



MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
AND MASS MEDIA



# PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT

2024

# **PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024**



**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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***HEALTH***  
***MINISTRY***

# 1. Introduction

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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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 2023-2024

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### 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 Minister of Health and Mass Media in the new government, assumed office as Minister of Health at the Ministry of Health on 19<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Dr. Harini Amarasuriya assumed as the Health Minister at the Ministry of Health.**

Dr. Harini Amarasuriya was officially inaugurated as the Prime Minister of the newly formed government on September 24, 2024, in a ceremony presided over by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake. Later that afternoon, she formally assumed her responsibilities as the new health minister at the Ministry of Health. The event was attended by the Prime Minister's Secretary, Mr. Pradeep Saputhanthri, the Secretary of Health, Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Dr. Nihal Abeysinghe, Professor Chrishantha Abeysena, and a delegation of officials from the Ministry of Health.



### **Dr Ramesh Pathirana assumes duties as the Minister of Health**



Dr. Ramesh Pathirana was formally sworn in as the Minister of Health by President Ranil Wickremesinghe on November 23, 2023. He officially assumed his duties at the Ministry of Health the following morning, November 24, 2023. The ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including State Ministers, Members of Parliament, the former Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Mr.

Janaka Sri Chandragupta, the Director General of Health Services, Additional Secretaries, Deputy Director Generals, heads of institutions, and other Ministry of Health staff.

### **Dr Palitha Mahipala assumes duties as the Secretary of Health**



Dr. P. G. Mahipala was appointed to the Ministry of Health as the Secretary on November 20, 2023. Previously, he served as the Director General of Health Services and as an Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Health, in addition to over five years of service with the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Mahipala is a distinguished public official, recognized for his

significant contributions to the health sector in Sri Lanka.



The ceremony marking his appointment was attended by Additional Secretaries of the Ministry of Health, the Director General of Health Services, Senior Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Director Generals, and Directors representing hospitals and health institutions. Dr. Palitha Mahipala, took on the position of Secretary of the Ministry of Health in the newly established government on September 24, 2024.



## National Events

- **World Antimicrobial Drug Awareness Week**

On "World Antimicrobial Drug Awareness Week," a special conference was held on November 25, 2023, at Water's Edge Hotel in Battaramulla, under the patronage of the Hon. Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana. The event was organized by the Deputy Director General of Laboratory Services, Ministry of Health, under the theme "Let's Unite to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance."



- **36<sup>th</sup> National Commemoration Ceremony of World AIDS Day (December 1)**



The 2024 National Commemoration Ceremony of World AIDS Day was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.



## International events

### • The International Conference on Accident Prevention - 2023 (ICIPSL'23)

The International Conference on Accident Prevention 2023 (ICIPSL'23) was held on November 20, 2023, under the auspices of the Hon. Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, at Water's Edge, Battaramulla. The event brought together numerous researchers and experts in the field, who shared their insights and expertise with the Sri Lankan medical community.



### • International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day)

A special ceremony organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) country office to commemorate International Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day was held on December 12, 2023, under the chairmanship of the Hon. Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, at the Galle Face Hotel. This day, officially designated by the United Nations, aims to raise awareness about the importance of strong, equitable, and resilient health systems and the need for universal health coverage.



### • Dr Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Health and Industry, representing Sri Lanka in the 77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly

The 77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 27 to June 1, 2024. Sri Lanka was represented by the Hon. Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, along with the Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Dr. Palitha Mahipala. During the assembly, the Regional Director for the World Health Organization South-East Asia



Region held a meeting with the Hon. Minister of Health and Industry to discuss Sri Lanka's ongoing health reform initiatives.



- **Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC)**

The Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference commenced on January 15, 2024, marking its first-ever occurrence in Sri Lanka. The conference was extended until January 21, 2024. On its third day, a session was held at the Faculty of Medicine Auditorium, University of Colombo, under the patronage of the Hon. Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, and the Hon. Minister of Education, Susil Premjayantha.



- **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 21<sup>st</sup> and 22 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 with foreign delegates

- **Meeting with UNICEF representatives**



A special meeting took place on December 17, 2023, between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative and Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Secretary to the Ministry of Health. The discussion was also attended by UNICEF's Nutrition Manager and the Health and Nutrition Officer for Sri Lanka.

- **Meeting with UNDP country representatives**



A special meeting was held on January 24, 2024, between the Hon. Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, and the Country Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) at the Ministry of Health. The discussion focused on the use of modern technology to advance Sri Lanka's health services. The Team Leader of the Joint Management Team representing UNDP and an economic expert also participated in the meeting.

- **Meeting with the US ambassador**



The Hon. Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, met with the U.S. Ambassador at the Ministry of Health on January 30, 2024. The meeting involved an in-depth discussion on the current state of Sri Lanka's health services and the support and grants provided by the U.S. government for the development of the country's health sector. The Secretary of Health, Dr. Palitha Mahipala, also attended this event.

- **Meeting with the German ambassador**

A meeting was held on January 31, 2024, between the Hon. Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, and the German Ambassador to Sri Lanka at the Ministry of Health. The discussion centered on the new six-story maternity hospital being constructed in Galle, Karapitiya, with support from the German government. The meeting was attended by several



officials from the Ministry of Health, including the Secretary, Dr. Palitha Mahipala, and the Director General of Health Services.

- **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 28<sup>th</sup> 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. Katsuhiro 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 09<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Major Developments/Initiatives in the Health Sector**

### **1. Curative Sector**

- **Installation of an advanced Digital Xray machine in DGH Matara**



A digital X-ray machine, equipped with advanced technology and valued at approximately 100 million rupees, was installed at the Matara District General Hospital. This addition to patient care services followed an inspection by the Secretary of Health, Dr. Palitha Mahipala, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2023. Funded by the Ministry of Health, this X-ray machine is the only one with modern

facilities in the Southern Province.

- **Inauguration of the newly constructed oxygen generation plant at Udugama Base Hospital, Galle.**

The newly constructed oxygen generation plant at Udugama Base Hospital in Galle was inaugurated on December 7, 2023, with a financial contribution of 200 million rupees from the Government of Canada. UNICEF coordinated the establishment of this facility. The plant has a production capacity of 50,000 liters of oxygen per month. The monthly oxygen requirement for the 150-bed Udugama Base Hospital is approximately 10,000 liters, allowing for an excess production of 40,000 liters, which will be supplied to various district, base, and peripheral hospitals in the surrounding area.



- **Initiation of the 'Connected ambulance service' of Suwa Sariya Pre-Hospital Care Ambulance Service**

The 'Connected Ambulance Service' of the Suwa Sariya Pre-Hospital Care Ambulance Service was launched at the Rajagiriya Suwa Sariya Head Office on December 12, 2023. This innovative service allows for real-time monitoring of patients during transportation to a hospital using advanced medical equipment. Medical professionals at the main operation center can diagnose the patient's condition and provide necessary medical advice while coordinating appropriate treatment referrals based on the patient's needs.



- **Inspection of the construction of the four-storied children's Ward complex at Maharagama Apeksha Hospital**

On December 13, 2023, the Hon. Minister of Health conducted an inspection of the construction site for the four-story children's ward complex at Maharagama Apeksha Hospital. This facility is being developed with funding from the Ruhunu Maha Kataragama Devalaya Fund, with a total investment of 150 million rupees. The inspection event was attended by the Ruhunu Kataragama Devalaya Basnayake Nilame, the Deputy Director of the hospital, administrative officers, specialist doctors, and a group of hospital staff.





- **Allocation of one billion rupees to purchase essential equipment to Karapitiya Hospital**



A special discussion was held on January 10, 2024, at Karapitiya Teaching Hospital, led by the Hon. Minister of Health, alongside officials from the Ministry of Health and hospital representatives. During the meeting, the Hon. Minister announced the allocation of one billion rupees for essential

equipment for Karapitiya Hospital in 2024. The discussion was attended by the Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Dr. Palitha Mahipala, the Additional Secretary of Engineering, Deputy Director Generals from the Ministry of Health, the Hospital Director, senior consultants including cancer surgeon Dr. Krishantha Perera, along with doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff.

- **The new "Apeksha Piyasa" cancer patient treatment ward was inaugurated at the new District General Hospital, Kamburugamuwa, Matara.**

The "Apeksha Piyasa" cancer treatment ward, constructed at a cost of 80 million rupees at the New District General Hospital in Kamburugamuwa, Matara, was officially opened for patient care services on January 24, 2024, by the Secretary of Health, Dr. Palitha Mahipala. The establishment of this ward was made possible through generous donations from both local and international sources.



- **Establishing of the New blood bank of Walasmulla Base Hospital**

A fully equipped blood bank was established at Walasmulla Base Hospital with an allocation of over 4 million rupees from the Ministry of Health. Additionally, two ventilators, valued at 20 million rupees, were provided to the hospital under the patronage of the Secretary of Health, Dr. Palitha Mahipala, on January 29, 2024.



- **Provision of two Heart Lung machines to the Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital**

Two heart-lung machines, each valued at 80 million rupees and utilized for open-heart surgery, were provided to the Cardiothoracic Surgery Unit of Lady Ridgeway Hospital (LRH) for Children on March 1, 2024. This acquisition was made possible through the direct intervention of His Excellency the President and under the guidance of Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Secretary of Health, following the directives of the Hon. Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana.



- **The new Oxygen-generating plant, surgical Intensive Care Unit and Public Health Unit of Kegalle District General Hospital were handed over to the public.**

With coordinated support from UNICEF and contributions from the Government of Canada, a new oxygen generation plant was established at Kegalle District General Hospital at 37 million rupees, with the capacity to produce 50 jumbo oxygen cylinders per day. Additionally, the Public Health Unit and the Surgical Intensive Care Unit were established with an investment of 20 million rupees. These facilities were officially handed over to the public on July 3, 2024, under the patronage of Health Secretary Dr. Palitha Mahipala.



- **Initiation of Udugama and Niagama Hospital Development Projects in Galle District**

On March 18, 2024, the Honorable Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena and the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, oversaw the commencement of the first phase of a new four-story building at Base Hospital Udugama and a three-story building at Divisional Hospital Niyagama. The four-story building at Base Hospital Udugama will be constructed at 400 million rupees, with funding provided by the World Bank and the Southern Provincial Council. The first phase of the three-story building at Divisional Hospital Niyagama has a budget of 95 million rupees, which is also financed by the World Bank and the Southern Provincial Council.



- **Opening of German-Sri Lanka Friendship Karapitiya Maternal and Child Health Hospital**

On March 27, 2024, His Excellency President Ranil Wickremesinghe, along with the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, inaugurated the German-Sri Lanka Friendship New Maternity Hospital in Galle, Karapitiya, as an addition to the Sri Lankan health system. This facility, funded by the Government of Germany, the Helmut Kohl Galle Maternity Hospital Foundation, and the Sri Lankan government, is the largest and first dedicated maternity hospital in the Southern Province. It is recognized as the premier maternity hospital in South Asia.



- **Kurunegala Teaching Hospital's five-story ward complex joins healthcare services**



On April 10, 2024, the R.H. de Mel Memorial Ward Complex at Teaching Hospital Kurunegala was officially incorporated into healthcare services under the patronage of the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana. This

development followed a donation of 567 million rupees from the late Mrs. Eileen de Mel.

- **A CT Scan (128-slice) machine with state-of-the-art technology was provided to the neurosurgery department of the Colombo National Hospital**

A state-of-the-art 128-slice CT scan machine was inaugurated in the Department of Neurosurgery at the National Hospital Colombo on April 12, 2024. The event was hosted by the Secretary of the Ministry of Health. This advanced imaging equipment, funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Health Sector Development Project, represents an investment of 220 million rupees.





- **A state-of-the-art CT Scanner was added to Karapitiya Teaching Hospital**

On April 24, 2024, a newly installed CT scanner, valued at 250 million rupees, was incorporated into the treatment services at Teaching Hospital Karapitiya under the leadership of the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana. This advanced CT scanner, manufactured in Japan, was funded by the Ministry of Health.



- **A six-storied building with a Cath Lab unit for Cardiac Treatment at Trincomalee District General Hospital**



On May 9, 2024, a team from the Ministry of Health, led by the Health Secretary, visited District General Hospital Trincomalee. During this visit, the Health Secretary announced the

allocation of 70 million rupees for hospital maintenance, 75 million rupees for medical equipment, and 50 million rupees for the repair of medical quarters. Additionally, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project will finance the construction of a six-story building, which will include a catheterization laboratory (Cath Lab) for the treatment of heart disease, with an estimated cost of 1 billion rupees.

- **Biomedical equipment worth 200 million rupees provided to Karapitiya Teaching Hospital**

On May 22, 2024, Teaching Hospital Karapitiya received biomedical equipment valued at 200 million rupees, provided under the leadership of the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, and funded by the Ministry of Health. The equipment has been allocated to the Cardio-Thoracic Theatre and the Lithotripsy (ESWL) departments to enhance medical services in these specialized areas.



- **Oxygen-generating plant of Tissamaharama Base Hospital**

A new oxygen generation plant was inaugurated at Base Hospital Tissamaharama in the Hambantota District on May 24, 2024, under the patronage of the Secretary of Health. Established with support from UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, the plant, costing 50 million rupees, has the capacity to produce approximately 900 jumbo oxygen cylinders per month.



- **Bone Marrow Transplantation Unit and a X- ray machine to Jaffna Teaching Hospital**



A bone marrow transplant unit was inaugurated at Jaffna Teaching Hospital on July 17, 2024, by the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr.

Ramesh Pathirana. Additionally, the hospital was equipped with a state-of-the-art C-arm X-ray machine, valued at 50 million rupees, enhancing its diagnostic and treatment capabilities.

- **The first midwifery training school in Sri Lanka was opened at Kalutara National Institute of Health**

On July 27, 2024, Sri Lanka's first Midwifery Training School was officially opened at the Kalutara National Institute of Health, under the patronage of Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Secretary of the Ministry of Health. Additionally, the Health Secretary inaugurated the new Distance Education Unit during the event.



- **Matara Nursing College (Nilwala Heda Vidyalaya) gets a four-storey lecture hall complex at a cost of Rs. 167 million**



A four-storey lecture hall complex equipped with modern facilities, a library, a technical unit, practical activity areas, and an auditorium with a capacity of about 200 people equipped with modern equipment was inaugurated at the Matara Nursing College under the patronage of the Health Secretary, Dr. Palitha Mahipala, on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024. This was constructed with a financial allocation of Rs. 167 million from the Ministry of Health under the project with a financial allocation of Rs. 410 million to develop the Matara Nursing College which currently has 425 students studying nursing. Deputy Director General (Supplies) Dinippriya Herath, Deputy Director General (Engineering) M.C.I. Herath, Director of the Matara District General Hospital Dr. Upali Karunaratne, Principal of the Matara Nursing College Geethika Nanayakkara, and a group of special category nursing officers, nursing supervisors, and nursing students were present at this event.

- **The new surgical unit at the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital opening**

The new surgical unit built at the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital with financial assistance of over Rs. 300 million from the Government of India was opened to the public on 04<sup>th</sup> November 2024 with the participation of the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Mr. Santosh Jha, and the Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Dr. P.G. Mahipala. The event was attended by the Additional Secretary (Development) of the Ministry of Health, Mr. Sunil Galagama, Director of the Batticaloa Hospital, Mrs. K. Ganesalingam, and a group of health staff.





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



The inaugural ceremony of a workshop held in Battaramulla on 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 2. Preventive activities

- **Discussion related to the strengthening of dengue mosquito control and treatment services.**



A special discussion focused on enhancing dengue mosquito control and treatment services for dengue patients was held on December 19, 2023, under the chairmanship of the Health Secretary at the Ministry of Health. The meeting was attended by various officials, including the Deputy Director General of Public Health, the

Chief Epidemiologist, the Chief Medical Officer of the Colombo Metropolitan Council, the Director of the Health Promotion Bureau, a Community Specialist from the National Dengue Control Unit, the Regional Director of Health Services for the Colombo District, and the Divisional Secretaries of Dehiwala and Rathmalana, along with the Assistant Regional Secretary and other stakeholders.

- **National-level program to strengthen dengue mosquito control and prevention activities.**

A series of special national-level programs were conducted from January 7 to January 13, 2024, under the guidance of His Excellency the President and the direction of the Honorable Minister of Health, aimed at enhancing dengue mosquito control and prevention efforts in the Colombo Western region. The initiative, themed "Keep your premises free from mosquito breeding," was implemented nationwide with a particular focus on high-risk dengue areas. This national program was jointly executed by the Sri Lanka Police, the three branches of the Armed Forces, and officials from the Ministry of Health.



- **Establishing of the Special Dengue Prevention and Control Public Call and Coordination Unit**



On January 11, 2024, the Special Dengue Prevention and Control Public Call and Coordination Unit was established within the Ministry of Health's Disaster Preparedness and Response Unit by the Secretary of Health, Dr. Palitha Mahipala.

- **The national program to provide an additional dose of measles vaccine to control the spread of measles**



The national program to administer an additional dose of the measles vaccine, aimed at controlling the spread of measles, was initiated on January 6, 2024. The Health Secretary oversaw the clinic sessions within the Colombo Municipal Council as part of this one-day national program, which provided an additional measles vaccine dose to infants aged 6 to 9 months.

- **National Leprosy Control Campaign and ADT jointly launched the project A2P**



On May 14, 2024, the inaugural program for the A2P (ACT2PREVENT CAMPAIGN 2024) project was launched at the Sri Lanka Foundation by the Secretary of Health. This initiative, organized jointly by the National Leprosy Control Campaign and the Alliance Development Trust (ADT), aims to disseminate accurate information about leprosy

through innovative social media strategies. The A2P project is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Health's National Anti-Leprosy Campaign, the leading organization for leprosy prevention in Sri Lanka, and ADT, a nongovernmental organization partnering for this cause.

### **National Health Achievements in Global Health Context**

- **Sri Lanka receives two awards at the World Health Organization's South Asian Regional Conference.**



Sri Lanka receives two public health achievement awards for Hepatitis B control in children and for achieving SDG and global targets for the reduction of under-5 mortality, neonatal mortality, and stillbirth rates at the 77<sup>th</sup> Regional Committee Session of WHO South-East Asia held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in New Delhi, India. These two awards were presented to Dr Palitha Mahipala, Secretary of the Ministry of Health.

### **Provincial supervisory visits and meetings**

- **Visit by the Secretary of Health to hospitals in the North-central Province**



On the 09<sup>th</sup> March of 2024, the Secretary of Health, Dr. Mahipala conducted visits to the Teaching Hospital Anuradhapura, Base Hospital Madawachchiya, Primary Medical Care Unit Athakada, Base Hospital Kebithigollawa, and Base Hospital Padaviya. During these visits, it was announced that Teaching Hospital Anuradhapura would receive an allocation of 250 million rupees for medical

equipment, in addition to 180 million rupees worth of equipment provided by the Ministry of Health. The Health Secretary also indicated that funding would be available for necessary hospital repairs.



- **Steps to implement a special next five-year development plan for the health service in the Northern Province**

On March 12, 2024, a special meeting was convened at the Kilinochchi Regional Directorate of Health Services office, chaired by the Secretary of Health. The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss the development of health services in the Northern Province and formulate a comprehensive five-year development plan.



- **Special visit by the Minister of Health to North-Western Province hospitals**

On March 28, 2024, the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, along with other officials, conducted inspections at four hospitals in the North-Western Province. Base Hospital Anamaduwa is set to receive 15 million rupees, Base Hospital Marawila 180 million rupees, Divisional Hospital Dankotuwa 20 million rupees, and Teaching Hospital Kuliyaipitiya 200 million rupees for various development activities.



- **Kandy National Hospital visit by Health Secretary**



During an inspection of Kandy National Hospital on April 11, 2024, the Health Secretary announced that an allocation of one billion rupees has been designated for the purchase of essential medical equipment this year. Additionally, over 700 million rupees has been earmarked for the replacement of necessary buildings within Kandy Hospital.



- **Kegalle, Gampola and Nawalapitiya District General Hospitals for inspection by the Minister of Health**

On July 4, 2024, 40 million rupees were allocated for the maintenance and development of District General Hospital Kegalle, while 100 million rupees were designated for essential maintenance at Base Hospital Gampola. Additionally, the Ministry of Health will provide 160 million rupees for the construction of the second and third floors of the clinic complex at District General Hospital Nawalapitiya.



### Human resource development in the health sector

- **Appointment of nursing officers to government hospitals**

The appointment ceremony for 2,519 new nurses to the nursing service took place under the chairmanship of the Honorable Prime Minister, Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena, at Temple Trees on November 17, 2023.



- **Appointment of 242 persons in paramedical services**



To strengthen the human resources within the health service, appointment letters were awarded to 163 pharmacists, 56 public health laboratory technicians, 4 eye technicians, and 13 school dental therapists during a ceremony held at the Borella Postgraduate Institute of Medicine Auditorium on December 20, 2023.

- **Intern appointment for trainee pharmacists**



On January 8, 2024, 77 intern pharmacists were assigned training appointments at 18 hospitals by the Honorable Minister of Health, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, during a ceremony held at the Ministry of Health.

- **Post-internship medical officers awarded appointments**



On February 3, 2024, appointment letters were presented to 600 post-intern doctors under the patronage of the Honorable Minister of Health, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, at the UCFM Tower auditorium, part of the Faculty of Medicine's New Building in Colombo.

- **Recruitment of Midwifery trainees**



To enhance maternal and child health services in the country, a ceremony for the recruitment of 1,000 midwifery trainees was conducted on May 21, 2024, under the patronage of the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana. The event was attended by the State Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Seetha Arambepola.

- **Internship appointment for graduates of Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani Medicine awarded**



On June 4, 2024, internship appointment letters were issued to 204 graduates of Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani medicine at the Navinna Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute Auditorium in Maharagama, with the participation of the Health Secretary.

- **Internship appointment for Dental graduates**



On June 18, 2024, internship dental training appointment letters were awarded to 85 dental graduates during a ceremony held at the Family Health Bureau auditorium, presided over by the Honorable Minister of Health

and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana. These graduates have completed their medical education at various universities in Sri Lanka and abroad.

- **Internship appointment for medical graduates.**



On July 1, 2024, appointment letters for medical internship training were awarded to 471 doctors during a ceremony held at the Colombo Medical Faculty Auditorium,

under the patronage of the Minister of Health.



### 3. 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.

### Special Events

- **A new approach to leprosy control**



On November 8, 2023, a special program aimed at controlling leprosy was jointly conducted by government and non-governmental organizations at the Lotus Hall of the Colombo Bandaranaike International Conference Hall. The theme of the program was "Leprosy Free Nation." The discussions focused on various measures implemented to control leprosy, proposed next steps, staff training initiatives, and the methodologies to be adopted in this effort.

- **Special observation visit to Kothalawala Defence University Hospital by the Minister of Health**



On November 24, 2023, a special observation visit was conducted at the Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Hospital by the Hon. Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, alongside the Hon. Minister of State for Defence, Pramitha Bandara Tennakoon, and retired Defence Secretary General Kamal Gunaratne. During this visit, it was decided to establish a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Health and the Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Hospital. This agreement aims to facilitate essential patient care services for individuals on the waiting lists of government hospitals, which will be provided at this facility.



- **Initiate the construction of the professorial unit of the Uva-Wellassa Faculty of Medicine.**

The construction of a ten-story building for the Professorial Unit of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Uva-Wellassa commenced on November 26, 2023, at the premises of the Badulla Teaching Hospital. This project is being funded by a financial grant of Rs. 2.26 billion from the Government of Sri Lanka and is scheduled for completion by December 2025.



- **Clinical training for medical students of Sabaragamuwa Medical Faculty**



On December 10, 2023, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education reached an agreement to provide clinical training for final-year students of the Faculty of Medicine at Sabaragamuwa University. This collaboration involved discussions among the Medical Council, the Ministry of Health, the University Grants Commission, and Sabaragamuwa University, resulting in a consensus to deliver training in accordance with the standards set by the Medical Council.

- **The first national guidelines for the treatment of stroke launched**



On December 27, 2023, Sri Lanka hosted its inaugural national guideline conference focused on the treatment of stroke and paralysis in the auditorium of the new building of the Faculty of Medicine, Colombo (UCFM Tower).

- **First program of the provincial dialogue program for a complete health service**



The inaugural provincial dialogue program aimed at achieving comprehensive health services, initiated based on the concept of the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, commenced on December 29, 2023, in the Central Province. This program was conducted in the auditorium of the Central Province Governor's Office, chaired by Dr. Ramesh Pathirana and the Honorable Central Province Governor, Advocate Lalith U. Gamage. It involved the participation of health administrators and public representatives from hospitals and health institutions in the districts of Kandy, Matale, and Nuwara Eliya. The primary objective of the program was to identify practical challenges in delivering healthcare to the residents of the Central Province and to develop effective solutions.



- **Gold awards for 60 entrepreneurs in the field of indigenous medicine**



The "Golden Inmediens - 2023" Entrepreneurship Gold Award Ceremony, which aims to recognize entrepreneurs in the field of indigenous medicine, was held on March 19, 2024. The event took place under the patronage of the Honorable Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena, the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, and the Honorable State Minister of Indigenous Medicine Sisira Jayakody at Water's Edge in Battaramulla.

- **Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to improve the health facilities in tourist areas**

On April 22, 2024, the Ministry of Tourism, the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), and the Ministry of Health jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance health facilities in tourist areas, ensuring the health safety of foreign visitors. The agreement was signed in the presence of the Honorable Minister of Health and Industries, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, and the Honorable Minister of Tourism and Lands, Harin Fernando.



- **Inauguration of the Program for Identification and Development of differently able children in Kandy District, Central Province**

Following the advice and guidance of the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, the Ministry of Health initiated a program aimed at identifying and developing children with abnormalities in the Kandy district on August 3, 2024. This program is currently being implemented in the districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy, Batticaloa, and Kalutara, under the patronage of the Secretary of Health, Dr. Palitha Mahipala.



- **Emergency treatment unit for New District General Hospital at Matara, Kamburugamuwa**

Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Secretary of the Ministry of Health, instructed the Director of Matara District General Hospital and provincial health officials to initiate the establishment of an emergency treatment unit at the new District General Hospital in Kamburugamuwa.



- **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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.



- **Fleming Fund Phase II Agreement (UK-Sri Lanka Partnership) Signed to Strengthen Antimicrobial Resistance Prevention Activities in Sri Lanka**



The Fleming Fund Phase II Agreement (UK-Sri Lanka Partnership) was signed on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 at the Secretariat of the Ministry of Health to further strengthen Antimicrobial Resistance Prevention Activities in Sri Lanka. On behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, the Secretary to the

Ministry of Health, Dr. Palitha Mahipala, the Secretary to the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife, Forest Resources, Water Supply, Plantations and Community Infrastructure, Mr. B.K.P. Chandrakeerthi, and the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Livestock, Irrigation, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Mr. M.P.N.M. Wickremesinghe also signed, and Mr. Andrew Patrick, British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, signed on behalf of the British Government. The event was attended by the Additional Secretary (Environmental Policy and Planning) of the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife, Forest Resources, Water Supply, Plantations, and Community Infrastructure, Padma Abeykoon, Director General of Health Services, Dr. Asela Gunawardena, Chief Legal Officer, Riyaza Ahmed, Deputy Director General (Laboratory Services) Dr. P.L. Atapattu, Director (Laboratory Services) Dr. Suranga Dolamulla, and the President of the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists, Dr. Malika Karunaratne, among others.

- **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.

#### 4. 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.

- **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.





## Donations

- **Donation of medical, surgical, and laboratory equipment to the National Eye Hospital**



The Ministry of Health formally transferred medical, surgical, and laboratory equipment valued at 140 million rupees to the National Eye Hospital during a ceremony held at the hospital auditorium on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The equipment included advanced devices such as five state-of-the-art slit lamps, a

visual field analyser, a phacoemulsification machine, surgeon stools, multiparameter monitors, an anaesthetic machine, a specialized operating theatre table, an automated slide stainer, a Cytospin machine, and a tissue processor. Additionally, the Ministry inaugurated a program to provide eyeglasses to low-income patients, funded by Rs. 6.5 million allocation. Spectacles were distributed to 25 patients during the event as part of the initiative. The ceremony was attended by Dr Sunil De Alwis, former Additional Secretary (Medical Services), along with Deputy Director Generals from the Ministry of Health, the Colombo National Eye Hospital Director, eye surgeons, physicians, and nursing staff.

- **Receiving a supply of essential medicines from Bangladesh**

On December 21, 2023, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Sri Lanka officially presented a stock of 24 types of essential medicines, valued at over one million US dollars, to the Ministry of Health.





- **A financial donation of rupees one billion to complete the construction of a children's hospital building**

On January 9, 2024, Engineer Mr. Nahil Wijesuriya made a financial donation of one billion rupees to support the completion of a children's hospital building at Lady Ridgeway Children's Hospital. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry of Health and Nahil Wijesuriya at the Ministry of Health, under the chairmanship of Health Secretary Dr. Palitha Mahipala. Officials from the Ministry of Health and representatives from the College of Paediatricians were in attendance.



- **A grant of medical equipment worth 70 million rupees and contact lenses worth 30 million rupees received by the Colombo National Eye Hospital**

On February 1, 2024, medical equipment valued at approximately 70 million rupees, along with 5,000 contact lenses worth 30 million rupees, were received as grants and donations for the Colombo National Eye Hospital. These contributions were officially presented to the hospital under the patronage of the Health Secretary.



- **Provision of 13 types of essential medicines for the treatment of cancer patients in Sri Lanka for one year**

On February 7, 2024, an agreement was signed to supply essential medicines to the Ministry of Health for the treatment of cancer patients in Sri Lanka. The ceremony took place at the Ministry of Health under the patronage of the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana. The agreement was signed by Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Secretary of the Ministry of Health, and Mr. Mickey Lui, Area Welfare and Self-Reliance Director.



- **A grant of 40,000 metric tons of diesel fuel from the Japanese government for the transportation of health services in Sri Lanka**

On February 19, 2024, a grant of 40,000 metric tons of diesel was provided to the Ministry of Health for use in ambulances and other vehicles within the health sector, with assistance from the Japanese government. The diesel was officially handed over to the Ministry of Health at the "Dolphin Jetty" terminal of Colombo Port by the Japanese Ambassador in a ceremony attended by the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana.



- **The Ministry of Health thanks the Japanese government and people for the generous fuel donation given to the health service in this country.**

On February 27, 2024, the Government of Sri Lanka expressed its gratitude to the Japanese Government and the people of Japan for their generous donation to support health services, commemorating 70 years of friendship between Sri Lanka and Japan. On the same day, the Fuel Management Information System (FMIS) related to fuel distribution was officially launched at the Ministry's auditorium. These activities were conducted under the patronage of the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, and the Deputy Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka. The distribution of diesel to health institutions commenced on February 27, 2024.



- **Donations from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the development of the health service in Sri Lanka**

On March 3, 2024, the Ministry of Health received a donation consisting of three "Health On Wheels – Specially Designed Mobile Units," valued at over USD 500,000, aimed at enhancing maternal and child health services. Additionally, essential medicines and equipment worth more than USD 2 million were provided to improve sexual and reproductive health services in Sri Lanka. These contributions were facilitated through the United Nations Population Fund with the support of the Government of Japan. The donation was presented to the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, by the Director of the Asia-Pacific Region of the United Nations Population Fund and the Acting Ambassador of the Japanese Embassy. On May 8, 2024, the three "Health on Wheels" trucks were formally handed over to Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Secretary of the Ministry of Health, by the Japanese Ambassador to Sri Lanka. Subsequently, these trucks were officially transferred to the Provincial Health Service Directors of the Uva, Central, and Southern Provinces.





- **Addition of the intensive care unit of East Colombo Base Hospital to health system initiated**

The second phase of the intensive care unit constructed at the East Colombo Base Hospital (Mulleriyawa Hospital) commenced on April 3, 2024, under the patronage of the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana. The financial contribution for this phase of construction was provided by business philanthropist Mrs. G.S. Wijesinghe, with an expenditure exceeding 20 million rupees. Additionally, she donated a supply of advanced medical equipment valued at 10 million rupees for use in the intensive care units.



- **Provision of dental micromotor equipment worth 3.5 million rupees by the World Bank project to strengthen dental health services.**

On March 14, 2024, dental micromotor equipment valued at 3.5 million rupees was provided by the World Bank under the Primary Healthcare System Strengthening Project (PSSP) to enhance dental health services. The distribution event took place at the Ministry of Health and included the participation of Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Secretary of Health. These devices were distributed in recognition of World Oral Health Day, observed on March 20.



- **157 intensive care unit beds" with state-of-the-art technology are provided to 34 government hospitals in Sri Lanka**

On March 21, 2024, a donation of 157 state-of-the-art ICU beds, valued at 473.1 million rupees, was made. Each bed costs over 3 million rupees. This donation was facilitated through the efforts of Rev. Fr. Darrell Coonghe, founder and director of the Siduwa "Supuwath Arana" educational center. The beds were formally handed over to the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, at Colombo Logistics in Wattala.





- **Ministry of Health receives the first stock of cancer medicines from U.S. charity**

On June 11, 2024, a consignment of essential cancer drugs valued at over USD 225,000 was handed over to the Honorable Minister of Health for the treatment of cancer patients in government hospitals across the country. This consignment was formally presented to the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, by the Director of Welfare for the Asia Region of LDS (Latter-day Saints) Charities, USA. This marks the first shipment of medicines received in the country under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Health and LDS Charities (USA) in February 2024.



- **Donation of medicines worth over 120 million rupees from Qatar for cardiac and respiratory patients in Sri Lanka**

On July 15, 2024, a consignment of essential medicines valued at over 120 million rupees, intended for the treatment of heart and respiratory patients in Sri Lanka, was delivered to the Ministry of Health by the State of Qatar. The Country Director of Qatar officially presented the donation to the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, at the Medical Supplies Department.

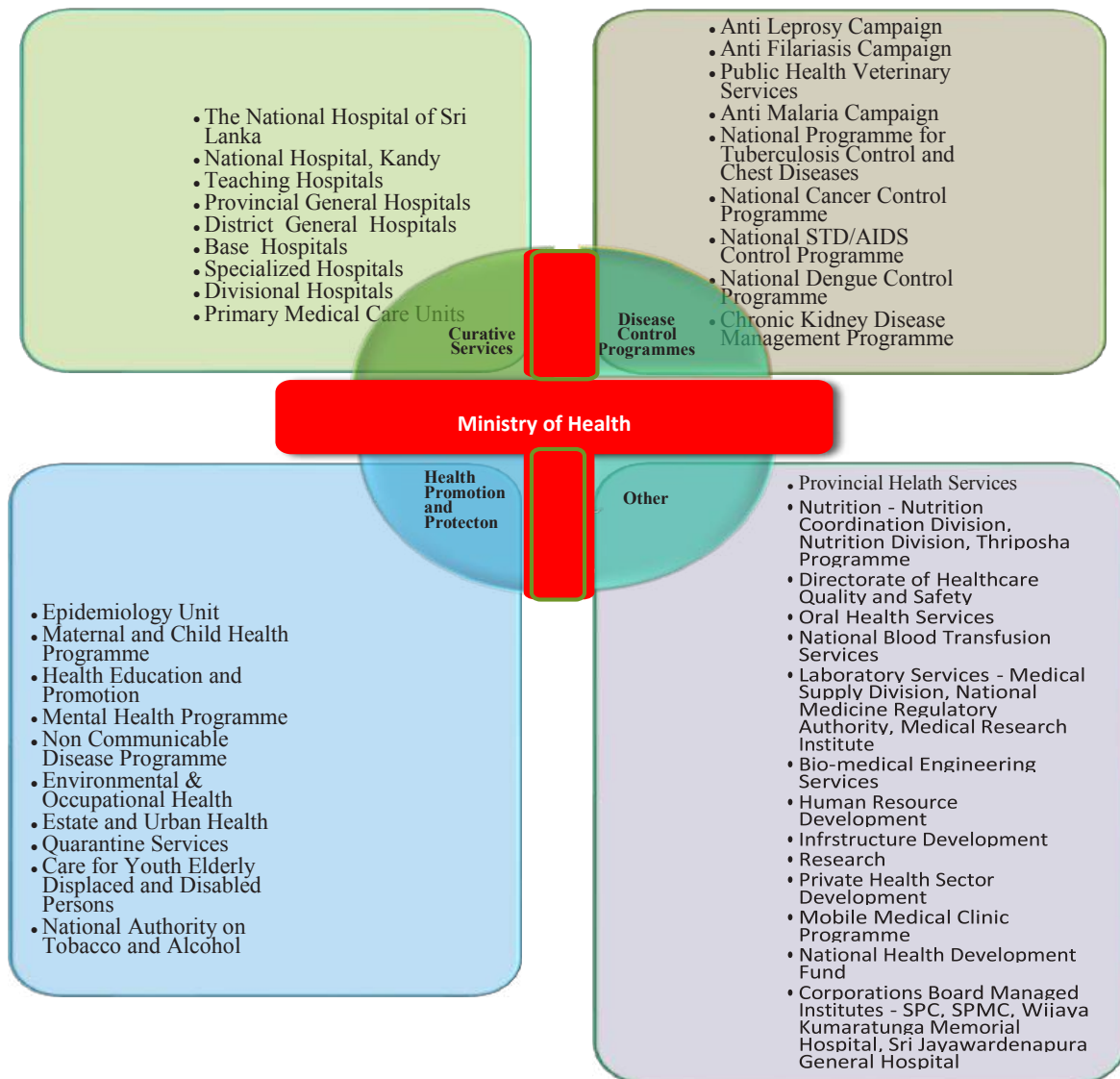


- **Donation of 10 lorries and 21 cabs with modern refrigeration facilities from the Japanese government**

On July 22, 2024, the Government of Japan and the Gavi CDS Project formally presented 10 lorries and 21 cabs equipped with state-of-the-art refrigeration facilities, valued at over 383 million rupees, to the Ministry of Health. This initiative was coordinated with UNICEF to enhance primary healthcare and immunization programs in the country. The donations were officially handed over to the Honorable Minister of Health and Industry, Dr. Ramesh Pathirana, by the Ambassador of Japan to Sri Lanka and the Acting UNICEF Representative to Sri Lanka.



### 3. Institutional structure of the Ministry of Health



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

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### 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. The 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), Medical Officers of Health (MOH), 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

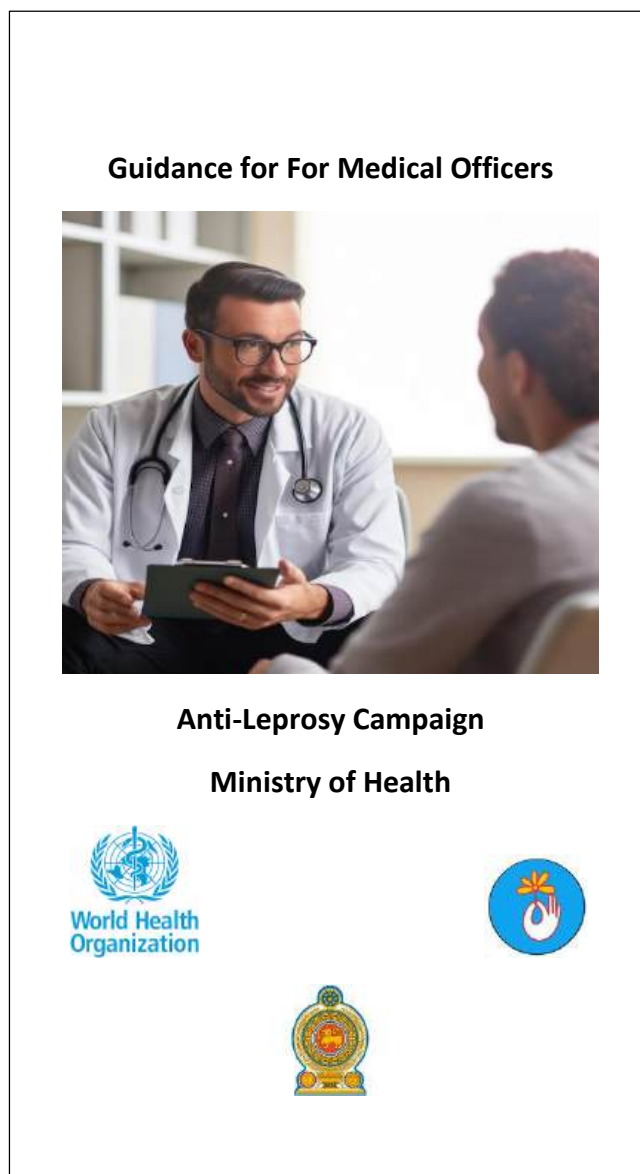
##### General Objectives

- 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 from January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

1. Development of Guidance for Preventive and Curative aspects of Leprosy for Medical Officers



2. Development of Guidance on Prevention and Control of Leprosy for Public Health Inspectors

**Guidance for Public Health Inspectors**



**Anti-Leprosy Campaign**

**Ministry of Health**



3. Development of Flash Cards for Public Health Inspectors



4. Visit of International Consultants from the World Health Organization (South East Asia) and Global Leprosy Programme (GLP) for the development of road map for the elimination of leprosy in Sri Lanka



5. Initiation of development of the road map for the interruption of transmission of leprosy for Sri Lanka.
6. Introduction of a surveillance system to monitor the Anti-Microbial resistance (AMR) for leprosy drugs in Sri Lanka.
  - 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.
  - Training on Slit Skin Smear testing for Public Health Laboratory Technicians (PHLT)



7. National level Training of Trainers Programme on Leprosy for Consultant Community Physicians and Regional Epidemiologists





8. National Leprosy Review in February 2024 in Anuradhapura



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

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

11. Capacity building Programmes for the Medical Officers and Public Health Inspectors and the other relevant Health Staff in Kegalle, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kurnegala, Vavuniya, Jaffna, Mannar, Colombo, Gampaha, Batticaloa, Kandy, Matale, Trincomalee, Hambantota



## 12. Conducted Monitoring and Evaluation Visits and District Review Meetings

Conducted Monitoring and Evaluation Visits and District Review Meetings in Colombo, Colombo Municipal Council (CMC), Gampaha, Kalutara, National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS), Kurunagala, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Galle, Ratnapura, Trincomalee, Puttalam, Hambantota, Kandy, Matale



## 13. Special leaflet Campaign at Railway Stations in Western Province



## 14. Media briefing on leprosy in commemoration of World Leprosy Day was conducted in Auditorium of Health Promotion Bureau

## PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

15. Take part in Medicare Exhibition at BMICH in March 202

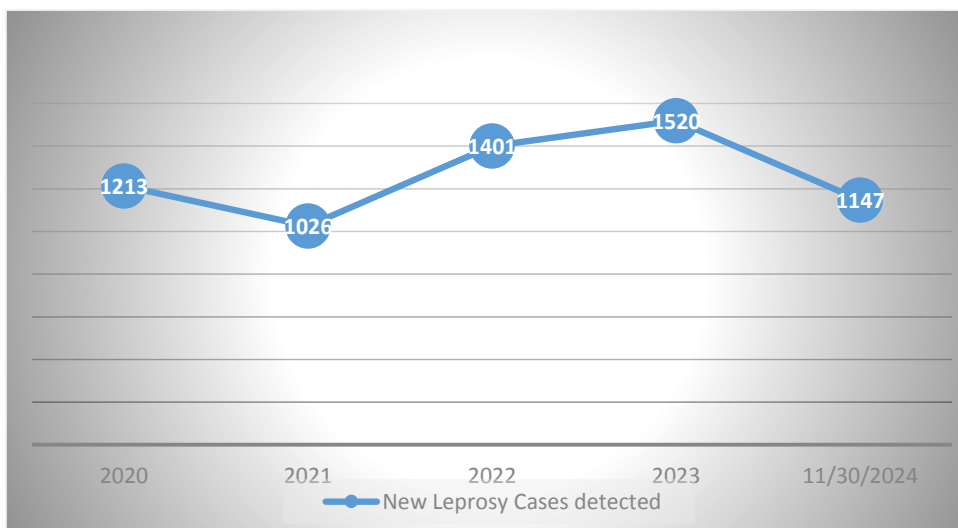


16. Leprosy Stall at Maliban Exhibition



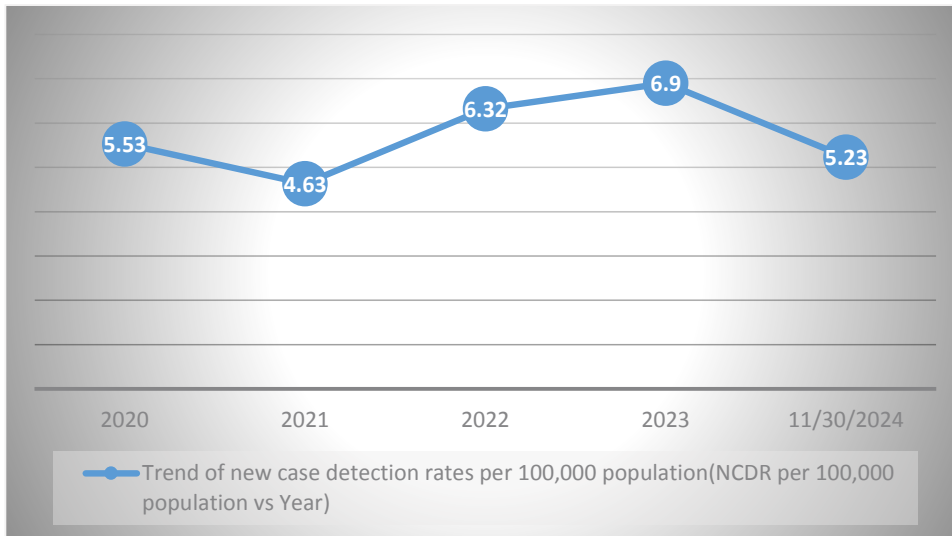
## National Performance Indicators in last five years

*New leprosy case detection from 2020 to 2024/11/30*

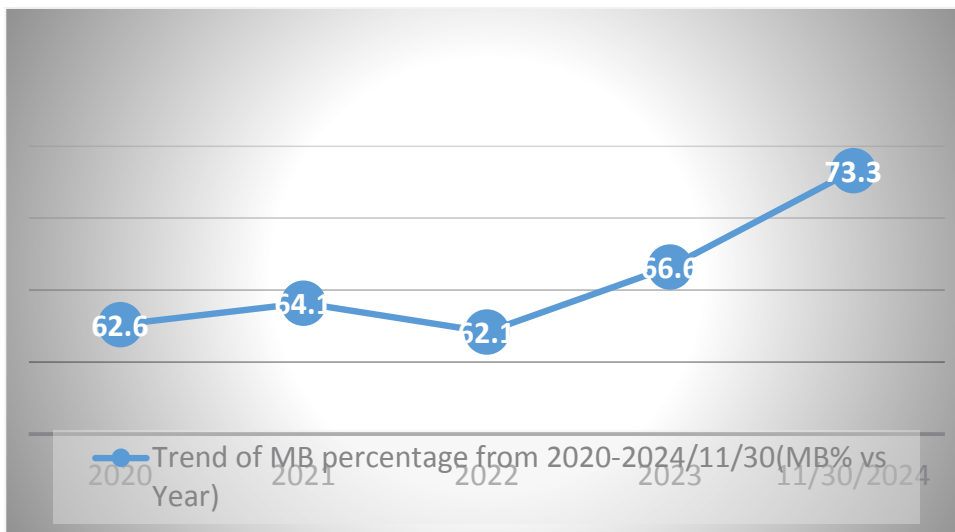




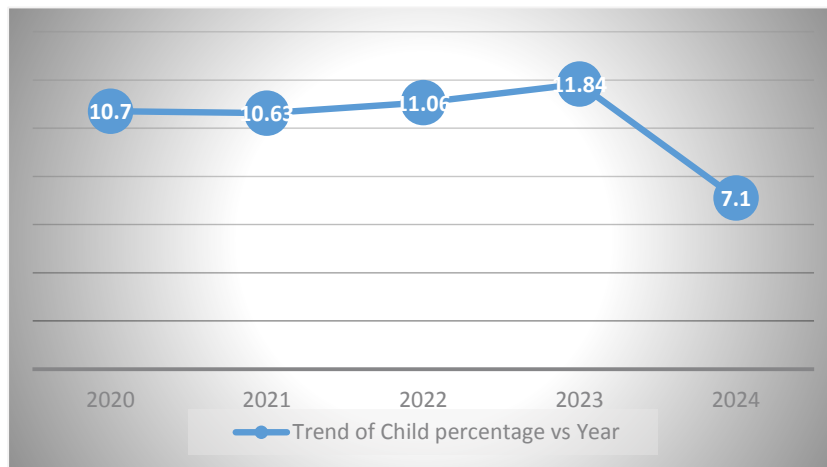
***New Case detection Rate (NCDR) p[er 100,000 population from 2020 to 2024/11/30***



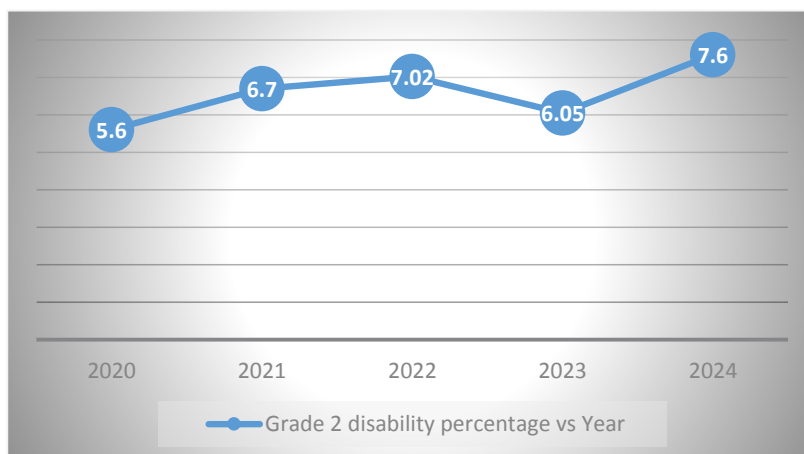
***Percentage of Multi Bacillary (MB) cases from 2020 to 30/11/2024.***



*Percentage of child cases from 2020 to 30/11/2024*



*Percentage of Grade 2 Disabilities (G2D) from 2020 to 30/11/2024*



**Hospital Details - Leprosy Hospital, Hendala**

Utilization & Facility Details 2024.12.31	
No of beds	46
No of units (wards)	04
No of specialists available	-

**Human Resource Details**

31 December 2024				
		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	03	-
09	Male Attendants	-	-	-
10	Female Attendants	03	-	-
11	Cook	02	-	-
12	KKS	01	01	-
13	SKS Ordinary	07	01	01
14	SKS Junior	06	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 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 2024

- Printing of the National Strategic Plan for Interruption of Transmission of Lymphatic Filariasis in Sri Lanka.



- Printing of the Standard Operational Procedures for entomological and parasitological surveillance in interrupting the transmission of lymphatic filariasis in Sri Lanka.



- Conducting monthly review meetings for RMOs



- District-level performance review and best practices identification



- Field visits to observe best practices of RAFU teams



- Procurement of lab equipment
- Conducting two Technical Advisory Group meetings to get expert opinions on activities conducted to achieve the goals of AFC



**Ongoing Development project details**

Project Description	Total Estimated Cost (LKR) Mn.		Physical Progress by 31.12.2024	Financial Progress by 31.12.2024
GOSL				
Non-endemic district surveys (parasitological and entomological) in 2 localities	0.1		cancelled due to lack of allocation to local purchase laboratory reagents	-
Printing of entomological and parasitological SOPs	0.40		Completed	0.34
Maintenance of lab equipment	0.40		Completed	0.45
Procurement of DNA extraction kits (tissue & blood) & TaqMan Master mix	2.4		Completed	2.43
Procurement of microscopes or other required items for surveillance	1.58		Completed	1.61
Conducting Monthly/ Quarterly review meetings & Training programs	0.12	<b>5.0</b>	Completed	0.11
Procurement of laptops for RMOO and AFC HQ (12 Nos)	4.0		Completed	4.77
Procurement of portable multimedia projectors (6 Nos)	0.5		Completed	1.08
Procurement of meeting pad for zoom meetings and training programmes	1.0		Completed	0.37
Procurement and installation of 3 Nos 18000 BTU Air conditioners to improve lab infrastructure	0.8		Completed	0.77
Development of a racking system to improve drug store and general store	1.2	<b>7.5</b>	Completed	0.22
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>12.5</b>		<b>12.19</b>
WHO				
Technical advisory group meetings on interruption of transmission of lymphatic filariasis	0.23		Completed	0.17
District-level performance review and best practices identification	1.33		Completed	1.10

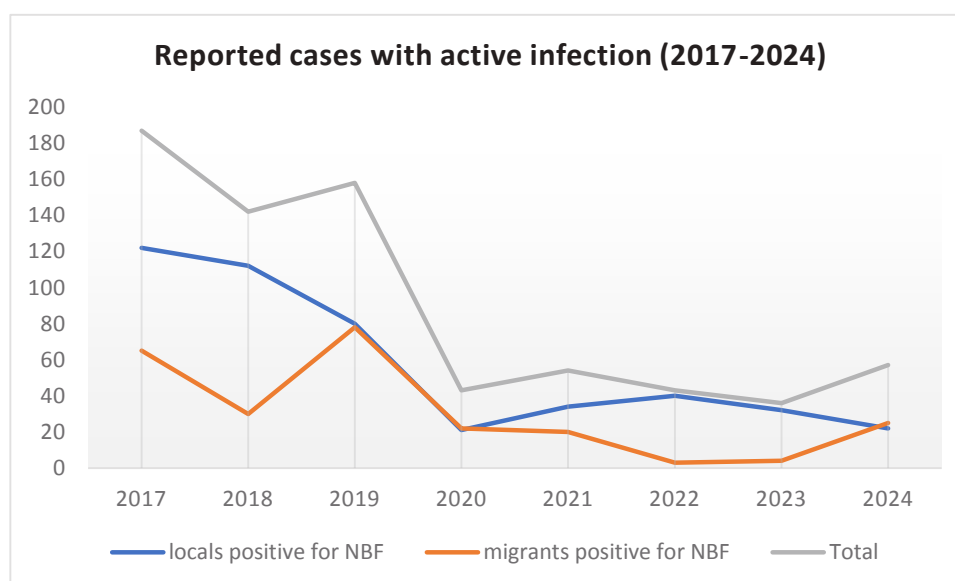
Field visits to observe best practices for RAFU teams	0.39		Completed	0.22
Monthly Technical performance review at AFC with RMOs	0.37		Completed	0.36
Monthly Technical review at AFC/HQ with all technical officers	0.42		Completed	0.41
Total Cost	0.79			0.77

## 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.



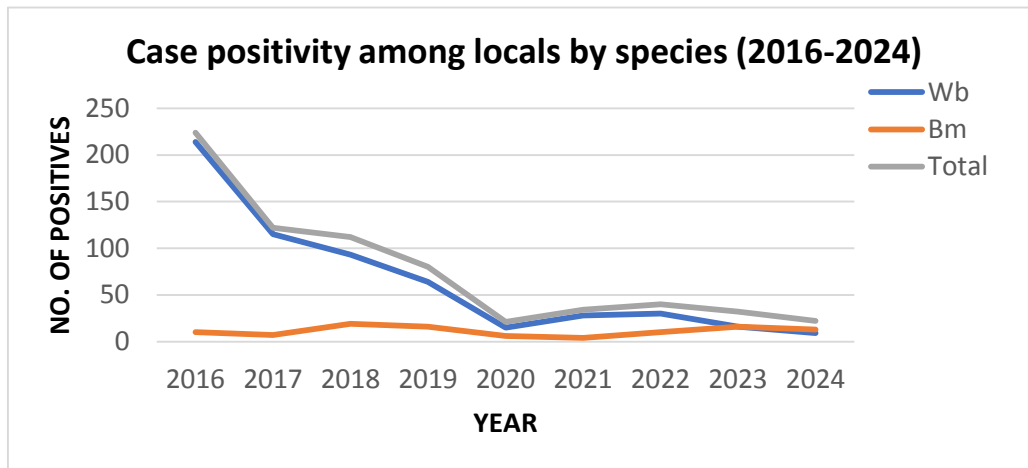
**Figure 1- Number of positive cases among locals and immigrants 2017-2024**

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.

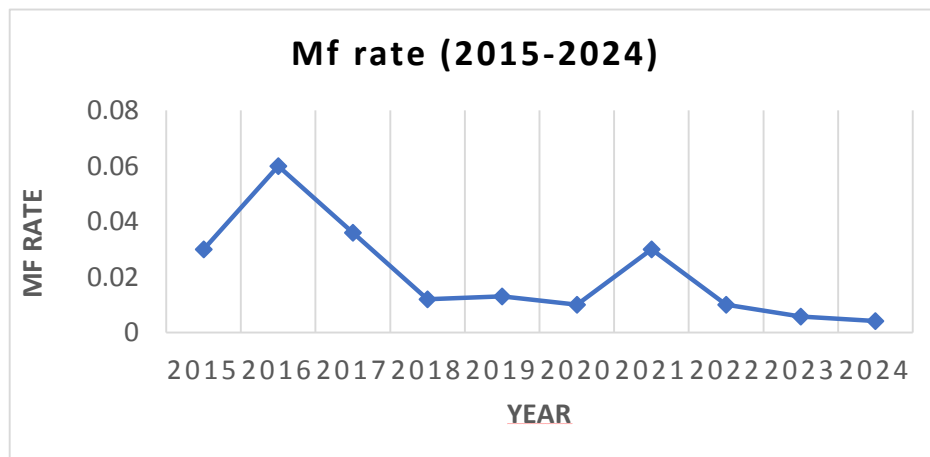
Geographic distribution clearly shows that the cases were confined to the coastal border, even within endemic areas except North Western province.

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* was not reduced 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)**

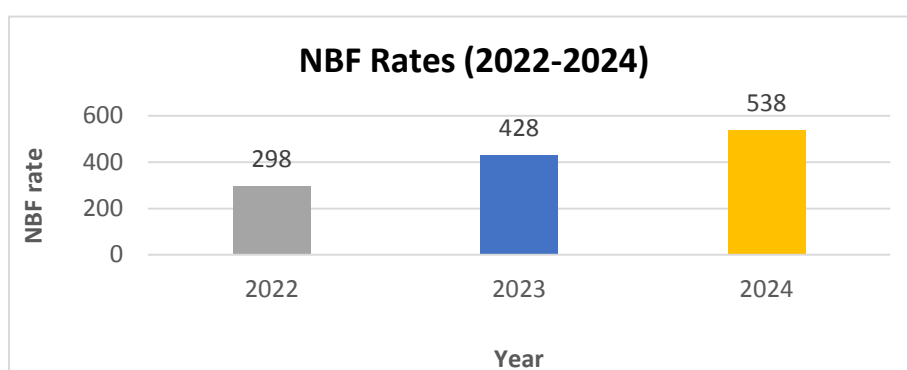


**Figure 3- Microfilaria rate by year in endemic districts**

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).

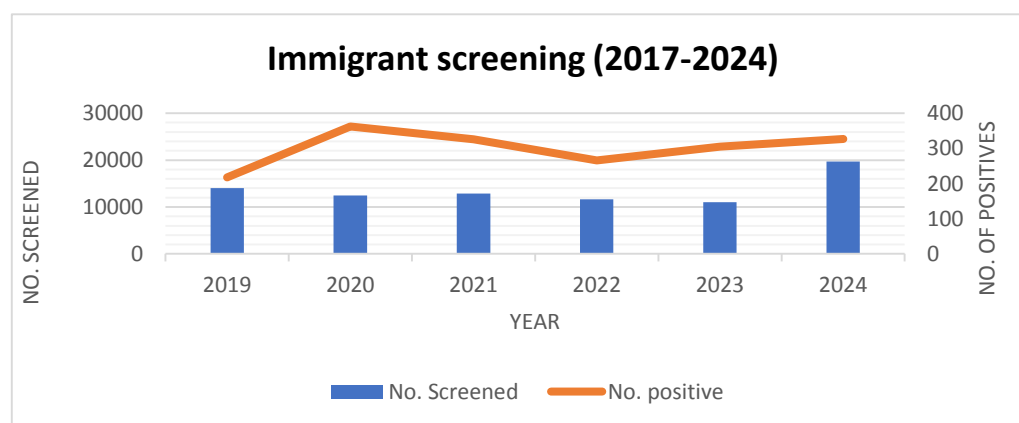




*Figure 4- Average number of NBF performed by a PHFO from 2022-2024*

### 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, 327 immigrants were detected positive for filariasis antigen test (FAT) out of 21,118 screened (Figure 5).



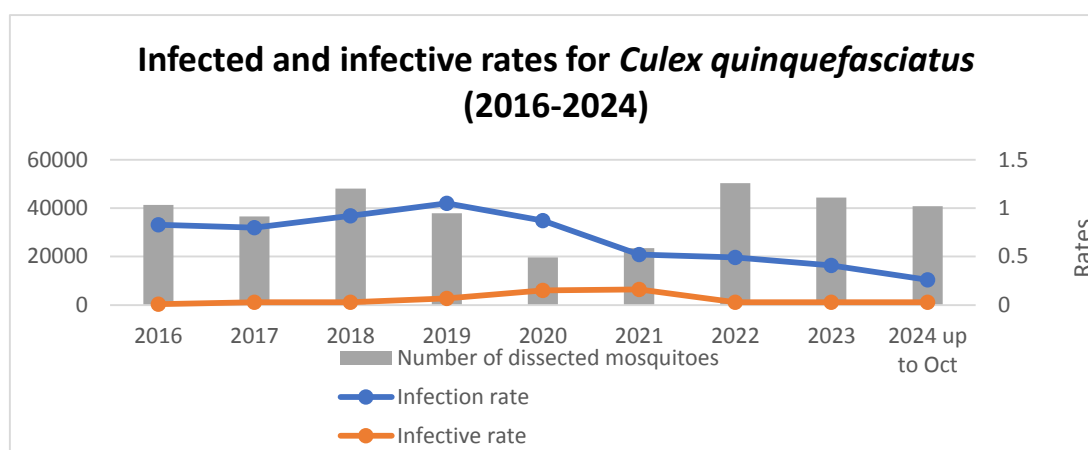
*Figure 5- Immigrant screening from 2017-2024*

### 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.

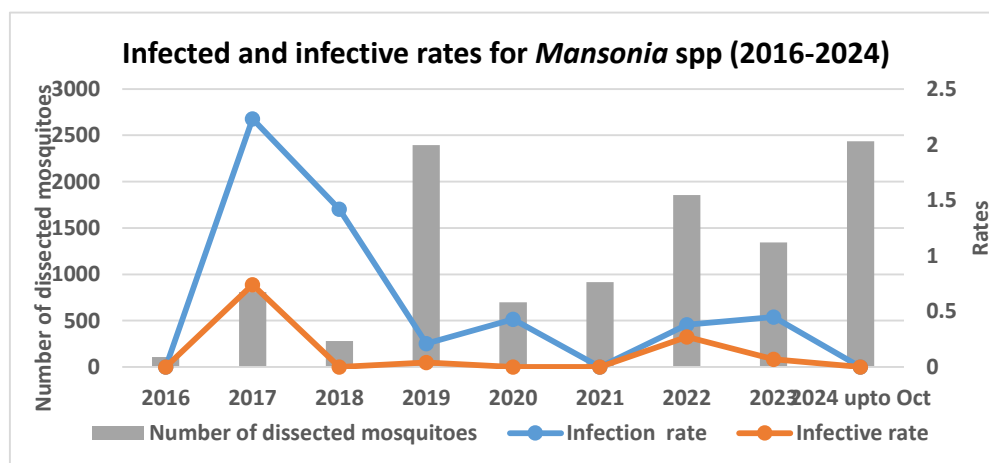
Findings of dissected mosquitoes were used to calculate infected and infective mosquito rates. Parasitological human surveys were initiated based on positive findings of vector surveys.

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 and Matara, 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.**

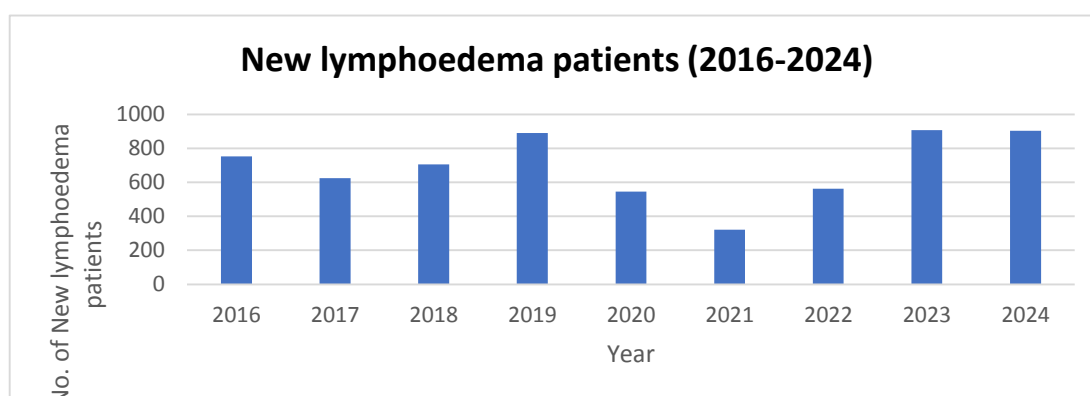
### Morbidity management & Disability Prevention

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, 904 new lymphedema patients were registered in morbidity management clinics in endemic districts. Most new patients (n=192) were registered at the Matara clinic.

The majority of patients (81%) presented to the morbidity clinic in the early stages (Stages 1-2) of lymphoedema. The majority (50%) of the patients presented were in the age group of 41-60 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 helps keeping them free of complications.

### Special development activities planned for 2025

- We have planned the block verification strategy to achieve zero transmission of bancroftian filariasis by 2030. The Scope of Work has been prepared for 2025-2030 and will be implemented in 2025.
- Three-smear method would be introduced in the program during the night blood filming to increase the quality of the smears obtained. This was initiated in line with the WHO recommendations that were made during the WHO review for Vector-Born Diseases in 2024.
- Introduction of zoonotic surveillance and treatment of animals to control Brugian filariasis- advocate the DAPH to take necessary measures

- Initiation of the Triple-drug therapy with DEC-Albendazole-Ivermectin for positive patients and MDA programs
- Plans to utilize the dog sterilization centres to take smears from animals and catch the at-risk areas for *Brugia malayi* transmission
- 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

- The World Rabies Day commemoration was successfully celebrated on 28<sup>th</sup> September at Rathnapura district
- Successful initiation of the DHIS2 dataflow system establishment for PHVS
- The preliminary meeting for stakeholder collaboration was held with all stakeholders of Rabies control. Eventual meetings to be followed.
- A total of 1,033,138 domestic and stray dogs had been vaccinated in the island.
- A total of 29755 female dogs have been surgically sterilized in the island.
- Developed and published a guideline for female dog sterilization project in order to streamline the process





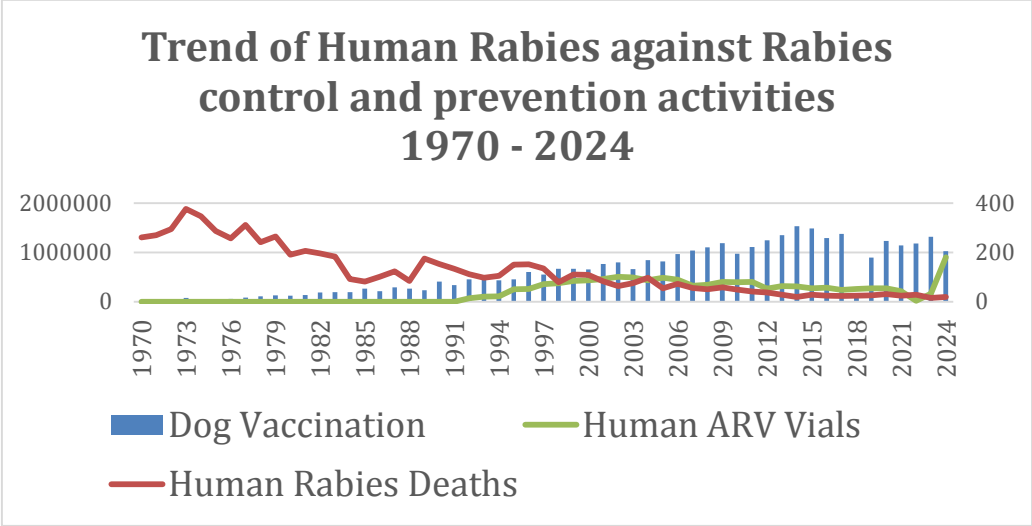
### Ongoing Development project details

Project Description	Total Estimate cost (Rs.Mn)	Physical progress by 31.12.2024	Financial Progress by 31.12.2024 (Rs.Mn)
1) Female dog sterilization	185.3	29755 female dogs sterilized.	99.951
2) Enhanced community awareness on rabies control through community leaders	0.7	15 program conducted in Kurunegala district	0.292
3) Production of IEC material, exhibits and documentary on rabies	1	Printed leaflets and posters for public awareness	0.901

4) In-service training on rabies post exposure treatment and introduction of new circular (PEP)	1	5 programs conducted	0.953
5) Training of Public Health staff on Rabies control and dog bite prevention (following Rabies Educator Certificate module)	0.9	9 programs conducted	0.461
6) In-service training program for district rabies control PHII and Vaccinating Field Assistant	1.5	02 program Conducted	0.123
7) World Rabies Day (WRD) Commemoration	2	Program conducted	0.242
8) Supervision of district rabies control activities	1	04 district covered	0.042
9) Conducting progress review meetings (national & district levels)	0.5	02 program Conducted	0.315
10) Re- structuring of office environment (PHVS & DPCC Handala)	6	Purchased a trolley	0.089
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199.92</b>		<b>103.369</b>

Last 5 years Performance Trend

Trend of Human Rabies against Rabies control and prevention activities 1972 – 2024

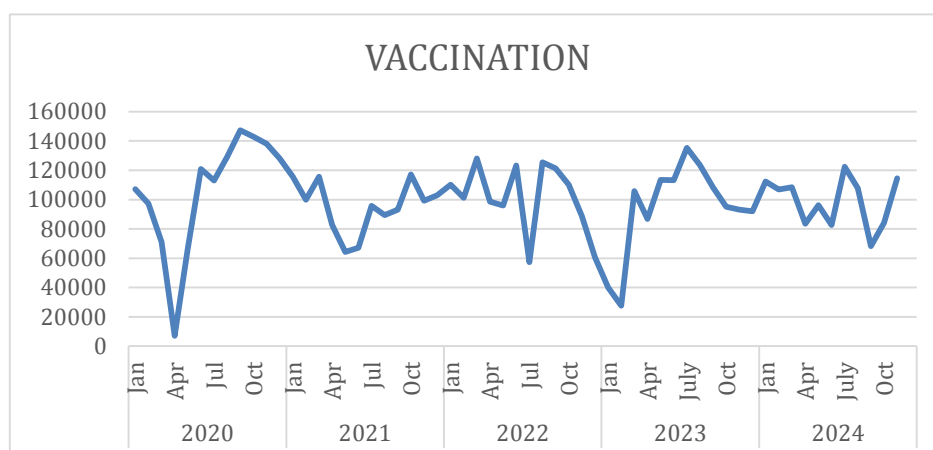


	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2020	107148	97239	71127	7131	66769	120890
2021	115377	99664	114349	82495	64164	67009
2022	110248	101117	128126	98700	96051	123365
2023	44680	29821	114778	97563	122479	121616
2024	112292	106856	108451	83489	96257	82659

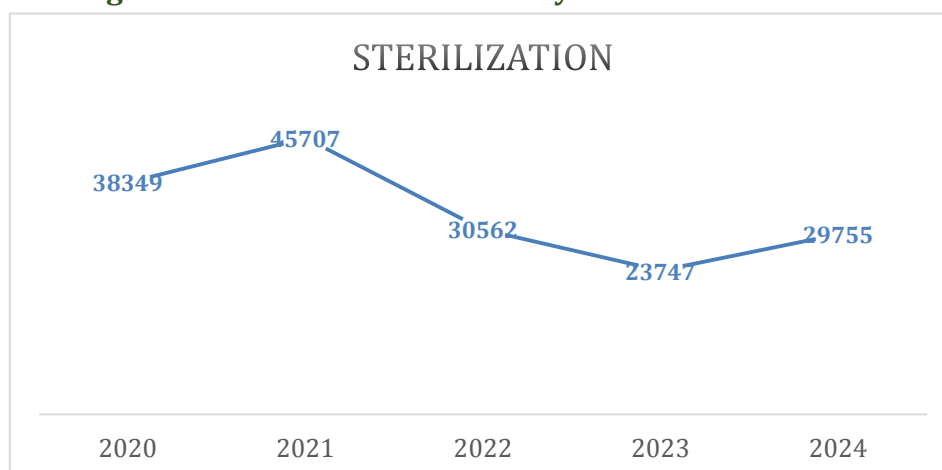
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2020	113022	129190	147245	142983	138019	128024
2021	95839	89455	93149	130819	113357	118265
2022	57236	125376	121371	110058	96718	60501
2023	142936	130263	117429	101146	100480	98885
2024	122349	107673	68153	84106	114506	



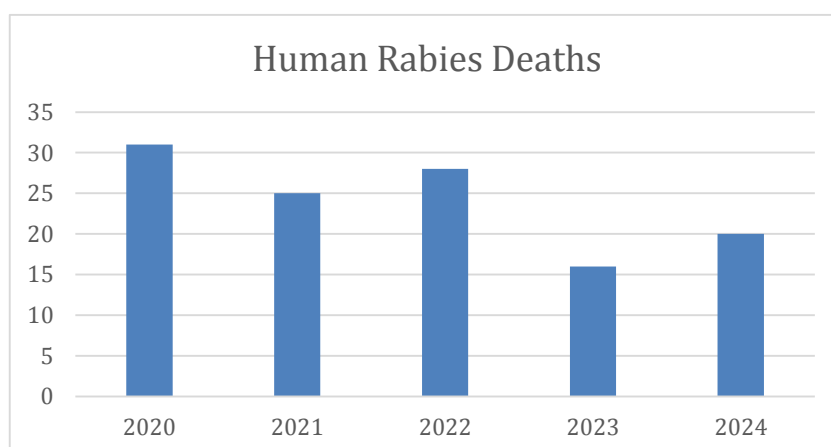
### Animal Vaccinations in last 05 years



### Dogs Sterilization data in last 05 years



### Human Rabies Deaths in last 05 years



## Special development activities planned for 2025

- Update cadre allocation at provincial level (Vaccinator cadre) and provide logistics (instruments and vehicles) for Rabies control activities.
- Further strengthen dog population control activities and vaccination in the island and introduction of responsible pet ownership concept.
- 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.
- Completion of the establishment of DHIS2 dataflow system for PHVS
- Establish the multi – stakeholder collaboration for future Rabies control activities

### 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. Thirty eight imported malaria cases were reported in 2024.

#### 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 2023 and 2024

- Sri Lanka continued to maintain malaria free status in 2023 and 2024 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 by universal access to malaria diagnostics and treatment free of charge. All antimalarial medicines are available throughout the country.
- Anti Malaria Campaign continues to provide malaria prophylaxis medicines free of charge for travelers to malaria endemic countries.
  - ✓ In the year 2024 a total of 20261 tablets (Tri forces 2726 tablets, other travelers 17535 tablets) of Mefloquine 250 mg, Chloroquine 150mg 9748 tablets (Tri forces 8218 tablets, other travelers 1530 tablets) and Doxycycline 100mg 1655 tablets (Tri forces 1243 tablets, other travelers 412 tablets) were issued.
  - ✓ 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.
- Updating clinicians in government and private sector on malaria, is ongoing to prevent delayed diagnosis of malaria.
- Capacity building of MOH and field health staff on malaria to improve risk group surveillance was conducted in 6 districts.
- In 2024, to study the vector bionomics in relation to the importation risk, 166 Sentinel Site surveys and 327 Proactive Spot surveys and 1075 proactive larval surveys were conducted by the AMC HQ and regional entomology teams. Further, fifty seven reactive entomological surveys were conducted by the AMC HQ and regions.
- Entomological commodities and mosquito traps were provided to all the regional teams as required.
- Two in-service training programs on malaria vector taxonomy entomology was conducted for 32 Health Entomology Officers who are engaged in malaria in the regions. One training program was conducted for 9 Health entomology Officers from Western province on malaria field techniques.
- Two quality assurance evaluation programs were conducted for 32 Health Entomology Officers on morphological identification of Anopheles mosquito species.
- Larvivorous fish rearing and management training was conducted 56 regional and headquarters staff at Rambodagalla fish breeding and training center.

## PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

- Adequate stocks of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN) and chemical for vector control (Lambda Cyhalothrin for IRS and Temephos as Larvicides) was received to AMC from WHO.
- No of blood smears examined (based on the information received so far) 578,667
- Number of RDTs performed (based on the information received so far) 2965  
Training programmes for private sector lab technicians 6

### In-service training programme for Public Health Laboratory Technicians and other laboratory staff

Name of the Training	No of programmes	duration	Total number trained	Funding source
Orientation training for newly recruited Public Health Laboratory technicians (PHLTT)	2	5	39	WHO
QA/QC training for QA/QC PHLT	1	2 days	32	WHO
Refresher Training programme for senior PHLTT	2	2	41	WHO
Training programme for Private sector Laboratory Technicians	5	1	101	GOSL
Training programme for Airforce staff participating in UN Missions	1	1	11	GOSL
Training programmes for MLTs from Sri Lanka Army	1	5	2	-
	1	2	2	
Development of Laboratory Quality Management systems as per ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Organized by Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment	1	2	4 PHLTT , (2 Entomologist, 1 SHEO, 1 HEO ,1 PHFO) sent	GOSL
Training on ISO 15189:2013 Documentation and required requirements Organized by Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment	1	2	1 SPHLT, 1 HFO	GOSL



- National Competence assessment of malaria microscopy for PHLTT. A total of 36 participants were assessed ( Three 5 day programs for 12 pax per program).
  - ✓ Conducted a Proficiency testing for PHLTs in the periphery
  - ✓ Participated in EQA programs for microscopy and Molecular diagnosis
  - ✓ Measures taken for application for Accreditation
- National Strategic Plan for prevention of re-establishment of malaria 2023 – 2027 was completed.
- Guidelines for the management and treatment of patients with malaria was updated and printed.
- Monitoring of all PoR activities were done by Technical Support Group meetings, Case Review Committee meetings, monthly RMO reviews, semiannual entomological reviews, and field supervisions at selected districts.
- The National Strategic Plan for Prevention and Control of Leishmaniasis 2024-2028 was developed and printed.
- Malaria day Walk and advocacy meeting was held in Kurunegala, with the participation of higher officials of the Ministry and non-health stakeholders to commemorate 'World Malaria Day 2024' with the theme of 'Never Again Malaria'. Furthermore, a press briefing, mass media communication and publicity via social media were carried out to make public aware on malaria.
- AMC played a major role in 'The comprehensive integrated review of malaria, leishmaniasis, filariasis and dengue control programs in Sri Lanka' by WHO in 2024.
- A total of Rs 14,557,524.22 was spent from GOSL capital budget (111-2-26-003-2509(084) For the year 2024.
- Published two International Journal articles on malaria
  - ✓ Seneviratne, S., Fernando, D., Chulasiri, P. et al. A malaria death due to an imported Plasmodium falciparum infection in Sri Lanka during the prevention of re-establishment phase of malaria. Malar J 22, 243 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12936-023-04681-5>
  - ✓ Seneviratne, S., Fernando, D., Wickremasinghe, R. et al. An epidemiological analysis of severe imported malaria infections in Sri Lanka, after malaria elimination. Malar J 23, 195 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12936-024-05014-w>

*Display of billboard to eradicate malaria*



*Improving the quality of malaria microscopy*



*Stakeholder meeting for Leishmaniasis at AMC Headquarters*



*Field visits in Kurunegala for Leishmaniasis*



*Director, Global Malaria Programme and Regional Advisor/ Malaria, SEARO visited  
Anti Malaria Campaign Headquarters*



### 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

- **TB Stakeholders Meeting** - The TB Stakeholders Meeting, brought together key partners to discuss vital topics such as the Multistakeholder Accountability Framework, TB control efforts in the Army sector, screening protocols for immigrant workers, and social allowances for TB patients. This meeting reinforced collaboration and accountability among stakeholders, driving progress in TB control efforts.



- **ePIMS Training and Implementation** - Conducted comprehensive training sessions for the pharmacy and laboratory modules of the ePIMS in selected districts. These sessions aimed to enhance the capacity of healthcare staff in utilizing digital tools for efficient program management, with a focus on streamlining data and resource management processes.



- **Supervision of District Chest Clinics** - The NPTCCD team, comprising the Director, Consultant Community Physician (CCP), and Medical Officers, conducted regular supervision visits to District Chest Clinics across the country. These visits focused on evaluating the quality of service delivery, assessing resource availability, and addressing operational challenges. Key areas of review included diagnostic services, treatment adherence, data management, and patient care. Constructive feedback and on-site guidance were provided to district staff, ensuring continuous improvement in TB control efforts. Additionally, the supervision visits served as a platform to strengthen communication and collaboration between the national and district levels.



- Modular Trainings for Nursing Officers, Public Health Inspectors, and Medical Officers** - Modular training programmes were conducted by the Training Unit of NPTCCD. These sessions targeted nursing officers, Public Health Inspectors (PHIs), District Tuberculosis Control Officers (DTCOs), and Medical Officers from District Chest Clinics. The training aimed to enhance their proficiency in TB control operations, patient management, and community engagement. The sessions provided a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical exercises, equipping the participants to deliver high-quality TB services and effectively meet the programme's objectives





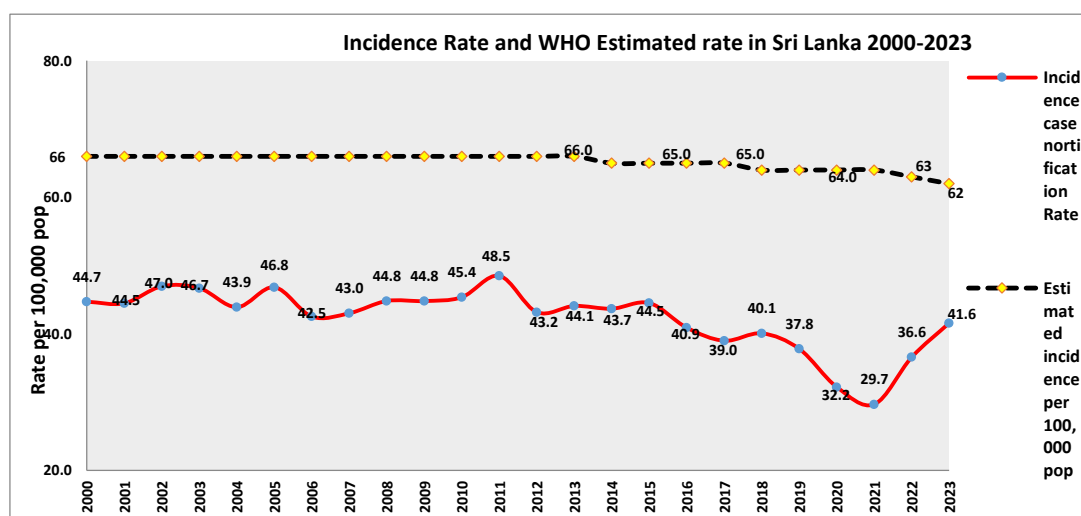
- SAARC Pediatric TB Conference** - SAARC Pediatric TB Conference was held in Colombo, organized collaboratively by the SAARC Center for TB in Nepal and the NPTCCD team. International participants joined the event virtually, enabling robust discussions on advancing pediatric TB care and fostering regional cooperation



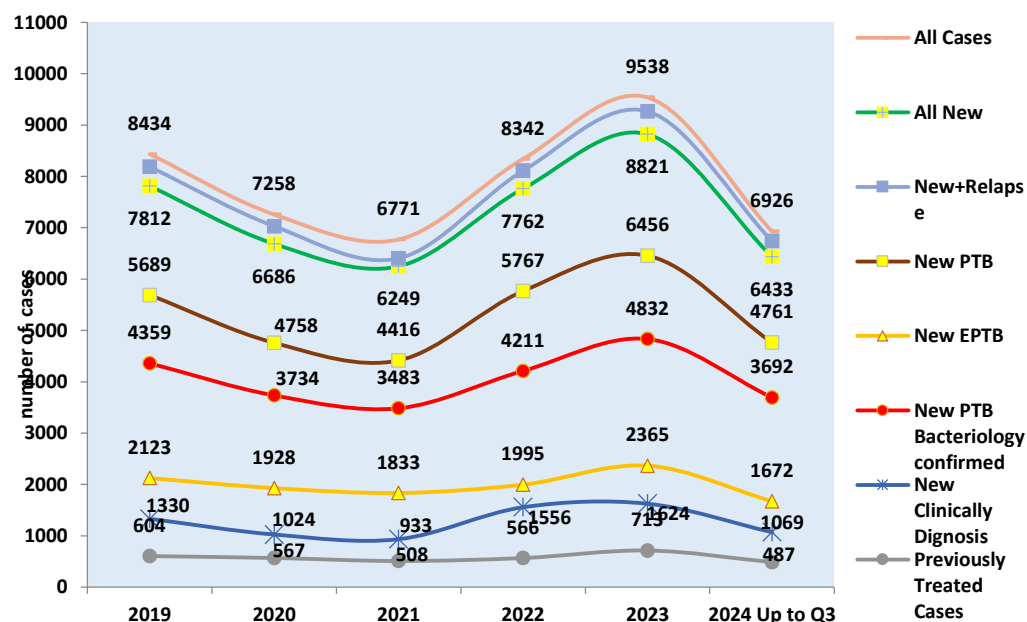


last 5 year performance trend.

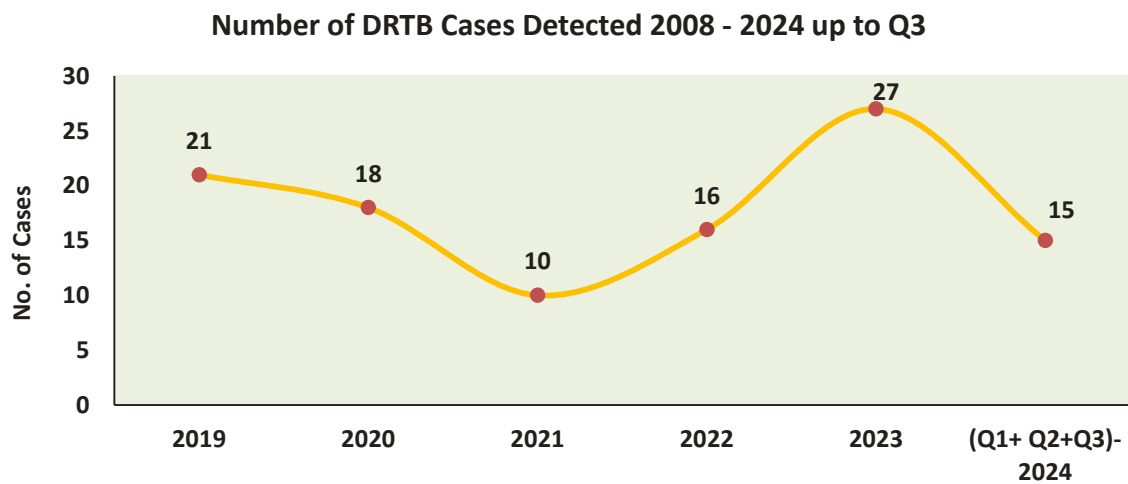
## Gap between the estimated TB cases (new and relapse) and notified cases



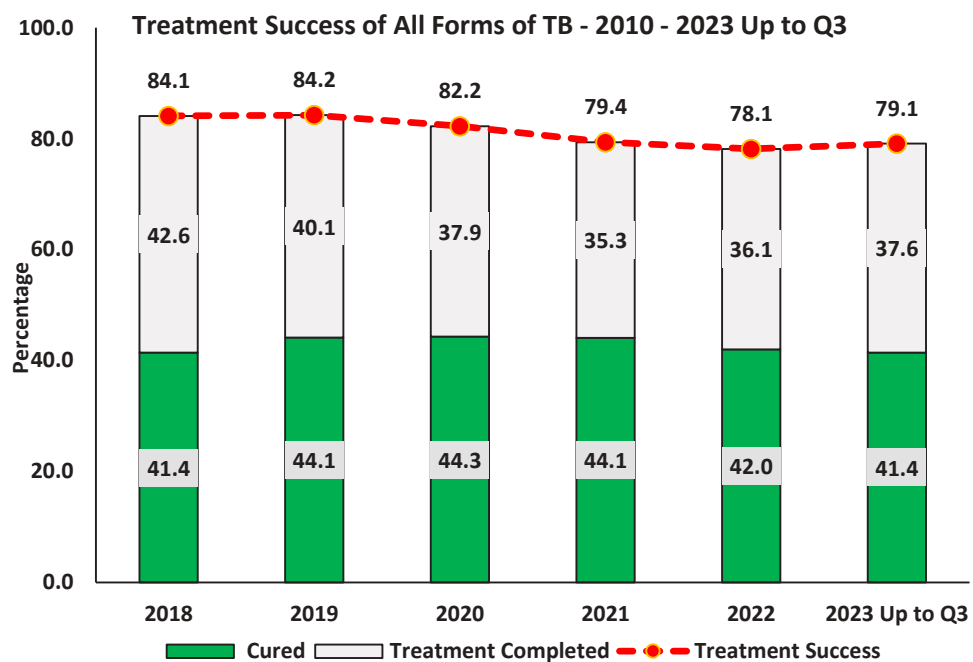
## Trend of case detection



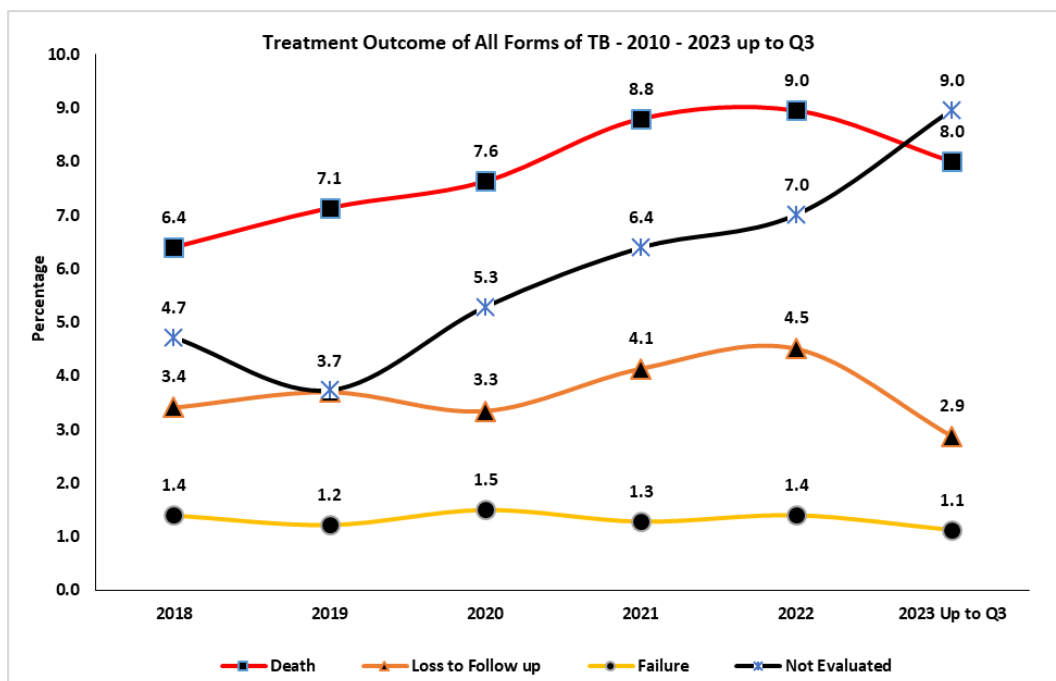
## Trend of MDR case detection



## 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 in year 2024

### Leadership & Coordination of Cancer Control Activities

- Two meetings on National Advisory Committee meeting on Prevention & Control of Cancers were conducted with the participation of stakeholders under the chairmanship of Secretary, Health
- The process of developing next five year National Strategic Plan on Prevention & Control of Cancers was commenced.
- Provincial Cancer control reviews were conducted in Northern, Southern, Sabaragamuwa & Northwestern Provinces

### Primary prevention & early detection of cancers

- **Commemoration of World Cancer Day - 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024** Media seminar was conducted leading to cascade of media events in print, electronic and social media. Health care workers were mobilized through a circular issued by the Director General of Health Services (DGHS) to conduct awareness programmes at district level.
- **Commemoration of Breast Cancer Awareness Month:** A total of 72 breast cancer awareness walks took place across 25 districts during the month of October 2024.



## Diagnosis & Treatment



*Breast cancer awareness month banners displayed at the hospitals and MOH offices island wide*

- **Commemoration of World Head & Neck Cancer Day -27<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

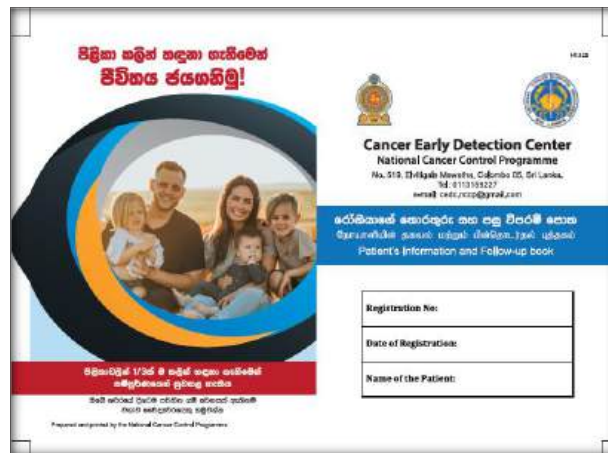
Art competition on prevention and control of Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders (OPMD) / Oral Cancer (OC) was organized in 20 districts to create awareness among community through school children to minimize exposure to risk factors and importance of early detection of oral cancers. Gifts and certificates were distributed to the winners of the art competition.



- **Expanding Cancer Detection Centre (CEDC) Facilities:** A new CEDC was established in Badulla, Uva Province in addition to the functioning CEDCs at Narahenpita, Matara, Rathnapura, Jaffna, Batticaloa.



*Leaflet on Cancer Early Detection Centres*



*Cancer Early Detection Centre - Follow up book*

- Comprehensive breast cancer early detection & care training for public health staff of Sabaragamuwa province (Rathnapura & Kegalle) and Uva province (Badulla & Monaragala) were conducted during the year 2024.



- A total of 20 hands on training programmes were conducted for Dental Surgeons and Medical Officers ( about 600 Officers) working at the primary care level on early detection of OPMD and oral cancers..



- To make the general public aware of prohibition of using and selling of betel, tobacco and areca nut related products in the premises of state institutions, 10,000 posters (8,000 Sinhala and 2,000 Tamil language) were printed. As majority of the public access Grama Niladari offices to obtain services, posters were distributed among these institutions to be displayed in their offices.



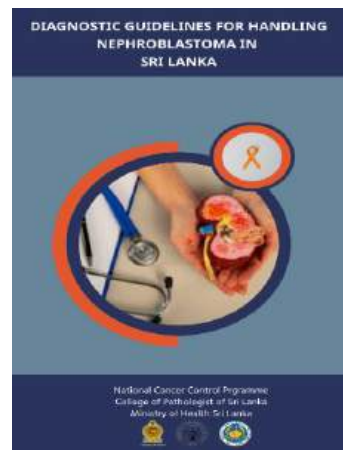
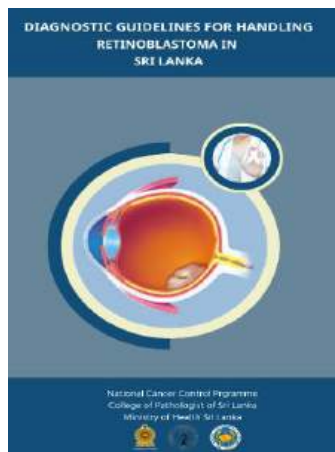


## Diagnosis & Treatment of cancers

- Annual review of breast clinics to review the progress and function of breast clinics and refresher training for health staff in breast clinics in government health institutions was conducted.



- IAEA experts' mission and training of radiographers and physicists on radiation protection guidelines and training of radiation safety officers on the "TOR for Radiation Safety Officers" was facilitated.
- Guidelines on diagnosis of Retinoblastoma & Nephroblastoma were developed in collaboration with College of Pathologists of Sri Lanka.



- Guideline for nutrition care for childhood cancer patients was developed & equipment for monitoring nutrition status were provided to National Cancer Institute.

### Survivorship & Palliative Care

- Training of trainer (TOT) workshops on Survivorship and communication skills for health care staff at cancer treatment centres were conducted at National Cancer Institute, National Hospital Karapitiya, Teaching Hospital Rathnapura & District General Hospital Polonnaruwa.



- 'Childhood Cancer Caregiver booklet' was updated.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Palliative Care Consult Services and best practices of the secondary and tertiary care hospitals in Sri Lanka was conducted.

**Cancer registration and research**

- Two-day training programme on cancer registration for cancer registry staff at Cancer treatment centres was conducted.
- Sensitization programmes to commence Population based childhood cancer registry in the Western Province was conducted.
- Research priorities of public health importance for the prevention and control of cancers were updated through stakeholder consultations and the final list was published on the website of NCCP.

**Expenditure for activities at the National Cancer Control Programme**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
GOSL	11,392,294.34	6,314,247.16	7,771,334.01	20,298,029.36	36,403,809.22
WHO	664,915.63	8,019,625.22	5,920,393.24	10,127,615.20	3,981,580.43
GOSL	28,203,025.30	43,458,521.82	6,922,500.00	5,288,409.13	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,260,235.37</b>	<b>57,792,394.20</b>	<b>20,614,227.25</b>	<b>36,714,053.69</b>	<b>40,385,389.65</b>

**Special Development activities planned for year 2025**

- Conduct imPACT review on cancer control activities with the Participation of World Health Organization & International Atomic Energy Agency & Ministry of Health Sri Lanka
- 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
- Commence commemoration of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in 2025
- Purchase of colposcopes, cytotoxic isolators and immunohistochemistry analyzers for requested hospitals
- 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 2022 & 2023
- 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 Program (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.

#### Achievements/Special Events in 2023

The NSACP, in consultation with stakeholders, completed the National Strategic Plan for the Sexually Transmitted Diseases & AIDS control (2023-2027) and Monitoring and Evaluation Strategic Plan for 2023-2027. The review of HIV testing in hospital settings and the scaling up of HIV testing was conducted island wide.

The AIDS Epidemic model was updated with new data, and new estimates for people living with HIV were completed. The Annual Report 2022 was developed with analyzed data and the results were disseminated among stakeholders.

The prevention services for STDs and HIV are carried out through preservice and in-service training workshops for outreach workers via virtual platforms. Further, clinics have started allowing bookings and appointments through the KNOW4Sure website to improve prevention services for key populations. The Prevention Information Management System was also scaled up for KP districts to cater to high-risk groups in these districts. Moreover, standard operative procedures for online outreach workers were developed.

HIV post-exposure prophylaxis was scaled up to community clinics, and guidelines were developed for its management in the community and published.

For the cost-effective management of patients, the ART regimen was switched from an Efavirenz (EFV)-based regimen to a Dolutegravir (DTG)-based regimen. Currently, in Sri Lanka, 95.68% of PLHIV are on a DTG-based ART regimen. We were able to convince the Global Fund to support ART drugs, condoms, and HIV rapid tests. Additionally, the GFATM fund supported key population prevention interventions as well. For the better management of pregnant mothers with HIV and to sustain the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, we conducted refresher training on EMTCT for MCH staff in the field and institutions island-wide.



## Special development activities planned for 2024

The NSACP, in collaboration with Global fund and UNAIDS, plan to conduct an Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance (IBBS) survey among key populations at high risk of HIV in Sri Lanka with completing the key population size estimation as well. This would help to project estimates on HIV epidemiology and will pave the path to plan the activities for future. The NSACP has on processing of updating the NSACP website with the integration of a feedback collection system for NSACP STD clinics. And the Electronic Information Management System (EIMS) which will help to achieve the transformation of paper-based system to fully electronic based information system.

Moreover, upgrading the NSACP e-learning platform will help refresh the knowledge of EIMS, ensuring its smooth functioning and enabling effective monitoring and evaluation of program active

For the prevention of STDs and HIV, activities related to pursuing revalidation for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis, as well as scaling up HBV and HCV services island-wide, will be carried out in 2024. Piloting chem-sex management interventions will aim to control the risk behavior of young people. The expansion of psychosocial support and counseling services to key populations through capacity-building training of multidisciplinary staff, along with the implementation of community-led syphilis testing in Colombo and Gampaha, will reduce stigma and discrimination and help curb the spread of Hepatitis and Syphilis.

Targeting HIV testing and treatment facilities, improving laboratory facilities, and refurbishing the National Reference Laboratory (NRL) and peripheral laboratories will be completed in 2024. Moreover, upgrading laboratory tests to include screening for Cytomegalovirus PCR tests, Mycoplasma genitalium, and cryptococcal meningitis and purchasing these reagents will be implemented in 2024.

## Last five- year performance trend

Key performance Indicator	Target for 2024	Progress			
		2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of cases with HIV- newly Detected		363	411	608	694
Number of PLHIV on ART		2166	2402	2807	3358
Number of Children with HIV due to mother-to-child transmission- Cumulative since the epidemic started		88	90	90	97
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%	-	-	-	-
Number of HIV-positive babies born to HIV-positive women who did not receive EMTCT services	0	-	-	-	-

### 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 2024**

- The Dengue Case Fatality Rate was reduced from 0.12% in 2020 to 0.05% in 2024.
- The incidence of suspected dengue cases was reduced by 45% from 407.5/100,000 people in 2023 to 225.0 in 2024.
- With the technical and financial assistance of the World Health Organization, a comprehensive programme review was conducted in May 2024 as a part of the vector borne disease programme review of Sri Lanka (malaria, dengue, filariasis and leishmaniasis).
- A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the prevention and control of dengue in Sri Lanka was established to provide strategic and technical recommendations to the National Dengue Control Unit. This TAG is chaired by the Director General of Health Services and the inaugural meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- Five targeted mosquito control campaigns were conducted in high-risk Medical Officer of Health (MOH) areas, with active participation from health staff at the national, provincial, district, and MOH levels, alongside the support of the Police, Tri-forces, and other key stakeholders.
- A Dengue hotline was operational at the Ministry of Health from 7th January to 31st January 2024 for public complaints, running in parallel to a special mosquito control campaign in January 2024.
- Training for 292 Medical Officers and 278 Nursing officers including 70 Nursing tutors was conducted at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) to enhance the clinical management of dengue.
- Training of Trainer programmes (TOT) on clinical management for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar clinicians and nursing staff was conducted at National Institute of Infectious Diseases, organized by NDCU, NIID and Sri Lanka Medical Association in collaboration with WHO. A total of 30 doctors and nursing officers were trained.
- National Dengue Death Review was held on 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2024. Discussion on near-miss cases was conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024, at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases.
- Proactive outbreak response was initiated targeting districts with higher burden of dengue, to assess the current status of dengue and plan for effective control and prevention of outbreaks.
- The Biannual National Dengue Review was held from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December during which both epidemiological and entomological aspects were reviewed.
- The National Strategic Plan for Prevention and Control of Dengue in Sri Lanka (2024-2030) has been developed.



- The National Dengue Control Unit, in collaboration with the WHO Country Office with technical support from the Imperial College London, held a workshop from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024 on modeling and outbreak prediction.
- In collaboration with UNICEF, initiated the development of a risk communication strategy and information material package for dengue.

### Conducting Debriefing sessions of SMCC and maintaining Dengue Hotline during outbreak



### Field Inspections during SMCC



### TOT programme for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar



### Vector Borne Diseases Review-Briefing Meeting and Debriefing Meeting



### National Dengue Review - July 9th to 11<sup>th</sup>



### Technical Advisory Group Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

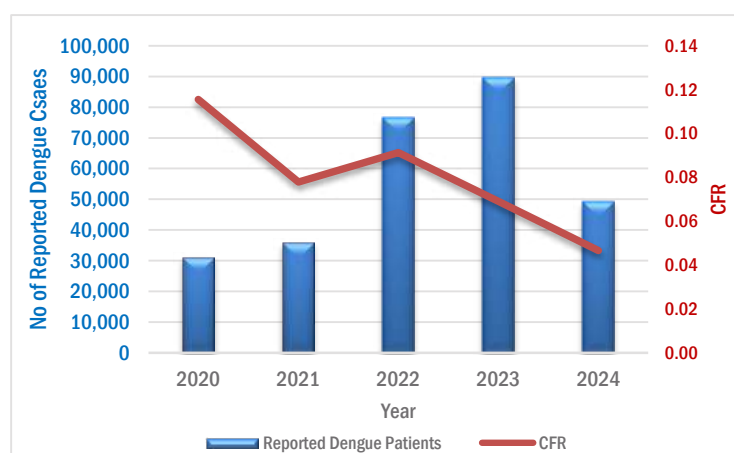


## Last 5-year performance Trend

### National Level Key Performance Indicators from 2019 to 2024

	Progress					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of reported suspected dengue cases	105,049	31,162	35,924	76,689	89,799	49,301*
Number of dengue related deaths	157	36	28	72	62	23
Dengue Incidence (per 100,000 people)	481.8	141.5	162.1	345.7	407.5	225.0*
Dengue Case Fatality Rate (%)	0.15	0.12	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.05
Premise Index for <i>Aedes</i> larvae	9.8	8.6	9.2	9.3	9.0	9.03

\*As of 30. 12. 2024 mid-day



\*Case Fatality Rate -the proportion of people who died from Dengue, among all individuals diagnosed with Dengue over a year.

### The Epidemiological trend and Case Fatality Rate from 2020 to 2024

### *Summary of Special Mosquito Control Campaigns in 2024*

Premise Type	Premises inspected	Premises with potential breeding sites	Premises with larvae	Larvae inside building	Larvae Outside building	Premises corrected same day	Notices issued	Prosecutions
Houses	267742	74568	11614	1031	11107	58759	8151	2125
Schools	1391	734	297	24	336	635	138	8
Other Educational Institutes	905	353	114	10	126	245	62	13
Government Institutes	2875	1288	432	92	357	1069	258	26
Private Institutes	13474	3812	829	122	774	2576	553	300
Factories	918	360	137	12	159	271	86	50
Construction sites	2353	998	287	56	248	723	177	67
Religious places	2793	1381	485	43	440	1169	250	13
Public places	961	441	64	4	153	286	43	3
All other places	5087	1947	224	11	213	1386	253	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>298499</b>	<b>85882</b>	<b>14483</b>	<b>1405</b>	<b>13913</b>	<b>67119</b>	<b>9971</b>	<b>2627</b>

### **Special Development Activities planned for 2025**

- 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.
- 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) is the National focal point for prevention of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) / Chronic Kidney Disease of Uncertain origin (CKDu) and to promote and enable the community to have healthy kidneys from a young age.

#### Objectives

- To provide technical and logistics support for 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 2024

1. Conducted community-based screening programmes for early detection of chronic kidney disease (CKD) – In 2024, 7923 persons have been screened for CKD by the NRDPRU, and 7.5% (595) were referred as CKD, and 8.6% (685) 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.

2. Provision of safe drinking water –  
Coordinated the construction and maintenance of Community RO plants with technical support from the SL Navy. 79 new Community RO plants developed.
3. All island public awareness was designed on the prevention of CKD and protecting kidney health. Awareness materials developed and 100% completed and launched in 2024.
4. Supporting CKD care
  - a. Supporting to conduct effective hemodialysis –  
Initiated construction of Medical Reverse Osmosis (MRO) plants at National Hospital Colombo and Teaching Hospital, Ratnapura.
  - b. Supporting to conduct peritoneal dialysis –  
Approximately, 62 automated peritoneal dialysis (APD) patients and 872 continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) patients received care in 2024.
  - c. Supporting palliative care –  
Steps were taken to restart the functioning of Methsirisevana, in Anuradhapura District. Provision of accommodation facilities for CKD patients on hemodialysis was restarted which was stopped during the COVID era.
5. Research – Collaborative research activities were conducted between the Kothalawala Defence University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Two abstract publications were done.
6. Research dissemination symposium – Two research dissemination symposia were conducted in 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.

## Last five-year performance trend

### 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%

### Special Development activities planned for 2025

- To complete and 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.
- Work in collaboration with the Ministry of Urban Development, Construction & Housing in reaching for a sustainable and equitable safe water supply to people.

## Community Screening Programme





## Health promotion programme



## 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:

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

#### Major achievements / special events in 2023 and until 30 June 2024

- The country received the “Hepatitis B controlled” status from the WHO after verifying by the expert panel in December 2023.
- 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 archive 96% coverage.
- A new cold room complex was built with the support of UNICEF in Dec 2023.
- 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

### Ongoing Development Project Details

No	Project Description	Total Estimate (LKR) Mn	Physical progress as of 30-06-2024	Financial Progress as of 30-06-2024 (LKR)Mn
<b>GOSL - Leptospirosis</b>				
1.1	Preparation and printing of IEC material - Posters and Leaflets in Sinhala and Tamil		No allocation received	0
1.2	Conducting Mass Media Campaign for Prevention and Control of Leptospirosis 2023	5	Although specification for the mass media campaign was prepared to be implemented during the maha season (Sep-Dec -2023), funds were not received to conduct it during Sep-Dec	0
1.3	Control & Preventing Leptospirosis Disease at MOH Level		No allocation received	0
<b><u>WHO</u></b>				
01	Review and awareness programmes in AFP, Measles, rubella, and CRS in hospitals and other institutions	11	5 planned programmes,completed programme 0	0.0
02	Consultative meetings on AFP, measles, rubella, and CRS programmes in hospitals and other institutions		3 planned programmes,completed programme 1	0.03

03	National Certification Committee for Polio Eradication and Measles/rubella, CRS Elimination (NCCPE & MRCE)	3 planned programmes,completed programme 1	0.02
04	Consultative meeting with National Polio Expert Committee (NPEC)	3 planned programmes,completed programme 1	0.03
05	EPI & VPD reviews, training and guidance for the health staff for improving and sustaining high and equitable immunization coverage	35 planned programmes,completed programme 18	3.75
06	AEFI surveillance district review	4 planned programmes,completed programme 0	0.0
07	AEFI Causality Assessment Expert Committee Review and Severe AEFI Case Investigation	2 planned programmes,completed programme 2	0.12
08	Consultative meeting for public health staff on middle-level management of the National immunization programme	4 planned programmes,completed programme 0	0.00
09	Conduct review meetings on leptospirosis in high-risk districts	8 planned programmes,completed programme 4	1.15
10	Conduct consultative meetings with the	3 planned programmes,completed programme 0	0



	Guideline Development Committee on Leptospirosis in revising the management guidelines on Leptospirosis			
11	Holding Quarterly "National Technical Committee on Avian/pandemic influenza meetings" to improve surveillance of high-threat respiratory infections		3 planned programmes,completed programme 1	0.10
12	Human papillomavirus-driven male carcinogenic disease burden among men of 20-70 years in Gampaha district and cost-effectiveness of different preventive strategies		Completed	5.93
13	Training of trainer's program and review of immunization service delivery for provincial/ regional immunization service providers		4 planned programmes,completed programme 2	0.00
14	Updating the national pandemic		2 planned programmes,completed programme 0	0.00

	preparedness plan			
15	Distict review & awareness programmes on outbreak preparedness, response & strengthening communicable disease surveillance		4 planned programmes,completed programme 2	0.24
16	Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP)	11	1 planned programmes,completed programme 0	0.00
17	District reviews on surveillance strengthening and awareness programmes on VPD outbreak preparedness and response plans in elimination stage of VPD		4 planned programmes,completed programme 0	0.00
<u>UNICEF</u>				
	UNICEF - Activity 1 Conducting EPI Coverage Survey (1 District)	4.7	Completed	3.4
	UNICEF - Activity 2 Conduct temperature mapping study	4.2	Completed	3.5

### Last 5-year performance trend

Food and Water-borne disease trend in the country - Last 5 years			
Year	Viral Hepatitis	Dysentery	Typhoid
2019	352	1699	190
2020	245	875	138
2021	198	326	65
2022	255	463	87
2023	260	1039	53

### Special development activities planned for 2024

- Planned to conduct a Field Epidemiological Training Programme (FETP)
- Planned to conduct Middle-Level Managers (MLM) training

## 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 10 consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders regarding issues related to maternal anaemia, maternal micronutrients for year 2024, calcium supplementation during pregnancy, to decide the dose of calcium carbonate tablets for maternal care programme, specification for adult weighing scales (Mechanical and Digital), levels of care in obstetrics.



- **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. Phase 4 of the validation of psychosocial screening tool to screen antenatal and postnatal women was conducted in selected areas in



Kandy District. Validation was completed and the data were analysed. The results suggested further refining of the tool. The tool was amended and it is planned to conduct a wider stakeholder consultation.

- **Collection and analysis of Nutrition month data from Pregnant women on pregnancy weight gain and associated factors:** A survey was conducted in selected PHM areas of Sri Lanka to assess the maternal weight gain during pregnancy, and associated factors among women delivering during the nutrition month (June) 2024. An online data collection form was designed and sent to relevant MOH/PHM areas. Data analysis is currently in progress.
- **Quality assessment tools:** Quality assessment tools to be used in antenatal, labour room, postnatal and neonatal care units in hospitals – Three best performing hospitals were selected and awarded at the World Patient Safety Day celebrations.
- **Infrastructure development & strengthening:** Procured and distributed 720 digital blood pressure apparatuses to all MOH clinics island wide and this activity was funded by GoSL.
- **Printing and Distribution of Obstetric BHTs**  
Obstetric BHTs (A, B, C & D) that were piloted in selected hospitals in Western and Southern Provinces of Sri Lanka, were revised through several rounds of discussions and inputs from relevant technical teams. The revised Obstetric BHTs were printed and distributed to all maternity units island wide in 2024.
- **Printing and Distribution of Maternal care formats:** The annual quota of pregnancy records (H512 A & B) were printed and distributed to all the MOH areas in the country according to their requirement.
- **Development and printing of the Basic Maternal Care manual:** The previous guide on basic maternal care was published in 2011 for field healthcare staff. The need to update it as well as to address the requirements of the non-specialist curative sector staff was recognised and the Sinhala and English versions of the new manual was printed. The Tamil version is currently being translated.
- **Training of healthcare staff on Basic Maternal Care:** twelve programmes of training of trainers (ToT) were conducted covering all nine provinces. The district level trainings on basic maternal care, conducted by the already trained master trainers and Consultant Obstetricians, Consultant Physicians and Consultant

The image displays four sample forms used in maternal and obstetric care. The top-left form is a yellow headered document with multiple sections for patient information, clinical observations, and medical history. The top-right form is a blue headered document, also containing sections for patient details and clinical notes. The bottom-left form is a red headered document, featuring a structured layout for recording pregnancy and delivery data. The bottom-right form is a white document with a blue header, containing various checkboxes and fields for clinical assessment and management plans. All forms are printed in both Sinhala and English.

Psychiatrists are currently being conducted. As of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 35 district training programmes were conducted and 1580 health care workers were trained

- **Maternal care commodities:** Coordinated the activity of procurement and supply of maternal care commodities which is handled by Medical Supplies Division. Use of multiple micronutrient tablets for non-anaemic pregnant women, introduced in the maternal care programme after a lengthy process, was rolled out to all the districts in the country.
- **IEC material:** With the financial support of UNFPA, posters on antenatal and postpartum danger signals were printed and distributed to all maternal care clinics island wide.



	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 atleast 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 Family Health Bureau aims at ensuring positive child birth experience for the woman, newborn and family, to accomplish excellent maternal and perinatal outcomes as well as enabling all newborns to survive, thrive and reach their full potential.

## Key achievements

1. Quality of intra-natal and newborn care was improved by capacity building of the health staff with funding assistance from the Government of Sri Lanka and UN agencies.
  - Sixty master trainers of government and private sector were trained on two five-day training on 'breastfeeding counseling'. The unit also facilitated breastfeeding counseling training for postgraduate trainees in MSc Community Medicine, MSc Human Nutrition, and the Postgraduate Diploma in Child Health through lectures and practical sessions.
  - Fifty MD Paediatrics trainees were trained on 'breastfeeding counseling' and 'essential newborn care'
  - Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC) training is crucial for reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity, as well as improving the quality of care. The updated EmNOC training module was conducted for 210 health staff across the country through seven two-day training programs.
  - Fifty healthcare professionals were trained on Neonatal Advanced Life Support (NALS) which focuses on resuscitating newborn babies.
  - The 'neonatal intensive care training' program would benefit all neonates admitted to NICU by improving the quality of care and clinical outcomes. Two training programs were conducted for participants at Castle Street Hospital for Women and Colombo North Teaching Hospital.
2. Breastfeeding is an evidence-based intervention to reduce neonatal mortality and morbidity. Healthcare facilities should support breastfeeding through Mother baby friendly hospital Initiative (MBFHI). First ever island wide internal assessment of MBFHI was carried out in 2024. Four master training programs were conducted to train the assessment procedure for 255 master trainers. Subsequently, 27 district-level programs were held to train hospital staff involved in implementing MBFHI, with 810 health staff trained, followed by the institutional assessment of MBFHI nationwide. Of the 86 hospitals providing maternal care, 84 have completed the MBFHI assessment.
3. Promotion of breastfeeding among general public: Educational videos on breastfeeding and working women were developed by the Family Health Bureau, in collaboration with the Health Promotion Bureau, to educate the general public. This was accompanied by the creation of social media messages to support working mothers for breastfeeding. Additionally, several mass media interviews on breastfeeding promotion, support, and protection were conducted on Siyatha TV and SLBC throughout 2024.

4. Revising the national guidelines on labour management and piloting of World Health Organization, Labour Care Guide (WHO LCG) was carried out with the aim of effective, respectful care during labour and childbirth. Integrating the LCG into routine intrapartum care could help optimize the use of Caesarean sections (CS) and offer potential benefits for other obstetric interventions, as well as improve maternal and perinatal health outcomes and women's experiences of care.
5. Strengthening national newborn screening programme for congenital hypothyroidism: The Newborn Screening Program for Congenital Hypothyroidism offers all newborns in Sri Lanka a heel prick blood test as part of the National Newborn Screening (NBS) initiative, as it is the most common treatable cause of intellectual disability. Reagents and padded envelopes (bubble mailers) were purchased through the Medical Supplies Division using FHB funding. The sample collection forms were sent to hospitals based on the annual estimated requirements. A pictorial guide, posters and a tabletop were developed for health staff.
6. Piloting of newborn screening package: The national guideline on universal newborn screening in Sri Lanka, covering screening for critical congenital heart disease, congenital deafness, eye defects, and bilirubinaemia, was developed with the contribution of experts, including Neonatologists, ENT surgeons, paediatric cardiologists, and paediatric ophthalmologists. A pilot project is planned in five selected hospitals: CSHW, DSHW, SLGFHW, TH Kurunegala, and TH Jaffna, to identify implementation issues and gather data on newborn screening (NBS), including screen-positive rates and outcomes. Five training programs were conducted in the selected hospitals, training 200 participants. Additionally, essential instruments for hearing assessments, such as OAE machines and AABR machines for confirming diagnoses, as well as ophthalmoscopes, were distributed to the respective hospitals.
7. Updating the levels of newborn care via SCBU/NICU facility assessment in specialist hospitals followed by consultative meetings of Neonatal Working Group and stakeholder consultation. The minimum criteria for each level were revised.
8. A 'Field newborn care package' and the training module for public health staff were developed to address the gaps in knowledge and competencies of field staff in providing newborn care.
9. Strengthen supplies of equipment for maternal and newborn services: In 2024, essential equipment was provided to support maternal and newborn services, ensuring their continuation despite economic challenges. The items, donated by UNICEF and UNFPA, were distributed to various hospitals, including labour rooms, postnatal wards,

lactation management centers, and neonatal intensive care units/special care baby units.

10. Development of IEC materials, training manuals and printing: Posters on hunger cues and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative were developed in all three languages to raise awareness and educate the public. In addition, a comprehensive breastfeeding training manual and participant manuals were printed to support healthcare professionals in delivering effective care. Furthermore, Modified Early Warning Signs (MOEWS) charts were also printed to enhance post-partum monitoring for further reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity.
11. Institutional supervision: Hospital visits were conducted to monitor and provide technical guidance on intranatal and newborn care at facilities such as Castle Street Hospital for Women, TH Jaffna, BH Marawila, Colombo East Base Hospital, BH Homagama, and TH Kurunegala. WHO experts, including Prof. Hanna and Dr. Rajesh Khanna, joined some visits to share their expertise and improve the quality of care.
12. Five meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee on Newborn and Child Health (TACNCH), chaired by the DDG PHS II, were held in 2024. The committee served as the technical advisory body for the national newborn and child health programs, offering policy directives, technical guidance, while monitoring both national and provincial programs.







## Child Nutrition programme

- National Nutrition Month anthropometric assessment of under 5 children was conducted in the month of June 2024. Prior to commencement of NM activities, technical updates were conducted for health staff virtually. In year 2024, a detailed assessment of all children having severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was also carried out by the Public Health Midwives along with the annual assessment. This data gave an insight into the dietary and other vulnerability factors associated with SAM in children under the age of 5 years. An in-depth analysis into this data is currently being carried out.
- National Breastfeeding Month was conducted with the objective of addressing inequalities that exist in breastfeeding support and prevalence. An Assessment of Mothers' needs for Breastfeeding' in MOH areas was carried out by the Public Health Midwives to identify areas which need further support.
- Revision of National Infant and Young Child Feeding and Growth Monitoring and Promotion guidelines was initiated based on the new guidelines published by the WHO.
- Initial preparations are ongoing to revise the Child Health and Development Record to cater for new programme requirements.

- In-service refresher programmes to technically update the supervisory categories of health staff on child nutrition were conducted in two districts (Kurunegala and Rathnapura) in 2024.
- The findings of the retrospective study on growth faltering titled “Timing and pattern of growth faltering in first 1000 days of life”, conducted by the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians and UNICEF were disseminated and a stakeholder discussion was held to develop recommendations based on the findings with the support of UNICEF.



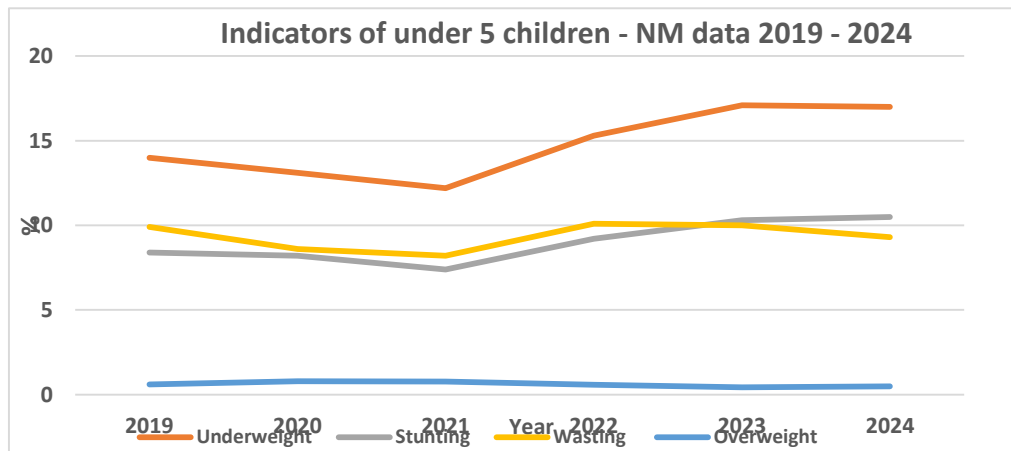
- Six Maternal and Child Nutrition Subcommittee (MCNSC) meetings were conducted in 2024 which contributed to streamline and strengthen the MCN component of the MCH programme.
- Generation of donor funding to support continuation of child nutrition services without disruption and intersectoral collaboration to ensure food security for vulnerable children.



### 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

## Last 5 year performance trend



## Childcare, Development and Special needs programme

### 1. Translate, adaption and 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. The following activities have been carried out to introduce this CFC package to Sri Lanka in 2024 with financial and technical support from UNICEF.

- Situational analysis on implementing CFC in Sri Lanka through an external consultancy.
- Translation and adaptation of the CFC manuals and tool kits to Sinhala and Tamil.
- Training of in-country trainers for the CFC package through a 5-day comprehensive training programme.
- Printing manuals and tool kits of the CFC package
- Completed 5-day PHM training programmes in Polonnaruwa and Galle districts successfully.

### 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. The following activities have been carried out to introduce this programme to Sri Lanka in 2024.

- Literature review to identify best practices in global set-up.
- Situational analysis and resource mapping to identify and develop an implementation plan for "Arambh".
- Kandy, Kegalle, Galle and Ampara districts were selected to pilot this programme including an estate area in Kegalle.
- Detailed situational analysis was carried out in selected districts by the expert team from India.

Translation and adaptation of the materials and starting the pilot programmes are planned for 2025.

### **3. 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.

Literature review, develop the tool, piloting and teacher training programmes were conducted in 2024 and it is expected to complete the task in early 2025.

### **4. 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. Currently, it was distributed to expert reviews and we expect to finalize the document in 2025.

#### **5. 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.

#### **School Health programme**

- **Advocacy for Amendment of existing Food Legislation:** This was intensely carried out as part of an ongoing obesity prevention drive. It included participation in high level meetings and corresponding with relevant agencies.
- **Assessment of Nutrition Environment in Schools:** An activity to adapt and validate a tool - Nutrition Environment Assessment Toolkit for Schools (NEAT-S) was launched as an important component in obesity prevention. This will include a survey in a selected sample of schools. The activity is facilitated and funded by UNICEF.
- **Advocacy for addressing Psychosocial Issues among School Children:** An activity has been launched for above purpose and several sub activities had been planned. Two (02) expert meetings were held to identify appropriate tools to apply in school settings and for parents with follow up measures and advocacy opportunities planned.
- **Development of Youtube channel 'Sihina Pasala':** Material developed for Learning Management System (LMS) in English and in local languages Sinhala and Tamil, on



Psychosocial Wellbeing of school going adolescents, Health Promoting Schools (HPS), Obesity Prevention and Age Appropriate Sexual and Re-productive Health i.e. educational videos and the Docu Drama were uploaded into this channel to expand the viewership and to further the expected outcomes.

- **Training of Trainers (TOT) for Capacity Building in HPS and School Medical Inspection (SMI):** Three (03) TOT programmes on Health Promotion and SMI Programme were conducted at central level for public health staff. These covered all 28 health districts and were conducted in local languages Sinhala and Tamil. This activity was done with WHO funding.
- **Training Programmes in Life Skills Development:** Seven (07) training programmes covering Colombo (CMC), Galle, Gampaha and Kurunegala districts were conducted with each programme including to 50 public health personnel.
- **Training Programmes in Psychosocial Wellbeing:** Three (03) programmes were conducted with one targeting undergraduate students in Social Science at central level and the other two in Galle District aiming school children.



- **Printing of Training Material:** Ten thousand (10000) copies of Manual on Parenting in Sinhala and 3000 copies in Tamil were printed. Also 10000 copies of Guide on Psychosocial Wellbeing in Sinhala were printed. This activity was conducted with World Bank (PSSP) funds.
- **Supply of Essential Material for School Health Activities mainly SMI:** Three thousand (3000) Snellen Charts, 600 bathroom scales and 600 height measuring tapes were procured to be supplied to MOH offices to improve quality of SMI programme. Three thousand (3000) Canteen Evaluation Formats (H 1306) which were printed in 2023 were distributed to all MOH offices.
- **Nutrition Month 2024:** This important annual activity involves conducting SMI in 2 selected schools (one with >200 students and the other with <200 students) per each PHI area during the month of June. A total of 211,904 school children in year 1, 4, 7 and 10 from 2,439 schools had been examined during this activity in 2024.

An increase in wasting and overweight/obesity was noted among all examined students [Grade 1, 4, 7 and 10] compared to 2023 (wasting – 21% to 26.8%, overweight – 6% to 7% and obesity – 2.7% to 3.1%).

- **Coverage of School Medical Inspection (SMI) – (2023/2024)**

No	Indicator	2023	2024
1	% of schools SMI completed	99.1	83.2
2	% of schools sanitary surveys completed	98.8	98.8
3	% of students examined	91.8	77.9
4	% of children wasted	18.7	19
5	% of children stunted	5.8	6.7
6	% of children obese	2.2	2.4
7	% of children overweight	5.1	5.3
8	% Health Promoting Schools	72.7	73.3

- **Global School Health Survey Sri Lanka - 2024:** This is a globally designed research that provides data on health behaviors and protective factors among school children, including dietary behaviors, physical activity, mental health, tobacco and alcohol use. GSHS findings are important 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). The survey was conducted successfully in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Forty (40) schools covering all 26 districts participated in the survey amounting to 2945 school children. Sample size, participating schools and all survey material were scientifically selected with inputs from WHO. The survey is at data entry and analysis stage.

## Adolescent and Youth Health programme

1. Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) Advocacy and orientation programmes for police officers

In 2024, orientation and advocacy Programmes on Adolescent and Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health were successfully conducted for police officers attached to the Child & Women's Bureau and other relevant categories. These programmes were conducted in five districts, including Kalmunai, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Jaffna, to achieve the purpose of facilitating the smooth functioning of adolescent sexual and reproductive health services at the grassroots level and to minimise the legal barriers faced by healthcare workers in delivering ASRH services at the field level.



## 2. Adolescent Youth Health Services (AYFHS) assessment

Assessment of the AYFHS was conducted, including 20 hospital-based and MOH-based Yowun Piayasa Centers in Sri Lanka to evaluate the quality of AYFHS provided through hospital-based Yowun Piyasa (AYFHS) centres as per the eight AYFHS standards, in Sri Lanka and to describe community awareness and coverage of AYFHS in terms of acceptability, availability and utilisation among adolescents in the community, in Sri Lanka with the funding support from UNFPA. The data was analysed, and the report was prepared.

## 3. Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes & orientation programmes on Adolescent Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS)

Three 3-day TOT programmes and two orientation programmes on AYFHS were conducted for health staff as well as the non-health staff who are working with youth aiming at improving their skills and knowledge in dealing with adolescent & youth health issues at the field level. The two orientation programmes were conducted in Jaffna and Trincomalee for health staff which included field visits and supervision on AYFHS.



#### **4. Strengthening Adolescent Youth Friendly Health Services (AYFHS)**

Seven Consultative meetings were conducted with multiple stakeholders to obtain their views on improving the quality, access and availability of AYFHS services at the community level. Field health staff, hospital staff, youth leaders as well as other non-health related staff participated during these meetings.

#### **5. Youth-initiated projects, training programs and promoting youth involvement**

Youth Working Group meetings were conducted with the participation of youth representatives to get their input for improving adolescent & youth participation and their involvement in existing adolescent youth health services. Considering these provided inputs, further measures were identified to make the services more youth-friendly utilising Yowun Piyasa Centers. One TOT programme was conducted for youth leaders at Kalutara to upgrade their knowledge and skills to promote their own health as well as to empower them to initiate adolescent and youth health-related activities at the community level.



#### **6. Technical Advisory Committee meetings on Young Persons' Health**

Two National Level Technical Advisory Committee meetings on Young Persons' Health were held during 2024 to discuss the issues pertaining to adolescent & youth health in Sri Lanka.

#### **7. Piloting project of District Model for promoting Youth Voluntarism – North Central Province**

The initiation of the District Model happened in 2021; FHB, together with the provincial & district level health authorities with funding support from WHO and the Department of Health Promotion of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, University of Rajarata, acting as the mentoring agency. In 2022, there were several meetings to proceed with the activities at the divisional level with the participation of the PDHS, RDHS and the rest of the health staff at Anuradhapura & Polonnaruwa Districts. In 2024, an external review and two final reviews were conducted with the funding support of WHO at Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts to assess the progress of the implementation of the district Model.



## 8. Other activities conducted related to AYFHS

- Finalising Minimal Care Package for Institutionalised Adolescents to provide optimum AYFHS for institutionalised adolescents and youth, ensuring equity of care.
- Revising and re-printing the Youwun Piyasa Protocol into all three languages with GOSL funding support (ongoing activity), to ensure quality AYFHS service provision at the field level and to guide conducting Yowun Piyasa centres at both hospital and MOH level
- Consultative meetings to decide content for revamping the Yowun Piyasa website, including both healthy lifestyle-related and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) components with UNICEF and UNFPA funding support
- External review of the implementation of the national strategic plan on adolescent and youth health 2018-2025 was conducted with support from WHO. Further, several consultative meetings with the relevant multiple stakeholders were conducted in the process of reviewing the National Strategic Plan on Adolescent and Youth Health and for scaling up of the district model adolescent and youth health.

## Oral Health programme

### Major Activities During 2024

The Oral Health Unit achieved several milestones in 2024, beginning with the **Procurement and Distribution** of essential supplies and equipment. The School Dental Programme benefited from the procurement of 250 packs of fissure sealants and 500 packs of fluoride varnish. Additionally, 20 micromotor units and LED dental examination lamps were purchased for school dental clinics (SDCs) following a facility survey to verify district-level requirements. Emergency bulk purchases of GIC filling materials were made to address stock shortages at the Medical Supplies Division (MSD).

Highlighting these efforts, a ceremonial distribution of micromotor units to Regional Dental Surgeons (RDSS) and School Dental Therapists (SSDT) took place during the World Oral Health Day celebration on 12th March 2024. The Secretary of Health participated as a chief guest of this event.





The **UNICEF-Funded Phase-Out Program for Fluoride Varnish and School-Based Sealants** was a key focus in 2024. From September to November, 32 supervision visits were conducted to oversee the screening of children in preschools across the Western Province. These efforts ensured proper implementation and monitoring of the phase-out process.



**Advocacy and Training Programs** played a crucial role in 2024. Advocacy programs in Gampaha, Colombo, and Kalutara districts engaged 138 regional stakeholders in health and education sectors. The WHO-supported in-service training sessions further strengthened capacity by training 90 district oral health staff in fluoride varnish and fissure sealant applications, alongside two sessions held in August 2024. Furthermore, 30 dental surgeons from OPD dental clinics in government hospitals with ETU facilities received specialized training on 2nd October 2024 to apply fluoride varnish and fissure sealants for children with medical conditions in hospital settings.



The **Development and Distribution of IEC Materials** was another significant achievement. The unit designed and distributed a variety of resources, including leaflets, flashcards, banners, and videos on fluoride varnish and fissure sealant applications. During advocacy programs, 100 guideline books for each programme and 500 tri-lingual diet charts were distributed. Instructional videos on fluoride varnish and fissure sealant applications were uploaded to the FHB website and YouTube on 20th June 2024, expanding accessibility. A facility survey was conducted to identify data recording format requirements for SDCs, with input received from all 26 districts and NIHS Kalutara.



The **Annual Review of School Dental Services** took place on 8th and 9th August 2024 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo supported by UNICEF. This national review meeting revised data recording formats and targets for school dental services, reinforcing the unit's commitment to continual improvement in oral health care delivery.

**Consultative Meetings** contributed significantly to programme development. A key meeting on 12th June 2024 focused on the planning of phase-out programme of fluoride varnish programme for children six years and below in the Western Province with the regional dental surgeons and supervising school dental therapists in three districts including NIHS, Kalutara. Also three additional consultative meetings were held to finalize the circular on "Strengthening School Dental Services in Sri Lanka," while three meetings addressed the revision of school dental service targets. Efforts to modernize data systems also advanced with updates to the e-RHIMS platform, guided by health informatics expert Dr. Yujwal from India.



**Facility Surveys and Capacity Building** activities in 2024 included district-level verification of school dental clinic requirements for 2025 and an urgent survey of SSDT needs, with data forwarded to the Additional Secretary Admin II and DDG (Dental Services). The Oral Health Unit also engaged with third-year dental students at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, offering an orientation programme on oral health services under the Maternal and Child Health Programme.

Finally, in promoting health and well-being, the FHB organized an **Exercise Program** with weekly aerobic sessions starting in May 2024, totaling over 40 sessions by year's end. Staff also participated in the "Capacity Building Program for Young Leaders for a Healthy Lifestyle," organized by the Ministry of Health on 5th April 2024, further emphasizing holistic health promotion.

## PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

### Oral health programme for pregnant mothers

Year	Percentage of pregnant mothers screened for dental problems out of total registered pregnant mothers
2019	76.0
2020	80.0
2021	65.0
2022	65.0
2023	87.7
2024	87.9

### School Dental Service

	Indicator	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Outcome Indicators	% of 12 year old children free from dental caries	83.6	82.8	81.3	81.7	82.0	81.5
	% of 12-year-old children free of calculus	93.4	94.7	92.6	95.3	96.6	96.7
	% healthy 12-year-old children	46.0	47.60	62.7	61.4	59.4	62.1
Process Indicators	Screening Coverage of 12-year-old children	Not recorded	43	35.1	74.9	80.6	71.8
	Coverage percentage of the 12 year old children	Not recorded	37.5	28.6	67.3	73.6	65.7

### Family Planning programme

- **Procurement of contraceptive commodities for family planning services**
  - a. In order to provide family planning services, contraceptive commodities such as Condoms, Oral pills, DMPA Injectables, IUDs and Implants (3 and 5 year) were procured with government funds (Table 1), and distributed to all districts during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023 and throughout 2024.

Table 1 Contraceptives Procured from Government Funds

Year	Contraceptive Commodity	Quantity	Cost
2023	1. Condoms	3,499,641	25,092,426.00
	2. Five Year Implant (Jadelle)	30,000	52,530,000.00
	3. AD Syringes	700,000	20,090,000.00
2024	1. 03 Year Implant (Levoplant)	60,000	146,591,400.00
	2. DMPA	350,000	75,425,000.00
	3. OCP	650,010	27,950,430.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>347,679,256.00</b>

- b. However, due to the economic crisis and delayed routine procurement, there was a shortfall in contraceptives for the Family Planning Programme. As per government request UNFPA donated the following contraceptives to supplement the urgent need for the country (Table 2).

Table 2. Contraceptives Donated by UNFPA

Year	Contraceptive Commodity	Quantity	Cost
2023	1. IUD	61,500	8,056,500.00
	2. Three Year Implant (Levoplant)	75,500	155,303,500.00
2024	1. OCP	1,324,512	93,775,450.00
	2. DMPA with 2ml AD Syringes	517,200	119,990,400.00
	3. Three Year Implant (Levoplant)	40,000	82,280,000.00
	IUD	800	104,800.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>459,510,650.00</b>

- **Procurement of equipment for family planning services**

Twenty Autoclaves of high quality were obtained through donations from the UNFPA (Table 3) and equipment necessary for the FP clinics were procured with Government funds during the period considered (Table 4).

Table 3. Equipment Donated by UNFPA

Equipment	Quantity	Cost
<b>Autoclaves</b>	20	5,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,000,000.00</b>

Table 4. Equipment Procured from Government Funds

Year	Equipment	Quantity	Cost
2023	Examination Beds	10	433,190.63
	Instrument Trolleys	10	553,423.13
	Examination Spot Lamps	10	377,200.00
	Adjustable Revolving Stools	10	132,609.38
2024	Mosquito Forceps - Straight	500	1,045,000.00
	Mosquito Forceps - Curved	500	1,070,000.00
	Sponge Holders	100	379,000.00
	Cuscos Bivalve Speculums - Medium	200	860,000.00
	Long Artery Forceps	40	118,000.00
	Rectangular Trays with Lids	20	150,000.00
	Mini Autoclaves	5	975,000.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>6,093,423.14</b>

This equipment was distributed to Family Planning Clinics in eighteen (18) districts (Ampara, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Colombo, Galle, Gampaha, Hambantota, Kalutara, Kandy, Kegalle, Kilinochchi, Kurunegala, Matale, Matara, Monaragala, Nuwara Eliya, Polonnaruwa, Ratnapura).


- **Capacity building of health staff for quality family planning services**





The capacity building of health staff for provision of family planning services was supported by UNFPA. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023 a three-day training programme for 15 medical officers were carried out. Counselling on family planning, updating of knowledge on family planning methods, practical training of IUD and Implant insertions on models and on patients were key features in the training. Also, the College of Anaesthesiologists & Intensivists of Sri Lanka conducted a half-day session on anaphylaxis management during these workshops. This session was important to build confidence among the Medical Officers to respond to anaphylactic reactions, especially following DMPA injectables.

Further to this, two similar programs were carried out in 2024 for medical officers (MOs) The training carried out in 2024 were conducted as training of trainer programs for MOs in Southern, Central, Uva and Sabaragamuwa provinces. All study material and technical guidance was provided by the FP unit in order to make this effort a success.

- ✓ In 2024, Four, 2-day workshops on Reproductive Health and Family Planning were held and 57 Public Health Nursing Sisters (PHNS) were trained on counselling on family planning, on family planning methods, practical training of IUD insertions on models and on patients. Similar to the MO training the PHNS training was also carried out as Training of Trainer programmes expecting a positive outcome. In addition, a special training programme was conducted for the Special grade nursing tutors with the intension of spreading updated knowledge to the new trainees.
- 
- ✓ A workshop was also done for the RMSD OICs from all districts on logistic management and updated them on the web based Contraceptive Stock return (1158) format on eRHMS. This was carried out on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October and 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 Capacity building or training is one of the six building blocks in WHO's health system strengthening concept. A service provider should be well trained, skilled and motivated to provide quality services. Trainees' skills were assessed by getting the trainees to insert a specific number of IUD and Implants to clients. Trainees who were deemed competent were awarding certificates.

- **Development of IEC materials on FP and Subfertility for Health Staff and General Public**

- a. In order to revise knowledge on Contraceptives and Subfertility, the Family Planning with the help of the Family Planning Association, a partner NGO, printed flash cards in all three languages and the flash cards were distributed among the health staff in MOH areas. In addition, a limited number of copies was printed on Self Breast Examination and distributed amongst the trainees.



- b. All trainees were encouraged to download FHB's 'Contraceptive choices' app and the WHO MEC app.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

In 2023, visits were carried out in two districts in the Eastern province, with low in contraceptive prevalence (Batticaloa and Kalmunai) for supportive supervision.

- a. Batticaloa district – A special discussion was held on measures taken by MOHs to **lower the unmet need**.
- b. Kalmunai district – A household survey to identify couples with unmet need for FP was carried out in Kalmunai MOH area. The findings were discussed and shared with all the MOH staff of the whole Kalmunai district.

In 2024 too, visits were carried out in two districts in 2024 (Anuradhapura and Mullaithivu) in the North Central and Northern provinces in MOHs where the unmet need for contraceptive was high.

- a. A household survey was carried out in the Kekirawa MOH area and the district review was carried out at the RDHS office with the participation of CCP, MOMCHs and all MOHs of the Anuradhapura district.
- b. A similar programme was carried out at the Mullaithivu district with a fruitful discussion with the Provincial Director of the Northern province and Regional Director and MOMCH of Mullativu.
- c. A supervisory visit was also made to the RMSD Anuradhapura



A quantity of 700,000 H1153 (FP Record) and 700,000 H1155 (FP Client Record) formats were printed in August 2023 and December 2024. These formats are mandatory records that should be maintained by the FP service providers and FP clients respectively.

- **Development of Regulations for Human Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Services**

The grave need for a guideline on ART was fulfilled in 2024 with the collaboration of the SLCOG. A circular (01-42/2024) was issued in this regard.

- **Solar power System**

A 50 KVA solar power unit was donated by UNFPA to supplement the energy consumption of the contraceptive stores.

- **Programme outcome**

Availability of contraceptives to clients through timely procurement, Capacity building, supportive supervision and provision of technical support has all contributed to the increase in modern contraceptive prevalence from 59.4% in 2022 to 60.2% in 2023 amidst the challenges of the economic crisis in the country.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1. Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (Any method) %	66.9	66	66.5	<b>68.5</b>	<b>69.4</b>
2. Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (modern methods) %	57.9	57	57.7	<b>59.4</b>	<b>60.2</b>
3. Couples with unmet need for contraception %	5.8	5.7	5.6	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.4</b>
4. Demand satisfied by modern contraceptive methods (%)	79.6	79.5	80.0	<b>80.3</b>	<b>80.5</b>

*\* Source: eRHMS, FHB*

## 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 receive 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 plan to utilize approximately 30,000

test kits (purchased in the above manner), covering 15% 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 will be 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 funding 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.
- Family Health Bureau (FHB) obtained consumables needed for the Well Woman Clinics from Medical Supplies Division (MSD), Ministry of Health and supplied the same to all MOH areas through the District Regional Medical Supplies Divisions (RMSD). Records of all consumables and reagents were maintained by using the inventory management software programme.

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

Indicator	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 October
Percentage of women aged 35 years who attended the WWC	73.8	58.1	43.6	55.2	65.6	54.7
Percentage of women aged 45 years who attended the WWC	25.5	20.9	17.9	30.1	46.7	38.7

As mentioned above in Table 1, Well Woman activities were expanded gradually throughout the country. There has been coverage of around 65% in respect of 35 year age cohort and 46% in respect of 45 year age cohort, in 2023.

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

Indicator	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 October
Percentage of Pap smears taken from women aged 35 years who attended the WWC	67.8	53.1	40.3	50.3	60.6	50.7
Percentage of Pap smears taken from women aged 45 years who attended the WWC	24.1	19.6	17.0	28.3	43.3	36.2

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

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 October
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	5.7
Percentage of new cases of Hypertension detected	3.4	3.8	4.1	4.5	4.8	5

## Gender and Women's Health Unit

- Introduction of a referral disc to GBV survivors -Pilot study at Kalutara district: By introducing a referral disc for GBV survivors, FHB expects to overcome certain negative issues associated with referral mechanism as well as to ensure confidentiality of GBV survivors and hence to strengthen referral mechanism of GBV survivors to Mithuru



Piyasa centres. A pilot study was started in Kalutara district as a well-established collaboration is seen among different sectors such as Health, Legal sector including Police and Social Services in responding to a GBV survivor in Kalutara district.



### Sensitization of Public Health and non-health Staff in Kalutara District

- Capacity building of health staff for Health Sector Response to GBV survivors: TOT workshop for newly enrolled Medical Officers to Mithuru Piyasa centres and MOMCHs on Health Sector Response to GBV : Training programme for Updating knowledge of Mithuru Piyasa staff ( Sinhala medium) completed on 22nd & 23rd August 2024 . The 4 day Training programme on Gender and GBV for newly enrolled Mithuru Piyasa staff , The Training programme for Updating knowledge of Mithuru Piyasa staff (Tamil medium) ,and 4 Training programmes on GBV and Preconception care programme for Public Health staff in 4 districts are in progress.



- **Public Health Staff Training:** GBV prevention activities done at the individual, family, and community level and also providing care for survivors of GBV in the community is done through preventive health staff of Medical Officer of Health (MOH) areas. Public Health staff in Kurunegala, Kandy, Matale, Nuwaraeliya, districts were trained to overcome the challenges due to the inadequacy of knowledge and skills, while conforming to the ethical and legal standards through the use of National Guideline and Standard Operating Procedures for First Contact Health Care Providers.
- Sensitization of Marriage registrars on Preconception care package for newly married couples: Sensitization programmes for marriage registrars in Rathnapura, Kegalle, Kandy, Matale, Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura districts on preconception care package for newly married couples were done.

Indicator	Years		
	2022	2023	Target for 2024
Number of new survivors of GBV catered at Mithuru Piyasa Centers	10871	12198	Increase by 8% (13174)
Number of New Mithuru Piyasa Centers Established	83	85	Increase by 5% (89)
Percentage of new survivors of GBV catered at field level by public health staff	9.10%	11.10%	13.10%
Percentage of Newly Married Couples attended preconception sessions	50.50%	58.40%	68.40%

### Maternal Morbidity & Mortality Surveillance programme

From January 2024 to December 2024, Sri Lanka witnessed a total of around 65 maternal deaths resulting from direct and indirect causes. Which shows a remarkable reduction in the number of maternal deaths and from January 2024 up to November 2024 the total number of maternal deaths reported has further reduced. These deaths were carefully investigated 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 were discussed at Institutional Maternal Death Reviews (IMDRs). These reviews served 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 2023 to November 2024, the FHB actively engaged in 97 IMDRs, attending each session to provide guidance and support. Some IMDRs encompassed multiple cases conducted within a single day to streamline the review process.

These desk reviews involved a meticulous examination of all direct and indirect maternal deaths, 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 as a pilot project in the Western and Southern provinces. With the launch of the confidential inquiry system in the Western and Southern provinces, Sri Lanka demonstrates its commitment to improving maternal health outcomes and reducing maternal mortality rates. The Process was further expanded to the Central province in the year 2024 with a plan to expand island wide by 2025. By the end of year 2024 a total of 14 Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths (CEMD) expert panel meetings were conducted for 48 maternal deaths from the CEMD areas.



Maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response (MPDSR) committees have been 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) has provided valuable support and funding for the MPDSR initiatives in Sri Lanka.

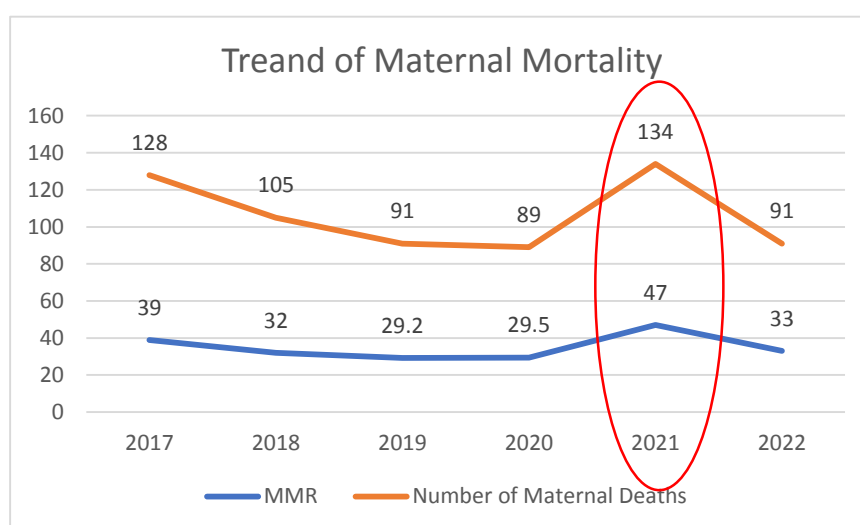
Two Training of Trainers (ToT) programs in the Western and Southern provinces. These programs aimed to equip healthcare professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively carry out MPDSR activities within their respective regions. In turn, these trainers have conducted 18 regional trainings for health staff since 2022. Training of trainers and the hospital teams on MPDSR has been completed in the Central province by the end of 2024 with a plan to conduct training in eastern province in 2025.

MPDSR trainer guide and a MPDSR user guide is been developed. These guides provide comprehensive and standardized information on the MPDSR process, protocols, and best practices.



## Last 5 year performance trend

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
MMR	39	32	29.2	29.5	47	33
Number of maternal deaths	128	105	91	89	134 (Including 60 COVID maternal Deaths)	91



## 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
- School Health Reviews conducted online - Provincial, Jan, Feb, March 2024
- RH MIS 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.



### Findings of the external review was disseminated among all stakeholders

- 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.





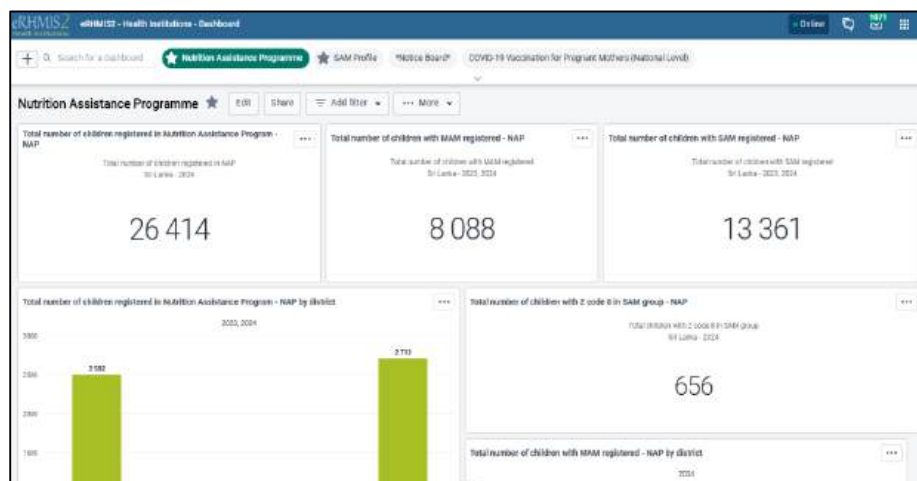
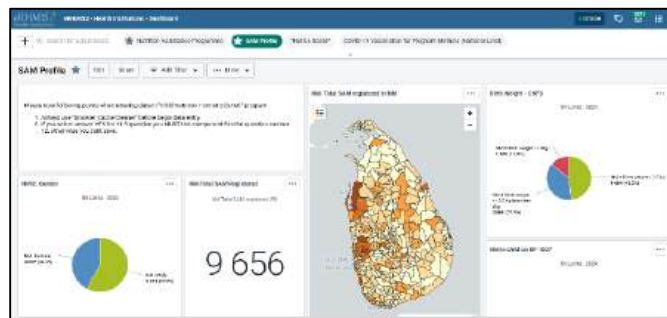
- National Nutrition Month 2024

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/>



## PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

- 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
- 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.

## 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	<b>0.8</b>



- 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.
- One training Programme on Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergencies was conducted for public health staff of Kandy RDHS area, 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. 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.
- 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 in 2024. The meetings, chaired by Secretary of Health, is the key platform for seeking solutions to managerial problems in the field of MCH.
- Two laptops and 11 desktops were purchased and distributed for Needy units of FHB.
- Part of Essential furniture for FHB were purchased and distributed to needy units. This project is yet to be completed, due to technical disagreements.

### **Research Unit**

Research Unit of the Family Health Bureau was re-established since October 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

### **Special Development Activities planned for 2025**

- To conduct the National Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EmONC) Survey.
- Develop a Public Health Audit guide.
- Conduct a Research and Project Proposal writing workshop for district Medical Officers of Maternal and Child Health (MOMCHs) in collaboration with the planning unit.
- Overall coordination of the researches conducted by the relevant units of the Family Health Bureau.



### 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, and through conducting weekly media seminars.

#### 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

1. To improve modifiable health determinants of individuals & communities
2. To reduce risk behaviours of individuals & communities
3. To establish supportive healthy environments/settings
4. To improve the usage of healthy environments/settings
5. To improve quality & access to health services

## Achievements/Special events in 2024

### *Special achievements by the technical units of the Health Promotion Bureau*

Unit	Key achievements
Community Health Promotion Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fifteen district-level capacity-building programmes to train 700 healthcare officials on the health promotion process and happy village establishments</li> <li>2. One national-level training of trainers programme completed to train 50 district level healthcare professionals on the health promotion process and happy village establishments.</li> <li>3. Training programmes to facilitate the establishments of 100 new happy villages. Including 60 in estate divisions, 110 new happy villages were established.</li> <li>4. Advocacy TOT completed for 25 MO-NCDs island wide.</li> <li>5. Development of interactive digital IEC materials concerning obesity and obesity reduction among adolescents.</li> <li>6. HPB FB page posted social media posts with a high reach.</li> <li>7. Producing motivational and appreciation materials for 150 newly established happy villages - t-shirts, caps and volunteer IDs.</li> </ol>
Health Communication & Life Skills, Media and Publicity Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conducting TOT on Reproductive Health communication, Menstrual Health (Health and Non-health), and preventing GBV through positive interactions (customized for the target group)</li> <li>2. Developing Training Aids on Reproductive Health communication (Menstrual Health and CSE), and Life skills training program</li> <li>3. Developing communication strategies on Men's health and adolescent sexual &amp; reproductive health (CSE)</li> <li>4. Development, printing and distribution of IEC material on reproductive health (Menstrual calendar for 5 years) and developing videos of media seminars/press briefings/press conference/press release conducted at HPB and other relevant videos.</li> <li>5. Managing WWC Facebook page designed for 35 and 45 year age cohorts</li> <li>6. Conduct regular media events (media seminars/press briefings/press conference) and issue press release on specific health days.</li> </ol>

<p>Training, Exhibition, IEC, and Hospital Health Promotion Unit</p>	<p><b>(A) Training and capacity building</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conducting training and reviews to strengthen the National Programme on Hospital Health Promotion</li> <li>2. Development of hospital health-promotive settings in selected districts</li> <li>3. Conduct Core communication skills /PR training for staff</li> <li>4. Orientation training programs for MOH, medical students and postgraduate students</li> </ol> <p><b>(B) Information, Education and Communication materials development</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Communication and social marketing strategy development and implementation for National Emergency Health situations/disaster activities -Floods, Measles outbreak</li> <li>6. Measles Hesitancy National communication /IPC training for public health staff</li> <li>7. Development of printed and audio IEC materials for different diseases and distribution island wide, and providing expertise to develop IEC materials by working with other special campaigns in IEC production. Conducting and participating at National level exhibitions and IEC production.</li> <li>8. Maintaining and strengthening the Digital Signage (DS) System in 600 PMCI, and producing short videos, health education posts and animations for the DS system.</li> <li>9. Facilitating Water Sanitation and Hand Hygiene (WASH) programme and conduct trainings, as the communication focal point for this program.</li> <li>10. Conducting mobile health clinics in media institutions</li> <li>11. Represent the National Steering Committee of Antimicrobial Resistance and planning and conducting 5-year Communication campaign with DDG-LS</li> </ol>
<p>Policy, Advocacy, Risk Communication and Workplace Health Promotion Unit</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implemented the National Risk Communication Strategic Plan for Public Health Emergencies.</li> <li>2. Implemented the National Health Promotion Strategic Plan.</li> <li>3. Conducted three consultative meetings to develop the advocacy training package.</li> <li>4. Developed the AAP training module for master trainers.</li> <li>5. Conducted AAP TOTs for master trainers at provincial level.</li> <li>6. Conducted two stakeholder meetings for WPHP targeting Health Education Officers and Health Care staff in provinces &amp; districts.</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Conducted 4 TAC meetings on Risk Communication.</li> <li>8. Conducted 4 programs for staff of HPB, aimed at developing HPB as a model WPHP setting.</li> <li>9. Compiled and circulated the public concerns and rumor reports received from 24-hour Suwasariya hotline.</li> </ol>
Family Health, Nutrition Communication & Behaviour Research Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conducted the National Review of MSG Activities 2024, focusing on the theme “Strengthening partnerships for community wellness: Nourishing families, growing economies and enhancing resilience at the community level” representing 25 districts.</li> <li>2. Conduct district level advocacy/ training/ review programs in Kandy, Ratnapura and Matara districts.</li> <li>3. Strengthening of mothers’ support groups to improve health and nutrition at community level by designing and distributing IEC materials.</li> <li>4. Established and maintained a model mothers’ support group in the Western Province, conducting advocacy, training sessions, and field visits in targeted areas.</li> <li>5. Upgraded the health promotion app to monitor and evaluate MSG activities at district level</li> <li>6. Research papers submitted for publication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Front-of-pack Labeling System in Sri Lanka: Does it affect food consumer behavior? &amp; to explore the impact of labeling on purchasing decisions.</li> <li>● Application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Health Promotion: A case study of an experience from a public health institution in Sri Lanka.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Published a paper on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improving dietary diversity and food security among low-income families during the financial crisis using cash transfers and mHealth: experience from two selected districts in Sri Lanka.</li> </ul>

Oral Health Promotion Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhancing oral health promotion in established health-promoting settings such as happy villages, mother support groups, preschools, and schools. To achieve this, three two-day training of trainers' programs were conducted.</li> <li>2. Revised the booklet "Uniform Oral Health Messages for Sri Lankans. Three consultative meetings were held, and the modified Delphi technique was used to achieve the purpose.</li> <li>3. National launch of oral health promotion training material for primary grade teachers with the participation of the Secretary of Health.</li> <li>4. Created four drama-based stories for preschool children with the help of a drama therapist.</li> </ol>
Strategic Information, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Preschool Health Promotion Unit	<p><b>A. Strategic Information Unit</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthening the electronic Health Education and Health Promotion Management Information System to ensure HE&amp;HP targets are captured within the e-HEAPMIS.</li> <li>2. Initiating the revamping of the HPB website which is dormant at present with a new outlook. The development work will be completed in 2024.</li> <li>3. Strengthening and maintaining the Preschool Health Promotion Information System, obtaining high user acceptance and usage.</li> </ol> <p><b>B. Planning Unit</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Developing and printing the National HE &amp; HP Guidebook in all 3 languages, to ensure implementation of HE&amp;HP strategic plan.</li> <li>5. Maintaining the HPB People Engagement Network (PEN) group for co-creating the HE&amp;HP interventions, and establishing similar PEN groups in 10 selected districts (Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Hambanthota, Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Kurunegala).</li> </ol> <p><b>C. Monitoring &amp; Evaluation Unit</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Strengthening health promotion activities at the national and sub-national levels by conducting quarterly and annual (2024) Health Education &amp; Health Promotion Reviews on district and national level performance.</li> <li>7. Streamlining achievement of HPB targets by conducting annual HPB Unit performance review and development of quarterly performance reports.</li> </ol>



	<p><b>D. Strengthening and maintaining National Preschool Health Promotion Setting Development Program</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Facilitating districts to conduct a 2-day advocacy, mediation and enabling programs in all 26 RDHSS, CMC, KMC and NIHS. A total of 2600 health and non-health sector officials were covered.</li> <li>9. A 2-day residential Preschool HP capacity building and in-depth case study review for MO/MCH &amp; HEOO held to strengthen district level</li> <li>10. Annual review of Preschool Health Promotion Program 2024 in all provinces held.</li> <li>11. A modified preschool health promotion program guideline according to new indicators was developed in all 3 languages for printing.</li> <li>12. National Program for Social and Behavioural Change on Child Health Promotion was established with 14 stakeholder ministries, and its 1<sup>st</sup> National Steering Committee chaired by SH and the National Working Committee chaired by DGHS were held to obtain commitment for the implementation of SBCC package.</li> <li>13. Content development for Social &amp; behavioural change package for child health promotion program completed, with content validation.</li> <li>14. Inclusion of Social &amp; Behavioural Change communication module for child health promotion into the Preschool Curriculum Framework developed by the National Institute of Education.</li> </ol>
Administrative section	Development of Walking Pathway in the premises of Health Promotion Bureau to promote physical activity among staff

## Ongoing Development project details

### *Ongoing projects by the technical units of the Health Promotion Bureau*

Project Description	Total Estimate Cost (LKR.Mn)	Physical Progress by 31.12.2024	Financial Progress by 31.12.2024
1. Community Health Promotion Unit	UNICEF- 3.190 UNICEF - 4.5 GOSL -0.784826 GOSL -5.005	100% 30% 100% 60%	100% 0% 100% 0%
2. Health communication & Life Skills, Media and Life skills unit -	UNFPA- 13.6 WHO-1.1 GOSL -0.676 GOSL - 3 (NCD, MCH votes)	75% 0% 100% 50%	25% 0% 72% 25%
3. IEC development and Training Unit-	GOSL-4.2	100%	100%
4. Policy, Advocacy and Risk Communication Unit-	GOSL - 1.75  WHO- 0.288 UNICEF - Direct Funding	80%  100% 100%	31%  100% Direct Funding
5. Family Health, Nutrition Communication and Behaviour Research Unit-	GoSL - 0.9  UNICEF - Direct Funding	100%  100%	100%  Direct Funding
6. Oral Health Promotion Unit-	GoSL - 3.4 UNICEF - 0.2	60% 100%	47% 100%
7. Strategic Information, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Unit	UNICEF- 13,904,494.50  GoSL - 5.0  2.4 (UNFPA)	100%  60%  50%	100% (13,904,494.50)  75% (3,747,025.00) 29.67% (0.7)
8. Administrative Office	GOSL – 27.63	Purchasing 100% repairs <20%	14.18% (3.92)

## 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)*	69.0%	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	47
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)	100%
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%)	-

## Special Development Activities planned for 2025

Unit	Activity planned
1. Community Health Promotion Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social media health communication</li> <li>2. Implementation of interactive digital IEC materials concerning obesity and obesity reduction among adolescents</li> <li>3. Establishment of 100 new Happy Villages</li> <li>4. Capacity building of 500 primary health care officers on health promotion and happy village establishments</li> <li>5. Implementation of online training module on health promotion</li> </ol>
2. Health communication & Life Skills, Media and Life skills unit -	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct Training of Trainers (ToT) programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life skills to empower health staff</li> <li>• Menstrual health and environmental impact for health and non-health sectors.</li> <li>• “Happy Family” programs for health staff and non-health staff in six districts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Conduct training programs on basic communication skills for primary healthcare staff (Medical Officers of Health units – MOH, AMOH, PHNS, SPHM, SPHI, PHM, PHI) facilitated by five instructional videos to be developed.</li> <li>3. Development of 52 social media tiles per year on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (each month four tiles)</li> <li>4. Development 12 animation videos for the Well Women centre Facebook page</li> <li>5. Working together to improve menstrual health &amp; environmental impact (Workshops and IEC development for social media platforms)</li> <li>6. Development of Reproductive health IEC material for Men’s health, Maternal health, Well women, ASRH, Family Planning, SGBV</li> </ol>
3. IEC development and Training Unit-	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. General (Core) Interpersonal Communication Training Program for Public Health Staff-Program 1- Training of National Master trainers for communication</li> <li>2. Conducting of National Programme Hospital Health Promotion training activities and reviews</li> <li>3. Orientation training programs for MOH, medical students and postgraduate students</li> <li>4. Communication and social marketing strategy development and implementation for National Emergency Health situations/disaster activities</li> <li>5. Producing IEC for different diseases and distribution island wide, and producing short videos and health education posts,</li> </ol>

	<p>animations for digital Signage System for its smooth functioning.</p> <p>6. Conducting trainings on Water Sanitation and Hand Hygiene (WASH) programme as the national focal point</p> <p>7. Conducting and participating at National level exhibitions and IEC production accordingly</p>
4. Policy, Advocacy and Risk Communication Unit-	<p>1. Facilitating Risk Communication training at Provincial and district level, reviewing and evaluating the "National Risk Communication Strategic Plan for Public Health Emergencies, Sri Lanka 2023-2025".</p> <p>2. Strengthening the Workplace Health Promotion Program by conducting stakeholder meetings, developing and maintaining the HPB as a model Health promoting workplace, and establishing model HPWP in all sectors targeting 100 % MOH coverage.</p> <p>3. Conducting TAC meetings on Risk Communication.</p> <p>4. Conducting planned RCCE activities &amp; manage infodemics as stipulated in sub-national level action plans -2025.</p> <p>5. Allocation of dedicated resources for ongoing monitoring and adaptive enhancements of RCCE.</p> <p>6. Weekly compilation and circulation of public concerns and rumor reports as received from 24 hour Suwasariya hotline.</p>
5. Family Health, Nutrition Communication and Behaviour Research Unit-	<p>1. Strengthening and mobilizing Mothers' Support Groups to address the nutritional issues at community level.</p> <p>2. 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</p> <p>3. Conducting training for public health staff in establishing and strengthening MSG</p> <p>4. Conducting advocacy programs at village level by the MSG members to facilitating village Health Promotion setting development.</p>
6. Oral Health Promotion Unit-	<p>1. Create five IEC materials addressing oral health awareness.</p> <p>2. Develop a video to curb sugar intake among children</p> <p>3. Train dental surgeons, attached to the ADC/ CDC on oral health promotion.</p> <p>4. Review performance dental surgeons, attached to the ADC/ CDC on oral health promotion.</p> <p>5. Print the oral health message booklet and distribute it to the district level.</p>
7. Strategic Information, Planning,	<p>1. Launching and maintaining the revamped HPB website</p> <p>2. Reactivating the e-HEAPMIS of HPB by training district and divisional level staff</p> <p>3. Circularizing and strengthening the HE&amp;HP system</p>



Monitoring & Evaluation Unit	<p>implementation &amp; target coverage provided by the guideline</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Strengthening the Preschool Health Promotion Program with further guideline, circular and M&amp;E</li> <li>5. Launching of the Social &amp; Behavioural Change Communication Package for Child Health Promotion and initiating trainings to develop district resource pools</li> <li>6. Integration and initiation of training of SBCC package in Preschool Curriculum Framework for 500 preschool teachers</li> <li>7. Continue Health Education &amp; Health Promotion Monitoring, and Preschool Health Promotion reviews</li> <li>8. Conduct SUNRISE baseline research project</li> </ol>
8. Administrative Office	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Completion of the Walking Pathway of HPB for healthy lifestyles</li> <li>2. Completion of renovation of hostel rooms and hostel building</li> </ol>

- Child Health Promotion and Social Media Unit



- Health Communication, Life Skills, Media and Publicity Unit
- Training, Exhibition, IEC material Development and Hospital Health Promotion Unit



- Policy, Advocacy, Risk Communication and Workplace Health Promotion Unit



- Family Health, Nutrition Communication and Behaviour Research Unit



- Strategic Information, Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation and Preschool Health Promotion Unit



## 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

- A symposium was conducted at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute to commemorate the World Mental Health Day 2024 on the theme “**Mental Health is at Work place**”.
- Training programs for health & education sector on mental wellbeing among school children
- Trainings on substance abuse prevention and management of patients presenting with substance abuse at district levels
- Mental wellbeing programs for youth, adolescents and elderly
- Trained district level staff on establishment of Community health center
- Trained district level staff on suicide prevention action plan
- Training for post intern Medical Officers of mental health
- Capacity building/ Inservice training for MO/MH- child mental health
- Capacity building programme for Consultant Psychiatrists on child mental health
- Conducted training of Trainers program on ‘Improving mental wellbeing of school children’
- Printed the Guideline for consumer & carer societies, private mental health services
- Conducted mental health reviews and supervisions at district level

### Ongoing developments project details 2024

Project Description	Total Estimated Cost (Mn)	Physical Progress by 31.12.2024	Financial Progress by 31.12.2024	
<b>1. Promotion of mental wellbeing</b>				
			<b>Amount (Mn)</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.1. Commemorate of World Mental Health Day and Suicide Prevention Day	1.35	World Mental health day was conducted under WHO funding		

## PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

1.2. Conducting meetings Conducting National committee meeting on mental health (NCMH) - quarterly	0.2	Conducted on 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	0.0072	3.6%
Consultative Meetings to develop duty lists and job description for MH professionals		-		
Consultative Meetings to formulate guideline for consumer & carer societies, private mental health services		Final meeting conducted in 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024, completed proof reading, awaiting to print		
1.3 Printing of 1.31 Guideline for consumer & carer societies, private mental health services 1.32 Directory on available services for neurological disorders	2	Done  not done - as resource persons not available	0.093	4.65%
1.4. Preparation of IEC materials on Mental Health including video clips and LCD kiosks	16	not done - as resource persons not available	-	0%
1.5. Training on counselling and communication for staff at primary health care units	9	not done - as resource persons not available	-	0%
1.6. Training on mental wellbeing and psychosocial wellbeing for community leaders and multi stake holders	2.7	Improve mental wellbeing of elderly at DS Yatawatta-Matale, DS area Mallawapitiya, DS area Kurunegala, DS area Mawathagama, Promotion of mental wellbeing for staff members at DS Yatawatta-Matale, DS	2.528	93.6%



		area Ridigama, Nuwara Eliya at Wayamba Human Resource Development Authority		
1.7.Training on mental wellbeing and psychosocial wellbeing for other ministries/ field workers etc	1.5	not done - as resource persons not available	-	0%
1.8. Training on substance abuse prevention	0.92	Training programmes on mental wellbeing and prevention of substance abuse at Ragala, Nuwara Eliya, Ridiyagama, Kurunegala	0.667	72.5%
1.9.Training on mental wellbeing and psychosocial wellbeing for pre-school teachers in 10 districts (three day training followed by two follow up trainings of two days duration after three months and six months) including two day master training	6.75	not done - as resource persons not available	-	0%
1.10.Capacity building for CCP on mental health promotion	0.56	not done - as resource persons not available	-	0%
1.11.Mental wellbeing among school children and youth	44	Improve mental wellbeing for school children @ Kelaniya, Negombo, Gampaha & Minuwangoda, Mathugama, Horana, Kalutara educational zones, progress r/v meeting- education sector Colombo TOT in Ratnapura district.	1.46	3.3%

1.12.Training on mental wellbeing and psychosocial wellbeing for multidisciplinary team	3.5	not done - as resource persons not available	-	0%
1.13.Work place mental health promotion program for staff at Ministry of Health and other Ministries and Departments - Happy at work	0.048	not done - as resource persons not available	-	0%
2. Development of Infrastructure/s				
2.1. Procurement & Supplies for essential items for Rehabilitation, MHU units	5	Not received requests	-	0%
2.2. Improve transport facilities for rehabilitative care units	40	Not received requests	-	0%
3. Prevention of suicide				
3.1 Expert committee meetings	0.18	WHO funds received for psychological autopsy implementation	-	0%
3.2. Conduct mental health helpline forum	0.003		-	0%
3.3. Training of primary health care staff on psychological autopsy implementation	1.5		-	0%
4. Prevention and control of Substance use including Alcohol				
4.1. Advocacy campaign at national level	1.35	Not done	-	0%
5. Human resource development				
5.1 Training of Multi-disciplinary team members on community mental health (Local)	3.3	not done - as resource persons not available	-	0%

5.2. Suicide prevention- Identified gatekeeper training	2.42	not done - as resource persons not available	-	0%
5.3. Training on 1926 mental health help line - two programs	3.76	Extended to 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2025, WHO funds received, Procurement procedure going on	-	0%
5.4. Refresher training for 1926 helpline - two programmes	1.32	Extended to 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2025, WHO funds received, Procurement procedure going on	-	0%
5.5. Suicide prevention-Agro-chemical Sales Technical Assistant training	0.15	Not done	-	0%
5.6. Suicide prevention- Pharmacist training	0.15	Not done	-	0%
5.7. Capacity building training on management of substance abuse	6	Conducted training of guideline on the management of outpatients presenting with substance abuse for medical officers at Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Monaragala, Kegalle, Gampaha, Kalmunai, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Matale, Rehabilitation of persons addicted to drugs in Matale	0.42	7%
5.8. Training Multi-disciplinary team members on rehabilitation- local	5	Not done	-	0%
5.9. Training of health staff on Psycho-social supporting emergencies	2	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
5.10. Training of officers attached to CHCs on Community health center concept	1	WHO funds received. One programme conducted in Matara district	-	0%

## PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

5.11. MHPSS program at one district -three day two programs and two follow up program	4	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
5.12. Conduct community empowerment programs/community settings and MH promotion	2	Capacity building training & mental wellbeing promotion for youth at Dematamal viharaya, Monaragala District & DS area Kurunegala	1.934	96.7%
5.13. Capacity building of medical officers at primary medical care institutions on early detection & prevention of mental illness and promotion of mental health - local (district level)	5	Conducted a two day programme Colombo municipal Council	0.08	1.6%
5.14. Training of multi stakeholders on child mental health	4.2	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
5.15. Child Mental Health Training at district level	2.4	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
5.16. Capacity building for Consultant Psychiatrists on Child Mental Health	0.85	conducted 2 day programme at SLFI	0.37	43.5%
5.17.Skills sharing with consumer and carer society	2	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
5.18. Training for MO-MH /FP	0.55	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
5.19. Workshops at district level (Suicide/ consumer-carer)	1.8	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
5.20.Trainings at district level for stakeholders outside	2.6	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%

health sector				
5.21. Knowledge update training for Medical officers at technical directorates	0.56	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
5.22. Capacity building training for Psychiatric Social Workers	1	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
5.23. Capacity building/ Inservice training for MO/MH- child mental health	5	Training for MO-MH on HONOS assessment in major hospitals in Kurunegala	0.025	0.5%
5.24. Training for Post intern MO/MH - orientation program and mental health promotion module	0.15	Conducted in October & November 2024	0.1	66.67%
<b>6. Research, monitoring and evaluation</b>				
6.1. Research on Mental Health	1.5	No any trainees	-	0%
6.2. End user training e-MHMIS	1	Planned to do, but dates of participants & venue not available	-	0%
6.3. Publish annual reports & bulletins	0.1	Prepared e-bulletin	-	0%
6.4. Participation and conduct of MH reviews (National/Provincial/District) and field visit	2.5	MH r/v & field supervision at; 1.Matale district 2. Monaragala district 3. Ratnapura district 4. Matara district 5. Gampaha District 6. Puttlam district	0.024	0.96%
6.5. Capacity building of resource team on data management & monitoring and evaluation - Abroad or local	3.5	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%

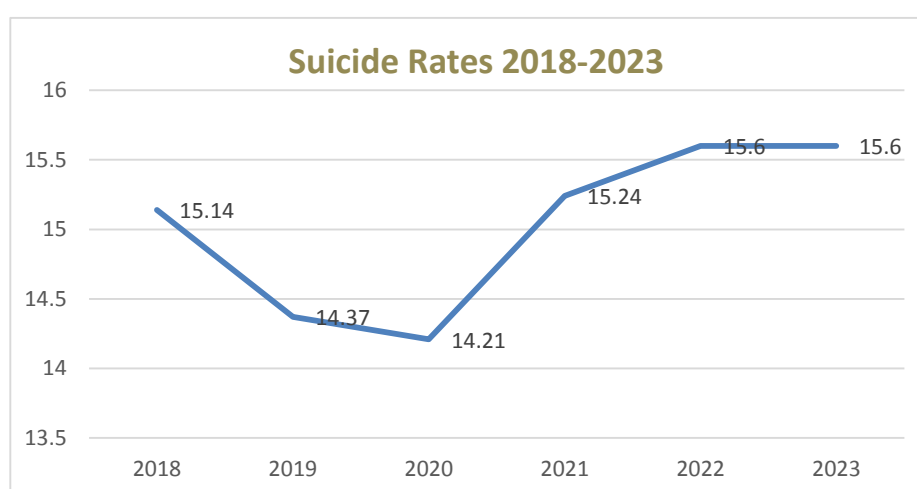


## PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

6.6. Conduct mental health forum	0.9	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
6.7. Mental Health Prevalence Survey	4	Done by WHO	-	0%
6.8. Alcohol survey	4	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
6.9.Alcohol summit	1.5	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%
6.10. To purchase zoom package	0.07	Purchased	0.048	68.57%
6.11 Web hosting charges		Paid for year 2024	0.012	17.14%
7. Epilepsy and Neurological Disorders				
7.1. Conducting awareness programme for epilepsy awareness month in November	1	Not done due to human resource constraints	-	0%
7.2. Capacity building programme for health workers on management of epilepsy and other neurological disorders (to enhance delivery of satisfactory neurological health services for communities)	1.65	Conducted in Cey bank rest, Anuradhapura on 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	0.58	35.15%
7.3. Training of health staff on identifying the availability of life-saving technologies and essential medicines for managing neurological disorders during humanitarian emergencies	1.5	Not done- due to human resource issues at the Directorate	-	0%

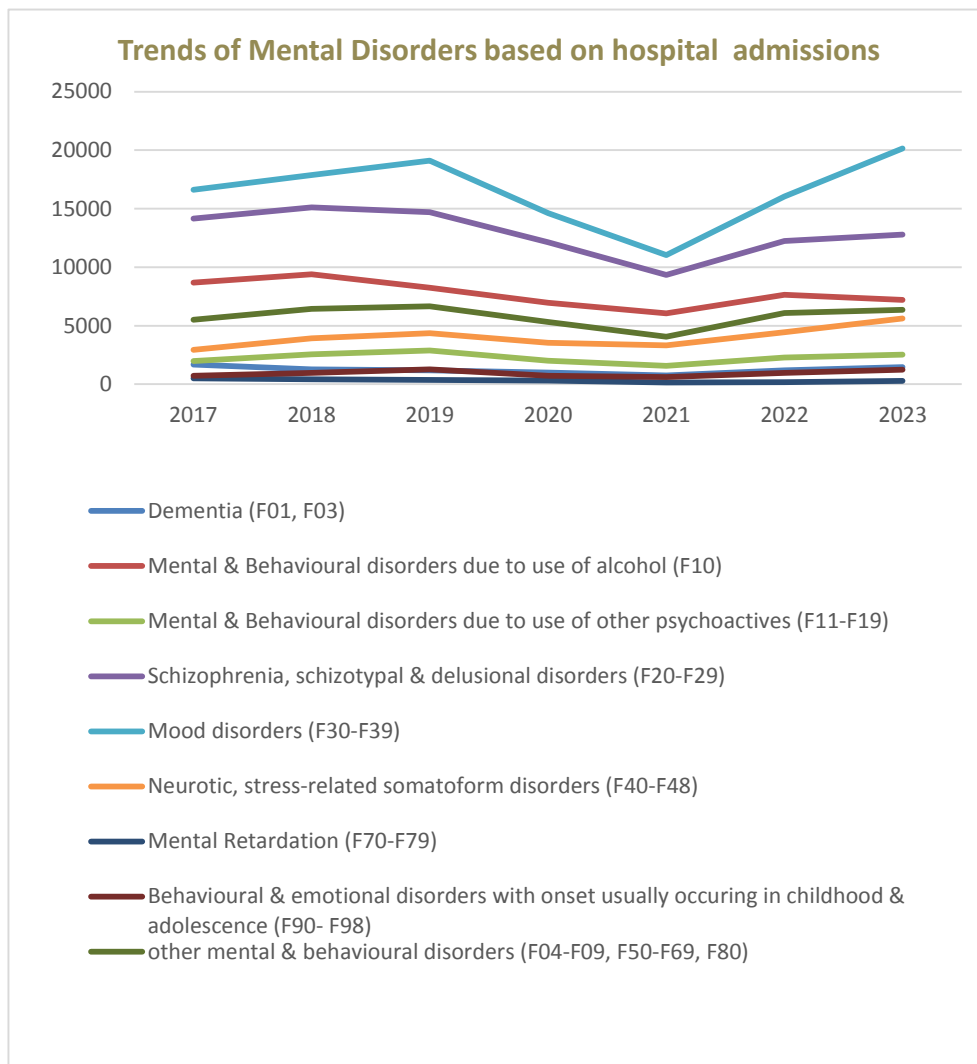
## Last 5 year performance Trend

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



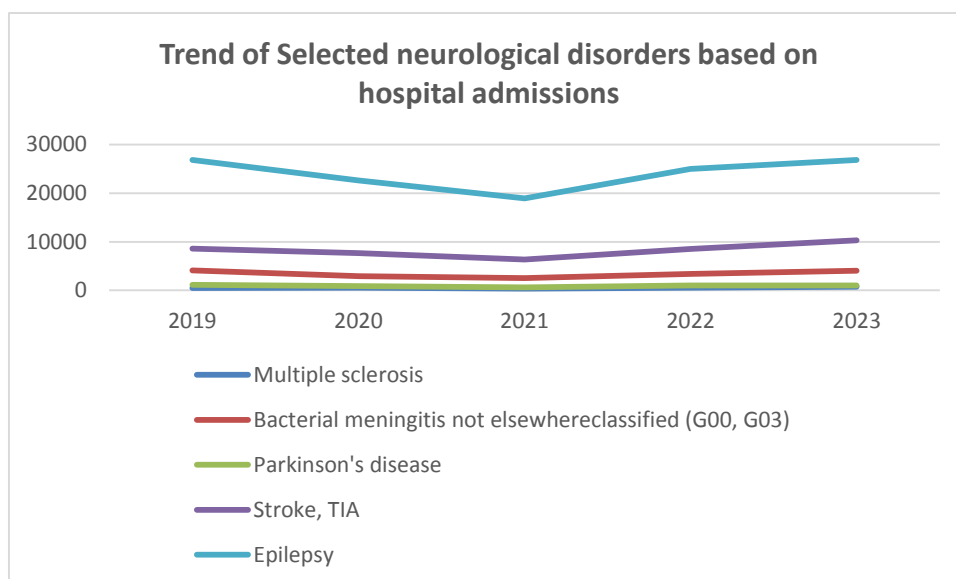
*(Source: number of suicides -police data, mid-year population: registrar general's department)*

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



(Source: medical statistics unit, Ministry of Health)

**Figure 2 - Trend of Mental Disorders based on hospital admissions during 2017-2022 in Sri Lanka**



*(Source: medical statistics unit, Ministry of Health)*

**Figure 3 - Trend of selected Neurological Disorders during 2019 - 2023 in Sri Lanka**

### Special development activities planned for 2025

- 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
- Training of district level health staff on establishment of community health centers
- Training of district level health staff on conducting psychological autopsy tool
- Training of district level health staff on suicide prevention action plan
- Conducting advocacy on implementation of the mental health policy and action plan at district level
- Conducting a pilot study on de – institutionalization and transitioning from long stay services to community mental health networks
- Training of media personnel on responsible reporting of suicides

## 4.2.5 Non-Communicable Disease Programme

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

### **Advocacy, Partnership and Leadership**

- A technical working group was held with the stakeholders from within the Ministry of Health, other Ministries, professional colleges, and non-governmental organisations on a multi-sectoral approach to planning implementing, monitoring, and evaluating tobacco prevention and cessation interventions and initiatives.
- The National Council for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases was held on the 09<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 chaired by the Ministry of Health and other high officials of the Ministry of Health in parallel with the launch of the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan and the National Policy for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases which was finalized during the year of 2023.
- The National Steering Committee Meetings were held for Q1, Q2 & Q3.
- The National Advisory Board for NCD was conducted for Q1, Q2 & Q3.
- A meeting was held with the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs and Local Governments and the Ministry of Sports on the progress of the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan on 02.04.2024.

- The National Annual NCD review was conducted on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 with the participation of the district MO NCDs.
- Monthly MO NCD meetings were conducted to review the district activities.
- The World Hypertension Day (17.05.2024) was commemorated by conducting blood pressure screening programme at the Colombo Fort Railway Station with the collaboration of the Department of Railways. Approximately 900 individuals were screened for hypertension and high blood sugar during the screening. Parallel to the main event at the Colombo Railway station, hypertension screening programmes were conducted island-wide at other railway stations and public places by the district medical officers of NCDs.



- World No Tobacco Day was commemorated by the Directorate of NCD with the collaboration of multiple stakeholders from state and non-state sectors, civil societies, and non-governmental organizations. A parade from the Ministry Premises to Vihara Maha Devi Park was organized and a programme was conducted at the open-air theater comprising of interactive sessions by the Alcohol and Drug Information Center and street dramas. The Minister of Health and other distinguished invitees took part in the parade and the programme at the open-air theatre.





- The World Heart Day (September 29 )was commemorated on the 30th of September 2024 with a screening programme for blood pressure, blood glucose and blood cholesterol at the Colombo Fort Railway Station for the railway passengers.
- For the World Diabetes Day commemoration Directorate of NCD joined with the Sri Lanka Diabetic Federation and Sri Lanka College of Endocrinologists.
- Cardiac Rehabilitation Guideline was developed by the Sri Lanka College of Cardiologists and the stakeholder meetings were facilitated by the Directorate of NCD.
- Facilitated the development of the establishment of Oxygen Clinics and Non Invasive Ventilator clinics in the country.
- Promotion of physical activity  
Conducted an advocacy meeting for the education sector to implement the circular on promoting physical activity in schools.  
Conducted two biannual Technical Working Group meetings on promotion of physical activity.
- Palliative Care  
Advocacy workshop on palliative care conducted for representatives of Professional Colleges, Heads of selected hospitals and officials of Ministry of Health in partnership with National Cancer Control Programme and Asia Pacific Hospice and Palliative care Network, to encourage to establish Palliative Care Consult Services at secondary and Tertiary care institutions.

### **Health Promotion and Risk Reduction**

- A social media post to encourage participation for screening at HLCs. was developed and shared through the official Facebook page.
- Promotion of physical activity  
Awareness programmes conducted through electronic and print media on promotion of healthy physical activity.  
Social media campaign to promote physical activity: fact sheets, social media posts through the official Facebook page and website and animated video clips focusing on promoting physical activity among school children.
- Palliative Care  
Participated at media seminar to commemorate World Palliative Care Day
- Participated at media briefings to commemorate World Hypertension Day and Salt Awareness Week.
- Knowledge improvement programme on promotion of physical activity and healthy diet among diabetics was conducted to commemorate World Diabetes Day for district MOO NCD and PHNOO.

### **Interschool Quiz Competition on NCD**

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 sensitising 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.

Zonal-level quiz competition was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, and 93 schools qualified for the district-level quiz. District-level and provincial-level quizzes were conducted on the 26<sup>th</sup> 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 semifinals and the grand finale are scheduled on the 25th of January 2025 and the 7th of February 2025 respectively in Colombo.





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

- Essential drug list for Non Communicable Diseases 2024 was developed and circulated.
- Two MO NCD refresher trainings were conducted through zoom for the district MO NCDs
- A series of meetings were held both physically and on the Zoom platform for the Revision of the existing Management Guideline on Diabetes for Primary Health Care Providers at Primary Health Care Institutions. Alongside the Guideline, the Diabetes Management Protocol was also developed. These were developed by collaborating with the Clinical Professional Colleges.
- Training programme on advocacy methods and tool was conducted for district MOO NCD
- Improving NCD screening coverage  
A circular was developed and distributed to all PDHS and RDHS on improving screening coverage. Implementation of this circular would facilitate client-friendly service hours/ days for HLC services, expand screening services to include the working population and establishment of HLCs to serve 'difficult to reach populations' (Estate, urban under-served settlements).  
Virtual training was conducted on how to conduct the national NCD screening programme at HLC level and HLC data management system for all HLC staff in a phased-out manner.
- Promotion of physical activity



Refresher training for district MOO NCD was conducted to strengthen implementation at district level.

- **Palliative Care**

Consultative meetings conducted with NCCP to identify roles and responsibilities of district MOO NCD in palliative care and to integrate palliative care for patients living with NCDs.

Circular on roles and responsibilities of district MOO NCD in palliative care was developed and circulated among all PDHS< RDHS and MOO NCD.

Online training programme conducted on introduction to palliative care for district MOO NCD.

Monthly return for Public Health Nursing Officers (PHNOO), Daily notebook and home based care record were developed and a circular was issued pertaining to strengthening PHNOO activities.

End of Life Care guidelines were revised in collaboration with the Task Force on Palliative and End of Life Care of the Sri Lanka Medical Association.

Formal referral mechanism for patients needing palliative care from secondary and tertiary care hospitals to community based care was developed.

Collaborated with the National Cancer Control Programme in conducting a review programme on Palliative Care Consult Services and development of a Information Management System.

Four consultative meetings were conducted with all relevant stakeholders to develop the National Policy on Palliative Care 2025-2030. Draft policy in English available.

## **2. Surveillance, monitoring, evaluation and research**

- Supportive supervision visits of HLCs were conducted in collaboration with district teams of selected districts .
- National online review on promotion of physical activity was conducted in January 2024, where each district presented the achievements.
- National online review on promotion of healthy diet was conducted in June 2024.
- PHNOO performance monthly review for October was conducted in December 2024.

## **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

- Advocacy, Partnership, and Leadership
- Health Promotion and Risk Reduction
- Post-Event Care and Capacity Building
- 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.
- Hosted advocacy meetings to introduce the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan (MSAP) on Injury Prevention to stakeholders from government, non-governmental, and regional health sectors (RDHS/PDHS).
- Established district-level Injury Prevention Steering Committees and 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.
- Integrated injury prevention activities into the current Public Health Programme.



### 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.
- Raised public and stakeholder awareness of the Safe Community Programme and provided technical guidance to establish new safe communities.
- Finalized the Preschool and Daycare Center Safety Checklist.
- Contributed to national observance events, including:
  - **National Injury Prevention Week** (3rd to 7th July).
  - **Global Road Safety Week** (May 2024).
  - **World Drowning Prevention Day** (July 25, 2024).
  - **National Poison Prevention Week** (2nd week of October).
  - **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims**.
- Developed guidelines for:
  - Roadside inspections for drug use among motorists.
  - Safety standards for swimming pools in Sri Lanka.
  - Preventing sports-related injuries during festivals.
- Initiated the creation of checklists for elderly care homes and developed national action plans on poison, snake bite, and animal bite prevention.
- Reviewed and promoted the Sri Lanka Drowning Status Report.

### Strategic Area 3: Post-Event Care and Capacity Building

- Provided technical guidance for establishing first aid training teams at district and MOH levels.
- Developed a National Guideline on Basic First Aid and a National Curriculum on Basic First Aid.
- Conducted Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes for medical and public health personnel, including:
  - Provincial and district-level CCPs and District MONCDs.
  - Navy medical personnel, focusing on training fishing communities.
- Coordinated and facilitated training sessions on injury data management for provincial, district, and hospital staff.



#### 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.



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 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 (DDG) of Environmental, Occupational Health, and Food Safety 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.

### 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

- Food Safety District Reviews were conducted to assess the performance of authorized officers.
- Food Survey 2023 was conducted, focusing on the identification of aflatoxins in commonly consumed selected food items, microplastics in fish, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in coconut oil and genetically modified organisms (GMO) in soya and maize.
- The first draft of the Food Safety Policy was successfully developed, laying the foundation for a robust framework in ensuring food safety



- A media seminar was conducted to commemorate World Food Safety Day, providing a platform to raise awareness and promote best practices in food safety.
- Findings of the national food safety survey (2021-2022) were effectively disseminated to stakeholders, facilitating informed decision-making and collaborative efforts for improved food safety.
- Residential Training Programmes on Food Safety and Hygiene for officers involved in food safety were conducted to enhance their knowledge and expertise.
- Analytical capabilities of the National Institute of Health Sciences chemical food laboratory was strengthened in the area of aflatoxin analysis.
- Two food safety weeks were conducted across the country ensuring the food safety during festival seasons (during New Year season and year end festival season).
- Two training programs, including an outbound training session focusing on teamwork, were successfully conducted to enhance the capacity and skills of officers within the Directorate of Environmental Health, Occupational Health and Food Safety

## **Achievements/ Special events**

### **A. Capacity building programmes**

#### **a) Capacity building of officers involved in food safety**

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.

Three, two-day residential training programmes on food safety and hygiene were conducted at the “In service Training Institute”, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya. Lecturers were selected from the Department of Food Science & Technology, Wayamba University. In addition, resource persons with the industrial experience especially in ISO system certification and auditing were selected. 292 officers including Consultant Community Physician, Medical Officer Environmental, Occupational Health and Food Safety (EOHFS), Medical Officer of Health, Food and Drug Inspectors, Supervisory Public Health Inspector, Supervisory Public Health Inspector District, Public Health Inspector from 23 districts were trained.



b) Capacity building of the staff of the Directorate of Environmental Health, Occupational Health and Food Safety

One training programme was conducted at the Hector Kobbekaduwa agrarian research and training institute on “work-life-balance, analyze it and achieve it”.

Outbound training programme was conducted at Adventure base camp, Kithulgala on team building skills.

**B. Public awareness programmes**

a ) Media seminar to commemorate the World Food Safety Day

A media seminar was held in collaboration with the Health Promotion Bureau to commemorate the world food safety day. The theme for the year 2023 was “food standards save lives”. The aim of this media seminar was to raise awareness on food safety among media personal and thereby general public.



b ) Dissemination of findings of the National Food Survey 2021-2022

Findings of island wide food survey conducted in 2021-2022 were disseminated among relevant stakeholders and corrective actions were discussed. During this survey, samples were taken to identify some food safety issues such as aflatoxin in coconut oil and chilli, heavy metals in rice, fish and dry fish, pesticide residues in dried fish, fruits, vegetables and

green leaves. In addition, yoghurt, sugar sweetened beverages (SSB), instance noodles, tofu, fruit juices and fruit drinks, bite packs and murukku, jelly cups, flavoured milk and malted drinks, milk powder were tested for unapproved additives, preservatives or colouring substances. Compatibility of the colour codes in the label with Food (colour coding) regulations was also checked. Further, milk (UHT & Pasteurized) and rice and curry packets were checked for microbiology. Frozen chicken samples were tested for Veterinary drug Residues. Bottled water and coconut oil were tested for Phthalate.



## Performance Indicators

Key performance Indicator	Target for 2023	Progress		
		2021	2022	2023
Number and % of food safety reviews conducted out of total reviews planned	28 food safety reviews for all RDHS areas and Colombo Municipal Council and National Institute of Health Science area	100% (provincial reviews)	100% (district reviews)	22/28 (78%)
Completion of National Food Survey	Conduction of the National Food Survey	100%	100%	100%
Food Safety Policy Development	Completion of the first draft	50%	75%	90%
Completion of the modification of web based information management system	Modification of web based information management system	-	70%	80%

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Number and % of food safety weeks conducted out of total food safety weeks planned	Conducting food safety weeks during festival seasons.	100%	100%	100%
Commemoration of world food safety day	Conduct a media seminar to raise awareness			100%
Completion of residential training programme on Food Safety and Hygiene for officers involved in food safety	Conduction of three training programmes	-	-	100%
Number and % of inspection of export food factories registered at the Food Control Administrative Unit.	Inspection of all export food factories	68/1033 6.66%	294/1102 26.67%	412/1243 33.15%
Number and % of inspection of bottled or packaged water manufacturing facilities registered at the Food Control Administrative Unit.	Inspection of all registered bottled or packaged water manufacturing facilities	75/156 48%	77/164 47%	99/202 49%
Number and % of inspection of iodized salt manufacturing/transportation plants registered at the Food Control Administrative Unit.	Inspection of all iodized salt manufacturing/transportation plants	38/69 55%	04/70 5.71%	06/52 11.54%
Number and % of Food Advisory Committee and subcommittee meetings conducted	Conduction of 84 meetings (12 FAC, 12 technical, 12 health claim, 48 regulation)	69/91 75.8%	71/91 78.02%	64/84 76.19%

## 4.2.7 Estate and Urban Health

### Introduction

In Sri Lanka, two main groups have been identified as the estate community and the urban low-income community in the provision of health services. The Estate and Urban Health Unit of the Ministry of Health can be pointed out as the national center for improving the health status of these people.

Low socioeconomic status, coupled with underdeveloped infrastructure such as inadequate housing lack of sanitation facilities and poor road network has contributed to adverse health outcomes in both estate and urban communities.

The main task of the Estate and Urban Health Unit is to minimize the health problems and deficiencies inherent in both the estate and urban sectors and ensure the provision of optimal health services to these communities.

### Vision

Sri Lanka with healthy, productive and empowered estate and urban populations

### Mission

Plan and implement a comprehensive programme to reduce health disparities in estate and urban communities by improving health services and their utilization to achieve health comparable to national indicators through development of infrastructure, human resources and equitable service delivery.

### Goal

Upgrade the quality of life of estate and urban under settlement populations by improving the overall health and health services.

### Objectives

#### Estate Health

- Ensuring the provision of free health services to the estate community in line with the National Health Policy.
- Improving the health status of the estate community by providing quality health care services in collaboration with health and non-health stakeholders.
- Establishing an effective communication system between the estate management and the regional public health staff for implementation of health promotion programmes,



disease prevention and treatment programmes for the estate community conducted by the Ministry of Health.

- Ensuring that the health needs of the estate community are considered and included in all planning and development policies with the aim of sustainably improving the health of the estate community.
- Regularly monitoring and evaluating the achievement of the priority health goals of the estate sector.

### **Urban Health**

- Providing effective and maximum primary health services to the urban population through enhancing collaboration with local government authorities.
- Incorporating health policies and health recommendations into all urban planning and development policies with the aim of improving the health of the urban population.
- Empowering the urban population for disease prevention and health promotion activities.
- Monitoring, following up and evaluating interventions to improve the health status of the urban community.

Details of currently implemented development projects – None

### **Development Activities Implemented in 2024 - Estate Sector**

- Continuing activities related to acquisition of estate health institutions under estate companies and preparation of necessary cabinet papers and submission of sub-committee reports to obtain approval for the necessary staff for 25 prioritized estate health institutions.
- Approval was obtained from the National Planning Department to take over 11 prioritized estate health institutions.
- Establishing health promotion villages (Happy Estate) in identified estate areas (Nuwara Eliya, Kegalle, Badulla, Matara, Galle, Ratnapura, Monaragala, Kandy, Kalutara).
- Training of trainers to test the visual acuity of the estate population.
- Reviewing the progress of health programs implemented in the estate sector.
- Planning surveys to determine nutritional levels in estate sector.
- Preparing health education tools (calendars).
- Conducting an initial program to prepare the next five-year strategic plan for the Estate and Urban Health Sector joined with the relevant officials at the national level.
- Conducting a survey on the health services provided by the 44 existing Estate Health Institutions and identifying further improvements needed.

- Monitoring the distribution of Thripasha to Child Development Centers and coordinating with stockholder overcome identified gaps.

### **Development Activities Implemented in the Year 2024 - Urban Health Sector**

- Convening the National Urban Health Steering Committee with the aim of taking necessary decisions to improve the health of the urban population.
- Establishing sub-committees decided by the National Urban Health Steering Committee and carrying out related activities.
- Collecting necessary information from the districts and provinces to assess the current urban public health activities.
- Review, Analysis, and Monitoring
  - Reviewing the urban health activities, relevant human resources and other resources.
  - Conducting analytical discussions with the Urban Commissioners.
  - Compiling data collected based on observatory visits made to municipal health units.
- Monitoring the current issues and prevailing condition of the wellness centers established in 2021 and recommending future actions.
- Promoting and implementing exercise programmes among the low-income Colombo municipality area.
- Planning mobile clinics to diagnose non-communicable diseases in the Colombo Urban Areas.
- Conducting a consultative meeting with stakeholders of the Ministry of Health and with the participation of Provincial Directors of Health Services and the District Directors of Health Services representing the Provinces and Districts, and with the participation of specialist medical officers, to obtain the necessary guidance for the preparation of the next five-year strategic plan.
- Implementing intervention programmes to improve the nutrition and well-being of low-income communities in flats within the Colombo Municipal Council area.

### **Activities to be implemented by the Estate and Urban Health Unit in 2025.**

- Convene the Steering Committees in both the Estate and Urban Sectors and convene sub-committees to take future actions.
- Prepare a strategic plan for the Estate and Urban Health Sector for 5 years from 2026 onwards
- Review the progress of health activities in the Estate and Urban Sectors

- Continue the already initiated activities of taking over of 44 estate health institutions and take initial steps to take over the prioritized estate health institutions proposed to be taken over.
- Carry out follow up activities on the initiated Happy Estates and initiate 50 new villages.
- Conduct health promotion and training programs for the community in the Estate and Urban Sectors.
- Take steps to ensure intersectoral collaboration with health and non health stakeholders in order to provide quality health services in the estate and urban health sectors.
- Conduct capacity building programmes for officers providing health services to the estate and urban population.
- Conducting surveys and researches to identify health problems specific to the estate and urban health sectors.

### 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 work 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 Offices 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 dates back to late 19<sup>th</sup> 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**

- Organized and participated in National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) 2024-2028 development workshop from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, in collaborating with WHO, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders.
- Participated and contributed in the South-East Asia Regional Practice of All Hazard IHR Event Communication (SAPHIRE) 2024, a regional simulation exercise on IHR event communication conducted as a virtual meeting by WHO SEARO on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- Doctors of Quarantine Unit, Airport health Office, Bandaranaike International Airport and Jaffna International Airport were participated in the Full-Scale Emergency Exercise at Jaffna International Airport on 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.
- Organized and participated in Resource mapping workshop for the NAPHS with the participation of technical experts, resource persons related to finance and representatives from Donor agencies from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at Colombo in collaborating with 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 and Disaster Management Diploma at Quarantine Unit, Assistant Port Health Office and Health Offices at Points of Entry.
- Doctors of Quarantine Unit and Assistant Port Health Office at MRI participated in the Hand Hygiene for Health Sector Workshop conducted by Health Promotion Bureau and UNICEF on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) has donated some essential items to Colombo Port Health Office in June 2024.
- Five-day training programme for the staff of Quarantine Unit on IHR core-capacities at Airports, Ports and Onboard Conveyances was held from 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024 to 02<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 and medical officers working at the Quarantine Unit, Health Offices at Points of entry participated in this training programme.



- Participated in the Global Emergency Operations Centre Simulation Exercise (GEOCX 2024) conducted by the WHO on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- Consultative Meeting to discuss on State Party Annual Reporting Tool 2024 on IHR - 2005 was organized and held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute 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 organized and held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at the Office of the Director General of Health Services (DGHS).
- Consultative Meeting to Review the NAPHS 2024-2028 was organized and held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute with the participation of relevant stakeholders.

## Ongoing Development project details

### GOSL Funds

Project Description	Total Estimate Cost (Rs. Mn)	Physical Progress from 01.01.2024 to 30.11.2024	Financial Progress from 01.01.2024 to 30.11.2024
1.Provide Yellow fever vaccination for travelers	Routine	6675 travelers were vaccinated against Yellow fever at the Assistant Port Health Office, MRI.	---
2.Inspect the ships for issuance of Ship Sanitation Certificates	Routine	636 ships inspected for issuing the Ship Sanitation Certificate	---

## PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

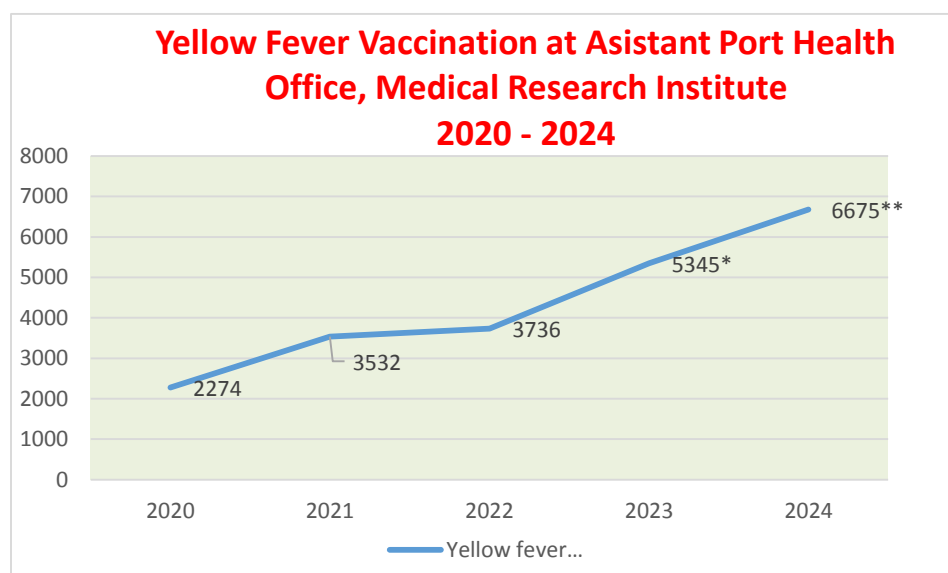
3.Review meetings at Quarantine unit	0.2 Mn	Meetings conducted via zoom in March 2024. Review meeting was conducted physically in June 2024	For the 2024 June meeting, Rs. 39,750 of the allocated funds were utilized.
4.Web Site with admin panel renewal	0.2 Mn	Completed	Funds Received for 2024.
5.Purchase equipment to implement core capacities of IHR 2005	2 Mn	Equipment not yet received from the Supplies Unit of MoH	Funds allocated from DDG PHS 1 for 2024. Request made to Supplies Unit of MoH to purchase

## WHO Biennium Funds 2024 - 2025

Project Description	Total Estimate Cost (Rs)	Physical Progress from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024	Financial Progress from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024 (Rs)
1.Consultative Meeting to discuss on State Party Annual Report on International Health Regulation (IHR) -2024	812,500.00	Task completed. Report sent to MoH and WHO	666,366.19

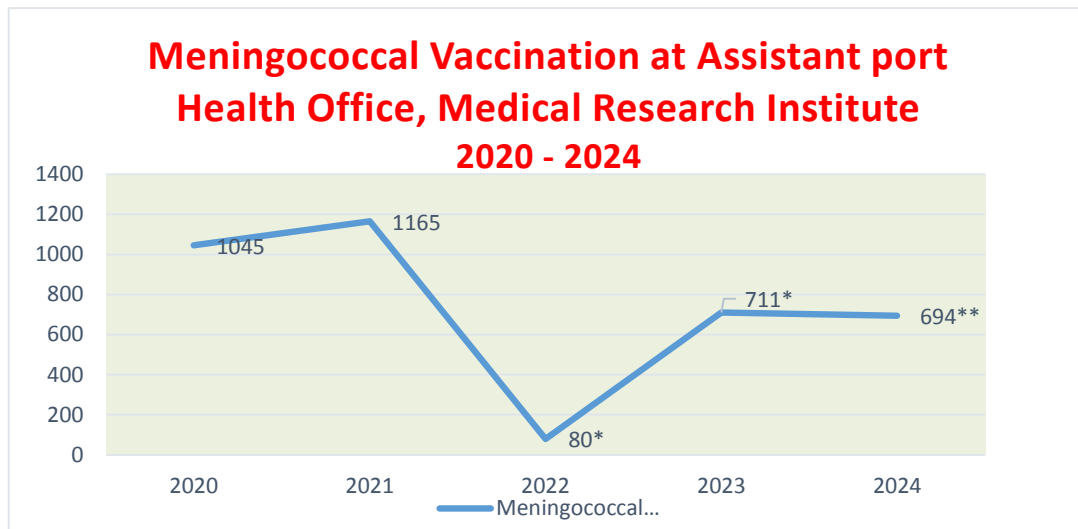
2. National Steering Committee Meeting on International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005	162,513.14	Task completed. Report sent to MoH and WHO	82,800.00
3. Consultative Meeting to Review the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) 2024-2028	776,965.00	Task completed. Report sent to MoH and WHO	562,666.50

### Last five-year Performance Trends



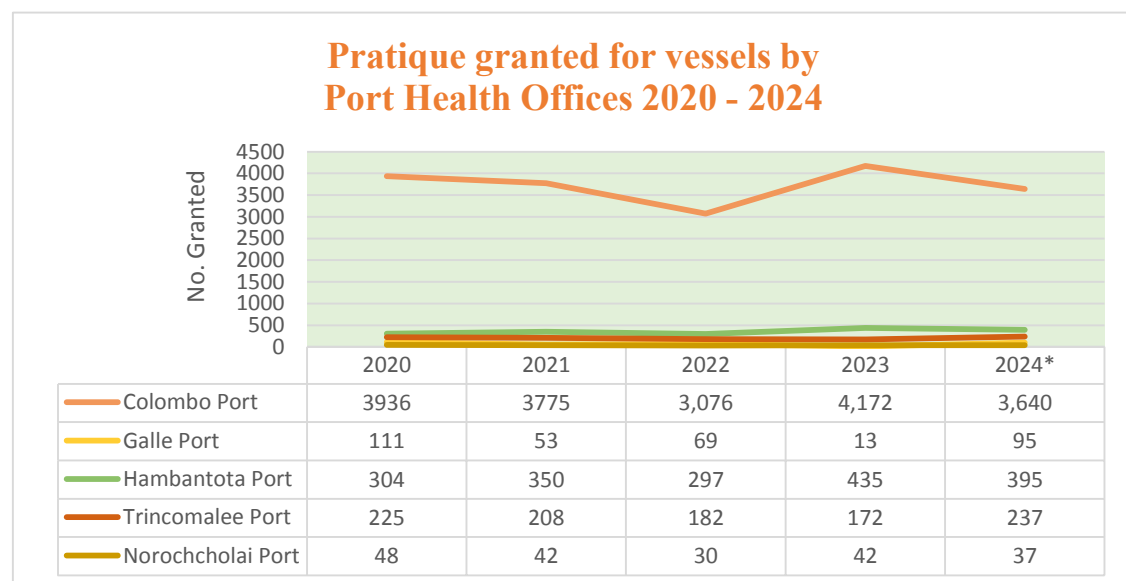
*\*Yellow fever Vaccines were not available during some months of 2023.*

*\*\*Data up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024*

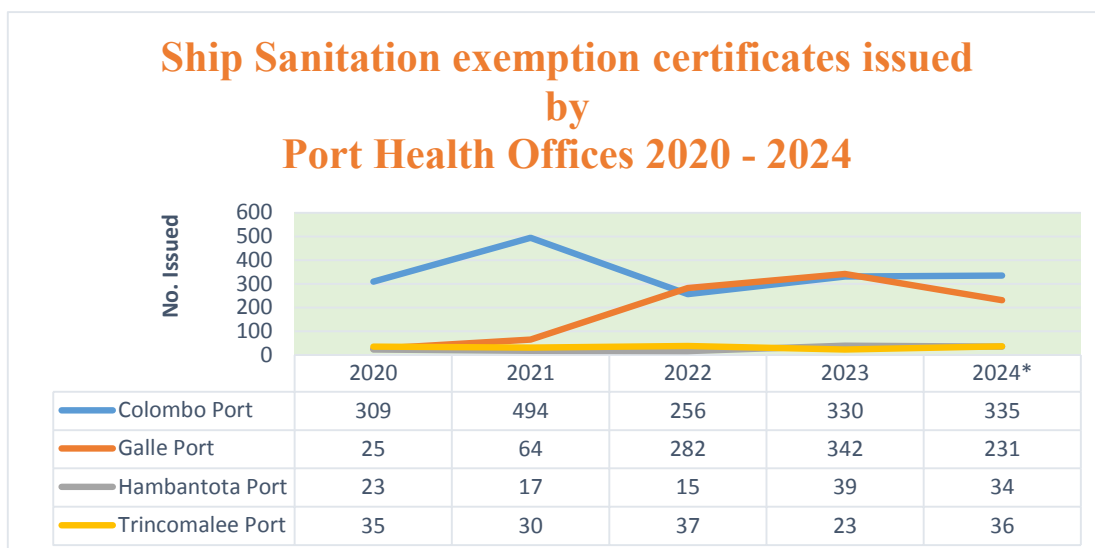


*\*Meningococcal Vaccines were not available during some months of 2022, 2023 and 2024*

*\*\*Data up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024*



*\*Data up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024*



*\*Data up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024*

### Special development activities planned for 2024

- Refurbishment of Trincomalee Port Health Office and Isolation Centre at Trincomalee Port from ADB funds.
- Refurbishment of Colombo Port Health Office from ADB funds.
- Build a new Port Health Office at Colombo Port from IOM funds

### Photographs of special events

1. Workshop to prepare the National Action Plan for Health Security 2024-2028.





2. Resource Mapping Workshop for National Action Plan for Health Security held in May 2024



3. Full-Scale Emergency Exercise at Jaffna International Airport held in March, 2024



4. Five-day training programme on IHR core- capacities at Airports, Ports and Onboard Conveyances held from 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024 to 02<sup>nd</sup> August 2024



5. Consultative Meeting to discuss on State Party Annual Reporting (SPAR) Tool 2024 on International Health Regulations (IHR) -2005 –27<sup>th</sup> November 2024



6. National Steering Committee Meeting on International Health Regulations (IHR)- 2005 –04<sup>th</sup> December 2024

7. Consultative Meeting to Review the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) 2024-2028 – 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024



## 4.2.9 Care for Youth Elderly Displaced and Disabled Persons

### **Mission**

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 heath 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 of year 2024			
Project description	Total estimated cost Rs.	Financial progress on 31.12.2024	Physical progress(%) on 31.12.2024
01. ICOPE training for the primary health care workers in selected Districts (WHO)	1,147,342.40	953328.00	83
	1,278,719.00	1,259,700.00	98.5
02. Consultative workshop to develop National guidelines for provision of service for persons with Disabilities following trauma at intermediate Health Care facilities (WHO)			

### Ongoing development project details - 2024

Description	Allocation Rs. Mn.	Expenditure Rs.	Progress %
01. ICOPE training for the Primary Health Care workers in selected District(GOSL)	2,000,000.00	343,700.00	17.2
	2,000,000.00		1.53
02 Review meeting for ICOPE and healthy aging(GOSL)	2,000,000.00	30500.00	
		875,019.94	43.8
03. Pre-retirement awareness programme(GOSL)	1,500,000.00		1.4

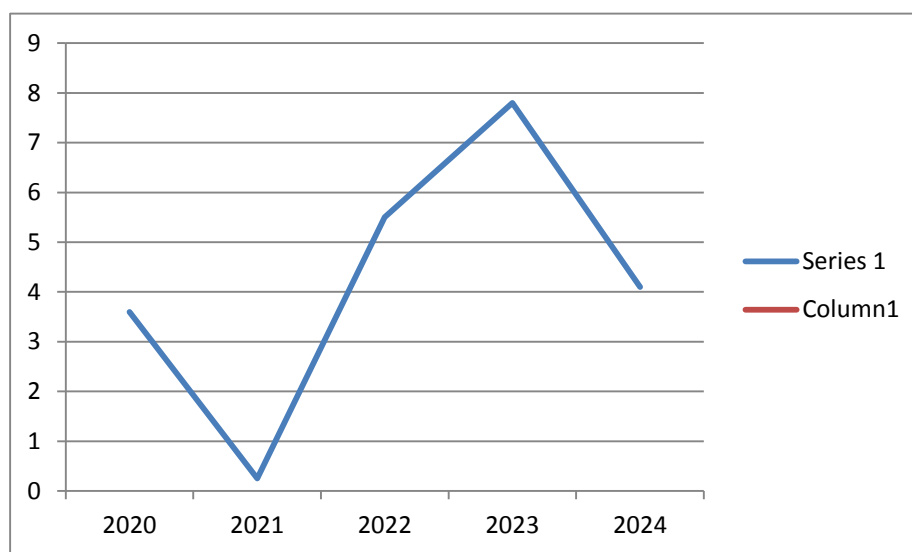
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04.Advocacy programme on healthy ageing and IEC material development (GOSL)	3,000,000.00	21350.00	3.9
		115,657.70	
05.Elderly policy review and printing(GOSL)	2,000,000.00	305,398.75	15.3
06.Elderly care delivery model validation and printing(GOSL)	1,500,000.00	173,650.00	11.6
07.Commemoration of subject-related International days(GOSL)			
01. Rivision of Youth Policy and printing(GOSL)	2,000,000.00	0	Planning stage
02.Youth information Sheet development-Piloting & Printing (GOSL)	2,000,000.00	0	Planning stage
Total		1,865,276.39	



## Last 05 year performance trend of YED



## 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 in 2024

Implemented Activity	Target group	Achievements
Certificate Course in Counselling on Cessation and Prevention of Tobacco and Alcohol – Fourth Batch	Certificate Holders	The fourth batch of the Certificate Course in Counselling on Cessation and Prevention of Tobacco and Alcohol was successfully completed by 37 candidates, who passed both theoretical and practical examinations. The certificate awarding ceremony took place on April 30, 2024, at Sethsiripaya Stage II, Battaramulla. Dr. P.G. Mahipala, Secretary, Ministry of Health, served as the chief guest, with the esteemed lecture panel and other distinguished guests in attendance.
Awareness Program for University Students on Cessation and Prevention of Tobacco and Alcohol	University Students	An awareness program aimed at empowering university students on the cessation and prevention of tobacco and alcohol was conducted on January 31, 2024, at NSBM Green University, with 150 students actively participating.

Awareness Program for School Students on Cessation and Prevention of Tobacco and Alcohol	School Students	A similar awareness initiative was held for school students on February 14, 2024, at Mahinda Rajapaksha College, Homagama. The program saw the participation of 50 grade 10 prefects.
Training for Public Health Inspectors on Establishing Tobacco-Free Areas and NATA Act Awareness	Public Health Inspectors	A training session focused on the establishment and strengthening of tobacco-free areas, as well as raising awareness of the NATA Act, was held on February 22, 2024, at the Provincial Health Training Centre in Galle. This program engaged 75 trainee Public Health Inspectors in interactive discussions to address their queries.
Exhibition Stall for Raising Awareness on Cessation and Prevention of Tobacco and Alcohol	Public	The National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) operated an exhibition stall on March 26, 2024, at Sethsiripaya Stage II. The event was part of an exhibition organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs.
Additional Training for Public Health Inspectors	Public Health Inspectors	A subsequent training program for Trainee Public Health Inspectors was conducted at the National Institute of Health Sciences, Kalutara, on April 4, 2024. This session, attended by 150 trainee PHIs, reinforced the establishment of tobacco-free zones and awareness of the NATA Act.
Awareness Program for Girl Guide Students	School Students	NATA also held an awareness session on tobacco and alcohol cessation and prevention for girl guide students at the Kasbewa Divisional Secretariat office. This session, conducted on an unspecified date, saw active engagement from 30 participants.

World No Tobacco Day Commemoration – 2024	Scouts, Girl Guide Students	To commemorate World No Tobacco Day on May 31, 2024, a program was held at Eagle Hall, Waters Edge, focusing on "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference." The event featured honored guests from the Ministry of Education and WHO, along with active participation from girl guides and scouts.
National Symposium on Tobacco and Alcohol Prevention	Researchers	The national symposium, held on May 31, 2024, gathered experts in the field of tobacco and alcohol cessation and prevention. An abstract book was launched, and institutions and researchers presented their findings on related studies. The program was held at Water's Edge Eagle Hall in Colombo and 220 people participated in it. Scouts, GirlGuide, other research officers, school teachers, scout leaders, principals and other members attended that day.
Exhibition Stall for World No Tobacco Day	Public	On June 7, 2024, NATA hosted an exhibition stall at the Viharamahadevi Open Theatre. This event was part of the World No Tobacco Day commemoration organized by the NCD Unit of the Ministry of Health.
Empowering the skill of Assertive Refusal: Strategies For Declining Tobacco, Alcohol And Substance programme	Department Of Industrial Management at the University of Kelaniya Students	Conducted awareness session on Empowering the skill of Assertive Refusal: Strategies for Declining Tobacco, Alcohol And Substance use for Undergraduates enrolled in the University on 12 <sup>th</sup> of June 2024 from 1.00 PM to 3.00 PM via Zoom.
Tobacco and Alcohol Cessation and Prevention for	Dhamma School Students	On June 22 <sup>nd</sup> , conducted a successful program on tobacco and alcohol cessation and Prevention for Dhamma



Dhamma School Student		School Students, in collaboration with the Kelani Young Buddhist Association; The Program took place at the YMBA Auditorium, Kiribathgoda.
Media activities	Public	4847 followers on Authority's official Facebook page, 231 subscribers on Authority's YouTube channel and 38 followers on Authority's Instagram page. In the year 2024, the number of users of the authority's Facebook page has changed between 6000 -10,000.
1948 Psychological Counseling Service	Tobacco and Alcohol Users in Sri Lanka	Total number of calls received for counseling service was 1947 and 475 clients received counseling till May 2024.
Film Preview Report Summary	Public	By June 31, 2024, 30 films were reviewed to identify scenes related to tobacco and alcohol, 25 of which included scenes of alcohol and tobacco. It was discovered that the Act had been violated. The Public Relations Board was informed to take appropriate action.
Taking action against the Happy Hour program held in famous hotels that violated the Tobacco and Liquor Act.	Hotels	Acting against the implementation of the Happy Hour program which was implemented in violation of 37(2) under the Tobacco and Alcohol Act. Acting to introduce a package system with food and beverages in a manner that does not violate the above Act and confirming that there is no legal obstacle in giving a discount to it.

**Ongoing Development project details**

No	Project Description	Total Estimated Cost (LKR.Mn) 2024	Physical progress by 30.06.2024	Financial Progress by 30.06.2024 (LKR.Mn)
<b>1</b>	Implementation of the NATA act	1.2	<p>The discussion was taken related to the Tobacco and Alcohol ongoing work and discussion on developing legislation and policies on tobacco and alcohol with NDDCB, ADIC, SLMA, and IOGS.</p> <p>CA (WRIT) /436/2021 - The Department of Excise gave an undertaking that the online trading of alcohol will not be allowed</p> <p>CA (WRIT) / 563/ 564/ 598/ 604/ 2021 - The Department of Excise proposed that they will not issue a license to the Super Market within 100 m distance for the public places.</p> <p>CA(WRIT)/21 /2022 -Dunhill Switch case fixed for the argument of interim release was refused. Conducted meetings with Authorized officers for planning programs.</p> <p>As on 31st June 2024, 102 complaints have been received from V - NATA application and legal action has been taken against all the complaints.</p> <p>Actions were taken to Dunhil switch cigarettes because of menthol flavouring.</p>	0.079247
<b>2</b>	Education & Trainings	7	<p>The counseling course of the fourth group was conducted for 37 government officials</p> <p>1948 Maintenance of Quitline Service.</p> <p>Conducted workshops and training for staff.</p>	1.04920828

			<p>Creating developed and empowered community front groups and school based groups.</p> <p>Establishment of sustainable tobacco-free zones</p> <p>Conduct relevant trainings/workshops/reviews on tobacco and alcohol cessation and prevention</p> <p>1948 Conducted training programs for instructors/maintenance of Quit Line service.</p> <p>Conducting TOT programs, preparing guidelines, establishing a network of field officers, conducting community level programs.</p> <p>Conducted a tobacco and alcohol prevention program for school students and university students, Dhamma School Students</p> <p>Organizing a program for all 220 members at Eagle Hall of Water's Edge Hotel in conjunction with The World No Tobacco Day.</p>	
3	Awareness Program & Advocacy Program	8.7	<p>Measures implemented to control smokeless tobacco use</p> <p>Educational materials developed, IEC materials developed, Media campaigns developed and launched</p> <p>Implemented awareness programmes and other relevant activities</p> <p>Conducted TOT programmes, Developed guidelines, Developed resource pool</p> <p>The National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol hosted an Exhibition stall at the Viharamahadevi Open Air Theatre on 7th June 2024, as part of an event organized by the NCD Unit of the Ministry of Health for the Commemoration of World No Tobacco Day.</p> <p>World No Tobacco Day Programme was conducted world Health</p>	0.31864376

			Organization with National Authority Tobacco And Alcocoh. It was conducted 31th may 2024	
5	Monitoring & evaluation	3	World No Tobacco Day and World Temperance Day/advocacy programs conducted Further developed V – NATA mobile applications maintained timely. Periodic tobacco and alcohol activities conducted by relevant parties.	0.10388276
6	Research and Information System	4.1	Payments related to NATA website and maintenance/payments related to annual reports and progress reports Conduct studies to address knowledge gaps and inform policy implementation. Establishing a scientific journal after the NSTAP conference/ creating a platform to share knowledge between researchers and interested parties Conducted a Wold No Tobacco program and NSTAP at 31th may 2024 in the Waters Edge Eagle Hall. Conduct research projects reviewed by ERC-NATA, well established in ERC Committee Establishing a developed mechanism to reduce illegal trade in tobacco and alcohol Chairman Alan Ludovic and Legal Officer Viraj Bandaranayake attended the Thailand Committee Meeting held on 24-30 June 2024. Trasing system was developed against tobacco and alcohol industry.	0.1940265
7	Building and Structures /Furniture and	1.00	Purchased furniture, office equipment's and office partitioning items Purchase of Wi-Fi router for 1948 Quit line service	0.004929

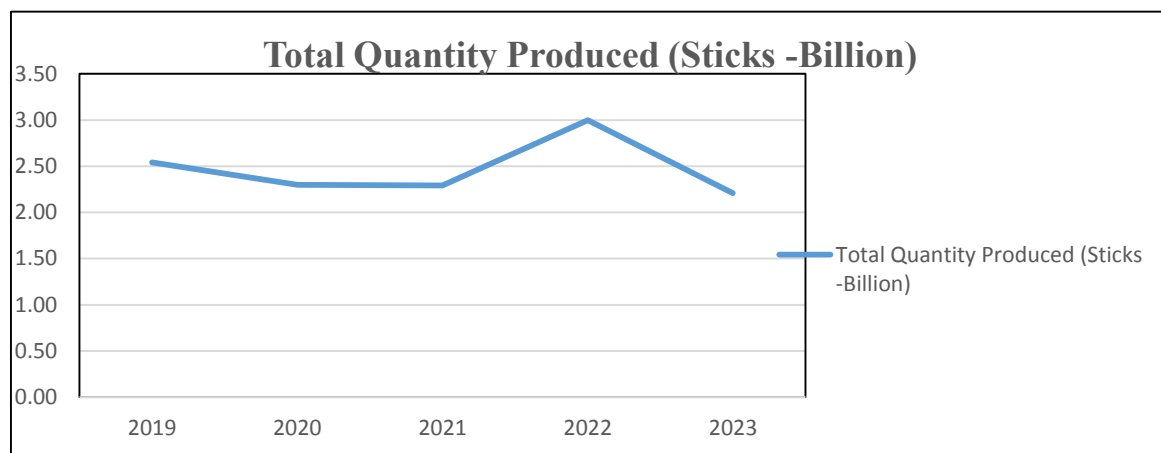
## PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

	Office Equipmen t's			
		25.00		1.749937

### Last five-year performance trends

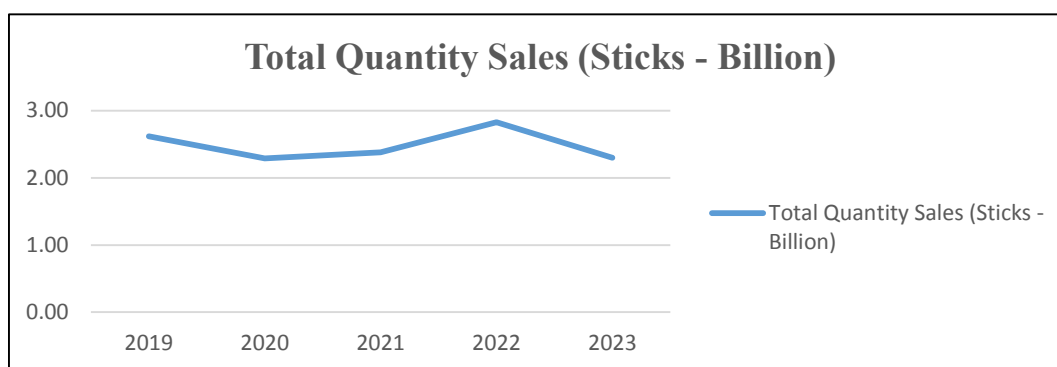
Year	Total Quantity Produced (Sticks - Billion)	Total Quantity Sales (Sticks - Billion)	Excise Duty Paid (LKR Billion)
2019	2.54	2.62	87.55
2020	2.30	2.29	90.23
2021	2.29	2.38	90.70
2022	3.00	2.83	104.91
2023	2.21	2.30	112.68

*Number of Cigarettes Produced, Issued, and tax amount (Source: Sri Lanka Customs Excise)*

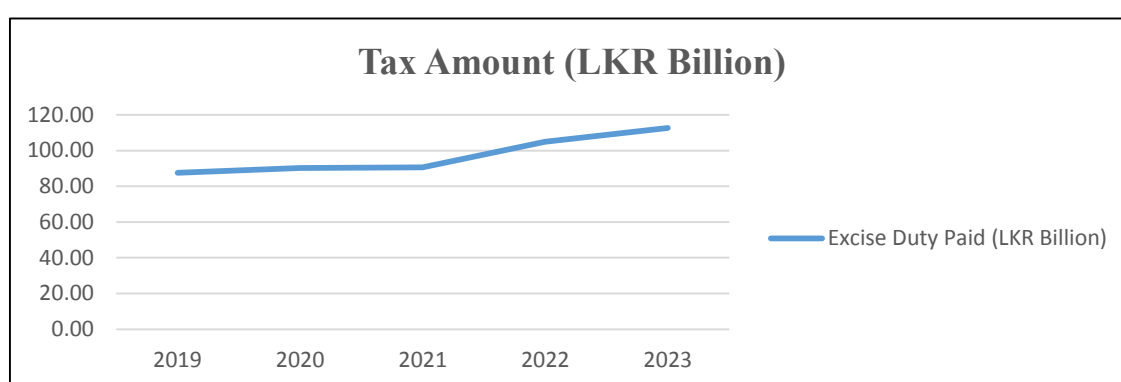


*Number of Cigarette sticks produced along with the year*





*Number of Cigarette Sticks Sold along with the year*



*Tobacco tax amount along with the year*

**Sales of Coconut & processed arrack (Quantity in poof litters)**

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,630,152.470	1,384,881.328	1,334,460.47	1,452,714.33	921,937.68

**Production of Molasses Arrack (Quantity in proof litters)**

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,277,971.023	632,062.934	623,760.670	678,160.97	687,011.94

**Production of Special Arrack (Quantity in proof litters)**

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
19,980,410.902	18,280,252.552	21,116,918.31	22,553,932.47	16,695,261.47

**Bottled Toddy Manufactures (Quantity in Proof litters)**

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3,644,159.850	3,595,094.440	3,439,023.977	12,980,239.82	16,122,801.42

**Malt Liquor (Beer): Alcohol percentage below – 5% vol. (Quantity in proof litters)**

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,426,643.05	852,370.810	781,249.37	15,246,182.71	13,525,703.32

**Special Development Activities Planned for 2024**

- Implementation of a proper and transparent tobacco tax formula.
- Conducting the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Setting up a monitoring and inspection system with the support of the Excise Department.
- Introduction of unbranded packaging policy for cigarettes.
- Prohibition of sale of single cigarettes.
- Prohibition of tobacco use in all public places.
- Enabling smoke free zones.

### 4.2.11 Healthcare Quality and Safety

#### Introduction

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 2024

The Directorate of Healthcare Quality & Safety (DHQS) could accomplish the following achievements during the year 2024.

- **National celebration in commemoration of World Patient Safety Day**

The national event was held on 07.09.2024 at the Marino Beach Hotel under the theme of 'Improving Diagnosis for Patient Safety' which also facilitated experience sharing and

showcasing best practices by hospitals and awarding of selected best projects submitted by healthcare institutions.



- **Annual and Quarterly Performance Review Meetings**

Online performance review meetings of line ministry health institutions (53) and provincial health institutions (above base hospital type B) of 26 districts were conducted biannually to assess hospital performance in Quality and Safety. The modified Quality Performance Evaluation Tool was used for reporting the performance.

- **Conducting of Training programmes and workshops**

DHQS has been conducting training programmes to develop a skilled, competent and satisfied workforce with enhanced productivity.

- Four three-day Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes on healthcare quality and safety were conducted for 306 staff members of hospitals and RDHS offices.



- One workshop on Clinical Audits was conducted for 35 participants including medical, nursing and supportive staff, with the objective of improving knowledge and skills related to Clinical Audits.
  - Three training programmes on safety and quality conducted for 110 healthcare staff belonging to Professions Supplementary to Medicine, Para Medical Services and healthcare assistants, in October 2024.
  - Two training programmes were conducted on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in November and December 2024, where 107 participants were trained.
  - One virtual training programme was conducted on quality initiatives for healthcare staff of RDHS Kandy on 29th January 2024
  - Director DHQS and Consultants participated as resources in two training workshops for Nursing Sisters and Professions Supplementary to Medicine on clinical audits, organized by the National Hospital of Sri Lanka on 19<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
  - Coordinated capacity building of Medical Officers, Nursing Officers and Pharmacists on medication safety at BMICH on 11th & 12th July 2024 at the symposium on medication without harm.
- Development and dissemination of circulars
    - Circular related to Lists of Look Alike Sound Alike (LASA) drugs and High Alert (high risk) Medications (HAM) used in Sri Lanka and error prevention strategies
    - Circular on implementing proper labelling of medications during dispensing
    - Circular for assigning a liaison pharmacist for medication safety activities
  - Dissemination and implementation of the Patient Observation Chart – Early Warning Score, with three awareness programmes organized prior to island-wide implementation
  - Finalization of the roadmap and way forward in accreditation, and initiation of some of the activities, including procurement processes for local and foreign consultancies, development of guidelines and selection of surveyors for surveyor training.



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- Conducted meetings of Medication Safety subcommittee (one), Infection Prevention Sub-committees (one) and Clinical governance Sub-committees (two).
- Conducted a steering committee meeting of the Patients for Patient Safety Network (PPSN) on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
- Coordinated the review of the National Guideline on Management of a new-onset seizures in children and adults for Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians.
- The DHQS contributed to the National Action Plan for Health Security of Sri Lanka developed by the World Health Organization (27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> February 2024)
- Participated at the Global Health Diplomacy (GHD) Trainings for Health Professionals: World Health Assembly based GHD training organized by the International Health Unit on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 02<sup>nd</sup> 2024.
- Twelve (12) supervision visits were conducted to Teaching, Specialized, Base and Divisional Hospitals with PSSP funding during the months of May and June of 2024.
- Participated in the workshop Primary Healthcare System Enhancing Project (PHSEP 2024-2028) to develop an activity plan from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 organized by the Planning Unit of the Ministry of Health.
- Participated in the workshop for the dissemination of the results of the national WASH survey conducted in Healthcare Institutions organized by the Environment and Occupational Health Unit of Ministry of Health on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- Participated at the WHO proposal writing workshop on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024.

### Ongoing development project details

	Project Description	Tot. Est. Cost (Rs. Mn)	Physical Progress by 31.12.2024	Financial Progress by 31.12.2024 (Rs. Mn)
1.	Strengthening of customer feedback mechanism		Patient Satisfaction Survey summary reports received. Analysis Done. Activity completed.	Conducted Online
2.	Quarterly Performance Review Meeting of Quality Management Units of 52 Line Ministry Institutions (03 days)		The Annual Performance review 2023 and Q1/Q2 of 2024 progress review of line ministry hospitals was held online. Activity completed.	Conducted Online

3.	District Performance Review Meetings (DPRM) of Quality Management Units of hospitals (Above Base Hospital Type B) of 26 districts/RDHS Areas		The Annual Performance review 2023 and Q1/Q2 of 2024 progress review of Provincial hospitals was held online. Activity completed.	Conducted Online
4.	Conducting National Steering Committee on healthcare quality and safety	0.07	One clinical governance subcommittee and one IPC subcommittee conducted	0.100
5.	Web maintenance	0.20	To be initiated.	0.00
6.	Purchasing an online meeting platform	0.065	Online platform purchased. Activity completed.	0.051
7.	Developing Quality Assessment tool for Primary Medical Care Institutions into a web-based system	0.20	Developed tool pretested in one hospital. Modifications in progress.	0.00
8.	Strengthening of the Directorate of Healthcare Quality & Safety by providing IT equipment, furniture & other requirements	0.50	To be initiated.	0.00
9.	Workshops on clinical audits (02 day)	0.10	Activity Revised. One programme conducted with 35 participants. Activity Completed.	0.095
10.	Development and Revision of National Clinical Guideline / Protocols / Manuals / Survey formats	0.10	Printing of the Patient Observation Chart - Early Warning Score carried out through the MSD. Coordinated to development of Guideline in management of new-onset seizures in children and adults in collaboration with Association of SL Neurologists .	0.00
11.	Standards/Guidelines/patient safety leaflets -printing	0.50	Not conducted due to lack of funding	0.00
12.	Introduce Medication incident reporting system into hospitals and implement action plans to prevent occurrence of similar events.		Hospitals are made aware of utilizing the form and sending to the DHQS in different forums.	
13.	Discuss serious medication errors firstly at quarterly basis, at local hospital QMU and forward to DHQS		Visited a hospital following a sentinel event to identify challenges and preventive action	

**PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024**

14.	Celebration of World Patient Safety Day	1.50	World Patient Safety Day celebration conducted on 7th September 2024. Activity completed.	1.078
15.	Supervision/ study visits of patient safety activities in hospitals	0.08	12 supervision visits were conducted to Teaching, Specialized, Base and Divisional Hospitals.	0.043
16.	Strengthening Quality Management Programmes at MOH hospitals, provincial and district level healthcare institutions through Quality Management Units to address gaps identified by the gap analysis. Priority will be given to address the requirements indicated by the three disease campaigns such as referral of all indicated patients for diagnosis infection and control	160.70	Proposal assessment for fund distribution completed. Sent for Global Fund approval	0.00
17.	Refining of standards with two consultative meetings with technical assistance (Several modules will be covered in each meeting)	13.00	Activity revised as per the developed roadmap for accreditation. To be initiated	0.00
18.	Capacity building to conduct baseline assessment in a few selected hospitals	38.00	Activity revised as per the developed roadmap for accreditation. Foreign consultancy procurement for surveyor training in progress. Nominations called for selection of surveyors.	0.00
19.	Consultation/consensus building process aided by technical assistance to review next steps, including assessment of what role accreditation might play in system and development of a road map and strategy for future efforts if this is indicated, aided by technical assistance	22.00	Activity revised as 'Way forward for accreditation' as per the developed roadmap for accreditation. Thirteen awareness workshops and supervision visits planned. To be initiated.	0.00
20.	Leadership development programme for health managers as a training of	19.50	Activity restructured. Customized 3-day training program on Leadership	0.00

	trainers programme based on the priority areas for improvement (30 short term fellowships/ attachments to centres of quality excellence, combined local and foreign training)		development and effective lean management for QMU staff members in Base Hospitals and above. Programme plan and proposal approved by the secretary and the GF. As the HiQi project does not have resources to proceed with the procurement, secretary approval will be requested to call the quotations from DHQS.	
21.	Developing Healthcare Quality and Safety modules for inclusion in undergraduate curricula of critical categories of staff (doctors, nurses and paramedical/ supplementary professions) for inclusion in training at universities/MOH training schools. The developed module for paramedical/ supplementary professions (MLT, Radiographers, PHLTs, PHM/PHI) which mainly catered for staff involved in three disease campaigns, will be implemented through HRH module	2.00	Activity will not be conducted as similar curriculum development activity is ongoing as a WHO project.	0.00
22.	In-house training for 60 mid-level managers to learn from global best practices with international experts acting as resource persons	1.10	Two training programs were conducted in November and December 2024 where 107 participants were trained.	0.77
23.	Training of Trainers to teach the CPD module	6.25	Four programmes conducted in July, October, November and December 2024. Two more programmes to be done.	2.835
24.	Translation and Printing of CPD manual	5.00	Printing of English document initiated.	0.00
25.	Establish multi-disciplinary clinical societies at facility level to foster team working to improve quality	0.35	Activity restructured as three one-day training programmes for professionals Supplementary to Medicine, Paramedical service categories and healthcare assistants on healthcare quality and safety. Conducted in October 2024.	0.34

## PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

26.	Collaboration with SLMA (Sri Lanka Medical Association) and professional colleges to design and pilot CPD programmes on 'Clinical Governance' in all provinces	2.89	Out of the 12 training programmes the first training programme was conducted on 18th November 2024.	0.15
27.	Standardization and revision of the Quality Performance Evaluation Tool and collection of other quality metrics	0.488	Meetings will be conducted during and after development of the software	0.00
28.	Joint development by MoH quality and information units and the three disease campaigns of additional HMIS module(s) to collect and report quality improvement data from hospitals, including data for a hospital Quality Performance Evaluation Tool (QPET) to assess quality performance at different levels of hospitals (Base Hospitals, District General Hospitals, Teaching Hospitals)	2.00	Secretary of Health approval received to conduct the activity in house. Requested for a server space from HIU. Currently finalizing the required data elements.	0.00
29.	Design and distribution of an annual Healthcare Quality and Safety Bulletin to routinely report the new hospital-level quality data and quality ratings including information pertaining to three diseases, discuss issues arising from the new QPET, as well as other topical quality issues	0.285	Annual Healthcare Quality and Safety Bulletin is being drafted and will be published in early 2025 including the data of years 2022,2023 and 2024.	0.00
30.	Strengthening System Research and Innovations through clinical audits, operational research and quality improvement projects	0.50	Research Proposal and the draft questionnaire being finalized for ethical approval.	0.00
31.	Consultative meetings to develop standards for seven elements of quality improvement	23.80	Activity revised as Development of hospital accreditation standards & guidelines as per the developed roadmap for accreditation. Induction meeting for professional colleges	0.46



			conducted in November 2024. guideline development by the colleges in progress.	
32.	Piloting of standards in two selected hospitals in each level (national, teaching, DGH, Base, Divisional)	11.00	Activity revised as Piloting of the standards, as per the developed roadmap for accreditation. To be initiated.	0.00

### Last 5-year performance trend.

N o.	Indicator	Year				
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1.	Quarterly Performance Review Meetings (PRMs) conducted	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2.	Biannual Performance Review Meetings / District Performance Review Meetings (DPRMs) conducted.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
3.	Number of (Percentage of) staff trained on Master Trainers on 5S, CQI & TQM, patient safety and clinical audit	262/300 (87%)	135/200 (68%)	193/200 (96%)	100/150 66.66%	151/200 (75.5%)
4.	Number of (Percentage of) staff trained on clinical audit		87/100 (87%)	164/150 (109%)	72/100 72%	121/80 (151%)
5.	Percentage of healthcare facilities which commenced reporting of adverse events		97%	97%	98%	88%

### Special development activities planned for 2025

The following activities have been planned utilizing funding from the World Health Organization.

- Revision of the National Action Plan on Healthcare Quality and Safety and development of a new Action Plan for the next 5 years (2026-2030).
- Revision of the implementation progress of the National Action Plan on Medication Safety for Sri Lanka 2021-2025, aligned with the third WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm, and development of the new Action Plan for 2026-2030.

- Strengthening governance for healthcare quality and safety through the National Steering Committee on Healthcare Quality and Safety and Subcommittees (Medication safety, IPC and Accreditation).
- World Patient Safety Day 2025 commemoration.
- Capacity building of healthcare workers on safety culture and the WHO safety culture assessment tool.
- Introduction of a 'Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Meeting Guide' and its implementation in government hospitals.
- Improving the quality of patient care: Establishment and functioning of a 'Clinical Care Management Guidelines Committee'.
- Launch of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) policy and guideline development.
- Developing a video to improve compliance in completing the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist for major surgeries.
- Identification of two medication safety demonstration sites in teaching hospitals, piloting and finalizing development of a medication safety practice package and implementing it in the medication safety practice package in Teaching Hospitals in the country.
- Conducting meetings of the Steering Committee of the Patients for Patient Safety Sri Lanka (PFPS-SL) to promote activities for patient engagement, raise awareness on the Patient Safety Charter in Sri Lanka, provide direction and empower the existing patients for patient safety network in Sri Lanka.
- Mapping of the existing pharmacy, nursing and medical curricula against the updated WHO medication safety curriculum guide and incorporating the identified components into all three professional curricula in Sri Lanka.
- Clinical audit training for healthcare staff ensuring the delivery of high-quality healthcare services, enhancing patient safety and improving clinical outcomes.
- Conducting Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme for in-service Training of Trainers (TOT) on patient safety using the CPD manual for healthcare professionals
- Training of Liaison Pharmacists at healthcare institutions to facilitate the implementation of safe systems for using medicines safely in hospitals.
- Developing a patient safety network for Sri Lanka as a subgroup under the WHO GPSN.

## 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.Capacity Building on Radio Nuclear Emergency Preparedness & Response in TH Badulla, Apeksha Hospital, TH Batticaloa, TH Kurunegala**

The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Disaster Preparedness & Response Division (DPRD) of the Ministry of Health, has purchased and distributed specialized radio-nuclear monitoring and surveillance equipment. This initiative aims to strengthen the Radio Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response capabilities of four health institutions: Teaching Hospital Badulla, Apeksha Hospital Maharagama, Teaching Hospital Batticaloa, and Teaching Hospital Kurunegala. This effort is part of WHO's biennium activities for 2022-2023. The total expenditure for this purchase was approximately Rs. 7.88 million, with financial support provided by WHO.

#### **02. Training for Health Emergency Operation Centers**

The Disaster Preparedness and Response Division of the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), organized a four-day training session for 35

participants. These participants included health staff involved in disaster activities, representing the Epidemiology Unit, RDHS offices of Rathnapura, Kegalle, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Galle, Jaffna, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, and the PDHS offices of the Eastern and Western Provinces. The training aimed to enhance the capacities of national and sub-national Health Emergency Operation Centers (HEOCs) in Sri Lanka.

### **03. Conduct district level risk assessments, Preparation, Printing & Dissemination of emergency preparedness and response plans for North Western Province and North Central Province**

Having disaster preparedness plans at the district and regional levels is essential for the health sector to respond efficiently and effectively. As part of its WHO Biennium activities (2022-2023), the Disaster Preparedness and Response Division (DPRD) of the Ministry of Health organized a two-day residential consultative meeting. This meeting, held for the North Western and North Central Provinces, focused on preparing risk assessments and district preparedness and response plans. Provincial and district-level staff, as well as planners from the Ministry of Health, actively participated in this initiative, which was facilitated by the DPRD.

### **04. Implement of the National Inventory of Dangerous Pathogens (NIDP) in Sri Lanka**

Disaster Preparedness and Response Division of the Ministry of Health, as the focal governmental body for the implementation of Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), is in the process of implementing the 'National Inventory of Dangerous Pathogens' (NIDP) as one of the activities to improve the biosecurity capacity in Sri Lanka.

This activity is conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RVIM), Netherlands and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Implementation Support Unit (ISU), Geneva.

According to this

#### **Pilot Study Initiation in Sri Lanka**

- An awareness and training program were conducted for laboratory staff, focusing on data entry. A user manual was developed and distributed among institutional laboratory focal points to guide them on data entry and submission procedures.
- Initial submission of templates was ended on December 2023.

### **05. Testing of the hospital preparedness through drills**

DPRD provides financial and technical support to conduct hospital drills to assess their preparedness for multiple hazards that they must prepare for. In 2023, 10 mass casualty disaster management drills were conducted at 10 health institutions, and in 2024, 12 disaster management drills were held at 12 health institutions at the locations listed below

- For year 2023 - Colombo East base Hospital Mulleriyawa, BH Kiribathgoda, BH Gampola, BH Puttalam, DGH Embilipitiya, BH Dickoya, BH Nikaweratiya, DGH Matale, DGH Kilinochchi, BH Diyatalawa Around Rs. 1.6 million were used.
- For year 2024 – 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.

## **06. Disaster Management Trainings**

The DPRD was involved in the training and capacity building programs for nursing professionals in several health institutions throughout the year.

- In the year 2023, 12 Training programmes (Disaster Management) were conducted in the following mentioned hospitals for 600 nursing officers and around Rs.2 million were spent for this from DPRD capital budget.  
TH Kurunegala, TH Peradeniya, TH Ragama, TH Anuradhapura, TH Kalubowila, TH Badulla, TH Ratnapura, DGH Matara, DGH Polonnaruwa, BH Akkareipaththu, BH Homagama, and BH Horana.
- In the year 2024, 08 Training programmes (Disaster Management) were conducted in following mentioned hospitals for 400 nursing officers and around 1.7 million were spent for this from DPRD capital budget.  
TH Kalutara, NHSL, BH Akkareipaththu, DGH Monaragala, DGH Matara, TH Kurunegala, TH Peradeniya and TH Karapitiya.

## **07. National Disaster Preparedness and Response Drill**

The National Disaster Preparedness and Response Drill was carried out in Nonperial, Belihuloya (at vivegananda Vidyalaya) year 2024. 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 2023 was also done.

## **08. 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.

## **09. Conducting a workshop on Dissemination of results of safe hospital assessment, which was conducted in selected hospitals in 2023**

The Safe Hospital initiative is a methodology which has been used by many countries to ensure the safety of patients and health staff during situations of disasters and emergencies, through structural resilience. As a part of WHO Biennium activities (2024 – 2025), the Disaster Preparedness & Response Division (DPRD) of the Ministry of Health organized one day workshop on 15th of August 2024 for 60 participants at national level to discuss the findings of safe hospital assessment, which was conducted in 15 selected hospitals in 2023



### 4.3 Nutrition

The subject of Nutrition has related functions in several ministries and requires a coordinated approach.

#### 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%

	<p>Reduce Household Food insecurity 10.3 % (DCS, 2014) to 5% by 2030.</p>	<p>Food insecurity (2022 August) SL- 37%</p>
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## Measures taken to address malnutrition in 2024

- **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 MOMCH 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.

- **Growth and Nutrition Monitoring Surveillance System (GNMS)**

With WHO support mobile application and web application of the GNMS was developed. Piloting of the GNMS was conducted in Madurawala and Milleniya MOH areas in Kaluthara district. The training of the non-health staff in the Madurawala and Milleniya District Secretariate on how to use the Web App and interventions for identified non-health risk factors was completed. An external reviewer has evaluated the GNMS, and the review has been completed. Scaling up of the GNMS will follow the recommendations by the reviewer.

- **Conducting Nutrition Steering Committee**

Nutrition Steering Committee is chaired by the Secretary Health and addresses policy implementation, strategic guidance, and feedback from implementing stakeholders within the government health sector, non-health sectors and other development partners. Two Nutrition Steering Committee meetings are conducting with the first

half of 2024. (19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 & 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 . Key issue regarding overcoming malnutrition in Sri Lanka were discussed and decision taken for implementation of strategies to overcome the nutritional issues.



- **Emergency Nutrition Action Plan 2022-2024**

Under the initiative of DDG (PHS) II, National Emergency Nutrition Plan 2022-2024 was prepared to prevent further deterioration in the nutritional status of Sri Lankans due to the economic crisis and the impending food crisis. Emergency Nutrition Action plan was launched. Short term action plans were completed

- **Foster Care Scheme for Severely Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children having financial Problems**

A website was developed to introduce a Foster Care Scheme for children under 5 years with SAM in economically vulnerable families. This will serve as a donation collection platform while assuring transparency of transactions. The development of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials (short videos, social media tiles, brochures, and leaflets) for the communication campaign aimed at directing donors to the Foster Care Scheme and promoting behavioral change for proper nutrition has commenced and is in its final stage.

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

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

In 2024, Development of new plan according to the given recommendations from the review of the Micronutrient Strategic Plan for year 2017-2022 was initiated. Two consultative meetings with 100 participants were conducted. Twelve consultative meetings with 30 participants for the development of strategic framework for six specific objectives were conducted. Final draft report of the micronutrient strategic plan 2024-2030 is available.



- **Food & Nutrition Security Training in Emergency**

Five days residential training programme on 'Food & Nutrition Security Training in Emergency' was initiated. First training was conducted in Nuwara-Eliya district for higher officials in both health and non-health sector in December 2023. This was a five-day residential training program

- **National Nutrition Month -2024**

The month of June-2024 has declared the National Nutrition month in 2024 and the Nutrition Division conducts annual National Nutrition Month activities to generate awareness of general public on current nutrition problems. The main theme selected for the year 2024 is "Healthy Food; Our right" and the objective is Consumer Empowerment for Healthy Food. Two main action areas have been identified under the main theme;

- The Consumers' Right to know what is in their food.
- Protecting children's right to a Healthy Food Environment

### Measure taken to address malnutrition in from July 2023 to December 2024

- **National Nutrition Month-2024**

The national Nutrition Month was held in June 2024 under the theme "Healthy Food; Our right" and the objective is Consumer Empowerment for Healthy Food". It aimed to empower communities to opt for healthy, home-cooked food and enhance their capacity to identify and avoid unhealthy food, including ultra-processed food. Activities of the Nutrition Month also included advocating the health staff as well as the public on not falling prey to advertisements targeting children.

It is expected that consumers (adults and children) will reduce the consumption of calorie-dense food. This will help in combatting the overweight and obesity pandemic that has been plaguing Sri Lanka in the recent years.



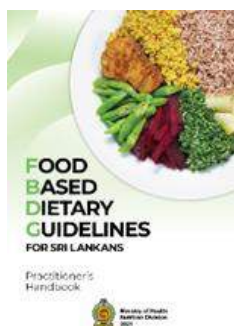


- Promotion of healthy dietary practices – Food Based Dietary Guidelines for Sri Lankans**

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 were covered.



Advocacy and on FBDG were successfully conducted for the relevant authorities of Education sector in collaboration with Ministry of Education and World Food Programme, covering 8 provinces



- **Supplementary food for children with MAM -Thriposha 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 Thriposha based on new evidence. Furthermore, a rice-based Thriposha product is currently being piloted for its feasibility in replacing corn-based Thriposha as a better option
- **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.

At present it is conducting in a few districts in Sri Lanka. Prior to scaling-up the Fortified Rice Programme in Sri Lanka, a study for assessing the impact of providing FR through the SMP is planned, which will be commenced by July 2024

- **Promotion of Health eating School Canteens**  
It has been decided to update and implement the School Canteen Guideline. A situational analysis of the current status of school canteens is underway at present.
- **Hospital Diet Circular**  
The revision of the existing circular for "supply of meals to patients and employees in Medical Institutions" was initiated.
- **National Nutrition Surveillance System**  
The need of 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 need to be collected through the system. The next step is to receive the inputs from 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 Heath unit, Ministry of Health and Mass media in the Sirimuthu Uyana housing complex. Several consultative meetings and field visit were conducted to plan the nutrition interventions.

## 4.4 Oral Health Services

### 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 stake holders 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 despite the economic crisis
- Introduction of high impact sustainable educational programme(ERASMUS)
- Continued accreditation process and successfully achieved ISO15189 accreditation
- Developed Stem Cell Donor Registry ,Software ,Web Page and Initiated Donor Recruitment
- Successful Completion of exporting excess Plasma for Fractionation
- Achieving AABB Certification for Accreditation
- Registration as a National CPD Provider
- Capacity building program by NRL Australia to provide regional EQAS (Phase 1 completed and Phase 11 started )

### Ongoing Development project details

Project Description	Total estimate Cost	Physical Progress by 31.12.2024	Financial Progress by 31.12.2024
ERUSMUS	44765 EURO for year 2024 (17 Million LKR)	60% (Purchasing order issued .But Pending receiving of goods .	0%

**Last 5 years performance trend**

*Yearly improvement of the blood collection (\*Data for 2024 has not been finalized yet )*

Year	Voluntary Collection	Replacement Collection	Total Collection
2019	444,515	0	444,515
2020	397,833	0	397,833
2021	385,054	0	385,054
2022	424,127	0	424,127
2023	466,041	0	466,061
2024	415,706 up to November 2024	0	415,706

**Annual Blood Collection per 1000 population**

Year	Blood collection from voluntary donors	Blood Collection per 1000 population per year
2019	444,515	21
2020	397,833	19
2021	385,054	17
2022	424,127	20
2023	466,061	21
2024	415706 up to November 2024	20

### Annual Blood Collection per 1000 population

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Collection	444,515	397,833	385,054	414,227	466061
HIV (scr.+ve )	694	533	422	1196	1327
Prevalence	0.16%	0.13%	0.11%	0.282%	0.285%
HIV (Conf. +ve)	44	34	56	60	71
Prevalence	0.01%	0.0085%	0.01%	0.014%	0.015%
Hepatitis B (rpt. +ve)	528	252	751	221	208
Prevalence	0.12%	0.06%	0.20%	0.052%	0.044%
Hepatitis C (rpt. +ve)	804	613	495	354	449
Prevalence	0.18%	0.15%	0.13%	0.083%	0.096%
VDRL +ve	1344	960	1496	2296	1398
Prevalence	0.30%	0.24%	0.39%	0.541%	0.299%
TPPA +ve	119	96	153	143	211
Prevalence	0.03%	0.024%	0.04%	0.033%	0.045%)
MP +ve	0	0	0	0	0
Prevalence	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

\*( Data has not been finalized for 2024)

**Comparison of HLA Laboratory Statistics (At NBC)**

Typing and cross matches	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Class 1	1702	1743	2030	2045	2457	2422
Class 11		1654	2029	2024	2345	2339
Cross match	703	666	835	928	868	752
B27	543	27/57/51 737	27/57/51 838	27/57/51 729	943	27/57/51 1020
PRA (Class I , Class II )	1255	1175	1391	1420	1599	1912
Typing for Transplantation						
Kidney (Live Patients ,Donor)	1704	1454	1665	1700	1936	1880
Bone Marrow (Patients, Donors)	387	182	338	324	378	421
AP Donor	84	89	01	0	85	46
Cadaveric Donor	41	18	26	48	35	41

**CME Programmes**

	Topic	Participants	Number
1.	Formulation of National Blood Donor Selection Guideline (Webinar Series on Blood Banking)	CTP, MO, NO, MLT	360 registered local & international participants
2.	Getting around antibodies – Case based Discussion (Webinar Series on Blood Banking)	CTP, MO, NO, MLT	
3.	How to improve quality of a Donation testing Laboratory	CTP, MO, NO, MLT	

	(Webinar Series on Blood Banking)		
<b>4.</b>	Hemovigilance in Sri Lanka (Webinar Series on Blood Banking)	CTP, MO, NO, MLT	
<b>5.</b>	Strategies to achieve 100% Voluntary Donations – Sri Lankan Experiences (Webinar Series on Blood Banking)	CTP, MO, NO, MLT	
<b>6.</b>	Quality Assurance Blood Component Production (Webinar Series on Blood Banking)	CTP, MO, NO, MLT	
<b>7.</b>	Preventive strategies of TTI & follow-up of reactive Donors (Webinar Series on Blood Banking)	CTP, MO, NO, MLT	
<b>8.</b>	Why we should Felicitate Donors? (Webinar Series on Blood Banking)	CTP, MO, NO, MLT	
<b>9.</b>	Workshop on Plasma Fractionation	CTP, PG, MOIC, MO	55
<b>10.</b>	New Goals In Donor Recruitment & Strengthening in House Blood Donation	CTP, MOIC, PHI	170
<b>11.</b>	New Goals In Donor Recruitment & Strengthening in House Blood Donation	Matron, Nursing Sister Nursing Officer	96
<b>12.</b>	Introduction to quality management System, Organization, management 7 introduction to ISO 15189 (2022) (Back to basic in Transfusion medicine - lectures on quality management system)	CTP, MO, NO, MLTs, Junior Staff Lab Orderly	78
<b>13.</b>	Personal & safety (Back to basic in Transfusion medicine - lectures on quality management system)	CTP, MO, NO, MLTs, Junior Staff Lab Orderly	26
<b>14.</b>	Incident management & Corrective Action (Back to basic in Transfusion medicine - lectures on quality management system)	CTP, MO, NO, MLTs, Junior Staff Lab Orderly	45



15.	Biosafety & Waste Management (Back to basic in Transfusion medicine - lectures on quality management system)	CTP, MO, NO, MLTs, Junior Staff Lab Orderly	29
16.	Sri Lanka Stem Cell Donor Registry & Praana Program	CTP, MO, NO, PHI,	121

### Quality Control laboratory performance

#### Investigation of Quality Related Incident

INCIDENT CATEGORY	NO. OF INCIDENTS REPORTED
Donor Blood Collection Errors	38
Donor Test Sample Collection Errors	2
Donor Related Errors	11
Platelets-Apheresis- Machine/Procedure Related Errors	9
Platelets-Apheresis-Donor Related Errors	1
Platelets-Apheresis Post Donation-Donor Reactions	3
Confidential Unit Exclusion	1
Blood Component Processing Errors	28
Blood Component Labelling Errors	2
Blood Component handling Errors	8
Blood Components Transportation Related Errors	17
Incidents Related to Patient Blood Sample Collection for testing Procedures and report sending	2
Other	1

### Special Development activities planned for 2025

- 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

## Major achievements during the year 2024

- Consultation services for the development of transfusion service south East Asian region
- Initiation of TTI EQAS Program
- Reduced Blood Discard rate
- Achieving AABB Certification for Accreditation
- Registration as a National CPD Provider
- Continuation of the ERASMUS Project
- Maintaining 100% voluntary Blood Donation
- Developed Stem Cell Donor Registry ,Software ,Web Page ,and Initiated Donor Recruitment
- Successful Completion of exporting excess Plasma for Fractionation
- Successfully completion of donor felicitation program

## Special development activities planned for 2025

- TTI EQAS for SEARO region
- Expansion of teaching and training opportunities through ERASMUS to local and foreign trainees.
- Strengthening Stem cell Transplantation by Introducing bone marrow registry.
- Introduce Good Manufacturing Practices to Blood Bank.
- Developing Equipment Inventory Management Software.
- Implementation of NAT for TTI Screening
- HLA Lab upgrading by introducing Sequence based HLA Typing
- Expansion of Irradiation facilities for NBTS

## 4.6 Laboratory Service

### Introduction

The Laboratory Services Unit 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 the main focal point responsible for policy formulation in relation to the National Laboratory system, Anti-Microbial Resistance, Bio Safety, and Bio Security 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.

Laboratory Services are provided under five main specialties - Histopathology, Chemical Pathology, Hematology, Microbiology, and Transfusion Medicine by the government sector hospitals.

Laboratory guidelines for strengthening laboratory services in Primary Healthcare Institutions (2019), classified four levels of laboratory services (1-4) according to the institutional level. (Primary Medical Care Units, Divisional Hospitals, Base Hospitals, District General Hospitals and above.). Being the National Reference Laboratory, the Medical Research Institute (MRI) performs special investigations related to disciplines of Bacteriology, Mycology, Parasitology, Immunology, Virology, etc. in addition to routine laboratory tests.

### 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.

### Key functions

- 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
- Functioning as the focal point of combating Anti-Microbial Resistance in the country
- Carrying out SWOT analysis on the laboratory sector to prepare a strategic plan to develop the sector to cater the existing or new challenges including emergency response to Laboratory Services
- Improvement of Biosecurity and Biosafety in the Laboratory sector

### 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.

#### *Six-year overview of financial allocations*

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (up to 30/06/2024)
<b>Equipment purchasing</b>	Allocations provided (SLR in millions)	740	230	557	200	250	520
	Allocations Released (SLR in millions)	739	230	548	25	250	328* 192**.
<b>Equipment maintenance</b>	Allocations provided (SLR in millions)				40	40	200
	Allocations Released (SLR in millions)				6.87	36	16

\*allocation issued

\*\*approved for tender

## PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

Following table illustrate the financial progress for the years of 2023 &2024

### *Financial progress for the years of 2023 &2024*

Programme/Activity/Item Description	Object code	Funding source	2023			2024		
			Budgetary Provisions Allocated Up to 2023.12.31 (SLR Mn)	Cumulative Expenditure as at 2023.12.31 (SLR Mn)	Physical Progress as at 2023.12.31	Budgetary Provisions Allocated Up to 2024.06.30 (SLR Mn)	Cumulative Expenditure as at 2024.06.30 (SLR Mn)	Physical Progress As at 2024.06.30
Provide allocation for purchasing of new laboratory equipment for the Line Ministry Institutions	111-2-13-013-2103-11	GOSL	250	250	100%	520	328* 192**	
Provide allocation for purchasing of Laboratory Equipment for laboratories in Provincial Hospitals (SH gave special approval for these payment)	111-2-13-003-2509-38-12	PSSP	30	80.38	267%	-	-	-
Provide allocation for Repair, service and maintenances	111-2-13-013-2103-11	GOSL	40	36	90%	200	16	8%



of Laboratory Equipment for the Line Ministry Institution								
Reagent for Mobile Lab	111-2-13-003-2509-38-12	PSSP/GOSL	1.5	.036	2.4%	.5	.44	89%
Establishing Guidelines for sample transport	111-2-13-003-2509-38-12		0.5	.442	76%			
Purchasing of 2 No.s Centrifuge for Mobile lab bus under the Purchasing of Laboratory Equipment for laboratories in Provincial Hospitals 2023	111-2-13-003-2509-38-12	PSSP				1.03	1.03	100%

## 2. 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 Director General of Health Services (DGHS) serves as the chairperson of NAC-AMR while the Director General of Animal Production and Health and Director General of Agriculture serve as co-chairs. Deputy Director General Laboratory Services (DDG LS) is the national AMR focal point in the country.

## 2.1 Reviewed the National Strategic Plan for combating AMR 2017- 2022 and developed a revised the 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.

Upon the conclusion of the five-year period of the National Strategic Plan (NSP), the end-term review was done with financial backing from the World Health Organization (WHO). A national consultancy team, encompassing expertise in human health, terrestrial and aquatic animal health, agriculture, and the environment, was appointed for this purpose.

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, and distributed to the all-sentinel hospitals. Two years of prioritized activities were proposed and costing for those activities process is going on.

## 2.2 Costing and budgeting workshop for the National Strategic Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance 2023 - 2028



With the support of WHO the costing and budgeting workshop for the National Strategic Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance 2023 – 2028 was conducted. During this workshop around 60 costing coordinators were trained.

### 2.3 AMR surveillance activities

#### Glimpse of WHONET Training 2023



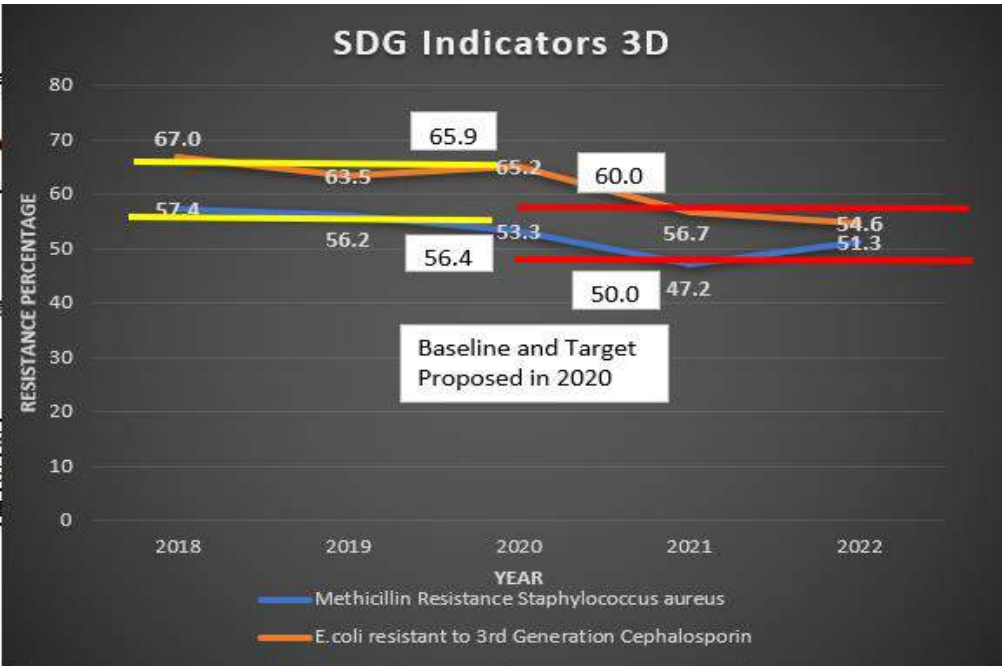
'WHONET' software is the tool used for data collection, aggregation, and analysis of data for the Antimicrobial resistance surveillance programme. Hands-on training programmes on WHONET software were conducted with physical and virtual participation for 117 healthcare staff of 22 hospitals during 2023.

Activity	Description	Physical Progress
Hands-on training programme for capacity building on data aggregation and data analysis using WHONET for the Antimicrobial resistance surveillance system.	The hands-on training programme was conducted for 117 healthcare workers of 22 hospitals on WHONET software which is the tool used for data collection, aggregation, and analysis for the antimicrobial resistance surveillance programme.	No of Workshops completed: 7/7 – 100%

2022 AMR data pending submission to GLASS platform (scheduled to be submitted before 2023-10-31)	24 sentinel site hospitals, (sample selection based on the protocol) Blood, Stool, and Urine samples were collected.	

Antibiotic sensitivity Graph

2.4 SDG Target 3.d.2 | Bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms



2.5 AWaRe circular

AMR is increasingly affecting the health care system in Sri Lanka and misuse and overuse of antimicrobials is the key driver 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. Ministry of Health Sri Lanka has adopted this classification and published the AWaRe circular on April 2024.

## 2.6 AMR Awareness Programmes to Medical Administrators, Prescribing Officers, and Pharmacists.

Training regarding rational prescribing of antimicrobials for medical administrators, prescribing officers, and Pharmacists was conducted. Around 130 participants were trained.



## 2.7 Participated in Joint External Evaluation – National Action Plan for Health Security (IHR core capacities to address health security and emergency capabilities)



Laboratory Services performed the country evaluation to WHO in 2023 regarding the following sections.

- Biosafety and Biosecurity
- AMR
- National Laboratory system
- Infection Prevention and Control

## 2.8 WAAW - National Event and parallel awareness activities in hospitals.

The Ministry of Health along with the WHO and College of Microbiologists coordinated the several activities AMR WAAW 2023.

AMR awareness program for Pharmacists

AMR awareness program Prescribing officers

Drama competition on AMR by SLCM and universities

Quiz competition on AMR by SLCM and universities

Province	Venue	Number of Pharmacists trained
SOUTHERN PROVINCE	TH Karapitiya	51
EASTERN PROVINCE	TH Batticaloa	50
CENTRAL PROVINCE	NHSL Kandy	51
WESTERN PROVINCE	Medical Research Institute	50

Province	Venue	Number of prescribers trained
NORTHERN PROVINCE	TH Jaffna	54
SOUTHERN PROVINCE	TH Karapitiya	54
EASTERN PROVINCE	TH Batticaloa	57
CENTRAL PROVINCE	NHSL Kandy	47
WESTERN PROVINCE	Medical Research Institute	51

A drama competition among students from faculties of Medicine, Dental Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Allied Health Sciences, and Agriculture on the theme of “Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance together with One health concept”. Students were requested to send a 10-minute video on the drama, with the maximum number of cast members as 5 students per drama, in Sinhala/Tamil/English medium. Twenty-four video clips were received and were judged at the SLCM office, by three judges.

The Inter Medical Faculty Quiz - regarding World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) 2023 which was organized by the Sri Lanka College of Microbiologists (SLCM) in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health was successfully held.

The quiz was centrally conducted by the SLCM Office with the help of WHO Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Health. Student teams from eleven medical faculties contested from their respective faculty premises in real-time.



## 2.9 AMR Stewardship

The overuse and misuse of antimicrobials are the most important contributing factors to Antimicrobial Resistance. So, 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.

This initiative underscores a commitment to combatting antimicrobial resistance and improving patient outcomes through the Antimicrobial Stewardship guideline.

## 3. Developing the National Biosafety and Biosecurity Policy

The Government of Sri Lanka has identified the importance of ensuring biosafety and biosecurity in human, animal, plant, and environment 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 to develop a National Policy on Laboratory 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 is operating under the One Health concept, was established. 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.

## 4. 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, Terms of Reference (TOR) for the procurement of NLIMS have been developed. We are now in the process of waiting for the establishment of a Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) to aid in the procurement process.

The TEC for the procurement process was appointed. There are seven members in the TEC. The developed ToR is signed by the TEC members. The ToR is about to be submitted to the project office for further procurement activities. Awaiting for the bidding process which is needed to be carried out by the project office.

### **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.

### Achievements/Special Events in 2023.01.01 to 2024.06.30

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023.01.01-2024.06.30 MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE	
Department	Achievements/Performance/Projects
Department of Nutrition	<p>a) Conducted a research on “Weight gain following an enhanced nutrition care package among children aged 6-36 months in estate and rural communities.</p> <p>b) Published Article “Nutritional Composition and Antioxidant Activity of Selected Underutilized Fruits Grown in Sri Lanka”</p> <p>c) Published abstract: Comparison of fatty acid composition of different culinary oils with high saturated coconut oil towards the improvement of public health.</p> <p>d)Ongoing research</p> <p>1) Establishment of Asian Food Composition Database</p> <p>2) Formation and acceptability trial of locally produced Ready-to-Use Therapeutic food (RUTF)</p>
Quality management Unit	Implementation of five S healthcare system with guidance from national productivity secretariat. Introduction of health care waste management system at MRI
Department of Molecular Biology	<p><b>Performance of Laboratory Services 2024</b></p> <p>No direct clinical sample testing</p> <p>Research/ diagnostic work related to molecular biology</p> <p><b>On-going work</b></p> <p>Cardiology study on genetic mutation on response to clopidogrel (research with Dept. of Histology)</p> <p>Genetic characterization of Zeebra fish (research with Dept. of Animal House)</p>

	<p>Detection of viral aetiology agents in febrile patients (research)</p> <p>Detection of arboviruses in mosquitoes (research with Dept. of Entomology)</p> <p>Genomic sequence of circulating rabies virus (research with Dept. of Rabies)</p> <p>Genetic characterization of fungi (research with dept. of Mycology)</p> <p>Detection of Listeria contamination in raw milk samples</p> <p>Genomic characterization of Salmonella spp. (research/ surveillance with Dept. of Food &amp; Water)</p> <p>Identification of genetic factors for multiple sclerosis (research with Dept. Neurology/ NHSL Molecular diagnosis of spotted fever</p> <p>Molecular diagnosis of genetic mutation on response to clopidogrel</p> <p>performance improvements.</p> <p>After converted into full time research laboratory 30 publications, many ongoing research and a training program for the students who have sent from ministry of health SARS-CoV-2 sequencing</p>
Department of Laboratory Animal Science	<p>a) Conducting the practical session of the Diploma course in Laboratory Animal Science conducted by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, and supervising three student projects</p> <p>b) Training workshop for the employees of the Laboratory Animal Facilities in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science.</p> <p>C) Workshop on Laboratory Animal Nutrition in collaboration with SLALAS.</p> <p>d) Certificate course in Laboratory Animal Science in collaboration with the SLALAS.</p> <p>e) Workshop on Zebrafish as an alternative model was conducted in collaboration with the SLALAS and SAAT</p> <p>f. ) new services commenced:</p> <p>Laboratory animal Feed Production is one of the unique activities carried out in the Laboratory Animal Centre at the Medical Research Institute. Students from the Department of</p>

	Livestock and Avian Sciences at the University of Wayamba enthusiastically learned about feed production.
Department of Bacteriology II, Food and Water Microbiology Laboratory	<p>Food and Water Microbiology Laboratory function as a regulatory laboratory in Food and Water Microbiology to the Ministry of Health. In addition its services to Ministry of Health, analytical services are provided for export and import industry and private customers.</p> <p>Major Achievements</p> <p>Food and Water Microbiology Laboratory is accredited laboratory under ISO 17025 under Sri Lanka Accreditation Board. We maintain and continually improve Quality Management System to be in compliance with the standard using internationally recognized test methods.</p> <p>New services commenced</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Molecular typing of Listeria</p> <p>Shiga Toxin producing E coli (STEC) detection PCR</p> <p>Campylobacter PCR</p> <p>Campylobacter MIC</p> <p>Food microbiology Inter Laboratory comparison</p>
Department of Immunology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Publication of 4 research publications in international peer reviewed journals</li> <li>b) Published an article on inborn errors of immunity in a peer reviewed journal with a high impact factor</li> <li>c) Diagnosed for the first time 5 inborn errors of immunity</li> <li>d) 15 patients with an Inborn Error in Immunity identified genetically and out of them 10 patients found to carry a previously unreported mutations in the gene responsible</li> <li>e) First reports of alpha gal allergy (a kind of delayed red meat allergy) in South Asia</li> <li>f) First case series of Coconut allergy in South Asia</li> <li>g) Detection of allergy to Betel ('bulath") for the first time in Sri Lanka.</li> </ul>
Department of Bacteriology - Clinical	Clinical Bacteriology Laboratory granted accreditation to international standard ISO 15189 (clinical /medical laboratory) for 36 Microbiological investigations in Bacteriology, serology and molecular biology

microbiology division	<p><b>Major Achievements</b></p> <p>a) Workshop National Training Workshop on Clinical Microbiology for NEQAS participants – for Microbiologists and Medical Laboratory Technologists.</p> <p><b>b) National Reference Laboratory, Department of Bacteriology, Medical Research Institute, Sri Lanka to be the Regional public health laboratory as the Proficiency Testing Provider for the southeast Asia region.</b></p> <p><b>New services commenced</b> ‘Surveillance Focal Point’ for ‘Global Invasive Bacterial Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (IBVPD) Laboratory Network’ Clinical Microbiology &amp; Molecular biology laboratory (the National Reference Laboratory for clinical microbiology) in the Department of Bacteriology was recognized as the ‘Surveillance Focal Point’ in Sri Lanka for ‘Global Invasive Bacterial Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (IB-VPD) Laboratory Network’ sponsored by the World Health Organization. The Global Invasive Bacterial Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (IB-VPD) Laboratory Network is an important component of the WHO-coordinated Global IB-VPD Surveillance Network. The main objectives are to monitor the disease burden of <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>, <i>Hemophilus influenzae</i> and <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> and to describe the epidemiology of IB-VPD in the country.</p>
Department of Virology	<p>The Department of Virology offers a wide range of tests (72 assays) including tests for viral culture, antigen detection, molecular detection and serology for the diagnosis of many viral infections. The laboratory provides a comprehensive consultation service to assist clinicians in choosing the appropriate tests and interpreting the results. Diagnostic tests are offered for dengue, JE, hepatitis, Herpes simplex, enterovirus infections, influenza viruses, rubella, measles and other common viral infections. There are many laboratory</p>



	<p>surveillance programmes carried out throughout the year. These are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acute Flaccid Paralysis (Polio) surveillance</li> <li>2. Influenza surveillance</li> <li>3. Dengue surveillance</li> <li>4. Japanese Encephalitis surveillance</li> <li>5. Rotavirus surveillance</li> <li>6. Rubella &amp; Measles surveillance</li> <li>7. Hepatitis Antibody surveillance</li> </ol> <p>Department of Virology is strongly committed to the training of clinicians, post graduate students, MLT students, nurses, medical students and related staff. The Department takes part in post graduate courses of Microbiology, Virology, Transfusion medicine, Pathology, Venereology etc.</p>
Department of Haematology	<p>Major Achievements:</p> <p>Diagnosis of Chronic myeloid leukaemia ; bcr- abl genetic studies -by FISH technique; trials successful.</p> <p>Several papers published.</p>
Rabies & Vaccine Quality Control Department	<p>chievements:</p> <p>ervices commenced</p> <p>Providing services for all other peripheral Rabies laboratories as the Reference Laboratory including external quality assurance.</p>

### Ongoing Development project details

most essential Renovations of MRI Buildings , Expansion of testing Capacities.

### Last 5-year performance trend (should be provided as table or graph/charts)

Key performance indicator	progress				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of lab tests performed	1,424,915	1,331,953	1,234,001	1,058,018	1,362,909

Number of research projects handled	51	15	41	46	48
No. of students trained-School of Entomology	26 (Batch-2017/2019)	15 (Batch-2020/2022)	15 (Batch-2020/2022)	15 (Batch-2020/2022) + 29 (Batch-2021/2023)	29
No. of students trained-School of MLT	48  2017-2019 batch	36 (2020-2022)  Repeat examination 2017 -2019	36 (2020-2022)	36 (2020-2022)	24

### Special Development activities planned for 2024

- 14 storied building
- Laboratory information management system (LIMS)
- Renovation of labs
- Purchase of most required testing medical equipments.

## 4.6.2 Medical Supply Division

### 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 2023 & up to 30.06.2024

- Purchased medical supplies for the year 2023 with allocation received from GOSL funds. The table shows the allocation & expenditures for the medical supplies from GOSL funds and other expenditures.

#### For the year 2023

Vote	Description	Total Allocation Rs.Mn	Total Expenditure Rs.Mn	Financial Progress %
I I I-2-25-003-1204(11)	Medical Supplies (MSD & Hospitals (GOSL))	49,100.00	45,661.41	<b>93.00</b>
111-2-25-001-1204 (11)	SPC (GOSL)	45,700.00	45,672.40	<b>99.94</b>
111-2-25-001-1204 (12)	SPC(foreign fund)	55,000.00	25,217.79	<b>45.85</b>
I I I-2-25-002-1204 (11)	SPMC	26,700.00	26,672.00	<b>99.90</b>
Total		<b>176,500.00</b>	<b>143,223.60</b>	<b>81.15</b>

#### For the time period 2024.01.01 to 2024.05.31

Vote	Description	Allocation(Rs. Mn)	Expenditure(Rs)	Financial Progress %
111-2-25-003-1204(11)	Medical Supplies (MSD & Hospitals GOSL )	40,000.00	14,455.13	36.13
111-2-25-001-1204(12)	SPC (Foreign fund)	30,000.00	1,994.36	6.64

- Destruction of quality failure medical supplies was done in the year 2023.

All line ministry and provincial level health institutions in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mulativu, Mannar. Vavuniya. Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa. Kurunegala, Puttalam, Badulla, Kalutara, Kegalle. Nuwaraeliya, Monaragala, Rathnapura, Galle, Matara, Hambanthota, Matale, Gampaha, Trincomale, Ampara, Kandy & Colombo (except sales order customers), districts were completed based on withdrawal circulars issued up to 31.12.2023.

- Supply position review meetings which were chaired by Hon. Health Minister, Secretary of Health and Director General of Health Services were conducted regularly for the year 2023 & 2024 (up to 30.06.2024) 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	
	2023	2024
Meetings chaired by Hon. Minister	-	5
Meetings chaired by Secretary of Health		
	-	12
Meetings chaired by DGHS	16	5
Total number of Meetings	16	17

- The revision of the formulary of pharmaceutical items was initiated in 2023. 13 subcommittee meetings and 1 core committee meeting were conducted under Drugs used in the treatment of Cardiovascular system, Drugs used in the treatment of musculoskeletal and Joint Diseases, Antiseptics and Disinfectants, Medicines acting on the Central Nervous System, Drugs affecting Nutrition and blood, Drugs used in the Infections, Drugs used in the treatment of Malignant Diseases and for

immunosuppression, Drugs used in the treatment of diseases of the Ear, Nose and Oropharynx. Drugs use in Obstetrics and gynecology, Drugs used in Urinary tract disorders, Drugs used in Anesthesia and Antidotes, Immunological products and Vaccines, Drugs acting on the Skin and Drugs acting on the treatment of Gastro intestinal system.

- Medical Supplies Division coordinated to conduct 311 Drug & Therapeutic Committee meetings in 2023. New circular was sent to all line ministry institutions, PDHS Offices & RDHS Offices. Line Ministry Institutions - once a month, PDHS Offices - once in three meetings, RDHS Offices once in two months. MSD coordinated to conduct 250 meetings at Line ministry institutions, 92 meetings at ROHS offices & 9 meetings at PDHS Offices.
- Establishment and Implementation of Antimicrobial Consumption (AMC) Surveillance System for Sri Lanka under the guidance of the WHO Sri Lanka country office of the SEARO. Initial workshops were conducted with the collaboration of State Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC), State Pharmaceutical Corporation (SPC) and National Medicine Quality Assurance Laboratory (NMQUAL) and MSD.
- Successfully completed the training program on --supply Chain management for 66 Medical Supplies
- Assistants (MSAs) at Medical Supplies Division, with further training for other categories planned ahead.

### Ongoing Development Project Details

The project 'Improving Stores Facilities of Line Ministry Institutions, RMSDs and Base Hospitals in All Provinces' has been carried out successfully during the year 2023 & 2024.

Year	Allocation (Rs.Mn)	Expenditure (Rs.Mn)	Financial Progress %	Target	Achievement	Physical Progress %
2023	167.5	107.5	64.18	54	50	92.59

*The table illustrates the physical & financial progress achieved in the year 2023.*

Year	Allocation (Rs.Mn)	Total Issued Allocation (Rs.l\1n)	Institution n for the year 2024	Number institutions (issued remain111g Allocation)	Total Expenditure (Rs.Mn) number of Instituti ons	Financial Progress %
2024	374	261.02	45	32	77	53.2
						20
						-

The table illustrates the total issued allocation and number of total institutions in the year 2024.

### The value of Medical Supplies Issued from 2020 to 2024.

Name of the Category	2020 (Mn)	2021 (Mn)	2022 (Mn)	up to 2023.05.31 (according to Pronto) (Mn)	W23.06.01 - 2(123.12.31 (according to S..YASTHA) (Mn)	2023 Total	2024 up to 2024.06.15
Pharmaceutical	45,219	8,161	64,725	31,412	81,773	112,184	44,097
Surgical	18,835	26,069	18,079	12,165	15,707	27,872	13,020
Laboratory	4,206	10,221	3,962	2,063	3,776	5,839	11,538

This table shows the issued value of medical supplies from the year 2020 to 2024.

### Special Development Activities Planned.

- Following project proposal were submitted under the Primary Health care Enhancing Project.
  - ✓ Strengthening the availability of medical supplies through improving Store Facilities of Central level store. Divisional Hospitals (type B & C). Primary Health Care Units (PMC ) in all Provinces and improving transport facilities (project period 2024 -- 2028).
  - ✓ Training Programme on Phannacovigilance for Healthcare Professionals in island wide health care institutions.
  - ✓ Purchasing 20 cool lorries to transport medical supplies.
  - ✓ Purchasing 15 forklifts to use Medical Supplies Division's Stores purposes.
- Staff In-service Trainings
  - ✓ Scheduled training on Improving Quality Assurance 111 Pharmaceutica Procurement for Stock control Officers at Medical Supplies Division.
  - ✓ Scheduled in - service trainings for Assistants Direct0rs, Public Management Assistants and Development Officers
- Submitted project proposals to World Health Organization (WHO) to conduct formulary revision for surgical items and laboratory items in the year 2025.



## 5 Infrastructure Development

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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

The Division of Biomedical Engineering Services (BES) of the Ministry of Health 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.

- Training for end users and technical staff.
- Facilities for internships/ industrial training of engineering undergraduates/students in government and private institutions.
- Technical expertise/consultancy/recommendation for medical equipment.
- Issuing condemning certificates for the medical equipment.
- Management of medical equipment in hospitals.

The BES has workshop facilities for equipment repairs and warehouse facilities for equipment & spare parts storage.

### Staff details

Technical Staff		Non-Technical Staff	
Director/DDG (cover up)	01	Accountant	01
Biomedical Engineer	14	Administrative Officer	01
Foreman	40	Development Officers	14
Technician	41	Management Assistant	21
		Medical Supplier Assistant	08
		SKS	63
		Drivers	13

BES has regional biomedical engineering units in the line ministry hospitals as follows.

- Anuradhapura TH
- Badulla PH
- Kandy NH
- Jaffna TH
- Batticaloa TH
- Ragama TH
- 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 to achieve 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 2024

- Distributed medical equipment

No	Name of the Equipment	Issued Qty
1	Adjustable Beds	21
2	Ambu Bags	15
3	Air Compressor	01
4	Anesthetic Machine	03
5	BI PAP Machine	65
6	Blood Fluid Warmer	20
7	Blood Gas Analyzer	02
8	BP Apparatus	644
9	BP Apparatus Digital	1020
10	BP Apparatus Mercury	165
11	C PAP Machine	35
12	Hand held Doppler	09
13	Auto Clave	18
14	Defibrillator	01
15	Digital Thermometer	02
16	Bronchoscope & Thora copy System	01
17	C Arm X Ray	01
18	X-Ray Machine Static	06
19	X-Ray Machine Portable	01
20	X-Ray Machine C Arm	05
21	Ventilator Transport	90
22	Ventilator ICU	05
23	Ventilator Alarm	03
24	Ultrasound Scanner	05
25	Transport Ventilators	07

26	Transport (Portable)	02
27	Thermometer Digital	01
28	Syringe Pumps	102
29	CR System Dental	04
30	CT Simulators	01
31	CTG Machine	25
32	Dental Chair	29
33	ECG Machine	18
34	Emergency Trolley	30
35	Fingertip Pulse Oximeter	125
36	Fingertip Pulse	70
37	Fluid Warmer	19
38	Fully Automated Bio Chemistry Analyzer	01
39	Fully Automated Nucleic Acid	01
40	Gastroscope	02
41	Hand Held Doppler	09
42	Hand Held Doppler	04
43	High Flow Oxygen Machine	60
44	High Pressure Sterilizer	03
45	Hormone Analyzer	03
46	ICU Beds	26
47	ICU Monitors	05
48	Infusion Pump	63
49	IR Thermometer	05
50	Medical Manikins	09
51	Multi-Monitor (WD)	46
52	Multipara Monitor (OT)	17
53	Multipara Monitor ICU	19
54	Nebulizer	103
55	OAE Machine	01

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56	Oxygen Concentrator	53
57	Suction Apparatus (DJ)	24
58	Suction Apparatus SJ	17
59	Sucker SJ	17

60	Sucker (DJ)	08
61	Saline Stand	02
62	Refrigerator	01
63	Thermometer Digital	03
64	IR Thermometer	05

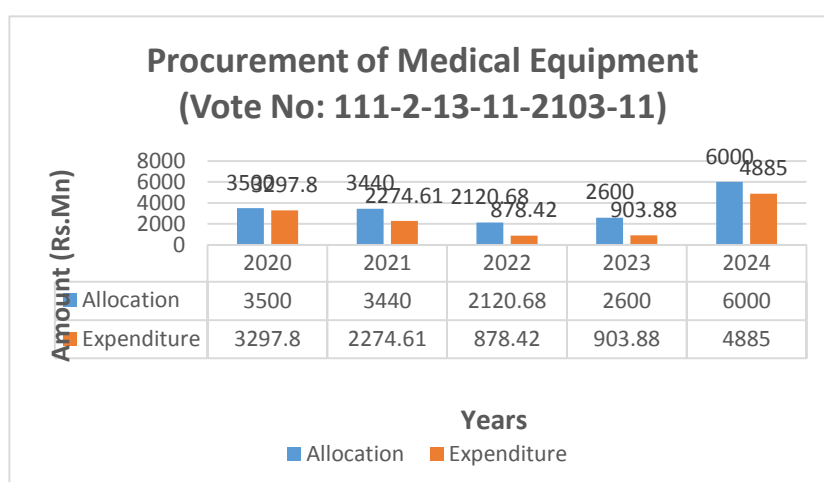
- Total value of procured new medical equipment by BES and hospitals: Rs. 4,885 million
- Total value of repaired/upgraded medical equipment and entered in to service contracts: Rs. 6,000 million

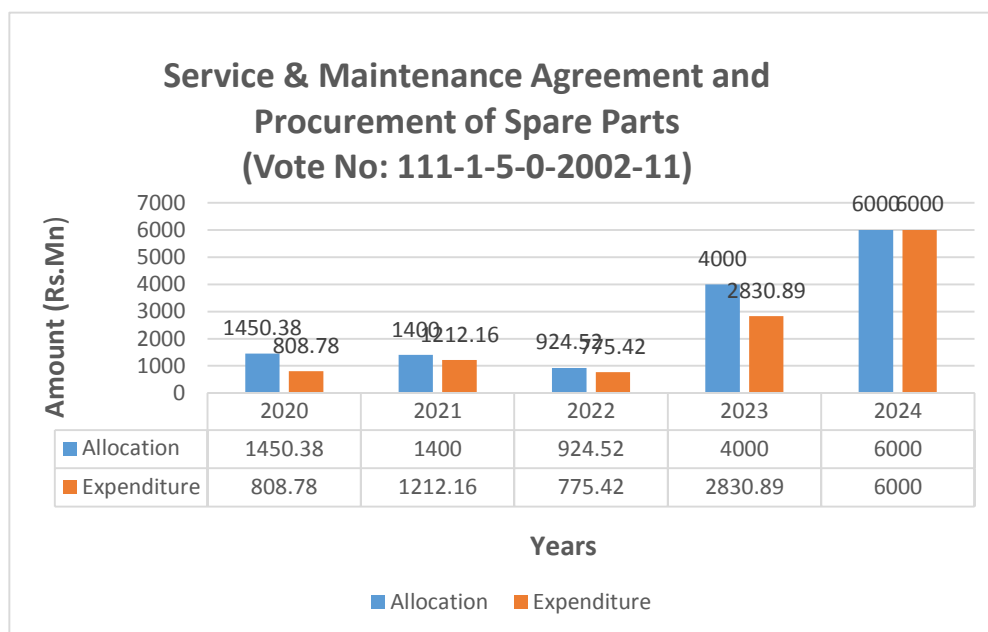
### Ongoing Development Project Details

- The Project of Capacity Building of Biomedical Engineering Service in Sri Lanka

Project Description	Estimated Cost (USD)	Physical Progress by 31/12/2024	Financial Progress by 31/12/2024
BES Renovation	1,675,153.00	10%	20%
Mobile Workshop	457,721.00	90%	0%
Medical Equipment Inventory Management System (MEIMS)	569,724.00	5%	0%
BME Tools and Equipment	2,581,150.00	30%	3%
Capacity building Training Programs	416,253.00	10%	0%

### Last 05 years Performance Trend





All the above figures up to 31/12/2024

### Special Development activities planned for 2024

- 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 of medical equipment for biomedical engineering staff.
- Foreign technical training programs for biomedical engineering staff.
- Implementation of web-based system for biomedical equipment selection and prioritization.

## 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, 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 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

- **Infrastructure Development:** Design and construct state-of-the-art healthcare facilities that meet the evolving needs of the population.
- **Maintenance and Upgrades:** Ensure the continuous maintenance and timely upgrades of existing health infrastructure to uphold safety and operational standards.
- **Compliance and Standards:** Maintain strict adherence to national and international health, safety, and environmental regulations in all engineering projects.
- **Sustainability:** Implement environmentally sustainable practices in all phases of project development to minimize ecological impact and promote resource efficiency.



- **Innovation and Technology:** Integrate the latest technological advancements and innovative solutions into healthcare infrastructure projects to improve functionality and patient care.
- **Collaboration and Partnership:** Foster strong partnerships with government agencies, private sector entities, and international organizations to enhance project outcomes and share best practices.
- **Capacity Building:** Invest in the continuous professional development of our team to ensure the highest levels of expertise and efficiency in project execution.
- **Efficient Resource Management:** Optimize resource allocation and management to deliver projects on time and within budget, ensuring maximum value for investment.

### Achievement/Special Events

The Engineering Division of the Ministry of Health is proud to highlight several significant achievements and special events from the year 2023. Our dedicated team has worked tirelessly to advance healthcare infrastructure, ensuring the highest standards of safety, efficiency, and sustainability.

### Ongoing Development Project Details

No	Name of the Project	Total Estimated Cost (Rs.Mn)	Physical Progress % 2024.06.30	Financial Progress %- 2024.06.30
1	Kalubowila Construction of Millenium Ward,PCU & Paramedical Services Building ( Balance work )(9storey building with basement)	989	97%	77%
2	Lunawa Hospital Improvements to Lunawa hospital Construction of 5 storey building	1035	35%	29%
3	Rehabilitation of Hospital(6 storey)(Negombo)	692	100%	91%
4	Construction of Administration Building	181	99%	80%

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	( Phase II )(4 storey)(Kalutara)			
5	Construction of intern doctor's quarters(3 storey)(Kalutara)	137	95%	89%
6	Construction of ambulance garage & minor staff rest(3 storey)(Kalutara)	57	100%	70%
7	Construction of Medical Ward Complex ( stage II )(8 storey)(Kalutara)	2818	45%	8%
8	Construction of Water Tank(300m3)(Kalutara)	34	100%	100%
9	Six Storyed Building with a Surgical Theatre-BH Horana	1330	11%	18%
10	Construction of MOH office (2 storey)(Payagala)	73	100%	79%
11	Construction of Oral Health Unit (8 storey) TH Karapitiya	997	45%	17%
12	Extension of Surgical / Medical Units (10 storey)(Karapitiya)	690	20%	18%
13	Cardiac Unit-GH-Ratnapura	1075	15%	09%
14	Cathlab (3 storey)-GH-Ampara	355	10%	14%

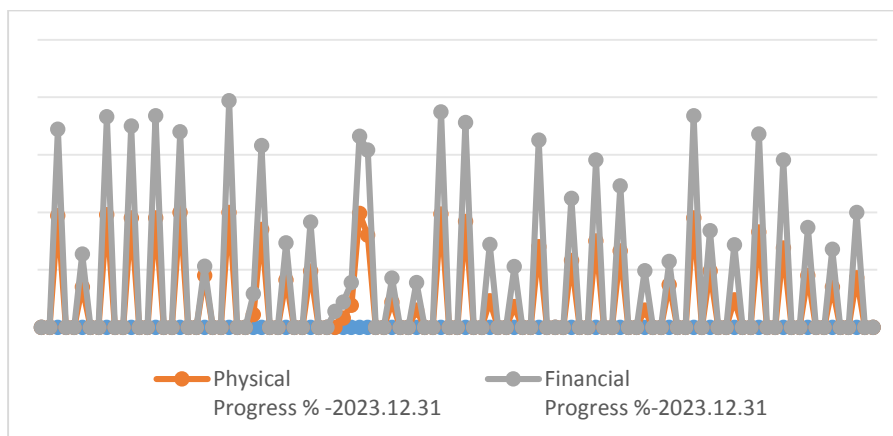
15	The New building complex at Nindavur (8 storey 2 buildings) -BH - Nindavur	4163	19%	19%
16	Maternity Complex stage 111(8 storey)- Kurunagala	915	100%	93%
17	Construction of Theatre complex & ward (3 storey)(chilaw)	85	80%	20%
18	Construction of Ten storied building at the Provincial General Hospital two buildings(10 storey and oncology 3 storey)(Badulla)	2836	22%	19%
19	Proposed Ward Complex at District Hospital Monaragala (5 storey)	793	15%	24%
20	Nephrology Unit (9 storey)(Karapitiya)	885	100%	89%
21	Construction of Renal care Treatment Unit (6 storey)(Batticalo)	384	92%	58%
22	Construction of Renal care Treatment Unit(4 storey)(Hambantota)	210	45%	17%
23		668	18%	23%

	Construction of Renal care Treatment Unit(10 storey)(Badulla)			
24	DMH Construction of Specialized Maternity Care (4 storey)(Last two floors internal finishes not within the scope.)	250	65%	31%
25	CSHW Construction of Head office Building (17 storey)	5980	61%	22%
26	Castle Construction of Reproductive Treatment Center (2 storey)	105	81%	71%
27	LRH Little heart Centre- 12 storey with piling	2440	68%	29%
28	Faculty of Nursing(20 storey) and Accomadation building (6 storey)(Sri Jayawardenapura)	7172	15%	34%
29	Construction of Acadamic & Administration Building(4 storey)(Kaluthara)	714	39%	33%
30	Proposed Deyata Kirula Special Developments for NTS Lecture Hall (4 storey) Administrative Building Hostel Building(Matara)	776	98%	90%
31		789	49%	35%

2025

	Construction of Academic & Administration Building(Anuradhapura)			
32	Specialized Children Unit (2 wings 7& 14 storey)(Karapitiya)	1092	24%	15%
33	Construction of Cardiology Unit (4 storey)(Batticalo)	324	90%	57%
34	Construction of Accident & Emergency Treatment Unit,Stage II(Jaffna)	1225	71%	47%
35	Medical ward complex (6 Storey)(Chilaw)	584	45%	41%
36	Construction of Bone Marrow Transplant Unit to Cure Thalassiemia Patients(7 storey)(6+basement and ground)(Kandy)	1702	65%	35%
37	Construction of cancer Treatment unit (Stage 2) (12 storey) (Kandy)	1500	60%	57%

## Last 5 year performance Trend



In 2023 the above projects are taken over by engineering division from Logistic Division.

## Special Development Activities planned for 2024

For the year 2024, it was expected to achieve the progress given in the below table for each project.

No	Name of the Project	Total Estimate d Cost (Rs.Mn)	Physical Expected Progress % - 2024.12.31	Financial Expected Progress %- 2024.12.31	Remarks
1	Kalubowila Construction of Millenium Ward,PCU & Paramedical Services Building ( Balance work )(9storey building with basement)	989	100%	100%	
2	Lunawa Hospital Improvements to Lunawa hospital Construction of 5 storey building	1035	35%	29%	Temporary Suspended
3	Rehabilitation of Hospital(6 storey) (Negombo)	692	100%	100%	



4	Construction of Administration Building ( Phase II )(4 storey)(Kalutara)	181	100%	100%	
5	Construction of intern doctor's quarters(3 storey)(Kalutara)	137	100%	100%	
6	Construction of ambulance garage & minor staff rest(3 storey)(Kalutara)	57	100%	100%	
7	Construction of Medical Ward Complex ( stage II )(8 storey)(Kalutara)	2818	45%	8%	Temporary Suspended
8	Construction of Water Tank(300m3)(Kalutara)	34	100%	100%	
9	Six Storyed Building with a Surgical Theatre-BH Horana	1330	11%	18%	Temporary Suspended
10	Construction of MOH office (2 storey)(Payagala)	73	100%	100%	
11	Construction of Oral Health Unit (8 storey) TH Karapitiya	997	41	32%	Temporary Suspended
12	Extension of Surgical / Medical Units (10 storey)(Karapitiya)	690	75%	75%	
13	Cardiac Unit-GH-Ratnapura	1075	0%	14%	Temporary Suspended

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14	Cathlab (3 storey)-GH-Ampara	355	8%	14%	Temporary Suspended
15	The New building complex at Nindavur (8 storey 2 buildings) -BH - Nindavur	4163	19%	20%	Temporary Suspended
16	Maternity Complex stage III (8 storey)-Kurunagala	915	100%	100%	
17	Construction of Theatre complex & ward (3 storey)(chilaw)	85	100%	100%	
18	Construction of Ten storied building at the Provincial General Hospital two buildings(10 storey and oncology 3 storey)(Badulla)	2836	22%	21%	Temporary Suspended
19	Proposed Ward Complex at District Hospital Monaragala (5 storey)	793	15%	24%	Temporary Suspended
20	Nephrology Unit (9 storey)(Karapitiya)	885	100%	100%	
21	Construction of Renal care Treatment Unit (6 storey)(Batticalo)	384	95%	90%	Temporary Suspended
22	Construction of Renal care Treatment Unit(4 storey)(Hambantota)	210	23%	49%	Temporary Suspended
23	Construction of Renal care Treatment Unit(10 storey)(Badulla)	668	18%	35%	Temporary Suspended

24	DMH Construction of Specialized Maternity Care (4 storey)(Last two floors internal finishes not within the scope.)	250	100%	100%	
25	CSHW Construction of Head office Building (17 storey)	5980	65%	60%	
26	Castle Construction of Reproductive Treatment Center (2 storey)	105	95%	95%	
27	LRH Little heart Centre-12 storey with piling	2440	90%	85%	
28	Faculty of Nursing(20 storey) and Accomadation building (6 storey)(Sri Jayawardenapura)	7172	15%	34%	Temporary Suspended
29	Construction of Academic & Administration Building(4 storey)(Kaluthara)	714	37%	20%	Temporary Suspended
30	Proposed Deyata Kirula Special Developments for NTS Lecture Hall (4 storey) Administrative Building Hostel Building(Matara)	776	100%	100%	
31	Construction of Academic & Administration Building(Anuradhapura)	789	75%	70%	
32		1092	24%	48%	

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	Specialized Children Unit (2 wings 7& 14 storey)(Karapitiya)				Temporary Suspended
33	Construction of Cardiology Unit (4 storey)(Batticalo)	324	100%	100%	
34	Construction of Accident & Emergency Treatment Unit,Stage II(Jaffna)	1225	90%	85%	
35	Medical ward complex (6 Storey)(Chilaw)	584	45%	42%	Temporary Suspended
36	Construction of Bone Marrow Transplant Unit to Cure Thalassiemia Patients(7 storey)(6+basement and ground)(Kandy)	1702	65%	60%	
37	Construction of cancer Treatment unit (Stage 2) (12 storey) (Kandy)	1500	70%	65%	

### 5.3 Special Foreign Funded Projects

Project Description		Total Estimated Cost (Rs. Mn)
1	Primary Health Care Systems Strengthening project (PSSP)-GOSL-WB	36,440.00
2	Development Ambulatory Care center (OPD) of NHSL (GOSL China)	14,600.00
3	Helmut Khol Maternity Hospital Karapitiya, Galle (GOSL - Germany - kfw)	4,480.00
4	Upgrading Health Facilities of Selected Hospitals (EXIM Bank of china)	15,292.00
5	A Neonatal and Obstetrics Reference Center for the De Zoyza Maternity Hospital (France-HNB)	830.00
6	Health System Enhancement Project ADB	10,500.00
7	Health and Medical Service Improvement Project (GOSL - JICA)	16,594.00
8	Sri Lanka COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project - (WB-GOSL)	79,614.00
9	Capacity Building of Biomedical Engineering Service in Sri Lanka (KOICA)	634.00
10	Health System Enhancement Project – Additional Financing (ADB)	24540.00
11	Global Fund to Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)	1,548.00

## 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 Vehicle	Over 2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
AMBULANCE	702	30	12	-	250	87				03	192						1276
DOUBLE CAB	403	09		92							03						621
CARS	48			05													58
LORRIES	120													09			03 132
VANS	93	03		09			17		48	07				09			- 186
MINI VANS	30	-															30
BOWSER	09	-															09
JEEPS	122	1		-			02	-02		02				-			- 129
BUSES	76	-			-					08	05						89
REF LORRY	11	-			10												21
THREE WHEELER	53	-			-												53
B/C VEHICLE	07	-			-												07



# PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

VANS (MOB)	34	-			-												34
XRAY VEHICLE	1	-			-												01
CREW CABS	10	-		-	-	10											20
MOTOR CYCLES	1010	125		140	150	-		05					-				1430
MINI TRUCKS	-	-															50
TRACTOR																	02
TOTAL																	4150

## 6. Human Resource Development

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### 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

### 1. 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 2024 is given in following

#### *Profile of basic training programmes and Degree Holders carried out in 2024*

S. No	Category of staff	Number recruited During 2023	Number completed the training During 2023	Number recruited During 2024	Number completed During 2024
1	Nursing Officers (Basic Training)	3047	2615	1973	3622
2	Medical Lab. Technicians	0	187 (BSc)	0	0
3	Pharmacists	0	0	0	94
4	Physiotherapists	0	0	0	0
5	Occupational therapists	0	0	0	47
6	Radiographers	0	27 (BSc)	0	52
7	Public Health Midwives	0	219	1117	976
8	Public Health Inspectors	0	0	0	321
9	Health Entomology Officers	0	0	0	29
10	Electro – Cardiographers (ECG)	0	0	0	57
11	Electro-encephalograph Recordists	0	0	0	17

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12	Ophthalmic technicians	0	8	0	24
13	Dental Technicians	0	9	0	15
14	School dental therapists	0	13	0	37
15	Public health laboratory Technician	0	0	0	5
16	Prosthetics & Orthotics	0	7	0	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3047</b>	<b>2665</b>	<b>3148</b>	<b>5280</b>

- **Post Basic Training for nursing officers**

*Categories of post basic training programmes carried out in 2024 with numbers of Nursing Officers recruited and number completed the training*

Training Programme	Duration	Number Recruited		Number completed	
		2023	2024	2023	2024
Psychiatric Nursing Training	6months	100	55	0	55
Teaching & Supervision	1 1/2 Year	27	0	27	0
Ward Management& Supervision	1 1/2 Year	0	0	0	0
Midwifery Training	6months	0	386	0	0
Public Health Nursing Officer	1 1/2 Year	81	84	81	84
Public Health Nursing Sister	1 1/2 Year	0	0	116	0
Community Psychiatric Nursing	6months	0	0	0	0
Intensive care Nursing	1 Year	0	149	0	0
Palliative Nursing	1 Year	0	0	33	0
Public Health Nursing Tutor	6months	25	0	0	0

## 2. 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 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 itself, 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 for Group Training Programmes , Individual Training Programmes**

Category of Health Personnel	Group Training	Individual Training
Consultants	445	0
Medical Officers	2106	0
Nursing Officers	4584	1
PSM /Para categories	1049	0
PPO/PPA/DO/HMA/MA	510	1
Health Assistants	1098	1
Other staff	486	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>10278</b>	<b>15</b>

- **Other Programmes**

## **Development of Training Centers for Public Health Midwives**

### **Introduction**

Sri Lanka aims to strengthen maternal and child health by training 1,000 midwifery students in 2024 through newly established Schools of Midwifery. 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

- To conduct a standard training programme for the enrolled students of the pre-service Midwifery Training programme students.
- To ensure the deliverance of a standard, evidence based training to the pre-service Midwifery Training programme students

### **Achievements/Special Events**

- Two day Residential Sensitization programme for Midwifery Facilitators
- Two day Residential Sensitization programme for All Stakeholders
- Two day Residential Sensitization programme for Medical Administrators
- Appointing the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Four day Residential Life Skills programme for Life skill module lectures of PHM Training
- Opening of School of Midwifery
- Curriculum Upgrade Initiation with UNFPA
- Development for M&E Plan for midwifery training
- Development of Learning Management system (LMS) with Content Development
- Development of Resource Repository for Curriculum
- Development of Training Centers of Mahamodara, Narahenpita, Batticaloa and Kiribathgoda.



## 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

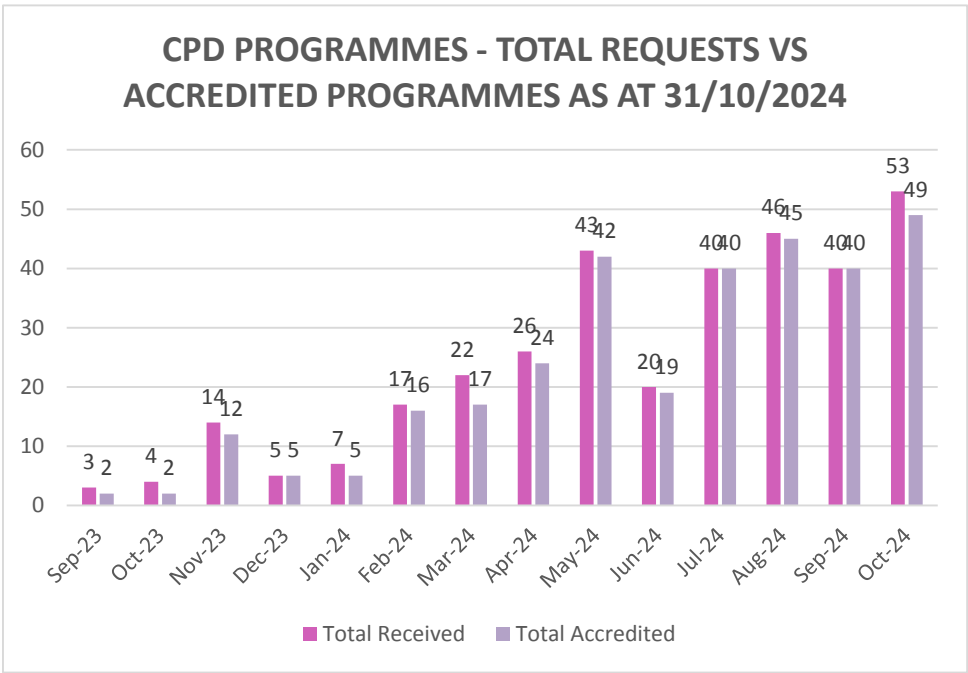
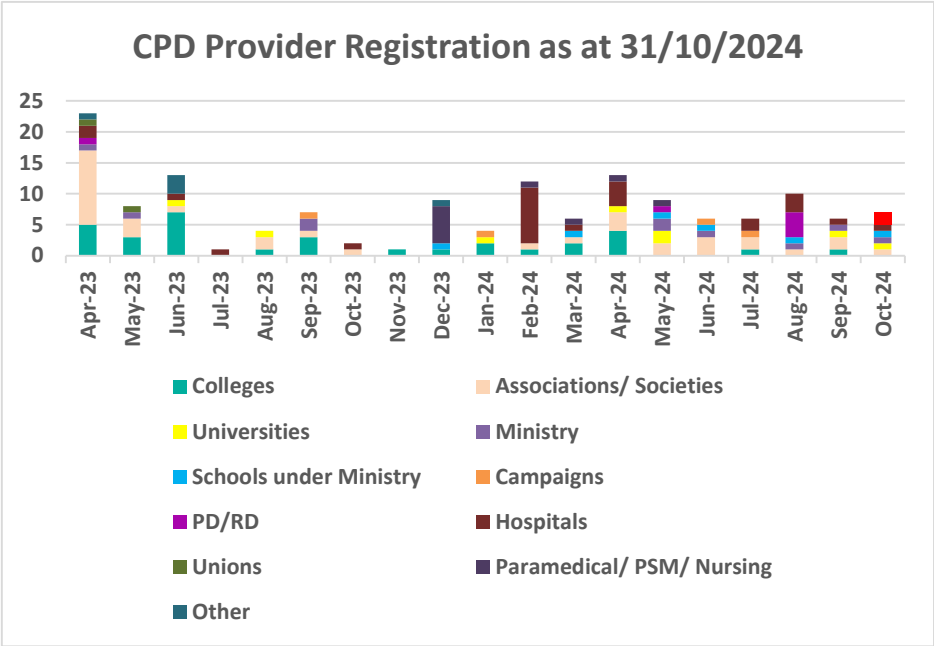
To provide accessible, high-quality learning opportunities that support career growth, improve performance, and drive innovation in professional practice.

### Objectives

- To develop Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes of the Healthcare professionals in order to achieve safe and quality healthcare service delivery in Sri Lanka,
- To generate National CPD points system for healthcare professionals with international standard that is recognized by the global healthcare system,
- To facilitate by using the generated CPD points for financial incentives, scholarships, and career development,
- To use the NCPD programme for Annual appraisal and Revalidation similar to developed countries.

### Achievements/Special Events

- Launching Of National CPD Programme



### Special Training Programmes conducted by ET&R Unit - 2024

- Training Programme for Govt. Procurement Process for Health Staff with SLFI
- Conducted 03 Radiation Protection Training Programme for 73 radiographers
- Workshop on mentorship for Nursing Officers
- Financial Regulations Training Programme (online) for Health staff with SLFI
- Workshop on Supply chain Management for 82 Supply Assistants
- Conducted 10 Programmes on Anti Microbial Stewardship programme (provincials) for about 1100 MOs, NOs, MLTs, Pharmacists with college of Microbiology
- Ultra sound Scane Training programme for Medical Officers
- Office Management Training programme for Health Staff with SLFI
- programme on Essentials in Nursing Care collaboration with SC of Physicians NHSL Colombo, NH Kandy, DH Monaragala
- Purchasing books for the library of NHSL, Family Health Bur. & ET&R Unit
- Awareness Training programme on Right Act for Health Staff

## 3. 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 2024

The finalization of health research priorities for Sri Lanka stands as one of the most significant achievements of the year.

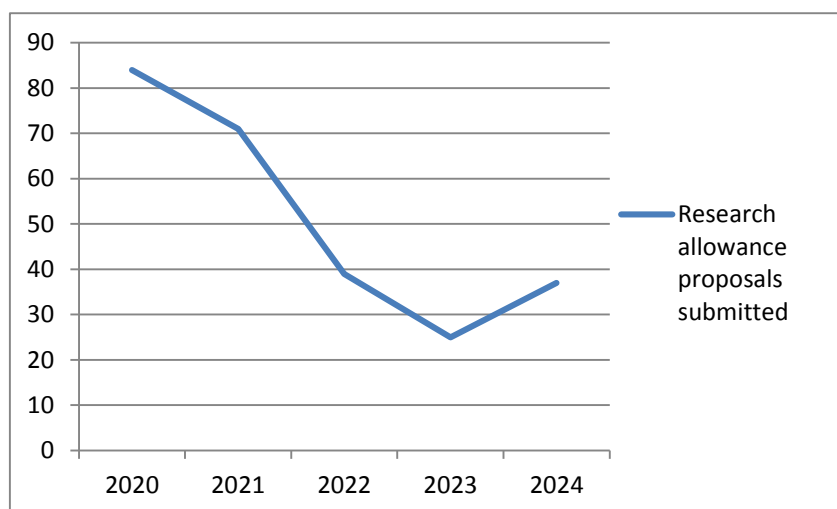
## Ongoing Development project details

Project description	Total estimate cost	Physical progress by 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024	Financial progress by 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024
Research Methodology Workshop with Hands on Training-1	Rs.226,000.00	Completed	Rs.226,000.00
Research Methodology Workshop with Hands on Training-2	Rs.172,300.00	Completed	Rs.161,047.00
Research Methodology Workshop with Hands on Training-3	Rs. 181,700.00	Completed	Rs. 174,287.00
Scientific Research Symposium-2024 of Teaching Hospital Peradeniya	Rs.226,000.00	Completed	Rs. 226,000.00
Workshop 1- Identification of Health Research Priorities	Rs.332,007.75	Completed	Rs.332,007.75
Workshop 2- Identification of Health Research Priorities	Rs. 304,804.80	Completed	Rs.229,804.00
Workshop on enhancing ethical oversight for institution based Ethics	Rs.482,288.12	Completed	Rs.460,688.34

Review Committees			
Granting of administrative clearance for health related research	N/A	Number of research projects submitted-17 -Administrative clearance was granted for 7 research projects	N/A
Development of ERC guideline	N/A	Awaiting WHO proposal approval	
Development and submitting of ToR for Research Management Committee to Research Supervision Committee	N/A	Completed	N/A
Processing of health research projects for research allowance	N/A	New submission-40 Submission of research progress reports- 16 Final research reports submissions -34	
Development and finalization of a methodology to assess Scientific Service officers for grade promotion through the second efficiency bar examination by means of research.	N/A	30 research projects had been submitted for evaluation	N/A

### Last five years performance trend

Last five years performance trend of new proposal summation



*Figure: Submission of Research Proposals*

### Identification of health research priority workshops



### Workshop for ERC members







### Last 5 years Performance Trend of Education Training & Research Unit

N o.	Indicator	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1.	Number enrolled in Basic Training	835	4489	-	1664	3047
2.	Number of Trainees successfully completed	2541	1853	812	1170	2665
4	Number of trainees of Post Basic Nursing Training completed	173	751	952	1198	257
5.	Number of In-Service Training programmes conducted	Group Tr - 708 Indivi.Tr - 358 Langue Tr.110	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
6	Number of Research proposals received for research allowance payment	114	29	97	135	71

## 7. Corporation Board Managed Institutes

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### 7.1 State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC)



#### **Brief Introduction of State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation**

State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC) was established in 1987 under the Industrial Corporation Act No. 49 of 1957. SPMC has completed 37 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.

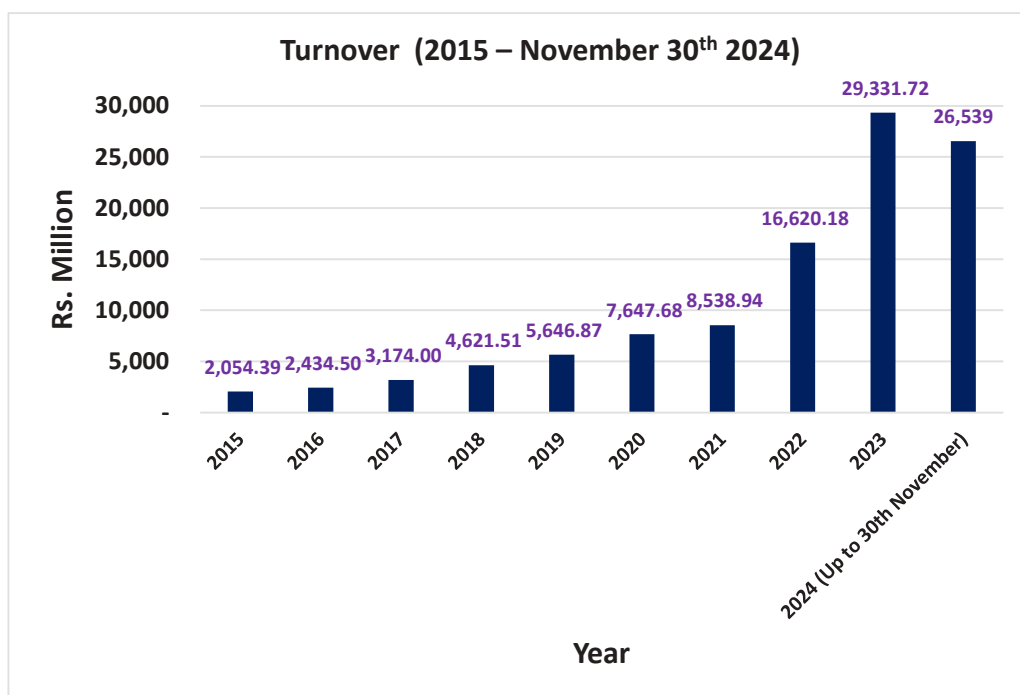
### **Human Resources Development up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.**

Category	Number of Employees
Senior Manager	19
Junior Manager	37
Technical Staff	144
Non-Technical Staff	32
Minor Staff	91
Trainees	19
Contract	-
Total	342

### **Major Achievements**

#### **Sales and Performance from 01<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (Rs. in million)**

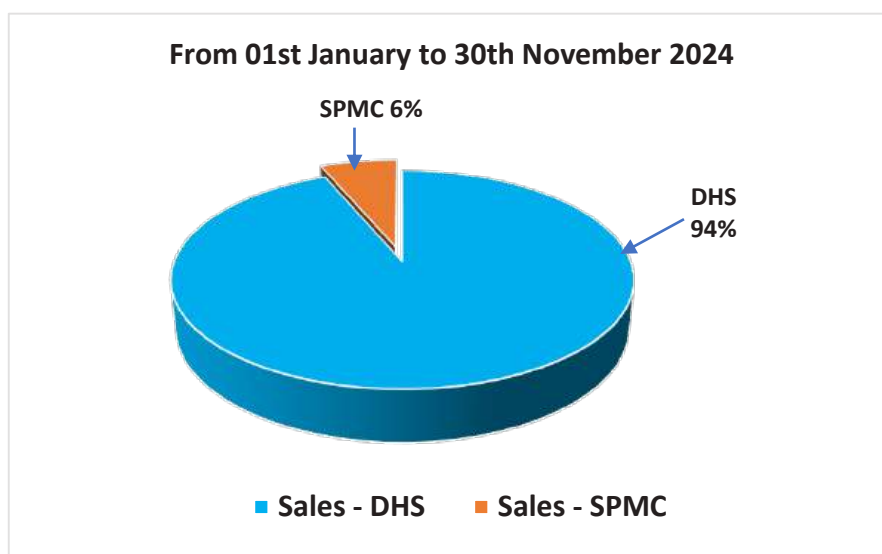
Sales	26,539
Operating Profit	2,322
Net Profit before Tax	2,896
Net Profit after Tax	2,027



*The total output from 01<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 was 2966.927 million-unit tablets / capsules.*

**Sales Channel from 01<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Sales Composition	Value (Rs.m.)	%
Department of Health Services	24,842	94%
SPMC Direct Distribution Network	1,697	6%
State Pharmaceuticals Corporation	-	-
Total	26,539	



## Development Work

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in collaboration with the Ministry of Power and Energy (MoPE) and the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority (SLSEA), has successfully implemented a state-of-the-art Disease Resilient and Energy Efficient Centralized Air Conditioning System. This system is able to monitor and control air quality inside the area. Advantage of the system is that people working in the area are exposed to less air pollution and microbes.
- Penicillin zone development work has been completed under the Sri Lanka – World Bank COVID 19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness project – CERHSP. Nearly 37 years old penicillin zone of SPMC was totally refurbished and new machineries were installed to increase the capacity through this project.
- SPMC is planning to establish a new oral solid dosage form plant in Millawa, Horana. A land was acquired on 99 lease agreement from Urban Development Authority (UDA). Currently, a consultant procurement committee has been appointed to select a consultant to do a feasibility study.
- Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of new Chiller System including Piping and Building Automation with Billing System is still in progress.
- The construction of two-storied building for finished products storage to optimize storage conditions is in progress.
- 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.

**Introduction of New Products in 2024 (Registration Obtained)**

- I. Celecoxib Capsules 200mg
- II. Montelukast Tablets IP 5mg
- III. Methylprednisolone Tablets USP 4mg
- IV. Montelukast Tablets IP 10mg

**SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2025**

1. Planning to establish oral solid dosage forms manufacturing plant in Millawa, Horana.
2. New Products to be introduced
  - Metformin Tablets BP 850mg
  - Esomeprazole GR Tablets IP 20mg
  - Telmisartan Tablets IP 20mg
  - Telmisartan Tablets IP 40mg
  - Levetiracetam Tablets USP 250mg
  - Mycophenolate Mofetil Tablets USP 250mg
  - Sitagliptin Tablets BP 100mg
  - Metformin HCL SR Tablets IP 500mg
  - Doxycycline Capsules 100mg
  - Nifedipine Tablets 20mg
3. SPMC is planning to expand laboratory facilities for quality control activities with a grant from Chinese government.



## 7.2 State Pharmaceuticals Corporation (SPC)

The State Pharmaceuticals Corporation (SPC) was established in 1971 to provide safe, effective, quality assured healthcare products at affordable prices.

During the year 2024, SPC achieved its Goals and Objectives by rendering a remarkable service to public.

During the period of 01<sup>st</sup> January - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024, SPC has recorded a turnover of Rs. 52,602 Million.

By achieving the above mentioned turnovers, SPC has earned Rs. 1,823 Million profit before tax for the period ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024. In addition to procuring and supplying pharmaceuticals and surgical consumables worth of Rs. 42 Billion for requirements of the Medical Supplies Division, SPC recorded a sale of Rs. 10 Billion in the open market.

Expansion of the Osu Sala network to reach record number of 63 branches by adding 11 branches during 2024 is helped SPC to achieve above mentioned sale. In addition to expanding the Osu sala network, arranged 40 Subharathi programmes, at SLBC Swadeshiya Channel, 14 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 in line with objectives of the corporation.

In the area of Human Resources Management, we have generated 80 new employments in line with expanding the organization during the year ended 2024.

### 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 acres 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 09<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Hospital Details

Utilization & Facility Details		
No of Wards	05 Wards	
No of Beds	118	
No of Specialist Available		
	Consultants on permanent basis (Consultant Surgeon, 02 nos Consultant Eye Surgeon )	- 3
	Consultants attached from Ministry ( Consultant Anesthetist )	-1
	Consultants attached from Ministry 1(Consultant Physician)	-

## Human Resource Details

Designation	Existing Cadre(In-position) as at 31/12/2024	
	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	17	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	77	0

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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 Stewards	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	59	0
Total	204	3
Total	207	

*Includes, Chief Medical Office work as Director(Duty Coverup)  
Nursing Sister work as Special Grade Nursing Officer (Acting)*

### Utilization Details

Service Rendered	Total No of Patients
Eye Surgery-Major	9789

Eye Surgery-Minor	576
General Surgery - Major	407
General Surgery - Minor	546

OPD	100505
OPD2-Injection	806
OPD2-Dressing	2532
PCU	18123
Total In Patients- WARD Admissions	15590
CLINICS	
Eye Clinics	43038
Laser Treatment	340
Dental	5261
Medical	43107
Surgical	6108
Psychiatric	2187
Well Women Clinic	137

Family Planning	10
Wound Care Unit	6419
NCD Clinic	480
Endocrine Clinic	10451
Chest/Respiratory	328
Nephrology	273
Clinic Total	
INVESTIGATIONS	
LAB	49168
X-Ray	3545
E.C.G.	4622
Endoscopy Unit	306
Refraction Test	10121
OCT Test	2850

## Achivements/ Special Events in 2024

### Innovations , New Establishments & Events

- Blood Donation Programme was held on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024
- Young Generation Diabetic Awareness Progrme held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- Young Generation Diabetic Awareness Progrme held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- Health Education Unit conducted blood sugar test for hospital staff and their family on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
- Eye Camp was conducted in Veyangoda to underprivilege people in that area on 02-06-2024.
- Reopening Ceramony of Operation Theater 01<sup>st</sup> July 2024
- Discussion with staff their duty problems by Hospital Chairperson Hon.Chandrika Bandaranayaka 03<sup>rd</sup> October 2024
- Prithenchanting Ceremony for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hospital 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- Almsgiving Ceramony for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hospital 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- Diabetic Day Program 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- Brest Cancer awareness Program 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

## 7.4 Sri Jayawardenapura General Hospital



### Introduction

Sri Jayawardenepura General Hospital was inaugurated on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 1984 and completed 39 years of excellence by the year 2023, established and empowered by the act of parliament, Sri Jayawardenepura 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

Indicator	2023
1. Number of Patient Beds	1008
2.Total Number of Patient Admissions	49854
3.No of specialists available	43

4.Number of Admissions to ICUs	2357
5.Number of Admissions through ETU	25713
6.Gyn&Obs Admission	4047
7. Average Length of Stay (Days)	4.35
8. Hospital Bed Occupancy (%)	58.57%
a. Bed Occupancy of General Ward (%)	57.80%
b. Bed Occupancy of Paying Ward(%)(Class 1)	115.42%
c. Bed Occupancy of Paying Ward(%)(Class 11)	52.05
9. Number of Out Patient Department Visits	25322
10. Number. of Emergency treatment Unit Visits	35769
11..Number of Dressings	11101
12.Number of Clinic held	4297
13. Total Number of Patients attended for Clinics	169500
14.Total Number of Blood collection	4525

## Achievements-2023 & early 2024(up to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024)

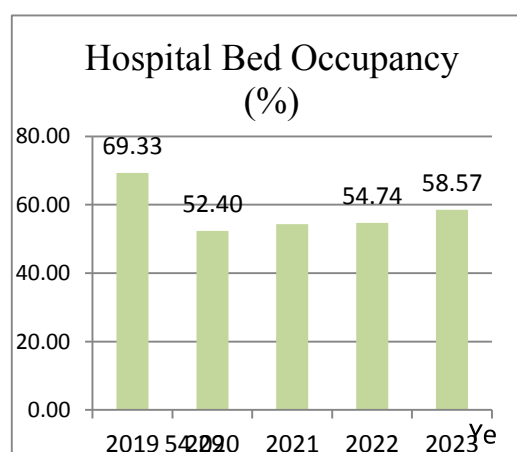
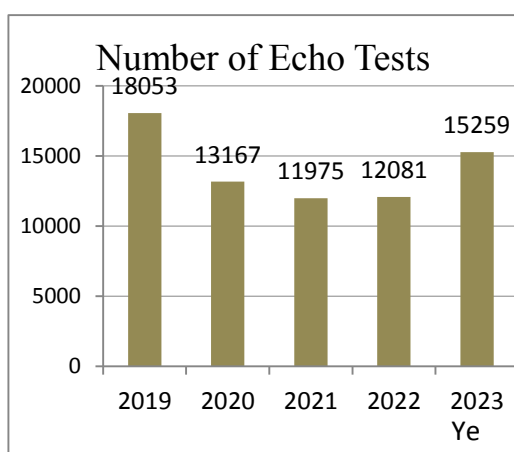
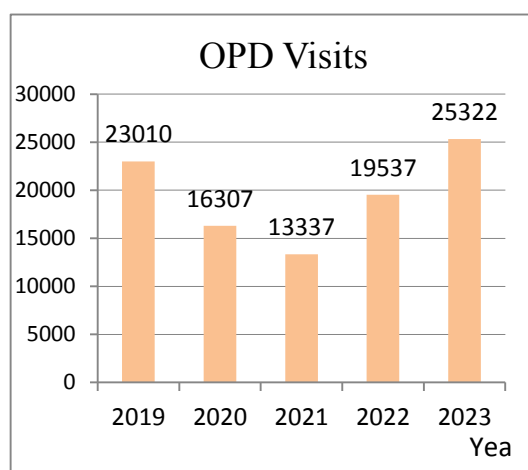
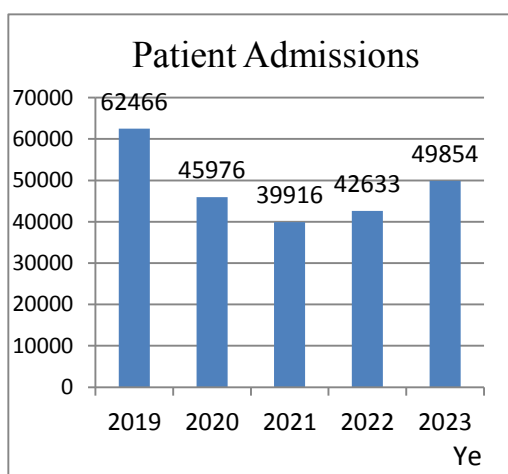
### Services Infrastructure Developments

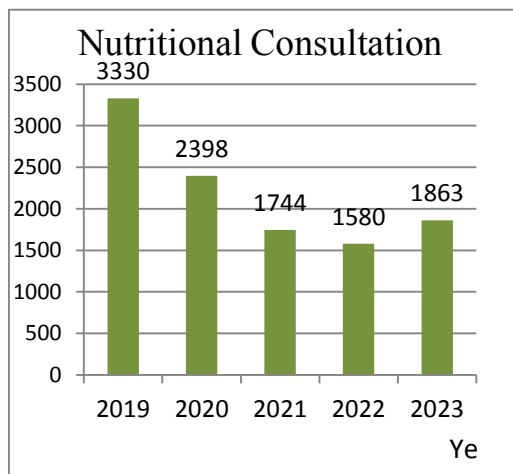
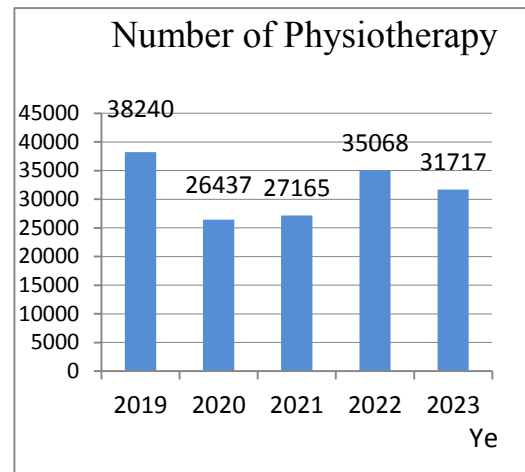
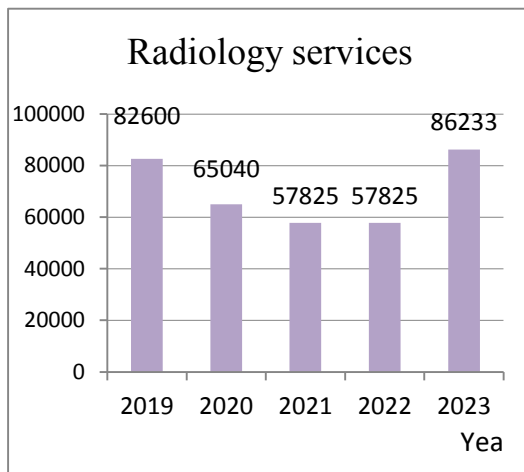
- Expansion of laboratory services
- Streamlining of emergency care
- Care giver training program parallel to NVQ4
- Enhanced performances in Cochlear Implantation surgery (ENT)
- Successful continuation of cardiac surgery
- Enhancing the water storage capacity of hospital
- Enhancing the physical condition of sanitary facilities

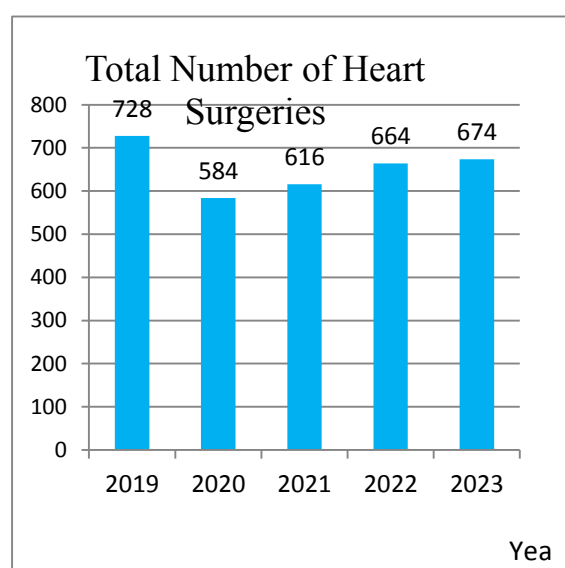
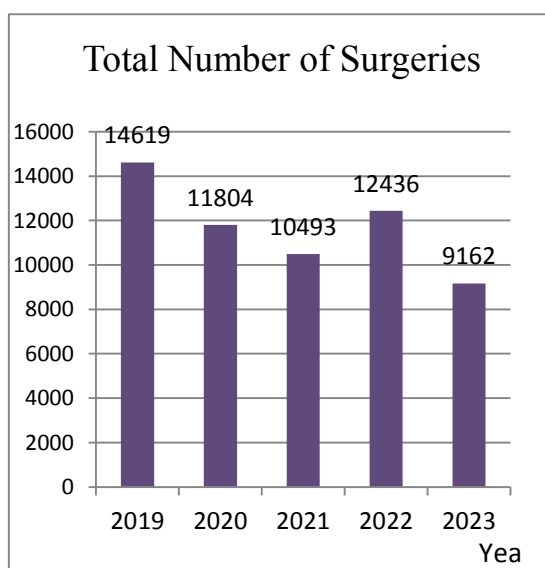
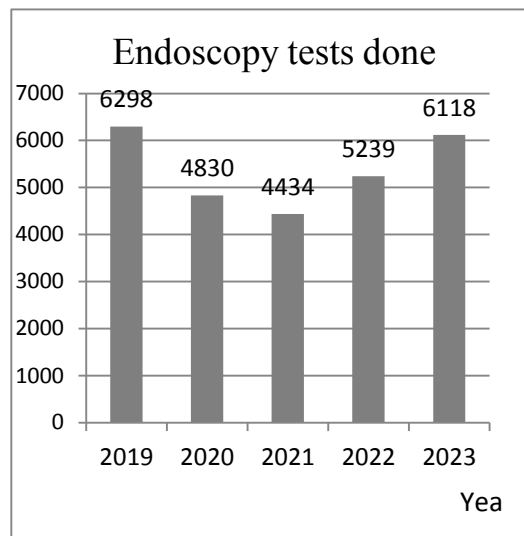
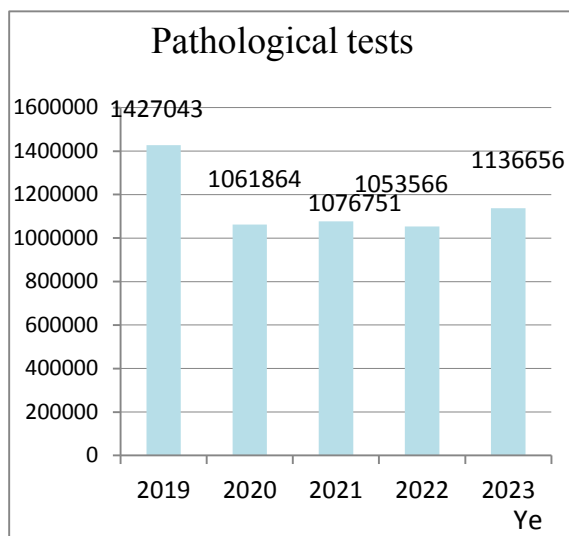
( Management has been able to formulate a stepwise plan to renovate and refurbish the buildings. This onerous task is in progress. Completion of this renovation will provide an edge to SJGH when competing with the modern private sector health facilities.)

- New training and development programs were introduced and conducted covering all categories of staff during the year 2023& up to now
- Hospital information management system is being constituted.
- 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.
- Purchase of new Medical equipment for 2023 – 2024

### Last five years performance







## 8. Private Health Sector Development

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### Introduction

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

- The development and monitoring of standards to be maintained by the registered Private Medical Institutions.
- The evaluation method of standards maintained by such Private Medical Institutions.
- To ensure that minimum qualifications for recruitment and minimum standards of personnel training are adopted by all Private Medical Institutions.
- To ensure the quality of patient care services rendered or provided by such Private Medical Institutions

### Performance of private sector healthcare services

1. Coordination of the process of amending the existing Private Medical Institutions (Registration) Act with the legal decision of the Ministry of Health.
2. Continuation of registration & renewal of private medical institutions' licensing by strengthening the capacity of provincial health authorities under the 11 categories;
  - Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes & Maternity Homes



- Medical Centers/ Screening Centers/ Day Care Medical Centers/ Channel Consultations
  - Medical Laboratories
  - Private Ambulance Services
  - Full Time Dental Surgeries
  - Full Time General Practices/ Dispensaries/ Medical Clinics
  - Full Time Medical Specialist Practices
  - Part Time Dental Surgeries
  - Part Time General Practices/ Dispensaries/ Medical Clinics
  - Part Time Medical Specialist Practices
  - Other Private Medical Institutions
3. Developing and monitoring of standards to be maintained by the registered Private Medical Institutions and acts as a method of evaluation of standards maintained by such Private Medical Institutions.
  4. Inspection and observation visits to private medical institutions.
  5. Coordinating with other Directorate of Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka Medical Council, Health Sector Trade Unions and Professional Organizations if and when necessary.
  6. Granting preliminary approval to establish new private hospitals after evaluating the project proposals.
  7. Processing of relevant documents by PHSD to grant permission from the Ministry of Health for kidney and liver transplant surgeries in private hospitals.
  8. Processing of documents pertaining to temporary registration of foreign specialists.
  9. Improve complaints handling procedure by timely investigation and enforcing remedial actions against private medical institutions.
  10. Establishment and maintenance of proper information systems in private medical institutions, including data on human resources, communicable and non-communicable diseases and transplant surgeries.
  11. Provide training facilities to ensure the minimum qualifications for recruitment and minimum standards of personnel training are adopted by all private medical Institutions.
    - Initiation of the conduct of refresher/gap-filling courses for “Private Sector Nurses” who are currently employed at private hospital/ medical centres 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.
  12. Develop suitable charges/ prices for various procedures and medical laboratory tests charged by the private health sector.
  13. Development of quality of services provided by private medical institutions;

Advocating and adhering to national guidelines and standards in conducting preventive services and transferring the relevant details to the Epidemiology Unit.  
E.g., Dengue prevention.

14. Contribution to provide information to the National Cancer Registry by private hospitals that are acting as cancer treatment centres and diagnostic laboratories, as identified in National Cancer Control Policies.
15. Guidance to provide patient care facilitates curative, preventive, rehabilitative, and palliative care.
16. Conduct advocacy workshops in coordination with the Provincial Directorates of Health Services following observation visits to selected private medical institutes in the respective provinces.
17. Initiate a survey concerning the private health sector with the help of PHI in the MOH areas.

## Last 5 years performance trend

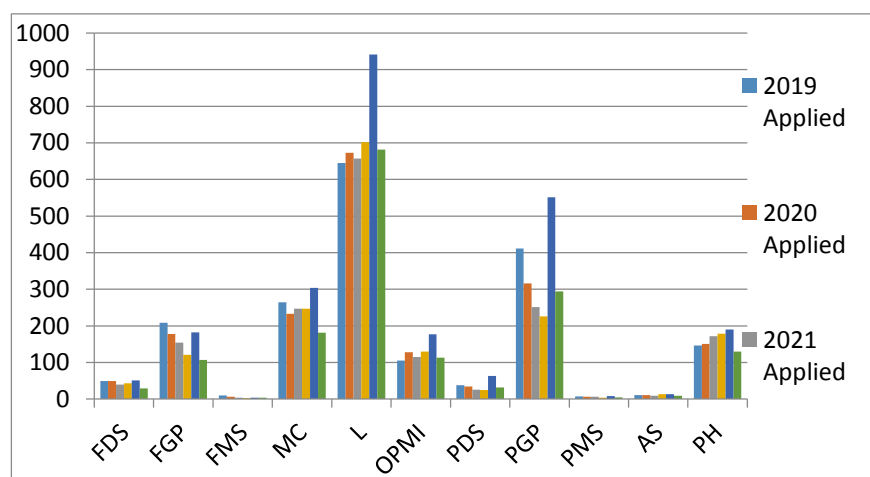
Numbers of Registered Institutes at PHSRC for the years 2019 to 2023

Registration Progress of PHSRC 2019 to 2023								
No	Categories	Abbreviation	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	As at 26/06/2024
			Applied	Applied	Applied	Applied	Applied	Applied
1	Full-Time Dental Surgeries	FDS	49	49	40	43	51	29
2	Full-Time General Practices	FGP	208	178	154	121	182	107
3	Full-Time Medical Specialist Practice	FMS	10	6	4	3	4	4
4	Private Medical Centers	MC	264	233	247	247	304	181
5	Private Medical Laboratories	L	645	673	657	702	941	682
6	Other Private Medical Institutes	OPMI	105	128	115	130	177	113
7	Part-Time Dental Surgeries	PDS	38	34	26	25	63	32
8	Part-Time General Practices	PGP	411	316	251	226	551	294
9	Part-Time Medical Specialist Practice	PMS	7	6	6	4	8	5
10	Private Ambulance Services	AS	11	11	9	13	13	9

11	Private Hospitals	PH	146	151	172	179	190	130
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1894</b>	<b>1785</b>	<b>1681</b>	<b>1693</b>	<b>2484</b>	<b>1586</b>

(Database as of 26/06/2024)

## Registration Progress of PHSRC 2019 to 2023



## Bed Strength of Private Hospitals

Category	
Total Number of Private Hospitals	212
Total Number of Beds	5788

## Special development activities planned for 2024

- Conduct an Island-wide survey to collect information about Private Medical Institutions.
- Initiate a hospital grading system (PMI grading) to evaluate the care and facilities provided by PMIs.
- Conducting an island wide survey in elimination of medical quacks.

### Abbreviations

<b>APHNH</b>	:	Association of Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes
<b>D/ PHSD</b>	:	Directorate of Private Health Sector Development
<b>NAITA</b>	:	National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority
<b>PMI Act</b>	:	Private Medical Institutions (Registration) Act, No. 21 of 2006
<b>PMIs</b>	:	Private Medical Institutions
<b>SLDA</b>	:	Sri Lanka Dental Association
<b>S/ PHSRC</b>	:	Secretariat of Private Health Services Regulatory Council

## 9. Pharmaceuticals Production Supply and Regulation Unit

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### Vision

To build a healthy nation through the production, supply and regulation of high-quality pharmaceuticals.

### Mission

To achieve a higher level of health by regulating the quality of pharmaceuticals and formulating policies and plans to promote the production and supply of pharmaceuticals and timely supply of pharmaceuticals to healthcare institutions.

### Objectives

The main responsibility of the Pharmaceuticals Production and Supply unit is to production, supply and regulate the quality and standardized pharmaceuticals required by the health sector to build a healthy nation. It is the primary responsibility of this unit to take necessary steps to completely ban the importation of substandard pharmaceuticals into Sri Lanka and to manufacture all pharmaceuticals and related equipment that can be manufactured locally according to the international standards. Accordingly, through promoting local and foreign investors, all pharmaceuticals that can be produced within the country in accordance with international standards will be manufactured in Sri Lanka and a strategy has already been formulated to establish “Pharmaceutical Production Zones” as an approach to reduce the foreign exchange for importation of pharmaceuticals and provide high quality pharmaceuticals to the people at concessionary prices. It has been planned to manufacture 60% of the country's pharmaceutical requirement locally by the year 2025.

### Main Functions

- Expanding laboratory facilities in accordance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization in order to ensure the quality of pharmaceuticals.
- Formulating a regulatory framework to implement the prices and prevent the monopoly of the pharmaceutical market in order to protect the consumer safety in the production, importation and marketing of quality pharmaceuticals and promote the quality of pharmacies.
- Formulating a strategy to encourage the local entrepreneurs and the investment for production of pharmaceuticals.

## Performance of the Unit

### ➤ Establishment of Pharmaceutical Production Zones

Actions have been taken to establish Pharmaceuticals Production Zones in the areas of Oyamaduwa in Anuradhapura, Horona Millewa and Arubokka in Hambantota under the Program of Establishment of 'Pharmaceuticals Production Zones' to meet the needs of pharmaceutical production catering to the existing local demand for pharmaceuticals as a strategy to encourage local investors in order to provide high-quality pharmaceuticals to the people at affordable prices by producing all the pharmaceuticals according to the international standard within Sri Lanka that can be locally manufactured and thereby to reduce the outflow of foreign exchange for pharmaceuticals.

The proposed Pharmaceutical Production Zone in Hambanthota, Arubokka will be implemented by the Board of Investment targeting the foreign market. Horana, Millaniya Pharmaceutical Production Zone is to be implemented by the State Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Corporation to expand its production capacity.

The State Ministry of Production, Supply and Regulation of Pharmaceuticals has been taken steps to establish a Pharmaceutical Production Zone in Oyamaduwa, Anuradhapura and Divisional Secretariat have released 80 acres for this project. The Department of National Planning has recommended the project on 26.11.2020 and an Expression of Interest was called from the local investors on 10.01.2021. Accordingly, 31 proposals were received and recommendations were obtained from the expert committee appointed in this regard. Finally, 20 investors were selected for this project. Further, 03 proposals were received for zone development activities and the Spectrum Pharma Tec Lanka Ltd was selected as a Zone Developer of the project. The cabinet of Ministers approved the project on 23.03.2021. After submitting of Environmental Impact Assessment Report to the Central Environmental Authority environmental clearance for the implementation of the project was received on 15.07.2021. The total investment for this project is around Rs 28,200 million and the entire investment will be borne by the selected investors. Further, it is expected that around 2,000 direct employment opportunities and 5,000 indirect employment opportunities will be created from this project.



Legal clearance from the Attorney General's Department was received on 26.08.2021 to sign the "Development and Management Agreement" between the State Ministry and the selected zone developer. Then, the Agreement was signed on 30.08.2021. Accordingly, the Zone Developer has already started preliminary development activities in the zone. The Ministry of Health has already provided electricity and water supply to the zone.



To ensure a return on investment, the Ministry of Health has entered into a buyback agreement for 10 years with the selected 20 investors in 2023. Accordingly, 407 pharmaceutical items and 82 surgical items will be manufactured in the zone. Thus, it has been estimated that around 60 percent of the local pharmaceutical requirement can be covered through the proposed pharmaceutical production zone. The Ministry of Land is being provided land deeds to the investors. Further, factory building designs are submitted to the NMRA and approval was received for some of them.





➤ **Project for the establishment of a new Medical Supply Management Information System - "SWASTHA"**

The Ministry of Health has started to establish an information management system called MSMIS in 2008 to manage the purchase of medicines, surgical consumables and laboratory materials for all hospitals and health institutions in Sri Lanka and so far 256 out of 1159 hospitals have been covered. With the conclusion of the contract signed with the supplier of the MSMIS project, computer experts were consulted on the practical problems and considering suggestions made by doctors, pharmacists and other health officials regarding the purchase and distribution of medicines by the health authorities. It was decided to develop a new information management system called "Swastha". Cabinet of Ministers approved this project on January 10, 2022.

The ultimate goal of the "Swastha" project is to create a new information management system covering all hospitals and health institutions in Sri Lanka as well as the State Pharmaceuticals Corporation (SPC), State Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Corporation (SPMC) and the National Medicines Regulatory Authority (NMRA). For this, it was essential to create an information management system that is fully owned by the Ministry of Health, more efficient, cost effective and can accurately monitor true and real time based information.



The proposals were called for the creation of the "Swastha" information management system was made in January 2022, and development activities of the system was commenced by the selected developer in March 2022. Creating computer software, networking computers, and providing them with internet connections are the three main parts of the project and the total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 76 million. The pilot project is implemented successfully in selected five hospitals in the Kandy district.

At present the selected software developer has completed software development active based on the suggestions and comment given by the relevant stakeholders. The Ministry of Health has successfully completed residential workshops on the basis of "Training of Trainers" (ToT) enabling to conduct regional level training programs.

Accordingly, around 130 chief pharmacists, pharmacists & medical officers have been trained as Training of Trainers (ToT). The regional-level training programs were successfully conducted covering all district at state universities and around 1000 officials have been trained. All regional level training programs were conducted with the participation of Provincial Directors of Health Service and Regional Directors of Health Services. Details are as follows;

## PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS REPORT 2024

Date	Province	Total Number of officials
27.12.2022	Northern Province	112
18.01.2023	Central Province	80
19.01.2023	North Western Province	102
20.01.2023	North Central Province	73
25.01.2023	Southern Province	130
27.01.2023	Eastern Province	102
08.02.2023	Sabaragamuwa Province	57
10.02.2023	Uva Province	52
24.03.2023	Western Province Stage I	54
01.06.2023	Western Province Stage II	51
06.06.2023	Western Province Stage III	44



The “SWASTHA” Medical Supplies Management systems’ domain name is registered as <https://swastha.health.gov.lk/> and it has deployed in Medical Supplies Division, Regional Medical Supplies Division and Hospitals from 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 onwards.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health expand the Swastha Medical Supplies Information Management system up to Type C Divisional Hospitals in August 2023. In addition, several training programs were conducted for different categories of health staff. Details are as follows;

Date	Category	Total Number of Participants
20.04.2023	Medical Supplies Assistants	44
07.06.2023	Medical Laboratory Technologist	50
13.06.2023	Radiographers	50
12.07.2023	Type C hospitals in Uva, Western and Sabaragamuwa Provinces	69
13.07.2023	Type C hospitals in Eastern, Southern and North Central Provinces	67
21.07.2023	Type C hospitals in Western and North Central Provinces	80
31.07.2023	Type C hospitals in Northern Province	45
27.12.2023	Dispensing Officers	32
18.01.2024	Public Health Management Assistant/ Development Officer	14
29.01.2024	Medical Supplies Assistants	27
31.01.2024	Medical Supplies Assistants	25
01.02.2024	Medical Supplies Assistants	28
15.02.2024	Accountant	17
17.02.2024	Pharmacist / Medical Supplies Assistant	31
02.03.2024	Pharmacist / Medical Supplies Assistant	19
18.03.2024	Public Health Inspector	9

At present, SWASTHA system covered all healthcare institutions including hospitals, MOHs, adult dental clinics and school dental clinics.

## 10. Indigenous Medicine Sector

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### Introduction

The sector of indigenous medicine is a highly knowledge-rich field that plays an important role in the health system of Sri Lanka. It is powered by elements of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and indigenous medicine, supplemented by alternative medicine such as homeopathy. The Indigenous Medicine Sector of the Ministry of Health is responsible for policy formulation, strategic planning and operations and monitoring in this field. Plans are made to identify and implement new strategies for the development of this field.

It was possible to perform many activities for the advancement of the indigenous medicine sector during years 2023/2024. Introducing timely amendments for the Ayurveda Act No. 31 of 1961, publication of the Ayurveda Code of Rules and introduction of the National Policy on Indigenous Medicine are prominent among them.

Research and development activities should be encouraged and more investment should be made to further enhance the efficacy, safety and quality of indigenous medicine. A closer collaboration should be maintained with Universities, research, academics and practitioners for scientific studies, clinical trials and preservation of traditional knowledge.

Also, the regulation and standardization process in the sector should be further strengthened. More attention should be paid to the standard and quality of local medicines. Also, regulations for the cultivation, preparation, storage, production and distribution of herbal plants as well as maintenance of treatment services should be further strengthened.

Training opportunities should be expanded for traditional medical practitioners and development of standardized curricula and research-oriented training opportunities in indigenous medicine will improve the skills of practitioners and contribute to development of the field. Also, the integration between the local field of medicine and the health care system should be improved, through which an approach can be made to establish a cost-effective health service for the public through the implementation of collaborative care services, knowledge exchange and the ability to implement an integrated health care program.

Promotion of indigenous medicines and therapies both locally and internationally is the need of the hour. By highlighting the unique features, benefits and cultural importance of local medicine, implementing tourism attraction programs is a great help in bringing foreign exchange into the country.

Also, sustainable use and conservation of herbal plants and resources is very important. Intellectual property protection for traditional knowledge and methods of medicine should be ensured, and good relations should be established with international organizations and research institutes, and further cooperation should be made in terms of joint research, knowledge exchange and good practices necessary for improvement of the field.

Instead of traditional approaches to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, popularization of nutritionally enriched local foods and food processing methods through local medical knowledge, and new strategies for controlling emotions and impulses should be identified and put into practice by strengthening the mind such as yoga and Buddhist philosophy-based “mindfulness practices” (setting mindfulness) to maintain physical and mental balance.

However, the fact that the contribution of the indigenous medicine sector in the health service is not represented in reality is a challenge for the future progression of the sector. In spite of the great contribution made by this sector in terms of primary health care as well as health promotion and patient care services, the lack of sufficient data to measure it quantitatively has become a serious problem.

## **Vision**

Good health for all through indigenous medicine

## **Mission**

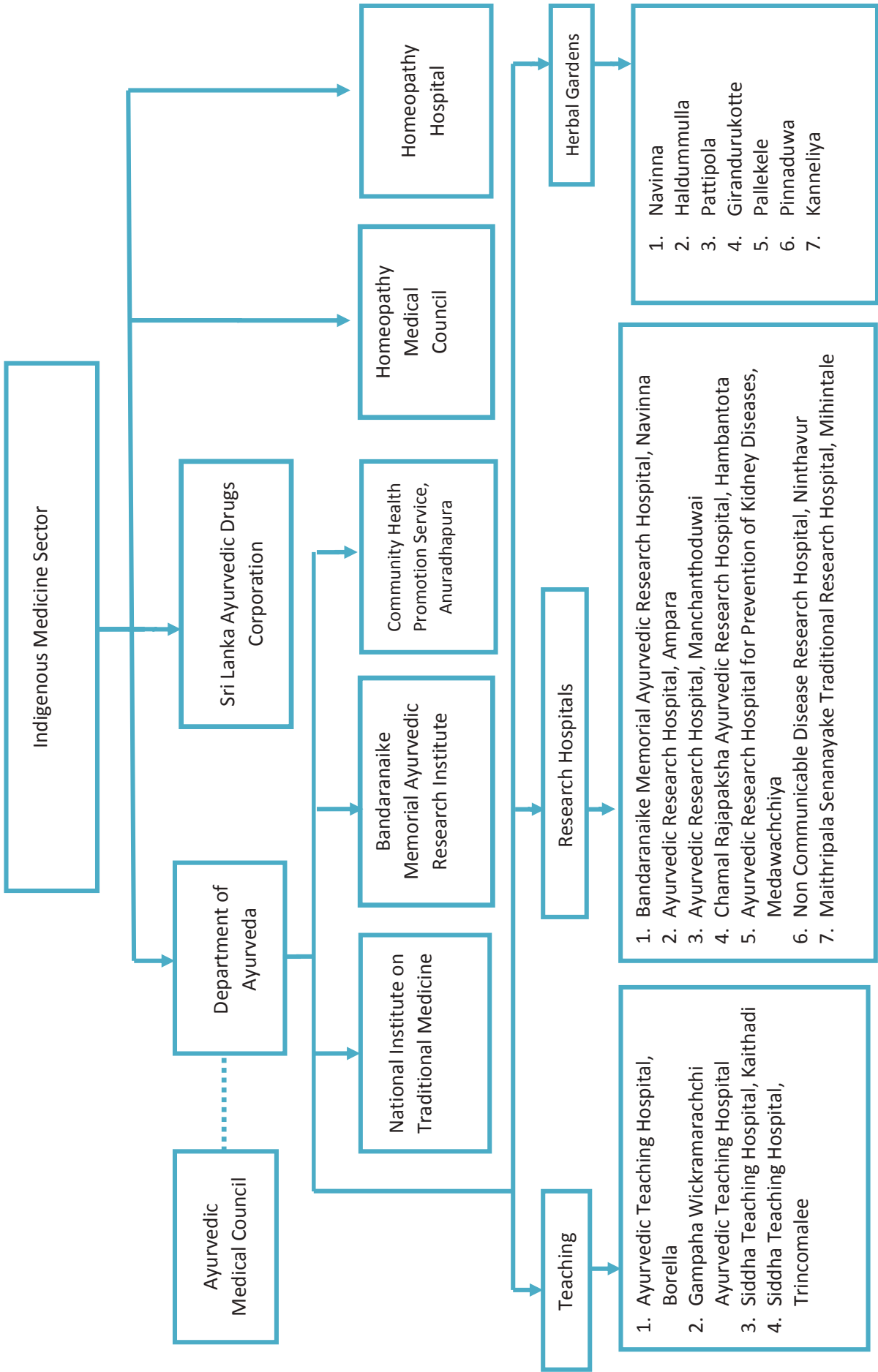
To provide good health for the entire general public by the use of research and modern technology by preserving Sri Lankan identity to promote human potentials enabling investment of their contribution to achieve national economic and sustainable development goals.

## **Duties and functions**

Formulation, implementation, follow up and evaluation of policies, programs and projects pertaining to promotion of indigenous medicine

- To take steps to preserve and improve traditional medicine.
- To implement development and regulation of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy 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.
- Regulation of importing 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.

Institutions coming under Indigenous Medicine Sector





**Establishment activities of the Indigenous Medicine Sector**

S/No.	Post	Service	Salary code	Class/ grade	No. of approved posts	No. available	vacancies
01.	Additional Secretary	SLAS	SL 3	I	02	02	-
02.	Senior Assistant Secretary	SLAS	SL 1	I	01	-	01
03.	Chief Accountant	SLAS	SL 1	I	01	01	-
04.	Director	SLAS	SL 1	I	01	01	-
05.	Director *	SLPS	SL 1	I	01	01(P.D.)	-
06.	Director	SLAMS	SL 1	I	01	-	01
07.	Accountant	SLAcS	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
08.	Internal Auditor	SLAS	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
09.	Assistant/ Deputy Director	SLAS	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
10.	Assistant/ Deputy Director *	SLPS	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
11.	Assistant/ Deputy Director	SLES	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
12.	Assistant Secretary	SLAS	SL 1	III / II	01	-	01
13.	Legal Officer	Depart mental	SL 1	III / II	01	01	-

- Letter No. DMS/0016/2023/Vol-I dated 30.05.2023 of the Department of Management Services has approved the new staff by merging the posts related to the staff holding the SL I salary code and above. Accordingly, the staff approved for the Indigenous Medicine Sector is as mentioned above.
- The post of Director (SLAS) was approved as a Grade III / II post by the letter No. DMS/0016/2023/Vol-I dated 30.05.2023 of the Department of Management Services, and the post of Director (SLAS) has been revised as a Grade I post by the letter of the same Department No. DMS/0016/2023/Vol-I dated 06.07.2023.

### Laws and Ordinances

- Amendment of the Ayurveda Act No. 31 of 1961
- Introduction of the National Policy on Indigenous Medicine
- Ayurveda Code for Ayurvedic Medicine has been published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2379/02 dated 08.04.2024.
- Draft Regulations for the Supervision and Regulation of Private Ayurveda Health Centers, Dispensaries and Ayurveda Wellness Centers have been submitted to the Legal Draftsman.
- Amendment of the Registered Ayurvedic Medical Practitioners (Professional Conduct) Rules No. 01 of 2014 published in the Gazette No. 1884/36 dated 15.09.2024 has been submitted to the Legal Draftsman.

### Capacity Development Programs

#### *Training programs conducted up to 31.12.2024*

S/No.	Training program	Beneficiaries	No. of programs	Amount spent (Rs.)
01.	Office Systems and Procedural Rules	Development Officer/ Management Assistant	04	42,740.00
02.	Workshop on Advance Excel	Development Officer/ Management Assistant	02	165,000.00
03.	Scheme of Recruitment	Development Officer/ Management Assistant	01	78,000.00
04.	Role and responsibilities of the KKS	Office Assistants (KKS)	01	39,000.00
05.	Positive psychology and stress management	Development Officer/ Management Assistant	01	78,000.00

06.	Disciplinary Procedure	Development Officer/ Management Assistant	01	39,000.00
Total			10	441,940.00

### Contribution of the Development Division

- **Cooperation with BIMSTEC**

**Sixth BIMSTEC Task Force on Traditional Medicine (BTFTM)** was held online in Colombo on November 28, 2024.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the action plan for developing traditional systems of medicine, focusing on:

- Development of BIMSTEC TM Portal and BIMSTEC TM Pharmacopoeia
- Expert panel recommendations on systematic review of traditional medicine research for COVID-19 and diabetes, and publication of protocols in scientific journals
- Curriculum harmonization for mutual recognition of traditional medicine degrees
- Establishment of BIMSTEC University of Ayurveda and Traditional Medicine
- Second BIMSTEC Conference on Traditional Medicine Knowledge (TMK), Genetic Resources (GR), and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Nodal Group Meeting

The 7th BTFTM Meeting is scheduled for August 2025, and the 2nd Conference on Knowledge in Traditional Medicine, Genetic Resources and International Property Rights and Nodal Group Meeting will be hosted by Sri Lanka in May 2025.

- **Multi Sectoral National Action Plan to Address Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Sri Lanka (SGBV) - II (2024 - 2028)**

The Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, along with other relevant ministries, have completed preparing the comprehensive SGBV National Action Plan for 2024 - 2028 and is currently planning its implementation.

- **Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.**

The MoU has been revised according to observations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka National Intellectual Property Office, and Ministry of Education, and was resubmitted to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs on February 7, 2024 for communication

to the Indian side. The modifications have been completed and groundwork for entering into the MoU is in progress.

### Overseas training programs

No	Course Name	Country	Duration	number of officers
1	Special Training Program for Yoga Trainer's Iteration III	India	08.01.2024 - 02.02.2024	2
2	Special Training Program for Yoga Trainer's Iteration III	India	09.02.2024 - 01.03.2024	2
3	International Training Programme on Computer of Laboratories and their Management Systems	India	29.01.2024 - 16.02.2024	1
4	International Public Health Management Development Program Iteration - II	India	06.02.2024 - 15.02.2024	1
5	Seminar on Traditional Medicine Development under the Global Development Initiative	China	16 to 29 May 2024,	2
6	Seminar on the Application of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Prevention and Treatment of Chronic Diseases	China	06 .06.2024- 24 .06. 2024	6
7	Seminar on the Application of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Prevention and Treatment of Chronic Disease	China	06 .06.2024- 24 .06. 2024	2
8	Seminar on Public Health Management for Sri Lanka	China	03.09.2024 -16 .09. 2024	23
9	Seminar on Traditional Chinese Medicine Culture for BRI Partner Countries.	China	06. 10. 2024 - 24 .11. 2024	4
10	Seminar on the Application of Traditional Chinese Medicine in western medicine clinical practice	China	10. 10. 2024 – 23.10.2024	3

- **The National Traditional Medicine Policy of Sri Lanka**

The much-needed National Traditional Medicine Policy was approved by the Cabinet at its meeting on July 15, 2024, and has now been published.

- **WHO International Classification of Diseases 11<sup>th</sup> Revision Traditional Medicine Chapter (ICD-TM2)**

The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) is an international standard for systematically recording, analysing, interpreting, and comparing mortality and morbidity data. Introduced by WHO, Sri Lanka is currently adapting and preparing to publish its draft in all three languages.

## **Progress of Development Projects/Programs under the Indigenous Medicine Sector**

### **I. Empowerment of Conservation Councils**

Conservation Council empowerment programs are implemented at Divisional Secretary level to preserve systems of traditional medicine, improve living standards of traditional practitioners, protect practitioners' professional identity and engage traditional practitioners in system advancement.

For 2024, Rs. 3.0 million was allocated for the purpose and this allocation was utilized for awareness and empowerment of council members, distribution of small-scale medicine production materials and enhancement of library services.

### **Physical and financial progress**

Activity	Progress	
	Physical	Financial (Rs.)
Awareness and empowerment of conservation council members	06 National Level programs and 11 regional level programs have been held where herbal plants have been distributed among medical practitioners of conservation councils to make the herbal plants required for production of medicines readily available.	2,965,800.74

Provision of machines for small scale drugs production	Action has been taken to procure 07 small extraction machines from the National Engineering Research and Development Center of Sri Lanka and to provide them to selected conservation councils.	
Promotion of library facilities	04 library almirahs have been provided for conservation councils with required books provided for the libraries (for 17 conservation councils)	

## II. Establishment of Nutrition Centres

The Nutrition Centres program promotes toxin-free traditional foods to prevent non-communicable diseases. Rs. 2.5 million was allocated in 2024, establishing a nutrition centre in Attanagalla and a porridge centre in Kotte Divisional Secretary divisions.

## III. Homeopathy Development

Rs. 2.5 million was allocated in 2024 for government homeopathy hospital development. Completed laboratory building repairs, kitchen renovation, and termite treatment. Additional Rs. 5.0 million allocated for laboratory equipment procurement, with initial phase equipment already provided.

## IV. Implementation of Integrated Care with Ayurveda

Rs. 5.0 million allocated in 2024 budget for integrated medical treatment facilities where hospitals are prepared for the program under government accepted procedure. Upgraded infrastructure at National Ayurvedic Teaching Hospital (Borella). Health Ministry provided Rs. 5.0 million for Palkelele Provincial Ayurvedic Hospital improvements, which has reported 65% progress so far.

## V. Intervention of the Indigenous Medicine Sector in Non-Communicable Disease Control

Rs. 20.0 million allocated by the Ministry of Health in 2024 for introducing traditional recipes and food processing methods; improving public knowledge of indigenous food and nutrition; sharing traditional practices for malnutrition prevention; promoting yoga; conducting medical clinics for early disease detection; research on non-communicable diseases and training programs for traditional practitioners/students and staff.

Successfully implemented "Food Instead of Medicine" concept through regional programs promoting nutritious traditional foods. Conducted joint programs with Anuradhapura Community Health Promotion Unit for disease control.



### Free Ayurvedic Dispensaries

Provisions of Rs. 100.00 million allocated for the purpose was allocated by Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation to Free Ayurvedic Dispensaries as follows for provision of medicines.

S/No.	Province	Value of medicines provided (Rs.)
01.	Western	13,130,888.87
02.	Sabaragamuwa	9,000,000.00
03.	Uva	6,500,000.00
04.	Southern	13,400,000.00
05.	Central	13,719,675.63
06.	North Central	10,549,435.50
07.	Northern	18,500,000.00
08.	Eastern	7,000,000.00
09.	North Western	8,200,000.00
Total		100,000,000.00

## Special programs conducted during year 2024

### i. Development of the Website for the Indigenous Medicine Sector

The inactive website of the Indigenous Medicine Sector has been redesigned with new features and comprehensive information, and now linked to the Health Ministry's main website ([www.mim.gov.lk](http://www.mim.gov.lk)).

### ii. Ayurvedic Medical Council Registration for Traditional Practitioners

83 traditional practitioners who previously lacked registration were granted Ayurvedic Medical Council registration after passing written and oral examinations.

### iii. "Ayur Expo" International Research Exhibition

Held on May 3, 2024, at the Medical Faculty of the University of Colombo. It was jointly organized by the Indigenous Medicine Sector, Department of Ayurveda, and the Department Postgraduate Studies of the University of Kelaniya. Over 270 national and international research papers were presented, providing a global platform for traditional medicine research.

### iv. Indian Homeopathy Scholarships

Ten Sri Lankan students received scholarships and airfare for homeopathy medical degrees at the National Homeopathy Institute in Kolkata, West Bengal. This initiative strengthens Indo-Sri Lankan friendship through educational cooperation.

## Financial progress of the Indigenous Medicine Sector

### Financial Progress as at 31.12.2024

Object	Provision (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)	Percentage of expenditure (%)
Indigenous Medicine Sector			
Recurrent	<b>439,895,000.00</b>	<b>402,465,304.42</b>	<b>91.49</b>
General Administration / Other programs	381,395,000.00	351,371,655.66	92.13
<u>Establishment Services</u>			
State institutions			
Homeopathic Medical Council	31,500,000.00	26,330,413.51	83.59
Homeopathy Hospital	27,000,000.00	24,763,232.25	91.72
Capital	<b>20,000,000.00</b>	<b>15,236,701.12</b>	
General Administration	6,000,000.00	4,560,210.79	76
<u>Special Programs</u>			
Conservation Councils	1,000,000.00	26,050.00	2.61
Homeopathic Medical Council	3,000,000.00	2,965,800.74	98.86
Homeopathy Development	2,500,000.00	2,082,102.75	83.28
Initiation of laboratory services in Homeopathy Hospital	2,500,000.00	2,258,273.92	90.33
Establishment of Nutrition Centers	5,000,000.00	3,344,262.92	66.88
Total	<b>459,895,000.00</b>	<b>417,702,005.54</b>	<b>90.82</b>
		*	
Other	<b>Provision (Rs.)</b>	<b>Expenditure (Rs.)</b>	<b>Per. of expenditure (Rs.)</b>
Ayurvedic collaborative treatment	5,000,000.00	2,311,021.45	46.22

Non-communicable disease control	20,000,000.00	9,249,115.01	46.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,000,000.00</b>	<b>9,249,115.01*</b>	<b>37.00</b>

\*Subject to compliance with the treasury printout for the month of December

### Progress as at 31.12.2024

#### Establishment and Administration Division

S/No.	Activity	Service category	No.
01.	Recruitments	Ayurveda Service Assistant	9
02.	Promotions	Ayurvedic Medical Officers to Grade I	520
		Ayurvedic Medical Officers to Grade II	534
		Ayurvedic Medical Officers to Grade III	23

### Local training programs

S/N o.	Program name	Held by	Attendance	Program duration	Course fee
01	Role and responsibility of leave clerks	Skill Development Fund Ltd	2	29.02.2024 & 01.03.2024	26,000.00
02	Tamil Language Proficiency - 150 hrs.	Department of Ayurveda	35	12.03.2024-11.07.2024	112,500.00
03	Workshop in Advanced Excel	Sri Lanka Foundation Institute	8	27&28.09.2024	132,000.00
04	Development of Supervisors	National Institute of Labour Studies	2	30.10.2024	10,000.00
05	Leadership Development	National Institute of Labour Studies	7	24.10.2024	35,000.00
06	Office recording / writing official letters	National Institute of Labour Studies	4	29.10.2024	20,000.00

## Progress of Development Division

### Physical resources development

Physical and financial progress of the key projects implemented during year 2024 (as at 15.12.2024)

S/No.	Project	Head of Expenditure	Provision	Physical progress %	Financial progress
Head office					
1	Partitioning of the Accounts Division	220-1-2001	3,497,785.61	100%	Bills referred
2	Renovation of Drivers' quarters	220-1-2001	1,000,000.00	50%	Bills referred
National Institute on Traditional Medicine					
3	Renovation of women's hostel	20-4-2001	1,447,741.00	100%	Bills referred
4	Renovation of men's hostel	220-4-2001	2,552,189.00	100%	Bills referred
5	Renovation of wall cupboards and lecture hall premises – Stage 1	220-4-2001	1,000,000.00	50%	Bills referred
Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurvedic Teaching Hospital					
6	Building No. 02 roof renovation	220-2-2001	1,584,399.57	100%	Bills referred
7	Three Storied Building roof renovation	220-2-2001	3,500,000.00	100%	Bills referred
8	Mending the plumbing system	220-2-2001	3,725,000.00	95%	Bills referred
9	Remaining plumbing and roof renovation works	220-2-2001	3,740,000.00	95%	Bills referred
10	Other remaining repairs	220-2-2001	4,278,000.00	95%	Bills referred
11	Renovation of Administrative Officer's room, Matron's room,	220-2-2001	1,680,000.00	60%	Bills referred

	Nursing Officer's room and the stores				
Ayurveda National Hospital					
12	Roof renovation of the drugs manufactory	220-2-2001	879,000.00	100%	100%
Siddha Teaching Hospital - Trincomalee					
13	Roof and toilet renovation works of the OPD	220-2-2001	15,600,000.00	60%	Bills referred
Siddha Teaching Hospital - Kaithadi					
14	Women's Merchant Ward renovation	220-2-2001	9,814,000.00	100%	Bills referred
15	Kitchen renovation	220-2-2001	2,268,000.00	100%	Bills referred
16	Pharmacy building renovation	220-2-2001	4,318,000.00	100%	Bills referred
Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute					
17	Renovation of ward No. 01	220-2-2001	3,499,590.57	100%	Bills referred
18	Renovation of ward No. 02	220-2-2001	3,499,495.66	100%	Bills referred
19	Renovation of the male ward and corridor	220-2-2001	3,499,187.53	100%	Bills referred
20	Drainage system overhaul	220-2-2001	3,499,576.56	100%	Bills referred
21	Roof renovation of the OPD	220-2-2001	3,499,732.87	100%	Bills referred
22	Renovation of ceiling of the Administrative Building and carpets of the conference hall	220-2-2001	3,499,827.66	100%	Bills referred
23	Renovation of the women's ward and the plumbing system	220-2-2001	3,019,946.66	100%	Bills referred

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24	Renovation of the Nurses' Hostel	220-2-2001	994,689.56	75%	Bills referred
Ayurvedic Research Hospital - Medawachchiya					
25	Providing connection to the septic tank and suction ducts	220-2-2001	545,676.00	100%	100%
Research and Extension Services Herbal Garden - Haldummulla					
26	Renovation of the OIC's quarters	220-5-2001	2,000,000.00	100%	100%
Research and Extension Services Herbal Garden - Girandurukotte					
27	Renovation of workers' rest room	220-5-2001	1,000,000.00	100%	100%
Research and Extension Services Herbal Garden - Pattipola					
28	Renovation of circuit bungalow	220-5-2001	2,000,000.00	100%	100%
	<b>Total</b>		<b>93,311,838.25</b>		

**Projects run with Ministerial provisions**

S/No	Project	Head of Expenditure	Provision	Physical Progress	Financial Progress
01.	Roof repairs to the main office building	111-1-1-2001	44,900,000.00	50%	20%
02.	Modernization of the laboratory complex of the Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute	111-1-2-2001	8,482,511.42	50%	0
03.	Renovation of the staff rest room and kitchen at the Giradnurukotte Herbal Garden	111-1-5-2001	651,800.00	50%	0
04.	Renovation of the OIC's quarters of the Haldummulla Herbal Garden	111-1-5-2001	4,438,302.35	50%	0
05.	Renovations at the Gampaha	111-1-2-2001	991,000.00	60%	0



	Wickramarachchi Ayurvedic Teaching Hospital				
06.	Renovation of internal roads at Palkekele Herbal Garden	111-1-5-2001	1,524,440.00	50%	0
Total			60,988,053.77		

**\*\*Bills are to be settled**

Provisions of Rs. 450 million have been allocated for the second phase of the eight-storied building of the Ayurvedic National Teaching Hospital for the year 2024. Under this, identified work pieces worth Rs. 323.80 million were planned to be carried out during the year and its progress is shown below.

S/No.	Project	Provision (Rs.)	Physical Progress	Financial Progress
01.	Porch construction and ground preparation	63,315,000.00	50%	20%
02.	Supply of generators	158,000,000.00	50%	20%
03.	Setting up the water tank and fire protection system	63,315,000.00	75%	75%
04.	Power supply expenditure	2,132,091.50	25%	100%
05.	Payment for the assessment report for installation of transformer	25,000.00	100%	100%
06.	Transformer cable installation fees	37,015,365.62	25%	100%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>323,802,457.12</b>		

### Conducting the state function of anointing oil

The state function of anointing oil to mark the Sinhala and Hindu New year was conducted on 15.04.2014 at the premises of Hendala Purana Raja Maha Viharaya.

### Technical Division- Progress as at 30.06.2024

#### Registration of institutions

S/N o.	Institutions registered	No.	Income earned (Rs.)
1	Ayurvedic Dispensaries	459	640,980.00
2	Ayurveda Pharmacies	361	1,673,220.00
3	Transport certificates and Ayurveda pharmacy stores	111	68,300.00
4	Ayurveda treatment centers	131	201,420.00

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5	Panchakarma institutions in hotels	16	49,200.00
6	Panchakarma institutions	9	32,400.00
Total		1,087	2,665,520.00

### Issuance of licenses by the Department of Ayurveda

S/N o.	License issued	No.	Income earned (Rs.)
1	No. of dried medicine importation licenses issued	283	141,500.00
2	Panchakarma institutions in tourist hotels	29	326,000.00
3	Panchakarma institutions	10	90,500.00
4	No. of licenses issued for local production	367	413,280.00
5	Issuance of licenses for local production	26	15,200.00
6	Issuance of free trade licenses	28	15,000.00
7	No. of licenses issued for imported products	143	1,569,250.00
8	No. of sample importation licenses issued	18	9,200.00
9	Issuance of licenses for imported products	4	2,400.00
Total		908	2,582,330.00

### Issuance of cannabis, Paripaka spirit recommendations for Ayurvedic Drugs manufactories

No.	Activity	No. of institutions	Amount recommend ed	Revenue (Rs.)
1	Issuance of paripaka spirits	04	28700	-
2	Issuance of cannabis	33	570.02	16,500.00
Total				16,500.00

- For issuance of Paripaka spirits – letters of recommendation issued to the Commissioner General of Excise
- For issuance of cannabis – letters of recommendation issued to the Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation

### Progress of the Examinations Division Examinations held during year 2024

S/N o.	Activity	Attendance
01.	Final Assessment Test of the In-Service Training Program for Nursing Officers – 2024	15

02.	Written Examination for Registration of Traditional Practitioners - 2024	253
03.	Final Evaluation of Written, Oral and Practical Examination of the Ayurvedic Attendant Quarterly Training Course - 2024	84
04.	Written Test of Ayurveda Shastri Annual Examination -2024	278
05..	Final Assessment Test of Korean Acupuncture Course- 2024	47
06.	Efficiency Bar Examination for the posts of Office Assistant, Service Assistant recruited under code number PL 01 - 2024	338
	Efficiency Bar Examination of Government Ayurvedic Medical Officers - 2024	78
07.	Oral and Practical Test of Ayurveda Shastri Annual Examination- 2024	Oral -111 Practical - 71
08.	Grade 11 Efficiency Bar Examination for Community Health Development Officers - 2024	31

## I. Ayurvedic Teaching Hospitals and Research Hospitals

### Ayurvedic Teaching Hospitals

#### Basic information

Hospital	Ayurvedic National Hospital - Borella	Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Teaching Hospital - Yakkala	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Kaithadi	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Koonespuri
commencement	1929.06.10	1984	1973.06.29	2009.07.06
Year	2024	2024	2024	2024
No. of wards	11	4	5	2
No. of beds	216	108	130	8
No. of doctors	103	55	16	6
Nursing staff	31	17	3	3
Other staff	250	88	54	15

**No. of Medical Students who received teaching facilities**

Hospital	Ayurvedic National Hospital - Borella	Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Teaching Hospital - Yakkala	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Kaithadi	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Koonespuri
Year	2024	2024	2024	2024
No. of beneficiaries who received teaching facilities	2,000	367	101	1,400

**Provision of patient treatment services**

Hospital	Ayurvedic National Hospital - Borella	Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Teaching Hospital - Yakkala	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Kaithadi	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Koonespuri
Year	2024	2024	2024	2024
OPD	168,943	36,874	22,071	15,206
Residential	3,438	1,149	993	83
Clinical	-	45,258	13,438	1,918
Panchakarma	3,221	1,437	363	90
Total	175,602	84,718	36,865	17,297

**Provision of community health treatment services**

Hospital	Ayurvedic National Hospital - Borella	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Kaithadi	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Koonespuri
Year	2024	2024	2024
Mobile clinics	5,977	248	96
Awareness	-	11	2
Special clinics	-	114	1,228

**Drugs production during year 2024 – Ayurvedic teaching hospitals**

Hospital	Ayurvedic National Hospital - Borella	Siddha Teaching Hospital - Kaithadi	Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Teaching Hospital - Yakkala	Siddha Teaching Hospital – Koonespuri, Trincomalee
Ltrs.				
Asawa	640	-	283.5	-
Oil	5,726.5	1,989	1,095.75	51,223
Syrup	150	149.5	7.5	11.625
Kwatha	30,055	-	344	-
Decoction	19,069	1,932	3,504.24	-
Anupana	-	596.25	71.25	-
Eye drops	-	-	3.175	-
Kgs				
Pills	494	86.589	-	1.5
Paste	384.65	-	215.05	-
Lepa	139.27	39.203	195.15	0.45
Powder	1,914.63	703.346	657.452	4.62
Saline	424	-	-	-
Panta	149.6	733.758	1,311.26	-
Fermentations	158.4	1,077.357	295.32	-
Leha	-	26,895	28	-
fermentations	47.5	-	211.77	-
Vati	3.3	-	-	-
Varti	0.435	-	-	-
Rasa medicines	22.6	3,779	-	-
Panchawalkala	175.8			
Unani medicines	-	-	84.570	-

**II. Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurvedic Research Institute**

Activity	Physical progress	
	Index	Amount
Providing outpatient treatment services	Average daily attendance	191 (134% growth rate)
Providing special treatment services for outpatients	Average daily attendance	113 (124% growth rate)
Dispensing of medicines for outpatients	Cost per patient (Rs.)	230.91

**Inpatient Department (as of 30.11.2024)**

Activity	Physical progress	
	Index	Amount
Providing inpatient treatment services	Bed Supply Rate *	0.028
	Hospital Admission Rate *	0.335
	Bed Occupancy Rate (%) **	50%
* Calculated as applicable to the Colombo District. ** The provision of residential facilities was somewhat low due to renovation work in the ward complex.		

**Quality Assurance, Research and Development Division**

Activity	Physical progress	
	Index	Amount
1. Local drug standardization and quality control		
Setting standard parameters for medicines, ensuring quality and condition	Number of drugs	4
2. Research and development		
Institutional research initiated and ongoing during the year	Number of research	3
Research conducted in collaboration with other research institutes and universities	Number of research	9
Research related to pharmaceutical product development	Number of research	3
Published research papers	Number of research papers	11
3. Services (Technical and Extension)		
Providing laboratory services to determine the quality of products/drugs/raw materials	Number of products/drugs tested for quality	50
Providing laboratory facilities and technical knowledge to university students/external institutions.	Number of students/institutions	4
	Number of samples	20



Laboratory testing training program	Undergraduate Beneficiaries	9
	postgraduate Beneficiaries	3
Training Program on Local Pharmaceutical Quality Control and Standardization	Undergraduate Beneficiaries	220
	Benefitted Ayurveda Conservation Council Medical Professionals	30
	Benefitted Traditional Medical Practitioners	50

### Clinical Research Division

Activity	Physical progress	
	Index	Amount
1. Institutional research initiated and ongoing during the year		
Physiotherapy Department	Number of research	2
Orthopedics Department	Number of research	1
Toxicology Department	Number of research	1
Gynecology and Obstetrics Department	Number of research	1
2. Research reports published during the year		
Gynecology and Obstetrics Department	International publications	3
	National publications	2
3. Clinical training		
Medical Student	Number of beneficiaries	75
Postgraduate Student	Number of beneficiaries	6

### Medicinal Plants Division

Activity	Physical progress	
	Index	Amount
1. Research and development		
Institutional research initiated and ongoing during the year	Number of research	3
Research conducted in collaboration with internal departments	Number of research	1
Research conducted in collaboration with other research institutes and universities	Number of research	7
Survey on medicinal plants used by the indigenous community - Galoya National Park (with the cooperation of the Department of Wildlife Conservation)	Percentage of work completed	100%
Publications	Percentage of work completed	75%
Identification of plant and raw material specimens	Amount of work completed	239
2. Garden development		
Preparing estimates for garden landscaping (with technical assistance from the Royal Botanical Gardens)	Percentage of work completed	100%
Preparation of estimates for the repair of the internal water pond (with technical assistance from the Irrigation Department)	Percentage of work completed	100%
3. Services (Technical and Extension)		
Training and awareness workshops	Number of workshops	7
Providing technical support for the establishment of medicinal gardens	Percentage of work completed	100%
Updating 100 herbarium specimens	Percentage of work completed	100%

### Literature Division

Activity	Physical progress	
	Index	Amount
1. Library development (Conducted with technical support of Library of the University of Kelaniya, with financial support		

from the Traditional Knowledge Conservation Project)		
Library book census.	No. of books	949
Color-coded numbering and user list creation for user convenience	No. of books	3092
Expanding the library collection	No. of donations	75
2. Preservation of ola leaf paperback books (Undertaken with the technical support of the National Library and Documentation Services Board, with financial support from the Traditional Knowledge Conservation Project)		
Classification and nomenclature of paperback books	No. of books	377
Clearing paperback books and mending extracts	No. of books	377
Collecting skirts for paperback books	No. of skirts	265
Copying of paperback books	No. of books completed	8
	The amount that is being worked on	2
Printing of annotated paperback books	Finished Quantity	2
	Quantity Sent for Printing	4
	Quantity Ready for Printing	2
Library services		
Providing library services for literary research	Internal Staff Beneficiaries	119
	Internship medical beneficiaries	17
	Higher Education Students (University of Ruhuna, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Peradeniya, University of Colombo, SLIIT)	16

### Traditional Knowledge Conservation Project

Activity	Physical progress	
	Index	Amount
1. Conducting a census of traditional indigenous doctors, identifying the schools, and establishing a national register, database and electronic library on medical lineages and medical methods based on relevant information.		
Printing information sheets to collect data	No. of papers	22500
Conducting awareness workshops on the data sheet at the provincial council level	No. of workshops	3
Contracting with the Enterprise Division of the University of Moratuwa to create computer software	computer software	1
2. Other activities in conjunction with the Traditional Knowledge Conservation Project		
Providing financial provisions for library development	Percentage of work completed	100%
Providing financial provisions for the preservation of palm leaf books	Percentage of work completed	100%

### Ethics Review Committee (ERC)

Activity	Physical progress	
	Index	Amount
Reviewing research projects	Amount completed	15
	The amount that is being worked on	6
Approving research projects	Amount approved	14
Rejecting research projects	Amount rejected	2
Withdrawing research projects	Amount withdrawn	0

Financial progress				
Activity	Financial progress			Physical progress
	Allocations	Expenditure (Rs.)	Progress (%)	
Purchasing finished medicines	17,658,000.00	17,657,140.91	100.0%	100%
Buying dry medicines	11,000,000.00	10,375,822.43	94.3%	100%
Purchasing surgical supplies	1,055,000.00	1,053,591.63	99.9%	100%
Providing food to inpatients and junior staff	10,000,000.00	9,473,663.12	94.7%	100%
Gas and firewood purchasing and cleaning services *	8,000,000.00	4,639,361.59	58.0%	
Obtaining security services	3,900,000.00	3,869,164.94	99.2%	100%
Traditional Knowledge Conservation Project *	10,000,000.00	8,196,569.00	82.0%	100%
Repair work **	25,000,000.00	18,013,268.97	72.1%	100%
Repair of ward complexes and outpatient departments		10,019,175.19		
Repair of administrative building		3,499,827.66		
Repair of water drainage and sewage system		3,499,576.56		
Repair of Nursing Officer's quarters		994,689.56		
* Bills are due for work completed				
** 100% work completed and bills are due for 27.9% work completed				

### III. National Institute on Traditional Medicine

Physical and financial progress As at 15.12.2024				
S/No.	Main program / project	Physical progress		Financial progress (Rs.)
		No. of programs	No. of beneficiaries/ No. of modules	
<b>1</b>	Preparation, review and standardization of modules and curricula for courses	7	03 modules 02 hand books	109,301.50
<b>2</b>	Internship medical training	6	677 trainees	971,723.45
<b>3</b>	Training programs for traditional healers	10	496 trainees	1,214,725.00
<b>4</b>	Capacity building programs for Ayurvedic medical officers	14	466 trainees	1,331,991.80
<b>5</b>	For Community Health Ayurvedic Medical Officers	4	81 trainees	338,702.00
<b>6</b>	Training programs for medical support staff	8	310 trainees	701,072.32
<b>7</b>	Capacity building programs for non-academic staff	5	86 trainees	587,910.00
<b>8</b>	Elderly care program	9	305 trainees 02 modules 03 hand books	2,611,466.02
<b>9</b>	Special programs	3	193 trainees	83,045.00
<b>10</b>	Private courses	1	20 trainees	461,067.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>67</b>	<b>2634 trainees 05 modules 05 hand books</b>	<b>8,379,804.59</b>



**Overall financial progress of the Department of Ayurveda as at 31.12.2024**

Category/object/Item	Provisions (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)	Percentage %
<b>Recurrent expenditure</b>			
General administration	157,210,000.00	139,694,860.00	89%
Hospital services	2,210,900,000.00	2,124,877,383.00	96%
Education and training	44,690,000.00	41,051,347.00	92%
Herbal Plant Conservation Project	112,895,000.00	108,127,384.00	96%
<b>Overall recurrent expenditure</b>	<b>2,525,695,000.00</b>	<b>2,414,020,974.00</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Capital expenditure</b>			
General administration	15,000,000.00	11,761,164.00	78%
Hospital services	667,500,000.00	191,867,556.00	29%
Education and training	12,000,000.00	10,514,558.00	88%
Herbal Plant Conservation Project	8,500,000.00	7,569,254.00	89%
<b>Overall capital expenditure</b>	<b>703,000,000.00</b>	<b>221,712,531.00</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>3,228,695,000.00</b>	<b>2,635,733,505.00</b>	<b>82%</b>

#### IV. Ayurvedic Medical Council

##### Financial Provisions (2023/2024)

Item	2023 Rs.	17.12.2024 Rs.
<b>Government provisions</b>	5,346,000.00	0.00
<b>Income earned</b>	18,922,783.00	17,510,891.82
<b>Total receipts</b>	24,268,783.00	17,510,891.82

##### Doctors registered with the Ayurvedic Medical Council

Item	Total No. of doctors as at 17.12.2024
General physician	
1. registered number of general physicians	17,126
Graduates	4,282
Diploma holders	5,828
Traditional - general	7,016
Traditional - special	
2. total No. of registered physicians (traditional – special)	27,644
Total No. of registered doctors	27,485
Number of doctors who have died	4,110

- The Ayurvedic Medical Council has conducted 29 oral examination boards so far in the year 2024 and the number of candidates called for the oral examination is 432. Out of the 332 candidates who participated in the oral examination, 103 have passed it and are eligible to be registered with the Ayurvedic Medical Council as traditional doctors.
- As at 17.12.2024, 1,438 general practitioners and 372 specialist doctors have renewed their registration.
- The Ayurvedic Medical Council operates mobile services throughout the island for the convenience of its clients. Accordingly, 03 mobile offices have been operated so far in the year 2024 and the number of doctors who have received services from them is 254.

**Other special activities performed**

Item	Progress as at 17.12.2024 (Number)
Verification of medical certificates	215
Issuance of identity cards for registered Ayurvedic doctors	729
Issuance of vehicle badges	127
Number of medical certificate books issued	1,370
Inclusion of additional qualifications of registered doctors	23
Issuance of character certificates for registered doctors	24

**Renewal of registration of Ayurvedic Doctors**

	2023		17.12.2024
Number of doctors whose registration has been renewed	<b>General</b>	945	1,438
	<b>Special</b>	294	372
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,239</b>	<b>1,810</b>

**V. Herbal garden development activities**

- Beautifying gardens by growing medicinal plants.
- Construction of protective fences around herbal gardens (Girandurukotte and Pinnaduwa)
- Planting rare plants in all herbal gardens.
- Providing plants for the Suwadharani Herbalist Village Program.
- Cultivation of medicinal crops suitable for each region.
  - Haldummulla - fire flame bush, Snap Ginger, Cinnamon
  - Girandurukotte - Snap Ginger, sesame
  - Pinnaduwa - ginger, pepper
  - Pattipola - Variegated sweet flag, Indian Barberry
  - Pallekele - Pogostemon heyneanus

**Provision of raw and dried medicines from Research and Extension Services herbal gardens**

No.	Herbal garden	Amount of medicine (Kg)	Provided by
<b>1</b>	Piyal Marasinghe National Research and Extension Services National Herbal Garden Haldummulla	47	Department of Ayurveda
		391 Kg 650 g	Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute
<b>2</b>	Research and Extension Services Herbal Garden Pattipola	02 Kg 400 g	Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute
		04	Ayurvedic National Hospital, Borella
<b>3</b>	Research and Extension Services Herbal Garden Pallekele	150 Kg	Ayurvedic National Hospital, Borella
<b>4</b>	Research and Extension Services Herbal Garden Girandurukotte	100	Bandaranaike Memorial Ayurveda Research Institute
		152 Kg 650 g	Ayurvedic National Hospital, Borella
		54	Uva Provincial Department of Ayurveda
		4.5	Department of Ayurveda

**Plant production and sales through Research and Extension Services herbal gardens**

S/No.	Herbal garden	Plants produced	2024	
			Sale of plants	
			No. of plants sold out	Value (Rs.)
<b>1</b>	Research and Extension Services Herbal Garden	739	284	13,100.00
<b>2</b>	Research and Extension Services Herbal Garden	12,286	2,160	186,940.00
<b>3</b>	Research and Extension Services Herbal Garden Pallekele	9,956	5,411	256,060.00

4	Piyal Marasinghe National Research and Extension Services National Herbal	13,443	5,143	270,770.00
5	Research and Extension Services Herbal Garden Girandurukotte	30,518	3,441	167,620.00
Total		66,942	16,439	894,490.00

**Providing plants through the Suwadharani Herbal Village Project**

S/No.	DS Division/ G.N. Division of the field of cultivation/ institutions	Name and section of the medicinal ingredient	Amount	Beneficiaries
01.	Indigenous Medicine Sector	Long pepper	2000	For herbal farmers and medical officers
		snap ginger	2000	
		Sweet	1500	
		Indian butter nut	830	
		Niepa bark tree	270	
		Aromatic ginger	500	
		Myrabalans	50	
		Christ's thorn	50	
		Arjun tree	300	
02.	Gampaha District	Sweet flag (packed)	1500	Herbal farmers in Gampaha District
		Lesser galangal bulbs	1000	
03.	For traditional healers	snap ginger	500	For traditional healers
04.	Meda Dumbara Divisional Secretariat	snap ginger bulbs	500	Herbal farmers

		Long pepper plants	300	
05.	Deltota Divisional Secretariat	snap ginger bulbs	500	Herbal farmers
		Aromatic ginger plants	150	
06.	Harispattuwa Divisional Secretariat	snap ginger bulbs	500	Herbal farmers
07.	Patha Dumbara Divisional Secretariat	snap ginger bulbs	500	Herbal farmers
08.	Kundasale Divisional Secretariat	snap ginger bulbs	500	Herbal farmers
09.	Hatharaliyadda Divisional Secretariat	snap ginger bulbs	500	Herbal farmers
Total			13,950	

## VI. 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. Special programs include nutrition programs targeting preschools and schools and child health care, provision of community-based adult health services, mental health promotion, maternal health care, conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants. Only recurrent funds (for employee salaries) have been provided to this unit and no funds have been provided to maintain other activities. However, through the intervention of the Indigenous Medicine Sector, a significant amount of work has been accomplished during the year by providing a portion of the funds received from the Ministry of Health for the control of non-communicable diseases to this unit.

### Ayurvedic Community Health Promotion Service - Anuradhapura

S/No.	Program particulars	No. of programs	Beneficiaries
01.	Elder Care Program	7,267	19,301
02.	Hela Viru Suwadharani Suwaseva	98	1,807
03.	Child Health Care - Preschool	1,868	31,709
04.	Child Health Care - Primary School	50	2,509



05.	Non-Communicable Disease Control	2,736	42,582
06.	Communicable Disease Control	2,483	31,551
07.	School Programs	51	4,024
08.	Medicinal Plant Conservation and Sustainable Use	6,583	2,608
09.	Maternity Programs	18	177
10.	Home Visits	6,503	16,142
11.	Community Care	65	8,210
Total		27,722	160,620

## 09. Homeopathy Medicine

### I. Homeopathy Hospital

#### Present condition and progress

- The hospital consists of an outpatient department that provides treatment to about 100-150 patients daily and an inpatient department that can provide treatment to 20 inpatients.
- Laboratory tests are performed for the early detection of infectious diseases such as dengue and non-infectious diseases such as diabetes and high cholesterol.
- Laboratory services were provided to 573 patients until November 2024.
- Work is underway to establish the laboratory of the hospital.

#### No. of patients treated during year 2024 (Up to October 2024)

Month	Out patients	In patients
<b>January</b>	2,054	16
<b>February</b>	1,910	12
<b>March</b>	1,783	19
<b>April</b>	1,717	9
<b>May</b>	1,868	15
<b>June</b>	1,755	14
<b>July</b>	2149	11
<b>August</b>	2061	22
<b>September</b>	1884	16
<b>October</b>	2065	17
<b>November</b>	2068	17
Total	2068	162

## II. Homeopathic Medical Council

### Performance of clinics conducted by the Homeopathic Medical Council up to 23.12.2024

S/No.	Clinic	No. of patients treated
01.	Dehiwala	5,138
02.	Tholangamuwa	9,044
03.	Parakaduwa	5,516
04.	Kurunegala	12,938
05.	Kotmale	6,789
06.	Monaragala	6,624
07.	Palamunei	6,847
08.	Puttalam	6,513
09.	Matale	9,654
10.	Ambalangoda	3,607
11.	Batticaloa	5,943
12.	Ingiriya	1,646
13.	Ratgama	5,862
14.	Polonnaruwa	5,480
Total		91,601

As of 23.12.2024, members were reappointed to the Homeopathic Medical Council and the total number of doctors registered with the Homeopathic Medical Council this year is 11.

### Mobile clinics and seminars conducted by the Homeopathic Medical Council during year 2024

With the aim of educating the public about the homeopathic medical system and providing treatment, several government free homeopathic clinics controlled by the Homeopathic Medical Council conducted the following mobile clinics and awareness programs in several areas of the island.

S/No	Service provider clinic	Venue	Date	Attendance
01.	Parakaduwa	Godagama Purana Viharaya, Homagama	05.04.2024	42
02.	Parakaduwa	Goluwawala Rajasekararamaya, Ratnapura	01.06.2024	54

03.	Kurunegala	Kelaniya Pradeshiya Sabha premises	08.03.2024	183
04.	Matale	Akurana Mosque	22.03.2024	63
05.	Rathgama	Sumanadasa Library, Madampagama, Ambalangoda	01/05, 02/02, 03/01, 04/05, 05/03, 06/07 in 2024	387
06.	Rathgama	Co-operative Society, Ihala Lelwala	18.01.2024	82
07.	Dehiwala	Mihikathawatta Sri Sambodhi Viharaya, Kathulawala, Kalutara-South	26.01.2024	35
08.	Dehiwala	Panadura Urban Council	09.03.2024	16
09.	Puttalam	Kelaniya Pradeshiya Sabha premises	08.03.2024	62
10.	Parakaduwa	Ratnapura Municipal Council Auditorium	29.11.2024	111
Total				1,035

The Technical Committee has recommended 13 import licenses worth US\$88,277.59 to doctors and institutions for the import of Homeopathic medicines until December 23, 2024.

## 10. Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation

### Annual production (according to production cost)

	2022	2023	As at 30.11.2024
Annual production (Rs. Mn.)	495.53	644.76	533.628

### Annual sales

	2022	2023	As at 30.11.2024
Annual sales (Rs. Mn.)	947.13	1218.9	1350.287

Annual profit			
	2021	2022	2023
Annual profit (before taxation) (Rs.)	(17,728,950)	(25,788,488)	218,086,282

### Targets achieved during 2023/2024

**01.** Resolving working capital issues and bringing them to a profitable state.

### **02. Expanding scope of Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation.**

The Gazette Extraordinary Notification No. 2356/21 dated 01.11.2023 has been issued further expanding the corporate objectives declared by the Gazette Extraordinary Notification No. 14,853/3 dated 11.05.1969. Accordingly, relevant objectives have been established to cover all aspects of Ayurvedic healthcare, including the production, sale of medicines, cultivation of medicinal plants, maintenance of healthcare centers, research and training activities, etc.

### **03. Putting unused machines to use.**

The Corporation has purchased unused processing and filling machines and has modernized them and put them into use. 06 unused processing and filling machines that were in the possession of the Department of Ayurveda have been acquired by this Corporation and are currently being repaired.

### **04. Expansion of sales network**

In addition to the 17 sales centers operating island wide, 12 district sales representatives are actively engaged in sales activities. This sales network has been further expanded by appointing local sales representatives, online sales representatives and international sales representatives.

### **05. Product innovation**

Steps were taken to innovate and attractively package Ayurvedic medicines and other herbal products and facing the market challenges arising from time to time, new product

packaging was introduced. Under this, medicines that were previously in the form of tablets and capsules were packaged in blister packs.



## 06. Renovation of Packaging Division.

The Packaging Division was modernized to package Ayurvedic medicines and other herbal products in a safer and standard manner, and the staff was educated about packaging and the activities of that Division were streamlined.



## 07. Development of herbal gardens and collection of herbal raw materials from areas surrounding herbal gardens.

Steps have been taken to develop the Nikaweratiya, Medawachchiya and Dangolla herbal gardens owned by the Corporation, and steps have been taken to collect raw and dried herbal raw materials from the areas surrounding the herbal gardens that were being

operated at a loss. Furthermore, steps have been taken to operate the herbal gardens profitably and meet the raw material requirements.

#### **08. Obtaining quality certificates**

The ISO 9001 - 2015 quality certificate was updated. Preliminary work has been done to obtain the necessary international quality certificates for production and marketing activities, and further work is underway.

#### **09. Getting Evaluation Awards and Certificates**

During the 2023/2024 period, the Corporation was able to receive the following awards and certificates, which were used to enhance the corporate image and as a publicity and promotional tool.

##### **I. BEST WEB**

Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation won the bronze medal at the ‘BestWeb.lk 2023’ tournament.

##### **II. GOLDEN INMEDIENS 2023**

Iramusu Tea, a product of the Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation, received the Gold Award as the Most Popular Herbal-Based Ayurvedic Tea Manufacturer of the Year at the Indigenous Medicine Entrepreneurship Gold Awards 2023.

##### **III. CNCI ACHIEVER AWARDS 2024**

The Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation won the only merit award in the large-scale government manufacturing sector at the 23<sup>rd</sup> CNCI ACHIEVER AWARDS 2024, jointly organized by the Ministry of Industries and the National Chamber of Industries.

#### **10. Establishment of the ERP Computer Software System.**

Steps have been taken to develop an integrated computer software system for all service units, including production, sales, finance, logistics, administration, human resources, quality control, and planning, and the software development work is currently in its final stages.



**11. Development projects and programs planned for the year 2025**

- 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 importation of medicines from abroad and saving foreign exchange through herbal cultivation
- Maintaining research herbal gardens efficiently and effectively
- Promoting nutritious local food and beverages free of toxins
- Developing homeopathy as an alternative medical system
- Maintaining collaborative/integrated care services
- Using indigenous medical knowledge and approaches for the control and prevention of non-communicable diseases
- Expanding human resource development capacities and introducing timely courses of study related to the field of indigenous medicine
- Promoting international cooperation and knowledge exchange in the field of indigenous medicine
- Promoting standardized local pharmaceutical products
- Promoting elderly care and rehabilitation services
- Promoting health tourism services

**01.Capital investment - 2025****Indigenous Medicine Sector**

S/No.	Program	Amount to be invested (Rs.)
01.	Empowering Conservation Councils	10.0
02.	Establishment of Nutritional Centers	5.0
03.	Homeopathy systems development	4.0
04.	Establishment of laboratory research services of Homeopathic Hospital	6.5
05.	Homeopathic Medical Council	5.0
06.	Rehabilitation and improvement of capital assets	17.5
07.	Capacity development	3.0

08.	Collaborative care with Ayurveda	15.0
09.	Other	9.0
10.	Capital programs of Sri Lanka Ayurvedic Drugs Corporation	400.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>475.0</b>

#### Department of Ayurveda

S/No.	Program	Amount to be invested (Rs.)
01.	Main Rehabilitations	274.76
02.	Minor Rehabilitations	43.64
03.	New Constration	615.58
04.	Land and land improvement	56.68
05.	Plant, machievy and Equipment	0.81
	<b>Total</b>	<b>981.47</b>



Management Development and Planning Unit  
Ministry Of Health and Mass Media