



SRI LANKA

Voluntary Peoples Review

on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Presented at the
**High Level Political Forum
on Sustainable Development**
July 2018, UNHQ, New York



Stakeholder-led Sustainable
Development Goals for an
Inclusive Transformation

Sri Lanka Stakeholder **SDG** 
Platform





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SRI LANKA Voluntary Peoples Review on the Status of Implementing Sustainable Development Goals

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ABBREVIATIONS AND NOTATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BOBLME	Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem
BIGG	Balanced Inclusive Green Growth
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radio and Nuclear
CBSL	Central Bank of Sri Lanka
CCC	Ceylon Chamber of Commerce
CED	Centre for Environment and Development
CCS	Climate Change Secretariat
CKD	Chronic Kidney Disease
COP	Conference of Parties
COPE	Committee on Public Enterprises
COPA	Committee on Public Accounts
COSTI	Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology, and Innovation
CP&WS	Water Systems
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CSD	Council for Sustainable Development
DC	Dilmah Conservation
DCS	Department of Census and Statistics
DMC	Disaster Management Center
DPMM	Department of Project Management and Monitoring
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EPZ	Export Promotion Zones
ESDFP	Education Sector Development Framework and Programme
EU	European Union
EU-SDDP	European Union Support to District Development Programme

FARA	Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Act
FCID	Presidential commission
FDI	Foreign direct investments
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHA	Global Humanitarian Assistance
GHI	Global Hunger Index
GOSL	Government of Sri Lanka
GNI	Gross National Income
GPP	Green Public Procurement
HELP-O	Human & Environment Links Progressive Organization
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Surveys
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labor Organization
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
LDC	Least Developed Country
LGA	Local Government Aid
LKR	Sri Lankan Rupee
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OPRC	Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation
OTEC	Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion
MC	Municipal Council
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MF	Material Footprint
MHM	Menstrual Health Management
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoMDE	Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment
MMWD	Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development
MSDW	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions

NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAP-SL	National Agricultural Policy of Sri Lanka
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NNP	National Nutrition Policy
NPD	Department of National Planning
NWSDB	Sri Lanka National Agricultural Policy
NSF	National Science Foundation
NSS	National Strategy for Solid Waste Management
PEC	Presidential Expert Committee
PIP	Public Investment Programme
PPP	Public Private Partnership
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RIA	Registered Investment Advisor
RTS	Rapid Transit System
SBN	Sustainable Banking Network
SCP	Sustainable Production and Consumption
SD	Sustainable Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SLBA	Sri Lanka Banks Association
SLBA-SBI	Sri Lanka Banks Association Sustainable Banking Initiative
SLCDMP	Sri Lanka Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme
SLSEA	Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority.
SMGE	Small and Medium Green Enterprises
STC	Science and Technology City
TPP	Trans Pacific Partnership
UGC	University Grants Commission
UMIC	Upper Middle-Income Country
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Program
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Convection on Climate Change



UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USD	United States Dollar
VPR	Volunteer Peoples Review
VNR	Volunteer National Review
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WatSan	Water and Sanitation

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INTRODUCTION

A Voluntary Peoples Review on the Sustainable Development Goals

1. Background

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka) on 15th September 2015 placed its signature on the new global agreement on ‘Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’. As signatories to the 2030 agenda, each country has to take into account their national realities and circumstances when presenting their Voluntary National Review (VNR). Accordingly, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) presents its VNR this year at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2018.

Since signing on to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) has taken numerous initiatives towards facilitating the Sustainable Development Goals. These include Introduction of a cabinet ministry on sustainable development, enacting the Sustainable Development Act in the Parliament, establishing a Parliamentary Select Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), declaring a sustainable era, and the appointment of a Presidential Expert Committee on drafting a Vision for 2030. However, the initial momentum towards a transformation created by the political leadership of the government has not been executed by the highly fragmented public administrative system and the country lacks a clear rational and process to implement the SDGs; lack of a policy coherence planning prevents proper mainstreaming, lack of institutional coherence planning, prevents proper integration, lack of a monitoring, evaluation, follow-up & reporting mechanism prevents honest stock-taking, and lack of a sustainable development budgeting & a financing architecture prevents true commitment to transformation

At the HLPF in July 2017, Sri Lanka formally announced that it will present its VNR in 2018. While GOSL has submitted its VNR to HLPF, as a nation Sri Lanka is yet to establish a clear national SDG monitoring, evaluation, reporting and follow-up mechanism. Also, the GOSL is yet to agree upon a national SDG roadmap and establish the baseline indicators and streamline the supporting data towards enabling a systematic assessment of the progress made transforming the nation towards sustainable development by the year 2030. In this sense, it is unclear as to the methodology used in taking stock of the current status of sustainable development in preparing its VNR.

In the spirit of the collective agreement on ‘leaving no one behind’, the VNRs must reflect the true status of transformation through an honest and inclusive stocktaking. As the VNR process in Sri Lanka had not demonstrated an inclusive intent and a clear rationale, the Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform (SLS SDG Platform) was established and a Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR) through a consultative and fact-finding process was decided upon. The VPR will be presented to the GOSL, all stakeholders as well as the HLPF 2018. The ‘Sri Lanka Voluntary Peoples Review 2018’ is presented to the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018 towards ensuring no one is left behind in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

2. A Stakeholder Platform for SDGs

In early 2016, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife (MSDW) introduced the 'National Sustainable Development Engagement Platform' to take forward their flagship initiative themed 'A Sustainable Nation – An Inclusive Transformation'. However, after a successful year of engaging stakeholders in planning the 'National SDG Action Plan (2017-2020)' and the dialogues for 'Provincial Sustainability Plans', MSDW officials abandoned the platform. The absence of a stakeholder engagement platform was badly felt during the VNR process which saw a bureaucratic decision-making approach applied against the 2016 practice of planning through full engagement.

The Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform (SLS SDG Platform) was established in March 2018 by a collective of CSOs, private sector, academia, professional associations, trade unions, etc. to facilitate an inclusive transformation towards sustainable development in Sri Lanka. Objectives of the 'SLS SDG Platform' are to facilitate an inclusive transformation and independent monitoring and reporting on the implementation of SDGs in Sri Lanka. Towards ensuring accountability of the implementation of the SDGs, representatives from civil society, business, academia, media, as well as local and national government should be able to congregate periodically to assess our status on sustainability and devise collective strategies for prosperity. A single platform is thus established to support the governments vision for a Sustainable Era and extend collective alternatives towards convergent national policies and programmes. It intends to engage with the UN system and create UN wide awareness of our consultations and actions of the SLS SDG Stakeholder Platform. A Platform Facility has been established to coordinate the outreach, communications, research, training activities and advocacy.

The main objectives of the 'SLS-SDG Platform' are as follows:

- i. Facilitate an inclusive transformation in Sri Lanka
 - Facilitate the convergence of SDG related proposals/ideas & knowledge/information from all stakeholders
 - Coordinate stakeholder input into national planning, mainstreaming, and integration of SDGs
 - Capacity building to enable all stakeholders to engage in implementing the SDG process
- ii. Facilitate an independent monitoring and reporting on the implementation of SDGs in Sri Lanka
 - Coordinate independent monitoring and reporting of SDGs at national and sub-national levels to ensure accountability of GOSL as a signatory to 2030 agenda
 - Coordinate with relevant line ministries, public institutions and local authorities for follow-up of implementation

3. Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR)

The government-led VNR process had generated limited interest and engagement by the political hierarchy and therefore, lacked leadership and direction. In a bureaucratic process managed by officials of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development (MSDWRD), and the hired consultant, stakeholder engagement appeared too superficial for an honest outcome. With strong submission from members of the 'SLS SDG Platform', the VNR process finally organized a few stakeholder consultations. Conducted in an overly moderated environment, these consultations appeared to be adhering to formalities than actual engagement. As the government-led VNR process demonstrated low flexibility and appetite for actual integration of stakeholder input, the compulsion of exploring an alternative outcome that provides greater engagement, inquiry and analysis was pursued and resulted in the VPR. In this respect the Sri Lanka VNR to the HLPF lacks a sense of collective ownership and falls short of representing the nation's collective agreement.

The lack of an honest space for engagement in the official VNR process and limited scope of investigation into truthful stocktaking compelled stakeholders to seek an alternative reporting pathway. A first of its kind, the Sri Lanka Voluntary Peoples Review 2018 is an initiative to monitor and report on the status of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) keeping with the objectives of an inclusive transformation towards sustainable development. It also kicks off the 'Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Mechanism' on the SDGs in Sri Lanka.

The stakeholder-led VPR does not provide an alternative to the formal reporting requirement of the HLPF within the UN system. The only global accountability mechanism in implementing the 2030 agenda comes in the form of VNR provided by governments. If the VNRs do not provide an honest stock-taking as to the national implementation of the SDGs, then the world would be misled in the assessment of the transformation expected by 2030. The stakeholder-led VPR from Sri Lanka is an initiative to provide the government an alternative approach towards pursuing its aspiration of sustainable development and to provide the HLPF and UN system an opportunity to pursue the principle of leaving no one behind in the transformation.

It is the responsibility of all sections of the government, stakeholders, and citizens to follow the proclamation on entering into a 'Sustainable Era' made on 2nd January 2017 by His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The stakeholder-led VPR is a voluntary effort to support this national aspiration and assist the national political, policy, and administrative system to pursue a more transformative pathway towards sustainable development. The stakeholder-led VPR is prepared with an objective to reach-out to all sections of government, including local government and its stakeholders, to engage effectively beyond the HLPF 2018 and the limitations of the government-led VNR. Stakeholders preparing the VPR perceive the opportunity of a nation to collectively advance the 2030 agenda and achieve prosperity through sustainability. The VPR therefore is presented with the aspiration of advancing the objectives of 'A Sustainable Nation – An Inclusive Transformation'.

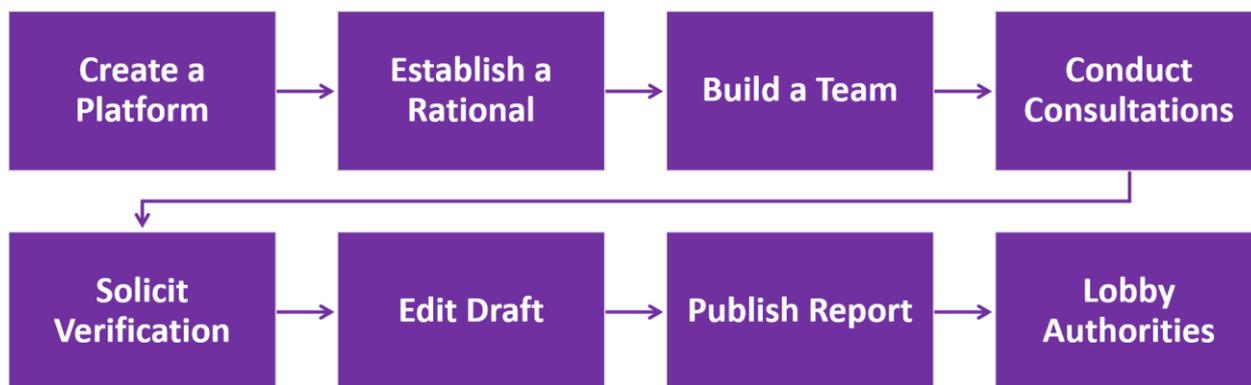
4. A Voluntary Process

The process of formulating the VPR was intense and investigative in an environment that lacked comprehension on the SDGs, low public awareness, incoherent policy framework, fragmented institutional system, and low support for stakeholder engagement. The VPR was a process that was managed through resource pooling and voluntary contributions. However, with limited space for engagement and contribution in the official VNR process, experts from both governmental and non-governmental entities were attracted to meetings, consultations and reviews conducted for the VPR.

The process was able to draw over five hundred direct contributors from government, academia, CSO, CBO, business and other stakeholders during the period of formulating the VPR. Even the regional consultations drew politicians and government officials representing provincial, district and local government levels. Senior experts in their respective fields were engaged along with farmers, fishermen, women and youth to seek clarity in understanding the ramifications of policy determinations and development interventions.

The process of formulating the VPR was as important as much as the outcome as it helped build the foundations for an independent monitoring and reporting mechanism for SDGs and also towards establishing a collective process of transformation that reinforces the principle of leaving no one behind.

The main steps in the defined process and activities in formulating the VPR were as follows;



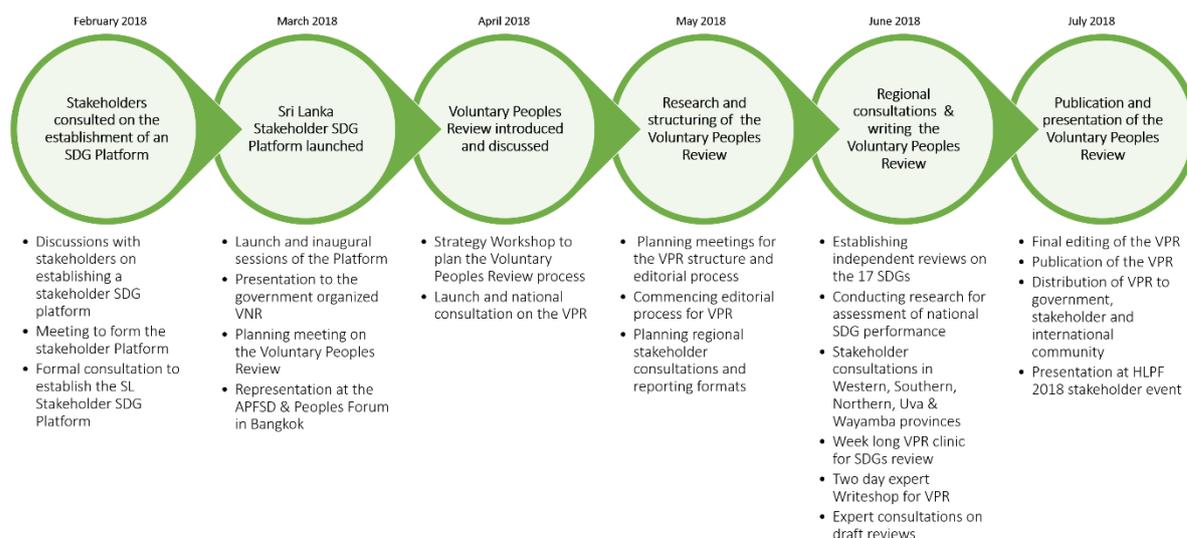
- i. **Create a Platform:** Establish a stakeholder engagement mechanism and engage them in the VNR and VPR processes
- ii. **Establish a Rational:** Define a rational for an independent assessment and structure the VPR
- iii. **Build a Team:** Form a team of reviewers and conduct the research and analysis and produce drafts
- iv. **Conduct Consultations:** Organize stakeholder consultations at national and local levels and conduct fact finding on issues, recommendations, gaps and strategies for sustainable development
- v. **Solicit Verification:** Conduct thematic verification reviews for each SDG and engage relevant experts from government, academia, CSO, business and other stakeholder groups
- vi. **Edit Draft:** Facilitate an editorial process to the final edit of the report
- vii. **Publish Report:** Design, publish, and disseminate the report amongst all stakeholders at local, national and international levels to gain high visibility (next steps)
- viii. **Lobby Authorities:** Conduct awareness on the findings and lobby relevant political and bureaucratic decision makers and influential stakeholders (next steps)

The steps that defined process and activities of formulating the VNR required much more effort due to the increased scope, inadequate human and material resources, lack of information, and time to create the requisite understanding and knowledge on the SDGs. The national and regional consultations brought in key stakeholder representation but the low level of comprehension on the SDGs were an expected reality. Therefore, the consultations were used as an opportunity to extend the platform to create awareness and knowledge.

Even the more aware and engaged stakeholders required extra coaching and guidance on conducting the SDG reviews. The initial methodology used for reviewing the 17 SDGs was deemed too complex for a preliminary assignment in the independent monitoring and reporting mechanism. A simplified assessment structure was then presented, but that too presented with enormous challenges due to lack of baseline indicators and data availability. As a systematic analysis of SDGs had not been adopted so far by the government or by the official-led VNR process, voluntary reviewers of the VPR had an extremely difficult task in conducting the performance rating and providing rationales and justifications.

The Platform Facility conducted a week long VPR clinic to help streamline the draft reviews and provide expert assistance to enable the reviewers to be able to conduct proper research and prepare rationales for the rating and baseline recommendations. A two-day writeshop was organized to bring experts to further review the drafts and input information and draw fair and credible ratings and recommendations. The reviews are presented as work-in-progress and will continue to be improved in the process of establishing the independent monitoring and reporting mechanism on SDGs.

The ‘A Sustainable Nation – An Inclusive Transformation’ activities of formulating the VPR is demonstrated below;



5. The Report

The VPR offers a macro analysis on the key aspects of mainstreaming the SDGs, integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development – environmental, social and economic, policy and institutional coherence, financing the sustainable development agenda, and data readiness for monitoring and evaluation. It also offers to provide a stocktaking on the current status and rating the performance on the 17 SDGs through a process of establishing an ‘Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Mechanism’ on the SDGs in Sri Lanka. The 17 reviews are ‘work-in-progress’ and are expected to evolve. The reviews do not provide a final assessment but attempt to take stock on the country’s sustainable development progress and impress upon responsible authorities to take necessary action. In the absence of a formal monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanism established by the government, these reviews provide a first attempt to systematically analyse the performance on the SDGs by Sri Lanka.

The VPR is presented in five chapters;

- Chapter 01 is a report card on the overall performance in implementing the SDGs
- Chapter 02 is an assessment on the policy and enabling environment for the implementation of the SDGs
- Chapter 03 is a commentary on transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies
- Chapter 04 is a stocktaking on the state of affairs under each of the 17 SDGs
- Chapter 05 is a summary from the public consultations on leaving no one behind



CHAPTER 1

The Road to Transformation

Report Card on the Implementation of the SDGs

“In our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in 2015 Sri Lanka established a cabinet Ministry for Sustainable Development to steer the planning of the implementation of SDGs. Under the overarching theme of “Planning for an Inclusive Transformation” a ‘National SDG Action Plan’ was formulated by my Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife last year. By the end of this year, the “National SDG Roadmap” will be formulated along with a National Monitoring, Review, Reporting and Follow-up Mechanism for SDGs. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, we have also initiated “Regional Sustainability Plans” and already commenced a programme to establish “Sustainable Villages”. We have now conducted an inter and intra linkage mapping between and amongst the 169 targets and the 400 plus statutory institutions under the ministries and have identified their roles and responsibilities of implementing the SDGs. By the end of the year, we are very hopeful of bringing out a convergent long-term sustainability vision, a national policy and strategy, a roadmap on implementing the SDGs, a monitoring-evaluation-reporting mechanism defined by a national indicator and statistical framework, and decentralized implementation of sustainability plans through a mind change of our nation. Our strategy is to implement the SDGs in three phases; 2017 to 2020, 2020 to 2025, and 2025 to 2030. With full readiness for transformation to sustainable development, we believe Sri Lanka would be in an ideal position to present its Voluntary National Review at the High Level Political Forum next year.” - National Statement of Sri Lanka at the General Debate of the, High-level Segment of ECOSOC including the Ministerial Meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development by Hon. Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Minister of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, 18th July 2017¹.

1. Chapter Overview:

This report card provides a synopsis of the performance on implementing the SDGs in Sri Lanka. Besides the current policy framework of Sri Lanka which is shaped by the overall vision of development of the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) presented in “The Five Point Plan: A New Country in 60 Months” in 2015 and reiterated in the Government’s latest “Vision 2025” policy document² released in September 2017, the ‘National budget 2018’ and many government reports, this report card also is based on the official GOSL statements to the United National High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017 which presents its plans based on the National SDG Roadmap and a National SDG Action Plan (2017-2020)³ formulated by Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife (MSDW) in 2016 with wide expert and stakeholder input and presented across local, national, regional and international forums to generate acceptance for stakeholder-wide implementation. The Report Card also uses numerous publications by stakeholders and news reports during the past two years to establish its evaluation rationale. A detailed evaluation is presented in Chapter 02.

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25723srilanka.pdf>

² Vision 2025, Min. of Finance, 2017, Govt. of Sri Lanka.

³ National SDG Action Plan (2017-2020), MSDW, 2017

2. Report Card

Methodology of the assessment:

No-Action or very low initiative taken	Some action or some initiative taken	Progressing or high level of success
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Activity	No	Sub-Activity	Status Report	Rating
1. Awareness and capacity to implement the SDGs	1.1	General Public	<p>The knowledge on the SDGs is extremely low amongst the general public and a vast majority have not even heard about it as very little national awareness building has taken place. Most of the awareness building is happening within the capital city and amongst a select group of public, private and other stakeholder groups and is not extended to a majority of the citizens. If SDGs are to be implemented in the spirit of leaving no one behind, then MSDW and related government agencies, the United Nations agencies in Sri Lanka, and all stakeholders must scale-up the awareness building across all segments of the society. However, the lack of comprehension and the lack of clear plan to promote SDGs have kept the discussions and programmes to a limited segment of the society. The initial impetus shown in 2016 has now declined and the SDG discussion is getting fragmented and remained confined to a few interest groups within public, private and multilateral sectors.</p> <p>Note: While the Ministry of Education with the support of a CSR contribution of a bank had commenced a campaign to support student-led SDG initiatives in 25 selected schools, no significant programme to reach the 10,000 plus schools with over 4 million students and 13 universities with around 50,000 students is being implemented.</p>	
	1.2	Educators	A list of faculty members delivering courses related to SDGs from all universities were obtained and complied by the end of 2016 by MSDW but no substantive action has been taken to follow-up and design curriculums and to conduct formal training for academics on the SDGs. While a few academics on self-initiative have begun to study the SDGs, without a proper knowledge building programme the capacity of educators currently remains quite low on the SDGs. The knowledge base of students therefore remains extremely low in the country.	
	1.3	Parliamentarians	Even with a Parliamentary Select Committee on SDGs being established since 2016, the knowledge amongst	

		<p>parliamentarians on SDGs continue to be very low. Plans to organize a series of training sessions for parliamentarians were made by both the MSDW and UNDP Sri Lanka but no substantive action has been taken to implement them. The lack of proper understanding of the SDGs and sustainable development in general amongst the political leaders has led the continuity of the destructive development process in the country and the political commitment to transformation is yet to be secured.</p>	
1.4	Public Officials	<p>One of the greatest obstacles in mainstreaming SDGs is the low level of knowledge amongst the senior public officials. During 2016 MSDW conducted a series of thematic consultations involving key government institutions and senior officials towards creating the initial awareness and understanding of how to adopt SDGs in mainstreaming into national policy frameworks. However, the limited progress to conduct proper knowledge building amongst senior public officials and provide them with toolkits for policy facilitation and integration has downgraded the initial impetus within the public sector. The awareness on SDGs at bottom to mid-levels of public officials is quite low and therefore the operationalizing suffers. Currently what can be observed is that SDGs are being used for branding of policy and strategy documents by all ministries and public-sector institutions without a proper analysis of mainstreaming and integration. It is quite disheartening to see this approach widely applied to multilateral funded projects which dilutes the efforts for true transformation that result in unsustainable outcomes.</p>	
1.5	Local Authorities	<p>Capacity building of the local authorities and regional stakeholders has not progressed adequately but has been taking place in an ad-hoc basis. This has created a gap in conducting regional sustainable development planning. Local politicians had been engaged in awareness building workshops organized by various CSOs and the consultations conducted for the VPR were used also to build awareness amongst local politicians. These consultations reveal the gaps between national and local agendas where the local politicians and officials alike struggle to bring to attention the true sustainable development related issues of the rural communities.</p>	
1.6	CSOs & CBOs	<p>Knowledge on the SDGs amongst CSOs remains low and limited to a very small community based in the capital city. The knowledge on SDGs are extremely low amongst CBOs and regional stakeholders with limited or no opportunity to engage and learn. As a proper stakeholder mapping has not been conducted and ad-hoc and personal contact-based engagement continues,</p>	

			stakeholder opportunities are limited for proper learning and awareness.	
	1.7	Private Sector	Moderate efforts by the private sector to partner and initiate SDG based programmes and fit them into the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) model does not appear to generate intended impacts. Indicator based programme development is yet to be seen for the SDGs in the private sector projects. The interlinked nature of SDGs has created a complexity of understanding SDGs and developing thematic programmes and projects has been a problem. The attempts to select stand-alone goals and align them to CSR projects is not successful.	
2. Mainstreaming and integration of SDGs and means of implementation	2.1	Institutional coherence and Inter-agency coordination	A National SDG Facilitation Mechanism was proposed for inter-agency coordination, sectoral/thematic integration, and monitoring, evaluation & reporting. The 'Handbook on the Institutional Architecture for Implementing the SDGs' prepared by MSDW revealed the deep fragmentation in the public administration system of Sri Lanka. Mandates based responsibilities of 51 ministries and 425 statutory institutions were identified against implementing the 169 SDG targets. The handbook provides a deep analysis on institutional incoherence with static and dynamic mapping between the 169 SDG targets and the 425 statutory institutions and 51 Ministries. In an uncertain timeline of establishing the Sustainable Development Council, MSDW as the focal organization has not been able to establish an 'Interim-Coordination Mechanism for the Implementation of the SDGs' and it is uncertain of the decision-making structure for the SDGs in Sri Lanka. The ad-hoc appointment committees from time to time and with little or no political leadership has diluted the credibility of the national SDG process. Administrating the planning and implementation of the SDGs in Sri Lanka is currently centered around a few officials without a proper institutional or governance structure which has led to lack of accountability and credibility.	
	2.2	Policy coherence and national SDG framework	The Sustainable Development Act ⁴ was passed in Parliament in October 2017 and it was expected that GOSL will establish the proposed Sustainable Development Council at least in early 2018 and provide the necessary capacity to implement its mandate. Though the members to the council has been appointed, the council itself is yet to be convened. Anticipating the council to take over the role, MSDW has stayed away from developing a sustainable development strategy and action plan leaving open the national sustainable development policy framework to loose interpretations.	

⁴ SRI LANKA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACT, No. 19 OF 2017

		<p>The Department of National Planning (NPD) has so far initiated a policy coherence analysis for the agriculture sector as prototyping exercise. However, the lack of a substantive effort to conduct a policy coherence mapping and to develop a national SDG roadmap and operational framework has created a critical gap in mainstreaming and integrating SDGs effectively into national policy frameworks. Also, no substantive action has been made to ensure localized and decentralized planning and implementation of the SDGs as the concept for provincial sustainability plans and sustainable villages presented in early 2016 are yet to be operationalized.</p>
2.3	Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development	<p>His Excellency President Maithripala Sirisena on 2 January 2017 appointed a Presidential Expert Committee (PEC) to prepare a report on Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision – Strategic Path. The report proposes to integrate and harmonize across the three main dimensions of sustainable development, Economic, Social and Environmental, and recommends a balanced inclusive green growth (BIGG) path towards facilitating the national transition from “Conventional Sri Lanka 2015” to “Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030”. However, this report is not yet considered as part of the main policy framework, even in the VNR 2018, driven mainly by the Vision 2025 that is focused on transforming the country into a knowledge-based, highly competitive, social-market economy. While many positive policies promoting sustainable development are available, most development initiatives continue to be driven by economic growth-based development objectives that pays little consideration to integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. While policy documents tend to state that sustainable development is a goal, there is little evidence to demonstrate the actual integration of the three dimensions in the macro level projects and programmes as well as development strategies. Selection of investments are not yet sustainable and ecosystems services and degradation potentials are not incorporated in the investment cost/benefit analysis of the current programs and strategies.</p>
2.4	Science-Policy interface	<p>The Ministry of Science, Technology, and Research functions as the ministerial body of Science-Policy integration in to the national policy framework. The science technology research division within the National Science Foundation⁵ (NSF) introduces “Science Indicators for Policy Development” with the objective of providing information on science, technology, innovation, education and other related fields to the policymakers</p>

⁵ <http://www.nsf.ac.lk/index.php/the-nsf-/scientific-divisions/science-a-technology-policy-research-division>

			<p>and others nationwide and make the society aware of the important issues relevant to science and technology towards the economic development of the country and the general welfare of the society. The Coordinating Secretariat for Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI)⁶ established on February 1, 2013 is mandated by the cabinet decision of September 9, 2011 with the specific aim of coordination and monitoring of Science, Technology and Innovation activities in the country. The objective of this is to establish a world class National Research and Innovation Eco-system to generate strategic and sustainable technologies and innovations to win the "economic war" by focusing on areas of core competencies and resource linked opportunities; Preparing our people for a knowledge society through improved scientific literacy; Upholding sustainable principles in all spheres of activity. The important interlinkages between these entities and other government entities of Sri Lanka and the key tasks were identified and critically evaluated during the institutional coherence mapping in 2016.</p> <p>However, the government has fallen short in absorbing these key findings that could be useful in the national implementation process. Therefore, there is a need for a further evaluation of how they contribute to actual implementation of the SDGs. Sri Lanka lacks University-Industry collaboration or interface for sustainability; universities are not provided with adequate incentives or an enabling environment. Environment processes are not linked to public awareness. Science and Technology and visualization tools can go long way in promoting best practices in health, agriculture. Data sharing is a big science and technology issue. Sri Lanka does not have a proper incentive system to bring S&T experts to the sustainability agenda</p>	
	2.5	Localising SDGs	<p>Sri Lanka is yet to localize the SDGs effectively. Localizing needs to involve using SDGs in project monitoring and use of them in district and regional planning, SDG based annual budgeting, data sharing, planning assistance, etc.</p> <p>The 1st provincial engagement platform was held in June 2016 in the Central Province with the participation of the political and administrative hierarchy along with the participation of over 500 stakeholders from CSO, universities, business etc. The next provincial platform was only held in the third quarter of 2017 in the Wayamba Province and a district platform in Moneragala district.</p>	

⁶ <https://www.costi.gov.lk/>

			<p>The proposal to formulate a provincial sustainability plan was adopted by the Central Province but due to the lack of interest and commitment of officials the provincial sustainability plans has not been effectively pursued. Also, a preliminary attempt to establish a cluster of sustainable villages in Pannala in the Kurunegala district has been made. A baseline survey and training of community level officials had been conducted. However, action to facilitate the formulation of a sustainable development principles based strategic plan for sustainable villages as per the action plan has so far not taken place.</p>
2.6	Stakeholder engagement		<p>The National Sustainable Development Engagement Platform was launched by MSDW in early 2016. A broad stakeholder engagement process was conducted throughout the year on various themes around the SDGs with the participation and collaboration of different stakeholder groups. Sensitizing and awareness creation among politicians, public officials, local government, CSOs, business and other stakeholders was conducted widely during 2016. The platform was abandoned by MSDW officials in 2017 and engagement was limited to establishing committees with the participation of hand-picked public-sector representatives and limited number of experts. This non-inclusive approach has marginalized stakeholders in effectively engaging in national SDG planning and implementation. With this the central plan for an inclusive transformation vital for keeping with the commitment to leaving no one behind appeared to diminish. The absence of a stakeholder engagement platform was seen during the preparation of the Voluntary National Review which provided limited engagement from the outset. In response to civil society pressure, a consultation and verification workshop was organised. Conducted by hired foreign consultants, these consultations were overly moderated to facilitate a predetermined outcome and lacked the space for an actual engagement space for honest contributions.</p> <p>The Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform has been independently established in early 2018 to ensure an inclusive transformation and to provide an independent monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of the SDGs. An honest attempt to leaving no one behind is missing in the national SDG process currently and needs serious attention. Sri Lankan planning process tends to keep stakeholders at a distant while providing limited consultation spaces during international reporting process.</p>
2.7	Means of Implementation		<p>Sri Lanka has not assessed the cost to implement the SDGs yet. This is partly due to a lack of a clear roadmap and strategy towards mainstreaming and integration of</p>

			<p>the SDGs into the national policy and strategic frameworks. Strangely after establishing a new cabinet portfolio on sustainable development, the GOSL had been reluctant to allocate considerable amounts of funds to MSDW as the focal ministry during the last three years despite comprehensive proposals for the implementation of the SDGs had been presented by the ministry. The ministry also had not received any significant support for the SDGs from the UN and other multilateral agencies which had seriously hampered the intended process in 2016.</p> <p>However, the Budget 2018 has made an attempt to address the three key dimensions of sustainable development. It is focused on a Blue - Green economic programme towards adopting new and sustainable technologies to reduce environmental risks and ecological imbalances. GOSL requires greater UN and international support if the SDGs are to be implemented and lack of such support has and is weakening the initial impetus.</p>	
3. Monitoring, Review, Reporting & Follow-up Mechanism	3.1	National SDG Indicators and Baseline Data Framework	<p>Sri Lanka is yet to establish a national indicator framework and provide national baselines for measuring the progress of SDGs. In early 2017, the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) published the Status of SDG Indicators in Sri Lanka. It identified 131 indicators that other institutions of the National Statistical System (NSS), including various ministries, departments and other institutions, need to take the lead to compile data for some SDG indicators. 35 SDG indicators were identified as intended to be used for monitoring SDG Target achievements at regional or global level. 03 SDG indicators were identified as not relevant to Sri Lanka. DCS had requested the MSDW to follow-up with all relevant ministries and agencies, but the country remains without formal baseline data for 166 SDG indicators. The VNR is presented to the HLPF 2018 without a methodology to collect and analyse the requisite baseline data for the 169 targets and therefore lacks a critical stock taking of where the country stands in respect to the 2030 agenda.</p>	
	3.2	National SDG Monitoring, evaluation, follow-up and Reporting	<p>While the Department of Project Management & Monitoring (DPMM) is the National Focal Point for monitoring and evaluation of all development policies, programmes and projects of Government, the lack of a substantial inter-agency coordination mechanism for SDGs and lack of institutional support for a convergent data process has seriously compromised the ability to monitor and assess the progress on the SDGs. In this respect, and as acknowledged by responsible officials and editors, the VNR had been prepared without a monitoring</p>	

			and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs and does not provide an honest and fair stocktaking.
	3.3	National Sustainable Development Information	It is important that GOSL establishes a National Sustainable Development Data and Information Portal as proposed by MSDW National SDG Action Plan in early 2016 if proper monitoring, evaluation, follow-up and reporting is to be done on the SDGs. A critical element of planning the integrated SDGs, no action has been taken to initiate a sustainable development information portal. Without such a data portal, all the data available in different domains continues to be unofficial and mostly considered invalid by the national statistical system that lacks a majority of data for the UN SDG indicator framework. The UN Sri Lanka recently conducted a workshop to promote the need for comprehensive data coordination, but the process for actual activation of inclusive data collection and dissemination is yet to be seen.

CHAPTER 2

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

An Assessment on the Policy and Enabling Environment for the Implementation of SDGs in Sri Lanka

1. Chapter Overview:

On 02nd January 2017, His Excellency Maithripala Sirisena, the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka launched the Government's 'Vision for a Sustainable Era', the national programme for building a sustainable country, aligning it with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As the first country in the Asia-Pacific Region to establish a separate Ministry for Sustainable Development, Sri Lanka is uniquely placed to implement the Sustainable Development Goals at national level and contribute to the universal efforts to transform the world⁷. In October 2017 the 'Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Act'⁸ was passed in Parliament to provide a broad legislative framework for the implementation of the national policy on sustainable development.

As the national focal point for the SDGs in Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development (MSDWRD) has the primary responsibility in facilitating the planning and implementation of the SDGs in an integrated and inclusive manner and facilitate an honest and transparent reporting process. Established to facilitate an integrated approach to development, in early 2016 the ministry (then called Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife or MSDW) initiated the 'A Sustainable Nation - An Inclusive Transformation'⁹ programme to plan the implementation of the SDGs. Through an extensive stakeholder engagement process, MSDW formulated the key elements of a Roadmap and a National SDG Action Plan (2017-2020) that was presented across local, provincial, national, regional and international forums. Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) reported its progress to the United Nations High Level Political Forum⁹ (HLPF) and the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) in 2016 and 2017, based on this plan.

This chapter provides an analysis of Sri Lanka's preparedness for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The chapter will cover (i) ownership of the SDGs (ii) incorporation of the SDGs into national frameworks (iii) policy and institutional coherence for SDGs (iv) monitoring, evaluation, follow-up and reporting mechanism for SDGs (v) Localising the SDGs (vi) means of implementation for the SDGs (vii) a performance assessment of Implementing the SDGs in Sri Lanka.

2. Creating Ownership of the SDGs

In early 2016 the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife (MSDW) launched the 'National Sustainable Development Engagement Platform' towards implementing its flagship programme themed 'A Sustainable Nation - An Inclusive Transformation' and to ensure regular stakeholder engagement for awareness and process building of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The main objectives of the National Sustainable Development Engagement Platform¹⁰ include (a) facilitating a regular stakeholder dialogue on the sustainable development pathways of the nation (b) building stakeholder partnerships towards the implementation of the

⁷ https://www.un.int/srilanka/statements_speeches/high-level-dialogue-entitled-building-sustainable-peace-all-synergies-between

⁸ <http://msdw.gov.lk/news/a-sustainable-nation--an-inclusive-transformation/>

⁹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25723srilanka.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://msdw.gov.lk/news/a-sustainable-nation--an-inclusive-transformation/>

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and 17 SDGs (c) creating awareness, knowledge building and engagement on sustainable development. Throughout the year of 2016 MSDW conducted several dozens of awareness creation and capacity building platform events and workshops to bring together cabinet ministers, members of parliament, local authorities, officials, agencies representatives, civil society, academia, business, trade unions, students and many other stakeholders. Through this inclusive planning process, the key elements of a Roadmap were drawn, a National SDG Action Plan (2017-2020) was formulated, roles and responsibilities of all ministries and public-sector institutions were mapped, and the findings have been presented across local, provincial, national, regional and international forums.

This process and the plan was abandoned by MSDW in 2017 and the fragmented approaches taken since do not provide common strategy towards planning and implementing the SDG in Sri Lanka. The country currently does not have a clear and commonly accepted SDG roadmap and action plan and has created a wide gap in an all of government implementation. In this context, there is no clear ownership or leadership for the SDGs in Sri Lanka. The continued delay in establishing the Council for Sustainable Development (CSD) as mandated by the Sustainable Development Act¹¹ has delayed the formulation of a National Sustainable Development Strategy and has left a clear gap in strategic direction on the implementation of the SDGs. While MSDW with the mandate to facilitate the SDGs lacked the convening power, the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs which has the key agencies including the Department of National Planning (NPD), Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) and the Department of Project Management and Monitoring (DPMM) continues to drive the success and failures of the sustainable development agenda. Without clear leadership, direction and guidance, different ministries and other public-sector institutions appear to develop their own SDG strategies and action plans without any integration amongst each other and without any coordination.

As part of the Voluntary Peoples Review on the SDGs (VPR), partners of the Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform (SLS-SDG-Platform) conducted a series of thematic, provincial and stakeholder consultations between March and June 2018 to ascertain the issues, proposed solutions, challenges to implementing the SDGs, and strategies to address the challenges. These consultations included politicians, local authorities, government officials, academics, CSOs, CBOs, business associations, trade unions, farmers organizations, fishermen's organisations, women's groups, youth groups, etc. During the consultations it was clearly evident that the awareness on SDGs amongst all sectors and stakeholders were low and the knowledge to implement SDGs were inadequate at local, district and provincial levels. Even within universities, the knowledge on the SDGs is at a low level and lacks understanding beyond siloed subject specialism. At central government level, both at political and administrative, the lack of deeper understanding of SDGs is an impediment in mainstream into national policy and strategy frameworks and towards the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; economic, social and environmental.

3. Incorporation of SDGs Into National Frameworks

The Sri Lanka Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals 2018 (Sri Lanka VNR¹²) presented to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) considers the (i) Vision 2025: A Country Enriched, its medium-term development plan (ii) Public Investment Programme: 2017-2020 (PIP)', and (iii) 'Blue Green' Budget of 2018 as the foundations to define Sri Lanka's strategic development framework. Towards showcasing the alignment of the national policy framework, the VNR uses the UNDP Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) presented in early 2017. This assessment is solely based on the 'Public Investment Programme (PIP) 2017-2020' that was prepared by the Department of National Planning (NPD) to cover the five economic

¹¹ https://srilankalaw.lk/YearWisePdf/2017/19-2017_E.pdf

¹² https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19418Sri_Lanka_Final_VNR_REPORT_Final_Report_Jun182018.pdf

development points presented in 2016 by the Prime Minister. While the Vision 2025 report was not available during the UNDP assessment, the PIP does not qualify as the overarching policy framework for Sri Lanka to be basing a policy coherence analysis. The absence of a proper policy coherence mapping being conducted, analysis of mainstreaming the SDGs must be done across numerous policy directives of the coalition government. Also, the different policies and strategies issues by various ministries also provide policy and strategy frameworks for an SDG mainstreaming exercise.

‘Vision 2025: A Country Enriched¹³’ was published in 2017 and makes a claim to be the overarching development strategy’ presented in 2017. The Vision 2025 focuses on building an era of economic prosperity through growth based on the principles of a social market economy and seeks to foster innovation and entrepreneurship to facilitate skill-based technological change as a driver of productivity and economic growth in the new global economic landscape. For this it proposes an incentive regime for a private investment led and export-driven growth model to leverage Sri Lanka’s many advantages as a hub for goods and services trade at the center of the Indian Ocean. It envisages that the changes emerging from the proposed structural social changes will result in the formation of a strong and influential middle class that can propel Sri Lanka to successfully make that leap to a rich country. The Vision 2025 is derived from the Economic Policy Statement made by Prime Minister Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe in Parliament and includes (i) generating of one million job opportunities (ii) enhancing income levels (iii) development of rural economies (iv) ensuring land ownership to rural and estate sectors, the middle class and government employees, and (v) creating a wide and a strong middle class. Focused predominantly on economic growth, the Vision 2025 does not present an integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, social and economic) as a prerequisite to achieving the SDGs.

The ‘Public Investment Programme (PIP) 2017-2020’ had been based on the overall vision of the ‘Five Point Plan: A New Country in 60 months’ which focuses mainly on strengthening of the economy and promoting investment and infrastructure development as a means of accelerating economic growth to take the country rapidly towards upper middle-income status within a short time. It provides a very low focus on environmental sustainability. To conduct the alignment exercise and develop an SDG profile of Sri Lanka, the SDG targets were mapped against the targets of the PIP 2017-2020 as illustrated in Table 3.2. The RIA has identified 16 targets out of 169 (9%) that are not applicable or not relevant to the country’s policy development framework and to be solved at the regional or global level. Further, 44 targets, though relevant to Sri Lanka, have been identified as not aligned (26%) i.e. there is no equivalent target in the PIP document to the SDG target in question. Figure 3.2 clearly shows that the PIP 2017-2020 is extremely weak on key environmental SDGs for climate action (SDG13), life below water (SDG14), and life on land (SDG15).

The Sri Lanka VNR 2018 does not appear to have considered the report of the Presidential Expert Committee (PEC) Report on Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision – Strategic Pathway’. Commissioned by His Excellency President Maithripala Sirisena on 2 January 2017 the PEC has prepared a report that proposes to integrate and harmonize across the three main dimensions of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental, and recommends a balanced inclusive green growth (BIGG) path towards facilitating the national transition from “Conventional Sri Lanka 2015” to “Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030”. The PEC report appears to still be in a semi-formal state not to be considered as part of the main policy framework even in the VNR 2018. However, this report provides a different policy and strategic approach to the Vision 2025 that is a focused on transforming the country into a knowledge-based, highly competitive, social-market economy.

‘The Blue-Green’ Budget of 2018’ is a key document that provides the strategic framework of the government that has attempted to address the three key dimensions of sustainable development. This budget proposes to

¹³ http://www.pmooffice.gov.lk/download/press/D0000000061_EN.pdf

further the policy of pursuing a Blue - Green development strategy and states that this is not only in line with our international commitments made at the Conference of Parties 2015 (COP 2015) in Paris or our commitment to achieving the 17 SDGs by 2030. It is further stated that the Blue - Green economic programme, will generate growth by utilizing our much-under-utilized ocean resources, thereby, facilitating the diversification of our economy, adopting new and sustainable technologies especially in agriculture, fisheries and manufacturing sectors. This will reduce environmental risks and ecological imbalances.

In Sri Lanka, while many positive policies promoting sustainable development are available, most development initiatives continue to be driven by economic growth-based development objectives that pays little attention to integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development. It is hoped that the Sustainable Development Act would soon come into activation towards creating policy coherence leading to sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Act No 19 of 2017 enacted in October 2017 provides the legal framework to implement the SDGs using the existing system of public institutions, applying the mainstreaming principle where the SDC plays a central coordinating role. It proposes to establish a Sustainable Development Council (SDC) as the national coordinating body for implementing SDGs.

Following is an assessment of the progress of mainstreaming SDGs into national development frameworks in Sri Lanka based on the three typical steps proposed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) to countries for initial SDG mainstreaming¹⁴;

UNDESA Mainstreaming Criteria	Sri Lanka Mainstreaming Status
<p>1. Review of existing strategies and plans and identification of areas for change: to scan and detail the landscape of existing strategies and plans at the national, sub-national, and local levels and then compare against the global SDGs and targets to identify gaps and provide the basis for areas for change;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A comprehensive mapping of existing national policies and strategies is yet to be conducted to assess policy coherence against the 2030 Agenda. ● Provincial Sustainability Plans have not been formulated and little effort has been made to align the District Development Plans with the SDGs. ● Localising SDGs has not been pursued effectively leaving a wide gap between central and local planning for sustainable development. ● There is no clear role identified for subnational elected bodies in SDG's.
<p>2. Setting nationally-relevant targets: for nationally-adapted and inclusive SDGs that are achievable, yet ambitious;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No clear roadmap has been drawn to implement the SDGs despite the key elements of an SDG roadmap and action plan was formulated in 2016 by MSDW. ● While roles and responsibilities of the 425 public sector agencies and the 51 ministries (at that time), had been identified in 2016, no concerted effort has been made to integrate SDGs by each of these agencies and ministries and to follow-up on the necessary inter-agency coordination. ● While DCS has identified data for 46 indicators out of 244, the target setting by relevant ministries and

¹⁴ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/unsystem/mainstreaming>

	agencies is still pending and the country is yet to establish national baselines for the SDGs.
3. Formulation of strategy and plans using integrated systems thinking: to incorporate the recommendations and the insights from the above steps into strategies and plans and matching ambition and commitments with resources and capacities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing development plans and strategies are heavily biased towards foreign direct investment (FDI) based rapid economic growth strategies and does not provide an integrated approach to the three dimensions of sustainable development. • National policies and strategies are fragmented through siloed approaches by different ministries and authorities based on the thematic objectives. • Little effort is being made to ensure inter-agency collaboration and coordination to ensure integrated policy and strategy planning efforts, at least on the broad sectoral divisions, namely, economic, social and environmental.

4. Policy and Institutional Coherence for the SDGs

Since signing on to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) has taken numerous initiatives towards facilitating the Sustainable Development Goals.

- i. Introduction of a cabinet portfolio on sustainable development and the establishment of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife; recently renamed as the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Rural Development.
- ii. Passing the Sustainable Development Act in Parliament that will enable the establishment of a Sustainable Development Council and a National Sustainable Development Strategy
- iii. The establishment of a Parliamentary Select Committee on the SDGs
- iv. The Presidential declaration of a Sustainable Era and the appointment of a Presidential Expert Committee on drafting a Vision for 2030

Sri Lanka during time has inherited a deeply fragmented public administration structure with multiple duplications and contradictions. MSDW prepared a handbook on the institutional architecture for implementing the SDGs which revealed the deep fragmentation in the public enterprise system of Sri Lanka. Mandates and responsibilities of 51 ministries and 425 statutory institutions were identified against implementing the 169 SDG targets. The Institutional Architecture for SDG Implementation Handbook provides a deep analysis on Institutional Coherence with static and dynamic mapping between the 169 SDG Targets and the 425 statutory institutions and 51 Ministries. The institutional architecture mapping conducted in 2016, and made public in early 2017, shows that for the SDGs to be implemented Sri Lanka needs to sort out the issue of institutional incoherence.

The Handbook on Institutional Architecture for Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in Sri Lanka identified and recommended the following;

- The primary responsibility of implementation falls under the purview of the Ministries. The large number of ministries (51 in 2016), the politically driven rationale of clustering ministerial portfolios, and the uncertainty of the duration of the portfolio, etc. do not provide a durable and stable institutional mechanism to be satisfied with.
- Departments, Statutory bodies and Public Corporations have clear mandates and would exist under any change of ministerial portfolio clustering. Therefore, the roles under the stipulated mandates of these 425 institutions, which were published as a separate 'Draft Institutional Mandates Handbook', were mapped against 169 SDG targets to ascertain the regulatory responsibility towards implementation the SDGs. The initial static mapping provides a direct, linear and sectoral understanding of the responsibilities of these

institutions in selected SDG targets and the dynamic mapping using a data and systems management software provides a graphical narrative of systems-linkages between the 169 targets and the 425 agencies under the 51 ministries and also amongst each other.

- Mapping of a full stakeholder engagement including provincial councils, local authorities, civil society and business, etc. is proposed along with a more in-depth assessment of leveraging of priorities and responsibilities.
- Next steps were entailed in the 'National SDG Activities Plan (2017-2020)' to follow-up on the policy and institutional coherence mapping.

As this process was abandoned in 2017 by MSDW, currently it is uncertain of the decision-making structure for the SDGs in Sri Lanka. The SDG process appears to be limited to ad-hoc decision making by individual officials within a few ministries and public-sector agencies without much understanding of the political hierarchy and does not flow from the national policy and strategy frameworks. Adding another institution, as in the Sustainable Development Council (SDS), without coherence in the total institutional system might add to the complication and confusion. Also, substitution of the integrated institutional mechanism by delegation of responsibility to a single agency or hand-picked interim committees minus an integrated institutional mechanism will not help address the systemic challenges of achieving the SDGs.

For example, the 'National Scoping Study on Innovative Climate Finance Mechanisms for Financial Institutions in Sri Lanka'¹⁵ conducted by the Centre for Environment and Development (CED) for UNESCAP states that Sri Lankan policy makers have yet to align the SDGs and the Nationally Determine Contributions¹⁶ (NDCs) on Climate Change. While the SDGs are coordinated by the MSDWRD, the NDCs are coordinated by the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE) separately. This study aims to demonstrate the need for an integrated approach and the table below demonstrates the degree of alignment that already exists between NDC sectors and SDGs.

The 12 sectors of NDCs under mitigation and adaptation have full scale integration with SDG 13 on climate action. Also, SDG17 on global partnerships to implement national sustainable actions by financing, technological support and capacity building cuts across all NDC sector intentions and corresponds with NDC sector 14 on means of implementation. Targets of SDG 3 on healthy lives and well-being, SDG 6 on water and sanitation, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and human settlements, and SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production are highly integrated with all NDC mitigation sectors and majority of the NDC adaptation sectors. However, the NDCs appear not to be strongly devised on social equity and therefore lacks close linkages to goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and SDG 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries, its approaches towards social coherence and integrity is considerably less, especially in mitigation sectors of industry, forestry, transportation, energy, and waste.

Interlinkages between Sri Lanka's NDCs and the SDGs

¹⁵ <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Climate%20Finace%20Scoping%20Study%20Sri%20Lanka-%20CED%20Team.pdf>

¹⁶ http://www.climatechange.lk/Publications_2016/Readiness%20Plan%20For%20INDCS%20In%20Sri%20Lanka.pdf

SDGs Goals	NDCs for Mitigation Sectors					NDCs for Adaptation Sectors						
	Energy	Transport	Industrial	Forestry	Waste	Health	Food Security	Water & Irrigation	Coastal & Marine	Biodiversity	Urban, City Planning & Human Settlements	Tourism & Recreation
SDG 1												
SDG 2												
SDG 3												
SDG 4												
SDG 5												
SDG 6												
SDG 7												
SDG 8												
SDG 9												
SDG 10												
SDG 11												
SDG 12												
SDG 13												
SDG 14												
SDG 15												
SDG 16												
SDG 17												

Primary SDG is Goal 13 on Climate Action for the NDC Sectors
 Key SDG for the NDC Sector

Secondary SDG Goals for the NDC Sector
 No relation with the SDG Goal for the NDC Sector
 Cross cutting SDG Goal across all NDC Sectors

Above analysis demonstrates the need for policy and strategy integration between NDCs with the SDGs. Financing the sustainable development agenda is inclusive of climate action. On the other hand, if challenges posed by climate vulnerabilities are not adequately addressed in economic planning, sustainable development would not be possible. The relationship between climate financing and financing the sustainable development agenda must go together if Sri Lanka is to create a resilient and prosperous future.

Voluntary research clearly demonstrates that Sri Lanka has inherited plethora of a deeply incoherent policies that does not support the transformation towards a sustainable era and implementing the SDGs. It was highly expected that MSDW in partnership with the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs (MNPEA) and other key ministries and agencies would facilitate this all-important policy coherence mapping. It is critically important that an independent policy coherence mapping is conducted in collaboration with the Department of National Planning (NPD) and with the engagement of experts and stakeholders if a meaningful implementation of the SDGs is expected in Sri Lanka.

It is critical that GOSL makes a firm commitment to a strategic plan to achieve the SDGs by 2030. With the SDS also falling under the purview of the Minister holding the Sustainable Development portfolio, MSDWRD clearly retains the focal responsibility of facilitating the national programme for implementing the SDGs. The lack of an integrated monitoring, evaluation, follow-up and reporting mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs in Sri Lanka prevents essential information on the status of thematic and sectoral achievements in implementing the SDGs.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation, Follow-up and Reporting Mechanism for the SDGs

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) published a report called “The Status of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators in Sri Lanka: 2017¹⁷” which baseline data compiled through ongoing censuses and surveys and administrative records, and data compiled by some statistical units of DCS established at other institutions of the national statistical system (NSS) of Sri Lanka. This report includes 12 chapters providing status of SDGs in Sri Lanka except for goals 12, 13, 14, 15, and 17 for which data cannot be compiled by the DCS. Out of 244 indicators,

¹⁷ Status of Sustainable Development Goals Indicators in Sri Lanka: 2017, Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka, 2017

data are already compiled for 46 indicators through ongoing censuses and surveys of the DCS and administrative records. The DCS could compile data on 29 indicators by adding new modules into existing censuses, surveys, or through new surveys and special studies. It identified 131 indicators that other institutions of the NSS, including various ministries, departments and other institutions, need to take the lead to compile data for some SDG indicators. 35 SDG indicators were identified as intended to use for monitoring SDG Target achievements at regional or global level. 03 SDG indicators were identified as not relevant to Sri Lanka.

DCS had requested the MSDW to follow-up with all relevant ministries and agencies, but the country remains without formal baseline data for 166 SDG indicators. The lack of a solid inter-agency coordination mechanism for SDGs and lack of institutional support for a convergent data process has seriously compromised the ability to monitor and assess the progress on the SDGs. In the absence of requisite baseline data and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the SDGs, an honest and fair stocktaking becomes impossible. The VNR is presented to the HLPF 2018 without any efforts made to collect the requisite baseline data for the 169 targets and therefore lacks a critical stock taking of where the country stands in respect to the 2030 agenda.

It is important that the government establishes a 'National Sustainable Development Data and Information Portal' as proposed by the MSDW National SDG Action Plan. Without such a data portal, all the data available in different domains continues to be unofficial and mostly considered invalid by the national statistical system that lacks most of data for the UN SDG indicator framework.

6. Localising the SDGs

Planning is largely a central government activity in Sri Lanka and District Development Plans¹⁸ represent a more decentralized or localized level of development planning in the country. The Office for National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) together with Ministry of National Policy and Economic Affairs has formulated comprehensive 5-year District Development Plan for the Northern and Eastern provinces. While these 2 provinces were chosen due to the extensive disturbance to normal life and unequal development due to 30 years of internal strife; ONUR and NPD (National Planning Department) believed that this could be a model to be used in the rest of the districts, as well in enabling an inclusive development agenda for each district in Sri Lanka. It claims that a process of comprehensive development planning included stakeholder consultation from the local communities was conducted for the first time in the planning of Government Development Programmes.

Meanwhile, European Union (EU) support to District Development Programme (EU-SDDP) is a 60-month Programme that also had aimed at assisting Sri Lanka to make a transition from post-conflict assistance to reconstruction and development. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)¹⁹ together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), and International Finance Corporation (IFC) has implemented a 60 million Euro programme in the districts of Batticaloa, Mannar, Vavuniya, Ampara, Monaragala, Anuradhapura and Puttalam through six out of ten intervention areas earmarked under EU-SDDP during the 2012 – 2017 period.

¹⁸ <http://onur.gov.lk/2015/02/04/comprehensive-district-development-plans/>

¹⁹ http://www.lk.undp.org/content/srilanka/en/home/operations/projects/poverty_reduction/project_sample.html

However, no substantial efforts have been made towards localizing and decentralizing the development planning based on the SDGs and the district development planning process needs to revert to a format of addressing the recommendations of the 2030 agenda. While it is globally recognized that local governments have a unique role to play in planning, executing and monitoring of SDGs, in Sri Lanka, they are handicapped by a lack of clearly defined devolved and decentralized authority, diffused institutional and legal frameworks, limited human and financial resources; and weaknesses in data systems hindering effective target setting and monitoring. To rectify these anomalies, sub-national governments should be capacitated with authority, resources and finances, as well as the institutional framework to define, deliver and monitor SDG targets and indicators, keeping in mind that subsidiarity and good governance at all levels are essential to implementing the 2030 Agenda. The ongoing constitutional reforms process provides good opportunities to explore options for localizing the SDGs, through strengthening sub-national bodies and capacities for greater control over planning, implementing and monitoring of SDGs²⁰.

The local government authorities had requested the national government to approach the United Nations system in Sri Lanka to provide tailored support for an integrated effort of the provincial and local government spheres to elaborate base lines, identify indicators, promote SDG based local planning systems, support integrated and cross sectorial implementation and finally design monitoring systems to measure progress²¹. The proposal for 'Provincial Sustainability Plans' in the National SDG Action Plan (2017-2020) had been discussed widely the Central Province had come forward to initiate the process. But due to the lack of financial support from the multilateral agencies and lack of commitment of officials, the provincial sustainability plans have not been effectively pursued.

7. Means of Implementation for the SDGs

Even though the GOSL had taken an innovative step in establishing a cabinet ministry on sustainable development, it had not provided an adequate budget or staff and encouragement to conduct the role of facilitating the integration and implementing the 2030 agenda. MSDW has also not received any significant support from the United Nations or other multi-lateral agencies for SDGs, which has hampered the implementation of the National SDG Action Plan. While MSDW was assumed to take the lead role in facilitating SDGs, the lack of resources and support has weakened its mandate and has not been able to establish an integrated institutional architecture for the SDGs.

While a lot of publicity and conversations on SDGs have taken place, Sri Lankan government is yet to receive significant donor assistance to implement the 2030 agenda. In that context, the former finance minister addressing the sixth Asian Development Forum 2016 urged the internalization of the SDGs to national development frameworks. He also stated that this process will not be very pleasing for many developing economies due to their internal and external constraints such as limited economic and financial capacities, weak institutional structure, ambiguities in political and institutional directions in devising an implementation mechanism for the 2030 Agenda. He noted that there are financial and human capacity constraints in the country might be necessary to look into and address to ensure the realisation of the 17 SDGs, and with adequate global financial support Sri Lanka has the potential to develop as an SDG model country in the future²².

Towards financing climate change adaptation, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) on 7th June 2017 approved a USD 38.1 million grant funding to Sri Lanka through UNDP for "Strengthening the resilience of smallholder

²⁰ <https://srilankamirror.com/news/3744-a-local-approach-to-the-2030-global-development-agenda>

²¹ https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/roadmap_learning_.pdf

²² <http://www.ft.lk/front-page/sri-lanka-can-be-an-sdg-model-country-says-ravi-k/44-532057>

farmers in the Dry Zone to climate variability and extreme events through an integrated approach to water management". With co-financing of USD 14.0 million by the government, the total financing for the project will be USD 52.1 million. This process intends to improve integrated water management within the dry zone of Sri Lanka to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers in the face of rising temperatures and extreme weather events attributable to climate change.

On sustainable financing measures, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, to enhance and develop environmental and social risk management and sustainable financing practices for Sri Lanka's financial sector. Under this partnership, the Central Bank will collaborate with IFC's Sustainable Banking Network (SBN) to develop a 'Sustainable Finance Roadmap' to guide the local banking and finance industry, strengthen the capacity of the banking sector to implement such practices, facilitate knowledge sharing with other SBN members; and promote green investment in the country. The Central Bank will promote 'Green Financing' by enhancing awareness to encourage enterprises to protect the environment, conserve resources and to achieve carbon neutrality. Banks will also be encouraged to provide financial facilities to green enterprises with the intention of protecting the environment²³. However, for these initiatives to be successful the government needs to provide high capacity in EIA and SEA process implementation and the banks need to invest on building such capacity.

From the private sector, the Sustainable Banking Initiative (SLBA-SBI)²⁴ of the Sri Lanka Banks Association (SLBA) has been created with the aim of creating a platform where banks can work together on sustainability issues. On 15 November 2015 CEOs of eighteen Banks operating in Sri Lanka placed their signatures on a document containing eleven Sustainable Banking Principles for Sri Lanka. These principles were developed and agreed by an Environment and Social (E&S) Committee consisting of members from the participating banks. This constituted Phase I of the SLBA-SBI. This initiative has led to the active support of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) in encouraging and advancing the Sustainability agenda within banks to build consensus among key stakeholders.

Another example is 'Biodiversity Sri Lanka' which is a national platform entirely owned and driven by the private sector, established to promote strong engagement of the corporate sector in biodiversity and environmental conservation. An initiative led by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) together with Dilmah Conservation (DC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) presently has over 60 private sector leading companies and takes leadership to promote the biodiversity conservation agenda through pilot projects, innovative approaches and investments, going beyond the usual corporate responsibility project limitations²⁵.

Sri Lanka's Budget proposals for 2018 explicitly identify that changing weather patterns and the increased frequency and severity of natural disasters (droughts, floods, and landslides) had posed a substantial challenge to the country's economic performance in 2017. The cost of such disasters is calculated to be 1% of GDP in 2017. The 2018 Budget proposals pays attention to enhancing climate resilience of the country through short, medium, and long-term interventions. The proposals mainly focus on increasing resilience in rural agricultural areas,

²³ <http://www.ft.lk/article/619110/Central-Bank--IFC-partner-to-promote-sustainable-and-inclusive-finance-in-Sri-Lanka>

²⁴ <https://www.sustainablebanking.lk/news-rooms/read/article/sri-lankan-banks-unite-for-sustainability>

²⁵ <https://biodiversitysrilanka.org/about-us/>

mitigating urban floods, and bolstering the technical and human resource capacities of the Department of Meteorology²⁶.

The 2018 budget claims to create an eco-friendly environment to ensure the environmental protection and provides the following highlights;

- All vehicles of the country to be electric by 2040 and all vehicles of the country to be hybrid or electric by 2025 (Under this the import tax on electric vehicles to be reduced by Rs.1m while the import tax on super luxury motor cars operated by fuel will be increased by LKR 25 lakhs)
- Tax on diesel three-wheelers to be increased by Rs.50,000 in order to encourage the use of eco-friendly electric three-wheelers.
- Carbon tax to be imposed and divert the collection to the Environmental Protection Fund.
- To charge LKR 10 per Kilogram of polythene as a production tax to discourage the polythene and plastic producers.
- To allocate LKR 75 million to produce biodegradable wrapping material to encourage people to use eco-friendly material.
- To reduce tariff on machinery producing biodegradable wrapping material.
- To allocate LKR 1500 million to each Pradeshiya Sabha to establish eco-friendly parks with jogging tracks to ensure the health of the people.

According to the report on 'Mainstreaming SDG Implementation in Budgeting and Budget Monitoring in Sri Lanka, 2017²⁷', analysis of the alignment of government budgets and budgeting with the implementation imperatives of SDGs points to gaps in systems, structures and processes in contextualizing Agenda 2030 in the country public finance management system. These gaps arise from fundamental differences in concepts and approaches implicit in planning for sustainable development and managing public finances, eventually for the same set of objectives.

- First, the orientations, the aspirational and long-term agenda of SDGs (planning) and the short-term focus of budgets (budgeting).
- Second, the context, the indivisible, integrated and interacting comprehensiveness as against the sectoral and agency-based fragmentation.
- Third, the process, sustainability of policy measures requiring a participatory multi-stakeholder engagement whereas the practice of budgeting is essentially technocratic where negotiations are driven by considerations of control and compliance.

The report presents a comparison of the shares of national-provincial expenditures matched with SDGs is presented below. While the shares may not reflect relative national and provincial priorities, they do indicate patterns of spending across the different Goals.

National SDG's Expenditure Shares

Goals	National	
	Allocation	%
1.Poverty	271,700	26.96
2.Hunger	99,696	9.89
3.Health	169,696	16.84
4.Education	111,903	11.10
5.Gender	121	0.01

²⁶ <http://www.ips.lk/talkingeconomics/2017/11/27/green-initiatives-in-the-blue-green-budget-can-sri-lanka-become-climate-resilient/>

²⁷ Asoka Gunasekera, MAINSTREAMING SDG IMPEMENTATION IN BUDGETING AND BUDGET MONITORING IN SRILANKA, 2017

6.Water	37,151	3.69
7.Energy	1,369	0.14
8.Economic Growth	7,305	0.72
9.Industrilisation	127,918	12.69
10.Inequlaity	15,845	1.57
11.Cities	65,279	6.48
12.Consuption	520	0.05
13.Climate	6,240	0.62
14.Oceans	245	0.02
15.Terrestrial	605	0.06
16.Inclusice Societies	90,004	8.93
17.Partnerships	2,195	0.22
Total	1,007,789	100

The above table and the figure demonstrate the imbalances of financial allocations related to the SDGs. In Sri Lanka the investment focus on gender equality, clean energy, sustainable consumption, climate action, oceans and terrestrial ecosystems is extremely low, while a heavy focus is on poverty eradication, health, education, and industrialization.

The report argues that the main impediment to the national integration of plans and budgets arises from a series of fragmentations and disconnects in the working of the system structure. The first is between sectoral programmes at the level of the economy. The second is between programmes and components within sectors. The third is the disconnect in budgeting between the levels of government. The fragmentations and disconnects reflect the absence of integrating mechanisms²⁸.

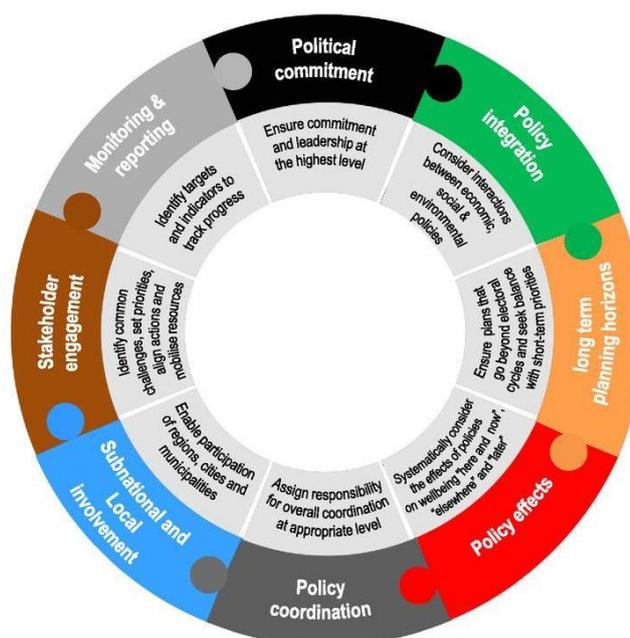
- a. Medium-term integrated development planning: The fundamental structural impediment arising out of the disconnect between planning and budgeting, is the functional specialization of Planning and Budget agencies between capital expenditure and recurrent expenditure. Unfortunately, neither has a focus on service delivery. A service delivery focus can lead to the two functions sharing a common data-base and an information system.
- b. Integrated planning and budgeting at local level: This disconnect between planning and budgeting extends to subnational levels. It is heightened by planning without budget at the district level and planning after announcement of financial allocations at the provincial level. Statutorily, the local level does not require the preparation of a plan and do not “plan” for budget preparation.
- c. Multi-stakeholder mechanisms for programming co-benefit: Budget preparation and execution does not provide space for inter-agency deliberations on input-output linkages. Budget negotiations are between the Treasury and the Agency. The system of sector ceilings does not make for intra-sectoral analysis of spending proposals.

²⁸ Asoka Gunasekera, MAINSTREAMING SDG IMPEMENTATION IN BUDGETING AND BUDGET MONITORING IN SRILANKA, 2017

8. A Performance Assessment of Implementing the SDGs in Sri Lanka

The ‘Eight Building Blocks of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development’ recommended by the OECD²⁹ is used below as a methodology to assess the state of SDGs in Sri Lanka. These building blocks illustrate how different institutional mechanisms fit together and can contribute towards higher degrees of policy coherence. There is no

particular sequencing, but all eight must be in place for sustained progress towards policy coherence for sustainable development.



Methodology of the assessment:

No-Action/very low initiative taken	Some action/ some initiative taken	Progressing or high level of success
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No	Activity	Sub-Activity	Status Report	Rating
1	Political commitment	mobilizing whole-of-government action	While a sustainable era was declared by the President, a parliamentary select committee on SDGs appointed, a cabinet ministry for sustainable development established, and a sustainable development act passed in parliament, the public institutional structure with 51 ministries and 425 plus public institutions, 09 provincial administrations, 325 local authorities, 25 district administrations are far from being integrated and mobilized towards implementing the SDGs. A highly fragmented public administration system has not been coordinated towards implementing the SDGs and is being prepared for advancing sustainable development in Sri Lanka. The large and fragmented institutional structure is a major obstacle to a true transformation.	
2	Policy integration	balancing economic, environmental, and social concerns	Policy planning is fragmented in Sri Lanka with economic growth being the policy priority of the Government. Yet, it was officially reported that at the end of 2017 the economy grew by 3.1%, industry by 3.9%, services by 3.2% and agriculture was down by 0.8%. While social protection, especially in poverty eradication, health and	

²⁹ https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development-2018_9789264301061-en

			<p>education services are given high priority in policy, social wellbeing of all is not well covered in a country where indirect taxing is around 87%. This has serious implications for inequality and poverty while leading to wasteful and unsustainable consumption by the rich. Environmental planning is done separately and finds many obstacles during implementation of the regulations which is compromised by economic objectives.</p>	
3	Long-term planning horizons	reconciling short- and long-term priorities	<p>National planning in Sri Lanka is based on electoral cycles where elected governments publish short term policies and strategies for development. Even the long-term policies and programmes are seen to be completely changed by incoming governments giving away to policy confusion and lack of direction in the long term. Currently there are several policy documents including the Vision 2025, Public Investment Programme based on the five economic growth policy points of the Prime Minister, while there are other policy directives for a sustainable era presented by the President.</p> <p>While the government extensively promotes Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for the growth of the economy, water or waste foot prints are not included in the selection criteria. Health issues of pollution are not considered in long-term priorities. In the tourism sector, the carrying capacity is not a criterion but the number.</p>	
4	Policy effects	addressing potential negative impacts of domestic policies beyond borders	<p>It is hard find any negative policy in Sri Lanka that is affecting another country. The scale of the national economy and the political influence of Sri Lanka is not large enough to make such impact on other nations. Sri Lanka's ecological footprint is still remains negative at 0.7, therefore, no external environmental impact can be assumed. However, the lack of an integration of the three dimensions in the national policy and strategy frameworks as well as projects and programmes leads to negative international impacts. Therefore, on a global transformation agenda, Sri Lanka is not adequately contributing.</p>	
5	Policy coordination	ensuring coordinated and mutually supporting efforts across sectors	<p>In a highly fragmented institutional structure, policy coordination across sectors is weak in Sri Lanka. Also, a culture of individual ministry based programme led approach provides limited capacity for inter-sectoral convergence. For example, while SDGs are coordinated by MSDW, the NDCs are coordinated by MMDE without any collaboration to implement the vastly similar or same issues and activities. It is expected that the Council for Sustainable Development would be able to provide the necessary coordination for the SDGs.</p>	

6	Subnational and local involvement	involving subnational and local levels of government	While the provincial councils are based on the principle of subsidiarity, the policy planning process in Sri Lanka is a central government activity. Despite devolution by constitutional amendments, very powerful central government agencies have been established to override subnational government. This needs to be revisited to empower subnational government institutions. Achievement of the SDGs are included in the guidelines in relation to provincial capital needs for 2018 issued by the Finance Commission. However, the level of awareness and engagement of provincial councils and local authorities in the SDGs is still very low and no substantial effort of local sustainability planning has been initiated. Some effort is seen through the 10,000-green villages programme etc.
7	Stakeholder engagement	engaging key stakeholders beyond government	Stakeholder engagement in national SDG planning to implementation is extremely weak in Sri Lanka. The Sustainable Development Council established under the Sustainable Development Act, has completely left out stakeholder representation. The lack of understanding as to who constitutes stakeholders, the lack of a clear mapping of who is who in the thematic areas and geographical areas creates difficulties in engaging stakeholders effectively as well. Furthermore, the lack of awareness on the SDGs and low expert levels amongst stakeholder groups yet being developed on the SDGs weakens the transformation.
8	Monitoring and reporting	using monitoring and reporting systems to inform coherent policy making	The inability to establish a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for SDGs in the country has left a wide gap on stock taking and honest reporting. The lack of adequate data to evaluate the progress also stems from the continued failure to establish a whole of government approach to data collection and facilitation as requested by the DCS. The proposal to establish an independent monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism of the SDGs by the Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform will need to also ensure that all the alternative data produced by independent research and surveys also must be taken into account.

CHAPTER 3

Building a Resilient Nation

A Commentary on the Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies in Sri Lanka

"Oh! Great King, the birds of the air and the beasts have an equal right to live and move about in any part of this land as thou. The land belongs to the peoples and all other beings and thou art only the guardian of it." **Great Arahath Mahinda to King Devanampiyatissa at Mihintale, 250 B.C.**

1. Chapter Overview:

Sri Lanka is an island located south-east of India in the Indian Ocean with a land area of 65,610 square kilometers and a population of 20.4 million which has over 1300km long coast line, 70% of the green cover and 29% of forest cover, 103 rivers with over 600 waterfalls, and over 40,000 reservoirs and water bodies that provides the best habitats for its rich biodiversity and manages an ecological footprint per capita is 1.2GHA, biocapacity per capita 0.4GHA and an ecological deficit/reserve of -0.7GHA. Sri Lanka's affinity to nature, resilience and sustainability extend to the time when the country was ruled by kings with a self-sufficient village based economic system. Establishment and maintenance of reserved areas for animal's date back to the 3rd century BC with King Devanampiyatissa of Anuradhapura establishing one of the world's earliest wildlife sanctuaries in the history of the world.

A nation to a multicultural and multireligious society, with a recorded history of over 2,500 years, Sri Lanka's diversity in culture, faith and tradition provides a foundation for resilience that has helped achieve a "high human development score" of a 0.757 on the Human Development Index together with pro-poor policies implemented by the successive governments. Although Sri Lanka has been successful in achieving the MDGs, the country has persistent disparities across regions and between social groups. The economy is fragile and faced with a precarious debt situation³⁰.

Sri Lanka currently is showing signs of lack of resilience in environmental, social, and economic sectors. The current patterns of intensive resource use, rising material and energy costs, coupled with climate change induced disasters and reduced capacity of ecosystems to provide critical ecosystem services are leading to environmental, economic and social vulnerabilities and uncertainties. Therefore, economic strategies that rely on an unlimited supply of free or cheap resources and using the environment as an unlimited waste dump will no longer be possible.

A major challenge facing the country is how to overcome resource constraints, including energy, minerals, water, and land, on the motive to achieve higher living standards. Meanwhile, renewable resources, such as forests and groundwater resources, are also under threat. Ecosystems of the country are experiencing growing external pressures from drivers such as climate change, land use change, pollution, and invasive species, which will impact on the functioning of ecosystems and on the provision of ecosystem services. Losses in biodiversity may lower

³⁰<http://www.lk.undp.org/content/srilanka/en/home/countryinfo.html>

resilience to and/or recovery from disturbances³¹ and species richness and more diverse patterns of species interactions can promote ecosystem stability and thus sustain the output of ecosystem services³².

Since recent times of global climate change, Sri Lanka has been experiencing frequent climatological, meteorological, and hydrological disasters. For the past three years, Sri Lanka has been experiencing a series of extreme weather events. A prolonged period of drought was followed by heavy rains and a series of hydrological disasters. This was the case in 2012, when a 10-month long drought was followed by severe flooding in December 2012. By the end of October 2012, the drought affected 1.8 million people and their livelihoods. The heavy rains and flooding in December 2012 caused further losses and damages to the same areas. According to the Disaster Management Centre³³ (DMC) the floods displaced 447,000 people, further exacerbating crop losses.

The Index for Risk Management³⁴ (INFORM) ranks Sri Lanka 56 out of 191 countries regarding risk of a disaster while the World Risk Index 2016 ranks Sri Lanka 63 out of 171 countries³⁵. Droughts, floods cyclones, tsunami, heavy rains, and landslides frequenting Sri Lanka during the past few years has resulted in unprepared high economic costs. With greater vulnerabilities being exposed, the government has had to incur large amounts for disaster relief activities alone. The Ministry of Disaster Management provided more than LKR. 117 million to district secretariats just for the disasters that occurred in 2016. Additionally, the Ministry of Defense has spent around LKR 60 million for immediate search, rescue and relief operations. According to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment³⁶, Total effect of the disaster in 2016 is LKR 105 billion, which comprises damages worth LKR 87 billion (83%) and losses worth LKR 18 billion (17%). As such, an efficient and effective approach to build resilience to disasters is both vital and urgent.

Disasters and shocks can undermine poverty eradication, can lead to an abrupt, systemic, intergenerational and long-lasting increase in poverty due to the event and the time taken to recover which can be several years. In addition, affected communities indicate that floods or droughts affect them almost on a yearly basis and such frequency of disasters also impact on the long-term resilience of the poorest population. Notwithstanding high rates of poverty in specific remote districts, the majority of the poor and as well as the bottom 40 percent live in populous, effectively urban areas in the center of the island³⁷. The impact of an urban disaster such as the flood in 2016 was felt more in the greater metropolitan areas of Colombo and Gampaha which has the highest population density as well the highest number of people living in poverty and vulnerable to poverty.³⁸

Improving resilience means understanding the limits of the extraction of resources and emission of waste and avoiding non linearities and catastrophic events both locally and globally. In order to avoid increasing strain on natural resources, it is important to use resources more efficiently and it will require an understanding of the flow of materials, energy, and water from the time when they are extracted, processed, manufactured, and used, to when they are finally discarded. It will also require information about the environmental, economic, and social impacts of these flows. These considerations are becoming increasingly important to achieving green growth and resilience.

³¹Loreau et al., 2002

³²Isbell et al.,2009

³³<http://www.dmc.gov.lk/index.php?lang=en>

³⁴<http://www.inform-index.org/>

³⁵<https://ehs.unu.edu/blog/articles/world-risk-report-2016-the-importance-of-infrastructure.html>

³⁶PDNA, 2016

³⁷World Bank, 2015

³⁸PDNA, 2016

There are several policies and plans that deal with climate-induced natural disasters including the Sri Lanka Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (SLCDMP) 2014–2018, National Policy on Disaster management, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for Climate Change Impacts in Sri Lanka 2016-2025, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Disaster risk reduction (DRR) also has linkages across many sectoral policies and strategies including the Forest Policy, Flood Ordinance, Mahaweli Authority Act, and the National Land Use Policy, etc. though such linkages may not be explicitly stated in the policy documents. DRR must be mainstreamed in sectoral policies and plans and not be a standalone sector in the overall development framework of Sri Lanka. DRR aspects should be further strengthened using both physical measures and socio-economic instruments, involvement of stakeholders including the local communities, enhancing the social protection system to address the medium and long-term recovery needs is important.

Climate change threatens to have a significant impact on sectors such as water, agriculture, health, biodiversity, and human settlements. Sri Lanka has also seen more frequent disasters, with larger exposure levels – as recently experienced with the droughts and then the floods that affected the whole island. Hence, climate threats can translate into substantial impacts on the nation’s economy. A resilient economy should be characterized by adequate green GDP and non-declining inclusive wealth. Many of the key social, economic, and environmental issues faced by the country currently are integrally linked to the pathways taken in the name of achieving rapid economic growth. Transformation towards ensuring sustainable and resilient societies in Sri Lanka will depend on the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the short, medium, and long-term policy frameworks and strategic plans of the country.

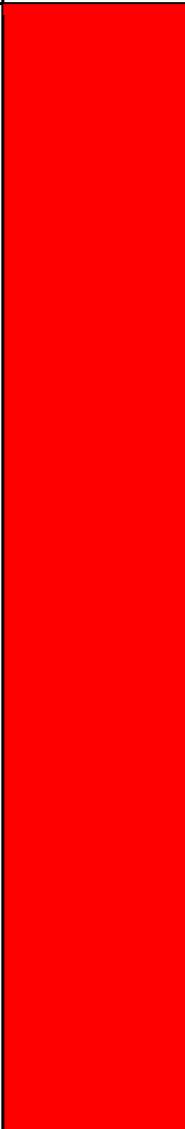
2. Report Card on the State of Resilience in Sri Lanka

The following assessment is made using the SDG targets related building resilience identified by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).³⁹ The linkages between disaster risk reduction and development in the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 provides a clear rationale to assess Sri Lanka’s state of transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.

Methodology of the assessment:

No-Action or very low initiative taken	Some action or some initiative taken	Progressing or high level of success
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³⁹ DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND RESILIENCE IN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, UNISDR

Sustainable Development Goal	Resilience Related Target	Status Report and Rationale for Rating	Rating
<p>Goal 1: End poverty in all its Forms everywhere</p>	<p>Target 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extremes and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters</p>	<p>The number of people affected by floods are approximately 0.3-2 million per year. Districts that have been affected account for 16 - 23 per year. Economic losses due to flooding amount to 40%; flooding is regarded as the highest recurring disaster (78%) from recorded data during 1990 to 2014. USD 144 million is the annual average loss from floods. The second highest cause of death is landslides, mostly affected people are from the hillside. In 2016, Sri Lanka experienced the worst flooding and landslide disaster in 25 years as a result of the tropical storm (Roanu). This event resulted over 100 deaths and 300,000 people were affected. Recovery of the infrastructure is still ongoing.</p> <p>Droughts also have a major impact on agricultural activities and the most affected areas were Kurunegala, Hambantota, Puttalam, and Anuradhapura. According to DMC reports, better early warnings have reduced the damage caused by disasters, improved response capacity at local level as well as improvement in infrastructure. There is an increase in severity and frequency of extreme weather events. There are people in vulnerable communities and areas such as tea estates workers, urban slum dwellers and small-scale farmers should be highlighted.</p>	

<p>Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	<p>Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.</p>	<p>Floods in 2011 affected Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura and Ampara which resulted in agriculture damages and losses worth LKR 15 million. As compensation for the paddy farmers in these affected areas, LKR 227 million was provided. The insurance coverage only reaches 6% of farmers island wide. In the agriculture sector in Sri Lanka the main thrust comes from chemical intensive and production agriculture whereas sustainable agriculture functions as a subsidiary. Due to the use of chemical fertilizers, agriculture sector produces 65% of methane gas emissions in total.</p> <p>The Agriculture Research Station at Sithaeliya chemically analyzed more than 3000 soil samples collected from farmers' fields in NuwaraEliya district. About 70% of them had more than the agronomically required level of 30 ppm soil Phosphorus(P). Some soils had even more than 400 ppm P. An alarming number of 742 farms had soil P more than the Environmental Critical Limit of 60 ppm, after which the phosphorus starts moving from land to water. (Land health is national wealth outcome report, 2018)</p> <p>New ultra-short paddy varieties have been introduced that are resistant to drought, flood and salinity. Under the leadership of the president of Sri Lanka, "Wasa Wisa Nethi Ratak" (A country free of poisonous substances) programme was launched in 2016 which demonstrated the government's intentions on transformations towards sustainable ecofriendly agriculture; however, desired outcomes are yet to be seen.</p>	
<p>Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p>	<p>Target 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.</p>	<p>Sri Lanka's Strategic Plan for Health Sector Emergency/ Disaster Preparedness (guided by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction) aims to reduce mortality and morbidity by ensuring safe hospitals and enhanced community participation in health emergency management.</p> <p>The Safe Hospitals Initiative was launched in 2014 to ensure that hospitals remain fully operational in the event of an emergency to provide critical health care services.</p>	

		<p>Drills have been conducted in 56 health institutions since 2014 to assess hospital preparedness plans.</p> <p>The strong public health network in Sri Lanka ensured the prevention of disease outbreaks after the tsunami in 2004. The country has not experienced major disease outbreaks following disasters and emergencies during the past decade.</p> <p>In May 2016, Sri Lanka experienced a flood and landslide disaster which resulted in over 100 deaths and the displacement of over 400,000 people. The Ministry of Health coordinated the rapid, effective, public health response.</p> <p>Sri Lanka is strengthening disaster preparedness in relation to chemical, biological, radio and nuclear (CBRN) threats through the training of healthcare staff and the provision of medical supplies and specialist equipment.</p>	
<p>Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p>	<p>Target 4.7: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.</p>	<p>Due to exam-oriented education system, Sri Lanka has not given adequate priority for this aspect. Gender, human rights, CRC, inclusion, equality are found in policy documents but not in practice. There is a huge knowledge gap within education officials and teachers on above specific areas.</p> <p>There are efforts been taken to incorporate key sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity into the curriculum.</p>	

	<p>Target 4.a: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.</p>	<p>The Sri Lankan state has accepted inclusive education as the strategy to ensure that a broad range of children who might be excluded from education are accommodated in schools irrespective of their “intellectual, physical, social, emotional or linguistic abilities”.</p> <p>The draft education Act states “around 4 percent of children aged 6-10 years do not attend school and 5 percent of those who enroll do not complete primary education and 13 percent drop out before 14 years of age.” The same Act has identified 7 categories of children as vulnerable and as non-participation groups. They are as follows: economically disadvantaged children, children living with disabilities, displaced children, children in the plantation sector, street children, and children under institutional care. Other studies show that those living in urban slums and shanties, children of indigenous groups and children in the remote rural sector and those living in areas peripheral to the conflict zone fall into the non-participation categories.</p>	
<p>Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.</p>	<p>Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.</p>	<p>Water sector is characterized by a large number of related institutions. Poor enforcement of law in water related ecosystems is another factor.</p> <p>Over 9000 industries located on the Kelani River Basin are threatening the drinking water supply river, due to illegal dumping of waste and industrial accidents. Kelani river is receiving large quantities of waste water from the three Export Promotion Zones (EPZs), in addition to urban and agricultural discharges. (Land health is national wealth outcome report, 2018)</p> <p>Land use patterns and climatic conditions are closely linked to managing the river basins and there is a need for river/use specific plans. Since the 1980s, loss of wetlands up to 60% at a reducing rate of 1.2% annually in the metro Colombo area is due to infilling. For disaster risk reduction, wetlands play an important role as they can manage floods, reduce the shock of cyclones and also</p>	

		<p>manage pollution. To create resilient cities wetlands should be a key feature.</p> <p>The Phosphorus levels of some reservoirs have risen to 100 ppm where the reference range should be less than 30 ppm. The changing point of soil Phosphorus is identified as 60 ppm and if this limit is exceeded, it then contributes to the contamination of run-off water. (Land health is national wealth outcome report, 2018).</p>	
Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with focus on affordable and equitable access for all.	<p>Sri Lanka has adopted a large-scale infrastructure driven development agenda. For regional growth, the National Physical Plan aims to have several metro regions including, growth of transport, oil exploration, industries, and livelihood (fisheries and agriculture). Further development is discouraged in the central hills as it is recognized as an environmentally sensitive area. The need for overall increase resilience, preparing for climate change or inclusive development is not highlighted.</p> <p>The multiple and cumulative impacts associated with large scale development projects that are located in the ecologically sensitive areas which are inhabited by socially marginalised groups has not been addressed by Sri Lanka.</p>	
	Target 9.a: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island development states.	10 Net ODA received (% of GNI) in Sri Lanka was reported at 0.46197 % in 2016, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled from officially recognized sources.	

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Target 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable and basic services and upgrade slums.	Public transport system has not reached the optimum level in Sri Lanka. In the Northern Province which was the most affected region for a period of nearly 3 decades due to the armed conflict, the percentage of permanent houses is low. In the districts of Kilinochchi and Mullativ which are considered the most affected in the Northern Province the ratio of impoverished houses is much higher. This situation is attributed to the existence of transitional shelters on a large scale.	
	Target 11.3: By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.	Public consultation is held usually to not to accommodate their views but to obtain their consensus on the plans. Although, clearing of slums is being effectively carried out by the government by providing better permanent houses the absence of programmes for their economic empowerment and rehabilitation is observed.	
	Target 11.4: Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage	Measures taken to protect and safeguard cultural heritage is progressive but on natural heritage we are far behind in protecting and safeguarding.	

	<p>Target 11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.</p>	<p>Approximately 20% of Sri Lankan land, housing and 30% of the country's population lies in landslide prone areas.</p> <p>The most vulnerable areas to climate change has a higher level of urbanisation and the coastal belt generates the largest part of the GDP in Sri Lanka. By 2050 there will be a loss of 1.2% GDP due to predicted disasters. The GDP spent on poverty reduction and disaster mitigation is 0.22%. Investment to protect the vulnerable communities the budget set aside for relocation and recovery is inadequate (i.e. moving people from the central hills would require investment in housing as well as livelihoods as many are reliant on the tea industry).</p>	
	<p>Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels</p>	<p>According to the Masterplan 18 by the Western region Megapolis, it was highlighted that environmental sustainability will be achieved through no build zones (Muthurajawela coastal buffer), sea level rise mitigation, improved storm water drainage plans, improved waste management and conserving wetlands.</p> <p>However, one shortcoming of the plan was the lack in describing the incorporation of issues related to climate change, DRR or investment in risk management against the planning framework or the implementation. Another drawback relates to the lacking in integrating other sectors such as health and education into the masterplan.</p>	
	<p>Target 11.c: Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials.</p>	<p>We have sustainable building policy but how well is it adopted?</p> <p>No incentive schemes to promote local material such as clay bricks (modagadol) and kabook which are resilient in a warming climate.</p> <p><i>1.1.1.1 Relocation of people in areas threatened by landslides is not progressing successfully. Haphazard reclamation of low lying areas has resulted in frequent flood situation especially</i></p>	

		<p><i>in Colombo district particularly within the Colombo municipality limits.</i></p>	
<p>Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources</p>	<p>Material footprint (MF) (<i>million tonnes</i>) and <i>Material footprint (MF) per capita (tonnes)</i> shows an increasing trend.</p> <p>Material footprint per GDP remained constant from 2010 to 2015.</p> <p>Domestic material consumption has increased from 75 (2010) to 89 (2015) million tons.</p> <p>Domestic material consumption per capita has increased from 3.6 (2010) to 4.1 (2015) tons.</p> <p>Domestic material consumption per GDP remained constant from 2010 to 2015 (2.24 kg per US\$). (UNEP, 2015)</p>	
<p>Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<p>Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries</p>	<p>To adapt to climate change and disasters, the disaster management sector and the policies and plans in the climate change sector have recognised the need for physical and human capacity building. The economic sectors agriculture, fisheries, coastal infrastructure, and tourism are identified as highly vulnerable to climate change effects. Vulnerable geographic areas and communities are recognised and included in the comprehensive disaster management plan.</p>	

	Target 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.	For the environment sector, plans are available; climate change policies and plans, Haritha Lanka programme and a policy initiative for national consumption and production. The lack however is in the integration into other sectoral plans.	
	Target 13.3 Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.	The processes have been initiated. Number of Universities are now offering subjects and courses on Climate Change, DRR and Low Carbon Developments. The National Education Institute in the process of incorporating those to primary and secondary curriculum. At tertiary level education, Climate Change and DRR related issues have been taken up in science subjects and there is a clear gap in including these aspects in social sciences and humanities related subject streams.	
	Target 13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.	Sri Lanka is a developing country and an eligible country to obtain Climate Finance rather than contributing to Climate Finance. Sri Lanka has contributed towards the process through actively engaging in Climate Finance related UNFCCC negotiations.	Not relevant to Sri Lanka
	Target 13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.	Sri Lanka is not an LDC nor a small island developing state (SIDS). However, being an island, Sri Lanka is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts. Therefore, the government develop programmes towards receiving specialized support, including finance, technology, and capacity-building.	

<p>Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>	<p>Target 14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.</p>	<p>Livelihood of the people living in the coastal zone are heavily affected by climate change related problems; overall 60% of industries are affected and within that agriculture (17% of coastal land) and fisheries (50% of coastal population). The ability to efficiently use natural resources is hindered by inadequate knowledge regarding Indian trawlers exploiting Sri Lankan fish stocks and lack of proper fishing gear and storage. The health of the oceans and the coastal areas are declining due to a range of point and nonpoint pollution sources.</p> <p>The untreated sewage and the organic waste have raised <i>E. coli</i> levels in Sri Lanka's seas to a level that is 85% higher than the Malaysian standards.</p> <p>Toxic pollutants from agriculture, urbanization and industry have flooded our oceans, ranking Sri Lanka as the 5th worst plastic waste disposal offender.</p> <p>Sri Lanka's river sand mining industry has resulted in severe coastal erosion in the country, with Marawila, on Sri Lanka's western coast line, facing the worst consequences presently. (Land health is national wealth outcome report, 2018)</p>	
<p>Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse</p>	<p>Target 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.</p>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (2001)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement (2001) - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1983) 	

land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.	Target 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.	<p>The country is losing 8000 ha of forests annually, while striving to achieve 32% of forest by 2030. Conservation areas are also threatened by development projects such as aquaculture proposals in the Vediththalathivu Nature Reserve, which is home to Sri Lanka's largest mangrove forest area and over a million migratory birds.</p> <p>Despite the history of failure in the sector of shrimp farming in Sri Lanka as well as its history in destroying previous mangrove areas, the Government still seeks to continue such projects in highly sensitive and valuable areas.</p>	
	Target 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world	A recent study has revealed that over 44% of Sri Lanka's soil is undergoing some form of degradation. Soil erosion is serious as 58% of land in Central province and 74% in Uva province is reportedly experiencing soil erosion (Land health is national wealth outcome report, 2018)	
	Target 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.	<p>In 2010, the total protected area coverage was around 1.84 million ha which represented 28% of the total land area of Sri Lanka (CBD, 2014). UNESCO declared the central highlands as a world heritage site in 2010, which included the Knuckles Conservation Forest, Horton Plains National Park and the Peak Wilderness Protection Area.</p> <p>According to statistics montane forest cover has been increasing from 1996 to 2010. However, the sub-montane forest cover has been declining since 1992. Therefore, further action need to be taken to improve the Mountain Green cover.</p>	

	<p>Target 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.</p>	<p>The most challenging battle for a small island nation is the pressure for land that is needed for conservation and human settlements. Due to inadequate consideration of biodiversity needs, the planned human settlement and activities result in situations such as the human-elephant conflict, encroachment, ecosystems that are get fragmented which leads to circular effects on the wellbeing of humans. These circular effects result from the loss of carbon sinks, flood/erosion control methods, catchment areas and loss of pollution capacity, etc.</p> <p>Extended cost benefit analysis of the EIA of Sri Lanka integrates ecosystem values and into environmental assessment process. However, this is not a factor in the final decision making.</p> <p>Sri Lanka prepared a green account for forestry sector, but the recommendations have not been integrated into the decisions yet.</p>	
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Chapter 4

Evaluating the SDG Performance

An Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Mechanism on the SDGs in Sri Lanka

1. Chapter Overview

This is the first attempt towards establishing an ‘Independent Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Mechanism’ on the SDGs in Sri Lanka. The 17 SDG reviews were conducted by voluntary researchers with thematic knowledge and sector experience in consultation with relevant experts from government, academia, civil society and business.

Each review team was requested to follow a methodology, format and process towards a uniformity in the assessment. Each SDG review attempts to provide a status on the themes covered by the SDG; measures taken by GOSL to implement the SDG; issues obstructing SDG targets; gaps in implementing the SDG targets; scenarios that can lead to negative development based on current status/approach/trends; recommendations for alternative action required to successfully implement the SDG targets; proposed baselines for monitoring, evaluation & reporting of the SDG targets, and scenarios that can lead to sustainable development by using proposed recommendations.

The reviews are expected to help enhance the understanding of the SDGs amongst all stakeholders and assist the government in conducting proper monitoring and evaluation leading to honest and credible reporting. These reviews were conducted in a short period of time as the official Sri Lanka Voluntary National Review presented to the United Nations HLPF 2018 has failed to conduct a proper investigation on the status of SDGs in Sri Lanka. It was felt that the authors of the government VNR have steered away from a deep investigation and stock taking on the current status of planning, mainstreaming, integration and implementing the SDGs and have presented a lean commentary on the general policy framework and activities that may constitute progress on the government’s efforts on sustainable development. As the VNRs are expected to provide an accountability mechanism on the political commitment towards the 2030 agenda, the lack of a systematic monitoring, evaluation, reporting and follow-up mechanism will only lead towards delaying and compromising the agreed transformation.

The 17 reviews in this chapter of the Voluntary Peoples Review (VPR) are in a ‘work-in-progress’ state and are expected to be continuously updated. While an extensive information search was carried out by 17 review teams, the limited time and resources as well of lack of official information were major obstacles towards a completely accurate review. The reviews do not provide a final assessment but is an attempt to take stock on the countries sustainable development progress. In the absence of any formal monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism established by the government, these reviews provide a first attempt to systematically analyse the performance on the SDGs by Sri Lanka.

2. Review Methodology

The reviews intended to assess the preparedness of Sri Lanka in implementing the SDGs. The following steps were adopted in conducting the assessment and rating of performance.

- i. Investigate if the government had aligned with the global indicators or not
- ii. Research if the government had established national/local baseline indicators to correspond with the global indicators
- iii. Research the availability of data against each indicator
- iv. Propose baseline indicators or recommendations (including localization) on establishing baseline indicators if not available or if different to what the government has proposed.
- v. Rate the current status or actions taken of implementing SDGs based on a basic traffic light system which demonstrates the performance as weak, some progress made and excellent.
- vi. Provide a clear rationale and justification for the reasons of rating.

The main review is provided based on the following format;

Goal	Indicator	National Baseline Indicator (if available)	Proposed National Baseline Indicator (if different to national baseline indicator and used for rating)	Rationale/ Justification of Rating [based on the proposed baseline indicator]	Performance Rating (score 1-10) [green=8-10; Yellow=5-7; red=1-4; grey=not sure]

The Rating methodology used is as follows;

RED	YELLOW	GREEN
1. No/weak Policy/legal framework available	1. Some Policy/legal framework available [needs strengthening]	1. Strong Policy/legal framework available
2. No/weak plans and strategies exist	2. Some Plans and strategies exist [needs strengthening]	2. Strong Plans and strategies exist
3. No/weak Agencies with clear mandate available	3. Some Agencies with clear mandate available [needs strengthening]	3. Strong Agencies available with clear mandate
4. No/weak implementation of policies, plans and strategies on regular basis	4. Some implementation of policies, plans and strategies on irregular basis [needs strengthening]	4. Strong implementation of policies, plans and strategies on regular basis
5. No/weak Awareness and capacity building available	5. Some Awareness and capacity building available [needs strengthening]	5. Strong Awareness and capacity building available
6. NO baselines indicators set	6. Some baselines indicators set [needs strengthening]	6. Strong baselines indicators set
7. No/weak monitoring, evaluation & reporting is available	7. Some monitoring, evaluation & reporting is available [needs strengthening]	7. Regular monitoring, evaluation & reporting is available
8. No information or access to available	8. Some information or access to available [needs strengthening]	8. Strong information or access to available

9. No/weak transparency and Accountability mechanism available	9. Some transparency and Accountability mechanism available [needs strengthening]	9. Strong transparency and Accountability mechanism available
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3. Summary rating of the performance on SDGs

Following is a summary of the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs conducted using the 244 global indicators and using the above methodology. The reviews have been extensive, yet at the time of publication of the VPR these reviews remain at a work-in-progress level. At the time of publication SDG3 review was not available and therefore the editorial team decided to leave out the rating. The ratings are subjective to availability or data and the judgment of the groups assessing the performance. However, as each draft was also cross referenced with the help of sector experts and practitioners, these ratings can provide policy makers, multilateral agencies, and stakeholders a landscape of the current state of SDGs in Sri Lanka. Different views will be available on the state of each SDG target rating, but in the absence of a methodological assessment based on the global SDG indicator framework, the VPR provides an alternative to stocktaking on the performance towards implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Overall, the objective is to initiate and evolve an independent monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs in Sri Lanka.

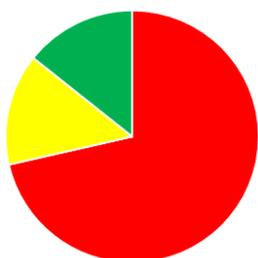
Following is a summary rating of the 169 SDG targets;

SDG	Performance Rating (score 1-10) [green=8-10; Yellow=5-7; red=1-4; grey=not sure]																		
1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.a	1.b												
2	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.a	2.b	2.c											
3	Review drafts were not received at the time of publication																		
4	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.a	4.b	4.c									
5	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.a	5.b	5.c										
6	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.a	6.b											
7	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.a	7.b														
8	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.9	8.10	8.a	8.b							
9	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	9.5	9.a	9.b	9.c											
10	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.a	10.b	10.c									
11	11.1	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.a	11.b	11.c									
12	12.1	12.2	12.3	12.4	12.5	12.6	12.7	12.8	12.a	12.b	12.c								
13	13.1	13.2	13.3	13.a	13.b														
14	14.1	14.2	14.3	14.4	14.5	14.6	14.7	14.a	14.a	14.b	14.c								
15	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.5	15.6	15.7	15.8	15.9	15.a	15.b	15.c							
16	16.1	16.2	16.3	16.4	16.5	16.6	16.7	16.8	16.9	16.10	16.a	16.b							
17	17.1	17.2	17.3	17.4	17.5	17.6	17.7	17.8	17.9	17.10	17.11	17.12	17.13	17.14	17.15	17.16	17.17	17.18	17.19

4. Summary of the assessment on the performance on SDGs

The following summaries are drawn from the independent assessments by voluntary reviewers and experts consulted. Information was also solicited during the provincial consultations as well as the thematic workshops.

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Sri Lanka has achieved significant progress in reducing poverty. Yet regional disparities and disparities between the richest and poorest quintiles remains a worry. Around 40 percent of the population is still considered as near-poor, earning less than 2 dollars per day.

According to government statistics, the national poverty headcount rate⁴⁰ has declined steadily from 22.7% in 2002 to 6.7% in 2012/13 to 4.2% in 2016⁴¹. This number however masks the reality of those just above the poverty line. If Sri Lanka's poverty line is adjusted by 10%, the poverty head count will increase to 9.9 percent (an additional 620,000 people) indicating that many people can easily fall back in to poverty in the face of a natural or man-made disaster⁴². Along the same lines, if we use a more moderate international poverty line of USD 3.10 PPP (using 2011 Purchasing Power Parity), the proportion of population below it is 14.6 percent⁴³. In fact, a World Bank (2015) document argues to consider those in the bottom 40% (consumption) as near poor for policy and programme interventions given that there is little difference in wellbeing between this group and those below the absolute poverty line⁴⁴.

There are also poverty pockets based on locations (urban – rural – estate, among provinces and districts) that show disparities in how development benefits are distributed. There are also disparities in conditions of basic amenities such as housing and sanitation and land tenure. Therefore, the poverty line gives us only a partial measure of poverty.

It is also important to recognize regional disparities in the poverty figures (based on DCS 2016 report) – where urban (1.9%) does better than rural (4.3%) and estates (8%). There are also some stark poverty pockets among the provinces and districts. The conflict affected North and East have much higher levels of headcount poverty: Killinochchi (18.2%), Mullaitivu (12.7%), and Batticaloa (11.3%), while Moneragala (6.8%) and Badulla (5.8%) in Uva Province also have high poverty although it has reduced over time. In addition, dealing with poverty must also recognize the numbers of poor people in relation to the geographic spread. The rural population make up 82% of the poor people – amounting to 693,956 people, while the Central and Sabaragamuwa Provinces are home to the largest number of poor people - 142,044 (Central), 133,149 (Sabaragamuwa). These disparities indicate that benefits of development and growth are not evenly distributed and that the percentages can mask the sizeable numbers of poor people in the more affluent Provinces and districts and also in urban and peri urban areas.

There are no clear plans to develop a comprehensive and rights based social security system. Spending levels on education, health, and social protection have failed to keep up with GDP growth⁴⁵. In 2015, public expenditure on education and health was 2.07% and 1.30% of GDP respectively, far below the stipulated 6% and 3% of GDP respectively. Development policies are largely gender insensitive and not being pro-poor.

⁴⁰ Calculated using the Cost of Basic Need (CBN) method – is an absolute poverty line for the whole country that is based on the real per capita expenditure on food and non-food items per month to meet a specific welfare level.

⁴¹ DCS, 2016. Poverty indicators. http://www.statistics.gov.lk/poverty/Poverty%20Indicators_2016.pdf

⁴² Nanayakkara, W. (2017, March 30). Status of Poverty in Sri Lanka Based on Different Poverty Lines. Retrieved from Talking Economics: <http://www.ips.lk/talkingeconomics/2017/03/30/status-of-poverty-in-sri-lanka-based-on-different-poverty-lines/>

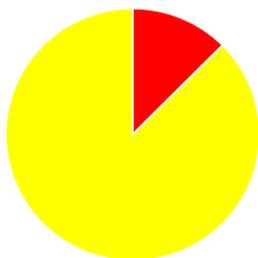
⁴³ Nanayakkara, W. (2017, March 30). Status of Poverty in Sri Lanka Based on Different Poverty Lines. Retrieved from Talking Economics: <http://www.ips.lk/talkingeconomics/2017/03/30/status-of-poverty-in-sri-lanka-based-on-different-poverty-lines/>

⁴⁴ World Bank, 2015. Sri Lanka: Ending poverty and promoting shared prosperity. A Systematic Country Diagnostic

⁴⁵ World Bank 2015:46-47

While Sri Lanka's efforts on reducing economic poverty, building resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reducing their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters needs greater attention.

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Sri Lanka is nearly self-sufficient in rice, the staple diet. Local production of other main supplementary food items such as vegetables and green leaves, pulses (except dhal and chick peas), root crops (except potato), spices and fruits exceed 70 percent of total availability. Fish and poultry are the major animal protein sources of the Sri Lankan diet; self-sufficiency rates of animal protein products exceed 97% except for processed products such as dried fish, canned fish, and powdered milk. Local production of poultry products that include chicken and eggs has increased rapidly during the last few decades due to the modernization of the sector from a cottage industry to a more commercialized one, providing significantly higher self-

sufficiency.⁴⁶

Sri Lanka's food security policy covered under the Sri Lanka National Agricultural Policy 2014 (NAP-SL) and the National Nutrition Policy of Sri Lanka 2010 (NNP) identifies sluggish growth, regulatory constraints, fragmented land use, insufficient availability of water, credit, seed, technical know-how, marketing facilities, storage, transportation, and poor farming practices as main reasons for sluggish agricultural growth. NAP-SL states that more than 70% of the population living in rural areas depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and contributes to 18% of national GDP and 30% of employment. However, as in the rest of the region, our soils, freshwater, oceans, forests and biodiversity are being rapidly degraded. In Sri Lanka in recent times, effects of climate change have put immense pressure on the resources we depend on, increasing risks associated with disasters such as droughts and floods.

Rice cultivation, which is very important in feeding Sri Lanka, is dominated by smallholders, and a well-developed factor and product markets exist within the country⁴⁷. Farm household income is related to access to water as an input in agricultural production and also through its life supporting domestic uses. Moreover, plantation crop sector, particularly tea and coconut, are key contributors to the Sri Lankan economy in terms of foreign exchange earnings (target 2.b), employment, and also food supply.

However, in the 2017 Global Hunger Index (GHI), Sri Lanka ranks at 84 out of 199 countries, with a score of 25.5. The world Food Programme says that 22% of people in the country are undernourished and 33% of people cannot afford a nutritious diet⁴⁸. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) estimates that about 4.7 million people of the 21 million population of Sri Lanka, or over one-fourth of the population, do not have sufficient food to sustain a healthy life. The country's population is projected to rise by more than 600,000 by 2030 and the demand for food is expected to jump sharply. With the continuously increasing pressure on food supply, the need for addressing the challenges of food security is of greater urgency than before.⁴⁹

The Global Nutrition Report suggests that Sri Lanka has among the highest wasting prevalence in the world, ranking 128 out of 130 countries. National nutritional indicators show poor nutrition status among children aged 6-59 months and women, particularly, those within reproductive age. Sri Lankan children are at increased risk of micronutrient deficiencies such as Iron, Vitamin A, and Zinc as revealed in the National Micronutrient Survey (2012), an extensive survey carried out including children from all districts. Furthermore, in the sphere of nutrition, antenatal and postnatal contacts with Public Health Midwives were associated with improved

⁴⁶ http://www.wfp.org/sites/default/files/NSRFSNZH_FINAL.pdf

⁴⁷ Weligamage, P., Shumway, C.R. and Blatner, K.A., 2014. Water access, farm productivity, and farm household income: Sri Lanka's Kirindi Oya irrigation system. *Agricultural economics*, 45(5), pp.649-661.

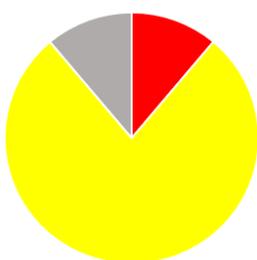
⁴⁸ <http://www1.wfp.org/countries/sri-lanka>

⁴⁹ <http://www.ips.lk/talkingeconomics/2017/08/23/achieving-food-security-a-plausible-reality-or-a-pipedream-for-sri-lanka/>

breastfeeding practices. In Northern and Eastern regions war-related economic conditions, mental health conditions, and association with displacement status has had negative impacts on the nutrition level of the communities⁵⁰. According to the Census and statistics survey of 2014, 3% of households in Sri Lanka consume low nutritional food while 3.7% of households having insufficient food intake than the requirement.⁵¹

Climate change is a major concern in estimating and planning for current and future crop production. In Sri Lanka nearly 66 % of cropland is rainfed⁵². Two monsoons, northeast (December to February) and southwest (May to September), and two inter-monsoons bring rains to the country⁵³. Recent research has suggested that, during the wet season, average rainfall could decrease by 17% - 9%, with rains ending earlier, and potential evapotranspiration increasing by 3.5% - 3%. Consequently, the average paddy irrigation water requirement increases by 23% - 13% in several climate scenarios⁵⁴. Moreover, the effects of erratic rainfall and climate change are undermining the resilience of affected communities, while heightening the need for further investment and strengthening of nationwide emergency preparedness and response mechanisms⁵⁵.

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



The right to a free education, including university education, is enshrined in Sri Lanka’s Constitution and it mandates compulsory schooling between the ages of 5 and 14. The current school system spans 13 years in total and is based on a structure of 5 + 4 + 2 + 2 (primary, junior secondary, senior secondary, college or pre-university). In 2016, there were over 4.1 million children in government schools.

However, due to exam-oriented education system, Sri Lanka has not given adequate priority to education oriented for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights. Gender, human rights, inclusion, peer to peer learning equality are been in policy documents but not in practice. The curricula developers at the Junior Secondary level (grade 6-9) have not defined corresponding competencies and do not have a balance in subjects that provide generic skills. The second issue is that the curriculum is focused on preparing the student for university admission rather than providing a foundation for young people to succeed in any career that they pursue. The third issue is that the curriculum does not take into consideration the different types of learners who have different levels of intelligence as well as special needs. With all the focus on curriculum and exam-oriented education in Sri Lanka, only 9% of children sitting for grade 5 scholarships meet the expected achievement level and of those who sit for the Ordinary Level (O/L) exams, only 69% qualify to continue to the next level.

Provincial disparities are evident and wide learning gaps exist between Sinhala and Tamil medium schools and an average child in the plantation sector is half as likely to complete secondary education and one-tenth as likely to reach post-secondary education as their peers. In Districts dominated by plantations and communities living close to plantations often share poor education outcomes. Regional disparities in facilities are also pronounced. The most developed Western province has 0.4% of schools classified as ‘very difficult’, while the Northern Province has 30% followed by the Eastern and Central Provinces (24%).

While children with disabilities are admitted to formal schools under the inclusive education programme (850 special education units in government schools and 25 assisted special schools), the reality is far from ideal; physical infrastructure is inadequate, teachers are not trained to detect and assist children with learning

⁵⁰ Husain, F., Anderson, M., Cardozo, B.L., Becknell, K., Blanton, C., Araki, D. and Vithana, E.K., 2011. Prevalence of war-related mental health conditions and association with displacement status in postwar Jaffna District, Sri Lanka. *Jama*, 306(5), pp.522-531.

⁵¹ http://www.wfp.org/sites/default/files/NSRFSNZH_FINAL.pdf

⁵² Biradar CM, Thenkabail PS, Noojipady P et al (2009) A global map of rainfed cropland areas (GMRCRA) at the end of last millennium using remote sensing. *Int J Appl Earth Obs Geoinform* 11:114–129

⁵³ Weerakoon, W.M.W., Mutunayake, M.M.P., Bandara, C., Rao, A.N., Bhandari, D.C. and Ladha, J.K., 2011. Direct-seeded rice culture in Sri Lanka: lessons from farmers. *Field Crops Research*, 121(1), pp.53-63.

⁵⁴ De Silva, C.S., Weatherhead, E.K., Knox, J.W. and Rodriguez-Diaz, J.A., 2007. Predicting the impacts of climate change—A case study of paddy irrigation water requirements in Sri Lanka. *Agricultural water management*, 93(1-2), pp.19-29.

⁵⁵ http://www.wfp.org/sites/default/files/NSRFSNZH_FINAL.pdf

disabilities and there are no trained social workers to ensure these children can effectively integrate to education services. Lack of detection deprives the child of systematic help and in many cases creates a life-long struggle.

Sri Lanka has achieved gender parity in enrollment but there are other growing inequalities in achievement and completion. In general, girls are doing better than boys in education, but the World Bank highlights that schools remain the primary place where girls are socialized into “appropriate” roles as wives and mothers that drives low participation in decision-making, political life and the workplace.

Whilst it is accepted that the Infrastructure for delivering Vocational Education is in place, it is doubtful whether its delivery and the selection of trades, is satisfactory. A further weakness in the field of Vocational training is the lack of properly trained Lecturers & Instructors in the relevant trade fields, with the correct aptitudes and attitudes as Trainers. The Government should ensure that adequate training equipment and training stores are made available for Government Vocational Training Institutes.

Sri Lanka is an outlier among middle-income countries in terms of government expenditure allocated to education and health expenditure on education, at 1.8% of GDP in 2012-13, was far below the 4.8% average for all middle-income countries, making it difficult to overcome disparities, improve learning achievement and achieve the country’s goal of becoming a knowledge-based economy.

The principal legislative enactments for Education do not cover the new trends in ECCD. The lack of lateral coordination between ministries is a constraint exacerbated by the lack of effective coordinated outcomes from the three institutions/line departments of non-formal education, the primary division, and the National Institute of Education within the Ministry of Education. Poor coordination among Ministry of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and Ministry of Skills Development and Vocational Training is major concern in implementation of SDG 04. All the respective Ministries with roles related to SDG 04 have their own short term and long-term development programs and frameworks. Ministry of Education has the Education Sector Development Framework and Programme (ESDFP) that covers all the sub or intermediate plans in relation Education Development. Ministry of Women and Child Affairs has the National Plan of Action for Children in Sri Lanka 2016-2020 towards totally developed child generation. However, no Ministry has yet incorporated SDG 04 targets and indicators in their strategic plans. Therefore, ensuring increase of equal access, quality relevance and positive governance in the education sector has become difficult.

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Sri Lanka presents a mixed picture, with positive achievements of gender parity in education and health but is lagging in areas such as gender equality in employment and political participation. It is also confronting the challenge of violence against women and discrimination of communities on sexual orientation.

The Government of Sri Lanka has identified ending domestic violence and sexual abuse in all forms as a key national priority under the banner of ending ‘violence against women’. Data on the prevalence of violence against women and girls is often lacking and is especially true for women and girls with disabilities, ethnic minorities, migrant workers, LGBT and older women. A recent study by UNFPA done on female public transport commuters revealed that almost 90%, had experienced some form of sexual violence. It is also recorded that under age marriage rising in some communities including minority groups is a growing concern.

Women have participated fully in exercising their voting rights since universal franchise was introduced in 1931, nevertheless, their representation in political assemblies from Parliament to local councils has been low. The proportion of seats in Parliament held by women is under 6%. For promoting women’s political participation, a 25 per cent quota has been allocated for women in local government bodies, while Cabinet approval is being sought to provide 30 per cent nominations for females at the Provincial Council elections.

In Sri Lanka, women form approximately 57% of a total estimated population of 21 million. The estimated economically active population was about 8.6 million in the 1st quarter of 2017, of which 62.7% are males and 37.3% are females.⁵⁶ Whilst a large number of women work in the informal sector, no formal provisions have been introduced to provide social protection such as paid maternity leave, pensions or unemployment insurance. Overall in all sectors women earn less than males.

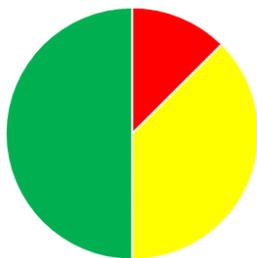
In leadership positions, women are underrepresented in most decision-making processes, especially in the corporate sector and most public enterprises where more women carder is recorded high. Women also represent 44% of government labor force. However, overall, the female labor force participation in the is lower than some of our Asian neighbors.

Traditional gender roles, cultural aspects that do not support to the concept of allowing women and men to balance care responsibilities with work, and prevalent political and corporate cultures, are some of the reasons for this situation. On a positive note, it is seen that the share of female student enrollment in university undergraduate level is high around 60 percent (based on UGC statistics). The trend continued in 2016/2017 with more female enrolments except the engineering and technical faculties.

The disproportionate burden of unpaid care work limits married women's participation and includes educated women as well. It could be inferred that even those educated at tertiary level, once married and having young children causes reduced participation in the labor force. A new report from the World Bank, 'Getting to Work: Unlocking Women's Potential in Sri Lanka's Labor Force', confirms that for women marriage can function as a deterrent to participation in labour markets. It can drastically lower a women's odds—by 26 percentage points—of becoming a paid employee, while for men it slightly increases the odds, by 2.5 percentage points.

The Government of Sri Lanka is yet to take a decision to sign and ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention 189, despite much focus on the thousands of Sri Lankan women migrants who are employed as domestic workers overseas. Nevertheless, women's contribution to the Sri Lankan economy is remarkable as major foreign exchange earning sectors comprise larger proportion of women.

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Sri Lanka has a unique hydrography with 103 river basins, 80% of them originating from the central orographic region and radially flowing to the sea providing water for socio economic and environmental aspects of downstream uses. The most significant water infrastructure of the country dates back to 300BC, when the first man made reservoir was built. Even modern-day engineers are marveled by the remains of the hydraulic civilization that has a history of 2000 years.

Reportedly, Sri Lanka had achieved MDG targets with respect to water and sanitation as end of 2015. While Water supply infrastructures provides drinking water for less than half of the population and on a nation-wide basis, piped water systems, tube wells and protected dug wells deliver improved water to almost 96% of the urban population and 80% of the rural population.

However, to achieve SDG 6 targets, the water and sanitation sector faces number of challenges in raising the standard of water and sanitation to safely managed service levels per SDG WASH ladder. The Ministry of CP&WS has already taken steps to mainstream SDG 6 in the WatSan sector. The Current Status of Water & sanitation status is projected from the 2012 census using the increase in service coverage due to the sector development that took place during the last 5 years. During this period the main focus was to increase the piped water supply and the total number of household with piped water supply increased from 28% to 38 % at the end of SDG base year 2016.

Water pollution and depletion of water sources due to poor environment and natural resources management is a major challenge in pipe water supply. Water catchments have been degraded in many ways. Kelani river which

⁵⁶ Labour force survey Q1 - 2017

is the main source of water for Colombo metropolitan area is a highly polluted river with over 7000 industries located upstream of the water intake are constantly releasing untreated effluent. Indiscriminate dumping of solid waste is posing a major threat to pollution of surface and ground water and Sri Lankan rivers are infamous for carrying garbage into the Indian ocean.

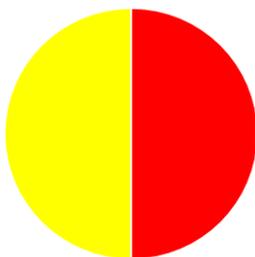
Sanitation and hygiene are more critical areas. Lack of adequate school toilets and toilets with MHM facilities. Many marginalized people in Sri Lanka still face difficulties in accessing sanitation facilities. There are no disabled or elder friendly toilets in public places except very few new buildings. Plantation workers also do not have sanitation facilities in the field and denied access to own toilets since they don't have land rights. Adolescent girls, especially the school girls, have difficulties since many school toilets are not usable because of poor maintenance and therefore they don't drink adequate water during the school time and develop health problems. Moreover, these toilets are not designed to have menstrual hygiene facility and therefore they often miss the school during the menstrual period.

There is no specific agency to manage sanitation in Sri Lanka. While NWSDB manage some rural toilet construction, garbage collection is the duty of the Local Authorities. Public health inspectors attached to the Ministry of Health are responsible for hygiene. There is no coordination among these agencies.

There is also no responsible agency to manage rivers in Sri Lanka. Ground water has no management too. While Sri Lanka has a draft ground water management policy there is no enforcement mechanism. Both ground water extraction and pollution are happening in an uncontrollable manner due to this fact. River salinization is a major problem in Sri Lanka. Bottled water has taken much of the space in the water sector. However, it does not have a quality control mechanism.

When Sri Lanka promote investments, one criteria should be the water requirement, pollution potential and ability to recycle, reuse and treat water. Current investment guidelines use the amount of funds not the implications of the investment to water resources and ecosystems. The concept of water footprint need to be adopted by industries which reflects water use in the entire cycle of commodity production. The water-energy nexus needs to be explored more. For example, good water quality and quantity management will also save energy, hence important in the national health and economy.

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Sri Lanka is blessed with significant renewable energy potential including solar, wind, hydro, biomass, wave, and ocean thermal energy conversion (OTEC) that is in excess of meeting the country's energy needs. Sri Lanka was a pioneer in large scale hydropower generation from the 1960s onwards, and then pioneering a mini-hydro and microgrid solar deployment. Sri Lanka still adds renewable energy to the grid, albeit at a much smaller pace than the technology and economics warrant.

Sri Lanka achieved 99.3% electrification of the country. However, there are significant power quality issues in parts of the grid, especially those serving poorer communities.

One example is the communities around Norochcholai, Sri Lanka's only coal power plant. While it provides approximately 40% of the electricity demand, people around the Kalpitiya peninsula continue to be plagued by frequent power interruptions and power quality issues.

In the recent past, a spate of thermal power systems was added to the grid, making the country's electricity generation dependent on imported fossil fuels and its resultant price shocks. They have also come with a significant social and environmental costs. Energy efficiency improvement schemes have stagnated in the country, with initiatives left purely at market forces. The lack of coherent policy framework has become an impediment to growth of clean energy in the country, coupled with challenges of execution. Though abundant potential for large scale low impact renewables are present, focused efforts to develop the same are not pursued despite their capacity to lower electricity costs to the consumer.

Sri Lanka lacks access to cleaner thermal energy for industrial needs – having to rely on unsustainable biomass, coal and oil. The development of natural gas can aid cleaner and less destructive industrialization, though this has featured quite low in national priorities. Transportation sector is heavily dependent on road transport with a very high fossil fuel dependency. Importation of fossil fuels have grown continuously to USD 3.6 billion in 2017 which is 13% of the country’s overall imports. The total primary energy consumption for 2016 was 549,076TJ.

The development of community solar, micro-and mini-hydro systems through private sector participation began in late ‘90s. This moved mainstream with solar rooftop solutions, and recently introduced ‘Surya Bala Sangramaya’ or ‘the battle for solar power’. Though the government launched a scheme to get 2 million rooftop solar systems installed, this scheme is not accessible to poor or middleclass consumers due to lack of access of funds and capital risk. However, this scheme is now successfully utilized by large scale industrial and commercial ventures.

However, the momentum of the renewable energy schemes has slowed through impediments by the monopoly utility. The development of small-hydro and biomass projects has completely stalled with developers taking the utility to courts. Whilst large scale wind resources are available, their development is curtailed with programmes held in abeyance. Sri Lanka’s current total energy requirement can be supplied with 5GW of wind power installation (out of potential 24.5 GW capacity) OR from 324 km² of solar installations – less than 0.5% of total land mass. This can also be easily installed on top of reservoirs.

Ineffective and weak institutions have hindered progress substantively. SLSEA has not been able to progress in energy efficiency programmes with no implementation timeline and action plan available for key programmes identified in policy frameworks. They include the Building Energy Code, mandatory energy auditing of high energy consumers, refrigerator and air-conditioner rating systems – all of which are in different stages of completion and languishing for years.

There is no coherent vision that unifies the energy sector of Sri Lanka, with electricity and petroleum sectors being planned separately, and outside the broader human and ecological wellbeing conversations. For example, serious considerations of climate change and pollution are absent in energy conversations especially at planning stage beyond obligatory catchphrases. The government issued new policy on energy mix is another step backwards due to its insistence of ‘firm power’ target of 66%, and fixing coal and gas mix in the firm power target. This planning method will hinder aggressive push towards achieving the SDG. The electricity policy approved in 2008 is now outdated and lacks any directions towards achieving the SDGs.

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Sri Lanka has seen a continuous growth of its economy over last few years, despite a slump in 2017, where the economy (as measured by GDP) grew at a rate of 3.1% in real terms. In 2016 the Annual Growth of Real GDP per Employed Person was 2.9%. About 40% of the population lives on less than 225 rupees (app. UD \$ 1.5 per person). While the richest 10% of the country shares 38% of the national income, the poorest 10% shares only 1.5% of it

The largest contributing sector to GDP is the services sector standing at 56% of GDP as at 2017; agriculture contributed a mere 6.9% despite representing a significant share of the labour force of over 26.%. Although with positive economic growth over last number of years and increased per capita GDP, income inequality across geographical locations remains a worry with war affected areas of North and East are still struggling overcome the impact. Though there is a reduction of poverty headcount index, which fell to 4.1% in 2017⁵⁷, still a large proportion of the poor are living and working in estate and rural areas, representing 82.2% of the nation’s total poor. Moreover, the Northern and Eastern provinces marked relatively high levels of the poverty headcount index at 7.7% and 7.3% respectively.

⁵⁷ Central Bank of Sri Lanka (2018), Annual Report 2017, p. 111.

Economic growth in the country has been geographically concentrated. The Gini coefficient for real per capita expenditure in Kurunegala, Kalutara, Kandy, and Colombo have been higher than the national average,⁵⁸ suggesting spatial inequalities in living standards and hidden pockets of poverty. 60% of the labour force belongs to the informal sector, of which 50% is in the non-agricultural sector. There are more women than men engaged in informal employment. Informalisation is increasingly visible in the formal sector, both private and public, with workers increasingly hired through third-party or ‘manpower’ agencies. Casualization and precariousness as a result of ‘manpower’ work is expanding in agriculture, which is increasingly commercialised with large companies cultivating for export. Relative labour force participation rate remains low at 54.1%, with an unemployment rate of 4.2% in 2017.

Women account for only 35.9% percent of the economically active population. The gender-pay gap and inaccessibility to quality employment also remain concerns in the male-dominated labour market. The gender-pay gap and inaccessibility to quality employment also remain concerns in the male-dominated labour market. Women’s workforce participation rate is astoundingly low at 36.6% in comparison to 74.5% among men, despite high literacy and educational levels.

As of 2012, only 442,138 persons with functional disabilities were in employment. 10,953 persons with disabilities were economically active but unemployed; and more than 1.1 million persons with disabilities were economically inactive in the country.

Though Government has not taken any specific measures to address SDG 8, Sri Lanka’s policy framework in achieving SDG 8 is being reflected by its overall development vision “The Five Point Plan: A New Country in 60 Months”. This includes policy goals of; (1) Generating one million employment opportunities; (2) Enhancing income Levels; (3) Development of Rural Economies; (4) Ensuring land ownership to the rural, estate, middle class and government employees and (5) Creating a side and a strong middle class.

As emphasized in the V2025 and other subsequent documents, the approach of the Government in achieving economic growth, employment and decent work is through private investor led economic growth. This is more or less the same development approach adopted by successive governments since 1977 with limited, and sometimes counterproductive results. This puts a greater responsibility for the civil society and Trade Unions to analyze policy frameworks presented by the Government in their capability of achieving sustainable development goals.

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



As a sector, Industry in Sri Lanka rated as the 2nd best contributor to Sri Lankan economy. SDG 9 focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation and the success depends around inclusive and sustainable industrial development and investment. In order to advance towards a diversified, high value tradable sector growth process, Sri Lanka is looking to attract the right type of FDI that brings in modern technology, access to GPNs and managerial know-how.

According to ‘Vision 2025’, the overarching development policy of the government, Sri Lanka has lagged behind in the fields of science and technology and has not capitalized on the significant global demand for technologically advanced high-quality software products. The report acknowledges that there is a lack of policies and strategies to develop technology necessary for the manufacturing sector; the pharmaceutical, electronics, medical equipment, automotive component industries have received insufficient support, and interest and awareness for R&D is low in these sectors. The government believes that the economy needs a shift towards innovative, knowledge-based business ventures, and in order to advance towards a

⁵⁸ Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs (2016), Poverty Indicators (<http://www.statistics.gov.lk/page.asp?page=Poverty><http://www.statistics.gov.lk/page.asp?page=Poverty>)

diversified, high value tradable sector growth process, alongside domestic private investment, the country must attract the right type of FDI that brings in modern technology, access to GPNs and managerial know-how.⁵⁹

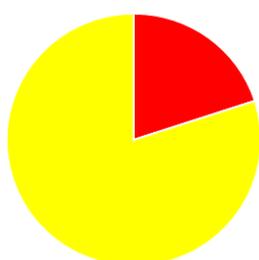
The Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development (MMWD) is planning a Science and Technology City (STC) that comprises mainly of knowledge services and research-based education and training. Knowledge Services sector which encompasses IT software development, Knowledge Process Outsourcing / Business Process Outsourcing industry, Nano technology, bio technology, Geographic Information Systems and Data Centers, is expected contribute to key growth sectors in Sri Lanka. Science & Technology Corridor is placed next to “Outer Core Area” in the Megapolis Master Plan and linked with potential economic drivers in the region through well connected infrastructure network.⁶⁰

Sri Lanka’s success in developing basic infrastructure such as a road network density of 98% is highest in South Asia according to the Global Competitiveness Index in fiscal year 2017. Sri Lanka’s road transport infrastructure is concentrated in a dense network around Colombo. The Western Region Megapolis plans include a modernized bus service, an electrified railway system, modern Rapid Transit System (RTS) and an inland water transport system for a new boat/ferry service that uses Colombo’s historic canal network, a new urban expressway system, and improvements to existing roadways. The success of the Megapolis initiative will hinge on orderly urban development and an expansion of road and other infrastructure, as well as provision of public goods. For example, as the project expands it will gradually encompass less urbanised regions, necessitating an upgrade to transport infrastructure.⁶¹

Sri Lanka’s experience is such that, the country has reached GDP of USD 85 Billion and USD 4000 per capita income by 2017. This means the growth of income of the people living in the country is on the rise. However, the unfair distribution of national income and the question of inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation largely remain as unsolved. The multiple and cumulative impacts associated with large scale development projects that are located in the ecologically sensitive areas which are inhabited by socially marginalised groups has not been addressed by Sri Lanka. The external impacts of industries have rarely been internalized.

Climate change is also adding extra pressures and creating the need for more resilient infrastructure to cope with changing weather patterns, such as extreme heats, floods and storms and the government must look to 'climate-proofing' through early investment for climate resilience, reducing ultimate costs. As a highly vulnerable country to climate change, Sri Lanka must upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes.

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries



Although Sri Lanka has risen to a lower-middle-income country and per capita incomes have risen to US 3,835.39 USD in 2016, from as low as US \$ 981 in 2003, there are significant pockets of poverty in the country. While absolute poverty rates have steadily declined over the years, the disparities in incomes are increasing and multi-dimensional poverty remain a serious problem in the country.

Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES) conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS), shows that the poorest people in Sri Lanka are those living in households headed by agricultural or non-agricultural labourers, skilled agricultural workers and persons, who are disabled or too old to work. Bulk of the poor are largely rurally based and majority rely on agriculture for their livelihood. Analysis of HIES data, show that some of the most deserving families are not covered in social protection programmes like "Samurdhi", while those not deserving, continue to receive such benefits. It is vital to ensure proper targeting of poverty reduction programs so that the most vulnerable are included. job opportunities should be made available to allow for income growth of poor deciles.

⁵⁹ Vision 2025

⁶⁰ http://www.megapolismin.gov.lk/web/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=213&Itemid=280&lang=en

⁶¹ http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=1683976152&Country=Sri%20Lanka&topic=Economy_1

Therefore, proper addressing of inequality will depend on precise targeting of most vulnerable groups and on effective strategies to create suitable employment opportunities, in all the regions.⁶²

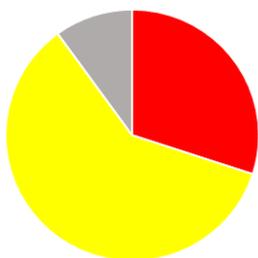
To reduce income inequality, female labour participation in the economy could be increased. The current inadequate employment opportunities for females imply that Sri Lanka has a large potential in future to utilize this idle resource. Suitable jobs for educated young women need to be created. Industries favouring female workers should be promoted, there has to be an attitudinal shift regarding employing females, part-time employment opportunities could be increased, and flexible working arrangements should be in place to allow female re-entry to work force after child bearing.

International labour migration from Sri Lanka has grown remarkably over the last decades, with numbers increasing more than tenfold. Migrant remittances are a mainstay of the Sri Lankan economy, accounting for about 7% of GDP and 36% of export earnings. In addition to the large number of temporary migrant workers who have traditionally focused on the unskilled labour market in the Middle East, and the other skilled categories to East Asia and the West, there were a significant number of people who migrated particularly to the West during the North-East conflict. There is a growing trend in the number of people migrating for permanent settlement, for educational purposes and also irregular migrants who are often difficult to monitor. Challenges in migration are mainly related to those who migrate for employment and among them most hardships are faced by those who go to the Middle East and particularly the female domestic workers and the unskilled workers. It is vital to ensure that rights of the migrant workers are protected through bilateral and multilateral collaboration.⁶³

The policy makers in Sri Lanka must take into consideration a vast number of considerations in reducing inequalities. As per the World Bank, Sri Lanka has one of the lowest tax to GDP ratios in the world which restricts the capacity to invest in health and education. The large public sector with mismatched skills and competencies required for the labour market, as well as limited job opportunities, further aggravate the issue of poverty and inequality. Fiscal policies, too are essential in reducing inequality. There should be adequate revenue to spend on education and health, while there should also be adequate welfare expenditures on the poor that would generate them higher incomes. Then again, tax reforms are essential in order to collect more revenue from the affordable, and to allow for a more equitable distribution of incomes. The issue we encounter at present is that the rich are getting richer while the poor are getting less poor, resulting in a great disparity in the incomes of the two.

In above context, challenges are to financing the implementation of different SDGs, starting from the grass-root level, access to finance is facilitated through interest subsidy schemes, refinance facilities and credit guarantee programs for farmers and entrepreneurs.⁶⁴ It is also pertinent to mention that our national strategy for financial inclusion entails community based multi-stakeholder business models to overcome collateral issues, and financial assistance for small and medium green enterprises (SMGEs) to promote commercial scale organic agriculture.

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Sri Lanka has a population of 21 million people, with only 18% residing in urban areas is one of the worlds' least urbanized. By 2050, the nation's urban population is expected to reach only 30%. Sri Lanka faces challenges in urban planning and design including environmental management, strategic city management, land and housing developments, and the management and maintenance of infrastructure. Also, limitations on the capacity, resources and functions of the Local Authorities delay the formulation and implementation of urban planning. Urban planning in the country faces difficulties with lack of data that has led policymakers allocate

⁶² http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page=article-details&code_title=146300

⁶³ <http://www.ips.lk/talkingeconomics/2009/12/18/sri-lanka-must-adopt-better-migration-management-to-maximise-the-benefits/>

⁶⁴ <https://www.un.int/srilanka/news/statement-he-dr-rohan-perera-high-level-sdg-action-event-sdg-financing-lab> H. E. Dr. A. Rohan Perera, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

resources to urgent, short-term issues rather than on long term and progressive changes; while there is considerable information on Colombo and the Western province, other cities lack detailed and composite information.⁶⁵

The national average of urbanisation in Sri Lanka is rated as 18.2% according to the latest enumeration carried out in 2012 by the Department of Census and Statistics. In the capital, Colombo, the urban built-up area increased from around 41 km² in 1995 to 281 Km² in 2017, while non-built up areas diminished from 125 Km² to 10 Km². This trend of urban expansion is unprecedented in the city's history, with a far greater urban area added in the years 1995-2017 than at any other time in the settlement's existence.

However, Sri Lanka ranks as the fifth least urbanised out of 233 countries, according to the UN's 2014 World Urbanisation Prospects⁶⁶. According to the present criteria only those living in Municipal Council (MC) or Urban Council (UC) areas are considered urban. This may be misleading as some Pradeshiya Sabha areas (the next local government unit) and many peripheral areas in Sri Lanka which are considered rural according to the classification used for administration purposes have many urban characteristics.

Urbanisation in Sri Lanka indicates marked disparities geographically with the percentages of urbanizations amongst the districts. Colombo (93.62%) and Gampaha (89.94%), two districts in the resources rich Western Province are considered the most developed districts have the largest percentages of urbanization. Colombo district that has the highest percentage of the urban population, 77.6%, however has a large number of improvised or informal settlement. The proportion of the urban population living in slums and informal settlements have considerably reduced as a result of relocation programmes carried out during the past few years.

Kegalle and Kurunegala, two resourceful districts in the hinterland, have the lowest population which is only 1.9%. These are mainly agriculture based and can be considered as regions having mostly the rural population. In the Northern Province, which was the most affected region for a period of nearly three decades due to the armed conflict, the ratio of permanent houses is low. In the districts of Kilinochchi and Mullativu which are considered the most affected in the Northern Province, the ratio of improvised houses is much higher. This situation is attributed to the existence of transitional shelters on a large scale and a majority of the population in those areas are yet to reconstructed their houses destroyed during the period of the armed conflict.

Public transport system has not reached the optimum level in Sri Lanka. No attention has been made to the needs of those people in vulnerable situations; no facilities have been provided to the disabled and elderly persons to gain access to the railway carriages and buses.⁶⁷

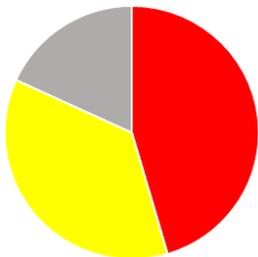
Sri Lanka experienced a huge man-made disaster in April 2017 when a huge garbage dump slid causing heavy loss of lives and property. This incident triggered a situation of concern among the government authorities as well as the public. Sri Lanka generates 7000 Mt of solid waste per day out of which the Western province generates 60%. According to the Waste Management Authority and the Central Environmental Authority only half of the waste is collected. National Strategy for Solid Waste Management (NSS) has formulated guidelines for effective Management of solid waste. Wetlands, rivers and other streams have become dumping sites of waste material. According to the municipal and local government authorities the non-separation of solid waste at the places of origin, specially the household, is the core-issue of the problem. Therefore, the community participation in the disposal of solid waste is an important factor.

⁶⁵ http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/projects/sri_lanka/detail29_en.html

⁶⁶ <http://unhabitat.lk/news/state-of-sri-lankan-cities-report-news/is-sri-lanka-one-of-the-least-urbanised-countries-on-earth/>

⁶⁷ Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



From the traditionally sustainable lifestyles which were based on the principles of circular economy, Sri Lanka now has adopted an unsustainable accumulation economy and a throwaway culture which has resulted in degraded land, degraded soil, water resources and ecosystem health. Increased resource use and associated waste generation is reflected badly in the waste related diseases – dengue and CKD. Increased waste coupled with poor management has resulted in building of garbage mountains, collapse of the dumps and large number of lost lives. Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production have been declared the primary cause of environmental deterioration and it is important that sustainable

consumption and production (SCP) be reflected in the formulation and implementation of the SDGs policies and strategies.

According to UNEP (2015) data, Sri Lanka is on the increasing material consumption. All material seems to show a rapid increasing trend from 2010 onwards. All economic sectors illustrate unsustainable trends. Manufacturing sector shows highest increment in terms of material consumption from year 2005. This has inevitably lead to increase of the waste generation. Domestic material consumption has increased from 75 (2010) to 89 (2015) million tons. Domestic material consumption per capita has increased from 3.6 (2010) to 4.1 (2015) tons. Domestic material consumption per GDP remained constant from 2010 to 2015.

Sri Lankan government has taken several initiatives towards SCP. It has completed the formulation of the draft National Policy on SCP, Green Public Procurement (GPP) policy, National Policy and Strategy on Cleaner Production. National Green Reporting System was developed to facilitate the manufacturing and service sector to periodically measure and report their sustainability performance with respect to economic, environmental and social aspects. The Sustainable Energy Authority was established to promote the sustainable energy solutions such as Energy Star Rating System and energy audit systems. To implement Resource Efficient Cleaner Productions, the National Cleaner Production Centre was established in 2002.

However, SCP has not been mainstreamed across national policy framework the lack of cross sectoral and inter agency collaboration and institutional arrangements for implementation and monitoring need a great deal of restructuring. Most often, poor implementation has resulted in accidents, irreversible damages, loss of lives, etc.

A major challenge to the SDGs attainment is the infrastructural deficit and technology gaps which hinder service provision and application of science, technology and innovations in many spheres of life. Technology Transfer and Capacity Building in, among others, data, information and performance management, all which are urgently needed should draw attention that support both the SDGs implementation agenda as well as the attendant process of accountability and tracking of performance.

To ensure sustainable consumption and production practices necessarily entails to respect the biophysical boundaries of the planet and to reduce current global consumption rates in order to fit with the biophysical capacity to produce ecosystem services and benefits. The current problem of natural resource depletion and environmental pollution has its roots on unmindful consumption and unmindful production. Consumption has become a means of compensating our worries and anxieties rather than fulfilling basic needs.

It is needed to integrate environmental sustainability with economic growth and welfare by decoupling (resource decoupling and impact decoupling) environmental degradation from economic growth and doing more with less to make the transition towards a greener and more socially inclusive economy. Given the urgency and magnitude of unsustainability that country faces, shifting to SCP will require fundamental changes in the way society operates and how we live our lives. Dealing with symptoms alone and addressing only the politically less challenging issues will not result in the transition we expect. Sri Lanka has long path to go on analyzing and understanding how the current production and consumption patterns contribute or fail to contribute to well-being of current generation and how it affects achieving wellbeing by future generations.

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Sri Lanka is recognized as a disaster hotspot by UNISDR due to highly vulnerability for natural disasters and climate change impacts and overall progress under the SDG Goal 13 is neither positive nor negative. From 2015 to mid-2018, Sri Lanka has progressed positively on developing some strategies and plans at national level, integrating the priorities under the Sendai Framework and Paris Agreement. The government budget for 2018 also has allocated considerable resources for climate change and disaster risk reduction priorities. It will be a very positive situation for Sri Lanka if the current momentum will be continued towards implementation of those plans with appropriate policy coherence and institutional coordination.

Sri Lanka has shown very poor progress on early warning to natural disasters, particularly rapid on-set extreme weather events. The loss of lives, other casualties and damages on infrastructure of the floods in 2016 and 2017 were very high. Need for high standard mechanism for early warning systems, evacuations, prevention of losses and damages, etc. have become very important. There are some improvements during heavy rainfalls in mid-2018, but not sufficient to conclude that Sri Lanka has a positive progress in that aspect.

The Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) established under the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MoMDE) has lead a number of processes to develop and deliver national level strategies and plans especially as compliance to international commitments under UNFCCC; National Adaptation Plan, Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), etc. The CCS has recognized its institutional and legislative limitations in implementing and mainstreaming climate change into other development plans by proposing number of institutional coordination mechanisms and a legally empowered Climate Change Commission.

The “Sri Lanka NEXT – a Blue Green Era” policy framework was also launched in 2016 taking Paris Agreement commitments and SDGs as the basis for economic development. Use of this policy framework as a guiding framework was not evident in the “Vision 2025” which is the government economic vision document. Most of the development plans are not considering climate change effects and taken steps towards climate proofing. The plans such as National Physical Development plan (2011-2030) or the Western Region Megapolis Plan are not considered nor updated based on current and projected climate change scenarios. Mainstreaming of climate change into other sectors must be given priority therefore, the policy coherence must be ensured.

Climate Change scenarios must be available and accessible to the public. The environmental safeguard policies, Environmental Impact Assessment processes, infrastructure designs and plan approval processes must be strengthened based on these scenario projections. The private sector investments and finance mobilisation process can be strengthened with such actions.

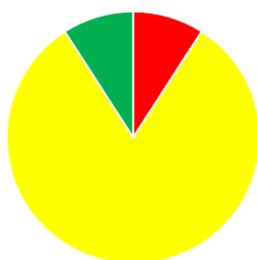
The implementation and enforcement of available plans, strategies and policies on climate change is highly dependent on active engagement of other ministries, departments and stakeholders apart from Environment, but visible engagements are not available. Especially, Disaster Management Centre, Department of Agriculture, Department of Meteorology, Department of Irrigation, Department of Agrarian Development must work in collaboration in enhancing resilience and adaptive capacities for climate induced extreme weather events. Unfortunately, up to date, this coordination was not visibly evident and siloed approach is seemingly continued. This might potentially obstruct effective implementation of positive integrated plans such as NAPs and NDCs.

At subnational level, there is very little engagement, except Western Province, which came up with a provincial climate change adaptation plan but not yet effectively implemented. None of the local government plans have included climate change aspects and therefore, the development work, especially the infrastructure is often not climate proofed at local level. Downscaling the climate and disaster sensitive planning processes to sub-national levels of Sri Lanka is not very convincing. Only some local governments have DRR strategies and plans but not regular. The role of DRR has been given to DMC which are implemented through Divisional Secretariats and therefore, LGAs must work in collaboration with DSs. Sri Lanka’s Local Governments are not autonomous compared to many other countries and therefore, the local governments must work in collaboration with the

Divisional and District Level structures. The DMC is operating at the district levels and the liaison with LGAs are not adequate according to the consulted stakeholders. Though the DRR is not an explicit subject under the mandate of LGAs in Sri Lanka, there are number of subsectors where LGAs can integrate and mainstreamed DRR aspect such as Building Approvals and small infrastructure development. However, these are not adequately integrated into the plans of LGAs.

Sri Lanka must enhance knowledge and awareness across the board in relation to climate change and related strategies, plans and actions which have been created by the government of Sri Lanka. It must improve integration and communication between ministries, departments and other stakeholders towards enhancing the collaboration in order to increase resilience and adaptive capacities for climate induced extreme weather events in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka must improve engagement at the subnational level, for instance inclusion of climate change plans, especially in regard to integrating climate change into the infrastructure development at the local government level to limit the damage caused. It is also recommended that the government should consider to review and update the key development strategies and plans in the light of current and projected impacts of Climate Change in order to achieve SDG13.

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Sri Lanka is an island nation in the Indian Ocean which has a maritime area of 230,000 km² belonging to Sri Lanka is about three times larger than the land area. Its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is about 517,00 km² which is approximately eight times larger than island. Sri Lanka has a very narrow continental shelf with a width range of 9 to 45 km and average depth of 66m. It's area about 31,000 km² which provides limited habitat for the coastal fishery⁶⁸. Ocean resources of Sri Lanka fall within the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME- National Report) which has been considered as one of the most productive ecosystem in the world oceans that consist of living and non-living resources including energy resources⁶⁹.

located approximately 20 nautical miles to the north of one of the busiest sea lanes in the world, the geographic location of Sri Lanka also creates immense economic potential. Moreover, there is a range of ecosystem services provide by the coastal and marine habitats in Sri Lanka. Among the many resources, fisheries and minerals are the most commercially viable industries. Thus, it is important to conserve and promote the sustainable use of Sri Lanka's ocean and coastal resources under SDG14.

According to Walls Street Journal and University of Georgia, Sri Lanka was ranked as the 5th largest plastic polluter with a marine area covering 1.6 million metric tons of plastic⁷⁰.

The key legal framework structures for conservation and sustainable use of ocean and marine resources includes Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance of 1937, Marine Pollution Prevention Act of 1981, Coast Conservation Act of 1981, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Act of 1996. Sri Lanka introduced a number of legal frameworks to conserve marine resources and ocean. Including Marine Pollution Prevention Act No. 35 of 2008 and Coast Conservation Act, No. 57 of 1981 to formulate and execute a scheme of work for the prevention, reduction, control and management of pollution arising from shore based maritime related activities (SDG 14.1,14.4, 14.c.1). The Fauna and Flora Ordinance of 1937 provided legal framework for protection and conservation of the Fauna and Flora of Sri Lanka and their habitats, including marine reserves (SDG 14.2). Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Act No 2 of 1996 (FARA) provide legal framework for Protection of Fish and Other Aquatic Resources, and Conservation. In addition to the country, specially detained and eliminated IUU fishing under foreign fishing weasels act Act.1979 (SDG 14.6). Further, the National Environmental Act no 47 of 1980 (Gazette notification

⁶⁸Mallikaarachchi, U. (2016). *States of seaweeds research in gulf of Mannar and Palk bay area*. Colombo https://www.academia.edu/12038669/States_of_seaweeds_research_in_gulf_of_Mannar_and_Palk_bay_area

⁶⁹ Ibid.

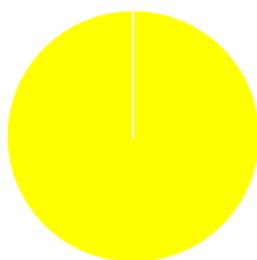
⁷⁰<https://www.statista.com/chart/12211/the-countries-polluting-the-oceans-the-most/>

No 1534/18 dater 01.02.2008) provides water quality standards for industrial and domestic waste discharge into marine and coastal areas under the list III⁷¹.

Furthermore, Sri Lanka bounded with a number of international conventions and treaties to conserve ocean resource such as the UN Law of the Sea Convention (ratified 1995), International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships -MARPOL (Annex I - VI), International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) 1990, International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001, International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, Ballast water Management Convention implemented in 2017, United Nations Fish stock agreement, United Nations Convention Biological Diversity, BASEL Convention.

The Government of Sri Lanka has promoted Blue Economy initiatives under the theme of “Sri Lanka Next: A Blue - Green Era” since 2016. Recently, country’s budget focused on a “Blue- Green Enterprise Sri Lanka” which expects to integrate the full economic potential of ocean related activities in formulating the overall sustainable development growth strategy while reviving the entrepreneurial spirit of the country.

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Sri Lanka being a biodiversity hotspot has a forest cover of 29.7% according to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the REDD+ report. However, the 29.7% statistics comes from a 1980s survey on forest cover, by 1999 it was 22.7%. However, there are no published data sources to prove that the current situation is much lower than the 29.7% statistic. According to a report by the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2014, the forest cover is expected to decline to 17% by 2020. The Government of Sri Lanka has initiated a project called “Wana Ropa Programme” to increase the forest cover to 32% within the period of 2016-2018.

There is a large proportion of endemic species with high dependence on most ecosystems; these species also bring in tourism and related economic activities. Sri Lanka has a protected area for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity covering 9,700 square kilometers, which is 15% of Sri Lanka’s land area. UNESCO has declared several areas in Sri Lanka as heritage sites and they include Sinharaja forests and Central highlands. Sri Lanka has a few RAMSAR sites as well.

Sustainable forest management in Sri Lanka has been addressed by the Forest Department but no activities towards achieving sustainable forestry has been implemented. The two divisions, Silviculture and Forest Management and the Environment Conservation and Management divisions are responsible for sustainable management of plantations in Sri Lanka and it is under the objectives of the National Forest Policy.

Degraded land area in Sri Lanka according to the REDD+ report is 40,000 ha of degraded forests. This figure incorporates abandoned agriculture lands and erode areas. The major concern with land degradation in Sri Lanka is that even with regulations in place, forest cover declined from 90% in 1990s to 20% by the early 2000s. This portrays a lack in implementation and weak legislation regarding land use policies.

There is no baseline for the protection of important mountain diversity sites in Sri Lanka. The only major step taken towards conserving mountain biodiversity was the Central Highlands being declared an UNESCO heritage site; it includes the Knuckles Conservation Forest, Hortain Plains National Park and Peak wilderness protection area. The Montane forest cover as of 2010 is estimated to be around 44,758 ha and the sub-montane forest cover is estimated to be around 28,513 hectares. According to the FRA Country report for 2015 the montane forest cover shows an increasing trend from 1996 to 2010 whereas sub montane forest cover indicates a decline.

⁷¹ Efl.lk/v2/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Quick-Guide-Selected-Gazette-Notofocations.pdf

The National Red List for the Red List Index for IUCN has been created by Sri Lanka in 2012. This report contains comparison of 6 taxonomic groups between 1993 and 2012. Further research is required to identify and expand the endemic species list and more research should be undertaken for other taxonomic groups. According to the National Red List report there is a comprehensive list of species that have been classified under critical endangered, endangered and threatened statuses, therefore Sri Lanka should work towards improving these statuses in the future.

The only major illegally traded wildlife recorded by the Sri Lankan authorities is rosewood logs which have originated from Madagascar. These logs were confiscated by the authorities in April 2014, around 3,669 logs weighing 420 metric tonnes from 28 contained were found. However, these logs were going to be resold in Sri Lanka, the EIA filed a report in 2017 urging Sri Lanka to halt and refrain their activities as it will only stimulate further illegal trade of rosewood logs. According to CITES resolution conf. 17.8, confiscated illegally traded wildlife specimens should be disposed to ensure that it does not stimulate the illegal trade further.

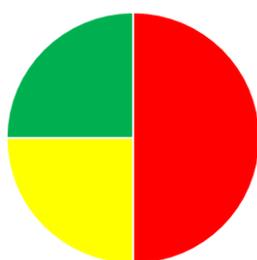
Even though Sri Lanka is lacking of a national baseline for invasive alien species there is a National Policy on Invasive Alien Species (IAS). It is a very comprehensive policy which addresses key areas that is required to manage and limit the spread of invasive species. This policy can be used to improve the invasive species situation in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has also prepared the National Biodiversity Action Plan for 2016 to 2022 which incorporates both the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals. However, the progress towards national targets in accordance to NBSAP is yet to be determined.

The Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE) established the Research Education and Development Division as well as the Forest Protection and Law Enforcement Division in order to conserve and sustainably manage biodiversity and ecosystems. To manage, implement and fund the reforestation projects and activities the MMDE established the Silviculture and Forest Management division and the Research Education and Development Division. The baseline for official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is 442,250.

For SDG 15 only a few indicators have a defined baseline indicator. Since Sri Lanka has many policies, regulations and acts that were created to conserve and manage the environment, these can be used to create the baseline indicators. The main challenges are the lack in cooperation between government organizations regarding information sharing. Further research needs to be undertaken to investigate the current situation of many of the indicators of SDG 15.

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



The Government of Sri Lanka anticipates achieving the SDGs by 2030 working towards a stable, peaceful, reconciled, and prosperous Sri Lanka for all people of the country⁷² and towards provisioning basic needs of the people, progressive alleviation of poverty, elimination of all forms of discrimination and inequalities, and establishing a society based on social justice and human security.

⁷³While SDG 16 reflects the growing global consensus that governance, peace and security are important for development, the government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) has articulated it largely inclined towards a normative conception of “good governance” which is the regular improvement of governance and the institutional structure of the country as essential for the efficient and effective delivery of public service. However, ensuring policy coherence and integration has

⁷² Vision 2025

⁷³ <http://ecdpm.org/wp-content/uploads/DP175-Challenge-Measuring-SDG16-May-2015.pdf>

been a key issue while facing constant divergences and conflicts of interest based on party politics, a barrier to the slow progress of many national initiatives.

There are successful policies and amendments to policies put forward since 2015 in order to escalate the transparency and accountability; importantly Prevention Money Laundry Act. 5 of 2006, Finance intelligence Unit of Sri Lanka – Act and Regulation 25 /2005, FCID, Presidential commission, COPE-Committee on Public Enterprises COPA-Committee on Public Accounts, Right to information act 2017. In order to have more institutional strength the National Audit Bill was presented on the 5th July 2018 which gives the approval from any magistrate to Auditor General on examining any state financial institutions and potentially in end August 2018 the National Evaluation Policy and Framework will enhance assessment of government intervention. However, institutions like public enterprises, law and order, peace and reconciliations, human animal conflicts under wildlife, trade unions, justice, women and child protection, youth, environment, social empowerment and welfare as well as foreign employment are few entities that needs strong strategic empowerment.

Weak governance and a fragmented institutional structure compromises Sri Lanka's aspiration for peace, justice and prosperity; gaps in the rule of law, corruption, and the lack of democratic freedom, amongst others have continued to negatively impact the country's standing in global indices on governance standards. Such weaknesses are often reflected in policy unpredictability, weak public service delivery and administrative red tape that deter investments and undermine public confidence.⁷⁴

Public sector corruption is high and according to Transparency International Sri Lanka is ranked 79 from among 174 countries in the corruption index for last year as compared to 86 the previous year. The most common forms of corruption include facilitation payments paid to avoid bureaucratic red tape, bribe solicitation by government officials, nepotism and cronyism. There is a high-level of corruption in the public procurement sector. The main anti-corruption laws are the Penal Code and Bribery Act, which criminalize corruption and attempted corruption in the form of extortion, and active and passive bribery. While the government has started to enforce the anti-corruption laws, enforcement remains constrained by a lack of resources and technical expertise, and political interferences.⁷⁵

On the general front of peace, ⁷⁶domestic violence is prevalent in Sri Lanka where 17% of ever-married women age 15-49 reported the highest percentage of domestic violence (20%). In districts wise Kilinochchi and Batticaloa districts have the highest level of domestic violence (50%) reported; ⁷⁷281 cases of rape of women over 16 years of age are still pending out of 694 recorded cases in 2017 and sexual abuse of 607 out of 616 cases recorded are still pending.

Towards establishing post conflict peace, the government has identified to deal with the past by addressing the grievances of all victims, include truth seeking, justice, reparation and measures for guaranteeing non-recurrence; the government has enacted legislation to set up an Office on Missing Persons and the Consultation Task Force set up to seek the views of the public presented a Report to the Government. Sri Lanka had established three new agencies namely, the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation (MNIR), the Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages, and the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR) as an agency of the MNIR, to spearhead programmes to usher in unity and reconciliation in the country. However, the government need to be responsive in its commitments to transitional justice.

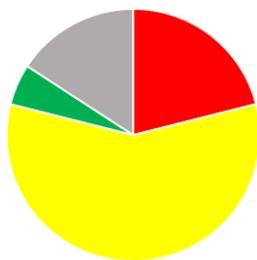
⁷⁴ Sri Lanka Voluntary National Review on the Status of Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, 2018

⁷⁵ <https://www.business-anti-corruption.com/country-profiles/sri-lanka/>

⁷⁶ www.statistics.gov.lk/social/DHS_2016a/Chapter13.pdf

⁷⁷ https://www.police.lk/images/others/crime_trends/2017/grave_crime-2017.pdf

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



Sri Lanka like any other developing country will require great amount of multilateral financial and technical support to implement the SDGs. SDG 17 particularly can only be realized with a strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation. Sri Lanka must realize the challenge of balancing ‘financing’ development, ‘connecting’ people through information technology networks and ‘leveraging’ international trade agreements to achieve this end.

As the country plans to advance towards an upper middle-income status, future concessional financing will become limited. As such, the requirement for funds will have to be supplemented through borrowings which will include export credit, commercial credit etc. and tapping of international capital markets to finance viable development projects. In its latest country partnership strategy, ADB states that Sri Lanka is close to becoming an upper middle-income country (UMIC) and the ‘key’ development challenge is to maintain the momentum of rapid inclusive and sustainable growth.

In terms of capital market strategy 2020 of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka, a comprehensive transformative plan detailing strategic direction and goals for the Sri-Lankan capital market is laid out at three levels; to (a) achieve the two core objectives of regulation and capital market development, (b) enhance capital markets’ competitiveness, resilience and innovation, and (c) tactical initiatives yield long-term benefits across capital market stakeholders. The Capital Market Strategy 2020 also wishes to enable the market to complement the banking sector and align with funding and growth needs of the national economy

Assistance to encourage growth and trade is of tantamount importance to Sri Lanka. Supporting national plans to achieve all the targets, promoting international trade, and a plan to increase country exports, is all part of achieving this equitable trading system that is fair and open benefitting all. The budget of 2018, emphasizes strengthening domestic resource mobilization, improving domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection. One of the highlights of the budget speech 2017 was removal of restrictive barriers, provision of necessary legal and institutional support including the creation of an enabling environment for doing business with ease will be further facilitated by the government proactively. With that promises, with primary surplus was recorded for the first time in decades government seems carrying out fiscal reforms, increasing PPP, addressing infrastructure constrains and improving challenging competitiveness.

China and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) were the biggest lenders to Sri Lanka contributing over half of the new commitments made during the January-April period while Australia and the United State were the largest donors. Overall Sri Lanka government outstanding debt stock has grown from LKR 10.313 trillion in December 2017 to LKR 10.654 trillion at the end of March 2018. In terms of repayments, Sri Lanka has paid 25% of external debt services payments for this year as of April 2018 out of estimated US \$2,900.9 million overall debt services for 2018.

Vision 2025 outlining the governments overarching development strategy states that in the fields of science and technology have lagged behind and there is a lack of policies and strategies to develop technology necessary for the manufacturing sector. As a result, there is little incentive for the private sector to enter and invest. The Science, Technology and Innovation strategy for 2010- 2015 was presented with a view to propel Sri Lanka to a knowledge economy and in recognition of the importance of science, technology and innovation in propel Sri Lanka towards the ‘Asian Rising’. The scientific capability within the country has to be of world standard in the areas that Sri Lanka has the competitive edge, for the goods and services developed by our economy to be able to outsell those from other countries.

Sri Lanka’s exports in 2017 hit an all-time high of \$ 11.4 billion, up 10% from previous year. According to the Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade, the EU and the US were the biggest markets taking US\$3 billion each. The sectors showing particularly strong year-on-year growth were tea (20%) and fisheries (40%). Tea benefitted from higher prices and enhanced access to Middle Eastern markets, particularly Iran. Fisheries benefitted from both the lifting of the EU ban in June 2016 and the GSP+ concession in May 2017.

Apparel, which accounts for over 40% of all goods exports and directly employs over 300,000 people, mostly women, recorded a modest 2% growth over 2016.

However, according to the Global Competitiveness Report 2016/2017⁷⁸ released by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum, Sri Lanka ranks 71st among 138 countries in the index of global competitiveness index with a score of 4.19 out of 7. The report shows that the country's most problematic factors for doing business were policy instability followed by access to financing, inefficient government bureaucracy and tax rates. Sri Lanka's short-term target, therefore, was recommended to reach the top half of the rankings within the next three to five years. There is only one path leading to the target - the more robust growth of the industry. Without that, Sri Lanka's long-term development prospects may be at risk.

Encouraging and promoting effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships, multi-stakeholder partnerships are very important for Sri Lanka to achieve the SDGs. Sri Lanka's the two main categories of PPP (Public Private Partnership) and FDI (Foreign direct investments) requires accelerating growth with social Inclusion and identifying the potential markets to exploit further integration opportunities with the ASEAN Economic Community, and Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and China's One Belt One Road Initiative.

⁷⁸ Global Competitiveness Report 2016/2017

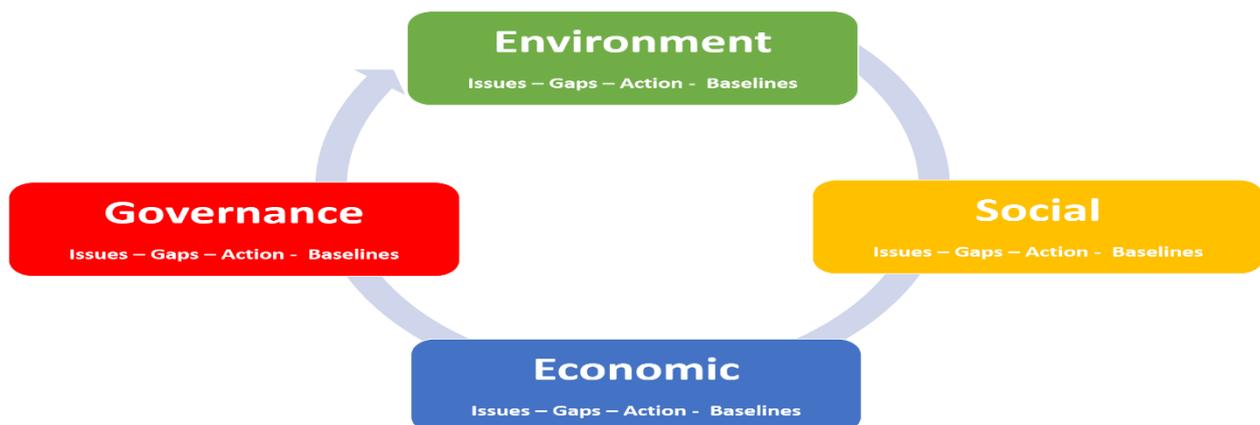
CHAPTER 05

Leaving No One Behind

Peoples Voices on the Sustainable Development Goals

1. Chapter Overview

The foundation of achieving the SDGs and transforming Sri Lanka will depend on the commitment to leaving no one behind. SDGs are hardly known to the general public and even the key stakeholders do not have a clear understanding as this discussion is currently limited to a small group of organisations and individuals. As the government-led VNR paid little interest in engaging stakeholders including local authorities, an alternative course of action through the stakeholder-led VPR was sort. These consultations were attended by local politicians, local government officials, civil society leaders, university academics, professional, business chamber representatives, and youth. The notion of leaving no one behind was extended beyond the capital Colombo and consultations were organized in 06 out of the 09 provinces during a short period of time. The regional and thematic consultations were facilitated towards obtaining information on the following;



- i. **Issues** obstructing SD
- ii. **Gaps** for mainstreaming & integration
- iii. **Action** for transformation
- iv. **Baselines** for monitoring & reporting

Towards facilitating the outcomes, the following questions were raised;

- i. Key issues obstructing sustainable development & implementing SDGs?
- ii. What has been done on finding solutions to the identified issues and implementing the SDGs?
- iii. What are the proposed actions for solving the issues and implementing the SDGs?
- iv. What are the barriers for those actions and implementing the SDGs?

Following are some of the key public responses that were recorded.

2. The Environment

No	Public Responses	SDGs [Direct]	SDGs [Indirect]
01	<p>“Mounting garbage is a main concern of the capital Colombo and other main cities in Sri Lanka. Due to a lack of responsibility of both the citizens, and the government especially in finding necessary measures to recycle waste in the country, even lives have been lost. Flash floods - caused by heavy rains usually worsens the problem. Proper waste segregation and dumping facilities are not available in Sri Lanka. Introducing waste segregation methods, proper sanitary facilities and drainage systems would help overcome the problem. A change in attitude and voluntary commitment amongst people in keeping the cities clean is needed to reduce waste in the country. This should be done by educating families on how to reuse waste in their daily work.” - Uva Province Consultations, June 2018</p>	11, 12	
02	<p>“Due to a lack in protective measures for the environment there is a mismanagement of natural resources. We exploit natural resources on a consumer basis and do not think of future outcomes that may occur in the near future. We have tried to cope with this problem on a governmental level but such policies seem to be ineffective. The recent industrial development in Sri Lanka and life improvement resulted in overpopulation in the suburbs. Lack of communication between institutions, politicians and public, gaps in the policy Implementation and bureaucracy process has led to mismanagement. There is a lack in sustainable land management and land use planning. Therefore, creating awareness among all sectors towards achieving a common goal and improving accountability must be identified as the solution. Strengthening EIA and other relevant land policy is key. Furthermore, Uva province states that enforcing laws to protect soil, protecting mountains above 5000 feet, data collection on deforestation and imposing EIA for any development project taking place. This is imperative for proper natural resource management.” - Uva Province Consultations, June 2018</p>	15	
03	<p>“Deforestation due to land grabbing and human resettlement is the main concern of ineffective land usage. Forest lands are converted into housing development. The excessive desire for luxury and greediness results in land degradation. People started deforestation to increase area for pastures and agricultural fields. Protecting natural forests and increasing home gardening should be part of the solution. Moreover, introducing medicinal and organic farming as well as proper forest demarcation mapping should be implemented. Uva province communities state that proper data collection on deforestation should be carried out in the country. More community participation is required for protecting forests in Uva province, introducing tree planting projects in Sri Lanka and removing settlements from environmentally sensitive areas to reduce deforestation.” - Central, Southern & Uva Province Consultations, June 2018</p>	15	2, 10
04	<p>“IDPs of Northern province also highlighted the issue and there are 3 major concerns related to drinking water faced by communities. Protecting water resources and avoiding the use of pesticides. Consuming salty water in some areas and introducing water projects without proper planning is a problem. A lack of controlling illegal sand mining resulting in water shortages. According to communities, people's view is that water resources should be protected, especially water basins, for future generations.</p>	6	

	Enforcing laws to stop sand mining is needed. The communities living in UVA province also highlighted the above issue and provided solutions such as protecting water resources and enforcing laws, gasification to protect water resources in the country. People should be educated on how to use rainwater for drinking purposes and the technology should be given to communities, human activities resulting in water pollution should have a penalty in the country.” - Central, Northern Southern & Uva Province Consultations, June 2018		
05	<p>The group who consulted on Alcohol and Drugs national dialogue looked at the production process of alcohol-drugs-tobacco and its impact on the environment, which was then branched out to water, resources, land and air. It was noted that production related to externalities are completely free of the polluter in Sri Lanka.</p> <p>Water: Wastewater is released to water bodies and it enters the water cycle and then to the production cycle. To produce 1 liter of beer, 300 liters of water is used. Chemicals used for tobacco and drugs seep into waterways and water cycles. Alcohol induces vandalizing behavior in people that has an impact on polluting the environment and waterways. Caramel color enhancer in beer is a listed carcinogen which is added onto water streams and is dangerous. Resources: Tobacco extracts a lot of minerals from the ground. Packaging will use a lot of silica sand that is a non-renewable resource. Cigarette buds that are peppered everywhere would take 10 years to decompose. Land: Large production has an impact on surface water and groundwater sustainability. Extraction can lead to varying environmental problems alongside ecosystem changes through forest clearances. Air: Drugs and smoke have direct impact on the air quality.</p> <p>Strategies are to be affiliated with minimizing production and production indicators that may have a reduction of consumption. Restriction of resource usage can be a way of limiting production. Social and economic externalities are currently borne by the people. This burden must be shared with the companies and industries in order to be regularized. Water treatment needs to be mandatory and regulated. Non-renewable resources are required to be regularized like glass bottles and aluminum cans. Land usage of tobacco cultivations can be regularized. - Consultation on Drugs and Alcohols March 2018</p>	15	1, 2, 3, & 6
06	<p>“Jayasinghe was a kidney patient from Microgyria. He had been dialyzed more than 275 times before he died in 2015. His father also passed away from the same illness. His mother too suffers from the same. Jayasinghe was one among over 200,000 farmers living in the dry zone agricultural areas in Sri Lanka. According to the GOSL this is still has unknown etiology. But according to the farmers it is due to the heavy use of pesticides in modern farming practices. The contamination comes with the water. We need clean water. GOSL provide more hospital beds and dialysis machines and some RO plants. The RO plant water is not suitable to drink forever. We need more suitable water facility. Also need research to identify the cause c”. North Central Province, June 2018</p>	3	1, 2, & 3
07	<p>“Protecting forest reserves in watershed areas is needed to reduce global warming and climate change. Strengthening the public transportation will reduce traffic congestions in the country and that’s a solution to mitigate climate change. The communities in Uva province states that damage loss by impacts should be properly done with proper compensation scheme, it was stressed that climate friendly agriculture system should be introduced in the country. Resettling people from</p>	13	6, 8, 9, 11, & 15

	disaster affected areas and people need to be prepared for disasters in the country. Community participation in disaster risk reduction needs to be effective and Sri Lanka has imposed laws on people creating manmade disasters.” - Wayamba, Central & Uva Province Consultations, June 2018		
08	“Human-Elephant, Human-Leopards conflicts. Electric fences should be demarcated around the areas they live. Plantation community in Nuwaraeliya District faces leopard attacks and there should be proper resettlement for leopards and they should be sent to jungles again.” - Central Province, Northern Province consultation, June 2018	11	2, 3, 15 & 10
09	“Air Pollution due to transportation and improper city planning; the area is facing high percentage of Sulphur and Carbon compounds in the atmosphere. Therefore, creating a master plan for inclusive city planning is necessary. Uva province communities also stated that proper city planning is needed to identify disaster risk areas and evacuating people from those areas to create tree planting projects in the disaster risk areas to avoid future disasters. A mechanism should be implemented by local departments to assess the lands and to conduct feasible studies before constructions in both micro and macro level.” - Uva Province, Central province Consultations, June 2018	11	3 & 13
10	“Farmers use pesticides which cause deaths and these pesticides are not been adequately regulated by the government. No firm and adequate price for farmers to sell their harvest is set and no proper government mechanism to sell their rice. Loss of local seeds to do paddy cultivation is an issue, introducing seeds from foreign countries is destroying the farming industry. So, local seeds need to be introduced and improved for a good harvest for farmers.” - Wayamba Province Consultations, June 2018	3	1, 2, 15 & 16
11	“Responsible consumption in community level is identified by UVA province and recycling garbage should be the first step to create and educate people in the community level for sustainable livelihoods. This mechanism should introduce eco-friendly agriculture to reduce loss in the harvest and reduction use of pesticides to improve the nutrition levels of food.” - Uva Province Consultations, June 2018	12	1, 2, 3, 4, & 15
12	“Increase in Renewable Energy Sector; Communities living in Uva province suggest that small waterfalls in the region should be utilized to generate electricity through small hydro power plants. Furthermore, the communities should be educated more in creating Biogas plants to generate energy locally and increase solar panels in household level to generate electricity.”- Uva Province Consultations, June 2018	7	4, 6, 11 & 15

3. Social Issues, Gaps and Solutions

No	Public Responses	SDGs [Direct]	SDGs [Indirect]
01	<p>“Children getting abused has gone up in many areas, children working to earn money is also a major problem for all. Children going for labour wages AND dropping out from school in an early age is an issue that people stated.” Gaps that people identified in the consultations included; “No alternative avenues for higher-education opportunities; less academic skills among children.” - Central, Southern, Wayamba & Uva Province Consultations, June 2018</p>	5, 10, 16	1, 2, 3, 4
02	<p>“No guidelines are there to address the issues of children in orphanages. Separate homes should be established to keep sexually exploited children. Therefore, policies should be introduced to establish orphanages with a sustainable view. For example, young children can no longer stay in state homes when they complete 18 years of age, where can they go?”</p> <p>Moreover, the peoples solution to avoid child abuse and child labour are “(i) creating awareness of parents by child protection officers in the plantation sector, (ii) provide IT education to stop child labour, (iii) creating public awareness through street dramas to prevent child abuse and sexual exploitation on children, (iv) carrying out more awareness programs in the plantation sector by officials working in the plantation sector, (v) creating more recreational space for children to play in the plantation sector to enjoy their childhood, and (vi) educating parents to spend more time for children to enjoy childhood”- All consultations, March – June 2018</p>	5, 10, 16	1, 2, 3, 4
03	<p>“Youth in the country does not get a quality education as planned, this has resulted in many youth groups facing sexual issues due to lack of proper sexual and reproductive health education. One of the gaps which identified in the document are “lack of education on sexual and reproductive health in the school curriculum”. It was identified that “school curriculum should be incorporated sexual education in the school syllabus”. Furthermore, “more community awareness is needed to promote proper sanitation schemes in the country with more education on community health.” - Western & Uva Province Consultations, June 2018</p>	5	16 & 17
04	<p>“Laws should be regulated timely; the laws have not been regulated in the country timely and some laws are very old and not been revised.”- Western Province Consultation April 2018</p>	16 & 17	4 & 10
05	<p>“Psychological impacts were discussed in detail during the Nuwareliya (Central Province) workshop, National Dialogue of linkages of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs, the launch of VPR stakeholder consultation, and the Southern province consultation. It was discussed how the children breakdown through abuse and wellbeing has not been evaluated and the impact of it is unknown to the economy. Women participation in peace and reconciliation is also minimal. Psychological support for the women and children needs to be closely looked at and enhanced. Violence is identified as a vicious cycle and per capita violence, and per family violence have big impacts on the society.</p>	1 & 16	2, 3, 4, 5 & 17

	The Act on Prevention of domestic violence (2005) does not address the related aspects of alcohol violence such as rehabilitation. Therefore, a holistic solution is needed. Advocacy is of paramount importance starting from law enforcement and to all the social strata. Capacity building and education system must incorporate the training on how to survive in the society in the face of adversity and other skills like communication should be improved though proper guidance. Holistic service provisioning starting from all parties (leaving no one behind) like alcoholics, women and children, youth while providing the necessary legal assistance is needed. Active citizens groups and youth empowerment need to be established. It was further suggested that illegal sales of alcohol, reducing alcohol shops and outlets in plantation sector, and conducting awareness through pictorial and video screening on health impacts would be highly impactful.” - Western Province Consultations, April 2018		
06	“A major issue is women getting discriminated at the household level and issues faced by women in the current political system specifically entering the political system. One of the gaps we see is, no Implementation of gender-based policies in the country. Therefore, solutions such as creating public awareness through street dramas and media platforms are needed and seemingly effective. The communities in the plantation sector should have more awareness sessions from officials working in the plantation sector. Giving equal rights to women is a solution that was clearly identified and strengthening the legal framework and entities for women protection is also needed.” - Southern, Central, Wayamba, & Uva Province Consultations, June 2018	5, 10 & 16	4, 8, & 17
07	“Language barrier is an issue need to be addressed in the plantation sector. Therefore, a national language policy is needed to address the gap. The public suggested a mechanism to learn both national languages in the plantation sector in the country.” Central Province Consultations, June 2018	17	4
08	“Parent Migrating for foreign labour work due unemployment issues internally. Children living without parents will get exploited and it’s possible for children to get early age pregnancies (due to abuse and lack of knowledge), run away from homes, get addicted to alcohol, and stop education. Therefore, social protection for their families by a duty bearer is needed to provide necessary care and protection.” - Central Province Consultations, June 2018	1 & 8	4, 16, & 17
09	The communities producing organic products don’t have a good price in the market, and therefore, food gets wasted. Many farmers give up organic farming creating a shortage. Therefore, a policy is needed to increase market demand for organic produce. The communities suggested enabling a good market mechanism to sell their organic products. - Central province and Southern province consultation May 2018	2	1, 3 & 16
10	“During menstruation, adolescent girls in North western peninsula stay at home as there are no proper toilet facilities at schools for them to use. Even if they go to the school there are no proper facilities to change and dispose of sanitary napkins. So, they return home without changing them. Some are aware of the importance of cleaning themselves during menstruation. Some adolescent girls think menstruation is a sickness and want to seek medical advice. Especially if they have pains in the lower abdomen they stay home and rest in the bed.” Wayamba Province consultation - June 2018	3 & 6	10 & 16

14	<p>“Most of the women work in the night and go to work for night shifts leaving their families. This is a big issue in the area as more women work in the night in supermarkets, garment industries. The lack of social protection for their families and gaps in labour laws has become a major problem for these families. These families are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitations in the society. Therefore, the duty bearers in the country should enable social protection for these affected families. If not, at least a community based/driven social protection system should be introduced with all stakeholders taken into account.” - Wayamba Province consultation 2018</p>	5 & 10	4, 11, 16 & 17
15	<p>Everybody suggests that a holistic education system should be introduced in the future. Many women turn up for technical teaching. Education is not linked and aligned with the current job market. A practical education system does not exist and curriculum education is practiced. Therefore, the education system needs to be changed, and curriculum education development needed. 400 children are not going to school continuously in coastal areas of North Western province. Furthermore, quality education should be there in all levels and privatization of education is not necessarily a solution towards the development of the country. North Western Southern, Central, Uva province May-June 2018</p>	4 & 16	8, 9 & 17
16	<p>Urban and rural poverty is a major issue in the country. Therefore, it was stressed that national a mechanism is needed to address the issue. There needs to be a proper participatory mechanism with the support of all sectors to uplift the livelihoods of the communities. Small and medium scale entrepreneurship is a key and must be promoted in the country in the national level. More vocational skills are needed to meet the demand in the job market to eradicate poverty. - Central, Southern and Uva Province May - June 2018</p>	1	8, 9, 10, 11 & 16
17	<p>Youth community are lacking attitudinal change for self-development. Drugs, Beach Boy culture, depression, school dropouts, arrogance and agony, no mindfulness, unemployment are some key issues identified within the youth. Therefore, more awareness creation through counselling (support systems) for self-development of the youth is required. - Southern, Uva province consultations May - June 2018</p>	8 & 9	16 & 17
18	<p>Early child marriages are common in Plantation community and in some minority communities on religious grounds. Awareness and education is a gap which the community identified. Therefore, introducing family education for parents and holistic development approaches to avoid culture barriers are needed. - Central province, North Western province, May 2018</p>	1 & 4	16
19	<p>Lack of policy awareness of the general citizen towards development is another concern expressed. The gap community state is that traditional thinking and cultural values needs to avoid in future by increasing more awareness creation campaigns with all stakeholders engaged. - North Western, Central and Southern Province, May to June 2018</p>	16 & 17	
20	<p>Creating a better environment for women participation in decision making level is a need identified by women. Women get harassed or discriminated in the</p>	5 & 10	16 & 17

	administration level towards the household level. These reasons hinder their participation in decision making level. A collective response to these issues are urgently required. - North Western province consultation June 2018		
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4. Economic Issues, Gaps and Solutions

No	Public Responses	Direct SDG	Indirect SDG
01	No proper monitoring and evaluation mechanism on rural economy within the country; "A mechanism is needed to monitor and evaluate rural economy in the country, this will support the economic growth in the country. Decision making process is not inclusive and this is an issue for economic development in rural areas in the country. - Western Province Consultations, April 2018	16 & 17	
02	Money laundering and corruption is a major issue. Lack of law is a gap identified and corruption taking place in the public sector is also a problem needing proper enforcement of law to address the issue." People suggested that in order to strengthen the financial sector, practical issues involved in combating money laundering should be identified when crating a firm response. - Western Province Consultations, April 2018	16 & 17	
03	"Lack of awareness of the economic rights among people is a major issue identified when empowering the economy of the communities. No Priorities set for economic development and lack of access for resources for individual economic empowerment are identified key issues. Therefore, localizing national plans within the villages with the participation of government sector is needed." - Western Province Consultations, June 2018	16 & 17	
04	"Lack of available data for economic growth is an issue in strengthening the economic development of the country. Financing the health sector to support very poor and provide services in Wayamba and UVA province was found as a need. Therefore, there is a need to prioritize. It was suggested to have a good data collection system for health sector and policies should integrate to the system. More mobile health clinic schemes need to be established and promoted. More human resource is needed in rural hospitals of the country to fulfil the needs of people. It is also needed to create a better service environment with better facilities in hospitals for pregnant women and newborn babies." - Uva & Wayamba Province Consultations, June 2018	16 & 17	
05	"Poverty related issues; LKR. 330 million are spent per day for cigarettes, LKR. 180 million is spent on arrack, and LKR. 100 million is spent on beer per day. Most of this money goes out of the country and it affects the economic growth of the country. The money that is spent affects the household level savings as well as expenditure	9, 16 & 17	1, 2, 3, 4 & 13

	<p>on basic needs. Tobacco and alcohol are main causes for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Sri Lanka. Unhealthiness caused through alcohol and tobacco is another major blow on the economy and Sri Lanka spends Rs.62 billion on alcohol and cigarette related health issues. Alcohol and tobacco is linked also with children and leads to teenage drop outs from school. To further elaborate, family related indirect impact when farther is spending money on alcohol and tobacco leads to inability to afford school items for the children and then leads to related dropouts and abuse. Productivity and wellbeing are therefore heavily impacted by this spending.</p> <p>Transportation of these items has effects on ocean and land. It impacts the animals and ecosystems and thus also affects the economy. Specifically, tobacco production has a heavy impact on the soil which in turn adversely affect the economy.</p> <p>Strategies are needed for awareness raising and counter marketing. Linkages between industry and government leaders were discussed in the consultations. People must be made aware that LKR 330 million worth of cigarette consumption takes place in the country. Education ministry conducting (i) awareness campaigns, (ii) teacher training, (iii) inclusion of sections in school curriculum, and (iv) new rules and regulations were discussed as necessary strategic action. Taxation and regulation is another very important item of the strategies.”- Western Province Consultations, March, April 2018</p>		
06	<p>“Giving opportunities to innovators in the UVA province and to recognize them by registering them as entrepreneurs creating better economic opportunities in the country is a solution highlighted in consultations. Lots of tea factories are closed in the UVA province and reopening the tea factories will support in creating jobs in the country. Industries related to minerals should be utilized properly to create a good income while protecting the environment. Eco-friendly tourism should take place in the Uva region. Local departments should engage with infrastructure development and should work together. Strengthening industries related to food sector through an organic agriculture system is also needed in the area.”- Uva province consultation May 2018</p>	8 & 9	1, 2, 3, 5, 10 & 11
07	<p>“It is noticed that the fish population is decreasing due to illegal methods of catching fish. Moreover, many rare animals like turtles, dolphins, dugongs get caught in these fishing methods. No proper way to keep fish when to returning to shore, so many fish dried up or left out without consuming are concerns. Only 40% of fish from fish stock can be used due to this matter. The money loss from these left out fish effects the families. No new technologies are available/introduced for the fishermen to catch fish. Current machinery is also too expensive for fisherman. Solutions proposed includes Introducing new systems, technologies and reduce prices for fisherman to carry out daily business. Give fishing gear for businesses with an easy payment scheme for fisherman to carry out daily practice. Enabling laws to stop illegal fishing methods is also required.” - Wayamba Province Consultations, June 2018</p>	14	16 & 17
08	<p>“Lack of development for innovations and economic growth: Strengthening vocational training, creating more job opportunities in the public and private sector is needed. Creating a curriculum to attract innovative solutions is needed and these solutions were suggested by the plantation communities.” - Southern Province Consultations June 2018</p>	8 & 9	1, 4, 10 & 16

09	“Lack of education provided to people on saving money and management is a gap faced in household business communities and during the VPR stakeholder launch it was stated that educating people on saving and money management, enabling a better market mechanism, ownership of pricing made to remain with the producer, and creating proper infrastructure for better economic empowerment is needed to solve the problem.” - Western Province Consultations June 2018	1	4, 8 & 9
10	“Proper utilization of natural resources should be done sustainably for income generation purposes and the natural resources should not be wasted/ over used for income generation purposes.” Western & Southern Province Consultations June 2018	15	6, 9, 13 & 14
11	“The communities in the Plantation sector, Southern province, and Wayamba province highlighted the issue and according to the people’s view it is an issue in the policies related to labour laws. Therefore, creating a policy to recognize labour jobs with better and equal wages is needed in the country.” - Southern and Wayamba Province Consultation June 2018	8, 16 & 17	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 10
12	“Lack of human resources and better infrastructure facilities is creating issues in the economic development in the country. Therefore, a proper human resource management mechanism with more training programs is needed according to the people in plantation sector in Nuwaraeliya (Central province) and Southern province. Strengthening the communication between public and private sector is needed.” - Southern and Central Province Consultation June 2018	1	2, 3, 4, 8 & 9
13	“Communities living in Uva province state that giving opportunities to innovators in the UVA province and to recognize them by registering them as entrepreneurs creating better economic opportunities in the country. Lots of tea factories are closed in the UVA province and reopening the tea factories will support in creating jobs in the country. Industries related to Minerals should be utilized properly to create a good income. Eco friendly tourism should take place in the Uva region. Local departments should engage with infrastructure development and should work together every time. Strengthening industries related to food sector by organic agriculture system is needed in the area.” Uva Province Consultation June 2018	8 & 9	1, 2, 3, 5, 10 & 11

5. Governance Issues, Governance Gaps and Solutions

No	Public Responses	Direct SDG	Indirect SDG
01	“Evidence and research-based policies are inadequately implemented in the country. This is a big issue for the development in the country. Therefore, policies should be integrated with more research and evidence based.” - Western Province Consultation April 2018	16 & 17	
02	“Lack of grassroots level participation in planning and implementation of policies has not been observed in the country. Therefore, grassroots level participation should be enabled when planning and implementation policies.”- Western Province Consultation April 2018	16 & 17	4 & 10

03	"Laws should be regulated timely; the laws have not been regulated in the country timely and some laws are very old and not been revised."- Western Province Consultation April 2018	16 & 17	4 & 10
04	"No policies regulated on providing comprehensive sexual education in the country. Therefore, policies should be regulated to provide comprehensive sexual education." - Western Province Consultation April 2018	4, 16 & 17	5 & 10
05	"There is an issue in the penal code and nondiscrimination of clusters not been addressed. Therefore, this must be addressed in the national level." - Western Province Consultation April 2018	16 & 17	SDG 4 & 10
06	"No policy coordination within ministries and departments in the country. This is an issue in governance and this needs to be addressed at the national level. A proper policy framework for social, economic, and environment development is needed in the country."- Western Province Consultation April 2018	16 & 17	
07	"The issue is that proper planning is lacking to implement policies in the country. Proper planning must come to policy orientation in the country." - Western Province Consultation April 2018	16 & 17	
08	"A proper monitoring and evaluation mechanism is required to strengthen governance in the country." - Western & Southern Province Consultation April 2018	16 & 17	
09	"There is a delay in judiciary system and therefore, good governance cannot be practiced in the country. The Judiciary system should be revised in the country." - Western Province Consultation April 2018	16 & 17	
10	"Politicized mechanism should be avoided for the future development in the country and this will result ending corruption." - Western Province Consultation April 2018	16 & 17	
11	"More technical capacity should be strengthened; technical experts should participate in development of the civil society for inclusive transformation to strengthen all sectors for way forward. Community participation in the decision making in all level needed especially for development projects. Cooperation should be strengthened to increase awareness on SDGs with duty bearers, Youth practitioners should get involved in the process as change makers to create more awareness for communities and work with duty bearers." - Southern & Uva Province Consultation June 2018	16 & 17	8, 9
12	"A proper monitoring and evaluation system should be carried out to maintain peace and justice. Political influence in the process must be stopped. The productivity of local institutes should also be increased to achieve sustainability. Laws should be strengthened for the future development in the country. More clusters should be trained in communities to promote peace and reconciliation in the country." - Uva Province Consultation June 2018.	16 & 17	
13	"Our children don't have even a library because we live out of the municipal area and we can't have a library for our children, and if our children to go main library in the	4, 16 & 17	

	town they get discriminated due to coming from plantations, so we need a library” - Central Province Consultation June 2018.		
14	“Our people don’t have land ownership and 50% of people don’t have a way to afford electricity, giving electricity to religious places have caused a higher demand and it has become an issue for us to live. So, we need land ownership. The land ownership is needed for people living in plantation sector in Uva province.”- Central Province Consultation June 2018.	16 & 17	
15	“We never get to know what government are planning to do in our areas, no information getting to us. We have a right to know them and we need to know them.” - Central Province Consultation June 2018.	17	
16	“Act 33 has not given powers for people coming from estate sector to carry out work for people even if they get selected to local governments. Therefore, the councilors get mistreated when they go to work in these systems and they cannot work for planting sector. So, this act needs to be revised.” - Central Province Consultation June 2018	16	
17	“Not many opportunities for plantation sector children to go to good schools in Nuwaraeliya town are available. Furthermore, we have been isolated, discriminated, and therefore, we need equal rights and education.” - Central Province Consultation June 2018	4	
18	“Our people make tea in plantations, but we don’t get to taste the tea we made and the companies don’t give. So, this is an issue as we make the tea by working in estates, so we need justice.” - Central Province Consultation June 2018	2	16

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