Launching SLDHS, 2016

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

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SLDHS - 2016

• The fifth DHS in Sri Lanka

• Conducted at the request of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine

• Financial assistance from the World Bank

• Technical assistance from ICF - USA
Previous DHS surveys

- 1987
- 1993
- 2000 and
- 2006/07

Consistency of DHS methods

- Uses consistent survey methods and questionnaires to measure:
  - Infant and child mortality
  - Fertility
  - Family planning use
  - Maternal health and more

- Data are comparable across time and regions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Significance of SLDHS - 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First countrywide DHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>First time, the Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) technique was used in DCS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline Data for several SDG Indicators</td>
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Significance of SLDHS – 2016: First countrywide DHS

- Earlier rounds could not cover the entire country
- The DHS is now included in the regular statistical activity plan
- DHS will be conducted at five-year intervals to provide the much needed
  - Health
  - Nutrition and other related information on women in the reproductive age and
  - Their children under five years
Significance of SLDHS – 2016: Use of CAPI for first time

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Already compiled by the DCS</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be compiled by the DCS</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Available with or to be compiled by other institutions in the NSS</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Regional/Global Indicators</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Not relevant to Sri Lanka</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>244</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Significance of SLDHS – 2016: Baseline Data for SDG

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

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

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

New modules in SLDHS 2016

- Non-communicable diseases
- Mental illness
- Suicides
- Smoking and drug consumption
- Child development status
- Domestic violence
Impressive progress: Great achievements should be maintained

- Infant and child mortality continue to decline
- Almost all pregnancies receive antenatal care
- Almost all births take place in a health facility
- Contraception methods are universally known
Making evidence based decision making

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

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

**SLDHS - 2016**

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