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ஆண்டறிக்கை

Annual Report

2023

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இலங்கை சட்ட உதவி ஆணைக்குழு
The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka

- Even though legal aid has not been introduced as a fundamental right under Chapter 3 of the 1978 Constitution, Articles 12 (1) and 13 (3) of the Constitution have drawn attention towards this matter.
- Article 12(1) of the Constitution -All persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law.
- Article 13(3) of the Constitution -Any person charged with an offence shall be entitled to be heard, in person or by an attorney-at-law, at a fair trial by a competent court.
- It has further been confirmed by the Rule No.44 of the Supreme Court Rules of Law of Sri Lanka in 1990.
- Section 260, Section 195 and Section 353 of the Criminal Procedure Code have made further provisions in this regard.
- Section 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights No. 56 of 2007 sets out the rights of a person in relation to obtaining legal aid in criminal proceedings.
- Further, Section 5 of the said Covenant has stated that in case a child is involved in a criminal case, legal aid should be provided by the government against him or on his behalf.

Message of the Chairman

The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka, having completed forty-five years since the beginning of providing access to Justice for the public, is passing the current phase in a backdrop where the country and its people have faced severe challenges.

At a time when socio-economic and political crises including the economic crisis and political instability are further marginalizing people, it is extremely important to protect and expand their access to justice. The present commission is working amidst many challenges with 85 legal aid centers spread across the country and 120 full-time lawyers and support staff to fulfill its responsibility.



Lack of adequate funding and infrastructure to continue legal aid services has been a major problem. Maintaining the existing legal aid centers has also been challenging due to the lack of even the requisite staff and the constraints on their recruitment. However, our responsibility remains crucial at this time when the demand for legal aid services keeps increasing.

We should appreciate the dedicated and responsible services delivered by our staff, despite all kinds of challenges that may be encountered in the society or as a nation.

The Ministry of Justice is gratefully remembered for the wide support and auspices extended to all affairs of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka this year, similar to previous years. It was immensely beneficial to the progression of the field of legal aid. I am happy to note that the support from all parties including the staff in improving the service progress of the institution is highly commendable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sahabandu', written on a light-colored background.

PC Rohan Sahabandu
Chairman

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Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka incorporated by the Legal Aid Act No 27 of 1978

The most provable feature of the Legal Aid Act No 27 of 1978 was to prepare a policy framework of legal aid facilitation to be launched within the country through a formal mechanism for the implementation of legal aid programme.

The establishment and setting up the operation of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka for the above objectives is the principal function of this Act.

Vision :-

To facilitate an easy access to equity enabling administration of justice for all Sri Lankans.

Mission :-

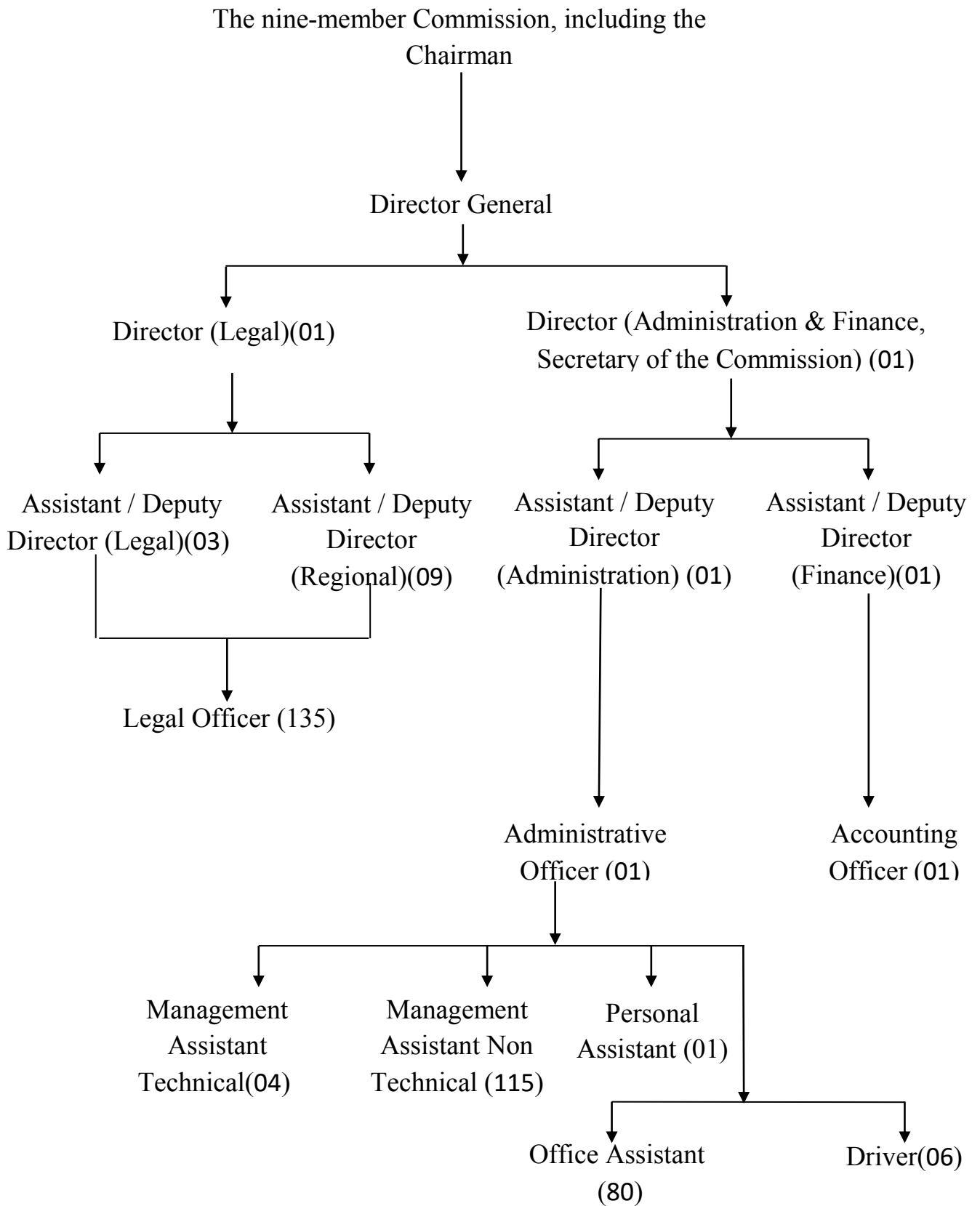
Providing legal aid for the impoverished communities in Sri Lanka who are unable to obtain justice due to poverty, providing free legal assistance to low income people, educating the entire society about the law, engaging in counselling services to the government during legislation of new laws and legal reforms, etc. in order to lead the public towards an easy access to justice.

Objectives of the Legal Aid Act No. 27 of 1978

Sections 3 and 4 of the Act No. 27 of 1978.

1. Providing legal advice to any person in need of assistance, irrespective of economic status.
2. Providing attorney services for legal proceedings in the lower income tax tribunal.
3. Establishing regional offices to an extent that the Commission considers necessary to ensure widespread access to legal aid.
4. Deciding for which matters or types of cases are eligible for legal aid and determining such matters or types of cases.
5. Determining the outline procedures to follow in relation to the payment of fees and expenses by persons assisted, by taking into account the funds available at the time of which the cases have been resolved or settled and taking all relevant recommendations into consideration.
6. Taking necessary action to expand the legal aid scheme through inquiry of the community-based professional, social and other groups that are involved in some aspect of providing government institutions and legal aid.
7. Promoting, establishing, financing and supervising research related to legal aid.
8. With the intention of raising awareness,
 - i. Educating the members of the legal profession regarding the need for a legal aid scheme and their responsibilities, duties and role in the maintenance and participation thereof.
 - ii. Commencement and implementation of educational programs for the people with special needs regarding their rights, powers, privileges and role, and entire community in general under the prevalent laws of Sri Lanka.
9. Employing the staff required for the establishment, development, implementation of research based programmes, problem solving centers and/or projects regarding a special division or divisions on legal aid provision.
10. Obtaining suggestions from the public for new programs and projects and encouraging them in that respect.
11. Cooperating with educational institutions and boards regarding the education and training of those who provide legal aid.
12. Providing information to the public on the ability to obtain legal aid.
13. Submitting information to legal reforms agencies in Sri Lanka and abroad and the government.

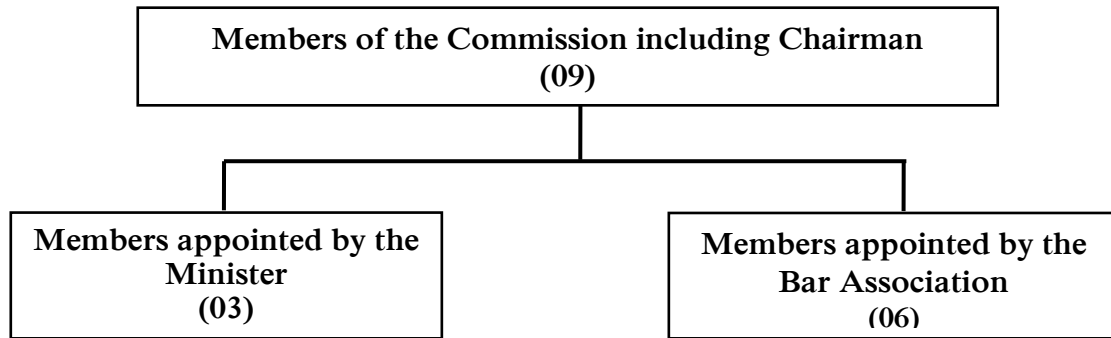
Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka – Organisation Plan



Staff of the Legal Aid Commission as at 31.12.2021

Employee Category Level	Designation	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre
Senior Level	Director General	01	-
	Director (Legal)	01	-
	Director (Administration & Finance)	01	-
	Assistant / Deputy Director (Legal)	03	03
	Assistant / Deputy Director (Regional)	09	08
	Assistant / Deputy Director (Administration)	01	01
	Assistant / Deputy Director (Finance)	01	-
	Legal Officers	135	109
Tertiary Level	Accounting Officer	01	01
	Administrative Officer	01	01
	Personal Assistant to the Chairman	01	01
Secondary Level	Management Assistant (Technical)	04	02
	Management Assistant (Non-Technical)	115	86
Primary Level	Driver	06	02
	Office Assistant	80	58
Total		360	272

Composition of the Members of the Legal Aid Commission



Members of Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka in year - 2023



PC, Mr. Rohan Sahabandu
(Chairman)



PC, Mr. Manohara De Silva



Mr. Uditha Igalahewa



PC, Mr. Puvidaran



Mr. Priyantha Gamage
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Sanjaya Gamage



Mr. Sanath Wijayawardene
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Amal Randeniya
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Rajeeb Ahmed
Attorney-at-Law

The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka consists of three members appointed by the Minister of Justice and six members nominated by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and each of them will be appointed for a period of three years. A member may be re-appointed as a member after the expiration of three years' service period. Further, the work of the Commission is monitored by the Legal Aid Advisory Board, which is headed by the Chief Justice. The Advisory Board consists of 30 members constituted by 09 members of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka, three members nominated by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, 06 members to represent the Courts nominated by the Chief Justice, and 12 members nominated by the Minister of Justice to be involved in community, neighborhood, professional, social and other groups, which have a connection to the government, provincial bodies, educational institutions and legal aid sections.

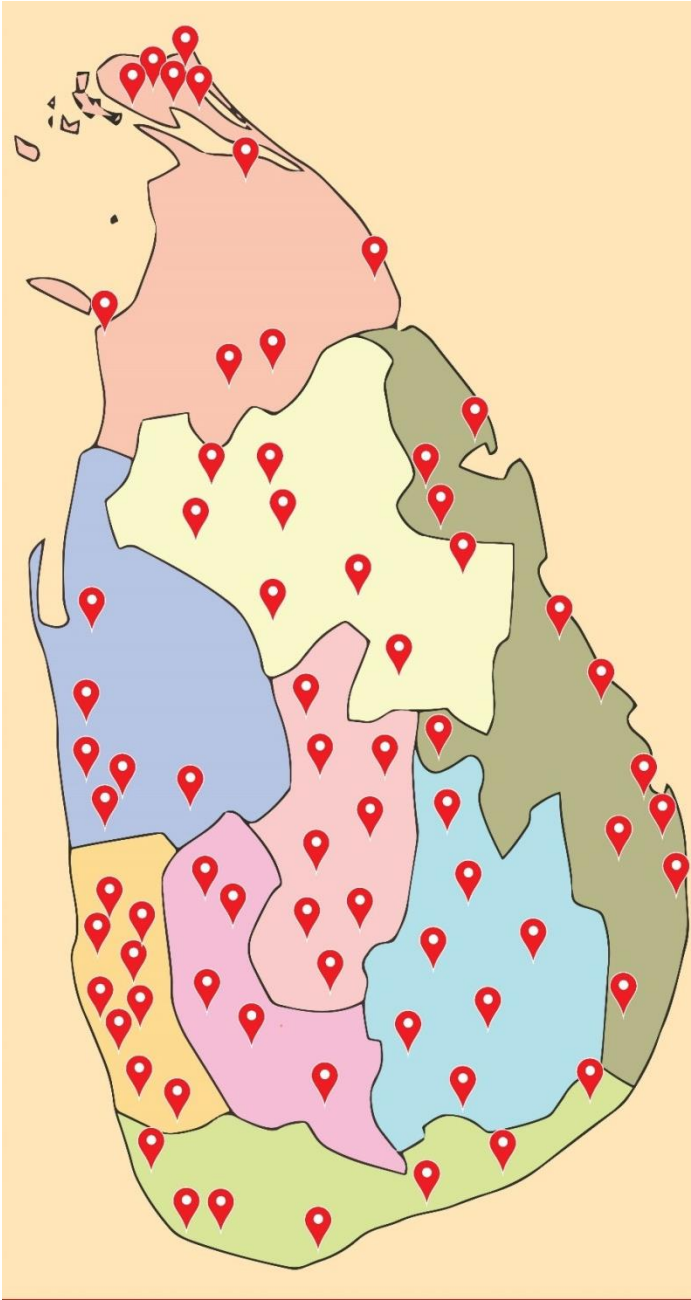
Establishment of Legal Aid Centres

Sri Lanka's Legal Aid Commission completes Forty-Five years by 2023. During this period of Forty-Five years, the work was carried out by a network of 85 Regional Offices centered upon Colombo but without being confined to Colombo to achieve the desired objectives of the Commission. The commencement of the regional offices during this entire period (1978-2023) is as follows;

Year	Regional centres established during the period	Total number of regional centres
1978	1	1
1994	3	4
1996	1	5
2003	5	10
2005	2	12
2006	19	31
2007	9	40
2008	6	46
2009	8	54
2010	6	60
2011	7	67
2012	7	74
2013	2	76
2014	0	76
2015	0	76
2016	2	78
2017	4	82
2018	1	83
2019	1	84
2020	-	84
2021	-	84
2022	1	85
2023	-	85

Total number of regional offices is 85 as at 31.12.2023.

Expansion of Centers of Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka (Map & Regional Centers)



1	Head Office	44	Kurunegala
2	Akkareipattu	45	Mahiyanganaya
3	Ampara	46	Mahawa
4	Anuradhapura	47	Mannar
5	Attanagalla	48	Marawila
6	Awissawella	49	Matale
7	Baddegama	50	Matara
8	Badulla	51	Matugama
9	Balangoda	52	Mawanella
10	Balapaitiya	53	Minuwangoda
11	Bandarawela	54	Monaragala
12	Battaramulla	55	Mulathiwu
13	Borella	56	Mallakkam
14	Batticaloa	57	Muttoor
15	Chawakachcheri	58	Nawalapitiya
16	Chillaw	59	Negambo
17	Dambulla	60	Nikaweratiya
18	Deyiyandara	61	Nugegoda
19	Deniyaya	62	Nuwaraeliya
20	Dehiaththakandiya	63	Panadura
21	Ambilipitiya	64	Puttalam
22	Galgamuwa	65	Poogoda
23	Gampaha	66	Point Pedro
24	Galagedara	67	Polgahawela
25	Mount Lavinia	68	Polonnaruwa
26	Galle	69	Pottuwil
27	Hambanthota	70	Ratnapura
28	Hatton	71	Thambuththegama
29	Higurakgoda	72	Tangalle
30	Homagama	73	Tissamaharama
31	Horana	74	Trincomalee
32	Jaffna	75	Siyambalanduwa
33	Kadawatha	76	Walachchenei
34	Kaduwela	77	Vavuniya
35	Kalmunei	78	Walasmulla
36	Kalutara	79	Warakapola
37	Kandy	80	Wariyapola
38	Kantale	81	Welimada
39	Kebithigollewa	82	Wellawaya
40	Kegalle	83	Wattala
41	Kekirawa	84	Hettipola
42	Kilinochchi	84	Hettipola
43	Kuliyapitiya	85	Theldeniya

Opening of Regional Offices of the Legal Aid Commission, Staff and Courts covered.

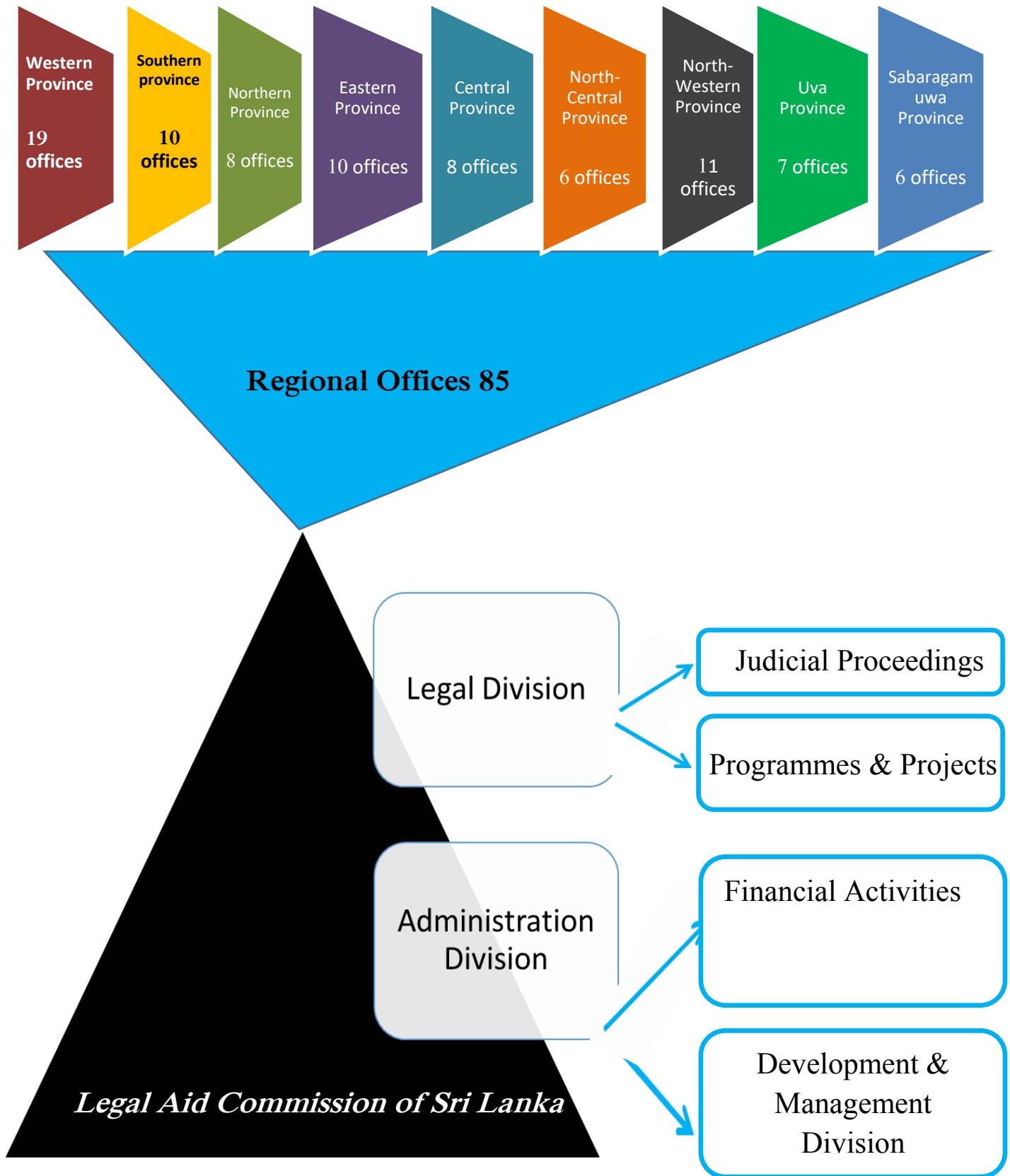
The courts that are covered by the Regional Offices established to provide the service of the commission on a regional basis are as follows.

No.	Office	Commencement	No. of Employees				Courts Covered
			Lawyers	Management Assistants	Office Assistants	Drivers	
01	Colombo	1978	07	05	02	02	Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Colombo District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Courts, Labour Tribunal. Workmen's Compensation Commission. Fort Magistrate's court Maligakanda Magistrate's Court Loan Relief Board, Administrative Tribunal
02	Kandy	1994	03	01	-	-	Kandy District, Magistrate's Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal. Gampola District, Magistrate's Court.
03	Anuradhapura	1994	02	02	01	-	Anuradhapura District, Magistrate's Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal. Medawachchiya Magistrate's Court Kahatagasdigiliya Magistrate's Court
04	Galle	1994	02	01	01	-	Galle District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court Labour Tribunal..
05	Kurunegala	1996	03	02	01	-	Kurunegala District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court Labour Tribunal. Wellawa Magistrate's Court Pilessa Magistrate's Court. Rambadagalla Magistrate's Court
06	Hambantota	2003	01	01	01	-	District Court, Magistrates Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Angunakola Pelassa Magistrate's Court
07	Monaragala	2003	02	01	01	-	Monaragala District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Bibile Magistrate's Court
08	Ampara	2003	01	01	-	-	Ampara District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal.
09	Nuwara Eliya	2003	01	01	-	-	Nuwara Eliya District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal, Walapane District, Magistrate's Court
10	Kegalle	2003	02	01	-	-	Kegalle District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal
11	Balapitiya	2003	02	02	01	-	Balapitiya District, Magistrate's Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal, Elpitiya District, Magistrate's Court..
12	Matara	2005	02	01	01	-	Matara District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal.
13	Vavuniya	2005	01	01	01	-	Vavuniya District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal.
14	Akkaraipattu	2005	01	01	01	-	Akkaraipattu District, Magistrate Court The Quazi Court.
15	Trincomalee	2005	02	01	01	-	Trincomalee District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court.
16	Batticaloa	2005	02	01	01	-	Batticaloa District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court. Eravur Magistrate's Court Kaluwanchikudi Magistrate's Court
17	Chilaw	2005	02	01	01	-	Chilaw District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal.

18	Kalmunei	2005	01	01	01	-	Kalmunai District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Sammanthurei Magistrate's Court The Quazi Court.
19	Ratnapura	2006	02	02	-	-	Ratnapura District, Magistrate's Court High Court and Civil Appellate Court. Pelmadulla District, Magistrate's Court, Labour Tribunal. Kalawana Magistrate's Court. Kahawatta Magistrate's Court
20	Awissawella	2006	02	01	-	-	Awissawella District Court, Magistrate's Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal. Ruwanwella District, Magistrate Court.
21	Bandarawela	2006	01	01	01	-	Bandarawela District, Magistrate's Court, Labour Tribunal.
22	Gampaha	2006	02	01	01	-	Gampaha District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labor Tribunal, Loan Relief Board.
23	Jaffna	2006	02	01	01	-	Jaffna District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labor Tribunal. Kayts District, Magistrate's Court
24	Kalutara	2006	02	01	01	-	Kalutara, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labor Tribunal
25	Matale	2006	01	01	-	-	Matale District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Labor Tribunal. Naula Magistrate's Court
26	Polonnaruwa	2006	01	01	-	-	Polonnaruwa District, Magistrate's Court. High Court.
27	Panadura	2006	02	01	01	-	Panadura District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court. Kesbewa District, Magistrate's Court.
28	Mahiyangana ya	2006	01	01	01	-	Mahiyangana District, Magistrate's Court
29	Kuliyapitiya	2006	02	01	01	-	Kuliyapitiya District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Labor Tribunal. Narammala Magistrate's Court
30	Mahawa	2006	01	01	-	-	Maho District, Magistrate's Court
31	Negombo	2006	01	01	-	-	Negombo District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labor Tribunal. Kanuwana Magistrate's Court.
32	Horana	2007	02	01	01	-	Horana District, Magistrate's Court.
33	Matugama	2007	02	01	-	-	Mathugama District, Magistrate's Court.
34	Marawila	2007	01	01	-	-	Marawila District, Magistrate's Court.
35	Mawanella	2007	01	02	-	-	Mawanella District, Magistrate's Court. Aranayaka Magistrate's Court.
36	Warakapola	2007	01	01	-	-	Warakapola District, Magistrate's Court.
37	Battaramulla	2007	02	01	-	-	Battaramulla Children's Magistrate's Court, Labour Tribunal
38	Dambulla	2007	01	01	01	-	Dambulla District, Magistrate's Court. Kimbissa Magistrate's Court.
39	Attanagalla	2007	01	01	01	-	Attanagalla District, Magistrate's Court.
40	Morawaka/ Deniyaya	2007	01	01	-	-	Deniyaya District, Magistrate's Court.
41	Welimada	2008	01	01	01	-	Welimada District, Magistrate's Court.
42	Nugegoda	2008	01	01	01	-	Nugegoda District, Magistrate's Court.
43	Tissamaharama	2008	01	01	01	-	Tissamaharama District, Magistrate's Court
44	Thambuththeg ama	2008	01	01	01	-	Thambuththegama Magistrate's Court.
45	Mt. Lavinia	2008	02	01	-	-	Mount Lavinia District, Magistrate's Court, Civil Appellate Court, Moratuwa District, Magistrate's Court
46	Kantale	2008	01	01	-	-	Kantale District, Magistrate's Court.

47	Baddegama	2009	01	01	-	-	Baddegama Magistrate's Court.
48	Badulla	2009	01	01	-	-	Badulla District, Magistrate's Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labor Tribunal.
49	Embilipitiya	2009	02	01	01	-	Embilipitiya District, Magistrate's Courts
50	Hatton	2009	01	-	01	-	Hatton District, Magistrate's Court, Labor Tribunal.
51	Hingurakgoda	2009	01	01	01	-	Hingurakgoda District, Magistrate's Court. Bakamuna Magistrate's Court.
52	Nawalapitiya	2009	01	01	-	-	Nawalapitiya District, Magistrate's Court
53	Wellawaya	2009	01	01	01	-	Wellawaya District, Magistrate's Court.
54	Kaduwela	2010	01	01	-	-	Kaduwela District, Magistrate's Court.
55	Mannar	2010	01	01	01	-	Mannar District, Magistrate's Court.
56	Muttur	2010	01	01	-	-	Muttur District, Magistrate's Court.
57	Mullaitivu	2010	01	01	01	-	Mullaitivu District, Magistrate's Court.
58	Tangalle	2010	01	01	-	-	Tangalle District, Magistrate's Court. High Court.
59	Valachchenai	2010	01	01	-	-	Valachchenai District, Magistrate's Court.
60	Walasmulla	2010	01	01	01	-	Walasmulla District, Magistrate's Court.
61	Wariyapola	2011	01	01	01	-	Wariyapola District, Magistrate's Court
62	Point Pedro	2011	01	01	01	-	Point Pedro District, Magistrate's Court
63	Pottuvil	2011	02	01	-	-	Pottuvil District, Magistrate's Court
64	Kadawatha	2011	01	01	01	-	Kadawatha District, Magistrate's Court.
65	Kekirawa	2011	01	01	-	-	Kekirawa District, Magistrate's Court
66	Kilinochchi	2011	01	01	01	-	Kilinochchi District, Magistrate's Court
67	Chavakacheri	2011	01	01	-	-	Chavakacheri District, Magistrate's Court.
68	Balangoda	2011	01	01	-	-	Balangoda District, Magistrate's Court..
69	Pugoda	2012	01	01	-	-	Pugoda District, Magistrate's Court,
70	Polgahawela	2012	02	01	-	-	Polgahawela Magistrate's Court
71	Kebithigollewa	2012	01	01	-	-	Kebithigollewa District, Magistrate's Court Padaviya Magistrate's Court
72	Galgamuwa	2012	01	01	-	-	Galgamuwa Magistrate's Court
73	Homagama	2012	01	01	01	-	Homagama District, Magistrate's Court
74	Deiyandara	2012	01	01	-	-	Deiyandara Magistrate's Court.
75	Minuwangoda	2013	02	01	-	-	Minuwangoda District, Magistrate's Court.
76	Nikaweratiya	2013	01	01	01	-	Nikaweratiya District, Magistrate's Court.
77	Mallakam	2016	01	01	01	-	Mallakkam District, Magistrate's Court
78	Puttalam	2016	01	-	-	-	Puttalam District, Magistrate's Court High Court Kalpitiya Magistrate's Court Anamaduwa Magistrate's Court
79	Siyambalanduwa	2017	01	01	01	-	Siyambalanduwa Magistrate's Court.
80	Dehiaththakandiya	2017	01	01	01	-	Dehiaththakandiya Magistrate's Court
81	Borella	2017	01	-	01	-	Labour Tribunal, Borella, Labour Tribunal, Battaramulla, Debt Conciliation Board
82	Galagedara	2017	01	02	-	-	Galagedara Magistrate's Court
83	Wattala	2018	01	01	01	-	Magistrate's Court Wattala, District Court-Wattala, Labour Tribunal, Wattala
84	Hettipola	2019	01	01	01	-	Hettipola Magistrate's Court.
85	Theldeniya	2022	01	01	-	-	Magistrate's Court Theldeniya, Magistrate's Court Panwila, Magistrate's Court Rangala, District Court Theldeniya

Organizational Composition of the Legal Aid Commission



LEGAL DIVISION

Legal Division

1. Role

Mainly the role of the Legal Division is twofold.

- 1.1 Conducting legal counselling.
- 1.2 Providing free legal assistance for cases of those with low income and/or incapacity.

1.1 Legal Counselling

There are various methods for providing legal counseling. In order to access the counseling activities, clients do not necessarily need to physically visit our premises.

1. Clients who visit the locally established Legal Aid offices in person will have their concerns addressed, answered, and, if needed, advice will be given on further action as well.
2. In a similar vein, when we visit different villages or communities to conduct legal clinics, the legal counselling work is opportunely carried out to the public who reach us.
3. Additionally, every two weeks a page is published under the title “Know the Guideline Right and Fight” for Sinhala readers in the Lankadeepa newspaper providing answers to their legal questions.
4. Legal issues referred through mail by clients will also be replied by the post.
5. Clients who connect through the Legal Aid Commission Hot Line are responded via telephone.

When providing this service, the Legal Aid Commission will not take in to account the income or the citizenship of the clients. Our legal officers will carry out the necessary legal counselling work regardless of the status of any person who reaches us by visiting our office or mobile clinic or through telephone or postal mail. Hence, it is not an exclusive privilege reserved for just one group of individuals based on the economic disparity. It is a service that is accessible by anyone.

1.1.1 (A) Number of Clients Referred for Legal Counselling in 2023

No.	Centre	Number of clients referred for legal counselling for the first time	No. of repeat counseling	Total
1	Anuradhapura	577	3048	3625
2	Ampara	512	1593	2105
3	Avissawella	834	1240	2074
4	Attanagalla	281	721	1002
5	Akkareipattu	313	31	344
6	Bandarawela	260	1788	2048
7	Battaramulla	615	1167	1782
8	Baddegama	237	978	1215
9	Badulla	276	2349	2625
10	Balapitiya	432	860	1292
11	Batticaloa	1072	90	1162
12	Balangoda	452	78	530
13	Colombo	1759	1106	2865
14	Chilaw	482	256	738
15	Chavakachcheri	308	664	972
16	Dambulla	329	919	1248
17	Deniyaya	272	1317	1589
18	Deyyandara	218	697	915
19	Embilipitiya	463	3795	4258
20	Gampaha	370	480	850
21	Galle	532	1279	1811
22	Galgamuwa	354	1169	1523
23	Horana	946	2904	3850
24	Hatton	178	1225	1403
25	Hingurakgoda	288	1331	1619
26	Hambantota	602	1346	1948
27	Homagama	318	781	1099
28	Jaffna	238	265	503
29	Kandy	1333	364	1697
30	Kurunegala	972	12	984
31	Kegalle	412	1017	1429
32	Kuliyapitiya	962	3425	4387
33	Kantale	187	969	1156
34	Kaduwela	518	519	1108
35	Kalmunei	243	13	256
36	Kalutara	1485	655	2140
37	Kekirawa	662	1012	1674
38	Kadawatha	390	1024	1414
39	Kebithigollewa	110	377	487
40	Kilinochchi	531	3268	3799
41	Matale	369	341	710

42	Mahiyanganaya	407	2262	2669
43	Matugama	409	2295	2704
44	Mahawa	269	1203	1472
45	Marawila	185	1374	1559
46	Mawanella	234	819	1053
47	Mallakam	235	1136	1371
48	Mt. Lavinia	333	706	1039
49	Mannar	176	241	417
50	Monaragala	1223	1877	3100
51	Muttur	164	0	164
52	Mullaitivu	252	155	407
53	Matara	552	2420	2972
54	Minuwangoda	234	1279	1513
55	Nikaweratiya	217	1870	2087
56	Nuwara Eliya	273	976	1249
57	Negombo	384	1242	1626
58	Nugegoda	298	1238	1536
59	Nawalapitiya	295	2990	3285
60	Polonnaruwa	309	1184	1493
61	Panadura	747	1910	2657
62	Pottuwil	220	1063	1283
63	Point Pedro	123	1372	1495
64	Polgahawela	167	290	457
65	Pugoda	186	478	664
66	Puttalam	250	1110	1360
67	Rathnapura	562	1204	1766
68	Tissamaharama	589	574	1163
69	Thambuttegama	266	317	583
70	Tangalle	305	1253	1558
71	Trincomalee	329	214	543
72	Vavuniya	314	138	452
73	Valaichchenai	998	283	1281
74	Warakapola	179	1023	1202
75	Welimada	297	874	1171
76	Walasmulla	368	2130	2498
77	Wariyapola	204	729	933
78	Wellawaya	218	1173	1391
79	Dehiaththakandiya	265	1137	1402
80	Siyambalanduwa	302	1020	1322
81	Borella	472	1108	1580
82	Galagedara	121	474	595
83	Wattala	363	1088	1451
84	Hettipola	323	940	1263
85	Theldeniya	284	552	836
Total Counselling		36593	94265	130858

1.1.1 (B) The number of clients who underwent legal counselling for the first time in 2023 by gender

No.	Centre	Female	Male	Total
1	Anuradhapura	504	73	577
2	Ampara	409	103	512
3	Avissawella	637	197	834
4	Attanagalla	242	39	281
5	Akkareipattu	294	19	313
6	Bandarawela	200	60	260
7	Battaramulla	440	175	615
8	Baddegama	184	53	237
9	Badulla	200	76	276
10	Balapitiya	403	29	432
11	Batticaloa	881	191	1072
12	Balangoda	329	123	452
13	Colombo	872	887	1759
14	Chilaw	177	305	482
15	Chavakachcheri	294	14	308
16	Dambulla	290	39	329
17	Deniyaya	242	30	272
18	Deyyandara	129	89	218
19	Embilipitiya	412	51	463
20	Gampaha	289	81	370
21	Galle	338	194	532
22	Galgamuwa	214	140	354
23	Horana	842	104	946
24	Hatton	156	22	178
25	Hingurakgoda	224	64	288
26	Hambantota	363	239	602
27	Homagama	250	68	318
28	Jaffna	200	38	238
29	Kandy	788	545	1333
30	Kurunegala	606	366	972
31	Kegalle	303	109	412
32	Kuliyapitiya	660	302	962
33	Kantale	149	38	187
34	Kaduwela	316	202	518
35	Kalmunei	194	49	243
36	Kalutara	988	497	1485
37	Kekirawa	558	104	662
38	Kadawatha	240	150	390
39	Kebithigollewa	98	12	110
40	Kilinochchi	298	233	531
41	Matale	286	83	369
42	Mahiyanganaya	315	92	407
43	Matugama	313	96	409
44	Mahawa	220	49	269
45	Marawila	169	16	185
46	Mawanella	165	69	234
47	Mallakam	207	28	235

48	Mt. Lavinia	258	75	333
49	Mannar	151	25	176
50	Monaragala	221	1002	1223
51	Muttur	159	5	164
52	Mullaitivu	242	10	252
53	Matara	357	195	552
54	Minuwangoda	202	32	234
55	Nikaweratiya	165	52	217
56	Nuwara Eliya	216	57	273
57	Negombo	288	96	384
58	Nugegoda	224	74	298
59	Nawalapitiya	204	91	295
60	Polonnaruwa	221	88	309
61	Panadura	576	171	747
62	Pottuwil	201	19	220
63	Point Pedro	119	4	123
64	Polgahawela	131	36	167
65	Pugoda	154	32	186
66	Puttalam	197	53	250
67	Rathnapura	394	168	562
68	Tissamaharama	400	189	589
69	Thambuttegama	242	24	266
70	Tangalle	259	46	305
71	Trincomalee	199	130	329
72	Vavuniya	287	27	314
73	Valaichchenai	703	295	998
74	Warakapola	149	30	179
75	Welimada	225	72	297
76	Walasmulla	227	141	368
77	Wariyapola	148	56	204
78	Wellawaya	186	32	218
79	Dehiaththakandiya	209	56	265
80	Siyambalanduwa	231	71	302
81	Borella	96	376	472
82	Galagedara	100	21	121
83	Wattala	276	87	363
84	Hettipola	65	258	323
85	Theldeniya	235	49	284
Total		25805	10788	36593

1.1.1 (C) The number of clients moved for institution of action out of those who were referred to the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka for legal counselling for the first time from January 01 to December 31, 2023.

The clients seeking legal advice for their issues for the first time are given the necessary guidance and informed of the procedures and steps needed to be taken in order to resolve their issues, and following this initial consultation some of them resolve the issue being satisfied. However, others who are unable to resolve their issues in a straightforward manner. In such cases, it becomes necessary to resolve these issues through institution of action in courts. In such case, the situation is explained to the clients and are advised about filing legal actions.

In 2023, out of 36,593 clients who sought legal advice for the first time, 13,755 were identified as unable to resolve their issues without institution of an action. Meanwhile, 22,838 clients were able to satisfactorily resolve their issues at the counselling stage itself. Accordingly, as a percentage, the number of cases resolved during consultation is 62.4% while 37.6% of first-time clients in 2023 were unable to resolve their issues without filing a case. The statistics are as follows;

In 2023, out of 36,593 clients who sought legal advice for the first time, 13,755 were identified as unable to resolve their issues without institution of an action

In 2023, 13,755 out of 36,593 clients who sought legal advice for the first time have been unable to resolve their issues without institution of an action which as a percentage is 37.61%. It can be depicted in a graph as follows;

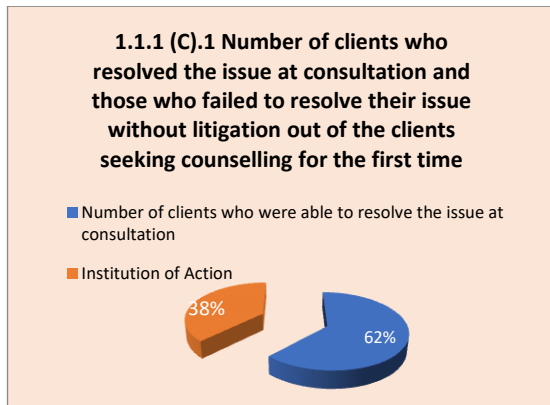
No.	Centre	Number referred for first counselling	Number referred for prosecution	Number of newly assigned cases
1	Anuradhapura	577	447	447
2	Ampara	512	189	189
3	Avissawella	834	200	190
4	Attanagalla	281	161	161
5	Akkareipattu	313	204	204
6	Bandarawela	260	154	121
7	Battaramulla	615	128	128
8	Baddegama	237	109	109
9	Badulla	276	188	178
10	Balapitiya	432	155	155
11	Batticaloa	1072	132	132
12	Balangoda	452	155	151
13	Colombo	1759	632	288
14	Chilaw	482	128	128
15	Chavakachcheri	308	98	98
16	Dambulla	329	141	141
17	Deniyaya	272	129	129
18	Deyyandara	218	130	130
19	Embilipitiya	463	344	344
20	Gampaha	370	140	123
21	Galle	532	126	126
22	Galgamuwa	354	108	108
23	Horana	946	233	233
24	Hatton	178	103	103
25	Hingurakgoda	288	152	152
26	Hambantota	602	128	128
27	Homagama	318	134	120

28	Jaffna	238	68	68
29	Kandy	1333	329	329
30	Kurunegala	972	253	253
31	Kegalle	412	139	139
32	Kuliyapitiya	962	394	394
33	Kantale	187	100	95
34	Kaduwela	518	136	103
35	Kalmunei	243	171	171
36	Kalutara	1485	163	163
37	Kekirawa	662	192	192
38	Kadawatha	390	98	98
39	Kebithigollewa	110	100	100
40	Kilinochchi	531	278	277
41	Matale	369	215	215
42	Mahiyanganaya	407	170	170
43	Matugama	409	124	124
44	Mahawa	269	120	120
45	Marawila	185	90	89
46	Mawanella	234	111	111
47	Mallakam	235	86	86
48	Mt. Lavinia	333	120	120
49	Mannar	176	74	74
50	Monaragala	1223	258	258
51	Muttur	164	82	82
52	Mullaitivu	252	155	155
53	Matara	552	237	237
54	Minuwangoda	234	162	121
55	Nikaweratiya	217	79	79
56	Nuwara Eliya	273	134	134
57	Negombo	384	268	108
58	Nugegoda	298	135	135
59	Nawalapitiya	295	180	180
60	Polonnaruwa	309	110	110
61	Panadura	747	210	201
62	Pottuwil	220	130	129
63	Point Pedro	123	80	80
64	Polgahawela	167	98	98
65	Pugoda	186	126	126
66	Puttalam	250	146	146
67	Rathnapura	562	237	217
68	Tissamaharama	589	189	189
69	Thambuttegama	266	138	138
70	Tangalle	305	158	128
71	Trincomalee	329	128	128
72	Vavuniya	314	104	104
73	Valaichchenai	998	371	371
74	Warakapola	179	110	110
75	Welimada	297	127	127
76	Walasmulla	368	193	170
77	Wariyapola	204	115	113
78	Wellawaya	218	153	153
79	Dehiaththakandiya	265	97	97
80	Siyambalanduwa	302	121	121
81	Borella	472	117	115
82	Galagedara	121	40	30
83	Wattala	363	121	121
84	Hettipola	323	90	87
85	Theldeniya	284	77	77
	එකතුව	Total	13755	12982

1.1.1 (C).1 Number of clients who resolved the issue at consultation and those who failed to resolve their issue without litigation out of the clients seeking counselling for the first time

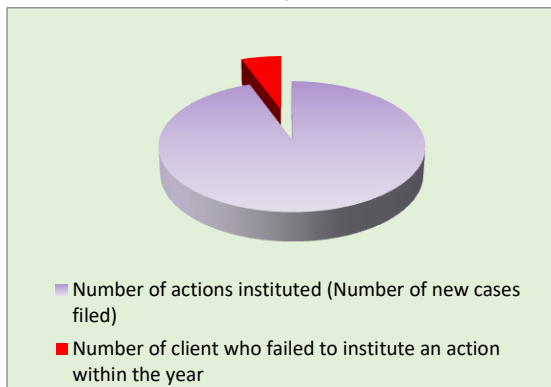
In 2023, out of 36,593 clients who sought legal advice for the first time, 13,755 were identified as unable to resolve their issues without institution of an action

In 2023, 13,755 out of 36,593 clients who sought legal advice for the first time have been unable to resolve their issues without institution of an action which as a percentage is 37.61%. It can be depicted in a graph as follows;



Number of clients who sought counselling for the first time	Number of clients who were able to resolve the issue at consultation	Number of clients who failed to resolve the problem without litigation
36593	22838	13755

1.1.1 (C).2 Action instituted out of the number of clients who failed to resolve the problem without litigation from those who sought counselling for the first time (Number of new cases filed)

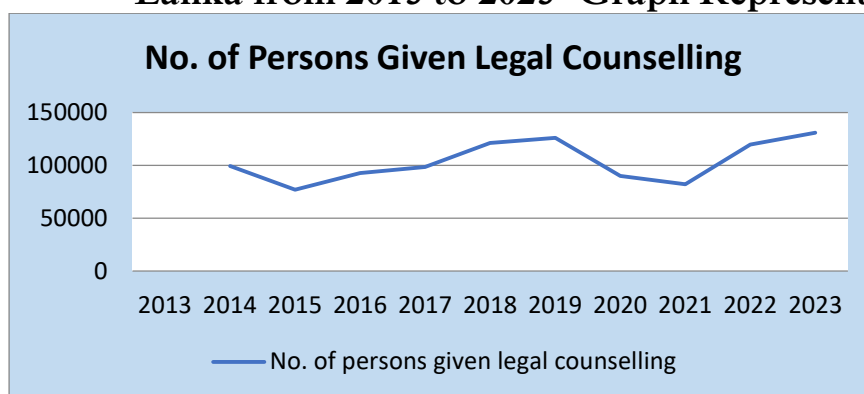


Number of clients who failed to resolve the problem without litigation	Number of actions instituted (Number of new cases filed)	Number of client who failed to institute an action within the year
13755	12982	773

1.1.1 (D) Legal counselling by the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka from 2013 to 2023 as a number

No.	Year	No. of persons given legal counselling
1	2013	45169
2	2014	99484
3	2015	76779
4	2016	92725
5	2017	98369
6	2018	121197
7	2019	125895
8	2020	90058
9	2021	81926
10	2022	119736
11	2023	130858

1.1.1 (D).1 Legal counselling by the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka from 2013 to 2023- Graph Representation



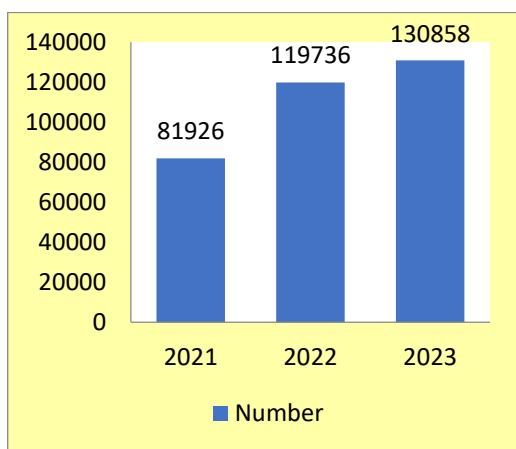
1.1.2 (D).2 Progress of Legal Counselling in the Year 2023 Compared to the Years 2021, 2022 and 2023

One of the main points observed in the study of the attendance of clients to legal consultations is that, the total number of consultations in the year 2021 was 81926 and in the year 2022 the same number has grown to 119736. With the relief from the Covid-19 pandemic situation and the transport crisis in the country, the public resumed their normal daily activities. At the same time, driven by the need to resolve various social and economic issues, there was a growing demand for access to assistance with service requirements and security. This trend is evident in the increase in clients visiting the Legal Aid Commission in 2021 and 2022.

Likewise, the number of legal consultations in 2022 was 119,736, which increased to 130,858 by 2023. Accordingly, compared to 2021 and 2022, there is a noticeable increase in the number of clients seeking consultations at legal aid centers.

Accordingly, it appears that when the country's environment is favorable, there is a remarkable increase in the number of clients seeking services. Compared to 2022, there was a growth of 22.7% in obtaining consultation services in the year 2023.

**1.1.1. (D).2 Progress of Legal Counselling in the Year 2023
Compared to the Years 2021, 2022 and 2023- Graph
Representation**



No.	Year	Number	Percentage
01	2021	81926	25%
02	2022	119736	36%
03	2023	130858	39%
Total		332520	100%

1.1.2. Public Grievance Handling

We have contributed for the implementation of the public grievance management programme carried out by the Presidential Secretariat in this regard. In addition, public grievances have been referred through the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's Department and the Bar Association of Sri Lanka as well, whereas, counselling work has been conducted via post regarding 537 cases of the public. Further, 9263 issues received through Mawbima Newspaper, the hotline of the Legal Aid Commission and telephone have been responded. The unit has addressed 9800 public grievances as a whole.

No.	Description	Number Of Issues Received	Number Of Issues Responded
01	Letters received from clients directly to the Legal Aid Commission	205	205
02	Letters received from clients which were forwarded through the Ministry of Justice	240	240
03	Requests of prisoners referred by the Department of Prisons	55	55
04	Public requests forwarded through the Attorney General's Department	17	17
05	Public requests forwarded through the Presidential Secretariat	20	20
06	Public issues referred through the legal aid page of Mawbima newspaper	20	20
07	Issues received by hotline calls	343	343
08	Issues received by telephone calls	8900	8900

1.2 Judicial Activities

The most important aspect of the Legal Division is offering legal aid for people's judicial actions. First, the question of whether legal aid can be given to an individual when a case involving their legal concern needs to be heard in court is investigated. Legal counseling provides access to the aforementioned goal. In the maintenance of legal aid cases, we first assess the client's financial condition to evaluate whether it is reasonable to offer free legal assistance. As a result, a Grama Niladhari report on an individual's monthly income will be requested first.

In this respect,

1. First, it will be determined whether the relevant individual is low-income based on onthly income report that the Grama Niladhari got and that the Divisional Secretary countersigned. According to legal aid laws, he will receive free legal aid for court proceedings if it is determined that he is a low-income earner based on these reports.
2. Is it feasible for someone who earns a sufficient income to receive the assistance of any lawyer? Would a party of one case influence the attorneys and prevent a lawyer representing the other party? At such juncture, the Legal Aid Commission pays constant attention to cooperate with the judiciary as necessary in assisting the administration of justice. In such case as this, the Legal Aid Commission steps in to provide legal representation irrespective of their financial situation.
3. Similarly, even if a person has been in remand for more than one year but will not be able to obtain legal assistance, legal assistance of the Legal Aid Commission will be provided on behalf of such persons.
4. For the rights of the child, in cases involving children,
5. Action will be taken to grant legal assistance free of charge irrespective of the income of the applicant, for a litigation proceeded under the Maintenance Act and Elders' Rights Act.
6. Samurdhi Beneficiaries
7. The Commission also works towards rendering free legal assistance to War heroes

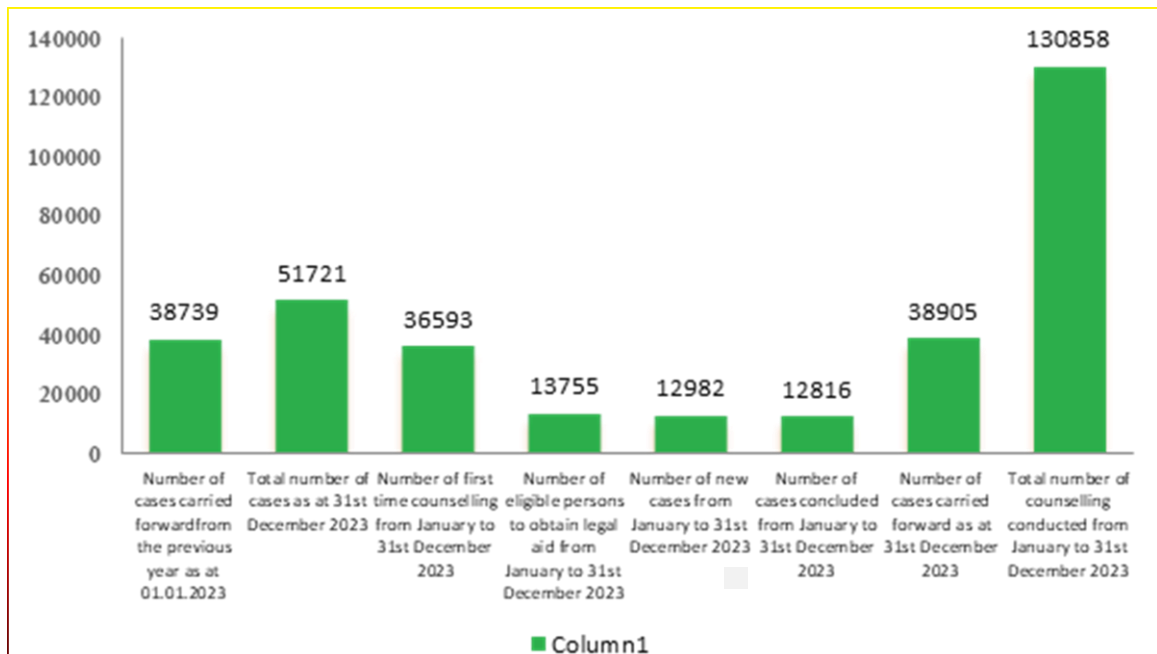
Proper functioning of both the civil and criminal divisions must be maintained for the said purpose.

In addition to maintaining the proceedings in tribunals such as the Labor Tribunal, Workmen's Compensation Tribunal, Debt Conciliation Board, Quazi Board, Chambers, Administrative Tribunal, and Human Rights Commission, we have worked on cases in every court in the island, including the Magistrate's Court, District Court, High Court, Provincial Court of Appeal, Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court. Further, although our attorneys do not appear for the legal matters in the Mediation Board, Labor Commissioner's Department, Quazi Court and other bodies with authority, the Legal Division has provided necessary guidance to them to make the necessary referrals properly.

In cooperation with National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crimes and Witnesses, Consumer Protection Authority, Samurdhi Development Department, Prison Department, State Ministry of Women's Affairs and Child Development, the necessary support is provided for the legal affairs of the clients referred from those institutions.

1.2.1. Progress of Legal Division of Legal Aid Commission in 2023

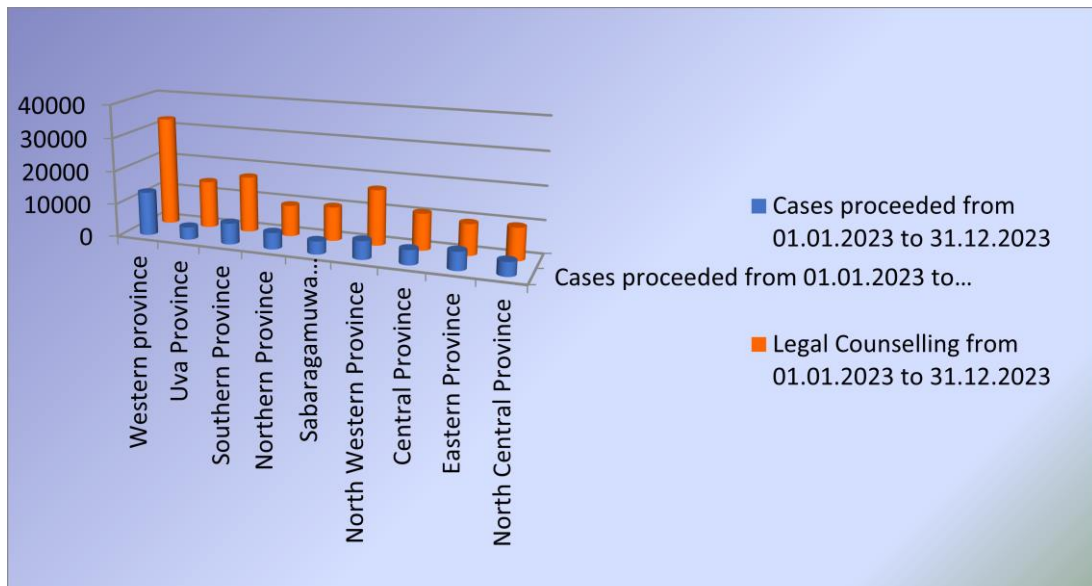
Description of Cases	Number of Cases
Number of cases carried forward from the previous year as at 01.01.2023	38739
Total number of cases as at 31 st December 2023	51721
Number of first time counselling from January to 31 st December 2023	36593
Number of eligible persons to obtain legal aid from January to 31 st December 2023	13755
Number of new cases from January to 31 st December 2023	12982
Number of cases concluded from January to 31 st December 2023	12816
Number of cases carried forward as at 31 st December 2023	38905
Total number of counselling conducted from January to 31 st December 2023	130858
Overall service performed from January to 31 st December 2023	<u>51721+130858</u> <u>=182579</u>



1.2.2. Service provided by the Legal Aid Commission at provincial level in the year 2023

Province	Cases proceeded from 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023	Legal Counselling from 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023	Overall Legal Service provided in the year 2023
Western province	13165	32954	46119
Uva Province	3767	14326	18093
Southern Province	6332	16961	23293
Northern Province	4920	9416	14336
Sabaragamuwa Province	3894	10238	14132
North Western Province	5502	16763	22265
Central Province	4425	11023	15448
Eastern Province	5511	9402	14913
North Central Province	4205	9775	13980
Total	51721	130858	182579
Total service provided = Total No. of cases + Total counselling 182579 = 51721 + 130858			

Service provided at provincial level in the year 2023



1.2.3. Cases heard between 01st January 2023 and 31st December 2023

No.	Centre	Staff of Legal Division			Cases prevailed as at 01.01.2022	Cases filed (Jan-Dec 2021)	Total	Cases concluded	Cases laid by	Cases carried forward (31.12.2022)	Total Counselling
		Legal Officer	Management Assistant	Office Assistant							
1	Anuradhapura	2	2	1	1214	447	1661	271	306	1084	3625
2	Ampara	1	1	-	365	189	554	18	97	349	2105
3	Avissawella	2	1	1	607	190	797	53	81	663	2074
4	Attanagalla	1	1	1	974	161	1135	189	424	522	1002
5	Akkareipattu	1	1	1	609	204	813	241	49	523	344
6	Bandarawela	1	1	1	345	121	466	70	75	321	2048
7	Battaramulla	2	1	-	600	128	728	107		621	1782
8	Baddegama	2	1		445	109	554	95	4	445	1215
9	Badulla	1	1	1	330	178	508	108	27	373	2625
10	Balapitiya	2	2	1	941	155	1096	68		1028	1292
11	Batticaloa	2	1	1	181	132	313	75	12	226	1162
12	Balangoda	1	1	-	227	151	378	89	80	209	530
13	Colombo	7	7	3	1921	288	2209	45		216	2865
14	Chilaw	1	1	1	773	12	901	152	54	695	738
15	Chavakachcheri	1	1	-	223	98	321	10	15	296	972
16	Dambulla	1	1	1	254	141	395	48	82	265	1248
17	Deniyaya	1	1	1	163	129	292	55	39	198	1589
18	Deyyandara	1	1	-	217	130	347	43	18	286	915
19	Embilipitiya	2	1	1	523	44	867	128	94	645	4258
20	Gampaha	2	1	1	301	123	424	74	85	265	850
21	Galle	1	1	1	525	126	651	47	41	563	1811
22	Galgamuwa	1	1	-	131	108	239	48	24	167	1523
23	Horana	2	1	1	666	233	899	139	293	467	3850
24	Hatton	1	-	1	170	103	273	68	6	199	1403
25	Hingurakgoda		1	1	593	152	745	199	36	51	1619
26	Hambantota	1	1	1	1050	128	1178	179		999	1948
27	Homagama	1	-	1	318	120	438	96	19	323	1099
28	Jaffna	2	1	1	269	68	337	62		275	503
29	Kandy	3	2	-	1045	329	1374	276	89	1009	1697
30	Kurunegala	3	2	1	1158	253	1411	111	102	1198	984
31	Kegalle	2	2	-	27	139	866	55	10	801	1429
32	Kuliyapitiya	1	2	1	320	394	714	194	147	373	4387
33	Kantale	1	1	-	367	95	462	37	16	409	1156
34	Kaduwela	1	1	-	344	103	447	40		407	1108
35	Kalmunei	1	2	1	376	171	547	114	145	288	256
36	Kalutara	2	1	1	1285	163	1448	91		1357	2140
37	Kekirawa	1	1		394	192	586	89	34	463	1674
38	Kadawatha	1	1	1	322	98	420	73	91	256	1414
39	Kebithigollewa	1	1	-	515	100	615	15	11	589	487
40	Kilinochchi	1	1	1	695	277	972	49	11	912	3799
41	Matale	1	1	-	429	215	644	109	183	352	710

42	Mahiyanganaya	1	1	1	585	170	75	133	195	427	2669
43	Matugama	2	1	1	137	124	261	53	48	160	2704
44	Mahawa	1	1	-	181	120	301	95	31	175	1472
45	Marawila	1	1	-	361	89	450	192		258	1559
46	Mawanella	1	1	1	378	111	489	39	5	445	1053
47	Mallakam	1	1	1	621	86	707	83	66	558	1371
48	Mt. Lavinia	2	1	-	569	120	689	115	14	560	1039
49	Mannar	1	1	1	488	74	562	22		540	417
50	Monaragala	2	2	-	497	258	755	106	97	552	3100
51	Muttur	1	1	-	574	82	656	36		620	164
52	Mullaitivu	1	1	1	475	155	630	114	29	487	407
53	Matara	3	2	1	70	237	940	309		631	2972
54	Minuwangoda	2	1	-	635	121	756	39	1	716	1513
55	Nikaweratiya	1	1	1	217	79	296	54	4	238	2087
56	Nuwara Eliya	1	1		571	134	705	89		616	1249
57	Negombo	2	1	1	353	108	461	155	26	280	1626
58	Nugegoda	1	1	1	489	135	624	95	25	504	1536
59	Nawalapitiya	1	1	-	610	180	90	306	281	203	3285
60	Polonnaruwa	1	1	-	248	110	358	72	1	285	1493
61	Panadura	2	1	1	418	201	619	131	139	349	2657
62	Pottuwil	2	1	-	121	129	250	73	52	125	1283
63	Point Pedro	1	1	1	643	80	723	143		580	1495
64	Polgahawela	1	1	-	85	98	183	25	82	76	457
65	Pugoda	1	1	-	127	126	253	127		126	664
66	Puttalam	1	-	-	376	146	522	24	9	489	1360
67	Rathnapura	2	2	-	715	217	932	135	30	767	1766
68	Tissamaharama	1	1	1	210	189	399	31	134	234	1163
69	Thambuttegama	1	-	1	102	138	240	17	62	161	583
70	Tangalle	1	2	-	240	128	368	6	27	305	1558
71	Trincomalee	1	1	1	517	128	645	46	2	597	543
72	Vavuniya	1	1	1	564	104	668	90	94	484	452
73	Valaichchenai	1			525	371	896	200	267	429	1281
74	Warakapola	1	1	-	252	110	362	52	23	287	1202
75	Welimada	1	1	1	316	127	443	6	10	357	1171
76	Walasmulla	1	1	1	337	170	507	49	98	360	2498
77	Wariyapola	1	2	-	146	113	259	72	53	134	933
78	Wellawaya	1	1	1	390	153	543	82	28	433	1391
79	Dehiaththakandiya	1	1	-	278	97	375	99		276	1402
80	Siyambalanduwa	1	-	1	176	121	297	35	37	225	1322
81	Borella	1	-	1	164	115	279	99		180	1580
82	Galagedara	1	2	-	58	30	88	8	13	67	595
83	Wattala	1	1	1	157	121	278	28	25	225	1451
84	Hettipola	1	1	1	139	87	226	52		174	1263
85	Theldeniya	1	1	-	79	77	156	26	15	115	836
	Total	117	97	52	38739	12982	51721	7983	433	38905	130858

1.2.4. Classification of new cases filed in the year 2023

No.	Center	Divorce	Maintenance	Land	Partition	Money	High Court cases	Appeal Court cases	Accidents	Bail	Other	Child Rights	Labour	Criminal	Supreme Court cases	Victim of crimes	Special	Guardianship	Domestic Violence	Total
1	Anuradhapura	113	215	3	0	6	0	3	38	0	5	6	50	0	0	0	8	0	0	447
2	Ampara	40	104	2		9	1	1	7	1			2	16			2		4	189
3	Avissawella	36	116	1	0	10		1		2			7	3		7	1	1	5	190
4	Attanagalla	40	81	3	0	7	0	0	14	0	6	0	1	0	0	5	1	0	3	161
5	Akkareipattu	10	176	4		3				11										204
6	Bandarawela	26	81	3	1	5			1				1			2	1			121
7	Battaramulla											107	21							128
8	Baddegama	18	41	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1					45	0	0	0	109
9	Badulla	21	118	3			2	6	1	2	10		5	7	1		2			178
10	Balapitiya	29	97				4			4	2	11						2	6	155
11	Batticaloa	20	99	3		5				1	3		1							132
12	Balangoda	39	98	7		6											1			151
13	Colombo	64	33	9	11	31	8	17	10	40	15		13	5	29		3			288
14	Chilaw	13	42				2	1	1		2	1	55				10		1	128
15	Chavakachcheri	12	76			1			1		5								3	98
16	Dambulla	26	107			4								4						141
17	Deniyaya	22	87													4			16	129
18	Deyyandara		80						1		34					14			1	130
19	Embilipitiya	61	255			3	1		12		1		1	1			9			344
20	Gampaha	23	63	1		1	16	2	8	2	4					2			1	123
21	Galle	25	74				2	1	2		7	3	6			1	1		4	126
22	Galgamuwa		71								36					1				108
23	Horana	60	69	1		2			3	48	38						2		10	233
24	Hatton	24	53						2							21			3	103
25	Hingurakgodda	37	30	1		7				33	2			34					8	152
26	Hambantota	13	38					3		7				67						128
27	Homagama	35	36	1		6			3		4		13			12	2		8	120
28	Jaffna	16	22	5		2	4	3			6		8					1	1	68
29	Kandy	68	157	12	15						15		47	8					7	329
30	Kurunegala	83	65	5	4	22	8	3	16		10		11			20	5	1		253
31	Kegalle	43	43	2		3	7				32			3					6	139
32	Kuliyapitiya	51	183	2		4			8	2	8		13	0	0	115	6	0	2	394
33	Kantale	17	58	1		5					2			9					3	95
34	Kaduwela	15	29	5		15			6	15	4		5			4	1	1	3	103
35	Kalmunei	7	155	1					1								1	4	2	171
36	Kalutara	20	63	3		3	3		1		1		26	27		11			5	163
37	Kekirawa	58	121			1			3	3	1			1			2		2	192
38	Kadawatha	9	77	2					1	1	2			1			2		3	98
39	Kebithigollewa	23	59	3		3					2			6					4	100
40	Kilinochchi	34	148	12	0	9	0	0	7	0	52	1					1	1	12	277
41	Matale	36	149	4		5	4		3		7		6						1	215

42	Mahiyanganaya	32	90	5		12									23	5	1	2	170	
43	Matugama	20	79			1		4	2	2					9		4	3	124	
44	Mahawa	41	73	1				1					2			2			120	
45	Marawila	32	55	1						1									89	
46	Mawanella	40	39	1	1	4							19			6		1	111	
47	Mallakam	31	36	1	0	5	2	1	0	2	6						2		86	
48	Mt. Lavinia	20	44			3		4	1		5		15	10		10	1	1	6	120
49	Mannar	13	38	2		1					3			16					1	74
50	Monaragala	90	139	1	0		1		9	1	5			3			9			258
51	Muttur	2	77	1							2									82
52	Mullaitivu	41	92			7					1					11		3		155
53	Matara	58	103	3		6		1	3	1	11		6			40	2		3	237
54	Minuwangoda	19	34	4	0	7	0	0	7	0	5	21	0	12	0	7	1	0	4	121
55	Nikaweratiya	20	47			3			1		2				3				3	79
56	Nuwara Eliya	13	51			1								67			2			134
57	Negombo	43	35	3		2	1	1	7	2			14							108
58	Nugegoda	30	54	2	1	26			1		3				6		1	11		135
59	Nawalapitiya	20	94	0	0	4					54	0	6						2	180
60	Polonnaruwa	22	55	1		5		2	5	16	3								1	110
61	Panadura	40	80	4		1	2		16	2		1	7			18	4		26	201
62	Pottuwil	6	117			5					1									129
63	Point Pedro	19	40	6		6	2				6								1	80
64	Polgahawela		83							13									2	98
65	Pugoda	18	98	3		3			3								1			126
66	Puttalam	34	98			4			5	4	1									146
67	Rathnapura	53	99	6		2	6	4	5	3	2		9			17	2	1	8	217
68	Tissamaharama	35	137			3					1			5			3		5	189
69	Thambuttegama		136																2	138
70	Tangalle	30	82				1	2	2	1					6	4				128
71	Trincomalee	16	54	5	2	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	7	31	0	0	0	4	0	128
72	Vavuniya	21	76			6					1									104
73	Valaichchenai	9	358			3					1									371
74	Warakapola	27	38	1		12	0	0	1	3	19							1	8	110
75	Welimada	26	70	2	0	6					17			4		1	1			127
76	Walasmulla	59	107			2					2									170
77	Wariyapola	30	43	1					5		28					3	2	1		113
78	Wellawaya	53	91	1		4				3							1			153
79	Dehiaththakandiya	15	44	1		3					3			7		14			10	97
80	Siyambalanduwa		56						7		2				48		1	7		121
81	Borella										21		94							115
82	Galagedara		30																	30
83	Wattala	34	54	1		2			8		2		15	2		1			2	121
84	Hettipola		52						3		9			1		5			17	87
85	Theldeniya	18	39			2						1		3		9	1		4	77
	Total	2553	6850	156	35	335	80	56	248	225	536	152	465	374	30	484	119	28	256	12982

1.2.5. Classification of cases concluded in the year 2023

No.	Center	Divorce	Maintainance	Land	Partition	Money	High Court cases	Appeal Court cases	Accidents	Bail	Other	Child Rights	Labour	Criminal	Supreme Court cases	Victim of crimes	Special	Guardianship	Domestic Violence	Total	
1	Anuradhapura	159	336	2	0	6	0	7	37	0	5	2	16	0	0	0	7	0	0	577	
2	Ampara	26	120	3	0	3	3	4	3	1	0	0	21	16	0	0	1	0	4	205	
3	Avissawella	17	90	1		9		3		1			9	1					3	134	
4	Attanagalla	133	424	1	0	1	0	0	39	0	9	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	613	
5	Akkareipattu	8	265	5	0	3					6						2		1	290	
6	Bandarawela	25	86	2	1	4			7		4		6			10				145	
7	Battaramulla											93	14							107	
8	Baddegama	46	27	1	0	6	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2	0	1	109	
9	Badulla	30	75	3	0	2	1	3	4	2	2		4	9						135	
10	Balapitiya	3	58			1					1							5		68	
11	Batticaloa	20	47	1	0	10	0	0	0	1	4	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	87	
12	Balangoda	55	101	3		5					1						3	1		169	
13	Colombo	9	20			2			6	1	1				6					45	
14	Chilaw	17	83						3		1		100						2	206	
15	Chavakachcheri	1	20	1	0				1	0	1								1	25	
16	Dambulla	17	106	1		5								1						130	
17	Deniyaya	26	54	1												2			11	94	
18	Deyyandara		29						1		25					5			1	61	
19	Embilipitiya	64	139			2	1		9		1						5		1	222	
20	Gampaha	40	75	5	0	4	22	1	6	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	159	
21	Galle	25	47						3		3	3	7							88	
22	Galgamuwa		61								10								1	72	
23	Horana	86	294	0	0	1	0	0	13	1	5	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	10	432	
24	Hatton	19	38						3							12			2	74	
25	Hingurakgoda	51	88	1		6				19	2			58					10	235	
26	Hambantota	22	16			27	7			10				97						179	
27	Homagama	24	40	2	0	3	1				3		25			12			5	115	
28	Jaffna	20	17	5	0	2		3			2		9					1	3	62	
29	Kandy	54	244	6		14					13		33	1						365	
30	Kurunegala	66	121	1		9	1		12		2		1							213	
31	Kegalle	13	35	2	2	5	2				2								4	65	
32	Kuliyapitiya	46	167	2	0	15	0	0	10	3	8	0	15	1	0	64	6	1	3	341	
33	Kantale	11	22	1			1				3			8				2	5	53	
34	Kaduwela	6	0	1	1	4	0	0	3	17	4		4							40	
35	Kalmunei	6	241						1									8	1	2	259
36	Kalutara	22	54						1		2		8			2	2			91	
37	Kekirawa	8	73	3						1	4		1	33						123	
38	Kadawatha	23	123	2		1	2				5		4						4	164	
39	Kebithigollewa	10	16																	26	
40	Kilinochchi	5	37	0	0	7	0	0			11									60	
41	Matale	48	212	4		3	2		3		10		10							292	
42	Mahiyanganaya	72	231			11										7	5		2	328	
43	Matugama	30	54	2		5				2	1					2	1	1	3	101	

44	Mahawa	53	63	2		1							1		5	1			126	
45	Marawila	21	147	1		1				10			10				2		192	
46	Mawanella	37	7																44	
47	Mallakam	36	81	10	0	7	0	2	0	3	5				4		1		149	
48	Mt. Lavinia	25	25	4		12		9	2		4		29	11	5		1	2	129	
49	Mannar	4	8	2		6					1			1					22	
50	Monaragala	80	106	2		4	1		4		4				2				203	
51	Muttur		36																36	
52	Mullaitivu	43	73	1	0	12					3						6	5	143	
53	Matara	52	137	7		25	1	1	28		11		23		1	14	4	4	309	
54	Minuwangoda	17	4	1	0	14	0	0	2	0	1	1							40	
55	Nikaweratiya	18	26		6				1		4						1	1	58	
56	Nuwara Eliya	25	7	1		1			2		1			49			1		89	
57	Negombo	73	37	6		24	1	2		2	4		23			7		1	181	
58	Nugegoda	31	34	1	1	21			1					2		19	1	1	120	
59	Nawalapitiya	96	293	22		41	0	0	0	10	106	0	8	9	0	0	0	2	587	
60	Polonnaruwa	29	11	1	0	8	0	1	10	9	2							2	73	
61	Panadura	35	146	3	1	1	3		16	1	7	3	22			17	1		270	
62	Pottuwil	4	115	1		3					1					1			125	
63	Point Pedro	16	102	3	0	10	0	0	0	0	3							1	143	
64	Polgahawela		89	1				1	2		12								107	
65	Pugoda	35	83	3		4			1								1		127	
66	Puttalam	6	15	1		3	1			3	4								33	
67	Rathnapura	67	72	2		1	5	1	9	2				1		2		1	165	
68	Tissamaharama	26	129			2								2			6		165	
69	Thambuttegama		77																79	
70	Tangalle	18	38						6							1			63	
71	Trincomalee	9	7	2	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	20	1	0	0	0	3	48	
72	Vavuniya	58	121	1	0	2	0	0	1	0							1		184	
73	Valaichchenai	6	458			2													467	
74	Warakapola	21	39	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	4						1	1	75	
75	Welimada	25	29	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	15	2	0	1	0	6	0	1	86	
76	Walasmulla	36	99			3			3		4			2					147	
77	Wariyapola	28	50	1		2			6		28			2			3	3	125	
78	Wellawaya	35	67	1					7										110	
79	ehiaththakandiya	6	60	0	0	1					1				14				99	
80	Siyambalanduwa		44						5						18			5	72	
81	Borella									5			94						99	
82	Galagedara		21																21	
83	Wattala	16	29								2		5						53	
84	Hettipola		42								6								52	
85	Theldeniya	8	26												1	1			41	
Total		2458	7439	143	12	403	56	38	280	89	400	104	516	317	12	275	65	41	168	12816

1.2.6. Cases brought forward as at 31.12.2023

No.	Center	Divorce	Maintenance	Land	Partition	Money	High Court cases	Appeal Court cases	Accidents	Bail	Other	Child Rights	Labour	Criminal	Supreme Court cases	Victim of crimes	Special	Guardianship	Domestic Violence	Total
1	Anuradhapura	295	553	22	0	23	0	1	78	2	22	12	58	0	0	0	18	0	0	1084
2	Ampara	93	185	11		12			15		1		18	6			2		6	349
3	Avissawella	127	386	20	0	49	4	6	0	1	7	0	3	5		44	5	1	5	663
4	Attanagalla	94	298	38	0	46	0	0	20	0	11	0	1	0	0	10	1		3	522
5	Akkareipattu	39	425	6		0	29			11							13	0	0	523
6	Bandarawela	69	192	8	3	12			19		10		1			6	1			321
7	Battaramulla											613	8							621
8	Baddegama	52	308	1	1	11	0	0	13	0	1	0	0	0	0	58	0	0	0	445
8	Badulla	40	279	6	0	3	14	3	17		1		4	1	1	1	3			373
10	Balapitiya	173	458	15	10	89	25		42	3	120		1			74	4		14	1028
11	Batticaloa	54	128	35	0	9														226
12	Balangoda	46	126	17		16					3							1		209
13	Colombo	424	607	132	11	47	16	113	165	47	304	27	46	22	143	57	3			2164
14	Chilaw	25	403	3			4		4		1		240	3	1	8			3	695
15	Chavakachcheri	34	226	10	1	6			5		11								3	296
16	Dambulla	70	183			10								2						265
17	Deniyaya	44	136	1					3							6			8	198
18	Deyyandara		170						1		70					39			6	286
19	Embilipitiya	111	465	6		18	2		33		2		2	1			5			645
20	Gampaha	79	41	21	1	16	11	8	50	6	23	0	1			5	1	0	2	265
21	Galle	66	328	0	0	10	2	1	23	3	61	1	44			11			13	563
22	Galgamuwa		128								32			3			4			167
23	Horana	94	177	4	0	8	0	10	14	74	72						2		12	467
24	Hatton	40	120	2					5							31			1	199
25	Hingurakgoda	70	245	6		35				57	2			86					9	510
26	Hambantota	216	635			2	5		1	3		33		103			1			999
27	Homagama	74	94	8	1	22	1		11		7		26			67	4	1	7	323
28	Jaffna	59	126	13		23	13	3			24		10	1	0	0	0	1	2	275
29	Kandy	204	457	65		114					59		79	25					6	1009
30	Kurunegala	225	588	19	8	98	24	3	76		45		44			43	20	3	2	1198
31	Kegalle	148	314	38	12	69	25	6	0	5	106	5	33			30	1	0	9	801
32	Kuliyapitiya	65	145	16	2	8	1	0	42	0	2	0	11	0	0	74	7	0	0	373
33	Kantale	66	256	2		21					1			55				1	7	409
34	Kaduwela	106	100	26	1	95	0	0	15	0	13		24	0	0	17	3	1	6	407
35	Kalmunei	15	239	4		1			1		7						15	4	2	288
36	Kalutara	176	648	9		49	57		37		27		168	27		132	20		7	1357
37	Kekirawa	188	214	4		3			30	2		2		6		2	6		6	463
38	Kadawatha	10	236	2					1	1	3			2					1	256
39	Kebithigollewa	179	288	11		58				10	31			6					6	589
40	Kilinochchi	86	545	10	0	43	0	0	13	0	32	0	0	132	0	0	1	2	48	912
41	Matale	91	187	14		3	2		24		9		21						1	352
42	Mahiyanganaya	87	250	13		37										34	3	1	2	427
43	Matugama	28	97	4		15				2	1	2				7		4		160

44	Mahawa	41	108	5	3	11			4					1			2			175
45	Marawila	74	158	6					6		5			9						258
46	Mawanella	131	273	4	1	8								21			6		1	445
47	Mallakam	111	251	27		36		6	25		2		47	20		18	5	1	11	560
48	Mt. Lavinia	31	247	34		14			20		26			150				3	15	540
49	Mannar	217	267	8		6	4		26	5	2			4			13			552
50	Monaragala	25	497	5		30					53					7	2	1		620
51	Muttur	58	370	12	0	21					4						12	0	10	487
52	Mullaitivu	162	142	20		25	161		50	1	13	3	18		1	20	10		5	631
53	Matara	100	266	31	4	75	0	0	18	2	36	27	0	49	0	97	1	0	10	716
54	Minuwangoda	48	158	1		7			6		1					12	1		4	238
55	Nikaweratiya	25	479	3		7	1							1	94		6			616
56	Nuwara Eliya	100	97	20		24	1		16		5			17						280
57	Negombo	88	265	8		64					5					49	5		15	504
58	Nugegoda	68	87	7	0	10			1	10	8	2	6						4	203
59	Nawalapitiya	25	211	7		8	0	1	19	7	5								2	285
60	Polonnaruwa	60	141	11		8	5		32	1	4	2	12	8		27	13		25	349
61	Panadura	3	118			4														125
62	Pottuwil	125	329	22	3	40	3	0	6	0	39			2				4	7	580
63	Point Pedro		60								16									76
64	Polgahawela	31	75	6		9			2							1	2			126
65	Pugoda	163	415	27		11	23	4	36		1		18			38	12	7	12	767
66	Puttalam	81	87	1	0	2	0	0	11	0	3	0	0	22	0	0	13	0	14	234
67	Rathnapura		161																	161
68	Tissamaharama	69	176	1		1		4	15		3					28	8			305
69	Thambuttegama	85	285	30	2	88	2	0	0	6	2	61	31					5		597
70	Tangalle	32	432	3	0	8			4	0	4					1				484
71	Trincomalee	8	407			13					1									429
72	Vavuniya	45	145	5	0	34				7	38						2	0	11	287
73	Valaichchenai	72	167	4	0	19	0	0	6	0	39	3	0	26	0	10	6	0	5	357
74	Warakapola	124	191			31			10		2			2						360
75	Welimada	43	66	5					11		4			1			4			134
76	Walasmulla	81	307	11		5		20		4							5			433
77	Wariyapola	92	375	27	1	22	2	2	2	1	27							6	1	558
78	Wellawaya	143	268	18		30	4		4	2	4			15			1			489
79	Dehiaththakandiya	65	151	1	0	8					2	2		8		23			16	276
80	Siyambalanduwa										42		138							180
81	Borella	107						10		1					93		8	6		225
82	Galagedara		66																1	67
83	Wattala	28	97	1		3			28		6	1	50	9		1			1	225
84	Hettipola		114						5	3	11					29			12	174
85	Theldeniya	33	58	2		6						1		4		10			1	115
	Total	6849	20660	995	65	1769	441	191	1131	276	1535	797	1181	936	146	1220	272	55	386	38905

1.2.7. Classification of cases heard in the year 2023 by Court

No.	Center	Supreme Court	Appeal Court	Civil Appellate Court	High Court	District Court	Magistrate's Court	Labour Tribunal	Other	Total
1	Anuradhapura			1	2	448	553	58	22	1084
2	Ampara					134	197	18		349
3	Avissawella			6	5	210	439	3		663
4	Attanagalla					190	332			522
5	Akkareipattu					35	488			523
6	Bandarawela					116	204	1		321
7	Battaramulla						613	8		621
8	Baddegama					79	366			445
9	Badulla		3		16	70	279	4	1	373
10	Balapitiya				10	296	687	2	33	1028
11	Batticaloa					98	128			226
12	Balangoda					83	126			209
13	Colombo	143	110	6	63	838	656	46	302	2164
14	Chilaw				4	33	418	240		695
15	Chavakachcheri					67	229			296
16	Dambulla					80	185			265
17	Deniyaya					48	150			198
18	Deyyandara						286			286
19	Embilipitiya				2	175	466	2		645
20	Gampaha			8	17	168	48	1	23	265
21	Galle		1		5	102	411	44		563
22	Galgamuwa						167			167
23	Horana		10			121	336			467
24	Hatton				47	152				199
25	Hingurakgodda					106	404			510
26	Hambantota				8	220	771			999
27	Homagama			5	1	119	173	25		323
28	Jaffna			3	12	120	130	10		275
29	Kandy					385	485	83	56	1009
30	Kurunegala		17	71	458	608	44			1198
31	Kegalle		6		35	268	459	33		801
32	Kuliyapitiya				51	142	169	11		373
33	Kantale					90	318		1	409
34	Kaduvela					245	138	24		407
35	Kalmunei					41	247			288
36	Kalutara			48	9	318	814	168		1357
37	Kekirawa					231	232			463
38	Kadawatha					11	244		1	256
39	Kebithigollewa					273	316			589
40	Kilinochchi				3	152	725		32	912
41	Matale				2	132	188	21	9	352
42	Mahiyanganaya					142	285			427
43	Matugama					52	108			160

44	Mahawa					64	111			175
45	Marawila					86	172			258
46	Mawanella					112	333			445
47	Mallakam		2	2	3	170	378		3	558
48	Mt. Lavinia			7		191	313	49		560
49	Mannar					65	475			540
50	Monaragala				9	270	273			552
51	Muttur					62	505		53	620
52	Mullaitivu					86	401			487
53	Matara				162	274	177	18		631
54	Minuwangoda				2	229	449		36	716
55	Nikaweratiya					63	175			238
56	Nuwara Eliya				1	41	573	1		616
57	Negombo				2	163	98	17		280
58	Nugegoda					170	334			504
59	Nawalapitiya					10	191	2		203
60	Polonnaruwa		1		1	64	219			285
61	Panadura				5	130	202	12		349
62	Pottuwil					7	118			125
63	Point Pedro			3		233	344			580
64	Polgahawela						76			76
65	Pugoda					47	79			126
66	Puttalam				5	200	284			489
67	Rathnapura			4	23	256	466	18		767
68	Tissamaharama					108	126			234
69	Thambuttegama						161			161
70	Tangalle			4	18	97	186			305
71	Trincomalee				2	212	316	61	6	597
72	Vavuniya					52	432			484
73	Valaichchenai					21	407		1	429
74	Warakapola					87	199		1	287
75	Welimada					105	252			357
76	Walasmulla					157	203			360
77	Wariyapola					64	69		1	134
78	Wellawaya					127	306			433
79	Dehiaththakandiya					75	201			276
80	Siyambalanduwa						225			225
81	Borella							138	42	180
82	Galagedara						67			67
83	Wattala					48	127	50		225
84	Hettipola						174			174
85	Theldeniya					41	74			115
	Total	143	150	168	984	11385	24285	1168	623	38905

1.2.8. Classification of the cases heard in 2023 by the legal assistance provided

No.	Center	Attorneys-at-Law of the Legal Aid Commission	Attorneys-at-Law of the Board under Legal Aid Commission	Total
1	Anuradhapura	764	320	1084
2	Ampara	312	37	349
3	Avissawella	566	97	663
4	Attanagalla	418	104	522
5	Akkareipattu	509	14	523
6	Bandarawela	277	44	321
7	Battaramulla	617	4	621
8	Baddegama	404	41	445
9	Badulla	271	102	373
10	Balapitiya	817	211	1028
11	Batticaloa	225	1	226
12	Balangoda	144	65	209
13	Colombo	727	1437	2164
14	Chilaw	692	3	695
15	Chavakachcheri	296	-	296
16	Dambulla	265	-	265
17	Deniyaya	198	-	198
18	Deyyandara	286	-	286
19	Embilipitiya	615	30	645
20	Gampaha	110	155	265
21	Galle	552	11	563
22	Galgamuwa	167	-	167
23	Horana	410	57	467
24	Hatton	197	2	199
25	Hingurakgoda	484	26	510
26	Hambantota	428	571	999
27	Homagama	194	129	323
28	Jaffna	229	46	275
29	Kandy	546	463	1009
30	Kurunegala	673	525	1198
31	Kegalle	583	218	801
32	Kuliyapitiya	307	66	373
33	Kantale	398	11	409
34	Kaduwela	282	125	407
35	Kalmunei	55	233	288
36	Kalutara	1132	225	1357
37	Kekirawa	459	4	463
38	Kadawatha	255	1	256
39	Kebithigollewa	589	0	589
40	Kilinochchi	912	0	912
41	Matale	352	-	352
42	Mahiyanganaya	393	34	427
43	Matugama	154	6	160

44	Mahawa	147	28	175
45	Marawila	253	5	258
46	Mawanella	420	25	445
47	Mallakam			
48	Mt. Lavinia	307	253	560
49	Mannar	540	-	540
50	Monaragala	386	166	552
51	Muttur	599	21	620
52	Mullaitivu	447	40	487
53	Matara	427	204	631
54	Minuwangoda	156	560	716
55	Nikaweratiya	229	9	238
56	Nuwara Eliya	478	138	616
57	Negombo	244	36	280
58	Nugegoda	470	34	504
59	Nawalapitiya	122	81	203
60	Polonnaruwa	271	14	285
61	Panadura	256	93	349
62	Pottuwil	125	-	125
63	Point Pedro	580	-	580
64	Polgahawela	57	19	76
65	Pugoda	82	44	126
66	Puttalam	489		489
67	Rathnapura	444	323	767
68	Tissamaharama	234	-	234
69	Thambuttegama	75	86	161
70	Tangalle	243	62	305
71	Trincomalee	597	-	597
72	Vavuniya	476	8	484
73	Valaichchenai	429	-	429
74	Warakapola	230	57	287
75	Welimada	250	107	357
76	Walasmulla	352	8	360
77	Wariyapola	103	31	134
78	Wellawaya	407	26	433
79	Dehiaththakandiya	269	7	276
80	Siyambalanduwa	225		225
81	Borella	141	39	180
82	Galagedara	63	4	67
83	Wattala	170	55	225
84	Hettipola	174		174
85	Theldeniya	71	44	115
Total		30860	30860	8045

38905

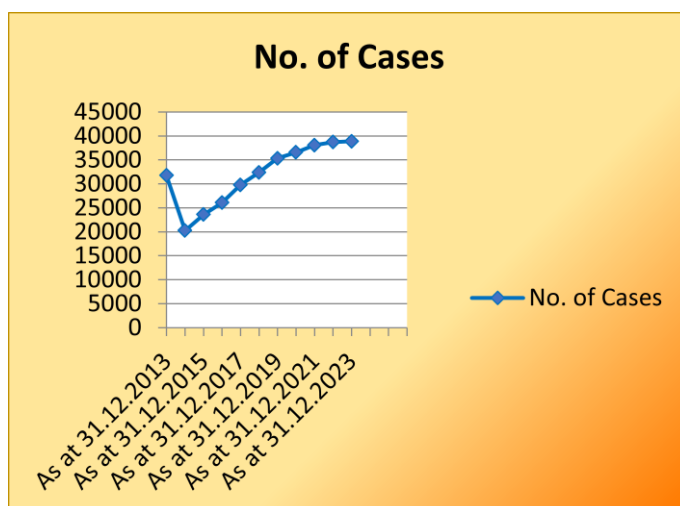
1.2.9 Number of cases determined in favor of legal aid clients out of the number of cases concluded in 2023 (number of cases won)

No.	Center	No. of Cases Concluded	No. of cases determined in favor of legal aid clients	No. of cases decided against legal aid clients
1	Anuradhapura	577	454	123
2	Ampara	205	205	
3	Avissawella	134	131	3
4	Attanagalla	613	613	0
5	Akkareipattu	290	290	0
6	Bandarawela	145	90	55
7	Battaramulla	107	71	36
8	Baddegama	109	69	40
9	Badulla	135	131	4
10	Balapitiya	68	65	3
11	Batticaloa	87	15	72
12	Balangoda	169	126	43
13	Colombo	45	27	18
14	Chilaw	206	206	0
15	Chavakachcheri	25	25	0
16	Dambulla	130	130	0
17	Deniyaya	94	77	17
18	Deyyandara	61	53	8
19	Embilipitiya	222	220	2
20	Gampaha	159	154	5
21	Galle	88	72	16
22	Galgamuwa	72	64	8
23	Horana	432	432	0
24	Hatton	74	74	0
25	Hingurakgoda	235	167	68
26	Hambantota	179	170	9
27	Homagama	115	59	56
28	Jaffna	62	42	20
29	Kandy	365	352	13
30	Kurunegala	213	154	59
31	Kegalle	65	63	2
32	Kuliyapitiya	341	268	73
33	Kantale	53	53	0
34	Kaduwela	40	40	0
35	Kalmunei	259	259	0
36	Kalutara	91	83	8
37	Kekirawa	123	123	0
38	Kadawatha	164	163	1
39	Kebithigollewa	26	26	0
40	Kilinochchi	60	60	0
41	Matale	292	258	34
42	Mahiyanganaya	328	311	17
43	Matugama	101	96	5
44	Mahawa	126	126	0
45	Marawila	192	176	16
46	Mawanella	44	37	7
47	Mallakam	129	116	13
48	Mt. Lavinia	22	22	0
49	Mannar	203	166	37
50	Monaragala	36	36	0
51	Muttur	143	102	41
52	Mullaitivu	309	261	48
53	Matara	40	40	0
54	Minuwangoda	58	54	4
55	Nikaweratiya	89	55	34
56	Nuwara Eliya	181	166	15
57	Negombo	120	96	24
58	Nugegoda	587	587	0
59	Nawalapitiya	73	64	9
60	Polonnaruwa	270	239	31
61	Panadura	125	125	0

62	Pottuwil	143	140	3
63	Point Pedro	107	107	0
64	Polgahawela	127	126	1
65	Pugoda	165	118	47
66	Puttalam	165	165	0
67	Rathnapura	79	79	0
68	Tissamaharama	63	52	11
69	Thambuttegama	48	44	4
70	Tangalle	184	90	94
71	Trincomalee	467	200	267
72	Vavuniya	75	46	29
73	Valaichchenai	86	65	21
74	Warakapola	147	130	17
75	Welimada	125	55	70
76	Walasmulla	110	73	37
77	Wariyapola	149	132	17
78	Wellawaya	33	33	0
79	Dehiaththakandiya	99	99	0
80	Siyambalanduwa	99	91	8
81	Borella	72	72	0
82	Galagedara	21	21	0
83	Wattala	53	53	0
84	Hettipola	52	52	0
85	Theldeniya	41	41	0
	Total	12816	11093	1723
	As a percentage	100%	86%	14%

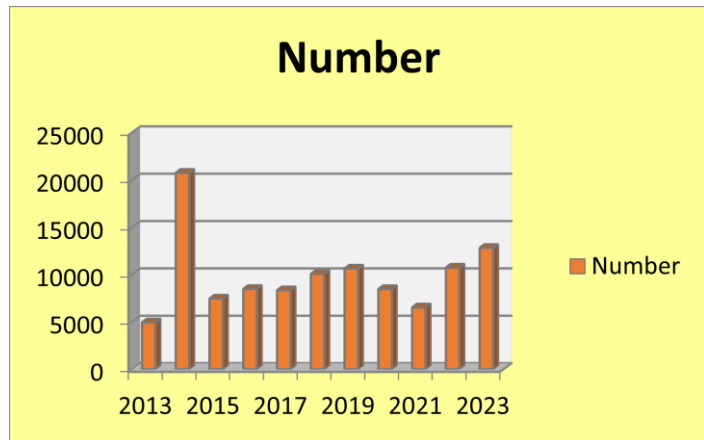
1.2.8. Number of Cases Carried Forward Annually from 2013 up to 31.12.2023

Period	No. of Cases
No. of cases as at 31.12.2013	31775
No. of cases as at 31.12.2014	20265
No. of cases as at 31.12.2015	23609
No. of cases as at 31.12.2016	26088
No. of cases as at 31.12.2017	29783
No. of cases as at 31.12.2018	32403
No. of cases as at 31.12.2019	35332
No. of cases as at 31.12.2020	36567
No. of cases as at 31.12.2021	38099
No. of cases as at 31.12.2022	38739
No. of cases as at 31.12.2023	38905



1.2.8. Number of Cases Concluded Annually from 2013 up to 31.12.2023

Year	Number
2013	4956
2014	20746
2015	7465
2016	8485
2017	8344
2018	10073
2019	10636
2020	8466
2021	6534
2022	10740
2023	12816

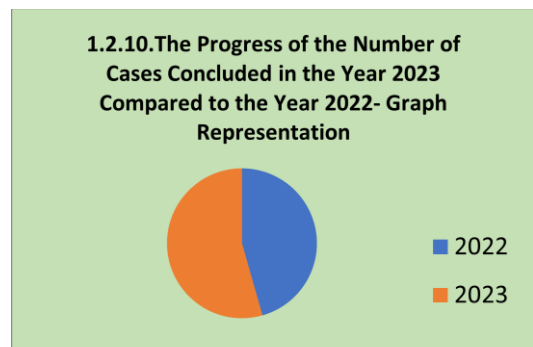


1.2.9. The Progress of the Number of Cases Concluded in the Year 2023 Compared to the Year 2022

The number of cases concluded in the year 2022 is 10740 and in 2023 the same number amounts to 12816. A relative increase in the number of cases concluded is seen in the year 2023. The number of concluded cases is 54.4% in the year 2023 as compared to the year 2022. In the year 2022, it is clearly seen that there was a growing value in the number of cases that have been concluded. The number of clients accessing justice (number of first time consultations) is 36593 and the number of clients who have taken legal recourse (number of cases concluded) is 12816, which is a ratio of 3:1.

1.2.10. The Progress of the Number of Cases Concluded in the Year 2023 Compared to the Year 2022- Graph Representation

No.	Year	Number	Progress
1	2022	10740	38%
2	2023	12816	62%
		23556	100%



1.2.11. Summary of Legal Councelling and Judicial Proceedings in the Year 2023

	Centre	Number of Clients who Sought Counselling for the First Time	Number of Clients who Settled their Issues without Legal Action	Number of Clients who received Legal Aid for the Institution of Action required to Settle the Issues	Number of New Cases filed within the Year	Number of Cases Concluded	Number of Cases determined in favour of the Clients of the Legal Aid Commission
1	Anuradhapura	577	130	447	447	577	454
2	Ampara	512	220	189	189	205	205
3	Avissawella	834	634	200	190	134	131
4	Attanagalla	281	120	161	161	613	613
5	Akkareipattu	313	109	204	204	290	290
6	Bandarawela	260	106	154	121	145	90
7	Battaramulla	615	487	128	128	107	71
8	Baddegama	237	128	109	109	109	69
9	Badulla	276	88	188	178	135	131
10	Balapitiya	432	277	155	155	68	65
11	Batticaloa	1072	940	132	132	87	15
12	Balangoda	452	297	155	151	169	126
13	Colombo	1759	1127	632	288	45	27
14	Chilaw	482	220	128	128	206	206
15	Chavakachcheri	308	210	98	98	25	25
16	Dambulla	329	188	141	141	130	130
17	Deniyaya	272	143	129	129	94	77
18	Deyyandara	218	88	130	130	61	53
19	Embilipitiya	463	119	344	344	222	220
20	Gampaha	370	230	140	123	159	154
21	Galle	532	406	126	126	88	72
22	Galgamuwa	354	246	108	108	72	64
23	Horana	946	713	233	233	432	432
24	Hatton	178	75	103	103	74	74
25	Hingurakgodra	288	136	152	152	235	167
26	Hambantota	602	474	128	128	179	170
27	Homagama	318	184	134	120	115	59
28	Jaffna	238	170	68	68	62	42
29	Kandy	1333	1004	329	329	365	352
30	Kurunegala	972	719	253	253	213	154
31	Kegalle	412	273	139	139	65	63
32	Kuliyapitiya	962	568	394	394	341	268
33	Kantale	187	87	100	95	53	53
34	Kaduwela	518	290	136	103	40	40
35	Kalmunei	243	72	171	171	259	259
36	Kalutara	1485	1322	163	163	91	83
37	Kekirawa	662	764	192	192	123	123
38	Kadawatha	390	292	98	98	164	163
39	Kebithigollewa	110	10	100	100	26	26
40	Kilinochchi	531	253	278	277	60	60
41	Matale	369	407	215	215	292	258
42	Mahiyanganaya	407	237	170	170	328	311
43	Matugama	409	285	124	124	101	96
44	Mahawa	269	149	120	120	126	126
45	Marawila	185	425	90	89	192	176
46	Mawanella	234	123	111	111	44	37
47	Mallakam	235	149	86	86	129	116
48	Mt. Lavinia	333	213	120	120	22	22
49	Mannar	176	102	74	74	203	166
50	Monaragala	1223	965	258	258	36	36
51	Muttur	164	82	82	82	143	102
52	Mullaitivu	252	97	155	155	309	261
53	Matara	552	315	237	237	40	40
54	Minuwangoda	234	72	162	121	58	54
55	Nikaweratiya	217	138	79	79	89	55
56	Nuwara Eliya	273	139	134	134	181	166
57	Negombo	384	116	268	108	120	96
58	Nugegoda	298	163	135	135	587	587
59	Nawalapitiya	295	115	180	180	73	64

60	Polonnaruwa	309	199	110	110	270	239
61	Panadura	747	537	210	201	125	125
62	Pottuwil	220	90	130	129	143	140
63	Point Pedro	123	43	80	80	107	107
64	Polgahawela	167	69	98	98	127	126
65	Pugoda	186	60	126	126	165	118
66	Puttalam	250	104	146	146	165	165
67	Rathnapura	562	325	237	217	79	79
68	Tissamaharama	589	400	189	189	63	52
69	Thambuttegama	266	128	138	138	48	44
70	Tangalle	305	147	158	128	184	90
71	Trincomalee	329	201	128	128	467	200
72	Vavuniya	314	210	104	104	75	46
73	Valaichchenai	998	332	371	371	86	65
74	Warakapola	179	69	110	110	147	130
75	Welimada	297	170	127	127	125	55
76	Walasmulla	368	175	193	170	110	73
77	Wariyapola	204	89	115	113	149	132
78	Wellawaya	218	65	153	153	33	33
79	Dehiaththakandiya	265	168	97	97	99	99
80	Siyambalanduwa	302	181	121	121	99	91
81	Borella	472	355	117	115	72	72
82	Galagedara	121	81	40	30	21	21
83	Wattala	363	242	121	121	53	53
84	Hettipola	323	233	90	87	52	52
85	Theldeniya	284	207	77	77	41	41
	Total	36593	23091	13755	12982	12816	11093

1.3 National Policy of Sri Lanka on Legal Aid

It became evident that a more systematic and efficient delivery of legal aid was required as the Legal Aid Act No. 27 of 1978 was enacted whereby the Sri Lanka Legal Aid Commission was established and maintained. The policy makers felt the need to formulate government policies that would be able to monitor these activities in order to lessen the difficulties faced by the government as well as other non-governmental organizations in carrying out various activities in the country and to enable the public to obtain an effective service that is more important to them.

A lot of thought was given to how legal aid should be delivered in Sri Lanka, the mechanisms for its operation, supervision, and reforming existing legal aid programs. Legal aid is a universal fundamental right for all citizens and must be provided equitably. Establishing an efficient and effective professional framework to facilitate easy access to justice for all whereby the state legal aid system is empowered in a more formal way within civil society and the introduction of a National Policy on Legal Aid that ensures equality in addressing all circumstances irrespective of the factors such as gender, disability, age, ethnicity, religion, caste, geographic location, or other social sensitivities is a revolutionary step in the field of Law. The approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted for the formulation of this National Policy. The preparation of this national action plan is underway and is currently in its final stages.

In the year 2024, it is expected to popularize the national policy and implement the proposed programs according to the action plan.

1.4 Networking of Judicial Proceedings through Google Sheet

The Legal Aid Commission has strongly felt the need of an effective measure for the Legal Division to do the necessary monitoring in order to maintain an efficient and formal legal aid mechanism. It has been decided that coordination and methodical maintenance of monitoring affairs through networking of Judicial proceedings in regional centres is a more effective and appropriate measure and initiated and maintained the Google Sheet system this year.

A database containing a complete case register of each center was created as a preliminary step, and its upkeep was initiated. In the future, this is anticipated to be developed in a more sophisticated manner. It is expected that this system will be integrated with the Legal Aid Commission's back site, which will regulate the operations of the Legal Division.

1.5 Development Activities of the Website of the Legal Aid Commission

The website of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka is currently inactive and its redevelopment and renovation was started this year. Financial support and technical support from UNDP has been received for this purpose. It is expected to be completed and populated in the first quarter of 2024.

1.6 . Practical Training for the Attorneys-at-Law at the Legal Aid Commission

- A training program for legal officers in the Western Province was conducted by the UNDP on September 26, 2023, in Colombo. During the programme, a hands-on study on criminal and civil proceedings was arranged. The resource persons were Hon. Udesh Ranatunga, High Court Judge of Tangalle, and Hon. Nuwan Tharaka Heenatigala, Additional District Judge of Mt. Lavinia.
- Further, a training program was conducted by UNDP on 23 December 2023 in Batticaloa for the legal officers of the Northern and Eastern Provinces. A hands-on study on criminal proceedings and civil proceedings was arranged whereas the resource persons were Hon. High Court Judge of Kalmunai, Mr. Jeyaraman Trosky and Hon. High Court Judge of Batticaloa Mr. Rama Kamalan.
- On the 10th and 11th of December 2023, a training program on gender-based human rights was conducted under the auspices of UNFPA with the participation of 25 lawyers.
- On May 22, 2023, a training program was conducted in Colombo for 50 lawyers on human trafficking and smuggling under the auspices of SAFE Foundation.
- On 08th April 2023, an awareness programme was conducted in Galle under the auspices of Bridge to Equality, where 50 lawyers were informed about how to deal with the LGBT community.

1.7 Programmes & Projects

During the period of 26 years since 1978 until 2004, the main focus of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has been the concept of granting legal aid to maintain litigation. But since around 2004, the Commission has taken a number of steps to experiment with new methods of granting legal aid, hoping there is a possibility to grant the public an access to legal justice by instilling legal literacy into the public, going beyond this level.

In the same way that focusing on the parties involved in issues and helping to find solutions is an extremely significant task, counselling on minimizing issues and maintaining living standards stands as a prominent part of the same. If you act carefully and safely, the adverse consequences caused by many actions can be prevented. In order to function practically and intelligently in the course of everyday life, everybody should be enlightened of the feeling of the subtle knowledge required to act with knowledge and broad understanding. Comprehending this matter carefully, the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has taken steps to establish the Project Division under the supervision of the Legal Division, in order to safeguard the security, protection and the rights of the people. Under this, planning, implementation and organization of legal knowledge and education programs are carried out.

1. In dispute resolution, a mediation without issues is more advantageous.
 2. As it is a vain effort to apologise for an act committed on ignorance of law, for the purpose of protecting yourself from the consequences of any wrongdoing occurred or committed, "ignorance of law is not an excuse". Therefore, the socialization of legal knowledge is a matter with timely importance.
 3. Further, contributing to the qualitative development, and increasing social inclusion for sustainable development by developing the lawfulness of society,
 4. Examining the timely requirements and proposals that need to be made when imposing new laws
 5. Advancement of personal legal literacy
- are key objectives that are focused on, during the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects.

These programs are organized in collaboration with the Legal Division of the Legal Aid Commission, the staff of the local Legal Aid offices, various government institutions and NGOs, and the community participation. The programs were implemented with the government funds as well as the financial assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), SAFE Foundation and the assistance and cooperation of various Non-Governmental Organisations. In addition, we were able to implement mass media programs without any financial costs.

1.8.1 Service Promotion Activities

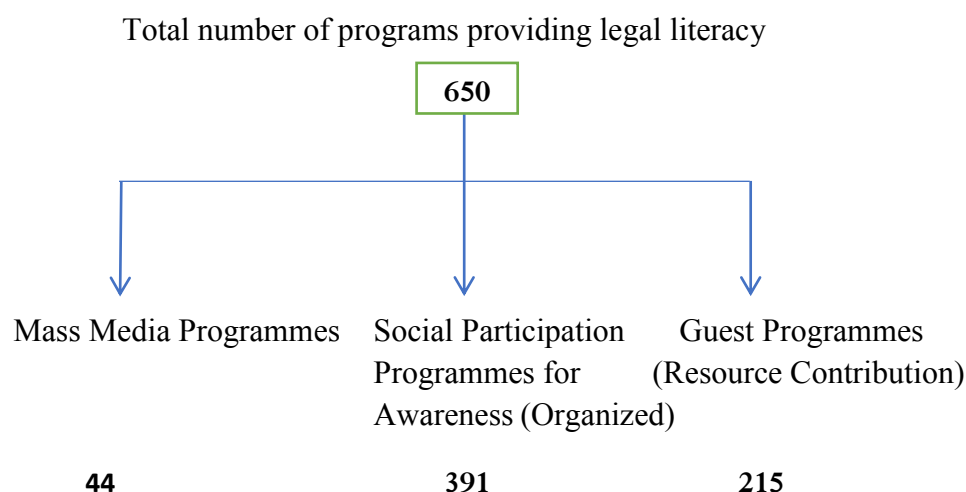
A. 1.8.1. A. Mass media programmes

1.8.1. B. Social participation programs for awareness creation

1.8.1. C. Developmental legal aid programmes

- Units for prison detainees, indigenous people, overseas labor force, women, children and senior citizens.
- Law education programs
- Dialogues and discourse among scholars and various communities
- Preparation of leaflets, posters and publications to socialize the knowledge on law.
- Conducting research and survey required to obtain the views and suggestions necessary for the new legislation.

The total number of programs organized and resourced by the Programs and Projects Division of the Legal Aid Commission during this year, is 463. Those programs are divided as follows;



A. 1.8.1 A Massmedia Programmes

Programmes for the socialization of legal knowledge were continued to educate the public on various TV channels, radio channels and newspapers in the year 2023 as well.

Massmedia Programmes in 2023 - 44

No.	Programme	Number of programmes
01	TV Programmes	11
02	Newspaper Publications (Mawbima)	31
03	Radio Programmes	02

1.8.1 A.1 Television & Radio Programmes

Most of the Television and Radio programmes are invitational programmes. The Commission has not made any financial expenditure for these programmes. During the period from January to December, 31st of 2023, TV programmes have been conducted through ITN, Rupavahini, Siyatha TV, DAN TV, Shakthi TV and Vasantham TV.

No.	Mass Media Channel	No. of Programmes
01	Siyatha TV	02
02	Rupavahini	03
03	ITN	03
04	Shakthi TV	01
05	Vasantham TV	01
06	DAN T.V	01

The resource contribution for the above programs have been made by the officers employed in the Legal Aid Commission Head Office as well as those in the local offices in Nugegoda, Mallaham, Mannar and Kadawatha.

In conjunction with the 75th Independence Day celebration on February 04, 2023, the Independent Television Network gave a publicity message to the public about the Legal Aid Commission through the ITN (Crawler) program for a month until March 15, 2023. Further, from February 4, 2023 to March 31, 2023, an advertisement was disseminated about the services provided to the public by the Legal Aid Commission for a period of one and a half months. UNDP has provided financial and technical support for this advertisement.

- The officers also participated in the media discussion organized by the Media Unit of the Ministry of Justice on the public service provided by the Legal Aid Commission.

1.8.1.A Through Newspapers

The project implemented by the Legal Aid Commission by means of newspapers to respond to the public concerns and to generate a readership among readers wishing to obtain legal knowledge through weekly newspapers has been continued since 2006.

It becomes clear when tracing the telephone calls and letters that are received daily by the Legal Aid Commission that, these programmes have received immense popularity among the readers across the island regardless of age.

In the year 2023, the Legal Aid Commission has provided the editorial contribution of the media unit for 31 publications under the title “Know the Guilt line right and fight” in the Mavibima newspaper.



B. 1.8.1.B. Social Participatory programs for raising awareness

Government field officers, police officers and medical health officers have been identified as target groups in order to provide legal literacy with the intention of creating a strong and efficient state mechanism.

1.8.1.B.1 Programs for Public Officers

In general, the programs offered on legal knowledge are focused on all government officials, while officers engaged in other specific fields also benefit from the legal knowledge provided by those programmes. This is carried out as a part of the Legal Aid Commission for developing the professional capacity of public officers, forming an efficient state mechanism and producing a law-abiding, honest and satisfied public servant.

These programmes have been carried out in a number of government, semi government, and provincial offices throughout the country by the project division of the Commission and the Regional Legal Aid Commission offices in collaboration with each other. The areas covered in this respect are administrative law, human rights law, land laws, bribery and corruption law, labor law and family law. Plans have been put in place to deliver programs via lectures and impart knowledge through tutorials and training courses.

Targeted groups include Samurdhi officers, Grama Niladhari, Agricultural Research and Production Assistants, Family Health Officers, and field officers from Divisional Secretariats as a whole.

The aforementioned programmes have been conducted under the Consolidated Fund and with the financial assistance of the UNDP.

1.8.1.B.2 Programs for Police Officers

The statecraft that plays a significant part in maintaining law and order is the police force. Every officer in the police service should be well-versed in the legal system and the judiciary. Although an insight on the legal field is given at the recruitment of officers to the police service, the knowledge they gain on the subsequent legal changes and the new laws and regulations after the recruitment is rudimentary. The opportunity for gathering information is also rare.

Therefore, programs that provide an understanding on law should be carried out, in order to build professional skills of the police officers. An awareness and training programme on legal knowledge is being implemented jointly by the Legal Aid Commission and the Sri Lanka Police Department for the officers serving in various police stations island wide in this regard for a long while. Just as Criminal Law, the police officers will be given knowledge in civil and administrative fields as well.

1.8.1.B.3 Programs for Medical Officers

Compared to other government officials, Medical Officers are a group of public officers who have little opportunity to gain legal knowledge despite the fact that they have to deal with it often in their line of work. Eventhough on certain occasions, medical officers have to cooperate in Court procedures, only a few doctors are able to receive a formal training on how to cooperate in such procedures. It is a morbid question that many medico-legal officers are confronted with.

Medico-legal officers face serious challenges during autopsy, when appearing before Courts to give evidence regarding the same, on occasions where they obtain expertise evidence required for Court proceedings and, in collecting, presenting and analyzing the production of cases.

Similarly, although Medical Health Officers often need to assist in judicial work in their professional field, they lack knowledge in the legal field as well. Therefore, educating medical practitioners on law means improving their professionalism as well as an immense help in strengthening the process of administering social justice, welfare and equity.

Just as awareness programmes on the subject of law for medical practitioners are conducted, a special service has been rendered to the public through legal medical clinics. Officers from the centers of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka Island wide have joined hands with Medical Professionals in community health service on the prevention of non communicable diseases.

1.8.1.B.4 Mobile Legal Clinics

The Mobile Legal Aid Clinic is the most important project for the realization of goals and objectives of the establishment of the Legal Aid Commission. This will help to broaden the legal aid program among grassroot communities and identify problems, enabling the general public to have an easy access to justice. This program is implemented at a grassroot level through the local legal aid offices in the country. It is made easier to identify suitable persons to provide free legal assistance for low-income people.

A total number of 168 mobile legal clinics have been conducted. In addition to school programs, a legal clinic is also held alongside the other awareness programs. In 2023, out of the total 203 programs organized, except for 35 school programs, 168 legal clinics were conducted within the remaining 184 programs. Accordingly, the programs included 35 school programs, 168 mobile legal clinics, 184 other awareness programs, and 3 creative legal awareness initiatives conducted with the participation of free trade zone workers and labor communities. Altogether, the total number of social participatory programs aimed at raising legal awareness amounted to 391.

1.8.1.B.i 2023 Programmes conducted in 2023 and their distribution is as follows.

	Programme	No. of programmes
01	Raising awareness of Samurdhi officers and beneficiaries	6
02	Raising awareness among the fishing community	13
03	Raising awareness among the disabled community	13
04	Raising awareness among employees of the Free Trade Zone	02
05	Raising awareness among the labor community	01
06	Raising awareness among school children about protecting and caring for victims of crime	12
07	Protecting school children from cybercrime	12
08	Raising awareness about the rights and safety of girl children	11
09	Raising awareness among senior citizens about the law	22
10	Raising awareness about domestic violence prevention	12
11	Raising awareness about the rights of expatriate workers	14
12	Raising awareness among women about the law	10
13	Raising awareness prison inmates and conducting legal clinics	12
14	Raising awareness among prison officials	12
15	Conduct legal aid clinics	168
16	Raising awareness among the public about protecting microfinance borrowers	24
17	Raising awareness among public officers about the rights of the public	24
18	Raising awareness among public officers about human trafficking	24
	Grand Total	391

1.8.1.B.ii An Analytical overview of 391 Social Participation Awareness Programmes conducted in 2023

No.	Center	Date	Description	Participants	No. of Participants
1	Head Office	29.03.2023	Trincomalee	Public Officers	50
2	Head Office	30.03.2023	Trincomalee	Public Officers	50
3	Head Office	January & March	By coordinating Legal Aid Centers at island wide level	Apprentice Lawyers	905
4	Wariyapola	10.06.2023	Malwana Kirula Samagi Funeral Aid Society Hall	Elders	46
5	Colombo	2023.05.09	Divisional Secretariat Colombo	Women	69
6	Colombo	2023.05.12	Divisional Secretariat Colombo	Women	75
7	Colombo	2023.05.16	Divisional Secretariat Colombo	Women	89
8	Kolonnawa	2023.05.19	Divisional Secretariat Kolonnawa	Women	72
9	Kurunegala	2023.06.21	Divisional Secretariat	Women	65
10	Mawanella	2023.06.25	Weeragoda	Women	50
11	Galagedara	2023.06.24	Divisional Secretariat Auditorium	Samurdhi Officers	47
12	Bandarawela	2023.06.25	Suramya Gama Community Hall	Elders	50
13	Pugoda	2023.06.18	Nikalawela Temple	Elders	48
14	Galgamuwa	2023.06.23	Mahagalkadawela	Elders & Women	50
15	Gampaha	2023.06.10	Divisional Secretariat Gampaha	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	43
16	Mallaham	2023.06.20	Family Rehabilitation Centre- Chunnakam	Youth Community	30
17	Dambulla	2023.06.10	Municipal Council Building	Elders	48
18	Avissawella	2023.06.22	Rajagiri Temple	Elders	48
19	Polgahawela	2023.06.28	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	50
20	Mathugama	2023.06.19	Zonal Education Office- Mathugama	Public Officers	47
21	Kalutara	2023.05.30	Divisional Secretariat Development Committee Meeting-Kalutara	Public Officers	100
22	Kalutara	2023.06.27	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	100
23	Kuliyapitiya	2023.06.23	Technical College- Kuliyapitiya	Vocational Education Students	52
24	Balangoda	2023.06.18	Welage Temple-Ellepola	School Students	51
25	Balangoda	2023.06.27	Tamil College- Pettigala	Women	63
26	Homagama	2023.06.18	Ancient Temple-Homagama	Elders	55
27	Head Office	2023.06.08	Divisional Secretariat Thimbirigasyaya	Women	70
28	Head Office	2023.06.14	Divisional Secretariat Kesbewa	Women	72
29	Head Office	2023.06.17	Divisional Secretariat Colombo	Women	70
30	Head Office	2023.06.18	Divisional Secretariat Kolonnawa	Women	75
31	Head Office	2023.06.21	Divisional Secretariat Colombo	Women	77
32	Head Office	2023.06.23	Divisional Secretariat Homagama	Women	76
33	Head Office	2023.06.27	Divisional Secretariat Ratmalana	Women	82
34	Head Office	2023.06.30	Divisional Secretariat Thimbirigasyaya	Women	75
35	Balangoda	2023.06.27	Divisional Secretariat Balangoda	Women	60
36	Jaffna	2023.06.18	Divisional Secretariat Jaffna	Women	60
37	Kurunegala	2023.06.21	Divisional Secretariat Kurunegala	Women	60
38	Bandarawela	2023.06.25	Divisional Secretariat Bandarawela	Women	60
39	Kekirawa	2023.07.16	Office of the Medical Officer of Health	Public Officers	49
40	Hambantota	2023.07.01	Mahadevi Hall	Public Officers	40
41	Embilipitiya	2023.07.10	Divisional Secretariat Embilipitiya	Public Officers	60
42	Kegalle	2023.07.19	Divisional Secretariat Rambukkana	the general public	100
43	Attanagalla	2023.07.01	Malwatte Sri Bodhi Temple	the general public	55
44	Puttalam	2023.07.29	Divisional Secretariat Nawagattegama	the general public	50
45	Nikaweratiya	2023.08.10	U.B. Wanninayaka Central College	School children	50
46	Puttalam	2023.07.29	Divisional Secretariat Nawagattegama	Elders & the general public	50
47	Marawila	2023.08.04	Weerahena Pirivena- Nattandiya	Elders & the general public	50
48	Mahawa	2023.08.12	Janajayapura Society Hall-Mahawa	Elders & the	50

				general public	
49	Badulla	2023.08.25	Badulla Courts	the general public	50
50	Siyambalanduwa	2023.08.13	Ethimale Nagalena Ancient Rajamaha Vihara	Elders	50
51	Wellawaya	2023.08.19	Ratmalhena Temple	the general public	50
52	Mahiyanganaya	2023.08.28	Gamunupura Shady Line Apparel Institute	Textile Employees	50
53	Monaragala	2023.08.20	Monaragala Pokunugala Temple	the general public	50
54	Nuwara Eliya	2023.07.01	Nuwara Eliya District Secretariat Auditorium	the general public	50
55	Baddegama	2023.08.08	Balangoda College	Elders	50
56	Baddegama	2023.08.09	Divisional Secretariat Thawalama	Elders	50
57	Morawaka	2023.08.12	Varalla Uttaragiri Temple	the general public	50
58	Warakapola	2023.07.28	Divisional Secretariat Warakapola	Development Officers	50
59	Theldeniya	2023.08.24	“Emjay” garment factory	Textile Employees	50
60	Kegalle	2023.07.15	Divisional Secretariat Rambukkana	the general public	50
61	Attanagalla	2023.07.01	Malwatta Sri Bodhi Temple	the general public	50
62	Batticaloa	2023.08.08	The Divisional Secretariat South West Padpalai, Manmunei	Women	80
63	Kalmunei	2023.08.12	Kalmunei Mohamed College for Women	School children	50
64	Trincomalee	2023.08.05	Kinnia Women's College	School children & Teachers	70
65	Pothuwil	2023.08.12	Pothuvil College	School children	75
66	Ampara	2023.08.12	Damana Regional Community Hall	the general public	50
67	Walaichchena	2023.08.12	Oddamavadi National College	Development Officers	100
68	Dehiattakandiya	2023.08.26	Ami\$ Sadunpura National School	School children & Teachers	75
69	Jaffna	2023.08.09	Divisional Secretariat - Jaffna	Development Officers	100
70	Mallaham	2023.08.07	Arunodaya College	Students	50
71	Kilinochchi	2023.08.12	Main Hall of NAITA	Students	50
72	Point Pedro	2023.08.05	Main Hall- Karaweddi	Students	78
73	Embilipitiya	2023.07.10	Divisional Secretariat- Embilipitiya	Development Officers	60
74	Embilipitiya	2023.07.11	Divisional Secretariat- Embilipitiya	Public Officers	109
75	Ampara	2023.09.12	Vocational Training Center	Students	60
76	Mahiyanganaya	2023.09.25	Morayaya Temple	General Public	66
77	Bandarawela	2023.09.22	Divisional Secretariat- Ella	Women	60
78	Wellawaya	2023.09.12	Vocational Training Center	Students	60
79	Gonapinuwala	2023.09.20	Divisional Secretariat- Gonapinuwala	Public Officers	70
80	Kurunegala	2023.07.20	Divisional Secretariat- Mellawapitiya	Public Officers	65
81	Kegalle	2023.09.25	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	100
82	Marawila	2023.09.23	Mudukatuwa Community Hall	General Public	60
83	Deniyaya	2023.09.18	Dampahala Vilayaya Maha Vidyalaya	School children	72
84	Kuliyapitiya	2023.09.19	Divisional Secretariat- Kuliyapitiya West	General Public	74
85	Kalutara	2023.09.21	Office of the Medical Officer of Health- Gamgoda	General Public	60
86	Galgamuwa	2023.09.21	Medagama	Women	58
87	Panadura	2023.09.21	Sumithrayo Hall- Panadura	General Public	60
88	Mannar	2023.08.29	Mannar National College	School children	141
89	Wariyapola	2023.11.10	Divisional Secretariat- Wariyapola	Public Officers	162
90	Matara	2023.10.03	Divisional Secretariat- Kirinda Puhulwella	Women	94
91	Matara	2023.11.03	Divisional Secretariat-Weligama	Women	55
92	Kurunegala	2023.10.27	Divisional Secretariat-Bamnukotuwa	Women	60
93	Kurunegala	2023.12.01	Indulgoda Kanda Central College	School children	270
94	Hingurakgoda	2023.11.20	Gal Amuna Maha Vidyalaya	School children	234
95	Homagama	2023.11.11	Divisional Secretariat-Homagama	Public Officers	100
96	Hambantota	2023.07.01	Viharamahadevi Hall- Hambantota	Women	40
97	Hambantota	2023.09.21	Viharamahadevi Hall- Hambantota	Public Officers	56
98	Hambantota	2023.12.14	Pallemala-Hambantota	Public Officers	67
99	Attanagalla	2023.10.17	Ogodapola Vidyalaya	School children	60

100	Wellawaya	2023.11.07	Randeniya Hall	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	60
101	Nikaweratiya	2023.10.02	Divisional Secretariat-Nikaweratiya	Public Officers	71
102	Nikaweratiya	2023.11.16	Magallegama Rajabima Central College	School children	160
103	Welimada	2023.10.17	Y.M.B.A Hall	General Public	67
104	Welimada	2023.12.08	Courts Complex-Welimada	General Public	67
105	Mullaitivu	2023.11.09	V.T.A Institute	School children	60
106	Morawaka	2023.11.30	Sri Paramavisuddaramaya Kirilipana	General Public	61
107	Polonnaruwa	2023.11.22	Kandakadu Rehabilitation Camp	Inmates	150
108	Mahiyanganaya	2023.12.07	Ulpathagama Vidyalaya	School children	67
109	Embilipitiya	2023.12.08	Agunakolapelessa Prison	Prison Inmates	101
110	Point Pedro	2023.11.16	Karanavi Hall	Adults 50	68
111	Vavuniya	2023.11.09	Divisional Secretariat-Thivasikulam	General Public	60
112	Baddegama	2023.11.15	Rathanasara Vidyalaya	School children	71
113	Baddegama	2023.11.27	Divisional Secretariat- Nagoda	Public Officers	107
114	Tissamaharama	2023.11.15	Divisional Secretariat- Lunugamvehera	General Public	60
115	Galgamuwa	2023.12.15	Kumbukwewa	Women	58
116	Balapitiya	2023.09.27	Divisional Secretariat- Karandeniya	General Public	60
117	Balapitiya	2023.11.30	Pinkanda	General Public	60
118	Negombo	2023.10.20	Divisional Secretariat- Katana	Public Officers	60
119	Negombo	2023.11.29	Divisional Secretariat- Katana	Public Officers	45
120	Mathugama	2023.10.05	Divisional Secretariat- Dodangoda	Public Officers	45
121	Mathugama	2023.12.12	Divisional Secretariat- Mathugama	Adults	58
122	Dehiattakandiya	2023.12.07	Divisional Secretariat- Padiyathalawa	Adults	61
123	Kalutara	2023.12.07	Divisional Secretariat- Kalutara	Public Officers	60
124	Chavakachcheri	2023.11.07	Ladies' College- Chavakachcheri	School children	68
125	Thambuttegama	2023.12.06	Divisional Secretariat- Rajanganaya	Public Officers	60
126	Chilaw	2023.11.29	Divisional Secretariat- Arachchikattuwa	Public Officers	73
127	Kuliyapitiya	2023.11.16	Maternity and Child Delopment Centre - Pannala	General Public	72
128	Puttalam	2023.11.23	Divisional Secretariat- Karuwalagaswewa	General Public	60
129	Polgahawela	2023.12.06	Sri Jayasundarama Viharaya	Development Officers	60
130	Siyambalanduwa	2023.11.17	Sahana Astrology Centre	General Public	60
131	Monaragala	2023.11.07	Vijaya Education Centre	General Public	53
132	Badulla	2023.12.14	Rathnapala Vidyalaya	School children	60
133	Galagedara	2023.10.19	Divisional Secretariat-Hatharaliyadda	Public Officers	57
134	Matale	2023.10.26	Divisional Secretariat- Matale	Public Officers	60
135	Theldeniya	2023.10.26	Divisional Secretariat- Ududumbara	Public Officers	60
136	Nawalapitiya	2023.12.08	Kalugahinna Temple	General Public	60
137	Dambulla	2023.11.22	Sri Bodhirukkarama Temple	General Public	60
138	Kekirawa	2023.11.22	Divisional Secretariat- Ipalogama	Public Officers	120
139	Kekirawa	2023.12.06	Divisional Secretariat- Galnewa	Public Officers	60
140	Hambantota	2023.12.14	Youth Center- Weerawila	Women	60
141	Galle	2023.1.15	Divisional Secretariat- Kadawathsathara	Public Officers	60
142	Tangalle	2023.11.27	Pallikudawa Hall	Adults	67
143	Deiyandara	2023.11.28	Pradeshya Sabha- Mulatiyana	Public Officers	74
144	Mawanella	2023.11.10	Hingula Sanasa Hall- Mawanella	Public Officers	100
145	Warakapola	2023.11.23	Divisional Secretariat- Galigamuwa	Public Officers	60
146	Warakapola	2023.12.14	Divisional Secretariat- Warakapola	Public Officers	60
147	Balangoda	2023.12.07	Divisional Secretariat- Opanayake	Public Officers	60
148	Negombo	2023.10.20	Divisional Secretariat- Katana	Public Officers	60
149	Gampaha	2023.10.11	Divisional Secretariat- Gampaha	Public Officers	60
150	Gampaha	2023.12.13	Medical College Hall	Public Officers	60
151	Pugoda	23. 2023.10	Dakshinagiri Temple Thiththapaththara	Public Officers	60
152	Kaduwela	2023.11.24	St. Mary's College Welivita	Parents	60
153	Head Office	2023.11.01	Divisional Secretariat- Kolonnawa	Public Officers	60
154	Kaduwela	2023.11.24	St. Mary's College Welivita	Parents	60
155	Negombo	2023.11.29	Divisional Secretariat- Katana	Public Officers	60
156	Minuwangoda	2023.12.10	Police Station- Badalgama	Public Officers	60
157	Head Office	2023.11.23	Divisional Secretariat- Colombo	Public Officers	65
158	Kalmune	2023.11.10	Divisional Secretariat- Sammanthurai	Public Officers	60
159	Kalmune	2023.11.15	Divisional Secretariat- Karaithivu	Public Officers	60
160	Pottuvil	2023.11.28	Pottuvil	School children	60
161	Akkareipattu	2023.11.20	Akkareipattu Hall	Women	60

162	Ampara	2023.12.12	Saddathissa Vidyalaya	School children	200
163	Batticaloa	2023.11.23	Divisional Secretariat- Kaththankudi	Public Officers	60
164	Jaffna	2023.11.10	Kurunagar Hall	Public Officers	60
165	Mallakam	2023.11.06	Jaffna University	University Students	60
166	Mannar	2023.11.02	Andukulam Vidyalaya	School children	60
167	Kilinochchi	2023.11.08	Kilinochchi	School children	60
168	Kilinochchi	2023.12.14	NAITA Old Secretariat	School children	60
169	Mallakam	2023.12.04	Teaching Hospital, Jaffna	Apprentice Nurses	60
170	Mahawa	2023.1.02	Bulunewa Nursary	Adults	60
171	Marawila	2023.09.23	Mudukattuwa Hall	Adults	60
172	Siyambanduwa	2023.10.09	Mahakollugolla Vidyalaya	School children	60
173	Walasmulla	2023.10.03	Horawela Maha Vidyalaya	School children	60
174	Pugoda	2023.01.16	Divisional Secretariat- Wake	General Public	60
175	Hettipola	2023.11.17	Kaduruwewa Hall-Bingiriya	General Public	80
176	Battaramulla	2023.10.18	Rahula Vidyalaya-Madiwela	School children	72
177	Ampara	2023.12.13	Ampara	Adults	50
178	Horana	2023.11.10	Punsiri Community Hall- Millaniya	Adults	59
179	Head Office	2023.11.15	Divisional Secretariat- Colombo	General Public	65
180	Matara	2023.10.05	Divisional Secretariat	General Public	60
181	Wellawaya	2023.09.12	Divisional Secretariat- Wellawaya	Women	60
182	Pugoda	2023.09.16	Divisional Secretariat- Dompe	Women	60
183	Thambuttegama	2023.09.19	Divisional Secretariat- Thambuttegama	Women	60
184	Nuwara Eliya	2023.09.20	District Secretariat- Nuwara Eliya	Women	60
185	Thissamaharama	2023.09.12	Forest Conservation Department	Officers of the institution	60
186	Nawalapitiya	2023.09.22	Divisional Secretariat- Nawalapitiya	Women	60
187	Nugegoda	2023.09.20	Office of Grama Niladhari- Udahamulla	General Public	60
188	Morawaka	2023.09.18	Wilayaya Vidyalaya	School children	60
189	Battaramulla	2023.09.23	Subhuthi National School	School children	60
190	Wattala	2023.09.26	Divisional Secretariat- Wattala	General Public	60
191	Chilaw	2023.09.20	Deduru Oya Dewasthanaya	General Public	60
192	Minuwangoda	2023.09.18	Divisional Secretariat- Divulapitiya	Development Officers	60
193	Galgamuwa	2023.09.21	Community Hall- Medagama	Women	60
194	Polgahawela	2023.09.26	Meddalanda Sri Vijayananda Pirivena	General Public	60
195	Mathugama	2023.10.05	Divisional Secretariat- Dodangoda	Development Officers	60
196	Hingurakgoda	2023.09.24	Patapilikanda Funeral Society Auditorium-Minneriya	General Public	60
197	Balapitiya	2023.09.27	Divisional Secretariat- Karandeniya	General Public	60
198	Hettipola	2023.09.25	Divisional Secretariat- Hettipola	General Public	60
199	Walasmulla	2023.10.03	Horewela Maha Vidyalaya	School children	60
200	Galagedara	2023.10.26	Divisional Secretariat- Hatharaliyadda	Grama Niladhari	60
201	Kaduwela	2023.10.27	St. Mary's College Welivita	School children	60
202	Deiyandara	2023.10.31	Mawarala Central College	General Public	60
203	Negombo	2023.11.29	Divisional Secretariat- Katana	Grama Niladhari	60

1.8.1. C Developmental legal aid programs

In general, the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has identified groups such as prison inmates, aborigins and migrant workers as special groups that require attention as a welfare government while focusing on empowering children, women, and the elderly people who are considered to be the weaker sections of society and securing their legal protection and security. The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has established separate units for them and various programs are carried out through those units.

1.8.1C.1. Program Unit for Children

The ideal age for mingling with any kind of knowledge is the schoolchildren. It is very easy to educate the adult society through the child, by motivating their interest in curiosity, the thirst for knowledge and quest for new information. The School Programs Division of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka, which evolved through this concept, launched school programs in several forms.

These programs also addressed children's rights to education, love, and care, as well as the distribution of information that would help keep them safe from harm. These initiatives, which focused on the most challenging academic areas, were put into place throughout the island.

The number of maintenance cases for children to which the attention of the Special Unit for Children of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has been paid is 28099. This is 54.3% of the total number of cases we have handled. This year, 35 school programs have been conducted and the number of school students who participated in them is 2666.

1.8.1.C.2 Program for Women

These programs are centered around rural women, semi-urban and urban women. The program focuses on the laws that protect women's as well as all forms of violence against her and provides legal protection as required.

In 2023, 25805 women received legal advice. Of the 36 awareness programs that have been conducted, 16 sessions were carried out under the financial assistance of UNDP. 12 programs have been conducted in Colombo district and 16 sessions around Kurunegala, Bandarawela, Balangoda and Jaffna. Overall, 1825 women have participated in 36 programs.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, special attention has been paid to the implementation of various programs throughout Sri Lanka that raise awareness of laws that impact women's daily lives, including those pertaining to labor laws, property protection, maintenance, divorce, domestic violence, and fundamental rights. It has offered access to legal aid, a variety of discourses, and legal educational programs. There have also been programs offering legal education, different talks, and advice on how to get legal help.

Further, the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka was able to represent the National Women's Committee this year.

Moreover, programs were carried out in collaboration with WIN Institute on the prevention of gender-based violence against women and all monthly reviews were attended and progress was reviewed.

Providing legal aid in courts for women who are helpless in the face of gender-based oppression against women

No.	Category	Number of Cases
01	Divorce	9307
02	Domestic Violence	554
Total		9861
As a percentage of the overall number of cases		19%

1.8.1.C.3 Programs for senior citizens

Sri Lanka, one of the most developing countries in the world, is fast becoming a nation of rapidly aging populations and is experiencing a very significant demographic change. Demographers predict that the adult population, which is about 1/10 of the country's entire population, will double by 2050. Increasing the life expectancy of a country or increasing the aging population is on the one hand a sign of a developed country but on the other hand the under development of other necessary welfare facilities in comparison to the growing elderly population is a challenge. It is practically proven that by forming a team with high manpower and armed with experience and knowledge, very tangible results can be achieved.

Since there was a 30-year long war in Sri Lanka, the number of senior citizens has increased significantly, and there should be a guarantee on the protection and security of senior citizens for enforcing the social welfare concept and administration of justice. The senior citizen community, which constitutes 11% of the total population, constitutes 20% of the voters. In that context, the Parliament of Sri Lanka has affirmed that value in the enactment of the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act No. 9 of 2000.

In this backdrop, the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has implemented its Senior Citizen's Law Division in collaboration with the National Secretariat for Elders. The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka is in the process of helping the members of the Elders' Associations at the local level to obtain free solutions to their legal issues and enforcing orders issued by the National Elders' Secretariat regarding maintenance for elders through the Magistrate's Court. Further, Legal Awareness Programs are also implemented for the members of local grassroot elders' societies. In the year 2023, 22 senior citizens awareness programs were held and 1067 senior citizens participated.

1.8.1.C.4. Program for Prison Inmates

Prisoners are human beings. Since 1984, the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has focused on this concept. Accordingly, the key objective of this program is to provide legal aid to the detainees who have been without bail or are unable to satisfy the bail conditions for a long period of time in jail. Accordingly, the Prisons Department and the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka are conducting legal aid clinics for prison inmates throughout the country and collecting necessary information. After obtaining information, the inmates chosen for legal assistance will be given free attorneys' assistance for their cases. In 2023 12 legal clinics have been conducted within prisons whereas 12 awareness programmes have been held for Prison Officers.

1.8.1.C.5 Program for Indigenous People

Aboriginal communities who inherit a history of many years live in different parts of the world. Notable among them are the Red Indians of America, the Pygmies of Africa, the Aborigines of Australia, and the Veddas of Sri Lanka.

These people, who represent the earliest part of Sri Lankan history, are in the early stages of several aspects such as education, economic, health, employment and habitat. It is imperative that they acquire legal literacy and are provided with legal aid to improve their living conditions in line with the new world. Further, the safeguarding the indigenous community is also a part of upholding our nation's obligation to preserve its historical legacy.

The focus of the government should be on empowering the mechanism to facilitate easy and equal access to justice for the protection of indigenous peoples' heritage and the privileges granted to the public by the Constitution of Sri Lanka, and to make more flexible and effective legal reforms. The opportunity should be broadened for all communities to enjoy the rights of justice and equality. The main objective of this project is to draw the government's attention on these issues and make legal reforms.

One of the main objectives of this project is to meet the indigenous people spread across different parts of Sri Lanka and to identify the current challenges associated with their homeland, traditional customs, their lives, livelihoods, educational levels and habitats. Accordingly, bringing up a discourse on legal issues affecting the everyday life of indigenous people takes a predominant place among the objectives of this project. Further, Hon. Minister of Justice has been informed of the need for the legislation of new laws to protect the heritage rights of the indigenous people and research was carried out on the same during the year.

1.8.1.C.6 Program for Migrant Workers

It is important to ensure special security and protection for job security and safety of lives of migrant workers who contribute to the economy of Sri Lanka by bringing foreign exchange to the country. The number of Sri Lankan migrant workers is increasing day by day, and new legal provisions have been established to ensure their safety and protection so that it prevents illegal migration and thereby the protection and security of migrant workers is strengthened. Most of our migrant workers are Sri

Lankan women and this is due to their poverty and low income level. Most of them in the Middle East are either unskilled workers, housemaids and semi-skilled workers. The Middle East region has an opportune market and demand for most of those who are temporarily moving abroad. The market for skilled and qualified foreign workers has expanded to East Asia and West Asia.

Many Sri Lankan migrant women work as housemaids in the Middle East region. Most of these housemaids are victims of human rights violations, such as loss of labor rights, abuse, physical and mental harassment at their workplace, due to lack of skills and efficiency. Likewise, some migrant women are embarrassed when they are faced with crimes and offenses abroad. Most people are ignorant about law enforcement in those countries.

This division provides services to migrant workers who are facing problems. Upon completion of consultancy service, they will be directed to the Consular Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment for judicial work when necessary. The unit works in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), overseeing the Community Fund forum (Village Forum) at Divisional Secretariat level, to raise awareness of migrant workforce families. 14 awareness programmes have been conducted this year.

1.8.1.C.7 Program for Samurdhi Beneficiaries

The Legal Aid Commission in collaboration with the Department of Samurdhi has created a database by collecting details of the Samurdhi beneficiaries with legal problems through which a prompt legal consultancy for the legal issues by giving priority to litigation and thus to administer Justice has been arranged.

1.8.1.C.8 Programme conducted under United Nations Drugs and Crime Project

The following programmes have been conducted under United Nations Drugs and Crime Project (UNODC) on raising awareness among public officers in collaboration with the Legal Aid Commission. 10 programmes were conducted under this programme in various areas where 400 public officers have been informed. The programmes were organized by UNODC and conducted with resource contribution of the Legal Aid Commission.

No.	Date	Location	No. of Participants
01	29 & 30.03.2023	Habarana	40
02	08 & 09.04.2023	Galle	40
03	19 & 20.04.2023	Negombo	40
04	29 & 30.04.2023	Dambulla	40
05	03 & 04.05.2023	Wadduwa	40
06	09 & 10.05.2023	Negombo	40
07	13 & 14.05.2023	Galle	40
08	27 & 28.05.2023	Matara	40
09	06 & 07.07.2023	Habarana	40
10	07 & 08.08.2023	Habarana	40

1.8.1.C.9 Legal Education Programme

1.8.1.C.9. i The formal legal education program

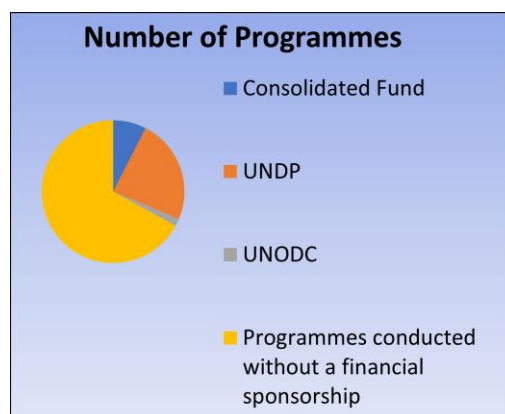
This programme is implemented in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Law College. The purpose is to train amateur lawyers who take oaths as lawyers a year. Between January and December this year, 905 apprentice lawyers were trained in one group, and the Commission has obtained the service of external resource persons including senior veteran presidential attorneys.

1.8.1.C.9. ii Training Programme for Law Students

This program is being implemented upon the request made to the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka by the Faculty of Law, University of Peradeniya, Law Students of APIIT Institute and the second and third year students of the Faculty of Law, Kotelawala Defence University. The program, which provides practical training to these students at the head office and various regional centers in the island, was carried out in the year 2023.

1.8.2 Distribution of Programmes by Financial Sponsorship

No.	Financial Sponsorship	Number of Programmes	Percentage
01	Consolidated Fund	49	7.6%
02	UNDP	154	23.7%
03	UNODC	11	1.7%
04	Programmes conducted without any cost to the Legal Aid Commission (Without financial sponsorship)	435	67%
Total		650	100%



1.8.3 Participation of the Legal Aid Commission for Guest Programs

The invitation extended to the Legal Aid Commission by various organizations and social organizations for the resource contribution to programs conducted by them is a great honor for us in the legal profession and at a corporate level. In addition to the judicial duties of the Legal Aid Commission, it is a tremendous service that they have made their contribution as lecturers at awareness programmes of various social organizations and institutions, as legal counselors at mobile clinics and workshop facilitators. Similarly, the honour given to the Legal Aid Commission by the institutions who made these invitations is gratefully acknowledged.

Services provided by the Legal Aid Commission, i.e. resource contribution is based on the legal conditions related to, sexual harassment, fundamental rights, child abuse, women's rights, sexual violence, laws for the elderly people, human trafficking, labor laws, land laws and civil records, legal conditions on social issues required for everyday life, family law, women affected by war, Muslim women, women working abroad.

1.8.3.i Participation of the Legal Aid Commission for Guest Programs

In 2023, upon invitation the Legal Aid Commission has provided resource contribution for 215 legal awareness programmes.

No.	Centre	Date	Location and Guest Programme	Participants	No. of participants
01	Mullaitivu	2023.03.29	Divisional Secretariat Oddusuddan	Public Officers	
02	Warakapola	2023.03.09	MAS Fabric Pvt Ltd	Women	150
03	Baddegama	2023.03.08	Divisional Secretariat- Baddegama	Women	100
04	Batticaloa	2023.01.20	Divisional Secretariat	Women	12
05	Valachchenai	2023.02.07	Manjoloji	Women	50
06	Polonnaruwa	2023.01.23	Lake Hotel	General Public	60
07	Avissawella	2023.03.23	Divisional Secretariat- Dehiowita	Women	100
08	Kalutara	2023.01.23 2023.03.23	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	100
09	Nugegoda	2023.03.04	Sri FM	Listeners	
10	Nugegoda	2023.03.08	Kingsbury Hotel	Public Officers	100
11	Theldeniya	2023.03.22	BOI Garment	Employees of BOI Garment	75
12	Kilinochchi	2023.04.01	Divisional Secretariat- Kilinochchi	Divisional secretariat meeting	50
13	Kilinochchi	2023.04.01	Divisional Secretariat- Punagar	Divisional secretariat meeting	25
14	Kilinochchi	2023.02.09	Police Station	Police Officers	50
15	Kilinochchi	2023.02.14	Divisional Secretariat	Divisional secretariat meeting	25
16	Kilinochchi	2023.03.28	Divisional Secretariat	Divisional secretariat meeting	25
17	Kilinochchi	2023.03.30	Divisional Secretariat	Divisional secretariat meeting	25
18	Kilinochchi	2023.03.30	Divisional Secretariat - Kandawalai	Divisional secretariat meeting	25
19	Kalmunai	2023.01.20	Probation Office- Sammanthurai	District Coordination Committee Meeting	50
20	Kalmunai	2023.03.14	Divisional Secretariat	District Coordination Committee Meeting	50
21	Kalmunai	2023.03.29	Divisional Secretariat- Karaitivu	District Coordination Committee Meeting	50

22	Jaffna	2023.03.09 2023.03.31	DAN TV Office-Jaffna Chavakachcheri Community Centre	General Public	100 100
23	Mallakam	2023.03.01	DAN TV Office-Jaffna	Listeners	
24	Mallakam	2023.03.02	ITN/ Vasantham TV	Listeners	
25	Mallakam	2023.03.23	Unisf Jaffna	Listeners	
26	Mallakam	2023.03.30	Divisional Secretariat-	Public Officers	120
27	Kekirawa	2023.01.03	M.O.H. Office	Public Officers	120
28	Kekirawa	2023.03.24	Sri Lanka Police-Kekirawa	Public Officers	120
29	Kekirawa	2023.03.29	Village Hotel	Public Officers	100
30	Kekirawa	2023.03.30	Village Hotel	Public Officers	100
31	Balangoda	2023.01.07	Sri Lanka Police- Opanayake	Public Officers	100
32	Balangoda	2023.01.11	Divisional Secretariat- Imbulpe	Public Officers	100
33	Balangoda	2023.01.14	Divisional Secretariat- Weligepola	Public Officers	100
34	Balangoda	2023.01.18	Sri Lanka Police- Balangoda	Public Officers	100
35	Balangoda	2023.01.21	MAS Active Sports- Balangoda	MAS Active Sports Officer	100
36	Balangoda	2023.01.23	Sri Lanka Police- Opanayake	Public Officers	100
37	Balangoda	2023.01.31	Sri Lanka Police- Pinnawala	Public Officers	100
38	Balangoda	2023.02.11	MAS Active Sports- Balangoda	MAS Active Sports Officer	100
39	Balangoda	2023.02.27	Divisional Secretariat- Balangoda	Public Officers	100
40	Balangoda	2023.03.13	MAS Active Sports- Balangoda	MAS Active Sports Officer	100
41	Balangoda	2023.03.27	Divisional Secretariat- Balangoda	Public Officers	100
42	Horana	2023.01.02	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	100
43	Kaduwela	2023.02.15	MAS Active Sports	MAS Active Sports Officer	50
44	Kaduwela	2023.03.09	MAS Active Sports	MAS Active Sports Officer	50
45	Kekirawa	2023.04.10	Divisional Secretariat- Palagala	Public Officers 100	120
46	Kekirawa	2023.05.22	Ganthiriyagama Maha Vidyalaya	School children	120
47	Kekirawa	2023.05.22	Ranajayapura Vidyalaya	School children	120
48	Hambantota	2023.05.25	MAS Active Sleekline Pvt Ltd- Malwatta	Employees	25
49	Baddegama	2023.04.18	District Secretariat- Galle	Public Officers	50
50	Baddegama	2023.04.07 2023.04.09	Kandian Blue Hotel	Legal Officers	54
51	Baddegama	2023.06.14	Family Unity	Women	50
52	Warakapola	2023.06.30	MAS Sports Methliya Employees	Employees	25
53	Battaramulla	2023.05.20 and 21	Hotel Milraj- Wellawatte	Legal Officers	25
54	Jaffna	2023.06.18	Irubalai Public	Women	60
55	Trincomalee	2023.05.26	Kachcheri- Trincimalee	General Public	60
56	Theldeniya	2023.06.22	MAS Factory Pallekele	Employees	100
57	Batticaloa	2023.05.08	Saththurukondan	Women's associations	15
58	Batticaloa	2023.05.10	Saththurukondan	Women's associations	15
59	Batticaloa	2023.05.18	Saththurukondan	Women's associations	15
60	Batticaloa	2023.05.23	Divisional Secretariat	Women's associations	15
61	Batticaloa	2023.05.24	Saththurukondan	Women's associations	15
62	Batticaloa	2023.05.25	YMCA Batticaloa	Women's associations	25
63	Batticaloa	2023.05.27	Mobile Service	General Public	15
64	Batticaloa	2023.05.29	Saththurukondan	Women's associations	15
65	Batticaloa	2023.05.31	Saththurukondan	Women's associations	15
66	Batticaloa	2023.06.15	Saththurukondan	Women's associations	15
67	Batticaloa	2023.06.21	Saththurukondan	Women's associations	15
68	Batticaloa	2023.06.28	Saththurukondan	Women's associations	15
69	Mathugama	2023.05.23	Mount Reach Hotel Rumassala	Lawyers	30

70	Mathugama	2023.06.02	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	50
71	Kalmunai	2023.06.02	Divisional Secretariat-Sammanthurai	Public Officers	50
72	Kalmunai	2023.06.08	Divisional Secretariat-Karaitivu	Public Officers	50
73	Kalmunai	2023.06.08	Divisional Secretariat-Nainativu	Public Officers	50
74	Anuradhapura	2023.06.23	MAS Holdings- Mihintale	Public Officers	120
75	Galle	2023.06.29	Co-operative Building-Pettigalwatta	General Public	40
76	Balapitiya	2023.04.28	Divisional Secretariat- Galle	Public Officers	30
77	Balapitiya	2023.06.27	Divisional Secretariat- Galle	Religious	30
78	Dehiattakandiya	2023.05.22	Paragaswewa	Women	50
79	Dehiattakandiya	2023.06.14	Divisional Secretariat- Maha Oya	Public Officers	100
80	Kalutara	2023.06.24	Gamagoda Suvisuddharama Temple	Elders	50
81	Kuliyapitiya	2023.04.19	Slimline Pannala	General Public	50
82	Balangoda	2023.06.05	MAS Sports Employees	Employees	25
83	Embilipitiya	2023'07'14	MAS Active Asialine Garment Factory	Garment Employees	3000
84	Embilipitiya	2023'07'23	Police Head Quarters Auditorium- Embilipitiya	WPS / WS	37
85	Embilipitiya	2023'08'29	Grama Niladhari Division-Embilipitiya	Women	150
86	Embilipitiya	2023.09.27	Teacher Training Centre	Teachers	83
87	Embilipitiya	2023.09.28	Teacher Training Centre	Teachers	83
88	Galle	2023.08.31	Divisional Secretariat-Imaduwa	General Public	109
89	Galle	2023.09.30	Courts Complex- Galle	General Public	27
90	Baddegama	2023.07.19	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	25
91	Point Pedro	2023.09.21	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	40
92	Point Pedro	2023.09.22	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	50
93	Warakapola	2023.09.12	MAS Fabric Pvt Ltd	Employees	100
94	Warakapola	2023.09.15	MAS Fabric Pvt Ltd	Employees	100
95	Horana	2023.09.16	SLIDA අයතනය	Lawyers	200
96	Horana	2023.09.21	Divisional Secretariat	General Public	100
97	Horana	2023.09.23	Ramada Hotel- Wellawatte	Lawyers	200
98	Wariyapola	2023'09'06	National Youth Association-Wariyapola	Students	200
99	Kuliyapitiya	2023.07.18	Slim Line Garment-Pannala	Labourers (FM media)	2500
100	Kuliyapitiya	2023.09.26	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	50
101	Kuliyapitiya	2023.09.27	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	70
102	Kalutara	2023.08.02	General Hospital- Kalutara	A review meeting	50
103	Kalutara	2023.09.01	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	150
104	Kalutara	2023.09.08	Kalutara Prison	Prison Inmates	100
105	Mallakam	2023.09.19	Green Grass Hotel- Jaffna	District Child Protection Office-Northern Province	40
106	Kalmunai	2023.07.11	Eastern University	Students	100
107	Kalmunai	2023.07.12	Divisional Secretariat-Sammanthurai	A meeting	100
108	Kalmunai	2023.07.19	Divisional Secretariat-Karaitivu	A meeting	100
109	Kalmunai	2023.09.14	Divisional Secretariat-Sammanthurai	A meeting	100
110	Kalmunai	2023.09.21	Divisional Secretariat-Karaitivu	A meeting	100
111	Pottuvil	2023.09.26	Divisional Secretariat	A meeting	100
112	Homagama	2023.09.16	SLIDA Institute	Lawyers	200
113	Head Office	2023.09.13	BMICH	General Public	200
114	Head Office	2023.09.20	Lawyers for Human Rights and Development	A survey of child detainees in detention centers	100
115	Head Office	2023.09.21.22	Renuka Hotel	Officers of Probation Department	50
116	Head Office	2023.09.05	Ministry of Justice-Auditorium	Establishing a coordination committee to provide access to justice for children	100

117	Lawyers of the Head Office and regional centres	2023.09.16	SLIDA	Discussion on the program jointly conducted by the Consumer Authority and the Legal Aid Commission.	100
118	Head Office	2023.08.15	BMICH	The Integrity Icon Sri Lanka (Supilipan Pranama Sri Lanka)	100
119	Head Office	2023'08'09	Parliamentary Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health	Parliament	100
120	Head Office	2023.09.28 & 29	Courts Complex	National Law Week	
121	Head Office and the regional office in Welimada	2023.07.25-27	Kthmandu, Nepal	Rapid access to legal aid in the criminal justice administration system	200
122	Head Office	2023.08.24	Galadhari Hotel	JURE project meeting	200
123	Head Office	2023.09.07	General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University	International Research Conference	100
124	Head Office	2023.08.05	Legal Aid Commission Head Office	Awareness session for psychiatry students at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo	50
125	Head Office	2023.10.02	Divisional Secretariat - Nikaraweratiya	General Public	76
126	Anuradhapura	2023.10.26	Provincial Council (North-Central)	Public Officers	250
127	Matara	2023.10.17	Television Programme		
128	Matara	2023.10.31	Kumburugamuwa	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	50
129	Matara	2023.11.14	Rahula Vidyalaya	School Children	300
130	Matara	2023.11.17	Divisional Secretariat- Matara	Women	70
131	Matara	2023.11.17	Mahanama Vidyalaya	Students	150
132	Matara	2023.12.11	SLFI Institute	Public Officers	100
133	Matara	2023.12.12	Human Rights- Matara	Public Officers	100
134	Morawaka/ Deniyaya	2023.11.20	Beralapanthara Maha Vidyalaya	School Children	61
135	Mahiyanganaya	2023.11.02	Gemunupura Garment Factories	Employees of the Garment	67
136	Vavuniya	2023.12.19	Municipal Council	General Public	150
137	Baddegama	2023.11.21	Nirmala Montessori	School Children	60
138	Baddegama	2023.12.09	Vidyaloka Vidyalaya	General Public	
139	Baddegama	2023.12.13	Divisional Secretariat- Baddegama	Public Officers	10
140	Baddegama	2023.12.14	District Office- Galle	Public Officers	25
141	Balapitiya	2023.12.14	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	100
142	Balapitiya	2023.09.28	Courts Complex- Balapitiya	Lawyers	50
143	Balapitiya	2023.09.26	Siddhartha Vidyalaya	School Children	100
144	Balapitiya	2023.04.18	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	50
145	Negombo	2023.12.13	Negombo Hospital	Public Officers	30
146	Avissawella	2023.11.28 29	Colombo City Center	Legal Officers	100
147	Kalutara	2023.10.11	Divisional Secretariat- Kalutara	Public Officers	50
148	Kalutara	2023.10.13	Divisional Secretariat- Kalutara	Public Officers	100
149	Kalutara	2023.11.20	Divisional Secretariat- Kalutara	Public Officers	100
150	Kalutara	2023.11.28	Divisional Secretariat- Kalutara	Public Officers	100
151	Balangoda	2023.10.10	MAS Active Sports- Balangoda	MAS Active Employees	100
152	Dambulla	2023.12.09	Divisional Secretariat- Dambulla	Public Officers	100
153	Dambulla	2023.12.12	Divisional Secretariat- Laggala	Public Officers	100
154	Dambulla	2023.12.13	Divisional Secretariat- Galewela	Public Officers	100
155	Dambulla	2023.12.17	Divisional Secretariat- Matale	Public Officers	100
156	Galle	2023.12.09	Vidyaloka Vidyalaya- Galle	Labourers	25

157	Horana	2023.12.21	Divisional Secretariat- Bandaragama	Elders	100
158	Hatton	2023.10.06	Bogawanthalawa Temple	Elders	200
159	Hatton	2023.10.16	Cinecita Hall- Nuwara Eliya	Elders	50
160	Kandy	2023.07.18	Law Faculty- Peradeniya	Law students	50
161	Kandy	2023.11.17	Divisional Secretariat	Elders	50
162	Kandy	2023.11.27 2023.11.28	Capacity Building Workshop- Colombo	Lawyers	50
163	Kandy	2023.12.09 2023.12.16	Divisional Secretariat- Gampola, Doluwa, Ampitiya, Gangawata Korale	Elders	100
164	Kuliyapitiya	2023.10.20	Divisional Secretariat- Kuliyapitiya	Elders	60
165	Kuliyapitiya	2023.10.24	Divisional Secretariat- Udubaddawa	Public Officers	100
166	Kalmunai	2023.10.11	Divisional Secretariat- Sammanthurai	School children	100
167	Kalmunai	2023.11.29	Divisional Secretariat- Nainathivu	Public Officers	100
168	Kalmunai	2023.12.01	Divisional Secretariat- Karaitivu	Public Officers	100
169	Kalmunai	2023.12.14	YADO Hall- Addalachchenai	Public Officers	100
170	Kekirawa	2023.10.24	Divisional Secretariat- Karaitivu	Public Officers	80
171	Kekirawa	2023.11.28	Education Institute- Kekirawa	School children	80
172	Kekirawa	2023.12.07	Youth Council- Kekirawa	School children	120
173	Matale	2023.12.09	Divisional Secretariat- Rattota	Elders	60
174	Matale	2023.12.17	Divisional Secretariat- Rattota	Elders	60
175	Maho	2023.10.03	Maho	Elders	60
176	Maho	2023.10.27	Yaddehigama	Elders	60
177	Negombo	2023.12.13	Negombo Hospital	Public Officers	80
178	Nawalapitiya	2023.12.16	Divisional Secretariat- Kurunduwatta	Elders	60
179	Pugoda	2023.10.25	Linea Aqua Institute- Giridara	Employees	19
180	Tangalle	2023.10.11	Miriggawila Hall	Public Officers	25
181	Tangalle	2023.10.12	Miriggawila Hall	Public Officers	25
182	Tangalle	2023.10.13	Miriggawila Hall	Public Officers	25
183	Tangalle	2023.10.27	Miriggawila Hall	Public Officers	25
184	Warakapola	2023.11.14	Mass Institute	Employees	60
185	Warakapola	2023.12.07	Mass Institute	Employees	50
186	Warakapola	2023.12.2	Mass Institute	Employees	80
187	Galagedara	2023.12.13	Cultural Centre-Galagedara	Elders	10
188	Galagedara	2023.12.14	Hatharaliyadda Hall- Galagedara	Elders	15
189	Galagedara	2023.12.17	Divisional Secretariat- Matale	Elders	60
190	Siyambalanduwa	2023.12.11	Divisional Secretariat- Siyambalanduwa	Elders	60
191	Siyambalanduwa	2023.12.11	Divisional Secretariat- Siyambalanduwa	Public Officers	150
192	Kaduwela	2023.10.05	Weheragoda Dharmaraja Vidyala	Legal Clinic	
193	Kaduwela	2023.10.22	Training Centre-Kegalle	Elders	75
194	Kaduwela	2023.10.31	Mas intimo	Legal Clinic	
195	Kaduwela	2023.11.26	Mas Sports	Legal Clinic	
196	Monaragala	2023.10.14	Prison Inmates	Prison Inmates	35
197	Monaragala	2023.10.26	Kumbukkana Gangarama Temple	Elders	50
198	Ampara	2023.12.12	Ampara	School Children	186
199	Mawanela	2023.12.11	Rankothdiwela Mosque	Muslim Community	60
200	Mallakam	2023.12.13	Family Health Institute	Public Officers	150
201	Mt. Lavinia	2023.10.25	Kamkaru Sewana	Public Officers	50
202	Ampara	2023.08.12	Ampara	Women	50
203	Rathnapura	2023.10.05	Divisional Secretariat- Rathnapura	Public Officers	150
204	Rathnapura	2023.10.17	Community Outreach Unit	Accused	150
205	Rathnapura	2023.11.06	Bar Association Library	Law Students	60
206	Rathnapura	2023.12.08	Bar Association Library	Law Students	150
207	Theldeniya	2023.10.23	Divisional Secretariat-	Victims	50

			Pathadumbara		
208	Theldeniya	2023.12.07	Divisional Secretariat-Medadumbara	Public Officers	50
209	Theldeniya	2023.12.08	MAS - Palkelele	Employees	100
210	Theldeniya	2023.12.13	Divisional Secretariat-Medadumbara	Public Officers	50
211	Theldeniya	2023.12.20	Divisional Secretariat-Pathadumbara	Public Officers	50
212	Puttalam	2023.12.04	Pragathi Advance Education Institute	Parents	70
213	Puttalam	2023.12.18	Grama Niladhari Division-Karamba	General Public	25
214	Batticaloa	2023.01.22	Divisional Secretariat	Women	60
215	Batticaloa	2023.01.23	Divisional Secretariat	Women	50

1.8.4 Program conducted in collaboration with the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses

The Legal Aid Commission provides legal representation to victims of criminal cases filed with the Authority to appear in court on behalf of their rights. In this regard, a briefing was held in Galle for lawyers of the Legal Aid Commission on the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act on 13th May 2023. At the meeting, it was discussed on how these two institutions can work together in the future. In 2023, legal aid was provided in 1495 cases for victims of crime in various Magistrates' Courts of the island under this initiative.

1.8.5 Program Conducted in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Consumer Affairs Authority

On 16th September 2023, a discussion was held at SLIDA with the Hon. Minister of Justice, the Minister of Trade and Consumer Affairs, officials of the said Ministry, the Chairman of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka and 50 lawyers working at the Head Office and Regional Offices. Discussions were held on how the Legal Aid Commission lawyers can and should represent the investigation committees to investigate public complaints received by the Consumer Affairs Authority. Accordingly, this program is scheduled to be implemented from the year 2024.

1.8.6 Program conducted in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Child Protection Authority

Discussions are underway between the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka and the Child Welfare Authority to develop a methodology for their role in child related cases, and a series of discussions were held under the auspices of UNICEF to develop a database on child-related cases within the process of administration of justice. This is expected to be implemented practically during the year 2024.

1.8.7 SAARC Regional Conference on Easy Access to Legal Aid in the Process of Administration of Criminal Justice

A conference of all governmental and non-governmental organizations implementing legal aid programs in the SAARC region was organized by UNODC, with the special participation of the Republic of China, in Kathmandu, Nepal from 25 to 27 July 2023. Two officials from the Commission participated in the said regional conference. At the said conference, it was agreed that there should be a strong legal aid structure with state support to strengthen the criminal justice process, that the law enforcement authorities, legal aid providers, public prosecutors, Courts and the Ministry of should be well coordinated in making the criminal justice process strong and efficient, that programs should be strengthened to provide equal access to justice for all, and be maintained as a strong program with the cooperation and participation of all parties to educate the public about their rights, that continuous training programs should be implemented to improve the knowledge of legal aid providers, and that the Criminal Investigation Division, the Ministry of Justice, the judiciary and those with knowledge and understanding of the criminal justice process should participate in this, and it was also recommended to develop a proper methodology to obtain the contribution of social activists who are not lawyers and are engaged in supplementary legal aid services, and to empower them, and to deploy legal aid officers in police stations and detention centers. Further, the importance of regional cooperation in implementing legal aid programs in the South Asian region, as well as the establishment of such a networking mechanism, was also discussed.

1.8.8 Other Programmes conducted under the auspice of UNDP

A networking session with other organizations providing legal aid to marginalized communities was held in Colombo on 25th September 2023 with the participation of 22 sister organizations. Further, on 13th December 2023, an extension of the original program was held with the participation of those sister organizations.

- On December 19, 2023, a roundtable discussion was held with government officials and relevant stakeholders to find solutions to the challenges faced by the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBTIQ) community where 43 members of the LGBTIQ community and representatives of 19 governmental and non-governmental organizations participated.

Development & Management Division

2. Development & Management Division

2.1 Infrastructure Facilities

2.1.1 Office Equipment

Despite the challenges encountered by the Commission, during this year the Legal Aid Centres were equipped with all necessary facilities including essential books, documents and other stationery, office equipment, computer accessories and photocopiers for smooth and efficient delivery of legal aid services. The problem of lack of adequate space equally for all centres and the inadequacy of the existing space continues to persist. With a view to developing the infrastructure of the regional centres, necessary steps have been taken to provide new office equipment.

2.1.2 Renovation of buildings

The first floor of the Head Office was partitioned and office rooms were formed.

2.1.3 Observation of Regional Centres

In the year 2023, the Assistant/Deputy Directors of all the provinces regularly monitored and followed up the centers related to the respective provinces. During this year, which was a peaceful year after several years, the head office also monitored the centers. The majority of the centers in all the provinces including the North and East were monitored under this. Here, the lack of infrastructure facilities, staff shortages and the maintenance of performance were investigated. The following regional offices were monitored in the year 2023;

Wariyapola, Dambulla, Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Mannar, Chavakachcheri, Mallakam, Kilinochchi, Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Muttur, Kantale, Ampara, Kalmunai and Point Pedro.

2.1.4 Staff Training

Participation of Officers in Training Programmes - 2023

No.	Date	Training Programme	Name of the Officer
01	2023.11.08	Management of files	Ms. R.M. Geethanjalee Management Assistant
02	2023.07.31	Journal Entry Writing and Official Letter Writing	Ms. Nishadi Wimalasuriya Management Assistant
03	2023.02.14, 21 & 28	Responding to Audit Queries	Ms. Duleeka Senani Management Assistant
04	2023.02.15	Maintaining a personal file efficiently	Ms. Rizna Nabeela Personal Assistant
05	2023.03.20	Duties and responsibilities of the officer-in-charge of leave subject	Kanchana Jayaweera Administrative Officer

- Conducting online training sessions in relation to the efficiency bar examinations for the post of Office Employees.
- The efficiency bar examinations for the post of Office Employees were also held for the first time during this year where about 49 candidates appeared.
- his year, numerous constructive actions were also made to improve the wellbeing of the employees. This year saw the implementation of a health insurance program, a revision to the hiring procedure, and the first steps toward staff capacity building and training.
- In parallel to this, a large amount of damaged goods that had been piling up in the centers and the Head Office so far were discarded and the inventory records were updated.

2.1.5 New Recruitments

The new recruitments made by the Legal Aid Commission in the year 2023 are as follows.

No.	Post	No. of Officers
01	Legal Officer	11
02	Attachment of Multitasking Assistants	12
Total		23

2.2 Financial Activities

2.2. Financial Activities

2.2.1. Financial Statement - 2023

2.2.1 (A) Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2023

Item		2023 Rs.	2022 Rs.
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash Balance	1	1,908,024.12	0
Prepayments and Debtors	2	501,225.65	2,743,941.40
		2,409,249.77	2,743,941.40
Non-Current Assets			
Prepayments		1,926,787.87	716,847.56
Fixed Deposits		7,748,670.82	7,447,774.72
Buildings	4	22,476,975.16	25,616,335.53
Books	4	210,117.14	277,850.29
Furniture, Fixtures and soft furniture	4	5,406,966.40	5,436,241.65
Office Equipment	4	11,784,854.40	10,858,629.50
Computers, Software and Laptop	4	9,305,700.80	6,745,891.33
Motor Vehicles	4	3,661,718.33	6,944,041.16
Total Assets		64,931,040.69	66,787,553.14
Current Liabilities			
Accrued Expenditure	5	2,390,922.24	2,306,052.52
		2,390,922.24	2,306,052.52
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee Benefits - Gratuity	6	84,801,589.46	82,528,824.10
Total Liabilities		87,192,511.70	82,528,824.10
		66,271,526.90	58,326,894.70
		(91,051,200.0)	(82,174,743.29)
Differed Assets	7		
Surplus/Deficit	8	2,518,202.28	5,800,525.11
Revaluation Reserve	9		
Total Assets/Rights		64,931,040.69	66,787,553.14

2.2.1 (B) Statement of Revenue as at 31st December 2023

Revenue	Note	2023 Rs.	2022 Rs.
Government Grants	10	270,554,542.50	275,787,690.44
UNDP- JURE Project	11	10,027,682.50	
Other Income	12	8,443,122.96	6,702,846.95
Total income		289,025,347.96	282,490,537.39
Expenditure			
Salaries, Wages & Employee Benefits	13	242,226,704.68	249,414,203.09
Administrative Expenses	13	20,049,031.76	19,760,418.16
Repairs & Maintenance Expenses	13	7,169,254.57	10,139,704.67
Vehicle Maintenance Expenses	13	1,227,814.97	925,084.24
Programme Expenses	13	12,776,676.20	3,092,180.69
Bank Charges	13	30,250.00	36,500.00
Depreciation	13	14,347,959.83	13,029,426.96
Total Expenditure		297,827,692.01	296,397,517.81
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		(8,802,344.05)	(13,906,980.42)

2.2.1 (C) Statement of Change in Equity as at 31st December 2022

	Reserve Fund	Capital Rs.	Retained Income Rs.	Grand Total Rs.
Deficit for the Period			(68,282,549.84)	(68,282,550)
Adjustments for the Year			14,787.15	14,787.15
Capital grants received for the year		10,300,000.00		
Value adjustments of fixed assets purchased		(7,300,000.00)		
Deficit for the Year				(13,906,980)
Total				(82,174,743)

2.2.1 (D) Statement of Change in Equity as at 31st December 2023

	Reserve Fund	Capital Rs.	Retained Income Rs.	Grand Total Rs.
Deficit for the Period			(82,174,742.6)	(82,174,743)
Adjustments for the Year			(74,112.85)	(74,112.50)
Capital grants received for the year		10,300,000.00		
Value adjustments of fixed assets purchased		(10,300,000.00)		
Deficit for the Year				(8,802,344)
Total				(91,051,199)

2.2.2 (E) Cash Flow Statement for the year ended from 31st December 2023

	2023	2022
	Rs.	Rs.
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year	(8,802,344.05)	(13,906,980.42)
<u>Operational Activities</u>		
Adjustments for Accumulated Earnings	(74,112.85)	14,787.15
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	14,347,959.83	13,029,426.96
Allocation of Gratuity Deficits	7,714,605.36	8,031,095.98
Other and Interest Income	(5,938,586.96)	(3,736,472.14)
Net cash flow generated from operating activities before working capital adjustments	7,247,521.33	3,431,857.53
<u>Movement of Working Capital</u>		
Increase/decrease of Current Assets	1,032,775.44	3,184,569
Increase in Accumulated Expenditure	84,869.72	85,846.12
Gratuity Payments	(5,441,840.00)	(4,384,012.50)
<u>Net Cash Flow from Operational Activities</u>	(4,324,194.84)	(1,113,597)
<u>Investment Activities</u>		
Purchasing of Furniture	(998,478.00)	(945,345.75)
Purchasing of office equipment	(3,102,541.25)	(3,058,550)
Purchasing of computers	(5,838,000.00)	(3,112,800)
Additions on buldings	(1,376,283.10)	(4,383,871)
Net cash flow from investment activities	(11,315,302.35)	(11,500,566.49)
<u>Financial Activities</u>		
Capital Grant Receipts	10,300,000.00	7,300,000
The increase or decrease of cash equivalents in the year	1,908,024.14	(1,882,306)
The sum of initial cash and cash equivalents	0	1,882,306
cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,908,024.12	-

Legal Aid Commission- Legal Aid Fund

Notes to Financial Statements

Financial Statements for the year ending on 31st December 2023

Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared and presented in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards (SLPSAS).

1 Receipts and Payments

Receipts and payments were recognized on an accrual basis..

2 Revenue and Expenditure

Income and expenses were recognized on an accrual basis.

3 Depreciation

The Commission's property, plant and equipment depreciation policy is as follows.

Buildings	10%
Machinery & Plant	10%
Furniture & Accessories	10%
Computers and printers, mobile phones and televisions, etc.	25%
Office Equipments	10%
Books	10%
Motor Vehicles	20%

Depreciation is calculated on the straight-line basis from the date of purchase or date of use.

All of our legal aid centers operate within buildings belonging to the Ministry of Justice.

4 Gratuity Provisions

Provisions for gratuity are made in accordance with accounting standards. The calculation of gratuity is carried out based on the period of service exceeding 01 year.

5 Accounting of the Grants Received

Asset-related grants and other grants are identified and accounted for separately.

6 Interest Income

Interest income is calculated and accounted on an accrual basis.

7 Statement of Cash Flow

The cash flow statement has been prepared in an indirect manner.

8 Pre-adjustments

The long-term balances of previous years have been adjusted to S.L.A.S. No. 8 during this year.

9 Value of assets transferred from capital grant

During the year, the fixed assets purchased through capital grants have been adjusted in accordance with S.L.A.S. No. 20.

The value of assets up to 2019 has been adjusted with the Deferred Liabilities Account and retained earnings.

The value of assets up to 2020 has been adjusted with Deferred Liabilities Account and other income.

Note 01

Cash & Cash Equivalents	2023	2022
Bank Balance	1,908,024.12	-
	1,908,024.12	-

Note 02

Previous Payments	2023	2022
Bulding Renovation and Construction	426,347.56	1,217,630.66
Unresolved Petty Cash		77,145.00
Receivable Accounts	1,711,165.96	982,639.58
Previous Payments	290,500.00	1,183,373.72
	2,428,013.52	3,460,788.96
	2,428,013.52	3,460,788.96

Note 03

Fixed Deposits	2023	2022
Initial Balance	7,447,774.72	7,080,452.23
Adjustments of the Previous Year	(191,087.94)	
Interest for the Year	491,984.04	367,322.49
Balance as at 31.12.2023	7,748,670.82	7,447,774.72

Property, Plant & Equipment Cost

Note 04

Assets	01.01.2023	Purchases for the Year	Discarded Assets	Adjustments related to the Previous Year	Balance as at 31.12.2023
Buildings	40,230,577.16	1,376,283.10	0		41,606,860.26
Books	677,331.50	-	0		677,331.50
Furniture, Fixtures & Soft Furniture	23,604,805.82	1,056,077.25	0	(57,599.00)	24,603,284.07
Office Equipment	28,829,493.02	3,102,541.25	0		31,932,034.27
Computers, Software & Laptop	30,235,544.29	5,838,000.00	0		36,073,544.29
Motor Vehicles	13,200,000.00	-	0		13,200,000.00
Machinery & Plant	382,679.44	-	0		382,679.44
		11,372,901.60			148,475,733.83

Assets	01.01.2023	Purchases for the Year	Depreciation of Discarded Assets	Adjustments related to the Previous Year	Balance as at 31.12.2023
Buildings	14,614,241.63	4,515,643.47			19,129,885.10
Books	399,481.21	67,733.15			467,214.36
Furniture, Fixtures & Soft Furniture	18,168,564.17	1,016,522.72			19,185,086.89
Office Equipment	17,970,863.52	1,939,485.08			19,910,348.60
Computers, Software & Laptop	23,489,652.96	2,607,658.88			26,097,311.84
Motor Vehicles	6,255,958.84	3,282,322.83			9,538,281.67
Machinery & Plant	382,679.44	0			382,679.44
		13,429,366.13			94,710,807.90
					53,764,925.93

Buildings	22,476,975.16
Books	210,117.14
Furniture, Fixtures & Soft Furniture	5,406,966.40
Office Equipment	11,784,854.40
Computers, Software & Laptop	9,305,700.80
Motor Vehicles	3,661,718.33
Machinery & Plant	-
	52,846,332.22

Note 05

Accrued Expenditure	2023	2,022
Employees Provident Fund Payments	4,248.54	96,342.19
Employees Trust Fund Payments	1,115.17	3,612.08
Staff Bank Loans Payable	12,155.03	
Audit Fees Payable	370,850.00	365,000.00
Other Payables / Miscellaneous Expenses	1,155,017.84	963,059.00
Living Allowances Payable	676,353.34	676,353.34
External Lawyers Payments Payable	23,855.00	21,605.00
Stamp Duty, Lawyers Bonuses	20,652.42	525.00
Insurance Claims Payable	929.24	929.24
Staff-Incidental Salaries Payable	125,745.66	178,626.67
	2,390,922.24	2,306,052.52

Note 06

Gratuity	2023	2022
Initial Balance	82,528,824.10	78,881,740.62
Provisions within the Year	7,714,605.36	8,031,095.98
Gratuity paid during the year	(5,441,840.00)	(4,384,012.50)
Final Balance	84,801,589.46	82,528,824.10

Note 07

**Deferred Liabilities
Deferred Expenditure**

Vehicles No.	Valuation Date	Value	2023	2022 (92,000.00)	2021 92,000.00	2020
YL 1947	1.1.16					
YK 9488	19.2.18	490,000.00	13,156.16	98,000.00	98,000.00	98,000.00
YK 9490	15.3.2018	460,000.00	19,166.67	92,000.00	92,000.00	92,000.00
	Total	950,000.00	32,322.83	98,000.00	282,000.00	190,000.00

Restored
Balance

602,322.83
347,677.17

Deferred Liabilities

Breakdown of Deferred Expenditure

	Assets upto 2019	96,643,395.00
	Accumulated Depreciation upto 2019	(47,227,982.80)
	Assets purchased in 2020	9,407,708.93
	Depreciation in 2020	(7,864,435.79)
		50,958,685.34
	Computers received from UNDP	579,000.00
	Depreciation	(41,640.31)
Final Balance 2020		51,496,045.03

	je104	2,328,000.00	
	je116	64,800.00	
	je106	212,468.37	2,605,268.37
Capital Grants	je609		7,115,361.44
Capitalization	je592	(624,087.10)	
	je592	(64.80)	
	je609	(144,531.55)	(768,683.45)
Transfers to Revalued Reserve	je610	8,913,061.60	(8,913,061.60)
Balance as at 31.12.21			51,534,929.79
Capital Grants 2022	je 319	7,348,367.40	
Capitalization	je319	(408,202.50)	
	je 319	(277,111.87)	
	je337	(2,441.10)	
Receipts	je 337	99,000.00	6,759,611.93
Balance as at 31.12.22			58,294,571.87
Capital Grants 2023		10,300,000.00	
Capitalization	je280	(297,668.95)	
	je 280	(1,636,976.71)	
	je337	(388,399.31)	7,976,955.03
	Balance as at 31.12.2023		66,271,526.90

Note 08

Accumulated Funds	2023	2022
Retained Earnings	(82,174,743.11)	(68,282,549.84)
Adjustments of the Previous Years	(74,112.85)	14,787.15
Surplus/(Deficit) within the year	(8,802,344.05)	(13,906,980.42)
Final Balance	(91,051,200.01)	(82,174,743.11)

Note 09

Reserve Reserve		
Transfer from the deferred expenditure	JE537	4,818,082.19
Transfer from the deferred expenditure	JE602	2,508,333.33
	JE607	(2,240,000.00)
		5,086,415.52
Revaluation of YL 1947		1,050,000.00
Revaluation of YG 7115 & YG 7118		500,000.00
Adjustments of the previous year JE 603		1,900,000.00
JE 170		(2,735,890.41)
Balance as at 31.12.2022		5,800,525.11
2023	JE 280	(3,282,322.83)
Balance as at 2022.12.31		2,518,202.28

Note 10,11,12

Receipts	2023	2023	2022	2022
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Government grants-recurrent	292,000,000.00	270,554,542.50	349,000,000.00	275,787,690.44
Registration fees		529,030.00		294,600.00
Income from the library		168,702.00		270,743.00
Para student program		124,000.00		410,000.00
Apprenticeship Program		900,000.00		1,208,000.00
Interest Income		1,064,195.33		767,311.54
Other Income		5,653,440.63		3,252,192.41
Withdrawal Profit				500,000.00
Auction Money		3,755.00		
UNDP -JURE Project	16,530,000.00	10,027,682.50		
	308,530,000.00	289,025,347.96	349,000,000.00	282,490,537.39

Note 13

	2023	2023		Budget 2022	Actual 2022
Administrative Expenditure					
Staff related expenditure	252,000,000.00				
Salary		206,340,407.22		230,959,500.00	211,482,206.33
Overtime allowance		87,756.87			39,052.20
Employees Provident Fund		5,617,436.15			5,691,488.72
Employers Trust Fund		22,466,499.08		30,706,117.00	22,765,954.86
Staff Medical Insurance				2,000,000.00	1,404,405.00
Allocation for Gratuity Deficit		7,714,605.36	242,226,704.68	500,000.00	8,031,095.98
Office Expenses					
Telephone charges	5,400,000.00	4,882,290.50		9,492,000.00	4,709,898.26
Lawyers' Bonus	5,000,000.00	2,473,131.38			4,059,579.00
Tours (Local)	750,000.00	688,634.00		1,800,000.00	715,419.00
Administrative Expenditure					
Current & Water Bills	2,070,000.00	2,221,040.00		3,684,000.00	1,142,808.46
Stationary & Printing	3,550,000.00	3,220,326.50		9,136,895.00	3,257,028.63
Office Expenses	1,200,000.00	963,878.25		720,925.00	736,379.47
Employee Welfare Expenses	700,000.00	468,697.50			416,055.54
Library Expenses	400,000.00	391,898.74			66,193.54
Postage & Courier Charges	840,000.00	1,707,398.61		6,480,000.00	1,209,006.76
Advertisement charges	300,000.00	207,943.00			46,142.00
Sanitary Expenses	480,000.00	430,080.00		1,320,000.00	388,220.00
					20,950.00
Staff Training Expenses	150,000.00	31,000.00			25,000.00
Interview Expenses	25,000.00	13,640.00			
Legal Expenses	140,000.00	89,300.00			42,940.00
Committee Meeting Expenses					490.00
Survey Board Expenses	100,000.00	28,627.00			68,055.00
Centre observation & opening Expenses	225,000.00	97,987.00			42,060.95
Expenses on relocation of centres					50,264.00
Rental for branches	1,440,000.00	1,522,500.00		1,860,000.00	1,593,740.00
Printing Cost	250000	88,258.75		200,000.00	667,754.60
Rent	50,000.00	24,467.43			44,370.50
Translation Cost	250,000.00	122,933.10			62,840.00
Audit Cost	400,000.00	375,000.00			415,000.00
			20,049,031.76		
Repairs and Maintenance Expenses				11,490,563.00	
Repairs & Maintenance Equipment	1,700,000.00	1,960,193.26	7,169,254.57		1,936,034.50
Representation & Maintenance- Buildings					33,000.00
Repairs of Printers	2,500,000.00	1,498,807.50			5,178,659.50
Agreement	2,430,250.00	3,382,203.81			2,046,580.67
U.P.S	480,000.00	328,050.00			945,430.00

	Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual
	2023	2023		2022	2022
Vehicle Expenses			330,073.00	11,630,000.00	
Fuel & Lubricants	550,000.00	390,313.15		720,000.00	467,610.00
Vehicle Repair & Maintenance	874,750.00	648,449.98			226,035.28
Vehicle Insurance	235,000.00	189,051.84			231,438.96
Programmes	4,675,000.00		1,227,814.97	26,300,000.00	
Children's Programmes					
Apprentice Programmes		411,309.95			642,872.00
Capacity Building Programme					
United States Aid Programme					
School Programme					3,560.00
Awareness Programme for Adults					
Prison Clinics					16,602.00
Awareness Programmes		2,072,963.50			1,829,265.00
Multi skilled					500,000.00
Programmes for public officers					40,000.00
Mahapola Exhibitions		99,814.25			
Training Programme for Lawyers					23,939.42
Promotion charges of Law Week		20,981.50			
Women's Day Programme charges					35,942.27
World Day against Trafficking of Persons		13,420.50	2,618,489.70		
UNDP – Jury Project	16,530,000.00				
UNDP Awareness Programme		8,544,850.00			
UNDP-Capacity Bulding		896,477.00			
UNDP -Legal Aid Service Providers Meeting		170,000.00			
UNDP LGBTIQ Programme		349,829.50			
UNDP –Bail money		<u>197,030.00</u>	10,158,186.50		
Para Legal Fees					467,996.00
Depreciation		14,347,959.83	14,347,959.83		13,029,426.96
		297,799,465.01		349,002,022.00	296,850,813.36
Financial Expenses					
Cheque Book Cost	60,000.00	30,250.00			36,500.00
	305,757,023.00	297,829,715.01			36,500.00
					296,887,313.36

Audit Report

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

My No } JLO/B/LAC/FA/2023/09

Your No }

Date 31st May 2024

The Chairman

Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka

Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements and Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements of Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka for the year ended 31st December 2023 in terms of the Section 12 of the National Audit Act No: 19 of 2018

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The said report is submitted herewith.

Sgd./ W.P.C.Wickramarathna
Auditor General

Copies: (1) Secretary - Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization & National Policies
(2) Secretary - Ministry of Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

My No } JLO/B/LAC/FA/2023/09
2024

Your No }

Date } 31st May

The Chairman

Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka

Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements and Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements of Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka for the year ended 31st December 2023 in terms of the Section 12 of the National Audit Act No: 19 of 2018

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1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Legal Aid Commission for the year ended 31st December 2023 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31st December 2023 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154 (1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with provisions of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 and the Finance Act No. 38 of 1971. My comments and observations which I consider should be report to Parliament appear in this report. My report in terms of the Article 154 (6) of the Constitution will be tabled in the House of Parliament in due course.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in Basis for Qualified Opinion of this report, the financial statements prepared give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Commission as at 31st December 2023 and its financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards.

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

- (a) The format mentioned in Sri Lanka State Accounting Standards No. 01 was not used in preparing the statement of changes in equity.
- (b) As per the paragraph 79 of Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards No. 01 Current assets include, assets held for realize in the normal operating cycle that are not expected to be realize within twelve months of their reporting date, but Unrecoverable assets amounted to Rs.1,926,788 had been shown in the financial statements as non-current assets instead of being recorded as current assets.
- (c) Although liabilities to be settled within 12 months from the reporting date should be recognized as current liabilities in accordance with paragraph 80 (c) of Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards No. 01, Although the gratuity allocations amounting to Rs.84,801,589 should be accounted for as current and non-current liabilities according to their expected settlement periods, but they were shown as non-current liabilities in the financial statements without proceeding accordingly.
- (d) Although in accordance with paragraph 65 of Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards No. 07 an asset must be reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period by reducing the residual value and the useful life, the Commission's assets of computers, office equipment, furniture value of Rs.36,457,088 fully depreciated as at 31st December 2022 were reviewed and accordingly the estimated error had not been revised according to Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards No.03.
- (e) According to paragraph 44 of Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards No. 11, grants made by the government should be recognized as assets and revenue from 01st January 2018, but capital grant receipts of Rs.10,300,000 were not recognized as per this Accounting Standard.
- (f) As at 31st December 2023, the inventory items at the head office and 85 centers had not been valued and accounted for under current assets.
- (g) Evidence related to ascertaining the balances related to the fixed assets of Rs.15,619,085 worth of computers, office equipment and furniture coming since 2009 and Rs.36,950 worth of library books coming since 2014 stated in the statement of financial condition, are not submitted for the audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs) . My responsibilities, under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

1.3 Other information included in Annual Report 2023 of the Commission

Other information means the information that is included in the 2023 Annual Report of the Authority which was obtained by me before the date of this Audit report, but is not included in the financial statements and my audit report regarding it . The management is responsible for this other information.

Other information is not disclosed through my opinion on financial statements and , I do not express any assurance or opinion on that.

In relation to my audit of financial statements, it is my responsibility to read the other information identified above when available and, to consider whether other information in accordance with my knowledge obtained with the financial statements or in the audit or otherwise, is quantitatively inconsistent.

Based on the other information obtained by me and tasks performed by me before the date of this audit report, if it is concluded by me that it contains quantitative errors, those matters should be communicated to the governing parties for correction. If any uncorrected errors are found any longer, those will be included into the report to be submitted by me in due course , in terms of article 154 (6) of the Constitution.

1.4 Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

As per Section 16 (1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, The Commission is required to maintain proper books and records of all its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities, to enable annual and periodic financial statements to be prepared.

1.5 Auditor's responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

As part of an audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also :

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

I will inform the controlling parties about significant audit findings, key internal control weaknesses and other matters identified during my audit.

2. Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

The National Audit Act No.19 of 2018 includes specific provisions for following requirements.

- 2.1.1. Except for the effects of the matters described in Basis for Qualified Opinion of this report, I have obtained all the information and explanation that were required for the Audit, as per the requirements of Section 12 (a) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018 , and I was able to decide that proper accounting records have been kept by the authority.
- 2.1.2. The financial statements presented, is consistent with the preceding year as per the requirements of Section 6 (i) (d) (iii) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018.

2.1.3. The financial statements presented include all the recommendations made by me (except the observations made in 1.2.1. (c), (d), (e) , (g), (h) in Basis for qualified Opinion in my report) in the previous year as per the requirements of Section 6 (i) (d) (iv) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018.

2.1 Based on the procedures performed and evidence obtained were limited to matters that were material nothing has come to my attention to make the following statements.

2.1.1. – that any member of the governing body of the authority has any direct or indirect interest in any contract entered into by the Authority which are out of the normal cause of business as per the requirements of Section 12 (i) (d) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018.

2.2.2. - that the Authority has not compiled any applicable written law , general and special directions issued by the governing body of the authority , as per the requirements of Section 12 (f) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018, except for following observations.

Reference to Laws / Direction

Non - compliance

(a) Stamp Duty Act
No. 43 of 1982

Although a stamp duty of Rs.25 should be charged for payments above Rs.25,000, But as per the act actions had not been taken regarding payments value of Rs.1,529,961 made on 26 occasions.

(b) Section 11 of the Finance
Act No. 38 of 1971

In accordance with the Act, the approvals of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of portfolio had not been obtained for the fixed deposits of Rs. 7,748,671 invested in the state banks.

(c) Section 40 (1) of the National
Audit Act No19 of 2018

Actions had not taken to conduct an internal audit of the Commission in 2023 and an internal auditor was also not appointed.

(d) Declaration of Assets and
Liabilities Act No. 01 of 1975

The Commission's staff officers had not provided statements of assets and liabilities as per the Act.

(e) Section 15.1 (i) of the
Establishments Code

Efficiency cut-off tests have been included in the commission's recruitment process, but from the beginning of the commission until the year 2023 efficiency cut-off tests were conducted only for officers in the primary service category.

(e) Financial Regulations of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

(i) 110 (1)

As per the Financial Regulations the Commission had been not maintained a register of damages and losses.

(ii) 139 (4)

The relevant receipts were not attached for 41 payment vouchers amount of Rs.1,590,277 as per the Financial Regulations.

(iii) 237 (b)

Although in accordance with the Financial Regulations, a certificate should be attached stating that the goods have been received and the goods have been entered in the relevant inventory.

(iv) 237 (a) (1)

In the year 2023, payments were made without obtaining a certificate that the work was properly completed in relation to 39 vehicles and office equipment repairs amount of Rs.1,958,476.

(f) Public Financial Circular

Public Finance Circular No.
01/2020 dated 28 August 2020
And Financial Regulations 315/11

According to Financial Regulations 880, no arrangements had been made to obtain security from the officers who were required to keep security in accordance with the Government

(g) Public Administration Circular
Paragraph 3.1 of Circular No. 30/2016
Dated 31 December 2016

In respect of three vehicles, fuel consumption test has not been done as per the circular.

(h) Public Enterprises Circular

2.3 of Schedule I of Circular No.
01/2021 dated 16 November
2021 3 (Code of Guidelines on
Public Enterprises)

The forecasted income statement, forecasted financial position statement and forecasted cash flow statement, which should be included in the master budget were not included.

(i) Paragraph 5.4.12 of the Procurement
Guidelines 2006

After payment to cover VAT, Copies of the details of such payments should have been submitted to the Auditor General on or before the 15th day of the month, but this was not done.

2.2.3. That actions have been taken in a way that is not complied with the powers, duties and functions of the Authority, as per the requirements of Section 12 (g) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018.

2.2.4. That the resources of the Authority have not been procured and utilized sparingly, efficiently and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, as per the requirements of Section 12 (h) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018.

(i) In the current bank account maintained at the Hulftsdorp branch of the Bank of Ceylon in the period of 12 months from January to December 2023, the amount was in the range of Rs.17.4 million to Rs.4.9 million. Therefore, that excess amount was kept idle.

(ii) According to 6.2.2 of the 2006 Procurement Guidelines , a minimum time of 07 days should be given for calling the bids in the market price comparison method, but in the procurement of cleaning services for the years 2023/2024, a minimum time of 03 days has been arranged to call the bids without properly preparing the specifications and those evaluation was not done until 05 days and was not reported in the relevant form on the opening of bids in accordance with paragraph 6.3.6 of the procurement guidelines, and the selected institute did not submit a performance guarantee for the relevant period in accordance with 5.4.8 of the guidelines.

(iii) Rs. 595,282 value of furniture, bookshelves and tires related to the purchase of 09 procurements could not be identified in the procurement files.

2.3 Other Facts

(a) Although Advances of Rs.426,547 were given to the contractors for the repairs of the buildings in Kalutara and Negombo centers, a period of 02 years 09 months to 02 years has passed by now, but these advances have not been collected and the repairs of these centers are yet to be completed.

(b) In the debtor balance of Rs.2,428,014 as at 31st December 2023, Rs.402,990 between years 01 - 02, Rs.707,008 between years 02 - 03, Rs.67,251 between years 3 – 5 and more than 5 years the outstanding balances were Rs.230,500, but the management had not taken steps to recover the respective balances.

(c) Although in the creditor balance of Rs.2,390,922 as at 31st December 2023, there was a creditor balance Rs.1,200,621 less than 01 year, the creditor balance between 1-2 years is Rs.513,019, between 3-5 years is Rs.929 and more than 5 years is Rs.676,353 , but the management had not focused on adjusting the respective balances in the accounts.

(d) Out of the total staff of the Commission, there were vacancies of 88 employees which is 24 percent, and the three main posts of Director (Legal) and Director (Administration and Finance) and Deputy Director (Regional) belonging to the "Management" service category and Posts of Deputy Director (Finance) which is directly responsible for the financial control of the Commission and 26 posts of Legal Officer under "Management" service category remained vacant as at 31st December 2023 . As at the date of the report, there was a delay in filling these vacancies from 01 year 05 months to 05 years.

(e) According to the recruitment procedure of the Commission, officers from senior management to primary service category officers were given the opportunity to be promoted from one grade to another without conducting an efficiency cut off test .

(f) According to the progress report of the Commission submitted on 31st December 2023, the number of cases brought forward for providing legal aid as at 01st January 2023 was 38,739, and, there were 12,982 newly filed cases that were to be dealt with during that period, from January to 31st December 2023 and thus, the total number of cases was 51,721. Only 12,816 cases had been settled till 31st December. As on that day, the number of cases to be settled off was 38,905, and thus the progress in disposal of cases was 25 %, so there was no program to reduce the delay.

Telephone Numbers of Regional Centres of Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka

1	Head Office	011-2433618	43	Maho	037-2275075
2	Akkaraipattu	067-2279462	44	Mannar	023-2222045
3	Ampara	063-2223496	45	Marawila	032-2254443
4	Anuradhapura	025-2224465	46	Matale	066-2224828
5	Attanagalla	033-2297020	47	Matara	041-2233815
6	Avissawella	036-2233857	48	Mathugama	034-2249262
7	Baddegama	091-2292051	49	Mawanella	035-2247272
8	Badulla	055-2225759	50	Minuwangoda	011-2297790
9	Balangoda	045-2289099	51	Monaragala	055-2276891
10	Balapitiya	091-2255753	52	Mullaitivu	021-2290077
11	Bandarawela	057-2224733	53	Muttur	026-2238777
12	Battaramulla	011-2877687	54	Nawalapitiya	054-2224227
13	Batticaloa	065-2225399	55	Negombo	031-3321476
14	Chavakachcheri	021-2270882	56	Nikaweratiya	037-2260203
15	Chilaw	032-2222175	57	Nugegoda	011-2809068
16	Dambulla	066-2284551	58	Nuwara Eliya	052-2235260
17	Deiyandara	041-2268077	59	Panadura	038-2244822
18	Deniyaya	041-2271128	60	Pugoda	011-2405333
19	Embilipitiya	047-2230299	61	Point Pedro	021-2260212
20	Galgamuwa	037-2253290	62	Polgahawela	037-2243039
21	Galle	091-2226124	63	Polonnaruwa	027-2226572
22	Gampaha	033-2248804	64	Pottuwil	063-2248485
23	Hambantota	047-2221092	65	Rathnapura	045-2226899
24	Hatton	051-2222390	66	Thambuttegama	025-2276259
25	Hingurakgoda	027-2245521	67	Tangalle	047-2240122
26	Homagama	011-2748813	68	Tissamaharama	047-2239611
27	Horana	034-2265244	69	Trincomalee	026-2226328
28	Jaffna	021-2224545	70	Valachchenai	065-2258349
29	Kadawatha	011-2922440	71	Vavuniya	024-2221863
30	Kaduwela	011-2548150	72	Walasmulla	047-2245566
31	Kalmunei	067-2223710	73	Warakapola	037-2277075
32	Kalutara	034-2222017	74	Wariyapola	037-268199
33	Kandy	081-2388978	75	Welimada	057-2244860
34	Kanthale	026-2234521	76	Wellawaya	055-2274466
35	Kebithigollewa	025-2298101	77	Mallakam	021-2059170
36	Kegalle	035-2231790	78	Puttalam	032-2266636
37	Kekirawa	025-2263536	79	Borella	011-2698003
38	Kilinochchi	021-2285618	80	Dehiattakandiya	027-2250700
39	Kuliyapitiya	037-2284611	81	Siyambalanduwa	055-2279250
40	Kurunegala	037-2229641	82	Galagedara	081-2061025
41	Mt. Lavinia	011-2718708	83	Wattala	011-2935907
42	Mahiyanganaya	055-2258332	84	Hettipola	037-2291915
			85	Theldeniya	081-2054470