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# ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Ministry of Economic Reforms &  
Public Distribution

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# **1. Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution**

The Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution (MERPD) was newly established by the Extraordinary Gazette No. 2103/34 of 28.12.2018 and further amended with effect from 11.01.2019 by Gazette Notification No. 2106/10 of 16.01.2019.

MERPD is responsible for the formulation of evidence based economic reforms policies and programmes necessary to increase and sustain the GDP growth of the nation; implementation, monitoring and evaluation in relation to the subjects Economic Reforms and Public Distribution, Cost of Living, Food Supply & Distribution and those subjects that come under the purview of Departments, Statutory Institutions and Public Corporation.

## **Functions of the Ministry**

1. Formulation of policies, programmes and projects; implementation, monitoring and evaluation in relation to the subjects Economic Reforms and Public Distribution, Food Supply & Distribution and those subjects
2. that come under the purview of Departments, Statutory Institutions and Public Corporations listed below;
  - i. Department of Food Commissioner
  - ii. Department of Census & Statistics
  - iii. Institute of Policy Studies
  - iv. 1990 Suwasariya Foundation
  - v. Family Economic Unit
  - vi. Data Analysis Unit
  - vii. Task Force for Public Investment Delivery
3. Formulation of Economic Reforms Policies and programmes necessary to increase and sustain the GDP growth of the nation
4. Undertaking economic and data analysis in order to develop National Policies by the Minister of National Policies and Economic Affairs
5. Monitoring the Cost of Living and making necessary recommendations to the Cabinet of Ministers
6. Supervising the Family Economic Unit
7. Maintaining a buffer stock of food item
8. Developing an effective distribution system with private sector and cooperatives
9. Coordinating with the Cooperative Wholesale Establishment and Lanka Sathosa Ltd, in order to ensure effective distribution of food items throughout the country.

10. Coordinating the 1990 Suwaseriya Ambulance Services' Project.
11. Assisting the Minister of National Policies & Economic Affairs in Monitoring and evaluation of National Policies
12. Conducting high-quality, independent, policy relevant research that provides trusted insights on socio-economic issues to inform the Government
13. Matters relating to all other subjects assigned to Institutions listed.

As per the mandate given, the Ministry needs to make factful recommendations to the Minister of National Policies as well as to the Cabinet Sub Committee of Cost of Living. The Ministry, continuing the process adopted by the former Ministry of National Policies & Economic Affairs, strategies are implemented to enhance the capacity to apply policy and systems research into evidence-informed policy making through the work of an Analytics Unit and a Family Economic Unit.

The Analytics Unit was set up in 2018 and continued to date to carry out analysis for evidence-based decisions to be taken. The Unit is set up with experts in Data Science, Economics, Finance, IT and Public Policy. The unit has done many back-end analysis which is not seen by the general public however it has provided important inputs and insights to the Government to take decisions based on evidence. For example, all Cost of Living decisions that are directed to the Ministry, the analytics unit has done extensive research and analysis before going forward to the Cost of Living Committee.

### **Bricks to Microscopes**

- Following the study of Capital Expenditure of the country, it was evident that in the Ministry of Education approximately 60% of their capital expenditure was on buildings and structures. As little as 5% of the capital expenditure of the Ministry of Education, or approximately LKR 800m, was spent on improving the quality aspects of education, such as purchasing new lab equipment, computers and other tools and equipment
- Following the analysis, suggestion was provided in 2018 by the Unit to improve the quality aspects instead of capital expenditure mainly being on buildings and structures.

### **Temperature and Humidity Controlled Warehouse Network and the Cold Storage center at Dambulla**

- An analysis was carried by the Analytics Unit to identify seasons of various crops
- It was found that during the crop cycle many of these crops are wasted/ thrown to animals' due to the non-availability of proper and adequate storage

Based on these analyses, it was proposed to establish a 5000MT temperature-controlled warehouse at Dambulla to reduce wastage of perishable items. This facility will act as a catalyst towards building an effective logistics network envisaging to create modern high-quality centres in the country looking beyond the local market with the intension to provide farmers with opportunities to explore markets to export.

An Indian Grant amounting to Rs. 300 mn has been pledged to cover part of the cost of the Dambulla 5000MT temperature-controlled warehouse of which the total cost is around Rs. 550mn, and by now it is scheduled to award the contract and the construction is to be completed during 2019. This project is implemented by the Food Commissioner's Department.

It is proposed setting up a network of 5 additional temperature-controlled warehouses in selected districts, considering the requirement of having an effective storage and warehousing facilities to minimize post-harvest losses. Following the completion of Dambulla warehouse complex, the Government will invest in setting up modern climate-controlled warehousing facilities inviting private sector to manage and operate the facilities in Katunayake, Embilipitiya, Jaffna, and Keppetipola.

### **SME Paddy Millers Debt**

Some estimates reveal that there were 2000 millers operative in year 2000 and gradually reduced to less than 800 by now. It has been reported widely that many of these millers are on the verge of collapse. In this situation an oligopoly has been created by a few large buyers of paddy.

- Analysis was carried out by the Analytics Unit by collecting data from the all banks on the defaulters

To arrive at a sustainable mechanism was introduced implement the proposal to support SME millers, create competition and stabilize the retail price of rice. These discussions were a continuation of this task earlier handled by the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs (MNPEA). Based on that series of negotiations carried out with all stakeholders, it was recommended to provide a one-time loan with proper monitoring system (including a newly proposed IT system) to approximately 300 SME millers to restart their milling process. In the process, there will be a strong legal agreement through which the District Miller Cooperative Societies will be bound if any miller is defaulting the loan. Cabinet granted approval for this and the scheme is in operation now. Rs. 1 bn has been granted to the Ministry of Agriculture to implement the programme.

### **Cost of Living Perspectives**

Cabinet has directed this Ministry to convene the Cabinet Sub Committee of Cost of Living (CoL) meetings. Accordingly, the CoL Committee appointed to recommend various policy or regulatory measures that affect the Cost of Living of the people meets once in two weeks and review all aspects of cost of living and request this Ministry to undertake various research and surveys and have in-depth consultations with all stakeholders and make recommendations. Such data analysis is provided by the Data Analytics Unit and the entire process is carried out by the Family Economic Unit.

Consultations are mostly done with the representatives from government organisations such as Treasury, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry & Commerce or any other relevant line Ministry, Consumer Affairs Authority and Department of Census & Statistics (DCS) and private sector.

### **Consumers Perspective Survey on Cost of Living**

- It was evident there was a lack of quantity related data on key Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) items.
- The DCS collects price data through Colombo Consumer Price Index and NCPI however it was revealed there is no mechanism to track the outflow quantities at ground level.
- To compensate, the Ministry entered into an agreement with the Market Research Society of Sri Lanka to conduct specific surveys. This was supervised by the Analytics Unit.

### **Milk Powder Pricing Formula**

- Preliminary analysis was done by analysing Global Dairy Trade prices/trends, Customs Data and DCS data. Having a regulated price over the past several years, it was evident that the benefit of world market price fluctuations has not been equitably distributed among stakeholders. Instead it has resulted in a situation where all stakeholders were at a disadvantage.

The Unit and CAA along with the appointed Technical Committee took a leading role in negotiations for the establishment of a pricing formula for Milk Powder. Cabinet approval was granted for this formula and it is now operational.



## **2. Food Commissioner’s Department**

### **2.1. Introduction**

#### **Vision**

“Safe, sustainable, nutritious staple grain foods for every household.”

#### **Mission**

“Guarantee the availability, accessibility and affordability of staple grain Foods for the citizens of Sri Lanka by managing and aligning the markets by using departmental assets and with the dedicated and committed staff members of the Food Department and stakeholder Institutions.”

### **2.2. Objectives**

- Maintain required rice buffer stock to ensure food security and provide support and assistance to stabilization of price of rice.
- Supply high quality and pest free food to consumers by maintaining scientifically developed store facilities.
- Improve the contribution to the state revenue through effective management of departmental services.

### **2.3. Major Activities**

- Maintenance of a special rice buffer stock of rice 8000 MT as per the Colombo declaration and 16<sup>th</sup> conference of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).
- Maintenance of 100,000 MT of rice buffer stock at the island wide Food Department warehouses as per the Cabinet Decision dated 27/08/2008.
- Ensure the availability of rice at Market.
- Effective Co-ordination with the stake holders for the better management of department resources.
- Create a pest free grain food store environment.

## 2.4. Administrative Structure and Staff

Table 1: Administrative Structure and Staff

	Designation	Approved Cadre	Employed Cadre by 31.12.2018
01	Food Commissioner	01	01
02	Chief Accountant	01	01
03	Deputy Food Commissioner/ Assistant Food Commissioner	02	01
04	Accountant	01	01
05	Administrative Officer	01	-
06	Translator	01	-
07	Quality Controller	01	01
08	Grain Surveyor	01	01
09	Inspector of Works	02	01
10	Information and Communication Assistant	01	01
11	Public Management Assistant	82	24
12	Development Officer	22	10
13	Wharf Clerk	08	08
14	Driver	10	07
15	Office Employee Service	22	08
16	Fumigator	26	08
17	Cleaner	02	08
18	Wharf Laborer	01	01
19	Watcher	17	17
20	Stores Laborer	24	02**
Total		227	101

\*\* One laborer has been recruited on substitution basis and another laborer has been recruited on casual basis for the post of stores laborer.

## 2.5. Judiciary Activities

Judiciary activities of the Food Department by the end of 2018 can be stated as follows.

Table 2: Judiciary Activities

No.	Nature	Number of judiciary activities being in process
01	Recovery of surcharge	01
02	Recovery of store rental in arrears	06
03	Recovery of store rental in arrears	08
04	Withdrawal of the possession of Dhanyagama Houses	42
05	Cases conducted by the Department of Criminal Investigations	05

## 2.6. Department Stores and Houses

### Department Stores

120 of Food Department stores are scattered throughout 21 districts of the island. They are used for the following purposes with the view of managing state property in the proper way. Details of stores as at 31/12/2018 are as follow:

Table 3: Department Stores

Stores		Quantity
1.	Rented out for public and private sector establishments on monthly rental	48
2.	Rented out for public institutions free of rental	29
3.	Stores used by the Food Department	21
4.	Stores under the authority of District Secretary / Divisional Secretary	20
5.	Abandoned stores	02
<b>Total</b>		<b>120</b>

### Income of Stores

Table 4: Income of Stores

Year	Due Income Rs.	Received Income Rs.
2017	80,705,635.64	101,130,285.86
2018	94,534,201.96	80,980,062.31

### Houses of the Department

366 houses under the Food Department are situated at Dhanyagama, China Bay of Trincomalee and they are being used as follows.

Table 5: Details of houses as at 31/12/2018

Houses		Number
1	Office of the Food Department	01
2	Circuit Bunglow	01
3	Houses to be renovated	18
4	Rented out houses	
	Employees of Prima Company	182
	Private	01
	Public Officers	61
	Tri- forces and the Police	55
	Semi governmental Organizations	47
<b>Total</b>		<b>366</b>

Table 6: Income of Houses

Year	Due Income Rs.	Received Income Rs.
2017	5,846,234.00	5,734,943.27
2018	2,154,816.00	5,889,756.72

## Assets and Property

Assets value analysis of the food department on 31-12-2018 is given below.

Table 7: Assets and Property

Assets		Value as at 31.12.2018 Rs.
<b>I.</b>	Buildings and constructions	886,004,500.00
<b>II.</b>	Vehicles	24,447,000.00
<b>III.</b>	Machinery and equipment	6,558,942.12
<b>IV.</b>	Furniture and office equipment	1,136,415,500.00
Total		2,053,425,942.12

## Financial Reports

Head No	:	300
Ministry/Department	:	Food Commissioner's Department
Programme No	:	01
Project No	:	01

## Recurrent Expenditure

Table 8: Recurrent Expenditure

Description	2017 Actual Expenditure Rs.	2018 Approved Estimate Rs.	2018 Amended Estimate Rs.	2018 Actual Expenditure Rs.	2018 Balance Rs.
Personal Salaries	51,619,509	53,000,000	53,200,000	52,927,589	272,411
Other	477,811,826	35,720,000	32,470,000	30,976,852	1,493,148
Total	529,431,335	88,720,000	85,670,000	83,904,441	1,765,559

## Capital Expenditure

Table 9: Capital Expenditure

Object	Description	2017 Actual Expenditure Rs:	2018 Approved Estimate Rs:	2018 Amended Estimate Rs:	2018 Actual Expenditure Rs:	2018 Balance Rs:
2001	Building & Construction	176,904,303	98,000,000	128,850,000	128,199,551	650,449
2002	Machinery & equipment	24,000	250,000	250,000	221,019	28,981
2003	Vehicles	489,245	600,000	<b>600,000</b>	587,212	187,212
2102	Furniture and Office Equipment	2,003,964	500,000	<b>2,900,000</b>	2,895,460	4,540
2103	Machinery and Equipment	268,980	200,000	<b>200,000</b>	189,750	10,250

2401	Training and capacity building	443,735	400,000	400,000	399,500	500
2502	Food Department Store Repairs	-	-	-	-	-
Total		180,131,227	99,950,000	133,200,000	132,492,492	707,508

## Financial Sources

Table 10: Financial Sources

Description	2017 Actual Expenditure Rs:	2018 Approved Estimate Rs:	2018 Amended Estimate Rs:	2018 Actual Estimate Rs:	2018 Balance Rs:
Consolidated Fund	253,042,562	188,670,000	218,870,000	214,238,699	4,631,301
Writing off losses	456,520,000	-	2,300,000	2,158,234	141,766

## 2.7. Physical and Financial Progress of Projects -2018

Renovation of following Warehouses;

Table 11: Physical and Financial Progress of Projects -2018

Description	Financial Progress			Physical Progress (%)
	Total Commitment (Rs.)	Payments up to 31.12.2018 (Rs)	%	
1.Veyangoda - Civil Work	22774464.00	22774464.00	100	100
2. Veyangoda - Machanical Work	64228442.31	31358652.81	48.82	75
3.Anuradhapura - Shrawstipura	30752430.58	19544878.5	63.56	90
4. Galle – Boossa	49655737.49	35904774.57	72.31	75
5. Matara – Meddawatte	8944668.64	5480874.07	61.28	90

## 3. Department of Census and Statistics

### 3.1. Introduction

The Department of Census and Statistics is the Central Government Agency responsible for collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical information for various statistical needs of the country. The department has been brought under the Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution.

The Department provides data required for national planning under subject areas such as population, housing, agriculture, industry, trade and services national accounts, price index and Prices and also responsible for collection, process, analysis and dissemination of timely credible and important data for other social activities . Department also provides statistical advisory services to the external agencies through Technical Division of the department.

#### **Vision**

To be the leader in the region in producing timely statistical information to achieve the country's development goals.

#### **Mission**

Making contribution to the socio economic development of the country by providing accurate timely statistics, more effectively by means of new technology, and utilizing the services of dedicated staff under a strategic leadership to become a prosperous nation in the globalized environment.

### 3.2. Main Activities Performed;

#### 3.2.1. Census of Population and Housing – 2021

Planning of Census of Population and Housing – 2021 was started in 2017. It has been planned to do the data collection of 2021 Census using tablet computers. Mapping stage, the first stage of the Census of Population and Housing, starts few years prior to the enumeration stage. Accordingly, it has been planned to carry out activities of the mapping stage in three steps during 2017 – 2020 period. Digitization of Grama Niladhari maps prepared for the previous census, filed verification and demarcation of “Census Blocks” and digitization of Census Block boundaries are carried out under these three steps.

As per the plan, preparation of maps were commenced in 2017 for 08 districts and digitization of census block has also started. By the end of 2018, field work has commenced in 18 districts of which 11 districts have been completed. Digitization of census blocks in 03 districts completed.

Accordingly, Census Steering Committee and sub committees have achieved following tasks.

- Drafting of listing form and data collection questionnaire and pre-tests in several districts.
- Conducting awareness programmes on Census, for the department staff.
- Complete the initial steps to conduct the workshop aimed for data users.
- Preparation of census publicity plan and taking initial steps to implement the publicity plan for the year 2019.
- Preparation of census procurement plan, establishing census procurement unit and appointing procurement sub-committees.
- Preparation of plan and structure of Master Register on Census Blocks.
- Obtained the approval from Cabinet of ministers for the Census budget estimates.
- Preparation of drafts of village lists for 5 districts.

### 3.2.2. Conducting Statistical Literacy Enhancing Programmes

A number of , 1,280 government officers were given awareness through the above programmes.

### 3.2.3. Preparation of the report on Sustainable Development Goals indicators

Database on Sustainable Development Goals has been updated and has been published in the website.

### 3.2.4. Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

IIP is compiled to identify short term changes and nature of the manufacturing sector in the economy with the base year 2015. In 2016 the index was released quarterly and from 2017 it has been released monthly with a time lag of 42 days.

IIP for November 2017 to October 2018 were released in 2018 and the following graph shows the behavior of IIP so far. This index is compiled using primary and secondary data. Monthly response rate is maintained around 80%. Data collection, computation, compiling index were done timely in 2018.

Index of Industrial Production Nov.2017-Oct.2018



Figure 1:: Index of Industrial Production Nov.2017-Oct.2018

### 3.2.5. Statistical Business Register

A Statistical Business Register (SBR) is an important tool in preparing economic statistics. It provides a database of specific business units in a territorial area of a country. Sri Lanka has

prepared a statistical business register based on the list of units engaged in economic activities prepared at the listing stage of the economic census 2013/14.

In order to obtain more accurate estimates on economic statistics, the register has to be updated regularly. The Attempts made to collaborate with the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) and Registrar of Companies (ROC) in updating this registry with their business register failed due to the legislation of those institutes as it restricts revealing this information. Hence the business register is currently being updated based on the data received from local government authorities and the annual and quarterly surveys on Industries, Construction, Trade and Services of the department.

An awareness workshop was conducted for officers of local government authorities engaged in issuing business licenses and divisional secretariats of Southern and North western provinces in March 2018.

### 3.2.6. Estimation Survey of Paddy Harvest

Estimation Survey of Paddy Harvest Survey was conducted to estimate paddy cultivated extent, average paddy harvest and total production for Maha season 2017/2018 and Yala season 2018. And the survey was conducted to calculate the extent cultivated and harvest in each season at national level and district level and to estimate the average harvest and total production.

Information related to paddy cultivation such as paddy varieties, land preparation, fertilizer usage and weedicide usage were also collected in this survey.

Data obtained from Crop Estimation Survey of paddy harvest were analyzed and were published for Maha season 2017/2018 and Yala season 2018 at district level. And the above statistics were prepared by management division level in Mahaweli areas and were published on the Department Website. Variation of Paddy Production in Sri Lanka estimated using this survey is shown in the following figure.

Paddy production estimates of Sri Lanka 2008-2018

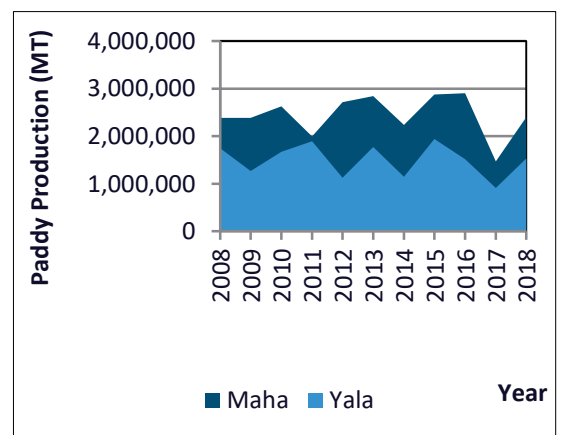


Figure 2: Paddy production estimates of Sri Lanka 2008-2018

### 3.2.7. Collection of Statistics on Highland Crops (Maha/Yala 2018)

Extent of highland crops collected with the help of preliminary data reporters at seasonal level and production statistics collected annually were summarized and were provided to government policy makers and other institutions.

Cultivated extent and production were estimated covering crops including minor export crops, fruits, vegetables, grains and legume crops under permanent and seasonal crops for Maha



season in 2017/2018 and Yala season 2018 and were published in the Department website. Information on Crop production in Sri Lanka obtained by the estimates are indicated as follows.

### **3.2.8. Cost of Production Survey on Tea, Rubber and Coconut – 2017/2018**

Cost of production estimates on main crops Tea, Rubber and Coconut for year 2017/2018 have been finalized. Detailed information related to cost of production of tea, rubber and coconut was calculated. By using these survey data cost of production of Tea, Rubber and Coconut for 2017/2018 were estimated and were published in the Department website.

### **3.2.9. National Accounts Division**

Department of Census and Statistics is responsible for Preparing National Accounts estimates quarterly and annually. National Accounts estimates of 2017-Annual was prepared by three approaches, production, expenditure and income and Quarterly estimates of 2017- fourth quarter, 2018- first, second and third quarter were prepared by two approaches, production and expenditure. In accordance with National Accounts revision policy, 2015-final revision and 2016-first revision were done. All these estimates were published in the departmental website timely with relevant data tables, press notes and comprehensive notes.

All national and international data requests were catered during this period. Under the program of changing the base year from 2010-2015, preparing of ‘SUT -2015’ was started. Along with this rebasing activity, to improve the national accounts data, several case studies were carried out for Agricultural and Industry sector. For Service sector activities, questionnaires were prepared to conduct 10 quarterly surveys and handed over to Industry Division. All these information along with Economic Census data (2013/14) will be used to complete this task. Regarding the rebasing work, IMF consultation session was also carried out in 2018.

### **3.2.10. Automation of library database**

Uploading the library collections and information of library members into the library database was performed 08.06.2018. This also includes library index and digital library. By using this, the users can refer the library without attending the library.

### **3.2.11. Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey – 2018**

Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey (LFS) is conducted regularly since the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 1990 on quarterly level to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka. Field work of LFS 2018 was conducted using tablet computers (CAPI) during January to December in all the districts. Quarterly Bulletin and quarterly reports of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2017 have been issued in 2018 and its Annual Bulletin and Annual report also have been issued. In addition, Quarterly Bulletins and quarterly reports of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2018 have been prepared. Computer literacy Statistics Bulletin for first 6 months of year 2018 has been prepared.

Table 12: Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey - 2018 (II Quarter)

Indicator	Sri Lanka	Male	Female
Population (15 years & above) (No)	16,347,924	7,596,167	8,751,757
Labour force (15 years & above)	8,351,988	5,507,863	2,844,125
Labour force participation rate (%)	51.1	72.5	32.5
Employed population	7,970,154	5,336,164	2,633,989
Employment rate (%)	95.4	96.9	92.6
Unemployed population (No)	381,834	171,699	210,136
Unemployment rate (%)	4.6	3.1	7.4
Economically inactive population (No)	7,995,937	2,088,304	5,907,632
Computer Literacy (I &II Quarters – 2018)			
Computer literacy rate (%)	27.5	29.7	25.4

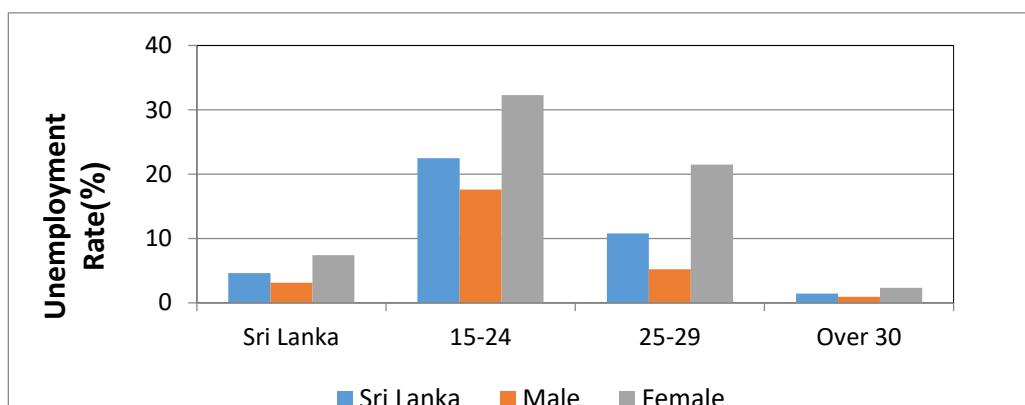


Figure 3: Unemployment rate by sex and age group- II Quarter 2018

### 3.2.12. Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) – 2019

Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) is conducted by the Department every three years under National Household Sample Survey Programme. Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2019 is the 10<sup>th</sup> survey of the survey series. The survey, in this year collects data under 10 categories; namely, as demography, school education, health, household income and expenditure, existing durable goods, access to basic facilities, household information, ownership of land, livestock and food insecurity experiences.

Hence, data are published related to mean income, expenditure of a family, per capita income and expenditure, in equal distribution of income and expenditure and poverty. The information collected by this survey helps to identify poor people in the country and to provide statistics necessary for formulation of policies and programs to alleviate poverty in the country. Making preliminary plans for pilot survey to conduct the survey by using tablets, discussion on new editions in 2019 and conducting a session for parties interested in data were performed already.

Preparation of final schedule and compilation of instructional manuals have been finalized and training of field officers on completing schedules has been finalized.

### **3.2.13. Tourism Expenditure Survey (TES) – 2017/2018**

This survey was conducted for the first time by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) for obtaining the necessary data for the purpose of compiling detailed national accounts. Specially, the objective of this survey is to obtain the necessary information for formulating the necessary satellite data for the economic contribution of the tourism industry.

The field activities of this survey were carried out from October 2017 to September 2018 with the coverage of whole island and has been completed. The data processing is being carried out.

#### **2.11 Time Use Survey (TUS) – 2017**

The Time Use Survey (TUS) was conducted in the last quarter of 2017 (October, November and December) using a sample of 6,250 units covering the entire country, using a separate schedule concurrently with the Sri Lanka Labor Force Survey to obtain information on how a person spends his/her time during the day for 24 hours. All members of the household over 10 years of age were surveyed.

The schedule of the survey was completed by the interviewer and a separate diary was provided for respondents and they were given one week to complete the task. A day (24 hours) is divided into 15 minutes time range and they were instructed to note down the activities (Economic, Educational, Entertainment, Leisure) done by them during each time period. Computerization of Time Use Survey data are now at the final stage.

### **3.2.14. Research Capacity Development Programme**

This program was introduced to develop the research capacity of department officials. Thirty executive officers of the department who were willing to carry out research activities were selected and were given a basic training in order to carry out individual research studies. Training programmes on preparing a research proposal, research methodology and “R” computer software for data analysis were conducted under this basic training programme.

### **3.2.15. Official Statistics Research Studies**

The objective of this programme is to identify the problems related to official statistics and conduct researches in order to solve those problems. Accordingly, six major areas of official statistics produced by the department to be researched have been identified. Research groups for the identified subject areas have been appointed and research studies of respective research areas have also been commenced during this year. The research groups were formulated consisting of officials who are working in the subject matter division and in the research and special studies division.

### **3.2.16. Knowledge Dissemination Programme**

The objective of this programme is to provide opportunities to present research papers to the officials who are carrying out research studies and to enhance the knowledge of the other officials by participating in the research seminar. This programme was scheduled to conduct in December 2018; however, due to unavoidable circumstances it was postponed and was rescheduled to be conducted during first 2 weeks of January.

### **3.2.17. Preparing Gender Statistics**

Sending data request to several institutions to collect data for updating the web page on gender statistics and for preparing the publication on gender statistics, verification of gender related data received from various institutions, preparing data tables using the received data and the data obtained from the censuses and surveys conducted by department and verification of such data, updating the webpage if necessary were conducted during this year.

### **3.2.18. Advance Data Release calendar (ADRC)**

Advance Data Release calendar for the year 2018 was prepared at the beginning of the year and was published in the department website. Thereafter, ADRC was updated regularly throughout the year.

### **3.2.19. Official Statistics Programme (OSP)**

Under the official statistical programme (OSP), statistical indicators which can be prepared using data produced by several institutions were identified and a programme is being formulated to make available these indicators to data users. The OSP was prepared by 23 sub committees affiliated to National Data Committee. Identification of indicators related to each sector and preparation of a report has been done by these subcommittees. All the subcommittees have finished their work and handed over their reports to the department; however, the reports have been handed over to the directors of the department for further review. Accordingly, subcommittee reports were revised according to the comments given by the directors. Thus, 13 out of 23 subcommittee reports were completed and remaining 10 reports are still being reviewed as some of the reports were observed to be incomplete.

### **3.2.20. Official Statistics Review**

Official statistics Review has been introduced to Publish research papers prepared relating to research carried out by department officials and to publish articles to acknowledge the data users on new programmes and new technologies introduced by the department. The first volume of the Official Statistics Review has been completed during 2018.

### 3.2.21. National Consumer Price Index (NCPI): Base 2013=100

The National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) is considered as the official measure of inflation from October 2015. Up to November 2018, NCPI was compiled covering all areas of the country and published with a time lag of 21 days through government gazette, media release, newspapers and department web site.

For the 2018, January to November, Press releases including main price changes of National Consumer Price Index were published in the department web site. Also for the 2018, January to November news releases including main price changes of National Consumer Price Index were published through the department web site in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages. To send the media institutions, all media releases for the 2018, January to November were submitted to the media department. For the 2018, January to November the notices of National Consumer Price Index were published in newspapers of Dinamina, Daily News and Thinakaran in Sinhala, English and Tamil languages respectively. Also all National Consumer Price indices were published in special gazette of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on monthly basis from January 2018 to November 2018. When published the indices, on monthly basis the relevant information was sent to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for the analysis of monetary policies.

Movements of the NCPI and Inflation (Base 2013=100)

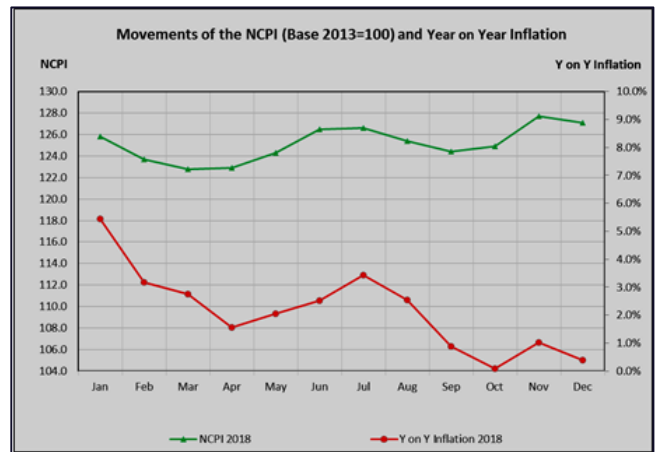


Figure 4: Movements of the NCPI and Inflation (Base 2013=100)

The movements of the NCPI and year on year (Y on Y) inflation for the year 2018, January to November are as follows. According to the Commissioner of Labor’s request, under wages board ordinance to compile cost of living allowance of planters of Cardamom, Cocoa and Pepper, the index of National Consumer Price Index was compiled on D1-D6 deciles and submitted to Department of Labor for the 2018, January to November on monthly basis.

### 3.2.22. Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI): Base 2013=100

The Colombo Consumer Price Index (Base 2006/07=100) was rebased, as the base year of 2013=100 in January 2017 covering urban areas of Colombo district. According to that, from 2018, January to December Colombo Consumer Price Index (Base 2013=100) was released last working day of each month through the department web site. From 2018, January to December, Press releases including main price changes of Colombo Consumer Price Index were

Movements of the CCPI and Inflation (Base 2013=100)

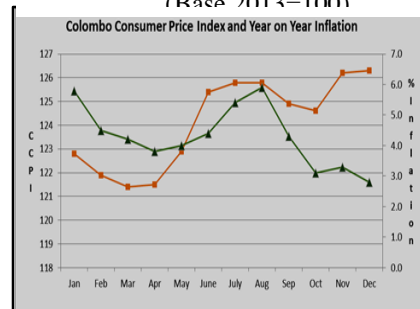


Figure 5: Movements of the CCPI and Inflation (Base 2013=100)

published through the department web site. When published the indices, on monthly basis the relevant information was sent to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and International Monetary Fund for the analysis of monetary policies.

### 3.2.23. Test Purchasing Survey

The one of major task of the Prices and Wages Division of the DCS is to compute and publish the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) of Sri Lanka on monthly basis. In order to obtain the price information for the purpose of computing the index the test purchasing survey is carried out with officers of the Prices and Wages Division in urban areas of Colombo district. The information on selected goods and services are collected continuously from selected outlets according to the exact specifications. Using this Test Purchasing survey information the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) is compiled and published. For compiling CCPI for the year 2018 on monthly basis, the DCS collected prices from selected fourteen pricing centers located in the Colombo urban area from 2018, January to December as per the exact specifications. Also from 2018, January to December the collected all price information were checked and computerized.

### 3.2.24. District Town Prices (Retail) and Producer's Price

Another activity of the Prices and Wages Division is district retail and producer price collection. The retail price collection forms were revised according to provincial basis. The retail prices of goods and miscellaneous items, at all district towns were collected on weekly, once in two weeks, monthly and quarterly basis deploying the field statistical staff of the department for all quarters for year 2018. For the year 2018, a systematic collection of locally grown producer's prices at Divisional Secretaries' level was carried out monthly by the Prices Division by deploying the field staff attached to those divisions. The 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the Price Bulletin on Weekly Retail Prices of selected commodities in Colombo District covering the period from January 2017 to December 2017 was printed and published and the 35<sup>th</sup> edition of the Bulletin of Selected Retail and Producer Prices covering the period 2014-2017 was also printed and published. Also these retail and producer's prices were provided to the National Accounts division of the DCS for compilation of national accounts for quarterly basis and for data users' requirements. Bulletins on open market retail prices of selected essential items were prepared and sent weekly to the relevant officials of the Ministry of Finance Planning and the Central Bank. This weekly prices of information was also published in the department web site.

### 3.2.25. Producer's Price Index (PPI): Base 2013 Q4=100

For compiling Producer's Price Index, agricultural sector price information of 36 agricultural products are collected by department staff in the field attached to the DS division. For the manufacturing sector price information were collected from the 376 institutions and for the utility sector price information were collected from Ceylon Electricity

htnoM	rebmN
	xednI
	2018
January	129.3
February	129.8
March	133.5

Board and National Water Supply and Drainage Board for the year 2018, January to November. All these prices were checked and computerized for the year 2018. For the every month Producer's Price Index (PPI): Base 2013 Q4=100 was published with a time lag of 45 days through the department web site. For the year 2018, January to November, the web releases including main price changes of Producer's Price Index (PPI): Base 2013 Q4=100 were published through the department web site.

April	133.1
May	135.2
June	136.8
July	135.0
August	132.4
September*	129.1
October*	130.7
November*	135.7
December**	137.6
<i>Note: * - Revised    ** - Provisional</i>	

### **3.2.26. International Comparison Programme**

Under the Asia Pacific International Comparison Programme which is conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), price information on food items and non food items of all island household sector, machinery & equipment and construction -Colombo district were collected for the first quarter of 2018. Above all price information were checked, computerized and sent to the ADB in the second quarter of 2018. For the third quarter of year 2018, the survey on housing rental was carried out all over the country. For the fourth quarter of year 2108, the price information collected under housing rental survey was checked, computerized and sent to the ADB. Also prices on compensation for salaries were collected, checked, computerized and sent to the ADB.

### **3.2.27. Compilation of Daily expenditure on food items specified for Armed Forces**

According to the Ministry of Defense request, expenditure on food items specified for officers and other ranks in Three Forces was compiled on monthly basis for the year 2018 and necessary action are to be taken to submit to the Commander of Army.

### **3.2.28. Rebasing the NCPI**

The preliminary weighting structures and market baskets for all provinces, Colombo district and Western province excluding Colombo district were developed, reviewed and finalized using the Household Income and Expenditure Survey-2016. Also for the rebasing of NCPI, the work sheet was also arranged.

### **3.2.29. Rebasing the PPI**

The PPI coverage will be expanded to include services and construction. For services and construction, aggregate index weights on the basis of Economic Census 2013/14 were finalized. According to that establishment list was also selected. Pilot survey as also carried out on services and construction sector. Finalized the information form and data collection form for the services and construction sector.

## 4. Institute of Policy Studies

### 4.1. Introduction

The Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) is an autonomous institution that aims to contribute to socio-economic development through high quality, policy-oriented economic research.

#### **Vision**

To be a globally-recognized research institute that is a catalyst for Sri Lanka's socio-economic transformation.

#### **Mission**

Conducting high-quality, independent, policy relevant research that provides trusted insights on socio-economic issues to inform our stakeholders and shape policy agendas to positively impact the lives of all Sri Lankans.

### 4.2. Research

The substantive focus of the Institute's research programme is to provide an integrated analysis of development challenges facing Sri Lanka to meet the fundamental objectives of sustainable growth, equity and poverty alleviation.

The IPS research programmes were carried out under the following themes and objectives;

#### **Policy Reforms & Competitiveness – Towards Stable macroeconomic environment that supports growth and Raise export earnings through trade**

- Sri Lanka's Macroeconomic Challenges from Perspective of Twin Deficits, with ADB, Manila This study examines the underlying causes of the twin deficit phenomenon in Sri Lanka, the policy responses adopted, and the challenges yet to be overcome if the country is to place its economy on a more sustainable growth path.
- Data Harmonizing for CEQ Study", with Global Development Network (GDN). This study involves creating a fiscal equity information and monitoring system with summary statistics and a harmonized database to assess the impact of fiscal systems on inequality and poverty.
- National Single Window, with EU and ITC, Geneva. The objective of the Single Window is to set up a facility that allows parties involved in trade and transport to lodge information and documents with a single entry point to full all trade related regulatory requirements. This study provides recommendations from stakeholder consultations to formulate policies for consideration by the GOSL.



- A Preliminary Study on the Benefits of Proposed Sri Lanka, Thailand Free Trade Agreement (SLTFTA), for MODSIT This study aims to look at the effectiveness of a proposed FTA with Thailand by looking at the potential for bilateral trade using commonly utilized trade indicators and a partial equilibrium model to analyze the impact of trade liberalization between Sri Lanka and Thailand.

**Private Sector Development - To Improve environment for doing business and Encourage SMEs for growth and employment**

- Global Competitiveness Report 2017, with World Economic Forum (WEF). The Annual Global Competitiveness Report assesses the economic competitiveness of individual countries for trade and investment. IPS is the partner institute for the Sri Lanka component of this study.
- The Policy Environment and its Impacts on FDI Flows: Evidence from Sri Lanka, funded by TTI. The study analyzes trends and patterns of FDI into Sri Lanka's manufacturing sector and uses firm level data to examine their entry and exit patterns, and ease of doing business in an effort to understand the overall FDI policy environment and investment climate in Sri Lanka.
- Cross Border E-Commerce Ecosystem in Sri Lanka, with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Given considerable growth in Sri Lanka's e-commerce sector, this study aims to give an overview of Sri Lanka's e-commerce ecosystem and its potential for cross border e-commerce.

**Human Resources for Sustained Development - Develop skills and education for productive employment and Manage demographic transition Generate a healthy population**

- Sri Lanka's Grade Five Scholarship Exam: Evaluating Performance and Effectiveness, funded by IPS This study evaluates the effectiveness and relevance of Sri Lanka's Grade Five Scholarship and recommends specific changes required in the structure and enabling environment of the exam to improve overall effectiveness.
- The Public Expenditure Review (PER) for Nutrition in Sri Lanka, with World Bank, Washington The study aims to investigate whether SL is spending appropriately on the priority nutrition specific and sensitive interventions specified in national policies and guidelines. It is part of a regional exercise undertaken on nutrition in four countries: Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- Baseline Survey on Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition, with Save the Children, Colombo. In order to provide tailored interventions to improve the estate community's health and nutritional practices, this study carries out a baseline assessment establish a benchmark against which the progress and achievements of an intervention can be measured.
- Worker's Adjustments to Trade Shocks in Sri Lanka, with World Bank, Washington. This study examines the impact of trade on employment in Sri Lanka, in the context of global policy trends. The study finds that limited available data show that real wages have kept pace with the export sector performance.

- Sri Lanka's NEETs: An Analysis of Youth not in Education, Employment or Training", funded by IPS This study examines Sri Lanka's youth population who are neither engaged in education, employment or training (NEET) using data from the 2016 LFS. The study findings are used to inform policy discussions on reducing the NEET rate in Sri Lanka and engaging more youth in education and in the labour force.

**Migration & Urbanisation - Sustainable and equitable urban living conditions, Facilitating migration trends for improving lives**

- Study on Remittance Patterns with a View to Reduce Remittance Costs for Migrant Workers, with International Labour Organization (ILO), Colombo. This research seeks to generate an evidence base for remittance patterns and costs in Sri Lanka, with the aim of helping decision-makers to identify ways of reducing remittance costs through a survey of 600 remittance receiving households.
- Global Compact on Migration, with International Organization for Migration (IOM). As a part of the preparation to adopt the UN's GCM, this study undertook a consultation process to prepare the National Outcome Report under the six thematic clusters of the GCM – Human Rights, Drivers of Migration, Governance, Diaspora and Development, Smuggling and Trafficking, and Irregular Migration and Regular Pathways.
- Recruitment of Temporary Migrant Workers and the Evolving Role of Sub-Agents in Sri Lanka, with Research and Empirical Analysis of Labour Migration (REALM) of New York University in Abu Dhabi. This study is an explanatory pilot study of the recruitment process of migrants to the occupation of Female Domestic Workers (FDW) in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The immediate objective of the project is to understand the involvement of sub-agents in the recruitment process of migrant workers in Sri Lanka.
- Does Remittances Alter Saving and Borrowing Behaviour of Family Left Behind", with Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE). This study explores the financial behavior of migrant households with the aim of discerning the causal impact of migration on savings and borrowing behavior of members in migrant households. The study uses data from the HIES 2016.
- Recruitment Business Processes, with International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva. This study looks at the recruitment and related operational costs that are incurred by the recruitment agents in Sri Lanka. It examines recruitment business processes, including recruitment costs that are borne by the recruitment agents.
- Recruitment Intermediaries in the Foreign Employment Industry - Sri Lanka, with International Organization for Migration (IOM). 'Sub-Agents' play an integral role in the process of recruitment. This study surveys 405 sub agents from 9 districts to better understand the current situation of recruitment intermediaries and to facilitate policy formulation on regulating recruitment intermediaries.

**Poverty & Vulnerability - End poverty, Reduce vulnerability and minimizing inequality, Leave no one behind**

- Sri Lanka Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals 2018, with United Nations, Colombo. The VNR report analysed in detail the policy and

enabling environment for SDGs in Sri Lanka and the current status, gaps and challenges for each of the 17 SDGs for the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife.

- Interpreting SDGs for South Asia: In Search of a Regional Framework, with UNESCAP, New Delhi. The study aimed at analyzing the SDG implementation challenges and priority areas for regional co-operation in the context of SDGs.
- Country Diagnostic on Mutual Micro Insurance, with International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF). This study provides a detailed analysis of the current context of mutual and co-operative micro insurance in Sri Lanka particularly focusing on the demand, supply and regulatory aspects, and to identify issues and constraints for the development and growth of this sector.

**Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture - Achieve ecofriendly low carbon development, Build resilience against climate change and disaster shocks and End hunger and achieve food security Improve farm incomes through agricultural productivity and VCs**

- National Policy on Natural Gas for Sri Lanka, with Ministry of Petroleum Resources there is substantial evidence to indicate that Sri Lanka can reap significant benefits from using natural gas as a source of energy. The study provided inputs to finalize the National Policy on Natural Gas, so that it is in line with the broad national policy interests of the country.
- Commercial Insurance for Farmers for Human Wildlife Conflict by Elephants, with International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK The human elephant conflict in Sri Lanka is a growing problem for agricultural communities in many parts of Sri Lanka. This action research study aims to test how private insurance can help farmers in mitigating the problem.
- Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Agriculture Sector in Sri Lanka, with UNDP, Colombo. Sri Lanka's agriculture sector is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change which occur due to both changes in the climate pattern and extreme climate-induced events. This study develops a methodology to assess losses and damages for the agriculture sector due to climate related impacts.
- Bridging the Climate Information and Communication Gaps for Effective Adaptation Decisions, an Integrated Climate Information Management System, with IDRC, Canada. This study aims to improve the effectiveness of adaptation decisions of farmers and policymakers/experts.
- Economic Analysis of Land and Transport Sector Issues, with Millennium Challenge Corporation This study aims to assess the situation and needs of land and transport sectors and identify potential improvements based on a comprehensive survey of the land and transport sector stakeholders at the firm and household levels throughout the country.
- Evaluating the Performance of the Value Chain Interventions under IFAD Projects, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) The overall Objective of this assignment was to assess the targeting approach, effectiveness, results and changes from value chain development interventions for selected commodities.

- Formulating Intellectual Property (IP) Policy for Sri Lanka, with Ministry of Commerce and Industry The objective of the study was to prepare a comprehensive Intellectual Property Policy for Sri Lanka along with sound implementation strategies that are in line with the economic and innovation aspirations of the country.

### 4.3. Publications

The IPS publications are an important means through which the Institute disseminates its research findings, obtains feedback and reactions, and informs policy makers on issues of socio-economic policy.

#### IPS Publications;

- Sri Lanka Tea Industry in Transition: 150 years and Beyond
- Cost of Low-Skilled Migration to Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Malaysia: Value Chain Analysis - Sri Lanka
- Talking Economics (July to December 2017)
- Child Poverty in Sri Lanka: Issues Related to their Education and Access to Safe Water and Sanitation • Firm-Level Analysis of Manufacturing Sector Investment in Sri Lanka
- Regulating Sub Agents for Better Migration from Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka: State of the Economy 2018
- Talking Economics (January to June 2018)
- Climate Change Issues in Sri Lanka: Special Issue on Integrated Climate Information Management Systems



#### 4.3.1. External Publications

- Can Khan Academy e-learning video tutorials improve mathematics achievements in Sri Lanka?, International Journal of Education and Development
- Sri Lanka's Macroeconomic Challenges: A Tale of Twin Deficits, ADB South Asia Working Paper Series
- School-level Resource Allocation and Education Outcomes in Sri Lanka, International Journal of Education
- Migration and Economic Remittances: Impact on Development, Routledge Handbook on Immigration and Refugee Studies
- Tax Rates and Tax Evasion: An Empirical Investigation of Border Tax Evasion in Sri Lanka, South Asia Economic Journal

- Reducing Connectivity Costs: Air Travel Liberalisation between India and Sri Lanka, World Bank
- Macroeconomic Stability, Growth and Debt Sustainability, Sri Lanka Economic Journal
- China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Sri Lanka, National Autonomous University of Mexico
- Increasing Female Participation in the Labour Force, National Institute of Labour Studies.
- The Effect of Social Protection on Labor Force Participation and Employment Status: Evidence from Sri Lanka, South Asia Press.
- Country Diagnostic on Mutual and Corporate Microinsurance in Sri Lanka, International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation

#### **4.4. Policy Engagements**

##### **4.4.1. Events**

- 'ISAS Colombo Colloquium', co-hosted by IPS, Shangri-La, Colombo, 23 January.
- Policy engagement forum on 'Education and Skills for Prosperity: Building Networks for Bridging Knowledge Gaps', IPS, 30 January.
- 'New Thinkers' Symposium', IPS, 27 February.
- International knowledge-sharing conference on 'Innovative Models for Inclusive and Sustainable Agribusiness Development through Public Private Producer Partnerships (4Ps)', 21 to 23 March.
- Policy engagement forum on 'Trade Research', IPS, 27 March.
- Policy engagement forum on 'Climate Change Research', IPS, 24 May.
- Stakeholder consultation meeting on 'Formulation of Intellectual Property Policy for Sri Lanka', IPS, together with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC) of Sri Lanka, IPS, 28 May.
- Validation workshop on 'Formulation of Intellectual Property Policy for Sri Lanka,' IPS, together with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, IPS, 11 June.
- Dr. Saman Kelegama Memorial Lecture by Dr. Indrajith Coomaraswamy, Governor of Central Bank on 'Opportunities and Challenges for Stability and Growth', IPS, 25 June
- Dr. Saman Kelegama Memorial Conference on 'Managing Domestic and International Challenges and Opportunities in Post-Conflict Development: Lessons from Sri Lanka', Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo, 29 and 30 June.
- Policy engagement forum on 'Migration', IPS, 31 July.
- Lessons sharing workshop on 'Bridging the Climate Information and Communication Gaps for Effective Adaptation Decisions: An Integrated Climate Information Management System (ICIMS)', organised in

collaboration with Department of Meteorology, Avani Resort, Kalutara, 30 and 31 August.

- Launch of ‘Sri Lanka: State of the Economy 2018’, IPS, 15 October.
- Consultation workshop on ‘Innovative Agricultural Technologies in South Asia’, Galadari Hotel, 29 to 31 October.
- Stakeholder engagement forum on ‘Food Security’, IPS, 29 November.

#### **4.4.2. GOSL Policy Development Committees**

- Committee to Prepare Study on Sri Lanka-Thailand Free Trade Agreement, Ministry of Development Strategies and International Trade
- Committee of Experts to Formulate the National Sustainable Development Vision of Sri Lanka – 2030, Presidential Secretariat
- Steering Committee to Develop National Financial Inclusion Strategy, Central Bank of Sri Lanka
- Working Group of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- Research Supervision Committee, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research.
- Standing Committee on Higher Education, National Education Commission (NEC)
- Taskforce on Labour Immigration, National Human Resources Development Council of Sri Lanka.
- Taskforce for the Sri Lanka Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals 2018 Report, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife
- Technical Evaluation Committee of National Agribusiness Development Programme (NADeP), Presidential Secretariat
- Committee on Socio Economic Research, Council for Agricultural Research Policy (CARP), Ministry of Agriculture.

## 5. Suwaseriya Foundation

### 5.1. Introduction

The “1990 Suwa Seriya” free ambulance service, being the first of its kind in Sri Lanka, started its pioneering journey on the 28th July, 2016 with 88 fully equipped ambulances in the Southern and Western provinces along with a state-of-the-art Emergency command and control center based in Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka to provide an effective and quality pre-hospital emergency care service in the country. The new bill to provide for the establishment of ‘the 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation’ was Gazetted by the Government on the 4th of July 2018 and the administration and management of the affairs of the Foundation is vested in a Board Management.



This phenomenal service was initially funded by a generous grant of USD 7.55 million from the government of the Republic of India and the continuity of the operations later ensured by Sri Lankan government borne funds. The “1990 Suwa Seriya” free ambulance service ensures a prompt response to each and every call received at the command and control centre. The Emergency Response Officers (EROs) assess the emergency or the presenting symptom and without delay dispatch an ambulance staffed with a highly trained Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), who, along with the undivided support of the ambulance pilot, ensures the victim receives the quality pre-hospital care needed and transports the victim to an appropriate health care facility.

With the Phase I of the operations, the service catered to nearly 8 million people of the Southern and Western provinces of the country with 88 fully equipped ambulances staffed with 552 skilled young Sri Lankan employees spread across 6 districts. The Phase II of the operations was launched on the 21st July, 2018 to expand its boundaries nationwide with a grant of USD 15.02 million from the government of the Republic of India. For the island wide expansion of the service, which consists of 209 new ambulance units along with employment and skilled training for over 1446 young Sri Lankans, the government of Sri Lanka founded “The 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation”, which is running as an independent entity. With the launch of Phase II, in addition to the 88 ambulances in the Western and Southern provinces, 168 ambulances are in operation in the Northern, North Western, North Central, Uva, Central and

Sabaragamuwa provinces of the country, Easter province is set to commence in the month of May 2019. Also on the completion of Phase II there will be 297 ambulances covering entire country.

The “1990 Suwa Seriya” ambulance service is a technology driven operation, which has embraced state of the art technology.

Currently over 1700 calls are handled daily with a total of over 801,863 calls since inception and a remarkable 98.9% of these calls answered within 2 seconds of the call landing. Currently, over 470 victims are transported daily with a monumental 128,747 hospital admissions since 28th July, 2016. Among the many success stories, 81 babies have been successfully delivered within the ambulance while enroute to the hospital. With an exceptional call to wheel time of less than 2 minutes and an average response time of 12 minutes and 59 seconds, the total amount of emergency cases handled are over 169,803. Going beyond the basic emergency service, all cases are followed up after 48 hours of the incident with the patient party. Moreover, a 24/7 police post is stationed within the command control centre to enable immediate and effective communications with the legal enforcements should the need arise.

The “1990 Suwa Seriya” free ambulance service has not only fulfilled the much-needed pre-hospital care service in the country, but will provided nearly two thousand employment opportunities to the youth of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. With continuous process improvement and the dedication of an exceptionally skilled staff, the “1990 Suwa Seriya” will continue to save lives of many more to come.

Ongoing innovation and reform will continue over the coming years to keep pace with the growing and changing needs of the country with breakthroughs in technology and understanding.

## Phase II – Launches

*Table 13: Phase II – Launches*

<b>Province</b>	<b>Launch Date</b>	<b>Allocated Ambulance</b>
Northern	July 2018	21
Uva	August 2018	27
North Central	September 2018	22
North Western	October 2018	31
Sabaragamuwa	November 2018	27
Central	December 2018	43



## Performance and Performance indices

For the period from 1st Jan 2018 – 31st Dec 2018 we have handled 84,297 cases which accounts for 59.23% of the total cases handled since inception. It was evident that the number of cases have noticeable increased with the expansion of the service.

Table 14: Number of cases handled in each month

Month	Case Count
Jan-18	5,807
Feb-18	5,224
Mar-18	5,779
Apr-18	5,519
May-18	5,765
Jun-18	5,730
Jul-18	6,072
Aug-18	6,892
Sep-18	7,769
Oct-18	9,242
Nov-18	9,767
Dec-18	10,731
Total	84,297

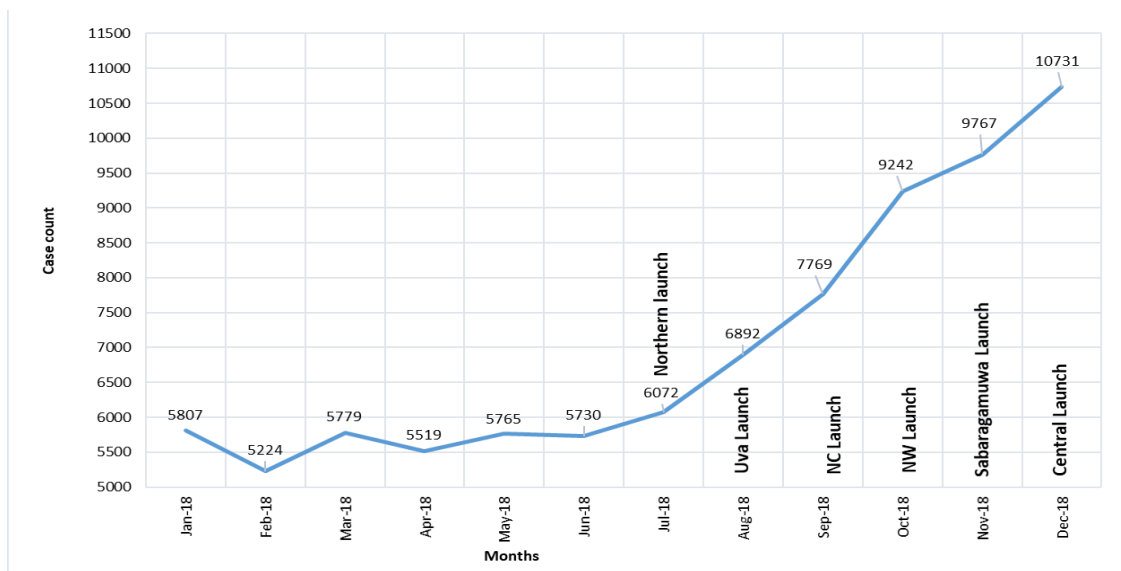


Figure 6: Number of cases handled in each month

Of 84,297 total cases, 56% were from the Western province, while 31% and 4.5% were from Southern and Northern Provinces respectively.

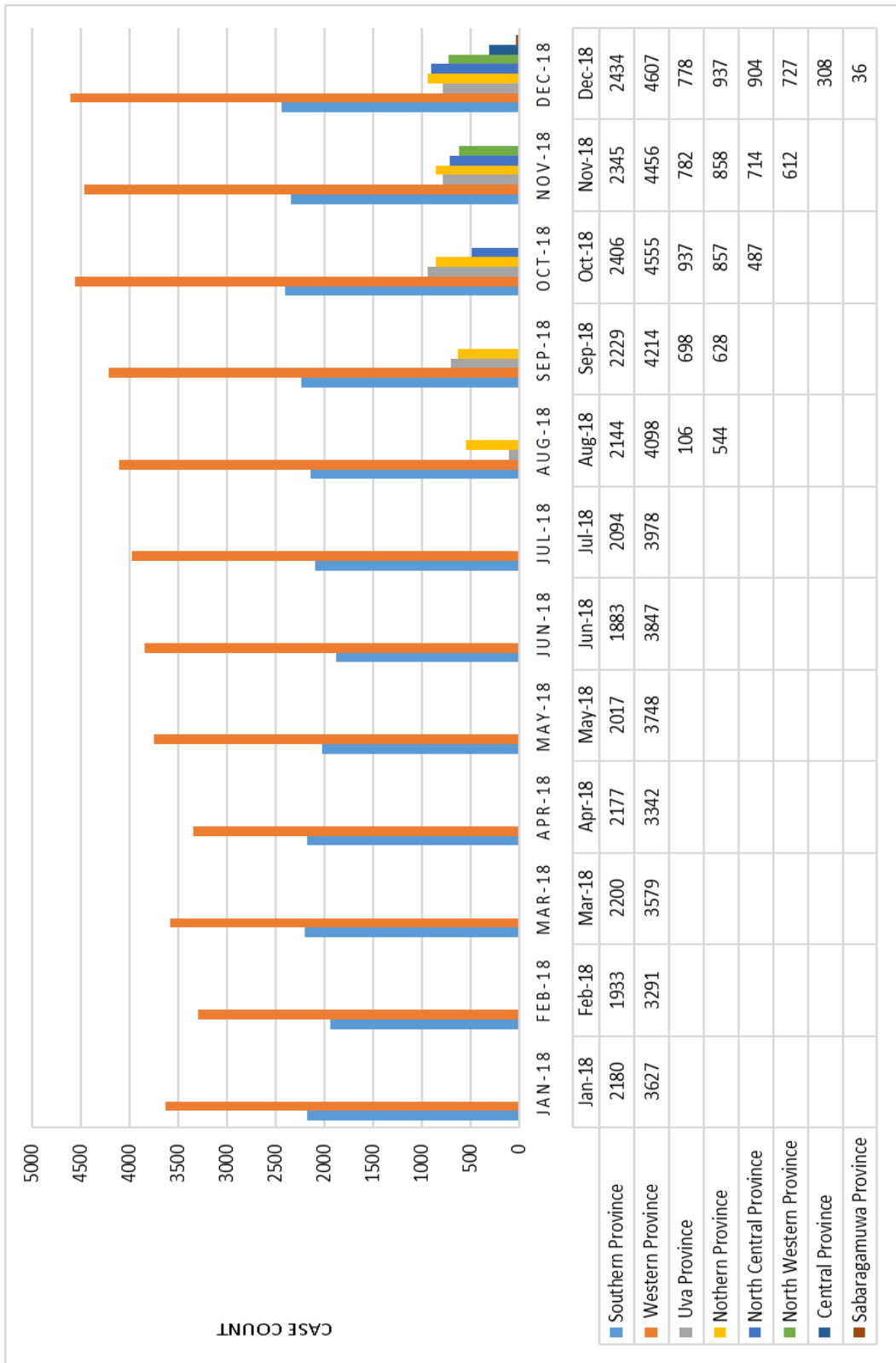


Figure 7: Distribution of cases among eight provinces

Average response time is considered as one of the major indices in determining the efficiency of the service. The response time is measured on the time it takes from receiving a call from the patient party to an ambulance arriving at the patient's location. As of 31st Dec 2018, the average response time was reported as 12:58. Response times were calculated separately for each province under phase I and phase II on a monthly basis.

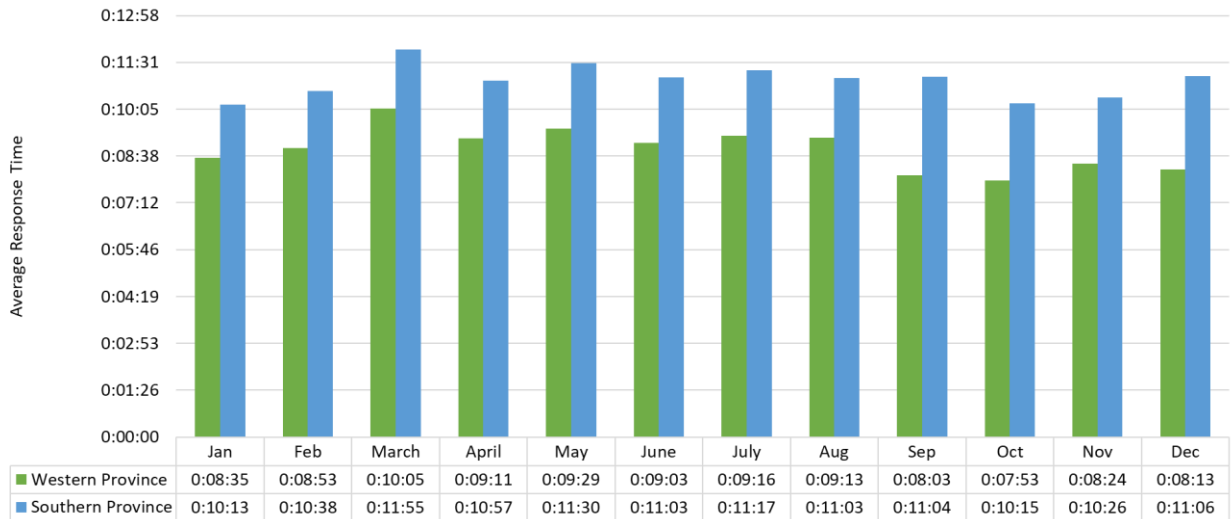


Figure 8: Month on Month Average response time - Phase I

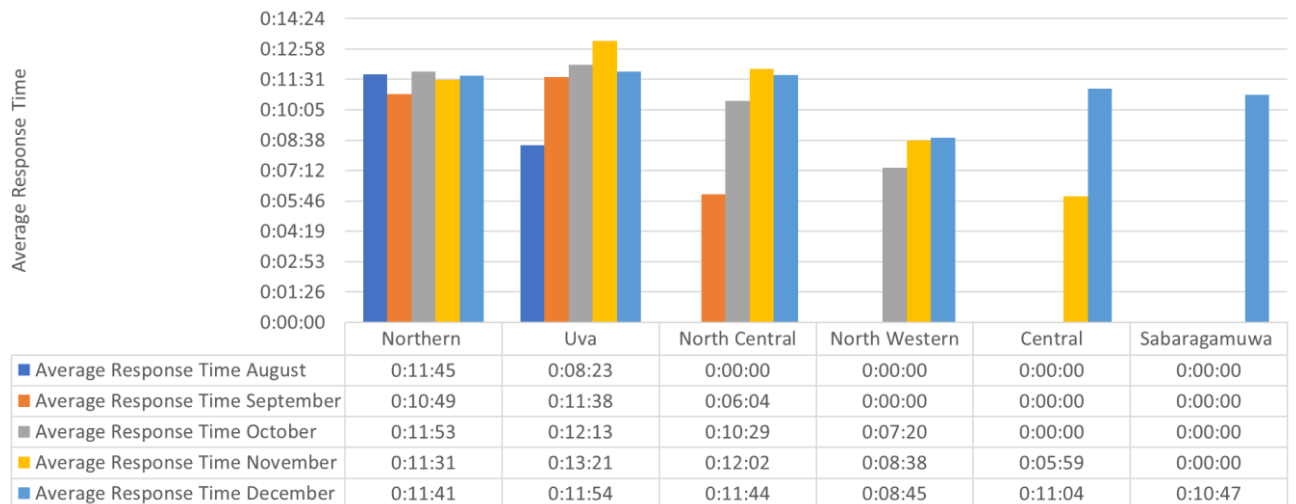


Figure 9: Month on Month Average response time - Phase II

## Case break down analysis

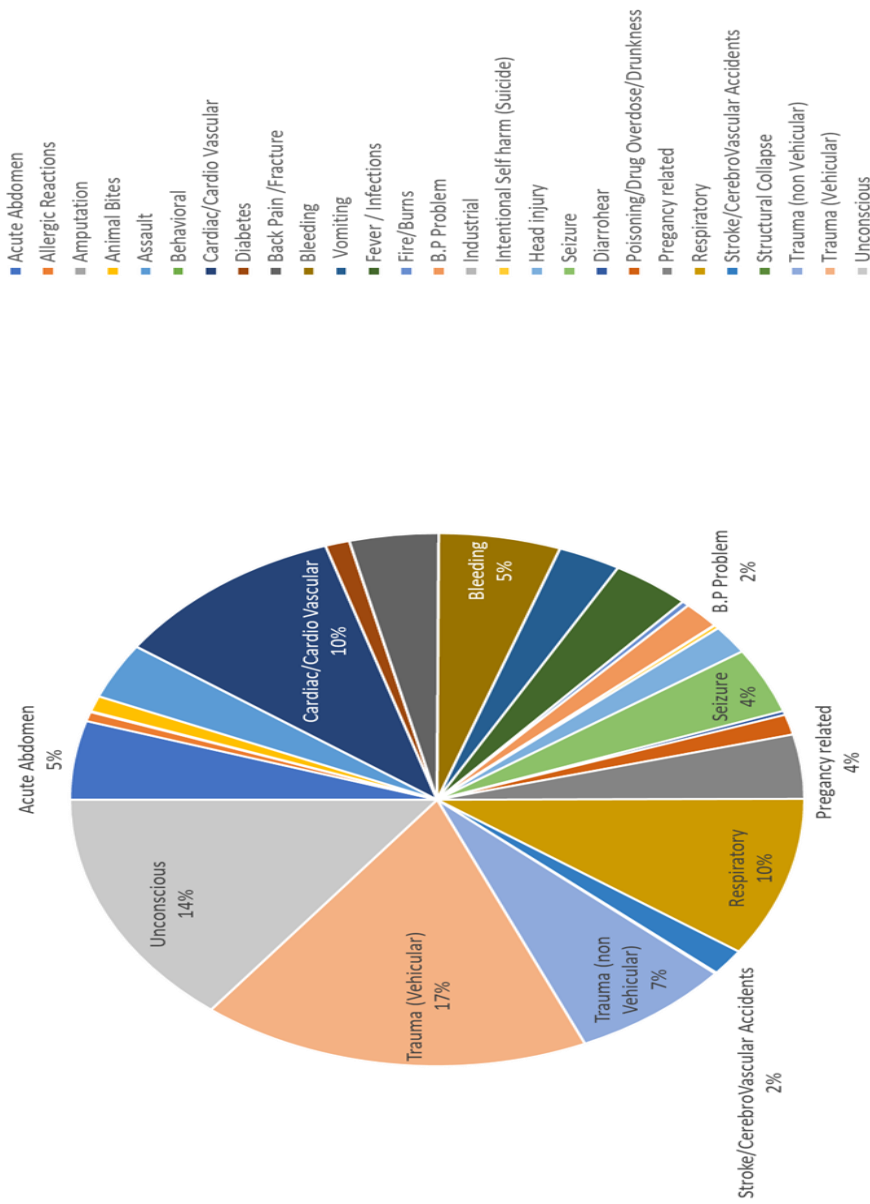


Figure 10: Case break down analysis

## Human Resource

As at 31st December 2018 the head count stands at 1208 within the year 2019 this count will reach 1998.

Table 15: Staff recruited month on month basis

Year	Month	Designation	Head Count
2018	February	ERO	8
		EMT	40
		Other	3
2018	March	EMT	96
2018	May	Other	2
2018	June	Pilot	62
		EMT	40
2018	July	ERO	5
		EMT	56
		Pilot	52
		Other	1
2018	August	ERO	5
		Other	3
		EMT	53
		Pilot	46
2018	September	Other	1
2018	October	EMT	111
		Pilot	97
2018	November	Pilot	51
		ERO	3
2018	December	EMT	56
		Other	2

## Training

The training consists of three parts for all EMTs and Pilots

- a. Initial foundation training
- b. Soft skills training
- c. Refresher training

### a. *Initial foundation training*

All EMTs selected for sent to GVK EMRI training Institute in India for a 52 day intense training program. They will undergo all theoretical knowledge required to perform as an EMT and they will be placed the Gandhi Memorial Hospital and at the GVK EMRI pre hospital care ambulance service for hands on training. On their return the EMTs will be placed at the Suwa Seriya ambulances to undergo hand on training before placing them for active duty.

All selected pilots will undergo Ambulance driving skills, Technical skills in relation to maintaining the ambulance, first aid training and patient moving and lifting skills.

*b. Soft skills training*

All EMTs , Pilots and Emergency Command and Control Center staff will undergo soft skills training on handling distressed patient and self-stress management.

*c. Refresher training*

It is a requirement that all EMTs and pilots undergo continuous training in order to keep abreast of all protocols and techniques. Therefore all EMTs go through a refresher training every 3 months on 1 module out of the 4 models on the EMT Curriculum. EMT refresher trainings are carried out by the Sri Lanka Society of Critical Care and Emergency Medicine.

The pilots and Emergency Command and Control Center staff will also go through a similar training starting 2019.

*Table 16: 2018 Staff training*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Batch Details</b>	<b>Head Count</b>	<b>Type of Training</b>
January	-	-	-
February	6th Batch EMTs	41	Foundation Training + Soft
March	7th Batch EMTs	50	Foundation Training + Soft
	8th Batch EMTs	46	Foundation Training + Soft
June	Moragala Pilot Batch	31	Pilot Training Program
	Moragala Pilot Batch	31	Soft Skills
	Badulla Pilot Batch	32	Pilot Training Program
	Badulla Pilot Batch	32	Soft Skills
	9th Batch EMTs	40	Foundation Training + Soft
	EME Candidates	20	Clinical & Lectures
July	Nothern Pilot Batch	52	Pilot Training Program
	Nothern Pilot Batch	52	Soft Skills
	10th Batch EMTs	56	Foundation Training + Soft
August	NC Pilot Batch	50	Pilot Training Program
	NC Pilot Batch	50	Soft Skills
	11th Batch EMTs	53	Foundation Training + Soft
September	Training Instructor	1	APLS
October	NW Pilot Batch	49	Pilot Training Program
	NW Pilot Batch	49	Soft Skills
	12th Batch EMTs	53	Foundation Training + Soft
	Central Pilot Batch	48	Pilot Training Program
	13th Batch EMTs	58	Soft Skills
	1st 24 EMTs/Colombo	24	Refresher Training Program
	2nd 24 EMTs/Colombo	24	Refresher Training Program

	Colombo Mixed Pilot Batch	24	Pilot Training Program
	Colombo Mixed Pilot Batch	24	Soft Skills
	Sabaragamuwa Pilot Batch	27	Pilot Training Program
	Sabaragamuwa Pilot Batch	27	Soft Skills
November	EMEs & Training Instructor	24	SLEMCON Basic
December	14th Batch EMTs	57	Foundation Training + Soft

### **Continuous improvement**

Inside of the Phase II ambulance was rearranged and redesigned from the learning of the Phase I ambulance. And a fleet of 75, 4\*4 ambulances were introduced to the required areas. As per a study done by the BBC every minute delay reduces survival by 10%, therefore it is critical that the ambulances reach the patient location as soon as possible, in order to achieve this all ambulances are fixed with a Navigator that is integrated with Google traffic. Also all Ambulances are fixed with two cameras.

Staff is assigned with a daily training drill schedules in order to keep them practiced and ready for all sorts of emergencies. These practices even include patient lifting and moving skills.