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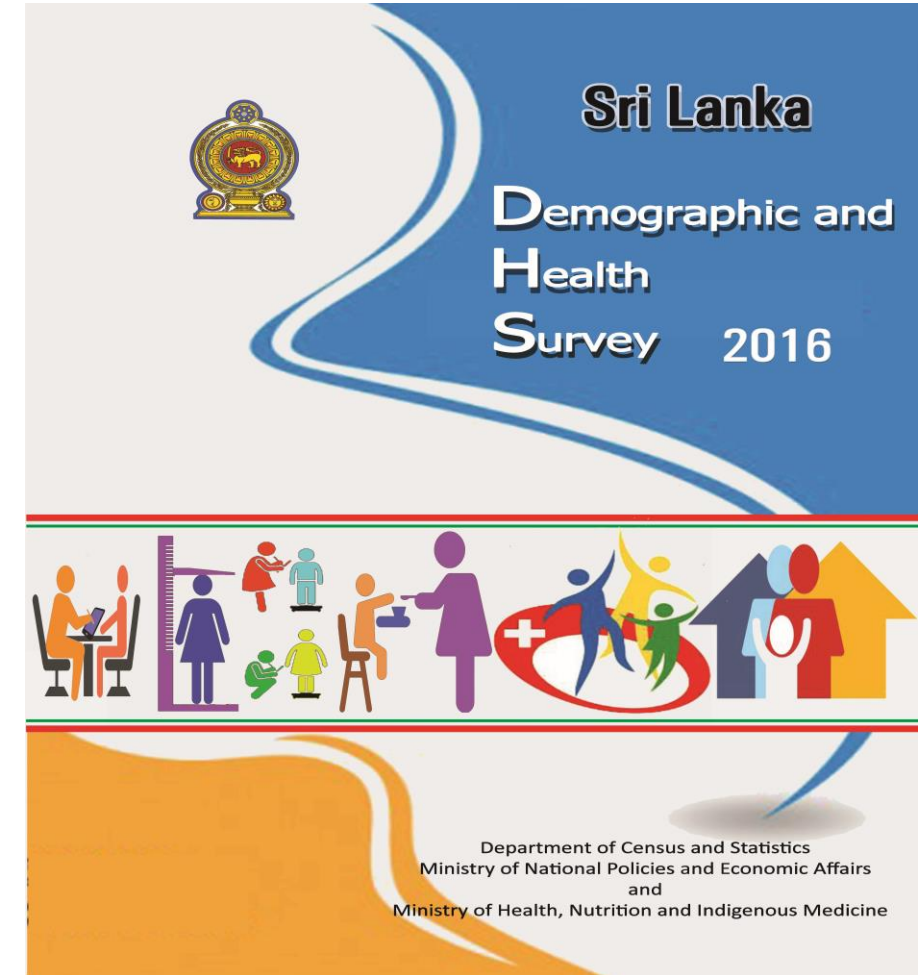
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**Launching SLDHS, 2016**

# *Demographic and Health Surveys in Sri Lanka: Past, Present and Future*

*Dr. A.J. Satharasinghe  
Director General  
Department of Census and Statistics*





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# SLDHS - 2016

- The fifth DHS in Sri Lanka
- Conducted at the request of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine
- Financial assistance from the World Bank
- Technical assistance from ICF - USA



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# PAST DHS AND CONSISTENCY OF SURVEY METHODS

## Previous DHS surveys

- 1987
- 1993
- 2000 and
- 2006/07

## Consistency of DHS methods

- Uses consistent survey methods and questionnaires to measure:
  - Infant and child mortality
  - Fertility
  - Family planning use
  - Maternal health and more
- Data are comparable across time and regions





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# Special Significance of SLDHS - 2016

**First countrywide  
DHS**

**First time, the  
Computer  
Assisted Personal  
Interview (CAPI)  
technique was  
used in DCS**

**Baseline Data for  
several SDG  
Indicators**



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## Significance of SLDHS – 2016: First countrywide DHS

- Earlier rounds could not cover the entire country
- The DHS is now included in the regular statistical activity plan
- DHS will be conducted at five-year intervals to provide the much needed
  - Health
  - Nutrition and other related information on women in the reproductive age and
  - Their children under five years



## Significance of SLDHS – 2016: Use of CAPI for first time

- Interviews conducted using hand-held devices such as tablet computers
- The electronic copy of the questionnaire is loaded on to the device
- The enumerator reads the questions to the respondent, and inputs the responses directly into the device
- Eliminates the need for post-interview data entry
- Improve quality and timeliness of statistics







## Availability of data for SDG indicators in Sri Lanka

Tier	Classification	Indicators	
		Number	Percent
1	Already compiled by the DCS	46	19
2	To be compiled by the DCS	29	12
3/4	Available with or to be compiled by other institutions in the NSS	131	54
5	Regional/Global Indicators	35	14
6	Not relevant to Sri Lanka	3	1
	Total	244	100



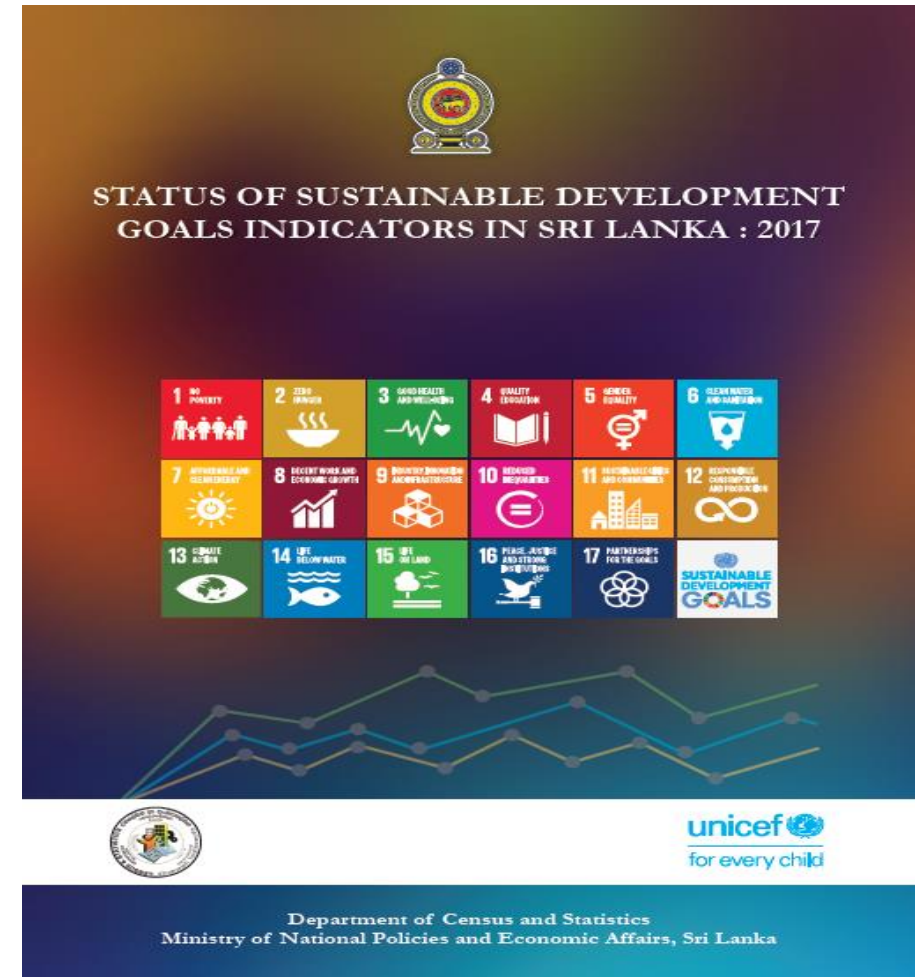
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## Significance of SLDHS – 2016: Baseline Data for SDG

- SLDHS, 2016 provides baseline data for several indicators including
  - Stunting
  - Wasting
  - Underweight
  - Births attended by skilled health personnel
  - Gender violence and more







## Sample of SLDHS 2016

- Country wide coverage
- 27,210 households
- 18,302 eligible women
- 8,146 Children under five years



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## SLDHS – 2016 questionnaire

### Core modules

- Maternal and child health
- Reproductive and fertility preferences
- Family planning
- Maternal and child health services
- Women's status
- Knowledge and behavior regarding HIV/AIDS etc and more

### New modules in SLDHS 2016

- Non-communicable diseases
- Mental illness
- Suicides
- Smoking and drug consumption
- Child development status
- Domestic violence



## Impressive progress: Great achievements should be maintained

Infant and child mortality continue to decline

Almost all pregnancies receive antenatal care

Almost all births take place in a health facility

Contraception methods are universally known





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## Making evidence based decision making

- The report of the SLDHS – 2016 contains only a few of the key indicators
- To build the policy and programmatic evidence base, DHS data must be further analyzed
- The multiple reasons for hard to change areas must be understood through analysis
- If necessary current policies and programs can be realigned as necessary for addressing the obstacles
- Great achievements made so far should be maintained





## Collaboration: DCS and MOH

### SARA-2016

- Brought to light some important issues on the national health status
- Ex: One out of two elderly people was suffering from a chronic disease
- Service Accessibility and Readiness Assessment survey (SARA) measures readiness of our health system to treat the elderly population as well.

### SLDHS - 2016

- Exemplary
- A good example for how government institutions can work together
- There were some challenges
- Stood firm and achieved goals overcoming challenges
- All those who worked hard deserve appreciation.





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