



protecting childhood

Policy Recommendation Report: Alignment with the UNCRPD in Sri Lankan Child Protection

Submitted to
Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social
Empowerment
Government of Sri Lanka

Submitted by
Noriko Hatanaka, MSc, MSW
Intern at Children's Emergency Relief
International
Master of Social Policy Candidate at the
Brown School at Washington University in St.
Louis

Supervised by
Ian Forber-Pratt, MSW
Deputy Executive Director at Children's
Emergency Relief International

March 1, 2024

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Introduction.....	3
Context.....	4
Informative Assessment Findings.....	5
Expert Interviews Findings.....	8
Evidence-Based Recommendations.....	11
Practical, Actionable, and Budget-Sensitive Action Steps.....	18
Limitations.....	19
Conclusion.....	20
Appendix 1 (Methodology).....	21
Appendix 2 (Source List).....	23
Academic Journals.....	23
Reports.....	36
Web Articles.....	40
Others.....	45
Appendix 3 (Data Analysis Overview).....	49
Appendix 4 (Stakeholder Interview Questionnaire).....	52
Appendix 5 (Organization and Coding of Thematic Analysis).....	54
Pie Charts: (Organization and Coding of Thematic Analysis).....	59

Executive Summary

In May 2023, Children's Emergency Relief International started with the primary goal of aligning child protection policies and systems in Sri Lanka with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and related international frameworks. This alignment aimed to improve the inclusion and protection of children with disabilities (CWD).

This report summarizes the findings of an informative assessment and expert interviews with thematic analysis, focusing especially on the rights of CWD within Sri Lanka's child protection system. The document offers a series of practical recommendations designed to harmonize the child protection system with the principles of the CRPD. These recommendations are firmly grounded in robust evidence, strictly adhere to CRPD guidelines, and draw inspiration from international best practices.

The recommended strategies are crafted to be both actionable and economically viable, considering complex the conditions in Sri Lanka. They include measures to strengthen the existing framework, facilitate improved coordination and collaboration among stakeholders, and initiate a national marketing and branding campaign dedicated to the rights of CWD within the Sri Lankan child protection system. These measures have been meticulously crafted to enhance the protection and integration of CWD within the system.

Introduction

The global landscape of child protection mechanisms is undergoing a transformative phase, transitioning from conventional institutional models to a diverse array of family-centric alternatives. The evolution of these systems encompasses intricate, multidimensional reforms, primarily directed towards catering to the needs of the most marginalized strata of society. Despite the well-meaning nature of these reforms, individuals and families grappling with disabilities frequently encounter inadequate support and are inadvertently excluded from the purview of such initiatives. Within this discourse, this article finds its foundation in the inherent capabilities and prospects inherent to the engagement of children with disabilities (CWD) and families within the context of the ongoing reformative endeavors within the child protection framework of Sri Lanka. This article is underpinned by an alignment of the congruence between Sri Lanka's child protection system and the principles enshrined within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The project applied a multi-method study, including secondary data assessment and expert interviews with thematic analysis.¹ The informative assessment involved a secondary assessment of challenges in Sri Lanka's child protection system and disability inclusion practices and a comparative analysis of CRPD alignment in different countries. Based on the review of 242 sources, key areas identified for better policy included coordination, awareness, accessibility, stigma alleviation, and comprehensive data for CWD well-being. The qualitative research engaged 11 experts via virtual, semi-structured interviews. Thematic analysis utilized Excel coding to ensure data accuracy, supporting advocacy for a comprehensive child protection system. Methodological details are explained in Appendix 1.

Countless consultants' reports ask for bold recommendations with huge budgets and unrealistic expectations. This report suggests immediately actionable solutions to align Sri Lanka's child protection system with the CRPD, for the most part, using existing budgets and staffing. The initial steps recommended can establish the creation of a more robust and multidimensional implementation and change plan.

Context

In Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment (MWCASE) governs child protection.² Sri Lanka ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1991 and has an obligation to take proper measures in all aspects, including legislation, administration, and social status, to protect all children from any form of physical and mental abuse and violence, exploitation, neglect, and maltreatment (Article 19).^{3 4} The Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, No. 28 of 1996, provides legal protection and promotes the rights of all persons with disabilities (PWD).⁵ Having ratified the CRPD in 2016, Sri Lanka holds obligations, including Article 7 on CWD.⁶

Informative Assessment Findings

Based on identified key areas,⁷ a secondary assessment of Sri Lanka's status and a comparative international analysis were conducted, with the source list available in Appendix 2 and a data analysis overview available in Appendix 3. The reviewed results concerning the impacts of measures on disability inclusion and well-being for CWD are outlined as follows:

1. **Priority of accessibility and availability:** In Sri Lanka, healthcare and social protection are particularly inadequate or unaffordable for CWD, hindering their well-being.⁸ The scarcity of specialized services and trained professionals, especially in rural areas, exacerbates the issue, resulting in unequal access to quality support and resources.⁹ Similar challenges are found in other countries as well. Bulgaria lacks adequate support for CWD below a certain threshold, whereas Albania faces limitations in access to social services and state support for comprehensive child protection.¹⁰ Malaysia has some shortcomings in discrimination prohibition and access to healthcare for CWD, despite government focus.¹¹ Cambodia experiences government policy failures in providing access to basic social services for CWD.¹²
2. **Need for addressing stigma and discrimination:** Addressing negative attitudes, cultural norms, and discrimination in Sri Lanka could improve the well-being and social participation of CWD.^{13 14} Historical discrimination and inequality caused by diverse ethnicities and pity from society further worsen CWD's challenges.¹⁵ Policy development alone is insufficient to tackle these issues.¹⁶ Despite an inclusive policy framework,¹⁷ cases from around the world illustrate the continued struggles, such as structural violence against parents with intellectual disabilities in Iceland due to stigma and discrimination.¹⁸ In Latin America and the Caribbean, CWD are often seen as charity recipients rather than rights holders.¹⁹
3. **Importance of increased awareness:** The challenges in Sri Lanka related to child protection, disability rights, and CWD's intersectional issues might not be given enough priority. It is critical to enhance awareness and understanding among policymakers, professionals, and the public to address these challenges and divide adequate resources.²⁰ Educational institutions, the media, and some organizations use outdated terms such as handicapped and differently abled children. Striving for

updated and inclusive language could promote positive change.²¹ Many countries lack clear policy approaches and objectives toward raising awareness of CWD status. The Philippines has limited recognition of abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, or discrimination, while adults in Qatar have limited understanding of preventing child abuse and neglect.^{22 23}

4. ***Need for more robust framework:*** Sri Lanka has laws and policies to protect children and promote disability rights.^{24 25} However, there might be gaps in their effective implementation and enforcement.^{26 27} One of the significant issues in the current legal framework is the inconsistency in defining who qualifies as a child.^{28 29} Currently, there is a global trend towards child-centric paradigms and expanding child welfare systems.³⁰ In 2022, the Sri Lankan parliament approved an amendment to the Children and Young Persons Ordinance, aligning it with international standards by defining children as those aged 18 years and below.^{31 32 33} In particular, Northern European nations embraced the child-centric paradigms through a universal service approach.³⁴ Ireland has focused on specialized services for CWD since 2012.³⁵ The Netherlands, Germany, and England have emphasized family services, and Scotland tends to focus on parental perspectives.³⁶ Some sub-Saharan African constitutional provisions guarantee the rights of PWD.³⁷ Australia, Cameroon, and Chile lack a comprehensive policy, especially addressing the CWD's needs, despite having a national child protection framework.^{38 39 40} While there are disability definition guidelines such as the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health provided by the World Health Organization, as well as the CRPD, each country typically customizes them to align with their unique contexts. Despite efforts by some countries, such as many countries in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, to comply with the CRC and CRPD, there is often a lack of emphasis on the rights of CWD in their national plans of action for realizing children's rights.^{41 42 43}
5. ***Opportunity for greater coordination and collaboration:*** Stronger coordination and collaboration among government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders would be necessary to strengthen child protection and disability inclusion and build a more efficient system.⁴⁴ Although many countries work towards enhancing coordination and collaboration schemes, they experience various challenges. Austria makes efforts towards addressing the concerns raised by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on its separate systems for child welfare and services for CWD.⁴⁵ Ethiopia, Malawi, and Uganda face financial shortages that hinder

the continuation of training programs for government institutions and organizations involved in children's rights.^{46 47} West African countries such as Guinea, Niger, Sierra Leone, and Togo struggle with developing partnerships and coalitions with civil society, NGOs, and Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) to more effectively advocate and influence policy.⁴⁸

6. ***Significance of comprehensive data and research:*** In Sri Lanka, the higher accuracy and transparency of data about CWD could contribute to enhanced child protection and disability inclusion efforts. The outdated 2012 Census and the limited scope of the 2019 Census of Children in Child Care Institutions fail to provide a comprehensive understanding of CWD.^{49 50} CWD under five years old lack national registration, which excludes them from social protection mechanisms.⁵¹ It is possible to better support and integrate CWD in society by filling in these data gaps.⁵² Globally, many countries do not have enough data on child protection.⁵³ In Kenya, clear findings are missing.⁵⁴ Southeast Asia, South Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Central Europe face a scarcity of literature and struggle with accurate disability measurement.^{55 56 57 58} In Australia, North America, and Europe, most child abuse cases go unreported, leading to low estimates in official child protection agency data.⁵⁹ Data collection in humanitarian settings is inconsistent and unreliable.⁶⁰

Expert Interviews Findings

11 expert interviews were conducted to explore challenges, successes, and opportunities related to CWD's rights in the child protection system in Sri Lanka, with a detailed data breakdown in Appendix 5. While concise summaries are provided for cases with a sample size less than 3 ($n < 3$), the key perspectives and insights from the interviews are organized into 5 categories as follows:

1. ***Experiences and Insights in Enhancing Inclusion and Protection:*** All interviewees mentioned experiences with countering misconceptions about CWD. 10 highlighted advancing inclusivity for CWD. 8 emphasized difficulties in shifting perspectives, raising awareness, and fighting CWD discrimination. 7 stressed inadequate facilities, resources, and qualified personnel. 6 underscored advocacy for CWD inclusion in child laws, education improvements, and upskilling for CWD independence. 5 mentioned initiatives such as the IoT Center and inclusive education. 4 noted the need for community-based services and sustained collaborative efforts. 3 underscored historical policy approaches and implementation issues in disability and admitted unique CWD needs and parental inputs. A few recognized historical impacts such as the Civil War, outdated practices such as segregating children based on perceived educability, and the complex interplay between financial constraints, power dynamics, and limited disability awareness.
2. ***Awareness of CWD's Rights and Needs:*** All interviewees pointed out the limited awareness and understanding in society of CWD's rights and needs, and a lack of prominent awareness initiatives and support measures for CWD, which increases gaps between disability rights understanding and practical policy implementation. 5 highlighted insufficient support for inclusive environments and accessibility in society, and 4 noted this worsening impact under the COVID-19 pandemic and financial instability. 3 mentioned the need for enhancing awareness at a local level through accessible formats to address the gap, the importance of DPOs' direct involvement, challenges in DPO collaboration and unity, awareness gaps between Colombo-based and provincial civil society organizations (CSOs), and CSOs' financial constraints and challenges with international agencies.

3. ***Unique Challenges of CWD in Emergency:*** 9 interviewees highlighted inadequate facilities, support, and resource deficits in institutions during financial instability, disasters, and pandemics. 6 advocated for CWD's rights, urging policy adjustments. 5 participants noted heightened victimization and vulnerability during emergencies with limited communication. A few spoke of a transition to community-based care over institutionalization, education disruption due to economic uncertainty, illnesses, and caregiving challenges, growing disparities with non-disabled education prioritization, and the impact of religious beliefs on family-oriented concepts affecting CWD care. There were views: a higher risk of abandonment of CWD due to parental hardships; hindering self-sufficiency despite unsustainable aid; corruption, mismanagement, and visionary deficits in politics; overemphasis on humanities subjects and limitations; and impoverished children's ambitions, focused on immediate gains, leading to adverse effects on the environment and society. There was a view for improvement in the low transparency and inaccuracy of statistics and data to gather the information needed to address these matters.
4. ***Challenges in Child Protection System for CWD:*** All interviewees highlighted the pervasive discrimination and stigma attached to disabilities, influenced by interpretations of diverse cultures and pluralistic religious beliefs. 7 participants called for a comprehensive child protection framework to address these, while 6 noted defects in legal enforceability and policy intersectionality and educational disparities affecting child protection. 4 emphasized disinterest from the government. 3 outlined familial abuse, unreported exploitation, poverty driven by disability-related factors, limited facilities, services, support, and care for CWD, inadequate channels for expressing CWD's feelings, and insufficient early community-based rehabilitation (CBR) interventions for disabled infants,⁶¹ which impact awareness, education, and healthcare access for CWD. There was a view regarding poor governance practices.
5. ***Steps for Effective Child Protection Policies:*** 9 interviewees called for the establishment of inclusive systems for CWD, including continuous improvements. 7 underlined the need for practical training in disability inclusion and child protection for government officials and professionals. 6 advocated for fostering collaboration among government ministries and NGOs for a holistic CWD support ecosystem. 5 stressed cross-ministerial collaboration for policy enhancements and comprehensive systems. 4 highlighted societal involvement in safeguarding CWD's rights and well-being and establishing professional networks in institutions and schools, including workshops. 3 emphasized:

active engagement with ministries and international organizations; priorities about mental and physical accessibility and standardized child protection; a positive mindset about CWD's capabilities; translating frameworks into action through strong leadership; transparent fund-policy alignment; accurate data collection for decision-making, awareness, and funding support; and evidence-based approaches for crafting policies. A few interviewees expressed views about empathetic policy design for inclusivity considering history, advocacy for strict actions against perpetrators and special courts, and sustained NGO-monitored tracking.

Evidence-Based Recommendations

There is limited literature mentioning the CRPD alignment with Sri Lankan policies and a lack of definitive discussions and feasible solutions for child protection in the context of CWD. The existing resources are insufficient, and there is a need for a more comprehensive and thorough exploration of the subject matter. Even with an emphasis on strengthening the capacity to address issues impacting CWD, the effectiveness and outcomes of policy implementation and measures for this population could be further explored. Addressing these matters would encourage improved outcomes and inclusivity. Looking at the findings of comparative analysis in different countries, overall, much of the literature lacks decisive, feasible solutions and recommendations regarding child protection and disability inclusion for CWD.^{62 63} Upholding CWD's rights, respecting their views, and offering accessible platforms for their involvement in decision-making processes are vital.

The expert interviews reveal intricate sociocultural interactions affecting CWD protection in Sri Lanka. The nation's diverse population, including Sinhalese, Tamil, Moor, and other communities, continues to struggle with disability-based discrimination and inequality. Cultural stigma and complicated interpretation of any form of disability contributes to challenges for CWD in their families and communities. Despite the richness of cultural and religious diversity, it can also exacerbate issues within societal dynamics. Given the historical context of political and civil conflicts in the nation and its diverse population, a comprehensive approach is pivotal to addressing disability rates and challenges. Limited attention to raising awareness and promoting cultural shifts poses challenges to the advancement of child protection, leaving CWD exposed to harm due to a lack of a protective framework, high abuse rates, and communication barriers. Financial constraints perpetuate difficulties and worsen discrimination, adoption challenges, and school exclusion.

The interview findings underscore how interconnected factors, such as poverty, inadequate resources, professional gaps, economic disparities, disrupted education, and facility deficits, perpetuate challenges for CWD in child protection. Despite skill development and attitude change efforts, raising awareness encounters obstacles. Data-driven strategies could establish enforceable inclusive policies countering ableism and addressing CWD's needs. Initiatives, including effective CBR and awareness campaigns, underpinned by collaboration and communities, contribute to building resilience. Prioritizing a culturally

sensitive environment upholds inclusivity and CWD's rights, accelerating solution implementation and fostering equity. A comprehensive approach combining these elements could be promising for successfully addressing the challenges faced by CWD.

To strengthen the child protection system in Sri Lanka, this set of recommendations emphasizes the equal recognition of CWD as rights holders, ensuring their prioritization. These recommendations consider conditions, including short-term actions for immediate impact within limited budgets or without visible funds, while maintaining actionable strategies. Each recommendation includes only the first of many steps necessary to achieve the goal. Based on these recommendations, further research can be conducted, and a more comprehensive action and change plan should be created.

The proposed strategies for specific actions, policies, and interventions designed to effectively address these priorities are the following:

1. ***Collaboration and Governance among Ministries and Agencies:***⁶⁴ Create a digital platform for real-time collaboration among liaison officials from diverse ministries and agencies, facilitating resource sharing; form an Inter-Ministerial Committee with representatives from key ministries to coordinate policies, resources, and regular cross-sectoral workshops for integrated approaches to CWD support; and establish a National Council for CWD,⁶⁵ involving ministries, agencies, and civil society, for coordinated efforts and resource allocation. This strategic step reduces reliance on a single ministry, harmonizes national disability policies, and enforces recommendations transparently, ensuring effective implementation and addressing diverse CWD issues.

First steps: Enlist university students or central government officials to map existing working groups focused on child protection, their active participants, and their strengths.⁶⁶ Evaluate recent performance against intended objectives and propose consolidated groups, led by a repurposed government position as a paid Secretariat, overseeing a three-year pilot for streamlined operations and performance assessment.

Cost: No additional cost (repurpose existing budgets and resources; minimal adjustments for Secretariat role).

Time: One year to make recommendations, 6 months to reform the suggested group(s) and then a 2-year pilot of the suggested working group(s).

Personnel: Skilled personnel(s) familiar with child protection and disability rights, taking ownership and supervision of the project who understands research, human relationships, and project management (these individuals should work closely with relevant departments and stakeholders).

2. **More Robust Legal Frameworks:** Enhance CWD's rights through legal amendments, including provisions for expedited legal procedures and penalties for discrimination or abuse, safeguarding CWD access to services, education, and healthcare,⁶⁷ and creating expert family courts for expedited, equitable legal processes; and create a comprehensive empowerment program for CWD and their families, featuring an accessible online abuse reporting portal, regular inclusive town hall meetings with lawmakers and council members, and a multilingual guide to CWD's legal rights distributed through community hubs. This bridges practicality and aspirations, crafting inclusive policies that uphold rights and foster inclusiveness, thus establishing a robust legal framework.

First steps: Review all current, upcoming, and anticipated official policies to align with the CRPD, incorporating dedicated CRPD-aligned sections into new policies.

Cost: No additional cost within the MWCASE (budgets and human resources can be re-allocated), but budgets might be needed for coordination and implementation beyond ministries and departments.

Time: Up to 6 months to review all existing policies.

Personnel: Experienced project manager with expertise in research, human relationships, and policy analysis to take ownership and supervise the project (this individual should work closely with relevant departments and stakeholders).

3. **Data Collection,⁶⁸ Research, and Monitoring:** Collaborate with academic institutions for CWD research, a nationwide survey, and student-involved data collection on challenges and opportunities; create a database that compiles disaggregated data on CWD by disability, gender, age, and ethnicity, enabling evidence-based policy formulation and targeted interventions; and mandate regular assessments of CWD inclusion and progress across sectors, with the findings publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability. This strategy includes capturing disaggregated data, even for under-fives, to facilitate effective CBR implementation.⁶⁹ Consistently evaluate policies for

effectiveness, using collected data to bolster evidence-based approaches, and foster inter-ministerial collaboration to create tailored measures that address distinctive CWD requirements, informed by coded data for recommendations.

First steps: Reach out to academic institutions, research organizations, and disability-focused NGOs to establish partnerships for conducting CWD research, nationwide surveys, and data collection. Develop a clear framework for collaboration, outlining roles, responsibilities, and data-sharing agreements, including the organization of regular meetings.

Cost: No additional cost within the MWCASE (budgets and human resources can be re-allocated), but budgets might be needed for research.

Time: Approximately 2 to 3 months to establish collaborative partnerships.

Personnel: Personnel who can command engagement from relevant ministries or departments, including policy advisors, data analysts, project liaisons, and legal representatives. For this position, personnel from the Department of Census and Statistics should be involved.

4. ***Strategies for Partnerships, Advocacy, and Campaigning:*** Establish a government-led partnership program linking ministries with disability-focused NGOs;⁷⁰ form a national CWD advisory board comprising government representatives, advocacy groups, and CWD for policy guidance; organize community events and national awareness campaigns featuring CWD abilities; collaborate with influencers for awareness to promote inclusivity and equal opportunities; and build international partnerships for technical expertise and resources. These could be useful to counter historical biases, differentiate disabilities from diseases, and prioritize function-focused interventions, which dispel misconceptions.

First steps: For establishing government-led partnerships, conduct a thorough mapping of disability-focused NGOs and relevant ministries. Identify shared goals, initiate dialogues, and formulate a cooperative framework.

Cost: None additional cost within the MWCASE (budgets and human resources can be re-allocated), but essential to ensure budget and fund allocation for partnerships.⁷¹

Time: Approximately 4 to 6 months.

Personnel: Research, communication, and budget experts to facilitate mapping, communication, and fund allocation for partnerships.

5. **Paradigm Shift from Charity to a Human Rights–Based Approach:** Develop media guidelines for respectful representation of CWD, supported by a national campaign featuring their rights; simultaneously, initiate an online drive encouraging inclusive spaces while integrating accessibility across sectors to ensure equitable opportunities within a human rights framework; and embed disability awareness in practical teacher training and school curricula, adjustments to lesson plans, and accommodations during examinations to nurture inclusive classrooms and foster understanding and respect from an early age. These actions could effectively promote a transition from a charity–based to a human rights–based perspective on disability. This includes reevaluating terminology to ensure respectful and inclusive representations of persons with disabilities and incorporating person–first language to enhance inclusivity.

First steps: Develop a comprehensive set of media guidelines for the respectful representation of individuals with disabilities, including CWD.⁷² Transmit information through TV programs and advertisements by collaborating with disability rights and child protection experts, advocacy groups, and state–owned media professionals to ensure accuracy and inclusivity in portrayal.⁷³

Cost: No additional cost within the MWCASE (budgets and human resources can be re–allocated), but needed budgets for expert consultations, research, and design work for the guidelines.⁷⁴

Time: Approximately 2 to 3 months to collect input from different stakeholders, analyze best practices, and draft the media guidelines.

Personnel: Personnel specializing in disability inclusion, education, communication, accessibility, human rights, policy analysis, project management, community engagement, inclusion training, and evaluation.⁷⁵ For this position, personnel from the Human Rights Commission should be involved.⁷⁶

6. **Legal Literacy and CWD Rights Education:** Incorporate CWD's human rights education for legal literacy into legal training for legal professionals and vocational programs for

individuals with disabilities; develop community workshops, a mobile legal clinic, and improved bar association pro bono services to increase access to legal assistance by collaborating with community centers and bar associations; and create engaging online content such as animated videos as interactive modules to explain essential legal rights of CWD in an easily accessible manner. By implementing these strategies, the recognition of CWD as rights holders could be elevated, contributing to bridging gaps in transitional justice and legal reform initiatives.

First steps: Assess gaps in legal literacy and disability rights education for CWDs, including legal assistance access, through engagement with community centers, disability groups, legal experts, and individuals with disabilities.

Cost: No additional cost within the MWCASE (budgets and human resources can be re-allocated), but requiring minimal costs for communication efforts such as emails, phone calls, and possibly small informational materials for initial presentations.

Time: Up to 1 to 2 months to establish contact, arrange meetings, and discuss potential collaboration.

Personnel: Program coordinator in managing and facilitating the various components of the initiative while emphasizing the focus on legal literacy and disability rights education.⁷⁷

- 7. *Fostering Professional Support and Resources for CWD:*** Create comprehensive training and certification initiatives for healthcare professionals and educators, covering specialized care, inclusive education, and disability-sensitive healthcare practices; implement a mentorship program connecting experienced practitioners with newcomers in CWD support; establish regional resource centers in key areas to provide information, counseling, and training for families of CWD; and develop an online resource offering resources and guidance for parents, caregivers, and teachers of CWD, with a focus on widespread accessibility. These steps could be beneficial in prioritizing essential resources, such as nutritious food,⁷⁸ guided by the principles of efficient allocation of personnel and resources.

First steps: Collaborate with experts to design a specialized training curriculum for healthcare professionals and educators to effectively support CWD by covering specialized care, inclusive education practices, and disability-sensitive healthcare

approaches.

Cost: No additional cost within the MWCASE (budgets and human resources can be re-allocated), but essential to ensure budget for initial curriculum development and collaboration expenses.⁷⁹

Time: 6 to 8 months for curriculum development and initial preparations.

Personnel: Officials with expertise in child protection, disabilities, education, healthcare, and program coordination and management.

- 8. *Measures to Reduce Vulnerabilities:*** Cooperate with local communities to establish neighborhood support networks, providing practical assistance and emotional support to CWD and their families; partner with architectural firms with the goal of crafting accessible spaces while promoting universal design principles; and collaborate with local governments to develop inclusive communities that boast accessible infrastructure and services for CWD. These efforts can aid in creating nationally recognized disability-friendly spaces, highlighting collaboration for inclusive environments, equitable support systems, and crisis resolution.

First steps: Engage local community leaders, disability advocates, and relevant organizations to discuss creating neighborhood support networks for CWD and their families, using meetings and workshops to share and gather views on their practical needs.

Cost: No additional cost within the MWCASE (budgets and human resources can be re-allocated), but essential to ensure budgeting for initial costs that primarily involve communication and coordination expenses, such as organizing meetings and creating informational materials.⁸⁰

Time: 2 to 3 months, accounting for planning the meetings, inviting participants, holding discussions, and compiling feedback.

Personnel: Representative officials, who are in charge of community liaison and engagement, from relevant departments, such as child protection and disability services, community development, and social welfare, to participate in discussions and facilitate collaboration with the local government.

Practical, Actionable, and Budget-Sensitive Action Steps

Recommendation 1

- First Step: Streamline child protection working groups through consolidated governance
- Cost: No additional cost

Recommendation 2

- First Step: Review policies for CRPD alignment and its principles' integration
- Cost: No additional cost within the MWCASE but might be needed for coordination and implementation

Recommendation 3

- First Step: Create collaborative frameworks for inclusive CWD research and data collection
- Cost: No additional cost within the MWCASE but might be needed for research

Recommendation 4

- First Step: Establish government-led partnership mapping for collaborative disability initiatives
- Cost: No additional cost within MWCASE but essential to partnerships

Recommendation 5

- First Step: Create inclusive media guidelines for disability representation, including CWD
- Cost: No additional cost within MWCASE but needed for expert consultations, research, and design work

Recommendation 6

- First Step: Assess initial legal literacy gap for CWD
- Cost: No additional cost within MWCASE but requiring minimal costs for communication efforts

Recommendation 7

- First Step: Develop comprehensive training and certification initiatives
- Cost: No additional cost within MWCASE but essential to initial curriculum development and collaboration expenses

Recommendation 8

- First Step: Identify and engage local community leaders
- Cost: No additional cost within MWCASE but essential to involvement, communication, and coordination expenses

Limitations

During interviews, language barriers might have limited nuanced discussions, especially for Tamil or Sinhala speakers. The study's short timeframe (July to August 2023) could bias the data and hinder Sri Lanka-wide generalizability. Contextualizing expert views within Sri Lanka's political and health landscape is crucial, though limited by the paper's scope. Future research should expand interviews and incorporate contextual factors for more comprehensive insights.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study underscores the dynamic global shift in child protection paradigms, emphasizing the transition from institutional care to family-oriented alternatives. The intricate and multi-faceted nature of these reforms presents both opportunities and challenges, particularly in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable segments of society. While the genuine intentions behind these reforms are evident, it is essential to acknowledge the inadvertent oversight and underrepresentation of individuals and families with disabilities. By focusing on the strengths and potentials intrinsic to CWD and families, this research highlights the importance of their meaningful inclusion in the ongoing reform efforts within Sri Lanka's child protection system. The lens of analysis, anchored in the CRPD, provides a comprehensive framework for assessing the alignment of Sri Lanka's initiatives with global standards. This project highlights the imperative to foster inclusivity, equity, and rights-based approaches in the pursuit of a holistic and effective child protection system that leaves no one behind.

The recommendations are the first steps to finding a robust intervention and change plan to align Sri Lanka's child protection system with the CRPD. They are immediately actionable and achievable by the existing governmental and civil society bodies with a moderate and manageable budget commitment.

By implementing these strategies, Sri Lanka can move towards a compassionate and prosperous society where CWD and all citizens can thrive more harmoniously. The ultimate goal is the holistic development and safeguarding of all children's rights, thus catalyzing a sustained transformation throughout the societal structure.

Appendix 1 (Methodology)

Research Objective

Identify perspectives to promotion of inclusive policies, empowerment of CWD, and fostering an inclusive society guided by human rights principles

Research Approach

Multi-method study involving secondary data assessment and expert interviews utilizing thematic analysis⁸¹

Informative Assessment

Review of Sri Lanka's policy framework, including Article 12(4) of the Constitution and the National Policy on Child Protection, and a total of 242 sources, including a scoping review of 134 academic journals, its complementary review of 29 reports, and 42 web articles, mainly post-2017 (Appendix 2 and 3)

- **Secondary assessment** of challenges in existing child protection policies and disability inclusion practices in Sri Lanka based on comprehensive literature review on child protection and disability views in Sri Lanka
- **Comparative analysis** of international child protection policies aligned with CRPD; comparison of Sri Lanka's child protection with CRPD provisions and analogous frameworks in other countries; and selection of target countries based on child protection, disability rights alignment, and socio-cultural similarities.

Qualitative Research

- **Expert Interviews:** 11 experts with extensive professional experience in policymaking, child protection, education, and disability advocacy (various age ranges, gender identities, and religious affiliations); conducted virtually from July to August 2023; semi-structured interviews using a pre-distributed Stakeholder Interview Questionnaire (Appendix 4); interviews lasted 30 to 90 minutes, conducted in English or Japanese; emphasis on confidentiality, respect for participants' rights and privacy, secured recording consent, and ethical considerations
- **Thematic Analysis:** Identification of recurring patterns and themes in interview responses; Data organization and coding using Microsoft Excel (Appendix 5); Exploration of CWD's rights in Sri Lanka's child protection policies

Key Areas Identified

Stronger framework and coordination, Higher awareness, Enhanced accessibility, Stigma reduction, Comprehensive data for CWD's well-being and safety

Appendix 2 (Source List)

Academic Journals

Sri Lanka

- Blades, H. (2020). Dancing Right(s): Dance, disability and legal empowerment in post-war Sri Lanka. *Dance Research*, 39(1), 72–88. <https://doi.org/10.3366/drs.2020.0319>
- Campbell, F. K. (2009). Disability, legal mobilization, and the challenges of capacity building in Sri Lanka. *Insights From Across Fields And Around The World*, 3, 111–128. <https://ssrn.com/abstract=1625647>
- Campbell, F. K. (2013). A review of disability law and legal mobilisation in Sri Lanka [Drat 2]. *LST Review*, 23(308). https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2084565
- Chapman, A. R., & Dharmaratne, S. D. (2019). Sri Lanka and the possibilities of achieving universal health coverage in a poor country. *Global Public Health*, 14(2), 271–283. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17441692.2018.1501080>
- de Silva, H. (2007). Children needing protection: Experience from South Asia. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 92(10), 931–934. <https://doi.org/10.1136/adc.2006.101196>
- Galahitiyawa, S. T. L. H. (2023). ‘That’s my journey’: what motivated me to conduct disability research? *Disability & Society*, 38(6), 1084–1088. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2023.2181771>
- Heltberg, R. (2007). Helping South Asia cope better with natural disasters: the role of social protection. *Development Policy Review*, 25(6), 681–698. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-7679.2007.00392.x>
- Jones, M., & Liyanage, C. (2018). Traditional medicine and primary health care in Sri Lanka: Policy, perceptions, and practice. *Asian Review of World Histories*, 6, 157–184. <https://doi.org/10.1163/22879811-12340029>
- Kasturiarachchi, C. (2020). Rights for education: school support and education development of differently-abled students with special education needs in the Sri Lankan government schools. *International Journal Of All Research Writings*, (11), 38–48. <http://ijarw.com/Users/ManuScript/ManuScriptDetails/af9dafdc-f5f0-472c-839b-3ed044acc6fd>
- Liyanage, C. (2017). Sociocultural construction of disability in Sri Lanka: charity to rights-

based approach. *Inclusive Learning and Educational Equity*, 3, 251–265.

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-55224-8_16

Matararachchi, D., Ariyadasa, G., Wijemanne, C., Gunatilake, I., Nupahewa, I., Gunasoma, A., Vithana, P. V. S. C., Mahesh, P. K. B., & Pathirana, T. E. A. (2023). Mother's perceptions and concerns over sharing sexual and reproductive health information with their adolescent daughters- A qualitative study among mothers of adolescent girls aged 14–19 years in the developing world, Sri Lanka. *BMC Women's Health*, 23, 223. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12905-023-02369-1>

Munasinghe, I. K. (2015). The absolute protection available for the disabled children under the prevention of domestic violence law; Sri Lankan perspective. *8th international research conference, KDU*, 126–130. <http://ir.kdu.ac.lk/handle/345/1374>

Peiris-John, R. J., Attanayake, S., Daskon, L., Wickremasinghe, A. R., & Ameratunga, S. (2014). Disability studies in Sri Lanka: Priorities for action. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 36(20), 1742–1748. <https://doi.org/10.3109/09638288.2013.864714>

Pulla, V. (2014). Child protection system reform in the regional consultation of the South Asian nations. *The Malaysian Journal of Social Administration*, 10, 29–44. <https://doi.org/10.22452/mjsa.vol10no1.2>

Rathnayake, I. A. (2021). Broken bodies, breaking boundaries: Representations of bodies with disabilities in Sri Lankan English literature. *An Interdisciplinary Journal of Language and Culture Studies*, 1(1). https://journal.skbu.ac.in/published/paper_full_text/954681629741801.pdf?v=1662498024

Samararatne, D. W. V. A., & Soldatic, K. (2015). Inclusions and exclusions in law: Experiences of women with disability in rural and war-affected areas in Sri Lanka. *Disability & Society*, 30(5), 759–772. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2015.1021760>

Vanniasinkam, N., & Vitarana, N. (2020). Intersecting Marginalities: Social-exclusion of women with disabilities in Sri Lanka. *International Centre for Ethnic Studies*. https://noolaham.org/wiki/index.php?title=Intersecting_Marginalities:_Social_-_Exclusion_of_Women_With_Disabilities_in_Sri_Lanka&uselang=en

Other Asian and Pacific Regions

Abood, J., Green, J., Polonsky, M. J., Woodward, K., Tadjoeeddin, Z., & Renzaho, A. M. N. (2023). The importance of information acquisition to settlement services literacy for humanitarian migrants in Australia. *PLoS ONE*, 18(1), e0280041. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0280041>

- Chan, X. W., Fan, S. X., & Snellin, D. (2021). Managing intense work demands: How child protection workers navigate their professional and personal lives. *Community, Work & Family*, 24(2), 208–225. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13668803.2020.1830030>
- Chaney, P. (2017). Comparative analysis of civil society and state discourse on disabled people's rights and welfare in Southeast Asia 2010–16. *Asian Studies Review*, 41(3), 405–423. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10357823.2017.1336612>
- Chung, W., Yeung, W. J., & Drobnič, S. (2021). Family policies and care regimes in Asia. *International Journal of Social Welfare*, 30(4), 371–384. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ijsw.12512>
- Ha, V. S., & Whittaker, A. (2023). “Pray to all four directions”: A qualitative study of syncretic care seeking by Vietnamese families for their children with autism spectrum disorder. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 45(4), 684–695. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2022.2040613>
- Habib, J., Hossain, I., Haq, I., Methun, I. H., & Sakib, S. (2022). Prevalence of child functional difficulties and its associated factors in Bangladesh: An application of count regression model. *BioMed Research International*, 2022, 6328522. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/6328522>
- Jabeen, T., & Jabeen, S. (2018). Ideals of human rights and socioeconomic realities: The larger context of Pakistan's child-protection policy. *Journal of Human Rights*, 17(1), 44–57. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2016.1233807>
- Janardhana, N., Muralidhar, D., Naidu, D. M., & Raghevendra, G. (2015). Discrimination against differently abled children among rural communities in India: Need for action. *Journal of natural science, biology, and medicine*, 6(1), 7–11. <https://doi.org/10.4103/0976-9668.149070>
- Javaid, Z., Arshad, M., & Khalid, A. (2011). Child Protection in disaster management in South Asia: A case study of Pakistan. *South Asian Studies*, 26(1), 191–202.
- Johnson, A. K. (2014). Protecting children's rights in Asian tourism. *The International Journal of Children's Rights*, 22(3), 581–617. <https://doi.org/10.1163/15718182-02201001>
- Menzies, K., & Grace, R. (2022). The efficacy of a child protection training program on the historical welfare context and aboriginal trauma. *Australian Social Work*, 75(1), 62–75. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0312407X.2020.1745857>
- Nurjanah, S., Santoso, D., Fatarib, H., Jalil, M., & Murdiana, E. (2022). Lessons learned from child protection rights in religion paradigm and national law. *Journal of Social Studies Education Research*, 13(1), 237–258. <https://jsser.org/index.php/jsser/article/view/3924>

- Petersen, C. J. (2008). China's ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: The implications for Hong Kong. *Hong Kong Law Journal*, 38, 611–643. <https://ssrn.com/abstract=1432943>
- Pink, R. M. (2013). Child trafficking in Thailand: Prevention and prosecution challenges. *Asian Affairs: An American Review*, 40(4), 163–174. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00927678.2013.847746>
- Plath, D., Dadich, A., Evans, S., Lawson, K. D., & Stout, B. (2021). Personalised budgets: What is the future for child protection? *The British Journal of Social Work*, 51(7), 2458–2477. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcaa013>
- Roche, S. (2019). Childhoods in policy: A critical analysis of national child protection policy in the Philippines. *Children & Society*, 33(2), 95–110. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/chso.12295>

Middle East

- Amitay, G. (2022). From helpless rage to loving resistance: Resistance to othering and practices of agency in mentoring children of asylum seekers in Israel. *Child Youth Care Forum*, 51, 705–727. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10566-021-09649-7>
- Danaeifar, M., Arshi, M., & Moghanibashi-Mansourieh, A. (2022). Child sexual abuse in Iran: a systematic review of the prevalence, risk factors, consequences, interventions and laws. *Journal of Injury & Violence Research*, 14(3), 225–236. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.5249/jivr.v14i3.1754>
- Hammad, M., Foster, A. M., Mowafi, I. M. E., Aissaoui, A., Elamurugan, K., Rajendra, K. L., Clark, E., Rajendra, K. L., & Kobeissi, L. (2023). Exploring the feasibility of establishing a core set of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health indicators in humanitarian settings: results from a multi-methods assessment in Jordan. *Reproductive Health*, 20, 56. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12978-023-01589-w>
- Hendaus, M. A., Al-Khuzaei, A. M., Samarah, O., Hamad, S. G., Selim, B. A., & Ansari, W. E. (2020). Child abuse and neglect in a rapidly developing country parents' perspectives. *Journal of family medicine and primary care*, 9(6), 3053–3059. https://doi.org/10.4103/jfmpc.jfmpc_971_19
- Qaddour, A. (2022). Toward a paradigm shift in humanitarian response: Centering women and girls in integrated health and protection services in Syria. *The Brown Journal of World Affairs*, 28(2). <https://bjwa.brown.edu/28-2/toward-a-paradigm-shift-in-humanitarian-response-centering-women-and-girls-in-integrated-health-and-protection-services-in-syria/>

Africa

- Amer, A., Hermansson, L., Jarl, G., Kamusiime, S., Forssberg, H., Andrews, C., Kakooza-Mwesige, A., & Eliasson, A. C. (2023). Validity and test–retest reliability of the Ugandan version of the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI-UG) in children and youth with cerebral palsy. *Child: Care, Health and Development*, 49(3), 464–484. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cch.13062>
- Appiagyei-Atua, K. (2017). A Comparative analysis of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and the African draft protocol on the rights of persons with disabilities. *Law, Democracy & Development*, 21, 153–175. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ldd.v21i1.8>
- Banks, L. M., Kelly, S. A., Kyegombe, N., Kuper, H., & Devries, K. (2017). “If he could speak, he would be able to point out who does those things to him”: Experiences of violence and access to child protection among children with disabilities in Uganda and Malawi. *PLoS ONE*, 12(9), e0183736. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0183736>
- Bekink, M. (2019). The constitutional protection afforded to child victims and child witnesses while testifying in criminal proceedings in South Africa. *Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal*, 22, 1–50. <https://doi.org/10.17159/1727-3781/2019/v22i0a5774>
- Botes, M., van der Linde, J., & Swanepoel, D. W. (2023). A multiphased cultural and contextual adaptation of the parents' evaluation of developmental status tools for a low-income community: A South African case study. *Child: Care, Health and Development*, 49(4), 716–724. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cch.13083>
- Canavera, M., Lanning, K., Polin, K., & Stark, L. (2016). ‘And then they left’: Challenges to child protection systems strengthening in South Sudan. *Children & Society*, 30(5), 356–368. <https://doi.org/10.1111/chso.12172>
- Daniels-Howell, C. (2022). Caring for children with life-limiting illness in Bloemfontein, South Africa: Challenging the assumptions of the 'Good Death'. *Omega*, 85(2), 317–344. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0030222820944099>
- Delaunay, V. (2011). Improving knowledge on child abandonment and care in Africa: A demographic contribution to the achievement of child protection. *African Population Studies*, 25(1), 73–94. <https://doi.org/10.11564/25-1-268>
- Doh, D., Kamara, J., Galukande, M., & Renzaho, A. (2022). Evaluating the impact of a community-based livelihood intervention on child protection: A mixed method approach. *Child & Family Social Work*, 27(2), 217–235. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12874>

- Duma, V. V., Tshabalala, N., & Mji, G. (2021). The black hole of dealing with a disability diagnosis: Views of South African rural parents. *African Journal of Disability*, 10, a951. <https://doi.org/10.4102/ajod.v10i0.951>
- Ekwan, F., Satink, T., Kamwesiga, J., & Schulze, C. (2023). Health professionals' experiences with the PEDI-UG: What do Ugandan occupational therapists say about the utility and value of the Pediatric Evaluation of Disability Inventory (PEDI-UG) for children with disabilities? *Child: Care, Health and Development*, 49(3), 555–562. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cch.13071>
- Fine, S. L., Kane, J. C., Spiegel, P. B., Tol, W. A., & Ventevogel, P. (2022). Ten years of tracking mental health in refugee primary health care settings: an updated analysis of data from UNHCR's Health Information System (2009–2018). *BMC Medicine*, 20, 183. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-022-02371-8>
- Frimpong-Manso, K. (2021). Family support services in the context of child care reform: Perspectives of Ghanaian social workers. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 38, 157–164. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-020-00729-6>
- Hepperlen, R. A., Rabaey, P., Ament-Lemke, A., & Manley, H. (2021). Caring for a child with a disability in a Zambian community: A study using photo-elicitation. *Child: care, health and development*, 47(4), 422–434. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cch.12851>
- Hunt, X., Laurenzi, C., Skeen, S., Swartz, L., Sundin, P., Weiss, R. E., & Tomlinson, M. (2021). Family disability, poverty and parenting stress: Analysis of a cross-sectional study in Kenya. *African Journal of Disability*, 10, a744. <https://doi.org/10.4102/ajod.v10i0.744>
- Kamga, S. D. (2016). Disability rights in South Africa: Prospects for their realisation under the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. *South African Journal on Human Rights*, 32(3), 569–580. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02587203.2016.1264109>
- Khan, G., Isaacs, D., Makoae, M.G., Fluks, L. L., Mokhele, T., & Mokomane, Z. (2020). Service providers' perceptions of families caring for children with disabilities in resource-poor settings in South Africa. *Child & Family Social Work*, 25, 823–831. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12761>
- Kruger, H. (2018). The Protection of children's right to self-determination in South African law with specific reference to medical treatment and operations. *Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal*, 21, 1–34. <https://doi.org/10.17159/1727-3781/2018/v21i0a4609>
- Kuper, H., Smythe, T., Kujinga, T., Chivandire, G., & Rusakaniko, S. (2022). Should

disability-inclusive health be a priority in low-income countries? A case-study from Zimbabwe. *Global Health Action*, 15(1).

<https://doi.org/10.1080/16549716.2022.2032929>

Makwela, M. M., & Smit, E. I. (2022). Psychosocial challenges of children with disabilities in Sekhukhune District, Limpopo province of South Africa: Towards a responsive integrated disability strategy. *African Journal of Disability*, 11, a799.

<https://doi.org/10.4102/ajod.v11i0.799>

Mbaku, J. M. (2022). International law, corruption and the Rights of Children in Africa. *San Diego International Law Journal*, 23(2), 195–339.

<https://digital.sandiego.edu/ilj/vol23/iss2/2>

Meinck, F., Franchino-Olsen, H., Thurston, C., Woollett, N., Silima, M., Christofides, N., Monaisa, K., Woollett, N., & Fouché, A. (2023). Interrupting the intergenerational cycle of violence: protocol for a three-generational longitudinal mixed-methods study in South Africa (INTERRUPT_VIOLENCE). *BMC Public Health*, 23, 395.

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-023-15168-y>

Modula, M. J. (2022). The support needs of families raising children with intellectual disability. *African Journal of Disability*, 11, a952.

<https://doi.org/10.4102/ajod.v11i0.952>

Mokitimi, S., Schneider, M., & de Vries, P. J. (2022). A situational analysis of child and adolescent mental health services and systems in the Western Cape Province of South Africa. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*, 16, 6.

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-022-00440-7>

Moosa-Tayob, S., & Risenga, P. R. (2022). Challenges of caregivers providing care to children with disabilities at non-governmental organisations in Tshwane townships, South Africa. *African Journal of Disability*, 11, a930.

<https://doi.org/10.4102/ajod.v11i0.930>

Muriuki, A. M. (2008). Developing a framework for protection for the African child: the basic rights. *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, 3(1), 52–64.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/17450120701513918>

Mushunje, M. T. (2006). Child Protection in Zimbabwe: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow. *Journal of social development in Africa* 21(1), 12–34.

Namasaba, M., Kazembe, N., Seera, G., & Baguwemu, A. A. (2022). Broadening the scope of social support, coping skills and resilience among caretakers of children with disabilities in Uganda: a sequential explanatory mixed-methods study. *BMC Public Health*, 22, 690. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-13018-x>

Njelesani, J., Hashemi, G., Cameron, C., Cameron, D., Richard, D., & Parnes, P. (2018).

- From the day they are born: a qualitative study exploring violence against children with disabilities in West Africa. *BMC Public Health*, 18, 153.
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-5057-x>
- Nkrumah, B. (2021). Anywhere but here: A calculus for protection of children with albinism. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, 22, 729–748.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12134-020-00773-2>
- Ochen, E. A., Jones, A. D., & McAuley, J. W. (2012). Formerly abducted child mothers in Northern Uganda: A critique of modern structures for child protection and reintegration. *Journal of Community Practice*, 20(1-2), 89–111.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10705422.2012.644228>
- Sadiki, M. C. (2022). Parenting a child with disability in rural South Africa: Navigating the healthcare system. *African Journal of Disability*, 11, a942.
<https://doi.org/10.4102/ajod.v11i0.942>
- Schmid, J. (2014). What's on their minds? The South African child welfare academic agenda from 2001 to 2010. *Social Work Education*, 33(2), 141–159.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02615479.2012.758699>
- Schmidt, K., & Azzi-Lessing, L. (2021). Neglect of young children in South Africa: Implications for prevention, identification, and intervention. *Child Welfare*, 99(6), 29–51. <https://hdl.handle.net/2144/46092>
- Sherr, L., Haag, K., Tomlinson, M., Rudgard, W. E., Skeen, S., Meinck, F., Du Toit, S. M., Roberts, K. G., Gordon, S. L., Desmond, C., & Cluver, L. (2023). Understanding accelerators to improve SDG-related outcomes for adolescents—An investigation into the nature and quantum of additive effects of protective factors to guide policy making. *PLOS ONE*, 18(1), e0278020. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0278020>
- Teka, B. (2015). *Child Rights Protection in Ethiopia and Kenya: A comparative analysis*. [Master's thesis, Addis Ababa University]. AAU Institutional Repository.
<http://etd.aau.edu.et/bitstream/handle/123456789/30204/Firehiwot%20Girma.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- Tsangue, G. T., Awa, J. C., Nsono, J., Ayima, C. W., & Tih, P. M. (2022). Non-disclosure of abuse in children and young adults with disabilities: Reasons and mitigation strategies Northwest Region of Cameroon. *African Journal of Disability*, 11, a1025.
<https://doi.org/10.4102/ajod.v11i0.1025>
- Vanderschuren, M. J. W. A., & Nnene, O. A. (2021). Inclusive planning: African policy inventory and South African mobility case study on the exclusion of persons with disabilities. *Health Research Policy and Systems*, 19(124).
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-021-00775-1>

- Vuuren, J. J., Nuri, R. O., Nega, A., Batorowicz, B., Lysaght, R., & Aldersey, H. M. (2022). Family quality of life for families of children with disabilities in African contexts: a scoping review. *Quality of Life Research*, 31, 1289–1307.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11136-021-02994-z>
- Young, R. (2017). Translating the Kampala Convention into practice: A stocktaking exercise. *International Review of the Red Cross*, 99(1), 365–420.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1816383117000601>

Europe

- Flynn, S. (2020). Convergent spaces: Intersectional analysis of ethnic minority status and childhood disability in Irish safeguarding work. *Child & Family Social Work*, 25(3), 648–656. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cfs.12739>
- Flynn, S. (2021). Towards parity in protection: Barriers to effective child protection and welfare assessment with disabled children in the Republic of Ireland. *Child Care in Practice*, 27(4), 333–351. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13575279.2019.1701413>
- Milić, N., Rasiti, G., Latić, E., Kalem, M., & Fazlić, M. (2020). Deinstitutionalisation of children with disabilities: Process, progress and challenges in South-East Europe. *Global Campus Human Rights Journal*, 4(2), 375–402.
<http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2039>
- More, R. (2023). Inclusive child welfare services, disabled children, and their families: insights from a European comparison of social policy and social (work) practice in Austria, Iceland, and Ireland. *Ireland, European Journal of Social Work*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2023.2219033>
- Rice, J. G., Bjargardóttir, H. B., & Sigurjónsdóttir, H. B. (2021). Child protection, disability and obstetric violence: Three case studies from Iceland. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(1), 158.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18010158>
- Sperrin, Á. (2018). *Independent living for adults with intellectual disabilities in post conflict countries. A comparative analysis of the implementation of Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Northern Ireland and Bosnia Herzegovina*. [Doctoral dissertation, University of Galway]. NUI Galway.
<http://hdl.handle.net/10379/10041>
- Trancă, L. M., & Țimonea, B. (2023). Are children and young people in the residential social protection system prepared for an independent life? *Social Work Review*, 1, 193–204.
<http://www.swreview.ro/>

North and South America

- Albert, S. M., & Powell, R. M. (2022). Ableism in the child welfare system: Findings from a qualitative study. *Social Work Research*, 46(2), 141–152. <https://doi.org/10.1093/swr/svac005>
- Albert, S. M., & Powell, R. M. (2022). Correction to: Ableism in the child welfare system: Findings from a qualitative study. *Social Work Research*, 46(2), e2. <https://doi.org/10.1093/swr/svac011>
- Chung, G., Lanier, P., & Chen, D. (2021). What predicts mothers' use of spanking in the first 6 years of early childhood? A latent growth curve analysis. *Child & Family Social Work*, 27(4), 173–184.
- Garcia, A., Kim, M., & Barnhart, S. (2022). Do mental health services influence child welfare involvement among juvenile justice system involved youth. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 31, 1908–1921. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-021-02143-7>
- Kolivoski, K. M. (2022). Applying critical race theory (CRT) and intersectionality to address the needs of African American crossover girls. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 39(1), 133–145. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-020-00726-9>
- Mallette, I. L., Letarte, M., Hélie, S., Sicotte, R., & Temcheff, C. E. (2021). Is the incredible years parenting programme predictive of case closure in child protection services for neglect? A quasi-experimental study. *Child & Family Social Work*, 26(4), 687–695. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cfs.12849>
- Mandelbaum, R. (2022). Why does the federal government get a pass? Applying best practices in child protection to the circumstances of migrant children and families. *American University Law Review*, 71, 1977–2059. <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4148632>
- Modrowski, C. A., Chaplo, S. D., & Kerig, P. K. (2022). Advancing our understanding of the risk factors associated with crossover Youth in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems: A trauma-informed research agenda. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, 25, 283–299. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10567-021-00370-4>
- Portilla-Saavedra, D., Pinto-Cortez, C., Guerra, C., & Cárdenas, F. P. (2022). Victimization by caregivers: Prevalence and risk factors in Chilean children and adolescents. *Child Adolesc Psychiatry Ment Health*, 16(74). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-022-00509-3>
- Rebbe, R., Brown, S. E., Matter, R. A., & Mienko, J. A. (2021). Prevalence of births and interactions with child protective services of children born to mothers diagnosed with an intellectual and/or developmental disability. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*, 25, 626–634. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10995-020-03105-z>
- Roberts, D. E. (2008). The racial geography of child welfare: Toward a new research paradigm. *Child Welfare*, 87(2), 125–150.

- Roberts, D. E. (2014). Child protection as surveillance of African American families. *Journal of Social Welfare and Family Law*, 36(4), 426–437. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09649069.2014.967991>
- Roemer, N. (2023). The Indian Child Welfare Act as reproductive justice. *Boston University Law Review*, 103, 55–116.
- Waid, J., Tomfohrde, O., & Kutzler, C. (2022). Promoting health and social equity through family navigation to prevention and early intervention services: a proof of concept study. *BMC Public Health*, 22, 1972. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-022-14320-4>
- Wright, N. M., Srinivas, T., Lee, M. S., & DePrince, A. P. (2023). Development of a legal service needs and barriers measure for victims of family violence and other crime. *Journal of Family Violence*, 38, 359–377. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-021-00348-4>
- Wu, Q., Ogbonnaya, I. N., & Yan, Y. (2023). The patterns of in-home service use and their relationships with child out-of-home care. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 40, 381–393. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-021-00787-4>

Global

- Ahdanisa, D. S., & Rothman, S. B. (2021). Revisiting international human rights treaties: comparing Asian and Western efforts to improve human rights. *SN Social Sciences*, 1(16). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43545-020-00018-0>
- Avila, R. D. (2016). *Monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities: A comparative analysis of judicial decisions in the European Union, Colombia and Mexico*. [Master's theses, Columbia University]. Columbia University Libraries. <https://doi.org/10.7916/D8V69K26>
- Bessant, J. (2011). International law as remedy: When the state breaches child protection statutes. *Child & Youth Services*, 32(3), 254–275. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0145935X.2011.608029>
- Bhatia, A., Fabbri, C., Cerna-Turoff, I., Turner, E., Lokot, M., Warri, A., Tuladhar, S., Tanton, C., Knight, L., Lees, S., Cislighi, B., Bhabha, J., Peterman, A., Guedes, A., & Devries, K. (2021). Violence against children during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 99(10), 730–738. <https://doi.org/10.2471/BLT.20.283051>
- Boyden, J., Jewkes, R., Ligiero, D., Subrahmanian, R., & Taylor, H. (2018). Situating the drivers of violence: Building a global movement through national engagement, evidence and action. *Vulnerable Children and Youth Studies*, 13(S1), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17450128.2018.1526430>

- Cieza, A., Kamenov, K., Ghaib, O. A. A., Aresu, A., Chatterji, S., Chavez, F., Clyne, J., Drew, N., Funk, N., Guzman, A., Guzzi, E., Khasnabis, C., Mikkelsen, B., Minghui, R., Mitra, G., Narahari, P., Nauk, G., Priddy, A., Sabeh, A., Reyes, M. S. C., Vasquez, J., & Widmer-Iliescu, R. (2021). Disability and COVID-19: ensuring no one is left behind. *Archives of Public Health*, 79(148). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13690-021-00656-7>
- Collins, T. M., Rizzini, I., & Mayhew, A. (2021). Fostering global dialogue: Conceptualisations of children's rights to participation and protection. *Children & Society*, 35, 295–310. <https://doi.org/10.1111/chso.12437>
- Dawson, A., Assifi, A., & Turkmani, S. (2022). Woman and girl-centred care for those affected by female genital mutilation: a scoping review of provider tools and guidelines. *Reproductive Health*, 19, 50. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12978-022-01356-3>
- de Silva de Alwis, R. (2009). Mining the intersections: Advancing the rights of women and children with disabilities within an interrelated web of human rights. *Faculty Scholarship at Penn Carey Law*, 18(1), 293–322. https://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/faculty_scholarship/1697
- Desai, M. (2007). Toward a comprehensive cross-national conceptual framework for child protection. *Social Development Issues (Follmer Group)*, 29(3), 1–18.
- Doyle, F. L., Morawska, A., Higgins, D. J., Havighurst, S. S., Mazzucchelli, T. G., Toumbourou, J. W., Middeldorp, C. M., Chainey, C., Cobham, V. E., Harnett, P., & Sanders, M. R. (2023). Policies are needed to increase the reach and impact of evidence-based parenting supports: A call for a population-based approach to supporting parents, children, and families. *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*, 54, 891–904. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-021-01309-0>
- Duffy, R. M., & Kelly, B. D. (2017). Rights, laws and tensions: A comparative analysis of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the WHO Resource Book on Mental Health, Human Rights and Legislation. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 54, 26–35. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijlp.2017.07.003>
- Emerson, E., & Llewellyn, G. (2021). Youth with disabilities are more likely than their peers to engage in hazardous child labour. *Child: care, health and development*, 47, 119–127. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cch.12820>
- Ertekin, Z., & Berument, S. K. (2021). Self-concept development of children in institutional care, alternative care types and biological family homes: Testing differential susceptibility. *Applied Developmental Science*, 25(4), 307–321. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10888691.2019.1617146>
- Hendricks, C., Lansford, J. E., Deater-Deckard, K., & Bornstein, M. H. (2014). Associations between child disabilities and caregiver discipline and violence in low- and middle-

- income countries. *Child Development*, 85(2), 513–531.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12132>
- Jenkin, E., Wilson, E., Campain, R., & Clarke, M. (2020). The principles and ethics of including children with disability in child research. *Children & Society*, 34(1), 1–16.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/chso.12356>
- Lang, R., Kett, M., Groce, N., & Trani, J. (2011). Implementing the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities: principles, implications, practice and limitations. *Alter*, 5(3), 206–220.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.alter.2011.02.004>
- Lansdown, G. (2022). Article 23: The rights of children with disabilities. *Children's Well-Being: Indicators and Research*, 25(21), 193–203. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-84647-3_21
- Mehta, D., Kelly, A. B., Laurens, K. R., Haslam, D., Williams, K. E., Walsh, K., Baker, P. R. A., Carter, H. E., Khawaja, N. G., Zelenko, O., & Mathews, B. (2023). Child maltreatment and long-term physical and mental health outcomes: An exploration of biopsychosocial determinants and implications for prevention. *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*, 54, 421–435. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-021-01258-8>
- Neto, J. T. (2020). The UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in practice. A comparative analysis of the role of courts. *The Journal of Adult Protection*, 22(3), 175–178. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JAP-06-2020-062>
- Oliphant, E., & Sharon B. Templeman, Zubarzyat Yakhinovna Baranov. (2008). Faces of children around the world: A comparison of child welfare in rural United States, Russia, and South Africa. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 1(4), 125–144.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15548730802118322>
- Olusanya, B. O., Kancherla, V., Shaheen, A., Ogbo, F. A., & Davis, A. C. (2022). Global and regional prevalence of disabilities among children and adolescents: Analysis of findings from global health databases. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 10.
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2022.977453>
- Roelen, K., & Sabates-Wheeler, R. (2012). A child-sensitive approach to social protection: serving practical and strategic needs. *Journal of Poverty and Social Justice*, 20(3), 291–306. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1332/175982712X657118>
- Russo, J., & Wooley, S. (2020). The implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: More than just another reform of psychiatry. *Health and human rights*, 22(1), 151–161.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7348441/>

- Sapiets, S. J., Totsika, V., & Hastings, R. P. (2021). Factors influencing access to early intervention for families of children with developmental disabilities: A narrative review. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disabilities*, 34(3), 695–711. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jar.12852>
- Smythe, T., Freeze, L., Cuthel, A., Flowers, M., Seghers, F., Zia, N., & Bachani, A. M. (2022). Provision of rehabilitation for congenital conditions. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 100(11), 717–725. <https://doi.org/10.2471/BLT.22.288147>
- Stein, M. A., & Lord, J. E. (2010). Monitoring the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Innovations, lost opportunities, and future potential. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 33(2), 689–728. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40784059>
- Szlamka, Z., Tekola, B., Hoekstra, R., & Hanlon, C. (2022). The role of advocacy and empowerment in shaping service development for families raising children with developmental disabilities. *Health Expectations*, 25, 1882–1891. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.13539>
- Thomas-Skaf, B. A., & Jenney, A. (2021). Bringing social justice into focus: “Trauma-informed” work with children with disabilities. *Child Care in Practice*, 27(4), 316–332. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13575279.2020.1765146>
- Truter, E., Fouché, A., & Theron, L. (2017). The resilience of child protection social workers: Are they at risk and if so, how do they adjust? A systematic meta-synthesis. *The British Journal of Social Work*, 47(3), 846–863. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjsw/bcw048>
- Vahedi, L., Orjuela-Grimm, M., Bhatt-Carreno, S., & Meyer, S. R. (2023). Childhood and adolescent nutrition outcomes among girls exposed to gender-based violence: A rapid evidence assessment of quantitative research. *PLoS ONE*, 18(2), e0281961. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0281961>
- Waddington, L., & Lawson, A. (2018). The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in practice. A comparative analysis of the role of courts. *Białostockie Studia Prawnicze*, 23(4), 211–216. <https://doi.org/10.15290/bsp.2018.23.04.18>

Reports

Sri Lanka

- Bilson, A., & Cox, P. (2005). *Home truths: Children’s rights in institutional care in Sri Lanka*. Advocacy document. Save the Children. <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/2965.pdf/>
- Bureau of International Labor Affairs. (2021). *Findings on the worst forms of child labor – Sri Lanka*. U.S. Department of Labor.

https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ILAB/child_labor_reports/tda2021/Sri-Lanka.pdf

Department of Probation and Child care services. (2013, January). *Current status of child care institutions and institutionalized children in Sri Lanka – Situational analysis*. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka.

<https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/351/file/SITAN:%20Child%20Care%20Institutions%20&%20Institutionalized%20Children.pdf>

Disability Organization Joint Front. (2017, March). *UN universal periodic review – Sri Lanka 2017 third Cycle, 28th session 2017*.

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Disability/RightAccessJusticeArticle13/CSO/DisabilityOrganizationsJointFrontSrilanka.pdf>

Disability Organization Joint Front. (2017, April). *The state of economic, social and cultural rights of persons with disabilities in Sri Lanka*.

https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ecoi.net%2Fen%2Ffile%2Flocal%2F1402105%2F1930_1498130421_int-cescr-css-lka-27403-e.doc&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2018, January 16). *Committee on the Rights of the Child reviews report of Sri Lanka*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2018/01/committee-rights-child-reviews-report-sri-lanka>

O'Kane, C. (2012). *Brief report on community based child protection mechanisms supported by plan in Sri Lanka*. International Child Protection Rights and Evaluation Consultants.

https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/icprec_brief_cbcpm_report_sri_lanka_final_2012.pdf/

Samararatne, D. W., Soldatic, K., & Perera, B. (2018a). *A Study of War-affected Women with Disabilities in Sri Lanka: Pre-consultation Report*. Western Sydney University.

<https://researchdirect.westernsydney.edu.au/islandora/object/uws:44827>

Samararatne, D. W., Soldatic, K., & Perera, B. (2018b). *'Out of the Shadows': War-affected Women with Disabilities in Sri Lanka: Final Report*. Western Sydney University.

<https://researchdirect.westernsydney.edu.au/islandora/object/uws:47194>

Sri Lanka Department of Census and Statistics. (2021, October 1). *Census of children in child care institutions 2019 Final Report*.

<http://www.statistics.gov.lk/OtherCensusandSurveys/StaticalInformation/Census/CensusofChildreninChildCareInstitutions2019Final>

UN Refugee Agency. (2022, January). *Basic information for asylum-seekers in Sri Lanka*.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unhcr.org/publications/basic-information-asylum-seekers-sri-lanka#:~:text=After%20you%20are%20registered%20you,1951%20Refugee%20Convention%20or%20not>.

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2017, December 1). *Keeping children in Sri Lanka safe and empowered online*.

<https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/281/file/Digital%20landscape%20study.pdf>

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2022a). *Sri Lanka economic crisis 2022 situation report No. 2*.

[https://www.unicef.org/media/130716/file/Sri-Lanka-SitRep-\(Economic-Crisis\)No.2-30-October-2022..pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/130716/file/Sri-Lanka-SitRep-(Economic-Crisis)No.2-30-October-2022..pdf)

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2022b, February). *Reimagining a better Sri Lanka for our children: UNICEF Sri Lanka annual report 2021*.

<https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/3176/file/UNICEF%20SLCO%20Annual%20Report%202021.pdf>

United Nations Country Team. (2017). *Universal periodic review Sri Lanka 3rd cycle – 2017*.

U.S. Department of State. (2022). *2022 trafficking in persons report: Sri Lanka*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-trafficking-in-persons-report/sri-lanka/>

Verite Research. (2017, August). *A legal and institutional assessment of justice system for children*.

<https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/376/file/A%20Legal%20And%20Institutional%20Assessment%20Of%20Sri%20Lanka%E2%80%99s%20Justice%20System%20For%20Children.pdf>

World Health Organization. (2021). *Sri Lanka: How who is driving impact on the ground*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

<https://www.who.int/about/accountability/results/who-results-report-2020-2021/country-profile/2021/sri-lanka>

Other Asian and Pacific Regions

Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability. (2019). *Report on sufficiency economy to sustainable and disability-inclusive development for South Asian Countries (Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka) and Thailand*.

https://story.apcdfoundation.org/?q=system/files/AITC%202019%20on%20SEP_RPDF.pdf

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. (2022, December 7). *A three-*

decade journey towards inclusion: assessing the state of disability-inclusive development in Asia and the Pacific. United Nations.

McCallum, R. (2020, October). *Research Report: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: An assessment of Australia's level of compliance.* Australia Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/system/files/2020-10/Research%20Report%20-%20The%20United%20Nations%20Convention%20on%20the%20Rights%20of%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities%20-%20An%20Assessment%20of%20Australia%E2%80%99s%20Level%20of%20Compliance_1.pdf

UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office. (2020). *Promising practices on disability inclusion in East Asia and the Pacific.*

Europe

Béndek, J. (2013, June 14). *Country report on Hungary – for the study on "Member States' policies for children with disabilities" study.* European Parliament.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/474424/IPOL-LIBE_ET\(2013\)474424_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/474424/IPOL-LIBE_ET(2013)474424_EN.pdf)

North and South America

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, & UNICEF. (2018, November). *Latin America and the Caribbean 30 years after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.*

https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/44272/1/S1800976_en.pdf

Global

Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2011, April). *Best practices for including persons with disabilities in all aspects of development efforts.* United Nations.

https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/best_practices_publication_2011.pdf

Global Disability Summit Secretariat. (2022, October 26). *Global Disability Summit 2022 report.* International Disability Alliance. https://gds-imagez.s3.amazonaws.com/hmle57vu2o73lr82dm1z19kcve3l?response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3D%22GDS_Report_2022_Norad%20%25281%2529.pdf%22%3B%20filename%2A%3DUTF-8%27%27GDS_Report_2022_Norad%2520%25281%2529.pdf&response-

[content-type=application%2Fpdf&X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAVGJB6RJHV2D3XRVN%2F20230821%2Fus-east-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20230821T174821Z&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=c7944acaea1fdf249735c84ae91758484202edd5439d7a4dea3ad95433b2bb95](https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/636/file/Towards%20universal%20social%20protection%20for%20children:%20Achieving%20SDG%201.3.pdf)

ILO, & UNICEF. (2019, July). *Towards universal social protection for children: Achieving SDG 1.3*.

<https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/636/file/Towards%20universal%20social%20protection%20for%20children:%20Achieving%20SDG%201.3.pdf>

KidsRights. (2022). *The KidsRights index 2022 report*.

<https://files.kidsrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/18212510/KidsRights-Index-2022-Report.pdf>

Multi-Partner Trust Fund. (2022, January 31). *Lessons learned from the UNPRPD COVID-19 Response and Recovery Joint Programme: Final Report*. United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

<https://unprpd.org/sites/default/files/library/2022-12/3.%20UNPRPD%20COVID-19%20Report-Total.pdf>

Web Articles

Sri Lanka

Aluthgedara, M. (2022, November 10). *Census on population and housing next year*. Daily News. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

<https://archives1.dailynews.lk/2022/11/10/local/290866/census-population-and-housing-next-year>

Better Care Network. (2019). *The National Alternative Care Policy for children in Sri Lanka*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

<https://bettercarenetwork.org/library/principles-of-good-care-practices/leaving-alternative-care-and-reintegration/the-national-alternative-care-policy-for-children-in-sri-lanka>

ColomboPage News Desk. (2023, May 29). *Sri Lanka: Parliamentary Caucus for Children stresses on taking immediate steps to prevent media exposure of child victims and accused*. LankaPage.com (LLC). Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

http://www.colombopage.com/archive_23A/May29_1685384909CH.php

De Soysa, M. (2021, April 19). *Disabled rights as human rights – fighting for recognition and acceptance*. Groundviews. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

<https://groundviews.org/2021/04/19/disabled-rights-as-human-rights-fighting-for-recognition-and-acceptance/>

- Numbers.lk. (2023, May 19). *From vows to divorce papers: Understanding Sri Lanka's marriage and divorce landscape*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://numbers.lk/analysis/from-vows-to-divorce-papers-understanding-sri-lanka-s-marriage-and-divorce-landscape>
- Pahalawatte, A. (2021, November 20). *Protecting every child in Sri Lanka*. Groundviews. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://groundviews.org/2021/11/20/protecting-every-child-in-sri-lanka/>
- Parliament of Sri Lanka. (2022, September 28). *Age of a person acknowledged as a child raised from 16 years to 18 years*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.parliament.lk/en/committee-news/view/2773?category=33>
- Roar Media. (2016, November 4). *The plight of Sri Lanka's special needs children*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://roar.media/english/life/reports/plight-sri-lankas-special-needs-children>
- UN News. (2022a, August 29). *Sri Lanka: Devastating crisis for children, a 'cautionary tale' for South Asia*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1125522>
- UN News. (2022b, November 8). *UN ramps up humanitarian appeal for life-saving assistance to 3.4 million Sri Lankans*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130332>
- UN News. (2022c, November 11). *Sri Lanka: Cost-of-living crunch threatens to sink millions already facing hard choices*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130502>
- UN News. (2023a, January 18). *Sri Lanka must ensure compensation for victims of 2019 terrorist attacks*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/01/1132567>
- UN News. (2023b, April 5). *New WFP chief Cindy McCain warns of funding crunch in fight against hunger*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/04/1135372>
- UNDP Sri Lanka. (2022c, December 3). *A voice to the voiceless: International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2022*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://undpsrilanka.exposure.co/a-voice-to-the-voiceless>
- UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018a, March 6). *25 million child marriages prevented in last decade due to accelerated progress, according to new UNICEF estimates*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/press-releases/25-million-child->

- [marriages-prevented-last-decade-due-accelerated-progress-according](#)
UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018b, March 28). *UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador David Beckham visits Indonesia to meet children tackling violence and bullying in the classroom*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/press-releases/unicef-goodwill-ambassador-david-beckham-visits-indonesia-meet-children-tackling>
- UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018c, June 18). *The child centered approach*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/child-centered-approach>
- UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018j, July 16). *Government Ministries and UNICEF join forces to secure increased national budget investment in early childhood development from the Minister of Finance and Mass Media*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/press-releases/government-ministries-and-unicef-join-forces-secure-increased-national-budget>
- UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018l, December 18). *Partnerships*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/partnerships>
- UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2020a, September 14). *Every mind*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/every-mind>
- UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2020b, September 23). *UNICEF commends the Government of Sri Lanka for initiating legal reforms to ensure fairness and justice for children*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/press-releases/unicef-commends-government-sri-lanka-initiating-legal-reforms-ensure-fairness-and>
- UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2021b, December 8). *Young people speak out to reimagine a better future as UNICEF marks 75 years*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/press-releases/young-people-speak-out-reimagine-better-future-unicef-marks-75-years>
- UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2022d, November 24). *Child welfare and child justice in Sri Lanka—No time like the present for reform* [Press release]. <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/press-releases/child-welfare-and-child-justice-sri-lanka-no-time-present-reform>
- Warnasuriya, R. (2020, December 16). *The growing need for childcare support in Sri Lanka*. World Bank Blogs. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/growing-need-childcare-support-sri-lanka>
- Wiratunga, S. (2023, April 1). *The urgent need to strengthen child protection measures*. Groundviews. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://groundviews.org/2023/04/01/the-urgent-need-to-strengthen-child->

[protection-measures/](#)

Other Asian and Pacific Regions

Human Rights Watch. (2023, February 1). *Nepal's social protection system reinforces inequality*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

[https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/02/01/nepals-social-protection-system-reinforces-](https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/02/01/nepals-social-protection-system-reinforces-inequality#:~:text=According%20to%20a%202021%20UNICEF%20study%2C%20expanding%20the,less%20than%200.7%20percent%20of%20GDP%20a%20year.)

[inequality#:~:text=According%20to%20a%202021%20UNICEF%20study%2C%20expanding%20the,less%20than%200.7%20percent%20of%20GDP%20a%20year.](https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/02/01/nepals-social-protection-system-reinforces-inequality#:~:text=According%20to%20a%202021%20UNICEF%20study%2C%20expanding%20the,less%20than%200.7%20percent%20of%20GDP%20a%20year.)

Marsden, R., & Tomoo Hozumi, T. (2018, July 2). *A New Beginning*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <http://kathmandupost.com/opinion/2018/07/02/a-new-beginning-20180702075730>

Middle East

UNICEF. (2023, May 18). *Afghanistan - a children's crisis: UNICEF Afghanistan Representative Fran Equiza's remarks at the Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

[https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/afghanistan-childrens-crisis-unicef-afghanistan-representative-fran-equizas-](https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/afghanistan-childrens-crisis-unicef-afghanistan-representative-fran-equizas-remarks#:~:text=Today%2C%20an%20estimated%2090%20per,%E2%80%93%20a%20life%2Dthreatening%20condition.)

[remarks#:~:text=Today%2C%20an%20estimated%2090%20per,%E2%80%93%20a%20life%2Dthreatening%20condition.](https://www.unicef.org/rosa/press-releases/afghanistan-childrens-crisis-unicef-afghanistan-representative-fran-equizas-remarks#:~:text=Today%2C%20an%20estimated%2090%20per,%E2%80%93%20a%20life%2Dthreatening%20condition.)

Africa

UN News. (2023d, May 18). *UNICEF alert over 'sickening' levels of sexual violence in eastern DR Congo*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/05/1136777#:~:text=%E2%80%9CDeeply%20vulnerable%20children%20and%20women,old%20having%20been%20sexually%20exploited.>

North and South America

UN News. (2023g, June 15). *Almost 3 million children 'desperately need protection and support' in Haiti*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137752#:~:text=Nearly%20three%20millio>

[n%20children%2C%20the,a%20resurgence%20of%20deadly%20cholera.](https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137752#:~:text=Nearly%20three%20millio)

Global

ElectionAccess.org. (20117, June). *How establishing partnerships with multiple types of*

stakeholders helps to increase access to the political process. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <http://www.electionaccess.org/en/media/news/49/>

International Disability Alliance. (2020, December 22). *IDA survey on experience of persons with disabilities adapting to COVID-19 global pandemic*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/covid19-survey>

Office at Geneva. (2023, March 8). *Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities holds general discussion on persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/meeting-summary/2023/03/le-comite-des-droits-des-personnes-handicapees-tient-un-debat>

Office at Geneva. (n.d.). *Disability Inclusive Language Guidelines*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.ungeneva.org/en/about/accessibility/disability-inclusive-language>

UK Committee for UNICEF. (n.d.). *How we protect children's rights with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

UN News. (2023c, April 20). *Millions of children deprived of life-saving vaccinations amid COVID pandemic, misinformation surge*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from [https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/04/1135797#:~:text=Some%2067%20million%20children%20worldwide,\(UNICEF\)%20said%20on%20Wednesday.](https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/04/1135797#:~:text=Some%2067%20million%20children%20worldwide,(UNICEF)%20said%20on%20Wednesday.)

UN News. (2023e, June 13). *'Inclusion is strength' stresses UN, marking Albinism Awareness Day*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137617#:~:text='Inclusion%20is%20strength'%20stresses%20UN%2C%20marking%20Albinism%20Awareness%20Day,-13%20June%202023&text=Wider%20inclusion%20of%20persons%20with,human%20rights%20expert%20has%20said.>

UN News. (2023f, June 14). *Progress on disability rights risks going in reverse: Guterres*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137627#:~:text=Guterres%20said%20the%20treaty%20marked,with%20disabilities%20in%20mainstream%20schools.>

UN News. (2023h, June 15). *First Person: 'We want to be included.'* United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137702>

UNESCO. (2023, April 20). *UNESCO launches tools to promote disability-inclusive responses to COVID-19*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/unesco-launches-tools-promote-disability->

[inclusive-responses-covid-19](#)

UNICEF. (n.d.b). *Children in alternative care*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

<https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-in-alternative-care>

UNICEF. (n.d.c). *Implementing and monitoring the Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/implementing-monitoring>

Others

Sri Lanka

Asian Development Bank. (2023, July). *Asian Development Bank and Sri Lanka: Fact sheet*.

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/27797/sri-2022.pdf>

Campbell, F. K. (2012, January 17). *University of Colombo/Faculty of Law Disability Rights Forum* [Speech audio recording]. SoundCloud.

<https://soundcloud.com/fionakumaricampbell/university-of-colombo-faculty>

Central Environment Authority, & International Union for the Conservation of Nature Sri Lanka Country Office. (2016, January). *Multi-stakeholder Strategy & Action Plan for Management and Conservation of the Kelani River Basin*.

<https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/291/file/Final%20report%20-%20Kelani%20river%20Rasin.pdf>

Civil Society Collective in Sri Lanka, & UPR info. (2017). *Factsheet – UPR 2017 – Sri Lanka 3rd cycle universal periodic review: Rights of persons with disabilities*. [https://www.upr-](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2017-10/rights_of_persons_with_disabilities_factsheet_srilanka_2017.pdf)

[info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2017-](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2017-10/rights_of_persons_with_disabilities_factsheet_srilanka_2017.pdf)

[10/rights_of_persons_with_disabilities_factsheet_srilanka_2017.pdf](https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/documents/2017-10/rights_of_persons_with_disabilities_factsheet_srilanka_2017.pdf)

Department of Probation and Child Care Services. (2019, January 1). *The National Alternative Care Policy for Children in Sri Lanka*. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka.

<http://www.probation.gov.lk/documents/downloads/English.pdf>

Economic and Social Council. (2022). *E/ICEF/2022/P/L.37*. United Nations.

https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/12511/file/2022-PL37-Sri_Lanka_CPD-EN-ODS.pdf

Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka. (2017, October 31). *Child protection policy & safety guidelines for young persons and vulnerable adults*.

https://www.fpasrilanka.org/sites/default/files/child_protection_policy_pdf.pdf

Kidd, S., Daniels, L. M., Gelders, B., Athias, D., Bubbico, A., Tran, A., & Peebles-Brown, A. (2020, June). *Tackling the COVID-19 economic crisis in Sri Lanka: Providing universal, lifecycle social protection*. UNICEF Sri Lanka.

https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/1501/file/UNICEF_Brief_SocialProtectionResponseSL_Summary_2020Jul30.pdf

Kidd, S., Daniels, L. M., Gelders, B., Athias, D., & Cretney, M. (2020, February). *Investing in the future: A universal benefit for Sri Lanka's children*. UNICEF Sri Lanka.

<https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/1276/file/Investing%20in%20the%20future:%20A%20universal%20benefit%20for%20Sri%20Lanka's%20children.pdf>

Mendis, P., & Perera, B. (2019). *The disability policy brief for law makers, administrators and other decision makers in Sri Lanka*. International Centre for Ethnic Studies.

Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka. (2017). *Preventing violence against children in Sri Lanka - country discussion paper*.

http://www.developmentpathways.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Sri_Lanka_Report_WEB.pdf

National Child Protection Authority. (2019, October). *National Policy on Child Protection*. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka.

<https://childprotection.gov.lk/images/pdfs/acts-guidelines/2020.12.31%20National%20Policy%20on%20Child%20Protection.pdf>

Regional Office for South Asia. (2021, August). *Disability-inclusive education practices in Sri Lanka*. UNICEF.

<https://www.unicef.org/rosa/media/17016/file/Country%20Profile%20-%20Sri%20Lanka.pdf>

Statistics Division. (2016). *Demographic and social statistics: United Nations Regional Meeting on Disability Measurement and Statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2016/bangkok--disability-measurement-and-statistics/Session-6/>

UNICEF. (2022, December 1). Sri Lanka appeal. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/sri-lanka>

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018d, June 21). *About UNICEF*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

<https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/about-unicef>

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018e, June 21). *Child protection*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from

<https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/child-protection>

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018f, June 21). *Child protection for early childhood*. Retrieved

September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/child-protection-early-childhood>

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018g, June 21). *Child protection in middle childhood*. Retrieved

September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/child-protection-middle-childhood>

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018h, June 21). *Child protection with adolescents*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/child-protection-adolescents>

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018i, June 22). *Child survival & development in early childhood*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/child-survival-development-early-childhood>

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018k, October 24). *Education*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/education>

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2021a, June). *Budget brief: Child protection sector | Sri Lanka 2021*. <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/2821/file/BUDGET%20BRIEF:%20CHILD%20PROTECTION%20SECTOR%20SRI%20LANKA%202021.pdf>

UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2022c, June). *Budget brief: Child protection sector*. <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/2821/file/BUDGET%20BRIEF:%20CHILD%20PROTECTION%20SECTOR%20SRI%20LANKA%202021.pdf>

Other Asian and Pacific Regions

Need Base India. (n.d.). *Specially abled Children*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://needbaseindia.org/specially-abled-children/>

Social Development Division. (2022, December 29). *How to design child benefits*. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12870/5199>

Africa

UNICEF Zambia. (2022). *UNICEF Zambia child protection budget brief 2022: Unmasking investments in child protection*. <https://www.unicef.org/esa/media/11331/file/UNICEF-Zambia-Child-Protection-Budget-Brief-2022..pdf>

Europe

Department for International Development. (2018, December 3). *DFID's Strategy for Disability Inclusive Development 2018-23*. Government of the United Kingdom. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/760997/Disability-Inclusion-Strategy.pdf

European Disability Forum. (n.d.). *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.edf-feph.org/un-crpd/>

Global

Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Articles*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2.html>

Holzer, B., Vreede, A., & Weigt, G. (1999). *Disability in different cultures: Reflections on local concepts*. Transcript Verlag.
<https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/23399/1006755.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

International Disability Alliance. (2021, July 27). *iData survey tool: Inclusive data collection for persons with disabilities* [Video]. YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owHAIkXjw_k

UK Committee for UNICEF. (2010, May). *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.
https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/UNCRC_PRESS200910web.pdf

UNICEF. (2021). *Child protection strategy 2021–2030*.
<https://www.unicef.org/media/104416/file/Child-Protection-Strategy-2021.pdf>

UNICEF. (n.d.a). *App Catalogue*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from
<https://www.unicef.org/appcatalogue/search-all-apps>

UNICEF Child Protection Programme Division. (2020). *The contribution public finance for children can make to realizing child protection objectives*.
<https://www.unicef.org/media/93996/file/PF4C-for-Child-Protection-2021.pdf>

United Nations. (2019). *United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy*.
https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/assets/documentation/UN_Disability_Inclusion_Strategy_english.pdf

World Bank Group. (2022). *Disability Inclusion and Accountability Framework*.
<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/437451528442789278/pdf/Disability-inclusion-and-accountability-framework.pdf>

Appendix 3 (Data Analysis Overview)

Reviewed Sources

Types	Number of Sources	Mentions of CWD	Mentions of Child Protection
Academic Journals	134	64	77
Reports	29	20	13
Web Articles	42	6	22
Others	37	18	17
Total	242	108	129

Secondary Assessment of Sri Lanka's Status

Categories	Keywords	Number of Sources	Mentions of CWD	Mentions of Child Protection	Main Sources
Child Protection	Child protection, Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect, Labor, Trafficking, Privacy, Justice, Crime, Survival, Alignment, Ratification, CRC	43	16	41	de Silva (2007), Department of Census and Statistics (2021), Economic and Social Council (2022), Munasinghe (2015), National Child Protection Authority (2019), Pahalawatte (2021), UNICEF Sri Lanka (2018e), UNICEF Sri Lanka (2018i)
Disability Inclusion and Rights	Disabilities, Advocacy, Rights, Inclusion, Legal mobilization, Acceptance, Marginalization, Alignment, Ratification, CRPD	26	19	4	Campbell (2013), Economic and Social Council (2022), Galahitiyawa (2023), Mendis & Perera (2019), Munasinghe (2015), Kasturiarachchi (2020), Liyanage (2017), Peiris-John et al. (2014), Roar Media (2016), Samararatne & Soldatic (2015), UNICEF Sri Lanka (2018i)
Healthcare	Healthcare, Health priorities, Universal health coverage, Public health services, Trauma, Mental health services	11	6	7	de Silva (2007), Department of Census and Statistics (2021), Economic and Social Council (2022)
Education	Special education, Inclusive education, Learning disabilities, Early childhood development, Child development	12	7	4	Department of Census and Statistics (2021), Economic and Social Council (2022), Kasturiarachchi (2020), Roar Media (2016)
Social Support and Safety Nets	Social protection, Child welfare, Family support, Alternative care, Universal child benefit, Cash transfer, Food assistance	20	8	10	Department of Census and Statistics (2021), Economic and Social Council (2022), Pulla (2014)
Emergency and Crisis Management	Disaster management, Humanitarian Aid, Economic stabilization, COVID-19	11	1	6	Economic and Social Council (2022), UN News (2022b)
Other Topics	Census, Divorce	2	0	0	Aluthgedara (2022), Numbers.lk (2023)

* As some reviewed sources have multiple categories, there are overlaps in the number of sources mentioning

Comparative Analysis

Categories	Keywords	Number of Sources	Mentions of CWD	Mentions of Child Protection	Main Sources
Child Protection	Child protection, Abuse, Exploitation, Neglect, Labor, Trafficking, Privacy, Justice, Crime, Survival, Alignment, Ratification, CRC	80	29	80	Banks et al. (2017), Béndek (2013), Delaunay (2011), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (2018), Hendaus et al. (2020), McCallum (2020), Mehta et al. (2023), Milić et al. (2020), Njelesan et al. (2018), Portilla-Saavedra et al. (2022), Pulla (2014), Rice et al. (2021), Roche (2019), Tsangue et al. (2022)
Disability Inclusion and Rights	Disabilities, Advocacy, Rights, Inclusion, Legal mobilization, Acceptance, Marginalization, Alignment, Ratification, CRPD	79	61	25	Béndek (2013), Chaney (2017), Kamga (2016), McCallum (2020), Milić et al. (2020), More (2023), Njelesan et al. (2018), Rice et al. (2021), Teka (2015), Tsangue et al. (2022)
Healthcare	Healthcare, Health priorities, Universal health coverage, Public health services, Trauma, Mental health services	31	21	20	Béndek (2013), Mehta et al. (2023), Hammadet al. (2023), Lansdown (2022), Sadiki (2022), Sperrin (2018)
Education	Special education, Inclusive education, Learning disabilities, Early childhood development, Child development	15	15	10	Avila (2016), Banks et al. (2017), Lansdown (2022), Szlamka (2022)
Social Support and Safety Nets	Social protection, Child welfare, Family support, Alternative care, Universal child benefit, Cash transfer, Food assistance	44	23	27	Béndek (2013), Delaunay (2011), Mehta et al. (2023), Hammadet al. (2023), Lansdown (2022), More (2023), Sperrin (2018)
Emergency and Crisis Management	Disaster management, Humanitarian Aid, Economic stabilization, COVID-19	23	11	17	Béndek (2013), Hammadet al. (2023), Lansdown (2022)

* As some reviewed sources have multiple categories, there are overlaps in the number of sources mentioning CWD and child protection.

Key Areas Identified

Key Areas	Main Sources
Need for more robust framework	Campbell (2013), Kamga (2016), Liyanage (2017), McCallum (2020), Mendis & Perera (2019), More (2023), Munasinghe (2015), National Child Protection Authority (2019), Pahalawatte (2021), Portilla-Saavedra et al. (2022), Samararatne & Soldatic (2015), Tsangue et al. (2022)
Opportunity for greater coordination and collaboration	Banks et al. (2017), Campbell (2013), Liyanage (2017), Mendis & Perera (2019), More (2023), Munasinghe (2015), Njelesan et al. (2018), Peiris-John et al. (2014), Teka (2015), UNICEF Sri Lanka (2018e)
Importance of increased awareness	Campbell (2013), Hendaus et al. (2020), Kasturiarachchi (2020), Roche (2019)
Priority of accessibility and availability	Chaney (2017), Milić et al. (2020), UNICEF Sri Lanka (2018e), UNICEF Sri Lanka (2018i)
Need for addressing stigma and discrimination	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (2018), Galahitiyawa (2023), Liyanage (2017), More (2023), Rice et al. (2021), Roar Media (2016), UN News (2022b)
Significance of comprehensive data and research	Aluthgedara (2022), Béndek (2013), Chaney (2017), Delaunay (2011), Department of Census and Statistics (2021), Economic and Social Council (2022), Hammad et al. (2023), Mehta et al. (2023), Pulla (2014), Teka (2015), UNICEF Sri Lanka (2018e)

Appendix 4 (Stakeholder Interview Questionnaire)

Introduction

We aim to support the Government of Sri Lanka regarding the alignment of child protection policies and systems in Sri Lanka with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with a focus on the rights of children with disabilities. We greatly value your perspectives and experiences, which will contribute valuable insights to help identify challenges in Sri Lanka. Your time and willingness to participate in this important endeavor are highly appreciated.

We assure you that any information provided during this interview will be treated with the utmost confidentiality for this project only. The interview will be done virtually through a Zoom call for around 30 minutes. Before proceeding, we kindly request your consent to record this interview for documentation and analysis purposes. Please let us know if you agree to this by providing your verbal or written consent.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to raise them. Thank you for your participation.

Stakeholder Interview Questions

1. What is your job role? Based on your expertise, what specific challenges do you believe need to be addressed in the current child protection policies and systems in Sri Lanka to ensure the rights of children with disabilities are safeguarded effectively?
2. Can you share any experiences or insights from your involvement in projects or initiatives aimed at enhancing the inclusion and protection of children with disabilities in Sri Lanka? What were the key outcomes or lessons learned? What historical initiatives or programs about disability-related matters have existed in Sri Lanka?
3. How do you perceive the level of awareness and understanding among stakeholders, such as government agencies, civil society organizations, and the public, regarding the rights and needs of children with disabilities in Sri Lanka?
4. Considering the impact of financial instability, natural disasters, and pandemics, what unique challenges do you believe children with disabilities face in terms of their

protection and well-being during such circumstances, based on your experience?

5. Considering the current situation in Sri Lanka, what do you see as the most crucial steps that need to be taken to ensure effective child protection policies and systems for children with disabilities, and how can these steps be implemented successfully?

Appendix 5 (Organization and Coding of Thematic Analysis)

Question 1's Finding Data

Interviewees	Challenges											
	Awareness			Societal condition				Alignment				
	Discrimination and stigma associated with disabilities, leading to social exclusion	Traditional beliefs	Disinterest at the national level	Abuse within families and exploitation	Lack of appropriate channels for expressing the feelings and ideas of CWD	Poverty driven by factors such as disabilities and household income	Economic and educational disparities affecting child protection	Absence of a comprehensive and effective child protection framework	Lack of legal enforceability and intersectionality in policy	Limited facilities, services, support, and care for CWD, especially in rural areas	Insufficient early identification and implementation for young CWD	Poor governance practices
1	X	X			X			X		X		
2	X	X										
3	X	X		X				X	X			
4	X	X				X	X		X		X	
5	X	X					X	X		X		
6	X	X	X			X	X			X	X	
7	X	X					X	X	X		X	
8	X	X						X	X			
9	X	X	X		X		X	X	X			
10	X	X	X	X				X	X			
11	X		X	X	X	X	X					X

* The interviewees include individuals with roles such as directors and consultants from NGOs and NPOs, educators, and law professionals.

Question 2's Finding Data

Interviewees	Experiences in initiatives														
	Experiences or insights from involvement							Key outcomes or lessons learned					Historical initiatives or programs		
	Advocacy for CWD inclusion in children's laws and emphasizing abilities	Promotion of community-based services and adapted accommodations	Addressing education hurdles, particularly for children with learning disabilities	Difficulties in changing perspectives, raising awareness, and fighting discrimination	Shortages of facilities, resources, and qualified personnel	Historical impact such as Civil War, especially on men and families	Historical social welfare approaches and policy implementation issues in disability matters	Countering misconceptions and social attitudes towards disability inclusion and child protection	Advancing inclusivity and equal opportunities for CWD	Acknowledging unique needs, including CWD opinions and parental input	Addressing outdated practices such as segregating children based on perceived educability, which causes literacy levels but with limitations	Sustained collaborative efforts for an inclusive society for CWD	Complex interplay between financial constraints, power dynamics, and limited disability awareness	Government initiatives such as IoT Center, inclusive higher education, and special school units for CWD	Initiatives focusing on inclusion and protection of CWD and their upskilling for financial independence
1	X	X	X		X			X	X					X	
2				X				X	X						
3		X		X	X	X		X	X						X
4	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X				
5			X	X	X			X	X		X				
6		X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X			X
7	X			X			X	X	X			X			
8	X			X			X	X	X					X	X
9			X	X	X			X	X			X		X	X
10	X		X				X	X	X	X		X		X	X
11	X	X			X			X					X	X	X

* The interviewees include individuals with roles such as directors and consultants from NGOs and NPOs, educators, and law professionals.

Question 3's Finding Data

Interviewees	Level of awareness and understanding									
	Government agencies		Civil society organizations				The public			
	Gaps between disability rights understanding and practical policy implementation	Need for enhancing awareness of local authorities through accessible formats	Importance of DPOs' direct involvement	Challenges in DPO collaboration and unity	Awareness gaps between Colombo-based and provincial groups	Financial constraints and challenges with international agencies	Limited awareness and understanding of CWD's rights and needs	Lack of prominent awareness initiatives and support measures	Insufficient inclusive environments and accessibility	Pandemic and financial instability's impact
1	X		X	X			X	X	X	X
2	X						X	X		
3	X						X	X	X	
4	X		X	X		X	X	X		
5	X						X	X	X	X
6	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
7	X	X			X	X	X	X		X
8	X	X			X		X	X		
9	X						X	X		
10	X						X	X	X	
11	X						X	X	X	

* The interviewees include individuals with roles such as directors and consultants from NGOs and NPOs, educators, and law professionals.

Question 4's Finding Data

Interviewees	Unique challenges under financial instability, natural disasters, and pandemics												
	Infrastructure and Resource Challenges					Advocacy and Rights					Cultural and Religious Influences		
	Inadequate facilities and support and resource deficits in institutions	Community-based support lacking	Increased risk of abandonment for CWD due to parental hardships	Educational disruptions due to commute issues based on economic uncertainty, illnesses, and parental or grandparental caregiving issues	Low transparency and inaccuracy of statistics and data	Advocacy for CWD rights; policy change needed for unique needs	Deepened disparities based on non-disabled education prioritized within families	Promoting self-sufficiency alongside acknowledging external support and education, while avoiding unsustainable aid-induced dependency	Increased victimization and vulnerability in emergencies faced by CWD, including limited communication	Visionary deficit, corruption, and mismanagement in politics	Buddhism's influence on family-based ideas, potentially affecting CWD's care	Overemphasis on humanities subjects and limitations	Impoverished children's ambitions, focused on short-term gains, leading to adverse effects on the environment and society
1	X	X				X					X		
2			X		X						X		
3	X								X				
4	X			X									
5	X			X		X							
6	X				X	X		X					
7	X					X			X				
8	X					X			X				
9	X	X				X	X		X				
10	X					X			X				
11										X		X	X

* The interviewees include individuals with roles such as directors and consultants from NGOs and NPOs, educators, and law professionals.

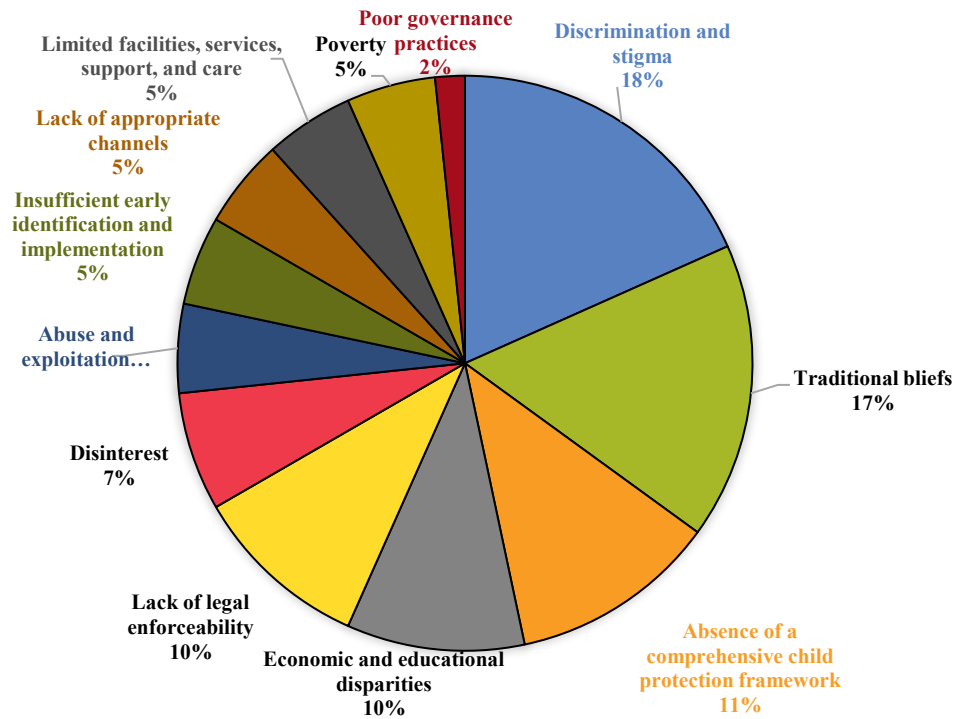
Question 5's Finding Data

Interviewees	Crucial steps for successful implementations															
	Training and awareness		Collaboration and coordination					Holistic approach					National Policy			Data and evidence
	Emphasize the CWD's needs for the entire society to promote their protection and rights awareness	Provide practical training and education government officials and professionals on disability inclusion and child protection	Establish cross-ministerial collaboration for policy enhancements and comprehensive systems	Foster collaboration among government ministries, NGOs, and INGOs for holistic CWD support ecosystem	Engage government ministries and international partners in active participation	Establish professional networks in institutions and schools, including workshops for effective support	Establish inclusive systems for CWD, including continuous improvements, effective governance through expertise, and stronger law enforcement	Ensure mental and physical accessibility and standardized child protection	Develop empathetic policies for inclusivity, considering history	Encourage a positive mindset shift about CWD's strengths	Advocacy for strict actions against perpetrators and special courts in child protection policy	Transform frameworks into action with strong leadership	Connect funds to policy progress, ensuring transparent evaluation and reporting	Prioritize accurate CWD data collection for decision-making, awareness, and funding support	Establish a sustainable monitoring system with NGO/INGO involvement	Utilize evidence-based approaches for crafting disability inclusion and child protection policies
1		X	X	X	X	X	X			X						
2		X					X			X		X	X			X
3	X	X									X					
4		X	X	X		X	X			X			X			X
5	X	X					X	X								
6						X			X		X	X				
7			X				X	X	X		X					
8		X	X	X			X									
9				X			X				X			X		
10	X			X	X		X					X				
11	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X		X

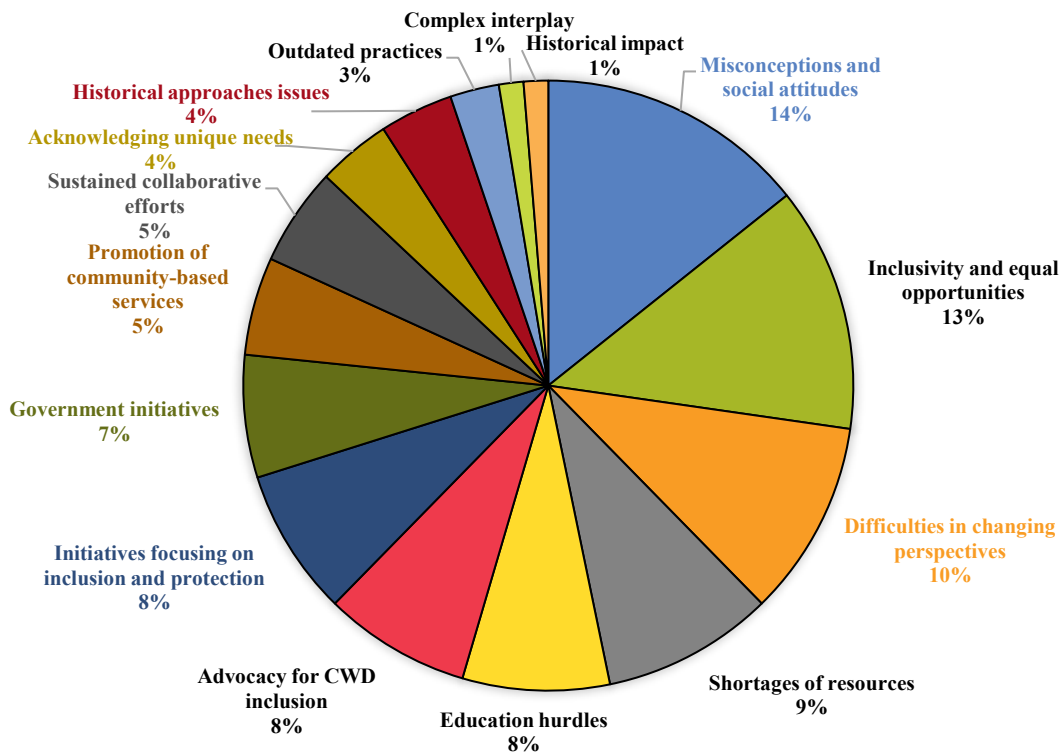
* The interviewees include individuals with roles such as directors and consultants from NGOs and NPOs, educators, and law professionals.

Pie Charts: (Organization and Coding of Thematic Analysis)

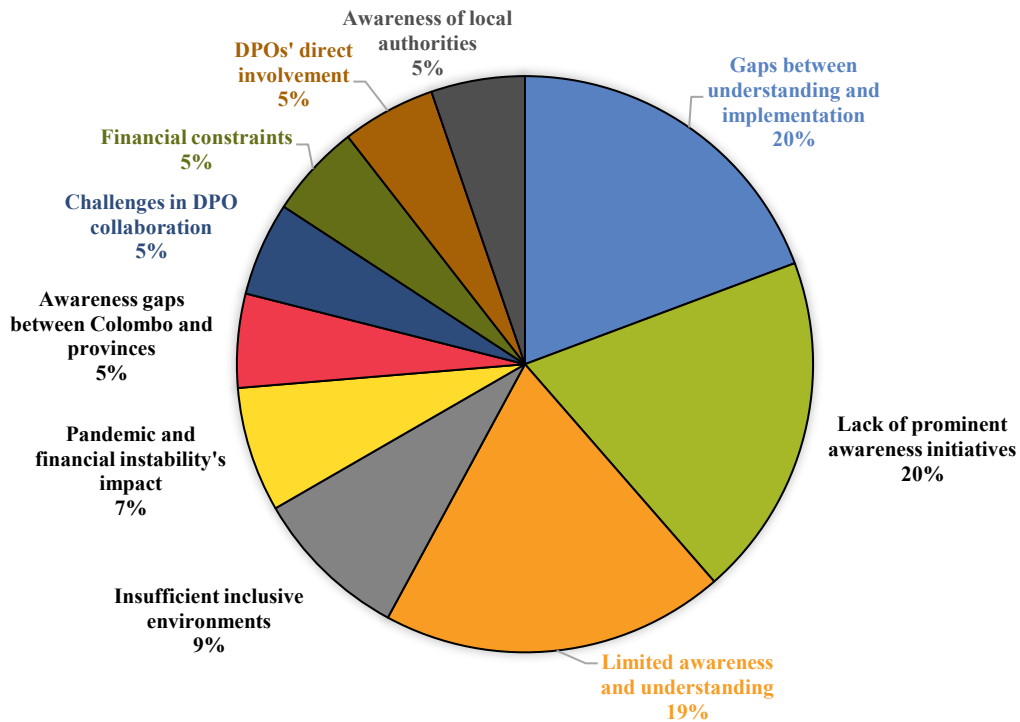
Question 1's Finding



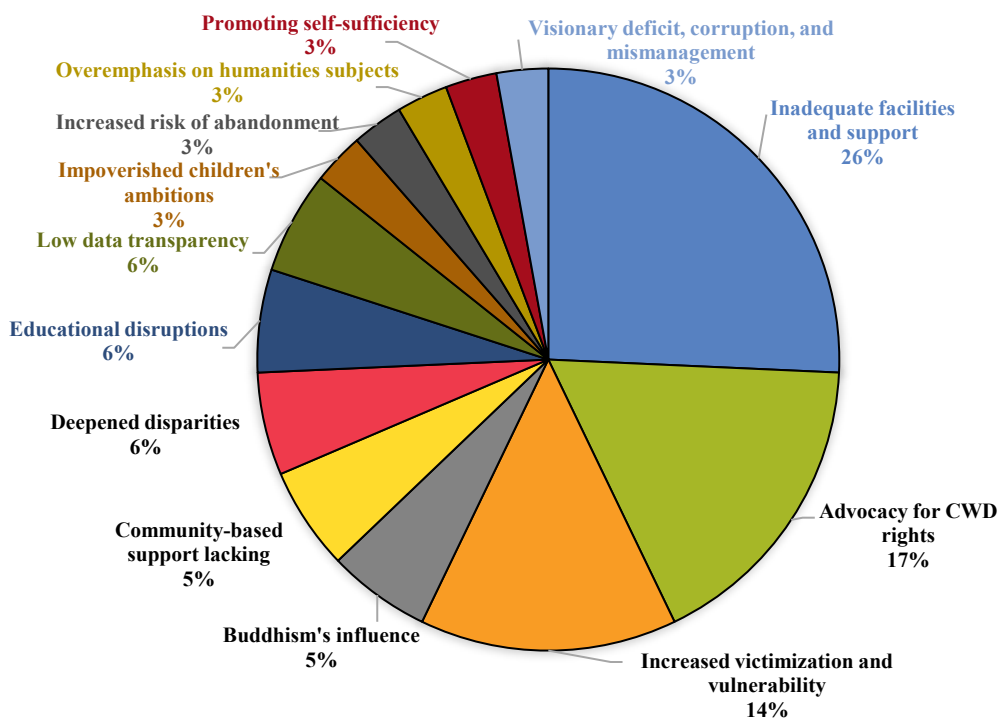
Question 2's Finding



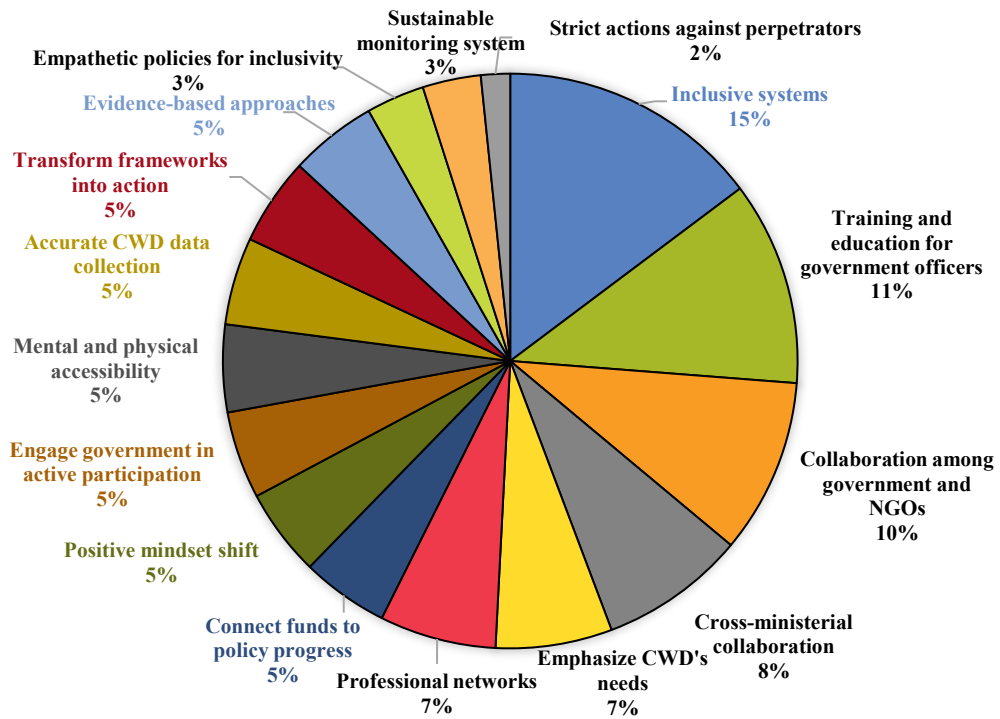
Question 3's Finding



Question 4's Finding



Question 5's Finding



- ¹ By adopting the expert interview approach, the project offered practical insights and contextually relevant recommendations to facilitate positive change for children with disabilities in Sri Lanka, enhancing understanding of current aspects and stakeholder perspectives. Döringer, S. (2021). 'The problem-centred expert interview'. Combining qualitative interviewing approaches for investigating implicit expert knowledge. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 24(3), 265–278. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2020.1766777>
- ² The National Child Protection Authority, established under the National Child Protection Authority Act No. 50 of 1998, handles ensuring the protection, promotion, and development of CWD's rights. National Child Protection Authority. (2019, October). *National Policy on Child Protection*. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka. <https://childprotection.gov.lk/images/pdfs/acts-guidelines/2020.12.31%20National%20Policy%20on%20Child%20Protection.pdf>
- ³ Signed the CRC in 1990. The International Monitoring Committee on the CRC observes violations of this obligation as a state.
- ⁴ Lansdown, G. (2022). Article 23: The rights of children with disabilities. *Children's Well-Being: Indicators and Research*, 25(21), 193–203. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-84647-3_21
- ⁵ The act aims to ensure equal opportunities, non-discrimination, and the full participation of PWD in society.
- ⁶ Signed the CRPD in 2007. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities supervises compliance. Lansdown, G. (2022). Article 23: The rights of children with disabilities. *Children's Well-Being: Indicators and Research*, 25(21), 193–203. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-84647-3_21
- ⁷ The key areas have been identified as needing enhancement in the existing policies by referring to policy-related perspectives obtained from the following resources:
Campbell, F. K. (2013). A review of disability law and legal mobilisation in Sri Lanka [Draft 2]. *LST Review*, 23(308). https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2084565
- Peiris-John, R. J., Attanayake, S., Daskon, L., Wickremasinghe, A. R., & Ameratunga, S. (2014). Disability studies in Sri Lanka: priorities for action. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 36(20), 1742–1748. <https://doi.org/10.3109/09638288.2013.864714>
- Samararatne, D. W. V. A., & Soldatic, K. (2015). Inclusions and exclusions in law: experiences of women with disability in rural and war-affected areas in Sri Lanka. *Disability & Society*, 30(5), 759–772. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2015.1021760>
- Munasinghe, I. (2015). The absolute protection available for the disabled children under the prevention of domestic violence law; Sri Lankan perspective. *8th International Research Conference, KDU*, 126–130. <http://ir.kdu.ac.lk/handle/345/1374>
- Liyanage, C. (2017). Sociocultural construction of disability in Sri Lanka: Charity to rights-based approach. *Inclusive Learning and Educational Equity*, 3, 251–265. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-55224-8_16
- ⁸ UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018e, June 21). *Child protection*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/child-protection>
- ⁹ UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018i, June 22). *Child survival & development in early childhood*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/child-survival-development-early-childhood>
- ¹⁰ Milić, N., Rasiti, G., Latić, E., Kalem, M., & Fazlić, M. (2020). Deinstitutionalisation of children with disabilities: Process, progress and challenges in South-East Europe. *Global Campus Human Rights Journal*, 4(2), 375–402. <http://doi.org/20.500.11825/2039>
- ¹¹ Chaney, P. (2017). Comparative analysis of civil society and state discourse on disabled people's rights and welfare in Southeast Asia 2010–16. *Asian Studies Review*, 41(3), 405–423. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10357823.2017.1336612>
- ¹² Chaney, P. (2017). Comparative analysis of civil society and state discourse on disabled people's rights and welfare in Southeast Asia 2010–16. *Asian Studies Review*, 41(3), 405–423. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10357823.2017.1336612>
- ¹³ Liyanage, C. (2017). Sociocultural construction of disability in Sri Lanka: charity to rights-based approach. *Inclusive Learning and Educational Equity*, 3, 251–265. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-55224-8_16
- ¹⁴ UN News. (2022b, November 8). *UN ramps up humanitarian appeal for life-saving assistance to 3.4 million Sri Lankans*. United Nations. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130332>
- ¹⁵ Roar Media. (2016, November 4). *The plight of Sri Lanka's special needs children*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://roar.media/english/life/reports/plight-sri-lankas-special-needs-children>
- ¹⁶ Galahitiyawa, S. T. L. H. (2023). 'That's my journey': what motivated me to conduct disability research? *Disability & Society*, 38(6), 1084–1088. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2023.2181771>
- ¹⁷ Rice, J. G., Bjargardóttir, H. B., & Sigurjónsdóttir, H. B. (2021). Child protection, disability and obstetric violence: Three case studies from Iceland. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(1), 158. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18010158>
- ¹⁸ More, R. (2023). Inclusive child welfare services, disabled children, and their families: insights from a European comparison of social policy and social (work) practice in Austria, Iceland, and Ireland. *Ireland, European Journal of Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2023.2219033>
- ¹⁹ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. (2018). *Latin America and the Caribbean 30 years after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*. <https://www.cepal.org/en/publications/44272-latin-america-and-caribbean-30-years-after-adoption-convention-rights-child#:~:text=Almost%2030%20years%20after%20the%20signature%20of%20the,the%20Convention%20has%20been%20applied%20in%20the%20region>
- ²⁰ Campbell, F. K. (2013). A review of disability law and legal mobilisation in Sri Lanka [Draft 2]. *LST Review*. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2084565
- ²¹ The following is an example: Kasturiarachchi, C. (2020). Rights for education: school support and education development of differently-abled students with special education needs in the Sri Lankan government schools. *International Journal Of All Research Writings*, (11), 38–48. <http://ijarw.com/Users/ManuScript/ManuScriptDetails/af9dafdc-f5f0-472e-839b-3ed044acc6fd>
- ²² Roche, S. (2019). Childhoods in policy: A critical analysis of national child protection policy in the Philippines. *Children & Society*, 33(2), 95–110. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/chso.12295>
- ²³ Hendaus, M. A., Al-Khuzaei, A. M., Samarah, O., Hamad, S. G., Selim, B. A., Ansari, W. E. (2020). Child abuse and neglect in a rapidly developing country Parents' perspectives. *Journal of family medicine and primary care*, 9(6), 3053–3059. https://doi.org/10.4103/jfmpe.jfmpe_971_19
- ²⁴ Article 12(4) of the Sri Lankan Constitution (1978) mandates actions for the well-being of individuals with disabilities. Munasinghe, I. (2015). The absolute protection available for the disabled children under the prevention of domestic violence law; Sri Lankan Perspective. *8th International Research Conference, KDU*, 126–130. <http://ir.kdu.ac.lk/handle/345/1374>
- ²⁵ The National Policy on Child Protection administered by the National Child Protection Authority. National Child Protection Authority. (2019, October). *National Policy on Child Protection*. Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka. <https://childprotection.gov.lk/images/pdfs/acts-guidelines/2020.12.31%20National%20Policy%20on%20Child%20Protection.pdf>
- ²⁶ Liyanage, C. (2017). Sociocultural construction of disability in Sri Lanka: charity to rights-based approach. *Inclusive Learning and Educational Equity*, 3, 251–265. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-55224-8_16
- ²⁷ Mendis, P., & Perera, B. (2019). The disability policy brief for law makers, administrators and other decision makers in Sri Lanka. International Centre for Ethnic Studies.
- ²⁸ Pahalawatte, A. (2021, November 20). *Protecting every child in Sri Lanka*. Groundviews. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://groundviews.org/2021/11/20/protecting-every-child-in-sri-lanka/>
- ²⁹ Munasinghe, I. (2015). The absolute protection available for the disabled children under the prevention of domestic violence law; Sri Lankan Perspective. *8th International Research Conference, KDU*, 126–130. <http://ir.kdu.ac.lk/handle/345/1374>

- ³⁰ More, R. (2023). Inclusive child welfare services, disabled children, and their families: insights from a European comparison of social policy and social (work) practice in Austria, Iceland, and Ireland. *Ireland, European Journal of Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2023.2219033>
- ³¹ The Children and Young Persons Ordinance, specifically Clause 23, serves the purpose of establishing juvenile courts to oversee juvenile offenders and ensure the protection of children and young persons. On November 17th, 2022, the Sri Lankan parliament approved amendments to this ordinance, as outlined in the July 18th, 2022, issuance, with changes made to Clause 23.
- ³² Parliament of Sri Lanka. (2022, September 28). *Age of a person acknowledged as a child raised from 16 years to 18 years*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.parliament.lk/en/committee-news/view/2773?category=33>
- ³³ UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2022d, November 24). *Child welfare and child justice in Sri Lanka—No time like the present for reform* [Press release]. <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/press-releases/child-welfare-and-child-justice-sri-lanka-no-time-present-reform>
- ³⁴ More, R. (2023). Inclusive child welfare services, disabled children, and their families: insights from a European comparison of social policy and social (work) practice in Austria, Iceland, and Ireland. *Ireland, European Journal of Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2023.2219033>
- ³⁵ More, R. (2023). Inclusive child welfare services, disabled children, and their families: insights from a European comparison of social policy and social (work) practice in Austria, Iceland, and Ireland. *Ireland, European Journal of Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2023.2219033>
- ³⁶ More, R. (2023). Inclusive child welfare services, disabled children, and their families: insights from a European comparison of social policy and social (work) practice in Austria, Iceland, and Ireland. *Ireland, European Journal of Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2023.2219033>
- ³⁷ Kanga, S. D. (2016). Disability rights in South Africa: prospects for their realisation under the White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. *South African Journal on Human Rights*, 32(3), 569–580. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02587203.2016.1264109>
- ³⁸ McCallum, R. (2020, October). *Research Report: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: An assessment of Australia's level of compliance*. Australia Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/system/files/2020-10/Research%20Report%20-%20The%20United%20Nations%20Convention%20on%20the%20Rights%20of%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities%20-%20An%20Assessment%20of%20Australia%20-%20Level%20of%20Compliance_1.pdf
- ³⁹ Tsangue, G. T., Awa, J. C., Nsono, J., Ayima, C. W., & Tih, P. M. (2022). Non-disclosure of abuse in children and young adults with disabilities: Reasons and mitigation strategies Northwest Region of Cameroon. *African Journal of Disability*, 11, a1025. <https://doi.org/10.4102/ajod.v11i0.1025>
- ⁴⁰ Portilla-Saavedra, D., Pinto-Cortez, C., Guerra, C., & Cárdenas, F. P. (2022). Victimization by caregivers: Prevalence and risk factors in Chilean children and adolescents. *Child Adolescent Psychiatry Ment Health*, 16(74). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-022-00509-3>
- ⁴¹ World Health Organization. (n.d.). *International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/international-classification-of-functioning-disability-and-health>
- ⁴² Members of the European Union (EU) adopted the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030 and the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child. Others in the European Economic Area often comply with EU policy regarding human rights.
- ⁴³ McCallum, R. (2020, October). *Research Report: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: An assessment of Australia's level of compliance*. Australia Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/system/files/2020-10/Research%20Report%20-%20The%20United%20Nations%20Convention%20on%20the%20Rights%20of%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities%20-%20An%20Assessment%20of%20Australia%20-%20Level%20of%20Compliance_1.pdf
- ⁴⁴ UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018e, June 21). *Child protection*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/child-protection>
- ⁴⁵ More, R. (2023). Inclusive child welfare services, disabled children, and their families: insights from a European comparison of social policy and social (work) practice in Austria, Iceland, and Ireland. *Ireland, European Journal of Social Work*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2023.2219033>
- ⁴⁶ Tekla, B. (2015). *Child Rights Protection in Ethiopia and Kenya: A comparative analysis*. [Master's thesis, Addis Ababa University]. AAU Institutional Repository. <http://etd.aau.edu.et/bitstream/handle/123456789/30204/Firehiwot%20Girma.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- ⁴⁷ Banks, L. M., Kelly, S. A., Kyegombe, N., Kuper, H., & Devries, K. (2017). “If he could speak, he would be able to point out who does those things to him”: Experiences of violence and access to child protection among children with disabilities in Uganda and Malawi. *PLoS ONE*, 12(9), e0183736. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0183736>
- ⁴⁸ Njelesani, J., Hashemi, G., Cameron, C., Cameron, D., Richard, D., & Penny Parnes, P. (2018). From the day they are born: a qualitative study exploring violence against children with disabilities in West Africa. *BMC Public Health*, 18, 153. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-018-5057-x>
- ⁴⁹ Aluthgedara, M. (2022, November 10). *Census on population and housing next year*. Daily News. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://archives1.dailynews.lk/2022/11/10/local/290866/census-population-and-housing-next-year>
- ⁵⁰ Sri Lanka Department of Census and Statistics. (2021, October 1). *Census of children in child care institutions 2019 Final Report*. <http://www.statistics.gov.lk/OtherCensusandSurveys/StatisticalInformation/Census/CensusofChildreninChildCareInstitutions2019Final>
- ⁵¹ Economic and Social Council. (2022). *E/ICEF/2022/P/L.37*. https://www.unicef.org/executiveboard/media/12511/file/2022-PL37-Sri_Lanka_CPD-EN-ODS.pdf
- ⁵² UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2018e, June 21). *Child protection*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/child-protection>
- ⁵³ In 2021, according to the collection and analysis of disaggregated data from the KidsRights Index 2022 Report, the Czech Republic, Eswatini, and Luxembourg improved their scores on this indicator, while Poland and Switzerland saw declines, and Tunisia's record remained unchanged.
- ⁵⁴ KidsRights. (2022). *The KidsRights index 2022 report*. <https://files.kidsrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/18212510/KidsRights-Index-2022-Report.pdf>
- ⁵⁵ Tekla, B. (2015). *Child Rights Protection in Ethiopia and Kenya: A comparative analysis*. [Master's thesis, Addis Ababa University]. AAU Institutional Repository. <http://etd.aau.edu.et/bitstream/handle/123456789/30204/Firehiwot%20Girma.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- ⁵⁶ Pulla, V. (2014). Child protection system reform in the regional consultation of the South Asian nations. *The Malaysian Journal of Social Administration*, 10, 29–44. <https://doi.org/10.22452/mjsa.vol10no1.2>
- ⁵⁷ Chaney, P. (2017). Comparative analysis of civil society and state discourse on disabled people's rights and welfare in Southeast Asia 2010–16. *Asian Studies Review*, 41(3), 405–423. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10357823.2017.1336612>
- ⁵⁸ Delaunay, V. (2011). Improving knowledge on child abandonment and care in Africa: A demographic contribution to the achievement of child protection. *African Population Studies*, 25(1), 73–94. <https://doi.org/10.11564/25-1-268>
- ⁵⁹ Béndek, J. (2013, June 14). *Country report on Hungary - for the study on "Member States' policies for children with disabilities" study*. European Parliament. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/474424/IPOL-LIBE_ET\(2013\)474424_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/etudes/join/2013/474424/IPOL-LIBE_ET(2013)474424_EN.pdf)
- ⁶⁰ Mehta, D., Kelly, A. B., Laurens, K. R., Haslam, D., Williams, K. E., Walsh, K., Baker, P. R. A., Carter, H. E., Khawaja, N. G., Zelenko, O., & Mathews, B. (2023). Child maltreatment and long-term physical and mental health outcomes: An exploration of biopsychosocial determinants and implications for prevention. *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*, 54, 421–435. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-021-01258-8>
- ⁶¹ Hammad, M., Foster, A. M., Mowafi, I. M. E., Aissaoui, A., Elamuragan, K., Rajendra, K. L., Clark, E., Rajendra, K. L., & Kobeissi, L. (2023). Exploring the feasibility of establishing a core set of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health indicators in humanitarian settings: results from a multi-methods assessment in Jordan. *Reproductive Health*, 20, 56. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12978-023-01589-w>
- ⁶² Despite being introduced in the 1980s, CBR programs, designed for early identification and interventions, have not been adequately implemented due to human and financial resource constraints. Lacking continuous habilitation programs for CWD from birth can worsen their conditions, potentially causing secondary disabilities that impact their education, employment, and daily lives.

- ⁶² Many countries face challenges in providing effective child protection and disability inclusion systems for CWD. Some North European countries such as Sweden, Norway, and Finland, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand have more advanced systems. For instance, in Sri Lanka, child protection spending was only 0.28% of the budget in 2021, while it varies by country. UNICEF. (2021). *Child protection strategy 2021-2030*. <https://www.unicef.org/media/104416/file/Child-Protection-Strategy-2021.pdf>
- UNICEF Child Protection Programme Division. (2020). *The contribution public finance for children can make to realizing child protection objectives*. <https://www.unicef.org/media/93996/file/PF4C-for-Child-Protection-2021.pdf>
- UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2022c, June). *Budget brief: Child protection sector*. <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/2821/file/BUDGET%20BRIEF:%20CHILD%20PROTECTION%20SECTOR%20SRI%20LANKA%202021.pdf>
- ⁶³ Here are some examples of costs for children:
- Nepal: Expanding child grants to all children up to the age of 17 by 2035 would cost less than 0.7% of GDP yearly. Human Rights Watch. (2023, February 1). *Nepal's social protection system reinforces inequality*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/02/01/nepals-social-protection-system-reinforces-inequality#:~:text=According%20to%20a%202021%20UNICEF%20study%2C%20expanding%20the,less%20than%200.7%20percent%20of%20GDP%20a%20year>.
- Zambia: Although child protection program allocation increased to 4.3% of GDP and 11.7% of the budget in 2022, "core" interventions are limited, with only 0.2% of GDP and 0.6% of the budget, potentially limiting their impact. UNICEF Zambia. (2022). *UNICEF Zambia child protection budget brief 2022: Unmasking investments in child protection*. <https://www.unicef.org/esa/media/11331/file/UNICEF-Zambia-Child-Protection-Budget-Brief-2022.pdf>
- ⁶⁴ There exist many departments and ministries tasked with policy implementation; however, a lack of effective coordination persists, with the primary responsibility resting on the ministry to which social welfare is assigned (currently, the Department of Social Services at the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment).
- ⁶⁵ It would be possible to incorporate priorities of CWD into the current structure of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities and the National Council for Child & Youth Welfare. National Council for Child & Youth Welfare. (n.d.). *About us*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <http://www.nccyw.org/index.php/about-us/>
- National Secretariat For Persons With Disabilities. (n.d.). *About Us*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.nspd.gov.lk/index.php/about-us#:~:text=The%20National%20Council%20for%20Persons,part%20of%20the%20national%20development>.
- ⁶⁶ The child protection system's multiple working groups, including drafting, UN reporting, and others, function in parallel and occasionally overlapping domains.
- ⁶⁷ This should include installing focal points or help desks to enhance disability services.
- ⁶⁸ Data collection would be necessary to adjust essential data, collection ways, and data coding with the Department of Census and Statistics, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and other relevant ministries and agencies. Department of Census and Statistics. (n.d.). *Vision & mission*. Government of Sri Lanka. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from http://www.statistics.gov.lk/about_us/vision_mission
- ⁶⁹ This could also be aligned with maternal and child health programs. Limited chances to identify disabilities in early childhood might lead to an amplification of their impact as the child matures.
- ⁷⁰ This could involve the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, the National General Secretariat, and the Disability Organisations Joint Front, an umbrella body of DPOs in Sri Lanka founded in June 2001. National Secretariat For Persons With Disabilities. (n.d.). *About Us*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.nspd.gov.lk/index.php/about-us#:~:text=The%20National%20Council%20for%20Persons,part%20of%20the%20national%20development>. Disability Organizations Joint Front. (n.d.). *Overview*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.dojf.org/en/overview/>
- ⁷¹ A small-scale partnership program might require a budget ranging from 1,617,500 LKR to 3,235,000 LKR (US\$5,000 to US\$10,000) for initial mapping, communication, and coordination efforts. The 2021 budget estimate at the central level allocated LKR 10.7 billion to the child protection sector. For 2021, child protection expenditure was 0.07% of GDP. UNICEF Sri Lanka. (2021a, June). *Budget brief: Child protection sector | Sri Lanka 2021*. <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/media/2821/file/BUDGET%20BRIEF:%20CHILD%20PROTECTION%20SECTOR%20SRI%20LANKA%202021.pdf>
- ⁷² The government could ensure compliance through incentives such as awards for integration into media regulations, monitoring with penalties for violations, stakeholder collaboration, training, awareness campaigns, and alignment with global standards.
- ⁷³ State-owned media professionals include Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, Independent Television Network Limited, Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, and Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited.
- ⁷⁴ The estimated costs might range from 1,617,500 LKR to 16,175,000 LKR (US\$5,000 to US\$15,000).
- ⁷⁵ It is necessary to involve government officials from the ministries to which social affairs, education, communication, and justice are assigned to collectively drive the paradigm shift towards a human rights-based approach for individuals with disabilities through media guidelines, a national campaign, accessibility integration, and inclusive education.
- ⁷⁶ Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. (n.d.). *History*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.hrcsl.lk/about/history/>
- ⁷⁷ It is required of government officials from the Ministry of Justice, local government representatives, bar associations, and education department representatives to collaboratively implement the legal literacy and CWD rights education initiative, as well as MWCASE representatives.
- ⁷⁸ It would be pivotal to collaborate with the Department of Nutrition at the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other relevant authorities. Nutrition Division. (2023, August 4). *Nutrition Division & FBDG*. Ministry of Health of Sri Lanka. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://nutrition.health.gov.lk/english/about-us/>
- Ministry of Agriculture of Sri Lanka. (2023, September 12). *About Us*. Retrieved September 12, 2023, from <https://www.agrimin.gov.lk/web/index.php/en/about-us/overview123>
- ⁷⁹ The estimated costs might range from 1,617,500 LKR to 3,235,000 LKR (US\$5,000 to US\$10,000).
- ⁸⁰ The estimated costs might range from 323,500 LKR to 647,000 LKR (US\$1,000 to US\$2,000).
- ⁸¹ By adopting the expert interview approach, the project offered practical insights and contextually relevant recommendations to facilitate positive change for children with disabilities in Sri Lanka, enhancing understanding of current aspects and stakeholder perspectives. Döringer, S. (2021). 'The problem-centred expert interview'. *Combining qualitative interviewing approaches for investigating implicit expert knowledge*. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 24(3), 265–278. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13645579.2020.1766777>