



# Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project

## Supporting the Irrigation and Drinking Water Needs of Dry Zone Communities in Sri Lanka to Adapt to the Worsening Effects of Climate Change

### BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), secured financing from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), to implement a USD 38.1 million project aimed at strengthening the resilience of **Smallholder Farmers** in the **Dry Zone** to climate variability and extreme events.

This project, will support the Government to implement integrated solutions to water management in three river basins in the Dry Zone of Sri Lanka. The project aims to achieve higher levels of food, livelihood and water security for flood and drought affected poor communities. GCF resources will be invested in improving access to irrigation and eco-system based agricultural practices, improved community-managed drinking water infrastructure, scaling-up decentralized drinking water systems and strengthening early warning, forecasting and climate advisories to protect farmers, particularly women, from climate related impacts.

The project will benefit 750,000 people living in the three river basins directly through investments in irrigation, drinking water and disaster risk management. Moreover, around 770,000 people living in these districts will indirectly benefit from the project interventions in capacities and early warning systems.

Under this project, which will be implemented from 2017 to 2024, UNDP will work with a number of government institutions to deliver the project outputs and activities and measure its impacts.

Further to the grant from the GCF, the Government of Sri Lanka will leverage Government co-financing amounting to USD 14 million for this project to address several financial, technical, and institutional barriers related to achieving integrated water management and to improve agriculture-based livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers in the Dry Zone.



### OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the **resilience** of Smallholder Farmers, particularly **women**, in the Dry Zone through improved **water** management to enhance lives and **livelihoods**.

The project beneficiaries were selected by considering socio-economic vulnerabilities that extend beyond climate risks. Within selected cascades the project will target households meeting one or more of these criteria:

- 1) Women headed households
- 2) Young unemployed women in target villages
- 3) Households with disability or kidney disease
- 4) Conflict displaced/resettled
- 5) Flood affected in the last five years
- 6) Families with children/women displaying low nutrition (underweight/ anaemic)
- 7) Households with at-risk subgroups such as children and girls (children charged with households duties, neglected children not attending school, girls at risk)



### TARGET PROVINCES:

North West, North Central and Northern

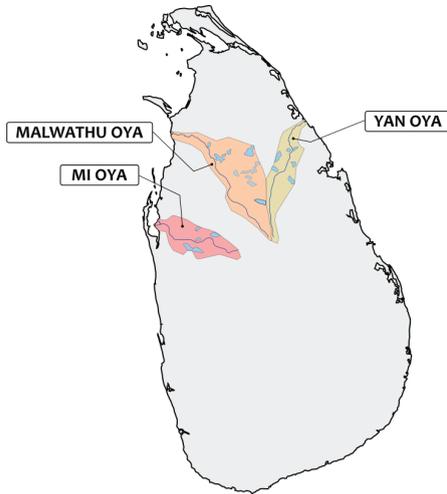
### TARGET DISTRICTS:

Kurunegala, Puttlam, Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Mannar (main), Polonnaruwa and Trincomalee (bordering)



## OUTPUTS AND PROJECT AREAS

### Upgrading village irrigation systems and promoting climate resilient farming practices in three river basins of the Dry Zone

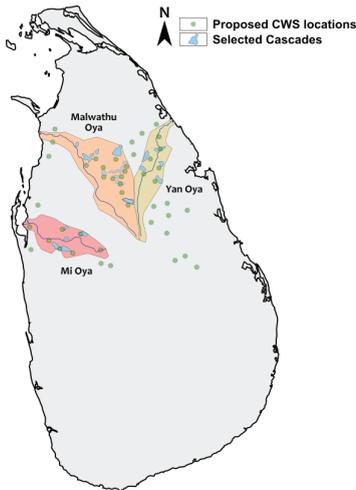


**Budget: USD 21.04 (SLR 3,113 million)**

#### Key outputs and activities:

- Climate resilient water management plans developed for village irrigation cascades
- Around 325 village tanks in 30+ cascades improved in Mi, Malwathu and Yan Oya river basins.
- Participatory operations and maintenance plan development with farmer organisations
- Develop institutional capacities of Agrarian Service Centres
- Includes restoration of watersheds, rehabilitation of irrigation facilities, climate-smart and ecological agriculture, marketing improvements etc
- climate smart agriculture practices targeting women farmers in the selected cascades

### Enhancing decentralized water supply and management solutions to provide access to safe drinking water to vulnerable communities

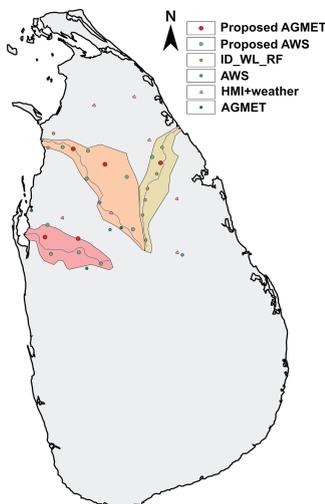


**Budget: USD 9.9 (SLR 1465 million)**

#### Key outputs and activities:

- Develop climate-risk informed, integrated water resources planning at cascade level
- Establish and strengthen women's organisations to manage decentralised drinking water systems
- Establish 35 community water supply systems, 125 advanced filtration systems and 4000 rainwater harvesting systems
- Develop SOPs for climate risk incorporated drinking water supply systems
- Water source protection committees will be created and mobilized with awareness of climate risks and impacts on water quality and equipment for quality testing and source monitoring

### Strengthening climate/weather and hydrological observing, forecasting and water management systems to enhance adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers to droughts and floods



**Budget: USD 3.6 (SLR 533 million)**

#### Key outputs and activities:

- Strengthen climate and hydrological observing and forecasting system
- Improved generation, modelling, and dissemination of weather/climate/hydrological information in the river-basins
- Establish 05 agro-meteorological stations, 10 automatic rainfall stations in the river basins and 50 water level sensors at sub-watershed level
- A comprehensive and farmer-friendly set of advisories and warnings will be delivered in a timely manner for agricultural planning
- Flood inundation mapping and data transmission/ information sharing for timely flood early warning