



# REPORT



## Review of the National Statistical System of Sri Lanka

December 2019



# REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF SRI LANKA

## Preface

The Review of the National Statistical System of Sri Lanka was jointly undertaken by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Partnership for Statistics Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) within the framework of the Asia-Pacific Regional Programme on Economic Statistics.

The review aims to identify the main strengths and challenges facing the national statistical system (NSS) of Sri Lanka. The review looks broadly at the range of sectoral statistics being produced within the current system to provide insights on the quality of existing statistical outputs, identifying gaps and offering advice on potential improvements.

The review assesses the institutional, governance, managerial and strategic concerns in the NSS. In so doing it examines the current status of the NSS – its legal framework and policies; the extent to which there exists coordination within the NSS; the adequacy and availability of resources (human, financial, technological, physical); the autonomy and role of the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) and the role of the Head of the DCS; statistical standards adopted in the NSS; relationship between data producers and data users; and the adequacy of data – its availability, fitness for statistical purpose.

The Review was initiated in response to a request by the Government of Sri Lanka, which was followed by a joint ESCAP-PARIS21 inception mission in September 2017 to agree on the substantive focus, process and expected results of the Review. After a period of change in the senior management of DCS, the Review was formally launched at a high-level stakeholder consultation in February 2019.

The Review is based on an extensive assessment performed during a mission in June-July 2019, with the objective to describe and analyse the NSS of Sri Lanka. The assessment preparations and conduct were aided by a guidance questionnaire (the Review Tool), tailored to the requested priority focus areas of the review.

The Review Tool was developed in reference to the United Nations Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics, international statistical standards and classifications, relevant quality assurance frameworks, as well as developments such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related requirements for NSS coordination and demands for statistics. As such it represents a fit-for-purpose adjusted version of the standard questionnaire used for global assessments of NSS that have

been conducted during the past decade in countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, and in Mongolia and the Maldives.

The review team included Mr. Mike Pepper (Lead consultant, ESCAP); Mr. Mahesh Subedi (consultant, PARIS21); and Ms. Maria Fe Talento, Statistician, ESCAP. The review team worked under the supervision of Ms. Millicent Gay Tejada, Regional Programme Coordinator, PARIS21; and Ms. Rikke Munk Hansen, Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division of ESCAP, who also conducted a series of stakeholder consultations during the review process.

The assessment mission included sessions with staff and management of DCS as well as with experts from relevant ministries and other national and international stakeholders. A zero draft of the present report was widely circulated for comments and discussed at stakeholder consultations conducted in October 2019. A list of the institutions visited by members of the review team during June-July 2019 is presented in Annex 4a. A list of institutions invited to send representatives to the stakeholder consultations in October 2019 is presented in Annex 4b.

The report also utilised materials available at ESCAP, PARIS21 and other international organisations, as well as supporting materials available on the website of DCS. It should be noted that the review was severely limited by lack of detailed information provided by DCS and difficulties in meeting relevant stakeholders from non-DCS institutions of the National Statistical System. This has resulted in parts of the review being less in-depth than what was originally intended and desired.

The team acknowledges the work by the staff of DCS to facilitate the review and thank the Director General, Dr. (Mrs.) I.R.Bandara and her deputies and staff for their availability and provision of essential logistical, coordination and administrative support. We also express our gratitude to former Minister of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution, for generously making his time available for briefings and discussions with the review team.

We hope that the Review report and its recommendations, addressed to DCS but also to members of the broader NSS as well as other users of official statistics, will benefit the further development of statistics in Sri Lanka to ensure that arrangements for Sri Lanka to respond to the demands for data and statistics for monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are as effective as possible and support the long-term strengthening of official statistics in Sri Lanka.

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## Executive Summary

There are two broad strands to the review.

First under the heading of **governance** we have examined the way in which official statistics are constructed, the current legal framework, the degree of co-ordination that exists between producers and suppliers of data, the extent to which official statistics are valued and used within the community by those with an interest in their contribution to policy development, monitoring and economic financial and commercial management.

Alongside this we have looked **sector by sector** at the range of statistics produced and (again within the timescale available to us) we have identified strengths, weaknesses and gaps in the range of official statistics.

Given the importance of **national accounts and price statistics** we have – in these particular sectors taken a much closer look and the report includes a range of detailed proposals for the improvement of national accounts and price statistics.

### Governance (Chapters 1 – 5)

We find in DCS a highly centralised organisation – more centralised than many other comparable national statistical institutes. Yet it also operates within a devolved government structure in which many of its functions are carried out within the districts and by staff of other departments and ministries with similarly devolved structures. We see an organisation which is strongly internally compartmentalised, and which has yet to develop a more outward perspective and to play its role as co-ordinator with other agencies – particularly those that could offer valuable data sources to improve the quality of official statistics.

The sector analysis describes an organisation with effective technical skills but one which has significant opportunities for applying these skills in a manner which, when co-ordinated with those in other Ministries and Departments with access to administrative data, could over a period of time substantially improve the quality, the range and the use of official statistics.

Data production consumes a high amount of human and financial resources, the best return on such investment is achieved when data get used. However, some users experience delays in access to microdata or find that access is sometimes not granted at all for reasons not clearly specified. Addressing the needs of users whilst protecting the confidentiality of individual data requires a subtle balance between conflicting objectives. A stronger user focused attitude to dissemination should be a major component of improvements to governance within the National Statistical System.

**We recommend that urgent attention be given to the possibility of revising the legal framework within which DCS currently operates to broaden its role, its powers and its legal responsibilities.**

**In the concluding Chapter 5 in the Governance Section of this Review we strongly suggest that Sri Lanka adopts a framework based heavily upon the United Nations Generic Law on Official Statistics which would require the Government of Sri Lanka to appoint a National Statistics Council comprising senior and influential public figures from key Departments and Ministries**

(including from the Central Bank) together with representatives of some of a number of user institutions with academic, research, commercial, NGO and media interests.

Such a National Statistics Council served by DCS would be given the following specific powers and responsibilities:

- to develop the framework under which the collaborative development of the National Statistical System shall take place
- to oversee the activities of the DCS
- to co-ordinate and regulate a single system of National Statistics: strengthening the National Statistical System by:
  - convening Committees to review the statistical programs of Ministries and of DCS and coordinating with other Departments and Ministries and their devolved District structures to develop a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) consistent with and supportive of national strategic plans
  - monitoring progress of the NSDS and reporting to Parliament
  - setting quality standards for statistical outputs and their analyses
  - setting standards for the publication of metadata and methodology
  - developing a system for the accreditation of all published official statistics
  - developing a code of Best Practice
  - making agreements in the form of memoranda of understanding between Ministries and DCS relating to delivery of NSDS objectives, accessibility of data, the uses to which data may be put
  - developing a cadre of high calibre statisticians
  - introduce an effective enforcement regime for those who choose to fail to reply to business survey questionnaires

Within this governance framework the role of DCS - in addition to its current duties - would be to provide the Secretariat for the National Statistical Council.

However we envisage that the roadmap towards the passage of a new legal framework for official statistics will be interrupted by competing pressures for parliamentary time, and in the meantime urge the setting up of a non-statutory Statistical Council which although not backed by legal powers could nevertheless become a pathfinder for the establishment under new statistical legislation of a National Statistical Council.

We are keenly aware of the pressing need for Sri Lanka to co-ordinate an NSDS however we feel that such a development requires the processes of co-ordination as set out in the proposed legal framework and that should either await the creation of a statutory National Statistics Council or at least an interim non-statutory Council.

Within the timescale of our review we have not been able to examine in detail the organisational structure of DCS. Superficially the overall staff complement of DCS – when all posts are filled – compares well with many other National Statistical Institutes. However, from the discussions held with staff during the Sector Analysis element of our review we have heard on a number of occasions concern expressed about the adequacy of staffing resources.

We would therefore strongly urge that there be a thorough review of the internal organisational structure of DCS examining the balance of resources deployed in the different sectors, identifying opportunities for cross-sector collaboration, looking at ways to strengthen the cadre of government statisticians, developing the skill base within that cadre to meet the requirements of the National Statistical System, identifying the best talent within the NSS and building succession planning strategies for the key posts in DCS looking forward over the coming years.

### National Accounts (Chapter 6)

Chapter 6 provides a detailed appraisal of the work carried out by DCS in the compilation of National Accounts and highlights ways in which National Accounts can be improved.

In particular it suggests that the rebased Accounts (base year 2010) should be properly footnoted in the publication that it should be disassociated from the earlier series (base year 2002) given that there are differences in scope and coverage, classification systems, methodology used in each series.

As with the Industrial sector review in Chapter 10 we draw attention as a top priority to the need for business surveys to be designed using a Business Register constantly updated by data from the Registrar of Companies and supported by individual company data from the Inland Revenue Department. We highlight the need for consistency in classification from these various sources. We also identify the need to introduce a regime of enforcement to require businesses to supply timely and accurate data in response to the business surveys.

We see a need for clear publicly available description of the Sources and Methods adopted in the compilation of National Accounts and recommend these be published and maintained.

We identify a number of administrative sources that could be explored to improve the accuracy and coverage of the Accounts. In particular in the construction sector we draw attention to the Construction Industry Development Agency Bulletin of Construction Statistics, which also monitors construction projects by project type, by sector and by institution, in terms of funding value, expected starting date and expected finished date. This data maybe tapped on an annual basis, as supplementary information to validate the revised quarterly estimates.

Chapter 6 also makes recommendations relating to Revisions Policy for annual estimates, the desirability of setting up a consultation forum, an inter-agency working group on macro-economic statistics; setting shorter timescale targets for publication of GDP quarterly estimates based on production and expenditure methodologies; and makes suggestions about dissemination channels for National Accounts data.

### Price Statistics (Chapter 7)

While the price indices generated by DCS are timely and regularly available, there is a need to continuously update and improve the quality of existing price indices to ensure relevance and wider policy use. Chapter 7 includes recommendations relating to the

- Generation of updated/ rebased price indices
- Formulation and implementation of Policies on Price statistics
- Development of new price indices
- Development of Construction price index and Real estate price index
- Development of CPI low-income group households
- Establishment of Committee on Prices
- Technical Manual on Price Indices
- Dissemination of Price Statistics
- Conduct of Users-Producers Forum

The remaining sectoral analyses have been conducted largely by desk research and mostly without the benefit of completed review questionnaire tools.

For the remaining sectors – those for which we have not been able to carry out a particularly detailed analysis - we present below some preliminary assessments and recommendations. In addition, we summarise the range of official statistics in these sectors in Annex 3b with a breakdown of the range of official statistics by sector, activity, agency, geographical disaggregation and frequency.

### Agriculture (Chapter 8)

We commend the Agricultural Household Survey 2017/18. This could be a good source of annual data if it regularised. However, Sri Lanka mainly lacks data on rural and environmental variables such as soil degradation, land use, fertilizers and pesticides used, water and air pollution, emissions due to agriculture, rural infrastructure, public expenditure on agriculture and rural development. The strengthening of Ministry of Agriculture with scientific data collection methodology and better coordination between the organizations in production of agriculture statistics would help to reduce the inconsistencies in data. New technologies like Computer Aided Personal Interviewing (CAPI) could be used in agriculture census and surveys to speed up data collection. There is a need to introduce a crop cutting survey for high land crops similar to paddy to estimate the yield based on area cultivated.

### Population and Demographic Statistics (Chapter 9)

The DCS should plan to reduce the delay in final dissemination of population census results. The DCS should use new IT based technologies like Computer Aided Personal Interviewing (CAPI) in data collection and other new technologies in data processing and analysis leading to more timely release of the final results. The RGD has taken steps to computerize vital event since February 2019 and issue certificate centrally. This system could be decentralized and



turned into online Vital Events Registration Management Information System (VER-MIS) for ease of data collection and transfer to centre office.

The RGD needs support for equipment and skill development of manpower working in computer and IT for upgrading the civil registration system into an online system.

A detailed survey of external migrants would also be useful – particularly as recent migration patterns suggest that the gender and skills mix of migrants has been changing. There is a strong case for Inter-agency co-ordination to improve access to internal and external migration data.

The Population and Housing Census is a valuable resource for many socio-economic characteristics of the population and also provides a sample frame for many national and sub-national household surveys. Therefore, this assessment recommends more open access to the PHC microdata, while ensuring individual confidentiality.

### **Industrial Statistics (Chapter 10)**

The extremely low response rate experienced in the conduct of business surveys is a very serious challenge. This is partly due to a weak legal provision and the very small penalty for failure to comply. Data collection is done under the existing 1956 Statistics act but the DCS has never taken measures for non-response against offending businesses. A strong regime of compulsory response under a new statistical ordinance is strongly recommended.

The industrial data collection system in DCS is paper based. No web-based system exists. An online data collection system could ease and simplify the industry burden.

The sampling frame of the industrial survey is not updated regularly. A mechanism to update the Statistical Business Register should be established. Establishing a registry with the base registries of Registrar of Companies (ROC) and Provincial registry of Companies (PROC) and updating it with other registries like tax registry, CEB, BOI, provincial council business registries would be very productive and this could be matched with the economic census frame obtained.

Absence of links to the administrative system of Company Registration Department, Inland Revenue Department, and provincial business registration. The data stored as administrative records in the line ministries should be shared with DCS. Here there is a need for co-ordination between these Ministries, and a new statistics ordinance should make clear that it over-writes any existing legislation which precludes sharing of individual business data with DCS.

Rebasing the Index of Industrial Production needs technical support. If this is done efficiently the survey of industrial production may no longer be required.

Environmental issues related information on industrial survey is missing. The environmental related questions should be added in the survey and census questionnaires.

### Health Statistics (Chapter 11)

An online reporting system based on patient episodes from hospitals and health institutions to the ministry and accessible to the National Statistical Service for the compilation of Health statistics will have a profound impact on the quality, accuracy and timeliness of Health Statistics. This requires a high level of collaboration and co-ordination between DCS and the Ministry of Health (MoH) and it is essential that the requirements of statisticians are taken into account within the Ministry as more streamlined data systems are introduced for health service administrative purposes and there is a clear role for a National Statistical Council to oversee such a development within the framework of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

There are gaps in the sources of available health statistics. The Demographic Health Survey is an important resource and ensuring the ongoing regular conduct of the DHS deserves strong support.

Our attention has been drawn to the case for the conduct of a disability survey and/or the maintenance of a disability register by each MoH areas.

Linkage and networking of available data from private health services and other health sectors like Ayurvedic, Unani, Sidha and Indigenous medicine is recommended to ensure a more comprehensive framework for health statistics.

### Education Statistics (Chapter 12)

The timeliness and accuracy of the Annual School Survey (which is the main source of education statistics in the country) could be improved if data were made online and the schoolteachers who fill-in the questionnaire were trained to use an online system. The information from small schools at remote areas could be collected by DCS field staff if the necessary manpower and resources could be provided.

Such improvements require detailed collaboration and co-ordination and as discussed above in relation to access to health management systems there is a clear need for a National Statistical Council to be involved in ensuring the necessary levels of planning and co-ordination.

The recently developed online data portal 'NEMIS' in the Ministry of Education must be updated regularly on time.

### Environment Statistics (Chapter 13)

There are numerous agencies in NSS with the capability of producing environment related statistics in Sri Lanka, but they lack data sharing procedure which needs to improve.

Many agencies under the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, which are the main agencies in producing environmental statistics, are suffering from lack of manpower, knowledge and support for producing and compilation of the environment statistics. The government should ensure the required support for the agencies.

As in many NSOs of other countries, a separate unit should be established at the DCS with sufficient staff to support the compilation of environment related statistics and Green Accounts with the collaboration of the Statistical unit of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment and other stake holders.

Environmental impact assessment related questions could be included in future industrial and agriculture surveys and censuses from DCS.

The United Nations concepts and methods of the environment, like FDES 2012, SEEA, SNA 2008, etc. need to be followed by the agencies in Sri Lanka which are responsible for producing and providing environment data.

### **Sustainable Development Goals (Chapter 14)**

Under the provision of the Sustainable Development Act, No.19 of 2017, the Sustainable Development Council has the task of developing the "National policy and strategy for sustainable development aligned with SDGs".

The Sustainable Development Council requires every ministry, department, provincial council, provincial ministry and department and local authority to prepare a Sustainable Development Strategy relevant to the scope of such ministry, department, provincial council, provincial ministry and department and local authority in accordance with the National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development.

The Council's role has been set out to develop a profile of agencies and relevant SDG indicators, and to identify and assign to agencies the responsibility for monitoring related indicators.

As identified by the DCS report "*Status of Sustainable Development Goals indicators in Sri Lanka, 2017*" the other relevant agencies in NSS should act promptly to compile the 131 indicators.

As indicated by the DCS report, necessary provisions should be developed and required data sources- census, survey, administrative records and new data sources should be explored to provide disaggregate SDG indicators by various dimensions.

As mentioned in the VNR report the challenges with regard to the implementation of SDGs, particularly in the areas of technology development, capacity building, policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and data monitoring and accountability has to be addressed.

The DCS should take the lead in preparing concepts, classifications and standards for defining and compiling the SDG indicators.

The council should develop capacity building trainings, especially for estimation of proxy indicators for which data are not directly available.

Since the data from government sectors are not in themselves enough to produce the numerous SDG indicators, an engagement and collaboration with private sectors, community organizations, experts, academia and other related stakeholders should be enforced to

produce more disaggregate data of different dimensions so as to ensure that the full range of indicators are produced.

### **Gender Statistics (Chapter 15)**

There is positive user feedback on gender statistics in Sri Lanka, especially those published in the DCS webpage. However, the DCS, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and related agencies should give more attention to producing required but as yet unmet data for the targets and indicators in various dimensions of SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls.

The gender database of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and the two responsible agencies: National Committee on Women and Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka are found relatively weak. They should strengthen the database using administrative records and with more surveys and research studies in their priorities areas.

### **Labour Statistics (Chapter 16)**

More disaggregation of Labour Force data by various socio-economic dimensions is requested from Department of Labour. These requests should be considered by DCS against the background of the likely accuracy of such more detailed breakdowns of estimate from a sample survey.

Labour statistics for the informal sector are lacking. A special module of informal sector in LFS or a separate labour force survey for the informal sector should be provisioned.

The data lack on domestic servants is hindering government effort to ensure labour rights and legalize the sector. A special module on domestic servant could be considered for inclusion in LFS or in HIES.

An efficient procedure should be developed to tackle the low response rate of postal based surveys - Annual Employment Survey and the Survey on Hours of Actually Worked & Average Earnings that have been conducted by the Department of Labour.

### **Poverty Statistics (Chapter 17)**

The time lag for the production of final results from HIES could be speeded up with the use of CAPI technique in data collection. Adequate financial and manpower resources should be ensured for timely delivery of the survey outputs.

The DCS and the Samurdhi Department have been using different methods of poverty estimation. The poverty estimates from the Samurdhi department is far higher than the poverty figures from the DCS. Therefore, the DCs and the Samurdhi need a combined program for data collection and steps should be taken to standardize the poverty estimation methodology.

The DCS poverty measures are available for district level at the survey year. An annual poverty estimation procedure needs to be developed which could provide the poverty estimates at DS division levels. The annual poverty estimates at DS levels would be of great help to the Samurdhi department for annual updating of target areas for its welfare programs.

The Multidimensional poverty measures which was compiled for the first time in 2018 by DCS using DHS survey must be institutionalized in DCS with adequate skill development. The use of HIES instead of DHS survey in the estimation of multidimensional poverty measures ensures better sense of comparability of the MPI figures with the actual consumption-based poverty figures using the same HIES data for the same year.

As per the UN agency in Sri Lanka the World Bank technical team recommended a few years ago that for food consumption, data collection mode be switched from a recall-based to a diary-based method. These improvements are yet to be implemented.

The Sri Lanka's poverty line, which was established almost two decades ago in 2002, is now likely to be outdated given recent fast changing household consumption behaviour. Best practice dictates that this line is re-estimated at least every 10-15 years, to reflect updated consumption patterns and ensure that the line captures a minimum decent living standard.

### **Tourism Statistics (Chapter 18)**

The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority has been using the DCS Survey of Labour Demand as a secondary source for identifying labour force in tourism sector. Some of the classifications of tourism establishments as recommended by UNWTO are different from the SLSIC and that needs to be standardized by the two agencies.

Compared to data on international tourism the data on domestic tourism, which is rapidly growing in the country, is inadequate. It is recommended that consideration be given to the conduct of a special survey or the development of a well-managed system for obtaining required data on domestic tourism.

The delay in receiving information in SLTDA from tourism related agencies – hotels, airlines, trekking and sightseeing companies could be sorted out with the implementation of a data sharing protocol with the providers and use of online system for data sharing. The confidentiality issue of the private companies has to be ensured in data sharing system. These are issues (co-ordination and confidentiality) which should be considered by a National Statistical Council.

Use of tourist related big data generated in telecom companies, through hotel bookings, use of credit cards in banks, etc. should be investigated and could enrich the tourism statistics of the SLTDA.

An online system of data sharing from the Department of Immigration and Emigration could be established for timely acquisition of the main source of in and out bound tourist statistics. Again, co-ordination with the requirements of those engaged in demographic statistics should be considered by a National Statistics Council.

The Tourism Satellite Account, which needs a number of additional surveys and tourism related information, should be conducted in collaboration with DCS for a complete evaluation of tourism sector in the economy of the country.

### Trade and Services Statistics (Chapter 19)

The low response rate in the Annual Survey of Trade and Services has to be managed with appropriate strategies. Provision of penalty for nonresponse in a new Statistical Ordinance is an essential component in developing a regime in which response rates are dramatically improved. Other simple alternatives like awareness and advocacy campaigns, engagement and support from business associations are also essential ingredients in planning for increasing response rate.

The attempt to cover the activities related to services sector through one questionnaire is commendable approach for large enterprises but the low response rate makes it a cumbersome exercise. The small and medium establishments can be covered by a simplified questionnaire and measures to be taken to increase the response rate.

An attempt to introduce a quarterly survey measuring output in the Service sector has been abandoned because of particularly low response rates. We recommend this be re-introduced once a firm regime has been established to ensure high response rates as described above.

The results of the Annual Survey of Trade and Services are available for national level by industrial classification. Further disaggregation of the information for district and DS divisions increases the value of data in local level's planning and decision making of the sector but care is essential in ensuring that - in publishing disaggregated data – confidentiality of individual businesses is preserved. However, given the low response rate for the annual survey it unlikely that more disaggregated estimates would be of sufficient accuracy as to warrant publication.

Overall, the economic statistics for trade and services within the country is found to be weak compared with international trade and manufacture industrial statistics. The DCS and related agencies should place more emphasis on this sector to uplift its status of data availability.

### Money and Banking Sector Statistics (Chapter 20)

Although the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) has a well-established system of data compilation and dissemination, the statistical publications and dissemination system in CBSL is mainly supply driven. No particular system has developed to engage with the users and to receive users' feedback and data needs. A routine system of obtaining users' feedback will enhance the value and use of the CBSL statistics.

The time lag in compilation of the monetary and financial data from the market and from financial institutions, which are mainly needed for timely forecast of inflation and price indices, could be reduced with introduction of online reporting system from the related agencies.

The CBSL has reported that data on Government public capital formation, private investments, expenditure of outgoing Sri Lankan tourists and students are weak and needs special survey or mechanism to capture either by DCS or relevant agency.

The CBSL as a major user of National Accounts (NA) has shown a serious concern on the delay in NA estimates, transparency of methodology of national accounts compilation, rebasing of NA series, coverage of new economic activities in NA, and in large differences in revision of the NA estimates. A good coordination with the DCS is an important step in ironing out these problems.

*(Note: In Chapter 20 we include a review of the Banking Statistics Sector. However, because of time pressures this was not included in our Draft Zero review and therefore has not been subjected to critical scrutiny during the workshop validation phase of our review and should be read with this in mind.)*

### **Fisheries Statistics (Chapter 21)**

Development of Central Database Management System (CDMS) within the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (MFARD) for consolidation of all existing fisheries and fishery related database systems in Sri Lanka into a Centralized System. (Proposal is being developed).

Development of national data policy for fisheries which support to avoid duplication of data collection programs among or within the institutions under the Ministry, encouraging sharing and using data on the basis of the open data principles and to be transparent on the reasonable explanations. (Ongoing).

Conducting a census for entire fisheries sector (Marine fisheries, freshwater fisheries & Aquaculture and fishery related economic activities) to produce of accurate, reliable, and timely data.

Amend the Statistics and Census Acts for enabling to transfer the technical advisory of DCS for all data collection programs which are conducted by various institutes under Government funds and for considering to include mandatory power of conducting the fisheries census under Department of Census and Statistics with parallel to agriculture census.

*(Note: Chapter 21 is a review of the Fisheries Sector and this sector was not included in the initial sector review process and has been added subsequently with a valuable contribution from Lashanthi Perera a Statistician at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development following the workshops in October. This too has not been the subject of corroborative discussion.)*

## Chapter 1: The current legal framework

1.The legal and administrative structure of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is based on its republican constitution. The country is divided into nine provinces for administrative purposes. Power has been devolved to the provinces with the unit of devolution being the Provincial Council comprised of members elected by the voters of each province. The Head of State and Chief Executive is the President elected for a five-year term, by universal franchise. The Prime Minister and Cabinet of Ministers are elected through Parliament, which is the main legislative body. In spite of this three-tier governance structure, Sri Lanka continues to have a highly centralized process of civil government with a high degree of centralization of power and decision making. It is with this background that the legal framework within which the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) should operate needs to be examined.

2.There are two Ordinances which set out the powers and responsibilities of the DCS and of the Director General of the DCS. Both were enacted in 1956 in the period between the Independence of Sri Lanka and its constitution as a Republic. It may be noted that the wording of the 1956 Ordinance follows closely the wording of an earlier law enacted in 1933. And it is perhaps with this period of the history of the nation in mind that one should reflect on the way in which the legislation was worded.

3.The first: the Statistics Ordinance (Annex 1a) establishes a Bureau of Statistics for the collection and preparation of statistics relating to “agriculture, emigration, immigration, factories, meteorology, mining, importation, exportation, manufacture and sale of products, stocks of products in possession and in course of transportation by land or by water, trade, labour, cost of living, wages, industry and commerce”. It also allows the appointment of a Director of Statistics to control and manage the Bureau and gives him or her the power to require statistics to be provided by businesses and individuals.

4.The Ordinance makes refusal to supply the Bureau with data an offence punishable by fine in a Magistrate’s Court - albeit these days a fine of 50 rupees might not seem much of a punishment - and requires officials employed by the Bureau to preserve confidentiality of individual’s data or face prosecution which could lead to a prison sentence of up to one year.

5.The Ordinance however makes no reference to the need for adherence to any of the statistical qualities set out in the United Nations Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics (Annex 2) which of course postdate the legislation although these requirements are well understood by those currently employed in the DCS. In Chapter3 we discuss in detail the qualities that are laid out by the UN in the context of the development of a National Statistical System and review the extent that these principles are reflected in policies enunciated by DCS.

6.The second is a Census Ordinance (Annex 1b) also of 1956 which sets out powers for a Minister to direct that a Census be taken, to appoint a Superintendent of Census and ascribe roles of Commissioners of Census to Government Agents and to Mayors and Chairmen of



municipalities, urban and town councils. This Ordinance was amended in 1981 introducing the role of the Director of Statistics as Superintendent and again in 2000 amending the scale of penalties for failing to comply with the law. Prior to a Census the Minister directs by Order that a Census shall take place, lists the duties of Census officers and prescribes the information that will be required.

### *Summary assessment*

7. There exists a legal framework in Sri Lanka enacted in 1956 which defines the powers and responsibilities of a national Bureau of Statistics and of a Director of Statistics. The Ordinance is based on the wording of a previous 1933 Ordinance. There is a separate Ordinance which provides powers for the conduct of Population Censuses.

### *Recommendations*

8. There be a revised Statistics Act which has a broader definition of a National Statistical System. The case for this is discussed further in Chapter 4 and a draft structure is presented in Chapter 5.

## Chapter 2: Institutional, governance, managerial and strategic issues in the national statistical system

1. For the purpose of this review the National Statistical System (NSS) will be defined to be

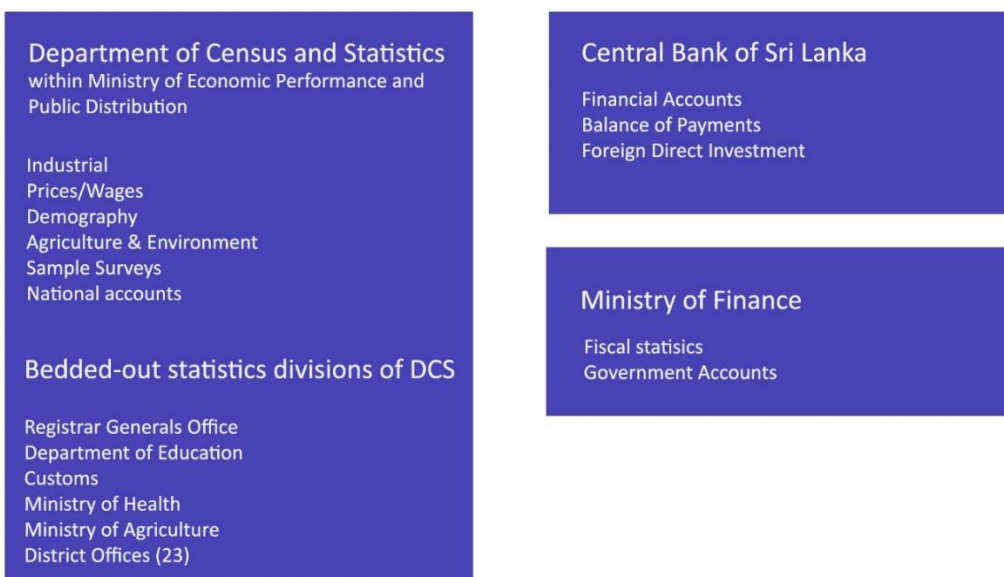
- I. The Department of Census and Statistics which is the leading authority of the National Statistical System;
- II. Other Producers of Official Statistics, consisting of organizational entities of national authorities that develop, produce and disseminate official statistics

2. The above definition is consistent with that set out in Chapter 1 Article 2 of the UN Generic Law (2016) on Official Statistics for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia which may be found at <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45114>. The Generic Law defines the parties to a Law to include – in addition to those in paragraph 1(i) and 1(ii) above –

- I. Respondents, consisting of persons, households, private and public entities that are requested to provide information about themselves, including their activities, through data collections carried out by Producers of Official Statistics.
- II. Administrative data providers, consisting of national and local authorities that provide Producers of Official Statistics with data collected primarily for administrative purposes.
- III. Users of official statistics, including the general public, the media, researchers and students, businesses, national and local authorities, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and authorities of other countries who receive or access official statistics.
- IV. A Statistical Council, broadly representing different user categories

3. As things currently are the DCS is the sole entity in Sri Lanka which from its centralised role – as described above in Chapter 1 – manages separate co-ordination with other Ministries either through bedded out DCS staff in those Ministries or by discussion with administrators, planners and monitoring/evaluation staff in the Ministries. There is (or at least there appears to be) at present no formal structure for such process of co-ordination nor does there appear to be any formal framework for managing the relationship that should exist between data producers and data users and to that extent there is scope for improved co-ordination.

# National Statistical System of Sri Lanka



4. DCS is well located in a modern office at Parliament Junction. Its senior management team is led by the Director General who is supported by three Additional DGs, a Head of ICT, a Chief Accountant and a Chief Internal Auditor. Staff in bedded-out divisions and Statisticians in District Offices are located within the Ministries/ District Secretariats. The division of responsibilities is as follows:

	<b>Director General of DCS</b>
	Directors of
<b>ADG Statistics 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial statistics; International Statistics Unit</li> <li>• Publications</li> <li>• Prices &amp; Wages; Data Dissemination Unit</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Research &amp; Special Studies; Printing Unit</li> </ul>
<b>ADG Statistics 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population Census &amp; Demography</li> <li>• Cartography; SDG; Disaster management statistics</li> <li>• Agriculture &amp; Environment</li> <li>• Agriculture Ministry Division</li> </ul>
<b>ADG Statistics 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sample Survey</li> <li>• National Accounts; Library</li> <li>• Health Ministry Division</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Department of Education Ministry</li> <li>•Department of the Registrar General</li> <li>•Field Management Division; Districts &amp; Other Ministries</li> </ul>
<b>Director for Information Technology</b>	
<b>Head of Administration</b>	
<b>Chief Accountant</b>	
<b>Chief Internal Auditor</b>	

5.The overall approved staffing complement was in - 2018 - 1843 (including field staff) of which 1276 posts were filled. A breakdown of staff by grade is given in Annex 5 sourced from the 2018 Annual Performance Report for DCS. There is a complicated explanation for this difference which has been caused following the implementation of a Civil Service wide restructure of the Public Service in 2006 which resulted in some high profile legal disputes which have blocked some of the professional appointments pending their settlement. Interviews have now taken place and a significant intake of staff is expected before the end of 2019. Expenditure levels are summarised in the following tables from the Performance Report for 2018

#### Recurrent Expenditure 2018

	Million Sri Lankan (Rs)	Million USD
Pay	659	3.8
Other	175	1.0
Total	834	4.8

#### Capital Expenditure 2018

	Million Sri Lankan (Rs)	Million USD
Recurrence and development of capital assets	25	0.14
Acquisition of capital assets	27	0.15
Other capital expenditure:		
Local funds	56	0.32
Foreign funds	11	0.06
Total	120	0.68

6.The budget for 2019 is for 900 million Rs of recurrent expenditure of which 710 million Rs is for staff salaries and 107 million Rs for capital expenditure.

7.The statistical programme is mainly funded by the Government of Sri Lanka – the exceptions being in areas including the Demographic Health Survey 2016 (World Bank); Survey of Labour Demand 2017 (ILO); the Agricultural Household Survey 2017/18 (ADB and GoSL); the Child Activity Survey (2016) ILO; the Women Wellbeing Survey 2019 (UNFPA); the Global Tobacco Activity Survey 2018 (Centre for Disease Control -USA).

8.In broad terms the DCS has, compared with comparable nations, both a reasonably sufficient staffing complement and a budget principally sourced by the Government of Sri Lanka. It has not been possible within the timescale of this review to examine in any detail the staffing structure or make any judgements as to whether the resource allocation matches the pressures and demand in specific subject areas. There is debate within the Department as to whether the rigid rules relating to years of experience in a grade prior to eligibility for promotion to a higher grade may prove an obstacle to the efficient appointment of more senior staff and we are aware that two legal actions still to be resolved in court have had the effect of obstructing promotions to unfilled vacancies. We understand that the salaries in DCS are consistent with those of parallel grades in other parts of the government machine and that DCS is bound by service wide conventions of the Public Service Commission. **However within these conventions there is a case for a thorough review of allocation of existing resources between different areas of statistical policy, incorporating the formal creation of a cadre of statisticians within the NSS, with proposals for professional career development and succession planning. We return to this theme in paragraph 9 and 10 of Chapter 4**

9.In Chapters 6 to 14 of this review we address in more specific terms the programme of statistical activities – sector by sector

10.In terms of current governance the DCS has its internal Management Board comprising the DG and the senior management team consisting of DG/ADGs/Directors which meets regularly on at least a monthly basis. This is a broad forum which includes Divisional Directors of bedded-out teams in the various Ministries. More strategic decisions are taken by the DG with support from the Head of Finance and the Auditor and the ADGs although it isn't clear whether these are taken in the formal framework of a committee or management board structure.

11.The DCS sits under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution. Recently the Minister has invited a Committee comprising representatives from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka, the Institute for Policy Studies, LIRNasia, the Department of National Planning bringing together some wider interests in official statistics within Government and amongst other roles to advise him on future DCS initiatives. This development is to be welcomed.

**12.** There have been previous attempts to co-ordinate the interests of a range of government and parastatal organisations. In the past these have been relatively short-lived. In October 2010 the Treasury (then responsible for DCS) established a National Data Committee to create more productive statistical system to fulfil data needs of users. This was an element in a Statistical Capacity Upgrading Project implemented by the DCS jointly funded by the World Bank and the Government.

**13.** The Committee was charged with identifying national statistical priorities and providing necessary guidance to the DCS and other relevant institutions thereby contributing towards strengthening the National Statistical System of the country.

**14.** The NDC was chaired by the Deputy Secretary to the Treasury and the core Members of Committee were senior management level officials of the DCS; National Planning; and the representatives from the Presidential Secretariat, Central Bank of Sri Lanka Demographic Department of the University of Colombo, Institute of Policy. Representatives from other ministries, public and private sector institutions were also invited to the Committee as and when necessary.

**15.** The need for greater co-ordination of statistical activity has been recognised for a number of years. At a UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division (Workshop on the Organisation of National Statistical Systems and User – Producer Relations) in 2008 the then Deputy Director of DCS – in a paper to the Workshop – listed a number of areas

- Improving co-ordination in National Statistical System
- Autonomy of National Statistical Offices
- Increase User Engagement
- Useful Administrative Data for Statistical Purposes and
- Role of National Statistical Offices in Analysis, including the provision of microdata

**16.** The paper observed that “the national statistical system in Sri Lanka provides comprehensive statistics to policy makers and general public within a legal framework. Authority to obtain information is provided in the legislation while assuring confidentiality of data providers. Although this has enabled collecting information from the general public in household surveys, it does not have enough provisions for encouraging public and private sector agencies to provide data to the DCS. As a remedial solution, it has been suggested to revise the legal framework.”

**17.** The need for a co-ordinating mechanism dates back further to 1957 when a National Statistics Committee was appointed by the Minister of Finance to act as an advisory body to the government on the development of statistics, to examine and report from time to time on the statistical requirements of the country and the steps that need to be taken to meet these requirements. This committee ceased to exist at some stage in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A former DG

observed in 2002 in a DCS publication that this committee “did not function properly after some time for some reason or another.”

18. More recently in a draft Strategic Plan 2016-2019 the then DCS listed a number of critical issues facing the Office amongst which was the need to achieve co-ordination across all Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The draft plan incorporated a SWOT analysis which identified weaknesses and threats to DCS.

### *Weaknesses    Threats*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Low profile of statistics within sector Ministries</i></li> <li>• <i>Inadequate capacity to collect, compile, store disseminate &amp; use statistics</i></li> <li>• <i>Old and outdated legal &amp; policy framework</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Inadequate human resources</i></li> <li>• <i>Undertrained staff</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Low investment in infrastructure and equipment</i></li> <li>• <i>Un-coordinated &amp; un-harmonised statistical management</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Absence of co-ordination mechanisms</i></li> <li>• <i>Weak HR management</i></li> <li>• <i>Old &amp; outdated legal Act</i></li> <li>• <i>Un-harmonised terms &amp; concepts</i></li> <li>• <i>Placement of statistical units under planning departments</i></li> <li>• <i>Too many lower ranking statistical officers in the SCS</i></li> <li>• <i>Irregular promotions</i></li> <li>• <i>Inferior professional image of statisticians</i></li> <li>• <i>Limited value of statistics</i></li> </ul>
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19. The comment relating to the limited value of statistics is an interesting one. Whilst we might disagree with the more general thought that statistics are of limited value it is possible that this comment relates to a limited use and hence a limited demonstration/perception of the value of statistics. It is also possible that this was intended to suggest the threat that users have low regard for the quality and accuracy of the published statistics. In particular we are aware of concern amongst some serious users of recent GDP estimates and while DCS has genuine autonomy in terms of the 1956 Ordinance – autonomy also relies on perceived trust in the published statistics and that trust could become in danger and unstable in the present circumstances. We give particular emphasis to the sector review of economic statistics in Chapter 6 which proposes a number of options for improved methodology whilst separately identifying the need to improve the quality of the Business Register – the sample frame for business surveys – through improved access to administrative data from The Registrar of Companies and the Inland Revenue Department.

20. In February 2017 a spokesperson representing DCS at a UNESCAP workshop in Bangkok and giving a paper “Preliminary national diagnostics for environmental statistics” argued for a new Statistics Act for Sri Lanka and for the convening of a National Statistics Committee to improve co-ordination of the various disparate sources.

**21.** More general questions have been raised both during the launch of this Review in February and at the Ministerial Advisory Committee in July relating to the wider use of data collected by DCS. There is the feeling that the quality of DCS outputs could be raised by more imaginative dissemination strategies, for example by the greater use of infographics, and that strategic partnerships with research institutions could encourage a greater use of DCS data bases. DCS is quite properly concerned to protect the confidentiality of individual data entrusted to it by households and businesses. But given some thought and appropriate technology and necessary resources a National Statistical System should be able to develop a policy which, whilst protecting confidentiality, encourages a wider use of official statistics. Dissemination is just one of many policies which need to be discussed wisely and codified – these are discussed further in Chapters 4 and 5 below.

**22.** Discussion with some key users (or in some cases potential users) of DCS outputs suggests the need for wider consultation both at the planning phase and at the publication/dissemination phases between statisticians and the user community. For example the conduct of the Agricultural Household Survey is not mentioned on the DCS Agriculture and Environment Statistics web site and we spoke to users for whom knowledge of such a survey would have been of keen interest and who could have usefully contributed to discussion about the shape of the survey and who would welcome access to disaggregated data for their research purposes.

**23.** We do not feel equipped to agree or disagree with the propositions relating to the balance between lower and higher rank of civil servants in the statistical profession or to the irregularity of promotion opportunity

**24.** There are nevertheless recurring themes with the earlier paper. And these themes again re-emerge in a draft Strategic Plan for 2019-2023 (not yet agreed at the time of our mission) but under consideration by the recently appointed Committee being chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution which identifies among a range of strategic objectives the need to co-ordinate activities of all data producers and to establish a National Statistical System. The strategic objectives presented in the draft include:

- Collection, compilation, processing and analysis of socio-economic data and the publication of official statistics according to international standards
- Coordinate activities of all data producers and establish the National Statistical System
- Identifying national and international demands for new official statistics and taking measures to compile such statistics by using the most suitable methods
- Using new technology in collecting data
- Using new technical and theoretical methods for data summarizing and analysis
- Taking remedial steps to avoid non-response at censuses and surveys
- Introducing new and simple technologies for easy access to data



- Improve the statistical literacy of the general public
- Investing in professional staff with higher theoretical and practical knowledge and skills.

### *Summary assessment*

25. We identify a highly centralised and compartmentalised statistical system with little emphasis on co-ordination of activities and with a relatively low priority when it comes to meeting data requirements beyond those of more traditional users of official statistics.

26. We recognise good levels of technical competence but missed opportunities to improve accessibility to administrative data that would benefit and improve the quality of existing official statistics.

27. We identify a willingness to embrace the notion of a more co-ordinated outward looking national statistical system and a recognition of the benefit in following such a path and of the part that DCS could and would have to play in such a development.

### *Recommendations*

28. Recommendations following from the above assessment support the case for revisiting the Statistical Ordinance of 1956 which is further discussed and elaborated in Chapters 3 and 4 and specified in Chapter 5.

29. We recommend the continued centralisation of official statistics within a revised legal framework which improves coordination with other suppliers of data including those Ministries and Departments which have administrative data sources of value to the compilation of official statistics.

30. We recommend- within a wider National Statistical System – that there be a review and creation of a cadre of statisticians capable of filling key roles with ongoing professional development programmes, an examination of the regulation of promotion rules with a recognition of key positions identifying succession planning strategies.

## Chapter 3: Statistical policies

1. In 1992, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) adopted the now widely promulgated fundamental principles of official statistics in the UNECE region. The United Nations Statistical Commission adopted these principles in 1994 at the global level. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in 2013; and in January 2014, they were adopted by General Assembly. This recognition at the highest political level underlines that official statistics - reliable and objective information - are crucial for decision making, for informing national debate and for monitoring the success of policy initiatives.

2. The UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics which are set out fully in Annex 2 come under the following 10 headings

- Relevance, impartiality and equal access
- Professional standards and ethics
- Accountability and transparency
- Prevention of misuse
- Sources of official statistics
- Confidentiality
- Legislation
- National coordination
- Use of international standards
- International cooperation

3. Any modern National Statistical System, whether it is entirely centralised, or partly decentralised as appears the case in Sri Lanka, or more decentralised as is the case in a wide range of different practices elsewhere in the world, will have formalised policies recognising these 10 principles and reflecting the particular circumstances in their country. The policies specify not only that the principles should be adhered to but set out how they are to be adhered within their countries and across the components of their National Statistical System.

4. The UN Generic Law on Official Statistics - <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45114> - uses these 10 fundamental principles placing them at the heart of the responsibilities to be borne by those involved in a modern national statistical system.

5. Evidence in DCS of the existence of such policy documents or of methods of promoting such policies has been hard to uncover. Generally it should be found in crosscutting statistical policy papers on such topics as:

- Confidentiality of individual data
- Dissemination policy
- The necessity to publish metadata describing methods of compilation and analysis
- Quality review/accreditation of official statistics
- Impartiality/statistical integrity

- Accessibility to raw data for researchers
- Co-ordination and accessibility administrative data
- Recruitment training and sustaining the cadre of statisticians
- Prevention of undue burden on suppliers of data
- Mechanisms/strategies for maintaining relevance of official statistics and feeding user requirements

6. But with the exception of the policy on dissemination which is available on the DCS website we have not come across evidence of other papers.

### *Summary Assessment*

7. The absence of (or at least our failure to uncover) a formal range of statistical policy documents is a matter requiring urgent attention. Each of the above policy areas listed above in paragraph 5 may be seen as separate issues, but in reality they are interconnected and in particular the quality review of official statistics should incorporate assessment of the extent to which the statistics meet the demands as set out in each of the policy documents.

### *Recommendations*

8. One of the key responsibilities to be placed upon a National Statistics Council – to be constituted as a consequence of our recommendation for a new legal framework – should be to commission and promulgate a programme of policy development based on the fundamental principles.

## Chapter 4: The case for revisiting the Statistics Ordinance of 1956

**1.**The current legislation was enacted in 1956 but its wording dates from 1933. Already the review process has identified several drivers for change.

**2.**First there is clearly a need for statisticians to have wider access to administrative data and the existing framework has not been able to facilitate such access. Some key examples lie in the area of business surveys where the sample frame should be an up-to-date Statistical Business Register supported by data from The Register of Companies, augmented by VAT and PAYE data from the Inland Revenue and with not just a single classification of industry based on ISIC but with that classification carried out by a single team in order that enterprises and establishments have identical classification irrespective of the use to which they are put.

**3.**Where existing legislation prohibits the sharing of such administrative data – as is understood to be the case with the data held by the Inland Revenue Department – then a revision of the 1956 Statistics Ordinance giving a National Statistical System the power to access such data should supersede that prohibition.

**4.** Similarly, in the crucial area of population and demographic statistics is considerable advantages in using the Registrar General's individual data to improve estimates of birth and deaths. The greater gains would come if better information were available on internal as well as international migration and this could be a fruitful area of investigation in a range of Local Government / Health / Education / Migration Department areas of policy.

**5.**Further co-operation between a range of Departments and DCS could uncover ways of improving the quality of estimates of output in the national accounts across a range of parastatal activities where current estimates are frequently based on relatively simplistic assumed relationships between volumes of activity and current and constant priced estimates of output. Certainly, there is an overriding requirement to introduce a strong enforcement policy in order to increase the current very low levels of response in many of the DCS Industrial Surveys. A recent initiative to introduce a quarterly service sector survey has had to be halted due to very low response rates.

**6.**Attempts to co-ordinate statistical activity have in the past stumbled. It is not entire clear why they have not been successful. It is possible that there has not always been a long term will and those promoting greater co-ordination have not had the necessary legal powers to overcome inertia or conflicting priorities.

**7.**In these circumstances a new law which sets out the powers and responsibilities of a National Statistical System whilst not necessarily overcoming all the hurdles would at the least offer a framework for improved co-ordination. It could open dialogues between producers of official statistics, suppliers of components and users of published statistics leading to a greater awareness of the uses to which DCS data are put and more flexibility in terms of developing

new products. This is particularly relevant in respect of our observations above in Chapter 2 section 22.

8. One of the main assets of any NSS is the cadre of professional statisticians. A new legal framework could place weight on professional and career development and on succession planning for key positions. Planning for this should lie at the heart of any future NSDS and a Statistical Council could coordinate such planning with such institutions as the Public Service Commission. .

9. Our discussions with the Minister's Advisory Committee highlighted a concern relating to the development and sustainability of the cadre of professional statisticians underpinning the activities of the NSS particularly insofar as there are likely to be growing competitive external pressures for the skills that are required in producing and processing official statistics.

Key strategic questions that need to be addressed include:

- What skills are needed now and in the future?
- What can statistical offices offer for staff?
- How to attract staff with those skills?
- How to communicate about job opportunities in statistics?
- How to train staff to maintain and develop their skills?
- How to provide the best possible working environment?

**10.** The capability of an NSS is highly dependent on the calibre of its staff. Organizational arrangements may contribute to enabling people to do their best; but it is essential to give utmost attention to building up the right skills for a statistical agency and its counterparts throughout Government.

Our report does not presume to lay out the particular path Sri Lanka should take – but does recommend that responsibility for determining the content of a human resource management and development (HRMD) policy should be a statutory task placed on the National Statistics Council and we would imagine that the development of such a strategy would parallel a thorough review of the internal organisational structure of DCS

- examining the balance of resources deployed in the different sectors, identifying opportunities for cross-sector collaboration,
- looking at ways to strengthen the cadre of government statisticians,
- developing the skill base within that cadre to meet the requirements of the National Statistical System,
- identifying the best talent within the NSS
- building succession planning strategies for the key posts in DCS looking forward over the coming years.

- 11.** Within the remit of such a review we strongly recommend that consideration be given to amending the status of the National Statistical System within the overall framework for the appointment and management of government staff to an Island Wide Service giving the NSS greater discretion in these areas.
- 12.** And finally a new law would give Sri Lanka an opportunity to enshrine the fundamental principles set out in Paragraph 2 of Chapter 3 and listed in detail in Annex 2 and over time these could form the basis for explicit policies protecting the confidentiality of individual data, strengthening the impartiality of official statistics, reducing the burden on businesses supplying data whilst at the same time increasing response rates and improving the quality of the results of such surveys.

### *Summary Assessment*

- 13.** The case for introducing a new statistical legal framework is set out above

### *Recommendation*

- 14.** It is strongly recommended that the Government considers the finding of this Review and proceeds to introduce a revised statistical legal framework along the lines to be set out below in Chapter 5.

## Chapter 5: The path ahead

1. In this chapter we discuss two options for changed governance arrangements..

2. Adopting the Generic Law on Official Statistics (GLOS) under which the NSS would be defined as suggested in Chapter 2 to include

- **producers**, who compile official statistics;
- **suppliers**, or providers, who supply the data for the compilation of official statistics;

3. The case for a new statistical act has been discussed above in Chapter 4 and there exists a readily available and carefully thought through template for a new act in the form of the Generic Law on Official Statistics for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia promoted by UNECE. A full text and explanatory notes are available at the website <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=45114> and this does offer a path forward which

**establishes** the legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics.

**determines** the main principles of official statistics according to the UN Fundamental Principles

**describes** the organisation of the NSS and of those parties to the NSS

- National Statistical Office – the DCS including the District Offices
- Chief Statistician (Director General of DCS) – role and responsibilities
- other producers of official Statistics
- a Statistical Advisory Council
- other advisory bodies

**describes** mechanisms, powers and responsibilities for the coordination and programming of national statistical activities - in particular: multi-year statistical programming

**provides** the legal mandate for data collection whilst setting out the NSS obligations to suppliers of data

**gives powers** to an NSS to have access to administrative data and to engage in record linking activity

**sets out** the powers to conduct Censuses

**requires** the protection of data subject to statistical confidentiality

**restricts** the use of NSS data as exclusively for statistical purposes

**places a responsibility** on the NSS for secure data processing and storage

**restricts** access to confidential data for research purposes and creates a charging framework for making such data accessible in permitted circumstances

**lays down** commitments to be signed by all upon taking up functions in official statistics and conditions which must apply in the event of subcontracting of tasks of statistical production which entail the use of confidential data

places a responsibility on the NSS to develop policies on

- quality assessing and improving the quality
- documentation of sources and methodologies
- co-ordinated dissemination and release practice
- provision of statistical processing services
- of data collection services.
- international cooperation
- penalties for violation of statistical confidentiality
- failure to fulfil the obligation to provide data

4. Under this model, the **Statistical Advisory Council** would be the main advisory body to the Government and to the Director General of DCS on issues of strategic importance to official statistics in Sri Lanka. According to the GLOS the Statistical Council should be composed of appointed members who broadly represent different user categories.

5. However given the particular situation in Sri Lanka highlighted in this review a variation from the generic law but nevertheless based upon the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics could establish a more powerful and authoritative **National Statistics Council** (as opposed to an Advisory Council) for Sri Lanka (NSC) served by DCS with the following more specific powers and responsibilities:-

- to develop the framework under which the collaborative development of the National Statistical System shall take place
- to oversee the activities of the DCS
- to co-ordinate and regulate a single system of National Statistics: strengthening the National Statistical System by
  - convening Committees to review the statistical programs of Ministries and of DCS and coordinating with other Departments and Ministries to develop an NSDS consistent with and supportive of national strategic plans
  - monitoring progress of the NSDS and reporting to Parliament
  - setting quality standards for statistical outputs and their analyses
  - setting standards for the publication of metadata and methodology
  - developing a system for the accreditation of all published official statistics
  - developing a code of Best Practice
  - making agreements in the form of memoranda of understanding between Ministries and DCS relating to delivery of NSDS objectives, accessibility of data, the uses to which data may be put
  - developing a cadre of high calibre statisticians
  - introduce an effective enforcement regime for those who choose to fail to reply to business survey questionnaires



6. Within this governance framework the role of DCS in addition to its current duties would be to provide the Secretariat for the NSC.

7. Whilst a National Statistical Council would have an appointed membership including representatives of a range of users of official statistics as suggested above in respect of an Advisory Council. However it would differ from a purely Advisory Council in so far as its membership would also include representatives of key Ministries in a manner closer to that of the lapsed National Data Committee which was chaired by the Deputy Secretary to the Treasury and the core Members of Committee were senior management level officials of the DCS; National Planning; and the representatives from the Presidential Secretariat, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Demographic Department of the University of Colombo, the Institute of Policy Studies. To this list should be added members of senior management of Ministries and Department producing official statistics and supporting the production of official statistics through making accessible administrative data.

### *Recommendation*

8. This Review recommends the option which introduces a National Statistical Council as opposed to the Advisory Council but recognises that this option places a greater burden on those appointed to a National Statistical Council as such an institution would have executive functions, roles and responsibilities. .

9. In recommending the introduction of a National Statistical Council we recognise that - even with the support of the Government for such a development – there will inevitably be delays in passing the necessary legislation. We therefore recommend that as an intermediate development, a non-statutory Council be created with broadly the same membership and with a remit to begin to address the policy issues alluded to above in Paragraph 5 of this chapter with a view to such a Council evolving into a statutory Council once the necessary legislation has passed through Parliament. One option – discussed briefly with stakeholders during the Workshops in October – could involve such a Council being introduced initially as an expert committee within the framework (Clause 10 f) which already exists under the Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Act of 2017.

10. We are keenly aware of the pressing need for Sri Lanka to co-ordinate an NSDS however we feel that such a development requires the processes of co-ordination as set out in the proposed legal framework and that should either await the creation of a statutory National Statistics Council or at least an interim non-statutory Council.

## Chapter 6. National Accounts

1.The National Accounts of Sri Lanka is compiled by the National Accounts Division of DCS. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated using three approaches: production, expenditure and income approach expressed at current and constant prices.

### Background

2.Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total unduplicated value of goods and services produced within the economic territory in a particular period. GDP growth is the single, most important indicator of economic growth.

3.The history of national accounts in Sri Lanka goes back to 1947, but compilation in the official standard forms of the SNA began in the late 1960's.

4.The Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the DCS jointly compiled the national accounts until 2006. From 2007 onwards, it has been the sole responsibility of DCS.

5.As time passed, numerous economic and structural changes took place in the economy, and that in the same way, national accounting standards needed to be updated every now to keep track with the changing times. To date, the base year of SNA in Sri Lanka was updated to 1958, 1963, 1975, 1990, 1998, 2002 and, most recently to 2010.

### GDP by Production approach

6.This is also called the output approach, it measures GDP as the difference between value of output less the value of goods and services used in producing these outputs during an accounting period.

7.GDP by production approach is estimated on a quarterly and annual basis. The GDP growth is based on the production side where the data support is stronger than the expenditure side.

### Expenditure Accounts

8.The expenditure approach measures the final uses of the produced output as the sum of final consumption, gross capital formation and exports less imports.

9.GDP by expenditure is estimated on a quarterly and annual basis. It is estimated after the release of the GDP by production approach.

### GDP by Income Approach

10.The income approach measures GDP as the sum of the factor incomes generated to the economy: compensation of employees, gross operating surplus and other taxes less subsidies. It is estimated on an annual basis only after the annual estimates of the GDP by production and expenditure are compiled.

## Revised/ Rebased National Accounts

11.Improvement efforts of the DCS towards the revision and rebasing of national accounts was made possible through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Programme for Improving National Accounts and Price Statistics “*Project on the Implementation of the System of National Accounts and the International Comparison Programme*”. This project was part of the global initiative to assist countries in developing statistical and institutional capacity to undertake the shift from 1968/1993SNA to the 2008 SNA towards improving the scope, detail and quality of national accounts and supporting economic statistics. The project was implemented during the period of 2011-2015.

12. The revised/rebased series which was adopted beginning 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2014 has the following features:

- Adoption of the 2008 SNA
  - Up-to-date methodologies for compilation of Gross Output, Gross Value Added and Intermediate Consumption of different economic activities
  - New valuation methods
  - Conceptual changes
  - Series of accounts called Sequence of Accounts
  - Adoption of Classification of Sectors: (by institution)
    - Non – Financial Corporation (NFC)
    - Financial Corporation (FC)
    - General Government (GG)
    - Household (HH)
    - Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISH)
  - Adoption of internationally recommended classification systems
    - Standard Industrial Classification of all economic activities (ISIC Rev 4),
    - Standard Commodity Classification (CPC)
    - General Government Expenditure based on the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG)
    - Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP).
- Use of Supply Use Table
- Expansion of production boundaries to include mostly services subsectors that were not included in previous estimates
- Inclusion of economic activities of households
- Change of base year from 2002 to 2010
- New presentation of aggregate tables of GDP
  - By 10 economic activities by sector
  - By 48 economic activities by sector
  - By 79 economic activities by sector

### *Data Sources*

**13.**Major sources of data for the revised/rebased series came from the various divisions of the DCS: quarterly and annual industry, construction and services survey; prices; labor force survey; household income and expenditure survey;

**14.**Data sources from other agencies include: Dept. of Agriculture; Central Bank of Sri Lanka; Sri Lanka Customs; Construction Industry Development Authority; Ministry of Finance; Inland Revenue Department; Ceylon Electricity Board; Sri Lanka Railway; Sri Lanka Transport Board; Sri Lankan Airlines; Sri Lankan Tourism authority; among others.

### *Time Lag of GDP estimates*

**15.**Quarterly estimates of GDP by Production are released first, 75 days after the reference quarter while the quarterly GDP by Expenditure is released a week after; both are disseminated via Web Release. The annual estimates are generated a year after.

### *Data dissemination policies*

**16.**DCS has data dissemination policy put in place and is uploaded in the website for the information of the public. It includes the advance release calendar of national accounts estimates, Revision Policy and Technical notes on the compilation of the revised/rebases series.

## **Assessment**

**17.**The current revised/rebased GDP estimates (quarterly and annual) using the three approaches comply with the concepts, definitions, classifications, guidelines and recommendations of the 2008 SNA.

**18.**In terms of coverage, the quarterly and annual estimates likewise meet the requirements of the SNA in terms of desired detail and availability. The use of the Supply Use Table is commended; as it allows the balancing transactions of the resources of goods and services and the uses of goods and services. The SUT framework shows the linkages and ensures the consistency and coherence among industries, products and sectors.

### *Time Lag of National Accounts estimates*

**19.**The time lag of 75 days after the reference quarter for the release of the accounts, however, is considered too long. The delay greatly diminishes the relevance and usefulness of the output as it is disseminated in the middle of the last month of the next quarter.

20.If the performance of the economy, for instance, exceeded expectations and posted an unprecedented growth, the impact of what could be a “breaking news” will not grab much interest or attention from the public because the period covered is already “history.”

### *Web Releases*

21.It should be noted that the performance of the economy is reported and analyzed in real terms, or at constant prices to reflect the more accurate growth of production or output in an economy without the effect of price changes or inflation. It is expected that the write-up is consistent and accurate in its contents along these lines.

22. It should be brought to the attention of DCS, in the web release, that the write-up states that it is releasing the GDP growth at current and constant prices. The percent share of the major economic sectors is reported at **current prices** while the subsequent paragraphs on the details of the major sectors are at constant prices. However, for an untrained eye and user who is not familiar with GDP estimates, the subsequent paragraphs until the end of the report may be assumed to be at current prices since there is no mention that the analysis has already shifted to constant prices.

23.This may be a cause of confusion, erroneous reporting and analysis among media, journalists and users of national accounts estimates. It is also advised that the National Accounts staff be aware of the reports or write-ups that come out in the newspapers and other media platforms if they pick up incorrect figures and analysis based on the web releases.

24.It should also be corrected that Taxes less Subsidies on products is not considered a sector in the economy. It is part of the each of the industries’ Gross Value Added (GVA) but taxes less subsidies are just taken as a lumped item to cover all industries and then added to the GDP levels, to convert the GDP into market prices, or at current prices.

25.Meanwhile, it is worth mentioning that aside from the Web releases, the DCS comes out with infographics on the GDP estimates as well. It is a good follow-up to reinforce the information to the public for a better recall, emphasizing the industries posting the highest growths during the period.

## Recommendations

***Revised/rebased series (base year 2010) should not be linked with the old series (base year 2002)***

26.It should be noted that the revised/rebased series (base year 2010) is not linked to the old series of (base year 2002) given that there are differences in scope and coverage, classification systems, methodology used and base year. In time series analysis, this is what is termed as a “break” in the series. Hence, the base year 2010 series is not comparable and should never be linked to the series of base year 2002.

27.A short footnote should be placed in the new series of 2010 base year to inform the users that they are not linked with the base year 2002 series. This is to alert planners, researchers

and others who utilize time series analysis to project growth trends to exercise caution on the use of the series.

### ***Sources and Methods for the revised/rebased series***

28. While there are numerous technical and information notes on the improved and revised series, it will be helpful to the current and future staff of national accounts and major users to have a detailed documentation on the sources and methods by sector for transparency and a better understanding of the processes used. A standardized template for all the sectors is beneficial, to ensure that all the required information is there, including assumptions, data limitations, parameters used, (such as under-coverage ratios), deflators, and most importantly, the methodology used.

29. Citing Principle 3 of the UN fundamental principles of official statistics, *“To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.”*

### ***Conduct of Consultation Forum***

30. In the future, it is encouraged for DCS to conduct a consultative forum to present the work-in progress of a major undertaking in national accounts such as the rebasing and improvement efforts. Considered as a good international practice, the consultation process is designed to inform major stakeholders, experts, data producers, and users on the preliminary results with a view to: 1) solicit their feedback on the changes made; 2) to seek expert opinion and advise on methodological techniques used; and 3) propose interventions/solutions to challenges and problems that DCS encountered along the way.

31. As a result of the feedback gained from the consultative forum, the DCS is expected to implement the suggested improvements and/or changes whenever feasible. The ultimate objective of incorporating these inputs is to improve the quality of the revised/rebased series, where the major stakeholders are properly consulted and eventually, become part of the process.

32. It is common among countries that implement this practice in their national accounts improvement efforts to experience a general acceptance of the new revised series and encounter fewer questions or inquiries on the results once they are officially disseminated.

### ***Use of business registers to update economic surveys***

33. The DCS and the Inland Revenue Department are currently collaborating on the harmonized business registry based on the industry classification of the ISIC used in the SNA. Individuals or Groups who file business permits in the Inland Revenue Department are then categorized into the 2-digit level of ISIC, depending on the type of industry their business belong to. Information on the business registry are then passed on to DCS for use in updating economic surveys based on the list of establishments.

**34.**There are concerns, however, that establishments entered into the registry may not be properly categorized into the proper ISIC. There are also opportunities to augment business register data with VAT and PAYE data from Inland Revenue administrative data sources, and to ensure that there are no gaps or overlaps in the Business Register and it is recommended that DCS engages with discussions with IR to establish how this may be developed.

**35.**DCS should ensure that regular guidance and monitoring of staff in the Inland Revenue is provided. It is also important that the register is consistently maintained for "births" of new businesses and "deaths" of existing businesses and that consistency in classification of business is observed for both IR and DCS purposes.

### *Use of existing data and indicators from multiple sources*

**36.**With data constraints that the national accounts staff regularly experience from the traditional quarterly surveys such as low response rates; incomplete or delayed data from regulatory agencies; and no data at all for a particular sector, it is necessary to find ways and means to supplement these inadequacies.

**37.**It is suggested that the staff explore and exhaust all existing data sources that are available from the various agencies and other sources and need not be limited to traditional data sources.

**38.**There is a wealth of information, specifically, on administrative data that the DCS has not fully tapped or may not be even aware of these information.

**39.**An example is the administrative data from the Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA). The CIDA Bulletin of Construction Statistics, which is compiled monthly, contains all the relevant price indices for construction materials; price indices for labor (skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled); price indices for equipment; fuel; and cost indices for various type of construction work. They also monitor construction projects by project type, by sector and by institution, in terms of funding value, expected starting date and expected finished date.

**40.**These information will already provide a solid data support to estimate the construction sector on a quarterly basis, both as an industry (production side) and as an investment (expenditure side). Indicators for estimating output include the price indices for labor and cost indices for construction projects; and complemented by the ongoing value of construction projects completed for the month.

**41.**Price indices of construction materials; equipment; and labour (as input) are sufficient indicators of input or intermediate consumption; A composite price index may also be constructed out of these indices to serve as deflator to derive the constant price estimates for construction (production side).

**42.**Another source of good administrative data is from the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau for Mining and Quarrying statistics. Aside from the results of the quarterly survey of industries, it may be a good complement or substitute for the indicator on output for the mining industry. The data compiled is very straightforward: it is compiled by commodity produced, categorized by metallic and non-metallic, in the form of quantity and value. Other data produced are exports and imports.

43. Aside from administrative data sources, data from the private sector may be tapped as well including service providers for telecommunication; and business and industry associations. The Stock Exchange is also a rich source of information of publicly listed companies by industry as they are required to report their quarterly financial income and expenses; as well as their performance report and outlook of performance in the short term (succeeding quarters).

44. Major companies and businesses have their own websites and can be used to provide additional information or indicators of growth, especially if these industries are key players of the sector. The websites have information on quarterly financial reports and output performance.

### ***Need for an appropriate methodology for the Construction sector in the quarterly estimation***

45. Given the available data on construction from the CIDA cited above, the national accounts staff should be able to establish a new methodology for the sector. The staff may look into the methods on how it is generated in other countries.

46. This is to replace the old practice of compiling Construction using basically the trend of cement production to derive the current quarter estimates. It should be noted that only indicators of output may be used to determine the production trend of the sector. Cement production is an indicator of input in the construction industry, not an indicator of output.

### ***Compilation of socio-economic statistics and indicators for local development planning***

47. It may be an opportune time for DCS to compile and publish socio-economic statistics and indicators at the local level (by districts), something similar to a District Profile. A lot of information is already published (from administrative data and surveys) and just need to be organized by District.

48. This will greatly help in identifying and analysing the socio-economic situations/conditions of the different districts, relative to other districts and to the whole country. It will serve as basis for local governments to implement strategies, deliver intervention programs and mitigation efforts; and provide the statistical needs of local development planning.

### ***Simultaneous release of GDP by production and expenditure***

49. It is highly recommended that the next priority that the national accounts division should work on, is the simultaneous release of the GDP by Production and GDP by Expenditure.

50. In most countries, these two accounts are released at the same time because each one is compiled relative to one another and validation measures are done in the context of the performance of related sectors on each side of the accounts.

51. For instance, the growth in the manufacture of textiles, wearing apparel on the production side is validated using the growth in exports for textiles and wearing apparel in the expenditure side. When there are questionable growths or declines in production, it cannot be validated since there is no estimate of exports of textile to validate it with.



52. Other inter-related sectors include Construction as a production sector and Construction as an investment (expenditure); mining and quarrying production is both related to manufacturing sector of metallic and non-metallic products (production) as well as exports of mining products, (expenditure) and so on.

53. The emphasis made here is that once the Production Accounts has been released, it cannot be revised if there were inconsistencies found in the production estimates based on the compilation of the Expenditure Accounts which was generated at a later time and vice versa.

### ***Shorten time lag of release of GDP by Production and Expenditure***

54. Efforts should be exerted towards shortening the lag time of the GDP by Production and Expenditure dissemination from 75 days to 60 days. With the new Statistics Act in the future and when legal sanctions are already in place for non-respondents to survey questionnaires, the mind-set of respondents may change to cooperate this time. At the same time, DCS should still strive to initiate advocacy programs and activities for the survey respondents.

55. The DCS, as the official compiler of the GDP estimates in the NSS, is committed to provide and deliver timely, relevant, accurate and useful data and information for the government and the public.

### ***Revision Policy of annual estimates***

56. It is also suggested that the revision of the annual estimates be undertaken on a three-year series at a time and not taken as a stand-alone year at a time. In the same way, the national accounts estimates are always compiled and analysed relative to the earlier period and the subsequent period. The three-year revision at a time will allow to correct inconsistencies in data, valuation and trends in growth in the series, otherwise, the errors will be perpetuated and will not be corrected.

### ***Need for establishing a formal inter-agency working group on macroeconomic accounts***

57. National accounts estimation entails the collaboration, cooperation and commitment of data producers from relevant agencies and the DCS as coordinator of the NSS and as the official compiler of national accounts, that it is essential for DCS to strengthen their linkages and enhance partnerships amongst them. DCS may have a coordination mechanism in place but is currently not being fully implemented or without formal arrangements.

58. Establishing an inter-agency working group through a Memorandum Order or Resolution issued by the DCS will provide a venue to bring together the DCS and data source agencies to address issues, concerns on national accounts compilation and other international commitments, among them: institutional arrangements for the regular and timely provision of data inputs for national accounts estimation, emerging requirements of other economic frameworks and international initiatives, through the issuance of Memorandum of Agreements (MoA); review of compilation methodologies and other macroeconomic frameworks towards improvement in coverage, relevance and quality of statistics/indicators;

frequency, timeliness and disaggregation; and designation of new ones to address emerging information requirements.

**59.**Membership to the working group shall include the Director of National Accounts, her designated senior staff and major data producers such as the Central Bank, Ministry of Finance, the Construction Industry Development Authority, Department of agriculture, Inland Revenue Department, Insurance Regulatory Dept., to mention a few; and the engagement of relevant DCS divisions such as the Prices, Agriculture, Sample survey, industry and services divisions, etc., whenever necessary.

**60.**The DCS, who is expected to lead this working group shall provide the technical, logistics and secretariat support to the working group while the concerned agencies are enjoined to give their full support to accomplish the tasks of the working group.

**61.**To enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the working group, it is recommended for DCS to play a proactive role in steering this group and provide directions towards meeting its objectives; and to conduct meetings on regular basis, whether as a group or by way of bilateral meetings. This will also serve as venue to review and monitor the compliance of agencies on the agreements stated in the MOAs.

### ***Dissemination of Outputs***

#### ***Web Release***

**62.**There is still much room for improving the Web Releases of the National Accounts estimates. It is highly recommended to have a standardized template or format, to make sure that all the required information is consistent and coherent; and is reported towards a better understanding and analysis of the performance of the economy. It should be newsworthy, i.e., significant and brief, but specific, as the media and journalists may pick it up and publish the press release as is, or they may use parts of it to create a larger news story. It may be worthwhile to invest in effective communication strategies towards a better presentation of national accounts outputs.

#### ***Dissemination via Press Conference***

**63.**The DCS should seriously consider releasing and announcing the GDP growth through a Press Conference in the future, to report and expound more on the details, such as sectoral performance; indicators supporting the growth, among others. This will entail additional time and preparation for the national accounts staff and the officials concerned, but it will be beneficial to DCS in the long run.

**64.**Through this platform, journalists and reporters may be able to ask follow-up questions or clarifications and DCS will have the opportunity to address queries or issues at hand face to face and immediately; something that a prepared statement released through the web is unable to provide. Further, this will provide DCS an opportunity to gain media exposure and to reach out to a wider audience. As a result, DCS will increase its visibility and hopefully gain in due time, favourable recognition and authority as an institution.

***Continuous training of national accounts staff***

**65.**Regular capacity building on national accounts, other macroeconomic frameworks and indicators as well as participation in international cooperation programs and trainings for national accounts staff are highly recommended to strengthen and sustain an adequately trained staff.

**66.**Capacity training on specific topics are also recommended such as Supply and Use Table, Input-Output Table, Rebasing of National Accounts, Chained GDP, Linking and backtracking of Time Series, among others.

## Chapter 7. Price Statistics

1.Information related to prices is collected, generated and disseminated by the Prices and Wages Division of the DCS. Statistics compiled by the Division include the Consumer Price Index, Producers Price Index and Producers and Retail Prices.

### Consumer Price Index (CPI)

2.The CPI measures the average change over time in the weighted prices of a market basket of commonly purchased goods and services by households relative to a base year; Weights are assigned to the commodity groups/sub-groups, reflecting their priorities in the household consumption. As the prices of goods and services do not all change at the same rate, the CPI can only reflect their average movement.

3. It is a widely used as macroeconomic indicators of inflation or increase in prices. Such changes affect the purchasing power of consumers' incomes and their welfare. By comparing the prices in the current month to the prices of the previous month, for example, it determines how much more money one needs to buy the same goods and services at the current month, compared to the previous month.

4. Several applications of the CPI include its use as deflator of expenditures at current prices to derive measures of real consumption and real income in the national accounts; in labour contracts to adjust salaries and wages; and indexation of social security benefits, taxes, rent and interest.

5.For the CPI, the DCS generates two indices: the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) and the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), on a monthly basis. It is also compiled quarterly and on an annual basis.

6. Historically, the DCS compiled the CPI covering the Colombo metropolitan area only, for the period 1947 to 2008. From May 2008, the CPI expanded its coverage to include the urban areas of Colombo. In June 2011, the CPI was rebased to 2006/2007 and from January 2017 onwards, the base year was updated to 2012/2013. The CPI was renamed to CCPI with the development of the NCPI to reflect the changes in prices for the entire country. This was released beginning October 2015.

7. Prices for both the CCPI and the NCPI are collected by personal visits of price collectors from DCS who have been trained and equipped with forms for entering price data and descriptions of the items to be observed.

8. Prices for the CCPI are collected for 392 items in 14 selected pricing centers (outlets or establishments where the prices of commodities are quoted) in the urban areas of Colombo

district on a weekly basis. Meanwhile, prices for the NCPI are collected for 407 items from three price outlets in each of the 24 districts of Sri Lanka. Frequency of collecting prices for the items in the market basket vary depending on how fast the prices change: Fresh fish, rice, fruits and vegetables prices are collected weekly; Once in two weeks for prices of dried fish and spices and; monthly for textile and footwear; and quarterly for furniture, building materials and pharmaceutical products.

9. There are 12 major expenditure groups covered in both indices and its classification is aligned with the United Nations' Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP).

### Methodology:

10. DCS makes use of the Modified, or Two-Stage, Laspeyres formula to calculate the CPI. The price collected in the current period is divided by its price collected in the previous period. This short-term ratio is multiplied by the item's estimated cost of base period spending in the previous period to obtain the current period estimate of the cost of base period spending assigned to the item. The CPI is the sum of the current period estimated cost of base period spending divided by the spending in the fixed base period.

11. Currently, the weights for the 2013-based indices are derived from the latest Household and Expenditure Survey (HIES) conducted by DCS covering 20,540 sample households for the period June 2012-July 2013.

### Time Series

12. The DCS maintains the following monthly time series of the CCPI and NCPI:

- 1958-2008 CCPI (base year=1958)
- 2003-2011 CCPI (base year=2002)
- 2008-2016 CCPI (base year=2006/2007)
- 2014-present CCPI (base year=2013)
  
- 2014-present NCPI (base year=2013)

### Producer's Price Index (PPI)

13. The Producer Price Index (PPI) measures average change over time in the prices of goods and services received by domestic manufacturers and producers for their output. The PPI reflects price changes from the perspective of the seller. PPIs are usually generated for finished goods, intermediate goods, and raw materials.

14. The PPI is used for many purposes, among them: as deflator of current prices in production sectors to derive measures of real income in the national accounts; as short-term indicator of inflationary trends; indexation of legal contracts in both the public and private sectors; and an analytical tool for businesses/researchers.

15. PPI is generated by DCS on a monthly basis covering three economic activities namely, Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Electricity and Water. It is also compiled quarterly and on an annual basis.

16. Prices for PPI are collected from domestic producers for 514 products from 376 manufacturing and utility establishments; 36 agricultural products from 331 divisional secretariat divisions covering the entire country; and prices for electricity and water supply are sourced from the Ceylon Electricity Board and National Water Supply and Drainage Board, respectively.

17. The PPI groupings of economic activity follows the 2-digit level economic activity of the United Nations' International Standard Industrial Classification Revision 3.1 (ISIC Rev.3.1).

18. Currently, the weights for the 2013-based PPI are derived from the Census of Industry conducted by DCS for reference year 2013.

### Time Series

19. The DCS maintains the following time series of the PPI:

- 2014 - present (base year=2013)

### Producer's Price of Locally produced Agricultural, Livestock & Fisheries products

20. Producer's Prices for Agriculture represent the prices received by farmers and producers for their produce at the first point of sale, excluding transport cost. Commodities covered include cereals, milk, eggs, fish, livestock and miscellaneous products, which are collected in the second week of every month. It is compiled on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. Prices are considered final once it is received from the field.

### Time Series

21. The DCS maintains the following monthly time series of the Producer's Price in agriculture:

- 1980 - present

## Retail Prices for Selected Consumer Items

22. The DCS also compile retail prices for important commodities:

**a. Open Market Retail Prices of Selected Food Items** – This covers commodities such as rice, bakery products, vegetable, meats, fish and condiments which average households from purchase from the market in the following districts of Colombo: Pettah, Maradana, Borella, Grandpass, Kirulapona, Dematagoda, Wellawatta, Dehiwala, Kotte, Nugegoda, Kolonnawa and Ratmalana

Open market retail prices are collected on weekly, monthly and quarterly basis through the field staff of the Department of Census and Statistics in sample market stalls in the City. In most cases, food items such as vegetables and condiments, prices are obtained by interview method as well as actual "test purchases" which are carried out in the markets of the city.

**b. All Island Retail Prices of Selected Food Items and Miscellaneous** – covers commodities such as rice, pulses, vegetable, meat, eggs and groceries. Average prices of food & miscellaneous items are based on the weekly, monthly and quarterly price collections conducted in the principal urban areas of each District excluding Mannar, Mullaitiv and Killinochchi by the statistical field staff of the DCS attached to each District Secretariat Office.

## Time Series

23. The DCS maintains the following weekly time series of Retail Prices for Selected Consumer Items:

*Open market average retail prices : 2006 – present*

*All Island Retail Prices: 1999 – present*

## Validation Procedures

### **CCPI and NCPI**

24. Price collectors undertake a weekly "test purchase" of selected commodities to ensure that prices are realistic. In the test purchase, the collectors are instructed to buy items at sample price outlets as ordinary consumers and not as price collectors of DCS. The prices they paid for the items purchased are compared with the list of prices given by price outlets to the collection officers. The list contains the names of the price outlets, which allows verification. Price collectors are also given detailed instructions on the procedures of data collection. To ensure the objectivity of price collection, the price collectors are assigned to a specific outlet on a rotation basis, i.e., they don't visit the same price outlet more than once.

25. Validation of the prices furnished by the price collectors is undertaken by the Senior Statisticians-in-charge, with the assistance of Statisticians in the division.

### ***PPI***

26. For PPI in agriculture, the validation procedure uses the Minimum and Maximum Ratio (Min-Max) whereby the minimum and maximum range of prices is set for a commodity and the collected price is expected to fall within the Min-Max range. The price collected is also compared with Retail prices and international prices of the same commodity.

27. On the average, the response rate of collecting Producer's Prices for manufacturing and utility is both 100%, 45 days after the reference period; and electricity and water, 90%; both 45 days' time lag and two months after the first release.

### ***Producers' Prices***

28. Validation of prices for Producers' prices is done at the head office, while heads of the regional offices conduct field visits to check the prices. Instructions for price collection are provided to field officers.

### ***Open Market Average Retail Prices***

29. The frequency of price collection is adjusted based on how frequent price changes take place. When this occurs, prices are collected on a weekly, once in two weeks, monthly and quarterly. Completed price schedules are verified for consistency. Correction of entries and the tabulation are done using microcomputers.

### **Dissemination**

30. The CCPI and the NCPI are disseminated to the public via Web Release on the last working day of the current month and on the 21st day of the succeeding month, respectively.

31. The PPI for Manufacturing, Electricity and Water are likewise disseminated via Web Release, 45 days after the reference month since January 2017.

32. The PPI in Agriculture is available internally in the Prices and Wages division only. It is neither published nor disseminated on the web but may be provided to users upon request.

33. Open Market Weekly Average Retail Prices are released on a Tuesday, after the reference week, via web release. The All Island Retail Prices of Selected Food Items and Miscellaneous, is disseminated on an annual basis, published in the Bulletin of Selected Retail and Producers Prices. The Bulletin comes in the form of a publication and is also uploaded in the web.



### Revision Policy

**34. CCPI and NCPI:** the CCPI and the NCPI are not revised.

**35. PPI:** Web releases of the PPI for the latest month is termed as “provisional” during the time of release 45 days after the reference month as there are still establishments where prices have not been collected; hence, prices are imputed for these establishments. The monthly PPI is finalized two months after the first release.

### Technical Notes

**36.** Some information on the technical notes on the CPI is found in the write-up of the web releases. A more detailed information is documented in the publication “Bulletin of Selected Retail and Producer Prices”, also uploaded in the website.

### Issues and Challenges

**37.** The staff pointed out issues on staff shortage to carry out the price collection activities. There were also concerns on the need to build capacity training on rebasing of price indices.

### Assessment

#### *CCPI and NCPI*

**38.** The CCPI and NCPI recently produced by DCS is generally of good quality: the expenditure grouping complies with the latest prescribed international standard classification system and the base weights with the latest survey of HIES of 2013. The statistical method of compilation is consistent with scientific principles and internationally agreed best practices. There is also a high level of commitment to publish the CCPI and the NCPI on time as they are released in a regular and timely manner.

**39.** Quality assurance of data is carried out using a range of field and validation checks. A description of the processes is documented in the “Briefing on the first release of the National Consumer Price Index (2013=100)” and the “Bulletin of Retail and Producers Prices 2013-2016”, both uploaded in the website.

**40.** While DCS has exerted efforts in improving their price compilation system through rebasing and updating of market baskets in recent years, and the addition of the NCPI in 2014, it appears that the approach is on an ad hoc basis, rather than systematic i.e., where the rebasing is done periodically, whenever the latest HIES is released; and the new base year is the reference year of the HIES.

### *On the Time Series*

41. It is a general practice that the starting year of the rebased time series should be the same as the new base year; i.e., time series of CCPI (base year 2013) should begin in 2013.

42. With the rebased CCPI (base year 2002; 2006/2007; 2013), it is observed that the beginning of the time series does not start on the base year. For instance, the time series for 2003-2011 CCPI (base year=2002) begins in 2003, not 2002; the time series 2008-2016 CCPI (base year=2006/2007) begins in 2008, not 2006 and time series 2014-present CCPI (base year=2013) begins in 2014, and not 2013.

43. In the same manner, the beginning of the PPI time series 2014 - present (base year=2013) is 2014, not 2013.

### *On Validation Procedures*

44. Validation measures for all price indices are documented in the various web releases and in the Bulletin of Selected Retail and Producers Prices annual publication. However, in reality, it is not assured that all of these are practiced or implemented religiously given the long list of commodities to be collected, time constraints, lack of staff and deadlines to meet. There will be varying degrees of implementation depending on the time (if there is still available time or lack of time) for the staff to do so

### *On Dissemination*

45. Practically all the price statistics that the DCS produce are available in the website. Data users in the government and private sector, research and in other fields, usually look for the technical notes or sources and methods as well, on how these prices are generated. Some information on these are interspersed in the write-ups of some web releases but there is no particular tab or heading in the prices section where technical notes may be found.

Further, for users who are regularly monitoring prices in line with their work or research, there is also particular tab or heading in the website on what date exactly these are uploaded. This information is usually mentioned in the write-ups of the web releases.

### *On Technical Notes*

46. Only the CCPI and the NCPI have a more detailed sources and methods than the rest of the prices.

47. Documentation of PPI, Producers and Retail Prices is lacking. Only a short note on an introduction of the PPI is available in the DCS website. For the Producer's price of locally produced agricultural, livestock & fisheries products; and the Retail prices for selected consumer items, there is only a brief mention in the Introduction and in the Footnotes on the corresponding tables, published in the Bulletin of Selected Retail and Producer Prices.

### **Recommendations:**

While the price indices generated by DCS are timely and regularly available, there is a need to continuously update and improve the quality of existing price indices to ensure relevance and wider policy use.

### *Data collection*

48. Attention should be given to the following areas:

Continue to review the design of the pricing forms to reflect changes in the item characteristics

a. For consumer and retail prices, there should be continuous monitoring of price outlets to account for "new" shopping centers, supermarkets and market stalls.

b. It is suggested that DCS considers shifting from the traditional questionnaire-based system to a computer-assisted device using Personal Digital Assistant (PDAs) that combines computing, cellular phone, web browsing and networking features. There are available PDA software that are customized for application in price statistics such as data entry form and validation tools to reduce data entry errors. The use of PDAs provides big advantages in terms of cost savings, quality of data and most importantly, data processing time is significantly reduced from data collection to data dissemination.

### ***Generation of updated/rebased price indices***

49. CCPI and NCPI need to be updated and rebased periodically, with its base year concurring with the reference year of the latest HIES. This is to take into account changes in consumer preferences and spending as reflected in the new weights of the updated market basket of goods and services; some items may no longer be commonly bought due to changes in quality or technology; and to exclude the products or services that no longer exist or being traded in the market.

50. In the same manner, rebasing of the PPI should concur with the reference year of the latest Census of Industry. It is worth mentioning that the current PPI base year is based on the latest census of industry reference year of 2013.

51. Rebasing of the CCPI and NCPI time series should be generated in a specified timeline, say three years after the release of the new HIES, which is conducted every five years; through

the formulation of a Policy on the synchronized rebasing of the CCPI, and CCPI following the guidelines mentioned above.

### ***Formulation and implementation of Policies on Price statistics:***

**52.** It is recommended that DCS develops in collaboration with users the following policies:

- a. Policy on synchronized rebasing of price indices (CCPI and NCPI; PPI on Manufacturing and Electricity and Water)
- b. Policy on Revision of Price Indices- to explain the reference period when the prices are revised and finalized; or if they are not revised at all.
- c. Policy on the Dissemination of Price Statistics - commonly known as calendar of release, this is to provide information on the date when the prices are expected to be uploaded in the website; date of availability of publication (hard copy)

**53.** It is the discretion of DCS to formulate individual policies as mentioned above or come up with an integrated policy on the generation, rebasing, revision and dissemination of price statistics. Policies are put in place to address pertinent issues, identify key activities, provide guidance, expectations and principles to follow regarding an organization's procedures and outputs, among others. They also serve as basis for performance monitoring to know if the policies are actually implemented or not.

### ***Development of new price indices***

**54.** The DCS is recommended to come up with a short term and medium plan or program of activities in price statistics, prioritizing on the improvement of existing price indices and the compilation of new ones, in line with compliance to updated economic frameworks and to capture recent economic developments in Sri Lanka:

### ***Chained Price Indices***

**55.** It is well-known that the use of fixed weights (as in Laspeyres type formula) introduces some bias in the measure of price change. Fixed-weighted indexes have the tendency to overstate price changes when the relative price of a commodity increases more quickly than other commodities. In this regard, the relative weight of that commodity would be overestimated until the index is rebased resulting in a higher estimate of price change.

**56.** A key recommendation in the 2008 SNA is to shift from the traditional fixed-based indices towards chain-linked measures. The problem of base-period dependence and substitution bias are eliminated with the shift to chained prices. Chain indices are considered superior than fixed-base indices, because weights are updated every year to reflect the current trend in prices.

### ***Development of Construction price index and Real estate price index***

57. Development of an operational framework and estimation methodology for the compilation of the Construction price index and the Real estate price index will provide the ability to track price movements that reflect the supply and demand conditions in these sectors amidst the flourishing developments in the real estate industry resulting from the on-going massive construction ventures in Colombo. More importantly, they will also serve as the more appropriate deflators in national accounts to convert the current value of production of the construction industry and real estate services into volume measures.

### ***Development of CPI for low-income group households***

58. This will reflect the expenditure and the cost of goods and services purchased by the low-income households. There is a strong demand for the compilation of this price index to support poverty estimates and analysis.

### ***Establishment of Committee on Prices***

It is recommended for DCS to establish an inter-agency committee on prices to serve as a forum towards the improvement of price statistics.

59. Suggested membership includes major users and stakeholders such as the Central Bank, the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Director of National Accounts Division, Ministry of Labor and Wages, Research Institutes and Private Industry Associations. The DCS will be able to inform and present to the group its progress of work, including the methodologies for consultation, validation and endorsement by the committee; determine the needs/ develop a greater understanding on the uses of price statistics; and address the emerging requirements of stakeholders and international initiatives on SDG, ICP and PPP, etc. This mechanism will allow an exchange of views and expertise to resolve issues in price statistics; provide guidance to DCS on the prioritization on the compilation of new price indices and will enable monitoring of the compliance to the policies formulated on price statistics.

60. It is highly recommended to publish a Technical Manual on Price Statistics to cover all prices statistics compiled by DCS for proper documentation. This should include the concepts, scope and coverage, sources of data, criteria for choosing the sample outlets, collection and validation procedures, methodology used, the calculation of weights and time series available.

### ***Technical Manual on Price Indices***

61. This will serve as a guide to both the staff of DCS and the users of prices statistics. Further, it will enhance the transparency of DCS in the compilation and dissemination of price statistics; it may also be used for audit purposes to avoid any risk of index manipulation.

### ***Dissemination of Price Statistics***

62. In the event that the recommendations on the Policies on Prices and the publication of a Technical Manual are implemented, these should have designated headings or tabs in the DCS website on Prices. This will address the users' long-standing request for such information.

### ***Conduct of Users-Producers Forum***

63. In order for DCS to be relevant and responsive to the needs of users, a regular dialogue through a Users-Producers Forum is recommended to be undertaken amongst users, producers and key decision makers. This mechanism aims to facilitate discussion and cooperation by identifying user needs and for DCS to gain some feedback on the extent to which the use of price statistics meets users' needs

64. Low responses or non-responses by the data providers affect the quality of price statistics. The Users forum can also serve as a platform for advocacy in soliciting the cooperation of the private sector and individuals, in responding to price surveys.

### ***Continuous training of DCS staff***

65. It is highly recommended for DCS to ensure that the staff engaged in the generation of price statistics are up to date in their knowledge and skills to keep up with constantly changing technologies and methodologies. Training on chained prices and chain-linking, rebasing of indices; backtracking of indices; development of construction and real estate price indices are among the priority areas for consideration.

## Chapter 8: Agriculture

**1. Introduction:** The agriculture sector remains an important source of livelihoods for a large number of population who live in the rural and plantation areas of the country. About 70 percent of Sri Lanka people still live in rural and plantation areas. The agriculture sector accounted for 7.0 percent of GDP in 2018 and provided employment for about 25.5% of the labour force<sup>1</sup>. Agriculture in Sri Lanka mainly consists of crops, livestock, fisheries and aquatic resources along with agriculture land and agro-forestry. However, changing weather patterns, labour shortage, fragmentation of land holdings, land degradation, young people moving away from agriculture, biotic and abiotic stresses to the crops, food waste and destruction of products, and health concerns of farmers are reported as major problems in agriculture in Sri Lanka.<sup>2</sup>

**2. Responsible agencies for agriculture statistics:** The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development are the two main responsible government agencies for the production and generation of the agricultural statistics.

**3. Major data sources, periodicity and geographical disaggregation:** The Agriculture and Environment Division of DCS has been carrying out an Agriculture Census once in 10 years. The last Agriculture Census was carried out in 2013/14 as a part of Economic Census. Both household and commercial agriculture activities are included in the census. The outputs are provided for National and District level. The DCS has also been conducting bi-annual crop cutting surveys to estimate the paddy statistics; Highland crops statistics for cultivation seasons (Yala & Maha) at the Grama Niladhari Division level (14021 cases); annual livestock population and production for district level; annual cost of production for Tea, Rubber and Coconut at national level; and food balance sheet for each year.

Recently, with the technical support of Asian Development Bank (ADB), the DCS has conducted an Agriculture Household Survey, 2017/2018 covering different aspects of agriculture activities. But, the result are yet to be published.

The Department of Agriculture (DoA) provides national forecasts of major crops, fruit and vegetables for Yala and Maha seasons at national level. The DoA also generates cost of cultivation data of food crops by carrying out a cost of cultivation survey seasonally in addition to providing national forecast of food crops. Likewise, the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources provides annual production of fisheries and aquaculture at national level.

**4. Administrative data:** the Sri Lanka Customs collects data on import and exports of agriculture products as an official records of custom.

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<sup>1</sup> Central Bank Annual Report, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Mohan Munasinghe (2019), Sustainable Sri Lanka 2030 Vision and Strategic Path

([https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327221768\\_Sustainable\\_Sri\\_Lanka\\_2030\\_Vision\\_and\\_Strategic\\_Path](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327221768_Sustainable_Sri_Lanka_2030_Vision_and_Strategic_Path))

**5. International standard and methodology:** The DCS uses United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) guidelines for the compilation and dissemination of agriculture statistics.

**6.** The FAO has also recommended a Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics which provides a conceptual framework for agricultural statistics covering the economic, social and environmental dimensions. The Global Strategy defines a minimum set of internationally comparable core agricultural data that countries should provide to enable international comparisons to be made.

**7. National policy and framework:** The Public Investment Programme (PIP) 2017-2020 which is a medium-term policy document of the government with sectoral development priorities and policies, has presented targets, key strategies and investment priority areas for the development of crops, livestock, plantation and fisheries sectors. Two of the five goals of development in PIP related to agriculture sector are: (1) Development of rural economies, and (2) Ensuring land ownership to rural and estate sectors, the middle class and government employees.

**8.** The agriculture development targets and strategies in PIP are based on National Agriculture Policies and Programmes like National Food Production Programmes (2016-2018), and Agriculture Development Mega Zones for increasing production, substituting imports and promoting exports of agro-based products. Even though, the agriculture policies have not directly mentioned the needs of agriculture statistics, they have mentioned the importance of research and development in agriculture and timely dissemination of the research outputs to end-users. The new Agriculture Policy has been drafted and submitted to Government approval to address many challenges in agriculture sector.

### **9. Data gaps and user's demands:**

- Quarterly data on crops, livestock and fisheries production.
- Environmental impacts on agriculture and related environmental statistics.
- Agriculture price data.
- Post-harvest loss of agriculture.
- Crop damage data.
- Spatial data of farm lands related farmers details.
- Availability of real time data.
- Microdata of agriculture census and survey.

### **10. Issues and challenges**



- Accuracy of data: the crop forecasts from Ministry of Agriculture are based on eye estimate.
- The data from the field is taken by ARPA (Agriculture Production & Research Assistant) with the document of land area and the ownership according to the land registry. That is maintained in Agrarian Development Centre level. They estimate the land area cultivated with no measuring device.
- Data quality: lack of proper validation of agriculture data. Example: 30-40% post-harvest loss is reported, but there does not appear to be accurate data to support the findings.
- The Department of Agriculture lacks appropriate methods and skill in data collection.
- The crop cutting survey technique that has been used by DCS since the 1950s should be improved with modern methodology and technique.
- Lack of proper data base of farmers related to service extended by the institutions under the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Less accessibility of agriculture related data, e.g. Weather data, Irrigation data.
- Different data types available in different source which are contradictory to each other
- Considerable time required to enter the available data.
- Unwillingness to share the available information to government institutions.

### 11. Assessment and recommendations

- The DCS has been collecting agriculture statistics mainly through the agriculture census. The last agriculture census was conducted in 2013/14 as a part of economic census. The agriculture census was based on FAO guidelines and provides information on agriculture holding, area and production of crops, number of livestock, poultry, fisheries, farm labour, farm mechanization, etc. for smallholdings and estates at national and district level.
- Most of the important agriculture information are captured in the agriculture census, but the DCS provides a regular flow of quality agriculture data on annual basis. **The recently started Agricultural Household Survey 2017/18 could be a good source of annual data if it is institutionalized.**
- The Crop-cutting Survey for Paddy conducted by the DCS only covers the major Mahaweli Systems; Udawalawa, B, C, G and H. The absence of a more comprehensive Crop Cutting survey is a major challenge the Authority faces, particularly when calculating Average Yields for other Systems. Accordingly we recommend a more comprehensive survey including other Mahaweli Systems as well as for some other crops to improve the accuracy of crop yield data.
- The Mahaweli Authority states that the cultivated and harvested crop damage is not captured in the estimate of annual agriculture production. It unfavorably affects the

accuracy level of estimates of production. Accordingly, it is important to take steps to measure crop damage in annual production with the aim of minimizing the errors occurred.

- The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics defines a minimum set of core agriculture data in three dimensions - economic, social and environmental. Sri Lanka mainly lacks data on rural and environmental dimensions such as soil degradation, land use, fertilizers and pesticides used, water and air pollution, emissions due to agriculture, rural infrastructure, public expenditure on agriculture and rural development etc.
- There is some evidence of duplication and discrepancy between DCS and Ministry of Agriculture (Minister of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation, Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development) in area and production of crops, especially of rice and Livestock number and production. **The strengthening of Ministry of Agriculture with scientific data collection methodology and better coordination between the organizations in production of agriculture statistics should help to reduce the inconsistencies in data.**
- The DCS has been using paper-based questionnaires for data collection in agriculture surveys and censuses. **New technologies like Computer Aided Personal Interviewing (CAPI) could be used in agriculture census and survey to speed up data collection.**
- The available microdata of past agriculture censuses and upcoming agriculture census and surveys could be made available for users to expand its uses for researches and better policy planning of agriculture sector.
- It will be important, if the national statistical system is able to focus on micro level agricultural data too. For example, now paddy statistics (**total extent, total production etc.**) are available for annual as well as *Yala* and *Maha* seasons. If the paddy statistics are available for *long grain white paddy*, *long grain red paddy*, and *short grain paddy*, such information is important for the market monitoring purposes. Adoption of such procedure for the rest of the crops also important.

## Chapter 9: Population and Demography

1. Introduction: According to Population and Housing Census 2012 the total population of Sri Lanka is 20.4 million with sex ratio 93.8, population growth rate 1.1 percent during 1981-2012 and population density 325 per square kilometre. The Sinhalese (74.9 percent) is the largest ethnic group in Sri Lanka and Buddhism (70.1 percent) is the biggest religion. The Crude Birth Rate (CBR per 1000 population) is 17.6 and the Crude Death Rate is 6 persons per 1000 population. Apart from the population census the Sri Lanka has a good system of vital registration for the registration of Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces. These vital statistics are used for the estimation of the mid-year population each year.

2. The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) and Registrar General's Department are the two main responsible government agencies for the production and dissemination of population and demographic statistics. Department of Immigration and Emigration is provided data on international migration.

3. Major data sources, periodicity and geographical disaggregation: The Population and Housing Census which has been conducted once in every 10 years is the main source of population and demographic data. The last population and housing census (PHC) took place in 2012. The population census provides population characteristics like size and age-sex composition, dependency population, marital status, ethnicity and religion, literacy and education, labour force, occupation, migration and fertility of the population. It is also the source of housing characteristics. The population and demographic statistics from the PHC are available for national, province, district and Grama Niladhari level. The demographic statistics are also be obtained and updated by household surveys taking place in certain intervals or in ad-hoc basis. The demographic and health survey, household income and expenditure survey, labour force survey and women wellbeing survey are major household surveys in Sri Lanka. Women wellbeing survey, conducted in 2019 also will provide demographic statistics.

The Registrar General's Department (RGD) uses an administrative data recording system to compile vital statistics like birth, death, marriage, divorce, and cause of deaths each year. The information is available at district level. The vital statistics with additional information on international migration from the Department of Immigration and Emigration is used for the estimation of mid-year population.

4. International standard and methodology: The DCS uses United Nations guidelines for conducting population and housing census. The *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Rev. 2 (2008)*, which was recommended by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) for the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses, was followed by DCS in 2012 PHC. Likewise, the RGD uses the UN manual for vital statistics - *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Rev. 3 (2014)* for the compilation of vital statistics. Cause of death information is coded according to ICD 10 guidelines.

5. National policy and framework: The Statistics Ordinance, 1960 and the Census Ordinance, 1900 with last amendments in 2000 substantially remained the basis for census taking in Sri Lanka. The same Ordinances also act as a main basis for the Vital Registration in Sri Lanka.

### 6. Data gaps and user's demands:

Inter census population and demographic updates up to the lowest administrative level, the GN (Grama Niladhari Division) level, are not available due to the lack of inter census population surveys.

Internal migration between district to district, and rural to urban area are not available for period other than census year and this presents a major challenge for those charged with compiling mid-year population estimates.

On external migration, despite its long history of being a major migrant-sending country, there is a large data gap on external migration of Sri Lankans. Other than administrative data which likely exists somewhere, there is no detailed individual/household level information that would provide a fuller profile of migrants.

The UN agency in Sri Lanka mentioned that the Government does not have a strategy with specific measures to provide assistance to immigrants in the event of an emergency. For example, Sri Lanka's current crisis communication system operates mainly in the national languages, Sinhala and Tamil. Sri Lanka does not maintain a database of all its nationals living abroad, which would help facilitate emergency assistance, including evacuations and repatriations in the event of crises. To date, there has been no empirical research into the extent to which internal migration or emigration is the result of natural disasters, reoccurring adverse weather conditions or climate change.

Microdata of Population and Housing Census is not made available to users.

### 7. Issues and challenges:

- The final dissemination of population census results is subject to a 30 months delay. However, there were a number of data releases in between for different themes of public importance.
- Internal migration in population census is counted for district to district level, not from DS to DS level or between sectors.
- Statistics relating to people who have gone abroad temporarily are captured partially.
- Population registry is not updated if person moves from one region to another region.
- Registration of birth and deaths is believed to be 100 percent but small percentage with some delay.
- The DCS lacks funding for inter census population surveys for updating population census figures.
- The RGD lacks an online system for registration and transfer of vital statistics from DS (Divisional Secretariat) level to the centre.

### 8. Assessment and recommendations

- The DCS has used new technology, such as scanning and computer assisted coding, to expedite the processing of data in last population census 2012, but there is a strong case for new IT based technologies like Computer Aided Personal Interviewing (CAPI)

to be used for data collection leading to more timely release and publication of results. We are informed that the DCS has made the decision to use CAPI in upcoming Population Census 2021 and currently making necessary preparations.

- A shortage of funding in DCS hinders the regular and timely conduct of major household surveys like DHS and inter census population census for updating population and demographic statistics.
- The civil registration activities in RGD have been decentralized up to the Divisional Secretariat (DS) level in all 332 DSs. RGD has taken steps to computerize vital event since February, 2019 and issue certificate centrally. **This system could be decentralized and turned into online Vital Events Registration Management Information System (VER-MIS) for ease data collection and transfer to centre office.**
- **The RGD needs support for equipment and skill development of manpower working in computer and IT for upgrading the Civil registration system into online system.**
- In the latest questionnaire for the 2021 Population and Housing Census, DCS maintained the question on migration at the district level. The same question could be re-formulated to ask about the DS division of origin and destination and the responses could be aggregated as needed – so that more information can be elicited with just one question.
- A detailed survey of external migrants would also be useful – particularly as recent migration patterns suggest that the gender and skills mix of migrants has been changing.
- The PHC is considered a major source of information on the size, distribution and social- economic characteristics of population, farming and establishment. The information is vital for making national, regional and local level plans and policy. It also provides a list of frame for many national and sub-national household surveys. Therefore, this assessment recommends an open access to the PHC microdata, while ensuring individual confidentiality.

## Chapter 10: Industrial Statistics

**1. Introduction:** The industrial statistics sector covers data from three industry divisions, namely the Mining and Quarrying, Manufacturing, and Electricity, Gas and Water sectors of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) Rev. 4 of the United Nations, and its localized version is Sri Lanka standard Industrial classifications-SLSIC. The latest Annual Survey of Industries, 2017 covered industrial establishments with 5 or more persons engaged and estimates that there are 21,295 such industrial establishments in the country.

**2. Responsible agencies for industrial statistics:** The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) and Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Resettlement of Protected Displaced Persons, Cooperative Development and Vocational Training and Skill Development (in short, Ministry of Industry and Commerce) are the two main responsible government agencies for the production and dissemination of industrial statistics. The other government agencies, namely Tourism Development Board, Customs Department, Department of Registrar of Companies, Department of Inland Revenue, and Construction Development Authority produce rather more specific types of industrial statistics in their domains – mainly administrative data.

**3. Major data sources, periodicity and geographical disaggregation:** The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) that has been carried out by DCS every year is the main source of industrial statistics in Sri Lanka. The ASI includes Mining and Quarrying, Manufacturing, and Electricity, Gas and Water sectors of the ISIC, Rev. 4 and covers state owned industrial establishments, industries coming within the preview of Board of Investment (BOI) and private sector establishments with 5 or more persons engaged. The Census of Industries 2003/04 and Economic Census 2013/14 which are conducted once in 10 years are also considered major sources of industrial statistics. All the industrial surveys and censuses in DCS provide data to the 2 digit level of Sri Lanka Standard Industrial Classification (SLSIC 2D). The industrial census and Economic census data are available for district level.

**4. The Index of Industrial production** is compiled monthly by the DCS instead of the FIPI of the Central Bank. The annual survey of Industries is conducted by the DCS for more than 50 years and a time series of data are available for the industry sector.

**5. The statistical Business registry (SBR)** was established with the list of economic entities prepared at the economic census. All the entities with more than three employees are included in the registry.

**6. The ministry of Industry and Commerce** keeps records of administrative data through registration of new industry. The Board of Investment maintains administrative records of big industries.

**7. International standard and methodology:** The DCS follows United Nations International Recommendations for Industrial Statistics 2008 (IRIS 2008) for collection and reporting of industrial statistics. Likewise, The International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Revision 4 of the United Nations was localized for the convenience of identifying specific industries in

the country. Sri Lanka Standard Industrial Classification (SLSIC) and localized Central Product Classification (CPC) codes are used to classify the economic activities and products in the industrial survey and censuses.

8. National policy and framework: The DCS uses the Statistics Ordinance and the Census Ordinance for the industrial survey and census taking in Sri Lanka. But the Ministry of Industry and Commerce conducts registration of industries under the Industrial Promotion Act No. 46 of 1990.

9. Data gaps and user's demands:

- The results of AIS are not available at sub-national level, especially for district.
- The administrative data of registration of industries is not accessible to users.
- Needs of quarterly industrial data.
- Environmental issues related statistics on industry are not available.

10. Issues and challenges:

- Low response rate of Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), i.e. 70% on an average.
- Significantly lower response rates for the quarterly/monthly surveys – a recent initiative in the service sector was discontinued because of disappointingly low response rates in the order of 30%.
- Legal framework is weak. No separate ordinance for the production of industrial statistics.
- The foreign investors engaged in major construction contracts report that they are not bound to give information to DCS. If this is true then it should be source of great concern given the scale of some key projects.
- Time lag in dissemination of monthly Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is 63 days.
- No mechanism for sharing industrial data among related stakeholders.
- The SBR available in the DCS does not have mechanism for regular updating. The unit of SBR is establishment and this is also an obstacle in updating the registry with the registries of other sources as the unit of those are enterprises.
- Changes in inventory levels are not included in monthly and quarterly surveys for Industrial Production Index survey.

11. Assessment and recommendations:

- Low response rate is a serious challenge in industrial data collection in DCS. It is partly due to weak legal provision. Data collection is done under Statistics act. But the DCS has never had taken measures for non-responding establishments. **A strong provision of compulsory response in new statistical ordinance is required.**

- Duplication in data collection from industries. **The respondent burden for the collection of data by the prices division of DCS and by Central Bank should be reduced by better coordination among these agencies.**
- The industrial data collection system in DCS is paper based - no web-based system exists. **An online data collection system could encourage some businesses to contribute and hence to increase response rates – although such initiatives require strong security systems to protect commercially sensitive data.**
- The sampling frame of the industrial survey is not updated regularly. **A mechanism to update the Statistical Business Register should be established as a matter of some urgency.** Establishing a registry with the base registries of Registrar of Companies (ROC) and Provincial registry of Companies (PROC) and updating it with other registries like tax registry, CEB, BOI, provincial council business registries would be very productive and this could be matched with the economic census frame obtained.
- Absence of links to the administrative system of Company registry, Inland Revenue department, and Provincial business registration: **The data stored as administrative records in the line ministries should be shared with DCS and where (for instance in the Inland Revenue Department) the law prohibits the sharing of individual company tax and staff number records a new Statistics Ordinance should explicitly overrule such prohibition.**
- **Rebasing the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) needs technical support.** If this is done efficiently the survey of industrial production might no longer be required.
- There is an absence of environmental issues related information in the industrial survey. **The environmental related questions should be added to the survey and census questionnaires.**



## Chapter 11: Health Statistics

**1. Introduction:** The health system of Sri Lanka mainly comprises of preventive and curative services widely distributed to ensure equitable health services for general public through-out the country. It practises different systems of medicine i.e., Allopathic, Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Traditional, Homeopathy and Acupuncture. Among them, allopathic medicine is the main sector catering to public and the government health institutions which are the main agencies for providing free health services to the public. The statistics show 1107 government hospitals with 81580 beds operating in Sri Lanka. In 2016, about 6.4 million hospitalizations occurred. The Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine (abbreviated as MoH - Ministry of Health) is the leading agency responsible for health service development and regulation.

**2. Responsible agencies for health statistics:** The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS), the Registrar General's Department and the MoH are the main responsible government agencies for the production and dissemination of health statistics. The MoH is responsible for ensuring resources for health services and major health infrastructure development. It also generates administrative records of the state health sector to meet the information needs of policy makers, researchers and other interested stakeholders.

**3. Major data sources, periodicity and geographical disaggregation:** The Annual Health Bulletin is the main annual publication of the Ministry of Health. It is mainly based on the administrative reporting of the health institutions, but it also uses information from other sources like Demographic Health Survey from DCS, and vital statistics from Registrar General's Department. It presents an overview of the country's health status, details of service coverage, and information on the health system which facilitate the provision of health services. The information are presented by health institute and by district.

The Annual Health Statistics is another publication from the MoH but it also uses the information from the health bulletin. It also presents an overview on the healthcare delivery system and the health status of the country. The information on morbidity, mortality, resource availability and provision of services of government healthcare system are included in the report.

The Ministry of Health has prepared the National Health Accounts of Sri Lanka for the years; 2014, 2015 and 2016. It follows the guidelines of System of Health Accounts 2011, published by the World Health Organization and presents the current health expenditures and capital formation of the respective years.

The DCS conducts Demographic Health Survey (DHS) which provides information on some key health indicators like fertility, family planning, maternal and child health through and nutrition. The last DHS was conducted on 2016.

The Registrar General's Department collects annual vital statistics like Crude Birth Rate, Crude Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate.

**4. International standard and methodology:** The Ministry of Health follows the International Classification of Diseases, Eleventh Revision (ICD-11). It is a classification system that is proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and provides guidelines for universal

comparability in the collection, processing, categorization, and presentation of the diseases and health conditions.

The DCS follows the standard DHS procedures and methodologies to collect and describe the data that are comparable across countries.

**5. National policy and framework:** The DCS mainly depends on the Statistics Ordinance and the Census Ordinance for the production of health related statistics through DHS, Population and Housing Census and other related household surveys.

The Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine has developed a National Health Policy (2016 -2025) and a Strategic Framework for Development of Health Services (2016 - 2025). One of the main objectives of the policy is to strengthen evidence-based service delivery to support journey along the continuum of the health care that needs a strong database of health statistics. The specific areas which need a good back up of statistics data are mentioned as:

- The promotion, support and planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of health promotion programmes in different settings.
- The monitoring and evaluation of health promotion programmes and facilitation monitoring and evaluation of them at different levels.
- The supporting and undertaking of research related to behaviour change of the community and social mobilization.

**6. Data gaps and user's demands:**

- Health statistics especially from the Ministry of Health are not available for Divisional Secretariat (DS) and Grama Niladhari (GN) division levels.
- Lack of periodic disability data.
- Health services data from private practitioners and hospitals are not available.

**7. Issues and challenges:**

- Poor quality and misclassification in documenting and reporting the diagnosis of the actual disease.
- The system reporting administrative health data from hospitals to the ministry takes a substantial time which causes delay in publication of the health bulletin. Currently there is about one year delay.
- Poor reporting of mortality data of growing non-communicable diseases like heart attacks, diabetes, etc.
- Deficiencies in coding system of diseases in different health institutions.
- Survey calendar for DHS has not been followed due to lack of funding problem.
- Frequent transfer of the statisticians in MOH without coordinating with the ministry.

## 8. Assessment and recommendations:

- An on-line reporting system based on patients from hospitals and health institutions to the ministry and accessible to the National Statistical Service for the compilation of health statistics will have a profound impact on the quality, accuracy and timeliness of health statistics. This requires a high level of collaboration and co-ordination between DCS and the Ministry of Health (MoH) and it is essential that the requirements of statisticians are taken into account within the Ministry as more streamlined data systems are introduced for health service administrative purposes and there is a clear role for a National Statistical Council to be involved in such a development within the framework of a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
- The Demographic and Health Survey is useful for understanding changes in disease patterns and health outcomes in the population. But it is conducted only about every 10 years, leaving large gaps in between, and moreover, there is not much information relating to medical expenditures and detailed health service utilization patterns that are crucial to understand, particularly in an aging society. The low periodicity of a health survey also impacts monitoring of malnutrition trends, an important health challenge in Sri Lanka. The Demographic Health Survey is an important resource and ensuring the ongoing regular conduct of the DHS deserves strong support.
- Our attention has been drawn to the case for the conduct of a disability survey and/or the maintenance of a disability register in each Medical Officer of Health (MOH) area.
- Linkage and networking of available data from private health services and other health sectors like Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Indigenous medicine are recommended to ensure a more complete framework for health statistics.
- Provide training for using new coding (ICD-11) system for related staff working in various health institutions.

## Chapter 12: Education Statistics

**1. Introduction:** The education system of Sri Lanka is considered as one of the best among developing countries. The adult literacy rate is about 95% and the primary enrolment rate has reached 98%. It has a wide network of schools reaching every corner of the country. There are 10,194 government schools with 41,65,964 students in 2017. The level of education is divided into six parts namely: pre-primary (Age 3-5), primary (G1-5), junior secondary (G6-9), senior secondary (G9-10), collegiate and tertiary. The schools are running under government school (national and provincial), pirivena schools (schools, mainly for Buddhist priests), government approved private schools, government approved special schools and international schools. But most of the schools are government-run and free. The Ministry of Education (MOE) and Ministry of City Planning, Water Supply and Higher Education (earlier, Ministry of Higher Education) are the two main central government agencies to administrate the education system in Sri Lanka. Decentralized general education system by devolving the power to provincial councils in 1987 since then Ministry of Education (MOE) and Provincial council bodies are responsible for the administration of government schools in Sri Lanka.

Selected Landmarks in the evolution of the present system of education in Sri Lanka.

- 1939 Enactment of Education Ordinance No. 31 of 1939
- 1943 Establishment of Central Colleges
- 1947 Introduction of free education from Kindergarten to University
- 1961 takeover of denominational schools to establish a national system of education
- 1987 Devolution of power to provincial councils
- 1991 Establishment of National Education Commission

**2. Responsible agencies for educational statistics:** The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS), the Ministry of Education (MOE), the Ministry of City Planning, Water Supply and Higher Education (earlier, Ministry of Higher Education) and University Grant Commission (UGC) are the main responsible government agencies for the production and dissemination of education statistics. The Ministry of Education (MOE) is in charge of general government school (national and provincial), pirivena schools, government approved private schools, government approved special schools and international schools, Teacher training bodies (Teachers Training Colleges, Colleges of Education and Teacher Centres), National Institute of Education (preparation of teaching material for pedagogy), Department of Educational Publications (preparation, printing and distribution of subject-wise school text books for students) and Department of Examination (for conducting national level examinations). The Ministry of Higher Education plays an important role in the area of organizing and directing the higher education system.

**3. Major data sources, periodicity and geographical disaggregation:** The annual school census carried out by the Ministry of Education (MOE) is the main source of general education statistics in Sri Lanka. This census has been carried out for during the past five decades. It initially covered only the government schools in the country and collects information on schools, teachers, pupils and physical resources available in the schools. With the progress of

the school census, data collection process has been expanded to private schools, government approved private schools and government approved special schools during the last few decades and recent addition has been international schools since 2017. In addition, The Ministry of Education (MOE) also collects information on education related institutions such as Teacher Training, Colleges and National Colleges of Education and data related to non-formal education through a separate data collection simultaneously along with the annual school census. The information from the school census is made available annually by national and sub national levels, such as province, administrative district, education zone, education division and divisional secretariat level.

**4.** The page called 'EduStat' in Ministry of Education (MOE) official web site is the place where users can download the statistical tables which are prepared based on the school census data in the last few years. In addition to that, "Lanka SIS" data portal in Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) official web site is a page where users can download the interactive statistical tables of school census data for last few years. As a landmark of school censuses, the 2019 census is going to conduct as first ever online school census in Sri Lanka during the last quarter of the year.

In parallel to school census data collections the Ministry of Education (MOE) has been started to build an online Management Information System (MIS) called NEMIS at zonal and school level to maintain the individual level records of teachers and students. The above system has few integrated separate databases and which included database for teacher data (THRM), a database for student data (SIS) and plan to expand to further more areas.

The Population and Housing Census that has been carried out by DCS is another important source of education statistics. The census is used for the calculation of literacy rate and other cross tabulations related to education by national and sub-national level of the country.

**5. International standard and methodology:** The DCS follows the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) framework to collect and report education data in order to produce internationally comparable education statistics and indicators. The ISCED is initially developed by the UNESCO and it has published ISCED 2011 Operational Manual: Guidelines for Classifying National Education Programmes and Related Qualifications.

**6. National policy and framework:** The DCS uses the Statistics Ordinance and the Census Ordinance for the production of Education Statistics through Population and Housing Census and related household surveys. The Ministry of Education uses the Education Act No. 31 of 1939 and the Education Sector Development Framework and Programme (ESDFP) for the development of the education sector and production and dissemination of related education statistics. The ESDFP is a medium-term educational development plan that has been started since 2006. The last ESDFP is available for the period of 2013-2017.

### **7. Data gaps and user's demands:**

Demand for school census data series at school level for trend analysis of the education system of Sri Lanka is very necessary for implementing any development program on the ground. Timely data from the Annual School Census is compulsory. It is time to improve the level of the

quality of census data also necessary. Normally the school census result has one year time lag for dissemination. To reduce the time lag for dissemination of census data already has proposed an online census for 2019.

### 8. Issues and challenges:

- The annual school census data are not up to the quality standard level, DCS expected due to incorrect data are filled with the census schedules at the school by less trained school teacher/census officers.
- An absence of online reporting system of Annual School Census causes delay in census data dissemination and release of the publication related to the census. However, due to lack of computer and internet facilities in the small schools located in very remote areas far away from local townships have to be adapted different method to provide data of those schools to MOE by using the facilities at the zonal level.
- Absence of national household survey specific to education issues in between the census years.

### 9. Assessment and recommendations:

- The quality and timeliness of the Annual School Survey, which is the main source of education statistics in the country could be improved if it is made online and the school teachers who fill-in the questionnaire were trained. The information from small schools in remote areas could be collected by DCS field staff if necessary manpower and incentives are provided.
- The DCS should consider the introduction of a regular education survey system to gather and update education indicators obtained from the decennial population census.
- The recently developed online data portal 'NEMIS' in the Ministry of Education has to be updated regularly on time.
- In addition to the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) framework to produce internationally comparable education statistics and indicators, internationally comparable statistics could also be considered (for example, the OECD PISA for development).

**1. Introduction:** The United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) publishes global environment on ten indicator themes, namely Air and Climate, Biodiversity, Energy and Minerals, Forests, Governance, Inland Water Resources, Land and Agriculture, Marine and Coastal Areas, Natural Disasters, and Waste. The Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013) describes that the environment data comes from different sources, like

- i. Statistical surveys (social, economic, industrial, etc.);
- ii. Administrative records of government and non-government agencies responsible for natural resources;
- iii. Satellite imaging and mapping land cover, water bodies or forest cover;
- iv. Monitoring systems for water quality, air pollution or climate; and
- v. Scientific researches for environmental issues.

However, the environment statistics is still in an early stage of development in many countries, including Sri Lanka and data are often scarce.

**2. Responsible agencies for environmental statistics:** The Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment is the main government body in Sri Lanka responsible for the management of the environment and natural resources of the country. There are a number of agencies under the ministry working on the environment related area of each theme. The agencies are Central Environment Authority, Forest Department, Geological Survey and Mines Bureau, Marine Environment Protection Authority, National Gem and Jewellery Authority, State Timber Cooperation, Coastal Conservation and Coastal Resource Management Department, and Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau.

The Meteorology Department generates weather and climate related data. Disaster Management Centre (DMC) of the Ministry of Disaster Management collects data about losses caused by natural and man-made disasters. The DCS also produces environment related statistics in some extends from its surveys and censuses.

**3. Major data sources, periodicity and geographical disaggregation:** The Statistics Unit of Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment compiles environment related statistics from more than 80 agencies of the government including different divisions of the ministry. The statistical unit has identified and compiled a list of environmental related indicators and statistics together with the potential data sources for each indicator, in line with FDES and SEEA frameworks under the following categories:

- (1) Environment condition and quality (physical condition, land cover, ecosystem and biodiversity, environmental quality (air and water quality; soil pollution, noise pollution);
- (2) Environmental resources and their use;
- (3) Residuals and emission;
- (4) Extreme events and disaster;
- (5) Human settlements and environment health; and
- (6) Environmental protection, management and engagement.

Some of the Environment Statistics are available on an annual basis at Province, District and Divisional secretariat levels. However, the data requests for compilation from the statistics unit

of the Ministry of Mahaweli are not readily made available from the agencies, leading to delays in the publication of the report.

**4. International standard and methodology:** The UNSD has developed frameworks, concepts and methods, and classifications for the production of environment statistics. The Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013), is a key framework for countries for developing and organizing environmental and related socio-economic information. Further it has supporting tools and manuals for compilation and dissemination of the environment statistics. In Sri Lanka the guidelines and standards recommended under FDES framework 2013 is used to compile Environmental Statistics, and the standards and classifications recommended under SEEA CF and SNA 2008 are used to compile Environmental Economic Accounting

**5. National policy and framework:** A Central Environmental Authority (CEA) was established in Sri Lanka under the provisions of the National Environmental Act No. 47 of 1980 - last amended in 2000. The Act provides authorities to CEA to make provision for the protection, management and enhancement of the environment, regulation, maintenance and control of the quality of the environment and prevention, abatement and control of pollution. The Environmental Act also authorizes power to CEA to undertake surveys and investigations of the causes, nature, and the extent of pollution and to assist and co-operate with other persons and bodies carrying out similar surveys or investigations.

National Policy Framework for marine pollution prevention was established under Marine Pollution Prevention Act No 35 of 2008. This act provides Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) to make provisions for the prevention, reduction and control of marine pollution in waters of Sri Lanka by five regulations formulated. MEPA is the responsible organization to implement international conventions related to ship based pollution prevention and compensation related conventions.

**6. Data gaps and user's demands:**

- There is a very high demand for Environmental Economic Accounts and other environmental statistics from data users, such as international organizations, different government and non-governmental agencies, academia and other data users.
- A complete set of data as per the recommendations of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES 2013) is not available.
- Environmental issues related statistics on industry is not available.

**7. Issues and challenges:**

- There is a weak data sharing culture with other related agencies outside and within the various agencies under the Ministry of Mahaweli development and Environment, which creates delay and difficulties in data compilation.
- Many sectors of the environment lack enough data on environment related issues.
- The statistical unit in the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment which compile environment statistics suffers from lack of staff, skills and funding.



- Data integration is somewhat difficult due to differences in concepts and definitions on environment data produced by different but related agencies in NSS.
- The Agriculture and Environment Statistics Division of the DCS collects very limited environmental related statistics. Likewise the Industrial and Construction Division of the DCS lacks questions related to environmental degradation in its industrial census and surveys.
- Agency wise administrative data on environment are not found easily in the web.

### 8. Assessment and recommendations:

- There are numerous agencies in NSS for producing environment related statistics in Sri Lanka but they lack data sharing procedure which needs to improve.
- Many agencies under the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, which are the main agencies in producing environmental statistics, are suffering from lack of manpower, knowledge and support for producing and compilation of the environment statistics. **The government should ensure the required support for the agencies.**
- As in many NSOs of other countries, a separate unit should be established at the DCS with sufficient staff to support the compilation of environment related statistics and Green Accounts with the collaboration of the Statistical unit of the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment and other stake holders.
- **Environmental impact assessment related questions should be included in upcoming industrial and agriculture surveys and censuses from DCS.**
- The United Nations concepts and methods of the environment, like FDES 2012, SEEA, SNA 2008, etc. need to be followed by the agencies in Sri Lanka which are responsible for producing and providing environment data.

## Chapter 14: Sustainable Development Goals

### 1. Assessment

Along with the 179 member countries of the United Nations, Sri Lanka has in September 2015 unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since the endorsement of the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development, Sri Lanka has taken a number of initiatives to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs. The main initiatives include: (1) the establishment of a dedicated ministry "The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development" for sustainable development as the focal point for coordinating and reporting of the SDGs, (2) the establishment of a Parliamentary Select Committee for Sustainable Development to provide political leadership for the implementation of the SDGs, (3) the enactment of the Sustainable Development Act No. 19 of 2017 to provide the legal framework for implementing the SDGs, and (4) establishing cluster committees for SDGs reporting.

The enforcement of the Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Act, No.19 of 2017, facilitates the development and implementation of a national policy and strategy on sustainable development and for the establishment of a Sustainable Development Council. Since the restructure of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development in new government structure, the Sustainable Development Council has been functioning as a primary agency responsible for the coordination and facilitation on the implementation of the SDGs.

As per the provision of the Sustainable Development Act, No.19 of 2017, the Sustainable Development Council has started preparing a "National policy and strategy for sustainable development aligned with SDGs", that should be approved by parliament. The council has also requested every ministry, department, provincial council and provincial ministry to identify and select the goals and targets based on applicability and implementability and to prepare a sustainable development strategy relevant to the scope of such agency. However, the council is yet to identify relevant agencies for allocating particular targets and indicators to compile and monitor.

The country has aligned long and medium term policy frameworks such as the Public Investment Programme 2017-2020, Vision 2025 in line with the implementation of the SDGs. It has further initiated the government actions to localize the SDGs into its plans at national, provincial and local levels including awareness building and training of public officers.

Since the implementation of SDGs two notable actions were conducted to improve the country's position on the implementation and achievements of the SDGs monitoring. These include, (1) publication of the "Status of Sustainable Development Goals indicators in Sri Lanka: 2017", by DCS in May 2017, and (2) publication of the "Sri Lanka Voluntary National Review on the Status of Implementing Sustainable Development Goals" under the leadership of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development in June, 2018.

*Status of Sustainable Development Goals indicators in Sri Lanka, 2017:* As a central agency in NSS of Sri Lanka the DCS has published a report "Status of Sustainable Development Goals indicators in Sri Lanka: 2017" in May 2017. The DCS has classified all the 244 indicators in 6

categories according to the DCS Tier system. Where the UN definition is different from the DCS definition both definitions are provided in the publication. According to the DCS classification,

- (1) 46 indicators are already compiled by DCS through available censuses and surveys,
- (2) 29 indicators can be compiled by adding new modules in ongoing censuses and surveys,
- (3 & 4) 131 indicators for which data are either available or are to be compiled by other agencies in the NSS,
- (5) 35 indicators corresponding to the global and regional level, (6) 3 indicators which are not relevant to Sri Lanka.

The report presents the status of the baseline data including year, unit, value, source and frequency of updating the 46 indicators compiled by the DCS. It concludes that data disaggregation by various dimensions (age, sex, race, income, geographic location, etc.) as mentioned in the UN guidelines is "critical because aggregate level data do not show discrepancies at lower levels."

The DCS has also developed an SDG web portal in its website: <http://www.statistics.gov.lk/sdg/index.php/sdg/page/home> , which shows the information and status of the SDG indicators and the statistical activities carried out in Sri Lanka in implementing the SDGs.

*Sri Lanka Voluntary National Review on the Status of Implementing Sustainable Development Goals (VNR report):* The Ministry of Sustainable Development, Wildlife and Regional Development has produced and published the VNR report in the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2018. The VNR report reviews the SDG related policies and the initiatives taken to facilitate SDG implementation by the relevant government institutions. It also shows the "current status and trends, gaps and challenges, and the way forward for all the 17 SDGs."

According to the VNR report "Sri Lanka has made significant progress in several areas related to SDGs, in particular education, health and poverty. However the SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15 bear a special significance to Sri Lanka given the rising environmental challenges faced by the country."

The report also indicates the "challenges with regard to the implementation of SDGs, particularly in the areas of financing, technology development, capacity building, trade and investments, as well as systemic issues such as policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and data monitoring and accountability."

Annex 6 on page 112 lists SDG Indicators compiled by DCS and other Agencies in Sri Lanka

## 2. Recommendations

- **Under the provision of the Sustainable Development Act, No.19 of 2017, the Sustainable Development Council has the task of developing the "National policy and strategy on sustainable development" in conformity with the Sustainable Development goals and associated targets.**

- The Sustainable Development Council requires that every ministry, department, provincial council, provincial ministry and department and local authority shall prepare a Sustainable Development Strategy relevant to the scope of such ministry, department, provincial council, provincial ministry and department and local authority in accordance with the National Policy and Strategy on Sustainable Development.
- The Council role has been set out to develop a profile of agencies and relevant SDG indicators, and assign proper agency as a focal point for monitoring related indicators.
- As identified by the DCS report "*Status of Sustainable Development Goals indicators in Sri Lanka, 2017*" the other relevant agencies in NSS should act promptly to compile the 131 indicators.
- As indicated by the DCS report necessary provisions should be developed and required data sources- census, survey, administrative records and new data sources should be explored to provide disaggregate SDG indicators by various dimensions.
- As mentioned in the VNR report the challenges with regard to the implementation of SDGs, particularly in the areas of technology development, capacity building, policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and data monitoring and accountability should be addressed.
- The DCS should take the lead in preparing concepts, classifications and standard in defining and compiling the SDG indicators.
- The council has to develop capacity building and training, especially for estimation of proxy indicators for which data are not directly available.
- Since the data from government sectors are not in themselves enough to produce the numerous SDG indicators, an engagement and collaboration with private sectors, community organizations, experts, academia and other related stakeholders should be enforced to produce more disaggregate data of different dimensions so as to ensure that the full range of indicators are produced.

## Chapter 15: Gender Statistics

### 1. Assessment

Sri Lanka has a dedicated "Ministry of Women & Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development" to formulate, implement, monitor, evaluate and co-ordinate policies and programmes required for development and ensuring rights of women and children. Two separate agencies: National Committee on Women and Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka, function under the ministry for women's wellbeing and empowerment. However, the key functions of the ministry and the two agencies are identifying, designing, implementing and evaluating programs suitable for economic and social empowerment of Sri Lankan women. These agencies are mainly policy making, implementing, coordinating bodies.

The ministry has implemented a Policy Framework and National Plan of Action to address Sexual and Gender based Violence in Sri Lanka, 2016-2020. Also, the ministry has been developing a "National Policy on Women, Sri Lanka" with the technical support of UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka conducts programmes under the key areas of empowering Women Headed Families economically and socially, preventing Gender-Based Violence and creating equality. One of the programs in its annual action plan for 2018 is to build capacity in research and study. A study on Domestic Violence and its correlation with the Economy has been proposed for 2018.

The Ministry of Justice, Human rights & Legal Reforms chairs the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force and leads government agency for the coordination of all initiatives taken to address human trafficking in Sri Lanka and to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. The ministry provides statistical records on cases each year.

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) has been functioning as a main source of Gender statistics in Sri Lanka. A separate webpage has been developed in DCS website

(<http://www.statistics.gov.lk/page.asp?page=Gender%20Statistics>) to publish statistics and indicators to portray the situation of women in major economic and social spheres. The main sources of data for the gender statistics in DCS come from the various censuses and surveys conducted by DCS. However, the DCS surveys do not cover all aspects of gender statistics. Additional data on gender statistics are also collected from other government and semi-government agencies and from various administrative records. The webpage publishes gender statistics in seven major areas: Population, Education, Health and Nutrition, Violence against Women, Contribution to Economy, Women Empowerment, and Special Concerns. The data are disaggregated as per the scope and limitations of their sources.

The DCS has been also publishing special gender disaggregated report from 1995 for catering specific needs of the users who needs a diverse gender statistics and indicators. The webpage shows four such publications which are published in 1995, 1997, 2007 and 2014. The last two publications in 2007 and 2014 were titled "The Sri Lankan Woman-Partner in Progress".

The publication in 2014 “The Sri Lankan Woman – Partner in Progress” was prepared by the Department of Census and Statistics upon a request received from the then Ministry of Child Development and Women’s Affairs. This publication contains gender related data of their fields from various agencies: Department of Census and Statistics, Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Registrar General's Department, Ministry of Education, University Grants Commission, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, Department of Technical Education and Training, Department of Health Services, Parliamentary Handbook, Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils, Department of Police, Department of Prisons, Department of Election, Board of Investment, and Bureau of Foreign Employment.

The DCS conducted Women Wellbeing Survey in 2019 with the technical support of UNFPA. The survey is also taken as a good source of gender statistics.

## 2. Recommendations

**There is positive user feedback on gender statistics in Sri Lanka, especially those published in the DCS webpage. However, the DCS, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and related agencies should direct more attention to produce required but as yet unmet data for the targets and indicators in various dimensions of SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls.**

**The gender database of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and the two responsible agencies: National Committee on Women and Women's Bureau of Sri Lanka are found relatively weak. They should strengthen the database using administrative records and with more surveys and research studies in their priorities areas.**

## Chapter 16: Labour Statistics

### 1. Assessment

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS), the Department of Labour, the Department of Manpower and Employment, and the Central Bank are the main government agencies responsible for the production and dissemination of labour statistics. However apart from DCS the other three agencies are considered rather data users than data producers. The DCS mainly uses Labour Force Survey (LFS) to collect data on labour statistics. The DCS has been using the LFS on a quarterly basis, to measure the levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force in Sri Lanka since 1990. The LFS follows the ILO statistical guidelines as embodied in the ILO international definitions for measurement of employment and unemployment. It uses Sri Lanka Standard Classification of Occupation - 2008 (SLSCO – 08) derived from ISCO-08, and the Sri Lanka Standard Industry Classification Rev. 4 (SLSIC Rev.4) derived from the ISIC, Rev.4 for Industry classification.

The LFS 2018 report which is based on an annual sample of 25,750 housing units, provides national, provincial and district level estimates. The report shows the estimated unemployment rate is 4.4% for Sri Lanka in 2018. Unlike the HIES, the time lag in publication of the LFS outputs is only three months due to the introduction of Computer Assisted Data Collection (CAPI) method using tablet computers from 2017.

The DCS has since 1999 conducted a Child Activity Survey (CAS) to capture all activities children aged 5-17 years are engaged in and then to estimate the child labour situation in Sri Lanka. The CAS 2016 with a sample of 25,000 housing units covers all 25 districts in the country.

The main function of the Department of Labour (DoL) is to enforce Labour Acts and Ordinances enacted for the welfare and the betterment of the working community; settling industrial disputes; and implement social security programmes for the workers of the of the Semi-government and Private Sectors of the country. It uses surveys and administrative records maintained by various divisions of the Department of Labour, other Government Ministries, Departments and Organizations to collect and presents data relevant to labour statistics.

The DoL conducts an Annual Employment Survey to collect information from employers in semi-government and private sector with at least one paid employee and who were contributing to the Employees' Provident Fund. This survey provides comprehensive information on labour force characteristics, labour market situations and background information on industry categories of establishments including the industries which were registered under the Wages Board Ordinance. It follows ISIC, Rev 4 for the classification of the establishments and ISCO-8 for the classification of occupation. The AES was designed as a postal survey and therefore receives low rate of responses from the establishments. The results are published by occupation and industry group for national and district level.

The DoL has since 2008 conducted a Survey on Hours Actually Worked & Average Earnings twice a year, with the reference period of whole months March and September respectively. The report is published annually. According to the survey report 2015, the main purpose of the survey is to compare the average earnings and hours of work of employees covered by the Wages Board Ordinance with information of Earnings, Hours of Work, and all the Occupations

covered by 44 Wages Boards. Like AES the survey adopts a Postal Survey technique and suffers for same low responses problem to collect the information from employers covered by the Wages Board Ordinance in the Private Establishments. The survey depends on the sample of establishments selected from the Annual Employment Survey respond list of the preceding year.

The Survey on Hours Actually Worked & Average Earnings follows the ILO definitions for the Hours of Work spent by persons in the performance of activities, and the production boundary as defined by the United Nations System of National Accounts for defining the production of goods and services. The survey results are available by industry division.

The Department of Manpower and Employment is established with a main objective of making arrangements to provide employment opportunities in the private sector for the unemployed youth in order to strengthen the economy of the country. Accordingly, it conducts quarterly labour demand analysis designed to reveal all the vacancies available in private, semi-government and government sectors. These are based on the data gathered by the Newspaper Advertisement Survey in which vacancies advertised in “Silumina” and “Sunday Observer”, the two highly circulated weekend newspapers together with those in the Sri Lanka Gazette are included in the analyses. The labour demands are presented by occupation (ISCO) and industry (ISIC) categories for national level.

Although the Central Bank is not a key agency for labour statistics, it also provides international labour migration related information by type of migrant's occupation working abroad and the public sector wage rate index by level of officers in public services. A more detail level information on departures of foreign employment by country and occupational levels are available through administrative records of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment. However, the occupation coding of the data are not directly matched with the ISCO system.

The National Labour Migration Policy for Sri Lanka explains enumerating steps to be taken to harness the benefits of international migration and accelerate development, e.g. taking advantage of substantial migrant remittances received by the country and leveraging on the skills of return migrants.

## 2. Recommendations

More disaggregation of Labour Force data by various socio-economic dimensions is requested from Department of Labour. These requests should be considered by DCS against the background of the likely accuracy of such more detailed breakdowns of estimate from a sample survey.

Labour statistics for informal sector is lacking. A special module of informal sector in LFS or a separate labour force survey for the informal sector could be undertaken.

There is a lack of data on domestic servants which is hindering government efforts to ensure labour rights and legalize the sector. A special module on domestic servant could be considered for inclusion in LFS or in HIES.



An efficient procedure has to be developed to tackle the low response rate of postal based surveys - Annual Employment Survey and the Survey on Hours of Actually Worked & Average Earnings that are being conducted by the Department of Labour.

The coverage for the Labour Demand Survey by the Department of Manpower and Employment would benefit if enlarged from two national newspapers review to include more national and local newspaper for assessing vacancies announcements in private, semi-government and government sectors.

The Department of Manpower and Employment should consider conducting a special survey for assessing labour demands, labour skills and job matching in the private sector.

The administrative data accumulated in the Department of Labour and the Department of Manpower and Employment should be made available for users in machine readable format through their websites.

## Chapter 17: Poverty

### 1. Assessment

The DCS has been using the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) to calculate poverty in Sri Lanka since 1990. The HIES is conducted once in every three years. According to the last HIES 2016 the poverty rate in Sri Lanka is 4.1%. The DCS uses the consumption approach to measure poverty and the poverty line is calculated based on Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) approach. The official poverty line, Rs. 4,166 per month per person was established in 2004 and has been updated to allow for price changes using the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) over the survey periods from 2002 to 2016. The HIES has been also used to calculate the inequality in income distribution which is measured by Gini coefficient in Sri Lanka (0.39) for real per capita expenditure. The poverty and inequality measures are made available for sector, province and district level.

The poverty measures are available only for the districts at the lowest level. But the DCS has periodically used a Small Area Estimation (SAE) technique developed by Elbers, Lanjouw, and Lanjouw (2003) with the support of the World Bank to estimate the poverty measures for Divisional Secretariat (DS) level. The last poverty mapping was prepared in 2015 based on the last available Census and Population and Housing 2012 and HIES 2012. The poverty maps provide poverty headcount ratios estimated at the DS division level. The Department of Samurdhi uses the poverty maps to identify the poorest DS divisions in the country and to reform the Samurdhi transfer program.

In addition to the consumption approach based poverty, the DCS has for the first time in 2018 used a multidimensional approach poverty measurement technique developed by Alkire and Foster (2007) to estimate the poverty measures as official statistics in collaboration with the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI). The Demographic Health Survey 2016 has been used to compile the Multidimensional poverty measures for national, sector and district level.

The HIES which is the main source of data for poverty and other welfare measures has a one year delay in publication of final results.

The Department of Samurdhi Development under Ministry of Social Empowerment has been implementing Samurdhi (Prosperity) Programme since 1995 with the main objective of reducing poverty in Sri Lanka. It attempts to improve the economic and social conditions of the selected family through economic development projects coupled with a welfare package identified on the basis of specific needs, skills, assets and other abilities of each family. The Department of Samurdhi uses a family profile survey "Samurdhi beneficiary families and low income family survey" to collect the socio-economic conditions of the families from the field level. The family income, expenditure and asset ownership is used as a criterion for determining poverty. However, the methodology of estimating poverty and selecting poor family is different than the methodology used by DCS.

## 2. Recommendations

The time lag for the production of final results from HIES could be speed up with the use of CAPI technique in data collection. Adequate financial and manpower resources has to be ensured for timely delivery of the survey outputs.

The DCS and the Samurdhi Department has been using different methods of poverty estimation. The poverty estimates from the Samurdhi department is far higher than the poverty figures from the DCS. Therefore, the DCS and the Samurdhi need a combined program for data collection to standardize the poverty estimation method or to give an explanation for the different statistics derived from the different methodologies.

The DCS poverty measures are available for district level for the survey year. An annual poverty estimation procedure should if possible be developed which could provide the poverty estimates at DS division levels. The annual poverty estimates at DS levels could be of great help to the Samurdhi department for annual update of poor areas for its welfare programs.

The UN agency in Sri Lanka informs us that the World Bank technical team recommended a few years ago that for food consumption, the data collection mode be switched from a recall-based to a diary-based method. These improvements are yet to be implemented.

The Sri Lanka's poverty line, that was established almost two decades ago in 2002, is likely to be outdated given recent fast changing household consumption behaviour. Best practice dictates that this line is re-estimated every 10-15 years, to reflect updated consumption patterns and ensure that the line captures a minimum decent living standard.

The Multidimensional poverty measures which was compiled for the first time in 2018 by DCS using DHS survey has to be institutionalized in DCS with adequate skill development. The use of HIES instead of DHS survey in the estimation of multidimensional poverty measures ensures better sense of comparability of the MPI figures with the actual consumption based poverty figures using the same HIES data for the same year.

## Chapter 18: Tourism Statistics

### 1. Assessment

Tourism is the one of the largest foreign currency earning industries in Sri Lanka. The 2019 Annual Statistical Report of Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority indicates that it is the third largest export earner in the economy, after remittances and textiles and garments. The statistics shows about 2.1 million international tourists arrived in Sri Lanka in 2017 and the country received USD 3.9 billion foreign exchange earnings (4.5% direct contribution to GDP) from the tourism arrivals.

Under the Ministry of Tourism Development and Christian Affairs four separate institutions: Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB), and Sri Lanka Institute for Tourism and Hotel Management (SLITHM) function for the promotion and development of tourism in Sri Lanka. However, the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) is the main government authority tasked with planning, development, regulation, and policy implementation of tourism and related industries in Sri Lanka. It compiles administrative data from other related agencies like the Department of Immigration and Emigration, Central Bank, Hotel's associations, Airlines offices, etc, and also conducts its own surveys for different tourism related issues.

The Research and International Relations Division of the SLTDA is responsible for data collection and conducting research and studies related to tourism. The Monthly Statistical Bulletin and the Annual Statistical Report are the two main regular publications of the SLTDA which presents the performance of Sri Lanka Tourism in terms of tourist arrivals, foreign exchange earnings, creation of employment opportunities and hotel occupancy rates.

The SLTDA follows the UNWTO concepts, definitions, and classification for tourism statistics (Technical manual no. 1) and its corresponding country classification for the grouping of hotels, tourism and related activities.

Sri Lanka has prepared a Tourism Strategic Plan (TSP), 2017-2020 with the support of the World Bank Group and the Australian High Commission, which recommends actions and implementation mechanisms for the next four years, with a long-term view toward Tourism Vision 2025 and achieving the United Nations sustainable development goals related to tourism. The TSP defines "a framework and a transformation agenda intended to expand tourism's economic footprint to underused natural, cultural, geographic and human resources in Sri Lanka."

Understanding Visitors is one of the six transformational themes which is emphasized in developing research programme and Visitor Segmentation Model (VSM) to profile source and niche markets systematically as input to guide product development and marketing decisions. Strengthening the research unit within the SLTDA, and achieving robust data collection and analysis techniques coupled with effective communication of research findings to guide SLTDA and the tourism industry is some of the main strategies proposed under the Understanding Visitors transformational theme.

In line with the implementation of the Understanding Visitors theme a number of surveys have been planned by the SLTDA: Tourist inbound survey, Domestic tourist outbound survey, Visitors satisfaction survey, Work force in tourism survey, and a Tourism Satellite Account to estimate the overall value of tourism in the economy of the country.

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) is mainly considered as a user of tourism statistics produced by SLTDA and other related agencies for including the tourism statistics in its regular publications like Statistical Abstract and Statistical Pocket Book. However the DCS conducted a Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey in 2017.

## 2.Recommendations

The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority has been using the DCS Survey of Labour Demand as a secondary source for identifying labour force in tourism sector. Some of the classifications of tourism establishments as recommended by UNWTO are different from the SLSIC and that needs to be standardized by the two agencies.

Compared to data on international tourism the data on domestic tourism, which is rapidly growing in the country, is inadequate. It is recommended that consideration be given to the conduct of a special survey or the development of a well-managed system for obtaining required data on domestic tourism.

The delay in receiving information in SLTDA from tourism related agencies – hotels, airlines, trekking and sightseeing companies could be sorted out with the implementation of a data sharing protocol with the providers and use of online system for data sharing. The confidentiality of sensitive data supplied by private companies has to be ensured in data sharing system. These are issues (co-ordination and confidentiality) which should be considered by a National Statistical Council

Use of tourist related big data generated in telecom companies, through hotel bookings, use of credit cards in banks, etc. should be investigated and could enrich the tourism statistics of the SLTDA.

An online system of data sharing from the Department of Immigration and Emigration could be established for timely acquisition of the main source of in and out bound tourist statistics. Again co-ordination with the requirements of those engaged in demographic statistics should be considered by a National Statistics Council

The Tourism Satellite Account, which needs a number of additional surveys and tourism related information, should be conducted in collaboration with DCS for a complete valuation of tourism sector in the economy of the country.

## Chapter 19: Trade and Service Statistics

### 1. Assessment

The Sri Lanka Department of Customs, Central Bank and the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) are the main government agencies collecting and disseminating trade and service statistics. The Department of Customs compiles data on international trade, while the DCS conducts surveys for collecting data on internal trade and services. The Central Bank compiles data on international trade and services through Balance of Payment account.

The department of Customs follows the HS code (Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System) developed by the World Customs Organization for the classification of commodities, for customs tariffs and for the compilation of international trade statistics. The Customs department takes support of ASYCUDA (the UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data) which is an integrated customs management system for international trade and transport operations and recording of the export and import goods.

The Customs department generates real time data on imports of goods by value, country of origin and under major group headings such as consumer goods, intermediate goods, and investment goods. Likewise, data on the exports by value, country of destination and major commodities such as tea, rubber, coconut products, garments, etc. are collected.

The Central Bank compiles and publishes data on trade of goods and services through Balance of Payment (BOP) in the Current Account. Monthly data on earnings from tourism and workers remittances are two key indicators in trade in services published by the Central Bank. The Central Bank also publishes monthly and annual Trade indices for exports and imports by exports (Industrial, Agricultural and Mineral exports) and imports (Consumer, Intermediate and Investment goods) categories.

The DCS is a main data provider for trade and services conducted within the country. The Economic Census which was conducted in 2013/14 provided comprehensive information on the structure and functioning of a country's economy, including information on trade and a variety of other services activities carried out within Sri Lankan territory. The Economic census conducted by the DCS is a milestone in the trade and Services statistics from which DCS managed to prepare a frame for the services sector establishments. At the economic census trade and services were covered through separate questionnaire.

The register of establishments obtained at the economic census 2013/14 serves as a sample frame for the Annual Survey of Trade and Services that has been conducting by the DCS from 2016. The need for this sample frame to be constantly updated has been referred to elsewhere in our Review as has the need for it to be augmented with administrative data from the Inland Revenue Department and from the Registrar of Companies Department.

The Annual Survey of Trade and Services covers privately owned establishments within the country and provides important indicators on the nature, structure and the performance of the trade and other services activities undertaken by the private sector establishments. However, the survey does not include the financial and insurance activities, construction

services, and the trade with less than 4 persons engaged and the services establishments with less than 5 persons engaged.

The Annual Survey of Trade and Services follows the Sri Lanka Standard Industry Classification (SLSIC), the localized version of the ISIC, Rev. 4 for the classification of trade and service establishments. It also uses the recommendation of System of National Accounts 2008 for the valuation of outputs of the trade and service sectors. The last annual survey was conducted in 2017 and the key indicators of trade and services activities from the survey are made available by the economic sectors for national level only.

As mentioned in the survey report, a low response rate is the main challenge of the annual trade and services survey. The questionnaires are initially posted to the selected establishments and only the default establishments are approached by the field officers of the DCS. Despite the repeated enumeration efforts the annual survey 2017 mentioned that the SLSIC divisions 51, 70 and 75 were excluded in data analysis due to low response rates.

The above assessment of Trade and Service Statistics should be read alongside our assessment of national account statistics in Chapter 6.

## 2. Recommendations

The low response rate in the Annual Survey of Trade and Services has to be managed with appropriate strategies. Provision of penalty for nonresponse in a new Statistical Ordinance is an essential component in developing a regime in which response rates are dramatically improved. Other simple alternatives like awareness and advocacy campaigns, engagement and support from business associations are also essential ingredients in planning for increasing response rates.

The attempt to cover the activities related to services sector through one questionnaire is commendable approach for large enterprises but the low response rate makes it a cumbersome exercise. The small and medium establishments can be covered by a simplified questionnaire and measures to be taken to increase the response rate.

An attempt to introduce a quarterly survey measuring output in the Service sector has been abandoned because of particularly low response rates. We recommend this be re-introduced once a firm regime has been established to ensure high response rates as described above.

The results of the Annual Survey of Trade and Services are available for national level by industrial classification. Further disaggregation of the information for district and DS divisions increases the value of data in local level's planning and decision making of the sector but care is essential in ensuring that - in publishing disaggregated data – confidentiality of individual businesses is preserved. However given the low response rate for the annual survey it unlikely that more disaggregated estimates would be of sufficient accuracy as to warrant publication.

Overall, the economic statistics for trade and services within the country is found weak compared to international trade and manufacture industrial statistics. The DCS and related agencies should pay more emphasis to uplift its status of data availability.



## Chapter 20: Money and Banking Sector Statistics

### Assessment

The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) is the apex body in the financial sector of the country. Two core objectives of the central bank are to maintain economic and price stability and to maintain financial stability. Monetary policy is the main tool to achieve price and financial stability. Each year the central bank formulates monetary policy based on financial and economic information to manage the supply and the cost of money in an economy. The bank itself was established in 1950 under the Monetary Law Act No. 58 of 1949 (MLA) as a semi-autonomous body.

The central bank is the custodian agency for the monetary and financial statistics. The compilation, dissemination and analysis of financial and economic data and statistics is one of the core functions of the central bank. It compiles data on real sector, monetary sector, financial sector, fiscal sector, external sector and provincial statistics. In addition, the bank also conducts economic, financial and business surveys to compile required information for economic and financial policies formulation as well as for research and analytical uses. The Statistical Department and the Economic Research Department are the two many divisions in the Central Bank responsible for the production, compilation and uses of data.

The central bank is a producer as well as user of financial and economic data produced in DCS, Customs, different ministries, international organizations and private financial sectors as well. Based on the data generated and compiled it publishes economic and financial Reports, periodicals, statistical tables of different sectors, and economic indicator with required standards and in timely manner.

Detailed list of statistics (<https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/statistics/>) and publications (<https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/publications/>) are available on the CBSL website: <https://www.cbsl.gov.lk/en/>. In addition, a well-structured Data Library for time series data of different sectors is also maintained at <https://www.cbsl.lk/eresearch/>.

The CBSL follows the International Monetary Fund's data dissemination standards and is a subscriber of the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and the Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS). The SDDS page of CBSL can be accessed at: [http://erd.cbsl.gov.lk/presentation/htm/english/erd/sdds/rpt\\_sdds.aspx/](http://erd.cbsl.gov.lk/presentation/htm/english/erd/sdds/rpt_sdds.aspx/).

A major publication of the CBSL is the Annual Report of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank. It provides statistics and information on the condition of the economy, analyses the economic and financial circumstances and reviews the policies and measures adopted by the bank during the financial year. The Balance of Payments Statistics (BOP) are an important output of the bank and these reflect the country's economic transactions with the rest of the world. The bank follows BPM6 format from 2012 for the compilation of the BOP. The national income statistics are mainly derived from the National Accounts estimates of the DCS. The data are presented on the base year 2010 from 2010 onwards.

### Recommendations

The CBSL has a well-established and efficient system of data compilation and management. The monetary and financial statistics are available to users in publications as well as in machine readable data format. However, the statistical publications and dissemination system in CBSL is mainly supply driven. No particular system has developed to engage with the users and to



receive users' feedback and data needs. A routine system of obtaining users' feedback will enhance the value and use of the CBSL statistics.

The infographics and data visualization procedure that have been introduced in CBSL is found relatively weak compared to its influx of economic and financial data, could be developed to attract more users and readers for easy understanding and extending the use of the data for policy making.

The time lag in compilation of the monetary and financial data from the market and from financial institutions, which are mainly needed for timely forecast of inflation and price indices, could be reduced with introduction of online reporting system from the related agencies.

The CBSL has reported that data on Government public capital formation, private investments, expenditure of outgoing Sri Lankan tourists and students are weak and needs special survey or mechanism to capture either by DCS or relevant agency.

The CBSL is a major user of National Accounts (NA) data produced by the DCS. But the CBSL has shown a serious concern on the delay in NA estimates, transparency of methodology of national accounts compilation, rebasing of NA series, coverage of new economic activities in NA, and in large differences in revision of the NA estimates. A good coordination with the DCS is an important step in ironing out these problems.

## Chapter 21: Fisheries Statistics<sup>3</sup>

### Fisheries Statistics Collection and Reporting System in Sri Lanka

#### Background

Fisheries is an important sub-sector of the economy of Sri Lanka in terms of its contribution to the Gross Domestic Production (GDP), employment generation, foreign exchange earnings, etc. As per available information, the Fisheries sector currently contributes about 1.4 percent to the GDP of the country and provides livelihoods for more than one million population in coastal areas, rural and estate sectors. As a source of animal nutrition fish enjoys a good demand. Fisheries sector in the national economy is recognized as one of the vital sectors that could be developed with available resources by introducing modern technology with a minimum effort. Therefore, in sustainable development of fisheries, reliable statistics is prerequisite. In this content, establishing a well-developed centralized statistical system for fisheries sector has become a timely requirement.

#### Introduction

The fisheries of Sri Lanka can be broadly divided into three main categories – marine coastal fisheries, offshore & high seas fisheries and freshwater & aquaculture fisheries. Since there is no clear separation of the two fishing regimes coastal and offshore waters, for administrative purposes, all fisheries conducted within a day (24 hours) are considered as coastal fisheries. Offshore and high seas fisheries are conducted by boats that stay out at sea for more than one day which are commonly referred to as “multi-day” boats.

At present, Six institutions functioning under the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development (MFARD) namely Department of Fisheries and Aquatics Resources (DFAR), National Aquaculture Development Authority (NAQDA), National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA), Ceylon Fishery Harbours Corporation (CFHC), Ceylon Fisheries Corporation (CFC) and Cey-Nor Foundation which engages in sector development and infrastructure development. Out of these six institutions, DFAR (implementing agency for marine fisheries), NAQDA (implementing agency for freshwater and aquaculture fishery) and NARA (research arm of the Ministry) are responsible for fishery data collection in their respective areas of responsibility. The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development of Sri Lanka (MFARD) has responsibility for the dissemination of fisheries data in Sri Lanka through its Statistical Unit (SU). The services of a Statistician as well as Statistical Officers are made available to SU by the National Statistics Office of Sri Lanka (Dept. of Census and Statistics) since 1950's.

#### Fisheries Statistics Collection System

The Statistics Unit (SU) of MFARD functions as the clearing house and the coordination point of the fisheries statistics in Sri Lanka. It receives fisheries data reports from various sources and also collects some limited data itself (fish markets surveys and specific surveys). The tasks of the SU include collection and compilation of data; computerization of these data using databases or other procedures when it is necessary; estimates of catch, effort and other information using the available data; and dissemination of information in response to national or international requirements.

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<sup>3</sup> Chapter 21 has been contributed to the Review Paper by Lashanthi Perera. Statistician, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries & Aquatic Resources Development.

Following data are among the main data items collected by the SU of MFARD

- Catch and effort data (DFAR, NARA, CFHC, NAQDA)
- Prices of fish, boats, gears, etc. (Statistics Unit, DFAR, DCS, HARTI)
- Import and Export (Sri Lanka Customs, DFAR)
- Fishermen, Fishing boats, etc. (DFAR, NAQDA)
- Infrastructure (CFHC, CFC, DFAR)
- Fisheries sector development programs (DFAR, NAQDA)

### Catch and effort data

Catch data collection for estimation of fish production is the main component of data collection carried out by the four institutes (SU, DFAR, NARA and NAQDA) with a huge effort.

At present, national marine fish production is estimated based on the data collected by the DFAR fisheries officers for their respective Fisheries Inspector Divisions covering entire marine fisheries. There are 15 fisheries administrative districts covered by 149 fisheries officers. A monthly data sheet is used to submit such data to the SU. The basic information collected by Fisheries Inspectors (FIs) are catch by species/group, number of crafts operated within the month (effort), fish prices, etc.

A rapid improvement is being occurred in offshore and high seas fishery data collection system since 2012 as several data collection programs have been established targeting offshore and high seas catch and effort data collection. This is due to the mandatory requirement in reporting fisheries statistics to Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

- The Port Sampling Programme for large pelagic fisheries data collection which was initially put in place by NARA in 1987 was improved and updated in number of occasions with broader institutional participation over the past years. It was strengthened in 2013 for the last time as a collaborative task of MFARD, DFAR and NARA under the technical supporting of IOTC. The data collection program was strengthened by improving sampling strategy, increasing the coverage, improving data collection materials, data storage and reporting system. Information of catch and effort by gear, length by species are recorded through this port sampling programme. Under this port sampling program multiday boats and some coastal boats which targets the large pelagic fishery is sampled.
- The logbook data recording system is legally mandatory for multiday fishing vessels over 34 feet in length operating basically in catching large pelagic fish within EEZ and high seas by Fish Catch Data Collection Regulations, 2012. It has been mandated to submit log sheets after every fishing trip. They have to provide detail data on the spatial and temporal distribution of catch and effort by the fishing gear. This task is fully carried out by the DFAR and currently this system is being upgraded to e-log book system.
- Installing vessel monitoring devices for multiday boats over 34 feet operated in high seas was commenced in 2013 as VMS is mandatory for high seas fishing vessels. All high seas operating boats are equipped with VMS since 2016. It produces cruise track report of the vessel. This system has established in the DFAR.

As the coastal regime is not fully covered by the above data collection programs A new sampling strategy is under development by Sri Lanka-Norway Bilateral Project to ensure representative and reliable statistics for all fisheries, including coastal fisheries. A baseline survey has been carried out and development of sampling strategy is in progress. The database and relevant applications are being developed in cooperation with DFAR and the project team. This will enable electronic registration of fisheries data at the landing sites.

National freshwater fisheries and aquaculture production are estimated collaboratively by NAQDA and MFARD based on the log book data of the reservoirs and other data reported by extension officers of NAQDA for their respective areas.

### **Fleet data**

The Vessels Registry of DFAR contains information on all fishing vessels under this category, including vessel identification, dimensions and other vessel attributes and vessel licensing and infractions history. The record of fishing vessels is maintained by DFAR registration and licensing of vessels. Data is stored in an MS-SQL Server 2005 database, which is accessed using a Microsoft Access interface.

### **Fish imports and exports data**

Export and import data on fish and fishery products; including records of HS codes and descriptions, destination countries, quantity and values are collected in monthly basis from the Sri Lanka Custom. Based on these data the SU of MFARD produces monthly import and export of fish and fishery products.

### **Fish and dried fish prices**

Market data, including data on the prices of fresh fish and dried fish are collected in weekly basis by statistics unit of MFARD and process using the spread sheets.

### **Other fishery related data**

- Market survey on canned fish is conducted by SU itself.
- Ice plant survey is conducted once two years by the SU. The ice plants information is collected through fisheries officers of DFAR and extension officers of NAQDA.
- For the purpose of reporting statistics to FAO, SU collects fishermen data for both marine and inland fisheries sector through the fisheries officers of DFAR and extension officers of NAQDA.

### **Issues and constrains**

- It is noted that isolating valuable data gathered with a huge effort within the institutions and expire without optimum use. This is due to non-availability of data for timely use or non-access for other individuals to use the data. Due to this reason, it was experienced that the duplication of data collection programs conducted by the institutions under the Ministry and it caused misusing of funds born by the Government or any other Non-Governmental Organizations. This practice also causes discrepancies between national published data and the data issued for other data requirements as well.
- No proper systems have been established and guidelines have been developed within the institutions for conserving data and non-availability of historical data collected by

the past data collection programs in any institute is an interruption for important analysis for future benefit of the sector. Non-availability of Meta data is also noted as a disadvantage.

- Most of the data collection programs are individually developed and conducted by the institutions functioning under this Ministry. Some are for their internal purposes. In most of the cases standards, guidelines and procedures are lacking for the implementation of the data collection programs specially the sampling surveys (technical aspects are not fully considered at developing questionnaires, sample selection, etc. Some have coverage issues; no instruction manuals and code lists are developed; not considered the guidelines, not training the data collectors and other relevant staff properly.)
- The first ever Census of Fisheries was conducted 47 years back, in year 1972 by the Ministry of Fisheries and Department of Census and Statistics jointly with the technical and financial support of FAO. There after no such a statistical exercise had been undertaken for the fisheries sector even though the structure of fisheries industry in Sri Lanka has been frequent changed due to the effects caused by Tsunami 2004 which was severely affected to the fisheries sector in Sri Lanka, the ethnic conflict which has affected to the fishing community in North and East for over three decades, Development activities undertaken by the Government and Non–Governmental agencies after the Tsunami and ethnic conflicts, rapid development in fishing technology, converting of traditional near shore fishing operations to multiday fishing operations, improvement in post-harvest technologies, vast change in irrigation channel with the Mahaweli development project, development in freshwater fisheries and speedy expansion in aquaculture. It is a practice of conducting Censuses of population and Housing, Agriculture and Livestock, Trade, industry and manufacturing at 10 yearly intervals and this vital sector to the national economy has been continuously neglected.
- Lack of funds to establish and strengthen the systems identified to avoid the existing issues and gaps (specially mentioned under above 2 and 4).

### Suggestions/Recomendations

- **Development of Central Database Management System (CDMS)** within the Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development for consolidation of all existing fisheries and fishery related database systems in Sri Lanka into a Centralized System to avoid the existing gaps in fisheries data while strengthening the MFARD successful long-term data management and reporting system which also support to the National Statistical System. **(Proposal is being developed)**
- **Development of national data policy** for fisheries which support to avoid duplication of data collection programs among or within the institutions under the Ministry, encouraging sharing and using data on the basis of the open data principles and to be transparent on the reasonable explanations if there is restricted access to certain data, support the Ministry for implementation of CDMS within the Ministry to enable to effective use avoiding discrepancies in data, comprehensive analyses, timely dissemination, etc. **(ongoing)**

- **Conducting a census for entire fisheries sector** (Marine fisheries, freshwater fisheries & Aquaculture and fishery related economic activities) to produce of accurate, reliable, and timely data which is vital in effective decision - making and successful development planning. **(Several proposals have been submitted to the National Planning Department during past few years and they have recommended obtaining funds within the Fisheries Ministry budget. Due to lack of Government funds and no sources for funding not implemented)**
- **Amend the Statistics and Census Acts**
  - Enabling to transfer the technical advisory of DCS for all data collection programs which are conducted by various institutes under Government funds
  - Considering to include mandatory power of conducting the fisheries census under Department of Census and Statistics with parallel to agriculture census

## ANNEX 1a: Statistical Ordinance



GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON

# LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS

## Statistics Ordinance

*1956 Revision*

1960

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## STATISTICS

## CHAPTER 372

## STATISTICS

Ordinance No. 44 of 1935.  
Act No. 22 of 1955.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT IN SRI LANKA OF AN OFFICIAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS AND FOR THE SUPPLY OF INFORMATION THERE TO.

[22<sup>nd</sup> November, 1935.]

Short title.	1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Statistics Ordinance.	supply, substantially in the prescribed form and before a specified date, any information relating to any matter to which this Ordinance applies.
Matters to which the Ordinance may be applied.	2. The Minister may by Order published in the Gazette, apply the provisions of this Ordinance to any matter relating to the economic conditions of Sri Lanka in respect of agriculture, emigration, immigration, factories, meteorology, mining, importation, exportation, manufacture and sale of products, stocks of products in possession and in course of transshipment, shipping, transportation by land or by water, trade, labour, cost of living, wages, industry, and commerce.	(2) In addition to or in lieu of the power conferred under subsection (1)—  (a) the Director or any officer duly authorized by him may at any time require any person to supply to the prescribed officer, in the prescribed manner and before a specified date, written information relating to any matter to which this Ordinance applies;  (b) any officer duly authorized by the Director may require any person to supply oral information relating to any matter to which this Ordinance applies:
Establishment of Bureau of Statistics.	3. There shall be established in Sri Lanka a Bureau of Statistics for the collection and preparation of statistics relating to any matter to which the provisions of this Ordinance are applied by Order under section 2.	Provided that such officer shall not require the attendance of any person at any specified place, but shall proceed to the residence or place of business of that person for the purpose of obtaining such oral information.
Appointment of Director and other officers.	4. (1) There may be appointed—  (a) any person by name or by office to be or to act as Director of Statistics;  (b) such other officers and servants as may from time to time be required for the purposes of this Ordinance.  (2) The Bureau shall be under the control and management of the Director.  (3) All persons, officers, and servants discharging duties or engaged in carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of the Penal Code.	(3) The Director or any officer duly authorized by him may at any time require any person to produce or cause to be produced before a specified date such documentary or other evidence as the Director or the officer so authorized may deem necessary for the purpose of verifying any information supplied by that person under this Ordinance. Any person whose attendance is required at any place more than four miles distant from the ordinary
Supply of information.	5. (1) The Director may at any time by notice in writing require any person to	



## STATISTICS

residence of that person for the purpose of producing such documentary or other evidence shall be entitled to be paid for such attendance an allowance at such rates as may be prescribed.

(4) Nothing in this section contained shall affect or be deemed to affect any written or other law relating to the disclosure or non-disclosure of any official, secret, or confidential information, evidence, or document; and any person required by the Director or by an officer authorized by the Director to supply any information, to give any evidence, or to produce any document, shall be entitled in respect of such information, evidence, or document to plead the same privilege before the Director or such officer as before a court of law.

Duty of person  
supplying  
information.

6. Every person required under section 5 to supply any information shall be bound to supply that information to the best of his knowledge and belief:

Provided that, no person shall be required or bound to supply any information other than such as is accessible to him in and derivable by him from any business or undertaking carried on in Sri Lanka of which he is the owner for the time being, or in the conduct or supervision of which he is engaged, or any information which involves the disclosure of any technical process or trade secret in or relating to such business or undertaking.

Information  
supplied by  
any one person  
not to be  
published  
except in  
certain  
circumstances.

7. (1) No information supplied by any one person under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be published without the consent in writing of the owner for the time being of the land, business, or undertaking to which that information relates; nor, except for the purposes of a prosecution under this Ordinance, shall that information be divulged or communicated to any person not engaged in the collection and preparation of statistics under this Ordinance.

(2) Every person engaged in the collection and preparation of statistics under this Ordinance shall make a declaration in the prescribed form that he will not, except for the purposes of this

Ordinance, disclose or make use of any information supplied under this Ordinance.

8. Any person who

Penalty for  
unlawful  
disclosure of  
information.

(a) knowingly acts in contravention of a declaration made by him under section 7; or

(b) being in possession of any information which to his knowledge has been disclosed in contravention of the provisions of section 7, publishes or communicates that information to any other person,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate be liable to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees or to both such imprisonment and fine.

9. Subject to any regulations made under section 13, all notices and other communications for the purposes of this Ordinance may be served in the following manner:

Mode of  
service of  
notices, &c.

(1) Where the owner for the time being of the land, business, or undertaking in relation to which information is required is in Sri Lanka, the notice or communication shall be deemed to have been duly served upon him if it has been delivered to him.

(2) Where the owner for the time being of such land, business, or undertaking has in Sri Lanka an agent duly authorized by power of attorney to accept service on his behalf or an agent or other employee entrusted with the control, management or supervision of such land, business, or undertaking, the notice or communication shall be deemed to have been duly served upon such owner if it has been delivered to such agent or employee.

(3) Where service cannot be effected in the manner described in subsections (1) and (2), the notice or communication shall be deemed to have been duly served upon such

## STATISTICS

owner if it has been sent by registered post addressed to him at his last known place of residence in Sri Lanka.

- (4) Where the owner for the time being of such land, business, or undertaking is a company or corporation the notice or communication shall be deemed to have been duly served upon such company or corporation if it has been—

(a) delivered to any director, manager, secretary or other principal officer in Sri Lanka of that company or corporation or to any person duly authorized to accept service on behalf of the company or corporation or to any person having on behalf of the company or corporation powers of control or management over such land, business, or undertaking; or

(b) left at the registered office, if any, of the company or corporation in Sri Lanka; or

(c) sent by registered post addressed to the company or corporation at its principal office wherever situate.

ces.

## 10. Any person who—

(a) commits a breach of any of the provisions of this Ordinance or of any regulation made thereunder; or

(b) without lawful excuse refuses or neglects to comply with any direction or requirement duly made under the powers conferred by this Ordinance, or by any regulation made thereunder; or

(c) resists or obstructs any person in the performance of the duties imposed or in the exercise of the powers conferred upon him under this Ordinance or under any regulation made thereunder; or

(d) knowingly supplies or causes to be supplied any false information when directed to supply information under this Ordinance or under any regulation made thereunder; or

(e) knowingly produces or causes to be produced any false evidence when directed to produce evidence under this Ordinance or under any regulation made thereunder,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty rupees and, in the case of a continuing offence shall be liable to a further fine not exceeding ten rupees for each day during which the offence continues.

11. Where a company or corporation has been directed by a notice served in the manner provided in section 9 (4) to supply any information or to produce any evidence under this Ordinance or under any regulation made thereunder, every director, and the manager, secretary, or other principal officer in Sri Lanka of that company or corporation, and any person to whom such notice has been delivered under section 9 (4), who—

Liability of individuals for offences committed by companies. &c.

(a) without lawful excuse refuses or neglects, or wilfully authorizes or permits any employee of that company or corporation to refuse or neglect, to supply that information or to produce that evidence in accordance with such direction; or

(b) knowingly supplies or causes to be supplied any false information; or

(c) knowingly produces or causes to be produced any false evidence,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction after summary trial before a Magistrate to the punishment provided in section 10.

12. Where any person has committed an offence under section 10 (d) or section 11 (b), the offence shall be deemed to be a continuing offence until true information shall have been duly supplied.

Continuing offences.



## STATISTICS

Regulations.	13. (1) The Minister may make regulations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Ordinance.	of such approval shall be published in the Gazette.
	(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by subsection (1), the Minister may make regulations for or in respect of all or any of the following matters :—	(2) Every regulation shall, upon the publication of the approval of that regulation as provided for in subsection (1) be as valid and effectual as if it were herein enacted.
	(a) all matters under this Ordinance stated or required to be prescribed ;	15. In making regulations under this Ordinance, due regard shall be had to the circumstances of various trades and industries, and in particular to the importance of avoiding the disclosure in any information required under this Ordinance of any technical process, trade secret, or trading profits, or of any other matter the disclosure of which would be likely to tend to the prejudice of the owner for the time being of the land, business or undertaking to which that information relates.
	(b) the manner in which information required under this Ordinance shall be collected and arranged by the Bureau either in co-operation with or independently of the Government Agent of any administrative district, or the head of any department of Government ;	Duty in making regulations.
	(c) the officers to whom, the times and places at which, and the form and manner in which information shall be supplied and authenticated ;	16. In any report, summary of statistics, or other publication prepared under this Ordinance with reference to any trade or industry, the particulars comprised in the information supplied by any one person shall not be disclosed or so arranged as to facilitate the identification of any particulars so published as being particulars relating to any individual person or business.
	(d) the form and manner in which statistics collected under this Ordinance shall be published ;	Contents of reports, &c., published under the Ord.
	(e) the manner in which notices and other communications issued under this Ordinance shall be served in special cases ;	17. (1) All information supplied under this Ordinance shall be verified by a declaration that the statements contained therein are true and accurate.
	(f) the exemption from the obligation to furnish information under this Ordinance either wholly or to a limited extent and either unconditionally or subject to conditions, of any person or class of persons ;	Information to be verified by declaration.
	(g) the entry and inspection by officers discharging duties under this Ordinance of any land, institution, building, mine, factory, workshop or other place, for the purpose of obtaining or verifying information required under this Ordinance.	(2) Every declaration made under this Ordinance shall be free from stamp duty.
Approval of regulations.	14. (1) No regulation made under this Ordinance shall have effect unless it has been approved by Parliament. Notification	18. In this Ordinance unless the context otherwise requires—
		“ Bureau ” means the Bureau of Statistics established under section 3 ;
		“ Director ” means the person appointed to be or to act as Director of Statistics under section 4 ;
		“ prescribed ” means prescribed by this Ordinance or by any regulations made thereunder ;
		“ regulation ” means a regulation made by the Minister.
		Interpretation.

## ANNEX 1b: Census Ordinance



GOVERNMENT OF CEYLON

### LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS

#### Census Ordinance

*1956 Revision*

1960

Reprinted from Vol. VI of the Revised Edition of the  
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## CENSUS

## CHAPTER 371

## CENSUS

*Ordinances*  
Nos. 9 of 1900,  
6 of 1945,  
*Act*  
No. 22 of 1955.

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE TAKING OF A CENSUS FROM TIME TO TIME.

[30th October, 1900.]

Short title. 1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Census Ordinance.

obtained for the purposes of the census ;

Minister to direct taking of census.

2. It shall be lawful for the Minister from time to time by Order published in the Gazette, to direct that a census be taken of the population, agriculture (including animal husbandry), trade, labour, industry or commerce or such other matters as he may deem necessary for ascertaining the social, civil or economic condition of the inhabitants of Sri Lanka.

(c) the forms of schedules to be prepared by the Superintendent of Census for the purpose of being filled up with the particulars so prescribed.

Appointment of Superintendent of Census.

3. To superintend the taking of any census, there shall be appointed an officer to be called " the Superintendent of Census ".

(3) The rules shall be published in two issues of the Gazette, and shall from the date of the last of such publications be as legal, valid, and effectual as if the same had been enacted in this Ordinance and shall be judicially noticed.

Appointment of Deputy and Assistant Superintendents of Census, and of officers and servants.

4. (1) There may also be appointed for the purposes of the Ordinance such number of Deputy or Assistant Superintendents of Census and other officers and servants as the Minister may deem necessary.

(4) Any person committing any breach of any such rule shall be liable on conviction to simple or rigorous imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month, or to a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees, or to both.

(2) A Deputy or Assistant Superintendent of Census may be appointed by name or by office, and shall in the exercise of his powers and the performance of his duties, be subject to the general direction and control of the Superintendent of Census.

6. The Government Agent of an administrative district shall be Commissioner of Census for his district and the Mayor or Chairman of every Municipality, Urban Council, and Town Council shall be Commissioner of Census for the local area of such Municipality, Urban Council, or Town Council :  
Government Agent, and Mayor or Chairman of Municipality, Urban Council, or Town Council to be Commissioners

Rules by the Minister.

5. (1) The Minister may for the carrying out of the purposes of this Ordinance from time to time, make rules consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance, and rescind, revoke, amend, alter, or add to such rules.

Provided that the Minister may appoint any other person as Commissioner for such district or Municipality, or Urban Council, or Town Council.

(2) The rules may prescribe—

7. The Minister may appoint for any specified area an Assistant Commissioner of Census to assist the Commissioner of that area in the taking of a census under the provisions of this Ordinance.  
Appointment of Assistant Commissioners of Census

(a) the duties of census officers ;

(b) the particulars regarding which, the persons from whom, and the mode in which, information shall be

8. A Commissioner may in writing appoint any person as enumerator or supervisor to take or aid in taking or  
Appointment of enumerators and supervisors



## CENSUS

	supervise the taking of the census within any specified local area, and may at any time revoke such appointment.	signed to the enumerator or supervisor appointed for the local area within which the house is situated or to such other person as the Commissioner may direct.	
Who are census officers.	9. The Superintendent and every Deputy Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, enumerator and supervisor, referred to in the preceding provisions of this Ordinance shall be a census officer within the meaning of this Ordinance, and shall be deemed a public servant within the meaning of the Penal Code.	14. (1) Subject to such rules as the Minister may make, any census officer of any area may, if so required by the Commissioner, deliver or cause to be delivered to—	Schedule to be delivered to and filled up by persons in command or in charge of institutions.
Occupier to allow access and permit affixing of numbers.	10. Every person occupying any land, house, enclosure, vessel, or other place shall allow any census officer such access thereto as he may require for the purpose of the census, and as, having regard to the customs of the country, may be reasonable, and shall allow him to paint, mark, or affix on or to the property in the occupation of such person such letters, marks, or numbers as may be necessary for the purposes of the census.	(a) the person in command or in charge of any agricultural, labour, or fire-service corps which is quartered in any barracks, station, or premises, or of the staff and labourers serving in any residential State farm, in that area;	
Asking of questions by census officers.	11. Every census officer may ask all such questions of all persons within the limits of his local area as by rule made in this behalf by the Minister he may be directed to ask.	(b) the person in charge of any public or private hospital, sanatorium, convalescent or nursing home, mental hospital, workhouse, or any public, charitable, religious or educational institution, in that area;	
Obligation to answer questions.	12. Every person of whom any question is asked under section 11 shall be bound to answer such question to the best of his knowledge and belief.	(c) the person in charge of any prison, police station, reformatory, lock-up, or other place of detention, in that area;	
Schedules to be left at dwelling houses and filled up by the householders.	13. (1) Subject to such rules as the Minister may make in this behalf, any census officer may leave or cause to be left a schedule, in the form prescribed by the Minister, at any dwelling house within the local area of such census officer, for the purpose of its being filled up by the occupier of such house or of any specified part thereof.  (2) When any such schedule has been so left, the occupier of the house or part to which it relates shall fill it up or cause it to be filled up, to the best of his knowledge and belief, so far as regards the inmates of such house or part, as the case may be, at the time of the taking of census, and shall sign his name thereto, and when so required shall deliver the schedule so filled up and	(d) the keeper, secretary, or manager, or other person in charge of any hotel, boarding-house, lodging-house or club, or other similar residential establishment, in that area,  a schedule or schedules in the prescribed form and require him to enter therein the particulars relating to the persons who at the time of the taking of the census are under his command or charge, or are inmates of such residential establishment.  (2) The person to whom the schedule or schedules is or are delivered under subsection (1) shall cause the schedule or schedules to be filled up with the particulars required by that subsection, to the best of his knowledge and belief, and shall sign his name thereto, and when so required shall deliver the schedule or schedules so filled up and signed to the enumerator or supervisor appointed for that area, or to such other person as the Commissioner for that area may direct.	

## CENSUS

Enumeration  
of the armed  
forces and  
voyagers,  
travellers, &c.

15. The Superintendent of Census shall obtain by such ways and means as shall appear to him best adapted for the purpose the information required by this Ordinance or by the rules made by the Minister with respect to—

- (a) any body of men belonging to the armed forces or to any vessel of war; and
- (b) all persons who during the time appointed for taking any census were travelling or on shipboard, or for any other reason were not abiding in any house, of which account is to be taken by the census officers as aforesaid,

and shall include such information in the abstract to be made by him as hereinafter provided.

Schedules to be  
delivered to  
superinten-  
dents of estates  
and filled up  
by them.

16. (1) It shall be the duty of every Commissioner to make or cause to be made a list of all estates of the extent of twenty acres or more in his district, upon which there are ten or more resident labourers, with the approximate number of residents on each such estate and of the acreage under cultivation, and to cause to be delivered to the superintendent or person in charge, being resident on such estate, schedules in the prescribed form to be filled up by such superintendent or person in charge with the particulars required in such schedules.

(2) Every such superintendent or person in charge shall furnish the Commissioner with such information as he may require for the preparation of the list mentioned in the preceding subsection, and shall sign and deliver to the person from whom he shall receive the schedules mentioned in the said subsection a receipt therefor to be provided for that purpose, and shall fill up the said schedules to the best of his knowledge and belief as to all persons being on the estate under his superintendence or charge at the time of the taking of census, and shall within forty-eight hours from such time transmit such schedules to the kachcheri of the district or to the nearest post office addressed to the Commissioner, together with a certificate signed by him that the said schedules have been truly and faithfully filled up by him, and that to the best of his knowledge and belief the same are correct.

17. (1) It shall be the duty of every employer or person in charge of ten or more employees who reside upon any mining property, or in any factory, workshop or other commercial or industrial establishment, to make a declaration in the prescribed form to the Commissioner of the district within which such mining property, factory, workshop or other commercial or industrial establishment is situated, stating that he has under his employ or in his charge upon such mining property, factory, workshop or other commercial or industrial establishment ten or more resident employees. Such declaration shall be made within fourteen days of the publication, in the Gazette and in one or more newspapers, of a notice by the Commissioner of the district or area calling for such declaration, to be made.

Duty of  
employers of  
labour to make  
returns.

(2) It shall be the duty of every Commissioner to deliver or cause to be delivered, to every person making the declaration required by subsection (1) a schedule or schedules in the prescribed form to be filled up by such person with the required particulars.

(3) Every person to whom any schedule is delivered under subsection (2) shall sign and return to the person from whom he shall receive the schedule such receipt therefor as may be provided for that purpose, and shall fill up the schedule or schedules, to the best of his knowledge and belief, with the particulars relating to all persons who are on the mining property, factory, workshop, or other commercial or industrial establishment under his charge at the time of the taking of the census, and shall sign his name thereto, and when so required shall deliver the schedule or schedules so filled up and signed to the enumerator or supervisor appointed for the local area within which the mining property, factory, workshop or other commercial or industrial establishment is situated or to such other person as the Commissioner may direct.

18. Every enumerator shall deliver to the supervisor all schedules and all such returns as may be required by the Superintendent of Census on a day to be appointed for the purpose by the Commissioner, and it shall be the duty of such supervisor to verify them and to transmit them forthwith to the Commissioner.

Enumeration  
to deliver  
schedules and  
returns to the  
supervisor

## CENSUS

Commissioner to forward them to Superintendent.	19. The Commissioner shall upon the receipt of such schedules and returns forthwith forward the same to the Superintendent of Census.	which he is legally bound so to answer, or wilfully makes a false answer thereto; or
Abstract to be made and forwarded to the Minister, and published.	20. The Superintendent of Census shall, upon receipt of the schedules and returns, cause an abstract to be made of the same and forward the said abstract to the Minister within such time as may be appointed by the Minister, and the same shall be printed and published for general information.	(b) makes, signs, delivers, or causes to be made, signed, or delivered any wilfully false or incorrect schedule, statement, or return; or (c) refuses to allow a census officer such reasonable access to a land, house, enclosure, vessel, or other place as he is required by this Ordinance to allow; or
Penalties.	21. (1) Any census officer or any other person employed by the Superintendent of Census or a Commissioner of Census for the purposes of any census under this Ordinance, who—  (a) without sufficient cause, refuses or neglects to comply with any instructions or directions given to him by the Superintendent or Commissioner, or fails to use reasonable diligence and care in performing any duty imposed on him; or  (b) wilfully puts an offensive or improper question or knowingly makes any false return; or  (c) asks, receives, or takes from any person other than an authorized officer of Government any payment or reward,  shall be guilty of an offence, and liable on conviction to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding one month or to a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees, or to both.  (2) Any person who—  (a) refuses to answer to the best of his knowledge and belief any question asked of him by a census officer	(d) removes, obliterates, alters, or injures, before the expiry of four weeks from the time of the taking of census, letters, marks, or numbers which have been painted, marked or affixed for the purposes of the census; or (e) refuses or neglects to comply with any provision of this Ordinance, or of any rule made thereunder,  shall be guilty of an offence, and liable on conviction to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding one month or to a fine not exceeding one hundred rupees, or to both.  22. No prosecution shall be instituted under this Ordinance except on the written authority of the Attorney-General.  23. No entry in any book, register, or record made by a census officer or by any other person in the discharge of his duty under this Ordinance shall be admissible as evidence in any civil or in any criminal proceeding, save and except a prosecution instituted under this Ordinance, in respect of such entry against the person who made, signed, or delivered the same, or caused the same to be made, signed, or delivered, anything in any enactment contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

No prosecution without Attorney-General's authority.

Record or entry made by census officer admissible in evidence only in a prosecution under this Ordinance.



## Annex 2: UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

In 1992, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) adopted the fundamental principles of official statistics in the UNECE region. The [United Nations Statistical Commission](#) adopted these principles in 1994 at the global level. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) endorsed the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in 2013; and in January 2014, they were adopted by General Assembly. This recognition at the highest political level underlines that official statistics - reliable and objective information - is crucial for decision making.

### 1. Relevance, impartiality and equal access

Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honour citizens' entitlement to public information.

### 2. Professional standards and ethics

To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

### 3. Accountability and transparency

To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

### 4. Prevention of misuse

The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

### 5. Sources of official statistics

Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.

### 6. Confidentiality

Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

### 7. Legislation

The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

### **8. National coordination**

Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

### **9. Use of international standards**

The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

### **10. International cooperation**

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

## Annex 3a: Summary of surveys conducted by DCS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	
2	No.	Activity	Legal/policy basis for the activity (Cite legal/policy document for the activity)	Administrator (Indicate the institution that designed, planned, and managed the activity)	Cooperating agency (Indicate co-implementing institution/s)	Funding Amount (in USD thousand)	Type (Indicate if amount is: A=Allocated, P=Planned, I=Indicative, Ps=Proposed)	Source (Indicate if source/s is/are: Govt, Dev Partner, Both)	Institution/s (If funded by Dev Partner, specify institution on/s; indicate percent)	List major indicators/data produced	Data disaggregation (Specify all applicable forms of disaggregation: e.g., geographic, age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, etc.)	Periodicity (Indicate frequency of conduct of activity)	Year last conducted	Targeted time lag of results (Indicate number of years/months/days after reference period results were expected to be released)	Actual time lag of results (Indicate number of years/months/days after reference period results were actually released)	Mode of dissemination of data (Specify if data is disseminated through report, publication, press release, website, database, etc.; indicate 'N A' if data not disseminated)	Link to policy / development plan (Indicate specific policies / national or sectoral development plan / international treaty or commitment that will be supported by data from the activity) D=Data and indicators are developed by DCS and formulated using state and private sector development plans and policies.	Key improvements made in the most recent round (E.g., reduced time lag, additional data for priority concerns, better disaggregation, etc.)	Data issues and challenges in the most recent round (Cite key issues and problems encountered in past activity)	Primary uses of data (Specify uses of data in sectoral policy analysis)
3																				
4	A.	CENSUSES																		
5	1	Population and Housing Census	Census Law	DCS		15115	A	GOSL		Annex 1	Up to GN Division, age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, etc.)	Once in 10 years	2012	18 month	30 months	Through report,	D	Reduced time lag using	Tried to capture data	SDGs monitoring, Central Bank, Ministry
6	2	Economic Census	Census Law	DCS		6135.5	A	GOSL			SLSIC 2D level	Once in 10 years	2013/2014	18 months	21 months	Report, website, database, etc.	D	Used International	Covered services sector of	Central Bank, Ministry
7	3	Census of Public and Semi Govt Sector Employment	Census Law	DCS		3	A	GOSL	-	Number of employees	District, Occupation	Once in every 4-5 years	2016	24 months	Preliminary results	Report, press release, database, etc.	D	i. Complete listing of all	i. some of the semi Govt	Central Bank, Ministry
8	5	Agriculture Census	Census Law	DCS		4194.9	A	GOSL		selected crops	Up to GN	Once in 10 years	2013/14	2 years	3 years	Report, press release, database, etc.	D			Central Bank, Ministry
9	B.	SURVEYS																		
10	1	Demographic and Health Survey	Stat Law	DCS	Min of Health	1359.9		Dev Partner	World	Annex 2	Up to GN District, age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, etc.)	Once in 5 years	2016	6 month	9 month	Through report,	D	Reduced time lag using		SDGs monitoring, Central Bank, Ministry
11	2	Annual Survey of Industries 2017	Stat Law	DCS		18.4	A	GOSL		Industry Indicators	All island, SLSIC 2D	Annually	2017			Annual report	D			Central Bank, Ministry
12	3	Annual Survey of Trade 2017	Stat Law	DCS			A	GOSL		Industry Indicators	All island, SLSIC 2D	Annually	2017			Annual report	D			Central Bank, Ministry
13	4	Annual Survey of Service	Stat Law	DCS		20.2	A	GOSL		Industry Indicators	All island, SLSIC 2D	Annually	2018	18 months	18 months	Annual report	D			Central Bank, Ministry
14	5	Quarterly survey of trade & service	Stat Law	DCS			A	GOSL		Industry Indicators	All island, SLSIC 2D	Annually	2018	42 days	....		D			Central Bank, Ministry
15	6	Annual Survey of Construction	Stat Law	DCS		8.4	A	GOSL		Industry Indicators	All island	Quarterly	2018	18 months	18 months	Annual report	D			Central Bank, Ministry
16	7	Quarterly Survey of Industrial Production	Stat Law	DCS		10.6	A	GOSL		Industry Indicators	All island, SLSIC 2D	Quarterly	2018	70 days	70 days		D			Central Bank, Ministry
17	8	Monthly Survey of Index of Industrial Production	Stat Law	DCS			A	GOSL		Industry Indicators	All island, SLSIC 2D	Monthly	2018	42 days	42 days		D			Central Bank, Ministry
18	9	Survey of Labour Demand	Stat Law	DCS		37.1		Dev Partner	ILO	Indicators on Labour	All island, ISCO-2008	Conducted upon	2017	4 months	not conducted on a	Report	D			SDGs monitoring, Central Bank, Ministry
19		Agriculture House Hold Survey	Stat Law	DCS	ADB	120.0	G	ADB & GOSL		Area, Production, Cost,	Up to District	Once in 10 years	2017/18	1 year	1 year	Publising in the Web & Database	D	Data capturing using		Central Bank, Ministry
20		Small Scale Survey to Estimate Potato Production	Stat Law	DCS		0.6	A	GOSL		Production	National	Annually	2018	4 months	4 months	Report	D			Central Bank, Ministry
21		Small Scale Surveys to Estimate Big Onion Production	Stat Law	DCS		0.8	A	GOSL		Production	National	Annually	2018	4 months	4 months	Report	D			Central Bank, Ministry
22		Survey on Cost of Production statistics for Tea, Rubber and Coconut	Stat Law	DCS		0.1	A	GOSL		Cost of Tea, Rubber, Coconut	National	Annually	2018	4 months	4 months	Report	D			Central Bank, Ministry
23		Crop Cutting Survey of Paddy	Stat Law	DCS		2.8	A	GOSL		Area, Production	National	Annually	2018	4 months	4 months	Publising in the Web & Database	D			Target setting, SDGs r
24	15	Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey	Stat Law	DCS		21	A	GOSL		Labour force	National, District, Division	Quarterly, Annually	2018	3 months	4 months	Bulletin, through DCS web site	D	Used CAPI and	No	SDGs monitoring, Central Bank, Ministry
25	16	Household Income and Expenditure Survey-2016	Stat Law	DCS		24.7	A	GOSL		Index, Poverty Gap	Sector, Province, District	Once in 3 years	2016	12 months	13 months	Through Report, publication, press release, website, database, etc.	D	Add specific questions	Increase of non-response rate	Target setting, SDGs r
26	17	Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey – 2017	Stat Law	DCS		42.6	A	GOSL		Tourism satellite	National, District, Division	Ad-hoc	2017/18	18 months	Processing	through report,	D	D + To calculate tourism satellite A	Conducted in first time	GDP calculation, Central Bank, Ministry
27		Child Activity Survey (Phase 2)	Stat Law	DCS	ILO	206		Dev Partner	ILO	Percentage of working children	National, Age, Sex, Sector	Once a 8 Years	2016	6 months	7 months	through report,	D	Reduced time lag,	No. of Working children	SDGs monitoring, Central Bank, Ministry
28	18	Step Survey	Stat Law	DCS	Min of Health	74	P	GOSL		Average blood pressure	National, Age, Sex, Sector	Ad-hoc (on	2019	Not yet		through report,	D			SDGs monitoring, Central Bank, Ministry
29	19	Women wellbeing survey	Stat Law	DCS	UNFPA	48		Dev Partner	UNFPA		National, Age	Ad-hoc	2019	6 months		through report,	D			SDGs monitoring, Central Bank, Ministry
30	20	Time Use Survey	Stat Law	DCS		15.1	A	GOSL		SDG, Proportion of time	National, Age, Sex, Sector	10 Years	2017	12 months	18 months	through report,	D	Conducted in first time		Central Bank, Ministry
31	21	Global adult tobacco survey (GATS)	Stat Law		CDC_USA			Dev Partner	CDC_US			Ad-hoc	2018			through report,	D			Central Bank, Ministry
32	22	Price collection survey(Retail prices)	Statistical ordin	DCS			A/P	Govt	N A	Average retail price of selected items	Average retail price - by	Colombo retail prices - Weekly	On going	Colombo urban retail prices - one	Data are published according to the set time periods	weekly retail prices - through DCS web site	D + Monetary policy decisions	Consumer price index and inflation for		To track the price level in district administration
33	23	Price collection survey(Producer prices)	Statistical ordin	DCS			A/P	Govt	N A	Average producer price of selected items (Monthly & Annual)	Average producer price	Producer prices - Weekly	On going	Producer prices (Agriculture) - 5 months	Data are published according to the set time periods	Produce prices - Publication	Policy decisions As a deflator for national accounts	Newly introduced in 2015		Central Bank, Ministry

with apologies for small print size.....

## Annex 3b: A summary of Sector Statistics

## Assessment of Sector Statistics, Sri Lanka

## I. Agriculture statistics

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	Production of Paddy, other seasonal and permanent crops, livestock and cost of production	Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)	National, subnational (District)	Annual, seasonal (Yala, Maha)	Last one in 2002
2	Census of Agriculture	DCS	National, subnational (District)	In every 20 year	
3	Food Balance Sheet	DCS	National	Annual	
4	Extent, Production and Cost of Production (COP) of Tea, Rubber and Coconut	Sri Lanka Tea Board, Rubber Development Department, Coconut Development Authority	National	Annual	
5	Fisheries and aquaculture production	Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources	National	Annual	
6	Production forecasts of major crops and vegetables	Department of Agriculture	National	Seasonal (Yala, Maha)	

**2a. Population and Demographic Statistics**

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency	Additional information
1	Census of Population and Housing (CPH)  * Population characteristics > Size and age-sex composition, Dependency population, Marital status, Ethnicity and religion, Literacy and education, Labour force, Occupation and industry, Migration, Fertility  * Housing characteristics > Number and type of housing units, Construction materials and quality of housing units, Household amenities and facilities  * Characteristics of the disabled persons	Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)	National, Provincial, Districts	Every 10 years	Last CPH in 2012
2	Population Atlas of Sri Lanka	Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)	National, Provincial, Districts	Every 10 years	
3	Population projection	DCS		After the CPH	

**2b. Civil registration and vital statistics**

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	Registration of vital statistics  * Marriages, Births, Deaths, Infant Deaths, Cause of Deaths * Estimation of mid-year population * Life expectancy, Fertility	Registrar General's Department	National, Provincial, Districts	Annual	

## Summary of Sector Statistics

2	Enumeration of vital events in Northern province in 2011	DCS	Northern Province, District	Once in 2011	
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### 3a. Industrial Statistics

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	Annual survey of industries (ASI)  * Economic activities categorized under the four industrial divisions, namely mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply and water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities  * Private sector establishments with 5 or more persons engaged	Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)	National, Provincial, District	Annual	
2	Index of Industrial Production (IIP)	Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)	National,	Annual. Quarterly	
3	Industrial Production, Construction and Energy in state owned industrial establishments	Board of Investment of Sri Lanka	National, Provincial, District	Annual	

### 3b. Economic Census

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	Distribution of establishments and person engaged by economic sector (Industries, Constructions and Trade & services)	Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)	National, Provincial, District	First time in 2014	

**4a. Health statistics**

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Frequency of conduct
1	Demographic Health Survey  * information on Fertility, Family Planning, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition and awareness of HIV/AIDS.	DCS	National, provincial	Every 5 years	Last one in 2016
2	National Survey on Self-reported Health in Sri Lanka  * Self reported information on on chronic illnesses, acute illnesses and some other health related issues at household level.	DCS	National, Provincial, District	First time in 2014	
3	Annual Health Statistics  * Morbidity, Mortality, Resource availability and Provision of services of government health sector.	Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine	National, Provincial, District	Annual	
4	Annual Health Bulletin	Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine	National, Provincial, District	Annual	
5	Indoor Morbidity and Mortality Report	Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine	National	Annual	
6	Distribution of Government hospitals and health services	Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine	National, Provincial, District	Annual	

**4b. Disability statistics**

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Frequency of conduct
1	Distribution and Characteristics of the disabled persons in Sri Lanka	DCS	National, Provincial, District	In every 10 year	Data source: Population and Housing Census

**5. Education statistics**

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	School Census	Ministry of Education	National, subnational (District)	Annual	Last School Census 2017
	* Information on schools, teachers, pupils, physical resources	Ministry of Education	National, subnational (District)	Annual	
2	Census of Population and Housing	Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)	National, subnational (District)	Decennial	Last CPH 2012
	* Information on the literacy level, educational achievements and the school attendance of every member of the population	DCS	National, subnational (District)	Decennial	
3	Undergraduate Admissions by University and Higher Educational Institutes	University Grants Commission	National	Annual	
4	Number of Passed Out Graduates by University and Higher Educational Institute	University Grants Commission	National	Annual	



**6. Environment statistics**

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	Meteorological observation * Temperature, humidity, rainfall	Department of Meteorology	Observation station	Yearly, monthly	
2	Air pollution	Central Environmental Authority	Major cities	Annual	
3	Noise pollution	Central Environmental Authority	Major cities	Annual	
4	Water pollution	Central Environmental Authority	Major river	Annual	
5	Land area by geography	Survey Department	Province, district, divisional secretariat division	Survey year	
6	Land Use Pattern within Agricultural Holdings	Land Use Policy Planning Department	Province, district	Agriculture census year	
7	Forestry * Area and type of forest * Area of wild life reserves	Department of Forests	National, province, district	Yearly	
8	Sea bathing site water quality	Marine Environment Protection Authority	Selected bathing sites	Annual	
9	Average marine acidity (ph)	Marine Environment Protection Authority	Selected sampling stations around Sri Lanka	Annual	

**7. Poverty and income distribution**

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)	DCS	National	In every 3 year	Every 3 year after 2009. Earlier in every 5 year.
2	Measures of poverty	DCS	National, provincial, District	In every 3 year	based on HIES
3	Gini coefficient of household income and expenditure	DCS	National, provincial, District	In every 3 year	based on HIES
4	Estimation and updating of national poverty line	DCS	National, District	In every 3 year	based on HIES
5	Small area estimation of poverty	DCS & World Bank	National, Sector, District, DS level	2015	based on HIES 2012 & CPH 2012
6	Global multi-dimension poverty for Sri Lanka	DCS & Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)	National, Sector, District	2018	based on DHS 2016
7	Diriya Saviya Loan Programme Issued List	Department of Samurthi	District, DS level	Annual	
8	Performance report	Department of Divineguma Development	National	Annual	

**8. Labour statistics**

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	Labour Force Survey (LFS) * Annual * Quarterly	DCS	National	Quarterly	
2	Levels and trends of employment, unemployment and labour force	DCS	National, provincial, District	Annual, Quarterly	Based on LFS

## Summary of Sector Statistics

3	Annual Employment Survey *Distribution of Employees by Nature of Economic Activities and Sex	Department of Labour	National	Annual	
4	Minimum Wage Rate Index by sector	Department of Labour	National	Annual	
5	Average Earnings and Hours of Work by Wages Boards	Department of Labour	National	Annual	
6	Census of Public and Semi - Government Sector Employment * Distribution of Public Employees by Sector and Year	DCS	National	Annual	In every 4 or 5 year

### 9. Tourism statistics

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	Tourism statistics * Tourist arrivals by county of residence * Tourist arrivals and purpose of visits * Tourist arrivals and tourist receipts * Number of establishments involved in tourism by category	Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority	National	Annual	

### 10. Gender statistics

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	The Sri Lankan Women * Population * Education	DCS DCS DCS	National, Provincial	1995, 1997, 2007, 2014	CPH CPH, LFS, HIES, DHS

## Summary of Sector Statistics

		DOE, Ministry of Education			School Census
		University Grants Commission			University Statistics
		Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development			
		Ministry of Sports			National Sports Festival Report
					National STD/AIDS Control Programme
	* Health	Department of Health Services			DHS
		DCS			
		Registrar General's Department			Vital events
					Census of Public Sector Employment
	* Public Life	DCS			Parliamentary Hand Book
		Parliament Office			
		Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Council			
		Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs			
		Attorney General Department			
	* Special Concerns	DCS			LFS
		Board of Investment			

## Summary of Sector Statistics

		Bureau of Foreign Employment			
		Department of Police			
		Department of Prison			
2	Labour Force Participation Rate, Employment Rate and Unemployment Rate by Gender	DCS	National, Provincial	Annual	Based on LFS

### 11. Trade and Services Statistics

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	Annual Survey of Trade and Services	DCS	National	Annual	Last EC in 2013/14
2	Economic Census	DCS	National, Provincial, District		
3	Imports Total imports by value, country of origin and major groups such as Consumer Goods, Intermediate Goods and Investment Goods.	Department of Customs	National	Monthly, Annual	
4	Exports Total exports by value, country of destination and major commodities such as Tea, Rubber, Coconut products, Garments, etc.	Department of Customs			
5	Balance of Payment	Central Bank	National	Monthly, Quaterly	
6	Trade in Services Earning from Tourism Workers remittances	Central Bank	National	Annual	
7	Trade indices	Central Bank	National	Monthly, Annual	

### 12. Other Social Statistics

#### 12a. Labour migration statistics

## Summary of Sector Statistics

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Additional information
1	Distribution of International Labour Migration by sex, destination countries and occupation	Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment	National	Annual	
2	Worker's remittances by destination country	Central Bank		Annual	

### 12b. Natural disaster and casualty statistics

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Frequency of conduct
1	Disaster incidents and damages  * Desinventar Database ( <a href="http://www.desinventar.lk">www.desinventar.lk</a> )	Disaster Management Centre,  The National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM)	National, Provincial, District	Annual	

### 12c. Crime statistics

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Frequency of conduct
1	Strength of Police force	Department of Police	National,	Yearly	
2	Number and type of crime	Department of Police	National,	Yearly	
3	Prisoners and type of offences	Department of Prisoners	National,	Yearly	

### 12d. Social security statistics

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Frequency of conduct
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## Summary of Sector Statistics

1	Pensioners of public services and their beneficiaries	Department of Pensions. Ministry of Public Administration & Management	National, District	Annual	
2	Pension and social security benefits for those engaged in, self-employment, informal sector, and other non-government pensionable sector	Social Security Board. Ministry of Housing and Social Affairs	National, District	Annual	
3	Charitable allowances				
	* number of industrial, plantation and private (motor vehicle) accidents and compensation paid	Office of the Workmen's Compensation	National, District	Annual	

### 13. Other Economic Statistics

#### 13a. Energy Statistics

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Frequency of conduct
1	Electricity statistics	Ceylon Electricity Board.	National, Provincial, District	Annual	
2	Petroleum products	Ceylon Petroleum Corporation	National, Provincial, District	Annual	

#### 13b. Water Supply

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Frequency of conduct
1	Water supply and consumption	National Water Supply & Drainage Board	National, Provincial, District	Annual	
2	Access to safe drinking water	Department of Census and Statistics (DCS)	National, Provincial, District	Annual	

**13c. Transport statistics**

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Frequency of conduct
1	Road transport	Department of Motor Traffic Sri Lanka Transport Board National Transport Commission	National	Annual	
2	Railway transport	Department of railway	National	Annual	
3	Sea transport	Sri Lanka Ports Authority	National	Annual	
4	Air transport	Civil Aviation Authority	National	Annual	

**13d. Communication statistics**

S.N.	Activity	Agency	Geographic disaggregation	Frequency of conduct	Frequency of conduct
1	Telecommunication services	Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka	National	Annual	
2	Postal services	Department of Posts	National	Annual	
3	Newspaper circulation	Department National Archives	National	Annual	



## Annex 4.a: Institutions visited by the review team

In addition to meeting staff members of the Department of Census and Statistics we met

Institute/Organisation	Officer	Designation
UN Resident Coordinator Office	Ms Hanaa Singer	Office of the Resident Coordinator
	Mr Lohitha Karunasekara	Data Management and Result Monitoring and Reporting Specialist
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	Ms Ritsu Nacken	Representative
International Organization for Migration	Mr Sarat Dash	Chief of Mission
Statistics Branch - Ministry of Education	Mr Mr. G.T.K.S. Perera	Senior Statistician
Construction Industry Development Authority(CIDA)	Mr S. Amarasekara	Director(Development)
Department of Samurdhi Development	Mr Mahesh Perera	Deputy Director-Planning
Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development	Mr J.P.S. Jayasinghe	Director-Planning
Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority	Mr Harsha Wickramasinghe	Deputy Director General
Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine	Dr Sunil De Alwis	Additional Secretary (Medical Services)
National Planning Department	Mr Sanjaya Mudalige	Director General
Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka	Mr Pradeep Saputhanthri	Director
	Dr Sugath Yalgama	Director General
	Dr Chandranath Amarasekara	Additional Director-Research Department
	Mr Rohana Wijesekara	Director-Statistics
Central Bank of Sri Lanka	Mr Priyantha	
	Mr Anura	
	Ms Dinushki	
Department of Inland Revenue		
Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority		
Ministry of Labour and Trade Union Relations	Mr U.H.C. Priyantha	Additional Secretary-Administration
Internal and Home Affairs section of the Ministry of Internal and Home Affairs and Provincial Councils and Local Government	Mr K.G. Darmathilaka	Additional Secretary-Administration
Sri Lanka Police-Research and Development Division	Mr S.W.M. Senarathna	Director-Research and Development, Senior Superintendent of Police
Department of Registrar of Companies	Mr L.K.S. Darmakeerthi	Company Registrar (Cover of Duties)
Registrar General's Department	Ms Bandara	Acting Deputy Director General
Department of Immigration and Emigration	Mr M.L.Dashitha Niroshana	Controller-Visa and Border Control
Ministry of Agriculture	Ms Kasundari Dissanayake	Assistant Director-Agriculture and Agrarian Insurance Board

**Annex 4a and 4b: List of institutions visited by members of the review team in June/July 2019 or attending the consultation workshops on October 2019**

Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution	Ms	Chandanie Wijewardhana	Secretary, Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka	Dr	Nisha Arunathilaka	Director of Research
LIRNE Asia	Mr	Sriganesh Lakanthan	Head of Big Data Unit
JB Securities	Mr	Murthasa Jaffergye	Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment	Mr	Mahinda Gunarathna	Director-Planning
	Mr	Sujeewa Fernando	Assistant Director
	Mr	D.T.A.Hewapathirana	Development Officer
	Mr	I.A.S.Ranaweera	Assistant Director
	Ms	Nilmini Ranasinghe	Assistant Director(Biodiversity)
	Mr	S.U.A.Weerasinghe	Assistant Secretary(Admin)
	Mr	P.A.Shyamali Priyadarshani	Development Officer
Climate Change Secretariat	Ms	Dakshini Perera	Assistant Director
Biodiversity Secretariat	Ms	M.A.Chanuka Maheshani	Development Officer-Environment
Land Resources Division	Mr	Manori Karunarathna	Development Officer
Air Resource Management. and National Ozone Unit	Mr	C.D.Siriwardena	Development Officer
Forest Resources Division	Mr	Peshala Amarathunga	Assistant Director(Forest Resources)
Forest Resources Division	Mr	D.Upul Premalal	Research Assistant

## Annex 4.b Organisations invited by DCS to participate in the National Consultation Workshops on the 23<sup>rd</sup>/ 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 to discuss the emerging findings in the Review of the National Statistical System

**National Consultation Workshop on National Statistical System (NSS) Review**  
**Pre-Workshop Session: 2019 October 23, Olu Hall, Waters Edge Hotel,**  
**Battaramulla, From 14.00 pm To 16.30 pm**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Dr. Harsha De Silva	Honourable Minister, Economic Reforms & Public Distribution
Ms. Chandanie Wijewardena	Secretary, Ministry of Economic Reforms & Public Distribution
Dr. Nisha Arunatilake	Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka
Mr.Murthaza Jaffergyee	JB Securities
Mr.Sriganesh Lokanthan	LIRNEasia
Mr.Mubarak	National Planning Department
Mr.Shiran Fernando	Ceylon Chamber of Commerce
Dr.Chandranath Amarasekara	Central Bank of Sri Lanka
Mr.Rohana Wijayawardhana	Central Bank of Sri Lanka
Mr.Kapila Weerakoon	Central Bank of Sri Lanka
Dr. I.R. Bandara	Director General, Department of Census and Statistics

**Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) Sri Lanka**

**Consultation Workshop on the National Statistical System (NSS) Review of Sri Lanka**

**Stakeholder Group day 1-Session 1: 09.00 – 13.00**

Prime Minister's Policy Development Office  
Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka  
National Planning Department  
Department of External Resources (ERD)  
National Accounts Division-Department of Census and Statistics  
Prices and Wages Division-Department of Census and Statistics  
Industries and Construction Statistics Division-Department of Census and Statistics  
Central Bank of Sri Lanka  
Department of Inland Revenue  
Sri Lanka Customs  
Department of Commerce  
Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka  
Sri Lanka Export Development Board  
Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI)  
Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority  
National Gem and Jewellery Authority  
Industrial Development Board of Ceylon (IDB)  
Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA)  
Central Engineering Consultancy Bureau (CECB)  
Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB)  
Department of Registrar of Companies (ROC)  
Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka  
Road Development Authority (RDA)  
Urban Development Authority (UDA)  
Department of Motor Traffic  
Sri Lanka Ports Authority  
Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC/CEYPETCO)  
Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB)

**Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) Sri Lanka**

**Consultation Workshop on the National Statistical System (NSS) Review of Sri Lanka**

**Stakeholder Group day 1 - Session 2: 14.00-16.30**

Department of Census and Statistics  
Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine  
Registrar General's Department  
Department of Registration of Persons  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Higher Education and Highways  
National Science Foundation  
Ministry of Science Technology and Research  
Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment  
Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka (VTA)  
Ministry of Justice and Prison Reforms  
Sri Lanka Police-Research and Development Division  
Department of Probation and Childcare Services  
Department of Social Services  
Ministry of Women and Child Affairs  
Department of Samurdhi Development  
Insurance Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka  
Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE)  
Department of Labour  
Department of Pensions  
National Insurance Trust Fund  
Employees' Trust Fund Board  
Employees' Provident Fund-Central Bank of Sri Lanka  
Postal Department  
Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA)  
Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRC)

**Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) Sri Lanka**

**Consultation Workshop on the National Statistical System (NSS) Review of Sri Lanka  
9.00 to 13.00**

**Department of Census and Statistics**

Ministry of Mahaweli Development & Environment

Central Environmental Authority

Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka

Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Economic Affairs, Livestock Development, Irrigation and Fisheries

Department of Agrarian Development

Department of Agriculture (DOA)

Coconut Cultivation Board

Sri Lanka Tea Board

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI)

Disaster Management Centre (DMC)

National Building Research Organisation

Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development

Irrigation Department

Rubber Development Department

Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

National Water Supply and Drainage Board

Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Authority

Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB)

Urban Development Authority

Sustainable Development Council

## ANNEX 5 Staff in DCS as at end of 2018

	Designation	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre as at 31.12.2018	Vacancies
1	Director General	1	1	0
2	Additional Director General(Statistics)	3	1	2
3	Additional Director General(Information & Communication Technology)	1	0	1
4	Additional Director General (Administration)	1	1	0
5	Director (Statistics)	16	8	8
6	Director (Administration)	1	1	0
7	Director (Information & Communication Technology)	2	0	2
8	Chief Accountant	1	1	0
9	Chief Internal Auditor	1	1	0
10	Deputy Director (Statistics)	36	0	36
11	Deputy Director (ICT)	6	6	0
12	Deputy/Assistant Director (Administration/Establishment)	2	0	2
13	Assistant Director (ICT)	15	7	8
14	Accountant	2	2	0
15	Internal Auditor	1	0	1
16	Senior Statistician	37	21	- ◇
17	Statistician	200	105	74 ®
18	Printing Manager	1	0	1
19	Legal Officer	1	0	1
20	Administrative Officer	1	1	0

Staff complement for DCS as at end of December 2018

21	Statistical Draughtsman	1	0	1
22	Librarian (Special grade)	1	0	1
23	Librarian	3	3	0
24	Translator	3	2	1
25	Editor (English/Tamil) (On contract basis)	2	0	2
26	Information & Communication Technology Officer – SLICTS Class II Grade I,II	30	9	21
27	Statistical Officer	494	364	130
28	Development Officer	64	55	9
29	Statistical Assistant	202	120	0 •
30	Budget Assistant	1	1	0 •
31	Information & Communication Technology Assistant – SLICTS Class III, Grade I,II,III	262	212	50
32	Post Press Printer	5	0	5
33	Technician (Printing)	2	0	2
34	Technical Officer	1	0	1
35	Pre-Press Printer	3	0	3
36	Offset Litho Machine Operator	1	0	1
37	System Controller	6	2	0
38	Senior System Operator	3	2	0 ♦
39	Foreman (Printing)	1	1	0 ♦
40	Public Management Assistants" Service	170	149	21
41	Data Entry Operator	5	4	0 ♦
42	Data Entry Operator/Coding Clerk	33	30	3
43	Clerk (Sinhala Medium)	10	6	4
44	Clerk (Tamil Medium)	20	16	4
45	Camera Operator	1	1	0 ♦



Staff complement for DCS as at end of December 2018

46	Litho Machine Operator	1	0	0
47	Plate Maker	1	1	0
48	Machine Attendant	2	2	0 ♦
49	Type Setter	1	1	0
50	Drivers	55	50	5
51	Air Condition Machine Operator	1	1	0 ♦
52	Mechanic Section Employees	1	0	1
53	Office Employee Service (Permanent)	107	77	30
54	Office Employee Service (Departmental)	10	9	1
55	Plumber	1	0	1
56	Electrician	1	0	1
57	Bungalow keeper	1	0	1
58	Bungalow watcher	2	0	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1837</b>	<b>1274</b>	<b>437</b>
59	Graduate Trainees	0	1	0
60	Drivers (Casual)	3	0	3
61	Peon (Casual)	3	1	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1843</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>442</b>

Source: Annual Performance Report 2018 page 186/187

## ANNEX 6: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATORS

SDG Indicators compiled by DCS and other Agencies in Sri Lanka

Goal/ Target/Indicator/Level of Disaggregation	Tier	Baseline			Recent			DCS Classification	Source, Agency	Frequency of updating
		Unit	Value	Year	Unit	Value	Year			
1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	1	%	1.9	2012/13				1	HIES, DCS & WB	In 3 years
1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	1	%	4.1	2016				1	HIES, DCS	In 3 years
1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	2	%	3.8	2012/13				1	HIES, DCS	In 3 years
1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	2	%	34.2	2012/13				1	HIES, DCS	
2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Household Food Insecurity Access Score (HFIAS)(proxy)	1	Scale	9.2 out of 24	2013/14				1	FSQ, DCS	

## Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	1	%	17.3	2016				1	DHS, DCS	In 5 years
2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	1	%	17.1	2016				1	DHS, DCS	In 5 years
3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	2	Per 100,000 live births	26.8	2013	Per 100,000 live births	25.7	2014	1	Report on Vital Statistics, RGD	Annually
3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	1	%	99.5	2016				1	DHS, DCS	In 5 years
3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate	1	Per 1000 live births	9.4	2014	Per 1000 live births	10.1	2015	1	Report on Vital Statistics, RGD	Annually
3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate	1	Per 1000 live births	5.6	2014	Per 1000 live births	6.0	2015	1	Report on Vital Statistics, RGD	Annually

## Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	2	Per 10,000 population of aged 30-69	31.9	2013				1	Report on Vital Statistics, RGD	Annually
3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate	2	Per 100,000 population	14.3	2016				1	Sri Lanka Police	Annually
3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries	1	Per 100,000 population	14.2	2016				1	Sri Lanka Police	Annually
3.7.1 Proportion of women currently married of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods(The proportion of demand stratified by modern methods)	1	%	74.2	2016				1	DHS, DCS	In 5 years
3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	2	Per 1000 women in 15-49 age group	36	2012				1	CPH, DCS	In 10 years
3.8.2 Number of people covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population	2							1		
3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution	1							1	Annual Health Bulletin – MOH&IM	Annually
4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	1	%	97.7	2016				1	School Census, MOE	

## Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill	2	%	27.6	2016				1	LFS, DCS	
4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic hand washing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)	2							1	School Census, MOE	
4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country	1	%						1		
5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	3		Legal framework are in place.					1	Ministry of Women and Child Affairs	
5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	2		16.6	2016				1	DHS, DCS	In 5 years

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5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence (Proxy indicator)	2		15.1	2016				1	DHS, DCS	In 5 years
5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	1							1	DHS, DCS	
5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	1	%	28.4	2016				1	LFS, DCS	Annually
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	1	%	80.9	2012				1	CPH, DCS	In 10 years
7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity	1	%	87.0	2012				1	CPH, DCS	In 10 years
8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	1	%	3.2	2016				1	National Accounts estimates, DCS	Annually
8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	1	%	2.9	2016				1	National Accounts estimates, DCS	Annually
8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	1	%	4.4	2016				1	LFS, DCS	Annually
8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training	1	%	26.1	2016				1	LFS, DCS	Annually

## Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	1	%	1.0	2016				1	CAS, DCS	In 5 years
9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	3	%	95.6	2012/13				1	HIES, DCS	In 3 years
9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita	1	%	18.0	2016				1	Annual estimates on National Accounts, DCS	Annually
9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	1	%	18.0	2016				1	LFS, DCS	Annually
9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added (Small industries - (10 to 25 persons engaged.)	3	%	2.7	2013/14				1	Economic Census, DCS	In 10 years
10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population	1			2012/13				1	HIES, DCS	In 3 years
10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities	3	%	13.5	2012/13				1	HIES, DCS	In 3 year
10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers	1	%	28.0	2016				1	Annual estimates on National Accounts, DCS	Annually



## Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	1	%	0.8	2012				1	CPH, DCS	In 10 years
12.1.1 Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies (proxy)	3	Number	0	2014				1	MoMDE	Once in 5 years
12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports	3	Number	130	2016				1	MoMDE/ DCS	
14.1.1 Quantity of Marine debris collected from 1Km beach stretch (Proxy)	2	Kg per Km	103.38 Kg/Km	2017				3	MEPA	Annually
14.2.1 Length of coastal stretch in which coastal environmental profile has been prepared per annum (Proxy)	2	Km	50 Km	2017				3	MEPA	Annually
14.2.1 Area in which coral restoration has been conducted per annum (Proxy)	2	Sq. Km	0.4 Sq. Km	2017				3	MEPA	Annually
14.C.1 Ratifying ocean related international conventions	3	Number	3	2017				3	MEPA	Annually
14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations (Proxy)	3	pH Value	7.91					1	MoMDE (CC&CRMD MEPA) Universities	Annually
14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas (proxy)	1	Sq. km	400	2017				1	DWLC, MEPA, CCD, MoF&AR	Bianually

## Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	1	%	30.7	2010				2	FD	Once in Every 5 Years
15.5.1 Red List Index	1							2	MoMDE , Biodiversity Secretariat	
16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	1	Per 100,000 population	2.5	2016				1	Sri Lanka Police	Annually
16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months		Per 100,000 population	55.2	2016				1	Sri Lanka Police	Annually
16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	1	Per 100,000 population	0.12	2016				1	Sri Lanka Police	Annually
16.3.2 Un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	1	Per Overall Prison Population	0.5	2016				1	Department of Prisons	Annually
16.4.2 Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments	3	Per 100,000 population	0.4	2016				1	Sri Lanka Police	Annually

\*\* Some of the proxy indicators Compiled by other Agencies are highlighted in Red

