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FULFILLING YOUTH POTENTIAL

ABOUT US

We at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Sri Lanka are a diverse, dynamic and talented workforce accompanying Sri Lanka in its socio-economic development.

Our overall commitment is to advance equity, accountability and quality in all spheres of decision making. We work to positively impact the lives and potential of the Sri Lankan population, with women and youth as our main actors and beneficiaries of our interventions.



YOUNG PEOPLE DRIVING SOCIAL CHANGE

UNFPA Sri Lanka empowers youth to achieve their full potential. We do this by working at the national and sub-national level and by engaging with multi-sectoral partners across the island.

We believe in an integrated, evidence-based approach for the delivery of youth and adolescent friendly reproductive health services, comprehensive reproductive health education, and ensure fulfillment of their associated rights.

By creating supportive policy environments and practices, we enable youth to drive social change and contribute towards a prosperous and peaceful Sri Lanka.

WHAT IS SRI LANKA'S DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND



A demographic dividend is the potential economic gain a country may enjoy when the share of the population that is of working age is relatively larger than the share of the population that is dependent on them.

A smaller number of children per household generally leads to larger investments per child, more freedom for women to enter the formal workforce, and more household savings for a secure old age. When this happens, the national economic payoff can be substantial, leading to a demographic dividend.

In Sri Lanka, this means getting the right policies implemented immediately to ensure that young men and women, that constitute one fourth of the population, are given the necessary skills to meaningfully contribute toward sustainable development and peace.



ADOLESCENTS
(10-19 YEARS)



YOUTH
(15-29 YEARS)



YOUNG PEOPLE
(10-29 YEARS)





ENSURE RIGHTS TO HEALTH

To honour young people's reproductive rights, they should have access to sexual reproductive health services that lead to a healthy and responsible life.

We advocate for these rights and ensure healthy lives of young people by:

- Supporting Governments, schools, universities and other institutions to educate young people on sexual reproductive health, including support to development of a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health curriculum and policy
- Empowering women and girls through increased awareness on the prevention of teenage pregnancies and unwanted pregnancies
- Supporting the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, in understanding youth health in Sri Lanka including support in carrying out of the National Youth Health Survey



EMPOWER AND UNLEASH POTENTIAL

Youth are the driving force in a country and are critical for economic, social, and cultural development of a country's knowledge and skills development.

We engage young people and unleash their potential by:

- Working with the Provincial Councils to formulate comprehensive Youth Policies
- Facilitating Generation-to-Generation Policy Dialogues to find solutions to contemporary challenges faced by young people
- Developing a Social Change Entrepreneurship Programme to further youth leadership
- Creating enabling environments for meaningful participation of young people in the 2030 Global Agenda



YOUTH & PEACE IN A DIGITALIZED WORLD

In a post-war nation with rapid new advances in technology, young people play an important role in contributing towards long-lasting peace in a digitalized Sri Lanka.

We seize the opportunities provided by the peace dividend, digital dividend, and demographic dividend by:

- Leading discussions on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on 'Youth, Peace, and Security' with multiple partners and stakeholders
- Developing and supporting mobile and online applications to ensure information on reproductive health and rights are easily and quickly accessible to youth and adolescents
- Advocating for evidence-based policies that ensure that young people achieve their fullest potential through comprehensive understanding of their health and rights

SIGNATURE PRODUCTS



ABLE APP

A mobile app that provides vital information on reproductive health and youth rights, especially to visually impaired adolescents



100 VOICES

A campaign designed to mobilize networks of young people to educate peers on working against gender-based violence



ROAD TO ADULthood

A trilingual computer-based learning programme aimed to improve the sexual and reproductive knowledge among adolescents



ON THE WAY

#OTW is an initiative to combat sexual harassment in public transport in Sri Lanka and to understand the consequences it has on youth and their potential



BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNICATION STRATEGY GUIDES

Five guides were launched in Sri Lanka to strengthen the communications on reproductive health among adolescents and youth



SOCIAL CHANGEMAKERS LAB

A virtual platform which allows young innovators to showcase ideas for peacebuilding, mobilize resources, and connect with a community to maximise their potential



PROVINCIAL-LEVEL YOUTH POLICY PROGRAMME

A sub-national programme that brings together multi-stakeholders at provincial-level to facilitate the process of formulating comprehensive provincial youth policies in Sri Lanka

OUR PARTNERS

- Department of Census and Statistics
- Department of National Planning
- Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka
- Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Higher Education
- Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs
- Ministry of Vocational Training and Skills Development
- Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
- National Youth Services Council
- Provincial Councils
- Universities in Sri Lanka



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