

Progress Report

Human–Elephant Conflict Mitigation Project

Project location: Kanchooramottai Village, Nedunkerny Divisional Secretariat Division, Vavuniya District

Reporting Period: From Project Commencement to Current Progress Update

Submitted by: International Needs Lanka (INLK)

Submitted to: International Needs New Zealand (INNZN)

1. Executive Summary

The project was designed to improve community safety, enable sustainable agricultural livelihoods and reduce the severe impact of recurring human–elephant conflict faced by 26 resettled families living in this isolated and vulnerable community. The project was approved with a total budget of NZD 25,370 and commenced in the middle of May 2026.

Implementation has progressed well despite the logistical challenges associated with operating in a remote village surrounded by dense forest. To date, elephant fencing has been successfully installed and completed for 13 households, representing 50% of the targeted beneficiaries.

The remaining installation work is currently underway and progressing steadily. The contractor has mobilized all required machinery, equipment and personnel to the village and intends to complete the remaining works in a continuous operation before demobilizing from the site.

Encouragingly, the project is already generating positive results. Beneficiary families have expressed increased confidence in investing in agricultural activities and have begun cultivating their land during this current dry season. Community participation has been strong, and Agriculture department demonstrated growing confidence in the intervention and its anticipated long-term benefits.

2. Progress Achieved to Date

2.1 Elephant Fence Installation Progress

Considerable progress has been achieved during the reporting period.

- Total target households: 26
- Households with completed elephant fencing: 13
- Completion percentage: 50%
- Remaining households under installation: 13

The completed fencing has already begun delivering visible benefits to beneficiary households. Families report a stronger sense of security and optimism regarding their future cultivation activities.

2.2 Community Participation and Ownership

One of the encouraging aspects of the project has been the strong ownership demonstrated by the community.

Beneficiary families have actively participated in:

- Clearing fence alignment routes.
- Identifying and marking boundary locations.
- Assisting with post placement preparation.
- Coordinating access arrangements for contractors and machinery.

Given the isolated nature of Kanchooramottai and the absence of readily available labour resources, community contributions have played a critical role in maintaining implementation efficiency. The willingness of villagers to support the project reflects the importance they place on resolving the long-standing challenge of human–elephant conflict.

3. Early Outcomes and Emerging Impact

Although the project has not yet been fully completed, several positive outcomes are already becoming evident.

3.1 Increased Confidence in Agricultural Investment

A significant number of households have already commenced dry-season cultivation activities. This positive development has been made possible through the combined effect of:

- The current elephant fencing intervention.
- Previous tube-well support was provided to 13 households.
- Improved confidence in protecting agricultural investments.

Historically, many families were reluctant to invest time, labour and financial resources into cultivation due to the high probability of crop destruction by elephants. However, beneficiary households with completed fencing now express confidence that they will be able to complete cultivation cycles without interruption and realize meaningful agricultural returns.

3.2 CEO Monitoring Visit

As part of project monitoring and accountability commitments, INLK's Chief Executive Officer recently visited Kanchooramottai and conducted informal interviews with several beneficiary households.

Families expressed appreciation for the practical support being provided and shared how the project has renewed their hope for sustainable livelihood recovery. Beneficiaries emphasized that fencing intervention is addressing a challenge that has prevented them from utilizing their agricultural land effectively for many years.

Several households noted that the project is not only protecting crops but also improving their overall sense of security, particularly for children and family members who previously lived with constant concern regarding elephant movements near their homes and cultivation lands.

4. Government Engagement and Support

During the reporting period, officers from the Department of Agriculture visited the project site to observe implementation progress. Following their visit, department representatives expressed confidence in the project's potential to improve agricultural productivity and indicated their willingness to explore additional technical support opportunities for the community.

This positive engagement demonstrates the project's credibility and its potential to attract complementary government assistance beyond the scope of the current intervention.

5. Financial Progress

Project funds have been utilized in accordance with the approved implementation plan.

To date:

- Contracted fencing work has commenced successfully.
- A payment of **LKR 1,814,150** (representing approximately 50% of the contracted amount) has been disbursed to the contractor.
- The remaining payment will be released upon satisfactory completion and verification of the remaining fencing installations.

6. Remaining Activities

The following activities are currently underway:

- Completion of elephant fencing installation for the remaining 13 households.
- Final quality verification and inspection by either forest department or agriculture department.
- Community orientation on fence maintenance.
- Formal project completion and handover event when NZ donors visit the country.
- Final monitoring and documentation.

The contractor has indicated his intention to complete all remaining installation work in a single continuous phase before removing machinery and equipment from the village.

7. Request for Second Installment

Based on the satisfactory progress achieved to date, the strong community participation observed and the successful completion of approximately 50% of the installation works, INLK kindly requests the release of the second installment of project funds to facilitate the completion of the remaining fencing activities.

The project remains on track to achieve its intended outcomes and is already demonstrating tangible benefits for beneficiary families. The continued support of INNZ will enable the project to be completed successfully and ensure that all 26 households receive the protection and livelihood security envisioned under this initiative.

8. Conclusion

The Human–Elephant Conflict Mitigation Project has reached an important milestone. The completion of fencing for 13 households has already begun transforming community confidence, agricultural activity and future livelihood prospects. Community ownership remains strong, government stakeholders are increasingly engaged and implementation momentum continues to build.

INLK sincerely appreciates the partnership and support of INNZ in making this intervention possible. We look forward to completing the remaining work and sharing the final outcomes and impact of this important project.

Submitted by: International Needs Lanka (INLK)

Date: June 21st 2026

Project Progress Photos



Project Progress Photos

