



**வார்டிகை கார்ட்டு ஸாஹை வார்டாவ
வருடாந்தசெயலாற்றுகைஅறிக்கை**

Annual Performance Report



**காண்கை கா ஸ்ரீம கப்துது அமாதகாண்ட
மகளிர் மற்றும் சிறுவர் விவகார அமைச்சு
Ministry of Women and Child Affairs**

Content

Introduction	03
Vision, Mission, Organizational Constitution.....	04
Key Objectives, Major Strategic Development Objectives, Performance Indicators.....	05-06
Staff Details (2016.12.31)	06-08
Commemoration of International Days	09
Division-wise Performance	
Administration Division	10-11
Finance Division	12-14
Internal Audit Division.....	14-16
Planning Division.....	16-17
Development Division	18-22
Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka	23-30
National Committee on Women	31-34
Children's Secretariat.....	35-41

The Performance Report
of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
for the year 2017
has been prepared as per instructions in the
Public Finance Circular No. 402 dated
12 September, 2002.

01. Introduction

The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs has been assigned a significant role of the implementation of the tasks entrusted with it by the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1933/13 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka dated 21.09.2015, for the advancement of Sri Lankan women and children.

Based on the Child Rights Convention and the Women's Charter which includes matters contained in the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Ministry and the institutions functioning under its purview have successfully carried out the formulation of rules and regulations, formulation of policies and implementation of programmes to ensure, safeguard and promote the rights of children and women.

We were able to achieve most of the expected targets in relation to most of national level strategies and policies with the aim of fulfilling numerous requirements that had prevailed for several decades for the empowerment of women and children, especially through sustainable and balanced development. In this manner, opportunities were created to empower women and children and involve them as key stakeholders in the development and to ensure that positive benefits of development reach them.

Accordingly, we were able to introduce the National Policy on Widows and Women Heads of Household, develop the Three-Year Action Plan for Widows and Women Heads of Household, and obtain Cabinet approval for the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Sexual and Gender Based Violence and to implement the Action Plans under respective Divisions. Further, restructuring of Gender Mainstreaming Mechanism at Ministry level, developing guidelines relevant to gender budgeting, implementing the Children's Charter and strengthening the follow up process, obtaining Cabinet approval for a set of guidelines for Day Care Centres and launching and implementing the National Standards of Early Childhood Development were also carried out.

In addition to the aforesaid process for introducing policies and plans in 2017, the Ministry was able to implement development programmes targeting children and women through multi – disciplinary approaches. We launched awareness programmes in different ways to

increase women's representation in the decision making process, which remains a key requirement of the empowerment of Sri Lankan women. At the same time, we have been able to implement a special post- disaster recovery programme of Rs. 75 million for the upliftment of women and their families affected by the floods and landslides that occurred in 05 districts.

Covering the entire island including the Northern and Eastern Provinces, the Ministry was able to provide over Rs. 48 million for agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry, cottage industries and businesses for the economic empowerment of widows and women heads of household.

A number of tasks have been performed through the Early Childhood Development Project with World Bank assistance for physical, infrastructure and relevant human resources development at Pre-schools and Early Childhood Development Centres throughout the island, especially in the estate sector and to strengthen the follow up and supervision process. Under this project, measures have been taken to provide learning and teaching materials, training pilot trainers and conduct short-term in-service training programmes for pre-school teachers in 6000 Early Childhood Development Centres.

Providing of a nutritious morning meal to Pre-schools in areas where child malnutrition is highly prevalent, is being successfully implemented. A Special Programme is in progress for the sake of pregnant and lactating mothers to raise their nutritious level under provisions amounting to Rs. 5500.00 million. We have been able to conduct vocational trainings for the staff of child care institutions, continue the assistance programmes for children of families affected by disasters and implement special family empowerment project for such families to ensure the protection of those children, and those are achievements that give us great pleasure.

Accordingly, we were able to achieve effective targets in 2017 for the interest of women and children in our country, and we are prepared to work with a stronger manner in 2018, in line with the national targets for the development of women and children.

02.Vision and Mission

Vision

Towards a dignified nation ensuring the rights and safety of children and women

Mission

Formulating, executing and regulating provisions and policies aligned to practices of good governance to ensure the rights of children and women by empowering socio-economic conditions, instilling values and ensuring participation through strategic integration with all stakeholders leading to a dignified nation.

03. Institutional Structure

Institutional Structure

Ministry of Women and Child
Affairs

Child Development

Women Development

Children
Secretariat

Department
of
Probation
and Child
Care
Services

National
Protection
of Child
Care

Sri Lanka
Women's
Bauru

National
Women's
Committee

04. Key Objectives and Strategic Development Objectives

Key Objectives

- Formulation of a national policy for the protection and development of child rights.
- Formulation of a national policy for the protection and development of women's rights.
- Facilitation for the preparation and implementation of a mechanism for the development of children and women.
- Implementation of programmes for children and women in co-ordination with public institutions, non-governmental institutions, foreign institutions and the private sector.
- Implementation of programmes for the protection and development of children and women.
- Supervision of programmes implemented by the Ministry and institutions functioning under its purview for the care and development of women and children.
- Formulation of laws, policies and programmes for all the International Conventions and Agreements Sri Lanka is committed to taking action in relation to children and women.
- Establishment of an environment consisting of legal and national policies required to eradicate child abuse.

Strategic Development Objectives

- Ensure an early childhood development and care service of high quality.
- Ensure the rights of institutionalized children for welfare and reintegrating them into society.
- Prevention and minimization of child abuse.
- Development of vulnerable women's families.
- Legal and policy intervention for the protection of children's and women's rights.
- Establishment of local development strategies for women and children in line with the international conventions ratified by Sri Lanka.

05. Staff Details

Staff Details (as at 2017.12.31)

Serial Number	Designation	Service	Grade/Cla ss	Approved Cadre	Actual Cadre
Senior Level					
01.	Secretary	S.L.A.S.		0 1	0 1
02.	Additional Secretary (Administration and Finance)	S.L.A.S.	(Special)	0 1	0 1
03.	Additional Secretary (Development)	S.L.A.S.	(Special)	0 1	0 1
04.	Senior Asst. Secretary	S.L.A.S.	SL -1	0 1	0 1
05.	Chief Accountant	S. L. Acc. S.	SL -1	01 0 1	0 1
06.	Chief Internal Auditor	S. L. Acc. S.	SL -1	0 1	0 1
07.	Director (Development)	S.L.A.S.	SL- 1	0 2	0 1
08.	Director (Women's Bureau)	S.L.A.S.	SL -1	0 1	0 1
09.	Director (Planning)	S.L.P.S.	SL- 1	0 1	0 1
10.	Accountant	S. L. Acc. S.	SL- 11/111	0 2	0 0
11.	Deputy Director / Assistant Director	S.L.A.S.	SL- 11/111	0 5	0 5
12.	Deputy Director / Assistant Director (Planning)	S.L.P.S.	SL- 11/111	0 2	0 2
13.	Assistant Secretary	S.L.A.S.	SL-11/111	0 2	0 2

14.	Assistant Director (ICT)	S.L.I.C.T .S.	Class 1 Grade 111	0 1	0 1
15.	Assistant Director	S.L.I.C.T. S.	111/ 11	0 1	0 1
16.	Legal Officer	Departmental	111/1 1	0 3	0 3

Tertiary Level

17.	Administrative Officer	Public Management Assistant Service (Supra Grade)	MN-07	0 1	0 1
18.	Research Officer	Departmental	MN-06	0 1	0 1
19.	Translator (Sinhala /English and Tamil /Sinhala)	Translators' Service	MN-06	0 2	0 1
20.	Counselling Officer	Departmental	MN-05	1 3	1 2

Secondary Level

21.	Development Assistant	Allied Services	MN-04	2 4	2 2
22.	Women Development Officer	Departmental	MN-04	3 3 5	2 8 2
23.	Budget Assistant	Allied Services	MN-04	0 1	0 1
24.	Development Officer	Development Officers' Service	MN-04	5 1 6	3 3 6
25.	Librarian	Librarians Service	MN-03	0 1	-
26.	Public Management Assistant	P.M.A.S. (1,11,111)	MN-02	4 0	3 4
27.	Library Assistant	Departmental	MN-01	0 1	0 1
28.	Receptionist	Departmental	MN-01	0 1	0 1
29.	Relief Sister	Departmental	MN-01	1 3 4	1 2 4

30.	Hostel Warden	Departmental	MN-01	0 2	-
31.	Hostel Warden (Assistant)	Departmental	MN-01	0 2	-
32.	Information and Communication Technology Assistant	S.L.I.C.T.S.	MT-01	0 3	0 2
33.	Cameraman	Departmental	MT-01	0 1	0 1
34.	Still Photographer	Temporary	MT-01	0 1	0 1

Primary Level

35.	Driver	Combined Drivers' Service	PL-03	3 3	2 8
36.	Cameraman's Assistant	Temporary	PL-01	0 1	0 1
37.	Karyala Karya Sahayaka	K.K.S.S.	PL-01	2 5	2 0
38.	Counselling Services Labourer	Departmental	PL-01	1 2	1 1
39.	Cook	Departmental	PL-01	0 2	-

Children's Secretariat

40.	Director	S.L.A.S.	SL-11	0 1	0 1
41.	Assistant Director / Deputy Director	S.L.A.S.	SL- 11/111	0 4	0 4
42.	Early Childhood Development Assistant	D.O.S.	MN-04	3 7 3	3 2 7
43.	Public Management Assistant	P.M.A.S. (1,11,111)	MN-02	0 3	0 1
44.	Driver	Combined Drivers' Service	Special	0 2	0 1
45.	Karyala Karya Shayaka	K.K.S.S.	Special	0 3	0 3

06. Commemoration of International Days

International Women's Day

The International Women's Day of 2017 was commemorated on March 08 at Matara Sanath Jayasuriya Ground in a dignified manner under the patronage of the Minister of Women and Child Affairs, Hon. Mrs. Chandrani Bandara. The main theme of this year's ceremony was "*Thunkal Dakinni-Saviyen Dinnani*", and it was targeted to further encourage entrepreneurial women. In parallel to the national event, a two-day trade fair and trade exhibition consisting of 75 stalls which displayed products of entrepreneurial women of Matara district and a mobile service to provide health services and other essential services required for women were held. Apart from the above, a march was held on 2017.03.01 with the participation of a large number of women including activists of civil organizations at Vihara Maha Devi Park round-about with the objective of making the public aware of the importance of International Women's Day and violence against women.



World Children's Day

Theme - "*Maa Piya Wedihiti Senehasa Randawamu-Sonduru Lowak Weth Daruwan Kandawamu*"

The national ceremony of World Children's Day 2017 was held on the 01st of October 2017 in Anuradhapura under the distinguished patronage of the Minister of Women and Child Affairs, Hon. Mrs. Chandrani Bandara. Eight hundred (800) school children selected from the Anuradhapura district attended the ceremony, and children who displayed outstanding performance in curricular activities and extra-curricular activities were presented with awards and certificates. In parallel with the national event, awareness programmes were launched at divisional level, and entertainment programmes were conducted for pre-school children.



International Day of the Girl Child

Marking the International Day of Girl Child which falls on 11 October, the national programme was conducted on 11.10.2017 under the theme “***Daughter, Let us help you to become perfect in a safe world!***” at the Bandarnaike Memorial International Conference Hall. In parallel to this event, a march was held with the participation of 1000 school children. Measures were taken to stage a street drama produced under the theme of empowering girl child to heighten awareness of the children, parents and teachers who represented 25 under-privileged schools selected so as one per each district covering all 25 districts.

Division-wise Performance

07. Administration Division

Key Functions

01. Maintain establishment affairs, co-ordination and disciplinary affairs related to the staff of the Ministry.
02. Recruit for vacancies occur in the approved posts of the Ministry.
03. Take action to create new posts required to carry out projects and functions of the Ministry in compliance with F.R. 71.
04. Amend and get approved the Schemes of Recruitment / Promotion Procedures for the departmental posts in accordance with the Public Administration Circular No. 6/2006, and make promotions. Draw up Schemes of Recruitment and get them approved.
05. Co-ordinate with Divisions/Institutions functioning under the Ministry to draw up answers for Parliamentary Questions and carry out other related activities.(Affairs related to Budget Committee, Public Accounts Committee, committee on Public Petitions and adjournment motions)
06. Co-ordinate with the Cabinet Office on Cabinet Memoranda.
07. Co-ordinate with the President's Office and the Prime Minister's Office on public grievances.
08. Carry out establishment affairs related to the staff of the Minister's Office and State Minister's Office.
09. Deliver letters and other items received by post to other Divisions and post the outbound mail.
10. Maintain supplies and services (Security, cleaning, electricity bills, water bills, newspapers, transport facilities, telephone, railway seasons, railway warrants, refreshments, vehicle insurance)
11. Maintain the vehicle pool, condemn vehicles, repair and purchase vehicles.
12. Maintain buildings and equipment.

13. Advance loans, festival advances, special advances, distress loans, property loans and establishment affairs of the Agrahara Insurance Scheme
14. Affairs related to Women's Shelter at Biyagama.
15. Conduct training programmes on establishment affairs and financial affairs for the staff of the Ministry.
16. Procurement activities of the Ministry.

➤ **Affairs Related to the Staff**

The approved cadre for the Ministry as at 31.12.2017 was 1561. The number of vacancies existed by that date was 339. It was possible to get eight officers of the Public Management Assistant Service in 2017. In addition, we were able to recruit a Research Officer and two Legal Officers.

Administrative functions such as regular maintenance and updating of personal files of all officers of the staff, duties related to day to day leave, granting salary increments and transfers and sending on retirement have been carried out properly. At the same time, establishment and administrative affairs of the Minister's Staff and the State Minister's Staff have been discharged as relevant.

With the objective of upgrading knowledge and skills and developing attitudes, technical know-how and language proficiency of all the officials of the Ministry, they have been regularly given local and foreign trainings.

Executive Officers and Development Officers have been sent for overseas trainings.

➤ **Affairs of the Affiliated Institutions**

The Administrative Division has dealt with the co-ordination and guidance of the administrative functions of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services and the National Child Protection Authority which are functioning under the purview of the Ministry. Affairs related to amendment of Schemes of Recruitment of the above institutions according to P. A. C. 6/2006, creation of posts in the staff, making appointments, making promotions and taking action over complaints lodged with the Ministry regarding service problems of the staff have been handled. Further, approval has been granted for overseas tour and scholarship and training programmes for the officials of the above institutions and for their leave as relevant.

07. Accounts Division

Key Functions

Implement relevant plans by establishing regular co-ordination with the Treasury in relation to the subject of finance, provide necessary information to the State Accounts and Treasury Operations Department of the Treasury in relation to accounts and payments of the Ministry including projects, prepare and submit budget estimates of the Ministry, estimates of Advance “B” Account and supplementary estimates to the National Budget Department in a timely manner, co-ordinate the preparation of annual budgets and supplementary estimates of the departments, projects and statutory institutions functioning under the purview of the Ministry, open, maintain and close official bank accounts of the Ministry and all institutions within its ambit, prepare capital action plan and the cash flow forecast based on approved estimates and submit them to the Department of Treasury Operations, manage overall budget allocation and release cash to other institutions including projects as planned, control of finance over foreign-funded projects, present annual appropriation account, advance account, deposit account and final accounts of the projects, respond to audit queries raised by the Auditor General in connection with the Ministry, conduct annual survey of stores.

Appropriation Account - 2017

Head 120: The Appropriation Account of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs for 2017 consisting of DSGA Format 1 to Format 10 mentioned in the public Accounts Circular No. 259/2017 dated 13.12.2017 and a summary of information from Note (i) to Note (iv) (a) and (b), has been prepared and submitted on due date in accordance with Articles 148, 149, 150 and 152 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Appropriation Act No. 47 of 2014 as amended by Appropriation (Amendment) Act No. 24 of 2016 and No. 23 of 2016 and other statutory provisions, the Annual Budget Estimate of 2017 and the Public Finance and Administrative Regulations contained in the Code of Financial Regulation of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Financial Progress in 2017

P a g e . N o .	Programme	Budget Estimate Allocations	Supplementar y Provisions and Supplementar y Estimates Allocations	Transfer s as per F.R. 66 and 69	Net Allocations	Total Expe nditur e
		Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	R s .
1 2	<u>Recurrent</u> Operational Activities Development Activities	589,566,000 524,616,000	6,320,000 5,827,760,000	-1950,000 1950,000	539,936,000 6,354,326,000	487,150 ,031 6,188,0 33,062
	Sub Total (Recurrent)	1,114,182,000	5,834,080,000	0	6,948,262,000	6,675,1 83,093
1 2	<u>Capital</u> Operationa l Activities Development Activities	63,600,000 1,212,760,000	63,881,000 5,310,000		127,481,000 1,218,070,000	114,37 7,605 847,527 ,339
	Sub Total (Capital)	1,276,360,000	69,191,000	0	1,345,551,000	961,90 4,944
	Grand Total	2,390,542,000	5,903,271,000	0	8,293,813,000	7,637, 088,03 7

Expenditure Financing

		Programme 1		Grand Total		
C o d e	Code Description	Net Provision	Actual Expenditure	Net Provision	Actual Expenditure	Percentage of Expenditure
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1 1	Domestic Funds	721,417,000	601,527,636	721,417,000	601,527,636	83
	Total	721,417,000	601,527,636	721,417,000	601,527,636	83

		Programme 1 and 2		Grand Total		
C o d e	Code Description	Net Provision	Actual Expenditure	Net Provision	Actual Expenditure	Percentage of Expenditure
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1 1	Domestic Funds	6,641,276,000	6,423,643,503	6,641,276,000	6,423,643,503	98
1 2	Foreign Loans	750,000,000	522,862,987	750,000,000	522,862,987	70
				6,185,523,569		
1 3	Foreign Aids/Grants	179,120,000	89,053,911	179,120,000	89,053,911	50
	Total	7,572,396,000	7,035,560,401	7,572,396,000	7,035,560,401	

Advances to Public Officers "B" Account

Description	Maximum Limit of Expenditure Rs.	Minimum Limit of Receipts Rs.	Maximum Limit of Debit Balance Rs.
Limits Authorized by the Appropriation Act	32,000,000.0 0	19,000,000.0 0	90,000,000.0 0

09. Internal Audit Division

Key Functions

- Audit and report on funds and establishment affairs of the Ministry and projects in progress thereunder.
- Ascertain whether the system of control obtaining in the Ministry for the prevention of errors and frauds is effective and submit observations and proposals in that relevant.
- Ascertain the reliability of the accounting and other records and check whether the assets of the Ministry are safeguarded to the maximum from losses of all kinds.
- Hold Audit and Management Committee meetings every 03 months to review the progress of the below-mentioned affairs of the Divisions functioning under the Ministry.
 - ❖ Review the progress of implementing Annual Action Plan and put forward necessary measures to avoid weak performances.
 - ❖ Respond to Audit Queries / Audit Reports issued by the Auditor General
 - ❖ Present annual procurement plan
 - ❖ Present Annual Reports / Performance Report to the Parliament.
 - ❖ Audit the Annual Survey of Stores
 - ❖ Development and internal administrative affairs
- Audit and report the issues caused for the delay in implementing the Annual Action Plan by the institutions functioning under the Ministry.

For the year 2017, Audit and Management Committee meeting were held on 25.04.2017 for the first quarter, on 08.08.2017 for the second quarter, on 24.10.2017 for the third quarter and on 26.01.2018 for the fourth quarter.

Serial No.	Date	Audit Query No.	Audit Query
1.	2017.01.11	CDWA/09/H-01/2016	Internal Audit Examination - Bank Reconciliation Statement (00007040514 - November 2016)
2.	2017.01.21	WA/09/T-26/2017	External Audit Report on SAIVAC
3.	2017.01.26	MWCA/09/H-18/2017	Procurement Plan - 2017
4.	2017.01.26	WCA/09/N-23/2016	Vouching of Payment Vouchers - 2016 June (Department of Probation and Child Care Services)
5.	2017.02.03	WCA/09/N-23/2016	Vouching of Payment Vouchers - 2016 August (Department of Probation and Child Care Services)
6.	2017.02.13	WCA/09/N-23/2016	Vouching of Payment Vouchers - 2016 July (Department of Probation and Child Care Services)
	2017.02.17	WA/09/0-4/2015	Vouching of Payment Vouchers - 2016 April (Ministry)
7.	2017.02.17	WA/09/0-4/2015	Vouching of Payment Vouchers - 2016 May (Ministry)
	2017.02.27	WA/09/T-26/2017	Formulation of Protection Plans for vulnerable children and conduct training programmes thereunder - 2016
8.	2017.03.07	MWCA/09/H-19/2017	UNDP Project

9.	2017.04.19	WA/09/T-16/2015	Follow up study on designing a webpage for the Children's Secretariat
10.	2017.04.20	MWCA/09/H-21/2017	Vouching of Vouchers - 2016 February - March
11.	2017.04.20	MWCA/09/H-21/2017	Vouching of Vouchers - 2016 April - July
12.	2017.04.24	MWCA/09/H-01/2017	Internal Audit - Bank Reconciliation Statement (00007040514 - 2017 March)
13.	2017.05.22	WCA/09/N-23/2016	Vouching of Payment Vouchers - 2016 (Department of Probation and Child Care Services)
14.	2017.06.07	MWCA/09/T-28/2017	Maintaining safe homes for Human Trafficking and Violence 2017
15.	2017.07.11	MWCA/09/H-21/2017	Remains of provision for the year 2016
16.	2017.08.02	MWCA/09/T-28/2017	Audit on International Women's Day National Ceremony
17.	2017.08.03	WA/09/0-5/2016	Audit on Child Protection Authority
18.	2017.08.21		Internal Audit - Bank Reconciliation Statement (174-1-001-3-9026267 - 2017June)
19.	2017.09.27	WA/09/N-03/2015	Establishment of Model Villages
20.	2017.09.28	WA/09/0-4/2015	Vouching of Payment Vouchers - 2017 January / February (Ministry)
21.	2017.10.09		Effective Friendly Village - 2017

10.Planning Division

Mission

Vigorous fulfilment of planning, monitoring and project management requirements needed for more productive and efficient service provision by the Ministry for empowerment of children and women and direct them towards comprehensive development.

Functions

- 1) Formulate national plans in relation to the field of children and women and provide necessary contribution.
- 2) Develop Annual Action Plan by incorporating information from all Divisions / Departments of the Ministry.
- 3) Report and review the progress of development programmes.
- 4) Maintain the co-ordination process from district level and divisional level to national level.
- 5) Steer and evaluate development programmes on behalf of the Ministry.
- 6) Submit future annual budget estimate and new project proposals relevant to the development programmes.
- 7) Implement development programmes in the special areas identified.

Key Development Programmes Implemented - 2017

1. Planning

- Developed the Action plan of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs for 2017 and distributed it among the relevant stakeholder institutions.
- Developed 25 combined District Integrated Development Plans including all development programmes implemented by each Division at the Ministry at district level in 2017 and distribute that among all the District Co-ordinating Staff Officers and all the District Secretariats.
- Provided preliminary guidance to field officers of Children and Women Units established at divisional level to prepare 331 joint plans for the development of Children and Women in all Divisional Secretary's Divisions, amended and improved drafted divisional plans at the Ministry and co-ordinated ongoing programmes.
- Drafted a three-year National Action Plan by the Ministry for widows and women heads for which the contribution of Planning Division was provided.

2. Progress Reporting

Progress review discussions and progress reporting are conducted by the Planning Division in order to ensure achievement of optimum progress from annual provision allocated in respect of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs.

In 2017,

Ensured optimum outcome of Ministry's provision at divisional level by

- 1) Reporting monthly and quarterly progress at Divisional / Departmental level according to the Annual Action Plan
- 2) Holding 02 Quarterly Progress Review Meetings at national level and 03 special interim Progress Review Meetings.
- 3) Reporting quarterly progress relating to the decisions of the State Economic Management Committee.

- 4) Reporting annual progress as per three-year Strategic Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse.
- 5) Co-ordinating district progress review meetings and summarized progress reporting - through conducting biannual progress review meetings on district level child and women development programmes with the participation of the staff officers of the Ministry.

3. Evaluation and Direction of Development Programmes

Several field evaluation programmes were conducted by the Planning Division from time to time to evaluate the current situation / suitability of some projects that were launched utilizing Ministry's provisions in 2017, and reports thereon were submitted. Recommendations and conclusions presented on the results of national level evaluation would be of immense importance to make future programmes a success.

- 1) Inspection of the premises of Day Care Centre / Pre-School - Housing Complex "Laksanda Sevana" at Salamulla, Kollonnawa.
- 2) Day Care Centre proposed to be built in the Kalavanchikudi Divisional Secretary's Division in Batticaloa District.
- 3) Cultivation project of "Idda" Flower in Mundalama Divisional Secretary's Division in Puttlum district.

4. Training and Awareness Programmes

The Planning Division has conducted the following programmes in 2017 to make field officers aware of general subject areas / current topics.

Accordingly,

- Carried out a review on measures and policies taken by different institutions under National Drug Prevention Programme by holding several rounds of meeting with relevant stakeholder institutions in parallel to the programme titled "Alokaya" launched by the Ministry to save women and children from drug menace.

At the same time, conducted 03 one-day Awareness and Training workshops in Gampaha, Kurunegala and Kalutara districts for officials of partnership institutions including field

officers as trainers in order to minimize elders' addiction to drugs, promote understanding, commitment and active contribution of civil organizations and community for the purpose and confirm a joint approach in action for the prevention of drugs with the government and non-government organizations.

Further, 02 Awareness programmes were conducted at divisional level for members of Women's Action Groups in Ja-Ela and Niyagama Divisional Secretary's Divisions. It is expected to extend this programme to districts where vulnerable groups are abundant.

- Similarly, measures are in place to conduct a one-day training programme on Project Management for District Co-ordinating Officers and Child and Women Development Officers from selected Divisional Secretary's Divisions in Colombo in November. The objective of this programme is to impart knowledge and experience required to identify, plan, execute and follow up appropriate projects for providing effective solutions for the priority requirements and issues in the field of women and children.

11.Development Division

Functions

The key functions of the Development Division of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs are coordinating the development activities implemented by all the institutions and divisions under the purview of the Ministry for the creation of a sensitive society. It ensures the rights and development of women and children with an environment that enables them to live free from violence and implementing and performing the follow up and evaluation of the national level development programmes relevant to the development of women and children.

At the same time, coordinating the development activities for children and women carried out at provincial, district and divisional levels by coordinating the field officers appointed by the Ministry to the districts and the Divisional Secretary's Divisions and implementing projects under the provisions received from foreign non-governmental organizations , especially the institutions affiliated to the United Nations. as well as coordinating between those institutions and Ministry

Key Development Projects Implemented - 2017

01. Motivation and Empowerment of Women to Engage in Ecotourism Industry

Manufacturing products using local raw materials, especially indigenous medicine, producing crops using organic fertilizer and preparing food and beverages free of harmful flavouring in connection to environment friendly tourist industry are encouraged through this. Popularizing products of women entrepreneurs from the very low income level, creating a market for such products and preventing issues that emerge in relation to tourism industry such as exploitation of labour and violence against women are expected through this. Action

has been taken to construct 03 sales centres in Kataragama Divisional Secretariat Division focusing on the Pooja Bhoomi, Maho Divisional Secretariat Division and Puttlam Divisional Secretariat Division, to facilitate the sale of women's products.



Awarding equipment for self-employment

02. Media Programme

Electronic and printed media, especially through social networks and web sites, make a huge impact on society at present for the progress of society as well as for its regression. “Woman” has become one focal character portrayed by all these types of media. Accordingly, contribution of media is obtained to sensitize the society and raise its awareness about the programmes / projects / activities implemented by the Ministry for the empowerment and protection of women.

A prominent component mentioned in the Action Plan developed by the “Women and Media” conference held in Paris in 1982 and the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 is “The role of the media for women's advancement”. The following activities have been carried out in this regard.

- Taking action to give publicity to International Women's Day and International Day of the Girl Child on such days through news items, interviews, newspaper supplements etc. to sensitize society towards them.
- Production of a tele-drama titled “Pedi Diya” about teenage pregnancies.
- Production of a short documentary film about the role of the Ministry and the activities carried out by it.
- Broadcasting awareness programmes on child protection over ITN FM radio channel from 6-7 a.m. every weekend.
- Providing state of the art facilities and strengthening the media unit of the Ministry, which performs an efficient service despite inadequate facilities available.
- Publishing and distributing tabloid newspaper titled “*Senehasa*”

03. Information Technology Unit

In the process of empowering women economically and socially to make them contribute towards development and to overcome the challenges faced by them, availability of accurate data on women facilitates the performance of those tasks in a more reliable manner. This unit is operative within the Ministry with that aim. The following activities are carried out in that regard.

3.1 Network the Child and Women Development Units located at all the District and Divisional Secretariats in the island with the Information Technology Unit of the Ministry.

3.2 Attach the Field Officers working in these Secretariats for this purpose and provide the technical tools that they require (Dongle, Pen drive)

3.3 Create data bases and develop software systems as per the requirements of the Ministry.

- Under the E-women concept, creating the data base on Widows and Female Heads of Household and the data base on Gender Based Violence that are of national importance.
- Creating data bases according to the requirements of various Divisions of the Ministry.

3.4 Conduct training programmes on Information Technology.

- Conduct training programmes to improve the Information Technology literacy of the officials of the Ministry and all institutions affiliated to it.

3.5 Facilitate communication between the Ministry and the Field Officers.

- Establish a network system (APN Solution) with the aim of networking the Ministry, Divisional Secretariats and the District Secretariats.
- Provide dongles to all the Child and Women Development Units established at all the Divisional and the District Secretariats under this.
- Establish an internal e-mail system between the Ministry and the Divisional and the District Secretariats.

3.6 Efficient Utilization of the Information Technology Resources of the Ministry

- Establish a Central Virus Guard System.
- Maintenance of software, hardware and networks.

3.7 Maintenance of the official web site of the Ministry.

3.8 Creative contribution

- Produce ‘**Suva Savi Liya**’ mobile phone application for physical fitness and the documentary programme to mark the International Women’s Day.
- Make arrangements to conduct ‘Suhuruliya’ (Smart woman) and ‘Suhuru Kathaa’ (Smart Speech) programmes in collaboration with ICTA and Dialog.
- Creation of invitation cards/ advertisements/ first day covers/ stamps/ hand-outs to promote the dignity of women and children in the event of national festivals.

04. Establishment of Child and Women Development Units

The services from our Ministry are provided by the Women Development Officers, Counselling Officers / Counselling Assistants, Child Rights Promotion Officers / Early Childhood Development Assistants / Child Protection and Psychosocial Officers and Relief Sisters, who are attached to all the District and Divisional Secretariats in the island. Setting up one unit for all those officers will facilitate the minimizing of abuse of women and children and violence against them and the provision of services such as the protection, care and guidance they should receive from the state mechanism in the challenging / problematic situations they face, under one roof as well as constant follow up on the recipients of those services. A centre for collecting information and a counselling centre are also operative within this Unit.

At the same time, this Unit works in collaboration with Police Children and Women’s Bureaus set up at every Police Station in the island in relation to the protection of women and children as well as “Mithuru Piyasa” counters set up at government Base Hospitals and other government and non-government institutions. Arrangements have been made to construct 7 units this year and provide office equipment for 26 units.



Unit at the Biyagama Divisional Secretariat



Unit at the Horowupathana Divisional Secretariat

05. Programme on Gender Mainstreaming and Women's Rights

5.1 Sensitize Society for Gender Equality and Establish Gender Mainstreaming Programmes at Ministry Level

This programme is implemented with the aim of liberating women from Gender Based Violence and harassment and to sensitize society towards various misconceptions about woman and neglectful treatment meted out to women and also to provide advocacy for groups mobilized in that regard.

The aim of this programme is communicated to the society through awareness programmes, lectures and workshops and musical programmes. 23 programmes have been conducted within this year and arrangements have been made to conduct 15 more.



Awareness Raising Programme for the community

Cabinet approval was obtained for Cabinet Memorandum No.16/2523/740/013 dated 06.12.2016 to carry out the following activities with the aim of acting with equality and fairness for both women and men in gender mainstreaming, achieving Sustainable Development Goals and minimizing harassment of women in public institutions.

- i. Promote policies and practices based on gender to prevent discrimination against women and girl children.
- ii. Develop and maintain projects and programmes that facilitate gender equality in work.
- iii. Maintain gender balance and implement gender budgeting.
- iv. Develop programmes, systems and measures to minimize Gender Based Violence.

Arrangements have been made to take the following measures in collaboration with all the other Ministries to raise awareness of the relevant officers and to train them.

- Raise basic awareness of the Secretaries to the Ministries
- Develop a training module on expert advice to train officers.
- Raise awareness of officials at Ministry level on this process.
- Print hand-outs / posters etc.



Awareness Raising Programming for the Community



Training Workshop for Addl. Secretaries / Directors

06. Women Friendly and Supportive Model Village Programme

The basic aim of this programme is to convert the family unit into a beautiful place, where women are economically strong and its members are bonded to each other with respect and to create a happy and safe village made up of many such families. In selecting villages, villages where more widows and women heads of household live / more incidents of violence against women and child abuse are reported / a large number of female migrant workers are found / a women's action societies have been set up / low level of physical facilities exist, are selected.

Necessary intervention is made to address the common issues and needs of villages selected in that manner and to provide relevant facilities and social and economic empowerment of women. A team comprised of government and non-government organizations and all the responsible officials collectively implements this as an action group. This programme is implemented in several villages in 2017. The Ministry has taken measures to intervene in relation to the basic issues identified by now. Construction of Day Care Centres and pre-schools, identifying women entrepreneurs and providing further training and assistance for them, improving library facilities, drug prevention programmes and awareness programmes have been implemented in those villages.

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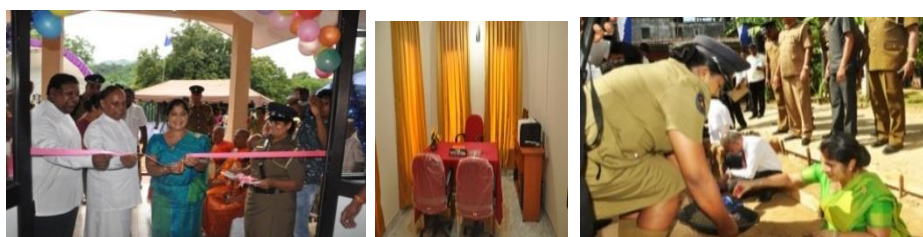
07. Special Programme to Prevent Child Abuse and Violence against Women

Provisions amounting to Rs.50 Million have been allocated for 2017 for this special project, which has been implemented from 2014. Accordingly, the following activities are being implemented by now with the aim of making the prevention of child abuse and violence against women and provision of necessary relief to the victims more efficient within 2017.

7.1 Strengthening the Police Children and Women's Bureaus

With the aim of strengthening the Children and Women's Bureaus located at Police Stations to minimize violence against children and women, 28 fully equipped new Bureaus have been constructed and handed over to the Department of Police by now for the welfare of women and children.

Financial provisions required to construct 06 Bureaus in 2017 have already been released to the relevant District Secretaries and such construction works have been commenced. In addition to this, necessary procurement procedure has been commenced to provide the office equipment required for the Bureaus at Thambuththegama and Gampaha Police Stations.



Opening of Kandaketiya Police Bureau

Commencing the construction of Police Bureau at Matara Division

7.2 Maintenance of Shelters for Women

This project is implemented to provide temporary shelter for women victims of domestic or other forms of violence and their children until legal redress and security are provided. At present, for the implementation of the temporary shelters constructed by the Ministry in the Districts of Jaffna, Mulativu, Ratnapura and Batticaloa, action is taken in collaboration with non-government organizations under the approval No.CP/17/0234/740/001 dated 07.02.2017 granted by the Cabinet of Ministers. Provision of legal assistance, counselling and medical facilities required by them as well as rehabilitation and empowerment of victims by building their self-confidence are carried out through this centre.



Shelter constructed in Batticaloa District

Signing the MoU with the NGO for the Administration of Shelters

7.3 Programme for Integrating Government and Non-Government Mechanisms to Prevent and Respond to Gender Based Violence

This programme was implemented in Matara District to coincide with the International Women's Day. Here, discussions were held on mobilizing all the government and non-government organizations in the District to respond to Gender Based Violence and minimizing such acts, providing required services to the victims and identifying the manner in which each sector should extend assistance and intervene in this regard.

7.4 Establishment of Temporary Shelters in Hospitals for Victims of Abuse and Violence

One matter pointed out by the participants at the programme held in Moneragala last year for integrating government and non-government mechanisms to prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence was that the child and women victims of violence and abuse were further

subjected to various kinds of mental suffering, when they were treated in hospitals as in - patients in the same ward with other ordinary patients.

Therefore, they claimed that it would be helpful to have a separate place for such individuals within the hospital premises under full supervision and treatment of the medical staff to recover physically and mentally. Accordingly, work has been commenced to set up a new shelter in the Monaragala District Hospital premises.

08. Implementation of the National Action Plan to Minimize Sexual and Gender Based Violence (2016- 2020)

The 09 key sectors within the National Action Plan that addresses Sexual and Gender Based Violence along various aspects to minimize Gender Based Violence are child affairs, disaster management, economic development and employment, education, empowerment of women, foreign employment, health, justice and law reforms, and media and higher education and vocational training education have been included under the sub sectors⁰². This Action Plan has been implemented from 2017.



Fields such as education, health, economic upliftment and prevention of / intervention against violence, addressing acts of harassment of women at workplace and migratory women, protection and law enforcement, justice and law reforms, media and disaster management are included in this plan.

Approval has been granted to allocate the provisions required for the implementation of this plan under the medium-term budgetary framework from 2017 to 2019. Accordingly, Ministries that are stakeholders of each sector have already allocated funds under their annual budget estimate, and necessary steps have also been taken to carry out the programmes and activities.

Progress review, follow up and evaluation of all the activities and programmes relevant to the plan are carried out under the leadership of this Ministry.



09. Capacity Building for National and Civil Society Organizations to Promote the Right to Reproductive Health and to Respond to Gender Based Violence (UNFPA)

This project is implemented with the aim of taking action in relation to gender, minimize violence against women and resulting violation of their rights and to provide them the opportunity to receive the benefits of development. Provisions amounting to Rs.0.9 million have been provided this year for carrying out the following activities.

09.1 Developing a method to refer victims of Gender Based Violence and harassment to government and non-government mechanisms for service provision (Mannar, Hambantota)

09.2 Collection of Data and Reporting on Gender Based Violence

Establishing the accuracy of the statistics available in respect of the acts of violence of this nature is difficult because collection of data and reporting in this regard is still not done according to a formal and common model. Therefore, a methodology for formal obtaining of data is developed and the institutions proposed to collect this data within Colombo District for its pilot project are being trained to collect data according to a formal model.

10. Allocation of at least 25% Investments for the rural economic Development Projects Targeting women.

- ☞ Take a policy decision to invest a minimum of 25% out of government investments in projects to develop rural economy directly for women so that their contribution may be obtained.
- ☞ Draft national policies in this regard by the General Treasury and the Department of National Planning.
- ☞ Direct women towards these projects by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs through the Child and Women Development Units set up at District and Divisional levels, supervision and follow up.
- ☞ Conduct workshops on gender budgeting and develop Key Performance Indicators (KPI).

10.1 National Action Plan for Families of Women Heads of Household

This National Plan prepared with Cabinet approval consists of 06 aspects, and it is expected to be implemented jointly through a multilateral approach. The 06 proposed aspects are Health and Nutrition, Livelihood Development, supportive services (Legal, Housing, Child Care), Security, Social Protection and Policy Formulation and Awareness Programme.

National Plan for Families of Women Heads of Household has been drafted by the Ministry by now. This draft plan is further enriched by obtaining information from all stakeholder institutions including civil society organizations and Public Consultations.

10.2 The Convention on Elimination of All kinds of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Committee has provided their recommendations for the 8th periodic report submitted to CEDAW by Sri Lanka. Accordingly, a Committee chaired by the Additional Secretary (Development) has been appointed by the Ministry to implement those proposals. All Ministries and Departments relevant have been made aware of those recommendations by the said Committee. The said Committee will make interventions in relation to the tasks further required to be carried out.

05. Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka

Vision

To become the National Institution which creates a generation of prudent, sensitive and faithful women for Sri Lankan

Mission

To become the national mechanism operating for women's wellbeing in keeping with state policy through social and economic empowerment activated by well-planned provision of awareness through a proper organizational framework to create an environment conducive towards a generation of women" who encounter challenges with self-confidence by maximum and sound utilization of their wisdom and strength.

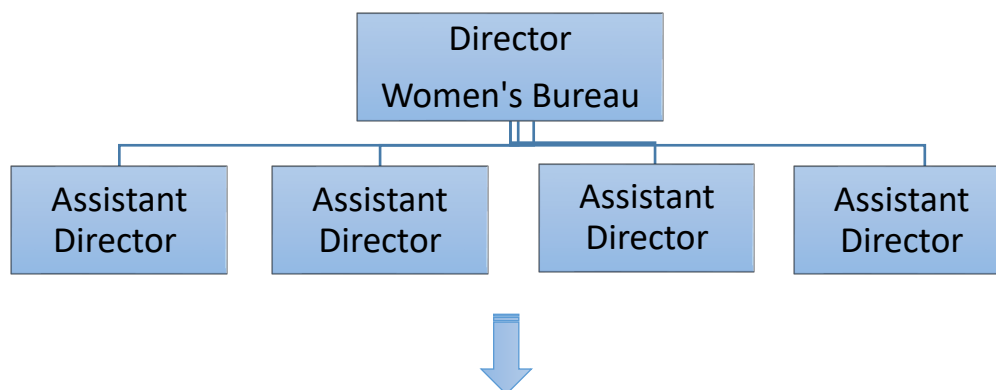
Objectives

- Providing opportunity to Sri Lankan women to enjoy equal rights within the economic, social, educational, political and cultural sectors.
- Empowering women to eliminate constraints they experience at present within various fields for the sole reason of being women.
- Identifying sectors where equal rights and equal opportunities for women should be ensured, supporting the formulation of state policy required for that and implementation of various programmes for that purpose.

Key Functions

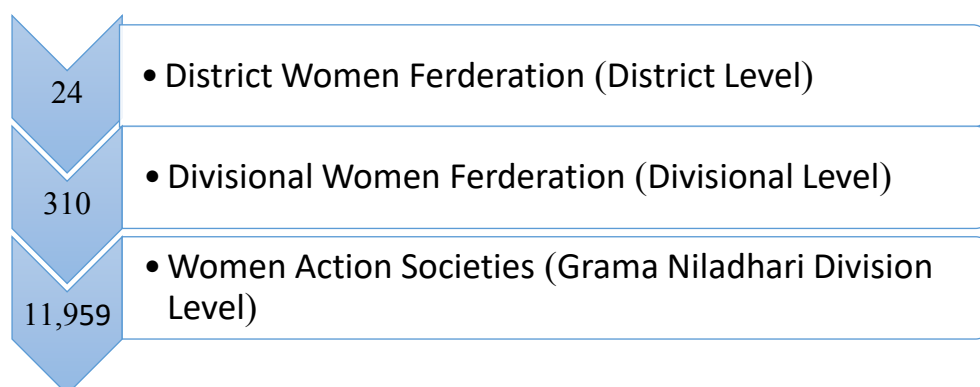
1. Identifying, designing, implementing and evaluating programs suitable for economic and social empowerment of Sri Lankan women.
2. Identifying exceptional qualities of women in all ranges of age and implementing programs to make them stakeholders of total development of the country.
3. Implementing programs to overcome difficulties encountered by women for the sole reason of their femininity.
4. Implementing special programs for women who face numerous difficulties due to particular social reasons.
5. Implementing programs for up gradation of knowledge, skills and attitudes of the entire generation of women.
6. Organizing women in a single network ranging from community-based level to national level to facilitate their smooth functioning in the same organization.

Organizational Structure



Women's Organizational Network

Research Officer (01), Counselling Officer (10), Development Officer (22), Women Development Officer (338), Counselling Assistant / Officer (220), Relief Sister (124), Management Assistant (2), Library Assistant (01), Karyala Karya Shayaka (4), Warden (01), Assistant Warden (01), Karyal Karya Shayaka at Counselling Centres (08)



Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka conducts programmes under the key areas of empowering Women Headed Families economically and socially, preventing Gender-Based Violence and creating equality.

Key Development Programmes Implemented - 2017

01. Economic Empowerment of Widows and Women

Headed Households

Introduction of income generation opportunities for un-employed Women Headed Households (WHHs), absorption of identified WHHs to projects and upgrading their income level provision of project counseling services to WHHs and referring them to relevant services are the objectives of this programme.

Interest-free concessionary revolving credits are granted at selected Divisional Secretariat Divisions for self-employment projects initiated for empowering low-income group families of WHHs aged 18-65 years centered on Women action societies, WHHs Associations. Being a WHH, capacity to commence a project, low income level and the number of dependent children will be taken as criteria hereunder.

Under the above initiative, a sum of Rs. 9.36 million has been spent on 32 self-employment loan projects and 9 local production projects in selected Divisional Secretary's Divisions in order to provide benefit for 535 WHHs.

02. National Centre for Empowering Widows and WHHs

(Kilinochchi)

This National Center was established on 13th November 2015 in Kilinochchi town. Main objective of its initiation was to introduce a special system of protection for widowed women and their dependents of all communities as a result of the Armed Conflict. At present, this Center has established a strong state mechanism to empower widows and WHHs scattered all over the island.

Co-ordination of all Skill Development Projects implemented in all Divisional Secretariat Divisions in Kilinochchi District, provision of income generation opportunities through technical trainings such as production of Palmyra products, fancy items, sewing, and beauty culture etc., refer to counselling services, running/maintaining the National Center are carried out under this programme.

Information on families of WHHs in all Divisional Secretary's Divisions in Kilinochchi District were collected, 5 sessions of Skill Development were conducted to initiate income generation projects in selected Divisions and 92 WHHs were granted benefits.

03. "Thirasara Krushi" Programme

Encouraging women for cultivation of indigenous agricultural cash crops with an objective of generating sustainability in the household and upgrading family income level through a balanced rural environment.

- Under this project, production of medicines, fruits, flowers and exotic plants, grain cultivations, seeds, organic fertilizer / animal husbandry and animal foods as well as improvement of commercial crops cultivation as organic agricultural cultivation projects and provision of seeds, plants, organic fertilizer and training are carried out.
- Resource assistance is taken from the technical /supporting institutions such as Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Services, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Livestock Development and the Ministry of Primary Industries.
- Projects are implemented in 06 Districts of Anuradhapura, Matale, Badulla, Ampara, Moneragala and Kurunegala during year 2017.

Provisions of Rs. 2.174 million released for the 20 agricultural projects in 2017 and benefits granted to 382 women beneficiaries.

04. Training Programme for Encouraging in Income Generation

Provision of managerial knowledge and skills required to run a successful business prior to provision of benefits through revolving credit schemes and releasing low-income women from dependent mentality and converting them to be an economically active team of entrepreneurs are the objectives of this programme.

This programme is implemented as a supportive programme for successful continuation of all loan programs of Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka, and Entrepreneurial Development Training and Accounting Training are provided by the resource persons of Small Enterprise Development Division and Industrial Development Board.

Provisions of Rs.3.0627 million have been sent for 120 Entrepreneurial Development Trainings and Accounting Trainings in 2017 creating 5458 women beneficiaries.



Entrepreneurial Development Training and Accounting Training conducted in Kantale Divisional Secretariat Division

05. Skill Training Programme

This training aims at encouragement of women in improving quality of their products using value added improvements.

Technical assistance and resource persons for providing knowledge and skills, technical know-how and equipment are obtained from Handicrafts Institutions, National Crafts Council, Laksala and Department of Agriculture

By the end of 2017, 200 women beneficiaries were trained by conducting 20 technical trainings utilizing Rs.0.996 million.

06. Exhibitions and Trade Fairs of Women's Products

This programme is conducted to develop quality of products sold by the members of Women's Action Societies registered with the Sri Lanka Women's Bureau and with a view to upgrading their economic and social standards, encouraging women in improving the added value and also creating a competitive market for their creations and product.

- Product exhibition and trade fair in parallel with the International Women's Day National Ceremony, "Liya Shakthi" New Year Fair, product exhibition and trade fair in parallel with the Kandy Esala Perahera, Sethsiripaya product exhibition and trade fair are conducted at national level.
- The trade fair has been conducted 13 districts of Galle, Mannar, Gampaha, Kalutara, Nuwara Eliya, Moneragala, Anuradhapura, Trincomalee, Hambantota, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Badulla, Kurunegala and Polonnaruwa and at divisional level.

- For the purpose, entrepreneurs of Women's Action Societies, resource provision of Women's Bureau and propaganda assistance of various media institutions have been obtained.

Spending provision to the value of Rs 1.45 million in respect of 18 product exhibitions and trade fairs in 2017, 2177 women were granted benefit of the task.



Exhibition and Fair held at Sanath Jayasuriya Stadium, Matara parallel to International Women's Day

07. Establishment of Women's Food Products Sales Center ("Liya Shakthi Rasa Bojun Hala")

"Liya Shakthi Rasa Bojun Hals" are established with a view to promoting poison-free indigenous food among general public, preparing high quality products through imparting knowledge on food technology and increasing income level by providing of market opportunities.

- Provision of standard sales outlets and infrastructure facilities to low income group women engaged in unmethodical marketing activities in Mangul Maha Vihara religious premises in Lahugala, Ampara. Construction of 04 sales outlets under the first phase of this project.
- Conduct awareness and training programs
- Lahugala Regional Engineer's Office, Food Promotion Board and the Ministry of Small Industries and Rural Affairs provided resource.

By the end of 2017, 04 sales outlets in the "Liya Shakthi" Sales Centre were constructed in Lahugala (Mangul Maha Vihara religious premises) Divisional Secretariat in Ampara and a training programme was conducted for 45 entrepreneurial women.



An informal stall currently maintained by women

08. Revolving Credit Programme

Economic empowerment of women and lowering their rural indebtedness are the main objectives of this programme.

Revolving credit programme implements in 22 districts since year 1992 and allocations have been issued to Divisional Secretary's Divisions. Loans are provided from the minimum of Rs. 5,000 to a maximum of Rs. 30,000 per woman where loans from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 are approved at Divisional Secretary's Division level whereas loans up to Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 are approved by the Director of Women's Bureau.

Supervision and Accounting Training Program are conducted for the purposes of provision of revolving credits and Apeksha loans and strengthening the mechanism of revolving credit scheme. An amount of Rs.0.115 million was allocated for supervision during the year 2017. Supervision completed in 50 Divisional Secretary's Divisions in 13 districts of Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Polonnaruwa, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Puttalam, Kegalle, Ratnapura, Gampaha, Colombo, Ampara and Trincomalee. Revolving credits to the value of Rs. 7.463 million have been issued from January 31st to December 31st this year, and the number of beneficiaries were 690.

09. Accounts Training

Accounts Training Programme is conducted with a view to providing training for proper account keeping in Divisional Secretary's Divisions where revolving credits are in operation, giving an understanding on primary documents creating dependability of transactions and primary books to be maintained in keeping accounts and providing knowledge required for preparing final accounts. Provisions of Rs. 0.356 million have been spent on 25 training programs of the first stage in year 2017 providing benefits to 1251 women.

10. Vanitha Shakthi Foundation

Uplifting savings of rural women and their families, enabling financial control, providing opportunities for women to receive loans through an organizational framework of their own on easy and sound conditions and holding their savings in their own village are the main objectives of this programme.

Supervision of Small Credit Branches and Account Books, liquidation of dysfunctional Small Credit Branches, legal registration of Small Credit Branches in collaboration with Provincial Department of Co-operative Development, introduction of saving systems of membership deposits, share deposits, savings, and child and group deposits have been carried out this year.

At present, 56 Vanitha Shakthi Small Credit Branches are in operation in 21 Divisional Secretary's Divisions in 9 Districts out of which 35 are functional. Small Credit Branches in North-Western and Sabaragamuwa Provinces are scheduled to be legally registered in collaboration with Provincial Department of Co-operative Development.

A credit volume of Rs.9.154 million are in circulation among 618 beneficiaries of 14 Vanitha Shakthi Small Credit Branches from January 2017 to 30th September 2017

11. Economic Empowerment of Estate women

24.3% of people below the poverty line in Sri Lanka's Economy are serving in estate sector. A majority of the labor force in estate sector consists of women. Therefore, this programme is in place for the purposes of introducing productive sources of additional income and creating new marketing opportunities to the woman in estate sector.

Provisions of Rs.1.990 million were sent in year 2017 for 39 projects to provide technical knowledge, entrepreneurial training and project grants for economic empowerment of estate women and 319 women beneficiaries have been included into the project after completing 20 training programs such as sewing clothes, production of short eats, sewing school uniforms, home gardening and animal husbandry projects and beauty culture.

12. Self-Employment Generation Programme for Migrant Women.

(Alternative Income Generation Programme for women willing to go abroad.)

The objective of this programme is eliminating issues such as various harassments and health problems etc. caused to women who go overseas and resultant unsafe conditions faced by their children as well as family members and creating self-employment opportunities within the country as an alternative for going abroad.

- Project awareness and provision of self-employment project loans and equipment.



Alternative Means of Income projects where credit assistance was granted for pottery industry, coir industry and betel cultivation in Bamunakotuwa Divisional Secretary's Division.

Provisions of Rs.3.49775 million have been sent for 104 projects in year 2017, and credit assistance is granted on the basis of recovering half of the loan amount, in Rs. 25,000 each for projects such as textile and leather related products, handicrafts, home gardening, animal husbandry, sale of food and other items and timely projects etc. 43 women beneficiaries have been included into projects by the end of August.

13. Programme for Economic and Social Empowerment of Women Detained in Prison and Rehabilitation Institutions ("Heta Magata - Kathata Suwasetha")

The objective of this programme is to guide women who have been engaged in illegal activities of the society due to vulnerable conditions such as poverty on favourable income generation avenues and socialize as women entrepreneurs.

Provision of counselling for women detained in prisons and Methsevana Nivarthana Home to rise up with self-pride and provision of self-employment training and related project assistance, raw materials, equipment to women who were referred for community correction and released on license.



Occasion of offering a Juki Machine for the Project on Sewing School Uniforms conducted for women detained in Prison, Trincomalee.

Providing Rs.0.899 million for 5 projects, 312 women have been trained during the year 2017, and women have been employed in self-employment projects such as sewing uniforms, infant kits, textile bags, blinds, making paper bags and envelopes, shoe production, cake making and handicraft creations etc.

14. Economic Empowerment of Women in District and Divisional Federations

These programs is conducted with a view to engaging women in Women's Action Societies networked by Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka in group projects parallel to 2017 Year for Poverty Alleviation which would result in their economic empowerment.

Allocations of Rs.2.0 million have been sent for 10 projects in year 2017 where a team of 10 women were engaged in a single project. Raw materials and equipment were provided for 140 women beneficiaries at a cost of Rs.1.98197 million for 10 team projects such as coir products, Batik and garment designing, Cement Block production, mushroom cultivation, cashew shelling, animal husbandry, fish drying and packing etc.

15. "Jeewithayata Nawa Magak" Programme to Improve Living Standards of Women in Urban Poverty Pockets (Programme Affiliated to New Kelani Bridge)

Due to construction of the New Kelani Bridge and new highways, 350 families who were residing in Grama Niladhari Divisions of Sedawatta, Wadullawatta and Orugodawatta were re-settled in the Salamulla, "Laksanda" New Housing Complex in Kolonnawa. "Jeewithayata Nawa Magak" project is implemented in collaboration with Road Development Authority centered on these women.

Identification of projects in the relevant area and establishment of a Women's Action Society under the registration of the Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka have been carried out, and a counselling programme has been conducted for attitudinal changes. Provisions of Rs. 0.58486 have been allocated to conduct 04 Awareness programmes, 04 Training Programmes and for purchasing equipment.

16. Maintaining Safe Homes

Maintaining an institutional structure suitable for the prevention of sexual and domestic violence and trafficking of women and saving women already undergoing such suppression and providing required protection are the objectives of this programme. Provision of temporary accommodation, mental health treatments, counselling, legal aids, food, medicines and clothes for victimized women and children, referring required women to jobs that keep with their level of education, provision of self-employment training and rebuilding broken homes are mainly carried out under this programme. Provisions of Rs. 1.5 million allocated for the maintenance of Colombo and Gampaha Safe Homes and an amount of Rs. 0.652 million spent. Administration of this Safe Home is carried out jointly by the Public and Private sectors under Cabinet approval.

District of Safe Home	Number received care from 2013 to 2017	Administrative Cost Borne by	Ownership of the Building
Colombo (02 Centres)	53 women 50 children	Ministry	Has been entrusted to the Women In Need
Matara	16 women 14 children		
Gampaha	01 women	Ministry	Western Provincial Council
Jaffna	15 women	Ministry	Transferred to Jaffna Social Action Center. Building is owned by the Ministry.
Mulaitivu	001 women		
Batticaloa	02 women	Ministry	Ministry
Minor clients	88 women 64 children		

17. Awareness Programme for Prevention of Gender-Based Violence.

It is expected to ensure social empowerment, community invigoration, Organization and Capacity Building and setting up vigilant groups at regional level under the strategies of the sectorial plan on women empowerment and prevention of violence and in keeping with the National Action Plan on Prevention of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

Eight (08) pilot projects were organized in Divisional Secretary's Divisions of Karachchi, Kandavali, Negombo, Ehaliyagoda, Ambagamuwa Korale and Kalutara under the sponsorship of OXFAM. Due to an increase in violence against employed women, provisions were sent for 39 programmes based on Garment Industry, Plantation Sector, and Public and Private Sectors.

18. Maintaining Counselling Centers

Providing psychological counselling for aggrieved women and children, referring them to service suppliers and strengthening them to find successful solutions for their problems are the objectives of this programme.

09 Counselling Officers in 11 District level Centers and 220 Counselling Assistants in Child and Women Development Units are functioning at divisional level for standardized continuation of efficiency and quality of the counselling service provided by the Ministry to cater to present-day needs of the country. Staff awareness has raised for provision of a high standard service. Total number of beneficiaries up to December 2017 is 1541.

19. “Sadaneeya Mithuru Gamak” (“Sumithuru Gammana Programme”)

Identifying, designing plans and providing solutions for sustainable development approaches for the creation of a village consisting of families with minimum problems are the objectives of this programme. Study of a selected number of families who have encountered the most number of issues in a selected Grama Niladhari Division (village) abound with problems and thereby provision of mental, spiritual, economic empowerment and physiological disease prevention and health development, counselling and education, housing as well as roads and its pertinent facilities, identification of problems under the themes of aesthetics, arts, law and order, and provision of infrastructure facilities are carried out.

Provisions of Rs. 2.0 million allocated for this project. A sum of Rs.1.8249 million incurred on 12 projects carried out at divisional level in 2017 providing benefits to 5602 families.

20. "Yowun Wasanthayata Aruthbara Hetak" Programme for the Development of Life Skills of Adolescents/Teenagers

Provision of practical training on life by exchange of experiences with young social groups living under minimum facilities and creation of a pilot group as change agents, who can identify mental and attitudinal issues of other youth in the society is the objective of this programme.

This project is implemented for younger generation between 12-20 years of age. Introduction of psychological systems of counselling and methods of treatment, raising awareness on all religious teachings for religious co-existence, giving awareness on drug prevention, Socially Transmitted Diseases, cancer for health and nutrition, development of life skills and exchange of experiences of young children for leadership skills (Field tours to elders' homes, children's homes, probation and prisons), practical activities pertaining to creative thinking for education and entertainment, educational techniques, memory improving techniques and solving issues, labour donations (Shramadana) for social sensitivity and accountability entertainment, organizing contests and shows for the development of appreciation, alms giving, charities and various skills are done under this programme.

Provisions of Rs.2.0 million allocated for 27 such projects. Spending a sum of Rs.1.998 million on 23 projects selected at divisional level in 2017, 1591 youths were provided with benefits.

Counselling programmes were conducted for 3,419 persons in the natural disaster (of flood) affected Districts of Kalutara, Ratnapura, Matara, Galle and Hambantota.

21. “Diriya Man-Petha” Programme (Self-Employment Projects)

Direction of women entrepreneurs scattered throughout Sri Lanka towards productions based on local resources endemic to their area of residence and strengthening self-employment projects for economic empowerment are expected by the implementation of this programme.

Provisions of Rs.5.0 million allocated for the year 2017. A sum of Rs.4.998 million dispatched for self-employment of 576 women in 19 Divisional Secretary's Divisions in 18 districts.

22. Media and Publicity and Maintenance of the Library

Programme implemented in raising social awareness on services rendered by Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka and improving women's knowledge and attitudes on various fields / directing women and children to a friendly culture of media, maintenance of Library, designing '*Kantha Saviya*' Magazine and its pertinent propaganda work are being carried out. Expenditure on printing '*Kantha Saviya*' and maintaining the Library amounted to Rs. 0.653666 million.

23. Progress Review and Follow Up

Follow up and Progress review of all programs conducted at divisional level by the Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka at district level under supervision of staff officers are expected.

At present, 04 Progress Review Meetings in Ratnapura, Matale, Kurunegala and Trincomalee Districts and 03 meetings on project reports of Women's Development Officers and Counselling Assistant Officers have been conducted.

24. Special Projects

(Projects Receiving Funds from Foreign Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations)

24.1 Empowering Women Headed Households (KOICA Hope Farm project)

This is a programme implemented in increasing the capacity of women headed families for meeting their basic needs.

A Livestock Project (of a dairy farm) designed for selected women headed families is implemented by the volunteer service provider Miss Kim Yunha of Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in the villages of Konavil, Karachchi and Akkarayankulam in Karachchi Divisional Secretariat Division.

Training on self-motivation, entrepreneurship and technology was provided along with cows and cow sheds hereunder for 20 selected women, and welfare activities were conducted for such families.

24.2 Implementation of the National Plan of Action on Prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (Assistance by OXFAM)

Empowerment, organization and capacity development of community for social empowerment against Gender Based Violence are expected.

Appointment of a committee consisting of field specialists, preparation of a guideline manual containing their role, responsibilities and ethics for building and strengthening Vigilant Groups, implementing pilot projects in 08 Divisional Secretary's Divisions with reported prevalence of Gender Based Violence are carried out. It is designed to extend this to the other Divisions based on its results.

24.3 Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Women Headed Households (Assistance by UN Women)

Economic empowerment through entrepreneurial development is the main objective of this programme. Value chain survey based on the districts of Puttalam and Matara to identify opportunities and requirements for women entrepreneurs engaged in garment and agricultural industry has been carried out. Based on results of the value-chain survey, 02 workshops have been conducted in the Districts of Matara and Puttalam to discuss findings, proposed interventions with 82 stakeholders. It is scheduled to prepare final report and project plan based on observations of workshops and to implement Entrepreneurship Development Project.

24.4 Identifying New Market Opportunities (In collaboration with the David Peiris Ltd.)

Enhancing opportunities for empowering registered women action society members of Women's Bureau by raising quality and standardizing their products and giving modern technology and local and foreign market opportunities are the objectives of this programme.

A workshop was conducted for 85 women engaged in food production in 05 districts, and food production market opportunities have been given for 22 members of Women Action Societies. A training course on trishaw technology was conducted in the Bandaragama David Peiris Auditorium for 25 women in the Western Province jointly by the David Peiris Company and the Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka with the objective of enhancing technological knowledge of entrepreneurial women and thereby empowering their economy.

24.5 Entrepreneurship Training Programme (In collaboration with Unilever Ltd.)

Enhancement of income level of members of Women Action Societies by recruitment as marketing agents of Unilever products is the main objectives of this programme. Awareness raising of Women Development Officers and training of selected 100 women entrepreneurs from each district as marketing agents have been completed. Presently, 762 entrepreneurial women in the districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy, Kurunegala and Galle have been trained.

24.6 "Liya Sahana" Programme for Rendering Post-Disaster Relief Services to Women Displaced due to Disaster Situations

Re-building of sources of income and self-employments maintained by women entrepreneurs displaced due to disasters and making them a strong group are expected by this programme.

Collection of information on women displaced due to emergency disaster situation in the districts of Kalutara, Ratnapura, Matara, Galle and Hambantota, appointment of a four member committee and formulation of relevant methodologies and guidelines, receipt of estimates for recommended registers, their approval and sending provisions to District Secretariats, provision of self-employment grants and supervision and follow-up of implementation of the programme are the activities carried out under this programme.

Financial and Physical Progress

District	Recommended amount for which provisions were sent through commitments (Rs.)	No. of beneficiaries
Kalutar	16,725,078.00	642
Ratnapura	14,876,930.00	575
Matara	19,253,791.00	578
Galle	5,572,620.00	261
Hambantota	3,615,275.00	133
Grand Total	60,043,694.00	2,189

06. National Committee on

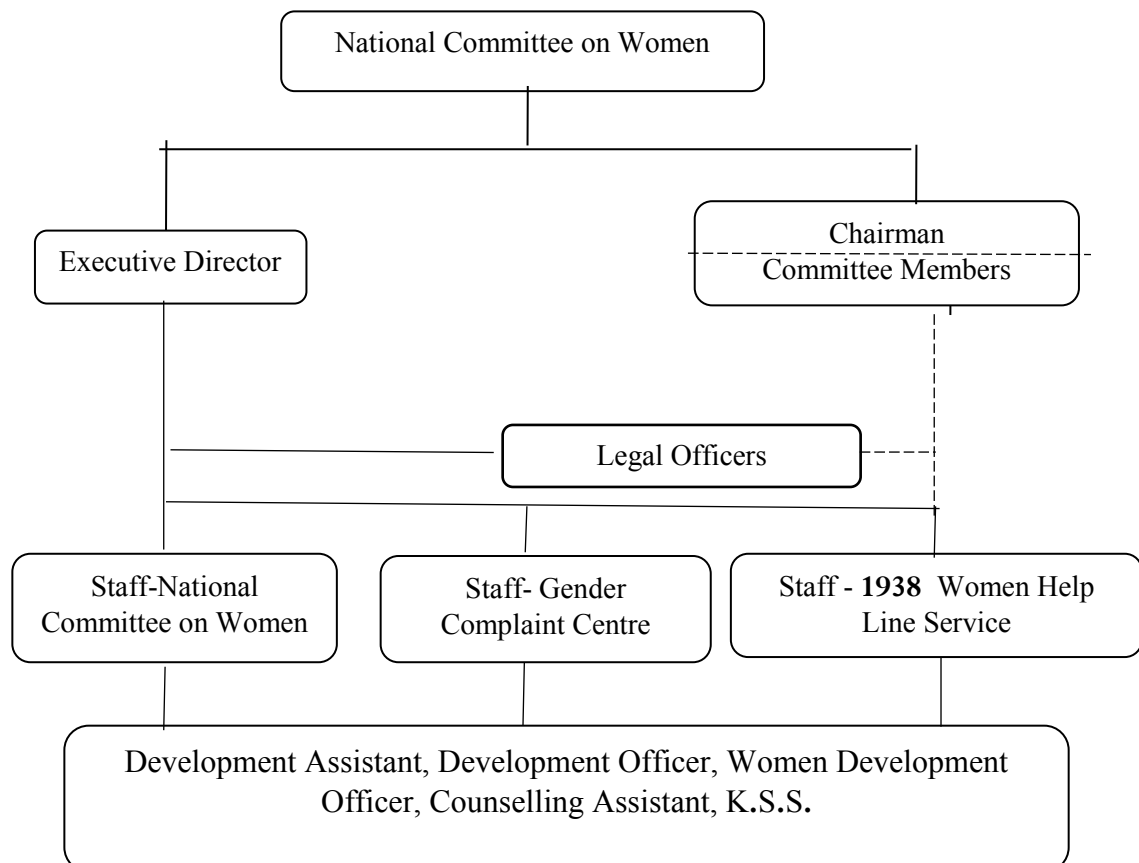
Vision

A violence free, women friendly Sri Lankan society that ensures equality.

Mission

Making recommendations and providing assistance for the formulation of policies and legislation that safeguard and promote the rights of Sri Lankan women, ensure equality and contribute to their comprehensive development and stimulating the proper implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the same.

Organizational Structure



Key Functions

- To entertain and scrutinize complaints of gender discrimination and channel such complaints where appropriate to the relevant administrative authorities and concerned persons or bodies for necessary action;
- To refer complaints of violation of the provisions contained in Women's Charter to governmental and non-governmental organization for redress, legal aid and / or mediation services;
- To Monitor such action and require annual reports of progress from relevant administrative authorities and make these reports widely available within the country.
- To evaluate the impact of all legislative and development policies on the rights and responsibilities of women as contained in this Charter;
- To help to realize the objectives of the Charter through the encouragement of relevant research and to make recommendations for reforms based on such research,
- To advice the Minister (responsible for the Status of women) on such matters relating to the status of women as the Minister may refer to the Committee for its consideration, or as the Committee may deem appropriate.
- Directing the complaints, legal aid or mediation services received by Women Help Line **1938** which was established to support women in **2014** as a result of the expansion of the role of the gender complaint centre to government or non-government organizations.

Key Development Programmes Implemented in 2017

1. Policy Level Activities

- 1.1.1 Amendments to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act No. 34 of 2005 on Prevention of Domestic Violence were made by a group of legal experts by utilizing the experiences obtained in the execution of the Act and through the research conducted.
- 1.1.2 The Action Plan prepared for the implementation of the Act No.34 of 2005 on Prevention of Domestic Violence was updated by using the experience gained in the implementation of the Act during the last ten years and on the research conducted.
- 1.1.3 As indicated in the updated Action Plan, awareness raising programmes were conducted for the officers of the Women and Children Units in Gampaha, Rathnapura and Monaragala Divisional Secretariats.

A Training Module is being prepared on the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act with emphasis on gender, legal provisions and the role of the Police Officers to be used in the Police training.

1.2 Gender Analysis in School Text Books

The members of the National Committee on Women have reviewed the School Text Books and a discussion was held with the Minister of Education on the review with a view to obtain the support of the NIE and the Department of Education Publications for including gender appropriately in preparing the school text books. Discussions were held with both the institutions and finally it was decided to conduct a Gender Mainstreaming programs for the Text Book writers.

1.3 Amendments to the Birth Certificate

Removal of the column 6 of the Birth Certificate on whether parents are married was discussed in length with relevant Ministries. In considering the issues faced by the child as well as the mother, some of them are the difficulty in admitting the children to schools whose parents are not legally married, difficulties confronted by mothers who were subjected to rape in registering the child birth social stigma faced both by the mother and the child.

This matter was referred to the Parliament Oversight Committee on Gender and further discussion with the institutions concerned on the issues, which will be emanating as a result of amending the birth certificate. As per the instructions given by the Committee the following media programmes were conducted to ascertain the views of the public on the matter.

1. Radio Programmes
2. Television discussion
3. Obtaining public opinion through social media, Face Book and Twitter
4. Articles in the Ministry Web site

Responses received from the public were very positive for the removal of the column 6 “whether the parents are married?” Accordingly, the idea on the removal of Column 6 of the Birth Certificate is to be forwarded to the Ministry of Public Administration by the Parliament Oversight Committee.

1.4. Ensuring Rights and Well-fare of Female Prisoners

It was observed that women have been imprisoned as a result of drug trafficking, prostitution, monitory frauds, theft, murder, etc. There were 477 detainees and 16 children below the age of 05 years. They had meagre facilities. The following issues were raised by them.

- Hold on remand / imprisonment due to inability in paying the fine
- Imprisonment due to inability in giving correct evidence
- No proper relationship between the prison and judiciary
- Undue delay in hearing cases
- Inability of the poor inmates to obtain legal assistance
- Necessary background is not available to appeal

Steps are to be proposed to provide certain positive solutions for these issues.

1.5 Research on Social Protection Measures for the Female of Informal Sector

The purpose of the research is to compare the social protection policies available both for the formal and informal sectors and to provide recommendations in order to develop policies for women in the informal sector.

Data has been collected from nine districts representing the nine Provinces. In the selection of the districts more emphasis has been made on the districts which have the highest percentage of women contributing to the informal sector economy. Collection of data and data analysis have been completed.

1.6 Monthly Meeting of National Committee of Women (NCW)

This is the meeting held monthly to examine the role of the NCW. The key objective of this is to minimise existing discrepancies through laws, policies and programmes ensuring equality. Discussions for the purpose are held monthly with the participation of the members of NCW. Eleven (11) discussions have been carried out in 2017.

2. Programmes on Prevention of Gender Based Violence

2.1 Forum Discussions

2.1.1 Discussion on CEDAW Concluding Observations

The discussion was held with the participation of both the government and non-governmental Organizations highlighting the responsibility of the relevant Ministries to take necessary action regarding the areas coming under their purview.



Secretary is pointing out matters



Participants of the Forum

2.1.2 Forum Discussion on Elderly Women

The discussion was held on 04.07.2017 with the participation of officials of government and non-governmental organizations to identify present situation of the elderly women who represent 56% of the total population as per data of Census on Population and Housing 2012, role of the government for the welfare of the elderly and on addressing their needs, potential areas for the wellbeing of the Elderly Women, their health needs, aging and mental health, aged woman - culture and social surrounding.

2.1.3 Forum Discussion on empowering women to protect the Environment

A forum discussion on empowering women to protect the environment was held by the NCW of the Ministry on 26 October 2017 from 9a.m. to 2.30p.m. in the auditorium of the Early Childhood Development Office on 6th Floor, Sethsiripaya - Stage 11, Battaramulla.

The discussion centred on burning environmental issues such as waste management, dengue menace, distress management and water management. The key objective of this discussion was to inquire into the contribution of Sri Lankan women who represent 52% of total population towards these issues.

2.2 Programmes on Reproductive Health

The National Committee on Women in collaboration with the Family Health Bureau has prepared a training module for training of Women Development Officers and Counselling officers on the subject. The training has been carried out in Western, North Western and the Central Provinces, and it will be extended to other provinces in the future. The subject areas covered by the training were adolescence, sexuality and reproductive health, identifying organs of the body, underage pregnancies and consequences, family planning and giving birth to a healthy child.

2.3 Programmes on Preventing Work Place Harassment

A series of programmes were conducted to make female employees working in the public, private and informal sectors aware of challenges faced by women to minimize work place harassments, what harassment is, cyber violence against women and children, harassments in transport, remedial actions, protective measures to be taken on risky occasions and institutions dealing with violence against women.



Workshop on prevention of workplace harassment conducted in Polgahawela

2.4 16 Day Activism Programme for the Prevention of Violence against Women

Several programmes were scheduled to take place to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism, which falls from 24th November – 10th December. Under this, two Mobile Service Programmes were held in Puttlam and Anuradhapura to make the community aware of legal aid, counselling, health services and essential services offered to the public along with 1938 women's Helpline.

3. Gender Mainstreaming Programmes

3.1 Training of Heads of Divisions of the Provincial Councils

This programme was held on the 31st of July and 1st of August at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research Centre, which was attended by 50 planning officials of 08 Provincial Councils with the objective of drawing the attention of provincial councillors towards issues

which need their attention, planning future development projects and enhancing interaction with provincial Ministry of Women's Affairs.



Awareness raising workshop
Gender Mainstreaming Programmes related to Rehabilitation and Reconciliation

3.2 Gender Mainstreaming Programme for Ministries Working on Resettlement, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation

The programme deals with 1325 Agreement of the UNO ratified by the government of Sri Lanka, and the key objectives are gender mainstreaming in peace, defence and development. Three (03) Awareness Raising Programmes were held on gender mainstreaming for the ministries of National Integration and Reconciliation, Prison Reforms, Rehabilitation, Resettlement, Hindu Affairs and National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Languages. Programmes of these ministries were subjected to gender analysis.

3.3 Gender Data Base

Data of the 1938 Help Line and the Complaint Centre is being sent regularly to the Ministry database. Officers of 1938 Helpline and Complaint Centre were trained in April 2017 to send data directly to the database. A training programme was held for all officials of the Ministry in Colombo district, Police Officers and officers handling database. Accordingly, from July 2017, data of Colombo District are entered to the database.

4. Programmes Implemented for Increasing Women's Representation in Politics

4.1. Certificate Course on Empowering Women in Politics

In terms of the provisions stated in the CEDAW and the Women's Charter, the National Committee on Women has been conducting Diploma as well as Certificate course for women.

In 2017, a certificate course was conducted for potential women candidates in collaboration with University of Peradeniya.



Certificate holders of the Course and Resource Persons

4.2. Training and Enhancing Communication Skill of Women Aspiring to Enter into Politics

The objective of the programme is to encourage women to enter into politics, for active participation in policy formulation and to enhance the knowledge and quality improvement of women, who aspire to enter into politics.

Accordingly, 04 programmes to enhance practical as well as theoretical knowledge required to enhance communication skills were conducted in Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Colombo and Kurunegala, in collaboration with the International Foundation for Electoral System.

4.3. Training of WDO on Voter Education

The programme trains WDOs in educating the public on the need to increasing participation of women in politics, educating the voters and electing sensitive representatives. At present, the NCW has conducted 3 programmes for in the Southern Province, North-Central Province and Badulla. Further, awareness raising programmes for voters were conducted in Kurunegala, Puttlam and Anuradhapura districts with the participation of the members of Women's Federations.

5. Follow up work on Research Conducted by the NCW

5.1. Research on Cyber Violence

The objective of this programme was to form a co-ordination among institutions dealing with cyber-crimes in order to amend law related to cyber-crimes and to introduce new laws and regulations.

Here, it is expected to hold discussions with institutions dealing with cyber-crimes, prepare a proper format to collect data and design a module to train police officers. Awareness raising programmes were held for officers of the NCPA and the NCW.



Officers participated in the discussion

5.2. Research on Violence Against Women in the Plantation

Based on the study carried out in Badulla district, issues affecting women to face violence and recommendations based on the research for the prevention of violence have been identified. The NCW has designed a project plan for the implementation of recommendations in consultation with the Plantation Trust. Accordingly, a pilot programme for elimination of Gender Based Violence has been conducted in Haputale Estate.

5.3. Research on Child Mothers

Awareness raising programmes were conducted for the youth, on reproductive health, rights and the laws applicable.

Discussions were held with policy makers on improving the sections on reproductive health in school text books. Modules on reproductive health have been developed in collaboration with the Family Health Bureau.

6. Media Programme

6.1. “Kantha Probodaya” Radio Discussion Series in 2017

The “Kantha Probodaya” Radio discussion is broadcast to create awareness among the listeners on GBV and current women’s issues. The objective of this programme is to raise awareness of listeners and to provide answers for their issues.

It is expected to raise public awareness, minimise and prevent day-to-day problems in the society through this discussion. So far 08 programmes in Sinhala and 04 programmes in Tamil have been broadcast. In 2017. Four more programmes are to be conducted in ensuing months.

6.2. Script Writing Competition on Happy Family Concept.

It is expected to develop a short video film on Happy Family aiming at developing social values to counter violence, adultery, rape, suicides, and illegal love affairs.

6.3. Media Discussion to Develop a Policy on Image of Women in Media

A meeting was held in September in collaboration with the Media Ministry in order to develop a women sensitive media policy, aiming to develop positive image of women and media reporting on GBV. Participants at the decision making levels of both printed and electronic media participated at the meeting.

6.4. “Vanitha Vibava Magazine”

Four (4) volumes of Vanitha Vibawa magazines were printed in 2017. These volumes contain articles on women’s development and her identity, creative writing and programmes implemented by the Ministry and NCW.

6.5. Partners in Progress

Articles have been collected for the magazine Partners in Progress which includes research articles and current topic on gender.

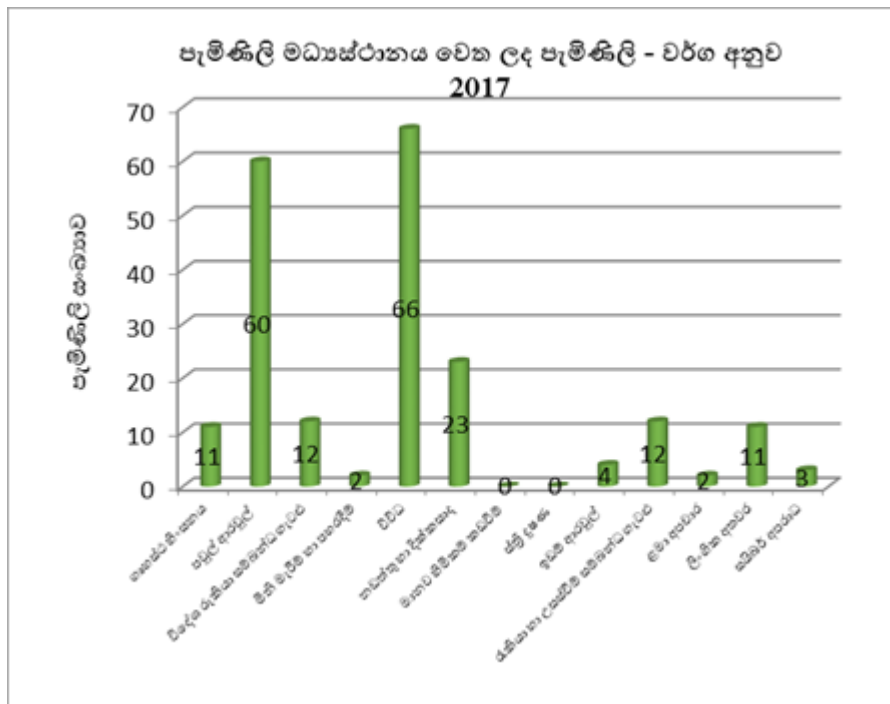
7. Complaint Centre and 1938 Women Helpline

7.1 Gender Complaint Centre

The Complaint Centre provides relief services to those who are subjected to violence and on violation of women’s rights. Accordingly complaints are received on violation of rights, which are referred to government and non-governmental organizations to investigate and for provision of referral services. The clients are provided with legal aid given by the lawyers attached to the National Committee on Women.

Complaints could be made by making visits to the Centre or communicating through telephones, letters, and faxes and by e-mails in any language preferred. The complaints are usually on Violence against Women, sexual harassment, family disputes, maintenance, work place harassments etc. in dealing with the complaints received by the Centre, actions such as mediation, consultancy and referring to relevant institutions are carried out. There is a

growth in the number of complaints received. Up to August 2017 the Centre has received 293 complaints.



7.2. 1938 Women's Help Line

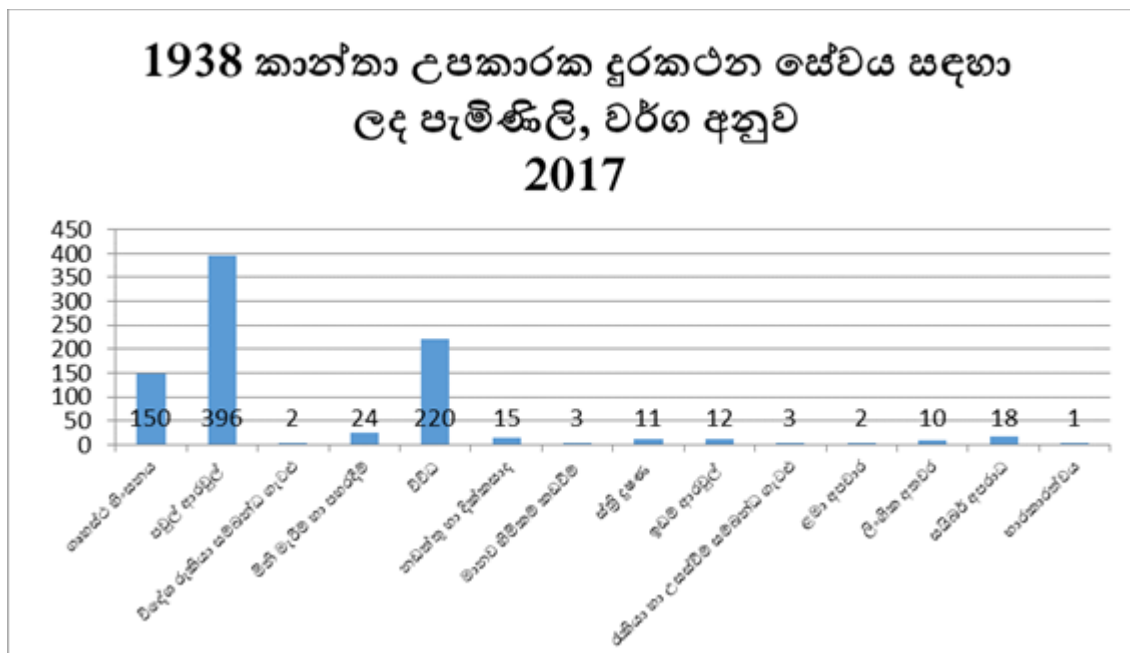
The Women's Helpline was established in March 2014, as a project to extend the services provided to women affected by violence.

The Helpline receives complaints in all three languages and is in operation from 8.30 a.m to 5.15 p.m on week days. The Helpline records the complaints received and refer to appropriate organizations namely the Police, Office of Superintendent of Police, Police Women and Child Abuse Prevention Bureau, Police Women and Children's Desks, Legal Aids Commission, National Child Protection Authority, Foreign Employment Bureau and the Divisional Secretariats.

Services are given to the needy through the Ministry officials working at the Unit in the Divisional Secretariats. Legal aid is directly given to women by the Legal Officers attached to the National Committee on Women. Although the complaints are referred to outside agencies the unit monitors the cases till they are been resolved. The complaints received are gradually being increased. In 2014, 398 cases have been received and 777 in 2015. In 2016, 1382 were received while the number received in 2017 is 1204.

The number of cases referred to outside organizations in 2017 are given below.

Divisional Secretariats	179
Police	63
Legal Aid Commission	90
Internal	827
Other organizations	19



7.2.1 Stress Management Programmes Conducted for Officers of the 1938 Women Help Line and the Complaint Centre

Programmes on Stress Management and Capacity Development have been conducted for the officers attached to 1938 Helpline, Complaint Centre with the objective of providing an efficient and effective service for the clients.



Stress Management Programme conducted in Horana “Nature Lover” Holiday Resort

8. International Women’s Day Walk

In order to arouse women’s voices on their wellbeing, the Ministry has organized a Walk to mark the International Women’s Day on the 1st March 2017. The Walk was carried out in the 25 districts with participation of over 7,000 women.



Hon Minister of Women and Child Affairs, Prof. Maitree Wickremasinghe, Hon Minister for Foreign Affairs, Thalatha Atukorale, Mrs. Chandrani Senratne, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Additional Secretary (Development) & Brand Ambassador-Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Ms. Jayanthi KuruUtumpala participated in the Women’s Day walk conducted on 01.03.2017

07. Children Secretariat

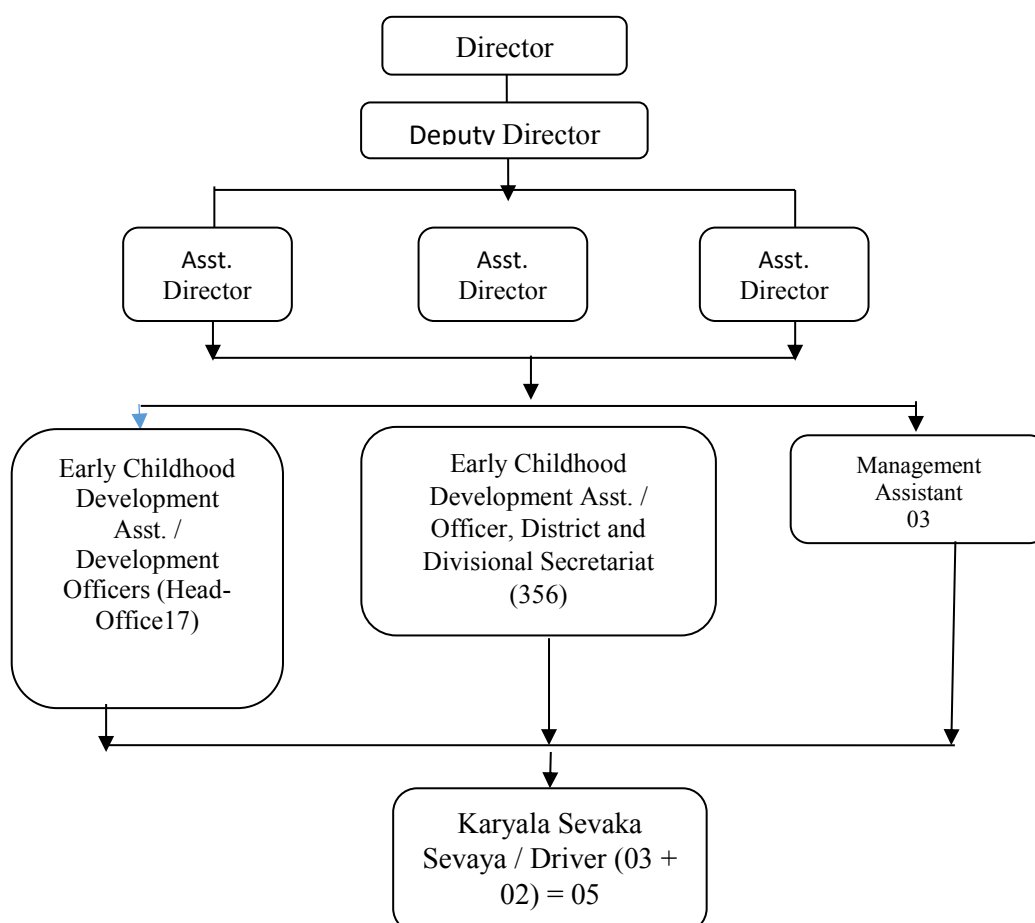
Vision

Creation of a physically, psychosocially and cognitively developed generation of Sri Lankan children in their Early Childhood.

Mission

As the national level focal institution, ensuring the total development of Sri Lankan children in their Early Childhood through formulation, implementation, monitoring and following up of policies and programs.

Organizational Structure of Children's Secretariat



Key Objectives /Functions

- Functioning as the mechanism for the formulation and implementation of National Policies on Early Childhood Care and Development.
- Coordinating and networking Early Childhood Development programmes of the public and private sectors and non-government organizations.
- Conducting research, collection of data and formulation of programmes relevant to Early Childhood Care and Development.
- Formulation and implementation of training programmes relevant to the overall development of children in their Early Childhood.
- Development of Human Resource relevant to Early Childhood Development.

Key Development Programmes Implemented - 2017

01. Programme to Provide a Nutrition Allowance of Rs.20, 000 to Pregnant and Lactating Mothers.

Through this programme started in 2015, every pregnant mother registered with Medical Officer of Health Office was provided this nutrition allowance in the form of a nutrition pack worth Rs.20,000 consisting of all nutrients required by pregnant or lactating mothers for 10 months (through the use of coupons) up to April of this year. But a new method has been introduced to issue vouchers instead of coupons from May last year with the aim of making it convenient for the mothers to purchase the recommended food items and for convenient implementation of the programme.

Under this, 10 vouchers with a value of Rs.2000 each are provided at the same time. It is possible to obtain the entire pack of nutritious food items within the last 06 months of pregnancy and the first 04 months of lactation. Rs.5, 500 million has been allocated for this purpose and the expenditure borne by the end of 2017 is Rs.5, 408,109 million and approximately 2,703,881 nutrition packs have been distributed among the beneficiaries.

Plans are being developed to carry out this programme in a digital method using modern technology from next year and the pilot project in that regard is expected to be implemented by November this year focused on the Divisional Secretariats of Badulla, Kolonnawa and Thihagoda.

02. Programme to Provide Morning Meal for Pre School Children / Early Childhood Development Centres

Instead of the programme to provide a glass of fresh milk for Preschool Children/Early Childhood Development Centres that was implemented up to last year, the programme to provide morning meal for pre-school children suffering from malnutrition was commenced from March 2017.

The main objective of this programme is to upgrade the nutrition level of underweight children in pre-school age and encourage children to attend preschool, train healthy habits from pre-school days, provide economic benefits to poor families and make people aware of the public sector contribution towards human resource development of the country through total development are among the other objectives.

This programme is operative for Early Childhood Development Centres where children with minimum levels of knowledge of nutrition according to the data from the Ministry of Health and District Directors of Health Services. Accordingly, 51,213 children in 2,050 pre-schools located in 206 Divisional Secretariats in the island have qualified to benefit under this programme. Rs. 300 million has been allocated to implement this programme in 2017 and 49,320 pre-school children have become beneficiaries by the end of the year. The expenditure borne in this regard was Rs. 166.747 million.



Programme to provide morning meal for pre-School children

03. Awareness Programme on Nutrition Conducted for Preschool Teachers

The main objective of this programme is to raise awareness of pre-school teachers about the importance of the programme to provide breakfast for Children in pre-schools / Early Childhood Development Centres operative from this year and about nutrition, simultaneously with the said programme. Accordingly, arrangements have been made to conduct 215 awareness programmes in the Divisional Secretariat Divisions where that programme is operative. Rs. 2.15 million has been allocated as provisions in this regard and by the end of December this year, 100% programmes have been conducted spending Rs. 1.866 million out of that amount.

04. Programme to Develop Day Care and Community Based Evening Care Centres for Children

Construction of 07 Day Care Centres was commenced in 2014 to ensure the protection of pre-school children and to develop physical facilities under the project to prevent child abuse and violence against women (700 million). Construction of Day Care Centres in Kilinochchi, Polonnaruwa, Matale, Batticaloa, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhpura and Moneragala was done accordingly and construction of another Day Care Centre in Panadura Divisional Secretary's Division was commenced in 2016.

Rs. 20 million has been allocated for construction and improvement of Day Care Centers in 2017 and Rs. 17.214 million out of that has been provided for the construction and development and opening of new Day Care Centers. Accordingly, preliminary work required for the construction of 02 new Day Care Centers in the Districts of Badulla and Gampaha and 02 new Day Care Centers in the two Divisional Secretary's Divisions of Dehiowita and Dambulla is being carried out. Accordingly, progress of this initiative is Rs. 15,429 million.



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Opening of Batticaloa Day Care Centre

05. Programme to Provide Rs.250 Allowance (“Lama Diriya”) for Preschool Teachers

Provision of Rs.250 monthly allowance to teachers of pre-schools / Early Childhood Development Centers was commenced on the interim budget proposals of 2015 with the aim of further strengthening the pre-school / Early Childhood Development Centre services. Accordingly, Rs.30 million was allocated for this programme in 2017, and by the end of August 2017, Rs. 16.819 million has been released to the relevant District Secretaries to provide this allowance to 5,499 pre-school teachers. Out of the entire allocation released, a sum of Rs. 16.099 has been spent on the programme.

06. Other Programmes on Early Childhood Care and Development

Provisions amounting to Rs. 65 million have been allocated to implement programmes under this, and programmes are implemented in the following manner.

6.1“Senehe Thataka” Home Based Early Childhood Development Programme

The key objective of this programme is to bring about all round development of children by involving children in their early childhood in the household environment and the day today activities of the households. Awareness raising for parents, public officers, and youth etc. at Divisional Secretariat level is carried out under this.

In 2017, provisions amounting to Rs.1.31 million have been allocated for 324 programmes at Divisional Secretariat level and 310 programmes have been conducted by the end of the year. The financial progress of it is Rs.1.175 million.

At the same time, provisions amounting to Rs. 0.356 million were released to conduct 25 district level programmes under this and 22 programmes have been conducted by the end of the year. The financial progress of it is Rs.0.313 million.



Awareness programmes for Public Officers and Parents

6.2 District Women and Child Development Committees

The District Child Development Committees that existed up to now were set up as District Women and Child Development Committees from 2017 with an expanded role. Accordingly, the total amount allocated in 2017 to hold meetings of District Women and Child Development Committees with the participation of all responsible sectors to create a women and child friendly environment was Rs. 0.75 million. By the end of September 2017, 62 committee meetings have been held and the expenditure in that regard was Rs. 0.571 million.

6.3 Implementation of National / Divisional Coordinating Committees on Early Childhood Care and Development

Provision of Rs. 1.163 million has been allocated for holding National and Divisional Committee meetings on Early Childhood Care and Development in accordance with the National Policy on Early Childhood Care and Development (2004). Accordingly, 4 National Level Committee meetings, 569 Divisional Level Committee meetings and 08 District Committee meetings have been held, and the expenditure for that was Rs. 0.7345 million.

6.4 Progress Review Meeting of the Early Childhood Development Officers

139 Progress Review Meetings of District Early Childhood Coordinating Officers, who engage in field duties and Early Childhood Development Assistant Officers, who engage in duties at Divisional Secretariats, 07 Provincial Level Progress Review Meetings and 03 National Level Meetings have been conducted by now and an expenditure of Rs. 0.7345 million has been borne for this by the end of 2017.



District Progress Review Meetings

6.5 Annual Forum of the Early Childhood Development Officers

This Annual Forum was held in Colombo in February 2017 with the aim of introducing the Annual Action Plan of the Children's Secretariat to the Early Childhood Development Officers serving at district and divisional levels throughout the island and to make the district and divisional level programmes more efficient and productive. A sum of Rs. 0.382 million was allocated for this and that whole amount has been spent by now.

6.6 Review and Updating of the National Policy on Early Childhood Care and Development

The National Policy on Early Childhood Care and Development launched in 2004 is being implemented at present, and action is being taken to amend and re – print the National Policy to suit current Early Childhood Development and Care requirements. The relevant parties are being consulted in that regard, and the Cabinet approval is to be sought for this National Policy after that. This is due to be printed and launched in 2018.

6.7 Maintaining the Network on Early Childhood Care and Development

A Network on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD Network) involving government, non-government and private sector institutions and individuals working for Early Childhood Development in Sri Lanka has been established by the Children's Secretariat, and Rs. 0.11 million has been allocated for this purpose. Two (02) preliminary meeting have been held in relation to that accordingly and the amount spent was Rs. 0.107 million.

6.8 Updating the Minimum Standards Book ‘Starting Right’ for Early Childhood Development Centres

Preliminary work required to revise and print the Minimum Standards book for Early Childhood Development Centres has been carried out by now, and a sum of Rs.1.2133 million has been allocated for that. It is due to be printed.

6.9 Programme to Introduce Early Childhood Development Standards

Early Childhood Development Standards (for children in the age group of 3-5 years) were launched at national level in 2015, and they have been declared as “National Standards” and Cabinet approval has been obtained for them. These Early Childhood Standards have been prepared in the form of a Pre-school Teacher Training Hand Book and training programmes were implemented to train trainers for introducing the Hand Book to Pre-school teachers.

Further, 149 training programmes were conducted in 2016 for pre-school teachers in all the Divisional Secretary’s Divisions in the Southern, Western, Central and Uva Provinces, and 182 such programmes have been conducted in 2017 Sabaragamuwa, North Western, North Central, Northern and Eastern Provinces. The financial progress in that regard is Rs. 3.472 million.

6.10 Develop a Curriculum for the National Diploma Certificate Course on Early Childhood Care and Development for Preschool Teachers and Providing Assistance to Preschool Diploma Course

Preliminary work for developing a curriculum for the National Diploma Certificate Course on Early Childhood Care and Development for preschool teachers has been concluded by now with the help of the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA). In addition to that, a sum of Rs. 0.2 million has been allocated for providing assistance for a Preschool Diploma Course conducted free of charge. Its financial progress is Rs. 0.2 million.

6.11 Programme to Register Diploma Courses on Early Childhood Care and Development

The key objective of this programme is to ensure that one-year Diploma Courses on Early Childhood Care and Development (Preschool Teacher Training) are of National Level Standards and to register them under the Children's Secretariat. Under this, 62 national level Diploma Courses have been registered. Provision of Rs. 0.01 million has been allocated for that and the financial progress is Rs. 0.003 million.

6.12 Research on Early Childhood Development and Care

Five (5) researches were carried out successfully on Early Childhood Care and Development in the districts of Puttalam, Colombo, Gampaha, Jaffna and Nuwara Eliya. The relevant financial progress is Rs. 0.003 million.

6.13 “Aruna Dakina Rata” Art Exhibition and Workshop of Children in their Early Childhood

An annual all island art exhibition is conducted to enhance the creative skills of children in their early childhood. Paintings by preschool children are received to represent all parts of the island and this exhibition is held in Colombo with 500 drawings selected out of them and the relevant children are awarded prizes and certificates.

This programme was conducted on September 11th this year at the National Youth Services Council premises in Maharagama. Provisions allocated for this programme amounted to Rs. 4.775 million. Accordingly, Rs. 2.317 million has been released for conducting 331 drawing programmes at Divisional Secretariat level, and the financial progress was Rs. 2.246 million. 25 District programmes have been held to select suitable paintings for the national level “Aruna Dakina Rata” art workshop and award presentation out of those selected at divisional level and the relevant financial progress is Rs.0.0669. At the same time, the reported expenditure for the national level art exhibition and award presentation was Rs. 4.544 million.



“Aruna Dakina Rata” Art Exhibition and Award Presentation

6.14 National Week on Early Childhood Care and Development

The National Week on Early Childhood Care and Development was held successfully this time as well from 14th to 20th of July. The target groups of this are Early Childhood Policy Makers, Pre-school children, Pre-school teachers, officers engaged in the field, parents, pregnant mothers etc. Accordingly, provision of learning materials to pre-schools, providing assistance to construct Preschool buildings under the model villages, awareness programmes and aesthetic programmes for children etc. have been carried out this year as benefits for those target groups.

Within this National Week, public were aware of the Early Childhood Care and Development through media as well. The National Week this time was celebrated under the theme of “Heta dina hinahena Piviture darukela surakimu nirathuru” (Let’s always protect the future generation). Here, attention was paid to promote concepts of child friendly education in the society to build an environment that facilitates children’s smooth transition from pre-school stage to school education under the “Welikeliyen Pitu Atharata” programme (Programme on Child Friendly Education) currently implemented by the Children’s Secretariat.

The estimate for 07 national level programmes under the National Week on Early Childhood 2017 was Rs.2.161 million and the financial progress of that is Rs.2.09 Million. For divisional level programmes, the estimated value of provisions was Rs.7.247 million and the recorded expenditure was Rs. 6.9542 million. Accordingly, 311 programmes for children and 310 programmes for parents at divisional level covering all the Divisional Secretary’s Divisions and 07 national programmes have been conducted by now.



ECCD National Week Programme

6.15 Model Villages Project on Early Childhood Care and Development

Villages selected from Grama Niladhari Divisions in the island are developed as “Early Childhood Development Model Villages” with the aim of making the people in them aware of and sensitive to Early Childhood Development.

Rs.12 million was allocated in 2017 for setting up such model villages. Out of the funds allocated, provisions worth Rs.11.83433 million have been disbursed by the end of August 2017 to set up 22 model villages. Accordingly, development activities of the 22 model villages were carried out spending provisions allocated. Financial progress of that is Rs.10.367 million.



Model village Project

6.16 Programme on Early Childhood Care and Development in Emergency Situations

Provisions of Rs.3.711 million was allocated to act on requests made in respective instances on requirements created in unplanned emergency situations, in relation to Early Childhood Care and Development. Under this, the programme to provide learning equipment and stationery as assistance for Early Childhood Development Centers in the districts of

Rathnapura, Kaluthara, Kegalle, Galle, Matara, Hambanthota and Colombo districts that were affected by the flash floods was implemented.

Accordingly, by the end of 2017, a sum of Rs.3.680 million has been spent in that regard. At the same time, UNICEF also has come forward to rehabilitate these affected pre-schools and to provide the relevant equipment.

6.17 Printing the Home Based Activity Book for Early Childhood Development and the Relevant Training Hand Book

The amount allocated for printing the Home Based Activity Book for Early Childhood Development and the relevant Training Hand Book is Rs.0.43 million. Printing of Home Based Activity Book for Early Childhood Development and the Sinhala version of the relevant Training Hand Book has been completed by the end of the year.

6.18 Media and Publications

Conducting programmes and printing leaflets to raise awareness of the public and the personnel engaged in this field and issuing entertaining publications for children in early childhood were carried out under this. Provisions of Rs. 1.156 million was allocated for this and the financial progress by now is Rs.1.156 million.

6.19 Development of Early Childhood Resource Centre and the Archive

The estimate for obtaining the equipment required to improve the facilities at the Early Childhood Resource Centre of the Children's Secretariat and for proper maintenance of the archive was Rs.0.3 million, and the work is expected to carry out in 2018.

6.20 Awareness Programme Based on the Parenting Hand Book (Book on Best Practices in Bringing up Children)

Raising awareness of parents and the community regarding the best practices in bringing up children with the aim of bestowing upon the nation totally developed children in early childhood through the desirable inter-relationship that should be built between the child and the parents is done through this.

Under 3 main sections, the programmes were organized to be conducted throughout the year. District Coordinators for Early Childhood Development from the 25 districts were trained as trainers at the beginning of the year, and the financial progress of that was Rs.0.0335 million. Then for the training of Early Childhood Development Officers of all the Divisional Secretariats by the District Officers provisions worth Rs.0.730 million have been allocated. Parents belonging to each Divisional Secretary's Division are made aware of the correct methods of bringing up children by the Early Childhood Development Officers at divisional level. The amount allocated for this third phase was Rs.1.324 million. The financial progress of it up to now is Rs.1.068 million.

6.21 Printing the Parenting Manual (Book on Best Practices in Bringing up Children) and the Handbook Based on that.

Training of trainers programmes are conducted based on the book on Best Practices in Bringing up Children and this handbook is printed to be distributed among the Early Childhood Development Officers and the officers working in connection to the field of Early Childhood. Accordingly, printing a handbook based on the book on Best Practices in Bringing up Children with instructions and guidance for parents in conducting field awareness programmes is done through this. Work related to that is nearing completion.

6.22 Resource Pool for Early Childhood Care and Development

Provisions worth Rs.0.05 million have been allocated through the 2017 Action Plan for the establishment of a Resource Pool for Early Childhood Care and Development. As specialist trainers are rare in the field of Early Childhood Care and Development, it is expected to train Early Childhood Development Officers attached to Divisional Secretariats in the island at present and train parents, youth, pregnant mothers and pre-school teachers through them.

Applications have been called from field officers working in the field of Early Childhood Care and Development for this. They are to be interviewed in due course and the selected candidates will be given advanced training in Early Childhood Care and Development to be used as experts in that field in awareness programmes. A part of applicants were called for interview in 2017, and the remaining applicants are to be called next year.

6.23 Assessment Criteria for Early Childhood Care and Development

Assessment Criteria for Early Childhood Care and Development have been developed by now based on the Early Childhood Development Standards. Launching these Assessment Criteria was done on 25th and 26th of September 2017 at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. After the launching, these Assessment Criteria have been referred for printing. Provisions worth Rs.3.223 million has been allocated for this purpose.

Subsequent to that, plans have been prepared to develop Assessment Criteria sets and hold Provincial level training programmes covering all the Early Childhood Development Officers and to raise the awareness of the pre-school teachers through the divisional level officers next year. The amount spent on this was Rs. 0.755 million.

6.24 “Weli Keliyen Pitu Atharata” Child Friendly Education - Pilot Project

The period from 3 to 5 years of a child is of greater importance for language development, personality development, socialization etc. Early Childhood Development Centers should make an active contribution for all these aspects. From that basis, the child in Early Childhood has to enter formal school. Even though this transition from Early Childhood Development Centre to formal school should be a smooth one for the child whether it happens so is debatable.

Identifying the different roles and responsibilities of the preschool teacher in the preschool and the primary teacher in the formal school and developing a workable method for implementation in the field and follow up are the objectives of this project.

Provisions to the value of Rs.0.6 million was allocated for this pilot project through the Action Plan for 2017, and 30 programmes were conducted in the districts of Colombo, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Kegalle, Matara and Moneragala. The financial progress of the programme is Rs.0.589 million.

6.25 Provision of Equipment for Day Care Centers where Children with Special Needs are Cared for

Provisions worth Rs.0.264 million has been allocated through the Action Plan for 2017 to provide learning equipment for Day Care Centers where Children with Special Needs are looked after. Considering the requests made to the Children's Secretariat, assistance in the form of equipment was provided.

6.26 Special Projects at Divisional Level

Implementation of appropriate project proposals selected from among the special project proposals that were discussed in relation to the issues identified with relevance to Early Childhood at Divisional Secretariat level was carried out under this project. Provisions of Rs.0.4 million has been allocated accordingly, and the financial progress was Rs.0.390 million. Provisions has been released. Utilizing such allocation, special projects were implemented in Horana, Welikanda, Ehaliyagoda and Thamankaduwa Divisional Secretary's Divisions.

6.15 World Children's Day

This year's National Celebration of World Children's Day under the theme "Lead children to their wonder world - along the path of love and affection" was held successfully in Anuradhapura on 01st of October 2017 led by the Minister of Women and Child Affairs Hon. Chandrani Bandara.

It was held with the participation of several invitees such as Hon. Ministers, Parliamentarians and Representatives from Provincial Councils, District and Divisional Secretaries and 800 children selected from several schools to cover the entire District of Anuradhapura.

Rs.6.9 Million has been allocated for this national programme through the Action Plan for 2017 and the expenditure recorded by now is Rs.5.948 Million. Rs.4.83 Million was released for 322 Divisional Secretariats as Rs.15,000 per Divisional Secretariat to National ECCD Week Programmes 36 implement various awareness programmes, workshops and entertainment programmes for Preschool children at Divisional Secretariat level to coincide

with the National programme. 156 Divisional level programmes have been conducted and the financial progress is Rs. 2.335 Million.

Model Village Project - Pallama

National Celebration for World Children's Day