



# ප්‍රගති වාර්තාව முன்னேற்ற அறிக்கை Progress report 2025



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கிராமிய அபிவிருத்தி, சமூகப் பாதுகாப்பு மற்றும் சமூக வலுவூட்டுகை அமைச்சு  
Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

# Progress Report

## 2025



**Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment**





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## Vision and Mission of the Ministry

### Vision

**A thriving nation where  
prosperity and progress are  
shared by all**

### Mission

**Engage all stakeholders in  
designing and executing  
effective programs that  
strengthen rural livelihoods,  
provide robust social security,  
and cultivate self-reliant  
communities.**





## 1. Introduction, Subjects and Functions

According to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) in 2019, 82.8 percent of the total population of Sri Lanka lives in rural and estate areas. Moreover, one in every six people in the population faces multidimensional poverty, and 95.3 percent of them live in rural and estate-related areas. The poverty headcount index is 10 percent higher in rural areas and 27 percent higher in estate areas compared to urban areas, and access to educational opportunities, infrastructure and services, as well as the participation of women and senior citizens in the workforce and social activities, remains low. Furthermore, the socio-economic problems prevailing in rural areas have a significant negative impact on the development and social structure of those areas.

The introduction of a well-designed social protection system will help to increase the human capital and productivity of a country, reduce inequality and break the vicious cycle of poverty. According to the definition of the International Labour Organization, social protection is a system consisting of policies and programs implemented for the protection of individuals or family units from poverty and vulnerable situations throughout their lives. Although various social protection programs are implemented in Sri Lanka, the need to implement them systematically by coordinating integrated programs through the government has arisen at present.

Therefore, in order to overcome the above-mentioned challenges that have a significant impact on the development of the country, in accordance with the government policy of "A Rich Country - A Beautiful Life", there is a need for a comprehensive program to eliminate multidimensional poverty and ensure the social welfare of marginalized and disadvantaged communities through a development process that leaves no one and no area behind.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment has been established by the Extraordinary Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 2412/8 dated 25.11.2024 to address the aspects of promoting sustainable development in rural areas of Sri Lanka, improving social security systems and empowering communities to build a self-reliant society. The main functions and tasks of this Ministry are as follows.

1. Formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate policies, strategies, programs and projects related to the subjects of rural development, social security and community empowerment based on the national policies implemented by the government and the subjects of the departments and statutory institutions affiliated to the Ministry and state corporations.
2. Provide public services within the scope of the Ministry in an efficient and people-friendly manner.
3. Reform all methods and procedures using modern management practices and technology in a manner that helps ensure the fulfillment of the Ministry's functions while eliminating waste and corruption.
4. Implement rural infrastructure development initiatives.
5. Implement social safety net programs.
6. Identify the needs of persons with special needs and ensure that those needs are met.
7. Review, restructure and introduce appropriate new reforms to public assistance schemes.
8. Provide assistance to tuberculosis patients, kidney patients, leprosy patients, cancer and thalassemia patients and their dependents.
9. Implement family counseling services.
10. Activities related to internationally recognized conventions regarding persons with special needs.
11. Implement necessary programs in coordination with relevant institutions to provide vocational training and create employment opportunities for persons with special needs.
12. Make necessary policy changes and implement necessary facilities and programs so that persons with special needs can work together with the general population.
13. Implement social insurance schemes for persons with special needs.
14. Take necessary steps to care for the elderly, increase the participation of senior citizens in social development activities and protect the rights of senior citizens.

The following departments, institutions and divisions are actively working to carry out the above tasks and functions effectively and efficiently.

#### ❖ Rural Development Division

- i. Rural Development Bureau (RDB)
- ii. Rural Development Training and Research Institute (RDTRI)

### ❖ Social Security Division

- iii. Department of Social Services (DSS)
- iv. National Council and National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities (NSPD)
- v. National Council and National Secretariat for Elders (NSE))
- vi. Sri Lanka Social Security Board (SLSSB)
- vii. Counseling Division

### ❖ Community Empowerment Division

- viii. Department of Samurdhi Development (DSD)

### ❖ Educational Institutes

- ix. National Institute of Social Development (NISD)

### ❖ Other

- x. Partnership Secretariat for World Food Programme Cooperation (WFP)

The main target groups currently receiving services from these institutions are as follows.

- Elderly population 2.7 million (Registrar General's Department, 2023)
- Disabled population over 5 years 1.16 million (Labour Force Survey, 2022)
- Informal sector employment excluding farmers and fishermen 2.7 million (Labour Force Survey, 2022)
- Drug addicts 152,979 (Police Narcotics Bureau, 2022)
- Mental health disorder population 0.8 million (Ministry of Health, 2017)
- Families of incarcerated persons 28,500 (Department of Community Corrections, 2024)
- Single parent families and homeless beggars

## 2. Carder Management

Institution	Senior		Territory		Secondary		Primary		Temporary /Contractual basis		Total		
	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre	Deficiency/ excess
Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment (with Counselling Division)	28	17	3	3	536	534	45	35	4	1	616	590	26
Departments/Institutes/Divisions													
Department of Samurdhi Development	131	58	369	1313	24801	20206	431	414	0	0	25732	21991	3741
Department of Social Servicers	8	6	502	223	683	644	288	253	11	0	1492	1126	366
National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities	6	4	3	2	53	37	6	2	0	0	68	45	23
National Secretariat for Elders	7	3	2	1	115	101	23	12	0	0	147	117	30
Sri Lanka Social Security Board	8	7	17	10	130	93	43	38	0	0	198	148	50
National Institute of Social Development	53	31	9	4	49	34	26	21	0	0	137	90	46
Rural Development Bureau	15	10	4	0	74	28	10	2	0	0	103	40	63
Rural Development Training and Research Institute	4	3	14	11	21	18	11	6	0	0	50	38	12
Partnership Secretariat for World Food Programme	5	3	0	0	10	5	1	1	0	0	50	9	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>1567</b>	<b>26472</b>	<b>21700</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28559</b>	<b>24194</b>	<b>4364</b>

## Summary of allocations and financial progress of the Ministry

Allocations have been allocated for the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment under Head 124, the Department of Social Services under Head 216 and the Department of Samurdhi Development under Head 331 for the year 2025.

Accordingly, the total allocations approved for the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment and the financial progress are as follows.

Type of Allocation	Approved allocation for year 2025 (Rs. Mn.)	Financial Progress from 01.01.2025 to 30.09.2025 (Rs. Mn.)
Ministry of Rural Development Social Security and Community Empowerment – Expenditure Head 124		
Capital	5,117.70	664.08
Recurrent	1,841.30	1,064.90
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>6,959.00</b>	<b>1,728.98</b>
Department of Social Services - Expenditure Head 216		
Capital	138.86	25.80
Recurrent	1,531.14	1,002.46
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1,670.00</b>	<b>1,028.26</b>
Department of Social Services - Expenditure Head 331		
Capital	1,118.00	87.80
Recurrent	21,603.00	15,865.38
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>22,721.00</b>	<b>15,953.18</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>31,350.00</b>	<b>18,710.42</b>

## 4. How the institutions have functioned to achieve the objectives of the Ministry

### 4.1. Department of Samurdhi Development (DSD)

#### Introduction

Department of Samurdhi Development has been established by Divineguma Act No. 1 of 2013 and Act No. 2 (Amendment) 2017 Divineguma for the aim of eradicating poverty and ensuring social justice in Sri Lanka

It was established to promote economic development activities and implement programs related to family empowerment, social protection and livelihood promotion by removing barriers that suppress the hidden potential of every poor person.

#### Objectives

- To empower low-income families economically, socially and psychologically and transform them into sustainable and high-standard of living family units.
- To ensure social security for low-income families.

#### Role

- Over the 5-year period from 2025 to 2029, 2 million families facing multidimensional poverty will be empowered in the economic, social and psychological aspects.
- Provide microfinance loan facilities to enhance the income generation and livelihoods of low-income families.
- Implement programs aimed at the social development of low-income families.

#### Approved Annual Allocation-2025 and Progress- up to 30.09.2025

	Allocation(Rs. Mn)	Progress (Rs. Mn)
Capital	1,118.00	87.80
Recurrent	21,603.00	15,865.38
Total	22,721.00	15,953.18

## Financial and physical progress of main development programs up to 2025.09.30

### Implementation of community empowerment program

The main role of the Samurdhi Development Department is to implement the "Aswesuma" beneficiary family and 2 million low-income families empowerment program over a period of 05 years from 2025 to 2029 to reduce the number of families facing multidimensional poverty, and it has already been implemented under 03 main financial components.

1. Local Funds.
2. Asian Development Bank Loan Assistance. (Pilot Project No. 1)
3. World Bank Loan Assistance. (Pilot Project No. 2)

### Local Funding Empowerment Program

This year's target is 300,000 Aswasuma beneficiary families and 100,000 families who are not Aswasuma beneficiaries but have received Samurdhi subsidies, making a total of 400,000 families. Rs. 1,000 million has been allocated for this for the year 2025 and the progress as of 30.09.2025 is Rs. 90.2 million. Under this, 365 awareness programs have been conducted for Samurdhi officers. The training of 270 master trainers and 10,502 field officers has been completed. So far, 276,900 beneficiaries have been selected and 209,386 family development plans and 26,270 business plans have been completed. 1,808 career guidance programs have been conducted and 1,389 youth have been referred for employment opportunities under this. 475 capacity building programs have been conducted for small and medium scale entrepreneurs. Microfinance loans are provided through Samurdhi Banks to start businesses or for self-employment under local funds, and Rs. 500 million has been provided through budget proposals to provide interest relief for the allocation of loans to selected families, and 9,570 entrepreneurs have been selected for this program.

### Asian Development Bank Financing Project (Pilot Project No. 01)

As a pilot project of the Aswesuma Beneficiary Empowerment Program, this project is being implemented with the aim of empowering 12,800 poor and extremely poor families among the Aswesuma beneficiaries using financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank. Allocations are being made for this under the Food Security and Livelihood Restoration



Emergency Assistance Project and the implementation is being carried out by the Department of Samurdhi Development. This is scheduled to be implemented from 09.09.2022 to 29.08.2026 and its estimated total cost is US\$ 7 million (Rs. 2,000 million for the year 2025). Under this, the following districts are covered: Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Kurunegala, Kegalle, Kalutara, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Batticaloa.

A financial progress of Rs 32.7 million has been achieved in relation to this project and under it, project planning and beneficiary selection and recruitment activities have been completed. In addition, the preparation of 10,500 family development plans, 3,880 business plans and employment plans for the recruited families has been completed. The empowerment allowance for beneficiaries is scheduled to begin in November.

In addition, renovation works have been completed at the training centers in Samanalawewa and Nillambe under the Department of Samurdhi Development.

### **World Bank Financing Projects (Pilot Project No. 02)**

As a pilot project of the Aswesuma Beneficiary Empowerment Program, this project is being implemented with the aim of empowering 10,975 poor and extremely poor families among the Aswesuma beneficiaries using World Bank financial assistance. This project is scheduled to be implemented from 14.12.2023 to 30.09.2027 and US\$ 8 million has been allocated for this. (Rs. 1,118 million has been received for the year 2025.) This project covers the districts of Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Gampaha, Puttalam, Colombo, Monaragala, Mannar, Badulla, Ampara, Ratnapura and Vavuniya.

A financial progress of Rs. 17.67 million has been achieved in relation to this project and under it, project planning and selection and recruitment of beneficiaries have been completed. Also, the preparation of 4,553 family development plans, business plans and employment plans for the recruited families has been completed. The disbursement of the empowerment allowance to the beneficiaries is scheduled to commence in the month of November

## Financial and physical progress of development programs implemented under departmental funds up to 2025.09.30

### Social Development Fund

A allocation of Rs. 64 million has been allocated for this fund and an expenditure of Rs. 2.42 million has been incurred as of 30.09.2025. The following activities have been carried out under this fund.

- Providing scholarships to 18,257 children under the Samurdhi Kekulu Children's Social, Cultural and Literacy Program
- Conducting 2,094 tobacco and drug prevention and happy family programs
- Implementing 2,553 programs for low-income families in conjunction with international days
- Conducting 104 national and district level progress review meetings
- A national flag-selling program was held to mark the International Tobacco Day and raised Rs. 157.22 million

### Community based banking funds

A allocation of Rs. 38,664 million has been allocated for this fund and an expenditure of Rs. 34,513.23 million has been incurred as of 30.09.2025. The following activities have been carried out under this fund.

- Providing 191,320 microfinance loans to poor low-income families - (Financial progress Rs. 34,512.20 million)
- Conducting a bank computerization program

### Social Security Funds

A allocation of Rs. 1,229.30 million has been allocated for this fund and an expenditure of Rs. 589.36 million has been incurred as of 30.09.2025. The following activities have been carried out under this fund.

- Provide “Sipdora” Scholarships for 33,265 Advanced Level students from low-income families
- Provide stationery and office supplies for the Head Office
- Provide stationery and office supplies for District and Regional Offices
- Provide stationery and office supplies for Nilaveli Samurdhi Training Center

### Housing Development Programme

A financial assistance of Rs. 1.0 million each is to be provided to construct a house for 03 low-income families from one Divisional Secretariat Division from the Samurdhi Lottery Fund, which was created with the contributions of low-income beneficiaries who benefited under the Samurdhi Subsidy Program. For this purpose, Rs. 1,020 million has been allocated for the year 2025 and the beneficiaries are currently being identified.

## 4.2. Department of Social Services (DSS)

### Introduction

On the recommendations of the commission appointed in year 1944 under the leadership of Sir Ivor Jennings, the Department of Social Services was established on 01 February 1948 with the aim of creating a better environment for the marginalized and disadvantaged groups of the people in the Country. In order to implement the current Government's National Policy for people with disabilities, leaves no one behind, it is expected to introduce an inclusive social security program, for the entire community of the country that is not privileged and implemented from birth to death, from year 2025.

There, the Department of Social Services, which acts as the national lead institution for social empowerment and integration under the Ministry, implements social security and social empowerment programs in accordance with the rehabilitation plans prepared for beneficiaries who have been marginalized and disadvantaged.

### Objectives

- Ensuring equal rights, opportunities, freedom and social protection of the underprivileged community including persons with disabilities and other marginalized and disadvantaged communities.
- To improve the quality of the life of persons with disabilities by providing access to income generation

### Functions

- Providing vocational training for the youths with disabilities through vocational training centers activating under the Department of Social Services
- To develop the professional skills of the youth with disabilities using new technologies as to fit with the existing job market.
- Implementation the programs of early intervention for children with disabilities and socializing them.
- Providing in ward residential care for persons with disabilities who have lost parents or guardians and empowering them.
- Rehabilitation and socialization of drug addicted persons
- Functioning on affairs related to the Visually Impaired Rehabilitation Trust Fund
- Day care and pre-vocational skills development through day care centers for children with disabilities

- By strengthening and popularizing the community-based rehabilitation process, implementing a program that renders services through rehabilitation plans mobilized and empowered through Swashakthi organizations monitored through operational committees at Divisional, District and National levels.
- Rendering the sign language interpretation services
- Rehabilitation of beggars through Ridiyagama Detention Home.

#### Approved Annual Allocation-2025 and Progress up to 30.09.2025

	Allocation (Rs. mn.)	Progress (Rs. mn.)
<b>Capital</b>	<b>138.86</b>	<b>25.80</b>
<b>Recurrent</b>	<b>1,531.14</b>	<b>1,002.46</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,670.00</b>	<b>1,028.26</b>

#### Financial and Physical progress of main development programmes up to 30.09.2025

##### Development projects implemented under recurrent allocations

##### Providing vocational trainings to persons with disabilities through vocational training centers

- Providing vocational trainings for 496 of persons with disabilities through 11 vocational training centers operating throughout the Island with the aim of providing vocational training to youths with disabilities between the 16-35 years age - Financial Progress Rs.10.36Mn.
- Providing uniforms for persons with disabilities in the vocational training centers and caring centers - Financial Progress Rs.3.16Mn.
- Providing maintenance assistance for 4 skill development centers- Financial Progress Rs.0.10Mn.
- Providing monthly allowance for 52 skill development Teachers - Financial Progress Rs.3.98Mn.
- Conducting competitions for commemorating the Poson Festival for 265 people with disabilities- Financial Progress Rs.0.46Mn.
- Providing day payment for 794 of persons with disabilities in the vocational training centers and skill development centers - Financial Progress Rs.16.08Mn.

##### Early childhood development of children with disabilities

The program is implemented as an intervention program for the early childhood development of children with disabilities living in Sri Lanka, centered around the Nawinna and Sitijaya Child Guidance Centers. Currently, 102 children are receiving training at the Nawinna Child Guidance Center and 47 children at the Sitijaya Child Guidance Center.

### Providing care for mentally retarded persons

This program aims to rehabilitate mentally retarded men and women who have lost their parents and guardians by providing them with love and affectionate care throughout their lives, without isolating them. Males are rehabilitated at the “Jayaviru Sevana” Institute in Puwakpitiya and females are rehabilitated at the “Batugammana” Institute.

This year, 90 individuals are currently undergoing rehabilitation at the Puwakpitiya Jayaviru Sevana Institute and 35 women at the Batugammana Institute.

### Rehabilitation of drug addicted persons

Rehabilitation of drug addicts and re integrate them after a vocational training are done by this program. This is being done by the “Jayaviru Samadhi” Institute located in Puwakpitiya. After being admitted to this institution, drug addicts are referred to a residential rehabilitation process through psychotherapy, psychological counseling programs, and medical and psychological interventions. The number of people rehabilitated so far this year is 60 and The number of people socialized is 64. The following programs regarding drug addiction are also being implemented at the district and divisional levels.

- Conducting 9 drug prevention programmes at District level under the rehabilitation of drug addicted persons - Financial Progress Rs.0.23Mn.
- Conducting a follow-up programmes for rehabilitated drug addicts and their families - Financial Progress Rs.0.06Mn.

### Visually Handicapped Trust Fund

- Providing monthly allowances for 248 visually impaired children who have passed G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination - Financial Progress Rs.1.95Mn.
- Providing assistance for the rehabilitation of 15 students who became visually impaired after the birth and providing stipends for 5 Instructors- Financial Progress Rs.0.97Mn.

### Facilitating recreational activities for persons with disabilities

- Conducting a District level sports competition for persons with disabilities
- Conducting Sith Ru programme
- Commemorating Sign Language Day (Financial Progress Rs.27.03Mn.)

### Ridiyagama Detention Home functioned to rehabilitate beggars of Ridiyagama

The Ridiyagama Welfare Rehabilitation Home, located in the Ambalantota Divisional Secretariat Division of the Hambantota District is the only institution operating under the central

government that provides rehabilitation under the Houses of Detention Act for the individuals convicted through judicial orders under the Vagrants Ordinance. At present, it provides care and protection for approximately 500 beneficiaries.

- Providing resources, welfare items and other things to 484 beggars in Ridiyagama (Financial progress Rs.1.45Mn.)
- Providing uniforms, T-shirts to 484 beggars in Ridiyagama (Financial progress Rs.4.71 Mn.)
- Conducting a spiritual development program for beggars in Ridiyagama

#### Development projects implemented under the capital allocations

#### Community Based Rehabilitation Programme

- Providing assistive devices for 17 persons with disabilities (Financial progress Rs 0.42 Mn.)
- Establishment of 60 of Sihina Sri Lanka Centers (Financial progress Rs0.21Mn.)
- Implementation of 7 special projects to empower people with disabilities - (Financial progress Rs. 0.67 Mn.)
- Implementation of 25 entrepreneurship training programs for people with disabilities - (Financial progress Rs. 0.24 Mn.)
- Conducting of 1245 Progress review meetings - (Financial progress Rs.1.86 Mn.)

#### Renovation of vocational training centers for persons with disabilities

- Completion 60% of renovation and repairing works of vocational training centers operated with the aim of providing vocational trainings to youths with disabilities.

#### Construction of Kilinochchi vocational training center

- Completion 95% of the construction works of Vocational Training Center in Kilinochchi operated with the aim of providing vocational trainings to youths with disabilities. - (Financial progress Rs.9.65 Mn.)

#### Training of the Officers

- Conducting 29 programs for officers in the Head Office, Field Officers, Officers in the Vocational Training Centers -(Financial progress Rs.0.84 Mn.)

#### Other programs

- Providing employment opportunities for 356 persons with disabilities through the Employment Supporting Unit

### Establishment of Day Care Centres for Skill Development of Children with Disabilities

In line with the national policy on persons with disabilities, and under the concept of “No One Living Behind,” the Department of Social Services is committed to safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities while creating opportunities for them to fulfill their responsibilities as active members of society.

Many parents of children with disabilities face difficulties in engaging in suitable employment, as they are often required to provide full-time care for their children. This situation leads to significant mental and emotional strain. Therefore, with the aim of providing relief to such parents and caregivers and enabling them to engage in economic activities, initiatives have been launched under the Budget Proposals for 2025 to establish Skill Development Day Care Centres for children with disabilities at the district level.

Accordingly, eight districts have been selected to establish and operate these Skill Development Day Care Centres during the year 2025, with an allocated budget of Rs. 250 million.

No	District	Divisional Secretariat Division
1	Galle	Akmeemana
2	Hambantota	Weeraketiya
3	Trincomalee	Kinniya
4	Matara	Akuressa
5	Kalutara	Panadura
6	Kegalle	Warakapola
7	Anuradhapura	Thirappane
8	Kurunegala	Kurunegala

At present, construction work of these Skill Development Day Care Centres has commenced in the districts of Trincomalee, Kurunegala, Galle, Hambantota, and Kegalle, while Kalutara, Anuradhapura, and Matara districts are in the stage of preparing necessary documentation and procurement processes.

It is planned to complete the construction of the centres in Trincomalee, Kegalle, Galle, and Hambantota within the current year.

### 4.3. National Council and National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities (NSPD)

#### Introduction

The National Council and National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities were established under the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act No. 28 of 1996. National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities is engaging duties of implementation the policy decisions taken by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities and providing assistance to the persons with disabilities such as promoting their rights and their welfare in order to create a favorable environment for them.

#### Objectives

- Create a favorable environment for people with disabilities
- Empower the people with disabilities, their families and communities in order to build their social and economic lives with self-confidence and resilience.
- Ensure equal rights, opportunities, freedom and social security for all.

#### Functions

- To promote the welfare of the persons with disabilities and protect their rights
- Implementation of programs to facilitate for the basic needs of low-income persons with disabilities
- To expand the health, education, employment opportunities and opportunities for accessibility facilities for people with disabilities

#### Approved Annual Allocations for 2025 and Progress up to 30.09.2025

	Allocations (Rs.Mn.)	Progress (Rs.Mn.)
Capital	650.40	32.03
Recurrent	34.60	10.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>685.00</b>	<b>42.52</b>



## Financial and Physical progress of main development programs up to 30.09.2025

### Strengthening of Legal Mechanism

#### The draft Bill of Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- The initial draft has been prepared by the members of the National Assembly Committee. The draft has been submitted for the views of the members of the National Assembly for Persons with Disabilities.

#### Sign Language Draft Bill

- A draft bill has been prepared regarding the sign language and submitted to the Attorney General's Department for observations. A discussion has been planned with the Attorney General's Department.

#### Gazette of Accessibility Order for the persons with disabilities

- The Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 1467/15 dated 17.10.2006 and the Gazette on accessibility order no:01 of 2006 and the Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 1619/24 dated 18.09.2009 which were published amending that to build government buildings, public places and service places as accessible to persons with disabilities have been re-drafted as suits with the international specifications and current needs. Plans related to that draft are being drawn up.

#### Preparation of the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities

- The basic documents have been reviewed and submitted for the comments of the National Assembly Committee members and Technical Committee members to prepare the first draft.

### Development projects implemented under the Treasury allocations

#### Providing Financial Assistance

- Providing medical assistance for 365 people with disabilities (for surgeries, medicines and travel expenses to clinics) - Financial progress Rs.9.50 million
- Providing educational assistance for 422 students with disabilities - Financial progress Rs.11.10 million
- Providing self-employment assistance for 127 people with disabilities - Financial progress Rs.5.19 million

**Providing assistive devices (spectacles, wheelchairs, walkers, etc.)**

- Providing of assistive devices for 239 persons with disabilities - Financial progress Rs.3.00 million

**Providing financial assistance to voluntary organizations which are providing services to persons with disabilities**

- Providing financial assistance to 3 voluntary organizations which are providing services to persons with disabilities - Financial progress Rs.0.60 million

**Promoting the skill development of the persons with disabilities**

- Providing assistance to 6 institutions for the promotion of skill development of persons with disabilities - Financial progress Rs.0.44 million

**Acquisition of Capital Assets**

- Acquisition of essential equipment for the Akuressa Early Childhood Development Center

**Providing monthly maintenance expenses for Victoria Home**

- Providing monthly maintenance expenses for Victoria Home for persons with disabilities - Financial progress Rs.8.75 million (120 persons with disabilities are residents)

**Providing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities**

- Providing employment opportunities in the private sector for 34 persons with disabilities and the government pays 50% from their salary (maximum Rs.15,000) - Financial progress Rs.0.90 million

**Programs implemented under the other allocations****5% from the “Supiri Wasana” lottery fund income**

- Providing housing assistance for 208 persons with disabilities - Financial progress Rs.31.3 million
- Providing sanitation facilities for 62 persons with disabilities - Financial progress Rs.6.2 million

**The fund of Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities**

- Providing medical assistance to 60 persons with disabilities (for surgeries, medicines and travel expenses to clinics) - Financial progress Rs.1.57 million

## 4.4. National Council and National Secretariat for Elders (NSE)

### Introduction

National Council and National Secretariat for Elders have been established under the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act No. 09 of 2000, which was amended by Act No. 05 of 2011, as a unique opportunity to protect and develop the rights of the elderly community in Sri Lanka.

### Objectives

- Protecting and promoting the rights of the elderly
- Maintaining physical and mental balance and health and promoting the well-being of older persons
- Economic empowerment of older persons

### Role

- To make society aware that providing care, protection and welfare to the elderly is a role that must be fulfilled by the family itself.
- To increase investment opportunities in the private sector to care for the elders.
- To direct the elders towards income generation through the development of their abilities and skills.
- To prepare them to avoid problems faced in retirement through increasing awareness.
- To provide care for the elders in need.

### Approved annual allocations-2025 and progress up to 30. 09. 2025

	Allocations (Rs. Mn)	Progress (Rs. Mn)
<b>Capital</b>	20.00	4.66
<b>Recurrent</b>	384.80	195.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>404.80</b>	<b>200.12</b>

## Financial and physical progress of main development programs up to 30. 09. 2025

### Strengthening legal Mechanism

#### Formulation of the National Policy on the Elderly

In 2006, a policy document for elders was introduced. However, the National Council for Elders later recognized the need to revise and update this policy to meet the current and emerging needs of the time. It was concluded that Sri Lanka required a comprehensive national policy for elders to effectively address the growing and complex challenges arising from the country's rapidly increasing elder population. According to data from the Department of Census and Statistics, the proportion of persons aged 60 and above was 6.6% in 1981, doubled to 12% by 2012, and further increased to 18% by 2024. In response to this demographic trend, the National Council for Elders appointed a drafting committee to develop a new policy document to formulate a comprehensive national policy for elders in Sri Lanka.

The National Policy for Elders, prepared by the Policy Formulation Committee, was officially printed and launched in trilingual format during the commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons on 1st October 2025. This took place after it was approved by the National Council for Elders, the Department of National Planning, and the Cabinet of the Parliament of Sri Lanka.

#### Protection of Elders Right Act

The National Council for Elders and the National Secretariat for Elders were established under the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act No. 09 of 2000 and its Amendment Act No. 05 of 2011, with the primary objective of safeguarding the independence, protection, self-fulfillment, participation, and dignity of elders in Sri Lanka. These institutions are also mandated to promote and uphold the welfare and rights of elders across the country, ensuring that their contributions to society are recognized and valued. During the 20th session of the National Council for Elders, held on 14th May 2019, it was unanimously decided that the above-mentioned Acts should be reviewed and revised in line with the evolving social, economic, and demographic changes, as well as the emerging needs of the time.

Similarly, in 2019, the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Legal Affairs (Anti-Corruption) and Media issued directives to amend the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act. Furthermore, the Committee on Ways and Means, at its meeting held on 10th May 2023, also instructed that these Acts be revised.

In line with these directives, the then National Council for Elders appointed a special committee to undertake the revision process. The draft Bill prepared by this committee was developed with the intention of gathering feedback from various stakeholders and obtaining parliamentary approval through a concept paper. Following the submission of the concept paper, Cabinet approval was granted, and the Department of Legal Drafting was formally notified of this decision. The Department has since submitted the initial draft of the revised Act for further review and approval.

### **Preparing regulations and guidelines for elders homes**

In line with the global trend of increasing elderly populations, Sri Lanka's elderly population is also being risen relatively. In order to ensure the protection and the advancement of the elders, a committee consists with five members was established by the National Council for Elders held on 30.05.2025 to prepare guidelines and orders related to monitoring all the institutes provide services on behalf of the elders and future activities are being carried out accordingly.

### **Development programs implemented through recurrent allocation**

#### **Providing health assistance to the elders**

- Providing hearing aids, contact lenses and spectacles to 68 senior citizens - financial progress Rs. 0.85 million
- Conducting 11 medical camps for elders - Financial progress Rs. 6.10 million

#### **Caring for elders**

- Expenditure on administrative activities of Maligathenna, Pannala and Kataragama Elders' Homes - Financial Progress Rs. 11.59 million
- Allocation of financial assistance to 614 elders under the "Suwaphasu" financial assistance scheme implemented to provide the minimum facilities and sanitary facilities required for the elders to live in their own homes - Financial Progress Rs. 29.24 million
- For the renovation and allocation of equipment to 7 elders' homes - Financial Progress Rs. 4.17 million

#### **Promoting the rights of elders**

- Printing of 50,000 elders ID cards, issuance of 21,281 elders ID cards and purchase of 94 laminating covers - Financial progress Rs. 0.73 million
- Conducting of 6 council meetings in relation to holding the National Council for Elders - Financial progress Rs. 0.90 million

- Conducting of 94 court sessions in relation to running the Elders Maintenance Board - Financial progress Rs. 1.08 million

### **Social and spiritual programs**

- Conducting 3 programs and 2 meetings for elders (Elders Day programs and New Year celebration programs) - Financial progress Rs. 1.76 million

### **Development programs implemented by capital allocation**

- Procurement of furniture and office equipment for 66 Divisional Secretariats - Financial progress Rs. 4.14 million

### **Development programs implemented by National fund for welfare of elders**

- Conducting 9 programs related to caring for elders. - financial progress Rs. 1.69 million
- Providing assistance for the construction of 10 elders day centers - financial progress Rs. 19.22
- Construction of 15 houses under the Diriya Piyasa Housing Project - financial progress Rs. 9.81 million
- Allocation of equipment for 4 elders day centers - financial progress Rs. 2.50 million
- Conducting 16 programs to raise awareness among the youth regarding aging - financial progress Rs. 1.53 million
- Providing medical assistance to 734 elders under the "Arogya" Medical Assistance Program - financial progress Rs. 15.28 million
- Organizing 168 religious tours for elders - financial progress Rs. 14.51 million
- Providing self-employment assistance to 85 elders - financial progress Rs. 4.27 million
- Conducting an awareness program for district-level elders committees - financial progress Rs. 0.3 million
- Conducting 15 programs to raise awareness among school children about elderly hood - financial progress Rs. 0.670 million
- Conducting 21 pre-retirement programs - financial progress Rs. 1.95 million
- Conducting 6 programs related to healthy living of elders (yoga training) and digital literacy - financial progress Rs. 4.77 million
- Empowering 187 village level elders committees - financial progress Rs. 18.59 million
- Administrative expenses of Dehiattakandiya Sarana Elders' Home - financial progress Rs. 0.18 million
- Issuing 1000 printing certificates for registered elders' societies - financial progress Rs. 0.18 million
- Completion of 100% supply constructions and 90% purchasing at Kataragama Elders' Home - financial progress Rs. 89.16 million

## 4.5 Sri Lanka Social Security Board (SLSSB)

### Introduction

The Sri Lanka Social Security Board is an institution established under the Social Security Board Act No. 17 of 1996 and the Sri Lanka Social Security Board (Amended) Act No. 33 of 1999. The main role of the **SLSSB** is to provide contribution pension and social security schemes to the self-employed persons.

### Objectives

- Provide social security to the self-employed persons in their old ages or in case of incapacity and to provide relief to their dependents in case of their death.
- Encourage youths to engage in self-employment, develop their skills and abilities and uplift their living standards.

### Functions

The main role functioned until the year 2024 was to establish a pension and social security benefit scheme for self-employed persons except the persons engaging works in the fisheries and agricultural sectors and administration and management of that scheme, but from this year the role of this Institute was developed as implemented programs in line with the policy of the new Government, to formulate and implement a comprehensive pension policy applicable to workers in all the sectors and to encourage every citizen to join a pension scheme.

### Approved Annual Allocation - 2025 and Progress - up to 30.09.2025

	Allocation (Rs. mn)	Allocation (Rs. mn)
Capital (Rs.mn)	<b>30</b>	<b>15.00</b>
Recurrent (Rs.mn)	<b>218.00</b>	<b>139.95</b>
Total	<b>248.00</b>	<b>154.95</b>

## Financial and physical progress of main development programs up to 30.09.2025

### Development projects implemented under recurrent allocations

#### Enrollment of new members to pension and social security schemes

Number of new enrollments: 37696

The first premium collection Rs.179.62 Mn.

Post premium collection: Rs.186.89 Mn.

Number of members paid post premiums: 128,648

#### Payment of pension and other benefits to beneficiaries.

Payment of Rs.339.02Mn. for 37174 of pensioners.

Payment of Rs.24.66 Mn. for 1028 of other beneficiaries.

#### Conducting awareness Programs

Conducting 1,998 awareness programs for self-employed persons

#### Conducting self-employment/entrepreneurship capacity building programs for vocational training institutions and youth groups.

Conducting a program for 147 students at the Orugodawatta Vocational Training Center

#### Implementing promotion projects through mass media to improve awareness of social security.

Promoting through Whatsapp and Face Book

Advertising through YouTube channels

Organizing 02 radio programs

Organizing 03 television programs

### Development projects implemented under the capital allocations

#### Conducting capacity development programs for staff

- Conducting 4 group training programs with the participation of 295 officers and individual training programs with the participation of 11 staff officers



### **Improving IT facilities**

- Purchasing computer parts – Financial progress Rs.2.27 Mn.

### **Upgrading office facilities to improve customer service**

- Purchasing of office equipments for the Head Office, District Office and Divisional Secretariats - (Financial Progress Rs.6.50 million)

### **Vehicle repairing**

- Payment for repaired vehicles - (Financial progress Rs.0.04 million)

### **Expansion and development of the land of the head office**

- A valuation report has been called from the Valuation Department and a request has been made to the valuation department to submit the title report. The title report will be prepared by a lawyer.

## 4.6 National Institute of Social Development (NISD)

### Introduction

This Institute was established as a higher studies Institute named National Institute of Social Development by the Parliament Act no:41 of 1992, and declared as an Institute authorized to award degrees in the year 2005 under Section 25A of the University Grant Commission Act no:16 of 1978 and this is the one and only Government Institution that provides education on social works of Sri Lanka.

The Governing Council, the central body of the Institute which deals with the administration, management and financial affairs of the institution. The Academic Affairs Board functioning under the Governing Council provides advices and guidance for the academic affairs of the Institution.

### Objectives

- To enhance professional competencies and foster career development through innovative education aligned with global needs and innovation.
- To promote social development practices that foster inclusivity, sustainability and social equity.
- To advocate for enhance based social policies and provide expert consulting services to support the design and implementation of policies that improve social welfare and development outcome.

### Function

- To provide vocational education in Social Work.
- To conduct and continue post-Graduate courses in Social Work and to start new Degree courses related to the social development field. (Special Degree in Sociology, Special Degree in Anthropology, Special Degree in Psychology and Counseling and Special Degree in Gerontology)
- Conducting Local and International training courses on Social Work.
- Conducting researches and issuing publications in the fields of social work, social welfare and social development.

- Conducting counseling services in the field of social welfare.
- Improving the management and professional skills of employees of government and non-government organizations engaged in social welfare activities.
- Providing necessary assistance to the Hon. Minister in the formulation and implementation of social welfare policies and programs.

#### Approved Annual Allocation for 2025 and Progress up to 30.09.2025

	Allocation (Rs. mn)	Progress (Rs. mn)
Capital (construction of Seeduwa Building Complex)	180.00	19.32
Capital (Smart village project)	7.00	1.23
Capital (Other)	50.00	7.00
Recurrent	249.00	125.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>486.00</b>	<b>153.45</b>

#### National Institute of Social Development Fund Allocation for 2025 and Progress up to 30.09.2025

	Allocation (Rs.Mn.)	Progress(Rs.Mn.)
Development	25.01	0.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.01</b>	<b>0.90</b>

## Programs implemented under the capital allocation

### The building complex constructed for the National Institute of Social Development in Seeduwa area

The construction of this building consisting of two wings, A and B, was started on 01.01.2017 and was planned to be completed in October 2022, but the planning period has been extended. The total estimated cost of this building is Rs.1000 million. 0.25% of the total construction has been completed now. (Cumulative financial progress is Rs.991.06 million, physical progress 98.44%)

### Smart Village Project

In January, eighteen final-year Bachelor of Social Work students were deployed to nine selected villages across nine provinces. Prior to their placement, the students received foundational training in community facilitation and rural development. A progress review meeting was held in March, where all students presented and discussed the outcomes of their initial engagement.

As part of their fieldwork, the students established community-based organizations (CBOs) in each village. The project team then facilitated the activities carried out by these CBOs. Through this process, the “Clean Sri Lanka” initiative and several community awareness programs were implemented, based on needs collectively identified with community participation. Rural women’s development organizations were also activated and strengthened to enhance local leadership and community involvement.

Under the Smart Village framework, the following thematic areas were introduced:

- **Smart Agriculture:** Training farmers in modern cultivation techniques and promoting efficient water management practices to support sustainable agriculture.
- **Smart Economy:** Establishing digital marketing networks, including Facebook-based marketplaces, to promote smart sales and support youth entrepreneurship.
- **Smart Education:** Setting up smart libraries and introducing ICT education in schools, with improved access to electronic learning resources for students.
- **Smart Social Protection:** Providing micro-credit facilities and livelihood support for women-headed households, while empowering women’s development associations to strengthen economic resilience.

In June and July 2025, the students received further training in developing community project proposals and facilitating community-based dialogue meetings. Village-level discussions were also organized to build collaborations with public and private sector stakeholders, with the objective of expanding employment opportunities within the community.

To consolidate their learning, the eighteen students conducted training sessions on community-based social work, delivered presentations on their field activities, and participated in progress review meetings to reflect on and evaluate their community engagement efforts. (Rs 3.45 Mn)

#### Acquisition of capital assets

- Purchase of 10 laptops, 2 digital screens, cameras and library books under the purchasing goods (Rs.5.023 million)

#### Programs implemented under recurrent allocations

- Studying 850 students in degree course in social work, celebrating International Social Work Day, making payments to 28 external resource persons, improving the welfare facilities of 334 students (Rs.15.82 million)
- Conducting 4 Library Committee meetings and 1 Library Advisory Committee meeting, providing necessary items under the facility improvement (Rs.0.43 million)
- Conducting 2 staff development programs to enhance research skills by the Research Division, publishing 4 journals and 2 newsletters, and conducting 2 seminars (Rs.0.92 million)
- Conducting 21 training programs by the Training Division for community level officers, Conducting 2 workshops for field Institutions, Facilitators and Supervisors (Rs.0.70 million)
- Proposals for new degree programmes in Anthropology and Gerontology proposed by the Department of Anthropology and Gerontology and new degree programmes in Psychology and Counseling proposed by the Department of Psychology and Counseling are being revised as per the format of the University Grants Commission (Rs.0.16 million)
- The review team report was received for the new degree program subjected to conduct by Department of Sociology and Social Development and that is being revised and the

curriculum of the degree program in social work is also being revised as per the University Grants Commission format. (Rs.0.09 million)

- Conducting 4 awareness programs on gender equality and equity by the Center for Gender Studies (Rs.0.08 million)
- Conducting 3 curriculum review workshops by the Curriculum Development Center (Rs0.04 million)
- Conducting 17 examinations by the Registrar's Division (Rs.0.143 million)
- Conducting 3 programs and 2 workshops by the Quality Assurance Center to enhance the quality of the National Institute of Social Development
- Conducting 1 sports program, 1 recreational program, 3 career guidance, leadership training and spiritual development programs

### **Courses conducted charging fees by the Institute**

#### **School of Social Services**

Studying of Master in Social Works (2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024) by 252 students, Diploma in Social Work (2023/2024) by 17 students (Expenditure - Rs.4.339 million, Income - Rs.8.051 million)

#### **Training Branch**

Conducting of Diploma in Counseling (2022/2023,2024/2025), Diploma in English Language - 2024, Higher Diploma in Counseling 2025, Diploma in Counseling -2025, Diploma in English - 2025 (Expenditure - Rs.8.523 million, Income - Rs.19.44 million).

#### **Research Division**

Conducting Certificate in Gender course (70 students) in collaboration with Women's Bureau and Certificate in Research Methodology and Academic Writing (Sinhala, Tamil, English) (140 students) - (Expenditure - Rs.0.4 million, Income - Rs.0.4 million)

## 4.7. Rural Development Bureau (RDB)

### Introduction

In accordance with the Cabinet decision bearing no: ၃၆၁/25/0150/820/004 dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025, The Rural Development Bureau has been established under the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment as the central institution for the implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Program.

### Objectives

- Increasing the income level of rural families/communities to create a better living standard
- Promoting micro, small and medium scale enterprises and developing their capacities and skills
- Improving access to basic facilities (infrastructure and services)
- Minimizing social problems through social development

### Functions

- Implementation of Integrated Rural Development Program under the *Praja Shakthi* National campaign to eradicate rural poverty.
- Coordinating with Government Ministries and other Institutions in implementation of projects/programs related to the rural development sector.
- Implementation, supervision, monitoring and follow-up of development programs
- Further coordination of the existing Gramashakthi Program and the Saubhagya Production Village Program.

### Approved Annual Allocations for 2025 and Progress as at 30.09.2025

	Allocation (Rs. mn)	Progress (Rs, mn)
Capital	1,100.00	188.27

## Financial and physical progress of major development programs as at 30.09.2025

### Integrated Rural Development Program

- Preparation 10606 of Village Development Plans (VDP) for each Grama Niladhari Division - Financial progress Rs. 112.64 million
- Implementation 19 selected projects - financial progress Rs.26.90 million (total number of projects expected to be implemented - 184)
- Preparation of 23 validation reports for project feasibility - financial progress Rs. 0.41 million
- Conducting 9 meetings for shareholders
- Conducting 2 awareness programs for District Secretaries
- Conducting a two-day training of trainers (TOT) program for National Level Trainers - Financial progress Rs.0.03 million
- Conducting 25 training of trainers (TOT) program for District Level Trainers - Financial progress Rs.1.42 million
- Conducting 630 of Divisional Level Training Programs - Financial progress Rs.40.16 million.



## 4.8 Rural Development Training and Research Institute (RDTRI)

### Introduction

This is a National Institute started in year 1974 and introduced a new development approach as a strategy for rural development and poverty alleviation since 1978 to develop self-confidence and unity of the poor community, marginalized in development stream, emerging their capabilities through the Change-agent functioning training and research programme based on the concept of participatory development. In the socio-economic process of the poor community, the process of empowerment needed to transform the disadvantageous situation they face into a more favorable situation is a leading role of this institution.

### Objectives

- Management of the knowledge on community development
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the community development programmes
- Introduce innovative development approaches

### Functions

- Socialization the specialist and expert knowledge about community development
- Implementation of rural development programmes in collaboration with Government and Non-Government Organizations
- Capacity development of Field Officers as to be involved in empowering families and community-based organizations directly.
- Providing information for Policy Makers and Development Professionals
- Improvement of the quality of the services and processes
- Socialization of new development approaches

### Approved annual allocations for year 2025 and progress up to 30.09.2025

	Allocation (Rs. mn)	Progress (Rs. mn)
<b>Capital</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>3.06</b>
<b>Recurrent</b>	<b>59.70</b>	<b>35.78</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>72.00</b>	<b>38.84</b>

Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment

### Financial and physical progress of main development programmes up to 30.09.2025

- Organizing 10 field trips and conducting 5 Training Programmes to improve the knowledge and skills of the persons who are engaging in rural development process - Financial Progress Rs.1.34 million.
- Conducting 5 Training Programmes for the Officers, who are engaging in rural development program in order to ensure the sustainability of those programs (Preparing Village Development Plans, Entrepreneurship development, community organization management, project planning and management, household management, etc.) - Financial Progress Rs.0.85 million.
- Conducting 6 training programs to improve the socio-economic empowerment of the rural community - Financial progress Rs.0.29 million.
- Conducting 4 training programs to strengthen rural development societies to improve the socio-economic status of low-income families. - Financial progress Rs. 0.11 million
- Reviewing 254 rural development plans to identify priority projects in villages
- Publishing the first volume of *Praja Shakthi* magazine.
- Publishing the first and second volume of *Tharanaya* new letter.
- Conducting 3 capacity development programs (Staff Officer Training) - Financial Progress Rs.0.08 million.
- Coordinating awareness and training programs for provincial and district level government officials regarding the Praja Shakthi National Program.
- Provisions of Rs. 4.786 million for building renovations have been transferred to the Colombo and Kandy District Secretariats and renovations are underway.

## 4.9 Counseling Division

### Introduction

This division builds mental well-being by using psychological counseling and therapeutic methods to address the mental health issues, mental imbalances, and various psychosocial problems faced by the community.

### Objectives

Building mental well-being and mental empowerment by minimizing the community's vulnerability to mental disorders

### Role

- Identifying and implementing counseling programs to minimize the mental health problems, mental disorders, mental illnesses and various psychosocial problems faced by individuals.
- Conducting psychological counseling interventions to mentally empower the community.
- Providing quality counseling services to service gainers with mental disorders and mental problems.
- Establishing formal coordination among professionals engaged in counseling services.
- Monitoring and guiding the allocation of counseling services.

### Approved annual allocation 2025 and progress up to 30. 09. 2025

	Allocation (Rs. Mn)	Progress (Rs. Mn)
Capital	10.00	6.77

### Financial and physical progress of main development programs up to 30. 09. 2025

- 976 programs were conducted to identify school students at risk of engaging in anti-social activities and behaviors, benefiting 71,200 students.
- Conducting 471 awareness and counseling programs to free school children from internet addiction and drug use (Number of beneficiaries - 48142) - Financial progress Rs. 5.295 million

- 740 awareness programs were organized to promote early detection of mental health disorders, referral care, and suicide prevention among school children, benefiting 44,507 students.
- 952 counseling programs were conducted for youth mental empowerment, focusing on mental health, well-being, drug prevention, sex education, and suicide prevention, benefiting 47,103 participants.
- 665 counseling programs were held on domestic violence prevention, benefiting 25,846 individuals.
- 1,154 awareness programs were conducted on family counseling, reaching 45,965 beneficiaries.
- 198 pre-marital counseling programs were conducted, benefiting 8,018 participants.
- 304 group counseling programs were implemented to address psychosocial issues such as teenage pregnancy prevention and suicide prevention, benefiting 13,864 individuals, with a financial progress of Rs. 0.615 million.
- 931 awareness programs were conducted for the early detection of mental health disorders, reaching 47,943 beneficiaries.
- Conducting 423 counseling programs and relaxation treatments and activities for adults with dementia and other age-related disabilities residing in homes for the elderly registered under the National Elderly Secretariat - (Number of beneficiaries 11739)
- Conducting 168 awareness programs on personal strengths, challenges and drug prevention for Aswesuma beneficiaries through the World Bank (number of beneficiaries 9629) and conducting 251 individual counseling sessions.
- Conducting 27 awareness programs on personal strengths, challenges and drug prevention for Aswesuma beneficiaries through the World Bank (number of beneficiaries 1422) and conducting 84 individual counseling sessions.
- 65 programs and 174 individual counseling sessions were conducted at Vocational Training Centers under the Department of Social Services.
- 407 counseling programs were carried out for various organizations, accompanied by 2,462 individual counseling sessions.
- A total of 19,708 individual counseling sessions were conducted, and 5,169 intervention plans were developed.

- 522 programs were conducted to enhance the mental health of government and ministry officers at district offices and divisional secretariats, benefiting 26,047 participants.
- Advisory services were provided through 2,291 telephone consultations.
- 2 skill development training programs were organized for advisory officers, with a financial progress of Rs. 0.965 million.
- Conducting 138 activity-based counseling programs for persons with disabilities residing in disability homes registered under the National Disability Secretariat (Number of beneficiaries - 5108)

## 4.10 Partnership Secretariat for World Food Programme (WFP)

### Introduction

The World Food Programme (WFP) is a government-sponsored programme established in Sri Lanka since 1968. The World Food Programme is currently successfully implementing food security initiatives in Sri Lanka under the Strategic Plan 2023-2027. This Strategic Plan is a five-year programme with a total value of US\$ 105 million, focusing on responding to emergency situations, meeting the food and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable, building long-term resilience to climate change and institutional capacity for sustainable development.

To achieve the above objectives, the Partnership Secretariat for WFP Cooperation (PSWFPC) will be operational under the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment with effect from 1 January 2025, with the aim of improving the quality of life of the rural population and for its smooth functioning. The Secretariat is the main focal point for the Government of Sri Lanka's coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP), ensuring that programmes are aligned with national priorities at the ground level, efficiently implemented, accountable, transparent and effectively monitored.

For 2025, WFP's annual grant support for implementing the programmes in the Strategic Plan is Rs. 1,250 million, and the Government of Sri Lanka has provided a contribution of Rs. 550 million for 2025 to implement programmes such as ensuring food security, improving nutrition of the marginalized and strengthening resilience to disasters.

### Key Strategic Outcomes

1. Crisis Response: Ensure that vulnerable communities have access to food and essential commodities during and after crises.
2. Improved Nutrition: Improving nutrition with a focus on the first 8,000 days of life through nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific programs.
3. Building Resilience: Reducing community vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.
4. Institutional Strengthening: Developing resilient food systems and enhancing national institutional capacity to improve food security and nutrition.

Accordingly, a allocation of Rs. 1,900 million has been allocated for this program and the financial progress up to 30.09.2025 is Rs. 372.52 million and the tasks accomplished are shown below.

	<b>Aim of the Program</b>	<b>Main contribution</b>	<b>Main Achievements (2025)</b>
<b>01</b>	Home-Grown School Feeding – HGSF)  Districts: Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kilinochchi, Matale, Batticaloa, Monaragala, Vavuniya, Nuwara Eliya	Providing nutritious meals to school children; strengthening relationships with local farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 290,000 children in 1,350+ schools covered</li> <li>• 1,800 home gardens, 2,000 poultry farms, 3,500 food providers supported</li> <li>• 10 solar-powered school kitchens renovated (Kilinochchi)</li> <li>• 1 poultry feed factory established (Pallepola)</li> <li>• Conducted nutrition awareness and social behavior change communication campaigns</li> </ul>
<b>02</b>	Fortified rice Distribution Program	Addressing micronutrient deficiencies by integrating fortified rice into the National School food Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reached 537,000 children across 12 districts</li> <li>• Kalankuttiya rice processing unit and storage facilities upgraded • Laboratory and office built at National Food Promotion Board</li> <li>• Mixing machines installed through private sector partnership</li> <li>• Investment: Rs. 250 million+ to enhance production capacity</li> </ul>
<b>03</b>	Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) - Rehabilitating Irrigation Systems through Rural Labor	Providing cash/food assistance for community asset creation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 866 houses were assisted in Kilinochchi and Matale (Rs. 37.5 million per district)</li> <li>• 13 assets (tanks, canals, irrigation systems, agricultural roads) were created.</li> </ul>

	<b>Aim of the Program</b>	<b>Main contribution</b>	<b>Main Achievements (2025)</b>
<b>04</b>	National Nutritional Supplement - Thriposha	Improving the quality and production of the national Thriposha supplement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An alternative rice-based recipe introduced</li> <li>• A rice-soy blend approved for the period of 6–36 months</li> <li>• Investment in modern machinery (WFP 50% + Government 50%)</li> </ul>
	Adaptation for Resilience - ADAPT4R Regional Project (India and Sri Lanka)	Strengthening Last Mile Climate Services (LMCS) for farmers; improving adaptive capacity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15,500 direct beneficiaries and 640,720 indirect beneficiaries (women &gt; 50%) covered</li> <li>• Regional climate cooperation strengthened</li> <li>• Gender equality and climate-resilient livelihoods promoted</li> </ul>
<b>06</b>	Anticipated Action Project (AA) – Ampara	Strengthening early warning systems and precautionary measures for floods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility study and stakeholder engagement completed</li> <li>• Pilot sites: Samapura, Senanayakepura, Mihindupura</li> <li>• 40 district officers trained</li> <li>• Community data collection: 100+ households</li> <li>• District AA Committee initiated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid flood model designed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>07</b>	District Food Security Network (DFSN) Districts: Trincomalee, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Jaffna, Monaragala, Anuradhapura, Vavuniya	Building a sustainable food security network at the District Secretariat Division level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DFSN network and working groups established</li> <li>• Three-day analytical training conducted in five districts</li> <li>• Quarterly Food Security Bulletin published (Jaffna) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food security maps and reports used for interventions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## 4.11 Foreign Projects and other foreign relationships

### 4.11.1 Foreign projects

#### 4.11.1.1 Loan components

The Aswesuma Beneficiary Family Empowerment Program, aimed at reducing the number of families experiencing multidimensional poverty, is a major initiative of the Department of Samurdhi Development under this Ministry. Its implementation has already commenced through two pilot projects, supported by loan assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

#### Pilot projects No. 01 - Asian Development Bank Financing Project

This project is being implemented as a pilot initiative under the Aswesuma Beneficiary Family Empowerment Program, with the objective of empowering 12,800 poor and extremely poor families among the Aswesuma beneficiaries, utilizing financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank. Details of the project's progress are provided on page No 7 & 8

#### Pilot projects No. 02 – World bank financing project

This project is being implemented as a pilot initiative under the Aswesuma Beneficiary Family Empowerment Program, with the objective of empowering 10,975 poor and extremely poor families among the Aswesuma beneficiaries, utilizing financial assistance from the World Bank. The progress related to this project is described on page No 8

#### 4.10.2. Main component

A grant cycle valued at US\$ 1.98 million is being implemented with funds from the Asian Development Bank and is scheduled to run from 2022 to 2026. The projects are being carried out by the National Secretariat for Persons with Disabilities, the National Secretariat for Elders, the Department of Social Services, and two institutions ; the Department of Probation and Child Protection Services, and the Sri Lanka Women's Bureau under the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs.

Under this project, a allocation of Rs. 146.985 million has been allocated for the institutions related to this ministry and a financial progress of Rs. 50.199 million has been achieved from 2022.09.09 to 2025.09.30 The physical progress related to it is as follows.

- Furniture and equipment were provided for the Akuressa Child Care Center.
- Equipment was provided for 30 care centers, and repairs were carried out in 11 care centers.
- Eleven counseling programs were conducted for 550 persons with disabilities.
- A total of 472 sets of school equipment were provided for children with disabilities.
- Mobile vending machines were provided for 61 persons with disabilities.
- Job training programs were conducted for 721 persons with disabilities.
- Self-employment assistance was provided for 20 persons with disabilities.
- Training programs on caring for persons with disabilities were conducted for 1,477 caregivers in their homes.

## Foreign relationships

### **Fourth Meeting of the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Expert Group on Poverty Alleviation - 2025.10.09 and 10**

In order to alleviate poverty, the BIMSTEC regional countries hold annual meetings such as BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting, BIMSTEC Senior Officials Meeting, BIMSTEC Expert Group Meeting the 4th BIMSTEC Expert Group Meeting was held at the Waters Edge Hotel, Battaramulla on September 10, 2025.

The BIMSTEC Expert Group on Poverty Alleviation, comprising senior officials, convenes annually to coordinate, monitor, and review progress in implementing communication mechanisms and collaborative efforts towards poverty alleviation among BIMSTEC member countries, including the development of an Action Plan on Poverty Alleviation.

As proposed at the 3rd Summit held in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2024, the 4th Summit was held on 10.1.2025. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand are the member countries of BIMSTEC. One official from Myanmar and 05 officials from Thailand participated in the 4th Summit held in Sri Lanka, while Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal participated in the meetings online via Zoom.

The conference was hosted by the BIMSTEC Secretariat, and two foreign members representing the BIMSTEC Secretariat participated in the meeting. The conference was co-chaired by Mr. Gamini Wijesinghe, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment, and was attended by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment of Sri Lanka, as well as officials from the Department of Samurdhi Development.

This program is included in the approved action plan of the Department of Samurdhi Development, and the cost incurred for these activities amounted to 2.39 mn.

### **1<sup>st</sup> meeting on Expert Group (IGEG) on Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development**

SAARC - ADB consultation workshop on Contextualization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to revisit the 2024 SAARC plan of Action on Poverty Alleviation (PAPA) meeting was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, 21-22 October, 2024. At this meeting, Sri Lanka has agreed to host the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on Inter – Governmental Expert Group on Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development. Therefore this meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Hotel Amari Colombo with the financial and technical assistance of the Asian Development Bank. Members of SAARC countries except India were participated for this meeting. The ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment arranged this meeting with the collaboration of SAARC Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Total delegation was 34 members of SAARC members countries, SAARC secretariat and ADB representatives. The draft final study report including contextualized SDG targets and indicators for SAARC region taking into account global SDG targets and indicators, SAARC plan of action on poverty alleviation, SAARC development goals, priority policies for implementation of Contextualization SDG, monitoring mechanism for contextualized SDG and monitoring periodicity were discussed at this meeting and valuable decisions were taken for the reducing of poverty in SAARC member countries. This ministry has been spent 0.64 mn for conducting this meeting while major expenses were done by Asian Development Bank.

## 4.12 Other Monitoring Division

### Administration Division

The Administration Division is responsible for managing the human and physical resources of the Ministry and its affiliated institutions in accordance with institutional regulations and circulars, as applicable. It provides efficient services to the institutions and departments implementing development programs by performing the following functions:

- Conducting institutional and administrative activities related to the staff of the Ministry and all institutions under it.
- Developing human resource capabilities through local and foreign training programs.
- Contributing to policy formulation by properly submitting Cabinet memoranda, legal drafts, and other related documents within the Ministry's scope.
- Taking necessary measures to provide adequate human resources and infrastructure facilities.
- Implementing human resource development programs.

Accordingly, under the Human Resource Development Program, seven training programs were conducted with the participation of 422 officers, and two skills and knowledge development training programs were conducted with the participation of 98 officers.

### Development Division

There are three development divisions operating under this Ministry. The primary role of these divisions is to provide advice, guidance, and direction to the departments and institutions under the Ministry to help them achieve their objectives. Institutions implementing programs aimed at improving the living standards and economic well-being of people in rural areas are supervised by the Additional Secretary (Rural Development). Institutions implementing programs focused on individuals in need of social protection are supervised by the Additional Secretary (Social Protection), while those engaged in community empowerment activities are supervised by the Additional Secretary (Community Empowerment).

## **Accounts Division**

The Accounts Division is responsible for maintaining public accounts, ensuring transparency, exercising the powers vested in the Chief Accounting Officer under the Financial Regulations, and upholding financial discipline. It also manages the procurement process and oversees the allocation and payment of annual appropriations for operational and development programs.

In addition to performing accounting functions and handling the overall procurement activities of the Ministry, the Division also facilitates the auditing of accounts of departments, statutory bodies, and boards under its purview.

## **Internal Audit Division**

The Internal Audit Division functions under the supervision of the Chief Internal Auditor, who is directly responsible to the Secretary of the Ministry. The Division provides guidance to achieve the Ministry's development objectives by conducting financial, performance, management, environmental, system control, and risk-based audits to ensure the quality and efficiency of the services and programs implemented by the Ministry.

## **Planning and Monitoring Division**

The Planning and Monitoring Division is responsible for facilitating the formulation of policies, programs, and projects related to the departments and statutory institutions under the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security, and Community Empowerment. It also directs and monitors the progress of implemented programs and coordinates initiatives carried out by other line ministries, departments, and institutions. Furthermore, the Division is responsible for coordinating and supervising projects implemented with foreign assistance.

## 4.13 Special Achievements of the Ministry and Other Institutions

1. Preparation of a New National Policy for Senior Citizens of Sri Lanka and a launch it on October 01, 2025.
2. Increase of the financial assistance given as medical aid to low-income persons with disabilities from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000.
3. Increase of the financial assistance for special equipment (such as artificial limbs, air mattresses, water mattresses) for low-income persons with disabilities (under 60 years of age) from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000.
4. Increase of the financial assistance for hearing aids for low-income persons with disabilities from Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 50,000.
5. Increase of financial assistance for purchasing sports and musical equipment for persons with disabilities and Special education units from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 100,000.
6. Increase of the self-employment assistance given to low-income persons with disabilities from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000.
7. Increase of the financial assistance for the construction of a new house for homeless persons with disabilities from Rs. 700,000 to Rs. 1,000,000, and the amount for renovations from Rs. 300,000 to Rs. 500,000.
8. Increase of the financial assistance for sanitation facilities for persons with disabilities from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 150,000.
9. Conducting of 06-month Sign Language Course for Government Officials starting this year.
10. Initiation of the establishment of a data base system on persons with disabilities in collaboration with the Department of Census and Statistics.
11. Construction of the new Elders' Home in the Kataragama area, capable of caring for approximately 125 senior citizens at one time.
12. Holding the National Sports meet for Persons with Disabilities on 2025.04.03 at the Diyagama Stadium.
13. Through the ESPD (Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities) project with JICA technical assistance, 323 persons with disabilities have been employed this year
14. "Sihina Sri Lanka Program" - A program initiated at the Divisional Secretariat level to continuously retain employed persons with disabilities in employment. Currently, this program has been initiated and is being implemented in 87 Divisional Secretariats.

15. Holding the "Sithru 2025" Cultural Performance of Persons with Disabilities on 2025.08.05 at the Nelum Pokuna Theatre, under the patronage of His Excellency the President.
16. Introduction of a WhatsApp phone number (0706 116 000) for persons with hearing and speech impairments, in parallel with the commemoration of the National Sign Language Day on 2025.09.23.
17. Conducting a Singing Competition for Visually Impaired Persons, in parallel with the International White Cane Day commemoration ceremony held on 2025.10.15.
18. Commencement of the construction of Skill Development Day Care Centers for children with Autism and other disabilities in the Matara, Trincomalee, Kegalle, Hambantota, Galle, Kalutara, Anuradhapura, and Kurunegala districts.
19. Holding the Counseling Commemoration Ceremony on 2025.10.16, in parallel with International Mental Health Day.
20. Implementation of the Community Empowerment Program through two pilot programs under the Asian Development Bank Program and World Bank aid, and its nationwide implementation as a national program under Treasury allocations.
21. Introduce a special program named "Samurdhi Sawibala", providing up to a maximum of Rs. 250,000 at an 8% interest rate to develop the livelihoods of "Aswesuma" beneficiaries identified under the Community Empowerment Program.
22. Implementation of a special program named "Samurdhi Ranpatha" through Samurdhi Community Based Banks to empower low-income persons who previously received Samurdhi relief but currently not receiving Aswesuma benefits.
23. Holding an appreciation ceremony named "Samurdhi Praja Harasara" will be held on 28.10.2025 for community organization leaders and successful entrepreneurs developed under the Samurdhi program and certain programs under the Samurdhi Community Based Banks.
24. Providing 33,265 Scholarships for A/L students under the "Sipdora" scholarship program ( Rs. 1,500 per student per month for a period of 24 months) for the educational needs of children from low-income families.

