



# ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

2013 - 2016



DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION AND CHILD CARE SERVICES  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD AFFAIRS

## PREFACE

The Department of Probation and Child Care Services has been established for ensuring rights of the children and providing alternative care for the children who are without parental care and protection due to various reasons, adequate rehabilitation of children and young offenders, assisting courts in respect of child victims and offenders. The aim of this Statistical Bulletin is to present a number of Statistical tables on institutions regarding children in Children homes in entire country. The key purpose of the bulletin includes understanding the situations of children living in institutions. The information of the statistical bulletin is comprehensive and clear as limitations of time and space allow. Data was submitted by nine provincial commissioners and The preparation of this book and the verification of the data included in the report was carried out by Ms. Aruni Nilupuli, Statistical Officer under the supervision of Ms. P. Chandima Sigera, Commissioner, Ms. Harshika Dilshani, Assistant Commissioner, and Ms. Nirmalee Perera, Probation Officer, of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services.

The Bulletin owes much to the assistance and the co-operation of the Commissioners of the provincial departments of probation and child care services. I wish to express my appreciation to all commissioners in Provincial Councils for their valuable co-operation by providing data to the department.

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2018

P. Chandima Sigera

Commissioner

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Probation and Child care Services is providing care, protection and shelter for orphaned, abandoned, destitute and abused children in Children homes in the entire country. Children homes are classified as below,

- Remand Homes
- Certified Schools
- Receiving Homes
- Detention Homes
- Approved School
- National Training and Counseling Center

**Remand Homes** - have been established to house children while their cases are being heard in courts of law. Children in remand homes are detained for the following reasons: suspicion of murder, attempted murder, arson, victims of abuse and sexual harassment, theft, quarrelling, disobedience, straying, being stranded, use of liquor/drugs, child labor, and for further investigations.

**Certified School** – Children are committed to a certified school, so that they may receive re-education, training and care to enable them to improve their behavioral pattern and to facilitate his/her re-settlement in society. The main focus of attention should therefore be curative and preventive. The reasons for admission of children such schools include, theft/burglaries, disobedience to parents, sale and use of alcohol, in need of care and protection, attempted suicide and unclassified.

**State Receiving homes** are set up to provide the necessary safety and protection to children who have not had the opportunity to live with their own families temporally or permanently. Orphaned, abandoned and destitute children live in Receiving homes.

**Detention home** was set up with the objective of rehabilitating destitute children over 8 years of age who were straying as beggars. The Halpatota detention house in Southern Province, continued to function as the only facility for the reception care and rehabilitation of boys and girls under 18 years of age committed by court to a house of detention when found guilty under the Vagrant's Ordinance.



**Approved School** has been established by non-governmental organizations and are assisted by the government. They are designed to provide residential care and training to Juvenile offenders. The only approved school in the Island at present and it is located at Maggona administered by the Roman Catholic Church.

**National Training and Counseling Center**, functioned in Paraththa and functions under the supervision of the National Department of Probation and Child Care Services hosts children who have been sexually abused and raped, involved in thefts, straying children, disobedient children, and children engaged in child labor, married under aged children, children stranded and suspected of committing crimes. This institute is also conducting counseling programs for children who are under children homes taking into considering their race religion and age.

#### **Voluntary Homes:**

The majority of child care institutions in Sri Lanka are Voluntary Homes. Though they are managed by non-governmental parties, they are continuously monitored by the Department of Probation and Child Care Services. These voluntary children's homes accommodate children with various issues such as poverty, negligence by parents, orphaned, family separation etc.

When considering the history of the Department, the 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. 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 Department which was founded in 1956 in this manner was brought under the Ministry of Social Services first. Later, 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.

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 in all 9 districts 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.

The objectives of the department are

- The correction of deviant behavior and the promotion of law abiding citizenship in the population.
- The creation of opportunities for the healthy growth and development of disadvantaged and dependent children
- Limitation of cause of family dis-function among vulnerable group in society and restoration of their potential capacity for normal family functioning.

The Statistical Bulletin provides details of Children under Children homes from year 2013 to year 2016. The objective of this bulletin is to provide basic information on the current situation of children under institutional care in the entire country. Data collection method was using a standard excel template and the templates were given to the probation officers through the Commissioners of Provincial Councils.

According to the Statistical Bulletin by the year of 2016, there are 13691 children in 388 institutions located in all nine provinces in Sri Lanka. Data of the bulletin provides the number of children under children homes based on ethnicity, religion and age groups.

