

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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National Peace Council of Sri Lanka

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National Peace Council of Sri Lanka



VISION

A peaceful and just country in which freedom, human and democratic rights of all people are assured.



MISSION

To work in partnership with different target groups to educate, mobilise and advocate building a society of rights-conscious citizens and a political solution to the ethnic conflict and equal opportunities for all.

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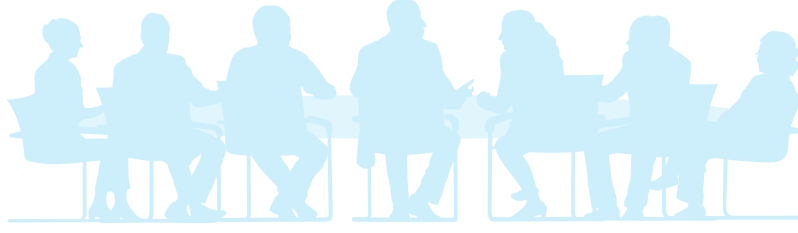
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National Peace Council of Sri Lanka

About NPC

The National Peace Council was established in 1995 by an inter religious group of civil society leaders during the height of Sri Lanka's internal war to promote a peaceful end to the conflict.

The mission of the organisation was, and remains, to engage in public education and advocacy so that solutions that are fair and just by all ethnic and religious communities may be found with people's participation.

Today NPC works in partnership with different groups including religious clergy, community leaders, government officials, women and youth and students to educate, mobilise and advocate for a peaceful and just political culture in which there will be equal opportunities for all.



Board of Directors

Dr. Joseph Vethamanickam William	(Chairperson)
Dr. Jehan Gregory Ignatius Perera	(Executive Director)
Mr. Gintota Vidanalage Daya Tilakasiri	(General Secretary)
Professor Thangamuthu Jayasingam	(Joint Treasurer)
Professor Mariapillai Sellamuthupillai Mookiah	(Joint Treasurer)
Mr. Ahmed Javid Yusuf	(Director)
Ven. Buddiyagama Chandrarathana Thera	(Director)
Ms. Yvonne Visaka Dharmadasa	(Director)
Ms. Saroja Sivachandran	(Director)
Mr. Mohamed Hussain Mohamed Niyas	(Director)

Governing Council

Mr. Raja M. B. Senanayake
Rev. Fr. Joseph Mary
Mr. A. W. Hilmy Ahamed
Mr. Suresh Dayantha De Mel
Rev. Fr. T. Rohan Dominic
Mr. Rohana Hettiarachchi
Mr. M. Saburudeen
Mr. S. Sivakumar
Bishop (retd) Asiri Perera
Mr. Thushara Ranasinghe
Ms. Christobel Saverimuttu (Company Secretary)

Programme Advisor

Ms. Sumadhu Weerawarne Perera

Staff Members

Dr. Jehan Perera	Executive Director
Ms. Chithrupa Vidanapathirana	Manager Administration
Mr. Robinson Thevasagayam	Manager Finance
Mr. Saman Seneviratne	Project Manager
Ms. Venuri De Silva	Project Manager
Ms. Rasika Seneviratne	Assistant Project Manager
Mr. Nagaratnam Vijayakanthan	Associate Manager
Ms. Nirosha Anthony	Associate Manager
Mr. Samsudeen Safi Nayaj	Project Coordinator
Mr. A. K. S. M. Yushri	Senior Project Officer (Until August)
Ms. Yashoda Piyumali	Senior Project Officer
Mr. Shantha D. Pathirana	Senior Project Officer
Mr. Uwais Mohamed	Senior Project Officer
Ms. Kaushalya Weerakoon	Senior Project Officer (Until February)
Mr. G. Watkinson	Senior Project Officer
Mr. Lakshan Perera	Senior Project Officer
Ms. Ayesha Jayawardhana	Senior Project Officer
Ms. S. V. P. Sepalika	Senior Project Officer
Mr. A. N. Madushanka	Senior Project Officer
Ms. L. W. N. Vishaka	Assistant M & E Coordinator
Ms. Gayathri Sebaratnam	Assistant M & E officer (Until January)
Ms. W. A. D. T. Dilrukshi	Accounts Officer
Mr. Maduranga Dias	Accounts Officer
Ms. Ashoka Kumari Weerasinghe	Accounts Officer
Ms. Sundaralingam Ramya	Accounts Officer
Mr. Anton Medosan Perera	Project Officer (Until June)
Ms. D. G. I. Udulanayani	Project Officer (Until January)
Ms. P. M. M. S. H. Pathiraja	Project Officer
Mr. S. Kamaladasan	Project Officer (Until April)
Mr. Haritha Wickramasinghe	Project Officer (Until February)
Ms. Nethmi Thilakshani Liyanage	Project Officer (Joined January)
Ms. J. Jashaniya Jayarathna	Project Officer (Joined February)
Mr. Sampath Randunna	Project Officer (Joined May)
Mr. Tharindu K. Nanayakkarawasam	Project Officer (Joined June)
Mr. Arafaath Rahby	Project Officer (Joined June)
Mr. Nadaraja Pasdevan	Project Officer (Joined August)
Ms. H. M. G. P. K. Herath	Administration Officer
Mr. Sumudu Jayasooriya	Administration Associate
Mr. S. Meril Karunajeewa	Administration Associate
Mr. Sarath Karunarathne	Administration Associate
Ms. Asenika Madurangani	Office Aid

Chairperson's Message

While preparing my statement in July, two anniversaries came to my mind, namely, the 40th Anniversary of Black July 1983 and the 200th year marking the arrival of Malayaha Tamils from India.

The anti-Tamil violence on July 1983 in its scale, intensity and brutality is a grim reminder of the past, which should never be repeated. However, strong arm methods were used by contingents of heavily armed riot police against middle aged social and civic activities when they attempted to peacefully commemorate the 40th anniversary of the anti-Tamil riots in front of the general cemetery in Colombo.

In 2023 the Malayaha community remembers 200 years after their ancestors were brought to Ceylon by the British. A pilgrimage from Talaimannar to Matale was organized by the National Christian Council together with several civil society organisations that supported the initiative, including the National Peace Council and its District and Local Inter-Religious Committees. The pilgrimage was a re-enactment of a journey during which thousands died along the way. One of the many demands made by the Malayaha community during the march was access to land with secure tenure for housing and livelihoods. However, a couple of days later the management of the Ratwatte Estate, on the government owned Elkaduwa Plantation, in the Matale District, demolished the tin house of a plantation worker citing that it was an illegal dwelling place.

In February this year Sri Lanka marked 75 years since independence. These anniversaries provide opportunities for all citizens to reflect on the past and its impact, and to re-imagine a future built on democracy, equality, pluralism, equity and justice, power sharing and transitional justice. What we need now is a government that seeks to establish political legitimacy with a new social contract, not only to promote democratisation, but also to promote Social Justice and Pluralistic values. Most importantly, citizens should feel secure, and able to meet their basic human needs in every distant corner of the Island, within which all Sri Lankan actors can identify, develop, and access the resources necessary to build a peaceful, prosperous, and just society. To address grievances and take corrective action for its past actions and failures rests squarely on the shoulders of the government which should be able to garner the support of all sections of Sri Lankans.

The three anniversaries highlighted above enables us to build on our strategies to respond in line with NPC's Strategic Framework 2022-2025. Our Vision Statement reads: "A peaceful and just country, in which freedom, human and democratic rights of all people are assured." Our Mission Statement reads: "To work in partnership with different target groups to educate, mobilize and advocate to build a society of rights conscious citizens and a political culture that enables a political solution to the ethnic conflict and provides equal opportunities for all."

NPC engages with state institutions, district secretariats, state universities and special institutions set up by the government and departments such as the police and prisons department to promote reconciliation processes. NPC's aim is to work for the creation of a state that incorporates a reconciliation process in which equal citizenship and inclusive development takes place, which leaves out no section or part of the country. We hope in the foreseeable future, the country will make a swift transition to sustainable peace and development.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to present the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the National Peace Council for the year ended December 31, 2022. This report highlights the work done by NPC's project teams and changes that have occurred in individuals and communities as they grappled with issues that have long divided, and continue to divide, the people of Sri Lanka.

We are grateful for the support given to us by our Executive Director and Staff, Board of Directors, Governing Council members, and Programme Advisor. The achievements highlighted in this report is a testament, which would not have been possible without the unstinted support and cooperation from them. We are also grateful for our partner organizations and their support, which helps to carry our messages to many parts of Sri Lanka.

We are also deeply grateful for our many national and international donors whose support has sustained our activities highlighted in this report, which we believe meet the needs of the time.

Joe William, PhD
Chairperson

General Secretary's Message

The Aragalaya "struggle" for a change of rulers by a mass uprising of the people in 2022 and the hope of a new direction has not achieved the positive social reforms that were anticipated.

However, after the Aragalaya the rulers as well as the people understand that people possess the power to change the government and that if people's protest are mobilized, no democratic ruler can remain in power.

The new President Ranil Wickremesinghe who was appointed by the Parliament as an experienced leader, freed the people who were oppressed in queues, and established stability in governance. However, the government is postponing the people's right to vote. The President has also expressed his willingness to negotiate with the Tamil political parties and is taking very important steps for this purpose.

The reactivation of all the Provincial Councils in the country will mean an empowerment of the rights of the common people. Therefore, if the government, including the President, can decide to hold Provincial Council elections, the democratic process in the country will take a new step forward. We will work to ensuring the full engagement and support of the National Peace Council for such measures.

In the midst of many difficulties, this year too, the National Peace Council has been able to systematically carry out its tasks to establish reconciliation between the different ethnicities.

I appreciate the support received from the members of the Board of Directors for continuing our activities. My thanks also go to the staff working diligently to procure funds and skillfully using their abilities to take those projects to the people. We also express our gratitude to all the national and international organizations that contributed funds in the past years as well as in the year 2022, giving recognition to the ability, transparency, and accountability of our organization.

G. V. D. Tilakasiri
General Secretary

From the office of the Treasurer

The year 2022 was a year of challenges following the Corona epidemic of the past year, in an entirely different arena of economic disaster. Sri Lanka as whole suffered huge economic setbacks in year 2022, perhaps the worst since independence that led to currency devaluation and import restriction. Due to the foreign currency shortage that pushed the rate of inflation up, the general public had to fight for day to day survival. There were also major changes in the political landscape followed by public protests in the country.

Our work in the field became challenging as we had to steer in choppy waters carefully and patiently. Shortage of fuel also caused a major setback to our activities as each staff member was also under constant stress in their own homes. However, I am pleased to report that we managed well to stand up to the challenges. I take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all who assisted us to make this possible with acceptable financial performance associated to activities in the field and otherwise.

Our annual audit for 2022 was conducted by Ernst and Young and they issued an **Unqualified opinion** that reflects the true picture of financial performance. As per the auditor's opinion our financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (Guarantee) Limited as of 31 December 2022. NPC has always enabled the preparation of financial statements, free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Despite the chaotic conditions in the country, we were able to spend more though this was due to the depreciation of the rupee. Our 2022 Spending was Rs. 265 million, 30% higher in nominal terms compared to the year 2021. However, in real terms, we did projects for around US\$800,000 while in the year 2021 it was around US \$1 million. We were also able to assist staff by providing distress allowances gained from the depreciation of the rupee.

We were able to access new funding during the year which reflects the growing reputation of NPC in the larger space. Also, during the year, we have taken initiatives to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the program we deliver. More best practices have been incorporated in our administration and financial manual to achieve better results.

I thank all the staff who burned the midnight oil trying to raise more funding for us. Special thanks are due to Ms. Sumadhu Weerawarne Perera our honorary programme adviser who leads the force.

I take this opportunity to thank our donors and the state for trusting us and supporting us to operate the organization with higher capacity, across the entire country with the aim of Peace and Justice for all.

Prof. T. Jayasingam

Hon. Treasurer

Executive Directors' Report

Sri Lanka was caught in the midst of an unprecedented economic and political crisis due to major policy errors in the period under review. Economic hardships suffered by the people led to greater awareness among the general population that economic crimes impacted among them all, irrespective of ethnic or religious affiliation or region. It has generated public sentiment that is in favour of fundamental reform of the political and economic life of the country. As a result, the work of civil society organisations became more relevant and interesting to those interested in promoting the national interest and national recovery.

NPC continued to work with the inter-religious and other partner networks it has set up strengthening their capacity to engage and negotiate with the state even while supporting necessary collaborative interventions that unify recipient communities and delivery structures in improving the governance spaces to be equitable and inclusive. NPC worked with many sectors to build support for a credible transition process, continuing to give a central place to the District Inter Religious Committees (DIRCs). NPC continued to work in collaboration with government officials and community police at the divisional (sub district) level to protect and preserve inter-religious coexistence and religious freedom.

The economic and political crisis has generated a lot of introspection in society. The entire society is confused as to what happened to suddenly plunge a country that was declared to be an upper middle-income country by the World Bank in 2018 to the status of a low middle income country in 2021. There is also a severe financial crunch that particularly affects the public sector. State institutions have found themselves bereft of financial resources, which has led them to cut back on in-house educational programmes. The openness to new thinking regarding the country's future, coupled with the need for external financing for educational activities, has provided NPC with greater access to state institutions at all levels than ever before. This corresponds to NPC's mission which is to expand the band of moderate opinion leaders in the country through exposure to values of pluralism, diversity and respect for differences.

Over the past year, NPC was able to engage with state institutions ranging from the National NGO Secretariat, whose role is to monitor and supervise NGOs, to district secretariats of the government, and departments such as the police and prisons departments, to conduct training programmes. NPC is also conducting a course that it developed in combination with four state universities on pluralism and inclusive service delivery in those four universities. In addition, NPC is closely engaging with the special institutions set up by the government to promote the national reconciliation process, at present with the Office on Missing Persons, and being presented with an award by the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation.

Plural Action for Conflict Transformation (PACT)

PACT aims to mainstream the concept of pluralist coexistence within a rights framework and take it to a wider constituency. It is a long-term intervention, the continuation of several previous interventions, with funding support from Misereor and supplemented with funding from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD). Through PACT, NPC works with District Inter Religious Committees in 17 locations with a membership of 1,814, including 645 female members. In addition, 171 activities were completed in the reporting period, including 108 trainings

on conflict resolution, mediation, pluralism, coexistence, legal rights and inclusive service delivery to youth, District Inter-religious committees, Sub-national state administration officers, and women local government leaders. In addition, 63 actualization activities including youth-led food culture events, youth camps, silent protests, press conferences, and seminars were carried out to support and strengthen pluralistic coexistence in the country during a period of high tension and instability in the country.

Action for Religious Co-Existence (ARC)

This project supported by the US State Department targets the engagement of multiple sectors-religious leaders, state officials, community policing units, integration structure of the state and youth to sustain the space for religious freedom in 14 target areas. This is pursued within the framework of pluralism and the rule of law. For this reporting period, a total 127 activities were completed and included capacity building and training primarily for new LIRCs and newly set up 'Youth Wings'. The two new Local Inter Religious Committees (LIRCs) in Mawanella in the Kegalle district and Bandarawela in the Badulla district were also set up subsequent to a local-level assessment of hot spots. In addition, 14 'Youth Wings' with interested and capable youth working as community intermediaries were set up during this reporting period. 824 direct beneficiaries were reached through 12 orientation meetings in 11 districts and included 390 LIRC committee members and 434 youth wing members. Identifying the role of youth wings, it is anticipated that these direct beneficiaries will be able to contribute towards the successful implementation of project activities.

Civil Peace Service project (CPS)

This is a programme funded by the German Federal Government and implemented by German civil society organizations in cooperation with partners abroad. The project focused on organizational development with an emphasis on strengthening outreach capacity, knowledge management, and results monitoring at NPC. CPS also supported the joint review of new NPC policies with its staff and board of directors, a workshop on setting up a central monitoring system, and funded the strategic review workshop held at the end of last year. A highlight of the project was a joint review of NPC policies conducted with staff and Board Members.

Language rights and learning-L2R-NLEAP

The second phase of the Languages to Reconcile project concluded during this reporting period. It was supported by the Canadian Government to foster and promote the protection of language rights by identifying gaps that existed in state service delivery providers in relation to language diversity in Batticaloa, Gampaha, and Trincomalee districts. Notably, a total of 127 beneficiaries including LIRC members, community leaders/community policing subcommittees and state officials in Batticaloa, Negombo and Trincomalee were supported through a 90-hour spoken language course module developed by the government's language training institute.

CSO-PVE Capacity Building in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh (PVE)

This project explored preventing violent extremism (PVE) in diverse contexts by engaging Sri Lankan and Bangladesh civil society organizations (CSOs) in PVE in their constituencies. This intervention came to an end in the reporting period. A national-level advocacy campaign targeting 1 million

users was launched on social media/Facebook to evolve and share counternarratives against acts that promote hate speech and violent extremism. A total of 30 short videos were produced and shared to show the importance of inclusion and fact-checking before sharing content instigating violent extremism. In total, 414 members from 144 CSOs, 201 members of District Inter-Religious Committees (DIRCs) and Local Inter-religious Committees (LIRCs), 237 members of state sector service delivery institutions, 236 members of the community police cadre and 721 youth influencers were capacitated on PVE in the 6 targeted districts.

Technical Assistance to Justice Institutions in Sri Lanka (TAJISL)

This is a project which focused on the provision of technical assistance to both state and non-state actors and institutions supported by Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) through the US State Department concluded in the first quarter of the reporting period. Through its training and capacitation efforts the project contributed towards improved awareness and utilization of effective prevention of hate speech practices both at the community level as well as the institutional level. The project is implemented in 10 districts. The highlights of this project were that 157 LGA representatives and 128 religious leaders received 3 trainings each on the prevention of hate speech.

Protecting Civic Space in Sri Lanka

The Protecting Civic Space in Sri Lanka initiative was also supported by LAW- Legal Action Worldwide through the US State Department. The intervention is designed to assist the public, especially vulnerable groups to be empowered to understand their right to freedom of association and freedom of assembly and to protect their privacy. Highlights included a qualitative research on community-level citizenship which was carried out with 350 individuals through focus group discussions, expert interviews, and case studies. There was also a mapping of organic formations undertaken with the participation of government bodies under which such organic formations are registered.

Sustaining peace through pluralism and inclusive service delivery

This project supported by Freedom House in the US focuses on promoting pluralism in the process of inclusive services delivery to ensure that all communities receive inclusive services effectively and efficiently without discrimination. The project facilitated the development and offering of a certificate course on "Sustainable peace through pluralism and inclusive service delivery" through four national-level universities on pluralism and inclusive services delivery, targeting front-line government officers. MoUs to offer the advanced certificate course were signed with Eastern, Sabaragamuwa and Ruhuna Universities during the reporting period. The project also supported the provision of sub-grants of up to one million rupees each to five district-based CBOs to implement projects that promoted pluralism and inclusive service delivery in the Ratnapura, Kegalle, Matara, Batticaloa, and Jaffna Districts. In total 44 activities were carried out.

Open Society Foundations

Open Society Foundations (OSF) provided institutional support that enabled the NPC to carry out its activities with greater flexibility in light of diminishing space for civil society engagement and diminishing donor support for central and administrative needs. The grant is supporting NPC

to streamline its operations by strengthening its administrative systems and staff capacity while providing fundamental support for a number of ongoing project activities that are geared to help Sri Lanka in its path to achieving reconciliation, sustainable peace and a more pluralistic identity.

Think Tank Capacity Building Project (TTCB)

This is a three-phase capacity development intervention working with a local consultant (SIPL) and international academic institution (University of South Carolina) to develop the capacity of the organisation to function as a think tank. As part of the project, research into examining the sense of belonging among Malayaha Tamils (Tamil refugees of Indian origin in Sri Lanka) living in refugee camps in Southern India was carried out by NPC in November and December 2022. The activity was carried out in partnership with the University of South Carolina and the Women in Security, Conflict Management, and Peace (WISCOMP), and supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA). In India, the research was supported by OfERR Chennai who have been working to support refugees from Sri Lanka for many decades.

Capacitating Transformation (CapT)

This intervention is supported by the Canadian Government through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). Capacitating Transformation (CapT) aimed to improve the capacity and thereby efficiency of staff attached to the Office on Missing Persons. During the period under review, NPC carried out an online assessment for OMP staff to identify their training and capacity-building needs. Fifty staff including the chairperson responded to the online survey and NPC was able to identify their primary training and capacity needs in order to organize a full training programme.

Women Organized for Inclusion through Community Engagement (WOICE)

The Women Organized for Inclusion through Community Engagement (WOICE) project is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and is implemented in 7 districts, Matara, Monaragala, Kandy, Nuwara-Eliya, Kegalle, Ratnapura and Gampaha since 2022. The project intends to capacitate, mentor and strengthen a group of sub-national women civic leaders as super activists contributing to the ongoing movement for reform of the state structure and to introduce systems change. As this project was only received in the last quarter of the year, only preliminary activities could be carried out in the year under consideration. A scoping study was carried out in 7 districts to identify and shortlist suitable and capable key women-focused/led CBOs and CSOs for project implementation in the identified districts.

Media and Advocacy

During the year, NPC disseminated 52 political commentaries, 12 newsletters and 18 media releases that were published in the mass media in three languages. The material is uploaded onto NPC's website.

Dr. Jehan Perera

Executive Director



Tribute to Fr. Oswald B. Firth

As Director of the Social and Economic Development Centre (SEDEC) in 1993, Fr. Oswald Firth encouraged spiritual leaders in Sri Lanka to play a bridge-building role calling for peace and reconciliation and to commit themselves to sustained efforts, sacrifice and solidarity to create an atmosphere of trust, confidence and freedom to build a future based on the values of justice, human dignity and mutual respect.

He wrote: "Everyone seems wants to want peace. But peace is more than a seasonal greeting or a mere cessation of hostilities. It is a way of life; a spirituality that challenges the mindsets, our attitudes, and our values. Peace respects the space within which each community is able to live and grow in their rich cultural heritage. But peace extends over and beyond the limits of each community to bind people together and nurture among them a fecund cross-cultural exchange. Peace cannot be achieved by words alone. It needs people of daring, people with a vision who will arrest whatever dehumanizes people and promote avenues for people to meet, share their resources and be mutually enriched. It will need people of great courage who will not succumb to adverse criticism, but draw strength for their initiatives from the spiritual forces inherent in our religions and cultures."

One of his early strategies was the formation of an Inter-Religious Core Group, representative of all religions in Sri Lanka, to give effect to his strategy. The strategic interventions made by this group during the 1994 Presidential Election campaign specifically, and for a peaceful and permanent resolution to the protracted conflict generally, led to the organization of the first national peace conference the same year. The vision and mandate of the National Peace Council (NPC) were formulated at this conference, leading to the establishment of NPC in February 1995. This was the realization of his dream articulated in 1993.

Having been in the forefront of facilitating the establishment of NPC, one of the first strategies adopted by Fr. Firth was for SEDEC to take a back seat from then on. While supporting NPC both in terms of finance and manpower initially, he enabled the organization to develop truly as a national and independent entity and become part of an international network promoting peace and reconciliation, sharing its experiences and learning from the knowledge of others. NPC will ever remain grateful to Fr. Oswald Firth's vision that led to the creation of an inclusive movement for peace.

Personally, I would like to confess that he instilled into us who were close to him a spirituality of reconciliation, which we have carried with us during the past three decades. Fr. Firth was one of the best minds I have encountered, who was emotionally and passionately committed to conflict transformation, who believed in peace with justice and peace with human dignity, true to the scriptural spirituality, "True justice is the harvest reaped by peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace" (St. James Ch.3:18).

Joe William, PhD
Chairperson



PROJECTS



Plural Action for Conflict Transformation

Plural Action for Conflict Transformation (PACT) aims to mainstream the concept of pluralist coexistence within a rights framework and take it to a wider constituency. It is a long-term intervention, the continuation of several previous interventions, with funding support from Misereor and supplemented with funding from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD). Through PACT, NPC works with District Inter Religious Committees in 17 locations with a membership of 1,814, including 645 female members making up nearly 55% of the total. In addition, 171 activities were completed in the reporting period, including 108 trainings on conflict resolution, mediation, pluralism, coexistence, legal rights and inclusive service delivery to youth, District Inter-Religious Committees, sub-national state administration officers, and women local government leaders. In addition, 63 actualization activities including youth-led food culture events, youth camps, silent protests, press conferences, and seminars were carried out to support and strengthen pluralistic coexistence in the country during a period of high tension and instability in the country. Thirteen community engagement meetings enabled the discussion around a people's constitution in 10 districts while 1 National Inter-Religious Committee meeting and 9 partner assessment meetings were carried out to ensure adherence to project guidelines and continuous assessment of success.

Activities & highlights:

- **Need-based capacitation** training programs for existing and new DIRCs: A total of 621 DIRC members including 112 multi-religious leaders and 268 females participated in 18 one-day need based capacitation training programmes. These trainings were identified through discussion with DIRC members at the beginning of the year to address a capacity-building need from their perspective.
- **Residential capacitation training** for new DIRC (Colombo): A targeted 2-day training was carried out for 49 participants including 14 religious leaders and 26 females who learned about **fundamental rights**, protecting these rights, and how to act when fundamental rights violations take place.
- **Trainings for women Local Government Authority** members and women community leaders: Four, two-day trainings enabled participants acquire additional knowledge of the LGA system, legal background, and system of elections while discussing practical challenges, barriers, gender-related issues, qualities and skills needed to improve and develop as leaders, etc. The group of 119 women included 95 women politicians and 25 women community leaders. A further 17 one-day trainings on pluralism and inclusion were held for 295 women community leaders and 275 women politicians.
- **Workshops for members of sub-national state administration:** Five, two-day residential trainings were held in Colombo, Kegalle, Jaffna, and Polonnaruwa districts for 256 senior officials including 96 women from district secretariats, divisional secretariats and NGO Secretariat. The trainings centered on understanding the importance of inclusive service delivery for all community groups receiving services through the secretariats. The 17 one-day trainings capacitated 683 officials including 365 females on specific subjects.
- **Trainings for district-based youth leaders:** A series of 17 two-day residential trainings, 16

one-day trainings, and five one day need based trainings were held for youth leaders on NVC, PVE, hate speech, uses of social media and countering hate speech and fake news and values of pluralism, inclusion, and the role of youth in promoting pluralism in society. At the 17 residential trainings, 651 youth including 289 females participated, while 508 youth including 200 females took part in 16 one-day trainings. The five need-based trainings capacitated a further 203 youth including 83 females. Three youth camps were also held in Nuwara Eliya, Polonnaruwa and Batticaloa with 138 youth including 52 females participating.

- **Actualization activities** with all targeted groups: 63 different types of cohesion-building and mitigatory activities were implemented as responses to various issues in the target areas. This included countering hate speech, building understanding, trust and brotherhood, minimizing tensions etc. The activities were planned by sub-committee members, youth or women leaders together with the DIRCs. Total number of participants in actualization activities was 3,564 with 1,574 females and 1,501 youth.



- **Facilitative meetings for DIRCs and Steering Committees:** These meetings enabled the DIRCs organize activities throughout the year while also capacitating their membership on issues of current interest. The current political situation, economic discrimination and how it impacts on inter-community relations, home gardening and how to cope with the economic downturn were some topics discussed.



- **Partner capacity assessments:** DIRCs in Colombo, Nuwara Eliya, Hambantota, Polonnaruwa, Badulla, Vavuniya, Ratnapura, Galle and Kegalle were subjected to a capacity assessment to ensure adherence to project guidelines, financial transparency, achievement of results and meeting objectives of the project. These assessments will inform future decisions on retaining local partners.



Key highlights for 2023

- 10 two-day residential trainings for members of sub-national state administration in Colombo, Monaragala, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Batticaloa, Puttalam, Galle, Kurunegala, Matara and Kandy
- 11 two-day residential trainings for women Local Government Authority members and women community leaders in Colombo, Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura, Nuwara Eliya, Puttalam, Vavuniya, Monaragala, Kandy, Kegalle, Kurunegala and Matara
- 16 need-based one-day trainings for women Local Government Authority members and women community leaders on how to improve living conditions of the people, equal rights for all, human rights, women and child rights, democracy and governance, women's responsibilities in local politics, and Budgeting & financial management etc.
- 9 one-day need-based trainings for district-level youth leaders in multiple districts on pluralism and building reconciliation through sports
- 2 one-day need-based clustered training programs for sub-committees in Hambantota with the participation of members from Hambantota, Monaragala, Matara, Galle and in Kurunegala with the participation of members from Kandy, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Puttalam and Polonnaruwa
- 20 actualization activities with all targeted groups
- 66 facilitative meetings with DIRCs and Steering Committees and 31 meetings with sub-committee members
- 9 facilitative National Inter-Religious Committee meetings (this includes 8 provincial meetings) in Colombo, Matara, Kurunegala, Kandy, Ratnapura, Polonnaruwa, Vavuniya and Monaragala
- 2 progress review meetings with partners and 17 partner assessments for reviewing progress
- 2 short video documentaries by Kegalle and Nuwara Eliya DIRCs on youth engagement in cohesion building and prompting harmony

Collective Engagement for Religious Freedom

Collective Engagement for Religious Freedom (CERF) which began in 2017 to sustain the space for religious freedom within an inclusive society supported by the US State Department ended after five years this year. During this intervention, CERF established and empowered inclusive community decision-making platforms to create citizen-driven initiatives to address core drivers of religious tension across divided communities. Enhancing the collaborative engagement of multiple sectors including religious leaders, state officials, community policing units, civil society organizations etc., the intervention established Local Inter Religious Committees (LIRC) in twelve targeted localities through a hotspot mapping survey. While capacitating knowledge and improving the attitudes and skills of committee members, the project significantly contributed towards increasing constructive community engagement. This was made possible through capacitation trainings, community dialogues, advocacy campaigns, issue-addressing initiatives, consultations, cohesion activities, and inter-religious exposure visits targeting committee members and the public. NPC continues to empower LIRCs to take ownership of sustaining the discourse on religious freedom/coexistence using multiple approaches.



Activities & highlights:

- Training for community police: 218 community police mother and subcommittee members capacitated on rule of law and pluralism contributing to improving knowledge, attitudes and skills of these committees. This training will build their competencies to mitigate possible religious conflicts within their local communities.
- Training for community police coordinating officers: 189 community police coordinating officers capacitated on rule of law and religious freedom through 3 collaborative national-level trainings carried out in partnership with the Community Policing Unit of the Sri Lanka Police Department.
- Issue addressing interventions: 3 issue addressing interventions to address existing community tension that can lead to ethnic and religious conflict in Akurana and Trincomalee carried out. Parties who have different beliefs met on one platform to solve their issues and create a dialogue through peaceful negotiations.
- Cohesion and mitigation to address community issues: 3 cohesion initiatives in Akurana and Weligama carried out to strengthen social cohesion and direct LIRC members and other community members to acknowledge the diversity and pluralistic nature of society.

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- Advocacy through radio campaigns: 2 advocacy campaigns launched via two radio programs in Vavuniya and Mannar and addressed the larger community through these new media platforms. LIRC's engagement with new media and online platforms is a value-added element to the project.
- Exposure visits for solidarity building: 108 LIRC members including 34 religious leaders participated in an exposure visit to develop interconnections, shared project successes, and collectively recalled past traumatic experiences while engaging with victim families/survivors of the Easter Sunday attack.
- Virtual/hybrid symposia: 485 religious leaders, state officials, community leaders and guests reached through a virtual/hybrid national symposium. A charter on Religious Freedom within a pluralistic society was launched at the event. Stories of impact were shared to collectively review progress of the project and to recognize the contribution of the intervention to establishing an inclusive society, where religious freedom is a given right for all communities.



Action for Religious Co-Existence

The Action for Religious Co-Existence (ARC) project targets the engagement of multiple sectors- religious leaders, state officials, community policing units, integration structure of the state and youth to sustain the space for religious freedom in 14 target areas. This is pursued within the framework of pluralism and the rule of law. The initiative was developed to build on the CERF engagement which closed out in 2022, enhancing its scope, both vertically and horizontally. For this reporting period, a total 127 activities were completed and included capacity building and training primarily for new LIRCs and newly set up 'Youth Wings'. The two new Local Inter Religious Committees (LIRCs) in Mawanella in the Kegalle district and Bandarawela in the Badulla district were also set up subsequent to a local-level assessment of hot spots. In addition, 14 'Youth Wings' with interested and capable youth working as community intermediaries were set up during this reporting period. This is a US State Department-supported intervention.



Activities & highlights:

- Orientation meetings for LIRCs and Youth Wings: 824 direct beneficiaries reached through 12 orientation meetings in 11 districts. 390 committee members and 434 youth wing members oriented on the ethos of the intervention and guided on how to work towards achieving the ultimate goal of the intervention. Youth Wing members capacitated through orientations included 211 male and 223 female beneficiaries. Identifying the role of youth wings, it is anticipated that these direct beneficiaries will be able to contribute towards the successful implementation of project activities.
- Capacitation through pluralism and inclusion for new LIRCs: 103 Local Inter Religious Committee (LIRCs) members including 44 female members and 12 religious leaders in newly established LIRCs in Mawanella and Bandarawela were capacitated through knowledge-building programs on pluralism and inclusion.
- Rule of law training for new LIRCs: for Rule of law trainings were carried out for the two newly established LIRCs in Mawanella and Bandarawela. A total of 84 LIRC members including 28 females, 14 religious leaders and 35 state officials including the Divisional Secretary of Mawanella and Bandarawela and other officials including 10 community police officers from the locations participated.



- Capacitation for Youth Wing members: Youth Wing members in 14 locations received capacitation on pluralism and inclusion, rule of Law and PVE as part of building their capacity to create a pool of youth intermediaries who will act to identify, address and mediate in issues related to religious freedom. The sessions were carried out by subject experts who used various interactive methods to build knowledge.
- Capacitation on pluralism and inclusion for youth: Training on pluralism and inclusion enabled the capacitation of 659 youth members, including 297 females and 11 religious leaders. For the training on the rule of law, 594 youth took part including 262 females and 2 religious leaders. Through the training on PVE, a total of 586 youth were capacitated including 263 female members and 5 religious leaders.
- 14 facilitative meetings with the participation of 472 members including 86 religious leaders, 87 state officers and 173 women and enabled the LIRCs to organize activities at the district level and address/mitigate issues that affect religious freedom in the localities.

Key highlights for 2023

- 3 district level planning and designing meetings in Ampara, Batticaloa and Trinco to promote Pluralism, Religious Freedom and Rule of Law
- 4 localized youth-led advocacy interventions in Weligama, Mawanella, Negombo and Beruwala to promote youth participation in promoting Religious Freedom, Pluralism and the Rule of Law
- 2 trainings on conflict transformation to capacitate and network existing LIRCs in Negombo and Weligama for improved engagement for religious freedom, pluralism, and rule of law at the local level
- 5 facilitative meetings enable LIRCs identify and address issues in their localities to improve religious freedom
- 45 members of the Rakwana LIRC participate in an exchange visit to Addalachchenai and Batticaloa
- 8 LIRCs carry out localized advocacy interventions to promote pluralism and religious freedom in Ampara, Batticaloa, Mannar, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Weligama, Akurana and Negombo
- 5 mitigation activities carried out in 4 districts to address issues of religious freedom infringements in the areas
- 97 members in newly established Mawanella and Bandarawela LIRCs receive capacitation training on conflict identification, mitigation, and transformation
- 2 localized advocacy interventions carried out by new LIRCs in Mawanella and Bandarawela

Civil Peace Service project

This is a programme funded by the German Federal Government and implemented by German civil society organizations in cooperation with partners abroad. The CPS programme mainly funds the contribution of German or international workers (CPS worker) to partner organizations based on needs. The project at hand is a cooperation between NPC and Agiamondo, a Catholic organization. It focused on organizational development with an emphasis on



strengthening outreach capacity, knowledge management, and results monitoring at NPC. The project goals and direction are driven by NPC and their identified needs in cooperation with Agiamondo. At NPC, 2022 was a year of interim financing where the organisation implemented without a CPS worker. The focus remained on organizational development, knowledge management, and results monitoring at NPC. In the period under consideration, two residential trainings on how to develop an M & E framework for projects was carried out by the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA) and #Generation provided training on social media outreach and related social media tools for all staff. CPS also supported the joint review of new NPC policies with its staff and board of directors, a workshop on setting up a central monitoring system, and funded the strategic review workshop held at the end of last year.

Activities & highlights:

- 29 staff members participated in a 3-day training on Monitoring and Evaluation. Themes covered included concepts of analysis, theory of change for development success, theory of change results chain, results statements and developing a results framework. Participants gained knowledge of processes and measuring tools used to capture results, outcomes, and interventions. This was conducted by the Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEvA).
- 35 staff members participated in an information session on the economic situation in Sri Lanka and its long-term impact on peace and reconciliation work in the country. Participants were able to understand real facts related to the economic crisis and how this can affect the livelihood of Sri Lanka. The session was conducted by Dr. Ahilan Kadirgamar who has extensive knowledge on north-based cooperative societies, and he shared his views based on his experiences on the ground.
- 15 project staff involved in outreach participated in an introductory training on video making carried out by an expert on video production. Participants received hands-on training on handling video equipment, different types of lenses, light and colour balancing, and equipment maintenance skills. As a final task, they prepared a short video clip for sharing. The skills gained will be utilized in their respective projects to record voices, document experience, and monitor programmes qualitatively.

- 29 staff participated in a 2-day workshop on media outreach and Facebook analytics, carried out by #generation. Sessions covered the fundamentals of Facebook and YouTube and social media outreach strategies. The sessions showed how individual staff can contribute to popularizing NPC on social media and sharing updates. Learning how to develop target-specific content for social media is a key skill for all NPC staff.
- 32 staff members including the NPC Board of Directors and Governing Council participated in a 3-day strategic review meeting. Knowledge-building sessions provided participants with specific content for learning, discussion, and reflection. Inputs included- youth political participation in Sri Lanka, steering through the economic crisis, the political situation in the country etc. The NPC strategic plan was reviewed and discussed supported by Strategic Inspiration Pvt. Ltd. (SIPL), who also helped develop the NPC strategic plan in 2021. Four strategic areas were identified and captured in the plan during these discussions. In addition, to promote unity among staff across projects, a team-building exercise- climbing the Sigiriya rock took place.
- 27 staff members attended a workshop on setting up a central monitoring system. This will be based on outputs and output indicators used commonly across current NPC projects. In addition, through the workshop process, the importance of strengthening the capacity of NPC staff in identifying and prioritizing outputs and outcomes was determined. In the future, this will provide the foundation for umbrella outcome indicators and an overall M & E Framework for the organization.
- A joint review of NPC policies was conducted by a senior officer of the organisation and Board Members. This activity briefed NPC staff on the new and revised administration, finance, and HR manuals. The training helped participants understand the values and the procedures to be followed and the importance of following the systems. Solidifying this knowledge amongst all staff allows the organisation to function more efficiently, safely, and positively. Participants were given the opportunity to bring their concerns, and the practical difficulties encountered while following the system.

Key highlights for 2023

- New CPS-worker focused on communications and outreach commenced work with the organisation. The CPS worker will support the organisation streamline its communications and outreach activities and ensure that the coverage of work of the organisation is shared across multiple platforms.
- 37 NPC staff members took part in a two-day workshop on the importance of social research led by a team from the Social Scientists' Association. This practical hands-on training covered topics as theoretical background to research, and application of research methods followed by practical application of learning tools in respective projects and group presentations and feedback sessions.
- 23 key NPC staff members discussed and planned the new CPS-NPC project supported through Agiamondo. The training was facilitated by a team from Agiamondo including a German M&E specialist. Participants were capacitated on the project cycle beginning with planning an intervention. These sessions helped formulate and fine-tune the CPS intervention with NPC in Sri Lanka.

Language rights and learning

The second phase of the Languages to Reconcile-L2R-NLEAP project concluded during this reporting period. It was supported by the Canadian Government to foster and promote the protection of language rights by identifying gaps that existed in state service delivery providers in relation to language diversity in Batticaloa, Gampaha, and Trincomalee districts. The Language Rights Promotion program was followed by a Learning of a Second Language Course for religious leaders, LIRC members, government officials, women, and youth. This course was



designed to supplement gaps in the language knowledge of LIRC members, community leaders/ community policing subcommittees and state officials identified through the Language Rights Promotion program. Language Rights Promotion included Focus Group Discussions, capacitation workshops, language audit training (for LIRC members), Language Audit and actualization activities. In total 382 persons including key state officials, LIRC members, community leaders and others benefited from the intervention.

Activities & highlights:

- In Manmunai North in the Batticaloa District, 171 persons (84 male and 87 female) including state officials attached to the divisional secretariat benefited from this intervention enabling them to better interact with citizens, when carrying out service delivery and receiving services. 125 people took part in the Language Rights Promotion activity while 46 persons benefitted from the second language learning activity (learning the Sinhala language).
- In Negombo in the Gampaha District, 171 persons (73 male and 98 female) including state officials, key LIRC members etc. took part. This included 130 persons who took part in the Language Rights Promotion activity and 41 members who took part in the second language learning activity and learned the Tamil language.
- In Gomarankadawala in the Trincomalee District, 40 state officials and others (20 male and 20 female) took part in the second language learning activity (learning the Tamil language).
- 127 beneficiaries including LIRC members, community leaders/community policing subcommittees and state officials in Batticaloa, Negombo and Trincomalee were supported through a 90-hour spoken language course module developed by NILET. In Negombo and Trincomalee, Sinhala speakers received Tamil language learning while in Batticaloa, a Sinhala language course was conducted for Tamil-speaking beneficiaries.

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- 65 participants including LIRC members, and community policing sub-committee members from Batticaloa and Negombo districts received capacitation on language policy and rights as part of capacitation workshops on Language Rights Promotion.
- 42 women from Batticaloa and Negombo participated in 2 focus group discussions (FGDs) to engage women community members in resolving identified issues in state sector service delivery institutions.
- 28 male and female participants from Batticaloa and Negombo participated in 2 focus group discussions (FGDs). The discussions engaged beneficiaries in identifying and resolving identified issues in state sector service delivery institutions.
- 8 language audits were carried out in eight state institutions in both districts to find solutions for identified language issues within local state service delivery structures- Police, District Hospital, District Labor Department Office and DS Office. 21 females and 19 males participated in this language audit.



Key highlights for 2023

- Food Relief Initiative supported by NLEAP was carried out to help 350 underprivileged families during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year festival and Ramazan. The recipients were selected based on a 9-point selection criteria that ensured both fairness and transparency. Seventy families each in Batticaloa, Kandy, Mullaitivu, Moneragala, and Nuwara Eliya received a parcel of dry food items worth Rs. 13,000. Total cost of the initiative was Rs. 5,534,438. The distribution was carried out in April 2022.

CSO-PVE Capacity Building in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh

This project explored preventing violent extremism (PVE) in diverse contexts by engaging Sri Lankan and Bangladesh civil society organizations (CSOs) in PVE in their constituencies. This intervention came to an end in the reporting period. A national-level advocacy campaign targeting 1 million users was launched on social media/Facebook to evolve and share counternarratives against acts that promote hate speech and violent extremism. A total of 30 short videos were produced and shared to show the importance of inclusion and fact-checking before sharing content instigating violent extremism. An inter-country learning visit to Bangladesh, setting up a cadre of senior trainers, and capacitation sessions for CSOs were some of activities completed this year. In total, 414 members from 144 CSOs, 201 members of District Inter-Religious Committees (DIRCs) and Local Inter-religious Committees (LIRCs), 237 members of state sector service delivery institutions, 236 members of the community police cadre and 721 youth influencers were capacitated on PVE in the 6 targeted districts.



Activities & highlights:

- 100 CSO representatives took part in 10 virtual Digitally Enabled Inter-Country Learning Exchanges. The group included the ToT resource pool, CSO members and youth and they used the platform to exchange ideas, share experiences and knowledge with their Bangladeshi counterparts.
- 10 CSO representatives and NPC staff visited Bangladesh enabling an intercountry exchange of lessons and experiences. This enabled them to gain knowledge and awareness of experiences and strategies employed in Bangladesh to deal with violent extremism. These practical on-site learnings will enable the target group to use them when dealing with similar situations back home in Sri Lanka.
- 6 reports on dominant narratives and actors/drivers of violent extremism in respective districts developed through identification and analysis of ground situation/local context during district-based workshops. This information served as the basis for district/national level responses/campaigns to counter these narratives.
- 12 follow-up sessions with community police and targeted state institutions were carried out to actualize the learnings on PVE. Performances including street drama, poster campaigns, and a blood donation campaign were part of these actualization activities.



- 6 district-level campaigns to counter identified narratives carried out through a series of performances including street drama, poster campaigns etc. creating an enabling environment and space for discussion on PVE.
- 30 short videos capturing popular narratives from project locations and counter-narratives developed through the PVE intervention were launched as part of the national campaign on evolving counter-narratives.
- 1,000,000 persons were reached through Facebook/social media campaign by showcasing short videos on popular narratives and counter-narratives to promote inclusion and fact-checking before sharing content, as part of preventing violent extremism mechanisms.

Technical Assistance to Justice Institutions in Sri Lanka

This is a project which focused on the provision of technical assistance to both state and non-state actors and institutions concluded in the first quarter of the reporting period. Through its training and capacitation efforts the project contributed towards improved awareness and utilization of effective prevention of hate speech practices both at the community level as well as the institutional level. The project is implemented in collaboration with Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) in 10 districts- Anuradhapura, Badulla, Polonnaruwa, Kalutara, Kandy, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Matara, Monaragala, and Ratnapura. The 'Master Trainers' trained previously through the project continued to support community mobilization and capacitation of the public through community-level training and awareness-raising interventions.



Activities & highlights:

- 157 LGA representatives and 128 religious leaders received 3 trainings each on the prevention of hate speech. This was part of capacitation efforts to enable their active participation in identifying, understanding and countering hate speech and hate narratives in their localities.
- A debating competition on the prevention of hate speech and social media was carried out in Kandy targeting 250 youth leaders in collaboration with the National Youth Services Council. Staff of Divisional Secretariats in Nawalapitya, Paatha Dumbara, Kandy and Galaha participated in these events and winners were awarded certificates and prizes.
- 10 'Championship Events' on prevention of hate speech carried out in project locations- Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kurunegala, Kandy, Badulla, Monaragala, Matara, Kalutara, Rathnapura, and Kegalle. The final championship event was carried out with the participation of national-level political actors, religious leaders, state officials, local government authority members, youth leaders, representatives of civil society organizations, and artists. The event served as a platform for all who engaged in the event to learn from each other's experiences, bringing together all of them into the national dialogue on the prevention of hate speech.



Protecting Civic Space in Sri Lanka

The Protecting Civic Space in Sri Lanka initiative is funded by international partner LAW- Legal Action Worldwide through the US State Department. It will be carried out over a period of 48 months with a group of other local partners including Centre for Equality and Justice, Equal Ground, Hashtag Generation, and other justice institutions and actors in Sri Lanka. The intervention is designed to assist the public, especially vulnerable groups to be empowered to understand their right to freedom of association and freedom of assembly and to protect their privacy. NPC developed curricula-based training and materials aimed at building the knowledge of community leaders on their rights related to freedom of association and freedom of speech and assembly.

Activities & highlights:

- Qualitative research on community-level citizenship was carried out with 350 individuals through focus group discussions, expert interviews, and case studies. The research focused on identifying existing gaps in knowledge and skills among members in organic formations, that prevent these formations from effectively engaging in the civic space to champion their causes. It was carried out in collaboration with the Social Scientists' Association (SSA).
- A mapping of organic formations was also undertaken with the participation of government bodies under which such organic formations are registered. A total of 288 organic formations were identified in 12 districts and will be provided capacitation on how to effectively use the civic space to campaign for policy reform and advocacy on issues they are working on.

Sustaining peace through pluralism and inclusive service delivery

This project supported by Freedom House (FH) in the US focuses on promoting pluralism in the process of inclusive services delivery to ensure that all communities receive inclusive services effectively and efficiently without discrimination. The project facilitated the development and offering of a certificate course on “Sustainable peace through pluralism and inclusive service delivery” through four national-



level universities on pluralism and inclusive services delivery, targeting front-line government officers. It also supported the provision of sub-grants of up to one million rupees each to five district-based CBOs to implement projects that promoted pluralism and inclusive service delivery in the Ratnapura, Kegalle, Matara, Batticaloa, and Jaffna Districts. Work through the sub-grants included the provision of statutory documentation support for communities of Malayihaha origin in the estate sector, working with state-run Vocational Training centers to support and encourage youth of Malayihaha origin to enroll in these centres as means of uplifting their socioeconomic situation, capacitating youth to advocate on behalf of their community to obtain services from the state through advocacy and enable returnees from India to integrate back into the community by supporting them apply and receive statutory documentation. In total 44 activities were carried out.

Activities & highlights:

- One residential workshop held at Deer Park Hotel, Girithale to finalize course module on “Sustainable peace through pluralism and inclusive service delivery”. Academic staff of four universities and other supporting academics including NPC Board Directors Dr. T. Jeyasingham, Dr. Joe William and Dr. Jehan Perera and NPC Programme Advisor Ms. Sumadhu Weerawarne Perera also participated.
- MoU with Eastern University (EUSL) signed to offer the advanced certificate course through Eastern University. Executive Director of NPC Dr Jehan Perera, and Prof V Kanagasingham, Vice Chancellor of Eastern University signed the agreement on behalf of the organisations. In addition, MoU’s with the Sabaragamuwa University (SUSL) and the Ruhuna University (RUSL) were also signed during the reporting period.
- The subawards managed by NPC through FH funds to promote pluralism and inclusive service delivery supported the following organisations. The sub awardees received \$3,000 as support to implement these initiatives. Information on proposed activities of each sub awardee is as follows:
 - Ensuring documentation rights and voting rights of Tamils of Indian origin. Environment & Community Development Information Centre (ECDIC), an organization based in the Ratnapura District, implemented this activity in four estates. Several needs assessments and group discussions carried out in these areas for beneficiaries and state officials

highlighted that some Tamils of Indian origin who reside in these estates did not possess documents- i.e. birth certificates, identity cards, and marriage certificates, necessary to receive their statutory benefits.

- Uplifting socio-economic conditions of plantation and neighbouring village youth. People's Development Foundation (PDF) of Kegalle District implemented this project to develop the skills of youth from underprivileged families living in the plantation sector (mostly Indian origin Tamils) and surrounding villages (mostly Sinhala) through government-run Vocational Training Centres.
- Empowering youth to contribute to the development of pluralistic concepts for public service. Matara District-based Voice of Talent (VOT) implemented this project, which aimed to train youth and enable them to form lobbying peer groups to ensure inclusive service delivery by state officials.
- Reconciliation and reintegration to sustain peace in resettled communities. The Organization for Elangai Refugees Rehabilitation Ceylon (OFERR), located in Jaffna District, commenced this project to facilitate the return and reintegration of refugees from India. Those who have been living as unhoused people for many decades were supported in obtaining various documents, especially civil documents that were needed in order to receive services from state institutions.
- Creating a conducive environment for peace among ethnic communities. Batticaloa based organization Caritas Eastern Human Economic Development Batticaloa (Caritas EHED) completed their project, which worked to capacitate district-based peace committees through trainings and activities that promote social cohesion.

Key highlights for 2023

Delivery of the certificate course on Inclusive Service Delivery commenced in the Eastern, Ruhuna, Sabaragamuwa and Jaffna universities. Recipients of the course include state sector service delivery staff members in the districts, community leaders and existing students interested in learning on inclusive service delivery.



Open Society Foundations

Open Society Foundations (OSF) supported NPC to promote national reconciliation, intercommunity trust building and pluralism through education, capacity building and advocacy particularly through support for strategic activities when necessary. An overwhelming component of NPC's funding is project funding, making organizational sustenance challenging. OSF's institutional support has enabled NPC to sustain its core staff through funding gaps. The overall purpose of this grant is to enable the NPC to carry out its activities with greater flexibility in light of diminishing space for civil society engagement and diminishing donor support for central and administrative needs. The grant is supporting NPC to streamline its operations by strengthening its administrative systems and staff capacity while providing fundamental support for a number of ongoing project activities that are geared to help Sri Lanka in its path to achieving reconciliation, sustainable peace and a more pluralistic identity.

Activities & highlights:

- Printing and publication of the annual report: Compiling and printing the 2021 Annual Report for NPC was supported through OSF. The Annual Report captured NPC's interventions in the previous year and enabled the organization visually represent some of its key achievements and share them with the membership, media, donors, and local diplomatic community. The annual report is one of the key components that capture and store organizational memory.
- Staff capacity building: 37 staff members including the Executive Director, Programme Advisor and all heads of ongoing projects and other staff participated in a staff capacity building training. The chairperson of NPC also took part in this learning activity. On day 1, a full Financial and Administration overview was carried out to familiarize staff on the updated NPC Administration and Financial Management manual. On day 2, staff completed their input to the strategic objectives and thereafter participated in team building activities designed by different project teams.
- Supporting scholarships for university students: NPC supported the interview process for the provision of scholarships to 17 university students from the Tamil Malayaha community in the estate sector. OSF funding enabled the interview process to be carried out on-site. The interview panel was made up of the NPC chairperson and several staff members, including a former scholarship recipient who is now employed in our finance department.
- Supporting Career Content 22 - Exhibition & Career Fair: NPC supported the University of Ruhuna, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences by participating in their annual career guidance and job fair. This event gives aspiring job applicants the ability to reach out to possible organisations in the country that offer employment.

Think Tank Capacity Building Project (TTCB)

This is a three-phase capacity development intervention working with a local consultant (SIPL) and international academic institution (University of South Carolina) to develop the capacity of the organisation to function as a think tank. As part of the project, research into examining the sense of belonging among Malaiyaha Tamils (Tamil refugees of Indian origin in Sri Lanka) living in refugee camps in Southern India was carried out by NPC in November and December 2022. The activity was carried out in partnership with the University of South Carolina and the Women in Security, Conflict Management, and Peace (WISCOMP) initiative, and supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA). It examined the conditions and challenges faced by Sri Lankan refugees in India as well as what prevented them from coming back to Sri Lanka, nearly a decade after the war had ended.

Activities & highlights:

Ascertaining Malaiyaha sense of belonging, factors that impede it, and formulating recommendations was carried out in Chennai and Trichy, India from December 4 to Dec 12, 2022. In India, the research was supported by OfERR Chennai who have been working to support refugees from Sri Lanka for many decades. They provided guidance and local logistical support. In addition, The Peninsula Foundation (TPF) who are also part of WISCOMP, and consultant Dr. Mallika Joseph, met with the NPC to discuss some of the salient points of the survey. The Saveetha School of Law provided academic input to the research and was going to host a mini-symposium to share the findings. However, this could not be completed as the Tamil Nadu government declared a state-wide closure of schools and universities due to a hurricane warning and subsequent flooding.

Interviews were carried out with 24 persons including 19 refugees from Sri Lanka who were long-term residents in camps across the State of Tamil Nadu. These face-to-face interviews were carried out using a structured questionnaire. Several interviews were also carried out with key persons to get an overview of the situation. The team of five worked in two groups assisted by an interpreter and facilitator. All interviews were recorded while two team members took notes. At the end of each day, notes were compared, and key points were formulated.

The research team was led by Programme Advisor Sumadhu Weerawarne Perera (Attorney at Law) with members Venuri De Silva (Project Manager- Action for Religious Coexistence), N. Vijayakanthan (Attorney at Law and Associate Manager- Languages to Reconcile), Nuwani Vishaka (Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer- Action for Religious Coexistence) and Ayesha Jayawardena (Senior Project Officer- Plural Action for Conflict Transformation).

Capacitating Transformation

Capacitating Transformation (CapT) aimed to improve the capacity and thereby efficiency of staff attached to the Office on Missing Persons. The expected long-term results were that families of missing will be supported to find closure in their search for missing loved ones, that they are granted interim compensation until a final solution is determined and are included in the framework for post war transition. This project was implemented in Colombo, where the OMP's head office is located, and in Jaffna, Mannar, Batticaloa and Matara



where the OMP had district offices. Capacitation was carried out primarily via trainings, both at the district level and national level. Information sessions were also carried out for government officials attached to state sector service delivery whose cooperation is required in reaching the target groups for whom the OMP is meant. This intervention is supported by the Canadian Government through the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). As the project only started at the end of the year under consideration, all primary activities were carried out in the following year.

Activities & highlights:

- Carried out an online assessment for OMP staff to identify their training and capacity-building needs. Fifty staff including the chairperson responded to the online survey and NPC was able to identify their primary training and capacity needs in order to organize a full training programme.
- 40 staff members including the Chairperson attended the national level training for OMP staff held centrally in Colombo. The training enabled staff to learn key concepts, including transitional justice and pluralism, and also receive psychosocial support training to enable them deal better with victims in the future.
- 9 review meetings were carried out for 119 victim family members and 112 state officers who were able to discuss issues faced by them when dealing with the OMP process and what measures could be taken to address these issues to assist victim families dealing with their loss.
- 188 state officers participated in regional level trainings for central government administrators through the intervention. This was specifically held to capacitate central government administrators on enabling/facilitating the OMP applications and follow-up processes through their respective institutions.
- 88 victim family members and 109 state officials participated in 9 informal empathy-building engagements through the intervention. Both the victim community and state officials were able to share their different experiences in the OMP process with each other.

Women Organized for Inclusion through Community Engagement

The Women Organized for Inclusion through Community Engagement (WOICE) project is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and is implemented in 7 districts, Matara, Monaragala, Kandy, Nuwara-Eliya, Kegalle, Ratnapura and Gampaha since 2022. The project intends to capacitate, mentor and strengthen a group of sub-national women civic leaders as super activists contributing to the ongoing movement for reform of the state structure and to introduce systems change. The project has several principal aims. The first is amplifying women’s voices within the ongoing reform movement. The second is to strengthen women’s advocacy to include women’s issues and minority issues – ethnic and religious, in the reform agenda. The third is to garner support and trust for women’s leadership at the sub-national level by supporting women to lead response initiatives to local issues working with multiple influential sectors within that space. As this project was only received in the last quarter of the year, only preliminary activities could be carried out in the year under consideration.



Activities & highlights:

- A scoping study was carried out in 7 districts to identify and shortlist suitable and capable key women-focused/led CBOs and CSOs for project implementation in the identified districts. The project team carried out virtual meetings and physical visits to meet with shortlisted candidate organizations. NPC is taking the initiative to identify new local-level partners to add value to the existing long-term partner pool.
- In each of the project locations, WOICE project staff identified a group of 35 organic women leaders. They were identified during meetings with possible new local partners. These women community leaders will be part of a core group that will be capacitated as the project progresses in the new year.



Media and Advocacy

During the year, NPC disseminated political commentaries, newsletters and press releases that were published in the mass media in three languages. The material was uploaded onto NPC's website. Its Executive Director, Dr. Jehan Perera, contributed a regular column to a national newspaper, which came out of NPC's work and the public discourse at its activities.

Excerpts from selected media releases (all media releases can be accessed on NPC's website www.peace-srilanka.org):

Deal with Both Symptoms and Causes for Reconciliation (26.01.2022)

The government is commencing a major reconciliation drive in the north of the country this week with the launch of its "Adhikaranabhimani" programme. According to the Ministry of Justice which is coordinating this work it is meant to "ameliorated access to justice for people of the Northern Province." The participating institutions include the Legal Aid Commission, Office for National Unity and Reconciliation, Office for Reparations, Office on Missing Persons, Department of Debt Conciliation Board and the Vocational Training Authority to mention some of them.

Further Amendment or repeal of PTA is necessary (06.02.22)

Statement by the Sri Lankan Collective for Consensus: The Prevention of Terrorism Act was introduced to the Sri Lankan legal system as a temporary law to deal with a growing armed insurrection. The PTA is being amended today in a time of peace and circumstances very different from when it was first introduced. As pointed out by the government, the PTA is being amended for the first time in 43 years. We recognize some positive measures in the proposed revisions. These include...

Present Credible Plan for Economic and Moral Revival (02.04.2022)

The declaration of a state of emergency by the president in the context of the ongoing public protests against the government cannot be the answer to the ongoing campaign of public protests against the government. These are a culmination of over many months of extreme economic hardship that have resulted in power cuts of up to 13 hours per day, steep increases in prices of essential commodities and shortages that have resulted in long queues on the roads.

Decide by Sufficient Consensus on The Next Steps Forward (13.07.2022)

The occupation of President's House by the Aragalaya (people's movement) and further occupation of other state buildings used by the President and Prime Minister has been followed by the fleeing abroad of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa early this morning. The occupation of the Prime Minister's official residence and the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, and the attempt to reach the parliamentary complex highlight the continuing crisis in Sri Lanka and the loss of faith in existing political institutions. Unfortunately, we have often witnessed near violent behavior of many of our legislators in recent months which eroded the faith in democratic institutions.

FINANCES

Financial Report



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NYR/KSD/DM

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL OF SRI LANKA (GUARANTEE) LIMITED

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statements of National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (Guarantee) Limited ("the Organization") which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2022, and Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Reserves and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (Guarantee) Limited as at 31 December 2022, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Statement of Recommended Practice for Not-for-Profit Organizations (Including Non-Governmental Organization) (SL SoRP-NPO's [including NGO's]) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by CA Sri Lanka (Code of Ethics) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Board and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Board of Directors ("the Board") is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Statement of Recommended Practice for Not-for-Profit Organizations (Including Non-Governmental Organization) (SL SoRP-NPO's [including NGO's]) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, and for such internal control as Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, Board is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Board either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

(Contd...2/)

Partners: D K Hulangamuwa FCA FCMA LLB (London), A P A Gunasekera FCA FCMA, Ms. Y A De Silva FCA, Ms. G G S Manatunga FCA, W K B S P Fernando FCA FCMA, B E Wijesuriya FCA FCMA, R N de Saram ACA FCMA, Ms. N A De Silva FCA, N M Sulaiman ACA ACMA, Ms. L K H L Fonseka FCA, Ms. K R M Fernando FCA ACMA, Ms. P V K N Sajewani FCA, A A J R Perera ACA ACMA, N Y R L Fernando ACA, D N Gamage ACA ACMA, C A Yalagala ACA ACMA

Principals: T P M Ruberu FCMA FCCA MBA (USJ-SL), G B Goudian ACMA, Ms. P S Paranavitane ACA ACMA LLB (Colombo), D L B Karunathilaka ACMA, W S J De Silva Bsc (Hons) - MIS Msc - IT, V Shakthivel B.Com (Sp)

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Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SLAuSs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SLAuSs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



29 August 2023
Colombo

National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (Guarantee) Limited

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2022


ASSETS	Note	2022 Rs.	2021 Rs.
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4	97,703,772	96,959,607
Intangible Assets	5	232,774	264,405
		<u>97,936,546</u>	<u>97,224,012</u>
Current Assets			
Receivables	6	11,719,671	8,153,260
Cash and Bank Balances	7	63,957,948	37,860,162
		<u>75,677,619</u>	<u>46,013,422</u>
Total Assets		<u>173,614,165</u>	<u>143,237,434</u>
FUNDING & LIABILITIES			
Accumulated Funds			
Restricted Funds	12	25,242,398	8,729,562
Unrestricted Funds	9	11,744,538	364,816
Reserve A	10	10,579,838	10,579,838
Reserve B	11	16,094,442	16,094,442
Revaluation Reserves		84,379,680	84,379,680
		<u>148,040,896</u>	<u>120,148,339</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Staff Welfare Fund	13	725,853	725,853
Retirement Benefit Liability	8	11,634,371	8,733,287
Deferred Liability	14	2,643,497	552,528
		<u>15,003,720</u>	<u>10,011,668</u>
Current Liabilities			
Income Tax Payable	20.3	6,152,655	4,309,903
Payables	15	4,416,892	8,767,524
		<u>10,569,548</u>	<u>13,077,428</u>
Total Funding and Liabilities		<u>173,614,165</u>	<u>143,237,434</u>

These Financial Statements are in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act No.7 of 2007.



.....
Finance Manager

The Board of Directors is responsible for these Financial Statements. Signed for and on behalf of the Organization by;



.....
Director



.....
Director

The accounting policies and notes on pages 07 through 20 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.



National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (Guarantee) Limited

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

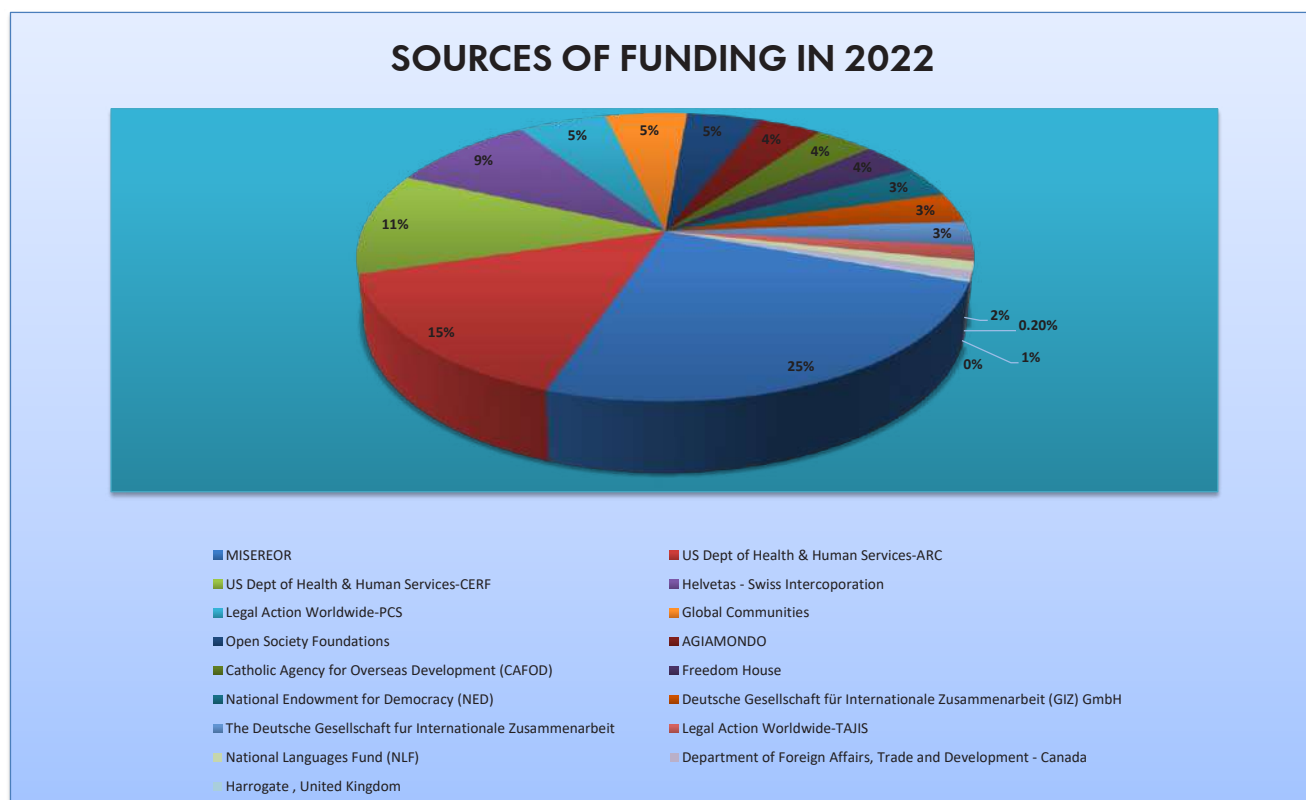
Year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 Rs.	2021 Rs.
Incoming Resources	16	265,015,632	210,546,783
OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Project Expenses	17	(265,015,632)	(210,546,783)
Total Operating Expenditure		<u>(265,015,632)</u>	<u>(210,546,783)</u>
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) on Operating Activities		-	-
Revenue Earned from Other Activities	18	18,686,336	6,130,425
Administrative Expenses	17.1	(4,624,941)	(4,783,611)
Finance Cost	19	(209,067)	(126,411)
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Tax		<u>13,852,328</u>	<u>1,220,404</u>
Income Tax Expenses	20.2	(2,472,606)	(629,854)
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) After Tax		<u>11,379,722</u>	<u>590,549</u>
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		<u><u>11,379,722</u></u>	<u><u>590,549</u></u>

The accounting policies and notes on pages 07 through 20 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

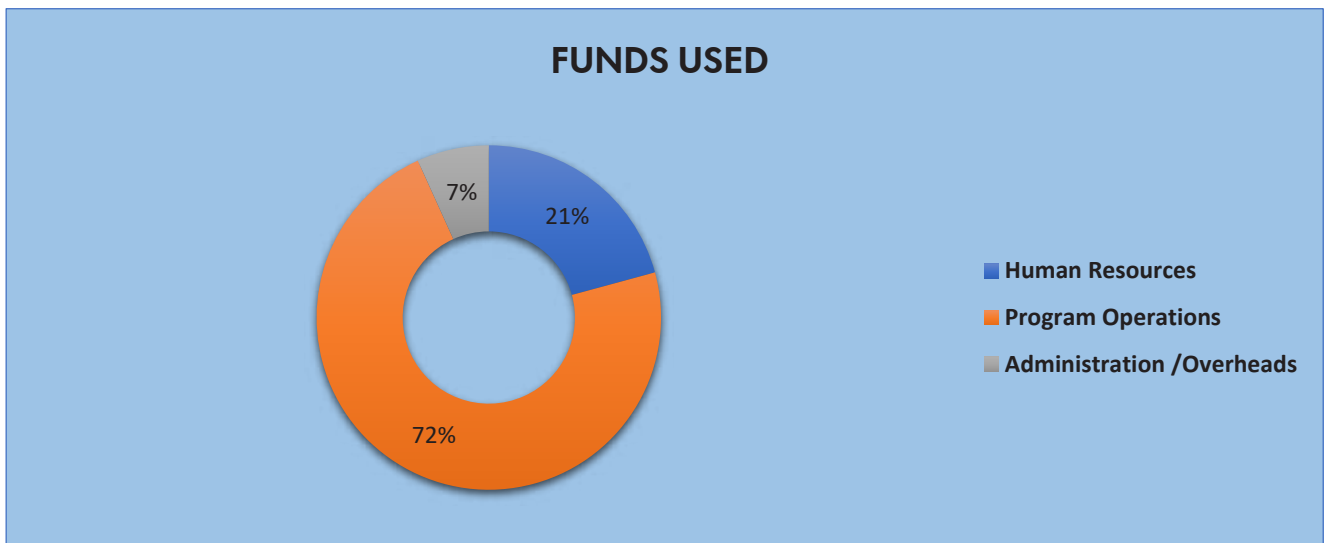


Funding Portfolio



Name of donor	Amount (LKR)	Percentage
MISEREOR	72,469,619	24.74%
US Dept of Health & Human Services-ARC	43,896,400	14.99%
US Dept of Health & Human Services-CERF	33,592,056	11.47%
Helvetas - Swiss Intercorporation	26,443,924	9.03%
Legal Action Worldwide-PCS	16,091,416	5.49%
Global Communities	14,910,552	5.09%
Open Society Foundations	13,475,498	4.60%
AGIAMONDO	11,500,000	3.93%
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)	10,670,109	3.64%
Freedom House	10,285,565	3.51%
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	10,206,000	3.48%
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	9,808,469	3.35%
The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	8,035,025	2.74%
Legal Action Worldwide-TAJIS	4,923,227	1.68%
National Languages Fund (NLF)	3,183,379	1.09%
Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development - Canada	2,691,888	0.92%
Harrogate, United Kingdom	751,081	0.26%
TOTAL	292,934,208	100.00%

Funds Utilisation



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 PARTNERS AND DONORS

Major Donors



Project Partners



Way Forward – Looking to the future

The present time is one of stagnancy in the areas that matter most to people. Neither economic nor political reforms that are controversial, even if in the national interest, are likely to take place before the next elections. Presidential elections need to take place by September 2024. Having experienced economic collapse in 2022 and economic stagnancy since then Sri Lanka is ripe for change. This change was demanded by the protest movement which was suppressed by the use of security forces and misuse of laws which continues.

Along with other likeminded civic organisations, NPC will stand in solidarity with those who advocate and commit to adherence of basic democratic values of regular elections, to the rule of law, upholding of human rights and the freedom of expression and economic and social justice writ large. As an organization established to address issues of peacebuilding, NPC will continue to devote its attention to the problems of inter-ethnic justice, reconciliation and power-sharing in the context of a plural society. These imperatives for national unity must not be put on the back-burner if the pursuit of sustainable development that will lift Sri Lanka out of the mire is to come to fruition.

The character of a country needs to be taken into account when designing interventions to benefit it. Sri Lanka is a democratic country which believes in democratic norms which include checks and balances and separation of powers which are built into the structure of government. This means that any one of these institutions should not be subjugated to achieve the objectives of another. There is a need for balance to ensure justice and the protection of all. Civil society is one of those institutions in society whose independence and freedom needs to be protected.

If the system of checks and balances and separation of powers should be weakened or collapses this can mire the country in conflict. It is in times of conflict that power groups are formed on partisan lines, be they class, caste, ethnic or religious with each claiming to be under threat. In the year ahead, NPC will forge ahead with its plethora of activities to be found in this annual report. Keeping in mind the political context, we will bring to the discussion table policies that need multi-partisan support and hold true regardless of change of government.

Among our new areas of focus we will advocate for the establishment of a Pluralism and Non-Discrimination Commission on the lines of the independent commission that are powered by the 21st Amendment.* We will also take up the challenge of ensuring justice and reparations for the Malayaha Tamil community even as we commemorate the 200th year of their entry into Sri Lanka where they were subjected to exploitation and injustice which have yet to be rectified.

As mentioned in our last annual report, the plural nature of Sri Lankan society is a reality on the ground. People need to be willing to accept this reality while not remaining fixed on majoritarian thinking which is that the community with the most number of votes wins and gets its way. It is also necessary to go beyond and reform institutions so that they lead to power sharing, devolution of power and respect for human rights in all circumstances. There is a need to accept the plurality of the people who live in Sri Lanka and address the issues of power-sharing. All this has to be done through democracy. If we permit the subversion of democracy now claiming it is for good reasons, we are opening the space for it to be subverted later and for different reasons.

**Establish a Pluralism and Equal Rights Commission. In particular, the commission will be mandated to work on issues that are identified in the fundamental rights chapter of the constitution. A 5-member Commission shall be appointed by the Constitutional Council and be representative of the country's ethnic and religious diversity. It shall have a regional presence with its own offices in the regions. It will work closely with any government agency working on issues that come under the commission's purview. The Pluralism and Equal Rights Commission will be mandated to propagate the idea of pluralism in society, to have an annual plan that includes civic education and be encouraged to be creative and far thinking in energetically engaging on issues that bind the communities. The Commission shall have the power to conduct its own inquiries, give directives to be implemented and to take issues to the courts through the Attorney General. The Commission shall be empowered to refer any proposed law to the Supreme Court with its observations.*

From Submissions by the National Peace Council to the Experts Committee to draft a New Constitution in 2021



National Peace Council of Sri Lanka.

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