European Union Support to District Development Programme (EU-SDDP)
Ampara, Batticaloa, Mannar, Vavuniya districts and border villages situated in the 3 adjacent districts of Puttalam, Anuradhapura and Monaragala

2012 - 2017

€ 60 million

UNDP, UNOPS, FAO, UNICEF, ILO and IFC

1. Income generation
2. Improving sustainable livelihoods
3. Improving productive infrastructure
4. Providing access to quality social services
5. Strengthening capacity of local producer organisations
6. Support to entrepreneurship and expansion of existing businesses
7. Improving the business environment
8. Improving access to quality vocational training
9. Improving capacity in development planning and implementation
10. Strengthening the capacities of local governance institutions

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The European Union in Sri Lanka
Implementing Organisations
European Union Support to District Development Programme (EU-SDDP)
Intervention Areas

1. Income generation
2. Improving sustainable livelihoods
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Map of interventions
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The EU is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 European countries that together cover much of the continent.

The EU was created in the aftermath of the Second World War. The first steps were to foster economic cooperation: the idea being that countries that trade with one another become economically interdependent and so more likely to avoid conflict. The result was the European Economic Community (EEC), created in 1958, and initially increasing economic cooperation between six countries: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Since then, a huge single market has been created and continues to develop towards its full potential. What began as a purely economic union has evolved into an organisation spanning policy areas, from development aid to environment. A name change from the EEC to the European Union (EU) in 1993 reflected this. The EU is based on the rule of law: everything that it does is founded on treaties, voluntarily and democratically agreed by all Member States. These binding agreements set out the EU’s goals in its many areas of activity.

The European Union and its Members States remain the largest donors of official development assistance (ODA) in the world. Together, in 2014, they provided more than a half of all development aid given across the world. Development policy which forms an integral part of the EU’s external policies focuses mainly on poverty reduction and eradication. The EU thus seeks to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to promote democracy, rule of law, good governance and human rights. The EU's support is channelled through a variety of actors ranging from EU Members States to beneficiary countries, international organisations, national and international NGOs and private companies. The 140 EU Delegations across the globe play a key role; not only have they supported the implementation of EU’s development programmes and policies but also help fostering the image of the EU around the world.
The story of Sri Lanka’s growth and development over the last few years has been truly remarkable. However, recovering from a devastating war has left many pockets of vulnerability across the country. Partnering with the Government of Sri Lanka, the European Union’s largest development initiative the ‘EU SDDP’ aims at addressing these needs through a variety of initiatives. Development policy remains a fundamental part of the Union’s external action. It is a policy that is for the people and is laced with equal amounts of solidarity, partnership and most importantly friendship. Reflecting the same sense of solidarity, a recent survey shows that 83% of Europeans from 28 countries thought that it was important to assist people in developing countries. 61% believed that aid should be increased while 70% of Europeans considered that helping developing countries benefits them too. These numbers highlight how important development cooperation is for the EU as a policy and as a people’s initiative. And indeed, the European Union is, together with its Member States, the world’s largest donor, providing more than half of all development aid. The EU has also put development at the core of its agenda in 2015 - this year has been declared as European Year for Development. The motto of this European Year embodies this well: “Our world, our dignity, our future”. Each individual has a role to play for a more sustainable and peaceful world.

While we address the socio-economic and environmental dimensions of poverty, development initiatives must also integrate the full respect of human rights, equality, democratic values, and rule of law as well as peace and security. With regard to EU-Sri Lanka development cooperation, the partnership dates long back in time, to the seventies and has since covered a great variety of initiatives. The cooperation has been political, economic and developmental and the EU has supported Sri Lanka through its most difficult moments. Only in the recent years, the EU provided humanitarian and developmental aid to Sri Lanka especially aimed at the areas hit by the 2004 tsunami and the long civil war. Building on previous experiences, the EU-SDDP has sought to unbundle the varied practices of addressing needs across the seven targeted districts in Sri Lanka, in an effort to target sustainable and tangible growth. We have seen through our earlier activities that the extent and nature of needs differ substantially across country and it is for this reason the five UN agencies and IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, with their respective expertise have been chosen to implement the Programme.

I am not only proud of this Programme and of its substantial achievements as you shall see later in this publication but also of its ability to empower the people and institutions. I look forward to following its implementation and sharing our progress in the coming years.

HE Mr David Daly
Ambassador of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives
Cooperation between the EU and Sri Lanka dates back to 1975 when the European Commission concluded a Commercial Cooperation Agreement with the Government of Sri Lanka. This was upgraded to a Cooperation Agreement on Partnership and Development starting 1 April 1995 which encompassed amongst others, respect for human rights and democratic principles, political dialogue, trade and investment, aid and cultural linkages. Under this agreement, relations between the two parties are coordinated by the EU-Sri Lanka Joint Commission. Today, the dialogue between the EU and Sri Lanka covers a broad spectrum of issues: political matters, human rights, trade, development cooperation, fisheries, migration, civil aviation, environmental issues.

Alongside the Government of Sri Lanka, the year 2005 witnessed the EU taking the lead in providing assistance to the less developed and conflict affected areas of the North and East. What initially started as humanitarian assistance in the field of food, shelter, healthcare, psycho-social support and demining has now shaped into long-term development assistance thereby making substantial contributions for the benefit of local communities while at the same time supporting the overall development of the country. Recent development cooperation activities, particularly during the period 2005-2015, saw approximately € 760 million (more than Rs.100 billion) provided to Sri Lanka by the EU. A new allocation of € 210 million has been approved in support to the Multiannual Action Plan covering the period 2014-2020 which will focus on integrated rural development in a number of provinces and districts.

Also, the EU is one of Sri Lanka’s largest trading partners.

A review of EU-Sri Lanka 2014 trade data showed how important Sri Lanka’s trade relations with the EU have become:

- The EU is Sri Lanka’s largest export partner. Sri Lanka exported € 2.52 billion worth of products to the EU, which represented approximately 26% of Sri Lanka’s total exports.

- The EU is Sri Lanka’s fourth largest import partner (India being the largest followed by China and Singapore): Sri Lanka imported € 1.31 billion worth of products from the EU – which accounted for approximately 8% of the country’s total imports.

- In terms of overall trade (imports + exports) the EU is Sri Lanka’s second largest trading partner accounting for € 3.83 billion worth of trade which represented approximately 15% of Sri Lanka’s total trading volume.
IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector. Working with private enterprises in about 100 countries, IFC uses its capital, expertise, and influence to help eliminate extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity.

In Sri Lanka, IFC’s strategy lays emphasis predominantly on inclusive growth via support to farmers, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and labour-intensive industries; and global integration by enhancing growth and competitiveness of priority sectors. IFC priorities include access to finance, infrastructure, tourism, and agribusiness, with a focus on balanced regional growth.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) promotes job-centred and right-based opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work environment. The ILO is the only tripartite U.N. agency with government, employer, and worker representatives. This tripartite structure makes the ILO a unique forum in which the governments and the social partners can freely and openly debate and elaborate labour standards and policies. The ILO advocates for full and productive employment coupled with rights, representation and protection in world of work.
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) creates and shares critical information about food, agriculture and natural resources. And it turns this knowledge into action by providing developing countries and countries in transition with modern and improved agriculture practices including provision for improved livestock, forestry, fisheries and efficient environmental practices. Making sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food is at the heart of FAO’s efforts. FAO in Sri Lanka works closely with the government to implement programmes in areas such as improved agricultural production systems, aquaculture development, nutrition, and climate change adaptation, with an aim to drive forward economic and social progress for all and ensuring the sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources. FAO also supports capacity development of technical officers in Government departments through training, workshops and seminars.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka works with national and local partners and institutions to increase their capacity to plan, implement, monitor and sustain inclusive, socio-economic development. It creates sustainable livelihoods and protects human rights with special attention to the needs of the marginalised including conflict-affected communities, women-headed households, and youth. In addition, UNDP works towards the strengthening of local economies and governance systems to deliver social services in an equitable manner. Further, it supports the national agenda for sustainable development, promoting policies designed to strengthen natural resource management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster-risk reduction.
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Sri Lanka advocates for the realisation, promotion and protection of children’s rights, especially those children who are poor, vulnerable and at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation. UNICEF mobilises political will and material resources to help developing countries like Sri Lanka build their capacity to realise children’s rights by working with a variety of partner organisations.

The United Nations Office for Project Services’ (UNOPS) mission is to serve people in need by expanding the ability of the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects, infrastructure and procurement in a sustainable and efficient manner. Within these three core areas of expertise, UNOPS’ operations in Sri Lanka provide customised social and economic development projects that benefit vulnerable people across the country and build national and local capacities. This includes the management of infrastructure services such as the construction of schools, hospitals, urban sewerage and drainage facilities, harbours and anchorages, as well as integrated waste management services. UNOPS works closely with the Government, including Local Authorities and communities to ensure increased economic, social and environmental sustainability of the projects, with a focus on developing national capacity and ownership.
The EU-SDDP is assisting the country in making a transition from post-conflict assistance to reconstruction and development. This is done by supporting selected districts in North and East and some villages in neighbouring districts.

The actions undertaken under this initiative aim at preparing the impoverished districts reach the developmental targets articulated at national level. The activities are closely linked to three focus areas, namely:

- Support to poverty reduction, provision of basic infrastructure and services for vulnerable populations;
- Support to local economic development; and
- Strengthening of the local governance.

The beneficiaries of this initiative include vulnerable communities in the districts of Batticaloa, Mannar, Vavuniya and Ampara, including some villages in Monaragala, Anuradhapura and Puttalam. Further, the EU-SDDP directly assists the decentralised and devolved government institutions, civil society organisations, producer groups, regional and local businesses, training institutions, chambers of commerce and potential investors.

For the first time in the history of the EU in Sri Lanka, the programme has brought together five United Nations agencies and IFC, a member of the World Bank Group. These partners are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and IFC.

The programme is built on the experience of successful EU-funded programmes like the EU-Ampara Partnership, the EU Assistance to Conflict-Affected People (EU-ACAP), the EU Socio-Economic Measures (EU-SEM), the Aid to Uprooted People housing programmes (AUP) and the EU humanitarian and assistance programmes. The EU-SDDP is unique compared to previous programmes as it places a stronger emphasis on the transfer of responsibility for decision-making and implementation from international bodies to local authorities.

The implementation of the EU-SDDP is through multi annual and annual work plans which are prepared in close consultation with the district authorities.

The three programme components are implemented through ten intervention areas which are presented in the following pages.
FAO and UNDP are working to provide a series of coordinated income generation support activities to vulnerable communities to help them initiate, re-start or expand livelihoods, aimed at benefitting 50,000 people.

The work of the FAO under this area is twofold. First, the activities aim at increasing the income of farmers, livestock keepers and fishers, while helping the beneficiary communities to meet their daily dietary requirements. Second, the FAO is involved in promoting water conservation measures together with pest and fertility management, as well as improving the soil management for sustainable agricultural production.

The work of the UNDP under this intervention area is focused on youth development with the aim to facilitate their access to start up seed capital, business mentoring and internship opportunities. UNDP is also engaged in strengthening the monitoring and coordination mechanisms of local government authorities.

**Highlights of FAO and UNDP interventions:**
- Support to the development of aquaculture: promotion of co-management; provision of fingerlings, equipment and training for fishers;
- Support to the improvement of dairy management practices to increase milk production;
- Promotion of backyard poultry rearing;
- Improvement of irrigation facilities and water management at farm level;
- Provision of training to selected youth on skills to create and implement sound business plans;
- Provision of continuous business counselling and mentoring to youth;
- Provision of the facilitation, follow-up and analytical skills of the economic development officers.

**Expected Beneficiaries of FAO and UNDP interventions:**
- 3000 Fishers; 1200 Poultry and Livestock Keepers; 2800 Farmers; 1100 Youth Entrepreneurs; 200 Economic Development Officers; 14,000 vulnerable people

**Districts**
- Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Mannar, Vavuniya, Puttalam, Ampara, Monaragala
Both FAO and UNDP are working to improve the technical and resource capacities of agriculture and livestock extension services. These efforts are expected to impact the lives of 100,000 small-scale producers.

FAO work in this area aims at improving the management of farming, livestock keeping and fisheries in order to increase production and productivity. FAO is also supporting promising alternative production opportunities for farmers and fisher groups to diversify production and ensure sustainable family income.

The work of the UNDP under this intervention area is focused on supporting Producer Groups involved in key sectors of dairy, food processing, handicrafts and decorative items, commercial agriculture, fisheries, palmyrah and coir-based products to improve production, marketing and local processing activities.

**Highlights of FAO and UNDP interventions:**

- Form and/or strengthen producer groups and cooperatives;
- Provision of inputs for crop production, diversification and reduction of post-harvest losses;
- Support to the introduction of sustainable production systems in farming, livestock and fisheries;
- Promotion of quality seeds and planting materials production and availability to the farmers;
- Provision of assistance to improve extension services and identify new business opportunities;
- Provision of knowledge to partner organisations on quality improvement and development of products and services.

**Expected Beneficiaries of FAO and UNDP interventions:**

8600 Farmers; 2400 Fishers; 3000 Poultry and Livestock Keepers; 10,000 belonging to Producer Groups

**Districts**

Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Mannar, Vavuniya, Puttalam, Ampara, Monaragala
FAO and UNDP are working to ensure greater access to collective economic assets and services, especially for the vulnerable communities. The interventions aim at impacting the lives of 150,000 beneficiaries.

FAO supports Government and farmers communities in the rehabilitation of irrigation systems and improvement of livestock breeding and training centres, fish hatcheries, and agriculture training and research centres. FAO is also working in the capacity building of Farmer organizations (FO).

The work of the UNDP under this intervention area is focused on providing infrastructure units to Producer Organisations (POs) and creating an enabling environment for POs to engage in local economic development.

**Highlights of FAO and UNDP interventions:**
- Support to the rehabilitation and restoration of minor and medium tanks;
- Improvement of irrigation and water management, maintenance of irrigation systems;
- Support to the restoration of ecological features of irrigation tanks;
- Provision of training to Farmer Organisations (FOs) on effective water resource management and better maintenance and utilization of irrigation systems;
- Identification of infrastructure units through district development plans, market demands and community consultation procedures;
- Construction of production processing centres, and storage and provision of transport facilities;
- Construction or rehabilitation of livestock and fisheries development facilities, market places, auction centres and multi-purpose cooperative buildings.

**Expected Beneficiaries of FAO and UNDP interventions:**
80 Farmer Organisations; 11,000 Farmers; 4000 Fishers; 6000 Poultry and Livestock Keepers; 90,000 people

**Districts**
Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Mannar, Vavuniya, Puttalam, Ampara, Monaragala
UNOPS and UNICEF are working to ensure greater access to social infrastructures and services for vulnerable communities. The interventions aim at impacting the lives of 400,000 beneficiaries.

UNOPS’ projects are focused on providing integrated Solid Waste Management (SWM) solutions and storm water, sewerage and waste water drainage systems and include the enhancement of Local Authority (LA) capacities to ensure long-term sustainability of the interventions.

UNICEF’s work area is fourfold: Reducing inequalities of vulnerable schools while improving learning environments; building capacities of health professionals and strengthening the health and nutrition status of communities; improving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities; improving social protection services and justice systems for children.

Highlights of UNOPS and UNICEF interventions:
• Construction of drainage systems in Mannar and Vavuniya towns for flood mitigation with related institutional mechanisms for maintenance;
• Provision of an integrated solid waste collection and processing system for the Batticaloa district and regulatory set up and training for local authority staff;
• Construction of a sewerage system and waste water treatment plant for the Vavuniya General Hospital with capacity improvement for its management;
• Implementation of community awareness to increase participation and ownership of public services in solid waste management and drainage;
• Promotion of inclusive education initiatives through the Child Friendly Approach (CFA);
• Improvement in the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women, children and adolescents;
• Provision of dug wells, tube wells, latrines and other WASH facilities;
• Promotion of water safety and hygiene practices in schools and communities;
• Improvement of access to quality care and social welfare services for children.

Expected Beneficiaries of UNOPS and UNICEF interventions:
417,000 residents in Batticaloa district; 16,000 residents in Mannar urban council area; 167,000 residents in Vavuniya district; 50,000 residents benefited from community based WASH interventions; 22,000 children benefited from improved learning environments; 5,500 mothers mobilized with improved knowledge on nutrition; 1,400 vulnerable children received social care and protection

Districts
Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Mannar, Vavuniya, Puttalam, Ampara, Monaragala
FAO and UNDP are jointly working to improve the technical and resource capacities of Producer Organisations (POs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) targeting 20,000 beneficiaries.

The work of the FAO under this intervention area aims at building the capacity of the producer groups and CBOs to upgrade and improve their productive and marketing capacities and increase levels of production and income. Partner organisations are strengthened to facilitate their support to the productive activities of target groups. FAO is therefore supporting the transition from post-conflict emergency to the present context, where farming families are creating sustainable economic production systems that are market-oriented.

The work of the UNDP under this intervention area is focused on supporting formalised local POs to develop their capacities by emphasising on policy and management practices required for better business operations.

**Highlights of FAO and UNDP interventions:**

- Provision of specialised training to POs, CBOs and partner organisations on upgrading and improving their productive and marketing capacities;
- Improvement of resources and technical equipment to revitalise research and agricultural extension services and to ensure continuous training facilities for the farmers;
- Introduction of innovative business models to support production increases in POs;
- Assistance in mapping out business risk factors and establish marketing networks for POs.

**Expected Beneficiaries of FAO and UNDP interventions:**

202 Producer Organisations with 15,000 members; 10 Partner Organisations; 478 Government Extension Officers; 5000 people engaged in agriculture, livestock and fisheries; 15,000 people belonging to varied POs

**Districts**

Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Mannar, Vavuniya, Puttalam, Ampara, Monaragala
Under this intervention area, IFC’s work focuses on promoting access to finance, business skills, and supply chain development across the four districts. These interventions will support economic growth and entrepreneurship in these regions.

**Highlights of IFC’s interventions:**

- Strengthening access to finance and financial products, including insurance;
- Training of new and existing entrepreneurs, MSMEs, farmers and fishermen, with proprietary IFC training programmes adapted and translated to local languages to cater to the business needs of the participants;
- Facilitating the development of selected supply chains across key economic sectors to help small businesses benefit from additional access to knowledge, technology, skills and markets;
- Developing post-conflict districts as tourism destinations through destination audits and needs-assessments.

**Expected beneficiaries of IFC interventions:**

Recipients of 15,000 new loans, including 7,500 new loans to women; 1,500 MSMEs integrated into supply chains; 3,500 farmers reached

**Districts**

Batticaloa, Mannar, Vavuniya, Ampara
Under this intervention area, IFC’s work focuses on engaging with Government entities on business entry and business operational reforms, with further engagement on sector-specific investment climate opportunities to help key economic segments.

**Highlights of IFC interventions:**
- Streamlining of regulatory requirements for business entry and sector-specific regulations
- Introducing stakeholder outreach programmes to facilitate dialogue on issues affecting key economic sectors

**Expected beneficiaries of IFC interventions:**
1,400 MSMEs reached; 200 new and existing entrepreneurs trained

**Districts**
Batticaloa, Mannar, Vavuniya, Ampara
ILO is working to enable young men and women to have greater access to relevant skills and quality training, labour market information, career guidance and employment services.

The work of ILO in this area is focused on strengthening the governance, management and operational capacity of registered training providers.

**Highlights of ILO interventions:**

- Support to curriculum development and implementation, particularly for high-growth economic sectors;
- Procurement of equipment for registered vocational training centers to enhance flexibility, effectiveness and efficiency;
- Strengthening of district-based systems for recognition of prior learning leading to National Vocational Qualification (NVQ);
- Conducting Training of Trainers (ToT) for entry level training and technical skills updating;
- Establishment of district level employment services;
- Facilitation of job placement in priority occupations and industries.

**Expected Beneficiaries of ILO interventions:**

2800 young men; 2000 young women

**Districts**

Batticaloa, Mannar, Vavuniya, Ampara
The work of the UNDP under this intervention area is focused on providing District and Divisional Secretariats and Local Government Offices the technical and institutional assistance to identify, coordinate and further develop the District Development plans (DDPs), while supporting local Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and training its youth leaders.

Highlights of UNDP interventions:
- Introduction of tools for two-way communication/consultation process which include bottom-up planning, prioritising, strategic visioning, budgeting and inclusion of environmental management policies in planning;
- Support to training on result-based planning, monitoring and evaluation for government officers;
- Provision of Information Communication Technology equipment to District Secretariat officers and line departments to enhance planning, evaluation and reporting;
- Training of youth in selected CBOs to effectively liaise with local authorities to better implement development projects in their communities.

Expected Beneficiaries of UNDP interventions:
7 District Secretariat offices, their divisional secretariat offices and line departments;
Over 800 CBOs

Districts
Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Mannar, Vavuniya, Puttalam, Ampara, Monaragala
The work of the UNDP under this intervention area is twofold. First, it promotes activities that aim at assessing and developing the capabilities of Provincial Councils and District Administrations in the post-conflict regions. Second, it supports the development and improvement of the Citizens’ Charter system for efficient service delivery to the public at local level.

**Highlights of UNDP interventions:**
- Support to planning, budgeting and accounting processes within the Provincial Councils and Local Authorities;
- Provision of equipment and training in specific areas of property evaluation, drafting of by-laws, improvement of revenue base;
- Development of software to automate regulatory services provided at districts and divisional levels;
- Streamlining of services and introduction of efficient, effective and transparent systems at districts and divisional levels;
- Establishment of District Information Centers.

**Expected Beneficiaries of UNDP interventions:**
2 Provincial Councils; 7 Local Authorities

**Location:**
Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Mannar, Vavuniya, Puttalam, Ampara, Monaragala
KEY: INTERVENTION AREAS

1. Income generation
2. Improving sustainable livelihoods
3. Improving productive infrastructure
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KEY: IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATIONS

- UNDP
- FAO
- UNOPS
- UNICEF
- ILO
- IFC

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MAP OF INTERVENTIONS - EASTERN DISTRICTS

KEY: INTERVENTION AREAS

1. Income generation
2. Improving sustainable livelihoods
3. Improving productive infrastructure
4. Providing access to quality social services
5. Strengthening capacity of local producer organisations
6. Support to entrepreneurship and expansion of existing businesses
7. Improving the business environment
8. Improving access to quality vocational training
9. Improving capacity in development planning and implementation
10. Strengthening the capacities of local governance institutions

KEY: IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATIONS

UNDPI
FAO ●
UNOPS ◆
UNICEF ○
ILO ★
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**Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives**

(+94-11) 26 74 413/4 Fax: (+94-11) 26 65 983

E-mail: delegation-sri-lanka@eeas.europa.eu


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<th>UNICEF</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tel: 0112 580691</td>
<td>Fax: 0112 581116</td>
<td><a href="mailto:registry.lk@undp.org">registry.lk@undp.org</a></td>
<td>Tel: +94-11-2580798, +94-11-2588537</td>
<td>Tel: +94 11 2506096</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.lk.undp.org">www.lk.undp.org</a></td>
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