



ADAPTATION FUND



Ministry of Environment

# **Building Resilience to Climate Change and Climate Variability of Vulnerable Community in Mullaitivu District of Sri Lanka**

**Dec 2023 – Dec 2025 (24 months)  
USD 2,000,000**



**UN-HABITAT**

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# BACKGROUND



**Mullaitivu** District is considered as one of the most **vulnerable districts to climate change** in Sri Lanka. It frequently experiences disasters, particularly during the annual monsoon season. **Droughts, floods, strong winds, lightning, and coastal hazards** significantly impact the district, resulting in issues like **water salinity, lack of drinking and agricultural water, water pollution, reduced crop yields, and increased soil erosion**.

These challenges are worsened by factors such as **poverty, limited income sources, financial exclusion, and restricted access to social protection**. Consequently, the district faces difficulties in long-term recovery, intensifying the district's vulnerability to climate change. **The socio-economic resilience of Mullaitivu District is essential** for the residents to cope and recover from shocks.

# THE PROJECT

<b>Funded by</b>	The Adaptation Fund
<b>Budget</b>	USD 2,000,000
<b>Implemented by</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
<b>Partners</b>	Ministry of Environment, Mullaitivu District Secretariat, Central Environment Authority; Department of Agrarian Development; Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources; Department of Forest; National Building Research Organization; Disaster Management Center, NGOs, CBOs, Fos, Women Groups
<b>Duration</b>	24 months (December 2023 to December 2025)
<b>Location</b>	Three (3) Divisional Secretariat (DS) Divisions (Welioya, Maritimepattu, Puthukkudiyiruppu) of Mullaitivu District
<b>Goal</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To improve climate related socio-economic outcomes in the targeted fishing and agricultural communities through the implementation of community-based adaptation solutions</li> <li>2. To support climate resilient development and increase institutional and community capacity to adapt to the changing and variable climate.</li> </ol>



To address the challenges faced by the Mullaitivu District, this two-year project launched. The project comprises two main components; **1) developing resilient and adaptive livelihoods in the three (3) DS divisions in Mullaitivu District, namely Puthukkudiyiruppu, Maritimepattu, and Welioya, and 2) addressing capacity needs and gaps in adaptation measures** that can reduce vulnerability to climate change and increase coping capacity.

While Component 1 focuses on **reducing vulnerability to climate-related risks by providing infrastructure support and promoting climate-resilient agriculture and fisheries to enhance income and capacity**, Component 2 aims to deal with climate change by **developing climate change adaptation strategies through capacity building**. It also involves **facilitating dialogues among stakeholders, conducting awareness campaigns, and other initiatives in the targeted areas**.

# IMPLEMENTATION METHODOLOGY



For this project, **the Ministry of Environment (MoE) will act as the 'Executing Entity (EE)'** at the national level, bearing the responsibility of managing and coordination of the project.

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

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

**The National Steering Committee (NSC) will be established as the governing body of the project**, comprising key stakeholders. While the NSC is an entity to **make key decisions** pertaining to project implementation, **technical agencies** such as the Department of Agrarian Development, Department of Agriculture, and Coast Conservation will **provide technical assistance**. The NSC meeting will take place on a bi-annual basis in the MoE, in Colombo.

# EXPECTED RESULTS



The outlined activities and expected outcomes of this project target **the mitigation of vulnerabilities encountered by Mullaitivu, while fostering sustainable development in response to the challenges posed by climate change.**

**1.1.** Reduce vulnerability of coastal communities by collaborating on (a) measures to minimize saltwater intrusion into freshwater bodies and agricultural land through 1km earth bund formation, (b) renovate 15 minor tanks for water storage, drinking and irrigation, (c) construct 22 disaster-resilient toilets and (d) renovate 3km existing evacuation route

**1.2.** Promote climate resilient sustainable agriculture and increase productivity with climate resilient crops

**1.3.** Increase income of vulnerable fishing households, in particular women and youth through value-added fish processing and rehabilitating 1.5km mangroves for improved lagoon fishery.

**2.1.** Participatory vulnerability/risk assessments to mainstream community-based climate change adaptation in local development plans and promote climate change/disaster resilient local development plans

**2.2.** Share knowledge and lessons through documentation of climate resilient actions for increased adaptive capacities