

Pledge by Sri Lanka

Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 12 July 1991

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 8 September 2000

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 22 September 2006



Pledges

1. General Measures of Implementation.
 - a. Amendments to the Children and Young Persons Ordinance.
 - b. Dissemination and implementation of a National Alternative Care Policy for children in Sri Lanka.
 - c. Amendments were made to the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act in 2003 and 2006.
 - d. Implementation of a National policy on elimination of child labour, adopted in 2017.
 - e. Dissemination and Implementation of National Guideline on Vulnerable Children.
 - f. Strengthening of Village Child Development Committees (VCDC)-Village level coordinating mechanism.
2. Civil Rights and Freedom.
 - a. Birth Registration for all children as of 2019.
 - b. Protection of privacy and elimination of discrimination in relation to information contained in birth certificates.
3. Family environment and Alternative Care.
 - a. Census on institutionalized Children.
4. Education, leisure and cultural activities.
 - a. Ensuring Right to Education.
 - b. Dissemination and implementation of the Child Participation Guideline.
5. Basic health and welfare.
 - a. Dissemination of manuals to increase nutrition levels of young children.

- b. Assignment of Public Health Mid-Wife Officers to monitor and investigate the general health, health status of pregnant mothers as well as children under 5 years through door to door visits.
 - c. Voucher programme for pregnant women.
 - d. Measures to expand and strengthen Early Childhood Care and Development.
6. Special Protection Measures.
- a. Introduction of a National Guideline for the Management of Child Abuse and Neglect.
7. Various programmes for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the CRC in Sri Lanka.

I. General Measures of Implementation

Legislation, Policies and Guidelines

a) *Amendments to the Children and Young Persons Ordinance*

The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) expects to complete the proposed legislative amendments to the existing Children and Young Persons Ordinance (1939). It is necessary to amend the particular ordinance which processes with the Child Protection and Justice Bill for ensuring rights of the children who come under the justice system as child victims or offenders. In the process of completing this action, consultation is to be held provincially and nationally. National stakeholders will further review the drafted bill. Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development are the responsible institutions in this regard.

b) *Dissemination and implementation of a National Alternative Care Policy for children in Sri Lanka*

The Government of Sri Lanka expects to disseminate and implement the National Alternative Care Policy. The vision of the Policy is to reorganize and enable every child's right to be nurtured and protected within a conducive family and community environment upheld. The policy developed based on the UN Alternative Care Guideline was finalized after consulting the relevant stakeholders, parents of institutionalized children and the institutionalized children and cabinet approval also was granted. The responsible agencies for dissemination and implementation are Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development and Department of Probation and Child Care Services.

c) *Amendments were made to the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act in 2003 and 2006.*

- a. Ministry of Labour and Labour Relations and the Department of Labour Sri Lanka were proposed to the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act and currently being processed by relevant authorities led by the Ministry of Labour and the Department of Labour. Upon completion of the proposed revisions, only young persons above the age of 16 years will be allowed to work and employing them in hazardous occupations will be prohibited.
- b. In 2002, the Factories ordinance was amended, specifying the maximum number of hours a young person can be employed. At present, labour legislation in Sri Lanka prohibits employing any child less than 14 years of age, employing young persons during school hours or in hazardous

occupations. The Ministry of Labour and Department of Labour are responsible in relation to these proposed amendments

d) *Implementation of a National policy on elimination of child labour, adopted in 2017.*

The Government of Sri Lanka expects to eliminate child labour as well as hazardous forms of child labour, through the implementation of the adopted National policy on elimination of child labour. Experiment carried out under the '**child labour free zone model**' was successful.

The projected initiative states here that, the Government of Sri Lanka will continue the experimented model targeting the total elimination of child labour with the support of multisector stakeholders. Responsibility of implementing this programme lies with the Ministry of Labour and Labour Relations and the Department of Labour.

e) *Dissemination and Implementation of National Guideline on Vulnerable Children*

The Department of Probation and Child Care Services has introduced National Case Management Guidelines for Prevention of All Forms of Violence Against Children of Sri Lanka.

All Child Rights Promotion Officers in every Divisional Secretariat has been trained on the above guideline in order to make the children, parents and guardians aware of all forms of child abuse and child exploitations to ensure the protection of the children.

The aim of the department of adopting this guideline is identifying all vulnerable cases and take measures to ensure the right of these underprivileged children in Sri Lanka.

Coordination

f) *Strengthening of Village Child Development Committees (VCDC)-Village level coordinating mechanism*

The purpose of the VCDC is to create an enabling environment for the care and protection of children, minimizing negative consequences on children and building upon good values of society. The VCDC can achieve this by promoting child rights within the community through awareness raising activities, prevention of child right violations through risk mapping, early identification, advocacy and intervention, response to child rights violation concerns through referrals to Child Rights Promotion Officers and Child Rights Promotion Assistants, coordination with community child protection actors and management of low risk cases.

A separate manual has been introduced for Village Development Committee members, Child Rights Promotion Officers, Child Rights Promotion Assistants and child rights actors involved in supporting the development of the committee.

The aim of this programme is to establish and strengthen VCDCs in the entire island and to ensure protection of children through this mechanism which is built on a community based approach.

II. Civil Rights and Freedom

Birth Registration

Birth Registration for all children : The Government of Sri Lanka is committed to improve the existing method of issuing Birth certificates and an internationally recognized National Birth Certificate will be issued to every child born from 2019. The new system will issue the certificates using a computerized system to minimize documentation errors. The National Birth Certificate will be in English and Sinhala or Tamil languages and an Identity Card Number is assigned as soon as a child is born and will be included in the new birth certificate. Further, the question of “Whether the parents are married?” is removed in the new birth certificate. (Gazette Extraordinary of 14.03.2019).

This proposed programme is to be implemented to ensure the availability of a birth certificate to every child. The responsibility lies with the Registrar General’s Department.

Protection of Privacy and elimination of non-discrimination

Action is taken not to specify any information related to the prison, in the birth certificates of children born to female inmates while serving the sentence. (Circular no. RG/MBO/10/Miscellaneous/Other/2011 dated 22.06.2011)

For example,

Column No. 1. - Place of Birth – Without specifying the Place of Birth as the “Prison”, only the area the prison located is entered. Eg. At Borella

Column No. 9 - Informant - Mother’s name and mother’s permanent address to be used as Informant’s Name and Place of Residence

Column No. 10 - Informant’s Signature – Taking action to register as “Registered on Declaration of Birth under Section 16”

Instead of stating “Not known” for the Father’s name when registering the birth of an illegitimate child, specify father’s details and state “No” in column 6, and enter the details of grandfather in column 7 and great grandfather’s details in column 8. Mention the names of both parents in column 9 (Circular no. 07/2016 dated 16/08/2016)

Removing the column on Father’s Occupation in the Birth Certificate (Amapa/93/600/002 (01) dated 17.03.1993), taking action to register the births of Sri Lankan children born in refugee camps in India (M/29/consular karthawya, dated 02.02.1994), issuing Probable Age Certificates for children who do not have a birth certificate or could not specify the place of birth (A/18/Circular/02/94 dated 11.03.1994), amending the Marriage Registration (General) Ordinance and Kandyan Marriage Registration Ordinance to raise the legal age of marriage to 18 years for both males and females (Circular no. M/14(1) dated 09.11.1995) are other action taken towards protection of Privacy and elimination of non-discrimination.

III. Family environment and Alternative Care

Census on institutionalized Children

As the initial step of implementing the National Policy on Alternative Care, the Department of Probation and Child Care Services is in the process of carrying out a survey to identify the needs of the institutionalized children with the assistance of the Department of Census and Statistics. Based on the recommendations of the survey, measures will be taken to provide alternative care for institutionalized children and steps will be taken to reintegrate them into the society.

Initially a survey questionnaire was drafted in consultation with relevant parties and survey will be conducted in all the institutions (government and non-government).

It is expected to finalize the survey at the end of the year. As mentioned above responsibility of implementing the Alternative Care Policy lies with the Department of Probation and Child Care Services and survey will be conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics.

IV. Education, leisure and cultural activities

Ensuring Right to Education

The Government of Sri Lanka prioritize the concepts of education for all children. As the implementing strategy, the age for compulsory education for children in Sri Lanka was raised to 16 in 2016 through an amendment to the regulations of the Education Ordinance. Regulations were also provided to each Education Division to have a compulsory School Attendance Monitoring Committee which work with the Zonal Director of Education and the Provincial Director of Education.

Furthermore, until 2017, students who entered grade 12 studied under 6 streams of study, provided that they successfully complete the Ordinary Level Examination at the end of grade 11. The introduction of the Vocational Stream as the seventh stream of study for upper secondary levels in 2017, provided access to students in this stream despite their failure or success at the Ordinary Level examinations. The target of the Government of Sri Lanka is to ensure the education for all through this newly introduced concept. This will ensure minimum 1 years of school education within school settings. Therefore children get the opportunity to involve in school education until they reach 18 years of age.

Ministry of Education is the responsible agency.

Dissemination and implementation of the Child Participation Guideline

Existing Children's Clubs and Council programme will assist children to enhance their leadership skills and opportunity is given to spend the time leisurely with their peers. Thus, it helps children to gather and share their thoughts and decisions that affect them and it provide opportunity to develop their confidence. The guideline was prepared by the Department of Probation and Child Care Services with the objective of laying the foundation required for this in the society

The guide was prepared taking the entire society into consideration; ie. parents, adults, community, officers and the children as well. Parents, adults, children, officers and relevant stakeholders were consulted for the preparation of the guideline. Since this guide enables to identify the responsibility and duty of each party, it will facilitate them to move as a flow to accomplish the objectives of the guideline.

Carrying out the duty of each party efficiently will lead to establish a more productive and meaningful child participation within the country and to a more powerful child protection, care and development thereby.

Financial assistance was given by SAARC Development Fund (SDF). Technical assistance was given by South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children. The guideline was prepared by the Department of Probation and Child Care Services.

The aim is to practice this guideline island wide.

V. Basic health and welfare

Ministry of Health has been successfully implementing the child health development record which is considered as most effective document. Separate book is available for male and female infant and handover to the parent at the registration of the birth. These record books persistence the protocol on managing nutritional problems among under five children in the community. Thus, Participant's Manual on Infant and Young Child Feeding Counseling (in Sinhala and Tamil. Adapted from WHO manual), Participant's Manual on Child Growth Assessment (Who new child growth standards), Guideline for feeding infants and preschool children including orphans and those not living with mothers during an emergency situation are few of sustained guidelines for ensuring rights of the survival of child. Apart from that GOSL has taken strategic measures to establish community level health services with the utmost objective of reaching community to the services and enhance their health and nutrition status. Accordingly, Medical Officer Health division has been established in administrative divisional level and Public Health Mid-Wife Officer is assigned to monitor and investigate the general health, health status of pregnant mothers as well as children under 5 years through door to door visit. As a result of this interventions, infant mortality rate was decreased from 9.9 to 8.5 (per 1000 live birth) in 2010 and 2015 respectively, whereas under five mortality rate was decreased from 12.2 to 10.5

GOSL has taken steps to uphold the nutrition level of infants through the pregnant mother's national programme. LKR 2000.00. worth of voucher to buy a nutritious foods pack per month for the period of 10 months (LKR 20,000.00) , are provided to the pregnant mothers who are registered at the government clinic centers (99% of pregnant mothers register in Government Clinic) .

GOSL intended to invest on Early Childhood Care and Development. USD 50.00 Million was funded by World Bank for ECCD in Sri Lanka. Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development leads the project for the period from 2015 to 2021. Objective of this project is to enhance equitable access to and improve the quality of ECD services. The project supposed to being expanding and strengthening the delivery of ECD services by improves the provision of ECD services in Sri Lanka. Expanding equitable access to ECD services across the country and improve the quality of ECD services in the plantation sector are also main component of the project.

VI. Special Protection Measures

Ministry of Health has introduced a National Guideline for the Management of Child Abuse and Neglect (Clinical Case Management)

Purpose of this guideline, developed with a multi-sectoral approach, is to reduce re-traumatization, prevent further abuse, assist legal processes for justice, psycho-social rehabilitation and reintegration, assess other children who may be at risk and work towards holistic recovery.

Officers who work for children in grass root level were trained, do follow-ups in family intervention and give psycho social support from care plans to achieve the above purposes.

This has been developed with the partnership of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and dry Zone Development, Attorney General's Department, Children and Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Police and in collaboration with Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians, College of Forensic Pathologists of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists, Medico Legal Society of Sri Lanka and Plan Sri Lanka.

Different sectors are involved in the implementation of the above mechanism. (Clinical and institutional case conference) In medical sector, Medical Officer of Health (MoH), all categories of primary health care workers and all categories of medical and nursing staff in health institutions in the country work together.

In the legal sector, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development, Department of Probation and Child Care Services, National Child Protection Authority and the Ministry of Education work together.

National Child Protection Authority has taken special measures to protect children by introducing and implementing following guidelines

- National Guideline on Day Care Centers
- Guideline for trainers of the General Child Care Course (NVQ Level 04)
- Handbook on Guidelines for child protection in Emergencies
- Guidelines for parents on positive disciplines
- Guidelines for Child Development Centers
- Handbook on Child Protection
- Guideline on implementing Child Protection awareness programs
- Training module on programme to coordinate school media units
- Guideline on matters to be considered by media officials when reporting child abuse cases/incidents and suspected children

Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development has paid adequate attention on accomplishing the following targeted actions within the next 5 years.

- Implementing Child Protection Action Plan (2016-2020)
- Dissemination and implementation of the guideline for Day Care Centers
- Implementing the National Policy on Day Care Centers
- Establishing government funded day care centers at government premises
- Implementing Sexual and Gender Based Violence Action Plan (SGBV) (2016-2019)
- Implementing Action Plan on Social Protection for the Children (2016-2019)

Section II: Programmes for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the CRC in Sri Lanka

The Department of Probation and Child Care Services is mandated with the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Sri Lanka under the preview of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development. Accordingly, Week Programs have been implemented at District and

Divisional level, and the National event is scheduled to be held from 29th to 30th August 2019 with the technical and financial support of UNICEF, Save the Children, Child Fund and World Vision. The schedule of the programme is given below.

Programme Title	Celebration of 30 Years for the CRC and 20 Years for the Dedicated service of Child Rights Promotion Officers
Programme Rationale	<p><i>Problem statement and causes</i></p> <p>Sri Lanka ratified the CRC in 1991, followed by the formulation of a National Children's Charter which enabled application of the CRC into state policy. A National Child Rights Monitoring Committee was appointed to monitor the progress of implementation of the CRC and to identify unmet needs. Child Rights Promotion Officers were appointed and attached to the District and Divisional Secretariat to implement the CRC at grass-root level. Though, state and private institutions are implementing special programs to protect the rights of children, the safety, welfare and protection of the children in certain circumstances have not been fully met. And children's rights are sometimes challenging in the complex social mix. Therefore, new findings, methods and interventions in terms of child security, welfare and child resilience are essential. With this background stakeholders understood that celebration of the 30th Anniversary should be aligned with these identified gaps.</p>
Objective	<p>Overall objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To create an intellectual dialogue on child protection and set agenda beyond 30 years of CRC and 20 years of appointment of Child Right Promotion Officers which is the CRC implementing arm of Sri Lanka - To strength the vigilant social structures at community level and sensitize protection and rights of children
Proposed Location/s	<p>Programme 01:</p> <p>Symposium :MAS Training Center, Thulhiriya, Alawwa</p> <p>Programme 02:</p> <p>Week Programme : Island-wide (Ref: Sec III)</p>
Commencing and Closing dates	<p>Programme 01:</p> <p>29th and 30th August 2019</p> <p>Programme 02:</p> <p>From May to August 2019</p>

<p>Key Partners/ Stakeholders</p>	<p>Technical partners</p> <p>1)Department of Probation and Child Care Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main organizer of the Symposium - Organise the district and divisional programs prior to the national symposium <p>2)Child Fund Sri Lanka</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing the concept of the project in collaboration with the Department of Probation and Child Care Services (DPCCS) - Main Funding organization - Supporting Child Right Promotion Officers at district level to conduct district events prior to the symposium - Carrying out follow- up activities at national and district level and act as the sustainability arm of follow-up work <p>3)Other Supporting partners (UNICEF, World Vision, Save the Children)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise district events in their working locations - Funding the district events and national event
<p>Impact and target groups (estimated)</p>	<p><u>Impact Group:</u></p> <p>Child Rights Promotion Officers (CRPOs at district and divisional level, child population in Sri Lanka</p> <p><u>Target Groups:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Rights Promotion Officers - All other government organizations and activists related to child protection and development - Academics - Entire Child population of the country
<p>HR/Capacity Requirements</p>	<p>The existing human resource of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services and Technical Specialist in Child Protection from Child Fund Sri Lanka, UNICEF, World Vision and Save the Children will be involved in implementing this initiative</p>

Proposed Budget	Approximately LKR 12 Mn
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Section III: Weekly Programmes

Implementing Organization: Department of Probation and Child Care Services with UNICEF/Child Fund/Save the Children/World Vision

Process of Implementation	<p>01. Programme: Take precautions and avoid repercussions. Methodology: Awareness programme for village child development committees. Date: 01st week of July Venue/ steps: In all 331 Divisional Secretariat divisions Annexure 01</p> <p>02. Programme: A caring village ensures a pleasant childhood. Methodology: Establish village committee (child advocacy team), Awareness programme for village committee. Date: 02nd week of July Venue/steps: In all 331 Divisional Secretariat divisions Annexure 02</p> <p>03. Programme: Let's protect our loving children Methodology: Awareness programme for community/ children's club/ institutionalized children. Date: 03rd week of July Venue/steps: In all 331 Divisional Secretariat divisions Annexure 03</p> <p>04. Programme: Let's join hands to protect our children. Methodology: Awareness programme for officers in public service. Date: 04th week of July Venue/steps: In all 25 Districts Annexure 04</p> <p>05. Programme: Be informed and Get Empowered Methodology: Child Rights Quiz programme for members of children's clubs. Date: 01st week of August,) 3rd week of August, October Venue/steps: Divisional level, District level, National level Annexure 05</p>
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Awareness Program for Parents





Model Village Program



Child Clubs Activities





Awareness Program for Children



Child Rights Qiz Program

