

Voluntary National Survey for Monitoring of Progress in Asia and the Pacific towards the Implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Background

This voluntary national survey will provide information on progress regarding the implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development¹ and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Asia and the Pacific.² Results from the survey will be reported and discussed at the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, in 2023.

The ICPD Programme of Action provides an invaluable framework to guide Member States in enhancing the quality of life and well-being of every individual and promoting human development by underscoring the interrelationship between development policies and programmes, human rights, and economic and social development. At the 20-year Asia-Pacific regional review of the Programme of Action, in 2013, ESCAP member States adopted the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. This Declaration serves as region-specific guidance on population and development in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the 2018 intergovernmental meeting for the Midterm Review of the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration, a monitoring framework was presented to ESCAP members and associated members to monitor progress in implementing the recommendations of both documents in the region. This framework was based on existing SDG indicators and targets to reduce the reporting burden on member States. The ESCAP Committee on Social Development, during its sixth session in 2020, endorsed the monitoring framework, noting that it would serve as an essential tool for voluntary, regular assessment and reporting of progress of implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2013 Ministerial Declaration.³

At the Committee session, several member States recognized existing data gaps and lack of capacity at the national level in collecting, generating and disseminating reliable sex- and age-disaggregated data. In preparation for the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference, in 2023, ESCAP, with support from UNFPA, has developed a survey based on the monitoring framework to assist member States in collecting data and monitoring the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2013 Ministerial Declaration. The survey is highly qualitative in nature, aiming to understand countries' progress and achievements in all priority action areas, along with key challenges and lessons learned. Additionally, ESCAP has compiled quantitative information on the SDG indicators identified in the monitoring framework and is providing this information to member States along with the survey. The data are sourced from the Global SDG Indicators Database maintained by the Statistics Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

¹ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20APPC%202013.pdf>.

² Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

³ ESCAP/CSD/2020/3.

Suggestions for completing the Asia-Pacific voluntary national survey

The survey should be completed by countries, through their national focal points on population and development. The survey and attached monitoring framework⁴ are structured according to the priority actions identified in the Report of the Sixth Asian and Pacific Population Conference.⁵ As the Programme of Action of ICPD is a multi-dimensional framework, it is recommended that completion of the survey involves a consultative process with ministries and departments responsible for implementing the priority action areas and reporting the associated SDG indicators, and with the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders.

ESCAP is sending the survey to member States as a Word document and as a PDF document. Member States are invited to respond to it directly in the Word document. For the check boxes, please double click on them to insert a check mark.

The survey and associated documents can be downloaded from the ESCAP website at: www.unescap.org/events/2023/seventh-asian-and-pacific-population-conference.

The survey should be completed (and submitted/returned), together with relevant attachments by **31 March 2023**, by email, to: escap-sdd@un.org Please do not hesitate to contact **escap-sdd@un.org** should you have any questions.

I. Contact information

Please identify the office responsible for coordinating the responses to this survey and completing it and include its contact information.

Country Sri Lanka	
Ministry/Office/Agency Department of Census and Statistics	
Name contact persons (First and Last)	Title/Position
Email	Telephone
Mailing address Department of Census and Statistics, "Sankyana Mandiraya", No 306/71, Polduwa Road, Battaramulla.	
Please indicate whether the completed survey may be posted on the ESCAP public website of the Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference.	
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
No: <input type="checkbox"/>	

⁴ See ESCAP/CSD/2020/3 (see Annex IV).

⁵ <https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Report%20of%20APPC%202013.pdf>.

II. National coordination mechanism for implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

1.1	<p>Is there a national coordination mechanism to support implementation of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development?</p> <p>If “yes”, please provide information for the question below. If “no”, please skip section III below.</p> <p>There is no single coordination mechanism established for this purpose. However, the Department of Census and Statistics along with the assistance of UNFPA coordinate the actions of other ministries such as the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and the Sustainable Development Council</p>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	<p>Name of the coordination mechanism and website link if available: <i>Please elaborate:</i></p>			
1.3	<p>Year of establishment: <i>Please elaborate:</i></p>			
1.4	<p>What level does the coordination mechanism operate at:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Prime minister or highest level of government</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Minister</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Director</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Please elaborate:</i></p>		
1.5	<p>Are civil society organizations included as members of the coordination mechanism?</p>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.6	<p>Does the coordination mechanism have formalized Terms of Agreement or other formal operating agreements?</p> <p>If “yes”, please elaborate on the functions of the coordination mechanism:</p>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
1.7	<p>How often does the coordination mechanism meet?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yearly</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ad-hoc, as needed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The committee has not yet met</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):</p>		
1.8	<p>Contact information, including mailing address, telephone/fax, email and website link for members of the coordination mechanism: <i>please elaborate:</i></p>			

III. Challenges and successes in achieving progress concerning priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development

The following sections cover the 11 priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. Please answer the questions in regard to the specific priority area mentioned in the text. This is to help measure which priority areas are characterized by **challenges** and by **progress**, as well as identify any **achievements**, **good practices** and **lessons learned** that can be shared with other countries regarding specific areas.

A. Poverty eradication and employment

Overall policy environment		
.A.	<p>Are any priority actions for poverty eradication and employment included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Human Resources and Employment Policy (2012) • Vision 2025: A Country Enriched (2017) • National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour” (2019) • Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision and Strategic Path (2019) <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>(e) its impact</p> <p>Almost all the national policy documents in Sri Lanka addresses rural centric development and creating a poverty free Sri Lanka.</p> <p>I. National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 (https://www.treasury.gov.lk/national-policy)</p> <p>The fifth policy among the 10 policies in the NPF is on People Centric Economic Development. Among the main macroeconomic targets achieving a per capita income exceeding USD 6500 and maintaining the rate of unemployment at less than 4 percent are highlighted.</p> <p>The fourth policy which is on A Productive Citizen and a Happy Family also highlights the importance of a trained, energetic workforce to achieve accelerated development to reduce the unskilled category in the labour force by the sub sector Vocational Training and Skills Development</p> <p>II. Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision and Strategic Path; 2019 (efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.presidentsoffice.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Final-v2.4-Typeset-MM-v12F-Cov3.pdf)</p> <p>The Presidential Expert Committee (PEC) Report on Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision and Strategic Path published in January 2019 focuses on providing a decent quality of life for all, especially the poor and disadvantaged, and meeting minimum standards in the provision of basic services.</p> <p>III. National Human Resources and Employment Policy; 2012 (https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/94271/110595/F-172791361/LKA94271.pdf)</p> <p>The National Human Resources and Employment Policy (NHREP) of the Government of Sri Lanka sets out the overarching policy framework to provide full, decent and productive employment to all Sri Lankans. It is the foundation on which human resource capabilities would be strengthened and employment opportunities created to make Sri Lanka the 'Wonder of Asia'. It highlights that Human resources in Sri Lanka have considerable potential to steer the country's growth trajectory from its current low-skilled, low productive and low income earning workforce to one that is highly-skilled, dynamic, and globally competitive workforce</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>IV. Vision 2025; A country Enriched (2017) (https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/srl179513.pdf)</p> <p>Describing its macroeconomic policies, it states that it will provide economic security to the less well-off through stronger social safety nets to mitigate their vulnerability to shocks. In its 10th policy area it describes the Government's commitment to enabling economic growth is paired with an equal commitment to protect the most vulnerable populations that live within Sri Lanka. It highlights the need for reforms to address these issues while safeguarding the poor and vulnerable segments of society as the ageing population increases the cost of social protection in Sri Lanka.</p>	
2.A.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “poverty eradication and employment” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Investment Plan 2021 – 2025 (2021) • National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2017 – 2021 <p>I. Public Investment Plan 2021 – 2025, 2021 November (http://www.npd.gov.lk/index.php/en/2017-03-02-07-02-41/publications/38-public-investment-programme.html)</p> <p>The Public Investment Programme (PIP) launched in November 2021, for 2021-2024 has been prepared with a medium-term perspective, prioritizing the Government's public investments that are crucial to stimulate the economy and to enhance economic growth. It has 09 key policy cornerstones with the fourth one being a people centric economy.</p> <p>During 2015-2019, average economic growth rate dropped to 3.7 percent in comparison to 6.8 percent growth in 2010-2014. The growth decline was attributed to a number of shocks, including 2016/17 droughts, floods and Easter bombing in 2019. The pandemic came in 2020 further deteriorated the economy and records the deepest contraction of 3.6 percent since independence.</p> <p>The PIP focuses to revitalize the key sectors to gain the missing growth momentum (pages 10 – 18).</p> <p>In Chapter 4 of the PIP it emphasizes increasing income generation and employment creation through the opening of untapped domestic market opportunities and the promotion of value-added local raw materials, resource-based export industries while creating better industrial activities in the regions.</p> <p>II. National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2017 – 2021 (https://www.stopchildcruelty.com/media/doc/1554788053.pdf)</p> <p>The National Human Rights Action Plan for 2017-2021 documents goal-oriented activities in the Human Rights arena, aimed to strengthen the national processes and mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights through substantial constitutional, legislative, policy and administrative frameworks. It emphasizes the need for the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure distributive justice through inclusive, sustainable, equitable and regionally balanced development and to provide recourses to citizens to claim and enforce their rights. Sri Lanka must take deliberate and concrete steps to meet these obligations, and the action points outlined in this policy are some of the immediate steps that must be taken to fulfill such obligations. These rights must be especially available to the most vulnerable in the population: the minorities within minorities, women, youth, children,</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>plantation sector, persons with disabilities, ex-combatants, and many others. The NHRAP therefore, addresses deprivation, distributive injustices and inequalities between and across the peoples of Sri Lanka and its different regions, recognizing the importance of guaranteeing ESC rights as universal, indivisible and interdependent human rights.</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(d) its impact</p>	
<i>Achievements and good practices</i>		
3.A.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of poverty eradication and employment in the country since 2013?</p> <p>Sri Lanka made great progress in improving livelihoods and welfare. Sri Lanka has a great track record in raising living standards and reducing poverty. In the decade preceding the COVID-19 crisis poverty was declining. Poverty has reduced from 22.7% to 3.2% from year 2002 to year 2019. Other measures of wellbeing also exhibited progress—maternal and child health outcomes improved over the past decade and access to electricity is now almost universal. These broad-based improvements in welfare are typically the result of improvements in livelihoods. The past decade was also characterized by impressive dynamism. Infrastructure investments improved access to markets and services; opportunities in nonfarm sectors expanded, in particular, tourism boomed with visitors quadrupling in less than 10 years, which culminated in the designation of Sri Lanka as a top travel destination. Further, as a result of these programmes, higher standards of living were achieved specially for the people in rural and remote areas with an inclusive development.</p> <p><i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p>	
4.A.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing poverty eradication and employment programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <p><i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>Sri Lanka has an extensive but fragmented social protection system. The social protection system has a life cycle approach where each individual is attempted to capture starting from intra-natal life until the old age. The government’s main social assistance program is Samurdhi, an integrated welfare program that provides cash transfers, microfinance, and various community and livelihood development activities. However, the Samurdhi has issues with inclusion and exclusion criteria, where most vulnerable do not get the benefits at some instances. As a response for this, the targeting criteria was changed from income-based poverty standards to Multidimensional Deprivation scoring method. This takes health and education in addition to living standards into account and the new payment scheme has already being approved.</p> <p>Government is also going to start new payment scheme “Aswesuma” since July, 2023 targeting most vulnerable groups. In this regard, the survey to identify the beneficiaries who really required the assistance has already started and is being implemented all over the island. Accordingly, benefits will be paid from July directly into their bank accounts, and only to beneficiaries registered and verified by the Welfare Benefit Board (WBB) as being eligible according to the newly established social registry. This newly established social registry will be updated annually.</p> <p>The other groups who benefit through the social protection schemes include the elderly, disabled and kidney patients and the families who are affected by the current economic situation in Sri Lanka. For the year 2023, the amount of provision allocated by the budget for these benefit schemes increased up to SLR 188,080 million.</p>	
<i>Challenges</i>		
<p>In implementing priority actions for poverty eradication and employment, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?</p> <p>[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]</p>		

<i>Challenges</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</i>
5.A.	Lack of human resources dedicated to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.A.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sri Lanka is facing one of its worst economic crisis in the history. This situation has challenged the poverty eradication and social protection systems as well. With the assistance of IMF, the economy is being stabilized and among the three priority areas in the IMF programme social protection is one main area.
7.A.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.A.	Lack of data on poverty eradication and employment, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of updated data is a major challenge of implementation of poverty irradiation programmes. Welfare programmes are scattered and implemented by different ministries, departments, institutes and organizations. Targeting of beneficiaries are low. It is difficult to identify the real income of beneficiaries. No clear exit mechanism to remove empowered families. Defendant mentality can be seen among most of vulnerable people and higher dependency is on welfare assistance without graduating.
9.A.	Lack of overall political support related to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.A.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
11.A.	Lack of international support related to poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.A.	Lack of development partner coordination related to poverty eradication and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	employment				
13.A.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.A.	A bottom-up approach to poverty eradication and employment not followed (e.g., involvement of persons in the lowest wealth quintiles, the unemployed, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.A.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on poverty eradication and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc.
16.A.	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of poverty eradication and employment programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> The impacts of the deepened economic crisis on the welfare of the citizens of Sri Lanka have been significant, underscoring the urgent need to reformulate policy strategies to ensure the welfare of the most vulnerable groups. The burden of the economic crisis has fallen disproportionately. Living conditions of the vulnerable population have deteriorated to a greater extent through various channels, including the loss of livelihoods and the acceleration of inflation, among others. The reforms that are being discussed with the International Monetary Fund highlights the importance of improving the social safety nets to vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Attitudes towards certain jobs too have given rise to unemployment (eg: although there are considerable number of jobs in the construction industry, the youth are not ready to take up such jobs) and/or lack of skills for certain technical jobs</p> <p>Dependency mentality of the people; Due to various government development programmes in which politic is involved; people tend to receive free livelihood support. It minimize the willingness to overcome household poverty.</p>				
Lessons learned					
17.A.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of poverty eradication and employment not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>Poverty eradication efforts should comprise multisector interventions, such as the promotion of value additions in the agriculture sector, expanding education opportunities for poor and vulnerable groups to ensure future income opportunities, promoting livelihood development programmes along with the improvement of the participation of women in labour markets as well as the adoption of a systematic policy framework for existing safety net programmes alongside the gradual improvements to income levels. The interventions that occurred in other areas such as health and education improved the poverty in Sri Lanka to a greater extent which lead to the high human development indicators.</p> <p>The poverty eradication programmes/social safety nets should have a strong graduation programme where the beneficiaries who improve their living standards through the benefits , exit from the programme. This will also reduce the targeting errors of such programme. This graduation strategy has been prepared for people moving out the poverty and polite project has been initiated by the Ministry of Women, Child affairs and Social Empowerment.</p>				
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring					
18.A.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians			

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>): Improving accountability and anti-corruption mechanisms in public sector officials
19.A.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for poverty eradication and employment. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

B. Health

Overall policy environment

1.B	<p>Are any priority actions for health included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour” (2019) Health Master Plan (2007–2016) National Health Policy (2016 – 2025) <p>I. National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 (https://www.treasury.gov.lk/national-policy)</p> <p>The fourth policy in the NPF is “A Productive Citizen and a Happy Family” under which both Western Medicine and Indigenous medicine is addressed. The sectoral policies include Changing the approach to promoting a life style instead of treating a patient, Increase annual investment of health care and Uplifting the Indigenous and Ayurveda systems through a more scientific and modern approach</p> <p>II. Health Master Plan (2007–2016) (https://openjicareport.jica.go.jp/pdf/11760899.pdf)</p> <p>The aim of this plan is to achieve well being of the citizens by responding to the people’s needs, and working in partnership to ensure access to comprehensive, high quality, equitable, cost-effective and sustainable health services. This overarching aim of improving health status and reducing inequalities were planned to be achieved by the five</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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	<p>strategies, namely</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring delivery of comprehensive health services, which reduce the disease burden and promote health 2. Empowering communities towards more active participation in maintaining their health 3. Improving human resources for health development and management; and 4. Improving health financing, mobilization, allocation and utilization of resources. 5. Strengthening the stewardship and management functions of the health system <p>III. National Health policy (2016 – 2025) http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/public/elfinder/files/publications/policiesUpto2016/policiesForPublicOpinion/NHP2016-2025draft.pdf</p> <p>This policy specifically addresses the issues in curative care services, rehabilitative care services, health administration and health financing. This is considered a people centric policy as it considers the concept of universal health coverage (equitable access to services by all patients, equitable distribution of services to all patients, quality service to all patients , financial protection to all patients) assuring the patients’ rights and social justice.</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan (c) page number that references this action area (d) main elements of the action area (d) its impact</p>	
2.B .	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “health” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Health Strategic Master Plan for 2016-2025 • Public Investment Plan 2021 – 2025, 2021 November • Policy on Healthcare Delivery for Universal Health Coverage; 2018 <p>I. National Health Strategic Master Plan for 2016-2025 http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/public/elfinder/files/publications/HMP2016-2025/Health%20%20Admin%20-%20%20HRH.pdf_ This is based on the concept of universal coverage ; a conceptual model which can be summarized as (a) Equity of distribution of services to all patients living in all areas of the country (b) Accessibility to health facilities by each and every patient (c) quality of service provided to each patient (d) Financial Protection of all patients . The programme areas covered in this plan includes Patients Rights & Information to Public, National Health Planning, Reorganizing & retooling primary curative health care, Human Resource Development, Strengthening Central functions of HR management, National Health Performance Monitoring, National Health Performance Matrix, Hospital Statistics, Training, International Health, Research and Health Information</p> <p>1. Public Investment Plan 2021 – 2025, 2021 November http://www.npd.gov.lk/index.php/en/2017-03-02-07-02-41/publications/38-public-investment-programme.html The total public investment plan for the period 2022-2024 is about Rs. 3,050 billion. Of this total, 17 percent to be used for social infrastructure which mainly includes health and education sub-sectors. (Page 14)</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>Seven policy directives are described under “Health First” in the PIP which includes; Changing the approach to promoting a healthy life style, Increase annual investment in health care, Early detection of Mental Diseases and Promotion of Mental Health, Ensure continuous supply of consumables, Maintain regulation and standardization of drugs and services, Promote Medical Research, Innovation and Training and Uplift Indigenous Medicine systems through a more scientific and modern approach (pages 42 -44)</p> <p>2. Policy on Healthcare Delivery for Universal Health Coverage; 2018 (http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/public/elfinder/files/publications/2018/Policyonhealthcaredelivery.pdf)</p> <p>This reform is intended to support the implementation of the policy for management of chronic non communicable diseases through organization of existing health services and will support other health care policies addressing general health care needs of the population also targeting specific needs of elderly and more vulnerable communities that need to be reached and would vary across the country. A harmonization of primary first contact care with specialized care is expected through rationalization of the Health care delivery system, with affordability and wide access to people. The Policy also recognizes the strengths within the system which can be used for better health outcomes and efficiency through reorganization (page 2).</p> <p>This policy was based on the summary report on Reorganising Primary Health Care in Sri Lanka: Preserving Our Progress, Preparing Our Future (http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/public/elfinder/files/publications/2018/ReorgPrimaryHealthCare.pdf) published by the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link (b) date of implementation and time frame (c) its main elements (d) its impact</p>	
<i>Achievements and good practices</i>		
3.B .	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of health in the country since 2013?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sri Lanka was declared malaria-free September 2016 by the World Health Organization. • Sri Lanka has achieved a high level of health coverage, with a well-developed public healthcare system. Immunization coverage, skilled attendance at labour are almost 100% in Sri Lanka • The government provides free healthcare services to all citizens through a network of government hospitals, clinics, and health centers. • Key health indicators such as MMR, IMR and life expectancy are good in Sri Lanka and it is considered as a country for universal health coverage at a low cost <p><i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p>	
4.B .	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing health programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sri Lankan health system is a publicly funded health system with no cost at the point of care. This has contributed largely to the achievements in health as well as other domains such as social protection and ensuring equity • Sri Lanka adopts health promotion through an empowerment model with active participation of communities. These are well observed in areas of tobacco control, addressing alcohol policies and other risk factors for chronic non communicable disease 	

- Reorganizing the Primary health care system for a shared care cluster system
- During COVID 19 pandemic a task force was developed comprising of all other sectors in addition to health. This task force looked into other issues that were related to COVID such as social protection, GBV, education etc
- During the pandemic, uncomplicated cases were assessed through telephone consultations and home based care facilities were provided to minimize the overburdening of the health care institutions.

Please elaborate and provide specific examples:

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for health, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.B Lack of human resources dedicated to health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	With the current economic crisis there is significant skilled labour migration in health sector. MoH has approved a 5 year no pay leave which promotes migration. There are vertical and horizontal disparities in the distribution of HRH as well.
6.B Lack of financial resources dedicated to health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assistance from national and international donor agencies including UN partners are sought. A special official was appointed as the co-ordinator for donor activities for an uninterrupted health service.
7.B Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Workshops are being carried out at various levels to develop the capacity
8.B Lack of data on health, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.B Lack of overall political support related to health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

10. B.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	For highest challenging areas such as nutrition, a coordination division is being established to improve efficiency.
11. B.	Lack of international support related to health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. B.	Lack of development partner coordination related to health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. B.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Although the public understanding of health is quite good, the attitudes towards the free health services and the healthcare workforce are declining. Various collages and organisations are working towards improving this
14. B.	A bottom-up approach to health not followed (e.g., involvement of persons with lowest access to health care, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. B.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COVID 19 had a significant impact on provision of SRH services. During the first wave, country went for an island-wide lockdown disrupting its health services both in the preventive and curative health services. However, with improved utilization of primary healthcare facilities (including an island-wide ambulance service), incorporation of hotline and telehealth services the impact was

					minimized
16. B.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of health programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> Sri Lanka is facing a major economic downturn which has affected many sectors including health. This has lead to increasing health disparities and financial hardships due to ill health. A new health financing strategy being discussed with the inputs from the development partners and WHO. Despite achievements in other indicators, the nutrition indicators in Sri Lanka tend to be low and stagnating. To address this several interventions are being carried outsuch as the programme for providing nutritional allowance to pregnant mothers, Morning meal programme in early Childhood development Centres/Preschools				
Lessons learned					
17. B.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of health not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A need for re-visiting the health financing in the country to was felt as the health disparities were widening. A new health financing strategy is being proposed which takes into account interventions to improve allocative and productive efficiency, strategic purchasing etc.● Although the primary health care policy was implemented prior to COVID 19, the utilization of primary health care institutions during the pandemic started at a later stage. This had an impact on both the routine health care service delivery in both preventive and curative health sectors.				
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring					
18. B.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for health. Please check as many as apply.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building We need to improve on data add this as a need <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):		
19. B.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for health. Please check as many as apply to your country.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation		

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
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C. Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

Overall policy environment

1.C.	<p>Are any priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population and Reproductive Health Policy - 1998 • Prevention of Domestic Violence Act - 2005 • National Policy for Decent work in Sri Lanka 2006 • National HIV/AIDS Policy – 2011 • National Maternal and Child Health Policy - 2012 • National Human Resources and Employment Policy (2012) <p>I. Population and Reproductive Health Policy 1998 (http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/public/elfinder/files/publications/publishpolicy/3_Population%20and%20Reproductive.pdf)</p> <p>The population and Reproductive Health Policy for Sri Lanka aimed at achieving a higher quality of life for its people by providing quality reproductive health information and services, achieving gender equality, providing health care and social support for the elderly, promoting the economic benefits of migration and urbanization while controlling their adverse social and health effects and reaching a stable population size in the long term.</p> <p>The cornerstone of this policy was to achieve UHC and providing equal access to healthcare throughout the lifecycle. It had seven goals: Ensuring Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services, Promoting Reproductive Rights and Gender Equality, Enhancing Maternal and Child Health, Family Planning and Contraceptive Services, Preventing and Managing Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and HIV/AIDS, Adolescent and Youth Health and Strengthening Health Systems and Capacity Building</p> <p>II. National Maternal and Child Health Policy, 2012 (https://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/public/elfinder/files/publications/publishpolicy/4_Maternal%20and%20Child%20Health.pdf)</p> <p>This document provides policy and strategic directions to continuing and emerging concerns and challenges in Maternal and child health. It also includes appropriate strategies which focus on strengthening the already established family health service.</p> <p>MCH policy consists of twelve goals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote health of women and their partners to enter pregnancy in optimal health, and to maintain it throughout the life course 2. Ensure a safe outcome for both mother and newborn through provision of quality care during pregnancy, delivery and 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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postpartum period

3. Ensure reduction of perinatal and neonatal morbidity and mortality through provision of quality care
4. Enable all children under five years of age to survive and reach their full potential for growth and development through provision of optimal care
5. Ensure that children aged 5 to 9 years and adolescents realize their full potential in growth and development in a conducive and resourceful physical and psychosocial environment
6. Enable children with special needs to optimally develop their mental, physical and social capacities to function as productive members of society
7. Enable all couples to have a desired number of children with optimal spacing whilst preventing unintended pregnancies
8. To promote reproductive health of men and women assuring gender equity and equality
9. Ensure that national, provincial, district and divisional level health managers are responsive and accountable for provision of high quality Maternal and child health services
10. Ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of Maternal and child health programmer that would generate quality information to support decision making
11. Promote research for policy and practice in Maternal and child health
12. Ensure sustainable conducive behaviors among individuals, families and communities to promote Maternal and child health.

III. Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2005) (<http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/4c03ba2f2.pdf>)

Published as a Supplement to Part 11 of the Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of October 07, 2005. This is the legislative framework that provides legal protection and support for victims of domestic violence. Some key features are ;

Definition of Domestic Violence, Protection Orders, Obligations of the Police, Duties of the Court, Counseling and Rehabilitation, Confidentiality and Privacy and Awareness and Education. The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act 2005 in Sri Lanka aims to protect victims, provide legal remedies, and promote a society free from domestic violence. It recognizes domestic violence as a serious offense and provides a legal framework to address and prevent such violence within the country.

IV. National HIV/AIDS Policy 2011 (http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/public/elfinder/files/publications/publishpolicy/11_HIV%20AIDS.pdf)

The policy recognizes that HIV/AIDS is not only a public health concern but also a social and development challenge, hence the importance of strengthening and scaling up prevention interventions aimed at behavior development and change to maintain a low prevalence of HIV infection in keeping with the Millennium Development Goals and also provide care and support for those

	<p>infected and affected. The National STD/AIDS control programmer of the Ministry of Health with the involvement of relevant governmental, non-governmental, international, civil society and professional organizations, business sector, media and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) will implement the National strategic plan</p> <p>V. National Policy for Decent work in Sri Lanka (2006) https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@asia/@ro-bangkok/@ilo-colombo/documents/publication/wcms_114045.pdf Established in 2006, this policy operationalize the National Employment Policy and the National Productivity Policy, in order to create more and better jobs for women and men, and to contribute towards peace and reconciliation. One of its objective is to minimise the social costs of economic and legal reforms by promoting appropriate and gender sensitive social protection and to improve the management of occupational safety and health.</p> <p>VI. National Human Resources and Employment Policy; 2012 https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/94271/110595/F-172791361/LKA94271.pdf</p> <p>The National Human Resources and Employment Policy (NHREP) of the Government of Sri Lanka sets out the overarching policy framework to provide full, decent and productive employment to all Sri Lankans. It is the foundation on which human resource capabilities would be strengthened and employment opportunities created to make Sri Lanka the 'Wonder of Asia'. It highlights that Human resources in Sri Lanka have considerable potential to steer the country's growth trajectory from its current low-skilled, low productive and low income earning workforce to one that it highly-skilled, dynamic, and globally competitive workforce. It has mainstreamed gender by highlighting the Importance of Investment in training women for higher skill occupations such as in the IT sector, nursing and hospitality industry, while also promoting entrepreneurship development among women, enhancing their access to credit, technology, business knowledge and markets.</p> <p>The establishment of a social security system is also considered for the benefit of self-employed women. A secure environment by maintaining law and order for women to travel to and from work in the night, safe and efficient transport services through public-private partnerships are planned. Sexism and gender stereotyping in the workplace is being addressed and legal and institutional infrastructure will be strengthened to handle issues of gender discrimination and sexual harassment.</p>	
2.C.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide: (a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link (b) date of implementation and time frame (c) its main elements</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

(d) its impact

- National Plan of Action to Address SGBV 2016
- National Action Plan for Health Sector Response on Prevention and Management of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Sri Lanka (2017 – 2021)
- National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2017 – 2021
- National Strategic Plan for Maternal and Newborn Health (2017-2025)
- National Strategic Plan for the Well Woman Programme for 2019-2023 (2019)
- Strategy for elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and syphilis in Sri Lanka (2018)
- The National HIV/STI Strategic Plan for 2018-2022
- Penal code amendments
- National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) 2023
- Policy reforms
 - Amendment to the Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act -2022
 - Amendment to the penal code (Statutory rape)
 - Amendment to the Civil Procedure Code (Damages for injury to person) – to be passed

1. National Plan of Action to Address SGBV 2016

(https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/policy-framework-and-national-plan-action-address-sexual-and-gender-based-violence?gclid=Cj0KCQjw98ujBhCgARIsAD7QeAil9frb6KFHXKo8JXaxQYrw96eMCf2QfWjR14XrFeYWYjpYtmQIlukaAoHtEALw_wcB)

The action plan is formulated with a vision of “a violence free life for women and children” and the underlying principle was “zero tolerance of sexual and gender-based violence in Sri Lanka”. The entire process that led to the development of the policy framework and the action plan is “rights based” in approach, and SGBV is accepted as a violation of human rights.

2. National Action Plan for Health Sector Response on Prevention and Management of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Sri Lanka (2017 – 2021)

(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WRjkfhqkmpUoLMtqUQb4DptTsxJAjmbG/view>)

The Action Plan follows an overarching framework consisting of “Prevention”, “Intervention” and “Policy and Advocacy” and presents a SWOT analysis of the health sector response by the MoH, a strategic plan, an operational plan and an estimated budget. The plan has considered priority areas and identified activities to be implemented in the first and second years as precedence.

3. National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2017 – 2021

<https://www.stopchildcruelty.com/media/doc/1554788053.pdf>

The chapter 3 of the National action plan is on Rights of Women and it enhances the government's commitment in realizing gender equality, eliminating discrimination, ensuring equal rights and enabling the empowerment of women, through effective implementation mechanisms, adequate resources and a monitoring system to achieve the objectives of the Plan.

4. National Strategic Plan for the Well Woman Programme for 2019-2023 (2019)

<https://srilanka.unfpa.org/en/publications/national-strategic-plan-2019-2023-well-woman-programme#:~:text=The%20Well%20Woman%20Programme%20%2D%20National,Woman%20Clinics%20in%20Sri%20Lanka>

This plan was formulated with the objective that every woman in the targeted age cohorts, especially those farthest behind, has utilized quality health services through the Well Woman Clinics in Sri Lanka by the year 2023.

5. Strategy for elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV and syphilis in Sri Lanka (2018)
http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/public/elfinder/files/publications/publishpolicy/x3.2_HIV_Mother%20to%20Child.pdf

The second edition of this strategy, published in 2018 identifies 6 areas of action.

1. Primary prevention of HIV and syphilis transmission among women in childbearing age
2. Prevention of unintended pregnancies among women living with HIV through enabling them to make informed choices
3. Ensure high level commitment and advocacy to eliminate the incidence of congenital syphilis and transmission of HIV from mother to child
4. Increase access to and quality of syphilis and HIV services at maternal and child health services
5. Prevention of HIV and syphilis transmission from women living with HIV/ syphilis to their children by promotion and integration/linkage of PMTCT with related services
6. Strengthen surveillance, monitoring and evaluation systems

Sri Lanka has been declared as a country that eliminated mother to child transmission of HIV and syphilis by the World Health Organisation (WHO), Geneva on 13th November 2019.

6. The National HIV/STI Strategic Plan for 2018-2022

http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/public/elfinder/files/publications/publishpolicy/x3.0_STD_Strategic%20Plan.pdf

The NSP has defined its vision, mission and goal for the next five years. The vision is to see a “Country free of new HIV infections, discrimination and AIDS related deaths”. The mission is to “Prevent new HIV and sexually transmitted infections and provide comprehensive care and treatment services” and the goal is “Ending AIDS by 2025”. Five objectives are identified for achieving this goal:

- I. To prevent new infections of HIV/STI among key populations, vulnerable populations and the general population
- II. To provide universal access to HIV/STI diagnosis and treatment, care and support services for those infected and affected by HIV/STI
- III. To strengthen strategic information systems and knowledge management for an evidence based response
- IV. To strengthen health systems at different levels and to ensure an effective multi-sector HIV/AIDS/STI response
- V. To provide a supportive environment for easy access and delivery of HIV prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care services for all

7. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) 2023

<https://srilanka.un.org/en/222596-sri-lanka-adopts-first-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security>

Sri Lanka has adopted its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), for the period 2023 – 2027 with the support of the Government of Japan and UN Women.

The Plan adds to the country’s legal and policy frameworks to protect and empower women in line with international commitments set out in the UN Security Council’s Resolution 1325 (2000). It also aims to strengthen coordination between stakeholders of the women, peace and security agenda, which is vital to sustainable peace and development in Sri Lanka.

8. National Strategic Plan for Maternal and Newborn Health (2017-2025)
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S3Hs4FvLLm6eCzz5gRZh0LdTrw92Ne1R/view>)

The National Maternal and Newborn Health Strategic Plan (MNH SP) 2017 – 2025, spanning over nine years, is the second strategic plan in the history of maternal and newborn care in Sri Lanka.

Vision - A country in which there are no preventable deaths of mothers, fetuses and newborns where every pregnancy is planned and wanted, every birth celebrated, and women, babies and children survive, thrive and reach their full potential. The goal of this plan is;

- To reduce maternal mortality ratio from 32.5 for 100,000 live births(2013) to less than 10 per 100,000 live births by 2030.
- To reduce neonatal mortality rate from 6.5 per 1000 live births (2013) to less than 2.2 per 1000 live births by 2030.
- To reduce the still birth rate from 6.4 per 1000 births (2013) to

	<p>less than 2 per 1000 births by 2030.</p> <p>Policy reforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment to the Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act -2022 Minimum age for marriage was made to 18 years by which part II of the Kandyan Marriage and Divorce Act which does not requires parental consent for the marriage of minor was repealed. Amendment to the penal code (Statutory rape) The amendment is to be done to made the offense 'rape' gender neutral. 	
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Achievements and good practices

3.C.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sri Lanka's reductions in maternal mortality is taken as a model for other countries As a result of good Family planning services and other improvements in infrastructure and women empowerment, the fertility rates of Sri lanka are quite low and the population is expected to be stabilized by the year 2024 Sri Lanka eliminated vertical transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis in 2019
4.C.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sri Lanka provides SRH services through a life cycle approach. A lady who plans to become pregnant are captured by the primary health care staff at the grass root level and services are provided throughout the life cycle. These services into primary healthcare settings, making them more accessible to the general population. This integration includes the provision of family planning, antenatal care, postnatal care, and prevention.

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.C.	Lack of human resources dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.C.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The development partners provide significant assistance through direct grants and by other means such as providing assistance to conduct trainings, publications, research etc
7.C.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on sexual and reproductive health and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	reproductive rights				
8.C.	Lack of data on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data on reproductive rights are quite lacking. A number of NGOs and INGOs are assisting the government ministries to address this.
9.C.	Lack of overall political support related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SRH is considered as a taboo subject in certain societies and the support of the politicians towards SRH largely depend on their own attitudes and the assumed public expectations. An array of advocacy programmes are being conducted both by different ministries and other stakeholders to overcome this.
10.C.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Several national advisory committees operate to develop the links between the ministries and other stakeholders.
11.C.	Lack of international support related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
12.C.	Lack of development partner coordination related to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
13.C.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
14.C.	A bottom-up approach to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights not followed (e.g., involvement of persons with lowest access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.C.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COVID 19 had a significant impact on provision of SRH services. During the first wave, country went for an islandwide lockdown disrupting its health services and education.
16.C.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				

Lessons learned	
17.C.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenage pregnancies reveal a prevalence of around 5% which has shown very slow improvement over the past few years. Additionally, sexual harassment of children being reported with an increasing trend during the past few years. Both the ministries of health and education have identified the unavailability of a comprehensive sexual education as a major determinant of this problem. Various attempts are being made to incorporate a Comprehensive sexuality education for primary and secondary school children (eg: For curriculum through Grade 7 book, 16+ book). In addition, the healthcare services to match the sexual and reproductive health needs (especially of adolescents and young people) is being addressed (Youth friendly health services) • The healthcare needs of gender and sexuality minority groups has not been addressed adequately through the national health systems. Several studies demonstrate the comparatively low quality of life among these groups and the risk of exploitation. Therefore, the needs of these special groups are being incorporated when preparing the new planning documents (eg: National Strategic Plan to prevent STD /AIDS 2023 to 2030)
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring	
18.C.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Please check as many as apply.</p> <p>Data related gender based violence. We need implementation for all</p> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>): </div>
19.C.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Please check as many as apply to your country.</p> <div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>): </div>

D. Education

Overall policy environment

1.D.	<p>Are any priority actions for education included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free education policy (1945) • Education Sector Development Framework and Programme (2012–2016), • School health promotion programme, Medium term plan (2008- 2012) • National Human Resources and Employment Policy (2012) • National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour” (2019) <p>1. Free education policy (1945)</p> <p>https://mfa.gov.lk/cool_timeline/free-education-policy-in-sri-lanka/#</p> <p>Implemented in 1945, the Free Education Policy states that every child above the age of 5 and not more than 16 is entitled to free education. This was a land mark policy which enabled Sri Lanka to succeed in achieving the Millennium Development Goal of Universal Primary Education.</p> <p>2. School health promotion programme, Medium term plan (2008- 2012)</p> <p>https://healtheducationresources.unesco.org/library/documents/school-health-promotion-programme-medium-term-plan-2008-2012</p> <p>The goal of the school health promotion policy is to create a sustainable health promoting school culture enabling the children to optimally benefit from educational opportunities provided, and promote healthy lifestyles among themselves, their families and the community.</p> <p>The policy objectives are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop policy, legal structure and partnerships among all stakeholders for promoting the health of the school community. • To ensure a safe, healthy environment, both physical and psycho-social that facilitates learning. • To provide skills-based health education for school children. • To ensure access to health services. • To empower the children to be change agents to improve the health of the family, community and engage the school to be a catalyst. • To develop and implement plans at all levels for school health promotion. <p>3. National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 (https://www.treasury.gov.lk/national-policy)</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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	<p>The fourth policy in the NPF is “A Productive Citizen and a Happy Family” under which 4 sectoral policies related to education are described; A society endowed with knowledge, From Mother’s Lap to Teacher’s Care, Re-awakening of School Education and University and Higher Vocational Education.</p> <p>4. National Human Resources and Employment Policy; 2012</p> <p>(https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/94271/110595/F-172791361/LKA94271.pdf)</p> <p>The National Human Resources and Employment Policy (NHREP) of the Government of Sri Lanka sets out the overarching policy framework to provide full, decent and productive employment to all Sri Lankans. The sixth and seventh chapters of this policy focuses on school education and higher education, which is of particular relevance to human resource development and labour market. The eighth chapter is on vocational skills and employability</p> <p>5. Education Sector Development Framework and Programme (2012–2016).</p> <p>https://moe.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Education-Sector-Development-Framework-Program-2012-2016.pdf</p>	
2.D.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “education” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy on Technical and Vocational Education (2018) • National Policy on Preschool Education (2019) • Public Investment Plan 2021 – 2025, 2021 November • National Education Policy framework 2020-2030 • Guidelines for Online Education - 2021 • School health policy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Policy on Technical and Vocational Education (2018) (http://nec.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/TVE_NP_2018_English.pdf) 2. National Policy on Preschool Education (2019) 3. Public Investment Plan 2021 – 2025, 2021 November (http://www.npd.gov.lk/index.php/en/2017-03-02-07-02-41/publications/38-public-investment-programme.html) <p>The total public investment plan for the period 2022-2024 is about Rs. 3,050 billion. Of this total, 17 percent to be used for social</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

infrastructure which mainly includes health and education sub-sectors (Page 14). However, the average % public spending for education in 2017/20 was 10.8 whereas for 2022/24 is 2.0. Educational reforms are taking place aiming at transforming the school system enabling to ensure human capital accumulation for the future knowledge-centered economy. It has also given high attention to ensure quality of education as stated in the Goal No 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The key initiatives of the reform process are as follows; Strengthen equity in education: equitable learning opportunities for all children, Improve quality of general education, Strengthen stewardship and service delivery of education, Enhance evidence-based education policy-making and planning (page 21)

4. Guidelines for Online Education - 2021

<https://moe.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Guidelines-for-Online-Education-English-final-2021.06.02.pdf>

Implemented in 2021. This guideline was prepared following the pandemic, with the aim of designing a guideline containing the basic instructions necessary for maintaining the online / distance learning methods and introducing it to the school system according to the ideas and proposals from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and all other relevant sectors.

5. School health policy

<https://fhb.health.gov.lk/images/FHB%20resources/School%20Health/circular/School%20Health%20Programme%20%20circular%202016%20-%20English.pdf>

Version 01.37/2007. The School Health Programme commenced in 1918 in the Colombo Municipality area by the Ministry of Health. With the establishment of the Health Unit System in 1926 at National Institute of Health Services (NIHS), School Health was identified as a duty of the Medical Officers of Health (MOH). In Colombo, Galle, Jaffna and Kandy there are School Medical Officers (SMO), and in Municipality areas there are Medical Officers of Health assigned for this work.

Objectives of School Health Programme

- To strengthen the partnership between health and education sectors for health promotion of the school child.
- To identify the range of needs of the school children for optimal development
- To provide appropriate health promotional activities to enable children to have control over and promote their own health
- To empower school children to act as changing agents to improve health within the family and community
- To promote healthy and safe school environment, that would facilitate learning
- To protect children from Communicable and Non Communicable disease
- To screen school children for early detection and correction of health problems

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve nutritional status of school children by continuous monitoring and appropriate intervention and improve good health practices • To enhance community participation for the promotion of school health activities • To provide a system of monitoring and evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the school health programme <p>6. National Education Policy framework 2020-2030 (http://nec.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/NATIONAL-EDUCATION-POLICY-FRAMEWORK-2020-2030_Full-Text.pdf)</p>	
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Achievements and good practices

3.D.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of education in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sri Lanka provides free education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. According to data from the Sri Lanka Education Statistics Report 2020, the gross enrollment rate (GER) for primary education in Sri Lanka was 98.2% and secondary education in was 87.4% which depicts the achievements of near universal primary and secondary education • Gender parity in both primary and secondary education remains as high as 1.01 depicting provision of equal opportunities to both girls and boys in Sri Lanka
4.D.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing education programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School health promotion clubs is an intervention conducted with the participation of both the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. These clubs organize various activities related to health promotion and prevention. These activities may include health campaigns, workshops, awareness sessions, sports events, healthy eating initiatives, cleanliness drives, and competitions centered around health topics. • The COVID 19 pandemic too revealed certain good practices among teachers. The educators had a very positive attitude towards teaching and had make shift arrangements for online teaching even before the authorities provided them instructions. The students were permitted to attend to the closest school if they could not find transport during the lockdowns. Some school notes were sent via postal services and some schools had small satellite classrooms in peripheries to continue the teaching/learning of primary/secondary and tertiary education. • Digital based education platforms such as <i>e - thaksalava</i>, <i>Guru Gedara</i>, <i>DP education</i> were developed and has a very high access rate. Smart classrooms were introduced to some schools

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for education, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge?
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					<i>please elaborate:</i>
5.D.	Lack of human resources dedicated to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	For subjects in the science streams, there is a considerable lack of human resources. This is being addressed by revision of salaries, capacity development of existing staff etc.
6.D.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The budgetary allocations for education had been declining. However, the Ministries of Education and Higher Education are attempting different interventions which include advocacy for increased allocations, public private partnerships, attracting private foreign students to universities etc
7.D.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.D.	Lack of data on education, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.D.	Lack of overall political support related to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.D.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.D.	Lack of international support related to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.D.	Lack of development partner coordination related to education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.D.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.D.	A bottom-up approach to education not followed (e.g., involvement of persons with lowest access to education, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.D.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc.
16.D.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of education programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				
Lessons learned					
17.D.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of education not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				
	Regional disparities in education with regard to the performance of students at national level examinations is a significant issue in general education. This is mainly due to the inequality of distribution of physical and human resources,				

	irregular deployment of teachers and generally the disparities in socio-economic conditions across regions. In order to address this issue, national and district wise quota system has been introduced for the university entrance enabling to give equal opportunity for rural students. However, existing quota system needs to be revisited considering the available human and physical resources in the schools. Educational reforms are being proposed (https://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/sites/default/files/ressources/sri_lanka_document-reforms_2022.pdf). The mission is to develop and manage physical, human, knowledge, and informational resources of the system of education in order to build our schools as places of learning where students connect their aptitudes and passions with career opportunities and decisions, and where the guidance, inspiration and resources needed to support these decisions are provided	
<i>Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring</i>		
18.D.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for education. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building We need to improve on data add this as a need <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.D.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for education. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

E. Gender equality and women's empowerment

Overall policy environment		
1.E.	<p>Are any priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If "yes", please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; - 2019 • Women’s charter 1993 • National Human Resources and Employment Policy (2012) <p>I. National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 (https://www.treasury.gov.lk/national-policy)</p> <p>The National Policy Framework ‘Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor’ includes several strategies aimed at empowering women in Sri Lanka. The policy focuses on enhancing the living conditions of rural women by introducing home-based enterprises. To encourage women and increase labor force participation, the policy focuses on introducing flexible working arrangement for young mothers. The policy also focuses on uplifting women entrepreneurs and enhancing the involvement of village women in economic activities</p> <p>II. Women’s charter 1993</p> <p>https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwisvdiI0an_AhV1RWwGHZzqAbsQFnoECA4QAw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ilo.org%2Fdyn%2Fnatlex%2Fdocs%2FELECTRONIC%2F50168%2F110633%2FF1379312050%2FLKA50168.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3pSNGvJG3Vc6Tx7mhvaX2M</p> <p>Implemented in 1993. The State shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their State at the international level and to participate in the work and activities of international organizations.</p> <p>III. National Human Resources and Employment Policy (2012)</p> <p>(https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/94271/110595/F-172791361/LKA94271.pdf)</p> <p>The National Human Resources and Employment Policy (NHREP) of the Government of Sri Lanka sets out the overarching policy framework to provide full, decent and productive employment to all Sri Lankans. It is the foundation on which human resource capabilities would be strengthened and employment opportunities created to make Sri Lanka the 'Wonder of Asia'. It highlights that Human resources in Sri Lanka have considerable potential to steer the country's growth trajectory from its current low-skilled, low productive and low income earning workforce to one that it highly-skilled, dynamic, and globally competitive workforce.</p>	
2.E.	Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	<p>new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Gender equality and women’s empowerment” since 2013? please elaborate</p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment – 2023 • National Plan of Action to Address SGBV 2016 • Plan of Action Supporting the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2005) • National Human Rights Action Plan (2017-2021) • National Policy on Decent Work in Sri Lanka (2006) • National Labour Migration Policy (2009) • Legal Aid Policy (2016) • National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) 2023 <p>1. National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment – 2023</p> <p>https://srilanka.unfpa.org/en/publications/national-policy-gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment#:~:text=The%20National%20Gender%20Equality%20and,realize%20their%20full%20potential%20and</p> <p>Implemented on the 8th of March 2023.</p> <p>The policy was put forth by the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs, and Social Empowerment Sri Lanka with technical support from UNFPA Sri Lanka and the support of other UN Agencies.</p> <p>The purpose of the policy is to establish a framework to guide and standardize the development of laws, policies, programs, and mechanisms. It aims to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women in all spheres and structures of government as well as in the public and private workplace, community, family, and within the civic space.</p> <p>The National Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Policy envisions a just society where equality of women and men and gender minorities is upheld, all women, men, and gender minorities enjoy fundamental rights and freedoms, and both women, men, and gender minorities are able to realize their full potential and participate equally and equitably in and benefit from democracy and development both in public and private life. It recognizes that achieving gender equality and the participation and engagement of men and boys is critical in addressing development challenges.</p> <p>2. National Plan of Action to Address SGBV 2016 - 2020</p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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<https://www.undp.org/srilanka/publications/policy-framework-and-national-plan-action-address-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-sgbv-sri-lanka>

The National Action Plan, developed on the vision of creating “a violence free life for women and children” with Zero Tolerance for Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Sri Lanka, is significant as it was formulated using a multi-sectoral approach with engagement from key ministries representing nine sectors.

3. Plan of Action Supporting the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act (2005)

<https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/prevention-of-domestic-violence-2/>

This Act may be cited as the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, No. 34 of 2005. This Plan of Action sets out strategies and specific activities that aim to facilitate widespread awareness of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, to develop and strengthen prevention initiatives and service provision, and to ensure that there is a strategic and coordinated response to domestic violence in Sri Lanka

4. National Human Rights Action Plan (2017-2021)

Adopted in 2017.

<https://www.stopchildcruelty.com/media/doc/1554788053.pdf>

The National Human Rights Action Plan for 2017-2021 documents goal-oriented activities in Human Rights arena, aimed to strengthen the national processes and mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights through substantial constitutional, legislative, policy and administrative frameworks.

5. National Policy for Decent work in Sri Lanka 2006

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@asia/@ro-bangkok/@ilo-colombo/documents/publication/wcms_114045.pdf

Established in 2006, to give full effect, in law and in practice, to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, by which Sri Lanka is bound in international law, and to promote an excellent compliance record as a means of improving both economic and social development including Sri Lanka's competitiveness. To National operationalize the National Employment Policy Policy and the National Productivity Policy, in order to create more and better jobs for women and men, and to contribute towards peace and reconciliation. To minimise the social costs of economic and legal reforms by promoting appropriate and gender sensitive social protection and to improve the management of occupational safety and health. To strengthen tripartite partners to participate in the development and implementation of social and economic policy.

6. National Labor Migration Policy (2008)

<https://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/docs/268/Policy.pdf>

https://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/migmain.showPractice?p_lang=en&p_practice_id=27

The Policy was officially launched in 2008 and adopted in 2009. Its overall objective is to advance opportunities for all men and women to engage in migration for decent and productive employment in conditions of freedom, dignity, security and equity. The Policy recognises the significant contribution of all Sri Lankan migrant workers to the national economy through remittances and other mechanisms. Since its adoption, a number of mechanisms, guidelines, training sessions and documents have been prepared to facilitate implementation.

7. Legal Aid Policy (2016)

National Policy on legal aid in Sri Lanka

When the Legal Aid Commission was first established and operated under the legal aid law No. 27 of 1978, the Country had no need for a formal and effective system. Policy makers wanted a mechanism where they could minimize problems that might arise as a result of various other legal aid programs that were being carried out by the government and non-governmental organizations.

The launch of the National Policy on Legal Aid in 2016 offered an opportunity to Create a mechanism of Operation, Super Vision and Reform and existing Legal Aid Programme in Sri Lanka. Legal Aid is a universal funder mental right, and everyone is equally entitled to it. Launching a National Policy on Legal Aid is Significant for the development of Sri Lanka's Legal Aid offerings as it Signals the creation of an affection and effective professional mechanism to provide everyone with easy access to Justice. The Policy strengthened the state's legal aid system as a whole while making access to justice equal in all circumstances irrespective of gender, disability, age, nationality, religion, caste, geographic location, or other socially sensitive factors.

8. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) 2023

<https://srilanka.un.org/en/222596-sri-lanka-adopts-first-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security>

Sri Lanka has adopted its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), for the period 2023 – 2027 with the support of the Government of Japan and UN Women.

The Plan adds to the country's legal and policy frameworks to protect and empower women in line with international commitments set out in the UN Security Council's Resolution 1325 (2000). It also aims to strengthen coordination between stakeholders of the women, peace and security agenda, which is vital to sustainable peace and development in Sri Lanka.

3.E.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of a parliament select committee on gender • Women Parliamentarians Caucus in Parliament of Sri Lanka • The operation of Emergency Helpline 1938 to women's complaint is in place. • Child and women's bureau in police stations have been strengthened. • Women in Sri Lanka have achieved many successes in education and health. Sri Lanka record the highest life expectancy at birth and the lowest maternal mortality rate among SAARC countries
4.E.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing gender equality and women's empowerment programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of a good stakeholder coordination mechanism including interministerial coordination and development partners and UN organizations is mandatory to achieve gender related goals in Sri Lanka.

Challenges 1.15

In implementing priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.E.	Lack of human resources dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.E.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.E.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.E.	Lack of data on gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.E.	Lack of overall political support related to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.E.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

11.E.	Lack of international support related to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.E.	Lack of development partner coordination related to gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.E.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.E.	A bottom-up approach to gender equality and women's empowerment not followed (e.g., involvement of women, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.E.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on gender equality and women's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If "2" or "3", please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc.
16.E.	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>Unemployment rates among women have continued to be double that of men, in spite of gender parity in education and higher education.</p> <p>Violence against women in Sri Lanka remains a hidden practice and therefore its incidence under reported.</p>				

Lessons learned

17.E.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>The main bottleneck for implementing SRH policies lies with the cultural and religious beliefs of society. Therefore Religious, ethnic and other cultural barriers should be addressed in a sensitive bottom up approach.</p>
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Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring

18.E.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment. Please check as many as apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
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19.E.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for gender equality and women's empowerment. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
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F. Adolescents and young people

Overall policy environment		
1.F.	<p>Are any priority actions for adolescents and young people included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 • National youth policy (2014) <p>I. National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 (https://www.treasury.gov.lk/national-policy) The fourth policy in the NPF is “A Productive Citizen and a Happy Family” under which both Western Medicine and Indigenous medicine is addressed</p> <p>II. National youth policy (2014) https://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Sri_Lanka_2014_National_Youth_Policy.pdf https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BHmyPNdj0-SiSUM2jsZ9jSmkPNTZPDsO/edit</p> <p>National youth policy 2014, of Sri Lanka defines youth as between 15-29 years. The vision of this is to develop the full potential of young people to enable their active participation in national development for a just and equitable society.</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan (c) page number that references this action area (d) main elements of the action area (e) its impact</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
2.F.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Adolescents and young people” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategic Plan on Adolescent and Youth Health 2018 - 2025 • Inter-Parliamentary Union, Youth Participation in National Parliaments (2018) • National Policy on Technical and Vocational Education (2018) <p>1. National Strategic Plan on Adolescent and Youth Health 2018 - 2025 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JWYHxEZ48WsYdmlTTanMhmm9wjrWEXEx/view</p> <p>2018 to 2025, The second national strategic plan on adolescent and youth health (2018-2025) is developed as an aid for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to adolescents and youth within the country. In order to achieve global economic, social and environmental sustainable development by 2030, investing on adolescent and youth health and well-being is recognized as a very important investment. Programming for adolescent and youth health in the health sector in collaboration with other sectors and meeting adolescents' and youths' needs in all aspects is intended through new strategic plan on adolescent and youth health (2018-2025).</p> <p>2. Inter-Parliamentary Union, Youth Participation in National Parliaments (2018) https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2018-12/youth-participation-in-national-parliaments-2018</p> <p>This report provides updated information on the percentages and genders of parliamentarians under the ages of 30, 40 and 45, as well as the latest information on special mechanisms designed to encourage or enhance the participation of young people in national parliaments.</p> <p>3. National Policy on Technical and Vocational Education (2018) http://nec.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/TVE_NP_2018_English.pdf</p>	
<i>Achievements and good practices</i>		
3.F.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of adolescents and young people in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth participation in key decision making processes through formal and 	

	informal mechanisms such as national youth corps and youth parliament.
4.F.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing adolescent and young people programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Volunteerism and Community Engagement in areas such as governance, social justice, health

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for adolescents and young people, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.F.	Lack of human resources dedicated to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
6.F.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.F.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.F.	Lack of data on adolescents and young people, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.F.	Lack of overall political support related to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.F.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.F.	Lack of international support related to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.F.	Lack of development partner coordination related to adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.F.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.F.	A bottom-up approach to adolescents and young people not followed (e.g., involvement of adolescents and young people, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.F.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on adolescents and young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc.
16.F.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of adolescent and young people programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				

Lessons learned		
17.F.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of adolescents and young people not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of youth friendly health services with provision of evidence based SRH facilities • Improving vocational and skills based education facilities to prepare the youth for the international labour market 	
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring		
18.F.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for adolescents and young people. Please check as many as apply.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.F.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for adolescents and young people. Please check as many as apply to your country.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

G. Ageing

Overall policy environment		
1.G.	<p>Are any priority actions for ageing included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 National Policy for Elders (2006) <p>1. National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 (https://www.treasury.gov.lk/national-policy)</p> <p>The fourth policy in the NPF is “A Productive Citizen and a Happy Family” under which</p> <p>2. National Policy for Elders (2006)</p> <p>https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Sri%20Lanka_1.pdf (Page 4)</p> <p>The National Charter and National Policy for Elders was adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in the Year of 2006. The policy mainly focuses on: - Health, Social Welfare and Economic support of senior citizens.</p>	
2.G.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Ageing” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <p>Protection of the Rights of Elders (Amendment) Act, No. 5 of 2011.</p> <p>https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjBnL-5har_AhUVfXAKHRq8BqcQFnoECAwQAw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ilo.org%2Fdyn%2Fnatlex%2Fdocs%2FELECTRONIC%2F92340%2F107483%2FF-2012896310%2FLKA92340.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1azSrjgHTX2LVMX5W0-LmS</p> <p>Section 15 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the repeal of subsection (3) of that section and the substitution therefor of the following:—</p> <p>“(3) (a) No person shall on account of age, subject any elder, to any liability, restriction or condition with regard to access to or use of, any building or place or institution whether such access is on the basis of payment of any fee or otherwise and where no such liability, restriction or condition is placed on any other person.</p> <p>(b) No person shall on account of age, deny any elder, the use or</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	enjoyment of any facility, benefit, advantage or service, the provisions of which is on the basis of payment of any fee or otherwise and where such facility, benefit, advantage or service is used or enjoyed by or extended to other persons.”.	
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Achievements and good practices

3.G.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of ageing in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Elders secretariat • High life expectancy for both males and females • Specific measures and guidelines to prevent morbidity and mortality among elders due to the pandemic
4.G.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing programmes on ageing that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As elders were considered a high risk group for COVID mortality they were given priority during all interventions. • Geriatrics as a specialty in postgraduate medical education • Engagement of elders in household care practices making them physically and emotionally active.

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for ageing, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.G. Lack of human resources dedicated to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.G. Lack of financial resources dedicated to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.G. Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.G. Lack of data on ageing, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.G. Lack of overall political support related to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.G. Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.G. Lack of international support related to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.G. Lack of development partner coordination related to ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.G. Lack of public awareness and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	understanding of ageing				
14.G.	A bottom-up approach to ageing not followed (e.g., involvement of older persons, particularly those most marginalized, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.G.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on ageing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc.
16.G.	<p>Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of programmes on ageing? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>Old age dependency ratio is high. It is expected to increase substantially from 17 to 38 percent between 2020 and 2050.</p> <p>There is weak social protection for the elderly. For example, the cash transfer program for the elderly has limited coverage. In addition, private sector pension and savings schemes are fragmented and have limited coverage and benefits. The social pension only covers half of those who are eligible, leaving many vulnerable workers without income in their retirement. Due to the unavailability of a systematic social security system, elder people continue to work informally.</p>				

Lessons learned

17.G.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of ageing not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>Although the country went through the demographic transition and Sri Lanka is an ageing population improving the quality of life of the elders were not very streamlined. Therefore, healthy ageing with improved quality of life, social security / insurance schemes to protect the elderly (especially the widows) from financial hardships and reorganizing the primary health care system with community based rehabilitation programmes including long term care are being proposed to address this issue</p>
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Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring

18.G.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for ageing. Please check as many as apply.</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>): </p>
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19.G.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for ageing. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
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H. International migration

Overall policy environment		
1.H.	<p>Are any priority actions for international migration included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 • National Labor Migration Policy for Sri Lanka 2009 • National Human Resources and Employment Policy (2012) <p>1. National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 (https://www.treasury.gov.lk/national-policy)</p> <p>The fourth policy in the NPF is “A Productive Citizen and a Happy Family” under which</p> <p>2. National Labor Migration Policy - https://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/docs/268/Policy.pdf https://www.ilo.org/dyn/migpractice/migmain.showPractice?p_lang=en&p_practice_id=27</p> <p>The Policy was officially launched in 2008 and adopted in 2009. Its overall objective is to advance opportunities for all men and women to engage in migration for decent and productive employment in conditions of freedom, dignity, security and equity. The Policy recognises the significant contribution of all Sri Lankan migrant workers to the national economy through remittances and other mechanisms. Since its adoption, a number of mechanisms, guidelines, training sessions and documents have been prepared to facilitate implementation.</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>3. National Human Resources and Employment Policy (2012) https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=94271 National Human Resources and Employment Policy (NHREP) was adopted in 2012. It is the overarching policy framework of the Government of Sri Lanka that would govern its human resource development work and action to be taken to provide full, decent and productive employment to Sri Lankans.</p>	
2.H.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “International migration” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights 2017 – 2021 • National Migration Health Policy 2013 • National Policy on Migration for Employment for Sri Lanka and National Action Plan 2020-2023 - Draft <p>1. National Human Rights Action Plan (2017-2021) Adopted in 2017. https://www.stopchildcruelty.com/media/doc/1554788053.pdf The National Human Rights Action Plan for 2017-2021 documents goal-oriented activities in Human Rights arena, aimed to strengthen the national processes and mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights through substantial constitutional, legislative, policy and administrative frameworks.</p> <p>2. National Migration Health Policy 2013 https://www.iom.int/news/national-migration-health-policy-launched-sri-lanka Sri Lanka’s National Migration Health Policy was launched in 2013. The policy marks a major milestone for the Government of Sri Lanka, for IOM’s global work on the health needs of migrant and mobile populations, and for advancing the World Health Assembly resolution on the health of migrants The Sri Lanka National Migration Health Policy aims to engage all relevant sectors and agencies that are responsible to ensure the health of migrants throughout the migration process. Sri Lanka has recognized that outbound, internal and inbound migrants and the families left behind by outbound migrants are the key groups considered in this policy.</p> <p>3. National Policy on Migration for Employment for Sri Lanka and National Action Plan 2020-2023 - Draft</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mfkSAny9YneEtYkIErDCifi5utVzOmkj/view The Sri Lanka National Policy on Labour Migration aims to promote opportunities for all men and women to engage in migration for decent and productive employment in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity	
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Achievements and lessons learned

3.H.	Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of international migration in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of inbound health assessment for resident visa applicants
4.H.	Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing international migration programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-departure training and orientation programs, skills training, and welfare services to workers “Manusavi” pension scheme for migrant workers Loan for Migrant Workers at Low Interest for housing, self employment and pre-departure

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for international migration, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:</i>
5.H. Lack of human resources dedicated to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.H. Lack of financial resources dedicated to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.H. Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.H. Lack of data on international migration, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.H. Lack of overall political support related to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.H. Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.H. Lack of international support related to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

12.H.	Lack of development partner coordination related to international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.H.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.H.	A bottom-up approach to international migration not followed (e.g., involvement of international migrants, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.H.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on international migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc.
16.H.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of international migration programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				
17.H.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of international migration not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The department of immigration and emigration collects data pertaining to all international travel within the country. The Department of census and statistics is developing a mechanism to liaise with them to utilize these data for policy decisions of migrant populations. • There is a national wide discussion on policy options to manage the skilled labour migration especially in the context of economic crisis. 				
<i>Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring</i>					
18.H.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):			

19.H.	<p>Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for international migration. Please check as many as apply to your country.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
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I. Urbanization and internal migration

Overall policy environment		
1.I.	<p>Are any priority actions for urbanization and internal migration included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link</p> <p>(b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan</p> <p>(c) page number that references this action area</p> <p>(d) main elements of the action area</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 • Urban Settlement Authority Act No. 36 of 2008 • Urban Development Authority Law No. 41 of 1978 and the Urban Development Authority (Special Provisions) Act No. 44 of 1984 • Town and Country Planning Ordinance No 13 of 1946 as amended by Act No. 49 of 2000 • Coast Conservation Act No. 57 of 1981, and the amendment Act No. 64 of 1988 which governs all urban development and housing in the Coastal Zone. • Urban Councils Ordinance No. 61 of 1939 and its subsequent amendments. • Village Communities Ordinance of 1924, 1956, No. 35 of 1957, 1959. • Municipal Councils Ordinance No. 29 of 1947 and subsequent amendments of 1956, 1957 and 1958. • Land Development Ordinance No. 19 of 1935; and its subsequent amendments. • The Condominium Law – governs the promotion of condominium development in urban areas. • Colombo District (Low Lying Areas) Reclamation and Development Board Act of 1968, and the Amendment - Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation Act No. 52 of 1982 	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

- Housing and Town Improvement Ordinance, No. 19 of 1950.
- Greater Colombo Economic Commission Law No. 4 of 1978 as amended by Act No. 49 of 1992
- Condominium Act
- National Human Resources and Employment Policy (2012)

1. National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”; 2019 (<https://www.treasury.gov.lk/national-policy>)

The seventh policy in the NPF is “New Approach in National Spatial System with a vision of “Bridging the urban and rural gap by providing services and infrastructure facilities equally across the sectors of living”. The sub sector on Reengineering Townships discuss Integrating physical spatial system to address disparities in urbanization and change the structural pattern of our cities. (pages 45-46) Some robust initiatives towards a ‘greening of cities’ has been p. The existing linear economy which produces goods using raw materials and disposing waste into the environment is proposed to be transformed into a circular economy, where the waste of one industry could be used as inputs in another industry.

2. Urban Settlement Authority Act No. 36 of 2008

(<https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/URBAN-SETTLEMENT-DEVELOPMENT-AUTHORITY-ACT-NO-36-OF-2008.pdf>)

An act to provide for the establishment of an urban settlement development authority to formulate national policy in relation thereto and to ensure the implementation of such policy. To provide for the improvement of the living conditions of persons living in underserved urban settlements by upgrading available housing units or by providing better housing facilities and access to minimum urban services to ensure a sustainable urban settlement development; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

3. Urban Development Authority Law No. 41 of 1978 and the Urban Development Authority (Special Provisions) Act No. 44 of 1984 (<https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/urban-development-authority-3/#:~:text=A%20LAW%20TO%20PROVIDE%20FOR,CONNECTED%20THEREWITH%20OR%20INCIDENTAL%20THERETO.>)

A law to provide for the establishment of an urban development authority to promote integrated planning and implementation of economic, social and physical development of certain areas as may be declared by the ministers to be urban development areas and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

4. Town and Country Planning Ordinance No 13 of 1946 as amended by Act No. 49 of 2000 (<https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/town-and-country-planning-amendment->

2/#:~:text="An%20Ordinance%20to%20authorize%20the,Lanka%3B%20to%20provide%20for%20the)

An Ordinance to authorize the formulation and implementation of a national physical planning policy; the making and implementation of a national physical plan with the object of promoting and regulating integrated planning of economic, social, physical and environmental aspects of land in Sri Lanka; to provide for the protection of natural amenities, the conservation of natural environment, buildings of architectural and historic interest and places of natural beauty; to facilitate the acquisition of land for the purpose of giving effect to such plan and to provide for matters incidental to or connected with the matters aforesaid.

5. Coast Conservation Act No. 57 of 1981, and the amendment Act No. 64 of 1988 which governs all urban development and housing in the Coastal Zone. (<http://citizenslanka.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Coast-Conservation-Act-No-57-of-1981-E.pdf>)

An act to make provision for a survey of the coastal zone and the preparation of a coastal zone management plan ; to regulate and control development activities within the coastal zone ; to make provision for the formulation and execution of schemes of work for coast conservation within the coastal zone ; to make consequential amendments to certain written laws ; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

6. Urban Councils Ordinance No. 61 of 1939 and its subsequent amendments. (<https://citizenslanka.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Urban-Councils-Ordinance-61-of-1939-E.pdf>)

7. Village Communities Ordinance of 1924, 1956, No. 35 of 1957, 1959. (<https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/village-councils-2/>)

An ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to village councils.

8. Municipal Councils Ordinance No. 29 of 1947 and subsequent amendments of 1956, 1957 and 1958. (<http://citizenslanka.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Municipal-Council-Ordinance-No-29-of-1947-E.pdf>)

It is an act to amend the municipal council's ordinance.

9. Land Development Ordinance No. 19 of 1935; and its subsequent amendments. (<https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/srl13623.pdf>)

An ordinance to provide for the systematic development and alienation of state land in sri lanka.

10. The Condominium Law – governs the promotion of condominium development in urban areas. (<https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/condominium-management-authority-2/>)

	<p>A law to provide for the establishment of a public authority known as the condominium management authority for the control. Management, maintenance and administration of the condominium property, semi condominium property and provisional condominium property and for the provision of common amenities thereto, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.</p> <p>11. Colombo District (Low Lying Areas) Reclamation and Development Board Act of 1968, and the Amendment - Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation Act No. 52 of 1982. (https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/colombo-district-low-lying-areas-reclamation-and-development-board-amendment-2/)</p> <p>An act to amend the Colombo district (low-lying areas) reclamation and development board act.</p> <p>12. <u>Housing and Town Improvement Ordinance, No. 19 of 1950.</u> (https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/housing-and-town-improvement-3/)</p> <p>An ordinance to provide for the better housing of the people and the improvement of towns.</p> <p>13. <u>Greater Colombo Economic Commission Law No. 4 of 1978 as amended by Act No. 49 of 1992</u> (https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/greater-colombo-economic-commission-amendment-4/)</p> <p>An act to amend the greater Colombo amendment law.</p>	
2.I.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Urbanization and internal migration” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Plan, Urban Development Authority 2020 - 2024 • Urban Sector Policy Action Plan (USPAP) 1996 - 2015 • Land Use Policy of 2009 • National Migration Health Policy 2013 <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(d) its impact</p> <p>1. Corporate Plan, Urban Development Authority 2020 - 2024 https://www.uda.gov.lk/attachments/stratagic_plan/UDA%20Corporate%20Plan%202022-2024%20final.pdf The Urban Development Authority (UDA) was established under the Law No. 41 of 1978 to promote integrated planning and implementation of economic, social and physical development of certain areas declared as urban development areas. The Corporate</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>Plan serves as the Urban Development Authority's strategic framework and envisions its future direction for the period 2022-2024. Spatial city arrangements, enforcement mechanisms, project formulation and implementations, proper resource allocation, monitoring continuous finances and liabilities and identifying proper opportunities towards controlling the internal systems and structures of the Authority are defined via cleared principle-based approach.</p> <p>2. Land Use Policy of 2009 https://luppd.gov.lk/images/content_image/downloads/pdf/national_1_and_use_policy.pdf</p> <p>The national land use policy provides an appropriate policy framework, to ensure proper land use, food security, economic development and the maintenance of the productivity of the land at a higher level. It provides a background for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the land resource of the country but also offer an appropriate and ideal framework that will best meet the needs of the present generation while safeguarding the land resource for the future generation as well.</p> <p>3. National Migration Health Policy 2013 https://www.iom.int/news/national-migration-health-policy-launched-sri-lanka</p> <p>Sri Lanka's National Migration Health Policy was launched in 2013. The policy marks a major milestone for the Government of Sri Lanka, for IOM's global work on the health needs of migrant and mobile populations, and for advancing the World Health Assembly resolution on the health of migrants</p> <p>The Sri Lanka National Migration Health Policy aims to engage all relevant sectors and agencies that are responsible to ensure the health of migrants throughout the migration process. Sri Lanka has recognized that outbound, internal and inbound migrants and the families left behind by outbound migrants are the key groups considered in this policy.</p>	
<i>Achievements and good practices</i>		
3.I.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of urbanization and internal migration in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discourage Colombo centric urbanization by development of cities in other provinces. 	
4.I.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing urbanization and internal migration programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff of USDA considering them as essential services and providing services during lockdowns and other disasters • Engagement with a state bank to provide loan facilities to entrepreneurs who are engaged in their trades as self-employed persons. • Conduct programmes nationwide for children, parents, young men and women, senior citizens and drug addicts who live in urban settlements
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Challenges

In implementing priority actions for urbanization and internal migration, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.I.	Lack of human resources dedicated to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.I.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.I.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.I.	Lack of data on urbanization and internal migration, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
9.I.	Lack of overall political support related to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.I.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.I.	Lack of international support related to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.I.	Lack of development partner coordination related to urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.I.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.I.	A bottom-up approach to urbanization and internal migration not followed (e.g., involvement of urban migrants, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.I.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on urbanization and internal migration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc.
16.I.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of urbanization and internal migration programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				

	Lack of standard classification for Urban areas– 18.9% urban population, among the lowest 5 globally The definition needs to be clarified. Some urban/ populated areas are considered as rural leading to this percentage.	
Lessons learned		
17.I.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of urbanization and internal migration not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Establishing a new Information Technology and Media Division for the Authority● Management of internal migration through a policy framework● Support internal migrants in terms of protection of worker rights and wellbeing	
Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring		
18.I.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for urbanization and internal migration. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.I.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for urbanization and internal migration. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

J. Population and sustainable development

Overall policy environment		
1.J.	<p>Are any priority actions for population and sustainable development included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour” (2019) Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision and Strategic Path (2019) <p>1. National Policy Framework (NPF) for 2020-2025 called “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour” (2019) (http://www.doc.gov.lk/images/pdf/NationalPolicyframeworkEN/FinalDovVer02-English.pdf) Chapter 08 of the NPF is on a Sustainable Environmental Policy which aims at “Achieving sustainable development through balanced social, economic and environmental practices”. It defines 5 strategic directives to achieve its objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Environmental regulation for conservation and protection ➤ Updating the existing environmental policies , rules and regulations ➤ Integrating the SDGs into development framework ➤ Incorporating the indigenous knowledge and technologies into sustainable development ➤ Coordinating at all administrative levels to ensure upgrading living standards <p>2. Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision and Strategic Path of 2019 (efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.presidentsoffice.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Final-v2.4-Typeset-MM-v12F-Cov3.pdf) This document prepared by the Presidential Expert Committee provides information on Sri Lanka’s current country profile and status, key issues and opportunities relating to sustainable development, future priorities and targets, and new initiatives and options to achieve ambitious goals by 2030. The report identifies the balanced inclusive green growth (BIGG) path that will facilitate the national transition from “Conventional Sri Lanka 2018” to “Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030”. This is in line with the spirit of the SDG and UN 2030 Agenda which aims to “leave no one behind”. Beyond the fundamental goals, it also support a vision in which the latest knowledge, methods and technologies can help Sri Lanka aspire to more advanced standards in every area of sustainable development</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan (c) page number that references this action area (d) main elements of the action area (d) its impact</p>	<p>No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
2.J.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area “Population and sustainable development” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Development Act, No. 19 of 2017 Draft Strategy for Public Service Delivery -Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife February 2018 Public Investment Plan 2021 – 2025, 2021 November (http://www.npd.gov.lk/index.php/en/2017-03-02-07-02- 	<p>Yes</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>41/publications/38-public-investment-programme.html)</p> <p>1. Sustainable Development Act, No. 19 of 2017(https://www.srilankalaw.lk/YearWisePdf/2017/19-2017_E.pdf)</p> <p>The objective of this Act is to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ensure that the National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development is prepared in accordance with section 11 of this Act and provide the legal framework for developing and implementing such National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development ● ensure an ecologically efficient use of natural, social and economic resources ● to promote the integration and maintain the equipoise of environmental, economic and social factors in the making of all decisions by government ● formulate strategies in accordance with paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this section. <p>2. Draft Strategy for Public Service Delivery -Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife February 2018 (https://sdc.gov.lk/sites/default/files/2019-07/Strategy%20for%20Public%20Service%20Delivery.pdf)</p> <p>Developed by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife the strategy encompasses 5 main thrust areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National program on Sustainable Development ● Wildlife In-situ Conservation ● Fauna Ex-situ Conservation ● Flora Ex-situ Conservation ● Capacity building for nature conservation <p>3. Public Investment Plan 2021 – 2025, 2021 November (http://www.npd.gov.lk/index.php/en/2017-03-02-07-02-41/publications/38-public-investment-programme.html)</p> <p>The present as well as the previous versions of the PIP derives its strategic direction from the National Development Policy Framework of the Government – the “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”. These national development policies have been further elaborated in the Budget Speech 2021. The PIP 2021-2024 is a reflection of the strategic direction of the economic and social policies that emerges from the policy stance of the government in office. The PIP incorporates Sri Lanka’s commitment in the achievement of United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(d) its impact</p>	
Achievements and good practices		
3.J.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of population and sustainable development in the country since 2013?</p> <p><i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishment of the Sustainable Development Council (SDCSL) in 2017. It is the nodal government institution with responsibilities for coordination, facilitation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the 	

	<p>implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guide for preparing the SDG mainstreamed public service delivery strategies (https://www.presidentsoffice.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2019/15/PS_SP_SB_C_22_2019%20E.pdf) Issued by the presidential secretariat in 2019 this document provides guidelines for all ministries in mainstreaming Sustainable Development in their policies and strategies. ● Activities towards preparation of a Green Economy Policy
4.J.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing population and sustainable development programmes that other countries may find useful?</p> <p><i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integration and mainstreaming sustainable development in other sector strategies ● The SDGs are being streamlined with all large scale projects that are being planned. The new project proposal format developed by the Department of National Planning incorporate a special section for reviewing the contribution of sustainable development goal any public investment programme ● Request for all government ministries to identify SDG targets relevant to their institutions ● Voluntary national reviews in 2018 and 2022 to report the progress of achieving SDG

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for population and sustainable development, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges	1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.J. Lack of human resources dedicated to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.J. Lack of financial resources dedicated to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.J. Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.J. Lack of data on population and sustainable development, particularly disaggregated data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The National SDG Data Portal launched by SDCSL is an integrated platform that links all government institutions to a central platform promoting a whole-of-government approach to data compilation and dissemination.
9.J. Lack of overall political support related to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

10.J.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.J.	Lack of international support related to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.J.	Lack of development partner coordination related to population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.J.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14.J.	A bottom-up approach to population and sustainable development not followed (e.g., involvement of those most affected, or most marginalized populations, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.J.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on population and sustainable development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency, etc.
16.J.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of population and sustainable development programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i>				

Lessons learned

17.J.	<p>Are there any lessons learned in the area of population and sustainable development not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <p>Sri Lanka has made steady progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) despite the setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is evident from the country’s improved score and global rankings in the 2022 Sustainable Development Report which places the country score at 70.0 well above the regional average of 65.9. The country has also achieved a greater integration of SDGs in national policies. However, the current economic crisis will have an adverse impact on mobilising resources for the implementation of policies and programmes to achieve the SDGs, a common challenge faced by most developing nations. Therefore the country is tapping into new and alternate sources of financing beyond Sri Lanka’s traditional approach.</p>				
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Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring

18.J.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for population and sustainable development. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):			
19.J.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis			

	<p>regarding the priority actions for population and sustainable development. Please check as many as apply to your country.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
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K. Data and statistics

Overall policy environment		
1.K.	<p>Are any priority actions for data and statistics included in your National Development Strategy or other development plans? <i>please elaborate</i></p> <p>If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census Ordinance No. 5 of 1868 (http://www.statistics.gov.lk/about_us/censusordanance/CensusOrdinanceNo5of1868) • Census Ordinance No. 9 of 1900 (http://www.statistics.gov.lk/about_us/censusordanance/CensusOrdinanceNo9of1900) • Census Ordinance (1956 Revision) • Census (Amendment) Act, No.16 of 1981 • Census (Amendment) Act, No. 55 of 2000 (https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/census-amendment-3/) • Census (Amendment) Act, No. 26 of 2011 (https://www.lawnet.gov.lk/act-no-26-of-2011/) <p>The first legal sanction in Sri Lanka provided under the Census ordinance was framed in 1868 on the lines of the English law for the conduct of the first Census in 1871. This was amended in 1880 and repealed in 1900. A new ordinance was drafted thereafter on the lines of the Indian Census Act and was passed by the legislature. The Census Ordinance of 1900 substantially remained the basis for census taking in Sri Lanka throughout the years, with minor amendments in 1945, 1955, 1980 and 2000.</p> <p>(a) the strategy name/link (b) date or time frame of the strategy/plan (c) page number that references this action area (d) main elements of the action area (e) its impact</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
2.K.	<p>Have there been any amendments or improvements to legislation, or new policies or action plans relating to the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development priority area</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	<p>“Data and statistics” since 2013? <i>please elaborate</i> If “yes”, please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to Information ACT, No. 12 of 2016 (https://www.media.gov.lk/images/pdf_word/2016/12-2016_E.pdf) <p>This is an act to provide for the right of access to information to specify grounds on which access may be denied; to establish the Right to Information Commission; to appoint Information Officers; to set out the procedure and formatters connected therewith or incidental thereto.</p> <p>(a) the name of the legislation, policy and/or action plan and website link</p> <p>(b) date of implementation and time frame</p> <p>(c) its main elements</p> <p>(d) its impact</p>	
<i>Achievements and good practices</i>		
3.K.	<p>Aside from what is listed above, what are some key achievements in the area of data and statistics in the country since 2013? <i>please elaborate on achievements, by providing specific examples and their impact:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first ever economic census was carried out in 2013. The Economic Census is a primary source of the basic statistics, on the nature, structure and performance of the economic activities undertaken within the country’s territory. This reveals the facts and figures on the trade and services sector in the country • Review of the National Statistical System in Sri Lanka conducted in 2019. The objective of the review was to identify the main strengths and challenges facing the national statistical system (NSS) of Sri Lanka. The review looks broadly at the range of sectoral statistics being produced within the current system to provide insights on the quality of existing statistical outputs, identifying gaps and offering advice on potential improvements. • Impact of the first wave of COVID 19 pandemic on employment in Sri Lanka 2020 is a survey conducted by the DCS and the Ministry of Economic policies and plan implementation. It carries data from 6,440 households of a nationally representative sample. During the first wave of COVID 19 Sri Lanka went for a country wide lock down and the report presents its impact on different sectors and households. • Introduction of the CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Information) technology in 2016 	
4.K.	<p>Are there any good practices the country has developed in operationalizing data and statistics programmes that other countries may find useful? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Multidimensional poverty index (MDPI) to HIES • Development of a geo-database • Data visualization interface for public access in the web site 	

Challenges

In implementing priority actions for data and statistics, has the Government encountered any of the following challenges?

[1 = never, 2 = sometimes, 3 = always]

Challenges		1	2	3	If answer 2 or 3, have you addressed the challenge? please elaborate:
5.K.	Lack of human resources dedicated to data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.K.	Lack of financial resources dedicated to data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Collaborating with development partners and other donor agencies
7.K.	Lack of capacity development for implementation of programmes on data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conduct workshops to the staff
8.K.	Lack of information for tracking of progress on data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.K.	Lack of overall political support related to data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.K.	Lack of cross-ministerial coordination related to data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11.K.	Lack of international support related to data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12.K.	Lack of development partner coordination related to data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13.K.	Lack of public awareness and understanding of data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The DCS web page and the reports that are produced are made in a user friendly manner
14.K.	A bottom-up approach to data and statistics not followed (e.g., involvement of those collecting, disseminating and analysing data and statistics.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15.K.	COVID-19 and other disasters, emergencies and crises prevented implementation of programmes on data and statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If “2” or “3”, please also name the disaster (s), emergency etc.
16.K.	Has the country experienced any other major challenges in implementation of data and statistics programmes? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> Gathering data from urban households remains a challenge.				

Lessons learned

17.K.	Are there any lessons learned in the area of data and statistics not already mentioned that other countries could benefit from? <i>please elaborate and provide specific examples:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The legal framework of DCS is quite old and therefore the implementation of some programmes are restricted. Therefore, the legal framework within which DCS currently operates to broaden its role, its powers and its legal responsibilities. There are multiple bodies/points where same data are collected (eg:
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	Preventive health sector and DHS) this duplicates work and is a waste of resources. Therefore, DCS is working to linkage of different data sources to ensure a more comprehensive framework of statistics (eg; health data)	
<i>Future needs: means of implementation and monitoring</i>		
18.K.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to implement the priority actions for data and statistics. Please check as many as apply.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy and awareness raising <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data for monitoring and planning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):
19.K.	Please select any needs the country may have in order to report on progress regarding the priority actions for data and statistics. Please check as many as apply to your country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data collection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity-building – data analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of monitoring frameworks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource mobilization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with high-level politicians <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engagement with non-governmental stakeholders, civil society organizations, etc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/engagement with data collection entities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-private partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please elaborate</i>):

IV. Summary questions

<i>Extraneous influences</i>			
<i>Has the COVID-19 pandemic, or other national emergencies, disasters, or crises, resulted in:</i>			
2.1	Building in more resilience when developing population programmes?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No	More reforms are taking place, especially in areas such as health and education. As both these services are provided by the state free at the point of delivery, to ensure universal health and education, more efficient financing strategies are being explored. As a response to widening inequities cash transfer systems, poverty alleviation programmes are getting more streamlined
2.2	Increased prioritization (or mainstreaming) of population issues in policymaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No	The extremes of age, the elderly and the small children were the most vulnerable during the pandemic. Therefore, to reduce the morbidity and mortality in these two groups specific measures were taken. Following the pandemic too, ageing and care for the elders, children and differently abled were taken as priority issues in policy making. As Non Communicable Diseases too was a major predictor of disease progression in COVID, and the country is going through an epidemic of NCDs the prevention and control of NCDs too were prioritized.
2.3	Diversion of funds or resources from population programmes to support other programmes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Somewhat <input type="checkbox"/> No	During the first wave of COVID 19 – Sri Lanka responded by a country wide lockdown. This measure helped to control the disease although it had negative effects on the economy. In May 2020, the Ministry of health published the “Advocacy brief: resumption of public activities during gradual exit from existing restrictions for COVID - 19 in Sri Lanka” which provided instructions on a wide array of public activities and the country was opened up. As a result of this methodical response to the pandemic, the country reported very low mortality rates due to COVID 19. However, the normal service delivery of some sectors were disrupted (eg: the routine immunization programmes were not conducted for few months, The General Certificate of Education exams got postponed)
<i>Priority areas for further action</i>			

2.4	<p>Please rank the priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development from highest to lowest priority in the country at the current point in time. Please use '1' as the highest priority and '11' the lowest priority.</p>	<p>1_ Poverty eradication and employment 3_ Health 6_ Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights 4_ Education 5_ Gender equality and women's empowerment 7_ Adolescents and young people 2_ Ageing 8_ International migration 10_ Urbanization and internal migration 9_ Population and sustainable development 11_ Data and statistics</p>
Additional comments		
2.5	<p>Are there any topics that are not covered in the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development that have become critically significant in the country since 2013? For example: food security, climate change or digital transformation?</p>	<p>Food security and Climate change are two areas of concern. In addition, child rights and child protection is considered as a main area that should be addressed in population themes</p>
2.6	<p>Are there any other lessons learned, achievements, challenges or needs that can be shared in regard to priority action areas outlined in the 2013 Asia and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development that have not already been addressed in this survey?</p>	<p>As inclusivity and inter and intra-connection were main themes governing the country, Sri Lanka prioritized rural development and infrastructure development in its development agenda. This resulted in a high economic growth rate paired with social development during the initial years of the past decade. However, the pandemic and the resulting economic issues challenged country's this approach and diverts the focus towards economic stability, state owned enterprises and social protection</p>

V. Overall achievements/challenges in population and development

The Seventh Asian and Pacific Population Conference will be held from 16 to 18 November 2023. The intergovernmental meeting will coincide with the 60-year commemoration of the first Asian Population Conference, which was held from 10 to 20 December 1963 in New Delhi, India, the 30-year regional review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the 2013 Asian and Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development. It will also mark the half-way point in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific.

With the above in mind, please share the country's biggest achievement and challenge in the area of population and development:

3.1	<p>Over the last 60 years (since the first Population Conference)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement: Sri Lanka achieved replacement level fertility by declining both fertility and mortality rates. Universal health and education played a major role in this achievement. Challenge: Although our mortality and morbidity indicators are quite good, there is considerable regional disparities. The estate sector continuously produces poor indicators especially in areas such as nutrition despite several interventions.
3.2	<p>Over the last 30 years (since the adoption of the ICPD Programme of Action)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement : Sri Lanka transitioned from a low income country to a low middle income country in 1997. The poverty rates declined steadily, and the poverty eradication programmes and social protection programmes were well functioning. Challenge: Natural disasters such as floods and the Tsunami in 2004 were the major challenges for development
3.3	<p>Over the last 7 years since adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Achievement: Sri Lanka had a marked progress towards sustainable development during the past 7 years. Establishment of the sustainable development council and the Ministry through the provisions of the sustainable development act is one of them. SDGs are also being integrated to all line ministries and budget tagging exercises for SDG are being carried out. We were also able to complete the Voluntary National Review in 2018 and 2022. Challenge : The main three challenges that occurred were Easter Sunday terrorist attack in 2019, COVID 19 pandemic and the Economic crisis. The Demographic and health survey (DHS) and the national population census which were to be conducted in year 2021 were postponed due to this issue. This resulted in unavailability of recent population level data for development activities. Both the DCS and the census are being planned and will be conducted in 2024

THANK YOU!