

Gender-based Violence (GBV) is widespread in Sri Lanka and is not categorized by any particular economic class or ethnic group. GBV exists in both urban and rural settings. GBV is based on unequal power relations between men and women. Existing social, cultural and customary practices reinforce unequal power relations that undermine the reporting of GBV and limit survivors' access to services.

The consequences of lack of comprehensive evidence-based data, results in policies and systems that don't target the root causes of GBV and results in survivors not getting the right health, legal and psychosocial support services that they need. This leads to an increased risk of complications such as STIs, HIV, unwanted pregnancy, trauma and repeat offences from perpetrators.

Women and adolescent girls are at high risk of GBV



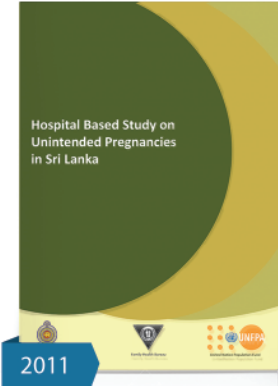
One out of four females are sexually abused by the time they reach 18 years of age



36% of undergraduates have faced physical abuse
44% of undergraduates have faced sexual abuse.

Source - Fernando, A.D. & Karunasekera, W. 2009. *Juvenile victimisation in a group of young Sri Lankan adults*. Ceylon Medical Journal.

Our Publications



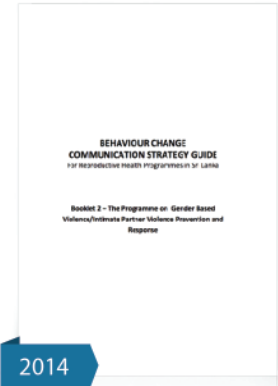
Hospital Based Study on Unintended Pregnancies in Sri Lanka



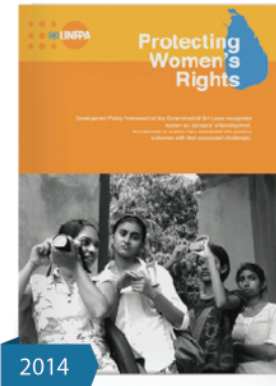
Ensuring Women's Health – Factsheet



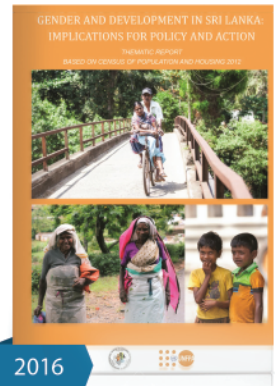
Extent, Trends and Determinants of Teenage Pregnancies in Three Districts of Sri Lanka



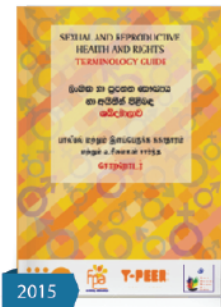
Behavior change communication strategy guide for reproductive health programmes in Sri Lanka



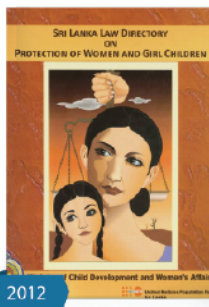
Protecting Women's Rights – Factsheet



Gender and Development in Sri Lanka: Implications for Policy and Action



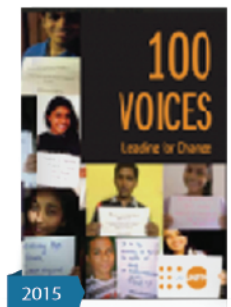
Sexual and reproductive health and rights terminology guide



Sri Lanka Law Directory on Protection of Women and Girl Children



20.4 Million: Sri Lanka's population at a glance



100 Voices Leading to Change



UNFPA.SriLanka



UNFPASriLanka



UNFPASrilanka



SriLanka.unfpa.org

United Nations Population Fund Sri Lanka
202, Bauddhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.
+94 112 580840

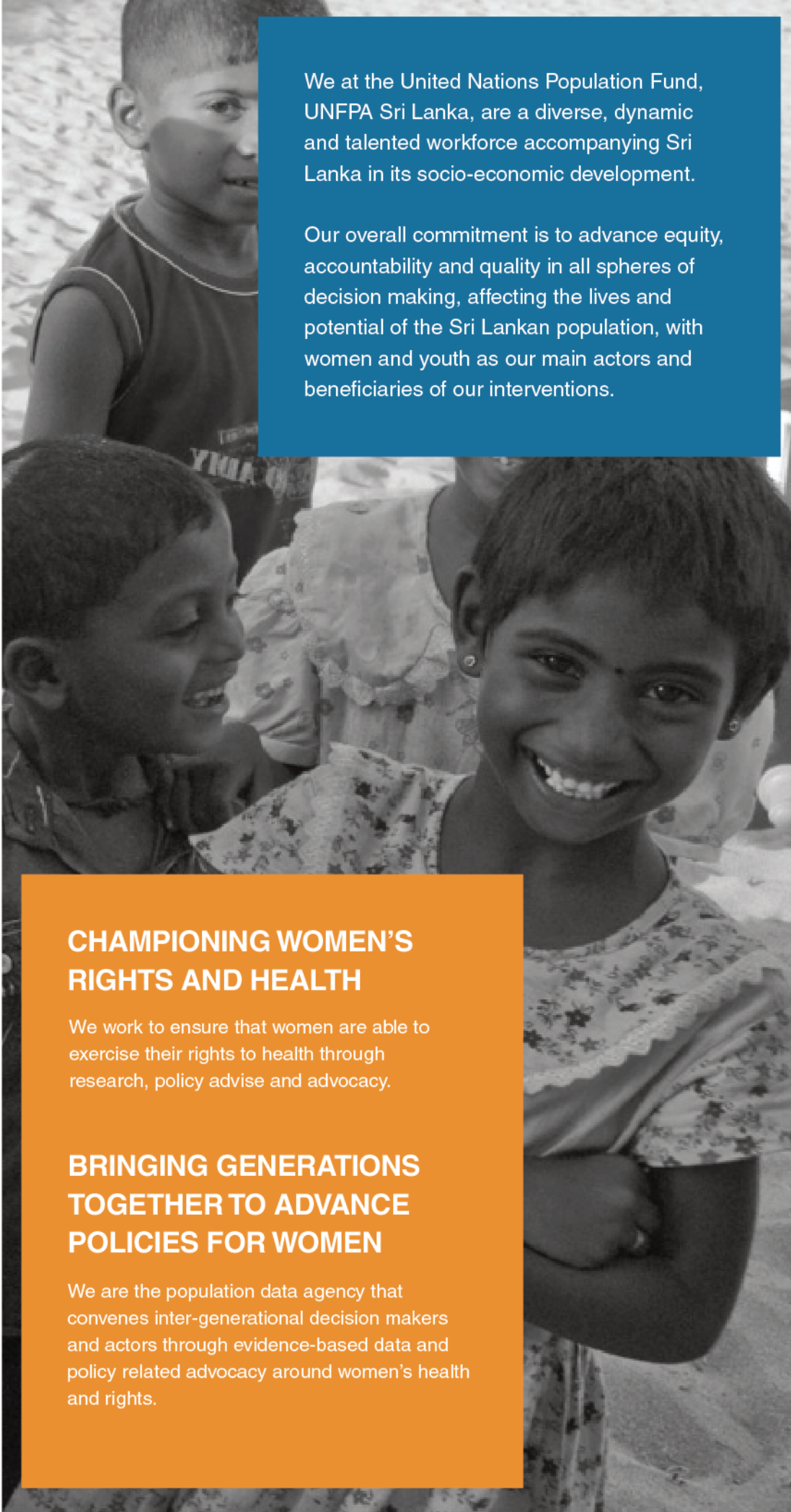




Sri Lanka

A young girl with dark hair in braids, wearing a bright yellow dress with a black and white floral pattern, is smiling broadly. She is standing at a public water tap, filling a white bucket. The background shows a sandy area with other people, including a woman in a patterned dress and a child in a yellow dress. A red circular object is visible in the background.

KEEPING THE
PROMISE
TO WOMEN



We at the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA 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, affecting the lives and potential of the Sri Lankan population, with women and youth as our main actors and beneficiaries of our interventions.

CHAMPIONING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND HEALTH

We work to ensure that women are able to exercise their rights to health through research, policy advice and advocacy.

BRINGING GENERATIONS TOGETHER TO ADVANCE POLICIES FOR WOMEN

We are the population data agency that convenes inter-generational decision makers and actors through evidence-based data and policy related advocacy around women's health and rights.



Leading with Data

As a centre for data excellence, UNFPA works closely with partners to establish a baseline to analyze GBV trends and patterns within Sri Lanka. We do this by:

- Supporting the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to collect data from multiple stakeholders on GBV at the Divisional, District, Provincial and National levels to create a centralized database, which can monitor data linked from multiple data sources
- Conducting a nationwide research project on Sexual Harrassment in public transportation and creating campaigns on security of women in transportation. The evidence collected will provide an understanding of the prevalence of GBV and be used to advocate for policy changes
- Analysing gender data of the *Census of Population and Housing 2012*, to understand gender and development trends in Sri Lanka and implications for policy and action
- Capacity building of community based service providers, including local NGO's and women's shelters, to collect data and to mainstream them into the national database
- Provide hardware support via the provision of tablets for Women Development Officers to collect data on GBV
- Conducting and disseminating information of a forensic pathology study on sexual violence in Sri Lanka



FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

UNFPA's interventions target both the root causes and the symptoms of GBV.

Supporting Data

- National GBV database streamlining the process of recording GBV incidents and referrals



Pioneering a Holistic Referral System

- Creation of a National GBV referral system with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to support the development of a governmental case referral system to assist survivors of GBV to get support from service providers
- Piloting the GBV incident recording and referral system in the following three districts: Monaragala (district with one of the highest poverty rates in the country), Polonnaruwa (a border district during Sri Lanka's civil war) and Mullaitivu district (a high conflict district during Sri Lanka's civil war)
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Women Development Officers (WDO's) on the referral system by publishing, distributing and conducting capacity development trainings in the three pilot districts
- Development of SOPs for Safe Houses - Publishing, distributing and conducting capacity development trainings in the three pilot districts on the procedures to assist government run women's safe houses to operate efficiently and collect data systematically
- Development of an Emergency App which is a trilingual mobile application to assist women on 'next steps for help' when faced with GBV

Advancing Policy

- Inter-generational Policy Dialogue Series
- UNFPA chairs the:
 - National Forum Against Gender-based Violence
 - United Nations Gender Theme Group



Peacebuilding at the Grassroots

UNFPA is working to establish a coordination mechanism for GBV campaigns and peacebuilding at the grassroots level by targeting communities in nine districts that have high numbers of female headed households and war widows by:

- Strengthening women's committees at district and divisional secretariat levels to improve multi-sectoral coordination to collectively address GBV
- Implementing GBV Campaigns at a community level via women's committee by distributing trilingual GBV '100 Voices' handbooks developed by UNFPA
- Conducting peacebuilding programmes to improve social harmony in local communities through inter-communal activities and social change campaigns via women's committees (with an emphasis on war widows)
- Developing two publications
 - *Compendium of Law, Gender-based Violence and Reproductive Rights*
 - *Women's Rights are Human Rights: A Trainer Guide* for the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Building Capacity

- Psychosocial support
- SOPs for Mithuru Piyasa
- SOPs for Women Development Officers
- AbleApp— Sexual and Reproductive Health information for the visually impaired



Key Partners

Government

Ministry of Women and Child Affairs

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation

Ministry of National Policies and
Economic Affairs

Department of Census and Statistics

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Department of National Planning

National Youth Services Council

National Transport Commission

Non-governmental Organisations

Women Development Centre

Muslim Women's Research and Action Forum

Women in Need

Academia

Sri Lanka Law College

University of Colombo

College of Forensic Pathologists

Strengthening Advocacy

- Social Change Campaigns:
 - 100Voices
 - Art for Advocacy
 - #OTW
 - Corporate Collective