



# Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Progress towards SDG Target 8.7

2024



## Sri Lanka - Progress on SDG Target 8.7 – May – December 2024

### Annual progress on roadmap priorities

Let's look at i) your national priorities to eliminate child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery, and ii) the next steps outlined in your Pathfinder Country Report from last year.

*Editing notes: Please just report progress that is relevant and aligned to the Roadmap. The progress should be from the reporting period between May 2024 and December 2024. Focus should be on results rather than processes. If progress has been made towards a specific result, even if the result has not been achieved yet, it should be clearly stated. For example, a submission such as “training on child labour for government representatives” would not suffice and require further information, such as the dates of the training and number of participants.*

**\*If you provided more than 3 roadmap priorities in the last Report, all your roadmap priorities will show up in this section.**

1. **Since May 2024, what progress has been made to your #1 national roadmap priority “Prevention”? \***
  - Department of Labour, Sri Lanka (DOL, SL) introduced an online pledge for employers to self-declare that their businesses are operated without child labour or hazardous forms of child labour. The pledge was introduced on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2024, (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16KDtkE7nB/>) at the event held in line with the World Day Against Child labour, which falls on the 12<sup>th</sup> June. The link for the online pledge is displayed on the official website of the DOL, SL (<https://labourdept.gov.lk/>). It is expected that formal sector employers will get an international recognition as well by making this pledge and they will be benefitted by maintaining child labour free work environments. The official FB page of the DOL displays the highlights of these events. (<https://web.facebook.com/deptlab/?rdc=1&rdr#>)
  - An MOU too had been signed between the DOL and the Industrial Development Board of Sri Lanka, with the objective of implementing strategies for eliminating child labour within their membership, at the same event held to commemorate the World Day Against Child Labour, 2024. The Ministry of Industries too has extended their support towards these efforts of eliminating child labour. The Employers’ Federation of Ceylon (EFC) has also extended its support by issuing a circular to its members, encouraging them to make the pledge for the elimination of child labor. The labour inspectors of the DOL too have been instructed to promote the pledge making among employers in their routine inspections. An internal circular (No. 06 of 2024, dated 25th September 2024) too has been issued in this regard.
  - The DOL has paid more focus to the Industry and Plantation Sectors of the country with the prediction of possible vulnerability associated with these sectors. Accordingly 65 awareness programmes (comprising 25 employers in each programme) for small and medium sector



employers of the industry and plantation sector were conducted through all regional offices of the DOL. The employer pledge too has been obtained simultaneously from the employers.

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15QTcU\\_54Ycz8sSrfHAKhiPGjzSTle29v/edit?usp=drive\\_link&oid=106486510018417119121&rtpof=true&sd=tru](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15QTcU_54Ycz8sSrfHAKhiPGjzSTle29v/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=106486510018417119121&rtpof=true&sd=tru)

- The DOL identified that the “Community Police committees” which consists of village level community leaders, is the most effective mechanism to convey the message of elimination of child labour to the grass root level. With the aim of that, the DOL requested the Sri Lanka Police to obtain their support to educate village level community leaders through existing “Community Police Committees” mechanism. As a result of the initial discussions held in August 2024, with the Ministry of Public Security and the Sri Lanka Police agreed to support the DOL.
- Accordingly, a special training session was conducted, on the **20th of August 2024**, (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16cXk98uiQ/>) for the 5 Zonal Community Police Officers-in-Charge (OICs) of Colombo District and OICs attached to 52 police stations in the Colombo district. The training was led by the Commissioner General of Labour and the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Community Police Division of the Sri Lanka Police. Zonal Deputy Labour Commissioners and district-level Assistant Labour Commissioners of the Colombo too participated in the said training. These Deputy Commissioners and the Assistant Commissioners of the DOL have been instructed to participate in the “Community Police Advisory Committees” convened at each of the 52 police stations in Colombo District. Furthermore, Community Police Committees/ Civil Security Committees which comprises religious preists, community leaders, emplyer organization leaders and the "Grama Niladhari" of the grassroot, level had been supported by the respective area labour officers.
- The awareness programmes in the Colombo District with Community Police Committees were very successful and another special training was conducted on the **18<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 at Labour Secretariate**, Colombo for other 41 Divisioanal level Police OICs covering the whole island and all regional level Deputy Labour Commissioners, Assistant Labour Commissioners and Senior Labour Officers, inorder to carruout the same awareness accross the country. (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BTj6kRPYJ/> )
- The International Childrens Day Programme 2024 was conducted at a selected school identified as vulnerable to child labour identified during the special group inspections conducted in fisheris areas of the country. 191 Needy children were given school packs and awarding of prizes to winners of the art competition held for school children was also taken place at the ceremony. (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AY77m1raM/> ) There was a social media awareness as well carried out simultaneously for the art competition, on the law related to child labour. (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Y6QU5yudC/> ) The objective was to create a massive awareness among school children and teachers on the



recent law amendments on child labour, while admiring the easthetic creativity of the school children.

<b>Date / month of the awareness programme</b>	<b>Name of the awareness programme</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Number and type of people participated</b>	<b>What topics the awareness programme covered</b>	<b>Funding Information</b>
<b>18th June 2024</b>	World Day Against Child Labour	Colombo	NSC Members/ NGO/ Employers's Organization/Union/ Ministry & Department Officers	Social responsibility towards child labour elimination	Rs. 100,000/=, Department Allocation, Shrama Vasana Fund, Rs. 150,000/=
<b>June 2024</b>	Awareness in fisheries sector during group inspections	Fisheries Areas (both coastal and inland)	2013 individuals in fisheries community	Social responsibility towards child labour elimination and hazardous forms of employment	Rs. 402,000/=, Decent Work allocations of the Ministry of Labour
<b>August 2024</b>	Special training for praja police OICs	Colombo	58 Police OICs, 07 Assistant Commissioners of Labour, 04 Deputy Commissioners	Social responsibility towards child labour elimination and hazardous forms of employment	Rs. 138,000/=, Decent Work allocations of the Ministry of Labour
<b>1st October 2024</b>	Children's Day Program	Subodha Junir School, Dehiwala	191 school children Parents, School children and NSC ECL members	Social responsibility towards child labour elimination and hazardous forms of	Rs. 200,000/= from Allocations of DOL Sponsorship for school packs from Srama

				employment	Wasana Fund, Prizes for winners of poster completion held for school children from CBL Lanaka PLC, Refreshments by Gamma Pizza Craft Ltd.
<b>October 2024</b>	65 Awareness for small and medium sector employers of the Industries and Plantation sector	All districts	1625 approximately	responsibility towards child labour elimination and hazardous forms of employment	Rs. 975,000/=, Decent Work allocations of the Ministry of Labour

- Above table depicts a summary of the awareness programmes conducted by the DOL in 2024.
- 2. **Since May 2024, what progress has been made to your #2 national roadmap priority “Protection”? \***
  - One vulnerable instance had been reported in Kaluthara area, involving 3 three children of ages 5, 7 and 10 years, who were facing difficulties to attend school due to poor financial status of the family. This matter was referred to the Madurawela Divisional Secretariat requesting for a care plan and also to ‘Maliban Gold Marie Nidahase Ran Daruwo Fund’ for supporting the family with a self-employment.
  - Another vulnerable incident had been identified in Mathugama area. The boy, in this instance was of 15 years, and incident had been referred to Bulathsinhala Divisional Secretary, requesting for a care plan.
  - The programmes conducted in connection with the Community Police Committees too target at identifying the vulnerability to child labour as well, through the members of the respective committees, as religious leaders and well wishers are in these committees. The cases which need the attention of the local governance and government support too will be referred to respective institutions.



3. **Since May 2024, what progress has been made to your #3 national roadmap priority “Prosecution”?** \*

- The DOL receives child labour complaints from National Child protection Authority (NCPA) via 1929 child helpline, directly to the DOL’s Complaint Management System (CMS). In addition, complains are received by the DOL from telephone calls, letters, media reports, etc. Since the NCPA can now access CMS of the DOL directly, the process of investigations has been expedited.
- The Department of Labour in Sri Lanka maintains a comprehensive regional office network that spans the entire island, enabling effective inspection and monitoring activities across all districts. This widespread presence allows Labour Inspectors to respond promptly to complaints and conduct regular inspections, even in rural areas. Moreover, our Labour Inspectors possess strong subject knowledge and specialized training on child labour issues, which enhances their ability to identify and address violations, even in informal sectors. As a result of these institutional strengths and ongoing enforcement efforts, Sri Lanka is in a relatively strong position in the fight to eliminate child labour and continues to make steady progress.
- 57 labour officers had been recruited to the DOL in May 2024 and a comprehensive diploma level, induction training had been given to them including practical sessions on court procedures.
- DOL received 100 child labour complains during january to December period in 2024 and only two instances had been identified as child labour. The details of those two instances are as follows.

Serial No.	Labour Office Area	Complaint Source	Nature of Employment	Age of the Child / Young Person	Number of Individuals and Gender	Child Labour (CL) or Hazardous Child Labour (HCL)	Special Remarks
1	Colombo East (Battaramulla)	NCPA	Working as a security Guard at a Company	17 years 09 months	1 Male	HCL	Service Sector
2	Hatton	Direct Complaint	Working in a boutique	15 years	1 Male	CL	Service Sector

- The summarized details of seven concluded court cases filed under the Act No. 47 of 1956, Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act, in 2024 are depicted in the following table.

Name of the Magistrate's Court	Child Labour/ Worst forms of Child Labour	Number of Respondents	Court Order
Chilaw	Child Labour	01 respondent	A fine of Rs. 10,000/= No order for compensation
Moratuwa	Child Labour	01 respondent	A fine of Rs. 10,000/= A compensation of Rs. 30,000/=
Gangodawila	Child Labour	A private Ltd	A fine of Rs. 5,000/= A compensation of Rs. 50,000/=
Moratuwa	Child Labour	01 respondent	A fine of Rs. 8,000/= No order for compensation
Mathugama	Child Labour	01 respondent	A fine of Rs. 7500/= only. No compensation ordered.
Kesbewa	Worst forms of child labour	A private Ltd	Rs. 10,000/= fine, Rs. 25,000/= compensation each for two children
Kesbewa	Worst Forms of Child Labour	04 Respondents	Penalty of Rs. 7500/= from 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> respondents. 1500 government fee for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> respondent. A compensation of Rs. 500, 000/= (five lacks) from 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> respondents

4. **Since May 2024, what progress has been made to your #4 national roadmap priority "Partnership"? \***

- The National Steering Committee on Elimination of Child Labour (NSCECL), which is the national level coordination body established under the Child Labour Elimination Policy of Sri Lanka, was convened by the Secretary of the Ministry of Labour on the 2nd of February and the 30th of October 2024.
- In addition to that, officers of the DOL participated the other national level coordinating mechanisms such as national Steering Committee on Child Protection at the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, Child Protection Forum of the NCPA, and the National Anti Human Trafficking Task Force at the Ministry of Defence.
- The District and Divisional Child Development Committees (DCDCs) too are participated by the DOL officers, which are the District and Divisional level coordination mechanisms as



well. The DOL officers have been given instruction on attending to DCDCs by the internal circular No. 03 of 2019 and it ensures the regional level coordination among government officers.

- The three national level coordinating mechanisms under the Alliance 8.7, NSCECL, Forced Labour Task Force and the National Anti Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF) have nominated members to form a coordinating group and to carry out the roadmap priorities.
- Forced Labour Task Force has get the technical support from the International Labour Organization (ILO) to develop a Training of Trainers (TOT) for Labour Inspectors to identify forced labour incidents during their routine duties. A special session has been allocated for identifying Trafficking instances as well within the same TOT module.
- The NAHTTF maintains a separate website for the awareness and combating activities of the trafficking incidents and all information is updated in <https://nahttf.gov.lk/>

### Progress on the identified next steps

In your 2022-2023 annual report, the following next steps were identified for the period May 2023-December 2023.

*\*Questions 5 is not applicable for countries reporting for the 1st time.*

*\*If you provided more than 3 next steps in the last Report, all your next steps will show up in this section.*

5. What's the status of your next step #1 “...”

- Not achieved
- Planned
- Ongoing
- Completed

Comments:

6. For the period from January to December 2025, what are the priorities for your country to achieve the roadmap? \*

- Community level awareness programmes will be carried out with Sri Lanka Police covering the whole island. Special programmes will be conducted in plantation areas and coastal areas
- Group inspections will be conducted targeting spas, home stays and vulnerable areas, jointly with Sri Lanka Police, Probation, NCPA officers and tourism sector officers.
- Employer pledges will be obtained continuously as per the amended internal circular No. 04 of 2025, dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- Trainings will be conducted for labour inspectors for identifying forced labour and trafficking victims and measures for referring them for protection and further actions.



7. Which challenges would you anticipate in this process?
- Barriers to communication, poor transport facilities, devices for online applications, technical knowhow and inadequate human resources can be considered as barriers. Non conducting of the national child activity survey is a another barrier.
8. Do you need more support in the implementation of your Roadmap? If so, please describe in which way and from whom.
- Conducting of child activity survey
  - Provision of national level and international level trainings and appreciations for committed officers would be beneficial in carrying out the planned activities.
  - As per the child activity study conducted by the Statistics Division of the DOL has identified that elimination of poverty in vulnerable communities is of great importance. Therefore, establishment of national level safety net will be important to keep children away from child labour.

### Overall progress between May and December 2024

9. How would you rank your progress made on your roadmap priorities?
- no progress  
 little progress  
 some progress  
 great progress
10. Considering the progress on your national priorities and next steps (you have reported) between May 2024 and December 2024 what would you like to highlight on your country's Pathfinder Country profile page on the Alliance 8.7 website and reports? \*
- Editing notes: Are all these highlights meaningful enough to be considered worth "highlighting"?*

#### **Joint activities with the community police movement of the Sri Lanka Police to reach the grassroot level**

11. Were there any other meaningful successes as a result of efforts made to achieve target 8.7? Please also consider aspects of SDG 8.7 that are not covered by your roadmap (i.e., child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery).
- Yes  
 No  
 not applicable

12. What were these meaningful successes?

- The number of child labour instances has been as low as two during the year 2024.



13. What challenges did you face when implementing your roadmap priorities and next steps? \*

- Barriers to communication, poor transport facilities, devices for online applications, inadequate technical knowhow and inadequate human resources can be considered as challenges

14. How did you overcome the challenges? What are the lessons learned?

### Assessment of achieved progress in the last months

15. Which of the following formal evaluation tools and/or other evidence were used to assess the progress of your national priorities? Please select all that apply.

- Surveys
- Case studies
- Focus group discussions
- Interviews
- Anecdotal evidence
- Information from third parties
- Not applicable

Other, namely: “Given the inability to conduct an island-wide census on the matter, a survey was conducted during 2024 May –July period in Colombo, by the Statistics Division of the DOL.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jbqMezTz13cqH1vAJrVMYY7LWY8yaS2O/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jbqMezTz13cqH1vAJrVMYY7LWY8yaS2O/view?usp=drive_link)) Main objectives were to assess the progress of child labour elimination programmes and to understand the nature of future programmes needed for child labour elimination. The sample frame used was the voter registration of the Election Commission. A door-to-door study was conducted with a structured questionnaire with 4 parts. The sample selected had 1,000 households. 100 Grama Niladhari (GN) divisions were systematically chosen proportionately, using stratified random sampling. It has found that only 0.3% of children had been engaged in economic activities, which is lesser than 1%, identified by the island wide child activity survey conducted in 2016.

16. If applicable, please tell us more about the formal evaluation tools and/or other evidence that you used to assess the progress of your national priorities.

*Editing notes: Please use your answers from the previous question, i.e. surveys, case studies, other. Please send also a link/least references of the reports, or any other way this can be verified. Were formal evaluation tools used or other types of evidence?*

**Example:**

**Surveys:**

**Case studies:**



17. Please tell us the challenges you have encountered (if any) in gathering evidence to assess your progress

- Conducting of the national child activity survey has been delayed due to various reasons and results in difficulties to get an accurate picture of the current situation of child labour.

18. Please specify the names of other stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, social partners, civil society organizations) and their involvement, if any, in assessing your progress. What was the level of involvement (information shared, consulted, involvement in implementation, validation of results)?

**Example:**

**National statistical & ILO: Conducting a survey on Forced Labour in the agricultural value chains**

### Collaboration with international partners

19. Did you collaborate with any international partners? \*

Please select all that apply.

Other Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder countries. See more [Pathfinders | Alliance 8.7 \(alliance87.org\)](#).

ILO

United Nations Agencies (other than ILO)

International civil society organizations

other, namely: \_\_\_\_\_

20. Please specify the name and describe the collaboration with your international partners.

**Example:**

**Other Alliance 8.7 countries: [...]**

**UN agencies: [...]**

The NAHTTF closely work with the International Organization for Migration

21. Have you supported any sub-regional/regional/global initiatives, including South-South initiatives, on the elimination of child labour, forced labour, human trafficking, and modern slavery? \*

Yes

No

Don't know

22. Please tell us more about the sub-regional/regional/global initiatives you've supported.

The NAHTTF collaborates and supports BIMSTEC Secretariat



## Collaboration with domestic partners

23. Did you collaborate with any domestic partners? \*

Please select all that apply.

- Private sector
- Employers' organizations
- Workers' organizations
- Local civil society organizations
- Ministries within your government
- Survivor organisations and networks

24. Please specify the name and describe the collaboration with your domestic partners.

**Example:**

**National statistical office: [...]**

**Ministries: [...]**

All three mechanisms namely NSCECL, NAHTTF and Forced Labour Task Force collaborate with all domestic partners listed under question 23

25. Compared to last year, do you think there was increased collaboration with domestic stakeholders? \*

- Yes
- No

Please describe: \_\_ In 2023 the NSCECL had been conducted only once and in 2024 it had been convened successfully twice and also the national roadmap for the Alliance 8.7 was finalised at the strategic workshop on the 02<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024 (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1EtYA5Ypmm/> ) and submitted to the 18<sup>th</sup> GCG meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2024.

26. Please tell us what has improved in your collaboration with your domestic collaborator(s) and efforts.

**Example:**

**We have strengthened our cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior by introducing new laws to combat human trafficking.**

27. Was the pathfinder process considered useful? \*

- Yes
- No



28. If yes: How would you describe the impact of the Pathfinder Process in your country?

### Future prospects

29. Is there a need to revise your country's roadmap priorities? \*

Yes

No

If you answered “yes” to this question, specify the nature of the change you wish to apply to your roadmap priorities: \_\_\_\_\_

30. What needs to be updated? Please select all that apply.

Need to update the priorities

Need to update roadmap goals/targets

Other, namely: Some of the activities will be changed

Thank you!