

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Foundation For
Innovative Social
Development.



We envision a future where empowered communities enjoy rights,
justice and equity in a dynamic Sri Lanka.

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STATEMENT FROM GENERAL SECRETARY

FISD was established in June 2011, where it undertook the task of completing a program cycle that FORUT began in 2009. Being one of the organizations established during the localization process of FORUT, FISD today stands proudly as a leading national civil society organization working directly with the grassroots all the way through to the districts, national and international level, testing innovative models for social change. Looking back at the past decade, it is a pleasure to note that the FISD has grown into a knowledge hub (and action node) with viable models for social change, tested at the grass root level, and used as evidence for advocacy for policy change. These models are shared with national as well as international civil society organizations and networks.

2022 was a year to look forward to with some breathing space for all of us after COVID-19. Unfortunately, the economic crisis barred us all from enjoying that awaited space. However, the unstinted efforts of all stakeholders have given FISD the opportunity to harvest its planned results.

FISD acknowledges the invaluable contributions for its success made especially by the communities, FORUT, all other donors, local partners, stakeholders, FISD board members and staff— both past and present.

Champa Gunasekera Chairperson/ General Secretary FISD



WHO WE ARE

The Foundation for Innovative Social Development (FISD) is an NGO for qualitative social development in Sri Lanka, working towards social development through a cohesive holistic approach on the protection and promotion of child rights, enhancing the status of women and girls, and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, and creating of alcohol and drugs free lifestyle.

Our core values are equity, innovation (right based, evidence-based), and justice; and these have helped to steer us over the past 10 years, helping us achieve our goal of empowering marginalized and victimized people and communities while encouraging participation required for sustainable change.

WHAT WE DO BEST

Social innovation as a concept is rapidly gaining popularity around the world, and civil society organizations have taken on the role of initiators for social innovation within local communities. This is where we, at FISD, stand: we want to turn the 'concept' into 'action', and the 'action' into tangible results in Sri Lanka. Our programs address prevalent and/or emerging social issues that create negative impacts for local communities, with a long-term goal of population-level adaptations and disruption of policy niches, be it social challenges experienced by marginalized and disadvantaged groups or society at large.

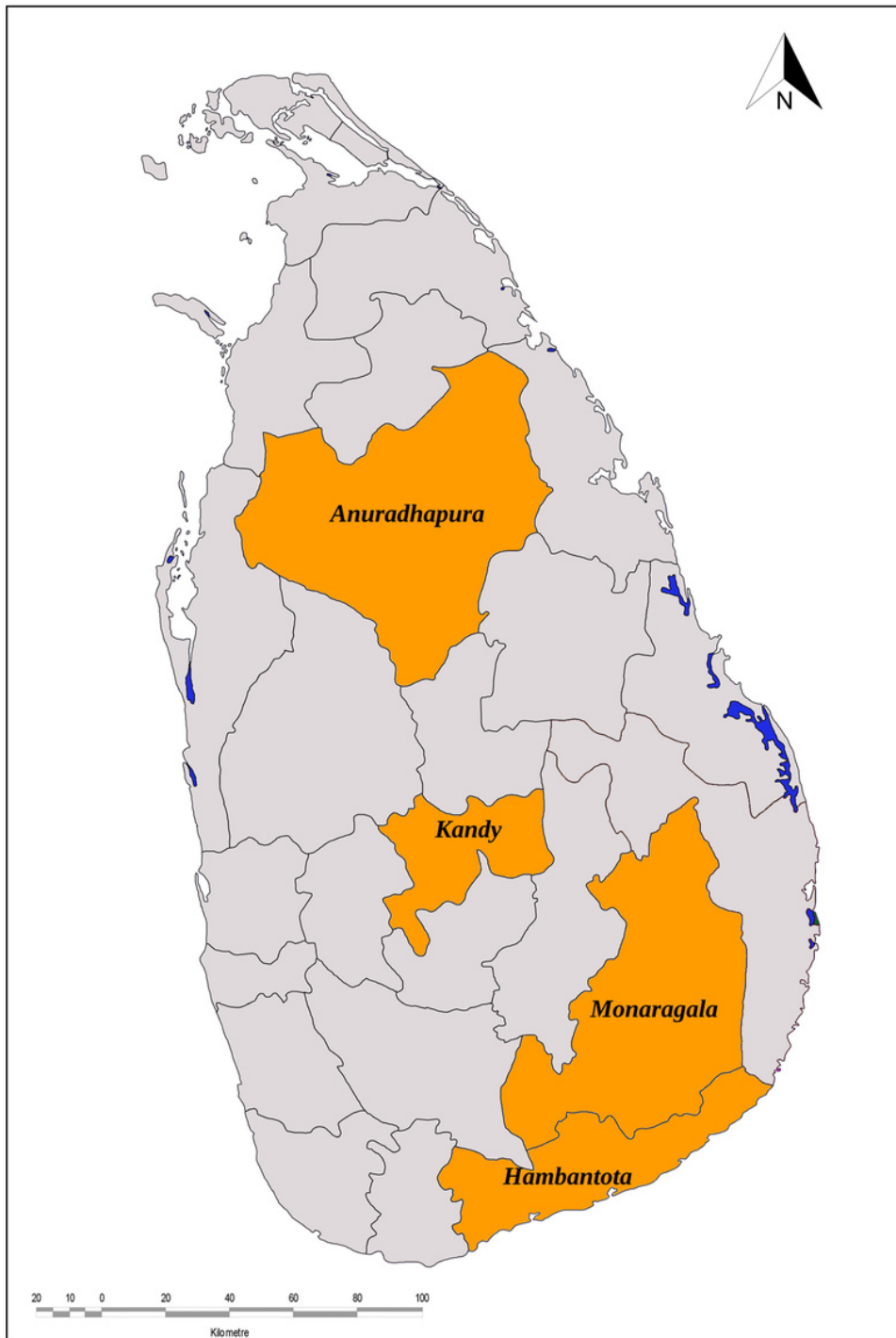
We understand that achieving this is not a task that can be done by any one person or a single organization. This is why our efforts are veered towards collaborative models that engage and educate in the most feasible way possible.

By encouraging collaborative action among all of our stakeholders we have realized the roles each of us plays in ensuring our collective social well-being. We have worked to build partnerships across sectors in order to create impactful, sustainable solutions for the social problems created through harmful social norms and related practices.

By conceptualizing and building models that challenge social norms while centering marginalized individuals and communities, we have ensured positive outcomes for the people and communities we work with. This is what we believe in.



WHERE WE WORK



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - GENDER & DEVELOPMENT

Gender inequality and injustice leads to women's and girls' vulnerability, and it hinders their development. Women can only reach their fullest potential if they are allowed to lead their lives and provided with the opportunities and space for a dignified life.

Self-care Plan for Women - A major part of this project is to empower women to make their own choices. Self-development through Self-care for women was introduced as a fundamental transformation for them to realize their 'Power-within'. By the end of 2022, 800 Women had undergone training on 'Self-care' and nearly 70 of them have submitted their self-care plans to FISD for further review.

Launch of Self-care for Men, Gender Sensitization of Male Service Providers - At the divisional level of Anuradhapura, Hambantota and Monaragala, male-dominated professional settings, such as Civil Security Force in Anuradhapura, Community Police in Monaragala, male officers at the Divisional level government offices and male-leaders of Non-Governmental and Community-based initiatives were engaged through 4 Gender Sensitization training programs and 3 Self-care for men training programs. Through these training programs, 159 members from the divisional and district level were registered to join the 'Be the Change' campaign in 2022.



Empowerment of Youth through Journal-based discussions on 'Inner Work' - 'Empowerment Journal' for girls and boys was introduced in 2022 in all project locations. The purpose of this journal was to facilitate a more informative, reflective, and engaging practices of inner work for youth in different areas of their lives through journaling activities that directly opens avenue for them to further engage in day-to-day activities. For instance, 'Fun kitchen initiative was a popular activity amongst both girls and boys with nearly 400 girls and boys undergoing this training program.

16 Days of Activism 2022 - The theme for the 16 Days of Activism against SGBV 2022 was based on 'Self-care' as a resilience building and healing method against SGBV. 10 women representatives who were trained within the self-care program shared their journey with an audience of nearly 400 who had gathered from different communities and organizations to engage in the 16 Days of Activism campaign. Four such programs were conducted in Anuradhapura, Monaragala, Kandy and Hambantota districts. Furthermore, the public 'White Ribbon Campaign' where men were encouraged to be active allies in prevention of SGBV was also successfully carried out by FISD.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - GENDER & DEVELOPMENT

Violence against women and girls violates their right to [cg1] a dignified life. With Zero tolerance and continuous preventive and protective measures in place, which address the root and structural causes, we believe VAW can be combatted from societies.

Women Collective (WC) and Women Alert Group (WAG) led Awareness campaigns - WCs and WAGs conducted nearly 20 awareness campaigns on 'Happy Families' during national celebrations such as New Year and Vesak festivals. These awareness programs have led to dialogues within families whereby gender stereotypes nurtured within household and impact in gender discrimination in the wider world were discussed as negative social norms that need to be done away with. The WCs led the way in 'Positive Fatherhood' programs, formation of Child and Youth Clubs and 'Fun Kitchen' programs to disseminate these messages further.

Capacity Building for Women Alert Groups – Training programs were conducted on case management when reporting SGBV cases by focusing on empathy and active listening, Case referral systems and using the Domestic Violence act. 100% of WAG members are now equipped to analytically think on their own and reflect on negative social norms to recognize the root causes of violence against women. Nearly 26 psychosocial and healthcare training programs were conducted for WAG and WC members during their Self-development through self-care journey.

Establishing a Service Coordination System - 10 meetings were conducted in each community FSD works in, where community members were able to present their issues directly to the service providers in Legal Aid, Psychosocial support, and Women Desk at the police. Nearly 20 service providers were able to link with these communities and establish a seamless and effective systems to respond to cases reported by these communities, especially those related to SGBV.

When people have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives, the quality of life will improve. Upholding human rights enable people to live with dignity.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION & PROMOTION

Children need the motivation and the opportunity to explore, observe, take part in and recreate experiences, enhance skills, knowledge in an environment where equality and justice prevail. FISD provides the motivation and creates the environment.

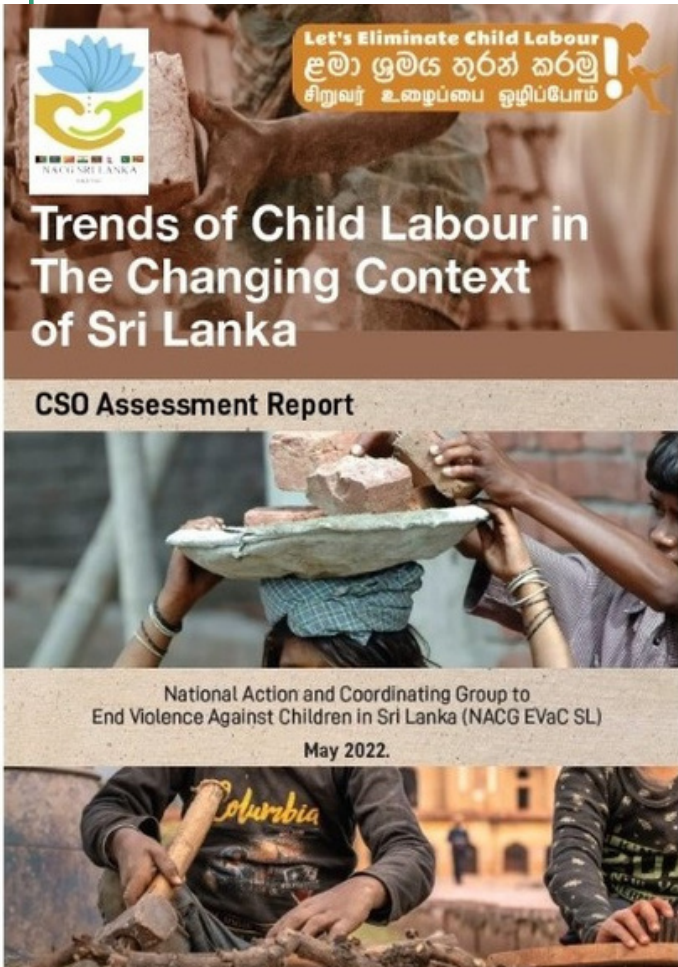
Empowering Children

The Child Rights Protection & Promotion (CRPP) program was designed to change 3 components: 1. Conditions and Opportunities, 2. Attitudes and 3. Capabilities. Hence during the year 2022 CRPP program continued the empowerment process of children's Clubs in terms of strengthening their resilience and confidence, individually and collectively, to take a firm stand to stop violence against children. The activities were based on the recommendations provided by children during 2021, on the "My Dream Family", an activity launched to obtain children's opinion for a violence free environment where family relationships are strengthened.

Under the banner of "My loving happy family", children took steps to improve their communication with family members, show compassion and understand each other's feelings and thoughts, support each other, share responsibilities and understand contributions that lead to violent situations in the family and identify the steps that can be taken to avoid those situations.

Launch of the Blue Umbrella Day (BUD) Campaign - BUD campaign is a global awareness campaign on the abuse of boy child. Through children's clubs, children and young people together FISD launched the BUD campaign, supported by Family for Every Child Network, to spread knowledge to the community on caring for boys to protect them from abuse. FISD is one of the 22 members of the global family for every child alliance taking part in the campaign. The FISD campaign aims to create social readiness to prevent and respond to sexual abuse against boys.

Girls and boys need to be skilled, encouraged and challenged to equally take charge of their lives. FISD engage youth to transform their values, beliefs and attitudes towards a just society.



**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
- CHILD RIGHTS
PROTECTION &
PROMOTION**

In the year 2022, the district and national civil society networks advocated together to end corporal punishment, end child labour and be vigilant about newly emerging child rights violations and exploitation. National Action Coordinating Group to end Violence against Children in Sri Lanka (NACG EVAC SL) is the Civil Society arm of South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). In conjunction with the 5th Global Conference on Elimination of Child Labor submitted a report "The Trends of Child Labor in the Changing Context of Sri Lanka's CSO Assessment Report' with 18 actual child labour cases. Together with the South Asian Action Coordination Group (SACG), NACG EVAC SL provided support for the We Speak: Children and Young People's Forum on Ending Child Labor in South Asia consultation and delivered the children's perspectives to the SAIEVAC for incorporation in regional plans. In collaboration with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), NACG EVAC made an oral statement at the 51st session of the Human Rights Council (September/October 2022) on the topic of child labor in the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery. NACG contributed to regional action plans aimed at ending child labor. NACG Collaborate with SAIEVAC and the government to encourage the inclusion of regional action plans into national ones.

Strengthening Community Platforms.
FISD facilitated conditions and opportunities for children in the village to strengthen children's resilience and confidence individually and collectively by empowering children to take a firm stand to stop violence against children, to take action to ensure child safety at the village level and provide space for children's civic activism. Continuing the process of empowering child friendly committees at the village level to take the lead in mobilizing the adults to create a favourable environment in the village, resulted in creating a favourable environment for children and young people in the village to engage in civic activity. Campaigns conducted by the children's clubs were fully supported by the CFCs in terms of securing funds and other resources including reaching out to government officials for participation during the crisis.

CFCs engaged in supporting children's clubs to execute activities under the banner "My loving happy family" which aimed at strengthening family relationships. They also further took steps to encourage other adults and children's caregivers interested in participating in these activities.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - ALCOHOL, DRUGS & DEVELOPMENT

In 2022, the focus of the Alcohol and Drugs Prevention Program was to challenge the positive expectancies people have and change the positive norms of the society on alcohol and drugs.

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Women as change agents - As major victims of alcohol related violence, women have a greater capacity in alcohol and drugs prevention. FISD works with women in challenging the normalization and questioning other women to changing positive expectancies of alcohol consumption. For that, FISD conducted workshops to improve women's skills through such activities as drama and created a team to challenge the positive expectancies in women with the support of the popular actress 'Madini Malwattage'. These workshops have been successfully conducted with participation of nearly 60 women per village in 12 villages of Anuradhapura, Monaragala, Hambantota and Kandy districts. Women participants created their own drama scripts, acted and continued the drama series in women clubs to challenge the positive expectancies of alcohol consumption in women.

Children leading Change - Children are vulnerable and therefore susceptible in learning positive expectancies and norms of alcohol and drugs. Children in the FISD child clubs were equipped with a simple and attractive workbook that challenged positive expectations of alcohol in society through simple activities and stories, with the guidance of the Community Local Action groups of the villages. This has helped to improve the skills of questioning the norms that support alcohol consumption. This program has been successfully completed by 30 children per village in 12 villages. Children in the child clubs have taken the lead in creating skill development centers using the money the men in the villages would have used for alcohol and thus reduce the money that they spent on alcohol and cigarettes. This skill development center is known as a place where children can read books and play games. As a result, the consumption of alcohol and drugs were reduced, and children continue to actively question and change the expectancies that support alcohol and drugs in these villages.

A society free of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use as well as related problems is enabled through the active participation, mobilization and empowerment of the actors of the civil society, Non-Governmental Sector, Government sector and Business sector.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - ALCOHOL, DRUGS & DEVELOPMENT

Use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are leading causes for ill health, injuries and early deaths of people, especially young persons. The consequences of the use are closely linked to socio-economic development issues. FISD develops and provides scientific and holistic solutions to reduce harm due to alcohol, tobacco and the drug use.

District Support in Prevention - Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in Anuradhapura, Monaragala and Hambantota districts supported in creating their own Training of Trainees (TOT). With the support of 2 representatives per one NGO involved in the prevention of alcohol and drugs based on their organizational thematic areas. These TOT participant teams conducted several campaigns in the districts such as school programs, leaflet campaigns and awareness programs. 20 members of several organizations have been trained as TOTs per district.

With the support of Divisional Secretariats of 3 districts, alcohol and Drugs Preventions programs were conducted in schools. 'School Committees' and 'Action Groups' have been created with 20 members per school, including 2 teachers taking the lead, in 17 schools of Madagama Divisional Secretariat and 18 schools in Wallawaya Divisional Secretariat in Monaragala district. The children in committees made the action plans for a month and the committees were directly responsible in reporting the progress to the district officer who is designated to monitor the process. This program targeted active action teams in schools who were keen on alcohol and drug prevention and successfully reached more than 20,000 children in a district.

'District Youth Teams' conducted campaigns from time to time in prevention of alcohol and drugs. Youth team in Monaragala district of FISD organized a street drama and launched it with the audience of 200, while the Youth team in Anuradhapura successfully conducted a 'Three-wheel Campaign' on safe and comfortable travel without alcohol and drugs. Youth teams in Hambantota conducted a 'Tuition Class Campaign' in the district reaching out to 200 youth on challenging the positive expectancies and norms of alcohol and drugs.

Creating conducive environment for male engagement -
The COVID-19 pandemic encouraged men to spend most of their time with their families. During this period FISD ADD program introduced the 'Home Gardening Program' which was successful in highlighting the happiness of spending time with family members. Furthermore, 'Home Gathering Program', especially in the economic crisis in 2022 re-created the gathering of more families into this process. 60 families participated in this program per village in 12 villages of Anuradhapura, Monaragala, and Hambantota districts. With the successful implementation of this program, men have reduced the consumption of alcohol and drugs. On the other hand, this has massively increased the time that men spent with the families by prioritizing the happiness of their families.

Youth in action - Youth has a great influence in challenging the norms and creating trends. Alcohol and Drugs companies mostly targets the youth by spreading myths and misinformation on alcohol. Youth tend to believe in the myth that alcohol creates happiness while engaging in sports. Challenging those norms, youth teams in FISD have conducted recreational activities that targeted youth. Youth supported FISD in conducting sports activities such as volleyball and cricket. The campaigns in prevention challenged and broke the bond between alcohol consumption and sports in these villages. More than 200 youth participated in this program per village.

GLOBAL & REGIONAL NETWORKS

FISD as a national NGO is committed to contribute to the strengthening and working in solidarity with the Civil Society Sector Local and Globally.

Our mission is further solidified by our role as the acting secretariat for the Gender and Development Network (GADNet), and many of our initiatives are conducted through this network. We also owe a special acknowledgement to our partners in the many initiatives we carried out with who have helped us in our mission, including Men Engage Alliance (National and Regional), Family For Every Child (Regional and Global), Forum Against GBV, NACG and SLAPA/APAPA.

Following are the highlights of our various partnerships:

MenEngage Alliance - a global network which creates space for members to come together in solidarity with those most targeted by gender injustices and patriarchal systems to collectively dismantle structural barriers to women's rights and gender equality.

FISD officially took over as the national secretariat for Men Engage Alliance Sri Lanka in 2016 and have come a long way in our commitment for transforming patriarchal masculinities for gender justice since then. In 2020 FISD became the regional secretariat for MenEngage South Asia and contributed towards engaging 5 member countries towards regional advocacy on gender justice.

Forum against Gender Based Violence in Sri Lanka - established in 2005, the National Forum against Gender Based Violence (also known as Forum Against GBV) Sri Lanka came into existence to 'facilitate greater coordination, sharing of information/resources and to strengthen multi sectoral responses to GBV during the aftermath of the Tsunami. FISD, being a part of the National Forum, has been using a bottom-up and top-bottom approach to strengthening empowerment, prevention and response against SGBV and a sustainable community empowerment model.

Family For Every Child - Family for Every Child, a global alliance of national civil society organizations, has supported hundreds of thousands of children and their families across the globe. Currently FISD is a Gen Member/Member of the Domestic Violence working group.



Commonwealth 8.7 network is a group of Civil Society networks with a membership of over 60 organizations across the world working towards eradicating contemporary forms of slavery and human trafficking. Currently FISD is a Gen Member and a Member of Communication & capacity building working group.

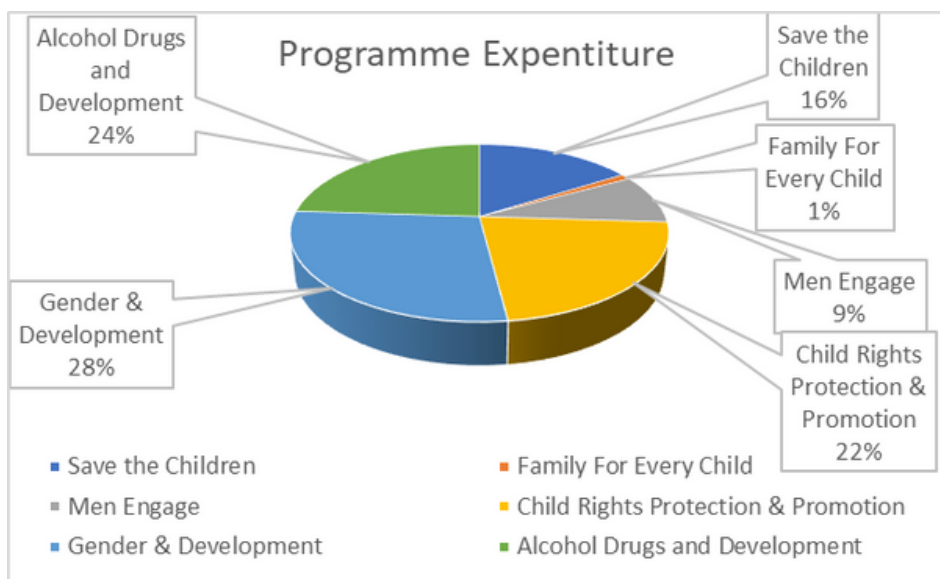
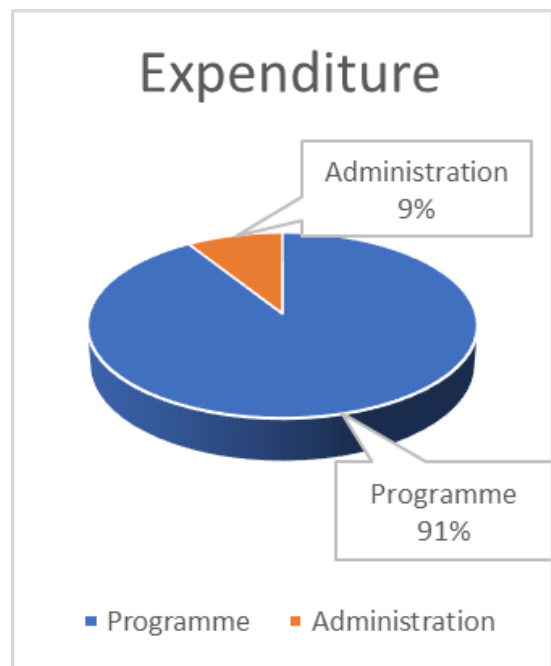
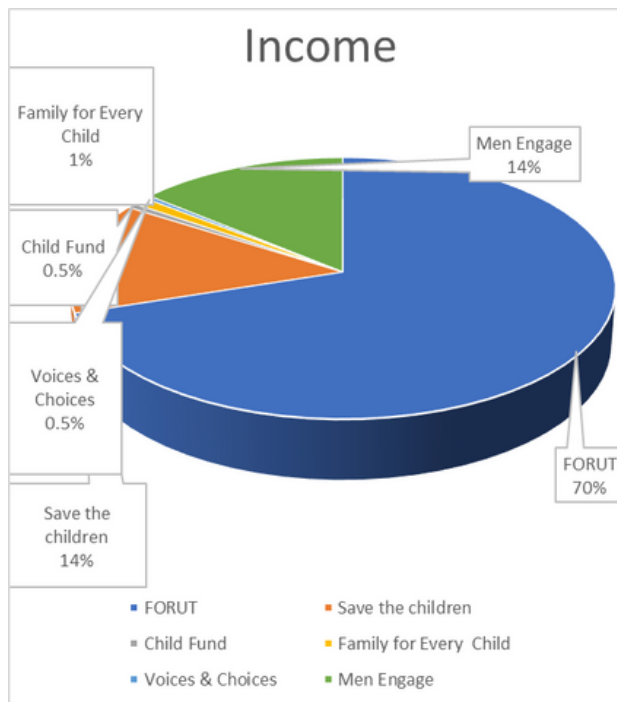
The National Action and Coordination Group (NACG) is an established network with presence in South Asia, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, with an aim to address and stop violence against women and children. It is the civil society arm of South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC). In 2014, FISD became the NACG Chair for the first time. We reprised the role in 2018 and again in 2020.

Girls not Brides - A Global partnership of over 1500 Civil Society organizations working to end child marriage. FISD is a General Member.

SLAPA/APAPA - The Sri Lanka Alcohol Policy Alliance (SLAPA) is an alliance of civil society organizations set up for the purpose of facilitating meaningful dialogue among civil society actors as well as between civil society actors and relevant policymakers. Its key focus is to push for effective policy formulation and implementation to reduce the supply and demand for alcohol and address pertinent problems related to alcohol use.

FISD, through our ADD program, is a founder-member of the Sri Lanka Alcohol Policy Alliance (SLAPA) and the joint organizer of it since 2015. The Sri Lanka Alcohol Policy Alliance (SLAPA) is permanently established and advocates for the development, passing and/or implementation of effective alcohol policies at both the national and district levels.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



WHAT'S NEXT FOR US IN THE NEW YEAR



With equal access to accurate evidence and information for women, children and young people at individual, family, community and societal level, FISD aims to create access and control of knowledge and information to build resilience through agency in ending sexual and gender-based violence, have protection from all forms of discrimination, abuse for children, live a healthier life without any harmful effects from alcohol, tobacco and drugs and improved mental health and wellbeing.

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