



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**Foundation for Innovative Social Development (FISD)**

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# Acronyms

FISD: Foundation for Innovative Social Development

CSO: Civil Society Organization

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

INGO: International Non-Governmental Organization

CBO: Community-Based Organization

SGBV: Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

GBV: Gender-Based Violence

NATA: National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol

SLAPA: Sri Lanka Alcohol Policy Alliance

ADIC: Alcohol & Drugs Information Centre

CFC: Child-Friendly Committee

NACG: National Action Coordinating Group

EVAC: End Violence Against Children

BUD: Blue Umbrella Day

NCC: National Child Council

SRHR: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund

# Message from the Chairperson

*Dr. Champa Gunasekera*



With lots of inspiration and excitement, 2023 has been a unique year for FSD. Entering the final year of our five-year strategic plan, it was time to take stock of our accomplishments and formulate a new five-year strategic direction. I am pleased that FSD could complete its new strategic orientations for the next five years after a very participatory process involving all staff members and pertinent stakeholders. I am proud of the accomplishments over the past five years as well.

In addition to finishing numerous additional short-term initiatives to everyone's satisfaction, FSD effectively completed a five-year program cycle that was involved under the Results Framework with FORUT Norway. It is in no way simple to finish a project to everyone's satisfaction. We are grateful to all the employees and other stakeholders for their commitment, diligence, and unwavering efforts in achieving the goals and improving the lives of the communities we serve. Planning the upcoming five-year results framework, which will incorporate mental health as a new theme to deal with, was also fascinating.

It was great to observe that new Donors were keeping tabs on our efforts and reaching out to form partnerships, indicating that our excellent operational performance is being recognized. Additionally, we have been successful in acquiring new projects and persuading additional Donors. We'll keep looking for new ways to get projects, overcome obstacles, and carry out our goal for the betterment of people's lives in Sri Lanka.

I am confident that 2024 will present a plethora of opportunities for us to continue our mission with this amazing team at FSD.

# Message from the Acting General Secretary cum Program Director

*Samitha Sugathimala*



As we reflect on the past year, it brings me immense pride and gratitude to share the significant milestones and achievements of our organization. Our mission to advance gender equality, protect and promote children's rights, and address the impacts of alcohol and drugs on development has driven us to forge stronger partnerships and make meaningful strides toward a more just and equitable society.

This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration and collective effort. One of the most noteworthy highlights has been our enhanced partnerships with various CSOs. These partnerships have not only broadened our reach but also enriched our approach, allowing us to address complex issues with a multifaceted strategy. By working hand in hand with these organizations, we have been able to amplify our impact and ensure that our initiatives are both inclusive and sustainable.

Our commitment to strengthening and capacitating civil society for accountable development practice has been unwavering. We have dedicated significant resources to building the capabilities of our partners, ensuring that they are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to implement effective programs and advocate for change. This commitment has fostered a robust network of empowered organizations that are well-positioned to drive progress in their communities.

In the realm of gender and development, we have launched several groundbreaking projects aimed at dismantling systemic barriers and promoting gender equality. Through educational programs, advocacy, and community engagement, we have empowered women and girls to assert their rights and achieve their full potential.

Our work in child rights protection and promotion has seen remarkable progress. From grassroots campaigns to policy advocacy, we have tirelessly worked to safeguard children's rights and create environments where they can thrive. Our initiatives have focused on education, well-being, and safety, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow in a nurturing and supportive setting.

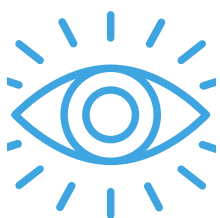
Addressing the challenges posed by alcohol and drugs in development has been another critical area of our focus. We have implemented comprehensive prevention programs that not only assist individuals and families struggling but also educate communities about the risks and support systems available. These efforts have contributed to healthier, more resilient communities.

As we move forward, our commitment remains strong. We are committed to continuing our work with the same passion and dedication, driven by the belief that together, we can create a better future for all. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our donors, partners, and volunteers whose unwavering support makes our mission possible. Your trust and collaboration are the cornerstones of our success.

## Who We Are

FISD was established in 2011, which is a national NGO in Sri Lanka. FISD works towards qualitative and sustainable social development through a cohesive holistic approach to the protection and promotion of child rights, enhancing the status of women and girls, preventing SGBV, and creating an alcohol and drug-free lifestyle in Sri Lanka.

FISD works to develop theoretical and practical models that address the social challenges that particularly impact the development of children and women, as well as the harms caused by using alcohol, tobacco, and drugs on individuals and communities. FISD seeks to improve the lives of primary stakeholders, partners, and the public using evidence-based knowledge, community participation, and empowerment, to promote justice and peace. Furthermore, we believe in empowering children along with their families and communities, using a rights-based approach. We provide capacity building for stakeholders so that these models can be replicated by communities, CBOs, NGOs, Government organizations, and private sector organizations. The ethical principles of FISD reflect the respect for fundamental human rights through its vision, mission, and values underlining its operations, and its general principles of management.



### **Vision**

Empowered communities enjoy rights, justice, and equity in a dynamic Sri Lanka



### **Mission**

To provide innovative solutions for enhancing the capacity of community, government, and private stakeholders to work toward justice for all, by ensuring equal rights and equitable opportunities are made available, leading to the creation of empowered communities and a dynamic civil society.

## What We Do Best

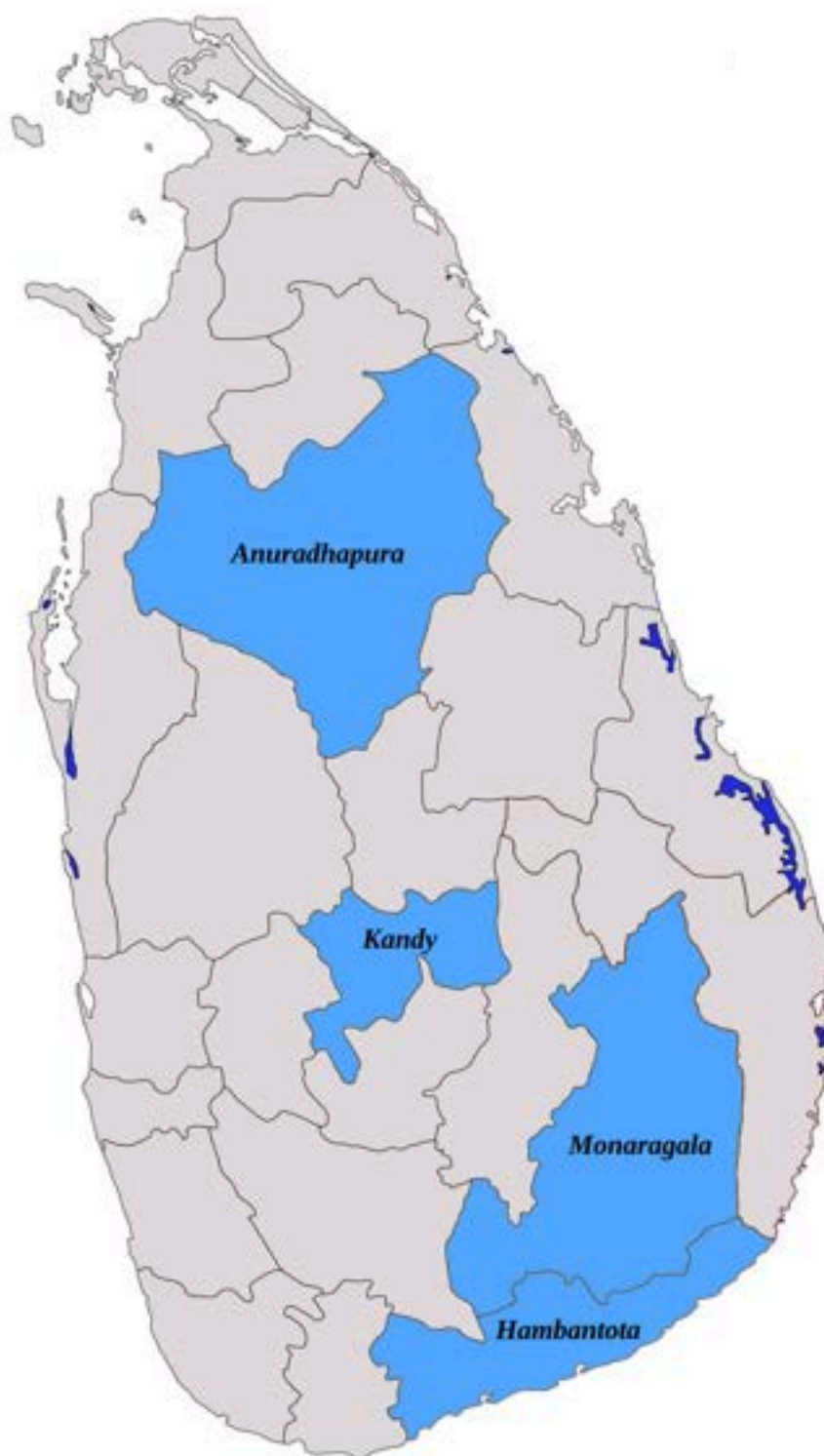
At FISS, we aim to transform this 'concept' into 'action' and convert 'action' into tangible and intangible results in Sri Lanka. Our programs tackle prevalent and emerging social issues that negatively impact local communities, with a long-term goal of fostering population-level adaptations and disrupting entrenched policy niches.

FISS aims to provide innovative solutions that enhance the capacity of community, government, and private stakeholders to work towards justice for all, ensuring equal rights and equitable opportunities, thereby creating empowered communities and a dynamic civil society. FISS's strategic objectives focus on ensuring women and girls enjoy the right to be free from SGBV, protecting children from all forms of violence, freeing communities from the harmful effects of alcohol and drugs, and providing individuals with non-stigmatized access to mental health and well-being services. These objectives would be achieved by FISS through the strategies of building agency (both individual and collective) to mobilize women, children, and youth to challenge harmful social norms and unequal power relations and transform social norms to manifest appropriate policies, laws, and practices that are effectively implemented.

FISS enhances community capacity through educational initiatives, skill-building, and support to civil society networks, empowering local communities to advocate for their rights and well-being. By promoting social justice through the equitable distribution of resources and opportunities and addressing systemic inequalities, FISS complements increasing civil society's capacity to organize around issues of democracy, human rights, rule of law, gender equality, and anti-corruption.

FISS's commitment to diversity and inclusion ensures minority groups and those historically left behind are represented in all institutions, strengthening space for an independent and pluralistic civil society. By promoting inclusivity and representation of diverse groups within societal structures, FISS contributes to a more just and equitable society. Thus, FISS's emphasis on sustainable development, guided by social justice principles, addresses the root causes of gender inequality, violence, and substance abuse, aiming for long-term positive impacts.

## Where We Work – Sri Lanka





2023 is a crucial year for FISS, marking the triumphant conclusion of a transformative five-year program cycle (2019–2023) under the Results Framework with FORUT Norway, our principal donor. This impactful journey focused on three pivotal thematic areas: Gender and Development (GAD), Child Rights Protection and Promotion (CRPP), and Alcohol, Drugs Prevention and Development (ADD). These programs have also been instrumental in promoting mental health and resilience, with a focus on both individual and collective care. Below are the key highlights from each thematic area, showcasing our significant achievements and milestones.

## Gender and Development (GAD)

### *Breaking Barriers: Advancing Gender Equality and Inclusion for All*

FISS has spearheaded impactful initiatives in the realm of gender equality and women's empowerment, particularly in combatting SGBV and promoting women's rights across four districts: Anuradhapura, Monaragal, Hambantota, and Kandy and seven divisional secretariat areas in Sri Lanka. Through robust awareness campaigns, community dialogues, and the strengthening of support networks, these programmes and projects have yielded tangible results, including a notable 20% reduction in SGBV incidents within targeted communities. Over 500 survivors have received critical legal aid and psychological support, underscoring the tangible impact of FISS's efforts. Moreover, strategic collaborations with the Men Engage Alliance have enabled the engagement of men and boys in challenging harmful gender norms and advocating for gender justice. The adoption of inner work approaches for gender transformation, such as the introduction of self-care practices for both women and men, has been particularly effective. Self-care initiatives have not only empowered women but have also drawn attention from the government sector, highlighting its significance in preventing SGBV. Furthermore, by integrating self-care into the 'Happy Family' approach, FISS has successfully dismantled patriarchal masculinities, creating safe spaces for younger generations to assert their rights and challenge harmful norms. Additionally, the introduction of self-reflective journaling for girls and boys has fostered a conducive environment for youth to emerge as agents of change. This holistic approach has led to a ripple effect in the community, with youth actively participating as bystanders in the prevention of SGBV, facilitated by FISS's partnerships with other CSOs.

## Handing over Community Empowerment Models

Community leaders took over the overall responsibility of the empowerment models and designed plans for the year through a series of meetings. These plans were meticulously crafted, informed by a thorough analysis of community dynamics. Utilizing tools like SWOT analysis, leaders assessed the status of Women Collectives, while focus group discussions and fact-finding surveys conducted by youth shed light on digital rights and SRHR. This comprehensive understanding informed the design of activities tailored to community needs. For instance, youth developed the 'My Mother is Smart' campaign to educate mothers about digital platforms, leveraging their expertise to bridge generational knowledge gaps. Notably, initiatives to prevent SGBV were seamlessly integrated into cultural festivities such as Vesak celebrations and New Year festivals, showcasing the community's commitment to fostering a safer, more inclusive environment.



## International Women's Day Celebration 2023

In alignment with the 2023 International Women's Day theme, "Digit All: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality," FISD embarked on a collaborative campaign with the British Council Sri Lanka to bolster women's awareness of digital rights. This initiative saw the staging of a thought-provoking street drama titled "Let's Scare Away the Digital Scaremonger" across multiple locations, including Anuradhapura, Monaragala, and Hambantota, engaging hundreds of spectators. The script for the drama was meticulously crafted based on insights gleaned from fact-finding focus group discussions and surveys led by community leaders. To further empower audiences, FISD distributed QR codes, providing access to resources and tools aimed at enhancing digital literacy and safety. This multifaceted approach not only entertained but also educated and empowered women, equipping them with essential knowledge to navigate the digital landscape with confidence and resilience.



## 16 Days of Activism Campaign 2023

Under the overarching theme of 'Invest in Gender Equality,' FISD launched a targeted campaign, rallying civil society actors around the hashtags '#Invest in Social Safeguard Policy' and '#InvestinWorkplaceSafety.' The campaign's focal point was to urge organizations to prioritize workplace safety for all genders by fortifying their social safeguard policies. To kickstart this initiative, a series of consultation programs were held in Monaragala, Anuradhapura, and Hambantota, drawing participation from representatives of 24 CSOs. These consultations provided a platform for stakeholders to express their perspectives and contribute to the discourse on enhancing gender policies within their respective organizations. Following these sessions, a comprehensive awareness campaign was rolled out, aimed at fostering a culture of safety and inclusivity in the workplace, thus advancing the cause of gender equality at its core. Sessions were conducted with the support of a legal professional to members of CSOs, private sector organizations, and community-based organizations about legalities and the importance of creating safe spaces within workplaces through social safeguard policies that discourage gender-based discrimination



### Initiation of Youth Action Force

In 2023, FISD introduced an innovative initiative aimed at empowering youth to take a zero-tolerance stance against SGBV. This initiative selected youth leaders who had undergone FISD's reflective empowerment journal programs over the past four years, demonstrating exceptional leadership skills through their community-level interventions and campaigns. The primary focus for FISD this year is to ensure the sustainability of community empowerment models, fostering collective care and catalysing positive changes within communities through community ownership. The envisioned outcome is the establishment of a Youth Action Force in each district—Monaragala, Anuradhapura, and Hambantota—as proactive agents of change and pioneers of positive social transformation towards gender equality.

Approximately 150 youth leaders, aged 15 to 25 years old, underwent extensive training aimed at equipping them with the skills to make informed decisions and choices, thereby fostering gender-transformative trends across both online and offline platforms. Collaborating with two other CSOs, Hashtag Generation and Youth Advocacy Network Sri Lanka, comprehensive training sessions were conducted on SRHR and Digital Rights. Importantly, by involving multi-sectoral service providers in the capacity-building process, a robust network of resources was established, empowering youth to independently organize training sessions without the direct support of FISS, thereby ensuring the sustainability and scalability of the initiative.



## Collective Actions against Period Poverty Project

FISS formed a partnership with the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka and the French embassy to Sri Lanka and Maldives to combat period poverty in Sri Lanka, along with 12 other local NGOs in 2023. FISS proposes a holistic approach to address period poverty which includes improving sanitary infrastructure, providing access to affordable sanitary products, linking health services, and providing menstrual hygiene education and puberty education to address the stigma surrounding menstruation for both males and females. This initiative is implemented in the Kandy district. The main objective of the project 'Menstruation Matters' is to address discriminative social norms entangled with menstruation that limit access to safe and hygienic menstrual practices and resources. This initiative includes Self-reflective and gender-transformative dialogue at the individual, family, and community level, Right-based Awareness programs, Skill development, Building Male-allyship, Service Coordination, and Networking and advocacy.



## Engaging Men and Boys as Accountable Allies in the Prevention of GBV

FISD has undertaken a commendable and comprehensive initiative to address GBV through a series of workshop sessions targeting men and boys in Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Monaragala, and Kandy Districts from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and ethnic communities in 2023, which was funded by the UNFPA. The workshops not only facilitated discussions on critical topics such as gender equality, masculinity, consent, bystander intervention, and combating SGBV but also fostered a transformative environment. This positive shift highlights the workshops' success in breaking down barriers and promoting inclusivity, enabling meaningful interactions among individuals with diverse life experiences. These workshop sessions have not only contributed to raising awareness and understanding of GBV but have also fostered self-reflection and created a safe for men and boys to discuss GBV and engage them as allies in the prevention interventions, laying the foundation for continued progress in the prevention of GBV in the communities they belong to.



# Child Rights Protections & Promotion (CRPP)

*Protecting Children from All Forms of Violence.*

FISD has established child protection committees and provided educational resources, significantly impacting school attendance rates, and enhancing the protection environment. Children's clubs were strengthened through the empowerment models. The Network for National Action to End Violence Against Children was strengthened as a legitimate and credible national advocacy network. It gained the trust of government actors, INGOs, and other civil society organizations. CFCs came up with a strong mechanism that could identify the issues with child safety, both in the surrounding environment and within cyberspaces. The national child development committees started working with the CFCs to create better safety in both spaces, while collectively conducting training specifically on child safety. CFCs and Child Clubs built child resource centers in their villages, and it was a significant achievement of the interventions conducted by FISD at the community level. Over 500 duty bearers have been trained on child protection laws and psychological first aid, contributing to a safer and more supportive environment for children. FISD's work with the NACG EVAC Sri Lanka has further strengthened national efforts to protect children's rights, ensuring that these initiatives are aligned with broader policy and advocacy efforts.

## Collectively Achieved Child Resource Centers

FISD empowered communities in Anuradhapura and Monaragala districts, resulting in the establishment of four child resource centers. These centers were created by Child Clubs and CFCs. The centers provided safe, happy places for children to play, learn, and engage in various activities. Children and parents collaborated on these projects, writing letters for resources, posting on Facebook to gather books and stationeries, and painting walls with community-donated paint. They also organized fundraising activities and invited resource persons, such as dancers and musicians, from their communities. FISD offered technical support, helping organize and create Facebook posts for gathering materials. These centers enabled children to access a variety of books, practice workbooks, share knowledge, and develop skills in painting, drama, dancing, singing, presenting, and sports. The initiatives enhanced children's personalities, self-defense, and self-care skills. The centers continued to operate under the supervision of government officials and child protection officers.

## Building a Healthy and Safe Family Environment for EVAC

Under the initiative to build a healthy and safe family environment and EVAC, FISD conducted two significant campaigns: "My Loving Happy Family" and "Gahanna Epa." These campaigns implemented programs focused on enhancing self-care practices among children within families, targeting their physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and economic development. As a result of these efforts, families began spending more quality time together, engaging in effective open communication, and adopting better disciplinary practices. The "My Loving Happy Family" campaign specifically encouraged stronger relationships among family members, with approximately 30% of families reporting positive progress. Additionally, the "Gahanna Epa" campaign led to a substantial shift in parenting within the community, as parents moved away from corporal punishment and embraced positive disciplinary methods.



### BUD Campaign 2023

In 2023, FISD completed a comprehensive initiative under the theme of BUD, dedicated to better protecting boys from sexual violence by challenging harmful social norms and stereotypes through attitude development. The program targeted youth aged 19 to 29, addressing alarming statistics revealing that 6.4% of boys in Sri Lanka are victims of sexual abuse, highlighting gaps in knowledge and harmful societal ideologies surrounding masculinity. The initiative incorporated a social media campaign aimed at raising awareness, promoting prevention, and fostering readiness for intervention. Its objectives were to challenge norms that normalize sexual violence against boys, raise awareness of the issue and its underlying norms, and collect and disseminate information on legal and policy provisions to facilitate a coordinated response.



## Groundbreaking Inaugural BUD Forum in Sri Lanka

In line with the series of programs conducted as part of the BUD Campaign in 2023, FISD organized the first-ever BUD Forum in Sri Lanka, marking a significant milestone in the campaign. The primary objectives of this forum were to officially launch the FISD Advocacy Brief and bring together key stakeholders, including government bodies, CSOs, and prominent child rights activists in Sri Lanka, for a compelling and insightful panel discussion. The BUD Forum 2023 served as a pivotal platform in Sri Lanka, not only for raising awareness but also for fostering ongoing dialogue, forging vital partnerships, and catalysing actionable initiatives. Its overarching goal was to contribute significantly to the holistic protection and empowerment of boys within Sri Lankan society.



## National Child Council 2023

The NCC of Sri Lanka stands as a visionary initiative, amplifying the voices of the young and fostering a proactive stance on child rights and well-being. It embodies a commitment to listening, adapting, and acting on the collective call for a better tomorrow for all children. In November 2023, children representing all 25 districts gathered to share



their experiences, discuss collaborative efforts, and highlight the importance of adults listening to their voices and supporting their initiatives. Over three days, children engaged in various team-building activities, were encouraged to advocate for their rights, participated in the election of their next generation of leaders, and addressed crucial ways to ensure children's voices are heard in national policy discussions. The event was organized by the Department of Probation and Childcare Services, with support from Civil Society Organizations such as WDC, Leads, and FISD, as well as international non-governmental agencies including World Vision, Save the Children Sri Lanka and UNICEF. This partnership underscores Sri Lanka's unwavering commitment to promoting children's and youths' voices at grassroots, regional, and national levels, fostering a more inclusive and participatory approach to decision-making processes affecting the country's youngest citizens.



# Alcohol, Drugs Prevention & Development (ADD)

*Freeing Communities from the Harmful Effects of Alcohol and Drugs.*

There was a significant reduction in alcohol consumption among individuals. FISD has made significant strides in community health and well-being, particularly in addressing the harmful effects of alcohol and drugs. Raising awareness and mobilization based on the concept of happy families and combining other thematic areas led to increased family happiness and relationships, and reduced alcohol consumption by increasing men's time at home. Furthermore, children were strongly involved in reducing their father's alcohol expenditure through the skill development centers in the village. FISD collaborated with the NATA and developed capacity and expanded mechanisms and programs for alcohol and drug prevention at the national, district, and regional levels, and expanded CSOs for further programs. Through these prevention programs, FISD has helped reduce alcohol use among over 300 men and decreased the number of new young users, achieving a 10% reduction in community-wide substance abuse rates. FISD's collaboration with the SLAPA has been pivotal in addressing substance abuse and promoting public health policies.

## Community Leaders Meeting

At the start of 2023, community leaders meetings were held in all four districts where we operate. In these meetings, we focused on celebrating the achievements of the past four years on alcohol and drug prevention and creating an effective alcohol and drug prevention plan for 2023. Participants in these meetings included community leaders, child groups, youth groups, women's groups, and men's groups of each district.



## Beautiful Village” – Child Mini Project

An activity workbook containing ten lessons was introduced to increase children's participation and intervention in alcohol and drug prevention in villages and to change their positive expectations about alcohol and drugs. The first lesson in the workbook, titled "Let Us Live in a Village with No Smells of Alcohol and Drugs," aimed to empower children to create a clean and beautiful village free from the pollution and smell of cigarettes and alcohol. Based on this lesson, a small project called "Beautiful Village" was successfully carried out in 2023 in eight villages in the Monaragala and Hambantota districts. As part of this project, litter was removed, the areas were thoroughly cleaned, garbage bins were placed, decorative plants, flowers, and fruit trees were planted, and permanent boards with alcohol and drug prevention slogans were installed.



## School-based Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs

In 2023, we focused on implementing school-based alcohol and drug prevention programs. We successfully conducted these programs in the Monaragala and Hambantota districts. Specifically, we established drug prevention committees in 16 schools within the Wellawaya Divisional Secretariat Division of the Monaragala district. Additionally, we created monitoring committees to oversee the activities of these school drug prevention committees.



## “Rhythm of Youth” – Youth Camp Series

In mid-2023, FISD organized a significant series of youth camps in the Anuradhapura, Monaragala, and Hambantota districts. The primary objectives of these camps were to empower youth in alcohol and drug prevention, prevent gender-based violence, and challenge harmful social norms related to alcohol and drug use. Over 350 youths participated in these camps.



## “Youth Results Celebration” – Camp

At the end of 2023, our Monaragala district youth team organized a remarkable “Seethala Adauwa” event to celebrate their achievements over the past five years. This event was a significant milestone in the history of the Monaragala district youth team, with over 250 youths participating. Attendees from various schools showcased performing art, making it a memorable occasion.





## ADD Campaigns

In 2023, FISD organized numerous physical and social media campaigns, particularly World No Tobacco Day and World Drug Day. Additionally, we conducted various campaigns and events on special occasions such as New Year, Vesak, and Poson. These initiatives targeted district youth teams in Anuradhapura, Hambantota, and Monaragala, as well as government officers and the SLAPA, to create tobacco-free zones.

## RESET Project

The RESET project, a one-year initiative conducted in collaboration with ADIC Sri Lanka, was based in the Anuradhapura district. This project primarily focused on establishing a proper alcohol taxation system in Sri Lanka. We organized advocacy programs, capacity-building sessions, awareness campaigns, and outreach efforts targeting government officers, media personnel, and civil society organizations. As a result of these interventions, national-level politicians began discussing the implementation of a proper alcohol taxation system. By the end of 2023, the alcohol tax in Sri Lanka had increased by 34%.



# Donors, Partners and Networks

FISD is dedicated to strengthening and collaborating with civil society actors both locally and globally. We extend special gratitude to our donors, partners, networks, and collaborators who have supported us in our various initiatives and helped advance our mission.

## Highlights of our Various Partnerships:



**FORUT Norway:** As a non-profit and non-government development organization, FORUT focuses on the issue of alcohol and drugs as a central development and poverty problem. FISD has been supported by FORUT for all three thematic areas under its Campaign for Development and Solidarity. Norad, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, is FORUT's back donor, and all project plans are subjected to their approval and funding.



**Save the Children International (SCI):** Save the Children is an international, non-governmental organization, to help improve the lives of children worldwide. FISD has been supported by SCI with the overall goal of contributing to a strong civil society that demands and supports the fulfillment of children's rights-holding states to account for mobilizing and empowering children and their communities.



**Embassy of France to Sri Lanka and Maldives:** This embassy supports organizational efforts in promoting dignified menstruation in Sri Lanka under the Collective Action Against Period Poverty (CAAPP) project along with the local partnership of the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka.



## Highlights of our Various Networks:

**MenEngage Alliance:** A global network that 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 (MEASL) from 2016 to 2023. In 2020 FISD became the regional secretariat for MenEngage Alliance South Asia (MEASA) and contributed towards engaging 5 member countries (Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) towards regional advocacy on gender justice until 2023. The program director of FISD was appointed as the Global Co-Chair of the Men Engage Alliance in January 2023 to date.

**NACG EVAC Sri Lanka:** National Action and Coordinating Group to End Violence Against Children (NACG EVAC) is established in each South Asian Country to strengthen inter-agency work including governments and children's groups to end violence against children. NACG EVAC Sri Lanka is a network of local civil society actors working towards ending violence against children in Sri Lanka. FISD has held the Chair position of the network from 2014 to 2023 being elected consecutively every two years.

**Family for Every Child:** A global alliance of locally grown civil society organizations, working with children and families of communities for the betterment of children and protecting their rights. FISD is a member of the working group of Prevention of Sexual Violence.

**Commonwealth 8.7 Network:** A civil society network of the Commonwealth Countries working to end Modern Slavery and restore Human Rights. Child Labour has been a special focus in its activities. FISD is a member of the Communication and capacity-building working group.

**Girls Not Brides:** A global network to end child marriage. FISD is a member of the Network, contributing as well as learning good practices about ending child marriage.

**Child Rights Coalition Asia (CRC Asia):** A regional network of child rights and human rights organizations working to uphold, promote, and mainstream child rights. FISD is a member of this Network.

**Child Rights Core Group:** A network of CSOs working towards upholding the rights of Children in terms of preventing the impact on children of Alcohol consumption of parents. FISD is an active member of the network.

**National Authority of Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA):** The NATA is the pioneer government institution that was established by the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act, No. 27 of 2006 in Sri Lanka. The purpose of establishing NATA is the enactment of the legal aspects of alcohol and tobacco prevention in the country. FISD is a member of the NATA to implement the NATA Act.

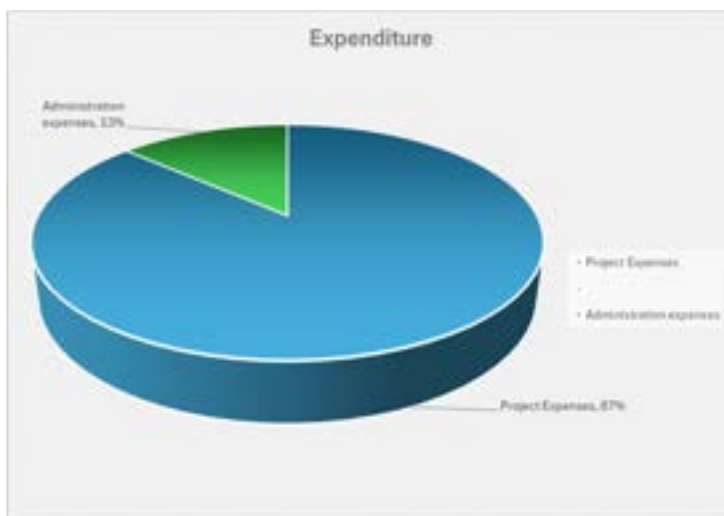
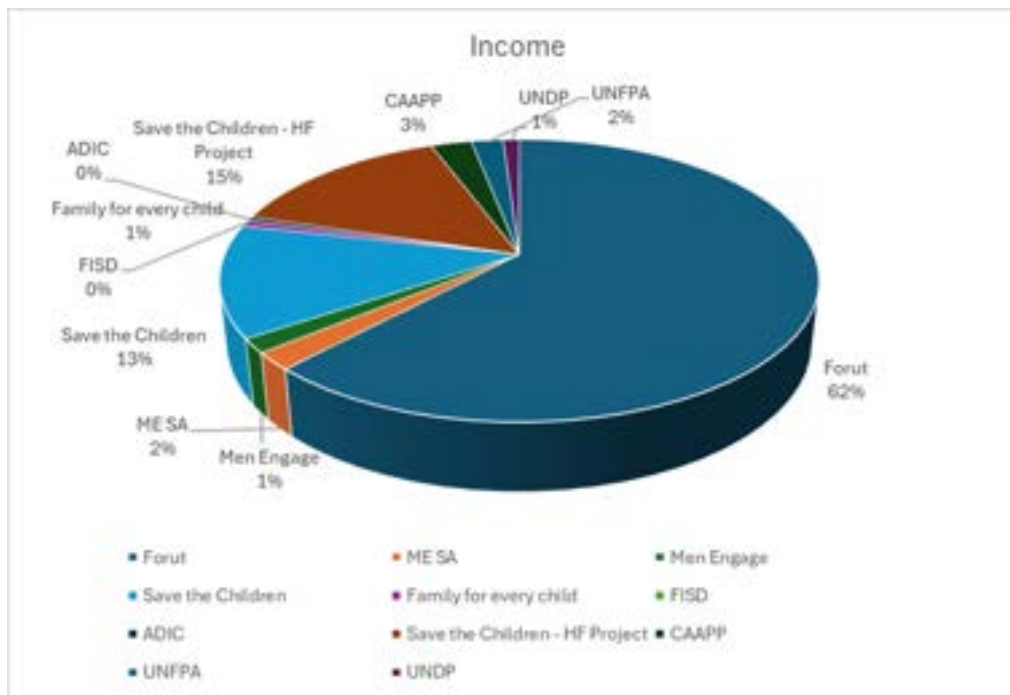
**Sri Lanka Alcohol Policy Alliance (SLAPA):** An alliance of civil society organizations set up to facilitate meaningful dialogue among civil society actors as well as between civil society actors and relevant policymakers. Its key focus is to push for effective policy formulation and implementation to reduce the supply and demand for alcohol and address pertinent problems related to alcohol use. FISD is a founder member of SLAPA for limiting alcohol availability in Sri Lanka.

**Movendi International:** The largest independent global movement for development through alcohol prevention. They unite, strengthen, and empower civil society to address alcohol as a serious obstacle to development on personal, community, societal, and global levels. FISD is a member of Movendi International.

**National Forum against Gender-based Violence in Sri Lanka:** Since 2005, 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. The forum 'facilitates greater coordination, sharing of information/resources and to strengthen multi-sectoral responses to GBV' in Sri Lanka.

**Gender and Election Committee in Sri Lanka:** This is an active network led by the Election Commission of Sri Lanka and the International Federation for Electoral Systems, consisting of activists, CSOs, and government entities to address structural barriers and promote women's political participation in Sri Lanka. FISD is a member of this committee.

**Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation:** FISD became a member of this coalition in 2023, after receiving a grant under the Collective Action against Period Poverty (CAAPP) project. This coalition brings together activists working to dismantle institutional, structural, interpersonal, and socially oppressive systems in place affecting menstruation, individuals who menstruate, and their ability to access basic inalienable human rights, critical resources to lead happy, and healthy lives, and obtain dignity.





## Looking Ahead – 2024

As we move into 2024, FISD remains dedicated to its central goal of fostering empowered communities, with a specific focus on empowering women, children, and youth. Our vision for empowered communities is one where individuals in these groups can make informed decisions and advocate for their rights, particularly regarding issues such as SGBV, violence against children, substance abuse, and mental health, as outlined in our Theory of Change (ToC).

To achieve this goal, FISD aims to transform negative social norms that hinder empowerment. This involves equipping communities with the knowledge and skills necessary for individuals to realize their full potential. We adopt an inclusive approach, actively addressing intersectional inequalities faced by gender non-binary individuals and people with disabilities. Our activities span various domains, including advocacy, creating platforms for dialogue, networking, raising awareness, capacity building, and media engagement. These efforts are designed to generate information through research, raise awareness, strengthen individual and institutional capacities, foster partnerships, and advocate for policies and improved service provision.



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