



Part Two : Legal Frameworks and Actors of Local Economic and Inclusive Development in Sri Lanka

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Legal Frameworks

Legal frameworks here, refers to international and national Laws, Acts, Policies, and regulations. These are generally seen as a commitment that the state makes on a topic and provides direction to implementers in preparing plans and operational strategies for the country.

Key acts, polices, regulations and schemes that are relevant to inclusive economic development in Sri Lanka are summarised below. Relevant sections within the legal framework that make an explicit reference on vulnerable persons, marginalised women and people with disabilities have been highlighted. At the same time Acts, specifically on rights of people with disabilities and women, are reviewed in the light of what it says on employment.

International Frameworks

Among international frameworks that promote economic development and are ratified by Sri Lanka are the Sustainable Development Goals and ILO conventions.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The SDGs are a set of **17 goals** accompanied by **169 targets**, entailed in the Agenda 2030. The 17 goals are interconnected and cover areas such as poverty eradication, health, water and sanitation women empowerment, education, and so on.

The government of Sri Lanka has formed a separate ministry on Sustainable Development that reflects the government's commitment on the SDGs. Data for SDGs indicators are collated and published by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) on their website.

One of the key principles that guide the implementation of the SDG is "No one left behind". The SDG actively aims at bringing persons and groups facing marginalisation into development processes.

¹ The **Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development** is an international political declaration formally adopted by United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, which took place from 25-27 September 2015.

SDG Goal 8: To Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Target 8.5: “By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for **all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities**, and equal pay for work of equal value.”

National Indicators: (Sri Lanka)

8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and **persons with disabilities**

8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and **persons with disabilities**

The government of Sri Lanka has set itself the task of collecting information on the targets for these goals. The information is expected to be disaggregated by sex, age and disability.

ILO Conventions: The International Labour Organisation Convention has a total of 190 Laws that aim to improve labour standards of people across the world. Sri Lanka has ratified 43 of the 190. Eight conventions are Fundamental conventions on prohibition of forced labour, child labour, the right to organize in a trade union, and suffer no discrimination. The fundamental conventions are binding upon every member country. Sri Lanka has also ratified 3 out of the 4 governance conventions (employment policy convention, labour inspection convention, international labour standards convention) and 32 Technical conventions. Technical conventions cover specific areas such as unemployment indemnity, Night work women’s convention, minimum age convention, etc)

A detailed list of the ILO conventions ratified by Sri Lanka is available on the ILO website.²

National Frameworks

Among national frameworks in Sri Lanka the following Acts, polices and schemes relevant to local economic development are listed below.

- The National Human Resources and Employment Policy (NHREP) 2012,
- The National Policy for Decent Work in Sri Lanka 2006,
- The National Policy for Small Medium Enterprise Development

The National Human Resources and Employment Policy (NHREP) 3: is an overarching policy framework of the Government of Sri Lanka that is meant to govern its human resource development work and actions that are to be taken to provide full, decent and productive employment. The NHREP is a framework that brings together other existing national policies related to employment and human resources formulated by different ministries under one umbrella – it identifies points of convergence. The policy is comprehensive, it not only covers human resource development, education, training and skill building but also provides policy direction to specific sectors such as agriculture, Industry, services, Informal employment, gender mainstreaming, social protection, and wages, etc.

² https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11200:0::NO::P11200_COUNTRY_ID:103172

³ <http://www.nhrep.gov.lk/>

On informal employment, the policy action states that it will adopt - A two pronged approach: "On the one hand, expansion of firms in value added sectors will be encouraged and on the other hand, the employability of workers in more skilled, better paying occupations will be enhanced. Entrepreneurial skills will be developed through easy and subsidized credit facilities. Product and market guidance and insurance schemes to cover short-term economic fluctuations will be introduced."

With reference to Small and Medium Enterprises, the policy discusses the existing gaps and provides actions to address and promote SMEs – (for example it directs SMEs to ensure decent work practices and social protection of employees, among other things)

Chapter 14 of the policy document that is titled : "Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Groups, Disabled Persons and those in Underdeveloped Regions" discusses the gaps in policy and practice in addressing the issues of vulnerable persons and groups in Sri Lanka in securing decent work. At the same time, the policy recommends specific measures to address this gap.

Examples of Policy actions mentioned on "Employment Opportunities for Vulnerable Groups, Disabled Persons and those in Underdeveloped Regions" in the NHREP:

- The industrial base in Northern and Eastern Provinces will be re- established.
- Investments in employment-intensive infrastructure development work will be initiated,
- Partnerships with civil society and community-based organizations will be formed to improve access to essential services,
- Child labour in hazardous activities will be eliminated on a priority basis.
- Support to families of working children will be provided for the elimination of child labour.
- A better database will be established, on the persons with disabilities.
- An enabling physical environment will be created for persons with disabilities to access and participate in vocational training.....

The **National Policy for Decent Work in Sri Lanka 2006**: formulated under the Ministry of Labour Relation and Foreign Employment, this legal framework provides the policy direction that Sri Lanka needs to take in implementing economic and social development. It is also the point of convergence for other policies on several aspects of decent work, and thus creates a blue print for action in creating employment, and in ensuring the quality of work and workers' lives.⁴ The Policy emphasizes that the need for increasing the quality and quantity of jobs is the surest way of moving people out of poverty. Quality is the essence of the concept of Decent Work, defined as opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.

National Policy Framework for Small Medium Enterprise (SME) Development : The policy states that the - Government of Sri Lanka recognizes SMEs as the backbone of the economy, as it accounts for more than 75% of the total number of enterprises, provides 45% of the employment and contributes to 52% of the Gross Domestic Production (GDP). SMEs promote broad based equitable.

⁴https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@asia/@ro-bangkok/@ilo-colombo/documents/publication/wcms_114045.pdf

development and provide more opportunity for the participation of Women and Youth in the economic development of the country.

The SME policy framework outlines actions aimed at creating globally competitive, dynamic, innovative, technologically driven, eco-friendly and sustainable SMEs and improving the business environment.

Key Strategies to improve business environment as stated in the framework are:

- Establishment of a Technology Transfer and Development Fund (TTDF) with appropriate incentives to support the acquisition and adoption of modern, clean technology for SMEs.
- Establish a strong network, platform and link between SMEs and technology providers. Strengthen the technology transfer programs, outreach of technology demonstration platforms and centres in the industrial parks and through special technology showcase and dissemination exhibitions.
- Promote and conduct special technology transfer and diffusion programs to promote the adoption of modern technology by SMEs. Establishing and strengthening technology bank for collection and dissemination of information on technology resources. Also strengthen training centres by upgrading the course contents and capacity development of resource personals to meet the market sensitive training requirements.
- Recognize and reward innovative and technology leading SMEs and assist them to participate in foreign trade fairs, exhibitions and technology demonstration platforms.
- Foster University – Business linkages and ensure curriculum development of Universities and Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions by following a consultative process with SMEs to meet the needs of the industry.

Social Protection in Sri Lanka

It is important to discuss social protection in the context of local economic development and in reducing poverty. The Government of Sri Lanka provides an extensive array of social protection services aimed at assisting the poorest groups. The 2016 poverty indicator bulletin states that the impact of all social protection schemes together has led to a reduction in the poverty level from 6.7 to 4.1. 11 different ministries oversee over 30 welfare programs. They cover labour market programs, social insurance and social assistance.

The Department of Social Services provides assistance to orphans, poor widows, people with disabilities, poor elderly and disaster victims in the form of food subsidies and pensions. The Samurdhi, a significantly large programme that aims to alleviate poverty and create opportunities for the youth, women, and the disadvantaged, has three major components. The first is the provision of

⁵ <http://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowCountryProfile.do;jsessionid=q7DQGfAXv16IaXpaQhIbyeNT5SYK3GjLqckFpXSB9uRtEvt4YI533421577?iso=LK>

a consumption grant transfer (food stamp) to eligible households. The second component of Samurdhi is a savings and credit program operated through Samurdhi banks, and loans meant for entrepreneurial and business development. The third component is rehabilitation and development of community infrastructure through workfare and social (or human) development programs.

An evaluation by World Bank (2002) of Social protection programmes and in particular the Samurdhi program found several weaknesses. Most important was that despite the size of the programme, there were severe coverage problems – (leaving out those who were most in need). The report also mentioned that “Public Assistance program that provides assistance to widows, orphans and the disabled worked much better but was under-funded”.

Legal Frameworks on Women’s Rights

Sri Lanka has ratified the [UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) in 1981, which is the main legal framework that upholds the rights of women in general including in employment.

CEDAW Article 11 outlines the right to work for women as *“an unalienable right of all human beings.”* It requires equal pay for equal work, the right to social security, paid leave and maternity leave *“with pay or with comparable social benefits without loss of former employment, seniority or social allowances.”* Dismissal on the grounds of maternity, pregnancy or status of marriage shall be prohibited with sanction

However, provisions under **CEDAW** are yet to be incorporated into national legislation.

Other relevant women’s laws in Sri Lanka include the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act in 2005. This act discusses the different types of violence faced – physical, verbal and economic violence that is perpetrated against women by denial to economic well being.

Legal Frameworks for People with Disabilities

Sri Lanka is signatory to the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)** and has ratified the convention on 8th February 2016.

Article 27 of the UNCRPD on **Work and Employment** states that *“States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.....”*

National legal frameworks upholding the rights of people with disabilities include:

Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, No.28 of 1996: This Disability specific law promotes and protects the rights of Persons with Disabilities in Sri Lanka. Part V; Clause 23 – makes an explicit mention of protection of individual rights, against discrimination in employment, education and access to public spaces. It also describes legal measures that may be taken in instances where individuals have been discriminated against.

The **National Policy on Disability** in Sri Lanka is one of the most comprehensive policies available; it encompasses fields as diverse as employment, education, sports, accessibility and CBR. With respect to employment the policy outlines guidelines for equal opportunities in –a) employment including self employment, Vocational training and in Poverty alleviation schemes that include social security schemes, self employment and waged employment. The policy also talks about reasonable accommodation in work place.

Disabled Persons (Accessibility) Regulations, No. 1 of 2006. – is a regulation that comes under the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, No. 28 of 1996. It provides accessibility specifications for built environment, transport and communication.

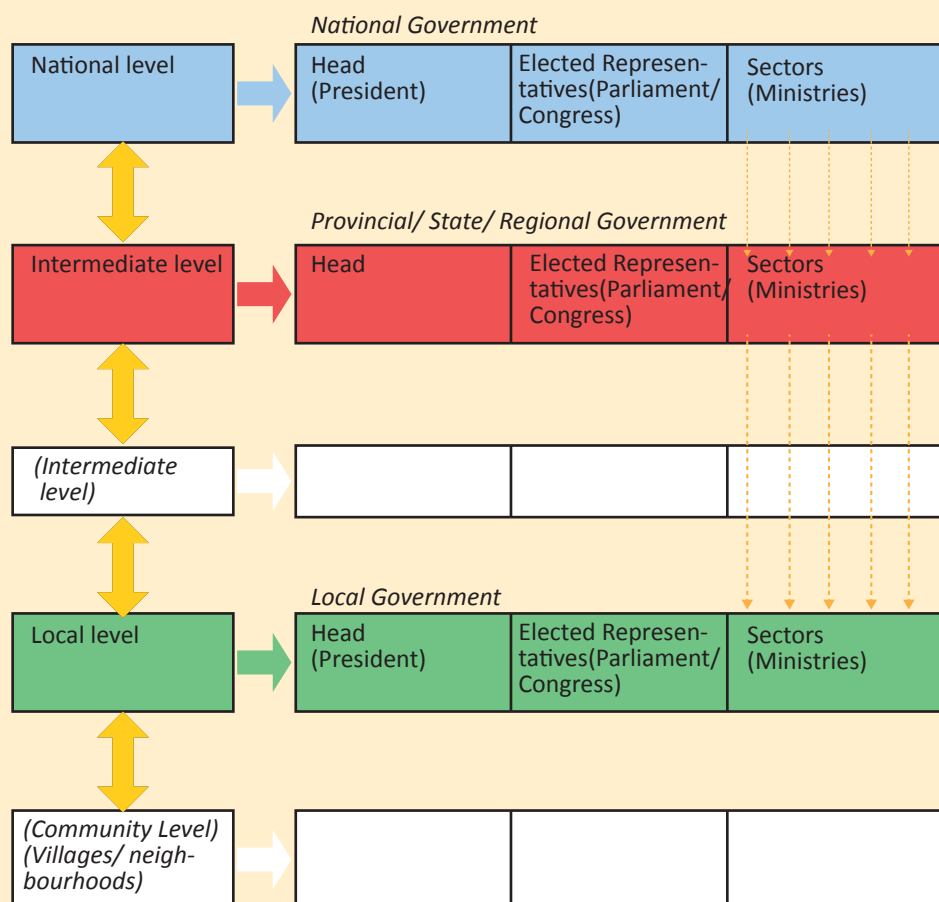
Public Administration Circular No. 27/88, 18th August 1988: As per this circular - When vacancies in the public service and public corporations are filled, 3% of such vacancies should be filled by disabled persons possessing requisite qualifications and whose disability would not be a hindrance to the performance of duties. Recruitment should be in accordance with the approved scheme of recruitment

Other relevant legislation include **Mental Health Act 1873** to protect the rights of persons with mental disabilities, the **Social Security Board Act N°17 of 1996** to provide a pension and insurance benefit to Persons with Disabilities, and the **Trust Fund for Visually Handicapped Persons 1992** for the access to welfare schemes, education, vocational training and self-employment of visually impaired people.

[A detailed analysis of policy and plans relevant to local economic development can be found in the Tool box attached in the accompanying CD.]

Actors

A range of actors are involved in Local Economic Development - Civil Society Organizations, Private businesses, Public service providers and Local Authorities and State Administrative institutions. Systemic interaction of these stakeholders promotes an environment that is conducive for economic and inclusive growth.



Kruse Claus. "standard levels of state.", state structure in Sri Lanka. Centre for international migration and development. Published in 2007

⁶Reasonable accommodation: See terminology for definition .



Picture 6: Training program on good governance for CSO key members

Civil Society Organisations

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) used in the context here refers to those having a strong presence at the grass root level. CSOs have emerged as important actors in local economic development in Sri Lanka. Traditionally, these organisations were Temple Development Societies and Death Donation Societies (funeral aid societies) in Sri Lanka. These were supplemented in 1906 by the first Thrift and Credit Co-operative Societies, established under the Co-operative Societies Ordinance. It was only in 1940 that the first Consumer Co-operative Societies were set up.^{6, 7} Over the years, CSOs in Sri Lanka have been involved in a wider variety of issues such as livelihood development, advocating on human rights, etc while often continuing as Death donation societies..

Listed below are some CSOs working at grass root level on livelihood development in Sri Lanka.

Fisheries Societies – These CSOs formed of fisher folk belonging to a specific geographic area are registered with the Department of Fresh water aqua Culture. Forming a society helps the fisher folk obtain equipment like canoes, fishing nets and fuel for boats and at the same time have better access to loans and subsidies from the department. The Society also receives skill training on post harvest, and a fish box for storage and marketing from the department. Coming together as a society helps fishermen in marketing, in fixing prices and increasing bargaining power. Since fresh water fishing is seasonal, these societies help members with loans to tide over the lean season.

⁷Bernard, DT Kingsley. 2011. 'Are we really micro financing? The Sri Lankan experience,' The Island, 9 October. ⁷ 'Microfinance in Sri Lanka,' South Asia Microfinance Network website.<http://www.samn.eu/?q=srilanka> accessed 10 Feb 2012.

Farmers Societies, these are formed at the grass root level and registered with the Department of Agriculture. Being members of the society makes it easier to channelize services from the Agriculture Department. The Department provides subsidies to set-up appropriate irrigation system, seeds, planting material, agro wells, rice parboiling drums, etc. The members also receive training and onsite support on pest disease management, weed control management, water management, compost making and nursery management, post harvest technology, marketing value addition products and home gardens, etc.

Rural Development Society and Women Rural Development Societies: Both these societies are registered with the Department for Rural Development at the provincial level. They receive livelihood support in the form of revolving fund activities, income generation activities, skill development & vocational training programs, capacity development programs and Infrastructure facilities. They contribute to community development by undertaking activities such as cleaning drives, small scale infrastructure construction, setting up street lights, etc.

Community Development Centres (CDC): these are essentially similar to the RDS and WRDS, but come under the aegis of the Local Authority. These societies consist of members from the Local Authority area. The CDCs primarily focus on economic activities, and its members benefit from the links to development projects channelized through the society. Its members also work on small construction projects such as (small) buildings and bridges that are advertised locally and are involved in other development activities taken up within their locality.

Disabled Peoples Organisations: These associations are formed of persons with disabilities and /or their family members at the Divisional Level and are usually federated at the District level. The DPOs are registered with the Department of social security. These associations work generally on advocating on Disability Rights and support members of the group with information on programmes and schemes available within the government system, targeted at people with disabilities. Disability pensions, medical allowances, vocational training for people with disabilities and financial support to set – up small businesses - are some of the schemes available to people with disabilities.

From the above list it is apparent that there is a wide variety of CSOs, with greatly differing capacities. Some CSOs have a stronger community level presence, while others maybe stronger at district or divisional level. CSOs also differ in their mandates, and in terms of their efficiency and effectiveness in supporting livelihood and influencing community development.

As key actors of local economic development, with the influence and potential to bring about change at the local level, CSOs remain central in promoting equitable economic development in their region

Public Sector service providers:

Government actors provide an enabling environment for Local economic and inclusive development. While, several actors within the government system may contribute to local economic development, we make a specific mention of those service providers that have been involved with strengthening businesses and supporting employment. The range of services provided by these actors include - support for production, capacity building, vocational training, subsidies, technical know –how, loans,

marketing, technology development and transfer, business linkage promotion, technical support, trade promotion and exhibition services, etc.

Vocational Training, The Ministry of Tertiary Education and Training have the responsibility for vocational training. However, Vocational training is also provided under specific ministries such as the Ministry of fisheries, agriculture and so on.

In Local Economic development the Ministry of Labour and Trade Union Relations, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Science and Technologies, play an important role as those Ministries hold responsibility over policy formulation and providing directions for implementation. It is the Departments at the Central level and Provincial level that then carry forward specific actions, provide services as per their mandate, directly or channelized through the District Secretariat.

Listed below are some government actors who play a key role in providing services to promote local economic development. This is by no means an exhaustive list but one based on the project experience.

Name	Function
Central Level - Authorities and Departments	
National Enterprise Development Authority (NEDA)	<p>The mandate of NEDA includes Forming and strengthening Micro, Small & Medium enterprises in Sri Lanka, to ensure their growth and sustainability. NEDA fulfils it, in coordination and partnership with other departments and agencies :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEDA is responsible for the formulation of policies, plans and promotional incentives to support and promote trade and development in industry and agriculture. • NEDA promotes improved technical skills for enterprise development. • Supports infrastructure development required to meet the development needs. • Facilitates the access of entrepreneurs to finances required for enterprise development and operation. • Promotes Research and Development to improve product • Facilitates regional economic development.
Vocational Training Authority (VTA)	<p>This authority holds responsibility over formulating and providing vocational training programs to youth in Sri Lanka.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports establishment of vocational training centres in rural areas. (A total of 245 VTC across Sri Lanka.) • Conducts training of trainers in order to promote good quality vocational trainings in rural areas. • Conduct competency based assessments • Hold responsibility for certification of the training.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide career guidance and counselling to school leavers and other youth. <p>Offers a variety of courses ranging from 3 month courses in light or heavy vehicle driving to 2-year courses for Electronic Appliances Technicians.</p>
National Apprentice and Industrial Training board	<p>This institution provides vocational and Technical Training for youth, to acquire employable skills through well formulated skills programs with highest professional Standards to meet the skilled manpower requirement in the industry.</p> <p>This is the largest institution doing apprenticeship training, with 20,000 trainees at any one time and an annual output and input in the region of 10,000. Over 145 types of training, some enterprise-based and others in the form of institutional training, are provided.</p>
Provincial	
Department of Agriculture	<p>Leads the development of a diversified and competitive food and agricultural sector through strengthened institutional coordination assuring nutritious food security, job creation and poverty eradication, thus maximizing the sector's contribution to provincial economy in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Services offered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promotes the formation and Registration of Farmers societies which can be a group of farmers, Young Farmers, Women Farmers and Producer Groups 2. Provides on-site technical support in enhancing crop production, setting up irrigation systems, etc. 3. Conducts Mobile Crop Clinics (Mobile clinic) – that look at disease control and prevention. 4. Provides Training and Awareness programmes on schemes and techniques offered by the dept. 5. Provides Subsidy Systems for agriculture and agriculture related services. 6. Supports self - seeds production
Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources / Fisheries Unit	<p>Placed within the Ministry of Agriculture, this Unit assists the inland and marine fisheries community in enhancing productivity using improved technology, reducing post-harvest losses, promoting value addition and through marketing and strengthening Community Based Organizations in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Services offered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial and technical support to improve infrastructure. 2. Financial and technical support to increase fish production 3. Financial and technical support to improve marketing facilities

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Technical support to Reduce post-harvest losses 5. Skill building in aquaculture 6. Promote backyard production of fingerlings
<p>Department of Animal Production</p>	<p>This department provides livestock inputs and services to farming community to maintain a healthy animal population and enhanced productivity to achieve sustainable livestock development.</p> <p>Services Offered :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Veterinary services (including mobile services). 2. Support forming and strengthening Livestock farmers' societies. 3. Provide 50% Subsidy Assistance for livestock purchase. 4. Do Artificial insemination for the cattle 5. Heifer calf (effort calf rearing scheme) 6. Conduct Trainings and Awareness programs
<p>Department of Rural Development</p>	<p>This department aims at promoting economic and cultural development of rural communities in Sri Lanka by strengthening community groups such as, Rural Development Societies (RDSs) and Women Rural Development Societies (WRDSs), while channelizing schemes for self employment training and finances to achieve its objectives.</p> <p>Services Offered :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support formation of Rural Development Societies (RDSS) and Women Rural Development Societies (WRDSS) and strengthening them. 2. Provide self-employment training to the WRDS and RDS 3. Facilitate and Monitor small / medium scale revolving loan activities to improve livelihoods of rural communities through RDSS and WRDSSS through Women Development Training Centres(WDTC)
<p>District Secretariat (DS)</p>	<p>Usually, the GA/District Secretary oversees all development activities in the district, including Central Government activities, provincial functions and to some extent non-governmental projects. The District Secretaries function as the 'outposts' of the Central Government. The District Administration is responsible for backstopping and coordinating implementation of activities assigned to them by both the provincial administration as well as the Central Government.</p> <p>At the lowest administrative level of Sri Lanka (The Divisional Secretariat Level), it is the Gram Niladhari and Development Officers who support the District Administration in implementation and monitoring of Development Projects and plans.</p>

Local Authority

The local authority (Pradeshiya Sabha, Urban Council and Municipal Council) is a unit of local government in Sri Lanka “charged with the regulation, control and administration of all matters relating to the public health, public utility services and public thoroughfares, and generally with the protection and promotion of the comfort, convenience and welfare of the people”.

Though the local government system directly comes under the provincial government as it is a fully devolved subject, the Central Government indirectly controls the Local Affairs as well. Local government staffs belong to the Provincial Government service, which is directly under the Provincial Public Service Commission governed under the Provincial Governor who is appointed by the Executive President of the country. Supervision of LAs is done through the provincial departments of Local Government. These departments come under the purview of the Commissioner of Local government who is also a seconded officer of Central Government’s Public Administration Service. The line Ministry of Local Government of the Central government mandated with the policy related to matters of Local Government such as boundary limits and categorisation of LAs.

The power to operate the Local Governments in Sri Lanka is governed through three main legislations passed by the legislature. They are as follows:

1. Municipal Council Ordinance No 29 of 1947
2. Urban Council Ordinance No 61 of 1939
3. Pradeshiya Sabhas Act No. 15 of 1987

Some of the specific functions of the LAs are given below;

- ❖ Solid waste management
- ❖ Provision and maintenance of roads and thoroughfares
- ❖ Public Health, primary care and sanitation
- ❖ Community water supply
- ❖ Fire prevention
- ❖ Disaster Management
- ❖ Libraries
- ❖ Playgrounds
- ❖ Parks
- ❖ Bus stands
- ❖ Community Centres
- ❖ Public Toilets
- ❖ Cemetery / Crematorium
- ❖ Public Markets
- ❖ Regulatory services such as issuing Building Approvals , Trade Licenses, Change of Ownership, Issuance of Environmental Protection Licenses and Street line Certificates

As part of their jurisdictional powers, LAs are authorised to collect revenues for some services provided by them in the form of user charges (direct services), tax, fines, cesses, etc. LAs derive their revenue from the following sources:

- ❖ Assessment rate;
- ❖ Entertainment tax;
- ❖ Tax on animals and vehicles;
- ❖ Licence fees;
- ❖ Rents;
- ❖ User charges

Limited capacity is one of the key issues in the Local Authorities that hinders their ability to discharge their duty. Some of the key issues related to the local authorities include poor service delivery leading to poor tax collection, Lack of Public Participation, lack of insights/ tools required for better planning.

The Private sector

Government actors play a central role in supporting economic growth through providing policies and development plans, institutions to implement these as well as public goods and services, with the aim of building a supportive environment for a thriving private sector. The private sector itself is considered as the engine of economic growth. The private sector comprises not only of Micro-, Small, Medium and Large companies that are locally owned or multinational, but also of farmers, producer groups, self-employment or informal businesses. All these private sector entities aim to make profit.

Successful businesses of all kinds drive growth, create markets and employment, enable trade and pay taxes, realize investments, ensure capital flows, offer goods and services, and thereby contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction.

Especially decent job creation and integration in value chains or more general access to buyers in local and national markets offer opportunities for vulnerable groups to benefit from economic growth through sustainable and diversified income generation.

To identify and capitalize on such opportunities for communities and vulnerable groups in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka the project "Building inclusive civil society and governance for sustainable growth in Sri Lanka" conducted a market study to identify potential products, producers and respective buyers as well as employers. Project beneficiaries are mainly engaged in agricultural production or offer labour. The market study presented potential buyers such as Ananda Stores or MILCO as well as a retail scheme by Unilever and Brandix as employer to integrate community members in value chains and labour markets. The full market study as well as a list of companies can be found in the accompanying CD.

Producers or future employees were introduced to interested companies. Business relationships were established based on economic terms.

A Toolkit for Replication



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