementing any activities related to promoting the mandate of SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA: 27 out of 30 (90 percent) of key informants were implementing activities related to SGBV. 11 (37 percent) were implementing activities related to LLRC. 8 (27 percent) each were implementing activities related to NHRAP and PDVA.

Achievement of indicator: FGDs and KIs indicate that the NET project has been instrumental in introducing these platforms (SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA) to the project area, however the achievement of the indicator of 80 percent of participating women working together with national mechanisms to monitor and influence relevant sections in National Plan to address SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA has not been achieved as findings indicates lower figures.

Mechanisms such as the LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA are mechanisms through which affected persons including victims of SGBV can seek redress. However, following the legal implications and procedures related to actioning these mechanisms can be complicated. Communities living in the former conflict areas including victims of SGBV are not always informed about these mechanisms and their related processes and procedures. Nor do they have the resources to be able to hire legal expertise that can support them in getting redress. Many have questioned the implementation of the LLRC for example and allege that the LLRC had failed to reach its mandate<sup>5</sup>.

The NHRAP was launched in 2017, and it is still early days in terms of it getting institutionalised and used by those seeking redress. It focuses on civil, social, cultural, labour, environment, economic and political rights, prevention of torture and the rights of women, children, internally displaced persons, returning refugees, migrant workers and persons with disabilities. Policy makers agree that it will take some time for these redress mechanisms to help victims.<sup>6</sup>

Indicator: 3.2: State and non-state actors recognize the representation of participating communities in local and national consultations

Survey participants were asked if they think that the government recognizes the representation of participating communities in local and national decision making platforms. In this context recognise can be defined as acceptance, meaning that the government accepts that communities needs to have a voice in national level consultations. Hence when survey participants are asked if they are "recognised" it means that they felt accepted by government and non government sector stakeholders and their concerns are given due consideration.

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<sup>5</sup> Source: <https://www.mfa.gov.lk/sin/progress-in-implementing-llrc-proposals/>

<sup>6</sup> Source: [http://www.dailymirror.lk/article/Will-National-Human-Rights-ActionPlan-be-a-reality--142600.html?fromNewsdog=1&utm\\_source=NewsDog&utm\\_medium=referral](http://www.dailymirror.lk/article/Will-National-Human-Rights-ActionPlan-be-a-reality--142600.html?fromNewsdog=1&utm_source=NewsDog&utm_medium=referral)

Their responses provided by the survey respondents are provided in the table below:

Table 11: Recognition of local communities by government

	NET Beneficiaries		Control group	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Government recognises communities <u>more</u> than they did before	64.4	69.8	62.5	66.7
No change	22.4	15.1	27.1	25.0
Government recognises communities <u>less</u> than they did before	13.2	15.1	10.4	8.3

More than 60 percent of respondents of both genders believed that the government recognizes the representation of participating communities in local and national decision making platforms more than then did before. The level of recognition was lower for all categories of control group in comparison to project beneficiaries.

Respondents were also asked if they think that the non-government/ private sector recognizes the representation of participating communities in local and national decision making platforms:

Table 12: Recognition of local communities by NGOs

	NET Beneficiaries		Control group	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
They recognise communities <u>more</u> than they did before	65.0	63.2	75.2	61.8
No change	16.0	10.5	14.3	14.7
They recognise communities <u>less</u> than they did before	19.0	26.3	10.5	23.5

Similar findings were established with regards to the NGO and private sector and their recognition of communities. The percentage of women among the control groups that thought the recognition was higher was higher than that of the project beneficiaries. The lower levels of recognition cited by the project beneficiaries maybe due to the fact that they are more critical towards the recognition granted to them by these entities.

Representatives of women’s societies provided examples of instances when women had been able to raise issues at different forums:

In Vannimoddaikulam fund allocations were made for agriculture and the officials planned to move it to away, the women’s society opposes this, we agreed to carry out the repairs, by now half the work has been completed. The Rural Development Society in Thunukkai constructed a road of inferior quality, the women’s society complained and they had to repair it. (Source: FGD with women’s society in Thunukkai, 28.09.2018).

A micro credit scheme that was detrimental to women was introduced and the women leaders signed a petition and handed over to the District Secretary and the Central Bank. (Source: FGD with women’s society in Puthukudiyiruppu, 28.09.2018).

If incidents occur that are related to women’s issues, women leaders consult the relevant parties including politicians and deal with the case. (Source: FGD with women’s society in Karachchi, 01.10.2018).

In September 2017, the women members of the society organized a protest against the Pradeshiya Sabha, complaining that women were not given an opportunity for decision making. (Source: FGD with women’s society in Poonakary, 01.10.2018).

12 key informants (40 percent) said that there was increased recognition of women leaders because of project activities.

Achievement of indicator: findings show that state and non-state actors recognize the representation of participating communities in local and national consultations more than they had before signifying that this indicator has been achieved.

Indicator 3.3: State and non-state agencies use local examples from participating women leaders to demonstrate a scalable model for preventing SGBV

Respondents of the survey were asked if any government agency, NGO or private sector had ever used them or someone from their area/ group as an example of women leaders in preventing sexual and gender based violence:

Table 13: Local examples used as scalable models

Number of women who said they/ or someone they know had been used as examples in preventing SGBV	By government authorities		By NGOs and private sector	
	Net Beneficiaries	Control group	Net Beneficiaries	Control group
Kilinochchi	42.0	42.9	43.0	35.7
Mullaitivu	57.0	44.1	62.9	41.2

42 percent of women leaders in Kilinochchi and 57 percent in Mullaitivu said they or someone they know had been used as examples for preventing SGBV. 43 of NET beneficiaries in Kilinochchi and 62.9 percent in Mullaitivu had said they or someone they know had been used as examples by the NGO and private sector. These number are significant. The examples they had provided included prevention of early marriages, supporting women that had been subject to abuse with the support of local authorities, promotion of women’s leadership in the Pradeshiya Sabha and improving coordination with the WRDS.

When key informants were asked if they felt that supported women are better able to raise issues, most said yes. Most women when they identify those affected by SGBV were able to refer them to support networks. Especially during the local elections women that were affected were able to bring their grievances to these forums and get them addressed. Their capacity to face challenges and resolve issues had improved and they had developed networks across family, village and Pradeshiya Sabha for addressing gender issues which could be resolved in a collaborative manner. There is acceptance of these issues being discussed at meetings in the Pradeshiya Sabha and the Divisional Secretariat which bodes well for the sustainability of introduced approaches. For example at the Pradeshiya Sabha in Puthukudiyiruppu, an issue was raised and addressed where a girl of 9 years had been abused by an older man in the village of Murukandi. A petition was filed in Thirumurikandy when a woman had been murdered in August 2018. (Source: KIs with stakeholders).

Achievement of Indicator: findings show that state and non-state agencies use local examples from participating women leaders to demonstrate a scalable model for preventing SGBV, hence this indicator has been achieved.

**4.3. Achievement of overall objective**

The achievement of the overall and specific objectives and related indicators of the log frame are presented below:

Specific Objective 1: To facilitate increased political representation of women in local governance"

Specific objective 1, indicator 1: 70 of women and men in the communities targeted by the project support the representation of women in formal and informal institutions.

When respondents of the survey were asked if their community supported the representation of women in formal and informal institutions they responded as indicated below:

Table 14: Extent to which local communities support the representation of women

	NET Beneficiaries				Control group			
	Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
100%	13.0	5.3	6.7	17.6	0.0	16.7	0.0	0.0
70 to 99%	27.0	31.6	16.2	20.6	16.7	16.7	5.9	16.7
50 to 69%	37.0	36.8	28.6	38.2	16.7	50.0	29.4	33.3
Total above 50%	77	73.7	51.5	76.4	33.4	83.4	35.3	50
25 to 49%	15.0	21.1	28.6	20.6	50.0	0.0	41.2	33.3
25% or less	7.0	0.0	19.0	2.9	16.7	16.7	23.5	16.7
Not at all	1.0	5.3	1.0	0.0	00	0.0	0.0	0.0

Most of both genders in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu among project beneficiaries, believed that their community supported the representation of women in formal and informal institutions more than 50 percent. Other than among men in Kilinochchi, among the control group this number was significantly less.

Even though there are some cultural barriers, politicians have influenced the nomination process in the local government elections and absorbed a few women leaders to their party. The Women's Societies provide awareness sessions and training on women leadership as part of the activities of the NET project. People are very supportive towards the election campaigns women leaders trained by the project who have taken up leadership positions in the community. For example, when the child protection committees conducted a study on the reason for school drop outs in the Kariyalai Nagapaduwan and Machchikuda areas community members provided their support to the women that conducted the study. (Source: FGD with representatives of women's societies).

Key informants were asked to what extent the communities in their area support the representation of women in formal and informal institutions: a majority (14 persons, 47 percent) said that women's representation is supported 50 to 60 percent, 12 (40 percent) said they were supported more than 70 percent. A majority of key informants (26 out of 30) believed that women's representation is supported above 50 percent.

Achievement of indicator: the indicator 70 of women and men in the communities targeted by the project support the representation of women in formal and informal institutions has been met.

Specific objective 1, indicator 2: 80 Women Leaders influence implementation of LLRC, NHRAP and other policies and policy recommendations at all levels to address SGBV.

Women leaders covered by the survey were asked which of the following mechanisms they have used to address sexual and gender based violence in the communities they work in:

Table 15: Use of LLRC, NHRAP PDVA & CEDAW to address SGBV

	NET Beneficiaries		Control group	
	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu
LLRC	43.0	39.0	21.4	41.2
NHRAP	36.0	22.9	28.6	17.6
PDVA	32.0	32.4	7.1	32.4
CEDAW	16.0	24.8	7.1	2.9

43 percent of women leaders in Kilinochchi and 39 percent in Mullaitivu, affiliated to the NET project had used LLRC to address SGBV in the communities they work in. 36 percent of women leaders in Kilinochchi and 22.9 percent in Mullaitivu, affiliated to the NET project had used NHRAP to address SGBV in the communities they work in. Overall the number of NET project beneficiaries that used these platforms were higher than the number of control group members.

When the representatives of the women’s societies were asked if they had used the LLRC and the NHRAP to address sexual and gender based violence in the communities they work in all of them said that they had used both these mechanisms. (Source: FGD with representatives of women’s societies).

Key informants were asked if they had used any of the following mechanisms to address sexual and gender based violence in the communities they work in: 10 persons had used LLRC, 15 persons had used NHRAP and 24 had used PDVA.

Achievement of indicator: the indicator 80 women Leaders influence implementation of LLRC, NHRAP and other policies and policy recommendations at all levels to address SGBV has not been achieved as the numbers of women leaders that used these platforms were less than 50 percent across all platforms.

As discussed before, the LLRC largely inactive in this country, and civil society actors engaged in governance and rights issues often criticize the LLRC for being inactive and ineffective.

Specific Objective 2: To strengthen the leadership and influence of women leaders from all social divides to address SGBV

Specific objective 2, indicator 1: 80 of community members across all divides of the society accept the newly built leadership of women

Respondents of the survey were asked if their community accepts women as leaders more than they did before, the percentages that responded in the affirmative is provided in the table below:

Table 16: Acceptance of women leaders by the community

Does your community accept women as leaders more than they did before?	NET Beneficiaries		Control group	
	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu	Kilinochchi	Mullaitivu
Yes	84.9	85.6	65.0	52.5

85% of NET beneficiaries in both districts believed that women leaders were accepted more than they had been before. The number of control group members were significantly less at 65 percent in Kilinochchi and only 52.5 percent in Mullaitivu. Due to the introduction of the 25% quota for women there has been a lot of publicity in the media and awareness creation among the public about the need for engaging more women into leadership positions including political leadership. There is even a school of thought that women make better political leaders as they are not corrupt and can bring their experience especially in women and child specific issues. This increased publicity and discourse may have contributed to the belief that women are accepted more than they were before.

Most representatives of women’s societies agreed that community members accept the newly developed leadership of women and that the acceptance was improving. (Source: FGD with representatives of women’s societies).

When asked if their communities accepted women leaders more than they did before, most (28 out of 30) said that they did. For example, when the WRDS had requested for a liquor shop to be relocated from Point Pedro, the authorities had acceded to their request. It was believed that men are more corrupted and corruptible than women. The war had created an opportunity for women to become the head of the family as well as leaders at community. The creation of women led micro credit societies and WRDS at village level promoted leadership of women leading to their engagement even in politics. The burden of having to pay back loans, need to develop their livelihoods and generate income, improved bargaining skills and market opportunity created by the end of the were all conducive for the emergence of leadership among women. These situations necessitated women coming out of family to become more involved leadership roles. The percentage of women nominated in the local government election was high compared with previous time due to the allocation of the 25 percent quota for women. In the past in RDS and farmers’ unions there were no women members or office bearers, but now women even hold positions such as secretary, chairperson and treasurer in those bodies. (Source: KIIs with stakeholders).

Achievement of: 85 percent of NET beneficiaries believed that women leaders were accepted more than they had before, hence the indicator of 80 percent community members across all divides of the society accepting the newly built leadership of women had been achieved.

Specific objective 2, indicator 2: 70 of the women CBO's targeted by the action access SGBV services in a transparent and accountable manner.

The two CBOs that were implementing partners for the project were WANT in Kilinochchi and CDO in Mullaitivu. To assess their performance project beneficiaries were requested to rate their capacities including identification of beneficiaries, service delivery, transparency, accountability and follow up. Their responses are provided below:

Table 17: Assessment of WANT &amp; CDO by beneficiaries

	Identification of beneficiaries	Service delivery	Transparency	Accountability	Follow up	Average
Kilinochchi – WANT						
1. Very bad	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
2. Bad	1.7	7.6	10.9	1.7	0.8	4.54
Total negative responses = 1+2	1.7	7.6	10.9	1.7	0.8	4.54
3. Moderate	33.6	45.4	48.7	6.7	14.3	29.74
4. Good	41.2	26.1	22.7	41.2	37.0	33.64
5. Very good	23.5	21.0	17.6	34.5	31.1	25.54
Total positive responses = 3+4+5	98.3	92.5	89	82.4	82.4	88.92
Mullaitivu – CDO						
1. Very bad	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.14
2. Bad	0.0	1.4	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Total negative responses = 1+2	0	1.4	0.7	0.7	1.4	0.84
3. Moderate	18.7	26.6	37.4	30.2	33.8	29.34
4. Good	44.6	40.3	41.7	47.5	44.6	43.74
5. Very good	36.7	31.7	20.1	21.6	20.1	26.04
Total positive responses = 3+4+5	100	98.6	99.2	99.3	98.5	99.12

As indicated by the above table, very few beneficiaries had provided negative responses about the performance of WANT and CDO. Over 80 percent of all respondents in Kilinochchi had provided positive feedback about WANT. Over 90 percent of all respondents had provided positive feedback about CDO. The performance of CDO in Mullaitivu appears to be rated higher than the performance of WANT in Kilinochchi.

The women's societies have implemented several activities targeting the prevention of SGBV: They have promoted writing essays and poems which are related to SGBV, gender and sex, domestic violence. Families of disappeared persons have published them in print media and electronic media. In Puththuvettuwan awareness programs were held on SGBV with the participation of 30 women. The WRDS in Aninchiyankulam and Thunukkai conducted awareness session on topics such as SGBV, education, hygiene, child abuse and RTI. Campaigns on alcoholism at schools have been organized. Meetings on SGBV have been held at the DS office, WRDS, RDS and community centres. Awareness sessions conducted in Thirunagar, Barathipuram and Knaesapuram focused not only on women but also men. Street dramas performed were performed about SGBV and domestic violence in Santhapuram, Barathipuram, Murippu and Kumulamunai with the support of a youth club. The women's day celebrations held in March 2018 also brought these issues to the attention of the public. (Source: FGD with representatives of women's societies).

Achievement of indicator: above 80 percent in Kilinochchi and above 90 percent in Mullaitivu rated the performance of the CBOs in a positive note indicating that the indicator of 70 percent has been reached.

Overall objective: To promote the voice and meaningful political representation of women to prevent and address SGBV in Northern Sri Lanka

Overall objective indicator 1: 75 percent of women participating in the action demonstrate improved perceptions and satisfaction regarding the safety, coexistence and inclusivity of women in decision making in project districts.



To determine if the action had resulted in improved perceptions and satisfaction, the respondents of the survey were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with regards to the following aspects before (2015) and after (2018) the project:

### 1. Level of satisfaction with regards to the safety of women

Table 18: Perceptions and level of satisfaction on the safety of women

Level of satisfaction	2015				2018				Difference			
	Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu	
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
Very dissatisfied	16.0	5.3	39.0	20.6	2.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	-14	-5.3	-38	-20.6
Dissatisfied	24.0	42.1	30.5	23.5	20.0	31.6	2.9	2.9	-4	-10.5	-27.6	-20.6
Neutral	33.0	21.1	25.7	50.0	31.0	10.5	36.2	29.4	-2	-10.6	10.5	-20.6
Satisfied	25.0	31.6	3.8	2.9	30.0	26.3	38.1	58.8	5	-5.3	34.3	55.9
Very satisfied	2.0	0.0	1.0	2.9	17.0	31.6	21.9	8.8	15	31.6	20.9	5.9

The level of satisfaction with regards to the safety of women had significantly improved by 2018 across both genders and districts. The level of satisfaction was higher in Mullaitivu than Kilinochchi.

### 2. Level of satisfaction on Coexistence between men and women

Table 19: Perceptions and level of satisfaction on coexistence

Level of satisfaction	2015				2018				Difference			
	Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu	
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
Very dissatisfied	16.0	21.1	30.5	41.2	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	-15	-21.1	-29.5	-41.2
Dissatisfied	20.0	26.3	36.2	20.6	15.0	21.1	4.8	2.9	-5	-5.2	-31.4	-17.7
Neutral	42.0	31.6	28.6	35.3	37.0	15.8	30.5	32.4	-5	-15.8	1.9	-2.9
Satisfied	21.0	21.1	2.9	2.9	31.0	42.1	46.7	44.1	10	21	43.8	41.2
Very satisfied	1.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	16.0	21.1	17.1	20.6	15	21.1	15.2	20.6

The level of satisfaction with regards to the coexistence had improved by 2018 across both genders and districts. The level of satisfaction with regards to coexistence was higher in Mullaitivu than Kilinochchi

### 3. Level of satisfaction on Inclusivity of women in decision making

Table 20: Perceptions and level of satisfaction on inclusion

Level of satisfaction	2015				2018				Difference			
	Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu	
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
Very dissatisfied	19.0	15.8	33.3	17.6	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	-19	-15.8	-31.4	-17.6
Dissatisfied	21.0	31.6	29.5	32.4	10.0	26.3	4.8	0.0	-11	-5.3	-24.7	-32.4
Neutral	40.0	26.3	25.7	41.2	34.0	10.5	33.3	32.4	-6	-15.8	7.6	-8.8
Satisfied	17.0	26.3	8.6	8.8	40.0	47.4	39.0	47.1	23	21.1	30.4	38.3
Very satisfied	3.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	16.0	15.8	21.0	20.6	13	15.8	18.1	20.6

The level of satisfaction with regards to the inclusion of women in decision making had improved by 2018 across both genders and districts. The level of satisfaction with regards to inclusion was also higher in Mullaitivu than Kilinochchi.

### 4. Summary

Table 21: Summary of responses on safety, coexistence &amp; inclusion

Total percentage of respondents that provided non-negative responses (neutral + satisfied + very satisfied)	2015				2018			
	Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Safety	60	52.7	30.5	55.8	78	68.4	96.2	97
Coexistence	64	52.7	33.4	38.2	84	79	94.3	97.1
Inclusion	60	52.6	37.2	50	90	73.7	93.3	100

Achievement of indicator: as shown by the table above, over 75 percent of women in Kilinochchi and over 90 percent of women in Mullaitivu rated all aspects (safety, coexistence, inclusion) positively by 2018. Highly significant improvements of these aspects can be seen between pre-project (2015) and post project (2018) timelines. The overall objective indicators stating that 75 percent of women participating in the action demonstrate improved perceptions and satisfaction regarding the safety, coexistence and inclusivity of women in decision making in project districts has been achieved.

Overall objective indicator 2: 75 percent of Women in participating Women's CBOs increase and expand their links/networks locally and nationally

Respondents were asked how many networks they were a part of in 2015 and how many networks are a part of now in 2018:

Table 22: Improvement in the number of networks

Number of networks	2015				2018				Difference			
	Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu		Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu	
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
10 or more	1.0	0.0	2.9	0.0	8.0	0.0	5.7	0.0	7	0	2.8	0
7 to 9	5.0	5.3	3.8	0.0	9.0	15.8	4.8	8.8	4	10.5	1	8.8
4 to 6	9.0	5.3	9.5	5.9	24.0	0.0	21.0	14.7	15	-5.3	11.5	8.8
1 to 3	30.0	21.1	35.2	23.5	37.0	68.4	61.0	67.6	7	47.3	25.8	44.1
None	55.0	68.4	48.6	70.6	22.0	15.8	7.6	8.8	-33	-52.6	-41	-61.8

Results indicate that women participating in project activities had expanded their networks from 2015 to 2018. The number of women that were not part of any network was 55 percent in Kilinochchi and 48.6 percent in Mullaitivu in 2015. By 2018, this number had reduced to 22 percent in Kilinochchi and 7.6 percent in Mullaitivu. This indicates that 78 percent of the women leaders supported by the project in Kilinochchi and 92.4 percent in Mullaitivu are part of a network.

Achievement of indicator: the indicator 75 percent of Women in participating Women's CBOs increase and expand their links/networks locally and nationally has been achieved.

Overall objective indicator 3: Women in 6 DS divisions, influence key decision making processes and decision makers and hold them accountable for sustainable and coherent responses to SGBV and women's participation.

Respondents were asked how often they engaged with key decision makers in their district and DS division in getting their support to get solutions for women facing gender based violence.

Table 23: Frequency of engagement with decision makers

Number of times per month	Kilinochchi		Mullaitivu	
	W	M	W	M
More than 10 times per month	1.0	0.0	0.0	2.9
7 to 9 times per month	4.0	5.3	7.6	0.0
4 to 6 times per month	11.0	10.5	4.8	8.8
1 to 3 times per month	39.0	42.1	50.5	52.9
Whenever issues come up	43.0	42.1	36.2	32.4
Never	2.0	0.0	1.0	2.9

Most of the respondents said that they meet either 1 to 3 times or whenever issues come up. When asked who these decision makers are, the respondent mentioned the following:

- » District secretariat – 67.2 percent in Kilinochchi and 81.3 percent in Mullaitivu
- » Sri Lanka Police – 52.1 percent in Kilinochchi and 41 percent in Mullaitivu
- » Child protection authority – 48.7 percent in Kilinochchi and 41.7 percent in Mullaitivu
- » Courts – 42 percent in Kilinochchi and 48.9 percent in Mullaitivu
- » Department of probation and child care – 33.6 percent in Kilinochchi and 37.4 percent in Mullaitivu
- » Women’s organizations – 34.4 percent in Kilinochchi and 37.4 percent in Mullaitivu
- » NGOs and CBOs – 25.2 percent in Kilinochchi and 47.5 percent in Mullaitivu
- » Hospital and health care providers – 21.8 percent in Kilinochchi and 28.8 percent in Mullaitivu
- » Children’s and women’s bureau – 20.2 percent in Kilinochchi and 25.9 percent in Mullaitivu
- » Department of social services – 17.6 percent in Kilinochchi and 36 percent in Mullaitivu
- » Hospital GBV desk and mental health unit – 16.8 percent in Kilinochchi and 20.9 percent in Mullaitivu
- » Safe homes – 6.7 percent in Kilinochchi and 19.4 percent in Mullaitivu

Achievement of indicator: the use of the various services by women leaders as described above, indicates that the indicator women in 6 DS divisions, influence key decision making processes and decision makers and hold them accountable for sustainable and coherent responses to SGBV and women's participation has been achieved.

#### 4.4. Contribution of capacitated women to the project

The goal of the project was to promote the voice and meaningful political representation of women to prevent and address SGBV in Northern Sri Lanka. Representatives of the women’s societies agree that activities of the project have helped develop their capacities to be able to take up women’s issues with the authorities. Some women have taken up political leadership among local government authorities where they will take up these issues. Even within the local CBOs such as RDS, WRDS decisions are now made after consulting the opinions of women. Women contribute to decisions on delivery of development services. At community coordination meetings, rural development committees and police safety committees, women leaders are invited to raise suggestions and opinions regarding women’s issues. (Source: FGD with representatives of women’s societies).

#### 4.5. Responsiveness to unexpected changes

The transition from CARE to Chrysalis was one of the challenges that the project was faced with. This caused turnover of personnel and delays in the interventions. However, through two no cost extensions the project was managed and completed successfully.

Although the 25 percent quota for women was complementary to project strategies getting the buy in of the political parties was a challenges the project had to contend with. It was extremely difficult to get nominations for women by the decision makers within the political parties including party leaders and district head. Several conditions had to be met for women to be considered and obtain nominations. Conditions included having a good educational background. The women leaders challenged these criteria, and some of them were not provide nominations. They were promised that once the elections were over they would be included under the Proportional Representation (PR) list.

According to the recent electoral reforms under which the local government elections of 2018 were held:

*At least 50 percent of the names on any political party or independent group's additional nomination paper, which is the proportional representation (PR) list, must be women candidates.*<sup>[1]</sup>

Source: Elections in Sri Lanka, 2018 Local Government Elections Frequently Asked Questions, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, February 2018<sup>7</sup>

However, once the elections were over the promised places were not given to these women leaders. District organisers are more powerful than parliamentarians when it comes to making decision with regards to nominations and placements. Many of the women leaders trained by the project wanted to contest under the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) as they had most of the popular votes in the region. Even though independent groups were willing to accommodate them these women preferred to go with the TNA. Despite these challenges a total of 36 persons participated in from among the NET beneficiaries in the elections held in February 2018, including 27 women and 9 men. Of them 5 women and 3 men were elected to the local government authorities. (Source: Discussions with the project team, Kilinochchi, 03.09.2018).

#### 4.6. Identification of stakeholders and target groups

The project worked closely with the DS offices in the project region in identifying leaders. Local CBOs were also consulted. Leaders were identified that were active and suitable for political office from among members of WRDS and beneficiaries of previous projects implemented by CARE/ Chrysalis.

Key informants including representatives of local government institutions appreciated that the project had consulted them. Introducing government services to affected women and promoting the use of these services, by providing right information and using the legal provisions to address issues of SGBV and domestic violence and linking beneficiaries to these services was also appreciated. The implementation of the project at ground level by WANT and CDO was mentioned by key informants on a positive note. This included the selection of project beneficiaries. (Source: KIIs with stakeholders). It was mentioned that Want and CDO enabled women at individual, family and community levels to participate in the interventions. As these organizations are implementing projects at community levels and can provide necessary follow up. This was seen to be a good mechanism for implementing the NET project. (Source: KIIs with stakeholders).

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<sup>7</sup> source: [https://www.ifes.org/sites/default/files/2018\\_ifes\\_sri\\_lanka\\_local\\_government\\_elections\\_faqs\\_final.pdf](https://www.ifes.org/sites/default/files/2018_ifes_sri_lanka_local_government_elections_faqs_final.pdf)

#### 4.7. Efficiency and effectiveness of approaches

To determine the degree of efficiency and effectiveness of the approaches and the strategies used to implement the project, the respondents of the survey were asked to rate the contribution of the project to the following areas, their responses are provided in the table below:

Table 24: Rating of effectiveness &amp; efficiency by beneficiaries

Rating	Improving capacities of beneficiaries in decision making at local level		Speaking out against and preventing gender based violence		Increasing political representation of women		Strengthening women leaders to be able to address gender based violence		Developing lobby and advocacy capacities of women leaders	
	K	M	K	M	K	M	K	M	K	M
Very low	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	1.7	3.6	1.7	1.4	0.0	0.0
Low	1.7	2.2	10.1	5.0	7.6	12.2	6.7	5.0	9.2	9.4
Moderate	56.3	45.3	37.0	42.4	47.1	43.9	34.5	43.2	41.2	41.0
High	31.1	33.8	32.8	35.3	30.3	29.5	43.7	32.4	33.6	33.8
Very high	10.9	18.7	19.3	17.3	13.4	10.8	13.4	18.0	16.0	15.8
Total positive = High + very high	42.0	52.5	52.1	52.6	43.7	40.3	57.1	50.4	49.6	49.6
Rating	Creating networks of women leaders and linking to national platforms		Influencing policy change		Changing women's perception on power and authority		Developing the capacities of women to raise issues		Enabling women to link and network with political authorities	
	K	M	K	M	K	M	K	M	K	M
Very low	1.7	0.0	1.7	0.7	0.8	0.0	1.7	0.7	2.5	0.0
Low	10.9	11.5	16.8	10.8	12.6	6.5	5.0	0.7	12.6	7.2
Moderate	46.2	48.2	52.9	48.9	49.6	53.2	41.2	28.1	39.5	36.7
High	34.5	30.2	26.1	35.3	30.3	32.4	34.5	52.5	30.3	44.6
Very high	6.7	10.1	2.5	4.3	6.7	7.9	17.6	18.0	15.1	11.5
Total positive = High + very high	41.2	40.3	28.6	39.6	37	40.3	52.1	70.5	45.4	56.1

K = Kilinochchi

M = Mullaitivu

Over 50 percent of respondents of both districts rated the contribution of the project towards speaking out against and preventing gender based violence, strengthening women leaders to be able to address gender based violence and developing the capacities of women to raise issues as high or very high. Developing capacities of the women leaders was the highest rated area while the lowest rated area was the contribution to policy change. Overall, respondents in Mullaitivu provided higher ratings than those in Kilinochchi for seven out of the ten criteria. Many of the respondents had rated the contribution as moderate as well. There were very few negative (low + very low) ratings.

Key informants highlighted selection of appropriate beneficiaries, approaching beneficiaries through rural organisations, using community participatory approaches instead of top down approaches, strengthening women's organisations, creating awareness among men and gaining their support for women's participation and capacity development programs conducted for women leaders as effective strategies of the project.

#### 4.8. Outcomes of the training programs

Training programs conducted by the project were developed based on a training needs analysis done at inception. Training programs conducted by the project include the following:

1. Basic training on Gender at village level
2. Basic voter education on new electoral system and women quota
3. A residential capacity building workshop for women
4. Interactive session with selected women leaders
5. Right To Information workshop

6. Awareness creation on newly introduced electoral system and the women's quota for frontline officers of NPC and the Ministry of Women's Affairs
7. Capacity Building as Preparation for the 2018 Local Government Election
8. Basic gender sensitization training workshop
9. Workshop on Roles and Responsibilities of PS
10. Individual coaching and mentoring sessions for the selected candidates
11. Training in gender sensitization and GRB for newly-elected council members
12. Training in instrumental, national and international commitments (LLRC, NHRAP, CEDAW, UNSCR, DV Act) ( Three days per division)

The effectiveness of the training programs described above can be determined by the contribution of the training towards developing the capacities of the women and the resulting actions. The respondents of the survey were asked to explain how the project can contribute to preventing GBV, improving women's leadership, promoting women's political participation and changing perceptions about women.

Respondents said that the awareness session on the difference between sex and gender had been very informative. They mentioned that the training had created awareness about SGBV issues and encouraged them to take up these issues within their communities. The workshops had also helped them identify and resolve issues related to domestic violence. Awareness sessions on alcohol and drug abuse and action planning was also appreciated. The discussions with women leaders, training on leadership and networking opportunities had motivated the participating women to take up issues in their communities which resulted in improved leadership and contributed to increased women's participation in politics.

Some of the trained women sit at the public gallery during proceedings of their local government authorities, even those that have lost can sit at the public gallery, women that speak out at the council are those that have been trained. It has been observed that the women trained by the project perform better than those that have not been trained. (Source: Discussions with project team).

## 5. Efficiency

### 5.1. Management of resources

The resources allocated to the project were sufficient to meet the requirements. The gains in the exchange rate with the increased value of the Euro against the Rupee was beneficial to the project. Regular meetings and discussion were held with the partners including bi weekly planning meetings during which every activity was planned. Hence there were no major issues with regards to the allocation and management of resources even though there were two no cost extensions to the project.

## 5.2. Management of the project

Friendly relationships were maintained with WANT and CDO the co applicants of the action. Co applicants were provided advances against the submitted work plans. Training was provided on establishing and maintaining proper financial procedures. Documents were provided on time by the partners. Planning was done every six months. Detailed discussions were taking place regularly. Every activity was discussed and agreed together, advance plans were submitted and approved.

There were some initial delays in project implementation due to organisational matters, mainly the transition from CARE to Chrysalis. However, careful and proper management of project resources, work plans, timelines and budgets ensured that activities were completed successfully.

## 5.3. Management of risks

The following assumptions were made at the time of conceptualizing the project: 1) NGOs receive Divisional and District Secretaries' approval to work in the district, 2) The political environment in Sri Lanka does not worsen for NGOs, 3) Elections will not disrupt smooth implementation of activities, 4) Women's participation in project activities is not restricted due to security and natural disasters and 5) Changes in the personnel will not impact the project implementation. These assumptions were discussed in detail in chapter 2.2 of this report. The management of the risks by the project had been adequate and did not hinder any activities of the project.

## 5.4. Coordination with stakeholders

The NET project worked closely with the Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils and with the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Governance (SLILG). Close coordination prevailed with the Election commission. The Additional Commissioner of Elections conducted seminars for the project beneficiaries and his support in their activities. Relationships were developed and maintained with Assistant Commissioners of elections and the Assistant Commissioners of Local Government (ACLG) of the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. The project coordinated closely with the District Secretaries of the two districts and experts from the University of Jaffna. Links were developed and maintained with key officials including those from the office of the Commissioner of Local Government, regional politicians from the North and East and the Ministry of Women's Affairs of the Northern Provincial Council. Training offered by the project was provided across the northern province and implemented with support from the ministry through social service officers.

The implementing partners WANT (Women Action Network and Transform Kilinochchi) and CDO (Community Development Organisation Mullaitivu) and two project coordinators and 2 field coordinators each. The Chrysalis team comprised of Team Leader, Project Manager, Project Coordinator and Admin and Finance officer based on Kilinochchi. They were supported by the Head of Development Services and Monitoring Consultant based in Kilinochchi. (Source: discussions with NET project team).

Through workshops, seminars and other networking events the NET project invited government officials including District Secretary, Divisional Secretaries, Women's Development Officer (WDO), Public Health Inspector (PHI), local politicians, Members of Parliament and assistant commissioners of elections. For example, the assistant commissioners of elections conducted seminars related to the rules and regulations governing local government elections. During the implementation of activities of the project government officials and politicians participated and interacted with the women leaders in activities including lobbying, exposure visits, experience sharing events and others. (Source: FGD with representatives of women's societies).

Cordial relationships were maintained by the project across these different levels to ensure that the project functioned smoothly. A very good rapport was developed and maintained with local authorities, institutions, beneficiaries and other stakeholders. Key informants from the different institutions were satisfied with the coordination between them and the project. regular discussions and sharing of information by Chrysalis were appreciated. (Source: KII's with stakeholders).

### 5.5. Management of information

All reports to donor have been submitted on time. Project implementation process has been documented and reported against planned indicators in reports submitted to the donor. The project also supported the publication of several documents with lessons learnt and process followed. This included Learning to Walk: A Compilation Challenges Faced by Female and Male Candidates during Local Government Election in 2018 (2018) and *Women's Representation and Sexual and Gender Based Violence: Impact of Low Representation of Women in Decision Making Bodies on Combatting Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in the North of Sri Lanka* (2017).

These publications share the lessons learnt and challenges faced in implementing the project and may be used by stakeholders implementing similar projects.

### 5.6. Overall project implementation

The key informants were asked to rate the contribution of the project to the following areas on a scale of 1 to 5, 5 being highest and 1 being lowest: the rating provided by the key informants are aggregated and averaged to arrive at the following figures:

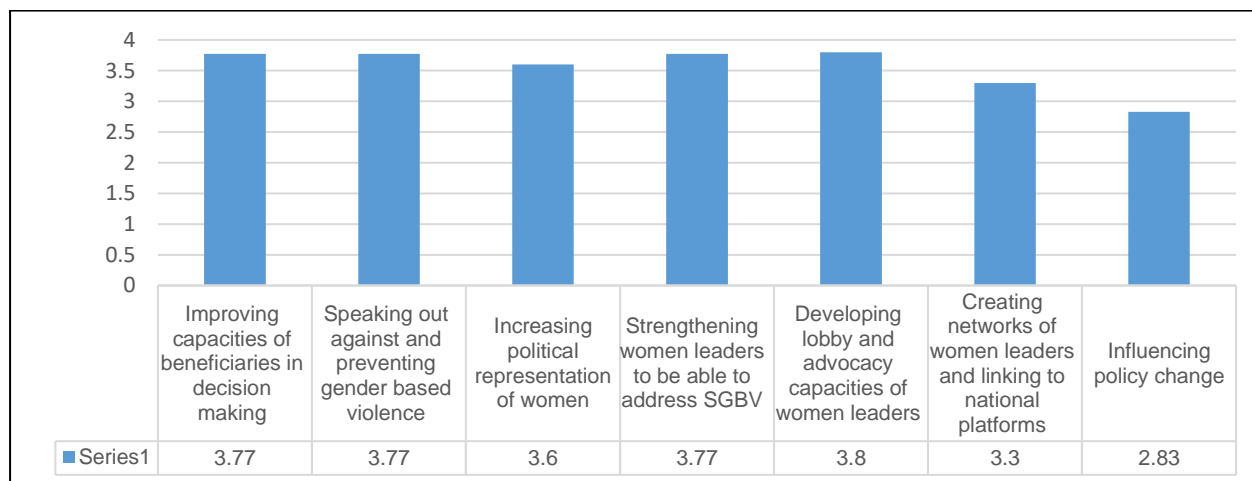


Figure 3: Rating of the project interventions by key informants

The highest rated area was developing lobby and advocacy capacities of women leaders (3.8) followed by improving capacities of beneficiaries in decision making, speaking out against and preventing gender based violence and strengthening women leaders to be able to address SGBV (all 3.7). Increasing political representation of women was rated at 3.6. Creating networks and linking to national platforms (3.3) and influencing policy change (2.83) was rated comparatively lower. (Source: KII's with stakeholders).

## 6. Sustainability

### 6.1. Women's leadership capacity

The representatives of the women's societies when asked which activities introduced by the project they would continue, said they would continue activities related to SGBV and prevention of domestic violence. They mentioned the SGBV forum and awareness on gender equality in firms and factories, campaigns against alcoholism in villages and attitude change



awareness for political parties. Collaboration with local and regional organizations and community centres, preparation of action plans and their implementation would also be continued. The women's societies also plan to conduct awareness sessions on SGBV, LLRC, RTI, PDVA and NHRAP in the region. (Source: FGD with representatives of women's societies).

Activities of the project including encouraging women to take up leadership in local government authorities, providing them coaching and mentoring, exposing them to experiences of other women leaders including women parliamentarians at national symposiums, networking events like the women's day celebrations, the 16 day activism program on the topic of "elect her to end violence" with the support of the Ministry of Women's affairs of the NPC all contributed to developing the leadership capacities of women. (Source: KIIs with stakeholders).

## 6.2. Socio-cultural factors

The training on gender and sex, gender equality, awareness through performing art such as forum theatre helped change prevailing socio cultural norms and attitudes among community members specially men. Training session helped develop confidence among the women so that they could overcome cultural barriers. Many of the women did not have the political background or resources for carrying out election campaigns. However, due to awareness created by the project women in the community supported women candidates at the election. The introduction of the 25% quota for women helped and complemented the process. The voting rate among women increased in the last local election. An example for changing attitudes can be seen in the treatment of widows. Nowadays widows are invited for social occasions whereas in the past widows were not allowed at those events due to the belief that widows were considered inauspicious. (Source: FGD with representatives of women's societies).

## 6.3. Research, Advocacy and Policy influence

Chrysalis had gained recognition as one of the main players in the field of governance and advocacy. The Ministry of Women's Affairs invites Chrysalis for its meetings and discussions related to developing policy, Chrysalis is the only Civil Society Organisation invited for these discussions.

The district SGBV forum has been formed, however there are certain challenges faced in sustaining this forum. At the moment there is no relationship between this district forum and the national forum. Earlier NGOs have paid the coordinators wages, which is not a sustainable mechanism to continue the forum. Currently there is no coordinator as since December 2017 the salary could not be paid. Chrysalis works with the national forum, the UNFPA and the Ministry.

A national symposium was organized in Colombo in which many women trained by the project participated. The symposium also highlighted the importance of getting women's participation in government. Many stakeholders at national level including representatives of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the elections commission participated.

## 7. Impact

### 7.1. Impacts towards achievement of overall objective

In the RDS and temples in Mallavi women members are included in committees and a women leader of Mallavi has been elected as the Secretary of the elders society. The community accepts women leaders more than they did before, women have been elected to the Pradeshiya Sabhas. Voting among women has increased, and women are more aware that they should vote for women during elections. (Source: FGD with representatives of women's societies).

Key informant believed that the women leaders that emerged from the project would be role models for future leaders. Beneficiaries can use the skills and knowledge gained through the project in their future roles as leaders. Some will contest at upcoming local government elections. Follow up programs and refresher training are needed to create more interest among men as well, so that they are on board with the emergence of more women leaders. The sensitization and engagement of men will ensure that traditional attitude, norms and assigned gender roles can be challenged and overcome. (Source: KIIs with stakeholders).

The overall objective of the project was to promote the voice and meaningful political representation of women to prevent and address SGBV in Northern Sri Lanka. Findings indicate that the project has laid the foundation to promote such political representation through the capacitating of women and awareness creation among the communities.

## 7.2. Emergence of new practices

The most significant changes observed by the respondents of the survey was awareness creation on gender equality, capacity development among women leaders, improved leadership skills and knowledge, encouragement to women to participate in politics and improvement of leadership skills among women. In the words of one women: we learnt to make decision on our own. Development of self confidence among women and willingness to take on leadership roles contributed to the trained women gaining more recognition and acceptance in their communities as they took on more decision making roles.

There are changes to be observed in the communities, particularly within the power structures in the CBOs. There is an increase in women represented in the committees at temples, churches, RDS and WRDS. Within formal and informal organizations women are being appointed to responsible positions. For example in the Poonakay Pradeshiya Sabha, five women received nominations and two were elected. (Source: FGD with representatives of women's societies).

## 8. Gender

### 8.1. Change in power relations between men and women

Women are increasingly taking on a more active role in speaking out against SGBV. Women leaders publish articles and take part in petitions against SGBV. In Visvadamu when a woman was subject to violence by her husband (she was burnt), the case was directed to the Police and handled by the WDO, DS and the Police. The women in the area supported the victim. Women regularly speak out against rape and other forms of violence perpetrated against women. Men have become more aware and are sensitive towards these issues more than they were before. (Source: FGD with representatives of women's societies).

Men were also engaged by the project in the awareness sessions and training programs. They were sensitized about the issues related to SGBV. Women were encouraged to take the message to their spouses and siblings of the opposite sex. Men were approached and engaged via the RDS and farmer unions and they were made aware of the issues. Some male nominees were invited to share their experiences and discuss about future plans for the purpose of improving leadership skills of beneficiaries and increasing women's participation in politics. Men were also visited individually and engaged in the development of action plans for the women's groups. (Source: KIIs with stakeholders).

### 8.2. Change in political landscape for women

As discussed before, women are more recognized within the political landscape of the area. A women member is attached to the advisory council of the Pradeshiya Sabha of Thunukkai. A women entrepreneur cooperative society comprising 1500 members are running successfully in Puthukudiyiruppu. Elected women are invited to speak at public forums and make decisions related to women's issues. A proposal for a market place for the women entrepreneurs was

put forward by an elected woman member of the Pradeshiya Sabah of Karachchi. (Source: FGD with representatives of women's societies).

As a result of project activities women leaders came into contact with the District Secretaries and politicians of the region. A contact list of government authorities was distributed among the beneficiaries so that they were aware of who to approach for what services. Many women participated in the nomination process even those who had no political background, this experience will be useful for them in future in case they want to run for political office. Networks were developed with local politicians during frequent meetings and discussions. Women are now directly contacting the government authorities for services. The referral mechanisms are handled well by the beneficiaries and they know the protocol of how to get proper support in addressing their issues. (Source: KIIs with stakeholders).

### 8.3. Change in perceptions of women in politics and power

Project activities contributed to a change in perceptions about women taking up leadership roles including those in political authorities. Perceptions and attitudes towards more women taking up leadership positions have changed towards the more positive among men as well as women. As a result 23 women have contested in the local government elections on February 2018, of which 7 have been elected. Due to the allocation of the 25 percent quota for women, more and more women are entering political office and the NET project provided support and laid the foundation for trained women to take up these positions.

In Manthai East and Thunukkai 4 females each were nominated at the local government elections, compared with past history this is a higher number of women. There was an increase of women members in Puthukudiyiruppu Pradeshiya Sabha. Earlier there is no women at all whereas now there are three. In total 36 women were nominated among the PS in the project region and seven were elected. (Source: FGD with representatives of women's societies).

## 9. Visibility

In the implementation of all activities related to the NET project, it was ensured that EU was acknowledged as the participant and funding source of the action. All visibility activities were in line with the EU's Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Actions (2010). All communication and visibility activities were closely coordinated with the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives to ensure the action highlights the impact of the EU support. All publications and reports carried the EU logo with appropriate placement as per guidelines. Beneficiaries and local partners of the project were made aware about the EU's contribution to the action. Printed materials, video documentaries, and social media campaigns highlighted the EU's support for the action.



Photo 2: Visibility actions of the NET project

## 10. Conclusions and Recommendations

The conclusions and recommendations are made based on the findings of the evaluation and summarized under the three main result areas of the project.

**Expected Result 1: Increased leadership capacities of 420 women to be effective political representatives on issues related to SGBV**

There has been an increase in the average number of SGBV cases supported by the project beneficiaries through the three years of the project. The average number of SGBV cases reported by the project beneficiaries has increased from 0.86 in 2016 to 2.06 by 2018. Among the control group this is much less (0.25 in 2016 to 0.75 in 2018). Through the activities of the project including training programs, exposure visit and networking events such as the women's day celebrations women leaders developed their capacity to speak out against SGBV. The activities enabled experience sharing with those in other regions and building networks with women politicians as well as the Northern Provincial Council. A total of 434 women and 193 men have been engaged as beneficiaries of the NET project. The target of the project was 420 women to obtain solutions related to SGBV, figures indicates that the project has reached the desired number of beneficiaries.

**Recommendations:**

1. Conduct more networking events such as the symposium conducted in Colombo in the project location to obtain the support of stakeholders in the regions.
2. Provide livelihood or enterprise development support to women leaders in addition to political empowerment so that they are economically enhanced to be able to participate in activities and interventions.
3. Introduce more activities for the groups that have been formed to ensure that they sustain themselves, link them to government institutions that can support their continuation, replicate and disseminate tools and programs developed among other similar groups in other locations.
4. Include psycho social counselling
5. and training into future training and capacity development training for women leaders.
6. Introduce new and timely elements such as sexual harassment in the work place and corruption into training programs developed for the future.
7. Further improve the referral mechanisms introduced by the project so that they can be implemented more effectively.

**Expected Result 2: Women's networks and alliances strengthened to address SGBV in the Northern Province**

Most of the trained leaders had expanded their networks to between 1 and 6 networks in all districts and within both genders. The networks among project beneficiaries was higher than those among the control group except among the men in Kilinochchi. Groups have been formed in the villages to fight against SGBV and domestic violence. When cases are identified the Grama Niladhari and the Police are contacted. Through the project advocacy platforms and networks have been initiated. They have formed village level safety networks that are linked to the Federation that has been newly established. The elected women and trained leaders work in these group to eliminate the issues of SGBV and domestic violence. Most of the women leaders supported by the NET project indicated that they had either extremely positive or mostly positive relationships with these networks. No one among the project beneficiaries had any negative relationships with the networks. Among the control group most respondents had a neutral relationship with their networks with some even having extremely negative relationships.

#### Recommendations:

1. Establish more networks comprising women's organisations and local government authorities so that safe houses can be provided to victims of SGBV and domestic violence including women and children.
2. Expand grassroots level networks to include more men so that both men and women can work together in issues related to addressing SGBV.
3. Avoid duplication of activities, discuss and collaborate with other stakeholders implementing similar interventions and leverage resources so that actions are not duplicated.
4. Identify women leaders with potentials from the regions and districts and link with the networks already formed so that their lobby and advocacy powers are enhanced through increased numbers.
5. Identify new women leaders and implement training for them so that their capacities are developed to be able to enter local government politics at the next election.

#### Expected Result 3: Influence and advocate for the implementation of relevant SGBV policies and laws

Findings indicate that the NET project has been instrumental in introducing these platforms (SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA) to the project area, however the achievement of the indicator of 80 percent of participating women working together with national mechanisms to monitor and influence relevant sections in National Plan to address SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA has not been achieved as findings indicates lower figures. Overall the number of women that responded as yes when asked if they were working with mechanisms such as SGBV, LLRC, NHRAP and PDVA was low. The average for all four platforms was 32.5 percent in Kilinochchi and 35 percent in Mullaitivu. The average among control group was lower than that of the project beneficiaries

#### Recommendations:

1. Promote the integration of gender into all components of programs and ensure gender balance is encouraged and maintained across all platforms.
2. Ensure that capacitated women and continued to be supported and encourage and advocate for women leaders that are willing to contest at local government elections are provided the necessary support by their party leaders and decision makers within the political hierarchy.
3. Expand activities introduced by the project to other areas (DS divisions and districts) through government institutions and other who are implementing similar actions.
4. Develop a model based on the process followed and lessons learnt from the NET project that can be used to address issues of SGBV and domestic violence that can be replicated elsewhere to ensure that policies and laws are enacted to support victims.

## 11. Annexes

The following separate files are provided as annexes to the report.

1. Terms of reference
2. Nucleus company profile
3. Questionnaires and guidelines used
4. Survey database
5. List of key informants met
6. Case studies