



1. Introduction

The services rendered by the Department of Probation and Child Care Services in 2015 are reviewed by this report.

1.1 History of the Department

Probation System was tried out by the judiciary of Sri Lanka in the 1930s. Probation of Offenders Ordinance passed in England in 1907 had an impact on the judiciary of Sri Lanka as well. Probation Ordinance No. 22 passed in 1944 was a result of the aforesaid impact. Probation system was established in Sri Lankan Judiciary through this Act.

The task of starting Probation Services in Sri Lanka following the Probation Service of England, was assigned to Mr. H. A. Leedin, an advisor from England and the Probation Service related to the Department of Prisons started with a few Probation Officers. After implementing on trial basis in only some judiciary divisions of Sri Lanka this service was recognized by the Judiciary. Then the necessity to improve that also emerged.

After the government accepted the recommendations of the Committee headed by Judge Gratien in 1949, Probation Service was extended to cover all judicial zones throughout the island. The administration of this service was done by the Department of Prisons and Probation.

The Report of Mr. Cyril Hamlin pointed out the importance of bringing the service provided for children under one institution with the implementation of the Children and Young Persons Ordinance and the commencement of Juvenile courts. As per the said recommendation, the Department of Probation and Child Care Services was founded on 01st October, 1956.

The Department which was founded in 1956 in this manner was brought under the Ministry of Social Services first. It was brought under various Ministries by successive governments. At the beginning of 1990, it was under the Ministry of Reform, Rehabilitation and Social Welfare and after August 1994 it was brought under the Ministry of Health, Highways and Social Services. In 2001 it was under the purview of the Ministry of Social Services and Fisheries Community Housing Development, and in 2002 under the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Welfare. In 2003, it was brought under the Ministry of Social Welfare and then in 2004 under the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Social Welfare.

From 2005, it functioned under the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Advancement and from 2010 under the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs as well. From 2015 up to now it has been functioning under the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs.

1.2 Establishment of Provincial Councils and the Powers vested in the Department

After the establishment of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services, functions of the detention houses, certified schools, probation offices etc. were extended

under the purview of this Department and Assistant Commissioners were appointed covering the entire island to assist the Commissioner of Probation and Child Care Services.

With the implementation of the 13th amendment to the Constitution in 1987 that structure changed and Probation and Child Care Service was devolved to the Provincial Councils. With that, the post of Assistant Commissioner that had been introduced to support the Commissioner was abolished. Provincial Probation and Child Care Commissioners were appointed for all provinces under the Provincial Councils and the probation Officers were brought under their supervision.

Sri Lanka became a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991 and the Child Rights Convention was ratified in 1992. For the purpose of fulfilling the provisions of the Convention, a new post called Child Rights Promotion Officer was created by the Department in 1999 aiming at covering the field duties and officers were recruited to this post. These officers are serving throughout the island by now, attached to the District and Divisional Secretariats. Programmes are implemented through them giving priority to the subjects of Probation as well as Child Care.

1.3 Our Vision

A sensitive and congenial society for children by ensuring their rights.

1.4 Our Mission

In line with national policies and international standards provide equal opportunities for all children specially orphaned, abandoned, and destitute and children in conflict with the law while ensuring their rights.

1.5 Our Values

- ❖ Child Centered
- ❖ Compassion
- ❖ Collaboration
- ❖ Commitment
- ❖ Cohesion



1.6 Our Commitment :

- i. Rehabilitation of children in conflict with law.
- ii. Taking measures to safeguard the rights of orphaned, abandoned and destitute children.
- iii. Safeguarding the rights of children subjected to legal issues.
- iv. Taking measures to promote and ensure child rights.
- v. Amendment of existing legislation on child rights in line with national and international standards, on the recommendations of the relevant Ministries and Provincial Councils by co-ordinating them.
- vi. Providing of technical knowledge and legal advice to Provincial Probation and Child Care Services Department's when necessary.
- vii. Provision of infra-structure facilities required to rehabilitate children in conflict with law.
- viii. Improving the existing internal assets and management methods.
- ix. Provision of an efficient service in a manner that satisfies the needs of the public.
- x. Training a competent staff that can efficiently protect child rights.

1.7 Programmes

- ❖ Co-ordination with Provincial Probation and Child Care Services Departments.
- ❖ Foreign Adoptions.
- ❖ Programmes to ensure children's right to education
 - Provision of necessary relief to helpless children through "Sevena Sarana" Foster Parent Scheme.
 - Provision of relief under "Nena Diriya" scholarship scheme.
 - Provision of assistance for children's education through "Kepakaru Deguru" Sponsorship scheme
- ❖ Strengthening social structures to ensure child rights.
- ❖ Implementation of Children's Clubs and Children's Councils programme to ensure children's right to participate.
- ❖ Training and Reserch'
- ❖ Maintenance of National Centre for Children's Training and Counselling Services at Paraththa for children who need counseling and children in conflict with law.

1.8 Organization structure of the Department and deployment of the staff

The responsibility of performing the functions of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services is held by the Commissioner with the assistance of a staff grade team of officers consisting of two Deputy/ Assistant Commissions, of S.L.A.S. Departmental Assistant Commissioner of the S.L.A.S., an Accountant, a Legal Officer, an Administrative Officer, two Probation Officers and two hundred and thirty four Child Rights Promotion Officers.

Branches coming under the Organization Structure:-

1. Establishment and Administration Branch
2. Accounts Branch
3. Probation Branch
4. Development Branch
5. National Centre for Children's Training and Counseling at Paraththa
6. Sevana Sarana Secretariat

All members of the Staff of the Department serve with the highest level of commitment. The entire staff consists of 487 at present it consists of 421 as described below.

Post	Approved Cadre	Current Cadre
Commissioner (S.L.A.S.)	01	01
Deputy/Assistant Commissioner (S.L.A.S.)	02	01
Assistant Commissioner (Departmental)	01	01
Accountant	01	01
Legal Officer	01	-
Administrative Officer	01	-
Translator	02	01
Probation Officer	02	01
Statistical Officer	01	-
Child Rights Promotion Officer		232
Child Rights Promotion Assistant	424	156
Development Officer (Head Office/Paraththa)	12	09
Female Counsellor	02	-
Information and Communication Technology Officer	01	-
Public Management Assistant Service	14	09
Stenographer	01	01
Assistant Warden	03	03
Non formal education Instructress	01	01
Driver	04	04
Office Employee Service	10	08
Cook	02	02
Sanitary Labourer	01	-
Total	487	430

2. Establishment and Administration Branch

2.1 Basic Responsibilities of the Establishment and Administration Branch

- Establishment affairs related to the staff of the Department
- Recruitment of new staff, transfer and disciplinary activities in relation to the Department of Probation and Child Care Services
- Holding the Efficiency Bar and Competency exams for the staff of the Department
- Taking action to provide regular training to all members of the Staff

In performing the duties assigned to the Department, action was taken to improve the knowledge of the internal staff, introduce new development strategies, recruit new staff and provide the required training and knowledge to the staff, accordingly,

- Action was taken to attach 10 Child Rights Promotion Assistants to fill the vacancies that existed at the Regional Offices of the Department.
- Seven officers underwent training in establishment affairs while five officers underwent training in finance and accounting.
- Action was taken to pay 50% - 70% of the Post Graduate and Diploma course fee of the Officers of the Department with the aim of improving their subject knowledge. Rs.366,875/= was allocated for this purpose.

2.2 Training programmes for the Child Rights Promotion Officers

Allocations under this Head are used for training needs of the Child Rights Promotion Officers/Assistants who perform their duties being attached to every Divisional Secretariat throughout the island. According to the annual plan, Rs.1.0 Mn. has been allocated for Human Resource Development of the Department in 2015. Training programmes were conducted in the following manner with the allocations.

Programme		Amount Spent (Rs.)	No. of participants
01	Capacity Development Programmes for Child Rights Promotion Officers/Probation Officers/Officers of the Institutions	8,20,995/-	818
02	Establishment of a pool of Resource Persons for the Department	2,39,890/-	56

3. Accounts Branch

Financial provisions are allocated annually through the budget to achieve the objectives of the Department. In 2015 provisions have been allocated under Head 217 under Social Care.

This allocation of funds consists of two programmes.

1. Operations Programme
2. Development Programme

A summary of provisions is given below.

Summary of Capital Expenditure Provisions/Expenditure in terms of programmes

01. Operations Programme		Provision (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
Project No.01 Administration and Establishment Services	1. Recurrent Expenditure	14,070,000.00	13,241,385.00
	2. Capital Expenditure	860,000.00	716,010.00
	Total	14,930,000.00	13,957,395.00
02. Development Programme		Provision (Rs.)	Expenditure (Rs.)
Project No.o2 Probation and Child Care Services	1. Recurrent Expenditure	276,013,000.00	264,964,118.00
	2. Capital Expenditure	32,257,000.00	28,106,353.00
	Total	308,270,000.00	293,070,471.00

Summary of Capital Expenditure Provisions/Expenditure

	Rehabilitation and Development of Capital Assets		Acquisition of Capital Assets	
	Provision (Rs.)	Expenditure(Rs.)	Provision (Rs.)	Expenditure(Rs.)
01.Operations Programme Project No.01 Administration and Establishment Services	360,000.00	229,770.00	300,000.00	300,000.00
02. Development Programme Project No.o2 Probation and Child Care Services	760,000.00	398,980.00	1,497,000.00	1,433,433.00
Total	1,120,000.00	628,750.00	1,797,000.00	1,733,433.00

Summary of Capital Expenditure Provisions/Expenditure

	Capacity Building		Rehabilitation of Children's Homes	
	Provision (Rs.)	Expenditure(Rs.)	Provision (Rs.)	Provision (Rs.)
1. Operations Programme				
Project No.01	200,000.00	186,240.00	---	---
02. Development Programme Project No.02 Probation and Child care Services	1,000,000.00	998,095.00	29,000,000.00	25,275,845.00
Total	1,200,000.00	1,184,335.00	29,000,000.00	25,275,845.00

4. Probation Services

Probation Service means the rehabilitation of an offender without subjecting him / her to institutionalization, imprisonment, other financial fine or any other punishment. The sole intention is to provide the offender an opportunity remain in the environment that he / she is living and provide that individual an opportunity to build a new life under the supervision of Probation officers, avoiding anti-social actions.

As per Section 03 of the Probation of Offenders Ordinance No. 42 of 1944, where a person is convicted by a Court, a probation order may be made by that Court in relation to any offence having regard to the nature of the offence and the age, sex and condition of the offender and with the offenders' willingness as well.

This kind of probation provides the offender economic and social benefits and in turn the entire society benefits through this process. For example if a person is imprisoned or subjected to some other punishment for an offence, his family will be affected economically and socially. At the same time the country has to bear a huge expenditure for the maintenance of such a person. That person is kept in his usual living environment and the Probation Service provides guidance for him/her to lead a good life. Therefore Probation Service has been recognized by the entire world as a community based rehabilitation process.

Even though the subject of Probation and Child Care Services has been assigned to the Provincial Councils according to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, the responsibility of implementing the Child Rights Convention is vested in the Department under the Central Government. Accordingly, action was taken to improve Probation Service by co-ordinating the Provincial Probation and Child Care Service departments. Allocation of provisions for Provincial Departments under the Action plan of the Department and progress review of them are also done by the Department.

4.1 Adoptions

Under Adoptions Ordinance No. 24 of 1941, the responsibility of functioning as the legal custodian of the children due to be adopted is vested in the Department. This task falls under two categories as Local and foreign adoptions. Out of these, local adoptions are handled by the Provincial Commissioner while foreign adoptions are handled by the Department. Persons who were born in Sri Lanka but have obtained citizenship of other countries, persons holding dual citizenship of Sri Lanka and another country and persons temporarily residing overseas submit their applications for adoptions to this Department under the Central Government. As the said applicants would take the children out of the country, they need to follow the rules applicable for foreign adoptions.

In addition there are occasion when certain applicants residing overseas come forward to adopt children related to their families and they too have to follow the instructions for foreign adoptions. Similarly, applications from foreigners for adoption of Sri Lankan children are submitted to the Department of Probation and Child Care. Action with respect to the requests of such applicants is taken based on the legal provisions of the International Hague Adoption Convention and Adoptions Ordinance. Children who are not requested for adoption by locals are referred for foreign adoptions.

4.2 Children given for foreign adoptions-2015

No.	Foreign Country	No. of children adopted by Sri Lankan overseas	Foreign Adoptions	Subtotal of the number of children given for adoption
01	Australia	02	-	02
02	Canada	02	-	02
03	France	02	03	05
04	Germany	01	02	03
05	Netherlands	--	02	02
06	Norway	01	--	01
07	Switzerland	01	03	04
08	USA	01	--	01
09	Italy	--	01	01
10	United Kingdom	01	--	01
11	Singapore	01	--	01
Total		12	11	23

5. Functions of the Development Branch

Necessity to extend special protection to the child has been stated in

- the Geneva Declaration on Child Rights of 1924.
- the Human Rights Declaration passed by the United Nations on 20th November 1959,
- the 1976 International Treaty on Civil and Political Rights.
- the 1976 International Treaty on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- the Universal Declaration of Child Rights of 1991
- the constitutions and instruments of specific sub agencies and international organizations focused on children's welfare.

Accordingly, the Government of Sri Lanka has declared the Child Rights Convention as provisions have to be made for the laws and policies that recognize child rights within Sri Lanka. The Department has implemented the development work in the following manner to cover the provisions of that convention.

1. Programmes implemented under ensuring the right to survival and development.

- “Sevana Sarana” foster parent scheme
- Provision of assistance for education
- “Kepakaru Deguru” Sponsorship scheme
- “Nena Diriya” scholarship scheme
- Assistance for sudden disasters / medical conditions / birth of twins
- Senehasa assistance scheme

2. Programmes implemented under ensuring Children's participation

- Establishment of Children's Clubs and Children's Councils
- Programmes to mark the World Children's Day

3. Programmes implemented under community based child care

- Establishment of model villages, welfare villages and community based villages.
- Conducting steering committee meetings on the Child Rights Convention
- Conducting awareness programmes

4. Programmes implemented under alternative care

- Rehabilitation of abused children
- Provision of vocational training to institutionalized children
- Conducting skill development programmes for institutionalized children

5.1 Sevana Sarana Foster Parent Scheme

A monthly scholarship is granted through this programme to meet the learning needs of children getting education amidst financial difficulties. Financial contributions for this come from the foster parents.

Year	Programme	Physical Progress	Financial Progress (Million)
2015	Sevana Sarana Foster Parent Scheme	137	1386000.00

5.2 Ensuring the children's right to education

A programme to enable non-school going children to attend school.

Every child has a right to education and education is a crucial factor for child development. If the child is deprived of opportunities for education during childhood, the child's future may be affected. Child labor, child mothers and child victims of various types of abuse have become common in Sri Lanka as a result of school drop outs. Children drop out from schools owing to many reasons such as loss of parents, ignorance of the parents, negligence, mother's migration, economic difficulties etc.

The fundamental aim of this programme implemented by the Department of Probation and Child Care is the creation of a generation of ethical children by ensuring the right to education of Sri Lanka children. Two approaches are taken to extend assistance to the children. They are,

- Children who have dropped out of school owing to economic difficulties, though they are of school going age.
- Children who attend school in an irregular manner owing to various reasons.

Identifying at Divisional Secretariat Division level the children not attending school, looking into the reasons for not attending school and taking necessary action to send them to school and provision of school equipment to uplift the education of estate children as recommended by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission were done under this programme.

This programme was implemented in several stages.

- Strengthening them through the provision of school equipment.
- Awareness programmes for children, teachers and parents about the importance of educating children.
- Building proper co-ordination among principals, teacher, parents and officials for the benefit of the child.

This Programme was implemented through the Child Rights Promotion Officers attached to the Divisional Secretariats.

Programme to enable non-school going children to attend school

Serial No.	District	No. of children	Amount Spent
01	Moneragala	03	3,000.00
02	Matara	115	175,500.00
03	Badulla	25	25,000.00
04	Rathnapura	224	238,000.00
05	Ampara	25	35,000.00
06	Hambanthota	147	181,500.00
07	Gampaha	51	67,000.00
08	Puttlam	59	78,000.00
09	Kalutara	09	14,000.00
10	Matale	30	37,500.00
11	Kegalle	69	72,500.00
12	Kurunegala	73	101,500.00
13	Colombo	34	40,500.00
14	Kandy	134	190,000.00
15	Anuradhapura	145	158,000.00
16	Polonnaruwa	28	29,000.00
17	Batticaloa	36	54,000.00
Total		1207	150,000.00

5.3 Kepakaru Deguru Sponsorship Programme

Kepakaru Deguru Sponsorship Programme could be identified as a programme that provides further assistance for educational requirements of children. This is implemented as a monthly scholarship grant. The target group for this programme is talented children from families facing economic difficulties. Selection and reference of the children are done through the Child Rights Promotion Officers and action is taken to pay Rs. 500/- or Rs. 750/- per child per month.

Payment of Kepakaru Deguru Scholarship Grant in year 2015

No.	District	No. of Children	Amount Spent
01	Gampaha	92	512,700
02	Kaluthara	83	507,500
03	Moneragala	83	442,500
04	Colombo	82	457,500
05	Badulla	143	804,000
06	Matara	106	621,000
07	Galle	127	783,000
08	Hambantota	118	604,500
09	Puttlam	54	319,500
10	Kegalle	92	505,500
11	Kurunegala	205	1,156,500
12	Rathnapura	95	552,000
13	Matale	67	372,000
14	Anuradhapura	160	927,000
15	Polonnaruwa	13	84,000
16	NuwaraEliya	12	91,500
17	Trincomalee	16	90,000
18	Kandy	167	817,500
19	Ampara	17	82,500
20	Batticaloa	24	112,500
21	Mulathivu	3	13,500
22	Jaffna	102	490,500
23	Mannar	2	12,000
24	Vavuniya	1	6,000
25	Kilinochchi	1	6,000
		1865	1,0371,200

Total Expenditure **10,371,200/-**

Total number of beneficiaries **1865**

5.4 “Nena Diriya” Educational Scholarship Scheme

A monthly scholarship is granted to children at risk of losing the opportunity for education due to various reasons through a management board of this Department using the financial contributions from the private sector. This programme is also implemented as a sub project under Sevana Sarana Foster Parent Scheme. According to the wish of the sponsor, an amount ranging from Rs.1000/- to Rs.2000/- will be provided per child per month under this project.

Payment of “Nena Diriya” Scholarship Grant

Year	Programme	Physical Progress	Financial Progress
2015	“Nena Diriya” educational assistance programme	329	7086000.00

5.5 Assistance for Twins

This is an assistance scheme for health, nutrition and other welfare needs of twins born into low income earning families as well as for protecting those twins from becoming vulnerable. Providing the necessary funds for applications received at Divisional Secretariat Division level is done here.

Under this programme, payments are made as Rs. 7500/- for twins, Rs. 15,000/- for triplets, Rs. 20,000/- for quadruplets and Rs. 25,000/- for quintuplets.

Every applicant gets the opportunity to benefit only once under the assistance scheme. Accordingly, it has been possible to provide relief to over 500 families per year through this.

5.6 Medical assistance

This assistance scheme is implemented for the provision of relief for health and nutrition problems of the children of low income earning families. At the same time, assistance is provided for disabled children as well. Provision of necessary funds for applications received at Divisional Secretariat Division level is done here.

Under this, assistance is provided for medical treatment, surgery, nutrition and equipment used for physical disabilities. Rs.5000/= is paid for medical treatment and nutrition while Rs.10,000/= is paid for surgery and payments for equipment vary according to their prices. The amounts paid may differ according to the nature of the families of those children and the difficulties they are facing.

Every applicant gets the opportunity to benefit only once under the assistance scheme. Accordingly, it has been possible to provide relief to about 500 families per year through this scheme.

5.7 Assistance in sudden disasters

An assistance scheme provided to continue the education of the children of families rendered helpless owing to unexpected disasters. Attending to the welfare of children subjected to difficulties by sudden natural phenomena such as floods, cyclones, landslides, house fires etc. is

done through this. In addition to that, children rendered helpless as a result of the death of parents, abandonment, parents becoming victims of accidents or diseases, parents not returning from overseas, being handed over to temporary guardians, and the guardians being persons with physical or mental weaknesses are helped through this assistance scheme.

Rs. 5000/- is provided as assistance for a family if the children's school equipment is destroyed in some disaster. However, the amount provided as assistance may vary depending on the intensity of the damages caused in different situations. The key objective here is to contribute to continuation of children's education in any disaster situation.

Provision of required funds for the applications received at Divisional Secretariat Division level is done here.

Assistance for twins / Medical Assistance / Assistance for Sudden Disasters -2015

Province	District	Assistance for twins		Medical Assistance		Assistance for Sudden Disasters	
		No. of Children	Amount	No. of Children	Amount	No. of Children	Amount
Western	Colombo	37	150000	13	80000	01	5000
	Gampaha	62	255000	45	245000	01	15600
	Kaluthara	102	385000	18	95000	01	5000
Central	Kandy	87	337500	26	125000	08	31000
	Matale	32	120000	05	25000	-	-
	NuwaraEliya	24	90000	08	60000	-	-
North Western	Kurunegala	104	415000	41	335000	167	119500
	Puttlam	46	180000	05	25000	02	15000
Sabaragamuwa	Rathnapura	85	333000	32	200000	74	120000
	Kegalle	25	97500	03	45000	02	15000
Southern	Galle	52	127500	14	85000	-	-
	Matara	63	240000	29	212000	03	22700
	Hambanthota	94	112500	09	45000	05	21000
Uva	Badulla	69	242500	17	85000	106	108000
	Moneragala	43	165000	29	177000	06	40000
North Central	Anuradhapura	27	97500	31	180000	04	15900
	Polonnaruwa	09	37500	13	95500	1189	700500
Eastern	Ampara	16	60000	16	9000	02	9000
	Batticaloa	66	270000	53	295000	829	834000
	Trincomalee	24	82500	29	155000	--	-

Northern	Jaffna	61	232500	40	240000	--	-
	Mulathivu	09	30000	02	15000	--	-
	Vavuniya	18	67500	07	35000	--	-
	Kilinochchi	18	67500	-	-	--	-
	Mannar	10	37500	22	145000	--	-

5.8 “Senehasa” Savings Account

A programme implemented for children under 18 year of age who lost both parents in the Tsunami disaster. This programme commenced in 2006 and 689 children were included in it. By December 2015 the number of children in this programme came to 98. Every month, children who complete 18 years of age are dismissed from this programme.

The Department carries out this programme jointly with the People’s Bank Head Office. Each month the department sends the money (by means of cheques) of the relevant children to the People’s Bank.

Every month, the bank informs the department of the children that complete the age of 18 years. After releasing the money to the relevant account holders, the bank informs it to the department.

The manner in which money in Senehasa Account was spent in 2015:

Serial No.	Month	No. of Children	Amount Spent (Rs.)
01	January	116	174,000
02	February	116	174,000
03	March	115	172,500
04	April	111	166,500
05	May	109	163,500
06	June	107	160,500
07	July	106	156,000
08	August	104	156,000
09	September	102	153,000
10	October	98	147,000
11	November	96	144,000
12	December	96	144,000

5.9 Project to set up Children's Clubs and Children's Councils

Children's Clubs were set up at Grama Niladhari Division level in 2007 with the key aim of empowering children by ensuring the participation right of children covered by sections 12, 13 and 14 of the Convention on Child Rights. Several programmes related to the development of children, building of ethics and development of skills have been implemented in every Divisional Secretariat Division through the Children's Clubs set up in this manner.

Divisional Children's Councils have been set up by bringing together the children's clubs set up at Divisional Secretariat Division level and District Children's Councils have been set up by bringing together the office bearers of the Regional Children's Councils. A Divisional Children's Council in each Divisional Secretariat Division and a District Children's Council in each district have been set up by now. A National Children's Council has been established by bringing together the District Children's Councils. Implementation of skill development programmes, provision of books for the libraries of children's clubs and programmes to promote good qualities have been carried out through the children's clubs.

- Allocation of provisions for Children's Clubs and Children's Councils programme

Rs 3.4 million was allocated for this project within the annual estimate in 2015. Action has been taken to achieve the objectives of that programme by spending those provisions for the said programme.

- Allocation of provisions at the beginning of the year for the implementation of Divisional Children's Council

Convening the children belonging to the Divisional Children's Council and discussing the programmes to be implemented in the year is done and convening the children's councils happens on a quarterly basis. To provide the estimated amounts under the annual plan prepared by the Divisional Children's Council, the provisions for this year were not sufficient. Therefore, money was not allocated to the Divisional Children's Councils. But provisions were allocated for various programmes as per the requests received.

- *Developing creative skills of the children belonging to the Children's Clubs.*

Various programmes were conducted at Divisional Secretariat Division level to develop the creative skills of the children belonging to the children's clubs. Programmes of this nature are conducted for improving participation, solidarity and talents of the children while further activating the Children's clubs.

- *Personality building of the children belonging to the Children's Clubs / Children's Councils through the development of their sports skills.*

Programmes of this nature are implemented through the children's clubs with the objective of improving the participation in sports and games and developing the sports skills of the children belonging to the children's clubs / children's councils. Emphasizing the importance of sports and personality development through sports are among the objectives.

- *Holding National / Religious / Cultural Festivals*

It is important for the future to make the children aware of the New Year customs and folk games that are gradually slipping away from the society. Raising such awareness is the objective of holding such New Year festivals for the children belonging to the Children's Clubs. Similarly, to emphasize the importance of religious festivals and national festivals to the children, such festivals are organized through the children's clubs / children's councils.

- *Developing the Libraries*

The Department extends support to address the shortcomings of the libraries maintained by the children's clubs and develop them. The objectives of promoting the children's reading habit, improving their knowledge and building proper attitudes are achieved through the expansion of libraries.

- *Educational Tours*

Taking the children belonging to the children's clubs on educational tours is done with the objectives of improving the participation of children in the children's clubs, exchanging experiences between children's clubs, providing fun and entertainment and providing practical experience for children's education.

- *Holding Leadership training workshops / camps*

Programmes of this nature for developing leadership skills are conducted to develop the children's personality, build knowledge, skills and attitudes and to make the children sensitive to environment and eager to explore.

- *Ensuring the right to good health*

Children's clinics are conducted in difficult areas with the objective of identifying the various diseases that pre-school and school children may have. Through this,

- the parents are made aware of the importance of maintaining good health.
- an opportunity is provided for children who cannot afford clinics of medical specialists.
- children with minor aural and visual defects are identified and necessary interventions are made.
- it is possible to detect at an early stage the children with diseases that could be cured with minor intervention

- *Implementation of Entertainment Programmes*

Organizing programmes of this nature is important for the children belonging to the children's clubs / children's councils because it provides an opportunity for the children to improve their ability to enjoy songs and because taking the children trapped within the school curriculum to an outdoor performance experience provides an opportunity for children under the pressure of various social problem to relax at least for a short period of time.

Serial No.	District	No. of Children's Clubs Set up in 2015	No. of existing children's clubs	Expenditure (Rs.)
01	Colombo	32	189	128,700.00
02	Kalutara	32	160	101,000.00
03	Gampaha	46	279	153,500.00
04	Kandy	62	370	155,000.00
05	Matale	31	134	55,000.00
06	NuwaraEliya	10	98	40,000.00
07	Galle	36	229	126,500.00
08	Matara	48	194	95,000.00
09	Hambantota	16	159	80,000.00
10	Ratnapura	47	171	110,000.00
11	Kegalle	17	141	75,000.00
12	Anuradhapura	29	224	115,000.00
13	Polonnaruwa	09	64	40,000.00
14	Puttlam	10	158	90,000.00
15	Kurunegala	123	509	215,000.00

16	Badulla	19	131	95,000.00
17	Moneragala	13	163	85,000.00
18	Trincomalee	07	78	45,000.00
19	Ampara	14	104	100,000.00
20	Batticaloa	10	70	80,000.00
21	Jaffna	33	43	100,000.00
22	Kilinochchi	08	08	30,000.00
23	Mannar	03	21	35,000.00
24	Mulathivu	22	22	10,000.00
25	Vavuniya	-	38	30,000.00

5.10 Model Children's Village Programme

Provisions have been allocated under this programme to implement programmes for safeguarding child rights in a village selected from each Divisional Secretariat Division for ensuring the Community Based Child Care Process. Programmes for safeguarding the right of every child to development, survival, protection and participation have to be implemented within that village under this with the involvement of various public officers.

For this purpose, proposals on projects that could be implemented at Divisional Secretariat Division level were obtained and provisions were allocated based on that requirement. Accordingly, Rs.176, 0000.00 was provided to 352 Child Rights Promotion Officers in 311 Divisional Secretariat Divisions as Rs.5000.00 per officer. In addition, financial allocations were made for the programmes based on the requests received from the officers in Divisional Secretariats as follows.

No.	District and Divisional Secretariat	Programme	Expenditure (Rs.)
01	Anuradhapura-Galenbindunu wewa	Children's Cultural programme	15,500.00
02	Kurunegala - Maspotha	New Year Programme	1,500.00
03	Hambanthota-Weeraketiya	Provision of library books	15,000.00
04	Kandy- Nawalapitiya	For painting of drawings on the school wall	5,000.00
05	Badulla - Rideemaliyadda	Mobile service for the provision of books	144,475.00

06	Kurunegala - Maspotha	Dental clinic	6,500.00
07	Batticalao - Oddamawadi	Workshop on Model Village Development Planning	14,200.00
08	Matale District Secretariat	Opening of the Child Friendly Resource Center	77,740.00
09	Kalutara - Baduaraliya	Community awareness programme	38,000.00
10	Galle - Imadoowa	Community awareness programme	32,000.00
11	Gampaha - Biyagama	Community awareness programme	31,625.00
12	Galle - Benthota	Community awareness programme	49,830.00
13	Colombo - Malambe, Kaduwela	Community awareness programme	25,161.00

5.11 Steering Committee on Child Rights

This programme can be identified as a very important step taken to ensure the rights of the children of this country after Sri Lanka became a signatory to the Universal Child Rights Convention. These Steering Committees were set up by the Circular No. MSS/3/4/161 issued by the Ministry of Social Services in 2000 and they have been re drafted by the Circular No. PCC/CROP/11/34 issued by this Department. These committees were established to cover all Divisional Secretariat Divisions in the island, extending from national level to rural level. In this programme implemented with the objective to creating an environment that is favourable for children to live in, the second result expected involved the model villages for ensuring child rights through the strengthening of steering committees as well as gradual improvement of children's clubs programme implemented to improve children's participation. Rs. 3000/- was provided to each Divisional Secretariat Division for this purpose and the total expenditure was Rs. 939,000/- while Rs.500, 000.00 has been spent for district coordinating committees as Rs.20, 000 per district.

Serial No.	Province	Amount spent for Divisional Steering Committees (Rs.)
01	Western	120,000.00
02	Central	108,000.00
03	Southern	141,000.00
04	Northern	87,000.00
05	Eastern	105,000.00
06	North Western	135,000.00

07	North Central	81,000.00
08	Uva	78,000.00
09	Sabaragamuwa	84,000.00

5.12 Child Friendly Centers

These centers provide protection for children isolated in vulnerable family background to spend their leisure in safety by ensuring their safety. Safety of children when both parents are away

from home and facilities for improving knowledge and skills are provided. Children get the chance to use the library and play indoor games and outdoor games here.

One million rupees has been allocated for this and for the construction of centers, and according to the places with required facilities the necessary provisions are allocated with relevance to the requests received.

Serial No.	Division	Amount Spent (Rs.)
01	Vavuniya-Vengalasettikulum	220,000.00
02	Mannar - Nanattan	250,000.00
03	NuwaraEliya – Ambagamuwa Korale	200,000.00
04	Oddamawadi	32,186.00
	Total	702,186.00

5.13 Implementation of the recommendations made by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission.

These programmes were conducted for the implementation of the recommendations made by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission targeting the children of the people with a Tamil origin who live in the estates and the children displaced as a result of the war that lasted for a long time. The primary objective of this programme was to create a safe childhood for the children living in these areas by ensuring their basic child rights. The activities included provision of facilities for children, establishing pleasure centers for them, holding art, music, dancing and sports events and conducting literacy classes for children who were illiterate. Financial allocations were made based on the requests received from the Divisional Secretariat Divisions.

Programmes are implemented at District S.D. and Divisional S.D. levels to raise awareness of those who were directly involved in war. Safety of children when away from home and

facilities for improving knowledge and skills are provided. Children are fortunate to use the library and play indoor games and outdoor games here.

Accordingly, the following programmes were implemented during the year 2015.

Serial No.	Program	progress
01	Conducting special awareness programs at district level for the rehabilitated child soldiers	25 programs
02	Projects to provide aid for self - employments	05 projects
03	Establishment of child friendly centers and provision of library facilities as well as sports facilities for indoor and outdoor activities	04 centers
04	Conducted Public awareness programs on various topics related to child abuse and children's rights	150 programs
05	Issued birth certificates for children and held Dental Clinics by conducting Mobile Services	25 children 02 clinics
06	For Estate based schools : Setting up of children's clubs Through them, provision of library facilities Conducting literacy classes Provision of school equipment for children with irregular attendance and to re-admitted students	80 children's clubs 09 libraries 02 classes 2003 school equipment sets

5.14 Awareness Programs

A series of programmes was conducted island wide to make the community including children, aware of child rights, child abuse, protecting children from abuse and children's safety, with the aim of building a responsible public dialogue. School children, parents, teachers, public officers, members of non-governmental organizations and civil society were selected as target groups here.

The first series of programmes targeting young children was implemented to cover every District Secretariat Division under the title "Thatu Savimath Samanal Viyak".

Main objectives were to make the children understand that youth should be spent with responsibility, minimizing delinquency through understanding, and empowering children to protect themselves from abuse.

Lectures were delivered under two topics in this programme

01. Changes that occur in youth and personality building
02. Modern technology and the younger generation

The second series of programmes was conducted simultaneously with the same objectives to raise awareness among parents under the theme “Ape Samanalunge Thatu Savimath Karamu” (Let’s make the wings of our butterflies strong). Financial allocations of Rs.7, 500/- is provided to each Divisional S.D. and also Rs.7, 500/- is provided to District Secretariats. 347 programmes were conducted at Divisional Secretariat level and 34000 individuals were made aware through them. Rs. 39, 94,660.00 was spent for this.

5.15 Implementation of training programmes for officers of institutions and institutionalized children.

Financial assistance will be provided through this project for the welfare of children referred for rehabilitation process in Voluntary Children’s Homes registered under the Department of Probation and Child Care Services and government children’s homes. Even though direct supervision and maintenance of children’s homes is a responsibility of the Provincial Department of Probation and Child Care Services, the national Department is also supporting the process of uplifting the child care institutions. A huge amount of money is spent annually for training the officers serving at those institutions, to provide vocational training for children of those institutions and to develop various skills of those children as well as to purchase the necessary goods. This money has been provided on the requests and recommendations of the Commissioners of the Provincial Departments of Probation and Child Care Services.

Accordingly, the amount spent for conducting special capacity building programmes for the officers of the institutions was Rs. 1,689,650.58.

Similarly, the amount spent on vocational training for institutionalized children and for the provision of relevant necessities was Rs. 1,866,968/-.

Rs. 429,679/- has been spent for the follow- up activities of children and for the preparation of Care Plans.

5.16 National Children’s Training and Counseling Services center at Paraththa.

National Children’s Training and Counseling Services Center at Paraththa can be cited as an institution established to meet the counseling requirement of girl children who suffer mental problems as a result of abuse or violation of child rights. This is the only child care institution established under the Department of Probation and Child Care under the Central Government.

It is possible to get counseling, vocational training and non-formal education for those who have been deprived of formal education from this center for 20 children at a time. Girl children, on reference by Child Rights Promotion Officers performing duties at divisional

level and referred by court orders, are admitted to this institution for training on the recommendation of the Provincial Commissioner of Probation.

All girl children are given residential counseling and training within a period of 06 months. Three female Assistant wardens, watchers, officer in charge of the institution and Non-formal Educational Instructresses ensure the safety of children during that period.

5.17 Upgrading the quality of Children's Homes

Providing financial assistance for development proposals submitted after identification by Provincial Commissioner of Probation and Child Care Services for upgrading the quality of government and registered volunteer children's Homes located in all the provinces, is done under this programme.

After ascertaining the requirements of these development programmes identified annually, a part of the estimated amount or the total estimated amount is referred to the Provincial Commissioner. Accordingly the project is completed properly and information with copies of the final bills and expenditure reports, is brought down to the Head Office. Reviewing of progress, follow up and supervision of these projects are the responsibilities of the Provincial Commissioner of Probation and Child Care Services.

Accordingly, Rs.16,847,250.85 was spent under this Head in 2015 for purchasing the items required to upgrade the quality of the Children's Homes throughout the island and National Children's Training and Counseling Services Center at Paraththa.

5.18 Development of the skills of Institutionalized children

Rs. 2.0 million was allocated for this and Rs. 1,574,262.04 has been spent for skills development programmes

The amount spent for the supervision of the children's homes is Rs. 1,923,625/-.

5.19 UNICEF Project

Rs.5.5 million has been allocated for the two years 2014/2015, for the project implemented jointly by this Department and the UNICEF Project with the financial sponsorship of the UNICEF.

After spending for the activities of the year 2014, Rs. 4,294,385/- was left from that amount to spend for the activities to be implemented in the year 2015. This amount was spent as an extension of the activities implemented in the year 2014 as follows.

Serial No.	Project	Amount Spent (Rs.)
01	Surveys	824,190.00
02	Diploma on Child Protection	1,890,000.00
03	Establishment of a Data base	674,762.66
04	For Operations activities and others	865,432.34
	Total	4,294,385.00

5.20 Information regarding the complaints on Child Abuse.

In 2015, this department received 11,084 complaints of different manner such as complainants identified, anonymous complaints, written complaints and complaints made over the telephone in relation to child abuse, and all these complaints have been referred to different institutions for future investigation and legal action and the necessary measures have been taken. Based on the nature of the complaint, reference to Child Promotion Officers through the Divisional Secretaries, Police Children and Women's Bureau, relevant police stations, Provincial Departments of Probation and Foreign Employment Bureau, has been done. For the remaining complaints, necessary instructions were given over the telephone.

5.21 Commemorating the World Children's Day 2015

With the aim of commemorating the World Children's Day that falls on 1st of October every year, several programmes were organized by the Department. Competitions for writing essays, poems and short stories held for the members of the children's clubs are among them. The best entry selected from each category at D.S.D. level was made to compete at district level and the winners were given the chance to compete at national level. A sum of Rs. 254,500/- was spent for the district level judgments, printing of certificates for the winners at district level and for miscellaneous expenses.

Imagination (Parikalpana) Art Competition was also organized targeting all children in Sri Lankan society, with the aim of enhancing their aesthetic talents. This was organized under Primary, Secondary and Senior levels.

In the year 2015, Rs. 1,049,957.20 was spent for this competition.

At the same time, targeting children as well as the community at D.S.D. level, activities such as leadership training, drama workshops, entertainment programmes, Children's Camps and awareness programmes were implemented to mark the World Children's Day.

A sum of Rs. 35,064.00 was spent for the provision of books to the Thalawa Kanishta Vidyalaya, Badulla parallel to the World Children's Day.

Rs. 202,118/- was spent for the National World Children's Day celebration and Rs.2,142,227/- was spent for this purpose at D.S.D.level and District level.

Summary of the Report on the Information of Child Abuses 2015

Serial No.	Nature of the complaint	Source of the complaint (No.)				Total no. of complaints	Current Status			Other Remarks
		Received at the Head-Office	Through National Child Protection Authority (1929)	Over the Telephone	Other		No. resolved	No. provided temporary solutions	No. Referred to other Institutions	
1	Not sending to school	59	502	1155	4679	6395	3268	2244	818	65
2	Underage marriages/ pregnancies	07	22	136	341	506	52	168	277	09
3	Physical abuse	22	75	198	315	610	354	114	139	03
4	Mental abuse	41	58	231	632	962	365	428	169	00
5	Sexual abuse	07	29	158	330	524	93	95	332	04
6	Neglect	17	65	290	793	1165	445	582	134	04
7	Child Labour	03	27	54	82	166	105	29	32	00
8	Other (Specify)	15	64	218	459	756	386	169	192	09
	Total	171	842	2440	7631	11084	5068	3829	2093	94

5.22 Project affiliated to South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)

Financial assistance- SAARC Development Fund

A project was granted to Sri Lanka in the latter part of the year 2013 under the headship of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children and with the financial support of the SAARC Development Fund with the objective of creating an environment free of violence for the children within the region and the project was implemented until April 2015 by the National Child Protection Authority.

In April 2015, this project and the status of the National Coordinator of SAIEVAC was assigned to the Department of Probation and Child Care services. Accordingly, the Department of Probation and Child Care Services proposed new programmes for the activities which were not implemented previously and obtained the approval of the SAARC Development Fund in July 2015. The State Ministry of Children's Affairs provided the funds necessary for the proposed programmes in September 2015. The programmes implemented accordingly are as follows.

- Publishing and distribution of the Child Participation Guideline
- Printing of leaflets and posters as proposed in the sub project of the National Action and Coordinating Group connected to the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children.
- Printing of posters for the Children's club/Children's council programme implemented by the Department of Probation and Child Care Services for the strengthening of children's participation.

Progress of this project

Funds received by the department : Rs. 7,630,060.61

Expenses for the implementation of the above activities :Rs. 4,244,464.35

5.23 Preparation of Child Care Plans

Preparation of Child Care Plans is the programme for ensuring the long term safety of vulnerable children. Necessity for this as a method of ensuring the safety of children emerges as a result of identifying a large number of children through the island wide survey conducted in 2011 to identify vulnerable children.

Conditions of vulnerability of the children identified in this manner were diverse. According to the conditions of vulnerability care plans are developed to eliminate such vulnerability and

ensure their safety. It has to be implemented on short term basis as well as long term basis over several years and follow up is done by the Child Rights Promotion Officers and the Child Rights Promotion Assistants.

In all activities from preparation of these care plans to their implementation and evaluation support of other field officers is obtained. The importance of acting on a joint approach rather than an individual one in ensuring child safety has been emphasized through this.

Through the preparation of these care plans the family condition will also be uplifted while the child receives protection and development. From this, it has especially been able to enhance the income generation ways of the family which is necessary to provide nutrition and development for the children, to improve the sanitary facilities and to provide facilities necessary for the advancement of the educational level of the children.