

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

**FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATIVE SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**



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ACRONYMS

FISD:	FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
CSO:	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION
NGO:	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
CBO:	COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION
SGBV:	SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
GBV:	GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
BUD:	BLUE UMBRELLA DAY
NATA:	NATIONAL AUTHORITY ON TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL
NACG:	NATIONAL ACTION COORDINATING GROUP
NCC:	NATIONAL CHILDREN'S COUNCIL
EVAC:	END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN
SRHR:	SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS
UNFPA:	UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND
CAAPP:	COLLECTIVE ACTION AGAINST PERIOD POVERTY
UNDP:	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
UNW:	UNITED NATIONS WOMEN
JSAC:	JAFFNA SOCIAL ACTION CENTRE
BCC:	BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

Message from the General Secretary



As I send this message to FISD's Annual Report for 2025, I do so with profound pride in what this organization has grown to represent, not only in the programmes it delivers but in the values it upholds and the relationships it has built. 2025 marked the second year of our five-year strategic plan, and the foundations we laid are bearing fruit.

FISD was established with the conviction that sustainable social change must be community-led, rights-based, and holistic. That conviction has only deepened over the years. Our four thematic areas, Gender and Development, Child Rights Protection and Promotion, Alcohol, Drugs and Development, and Mental Health and Well-being, are not parallel silos. They are interconnected threads of a single vision: empowered communities enjoying rights, justice, and equity across a dynamic Sri Lanka.

From a governance standpoint, 2025 was a year of consolidation and growth. We strengthened our internal systems, deepened accountability to the communities we serve, and ensured our strategic direction remains responsive to Sri Lanka's evolving social landscape. The integration of Mental Health and Well-being into our core mission is now a lived reality, enriching every area of our work. Our partnerships with FORUT, SIDA, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women, JSAC, and other national collaborators continue to be a source of strength, bridging grassroots impact with national policy.

Behind every result is a team of dedicated staff and community volunteers whose resilience inspires us daily. As we enter 2026, we move into a critical phase focused on behavioural change, institutional strengthening, and sustainability. The challenges ahead are real, but so is our resolve. FISD will continue to stand alongside the most marginalized, challenge harmful norms, and work tirelessly toward a Sri Lanka where every individual lives with dignity, safety, and hope. I invite you to read this report as a story of collective effort and to join us in writing the next chapter.

Dr. Champa Gunasekera

General Secretary

Foundation for Innovative Social Development (FISD)

Message from the Programme Director

As we reflect on 2025, we are reminded that meaningful social transformation begins within communities and grows through collective action, courage, and solidarity. Throughout this year, the Foundation for Innovative Social Development (FISD) continued its commitment to promoting gender justice, child protection, alcohol and drug-free lifestyles, community empowerment, and the prevention of violence through innovative, feminist, and community-led approaches.



Across our programmes, we witnessed the power of communities coming together to challenge harmful social norms, strengthen accountability, and create safer, more equitable spaces for women, girls, and children. From strengthening grassroots women leaders and engaging men and boys in reflective dialogue to supporting youth leadership and advancing child protection initiatives, our work continues to demonstrate that sustainable change is possible when communities are empowered to lead it themselves.

This year also reaffirmed the importance of care, resilience, and partnership. The growing economic and social pressures faced by families highlighted the urgent need for approaches that strengthen relationships, collective well-being, and social justice. Through community-driven interventions, FISD continued to foster dialogue, empathy, and shared responsibility within households and communities.

Our achievements in 2025 would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, community leaders, government partners, donors, and the communities who continue to place their trust in us. Their commitment inspires us to continue building inclusive and empowered communities where dignity, equality, and justice are realities for all.

As we move forward, FISD remains steadfast in its vision of a society free from violence, discrimination, and inequality. We look ahead with hope and determination to deepen our impact and strengthen collective action for social transformation in Sri Lanka.

Samitha Sugathimala

Programme Director

Foundation for Innovative Social Development (FISD)

Who We Are

Building rights-based communities across Sri Lanka

Founded in 2011, FIRD is a registered national NGO committed to qualitative and sustainable social development. We design and deliver evidence-based models that address the social conditions most likely to hold people back, building theoretical and practical frameworks that communities, government bodies, and civil society organisations can adopt and scale. Our work reaches children, women, men, families, and communities through direct programming, stakeholder capacity building, and long-term partnerships grounded in participation and empowerment. We believe in a rights-based approach that places people, not institutions, at the centre of development, and we work to promote justice and peace in all that we do.

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.

Our Thematic Focus Areas

Alcohol, Drugs, and Development

Reducing demand and supply of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs through community mobilisation, policy advocacy, and capacity building of children, youth, government officers, and civil society organisations.

Child Rights Protection and Promotion

Empowering children to become confident leaders and rights advocates, while equipping parents to create safe, nurturing environments for their children's complete physical and mental development.

Gender and Development

Preventing SGBV through gender equity promotion, women's empowerment and leadership development, and engaging men and boys to challenge harmful masculinities for gender justice.

Mental Health and Well-Being

Promoting mental health and self-care in local communities by building institutional capacity in schools and CSOs, improving access to community-based care, and facilitating early identification and referral to specialist services.

How We Work

Evidence-based Models

We develop theoretical and practical frameworks grounded in research, ensuring our approaches are replicable, measurable, and contextually appropriate.

Community Participation

Communities are active partners, not passive recipients. Empowerment and local ownership are central to every programme we design and deliver.

Capacity Building

We equip CBOs, NGOs, government institutions, and private sector organisations to adopt and scale effective models independently and sustainably.

Rights-based Approach

Children, women, men, family, and communities are empowered as rights-holders, with all programming guided by principles of human dignity, justice, and peace.

What We Do Best

Social change does not happen by accident. It is built, through sustained effort, evidence-based action, and communities empowered to claim what is rightfully theirs. At FSD, we go beyond addressing the symptoms of social inequality. Our programmes target the conditions that allow harm to persist, dismantling the norms, policies, and power structures that hold communities back. We translate concepts into action and action into tangible, measurable outcomes that improve lives across Sri Lanka. We build capacity at every level, in individuals, families, civil society organisations, and government institutions, so that the progress we help create does not depend on our continued presence. Through education, skills training, and civil society strengthening, we create self-sustaining cycles of advocacy, accountability, and change.

Women and girls free from SGBV

Building agency and mobilising communities to challenge harmful norms and unequal power relations.

Children protected from violence

Equipping children, families, and institutions with the knowledge and tools to uphold child rights.

Communities free from substance harm

Reducing demand and supply through community mobilisation, policy advocacy, and targeted capacity building.

Mental health support without stigma

Expanding access to community-based care and building institutional capacity to integrate well-being services.

How We Create Lasting Change

Inclusive by design

Historically marginalised groups are centred on our work, not as afterthoughts, but as the foundation of equitable development.

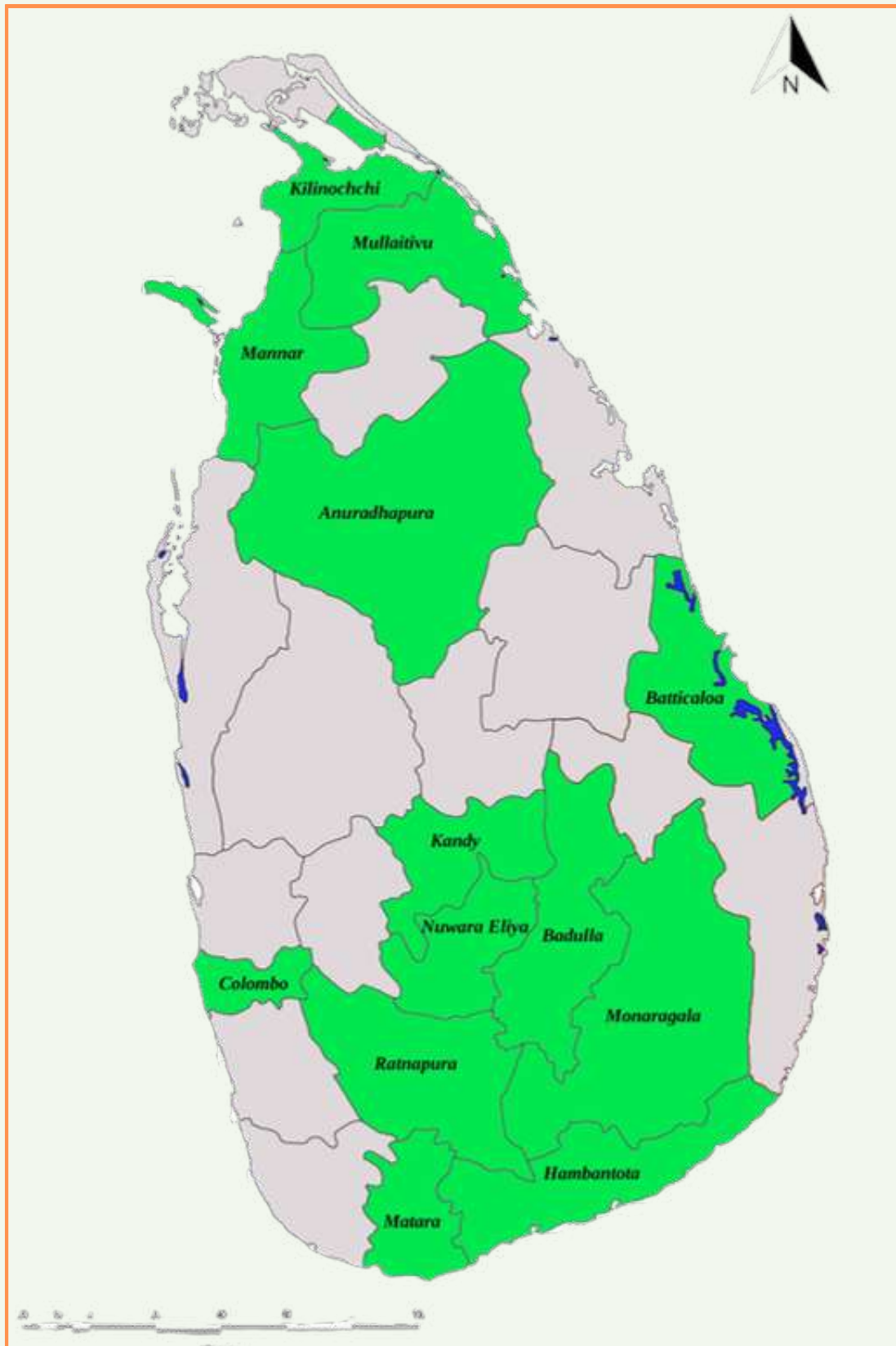
Systemic in scope

We work alongside government and private actors to ensure equitable policies are not just written, but enforced and sustained

Community-led always

We strengthen civil society's capacity to organise around democracy, human rights, gender equality, and anti-corruption – independently and effectively.

Where We Work - Sri Lanka



Protecting Lives, Changing Minds: A Multi-Level Response to Alcohol and Drug Prevention

In 2025, the Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programme (ADD) established a series of targets across community, divisional, district, and national levels. At the divisional level, the programme aimed to develop prevention initiatives in collaboration with community-based organizations (CBOs), increase awareness among children, women, and adult men, challenge positive attitudes toward alcohol and drugs, and transform long-standing social norms related to substance use. Specific attention was given to providing knowledge on drug prevention to women's groups and changing attitudes of children representing divisional child societies. At the district level, the goal was to establish youth groups for drug prevention and provide them with necessary training. At the national level, the primary objective was to enhance the visibility and positive impacts of the Alcohol and Drugs Development programme. To achieve these objectives, a range of programmes, activities, and training sessions were conducted throughout the year.

Empowering Local Leadership: Community-Driven Alcohol and Drug Prevention

In 2025, a specially designed module was used to implement the Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Development Programme in partnership with community-based organizations (CBOs). Village-level CBOs were identified in the districts of Anuradhapura, Monaragala, and Hambantota. To facilitate this, mobilization programmes were conducted to target these groups, after which strong CBOs were selected for further engagement. During the first and second quarters of 2025, the first module was implemented with these organizations.

Through participatory activities such as the "problem tree," key community issues were identified by participants, with alcohol and drug-related problems emerging as major concerns. Subsequently, community members were engaged in identifying and changing attitudes and norms related to alcohol use. Positive results were observed following this programme, as evidenced by the revision of CBO constitutions to include drug prevention as an official responsibility. In the third quarter of 2025, the second module was launched for CBOs across all three districts.

The programme was designed to achieve the following objectives: to further challenge harmful social norms, to deepen participants' understanding of alcohol and drug prevention, to identify available support systems for prevention, and to recognize that the legal system alone is insufficient for addressing drug issues. To support these efforts, a handbook titled "Strengthening Families and Communities for Alcohol and Drug Prevention" was developed. Using storytelling methods, action plans and short interventions were created by participants. By the end of the programme, effective plans had been developed, some of which were implemented in the fourth quarter.



For example, a medical clinic in Hidogama (Anuradhapura) was utilized to provide alcohol prevention awareness; a poster campaign was conducted in Mamadala (Hambantota); an awareness programme was held in Elegoda; and a prevention programme was carried out in Thalawa with support from the Hambantota District Health Office. The successful implementation of these action plans was considered a major achievement.

Community organization members, recognized as village leaders, were collaboratively engaged, which enabled the effective execution of prevention programmes. In total, 427 community leaders from the three districts were engaged through this programme, and 178 individuals participated in the implemented activities. Additionally, the programme was conducted for 27 women leaders representing eight CBOs in the Rabewa Divisional Secretariat area of Anuradhapura district.



Empowering Children as Change Agents: Alcohol and Drug Prevention Through Children's Societies

In 2025, a children's society programme was implemented at the community level as a key initiative to empower children to grow up free from alcohol and drugs and to challenge positive expectations related to substance use. The programme was designed with the understanding that children are not only vulnerable to substance use but also capable of becoming active agents of change within their families and communities.



Using a specially developed activity book titled *"Our World Full of Happiness,"* the programme was delivered directly to 12 village-level children's societies across the three districts of Anuradhapura, Hambantota, and Monaragala. The activities were structured to be age-appropriate, interactive, and participatory, allowing children to explore the risks of alcohol and drug use through games, storytelling, role-playing, and group discussions.

Key themes included identifying harmful substances, building resistance to peer pressure, understanding the difference between healthy and unhealthy social norms, and developing confidence to say "no" to substance offers. A total of 191 children from Anuradhapura, 185 from Hambantota, and 335 from Monaragala participated in the initiative, bringing the total number of children reached to 711.



The programme proved highly effective, as evidenced by the active and sustained engagement of children throughout the sessions. Beyond participation in the structured activities, children independently organized and conducted poster campaigns in their villages to raise awareness about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. They took part in community clean-up efforts, demonstrating a growing sense of civic responsibility and collective action.

Most notably, as a direct result of these child-led awareness campaigns, cigarette sales were stopped in three shops in Monaragala District. This outcome was achieved through children's persuasive communication with shop owners and community elders, supported by the programme's emphasis on non-confrontational advocacy. The success of this initiative demonstrated that when children are equipped with knowledge, confidence, and a supportive platform, they can produce tangible, positive changes in their local environments.

Redefining Fatherhood: The "Caring Father" Programme for Men at the Community Level

Programmes targeting adult men were implemented at the community level as part of a comprehensive approach to alcohol and drug prevention. Recognizing that fathers are often overlooked in family-based interventions, a new initiative titled the "Caring Father" was introduced to engage fathers as positive agents of change, which was designed to strengthen the bond between fathers and children and to promote a supportive father figure free from restrictive social norms. In a context where caregiving is traditionally viewed as the mother's role, this initiative aimed to reduce emotional distance between fathers and children and foster loving family relationships. Additionally, the programme sought to support fathers experiencing social and economic stress, recognizing that financial pressure often contributes to substance use and family conflict.

A specially designed handout was developed and used throughout the programme. The initiative was implemented across all three districts, Anuradhapura, Hambantota, and Monaragala, with a total of 354 fathers participating. Several positive outcomes were observed following the intervention. Participating fathers reported reduced stress levels, improved emotional connections with their children, and enhanced ability to support children's development. Fathers also demonstrated better problem-solving skills in their caring role and showed greater willingness to challenge harmful social norms related to masculinity. The creation of a more positive family environment was consistently noted, which indirectly contributes to long-term alcohol and drug prevention by strengthening family cohesion.



Empowering Women as Agents of Change: Community-Based Action Against Alcohol and Drug Use

At the divisional level in Anuradhapura and Monaragala districts, a series of women's empowerment programmes were conducted in 2025 to strengthen community-based action against alcohol and drug use. These programmes were designed with three primary objectives: to empower women-led community groups, to enable women to take collective action against alcohol and drug use, and to promote gender equality and shared responsibility within families and communities.

In Anuradhapura District, the first programme was conducted with the Nachchaduwa Women's Federation, attended by 40 participants, followed by a second programme involving 47 women from additional groups. Awareness sessions were also held in Namalwewa and Halmillakulama villages. Across these interventions, women successfully identified myths related to alcohol and drugs, challenged gender-based misconceptions that had normalized substance use, and recognized the connection between domestic violence and substance use. Participants gained confidence in identifying practical strategies to address such situations within their households and community networks.



In Monaragala District, a drug and alcohol prevention programme was conducted for a Women's Federation with the participation of 48 women. Building on the outcomes achieved in Anuradhapura, this programme focused specifically on equipping women affected by substance-related violence with knowledge to address prevailing myths and transform harmful social norms. By the end of the session, participants demonstrated a clear ability to recognize and challenge the social norms surrounding substance use within their communities.



Building Youth Advocates: District-Level Empowerment for Alcohol and Drug Prevention

At the district level, a youth empowerment programme for alcohol and drug prevention was implemented in 2025. Recognizing that young people are both vulnerable to substance use and capable of becoming influential peer educators, this initiative was designed to equip them with knowledge, critical thinking skills, and advocacy tools.

The programme was structured around four key objectives: to change positive expectations related to alcohol and drugs, to help participants understand the root causes of substance use, to increase awareness of marketing strategies used by the alcohol and drug industry, and to provide knowledge on relevant legal frameworks, including the NATA Act. The initiative was conducted as a two-day workshop with support provided by the District Secretariat and the Medical Officer of the MOH office.

A total of 32 youth attended. The workshop employed interactive methods, including group discussions, case studies, and role-playing exercises, to ensure active engagement and practical understanding. By the end of the workshop, significant changes in participant attitudes were observed.

Youth demonstrated a better understanding of industry tactics and legal frameworks related to substance use prevention. Participants also expressed increased confidence in resisting peer pressure and engaging in awareness activities within their own communities. It is expected that this trained youth group will be further strengthened for long-term prevention efforts, and several future programmes have already been planned to support continued engagement.



Building Safe School Environments: Establishment of School-Based Drug Prevention Committees

In 2025, a school-based drug prevention committee was established in collaboration with the Monaragala District Drug Prevention Committee. The primary objective of this initiative was to create a specialized mechanism to address drug and alcohol use among schools in Monaragala District, while also raising awareness among students and teachers. Through this initiative, efforts were aimed at transforming positive attitudes that children may hold toward

drugs and alcohol into negative perceptions and at challenging prevailing social norms associated with substance use. As the first phase, a discussion was held with school principals in Monaragala District, leading to the selection of six schools for which a drug and alcohol prevention programme was subsequently conducted for 44 selected students and teachers. During this programme, several interactive activities were carried out. Through guiding questions such as “Why do people use drugs and alcohol?”, participants were encouraged to critically reflect on existing social norms, attitudes, and misconceptions related to drug and alcohol use.



In addition, future actions were discussed during the session. As a result, school-based drug prevention committees were successfully established, and alcohol and drug prevention mechanisms were sustained at the school level. It is expected that future alcohol prevention initiatives will continue in collaboration with these established committees.

National-Level Advocacy: Transforming Masculinities for Alcohol and Drug Prevention

A national-level programme was also implemented in 2025 in collaboration with the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board. As part of this initiative, a panel discussion was organized under the theme: “Transforming Masculinities for Prevention: Community and School-Based Approaches to Reduce Alcohol and Drug Harm in Sri Lanka.” The discussion featured participation from community leaders and a school teacher from Monaragala District, bringing grassroots voices to a national platform.



The panel discussion focused on three key areas: the role of community leaders in alcohol and drug prevention, the use of the FISD school journal programme to transform harmful gender norms among young people, and the contribution of the "Caring Father" programme in redefining masculine caregiving roles. Each of these areas represented a strategic entry point for addressing the link between rigid masculinities and substance use.

The event was successfully conducted and received positive feedback from participants, who appreciated the practical, ground-level perspectives shared by the community leaders and the teacher. A significant achievement of this initiative was the enhanced visibility of the organization, which provided an opportunity to showcase its community-based work to a national audience and key stakeholders in the alcohol and drug prevention sector.



Building Safe, Inclusive, and Empowering Environments for Children

The year 2025 marked the second year of the Child Rights Protection & Promotion Programme (CRPP), a five-year initiative (2024–2028). Grounded in a rights-based approach aligned with national and international frameworks, the programme aims to ensure children's protection from violence and their growth in safe, dignified environments. CRPP focuses on four strategic areas: strengthening family and community environments; promoting child participation and leadership; establishing community-based protection systems; and advocating for policy reforms. Guided by five key objectives in 2025, the programme sought to strengthen Child-Friendly Committees (CFCs) and child clubs; build stakeholder capacity; promote meaningful child participation; challenge harmful social norms; and strengthen multi-sectoral coordination. These objectives were designed to enhance both preventive and responsive child protection, recognizing that sustainable change requires collective action among children, families, communities, and institutions.

Building Safer Communities: Strengthening Child-Friendly Committees for Protection

In 2025, FISD continued to prioritize the strengthening of Child-Friendly Committees (CFCs), recognizing them as frontline mechanisms for community-level child protection. A total of nine CFCs were either established or further strengthened during the year, actively engaging over 120 community members, including parents, local leaders, and volunteers. Efforts were also made to improve referral pathways for child protection cases, ensuring timely and appropriate responses to identified risks.



Regular coordination meetings were held between CFC members and relevant government officers, including probation officers and Grama Niladhari officials, to facilitate effective case management.

Additionally, basic training sessions were provided to CFC members on identifying signs of abuse, maintaining confidentiality, and reporting procedures. As a result of these interventions, communities demonstrated increased awareness of child protection issues and showed greater responsiveness in identifying and addressing risks. Furthermore, CFCs played an active role in intervening in child protection cases and supporting vulnerable children, thereby enhancing community ownership and accountability for child protection at the local level.

Empowering Young Voices: Strengthening Child Participation and Child Councils



Child participation remained a key pillar of CRPP implementation in 2025. A total of 124 new children joined child clubs, and members from 09 clubs were successfully linked to Child Councils, thereby strengthening pathways to formal child governance. Over 130 children were actively engaged in District and Divisional Child Councils through leadership, advocacy, and rights-based discussions, which significantly enhanced their confidence and decision-making capacity. As a result, children reported feeling more confident in expressing their views to local authorities, and several child-led initiatives, including awareness campaigns on child rights and school safety, were initiated by council members. A major highlight of the year was the CRPP team's involvement in the

three-day National Children's Council (NCC) Programme, held at the Embilipitiya Training Center. During this event, children from all districts contributed to the development of the NCC Action Plan for the upcoming year, with facilitation support provided by the CRPP team. The programme also included a participatory and child-friendly election process for the new NCC Committee. The successful conduct of this national-level event marked a significant shift from symbolic to meaningful child participation, where children's inputs were genuinely incorporated into policy-level planning. Looking ahead, FISD remains committed to supporting child councils at all levels, particularly in the implementation of the newly developed NCC Action Plan.

Youth as Change Agents: Engagement and Leadership Development



Recognizing youth as key agents of change, FISD expanded its youth engagement initiatives in 2025, mobilizing young people to support community transformation and advocate for child rights. Over 100 youth participated in district-level youth camps, with 85 new youth members mobilized during the year. University-level awareness programmes were also conducted to engage young adults in child protection issues. Major activities included the District Youth Camp in Hambantota, Blue Umbrella Day advocacy workshops, and university-based awareness sessions. As a result of these efforts, youth emerged as active advocates for justice, gender equality, and child protection. Many youth participants initiated follow-up actions within their communities, including peer awareness sessions and school-level child rights clubs, contributing to sustained impact beyond the formal programme period. Increased visibility of youth-led advocacy was also observed at local governance meetings, where youth representatives raised child protection concerns with village authorities.

Building Capacity, Strengthening Systems: Training for Government and Community Stakeholders

Capacity building remained a critical component of CRPP in 2025, focusing on strengthening the knowledge and skills of key stakeholders at both government and community levels. Within the government sector, 65 government officers received training in child safeguarding, positive parenting, professional ethics, and child participation.

These trainings were designed to enhance their ability to respond effectively to child protection issues and to integrate child rights principles into their routine duties. As a result, participating officers demonstrated improved handling of child protection cases, including timely referrals and better coordination with community-level mechanisms.



Increased confidence was also observed among officers in applying positive parenting approaches during their interactions with families. 166 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), members were trained on gender norms, power dynamics, and mental health. These sessions helped strengthen community-level understanding of child protection risks and improved local response mechanisms for identifying and referring vulnerable children.

Following the training, CBO members showed greater willingness to challenge harmful gender norms and power imbalances within their communities. Several trained members actively supported vulnerable children by linking them to available services and reporting concerns to relevant authorities, demonstrating the practical application of their newly acquired knowledge.

Awareness to Action: Community Film Screenings for Child Rights Education



A range of awareness-raising and behavioural change initiatives were implemented, targeting children and communities. Among these, community film screenings emerged as a powerful tool for reaching large audiences and sparking meaningful conversations on child rights and protection. A series of impactful film screenings was conducted across child clubs in Anuradhapura, Monaragala, and Hambantota districts.

These screenings were designed to deepen children's understanding of child rights, common violations, and the importance of seeking support in unsafe situations. For each screening, guided discussions were facilitated with children to reflect on values, rights, violations, and protective behaviours. Community members and parents were also engaged to strengthen collective responsibility toward child protection.

A total of over 300 children were reached through this initiative. As a result, children gained a clearer understanding of their rights, common violations, and healthy ways to seek help. Practical steps to prevent risks, protect themselves, and support peers were also recognized by children. Notably, increased awareness was observed

among children who previously lacked basic knowledge of child rights and violations. These film screenings served as an effective catalyst for starting meaningful conversations within communities, empowering children with knowledge and inspiring a stronger culture of protection and shared responsibility.

Nurturing Self-Awareness and Positive Behaviour: School-Based Child Empowerment



A child empowerment programme was successfully conducted in Anuradhapura district at Nelubewa Central College and Diulwella College, focusing on nurturing self-awareness, positive behaviour, and social responsibility among children. The programme provided a safe and engaging environment for children to express themselves through creative activities, encouraging participants to reflect on their own behaviours, attitudes, and internalized beliefs that may negatively affect their growth and development. Children were guided to recognize harmful patterns and were motivated to rebuild their self-identity in a positive, confident, and effective manner. A key component of the sessions involved challenging harmful social norms, particularly rigid gender norms and other deeply rooted societal beliefs that often limit children's potential and well-being.

Through open discussions and interactive exercises, participants explored how these norms influence their lives and learned healthier alternatives for personal and social development. The programme also introduced practical, child-friendly scenarios to educate participants on child rights protection processes, empowering them to understand their rights, seek support, and respond safely to challenging situations. Overall, the initiative addressed the interconnected impact of individual attitudes, community perspectives, and broader social norms on children's lives. The sessions were met with active participation and honest reflection, reinforcing the importance of creating supportive environments that enable children to grow into confident, aware, and responsible individuals.

Healing Minds, Building Resilience: Mental Health and Healing Programme for Child Leaders

In line with World Children's Day 2025, a Mental Health and Healing (MHH) training programme was conducted for district child club leaders from Hambantota and Monaragala districts, engaging a total of 120 children. The programme provided a safe and supportive space for children to understand their emotions, manage stress, and develop healthy coping mechanisms. It also encouraged critical thinking, empathy, and the ability to challenge harmful social norms that often

contribute to emotional distress and poor mental well-being. As a result of the training, children demonstrated improved emotional awareness, greater resilience, and stronger peer support networks among themselves. Children reported feeling more equipped to recognize signs of emotional struggle in themselves and their peers, and expressed greater willingness to seek help when needed. This initiative reflected FISD's commitment to promoting mental well-being as a key and integral aspect of holistic child development.



Amplifying Children's Voices: National-Level Advocacy and Policy Engagement



FISD played an active role in national-level advocacy efforts in 2025, ensuring that children's voices were represented in policy discussions. In June 2025, the National Children's Consultation was successfully supported by the FISD CRPP team, in which a leading role was also played, during a two-day event held at the Thulhiriya MAS Athena Venue. The consultation was organized by the National Action and Coordination Group to End Violence Against Children (NACG EVaC SL), in collaboration with its member organizations, including FISD.

This important national-level event brought together 50 children representing 25 districts across Sri Lanka, ensuring broad geographic and social representation. The consultation provided a safe and inclusive platform for children to voice their experiences, priorities, and recommendations related to violence against children, child protection systems, and national accountability mechanisms. FISD played a major role throughout the consultation by providing technical and logistical support to the overall programme



implementation, leading and supporting the documentation and reporting of children's voices, assisting in the drafting of policy asks and key recommendations based on children's inputs, and coordinating with NACG members while supporting various operational arrangements to ensure meaningful child participation. The outcomes of this consultation contributed directly to strengthening child-led advocacy and informed policy dialogue at the national level, thereby reinforcing children's right to participation in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Publishing Children's Voices: A Short Story Book on Nature and Climate Justice



In 2025, FISD successfully completed the printing, publishing, and distribution of a children's short story book, which was developed from the Short Story Competition held in line with Children's Day 2024. A total of 105 children participated in the competition, from which 15 stories were selected and published, focusing on themes such as children and nature, and climate justice.



The publication was highly appreciated by CSO members, government officers, and other stakeholders for its strong reflection of children's perspectives on environmental protection. Through this initiative, awareness of environmental protection and climate justice was raised, while a platform was provided for children to express their creativity and lived experiences. Additionally, certificates and gift vouchers were distributed to the winning children in recognition of their outstanding contributions.

Leaving No Child Behind: Promoting Inclusivity and Mental Well-being of Children with Visual Impairments



Two inclusive programmes were conducted at the Colombo School for the Blind, engaging both school children and hostel boarders. This marked an important milestone as it was FISD's first initiative specifically focused on children with disabilities. The programmes were designed to emphasize mental well-being, inclusion, and the creation of a safe, child-friendly environment for children with visual impairments. Using adapted and interactive tools, the sessions enabled children to

express themselves, build trust, and actively engage in learning. Despite being a new area of work for the organization, the programmes were successfully implemented through strong planning and facilitation. This initiative significantly enhanced FISD's capacity for inclusive programming and reinforced its commitment to ensuring that all children, including those with disabilities, have access to mental health and well-being support.

Crossing Borders for Child Rights: FISD's Regional Engagement in the Philippines



FISD was represented at the CRC Asia-Pacific Partnership Meeting (APPM) and General Assembly, held in Manila, Philippines, from 27th to 31st August 2025. This international representation was a great opportunity for the organization, as it reinforced FISD's commitment to advancing child rights through collaboration, learning, and shared advocacy beyond national boundaries.

The meetings focused on regional child rights challenges, accountability mechanisms, cross-country learning, and strengthening collective advocacy. As a direct value of this engagement, new partnerships and potential collaboration opportunities were established with several regional organizations, opening avenues for cross-border knowledge exchange and joint advocacy initiatives. Best practices and innovative approaches from other countries were also gained, which can be

adapted to strengthen FISD's ongoing child protection programmes in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, FISD's experiences and community-based models were shared with regional peers, positioning the organization as a valuable contributor to regional child rights discourse. As a result, FISD's visibility at the regional level was significantly enhanced, and networks, learning, and collaboration for advancing child rights were substantially strengthened.

Breaking the Silence: BUD Campaign for Child Protection

Under the BUD Campaign Programme, implemented by FISD in partnership with the Family for Every Child Global Network and supported by FORUT and SIDA, three key components were carried out to strengthen child protection efforts during 2025.

CSO Strengthening: District-level capacity-building sessions were conducted to enhance the knowledge of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) on sensitive child protection issues, including sexual abuse against boys. Through these efforts, the capacity of CSOs to identify protection gaps, respond effectively, and promote community awareness and coordination was significantly strengthened.



Youth and Advocacy: University-level sessions were organized to engage youth in discussions on gender norms, consent, and reporting barriers. Through these sessions, youth were empowered with knowledge and advocacy skills to act as change-makers within their own communities.

National Forum and Advocacy: A National Forum and panel discussion were convened, bringing together key stakeholders, including legal experts, the National Child Protection Authority, academics, and CSOs. The forum successfully elevated grassroots and youth perspectives to the national level, thereby strengthening dialogue, improving coordination among stakeholders, and promoting more effective responses to sexual abuse against boys.



Overall, the BUD Campaign fostered a multi-level approach by strengthening CSOs, empowering youth, and influencing national-level dialogue to promote prevention, awareness, and advocacy on child protection issues.

Strengthening from Within: Organizational Staff Capacity Development



Under the SIDA project, two key capacity development sessions were conducted for organizational staff during the reporting period, both designed to strengthen the internal competencies essential for effective community-level engagement. The first session focused on mental health and was delivered through a creative puppet performance methodology, enabling staff to engage with complex mental health themes in an accessible and participatory manner.

Given that FISD operates directly at the community level, the ability to communicate meaningfully with diverse populations, including children and families in vulnerable circumstances, was recognized as fundamental to the organization's work. The session, therefore, placed particular emphasis on strengthening interpersonal communication skills and cultivating active listening practices. As a result, staff were equipped with the tools necessary to support individuals navigating sensitive and often deeply personal challenges.



The second session addressed the use of video and photography as strategic tools for storytelling and community documentation. Recognizing that storytelling is one of the most prominent and effective strategies for conveying FISD messages at the community level, all staff participated in hands-on training designed to build their practical proficiency in visual documentation.



Beyond technical skills, the session also explored the ethical dimensions of capturing and sharing community narratives, with particular emphasis on the responsible documentation of children and vulnerable populations. Collectively, these two sessions significantly strengthened the organizational capacity of FISD staff, enabling them to engage more effectively with communities and communicate the programme's impact with greater depth and authenticity.

Returning Voices, Building Trust: UNCRC Shadow Report Community Follow-Up Sessions

As a continuation of the United Nations 7th Child Rights Convention Shadow Report process, a series of structured follow-up sessions was conducted with children and youth from marginalized and underserved communities across Sri Lanka. These sessions engaged a diverse range of participants, including the Telugu Community in Thabbuttegama, LGBTQ+ youth in Colombo, rural school children in Hambantota, and children from families affected by substance abuse, reflecting a deliberate effort to ensure broad, inclusive, and equitable representation.

The selection of these communities was intentional, recognizing that the most meaningful contributions to a shadow report emerge when the voices of those often excluded from formal decision-making are brought to the center. The primary objective of each session was to present back to the children and youth the findings previously collected from their respective communities, providing them with an opportunity to review, validate, and confirm the information intended for incorporation into the final report.



This participatory approach ensured that perspectives and lived experiences were accurately represented and that no community's voice was mischaracterized or overlooked. By returning findings to source communities before finalization, FISD demonstrated a firm commitment to transparency, accountability, and genuine child participation, thereby reinforcing the trust established between the organization and the communities it serves.

Shifting Power, Changing Lives: An Integrated Approach to Gender and Development

In 2025, FISD implemented a comprehensive portfolio of Gender and Development (GAD) programmes across multiple districts in Sri Lanka, addressing gender-based violence, harmful social norms, and systemic inequalities. Interventions ranged from grassroots community empowerment and psychosocial well-being to large-scale behaviour change communication and emergency response. Key initiatives included strengthening women's collectives through self-care and resilience-building; empowering youth through training, storytelling, and advocacy; engaging men and boys as accountable allies in preventing GBV; promoting economic empowerment of marginalized women; transforming social norms in post-conflict communities; developing behaviour change communication modules; building institutional capacity of government officers and CBOs; and providing emergency relief following a major cyclone. Across multiple districts, these integrated efforts reached thousands of women, men, youth, government officers, CSOs, and community leaders, fostering transformative shifts in attitudes and institutional practices.

Strengthening Psychosocial Well-Being and Collective Agency: Programmes with Women Collectives

At the community level, a series of integrated programmes was implemented with Women Collectives to strengthen psychosocial well-being, personal agency, and collective action against gender-based violence (GBV). These Women Collectives are integral to FISD's efforts as they lead community-level empowerment and prevention initiatives. Grounded in the fact that women's vulnerability to GBV is closely linked to stress, social isolation, and limited access to safe spaces, these interventions created structured opportunities for self-reflection and shared learning. Core activities included self-care movie screenings, self-care plan development sessions, and Vision Board exercises, which provided reflective spaces for women to explore personal aspirations, emotional well-being, and the influence of gender norms on their daily lives.



Structured psychosocial and resilience-building sessions reinforced self-care as a collective strategy, helping women develop coping mechanisms, prioritize their health, and support one another in managing stress. Through this integrated approach, women reported enhanced emotional resilience, increased confidence in articulating their needs, and improved awareness of strategies to prevent burnout.

The collective nature of the sessions fostered solidarity, enabling participants to share experiences and discuss strategies for household and community advocacy. A total of 355 women from 12 Women Collectives participated in these processes. The interventions aimed to build critical consciousness around unpaid care work, stress, and discrimination, while equipping women with practical tools to improve mental well-being and decision-making.



As a result, women demonstrated improved confidence, stronger peer support, and greater willingness to discuss issues related to stress, violence, and gender inequality. Emerging outcomes included the adoption of self-care practices, stronger solidarity among members, and increased engagement in community-level dialogue and action.

Yoga for Women: Strengthening Self-Care, Resilience, and Well-Being



Yoga-based self-care sessions were implemented for women across the three districts of Monaragala, Anuradhapura, and Hambantota. This intervention was designed in response to high levels of physical exhaustion, emotional stress, and limited access to safe well-being practices experienced by women, particularly due to unpaid care responsibilities, social pressures, and restrictive gender norms.

Recognizing that these factors increase women's vulnerability to burnout and reduce their ability to respond to violence, self-care was positioned as a critical entry point for strengthening resilience and agency. Yoga sessions were conducted as part of group engagements within Women Collectives, combining guided physical exercises, breathing techniques, and relaxation practices, complemented by reflective discussions on stress management, emotional awareness, and importance of prioritizing personal well-being.

As a result, participants reported increased awareness of the importance of self-care and demonstrated a growing willingness to allocate time for their own well-being, challenging deeply rooted norms that often deprioritize women's needs. The collective nature of the sessions also created supportive spaces for women to connect, share experiences, and build peer solidarity.



16 Days of Activism: Raising Awareness on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence



As part of the 16 Days of Activism, awareness-raising programmes on technology-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV) were conducted in Anuradhapura District, including targeted sessions with the Nachchaduwa Women's Federation. These sessions focused on raising awareness of online abuse, digital safety, and women's rights in virtual spaces. As a key outcome, participants mobilized to form a community drama group and developed a performance titled "Samanali's Story," which highlighted the realities and impacts of TFGBV and created space for community dialogue.

In Monaragala District, four awareness sessions were planned across selected communities; however, due to adverse weather conditions, only one session was successfully conducted, reaching 85 participants. Despite these limitations, the intervention contributed to increased awareness of digital risks and strengthened community-level engagement on emerging forms of gender-based violence. Overall, these initiatives supported women in better recognizing and responding to online violence, while encouraging collective action to address harmful gender norms in both physical and digital spaces.

Youth Empowerment for Gender Equality: Building Informed and Confident Change Agents

Youth-focused programmes were implemented to build a generation of informed, confident, and socially responsible young people capable of challenging harmful gender norms and promoting equality within their communities. Implemented under the Justice Defined Project (funded by UNFPA through JSAC), gender sensitization and awareness sessions were conducted across four communities in two divisions of Monaragala District, creating safe spaces for youth to reflect on social expectations, stereotypes, and their roles in fostering inclusive and non-violent environments.

A total of 135 youth (girls and boys) participated in these engagements, gaining foundational knowledge on gender equality, rights, and respectful relationships. Building on this, 35 youth were selected for advanced capacity-building in mobile storytelling and capturing, including video production and editing, which equipped participants with creative and technical skills to document and communicate community realities, particularly the impact of harmful gender norms and GBV on women's safety and well-being.



As a result, youth demonstrated increased critical awareness, confidence in expressing their perspectives, and enhanced advocacy skills. Through storytelling, participants amplified both challenges and positive stories of change within their communities. This approach contributed to youth-led, evidence-informed advocacy, strengthening their role as change agents and fostering longer-term shifts in attitudes and behaviours toward gender equality.

Nurturing Resilient Minds: Promoting Youth Well-being Through Self-Care Journals



A Self-Care Journal for Youth was introduced as part of the Mental Health Training Programmes conducted in three communities in the Anuradhapura District: Amane, Palu Wewa, and Pothana. This initiative was developed in response to the increasing emotional stress experienced by young people, limited help-seeking behaviours, and the lack of safe spaces for personal reflection and emotional expression. The primary objective of the journal was to provide youth with a practical and accessible tool to support self-reflection, emotional regulation, and positive daily well-being practices.

The initiative encouraged participants to actively explore and understand their thoughts, emotions, and coping mechanisms while enhancing awareness of stress management and peer support. Through the use of the journal, young people demonstrated greater openness in expressing emotions, improved self-awareness, and increased willingness to seek support when facing personal challenges. Furthermore, the self-care journal contributed to strengthening resilience among youth and fostering healthier coping strategies. The initiative also holds potential for long-term impact by promoting positive mental health practices and creating more supportive peer environments within their communities.

Breaking Boundaries: Youth Leading the Change for Gender Equality

Awareness initiatives such as poster campaigns and gender-sensitive cricket matches conducted in the Ambalantota Division of Hambantota district further reinforced key messages through engaging and community-friendly approaches. These activities promoted teamwork, inclusion, mutual respect, and positive social norms among youth and community members. As a result of these interventions, young people demonstrated increased awareness of gender equality, greater confidence in expressing their views, and stronger engagement in community advocacy initiatives.

Participants also showed improved communication skills, creativity, and peer influence by using platforms such as storytelling and awareness campaigns to engage their communities on important social issues. In the longer term, these programmes contribute to transforming attitudes and behaviours among youth, fostering inclusive leadership, and building a stronger foundation for more equitable, respectful, and violence-free communities.



Redefining Strength, Sharing Responsibility: Engaging Men & Community Leaders as Agents of Change

To address the root causes of gender-based violence and promote more equitable social norms, the programme strategically engaged men and community leaders as key actors in transforming harmful masculinities and strengthening community accountability.



Loving Father Programme

The Loving Father Programme was implemented in the Anuradhapura district to promote positive fatherhood and shared caregiving responsibilities within households. Recognizing that rigid gender roles often place unequal burdens on women and limit men's emotional engagement, the programme created reflective spaces for men to examine traditional expectations of masculinity.

Through participatory discussions and practical exercises, participants explored non-violent communication, emotional expression, and shared domestic responsibilities. As a result, men demonstrated increased awareness of their roles in promoting respectful family relationships, with emerging shifts toward more supportive and engaged parenting practices, contributing to healthier and more balanced household dynamics.

Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programme

The Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programme for teenage boys was held at Vidyaloka College, Monaragala District, designed in response to the strong link between substance use, risk behaviours, and violence. The sessions focused on building awareness of the social and personal consequences of substance abuse, while also addressing peer pressure, emotional regulation, and decision-making.



By integrating discussions on gender norms and masculinity, the programme enabled participants to critically reflect on how substance use is often normalized within male socialization. As an outcome, boys showed increased understanding of the risks associated with substance use, improved self-awareness, and a stronger commitment to making safer, non-violent choices, contributing to early prevention.

Capacity-Building Programme for CBOs

The Capacity-Building Programme for CBOs was conducted in all three districts, covering nearly 300 CBO members. Focused on strengthening the governance, accountability, and effectiveness of grassroots structures, the programme equipped leaders with skills in organizational management, inclusive decision-making, and community engagement. Recognizing that CBOs play a critical role in sustaining community-level change, this professionalization process enhanced the ability of CBOs to plan, implement, and sustain gender-responsive interventions, while also strengthening their role as local platforms for advocacy and support.



The combined interventions resulted in a measurable impact across target groups. Women demonstrated openness regarding mental health and self-care, while youth developed a refined understanding of consent, equality, and protection. Parent-child communication strategies regarding gender issues were enhanced, and men showed greater engagement in caregiving as well as substance-use prevention discussions.

Strengthening the First Line of Support: Capacity-Building for CBOs

Capacity-building programmes were implemented for CBOs in the Nachchaduwa and Mihintale Divisional Secretariat Divisions in Anuradhapura District, in response to the limited availability of accessible, community-level psychosocial support systems and the increasing need for early identification and response to emotional distress and violence. Recognizing that CBO leaders often serve as first points of contact within communities, the intervention aimed to strengthen their capacity to provide safe, ethical, and informed support. Under the theme of “How to Be a Good Helper,” the programme focused on building practical skills in mental health awareness, basic psychosocial support, psychological first aid, and appropriate referral pathways.

A total of 110 CBO members participated in the training, enhancing their understanding of trauma, active listening, confidentiality, and non-judgmental engagement. As a result, participants demonstrated increased confidence in responding to community-level distress, improved ability to identify vulnerable individuals, and strengthened linkages with formal support services. This contributed to reducing immediate response gaps and promoting safer, more supportive community environments. Moving forward, FISD plans to continue working with these trained CBO leaders to strengthen community-based referral mechanisms, provide ongoing mentoring, and institutionalize psychosocial support practices within local structures, ensuring sustainability and long-term impact.



Socio-Cultural Engagement: Using Culture to Confront Harmful Masculinities



In the Agunukolapalessa Divisional Secretariat Division of Hambantota, a “Musical Appreciation” programme was implemented as an innovative socio-cultural engagement strategy to raise awareness among divisional-level government stakeholders on harmful masculinities and their link to GBV.

This approach was introduced in recognition of the need to move beyond conventional training methods and create more engaging, reflective spaces that enable participants to connect emotionally and culturally with complex gender issues. The programme brought together approximately 60 government stakeholders, including local-level officers and service providers. It used music as a soft-power tool to initiate dialogue on gender norms, power dynamics, and socially constructed expectations of masculinity.



Through guided reflection and facilitated discussions, participants explored how normalized behaviours, attitudes, and cultural narratives around masculinity can contribute to violence and inequality within families and communities. As a result, participants demonstrated increased awareness of harmful masculine norms, improved understanding of their role in GBV prevention, and greater openness to integrating gender-sensitive approaches into their professional responsibilities. The use of a culturally relevant and non-threatening medium enabled deeper engagement and reflection, contributing to early attitudinal shifts among stakeholders. In the longer term, this approach supports the prevention of GBV by influencing institutional actors to adopt more responsive, equitable, and non-violent practices within their respective sectors.

Strengthening the Frontline: Building SRHR Capacity Among Government Officers



A Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) capacity-building programme was conducted for Women Development Officers (WDOs) in Anuradhapura District to strengthen institutional responses to gender-based violence and SRHR-related issues. This initiative addressed identified gaps in frontline officers' confidence and technical knowledge to handle sensitive

topics such as sexuality, reproductive health, and survivor-centered support. The training followed a Training of Trainers (TOT) programme facilitated by UNFPA, which brought together WDOs, Samurdhi Officers, and Samurdhi Managers from 23 districts. A WDO from Nachchaduwa Division, after participating in the national-level TOT, recognized the effectiveness of the approach and requested a similar programme for fellow WDOs in Anuradhapura district.

Responding to this demand, FISD coordinated a district-level training using the same facilitation methods and resource personnel to ensure continuity and consistency. A total of 35 Women Development Officers participated in the programme. The training incorporated participatory facilitation methods, reflective discussions, case-based learning, and practical exercises, emphasizing values, challenging personal biases, and building comfort in addressing culturally sensitive topics.



As a result, participants demonstrated increased knowledge of SRHR concepts, improved confidence in engaging communities on sensitive issues, and strengthened understanding of rights-based and survivor-centered approaches. They noted that the interactive, reflective style enabled them to openly discuss previously stigmatized topics and connect theory with field realities. In the longer term, this intervention improves the quality and responsiveness of government-led services while building sustained collaboration between community structures and institutional actors in addressing SRHR and GBV.

Uniting for Action: Strengthening District-Level Coordination on SGBV



In Hambantota District, the establishment of a Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Multi-Stakeholder Forum marked a significant step toward strengthening coordinated and institutionalized responses to violence. This initiative was developed in response to the fragmented nature of service provision, where gaps in communication and referral pathways often limited timely and effective support for survivors.

Recognizing the need for a more integrated approach, the forum brought together key stakeholders, including government officers, health professionals, law enforcement, and community representatives, to create a structured platform for collaboration. The primary objective was to streamline prevention and response mechanisms, ensuring that survivors can access comprehensive, timely, and survivor-centered services across sectors. Through regular meetings, joint planning, and information-sharing processes, stakeholders were able to clarify roles and responsibilities, strengthen referral pathways, and address bottlenecks within existing systems. The platform also facilitated collective problem-solving and promoted accountability among service providers. As a result, the forum contributed to improved coordination between institutions, more efficient referral processes, and increased responsiveness to SGBV cases at the district level.

It also strengthened trust and collaboration between community actors and formal service providers. In the longer term, the institutionalization of this mechanism supports the sustainability of coordinated action, ensuring that gender-based violence is addressed through a holistic, multi-sectoral, and survivor-centered approach.



Reframing Menstruation as a Matter of Dignity: "Menstruation Matters" Symposium



The "Menstruation Matters" Symposium on Dignified Menstruation was implemented as a national-level advocacy initiative to address persistent stigma, misinformation, and harmful cultural norms surrounding menstruation. Held on 24 April 2025 in Kandy, the programme specifically engaged community women and schoolgirls from the Panvila Division, recognizing the need to create safe and informed spaces for discussion on menstrual health and dignity.

The primary objective was to increase awareness on menstrual health management, challenge myths and misconceptions, and promote informed decision-making regarding menstrual hygiene products and practices.

Through interactive sessions and open dialogue, participants explored topics such as menstrual-related health issues, social stigma, and the importance of dignity and inclusion in both home and community environments. As a result, participants demonstrated increased knowledge, reduced stigma in discussing menstruation, and improved confidence in managing menstrual health and supporting others, particularly adolescent girls.



This initiative contributed to shifting community perceptions and encouraging more open conversations around menstruation, laying the foundation for long-term behavioural change and empowerment of women and girls in the estate sector.

Training the Trainers: Building Institutional Capacity for GBV & SRHR Response

In July 2025, FISD, with support from UNFPA, strengthened the institutional capacity of frontline government officers through a comprehensive Training of Trainers (TOT) programme on SRHR & GBV, held in Colombo. The initiative responded to the critical need for standardized, rights-based, and survivor-centered approaches within frontline service delivery systems, particularly among officers who regularly engage with vulnerable communities.

The programme brought together Samurdhi Managers, Women Development Officers (WDOs), and Counselling Assistants, positioning them as key multipliers of knowledge at district and community levels. Facilitated by a multidisciplinary panel of experts, the training adopted an interactive, participatory TOT approach integrating technical content with reflective learning, case-based discussions, and practical facilitation techniques.



As outcomes, participants demonstrated enhanced knowledge of SRHR and GBV concepts, increased confidence in handling sensitive cases, and improved capacity to deliver trainings within their respective districts. The TOT approach enabled the creation of a network of trained government officers capable of scaling up interventions, ensuring sustainability. Early outcomes indicate strengthened coordination between service providers, improved responsiveness to survivor needs, and greater integration of rights-based approaches into routine service delivery, representing a critical step toward institutionalizing gender-sensitive practices within government systems.



From the Ground to the National Stage: Youth Leading Advocacy on Digital GBV

FISD contributed to the national launch of UNFPA Sri Lanka's #16DaysOfActivismAgainstGBV campaign, themed #OurDigitalSpace, which focused on raising awareness of technology-facilitated gender-based violence. The initiative aimed to highlight emerging digital risks and the importance of safe online spaces for equality and inclusion. A key feature of the launch was the participation of Isuru Manchanayake, a youth representative from Monaragala, who was selected as a panellist after receiving training through FISD's Justice Defined Project. This pathway ensured that youth voices, grounded in community-level experiences and evidence, were directly represented in national-level dialogue.

By preparing youth with knowledge, facilitation skills, and confidence, the programme enabled them to effectively communicate community concerns and perspectives to policymakers, advocates, and wider stakeholders. As a result, Isuru's participation amplified the perspectives of young people affected by technology-facilitated violence while demonstrating the effectiveness of building youth leadership for advocacy.



The initiative contributed to strengthening youth-led, evidence-informed dialogue, promoting intergenerational awareness on online GBV, and encouraging continued engagement of young people as partners in policy and advocacy processes.

From Awareness to Action: Women Leading Change Through Community Drama



Women members of the Nachchaduwa Women Federation demonstrated a significant shift in agency and collective power as a result of sustained engagement in gender equality and GBV-focused interventions. Moving beyond awareness and confidence-building, the process enabled women to critically analyse power dynamics within

households and communities, including how gender norms restrict decision-making, mobility, and voice. Through reflection and capacity-building, women began to reposition themselves not only as beneficiaries but as active agents of change and advocates within their communities. This shift was evident in their collective action, as federation members independently conceptualized and organized a community-awareness drama addressing gender inequality and violence. By initiating dialogue with community members and local leaders, they challenged existing norms and created space for community accountability.

As a result, the intervention strengthened women's decision-making power, collective organizing capacity, and ability to influence social norms, marking a progression from awareness to transformative empowerment. This demonstrates how sustained engagement can shift power relations and enable women to lead community-driven efforts to prevent gender-based violence.

Engaging Men and Boys to Prevent Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Sri Lanka

FISD, with funding from the UNDP, implemented the project "Ensuring Justice for Victim-Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Sri Lanka" from January 2025 to March 2026. This gender-transformative initiative operated across four districts, Hambantota, Anuradhapura, Monaragala, and Kandy, with the core objective of engaging men and boys as active allies in preventing SGBV and promoting gender equality. The project pursued three primary goals: engaging school students to challenge harmful gender norms, strengthening the capacity of CSOs to integrate male engagement strategies, and training teachers to facilitate gender equality programmes using reflective journal writing.

Throughout 2025, the project successfully completed all six foundational deliverables. Under the student training component, the project conducted workshops across 20 schools, directly engaging 1,155 students comprising 609 boys and 546 girls. The programme achieved exceptionally high satisfaction among both boys and girls.



Qualitative findings revealed profound transformations: boys demonstrated a conscious redefinition of masculinity towards empathy and shared responsibility, while girls exhibited empowered self-worth and critical voice through reflective journaling. Most students expressed readiness to continue their reflective journeys.



The project significantly strengthened local CSO capacity. An initial training equipped 157 CSO representatives using the Socio-Ecological Model, resulting in a dramatic shift in perception regarding men as essential allies in gender equality. A follow-up training further strengthened an additional 162 representatives, achieving notable increases in understanding of harmful versus caring masculinities and enabling participants to design practical peer-to-peer campaign prototypes.

Recognizing teachers as critical agents of change, the project trained 201 teachers (136 female and 65 male) through intensive two-day workshops across all four districts. Results included remarkable gains in legal literacy regarding SGBV and significant attitudinal shifts against regressive gender norms. A six-month support system of monthly online sessions and peer-learning circles was established to sustain implementation.



The reflective journal writing programme validated structured self-reflection as a powerful catalyst for change. Boys participated in traditionally gendered chores and challenged peers' biased language, while girls reframed personal strength from endurance to active agency. The intervention fostered supportive peer cultures with reduced gender-based teasing and enabled teachers to become facilitators of psychological safety.

The project had successfully trained 201 teachers, built the capacity of 319 CSO representatives, and directly engaged 1,155 students in transformative learning. Looking ahead to early 2026, the project will continue monthly online teacher training, conduct follow-up visits for student journaling and CSO action plans, and begin designing a National Advocacy Event to scale this replicable model to new districts and influence national policy on engaging young boys in transforming masculinities and preventing gender-based violence.

Strengthening Prevention Capacity: FISD Joins the VAW Asia Cluster Programme of Prevention Collaborative

FISD's programme team participated in the Prevention Collaborative's VAW (Violence Against Women) Asia Cluster Programme 2025, a prestigious co-learning initiative that brings together civil society organizations from Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, and Nepal to build the capacity in prevention of violence against women. The programme aimed to strengthen local capacity to develop, implement, and scale effective prevention programming in low-resource environments, with a strong emphasis on evidence-based, transformative approaches.



An intensive in-person workshop was held from 11th to 15th August 2025 in Nepal. Over the four days, sessions covered the nature and root causes of violence against women, the socio-ecological model and protective factors, global risk factors for intimate partner violence, core prevention principles, an honest examination of what does not work in prevention, introduction to the prevention triad, and structured action planning for next steps. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for cross-country learning and sharing of best practices.

Following the workshop, FISD actively participated in six online continuous learning sessions held every two weeks from August to November 2025. Topics included transformative programming; interactive and aspirational programming approaches; programme exposure through real-world case studies; developing a Theory of Change; effective strategies for engaging men and boys; and a final wrap-up session focused on action planning and reflecting on key learnings. The programme strengthened FISD's capacity to design and implement evidence-based violence prevention programmes and fostered regional collaboration with peer organizations across Asia.



THRIVE project – Together for Her: Resilience-building, Inclusivity, and Voices for Equality

FISD is implementing the THRIVE project – Together for Her: Resilience-building, Inclusivity, and Voices for Equality. This transformative five-year initiative was developed jointly by UN Women and Chrysalis, with funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The project aims to economically and socially empower marginalized women and strengthen their resilience in the face of crises, insecurity, and climate-related challenges. Under FISD's leadership, Outcome 2 of the project focuses on shifting harmful social norms and fostering behavioural change to advance gender equality and prevent violence. The project commenced in the fourth quarter of 2025, with most implementation work planned for the coming years.



FISD's work targets disaster-affected districts, including Colombo, Badulla, Monaragala, Nuwara Eliya, Mannar, Kilinochchi, to reach approximately 3,000 beneficiaries. Under Outcome 2 on addressing harmful gendered social norms and promoting positive behaviour change, the project will utilise the Social Ecological Model, targeting change at the individual, household, and community levels. Outcome 2 involves two specific outputs: first, targeting adult household members and couples focusing on more equitable and respectful relationships, predominantly female entrepreneurs and their spouses, partners, or other adult male household members; and second, targeting community leaders and influencers to address harmful, discriminatory social norms and practices, utilising the trained couples and other identified male allies and champions.

Key activities of the activities include conducting perception surveys on existing social norms, adapting behaviour change interventions to local contexts, organizing community mobilization events using edutainment methods such as forum theatre and puppetry, implementing couples' counselling and mixed-group sessions, and conducting follow-up monitoring to identify community champions. Additional efforts include women's safety audits, community activism training, and long-term social change programmes for leaders and champions. During the initial start-up phase in late 2025, FISD focused on staff orientation, planning meetings with partners, and baseline consultations. FISD remains committed to achieving lasting change in shifting harmful social norms and advancing gender equality across target communities in Sri Lanka.

Pathways to Peace: Social Norms and Behaviour Change Intervention for Gender Equality

FISD successfully implemented the “*Social Norms and Behaviour Change Intervention to Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*” project under the “*Pathways to Peace*” initiative, implemented by UN Women. The project targeted four districts: Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Mannar, and Mullaitivu, aiming to empower women entrepreneurs while engaging their spouses and adult male household members. Recognizing that women's economic empowerment can challenge existing power dynamics and potentially lead to household tension, the project integrated social norms and behaviour change interventions to foster mutual support and understanding.



The project reached 482 women and 438 men across the four districts, impacting approximately 920 individuals and their families. Women gained confidence in leadership and decision-making, developed the ability to challenge harmful gender norms, and formed strong peer networks for mutual support. Men demonstrated understanding of the negative impacts of harmful gender norms, adopted respectful communication, and conflict resolution within

their families, began sharing caregiving duties, and showed increased emotional presence as fathers. FISD's adaptive strategies, such as localized sessions, flexible scheduling, and tailored engagement, ensured meaningful participation, laying a strong foundation for continued progress toward gender equality in Sri Lanka.

The project implemented a series of interventions. Training sessions for women entrepreneurs were conducted across 12 divisions, followed by two rounds of Women's Collective Discussions where participants established peer support networks and negotiated more equitable household dynamics. For men, training sessions were conducted using reflective exercises challenging traditional masculinity, followed by Fatherhood Programmes and Male Peer Group Discussions that encouraged men to share domestic responsibilities and engage emotionally with their children. Happy Family Camps were organized, bringing together couples and children to focus on conflict resolution, caregiving equity, and intergenerational dialogue. Additionally, divisional-level stakeholder engagement meetings were held across 12 divisions, bringing together local officials from multiple sectors, while district-level stakeholder training sessions engaged high-level officials who developed strategic action plans for gender-responsive reforms.



Engaging Men and Boys as Accountable Allies in the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



FISD implemented the project “*Engaging Men and Boys as Accountable Allies in the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV)*” with funding from the UNFPA through JSAC. This initiative was designed to address the pervasive challenge of GBV in Sri Lanka by directly targeting entrenched patriarchal norms and unequal power relations. The project aimed to transform patriarchal masculinities and build the capacity of key stakeholders across five target districts: Ratnapura, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Matara, and Batticaloa.

Over the project period of 2025, FISD successfully conducted a total of 15 training programmes, reaching over 650 participants from multiple sectors. The project targeted diverse stakeholder groups, including civil society organizations, youth networks, government officers, faith-based leaders, political leaders, media professionals, and members of the MenEngage Alliance Sri Lanka. Each training stream was tailored to the unique roles and influence of these groups, using participatory methodologies such as group discussions, reflective exercises, role-playing, and action planning. The trainings focused on gender concepts, patriarchal norms, privilege and power dynamics, GBV awareness, and strategies for engaging men and boys as accountable allies.

Across all training cohorts, participants demonstrated significant mindset shifts. Many challenged long-held beliefs about gender roles, recognized their own privileges, and moved from viewing GBV as a “women’s issue” to understanding men’s shared accountability. Civil society organizations developed concrete action plans, including community campaigns, youth dialogues, and street theatre.



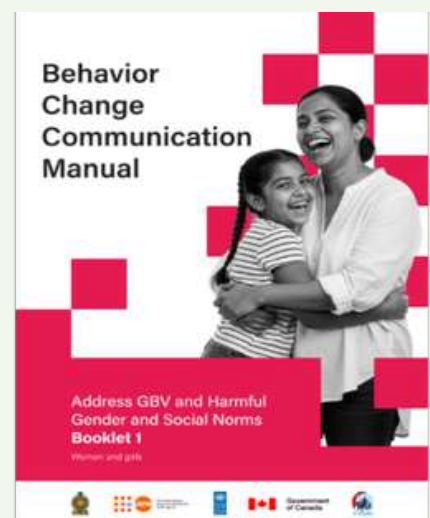
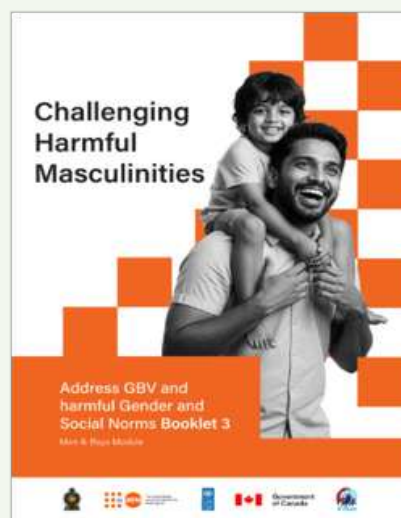
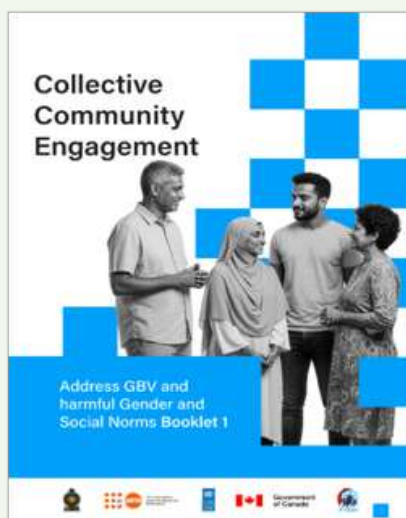
Youth participants are committed to sharing knowledge, conducting awareness campaigns, and using social media for advocacy. Government officers gained practical strategies to address workplace gender biases and committed to implementing gender-sensitive policies in their departments. Faith-based leaders experienced self-reflection and committed to integrating gender equality perspectives into their sermons, religious counselling, and teaching. Political leaders acknowledged the negative impact of their own privilege and committed to submitting council motions and promoting women’s political participation.



The initiative demonstrated that safe, reflective, and participatory methodologies can effectively engage even traditionally conservative groups. The trainings not only increased awareness but also translated into tangible commitments and action plans for community-level implementation, laying a strong foundation for sustainable, multi-stakeholder action toward engaging men and boys as accountable allies in preventing gender-based violence across Sri Lanka.

Development of Social and Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) Modules for Gender and Social Norm Transformation

FISD, in partnership with UNFPA Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, initiated the development of a series of Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) modules to address deeply rooted gender and social norms contributing to sexual and gender-based violence in Sri Lankan communities. Three distinct modules are being developed in English, Sinhala, and Tamil: A Community Module engaging community-based structures, a Women and Girls Module empowering women and girls from the inside out, and a Men and Boys Module transforming harmful masculinities and promoting allyship. Following the consultations with UNFPA, FISD developed the first drafts of the three BCC modules, which were submitted to UNFPA and an external reviewer for feedback. The modules were then revised to strengthen safeguarding language, enhance visual and low-literacy tools, and expand culturally adapted examples.



A validation workshop was conducted with representatives from CSOs, UNFPA, and the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to ensure the modules are practical and aligned with national priorities. Final revisions have been incorporated, and the modules are being prepared for final formatting. This process has demonstrated the importance of centering community voice in BCC development, and FISD is confident that the finalized modules will offer a transformative platform for behaviour change across Sri Lanka.

FISD Hosts International Conference on Gender and Climate Justice in Colombo

FISD successfully hosted the International Conference on Gender and Climate Justice at the Ramada Hotel, Colombo, bringing together national and international experts, policymakers, and researchers to discuss the intersection of gender equality and climate resilience. The conference, chaired by Prof. M.T.M. Mahees (Former General Secretary-FISD), was inaugurated by Prof. Upali Pannilage, the Cabinet Minister of Rural Development, Social Security, and Community Empowerment.



Positioned as part of the global #AccelerateAction momentum stemming from International Women's Day 2025, the conference sought to extend that call into the realm of climate leadership, amplifying women's voices, championing inclusive dialogue, and accelerating gender-equitable climate solutions. The event served as a vibrant platform for knowledge-sharing, policy advocacy, and network-strengthening at the intersection of gender and climate justice, with its objectives spanning the exploration of gendered climate impacts, particularly around drought and water scarcity, the role of women in environmental governance, the promotion of ecofeminism as a guiding framework, and the advancement of policies that protect and empower women in climate justice movements.



The conference drew significant academic and professional interest, evidenced by the large volume of research abstracts submitted in response to the open call. Following a rigorous review process by a dedicated panel, 57 abstracts were published and presented under five main domains, 1. Women and Natural Disasters, 2. Political Ecology, Gender and Water Rights, 3. Women and Climate Resilience, 4. Climate Change, Food Security and Gender, and 5. Ecofeminism and Climate Justice.

The conference opened with a high-level panel discussion on Gender and Climate Justice, featuring distinguished panelists including Dr. Ayomi Witharana, Ms. Samitha Sugathimala, Mr. Menake Wijesinghe, Ms. S.D.R. Tennakoon, and Ms. Luxshe Hariharan, whose insights set a rich intellectual tone for the day, featuring experts from academia, government, and civil society. The event further enriched the day, focusing on bridging policy gaps and amplifying local voices in climate decision-making.



Adding a creative dimension to the conference, FISD celebrated World Children's Day 2024 by recognizing winners of its Short Story Writing Competition held under the theme "Children and Nature." The competition engaged young writers from the Anuradhapura, Monaragala, Hambantota, and Kandy Districts, inspiring them to express their connection to the environment. The winners of the Short Story Writing Competition were honoured at the event and received FISD's short story collection "Mihikathage Daruwo," which was also presented to guests as a symbol of nurturing environmental awareness among youth.

The conference concluded with a shared commitment to advancing gender responsive climate action in Sri Lanka. FISD reaffirmed its dedication to promoting gender equality and environmental justice, emphasizing that sustainable progress depends on inclusivity, collaboration, and compassion.

Cyclone Ditwa Emergency Response: Distribution of Relief Supplies Across Seven Districts

In the wake of the devastating Cyclone Ditwa, which struck Sri Lanka in late November and December 2025, FISD successfully completed a large-scale emergency relief operation across seven of the island's most affected districts. The cyclone triggered catastrophic rainfall, floods, and landslides, displacing thousands of families and crippling access to essential services. In response, FISD, with financial backing from FORUT, Family for Every Child, the Lak Saviya Foundation, and individual donors, launched a humanitarian initiative to restore safety, dignity, and normalcy for the most vulnerable.



Targeting the districts of Badulla, Kandy, Anuradhapura, Nuwara Eliya, Monaragala, Hambantota, and Colombo, the intervention prioritized families with children, women-headed households, and those with acute social and economic vulnerabilities. Working through government coordination mechanisms, FISD conducted rapid needs assessments to ensure equitable and transparent distribution of aid. Relief items were carefully tailored to meet urgent field-level needs.



Dignity Packs included sanitary pads, toiletries, underwear, Dettol, and laundry soap. Emergency Relief Packs contained bedsheets, sarongs, bras, under-skirts, and towels. School Packs provided bags, exercise books, geometry tools, lunch boxes, and water bottles. Dry ration kits supplied rice, dhal, coconut oil, tinned fish, spices, sugar, and milk powder. Kitchenware items such as saucepans, coconut scrapers, buckets, and cutlery were distributed, along with hygiene and bedding items, including mosquito nets and mattresses.

FISD extends its sincere gratitude to FORUT, Family for Every Child, the Lak Saviya Foundation, and all individual donors for their generous contributions and continued trust. Their support played a crucial role in enabling a swift and effective response to Sri Lanka's worst cyclone disaster in 2025. FISD remains committed to supporting affected communities as they transition from emergency relief to long-term recovery and resilience-building.



Global, Regional & National Networks 2025

FISD, as a national NGO, is committed to contributing to the strengthening and working in solidarity with the civil society sector Locally and globally. The following are the highlights of our various partnerships:

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 has been appointed as the Global Co-Chair of the Men Engage Alliance since January 2023 to date.
- **NACG EVAC Sri Lanka:** A National Action and Coordinating Group against Violence against Children (NACG) is established in each South Asian Country. The purpose is to strengthen inter-agency work, including work with governments and children's groups to end violence against children. SAIEVAC, which is an apex body of SAARC, works closely with the civil society/local bodies in each country. When feasible, SAIEVAC provides support for the effectiveness of NACG. SAIEVAC works closely with NACG to mobilize local coordination, especially the civil society, for its programme purposes. National Action Coordinating Group to End 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 the 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 of 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 by 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 to enact the legal aspects of alcohol and tobacco prevention in the country. FISD is a member of the NATA to implement the NATA Act.
- **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-down 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 strengthening 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 joined this coalition in 2023, following a grant received under the 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, resources to lead happy and healthy lives, and obtain dignity.

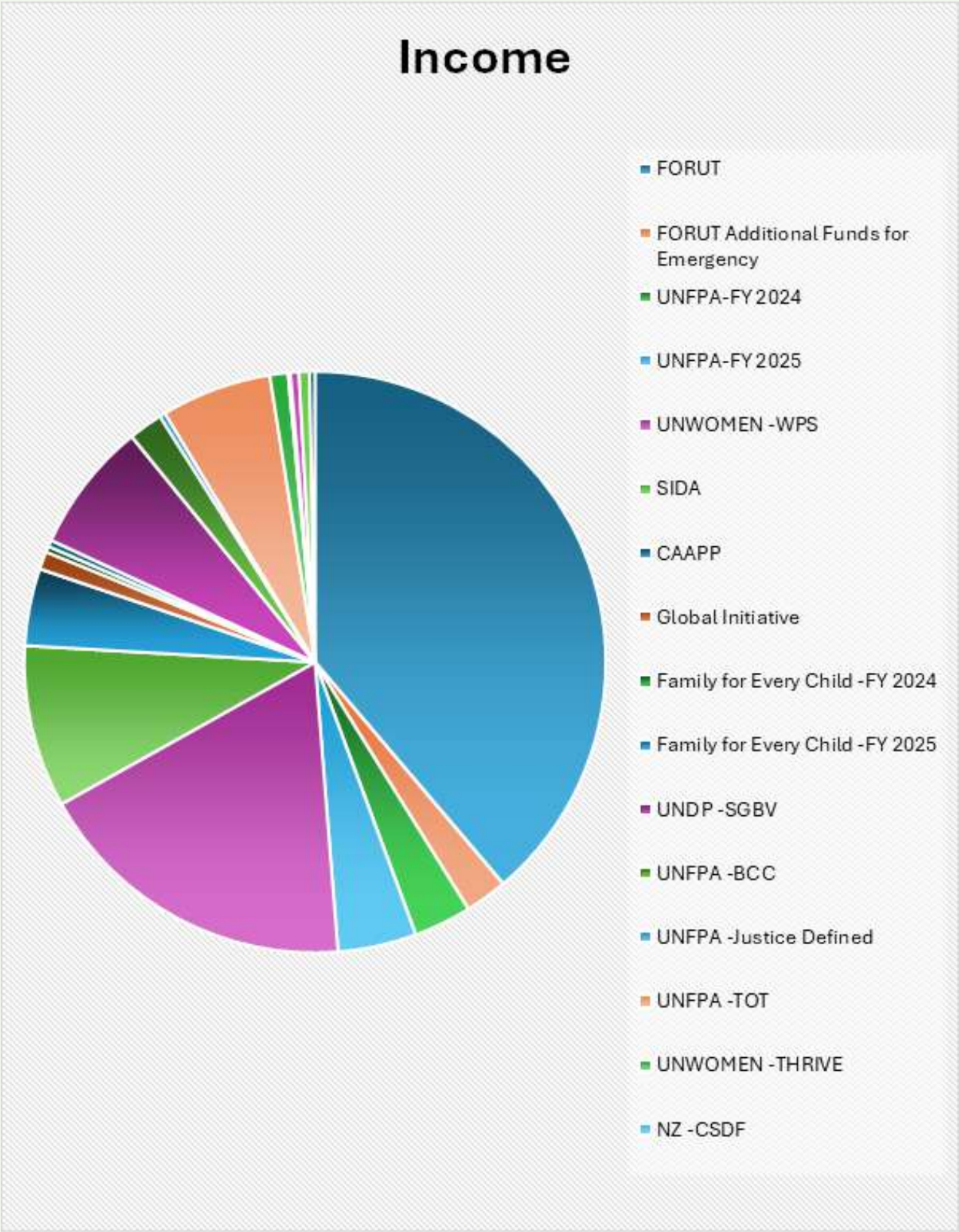
Donors and Partners 2025

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 that helps 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.
- **Combined Security and Disarmament Fund (CSDF), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand:** The Combined Security and Disarmament Fund (CSDF) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), New Zealand, supports initiatives that strengthen international peace, security, and disarmament efforts. Through its partnership with the Foundation for Innovative Social Development (FISD), CSDF contributes to advancing community-based approaches to human security, promoting conflict prevention, and supporting initiatives that enhance resilience, safety, and sustainable peace at the local level.
- **UN Women Sri Lanka:** UNW Sri Lanka is the UN entity promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. It partners with government and community organizations to strengthen women's leadership, protect rights, and address GBV. FISD was supported by UNW Sri Lanka in implementing the "Social Norms and Behaviour Change Intervention to Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment" initiative under the "Pathways to Peace" project. The project aimed to address gender inequalities and empower women entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka.
- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sri Lanka:** UNDP Sri Lanka is the UN's global development network, supporting the achievement of sustainable development, reducing inequalities, and strengthening resilience. FISD is funded by UNDP for "Strengthening the Engagement of Men and Boys to Prevent and Intervene SGBV Issues – Ensuring Justice for Victim-Survivors of SGBV in Sri Lanka." The project aimed to engage men and boys in preventing SGBV while promoting justice and support for victim-survivors across the country

- **Jaffna Social Action Centre (JSAC):** JSAC is a community-based organization dedicated to promoting social justice, human rights, and community development. FISD implemented the project “Engaging Men and Boys as Accountable Allies in the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence”, supported by JSAC with funding from UNFPA Sri Lanka. The project aims to engage men and boys as active partners in preventing gender-based violence and promoting gender equality in communities across Sri Lanka.
- **Resilience Fund, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC):** The Resilience Fund of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime supports civil society organizations working to build community resilience against the impacts of organized crime. Through its partnership with the Foundation for Innovative Social Development (FISD), the Fund strengthens community-led initiatives that enhance local capacities, promote safety and social cohesion, and support sustainable responses to emerging security challenges.

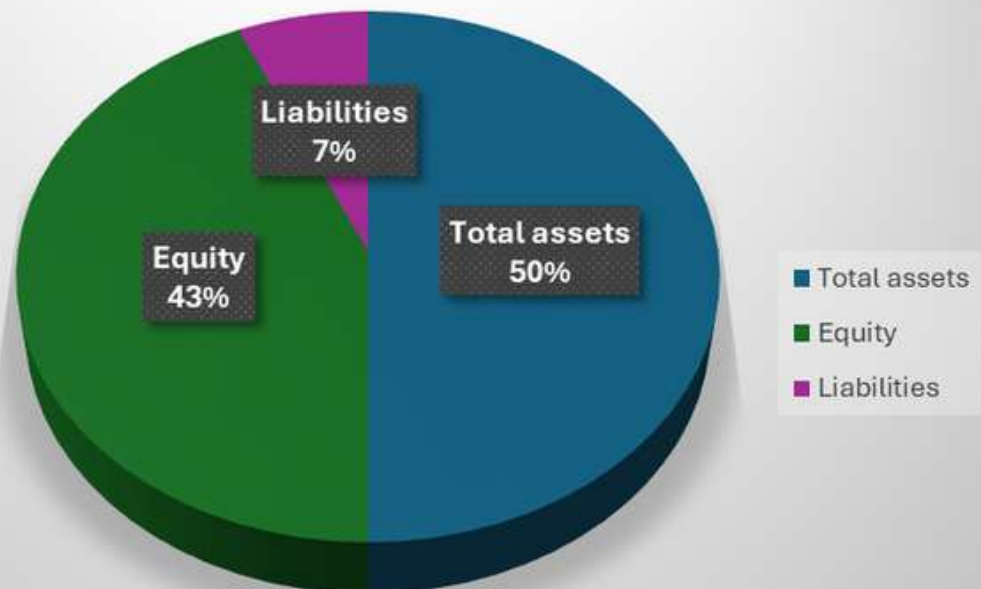
Financial Overview 2025



Expenditure



Financial Position



Looking Ahead - 2026

As FISD moves into 2026, the organization transitions from foundational capacity-building to sustained behavioural change and institutional strengthening. In alcohol and drug prevention, efforts will focus on scaling community-led initiatives, strengthening youth advocacy networks, and deepening the impact of father engagement programmes. In child rights protection and promotion, 2026 will prioritize positive parenting, community-led advocacy, accountability systems, and a stronger culture of reporting child protection concerns, with expected outcomes including reduced harmful practices and improved community responsibility for child safety. In gender and development, the focus will be on shifting harmful social norms through community mobilization, while rolling out newly developed behaviour change communication modules. A national advocacy platform will be operationalized to sustain multi-stakeholder action on engaging men and boys in preventing gender-based violence. Mental health and well-being will see significant expansion, building on successful self-care and psychosocial programmes. Community-based organizations will receive enhanced training on psychological first aid and referral pathways, while mental health awareness and healing programmes for children and youth will be scaled. The integration of mental well-being across all thematic areas will be further strengthened.

Across all programmes, 2026 will prioritize strengthening monitoring systems, expanding reach to underserved populations, including marginalized communities and persons with disabilities, and institutionalizing training within partner organizations. By centering community ownership and multi-sectoral collaboration, FISD remains committed to building resilient, equitable, and violence-free communities where mental well-being, dignity, and justice are realities for all.





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Note:

All photographs featured in this Annual Report 2025 are published with prior consent from the individuals concerned, including children and community members. Necessary permissions were obtained for documentation and communication purposes.