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SOCIAL COHESION AND RECONCILIATION ACTIVITY (SCORE)

QUARTERLY REPORT (APRIL-JUNE 2019)

Contract End Date: June 30, 2021

Cooperative Agreement Number: 720-383-18-CA-00003

Activity Start Date and End Date: July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021

Total Award Amount: \$9,999,946

Implemented by: Global Communities

Partners: National Peace Council, Association of War Affected Women, Shanthiham

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AHC	Shanthiham Association for Health and Counselling
AWAW	Association for War Affected Women
CEJ	Centre for Equality and Justice
CES	Co-Existence Societies
CEPA	Centre for Poverty Analysis
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDD	Community Driven Development
CLA	Collaborating, Learning and Adapting
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRC	District Reconciliation Committee
DS	Divisional Secretariat
EPI	Everyday Peace Indicator
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FOSDOO	Federation of Social Development Organizations
FRC	Family Rehabilitation Centre
GC	Global Communities
GND	Grama Niladhari Division (Administrative Divisions)
GoSL	Government of Sri Lanka
GRLAC	Grass Root Level Action Committees
GSI	Gender and Social Inclusion
HSZ	High Security Zone
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
LOP	Life of Program
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MONIOLSP	Ministry of National Integration, Official Languages, Social Progress and Hindu Religious Affairs
NAQDA	National Aquaculture Development Authority of Sri Lanka
NIPA	National Integration Promotion Assistant
NIPO	National Integration Promotion Officer
NPC	National Peace Council of Sri Lanka
NPRC	National Policy on Reconciliation and Co-existence
NW	North West
NYMUN	National Youth Model United Nations

OfR	Office for Reparations
OMP	Office of Missing Persons
ONUR	Office for National Unity and Reconciliation
P2P	People to People (approaches/activities)
PACE	Participatory Action for Community Enhancement
PALTRA	Partners in Alternative Training
PHC	Primary Health Center
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PS	Pradeshiya Sabha
PSC	Parliament Select Committee (PSC)
PSS	Psychosocial Services
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
Q	Quarter
RCP	Representative Community Platform
RDF	Rural Development Foundation
RESPECT	Rehabilitate Services for People Affected by Violence Related Trauma
RTI	Right to Information
SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Activity
SDGAP	Strengthening Democratic Governance and Accountability Project
SfCG	Search for Common Ground
SLU	Sri Lanka Unites
SRP	Strengthening Reconciliation Processes
TA	Technical Assistance
TJ	Transitional Justice
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USIP	United States Institute of Peace
VPNS	Vavuniya North Pradeshiya Sabha (VNPS)
WDF	Women's Development Federation

Background

In July 2018, USAID awarded the 3-year Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Activity (SCORE) to Global Communities and our Sri Lankan partners, the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (NPC), the Association for War Affected Women (AWAW) and Shanthiham Association for Health and Counselling (AHC).

The purpose of SCORE is to strengthen Sri-Lankan-led efforts to advance social cohesion and reconciliation by fostering a shared and inclusive Sri Lankan identity, reducing socio-economic and political disparities, and enhancing community resilience through complementary community-driven development and reconciliation projects and capacity building initiatives. Our approach strengthens horizontal relationships within and across communities and networks and vertical relationships between communities and the government in a Sri-Lankan-led effort to leverage social capital for increased resilience and a vision of shared identity; and to maximize feedback loops and coordination between citizen/CSO-led and government-led initiatives.

Our approach to engaging government stakeholders is to identify government entities at both the national and local levels that are best positioned and positively inclined to move forward with reconciliation so that we can promote ownership where it has the greatest likelihood of taking root and influencing other stakeholders.

SCORE has identified target communities (defined here as Grama Niladhari Administrative Divisions, otherwise known as GNs) in four priority districts (see map below) to build conflict mitigation and leadership skills within GN-based decision-making bodies to engage marginalized groups to identify and implement complementary reconciliation and socio-economic projects that address local conflict stressors. GN-based psychosocial service (PSS) activities also support participation by conflict-affected populations.

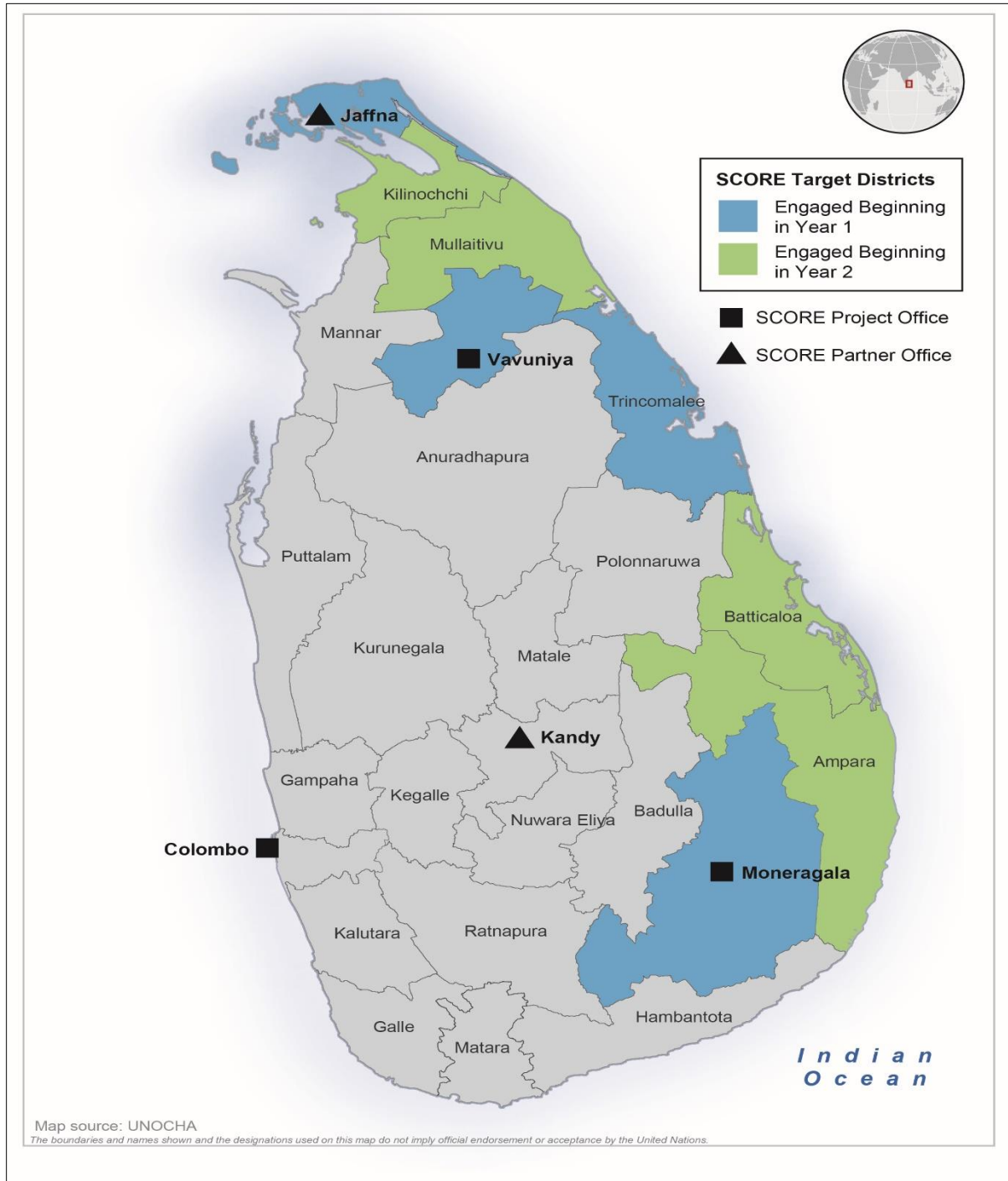
In our Y1 four priority districts, SCORE provides training, technical assistance, and facilitation to local officials to implement reconciliation-related policies, improve gender-sensitive service delivery and better engage with all identity groups in their constituencies.

This quarterly report provides an overview of SCORE activities undertaken and results achieved during the reporting period. It summarizes the progress made, trends, problems, and other relevant issues; priorities for programming during the next reporting period; planned adaptations to improve outcomes as identified through rolling analysis and other learning during implementation; as well as a comparison of actual expenditures with budget estimates.

SCORE Theory of Change

If Sri Lankan-led efforts are strengthened to: 1) facilitate systematic and constructive interaction across diverse identities to address grievances and misperceptions, 2) foster inclusive and transparent collaboration to improve equitable access to services and socioeconomic opportunity, and 3) build capacities and leadership to interrupt cycles of violence, then relationships among divided groups and communities and between communities and their government will be transformed, thereby increasing Sri Lankans' ability to have a shared vision of pluralistic identity and increasing resilience and prospects for a sustainable peace.

SCORE Target Areas Map



SCORE Target Districts, Divisional Secretariats and GN Divisions

District	Divisional Secretariat	GN division
Vavuniya	Vavuniya North	Paddikkudiyiruppu
	Vavuniya South	Agbopura Avaranthulawa Maruthamadhu
	Vavuniya	Chekkaddipulavu Maharambaikulam
	Cheddikulam	Neriyakulam Pavatkulam Unit 2 Muthaliyarkulam
Jaffna	Thellipalai	Vasavilan East Kollankaladdy Ilavala Northwest Palai Veemankamam Palaly North Nallinakapuram
Trincomalee	Mutur	Sampoor East Sampoor West
	Seruwila	Nawakkenikadu Sumedanpura Samagipura Lingapuram Aryammankerny Kaddaiparichchan
Monaragala	Buththala	Mahagodayaya Udagama
	Monaragala	Kumbukkana Maduraketiya Weliyaya

Selection Criteria for SCORE Districts, District Secretariats and GN Divisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sri Lanka's most severely conflict-affected and poverty-affected communities ➤ Regions where vulnerability to conflict and the risk of extremism is high. This could include high-risk areas or "hot spots" where there has either been a past history of violence or where multiple causes of conflict are converging ➤ Communities with high numbers of resettled communities ➤ A strategic mix of mono-ethnic and cross-line communities/districts/provinces ➤ Political incentives of relevant government institutions to promote reconciliation ➤ Community and/or local partners demonstrate interest and commitment to implementing reconciliation activities and collaborating with SCORE ➤ Opportunities to support change agents and champions of peace, including women/youth

- The presence of complementary USAID and/or other donor programs (to avoid duplication of effort)
- The existing capacity and potential to integrate programming across multiple SCORE components and cross-cutting themes

Executive Summary

The near simultaneous terror attacks at the onset of Q3 on Easter Sunday April 21st 2019, shattered the peace Sri Lanka experienced for ten years following the end of the war. The attacks, for which ISIS have taken claim, were carried out by a group of radicalized Islamic youth who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State. It was the biggest terrorist attack in South Asia where three Christian Churches and three five-star hotels were attacked. Nearly 259 Sri Lankans and foreigners were killed while over 500 were wounded, as per the figures officially declared by the Ministry of Health. All SCORE staff were accounted for and none of the attacks were carried out in the SCORE target areas of year 1. However, due to the state of emergency declared in the country, all community level activities planned to be implemented by SCORE partners and sub-grantees were postponed for most part of the reporting period.

The SCORE partners and sub-grantees met on May 7th, 2019 to discuss and debate the impact on the trajectory of SCORE activities, and suggestions for new areas of focus that could be integrated into Y2 programming while taking into consideration the upcoming elections. It was discussed that focus should be on activities that promote greater inclusion of Muslim communities as Muslim communities around the country are being increasingly marginalized. To counter this trend, SCORE aims to engage with Muslim communities, supporting various forms of dialog between Muslim communities and other groups, and other activities to build trust and confidence among different groups/ethnicities. The need for intensive grassroots engagement while being mindful of the sensitivities of this type of intervention was discussed. Campaigns and messaging for peace, inclusivity, reconciliation and co-existence were seen as dire needs to address the situation. Counter messaging campaigns against hate speech in public and personal domains and social media was an imminent requirement which was being addressed by SCORE grantee, Search for Common Ground (SfCG) in Q3. Other ideas of delivering training to community police on gender and conflict sensitivity and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) programming were also discussed.

Activity implementation was suspended for approximately six weeks (April 21st – May 31st 2019) after the Easter bombing attacks and the declaration of Emergency Law. In Q2, SCORE signed a sub-award with Sri Lanka Unites (SLU) to implement ‘Celebrating the youth commitment towards non-violence and mobilizing youth towards an inclusive alternative to “Remembrance Day” to promote a unified and reconciled Sri Lanka on the 10th anniversary commemorating the end of the war’. May 19, known as the “Remembrance Day”, signifies the end of a 30 year armed between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam which lasted for over 30 years. The “Remembrance Day’ is commemorated within the country by various groups in their own way, which was viewed to be hindering the process of reconciliation, co-existence and religious & communal harmony. SLU, proposed to bring young people and adults together to lobby for a more inclusive and collective day for remembrance, in the hope that it results in a youth led movement that will propel a long term campaign to realize the need of an inclusive & reconciled Sri Lanka at two regional events in Mullaitivu and Matara and a main event in Colombo on May 19 2019. While this was a significant priority that aligned with SCORE’s activities to

increase opportunities for youth involvement in reconciliation and social cohesion, the planned 'Reconciliation/Coexistence Day' activities to be held on May 20th, 2019 was cancelled following the terror attacks in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday 2019.

Sub-grantees commenced implementation of activities in beginning of June resulting in lower achievements of results in this quarter due to the inability to implement community activities for approximately six weeks. SCORE will be working with sub-grantees in Q4 to expedite the implementation of activities not carried out as planned in Q3. The number of people participating in USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build mass support for peace and reconciliation is 4,099 including 2,486 women mainly due to two large events supported for the Sinhala and Tamil new year which brought people of multi ethnicities together. During the reporting period a total of 38 groups were assisted with USG assistance including 13 new groups. 128 government officials were trained in peacebuilding and conflict mitigation and SCORE supported 52 events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation among key actors to the conflict. Further, 15 resettled people were supported with livelihood and resettlement assistance and 32 persons received training on business plan development. SCORE's efforts towards increasing access to Psychosocial and Trauma Healing Services resulted in 119 community members being trained to provide community-based, non-clinical psychosocial support and 128 individuals were referred to psychosocial and trauma-healing programs. During the reporting period 811 youth received training in social or leadership skills through USG assisted programs.

SCORE implements activities in the target Grama Niladari Divisions (GND), applying core aspects of Global Communities conflict-sensitive Participatory Action for Community Enhancement (PACE) methodology for community-driven development (CDD) in Q3. SCORE continued to work with communities at the GND and facilitated the establishment of inclusive community decision-making platforms. Through these platforms SCORE supported capacity building of conflict mitigation and leadership skills of members to engage with the community, to identify and implement peacebuilding and socio-economic activities that address local conflict stressors. Through the sub-grantee award mechanism to CSOs, SCORE worked to reach scale across targeted districts in Sri Lanka through inclusive networking activities and build coalitions for positive change.

During the reporting period, USAID approved 13 sub-grants to local NGOs to engage communities in SCORE target districts, and more grants have come in through the APS still pending approval. Sub grantees help target communities to identify and implement tangible, community-driven livelihoods and services projects that improve opportunities for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations and promote inter-ethnic reconciliation and social cohesion. Details of sub-awards to be found in the management section of the report.

In Q3, at the national level, SCORE continues the partnership with the Ministry of National Integration, Official Languages, Social Progress and Hindu Religious Affairs (MNIOLSP), particularly since there has been greater institutional consolidation of GoSL reconciliation mechanisms under this ministry. SCORE's support in Q3 centered primarily on helping MNIOLSP to establish and institutionalize Coexistence Society (CES) in target communities. In Q4 SCORE will provide the same support to District Reconciliation Committees (DRC)s in selected districts, as CESs and DRCs are the two key subnational GoSL mechanisms responsible for promoting reconciliation. SCORE also continues to provide technical support to the Select

Committee of Parliament to study and report to Parliament its Recommendations to Ensure Communal and Religious Harmony in Sri Lanka (PSC). SCORE continues to guide and influence the work of the PSC to practical steps to promote reconciliation by making recommendations to drive needed reform efforts at the national and local level. In Q4 SCORE will embarked on assisting the Office of Missing Persons (OMP) to improve its ability to engage the public and communicate and deliver related services.

SCORE will remain alert and agile in order to respond to emerging ethno-religious tensions, threats and violence that have the potential to further polarize communities and/or derail ongoing reconciliation initiatives, especially following the Easter Sunday terror attacks. SCORE designs its activities on the premise that a sustainable impact towards social cohesion and reconciliation is best achieved by addressing local issues through communities, civil society organizations, State and non-state actors at the grassroots' level. Interventions in each GND will be participatory and driven through the medium of community platforms such as Co-Existence Societies which SCORE has successfully implemented to promote participatory planning, reconciliation and social cohesion in its year 1, quarter 3 activities.

Sub-purpose 1 – Promote a Cohesive Sri Lankan Identity

SCORE is unique in its approach to promoting a cohesive Sri Lankan identity whereby the process of reconciliation, is community driven. Community platforms are the core of SCORE's grassroots engagements; they are the medium through which SCORE introduces participatory planning, reconciliation and, social cohesion. SCORE has recognized that engaging the platforms is the best mechanism to work through, with and for the communities. SCORE activities in Quarter 3 continues to work with CES, local government service providers and CSO partners to enable communities to engage constructively in the reconciliation process and strengthens community-driven initiatives

Result 1.1: Communities engage constructively in reconciliation processes

The SCORE field office in Moneragala supported communities to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year in Q3. 'Sahajeewanaye Erabadu Wasanthaya 2019' and 'Sahajeewanaye Sonduru Sandawa,' (Eve of harmony) was jointly organized by the Moneragala Divisional Secretariat and SCORE, on April 9th and 11th respectively in Moneragala. The event on April 9th, saw around 900 Sinhalese and Tamils participating representing the GNs that SCORE works with in Moneragala. Promoting coexistence and social cohesion among Sinhala and Tamil communities by celebrating the New Year together and building harmony within departments /ministries of the DSD were among the objectives of this event. The event also created an opportunity for Persons with Disabilities (PWD), adults, women, youth and children to celebrate together.



Mixed community members participating in the tug-o-war game, a popular game in the Sinhala and Tamil New Year festivities. Photo credit: SCORE Moneragala Field Office



A Sinhala cultural dance performance. Photo credit: Moneragala SCORE Field Official.

‘Eve of harmony’ held on April 11th, was a Sinhala and Tamil cultural event with traditional music and dance and sharing of Sinhala and Tamil New Year rituals. This was a special celebration where a cultural event brought together two ethnicities together in traditional music, dance and rituals, in the Moneragala district. The objectives of the event were to promote, create awareness and revive dwindling New Year traditions and customs and create an inclusive space for PWDs and other communities to celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year. Gift packs of dry rations were distributed to 80 underprivileged families. About 400 members from different communities were present. Religious leaders, GOSL staff, District Secretariat staff, Sinhala and Tamil schoolchildren, parents and members of 80 poverty-stricken families were among the attendees.

In Q3, SCORE partner Federation of Social Development Organizations (FOSDOO) conducted a Sinhala and Tamil New Year event in Halambageswewa, Vavuniya on April 21st, 2019, with the support of two youth clubs to promote ethnic harmony and reconciliation within communities. The participants included members of youth clubs, CBOs and people from the Tamil, Sinhala and Muslim communities from the targeted villages of the SCORE project. This was an opportunity for cross-community engagement and collaboration among communities to improve relations. Over 250 members representing Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim communities participated.

The Easter Sunday attacks on April 21st, 2019 left Sri Lanka in a volatile state fueled by hate speech and fake news on all media platforms creating the perfect breeding ground for hatred and mistrust among communities, especially the Muslim Community. Under these circumstances, SCORE and sub grantee RDF organized an “Iftar” (meal consumed to break the fast observed by Muslims during Ramazan) inviting people of all ethnicities, and different stakeholders to advocate solidarity among communities, help rebuild the frail relationships between the communities, and dispel misconceptions of the Islam religion. This event was held on May 28th, 2019 and was used as a platform to discuss the mitigation of communal disharmony and the way forward to contribute towards national peace through community and district level activities.

SCORE supported the Mahagodayaya YMBA and praja mandalaya* in organizing a special multi ethnic 'Poson'* activity for the Mahagodayaya community which took place on the 16th-18th June 2019. More than 190 participants including women and children took part in the activity. While Poson* celebrations are largely organized by the Sinhala community, this activity was organized in collaboration with Tamil community members. Both Sinhala and Tamil youth and children participated in religious songs (Bhakthi gee), the Poson drama program, Wesak lantern (Kudu) competition and in almsgiving in order to develop their understanding on both cultural and religious aspects of the festival, thereby promoting both communities to engage constructively to promote social cohesion.



Sinhala and Tamil youth participating in song and dance

In Q3, SCORE partner the National Peace Council (NPC) together with a women's CSO, Udagama-Buththala-Monaragala Yashoda Women's society sought to increase the engagement of Muslim women in their organization, encouraging their participation in social activities. A general meeting of the Yashoda Women's Society was held on the 29th June 2019, attended by 42 Sinhalese women and 16 Muslim women who were formally accepted as members of the women's society. Building trust among the two communities, empowering marginalized Muslim women and promoting collaborative efforts in GN level development work were the objectives of the program which was planned based on findings of the Community Conflict Assessment carried out by National Peace Council at the Udagama GN division.

**Prajha Mandalaya is a community platform through which activities are implemented in Moneragala district.*

**Poson is a religious day which falls in the month of June signifying the arrival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka in 3rd century BC, celebrated by Buddhists around the country.*

Result 1.2: Citizen driven initiatives and networks strengthened to promote social cohesion and reconciliation across divided communities.

In Q3, SCORE promoted ethno-religious harmony to be developed in the minds of Muslim and Tamil children (Muslim-11 and Tamil-12) studying in a pre-school in Muthaliyaarkulam (Vavuniya), by ways of

Community mapping/assessments help identify the most representative and inclusive platforms for participatory community-level engagement and decision-making, and help to inform the types of community-driven activities that are most appropriate to promote reconciliation and social cohesion.

creating adequate space for early childhood learning thereby promoting religious and communal harmony, to achieve discipline of thought and action at an early age. The co-existence society (CES) of the this mixed ethnic community determined one of the community priorities is for the Tamil and Muslim

children to engage together in extracurricular activities such as dance, drama, drawing, games, sporting activities, etc. It would also provide an opportunity for parents of the two communities to interact during the waiting time and participate in community work. The work commenced by SCORE partner Rural Development Foundation (RDF) on the preparation of this new space was completed and handed over on June 13th, 2019. The CES, has given their fullest support for this implementation and will soon be appointing one Tamil teacher for this school as well.



During the pre-school expansion



Children of Tamil & Muslim communities at the pre-school



Participants are actively cleaning the well area during the "shiramadhana" photo taken by RDF staff

"Shramadhana" activity to clear the area where the water purification plant is going to installed, was conducted on May 25th, 21019 and a total of 33 youth (M-22, F-11, (Islam- 01, Hindu- 27, christian-05) participated.

In Q3, SCORE grantee Rural Development Foundation (RDF), commenced the groundwork to install a water purification plant in Maharambaikulam village, Vavuniya in order to improve the intra ethnic relationship, enhance the relationship between the School management and youth in the area as well as improve the quality of drinking water for community. It was reported that many people in the GN division are suffering from Chronic Kidney Diseases (CKD) due to the poor water quality which is high in calcium. The

SCORE organized a similar “Shramadhana” activity in Q3 on The World Environment Day, in Trincomalee district to clear the school playground in Dehiwaththa and the two acres of land of the Dehiwaththa cemetery. The displaced Sinhala and Tamil communities in Lingapuram, Aathiyammankerni, Samagipura, Dehiwatha and Sivapuram GN divisions in Trincomalee were brought together by the Co-Existence Societies recently formed in Lingapuram and Samagipura supported by SCORE, to participate in a community driven initiative to address environmental priorities within the community as well as to foster notions of social cohesion and reconciliation. The World Environment Day this year coincided with the Ramadan Festival and the event started with religious proceedings where both Sinhala and Tamil communities acknowledged the Muslims celebrating Ramadan Island wide.



Discussion with students during the formation of readers circle in Lingapura, photo taken by S.Sujeewan on 15th May

In Q3, the Lingapuram Co-Existence Society in the Trincomalee district, established a Reader Circle at the Lingapuram Library for Tamil and Sinhala students. The Reader Circle enables multi-ethnic and marginalized youth obtaining library services to come together and organize knowledge and skills-based activities. Sixty-two students belonging to Tamil and Sinhala communities of several adjoining villages participated on the first day of discussion to set up the Reader Circle, showing great enthusiasm for this reconciliation initiative. The youth appointed a 10-

member Steering Committee comprising of Sinhala and Tamil students, and pledged to assure a transparent process to access the Reader Circle platform to promote peace and inclusion. The library was also provided with books by SCORE.

During the reporting period, SCORE sub-grantee Federation of Social Development Organizations (FOSDOO), intervened to provide books and cabinets to the Maruthamadu library to encourage reading habits of children and youth by improving the standards of the library and promote inter-ethnic interactions of youth clubs. This library which is the only one in Maruthamadu, Vavuniya district is surrounded by multi-ethnic communities, was severely lacking in basic facilities. The senior monk of the temple expressed his gratitude to SCORE and FOSDOO, and mentioned that this initiative will help to build better relationships with the adjoining multi-ethnic villages and capacitate youth to act as agents of promoting social cohesion.



Handing over books to a school girl in the Mahagodayaya Janasanka Adarsha Kanishta Vidyalaya. Photo Credits:NPC

A similar need was identified by the community in Mahagodayaya during an assessment in Q3, that the library of the Mahagodayaya Janasanka Adarsha Kanishta Vidyalaya lacked books on other religions and cultures which will be beneficial for the students to gain knowledge about other faiths and cultures. SCORE partner National Peace Council (NPC) organized to distribute books to the library in commemoration for the World Book day which was on the April 23rd 2019. Due to the Easter Attacks this activity was postponed and the distribution took

place on June 6th 2019. A program for the school children on social cohesion and reconciliation was also conducted on the same day.

In Q3, SCORE organized a “Connect the Connectors” workshop on May 30th 2019, in Moneragala to link the sub-grantees with the community connectors and plan out social cohesion and reconciliation activities in SCORE target areas in Moneragala. Participants were SCORE community connectors, partner organizations; NPC, FRC, CEJ, Chrysalis, and the newly awarded grantees of the Moneragala district; WDF, UW, WOPD, and Nucleus. It was an opportunity for the new grantees to gain a better understanding of the work carried out by SCORE partners in Moneragala district. SCORE team explained the SCORE activity, its expectations, key partners and sub grantees and their role in achieving the common goal of SCORE. Further, each partner and sub-grantee was shown how their activities fit into the SCORE results framework. The partners and sub-grantees were encouraged to interact with each other and learn how they can help to complement each other’s work. One of the main outcomes of this meeting was for all partners and sub-grantees to have a comprehensive 12-week action plan, which will assist them in keeping track of the activities and how the activities are linked to the result framework.

Result 1.3: Improved local and national government institutions and processes promoting social cohesion and reconciliation.

In Q3, SCORE continued to partner with the Ministry of National Integration, Official Languages, Social Progress and Hindu Religious Affairs (MNIOLSP) to form co-existence societies (CES). 14 CESs have been reactivated during the reporting period in Trinco, Jaffna and Vavuniya Districts, where all were registered and mandated by MNIOLSP to initiate citizen-driven reconciliation activities to promote social cohesion and reconciliation in the target GN divisions.

Local coexistence societies are intended to promote reconciliation and coexistence at the community level among different ethnic groups and address inter- and intra-ethnic tensions where they arise.

Members of the newly and reactivated formed coexistence societies have been provided training by SCORE in partnership with sub-grantees on developing leadership, communication, identifying problems/needs of the village, and to improve problem-solving skills, increase knowledge on social cohesion and reconciliation concepts and the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

“This is a first time in our village that the committee formed with all representatives from the village to the purpose to rebuild the reconciliation at least within our villagers”

A most notable contribution of SCORE in Q3 is the completion of the first draft of the handbook and guidebook for Co-existence societies and its members, at the request of MNIOLSP. The Minister requested SCORE’s assistance in the production and printing of the CES Handbook for the public, as well as the production and printing of the CES Guidebook for field officers in the ministry and finally, the establishment of an IT based data management system. The final draft has been handed over to the Ministry for review and will be launched on the National Co-existence Day which falls on September 10th, 2019. MNIOLSP will be organizing an event in observance of National Co-existence Day with over 5000 participants expected. This initiative will be co-funded by SCORE, along with technical and logistical support at the behest of the ministry. At a coordinated donor meeting held at the ministry during the

reporting period, SCORE team did a presentation on how SCORE works with CESs, lessons learnt, challenges and recommendations. Based on SCORE’s experience with CESs and the outcome of the meeting, the minister requested SCORE to develop objectives and bi-laws in collaboration with the other donors working with CESs.

The Select Committee of Parliament (PSC) on Communal and Religious Harmony in Sri Lanka was set-up in April 2018 after the ethnic violence that erupted in Galle (November 2017), Ampara (February 2018) and Kandy (March 2018), to consult directly with the communities affected by the violence and to formulate measures to promote communal and religious harmony in the country. SCORE, at the request of the PSC, has provided technical and logistical support for conferences chaired by the Speaker of Parliament with the participation of parliamentarians, national and local government officials, religious leaders, civil society representatives and media personnel to discuss and recommend actions to promote communal and religious harmony during the last two quarters of the SCORE activity.

Due to the successful nature of the previous conferences PSC conferences in Q1 and Q2, Parliament sought SCORE’s assistance to continue this important cross-community, consensus-building endeavor, and the last regional conference was held in Kurunegala on June 17, 2019 in Q3. Upon SCORE’s technical intervention, the conference was brought to Kurunegala considering the post-Easter Sunday attack ethnic violence in Kurunegala. It was participated by the members of the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Islam clergy, ruling and opposition political leaders of the central government, Kurunegala district and divisions, as well as Ministry Secretaries, Education Ministry officials, civil society members, the media, principals and schoolchildren. Key recommendations at the conference were: to take projects on communal and religious harmony to the Kurunegala villages, obtain views from the Muslim community at village level, open opportunities especially for Sinhala and Muslim women as well as youths to interact, proper study of Islam from correct sources, and a common ministry for religious affairs and common laws. The importance of PSC recommendations on trilingual amity schools, value education and language learning was also highlighted. Immediate measures taken by the Muslim Affairs Ministry after the Easter Sunday attacks to mitigate tensions were commended and called to provide better publicity to these measures. The next PSC regional conference will be held in Vavuniya or Batticaloa districts in Q4.



Women’s Organization representative providing recommendations at the PSC conference in Kurunegala.



Head table comprising of Speaker of Parliament/Chairman of PSC, Opposition Leader and religious leaders at the PSC conference in Kurunegala.



Newspaper reports of the special PSC meeting.

In Q3 the Ruling and Opposition parties arrived at a consensus in formulating policies of national importance and on a long-term action plan for sustainable peace, social cohesion and reconciliation. This is based on the recommendations in the interim report prepared by SCORE in Q2, at the PSC's request, which was presented by the PSC Chairman to Parliament on February 22nd, 2019. This interim report compiles recommendations made during three previous PSC conferences in Colombo, Kandy and Ampara, as well as an action plan to guide respective line ministry interventions in promoting communal and religious harmony. The members of the Select Committee and line ministers pointed out that some of the recommendations were already being implemented. Others will be

implemented based on the level of urgency with which the implementations are required. The SCORE team drafted press releases in English and Sinhala, which were sent out by the Speaker's Media Division to the press on the same day. The electronic media reported on the proceedings in their evening bulletins while the newspapers reported it the following day.

Attention was also drawn on the Diyawanna Declaration of the Select Committee, which was adopted in view of the April 21 Easter Sunday attacks. The Declaration specifically highlighted the role of political leaderships in bringing about sustainable communal and religious harmony while disregarding political divisions. This was a significant milestone where the Diyawanna Declaration brought the ruling and opposition party members to an unanimity. It was a milestone in SCORE's ongoing engagement with the PSC to improve national government institutions and processes in promoting social cohesion and reconciliation in Sri Lanka, in support of SCORE's objective to increase Sri Lankans' ability to have a shared vision of pluralistic identity and strengthening prospects for a sustainable and inclusive peace in Sri Lanka.

In Q3, SCORE was invited to provide recommendations on furthering reconciliation at a meeting with the Foundation for Civilian Bravery (FCB), upon the invitation of the Speaker of Parliament, who is also the Chief Patron of FCB and the chairman of the PSC. SCORE recommendation to introduce awards to recognize civilians who contributed to advancing social cohesion and reconciliation, was accepted at the meeting. On SCORE's intervention, the FCB has agreed to introduce these awards as it aligns with one of the objectives of the Select Committee: 'give due recognition to individuals or groups who promote national and religious harmony and share their experiences'. Awards will be given to individuals who contributed to further social cohesion and reconciliation by recognizing their deeds - one from each community (Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim) - who risked their lives to save members of other communities during threats to ethnic harmony. SCORE proposed to introduce the three awardees at the ceremony highlighting their unique contributions to social cohesion and reconciliation. The awardees were selected through a rigorous interview process and fact checking by a committee represented by SCORE as well. It is expected that wide publicity would be provided through the local mainstream media in this regard as this awards category would be timely and relevant to the current situation in the country.

In view of several conflict triggers in the southern province, MNIOLSP has sought the support of SCORE to implement the Community Action and Outreach program within the region. The growth of violent religious extremism, tensions based on the spread of false information, lack of community participation and mechanisms to ensure community peacebuilding and early warning, negativity related to transitional justice and reconciliation initiatives were some of the identified stressors. The key activities under this program are capacity building of national integration officers and CSOs to mobilize communities and strengthening existing community level platforms. Activities that build solidarity within and across communities and interfaith dialogue activities at the grassroots will be supported. Broader awareness will be created on the Office of Missing Persons (OMP) and Office of Reparations, transitional justice and reconciliation process, with the inclusion of youth. CSOs will be capacitated to work with families to ensure documentation prior to approaching the OMP and working with vulnerable members from victim families to provide them (in select cases) with livelihood support. In Q3 SCORE has had several meetings with the ministry, CSOs and officials from the southern districts with regard to the implementation process of the program and potential CSOs have been identified to carry out the activities in Q4.

SCORE's sub-grantee, Centre for Communication Training (CCT) will implement the 'Strengthening District Reconciliation Committee Platform for Consolidating Post War Reconciliation Processes' activity covering 15 districts in all nine provinces in Sri Lanka, which will run for four months. The activity aims to conduct a qualitative study to assess the status quo of the DRC network and provide recommendations for enhancing their operation. While it is the responsibility of the government to work towards the achievement of

District Reconciliation Committees (DRC), established by the government are mandated to address the incidence of inter-religious and inter-ethnic tensions and to promote national integration and reconciliation in all 25 districts.

reconciliation and lasting peace in the country, there is a clear responsibility of CSOs and the mass media in creating a conducive environment to achieve. Therefore, CCT will coordinate closely with GIZ and the Ministry of National Integration to assess existing performance of DRCs in key target areas and recommend possible capacity building measures to reinforce and institutionalize best practices.

SCORE strategic partner the NPC focused predominantly on field assessments and formation of the community platforms (such as DAP) to undertake the subsequent activities of the previous two quarters. Although the quarterly plans were adversely affected by the national calamities during the month of April, NPC managed to attain the targets of GN Level activities and Trainings for Government Officers (GO). Much of the Clustered and National activities were postponed to the 4th quarter. Trainings for GO's and Local Government Representatives (LGR) were conducted on Rule of Law and Social Cohesion that included extensive group work and innovative activities. Capacity building for GO's and LGR's serve as a fundamental component of SCORE such that State services remain cohesive and unbiased. The GN Level activities helped to consolidate the cohesion and reconciliation efforts at the community level. The following trainings were conducted by NPC in the districts of Jaffna, Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Moneragala:

- Training on Rule of Law for Government Officers.
- Training on Social Cohesion and Reconciliation for Local Government Authority Representatives
- Preparation of the Conflict Mitigation Plan for Palali North GN division in Jaffna

- Presentation of GN level activity plan for the communities of the selected 5 GN divisions of Thellippalei DS division in Jaffna

SCORE sub-grantee Chrysalis through their program CONNECT: ‘Promoting Social Cohesion and Reconciliation through community led and managed initiatives and processes’ held their first activity in Q3 in Maduruketiya in the Monaragala district on the 30th June 2019. The Community Mobilization activity comprised of a diversity kitchen, traditional song and dance items, with speeches given by religious leaders representing different religious groups encouraging coexistence and religious harmony among the community.

Sub-purpose 2 – Reduce Socioeconomic Disparities and Exclusions

In Q3 SCORE continues to address disparities in socio-economic conditions by supporting community-driven activities to address core grievances by improving equitable access to services and enhancing socioeconomic opportunities of multi ethnic communities in order to advance social cohesion and reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

Result 2.1: Recovery and resettlement of conflict affected populations advanced.

In Q3, SCORE supported sub- grantee RDF in the renovation of an access road which runs through Agbopura GN division in Vavuniya South. The renovation of the road commenced on 12th June 2019 and will benefit 130 Tamil families and 215 Sinhalese families in the five villages of Puthiasinnakulam, Agbopura, Thikwewa, Nawagamana and Kokuweliya in Agbopura. The need for the renovation of the road was identified during a GN mapping activity as it will benefit the entire community including students, elders, patients, workers, and those who wish to access government services, many of whom have faced difficulty due to the condition of the road during the rainy season. The road will also allow farmers to reach their paddy lands, making farming easier as they can transport their commodities via the road. Similarly, the renovation of the access road will strengthen the relationship between both Tamil and Sinhala, as the road will also connect Agbopura with the adjoining villages of Maharambaikulam, Santhsolai and Ramabavetti occupied by Tamil communities. Before the renovation works commenced, 58 villagers including members of both Tamil and Sinhala communities contributed to Shramadhana activities, clearing roadside vegetation and filling eroded areas in a community driven effort.

To encourage reconciliation and coexistence at a grassroots level between Lingapuram and its nearby villages, the Lingapuram Coexistence Society (CES), which was reactivated by SCORE identified socially beneficial means to sustainably address the needs of the community in Q3. The community currently

“I’m so proud to say that, we the both Sinhala and Tamil Community are got together and implement this project in order to share cohesive living”

“It is good that working through a Coexistence Society in order to identify our own needs by sharing ownership of us, as a united process”

experiences lack of access to services such as proper library facilities and documentation services, with people of Lingapuram and nearby villages having to travel minimum 10 Km to access printing, photocopying and internet services. To address these needs SCORE handed over a photocopier machine to the Lingapuram Coexistence Society on 17th June 2019 as well as a computer unit and essential books to the Lingapuram library. 105 students and children in the villages, and 1800 (both Sinhala & Tamil) individuals have benefited from this activity. The Lingapuram CES also entered into an agreement with the Pradeshiya Sabha (PS) for utilizing their premises for documentation services provided to Lingapuram and neighboring villages. Community members will be charged a reasonable amount for the service provided, generating income for the Coexistence Society to cover equipment costs. Similarly, a system was set in place for shared expenses of monthly utilization of electricity, water and maintenance expenses.

In Q3 SCORE sub-grantee FOSDOO commenced work to develop a common space in a land in Muthaliyarkulam, Vavuniya district to be used for additional learning lessons and other community activities for the Tamil and Muslim communities in the village. The community members were keen to establish this center in the village as they believe that this will create a better space for the youth to spend their leisure time effectively rather than being involved in delinquent activities, and also enhance social cohesion among the multi ethnic communities in the village. The work will be completed and handed over to the community in Q4.

Result 2.2: Improved economic opportunities for the most marginalized communities.



Participants assembling part of the engine during the training program, photo by N.Sathyaruban

In Q3, SCORE, through sub-grantee Rural Development Foundation (RDF), facilitated to provide a training designed by the Ocean University of Sri Lanka on out board engine repair for the young fishermen in Illawalai North West GN division, Jaffna. Through a community mapping exercise by RDF, the Illawalai North West CES and the Sendamkulam Fisheries Society it was identified that the village doesn't have a skilled out board engine repair person, resulting in a loss of income when engines need repairing and the

“After this training I have confidence that if the engine has any repair in middle of the sea, I could repair and return to seaside safely, otherwise I had to called the person to come from the seaside for helped”.

“Even though any small repair example, broken of startup rope, I have to pay 1000 to 1500 rupees to the repair man, from today I could change it myself”.

need to ensure the safety of small-scale fishermen in the region. Hence the SCORE-supported training program was a vital opportunity to enhance their livelihoods and ensure their safety at sea. Fifteen youth engaged in fishing participated at this training. Practical assignments were also carried out during this three-day training and basic tool kits given to each participant at the end of the program. The young fishermen are now empowered and knowledgeable of the equipment they work with. SCORE has thus supported in reducing socio-economic disparities in the region by supporting this marginalized community, and provided a sustainable service for them. It has further encouraged youth to be involved in livelihood activities rather than anti-social activities.



Participants running the engine after the repair during the training program, photo taken by N.Sathyaruban

In Q3, SCORE sub grantee RDF conducted an awareness on prevention of alcohol and domestic violence for pregnant mothers at Primary Health Care Center of Maharambaikulam, Chekaddipilavu and Pavatkulamunit 2 on 5th, 11th and 30th of May. 40 (Female-38, Male-2), 38 (Female-36, Male-2) and 37 (Female-35, Male-2, Islam-35, Hindu-2) people participated respectively. The purpose of this was to provide basic awareness about the effects of alcoholism and how to prevent their family members from it. The above mentioned areas in Vavuniya reported high consumptions of alcohol resulting in domestic violence and the women of the households falling prey to predatory lending. Many women suffer the consequences of sexual harassment by the money lenders when they are unable to repay the loans and have even succumbed to suicide due to shame.

“Our better life has damaged due to the habit of alcoholism, this training made me to think ways to eradicate the alcoholism and living without violence with others”.

“Through the stopping alcoholism and smoking we could come out family from the poverty trap, because of the poverty we are facing much problems, from this training I realized that how I could protect my family from the addiction of alcohol”.

SCORE conducted two training programs in financial literacy for women in Mahilankulam and Thaddankulam in the Vavuniya district, having identified the rising microfinance debt and need for finance literacy in the conflict-affected target districts, during the reporting period. These were organized in collaboration with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, with the purpose of educating and assisting women in order to improve their financial knowledge and skills and raise awareness on the unethical practices of unregulated microfinance companies. 75 women, (aged between 18 to 71) from the Vavuniya district participated in these 2 training programs (Mahilankulam 36 participants and Thaddankulam 39 participants). More than 98% of the women who participated in the program were personally affected by microfinance loans, with around 65% of participants being single mothers or of women headed households.

RDF completed another activity to reduce socio-economic disparities and support sustainable economic/livelihood development of marginalized and conflict affected families in Q3. The purpose of renovating the paddy store is to enable farmers to store paddy during the harvesting season without difficulties, enabling them to sell it at a reasonably high price during the high demand period. The renovation of the paddy stores in Pavatkulam Unit 2, in Vavuniya district commenced on April 20th, 2019, and was



Women participating at the training. Photo by SCORE team

completed and handed over on July 15th, 2019. Through SCORE's community engagement and mapping this community identified the lack of a proper paddy store, as their top livelihoods support priority. Nearly 300 farmers (Tamil, Sinhala, and Muslim) have been facing difficulties in storing paddy, especially during the harvesting time. Therefore, they are selling paddy at a low price and obtaining a low income.

In Q3 SCORE issued a grant to a Local CSO, Women's Development Federation (WDF) to implement a project, which seeks to renovate a minor irrigation tank in Mahagoddayaya in the Moneragala District. Through a community driven process, the six-month project aims to create communal and religious harmony through rehabilitation of the tank, build the capacity of multi-ethnic local community organizations, and sustainable livelihoods for the community. The project will provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for approximately 700 families of the division's Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim population as the tank is of high economic and livelihood value to local communities. The Tank Rehabilitation Committee (TRC) had the first progress review meeting on June 27th, 2019 at the Tank Rehabilitation site. The TRC is working on accelerating the implementation of activities in the coming quarter since the seasonal rains are due soon.

Result 2.3: Local governments and CBOs strengthened to provide sustainable services to the most marginalized communities and populations.

In Q3 SCORE's intervention and advocacy helped to improve livelihoods among resettled populations in Jaffna. Rehabilitating the jetty road in Ilwala North West GN division by using damaged building materials and metal chips in order for the fishing community to market their fish with greater ease, was identified by the community as a priority and an urgent need of the villagers in Q2. The purpose of this is to support livelihood activities of resettled families to help strengthen social cohesion. Through the advocacy and intervention of SCORE and SCORE sub-grantee the Rural Development Foundation (RDF), discussions were held with relevant government officials regarding this project, and they too agreed it is a high priority requirement for the village and felt that a permanent road (tar or concrete) would be more sustainable. The officials informed SCORE and RDF that they will find funding for this through the central government and have since been able to fund the project under the village development program.

In Q3, training on PACE was provided to recently formed CESs in Muthaliyarkulam and Pavatkulam in Vavuniya district on April 10th, 2019, and on May 17th, 2019 for CESs in Sampoor East and West, in Trincomalee District. Youth club members from Nariyakulam, Illupaikulam and Muthaliyarkulam participated in the Muthaliyarkulam PACE training program. From the 19 participants at the trainings in

Participatory Action for Community Enhancement (PACE) is a dynamic process of building the capacity of communities to mobilize resources and address self-determined priority needs through participatory democratic processes. The PACE approach for engaging communities to lead their own development is designed for application to any community around the world. This methodology was developed by Global Communities and adapted within the Sri Lankan concept by SCORE.

Trincomalee, nine were females. The purpose of this training is to provide basic knowledge about PACE, its core values, main elements and how it will improve their capacity to identify the problems and needs of the community. The participants said that it helped them to understand the importance of community integration through community enhanced activities and no other organization provides this kind of training after the formation of a community based organization.

SCORE also organized PACE training for the members of the community platforms created in the five GNDs (Mahagodaya and Udagama on June 3rd, 2019 and Welaiyaya, Kubukkana and Madurakeitya on June 4th, 2019) in Monaragala district. The purpose of this training was to explain what PACE is, why it is important and implementation of PACE and its challenges practically in the local Sri Lankan context.

“Usually I am not participating any community works or meeting as I have less motivation, this training motivated me to participate in community works even any small activity and how to work as team”. A participant on PACE training.

Further, SCORE initiated discussions with the Ministry on mainstreaming PACE into ministerial activities. In this regard, two consultants were identified to draft the Handbook and Guidebook for the CESs at the request of MNIOLSP and to work on the PACE manual and tool kit - ‘Sri Lanka Pace Manual and Pace Training’ - for adaptation into the Sri Lankan context. PALTRA has been identified as the implementing partner and the training programs for SCORE platforms will be implemented in the next quarter.

Sub-purpose 3 – Enhance Community Resilience

SCORE activities continue to promote effective methodologies to heal trauma, and transform social relationships by ensuring those who receive psychosocial services (PSS) are also provided with opportunities to link back into the social fabric. SCORE also continues to strengthen the leadership of women and youth to influence the future direction of their communities.

Result 3.1: Increased access to psychosocial and trauma healing services.

In Q3, SCORE strategic partner Shanthiham continued to address collective recovery from trauma through the psychosocial rehabilitation of conflict-affected populations in six GN divisions (Illavalai North West, Kollankaladdy & Nallinakkapuram, Palai Veemankamam South, Vasavillan East and Palaly North) in Jaffna. The need for psychosocial intervention is great in these areas and Shanthiham has adapted a grassroots

level 'core group' mechanism to provide psychosocial services in these target GN divisions. The members of these groups are selected from the community with 8-15 members in each target locations, and periodic trainings are provided to these core group members to build capacity to assist with primary level psychosocial support to communities. Shanthiham also carried out Training of Trainers activities based on various thematic and technical sessions including mental health, psychosocial topics, befriending and training skills. These trainers known as 'Befrienders' are an asset to Shanthiham in befriending the identified clients in need of PSS with the support of counsellors, and assisting in core group trainings. Through the befrienders, a total number of 61 clients including 49 females and 12 males were identified and treated during this quarter. These clients are further referred to counselling services and other services such as livelihood, humanitarian assistance, medical services etc. During Q3, 7 females have been referred for counselling services and 1 client referred to the psychiatric ward of the Base Hospital in Tellipalai.

Apart from the continuous training sessions for core groups and ToT trainings, Shanthiham has also conducted the below training sessions during the reporting period:

- Psychosocial forum was held at Shanthiham to discuss the current situation of SCORE field locations, how to handle clients with complex needs for psychosocial support and how to implement the activities on the field.
- Government Staff Sensitization Workshop on 'Reaching Reconciliation with Psychosocial Care'

In Q3, SCORE sub-grantee Family Rehabilitation Centre (FRC) commenced implementing the activities under the RESPECT project in Monaragala and Trincomalee Districts. RESPECT - Rehabilitation Services for People Affected by Violence Related Trauma. The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the restoration of individual, family and community wellbeing through the provision of psychosocial care for survivors of violence related trauma caused by conflict and/or gender-based violence, and the promotion of active participation of community members and stakeholders in reconciliation. This is achieved through a structure formed by FRC known as the Grassroots Level Action Committees (GRLAC) to address the widespread negativity and stigma attached to mental health problems at all levels in the societies in Sri Lanka. During the reporting period, FRC was able to establish two GRLACs in Trincomalee and five GRLACs in Monaragala with a total number of 85 members including 14 youth. The process to recruit community volunteers was also initiated during the reporting period.

FRC conducted two Case Detection Events (CDE) from June 15th -17th, 2019 in Sampur East and Sampur West in the Trincomalee District. The objective of the events was to screen and identify potential clients who can provide medical treatment and psychosocial rehabilitation services to individuals experiencing various physical and psychological problems, affecting their wellbeing. The Technical Committee comprising of Personal Support Workers (PSWs) of FRC, a Medical Officer of Mental Health (MOMH) and a Psychotherapist initially screened and assessed the clients to identify those in need of counselling services. During the reporting period, FRC's PSWs were able to provide 29 counselling sessions for 10 clients in the Trincomalee district. Additionally, two community level awareness sessions were held in Sampur East and Sampur West in Trincomalee District for women and youth to identify and appropriately respond to violence related trauma in order to provide support to survivors as well as engage in preventive activities during the reporting period.

Result 3.2: Increased opportunities for youth and women to exercise leadership in promoting responsible citizenship and reconciliation.



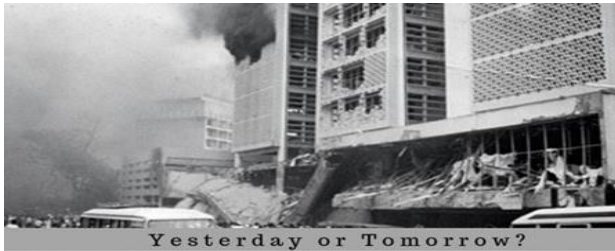
*Participants actively engage at the Social Media Training.
Photo by SCORE Moneragala Field Office.*

Identifying the need for empowering young people to combat online misinformation and hate rhetoric, especially in the aftermath of the Easter Sunday terror attacks, SCORE conducted a series of training sessions in this regard in Monaragala in Q3, targeting 30 young people (female – 13, male - 17, including three people with disabilities) as potential youth champion volunteers and work with local partners and CESs to develop positive stories and share in social media. The objective of the workshop was to empower youths to combat online misinformation and hate speech, and to become positive content creators on peace, reconciliation and coexistence.

The training also aimed at creating effective platforms at regional level to help transform young people's ideas into concrete actions for positive change. It promoted youth interactions, networking and partnerships across cultures at the local level. The workshop also addressed young people's exclusion from peace mediation, peace negotiation and peacebuilding processes, by creating opportunities for their meaningful participation i.e. youth platforms were created to work with other community groups/CBOs and CESs. Further members of youth platforms visit marginalized communities to collect positive stories and share via social media For example, the youth platform in Monaragala works with platform members and our sub grantees to develop positive stories and share with wider communities. Due to the positive response of young people, more sessions are planned to be held in Vavuniya, Jaffna and Trincomalee in Q4, through which SCORE envisions to create effective platforms at regional levels to help transform young people's ideas into concrete actions for positive change.

Following the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka, SCORE worked in partnership with sub-grantee Search for Common Ground (SfCG) to support a pool of 28 (Male – 25, Female – 3, including social media influencers from diverse ethnic backgrounds to counter the spread of fake news and hate speech online. The influencers verified rumors with responsible government departments to curtail the spread of misinformation, and worked with local authorities to identify possible violent eruptions on the ground. SCORE intends to increase their efforts in working closely with influencers to manage the effect of information flows on social media and positively contribute to resolving the current situation in partnership with the government and religious leaders.

Subsequent to the success of the Picture Story Telling Intergenerational activity in Q2, SCORE sub-grantee Centre for Equality and Justice (CEJ) conducted the second intergenerational forum during the reporting period in Moneragala. 21 youth including one male Tamil and one female Muslim from three youth clubs, and four elders from Moneragala participated at this two-day residential forum. The children of military widows were also selected for the forum to highlight the differences of perspective based on personal experiences. The principal objective of this series of intergenerational forums is to generate a platform for adults and elders to share their personal experiences on the nature of the conflict with youth. It also provided a platform for youth networks to learn, debate and discuss issues such as root causes of the ethnic conflict, reconciliation etc. Following the workshop, all participants agreed that views of the youth should be incorporated into development programs as well as into the ongoing peace and reconciliation processes, since youth can be trained and coached to act as agents of change to bring about a positive change by encouraging all ethnicities to work for a better future. During the reporting period, CEJ supported by of SCORE, connected with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, Vavuniya branch to coordinate the intergenerational workshop in Vavuniya. The objective of the FGD was to give an introduction to CEJ's project under SCORE and to discuss participant selection for the intergenerational workshop. There were 17 members (Male 14 & Female 3) from eight youth clubs registered under the three DS divisions; Nedunkeni, Chettikulam and Vavuniya. CEJ was able to engage youth from the Muslim community, although they had registered their club very recently. CEJ found that working with youth groups that are strong at GN level has the potential to have a long term impact since they are rooted and connected well



Images depicting the Central Bank attack, Colombo Jan 1996 and the burning of the Jaffna Library May 1981, asking the question- What can you do to avoid future acts of violence?



Images depicting a monument for the Aranthalawa Massacre, Jun 1987 and a memorial for schoolchildren lost in the Vanni Claymore attack Feb 2008- with the questions of has the Government addressed the psychosocial needs of those who lost people in the war?

within their geographical area.

In Q3, SCORE supported CEJ to launch a social media campaign in May 2019, targeted at youth under the following hashtags; #LetsTalk, #StoriesofConflict, #YouThink, #Rebuild, #YouthforReconciliation. The purpose of the campaign is to utilize social media as a means of raising awareness among youth through

the experiences of the older generations. The aim of which is to serve as a building block towards reconciling youth led communities in Sri Lanka.

To support result 3.2, SCORE sub-grantee Chrysalis have identified eight GN divisions (four praja mandalas in Moneragala and four co-existence societies in Trincomalee) through community assessments, to promote youth and women to be active agents in the process of peace building and reconciliation in Q3. Project orientation programs for the local government authorities and community members have been conducted in Moneragala and Trincomalee districts. Due to the ethnic tensions which arose in the country, Chrysalis faced a delay in implementing the planned activities for this quarter, however the preliminary work has commenced and the activities, which include and are not limited to capacity building for CESs and community centers, preparation of village development plans, will be rolled out in Q4.

Five training programs on Right to Information (RTI) were conducted in Q3 in five locations in the Vavuniya district by FOSDOO. The training covered the following topics: RTI in Sri Lanka; why RTI is needed; who is eligible to get RTI; what information can be obtained from the government institutions; how public is entitled to get the information; fees required to get information; RTI procedures and penalties, RTI commission; punishments and exceptions. The objective of these programs were to increase awareness on RIT Act and other related legislations among the youth club members and other CBOs. Overall feedback of the participants was that the RTI training is extremely useful since they lacked a clear understanding of the advantages of the RTI and its procedures. The participants have identified development issues in each of the five locations and submitted RTI forms to gather related information.

Knowledge Management and Learning

SCORE team continues to take a purposeful approach to creating, sharing, using and managing the knowledge and information generated on the SCORE project. As such, SCORE has gathered many learnings having worked with and through mechanisms like CESs, and the implementation of the PACE methodology within a Sri Lankan context. A significant learning for SCORE in Q3 were the learning and challenges captured following the PACE trainings, findings of the United States Institute of Peace's (USIP) Every Day Peace Indicator (EPI) research, and the findings of the CEPA baseline topline report. SCORE will integrate these learnings to design community-driven activities that enhance community resiliency, and reduce socio-economic and political disparities to foster a shared and inclusive Sri Lankan identity through identified stressors and threats to reconciliation in Q4.

In Q3, SCORE team held a meeting with the two PACE consultant trainers who implemented the training programs in Moneragala, Vavuniya, Jaffna and Trincomalee to capture learnings and challenges on the first phase of PACE training that would inform the next phase going forward. It was noted that the PACE documents and tool kit, although of a higher conceptual level with sophisticated international examples, were extremely useful and effective in helping the trainers to insert their own examples. Both trainers while keeping to the core values of PACE, drew examples suited to the local context so that the CESs would feel more connected to the training, hence it was identified that the training sessions must have a local flavor for the communities to feel ownership of the community work they wish to carry out. The trainers noted there was an acceptable gender balance at the sessions: in Mudaliyarkulam and Pavattkulam (Vavuniya District) the Tamil and Muslim representation was proportionate, while in Pavattkulam, good representation of youth from the youth clubs was evidenced. It was also noted that in a few training sessions in Jaffna, only mono ethnic communities represented the trainings due to the geographic locations. Caste issue was also prevalent in Jaffna causing division among communities, where CESs didn't want to be trained together. Hence the training program had to be conducted in two sessions. However, since caste issues are deep rooted in the area, SCORE adhered to the "do no harm" concept in this instance.

PACE Training – Observations and Learnings

- *About 30 people per session would be the ideal training group and there should be only one training per day for about 6 hours*
- *Some trainees have not been involved in any kind of training prior to PACE trainings.*
- *PACE training is a very useful tool but it is essential to adapt to the local context and both trainers share some examples as to how they have adapted*
- *The interactive learning method was appreciated by the trainees: more time given to the participants to talk and engage in experiencing the concepts and tools*
- *Some participants felt that simply having a platform to talk of the issue at the community level and share with the others was a great opportunity*
- *Further training on below areas was seen as a requirement:*
 - *Concepts on reconciliation, peace building and social cohesion*
 - *Concept and proposal writing, Project fund management (budgeting, accounting, administration), and outcome related reporting writing.*
 - *RIT act and Local government structure and how to access services*
 - *Networking and referral systems – Stakeholder analysis (who is doing what, where and how to connect and refer people to different organizations for services)*
 - *Team building skills and leadership development.*
 - *PACE training for local government institutions – PACE is an ideal training tool for the LGAs as they interact with the people of the community directly*
- *Youth are not given an opportunity to participate actively, due to the same people bearing official titles. CESs need people with better capacities and energy and leadership needs to be rotated.*

In Q3 SCORE has conducted a situation analysis of the CESs and presented the following recommendations to the MNIOLSP:

- Strengthen linkages between CESs members and government, particularly National Integration Promotion Assistants (NIPA) and National Integration Promotion Officer (NIPO) staff as it is important that the government officials have a clear understanding of the CES mechanisms and functions. i.e. – organize a high-level meeting with CESs members and government staff (Quarterly).
- Develop a standard practice to select CES member to ensure more effective, diverse and inclusive representation of all communities and marginalized communities.
- Provide training assistance to CES members on leadership development, identifying needs of the community, proposal development and writing and social inclusion.
- Increase the capacity of the CES members to act as peacemakers during situations of ethnic tension within the community.
- Strengthen the partnerships between CESs, local private sectors and local NGOs/CBOs to implement community based activities which promote reconciliations and social cohesion.

CESs are the main mechanism through which SCORE implements its activities in communities, hence strengthening the CESs with the support of the ministry will enable the CESs to be the catalysts of change in achieving the goal of promoting social cohesion and reconciliation.

USIP's EPI research, completed under the USAID SCORECARD project, utilized focus group discussions with communities in SCORE target GN divisions to identify indicators that communities themselves would use to assess changes in peace and reconciliation in their locality. Social Scientists Association (SSA) conducted the research in the USIP selected GN divisions in Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Batticaloa, Ampara, Anuradhapura and Kandy Districts. The choice of indicators helps reveal SCORE target community priorities and how communities see their own experiences. The findings from EPI will inform the program interventions of Year 2 SCORE community-driven activities in the mentioned districts. EPI Indicators

sourced from target communities provide the SCORE team and partners insight into what reconciliation looks like on the ground in a variety of regions across Sri Lanka.

Key EPI Findings include:

- *Securing language representation and use is an important sign of reconciliation and social cohesion to communities throughout the country.*
- *Providing sensitization sessions and workshops to government employees on non-discrimination and equality in customer service particularly with service delivery of the local government.*
- *Strengthening services of the office of missing persons. Acquiring information of missing persons and providing assistance to families of missing persons, regulating the disparity of service delivery, and equity and fairness in resource distribution in the majority Tamil communities to reduce tension and encourage unity.*
- *Improving employment opportunities to sustain viable livelihoods is perceived to be a vital prerequisite for reconciliation and social cohesion by all communities.*
- *Opportunities for positive inter-group contact fostering concepts conducive to ethno-religious harmony and social cohesion through community engagement activities are seen to make a large impact on peacebuilding processes.*
- *Youth unrest, land ownership and rights, extreme poverty and debt, substance abuse, and youth unemployment were identified as deterrents of social cohesion and reconciliation.*

Based on the key findings of the EPI research, SCORE facilitated the first of the five learning sessions conducted by USIP on July 10th 2019. The learning event was designed with the objectives of reflecting on the methodology to ensure understanding of function and purpose, exploring the use of EPI information and examine how different audiences perceive the data and exploring opportunities for adjustments in programming for Year 2. For this purpose, SCORE invited identified CSOs of the target districts to share with them the raw data on findings and address the learning questions posed by USIP. The overall consensus was that the top indicators were already familiar issues raised by communities in the target districts. While some indicators were identified as being able to address at a GN level, most of the indicators were identified by the audience to be addressed at a national level. Some CSOs agreed that this evidence based research will influence their program design and implementation, whereas a few CSOs argued about the relevance of the data in program implementation in relevant GNs. Final report from USIP will be submitted in Q4.

Global Communities commissioned the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) to carry out a baseline assessment of the SCORE target communities. Purpose of the SCORE Activity Baseline Assessment is to conduct baseline assessments in a sample of SCORE-targeted GN Divisions and villages throughout Sri Lanka. These baseline assessments provide critical reference points for assessing change, effectiveness, and impact over the life of the activity (LOA). The baseline assessments also provide a snapshot of the conditions in select SCORE-targeted GN Divisions and village before the start of the program, as well as to catalogue the challenges and opportunities faced by specific constituencies in the target areas including

local government, CSOs, women and youth. The baseline assessment also establishes a reference point for local government capacity and citizen perceptions surrounding social cohesion and reconciliation.

The main takeaway from this assessment is that, in terms of social cohesion and reconciliation, there is much work left in the ‘journey’ to reconciliation. The list below provide key takeaways from this assessment. The final report will be submitted by CEPA in Q4.

- *Economic inequalities such as infrastructure and unemployment obstruct social cohesion and reconciliation.*
- *Broader structural complications such as a less participatory implementation of the Office of Missing Persons, the glacial pace of land release, intra-community disputes, and a lack of transparency and capacity at the local government level also hinder reconciliation.*
- *Strengthening local government is a key target that could be actioned through the SCORE project.*
- *Knowledge of local reconciliation mechanisms, as well as ways in which to access government assistance is good overall.*
- *Overall, respondents show high levels of engagement and awareness with regards to agencies, and economic and political issues, and actively ask for local government to be strengthened.*
- *Trust in local level actors is strong, with the exception of the police.*
- *Other overarching challenges that place hindrances on social cohesion and reconciliation are: youth unrest, youth unemployment, land resettlement and housing, post-war issues, extreme poverty, debt and insecure livelihoods.*

Integration of Crosscutting Issues and USAID Priorities

Gender and Social Inclusion (GSI)

Gender and social inclusion is essential to SCORE activities to succeed in its goal of strengthening Sri Lankan efforts to advance social cohesion and reconciliation. Gender inequality and social exclusion are known stressors to sustained peace at the national level. In Q2, GC together with SSA commenced a GSI analysis to understand the current situation on gender and social inclusion. This analysis aimed to build on existing evidence to identify key gender-based constraints experienced by women and men (youth and adult) from different ethnic and religious groups, given the role of those social variables in shaping conflict and pathways to peace in Sri Lanka. In Q3, related field work has been conducted by SSA and the final report will be submitted in Q4. This analysis will be used to refine implementation strategies to respond to the needs of different groups of women and men to ensure all are reached and benefit from the project.

SCORE Social Media Strategy

SCORE’s proactive strategy in countering fake news and hate speech includes supporting Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim social media influencers through sub-grantees Search for Common Ground and Social Intell. Through SCORE initiatives, identified social media influencers carry out social media campaigns on

platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and social messaging services such as WhatsApp, generating positive content, which promotes coexistence and tolerance, shifting public conversations to change the trajectory of the spread of hate speech and fake news. The influencers are responsible for creating a positive space for discourse in the digital arena which is crucial for promoting intra-ethnic dialogue in Sri Lanka.

Environment

During the reporting period, environmental assessments for six interventions were submitted to USAID Agreement Officers Representative. Key stakeholders, including implementing partners, village members and local government officers, are increasing awareness and growing support for environmental sustainability principles.

Management and administration

Grants

SCORE's sub-grants mechanism is designed to be flexible and adaptive to program learning. SCORE issued 13 grants in Q3. SCORE issues sub-grants on an ongoing basis using an Annual Program Statement (APS) to solicit grant ideas and inviting applications in both Tamil and Sinhala languages to generate opportunities for smaller CSOs from around the country, including Southern and Sinhala-majority districts. In the next quarter, in addition to the APS, SCORE will issue an RFA that invites CSOs to implement programming that reflects USIP's Everyday Peace Indicator findings. Sub-grants reinforce SCORE's work in target communities by co-financing community-identified priorities. They also expand SCORE's geographic reach by catalyzing networking, leadership development for women and youth, and flexible and rapid responses to emerging conflict. Annexure 2 provides a detailed overview of the grants issued in Q3, grants still pending approval, direct implementations and how the proposed activities are linked to the SCORE results framework. (See Annexure 1)

Annex A – USAID SCORE Grants Summary



Quarterly
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Annex B – SCORE PITT



SCORE PITT - June
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Actual Expenditures vs. Budget

Budget Categories	Authorized Ceiling	Previous Expenses (July 2018-Through FY19Q2)	FY19 Q3 Expenses	Balance
Personnel	1,654,477.50	229,064.13	131,385	1,294,028.10
Fringe & Allowances	841,317.74	187,824.55	64,435	589,058.15
Consultants	105,321.86	150,123.10	16,342	-61,143.43
Travel	349,847.07	139,604.03	33,869	176,374.43
Equipment & Supplies	216,239.75	131,982.82	39,184	45,073.24
Contracts	63,500.00	5,725.68	476	57,298.64
Partner Sub-awards	1,468,999.00	176,348.39	103,180	1,189,470.78
Grants Pool	3,000,000.00		110,305	2,889,694.67
Other Program Activities	218,529.35	103,468.39	16,753	98,307.72
Other Operating Costs	671,367.38	137,118.39	103,820	430,428.84
Total Direct Costs	8,589,599.65	866,550.58	619,749	7,103,300.04
Indirect Costs	1,410,346.93	261,830.67	127,816	1,020,699.92
Total Cost	9,999,946.58	1,036,625.30	747,565	8,215,755.91