

2. Strengthening the Health Information System and Disease Surveillance Capacity

The project will support the creation of an e-health card and a web-based medical information system.

This new medical information system will help enhance the referral system, quality of patient care, and establish a medical footprint and a system of continuity of care for health seekers. The system will also include functionalities to assist timely reporting of the 28 notifiable diseases of Sri Lanka to enhance health security.

Further, the system will assist the medical professionals with overall sector efficiency by reducing duplications in service delivery and by linking primary-level curative facilities to higher-level hospitals to track and refer patients.

The project will implement International Health Regulations recommendations for Ports of Entry (POE) and inbound health assessment services by,



Providing medical equipment to all eight POE



Enhancing mobility of the Quarantine Unit at two ports



Strengthening the web-based disease surveillance system



Providing support to train health personnel

3. Supporting Policy Development and Capacity Building

The project will support policy reformation and provide strategic support to the MOHNIM, including,

- Development of essential health services package for non-communicable diseases and emergency services
- Development of clusters to explore strategies to strengthen primary health care under the Primary Health Care Innovation Fund
- Health human resources planning
- Local and international capacity building for nutrition and health promotion, cluster planning, shared services and management, gender sensitivity and responsiveness, infection prevention and control, health care waste management, social safeguards, procurement and financial management
- Establishment of a Distance Learning Centre at the National Institute of Health Sciences, Kalutara.

Value added by ADB’s Assistance

ADB’s mission is to help its member countries reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of their people. Despite Sri Lanka’s many successes in the health sector, its primary health care system remains an area with untapped potential to uplift underserved communities.

ADB’s assistance to the Sri Lanka: Health System Enhancement Project will support equity-focused health care delivery reformation in rural areas and the estate sector, incorporating evidence-based planning using GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping and the vulnerability index to identify and target underserved districts and populations, and provide support to GIS units in central and district planning departments to improve disease surveillance and monitor health-seeking behavior. ADB’s assistance also intends to address climate change and disaster risk resilience through an enhanced infrastructure design.

The project further aims to improve continuity of care and disease surveillance by scaling up of the introduction of a patient e-health card and its integration with the government’s web-based health information system. Institutionalizing distance learning for training primary health care staff, assistance with developing and implementing innovative solutions to integrate and improve primary health care services are further objectives of the project.

Through its assistance, ADB is committed to assist the Government of Sri Lanka’s primary health care reform initiatives to ensure a healthier Sri Lanka.

Based in Manila, ADB is owned by 68 members, including 49 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants and technical assistance.

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SRI LANKA:
HEALTH SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
2018-2023

Ensuring a healthier nation through improved primary health care services and health security

The Project

The Health System Enhancement Project is a joint effort by the Government of Sri Lanka and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to ensure a healthier nation by supporting the development of a more responsive and comprehensive primary health care system.

The project will enhance the planning and delivery of essential primary health care services to geographically and socioeconomically deprived populations of Central, North Central, Sabaragamuwa, and Uva provinces. The project will also strengthen the health information system and disease surveillance capacity of the country, in addition to supporting policy development and capacity building.

Executing Agency:

Ministry of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine (MOHNIM)

Implementing Agencies:

Provincial Health Departments of Central, North Central, Sabaragamuwa, and Uva Provinces

Why Primary Health Care?

Sri Lanka has performed exceedingly well nationally and regionally, in relation to key health indicators such as life expectancy, maternal health, and vaccination. However, due to the changing disease and aging patterns of the population, expanded outreach and interventions are needed to achieve better health for the poorest populations living in vulnerable and lagging areas.

Investing in the primary health care system will help improve the quality of services, ensure adequate staffing and resolve resource constraints that will increase the use of these services. This will benefit the total population - children, youth, men, women, and the elderly alike.

Through a more efficient, equitable and responsive primary health care system, the Health System Enhancement Project intends to provide the highest standards of health care to approximately 7 million people, more than a third of Sri Lanka’s population.

Project Estimate
USD 60 million
Approx.LKR 10 Billion

ADB Grant of **USD 12.5 million**
(approximately LKR 2 billion)

ADB Concessional Loan of **USD 37.5 million**
(approximately LKR 6.25 billion)

Government of Sri Lanka **USD 10 million**
(approximately LKR 1.75 billion)

Four Provinces

7 million people
(33% of the population)

2.4 million vulnerable population

The Project Components

1. Enhancing the Primary Health System in Central, North Central, Sabaragamuwa, and Uva Provinces

The project will provide improved access to primary health care services in the Central, North Central, Sabaragamuwa, and Uva Provinces through,

- Upgraded curative services;
 - Upgrade of **135 Primary Medical Care Units and Divisional Hospitals**, accounting for 29% of the Primary Health Care Units in the four provinces
 - Medical Equipment** for required facilities to improve laboratory, emergency treatment, dental, and non-communicable disease-related clinical services
 - Nine Covered trucks** for district level drug distribution
- Improved preventive services;
 - Renovation and refurbishment of **127 Field Health Centres** - one in each Medical Officer of Health area
 - Medical equipment** for each centre
 - Staff training in nutrition counseling**
 - 44 double cabin vehicles** to improve mobility of preventive care outreach
 - Nine equipped Health Education Vans to the nine districts** to strengthen health communications activities
- A **communications campaign** to encourage the public to seek preventive and curative care at the nearest primary health care facility;
- Establishment of a **Primary Health Care Innovation Fund** to support the provincial and regional health staff to propose and implement strategies to improve the quality of primary health care services; and
- Piloting a cluster concept by supporting the **establishment of nine clusters** (one in each of the project implemented districts), as part of the Primary Health Care Reorganization for Universal Health Coverage in Sri Lanka.

Distribution of Project Health Facilities



Type of Facility	Central	North Central	Sabaragamuwa	Uva	Total
Divisional Hospital A	2	0	5	1	8
Divisional Hospital B	8	4	2	9	23
Divisional Hospital C	18	7	8	10	43
Primary Medical Care Unit	17	19	15	10	61
Field Health Centres	Kandy 18 Nuwara Eliya 11 Matale 10	Anuradhapura 19 Polonnaruwa 7	Kegalle 11 Ratnapura 19	Badulla 15 Monaragala 11	127