



PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2025

Ministry of Health and Mass Media

PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2025



Ministry of Health Sri Lanka

Present



Ministry of Health

Future





Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa
Minister of Health and Mass Media



Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni
Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media



Dr. Anil Jasinghe
Secretary,
Ministry of Health and Mass Media

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***MINISTRY OF
HEALTH***

1. Introduction

Sri Lanka's health system is a rich tapestry woven from its diverse history, culture, and social values. With roots tracing back to ancient Ayurvedic practices, the island's approach to health has evolved significantly over centuries. Western medicine was introduced to Sri Lanka during colonial rule in the 19th century marked a pivotal shift, leading to the establishment of formal medical institutions and a more structured healthcare system. Post-independence in 1948, Sri Lanka adopted a universal healthcare model, emphasizing equitable access to medical services for all citizens.

There are various factors which influence the health status and country's ability to provide quality health services for its people. Health system performance refers to how far the available health systems achieve each of these factors which contribute to the overall enhancement of health status of the country. Sri Lanka has achieved strong health outcomes over and above what is commensurate with its income level. The country has made significant gains in essential health indicators, witnessed a steady increase in life expectancy among its people, and eliminated malaria, filariasis, polio and neonatal tetanus. This commitment to health was reflected in impressive public health outcomes, such as high life expectancy and low infant mortality rates, which are among the best in South Asia.

Today, the health system is a blend of modern medical practices and traditional therapies, with a network of government hospitals, private clinics, and Ayurvedic practitioners. The health system in Sri Lanka is enriched by a mix of Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Unani and several other systems of medicine that exists together. Of these systems allopathic medicine has become dominant and is catering to the majority of the health needs of the people. As in many other countries Sri Lankan health system consists of both the state and the private sector. The Health Ministry and the Provincial Health Services provide a wide range of promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care. Sri Lanka has an extensive network of health care institutions

Despite significant progress, challenges remain, including resource allocation, regional disparities, and the need for ongoing modernization. Understanding the evolution of Sri Lanka's healthcare system provides valuable insights into its current structure and the ongoing efforts to enhance the health and well-being of its population. The Ministry of Health plays a vital role in safeguarding the status of health and well-being of all citizens of Sri Lanka as the key government organization, along with other government departments, local and international organizations, civil society groups and the general public. Ministry of Health is responsible for delivering high quality healthcare services to the people in an equitable manner.

VISION

'A healthier nation that contributes to its economic, social, mental and spiritual development'

MISSION

'To contribute to social and economic development of Sri Lanka by achieving the highest attainable health status through promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services of high quality, made available and accessible to people of Sri Lanka'

Strategic Objectives of the Ministry of Health

- ✓ To provide technical advice in policy formulation, planning, and programming on the promotion of health through Advocacy, Behavior Change Communication, Social Marketing, and Community Mobilization.
- ✓ To support various health programmes conducted by the department of health services and other health-related sectors through advocacy, behavior change communication and social mobilization for health actions.
- ✓ To promote, support and undertake planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of health promotion programmes in different settings.
- ✓ To promote people's health consciousness through mass media.
- ✓ To assist and develop IEC / BCC materials required for health promotion and behavior change communication
- ✓ To develop the capacities of manpower, both within and outside the department of health services to act as health promoters and change agents through advocacy, behavior change communication and social mobilization.
- ✓ To educate and empower the public on health issues, to enable them to increase control over and promote individual and community health.
- ✓ To coordinate with health-related governmental, non-governmental and international agencies and organization in promoting the health of people.
- ✓ To develop managerial capacities of health and health-related sectors to manage health promotive programmes
- ✓ To monitor and evaluate the health promotion programmes and facilitate monitoring and evaluation of them at different levels.
- ✓ To support and undertake research related to Behavior change of the community and social mobilization.

Sri Lanka has achieved a commendable health status measured in terms of health indices comparable to those of developed countries mainly due to the social policies including free healthcare and education adopted by successive governments. However, emerging issues associated with the rapid increase of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) coupled with the swift rate of population ageing and changes in diseases patterns have contributed to transforming the healthcare needs of the country.

Having successfully achieving the interim milestones of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, Sri Lanka reaffirmed its commitment by aligning national policies and strategies in the direction of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



In 2015, Sri Lanka pledged its continuous commitment to achieve SDGs. The Goal 3 has been dedicated to 'Good Health and Wellbeing' with following targets to be achieved.

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco control in all countries, as appropriate.
- 3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.
- 3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and Small Island developing States.
- 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

Targets

- 3.1. By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
- 3.2. By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortalities to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.
- 3.3. By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.
- 3.4. By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and wellbeing.
- 3.5. Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.
- 3.6. By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
- 3.7. By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.
- 3.8. Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.
- 3.9. By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

2. Special events of the health sector in Sri Lanka 2024 - 2025

Delegation and assumption of duties by Senior Health Officials

The New Health and Mass Media minister assumes duties



Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, who was appointed as the Hon. Minister of Health and Mass Media in the new government, assumed office as Minister of Health at the Ministry of Health on 19th November 2024. The Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Additional Secretaries, Deputy Directors General, and other staff of the Ministry of Health were present at this event.

The New Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media assumes duties

Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni assumed office as Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media on 26th November 2024 at the Ministry of Health. The Deputy Minister's inauguration was attended by the Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, Mrs. K.M. Wathsala Priyadharshani, the Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena, and a group of additional secretaries and deputy directors general of the Ministry of Health.



The New Health secretary assumes duties



Dr. Anil Jasinghe, the newly appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, assumed office on 11th December 2024 with Minister Nalinda Jayatissa in attendance. Dr. Jasinghe is a distinguished Sri Lankan medical administrator with a notable career. He previously served as Secretary to the Ministry of Environment and held the position of Director-General of Health Services in the Ministry of Health, Nutrition, and

Indigenous Medicine from December 2017 to August 2020.

National Events

- **36th National Commemoration Ceremony of World AIDS Day (December 1)**



The 2024 National Commemoration Ceremony of World AIDS Day was held on the 1st of December 2024 at the Golf Face Stadium under the patronage of the Prime Minister, Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, and the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa. The celebration, an awareness program, and a march were organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, the National STD and AIDS Control Program, the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka, and the United Nations

Population Fund (UNFPA).

- **The march for the “World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week”**



The Hon. Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa participated in the public awareness march under the theme “Let’s all unite – Save Antibiotics” held on the 27th of December 2024 for the “World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week”. The march was organized by the National Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance, led by the Deputy Director General (Laboratory Services) of the Ministry of Health, with the support of the Ministries of Health, Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists and the World Health Organization.

- **A commemorative march for World Malaria Day**

A malaria control march was held on 25.04.2025 under the theme "Say Not To Malariya", organized by the National Malaria Control Campaign of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, under the patronage of the Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, Specialist Dr. Anil Jasinghe. The march started from the premises of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media and proceeded to Viharamahadevi Park in Colombo.



- **Participation in the celebration organized by the Public Service United Nurses Association for International Nurses Day**



This year's Nurses' Day is celebrated with the theme "Nurses are our future - The economy is strengthened through nursing care." The International Council of Nurses has designated May 12 as International Nurses' Day every year since 1974 to commemorate the important role nurses play in society and the contribution and commitment of nurses to providing health services. The National Nursing University will be established in the near future, said Minister of Health and Mass Media Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, while participating in the celebration organized by the Public Service United Nurses Association on the occasion of International Nurses Day held at the Abhayaramaya Temple Complex in Narahenpita on the morning of 14.05.2025.

The President of the Public Service United Nurses Association, Venerable Muruththettuwe Ananda Thero, also presented a memento to the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa. The celebration was attended by the Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, Specialist Dr. Anil Jasinghe, former Director General of the Sri Lanka Institute of Administrative Development, Professor M. Thilakasiri, Additional Secretaries, Deputy Directors General, Directors, Principals of Nursing Colleges and a group of nurses.

International events

- **The Honorable Minister of Health and Mass Media attends representing Sri Lanka in the 78th World Health Assembly**

The 78th World Health Assembly took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 19 to 27 under the theme "One World for Health". Sri Lanka was represented by the Hon. Minister of Health and mass media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, along with the Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Anil Jasinghe; Himali Arunatilaka, Sri Lanka's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva; and Nishanthini Victor, First Secretary to the UN Mission in Geneva. The group engaged in bilateral discussions, side events, and strategic forums throughout the assembly's duration.



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- **International Conference on Diabetes Control**



The International Conference on Diabetes Control jointly organized by the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health was held on 21st and 22nd November 2024 in Colombo with the participation of over 150 experts from the World Health Organization's Southeast Asian Region and several African countries. Deputy Minister of Health Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni and Secretary to the Ministry of Health Dr. Palitha Mahipala joined the event. Resident Representative of the World Health Organization in Sri Lanka Dr. Alaka Singh, UNICEF Representative in Sri Lanka Christian Skoog, Director (Non-Communicable Diseases) of the World Health Organization Headquarters Dr. Guy Fones, Deputy Director Generals of the Ministry of Health Dr. Champika Wickramasinghe, and Dr. Samiddi Samarakoon were also present at the event. The Director-General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and the Regional Director for Southeast Asia, Dr. Saima Wazed, addressed the session of the conference via video technology.

- **Meeting between BIMSTEC Secretary General and Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media**

A meeting between Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media, and H.E. Ambassador Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) was held at the Ministry of Health on 19.06.2025. Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni, Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media, expressed his



gratitude to the BIMSTEC Secretary General, Ambassador Amb Indra Mani Pandey and his staff for their dedicated efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and the decisions taken to advance economic and social development among BIMSTEC member countries. Sri Lanka's continued commitment to regional cooperation within the framework of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation was also emphasized.

Meeting with foreign delegates

- **Discussion on the progress review of projects implemented under the JICA**



A meeting was held between the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, and the Japanese Ambassador, Mr. Akio Isomata, at the Ministry of Health on 28th November 2024. Mr. Akio Isomata discussed the progress of the projects implemented under the "JICA" project in the country's health service. Recalling the long-standing friendship between Japan and Sri Lanka for 70 years of

diplomatic relations, and the services provided by the "JICA" project for the advancement of health services in the country, the Minister of Health and Mass Media expressed his gratitude for the support for the proper maintenance of health services in the country. The Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni, Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Naoaki Kamoshida, Second Secretaries, Mr. Katsuhiko Suzuki, Ms. Sachi Tanaka, and the JICA Project Country Representative, Mr. Tetsuya Yamada, were present on this occasion.

- **Meeting with the UNFPA Country Representative**



A special meeting was held recently at the Ministry of Health and Mass Media between the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, and the Country Representative of the United Nations Population Fund, Mr. Kunle Adeniyi to gain an understanding of the projects being implemented in the country with the

contribution of the United Nations Population Fund. The Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Assistant Representative representing the United Nations Population Fund Country Office, Dr. Dayanath Ranatunga, and National Program Analyst and Advisor Anushika Amarasinghe were also present on this occasion.

- **Developmental projects implemented with the cooperation of the Chinese government**

A special meeting was held between the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, and the Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Mr. Qi Zhenhong, at the Ministry of Health on the 09th December 2024 to discuss the development projects being implemented in Sri Lanka with the cooperation of the Chinese government. The discussion was



attended by Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni, Acting Secretary to the Ministry of Health Wathsala Priyadharshani, Director General of Health Services Dr. Asela Gunawardena, and Chinese Embassy representatives.

- **Meeting with the Cuban Ambassador**



A special meeting was held at the Ministry of Health between the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, and the Cuban Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Mr. Andres Marcelo Gonzales Garrido to secure the continued support of the Cuban government for the special program to combat dengue

and to strengthen the long-term diplomatic relations. The discussion was attended by the Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Wathsala Priyadharshani, the Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena, the Chief Epidemiologist of the Epidemiology Division, Dr. Hasitha Thisera, the Director of the Dengue Control Unit, Dr. Sudath Samaraweera, and the First Secretary of the Cuban Embassy, Maribel Duarte Gonzalez, representing the Cuban Embassy.

- **Meeting with the World Health Organization's Country Representative**

A special meeting was held at the Ministry of Health between the Minister of Health and Mass Media Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa and the World Health Organization's Country Representative Dr. Alaka Singh. The WHO Country Representative expressed her gratitude on behalf of the World Health Organization for the program that the new Minister of Health and Mass Media is following to implement the projects effectively, and that she appreciates that program. Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni, Acting Secretary to the Ministry of Health Wathsala Priyadharshani, and Director General of Health Services Dr. Asela Gunawardena were also present at this event.



- **Meeting with the UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka**



The Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa met the UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, Mr. Marc-André Franche at the Ministry of Health to strengthen the partnership. The discussion was attended by the UN Country Director and UN World Food Programme (WFP) Representative in Sri Lanka, Abdur Rahim Siddiqui, UNDP Resident Representative in Sri Lanka, Azusa Kubota, UNICEF Representative in Sri Lanka, Christian Skoog, World Bank Country Manager Chiyo Kanda, UN Population Fund Country Representative Kunle Adeniyi, ILO Country Director Joni Simpson, UNOPS Country Director Charles Callanan, ADB Country Director Chen Chen, and IOM Head of Mission Kristin Parco, the Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Anil Jasinghe, and officials from the Ministry of Health.

- **Meeting with the New Zealand High Commissioner**



A meeting between Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa and New Zealand High Commissioner Mr. David Pine was held at the Ministry of Health. The meeting was attended by New Zealand Deputy High Commissioner Gabrielle Isaak, officials from the New Zealand High Commission staff, and officials from the Ministry of Health.

- **A special meeting between the Minister of Health and Mass Media and the Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Mr. Qi Zhenhong.**

Development projects being implemented in Sri Lanka with the cooperation of the Chinese government were discussed here, and the humanitarian program being carried out by the Ministry of Health to provide quality health services to the people of the country at a low cost was specially appreciated by the Chinese Ambassador. Minister of Health and Mass Media Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa said that there will be no shortage of medicines in the government hospital system in the country, and that the mechanism required to maintain the continuous supply of medicines is currently functioning strongly. The Minister stated this during a special meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Mr. Qi Zhenhong.



The Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, Specialist Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Director General of Health Services Dr. Asela Gunawardena and representatives of the Chinese Embassy were also present at this discussion.

- **A meeting between the Russian Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Minister of Health and Mass Media**



A meeting between the Russian Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Mr. Levan S. Dzhagaryan, and the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, took place on the afternoon of 30.05.2025 at the Ministry of Health and Mass Media.

Mr. Levan S. Dzhagaryan, starting the discussions, said that the Russian Minister of Health has expressed his interest in visiting Sri Lanka this year. The meeting, which further

strengthened the strong relations between Sri Lanka and Russia, will also focus on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the fields of health, Ayurveda, and media. The Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Media, Dr. Anil Jasinghe, and a group of representatives from the Russian Embassy were also present for this discussion.

Major Developments/Initiatives in the Health Sector

Curative Sector

- **Launching the research on the control of chronic kidney disease with an unidentified cause**



The inaugural ceremony of a workshop held in Battaramulla on 14th December 2024 to launch research conducted jointly by the Ministry of Health, the National Kidney Disease Prevention, and Research Unit, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and local scholars on the control of chronic kidney disease with an unidentified cause. Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa,

Minister of Health and Mass Media participated in the event.

- **An herbal garden-based herbal cultivation project and a national herbal collection program are being implemented to strengthen the production network of herbal medicines used in Ayurvedic medical treatments.**



Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni said that efforts are being made to strengthen the country's herbal garden network to increase the production of local Ayurvedic medicines in order to strengthen local Ayurvedic medical treatment services, and that more than 100 medicinal raw materials required for the production of local Ayurvedic medicines are being imported into the country from abroad.

- **A cardiology unit at the Monaragala District General Hospital from funds from the Kataragama Devalaya**

This cardiac ward complex has been constructed under the labor contribution of the Sri Lanka Army, as per the concept of the Basnayake Nilame of the Ruhunu Kataragama Devalaya, Mr. Dilshan Gunasekara.



The foundation stone laying ceremony for the commencement of the construction work of this 3-storey ward complex was held recently at the invitation of the Basnayake Nilame of the Ruhunu Kataragama Devalaya, Mr. Dilshan Gunasekara, with the participation of the Deputy Minister of Trade, Commerce, Food Security and Cooperative Development, Mr. R.M. Jayawardena and the Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena.

- **Urgent allocation of funds for the completion of construction work of 04 major projects of the Kandy National Hospital**

Minister of Health and Indigenous Medicine Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa said that an amount of



approximately Rs. 1500 million is planned to be allocated this year to complete the construction work of 04 major development projects of the Kandy National Hospital, which are currently stalled. Accordingly, the projects of the New Cancer Complex, the Thalassemia Ward Complex, the Accident & Emergency Care Unit, and the Isolation Ward Complex of the

Kandy National Hospital were inspected by the Minister of Health and Mass Media. The Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni, Director of Health Services of the Central Province, Dr. Nihal Weerasuriya, Deputy Director General of Health Services (Medical Services) of the Ministry of Health and Director of Peradeniya Hospital, H.M. Arjuna Thilakaratne, Director of Kegalle Hospital and Acting Director of Kandy National Hospital, Specialist Dr. Chandana Wijesinghe, and health staff including specialists, doctors, nurses and others from the Kandy Hospital were present at the event.

- **Diyatalawa hospital to be developed to cater to tourism and health needs**



The Hon. Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, participated in an observation tour of the Diyatalawa Base Hospital on 15.08.2025. The Hon. Member of Parliament Ravindra Bandara, Hon. Member of Parliament Ambiga Samuel, Hon. Chairman of Haputale Pradeshiya Sabha Sudarshana Liyanage, representing the religious party of the area, the Maha Sangha, and the political authority of the area, joined this observation tour. Also, the Chief Secretary of the Uva Province, Mrs. Anusha Gokula Fernando, Secretary to the Uva Provincial Ministry of Health, Mr. Jeewantha Herath, Director of Uva Provincial Health Services, Dr. J.C.M. Mrs. Tennakoon, Regional Director of Health Services A.M.T.K. Attanayake, Medical Superintendent of Diyatalawa Base Hospital Dr. H.M.T.I. Siriwardena, Specialist Doctors of Diyatalawa Base Hospital and other government officials also participated in this. Here, the units of the hospital including the Outpatient Department, Emergency Treatment Unit, Hospital Operating Room, Intensive Care Unit were inspected by the Hon. Minister. Furthermore, the Hon. Minister also joined a cordial discussion with the hospital staff and praised the patient care services provided by the hospital while managing the existing facilities. The Minister also exchanged views with the Medical Superintendent, specialists and staff regarding the development of the hospital's physical and human resources. The Minister stated that future steps will be taken to provide prompt solutions to existing problems and provide the government's contribution for this. The Minister also stated that Diyatalawa Base Hospital will be developed as an A-grade hospital to meet the health needs of the tourism sector and the local population.

- **JICA-Funded Waste Incinerator Inaugurated at Trincomalee District Hospital**



Waste incinerator installed at the Trincomalee District General Hospital under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Infectious Waste Management Development Project was inaugurated on September 5. The inauguration was led by the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, together with the Governor of the Eastern Province, Jayantha Lal Ratnasekera, Deputy Minister Arun Hemachandra, and the Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka, Akio Isomata. Implemented with a grant of 503 million Japanese Yen from the Government of Japan, this project enables the Ministry of Health and Mass Media to establish infectious waste management units in 14 additional government hospitals across the country, in parallel with the Trincomalee inauguration.

Human resource development in the health sector

- **Discussions with the Trade Unions**



The Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, held a series of discussions with representatives of several major trade unions in the health sector, including the Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA), All Ceylon Medical Officers Association (ACMOA), Specialist Medical Association (AMS), Government Dental Surgeons Association (GDSA), All Ceylon Nurses Association, Public

Service United Nurses Association, Government Nurses Association (GNOA), the Joint Federation of Complementary Medical Professionals, All Ceylon Family Health Service Officers Association, and the Complementary Medical Professionals Centre of the All Ceylon Health Service Association. The Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Wathsala Priyadharshani, the Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Additional Secretaries, Deputy Directors General, Directors, and a group of representatives representing trade unions also participated in these discussion sessions.

- **640 health care assistants awarded permanent appointments**



The awarding of permanent appointment letters to 640 people for the post of Health Assistant (Field Mosquito Control Assistant) in the Ministry of Health and Mass Media was held on 03.06.2025 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institutions Auditorium under the patronage of the Hon. Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa. Addressing the ceremony, the Minister of Health and Mass Media said that there are more people who are seeking permanent appointments as Health Assistant (Field Mosquito Control Assistant), and that since nearly 6000 people engaged in various services who have not received such permanent appointments are currently serving in state institutions, a common decision needs to be taken regarding all of them. At this event, the All Ceylon Mosquito Control Assistants Association also presented a commemorative memento to the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa.

- **Prompt solutions to several issues in the Paramedical Service through the intervention of the Minister of Health and Mass Media**



A special discussion was held at the Ministry of Health and Mass Media on 04.07.2025 between the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, and the Co-Convenors of the Joint Health Alliance to find solutions to several issues in the field of complementary medicine.

It was also agreed to expedite the discussion with the Ministry of Higher Education and the University Grants Commission and to have a personal discussion with the Prime Minister regarding the provision of internship training through the Ministry of Higher Education, and to take necessary steps to invite applications again in September under the prompt provision of special grade promotions. In addition to the above, many other professional matters were also discussed.

Additional Secretary (Administration II) of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media Chamika Gamage, Director (Administration II) L.S. Nagammulla, Deputy Director General (Administration III) Sumedha Priyabhashini and many other co-convenors of the Joint Health Authority were present for this special discussion.

- **New appointment letters issued for the nursing service in the country**

A ceremony to award appointment letters to 3147 people recruited into the nursing service in the country will be held at the Assembly Hall of the Temple Trees premises on Saturday, 24 May 2025 at 9.30 am. This is the first time in the history of the nursing service in the country that appointment letters have been awarded to such a large number at once. In parallel with this ceremony, promotions to 79 special grade officers in the nursing service are also scheduled to take place.



The ceremony, which will be held under the patronage of Prime Minister Dr. Harini Amarasuriya and with the participation of the Minister of Health and Mass Media Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, will be attended by a group of officials including the Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, Specialist Dr. Anil Jasinghe.

Special Events

- **New Chairman of Sri Lanka State Pharmaceuticals Corporation assumes duties.**



Dr. Manuja Weerasinghe assumed duties as the new Chairman of Sri Lanka State Pharmaceuticals Corporation on 28th November 2024. The Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni, former Chairman of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation, Dr. Arjuna Thilakarathne, Managing Director Mevan

Sampath Subasinghearachchi, General Manager Dinusha Dassanayake, as well as a group of corporation officers and employees, participated in this event.

- **Inspection of the Chinese Navy hospital ship “Peace Ark”**



The Chinese Navy hospital ship “Peace Ark” which arrived in Sri Lanka as part of the Chinese government’s Mission Harmony – 2024 program was inspected by the Minister of Health and

Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa on 26th December 2024 for the free medical treatment and testing services provided to the Sri Lankan people as well as Chinese people staying in the country. Deputy Minister of Defense (Retd) Major General Aruna Jayasekara, Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Mass Media Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Director General of Health Services Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Qi Zhenhong, Commanders of the Tri-Forces, Chiefs of Defense Staff as well as a group representing the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Defense were present on this occasion.

- **Health sector plans to prevent disasters due to Antimicrobial Drug Resistance**

A national event organized under the theme “Know - Do - Act” by the National Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance, Ministry of Health, led by the Deputy Director General (Laboratory Services) was held to mark the “Global Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week” - from 18 to 24 November 2024 - under the patronage of the Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni. The event was attended by officials from the Ministries of Health, Environment, Agriculture, and Fisheries, academics in the field, medical administrators and specialists, doctors, medical students, and a large number of health staff representatives.



- **Hospital inspection visit to Dr. Neville Fernando Hospital in Malabe**



The Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, participated in a special inspection visit and discussion held at the Dr. Neville Fernando Hospital. The inspection visit and the subsequent discussion were attended by the Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni, the Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Anil Jasinghe, the current Chairman of the Malabe Dr. Neville Fernando Hospital, Sunil

Galagama, Director Dr. Kamal Jayasinghe, Deputy Director Dr. Chaminda Algama, and a group of ministry officials, specialists, doctors, nurses and other staff.

- **Professorial training for Moratuwa Medical Faculty students at the Kalutara Nagoda Teaching Hospital**



A special discussion was held at the Ministry of Health under the patronage of the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa to provide a hospital with proper facilities and necessary resources for professorial training to medical students studying at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Moratuwa. Representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Health, Treasury, Department of Management Services, University of Moratuwa, University Grants Commission, Kalutara Nagoda Teaching Hospital, Neville Fernando Hospital, and other related institutions were also invited to this discussion. The discussion was attended by the Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni, the Acting Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Wathsala Priyadharshani, the Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Additional Secretaries, as well as a group of officials representing the Ministry of Higher Education, the Treasury, the Department of Management Services, and all related institutions.

- **State Pharmaceuticals Corporation to undergo emergency inspection by the Minister of Health and Mass Media**



The Minister reviewed the pharmaceutical supply chain and its current functioning, the pharmaceutical procurement process and the pharmaceutical distribution program, and provided necessary instructions to the governing authority on how to develop these activities in the future. The Minister also focused on corporate social responsibility, laboratory facilities, issuance of pre-marketing and marketing quality certificates, awareness programs, as well as human resource development of the institution. Deputy Minister of Health and Mass Media Dr. Hansaka Wijemuni, Chairman of the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation Dr. Manuj C. Weerasinghe, and Managing Director M.L. Subasinghe Arachchi were present at this event.

- **A new promotional program for the “Suwasariya” ambulance service.**



The “Suwasariya” ambulance service, which was initially operated as a grant from the Government of India, is currently operated by the Government of Sri Lanka. The current functioning of the Suwasariya ambulance service was inspected by the Minister of Health and Mass Media, during which several departments including the Emergency Response and Control Unit, the Telephone Call Liaison Unit, as well as the “Suwasariya” ambulance were subjected to extensive inspection by the Minister. The “Suwasariya” ambulance service, which provides free pre-hospital treatment through the 1990 hotline and covers all provinces of the country, will be further promoted as a comprehensive service and will continue to operate as an efficient service by providing prompt solutions to the problems of the service, said the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa.

The Minister made these comments while participating in a discussion held at the Suwasariya Ambulance Service Center in Rajagiriya recently. The event was attended by the Chairman of the 1990 “Suwasariya” Foundation, Niroshan Ratnayake, Board of Directors members Dr. Aruna Palitha Sampath, Nalin Ratnadeepa Perera, Sherwin Arsakularatne, Tharidu Kariyawasam and a group of officials.

- **Special conference of heads of health institutions**



The Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa addressed a special conference held at the National Blood Transfusion Center Auditorium in Narahenpita with the participation of heads of health institutions across the island with the aim of identifying the

problems existing in hospitals and health institutions under the control of the Ministry of Health and providing prompt solutions to those problems. The Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Anil Jasinghe, Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Senior Additional Secretary to the Presidential Secretariat, Kapila Janaka Bandara, as well as Additional Secretaries, Deputy Directors General, Senior Assistant Secretaries, Provincial Directors, Directors and Hospital Directors of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media participated in this event.

- **Baduraliya Rural Hospital will be added as the 100th hospital to the special project to computerize patient data.**

The Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, said that the patient data computerization project will be implemented in all hospitals across the island in order to provide quality and efficient health services to the citizens of this country from a government hospital in the shortest possible time and to systematically follow up on patient conditions. The Minister said this while participating in a ceremony held yesterday (16) to mark the implementation of the project at Baduraliya Rural Hospital as the 100th hospital under the special project to computerize patient data.

The ceremony was organized to include Baduraliya Rural Hospital as the 100th hospital under the special project to computerize patient data covering the entire hospital system in Sri Lanka (HHIMS -Hospital Health Information Management System) implemented by the Ministry of Health and Mass Media and the Information and Communication Technology Agency to register patients.



- **Installation of state-of-the-art radiotherapy equipment (Liner Accelerator Machines) in selected government hospitals**



Minister of Health and Mass Media Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa said that it is the primary objective of the Ministry of Health and the current government to consider cancer not as an individual tragedy but as a challenge for the entire nation and to work to free people from it. The Minister said this on 20.07.2025 at the premises of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, after signing agreements for the second phase of the project to install state-of-the-art radiation therapy equipment (Linear Accelerator Machines) in selected government hospitals.

The first phase of this project has been invested at a cost of US\$16 million and the second phase has been invested at a cost of US\$13 million. The total project investment is US\$29 million.

- **The launch of the Cluster Health Information System, with the primary objective of digitizing the country's healthcare system, will begin at the Thambuttegama Base Hospital under the patronage of the Minister of Health and Mass Media.**



Marking a major transformation in the country's primary healthcare, the Cluster Health Information System (CHIS) under the Primary Healthcare Digitalization Project was launched on 05.06.2025 at the Thambuttegama Base Hospital under the patronage of the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa. This system has been developed with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the Health System Enhancement

Project (HSEP). The Asian Development Bank has also provided funding and technical assistance for the development of this modern health information system. The regional hospitals of Galnewa, Eppawala, Thalawa, Rajanganaya Yaya 5 and Yaya 7, Negampaha, Katiyawa and the offices of the Medical Officers of Health of Galnewa, Thalawa and Rajanganaya are networked with the Thambuttegama Base Hospital through this cluster health information system.

Donations

- **Maharagama Apeksha Hospital to get a five-storey children's ward complex worth Rs. 600 million**



The foundation stone laying ceremony for the five-storey children's ward complex proposed to be constructed at the Maharagama Apeksha Hospital with the full financial support of the Chairman of the Indra Traders Group, Mr. Indra Kumara Silva, took place on the morning of 03.07.2025 at the hospital premises under the patronage of the Minister of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa. The Deputy Secretary of the Asgiri Division, Venerable Narampanawe Ananda Thero, the Chief Incumbent of the Hunupitiya Gangaramaya Viharaya, Venerable Dr. Kirinde Assaji Thero, the Chief Incumbent of the Apeksha Hospital Viharaya, Henegama Dhammadhara Thero, the Managing Director of the Indra Traders Group of Companies, Air Marshal Bandu Edirisinghe, the Commander of the Air Force, Director of the Maharagama Apeksha Hospital, Specialist Dr. Aruna Jayasekara, Deputy Director, Specialist Dr. B.I. Kurukulasuriya, Senior Advisor to the President, Duminda Hulangamuwa, and a group representing all health staff including specialists, doctors, nurses and other medical personnel of the hospital participated in this event.

- **The new outpatient department building at the Nainativu Regional Hospital is opened to the public**



The project was initiated by Mr. Vasan Sivajirasan and Mrs. Jacintha, with the German Red Cross Warendorf Branch and the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society as the resource persons.

The new outpatient department building will house an emergency department, a pharmacy, an injection room, a dental unit, a nurses' lounge, an ECG unit, a surgical unit, a primary care unit and sanitary facilities. The new outpatient department building has been funded by the German Red Cross Warendorf Branch and Nineveh, as well as donors from Germany, Switzerland, England, Canada, France, Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, etc. The construction of this building has been supported by the Sri Lanka Navy, operational support has been provided by the Jaffna District Regional Health Services, and advisory support has been provided by the Northern Province.

- **MoU signed with India for accident-emergency unit at Mannar DGH**



MoU for Construction of Accident & Emergency Unit at Mannar District General Hospital and Medical Equipment Supply, with LKR 600 mn in grant assistance, signed by HC Santosh Jha and Secretary, Ministry of Health & Mass Media Dr. Anil Jasinghe in presence of Hon. Minister Dr Nalinda Jayatissa on 09.09.2025.

The project will address critical requirement of A&E unit at DGH Mannar to cater to emergency cases in the region during golden hour. It will also strengthen the hospital's medical facilities by bridging gap between average daily number of indoor patients & available bed strength.

78th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia



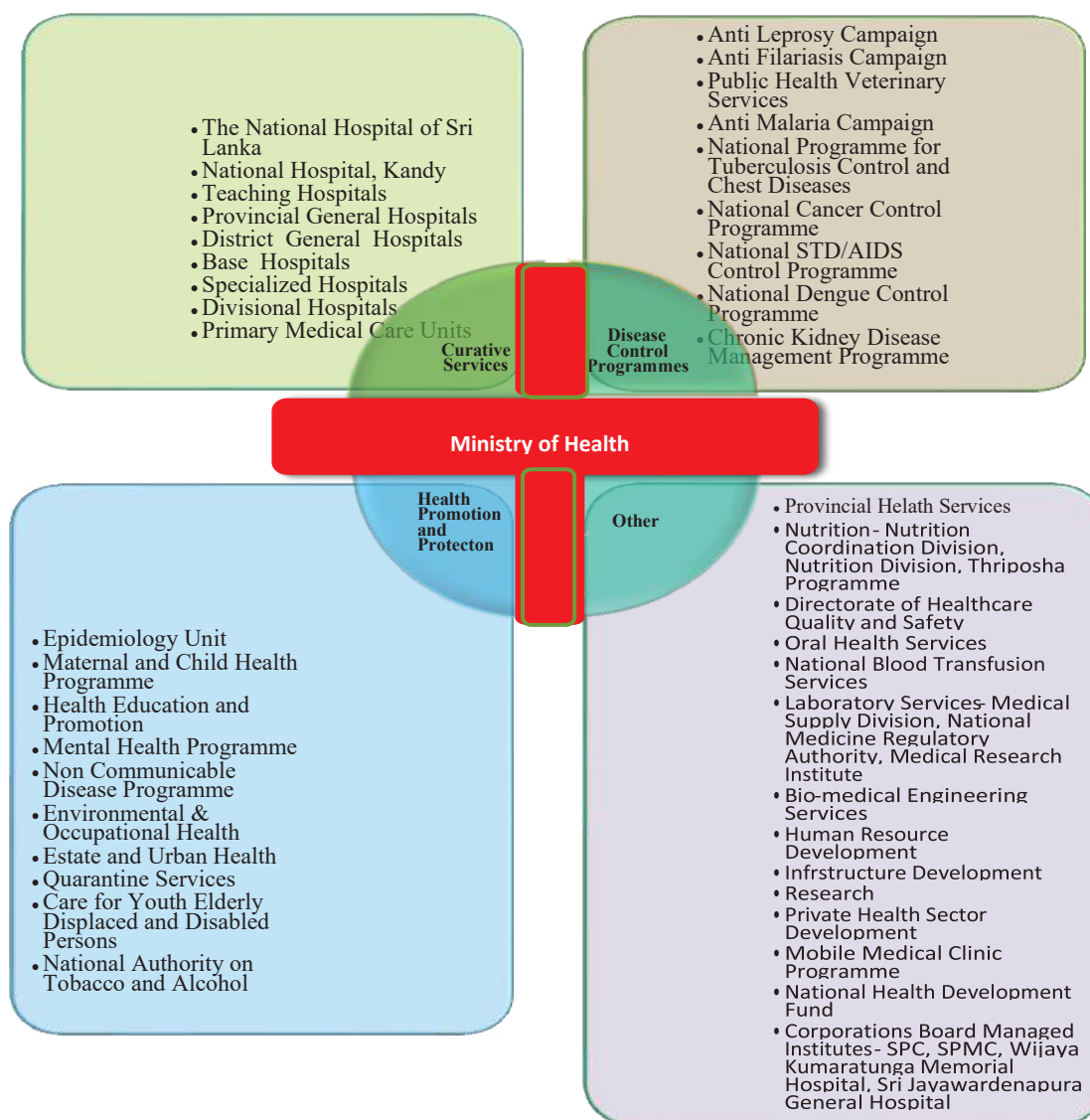
The Seventy-eighth Session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for South-East Asia was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 13th to 15th October 2025. The event brought together health ministers and senior officials from the ten member states of the Region, along with WHO experts and partners, to deliberate on key public health priorities and regional health security.

The sessions were graced by the participation of Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, and Dr. Catharina Boehme, Officer-In-Charge for WHO South-East Asia Region, who delivered keynote addresses highlighting global and regional perspectives on advancing healthy aging.

The Minister of Health and Mass Media, Sri Lanka Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa, delivered the inaugural address, reaffirming Sri Lanka's commitment to regional collaboration in strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage.

The meeting served as a significant platform for regional dialogue, experience sharing, and collective action to healthy aging and advance health goals across the WHO South-East Asia Region.

3. Institutional structure of the Ministry of Health



4. Institutions, Campaign, Programmes under the Ministry and their achievements

4.1 Disease Control Programmes

4.1.1 Anti-Leprosy Campaign

Introduction

The Anti-Leprosy Campaign (ALC) serves as the focal point for leprosy preventive and curative activities in Sri Lanka. Responsibilities of ALC includes development of policies, standards and norms, provision of the technical support and the surveillance. The implementation of these endeavours is carried out by the district leprosy control teams, which composed of Consultant Community Physicians (CCP), Regional Epidemiologists (RE), Leprosy Control Public Health Inspectors (PHI LC) and the MOH teams under the administration of the Regional Directors of Health Services.

The Directorate of Anti Leprosy Campaign functions under the guidance of Deputy Director General - Public Health Services I (DDG - PHS I) and consists of the Director's Office at Welisara, Central Leprosy Clinic, Clinic Room No. 12, National Hospital of Sri Lanka, Colombo and the Leprosy Hospital, Hendala.

Vision

Leprosy free Sri Lanka.

Mission

To stop transmission of the disease, reduce stigma, plan, and implement cost-effective quality leprosy services to all persons affected by leprosy, and to sustain such services to ensure a reasonable quality of life to those affected.

General Objectives

- To strengthen the implementation of integrated leprosy services
- To scale up leprosy prevention alongside integrated active case detection
- To manage Leprosy and its complications and prevent new disability
- To combat stigma and ensure human rights are respected

Achievements / Special Events

World Leprosy Day Celebration

- An essay competition for school students in the Western Province under the theme *"Join Hands to End Leprosy"*
- An awareness session for schoolchildren at Hendala Leprosy Hospital on 21st February 2025.
- Exhibition on leprosy for the school children at Hendala hospital.
- Prize-giving ceremony for the essay competition winners on the same day at Hendala Leprosy Hospital and all the participants were given a 'Certificate of Participation'
- Media briefing on leprosy in commemoration of World Leprosy Day was conducted in Auditorium of Health Promotion Bureau



Development of Flash Cards for Public Health Inspectors

කල්තියා හඳුනාගෙන නිසි
ප්‍රතිකාර ලබා ගැනීමෙන් ලාදරු
රෝගය සම්පූර්ණයෙන්ම
සුව කළ හැකිය.



අපි තවමත් සතුවිත්....

National level Capacity Building Programme for Leprosy Control Public Health Inspectors in Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA)



Capacity building Programmes for the Medical Officers and Public Health Inspectors and the other relevant Health Staff in Gampaha, Kandy, Matale, Trincomalee, Hambantota, Colombo Municipal Council



Organized a stall on leprosy awareness at the Medicare Exhibition held at BMICH in March 2025



Awareness Programme for the Health Staff at MOH Wattala and MOH Homagama



National Leprosy Review at Anuradhapura



Capacity Building Programme on Leprosy for Ayurveda Physicians at National Institute of Traditional Medicine



Leprosy Awareness Programme for Ayurveda students



Webinar on Leprosy Awareness for College of General Practitioners



Awareness on Leprosy for Health Staff of Private Hospitals was conducted in Hemas Hospitals, Thalawathugoda and Nawaloka Hospital, Negambo



Community Awareness Programmes in District General Hospital, Gampaha, Colombo South Teaching Hospital, Kalubowila, Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama





Conducted Stakeholder Meetings with Government Officials, Private Sectors, Non-governmental Organizations and Community Based Organizations



Conducted Quarterly Technical Support Group Meetings



Development of a protocol for Introduction of Single Dose Rifampicin (SDR) as the Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) for the contacts of the leprosy patients in Sri Lanka - Phase I



Conducted Monitoring and Evaluation Visits and District Review Meetings

Conducted Monitoring and Evaluation Visits and District Review Meetings in Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Puttalam, Hambantota, Kandy, Matale, Matara, Batticaloa, Anuradhapura

Initiation of development of the road map for the interruption of transmission of leprosy for Sri Lanka.

Commencement of an Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) Survey for the Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) used for leprosy in Sri Lanka



Introduction of a surveillance system to monitor the Anti-Microbial resistance (AMR) for leprosy drugs in Sri Lanka.

- a) Aware on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) surveillance system and training of the health staff on the proper biopsy sampling technique, preparation and dispatching of the samples to the lab to establish the AMR surveillance system.
- b) Training on Slit Skin Smear testing for Public Health Laboratory Technicians (PHLT)

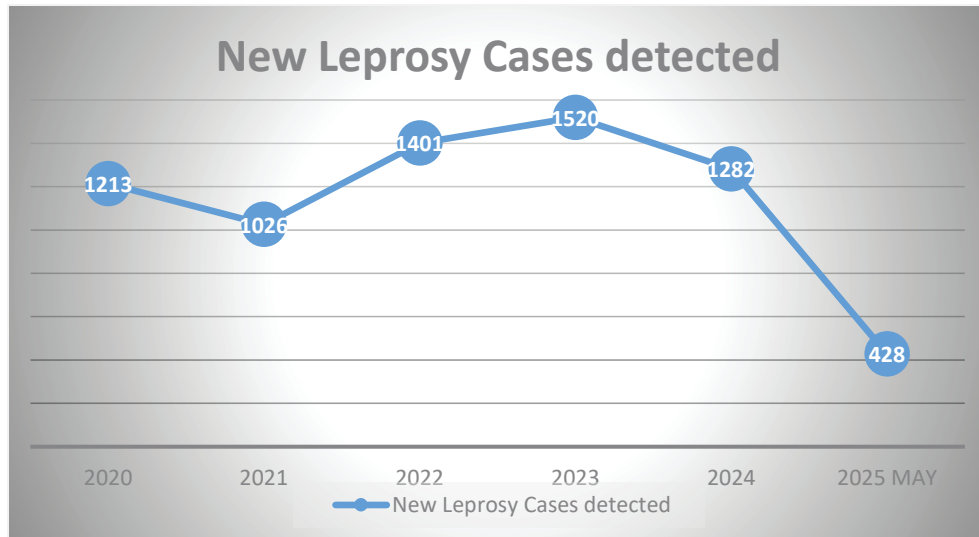


Leprosy Stall at Maliban Exhibition

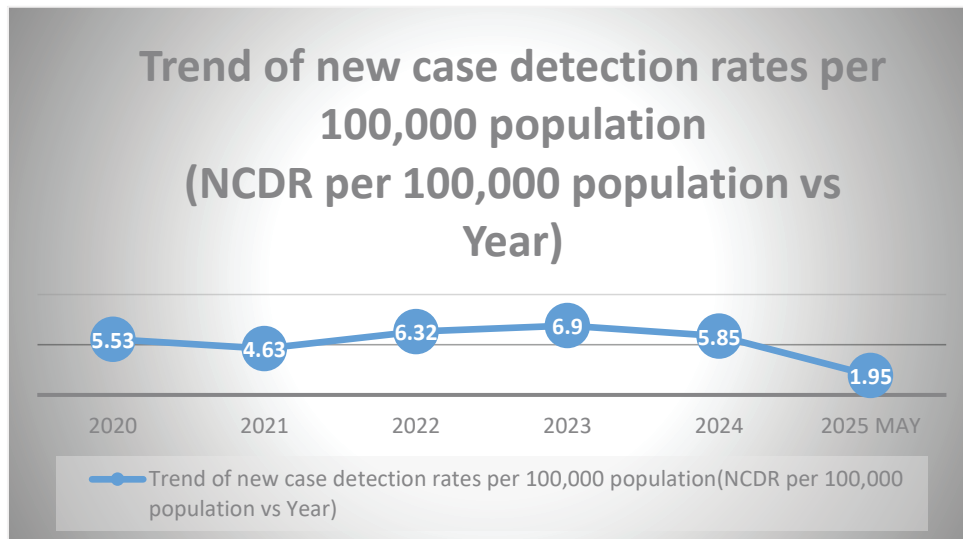


Performance Trend 2020 – 2025 May

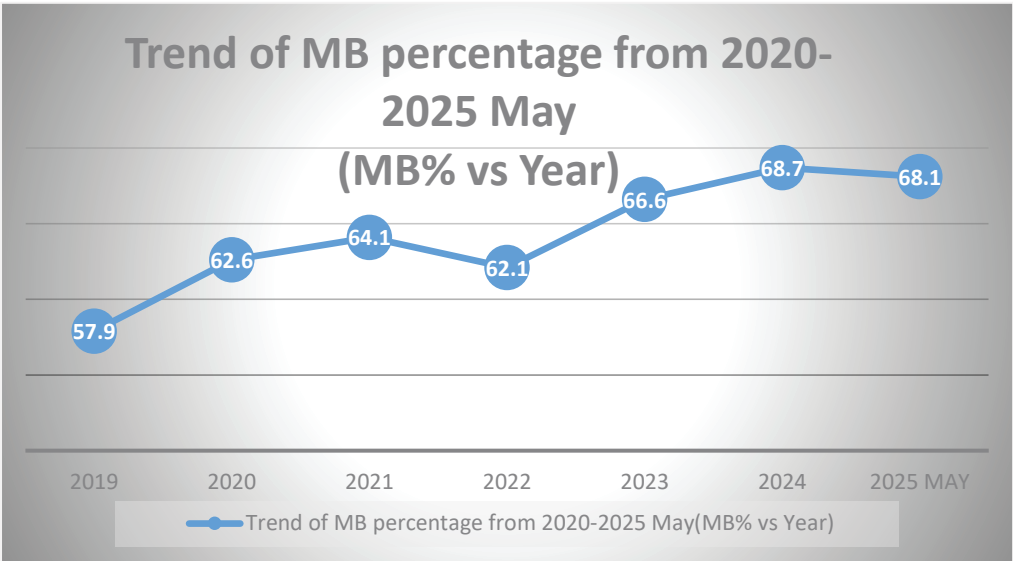
National Performance Indicators in last five years (2020 – 2025 May)



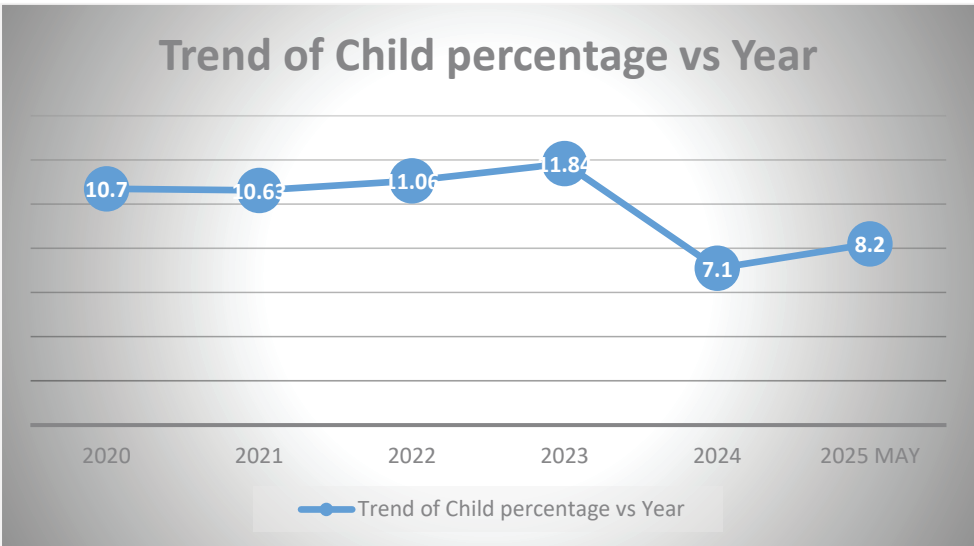
Trend of Recorded New Cases of leprosy from 2020-2025 May



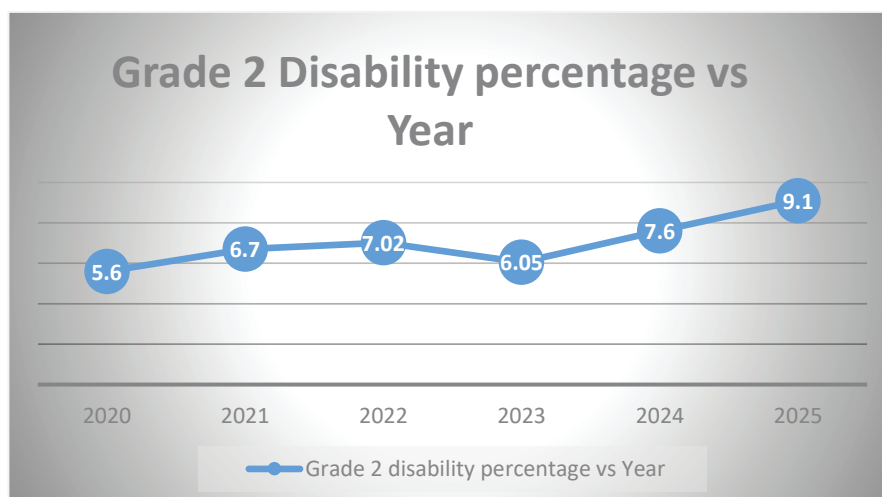
Trend of New Case Detection Rates of leprosy from 2020-2025 May



Trend of MB percentage at the time of diagnosis of leprosy cases from 2020-2025 May



Trend of Child case percentage of new leprosy cases from 2020-2025May



Trend of Grade 2 Disability percentage at the time of diagnosis from 2020-2025 May

1. Hospital Details - Leprosy Hospital, Hendala

Utilization & Facility Details	
No of beds	54
No of units (wards)	04
No of specialists available	-

2. Human Resource Details

		By June 2025		
		Leprosy Hospital, Hendala	Anti-Leprosy Campaign	Central Leprosy Clinic
01	Medical Officers	01	06	04
02	Nurses	06	-	-
03	MLT	-	-	-
04	Pharmacists	-	01	-
05	Radiographer	-	-	-
06	PHMA	01	03	-
07	Dispenser	01	-	01
08	Driver	01	02	-
09	Male Attendants	-	-	-
10	Female Attendants	03	-	-
11	Cook	02	-	-
12	KKS	01	01	-
13	SKS Ordinary	07	-	01
14	SKS Junior	05	02	01

4.1.2 Anti Filariasis Campaign

Introduction

Anti Filariasis Campaign is the public health specialized institution responsible for eliminating lymphatic filariasis (LF) from Sri Lanka. LF was eliminated as a public health problem in 2016. Currently, the programme is in the post-validation surveillance phase, and continuous entomological, parasitological, and disease surveillance takes place in eight filariasis endemic districts along the South-Western coastal belt of Sri Lanka.

Goal

End Bancroftian Filariasis in Sri Lanka by 2030 and prevent the re-establishment of Brugian filariasis in Sri Lanka.

Objectives

- To stop Indigenous transmission of bancroftian filariasis in Sri Lanka by 2030
- To prevent the re-establishment of Brugian filariasis in Sri Lanka
- To integrate Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) services with the health system and provide essential care packages to all chronic disease patients

Achievements/ Special events in 2025

- Printing of the Standard Operational Procedures for entomological and parasitological surveillance in interrupting the transmission of lymphatic filariasis in Sri Lanka.
- Coordinating with the DAPH to initiate animal surveillance for the control of Brugian filariasis.
- Development and dissemination of a Scope of Work to be performed when a Brugian filariasis case was detected
- Supervision of Regional Anti-Filariasis Units and distribution of office requirements
- Conducting a Mass Drug Administration (MDA) program to cover 2000 population in the CMC region
- Conducting monthly review meetings for RMOs
- Conducting technical committee meetings for AFU staff
- Procurement of lab equipment
- Printing of entomological and parasitological technical documents, Formats, etc.

Ongoing Development project details

Project Description	Total Estimated Cost (LKR) Mn.	Physical Progress by 30.09.2025	Financial Progress by 30.09.2025
GOSL			
Procurement of Reagents for parasitology and molecular biology lab	3.00	Half of the procurement completed. Preparing the bidding document for the next set of reagents.	1.37
Procurement of DNA extraction kits (tissue & blood)	2.00	Tender awarded. Items to be received	1.94
Procurement of microscopes or other required items for surveillance	1.40	Spec & bidding document prepared & pending on Biomedical Engineers opinion.	0.0
Maintenance of lab equipment	0.50	Tender called & at TEC level	0.02
Conducting review meetings	0.22	Four meetings completed	0.10
Technical Advisory Group Meeting	0.10	Planned to conduct in August	0.03
Team supervision of regional-level AFC activities	0.50	Started the supervision. One completed (Puttalam).	0.12
Carry out MDA around positive patients' locations according to the circular	0.10	one programme completed	0.04
In-service training for laboratory and field staff in AFC and RAFUs	0.50	Planned to conduct from July to October	0.11
Non-endemic (parasitological and entomological) surveys in Ratnapura and Kegalle districts	0.68	Planned to conduct from July to August	0.11
Printing of entomological and parasitological technical documents, Formats, etc.	1.00	Requirement identified & on drafting stage. Planned to complete by September	0.0
Total Cost	10.00		3.85
Bills in hand & PO given			4.04
Grand Total			7.89

Last 5 years performance trend

Parasitological surveillance

The field staff and laboratory staff carried out parasitological surveillance under the supervision of the Regional Medical Officer/ Filariasis control. The main diagnostic method used was the night blood film. Microfilaria rate (percentage of positive samples out of all collected) and microfilaria density (average number of microfilaria present in one millilitre of blood) are the indicators used to assess the progress towards zero transmission within the country.

From 2017-2024, the country recorded 720 cases with active infection. This number also includes NBF-positive patients of the migrant workforce in Sri Lanka.

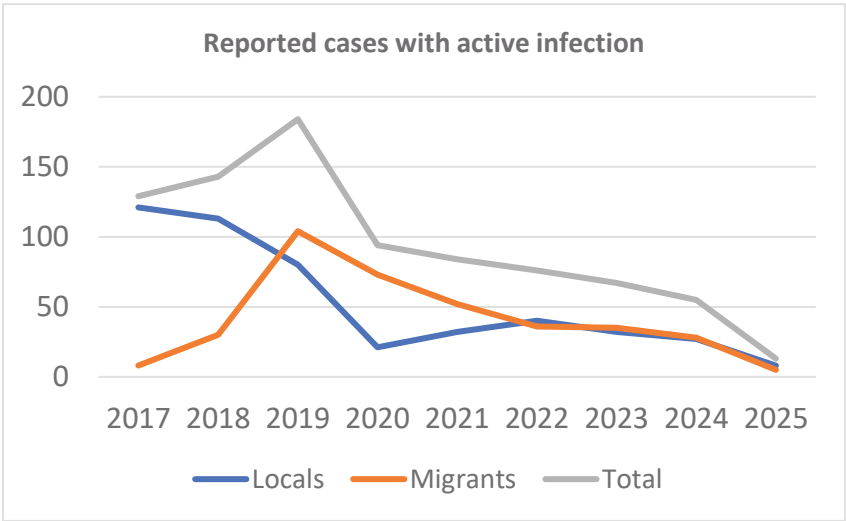


Figure 1- Number of positive cases among locals and immigrants, 2017-2024

Figure 1 shows a reduction in indigenous microfilaria-positive patients during the post-validation phase. Further, it shows that the observed reduction of indigenous cases was gradually replaced by migrant cases. Geographic distribution clearly shows that the cases were confined to the coastal border, even within endemic areas, except North Western province.

It was highlighted that there was a significant reduction in the reported number of indigenous Bancroftian filariasis cases over the years, while the number of local cases infected with *Brugia malayi* did not reduce over the years. Figure 2 shows the trend in positive cases among locals by species from 2016-2024.

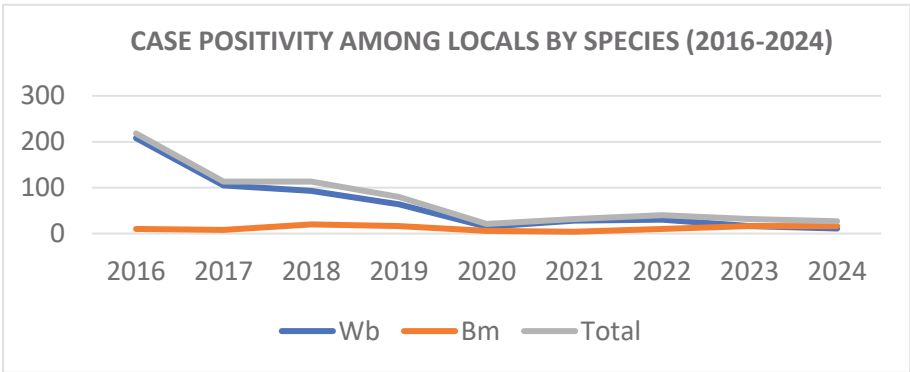


Figure 2- Trends in Indigenous positive cases by species 2016-2024 (Wb-Wuchereria bancrofti, Bm- Brugia malayi)

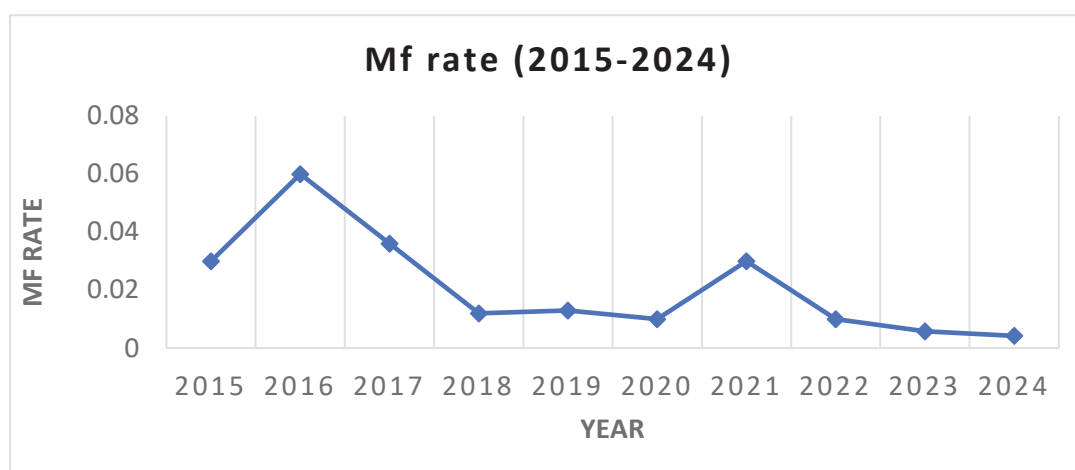


Figure 3- Microfilaria rate by year in endemic districts

Figure 3 shows a clear reduction in microfilaria rate with the implementation of current elimination strategies: entomological surveillance guided parasitological surveillance.

Night Blood Filming rate (NBF rate) or the average number of NBF performed by a PHFO has increased from 2022-2024. This year the overall NBF rate in SL was 538 (Figure 4).

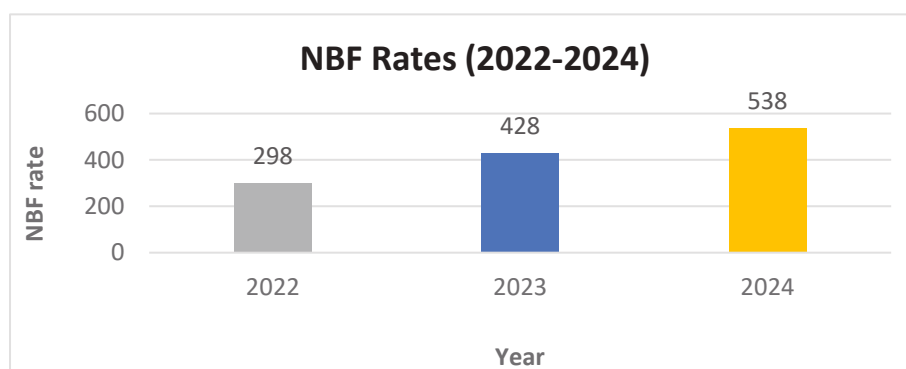


Figure 4- Average number of NBF performed by a PHFO from 2022-2024

Screening of Immigrants

Screening of immigrants was initiated in 2017, and in 2024, there was a notable increase in the number of immigrants screened for filariasis antigen through IOM. This is mainly due to the strict measures imposed against the illegal pathways followed to obtain a visa. In 2024, 354 immigrants were detected positive for filariasis antigen test (FAT) out of 21,118 screened (Figure 5).

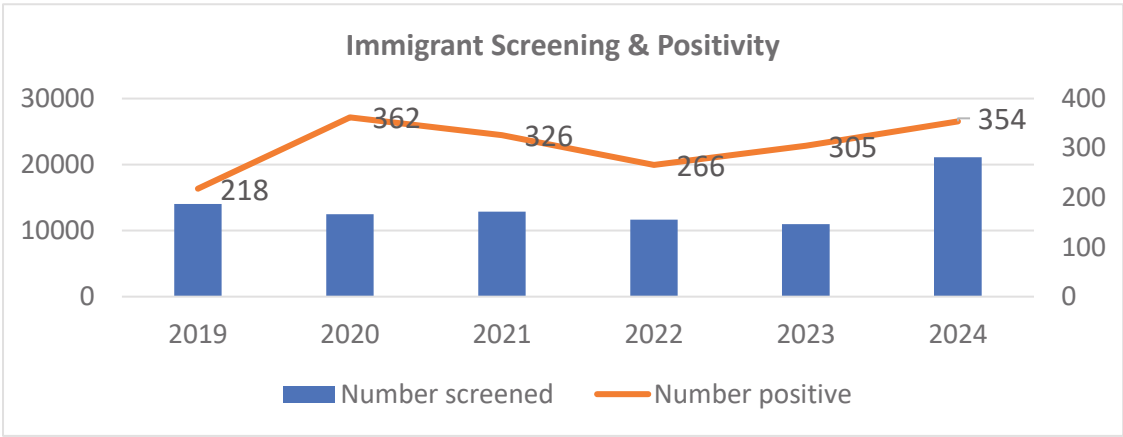


Figure 5- Immigrant screening from 2017-2024

Entomological surveillance

Entomological surveillance was carried out among both vectors responsible for the transmission of lymphatic filariasis in Sri Lanka: *Culex quinquefasciatus* and *Mansonia* species. Adult *Culex* mosquitoes are collected either through gravid traps or indoor hand collections. Adult *Mansonia* mosquitoes are collected through cattle-baited net traps and indoor hand collection. All mosquitoes collected will be either dissected or subjected to genetic detection of parasitic DNA by PCR.

Findings of dissected mosquitoes were used to calculate infected and infective mosquito rates. Parasitological human surveys were initiated based on positive findings of vector surveys. Figure 6 shows infected rates and infective rates in each endemic district by year. Infected rate is the percentage of mosquitoes positive for any parasitic stage. Infective rate is the percentage of mosquitoes positive for infective stage (L3) larvae.

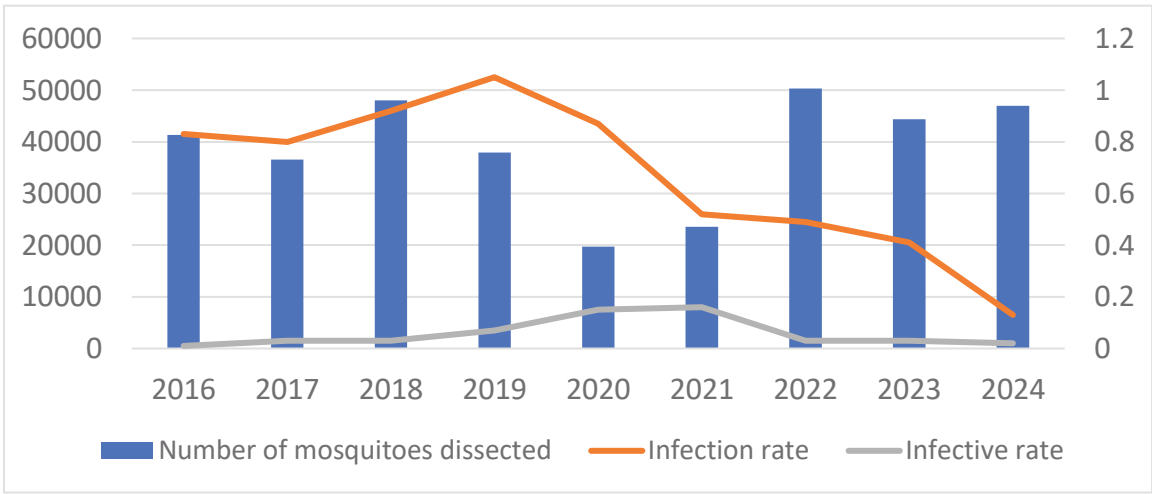


Figure 6- Infected and infective rates of mosquitoes for *Culex quinquefasciatus* compared to total mosquitoes dissected from 2016-2024.

Higher rates of infective mosquitoes are seen in Galle, which is compatible with higher caseloads in these districts.

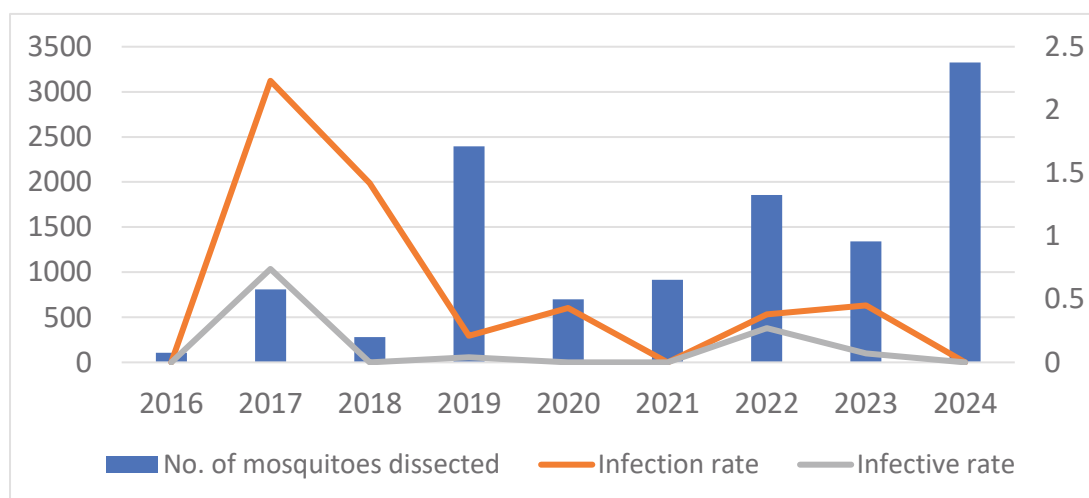


Figure 7- Infected and infective rates for *Mansonia spp* compared to total mosquitoes dissected from 2016-2024.

Morbidity management & Disability Prevention

Chronic complications of filariasis ranged from simple lymphoedema to elephantiasis. These lymphoedema patients need close follow-up to prevent progression into elephantiasis. The morbidity management and Disability Prevention (MMDP) programme focuses on identifying patients with lymphoedema and providing services.

At present, we conduct around 26 MMDP clinics within eight endemic districts, exceeding the WHO recommendation of two MMDP clinics per Implementation Unit (IU).

Figure 8 shows the number of new lymphoedema patients registered in morbidity management clinics in endemic districts by year.

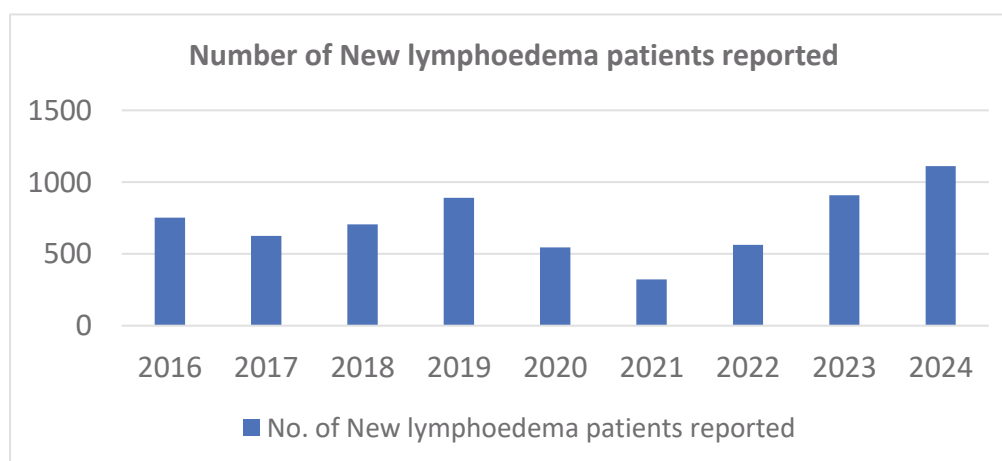


Figure 8- Number of new registrations of lymphedema patients in morbidity management clinics (2016-2024).

In 2024, 1112 new lymphedema patients were registered in morbidity management clinics in endemic districts. Most new patients (n=241) were registered at the Matara clinic. The majority of patients (82%) presented to the morbidity clinic in the early stages (Stages 1-2) of lymphoedema. The majority (80%) of the patients presented were in the age group of 41-80 years.

Initiation of Thripasha Program

AFC initiated the distribution of Thripasha to advanced lymphoedema patients (Stage 3 and above) in 2024. The program has been a success and motivates these patients to attend monthly clinics, thereby helping keep them free of complications.

Special development activities planned for the second half of 2025

- We have planned a non-endemic survey in Ratnapura district in response to a *Brugia malayi* IgG antibody-positive patient reported in the early part of 2025.
- Supervisory visits are planned to be carried out in all RAFU
- Zoonotic surveillance and treatment of animals to control Brugian filariasis have already been initiated by the DAPH and further discussion on zoonotic surveillance activities and management would be carried out.
- Initiation of the Triple-drug therapy with DEC-Albendazole-Ivermectin for positive patients and MDA programs with the receipt of Ivermectin donation from WHO
- Developing a web-based surveillance system to enable real-time data collection and monitoring

4.1.3 Public Health Veterinary Services

Introduction

Rabies, a 100% fatal illness which has a history of more than 3000 years is a deadly disease killing a person on earth every 9 minutes. Sri Lanka, as a nation and an island has a history of this deadly illness which resulted in more than 300 deaths annually in the 1970s. With the establishment of the anti-Rabies campaign in 1981, Rabies control activities were conducted island wide. Presently, the annual number of human deaths have drooped down to less than 25 per year. Even though it shows a massive reduction in number of human deaths, one should not underestimate the burden of this disease in the country.

Sri Lanka has attempted various strategies of rabies control since the establishment of the anti-Rabies campaign of Public Health Veterinary Services over the decades which includes dog population management, vaccination programs and also a shift in administration. Public Health Veterinary Services (PHVS) of the Ministry of Health is currently the focal point of rabies control, entrusted with national responsibilities of preventing human and animal rabies in collaboration with other stake holders such as the world Health Organization (WHO) who is one of the key stakeholders of Rabies control in Sri Lanka.

Vision

Assure maximum protection to public from deadly rabies and other zoonotic diseases causing disability.

Mission

Monitor, promote and facilitate implementation of Rabies control strategies stipulated by the Ministry of Health to reach high coverage involving provincial health services whilst ensuring high community effort and promotion of rabies post exposure treatment involving government hospitals whilst ensuring cost effectiveness & to contribute to the attainment of highest possible level of rabies immunization coverage among dog population through sustainable equitable and culturally acceptable manner.

Key Objectives of Rabies Control Program in Sri Lanka

- To strengthen leadership, legislation, stewardship, and management functions of the elimination of Human Rabies.
- To ensure the delivery of comprehensive services, to eliminate the burden of human Rabies, and to promote health.
- To empower communities towards active participation in the elimination of human Rabies.

Sri Lanka is currently at the verge of elimination of human Rabies from the island. As in any disease the last few cases are the difficult ones to eliminate due to many factors.

Goal

To eliminate human deaths from Rabies in Sri Lanka

Targets

- Zero human deaths by dog mediated Rabies in Sri Lanka by 2026
- Eliminate dog Rabies by 2030

Achievements / Special Events

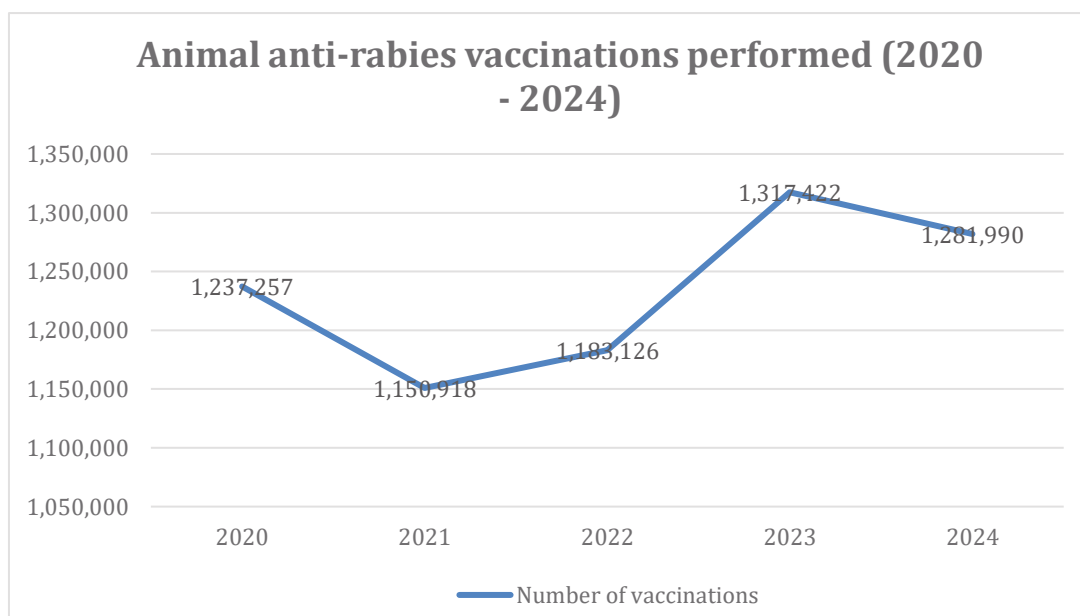
- A considerable achievement for 2025 is the reduction of the number of human deaths due to Rabies disease. Previously, annual number of human deaths due to Rabies disease was between 10 - 12 each year by the end of June. But in 2025, it has dropped down to 5 as a result of the dedicated hard work of the National Anti-Rabies Campaign of PHVS. We may expect a significant reduction in human Rabies cases by the end of 2025.
- A total of 1,281,990 domestic and stray dogs had been vaccinated in the island in 2024.
- A total of 30,882 female dogs have been surgically sterilized in the island in 2024.
- Development of a dataflow system (DHIS2) was initiated in order to establish an efficient dataflow system from MOH level to central level. This is still under development.
- Successfully celebrated the World Rabies Day 2024 at Ratnapura on 28.09.2024.

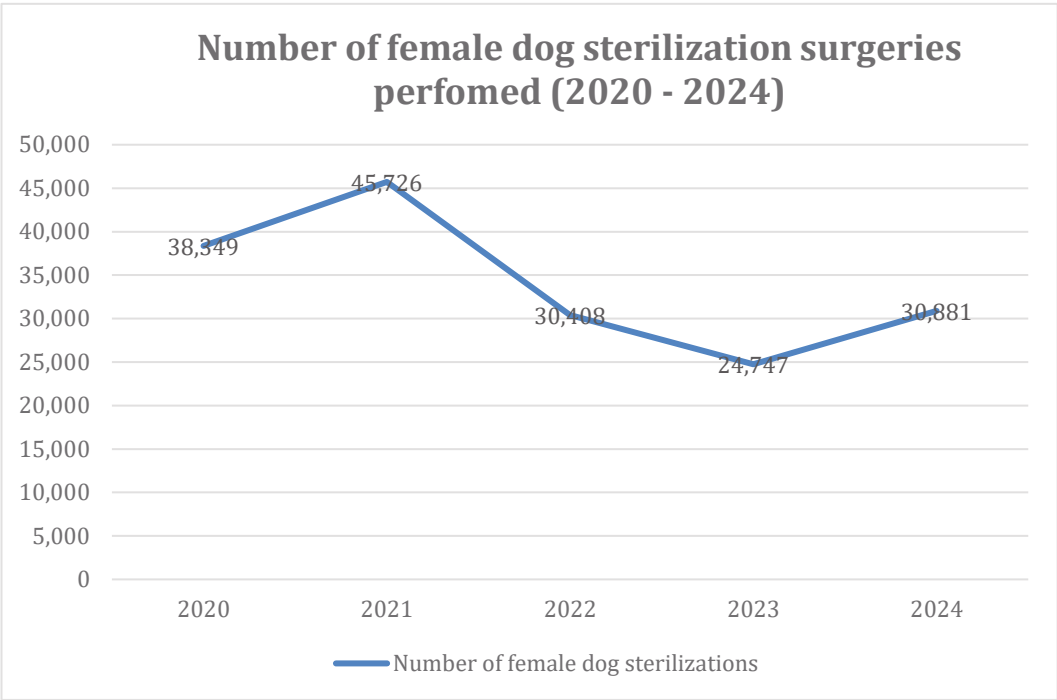
Ongoing Development project details

Project Description	Total Estimate cost (Rs.Mn)	Physical progress by 30.09.2025	Financial Progress by 30.09.2025 (Rs.Mn)
1) Female dog sterilization	205.25	District Action Plans have been submitted for approval.	0.564
2) Enhanced community awareness on rabies control through community leaders	0.5	01 program conducted	0.091
3) Production of IEC material, exhibits and documentary on rabies	1.5	processing	
4) In-service training on rabies post exposure treatment and introduction of new circular (PEP)	1	02 program conducted	0.271

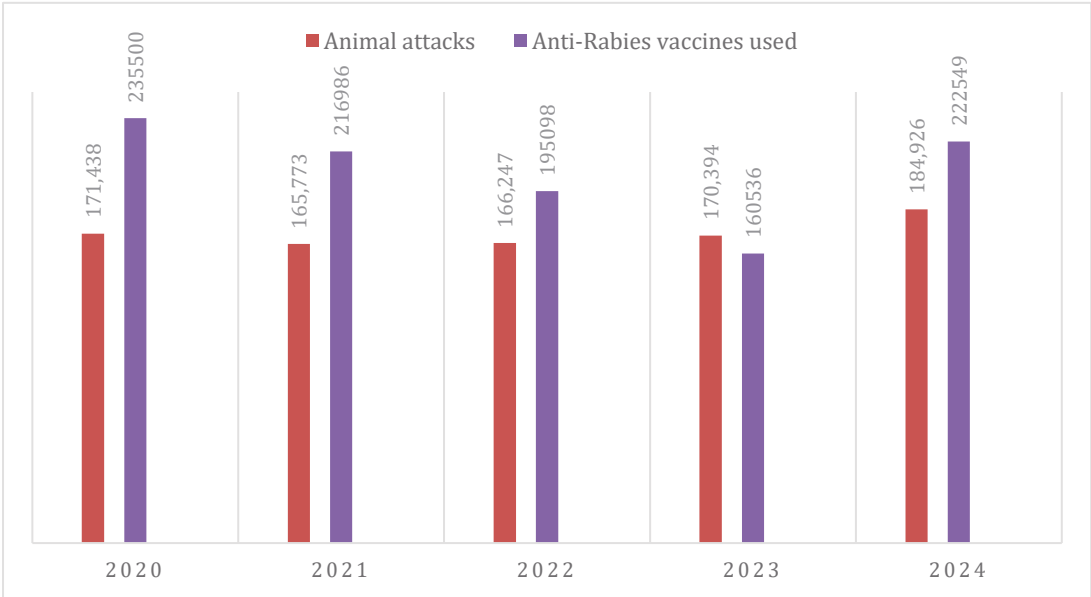
5) Training of Public Health staff on Rabies control and dog bite prevention (following Rabies Educator Certificate module)	1	08 programs conducted	0.634
6) In-service training program for district rabies control PHII and Vaccinating Field Assistant	0.75	08 programs Conducted	0.855
7) World Rabies Day (WRD) Commemoration	12	Development of IEC materials (printing of banners) for public awareness	1.254
8) Supervision of district rabies control activities	0.2	2 districts supervised and 08 deaths investigated	0.113
9) Conducting progress review meetings (national & district levels)	0.55	01 programs Conducted	0.197
10) Re- structuring of office environment (PHVS & DPCC Handala)	0.5	Processing	-

Last 5 years Performance Trend





Animal attacks and Anti - Rabies vaccine vials used at hospitals in Sri Lanka (2020 - 2024)



*Animal attacks data received from NCD unit injury surveillance. Actual figures may be slightly higher.

*Vaccine vial usage data received from MSD. Note that these include 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th doses.

Special development activities planned for 2026.

- Update carder allocation at provincial level (Vaccinator carder) and provide logistics (instruments and vehicles) for Rabies control activities.
- Strengthen the collaboration and coordination between key stakeholders of Rabies control.
- Further strengthen dog population control activities and vaccination in the island and introduction of responsible pet ownership concept.
- Establish the DHIS2 dataflow system.
- Focus attention on Rabies sources apart from dogs (cats, other animals) and study the future trends on Rabies disease caused by them. Also identify and address the threat by these sources at early stages.
- Identification of new sources of Rabies disease (e.g.: - Wild animals) and take immediate action to address them

4.1.4 Anti-Malaria Campaign

Introduction

Sri Lanka is currently in the phase of prevention of re-establishment (PoR) of malaria, following being certified as a malaria eliminated country by World Health Organization in 2016. However, the potential for malaria resurgence is very high due to increased global traveling and the presence of malaria transmitting Anopheles mosquitoes in many parts of the country. Eighteen imported malaria cases were reported in 2025.

Vision

A malaria-free Sri Lanka

Mission

Plan and implement a comprehensive programme to sustain intensive surveillance, comprehensive case management, outbreak preparedness, providing information to travellers and high-risk groups, and rapid response for prevention of re-establishment of malaria in Sri Lanka.

Objectives

- To prevent re-establishment of malaria in Sri Lanka.
- To maintain zero mortality due to malaria in Sri Lanka.

Major achievements of the year 2025

- Sri Lanka continued to maintain malaria free status in 2025 via
 - i) Intensified parasitological surveillance, risk group identification and follow up, linking with hospitals, laboratories, private sector and General Practitioners and entomological surveillance with appropriate vector control.
 - ii) Prompt case management – New cases that are reported will be followed up with visit to the respective district by AMC HQ technical team, team members include consultant Community physician, Medical Officer, Entomologist & parasitologist.
 - iii) Treatment Drugs, Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACT) were imported to maintain adequate stocks.
- Anti Malaria Campaign continues to provide malaria prophylaxis medicines free of charge for travelers to malaria endemic countries.
- All returnees from malaria endemic countries are regularly screened according to the national guidelines and screening cards with scheduled dates for follow-up are issued
- Special attention has been given to international events where there is large participation, such as the bora community conference.
- Special attention has been given to travelers / risk group and General practitioners register maintained by Regional Malaria Officer.
- ‘World Malaria Day 2025’ with the theme of "Say No to Malaria" was commemorated with a walk from the health ministry to Vihara Maha Devi Park. Also adding to this a street drama was Organized by Anti Malaria Campaign Headquarters with participation of all categories of staff. Key officials from the Health Ministry participated in the event.
- AMC played a major role in ‘Kala-azar and malaria elimination in south-east Asia region’. The treatment drug Sodium Stibogluconate (SSG) was distributed to affected regions for administration.

“Malaria Day” Commemoration



Improving the quality of malaria microscopy



Awareness Programs



Case Management



Training Programs



Screening Programs



4.1.5 National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases

Introduction

National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases (NPTCCD) is the National Level organization responsible for TB control activities in the country, which are executed through district chest clinics. The NPTCCD coordinates and provides technical guidance to district-level staff and other support to ensure the provision of good quality diagnostic and treatment services for patients without any interruptions. In addition, preventive services implemented by the NPTCCD include support to continue TB preventive therapy among identified high-risk groups, improving awareness and health promotional behaviour of the public on TB, as well as conducting TB-related service-oriented research to generate evidence for policy and activities.

Curative care for TB patients is mainly provided through 26 District Chest Clinics, two sub chest clinics in Colombo South Teaching Hospital & BH Mulleriyawa, and National Hospital for Respiratory Diseases. Diagnostic services are provided through the National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory at Welisara, Intermediate Culture Laboratories in Galle, Ratnapura, Jaffna & Kandy, District Chest Clinic laboratories (26), and over 160 Microscopy Centers in the country.

Vision

Sri Lanka free of Tuberculosis & other chest diseases

Mission

To contribute to the socio- economic development of the nation by committing ourselves to create a TB free Sri Lanka by formulation of policies, planning, coordinating and monitoring of TB and chest diseases control activities in the country

Objectives

- To find and successfully treat, on average, between 2021 and 2025, 10,000 cases of drug sensitive TB annually, including 600 children
- To successfully treat, on average, each year between 2021 and 2025, 11,600 eligible cases for TB preventive treatment (TPT)
- The private sector will be properly engaged in TB diagnosis and care, and by end 2025, 30% of all cases notified will be referred from the private sector.
- To strengthen monitoring and evaluation of TB control activities at all levels
- To significantly increase the quality and quantity of operational research studies on TB
- To significantly improve the organization and management and control of TB activities

Achievements and Key events 2025

1. World TB Day 2025

To commemorate World TB Day 2025, we announced TB Week from March 17th to 23rd, 2025. A series of awareness and screening programmes was conducted in high-risk settings, including the National Hospital for Respiratory Diseases, Colombo Fort Station, Colombo Municipal Council's D2A and D2B administrative areas, and Medical Officer of Health Divisions in Kolonnawa and Welikada Prison.

On the 24th of March, the WHO recommended 'four symptoms screening tool' was launched at the Endocrine Clinic and the OPD of the National Hospital of Sri Lanka (NHSL).

On the 25th of March, World TB Day was commemorated by conducting the TB Day Walk from Colombo Chest Clinic to NHSL in collaboration with community-based organizations (CBOs) and all other stakeholders. A multi-stakeholder advocacy programme was conducted at the NHSL auditorium at a later part of the day.

a) TB Day Walk



b) Stakeholder Meeting



c) Awareness and screening programmes (TB Week)



2. Supervisory visits

Regular supervisory visits from the central level are being conducted to monitor TB control activities and address service delivery issues. Visits to Kalutara and Colombo districts have been completed so far, and the remaining districts will be covered in the coming months.

3. ePIMS System Troubleshooting and Network Assessment at Kandy Chest Clinic

A visit was conducted to the Kandy Chest Clinic during March 2025 by a team from the NPTCCD, to assess and resolve issues with incomplete data entry and system performance in the ePIMS. Key findings included multiple hardware and connectivity issues across service points such as the hematology lab, OPD, and culture lab. Immediate actions were taken to restore connectivity in several areas, format underperforming PCs, and recover the Wi-Fi password.



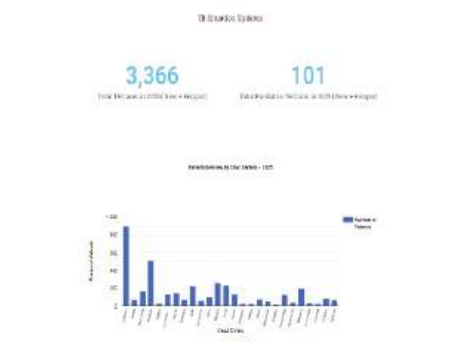
4. ePIMS User Training Session at District Chest Clinic Kurunegala

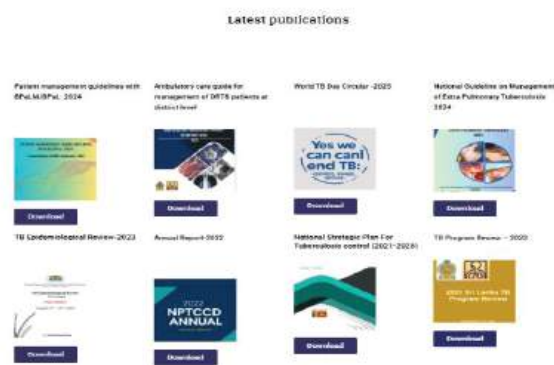
A field visit was conducted to the District Chest Clinic (DCC) Kurunegala to deliver hands-on training on the ePIMS system. The training session targeted a multidisciplinary group of users



5. Modification of NPTCCD website

The official website of the NPTCCD was recently modified to improve functionality and accessibility. Key updates include the integration of dashboard displaying latest TB-related statistics to enhance data visibility. Additionally, new sections were introduced, such as Latest News, Latest Publications, and a Public Noticeboard to provide timely updates on procurements and bids. These enhancements aim to improve information dissemination and support transparency in programmatic operations.





6. DTCO Review

Two DTCO review meetings were conducted as two-day programmes during the reporting period. These reviews covered the performance of Q4/2024 and Q1/2025. DTCOs from all districts participated in the discussions and review sessions.

7. Technical Support Group (TSG) meeting

A Technical Support Group (TSG) meeting was held in May 2025 with the participation of stakeholders. The meeting focused on reviewing the programmatic progress, identifying key challenges, and providing technical inputs to improve the implementation of TB control strategies. Recommendations from the TSG are being incorporated into ongoing and future activities to enhance the effectiveness of the national response.

8. Health education activities

Several targeted health education and tuberculosis awareness activities were conducted across diverse settings during 2025. These included institutional sensitization programmes for healthcare workers at Kalubowila Teaching Hospital (TOT programme for Nursing Officers), Ninewells Private Hospital, and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Community-level outreach included awareness sessions at Dompe and Pannipitiya elderly homes, as well as school-based programmes at Modara Hamaz Muslim Vidhyalaya and Lyseum International School in Gampaha. Workplace TB awareness programmes were also carried out at Comfab Steel, Meerigama, and among staff at the Divulapitiya Divisional Secretariat. Additional awareness and screening activities were held at Piliyandala and Lunawa Base Hospitals.



9. NPTCCD prioritized the development and dissemination of effective Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to support TB awareness and behaviour change. Several IEC materials were designed, updated, and finalized in line with national messaging guidelines. The printing process has been initiated to ensure wide distribution across healthcare institutions, schools, workplaces, and community settings to enhance public knowledge and engagement in TB prevention and care.



10. **Procurement** of lab equipment consumables, and X-pert MTB/Rif cartridges was done to assure smooth functioning of the laboratory diagnostic services to enhance the TB diagnostic capacity.

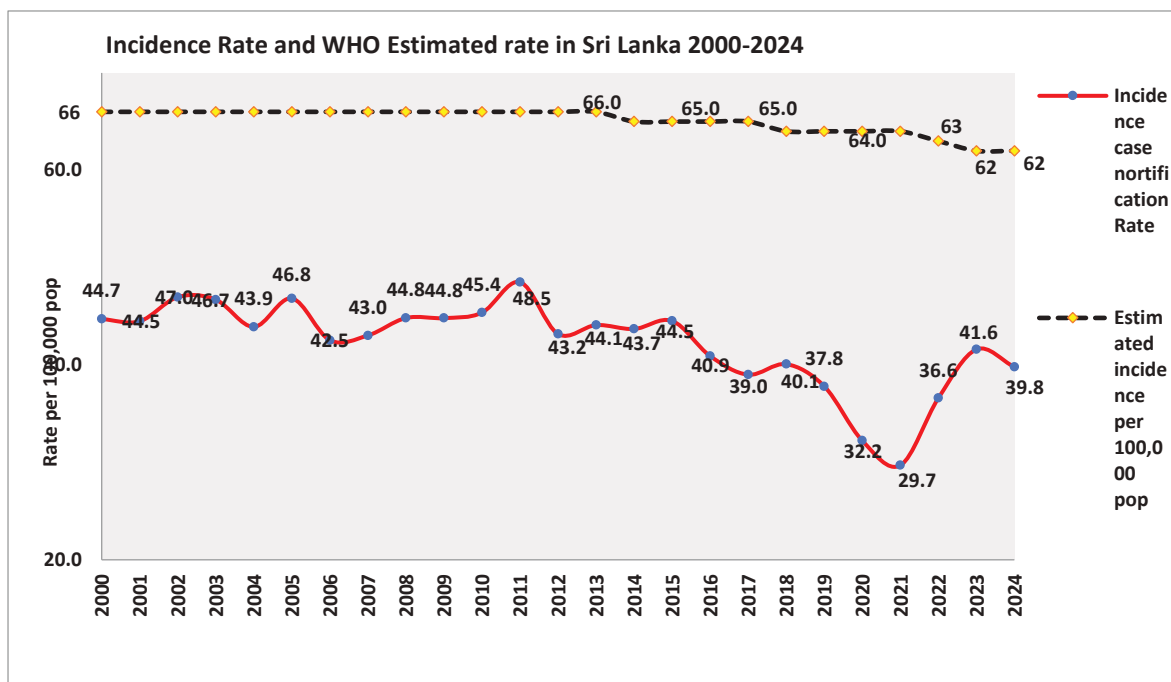
Last 5 year performance trend.

Case Finding and Incidence Rate per 100,000 population of TB in Sri-Lanka (2005 – 2025 Q1)

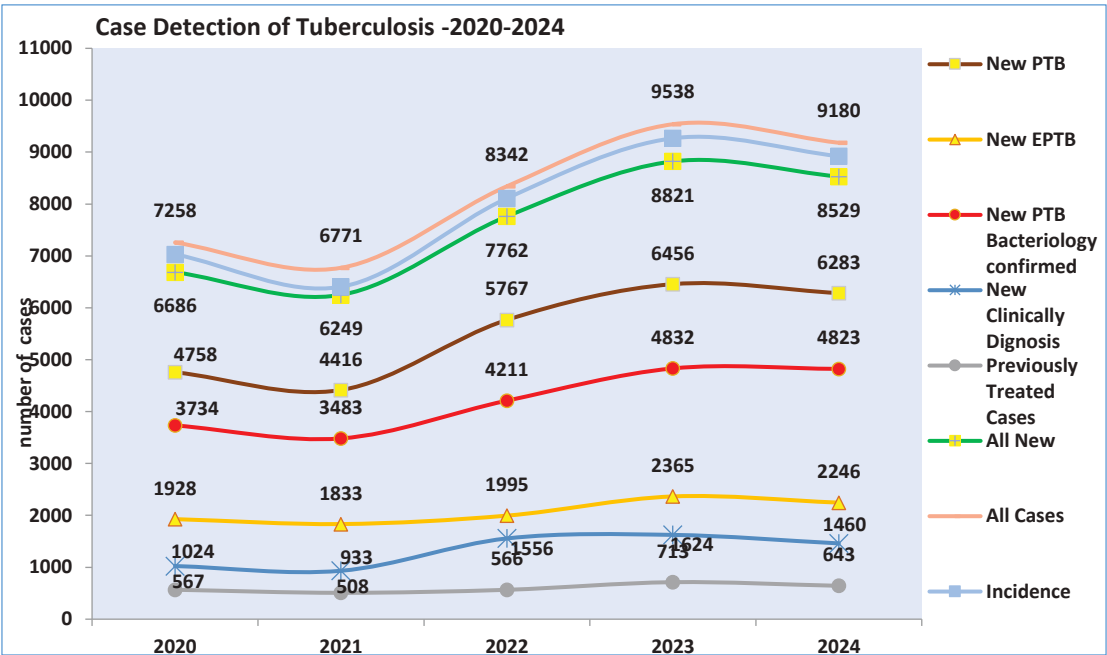
Year	New PTB	New EPTB	New PTB Bacteriology confirmed	New Clinically Diagnosis	Previously Treated Cases	Others	Relapse	All New	All Cases	Incidence
2020	4758	1928	3734	1024	567	5	344	6686	7258	7030
2021	4416	1833	3483	933	508	14	156	6249	6771	6405
2022	5767	1995	4211	1556	566	14	348	7762	8342	8110
2023	6456	2365	4832	1624	713	4	446	8821	9538	9267
2024	6283	2246	4823	1460	643	8	393	8529	9180	8922
2025 Q1	1473	536	1142	331	167	2	98	2009	2178	2107

Source: Quarterly reports of District
Chest Clinics.

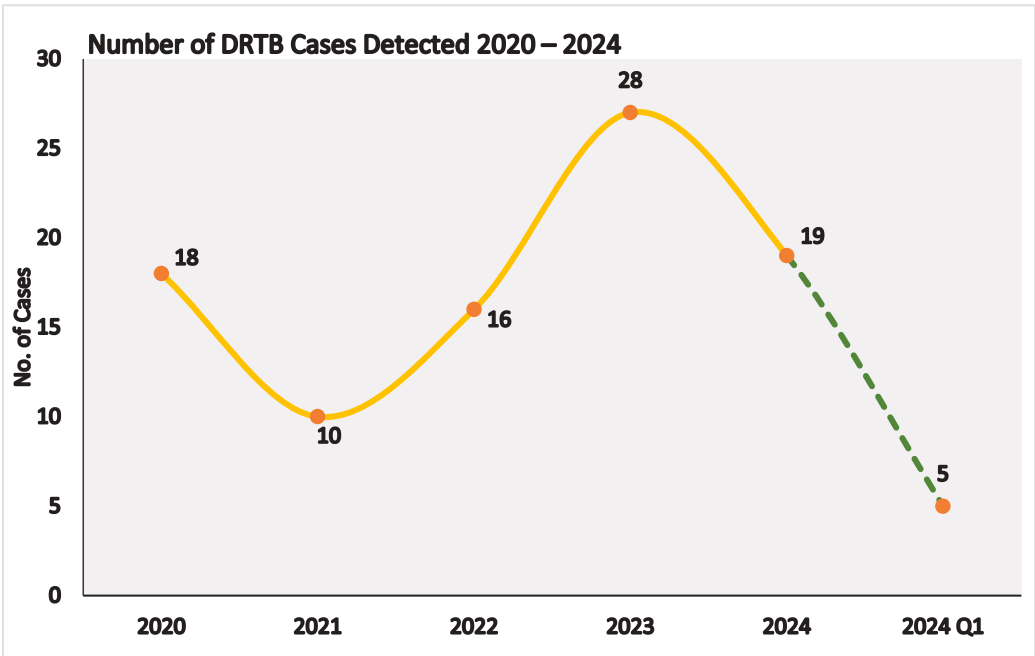
➤ Gap between the estimated TB cases (new and relapse) and notified cases



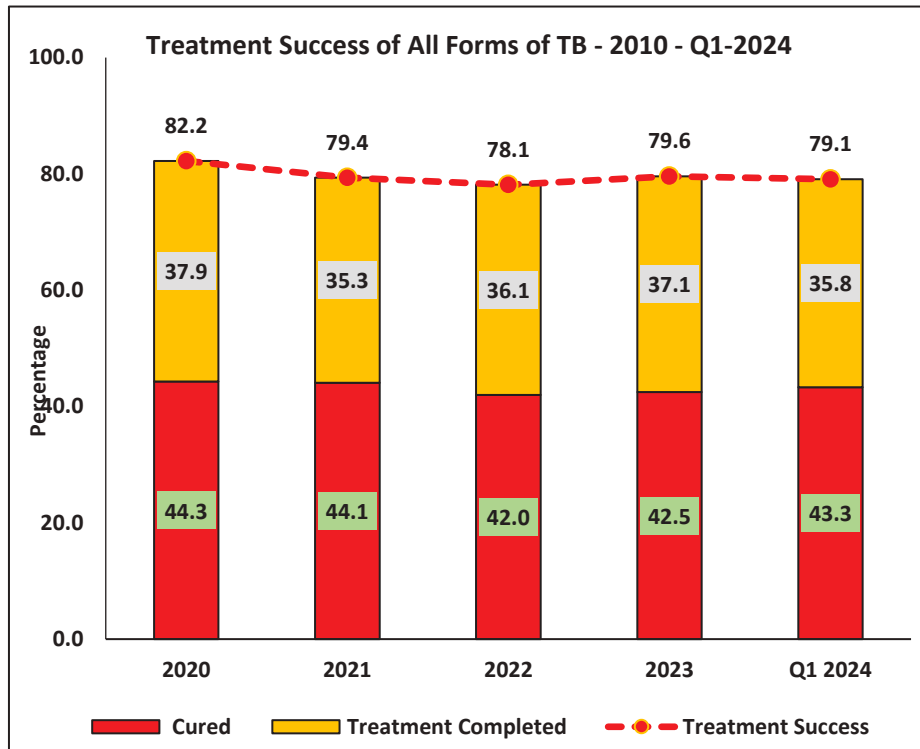
➤ Trend of case detection



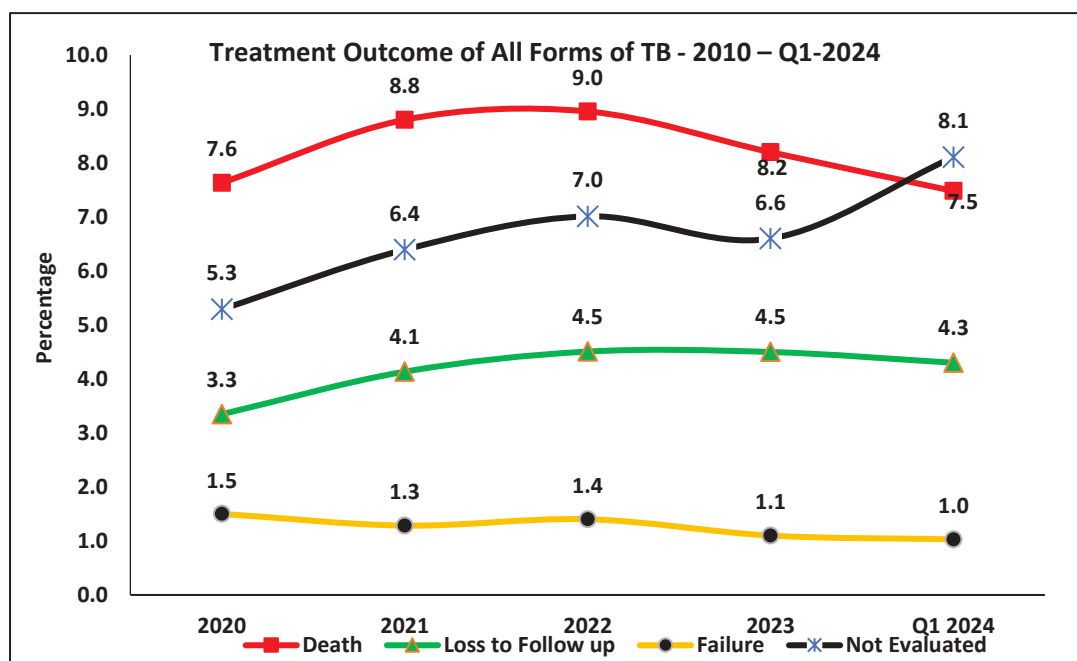
➤ Trend of MDR case detection



➤ Treatment success rate



➤ Treatment outcome



4.1.6 National Cancer Control Programme

Introduction

National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) of Ministry of Health coordinates prevention and control of cancers in Sri Lanka in collaboration with other units of Ministry of Health and Provincial Ministries of Health in the country.

National Advisory Committee on Prevention & Control of Cancers chaired by the Secretary of Health gives the policy direction for the national response to prevention and control of cancers. Cancer control activities are planned, implemented and monitored according to the 'National Strategic Plan on Prevention and Control of Cancers in Sri Lanka 2020-2024.

Vision

'A country with a low incidence of preventable cancers and high survival rates with good quality of life and minimal disabilities and suffering from effects of cancers'.

Mission

'To reduce the incidence of cancers by controlling and combating determinants of cancers, ensuring early detection and providing holistic and accessible continuum of cancer care which addresses curative treatment options to end of life care through an evidence-based approach'.

Objectives

- High-level political leadership, advocacy and governance to accelerate the national response to prevention and control of cancer with a robust integrated, coordinated, multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary national program with community engagement.
- Primordial and primary prevention of cancers by addressing risk factors and determinants throughout the life cycle.
- Ensure screening and early diagnosis through improved health literacy, availability of services for rapid diagnosis of cancers and linking to ensure early treatment and care.
- Ensure sustained and equitable access to cancer diagnosis, treatment and care facilities.
- Ensure access & availability of survivorship, rehabilitation and palliative care facilities at all health service levels and the community level for cancer patients and support to their families and caregivers.
- Strengthen cancer information systems and surveillance to provide accurate and timely data to monitor the progress and evaluate the outcomes of cancer control actions.
- Promote research and utilization of its findings for the prevention and control of cancers

Achievements and special events

Leadership & Governance of Cancer Control Activities

- The process of updating National Strategic Plan on Prevention & Control of cancers for year 2025-2030 was continued.
- imPACT review on cancer control activities was conducted with the participation of World Health Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Agency for Research on Cancer, St. Jude Global Alliance, MD Anderson Cancer Centre & Ministry of Health Sri Lanka. Awaiting the final report of imPACT review.

Primary prevention & Early Detection of Cancers

Commemoration of World Cancer Day 4th of February 2025 – Media Seminar was conducted in collaboration with Health Promotion Bureau and Sri Lanka College of Oncologists to disseminate the messages on key cancer control activities.



A circular signed by the Director General of Health Services was issued in all three languages to mobilize health care staff to conduct special activities on cancer control to commemorate World Cancer Day.

Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month – March 2025: Since Colo Rectal Cancer is the third highest incident cancer among both males and females, first time Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month was observed in year 2025. Media seminar was conducted in collaboration with Health Promotion Bureau & Sri Lanka College of Surgeons



Continuation of designing and printing of IEC Materials for Cancer Awareness

As part of its ongoing cancer control efforts, the NCCP developed and printed a range of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to raise public awareness on key cancer types, including colorectal cancer, breast cancer, and cervical cancer. Additionally, a Tamil-language leaflet on Cancer Early Detection Centre was produced to ensure wider accessibility and understanding among diverse communities. These resources aim to support education, promote early detection, and encourage preventive practices nationwide.

Leaflet on Breast Cancer



Leaflet on Cancer Early Detection Centre (CEDC)



Colorectal Cancer



Leaflets on Cervical cancer



Activities to promote prevention & early detection of oral cancers

Training Programmes for Estate Medical Assistants

Capacity-building training programmes were carried out for estate medical assistants on Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders (OPMD) and oral cancer. These sessions focused on improving early detection, referral, and follow-up in estate populations in Nuwara Eliya and Hatton regions.



Awareness and Screening Programme for tea estate workers and construction-site workers

Targeted oral cancer awareness and screening programme was organized for tea estate

workers and construction site workers, high-risk groups due to their consumption of risk factors such as tobacco and Arecanut products as well as their alcohol use. The programme aimed to improve knowledge, facilitate early detection, and promote healthy lifestyle practices.



Annual Review Meeting of Regional Dental Surgeons (RDSs) and appraisal of RDSs

The Annual RDS Review was successfully conducted on 30th May 2025. The meeting aimed to assess the implementation and outcomes of oral cancer prevention and control activities conducted at the district level during the year 2024, and to strategize for further improvements. Ten RDSs were appreciated for the activities conducted during 2024.



Development and Distribution of IEC Materials

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials related to Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders and oral cancer, including leaflets and folding cards, were developed and printed. These materials have been distributed to the general public through Dental OPD clinics, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery clinics, general medical practitioners, school teachers, and during various district and national level awareness programmes.





Consultative Meeting with Traditional Medical Practitioners

Consultative meeting was held with traditional medical practitioners to engage them in the national oral cancer prevention strategy. The meeting focused on enhancing their awareness, strengthening referral pathways, and encouraging collaboration in community-level screening and health promotion.

Survivorship & Palliative Care

Strengthening Palliative Care Services

- Team visits to selected hospitals and regional / district directors of health services with the objective of advocating establishment of Palliative Care Services
- Advocacy and capacity building programme for district teams to establish Palliative Care Consult Services conducted with the participation of 5 district teams including 11 hospitals
- Third and the last National Steering Committee Meeting on Palliative Care for 2024 was held during the last quarter of 2024.
- First National Steering Committee Meetings on Palliative Care for 2025 has been conducted under the leadership of Director General of Health Services.

Establishing Management Information System for Palliative Care

- Conducting consultative and stakeholder meeting to plan the establishment of Management Information System for Palliative Care (MIS-PC)
- Pilot project to develop MIS-PC has been initiated.

Capacity Building on Palliative Care

- ToT Programmes on Survivorship and Palliative Care for focal points at the cancer treatment centres done at DGH Polonnaruwa – (Last quarter 2024)
- Facilitating the visit by the International Resource Team to strengthen paediatric Palliative Care services in Sri Lanka and arranging for fellowship opportunities for the qualified healthcare professionals

- District level staff training on palliative care has been planned and the first district level training will be in Gampaha district.
- Training programme on Childhood Cancer Caregiver Education Booklet has been conducted for the hospital staff including National Cancer Institute, Lady Ridgeway Hospital and Sirimavo Bandaranayake Specialized Childrens' Hospital, Perademiya.

Public awareness and developing IEC material related to palliative care, survivorship and rehabilitation

- Media Brief on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day – 2024 was conducted to create awareness about the Palliative Care and related services - last quarter of 2024
- Childhood Cancer Caregiver Education Booklet has been reviewed and updated following series of consultative meetings. First two consultative meetings were held in the last quarter of 2024.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring and Evaluation of Palliative Care Consult Services given by Tertiary and Secondary Care hospitals as a National level review – (Last Quarter, 2024)
- A tool to monitor and evaluate the palliative care services provided by the Hospices was developed and hospice visit to Institute of Palliative Medicine, Matara was done.

Cancer registration and research

- Two-day training programme on cancer registration for cancer registry staff at Cancer treatment centres was conducted in December 2024
- Sensitization programmes to commence Population based childhood cancer registry in the Western Province was conducted in December 2024
- Cancer Incidence & Mortality report of year 2022 was analyzed and final report prepared.
- To strengthen population-based cancer registry in Colombo & Jaffna districts Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ministry of Health and Vital Strategies inc USA. Through this initiative technical support will be received through the WHO IARC Regional Hub for Cancer Registration, Mumbai India.

Expenditure for activities at the National Cancer Control Programme

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Up to 30.09.2025
GOSL	6,314,247.16	7,771,334.01	20,298,029.36	36,403,809.22	7,932,431.73

WHO	8,019,625.22	5,920,393.24	10,127,615.20	3,981,580.43	2,872,686.90
GOSL – World Bank a	43,458,521.82	6,922,500.00	5,288,409.13		-
Total	57,792,394.20	20,614,227.25	36,714,053.69	40,385,389.65	

Special Development activities planned for year 2026

- Finalize the National Strategic Plan on Prevention & Control of Cancers 2025-2030
- Conduct Media campaign on cancer awareness throughout the country using billboards
- Upgrade the exhibition unit at the National Cancer Control Programme and provincial levels to promote awareness on cancer
- Establish district teams for the development of the palliative care services
- Develop management information system for the newly developed palliative care services.
- Provide infrastructure for the palliative care consult services.
- Finalize & disseminate National Cancer Registry Report 2023 & 2024
- Develop an integrated electronic management information system for cancer registration

4.1.7 National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP)

Introduction

The National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) of the Ministry of Health is the main government organization which coordinates the national response to prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka in collaboration with many national and international stakeholders. As of the end of June 2025, 40 full-time STD clinics and more than 28 branch STD clinics are providing services for people affected with sexually transmitted infections. Of these, 36 clinics provide antiretroviral treatment (ART) services to people living with HIV. In addition, the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) also provided antiretroviral treatment (ART) services. It is estimated that approximately 5,700 people are living with HIV, over 95 % of whom have been diagnosed, and of those diagnosed, 81.5 % are receiving antiretroviral treatment. HIV testing has been further scaled up to identify undiagnosed people living with HIV. Efforts are taken to link diagnosed people with HIV with treatment services.

Vision

Country free of new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS related deaths.

Mission

Promote sexual health, prevent new HIV/STI infections and provide accessible and equitable comprehensive STI/HIV care services to improve health outcomes of all people seeking care.

Objectives

- 95% of people living with HIV know their HIV status by 2025
- 95% of those diagnosed with HIV are on antiretroviral therapy by 2025
- 95% of PLHIV on anti-retroviral therapy have achieved viral suppression by 2025
- Sustain elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis
- Less than 10% of people living with HIV report internalized stigma by 2025
- Reduce new HIV infections by 90% from the baseline value of 2010 by 2030
- Reduce AIDS related deaths by 90% from the baseline value of 2010 by 2030

Achievements/Special Events in 2025

- AIDS Epidemic model was updated with new data and new estimations for people living with HIV were completed.
- Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis revalidation certificate (2022-2023) obtained from WHO Global validation Committee.
- Pre-service and in-service training were conducted to STD clinic staff.
- Commenced scaling up of clinics to book appointments through the know4sure.lk website to improve HIV Prevention services of key populations.
- Scaled up the prevention information management system (PIMS) to KP intervention districts.
- Annual Report 2022 developed with analyzed 2022 data and disseminated.
- Review of HIV testing in the hospital setting and scaling up HIV testing conducted island-wide.
- Refresher training on EMTCT for MCH staff in the field and Institutions conducted island-wide.
- Development of Costed National Strategic Plan for 2023-2027 completed.
- Development of Costed Monitoring and Evaluation Strategic Plan for 2023-2027
- To reduce the cost of essential medicines, the antiretroviral therapy regimen is being shifted from Efavirenz-based regimen to a Dolutegravir-based regimen. Currently, in Sri Lanka, 95.68 % of people living with HIV are on a dolutegravir-based ART regimen.
- Convinced Global Fund to support for ART drugs, Condom and HIV rapid test. Also, GFATM fund was supported for Key population prevention intervention as well.
- HIV post-exposure prophylaxis scaled up to community clinics in Colombo and Gampaha districts.
- Updated NSACP website with integration of feedback collection system for STD clinics of NSACP.
- Updated Electronic Information Management System (EIMS).
- Upgraded of E-learning platform of NSACP.
- Standard Operating procedures for the online outreach workers developed.

Ongoing Development project details

People infected with HIV infection need life-saving lifelong treatment with antiretroviral (ARV) medication.

Funding Source	Allocation Received from MoH (LKR)	Net Expenditure as at 30.09.2025 (LKR)	%
GoSL (Capital)	50,993,231.32	11,605,330.17	23%
GoSL (Recurrent)	282,756,042.27	203,376,650.20	72%
UNFPA	1,366,086.94	1,366,086.94	100%
GFATM	401,877,434.44	346,480,459.37	86%

Last five- year performance trend

1.1. Key Performance Indicator

Key performance Indicator	Target for 2025	Progress			
		2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of cases with HIV- newly Detected		411	608	694	824
Number of PLHIV on ART		2402	2807	3358	4060
Number of Children with HIV due to mother-to-child transmission- Cumulative since the epidemic started		90	90	97	103
Percentage of HIV-positive women who received EMTCT services	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of babies born to HIV-positive women who tested HIV positive	0	0	0	0	0
Number of HIV-positive babies born to HIV-positive women who received EMTCT services	100%	-	-	-	100%
Number of HIV-positive babies born to HIV-positive women who did not receive EMTCT services	0	-	-	-	-

1.2. National STD/AIDS Control Programme-SDG indicators

SDG Indicator	Target for 2025	Progress			
		2021	2022	2023	2024
Percentage of people living with HIV currently receiving antiretroviral therapy (NSACP data)	95%	66.6%	59%	81%	82%

Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population (NSACP data)	<0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
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Special development activities planned for 2025

- Conducting Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) survey among key populations high risk of HIV in Sri Lanka.
- Key Population Size estimation to be completed at the end of the year.
- Working towards validation elimination of mother to child transmission of Hepatitis B.
- Refurbishment of National Reference Laboratory (NRL) and peripheral laboratories.

4.1.8 National Dengue Control Programme

Introduction

The National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU) serves as the focal point within the Ministry of Health responsible for the prevention and control of dengue in the country. The NDCU closely monitors the dengue situation at the provincial, district, and Medical Officer of Health (MOH) area levels. It also monitors vector surveillance data to predict potential outbreaks and facilitates the early identification of outbreaks. Additionally, the NDCU provides technical support to districts for the prevention and control of dengue outbreaks at the local level. To assist districts with highly burdened by dengue, the NDCU offers financial support for vector control activities, including special mosquito control campaigns. It oversees the procurement and supply of insecticides needed for dengue vector control as well. The NDCU also conducts regular training programmes for medical and nursing staff in collaboration with NIID to ensure best practices in preventing morbidity and mortality among dengue patients.

Vision

To contribute to achieving the elimination of dengue in Sri Lanka and maintaining a disease-free status thereafter.

Mission

To optimize planning, prediction, and early detection capacity at all levels for better control of dengue endemicity and prevention of outbreaks through coordinated partnerships and sustainable efforts.

Target and Objectives (2024 to 2030)

To reduce by 2030 the case fatality associated with dengue to zero from the current rate of <0.07% and reduce the incidence of dengue in the country by 75% (<100/100,000) from the 2022–2023 baseline level.

Strategic Objective 1. Disease surveillance and risk assessment

Strategic Objective 2. Early diagnosis and case management

Strategic Objective 3. Vector surveillance and control

Strategic Objective 4. Early detection and rapid response to dengue outbreaks

Strategic Objective 5. Risk communication and community engagement and mobilization

Strategic Objective 6. Enhancing multisectoral action

Strategic Objective 7. Innovation and research

Achievements/Special Events in 2025

- The Dengue Case Fatality Rate was maintained low at the level of 0.06% by 30th June 2025.
- In 2024, a total of 49,870 dengue cases were reported, while 29,041 cases have been recorded up to 30th June 2025.
- Three targeted mosquito control campaigns were carried out by the National Dengue Control Unit in collaboration with the Disaster Preparedness and Response Division and Provincial and Regional Health Services, with the support of the Sri Lanka Police, Tri-Forces, Civil Defense Force, local government authorities, community organizations, and local volunteers. These campaigns were conducted across:
 - 37 MOH areas from 27th to 29th March 2025,
 - 95 MOH areas from 19th to 24th May 2025, and
 - 111 MOH areas from 30th June to 5th July 2025.
- During these three campaigns, 323,276 premises were inspected, 12,025 premises with mosquito larvae were identified and notices issued for 8,903 premises while prosecutions were made against 2,982 premises.
- The 3rd meeting of Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the prevention and control of dengue in Sri Lanka was held on 5th March 2025.
- Training for 208 Medical Officers and 41 Nursing officers (Including 122 Registrars) was conducted at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) up to 30th June to enhance the clinical management of dengue.
- Training on Fogging machine operating was held in May.
- Five Proactive Meetings were conducted with administrative and technical staff of high-risk districts to review the dengue situation.

- Ten District Supervisions were done to review the vector control activities at field level.
- National Death Review was held in 5th April 2025 at the Auditorium of the Ministry of Health. Two Expert committee meetings were held to discuss about the Dengue Deaths. Eleven institutional dengue related death reviews were done.



Training Programmes at NIID



TOT programme for Bhutan and Myanmar 2024



Training on Fogging machine operation in May 2025



Expert Committee Meeting to review Dengue Related Deaths



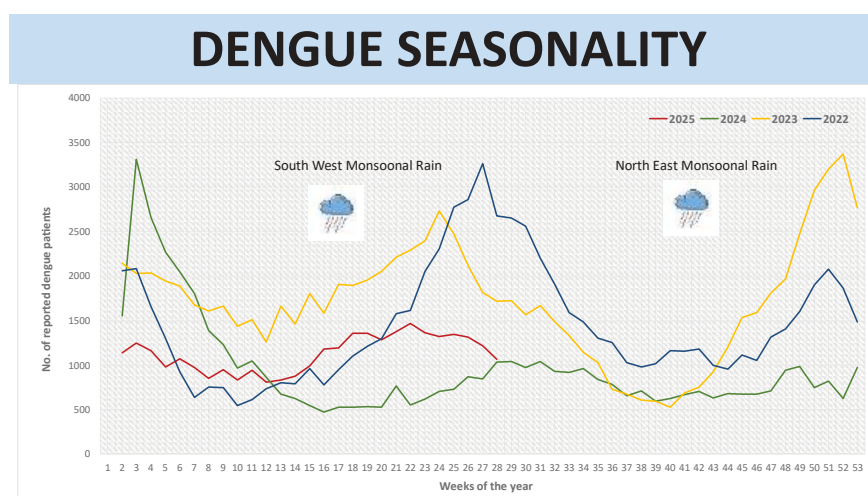
Last 5-year performance Trend

Table 1: National Level Key Performance Indicators from 2019 to 2025.

	Progress						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Number of reported suspected dengue cases	105,049	31,162	35,924	76,689	89,799	49,870	29,041
Number of dengue related deaths	157	36	28	72	62	24	16
Dengue Incidence	481.8	141.5	162.1	345.7	407.5	228.0	-

(per 100,000 people)							
Dengue Case Fatality Rate (%)	0.15	0.12	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.05	0.06
Premise Index for <i>Aedes</i> larvae	9.8	8.6	9.2	9.3	9.0	9.0	9.5

Fig 1: The Epidemiological trend and Case Fatality Rate from 2020 to 2025



Summary Report - Special Mosquito Control Week from March 27th to 29th 2025(37 MOH areas)

District/Region	Premises inspected	Premises with potential breeding sites	Premises with larvae	Premises corrected same day	Notices issued	Legal Action
1. Colombo	14468	2387(16.5%)	273(1.9%)	2105	208	122
2. CMC	7,406	725 (9.8) %	105(1.4%)	572	199	92
3. Gampaha	12,573	3833(30.5%)	418(3.3%)	3281	287	188
4. Kalutara	3,159	479(15.2%)	150(4.7%)	554	29	49
5. Matale	729	463(63.5%)	49(6.7%)	374	38	20
6. Matara	2,238	579(25.9%)	95(4.2%)	164	33	2
7. Rathnapura	2,693	565(21.0%)	138(5.1%)	205	45	1
8. Batticaloa	3,311	950(28.7%)	357(10.8 %)	875	161	42
9. Trincomalee	3,625	732(20.2%)	88(2.4%)	238	175	14
Total	50,202	10713(21.3%)	1673(3.3 %)	8368	1175	530

Summary Report - Special Mosquito Control Week from 19th to 24th May 2025(95 MOH Areas)

Number of Districts covered: 13

	Type of the Premise	Number Inspected	No of premises with potential breeding places	Premises with larvae		Notices issued	No of prosecutions
				Number	%		
1	Houses	119677	28480	5420	4.53	3509	1276
2	Schools	257	131	37	14.4	18	0
3	Other Educational Institutes	304	78	32	10.5	9	5
4	Government Institutes	789	214	79	10	52	3
5	Private Institutes	5025	1171	218	4.34	185	118
6	Construction Sites	700	348	108	15.4	65	32
7	Factories	195	89	35	17.9	18	13
8	Public Places	263	112	22	8.37	16	1
9	Religious Places	514	186	65	12.6	18	8
10	Other Premises	1100	336	61	5.55	26	14
	Total	128824	31145	6077	4.72	3916	1470

Summary Report - Special Mosquito Control Week from 30th June – 05th July 2025(111MOH Areas)

Number of Districts covered: 16

	Type of the Premise	Number Inspected	No of premises with potential breeding places	Premises with larvae		Notices issued	No of prosecutions
				Number	%		
1	Houses	131,789	31,967	3,695	2.8	3,307	846
2	Schools	400	226	44	11.0	25	01

3	Other Educational Institutes	379	100	15	4.0	05	03
4	Government Institutes	955	292	54	5.7	38	07
5	Private Institutes	7,011	1,626	229	3.3	260	94
6	Construction Sites	968	379	53	5.5	52	15
7	Factories	258	96	24	9.3	14	08
8	Public Places	442	157	34	7.7	13	00
9	Religious Places	744	306	63	8.5	38	01
10	Other Premises	1,304	346	64	4.9	60	07
	Total	144,250	35,495	4,275	3.0	3,812	982

Special Development Activities planned for 2026

- Enhancing dengue surveillance incorporating GIS mapping of cases
- Establishment of the web-based entomology surveillance system at MOH offices to record entomology survey data as suggested by the WHO expert committee.
- Expansion of the Wolbachia mosquito project to cover the entire Colombo Municipal Council area and Dehiwela MOH area.
- Research on use of sterile insect technique to control Aedes mosquito populations in collaboration with the Molecular Medicine Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya
- Development of social and behavioral communication strategies in dengue prevention for school children in collaboration with UNICEF.
- In coordination with the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) to train Medical Officers and Nursing Officers in both public and private sector on clinical management of dengue.
- In collaboration with the NIID to expand the international training programme on clinical management of dengue for the medical and nursing staffs for countries South-East Asia region and beyond.
- Amendment of the Prevention of Mosquito Breeding Act 2007 (Act No 11 of 2007).
- Strengthening of primary healthcare institutions on early identification and diagnosis of dengue patients.
- Strengthening of secondary and tertiary care hospitals with high-dependency units for improved clinical outcome of dengue patients.

4.1.9 Chronic Kidney Disease Management Programme

Introduction

National Renal Disease Prevention and Research Unit

The National Renal Disease Prevention and Research Unit (NRDPRU) serves as the National focal point for the prevention of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and Chronic Kidney Disease of Uncertain origin (CKDu), promoting and enabling the community to maintain healthy kidneys from a young age.

Objectives

- To provide technical and logistics support for the prevention of chronic kidney disease.
- To provide technical and logistics support for kidney disease curative care.
- To provide technical and logistics support for research activities related to kidney disease.
- To provide assistance to improve the quality of life and social care of chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients.

Achievements / Special events in 2025

1. Awareness raising on prevention of CKD and protecting kidney health was given high priority. World Kidney Day was celebrated on 13th March 2025 with the participation of all Regional Director of Health Offices. An Awareness campaign was developed, aligned with the global theme “Stay aware, Detect early, Protect your Kidneys”. Health education sessions were conducted to improve awareness among healthcare workers and among the general public. Banners were displayed with this message, which was 100% completed and launched in 2025.
2. Provision of safe drinking water –
Coordinated the construction and maintenance of Community RO plants with technical support from the SL Navy. 71 new Community RO plants developed.
3. Conducted community-based screening programmes for early detection of chronic kidney disease (CKD) – In last quarter of 2024, and in 2025, 2869 persons have been screened for CKD by the NRDPRU, and 7.6% (217) were referred as CKD, and 10% (292) were referred for other medical conditions (Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension and anemia). Facilitated routine CKD/CKDu screening in affected Districts and started training District teams on CKD screening.
4. Supporting CKD care
 - a. Supporting to conduct of effective hemodialysis –

Initiated construction of Medical Reverse Osmosis (MRO) plants at MICU, National Hospital, Colombo, and the Teaching Hospital, Ratnapura.

- b. Supporting to conduct of peritoneal dialysis –
Approximately 99 automated peritoneal dialysis (APD) patients and 921 continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) patients are under care by June 2025.
 - c. Supporting palliative care –
Steps were taken to restart the functioning of Methsirisevana in Anuradhapura District. The provision of accommodation facilities for CKD patients undergoing hemodialysis was resumed, which had been halted during the COVID era.
5. Research – Collaborative research activities were conducted between the Kothalawala Defense University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Three abstract publications were done.
 6. Research dissemination symposium – One research dissemination symposium was conducted in the 4th quarter of 2024 in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.
 7. Supported CKD prevention activities through the National Kidney Fund
 8. Initiated the development of guidelines on the maintenance of hemodialysis units and for community screening on CKD. These guidelines are expected to be completed within 2025.

Last five-year performance trend

Table 01: Summary of screening for Chronic Kidney Disease done by the NRDPRU

Year	No of Programs	No screened	No screened positive-CKD	Screened positive Other diseases (DM, HPT, Anemia)	Total no referred
2021	2	665	22	85	107
			3.3%	12.8%	16.09%
2022	11	3239	198	367	565
			6.11%	11.3%	17.4%
2023	18	5116	619	313	885

			12.2%	6.1%	17.4%
2024	30	7923	595	685	1280
			7.5%	8.6%	16.1%
2025	5	823	91	82	173
			11.1%	9.9%	21%

Special Development activities planned for 2026

- To develop and implement a health promotion programme in protecting kidney health, especially targeting school children.
- To implement the guidelines on maintenance of hemodialysis units and for conduction of screening on CKD/CKDu.
- To develop the “Renal Health Policy” in collaboration with the Policy Unit.
- To develop and implement the Renal Registry.
- To formulate a Research Steering Committee on CKD/CKDu and to work out a list of research priorities in CKD/CKDu prevention.
- Work in collaboration with the Ministry of Urban Development, Construction & Housing in reaching for a sustainable and equitable safe water supply to people.

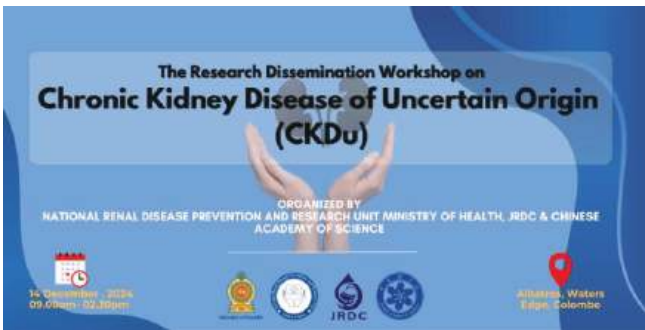
Figure 01: Community Screening Programme



Figure 02: Community awareness on CKD prevention



Figure 3: Research Dissemination Symposium on CKD/CKDu



4.2 Promotion & Protection of Health

4.2.1 Epidemiology Unit

Introduction

The Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health was established in 1959 with the assistance of the WHO. Since then, it served the country as the National Centre for Surveillance and Control of communicable diseases.

Vision

Healthy people in a healthy Sri Lanka

Mission

To promote health and quality of life by preventing and controlling disease, injury and disability.

Objectives:

- Responsible for surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases.
- Disease control activities in disasters, and emergencies and handles outbreak investigation and control.
- The focal point for the National Immunization Programme (NIP).
- Training medical postgraduates and health staff on activities related to communicable disease control and the National Immunization Programme.
- International training centre on disease prevention and Control and the childhood immunization programme.

Major achievements / special events

- Sri Lanka Achieved WHO-Verified Hepatitis B Control Status on 17 January 2024, after the expert panel verified that the country has reached the
- “Hepatitis B controlled” status.
- Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA) was conducted in 9 districts by giving a dose of MMR vaccine to 6-9 months old children. The campaign was able to achieve 96% coverage.
- A Catch -up Immunization campaign for Measles among young adults in occupational and higher educational settings across 12 high risk districts was conducted in November 2024
- The successful completion of all scheduled reviews of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Surveillance across all health districts during the year 2024 with the support of WHO funds
- A new generator was established for the Epidemiology unit with UNICEF support in May 2024.
- Temperature mapping study in the cold rooms was successfully carried out with the support of UNICEF in April 2024.

- EPI coverage survey was conducted in the Kandy district in May 2024 with funding support from UNICEF
- Initiation of a World Health Assembly resolution to include leptospirosis in the Neglected Tropical Diseases list was under discussion at the 156th Session of the WHO Executive Board (EB156). Although the proposed resolution on leptospirosis did not materialize as anticipated during the 2025 World Health Assembly (WHA), Sri Lanka demonstrated its continued commitment to addressing the global burden of the disease by co-sponsoring a significant side event dedicated to leptospirosis.
- A total of eight district-level review meetings were conducted on Leptospirosis to evaluate the effectiveness of leptospirosis prevention and control activities with the support of WHO
- A National Steering Committee on leptospirosis prevention and control and 12 district steering committees was established in 2024
- A multidisciplinary Technical Committee was established to analyze leptospirosis-related deaths, conduct an epidemiological review of cases, update management guidelines and engage in operational research to improve prevention and control efforts in 2024.
- Dissemination of messages related to leptospirosis prevention and control through radio during September -December 2024 from GOSL funds
- Immunization-focused interpersonal communication training, led by international experts, to develop master trainers who can cascade training to subnational-level trainers was conducted in January 2025 thereby strengthening frontline health workers' ability to address vaccine hesitancy
- The National Immunization Summit was held March 2025 on incorporating the local and international experts in multiple preventive and curative sectors in a view of reviewing the current schedule of National Immunization Programme and explore the introduction of new vaccines and strategies to strengthen the National Immunization Programme
- The Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP), was conducted in May 2025 to strengthen the capacity of field-level public health staff through hands-on training in disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, and data-driven decision-making.
- Two Consultative meetings on AFP, Measles , Rubella, CRS programmes was conducted in hospitals and other institutions.
- Two National Certification Committee for Polio Eradication and Measles/ Rubella, CRS Elimination (NCCPE & MRCE) meetings were conducted in 2024-2025
- A Consultative meeting with National Polio Expert Committee(NPEC) was held in 2024.
- Four AEFI surveillance district review s were done in 2024.
- Completed 4 Consultative meetings for public health staff on Middle Level Management of National Immunization programme in 2024-2025
- Conducted 2 District review & awareness programmes on outbreak preparedness, response & strengthening communicable disease surveillance in 2025
- Completed 4 District reviews on surveillance strengthening and awareness programmes on VPD outbreak preparedness and response plans in elimination stage of VPD in 2025
- Held the 2 week Field Epidemiology training programme (FETP).
- Held 2 quarterly " National Technical committees on Avian/pandemic influenza meetings" to improve surveillance of high-threat respiratory infections in 2025

- Updated the national pandemic preparedness plan through 2 consultative meetings in 2025
- Conducted 3 Training of trainer's programs and review of immunization service delivery for provincial/ regional immunization service providers in 2024
- Two National Advisory Committees on Communicable Diseases (ACCD) was held in 2024-2025.

Ongoing Development Project Details

No	Project Description	Total Estimate (LKR) Mn	Physical progress as of 30-09-2025	Financial Progress as of 30-09-2025 (LKR)Mn
GOSL				
1	Conducting Mass Media Campaigns on "Prevention and Control of Leptospirosis"	4.00	Procurement process initiated for radio messages to be disseminated from September-December, 2025 during the Maha season	0
2.	Preparation and printing of Updated Clinical Management Guidelines for “Leptospirosis”	1.00	Printing process is completed .Rs 17810.00 Million was used in excess .	101.78
3.	Bi-weekly meetings - 'Epidemiological Surveillance Roundup" at the Epidemiology Unit	0.40	13 out of 25 planned meetings were conducted .Rest of the planned meeting will be conducted upto 15th of December.	36.17
4.	Consultative meetings and field visits for "Prevention and Control of Rabies & Leptospirosis" in Sri Lanka	3.00	Conducted as a programme for 3 consecutive days . 100% of planned programmes were conducted .	70.06
5.	Rabies - Table top PEP guidelines (Reformulation , designing and printing)		Procurement process for development and printing of table tops ongoing .	14.48
6.	Rabies - Development of 3 short videos on initial wound management and health seeking, responsible pet ownership and dog bite prevention to be		Procurement process ongoing . 25% of the tasks completed .	0.115

No	Project Description	Total Estimate (LKR) Mn	Physical progress as of 30-09-2025	Financial Progress as of 30-09-2025 (LKR)Mn
	disseminated through social media and mainstream electronic media .			
7.	Rabies - Development of 6 social media posts on initial wound management and health seeking, responsible pet ownership and dog bite prevention		Procurement process ongoing . 25% of the tasks completed .	7.87
8.	Rabies - Printing of Posters on Initial Wound Management , Responsible Pet Ownership and Dog bite prevention		Procurement process ongoing . 25% of the tasks completed .	
9.	Rabies - Printing of leaflets containing information on how to monitor a suspected Rabid to be formulated , printed and distributed among all rabies PEP providing hospitals to be given to animal bite victims who are required to observe the biting animal.		Procurement process ongoing . 25% of the tasks completed .	
10.	Measles - Printing of booklet- SOPs on outbreak response		Procurement process ongoing . 25% of the tasks completed .	4.00
11.	Cold Chain management - Printing of booklet SOPs (Sinhala & Tamil) Amount -500	0.60	Draft content is prepared . Procurement process planned to be initiated soon .	0
12.	Diarrhoeal diseases - Printing of posters and leaflets (Sinhala and Tamil)- Total 600 posters (Sinhala -400;Tamil - 200)	0.15	Procurement process is ongoing. Development of posters and leaflets on diarrhoeal diseases prevention and control (Sinhala and Tamil) and printed	100 71.47

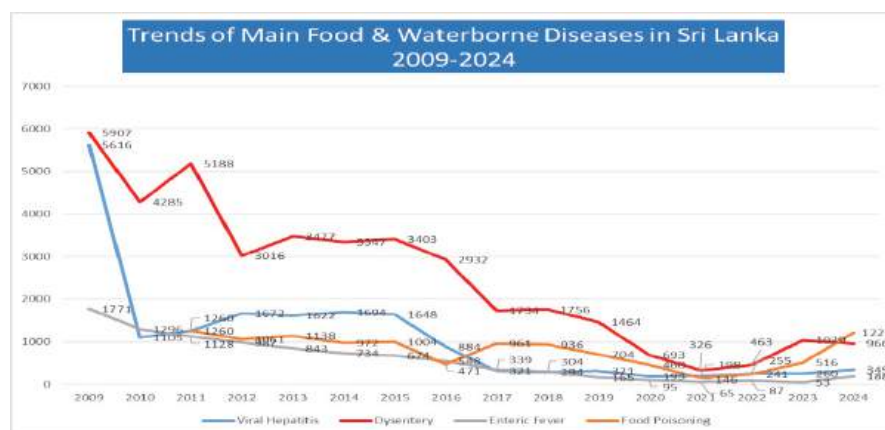
No	Project Description	Total Estimate (LKR) Mn	Physical progress as of 30-09-2025	Financial Progress as of 30-09-2025 (LKR)Mn
13.	Brucellosis-Printing of Leaflets (Sinhala -3500& Tamil - 1500 leaflets)		Procurement process is ongoing. Development of posters and leaflets on Brucellosis prevention and control (Sinhala and Tamil) and printed	
14.	Water Quality - National Steering Committee Meetings		01 Programme Conducted. Another meeting will be conducted in August 2025	
15.	Chikungunya - Printing of leaflets (Sinhala - 2500; Tamil -500)	0.058	Procurement process is ongoing . Drafts prepared ; TEC formation and quotation process planned .	0
16.	Immunization - printing of Immunization registers (AEFI registers, Vaccine Movement Registers , School immunization Registers) Total - 5000(approximately)	1.542	Procurement process initiated. Specifications developed.	0
WHO				
01	Consultative meetings on AFP, Measles , Rubella, CRS programmes in hospitals and other institutions	0.680	2 Planned programmes, Completed 2 Programs	93.39
02	National Certification Committee for Polio Eradication and Measles/ Rubella, CRS Elimination (NCCPE & MRCE)	0.120	1 Planned programme, Completed 1 Programs	94.68
03	Consultative meeting with National Polio Expert Committee(NPEC)	0.080	2 Planned programmes, Completed 2 Programs	97.05
04	AEFI surveillance district review	1.100	4 Planned programmes, Completed 4 Programs	90.15
05	AEFI Causality Assessment Expert Committee Review and	0.170	2 Planned programmes , Planning to implement on August 2025	51.16

No	Project Description	Total Estimate (LKR) Mn	Physical progress as of 30-09-2025	Financial Progress as of 30-09-2025 (LKR)Mn
	Severe AEFI Case Investigation			
06	Consultative meeting for public health staff on Middle Level Management of National Immunization programme	2.660	4 Planned programmes, Completed 4 Programs	94.01
07	District review & awareness programmes on outbreak preparedness, response & strengthening communicable disease surveillance	0.850	2 Planned programmes, Completed 2 Programs	97.66
08	District review on surveillance strengthening and awareness programmes on VPD outbreak preparedness and response plans in elimination stage of VPD	1.790	4 Planned programmes, Complete Programs	91.16
09	Field Epidemiology training programme (FETP)	3.810	1 Planned programme, Completed 1 Programs	96.65
10	Holding quarterly " National Technical committee on Avian/pandemic influenza meetings" to improve surveillance of high-threat respiratory infections	0.360	2 Planned programmes, Completed 2 Programs	84.82
11	Updating the national pandemic preparedness plan	0.190	2 Planned programmes, Completed 2 Programs	91.49
12	Training of trainer's program and review of immunization service delivery for provincial/	4.30	3 Planned programs, Completed 3 Programs	87.82

No	Project Description	Total Estimate (LKR) Mn	Physical progress as of 30-09-2025	Financial Progress as of 30-09-2025 (LKR)Mn
	regional immunization service providers			
13	National Advisory Committee on Communicable Diseases (ACCD)	0.39	2 Planned programs, Completed 1 Programs. Planning to hold the 2 nd meeting in September, 2025. Extension from WHO given until 30 th September, 2025.	84.15
14	Conduct district reviews and awareness sessions to strengthen the surveillance in vaccine preventable diseases and other communicable diseases in selected districts	1.29	Funds will be available from 11 th July 2025. 4 programmes will be completed by 30 th September .	0
15	Development of a National Vaccine Procurement Plan (VPP) for the National Immunization Programme of the Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health	1.42	14 Planned programmes, Completed 4 Programs. Extension from WHO given until 30 th September, 2025	73.71
UNICEF				
1	Conducting National Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) reviews in all districts to monitor, evaluate and improve the Immunization programme	8.40	35 programmes were planned and to be conducted in following months of this year	56.99
2	Consultative meeting for Public Health Staff on Middle Level Management of National Immunization Programme	1.40	2 programmes were planned and to be conducted in following months of this year	7.40
3.	Conducting EPI Coverage Survey	5.00	Planning to conduct in October 2025 in Colombo district	0

Last 5-year performance trend

Food and Water-borne disease trend in the country - Last 5 years



Special development activities planned for 2026

- Development of National Immunization Strategy
- Awareness programmes for General Practitioners (GPs) on fever, rash surveillance and Measles
- Capacity-building programmes for health care workers on Fever, Rash Surveillance and Measles
- Reviewing the performance of effective vaccine management and cold chain monitoring at selected districts
- Training District Public Health Staff on Communicable Disease Control and Prevention
- National Immunization Programme- Development of guidelines and printing
- Surveillance of Leptospirosis- Conduct an annual review with One Health partners
- Development of a tool to determine the immunization waste generation, and to determine the quantity of immunization waste being generated in NIP per year, determine the methods being used to discard the immunization waste in the country and its associated factors
- Establishment of animal rabies testing facilities in 6 districts (Procurement of laboratory equipments as microscopes , incubation tables etc)

4.2.2 Maternal and Child Health Programme

Introduction

Family Health Bureau is the central organization of the Ministry of Health responsible for policy planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of reproductive health, maternal health, newborn health, youth health, child health, family planning and well woman clinic programmes within the country.

In this role the Bureau provides necessary guidance and direction for effective implementation of programmes at the periphery and implements special projects funded by international agencies. FHB lays foundation for practice of Maternal and Child Health services based on scientific evidence for optimizing service delivery in facing present and future challenges. Government of Sri Lanka is funding overall function of the FHB. However, a proportion of the total budgetary requirement is supplemented by the external resources (UN agencies) as various project activities.

Sri Lanka is committed to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by the year 2030. Family Health Bureau being the focal agency responsible for maternal & child Health services, prepared action plan to achieve goal 3 - (Good Health and well-being) while monitoring its achievements at national and district levels very closely.

Vision

A Sri Lankan nation that has optimized the quality of life and health potential of all women, children and their families

Mission

To contribute to the attainment of highest possible levels of health of all women, children, and families through provision of comprehensive, sustainable, equitable and quality Maternal & Child Health services in a supportive, culturally acceptable and family friendly setting

Policy Goals

- Goal 1 -** Promote health of women and their partners to enter pregnancy in optimal health, and to maintain it throughout the life course.
- Goal 2 -** Ensure a safe outcome for both mother and newborn through provision of quality care during pregnancy, delivery, and post-partum period.
- Goal 3 -** Ensure reduction of perinatal and neonatal morbidity and mortality through provision of quality care.
- Goal 4 -** Enable all children under five years of age to survive and reach their full potential for growth and development through provision of optimal care.
- Goal 5 -** Ensure that children aged 5 to 9 years and adolescents realize their full potential in growth and development in a conducive and resourceful physical and psychosocial environment.

- Goal 6 -** Enable children with special needs to optimally develop their mental, physical and social capacities to function as productive members of society.
- Goal 7 -** Enable all couples to have a desired number of children with optimal spacing whilst preventing unintended pregnancies.
- Goal 8 -** To promote reproductive health of men and women assuring gender equity and equality.
- Goal 9 -** Ensure that National, Provincial, District and Divisional level Health managers are responsive and accountable for provision of high quality MCH services.
- Goal 10 -** Ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of MCH Programme that would generate quality information to support decision making.
- Goal 11-** Promote research for policy and practice in MCH.
- Goal 12 -** Ensure sustainable conducive behaviors among individuals, families and communities to promote Maternal and Child Health.

Achievements and Special events

Maternal care programme

- **–Consultative meetings:** Conducted 04 consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders on the development of a Quality of Care mini-tool with the objective of enhancing service provision in healthcare institutions in the country. In addition, 03 consultative meetings were conducted with relevant stakeholders with the objective of updating content of the existing booklet on maternal care which was published in 2011 by Family Health Bureau with the assistance of UNICEF. Several consultative meetings were also conducted to discuss about reduction of Maternal Mortality in Sri Lanka.
- **Development of Quality of Care mini-tool**
The Quality of Care mini-tool which was developed by a wider technical consensus was successfully pretested at Base Hospital Homagama, German Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital Galle. Castle Street Hospital for Women and De Zoysa Maternity Hospital for Women. Based on the inputs received the mini-tools were refined for greater effectivity.
- **Awarding of Best Performers in Quality of Maternal Care**
Three best performing hospitals were selected using the quality assessment tools designed for antenatal, labour room, postnatal and neonatal care units in hospitals and awarded at the World Patient Safety Day celebrations.
- **Publication of Maternal Care Flashcards:** Flashcards for the usage of Public Health Midwives for health education purposes of pregnant and lactating women were developed in Sinhala and Tamil by the Maternal Care Unit, with the assistance of UNICEF funding.

- **Psychosocial Screening Tool:** Maternal mental health has been identified as a priority issue and a tool is being developed to screen both antenatal and postnatal women for psychosocial issues. The tool that was developed and validated the previous year were submitted for wider stakeholder consensus to the College of Psychiatrists and members of the Technical Advisory Committee of Maternal Health, Family Planning and Womens' Health. Permission was granted to conduct a pilot study at Gampaha district.
- **Infrastructure development & strengthening:** Procurement and distribution of 386 electronic adult weighing scales with height rods to all maternal field clinics island wide was initiated. This activity was funded by GoSL and UNFPA. In addition, distributed 41 ultrasound scan machines to antenatal and postnatal wards of healthcare institutions in the country.
- **Maternal care commodities:** The coordination of supply of maternal care commodities such as multiple micronutrients, calcium carbonate, ascorbic acid and ferrous fumarate tablets throughout the country, which is handled by Medical Supplies Division, was also actively done during this time period. This included donations of these items by UNICEF and other international organizations.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Pregnant women registered before 8 weeks %	80.6	80.9	81.8	80.8	81.7	81.9
% pregnant making at-least one antenatal clinic	95.4	95.6	95.2	96.9	96.6	96.9
% of institutional deliveries	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9
% PN women receiving at least one domiciliary care	93.3	94.2	92.2	93.2	94.2	94.3

Intra-natal and Newborn Care programme

The Intra-natal and Newborn Care Programme of the Family Health Bureau aims at ensuring a positive childbirth experience for mothers, new-borns, and families, as well as enabling

every newborn to survive, thrive, and reach their full potential. The primary objective of the program is to achieve optimal maternal and perinatal outcomes.

Key achievements in 2025

1. The quality of care during childbirth and the newborn period was enhanced by building the capacity of healthcare providers, with financial and technical support from the Government of Sri Lanka and UN agencies.
 - A total of 68 trainees from both the public and private health sectors underwent a five-day intensive course on breastfeeding counselling. Additionally, postgraduate students in MSc Community Medicine, MSc Human Nutrition, and the Postgraduate Diploma in Child Health received both theoretical and hands-on training in breastfeeding support.
 - Twenty-six MD Paediatrics trainees were trained on breastfeeding counselling and essential newborn care to improve their clinical skills and knowledge.
 - Training on Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC), which is essential for reducing complications and deaths among mothers and new-borns, was delivered to 125 healthcare staff through four two-day workshops covering island-wide.
 - One hundred and two healthcare professionals were equipped with life-saving skills in newborn resuscitation through three Neonatal Advanced Life Support (NALS) training sessions in Nuwara Eliya district, where high neonatal mortality is reported.
 - To improve care for small and critically ill new-borns in Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs), a two-day specialized training programme was conducted. This included a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on neonatal intensive care at Castle Street Hospital for 32 master trainers comprised of consultant Neonatologists, Paediatricians and Nursing Officers and a participant training session at the National Hospital, Karapitiya for 47 health staff. Participant training is planned in Nuwaraeliya, Batticaloa, Kandy, Jaffna and Kurunegala in 2025.
 - Two neonatal retrieval training programmes were held in National Hospital Karapitiya to strengthen the neonatal transport system and ensure efficient, timely care for newborn in need of specialized services.
 - Refresher training on Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) and the Mother-Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI) was conducted for healthcare staff from both the government and private sectors, training 70 participants to enhance their knowledge and skills in delivering quality maternal and newborn care.

2. The findings of the island-wide assessment of the Mother-Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI) were finalized, and decisions were made to guide future improvements of mother-baby friendly practices aiming at promoting and supporting breastfeeding at health institutions.

3. The circular on 'Updated Levels of Neonatal Care for the Specialist Hospitals in Sri Lanka' was issued in March 2025 to standardize neonatal services across institutions, facilitate better resource allocation, and enhance the capabilities of neonatal units throughout the country in a coordinated manner.
4. The findings from the piloting and feasibility assessment of the World Health Organization Labour Care Guide (WHO LCG) which was done in 2024 were reviewed and submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee on Maternal Health (TAC) for further guidance. Based on the TAC's recommendations, Phase One of implementation of new labour monitoring tool was approved, with Kalutara District selected as the initial site for rollout. Integrating the labour monitoring tool into routine intrapartum care is expected to help optimize the use of Caesarean sections and improve the quality of other obstetric interventions, while also enhancing maternal and perinatal outcomes and women's overall childbirth experience.
5. A national guideline for universal newborn screening, including screening for critical congenital heart disease, congenital deafness, eye defects, and congenital hypothyroidism was developed with input from experts. A pilot screening project was conducted in five hospitals: Castle Street Hospital for Women (CSHW), De
6. Zoysa Hospital for Women (DSHW), German Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital for Women (GSLFHW), Teaching Hospital Kurunegala, and Teaching Hospital Jaffna. The pilot aimed to identify implementation challenges and collect data on screening outcomes. The pilot project was completed during the first half of 2025. Following completion, the findings and recommendations were presented to the Technical Advisory Committee on Newborn and Child Health for review and guidance on future steps.
7. 'Field Newborn Care Guide' and a training module was developed for public health staff with the aim of improving the quality of newborn care in the field. Training of field health staff is planned in August-September 2025.
8. During the first half of 2025, essential medical equipment was supplied to sustain maternal and newborn services. These supplies (infant warmers, incubators, weighing scales, length boards, portable USS donated by UNICEF and UNFPA, were distributed to the hospitals, benefiting labour rooms, postnatal wards, and neonatal units.
9. Development of IEC Materials and Formats: Posters on newborn hunger cues and ten steps of Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative were printed and distributed to respective health institutions for display. Neonatal formats (BHT) were modified to include newborn screening and printed to support healthcare staff in delivering consistent and effective care.

10. Supervisory visits were carried out to monitor and provide technical guidance on intrapartum and newborn care at several healthcare institutions, including Castle Street Hospital for Women, Teaching Hospital Jaffna, Colombo North Teaching Hospital, and Base Hospital Homagama.
11. Three meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee on Newborn and Child Health (TACNCH), chaired by the Deputy Director General of Public Health Services II (DDG PHS II), were held during the first half of 2025. The committee functioned as the technical advisory body for national newborn and child health programmes, providing policy guidance, technical advice, and overseeing the monitoring of both national and provincial initiatives.
12. A guideline development is underway for Mother Newborn Unit (MNCU) where sick and small new-borns receive care alongside their mothers, who are actively involved in the infant's care. Achieving 'zero separation' and ensuring optimal and respectful care for both the mother and the baby together as a unit is important for implementing life-saving interventions like immediate Kangaroo Mother Care. MNCU will be established initially at Castle Street Hospital for Women, and German Sri Lanka Friendship Hospital for Women. Several meetings were held with the Director and relevant staff of those hospitals and modification of infrastructure is ongoing to implement MNCU.





Child Nutrition programme

- National Nutrition Month anthropometric assessment of under 5 children was conducted in the month of June 2025. Prior to commencement of NM activities, technical updates were conducted for health staff virtually.
- The revision of National Infant and Young Child Feeding and Growth Monitoring and Promotion guidelines is being carried out based on the new guidelines published by the WHO. A meeting was held with the expert panel to clarify the first round of comments on the revised guidelines, and those comments are now being incorporated into the ongoing revision of the IYCF guidelines.



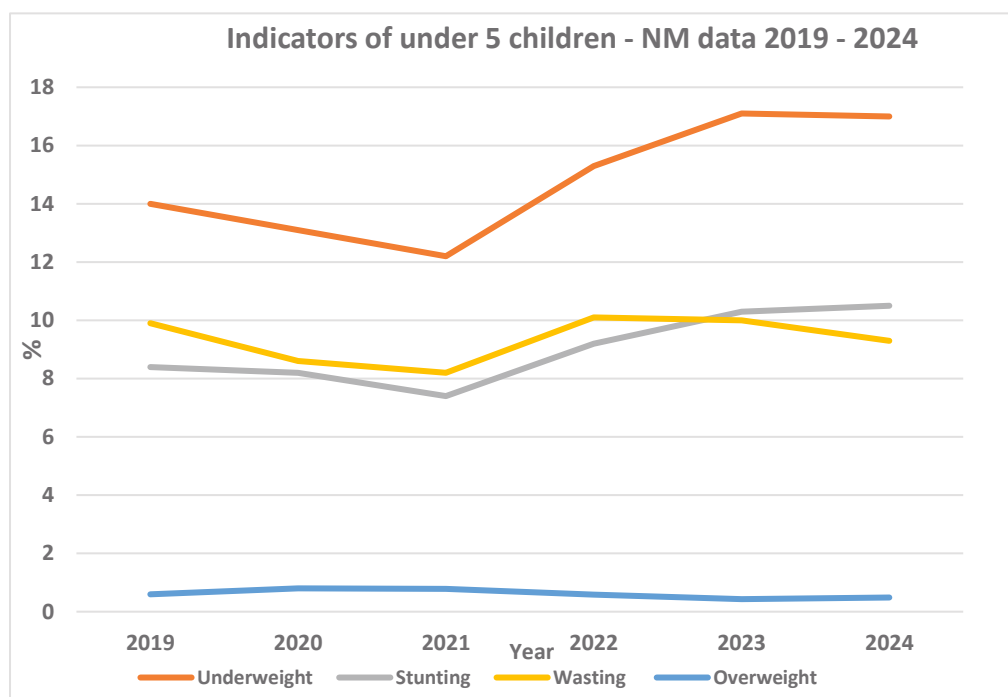
- In-service refresher programmes to technically update the supervisory categories of health staff on child nutrition were conducted in NIHS, Kalutara and Puttlam districts.



- One and three Maternal and Child Nutrition Subcommittee (MCNSC) meetings were conducted in the last quarter of 2024 and by the end of June 2025 respectively, contributing to the streamlining and strengthening of the MCN component of the MCH programme.
- Annual estimation of MMN, BP100, and Thriposha was facilitated through the SWASTHA system. Coordinated with MSD and provided virtual updates to health staff. Physical training on the SWASTHA system was conducted for RDHS-level officers responsible for managing Thriposha logistics.
- Generation of donor funding to support continuation of child nutrition services without disruption and intersectoral collaboration to ensure food security for vulnerable children.
- Cabinet approval was obtained to recommence the drafting of the Breast feeding Act.

Last 6 years performance trend: Nutrition Month Data

Nutrition Indicator (Children under five years)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Underweight	14.0	13.1	12.2	15.3	17.1	17
Stunting	8.4	8.2	7.4	9.2	10.3	10.5
Wasting	9.9	8.6	8.2	10.1	10	9.3
Overweight	0.6	0.8	0.78	0.59	0.43	0.49



Child Morbidity and Mortality Program

Despite notable progress in child survival in Sri Lanka, preventable deaths and morbidities continue to challenge the health system, particularly in the neonatal and post-neonatal periods, and among vulnerable adolescents. A coordinated, systematic approach is essential to address underlying medical, social, and systemic factors contributing to child deaths and illnesses.

Child Morbidity and Mortality Unit already established following surveillance and review mechanisms including:

- Foetal Death Surveillance- Field and Hospital Levels
- Under Five Child Death Surveillance- Field and Hospital Levels
- Perinatal Death Reviews- Hospital Levels
- Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (PDSR)
- Child Suicide Surveillance and Desk Reviews
- Birth defect surveillance system

The goal is to reduce preventable deaths and significant illnesses among all children in Sri Lanka through coordinated surveillance, analysis, and disseminate findings with multisectoral collaboration to prevent avoidable deaths among children aged 0–18 years.

Key Achievement

1. Conducted two national desk reviews on child suicides under 18 years of age. A total of 77 notifications of child suicides were received from all districts. Each case was investigated using the Psychological Autopsy Tool for Child Suicide (PATChis) by multidisciplinary teams led by consultant psychiatrists. Two comprehensive desk

reviews were carried out with the participation of 35 experts, including adolescent psychiatrists and other key stakeholders.

2. Conducted consultative meetings to revise the existing Field Child Death Case Review Format (FS3) and Hospital Child Death Case Review Format (HS3). These revisions aim to enhance the efficiency and comprehensiveness of data collection. In parallel, the existing web-based system was also updated to accommodate the evolving requirements of the surveillance and review process.
3. Finalization of the Birth Defect Strategic Plan 2025–2030: A stakeholder meeting was held with the participation of 45 stakeholders to finalize the drafted birth defect strategy.



4. A national desk review of neonatal deaths that occurred in 2024 was conducted with an expert panel. Fifty preventable deaths were reviewed and discussed. This exercise significantly contributed to identifying the key issues related to neonatal mortality, as the majority of under-five deaths occur during the neonatal period. The recommendations generated were shared with relevant stakeholders.



5. Hands-on training workshops were conducted for hospital-level data originators. Staff from seven hospitals (CNTH, BH Wathupitiwala, Csth, BH Puttalam, TH Rathnapura, and BH Kahawatta, DGH Chilaw) were trained.



6. A stakeholder meeting on national limb-related birth defects was conducted, with a special focus on children born with clubfoot, a condition that can be treated very effectively.

Childcare, Development and Special needs programme

1. First phase of the Island wide implementation of the Caring for the Caregiver (CFC) package of UNICEF.

The CFC package aims to improve caregiver mental health and psychosocial well-being, including for parents, caregivers, and other family members which results in increased access to services, support networks, and skills for supporting mental health. It will finally result in better child development outcomes and human capital development. The package will be implemented through the Public Health Midwives (PHMs), the front-line healthcare workers in our setup. Translation into Sinhala and Tamil languages and adaptation to Sri Lankan context as well as training 40 in country master trainers were completed within the 1st 3 quarters of 2024.

In the last quarter of 2024 and first 2 quarters of 2025, the following activities have been carried out to introduce this CFC package to field level health care workers with financial and technical support from UNICEF.

Completed the printing of all the materials in CFC package in both Sinhala and Tamil languages.

Situational analysis on implementing CFC in Sri Lanka through an external consultancy. Completed the first phase of 5-day PHM training programmes in Polonnaruwa, Galle, Hambanthota, Matara, Monaragala, Ampara, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Ratnapura, Kegalle, Anuradhapura, Colombo and Badulla districts successfully. For this first phase, a team of 40 field level public health officers including MOHs, PHNSs, SPHMs and PHMs were trained. However, the majority were PHMs as our main target group. Their involvement for the training, accepting the concepts and feed back were extremely favorable in implementing CFC package in the country.

Training PHMs in the remaining 13 districts (Kalmunei, Trincomalee, Baticaloa, Jaffna, Killinochchi, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaithivu, Matale, Kandy, Nuwaraeliya Kalutara and Gampaha along with CMC and NIHS areas are scheduled to be completed during July and August of 2025.

2. Piloting the adapted version of the “Arambh early moment matters” community-based parenting program in three rural communities

The most recent evidence suggests that countries should focus on initiatives to support parenting based on the nurturing care framework, and early childhood development would be the outcome of such programs. Early childhood development is considered a key developmental priority in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and nurturing care strengthens children's ability to develop and learn. Several parenting programs emerged in the region as best practices, and one of them is the "Arambh"—early moments matter program by the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences in Maharashtra, India. UNICEF Sri Lanka agreed to provide financial and technical support in adapting and piloting this programme in 3 rural communities in Sri Lanka. Literature review and detailed situational analysis by local as well as Indian experts have been completed in 2024. The following activities have been carried out to introduce this programme to Sri Lanka in the last quarter of 2024 and first 2 quarters of 2025.

- Selected and finalized the four areas to implement the pilot.
- Compared available resources in Sri Lanka with Arambh materials to avoid duplication.
- Discussed with other relevant stakeholders on the ground level implementation.

3. Training programme on SOP to be used in Government Hospitals for the Management of children who have faced violence

The Ministry of Health and the Family Health Bureau has a primary role to play in protecting children who have faced violence. Therefore, the management in the hospitals should be considered as a very important aspect and all the staff members should be well aware on the necessary management steps. In order to fulfill above requirement, Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians (SLCP) in collaboration with the FHB has developed the SOP on Management of Children who has Faced Violence to be used in Government Hospitals of Sri Lanka. This SOP has been approved by the Director General of Health services and distributed as a circular (01-32/2023) among all the relevant institutions in 2023. However, the SLCP has identified the necessity of training relevant staff categories on the SOP in order to implement it properly. Therefore, we have planned to conduct training programmes to selected staff members covering all the provinces in the country. Up to now the training programme for the Southern Province was successfully completed with the participation of 200 staff members representing the curative sector. Rest of the programmes are scheduled during the final half of the year.

4. Develop and validate a tool to screen specific learning disabilities (SpLD) for the age range of five to seven years.

Early childhood can be defined as the period from birth to eight years of age. The FHB conducts the "Inclusive Early Childhood Development Program" (IncluDe) for early identification and interventions for children with developmental disabilities which will significantly improve the development outcomes of identified children and contribute to the better human capital of the country. In 2024, FHB with the financial and technical support of UNICEF, initiated a programme to develop and validate a tool to screen specific learning disabilities (SpLD) for the age range of five to seven years which was an identified gap in the programme.

The research and data collection are completed during the first 2 quarters of 2025 and awaiting the analysis and results in last half of the year.

5. Development of minimum guidelines for childcare institutions catering for children with disabilities.

This was initiated by the National Steering Committee on Childhood disabilities after identifying the need for proper regulation in such institutions. A committee was appointed as the guideline development committee and we developed the draft document in 2024. The final draft was again adapted according to expert comments and detailed revision was carried out in the in the last quarter of 2024 and first 2 quarters of 2025.

6. Scaling up inclusive Early Childhood Development Programme (IncluDe) to all the districts in the country.

FHB initiated the programme IncluDe in 2020 in the Colombo district and scaled up to Kandy, Batticaloa, Gampaha, Kalutara and Galle in subsequent years. Although the significant improvement in the outcome of children referred was demonstrated in the above districts, we were unable to scale up the programme due to several bottlenecks. Although financial constraints, infrastructure and human resources were among those bottlenecks, the lack of human resources specially the consultant community paediatricians and therapists was identified as the main barrier.

To overcome the scarcity of human resources, FHB initiated a programme to identify dedicated medical officers and nursing officers in selected apex hospitals and establish centres in 20 hospitals aiming to improve the coverage of disability services. Those officers will be supervised by the Consultant Paediatricians in the respective stations. We were able to train all the medical and nursing officers with the help of the DDG MS I of the Ministry of Health and initiate developing clinics in selected hospitals in 2024. However, infrastructure and physical resources were main barriers to implement the programme successfully.

With the approval of the funds from the National budget 2025 (reference **NP/HRD/Health/25/11**), we have planned for the establishment/improvement of CDICs. This funding is intended for the enhancement of infrastructure and the procurement of essential furniture and equipment. The following hospitals were **initially selected** for this phase. They have **officially requested these funds** for the stated purposes.

School Health programme

• Coverage of School Medical Inspection (SMI)

H 1247 SMI Coverage Sri Lanka								
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
	98.1	96.9	55.7	57.8	97.9	99.1	99	25.4

*upto Q3

School health is a shared responsibility of both Health and Education ministries. Family Health Bureau (FHB) is the focal point for the School Health Programme (SHP) in Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

The target group for the School Health Programme is children and adolescents attending government and private schools. There were 3.8 million students in 10,096 schools by the

end of the year who receive school health services.

The main intervention package of SHP is directed towards strengthening Health Promoting Schools (HPS) concept. Under HPS, health services are provided mainly through School Medical Inspection (SMI) which includes growth monitoring, detecting nutritional and other defects, referral/treatment, educational programmes and vaccination. Other services of SHP are health and education staff training, educational material development, monitoring and evaluation.

The Medical Officers of Health (MOH) and Public Health Inspectors (PHI) are main responsible officers supervised by Medical Officers of Maternal and Child Health (MOMCH) and Consultant Community Physicians (CCP) for the programme of respective districts and Provinces.

- **Training of Trainers (TOT) for Capacity Building**

Regular training of trainers programmes on Psycho Social wellbeing (PSWB), Health Promoting School (HPS), Life Skills and School Medical Inspection were carried out in 2024. There were 11 programmes in 2024 but none were carried out within first 2 quarters of 2025.

The programme breakdown in detail is as follows:

	Title	Place	No of Programmes & Dates	Programme Output
1	Psycho Social wellbeing (PSWB)	CMC	2 programs - March/April 2024	120 Health & Education staff trained
			1 programme - 29-30 August 2024	
		RDHS Office Gampaha	3 programs 15-16/20-21/23-24 August 2024	3 programs - 150 Health staff trained
2	Health Promoting School (HPS), Life Skills and Psycho Social wellbeing (PSWB)	RDHS Office Galle	2 programs - July 2024	150 students and education staff trained
			1 program - October 2024	
3	Life Skills	PDHS Office Kurunegala	1 program 15-16 October 2024	50 health staff trained
4	School Medical Inspection & Health Promoting School (HPS)	FHB	1 program 27-28 June 2024	60 public health staff trained

- **Printing of Training Material and Formats**

Following training material were printed in 2024.

- Handbook for parenting - 10000 copies in Sinhala
- Psychosocial Training Manual - 10000 copies in Sinhala
- H 1306 School Canteen Format – 5000 in Sinhala & 2000 in Tamil

- **Purchasing of Equipment**

Following equipment were procured for SMI in 2024.

- Bathroom scales 600 items
- Height Measuring Tapes 600 items

- **Advocacy on Food Legislation**

Intense lobbying was carried out throughout 2024 in high level meetings and while coordinating with relevant agencies which resulted in activation of new revisions on food advertising and promotion from 1st January 2025.

Special Activities 2024 – 2025 (first 2 quarters)

(A) Assessment of Nutrition Environment in Schools

This activity was initiated in 2024 with UNICEF funding and included 2 major parts.

- i) Adaptation of the tool NEAT-S developed by UNICEF, to suit Sri Lanka
- ii) Survey to assess the nutrition environment in and around a sample of schools in 5 selected districts using the tool

The total activity was completed in 2025 and the survey findings were presented in a well-attended advocacy session in June 2025.

(B) Addressing Psychosocial Issues among School Going Adolescents

This activity was initiated in 2024. A series of consultative meetings of relevant experts were carried out and a pilot study in 3 selected districts to screen a selected sample of 13 – 17 year old school children using SDQ 33 has been planned. The activity is ongoing.

(C). Global School Health Survey (GSHS) Sri Lanka 2024 & Follow up Advocacy Activities

This is a globally designed research with an objective of providing data on health behaviours and protective factors among school children, including dietary behaviours, physical activity, mental health, tobacco and alcohol use. GSHS findings can be used to identify priorities, obtaining resources for school health programmes and to develop national level policies. It is routinely conducted every 5 years worldwide under the technical guidance of World Health Organization (WHO). It had been conducted in Sri Lanka in 2016.

GSHS 2024 was conducted successfully in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Forty (40) schools covering all 26 districts were included in the survey with 2945 school children participating. Sample size, participating schools and all survey material were scientifically selected with technical inputs from WHO. It was closely monitored and supervised by the Technical Working Group comprising of experts in varying fields. Survey results were analysed and the report was ceremonially launched on 10th March 2025.

This was followed by a media seminar on 19th March 2025.

A major advocacy programme was carried at Ministry of Education on 14th May 2025 for high central and regional level education officials.

Performance of School Health Programme

No	Indicator	2023	2024	2025*
1	% of schools SMI completed	99.1	83.2	25.4
2	% of schools sanitary surveys completed	98.8	99.3	94.4
3	% of students examined	91.8	91.2	19.7
4	% of children wasted	18.7	18.1	18.4
5	% of children stunted	5.8	6.5	6.9
6	% of children obese	2.2	2.4	2.4
7	% of children overweight	5.1	5.2	5.1
8	% Health Promoting Schools	72.6	74	71.9

*First 2 quarters only

Adolescent and Youth Health programme

1. Capacity building of the health care staff

Sri Lanka has a notable youth demographic, with individuals aged 10 to 19 years comprising 16% of the total population and those aged 10 to 24 accounting for nearly one-quarter. The Family Health Bureau, as the national focal point for Adolescent and Youth Health in Sri Lanka, plays a vital role in promoting well-being of young people. In order to improve the service provision on adolescent and youth health, Training of Trainer programmes on Adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) and adolescent and youth friendly health services (AYFHS) were conducted for health care staff of the AYFHS centers in selected hospitals and Medical officer of health offices (MOOHs). Also including District level CCPs, MOMCH as district level focal point for MCH, medical officers and nursing officers of the hospital Yowun piyasa centers and supervisory and other public health staff at the MOH level.

Two-day Training of Trainer programme on ASRH was successfully conducted for Categories of health staff at RDHS level comprising CCP, MOMCH and MOH, AMOH, PHNS, SPHI, SPHM, PHM, PHI- at MOH level and medical officer, nursing officer of adolescent and youth friendly health services centers of the relevant hospitals. These TOT were conducted in Southern, North Western, Central and Western provinces. Officers from RDHS Office – Galle, Base Hospital – Balapitiya, District Hospital – Unawatuna, MOH Offices – Sooriyawewa and Hambantota from **Southern Province**, Teaching Hospital Kurunegala, Base Hospital Dambadeniya from **North Western Province**, RDHS Office – Kandy, Base Hospital Theldeniya, MOH office Yatinuwara from **Central Province**, RDHS Office – Kalutara, Base Hospital – Pimbura from **Western Province** were participated and successfully completed the training.

This training contributed to enhanced technical capacity among supervisory and field-level public health staff, particularly in the delivery of adolescent- and youth-friendly health services. The engagement of both field and institutional staff ensured a multidisciplinary approach to service delivery, laying a strong foundation for improved implementation at the divisional and facility levels.



2. Technical Advisory Committee meetings on Young Persons' Health

National Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings on Young Persons' Health were convened to address key issues related to **adolescent and youth health in Sri Lanka**. This meeting brought together technical experts, stakeholders, and policymakers to: Review current challenges and service gaps, share evidence and best practices, Guide strategic planning and policy formulation for adolescent and youth health.

The outcomes of these discussions are expected to inform national programmatic decisions and strengthen multi-sectoral coordination for improved health outcomes among young people.

3. Empowering youth by youth – Youth leadership training programme

To strengthen youth leadership and active participation in adolescent and youth health promotion, a three-day *Training of Trainers (TOT)* programme was organized by the Adolescent and Youth Health Unit of the Family Health Bureau.

The programme covered key areas related to adolescent and youth health, rights, and services. A multidisciplinary team of **resource persons** contributed to the sessions, addressing a wide range of topics including Adolescent and youth health and services, Healthy lifestyle and exercises Prevention of STI among young persons, Cyber security, Life skills and responsible decision-making and experience sharing sessions by the peers.

The sessions were interactive and youth-friendly, designed to foster confidence, critical thinking, and teamwork among participants. Participants demonstrated increased awareness, leadership potential, and motivation to act as change agents within their peer groups. The programme successfully contributed to building a cadre of trained youth leaders capable of promoting health and well-being among adolescents and youth.



4. Advocacy programme for law implementing agencies

To address the legal barriers in providing health care services to the adolescent and youth in the field by health care staff, TOT was conducted to the police officers in Jaffna and kilinochchi districts to achieve the purpose of facilitating the smooth functioning of adolescent sexual and reproductive health services at the grassroots level and to minimize the legal barriers faced by healthcare workers in delivering ASRH services at the field level. TOTs on ASRH for police officers and public health staff-Kilinochchi and Jaffna district in Northern Province officers

The TOTs improved awareness among police officers regarding the importance of adolescent-friendly health services, relevant legal frameworks, and the role of law enforcement in supporting service provision. It also fostered better communication and mutual understanding between healthcare staff and police personnel, contributing to a more enabling environment for ASRH service delivery.



5. Revamping of YOWUN PIYASA website

To improve access to accurate, youth-relevant health information and promote digital engagement, the *Yowun Piyasa* website was upgraded to better serve the needs of adolescents and youth. Consultative meetings and reviewing the technical validity of new contents for yowun piyasa website was done with input from resource persons to upgrade the website to become more youth friendly.

A series of **consultative meetings** were held with **technical experts, youth representatives, and subject matter resource persons** to guide the revamping process. Key activities included: Reviewing and validating the technical accuracy and relevance of existing and new content, Redesigning the layout and features to ensure a **youth-friendly, interactive, and accessible interface**, incorporating feedback from youth to align the site with their preferences and information needs

The revamped website is to function as an enhanced digital platform for youth, offering reliable information on adolescent health, rights, and services in a format that is engaging and easy to navigate. It supports ongoing efforts to strengthen digital health promotion for young people across Sri Lanka.

6. National Youth Health Survey 2025

Preparatory Work for the National Youth Health Survey (NYHS) 2025

A series of **consultative meetings** with key stakeholders was conducted to support the development, planning, and implementation of the **National Youth Health Survey (NYHS) 2025**. These meetings provided valuable insights into service gaps in **Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS)** and informed the overall survey design.

As part of the preparatory phase, **field visits, pretesting of tools, and pilot testing** were carried out in two selected clusters within the **Horana MOH area**. These activities were critical in assessing the **feasibility, clarity, and relevance** of the survey instruments. The findings will guide the final refinement of the methodology and ensure that the NYHS reflects the real needs and challenges faced by adolescents and youth.



Implementation of the National Youth Health Survey 2025

The **Family Health Bureau**, as the national focal point for Adolescent and Youth Health, is leading the implementation of the NYHS 2025 to generate **up-to-date data** on the health behaviours of youth aged 15–24—data not captured since the last survey in 2012. The survey will be conducted in selected **MOH areas across all health districts**, ensuring national representation.

Youth awaiting university entry will serve as data collectors, guided by trained public health staff. In each selected MOH area, **two supervisory officers and the area PHM** will be trained as trainers to oversee field operations and ensure data quality.

To support this, the Adolescent and Youth Health Unit Organized **Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes** for supervisory staff. **Three TOTs have been conducted to date**, covering **285 participants** from Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Matale, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Badulla, Monaragala, and Ratnapura districts. These trainings focused on **survey methodology, field protocols, quality assurance, and ethical considerations**, preparing supervisors to effectively lead and monitor the data collection process.



7. Field visits to assess the implementation of AYFHS

Two Field Visits on the assessment of Adolescent and Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS) were carried out at TH Batticaloa, MOH Office Vavunathiu in Batticaloa district.



8. Printing of publications and guidelines

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen youth health communication and service delivery, the Adolescent and Youth Health Unit undertook the development, printing, and dissemination of key publications and multimedia resources in 2024–2025. These included: Protocol of Yowun Piyasa-2025 in Sinhala, English and Tamil medium, Flash cards and Guideline in Sinhala and Tamil medium,

Animated Educational Videos and Infographics for the Yowun Piyasa Website

A series of **2D character-animated videos** and **20 thematic infographics** were developed in all **three national languages**. These materials aim to communicate sensitive sexual and reproductive health topics in a youth-friendly, engaging, and culturally appropriate format, and are available on the Yowun Piyasa digital platform.

Oral Health programme

1. Introduction

The Oral Health Unit of the Family Health Bureau has implemented a wide range of activities in the first half of 2025, aligned with national strategic priorities and supported by the GOSL and UNICEF Work Plan. This report outlines the physical progress achieved through programme implementation and training, and the financial progress from procurement, service delivery, and capacity-building initiatives.

2. Procurement Progress

To support the scaling up of school oral health services, multiple procurement requests were initiated. Letters were sent to the Medical Supplies Division and the Ministry of Health to include essential dental items in the SWASTHA system and obtain procurement approvals.

2.1 Summary of Key Procurement Requests

Item	Status
Fissure sealant packs	In the process of getting approval from MSD to procure this item
Micromotor units	Approval obtained.
Tabletop autoclaves	Approval obtained.
Portable light sources	Approval obtained.
Polishing brushes for micromotors	In the process of getting approval from MSD to procure this item
Pumice powder	In the process of getting approval from MSD to procure this item

3. Programme Implementation

3.1 Supervision Visits – Fissure Sealant Programme (UNICEF-funded)

Between May and June 2025, eleven fissure sealant supervision visits were successfully completed across Colombo, Gampaha, and Kalutara districts. These visits were supported through the first tranche of UNICEF funding (LKR 1.5 million). Activities included screening school children for the selection for the programme according to the Fissure Sealant Guideline, oral hygiene education including real world intra-oral brushing demonstration, and fissure sealant application under real-time supervision.

Supervision Visits Conducted

Date	School	District	Expenditure (LKR)
02/05/2025	Kelani Maha Vidyalaya	Gampaha	112,510.00
08/05/2025	Muslim Balika Vidyalaya	Kalutara	117,354.00
15/05/2025	Kadawata Maha Vidyalaya	Gampaha	114,300.00
19/05/2025	Gampaha Gothami Kanishta Vidyalaya	Gampaha	114,295.00
23/05/2025	Kirindiwela Central College	Gampaha	116,157.00
26/05/2025	Ragama Basilica Primary School	Colombo	111,560.00
30/05/2025	Shantha Mariya Vidyalaya, Seeduwa	Gampaha	114,551.00
03/06/2025	Ranasinghe Maha Vidyalaya, Dunagaha	Gampaha	114,842.00
06/06/2025	Senarath Paranavithana National School, Udugampola	Gampaha	116,300.00
12/06/2025	Kal-Eliya Aligar Maha Vidyalaya	Gampaha	113,958.00
27/06/2025	Mayadunna Maha Vidyalaya, Avissawella	Colombo	116,300.00

Total Spent (Q1): LKR 1,262,127.00



3.2 Fluoride Varnish Programme

Due to delays in the second UNICEF funding tranche, five fluoride varnish programmes scheduled for June 2025 had to be cancelled despite preparations. These were to be conducted in Colombo and Gampaha districts by trained SDTTs.

Note: A GOSL-funded supervision component was proposed to sustain continuity.

4. Capacity Building & Consultative Events

Several key workshops, meetings, and training sessions were conducted to support quality assurance, programme design, and field capacity.

Highlights:

Activity	Date	Expenditure (LKR)
SDTT Training – Western Province	01/04/2025	75,978.55
FV/FS Consultative Meeting	25/02/2025	31,000.00
National Target Setting Meeting	28/05/2025	75,220.00
e-RHIMS Integration Workshop	14/05/2025	8,050.00
DTTS Data Meeting & Field Visit	27/03 & 28/04/2025	30,886.87
Student Orientation – OH & MCH	25/03/2025	54,556.35
Staff Wellness Awareness	21/03/2025	37,690.00



Printing and Educational Materials

IEC material development and printing were a core part of the programme visibility and education efforts.

- 4,000 leaflets on fissure sealants (English & Tamil) printed and distributed – Rs. 28,600.00
- The procurement process was initiated for printing the Fluoride Varnish and Fissure Sealant Guideline books for School Dental Therapists

5. Collaboration with the Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education formally launched the School Dental Services Circular (16/2025) during the national programme organized by the Sri Lanka Dental Association together with ministry of Health parallel to the World Oral Health Day celebration on 20th March 2025. The OHU coordinated closely with RDSS and SSDTTs to finalize and distribute the circular.

Additionally, lists of urgently needed school dental clinic renovations and new constructions were compiled and submitted to the Ministry of Education, following the their instruction to prioritize national schools.

6. Staff Engagement Activities

The oral health unit of the Family Health Bureau has organized weekly aerobic sessions and monthly wellness talks for FHB staff, promoting well-being and team cohesion.

- Twenty two aerobic sessions held between January and June 2025
- Awareness session by health and fitness experts held in March (Rs. 37,690.00)



7. Conclusion and Next Steps

During the first half of 2025, the Oral Health Unit successfully initiated major programme components under both GOSL and UNICEF funding streams. Despite funding delays affecting fluoride varnish implementation, the unit maintained momentum through strategic supervision visits, capacity building, and strengthened coordination with key stakeholders.

Next Steps:

- Continue supervision visits with GOSL funding support
- Complete pending procurement and equipment distribution
- Follow up on district-level school dental clinic renovations
- Advance data integration with eRHIMS and finalize new formats

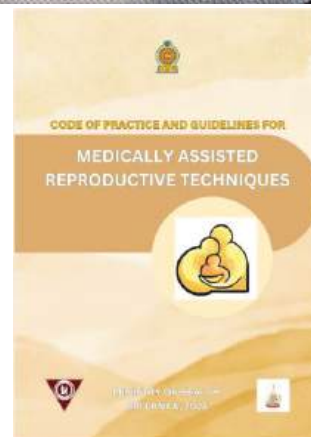
Family Planning programme

Achievements in 2025

1. A significant step towards inclusivity was achieved by, revising the specifications to introduce a tactile arrow on the starting point of the oral pills' blister packs. This innovation was designed to assist visually impaired women, a frequently marginalized group, in independently managing their reproductive health.



2. The pressing need for a Code of Practice and Guidelines for Medically Assisted Reproductive Technology (MART) was addressed in 2024 through collaborative efforts with the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (SLCOG). A circular (No. 01-42/2024) in this regard was issued as an interim measure to guide healthcare professionals and institutions when providing MART services. The availability of this guideline marks a significant step in ensuring ethical, safe, and standardized ART services in the country, safeguarding the well-being of the clients and improving reproductive healthcare outcomes.



3. Considering a person's right to make decisions about one's reproductive health being a cornerstone of personal liberty and dignity according to international human rights framework, A new circular was revised with regards to spousal signature being non-mandatory in declaration of consent for sterilization Health 1198 (Revised 1983)

4. As part of efforts to promote sustainable energy solutions in healthcare, solar panels and a 50KW hybrid inverter were installed at the FHB to supplement the energy requirement of the contraceptive storage facility through a generous donation from the UNFPA. This initiative aligns with the green energy concept, ensuring a reliable and eco-friendly power supply to supplement energy requirements.



Ongoing Programme Development and Monitoring

- Training of Medical Officers and Public Health Nursing Sisters
- Training of Regional Medical Stores Managers in the districts on Supply Chain Management
- Development of records for health staff and clients (H1153 and H1155)
- Monitoring and evaluation of the FP Programme thorough DHIS 2

Last 5-year performance trends

Key Performance Indicators	Progress				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (Any method) %	67.1	66.3	68.5	69.4	69.8
2. Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (Modern methods) %	58	57.4	59.4	60.2	60.5
3. Couples with unmet need for contraception %	5.8	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.2
4. Demand satisfied by modern contraceptive methods (%)	79.5	80.0	80.2	80.5	80.7

Well Woman Programme

- HPV DNA testing for cervical cancer screening in Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka is committed to achieving the WHO interim target of 70% coverage for cervical cancer screening by 2030. To support this goal, it is crucial to regularly purchase HPV DNA test kits. This effort will be scaled up in a phased manner, and therefore, funds must be reserved to ensure its success. By the end of 2024, Sri Lanka will received a donation of HPV DNA test kits valued at 101 million rupees, in addition to 35 million rupees worth of test kits purchased using Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) funds. In 2025, we commenced utilizing approximately 30,000 test kits (purchased in the above manner), covering 12% of the target population—females in the 35 and 45-year age cohorts.
- Revision of Well Woman Programme guidelines: The Well Woman Programme guideline was further revised with the inclusion of oral health promotion component. It was printed with donor funds and distributed to all district level health authorities and Medical Officers of Health.
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material development – Two sets of flashcards and a poster was developed with UNFPA funds to support awareness raising activities carried out in Medical Officers of Health (MOOH).
- Capacity building programs for field staff and supervisions: Capacity building and supervisory field visits were carried out in MOOH in selected districts with low performance. These visits included meetings at the RDHS office with district health program managers and the histopathology team, which consists of consultant pathologists and cytoscreeners.
- The Family Health Bureau (FHB) procured the consumables required for Well Woman Clinics through the Medical Supplies Division (MSD) of the Ministry of Health. These supplies were then distributed to all Medical Officer of Health (MOH) areas via the respective District Regional Medical Supplies Divisions (RMSDs). All consumables and reagents were systematically recorded and monitored using an inventory management software system.

Table 01. Well Woman Clinic attendance by women aged 35 years and 45 years (2019-2024)

Indicator	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Percentage of women aged 35 years who attended the WWC	73.8	58.1	43.6	55.2	65.6	62.5
Percentage of women aged 45 years who attended the WWC	25.5	20.9	17.9	30.1	46.7	46.6

As mentioned above in Table 1, Well Woman activities were expanded gradually throughout the country. There has been coverage of around 62% in respect of 35 year age cohort and 46% in respect of 45 year age cohort, in 2024.

Table 02. Percentage of Pap smears taken from women aged 35 years and 45 years (2019-2024)

Indicator	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Percentage of Pap smears taken from women aged 35 years who attended the WWC	67.8	53.1	40.3	50.3	60.6	57.6
Percentage of Pap smears taken from women aged 45 years who attended the WWC	24.1	19.6	17.0	28.3	43.3	43.1

Table 03. Clinic attendance and morbidities detected (2019-2024)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Percentage of new cases of Breast abnormalities detected	1.7	1.7	1.6	2.2	2.3	2.6
Percentage of new cases of Diabetes Mellitus detected	3.4	3.9	5.7	7.9	4.7	5.5
Percentage of new cases of Hypertension detected	3.4	3.8	4.1	4.5	4.8	4.9

Maternal Morbidity & Mortality Surveillance programme

From January 2025 to June 2025, Sri Lanka witnessed a total of around 27 maternal deaths resulting from direct and indirect causes. These deaths are in the process of careful investigation at both the field and institutional levels to gain a comprehensive understanding of the circumstances surrounding each case.

To ensure a comprehensive review process, the findings of these investigations are discussed at Institutional Maternal Death Reviews (IMDRs). These reviews serve as platforms for healthcare professionals involved in the care of the deceased patients to come together and discuss the findings of their investigations. This collaborative approach allowed for a multidisciplinary perspective, as all relevant healthcare staff were encouraged to share their insights and expertise. In view of continuous improvement in the quality of reviews, representatives from the Family Health Bureau (FHB) and the Sri Lanka College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists participated in all IMDR's held for direct and indirect maternal deaths.

During the period from January 2025 to June 2025, the FHB has actively engaged in 14 IMDR's, attending each session to provide guidance and support. Some IMDR's encompassed multiple cases conducted within a single day to streamline the review process.

Furthermore, National Maternal Death desk reviews for 26 maternal deaths, involving a meticulous examination of all direct and indirect maternal deaths, have been carried out in 2025 aiming to synthesize evidence and identify areas for system improvement. To ensure a thorough analysis, an expert panel was assembled comprising specialist consultants from diverse fields of expertise at the national level. This multidisciplinary national level approach allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the complex factors contributing to maternal deaths.

To further strengthen the surveillance and investigation of maternal deaths, Sri Lanka has taken a proactive step by introducing a Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths (CEMD) system, initially as a pilot project in the Western and Southern provinces. The process was further expanded to the entire country by the beginning of 2025. Weekly pre-review meetings with the participation of consultant VOG's enhance the surveillance process and by the end of June 2025, a total of 3 Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths (CEMD) expert panel meetings were conducted for 15 maternal deaths. With the launch of the confidential inquiry system in the entire country, Sri Lanka demonstrates its commitment to improve the quality of data generated from the review process thereby improving maternal health outcomes and reducing maternal mortality rates.

Maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) committees have been instructed established in all hospitals categorized as Base Hospitals and above across the country. These dedicated committees serve as essential platforms for streamlining the investigation process of both maternal and perinatal deaths. World Health Organization (WHO) provided financial support for the MPDSR initiatives in Sri Lanka.

To date, three Training of Trainers (ToT) programs have been conducted in the Western, Southern, and Central Provinces. These programs were designed to build the capacity of healthcare professionals to effectively implement Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) activities within their respective regions. As a result, the trained personnel have facilitated 18 regional training sessions for health staff since 2022. Further

ToT programs, including training for hospital teams on MPDSR, are planned for the Uva and Eastern Provinces during the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2025.

A MPDSR trainer guide and a MPDSR user guide has been developed and is currently being validated prior to publication. These guides provide comprehensive and standardized information on the MPDSR process, protocols, and best practices.

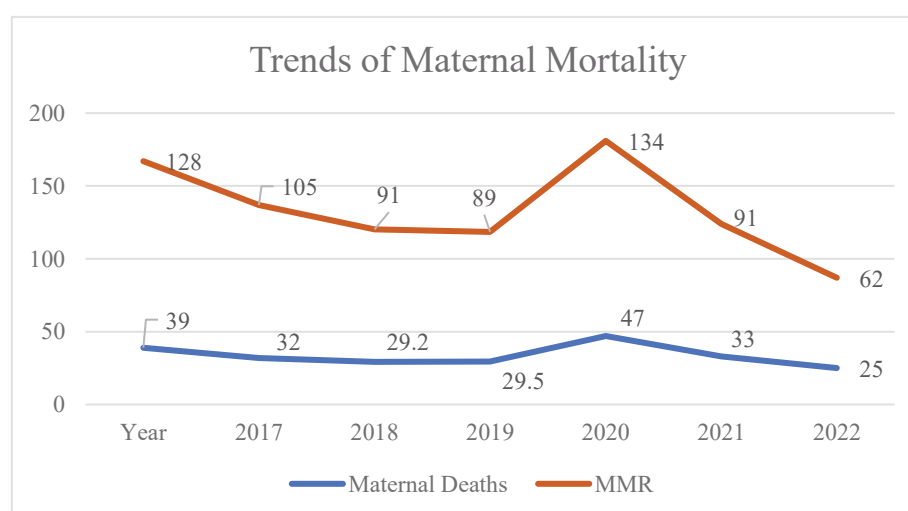
To complete the surveillance feedback loop, the Family Health Bureau (FHB) organized the National Dissemination Meeting on Maternal Death Reviews-2023 in April 2025. This meeting aimed to disseminate key findings and recommendations arising from the MDSRs conducted for 2023.



Figure : National Dissemination Meeting on Maternal Death reviews-2023

Last 5 year performance trend:

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
MMR	39	32	29.2	29.5	47	33	25
Number of maternal deaths	128	105	91	89	134	91	62



Monitoring & Evaluation

- In order to assess the field level healthcare services a team lead by the Consultant Community Physician of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit Family Health Bureau visited several field level clinics in the Colombo Municipal area in January 2024. Following clinic visits a discussion was held with the Medical Officers in CMC area and the administration (Maligawatta clinic)



- School Health Reviews conducted online - Provincial, Jan, Feb, March 2024
- RHMIS External Review – A comprehensive external review of reproductive management information system was done and several field visits to observe data utilization at grassroots level done in February – March.
- First Bi Annual MOMCH Review workshop
To review the progress of the district MCH activities, a three-day workshop was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka Foundation Institute with the participation of all Medical Officers of Maternal and Child Health and Consultant Community Physicians from all 28 health districts in the country including CMC and the NIHS area. This was held in April 2024 with the participation of the Secretary of Health, Director General of Health Services and the Deputy Director General of Health Services II.



- Second Bi Annual MOMCH Review workshop
The Second Bi Annual MOMCH Review workshop was also a three-day workshop held in Kaluthara, Waskaduwa at Citrus Hotel with the participation of all Medical Officers of Maternal and Child Health and Consultant Community Physicians from all 28 health districts in the country including CMC and the NIHS area. This was held in October 2024

with the participation of the Secretary of Health and the Director General of Health Services.

As part of this workshop a field visit was conducted in selected PHM areas in NIHS area to conduct a household survey by the participants.

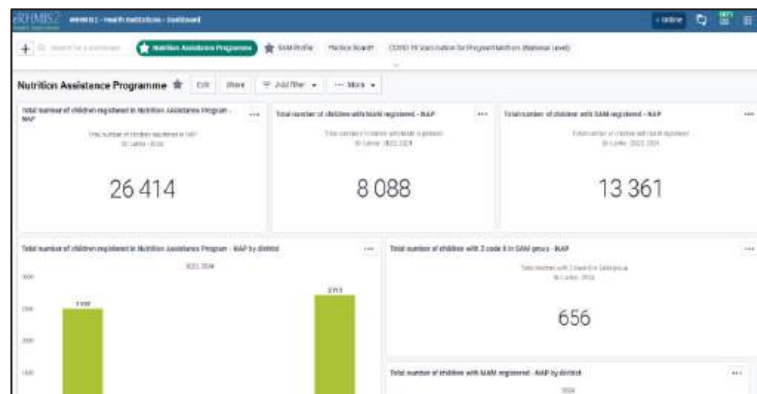
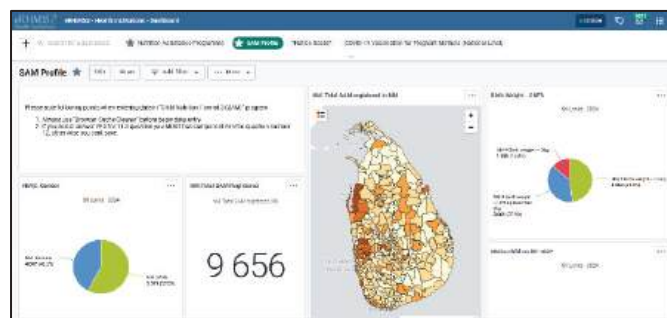


- National Nutrition Month 2024

National Nutrition Month activities were held in June 2024 and data were analyzed and presented to health ministry officials and the media as a dash board. Data were analyzed in details and a report was published. Both available in the FHB official website <https://fhb.health.gov.lk/index.php/en/>



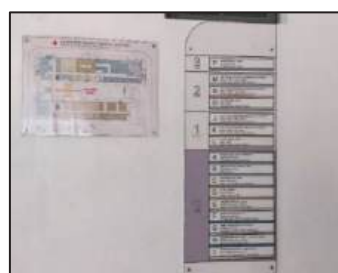
- Routine Nutrition Information Dashboard updated regularly and available in the FHB website
- To identify socio demographic status and profile of the households, a survey was carried out along with the NM 2024. Data were analysed and presented.
- Dashboards we created and introduced to visualize the android based data collection from all midwives on tracking children with SAM and MAM



- National MCH Reviews
National MCH reviews covering all districts were done using zoom technology as well as physical reviews

Visit to Kilinochchi DGH - Maternity Hospital

A field visit was done to newly constructed maternity hospital in Kilinochchi



- Capturing maternal and newborn health data through eIMMR – completed training 96 government hospitals and MNH module is introduced to capture MNH data from all government hospitals - up to September 2024



Trainings were completed in 3 provinces on introduction to new supervision framework 2024. Other 6 provinces to be completed in 2025.



- MNH HMIS for Private Health Sector – all trainings were completed and system was established to capture all MNH data as event reporting from all private sector hospitals in Sri Lanka
- A Training Database was introduced to be managed by all districts to identify their training needs.

- A supervision Training framework module introduced. Training on supervision framework module started in western, Eastern and north central provinces



Planning and Development

- WHO Programme planning module was adopted and introduced to Sri Lanka in a phased manner, targeting all Consultant Community Physicians, Medical Officers of Maternal and Child Health (MOMCH) and Medical Officers of Planning (MO-Planning). One master Training on Program planning was completed in 2024. 16 of newly appointed CCPs, CCD, MOMCHs, MO planning, and Doctors of FHB completed the training, covering up almost all key health staff members involved in RMNCAYH program planning.

Indicator	Years		
	2022	2023	2024
% of districts trained on program planning	ND	0.8	0.8



- Duty lists of Public Health Nursing Sisters (PHNS) was being revised after having a series of virtual and physical meetings with all relevant stake holders, while a new guideline was developed and approved to identify and establish new Public Health Midwife areas (PHM areas) to regularize the process.
- Two Disaster preparedness meetings (for district staff) and Three post disaster meetings were conducted virtually. The number of pregnant mothers, mothers with Newborn

babies and women affected by natural disasters including floods were calculated and over 2000 maternity kits (MK) and dignity kits (DK) were distributed in 2024. The commodities were donated by UNFPA.

- An external consultant is hired, two workshops and eight virtual meetings conducted, and Training material for a TOT on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in Emergencies were developed in all three languages during 2024. This was directly funded by FPASL.
- The first- three day -Master Training Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergencies was conducted for 24 public health staff selected from Health ministry, FHB, Kalmunayi, Batticaloa, and Colombo in 2025, funded by UNFPA.
- Adoption of MISP Readiness Assessment (MRA) Toolbox to local context to prepare an action plan to handle SRH emergencies in disaster was conducted in December, 2024. This was done by an External consultant, with FHB support, and funded by UNFPA. Heather Loran, the regional head of UNFPA participated throughout the MRA workshop, held in Colombo.
- Since MCH policy, compiled in 2011, needs re-visiting, A team of Experts conducted a policy gap analysis. 17 non funded physical meetings were held, interviewing seven program managers of FHB in 2024.



- A one day Training program was conducted to train FHB staff on English letter writing in 2024. The one day workshop was facilitated by a qualified team from Skills Development Fund Limited (SDFL), a substitute of Ministry of Education. This was jointly Funded by GOSL and Welfare society of FHB.
- A one day program on Official Documentation was conducted in February 2025 for FHB staff.

- Preparation of Annual Action Plan for Family Health Bureau-2025 was completed and submitted to MOH. Further Capital Budget Estimates and annual and 3 year Procurement plans were compiled and forwarded to MOH.
- Review meetings conducted and quarterly progress of the annual action plan and UN funded programs were compiled and forwarded. Annual Performance report for budget debates, central bank reports, etc prepared and forwarded regularly throughout 2023 and 2024.
- TWO meetings of National Committee on Family Health (NCFH) conducted January and July 2025. The meetings, chaired by Secretary of Health, is the key platform for seeking solutions to managerial problems in the field of MCH.
- Four laptops and 10 desktops were purchased and distributed for Needy units of FHB in 2025.
- Part of Essential furniture for FHB were purchased and distributed to needy units. This project is yet to be completed, due to technical disagreements at the end of 2024.

Research Unit

Research Unit of the Family Health Bureau was re-established since October 1st 2024.

1.National Surveys-1

National Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) Needs Assessment-2025

Introduction

The Comprehensive EmONC Needs Assessment in 2011 provided valuable information for many programme development National Strategic Plans of Maternal and Newborn Health (2014-2017) and (2017-2025), and many other strategic plans in the country benefited from the assessment. After the initial EmONC needs assessment, 14 years have already passed. The country went through a global pandemic, economic downturn and many policy changes in health.

To this end, the Family Health Bureau and UNFPA/UNICEF have planned to undertake a comprehensive EmONC Needs Assessment with the objective **of** to understand the gaps in service provision and the health system to ensure equity and quality of obstetric and neonatal care services in Sri Lanka to further reduce Maternal Mortality ratio and Neonatal Mortality ratio.

This survey was initiated in February 2025 by the Family Health Bureau after obtaining the concurrence from the Secretary, Ministry of Health & Mass Media. The Lead institution of the EmONC survey will be the Family Health Bureau and the Principal Investigator will be the Director Maternal and Child Health. Focal point of the Survey will be the Research Unit, Family Health Bureau. This Research is directly associated with the Maternal Care programme and Intrapartum-Newborn Care programme.

For this National survey 3 Lead Consultants are hired under the UNFPA/UNICEF direct sponsorship and they are now onboard for the survey. The description of the hired Consultants are mentioned as below;

- Prof. Upul Senarath-Lead Public Health Specialist, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
- Prof. Athula Kaluarachchi-Lead Obstetrician & Gynecologists, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
- Prof. Nishani Lucas-Lead Neonatologist, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

Methodology

The EMONC assessment will follow the standard methodology prescribed by the Averting Maternal Death and Disability (AMDD) of the University of Columbia, USA (Averting Maternal Death and Disability Programme (AMDD), 2024) after adapting to the local setting. The assessment will cover all the base and above level hospitals, sub sample of DH and sub sample of Private hospitals with delivery facilities in the country. Following the completion of data collection, there is a plan of GIS mapping of health facilities to get the idea of accessibility.

Key Achievements of the EmONC Survey

1. Appointed a Research Committee (technical working group) by the Director General of Health Services for the survey and chaired by the Director Maternal & Child Health. First Research Committee meeting was conducted in April.
2. Appointed a Steering Committee to monitor the progress of the survey by the Secretary of Health & Mass Media for the survey and chaired by the DDG/PHS II. First Steering Committee meeting was conducted in May.
3. Tool adaptation/Module revision was 90% completed (hospital formats, observation formats, individual formats)- Two tool adaptation meetings were conducted in June
4. The survey methodology is almost developed-Four Research Committee meetings/methods development meetings were conducted to develop the methodology.
5. Obtained ethical clearance to conduct the survey in June.
6. GIS mapping virtual training sessions were conducted by the Geo-Lab, Thailand team. Five-day onsite training GIS mapping workshop was conducted by the Geo-Lab, Thailand under the UNFPA direct sponsorship.
7. Development of training guides are in progress.
8. Hiring a company for the survey data collection under the UNFPA direct sponsorship is in progress.

Research Committee/Methods development Meetings



Steering Committee Meeting



Tool Adaptation/Module Revision Meetings



GIS Mapping 5 day- onsite Training Workshop



Financial progress/expenditure of the EmONC survey at FHB



	Activity	GOSL (Rs.)	UNFPA(Rs.)
1	Research Committee/Methods Development Meetings	5100	179,769.00
2	Steering Committee meeting		73,272.00
3	Tool adaptation meetings		135,634.00
	Stationery		3276.00
	Total	5100	391,951

National Surveys-2 ,

Implementation Research on Multiple Micronutrient Supplementations (MMS) for Non-anaemic Pregnant Women

Introduction

Nutrition during pregnancy effects not only foetal development and birth weight, but also the risk of chronic diseases for that infant in adulthood. The critical “window of opportunity” seems to occur during the pregnancy period. Health care personnel working with mothers during this key time have a unique opportunity to influence lifelong health of mother, infant and the family unit, by encouraging an appropriate diet. Nutrition requirements are high during the pregnancy. Nutrients are best obtained from dietary sources, but as this is not always feasible, the woman’s diet needs to be assessed for the adequacy of specific nutrients that are of particular importance during pregnancy.

Until July 2023, In the maternal care progamme all pregnant women received iron and folic acid with Vitamin C after POA of 12 weeks for six months, and six months after delivery. A pregnant/lactating woman gives 30mg of elemental iron and 400µg of folic acid supplement per day. This was given as one tablet of iron-folate (30mg iron + 400µg of folic acid) per day. Also, 100mg of Vitamin C was given with iron folate to enhance the iron absorption.

Recently there is clear and consistent evidence started emerging from clinical trials that multiple micronutrient supplements (MMS) provide additional benefits over iron and folic acid supplements (IFA) in reducing adverse pregnancy outcomes. The World Health Organization (WHO) analysis showed that MMS reduces the risk of low birth weight (LBW) and small for gestational age (SGA). In addition individual patient data (IPD), cochrane-analysis also shows that MMS reduce the risk of stillbirth and preterm birth. Anaemic women and underweight women are shown to derive even greater benefits with MMS. Multiple Micronutrient Supplement is a low cost and highly cost-effective intervention in comparison to IFA.

Low birth weights, still-births and pre-term births are priority issues that Sri Lanka faces, with high and stagnant levels of low birth weight since last several years. Cost of a nutritious meal has significantly increased in recent months. Findings from a recent National Nutrition and Micronutrient Survey in Sri Lanka revealed that the prevalence of iron deficiency, iron deficiency anaemia, vitamin D deficiency, zinc deficiency and vitamin B12 deficiency amongst pregnant women was 11.0%, 2.4%, 35.6%, 24.5% and 16.6% respectively. This indicates significant deficiencies in many micronutrients amongst pregnant women and not just iron.

It is in this context that Government of Sri Lanka introduced MMS for non-anaemic pregnant women from the August 2023 in six districts with the highest incidence of low birth weight (Nuwarealiya, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Kegalle, Ratnapura and Badulla). Multiple Micronutrient Supplement was initiated with a stock of MMS for pregnant women received as a donation to the government. The MMS was received in a bottle of 180 tablets and the guidance was to issue to non-anaemic pregnant mothers at the beginning of the second trimester and duly noted in both H 512A and H512B to maintain routine records of micronutrient supplementation for pregnant and lactating women. They are not issued iron folate or vitamin C for the rest of the pregnancy. The introduction of MMS was accompanied

by country-wide efforts to strengthen quality of antenatal care through rollout of the basic Maternal Care Manual.

From 2024 April MMS is provided to non-anaemic pregnant mother in all the districts in the country.

After implementation of MMS Island-wide, now it's almost 14 months passed. Therefore, it's necessary to understand the supportive factors and barriers of MMS implementation among pregnant mothers for the smooth functioning of this intervention. To this end, the Family Health Bureau and UNICEF have planned to undertake an Implementation Research on Multiple Micronutrient Supplement (MMS) for Non-anaemic Pregnant Women with the objective to describe the health sector and client related factors of implementation of MMS and its contribution to achievement of nutrient adequacy among pregnant women in Sri Lanka.

This survey was initiated in May 2025 by the Family Health Bureau and obtained the concurrence from the Director General of Health Services. The Lead institution of the MMS survey will be the Family Health Bureau and the Co-Principal Investigators will be the Director Maternal and Child Health & Prof. Maheeka Seneviwickrama from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sri Jayawardanapura. Focal point of this survey will be the Research Unit, Family Health Bureau. This Research is directly associated with the Maternal Care programme. The UNICEF is providing direct sponsorship to conduct this National Survey.

Key Achievements of the EmONC Survey

1. Two technical working group meetings were conducted in May and June.
2. Hired a company for the survey for ERC submission and data collection.
3. The survey methodology is almost developed
4. Submitted ethical clearance to conduct the survey.

Develop Audit Guides to Maternal and Child Public Health Facilities /Programmes for Public Health Audits

Introduction

So far there are no Audit Guides for Maternal and Child Public Health Facilities/programmes, which is necessary to evaluate Maternal and Child Public Health Facilities/programmes.

Develop Audit Guides for Maternal and Child Public Health Facilities/Programmes with the objective to evaluate the quality of care provided to pregnant women and children within public health settings, focusing on key indicators like antenatal care utilization, immunizations, nutrition, early childhood development screening, and postnatal care, to identify areas for improvement and implement targeted interventions to enhance maternal and child health outcomes.

Therefore, to develop a comprehensive Audit Guides for Maternal and Child Public Health Facilities/Programmes for Public Health Audits, it's necessary to conduct a series of Consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders. The funding source was identified as GOSL.

Key Achievements of the development of Audit Guides

1. Three in-house Consultative meetings were conducted with the relevant stakeholders.

2. Two Checklists were drafted related with Maternal Care programme
 - A checklist for PHMM on domiciliary antenatal care
 - A checklist for PHMM on domiciliary postnatal care
3. Audit guides for four National programmes were drafted
 - Maternal Morbidity and Mortality surveillance programme
 - i. Audit guide for institutional Maternal death review
 - ii. audit guide for Field Maternal death investigation
 - Well Woman programme
 - i. Audit guide for Well woman Clinics and Laboratory performance including positive follow-up.
 - Maternal Care programme
 - i. Audit guide for PHMM on domiciliary antenatal care
 - ii. Audit guide for PHMM on domiciliary postnatal care
 - iii. Audit guide on antenatal classes
 - iv. Audit guide on antenatal clinic visits
 - v. Audit guide on postnatal clinic visits
 - vi. Audit guide on completeness of H 512
 - Intra-natal and Newborn Care programme
 - i. Audit guide on postnatal clinic visits
 - ii. Audit guide for PHMM on domiciliary postnatal care

In-house Consultative Meetings with Stakeholders



Financial progress/expenditure for the Audit Guide In-house Meetings

	Activity	GOSL (Rs)
1	Consultative meetings	63253.35

Other

Research Committee Member of the researches conducted by other Units of FHB.

- Developing a quality road map for RMNCAYH & N programs by the Planning Unit, FHB.
- Youth & adolescent Health Survey-2025 conducted by the Adolescent and Youth Health Unit, FHB.

4.2.3 Health Promotion Bureau

Introduction

The Health Promotion Bureau (HPB) is the national center of excellence for Health Education and Health Promotion in the Ministry of Health of Sri Lanka. Seven technical units together with the administrative section of the bureau in collaboration with other health and non-health stakeholders in Sri Lanka function towards achieving the objectives of the bureau taking a health promotion settings approach. Moreover, the health communication needs of citizens are addressed through the 24/7 hotline-1999 'Suwaseriya', the website, the Facebook page and the YouTube channel of HPB. In addition, conducting media seminars every Wednesday over the last 2 years has enabled addressing current health education and awareness needs in the country. In year 2025 HPB received a four-year financial support from World Bank to implement a Social & Behavioural Change Communication Program to enhance health and wellbeing of people and to improve the reach of Primary Health Care services, while continuing the regular programs to improve health literacy of Sri Lankan population in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders

Vision

An empowered healthy nation living happily and harmoniously with each other and nature

Mission

Empowering people to take ownership of their health and well-being, to address the determinants of health affecting individuals, communities, and the environment, as the Centre of Excellence for health promotion

Objectives

Improve overall health and wellbeing among Sri Lankans through Health Education and Health promotion

Specific Objectives

- To improve modifiable health determinants of individuals & communities
- To reduce risk behaviours of individuals & communities
- To establish supportive healthy environments/settings
- To improve the usage of healthy environments/settings
- To improve quality & access to health services

Achievements/Special events

Table 1-Special achievements by the technical units of the Health Promotion Bureau

Unit	Key achievements
Family Health, Nutrition Communication & Behaviour Research Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct district-level advocacy/ training programs in Puttalam district. 2. Upgraded the health promotion app and dashboard to monitor and evaluate MSG activities at the district level 3. Strengthening of mothers' support groups to improve health and nutrition at the community level by distributing IEC materials. 4. Develop a training handbook for MSG members on responsive parenting 5. Research papers published: "Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Health Promotion: A case study of an experience from a public health institution in Sri Lanka." 6. Research papers submitted for publication: "Front-of-pack Labeling System in Sri Lanka: Does it affect food consumer behavior?" explores the impact of labeling on purchasing decisions.
Community Health and Social Media Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reinforcing and maintenance of the Social Media platform of HPB with a 22.3% average reach per month. Improving public awareness of various health issues was the primary task. Twenty two facebook posts posted during 2024 2. Happy village scale-up: 430/354. Happy Villages are functional (121%).
Oral Health Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of oral health promotion chapter for preschool teacher training manual 2. Proof reading finalizing and Tamil translation of the third edition of "Uniform Oral Health Messages for Sri Lankans" booklet 3. Designing oral health education posters in Sinhala, English and Tamil 4. Preschool Oral health promotion activity designing

Policy, Advocacy, Risk Communication and Workplace Health Promotion Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working towards developing HPB as a model health promoting workplace with the guidance of WPHP committee and establishment of a Health corner within the HPB premises. 2. Compiled and circulated weekly the public concerns and rumor reports received from 24 hour Suwasariya hotline. 3. Work toward finalizing the SOP/guideline for risk communication and community engagement with relevant programmes and stakeholders. 4. Initiated the development of (inclusive of videos) and printing the Risk Communication training package in collaboration with UNICEF. 5. Developed advocacy training module to build capacity in advocacy in health and other sectors 6. Developed AAP training package. 7. Piloted the (Information Environment Assessment) IEA tool to support rapid risk assessment, in collaboration with WHO
Health Communication & Life Skills, Media and Publicity Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducted Provincial Level 9 TOT programmes on promotion of MHH for public health staff. Trained 495 master trainers at provincial level 2. Developed and printed 8400 flash cards in both Sinhala and Tamil with key messages to promotion of MHH 3. Conducted an advocacy meeting with members of National working committee on “Working together to improve Menstrual Health and Environmental impact in Sri Lanka” 4. Conduct a National Level Research on “Current status of Menstrual Health and Hygiene among women in reproductive age in Sri Lanka 5. Conducted a consultative workshop to validate the guideline developed for menstrual hygiene management in Sri Lanka 6. Review of content created for delivering age-appropriate sexuality education and management of Lets Learn Life social media platform 7. Conducted a consultative workshop for national working committee to validate the guideline developed for communication of comprehensive sexuality education in Sri Lanka 8. Content development and management of Lets Learn Life social media platform for disseminate the information on comprehensive sexuality education 9. Printed and distributed video guide in both Sinhala and Tamil on Happy Family Programme 10. Completed 5 and 4 district level training on Happy Family to communication and interactions to prevent SGBV for public health staff and non-health staff respectively. 11. Content development and management of Suwanari face book page 12. Conduct 23 Press Conferences on Wednesdays and covering 35 topics and issue of 8 press releases 13. Facilitate 30 TV programmes and 12 Radio programmes

<p>IEC material development, Training and Exhibition Unit and Hospital Health Promotion program</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interpersonal communication program for training of National resource pool – External and local resource involved in facilitating (Four day residential workshop) 2. Collaborative Development of training module and training materials for IPC training for primary healthcare staff 3. Conducting a training programme in health sector disaster management for trainees of postgraduate diploma in disaster management. 4. MD SR training Conduct 3 days training program at HPB to improve knowledge and skills on public health management and organization structure of health promotion bureau. 5. Basic communication and awareness training program for Bachelor of dental surgeons (BDS) of the university of sri Jayewardenepura on Health promotion (Two Programs) 6. Basic Training on orientation for Medical students Clerkship programs -Faculty of Medical Sciences, USJP program 1,2 &3 7. Conducting a consultative meeting for stakeholders of the digital signage system. 8. Conducting monthly review consultative meetings for stakeholders – District coordinators of the digital signage system. 9. Conducting Advocacy programs on hospital Health promotion at Base Hospital Mulleriyawa. 10. Multi Stakeholder meetings for prevention of Animal bites 11. Development of Evaluation tool for hospital health promotion setting 12. Conducting consultative sessions for IEC development with multidisciplinary experts and target audiences e.g. Measles vaccination, Development of Leaflet for Leishmaniasis, 13. Development of Maternal Clinic Handbook with Family Health Bureau
<p>Strategic Information, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit and Preschool Health Promotion Program</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issuing of General Circular No.01-08/2025 dated 26/02/2025 for strengthening the implementation of National Preschool Health Promotion Setting Development Program by the Primary Health Care Teams. 2. Development and dissemination of the Guideline on National Preschool Health Promotion Program (2nd volume) 3. Development and dissemination of the Guideline on implementing the National Health Education and Health Promotion Program and achievement of the Key Performance Indicators at district level 4. Revamping of the Health Promotion Bureau website 5. Launching of the Social and Behavioural Change Communication package and implementation of the campaign for Child Health Promotion in Sri Lanka. 6. Implementation of the Sri Lanka component of the SUNRISE research study on Movement and other selected Health behaviours

	among Preschool Children, Preschool Teachers and caregivers in 4 selected provinces in Sri Lanka.
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Ongoing Development project details

Table 2- Ongoing projects by the technical units of the Health Promotion Bureau

Project Description	Total Estimate Cost (LKR.Mn)	Physical Progress by 30.09.2025	Financial Progress by 30.09.2025
1. IEC development, Training and Exhibition Unit	0.5M GOSL	100%	100%
2. Community Health and Social Media Unit	GOSL- 1.062 M UNICEF- 1M	100%	100%
3. Health Communication, Life skills, Media and Publicity Unit	16.225498 M UNFPA 0.14036M (GoSL)	50% 100%	36% 89.9%
4. Policy, Advocacy and Risk Communication Unit-	0.024 M (GoSL) 13.288 M (UNICEF) 3.18 M (WHO)	100% 20% 0%	100% 0% 0%
5. Family Health, Nutrition Communication and Behaviour Research Unit-	1.1 M (GOSL)	9%	12.5%
6. Strategic Information, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Unit	0.05M (GOSL) 1.7 M (UNFPA) 6M (UNICEF)	100% 100% 20%	100% 100% 13.3%
7. Oral Health Unit	0.05M (GOSL)	10%	

Last 5-year performance trend

Table 3- Last 5 year performance trend

Key Performance Indicator	Progress					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. % of PHM areas in a district with at least one functioning Mother Support Group (MSG)*	69.02%	66.89%	62.04%	59.26%	80.2%	72.4%
2. % of MSGs registered with the HPB via App/online	-	<1%	<1%	5.8%	17.8%	20.9%
3. Number of training programs conducted	23	69	71	91	52	68
4. % of MOH areas with one established Happy Village per MOH area	-	70.5 (Happy Villages)	81 (287 Happy Villages)	86.7 (307/354)	84.75% (300/354)	430/354. 1 (121%).
5. Average reach of the HPB Facebook page	-	3.6 million	4.84 million	2,199,340 million (30.76%)	1,687,256 active monthly reach (25.8%)	2.1 M monthly reach (22.33% of Facebook users in Sri Lanka in that month.)

Special Development Activities Planned for 2025/2026

Technical Unit of the HPB	Special Development Activity/s Planned
1. Health Communication, Life skills promotion and Media Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive Sexuality Education through mass media and social media 2. Conducting national survey on menstrual health and hygiene among reproductive aged females in Sri Lanka and launching the research findings. 3. Initiation of a program for 10 to 12 years of school children for Comprehensive Sexuality Education. 4. Conduct TOT training program on Happy Family to communicate and interact to prevent SGBV in Vocational training centers. 5. Conduct press conferences weekly on every Wednesdays. 6. Award ceremony in December to access media professionals who cover our media conferences. 7. Conduct 4 TOT programs to improve menstrual health and hygiene in women's community through women and child affairs officers in Colombo, Galle and Kurunegala districts.
2. Community Health and Social Media Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Online HP training course in HP 2. Happy Village scale up
3. IEC development, Training and Exhibition Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing training module for hospital health staff on Hospital Health Promotion 2. Conducting Hospital Health Promotion reviews every year 3. District level Interpersonal Communication programs for public health staff - each district on UNICEF funds 4. Conducting consultative sessions for IEC development with multidisciplinary experts and target audiences
4. Policy, Advocacy and Risk Communication Unit-	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing and printing risk communication training package 2. Conducting national level training and refresher training for provincial and district level master trainers on the Risk Communication training package 3. Conduct of TAC meetings on Risk Communication meetings 4. Reviewing & evaluating the "National Risk Communication Strategic Plan for Public Health Emergencies, Sri Lanka 2023-2025" 5. Conducting training programmes related to health promotion for the staff as a workplace health-promoting setting at HPB 6. Stakeholder Advocacy meetings and review of Work Place Health Promotion

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Updating and printing the "National Risk Communication Strategic Plan for Public Health Emergencies, Sri Lanka" for 2026-2027 8. Developing and maintaining a social listening tool 9. Conduct of risk behavior surveys (with outsourcing) 10. Mapping of affected/vulnerable communities 11. Development of advocacy packages to address social determinants of health 12. Facilitate development of age inclusive policy, environments and communities and promoting healthy ageing throughout the lifecycle
5. Family Health, Nutrition Communication and Behaviour Research Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhancing and strengthening the three established model Mothers' Support Groups in Western Province through targeted teaching and training activities, with the goal of expanding this initiative to a national level. 2. Revision of the MSG Guideline book
6. Strategic Information, Monitoring & Evaluation Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of a pool of district level master trainers to implement the SBCC package of the Child Health Promotion Program. 2. Strengthening the Preschool Health Promotion Program and reviews. 3. Implementing the SBCC program with cascade trainings for preschool teachers
7. Planning Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SBCC campaign for NCD risk factors
8. Oral Health Promotion Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducting oral health promotion training for dental surgeons attached to ADC/ CDC and PMCU 2. Oral health promotion training for Health Education offices 3. Printing the third edition of "Uniform Oral Health Messages for Sri Lankans" booklet 4. Printing 5 oral health education posters in Sinhala, English and Tamil 5. Preschool Oral health promotion TOT for RDS which will followed by district level preschool teacher trainings

4.2.4 Mental Health Programme

Introduction

Directorate of Mental Health is the national level focal point of the Ministry of Health responsible for the National Mental Health Program. The unit is responsible for policy development, strategic planning, strengthening of mental health services through improved infrastructure, human resources and monitoring & evaluation of National Mental Health Program.

Vision

A society where mental well-being and human rights are valued and promoted, and people with mental disorders have timely and affordable access to comprehensive, integrated, effective, and culturally appropriate mental health and psychosocial care, free from stigma and discrimination.

Mission

Establish an enabling environment for the enhancement of mental well-being for all, through mental health promotion, illness prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, psychosocial care and protection of human rights.

Objectives

- To strengthen the leadership, legislation, stewardship, research and management functions of the mental health services
- To strengthen the delivery of comprehensive, socially and culturally acceptable mental health services and support in order to reduce the burden of mental disorders and promote mental health
- To strengthen human resources, infrastructure and financing for mental health services
- To empower communities in promoting their mental well-being and reducing stigma and discrimination

Achievements/ Special Events

- Two media seminars were conducted at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute for media personnel on responsible reporting of suicides and media ethics.
- Training programs for health & education sector on mental wellbeing among school children and progress reviews
- Advocacy on Implementation of Mental Health Policy and Action Plan was conducted in 15 districts
- Trained district level staff on establishment of Community Health Center
- Training of PHC staff at district level on Psychological Autopsy Tool
- Trained district level health staff on Suicide Prevention Action Plan
- Four training programmes (New & Refresher) conducted on strengthening the National

Mental Health Helpline -1926

- Pilot testing on De Institutionalization of mental health services to community mental health networks
- Conducted mental health reviews and supervisions at district level

Ongoing developments project details 2025

Project Description	Total Estimated Cost (Mn)	Physical Progress by 30.09.2025	Financial Progress by 30.09.2025	
1. Promotion of mental wellbeing				
			Amount (Mn)	Percentage
1.1. Celebration of World Mental Health Day and Suicide Prevention day - National level	1.0	-	-	
1.2. Celebration of World Mental Health Day, Suicide Prevention day and programs on improving mental wellbeing -District level	10.17	Proposals received from districts are being reviewed	9.21	90.6%
1.3. Conducting meetings Conducting National committee meeting on mental health (NCMH) – quarterly Consultative meeting to revise mental health returns	0.1	Conducted on 8 th April 2025 Conducted on 6 th June 2025	0.0261	26.1%
1.4. Printing of guidelines/revision of guidelines & manuals	0.3	Proof reading of friendly school manual ongoing	-	

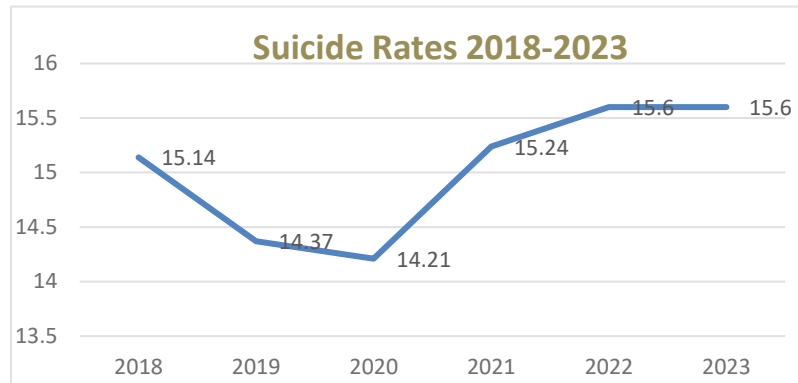
1.5. Awareness/Training on Mental wellbeing including substance abuse among school children and youth	2.17	District level training of Kegalle district conducted. Progress review of Gampaha & Kalutara districts conducted. Zonal level training of Ratnapura & Balangoda zones conducted	1.406	64.79%
2. Suicide Prevention				
2.1. Suicide Prevention Expert Committee meeting	0.05	Two expert committee meetings conducted	0.012	24%
2.2 Training of district level health staff on suicide prevention action plan.	1.50	In 7 districts this program was conducted (Matara, Galle, Vavuniya, Mulathivu, Trincomalee, Jaffna and Hambantota).	1.05	70%
2.3 Training of primary health care staff on psychological autopsy implementation.	0.046	One training conducted in Colombo district		
2.4 Training of psychological autopsy tool.	1.37	Budget was approved from WHO for 7 district (Ampara, Galle, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Jaffna, Kalmunai).	0.98	71.5%
2.5 Training of media personal on responsible reporting of suicide.	0.95	2 programs were conducted.		

3. Awareness raising				
3.1. Awareness programs for Psychiatric Social Workers/CPN	0.9	Proposal writing ongoing	0.882	98.1%
3.2. Awareness Training for Post intern MO/MH - orientation program and mental health promotion module	0.25	Post Intern batch not released yet		
3.3. Participation and conduct of MH reviews (Provincial/District) and field visit	0.06	Conducted reviews in 15 districts (With WHO Advocacy on MH Policy, using WHO funds)	-	
4.1926 programme				
4.1.Training the health staff on strategy 1926 help line	6.1	Conducted on 19 th March 2025 Conducted to 21 st May 2025		
5.0 Training on community health centre guide.	1.52	Budget was approved from WHO for 7 districts (Matara,Mannar, Gampaha,Vavuniya, Puttlam, Kurunegala and Trincomalee).	1.14	75%

Last 5 years performance Trend

Key Performance Indicators	Targets for 2025	Progress				
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Suicide Rate per 100,000 population	1/3 rd reduction by 2030 (WHO, 2013)	14.2	15.2	15.6	15.6	15
New clinic registrants	465.7	443	332.6	400.4	461.1	463.2

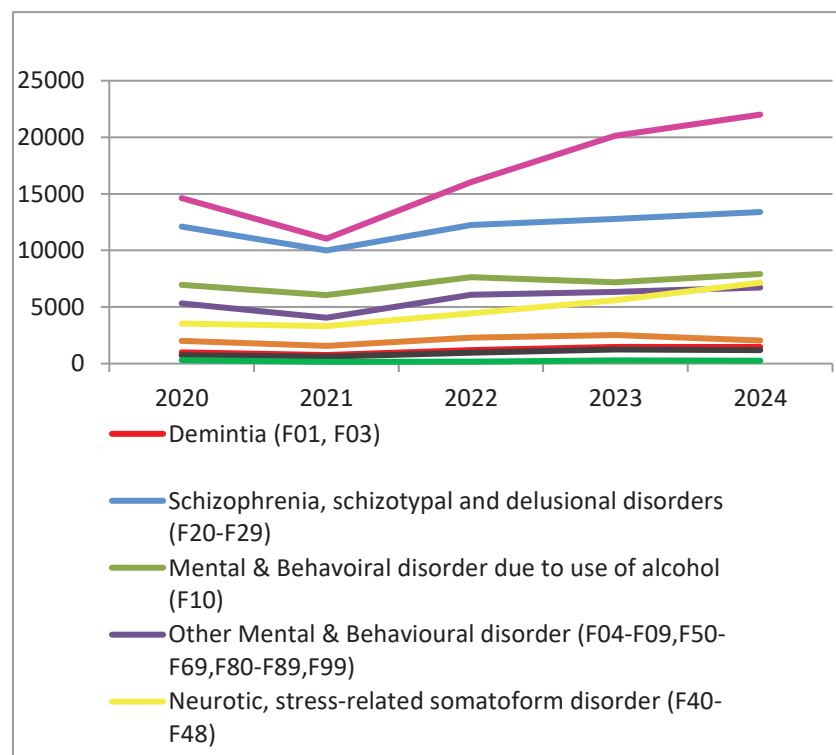
with diagnosed mental illnesses per 100 000 population						
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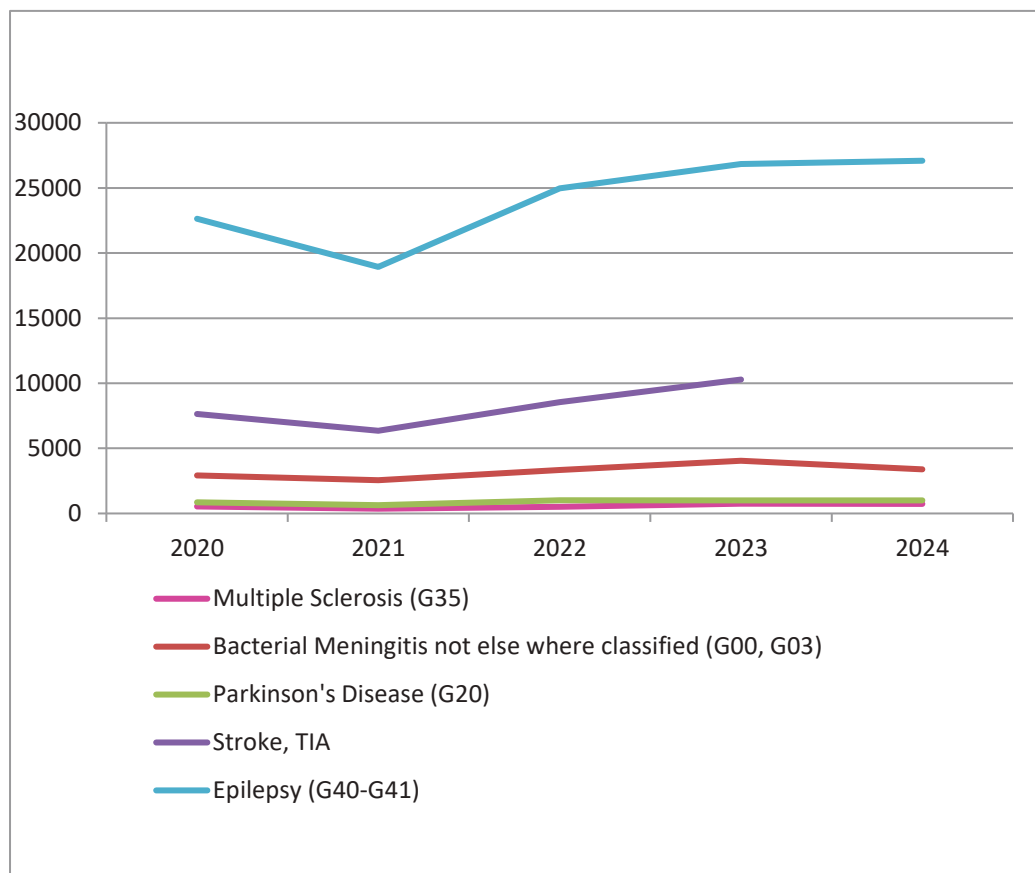
(Source: number of suicides -police data, mid-year population: registrar general's department)

Figure 1- Suicide Rates during 2018-2023 in Sri Lanka

Trends of Mental Disorders based on hospital admissions



Trends of selected Neurological Disorders based on hospital admissions



(Source: medical statistics unit, Ministry of Health)

Figure 3 - Trend of selected Neurological Disorders during 2020 - 2024 in Sri Lanka

Special development activities planned for 2026

- Training of Trainers program on 'Improving mental wellbeing of school children'
- District mental health reviews with field supervision
- Training for post intern Medical Officers of mental health
- Training on 1926 mental health help line & refresher training
- Conducting National MH review meeting for MO-MH focal points

4.2.5 Non-Communicable Disease Programme

Introduction

Non Communicable Disease control comes under Deputy Director General Non Communicable Diseases. It has three directorates: Directorate of Non Communicable Diseases, Directorate of National Cancer Control and Prevention, Directorate of Mental Health.

Vision

A country that is not burdened with non-Communicable diseases, deaths and disabilities

Mission

To contribute to reduce the preventable and avoidable burden of morbidity, mortality and disability due to chronic and acute Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and ensure that populations reach the highest attainable standards of health, well-being and productivity and non-communicable diseases are no longer a barrier to the socioeconomic development of the country.

Performance of Directorate of Non Communicable Diseases.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) have shown an unprecedented rise in Sri Lanka over the past few decades resulting in significant morbidity, mortality and disability. More than 80% of all deaths in 2016 was due to NCDs, with cardiovascular disease (CVDs) being the leading cause of mortality accounting for 34% of all deaths, followed by cancers (14%), diabetes (9%) and chronic respiratory diseases (8%). Circulatory system diseases have remained the leading cause of death since 1980s in Sri Lanka, while a steady increase is seen in deaths due to diabetes mellitus. An estimated 120 000 people die prematurely each year from NCDs in the country. Probability of death due to an NCD between the ages 30 – 70 years is 17%, with the probability being 22% in males compared to 13% in females.

In terms of morbidity, the hospitalizations due to ischemic heart disease and diabetes mellitus show a steady rise over the last two decades. The prevalence of DM is shown to have an increasing trend over the years, while prediabetes also shows a similar rising trend with a majority being undetected (2). According to the STEPS survey, nearly, one in four adults are hypertensive and 14% of adult population are diabetic.

The Health Master Plan for 2007 - 2016 identified the prevention and control of NCDs as a priority intervention. This resulted in establishing a dedicated NCD unit in the Ministry of Health, which provided technical guidance in management and prevention of NCDs up to the grass root level.

All work related to NCD is essentially multisectoral and covered by the NCD policy (latest 2022) and a multisectoral action plan (latest 2023 – 2028)

Sri Lanka aims to achieve the following targets by 2030

(*Using the data of 2015 as baseline values)

- 33% relative reduction in premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases
- 15% relative reduction in prevalence of insufficient physical activity
- 20% relative reduction in use of alcohol
- 15% relative reduction in mean population intake of salt/sodium
- 30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use in persons aged over 15 years
- 25% relative reduction in prevalence of raised blood pressure
- Halt the rise in obesity and diabetes
- 50% relative reduction in the proportion of households using solid fuels (wood, crop residue, dried dung, coal, and charcoal) as the primary source of cooking
- 50% eligible people receive drug therapy and counselling (including glycemic control) to prevent heart attacks and strokes
- 80% availability of affordable basic technologies and essential medicines including generics, required to treat major non communicable diseases in both public and private sector

Background

In 2020, the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka, received a research grant from *Resolve to Save Lives* to develop a protocol-based management approach for hypertension. This initiative aimed to strengthen follow-up care through a digital health information system using the SIMPLE app—an Android-based platform. The clinical protocol was developed based on the World Health Organization (WHO) Hypertension Management Guidelines.

Project Implementation Timeline

- **2022:** Pilot implementation in all primary care hospitals in the **Kalutara district**.
- **2023:** Expansion to the **Kandy district**.
- **2024 (Q3–Q4):** Further expansion to **Matale** and **Nuwara Eliya** districts.

In all implementing districts, validated automated blood pressure monitors, tablet counters, and Android phones were distributed. Primary medical care institution (PMCI) staff were comprehensively trained in protocol-based hypertension and diabetes management, as well as the use of the SIMPLE app.

A **protocol for diabetes management** was developed in **Q2 of 2024** and implemented across all project hospitals.

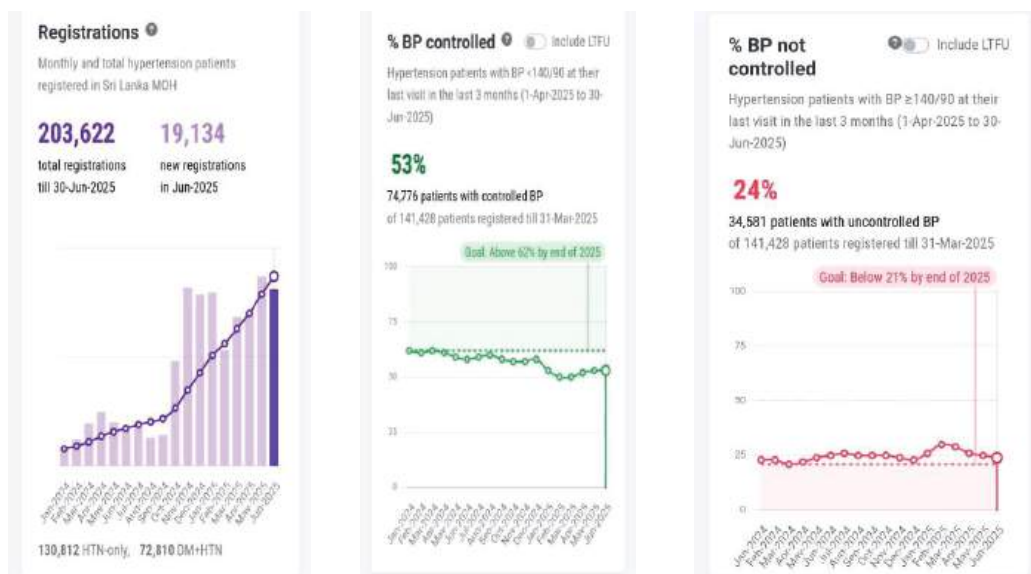
- **Annual clinical audits** and **patient satisfaction surveys** were conducted.
- Patient satisfaction remained high. However, **waiting times at pharmacies** were identified as an area needing improvement.

Expansion and Key Achievements (Q1–Q2, 2025)

During the **first and second quarters of 2025**, the program expanded to **six additional districts**:

Colombo, Galle, Gampaha, Kegalle, Puttalam, and Kurunegala.

- **277 PMCI**s received training on protocol-based management.
- **45,112** new patients were registered and managed in **Q1**, and **55,895** in **Q2** across the new districts.



Outcomes – Hypertension Control Rates (As of Q2, 2025)

District	Control Rate (%)
Kalutara	60%+
Kandy	54%
Matale, Gampaha, Colombo, Galle, Kegalle, Puttalam, Kurunegala	Patient registration and management ongoing

Monitoring and Capacity Building

- **Quarterly review meetings** (both physical and virtual) were conducted in Kalutara, Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Colombo, Galle, and Gampaha districts to assess progress.
- **Two training sessions** were held for **District Medical Officers (NCD)** on:
 - Protocol-based hypertension and diabetes management
 - Use of the SIMPLE app and dashboard
 - Drug titration guidelines

- Use of the METABSES data tool
- **Two Oversight Committee meetings** were conducted to provide strategic direction and monitor overall progress.

Performance Report of Eye Care – 2025

In 2025, the Deputy Director General for Non-Communicable Diseases (DDG/NCD) of the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Ophthalmologists, implemented several key initiatives aimed at strengthening and enhancing eye care services across Sri Lanka. After a series of consecutive consultative meetings involving the Sri Lanka College of Ophthalmologists and other relevant eye care professionals, a comprehensive **National Strategic Plan for Eye Care in Sri Lanka** was finalized. This plan represents a major milestone in the country's commitment to structured, equitable, and high-quality eye care, with the printing process of the strategic document currently underway.

In addition, the **WHO SPECS Initiative** was successfully conducted through a two-day Introductory Meeting on Refractive Error Services and alignment with SPECS 2030. This programme, funded by the World Health Organization, brought together key stakeholders from government entities, healthcare institutions, professional bodies, and partner organizations. It provided a vital platform to explore the current landscape of refractive error services in Sri Lanka and identify opportunities for future strengthening and alignment with global standards.

Performance Report of Thalassaemia – 2025

In line with the objectives of the National Thalassemia Prevention Programme, the DDG/NCD Unit undertook several impactful initiatives in 2025 to enhance both awareness and treatment services across the country. **National Review Meetings** were conducted to evaluate the progress of ongoing efforts and further reinforce the **School Thalassaemia Programme**, ensuring that preventive education and early detection continue to reach younger populations effectively.

Additionally, the **printing of essential materials** required for the Thalassemia screening programme is currently in process, which will support the expansion and consistency of outreach efforts. Further demonstrating the commitment to strengthening treatment infrastructure, **Desferrioxamine infusion pumps** were distributed to hospitals in need through the support of the Sri Lanka Navy, ensuring critical treatment tools are accessible where they are most required.



Major Achievements

1. Advocacy, Partnership and Leadership

- National Steering Committee for NCD Prevention and Control was held on the 08th of November 2024 and 20th of March 2025.
- The National Advisory Board for Non-Communicable Diseases was held on the 06th of December 2024.
- Commemoration of Health Days

World Hypertension Day (17 May) was commemorated on 16 May 2025 at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, in collaboration with the University's Medical Centre. The programme featured two keynote lectures followed by an interactive discussion. Dr K.V.C. Janaka, Specialist in Internal Medicine at Sri Jayewardenepura Hospital, delivered an overview of hypertension and its health implications, while Professor Prasad Katulanda, Consultant Endocrinologist at the National Hospital of Sri Lanka, examined the rising burden of hypertension as a co-morbidity in chronic diseases. In addition, Mr Pubudu Sumanasekara, former Executive Director of ADIC, spoke on the health risks associated with tobacco use. A comprehensive screening programme was also held for university staff, offering assessments for elevated blood glucose and cholesterol levels, as well as cardiovascular risk assessment.

Move More Month was commemorated during the month of April 2025, where advocacy programmes and awareness programmes were conducted in collaboration with Sri Lanka Sports Medicine Association. Programmes were conducted through electronic media; participation at television and radio programmes, print media: newspaper articles published and social media posts and fact sheets were developed in 3 languages.

- Palliative Care Services

Stakeholder consultations were conducted in the process of development of the National Policy on Palliative Care 2025-2030. The draft policy was finalized and is being translated in order to obtain public comments



- **Advocacy Meeting with Professional Colleges and District MO-NCDs on the Commitment to Place One Million People with Hypertension and/or Diabetes on Protocol-Based Care by 2025**

An advocacy meeting focused on the national commitment to place one million individuals with hypertension and/or diabetes on protocol-based care by 2025 was held on **28th April 2025** at the **Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute**, Wijerama Road, Colombo 07. **Dr. Suranga Manilgama**, Past President of the Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine, presented the two national protocols for the management of hypertension and diabetes, intended for implementation at the primary health care level. This was followed by an open discussion on the protocols, including practical considerations for implementation. This meeting was funded by the WHO.



2. Health Promotion and Risk Reduction

- **Physical activity**

Biannual Technical Working Groups on promotion of physical activity were conducted where stakeholder participation focused on improving engagement of the public physical activity and reducing their sedentary behaviour.

- **District and Provincial-level of the Quiz Competition on Non-Communicable Diseases**

The Directorate of NCD organized an Interschool Quiz Competition on NCD in collaboration with the Ministry of Education with the objective of promoting behaviour change through improving awareness and sensitizing the public through this competition.

Applications were called through newspaper articles in all 3 languages. A team of 5 students from grade 8 and 9 from all government schools were invited to compete. Applications were received from a total of 626 Schools in 25 districts from all 9 provinces covering a total of 86 educational zones. This was carried out in the first 3 quarters of 2024.

During the Q4 Zonal-level quiz competition was held on the 31st of August, and 93 schools qualified for the district-level quiz. District-level and provincial-level quizzes were conducted on the 26th of October in the morning and afternoon respectively. 27 schools qualified for the provincial-level quiz and finally 9 schools, 1 school from each province qualifies for the semifinals.

The district and provincial-level quiz competitions were held in the morning and afternoon respectively on the 26th of October 2024 at one quiz center in each province. The semifinals were held on the 25th of January 2025 at the auditorium at the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA), Savsiripaya, 123, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7. The Grand Finale was hosted on the 7th of February 2025 at the Jasmine Hall at the Bandaranayake Memorial International Conference Hall. The Anuradhapura Central College won the grand finale.

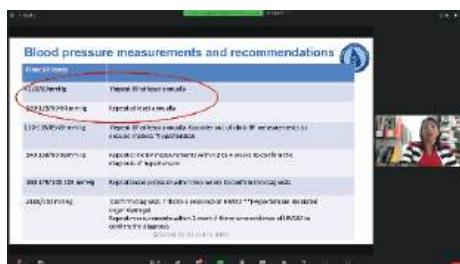
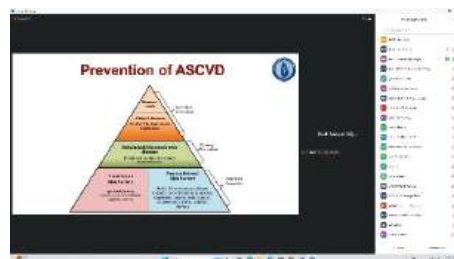
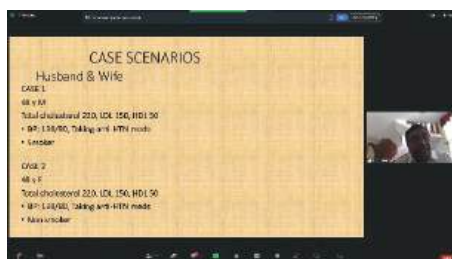
Semifinals



3. Health System Strengthening for the early detection and management of NCDs and their risk factors

• Capacity building of Medical Officers in the Primary Health Care Institutions

Lecture series on Diabetes, Hypertension, Dyslipidemia and CVD risk assessment was conducted virtually with the resource facilitation by the Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine.



- **Palliative care**

Service provision by Public Health Nursing Officers was strengthened through the development of formal documentation processes: PHNO Daily Note Book, Home-based record and PHNO Monthly Return.

The utility of Practice guidelines on End of Life Care was assessed in collaboration with professional colleges and the development of a revised edition was facilitated where the Sri Lanka Medical Association – Task Force on Palliative and End of Life Care played a major role.

An orientation programme on palliative care and an introductory session on ‘Breaking serious news’ was conducted for district medical officers for non-communicable diseases and Public Health Nursing Officers

- **Screening for Non- Communicable Diseases**

Capacities of district medical officers for non-communicable diseases and Public Health Nursing Officers on the national programme for screening was strengthened through virtual training methods.

Revision of NCD screening manual commenced with stakeholder meetings being conducted.

- **Physical Activity**

Process and output indicators for promotion of physical activity were developed and shared with district medical officers for non-communicable diseases.

Capacities of district medical officers for non-communicable diseases were developed through a national training workshop on development of advocacy packages on prevention of non- communicable diseases in collaboration with Health Promotion Bureau.

- **Protocol based management of Diabetes and Hypertension training for Primary Care Health Staff**

Training programmes were conducted in Kegalle, Puttalam, Kurunegala to train the staff via 7 sessions covering all the Primary Health Care Institutions on Protocol-Based Management on Diabetes and Hypertension with resource collaboration of the Sri Lanka College of Internal Medicine. These training programmes were funded by the WHO focusing on the National Commitment to place one million individuals with hypertension and/or diabetes on protocol-based care by 2025.



Protocol based management training in Puttalam



Protocol based management training in Kegalle

4. Surveillance, monitoring, evaluation and research

- **Palliative Care**

A Public Health Nursing Officer (PHNO) review was conducted to assess their performance for the Q1 of 2025 on 11.06.2025 at the Waters Edge Premises with the participation of PHNOs from all round the country.

- **Screening for Non-Communicable Diseases**

Supportive supervision visits conducted to Healthy Lifestyle Centres within Colombo and Gampaha districts.

- **Physical activity**

The national annual review on promotion of physical activity was conducted as a virtual programme with the participation of district medical officers for non-communicable diseases and teams attached primary healthcare institutions.

National Programme of Injury Prevention and Management

The Directorate of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) serves as the national focal point for injury prevention and management within the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka. Collaborating with various directorates, ministries, departments, authorities, private sectors, and numerous Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the Directorate of NCD has implemented a comprehensive national injury prevention and management programme.

Major Achievements

The programme is structured around four strategic areas:

1. **Advocacy, Partnership, and Leadership**
2. **Health Promotion and Risk Reduction**
3. **Post-Event Care and Capacity Building**
4. **Surveillance, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research**

These strategies address the following key priority areas: Road Safety, Water Safety, Animal Injury Prevention, Poison and Snake Bite Prevention, Home Safety, Workplace Safety, Child Safety, Elderly Safety, Post-Event Care, and National Injury Surveillance.

Strategic Area 1: Advocacy, Partnership, and Leadership

- Conducted the National Committee for Prevention of Injuries (NCPI) to advocate at the national level.
- Advocated to various ministries and departments, including Education, Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism, Finance, Consumer Affairs, Provincial Ministries, and Urban Councils, on recognizing injury prevention and first aid as priority areas.
- Advocated health ministry partners and non-health organizations such as Ministries, Departments, Institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as media on implementation of injury prevention Multi-Sectoral Action Plan (MSAP)
- Advocated media on importance of the role of media on injury prevention and first aid.
- Steps taken to integrate the injury prevention programme along with whole NCD programme to the current public health programme conducted through Medical Officer of Health.
- Advocated to establish district and divisional level Injury Prevention Steering Committees along with Safe Community Steering Committees.
- Advocated for a mechanism requiring Medical Officer of Health (MOH) approval for building applications regarding safety in houses, preschools, play areas, and theme parks.
- Started revising of the National Policy and Strategic Framework on Injury Prevention And management in SL
- Initiated the process of obtaining the cabinet approval for establishment of a National Injury Prevention Council (NIPC)

Strategic Area 2: Health Promotion and Risk Reduction

- Worked with the Injury Prevention Technical Working Groups (TWGs) in 10 thematic areas – 10 TWGs – One meeting per quarter & is continuing in 2025.
- Raised public and stakeholder awareness of the Safe Community Programme and provided technical guidance to establish new safe communities.
- Preschool and Daycare Center Safety Checklist finalized.
- Initiated development of School safety check list, work place safety check list, elderly safety check list
- Initiated to develop a falls prevention guideline
- Finalized the swimming pool safety standards

- In the process of developing standards for life saving point and lifesaving station
- Initiated development of an online app for mapping of high-risk locations for drowning
- Prepared a list of high-risk locations for drowning across the country
- Initiated a school based road safety programme - Safe Steps to School: Shielding Young Lives, together for a safer tomorrow" (SSSYL project) as a pilot programme within Western province
- Reviewed the guidelines prepared on prevention of injuries and medical emergencies during sporting events organized during festivals
- Contributed to national observance events, including:
 - National Poison Prevention Week (2nd week of October, 2024).
 - World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (2024).
- Technical expertise given for:
 - the development of guidelines for Roadside inspections for drug use among motorists.
 - the development of guidelines for Seat belts law for rear seat passengers
 - the development of Specifications for New buses for public transport service
 - strengthening the road safety as a member of transport safety committee
- Initiated development of national action plans on poison, snake bite, and animal injury prevention.
- Reviewed and promoted the Sri Lanka Drowning Status Report.

Strategic Area 3: Post-Event Care and Capacity Building

- In the process of finalizing the National Guideline on Basic First Aid
- Reviewed the first aid handbook prepared to be distributed following first aid trainings
- Provided technical guidance for establishing first aid training teams at district and MOH levels.
- Conducted Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes for medical and public health personnel
- **Strategic Area 4: Surveillance, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research**
- Strengthened the National Injury Surveillance System (NISS).
- Established mechanisms for data-sharing on Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs).
- Conducted district, provincial, and national reviews of NISS performance.
- Organized the National Injury Surveillance System Review and Award Ceremony to recognize outstanding performance.
- Introduced injury death investigations and reviews for sentinel hospitals and all MOH-level facilities

- Coordinated and facilitated training sessions on injury data management for provincial, district, and hospital staff.
- Validated the indicators to be used in the review of the activities identified in the Injury prevention Multi Sectoral Action Plan.

The Directorate of NCD, through its strategic initiatives and collaborative efforts, has made significant strides in reducing the burden of injuries in Sri Lanka. The progress achieved in 2024 and in the first half of 2025 reflects the collective commitment and coordinated actions of stakeholders across sectors. Moving forward, the programme aims to build on these achievements to further enhance injury prevention and management efforts nationwide.

4.2.6 Environmental & Occupational Health

Introduction

Food safety is a key component in public health system of Sri Lanka. Director General of Health Services (DGHS) is the Chief Food Authority (CFA) of Sri Lanka. The Food Control Administration Unit (FCAU) which comes under the Deputy Director General of the Environmental, Occupational Health, and Food Safety (DDG/EOH,FS) has taken responsibility as a focal point in food safety oversight and coordinates national food safety issues with agencies. The Director of Environmental, Occupational Health, and Food Safety leads the Directorate of FCAU for coordinating and monitoring of regulatory services, and providing technical guidance to local authorities in order to ensure the availability of safe and healthy food for consumers.

Responsible for coordinating and monitoring of regulatory services, and providing technical guidance to local authorities in order to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for consumers. Deputy Director General of Environmental Health, Occupational Health and Food Safety is the CODEX contact point and WTO/SPS contact point for Sri Lanka.

Vision

A healthier nation through provision of safe food for all

Mission

To protect consumers health and build consumer trust by ensuring that food consumed, distributed, marketed or produced meets the highest standards of food safety and hygiene.

Objectives

- To protect consumers from preventable health risks
- To provide information to consumers to enable better consumer choice
- To protect consumers through a fair and effective, science based food regulations that support competitive markets

- To coordinate national food surveillance, enforcement and food recalls
- To support food safety at ports of entry

Major achievements

1. Altogether 28 Food Safety District Reviews were conducted to assess the performance of authorized officers at the end of year 2024.
2. National Food Laboratory Review was conducted including all the food laboratories in the country to assess the laboratory data on food safety at the end of year 2024.
3. Fish Survey was initiated in 2024 and completed in 2025, focusing on the identification of Total Volatile Base Nitrogen (TVB-N) and Trimethylamine-Nitrogen (TMA-N) levels in fish. Depending on the results of the survey, levels of TVB-N and TMA-N in fish will be determined and fish regulation will be implemented.
4. The Food Safety Policy was amended following the comments of Food Advisory Committee members and presented to Food Policy Steering Committee in June 2025, laying the foundation for a robust framework in ensuring food safety
5. A media seminar was conducted to commemorate World Food Safety Day in 2025, providing a platform to raise awareness and promote evidence based best practices in food safety with the theme of “Food Safety: Science in action.” A directive was issued to commemorate the World Food Safety Day at RDHS level.
6. A media seminar was held at Health Promotion Bureau with Epidemiology unit to ensure food safety on Vesak and Poson Dansals in May 2025. A directive was issued to all RDHS areas to monitor the Vesak and Poson Dansals by authorized officers.
7. Two media seminars were conducted with the support of Health Promotion Bureau in 2024, addressing myths related to food in the community and its safety and maintaining hygienic practices to improve hygiene in food premises.
8. Residential Training Programmes on Food Safety and Hygiene for authorized officers targeting Public Health Inspectors were conducted in 2024 and 2025 to enhance their knowledge and expertise. Nearly 600 Public Health Inspectors were already trained in selected districts. A separate training programme was conducted for SPHIDs and MOHs on food safety & hygiene and their responsibilities.
9. One day training programme on food safety, hygiene and food act was conducted for medical officers engaged in food safety work at regional level targeting MO EOH, RE, and MO Planning.
10. Analytical capabilities of the National Institute of Health Sciences chemical food laboratory and Anuradhapura food laboratory were strengthened in 2024.
11. National Salt iodization survey 2024 was completed in 2025 with the support of Iodine Global Network (IGN).
12. Two food safety weeks were conducted across the country ensuring the food safety during festival seasons in 2024 and 2025 (during New Year season and year end festival season). A directive was issued to all RDHS offices to carry out special activities during food safety week in 2025.
13. An initial meeting was conducted with relevant stakeholders to develop a National Food safety Emergency Response Plan in December 2024.

14. Meetings were held with Custom Officers and other stakeholders to initiate National Single Window project to strengthen activities at RCT for facilitation of trade with other countries.
15. Social media messages were developed and finalized with the support of Health Promotion Bureau under BESP project for awareness on food safety among general population.
16. CODEX activities:
 - ✓ In 2024, Sri Lanka virtually participated in the following CODEX committees:
 - i. Food import and export inspection and certification system held in Cairns, Australia
 - ii. CODEX Alimentarius Commission (CAC) meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.
 - ✓ Sri Lanka participated in E-working group on cinnamon and submitted the comments on CODEX draft standards for cinnamon to the CODEX Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs.
 - ✓ In 2025, Sri Lanka participated virtually in the CODEX committee meeting on methods of analysis and sampling on 5th of May to 9th of May held in Hungary. Follow up meeting was conducted by DDG/ EOH,FS on methods of analysis and sampling with the relevant participants.

Performance Indicators

Table 01: Performance Indicators in 2024/2025

Key performance Indicator	Target for 2025	Progress				
		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025.09.30
Number and % of food safety reviews conducted out of total reviews planned	30 food safety reviews for all RDHS areas and Colombo Municipal Council and National Institute of Health Science area	100% (provincial reviews)	100% (district reviews)	78% 22/28	93.3% 28/30	-
Completion of National Food Survey	Conduction of the National Food Survey	100%	100%	100%	70% (fish survey) 50% (Salt iodization survey)	100% (fish survey) 100% (Salt iodization)

						n survey)
Number and % of food safety weeks conducted out of total food safety weeks planned	Conducting food safety weeks during festival seasons.	100%	100%	100%	100%	50%
Commemoration of world food safety day	Conduct a media seminar to raise awareness			100%	100%	100%
Completion of residential training programme on Food Safety and Hygiene for officers involved in food safety	Conduction of eight training programmes for MOHs, SPHID & PHIs	-	-	100%	100% (7/7 for PHI (600 PHIs trained), 1/1 SPHID & MOHS	100% (1/1, 102 PHIs trained)
Completion of national training programme for MOEOH, RE or responsible MO on food safety	Conduction of one day national programme for MOEOH, RE or responsible MO on food safety	-	-	-	100%	-
Number and % of inspection of iodized salt manufacturing /transportation plants registered at	Inspection of all iodized salt manufacturing / transportation plants	38/69 55%	04/70 5.71%	06/30 20.0%	12/42 28.6%	33/100 33.33%

the Food Control Administrative Unit.						
Number and % of Food Advisory Committee and subcommittee meetings conducted	Conduction of 84 meetings (12 FAC, 12 technical, 12 health claims, 48 regulation)	69/91 75.8%	71/91 78.02%	64/84 76.19%	57/84 67.86%	37/84 44.05%

Performance trend

I. Import Control Activities (to support food safety at ports of entry)

Food import control procedure is implemented at the ports of entry by Food Control Administrative Unit (FCAU) of the Directorate of Environmental Health, Occupational Health and Food Safety, Ministry of Health to ensure that the food arrives in Sri Lanka are safe for human consumption. Import control activities are carried out by Food and Drug Inspectors in sea port, airport, and container terminals. Inspection of documents, foods and food sampling based on food safety hazards are done at the entry points.

Table 02: Import control activities at ports of entry

Ports of entry	Activities	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025. 09.30
RCT	Number of consignments inspected	41,135	36,911	31,851	34,391	28,428	36,590	38073	21312
	Number of consignments rejected	163	N/A	78	170	85	56	43	27
	Number of consignments destroyed or re-export	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	00	56	43	27
	Number of products referred to FCAU	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	06	08	14	15
	Number of products released by	N/A	N/A	N/A	10	06	08	11	27

	FCAU decision								
Sea port	Number of consignments registered & inspected	2559	3483	N/A	3573	3261	3557	5249	3592
	Number of samples taken	18	04	N/A	16	14	50	395	222
Air port	Number of consignments received and inspected	3765	4126	3192	2988	3832	2669	3831	1991
	Number of consignments referred to FCAU	05	04	00	Nil	02	02	02	00
	Number of samples sent for analysis	01	06	N/A	N/A	30	21	17	11
	Number of consignments destroyed under supervision	01	01	02	Nil	01	00	01	01
	Number of consignments rejected	03	02	09	05	06	00	01	25

II. Export Control Activities (to ensure the best quality of export food items and to provide export health certificates when necessary)

When exporting food items, the importing country requests for a health certificate from the food authority of the exporting country, certifying that the product is suitable for human consumption. This is called "export certificate" or "health certificate". Export certificates for exporting food consignments are issued on request by FCAU certifying that the food is fit for human consumption.

Table 03: Export control activities of the unit

Activity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025. 09.30
Number of Health certificate issued	10,848	12,334	11,566	13,184	11,466	12,410	13,787	7,912

Number of food factories newly registered	55	06	101	73	69	141	103	22
Total Number of factories registered as an export food factory at FCAU	853	859	960	1033	1102	1243	1594	1620
Number of factories visited	31	31	58	68	294	412	177	29

III. Domestic Control (to protect consumers from preventable health risks)

Domestic food control activities are conducted by Authorized officers under the food act. Food and Drug Inspectors at district level and Medical Officers of Health and Public Health Inspectors implement food act and its regulations island wide to ensure food safety. They involve in the activities such as inspection and grading of food establishments, obtaining food samples, prosecution and seizing when needed under the Food Act and its regulations and conducting awareness programmes in the community.

a) Bottled or Packaged Water Registration Activities

All bottled or packaged natural mineral water and bottled or packaged drinking water have to be registered under the Food (Bottled or Packaged Water) Regulations 2005.

Table 04: Registration of Bottled or Packaged Water Manufacturing facilities

Activities	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025. 09.30
Total number of factories	166	145	149	156	164	202	213	213
Number of factories that registration cancelled	N/A	N/A	04	02	01	00	01	-
Number of bottled drinking water facilities newly registered	14	13	08	09	08	11	04	-
Number of mineral water facilities newly registered	00	01	00	00	01	00	01	-
Number of bottled drinking water facilities registration renewed	31	40	24	16	25	53	41	31

Total number of factories visited	36	60	83	75	77	99	64	112
Number of certificates issued	N/A	N/A	32	25	36	58	47	27

b) Iodized Salt Regulation Activities

All premises used for iodization of edible common salt are registered under the Food (Iodization of Salt) Regulations 2005.

Table 05: Issuing of permits for common salt

Activities	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025. 09.30
Number of factories that registration cancelled	N/A	N/A	07	02	00	00	07	05
Number of factories registered at FCAU	26	38	46	69	70	30	42	72
Number of factories visited	26	35	26	38	4	06	12	40
Number of factories newly registered	06	05	08	05	03	03	19	28

IV. **Food Advisory Committee and its subcommittees to ensure food safety**

Food Advisory Committee (FAC) has been setup under the Food Act No.26 of 1980 and has regular meetings every month. FAC consists of almost all the stakeholders of food chain and it is the main forum to discuss food safety matters in the country. Subcommittees are appointed under the Food Advisory Committee to facilitate its functions. Food (Technical) subcommittee meets monthly to attend technical matters related to food safety. Food (health claim) subcommittee meets weekly to discuss “health claims” submitted for approval by food industry. Section 32 of the Food Act has given powers to form food regulation. Hence, Food (Regulation Formation) subcommittee is formed to develop fair, effective and science-based food regulations that support competitive markets and protect consumers. This committee meets weekly to expedite regulation formation and amendment procedure.

Table 06: Number of Food Advisory Committees and Food Advisory Subcommittees Meetings Conducted

Name	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025. 09.30
Food Advisory Committee	12	12	08	09	09	12	09	05

Food Advisory Sub Committee (Technical)	12	12	08	09	10	11	07	06
Food Advisory Sub Committee (Health claims)	12	12	09	07	07	09	11	05
Food Advisory Sub Committee (Regulation Formation)	54	55	24	43	43	39	30	21

V. Capacity building

a) Capacity building of officers involved in food safety

The officers involved in food safety need to have a sound knowledge on food safety management through entire food chain. Therefore, it is important to conduct capacity building programmes for these officers. Eight , four-day residential training programmes on food safety and hygiene were conducted for PHIs & SPHID at the auditorium of Medical Research Institute and Wayamba Training Center at Wariyapola. Training content was included data management and handling, laboratory sampling, food act and regulations, food borne diseases and poisoning, food spoilage, etc. All the training programmes (10) were successfully completed in 2024/2025. A training programme was conducted for MOH on food safety and hygiene parallel to this programme.

One day training programme was conducted for MO EOH, Regional Epidemiologist, MO Planning or relevant responsible medical officers at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on food safety, hygiene, food act and regulations.

VI. Food safety reviews:

Food safety reviews conduct at district levels and national food laboratory review at laboratory level to assess the performance of authorized officers and lab analysts.

Table 07: Food safety reviews conducted

Name of review	2021	2022	2023	2024
District food safety reviews	100% (provincial level, 9/9)	100%, online (district level, 28/28)	78%, physical (district level, 22/28)	92% Physical (district level, 26/28)
National food laboratory review	-	-	-	100% (01 national review)

VII. Public awareness

a) Media seminar for World Food Safety Day in 2025

A media seminar was held in collaboration with the Health Promotion Bureau to commemorate the world food safety day. The theme for the year 2025 was “Food Safety: Science in Action.”. The aim of this media seminar was to raise awareness on food safety among media personal and thereby general public.

b). Media seminars to increase public awareness

Two media seminars were conducted on food safety to increase public awareness on myths related to food in the community and maintaining hygienic practices to improve food hygiene in food premises.

c). Media seminar to ensure food safety among organizers of the Vesak and Poson Dansals

A media seminar was held to ensure food safety and hygiene on Vesak and Poson Dansals with the support of Health Promotion Bureau in May 2025.

VIII. Completed Projects:

Table 08: Summary of completed projects with progress

Project Description	2024			2025		
	Total Estimated Cost (Rs)	Physical Progress by 31.12.2024	Financial Progress by 31.12.2024	Total Estimated Cost (Rs)	Physical Progress till 30.09.2025	Financial Progress till 30.09.2025
Capacity building of staff	384,793.25	100%	100%	-	-	-
Food Safety Reviews	43,10,625.00	100%	100%	47,62,280.00	-	-
Food Advisory Committee meetings, Food Advisory Sub Committee meetings	767,450.00	55%	55%	315,750.00	44.05%	249,490
Regulatory works such as drafting and amending regulations, stakeholder meetings		80%	80%		43.75%	

	150,400.00			123,100		950,95
Infrastructure development (Improve food laboratory analytical capacity)	3,765,400.00	80%	80%	-	-	-
Food surveillance	215,000.00	100%	100%	Funded by IGN for salt survey	100%	-

4.2.7 Estate and Urban Health

Introduction

The estate community and the urban low-income community have been identified as two risk groups in the provision of health services in Sri Lanka. The Estate and Urban Health Unit of the Ministry of Health acts as the national focal point for improving the health status of these people.

Socio-economic problems including deficiencies in infrastructure, housing and sanitation facilities and behavioral deficiencies poor health habits in reserving a better health care service have been identified among this community leading them to identify as vulnerable groups.

The main task of the estate and urban health unit has been to minimize the health problems and deficiencies inherent in both estates and urban sectors, and to ensure the provision of optimal health care services to the community.

Vision

To create a healthy, productive and empowered estate & urban population in Sri Lanka.

Mission

Planning and implementing programs to improve the health of the estate and urban population of Sri Lanka through infrastructure development, human resource management, and providing equitable health services to all.

Goal

Improving the quality of life of estate and urban people by providing quality health services.

Objectives

Estate Health Unit

To ensure the provision of free health services to the estate community in accordance with the national health policy.

To improve the health status of the estate community by providing quality health care services through inter-sectoral collaboration with health and non-health stakeholders working in the plantation sector.

To establish an effective communication system between the estate management and local public health staff to implement health promotion programs, disease prevention and treatment programs for the estate community conducted by the Ministry of Health.

To ensure that all policies and development plans address the unique healthcare needs of estate communities, to supporting sustainable development and improve health outcomes.

To regularly monitor and evaluate to achievements of prioritized health targets in the estate sector.

Urban Health Unit

Enhancing to provide effective and maximum primary health services to the urban population through developing cooperation with local government institutions.

Inclusion of health guidelines and health recommendations for all urban planning and development policies with the aim of improving the health of the urban population.

Empowering urban people for disease prevention and health promotion activities.

Monitoring, follow-up and evaluation of interventions conducted to improve the health status of the urban population.

Special development activities planned for the year 2025- Urban Unit

	Details of the Project	The total estimated amount	Physical Progress	Financial Progress
1	National Urban Health Steering Committee Quarterly meetings and sub-committee meetings. Mental Health and Substance abuse subcommittee ,Legal sub-committee ,Nutrition subcommittee, NCD Sub-committee.	0.15	Planned to be held in July.	125,785.00
2	Preparation of the National Plan for the Estate and Urban Health Sector from 2026 to 2030	0.5	A preliminary meeting was held with selected stakeholders, until the release of funds from the	5,105.50

			World Health Organization.	
3	Preparing operational procedures for Urban Local Government Institutions to ensure urban health services	0.05	Proposals have been submitted for the approval.	
4	Conducting 08 injury prevention, medical ies, and basic first aid skills. programs for urban community and service providers	1	It is scheduled to commence in the first week of July under the funding of the World Health Organization.	
5	Clean Sri Lanka Project - Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Prevention Project (Targeting Children, Youth and Women)	4.55	Discussions with all stakeholders have been completed and the programmes are scheduled to commence in the second week of June.	
6	Clean Sri Lanka Project - Mental Health Promotion Training Programmes (Service Providers - Health and Non-Health) to the Urban community Covering the island)	0.7	Planned for the next 5 years.	
7	Fitness and Physical Exercise Promotion Training Programmes (Service Providers - Health and Non-Health) to the Urban Population Covering the island	0.5	Planned for the next 5 years.	
8	Observation, supervision, progress review in health units in urban/ municipal	0.25	The proposals have been submitted for the approval	

Special Development Activities planned for the year 2025- Estate Unit

	Details of the Project	The total estimated amount	Physical Progress	Financial Progress
1	Carrying out coordination activities with stakeholders relevant to the acquisition of Estate Health Institutions	0.24	Discussions to inspect 5 estate health institutions in Nuwara Eliya	38,905.00
2	Conducting consultation meetings for relevant stakeholders to achieve objectives	0.06	04 consultation meetings have been held.	19,659.00
	Conducting National Estate Health Steering Committee and Sub-committees	0.15	Awaiting for a date from the Health Secretariat	
3	Conducting capacity building programmes	2	The proposals have been submitted for the approval.	
4	Printing guidelines and carrying out printing work related to health education	2	The proposals have been submitted for the approval.	
5	Opening of 25 new “Happy Estate” health promotion centers	0.5	Nuwara Eliya and Matara districts have been currently covered.	130,596.75
6	Establishment of breastfeeding centers in childcare centers and supervision and improvement of the centers establishment	3	UNICEF is carrying out procurement activities.	
7	Conducting progress review meetings at the district level	0.5	The proposals have been submitted for the approval.	
8	Project supervising and field observations	0.5	The proposals have been submitted for the approval.	

9	Annual performance appraisals	0.5	The proposals have been submitted for the approval.	
10	Survey on basic nutritional behaviors among expecting mothers	0.3	The proposals have been submitted for the approval.	

Special achievements obtained by the Estate and Urban Health Sector in 2024

Necessary steps have been taken to take over selected Estate Health Institutions currently performing under plantation companies, and until the takeovers are accomplished, necessary actions have been taken in cooperation with the Department of National Planning to obtain the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to appoint medical officers to maintain health services in a proper manner.

In accordance with health promotion concepts, 44 health promotion centers, "Happy Estate" were established in Kegalle, Kandy, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Galle, Matara, Monaragala and Badulla Districts.

National level review and planning meetings were held relevant to estate and urban health.

There were 02 National Urban Health Steering Committee meetings held and the National Urban Health Steering Committee was convened for the second time to seek the support of multi-stakeholders to identify public health challenges faced by urban community. At the Urban Steering Committee meeting, it was instructed to convene sub-committees and the those are as follows.

Mental Health and Substance abuse sub-committee ,Legal sub-committee ,Nutrition sub-committee, NCD Sub-committee

These committees took initial steps towards improving the health conditions of the urban community and actively maintained the same to be proceeded.

Reviewing the effectiveness of Wellness Centers and research the provision of public health services in relation to Urban Councils and Municipal Councils.

Programmes to be implemented by the Estate and Urban Health Unit in the year 2026

Establishing "Happy Estate" Villages and conducting health promotion programmes in selected estate health institutions.

Carrying out health promotion programmes related to tobacco, alcohol and drug prevention

Conducting mental health and physical fitness promotion programmes.

Project to establish Wellness Centers for Estate Health Institutions

Preparation and implementation of the five-year National strategic plan for the Estate and Urban Health Unit

Establish an operating procedure between the Urban councils, Municipal Councils and the health sector

4.2.8 Quarantine Services

Introduction

Quarantine Unit of Ministry of Health is a main partner involved in maintaining border health security in Sri Lanka. The main responsibility of this unit is to limit and respond to the international spread of diseases and other public health threats while avoiding unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade, taking measures to prevent harm to human health, including the health and wellbeing of international travelers, aircraft and ship crew, and the general public.

Quarantine Unit of Ministry of Health works with other agencies with border control responsibilities, including security, customs, biosecurity, maritime and aviation transport, animal health, policing and immigration responsibilities and other units of Ministry of Health.

Public Health Offices managed by the Quarantine Unit are Airport Health Offices at International Airports (Bandaranaike International Airport - Katunayake, Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport - Mattala, Jaffna International Airport- Palaly, Colombo International Airport- Ratmalana), Port Health Offices at International Ports (Colombo, Galle, Trincomalee, Hambantota, Kankesanthurai and Norochcholai), Assistant Port Health Office at Medical Research Institute (MRI) and Immigration Health Unit.

Assistant Port Health Office of Quarantine Unit is involved with vaccination of travelers against yellow fever, meningococcal meningitis and polio.

Ministry of Health with International Organization for Migration (IOM) conduct Inbound Health assessment of resident visa applicants and screen them for Malaria, Filariasis, Tuberculosis and HIV. Immigration Health Unit of Quarantine Unit refers the positive applicants to relevant Public Health Campaigns of Ministry of Health for management and monitor their follow up.

History of the notification of communicable diseases in Sri Lanka related back to late 19th century as the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance had been introduced in 1897 to implement the notification system on communicable diseases in the country. Sri Lanka is also legally bound to comply and obliged with to implement the International Health

Regulations (IHR)-2005. Quarantine Unit is Co National Focal Points of International Health Regulations (IHR)-2005 in Sri Lanka.

Vision

Country free of internationally spread of diseases.

Mission

Effectively protecting, preventing, and controlling of possible entry of diseases or an event with public health risks to Sri Lanka without causing significant disturbance to international traffic and trade.

Goal

Aim to ensure the maximum security against the international spread of diseases, with the minimum interference with world traffic and trade. This includes the measures to be adopted for preparedness and response during a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) or a situation which might lead to a PHEIC.

Objectives

- To strengthen the implementation of International Health Regulations-2005 in Sri Lanka
- To ensure border health security in the country
- To enhance the facilities at Quarantine Unit, Assistant Port Health office and Public Health offices at Points of Entry (PoEs)

Achievement and special events in 2024/2025

- Participated in the Global Emergency Operations Centre Simulation Exercise (GEOCX 2024) conducted by the WHO on 13th November 2024.
- Consultative Meeting to discuss on State Party Annual Reporting Tool 2024 on IHR - 2005 was held on 27th November 2024 with the participation of stakeholders from all 15 core capacity areas.
- National Steering Committee Meeting on International Health Regulations (IHR)-2005 for the year 2024 was held on 4th December 2024.
- Consultative Meeting to Review the NAPHS 2024-2028 was held on 19th December 2024 with the participation of stakeholders.
- Organized and participated in workshop to identify additional information to ensure effective implementation of interventions to strengthen integrated community resilience through the primary healthcare network for incorporation in the National Investment Plan for Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Resilience on 3rd April 2025 at Colombo, collaborating with the WHO.

- Organized and participated in discussion on updating standard operative procedures (SOP) for routine Public Health Measures at International Points of Entry in Sri Lanka on 25th and 26th of June 2025 at Colombo in collaboration with the WHO.
- Awareness on Quarantine activities at Points of Entry and on International Health Regulation-2005 were conducted for Undergraduate medical students / Ayurvedic medical students/ Undergraduate nursing students and nursing diploma trainees/ PHI trainee students, as well as post graduate trainee doctors of Community medicine stream/ Medical Administration stream/ Virology stream / Disaster Management Diploma at Quarantine Unit, Assistant Port Health Office and Health Offices at Points of Entry.

Ongoing Development project details

GOSL Funds

Project Description	Total Estimate Cost (Rs. Mn)	Physical Progress from 01.10.2024 to 30.09.2025	Financial Progress from 01.10.2024 to 30.09.2025
1.Provide Yellow fever vaccination for travelers	Routine	(1120 in 2024 last quarter and 946 in 1 st 06 months of 2025) travelers were vaccinated against yellow fever vaccination done at Assistant Port Health Office at MRI. (Yellow fever vaccine was not available for months of April and May 2025)	---
2.Inspect the ships for issuance of Ship Sanitation Certificates	Routine	170 in 2024 last quarter and 178 in 1 st 06 months of 2025) ships inspected for issuing Ship Sanitation Certificate	----
3.Review meetings at Quarantine unit	Rs. 169,568.25 (Rs. 50,000 for the last quarter of 2023 + 119,568.25 for 1 st 06 months of 2025)	Meetings conducted via zoom for the whole year 2024 and 2025. Review meeting was conducted physically in June 2024	For the 2024 October meeting, Rs. 31,950/= of the allocated funds were utilized. For 2025, funds were not utilized.

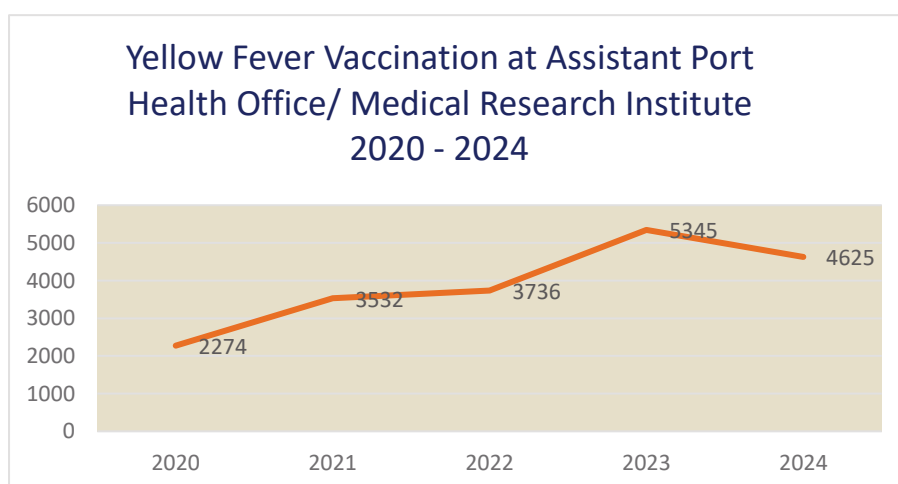
5.Web Site with admin panel renewal	Rs. 160,863.50	Completed	Funds Received for 2025. Allocated total fund of Rs. 160,863.50 utilized.
6.Purchase equipment to implement core capacities of IHR 2005 (Quarantine Unit and Port/ Airport Health Offices)	2 Mn (for year 2024) Rs. 9,375,100 (for 2025)	2024 -Planned equipment purchased for Port/ Airport health offices during last quarter of 2024. 2025-Planning to purchase equipment through Supplies Division of Ministry of Health. Procurement has started.	During the last quarter of 2024, Rs. 378,000.00 of funds utilized. Funds allocated from DDG Logistics for 2025.

WHO Biennium Funds 2024 - 2025

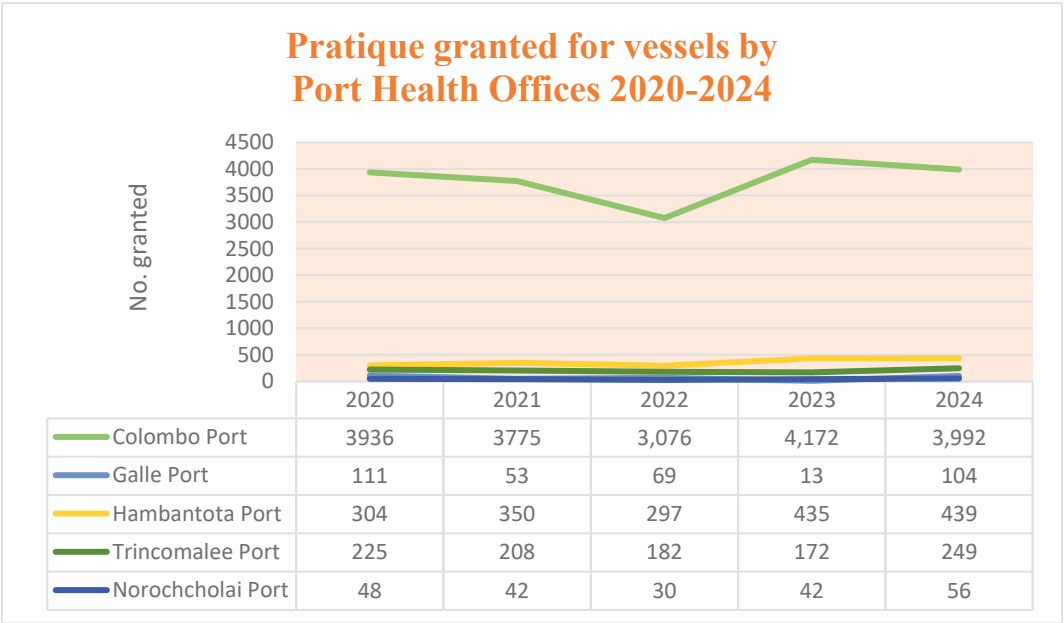
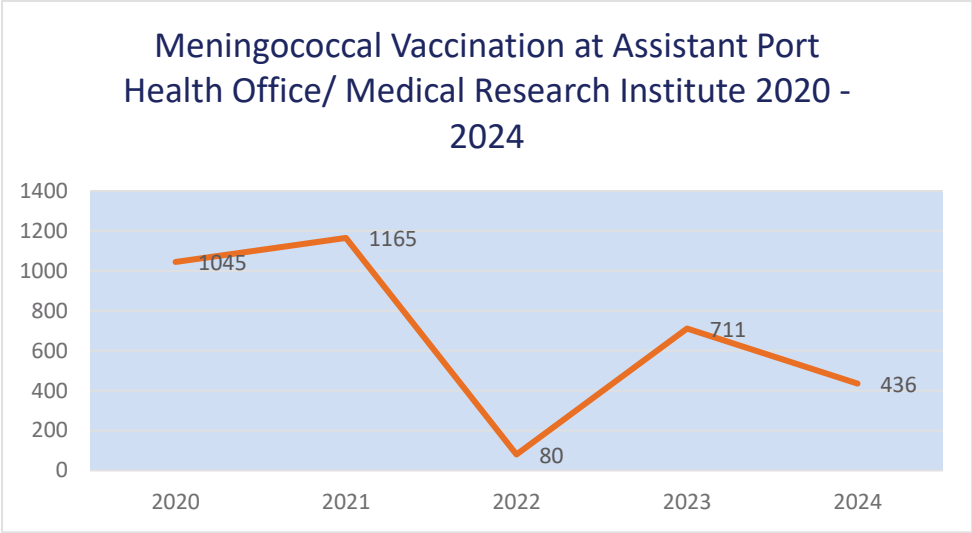
Project Description	Total Estimate Cost (Rs)	Physical Progress from 01.10.2024 to 30.09.2025	Financial Progress from 01.10.2024 to 30.09.2025
1.Consultative Meeting to discuss on State Party Annual Report on International Health Regulation (IHR) -2024	812,500 (in 2024)	Task completed	Rs. 666,366.19 (in 2024)
2.Conduct annual Steering Committee Meeting on International Health Regulations (IHR)	162,513.14 (in 2024)	Task completed	Rs. 82,800.00 (in 2024)
3.Conduct annual meetings with relevant stakeholders to	107,950.00 (in 2024)	Task completed	Rs. 770,666.000 (in 2024)

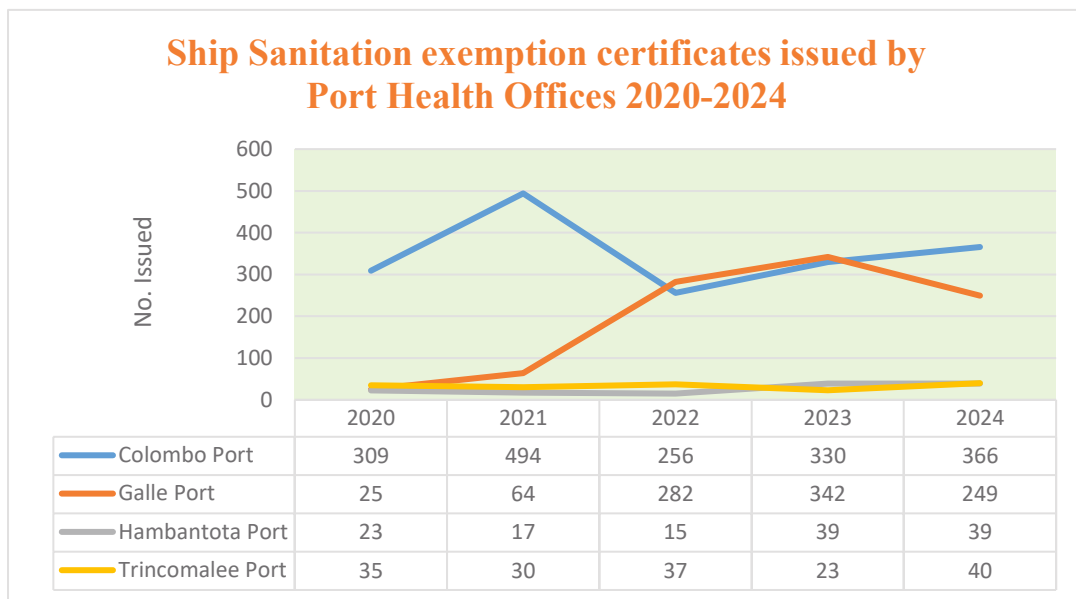
review National Action Plan for Health Security 2024-2028			
4. Develop the National Investment plan for Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Resilience for Sri Lanka	225,348 (in 2025)	Task completed	Rs. 157,411.00 (in 2025)
5. Update the Standard Operative procedures for Public Health Measures at Points of Entry	400,725 (in 2025)	Task ongoing.	Rs. 227,386.40 (in 2025)

Last five-year Performance Trends



Meningococcal Vaccines were not available during some months of 2022, 2023 and 2024





Special development activities planned for 2026

- Purchase items for the quarantine unit and airport and port health offices of quarantine unit.
- Build a new port health office at Colombo Port from IOM funds

Photographs of special events

1. Consultative Meeting to discuss on State Party Annual Reporting (SPAR) Tool 2024 on International Health Regulations (IHR) -2005 -27th November 2024



2. National Steering Committee Meeting on International Health Regulations (IHR)- 2005 -04th December 2024



3. Consultative Meeting to Review the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) 2024-2028 – 19th December 2024



4. Workshop to identify additional information to ensure effective implementation of interventions to strengthen integrated community resilience through the primary healthcare network for incorporation in the National Investment Plan for Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Resilience on 3rd April 2025 at Colombo.



5. Discussion on updating standard operative procedures (SOP) for routine Public Health Measures at International Points of Entry in Sri Lanka on 25th and 26th of June 2025.



4.2.9 Care for Youth Elderly Displaced and Disabled Persons

Vision and Mission of the Directorate of Youth, Elderly, Disable Persons

To improve quality of life of Youth, Elderly and Disable persons through improvement of health facilities, disease prevention and health promotion according to the health master plan in Sri Lanka.

Elderly Health Care

Vision: -Healthy active and productive elderly population

General Objectives

- To improve physical, Mental and social well-being of the Elders.
- To provide comprehensive a healthcare service to achieve more active and more productive elderly population in future.

Disability health care

Vision: -Improve the quality of life of disabled persons

General Objectives: -To improve the health services for disabled persons

Youth friendly health services

Vision: - Healthy and productive adolescent and Youth population

General Objectives – To improve knowledge attitude and life skills among youth to reduce youth problems and improve their well being

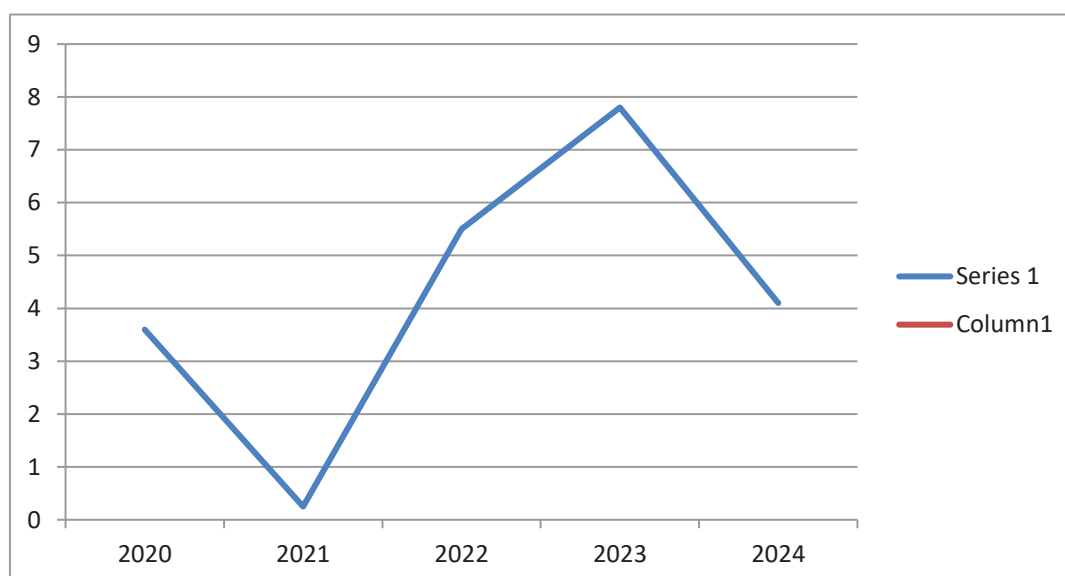
Achievements				
01. Awareness program on Sign language and other programs for disability care (GOSL)	1,000,000.00	72600.00	7.26	
02. Printing of manuals, guidelines and leaflets annually (GOSL)	1,000,000.00	247,935.00	24.8	
03. ICOPE training and review meeting (WHO)	1,046,000.00	658,371.00	63	

Ongoing development project details - 2025

Project Description	Total Estimated Cost - Rs.	Financial Progress - Rs.	Physical Progress %
01. ICOPE review and awareness	900,000.00	0	0
02. ICOPE screening program: Annually printing of screening format, registers , referral forms and returns (GOSL)	1,000,000.00	0	0
03.. Printing IEC materials and banners for elderly care (GOSL)	1,000,000.00	0	0
04. Annual awareness programs on elderly care and disability care-National and provincial level (GOSL)	1,000,000.00	15000.00	1.5
05 Awareness program on Sign language and other programs for disability care (GOSL)	1,000,000.00	72600.00	7.26
06. Continuous professional development and awareness on disability care and rehabilitation at rehabilitation units (GOSL)	1,000,000.00	0	0
07. Multi-stakeholder meetings and programs for addressing health of youths in higher educational institutions and community (GOSL)	500,000.00	0	0
08. Printing manuals and leaflets on pre-retirement (GOSL)	500,000.00	0	0
09. Annual awareness programs on Pre-Retirement (GOSL)	1,000,000.00	0	0
10. Commemoration of subject-related international days (GOSL)	600,000.00	0	0

11. Printing of manuals, guidelines and leaflets annually (GOSL)	1,000,000.00	0	0
12. Development of a Web site for YED (GOSL)	1,000,000.00	0	0
13. Purchasing equipment for YED, fax machine, smart board (GOSL)	500,000.00	0	0
14.ICOPE training and review (WHO)	1,046000.00	658,371	63
15.Consultative workshop to develop guidelines on disability (WHO)	1,259000.0	0	0

Last 05 year performance trend of YED unit



4.2.10 National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol

Vision

A country and people free of tobacco & alcohol use.

Mission

Mobilizing all social sectors to liberate our society from harm caused from tobacco and alcohol.

Objectives

- To identify the board and specific policies in relation to tobacco and alcohol (and other narcotics) for protecting Public Health.
- To eliminate tobacco and alcohol related harm through the assessment and monitoring of the production, marketing, advertising and consumption of tobacco products and alcohol products.
- To make provisions discouraging persons especially children from smoking or consuming alcohol by curtailing their access to tobacco products and alcohol products.
- To promote and adopt and implement clean air laws and restrict the availability spaces to protect the community from tobacco and alcohol.
- To propose and promote all other measures, including cessation tobacco and alcohol programmes necessary to prevent harm from tobacco and alcohol to the population

Functions

- Advise the Government on the implementation of the National Policy on Tobacco and Alcohol.
- Encourage and assist health promotion through the media sponsorships and community-based projects.
- Recommend measures to minimize the harm arising from the consumption of tobacco products and alcohol products.
- Recommend measures in consultation with the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, for the elimination or minimization of illicit drug use.
- Recommend legal, taxation, administrative and other measures necessary for the implementation of the National Policy on Tobacco and Alcohol.
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of such policy.
- Evaluate the impact of policy measures and advise the government on such modifications to the Policy as may be necessary.
- Encourage and assist research on issues relating to Tobacco and Alcohol.
- Monitor economic, health and other issues relating to the production, consumption and marketing of tobacco products and alcohol products.

- Conduct, promote and co-ordinate research in relation to the use of Tobacco and Alcohol.
- Secure participation of all necessary governmental or non-governmental agencies and private sector organizations in the implementation of the National Policy on Tobacco and Alcohol.
- Encourage active community participation in the implementation and monitoring of the National Policy on Tobacco and Alcohol.
- Receive communications from the public on issues relating to tobacco and alcohol and to recommend necessary action in relation thereto the implementing agencies.
- Act as the coordinating agency for all activities carried out by the government and nongovernmental agencies and organizations relating to minimizing the harm arising from the production and consumption of tobacco products and alcohol products.
- Monitor the progress of all investigations relating to Tobacco and Alcohol.
- Liaise with local, regional and international organizations on issues relating to Tobacco and Alcohol.

Achievements/ Special Events

Activities implemented	Target groups	Achievement
Implementing a tobacco tax formula	General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tax formula was introduced in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the said formula was presented to the Health Secretary on 08 November 2024.
Awareness programme for schoolchildren on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol	Schoolchildren	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An awareness programme for students of Royal College, Colombo on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was held on 05 November 2024. • An awareness programme for students of Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was held on 18 November 2024. • An awareness programme for students of Gateway College, Negambo on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was held on 21 November 2024. • An awareness programme for students of Wycherly International School, Dehiwala on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was held on 16 May November 2025 at the premises of NATA
Awareness programme on prevention and cessation of	General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An awareness programme on prevention and cessation of smokeless tobacco was conducted for plantation community at Deniyaya, Matara on 27 November, 2024.

smokeless tobacco		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An awareness programme on prevention and cessation of smokeless tobacco was conducted for a community group at Kamburupitiya , Matara on 02 December, 2024.
Prevention and cessation of tobacco & alcohol for young people	Youth groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An awareness programme on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was conducted for students of NAITA, Industrial Engineering Training Institute, Katubedda, Moratuwa on 10 October 2024 An awareness programme on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was conducted for students of NAITA, Auto Engineering Training Institute Wellampitiya, Orugodawatta on 22 October 2024 An awareness programme on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was conducted for students of NAITA, Engineering Technology Training Institute, Katunayake on 22 November 2024 An awareness programme on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was conducted for two groups comprising 180 youths undergoing training at NAITA, Orugodawatta on 04th & 11th April 2025. A workshop titled "Empowering Refusal Skills: Strategies to Reduce Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use" was successfully conducted on 7th February 2025 for university students of the Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya.
Training of Trainers (ToT) programme	Field officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Training of Trainers programme for field officers on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was held on 26th November at the Medical Officer of Health office, Deniyaya, Kotapola, Matara. A Training of Trainers programme for field officers on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was held on 02nd December at Divisional Secretariat office, Kamburupitiya, Matara. Several Training of Trainers programmes for field officers on prevention of tobacco and alcohol centered on Matale and Ukuwela areas were conducted on the two days of 02/03.02.2025 where participants were provided with materials required for awareness

		<p>programmes and nearly 100 participated in these programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An awareness programme on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was conducted for 125 health staff members of Lady Ridgeway Hospital on 31 March 2025.
Conducting training programmes for authorized officers	Authorized officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Authority successfully organized an awareness programme focusing on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol for excise officers on 05.12.2024 and emphasis was laid on the importance of effectively enforcing of the NATA Act.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A workshop and felicitation ceremony was successfully held at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute on 20th December 2024. At this event Public Health Inspectors from across the island were recognized for their invaluable contributions to establishing Tobacco-Free Areas and implementing the Authority Act. A workshop was held on 23 January 2025 at the Sethsiripaya Phase II Auditorium for Public Health Inspectors in the Colombo District on the establishment of smoke-free zones and the cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol. An awareness program on the implementation of the Authority Act was held for trainee police officers at the Kalutara Police College on 30th January 2025. A session organized by the Public Health Inspectors Association was held on 27/05/2025 via Zoom technology for Public Health Inspectors on the Authority Act. An awareness session via zoom technology was conducted for 100 excise officers. A session on the implementation of the NATA Act was conducted on 09.06.2025 for 35 Tamil speaking Public Health Inspectors. Legal action will be constituted by sending direct notices or filing a lawsuit regarding any complaint received by the Authority directly or through authorized officers regarding violations of the Authority Act No. 27 of 2006.
Educational & research activities	General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A survey on tobacco & alcohol consumption in plantation areas in Talaweakele, Nuwaraeliya district was conducted by NATA.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey was conducted by NATA to assess practices, attitudes and knowledge of the plantation community in Deniyaya, Matara about tobacco and alcohol consumption. • With the support of World Health Organization, the Global Youth Tobacco Survey was launched in the year 2025.
Media activities	General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Authority's official Facebook page has 5942 followers, the Authority's YouTube channel has 231 subscribers and the Authority's Instagram page has 38 followers. The number of users of the Authority's Facebook page has fluctuated between 10,000-16,000 in 2025.
Conducting community awareness programmes	General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An awareness program and exhibition stall on tobacco and alcohol prevention was held at Viharamahadevi Park, Colombo on 07.06.2025 concurrent to "COMHEALTH FEST -2025".
World No-Tobacco Day	General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commemorating World No Tobacco Day which fell on May 31st, an awareness program was held at Sethsiripaya, second stage and, in parallel, handouts and stickers were distributed at the Immigration and Emigration Office on 30.05.2025.
1948 psychological counselling service	Tobacco & alcohol consumer in Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number of calls received for the counseling service was 6204, and 1241 clients received counseling in 2024. • The National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol successfully held an inspirational session and appreciation ceremony on December 27, 2024 to pay tribute to the dedicated volunteer counselors of the 1948 Psychological Counseling Service. • The National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol held a motivational session for the dedicated volunteer counselors of the 1948 Psychological Counseling Service on October 16th via Zoom technology. • From 2025.01.01 to 2025.05.31, a total of 2448 calls were received for the 1948 Psychological Counseling Service, of which 404 calls were for counseling.

Details of projects conducted

No.	Project description	Total estimated cost 2025 (Rs Mn)	Physical progress as at 30.09.2025	Financial progress as at 30.09.2025
1	Implementing National Authority on Tobacco Alcohol Act	800,000.00	<p>Promotion of tobacco and alcohol by social media was stopped directly upon the receipt of complaints,</p> <p>Legal action will be taken by sending direct notices or filing a lawsuit on any complaint received by the Authority directly or through authorized officers regarding the violation of the Authority Act No. 27 of 2006.</p> <p>The case relating to the advertising of alcohol over Facebook was ruled in favour of the Authority.</p> <p>The Authority took necessary legal action against the licensed Battaramulla liquor store, which was reported to have violated the Act.</p> <p>Promotion of alcohol in supermarket was stopped.</p> <p>Maligakanda Municipal Council –One case- A complaint and a charge sheet have been filed subsequent to an inquiry.</p> <p>Matara Municipal Council –one case- Having filed a complaint and a charge sheet, summons have been issued to the Director</p> <p>Matara high court RI 18/2023- Revised application on favoured cigarettes is being heard.</p> <p>Colombo high court RI49/2023- Judgement was delivered and an appeal is being heard.</p> <p>Zoom sessions for Public Health Inspectors on the Authority Act organized by the Public Health Inspectors Association were held on 27/05/2025</p>	84,563.18
2	Education & training		A training of trainers program on tobacco and alcohol cessation and prevention was conducted	

		8,300,000.00	<p>for field officers at the Ukuwela Divisional Secretariat, Matale on 3rd February 2025.</p> <p>On March 31, 2025, an awareness program on tobacco and alcohol prevention was conducted for a group of about 108 healthcare staff at Lady Ridgeway Hospital.</p> <p>A workshop was held on 23 January 2025 at the Sethsiripaya Phase II Auditorium for Public Health Inspectors in the Colombo District on the establishment of tobacco-free areas and the cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol.</p> <p>A workshop titled "Empowering Refusal Skills: Strategies to Reduce Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Use" was successfully conducted on 7th February 2025 for university students of the Department of Industrial Management, Faculty of Science, University of Kelaniya.</p> <p>An awareness programme on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was conducted for two groups comprising 180 youths undergoing training at NAITA, Orugodawatta on 04th & 11th April 2025.</p> <p>An awareness programme for students of Wycherly International School, Dehiwala on cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was held on 16 May November 2025 at the premises of NATA</p>	1,718,110.68
3	Awareness programmes & advocacy programmes	8,500,000.00	<p>An awareness program for community members in Ukuwela, Matale was successfully conducted on 2nd February 2025.</p> <p>An awareness program and exhibition stall on tobacco and alcohol prevention was held at Viharamahadevi Park, Colombo on 07.06.2025 concurrent to "COMHEALTH FEST -2025".</p>	316,547.51

			Joined the march organized by the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26th June 2025.	
4	Research & information system	5,100,000.00	<p>Preparation for the 2025 National Conference on Tobacco and Alcohol Prevention (NSTAP). Abstracts and research papers called on April 26, 2025.</p> <p>The draft of the study report of the Tea Estate Study titled "Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices on Tobacco and Alcohol Use among Plantation Communities in Nuwara Eliya and Badulla districts and Deniyaya in Sri Lanka" was completed.</p> <p>The results of a survey conducted with 3,000 Girl Scouts regarding their attitudes towards alcohol and tobacco were analyzed.</p>	392,138.58
5	Monitoring & evaluation	3,500,000.00	<p>Maintained VNATA mobile application and necessary upgrades were made to the application.</p> <p>An awareness program was conducted for 100 Excise Officers through a Zoom session.</p> <p>An awareness program on the implementation of the Authority Act was conducted for trainee police officers at the Kalutara Police School on 30th January 2025.</p>	554,412.45
6	Buildings and structures/ furniture and office equipment	800,000.00	A water filter was purchased.	35,000.00
	Total amount	27,000,000.00		3,100,772.40

Performance trends during the last five years

Table 1: No of cigarettes issued and taxes (Source: Sri Lanka Customs)

Year	No. of cigarettes produced)Billion(No. of cigarettes sold)Billion(Tax amount)Rs Bn)(
2019	2.54	2.62	87.55
2020	2.30	2.29	90.23
2021	2.29	2.38	90.70
2022	3.00	2.83	104.91
2023	2.21	2.30	112.68
2024	-	-	-

Special activities planned for the year 2026

- Implementing a proper and transparent tax formula.
- Conducting Global Young Tobacco Survey with the assistance of World Health Organization.
- Developing an observing and checking system with the support of the Excise Department.
- Introducing a brand free packaging policy for cigarettes.
- Banning the sale of cigarettes as single sticks
- Banning the use of tobacco in all public places
- Activating smokeless tobacco zones.
- Formulating & implementing a new tax formula for alcohol.
- Preparing a national observation framework on the use of tobacco & alcohol.

4.2.11 Healthcare Quality and Safety

Introduction

The Directorate Healthcare Quality and Safety (DHQS) was established in 2012 as the national focal point that implements the healthcare quality assurance program for Sri Lanka. DHQS has an island-wide network with Quality Management Units (QMU) in all hospitals above Base Hospital type B and the offices of the Regional Director of Health Services to execute the quality assurance program at the respective institutes.

Vision

Providing optimum quality and safe healthcare services to the people of Sri Lanka

Mission

Facilitating healthcare institutions to provide the best possible quality healthcare services through continuous improvement while responding to peoples' expectations and ensuring safety with the involvement of all stakeholders

Objectives

- To strengthen organizational settings towards customer-focused care responsive to their preferences, expectations and values and patient-centered care.
- To establish effective leadership and develop governance and systems to facilitate healthcare quality improvement and patient safety.
- To promote evidence-based, ethically accepted clinical practices to ensure the best possible outcome for the patient.
- To mitigate risk from medications, procedures and adverse events to ensure the safety of patients and staff.
- To internalize quality improvement strategies to assure shared values in creating health-promoting and environment-friendly healthcare organizations.
- To develop a competent, healthy and satisfied workforce to enhance productivity, quality and safety in healthcare.
- To promote research in the field of quality improvement and patient safety.

Achievements/Special Events in 2025

The Directorate of Healthcare Quality & Safety (DHQS) could accomplish the following achievements during the year 2025.

- Initiation of the quick reference guidance document for accreditation purpose. Several rounds of meetings were held with professional colleges of Sri Lanka.
- Conducted the Annual Performance Review 2024 of Line ministry and Provincial Healthcare Institutions (Base hospital and above) to assess hospital performance in Quality and Safety. The modified Quality Performance Evaluation Tool was used for reporting.
- Completed the first phase of digitalization of the Quality Performance Tool (QPET) which will streamline future monitoring of the performance of health institutions related to healthcare quality and safety.
- One workshop on Clinical Audits was conducted for 43 participants including medical, nursing and supportive staff with the objective of improving knowledge and skills related to Clinical Audits which will lead to improved healthcare quality and patient outcomes. Commenced piloting of the Medication Safety Practice Package (MSPP) in Colombo South Teaching Hospital.
- One Clinical Governance Training Programmes conducted with 56 participants including Heads of Institutions, Medical Officers and Nursing Officers aimed at enhancing clinical governance practices in Healthcare Institutions. Initiated developing Clinical Governance structure in hospitals.
- Establishment of the National Guideline Committee chaired by the Director General of Health Services, and comprising of ministry of health officials and representatives of professional colleges.



- Conducted the following steering committees and subcommittees.
 - Medication Safety Subcommittee
 - Infection Prevention & Control Subcommittee
- Completed printing of 1,000,000 surgical safety check lists (for all major and intermediate surgeries), 100,000 copies of incident reporting formats, 8000 medication incident reporting formats with HiQi funding.

Achievements/Special Events in Q 4 - 2024

- Finalization of the roadmap and the development of draft National Framework for Accreditation for government sector in Sr Lanka and way forward in accreditation



- Three one-day training programmes on safety and quality conducted for staff belonging to Professions Supplementary to Medicine, Para Medical Services and healthcare assistants, in October 2024.
- Two training programmes were conducted on the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in November and December 2024, where 107 participants including Heads of Institutions, Consultants, Medical Officers, PHNS, SGNO & Nursing officers were trained. The trainees were given hands on training on the development of SOPs.
- Three three-day Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes on healthcare quality and safety were conducted for staff members of hospitals and RDHS offices in October and November where 192 participants (7 Administrators, 48 Consultants/ Medical Officers, 114 PHNS / SGNO/ Nursing Officers & 23 other categories.

- One workshop on Clinical Governance conducted with 55 participants (Administrators, Medical Officers, Nursing officers and Paramedical categories) aimed at enhancing clinical governance practices in Healthcare Institutions.

Ongoing development project details

Project Description	Tot. Est. Cost (Rs. Mn)	Physical Progress by 30.09.2025	Financial Progress by 30.09.2025 (Rs. Mn)
Conducting the meetings of National Accreditation Council	0.2	One meeting conducted.	0.098
Implementation of the medication safety practice package in Teaching Hospitals	0.78	Two consultative meetings to develop the Medication Safety Practice Package conducted.	0.689
Launch and implementation of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) policy and Development of Infection Prevention and Control guidelines	1.3	One consultative meeting conducted to review the draft IPC Policy	0.311
Revising the National Strategic Plan on Healthcare Quality and Safety and developing the Action Plan for the year 2026-2030	1.8	To be conducted	0.00
Capacity building of healthcare workers on safety culture using an international expert	3.2	To be conducted	0.00
Improving the quality of patient care: Establishment and functioning of a 'Clinical Care Management Guidelines Committee' - Two guidelines	0.73	2 meetings conducted. One guideline drafted. The second guideline to be developed	0.155
End-user training programmes for national rollout of Quality Performance Evaluation Tool (QPET)	2.49	To be conducted in Q3 & Q4	0.121

Strengthening of digital infrastructure at the DHQS: Upgrading the DHQS LAN to industry standards	3.0	To be conducted in Q4	0.00
Strengthening Quality Management Programmes at hospitals through Quality Management Units to address gaps identified.	55.5	To be conducted in Q3 & Q4	0.00
Leadership development programme for the staff of the Quality Management Units of selected hospitals and the staff of DHQS	2.7	To be conducted in Q4	0.00
Development of Quality Standards and guidelines for accreditation using local consultancy	9.85	Procurement process completed and awaiting the approval from GF to recruit the first local consultant	0.00
Piloting and refining of standards and compilation, printing & launching of Sri Lanka Standards book	4.19	To be conducted in Q3	0.00
Surveyor training program with foreign consultancy (Consultancy payment)	26.93	To be conducted in Q4	0.00
Conducting of Gap analysis with local consultant)	3.39	To be conducted in Q4	0.00
Conducting awareness workshops on Accreditation roadmap and way forward	1.5	To be conducted in Q4	0.00
Collaboration with SLMA and professional colleges to design and pilot CPD programmes on 'Clinical Governance' in all provinces	1.2	One programme conducted for 56 participants.	0.331
Design and distribution of an Annual Healthcare Quality and Safety Bulletin	0.275	Annual Healthcare Quality and Safety Bulletin 2022,2023 &	0.00

		2024 completed. Awaiting printing	
World patient safety day celebration and awards for the best practices	1.79	To be conducted in Q3	1.710

Last 5-year performance trend.

Indicator	Year				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Quarterly Performance Review Meetings (PRMs) conducted	100%	100 %	100 %	100%	100%
Biannual Performance Review Meetings / District Performance Review Meetings (DPRMs) conducted.	100%	100 %	100 %	100%	100%
Number of (Percentage out of targeted) staff trained on Master Trainers on 5S, CQI & TQM, patient safety and clinical audit	135/200 (68%)	193/200 (96%)	100/150 66.66 %	151/200 (75.5%)	256/260 (98.46)
Number of (Percentage out of targeted) staff trained on clinical audit	87/100 (87%)	164/150 (109 %)	72/100 72%	121/80 (151%)	36/36 (100%)
Percentage of healthcare facilities which commenced reporting of adverse events	97%	97%	98%	98.5%	

Special development activities planned for July – Dec 2025

- Launch and implementation of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) policy and Development of Infection Prevention and Control guidelines

- Development of an accreditation system for government healthcare institutions in Sri Lanka.
- Revision of the National Strategic Plan for Quality and Safety.
- Review of Medication Safety National Action Plan for 2026- 2030.

Special development activities planned for 2026

- Revision of the National Action Policy on IPC and developing a costed Action Plan for the year 2027-2031.
- Piloting of WHO safety culture assessment tool.
- Mapping of the existing pharmacy, nursing and medical curricula against the updated WHO medication safety curriculum guide and incorporating the identified components into all 3 professional curricula in Sri Lanka.
- Healthcare worker training to facilitate the implementation of safe systems for the use of medicines in hospitals.
- Conducting the Healthcare Quality and Safety awards based on the performance of healthcare Institutions.
- Developing a mechanism to strengthen the medication safety incident reporting mechanism in healthcare institutions.

4.2.12 Disaster Preparedness and Response Division (DPRD)

Introduction

Disaster Preparedness and Response Division is the focal point of Ministry of Health for the National Disaster Management Framework aims at reducing mortality, morbidity and health effects of displacement in the aftermath of disasters by providing strategic, evidence-based direction through preparedness and response functions.

Vision

Resilient health sector for safer communities

Mission

To contribute towards a safer Sri Lanka through improving health sector functioning in relation to disasters, emergencies, integrating disaster risk reduction into health sector and empowering communities as supporters on health sector disaster response.

Objectives

- To improve structural, non-structural, and functional capacity of health facilities through safe hospitals initiative.
- To improve human resources for health sector disaster management.
- To promote stakeholder coordination for health sector disaster management.
- To improve information support, knowledge management and research for health sector disaster management.

- To improve community participation towards health sector disaster management.
- To integrate results-based monitoring and evaluation to health sector disaster management.

Achievements

01. National Workshop on Advancing Civil-Military Collaboration to Strengthen Health Emergency Preparedness

1–2 April 2025, Colombo

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters, the WHO - (SEARO), the WHO Country Office in Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Defense (including the Tri-Forces and the Disaster Management Centre), and the Ministry of Public Security, organized a national workshop in Colombo from 1 to 2 April 2025.

This significant workshop aimed to advance civil-military collaboration as part of the country's broader efforts to strengthen the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) and enhance national preparedness for health emergencies.

02. Follow-up Training for Health Emergency Operations Centers through Simulation Exercises (ProTECt II)

From 08 to 16 December 2024, the Disaster Preparedness and Response Division of the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), conducted follow-up training for Health Emergency Operations Centers (HEOCs) through simulation exercises at the subnational level (ProTECt II) in the Rathnapura and Kalutara districts.

These simulation exercises were meticulously designed to evaluate the multi-level emergency preparedness and response mechanisms at the sub-national level in the event of a public health emergency. By constructing realistic and dynamic scenarios, the exercises provided a practical and immersive platform to assess the effectiveness of established protocols, communication channels, and coordination strategies among diverse stakeholders.

03. Testing of the hospital preparedness through drills

The Disaster Preparedness and Response Division (DPRD) plays a key role in providing both financial and technical support to hospitals for conducting preparedness drills. These drills assess hospital readiness for responding to a variety of hazards. In 2024, 12 mass casualty disaster management drills were successfully conducted across 12 health institutions in the following locations:

TH Kalubowila, National Hospital Kandy, DGH Negambo, National Hospital Sri Lanka, BH Kamburupitiya, BH Kanthale, DGH Polonnaruwa, DGH Ampara, TH Batticaloa, DGH Mannar, BH Kalmunai North, DGH Mullaitiv. Around Rs.2.0 million were used.

04. Disaster Management Trainings

The DPRD has been involved in training and capacity-building programs for nursing professionals across various health institutions. In 2024, 8 Disaster Management Training programs were conducted, benefitting over 400 nursing officers. These training sessions were held in the following hospitals:

TH Kalutara, NHSL, BH Akkareipaththu, DGH Monaragala, DGH Matara, TH Kurunegala, TH Peradeniya and TH Karapitiya

Approximately Rs. 1.7 million was allocated from the DPRD capital budget to support these training programs.

05. National Disaster Preparedness and Response Drill

The National Disaster Preparedness and Response Drill was carried out in Nonperial, Belihuloya (at vivegananda Vidyalaya) year 2025. During this exercise, a medical camp was conducted to simulate responding to a disaster in a remote area. In addition, review of the hospital drills conducted throughout the year 2024 was also done.

06. Monitoring and Providing Assistance during Trade Union Activities

DPRD coordinated and supported different directories of the Ministry, health institutions and hospitals to ensure the minimal interruption of all services and continuity of all essential services during trade union actions of health staff.

4.3 Nutrition

Introduction

Nutrition Division is the focal point to coordinate nutrition interventions across the country on behalf of the Ministry of Health. We also collaborate with other related ministries, Development Partners and Non-Governmental Organizations to conduct nutrition activities.

Our major responsibility is the development and implementation of nutrition related policies including National Nutrition Policy, relevant strategies and guidelines. In addition to those, Nutrition Division conducts in-service training programmes, awareness programmes and other capacity building programmes for the health and non-health staff.

The Nutrition Division has worked relentlessly to serve the citizens of Sri Lanka to build a nutritionally steadfast nation.


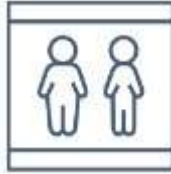

Vision

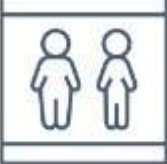

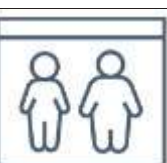


Sri Lanka towards a nourished nation

Mission

To ensure the accomplishment of optimum nutrition of all Sri Lankas through inclusive , equitable quality and sustainable provision of services and coordinated partnerships

Nutrition Profile -Sri Lanka

	Target set by National Nutrition Policy 2022-2030	Progress as per latest survey/surveillance data
	Stunting Under five years 17.3% (DHS, 2016) to 10% by 2030.	National Nutrition Month 2024- 10.5% *Dietary Adequacy survey 2022- 12.7%
	Wasting Under five years 15.1 % (DHS, 2016) to <5% by 2030	National Nutrition Month 2024- 9.3 %
	Low Birth weight 15.7% (DHS, 2016) to 10% by 2030.	RHMIS Routine Data 2023-14.8 %

	Low BMI in children 10-18 years 26.9 % (MRI, 2018) to 18% by 2030.	*Dietary Adequacy survey 2022- 21.7%
	Overweight Under five years 0.6% (MRI, 2012) overweight and obesity among adolescents 7.6% and 2.2% (MRI,2018) --→ No increase by 2030.	National Nutrition Month 2024- 0.49% *Dietary Adequacy survey 2022- 1.2%
	Overweight among adults & elderly 29.3% (NCD Survey, 2015) to 15% by 2030 Obesity further reduced from 5.9% by 2030	*STEP survey 2021 Female underweight-9.6% Female overweight-32.4% Female Obesity- 15.2%
	Anaemia and other micronutrient deficiencies to less than 10% by 2030	*National Nutrition and Micronutrient Survey in Sri Lanka: 2022 Anaemia Children under five years -14.6% Primary school 5-9 years- 10.2% Adolescents 10-17 years- 18.3% Pregnant mothers- 15% Iron Deficiency Under five children-5.4% Children 5-9 years – 5.9% Adolescents 10-17 years- 5% Pregnant mothers- 11% Vitamin D deficiency Children under five years -26.2% Primary school 5-9 years- 23.9% Pregnant mothers- 35.6%
	Reduce Household Food insecurity 10.3 % (DCS, 2014) to 5% by 2030.	Food insecurity (2022 August) SL- 37%

Measures taken to address malnutrition

- Implementation of district specific targeted interventions to overcome nutrition problems (District Nutrition Action Plan (DNAP))**
 In 2024, DNAP proposals from various districts were reviewed, and funds were released to 23 districts to implement district-specific targeted interventions to address nutrition problems. One hundred and forty-nine programs were conducted in Kurunegala, Galle, Matara, Monaragala, Polonnaruwa, Matale, Kandy, Ampara, Trincomalee, Kalmunai, Ratnapura, Mullaitivu, Kegalle, Badulla, Colombo,

Hambantota, Gampaha, Puttalam, Vavuniya, Kilinochchi, Trincomalee, Jaffna districts and Colombo Municipal Council. The expenditure by 31st December 2024 was LKR 4.921 million.

In 2024, two advocacy meetings were held with all the MOMCHs and district-level health care workers, regarding the DNAP proposal writing. Project proposals were called from all districts. Twenty-three proposals from RDHS areas, including Colombo Municipal Council and NIHS Kalutara, were received. So far, twenty-two proposals have been granted secretary approval.

In 2025, one advocacy meeting was held with all the MOMCHs and district-level health care workers, regarding the DNAP proposal writing. Project proposals were called from all districts.

In 2025, DNAP proposals were received from all RDHS areas, including Colombo Municipal Council and NIHS Kalutara, and the proposals were reviewed, and funds were released as final payments to all districts to implement district-specific targeted interventions to address nutrition problems. Altogether LKR 13.42837 million released to all 28 Health Districts.

- **Conducting Nutrition Steering Committee**

Nutrition Steering Committee Meeting is chaired by the Secretary of Health and addresses policy implementation, strategic guidance, and feedback from implementing stakeholders within the government health and non-health sectors, and other development partners. Three Nutrition Steering Committee meetings were conducted in 2024 (19th March 2024 & 19th June 2024 and, 25th September). Key issues regarding overcoming malnutrition in Sri Lanka were discussed and decisions were taken for implementation of strategies to overcome the nutritional issues.

- **Development of National Micronutrient Strategic Plan 2024-2030**

In 2023, review of Micronutrient Strategic Plan for year 2017-2022 was completed and development of a new plan according to the given recommendations was initiated.

In 2024, development of a new plan according to the given recommendations from the review of the Micronutrient Strategic Plan for year 2017-2022 was initiated. Fourteen consultative meetings were conducted for the development of the strategic framework. Final draft report of the micronutrient strategic plan 2024-2030 is available and will be printed and launched.

- **National Nutrition Month -2025**

The month of June - 2025 was declared as the National Nutrition Month and the Nutrition Division conducted the inauguration ceremony with the participation of the Honorable Minister of Health & Mass Media. The main theme selected for the year 2025 was “Vegetables and fruits: always keep you healthy” focusing on promotion of fruit and vegetable intake. Four main action areas had been identified under the main theme;

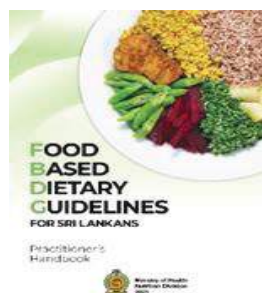
- ✓ Adopt the “5-per-Day” habit- Consume at least five servings of fruits and vegetables daily, including two vegetables, one green leafy vegetable and two fruits.
- ✓ Minimize processing during the preparation of vegetables and fruits to preserve their nutritional value.
- ✓ Consume fruits and vegetables as healthy snacks.
- ✓ Choose locally available low-cost fruits and vegetables: Seasonal products provide a natural balance of nutrients and enhance dietary diversity of the diet.



- **Promotion of healthy dietary practices – Food Based Dietary Guidelines for Sri Lankans**

The Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDGs) were disseminated throughout Sri Lanka along with district-wise introductory workshops to train health staff (MOH/AMOH, RSPHNO, PHNS, SPHI, SPHM, PHI, PHM). This programme commenced in May 2023 and by April 2024, 20 districts (8 provinces) were covered.

Advocacy on FBDGs was successfully conducted for the relevant authorities of Education sector in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and World Food Programme, covering all provinces.



Considering the need for training of master trainers on the promotion of healthy dietary practices as per the FBDGs, the development of a Nutrition Education Module

was commenced in 2025. This module aims to further explain the nutritional concepts behind the FBDGs, facilitating the training of 'Master Trainers' at district level, who could in turn train the health staff in their respective districts. Future work for the year 2025 involves the finalization and printing of the module, with the training programs planned in the year 2026.

- **Supplementary food for children with MAM - Thripasha Programme**

Considering the existing stringent cut-offs for Aflatoxin levels, measures were taken to conduct a desk review to decide on the cut-off for Aflatoxin levels for Thripasha based on new evidence. This desk review was finalized in the last quarter of 2024 and its report, along with the recommendations of the expert group was submitted to the Ministry of Health for perusal. Furthermore, a rice-based Thripasha product was piloted for its feasibility in replacing corn-based Thripasha as an alternative option with the aim of minimizing future problems pertaining to high Aflatoxin levels in corn. As the recommendations for Thripasha were last updated in 2006, measures were taken to review and revisit these recommendations in order to decide if any updating was required. Work on revising the Thripasha circular began in late 2024 and will be finalized upon the consensus of a large group of experts.

- **Preventing micronutrient deficiencies – Rice Fortification Programme**

Provision of Fortified Rice (FR) to schoolchildren via the School Meal Programme (SMP) was carried out in 2023 as a pilot project; following which local blending of FR was commenced by the National Food Promotion Board (NFPB). This process involves blending of imported Fortified Rice Kernels with regular rice at a ratio of 1:100, which results in the production of FR.

Measures were taken by the Ministry of Education and the NFPB to scale up the programme, and as such, provision of FR to the SMP in 12 districts in the country commenced from January 2025.

In order to arrive at an evidence-based decision on the sustainability of this programme and its long-term implementation, a decision to assess the effectiveness of this programme in the local context was taken by Technical Advisory Group on Food Fortification, chaired by the Deputy Director General (Public Health Services) II. The Medical Research Institute was tasked with the responsibility of conducting a research that aims to fulfill this purpose.

- **Promotion of Healthy School Canteens**

The need to update the existing School Canteen Guidelines and respective circular in par with the current FBDGs was identified by the Ministry of Health as a means of ensuring a healthy food environment and nutritional status in schoolchildren. Work on updating the School Canteen Guidelines and the development of health education (IEC) material for School Canteens is currently underway, with one consultative meeting and a workshop successfully conducted by June 2025. Future work involves the finalization of the guidelines based on expert consensus.

- **Hospital Diet Circular**

The revision of the existing circular for "supply of meals to patients and employees in Medical

Institutions" was initiated. While the diet and nutrition related sections were completed by the Nutrition Division, the administrative sections were revised in

collaboration with the Education Training and Research unit of the Ministry of Health. The existing food list has been revised for raw food procurement after discussions with the Procurement Unit of the Ministry of Health. The final consultative meeting will be planned by the ET&RU after which the final document will be published.

- **National Nutrition Surveillance System**

The need of a National Nutrition Surveillance System was highlighted in several forums and the first consultative meeting was conducted with the participation of health sector partners to identify the information that needs to be collected through the system. The next step is to receive the input from the non- health sector.

- **Programme to upgrade the nutritional status of the urban low-income settings**

A pilot project is initiated with the Estate and Urban Health Unit, Ministry of Health and Mass Media in the Sirimuthu Uyana housing complex. Several consultative meetings and field visits were conducted to plan the nutrition interventions. It was decided to conduct a baseline survey prior to the intervention and the survey questionnaire was prepared and piloted. The survey proper is to be initiated soon.

- **Programme to upgrade the nutritional status of the elderly people living in residential care homes**

The Advocacy and Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes (2-day programme) on “Intervention to reduce double burden of malnutrition among elderly people living in residential care homes” in Sabaragamuwa province was successfully completed on 2nd & 3rd April 2025 at the office of the Provincial Director of Health Service, Ratnapura. Total cost for the programme was Rs. 450,559.33, and the funds were allocated under the WHO work plan 2024-2025.



4.4 Oral Health Services

Vision

Universal health coverage for oral health for all individuals and communities by 2030 enabling them to enjoy the highest attainable state of oral health and contributing of healthy and productive lives

Goals

- Develop ambitious national response to promote oral health
- Reduce oral diseases, other oral conditions and oral health inequalities
- Strengthen effort to address oral disease and conditions as part of universal coverage.
- Consider the development of targets and indicators on national and sub national levels.

Objectives

- Oral Health Governance
- Oral Health promotion and oral disease prevention
- Integration of oral health in primary care and availability of essential dental medicines
- Recognition of oral health workforce
- Oral Health information system and research agendas
- Monitoring and evaluation

Achievements/ Special Events in 2025

Awaiting for legitimate approval for National Oral Health Policy

Ongoing Development project details

Project Description	Total Estimate Cost	Physical Progress by 30-09-2025	Financial Progress
Plant Machinery and Equipment (Repair) 111-1-5-0-2002-0/11	10,000,000.00	All Head of Institution has been informed to send their requirement on Plant Machinery and Equipment - No any request were received. Suggestion - Please transfer this vote 111-1-5-0-2001-0/11	100%

Plant Machinery and Equipment 111-1-5-0-2103-0/11 Medical Equipment	100,000,000.00	Endo Motor Payment - Rs. 8,289,795.00 New Procurement - Rs. 66,800,000 01. 10 Nos. of CR System 02. 12 Nos. of Auto Clave 03. 10 Nos. of Micro Motors 04. 15 Nos. of Air Compressors 05. 15 Nos. Dental Chair 06. 10 Nos. of Endo Motors 07. 10 Nos. of Pulp Testers Awaiting for Technical Evaluation for submitted Bids on 15-07-2025	50.20% Nil
Oral Health Promotion 111-2-26-5-2509-0/11	5,000,000	Completed Activities -RDS review meeting - Research Methodology workshop - NOHS Consultative meeting -First consultative meeting on conducting the monthly reports of OPD/ADC/CDC/Mobile dental surgeon- H 1201a	23%
Oral Health Survey	33,000,000	* Rs. 33,000,000.00 allocated for the Oral Health Survey - Pending Process (This is a National Level Survey which covers the Oral Health Status of Children and adults in All island. thus this process will take almost two years stating 2025)	0%

Infrastructure Development

In 2023, under infrastructure development 03 Computed Radiography Systems were purchased and distributed to Institute of Oral Health Maharagama, TH Kurunagala and TH Batticaloa spending 8.6 million rupees. Contracts has been signed to purchase 30 nos of Dental Chairs and units, worth of 35 million rupees, 40 Ultrasonic Scaler machine worth of 6 million rupees and 4 Micro Motor Drill Systems worth of 1.7 million rupees. Furthermore procurement committee approval has been obtained to purchase 40 light curing machines.

In addition to these 2.3 million rupees has been spent on maintenance of dental equipment at National Dental Hospital and Institute of Oral Health Maharagama.

To maintain the existing infrastructure facilities and to upgrade the oral health services, 90 million rupees worth of procurement is underway to purchasing of following dental equipment. 15 nos of Dental Chairs, Computed Radiography System 11, Scaler Machine 20, Light Curing machine 20, Micro Motor 10, Air Compressors 10, Endo Motors with Apex Locators 25, Pulp Testors 10, Electronic GP Cutters 30, Implant Prosthetic Kit 10.

Human Resource Development

In 2024, 85 Dental Surgeons were appointed to SLMC approved health institutions as Intern Dental Surgeons. Necessary action is being taking place for absorbing 83 to public sector as Grade II Dental Surgeons whom had been appointed as intern dental surgeons in the year 2023.

In 2023/2024 period 05 Oral & Maxillo Facial Surgeons, 04 Orthodontists, 02 Consultants in Restorative Dentistry, 03 Consultants in Community Dentistry and 01 consultant in Oral Pathology has been appointed to public sector after the completion of the required post graduate training.

Oral Health Promotion

Oral Report for 2020/21 has been printed spending 1.5 million rupees and distributed the same to all oral health Institutions, Administrators, Universities and Hospital Dental Clinics. Rs. 185,000.00 was spend on printing of Five Hundred (500) numbers of Diet Diaries for the patients attending Preventive Oral Health clinic at Institute of Oral Health, Maharagama.

World Oral Health Day 2024, main programme was held in Galle under the patronage of Hon. Minister of Health under the theme “ Happy mouth is ... A happy body”. In addition to this, programmes were conducted in all districts in the country aiming to improve oral health status of high risk groups and school children. To support these activities Ministry has issued a circular by giving guidelines.

In order to achieving high quality of care to the public, in 2023 review meeting was conducted for all dental surgeons who are working in the OPD in Colombo district and in 2024 another review meeting was conducted for all Regional Dental Surgeons.

In addition to this, a review meeting is planned for all in charge dental surgeons in Line Ministry in July 2024 and also another programme is planned for all Supervising School Dental Therapist aiming to formulate common supervision format on supervision of School Dental Clinics.

Ministry of Health has issued a letter of approval for duty leave to Dental Surgeons to attend Sri Lanka Dental Association 2024 Annual Scientific Sessions in June 2024 in order to them to improve their knowledge and skills in Dentistry.

In Collaboration with Family Health Bureau process is underway to issue a new circular through Ministry of Education in order to enhance the efficiency of school dental services.

Programme conducted with WHO Funds

Oral Health Policy which was drafted through WHO funding has been sent to Ministry of Finance for their observation in order to get the Cabinet Approval.

Preliminary plan for conducting Oral Health Survey 2025/26 has been sent to WHO country office for their approval. Preliminary discussions were initiated with WHO and relevant stakeholders to carry out this Oral Health Survey which is normally conducted in every 10 years time. Sample of 10,000 covering all districts in the country will be included for this survey in 5 age groups (5, 12, 15, 35-44, 65-74).

Mobile Dental Services

During 2023/2024 mobile dental services bus attached to DDG (DS) office was rendered services to approximately 6600 through 220 mobile visits. This service mainly focus on to attend individuals in Childrens' home, Adults' home, Pre schools and also "Suwa Udana" Programmes conducted by the Ministry of Health.

4.5 National Blood Transfusion Services

Introduction

National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS), Sri Lanka is a centrally coordinated specialized campaign of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicines. It carries the national responsibility of the supply of blood and blood products to all government hospitals and majority of private sector hospitals. There is 109 Hospital Based Blood Banks & 2 standalone Blood Centers affiliated to 24 cluster centers depending on the geographic distribution.

Vision

To be a unique model for the world securing Quality Assured Blood Services, through a nationally coordinated system.

Mission

To ensure the quality, safety, adequacy and cost effectiveness of the blood supply and related laboratory, clinical, academic and research services in accordance with national requirements and WHO recommendations.

Objectives

- To strengthen basic blood bank testing laboratory facilities and establishing new blood banks
- To strengthen community awareness on safe blood donation and improve in-house blood donation
- To strengthen advanced laboratory services related to transfusion medicine

- To strengthen technologies in blood component processing and storage
- To strengthen continuous professional development
- To assure the quality of services with external quality assessment and accreditation
- To upgrade and renovate, and maintenance of buildings
- To enhance service efficiency through digitalization
- To strengthen facilities for blood and blood product transportation
- To strengthen hemovigilance through improving monitoring and evaluation systems

Key Functions

- Collection of blood from community-based blood donation campaigns and hospital blood banks.
- Processing collected whole blood to blood components.
- Testing all blood collection for Transfusion Transmissible Infections and blood grouping.
- Storage and transport of blood components in appropriate conditions.
- Provision of blood and blood products to all appropriate therapeutic needs for government and private sector hospitals.
- Providing technical assistance on patient management related to transfusion medicine.
- Provision of therapeutic procedures related to transfusion and transplant (Stem cell processing and infusion, therapeutic plasma exchange, autologous PRP treatments).
- Laboratory services for HLA typing and cross matching for organ transplant recipients.
- Extending services of the WHO collaborating center.

Achievements/ Special Events

- Blood discard level reduced to <1%
- Maintain 100% voluntary donation
- Continuation of ERASMUS (Developing High impact Sustainable Educational Programs for Transfusion Medicine professionals for safe Blood Donation and Supply) project
- Continued accreditation process and successfully achieved ISO15189 accreditation
- Updating Stem Cell Donor Registry ,Software ,Web Page and Initiated Donor Recruitment
- Achieving AABB Certification for Accreditation
- Conducting National CPD Programms
- Capacity building program by NRL Australia to provide regional EQAS (Phase 1 completed and Phase 11 started
- Successfully completion of donor felicitation program

Ongoing Development project details

Project Description	Total estimate Cost	Physical Progress by 30.09.2026	Financial Progress by 30.09.2025
ERUSMUS	44765 EURO for year 2024 (17 Million LKR)	65%	20%

Last 5 years performance trend

Table 1: Yearly improvement of the blood collection

Year	Voluntary Collection	Replacement Collection	Total Collection
2020	397,833	0	397,833
2021	385,054	0	385,054
2022	414,227	0	414,227
2023	466,061	0	466,061
2024	451,623	0	451,623
2025	146,285(from Jan 2025 to April 2025)	0	146,285

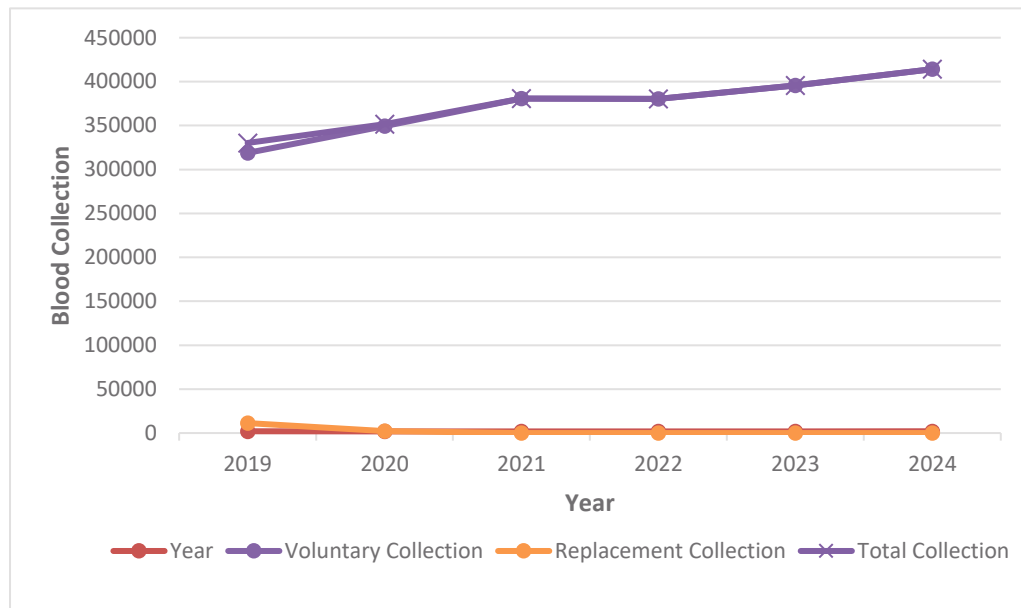


Figure1: Yearly improvement of the blood collection with continuous maintenance of 100% voluntary donor base.

Table 2: Annual Blood Collection per 1000 population

Year	Blood collection from voluntary donors	Blood Collection per 1000 population per year
2020	397,833	19
2021	385,054	17
2022	424,127	20
2023	466,061	21
2024	451,623	21
2025	146,285	

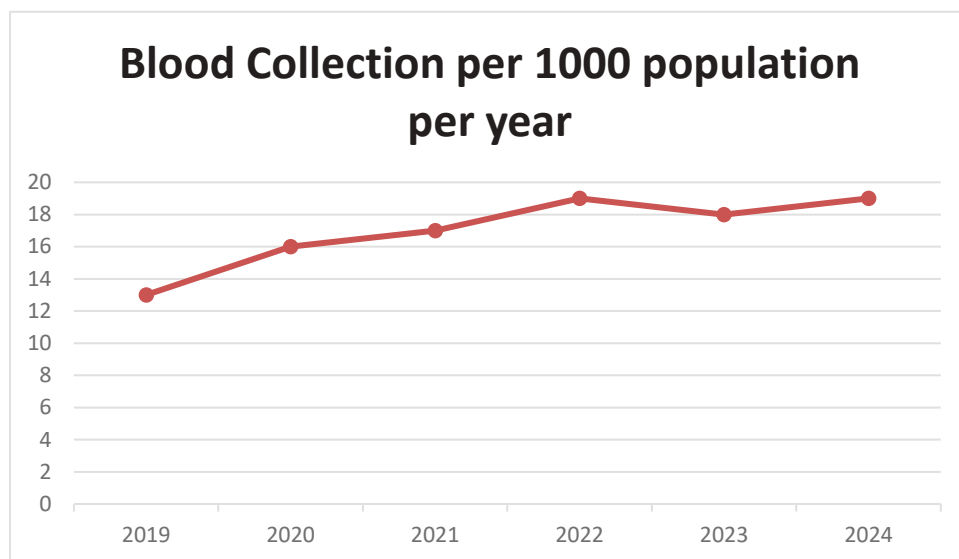


Figure 2: Annual Blood Collection per 1000 population

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Total Collection	397,833	385,054	414,227	466,061	451,623	451,623
HIV (scr.+ve)	533	422	1196	1327	1285	1285
Prevalence	0.13%	0.11%	0.282%	0.285%	0.291%	0.291%
HIV (Conf. +ve)	34	56	60	73	86	90
Prevalence	0.0085%	0.01%	0.014%	0.015%	0.019%	0.019%
Hepatitis B (rpt. +ve)	252	751	221	208	180	180
Prevalence	0.06%	0.20%	0.052%	0.044%	0.041%	0.041%
Hepatitis C (rpt. +ve)	613	495	354	449	449	449

Prevalence	0.15%	0.13%	0.083%	0.096%	0.102%	0.102%
VDRL +ve	960	1496	2296	1398	1254	1254
Prevalence	0.24%	0.39%	0.541%	0.299%	0.284%	0.284%
TPPA +ve	96	153	143	211	159	159
Prevalence	0.024%	0.04%	0.033%	0.045%)	0.284%	0.036%
MP +ve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prevalence	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

(Scr.+ve) - Screening positive; (conf.+ve) – confirmed positive; (rpt.+ve) – repeat positive; MP- Malaria parasites; VDRL – Venereal Disease Research Laboratory ; TPPA- Treponemapallidum particle agglutination

Table 4 : Comparison of HLA Laboratory Statistics (At NBC)

Typing and cross matches	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Class 1	} 1702	1743	2030	2045	2457	2422	928
Class 11		1654	2029	2024	2345	2339	871
Cross match	703	666	835	928	868	752	319
B27	543	27/57/51 737	27/57/51 838	27/57/51 729	943	27/57/51 1020	387
PRA (Class I , Class II)	1255	1175	1391	1420	1599	1912	653
Typing for Transplantation							
Kidney (Live Patients ,Donor)	1704	1454	1665	1700	1936	1880	685

Bone Marrow (Patients, Donors)	387	182	338	324	378	421	166
AP Donor	84	89	01	0	85	46	48
Cadaveric Donor	41	18	26	48	35	41	25

PRA - Panel Reactive Antibodies

Table 12: Summary of tests

	Type of test	No. of Tests
1	Full Blood Count	1515
2	PH	827
3	Blood Culture	43
4	% Haemolysis	455
5	DAT	60
6	Antibody Screening	10
7	Microscopy testing for Agglutinations	60
8	Factor VIII Assay	93
9	Fibrinogen Assay	93
10	Evaluations	9

Special Development activities planned for 2026

- Continuation of ERASMUS Project
- WHO Collaboration Activities
- TTI EQAS for south east Asian countries with collaboration with WHO and NRL Australia
- Strengthening of Stem cell transplantation by introducing stem cell donor registry
- Expansion of BBMS and validate
- Develop a SMS system for donors to remind the next date of donation, inform when the donated pack is issued to a patient and to wish the donor on their birthday
- Introduction of GMP

- Hospital based teaching programmes related to haemovigilance /bed side transfusion practices.
- Acquire ISO certificate to TTI Lab
- Encourage in house donations
- Develop a modular type training programme for private sector Blood bank staff which will cover whole syllabus in one year in 5-6 days modules.
- establish the simulation laboratory
- Introduce platelet immunology to NBTS
- Introduction of research program and conduct 100 researchers per year
- Production of LISS solution
- Establishment of sample Bank to facilitate EQUAS Programme
- Continuation of Stem Cell Donation
- Strengthening of Document Archiving
- Update NBTS Guidelines
- Update Standards of NBTS
- Conducting National Donor Felicitation Programme
- Standardization Process for Peripheral Blood Banks Based On AABB Standards
- Implementing Patient Blood Management
- Strengthening Plasma Fractionation Programme
- Establishment of rare donor registry
- Calibration of Island wide equipment
- Strengthening document archiving by data storage facilities with procurement of 24 high effective Scanners
- Introduction of online donor declaration form and online portal for in-house donor registration
- Implementation of NAT system

4.6 Laboratory Service

Introduction

The Laboratory Services of the Ministry of Health provides support for promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative care services through government health sector laboratories. The Deputy Director General (Laboratory Services) (DDG-LS) is responsible for policy formulation concerning the National Laboratory System and gives technical guidance to all the government sector laboratories with the Directorate of Laboratory Services. The Medical Research Institute (MRI) and the National Blood Transfusion Service (NBTS) are the two other main institutions functioning under the purview of DDG (LS). Although private sector laboratories are regulated by the Private Health Services Regulatory Council, the Laboratory Services unit provides them with technical guidance.

In addition, the Deputy Director General of Laboratory Services is functioning as the National focal point for combating Antimicrobial Resistance and the National Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity in the country.

Vision

To achieve standards for medical laboratories set by the International Organizations for Standardization.

Mission

To provide timely, reliable, high-quality diagnostic services to relevant healthcare providers.

Objectives

- Strengthen and regulate laboratory services in government line ministry hospitals and special campaigns.
- Expansion and strengthening of laboratory services in provincial health institutions
- Provide allocations for purchasing equipment for laboratories
- Provide funding for proper maintenance of laboratory equipment
- Support disease prevention, control, and surveillance through the provision of diagnostic services
- Policy development relevant to laboratory services
- Training and education of laboratory staff
- Providing guidance to staff of all government and private health laboratories on new developments
- Partnerships, communication, and coordination with stakeholders relevant to laboratory services
- Improvement of Biosafety and Biosecurity in the Laboratory Sector
- Carrying out a SWOT analysis on the laboratory sector to prepare a strategic plan to develop the sector to cater to the existing or new challenges, including emergency response to Laboratory Services

- Strengthen laboratory testing to combat antimicrobial resistance in the country.
- Laboratory Services are provided under five main specialties - Histopathology, Chemical Pathology, Hematology, Microbiology, and Transfusion Medicine by the government sector hospitals.

Laboratory guidelines for rational use of laboratory investigations (2024) classified five levels of laboratories (I- V) according to the level of institution, where Primary Medical Care Units (PMCU), are provide services through point of care devices and are categorized as level I. Divisional Hospitals (level II), Base Hospitals (level III), District General Hospitals (level IV B), and National Hospitals and Teaching Hospitals with more sophisticated labs are categorized as level IV A laboratories. Being the National Reference Laboratory (level V), the Medical Research Institute (MRI) performs special investigations related to disciplines of Bacteriology, Mycology, Parasitology, Immunology, Virology, etc, in addition to routine laboratory tests.

Table Categorization of Laboratories according to Institutions

Level of laboratory	Institution	Service provided
Level V	National referral laboratories (MRI)	National reference center for special investigations.
Level IV - A	National Hospitals, Teaching Hospitals, and Specialized Hospitals*	Hematological, biochemical, histopathological, and microbiological investigations, including virological, immunological, and hormonal assays.
Level IV - B	District General Hospitals	Hematological, biochemical, histopathological, and microbiological investigations, including hormonal assays.
Level III - A	Base Hospital - A	Hematological, biochemical, histopathological, and microbiological investigations. (Pathological investigations are done based on the service need and the availability of resources)
Level III - B	Base Hospital – B	Hematological and biochemical investigations.
Level II	Divisional Hospital A, B, or C	Basic hematological and biochemical investigations.
Level I**	PMCU	Blood sugar and serum cholesterol levels using point-of-care devices.

1.0 Laboratory investigations done through the Mobile Lab

Mobile lab provides investigation services mainly focusing on the NCD screen. The mobile lab routinely provides services to the Healthy Lifestyle Clinic attached to Primary Medical Care Units in the Gamapaha district. It also rendered its services to various clinics organized as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects by various organizers.

The services provided through the mobile lab during the last five years are illustrated in Table 1.1

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Mobile Laboratory NCD Screening Tests	55,320	Antigen tests 23769	Antigen tests 6239 & NCD tests 23146	57,978	67,637

2.0 Financial Management of the Laboratory Services

The following table presents a six-year overview of financial allocations for the acquisition of laboratory equipment and maintenance in health institutions.

Table 2.1: Six-year overview of financial allocations

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Equipment purchasing	Allocations provided (SLR in millions)	1475	740	204	471	200	380
	Allocations Released (SLR in millions)	1269	739	230	471	25	380
Equipment maintenance & servicing	Allocations provided (SLR in millions)				40	200	200
	Allocations Released (SLR in millions)				6.87	20.2	31.9

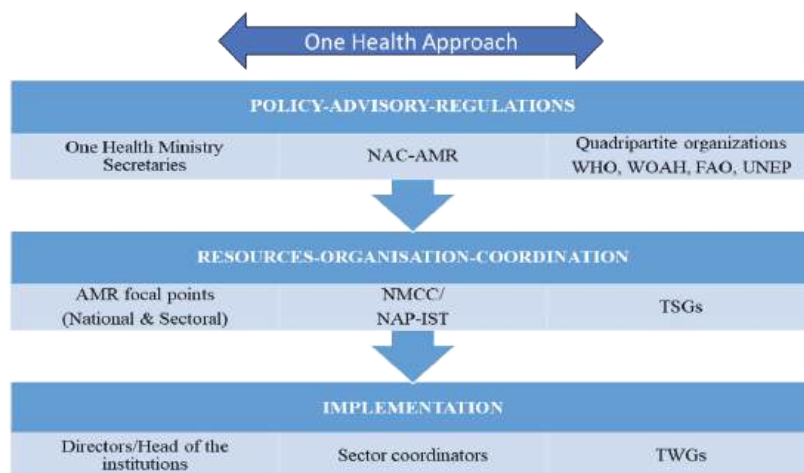
The following tables illustrate how equipment is distributed among various institutions in the year 2024 and 2025.

3.0 Combating Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) in Sri Lanka

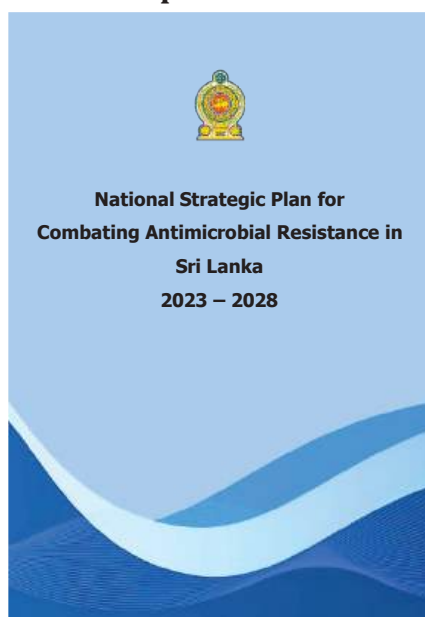
Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threatens the effective prevention and treatment of an ever-increasing range of infections caused by bacteria, parasites, viruses, and fungi. AMR is one of the significant global public health threats faced by humanity. There are about 700,000 deaths taking place globally each year due to drug-resistant diseases, and if prompt action is not taken to mitigate this trend, millions of deaths and prolonged illnesses will be inevitable in the future.

The Secretary of Health serves as the chairperson of NAC-AMR, while the Director General of Health Services, the Director General of Animal Production and Health, and the Director

General of Agriculture serve as co-chairs. The Deputy Director General of Laboratory Services (DDG-LS) is the National AMR Focal Point in the Country.



3.1 Reviewed the National Strategic Plan for combating AMR 2017- 2022 and developed a revised National Strategic Plan for combating AMR 2023- 2028



In 2017, Sri Lanka formulated its National Strategic Plan (NSP) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), aligning it with the Global Action Plan. Subsequently, the nation has embarked on a concerted effort to combat AMR through collaborative efforts across multiple sectors, adopting a "One Health" approach.

Between April and September 2023, a sequence of review meetings took place involving various stakeholders, leading to the formulation of a comprehensive report. Following this, the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for combating AMR 2023-2028 was developed, launched in April 2024. Two years of prioritized activities were proposed, and a costed operational plan was also developed and handed over to the WHO for printing.

3.2 Costed Operational Plan 2024-2025 of National Strategic Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance 2023 – 2028



With the support of the WHO, the costing for the 2-year (2024/2025) operational plan of the National Strategic Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance 2023 – 2028 meetings was conducted. During these meetings, all the One Health partners participated. The final document was also handed over to the WHO for printing.

3.3 Technical Support Groups to implement NSP 2023-2028 activities

Technical Support Groups were appointed for each strategy to ensure focused and expert guidance. Separate meetings are conducted for each strategy, allowing for detailed discussion, planning, and execution. Furthermore, specific activities aligned with each strategy are systematically implemented under the support of the respective Technical Support Group.

3.4 Development of National Policy for combating AMR

Members of the Technical Support Group for governance under One Health prepared the National Policy for combating AMR, which has to be published for public opinion.



3.5 AWaRe circular

AMR is increasingly affecting the health care system in Sri Lanka, and misuse and overuse of antimicrobials are the key drivers of this. During the implementation of the national action plan for combating AMR, the Red Light antimicrobial circular was introduced in 2016 and primarily operated in government hospitals with consultant microbiologists.

WHO recommends categorizing the essential antimicrobials used in the country into Access, Watch, and Reserve groups, adopting the AWaRe classification, which was developed in 2017 by the WHO Expert Committee on the selection and use of essential medicines as a tool to support antibiotic stewardship efforts at local, national, and global levels. This classification considers the impact of different antimicrobials on antimicrobial resistance, emphasizing the importance of their appropriate use. The Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka, has adopted this classification and published the AWaRe circular in April 2024.

3.6 WAAW - National Event and parallel awareness ToT programmes for MoHs.

The Ministry of Health expected to spread awareness of AMR among the public through hospitals, the Medical Officer of Health office, and all media.

The Ministry of Health, along with the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists and WHO, coordinated several activities for AMR WAAW 2024.

- Training of Trainers programme for Medical Officers of Health in all nine provinces on Antimicrobial Resistance to commemorate World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week – 2024.
- Inter-faculty quiz competition on AMR awareness for medical students.
- Interfaculty short video competition for university students
- Facilitating awareness programmes among paramedical students
- Walk with healthcare workers to raise public awareness
- Public awareness programmes on television channels and radio channels



The Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asoka Gunawardena has urged the public to avoid unnecessary use of antibiotics.



No	Province	No of Participants
1	Western Province	26
2	North Western Province	18
3	Eastern Province	36
4	Northern Province & North Central Provinces	47
5	Central Province	25
6	Sabaragamuwa Province	14
7	Southern Province	34

A short video competition among students from the faculties of Medicine, Dental Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Allied Health Sciences, and Agriculture on the theme of “Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance together with the One Health concept”.

The Inter Medical Faculty Quiz - regarding World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) 2024, which was organized by the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists (SLCM) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, was successfully held. The quiz was centrally conducted by the SLCM Office. Student teams from eleven medical faculties contested from their respective faculty premises in real-time.



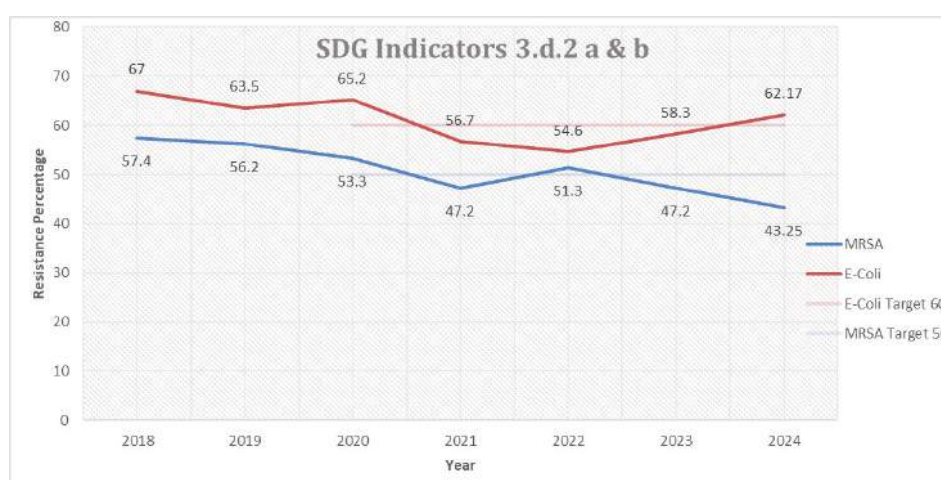
3.7 AMR surveillance activities



The “National Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System for Human Health Sector” was prepared with the teamwork of members of the Technical Support Group for Surveillance, and hard copies are issued to sentinel site hospitals. The soft copy was published on the Ministry of Health website.

‘WHONET’ software is the tool used for data collection, aggregation, and analysis of data for the Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Programme. Hands-on training programmes on WHONET software were conducted with physical and virtual participation for 117 healthcare staff of 22 hospitals during 2023. The proposal for organizing WHONET training all over the country was sent to WHO.

3.8 Antimicrobial sensitivity Graph: SDG Target 3.d.2 | Bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms



3.9 AMR Stewardship

The overuse and misuse of antimicrobials are the most important contributing factors to Antimicrobial Resistance. Under the antimicrobial stewardship programme, the antimicrobial prescription chart is implemented.

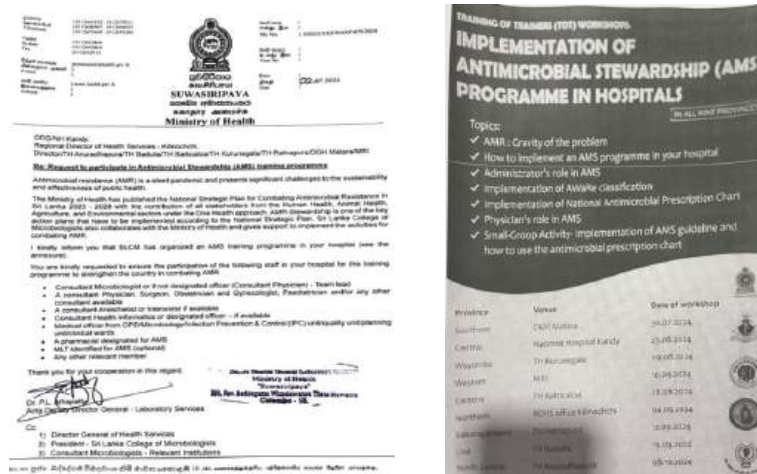
Implementing the antimicrobial prescription chart is a crucial first step in promoting responsible antibiotic use across hospitals. With the guidance of a consultant microbiologist, this chart serves as a practical tool to optimize antibiotic prescribing practices. By outlining appropriate antimicrobial choices based on microbiological data and resistance patterns, it

aims to enhance treatment efficacy while minimizing resistance development. As a first phase, it is planned to distribute 3,500,000 copies in 2024, where consultant microbiologists are in place, with plans to print 4,700,000 annually thereafter.

Antimicrobial Stewardship Guideline

This initiative underscores a commitment to combating antimicrobial resistance and improving patient outcomes through the Antimicrobial Stewardship guideline. The Antimicrobial Stewardship guideline was published on the Ministry of Health website.

ToT workshop regarding implementation of Antimicrobial Stewardship programmes in hospitals also were held by the focal point.



4.0 Developing the National Laboratory Policy on Biosafety and Biosecurity

The Government of Sri Lanka has identified the importance of ensuring biosafety and biosecurity in the human, animal, plant, and environmental sectors. DDG/LS is the national focal point for biosafety and biosecurity at the Ministry of Health. There is a National Advisory Committee on Biosafety & Biosecurity responsible for overall guidance and implementation of legislation. This committee commenced developing a National Laboratory Policy on Biosafety and Biosecurity in 2019. Initially halted due to increased workload amid the COVID-19 crisis, the initiative was reactivated in September 2022. A working group operating under the One Health concept was established. All the policy documents were sent to the Cabinet for approval in 2024. This process involved collaboration with the National Advisory Committee on Biosafety & Biosecurity members and other experts, facilitated by the Ministry of Health's Policy Unit.

Infectious Substances Shipping Training (ISST) Programme

In response to a request made by the Ministry of Health, a "Training of Trainers on Safe Transport of Infectious Substances" was organized by the World Health Organization head office in October 2024. This initiative prepared 48 healthcare professionals with the essential knowledge and skills to train others across the country.



Following the training, the National Focal Point for Laboratory Biosafety and Biosecurity developed the National Guideline on the Safe Transport of Infectious Substances and Associated Materials. The final document is now ready to be submitted for printing.

5.0 Laboratory Information Management System

The Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka has set up a Steering Committee (SC) and a Technical Working Group (TWG) for the National Laboratory Information Management System (NLIMS). To date, eleven TWG meetings have taken place, where various options for NLIMS have been discussed. These meetings have also included knowledge-sharing sessions focused on Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS).

Initially, scope documents were created by the College of Microbiology, Chemical Pathology, Histopathology and Hematology. These individual scope documents were subsequently consolidated into a unified scope document for NLIMS.

Furthermore, the summary of activities is as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget revised (USD 130,000 → USD 157,000). 	December 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New TEC appointed and meetings held. 	March 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final TOR for a Consultancy Firm developed and signed by TEC 	July 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TOR for a Consultancy Firm approved by the Secretary, MoH. 	27 July 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project office requested GF to extend the budget line as requested by UNOPS 	12 August 2024

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project office forwards the signed copy of the TOR to the Global Fund 	14 August 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Steering Committee meeting held 	17 August 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As requested by the Project Office, the Secretary approved call quotations from the IT departments of five local Universities. 	29 August 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global Fund Portfolio Manager requested to consider a pre-approved Lab TA pool for the LIMS implementation. 	04 September 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project office held a meeting with TEC and DDG-LS 	20 September 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on adapting an open source or working with established LIMS providers to customize to the country needs (universities/preapproved Lab TA pool , APHL/IQLS and FM) for LIMS implementation. 	25 September 2024 07 April 2025

6.0 Guideline on Rational Use of Laboratory Investigations

Laboratory investigations have become an integral part of modern-day health care practice. Providing laboratory investigations incurs an extreme burden on the health care budget, and to minimize the wastage and reduce the cost, a circular guideline was published in 2024 (General Circular letter No. 2 – 118/2024).

This guideline was formulated through an expert group comprising representatives from the respective colleges and ministry officials, where the basic investigations to be performed at each level of hospitals, the level of prescriptions for investigations, and investigations that should be available during after-hours (night) labs were defined.

7.0 Application of DHIS2 Digital Platform to the Laboratory Databases and Laboratory Equipment Request.

The Directorate of Laboratory Services obtains data from state hospital laboratories via two databases: 1. Equipment Database, 2. Performance Databases. The equipment database captures inventoried laboratory equipment in hospitals where whereas the performance database provides information about hospital facilities available in laboratories and the laboratory-wise aggregation of tests performed. These data are collected through Google Forms and Excel sheets, but it has been found that these systems are rather cumbersome to use and do not yield much useful information.

In order to overcome these shortcomings shown in the existing database systems DHIS2 digital platform is introduced. This was carried out as part of the WHO 2024 -2025 biennium programme. Training for the staff of DDG - Laboratory Services, Directorate of Laboratory Services, and MRI was conducted, and end-user training and piloting of the programme are planned for 2025. And it is planned to collect the data from two databases and also incorporate the equipment request system using the DHIS2 platform from 2025.



Ongoing development project details

	Project Description	Total Estimate Cost	Physical Progress by 30.09.2025	Financial Progress by 30.09.2025
1	Fleming Fund	800,000 GBP	Activities are going on	The fund is handled by the country grantee- WHO
2	Pandemic Fund	706,868 USD	Activities are going on	Rs. 560,500

Last 5-year performance: Service provision of mobile lab (2020 -2024)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Mobile Laboratory NCD Screening Tests	55,320	Antigen tests 23769	Antigen tests 6239 & NCD tests 23146	57,978	67,637

Last 5 year performance in Antimicrobial sensitivity Graph: SDG Target 3.d.2



Special development activities planned for 2026

- Mid-term review of the National Strategic Plan for combating AMR 2023-2028 and preparation of a three-year operational plan (2026-2028) of the National Strategic Plan for combating AMR 2023-2028 and costing for the prioritized activities.
- Conducting the National event for World AMR Awareness Week (WAAW) 2026.
- AMR programmes for community awareness and empowerment; the district modern programme
- Conducting meetings and workshops for two years costed an operational plan for the National Action Plan of Biosafety and Biosecurity.
- Training of the relevant workforce on the specimen transport guideline (ISST) and developing a tracking system for infectious specimen transport.

4.6.1 Medical Research Institute

Introduction

The Medical Research Institute (MRI) of Sri Lanka is a renowned diagnostic laboratory and the foremost institution for biomedical and applied health research in the nation. With a wide range of disciplines covered, including Virology, Bacteriology, Parasitology, Rabies, Nutrition, Biochemistry, Histo-Pathology, Hematology, Immunology, Entomology, Molecular Biology, Pharmacology, Mycology, Health Informatics, and Animal Studies, MRI conducts comprehensive research across various fields. Through its innovative research initiatives and progressive methodologies, MRI is at the forefront of advancing medical knowledge and improving public health outcomes.

Vision

To be the leading health care research , education and training institute in the country and to provide the highest quality laboratory testing and expert laboratory diagnosis and consultation to patient institutionally ,regionally and nationally.

Mission

To improv the health of Sri lankans through world class medical research so as to achieve the national health goals set by the Ministry of Health

Objectives

- Enhance the health of Sri Lankans by conducting world-class medical research aligned with national health goals.
- Facilitate comprehensive biomedical research, spanning from fundamental lab-based science to clinical trials, across major disease areas.
- Foster the development of professionals and experts in laboratory diagnosis, patient monitoring, and public health within our capacity and scope.
- Collaborate closely with the Ministry of Health to prioritize research that significantly impacts clinical practice and population health.
- Emphasize research initiatives with a high potential to bring tangible improvements to public health outcomes and the well-being of the population.

Special Achievements/Performance - Director MRI

- Monthly Academic Symposiums
Regularly conduct academic symposiums each month aimed at updating and enhancing the knowledge of health staff on a wide range of current and emerging medical topics. These sessions will foster continuous professional development,

encourage evidence-based practice, and promote interdisciplinary collaboration across departments.



- Discussions regarding the pandemic fund activities under World Bank assistance with World Bank delegates



- NASTEC visit and discussion regarding the institutional performance evaluation.



- Conducted a medical screening program for health staff in parallel with the 125th Celebration of MRI



Special Achievements/Performance- Clinical Microbiology, Department of Bacteriology

- Newly updated standard for ISO15189:2022 medical laboratory accreditation assessment completed.
- MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry advanced microbial identification system will arrive as a donation by the Fleming Fund project, UK to the National Reference Laboratory for AMR Surveillance, Department of Bacteriology
- A training programme on 'Microbiological media preparation' was carried out for 10 laboratory staff from the Royal Government of Bhutan
- National External Quality Assurance Scheme in clinical microbiology serving public and private microbiology laboratories with 90 participant laboratories, completed 103rd distribution survey in June,2025

Training programme on 'Microbiological media preparation' held on 29th May to 7th June 2025

Participants: 10 Laboratory staff from Bhutan

Venue: Quality Control Laboratory, Department of Bacteriology, Medical Research Institute, Sri Lanka



Ongoing development project details- Biochemistry

Project Description	Total Estimate Cost	Physical Progress by 30.09.2025	Financial Progress by 30.09.2025
Converting the NEQAS report system to an online system	For software RS 1,000,000.00	Initiated obtaining EQA returns via Google sheets	Waiting for funds

Introducing new test - faecal calprotectin	Rs 12,508,000.00 for 40 kits	On technical evaluation for reagents	Waiting for tender decision and procurement
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Special Achievements/Performance -Entomology

- No of Dengue surveys performed -18
- No. of Bio Efficacy Tests Field Trials-51 (10 products)
- No of Bio Efficacy Tests Trials (including standards, controls) -300
- No of Effective Period Assesments-06
- No. of colonies maintained-04
- Total Income generated from Bio Efficacy Tests and Effective period assesments-LKR1,540,000.00

Special Development activities planned for 2026:

- Establishment of new stable Laboratory information management system (LIMS)
- Renovation and upgrade of laboratories and infrastructure
- Purchase of most required medical equipment & reagents.
- MRI development project under Pandemic Fund Activities

5. Infrastructure Development

The importance of improving health sector infrastructure, which is essential to achieve and improve health indicators and healthy life of the people, has been well recognized by health managers. Benefiting from continuous investments, a gradual improvement can be observed over the years in the country's health infrastructure, which includes medical equipment's, transport and buildings.

Continues provision of quality and efficient service in all levels of health sector namely Primary, Base, General, District and Tertiary are essential to achieve rapid growth and development in the country. In this context, the government continued with its role as the main health service provider in the country, while the private health sector investment on health has increased significantly over the years.

The government further continuing a number of new health projects directed at improving the well-being of the general public, while taking measures to enhance the quality of health care services. Other than the constructions, medical equipment base of the government health sector improved further year.

5.1 Medical Equipment

Introduction

Web address: www.bmes.lk

The Division of Biomedical Engineering Services (BES) is mainly responsible for planning, procurement, supply, installation, repair, and maintenance of medical equipment in hospitals under line ministry.

Additionally, BES provides the following services.

1. Technical expertise/consultancy/recommendation for medical equipment.
2. Issuing condemning certificates for the medical equipment.
3. Management of medical equipment in hospitals.
4. Training for end users and technical staff.
5. Facilities for internships/ industrial training of engineering undergraduates/students in government and private institutions

The BES has workshop facilities for equipment repairs and warehouse facilities for equipment & spare parts storage.

Staff details:

Technical Staff		Non-Technical Staff	
DDG (Biomedical Engineering) - (cover-up)	01	Accountant	01
Director (Biomedical Engineering)	01	Administrative Officer	01
Biomedical Engineer	13	Development Officers	13
Biomedical Engineer Assistant	06	Health Management Assistant	19
Technical Officer (Biomedical)	42	Public Management Officer	02
Electro Medical Technician	35	ICT Assistant	02
Lathe Machine Operator	01	Store Man	01
Motor Mechanic	01	Medical Supplier Assistant	08
		SKS	56
		KKS	01
		Painter	01
		Welder	01
		Drivers	12

BES has regional biomedical engineering units in the line ministry hospitals as follows.

- Anuradhapura TH
- Badulla TH
- Kandy NH
- Jaffna TH
- Batticaloa TH
- Ragama THP
- Rathnapura TH
- Kurunegala TH
- AH Maharagama
- Galle NH
- Monaragala DGH
- Ampara DGH
- Nuwara Eliya DGH
- Kantale BH
- NBC Narahenpita

Vision

To become the South Asian center of excellence in Biomedical Engineering Services.

Mission

To support the Ministry of Health in achieving its vision for a healthier nation by providing appropriate state-of-the-art medical equipment technologies for the government hospitals in the country while achieving the highest standards of Safety, Quality, Reliability, and Accuracy.

Objectives

- To ensure the availability of appropriate medical equipment for line ministry hospitals at the right time.
- To ensure the availability of spare parts and accessories to maintain equipment uptime at the desired level.

Achievements/Special Events in 2025

No	Name of the Equipment	Issued Qty
1	Ambu Bag	2
2	BP Devices	127
3	BI PAP Machine	37
4	BP Apparatus Aneroid	237
5	BP Apparatus Digital	332
6	BP Apparatus Mercury	5
7	CTG Machine	37
8	C PAP Machine	41
9	Cardiac Output Monitor	1
10	Centrifuge (Donation)	4
11	Defibrillators	45
12	Echo Cardiography	4
13	ECG Machine	10
14	FLUID Warmer	1
15	Hand-Held Doppler	13
16	High-Flow Oxygen Machine	31
17	Holter Monitors	6
18	Laryngoscope	25
19	Nebulizer	315
20	Oxygen Concentrator	149
21	Portable Suction Apparatus	3
22	Pulse Oxymeter	12
23	Pulse Oxymeter Finger Tip	65

24	Table Top Auto Clave	2
25	Ultrasound Scanner	5
27	Transport Ventilator	1
29	Infant Incubator	30
30	Holter Monitoring System	6
33	C Pap Machine	34
34	Multimonitor	15

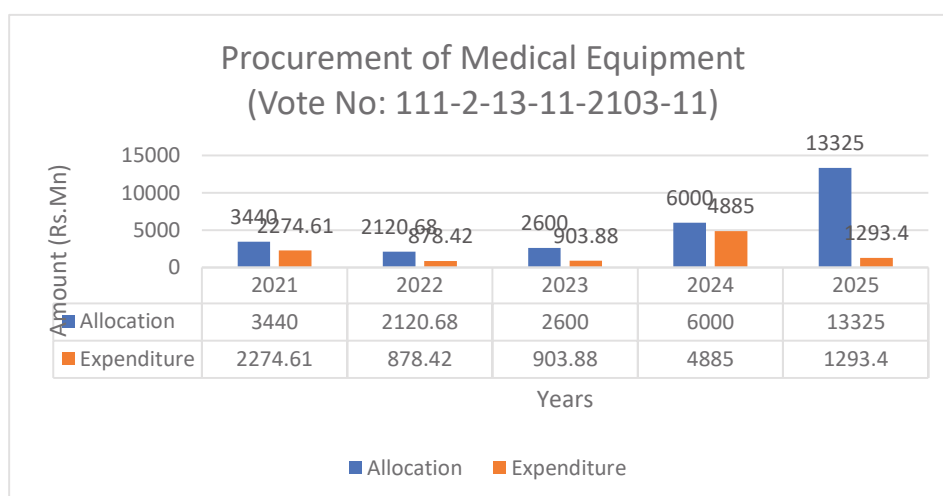
- Total value of procured new medical equipment by BES and hospitals: Rs. 13,326.00 million
- Total value of repaired/upgraded medical equipment and entered into service contracts: Rs. 10,000 million

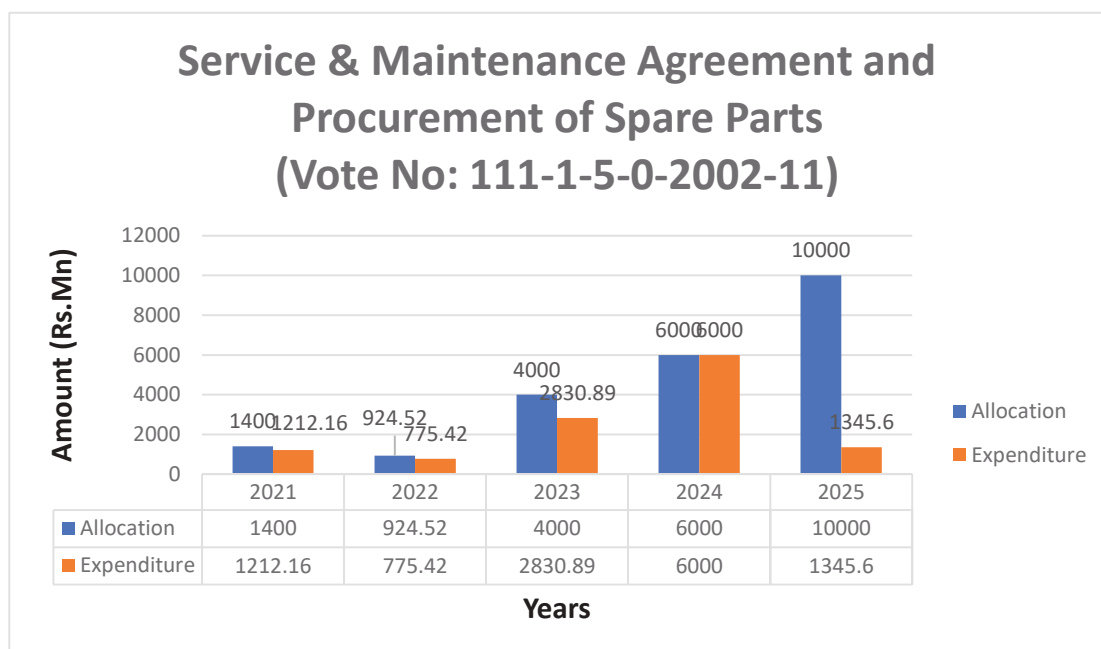
Ongoing Development Project Details

- The Project of Capacity Building of Biomedical Engineering Service in Sri Lanka

Project Description	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Physical Progress by 30/09/2025	Financial Progress by 30/09/2025
BES Renovation	1,675,153.00	50%	40%
Mobile Workshop	457,721.00	100%	100%
Medical Equipment Inventory Management System (MEIMS)	569,726.00	10%	2%
BME Tools and Equipment	2,581,150.00	60%	17%
Capacity Building Training Programs	416,250.00	30%	0%

Last 05 years Performance Trend





Special Development activities planned for 2026

- Medical equipment calibration program using mobile workshops.
- Establishment of new biomedical engineering units in the hospitals.
- Medical equipment training program for hospital staff (end users).
- Local technical training programs for medical equipment for biomedical engineering staff.
- Foreign technical training programs for biomedical engineering staff.
- Implementation of a web-based system for biomedical equipment selection and prioritization.
- Implementation of Medical Equipment Inventory Management System (MEIMS)

5.2 Constructions

Introduction

The Engineering Division of the Ministry of Health plays a pivotal role in the development, maintenance, and enhancement of healthcare infrastructure across the nation. This division is dedicated to ensuring that all health facilities, including hospitals, clinics, and research centers, are designed, built, and maintained to the highest standards of safety, functionality, resilient and sustainability.

Vision

To be a leader in healthcare infrastructure development, ensuring state-of-the-art, sustainable, and resilient health facilities that enhance the quality of healthcare delivery and improve the health outcomes of all citizens.

Mission

Our mission is to plan, design, construct, and maintain world-class healthcare infrastructure that meets the highest standards of safety, efficiency, and sustainability. We aim to support the Ministry of Health's commitment to providing accessible, equity and quality healthcare by delivering innovative and resilient health facilities.

Objectives

Our objective is to enhance the healthcare infrastructure through strategic planning, innovative engineering, and sustainable practices. By focusing on quality, safety, and efficiency, we aim to support the Ministry of Health in its mission to provide exceptional healthcare services to all citizens.

Key Objectives

- **Modern Infrastructure Development** – Build advanced healthcare facilities to meet current and future population needs.
- **Ongoing Maintenance & Upgrades** – Maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure to ensure safety and efficiency.
- **Regulatory Compliance** – Adhere to all relevant health, safety, and environmental standards.
- **Sustainability** – Apply eco-friendly and resource-efficient practices in project execution.
- **Resilient Infrastructure** – Develop disaster-resilient and climate-adaptive health facilities to ensure continuous healthcare services during natural or man-made emergencies.

- **Innovation & Technology Integration** – Use cutting-edge technologies to enhance healthcare delivery.
- **Strategic Partnerships** – Collaborate with national and international stakeholders for better project outcomes.
- **Capacity Building** – Enhance staff skills and expertise through continuous professional development.
- **Efficient Resource Management** – Maximize value by managing time, budget, and resources effectively.

Ongoing Development Project Details

1. Resources effectively

No.	New Vote 2025	Project Description	Total Estimated Cost (Rs.Mn)	Physical Progress		Financial Progress 30.09.2025
				In Words	30-09-2025 %	
1	111-2-13-166-2104	Proposed Ward Complex at District Hospital Monaragala (5 storey)	2962	On going, obtaining appved drawing from CECB and preparing cabinet paper for the TEC, ground floor finishing started.	58%	16%
2	111-2-13-15-2104	Construction of New Oncology Unit Stage II - TH Rathnapura	1236	Under Procument	10%	23%
3	111-2-13-184-2104	Balance work of Extension to Surgical medical Unit - TH Karapitiya	2107	structural work completed , finishing works going on	72%	36%
4	111-2-13-07-2104	Balance work of A & E TH Kegalle	1500	Preparation of bidding documents	10%	7%
5	111-2-13-06-2104	A & E Trincomalee	600	Preparation of bidding documents for the stage II	40%	0%
6	111-2-13-8-2104	A & E Ampara	950	Ongoing	74%	84%
7	111-2-13-9-2104	A & E Chilaw	4386	Preparation of bidding documents	35%	10%
8	111-2-13-05-2104	A & E NH Kandy	1,473.50	Preparation of bidding documents	30%	10%

9	111-2-13-12-2104	Construction of Accident & Emergency Treatment Unit, Stage II -TH Jaffna	2637.28	finishing works going on except AC	90%	48%
10	111-2-13-62-2104	Construction of Head office Building Castle street	13548.7	finishing works going on	80%	30%
11	111-2-13-186-2104	Construction of cancer Treatment unit (Stage 2) - National Hospital Kandy	3861.88	on going	70%	36%
12	111-2-186-2103	Construction of cancer Treatment unit (Stage 2) - National Hospital Kandy - New chiller	-	on going	0%	0%
13	111-2-13-112-2104	Construction of Cancer Hospitals at Matara, Kandy, and Tellipallai	474	-	60%	12%
14	111-2-13-131-2104	Construction of Bone Marrow Transplant Unit to Cure Thalassemia Patients - National Hospital Kandy	3373.28	finishing works going on	70%	31%
15	111-2-13-133	LRH Little heart Centre- 12 storey	6218.64	finishing works going on	86%	39%
16	111-2-13-137-2104	Design and Construction of Highly Specialized Maternity unit and Ward Complex - De Soysa Hospital for Women	753.7	Preparation of bidding documents	100%	100%
17	111-2-13-167-2104	Construction of Ten storied building at the Teaching Hospital Badulla.(two buildings 10 storey and oncology 6 storey)	3,960	Up to first floor structure completed	38%	38%
18	111-2-13-172-2104	Cath Lab (3 storey) GH Ampara	354	Under Procurement	12%	12%
19	111-2-13-185-2506	Construction of Cardiac Care Complex -TH Rathnapura	1575	foundation works going on	28%	28%
20	111-2-13-160-2104-12/17	Health & Medical Services Improvement Project (GOSL-JICA)	20000	Preparation of bidding documents	10%	2%
21	111-2-13-182-2013/17	Project for the Improvement of Infectious Waste Management (JICA)	991.86	Part of machinery has arrived to sites and civil works are going on	80%	79%
22	111-2-13-69-2104	National Stroke Centre - BH Mulleriyawa	1328	Diagnostic center -structure completed , finishing works going on. / stroke	30%	39%

				center- structural work going on.		
23	111-2-20-018-2104(11)	Faculty of Nursing(20 storey) and Accommodation building (6 storey)(Sri Jayawardenapura)	7171	Nursing faculty was suspended, Accommodation building going on	15%	30%
24	111-2-13-122-2104-11	Continuation of the Balance Part of Ground floor - Proposed Five storied Building at BH - Embilipitiya	1328	Bidding document under preparation	5%	-
25	111-1-5-2001-11 (check the vote in procurement book)	Construction of Academic & Administration Building(4 storey)(Kalutara)	714	completed, final bill to be paid	100%	81%
26	111-2-26-04-2104(11)	Construction of Renal care Treatment Unit (Balance Work) TH Batticaloa	241	mutually terminated, final bill to be paid and balance work to be started	92%	84%
27	111-2-13-128	Specialized Children Unit (2 wings 7& 14 storey) TH Karapitiya	3400	structural works going on	25%	17%
28	111-2-15-15-2104(11)	Construction of Renal care Treatment Unit, TH Badulla (Proposed proof unit)	1,023	mutually terminated, final bill to be paid	18%	34%
29	111-2-20-017-2506(11)	Construction of Academic & Administration Building NTS Anuradhapura	789	roofing and finishing works going on	68%	42%
32	111-1-5-13-2001	Improvements in Mechanical, Electrical, and Sewerage Systems	3000	mechanical works finalized and partially completed	15%	-
33	111-1-5-2104(11)	Construction of a Building for Kitchen, Minor Staff Dining Room and Changing Room (Balance Work) at National Institute of Infectious Diseases , Angoda (IDH)	108.21	Preparation of bidding documents	0%	-
34	111-1-5-2104(11)	Construction of Stores Building - Balance Works National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Angoda (IDH)	65.56	complete , bills to be paid	100%	-
35	111-1-5-2104	Eye ward Kalutara-stage II	314	Under Procument	5%	20%

36	111-1-5-2104(11)	Proposed Respiratory unit - TH Karapitiya	102.3	Under Procument	10%	18%
37	111-1-5-2104-11	Construction of Medical Ward Complex (stage II)(8 storey)(Kalutara)	2817	3rd floor finishing works going on	55%	25%
38	111-1-5-2104(11)	Construction of Nurses' Quarters Anuradhapura (Balance Work)	151	on going	48%	21%
39	111-1-5-2104-11	Construction of Oral Health Unit (8 storey) TH Karapitiya	2286	on going	54%	26%
40	111-1-5-2104(11)	Construction of Proposed Isolation Ward Complex - NH Kandy (Balance Work)	780	Preparation of bidding documents for the stage II	55%	-
41	111-1-5-2104(11)	Balance work of New Building Complex at DGH Nawalapitiya	500	Preparation of bidding documents for the stage II	5%	-

Completed Projects Year 2024

No	Key Performance Indicator	Target for 2024	Progress In	
			In Words	%
1	completion of Maternity Complex stage 111(8 storey) TH Kurunagala	100%	completed	100%
2	completion of Construction of Millenium Ward,PCU & Paramedical Services Building, TH Kalubowila (Balance work)(9storey building with basement)	100%	Completed - Payments Pending	100%
3	Construction of Helmut Khol Maternity Hospital Karapitiya, Galle	100%	Completed	100%
4	Completion of MRI Scan Unit Badulla	100%	Completed, Final bill to be paid,	100%
5	Completion of Construction of Administration Building (Phase II)(4 storey) Kalutara	100%	Completed, final bill to be paid	100%
6	Completion of Construction of intern doctor's quarters(3 storey)(Kalutara)	100%	Completed , final bill to be paid	100%
7	Completion for Construction of ambulance garage & minor staff rest(3 storey)(Kalutara)	100%	Construction suspended, the contractor in legal process.	100%
8	Completion for Construction of MOH office (2 story)(Payagala)	100%	Completed, payments pending.	100%

9	Proposed Deyata Kirula Special Developments for completion of NTS Lecture Hall (4 storey) Administrative Building Hostel Building- NTS Kamburugamuwa	100%	Completed, Final bill to be paid.	100%
10	Completion for Construction of Proposed Nephrology, Dialysis and Transplant Unit (9 storey) TH Karapitiya	100%	Completed, final bill to be paid	100%
11	Completion for Construction of Chronic Kidney diseases Centre- BH Wellawaya	100%	completed	100%
12	Completion of Design and Construction of Highly Specialized Maternity unit and Ward Complex - De Soysa Hospital for Women	100%	finishing works going on	100%
13	Completion of Balance work of Stroke Unit (2 storied) - TH Karapitiya), Under Development of Karapitiya Hospital programme	100%	Stage I completed and stage II procurement works going on	100%
14	Completion Extension to Clinic area (Balance Work) STD/AIDS	100%	completed, final bill to be paid	100%
15	Construction of 02 storey Building – Divisional Hospital Aluthgama	100%	Completed	100%
16	Construction of 02 storey Building – Base Hospital Rikilladgaskada	100%	Completed	100%
17	Construction of 02 storey Building – Base Hospital Walasmulla	100%	Completed	100%
18	Construction of 04 storey Building – Base Hospital Mahiyanganaya	100%	Completed	100%
19	Construction of 04 storey Building – Base Hospital Padaviya	100%	Completed	100%
20	Construction of 02 storey Building – Base Hospital Medirigiriya	100%	Completed	100%
20	Construction of 03 storey Building – Base Hospital Samanthurei	100%	Completed, testing completion report pending	100%
22	23Construction of 04 storey Building – Base Hospital Eravur	100%	Completed, testing completion report pending	100%
23	Construction of 03 storey Building – Base Hospital Pothuvil	100%	Completed	100%

DGH Hambanthota - Isolation Building



Intern Doctor Quarters – TH Kalutara



DGH Ampara - Pediatric Unit



Teaching Hospital Batticalo Surgical Unit



Teaching Hospital Kalutara Maternity Building Building



DGH Matara Deyata Kirula – NTS



**Millennium Ward –
Teaching Hospital -Kalutara**



Neurology Unit – Teaching Hospital Karapitiya



Oncology Unit – Teaching Hospital Badulla



De Soysa Maternity Hospital – Colombo



MOH Office – Payagala



Helmut Kohl Hospital – Teaching Hospital Galle



Base Hospital Sammanthurai



Base Hospital Medirigiriya



Base Hospital Pothuvil



Base Hospital Eravur



Base Hospital Mahiyanganaya



Special Development Activities planned for 2026

No.	Name of the Project	Objectives and Scope of the Project	Total Estimated Cost (TEC)	Project Period	
				Expected Starting Year	Expected Completion Year
1	Construction of Health promotion and Behavioral change communication complex Health education Bureau	To enhance health promotion and behavioral change through dedicated training and communication facilities.	862.5	2026	2030
2	Construction of Five Storied Building Complex For District General Hospital - Matale	To expand healthcare facilities and improve service delivery at DGH Matale.	1250	2026	2027
3	Accident and emergency treatment unit - District General hospital Polonnaruwa	To provide timely and efficient emergency and trauma care services	1200	2026	2028
4	Theater Complex - TH Kurunegala	To enhance surgical capacity and improve operation theatre facilities	1800	2026	2028
6	ETU Clinic & Residential rooms for Health Staff in Somawathi Temple	To improve emergency treatment services and provide residential facilities for health staff at Somawathi Temple.	300	2026	2026
7	Construction of consultant's Quarters, TH Kuliyaipitiya	To provide residential facilities for medical consultants and ensure their availability	170	2026	2026
8	New clinic building balance work - Rehabilitation Hospital Ragama	To complete and expand outpatient services by providing improved clinic facilities a	668	2026	2027
9	Proposed surgical complex Chest Hospital - Welisara	To enhance surgical care services and improve treatment facilities for chest-related diseases at Chest Hospital, Welisara.	1600	2026	2028
10	Construction of Ten storied building at the Teaching Hospital Badulla.(two buildings 10 storey and oncology 6 storey)	To expand hospital capacity and improve specialized healthcare services with new multi-story buildings, including oncology facilities,	3960	2026	2027
11	A & E Mulleriyawa	To provide timely emergency medical care with improved facilities, enhancing patient treatment and saving lives.	850	2026	2029
12	A & E Kalmunai(AMH)	To establish a well-equipped emergency unit to deliver prompt, efficient critical care and improve patient outcomes	2150	2026	2029

13	Balance works of Proposed Surgical Ward Building for Nurses Training School, Kamburugamuwa.	To complete the surgical ward building to enhance clinical training facilities for nursing students and improve patient care services.	1200	2026	2029
14	Balance works of Proposed Medical Ward Building For New District General Hospital, Kamburugamuwa	Construction of a modern medical ward building to enhance inpatient care, service quality, and healthcare capacity at the New District General Hospital, Kamburugamuwa.	1200	2026	2029
14	Development of Karapitiya Hospital (Balance work of Stroke Unit (3rd Floor) - TH Karapitiya)	To complete the Stroke Unit to provide specialized care and rehabilitation services for stroke patients, improving treatment outcomes.	140	2026	2026
15	Construction of Medical Ward Complex DGH Chilaw	To expand inpatient capacity and improve medical care facilities for patients	1046.525	2026	2027
16	Construction of Renal Care Treatment Unit (4 storey) GH Hambantota	To establish a dedicated facility for comprehensive renal care and dialysis services, enhancing treatment quality for kidney patients.	608	2026	2026
17	Six Storey Building with a Surgical Theatre - DGH Horana	To expand hospital capacity and provide modern surgical facilities, improving patient care and surgical services	1330	2027	2029
18	The New Building Complex at Nintavur (8 storey 2 building)	To increase healthcare capacity and provide enhanced medical and administrative facilities for improved patient services at Nintavur.	4163	2027	2030
19	Lunawa Hospital Improvements to Lunawa hospital Construction of 5 storey building	to improve healthcare services by expanding hospital capacity and upgrading facilities at Lunawa Hospital.	1035	2028	2029
20	Construction of Main Building Phase II - Beruwala	To expand hospital infrastructure to enhance patient care services and support growing healthcare demands	4800	2026	2028
21	Construction of building complex for stroke unit (Balance Works) DGH Polonnaruwa	To complete the stroke unit facilities to provide specialized stroke care and rehabilitation services, improving patient outcomes	1669.7	2026	2028
22	A & E BH Gampola	To establish a fully equipped emergency unit to provide timely and effective critical care services at BH Gampola.	1713	2026	2029

	A & E Anuradhapura	To establish a fully equipped emergency unit to provide timely and effective critical care services	1759	2026	2029
23	Eye Ward Kalutara - Stage III	To expand and upgrade eye care facilities, improving treatment and patient comfort	300	2026	2027
24	Construction of Karapitiya Trail , Cancer Hospital Project	Completion of cancer care building	2,000	2026	2026

5.3 Special Foreign Funded Projects

No	Name Of the Project/Programme	2025
		Estimate (Rs. Mn)
	Primary Healthcare Development	
1	Primary Healthcare System Enhancing project (PHSEP)-	12,190.00
	Hospital Development Projects	
2	Primary Health system Enhancement Project-ADB	2,591.00
3	Health and Medical Service Improvement Project (GOSL -JICA)	1,200.00
4	Capacity Building of Biomedical Engineering Service in Sri Lanka (KOICA)	1,730.00
5	Health System Enhancement Project -Additional Financing (ADB)	6,667.50
6	Programme to improve Non communicable Disease Treatment Facilities at the Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital (GOSL-Goj)	950.00
7	Project for the Improvement of Infectious Waste Management (GOSL-JICA)	360.00
	Prevention and Control of Communicable & Non Communicable Diseases	
8	Global Fund to Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Project (GFATM)	304.00
9	Health Information and Quality Improvement (Global Fund)	6,631.00
10	Global Fund to Fight Against Aids (GFATM)	284.00
11	Global Fund to Fight Against Tuberculosis (GFATM)	285.00
	Total	33,192.50

5.4 Transport

The transport unit of the Ministry of Healthcare. Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine plays a very important role in the provision of services in the health institutions by providing the necessary transport facilities. Service station is at Mulleriyawa.

It has been also possible to prevent irregularities and ensure saving on expenditure as a result of the setting up to above station/section belonging to the Ministry of Health. The following table given the details of the vehicles of the Ministry of Health.

Type of Vehicles	Over 94	1994	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Ambulances	215	44	190	170				60		
Double Cabs	84	82	3		25		38		21	
Cars	34	11								
Lorries	60	32							3	
Vans	60	3				13				
Mini Vans										
Bauser	2	2								
Jeeps	67	5								
Buses	6	18	5							
Ref. Lorries						9				10
Three Weels	4									
B/C Vehicles										
Vans (Mobile)	8									
X'Ray Vehicles										
Crue Cabs										
Mini Truck										
Tractor										
Total	540	197	198	170	25	22	38	60	24	10

UNICEP Funds**Cab**

No	Veh. No	Institute
1	PK-7333	DDG (MS) I
2	PK-7326	Hon. Deputy Minister
3	PK-7334	MOH - Gothatuwa
4	PK-7335	MOH - Siripura
5	PK-7323	RDHS - Mulathiv
6	PK-7328	RDHS - Jaffna
7	PK-7322	RDHS - Kilinochchi
8	PK-7325	MOH- Gangawatakorale
9	PK-7332	MOH-Nivithigala
10	PK-7324	RDHS - Trincomalee
11	PK-7315	DDG (Logistic)
12	PK-7329	Ad.Sec (Development)
13	PK-7316	RDHS - Batticaloa
14	PK-7320	MOH - Kanthale
15	PK-7318	MOH - Kaduwela
16	PK-7314	NISH - Kaluthara
17	PK-7319	MOH - Maharagama
18	PK-7317	MOH- Mannar
19	PK-7331	MOH-Polpithigama
20	PK-7313	DGHS
21	PK-7327	RDHS - Mannar

Lorry

No	Veh. No	Institute
1	LP-4526	MSD - Colombo 10
2	LP-4530	MSD - Colombo 10
3	LP-4532	MSD - Colombo 10
4	LP-4533	MSD - Colombo 10
5	LP-4535	Epidomillogy Unit
6	LP-4527	PDHS - Eastern Province
7	LP-4528	RDHS - Jaffna
8	LP-4529	PDHS - North Western Province
9	LP-4534	RDHS - Puttalam
10	LP-4536	RDHS - Batticaloa

6. Human Resource Development

Introduction

Human Resource Coordination Division (HRCoD), Ministry of Health was established in 2017, as per the cabinet Decision No 17/0905/755/011, dated 10th may 2017.

This unit functions under the direct supervision of Secretary of Health and all policy and operational level responsibilities have been delegated to the Additional secretary (Medical Services) on behalf of the Secretary, HealthMinistry.

Objectives

To carry out activities in the following areas

- Policy Planning
- HR Information
- Training and Development
- Health Economics and Research

Achievements/ Special Events in 2025

- Development of Human Resources for Health Master Plan 2025-2035. The first consultative workshop was held on the 31st of May, 2025.
- Establishment of a Human Resources Coordination Data System for the Ministry of Health.

Ongoing Development project details

	Project Description	Total Estimate Cost	Physical Progress by 30.09.2025	Financial Progress by 30.09.2025
1	Cadre Updating (Provincial) for year 2024		100%	
2	Development of Human Resources for Health Master Plan 2025 -2035.	Rs. 6,603,071.00	30%	Rs. 481,297.44

3	Establishment of a Human Resources Coordination Data System for the Ministry of Health.		70%	
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Last 5 -year performance Trend

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Cadre updating (Provincials) for the Year	Updated 100%	Updated 100%	Updated 100%	Updated 100%	
Recruitment of students for nursing	Recruited and selected from A/L 2018/ 2019 (New/old) 100%		Recruited and selected from A/L 2019 /2020 (New/old) 30%	Recruited and selected from A/L 2019 /2020 (New/old) 100% completed	
Recruitment of students for Paramedical staff categories				Recruited and selected from A/L 2018/2019-20 50%	Recruited and selected from A/L 2018/2019-20 100%

Special Development activities planned for 2026

- **Development of Human Resources for Health Master Plan 2025-2035.** -The first consultative workshop was held on the 31st of May, 2025. The second consultative workshop is planned for the end of July 2025.
- **Establishment of a Human Resources Coordination Data System for the Ministry of Health.** -The training program for staff handling the personnel files of nursing officers, midwives, paramedical staff, professionals supplementary to medicine, and dental surgeons was conducted in all provinces of Sri Lanka—except for the Uva and Southern provinces—to facilitate the updating of staff data into the system.

6.1 Education, Training and Research Unit

Introduction

Education, Training and Research Unit of the Ministry of Health functions under the purview of the Deputy Director General (Education' Training & Research) and has three directorates i.e. Directorates of the Training, Research and Nursing (Education).

This Unit, guided by the Deputy Director General for Education, Training & Research, aims to promote evidence-based practices and cultivate a culture of continuous learning within its three specialized directorates: Training, Research, and Education. Through these initiatives, the Unit seeks to improve the quality of healthcare services and enhance health outcomes for the nation.

The ET & R Unit is responsible for policy formulation and technical guidance on training, coordinating basic training programs for all staff categories, except for Medical Officers and Dental Surgeons. Additionally, the Unit is responsible for enhancing the capacity of the health workforce through post-basic and in-service training programmes. Furthermore, the National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS) is under the administrative and technical supervision of the DDG (ET&R).

The ET&R Unit collaborates with the Ceylon Medical College Council, University Grants Commission, and other relevant academic and professional institutions in Sri Lanka to enhance the human resource capacity of the health sector.

It has improved the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programmes for state Medical Officers, particularly through the online Learning Management System (LMS) platform. The unit serves as a central hub for the initiative that enhances career development opportunities for Medical Officers, in collaboration with the Post Graduate Institute of Medicine (PGIM) and state medical faculties. E T & R has also been able to broaden its capacity in coordinating important training programmes with international organizations to improve the capacity of the health workforce in Sri Lanka.

Vision

Quality and qualified members of health staff contributing to economic, social, mental and spiritual development of Sri Lanka

Mission

To be the focal point of facilitation, central agency of monitoring and evaluation and principal provider of technical expertise in education, training and research spheres in Sri Lankan health sector for the development of knowledge, skillful, efficient, effective, patient centered and innovative health staff members

Objectives

The ET & R unit's main objective is to enhance healthcare professionals' capacity and competencies through comprehensive education, training, and research initiatives aligned with national health policies and priorities.

Achievements/ Special Events in 2025

• Recruitment and Basic Training

✓ Intake for basic training programmes

Intake for training is determined by the administrative sections of the Ministry of Health in consultation with ET&R Unit , Planning Unit and HR Coordinating Unit. Training profile in 2025 is given in following

Profile of basic training programmes and degree holders carried out in 2024/2025

S. No.	Category of staff	Number recruited During 2024	Number completed During 2024	Number recruited During 2025 (up to June)	Number completed During 2025 (up to June)
1	Nursing Officers (Basic Training)	1973	3622	0	0
2	Medical Lab. Technicians	0	0	0	0
3	Pharmacists	0	94	0	6 (repeat)
4	Physiotherapists	0	0	0	0
5	Occupational therapists	0	47	0	0
6	Radiographers (Graduate)	0	52	50	0
7	Radiotherapist (Graduate)	0	0	25	0
8	Public Health Midwives	1117	976	0	58 (repeat)
9	Public Health Inspectors	0	321	0	0
10	Health Entomology Officers	0	29	0	0
11	Electro -Cardiographers (ECG)	0	57	47 + 17 (forces)	0
12	Electro-encephalograph Recordists	0	17	0	0
13	Ophthalmic technicians	0	24	0	0
14	Dental Technicians	0	15	0	0
15	School dental therapists	0	37	51 + 5 (forces)	0
16	Public health laboratory Technician	0	5	15	0
17	Prosthetics & Orthotics	0	7	0	0
18	Dispensers	0	0	118	0
19	Attendants	204	0	0	204

	Total	3294	5303	328	268
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✓ **Post Basic Training for Nursing Officers**

Categories of post basic training programmes carried out in 2024 /2025 (up to June) with numbers of Nursing Officers recruited and number completed the training

	Training Programme	Duration	Number Recruited		Number completed	
			2024	2025	2024	2025
1	Psychiatric Nursing Training	6months	55	0	55	0
2	Teaching & Supervision	1 1/2 Year	0	0	0	0
3	Ward Management& Supervision	1 1/2 Year	0	400 (plan to)	0	0
4	Midwifery Training	6months	386	0	0	386
5	Public Health Nursing Officer	1 1/2 Year	84	300 (plan to)	84	0
6	Public Health Nursing Sister	1 1/2 Year	0	0	0	0
7	Community Psychiatric Nursing	6months	0	0	0	0
8	Intensive Care Nursing	1 Year	161	0	0	158
9	Palliative Nursing	1 Year	0	0	0	0
10	Public Health Nursing Tutor	6months	0		0	0

• **Capacity Development of Service Providers of the Department of Health**

The ET&R Unit plays the pivotal role in management of in-service training programmes in the health sector by providing the necessary technical and financial assistance. Depending on the institutional needs, during the year 2024/2025 funds were allocated for the training of many categories of the health workforce. The ET&R Unit reviews the training proposal for eligibility based on the training needs identified by the relevant institutions. Training programmes fulfilling eligibility criteria were funded. Funds utilization is monitored and evaluated.

✓ **In-service Training Programme**

ET&R Unit send allocation to conduct regularly carries out in-service training programmes for different staff categories based on the requests made by the heads of the institutions and professional organizations.

Numbers and categories of staff in-service training received with funds from the ET&R unit during the year 2024/2025 for Group Training Programmes , Individual Training Programmes

	2024		2025 (up to June)	
Category of Health Personnel	Group Training	Individual Training	Group Training	Individual Training
Consultants	445	0	253	0
Medical Officers	2106	0	2683	0
Nursing Officers	4584	1	3331	1
PSM /Para categories	1049	0	585	0
PPO/PPA/DO/HMA/MA/ICT	510	1	363	1
Health Assistants	1098	1	387	0
Other staff	486	12	408	14
Total	10278	15	8010	15

✓ **Other Programmes**

Development of Training Centers for Public Health Midwives

Introduction

Sri Lanka aims to strengthen maternal and child health by training midwifery students through newly established Schools of Midwifery under the purview of Education Training & Research Unit. These schools address the capacity limitations of Nurses Training Schools and mark a critical shift in midwifery education. This initiative underscores the need to align all stakeholders, including administrative, academic, and field staff, with the new training structure to ensure high-quality service delivery at the grassroots level.

Vision

To be a leading institution in midwifery education, fostering excellence in maternal and child healthcare through innovative teaching, research, and community engagement.

Mission

To empower future midwives with the knowledge, skills, and compassion needed to provide high-quality, evidence-based care, and to contribute to the advancement of health system development globally.

Objectives

Programme Learning Objectives for the PHM Training is as below:

- a. To conduct a standard training programme for the enrolled students of the pre-service Midwifery Training programme students.
- b. To ensure the deliverance of a standard, evidence based training to the pre-service Midwifery Training programme students

Achievements/Special Events

- Ongoing training for 1117 (2021/2022 B Batch) midwifery student at 11 training center at Narahenpita, Colombo 05, De Soysa Hospital Colombo 08, NIHS Kaluthara, Hambanthota, Mahamodara, Kahawatta, Kurunegala, Kadugannawa, Bandarawela, Anuradhapura, Batticaloa.
- Preparation of PHM Repository

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme

Introduction

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) refers to the process of continuously learning and developing professional skills and knowledge throughout their career. It involves activities that professionals undertake such as, workshops, seminars, conferences, and training sessions, both physical and online to maintain and enhance their expertise, stay current with industry trends, and adapt to changes in their field.

Vision:

To foster a culture of lifelong learning, empowering professionals to excel and adapt in an ever-changing world.

Mission:

To provide accessible, high-quality learning opportunities that support career growth, improve performance, and drive innovation in professional practice.

Objectives

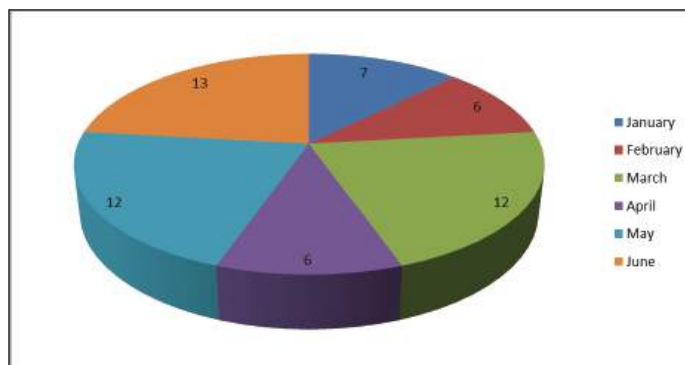
- a. To develop Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes of the Healthcare professionals in order to achieve safe and quality healthcare service delivery in Sri Lanka,
- b. To generate National CPD points system for healthcare professionals with international standard that is recognized by the global healthcare system,
- c. To facilitate by using the generated CPD points for financial incentives, scholarships, and career development,
- d. To use the NCPD programme for Annual appraisal and Revalidation similar to developed countries.

Achievements

- Launch of NCPD Whatsapp Channel (Currently 3000 + followers) for Health Professionals
- Launch of CPD ID Numbers for Health Professionals
- Final draft of National Guidelines for NCPD



CPD provider Registration



Special Training Programmes conducted by ET&R Unit – 2025

- Snake bite Management Programme for Medical Officers at Trincomalee, Kurunegala Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura,
- Training programmes on Right to Information Act for Directors of Hospitals, PDHS, RDHS, staff of the Ministry of Health completed 2 programmes
- A Training programme was conducted on Clinical Nutrition updating for Medical Officers at Colombo, Rathnepura completed 2 programmes
- A Training programme was conducted in collaboration with the College of Pediatrician at TH, Badulla for NOs & Midwifery
- A Training programme was conducted in collaboration with the College of Physicians at DH, Nawalapitiya for MOs. & NOs
- Skill Development Programme for Development Officers & Management Assistant of the Ministry of Health completed 3 programmes
- Soft skill development programme for new ECG students
- A Training programme was conducted in collaboration with the College of Physicians at DH, Nawalapitiya for MOs. & NOs
- CME Training Programme collaboration with College of Physicians for Nurses & Midwiferies at DGH, Ampara & TH, Peradeniya
- Training programme conducted collaboration with College of Pediatrician at LRH, Colombo for Health Care Assistant
- Regional ENT Training programme conducted collaboration with College of ENT at TH Anuradhapura
- A Training programme was conducted in collaboration with the college of the Physicians at DGH, Hambanthota for Medical Officers & Nursing Officers
- 04 Training Project accepted for Clean Sri Lanka

• Research

Introduction

The Directorate of Research of the Education, Training, and Research Unit of the Ministry of Health serves as the national focal point for health research in Sri Lanka. It plays a pivotal role in coordinating the activities of the National Health Research Council and the Research Management Committee of the Ministry of Health. The unit is responsible for developing the National Health Research Policy and Strategic Plan, establishing health research ethics guidelines, and identifying national health research priorities. It also conducts training on health research methodologies, facilitates the granting of administrative clearance for health research, and oversees the allocation of research allowances. Through these efforts, the unit ensures a structured and ethical approach to advancing health research in the country.

Mission

To champion health research by establishing a sustainable research ecosystem that supports capacity building, policy formulation, stakeholder collaboration, and knowledge dissemination.

Objective

The research directorate aims to enhance the quality and reach of health research, thus enabling Sri Lanka's health sector to respond proactively to current and future public health challenges

Achievements in 2025

The finalization of health research priorities for Sri Lanka stands as one of the most significant achievements of the year.

1. National Health Research Priority Areas for Sri Lanka

- The document on National Health Research Priority Areas for Sri Lanka, compiled with stakeholder input and approved by the National Health Research Council on January 01, 2025, was published by the Ministry of Health. This update was done after an interval of 19 years
- An Advocacy Meeting was held on 2025.06.18 regarding the National Health Research Priority Areas for Sri Lanka for 2025.

2. Research allowance Allocation

- 22 research proposals have been received in 2025.
- 14 new research proposals have been approved by the Research Management Committee
- 07 research progress reports (6 months) have been approved.
- 05 research proposals for Post-publication Research Allowance have been recommended. (As of 2025 July 24)

3. Sri Lanka Scientific Service

- We have received 37 research projects to be considered for the second efficiency bar examination of the officers belonging to Sri Lanka Scientific Service purposes. A committee appointed by Secretary Health has evaluated these and forwarded 29 projects with their recommendations to Deputy Director General (Administration 1) for further action.

4. Administrative Clearance

- As of 2025 July 23, We have received 23 applications for administrative clearances purpose. Out of them, 09 have been granted approval and rest is being reviewed either by the reviewers or legal division.

5. Research Clearance

- As of 2025 July 23, approximately 250 research clearances have been issued, related to

the retirement purposes or obtaining long term foreign leave purposes

6. National Health Research Council Activities

- Coordination and implementation activities had been conducted in relevance to the monthly National Health Research Symposium.
- The procurement process for establishing the NHRC Website has been commenced.



Last 5 years Performance Trend of Education Training & Research Unit

	Indicators	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1.	Number enrolled in Basic Training	4489	-	1664	3047	3294
2.	Number of Trainees successfully completed	1853	812	1170	2665	5303
4	Number of trainees of Post Basic Nursing Training completed	751	952	1198	257	139
5.	Number of In- Service Training programmes conducted	Gro. Tr.- 1017 Indivi.Tr - 143 Lang Tr.16	Gro. Tr.- 603 Indivi.Tr - 155 Lang Tr.4	Gro. Tr.- 5859 Indivi.Tr - 115 Lang Tr. 201	Gro. Tr.- 10249 Indivi.Tr - 88	Gro. Tr.- 10278 Indivi.Tr - 15
6	Number of Research proposals received for research allowance payment	29	97	135	71	22

7. Corporation Board Managed Institutes

7.1 State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC)

Introduction

State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC) was established in 1987 under the Industrial Corporation Act No. 49 of 1957. SPMC has completed 38 years of commercial production of essential medicines for the Healthcare of Sri Lankan population. In 2024, SPMC manufactured 66 drug items under the generic names, covering a wide range of therapeutic categories.

The main functions of the SPMC;

- either by itself or by entering into such Joint Venture, Public-Private Partnership or other such agreement to manufacture, process, stock, pack or repack medicine;
- creating subsidiary companies
- entering into International Agreements with potential investors
- providing technical assistance for the manufacturing and processing of medicine
- undertaking pharmacological and pharmaceutical research and the standardization of formulations
- marketing medicinal products produced by the Corporation or Joint Venture or other such agreements

All products manufactured by SPMC have complied with quality as per British Pharmacopeia (BP) or United State Pharmacopeia (USP), or Indian Pharmacopeia (IP) and SPMC standards. Implementation of current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP), regulations and procedures are constantly monitored through internal quality auditing and factory inspection.

SPMC strictly adheres to the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as laid down by the World Health Organization (WHO).



Brief Description of services provided during the year.

SPMC manufactures quality and effective solid dosage forms and supplies to Medical Supplies Division of Health Ministry, State Pharmaceuticals Corporation (SPC) and SPMC franchise dealers.

2024

1. Human Resources Development

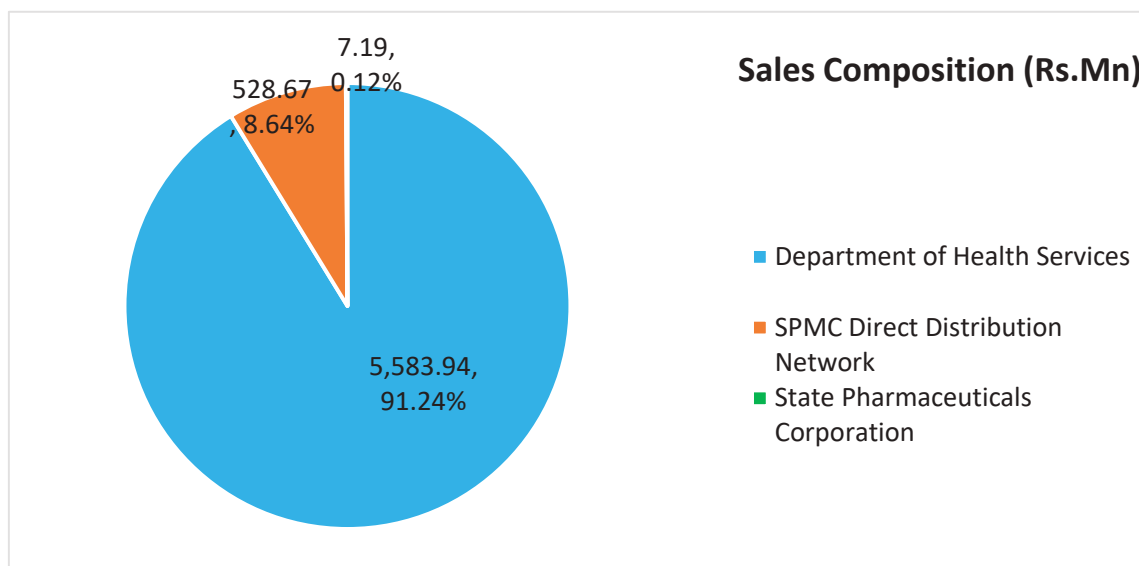
Category	Number of Employees
Senior Manager	19
Junior Manager	37
Technical Staff	143
Non-Technical Staff	32
Minor Staff	91
Trainees	19
Contract	-
Total	341

2. Sales and Performance - (Rs. in million)

Sales	6,119
Operating Profit	704
Net Profit before Tax	831
Net Profit after Tax	593

3. The total output was 724.063 million-unit tablets / capsules.**4. Sales Channel**

Sales Composition	Value (Rs.m.)	%
Department of Health Services	5,583.94	91.24%
SPMC Direct Distribution Network	528.67	8.64%
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation	7.19	0.12%
Total	6,119.79	100%



5. Development Work

- Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of new Chiller System including Piping and Building Automation with Billing System is in progress.
- The construction of two-storied building for finished products storage to optimize storage conditions is in progress.
- A Consultant Procurement Committee has been appointed to select a Consultant to conduct feasibility study for the land acquired from the Urban Development Authority (UDA) under a 99 lease agreement in the Millawa, Horana and the committee is working on it.
- The National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA) has recommended to establish and implement a Quality Management System (QMS). Consultant has been selected and engaged in implantation work.

6. Formulation cum Research & Development Work - Introduction of New Products - (Registration Obtained)

- Celecoxib Capsules 200mg
- Montelukast Tablets IP 5mg
- Methylprednisolone Tablets USP 4mg
- Montelukast Tablets IP 10mg

2025**1. Human Resources Development**

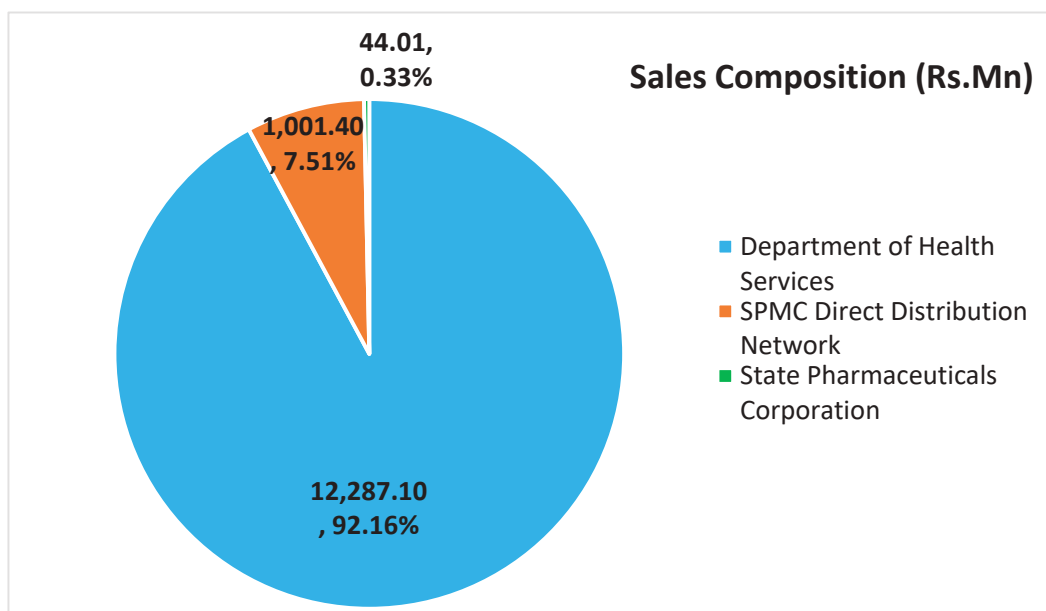
Category	Number of Employees
Senior Manager	21
Junior Manager	35
Technical Staff	142
Non-Technical Staff	31
Minor Staff	90
Trainees	15
Contract	01
Total	335

2. Major Achievements**Sales and Performance (Rs. in million)**

Sales	13,332
Operating Profit	1,240
Net Profit before Tax	1,486
Net Profit after Tax	1,052

3. The total output was 1730.666 million-unit tablets / capsules.**4. Sales Channel**

Sales Composition	Value (Rs.m.)	%
Department of Health Services	12,287.10	92.16%
SPMC Direct Distribution Network	1,001.40	7.51%
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation	44.01	0.33%
Total	13,332.51	100%



5. Formulation cum Research & Development Work

Registration obtained for the following new finished product

- Levetiracetam Tablets USP 250mg

6. Development work already attended

- To enhance blister output, a new blister packing machine was installed in the General Drugs Zone (F zone)
- Construction of a two-storied building for finished products storage has commenced to optimize storage facilities.
- The implementation of the Quality Management System (QMS), as recommended by the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA), is currently in progress.
- High- Shear Mixer (RMG) machine was installed in the General Drugs Zone.
- Silica Gel Inserting Machine was installed in the General Drugs Zone.
- 02 nos of Powder Transfer Units were installed in General Drugs Zone.

Special Development Activities Planned For 2026

1. New Products to be introduced
 - Celecoxib Capsules 100mg
 - Tramadol Capsules IP 100mg
 - Levothyroxine Tablets IP 25mcg
 - Levothyroxine Tablets IP 100mcg
 - Aceclofenac Tablet IP 100mg
 - Meloxicam Tablet 7.5mg
 - Meloxicam Tablet 15mg
 - Pantoprazole GR Tablet IP 20mg
 - Pantoprazole GR Tablet IP 40mg
 - Mycophenolate Mofetil Tablets USP 500mg
2. New Products to be formulated and developed
 - Nifedipine SR Tablets 20mg
 - Isosorbide Mononitrate Tablets 60mg
 - Digoxin Tablets 0.25mg
 - Amiodarone Tablets 100mg
 - Fenofibrate Capsules 200mg
 - Ibuprofen Tablets 200mg
 - Phenytoin Sodium Tablets 100mg
 - Flunarizine HCL Tablets 5mg
 - Doxycycline Capsules 100mg
 - Methotrexate Tablets 2.5mg
 - Potassium Chloride ER Tablets 600mg
 - Bisacodyl Suppositories 5mg
 - Glyceryl Trinitrate Tablets 0.5mg
3. SPMC is planning to expand laboratory facilities for quality control activities with a grant from Chinese government.
4. Construction of stores complex at Millawa Land, Horana.
5. Entablement of surgical manufacturing plant at Millawa Land, Horana.

7.2 State Pharmaceuticals Corporation (SPC)

The State Pharmaceuticals Corporation (SPC) was established in 1971 and has been committed to provide quality-assured medications at competitive prices. As the sole provider of pharmaceuticals, surgical consumables, laboratory chemicals, and equipment, we are a trusted partner for all institutions under the Ministry of Health.

In addition to our core operations, SPC proudly oversees the Rajya Osusala pharmacy chain, which serves communities nationwide, ensuring access to essential medications. We also specialize in the production of Jeewanee glucose, reinforcing our commitment to public health.

Our state-of-the-art laboratories conduct thorough quality testing on imported medicines at four stages before their release into the market, ensuring that product meets the highest standards of safety and efficacy

Performance and Progress - 2024 (Finance)

During the period of year 2024, SPC has recorded a turnover of Rs. 62,088 Mn.

By achieving the above mentioned turnovers, SPC has earned Rs. 2,474 Mn profit before tax for the above period. In addition to procuring and supplying pharmaceuticals and surgical consumables worth of Rs. 51,018 Mn for requirements of the Medical Supplies Division, SPC recorded a sale of Rs 11,069 Mn in the open market.

Performance and Progress - last quarter of 2024 (other activities)

Expansion of the Osu Sala network to reach record number of 63 branches by adding 02 branches is helped SPC to achieve certain targets. In addition to expanding the Osu sala network, arranged 12 Subharathi programmes at SLBC Swadeshiya Channel, 08 Public Awareness Campaigns and participated for 01 National Level Exhibition aiming to enhance public knowledge about the “Rational Use of Generic drugs” and meet our corporate social responsibility inline with objectives of the corporation.

In the area of Human Resources Management, we have generated 03 new employments inline with expanding the organization during the last quarter of 2024 & conducted 04 training programmes/ workshops to enhance employees capacity/efficiency.

Performance and Progress during January 2025– April 2025

During the period of January 2025 – April 2025, SPC has recorded a turnover of Rs. 19,195 Mn.

By achieving the above mentioned turnovers, SPC has earned Rs. 461 Mn profit before tax for the above period . In addition to procuring and supplying pharmaceuticals and surgical consumables worth of Rs. 15,437 Mn for requirements of the Medical Supplies Division, SPC recorded a sale of Rs 3,758 Mn in the open market.

Expansion of the Osu Sala network to reach record number of 64 branches by adding 01 branch is helped SPC to achieve above mentioned sale. In addition to expanding the Osu sala network, arranged 17 Subharathi programmes at SLBC Swadeshiya Channel, daily updates & promotions in Ran FM (weekdays morning programme), 12 Public Awareness Campaigns and participated for 01 National Level Exhibition aiming to enhance public knowledge about the “Rational Use of Generic drugs” and meet our corporate social responsibility inline with objectives of the corporation.

In the area of Human Resources Management, we have generated 12 new employments inline with expanding the organization during the January 2025 – April 2025 & conducted 06 training programmes/workshops to enhance employees capacity/efficiency.

7.3 Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital



Introduction

Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Hospital was established by an Act of Parliament referred to as “The Wijaya Kumaratunga Memorial Foundation Act No. 31 of 1998. Hospital was established in memory of late Mr. Wijaya Kumaratunga and located in a land area of 3 arcs in Katunayake Seeduwa Urban Council area .

The Hospital was officially opened to the public by Her Excellency, the then President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga on the 09th of October 1999,

At the inception of this Hospital it consisted of an OPD and 02 wards and served as a Primary Healthcare Center.

The Hospital is managed by Board of Directors and the Director Board consists of Chairman and 5 Directors. Hospital catchment area includes Seeduwa, Ja Ela ,Katunayake, Raddolugama. and BOI- ,Katunayake .

In 2024 the hospital consisted of an OPD , PCU , Dental , Eye Unit , General Surgical Unit , Medical Unit . In addition Endocrine Clinic with visiting basis and well women clinic as special clinic .

Furthermore, on November 04, 2024 with the aim of improving patient comfort and patient care, Ward No 01 was converted into a one day cataract surgery unit, allowing eye surgeries to be performed quickly and easily.

Hospital Details

Utilization & Facility Details		
	No of Wards	04 Wards
	No of Beds	118
	No of Specialist Available	<p>Consultants on permanent basis - 3 (Consultant Surgeon, 02 nos Consultant Eye Surgeon)</p> <p>Consultants attached from Ministry -1 (Consultant Anesthetist)</p> <p>Consultants attached from Ministry -1(Consultant Physician)</p>

Human Resource Details

Designation	Existing Cadre(In-position)	
	Permanent	Acting
Director	0	0
Consultant Anaesthetist	0	1
Consultant Physician	0	1
Consultant Family Physician	0	0
Consultant Surgeon	1	0
Consultant Endocrinologist	0	0
Consultant Eye surgeon	2	0
Chief Medical Officer	1	0
Medical Officer	18	0
Dental Surgeon	0	0
Internal Auditor	0	0
Accountant	1	0
Registered Medical Officer	2	0
Special Grade Nursing Officer	0	1
Nursing Sister	0	0
Nursing Officer	85	0
Administrative Officer	1	0
Pharmacist	6	0
Radiographer	1	0
Medical Laboratory Technologist	3	0
Ophthalmic Technologist	4	0
Nutritionist	0	0
Forman	0	0
AC Technician	0	0
Cardiographer	2	0
Management Assistant	11	0
Dispenser	2	0
Diet Stewardess	1	0
Ward Clerk	0	0
House Warden	0	0
Medical Record Room Assistant	0	0
Health Driver	5	0
Electrician	1	0
Maintenance Labour	2	0
Lab Assistant	2	0
Cook	2	0
Gardener/Receptionist/ Telephone Operator	1	0
Saukya Karya Sahayaka (Senior), Junior	58	0
Total	214	

Utilization Details

Service Rendered	Total No of Patients
Eye Surgery-Major	4535
Eye Surgery- Minor	297
General Surgery -Major	219
General Surgery - Minor	270
OPD	52549
OPD2-Injection	474
OPD2-Dressing	1058
ETU	10288
Total In Patients-WARD Admissions	7953
CLINICS	
Eye Clinics	18609 (jan - may)
Laser Treatment	197
Dental	2222
Medical	22392
Surgical	3193
Psychiatric	1136
Well Women Clinic	79
Family Planning	04
Wound Care Unit	3216
NCD Clinic	251
Endocrine Clinic	5889
Chest/Respiratory	221
Nephrology	970
Clinic Total	136122
INVESTIGATIONS	
LAB	34717
X-Ray	2341
E.C.G.	3441
Endoscopy Unit	179
Refraction Test	5615(jan - may)
OCT Test	1360 (jan - may)

Achievements/ Special Events in 2025

1. Innovations , New Establishments & Events

- On 04.01.2025, the Minister of Health Dr.Nalinda Jayatissa undertook a hospital inspection tour.
- The 2025 Blood Donation Program was held on 17th February 2025.
- Several Program were held for Glaucoma Week from 12 to 18 March 2025.
- On 26 March 2025, a program was conducted by Dr.Dileesha Wedasinghe a specialist in respiratory diseases, to educated the nursing staff and patients about tuberculosis.
- On April 07,2025, an awareness program on kidney disease was conducted by Dr.Udana Ratnapala, a specialist in kidney diseases.
- Sumadhura Dharma sermon held on the occasion of Vesak Poya on May 15,2025.
- A Program was held on May 17,2025 to celebrate Nurses Day.
- On June 4,2025, Dr.M.D.Samaranayake,a consultant physician, conducted an awareness program on dengue disease.

2. Purchasing Medical Equipment

Purchased following main equipments to upgrade the health service

Emergency Trolley	රු. 44,500.00
Digital Sphygmomanometer with Adult Cuff	රු. 32,793.75
Sphygmomanometer Aneroid with Adult Cuff	රු. 131,175.00
AC power adaptor	රු.100,170.00
Trial Frame	රු. 50,268.00
Diamond Lens	රු.120,000.00
Pulse Oxymeter set	රු.194,110.00
Adult Resuscitator Set	රු. 61,360.00
Laryngoscope Set	රු. 141,600.00
Patient Trolley	රු. 57,230.00
Stethoscope	රු. 23,850.00
Infrared Forehead Thermometer	රු. 5,900.00
Emergency Cardiac Board	රු. 61,360.00

3. Building Works

4. Furniture & Fittings, IT Equipment

Furniture & fittings	Rs.-103,900.00
Machinery	Rs.-1260,037.00

Last 5 year performance trend

Section	Total No of Patients Treated				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
OPD	47,514	82,565	113,317	109,090	52,549
OPD Injection	1,126	1,072	871	874	474
OPD Dressing	6,395	5,312	2,824	2,756	1058
ETU	11,256	15,438	18,196	19,790	10,288
Dental	3,671	4,610	4,032	5,641	2,222 (Jan – May)

Medical Unit

Section	Total No of Patients Treated				
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Medical Clinic	30,212	36,160	45,777	46,667	22,,392

Section	Total No of Patients Treated				
	2021	2022	2021	2024	2025
WD -1 (Medical Ward – Male)	619	749	757	568(Jan – Oct)	-
WD -1 (Medical Ward – Female)	851	1,009	1216	1089(Jan – Oct)	694

Visiting Clinics

Section	Total No of Patients Treated				
	2021	2022	2021	2024	2025
Diabetic & Hypertention Clinic	2,960	-	-	-	-
Pediatric Clinic	-	-	-	-	-
Psychiatric Clinic	1,601	1,898	2299	2,388	1,136
ENT Clinic	-	-	-	-	-
Endocrine Clinic	1,659	7,659	8409	11,281	5,889

Surgical Unit

Section	Total No of Patients Treated				
	2021	2022	2021	2024	2025
Surgical Clinic	4,829	6,545	6783	6,653	3,193
Endoscopy Tests	566	430	432	317	317
General Surgeries	767	903	1062	1,012	489
WD 6 (Male & Female)	2,284	2,496	2731	2,733	1,356
Wound Care Unit	9,316	11,035	5679	7,013	3,216
WD 5 – wound care ward (Male & Female)	119	176	330	387	161

Eye Unit

Section	Total No of Patients Treated				
	2021	2022	2021	2024	2025
Eye Clinic	27,603	31,893	44549	46,770	18,609 (Jan – May)
Eye Surgeries	5,521	5,823	9927	11,283	4,4832
Wd 3 Eye ward (Male & Female)	5,679	5,941	10363	10,425	1,342
Laser Treatments	1,072	873	867	363	197
Refractive Tests	5,549	9,638	9484	11,050	5615 (Jan – May)
DCSU	-	-	-	-	5,788

Supporative Services

Section	Total No of Patients Treated				
	2021	2022	2021	2024	2025
Lab Tests	53,177	55,696	55129	53,507	34,717
X ray Investigations	1,816	1,963	1518	3,904	2,341
ECG Investigations	3,869	4,045	4297	5,184	3,441

- On 04.01.2025, the Minister of Health Dr.Nalinda Jayatissa undertook a hospital inspection tour.



- The 2025 Blood Donation Program was held on 17th February 2025.



- Several Program were held for Glaucoma Week from 12 to 18 March 2025.



- On 26 March 2025, a program was conducted by Dr.Dileesha Wedasinghe a specialist in respiratory diseases, to educate the nursing staff and patients about tuberculosis.



- On April 07,2025, an awareness program on kidney disease was conducted by Dr.Udana Ratnapala, a specialist in kidney diseases.

- A Program was held on May 17,2025 to celebrate Nurses Day.



- Healthy snacks for patients



Special Development activities planned for year 2026

- Purchasing Medical Equipment to develop patient service in Eye, Surgical & Medical Units
- Development of infrastructure facilities to provide facilities for patients

7.4 Sri Jayawardenapura General Hospital



Introduction

Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital was inaugurated on 17th September, 1984 and completed 40 years of excellence by the year 2024, established and empowered by the act of parliament, Sri Jayewardenepura Hospital Act No: 54 of 1983. Hospital was set up to supplement curative health services in Sri Lanka & to assist in the training of medical undergraduates, post graduates and other health care personnel. Highly qualified, experienced and competent medical, nursing and technical staff is engaged in patient care and other hospital activities.

This hospital is a gift from the Government of Japan to the people of Sri Lanka. It has a well-designed building complex with provision for further expansion to meet future demands. Substantial financial contribution from the General Treasury is also provided to the hospital. There is a growing demand to expand the services of the hospital to meet the current needs of the public.

Vision

To become the healthcare provider of choice in the region

Mission

To provide affordable, compassionate and comprehensive high high-quality and safe health care and develop health care competency in par with international standards in an ethical and friendly atmosphere with the use of advanced technology by a competent workforce.

Specialty Units

- General Medicine
- General Surgery
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Paediatrics
- Anesthesiology
- Neonatology

- Ophthalmology
- Otorhinolaryngology
- Neurology
- Dermatology
- Cardio Electro Physiology
- Neurosurgery
- Cardiology
- Cardio-Thoracic surgery
- Orthopedic
- Nephrology
- Genitourinary and Kidney Transplant
- Rheumatology & Rehabilitation
- Endocrinology
- Histopathology
- Microbiology
- Hematology
- Chemical Pathology
- Blood bank and Transfusion medicine
- Radiology
- Chemical Pathology

Utilization & facility details

Utilization & facility detail	2024
1. Number of Patient Beds	1008
2.Total Number of Patient Admissions	50164
3.No of specialists available	47
4.Number of Admissions to ICUs	1587
5.Number of Admissions through ETU	24787
6.Gyn&Obs Admission	3335
7. Average Length of Stay (Days)	4.23
8. Hospital Bed Occupancy (%)	57.10%
a. Bed Occupancy of General Ward (%)	56.71%
b. Bed Occupancy of Paying Ward(%)(Class 1)	119.93%
c. Bed Occupancy of Paying Ward(%)(Class 11)	49.53%
9. Number of Out Patient Department Visits	29907
10. Number. of Emergency treatment Unit Visits	35287
11..Number of Dressings	12613
12.Number of Clinic held	4062
13. Total Number of Patients attended for Clinics	178804
14.Total Number of Blood collection	4956

Achievements-2024 & early 2025

Services Infrastructure Developments

- Care giver training program parallel to NVQ4
- Enhancing the water storage capacity of hospital
- Enhancing the physical condition of sanitary facilities

(Management has been able to formulate a stepwise plan to renovate and refurbish the buildings. This onerous task is in progress. Completion of this renovation will provide an edge to SJGH when competing with the modern private sector health facilities.)

- IT system of the hospital was further expanded to manage the stock control system, whereby drugs, dressings, surgical and other items could be managed by the system without paper works.

Expansion of existing outpatient department services.

- Purchase of new Medical equipment for 2024 – 2025
- Allocate facilities (Shifting& Expansion of OPD)
- Provide Efficient and Effective Service to the customers
- Collect the Customer feedback
- Continue Monitoring and Evaluation

Expand Para-medical services.

- Awareness program on physiotherapy service.

Establishing new units for identified specialized treatments

- Angio CT Machine
- Purchase of, Local component for (300 Mn). Japanese Grant, Instruments for Dental Unit., Dental X-Ray Machine, Angio CT Room. Cardiac Catheterization lab

Optimize the laboratory services to suit the customers need

- Utilization of facilities to full capacity
- Strengthening the material supply chain

Introducing new training programs in patient management for foreign students.

- Implement the training on quality improvement

Establish standards of quality patient care services.

- Establish quality circles , WITs etc
- Training on 5S, Kaizen concepts
- Develop standard to compare current with future status

Enrich Research & development culture and Establish ethical committees

- Conduct routine reviews
- Train the staff on research and foster research culture within SJGH
- Conduct symposium on research and development
- Award exceptional achievements

8. Private Health Sector Development

Introduction

Directorate of Private Health Sector Development, together with Private Health Services Regulatory Council

Ministry of Health recognizes the value of safe, efficient and quality health service provision either through State or Private Healthcare Services. Provision of quality healthcare services in private health establishments adhering to national guidelines and protocols regularly follows a monitoring and revolution mechanism introduced by the Private Health Sector Development unit of the Ministry of Health and Private Health Sector Regulatory Council. The unit provides technical assistance in planning a new healthcare establishment in the private health sector and upgrading the knowledge and skills of hospital staff in patient care services while maintaining quality and patient safety.

Vision

Excellent private health care system that delivers quality patient care services.

Mission

To develop and maintain an excellent private healthcare system by regulating, monitoring and evaluating standards in providing quality healthcare.

Goals

To improve private healthcare services by ensuring quality and patient safety.

Objectives

- To complete the process of amending the Private Medical Institutions (Registration) Act, No. 21 of 2006 (PMIR Act).
- To improve registration and regulation of private medical institutions.
- To streamline the mechanism to collect health information from private health sector.
- To develop and monitor the standards of private medical institutions.
- To strengthen the human resources capacity of the private health sector.
- To ensure the quality of patient care services provided by private medical institutions.
- To educate all authorized officers at provincial levels on PMIR Act and executing the power vested to them.
- To create awareness among health professionals, general public and patients' rights groups on PMIR Act, patients' rights and obligations of health professionals.
- To regulate prices of selected laboratory tests and procedures.

- To upgrade the resources at Directorate of Private Health Sector Development (D/PHSD) and Secretariat of Private Health Services Regulatory Council (S/PHSRC) including human resources, infrastructure facilities etc.

Major Achievements of 2024

- Continuation of registration & renewal of private medical institutions' licensing.
- Inspection and observation visits to private medical institutions.
- Coordinating with other Directorate of Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka Medical Council, Health Sector Trade Unions and Professional Organizations if and when necessary.
- Establishment of proper information system in private medical institutions.
- Granting preliminary approval to establish new private hospitals after evaluating the project proposals.
- Processing of documents pertaining to kidney transplants by private hospitals.
- Processing of documents pertaining to temporary registration of foreign specialists.
- Improvement of complaints handling procedure by timely investigation and enforcing remedial actions against private medical institutions.
- Establishment and maintenance of proper information system in private medical institutions including data on human resource, communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Initiation of the conduct of refresher/ gap filling courses for "Private Sector Nurses" who are currently employed at private hospital/ medical centers in collaboration with PHSD, PHSRC, NAITA and APHNNH.
- Initiation of the conduct of refresher/ gap filling courses for "Dental Surgery Assistants" who are currently employed at dental surgical practices/ clinics in collaboration with PHSD, PHSRC, NAITA and SLDA.
- Initiation of a survey in respect of private health sector with the help of MOH areas.

List of Special Events/ Innovations 2024

- **Development of quality of services provided by the private medical institutions;**
By advocating and adhering to national guidelines and standards in conducting preventive services and transfer the relevant details to Epidemiology Unit.
Eg: Dengue Prevention.
 - Contribution to provide information to National Cancer Registry, by private hospitals who are acting as cancer treatment centers and diagnostic laboratories, as identified in national cancer control policies.
 - To strengthen the human resource capacity of the Private Health Sector
- a) Initiation to conduct refresher/ gap filling courses for "Private Sector Nurses" who are currently employed at Private Hospital/ Medical Centers in collaboration with PHSRC, NAITA and APHNNH.

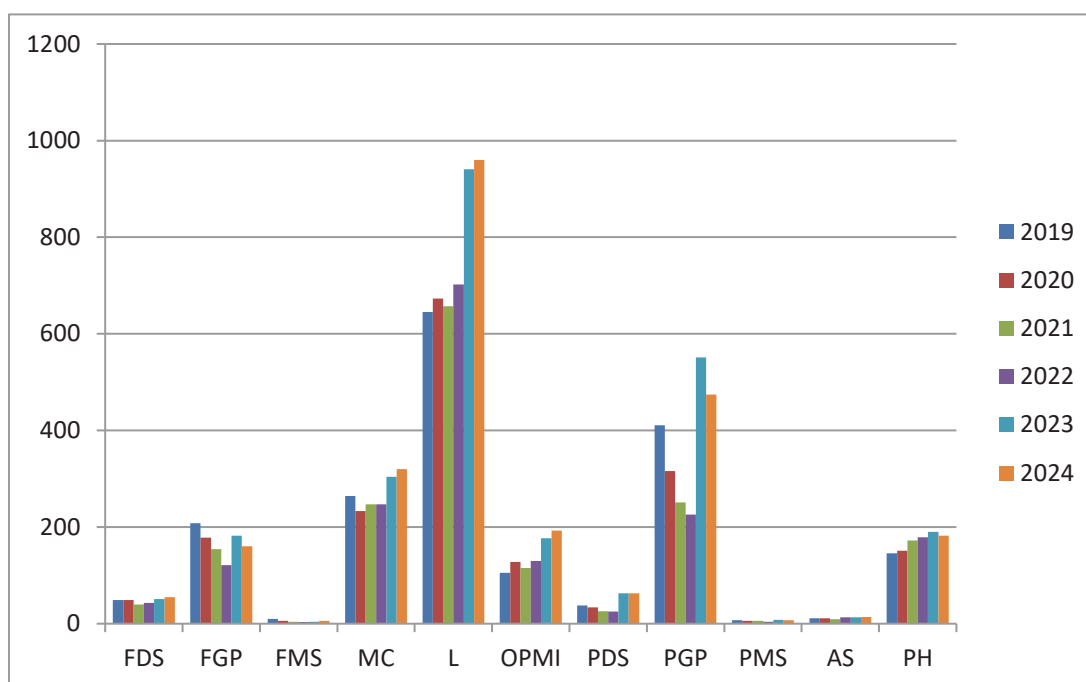
- b) Initiation to conduct refresher/ gap filling courses for “Dental Surgery Assistants” who are currently employed at private dental surgical practices/ clinics in collaboration with PHSRC, NAITA and SLDA.
- Increased the number of private hospital/ institutions registration & renewal of private medical institutions’ licensing.
 - To streamline the mechanism to collect health information from private health sector.
 - Visiting to inspect private hospitals to grant approval for registration with president’s fund.
 - Inspection and observation visits to private medical institutions, especially to grant permission for kidney transplant surgeries.
 - Coordinating with other Directorates of Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka Medical Council, Health Sector Trade Unions and Professional Organizations if and when necessary.
 - Processing of relevant documents by PHSD to grant permission of Ministry of Health for kidney transplant surgeries in private hospitals for end stage renal disease patients.
 - Processing of documents pertaining to temporary registration of foreign specialists.
 - Improvement of complaint handling procedure by timely investigation and enforcing remedial actions against private medical institutions.
 - Coordination of the process of amending the existing Private Medical Institutions (Registration) Act with legal decision of the Ministry of Health.
 - Providing technical expertise in human resource development training programmes conducted by provinces and private health institutions.
 - Establishment of proper information system in private medical institutions.
 - Granting preliminary approval to establish new private hospitals after evaluating the project proposals.
 - Capacity building of general practitioners to cater the demands of population including routing medical problems and emergency medical problems.
 - Improvement of registration and renewal of registration of private medical institutions’ by strengthening the capacity of provincial health authorities.
 - Improvement of complaints handling procedure by timely investigation and enforcing remedial actions against private medical institutions.
 - Inspection and observation visits to private medical institutions by staff from Directorate of Private Health Sector Development.
 - Conduct of an advocacy workshops in coordination with Provincial Directorates of Health Services following observation visits to selected private medical institutes in the respective provinces.
 - Providing technical expertise in human resource development training programmes conducted by provincial health authorities for private health institutions.

Last 6 years performance trend

- Numbers of Registered Institutes at PHSRC for year 2019 to 2025

Registration Progress of PMIs									
Nos.	Categories	Abbreviation	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
			Applied	Applied	Applied	Applied	Applied	Applied	Applied
1	Full Time Dental Surgeries	FDS	49	49	40	43	51	55	44
2	Full Time General Practices	FGP	208	178	154	121	182	160	112
3	Full Time Medical Specialist Practice	FMS	10	6	4	3	4	6	4
4	Private Medical Centers	MC	264	233	247	247	304	320	250
5	Private Medical Laboratories	L	645	673	657	702	941	960	445
6	Other Private Medical Institutes	OPMI	105	128	115	130	177	193	128
7	Part Time Dental Surgeries	PDS	38	34	26	25	63	63	24
8	Part Time General Practices	PGP	411	316	251	226	551	474	234
9	Part Time Medical Specialist Practice	PMS	7	6	6	4	8	7	2
10	Private Ambulance Services	AS	11	11	9	13	13	14	13

1 1	Private Hospitals	PH	146	151	172	179	190	182	144
	Total		1894	1785	1681	1693	2484	2434	1730



Special development activities planned for year 2025 - 2029

- Develop an online platform, coupled with the PHSRC website, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Telecom Services (SLTS) to handle public complaints against Private Sector Hospitals/ Service Providers / Private Medical Institutions.
- Conduct Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in Major Private Sector Hospitals/ Private Medical Institutions according to their capacity.
- Establish complain handling/ Grievance Management Center for all private sector hospitals / nursing homes.
- Registration of All unregistered Private Sector Medical Institutions/Services and updating of renewal procedure.
- Amendment of exiting PMIR Act to cover all private sector medical institutions and services to overcome its inherent weaknesses including all relevant regulations and guidelines.

- Design a health policy document for private health sector.
- Private Health Services Regulatory Council to be empowered to self- sufficient organization in the areas of Financial, Technical, legal capacities.
- Standardization, Accreditation and Grading of Private Sector Medical Institutions and services with quality assurance of patient care procedures and patient safety standards.
- Standardization, Accreditation and Grading of Private Sector Institutions and services those engaging with HRH training and development.
- Ensure the recruitment / engaging of qualified Nursing, Paramedics and Caregivers with professional qualifications accredited by recognized body and PHSRC.
- Introduction of KPI to PHSRC, KPI and indicators for performance evaluation to All categories of PMIs/ Services.
- Collection and dissemination of all relevant health data, Information from all categories of PMIs/ services with multi sectoral coordination like Ministry of Health, PHSRC, APHNNH, FHB, Epidemiology Unit, Quality and Safety Unit etc.

Abbreviations

APHNNH	Association of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes
D/ PHSD	Directorate of Private Health Sector Development
NAITA	National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority
PMI Act	Private Medical Institutions (Registration) Act, No. 21 of 2006
PMIs	Private Medical Institutions
SLDA	Sri Lanka Dental Association
S/ PHSRC	Secretariat of Private Health Services Regulatory Council

9. Medical Supply

9.1 Medical Supply Division

Introduction

The Medical Supplies Division (MSD) of Ministry of Health is the central organization responsible to supply all Pharmaceuticals, Surgical items, Laboratory items, Radioactive Items and Printed forms for the Government Sector healthcare institutions island-wide. Further to that, MSD is the sole supplier of dangerous drugs (narcotics) to all hospitals in the country including the private sector.

Vision

To be the center of excellence in Sri Lanka in medical supplies management by ensuring continuous availability medical supplies (Pharmaceutical, Surgical items, diagnostic items & X –Ray and printed materials) for the healthcare services in government sector health institutions through an effective and efficient medical supplies management.

Mission

To support the Ministry of health to achieve it vision for healthier nation by providing medical supplies (pharmaceutical, surgical items, diagnostics items & X – Ray and printed materials) to government health institutions efficiently and effectively and in accordance with government policies to ensure continuous availability of medical supplies while achieving 6 Rs (right item, right quality, right quantity, right price, right place & right time).

Objective

To ensure the timely supply of medical supplies (pharmaceuticals, surgical, laboratory, radioactive, narcotics printed forms etc.) to government hospitals focusing on achieving 6R (right item, right quality, right quantity, right price, right place and right person also in right time.)

Major Development and Achievements

- Purchased medical supplies for the year 2024 with allocation received from GOSL funds. The table shows the allocation & expenditures for the medical supplies from GOSL funds and other expenditures.

2024	Allocation for Year (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
Recurrent		
<i>Medical Supplies (MSD)</i>	42,400,000,000.00	17,996,368,558.59
<i>Other Recurrent</i>	795,150,000.00	240,650,049.40
Capital	517,000,000.00	136,954,770.48
Total	43,712,150,000.00	18,373,973,378.47

2024	Allocation for Year (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
SPC (GOSL)	61,000,000,000.00	33,032,525,393.98
SPC (Foreign Fund)	30,000,000,000.00	1,536,579,512.35 **
SPMC	30,000,000,000.00	19,837,890,764.30
Total	121,000,000,000.00	54,406,995,670.63

**** This includes only the amount accounted for by the Medical Supplies Division on behalf of SPC-ICL**

2025	Allocation (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
Recurrent		
<i>Medical Supplies (MSD)</i>	50,300,000,000.00	11,074,443,364.69
<i>Other Recurrent</i>	900,000,000.00	319,643,673.68
Capital **	189,000,000.00	128,460,445.38
Total	51,389,000,000.00	11,522,547,483.75

**** A request has been made to reclaim the allocation of Rs. 25,000,000.00 received under the vote 111-2-25-009-2103 for upgrading the facilities of the National Drugs Quality Assurance Laboratory; however, this amount has not been included here.**

2025	Allocation for Year 2025 (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
SPC	60,000,000,000.00	16,569,104,182.48
SPMC	35,000,000,000.00	5,365,692,709.81
Total	95,000,000,000.00	21,934,796,892.29

- The destruction of quality-failed medical supplies and unused donated items was initiated in 2025.

The listing of quality-failed items has been completed in 70 health institutions across the Southern, Central, and Western Provinces, with plans to complete all districts within the year 2025.

- Partially completed the formulary revision of Surgical item list and Diagnostic items list of Medical Supplies Division in 2024 & 2025 respectively.

Diagnostic Item List revision; 11 number of subcommittee meetings were conducted out of planned 15 meetings and completed with 75% physical progress.

Surgical Item List revision; 18 number of meetings were conducted out of planned 50 meetings with 36% physical progress

Supply position review meetings which were chaired by Hon. Health Minister, Hon. Deputy Minister, Secretary of Health and Director General of Health Services were conducted regularly for the year 2024 & 2025 (up to 30.06.2025) to minimize the shortages of pharmaceutical, surgical items and diagnostic items with the participation of the representatives of all stakeholder institutions including National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA), State Pharmaceutical Corporation (SPC) and Ministry of Health.

Summary of the meetings is mentioned in the below table.

Type of the meeting	No of Meetings conducted	
	2024	2025

Meetings chaired by Hon. Minister/Deputy Minister	5	17
Meetings chaired by Secretary of Health	12	1
Meetings chaired by DGHS	5	12
Total number of Meetings	22	30

- New circular was sent to all line ministry institutions, PDHS Offices & RDHS Offices informing that the time period of DTC meetings should be conducted: Line Ministry Institutions - once a month, PDHS Offices - once in three meetings, RDHS Offices - once in two months. MSD coordinated to conduct 479 meetings at Line ministry institutions, 146 meetings at RDHS offices & 23 meetings at PDHS Offices in 2024. MSD coordinated to conduct 245 meetings at Line ministry institutions, 66 meetings at RDHS offices & 11 meetings at PDHS Offices up to 30.06.2025
The minutes of the DTC meetings are collected by the Quality Unit of the MSD, and feedback or solutions are provided at the Medical Supplies Division level, while major issues are forwarded to the National DTC meeting for further discussion.
- Following trainings programmes were successfully completed according to the COPE decision.

Year	Topic	Number of staff trained
2024	Supply Chain Management	66 Medical Supplies Assistants (MSAs)
	Improving Quality Assurance in Pharmaceutica Procurement.	50 Stock control Officers
2025	In - service trainings.	60 staff including ICT Officers, Public Management Assistants, Development Officers, ICT Assistants & Wharf field Officers.

Development Project Details - 2024

The project “Improving Stores Facilities of Line Ministry Institutions, RMSDs and Base Hospitals in All Provinces” has been carried out successfully during the year 2024.

	Year	Total Estima	Issued Allocation	Expenditure (Rs.Mn)	Physical Progress by 31.12.2024	Financial Progress
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Project Description		te Cost (Rs.Mn)	for the year 2024 (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure up to 31.12.24	Bills in Hand	Total Expenditure	In Words	%	by 31.12.2024 (%)
Improving Stores Facilities of Line Ministry Institution s, RMSDs and Base hospitals in all Provinces.	2024	374.5	337.49	175.5	57.5	233	Issued allocation for 84 institutions. 78 institutions completed the work.	92	52
	Year	Total Estimate Cost (Rs.Mn)	Issued Allocation for the year 2024 (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure (Rs.Mn)			Physical Progress by 30.06.2025 (%)		Financial Progress by 30.06.2025 (%)
				Expenditure up to 30.06.2025	Bills in Hand	Total Expenditure			
	2025	60	60	58.4	1.64	58.4	97		97

Special Development Activities Planned

- Initiated the procurement of 20 cool lorries to transport medical supplies under the project of PHSEP (World Bank).
- Initiated procured 15 forklifts for use in the Medical Supplies Division's stores under the project of PHSEP (World Bank).
- Initiated to establish prefabricated regional drug store at Anuradhapura, Mahamodara & Welisara under the project of PHSEP (World Bank).
- Initiated to improving drug stores at PMCIs (Divisional Hospital type A/B/C & PMCUs) under the project of PHSEP (World Bank).

Projects carried out under Asian Development Bank.

- Renovation of MSD main stores and Angoda sub store with modern facilities.
- Modification of drug stores at 85 selected Base Hospitals Island wide.

10. Indigenous Medicine Sector

Introduction

The field of indigenous medicine is a highly knowledge-rich field that plays an important role in the health system of Sri Lanka. It is nourished by the disciplines of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and indigenous medicine, and additionally comprises alternative medical systems such as homeopathy. The Indigenous Medicine Sector of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media formulates policies related to this field, implements strategic plans, operates and monitors.

Special attention is currently being paid to the policy matters related to the indigenous medicine sector as outlined in the policy statement of the current government. The Indigenous Medicine Sector is taking planned action to make the policy matters of strengthening the administration and management of Ayurvedic hospitals, expanding Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani medical treatment, improving the production of indigenous medicines, expanding the treatment capacity of hospitals and improving teaching facilities, encouraging medicinal cultivation and related research, and promoting new research on traditional treatment methods and medicines a reality.

Vision

A healthy nation

Mission

Promoting a healthy nation through the excellence of the systems of indigenous medicine and the utilization of all other medical systems, ensuring the sustainable development of the country.

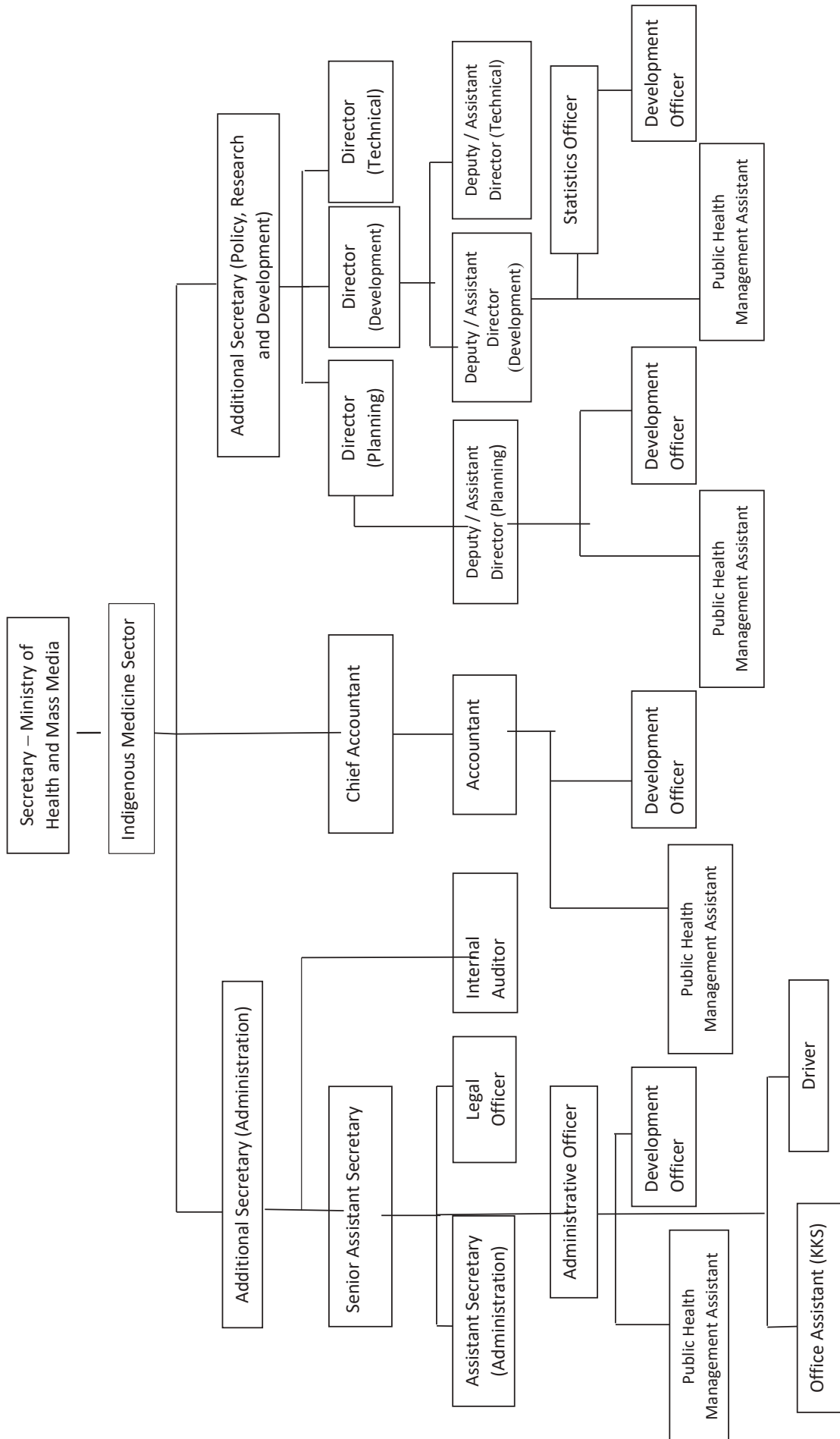
Duties and functions

Formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies, programs and projects related to the promotion of the indigenous medicine sector.

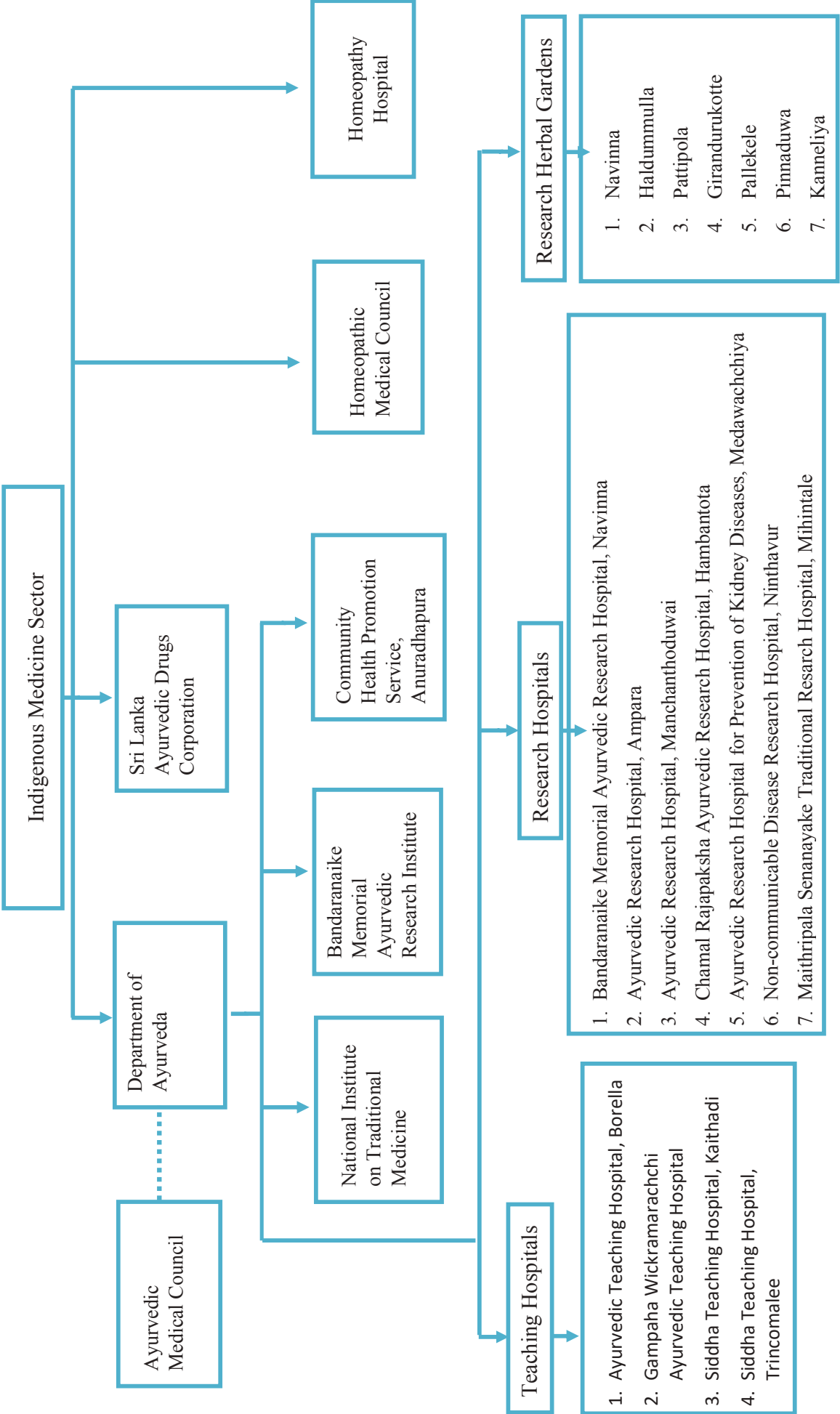
- To take steps to develop and improve traditional medicine.
- Production of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy medicine.
- Importation, sale and distribution of raw and manufactured medicine required for Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy medicine.
- Establishment and management of hospitals, research and training institutes and drugs sales outlets to improve indigenous medicine including Ayurveda, Siddha & Unani medicine.
- Regulating exportation of herbal plants, processed Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicine.
- Regulating Ayurvedic drugs manufacturers.

- Coordination with relevant stakeholders to implement projects such as promotion of herbal plant cultivation and improvement of local medicines.
- Registration of Ayurvedic manufacturers, Ayurvedic medical practitioners and Ayurvedic supplementary medical services.
- Setting up, operation and promotion of Ayurvedic hospitals, Ayurvedic research institutes, training institutes and pharmacies.
- Implementation of a program prioritizing local traditional and Ayurvedic treatments under coordination and regulation of the Tourist Board to treat tourists.
- Encouraging research in medicine and treatments of indigenous medicine.
- Administration and personnel management in indigenous medical service.

Corporate structure of the Indigenous Medicine Sector



Institutions coming under the Indigenous Medicine Sector



Corporate functions of the Indigenous Medicine Sector

Establishments Division

I. Staff particulars – Indigenous Medicine Sector

S/ No.	Post	Service	Salary Code	Class/grade	Approved cadre	Actual cadre	vacancie s
01	Additional Secretary (Administration)	SLAS	SL 3	Special	01	01	-
02	Additional Secretary (Policy, Research and Development)	SLAS	SL 3	Special	01	01	-
03	Senior Assistant Secretary	SLAS	SL 1	I	01	-	01
04	Chief Accountant	SLAcS	SL 1	I	01	01	-
05	Director	SLAS	SL 1	I	01	-	01
06	Director	SLPS	SL 1	I	01	01 (Acting)	-
07	Director (Technical)	SLAMS	SL 1	I	01		01
08	Accountant	SLAcS	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
09	Internal Auditor	SLAcS	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
10	Assistant/ Deputy Director	SLAS	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
11	Assistant/ Deputy Director	SLPS	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
12	Assistant/ Deputy Director	SLES	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
13	Assistant Secretary	SLAS	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
14	Legal Officer	Departmental	SL 1	III / II	01	01	-
15	Administrative Officer	HMSOS	Supra	MN 7	01	01	-
16	Translator	Translators' Service	MN 6	I / Special	01	-	01
17	Statistics Officer	Departmental	MN 5	III / II/I	01	01	-
18	Development Officer	DOS	MN 4	III / II/I	331	331	-

19	Health Management Service Officer	HMSOS	MN 2	III / II/ I	18	07	11
20	Video Cameraman	Departmental	MT 2	-	01	01	-
21	Driver	CDS	PL 3	III / II/ I Special	07	04	03
22	Office Assistant (KKS)	KKSS	PL 1	III / II/ I Special	10	06	04

II. Particulars of legislative enactments drafted

Regulation and Oversight of Private Ayurvedic Hospitals, Dispensaries and Ayurvedic Healthcare Centers

- A draft regulation for the supervision and regulatory activities of private Ayurvedic hospitals, dispensaries and Ayurvedic healthcare centers has been referred to the Legal Draftsman.
- The amendment to the Registered Ayurvedic Practitioners (Professional Conduct) Rules No. 01 of 2014 published in Gazette No. 1884/36 dated 15.09.2024 has been referred to the Legal Draftsman.
- Rules regarding the Register of the Ayurvedic Medical Council have been prepared and referred to the Ayurvedic Medical Council for publication in the Gazette.

III. Particulars of Special Agreements (MOUs) Reached During the Year

- Memorandum of Understanding for the development of cooperation between Sri Lanka and the Republic of India regarding traditional medical systems and homeopathic systems - awaiting response from the Indian Government.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (draft) regarding cooperation in traditional medical systems between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Government of Bhutan has been submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- The Memorandum of Understanding related to the traditional medical sector relevant to the fourth round of the Foreign Office Consultations process between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh has been referred to the Attorney General's Department for legal advice.

IV. Capacity Development Programs

S/No.	Training program	Participation	Attendance	Amount spent (Rs.)
01.	Office procedures and procedural rules	Development Officer/ Management Assistant	42	42,940.00

02.	Advanced Multimedia Web Design and Development techniques	Development Officer	01	35,000.00
03.	Workshop on Advanced Excel	Development Officer/ Management Assistant	16	165,000.00
04.	Recruitment Procedure	Development Officer/ Management Assistant	06	78,000.00
05.	Role and Responsibilities of KKSs	KKS	-	39,000.00
06.	Positive Psychology and Stress Management	Development Officer/ Management Assistant	06	78,000.00
07.	Disciplinary Procedure	Development Officer/ Management Assistant	03	39,000.00
08.	Writing Minutes and Reports	Development Officer/ Management Assistant	07	49,000.00
09.	Maintaining a Personal File Effectively	Development Officer	02	13,000.00
	Total			538,940.00

Progress of Development Projects/ Programs Implemented under the Indigenous Medicine Sector

I. Empowering Conservation Councils

Ayurveda Conservation Councils are being implemented to preserve the traditional medical system, improve the living standards of traditional doctors, and to ensure that traditional doctors contribute to the advancement of traditional medical systems at the Divisional Secretariat level while preserving the identity of their own medical profession.

For the year 2025, a provision of Rs. 3.0 million has been allocated for this purpose, under which activities such as awareness raising and empowerment of Conservation Council members, provision of small-scale pharmaceutical products and promotion of library service

facilities, and provision of herbal plants for the pharmaceutical production activities of doctors of Conservation Councils are being carried out.

II. Establishment of Nutrition Houses

The Nutrition House Program is being implemented with the aim of preventing non-communicable diseases by popularizing safe, nutritious local food among the people. Accordingly, a provision of Rs. 2.0 million has been allocated for this for the year 2025 and using those provisions, necessary steps are being taken to improve the Nutrition House built in 2024 in the Attanagalla Pradeshiya Sabha area and to provide 10 carts of gruel to 10 selected Divisional Secretariat divisions.

III. Homeopathic Medical Council

Provisions of Rs. 1.0 million have been allocated for the year 2025 for development of necessary facilities for the Homeopathic Medical Council and the clinics operating under it. Under this, after identifying the equipment required for the clinics, procurement activities are being carried out to purchase them.

IV. Homeopathy Systems Development

A provision of Rs. 3.0 million has been allocated for the year 2025 for development of Government Homeopathic Hospital and promotion of its related facilities. Under this, the renovation work of the hospital's laboratory building has been completed and estimates have been prepared and provisions made for construction of the guardhouse at main entrance of the hospital, construction of the wall near the laboratory, and preparation of the gully pit of the official residence, and future work is being carried out.

Although a provision of Rs. 6.5 million has been allocated for the year 2025 to start the laboratory services of the hospital, it is currently planned to start basic laboratory activities based on the laboratory equipment obtained in the year 2024. It has been decided to manage these services based on the existing staff capacity of the hospital and the demand of patients.

V. “Osu Diriya” Herbal Cultivation Promotion Project

The Osu Diriya Project will be implemented during the period 2025-2027 with the objectives of locally sourcing quality raw materials required for indigenous medicine production, saving foreign exchange spent on raw material imports within the country, and developing livelihoods. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 20.0 million, with Rs. 8.5 million allocated for the year 2025.

The project aims to encourage the identification of underutilized lands owned by state and private sectors and the cultivation and supply of identified medicinal plant varieties by farmers/cultivators who show interest. In this regard, infrastructure development is being carried out to increase the capacity of nurseries located in herbal plant gardens owned by

the Department of Ayurveda for identifying relevant lands and farmers and continuously supplying medicinal plant seedlings and planting materials. Additionally, providing farmers with necessary basic knowledge about cultivation practices and crop harvesting technology, and establishing market linkages are fundamental components of the project.

Currently, the identification of relevant lands and farmers has been completed, and basic activities related to infrastructure development in selected gardens of herbal plant are being carried out to increase the capacity needed for enhanced seedling production. Similarly, activities necessary for training farmers are also currently being undertaken.

VI. Implementation of Shared care with Ayurveda

It is a modern accepted concept that treating selected diseases with an integrated approach contributes to greater results. A provision of Rs. 5.0 million has been allocated in the 2025 budget to prepare the relevant hospitals for the implementation of this program. Under this, preliminary work is currently underway to develop the infrastructure required to start integrated health tourism care services at the Pottuvil Base Hospital.

VII. Contribution of Indigenous Medicine for Controlling and Preventing Non-communicable diseases

This program is being implemented to educate and motivate the public to use indigenous medical knowledge and its philosophy of life in practice for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. For the year 2025, the Ministry of Health has provided a provision of Rs. 0.3 million for this purpose.

Under this, activities such as introducing traditional food recipes and food processing methods to the public, improving the public centric knowledge and practices of indigenous food and nutrition, sharing the real experience of indigenous methods to overcome the problem of malnutrition, and popularizing yoga exercises are being implemented in 35 Divisional Secretariat Divisions.

VIII. Provision of Medicine for Free Ayurvedic Dispensaries

The amount of Rs. 200.0 million provided for this purpose has been allocated to the provinces as follows for the supply of medicines to free Ayurvedic dispensaries by the Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation and arrangements have been made to provide the relevant medicines accordingly.

S/No.	Province/ institution	Amount allocated (Rs.)	Value of bills submitted (Rs. Mn.)
01.	Western Province	49,000,000.00	
02.	Central Province	26,500,000.00	
03.	Southern Province	22,000,000.00	
04.	Northern Province	25,000,000.00	

05.	Eastern Province	10,300,000.00	49.041
06.	North Western Province	15,500,000.00	
07.	North Central Province	5,000,000.00	
08.	Uva Province	13,000,000.00	
09.	Sabaragamuwa Province	21,600,000.00	
10.	Anuradhapura Community Health Promotion Service	5,000,000.00	
	Total	192,900,000.00	

Financial Progress of the Indigenous Medicine Sector

Object	Provisions (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)	Percentage of expenditure (%)
Recurrent	560,300,000.00	180,312.457.82	32.18
General Administration/ Other Programs	498,700,000.00	154,435,760.66	30.97
<u>Establishment Services</u>			
• <u>Government Institutions</u>			
Homeopathic Medical Council	32,700,000.00	14,660,311.48	44.83
Homeopathy Hospital	28,600,000.00	11,216,385.68	39.22
For programs of intervention of indigenous medicine to control and prevent non-communicable diseases	300,000.00	-	-
Capital	34,000,000.00	1,922,191.81	5.65
General Administration	10,000,000.00	1,499,072.35	14.99
• Machinery & Equipment	3,000,000.00	87,672.35	2.92
• Vehicles	3,000,000.00	1,349,400.00	44.98
• Furniture and Office Equipment	2,000,000.00	-	-
• Machinery & Equipment	1,500,000.00	-	-
• Staff training	500,000.00	62,000.00	12.40

Special programs	24,000,000.00	423,119.46	-
• Homeopathy Council	1,000,000.00	-	-
• Conservation Councils	3,000,000.00	423,119.46	14.10
• Establishment of Nutrition Houses	2,000,000.00	-	-
• Homeopathy Systems Development	3,000,000.00	-	-
• Establishment of a laboratory research service in Homeopathy Hospital	6,500,000.00	-	-
• Osu Diriya promotion programs	8,500,000.00	-	-
Grand total	594,300,000.00	182,234,649.63	30.66
Other	Provision (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)	Percentage of expenditure (%)
• Ayurveda collaborative treatments	5,000,000.00	-	-
	5,000,000.00	-	-

Department of Ayurveda

I. Establishment and Administration Division

Local Training Programs

S/N o.	Conducted by	Course	Attendance	Amount spent
01.	Skills Development Fund	Workshop on salary Conversion	03	39,000.00
02.	Institute of official Language and Professional Studies	Diploma in English	01	60,000.00

03.	National Institute of Labour Studies	Office Management and Financial Regulations	02	24,000.00
04.	National Institute of Labour Studies	Answering Audit Queries	03	19,500.00
05.	National Institute of Labour Studies	Skills Development of Drivers	02	24,000.00
06.	Construction Equipment Training Centre	One Day Workshop for Drivers	01	6000.00
07.	National Institute of Labour Studies	Government Vehicle Maintenance	02	13,000.00
08.	National Institute of Labour Studies	Development of Leadership Skills	05	32,500.00

II. Overseas Training Programs

S/ No.	Country	Course	Attendance	Service Category	Duration
01.	India	International conference on Advance in medicinal & Aromatic plant research in context to Indian ocean region - 02	02	Ayurvedic Medical Officer	03.02.2025
02.	Switzerland	For WHO 78 WHA meeting	01	Commissioner General of Ayurveda	20.05.2025

III. Progress of Development Division

Physical Resource Development

Project particulars	Total estimated cost (Rs. Mn.)	Physical progress	Financial progress (Rs. Mn.)
Eight Storey Building in National Hospital of Ayurveda	300	50%	Rs. Mn. 24.29

For Research / Teaching Hospitals	275	25%	0
For Bandaranaike Memorial Research Institute	25	50%	0
For the National Institute on Traditional Medicine	7.5	50%	0
For Research and Extension Service Herbal Gardens	78	60%	0

IV. Implementation of phase 2 of the eight Storey building in National Hospital of Ayurveda

A provision of Rs. 300 million has been allocated for implementation of the second phase of the eight-Storey building of the Ayurvedic National Hospital for the year 2025. Under this, about 45% physical progress has been reported in the installation of the water and firefighting unit along with the pump room in the hospital premises, the construction of the generator room and the ATS room and the installation of the 16 kv generator and the sewage system. Since a practical problem has arisen in connecting the sewage system of the hospital to the Colombo Municipal Council sewage system, the work has been slightly delayed. In total, the project has reported a financial progress of Rs. 24.29 million so far.

V. State function of anointing oil

The state function of anointing oil conducted during Sinhala and Hindu New Year was held at Natha Devala premises of the Temple of Tooth Relic, Kandy on 16.04.2025 with participation of the Minister of Health and Mass Media.

VI. Progress of the Technical Division

Issuance of licenses by the Department of Ayurveda

S/No.	Issuance of licenses to institutions	No.	Income earned (Rs.)
01.	Ayurvedic Drugs Manufactories – (Annual)	10	250,000.00

02.	Ayurveda Treatment Centers	32	43,800.00
03.	Ayurveda Treatment Centers in Hotels	11	132,000.00
04.	Ayurveda Hospitals	03	27,000.00
05.	Ayurveda Pharmacies	09	170,000.00
06.	First Registration of Indigenous Medical Products	03	45,000.00
07.	Renewal of Indigenous Medical Products	24	130,500.00
08.	Annual Registration of Imported Drugs	16	721,237.50
	Total	108	1,519,537.50

Conducting Committees

S/No.	Committee	No. of turns held
01.	Ayurvedic Drugs and Products Regulatory Council	08
02.	Technical Committee on Ayurvedic Drugs	22
03.	Ayurveda Manufacturing and Warehouse Evaluation Committee	05
04.	Ayurvedic Manufacturing, Warehouse and Market Investigation Committee	01
05.	Ayurvedic Drugs and Products Regulatory Council	08

VII. Progress of the Examinations Division

Exams conducted

S/No.	Title of the examination	Date calling applications	Date the examination was held	No. of participants
01.	Ayurveda Shasthri Annual Written Text - 2024	May 2024	27 th and 28 th July 2024 & 03 rd , 04 th and 10 th August 2024	278

02.	Final evaluation test of the Korean acupuncture course - 2024	August 2024	02nd, 3rd, 4 th , 05 th , 06 th , 09 th and 10 th September 2024	47
03.	Efficiency Bar Examinations for the post of Office Assistant, Service Assistant recruited under code number PL 01 - 2024	March 2024	22 nd , 23 rd , 24 th and 25 th October 2024	338
04.	Efficiency Bar Examination of government Ayurvedic medical officers -2024	September 2024	26.10.2024	78
05.	Oral and practical test of the Ayurvedic Shastri Annual Examination - 2024	October 2024	24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 Nov. 2024 & 01, 07 Dec. 2024	Oral - 111 Practical - 31
06.	Grade 11 Efficiency Bar Examination for Community Health Development Officers - 2024	November 2024	15.12.2024	31
07.	Supplementary examination for final year students of Lanka Siddha Ayurvedic Medical College - 2024	08.12.2023	25.01.2025 to 08.02.2025	17
08.	Efficiency Bar Examination for Ayurvedic Medical Officers - 2025	February 2025	30.03.2025	28
09.	Additional test for Ayurveda Shasthri students -2024	February 2025	29.04.2025 to 04.05.2025	210
10.	Final evaluations of the Ayurvedic Dispenser Quarterly Training Course Written, Oral and Practical Test - 2025	February 2025	From 14 to 21 May 2025	29
11.	Additional test for Ayurveda Shasthri	February 2025	28 & 30 Jun. 2025	56

	students -2024 (Practical test)			
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VIII. Financial Progress

Overall Financial Progress of the Department of Ayurveda

Category/ Object/ Item	Provisions (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)	Percentage %
Recurrent expenditure	4,195,000,000.00	1,284,398,122.29	30.62
General Administration	330,000,000.00	65,052,208.89	19.71
Hospital Services	3,212,000,000.00	950,810,742.47	29.60
Research	85,000,000.00	13,912,393.81	16.37
Education and Training	405,000,000.00	188,856,217.56	46.63
Herbal Cultivation Preservation Project	163,000,000.00	65,766,559.56	40.35
Capital Expenditure	980,000,000.00	29,369,893.00	3.00
General Administration	90,000,000.00	1,245,697.20	1.38
Hospital Services	668,000,000.00	24,320,710.29	3.64
Research	90,000,000.00	428,342.16	0.48
Education and Training	45,000,000.00	3,375,143.35	7.50
Herbal Cultivation Preservation Project	87,000,000.00	-	-
Total Expenditure	5,175,000,000.00	1,313,768,015.29	25.39
General Administration	420,000,000.00	66,297,906.09	15.79
Hospital Services	3,880,000,000.00	975,131,452.76	25.13
Research	175,000,000.00	14,340,735.97	8.19
Education and Training	450,000,000.00	192,231,360.91	42.72
Herbal Cultivation Preservation Project	250,000,000.00	65,766,559.56	26.31

Ayurvedic Teaching and Research Hospitals

Ayurvedic Teaching Hospitals

Basic Information

Hospital	National Hospital of Ayurveda - Borella	Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurvedic Teaching Hospital - Yakkala	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Kaithadi	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Koonespuri
Commencement	10.06.1929	1984	29.06.1973	06.07.2009
Year	2025	2025	2025	2025
No. of wards	11	4	5	3
No. of beds	210	108	130	12
No. of Doctors	125	61	17	6
Nursing staff	77	17	3	10
Other staff	230	79	55	13

Medical Students who were Provided with Teaching Facilities

Hospital	National Hospital of Ayurveda - Borella	Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurvedic Teaching Hospital - Yakkala	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Kaithadi	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Koonespuri
Year	2025	2025	2025	2025
No. of Beneficiaries of Teaching Facilities	7,200*	450	459	8400*

*No. of beneficiaries of teaching facilities has been recorded based on daily attendance.

Provision of Patient Treatment Services

Hospital	National Hospital of Ayurveda - Borella	Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurvedic Teaching	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Kaithadi	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Koonespuri
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		Hospital - Yakkala		
Year	2025	2025	2025	2025
OPD	92,212	19,146	13,740	8,635
Resident	26,586*	729	572	131
Clinical	2,054	29,122	8,305	1,482
Panchakarma	1,757	2,763	72	120
Total	122,609	51,760	22,689	6,943

*Reported of midnight decision

Provision of Community Health Treatment Services

Hospital	National Hospital Ayurveda Borella	Siddha of - Teaching Hospital - Kaithadi
Year	2025	2025
Mobile clinics	1,972	-
Awareness	12	10
Special clinics	6	3

Medicine Production of Ayurvedic Teaching Hospitals

Hospital	Borella	Kaithadi	Yakkala	Trincomalee
Bottles (liters)				
Arishta	525	-	-	-
Asawa	-	-	72	-
Oil	3,095	869.25	450.667	306
Syrup	-	832.5	-	126
Kwatha	11,500	-	146.500	-
beverages		-	-	-
Decoction	9,792	2,342	2,286.720	-
Other	-	87.8	398	-
Anupana (60 ML)	-	316.08	-	-
Gandusha Liquid	-	-	-	-
Eye drops	26	-	-	-
Kg.				

Pills	8	11.05	-	-
Paste	300	-	53.55	-
Lepa	800	53.3	-	1
Powder	1,700	362.3	156.955	8.3
Saline	0.1162	-	-	-
Panta	16	-	402.620	-
Fermentations	-	-	98.940	-
Leha	-	28.34	-	-
Guggulu	50	-	-	-
Heating	-	-	136.77	-
Vati	45	-	-	-
Varti	-	.041	-	-
Powder	-	2.39	-	-
Purified gugul	45	0.466	-	-
Panchawalkala	145	3.9	-	-
Mallum	-	318.1	-	-
Other (saline formula strings)	160	-	-	-

Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute

Expansion of Research and Development

Activity	Anticipated target	Performance indicator	Physical target (annual)	Physical progress
1. Experimental assessment of the clinical efficacy of selected drugs	Accelerate healing through effective use	No. of researches Percentage of work completed (%)	05 100 %	02 Approval (ERC & AC) received and started. 20 %

2. Conducting collaborative research to identify novel pharmacological activities of indigenous medicinal plants	Unveiling the modern medicinal chemical activity of indigenous medicinal plants	No. of researches Percentage of work completed (%)	01 100 %	01 60 %
3. Conducting research on germination methods and cultivation of medicinal plants that are not cultivated locally but are economically important, and tissue culture	Minimizing foreign exchange outflows by promoting local cultivation	Number of germination and cultivation methods. 5% plant production growth rate. Percentage of work completed (%)	03 100 % 100 %	01 20 % 20 %

Standardization and Ensuring Safety

Activity	Anticipated target	Performance indicator	Physical target (Annual)	Physical progress
1. Preparation of standard specifications for local medicines	Release of standard specifications for selected finished drugs	No. of finished drugs Percentage of work completed (%)	05 100 %	05 40 %
2. Preparation of standard specifications for raw materials (finished products)	Release of standard specifications for finished products used as pharmaceutical ingredients	No. of finished drugs Percentage of work completed (%)	06 100 %	06 50 %
3. Testing local drug/raw material samples and	Ensuring the quality and safety of local medicines/raw materials	No. of samples	As required	20

issuing quality certificates				
4. Formulation and publication of botanical and chemical standards for local medicinal ingredients (plants)	Production of high-quality raw materials	Number of botanical and standard parameters Percentage of work completed (%)	10 100 %	02 20 %
5. Collaborative research on the identification of controversial medicinal plants and their analogues	Ensuring safety of the use of medicinal plants	No. of researches Percentage of work completed (%)	03 100 %	03 90 %

Innovation, Research and Development

Activity	Anticipated target	Performance indicator	Physical target (Annual)	Physical progress
1. Value-added pharmaceutical development	Launching value-added user-friendly products	No. of products Percentage of work completed (%)	01 100 %	01 60 %
2. Conducting collaborative research for the production of value-added medicines	Launching value-added user-friendly products	No. of researches Percentage of work completed (%)	05 100 %	05 60 %
3. Conducting research to accurately identify medicinal plants needed for local	Launching new products for clinical research	No. of researches Percentage of work completed (%)	04 100 %	04 75 %

medicine production				
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Preservation of indigenous medical knowledge

Activity	Anticipated target	Performance indicator	Physical target (Annual)	Physical progress
1. Copying and printing of ola leave books	Publishing indigenous medical knowledge that needs to be preserved in print media	No. of ola leave books copied No. of books printed	05 1000	01 300
2. Preservation of ola leave books	Preservation of indigenous medical knowledge	No. of ola leave books	500	Estimates have been submitted from the National Library and Documentation Services Board, the National Museum and the Department of National Archives.
3. Creating a database containing information on traditional healers	Preserving the intellectual capital of traditional healers			
3.1 Preparing a request for proposal document for the design, installation and maintenance of a computer software	Obtaining approval for procurement activities required for designing computer software	No. of documents Percentage of work completed (%)	 100 %	01 50 %
3.2 Conducting a preliminary census for the National Register of	Establishing a national register of traditional healers	Number of doctors who submitted data		3104

Traditional healers				
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Improvement of Extension Services

Activity	Anticipated target	Performance indicator	Physical target (Annual)	Physical progress
1. Launch of standard parameters for medicinal ingredients	Preparation of monographs containing relevant standard parameters for selected medicinal ingredients	No. of monographs No. of books Percentage of work completed (%)	10 01 100 %	20 %
	Development of a database for introduction of botanical and chemical standards for medicinal ingredients	Data base Percentage of work completed (%)	01 50 %	
2. Accurate identification of medicinal plants and ingredients	Updating the book "A Checklist of Medicinal Plants of Sri Lanka"	No. of books Percentage of work completed (%)	01 33.3 %	15 %
	Updating the dry herbarium and raw herbarium	No. of dry samples Percentage of work completed (%)	200 100 %	55 30 %
3. Providing awareness and training services	Providing effective services by educating all client parties on the subject	Awareness/ training programs Percentage of work completed (%)	50 100 %	15 30 %
4. Publication of research work in scientific publications	Knowledge dissemination	Scientific publications Percentage of work completed (%)	05 100 %	01 20 %
5. Providing support services to university students and external parties	Knowledge exchange and development	Verified dry samples Number of samples confirmed to be accurate		112 12

Teaching and Capacity Development

Activity	Anticipated target	Performance indicator	Physical target (Annual)	Physical progress
1. Providing teaching facilities on clinical activities	Skills development through completion of internship medical training of indigenous medical students	Number of undergraduate beneficiaries	100	19
2. Providing teaching facilities on standardization and laboratory testing	Developing the ability to plan testing activities independently	Number of undergraduate beneficiaries	20	6
3. Providing resources for capacity development workshops on laboratory testing	Capacity development in laboratory testing	Number of beneficiaries		112

Human and Physical Resources Development

Activity	Anticipated target	Performance indicator	Physical target (Annual)	Physical progress
1. Corporate manufacturing of medicines for patient care services	Providing a systematic service through the development of physical resources	Number of medicines produced Number of drugs produced for research purposes	As required	17 01

2. Providing library staff capacity development training	Providing a systematic service through the development of human resources	No. of beneficiaries	03	03
3. Subject-specific local training	Herbal plants Conducting productive research through the development of subject-related human and physical resources	No. of training Percentage of work completed (%)	04 100 %	
4. Development of herbal gardens	Conservation of medicinal plants and biodiversity at the Nawinna Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute Herbal Garden	Amount of development activities performed Percentage of work completed (%)	First phase started 33.3 %	20 %

National Institute on Traditional Medicine

2024 Progress – Fourth Quarter (October, November, December)

S/ No .	Main Program / Project	Annual Allocation of Provisions (Rs. Mn.)	Financial progress during the quarter recorded (Rs.)	Physical progress during the quarter	No. of participants
1.	Training programs for	0.15	116,095	01 program	50

	traditional healers				
2.	Capacity building programs for Ayurvedic medical officers	0.7	327,090.78	03 programs	50
3.	Training programs for medical support staff	0.25	14,836.50	02 programs	34
4.	Capacity building programs for non-academic staff	0.06	36,670	01 program	23
5.	Yoga Unit Programs	0.4	505,810	02 programs	71
6.	Elderly care program	-	979,160	02 programs	223
7.	Special programs	-	51,365	01 program	70
8.	Private courses	-	461,067.50	01 program	20
	Total	1.56	2,492,098.78	13	541

2025 Progress - First and Second Quarter

S/No.	Main Program / Project	Annual Allocation of Provisions (Rs. Mn.)	Financial progress during the quarter recorded (Rs.)	Physical progress during the quarter	No. of participants
1	Training programs for traditional healers	10.0	1,544,413.84	programs 6	257
2	Capacity building programs for Ayurvedic medical officers	14.0	903,971.00	programs 9	184

3	Training programs for medical support staff		1,055,538.70	programs 4	97
4	Capacity building programs for non-academic staff		38,940.00	programs 1	40
5	Yoga Unit Programs		572,867.00	programs 2	50
6	Elderly care program	9	636,508.49	programs 2	107
7	Special programs	***	243,130.00	programs 1	270
8	Private courses	4.5	92,397.00	programs 1	20
	Total	35	5,087,766.03	26	1,025

***- Provisions were obtained for this special program under expenditure items 1409-140 (Rs. 0.7 million).



Ayurvedic Medical Council

Financial Provisions (2024/2025)

Item	2024 Rs.	2025 Rs.
Government provisions	0.00	0.00
Revenue earned	18,345,758.00	7,975,745.00
Total receipts	18,345,758.00	7,975,745.00

Doctors registered with the Ayurvedic Medical Council

Item	Total No. of Doctors
General Physician	
1. Registered No. of General Physicians	17,184
Graduates	4,304
Diploma Holders	5,864
Traditional - General	7,016
Traditional Special	
2. Total No. registered (Traditional – Special)	10,518
Total No. of Doctors registered	27,702
Number of doctors who have died	4,132

- 337 general practitioners and 148 specialist doctors have renewed their registration as at 30.06.2025.
- The Ayurvedic Medical Council operates mobile services throughout the island for the convenience of its clients. Accordingly, 03 mobile offices have been operated from August to December 2024, and the number of doctors who have received services from them is 25.

Other special activities carried out

Item	Progress (No.)
Verification of medical certificates	98
Issuance of identity cards for registered Ayurvedic doctors	583
Issuance of vehicle logos	122
Number of medical certificate books issued	571
Number of certificates issued with additional qualifications	16

Renewal of registration of Ayurvedic Doctors

Number of doctors whose registration has been renewed	2024		2025
	General	350	58
	Special	89	-
Number of doctors whose registration has been renewed	439		58

A Public Complaints Investigation Unit has been established by the Ayurvedic Medical Council to investigate and take necessary legal action against professional misconduct by doctors registered with the Ayurvedic Medical Council, as well as complaints made against persons posing as Ayurvedic doctors without being registered. The primary objective of this is to investigate irregularities, professional misconduct, acts contrary to Ayurvedic ethics, etc. committed by such doctors.

Item	2024	2025
Number of complaints received for investigation	11	19
Number of complaints investigated	03	15
Number of complaints closed (as a percentage)	27%	79%

Ayurvedic Community Health Promotion Service - Anuradhapura

This unit is conducting various programs and awareness campaigns in the Anuradhapura district for the control of communicable and non-communicable diseases and primary health care according to the Ayurvedic concept. Pre-school and school-based nutrition programs and child health care, provision of community-based adult health services, mental health promotion, maternal health, conservation of medicinal plants and sustainable use of

programs are special under this. Only recurrent provisions (for employee salaries) have been provided for this unit and no provisions have been provided for maintaining other activities. However, through the intervention of the Indigenous Medicine Sector, a portion of the provisions received from the Ministry of Health for the control of non-communicable diseases has been provided to this unit, and a significant amount of work has been accomplished during the year.

Program	Program / Activity	No.	
		2024	2025
01. Community Based Elderly Care Services	1.Staff Training	01	-
	2.Community Health Development Officer Training	01	-
	3.Primary Care Clinics	60	263
	4.Participation	1,877	7,350
02. Ranaviru Clinic	Clinical Services	29	63
03. Non-Communicable Disease Control	1. Occupational Health	43	6
	2.Mobile Medical Clinics Participation	9	7
	3.Street Drama Performance	433	211
	4.Staff Training	22	-
	5.Research - Community Based	3	-
	6.Basic Testing Beneficiaries	01	-
	7.Awareness Participation	10	28
04. Yoga	1.Staff Training (TOT)	336	617
	2.Yoga Practical (Quarterly)	618	1,072
	3.Adult Yoga Programs	7,362	13,269
	4.Number of Adults Participated	1	-
	5.Children (Pre-school/School) Yoga Number of children participated	14	-
		44	231
		601	2,939
		5	26
		122	550

05. Nutrition Programs	1.Local Food Processing Workshops Number of Beneficiaries	289 4,773	242 3,292
	2.Nutrition Awareness Participation	342 5,099	478 5,319
	3.Nutrition Exhibitions	7	
06. Communicable Disease Control	1.Dengue Prevention Programs Beneficiaries	306 3,605	604 7,178
	2.Leishmaniasis Awareness Beneficiaries	518 5,898	726 8,329
	3.Rat Bite Fever Prevention Programs Beneficiaries	97 1,195	157 1,996
07. Herbal Conservation and Sustainable Use	1.Establishment of Herbal Nurseries	2	2
	2.Hand Medicine Awareness	7	10
08. Research Paper Presentations	1.Nutrition Related	2	2
	2.Infectious Disease Leishmaniasis	1	
	3.Infectious Disease Control related	-	2 - referred

Helawiru Suwadharani Health Service Program

Month	No. of clinics	Participation		No. of beneficiaries
		Female	Male	
January	8	148	80	228
February	12	310	112	422
March	14	239	106	345
April	12 17	208	50	258
May		381	136	517
Total		1,286	484	1,770

Homeopathy Medicine

Homeopathy is a popular alternative medicine that cures diseases by boosting the body's natural immunity and is free of side effects. Homeopathic medicines are best suited for non-communicable diseases and viral diseases that cannot be controlled by antibiotics. These medicines are produced at minimal cost using natural materials such as plants, animals and metals and are also easy to use.

Homeopathy Hospital

Current situation and progress

- It consists of an outpatient department that provides treatment to approximately 100-150 patients daily and an inpatient department that can accommodate 20 inpatients.
- Ten Sri Lankan students were sent to the National Institute of Homeopathy in Calcutta each year under scholarships provided annually by the Ministry of AYUSH, India, to pursue a degree in Homeopathy.
- The medicines required for the government-run independent homeopathic clinics under the Homeopathic Medical Council are distributed through the Homeopathic Hospital. These medicines are imported by the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation and supplied to the Welisara Homeopathic Hospital. In 2025, medicines worth Rs. 5.3 million were imported.
- Laboratory tests are performed to detect communicable diseases such as dengue and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and high cholesterol at an early stage, and laboratory services have been provided to 623 patients up to December 2024. Also, the number of patients provided with laboratory services up to May 2025 is 237.
- During the last 6 months of 2024, 12,441 outpatients and 91 inpatients were treated.
- The Homeopathic Hospital has provided treatment to 430 patients through mobile clinics conducted at 05 locations from August 2024 to June 2025.

No. of patients treated during year 2025

Month	Outpatients	Inpatients
January	2,353	23
February	2,139	17
March	2,176	21
April	2,143	18
May	2,062	15
Total	10,873	94

Homeopathic Medical Council

S/No	Clinic	No. of patients treated
01.	Dehiwala	2724
02.	Tholangamuwa	4706
03.	Parakaduwa	2156
04.	Kurunegala	6912
05.	Kotmale	3962
06.	Monaragala	4256
07.	Palamunei	2319
08.	Puttalam	3878
09.	Ambalangoda	2570
10.	Batticaloa	2962
11.	Ingiriya	720
12.	Ratgama	1881
13.	Polonnaruwa	4773
14.	Matale*	255
Total		44,074

Due to dilapidation of the building where the Matale Homeopathic Clinic was located, it was removed and established in Akurana area on Matale Road as per the notification issued by the Matale Municipal Council. During that period, the duty doctor and employees of Matale Homeopathic Clinic were assigned to the Kurunegala Clinic, and patients were referred to the Kurunegala Clinic for treatment.

Mobile clinics and seminars conducted by the Homeopathic Medical Council during year 2025

One of the main tasks of the Homeopathic Medical Council held annually is to organize homeopathic seminars and mobile clinics with the aim of popularizing the homeopathic medical system among the public.

S/No.	Clinic which conducted the program	Venue of the clinic	Dates conducted	No. of participants

01.	Rajagama	- Madampagama, Maharuppa Community Hall - Pilana, Pilana Swashakthi Sarwodaya Shramadana Society Ltd., Angulugaha	10.01.2025, 07.02.2025, 14.03.2025, 21.03.2025, 04.04.2025, 09.05.2025, 13.06.2025	245
02.	Parakaduwa	Parakaduwa, Narada Central College ('From us to the Village' combined project)	05.04.2025	36
03.	Dehiwala	Lak Siyane Building Premises of the District Secretariat, Gampaha	16.05.2025	109
04.	Kotmale	Weliganga - Mawathura	30.05.2025	67
05.	Akurana	Akurana Divisional Secretariat, Nirella Grama Niladhari Division	13.06.2025	40
06.	Kotmale	Walasdeniya - Gampala	20.06.2025	125
07.	Akurana	Alawathugoda	25.06.2025	30

The Technical Committee has recommended 03 import licenses worth US\$ 36,333.93 to doctors and institutions for the importation of homeopathic medicines

Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation

Annual production (based on production cost)

Year	2023	2024	2025
Annual production (Rs. Mn.)	644.76	606.347	275.565

Annual sale

Year	2023	2024	2025
Annual production (Rs. Mn.)	1218.88	1528.75	611.85

Achieving the highest sales in history of Rs. 1528.75 million in 2024 is a special achievement and was due to the following factors.

- Streamlining the supply chain to obtain herbal raw materials required for production more cost-effectively. Significant reduction in raw material prices compared to previous purchase prices.
- Efficiently controlling administrative and operational expenses.
- Carrying out repairs of machinery and vehicles with proper supervision at minimal cost.
- Fulfilling the supply of medicines for government sector orders to the maximum extent possible within the allocation limits and increasing sales in the private sector.

Targets achieved during 2024/2025 (Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation)

- Resolving working capital issues and bringing it to a profitable state
- Putting unused machines to use
 - The unused processing and filling machines purchased by the Corporation have been modernized and put into use.
 - The unused processing and filling machines that were in possession of the Department of Ayurveda were acquired by this Corporation and are currently undergoing renovations.
- Record sales increase
- Expanding the sales network
- In addition to the island-wide sales network, 12 district sales representatives are actively conducting sales activities and efforts are underway to further expand this by appointing local, online and international sales representatives.
- Product innovation
- Introducing blister packing for medicines that were previously in the form of tablets and capsules.
- Modernization of the packaging sector
- Development of herbal gardens and collection of herbal raw materials from areas surrounding herbal gardens
- Obtaining quality certificates
- Expanding promotional and advertising activities
- Introduction of ERP computer software system



Future Plans and Proposals (Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation)

- Supplying medicines for allocations given to government institutions for the purchase of medicines and carrying out production and marketing activities targeting the open market.
- Efficiently utilizing the existing manufacturing capacity, repairing machinery and purchasing new machines.
- Installing solar energy systems to increase energy efficiency.
- Expanding research and development activities to improve product quality and packaging and introducing new medicines and herbal products.
- Efficient use of information systems and gaining competitive advantages through digitalization by implementing the new ERP computer software system developed by Talentfort, a subsidiary of Sri Lanka Telecom.
- Making drugs distribution operations more efficient and purchasing new lorries.
- Manufacturing successfully identified drugs in collaboration with the Faculty of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka Institute of Industrial Technology (ITI).
- Entering into contractual arrangements to use the machinery used for the production of drugs owned by ITI and other government institutions.
- Constructing a new warehouse complex at the main manufacturing premises and to construct a flavoring manufacturing plant at the Pathiragoda manufacturing site.
- Obtaining ISO 22000 quality certification and other international quality certifications in addition to the ISO 9001:20 already obtained.
- Upgrading the laboratory.

- Obtaining free airtime on state radio and television media outlets or obtaining the opportunity to carry out advertising activities at subsidized rates to expand promotional and advertising activities.
- Taking steps to import medicinal raw materials that are not available in the country and are not in sufficient supply and to export the Corporation's products to foreign markets.
- Cultivating medicines. (In conjunction with the integrated cultivation program of the Ministry of Health, involving the private sector with Corporation's herbal gardens.)

Development Projects and Programs scheduled for the coming year (2026)

- Improving the Ayurvedic hospital system to make a greater contribution to the national health system
- Taking steps to generate foreign exchange for the government through the potential of the indigenous medicine sector
- Promoting and preserving traditional medical systems
- Diversifying and exporting products related to the indigenous medicine sector
- Strengthening regulation of the indigenous medicine sector
- Expanding research opportunities in the indigenous medicine sector
- Discouraging the import of medicines from abroad and saving foreign exchange through herbal cultivation
- Efficient and effective maintenance of research herbal gardens
- Promotion of non-toxic, nutritious local food and beverages
- Development of homeopathy as an alternative medical system
- Maintenance of collaborative/integrated care services
- Use of indigenous medical knowledge and approaches for the control and prevention of non-communicable diseases
- Expansion of human resource development facilities related to the field of indigenous medicine and introduction of timely courses
- Promotion of international cooperation and knowledge exchange related to the field of indigenous medicine
- Promotion of standardized local pharmaceutical products
- Promotion of elderly care and rehabilitation services

Capital Investment - 2026**Indigenous Medicine Sector**

S/No.	Program	Amount to be spent (Rs.)
01.	Strengthening Conservation Councils	5.0
02.	Establishment of Nutritional Homes(Poshana Mandira)	3.0
03.	Development of Homeopathic Systems	3.0
04.	Establishment of Laboratory Research Services at Homeopathic Hospital	1.0
05.	Homeopathic Medical Council	1.5
06.	Rehabilitation and Improvement of Capital Assets	12.0
07.	Capacity Development	1.0
08.	“Osu Diriya” and Herbal Cultivation Promotion Project	7.5
	Total	34.0

Progress Report 2025

Mass Media Division

Ministry of Health and Mass Media

Progress Report presented by The Ministry of Health and Mass Media
for the Committee Stage of the Budget 2026
(01.01.2025 – 30.09.2025)

1.0. Mass Media Division

1.1. The Scope

To create an appropriate media culture for a balanced communication of information, knowledge and ideologies that affirms the people's right to know correct information, including freedom of speech and expression, as well as to the subject of media in accordance with the laws and ordinances prescribed to "introduce a transparent media culture" based on national policies implemented by the government. Formulation of relevant policies, implementation of projects under the national budget, public investment and national development program and formulation, implementation, follow-up action and evaluation of related policies, programs and projects.

1.2. Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

‘A well-informed, pluralistic and dynamic society’

Mission

‘Formulating, facilitating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies and strategies in order to establish a people-friendly, development-oriented, free and responsible Sri Lankan media culture’

Objectives

- Extending necessary assistance for the creation of a better media culture.
- Broadening the equal access to information for the public.
- Facilitating the field of media with sophisticated technology.
- Encouraging the uplift of the professionalism of media personnel.
- Upgrading the media contribution and participation in the national development effort.
- Providing the leadership to boost the country's image internationally.
- Development of human resources to achieve the goals of the Ministry.
- Effective utilization of the resources of the institutions affiliated to the Ministry.
- Strengthening the development process through the coordination of respective Parties.

1.3. Activities and Functions

- Formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects, in relation to the subject of Mass Media, and those subjects that come under the purview of Departments, Statutory Institutions and Public Corporations based on the national policies implemented by the government.
- Provision of public services in an efficient and people-friendly manner.
- Reforming all systems and procedures using modern management techniques and technology, thus ensuring that the functions are fulfilled while eliminating corruption and waste.
- Adoption of necessary measures to ensure people's right to accurate information.
- Government printing and publication activities.
- Formulation of strategies to obtain the contribution of the mass media for economic, social and cultural development by developing the knowledge, attitudes and a high sense of appreciation of the people.
- Promotion of the use of modern technology for the use of mass media.
- Introducing a Mass Media Policy.
- Taking necessary measures for the dissemination of state official announcements and news to the public.
- Release of relevant information on Sri Lanka to local and foreign media agencies.
- Provision of information and publicity material to Sri Lanka Missions abroad.
- Taking appropriate measures for the production and broadcasting of news, films and documentaries.
- Publicity work, including commercial television, radio broadcasting and overseas transmissions.
- Provision of diversified business-oriented modern postal service adopting state-of-the-art technology and management methodologies to maintain efficient domestic and foreign postal services.
- Administration of the Sri Lanka Philatelic Bureau.
- All other subjects that come under the purview of institutions.
- Supervision of all institutions, including departments, statutory institutions and corporations.

1.4. Specific Priorities

- Introduction of transparent mass media policy.
- Establishment of the media standards that conform to the national and international Rules and Regulations.
- Preparation of the necessary background in a manner that the media personnel and the media organizations would not exceed the socio-cultural values and the social framework of ethics.
- Restructuring of the Sri Lanka Press Council.
- Engaging in the activities of mass media at the provincial level to extend facilities to the media personnel.
- Expansion of the Sri Lanka Postal Service for the needs of the people.
- Introduction of a social education system to impart professional knowledge and understanding on the use and handling of the new media, including social media.
- Opening up of the opportunities for media higher education professional skills development in line with the international standards.
- Introduction and implementation of the systems necessary for the people-centric digital mail and allied services that are efficient and targeted at novel opportunities based on the new technology.

1.5. The relevant entities and the legal framework

#	Departments, Statutory Institutions and Public Corporations	Laws, Acts and Ordinances to be implemented
i	Right to Information Commission	Right to Information Act (No. 12 of 2016)
ii	Online Safety Commission	Online Safety Act (No. 09 of 2024)
iii	Department of Government Printing	
iv	Department of Information	
v	Sri Lanka Press Council	Sri Lanka Press Council Act (No. 05 of 1973)
vi	Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation	Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Act (No. 37 of 1966)
		Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (Special Provisions) Act (No. 08 of 1996)
vii	Independent Television Media Network Limited	Articles of Association
viii	Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation	Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation Act (No. 06 of 1982)
ix	Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited	Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (Special Provisions) Act (No. 28 of 1973)
x	Lankapuwath Limited	Newspapers Ordinance (No. 05 of 1839)
xi	Sri Lanka Foundation	Sri Lanka Foundation Act (No. 31 of 1973)
xii	Department of Posts - Sri Lanka	Post Office Ordinance (No. 11 of 1908)
		Stamp Ordinance (No. 22 of 1909)
xiii	Sri Lanka Institute of Printing	Sri Lanka Institute of Printing Act (No. 18 of 1984)
xiv	Sri Lanka Media Training Institute	

1.6. Physical Progress as of 30.09.2025

1.6.1. Implementation of the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016

The Ministry of Mass Media has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing and socially integrating the Right to Information Act, which came into force as from the 04th of August 2016 through the Parliament of Sri Lanka. Commenced being operative to implement as from the 03rd of February 2017, the primary objective of the Right to Information Act was to give effect to the due implementation of the principles of democracy and good governance in the country, thereby establishing a responsible public service void of any corruption, ensuring

the right of the people to know the official information of the government. The Ministry of Mass Media was instrumental in actively contributing towards the continuous social integration of this Act right from the year 2017 itself.

1.6.1.1. Carrying out the tasks assigned to the Ministry of Mass Media in accordance with the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016 and the execution of coordination work with the Right to Information Commission

In this exercise, the liaison work in concert with the Right to Information Act was carried on according to the relevant method of requesting information. Annual, semi-annual, as well as bi-monthly status reports numbering 7 have so far been furnished to the Right to Information Commission. Furthermore, the work supposed to be attended by the Commission in connection with citizens or public authorities and the various requests made by the Right to Information Commission were referred to the respective institutions.

1.6.1.2. Provision of consultancy services concerning the Right to Information Act

During the year 2025, formal consultancy services in this regard have been offered on a daily basis. The formal consultancy services have been provided in writing and via telephone to a large number of persons as of 30.09.2025. In this endeavor, providing consultancy services to the citizens in connection with the Information Act, as well as educating those who make visits looking to study and do research on the Right to Information Act, is also undertaken.

1.6.1.3. Carrying on and keeping the Official Website (www.rti.gov.lk) of the Right to Information updated

The objective here is to enable citizens to effectively utilize the Right to Information Act. It also aims to increase public awareness about the right to information and to fulfill public needs through information requests. Promotion of upcoming programs related to this initiative will be important in this exercise. Moreover, the website maintained under the supervision of the Ministry officials has also been kept updated to facilitate a more active and efficient use of the right to information.

1.6.1.4. Carrying on of the official E-mail (rtiunitsl@gmail.com) of the Right to Information

Responses are provided to emails sent with the expectation of answers regarding issues faced by the citizens and the officials of public authorities.

1.6.1.5. Distribution of the Information Officer Manual, Training Guidelines and Leaflets on the Right to Information

23 programs related to the Right to Information Act to educate public officers in the capacity of Trainers of Trainers and citizens were held throughout the island and 5479 Officer Manuals, Training Guidelines and Leaflets have been distributed to the participants of such programs. The distribution of these publications is expected to keep the knowledge of the information officers of the institutions enhanced and updated.

1.6.1.6. Updating the database on Designated Officers and Information Officers in the Public Authorities

Particulars regarding the newly appointed Information Officers and the Designated Officers in the Public Authorities are forwarded to our Division, and a database containing details of those officers is available on our website and is updated on a monthly basis.

1.6.1.7. Featuring a Facebook page and giving publicity on social media platforms on the Right to Information Act

The task of raising awareness among citizens about the Right to Information Act through the RTI Facebook page, targeting the community of youth in particular, with the purpose of educating them on the subject, is in progress at an attractive pace. The number of overall users on Facebook was 3620 for the period as of 30.09.2025. Furthermore, the news with regard to training programs for Information Officers and Trainers of Trainers, when conducted by our Division, is published on Facebook on the very same day.

1.6.1.8. Awareness Programs on the Right to Information Act

25 programs to educate selected officers from among the Public Authorities in the districts of Colombo and Gampaha were conducted, and the number of officers who participated therein was 2410.

1.6.1.9. International Right to Information Day Commemoration - 2025

The International Right to Information Day commemoration for the year 2025 was celebrated on the 30th of September 2025, with the Hon. Minister of Health and Mass Media presiding over the event. 370 Information Officers and subject officials from all Ministries participated in this program. Awareness programs on the right to information for all local government members in the districts of Killinochchi, Mannar and Hambantota and the Eastern Province were conducted in parallel to the International Right to Information Day celebrations for the year 2025.

1.6.1.10. Publication of ‘Pavatha’

The newspaper tabloid, ‘Pavatha’, was published as a Special Newspaper Supplement together with the newspapers of Dinamina and Thinakaran in the mediums of Sinhala and Tamil languages respectively by Lake House on 30.09.2025, and it was also released to be circulated online simultaneously.

1.6.2. Formulation of the National Media Policy

The Ministry of Mass Media embarked on the task of formulating a national media policy towards systematic guidance in the sphere of mass media, and an expert committee comprising state media chiefs, university scholars, veterans in the field, lawyers, representatives from the association of electronic transmitters and representatives from the editors’ guild was appointed for the purpose.

The said committee, in association with the following focused groups, went into deliberations for drawing up the preliminary draft of the national media policy by holding 07 rounds of discussion covering all stakeholders.

- i. Academics
- ii. Mass Media Associations
- iii. Rights-Based Organizations
- iv. Electronic and Print Media Institutions
- v. Discussions centered on the Northern Province
- vi. Discussions centered on the Eastern Province
- vii. School Media Clubs

As it was considered very important in this exercise to have the viewpoints of the media personnel and the social activists in the field of media from the Northern and Eastern Provinces in this exercise, 02 rounds of discussions were held with such focused groups at the District Secretariats of Jaffna and Batticaloa and it was able at that juncture to identify issues inherent to such regions and obtain new views and suggestions.

The preliminary draft of the National Media Policy formulated intending to drive the field of media in a new direction, circumventing common weaknesses observed in the field of media adopting a more streamlined and practical approach as regards the views and suggestions obtained from all stakeholders through these formal channels has been referred to the Department of National Planning on 28.03.2024 for further action necessary in that regard.

Under the new government, public views were once again solicited, and based on the feedback and suggestions received from various stakeholders, the initial draft of the National Media Policy is currently being revised by an expert committee.

1.6.3. Establishment of a Mass Media Higher Education Institute with state patronage

Plans have been drawn out to set up an independent institute known as the Chartered Institute of Media Professionals of Sri Lanka parallel to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka based on the presently established Chartered Mass Media Institute in Great Britain with the state patronage under the Ministry of Mass Media with a view to raising the standards of professionalism of the mass media journalists engaged in the field of mass media. A Cabinet Memorandum titled ‘Establishment of the Chartered Institute of Media Professionals – Sri Lanka Act’ was submitted to the new Cabinet of Ministers under the signature of the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject, and the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been received thereto under Ref. No. CP/2/0588/815/043 dated 19 April 2025.

The said Cabinet decision was forwarded to the Legal Draftsman for further action, and the draft of the Chartered Institute of Media Professionals of Sri Lanka Bill has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry on 20 May 2025. The said draft Bill has now been forwarded by the Legal Draftsman to the Attorney General’s Department on 14.07.2025 for getting the clearance certificate from the Hon. Attorney General.

1.6.4. Presidential Media Awards Ceremony – 2024

Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been received to hold a Presidential Media Awards Ceremony with a view to recognizing the need to appreciate the mission and the contribution the mass media journalists carry out and make towards bringing about a quality media culture. Accordingly, this Awards Ceremony has been held by the Ministry of Mass Media in the year 2019 for the first time to be applicable to the year 2018. Even though arrangements were made thereafter to hold this Presidential Media Awards Ceremony annually, the ceremonies applicable for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 could not, however, be organized due to the unavailability of funds, and in the face of the Covid –19 pandemic and the prevailing economic crisis.

The National Budget for the year 2024 set aside a sum mounting to Rs. 20 million for the purpose of conducting the ‘Presidential Media Awards Ceremony 2024’ with respect to the year 2023, approval for which was granted on 01.10.2024 by the Minister at that time. Due to administrative changes, the Presidential Media Awards Ceremony could not, however, be held in 2024. As a result, preparations are underway to host the event on 11 November 2025, and an allocation of

Rs. 27.5 million has been set aside for the Presidential Media Awards Ceremony through the national budget of 2025. An advance payment of Rs. 200,000 has already been made to reserve the Nelum Pokuna Theatre for the event, and other logistical arrangements concerned are currently in progress. All expenses in this regard are expected to be finalized by 11 November 2025.

1.6.5. Registration of News Websites

All news websites are registered under the Ministry of Mass Media in pursuance of the Cabinet Decision No. 12 /1037/37/019-1 of 13.08.2012. A sum amounting to Rs. 25,000/- for the registration of each website and a sum to the value of Rs. 10,000/- for the renewal of such registration are required to be credited to the Ministry. 12 news websites have been registered, while websites numbering 24 have been renewed under the Ministry as of 30.09.2025. This process is ongoing all throughout the year.

1.6.6. Issuance of Television and Radio Broadcasting Licenses

The base statutes applicable to the subject of telecasting and broadcasting in Sri Lanka are the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Act, No. 37 of 1966, and the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation Act, No. 06 of 1982, respectively. Licenses for the carrying on of the private broadcasting and telecasting services have been granted by this Ministry in terms of the provisions set out in the statutes referred to above.

Number of private television and broadcasting licenses and Number of channels in force as of 30 September 2025

Categorization of Licenses	No. of Private Licensee Institutions	No. of Channels
Radio Broadcasting	18	51
Terrestrial television	16	24

Service provider entities

Categorization of Licenses	No. of Licensee Institutions
Cable television	06
Satellite television	03
Internet-based television	03
Total	12

Furthermore, 15 broadcasting channels including the two state channels, namely, Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and the Independent Television Network Ltd. with its regional services are being carried on while 05 television channel services are being carried on through the two institutions, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and the Independent Television Network Ltd. Approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been received for introducing a common format in order to bring about a uniformity in the radio and TV licenses issued as at present towards a conducive media journalism safeguarding the freedom of speech and expression at its maximum level. The common format prepared after the review of the hitherto issued radio and TV licenses by a committee appointed by the Ministry of Mass Media has been referred to the Attorney General's Department for legal advice from the Attorney General.

1.6.7. Introduction of a code of conduct for mass media journalists, focusing on safeguarding the dignity of women and ethnical / religious minorities

This Ministry has been entrusted with the task of introducing a code of ethics for mass media journalists, focusing on safeguarding the dignity of women and ethnical/religious minorities under the 'National Action Plan in Sri Lanka for the implementation of the Proposals on Women, Peace and Protection of the Security Council of the United Nations 2023 - 2027'. An expert committee has been appointed for this purpose, and the views of the stakeholders are expected to be obtained once the drafting process is brought to a close.

1.6.8. 'Asi Disi' Mass Media Scholarship Programme

The primary objective of the "Asi Disi Mass Media Scholarship" program is to empower media professionals to successfully face the challenges of the 21st century by equipping them with knowledge, skills, and the right mindset, and through its specialized training courses, the program provides opportunities for individuals to enhance their professional competencies and contribute to the establishment of a robust and ethical art of media.

The Mass Media Division of the Ministry of Health and Mass Media implements this Scholarship Program annually.

The mass media journalists, freelance journalists, regional media journalists, web journalists and media technocrats between the age group of 18-55 who have completed a period of service for three years and are employed on a full-time or part-time basis in the recognized electronic and print media institutions in the island are eligible to receive these scholarships on a non-

refundable basis. Furthermore, the respective applicants should have obtained the Journalist Identity Card issued to them by the Department of Government Information.

Under this scholarship scheme, a maximum grant of Rs. 200,000 for reading a degree or post-graduate degree and a maximum grant of Rs. 100,000 (One Hundred Thousand) for following a short-term or long-term certificate course, diploma and higher diploma courses are made available. Scholarship recipients may pursue courses pertaining to their relevant field of media conducted by the recognized universities and higher education training institutes.

Under this scholarship scheme offered by the government free of charge, the journalists may avail the opportunity to reap the benefits twice, and they may apply for the scholarship for the second time too after a lapse of 5 years, following the successful completion of the first attempt.

Media journalists who are eligible for the scholarships are required to pay their respective course fee in three installments: firstly, 50% at the start of the course as the initial installment, secondly, 25% as the next installment during the course, and the remaining 25% upon completion of the course and submission of the relevant certificate.

How the ‘ Asi Disi’ Scholarships have been awarded

Year	No. of Scholarship Recipients
2006	11
2007	11
2008	36
2010	80
2011	116
2012	119
2013/14	102
2015	145
2016	59
2017	108
2018	109
2019/20	88
2021/22	49
2023	39
2025	61
Total	1,133

Allocations of Rs. 5.0 million, Rs. 2.5 million, and Rs. 7 million have been provided by the General Treasury respectively for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025. However, due to a lack of adequate funding allocation, this program could not get underway during the year 2024.

61 media personnel have been chosen by a selection committee appointed by the Secretary to receive scholarships for the year 2025. Since the allocation of sufficient funding (Rs. 7 million) for this year is available, scholarships could be awarded to all applicants who meet the basic eligibility criteria.

1.6.9. Levying of taxes for imported teledramas, films and commercial programs

Taxes for the imported programmes relayed by the television channels are levied by this Ministry in accordance with the regulations enacted by the Finance Act, No. 11 of 2016.

Clearance certificates have been issued for 1381 imported tele-dramas, films and commercial programmes up to the 30th of September 2025, while the amount of tax charged was Rs. 78.05 million. For this purpose, a panel of examination members constituting 30 have been detailed and the telecasting approvals have been granted by the subcommittees consisting of three persons through 246 of such subcommittee sessions on a routine basis.

Programs subject to and exempted from tax up to 30 September 2025

Category of Programmes	No. of programs exempted from tax	No. of tax - levied programs	Tax Income (Rs. Mn.)
Films	890	-	-
Dramas and documentaries	24	407	59.05
Commercial advertisements and Commercial Programs	-	60	19.00
Total	914	467	78.05

(A) On 24 January 2025, Hiru TV channel has paid Rs. 5.87 million in outstanding taxes for six Telugu and Malayalam films that were beamed in the year 2021.

(B) On February 28, 2025, Swarnavahini TV channel has relayed the Telugu film, *Bhishma*, without obtaining the required screening clearance certificate, and upon notification by the Ministry to pay the applicable tax for the film, the media institution concerned has paid Rs. 220,000, inclusive of a surcharge, on 29 July 2025.

(C) Due to the fact that both Hiru and Swarnavahini TV channels beamed imported films without valid screening clearance certificates, the tax payments received under items (a) and (b) above have not been accounted for in the quarterly total of tax revenue.

1.6.10. Amending the Acts of the affiliated institutions falling under the scope of mass media according to timely needs

The Acts and the Articles of Association of the legally incorporated institutions, namely, the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, the Independent Television Network, the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd. (Lake House), the Sri Lanka Press Council and the Sri Lanka Foundation coming under the scope of the Ministry of Mass Media have been prepared about 40 years ago in concert with the then prevailed economic, social and cultural needs and there have been no recent reviews on such laws. Moreover, the laws and statutes put into practice by the government institutions, such as the Department of Posts, the Department of Government Information and the Department of Government Printing in their routine duties, are also those passed about five decades ago. Even though the private sector media institutions and those engaged in similar functions and services have come a long way forward competitively in adapting to the present-day needs, the march forward of the state media and related state entities has slowed down due to being in the confinement to the outdated laws, rules and regulations.

Likewise, the acts, laws and statutes within the purview of this Ministry should be amended in advance to suit future issues that may arise with digital technology and the amendments to the existing regulations have been initiated to enable them to adapt to the rapidly changing technological and social interests to be able to overcome the fierce competition in the media sector and to make room for the institutional structures required for standing up to it independently and also, to be able to go forward in tandem with it.

1.6.10.1. Amendment of the Sri Lanka Foundation Act, No. 31 of 1973

In pursuance of the Cabinet approval, the amendment of the Act has been sent to the Legal Draftsman on 01.04.2024. Accordingly, the Legal Draftsman, forwarding the amended preliminary draft to the Ministry, has informed on 18.09.2013 that it requires approval of the present Cabinet of Ministers for further action thereon to go ahead. The Current governing body of the Sri Lanka Foundation, too, has been apprised of this.

However, in accordance with the Cabinet Decision CP/25/1371/802/005-III of 19.08.2025 received through the Prime Ministerial Committee for the Cabinet Memorandum titled ‘

Implementation of the Cabinet Decision CP/25/0288/802/005 dated 17.03.2025 on the Review of the Government Owned Non- Commercial Institutions – Progress as of 30 June 2025’ , the structure of this institute is being studied.

1.6.10.2. Amendment of the Sri Lanka Press Council Act, No. 05 of 1973

The Sri Lanka Press Council Act No. 5 of 1973 has not been updated to reflect current social and cultural trends. With the advancement of modern communication technology, in addition to newspapers and radio, television, the internet, and social media networks have rapidly spread among the public, exerting a strong influence on people's lives. Accordingly, when a news report is broadcast or published by an electronic medium and subsequently examined by the Press Council, any correction, agreement, or directive determined as a result of that examination must also be broadcast and published by the same electronic medium that originally disseminated the report. Furthermore, the procedures should mainly include the provisions regarding the registration of electronic newspapers or magazines that are published either digitally or in printed form, and the examination of complaints related to them. To address these key points as such, the Cabinet of Ministers granted approval at its meeting held on 25 August 2025 for the proposal submitted in that regard by the Minister of Health and Mass Media to amend the Sri Lanka Press Council Act No. 5 of 1973. After receipt of the related Cabinet decision in the Ministry, it is expected to forward a copy of the said decision to the Legal Draftsman for necessary action.

1.6.10.3. Amendment of Acts governing the Department of Posts

- **Amendment of the Post Office Guarantee Ordinance, No. 01 of 1931 – Chapter 473 as amended by the Acts, No. 09 of 1989, No. 23 of 1943, No. 56 of 1952 and No. 46 of 1958**

Prior Cabinet approval has already been received for this matter. During discussions held with the Legal Draftsman, the need for a new Act, rather than amendments to the existing one, was emphasized. Action will accordingly be taken to send the prepared Cabinet Memorandum to the Cabinet Office for the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers. Upon receipt of the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers, it is expected to appoint a committee and refer the draft Act made by the said committee to the Legal Draftsman for necessary future action.

- **Amendment of the Post Office Ordinance, No. 11 of 1908 – Chapter 190 as amended by the Acts, No. 31 of 1955, and No. 24 of 1957 and Law, No. 06 of 1973**

The committee appointed to amend the Post Office Ordinance has reviewed 88 provisions of the Ordinance and considered the necessary amendments to be included. The final draft is currently being prepared, and once completed, the next steps are expected to be taken promptly.

1.6.10.4. Preparing the draft bill for setting up a professional institute of mass media known as the Chartered Institute of Journalists – Sri Lanka

For the purpose of establishing a professional institution aligned with international standards for producing highly skilled media professionals, a Cabinet Memorandum titled ‘Chartered Institute of Media Professionals – Sri Lanka’ was submitted to the new Cabinet on 19 March 2025 under the signature of the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject. Subsequently, Cabinet approval for it was granted on 22 April 2025 under decision Ref. No. CP/2/0588/815/043.

Following the Cabinet decision, the matter was referred to the Legal Draftsman for further action. On 20 May 2025, the Legal Draftsman prepared and submitted the draft of the ‘Chartered Institute of Media Professionals of Sri Lanka Bill’ to the Ministry. The draft legislation was subsequently referred to the Attorney General on several occasions to obtain observations. Accordingly, on 14 July 2025, the Legal Draftsman submitted the finalized draft to the Attorney General’s Department to obtain the certificate of clearance.

1.6.10.5. Establishment of the Broadcasting Regulatory Commission Act

Cabinet approval has been granted on 28.11.2023 to the draft bill prepared for the introduction of an "Electronic Broadcasting Regulatory Commission Act" meant for the electronic media with a view to ensuring optimum media journalism, safeguarding the freedom of speech and expression to the maximum. Accordingly, the said draft bill has been referred to the Legal Draftsman, requesting him to prepare the final draft. The preliminary draft so prepared was accordingly sent to the Attorney General for observations. Thereafter, the observations received in return from the Attorney General have been forwarded to the Legal Draftsman for necessary action on 01.11.2024.

However, according to the current government policy statement titled ‘A Thriving Nation - A Beautiful Life,’ one of the key activities outlined under the media sector theme ‘A Free Media Industry – An Equitable Information Society’ is the establishment of an Independent Media Commission to ensure the proper functioning of the entire media process during the 2025–2029

implementation period. Accordingly, it is expected that the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject will be apprised of this matter to identify necessary future action in that regard.

1.6.11. Implementation of the Project to Digitalize the Terrestrial Television Broadcasting in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, too, needs to align with the global trend of transitioning from the method of analog terrestrial television broadcasting to the method of digital broadcasting. The current technology has gradually become outdated, leading to challenges in maintaining the broadcasting system and meeting the demand for additional television channels. Despite the availability of highly efficient digital technology, continued use of analog technology results in the wastage of frequency spectrum, thereby missing the opportunity to utilize that spectrum for other telecommunication services.

Since many countries have transitioned to digital technology, analog transmitters are no longer manufactured in foreign markets. Therefore, communication equipment has to be custom-produced by manufacturers at a high cost to meet specific requirements. Additionally, a significant amount of foreign exchange must be spent on purchasing new equipment for maintenance and upgrades of these devices. This presents a major challenge for both media institutions and the government. Furthermore, the electricity consumption of these communication devices is very high, and continuing to operate this service in its current form leads to increased operational costs for service provider institutions.

Moreover, although there are institutions that provide paid television services, due to the nature of payment structures in those services, the majority of households stay away from adopting them and remain within the analog broadcasting system.

Although various steps and constructive measures were undertaken in 2009, under DVB-T technology, and in 2010 under DVB-T2 technology, by the Ministry of Mass Media and Information as well as the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, to convert the existing analog terrestrial television broadcasting system to a digital terrestrial broadcasting system, the process involving the project could not be implemented due to the lack of funding. Since the submission of the first Cabinet memorandum in 2009, the Ministry of Mass Media and Information has taken the lead in initiating the digitalization process, while the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission has extended its fullest cooperation in establishing technical standards and formulating the Digital Broadcasting Road Map required to implement the digitalization process.

Meanwhile, following a feasibility study conducted under the JICA organization of Japan, it was proposed to adopt the Japanese ISDB-T technology as suitable for Sri Lanka. Accordingly, on 23 September 2014, the Government of Sri Lanka signed a soft loan agreement with Japan, and in October 2014, the then Ministry of Mass Media and Information initiated the digitalization project.

As the project, which was scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2021, was not implemented as planned, the then President, in his capacity as Minister of Technology, together with the Hon. Minister of Mass Media, jointly submitted a Cabinet Memorandum titled ‘ Implementation of the Terrestrial Television Digitalization Project in Sri Lanka under Japanese Loan Assistance (SL P112)’ dated 1 April 2021, and based on the Cabinet decision under Ref. No. CP/21/0621/316/016), approval was granted on 28 April 2021 by the Cabinet of Ministers to implement the project using updated technology.

The greatest benefit the government derives from adopting digital technology is the ability to release a larger portion of the currently used frequency spectrum. Therefore, that spectrum can be utilized for 5G broadband services, making it easier to bring the latest technology to rural areas. Furthermore, it also avails the opportunity for the expansion of the number of television channels in the future.

Instead of each broadcaster maintaining its own transmission network, the establishment of a single Digital Broadcast Network Operator (DBNO) provides a significant advantage to television broadcasters.

Moreover, broadcasting institutions incur a large annual expenditure to maintain outdated analog transmission systems, and once the project is completed, they will no longer need to maintain individual transmission networks, which will significantly reduce maintenance costs.

Compared to the weak signal reception experienced under the analog system, viewers gain several key benefits from digital broadcasting with access to the ability of watching high-quality digital images, the convenience of installing a single antenna at home to receive all television channels instead of separate ones for each channel, the ability to enjoy all local channels with equal quality, and the experience of watching high-definition (HD) television without any payment.

All operational activities related to this project, including broadcasting within Colombo and the Western Province, are scheduled to be carried out using the Nelum Kuluna (Lotus Tower) in Colombo as the central hub of activity.

The total estimated cost of this project amounts to 17,717 million Japanese Yen, of which 13,717 million Yen is contributed by JICA, while the value of the contribution from the Government of Sri Lanka turns out to be 3,505 million Yen.

The Project Management Unit was established, and operational activities of the project commenced on 15 July 2021. With JICA's consent, a Japanese consultancy firm was selected by the Cabinet-Appointed Procurement Consultancy Committee (CAPCC) to provide the engineering consultancy services required for the implementation of the project. Accordingly, based on the Cabinet Decision dated 8 August 2022, and due to the prevailing economic crisis in the country at that time, JICA had temporarily suspended funding for all Japanese projects, and as such, Cabinet approval had been granted to proceed with the award of the contract for the provision of engineering consultancy services once the funding is set to resume.

Accordingly, in the latter part of July 2024, JICA resumed the funding that had been temporarily suspended. After the new government assumed power in September 2024, a comprehensive review of the project was conducted, and the necessary steps were taken to initiate project activities.

Progress of the Project up to 30 September 2025

- Based on the Cabinet Paper jointly submitted by the Ministry of Health and Mass Media and the Ministry of Digital Economy, approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to proceed with the next phase of the project was granted on 9 January 2025. In pursuance of that Cabinet Decision, a committee was appointed to determine the future course of the project, and the first meeting of the said committee was held on 20 January 2025.
- Thereafter, by the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers made on 24 February 2025, it was decided to sign the engineering consultancy service agreements for this project and to fully meet the project requirements that lie ahead.
- Accordingly, at a meeting held on 12 March 2025 at the auditorium of the Ministry of Health with the participation of the Secretary of the Ministry of Mass Media, the Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Digital Economy, officials from the Japanese Embassy, senior representatives from JICA, and the officials from the engineering consultancy

firm, discussed matters concerning the signing and the implementation of the engineering consultancy agreement at length, and reached consensus thereon.

- The second meeting of the Cabinet-approved committee was held on 3 April 2025. Following the discussions thereat, the relevant consultancy agreement was signed between Yachiyo Engineering Consultancy Firm and the Ministry of Health and Mass Media. Accordingly, the engineering consultancy services commenced on 9 July 2025.
- Subsequently, a field visit was conducted for the inspection of towers with the participation of the technical engineering team, consultancy team, officials from the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, and the Project Director. During this visit, a preliminary study was carried out on 16 locations. Final project reports are currently being prepared based on these findings. As a result of the preliminary study, it was determined that existing towers could be utilized instead of constructing 9 proposed new transmission towers, enabling a cost saving of approximately Rs. 360 million.
- Approval for project-related recruitments for the year 2025 has been conveyed by the Department of Management Services on 19 May 2025, and the recruitment for eight positions has accordingly been completed to date.
- The Project Management Unit for project operations was established on 11 August 2025 at the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation building, and the related work is being carried out according to the prescribed procurement procedures. Accordingly, Rs. 50 million in local funding and Rs. 100 million in foreign funding for the year 2025 have been allocated and made available. As of 30 September 2025, a sum amounting to Rs. 11.15 million has been spent from the local funds. Since the project is currently in operation, the expected foreign fund transmission for the year 2025 is approximately Rs. 800 million. As the allocated amount is insufficient, a request has been made to the Ministry of Finance for additional foreign funding. Once it is received, the foreign fund reimbursement will commence. At present, arrangements are underway for the first payment, which is expected to be in the region of Rs. 400 Mn.

1.7. Human Resources Profile

1.7.1. Staff Information as of 30.09.2025

Category	Approved	Actual	Vacancies
Executive	24	14	10
Tertiary	05	03	02
Secondary	97	68	29
Preliminary	31	20	11
Total	157	105	52

1.7.2. Employee Training Programmes – 30.09.2025

Inland Training

#	Course	Institute	Participation	Course Duration	Cost (Rs.)
i.	Driver Training Workshop	Ministry of Health and Mass Media	10	01 Day	11,775.00
ii.	Salary Conversion Workshop	Skill Development Fund	04	02 Days	52,000.00
iii.	Introduction of a New Procurement Guideline for the Goods, Works and Non-Consultancy Industries	Skill Development Fund	01	02 Days	13,000.00
iv.	Establishments Code and Financial Regulations	Skill Development Fund	01	02 Days	13,000.00
v.	Clean Sri Lanka Program	Ministry of Health and Mass Media	250	01 Day	71,000.00
vi.	One-Day External Awareness Training Program on the New	Ministry of Health and Mass Media	05	01 Day	92,500.00
vii.	Two-Day Awareness Training Program on the New Procurement	Sri Lanka Foundation	158	02 Days	584,131.55
viii.	Awareness Program on the Internal Affairs Unit	Ministry of Health and Mass Media	58	01 Day	16,548.66
ix.	Postgraduate Diploma in International Relations	Bandaranaike International Memorial Conference Hall	01	12 Months	154,775.00
x.	Course on Taxation	Chartered Institute of Accountants of Sri Lanka	02	06 Months	190,000.00
	Total		490		1,198,730.21

Overseas Training

#	Course	Country	Participation	Duration of the Course	Cost (Rs.)
i	Capacity Building on Digital Administration in India	India	01	12 Days	89,703.00
	Total		01		89,703.00

1.8. Financial Progress – 2025

The performance of utilization of total provisions allocated to the Ministry

Description	Allocation (Revised) (Rs.Mn.)	Expenditure (Rs.Mn.)	Provisions utilized as a percentage of the final spent provisions
Recurrent	496.00	301.56	60
Capital	228.00	25.81	11
Total	724.00	327.37	45

01 – Operational Programme			
Project 27 – Administration and Institutional Services (Mass Media)			
Description	Figures in Rs. Mn.		
	Allocation	Expenditure	%
Recurrent Expenditure	232.00	121.48	52
Personal Emoluments	121.00	82.24	68
Travelling Expenses	2.80	0.39	14
Supplies	22.10	9.32	42
Maintenance Expenditure	9.10	2.33	26
Services	76.00	26.88	35
Transfers	1.00	0.3	32
Capital Expenditure	73.00	12.72	17
Rehabilitation and Improvement of Capital Assets	28.00	9.89	35
Acquisition of Capital Assets	5.50	0.43	8
Capacity Building	9.00	2.37	26
Other Capital Expenditure	30.50	0.03	0
Total	305.00	134.20	44

02 – Development Program			
Project 28 – Public Institutions (Mass Media)			
Description	Figures in Rs. .Mn.		
	Allocation	Expenditure	%
Recurrent Expenditure	264.00	180.08	64
Sri Lanka Foundation	160.00	112.50	64
Sri Lanka Press Council	47.00	25.08	50
The Right to Information Commission	57.00	42.50	74
Capital Expenditure	155.00	13.09	8
Sri Lanka Press Council	2.00	-	-
The Right to Information Commission	3.00	0.70	23
Project of Digitalization	150.00	12.39	8
Total	419.00	193.17	43

1.9. Projects proposed to be implemented during the year 2026

- Establishment of the Chartered Institute of Mass Media Professionals of Sri Lanka.
- Amending the Acts of the institutions falling under the scope of the Ministry in keeping with the timely and future needs.
- Holding of the Presidential Media Awards Ceremony.
- Launching of the National Media Policy.
- Conducting awareness Programs for Regional Mass Media Journalists
- Registration of News Websites.
- Issuance of Television and Radio Broadcasting Licenses.
- Levying taxes for imported teledramas, films and commercial programs.
- Introduction of a code of ethics for mass media journalists, focusing on safeguarding the dignity of women and ethnical / religious minorities.
- Implementation of the ‘ Asi Disi’ Mass Media Scholarship Programme.
- Coordination and supervision of the Clean Sri Lanka initiative.
- Taking necessary measures to execute activities related to the subject of Mass Media outlined in the Policy Statement of the Government, ‘A Thriving Nation - A Beautiful Life’.

2.0. Department of Government Information

2.1. Introduction

The Department of Government Information was established on the 30th of June 1948. The prime role of this Department is to raise public awareness of the current events of national importance including state policies and development activities of the government and the role played by the government on behalf of the people whilst its foremost objectives are to help build an independent and responsible media culture of high esteem and provide leadership towards that end, having properly managed the process of information technology in tandem with the global technological trends.

The Department is directing its staff to realize this objective, where the knowledge, competency and the right environment are being set up for that purpose in keeping with such direction.

In this exercise, more attention is drawn to the objectives of the establishment of the Department while all the sections of the Department are in full gear towards realizing these goals.

2.2. Corporate Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

‘To contribute towards an independent and responsible media tradition.’

Mission

To establish the right of knowing the precise information and the vision of the government undertaking the necessary direction towards creating a mutual environment among Sri Lankan communication media while uplifting the media culture.’

Objectives

- Raising public awareness of government policies, plans and the development process of national importance.
- Bringing forth a high-caliber media culture.
- Reporting and preserving important and current events, government information and events using audio, video and print media.
- Development of human and material resources required by the media sector.
- Provision of facilities and training needed by the media sector and media journalists and take the leading role in providing welfare measures where necessary.

Role

To contribute towards achieving a high level of development and sustainable development goals by getting the public and private media organizations to participate in the process through communication.

Major Tasks

- Release the relevant information of the Ministries to the media.
- Educate the general public about the development process of the government.
- Raise awareness of nationally important events and emergency situations.
- Educate the general public about the development progress of the government through films and videos.
- Produce news and documentary video films on the development information of the government, historical information and other information of timely importance.
- Produce experimental documentary films.
- Provide domestic information to foreign countries and foreign information to the people of this country through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Carry on the government social media units and the (news.lk) website in all three languages.
- Carry on the magazines of 'Desathiya', 'Rajaye Sandesaya' and 'Vimarsana' in an up-to-date manner.
- Carry on the Government Publication Bureau actively.
- Coordinate the local and foreign media journalists for national missions and diplomatic events.
- Organize media tours to convey the regional development efforts and the new programs of the Ministries to the masses.
- Act as principal media coordinator at the events of national importance.
- Issue identity cards for professional, local and foreign media journalists.
- Maintain close coordination with the media units of line ministries.
- Liaise with bodies such as ADB and UNDP and get the necessary financial facilities availed of for printing books related to events of timely and national importance.
- Collect media coverage of the President's domestic and foreign official events in the form of printed and audio-visual reports.
- Analyze daily newspaper reports published in all three languages and submit them to the President.

2.3. Staff Information as of 2025.09.30

Category	Approved	Actual	Vacancies
Senior	19	08	11
Tertiary	16	02	14
Secondary	303	209	94
Primary	52	38	14
Other	13	35	13
Total	403	292	146

2.4. Physical Progress as of 30.09.2025

2.4.1. Educating the general public about the nationally important government policies, plans and the development process.

2.4.1.1. Producing and relaying of audio-visual programs

- Talk Programmes / Documentary Programmes / Short Videos / Advertisements meant for public awareness - 88
- News coverages – 405
- Live Recording / Live Streaming / Sign Language Production / Special Programs related to Cabinet media conferences - 34
- Government Notices - 56

(A) Production of Documentary Programs

- Short video program produced by the Government Information Department on the production economic resources in the Budget Proposals 2025 (04 in Sinhala and 04 in Tamil) – 08.
- ‘ Kaprukata Saviyak’ program for distributing high-yield coconut fertilizer - Monaragala District
- Production of a short video on Valentine’s Day.
- Production of a documentary film on the Express Pearl ship.
- Documentary program on the Weerawila, Ridiyagama Government Farm of the National Livestock Development Board.
- Documentary program on the progress of the Paddy Marketing Board titled ‘ *Yali Pibidena Vee Alevi Mandalaya*’ .
- Short documentary program produced on rice prices.
- Documentary program on the mass media journalist Richard de Zoysa.
- Conversational program titled ‘ *Sameepa Rupa*’ with Parakrama Niriella.

- ‘*Siri Dalada Vandanawa*’ (Veneration to the Sacred Tooth Relic) – A series of short video programs produced about the places where the Sacred Tooth Relic made its holy residence across different eras after its arrival in Sri Lanka – 17.
- Short video program on the activities of the dedicated trade center in Pamunuwa, getting ready for the Sinhala and Tamil New Year.
- Short video program on people preparing for the Sinhala and Hindu New Year – Kelea Pola / Pettah.
- Documentary program produced to raise public awareness on tax revisions.
- Documentary program on Minister Bimal Rathnayake’s observation tour of the Wattuwakal Bridge.
- Documentary program produced with the title of ‘*Suwa Labana Suwa Seeva*’.
- Short video program on development projects carried out by the present government.
- Short video program on the development projects undertaken by the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha.
- Documentary program produced under the title ‘*Asi Disi Mehewara*’.
- Short video program produced with the title bearing ‘*Hedena Rataka Pravahana Punarudaya*’.
- Video program on welfare measures initiated by the new government for the sake of the public service.
- Short video program on the new government’s initiatives for the development of the education sector.
- Short video program on the new government’s initiatives for the development of the transport sector.
- Short video program on the new government’s initiatives for the development of the health sector.
- Short video program on the new government’s initiatives for the development of the media sector and its industry.
- Documentary program on the development activities carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Documentary program on the development activities carried out by the Ministry of Fisheries.
- Documentary program on ‘*Kalu Juliya*’ (Black July).
- ‘*Sisil Suwai, Bodu Sisilai*’ – Public awareness documentary program on the Nuwara Eliya State Vesak Festival 2025 held in Nuwara Eliya.
- Documentary film titled ‘*Husma Gannaa Lakdiva*’ on the Ekala Bus Manufacturing Plant.

- Documentary program on turtle conservation titled ‘ Sagara Kesbewunge Paradeesaya’ (Rekhawa the Turtle’s Village).
- Short video program on the flood inundation of the Gampaha city and the remedial measures taken by the new government for it.
- Short documentary program on the progress of dengue and chikungunya disease control under the ‘Clean Sri Lanka’ initiative (as requested by the Colombo District Secretariat).
- Short Documentary program on the Eppawala Phosphate Plant.
- Short documentary film on the Alimankada Salt Factory manufacturing ‘Raja Lunu’.
- Short video clips on Sigiriya premises, produced to educate local and foreign tourists with a view to promoting the tourism industry in Sri Lanka – 02.
- Short video program produced for the 225th anniversary of the Department of Survey.
- Series of provincial-level video programs on the Rs. 6000 scholarship allowance provided to school children from families who are not receiving ‘Aswesuma’ benefits - (03 in Sinhala and 03 in Tamil).
- Film on the contribution made by Professor Senaka Bibile towards formulating Sri Lanka’s health policy.
- Documentary program titled ‘Gampahata Pen Pahasa’ on the Attanagalla and Minuwangoda Integrated Water Supply Project in Gampaha.
- Documentary program on the Sri Lanka Administrative Service.
- Production of a video clip on the current status of paddy purchasing.
- ‘Viyathpura’ Housing Complex.
- Short documentary program on the Badalgama Milk Manufacturing Plant owned by Milco.
- Short documentary program on the problematic situation that cropped up at the Sevanagala Sugar Factory.
- Production of short video clips on development programs implemented by the Ministry of Health – 05.
- Short documentary program prepared to mark the World Environment Day titled ‘Me Obada Mamada Jeewathwana Maha Polowe nodirana plastic’ – (The non-degradable plastic on this earth you and I live in).
- Short video clip on the Cabinet Decision to allocate government funds for the construction of the Kotaliya and Gallella bridges in Polonnaruwa.
- Short video on the commencement of construction work on the Kotaleeya and Gallella bridges in Polonnaruwa.
- Documentary program on the Film Preservation Unit of the Government Film Division.

(B) Production of Short Documentary Video Programs

- ‘Siri Dalada Vandanawa’ (Veneration to the Sacred Tooth Relic) – a series of short video programs depicting the journey of the Sacred Tooth Relic and the various locations it resided in across different eras after its arrival in Sri Lanka.
- Short video program highlighting the development projects undertaken by the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha.
- Video program explaining the new government’s welfare initiatives aimed at improving the public service sector.
- ‘Hedena Rataka Pravahana Punarudaya’ - a short video program produced to depict transport revival in a developing nation, focusing on transportation reforms and modernization efforts.
- Short Video program on flooding in Gampaha city and the measures taken by the new government to mitigate the impact of inundation.
- Short Documentary program on the Eppawala Phosphate Plant.

(C) Conversational Programs

- DGI Talk conversational program produced with Mr. Chaminda Jayasuriya.
- DGI Talk conversational program produced with Mr. Gamini Viyangoda.
- DGI Talk conversational program produced with Mr. Jagath Weerasingha.
- DGI Talk conversational program titled ‘What’s coming up after the Animal Census?’ produced with Mr. Ajith Pushpakumara.
- DGI Talk conversational program titled ‘Is Tax a Burden?’ produced with Mrs. Rukdevi P.H. Fernando.
- DGI Talk conversational program produced with Mr. Ramindu Perera on the President’s foreign visits.
- Conversational programs ‘*Jana Cabinet*’ to educate the public about Cabinet decisions – 07

(D) Trailers / Advertisements

- Trailers produced for the 77th National Independence Day celebrations ‘Punarudayata Pela Gesemu’ – (04 in Sinhala and 04 in Tamil) – 08.
- Short video programs produced to mark the 77th National Independence Day celebrations in commemoration of the national heroes, honoring their pioneering characteristic attributes (15 in Sinhala and 15 in Tamil) – 30.

- Mrs. Ayesha Rauf, Anagarika Dharmapala Srimathano, Ven. Walpola Rahula Thero, Mr. Handy Perinbanayagam, Mr. C.W.W. Kannangara, Mr. D.J. Wimala Surendra, Mr. Siddhi Lebbe, Mrs. Siva Chinnathambi, Mrs. Kumari Jayawardena, Mrs. Minette de Silva, Mr. Nadesa Aiyar, Mr. Martin Wickramasinghe, Professor Ediriweera Sarachchandra, Professor Senaka Bibile.
- Propagandic video film on the 'Desathiya' bi-weekly magazine – 02.
- Official propagandic video film on 'Siri Dalada Vandana' .
- Propagandic videos produced to raise public awareness on the rehabilitation of drug addicts – 05.
- Production of video creations with anti-drug prevention messages – Phase Two, No. 03 (01 in Sinhala, 01 in Tamil, 01 in English) – 03.
- Production of video creations with anti-drug prevention messages – Phase Two, No. 02 (in Sinhala) – 01.

2.4.1.2. Publication of Magazines

The Sinhala news magazine 'Desathiya' contributes to making people aware of the various development projects carried out by the government from time to time and building a broad discourse on those works and 09 issues of 'Desathiya' have been published up to 30 September 2024, whilst 4037 magazines have been distributed.

2.4.1.3. Holding Media Conferences

▪ Events organized for media conferences to convey Cabinet Decisions	-	34
▪ Conducting news conferences in coordination with external agencies	-	86
▪ Organization of media conferences (outside the institution's premises)	-	110
▪ Media coordination and media coverage of national and international events		08
▪ Media coordination and media coverage of diplomatic events	-	02
▪ Organization of media observation tours for government development plans and special events	-	07
▪ Coordination of media coverages and carrying out media coverages	-	87
▪ Issuing the government's official news announcements and other notices, including media announcements	-	656
▪ Holding media workshops and media conferences	-	08
▪ Special reports prepared for the President and Cabinet meetings	-	101
▪ Making available video footages, photographs, sounds and articles related to various programs to the media		285
▪ Coordination of Presidential Media Coverages	-	13
▪ Coordination of the Prime Minister's Media Coverages	-	06

2.4.1.4. Guide to Media & Guide to Ministries

The book titled Guide to Media and Guide to Ministries has been compiled by including information from all media institutions (newspapers, television, radio and web).

2.4.1.5. Digital Mass Media

- Publication of daily trilingual releases of development news on the departmental website, www.news.lk - 7,318
- Publication of Current affairs announcements via the official X page - 853
- Production of short audio and video programs on current affairs for dissemination through X, YouTube and www.news.lk website - 91
- Publication of Current Affairs through the Government's Official Facebook Page, Live Programs - 184, Short Videos - 3,119
- Info news video films under Social Media Unit - 963, Sinhala and Tamil media publications – 33, news and media publications via www.dgi.gov.lk – 17 and video releases of parliamentary news - 120
- District-level news releases and report preparations - 305

2.4.2. Issuance of Media Personnel Identity Cards – 30.09.2025

Category of Media Personnel	Number
Local Media Personnel	2,315
Foreign Media Personnel - (Temporary)	54
Foreign Media Personnel - (Permanent)	80
Media Administrator	108
Government Media Officers	69
Media Services	374
Freelance media journalists	132
Regional media journalists	260
Technicians	672
Total	4,064

2.4.3. 'Daily Media Investigative Reports' prepared drawing reference to electronic media, print media, internet websites and social media.

Based on nighttime TV News	-	296
Based on daily Radio News	-	176
Based on daily newspapers	-	296
Based on Social Media	-	269

Number of 'Web News Analysis Reports' prepared, drawing reference to internet websites and social media news – 296

2.4.4. Record and preserve important and current events, government information and events using audio, visual and print media.

Media coverage	-	405
Old photo negatives scanned and preserved	-	1,857
Digital photographs dispatched to photo library	-	2,377
Permanent preservation of photographs	-	2,399

2.4.5. Development of human and physical resources required by the media sector

(A) National Program to Promote School Media Clubs

- Six scholarly panel discussions were conducted with the participation of subject matter experts, ministers, and government officials. These sessions focused on timely and significant topics related to national development responsibilities carried out by the government and its policies, aiming to accurately convey information to the general public.
- A short-term media training program was conducted to update the professional knowledge of journalists engaged in news and current affairs, education, sports, and documentary segments with a view to promoting a quality media culture and enhancing the professionalism of the art of media.
- The editorial work has been carried out on the fifth volume of the 'Jathika Madhya Sankathana' (*National Media Discourse*) academic journal brought to limelight, drawing upon the blended expertise of scholarly doctors and professors from the media departments of the universities, for the purpose of fostering a quality media culture and cultivate an enlightened, critically aware public, aiming to provide academic and professional guidance on understanding the social inequalities and ideological influences emerging in the modern media usage.
- On 18 July 2023, a memorandum of understanding was entered into with the Sri Pali Mandapa of the University of Colombo to launch integrated media programs in

collaboration with the university's media department under the Media Professional Development Program with a view to bringing forth a quality and suave mass media culture.

- Under the said agreement, Sri Pali Mandapa provides the resource contribution free of charge for the National Media Discourse academic journal, and various other programs and initiatives undertaken by the National School Media Club Promotion Program implemented by the Department of Government Information.

(B) Developing Media Literacy of the School Students

- A total of 435 schools have been registered.
- 640 school teachers have been registered, and under the Department of Government Information, media teachers are voluntarily assigned wide responsibilities as Media Club Promotion Officers. An official identity card is issued to them with a view to expanding and encouraging such duties.
- Under the first and second phases, identity cards have been distributed to 315 teachers.
- Under the first phase, 117 wall newspapers have been distributed to 117 registered school media clubs, and 263 sets of books have been distributed to strengthen the communication knowledge of teachers in charge of school media clubs.
- In order to enhance the communication and creative skills of the students, certificates were awarded to the selected winners of the 2022 short story and short film competitions, and the winners of the 2023–2024 short film, photography, and short story competitions have been selected following the final adjudication.
- ‘Asi Disi Vidumaga’ – 2025, the School Creative Competition is held under six categories, namely, News Casting, (News Reporting), Creative Short Film, Creative Short Story, Creative Photograph, Creative Scriptwriting and Graphic Poster Design.
- Introduction of the Sandalwood Planting for a humanely compassionate school community, with over 200 schools receiving various plant species.
- Six practical Workshops on the subject of Mass Media were conducted in 2025 for the students and teachers studying Communication and Media Studies, aimed at enhancing media literacy among schoolchildren.
- In collaboration with the international KOICA organization, a training program was conducted to raise awareness among school teachers and students on artificial intelligence and media literacy, giving training to 300 teachers and 100 students.

- Yet another awareness program on ‘ Artificial Intelligence and Media Literacy’ for school media club teachers, organized jointly with KOICA, is scheduled to be held in October 2025.

2.4.6. Liaison with media-related work of foreign embassies

- Conducting an awareness program to bring about professional liaison with foreign media professionals in the international and local media institutions.
- There were 31 weekly analytical reports on political, economic and international relations published in daily newspapers and foreign media websites.

2.5. Financial Progress – 30.09.2025

Item	Provision 2025 (Rs. Mn.)	Expenditure (Rs. Mn.)	%
Recurrent Expenditure	363.00	233.77	64
Capital Expenditure	165.00	29.59	18
Total	528.00	263.36	50

Government Publications have earned an income of Rs. 2.93 million by the sale of Acts, Gazettes, etc., numbering 10,716.

2.6. Activities / Projects proposed to be implemented in the year 2026

a) Civil Work (Rs. 5 Mn.)

- Repair of staff hostel.
- Repair of canteen,
- Repair of electric wires at the laboratory building.

b) Maintenance and improvement of plants and machinery (Rs. 4 Mn.)

c) Purchases (Rs. 83 Mn.)

- Office equipment, wooden items and machines.

3.0. Department of Government Printing

3.1. Introduction

The Department of Government Printing marked its written inception in 1802 as the Government Press by publishing the ‘Government Gazette’ . The Department of Government Printing, which was subsequently transformed into a Government Department, is, as at present, engaged in a pioneer mission as the ‘Official Printer of the Government’. It is a very explicit matter of fact that this Department, which came into operation particularly with the use of a minimum amount of resources, is rendering a very remarkable service to the government by now, upon adaptation to the highly technological modern methods. This Department, a production entity which assumes a factory environment in its nature, by having undertaken to execute all kinds of urgent, important and confidential printing work for all government and semi government institutions including Presidential Secretariat, Prime Minister’s Office and Sri Lanka Parliament with high quality finish and precisely timed service delivery, has assured the trust reposed in it by the institutions concerned. Under this exercise, the publishing of the government notifications by the Gazettes of Government, parliamentary printing work such as Hanzard Reports and Order Books, printing work of school text books, Dhamma School text books, postal stamps, visa stickers and general forms of all description and the meeting of other printing needs of the entire array of Ministries and Departments are undertaken to be carried out by this Department.

The Department of Government Printing executes an endless mission to give out all types of finished printing products of very high quality, particularly making use of the letter-press and offset printing methods, as well as to promptly deliver and communicate the necessary information across the internet via its website, www.documents.gov.lk, as of now.

Moreover, the Department of Government Printing has very explicitly identified the goals to be reached by it by the year 2025 as the first phase of the Sustainable Development Act and it is the foremost ambition of the Department of Government Printing under this exercise is to augment the entire range of printing methods in tandem with the secure and very latest technology and meet with all the confidential printing needs of the Government of Sri Lanka.

3.2. Organizational Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

‘To be the lifeline in Printing and Publication’

Mission

‘Provide printing and publication services, keeping to timely standards to satisfy the customer, utilizing modern technology with the team of skilled and talented staff’

Objectives

- Carry out the printing and publication services with high-quality finish and accuracy within the appointed timeframes.
- Elevate the quality, finish and creativity in the printing operations.
- Increase the productivity level in the Department through the improvement of modern technology and ways and methods.
- Provide facilities necessary for the general public to vigorously purchase all government publications at a reasonable price.
- Provide the utmost service to the customers by improving the management system and the related procedures.
- Ring an attitudinal change through the development of human resources and deliver a superlative service in a manner that pleases the customers.
- Raise the level of security and welfare of the employee.
- Deliver an utmost service so as to satisfy the customers by creating a pleasant working environment within the Department.
- Provide technical assistance required for the legal institutions administering the law as well as for the court procedures.
- Build up the public confidence in security printing.

3.3. Major Tasks

- Printing and publishing of the Government Gazettes, Parliamentary Hansard Records and Departmental Regulations etc.
- Carrying out the non-commercial printing work such as Laws and Acts, Regulations and Forms required by various Departments and Budget Estimates of the General Treasury.
- Execution of the commercial printing work such as stamps, forms, tickets, school textbooks, Dhamma School books, all types of forms required by the Department of Elections, Annual Reports and Performance Reports required by various Ministries of the government.
- Provide printing and publication services required by the Provincial Councils, Local Government Institutions and Semi-Government Organizations.

- Provide the information directly and on time to the public through electronic and print media with high quality finish.
- Provide the other printing and publication services.

3.4. Staff Information as of 30.09.2025

Category of Service	Approved Cadre	Actual Cadre	Vacancies
Senior	37	18	19
Tertiary	09	06	03
Secondary	1,215	635	580
Primary	712	412	300
Total	1,973	1,071	902

3.5. Physical and Financial Progress as of 30.09.2025

3.5.1. Physical and financial progress

Project / Activity	Physical Progress		Financial Progress (Rs. Mn.)		
	Progress	%	Allocation	Expenditure	%
Purchase of Furniture and Office Equipment	Unfinished tasks Continue to be in progress	1	7.50	0.04	1
Refurbishment of buildings		30	50.00	14.04	28
Acquisition of Print Production Machines / Equipment		63	845.00	229.40	27
Maintenance and repairs of vehicles		72	20.50	14.69	72
Supplies		64	1564.00	678.26	43
Human Resource Development		30	8.01	0.10	1
Total			2,495.01	936.53	38

3.5.2. Special printing works started during the year 2025

- All printing activities, including the printing of ballot papers numbering 20,605,275 related to the Local Government Election in April 2025, have been carried out very successfully.

3.5.3. Income Generation - 2025

Item	Target Income (Rs. Mn.)	Income (Rs. Mn.)	Income earned as a % of Target Income
Income of the Government Printer	1,100	486.40	44
The value of printing services carried out without charging money as of 30.09.2025 is Rs. 1,283.82 Mn.			

3.5.4. Progress of the utilization of provisions allocated to the Department from the General Treasury

Item	Provisions allocated for the year 2024 (Rs. Mn.)	Expenditure (Rs. Mn.)	Provisions utilized as a % of allocated provisions
Recurrent	3,707.00	2,086.77	56
Capital	873.00	231.92	27
Total	4,580.00	2,318.69	51

3.6. Challenges

A major challenge has been the collection of outstanding income from the printing works carried out on a credit basis by the Department of Government Printing. There was a sum amounting to Rs. 463.78 million in arrears as of 31.12.2023, inclusive of the outstanding income excluding tax in a sum of Rs. 78.07 million (Rs. 81 million with tax) before the year 2009, and a sum totaling Rs. 147.87 million has been recovered out of it as of 30.09.2025. Accordingly, the amount to be further collected for the said period remains as Rs. 315.59 million (with tax). The outstanding amounts, mostly for the recent years, are found to be collectible, but the collection of arrears for the period before the year 2009 remains a tough challenge.

3.7. Activities proposed to be implemented during the year 2026

- According to the project proposal related to the implementation of a five-year program for development aimed at integrating the printing production process of the Government Printing Department with modern technology, it is expected to take action in the year 2026 to purchase machinery worth (Rs. 1,567 Mn.).
 - 10 software systems of Designing Software (Original) - (Adobe Creative Suite) required for carrying out designing work – (Rs. 15 Mn.).

- 01 High Security Designing software (ex, Jura) required for confidential and various types of secure printing tasks - (Rs. 10 Mn.).
- 01 Graphic Tablet required for using hand-drawn and painted images during designing - (Rs. 1 Mn.).
- Color Proofing Machine required for verifying whether the colors in digital artwork are accurately reproduced before printing - (Rs. 20 Mn.).
- Black and White Proofing Machine required for checking the accuracy of printed materials through black-and-white proof prints - (Rs. 15 Mn.).
- Industrial Thermal Printer with negative Printing required for producing negatives for polymer printing machines and printing thermal stickers - (Rs. 7 Mn.).
- Flexo Printing Machine (8 Color) Inline Machine required for the completion of large-volume printing orders within a short time - (Rs. 400 Mn.).
- Creasing Machine required for enhancing the efficiency of post-printing machinery - (Rs. 60 Mn.).
- Digital Die Cutting Machine required for enabling fast and high-quality customer delivery of label prints during die cutting - (Rs. 40 Mn.).
- Digital Gold Foiling Machine required for providing high-end printed finishes using modern technology to meet customer demands instantly - (Rs. 50 Mn.).
- Stamp perforating (Laser) Machine required for minimizing wastage during stamp printing by using a secure mechanism - (Rs. 350 Mn.).
- 01 Perforating Tool required for obtaining required shapes in a systematic manner - (Rs. 10 Mn.).
- 01 eco-friendly and efficient Inkjet Printing Machine - (Rs. 456 Mn.).
- 03 Collating Machines required for fulfilling customer printing orders efficiently in less time than the traditional gathering method - (Rs. 60 Mn.).
- 01 Punching Machine required for achieving efficient print finishing - (Rs. 8 Mn.).
- 01 Laminating Machine required for laminating book covers and other essential printed materials - (Rs. 18 Mn.).
- 02 Paper Shredders required for securely destroying defective copies of secure and other printed materials - (Rs. 2 Mn.).
- 05 Electric Pallet Trucks required for transporting paper and other raw materials from the warehouse to the printing sections and returning finished products – (Rs. 25 Mn.).
- 01 Electric Clamp Forklift Machine - (Rs. 20 Mn.).

4.0. Department of Posts – Sri Lanka

4.1. Introduction

The Department of Posts - Sri Lanka, going forward over a period in excess of two centuries, is currently adapting to the novel consumer needs, using modern technology and making strides beyond the conventional way of mail through a business development plan in place.

Promotion of existing postal services domestically and internationally and introduction of new services are undertaken, primarily focusing on the e-commerce market. At present, the local courier services such as SL POST COURIER and COD and the international courier service, EMS, are successfully in operation and have become very popular among the consumers.

The staff of the Department of Post is also engaged in the task of providing a reliable and efficient postal service by delivering innovative multimodal services.

The Sri Lanka Postal Department, which is working towards generating income by following a strategic development plan with the aim of zeroing the gap between income and expenditure in the year 2025, is unwaveringly committed to offer convenient postal services to the general public, provide free of charge services to various government institutions as well as render various social care services to the people in distress in addition to show dedication to achieving sustainable development goals.

4.2. Vision, Mission and Objectives of the Institution

Vision

‘ To be the best relationship partner by providing innovative multimodal services’

Mission

‘ To provide a highly innovative, efficient and reliable postal service making use of the motivated staff and the modern technology in a conducive work environment to maximize customer satisfaction in line with the standards of the Universal Postal Union and the policies of the Government of Sri Lanka’

Objectives

- Seeing to the value addition of existing services and creation of innovative services responding the digital lifestyle of the consumer.
- Winning the trust of the local and international customer thereby achieving the numerical increase in stakeholders who have been in association with the Department in the long term.
- Getting the customers of all walks linked via the local and international mail delivery network with ease and quickness.
- Reducing the adverse pressure exerted by the Department on the General Treasury through revenue enhancement.
- Playing a pivotal role in achieving the sustainable development goals through all target making activities of the Department.

4.3. Major Tasks

- Map out and implement a strategic development plan that will focus on the new technology-based market enabling the Postal Department to flourish.
- Proper positioning, deployment, maintenance and development of the resources owned by the Department into utilization with utmost efficiency.
- Transform the network of post offices spread out across the island into multi-purpose commercial hubs.
- Provide for necessary rules and regulations in order to take advantage of the competition towards strengthening the routine door-step service of the postal delivery network that has won the trust of its clientele and see to the efficient acceptance, conveyance and distribution of the postal items.
- Formulation of appointments, promotions, transfers and disciplinary procedures required for the motivation of the human resources and the maintenance of industrial peace.
- Staff empowerment, motivation and maintenance of the desired discipline through the introduction of a continuous training plan and a streamlined performance appraisal system for the furtherance of the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the members of the staff.
- Regularize the controls by strengthening the audit and investigation.
- Enhancement of the quality and efficiency of the services provided by utilizing the rapidly improving infrastructure facilities and creation of a pleasant working ambience for the members of the staff.
- Identify the current consumer needs and the demand of the market by way of market analyses.
- Maintain the postage in a manner that is affordable to the entirety of the clientele of the Postal Department.

- To modernize the existing services and introduce and advertise new services to fit into the changing market and customer needs in tandem with the novel technology in the field of communication.
- Setting revenue targets based on a scientific method and follow-up action thereon.
- Offer high-quality stamps and related products under attractive themes.
- Dissemination of the hobby of stamp collection in the country and overseas that can carry the Sri Lankan identity into international parlance.
- To improve the guidelines and set them in motion towards simplifying the systems and modifying the procedures accordingly to be adapted to the changing circumstances.
- Implementation of guideline improvements in order to simplify systems and reformulate processes to be commensurate with the market and customer changes.

4.4. Staff Information as of 30.06.2025

Category of Service	Approved	Actual	Vacancies / (Redundant)
Permanent			
Senior	127	73	54
Tertiary	253	34	219
Secondary	8,925	6,102	2,823
Preliminary	13,278	11,023	2,255
Sub Total	22,583	17,232	5,351
Registered Substitutes	4,788	2,462	2,326
Total	27,371	19,694	7,677

4.5. Network of Post Offices as of 30.09.2025

Classification	Number
Post Offices	651
Sub Post Offices	3,354
Agency Post Offices	132
Total	4,137

4.6. Physical Progress as of 30.09.2025

4.6.1. Acquisitions of Buildings - Formal Acquisitions

Classification	Formal Acquisitions	Acquisitions as of 30.09.2025	Total
Post Offices	105	06	111
Sub Post Offices	85	00	85
Other Lands	14	00	14

4.6.2. Progress of New Building Construction and Participatory Projects

All construction work involving the Polonnaruwa Postal Complex was completed and opened to the public on 17.06.2025.

▪ Projects on which work was commenced during the year 2025

Province	Project	Date of Commencement
Central	Galewela	04.09.2025
	Mahawela	07.09.2025
Southern	Balapitiya	12.09.2025
	Bandagiriya	20.09.2025
Eastern	Kalawanchikudi	18.09.2025

▪ Installation of the Digitalized Mail Management System (DMMS) -


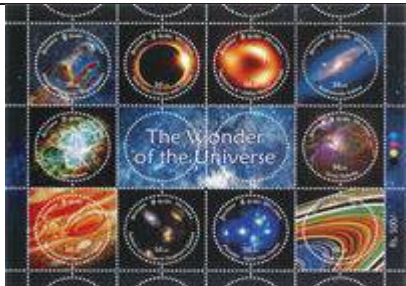
Work necessary for the setting up of the Project Committee is ongoing.

4.6.3. Philatelic Bureau

The stamps of the commemorative series issued by the Philatelic Bureau up to 30.09.2025

Theme		Date of Issue	Value (Rs.)
New Personalized Stamp (Volume – 02)		01.01.2025	50.00
Earth Conference		11.02.2025	50.00

Prof. Sangeeth Nipun Sanath Nandasiri		15.02.2025	50.00
Vesak - 2569 (03 Stamps)		10.05.2025	50.00
State Vesak - 2569		10.05.2025	50.00
Revenue Stamp - State Emblem		04.06.2025	1000.00
Sri Dalada Poson Perahera - EthkandaRajamaha Viharaya, Kurunegala.		21.06.2025	50.00
Minneriya National Park - (10 Stamps)		26.06.2025	50.00 (One each)
Centenary of the Sri Lanka Medical Council		05.07.2025	50.00
Bicentenary of Coffee Cultivation in Sri Lanka		08.07.2025	50.00

National Meelad-Un-Nabi		05.09.2025	50.00
The Wonder of the Universe (10 Stamps)		25.09.2025	50.00 (One each)

Income of the Philatelic Bureau monthly up to 30.09.2025 (Rs. Mn.)

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Total
5.8	5.98	4.46	5.38	3.64	7.33	8.73	7.27	10.91	59.51

Overall income earned by the Philatelic Bureau as of 30.09.2025 was Rs. 59.51.

Income	Rs.Mn.
Stamp Sales Income	33.86
Stationery Sales Income	1.11
Income of Philatelic Bureau	24.54
Overall Income	59.51

4.6.4. Foreign-Funded Projects under Implementation

- A proposed electric cargo three-wheeler project, which is expected to be funded with USD 100,000 from the United States Postal Service (USPS) - Initial discussions have been held with UNDP to implement the project in accordance with guidelines provided by the Universal Postal Union (UPU). UPU has also been informed of these developments. Verbal instructions have been issued by UPU to commence the project in January 2026.

4.6.5. Promotion of Provincial Income

The Department's annual income target for provincial income promotion has been divided into two levels, comprising post offices and sub-post offices.

Progress of the income targets set at the level of provinces as of 31.08.2025 is as shown below:

	Province	Annual Income Target (Rs. Mn.)	31.08.2025 Income (Rs. Mn.)	Progress %
i	Western (South)	2,341	1,368	58
ii	Western (North)	1,395	601	43
iii	Central	1,492	861	58
iv	Southern	1,370	721	53
v	Northern	700	334	48
vi	Eastern	769	321	42
vii	Northwestern	1,332	651	49
viii	North Central	734	349	48
ix	Uva	747	314	42
x	Sabaragamuwa	1,020	508	50
xi	Central Mail Exchange	4,500	2,283	51
xii	Headquarters	1,600	1,327	83
	Total	18,000	9,638	54

4.6.6. Entering into Agreements

- The necessary software development to enable bill payments for Dialog Axiata PLC through the Postal Department's e-Counter system has been completed. Once the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is finalized, Dialog Axiata PLC bill payments will commence as planned. The Senior Staff Officers' Committee has decided to seek legal advice from the Attorney General regarding the complex clauses in the draft agreement provided by Dialog Axiata PLC.
- Under the Memorandum of Understanding reached between the Postal Department and Bank of Ceylon, arrangements have been made to operate as agents to provide the bank's Agent Banking Services through the post offices and sub-post offices network. As part of the second phase, the service is scheduled to be implemented in an additional 100 offices island-wide.
- For countries where EMS (Express Mail Service) is not operational, items sent abroad are accepted through the post office network and handed over to UPS at the Central Mail Exchange. An agreement with FITS Express, the authorized representative of UPS in Sri Lanka, was signed on 21.02.2025. Following the discussion held on 01.08.2025, steps are being taken to train relevant staff, select suitable post offices, and implement operations according to the circular instructions.

- An agreement was signed on 06.02.2025 between the Department of Motor Traffic and the Department of Posts to deliver driving licenses issued by the Department of Motor Traffic through the SL POST COURIER service under a post-payment facility arrangement. The service is currently being successfully implemented.

4.6.7. Promotion of postal services

a) Through new media

- The process of integrating a payment gateway through the software of the Department of Posts via the Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC to facilitate utility bill payments and other transactions for customers has been completed. Currently, payment facilities are available through the gateway. The Philatelic Bureau's operations in that connection are being carried out successfully.
- Presentation of video programs on departmental services through the Sri Lanka Post YouTube channel.
- Raising awareness of the customers about the departmental services through all social media groups.
- Prompt response to issues/queries concerning departmental services through social media.
- Using Customer Relationship Management (CRM) for the COD WhatsApp group to resolve customer issues concerning Cash on Delivery (COD).
- Action to resolve customer issues promptly through the Call Center (1950).

4.6.8. Institutional

- Amendment to the Service Minute of the Department of Post – The Service Minute of the junior staff has been finalized and submitted to the Public Service Commission. The Service Minute of the officers has been forwarded to the Director General of Establishments for observations and recommendations.
- Amendment of the Post Office Ordinance - The final draft has been worked out as per the instructions of the Ministry.
- Work Study – Related work that has been started off as at present is in progress at the island-wide level.
- Costing in respect of Postal Items and Services – Relevant report has been prepared by the Institute of Applied Statistics of Sri Lanka and handed over to the Department. Work ahead in this regard is ongoing.

4.7. Financial Progress as of 30.09.2025

4.7.1. Reduction in Deficit between Income and Expenditure in 2025

Year	Income (Rs. Mn.)	Expenditure (Recurrent) (Rs. Mn.)	Surplus/ (Deficit) (Rs. Mn.)
2024	14,100	18,269	(4,169)
2025	7,052	14,830	(7,778)

4.7.2. Utilization of Annual Provisions

Item	Annual Estimate 2025 (Rs. Mn.)	Expenditure (Rs. Mn.)	Progress %
Recurrent Expenditure	21,823	14,830	68
Capital Expenditure	2,095	180	9
Total	23,918	15,010	63

4.7.3. Progress in Revenue Promotion Programs

	Revenue Code	Activity	Income as of 30.09.2025 (Rs. Mn.)
i	R014	Stamp Revenue	60
ii	R004	Income from Franking machines	1,486
iii	R002	Service of M Numbers	1,136
iv	R003	Service of BM numbers	842
v	R008	International Mail	327
vi	R006	International Courier Mail (Expedited Mail System - EMS)	612
vii	R017	Obtaining bills from the Ceylon Electricity Board	356
viii	R083	Cash on delivery (COD)	502
ix	R005	SL Post Courier	533
x	R056	Income over excess of free postal service facilities	471
		Total	6,325

4.7.4. Achieving the Departmental Annual Income Target

Item	(Rs. Mn.)
Annual Revenue Target for 2025	14,000
Income collected up to 30.09.2025	7,052
Progress (without reckoning Stamp Income)	50
Expected Stamp Income	2,568
Total Income collected up to 30.09.2025	9,620
Progress up to 30.09.2025 (%)	69

4.8. Projects / Programs proposed to be implemented in the year 2026

- Installation of solar power panels at selected Post Offices -
Preliminary work involving the installation of solar power panels is in Progress.

5.0. Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation

5.1. Introduction

Established as the first ever radio station in South Asia and the second in the world, the Sri Lankan broadcaster, known as Radio Ceylon, became an incorporated institution, transitioning into a public Corporation on 5 January 1967. Today, as it approaches its centenary, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation will celebrate 100 years of its mission of national service on 16 December 2025.

The Corporation launched its first-of-its-kind FM channel, City FM, on 3 November 1989, offering Sri Lankan audiences the opportunity to listen to radio programs via FM technology.

Subsequently, all national and regional channels previously broadcast via medium wave transitioned to FM transmission. Currently, the corporation's domestic radio network comprises six national channels in the language mediums of Sinhala, Tamil, and English, along with five regional services targeting local listener communities.

National Channels

- Sinhala Swadeshiya (National) Service
- Sinhala Commercial Service
- City FM Service
- Tamil Swadeshiya (National) Service
- Thendral FM Service
- English Service (Radio Sri Lanka)

Regional Channels

- Rajarata Service
- Ruhunu Service
- Kandurata Service
- Yal FM Service (Jaffna Service)
- Pirei FM Service

The FM transmission network of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation operates through eight FM transmission centers spread across the island. In addition to the domestic broadcasting system, the corporation's international broadcasting system functions using medium wave and shortwave frequencies. These shortwave and medium wave transmissions are operated via the Puttalam and Trincomalee broadcasting stations.

5.2. Corporate Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

‘To foster ideals for a good electronic media culture’

Mission

‘To engage in a media mission towards individual furtherance that strengthens the reconciliation of a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious society, economic development and democratic core values’

Objectives

- To collect information on events related to political, economic and social significance across the globe and disseminate them to the people with perspicuity.
- To provide leeway to accumulate common knowledge that allows people to gear themselves up as active individuals in the environment they live in.
- To build up a general knowledge fund for the sake of society.
- To identify the challenges of the sustenance of the human being and equip him/her with the knowledge he/she needs.
- Motivation towards the promotion of the objectives of the society that are exigent and terminus.
- To help interpret and clarify the basics of general matters.
- Inculcation and motivation of knowledge towards the development of skills, virtues and intellects of the individuals.
- To distinguish, safeguard and develop the culture of the nation or an ethnic community.
- To see to the entertainment aspect.
- To advocate mutual understanding, co-existence and respect among diverse community groups.
- To update and implement new technological changes.

5.3. Key Duties

The key duties of the Corporation in accordance with the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation Act, No. 37 of 1966, are as shown below:

- Operation of broadcasting services within Sri Lanka, seeing to its development, expansion and improvement towards the well-being of the general public.

- Supervision and monitoring of the programs broadcast by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation.
- Exercising the powers and responsibilities given by this Act for the purpose of broadcasting.
- Offering necessary guidance to the Hon. Minister on matters relating to broadcasting.

5.4. Staff Information as of 30.09.2025

Cadre	Approved	Actual
Permanent	700	275
Contract	21	59
Total	721	334

5.5. Physical Progress as of 30.09.2025

5.5.1. Establishment Division

A task study committee has been appointed to formulate a new staff structure for the institution. Upon completion of its work, the new staff composition is expected to be prepared and submitted to the Department of Management Services for approval.

5.5.2. Marketing Division

As of September 2025, the targeted sales revenue was Rs. 554.22 million, out of which a sum amounting to Rs. 316.23 million has been earned. This represents 57% of the overall revenue target.

Monthly Sales income	
Month	Income (Rs. Mn.)
January	30.64
February	30.77
March	70.30
April	29.82
May	29.90
June	28.76
July	34.19
August	27.77
September	34.08
Total	316.23

5.5.3. Engineering Division

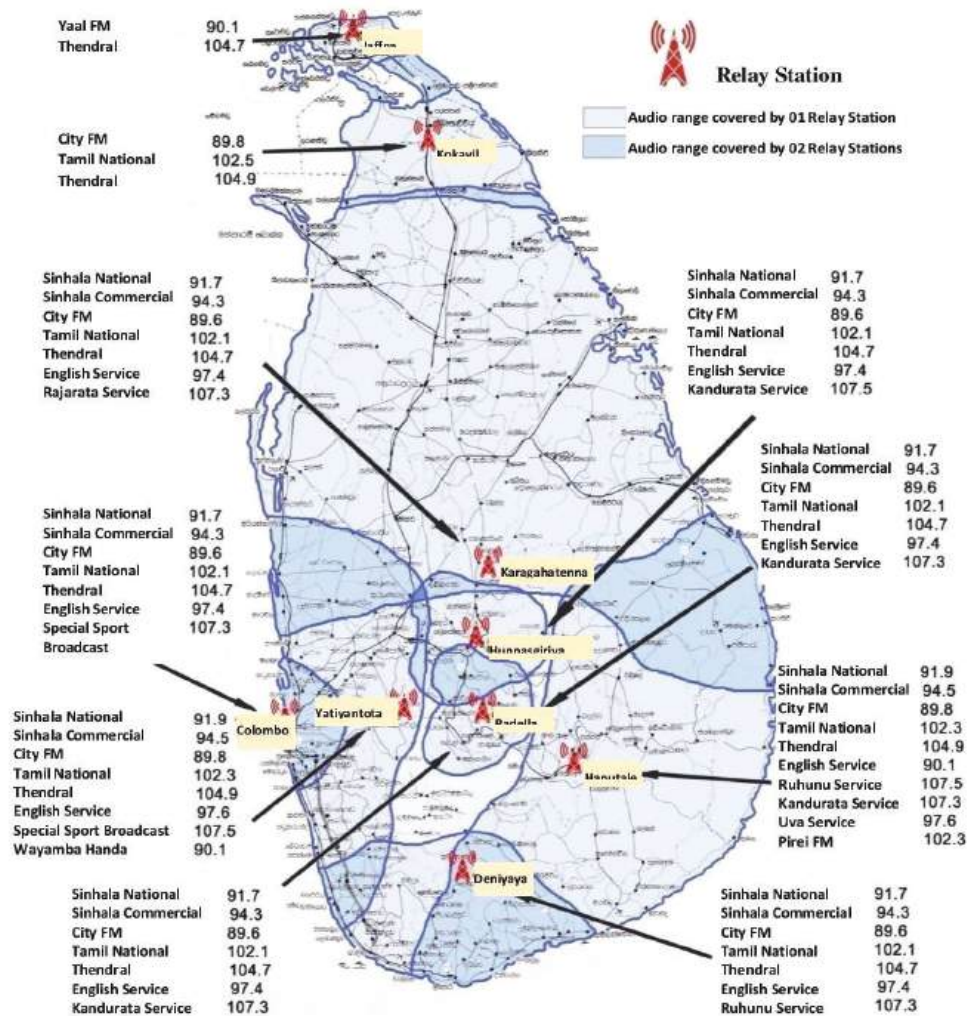
Due to the inability to carry out activities related to the internally allocated capital expenditure of Rs. 145.72 million approved for the year 2024, they were implemented in 2025. Accordingly, two projects have been completed, where a sum to the value of Rs. 6.28 million was spent on upgrading the Corporation's air conditioning system, and a sum worth Rs. 4.41 million was spent on UPS batteries for the Karagathenna broadcasting station.

The procurement work for 14 other capital requirements has been completed, and it is expected that these will be finalized by the end of this year.

5.5.4. Programs Division

Through its national channels known as City FM Service, Sinhala National Service, Sinhala Commercial Service, Tamil National Service, Thendral Service, and English Service (Radio Sri Lanka), the Corporation produces and airs linguistically tailored programs with the primary objectives of promoting educational and socio-cultural values, attracting new listeners, and creating innovative radio content. All such productions aim to elevate the listener's refined appreciation, which is the institution's aspiration.

Frequencies & Audio Ranges of FM Services



5.5.5. Programs with special focus

- Presenting programs that cover current social, political, economic, and international affairs in everyday society. (e.g., Subharathi, Sathyekshanaya, Saraprabhagiri, Janarāvaya, Jivithema City, Agni, Velanda Sevayen, Dasa Desin Hatha and Pravurthi)
- Broadcasting programs with the aim of producing essential food for the country through agricultural approaches and fostering a healthy population through safe and nutritious food. (e.g., Suwasetha, Sarathi)
- Presenting programs for the musical enjoyment of the listening community by featuring both veteran singers and emerging artists. (e.g., Subhavitha Geethaya, Aradhana Swara Dehena, Hedakara Hendewa, U Turn, Heart Beat, Obe Namin Gee, Uda Gee, Aruna Kirana, Madhu Rasanga, Gee Mihira, Geetha Saadaya, Bharatha Gee Vindana, Avirama Gee Ekathuwa and Vikasitha Rae Hatha)
- Introducing new trends in the agricultural sector through programs focused on crop cultivation, preservation of surplus harvests, and methods for resolving issues related to farming. (e.g., Guwan Viduli Govi Sewawa, Govithenata Peyak, Sobaketha, Ahas Pela and Gewattha)
- Broadcasting both types of beloved and publicly acclaimed classic dramas and engaging new productions to prevent the decline of radio drama art among listeners. (e.g., Muwanpelassa, Guwan Viduli Ranga Mandala, Baudda Naatya and Vishwa Saahithyayen)
- Broadcasting religious programs to foster the religious knowledge, attitudes, and coexistence among the listening community. (e.g., Dharma Deshana, Dharma Gaveshi, Shastriya Sangrahaaya, Synagogaya, Ilmul Islam, Muslim Kaantha, Kithunu Gee, Sathkulu Pawwa, Dhamma Chintha and Dawase Sithuvili)
- Broadcasting the ‘Anduren Eliyata’ program to highlight the abilities, innovations, and the roles of organizations and associations that advocate for the differently-abled community.
- Broadcasting programs that engage children and provide them a platform to enhance their knowledge, attitudes, skills, and showcase various talents. (e.g., Susara Sara, Muthu Mee Muthu, Poth Sumithuru Kalana Mithuru, Lama Pitiya, Viduli Gayum Veyum Gee Rasa Visithuru, Adarssawath Lama Katahandara, Baladaksha Handa, Lama Ranga Peetaya, Ranga Soba)

- Educating listeners who enjoy such programs through broadcasts based on local and universal literature. (e.g., Sankathana, Vishwa Madhura, Nada Bhashana, Manava Dayada, Samvarshana, Pansilu Amava, Sarasaravaya and Saptha Ranga)
- Broadcasting programs that promote knowledge among female listeners on health, education, law, social awareness, and nutrition, while also providing space for women's creativity (e.g., Saarathi, Prabhaswari and Prabhathaya)

Broadcasting news programs to provide highly sought-after latest information by the audience (e.g., Main News, Apen Puwath, Regional News and hourly news known as Peya Puwath).

5.5.6. Research, Training and Foreign Relations

The following courses, which include theoretical and practical sessions on radio communication, have been conducted by the Kotmale Media Academy and the training institute of the Head Office.

a) Courses conducted for external trainees

	Course Name	No. of Courses	Participation	Income (Rs. Mn.)
i.	Certificate Course in Child Speech and Communication	03	123	1.85
ii.	Certificate Course in Radio Broadcast Productions and Communication	01	36	1.4
iii.	Certificate Course in Sound Control and Public Address Systems	02	37	5.79
iv.	Course in Public Address for Air Force Personnel	01	13	0.26
v.	Training in Announcing for the Scholars of Kelaniya University	01	36	0.162
	Total	08	245	9.462

b) Courses conducted for internal trainees

	Course Name	No. of Courses	Participation
i.	Two-day training workshop for officers-in-charge of the Engineering Division	01	26
ii.	One-day attitude development workshop for the preliminary staff category	01	28
iii.	Three-day training workshop for Sinhala/Tamil/English news announcers	01	99
iv.	Hindi announcer training	01	05
v.	Sinhala news announcer workshop	01	14
vi.	Workshop on preparing the Corporate Plan for the Engineering Division	01	25
vii.	Corporate Plan preparation workshop (for all staff)	01	30
viii.	Four-day Tamil news announcer workshop	01	35
	Total	08	262

5.6. Financial Progress as of 30.09.2025**5.6.1. Income Generation**

Item	(Rs. Mn.)
Income	634.82
Expenditure	729.96
Profit / (Loss)	(95.14)

5.6.2. Utilization of General Treasury Provisions

The provisions of the General Treasury to the value of Rs. 150 Mn. for the recurrent expenditure of the Corporation have been credited to the capital of the Corporation by equity transfer and such provisions have been utilized for the payment of salaries of the Corporation employees.

5.6.3. Financial Progress of each of the Radio Broadcasting Services as of 30.09.2025

	Radio Broadcasting Service	Income (Rs. Mn.)	Expenditure (Rs. Mn.)	Profit / Loss (Rs. Mn.)
Main Channels				
i.	City FM Service	79.94	54.26	25.68
ii.	Sinhala National Service	58.42	79.01	(20.59)
iii.	Commercial Service	41.33	54.29	(12.96)
iv.	Tamil Service	104.19	58.84	45.35
v.	Thendral Service	22.87	35.33	(12.46)
vi.	English Service	17.21	37.84	(20.63)
vii.	Sports Service	3.80	5.65	(1.85)
	Sub Total	327.76	325.22	2.53
Regional Channels				
i.	Ruhunu Service	6.94	26.11	(19.17)
ii.	Rajarata Service	9.01	20.80	(11.79)
iii.	Kandurata Service	14.55	28.76	(14.21)
iv.	Yal FM Service	2.67	11.06	(8.39)
v.	Pirei FM Service	10.37	10.28	(0.10)
vi.	Wayamba Service	-	-	-
	Sub Total	43.54	97.01	(53.66)
Relay Stations				
i.	Puttlam (TWR)	42.63	42.27	0.36
ii.	Trincomalee	-	30.53	(30.53)
	Sub Total	42.63	72.80	(30.17)
	Total	413.93	495.03	(81.10)

5.6.4. Additional Income Generation Avenues

- In order to generate income for the institution by utilizing underutilized assets, a portion of the new building was leased in August 2025 to the Ministry of Mass Media for the DTTB project at a monthly rental of Rs. 750,000/- + VAT.
- Steps have been taken to recommence operations of the Rajarata Nivahana during this year.

5.7. Proposed projects / programs to be implemented during the year 2026

- Obtaining a decision with regard to Kuchchaveli land.
- Renovation of the Multipurpose Studio.
- Digitalization of Studios C 1, C 2, C 3 and C 4
- Strengthening the Information Technology Division (with fiber networking).

6.0. Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation

6.1. Introduction

The Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC), a gift from the Government of Japan to the Government of Sri Lanka, has been established by the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation Act, No. 06 of 1982. The National Television Channel was officially launched on the 15th of February 1982. The related Act has made provisions for the tasks of carrying on with a television broadcasting service in Sri Lanka and the development, expansion and furtherance of that service and the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. One of the main objectives in donating this Rupavahini facility was to turn it around to be an impetus in the sphere of educational promotion in Sri Lanka. Currently, the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, playing a robust role in delivering its key duties as the foremost state electronic media institution in the country, provides the people with high-quality education, information and entertainment.

The production and broadcast of the programs, among other things, are the key activities of the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation. The Corporation has been able to acquire modern, sophisticated methods, such as digital technology, towards presenting creations of high quality to its viewer audiences in concert with the rapidly changing television technology. While fulfilling the national responsibility as a national channel, the Corporation is also striving directly towards achieving financial stability by focusing on commercial objectives in order to become a self-financed entity.

Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, via its channels known as "Rupavahini", "Nethra" and "Eye", has been able to address the aesthetic appreciation and knowledge of its viewer audiences by producing high-quality programs and presenting news items that won inland and international acclaim over a period of almost four decades.

6.2. Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

‘To fulfil the national responsibility as the pioneer television channel in the Sri Lankan mass media industry.’

Mission

To deliver timely information and high-quality audio-visual programmes rich in knowledge, entertainment and education by the use of new technological advancements in order to meet the expectations of the viewer audiences. ’

Objectives

- To achieve financial stability through a profitable operational process.
- To be among the top 5 channels by developing audience responsiveness.
- To be the most attractive, useful and reliable provider of programs and information.
- To improve employee participation.

6.3. Staff Information as of 30.09.2025

Classification	Approved Cadre	Actual
Senior	73	46
Tertiary	178	90
Secondary	548	315
Preliminary	242	137
Other / Sales Executive	-	09
Total	1,041	597

The new cadre estimate worked out after having it limited to 650 employees in pursuance of the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers with regard to the Voluntary Retirement Scheme implemented in 2023 has been submitted to the Department of Management Services for approval on 02.09.2024.

Although the employee cadre estimate, having it limited to 650 positions, was submitted for approval, requests highlighting insufficient staffing for operational activities were taken into consideration. Accordingly, the board instructed the staff to conduct an audit and identify an optimal workforce. Based on this, a newly appointed work study committee proposed a revised employee estimate, which received board approval and was forwarded to the Ministry on 01.10.2025 for submission to the Department of Management Services.

Internal promotions, which had been suspended since 2019 due to various reasons, were resumed in 2024. Under this initiative, internal promotions were granted in 2025 for the following posts.

Promotions

Salary Category	Post	Number
Salary Code HM 1-1	Director (News and Current Affairs)	01
	Director (Production Services)	01
	Director (Miscellaneous Programs)	01
Salary Code MM 1-1	Assistant Director (Executive Producer)	07
	Assistant Director	02
Salary Code JM 1-1	Senior Producer	20
	Accounts Officer	02
	Production Officer	01
	Technical Administrator	02
	Administrative Officer	01
	Chief Camera Artist	01
Total number of promotions granted		39

In this exercise, the granting of promotions to posts belonging to the Categories of Service in Junior Management and Management levels related to the program production sector, which, in particular, is the institution's core function, has made it possible to resolve a longstanding grievance experienced by the employees in the field of program production.

6.4. Physical and Financial Progress

Provisions in the sum of Rs. 105 Mn. have been received as capital expenditure from the General Treasury in the year 2024. Such provisions have been utilized for the purchase of essential new technological equipment. Work involving all relevant projects could be brought to completion by the month of March 2025.

6.4.1. Physical Progress as of 30.09.2025

6.4.1.1. Capital Projects

Activities	Estimated Cost (Rs. Mn.)	Progress
Purchase of channel combiners required for Piduruthalagala Relay Station	35	Work involving all of these projects has been completed during the year 2025.
Purchase of new vision mixers required for the studios and vehicles of the outdoor streaming	40	
Purchase of new audio mixers required for studios and vehicles for outdoor streaming	10	
Purchase of slow-motion equipment required for program production	05	
Purchase of Live U Units required for linking up the outdoor live filming with the main control room	05	
Purchase of 03 cameras required for outdoor program production and a technological equipment system, including video mixers and recording machines, at a low cost	10	
Total	105	

6.4.1.2. Sales

- Sales income has achieved a gradual growth by earning Rs. 949 million up to 30.09.2025 from 01.01.2025.
- A sum to the value of Rs. 1058 million has been recovered from the debtors up to 30.09.2025 from 01.01.2025.
- The income earned by the programs conducted in connection with various festive events, religious festivals and the events of special days celebrated throughout the year in the country could be increased substantially, in comparison to the preceding years.

6.4.1.3. Training Activities

Under other modes of income generation, the Corporation, through its Research and Training Unit, has put to operation training programs such as acting (Acting Academy), dubbing of television programs, television camerawork and lighting, tele-news program presentation and newscasting, thereby being able to earn Rs. 16.7 Mn. in income by way of such training courses, resulting in 169 trainees coming out of their respective studies.

6.4.1.4. Programs

- A range of highly popular programs on national television, Rupavahini, will continue to be beamed uninterrupted throughout the year 2025 as well, with their composition further developed to enhance viewer engagement.
(Examples include: Nugasewana, Irida Ayubowan, Sith Nivana Katha, Muthuhara, Sukkanama, Adurshyamaana, Abhinihaara and PRO+)
- Viewer engagement with the television channel has increased through the broadcast of a new lineup of high-quality teledramas. This includes several dubbed foreign dramas as well.
(Examples include: Iragini Maddahana, Ira Hengila, The Lake, Murugasan Varusa, Sathi, 2024 Love Story, Kirilliyo II and Sihina Mandakini)
- The ‘ Piyum Neelavila’ music program, produced with new musical compositions, continues to be broadcast this year with increased viewer response. Additionally, programs such as Roo Tunes, Music Chart Show, Sawanak Sara, Police Miyuru Sara and Aluth Avurudu Sangeetha Prasangaya have also been produced and aired.
- Through the daily daytime movie series, the national channel has been able to retain its viewer base.
- It is noteworthy that the cultural and religious programs are produced throughout the year, prioritizing special days and occasions with a view to fostering national responsibilities.
(Examples include: the Sinhala and Hindu New Year festival, Vesak festival, Poson festival, Perahera telecasts, and the programs produced in line with events relating to Poya Day programs known as Saddharma Varsha.)
- The documentary program unit has undertaken the production of several programs focusing on timely and significant subject areas. Among these, under the ‘ Soba’ documentary series, which highlights natural ecosystems and the unique species that inhabit them, a documentary was produced on the mangrove ecosystem. Additionally, a documentary titled ‘ Amal Biso’ was also produced, addressing child abuse and violence occurring in the areas across the upcountry tea plantations.
- Under the ‘ Clean Sri Lanka’ initiative, the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Mass Media, is implementing the national media project titled Healthy Food - Happy Life (Safe and nutritious food for a healthy life). The Educational Programs Division holds primary responsibility for the execution of this project,

and a series of special programs have been produced in support of this national media mission. The following projects and programs are being implemented under this initiative as at present.

- Under this project, starting from September 2025, a mobile health clinic series titled ‘Arogya’ will be conducted across Sri Lanka. A new magazine-style program will be broadcast every Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and a discussion-based program will air every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. In addition to this, an agricultural program titled ‘*Ran Arunella*’ is being produced with a refreshed format aligned with the objectives concerning the aforesaid initiative. The program aims to introduce a community of the country’s youth, both male and female, advancing with modern agricultural technologies, promote home gardening and export-oriented crop cultivation, highlight successful agri-based entrepreneurship, and disseminate essential technical know-how to emerging agricultural entrepreneurs, with the expectation of contributing towards multiple sectors of national development.
- Under the implementation of the national media project Healthy Food - Happy Life (Safe and nutritious food for a healthy life), the documentary program unit has commenced the production of 10 documentary programs related to healthy food.
- Under the implementation of the national media project Healthy Food - Happy Life (Safe and nutritious food for a healthy life), a new program titled ‘Hedena Apata Hadana Kaema’ is being broadcast to raise awareness among children about safe and healthy food. Apart from this, plans have been made to organize a children’s art competition and a children’s essay competition with the aim of promoting healthy and nutritious food habits.
- The program series titled ‘National School’, broadcast live from October to April on weekdays from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., is a popular educational initiative among G.C.E. Ordinary Level students. These programs cover key subjects aligned with the O/L curriculum, including Mathematics, Science, English Language, Sinhala Language, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Communication and Media Studies, English Literature and History, with a focus on exam preparation. A notable feature of this initiative is that all programs are streamed live via the Rupavahini National School YouTube channel, allowing students to access the content conveniently at their own pace.
- The ‘Nena Mihira’ scholarship program series remained one of the most popular programs among students preparing for the scholarship examination in 2025. This program was

broadcast daily from April to November, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. In addition, targeting children in underserved regions, 10 conference sessions and 10 parallel parent workshops were conducted to support scholarship candidates. Furthermore, 15,000 sets of question papers were printed and distributed for sale. This program was also streamed live via the Rupavahini National School YouTube channel, providing students with convenient access to the content.

- Additionally, a program series titled ‘ Nena Mihira’ was produced for students in Grades 3 and 4, and it was broadcast every Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Furthermore, a set of question papers was also printed and made available for sale.
- Fulfilling its national responsibility, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation is producing a language education program series aimed at promoting language proficiency. Titled ‘ Yokoso Nhone E’ , the program includes elements of Japanese culture and is designed as a Japanese language course targeting the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT). A private sponsorship of Rs. 5,000,000/- has been received for this initiative.
- Preliminary organizational arrangements necessary to hold the ‘ ABU Summit on Climate Action & Disaster Preparedness’ , scheduled to be held in Colombo from 25 to 27 November 2025, in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), are currently underway.

6.4.1.5. News and Latest Events

Under the News Modernization Program implemented in the year 2025, the following activities have got off the ground.

- Introducing new features covering areas such as raising public awareness on government development initiatives, showcasing archaeologically valuable sites with potential to allure tourists, and conducting investigative news coverage. (Examples include: Aluth Gamakata, Ru Traveler, Gamata Arunalu, Chayavalokanaya, Avadhanaya Pinisai)
- A news feature was produced using AI technology on the historical background of the Sri Dalada Vandana (Sacred Tooth Relic Veneration), along with a 10-day live news broadcast covering the event of Sri Dalada Vandana from April 18 to 28.
- In addition to obtaining news through the network of regional correspondents, necessary measures were taken to broadcast business news with financial support from sponsors as a solution to the institution’s financial constraints.
- Implementing a strategy to increase audience engagement and revenue by popularizing timely international news through social media platforms.

- Broadcasting the previously unreleased ‘Sivudesa’ program on YouTube in order to generate income through a wider viewership.
- Presenting news features in a novel and more frequent format using English News, targeting the diplomatic community of this country.
- Producing special news features in English through English News with a focus on the economic and business sectors.
- Broadcasting regular programs such as Aluth Dinak (Weekdays), Mahajana Dinaya, Karata Kara, Shanida Ayubowan, Puwathpath Sirasthala (Daily), and Cabinet Decision Announcements, as well as live coverage of state ceremonies, national cultural festivals and events marking the launch or handover of government development projects.

6.4.2. Financial Progress as of 30.09.2025

The institution's monthly breakeven point is 150 million. The Financial administration of the institution has adopted several measures aimed at reaching such a target.

Under the ‘Clean Sri Lanka’ state program, a sum of Rs. 150 Mn has been allocated to the SLRC in 2025 by the General Treasury for the implementation of the national media project involving the ‘Healthy food - Happy Life’ initiative.

6.4.2.1. Income of Channels

Channel	Projected Income in 2025 (Rs. Mn.)	Income as at 30.09.2025 (Rs. Mn.)	As a % of the Projected Income
Rupavahini Channel	1,119	844	75
EYE Channel	38	20	53
Nethra Channel	75	85	114
Total	1,232	949	77

6.4.2.2. Income, Expenditure and Profit / (Loss)

Item	As of 30.09.2025 (Rs. Mn.)
Total Income	1,063
Total Expenditure	(1,320)
Profit / (Loss) before tax	(257)

6.5. Projects proposed to be implemented during the year 2026

1. Conservation of old video footage copies owned by the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation for future generations, with the aim of preserving national heritage.

Project Period : 02 Years
Project Value : Rs. 200 Mn.

2. Modernization of the studio complex and the outdoor streaming vehicles of Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation

Project Period : 01 Year
Project Value : Rs. 100 Mn.

3. Improvement of facilities at the Main Control Room (MCR)

Project Period : 01 Year
Project Value : Rs. 113 Mn.

7.0. Independent Television Network Limited

7.1. Introduction

Inaugurated its operations in the year 1979, the Independent Television Network is functioning as a leading television network in the sphere of Television and Radio Media in Sri Lanka, conveying the development news of the government to the people at large.

The Independent Television Network Ltd. is carried on as a state-owned public company and the two television channels named Independent Television (ITN) and Vasantham TV and yet another two radio channels named, Lakhandha and Vasantham FM, along with a digital channel for social media activation, are in operation for the Tamil and Sinhala speaking community of audiences.

The Independent Television Network Limited has a very powerful channeling potential encompassing the whole of Sri Lanka with a wider coverage. This Network captures its audiences with a terrestrial coverage of 87% and population coverage of 91% for ITN, a terrestrial coverage of 88% and population coverage of 93% for Lakhandha, a terrestrial coverage of 35% and population coverage of 30% for Vasantham TV and a terrestrial coverage of 80% and population coverage of 87% for Vasantham FM.

The Independent Television was able to line up and present programmes of the highest quality standards, comprising entertainment, news and the very latest events and it has now earned a good name and style, reputation and high recognition as the family channel advocating the cultural, social and religious values of Sri Lanka.

7.2. Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

‘Independent Television Network to be the forerunner in the field of electronic media’

Mission

Presentation of high-quality, attractive and human-friendly programmes interwoven with Sri Lankan values and culture ’

Objectives & Strategies

- To present excellent educational, news-oriented and entertainment programmes.
- To utilize the very latest technology for producing and telecasting the programmes.
- To be the forerunner in the field of new media in Sri Lanka.

- To maintain the financial stability of the institution.
- To develop creative, skilled and qualified human resources.

7.3. Staff Information – According to the Level of Service as of 30.09.2025

Classification	Approved Cadre		Actual Cadre
		Contract	
Senior	48	07	33
Tertiary	113		67
Secondary	262		259
Preliminary	115		128
Total	538	07	487
Sales Executives	29		21
Posts made as personal to the holder	04		04
Other			06
Total	571	07	518

Staff Information – According to the Category of Service as of 30.09.2025

Category	Actual Cadre
Permanent	414
Contract	43
Daily Paid	40
Sales Executives	21
Total	518

Staff Information – According to the Channels as of 30.09.2025

Division	ITN	LH	VTV	VFM	Total
Administration (including Transport Unit)	52				52
Finance	47	4			51
Audit	7				7
Marketing	7	1			8
Programs	107	17	8	2	134
Engineering	171	9			180
News	47	7	9	2	65
Sub Total	438	38	17	4	497
Sales Executives	14	2	4	1	21
Total	452	40	21	5	518

7.4. Physical Progress as of 30.09.2025

In 2025, the Independent Television Network (ITN), Sri Lanka's pioneering television channel, proudly marked its 46th anniversary, earning the respect of Sri Lankan viewers.

Successfully facing the challenge of maintaining program quality and transparency in broadcasting policies, ITN aired a lineup of programs that captivated audiences at large.

From the very beginning of the year, the network broadcast daily for 19 hours, from 5:00 a.m. to midnight, featuring religious, cultural, educational, developmental, agricultural, musical, and entertainment programs aimed at public welfare and enjoyment, ensuring representation of every community in society.

Driven by the goal of enhancing its financial standing, the Independent Television Network (ITN) successfully produced a series of acclaimed programs in 2025, earning strong viewer engagement and social recognition.

To deliver a digital television experience suited for the future, ITN's digital division was actively engaged throughout the year. This enabled the broadcast of a wide range of programs, contributing to improved financial efficiency as well.

Additionally, ITN played an enormous role in 2025 too, to educate the general public about national development and government policies, continuing its commitment to public service broadcasting.

In 2025, a project titled 'Take Care – Let's Stay Safe on the Road' was launched with funding from the General Treasury. The initiative aims to raise awareness among children about responsible road usage, thereby encouraging them to educate in return their family members as well.

In collaboration with the Independent Television Network (ITN), the 'Clean Sri Lanka' organization launched the 'Take Care' program with the aim of minimizing accidents through structured education, community participation, and media outreach. This initiative provided ITN with a valuable opportunity to fulfill a significant social responsibility. We look forward to continuing such impactful projects in the future, too.

Moreover, in 2025, ITN initiated plans and strategies to enhance its programming lineup with a fresh approach, focusing on higher quality and creativity. Through these efforts, the network aimed to increase revenue via sponsorships and partner organizations. Moving forward, ITN expects to implement these initiatives more effectively and efficiently in 2026.

7.5. Financial Progress as of 30 09.2025

The breakeven point of the institution is Rs. 170 Mn. Due to its failure to achieve the projected income targets in the face of the circumstances of the adverse economic situation that prevailed in the country, reaching out to the said breakeven point has been found to be difficult.

7.5.1. Channel-wise Income

The sources of income generation of the institution are the sale of sponsorship for programmes, taking in advertisements, selling transmission time for external programmes and digital marketing via the social media channel.

Channel	(Rs. Mn.)
ITN TV	1,033
VTV	68
LAKHANDA	53
VFM	31
ITN DIGITAL	64
Total	1,249

7.5.2. Financial Progress

Item	(Rs. Mn.)
Sales	1,217
Cost of sales	(439)
gross profit	779
Other operating income	177
Distribution, administrative, financial and other expenses	(1,095)
Profit / (Loss) before tax	(139)

7.6. Projects proposed to be implemented during the year 2026

- To ensure uninterrupted broadcasting operations at the Independent Television Network (ITN), a sum of Rs. 171 million is expected to be spent, under Cabinet approval, for the urgent procurement of essential equipment.

	Project	Cost (Rs.Mn.)
i.	Purchase of 05 Nos. of Non-linear Editing (NLE) and Graphic Computer System to produce high definition and advanced visual effects in the productions (05 nos. of NLE and Graphic Computer System)	15
ii.	To improve the operational efficiency and to disseminate live programmes and recording through a 4 Camera & 6 Input Mini Outside Broadcast Bus System (04 Camera 06 Input Mini OB System)	21
iii.	Implementing News Room Management System	70
iv.	Relocation and set up of the of Master Control Room (MCR) in the High Definition (HD) Studio Building (MCR Re-location)	65
	Total	171

- Under the 2026 budget estimates, a provision of Rs. 1,013.5 million is expected to be allocated from the Treasury for the procurement of essential equipment required to ensure uninterrupted broadcasting operations at the Independent Television Network (ITN).

#	Project Description	Cost (Rs. Mn.)
i.	Purchase of 10 Nos. NLE & Graphic Computer System for ITN Ltd.	25
ii.	Purchase of Modern Equipment, Software and Accessories for the New Digital Division of ITN Ltd.	40
iii.	Installation of New A/C Chiller System for ITN HD Studio Complex Building	85
iv.	Implementation of the Scheduling Software System of ITN Ltd	40
v.	Implementation of Content Archival System for ITN Ltd	60
vi.	Purchase of upgraded new equipment /machinery & new digital technology in improve operational efficiency and ensure uninterrupted services in ITN	303
vii.	Installation of New UPS System for Karaghatenna ITN Transmission Station and New UPS Batteries for ITN Head Office	10
viii.	Installation of 300 KVA Generator and Power Distribution System for KaraghatennaTx. Station of ITN Ltd	45
ix.	Installation of 800 KVA Generator and Power Distribution System for ITN Ltd	68.5
x.	Purchase of 05 Nos. of Camcorders for ITN ENG/EFM Unit to improve operational efficiency	15
xi.	Purchase of 03 Nos. of 64x64 Broadcast Audio Visual Routers to Improve operational efficiency in ITN	27

xii.	Purchase of 05 Nos. of Frame Synchronizer (FS) to improve operational Efficiency in ITN	20
xiii.	Purchase of Digital Vision Mixer to improve operational Efficiency in ITN	35
xiv.	Purchase of 06 Nos. of Broadcast Camera Chains with Tripods to Improve operational efficiency in ITN	162
xv.	Purchase of Digital Audio Mixer to improve operational Efficiency in ITN	15
xvi.	Purchase of Studio Lights System to improve operational Efficiency in ITN	25
xvii.	Purchase of Microphone System to improve efficiency in ITN	18
xviii.	Implementation of ERP Solution for ITN	20
	Total	1,013.5

8.0. Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited

8.1. Introduction

The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited, known by the name of ‘Lake House’ and the only newspaper company owned by the state in this country, was incorporated in the year 1926 as a Public Limited Liability Company by the reputed, iconic business personality, D.R. Wijewardene Esqr. and it was later taken over by the government under the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (Special Provisions) Act, No. 28 of 1973. 87.5% of the ownership of the company is in possession of the Public Trustee on behalf of the government and the remaining shares were held by the previous shareholders of the company prior to the takeover of it by the government.

The Lake House has been able to establish its place as the forerunner in the media industry over its almost century-old journey. The foremost role of the Lake House is to work for the good of the nation as well as the realization of the continued growth of the organization based on those objectives.

The Lake House is an establishment that has won the credibility of the readership community in the sphere of news communication of the print media building a knowledgeable society for the sake of fostering a continued sustenance of the newspaper industry, and it renders a national mission by averting the social integration of wrong ideologies through the conveyance of latest, precise, and the veracity-authenticated information to the community of its readership. The company, as of now, has also undertaken to leverage the social integration of information via digital media, opening up new vistas of print media artistry.

8.2. Corporate Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

To be the pioneer to provide a media ambience to the inland and global community with credibility and social responsibility, integrating the print and digital media.

Mission

Delivery of media services to the inland and global community ethically and effectively through instant collection and processing of news and information via reliable and independent sources and across integrated newspapers and digital media tools, making use of new technology.

Objectives

- To be the market leader in the newspaper industry.
- To disseminate accurate and authentic information.
- To be the most efficient newspaper service provider and conveyor.
- Excellence in customer service.
- To earmark the market based on the latest trends and demands and the positioning of the brands.
- To strengthen the market leadership in the print media advertising artistry.
- To become the most actively expressed publications of the new media.
- To gain access to convergent social media.
- To reach excellence in newspaper web printing.
- To improve the human resource policy and practices.

8.3. Key Functions

Printing and distributing daily and weekly newspapers and periodicals and operating concurrent social media platforms in the mediums of Sinhala, Tamil and English.

#	Publication	Description	Print	E-Paper	Web	Fb	YouTube	TikTok	Instagram	X
i	Dinamina	Daily Sinhala Newspaper	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
ii	Daily News	Daily English Newspaper	√	√	√	√	√	-	√	√
iii	Thinakaran	Daily Tamil Newspaper	√	√	√	√	√	-	√	√
iv	Silumina	Sunday Sinhala Newspaper	√	√	√	√	√	-	-	√
v	Sunday Observer	Sunday English Newspaper	√	√	√	√	-	-	√	√
vi	Vaaramanjari	Sunday Tamil Newspaper	√	√	√	√	-	-	-	√
Weekly Publications										
vii	Budusarana	Weekly Publication on Buddhism	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	-
viii	Mihira	Weekly Publication for Children	-	√	√	√	√	-	-	-

ix	Tharuni	Weekly Publication for Women	√	√	√	√	√	√	-	-
x	Sarasaviya	Weekly Publication on Cinema	-	√	√	√	√	√	√	-
xi	Subasetha	Weekly Publication on Astrology	√	√	√	√	√	-	-	-

8.4. Staff as of 30.09.2025

#	Category of Posts	Permanent	Contract	Cadre
i	Chairman and Board of Directors	5	-	5
ii	Top Management (General Manager, Additional General Manager, Company Secretary, Deputy General Managers, Chief Editors)	5	5	10
iii	Assistant General Manager, Senior Managers, Managers, Editors of Periodicals	15	4	19
iv	Deputy Manager, Assistant Manager, Deputy Editors, Creative Editors, Divisional Chiefs of Editorial Boards	36	6	42
v	Mass Media Journalists and Executive Officers	51	5	56
vi	Other	481	253	734
	Total	593	273	866

8.5. Physical Progress as of 30.09.2025

8.5.1. Physical Progress of Programs / Projects and Activities implemented from 01.01.2025 to 30.09.2025 (Projects implemented by the treasury funds / institutional provisions)

8.5.1.1. Implementation of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for Employees

The voluntary resignation scheme for the employees was made operative during the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 with a view to retaining an adequate and affordable capacity of cadre in keeping with the company's requirements, providing the employees in service an opportunity to retire from the service voluntarily as a measure to mitigate the adverse impact on the profitability of the company.

The downsizing of employees has been done based on the employee categorization criteria. Necessary plans have been drawn out to make the employees under retention a fully talented, efficient human resource in concert with the future objectives and needs of the company. The adoption of these measures will enable the Lake House to provide sustainable media services with an appropriate standard by venturing into its activities with a firm footing.

Accordingly, the number of permanent and contract employees of the Lake House other than those of the digital department, as per the Memorandum of Understanding entered into by the company with the line Ministry of Mass Media, will stand fixed to 850 by 30.09.2025, and this cadre needs to be maintained with optimum stability in keeping with the requirements of the company.

In order to fund this voluntary resignation scheme of employees, the government budget allocated a provision of Rs. 300 million for the year 2023.

Phase	Number of employees who opted to resign	Cost (Rs. Mn.)	Compensation Payment
Phase 05 of 2023	149	194.40	Payments have been finalized on 31 January 2023.
Phase 06 of 2023	62	66.93	Payments have been finalized on 31 October 2023.
Phase 06 (ii) of 2024	10	12.50	Payments have been finalized on 28 February 2024.
Phase 07 of 2025	27	33.15	Payments have been made and finalized on the 30 th of September 2025.
Phase 07 of 2025	12	17.49	Payments are scheduled to be made on the 31 st of October 2025.
Total	260	324.47*	

*The sum of Rs. 300 million allocated by the General Treasury for the Voluntary Retirement Scheme for employees has been paid in full and finalized, and the sum amounting to Rs. 24.47 million is funds owned by the institution.

8.5.1.2. Enhancement of the Commercial Printing Income

The income from commercial printing earned up to the 30th of September amounts to Rs. 81.5 million by way of measures such as the implementation of a promotional arrangement for increasing the company's commercial printing income, deployment of employees for the market promotion activities, and giving effect to an incentive scheme for employees in order to encourage them.

8.5.1.3. Human Resource Management

In order to ensure the establishment of good practice of human resource management, the number of employees in the cadre of the Lake House other than those of the digital department, as per the Memorandum of Understanding entered into by the company with the Ministry of Mass Media, should stand fixed at 850 by 30 September 2025. Accordingly, a carder comprising 838 personnel is being maintained by the 30th of September 2025 progressively. The number of such personnel is still less than the cadre requirement stipulated by the Memorandum of Understanding entered into with the Ministry.

8.5.1.4. Staff Training

During the period up to 30.09.2025, employee training sessions numbering 67 have been conducted with the provisions of the company, and 1151 employees have been provided with training opportunities. (Each employee is required to take part in 2 training sessions compulsorily.)

8.5.1.5. Lake House Media Academy

The Lake House Media Academy, the first-ever media academy that was initiated by a newspaper agency in Sri Lanka, was set up on 26 September 2022 with the ambition of producing next-generation media journalists and media professionals in the field of media in Sri Lanka. The Academy provides the students with media training to hone their practical skills that are very necessary for their future careers by going beyond the inculcation of basic academic knowledge of journalism.

The Academy, with the introduction of a series of broad-based programs including certificate courses, higher certificate courses, diplomas and the media industry-focused specialized one-day workshops, reached a significant milestone in its inaugural year. These educational activities are being led by reputed personalities in the field of media, experienced media journalists, university professors and professionals engaged in the newspaper industry. The curriculum of the Academy is worked out by a committee comprising versatile media journalists and persons engaged in the newspaper industry with extensive experience.

The education provided by the Lake House Academy addresses and assures the achievement of each student's unique talents and aspirations. The Lake House Media Academy acts as a symbol of the excellence committed to moulding the future leaders of the media sphere in Sri Lanka for the sake of media journalists and media professionals whose ambition is to get acquainted with unparalleled opportunities for education.

Courses and Workshops completed by the Academy up to 30 September 2025

	Workshop / Course	Date	Number of Students who took part
i	Diploma In Digital Journalism	03.01.2025	11
ii	Diploma In Mass Communication (Sinhala)	05.01.2025	13
iii	Diploma In Mass Communication (Tamil)	05.01.2025	10
iv	Acting & Drama Workshop	23.03.2025	37
v	Short Film and Mo-Filmmaking Workshop	30.03.2025	32
vi	Techniques of Public Speaking Workshop	30.03.2025	20

8.5.1.6. Minimizing the Transport Cost

Five lorries and one bus that had been taken out of use were sold at an auction. Since employing contractors commonly used in the industry for newspaper distribution is advantageous, the distribution work of newspapers on yet another two routes was handed over to the contractual transport companies during the year 2025.

8.5.1.7. Digital Market Access

- Introduction of a subscription money recovery system for e-paper zones.
- Launch of the website www.adz.lk, availing of a digital approach for classified advertisements
- Presentation of the websites of the major newspapers in a new facet.
- Presentation of an increased number of audio-visual features in all digital zones.
- Introduction of an arrangement to catch up with advertisers with the appointment of a full-time marketing executive.

8.5.1.8. Regularization of the Internal Control Systems

- Documentation of the purchasing method.
- Documentation of the marketing system.
- Improvement of the Internal Audit Plan

- Documentation of the advertising method.

8.5.1.9. Cost Control

- Keeping the number of pages in newspapers to a minimum level.
- Reducing the number of periodicals under printing, and publication of a few periodicals only via digitalized mode.
- Curtailment of expenditure involving sales promotion activities.

8.5.1.10. Sources of Income

- Measures are underway to attract investors for the optimum utilization of assets.

8.5.1.11. Promotion of Newspapers

- Providing full freedom for the editorial board.
- Subtle scrutiny of the quality of newspapers.
- Addition of an 8-page ‘ Rangahala’ supplement to the Silumina newspaper.
- Addition of an 8-page tourism supplement ‘ Explore’ to the Sunday Observer newspaper.
- Appointment of News Editor, Regional Correspondents and Freelance Media Personnel for Northern Province.

8.5.1.12. Clean Sri Lanka Initiative

Operational activities are ongoing under five major areas in parallel to the Clean Sri Lanka initiative, as stated below:

- Improving sanitation standards within the institution's premises.
 - Engaging with a proper sanitation service contractor.
 - Upgrading toilets and washrooms.
 - Enhancing infrastructure facilities in the cafeteria.
 - Continuous insect and pest control.
 - Conducting an annual Shramadana service program.
- Systematic disposal of waste.
 - Regular disposal of printing waste.
 - Systematic disposal of food waste by the Colombo Municipal Council.
 - Improvement of food waste bins / locations.
 - Streamlining the process of chemical waste disposal.
 - Establishing a place to store unnecessary materials pending their disposal.

- Improving discipline, ethics, code of conduct and procedures.
 - Formalizing the employee code of conduct systems.
 - Formalizing the media code of conduct systems.
 - Streamlining systems and procedures in the marketing department.
 - Enhancing systems and procedures in the sales department.
 - Improving systems and procedures in the accounts department.
 - Formulating the Scheme of Recruitment.
 - Formulating human resource policies.
- Raising public awareness about the ‘ Clean Sri Lanka’ initiative through printed publications.
 - Publishing articles and reports in major newspapers and periodicals.
- Regular publication of editorials and newspaper supplements on key focus areas linked to the ‘ Clean Sri Lanka’ initiative, based on funding priorities.

8.5.1.13. Other

- Holding the 36th Sarasaviya Cinema Festival on the 24th of June 2025 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall with all its high festivity.

8.6. Financial Progress as of 30.09.2025

Item	(Rs. Mn.)
Income	2,057
Expenditure	(1,849)
Profit / (Loss)	208
Cost of the Compensation Scheme	(33)
Provisions received from the General Treasury	26
Profit / (Loss) after Compensation Scheme	201

The projected Profit / (Loss) in the year 2025 will be Rs. 151 million.

8.7. Programs / Projects expected to be implemented during the year 2026

- Introduction of key performance indicators for the staff.
- To improve the digital media publications.
- Leasing out the space in the Head Office premises.
- Channeling the regional property for income-generating projects.
- Improvement of facilities at the Branch Offices.
- Preparation and Finalization of the Scheme of Recruitment.
- Access to new business activities.
- Updating the systems and procedures of the Marketing, Sales and Accounts Departments.

9.0. Sri Lanka Press Council

9.1. Introduction

The Sri Lanka Press Council, established under the Sri Lanka Press Council Act, No. 05 of 1973, is a statutory board functioning under the purview of this Ministry.

This is an act that has been passed to provide for the appointment of a Press Council of Sri Lanka for streamlining the matters relating to newspapers in Sri Lanka and providing advice on matters connected thereto and investigating certain facts related to printing or publishing in newspapers and dealing with matters connected or incidental thereto.

A special emphasis has been laid to show guidance to the media personnel through particular legal approaches by ethically molding them on issues of any controversial nature published in the newspaper reports, as well as to provide the media personnel with awareness programmes with a view to raising their professional standards.

The role of the Sri Lanka Press Council is to ensure the regularization of newspapers, provision of support for proper coordination among all sectors engaged in the newspaper production or publication, conducting research work on use of newspapers and the needs of the newspapers, methods of recruitment to the profession of journalism, measures related to welfare, education, training and improvement of media personnel and any other matters related to such profession.

9.2. Corporate Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

‘To make the security of press freedom in Sri Lanka more meaningful.’

Mission

‘To make the press freedom in Sri Lanka known as a cultural element towards national development.’

Goals as per the objectives of the Sri Lanka Press Council Act

- Safeguarding the press freedom of Sri Lanka. Prevention of the misuse of such press freedom and protection of the nature of the newspapers in Sri Lanka in accordance with the highest standards of professionalism.
- Safeguarding the freedom of publishing truthful statements based on facts, as well as opinions based on actual statements as news in the newspapers.

- Being responsible for ensuring the upholding of the newspaper ethics in its highest order by newspaper and news tabloid journalists as well as raising a proper sensitivity on two important factors of citizens' rights and responsibilities.
- Developing the methods of recruitment to the professional service of journalism and the welfare, education and training opportunities for the profession.
- Extending support towards a proper relationship among all the sectors engaged in newspaper manufacturing or publishing, as well as setting up of the common timely services needed for the conveyance and dissemination of news.
- Conducting research work on the use and needs of the newspapers.
- Reviewing new developments that could cause restrictions on the purveyance of information of common importance for the interest of the general public and the latest trends that could have a propensity resulting in apparent stagnation or autocracy in the sphere of newspapers in Sri Lanka and proposing appropriate remedial measures against such developments.
- Advising the government on matters whatsoever connected to the regularization and maintenance of the newspapers.

9.3. Carder Details as of 30.09.2025

Category	Approved	Actual	Vacancies
Senior	04	03	01
Tertiary	05	01	04
Secondary	07	03	04
Preliminary	05	01	04
Total	21	08	13

Currently, one driver is employed on a contractual basis, and steps are being taken to recruit additional drivers to fill the vacancies.

9.4. Physical progress as of 30.09.2025

9.4.1. Registration of Newspapers

Categorization of newspapers according to the time frequency	No. of registered newspapers	Categorization of newspapers according to the language	No. of registered newspapers
Daily	18	Sinhala	74
Weekly	33	Tamil	23
Monthly	66	English	40
Others	21	Bi/ Tri lingual	01
Total	138	Total	138

All the newspapers and magazines published within this country should be registered in this board and it gives a legitimate right to the owners of the respective newspaper. 138 newspapers had been registered by 30.09.2025.

9.4.2. Investigating the complaints received against the newspapers

If any sort of article is published in a newspaper published within Sri Lanka that discriminates against any individual, organization or institution, a complaint can be lodged in the Council and after receiving such a complaint, it is investigated, having arranged for the two parties concerned to meet and, having examined the matter according to the Press Council Act.

The target number of complaints to be reviewed in 2025 is 100. So far, a total of 49 complaints have been received for review, including 3 complaints brought forward from 2023, 24 complaints from 2024, and 22 complaints received in 2025. No fees are charged for the review procedure of complaints.

Investigating the complaints

Method of inquiring into the complaints	No. of Complaints
Complaints not forwarded in a formal manner	07
Under the process of investigation	16
Decided not to proceed	06
Dismissals	06
Orders	-
Settlements reached	14
Total	49

9.4.3. Courses conducted with the intention of developing the theoretical knowledge, understanding and skills of the media personnel

a) Diploma Course in Journalism and Communication Studies

This course is conducted as a one-year program for both professional and novice journalists, and its curriculum has been formulated based on the journalism training document introduced by UNESCO.

The certificate awarding ceremony for the tenth batch of students in the Diploma Course in Journalism was held on 02.08.2025, and lectures for the eleventh batch have now commenced.

9.4.4. Workshops conducted for the students of media studies on ‘ Communication Policies and Media Regulation’

Workshop	Date
WP/Mathu Kamburawala Maha Vidyalaya – Baduraliya	09.01.2025
Ceylon Penn Higher Education Institute	27.01.2025
Sipgrade Higher Education Institute – Kalutara	27.03.2025
Bandaranaike Centre for Leadership and Public Policy	24.04.2025
WP/Kel/S.K.K. Suriyaarachchi Secondary School – Kadawatha	08.07.2025

Workshops conducted at the educational zonal level for students learning the subject of Media

Workshop	Date
WP/Kel Mahamaya Girls’ College – Kadawatha	17.07.2025
Visakha Vidyalaya – Colombo 05	09.09.2025

Workshops conducted at the provincial level for teachers of Communication and Media Studies

Province	Date
Sabaragamuwa Province	18.06.2025

Workshops conducted at the district level for regional media journalists

District	Date
Anuradhapura District	25.01.2025
Trincomalee District	17.05.2025
Batticaloa District	27.09.2025

9.4.5. Knowledge enhancement of the newspaper journalists

a) ‘Sannivedana Kathikavatha’ Communication Dialogue Programme

This program sets up the holding of discussions by small groups on important books and other works that produce a dialogue in the present-day context. Plans are afoot to hold 12 discourses in the year 2025 and 06 of such deliberations have been conducted up to this juncture. Through this exercise, it is expected that the work of the expert and senior creators will be critically delved into and provide them with the facilities to thrive in their creative work.

Theme of the Discourse	Date
Short film screening and communication discourse	28.01.2025
Landmark court rulings that shook the nation – Mr. Ananda Abeynayake	18.02.2025
Sons of Ananda who lightened up the world of cricket – Mr. Sarath Jayasinghe	25.03.2025
An inquiry into the blossoming of dance and short poetry – Mr. Malan Bandara Kapuwatta	11.06.2025
Amal Biso – Documentary film analysis – Mr. Lasantha Rumesan	16.07.2025
Flavorsome memories of the stage – 2 – Mr. Edward Chandrasiri	17.09.2025

9.4.6. Timely dialogue programs conducted for media personnel and individuals interested in the field of communication

Timely dialogues of importance are held by selecting relevant topics with the aim of enhancing both theoretical and practical knowledge of media personnel and those interested in communication studies.

Theme of the Discourse	Date
Timely discussion on the ethical foundation of newspaper reporting	23.01.2025
Timely discussion on laws governing the mass media subject in newspaper reporting	10.03.2025
Crime reporting and media ethics (based on newspaper reports)	29.04.2025
The role of the mass media journalist in the age of AI technology	20.05.2025
Ethical foundation and challenges in photojournalism	24.06. 2025
Media reporting and gender perspectives	08.07.2025

9.4.7. Amendment of the Press Council Act, No. 5 of 1973

- i. The Cabinet has already decided to establish an institution known as the ‘ Sri Lanka Mass Media Council,’ either in place of the existing institution or keeping it as a base, with the authority to regulate the diverse communication media landscapes operating in the current

context. Accordingly, the present Chairman has submitted to the line Ministry the basic concept paper related thereto and the papers on the structure and nature of the proposed Act, having recommended a committee concerning it to be appointed in consultation with the Prime Minister's Office.

- ii. As interpretations of a variety of types are currently provided through electronic media in relation to news reporting, certain provisions of the Act have been updated to protect those aggrieved by such reporting, and these updates have received the nod of the Cabinet of Ministers. Additionally, the amendment has also granted further approval for the registration of e-newspapers, which had not been hitherto in existence.

9.5. Financial Progress as of 30.09.2025

9.5.1. Progress of the projects implemented through General Treasury Provisions

As of 30 September 2025, the General Treasury has allocated Rs. 25.08 million for the recurrent expenditures of the Sri Lanka Press Council. By that date, the Council's other income totaled Rs. 0.79 million. Accordingly, a total of Rs. 26.62 million has been spent on salaries, allowances, and other recurrent expenses as of that date.

9.5.2. Other Receipts of the Council

Receivables	Amount (Rs. Mn.)
Newspaper registration fees	0.436
Diploma courses income	0.115
Marketing of books	0.021
Delay fees	0.008
Credit interest	0.088
Bank interest income	0.093
Common deposits	0.032
Total Receivables	0.793

9.5.3. Overall Financial Progress

Item	Amount (Rs. Mn.)
Total Income	0.79
Total Expenditure	(26.62)
Profit / Loss	(25.83)
The General Treasury Funds	25.08
Profit / (Loss)	(0.75)

9.6. Projects / programs proposed to be implemented in the year 2026

- Holding of three (03) workshops at provincial and regional levels for the teachers of communication and media studies.
- Holding three (03) workshops at the regional levels for the students of communication and media studies.
- Holding ten (10) workshops on ‘ Communication Policy and Media Regulation’ for the students learning the subject of Media at schools around the institution and within its premises.
- Holding four (04) district-level workshops for mass media journalists.
- Producing ten (10) programs for the YouTube channel.
- Holding ten (10) ‘ Communication Dialogue’ programs and eight (08) ‘ Contemporary Dialogue’ programs.
- Conducting training programs in liaison with the Press Council of India.
- Conducting a research study on mass media.

10.0. Sri Lanka Institute of Printing

10.1. Introduction

Sri Lanka Institute of Printing is the pioneer professional institution dedicated to achieving the progress of knowledge, skills and proficiency in the print and graphic art industry in Sri Lanka.

The institution has been established by the Sri Lanka Institute of Printing Act No. 18 of 1984 under the then Ministry of Information and Media. This is a self – finance-generated institution dedicated to accomplishing the requirements that swell day by day in order to develop knowledge and skills in the print and graphic art sector to enhance the scientific and technological education. As a non – profitable institution, the specific role is to assist the printing industry to fulfill the modernization requirements within the socio-economic progression.

10.2. Institutional Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

‘To be the centre of excellence for serving the Printing and Digital Arts industry in Sri Lanka.’

Mission

‘To extend development services to enable Printing and Digital Arts enterprises to become globally competitive and retain their workforce with skills developed through Sri Lanka Institute of Printing, educational and training programmes.’

Objectives

- Converting Sri Lanka, a nation enriched with skills, through developing the skills of the workforce engaged in print and digital media.
- Developing the competition among print and digital media entrepreneurs.
- Assisting in securing foreign exchange earnings by developing a workforce with multi-skills for the global media and digital media sector.
- Developing the Sri Lanka Institute of Printing as a dynamic, global-level entrepreneurship and one-stop service centre for the local print and digital media sector.
- Maintaining an empowered, skilled and satisfied staff within the Sri Lanka Institute of Printing.

10.3. Functions of the Institution

- Conducting courses on print and digital media technology.
- Conducting seminars and workshops for providing knowledge on new technological developments in the sector.
- Providing higher educational qualifications in print and digital media technology.
- Accomplishing training requirements of the sector and providing access to employment opportunities.

10.4. Staff Information as of 30.09.2025

Service Category	Approved	Actual
Chief Executive Officer / Registrar*	01	01
Director of Studies	01	-
Lecturer / Assistant Lecturer	02	01
Instructor	05	02
Accounts & Administration Assistant	01	01
Management Assistant	01	01
Office Assistant (KKS)	01	-
Marketing Assistant	01	-
Total	13	06

* Effective on an acting basis.

10.5. Physical Progress as of 30.09.2025

Conducting of the courses

- With the modern advancements in printing technology, interest evinced by the students for the existing courses in Offset Printing has been on the decline. At present, there is a greater demand for Graphic and Multimedia courses. Therefore, the Sri Lanka Institute of Printing conducts training programs in Printing, Graphics and Multimedia.
- Action has been taken to obtain the ISO 2100 : 2018 quality certification.

Student Participation and Income

Category of the Course	No. of Courses Conducted	Participation No of Students		Expected Revenue (Rs. Mn.)	Revenue (Rs. Mn.)
		Target	Actual		
Certificate	11	442	291	19.39	17.29
Higher Diploma	01	20	73		
Diploma	01	36	29	19.39	17.29
Total	13	498	393		

10.6. Financial Progress

Item	Progress as of 30.09.2025 (Rs. Mn.)
Income	
Course Income	17.29
Investment Income	13.06
Total Income	30.35
Total Expenditure	18.79
Profit / (Loss)	11.56

10.7. Projects/programmes proposed to be implemented during the year 2026

- Initiating the Diploma in Digital Media Technology NVQ Level 5 course.
- Making arrangements to conduct the NVQ Level 5 Printing Graphic Art Course.
- Continuing to conduct courses in Printing, Graphic and Multimedia.

11.0. Sri Lanka Foundation

11.1. Introduction

The Sri Lanka Foundation was established under the Sri Lanka Foundation Act, No. 31 of 1973. It can be recognized as a leading national institution in Sri Lanka dedicated to promoting democratic values, safeguarding human rights, embracing diverse freedoms, and upholding universal dignity as an adult education center. Over the past five decades, the institution has played a vital role in building a generation of knowledgeable and responsible citizens. As an adult education institution that has earned national recognition, it provides education and training to a large number of officials from both the public and private sectors, as well as community leaders. Thus, it fulfills a prominent social mission in the country.

Furthermore, the Sri Lanka Foundation operates continuously as a transparent platform for capacity development, policy dialogue, and research, in tandem with its legal framework. Guided by the principles of good governance and social justice, the Foundation implements educational programs, professional training, institutional development, capacity and skills enhancement, and community-based initiatives. With adherence to the government's policy framework it makes a successful contribution to national transformation and sustainable development.

Starting from the 1st of January 2025, the Sri Lanka Foundation, in alignment with the government's policy framework and in support of the Clean Sri Lanka initiative, operates with a commitment to its core social, environmental, and ethical objectives. Through policy adherence, awareness-building, active participation, and transformative practices, the Foundation organizes and implements training programs and workshops aimed at fostering a socially cohesive and ethically grounded society.

11.2. Corporate Vision, Mission, Norms and Values

Vision

‘A society nurtured by education with relevance to democracy, human rights and good governance for social progression’

Mission

‘To extend support for democratic governance through the promotion of education, training and knowledge advocating policies’

Norms and Values

‘To create a justifiable, accountable, transparent, integrated, pluralistic and never-to-be-discriminatory society’

11.3. Key Duties

- (a) Conduct courses of study that are designed to meet the service needs of both the public and corporate sectors and also the ones that are focused on the development of individual, professional and organizational skills with a tendency towards the furtherance of the soft and hard skills of the participants.
- (b) Provide not only global knowledge and experience in management, financial, legal and regulatory practices, but also the enhancement of the efficiency and productivity in sustainable development and the assertion of the capacity levels of confidence the participants have in them to cope up with the contingencies at various points by the management of the training-related disciplines they have selected.

11.4. Staff Information as of 30.09.2025

Category of Service	Approved Cadre	Actual		Vacancies
		Permanent	Contract	
Senior	26	12	02	12
Tertiary*	12	06	0	06
Secondary	42	21	06	15
Preliminary	72	53	05	14
Total	152	92	13	47

* The post of Program Secretary, which is a tertiary-level post, exists outside the approved cadre of 152 positions. This position, along with that of Assistant Director (Supernumerary), is considered personal to the officer it holds. Both positions are abolished upon the incumbent's promotion to another post or retirement.

11.5. Physical and Financial Progress as of 30.09.2025

11.5.1. Conducting Courses and Workshops

Type of the Course	No. of Courses / Subject Streams conducted	Participation (No. of students)	Projected Income (Rs. Mn.)	Income (Rs. Mn.)
Higher National Diploma Courses	03	90	7.63	3.82
National Diploma Courses	03	118	12.57	5.90
Higher Certificate Courses	04	84	2.14	1.76
Certificate Courses	08	390	14.07	8.97
Workshops	23	980	6.20	7.68
Total	41	1,662	42.61	28.13

11.5.2. Conducting Efficiency Bar Examinations for employees of the external institutions

Eight (08) efficiency bar examinations / competitive examinations were held, and 1,533 participants were in attendance. The income generated was Rs. 3.67 Mn.

11.5.3. Amendment of the Sri Lanka Foundation Act, No. 31 of 1973

The decision of the Cabinet of Ministers CP/21/1949/316/043 dated 23.11.2021 to amend the Sri Lanka Foundation Act, No. 31 of 1971.23 – As it is apparent that there are certain deviations concerning the task of amending the Act as at present, taking the observations and decisions of the Foundation into consideration, the Department of Legal Draftsman has informed us that a new approval of the Cabinet of Ministers is required in order to proceed with the future work of this Act.

Moreover, since a new Chairman and a new Board of Management have been appointed to the Foundation as of now, plans are underway to submit relevant amendments with the approval of the new Cabinet of Ministers after obtaining the observations and decisions of the new Board of Management.

11.6. Financial Progress as of 30.09.2025

11.6.1. Physical and Technological Modernization Project

The Sri Lanka Foundation undertakes technical and physical modernization initiatives aimed at providing training programs and services that create opportunities for youth who are not eligible for university education to access local and international employment. These initiatives also aim to establish the necessary foundation for employed adults in both the public and private sectors to acquire new knowledge. The required technological and modernization activities are carried out through the financial provisions of the Sri Lanka Foundation.

11.6.2. Position of Income and Expenditure

Item	Amount (Rs. Mn.)
Income	193.08
Expenditure (Recurrent) with Depreciation	227.73
Profit / (Loss)	(34.65)

11.6.3. Utilization of the Treasury Allocations

Item	Annual Provision (Rs. Mn.)	Actual Expenditure (Rs. Mn.)	Financial Progress %
Recurrent	160	112.5	70
Capital	0	1.77	Capital expenditure was met by the financial provisions of the Sri Lanka Foundation.
Total	160	112.5	70

11.7. Activities expected to be implemented in the year 2026

- Organization of short-term workshops with a view to keeping public servants updated. (Areas such as new rules and regulations, circulars, information technology, and so on)

The government has identified that there is a lack of adequate institutions to organize and implement structured training programs covering all non-staff grade officers in the public service. The Sri Lanka Foundation is expected to take remedial action to address this issue.

- To pay more attention to promoting educational programs.
- Directing more focus on promoting the provision of services to external government and private sector institutions.

- Introduction of new courses of study and organization of workshops in keeping with the present-day demand and government policy prevailing in the country.
- To introduce staff training and motivational programs necessary to enhance the efficiency of the employees.
- Since the Sri Lanka Foundation possesses the necessary human resources, physical assets, and other infrastructure required to conduct degree and postgraduate-level programs, it is proposed to amend the Act to establish provisions that allow the Foundation to independently offer such qualifications.

This would provide a valuable platform for the 81% of students who qualify at the Advanced Level Examination but are unable to gain admission to national universities, as well as for individuals engaged in various professions and self-employment, to pursue higher education.

- According to the corporate plan of the institution, a revenue of Rs. 360 million is projected for the year 2026.

12.0. The Right to Information Commission

12.1. Introduction

The right of access to information was introduced as a fundamental right upon the inclusion of a new provision as Article 14 (a) by the 19th Constitutional Amendment, having it added to the Constitution of 1978.

With the objective of setting up of the Right to Information Commission, the Parliament of Sri Lanka passed the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of 2016, which was endorsed by the Hon. Speaker on 04 August 2016 and made it into being effective on 03 February 2017 for the purpose of establishing the right of access to information, the need to foster a culture of transparency and the accountability of public authorities by the enforcement of the right to obtain information and for promoting a society in which the people of Sri Lanka would be able to actively participate in the public life of the country in order to take part more fully in good governance.

It is a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal. The Commission was accordingly established on the 1st of October 2016, and the Commission has the power to monitor as to whether the functions assigned to the public authorities are being carried out properly. In terms of section 38 of the Act, the Commission is also empowered to take disciplinary action against persons who violate the provisions of the Act. Furthermore, the Commission also has the power to institute criminal proceedings against persons who fail or refuse to comply with a decision of the Commission, in terms of section 39 of the Act.

Moreover, the Commission has the authority to make rules pertaining to the form and manner in which an appeal may be made to the Commission, the procedure to be followed in holding an inquiry, and the fees concerning the provision of information. Accordingly, a set of rules governing the schedule of fees and the procedure concerning appeals has been introduced by the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2004/66 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka with effect from the 03rd of February 2017.

12.2. Institutional Vision, Mission and Objectives

Vision

‘Ensure that the citizens of Sri Lanka are able to effectively exercise their Right to Information.’

Mission

‘Developing and protecting the Right to Information of all Sri Lankan citizens, adhering to a culture of transparency and good governance, through effective adjudication and monitoring of the practices of all Public Authorities, and promoting proactive disclosure which leads to citizens being more ‘aware’ of all information that relates to them.’

Objectives

- **Provide a more effective judgment and make the objectives effective**
Provide Effective Adjudication and Enforcement: Effectively adjudicate disputes between Public Authorities and Information Seekers.
- **Support for the training of public officers**
Support the Training of Public Officials: Collaborate in training Public Officials and support specialized training on the Right to Information for stakeholders
- **Raising public awareness**
Increase Public Awareness: Increase public understanding of the RTI Act through the Commission’s website and media interaction.
- **Improving record management**
Improve Records Management: Provide precise directions on information management by way of Guidelines.
- **Enhance progressive disclosure**
Increase Proactive Disclosure: Foster proactive disclosure of information by issuing guidelines, setting minimum standards, initiating revisions to existing law, and periodical assessments.
- **Establish an effective monitoring and evaluation system**
Establish Effective Monitoring and Evaluation: Effective monitoring and evaluation of RTI implementation by Public Authorities through the utilization of appropriate online solutions and assessment tools.

12.3. Constitution of the Commission

The Commission shall consist of five persons appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Constitutional Council.

12.4. Duties, functions and powers of the Commission

12.4.1. Duties & functions of the Commission

As per Section 14 of the Act, the duties and functions of the Commission shall be: to -

- (i) monitor the performance and ensure the due compliance by public authorities, of the duties cast on them under this Act;
- (ii) make recommendations for reform both of a general nature and those in regard to any specific public authority;
- (iii) issue guidelines based on reasonableness for determining fees to be levied by public authorities for the release of any information under this Act;
- (iv) prescribe the circumstances in which information may be provided by an information officer, without the payment of a fee;
- (v) prescribe the fee Schedule based on the principle of proactive disclosure, about providing information;
- (vi) co-operate with or undertake training activities for public officials on the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act;
- (vii) publicise the requirements of this Act and the rights of individuals under the Act;
- (viii) issue guidelines for the proper record management for public authorities.

12.4.2. Powers of the Commission

For the purpose of performing its duties and discharging of its functions as per section 15 of the Act, the Commission shall have the power-

- (i) to hold inquiries and require any person to appear before it;
- (ii) to examine such person under oath or affirmation and require such person, where necessary, to produce any information which is in that person's possession, provided that the information which is exempted from disclosure under section 5 shall be examined in confidence;
- (iii) to inspect any information held by a public authority, including any information denied by a public authority under the provisions of this Act;
- (iv) to direct a public authority to provide information, in a particular form;
- (v) to direct a public authority to publish any information withheld by a public authority from the public, subject to the provisions of section 5;
- (vi) to hear and determine any appeals made to it by any aggrieved person under section 32; and
- (vii) To direct reimbursement of fees charged from a citizen due to any information requested not being provided in time.

12.5. Staff Information as of 30.09.2025

Level	Approved	Actual	No. of vacancies
Senior	6	1	4
Tertiary	2	2	-
Secondary	22	9	12
Primary	5	2	3
Contract	-	1 (Senior) 1 (Secondary)	-
Total	35	16	19

12.6. Physical Progress as of 30.09.2025**12.6.1. Hearing of Appeals**

Progress of the hearing of appeals submitted to the Commission by an aggrieved person by virtue of the powers of examination and determination on such appeals under section 32 of the Act is as shown below.

Item	Year 2024	As of 30 September 2025
Total number of complaints received by the Commission	1,852	1,306
a) Number of complaints (appeals) or number of actual appeals received for examination as determined by the Commission	1,468	903
b) Number of appeals / complaints identified by the Commission with defects (Number of appeals with defects)	384	403
Number of appeals received for examination from the previous year	466	570
Total number of appeals pending examination for the relevant year (Originated from the previous year and decided upon for examination)	2,382	1,876
Number of Appeals for which dates were fixed for reexamination after partial hearing (Appeals for which interim orders were issued with final orders pending)	112	308
Number of appeals heard and final orders issued by the Commission	1,837	1,157
Number of appeals laid by	01	08

12.6.2. Conducting the awareness programs

- Holding of an awareness program at the Orchid Hall of the BMICH on 18.02.2025 to educate 83 public officers on the auditing process of the Right to Information Act at the institutional level.
- Holding of the awareness program at the auditorium of the Thihagoda Divisional Secretariat in Matara District on 06.06.2025 to educate 156 Designated Officers and Information Officers of the government institutions on the Right to Information Act.
- Holding of the awareness program at the auditorium of the Western Provincial Council on 19.09.2025 to educate 200 public officers of the Western Province on the Right to Information Act.

12.7. Financial Progress as of 30.09.2025

Description	Financial Progress (Rs. Mn.)		
	Annual allocation 2025	Expenditure as of 30.09.2025	%
Recurrent	57	38.94	68
Capital	3	0.25	8
Total	60	39.19	65

12.8. Projects / programs proposed to be implemented in the year 2026

- a) Under the initiative to cooperate with, educate and undertake training of public officials in terms of section) 14f) of the Act;
- To organize an awareness program for the officers of 24 public and private sector banks registered in Sri Lanka as of 31 March 2024.
 - To educate officials of the 17 state universities.
 - To educate the new officers in 24 Ministries.
 - To educate the officers of the District Secretariats in Badulla, Galle, Anuradhapura and Vauniya.

13.0. Lankapuvath Limited

13.1. Introduction

Lankapuvath, the national news agency, was inaugurated in the year 1978 in parallel to the international news agencies in line with a concept of UNESCO upon receipt of the membership of the Organization of Asia Pacific News Agencies (OANA) and Non-Aligned News Agency Pool (NANAP). Lankapuvath is an institution with legal individuality registered under the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007. Lankapuvath, the national news agency, is the first ever and the only such news agency in Sri Lanka.

The Board of Directors of Lankapuvath consists of representatives from Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, Independent Television Network and Express Newspapers Limited.

13.2. Activities of the Institution at present

There is no physically established institution as LankaPuwath as at present.

News is updated daily on the official website, www.lankapuvath.lk, both in English and the Sinhala language media.

LankaPuwath, in collaboration with the state-owned mobile network, Mobitel, goes into operation with an SMS Alert Service both in English and the Sinhala language media. The subscribers are provided with the latest information and news on political as well as sporting events via such a service. Sri Lanka's news is being shared with the news agencies as well.

13.3. Future Measures

A decision regarding the necessity and feasibility of continuing the institution's operations is expected to be made in consultation with its stakeholders, namely the state media.

