



**A GLOBAL  
CHAMPION**  
FOR GENDER EQUALITY

# AT A GLANCE

UN Women is the mandated UN agency for gender equality and the empowerment of women. We connect people, issues and ideas behind one shared purpose: making gender equality a reality in our lifetime.

**As part of our normative mandate to shape, preserve and promote international standards and commitments on gender equality, UN Women in Sri Lanka supports the development of national policies and standards, as well as Sri Lanka's commitments to monitor and report against these international standards, towards sustained global progress.**

**We offer operational support in delivering programming - in partnership with the government of Sri Lanka - to uphold women's rights and ensure that every woman and girl lives up to her full potential.**

# UN WOMEN IN ACTION: WOMEN'S EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE





# GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING

Sri Lanka has never had more than 7 percent of women in national legislature since its first State Council election in 1931.

To ensure that women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems, our programmes on leadership and participation are designed to train women leaders to help build their capacities and promote women's leadership at all levels of decision-making. We advocate for legislative, policy, budgetary, and constitutional reforms to end discriminatory laws that prevent women from meaningfully participating in all spheres of life.

**Working with the Government and other partners, UN Women carried out the first comprehensive gender analysis of Sri Lanka's national budget in 2019 to institutionalize gender responsive budgeting. UN Women has further contributed to bringing about Sri Lanka's first quota for women's political representation at the local level by building capacities of over 300 first-time female local councillors in 16 districts and facilitating dialogue between women in politics and their constituencies – to change social mindsets and enable stronger community-backed leadership.**



# ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Women make enormous contributions to economies, but they also remain disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination, and exploitation. Gender discrimination means women often end up excluded from the workforce, or in insecure, low-wage jobs, and constitute a small minority of those in senior positions.

To ensure that women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy, our programmes promote women's ability to secure decent jobs, accumulate assets, and influence institutions and public policies determining growth and development.

**In advocating for evidence-based policies, UN Women launched the first-ever report on gender, disability and employment in Sri Lanka and conducted the first-ever study on the relative demand for women workers in Sri Lanka's formal enterprises. Through a tried-and-tested innovative model of women's entrepreneurship, we have collectively supported small businesses of women entrepreneurs across 6 districts, and are expanding to other districts.**



# ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation. Yet, challenges remain in enforcing laws that protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, limiting their access to safety and justice.

To ensure that women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence, our programmes focus on women's economic empowerment, early education, respectful relationships, and working with men and boys, recognizing that prevention is still the most cost-effective, long-term way to stop violence.

**Over the years, UN Women has supported the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration inclusive of the first-ever training curriculum for Labour Attaches on the provision of sexual and gender-based violence services for women migrant workers.**



# PEACE AND SECURITY

There is strong evidence suggesting that women's participation in peace processes contributes to longer and more sustainable peace after conflict. Yet, women remain largely invisible to, and excluded from, peace processes and negotiations.

To ensure that women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, UN Women works to promote peace by supporting women of all backgrounds and ages to participate in processes to prevent conflict and build and sustain peace.

**UN Women leads on implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Sri Lanka by building capacities of government officials to implement policies in relation to women's rights, with a broader aim of adopting Sri Lanka's first ever National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.**

**UN Women in Sri Lanka coordinates efforts within the wider UN system to advance gender equality, through the Gender Theme Group and other common initiatives. We coordinate advocacy efforts, generate knowledge, build networks, and monitor system-wide action and progress to position gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals in Sri Lanka, and a more inclusive world.**



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