



Project Overview

SEDR is a four-year access to justice project implemented by the British Council, in partnership with The Asia Foundation (TAF), and funded by the European Union (EU) through a Contribution Agreement as part of its STRIDE Programme in Sri Lanka. The project commenced its Inception Phase activities on 1 February 2020 and is valued at EUR 7 million.

The project comprises four overarching results areas that seek to enhance the effectiveness and availability of dispute resolution mechanisms in Sri Lanka and to foster social cohesion and more inclusive community-state engagement.

Overall Objective:

To strengthen dialogue between the people and the state thereby contributing to the resolution of critical underlying causes of conflict and prevention of escalation of local disputes.

Specific Objective:

Improved dispute resolution services for both individual and community level grievances.

Part of the programme









Implemented by



Project Vision and Result Areas

SEDR's vision is to:

- Enhance the effectiveness and availability of dispute resolution mechanisms in Sri Lanka, and
- Foster social cohesion and more inclusive community-state engagement in community dispute resolution



RESULT AREA 1

Improved functioning of Community Mediation Boards in addressing individual disputes (family, criminal, and relevant property/financial disputes)



RESULT AREA 3

Inclusive local action forums work to address shared problems and improve the resolution of community level grievances



RESULT AREA 2

Improved and expanded functioning of Land Special Mediation Boards



RESULT AREA 4

Senior stakeholders and officials can evidence the benefits of mediation processes through cross-agency coordination, enhanced data collection, and increased awareness of how and why mediation is used

Strategic Working Areas

The project activities run at both a national and local level. SEDR is specifically focused on enhancing dispute resolution mechanisms in key geographic areas which face challenging conditions:

- Eastern Province
- Northern Province
- Uva Province

Current Project Status

SEDR recently completed its Inception period and in February 2021 started its implementation phase. Additionally, the British Council is currently undertaking steps to ensure SEDR responds to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Key Project Themes

Inclusive Approach

SEDR's approach to supporting dispute resolution mechanisms will focus on inclusivity, contextual relevance, and sustainable outcomes. Key to achieving this, SEDR will take special measures to ensure:

- Youth engagement
- Promoting gender inclusivity
- Inclusion of diverse communities



Impactful Collaboration



SEDR will work in partnership with The Asia Foundation to build on their many years of technical support to the Ministry of Justice in promoting mediation as an alternative dispute resolution method. The Asia Foundation will lead implementation of SEDR's result areas 1 and 2. The project will be working specifically with:

- Mediation Boards Commission (MBC)
- Mediation Officers (MOs)- Mediation Training Officers (MTOs) and Development Officers-Mediation (DOs)
- Community Mediators
- Specialised Land Mediators



Supporting Effective Dispute Resolution ඵලදායීව ආරවුල් නිරාකරණයට සහායවීම பயனுறுதிமிக்கவகையில் பிணக்கை தீர்ப்பதற்கு ஆதரவளித்தல்



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