

### **Community Support Initiative Update – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

The Psychosocial Support Unit of the Office for Reparations (OR) has commenced the Community Support Initiative, which is a pilot program aimed to capacitate and empower communities affected by violence. The OR aims to carry out this project by capacitating the National Integration Coordinating officers (NIOs) and selected staff in the divisional secretariat officers to guide community members to initiate projects which are beneficial to themselves and their societies.

The initial training program for the government officials took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2023 at the Renuka City Hotel, Colombo 03. The training program capacitated the officials on the following:

- Impact of disruptive events
- Discrimination and its impact
- Factors to consider when working with vulnerable communities
- Gender
- Transitional Justice
- Social cohesion and reconciliation
- Conducting participatory rural appraisals and needs assessments within the village
- Conducting stakeholder mapping
- Conducting SWOT analysis
- Managing conflict.

Fifteen government officials attended the training program, which was held in both Sinhala and Tamil languages separately for the ease of the participants. The participants represented the divisions of Kurunegala, Welikanda (Polonnaruwa), Poonakary (Kilinochchi), Eravur Pattu (Batticaloa) and Puttalam.

The participants were asked to produce three proposals per division for the OR's approval to begin the commencement of the community projects.