



FPA Sri Lanka and the French Embassy Launch the “Inclusive Health Project”



Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services is a fundamental human right. Yet, for many persons with disabilities in Sri Lanka, accessing these services can still be difficult. Physical barriers, communication challenges, limited access to information, social stigma and discrimination can prevent them from receiving the care and support they need.

Funded by the French Embassy, the project will focus on four key areas: strengthening capacity and awareness, advancing disability-inclusive sexuality education, improving access to health and support services, and generating research and evidence. The initiative places a strong emphasis on women and young people with disabilities, who may experience discrimination and face additional challenges when accessing healthcare services.

“Through the Inclusive Health Project, FPA Sri Lanka is leveraging decades of expertise to address a long-overlooked need in Sri Lanka, strengthening access to tailored SRH and gender-based violence (GBV) support for persons with disabilities. The project aims to influence education and national policy and drive long-term, systemic change across public systems.”

Dr. Ruchitha Perera
Executive Director – FPA Sri Lanka

The project will strengthen capacity across the health, government, legal, justice and community sectors through training and awareness programmes, helping stakeholders better understand and respond to the needs of persons with disabilities. It aims to promote more inclusive practices across health and social services.

The project will also address gaps in access to appropriate sexuality education. In partnership with the South Asian Centre for Teacher Development (SACTD), FPA Sri Lanka will strengthen disability-inclusive Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) provision, supporting access to accurate, accessible and age-appropriate information and the skills needed to make informed decisions about health and relationships.

“France is committed to ensuring that everyone can access essential health services without discrimination. Through the Inclusive Health Project, we hope to address the physical, informational and institutional barriers faced by persons with disabilities, while strengthening accessible services and support, particularly for women and young people.”

H. E. Rémi Lambert
Ambassador of France to Sri Lanka

Building on this focus, the project will improve access to essential SRH and family planning services, while strengthening the prevention of and protection from GBV. Through accessible and innovative service delivery models, it will help connect persons with disabilities with the information, services, protection and referrals they need.

Research will also examine gaps, challenges and unmet needs in SRH services for persons with disabilities. The findings will provide evidence to inform advocacy and support the development of more inclusive and sustainable approaches to SRH service delivery.

Through the Inclusive Health Project, FPA Sri Lanka seeks to contribute to a health system where persons with disabilities can access SRH information, services and support with dignity and choice, and without discrimination.

[Click to view the Embassy's announcement](#)

Strengthening Disability-Inclusive Sexuality Education

On 4th August 2026, FPA Sri Lanka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the South Asian Centre for Teacher Development (SACTD), marking an important step in advancing disability-inclusive Sexuality Education under the Inclusive Health Project.

As part of the partnership, SACTD will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment to identify barriers and knowledge gaps in disability-inclusive SRH education. The findings will inform the development and delivery of specialised Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) training for teachers and educators. To support accessibility, resources will be available in Braille, large print and audio formats.





FPA Sri Lanka participated in the 26th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2026) in Rio de Janeiro, which brought together policymakers, researchers, civil society representatives, communities and advocates from around the world to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships and advance responses to HIV.

Representing FPA Sri Lanka were Mr. Asanga Karunaratne (Honorary President), Mr. Suhail Junaid (Director – Marketing), Mr. Suchira Suranga (Director – Organizational Learning & Evaluation), Dr. Chintha Rupasinghe (Director – Sexual & Reproductive Health), Ms. Zaroosha Farook (Head of Finance), Ms. Nadika Fernandopulle (Deputy Director of HIV and Project Manager – GFATM National HIV Prevention Programme), and Dr. Mihitha Basnayake (Senior Manager – Advocacy).

Sri Lankan Research Shared at AIDS 2026

Dr. Chintha Rupasinghe, Director – Sexual & Reproductive Health presented a research poster titled “Understanding Barriers and Drawbacks to Condom Use in Sri Lanka: A Qualitative Study,” contributing Sri Lankan evidence to global discussions on HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health.



FPA Sri Lanka's Community-Led Approach Featured at AIDS 2026

A key highlight of FPA Sri Lanka's participation was Dr. Mihitha Basnayake's presentation on chemsex harm reduction in criminalised settings. The presentation drew on work undertaken in Sri Lanka and Malaysia under the SKPA-2 programme, delivered by peer trainers with lived experience and shaped by community input throughout.



The presentation highlighted FPA Sri Lanka's community-led approach to the HIV response, recognising the importance of placing communities at the centre of programme design and implementation.

“We choose to end AIDS by trusting communities to lead. Ending AIDS requires shifting power and resources to the communities who have been leading the response all along. We help shift power in practice by choosing to resource, amplify, and scale community-led solutions.”

Dr. Basnayake also did a poster presentation on 'Beyond Facility Data: How community led monitoring (CLM) identified hidden HIV services gaps across three countries in Asia'.



[Click to view both poster presentations](#)

Learning from Community-Led Initiatives in Rio

Beyond the conference, the FPA Sri Lanka team participated in an International AIDS Society (IAS) community learning visit to Rio's favelas, hosted in partnership with CEDAPS. The visit provided insights into community-led health promotion, participatory approaches and innovative strategies to improve access to health services while addressing HIV, tuberculosis and other public health priorities.



Strengthening Emergency Preparedness Through Partnership and Practice



Sri Lanka is exposed to a range of natural hazards, including floods, droughts, landslides and cyclones, making preparedness and coordinated emergency response essential. These emergencies can disrupt access to essential health services, making it particularly important to ensure that lifesaving Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services remain available when communities are most vulnerable. On 4-5th September, FPA Sri Lanka successfully conducted the IPPF SPRINT Project Simulation Exercise at the Sri Lanka Army Centre for Disaster

Response Training (SLACDRT), Gampola, bringing together 25 government stakeholders from the Kandy District to strengthen preparedness for humanitarian emergencies.

The two-day simulation provided participants with a practical opportunity to apply the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in realistic emergency scenarios, while enhancing coordination, decision-making, referral pathways and inter-agency collaboration.



Our sincere appreciation to Colonel W. M. Samantha, Commandant of SLACDRT, Gampola, for the generous support and collaboration that contributed significantly to the successful implementation of the exercise.

Together, through strong partnerships and shared commitment, we continue to build a more resilient and inclusive emergency response system that ensures lifesaving sexual and reproductive health services remain accessible when communities need them most.

[Click to view highlights video](#)

Empowering Young Minds Through Comprehensive Sexuality Education



FPA Sri Lanka conducted its first Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Programme at the University of Peradeniya, reaching 1,000 undergraduates. With young people in Sri Lanka continuing to need access to reliable, age-appropriate information on sexual and reproductive health, the programme provided students with evidence-based knowledge on SRH, sexually transmitted infections, life skills and related health issues.

Sessions were facilitated by medical and public health professionals, including representatives from the University of Peradeniya and FPA Sri Lanka. The programme was supported by the Outreach Unit Head Office staff and the Palkelele Service Delivery Point (SDP) team, marking an important step in expanding access to quality CSE among university students.



SRH Awareness Session for University Undergraduates



As part of the Post-Orientation Programme 2026 of the Faculty of Indigenous Social Sciences and Management Studies (FISSM) at Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine, Dr. Chintha Rupasinghe, Director – Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH), conducted a session on Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness for undergraduates.

The session covered key aspects of SRH, healthy relationships and personal well-being, providing students with accurate information to support informed decision-making and healthier relationships.

The session forms part of FPA Sri Lanka's ongoing work to increase access to reliable, age-appropriate SRH information and life skills among young people.

Strengthening Collaboration on Sri Lanka's Social and Demographic Priorities



FPA Sri Lanka participated in a dialogue with UNFPA and civil society organizations to exchange perspectives on Sri Lanka's evolving social and demographic landscape and strengthen collaboration on shared priorities.

Representing FPA Sri Lanka, Mr. Sandun Adikari, Head of Service Delivery – Outreach Unit, presented the Outreach Department's work on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) response, youth-led initiatives, emergency response, and hotline counselling services.

FPA Sri Lanka Contributes to Dialogue on Low Fertility



FPA Sri Lanka participated in the Expert Group Meeting on Policy Responses to Low Fertility, organised by UNFPA Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Department of Demography, University of Colombo, and the Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL).

Representing FPA Sri Lanka, Dr. Chintha Rupasinghe, Director – Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Mr. Amal Bandara, Assistant Director – Monitoring & Evaluation, joined experts and stakeholders to discuss evidence-based, rights-focused policy responses to Sri Lanka's changing fertility trends. Discussions also considered the importance of ensuring that youth aspirations and reproductive autonomy remain central to policy discussions.

Bloom by FPA Sri Lanka Promotes Women's Health



A Medical Camp at Methodist College, Colombo 3, reached over 60 teachers with health screening, awareness and care. The camp included Pap tests and breast cancer screening, alongside sessions on Sexual and Reproductive Health and mental health, highlighting the importance of prevention, early detection and informed health choices.



Bloom also conducted a health awareness session for staff of Janashakthi Insurance Ltd, led by Prof. Sanath Lanerolle and Dr. Chintha Rupasinghe, Director – Sexual & Reproductive Health. The session focused on Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS) and menopause, covering common misconceptions, symptoms and practical considerations related to women's health and well-being.

Strengthening Inclusive SRH Services



FPA Sri Lanka launched its partnership with the Sri Lanka National Federation of the Visually Handicapped through the Breaking the Silence project, aimed at improving access to inclusive Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) education, counselling and information for blind and visually impaired individuals.

The partnership agreement was formally signed during the first workshop, which focused on strengthening SRH knowledge and confidence, while addressing inclusive communication, privacy and confidentiality, dignity, safeguarding and informed consent.

Dr. Chintha Rupasinghe, Director – Sexual & Reproductive Health, and Ms. Hema Ranawake, Assistant Director – Alokaya, served as resource persons, sharing their expertise and experience with participants.

Through Alokaya Counselling Centre, the initiative supports more accessible and inclusive SRH services, ensuring that people with visual disabilities can access relevant information and counselling in a safe, respectful and confidential environment.

Alokaya Extends Mental Health and SRH Outreach



The Alokaya Counselling Centre conducted a Mental Health and Counselling Awareness Session at Dilmah Ceylon Tea Company PLC. Facilitated by Ms. Hema Ranawake, Assistant Director – Alokaya, the session covered mental well-being, stress management, early signs of distress and healthy coping strategies, while highlighting the importance of accessible support in the workplace.

Alokaya also contributed to "ආයුර්" organised by the Rotaract Club of KIU University. Dr. Chintha Rupasinghe, Director – Sexual & Reproductive Health, conducted an interactive session on menstrual health and hygiene, helping students better understand menstruation, address common myths and adopt healthy menstrual practices.



Alokaya Strengthens Counselling Intern Learning



The Alokaya Counselling Centre commenced its second internship programme of the year for psychology graduates, providing practical experience, professional development and exposure to community-based counselling services. The programme gives interns opportunities to develop their skills while gaining experience in ethical and responsible psychological care for diverse populations.

As part of the intern learning programme, psychology and counselling interns participated in sessions focusing on the role of

counselling in addressing sexual health and broader Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH) concerns. Ms. Hema Ranawake, Assistant Director – Alokaya Counselling Centre, facilitated a session on “Sexual Health and the Counsellor’s Role,” focusing on approaching sensitive sexual health concerns with competence, ethics and compassion.

A separate Sexual & Reproductive Health Awareness and Learning Session covered Sexuality Education, led by Dr. Chintha Rupasinghe, Director – Sexual & Reproductive Health; Contraceptive Counselling,

conducted by Ms. Thamara Thebulanda, Nursing Sister – Bloom Clinic; and Product Updates & Social Marketing, presented by Mr. Amila Gunasekara, Deputy Director – Brands.

Together, these learning sessions provided interns with practical knowledge relevant to their future counselling practice and a broader understanding of how physical, emotional, relational and social factors can intersect with clients’ sexual and reproductive health and overall well-being.

FPA Sri Lanka Youth Join National Consultation on Adolescent and Youth Health Strategy



The first consultative meeting for the implementation plan of the National Adolescent and Youth Health (AYH) Strategy 2026–2031 was held on 10th July at the Family Health Bureau, bringing together youth representatives and organisations committed to improving adolescent and youth health in Sri Lanka.

The upcoming strategy focuses on six key sub-strategies, including drug prevention, access to sexual and reproductive health education and services, and reducing preventable adolescent and youth mortality.

Representing FPA Sri Lanka, youth participants from the staff, Board, Youth Ambassadors, and youth networks including the Youth Network for Health in Nuwara Eliya and Puttalam that are supported by RFSU – IPPF Sweden, actively contributed their perspectives alongside representatives from various youth organisations, including the Youth Action Network and the National Youth Corps.

The consultative meeting provided an important platform for young people to share their experiences, ideas, and priorities, helping to ensure that the new Strategy is responsive, inclusive, and reflective of the needs of adolescents and youth across Sri Lanka.

Empower. Connect. Lead

On September 2nd and 3rd, the FPA Youth and RFSU project teams brought together young people from across the island, representing FPA Sri Lanka’s service centres and Youth Clubs established under the RFSU project, for two days of learning, reflection, collaboration, and action. From sexual and reproductive health (SRH), SOGIESC, and gender-based violence (GBV) to safeguarding, effective communication, community mapping, project management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and finance, participants strengthened their knowledge and skills to become more confident and effective youth advocates.



Sri Lanka Takes a Historic Step Towards a National Harm Reduction Response



In June 2026, FPA Sri Lanka, together with the National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP) and Health Equity Matters, convened the National Workshop on Expanding Harm Reduction and Chemsex Interventions in Sri Lanka at Courtyard by Marriott, Colombo. Funded through the SKPA-2 programme supported by the Global Fund, this two-day workshop marked a significant milestone in Sri Lanka's HIV response.

The workshop brought together over 45 senior stakeholders from government ministries, law enforcement, the Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists, the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, the Department of Prisons, civil society organisations, and community representatives. Its principal facilitator was Mr. Palani Narayanan, a senior harm reduction specialist and Director of the Drug Policy Programme in Malaysia, supported by an international and national facilitation team.

Why This Workshop Was Necessary

Sri Lanka is among a small number of countries where HIV incidence continues to rise. Evidence presented at the workshop painted a concerning picture: methamphetamine arrests have increased by more than 2,800% between 2019 and 2024; 10.7% of men who have sex with men reached by community outreach reported engaging in chemsex; 75% of methamphetamine users in the Colombo District inject, and 31.7% of those share needles. Yet Sri Lanka has no national needle and syringe programme, limited mental health integration within HIV services, and a legal framework that continues to criminalise both drug use and consensual same-sex relations. The workshop was designed to build consensus across sectors that rarely sit together in the same room, and to develop a practical, evidence-informed roadmap for the national response.

What the Workshop Established

Day one focused on building a shared understanding of chemsex and harm reduction in the Sri Lankan context,

drawing on local data, regional case studies, and legal analysis. Ms. Ambika Satkunanathan, international human rights law expert and former Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, identified existing provisions within the Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance that already permit the lawful distribution of sterile injecting equipment under Ministry of Health authorisation, without waiting for legislative reform.

Day two moved to solutions. Participants agreed on a concrete roadmap across four areas: legal and policy review, priority interventions, standard operating procedures and memoranda of understanding, and financing and sustainability.

The most significant outcome was a consensus decision to immediately establish a National Working Group on Harm Reduction. Each ministry and stakeholder institution represented at the workshop will nominate a representative. The Working Group will operationalise the workshop recommendations and lay the groundwork for a formal National Task Force. SKPA-2 has committed to funding a dedicated coordinator for six months and a legal audit to identify actionable pathways within the current legal framework.

Priority Recommendations

- Establish the National Working Group immediately, with a National Task Force to follow
- Conduct a legal audit and develop inter-ministerial MoUs and ministerial circulars to enable harm reduction services within existing law
- Integrate chemsex-specific services into HIV and STI programmes
- Expand PrEP access and explore injectable PrEP
- Strengthen surveillance and integrate chemsex-specific indicators into national outreach tools
- Invest in structured capacity building across government, clinical, community, and law enforcement sectors
- Map domestic financing pathways to ensure sustainability beyond donor funding

FPA Sri Lanka's Role

FPA Sri Lanka played a central role in convening, facilitating, and anchoring the workshop outcomes. As co-organiser and as part of the facilitation team, FPA Sri Lanka ensured that community voices were integral to the discussions and that the workshop produced actionable rather than aspirational outcomes.

The formation of the National Working Group, and FPA Sri Lanka's ongoing role within it, reflects the organisation's commitment to structural change grounded in rights, evidence, and community leadership.

Advancing Rights, Community Leadership and Economic Sustainability



The IPPF Stream II Sex Work Policy Consortium Project addresses the structural inequalities, stigma and legal vulnerability faced by sex workers, while strengthening community leadership, advancing legal protection and decriminalisation, expanding access to sexual and reproductive health services, and supporting the financial sustainability of sex worker-led and sex worker-serving organisations through social enterprise development.

Following the completion of the Sustainable Social Entrepreneurship Business Module in June, further capacity-building activities were conducted to support partner organisations in developing and sustaining their social enterprise initiatives. A Financial Training was held on 5 - 6th September at Waters Edge Hotel for partner organisations. Led by Mr. Sandeepa Jayasekara, Accounting Consultant, the training covered corporate finance, bookkeeping, stock management, investments, and credit and debt financing, providing practical knowledge to support future social enterprise activities.

A Marketing Training Workshop followed on 12-13th September at Waters Edge Hotel. Mr. Amal Iddamalagoda, Chartered Marketer (SLIM) conducted the training, covering marketing ethics, market analysis, digital marketing and marketing plan development. The workshop provided participants with practical guidance to strengthen their organisations' marketing approaches and support future business activities.

FPA Sri Lanka Participates in Supreme Court Case on Gender Recognition



On 20 July 2026, the Supreme Court dismissed Fundamental Rights Petition SC/FR/15/2026, which challenged government measures relating to gender recognition for transgender individuals, including the Ministry of Health Circular on the Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC), the Registrar General's Circular permitting changes to names and details in birth certificates, and provisions relating to the Women Empowerment Act No. 37 of 2024.

After considering the preliminary objections and submissions, the Court upheld the preliminary objections and dismissed the petition without granting leave to proceed.

FPA Sri Lanka was among the organisations that filed an Interventient Petition in the case, contributing to the proceedings concerning the rights and legal recognition of transgender persons in Sri Lanka. The decision represents an important development in the ongoing legal and policy discourse on transgender rights and gender recognition in the country.

Building partnerships for early detection and better health outcomes

FPA Sri Lanka conducted an awareness session and provided an overview of the upcoming research study, "Awareness, Help-Seeking and Barriers to Medical Services for Breast and Cervical Cancer: A Cross-Sectional Study Among Female Factory Workers in the Wathupitiwala Export Processing Zone," for HR representatives of factories in the Wathupitiwala Export Processing Zone.

The study aims to better understand female factory workers' awareness, help-seeking behaviours, and barriers to accessing breast and cervical cancer screening and medical services. The findings will help strengthen evidence-based workplace health promotion and improve access to early detection services.

The session was facilitated by Dr. Manoj Fernando, Dean, Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, and Dr. Nilangani Perera, Medical Officer, Wathupitiwala Base Hospital. The research will be led and coordinated by FPA Sri Lanka's Monitoring & Evaluation Unit in collaboration with the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, participating



factories, government health sector stakeholders, and other partners.

Together, we are working towards improving access to life-saving screening services and promoting healthier workplaces for women.



In conversation with
Ms. Kathya Senevirathne
Head of Advocacy - Legal

Could you briefly share your professional journey in SRH advocacy and how your work in this field has evolved?

I am an Attorney-at-Law by profession. Before taking oaths as a lawyer, I gained experience in legal and policy research, as well as media and communications. After working for nearly two years as a practicing employment lawyer, I decided to transition into SRH advocacy, where I saw an opportunity to apply my legal and policy experience to issues related to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Justice (SRHRJ). SRH advocacy has given me the opportunity to work closely with communities and understand the unique challenges they face. This has shaped the way I approach advocacy, with a greater focus on listening to communities, understanding priorities, and developing advocacy approaches that are relevant to the needs of communities.

You work on issues involving law, policy and the rights of communities that often face stigma and discrimination. What motivates you to continue this work, particularly when meaningful change can take time?

The very fact that communities continue to face stigma and discrimination to this day is what motivates me to continue this work, even when meaningful change takes time. I am inspired by the advocates who came before us, many of whom continued this work despite facing resistance and setbacks. Their persistence reminds me that change does not always happen immediately, but every effort contributes to a much larger outcome. Whether it is challenging an unfair policy, supporting an individual, or amplifying the voices of affected communities, each action can help create momentum for broader change. Knowing that the work we do today can contribute to a more just and inclusive society tomorrow is what keeps me motivated to continue this work.

FPA Sri Lanka has closely been involved in advocating for the decriminalisation of Sections 365 and 365A of the Penal Code. Why is reforming these provisions important from both a human rights and health perspective?

Reforming Section 365 and repealing Section 365A is a priority because these provisions reinforce stigma and discrimination based on sexual orientation. Their existence can perpetuate discrimination and exclusion far beyond the law itself, including in workplaces and when accessing essential services. From a human rights perspective, it is a no-brainer. Decriminalisation is essential to upholding equality, dignity, and every person's fundamental right to live free from discrimination and arbitrary interference in their private lives.

From a health perspective, criminalisation can create fear and mistrust, discouraging people from accessing essential SRH services. When people feel safe and respected, they are more likely to seek care openly and early. Decriminalisation is also an important step towards creating a more inclusive public health environment where everyone can access healthcare without fear of stigma, discrimination, or legal consequences.

FPA Sri Lanka has been involved in strategic litigation to protect the rights of the trans community. What has this work taught you about using the law to advocate for change?

Strategic litigation has taught me that the law can be a powerful tool for creating change, but it is not an end in itself. The most recent litigation matters I have been involved in reinforced and helped maintain two important circulars that protect and advance the rights of the trans community.

Litigation can take time, and a legal victory does not necessarily translate into immediate, tangible change in people's lives. It has also taught me the importance of working closely with communities and ensuring that affected communities remain at the front and centre of our efforts, because their lived realities are most at stake.

Strategic litigation involves bringing together the law, understanding community realities, and presenting them in a way that is legally sound and accessible to a court. Ultimately, it is about creating openings for broader change and using individual cases to challenge systems that perpetuate discrimination.

Another area of your work is advocating for reforms to laws relating to rape and sexual abuse. What changes are needed to make the current legal framework more inclusive and responsive to survivors?

The existing legal framework on rape does not provide equal protection to all survivors. Men, boys, and LGBTQIA+ persons remain inadequately protected, with male, transgender, and female-on-female victims falling outside the ambit of Section 363 of the Penal Code. They are generally covered instead by the lesser offence of grave sexual abuse under Section 365B, which carries a lower sentencing floor and does not provide an equivalent regime of aggravating circumstances.

The current rape law should therefore be amended to make it more gender-neutral and inclusive. Alternatively, the penalty for grave sexual abuse should be increased to a level equivalent to that for rape. Alongside these reforms, Sections 365 and 365A should also be amended and repealed, respectively, to ensure a more inclusive and equitable legal framework for survivors.

FPA Sri Lanka has also been advocating for abortion law reform, including access in cases of rape, incest and foetal abnormalities. What are some of the key challenges in advancing this conversation in Sri Lanka?

One of the key challenges is that abortion remains criminalised and is often discussed as a moral or religious issue rather than as a matter of health, rights, and bodily autonomy. This can make it difficult to have an evidence-based and constructive conversation about abortion law reform.

There is also significant stigma surrounding abortion, which can prevent people from openly sharing their experiences and accessing the support they need. In cases of rape and incest, survivors may already face considerable trauma and barriers to accessing services, and the absence of a legal exception can further compound these challenges. Another challenge is building sufficient political and public support for reform. Advancing this conversation therefore requires sustained advocacy, engaging with policymakers and other stakeholders, and bringing greater attention to the lived realities of people affected by the current legal framework.

Family law frameworks like the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act (MMDA) also directly impact bodily autonomy. Why is reforming the MMDA so critical, and what role is FPA Sri Lanka playing in this space?

Reforming the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act (MMDA) is important because gaps in the current Act, including the absence of a minimum age of marriage, permissibility of polygamy without the requirement of consent from the wife/s, lack of a requirement for the bride's

mandatory consent/signature, undermine the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of Muslim women and girls. FPA Sri Lanka supports advocacy for reform of the Act to strengthen protection of their rights, dignity, equality, bodily autonomy, and informed decision-making. We work collaboratively with women's rights organizations, grassroots activists, and researchers to promote evidence-based advocacy and legal reform, while ensuring that the voices and experiences of affected women and girls inform the process.

Looking back at the advocacy and legal work you have been involved in, are there any particular milestones or "wins" that stand out to you, whether in terms of policy changes, legal developments or positive outcomes for the communities you work with?

Recently, several anti-rights actors filed petitions before Sri Lanka's superior courts seeking to nullify two key circulars relating to the transgender community. The first, Director General of Health Services Circular No. 01-34/2016, permits the issuance of Gender Recognition Certificates (GRCs) to transgender persons. The second, Registrar General's Circular No. 06/2016, allows transgender persons to change their names and relevant details on birth certificates and other official documents.

FPA Sri Lanka intervened in both matters to ensure that the circulars remain in force. On 20th July 2026, the Supreme Court dismissed the said petition on several preliminary objections, meaning both circulars remain in force. The Court of Appeal matter, however, is still pending.

This is a significant legal and advocacy win for the transgender

community, protecting existing mechanisms for legal recognition of gender identity and effecting documentation changes.

Looking across all these areas of advocacy, what is one legal or policy change you would most like to see in Sri Lanka, and what role can FPA Sri Lanka play in making that change a reality?

One legal reform I would most like to see in Sri Lanka is the reform of the country's abortion laws. Sri Lanka's current legal framework is highly restrictive, with abortion only being permitted when it is performed in good faith to save the life of the pregnant person. Under the current legal landscape, abortions are not allowed even in cases of rape, incest or lethal fetal malformations.

FPA can work alongside individuals and organisations already engaged in abortion reform and support their efforts to advance this important legal reform.

Looking ahead, what are some of the key priorities or areas of focus for the Advocacy team for the rest of 2026 and into 2027?

Some of the key priorities for the Advocacy team for the rest of 2026 and into 2027 include reforming Section 365 and repealing Section 365A of the Penal Code, decriminalising abortion, at a minimum, in cases of rape, incest, and lethal fetal malformations, advocating for more inclusive laws on rape and sexual abuse, reforming the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, reforming / repealing the Vagrants Ordinance, strengthening legal protections for the LGBTQIA+ community and advocating for the criminalisation of marital rape.

Chinthana Eco Retreat Grows as a Space for Learning and Engagement

Relaunched earlier this year, Chinthana Eco Retreat is gaining momentum as a venue for learning, collaboration and community engagement. Recent bookings have included the National Fisheries & Solidarity Movement Youth Programme and the Fundamental & Other Rights Organization, while an FPA Youth event brought together 55 young people.

The retreat provides a setting for organisations and groups to hold programmes, meetings and learning activities in a relaxed environment, while its growing use contributes to FPA's income generation. With increasing interest from external organisations and FPA programmes, Chinthana is developing as a valuable space for both engagement and organisational sustainability.




**CHINTHANA
ECO RETREAT**
[Click to view
the website](#)



International Youth Day: Amplifying Youth Voices

To mark International Youth Day, Youth Club members from FPA Sri Lanka Centres shared their experiences of working with and supporting their communities. Alokaya Counselling Centre also highlighted issues affecting young people, raising awareness of harmful behaviours and the importance of recognising when professional support may be needed.

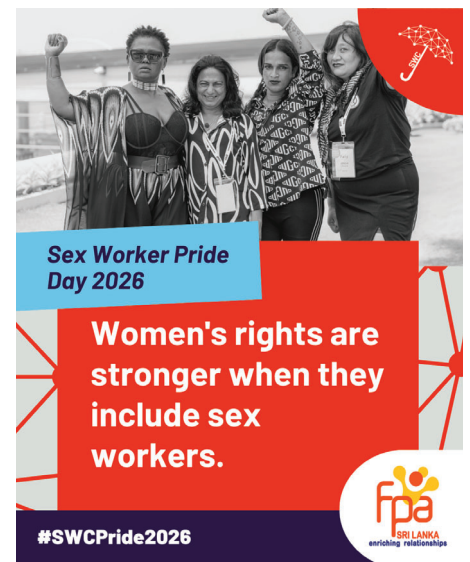
[Click to view the campaign](#)



World Sexual Health Day: Promoting Sexual Health Awareness

For World Sexual Health Day, FPA Sri Lanka developed a series of posters and videos addressing key aspects of sexual health, including consent, STI and HIV testing, mental well-being, rights, relationships and informed choices. The campaign highlighted sexual health as an integral part of overall health and well-being and encouraged audiences to access accurate information and make informed choices.

[Click to view the campaign](#)



Sex Worker Pride Day: Recognising Rights and Dignity

FPA Sri Lanka commemorated Sex Worker Pride Day by highlighting the importance of dignity, bodily autonomy, equality and justice for sex workers. The observance reinforced the need for rights-based and inclusive approaches that recognise the rights, health, safety and well-being of sex workers.

[Click to view the campaign](#)

Outreach Unit Reviews Progress Across Service Delivery Points



The Outreach Unit of FPA Sri Lanka held its District Progress Review Meeting on 9th and 10th of July, bringing together staff from the 10 Service Delivery Points, Head Office and outreach programmes. The two-day meeting reviewed SDP performance, cost recovery, service delivery, data quality and monitoring, alongside updates on key projects including IPPF SPRINT IV, the SPRINT Emergency Response Project, LEVIS and UNFPA-supported initiatives. The programme also included practical training on stock management and provided an opportunity to review progress, share experiences and identify priorities for strengthening outreach services.

Monaragala SDP Engages Youth on SRH and Emergency Preparedness



Under the IPPF SPRINT Project, FPA Sri Lanka conducted a Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergencies (SRHiE) training for 25 youth at the SOS Vocational Training Centre, Monaragala, led by Dr. Novil Wijesekara, Consultant, Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health. The Monaragala Service Delivery Point also conducted a CSE programme at the centre, with support from the STD Unit, Monaragala Hospital. The session covered sexual and reproductive health, with HIV screening also provided. A mobile clinic in Kodayana, Siyambalanduwa, provided essential SRH services, counselling and preventive care.

Seethawaka SDP Outreach Activities



The Seethawaka Service Delivery Point conducted Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programmes at Wahakula Kanishta Vidyalaya and Waharaka Maha Vidyalaya, reaching more than 330 students with sessions covering reproductive health, HIV/STI awareness, counselling and life skills. Under the Levi's Grant Project, the SDP also conducted a mobile clinic at CBL (Munchee) Exports Pvt. Ltd. in the Seethawaka Export Processing Zone, providing workers with sexual and reproductive health consultations and counselling services at their workplace.

Koggala SDP Extends Services Beyond the Clinic



The Koggala Service Delivery Point conducted Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programmes at Hapugala Maha Vidyalaya and the Baddegama Vocational Training Authority, reaching students with information on sexual and reproductive health, family planning, HIV, STIs, healthy relationships and life skills. The SDP also conducted an outreach programme at Brandix Apparel Solutions, connecting employees with confidential sexual and reproductive health services, counselling, education and awareness programmes.

Health Screening and GBV Awareness in Kilinochchi



The Kilinochchi Service Delivery Point conducted a Well Woman Mobile Clinic in Pudumurippu, providing breast examinations, Pap smear screening, health education and referrals. The SDP also partnered with NAQDA to conduct a GBV awareness session with the Akkarayankulam fishing community, bringing together health screening and community awareness activities in the district.

Client Testimonials

"I came to the clinic for a routine breast examination, but I had also been experiencing severe chest and left arm pain for three days. Following the assessment, I was immediately referred to hospital. I am grateful that I came, was listened to with care, and felt heard and supported."

"I was initially hesitant to attend, but the clinic helped me understand the importance of regular Pap smear screening and breast examinations. I now realise that we should not delay looking after our health, and I would encourage other women in my community to do the same."

Mobile Clinics Support Women's Health in Puttalam



The Puttalam Service Delivery Point conducted mobile clinics in Mudalakkuliya and Ihala Uswewa with support from the Anamaduwa MOH, Women's Development Officer and local women's societies. The clinics provided SRH awareness, Pap smear screening, clinical breast examinations and Well Woman services. The SDP also conducted a Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programme at the Vocational Training Authority (VTA) in Puttalam, extending SRH education to young people.

Making SRH Information More Accessible

A series of short reels covering SRH topics was created for use across our social media channels. The videos also serve as practical resources for our Service Delivery Points (SDPs) to support awareness and education sessions within their communities.

[Click to view the videos](#)

Batticaloa SDP Reaches Workers and Students with SRH Services



The Batticaloa Service Delivery Point conducted mobile outreach at Lootah Garments and Vimochana Illam, providing HIV/STI testing, family planning, counselling and subfertility advice. The SDP also conducted a one-day Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programme at BT/KK/Kalkudah Namagal College, covering relationships, health, wellbeing and informed decision-making through age-appropriate discussions and learning activities.

Reaching Underserved Communities in Nuwara Eliya



The Nuwara Eliya Service Delivery Point (SDP) conducted reproductive health medical camps in the Ambagamuwa and Kotmale MOH areas, reaching garment factory workers and plantation communities. These outreach activities helped bring SRH services and information to communities in areas where access to such services can be more challenging. The SDP also conducted a Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programme at the Nuwara Eliya Vocational Training Authority.

Wathupitiwala SDP Engages Youth and Workplace Stakeholders



The Wathupitiwala SDP conducted a Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) programme for members of the Biyagama Children's Council at the Biyagama Divisional Secretariat Auditorium. The programme was held under the patronage of the Assistant Divisional Secretary, providing an opportunity for young participants to engage in age-appropriate learning on sexual and reproductive health.

The Centre also conducted an awareness session for HR representatives from factories in the Wathupitiwala Export Processing Zone on an upcoming study exploring awareness, help-seeking behaviours, and barriers to breast and cervical cancer screening among female factory workers.

Extending SRH Services and CSE in Ampara



The Ampara Service Delivery Point (SDP) conducted a mobile clinic in Gonagala Village, within the Uhana MOH area, bringing essential services closer to the community. The SDP also conducted a Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) session at VTA Ampara covering reproductive health, HIV/STIs, counselling and life skills.

Preparing Youth for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergencies (SRHiE)



In Sri Lanka, where communities regularly face floods, landslides, tropical cyclones and other emergencies, access to essential health services can be disrupted, placing vulnerable communities at greater risk.

A two-day SRHiE Training was successfully conducted on 22nd and 23rd August at the National Youth Services Council, Maharagama, under the IPPF SPRINT Project, bringing together 25 young participants to strengthen their knowledge and capacity in emergency preparedness and response.

Led by Dr. Novil Wijesekara, Consultant – Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health, the training explored Sexual and Reproductive Health in Emergencies (SRHiE), the importance of preparedness, protecting the health and dignity of vulnerable populations during crises, and the role of young people in building resilient communities.

Equipping Frontline Teams for SRH Emergencies



A successful two-day Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) Training was conducted on 18–19th August for sub-national first-line medical staff in the Kandy District under the IPPF SPRINT Project.

The training strengthened participants' knowledge on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in Emergencies, with a focus on the MISP objectives and the critical role of frontline healthcare workers in ensuring lifesaving SRH services during emergencies.

MISP refers to the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), an internationally accepted set of life-saving sexual and reproductive health (SRH) activities pioneered and rolled out by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) to be implemented at the very onset of a humanitarian crisis.

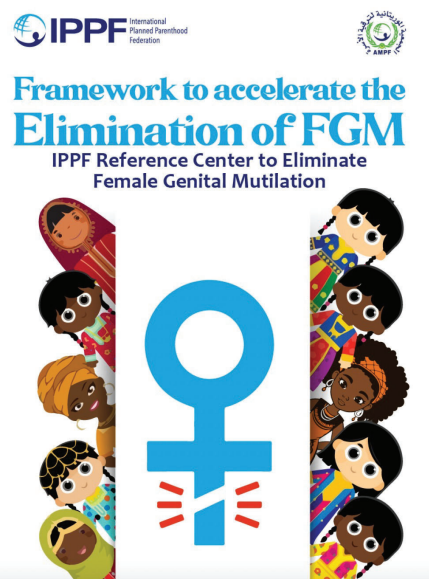
Strengthening Collaboration on FGM/C Prevention in Sri Lanka

As part of the ongoing efforts under the DFAT RESPOND Phase II project on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), FPA Sri Lanka continues to work towards strengthening evidence-based advocacy, research, and community engagement to address harmful practices and promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls.

During her recent visit to Sri Lanka in August 2026, Ms. Valentina Volpe, Technical Specialist – Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Practices at the UNFPA Regional Office, met with the FPA Sri Lanka team to discuss the progress of the project, particularly the proposed research component. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to exchange insights, review the research proposal, and identify areas requiring further refinement.

Discussions focused on strengthening the proposed study design, refining the research questionnaire, and ensuring that the study is appropriately aligned with the project's objectives and the Sri Lankan context. The team also explored opportunities for continued collaboration with key stakeholders, including UNFPA and other relevant partners, to support the development of a robust and ethically sound research process.

The engagement with Valentina was an important step in advancing the project's research agenda and ensuring



that future interventions are informed by reliable evidence and the experiences of affected communities. FPA Sri Lanka looks forward to continued dialogue and collaboration with UNFPA and its partners as the project progresses towards generating knowledge, strengthening prevention efforts, and contributing to a coordinated response to FGM/C in Sri Lanka.

Strengthening Partnerships, Expanding Impact



The Social Marketing Programme (SMP) brought together its Kurunegala dealers at Kandyan Reach Hotel for a valuable exchange of knowledge, product updates, and insights. Regular dealer meetings help strengthen our partnerships and ensure our network is well-equipped to connect communities with quality sexual and reproductive health products.



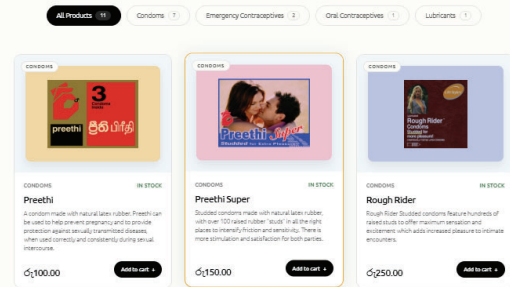
Online SHOP NOW Platform

Scan to visit the SHOP NOW page



Choose products that **support your well-being**

Every product is selected for safety, quality, and reliability - and shipped in plain packaging with no identifying labels.
Prices are listed in Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR).



The FPA Sri Lanka SHOP NOW page has now been upgraded and is live on the corporate website, providing online access to our range of condoms, Mithuri oral contraceptive pills (OCPs), Postinor emergency contraceptives and Easy Glide lubricant. Customers can browse available products, place orders online and benefit from islandwide delivery through a range of delivery partners.



Imasha Kumarapeli
Programme Assistant
Outreach



Thahirah Khasim
Trainee Counsellor
Alokaya Counselling Centre



Sohani Jayawardana
Counsellor
Happy Life Contact Centre



Kavindu Simal
Manager
Transport & Fleet Management



Tharushi Perera
Counsellor - Alokaya



Sujatha Dananjani
Project Coordinator
DIPSRHS



Sachintha Welipitiya
Project Manager
DIPSRHS



Wajira Rajakaruna
Project Coordinator
RFSU Project



Pramodya Galagoda
Project Coordinator



Bhagya Sandaruwani
Project Coordinator



Nishalya Jayasuriya
Project Coordinator
FGMC Project



Thanarasu Thuvagaran
Regulatory Pharmacist



Harshana Salgado
Procurement Manager



Learning from Global Healthcare Marketing Practices



A comprehensive five-day IPPF Marketing Workshop was held from September 21 to 25, 2026, in Nairobi, Kenya, and brought together representatives from 27 IPPF Member Associations across several regions. The workshop provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and learn how Member Associations are approaching healthcare marketing and clinic services in different contexts.

The intensive programme covered key areas of healthcare marketing, including behavioural economics, data analytics, CRM integration, influencer engagement, campaign development, and the use of AI tools for marketing. As part of the practical learning experience, delegates also participated in clinic and partner site visits to organisations including MSI Reproductive Choices, Eagles Health & Clinic Services, and contraceptive product marketer DKT International, gaining insights into local healthcare

delivery models and market approaches.

The FPA Sri Lanka delegation included Mr. Suhail Junaid, Director – Marketing; Mr. Amila Gunasekera, Deputy Director – Brands; and Ms. Natasha de Rosayro, Assistant Director – Communications.

The workshop provided the team with new insights and practical approaches that can contribute to strengthening FPA Sri Lanka's healthcare outreach, marketing and brand strategies.



Strengthening Emergency SRH Preparedness in Badulla



FPA Sri Lanka has signed a consultancy agreement with Dr. Vinya S. Ariyaratne, Specialist in Community Medicine and Honorary President of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement of Sri Lanka, to lead the Sub-national Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) Readiness Assessment in Badulla under the SPRINT Project.

The assessment will examine policies, capacity, coordination and resources related to the provision of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services during humanitarian emergencies. It will identify gaps in emergency SRH preparedness, inform a capacity development and implementation plan, and support advocacy for integrating MISP into national disaster response mechanisms and related policies.

Strengthening CSE Across Puttalam



Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) sessions were conducted for young people in the Neelabamma, Kalpitiya and Nirmalapura MOH areas in Puttalam.

The sessions were facilitated by trained peer educators from the Youth Network for Health – Puttalam. Participants discussed topics including menstruation, pregnancy, myths and misconceptions, and STIs/STDs. Through the RFSU project, we continue to create safe spaces for young people to access accurate information and strengthen their knowledge.

Breaking Barriers, Building Inclusion



A meaningful session on SRHR, with a special focus on SRHR-related signs in Sinhala and Tamil Sign Language, was conducted for sign language interpreters under the purview of the RFSU project, with support from the Sri Lanka Central Federation of the Deaf.

The session aimed to strengthen interpreters' knowledge, confidence, and vocabulary to support accessible, accurate, and inclusive SRHR information for Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities.

FPA Sri Lanka Supports Youth Leadership Awards



The New Generation Sri Lanka (NGSL) 7th Youth Top 40 Awards 2026, held on 28 July, recognised young Sri Lankan leaders for their achievements in leadership, innovation, service and social impact.

FPA Sri Lanka sponsored the Human Rights and Social Impact Leader Award, which was presented by



Dr. Ruchitha Perera, Executive Director. The event brought together representatives from the diplomatic corps, corporate sector and civil society, with His Excellency Semih Lütfü Turgut, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Sri Lanka, as Chief Guest.

Representing FPA Sri Lanka at the



event were Dr. Ruchitha Perera, Ms. Desaree Soysa, Project Consultant – RFSU, and Ms. Joanne Jayasingha, Consultant – Resource Mobilization.

The awards recognised young people contributing to positive change across Sri Lanka, including through leadership, service and work towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

FPA Sri Lanka Team Shines at WIM Corporate Olympiad

FPA Sri Lanka participated in the WIM Corporate Olympiad 2026, organised by Women in Management Sri Lanka and held on 8th August at the Malay Grounds. The team competed across a range of events, securing four second-place finishes, three third-place finishes and the Best Cheer Group award.

Second-place finishes: Obstacle Race; 4 × 100M Relay (Men's Below 30); 4 × 100M Relay (Women's 40+); Over 50 Challenge.

Third-place finishes: 4 × 100M Relay (Women's 30+); 100M (Men's Below 30); High Heels Relay.



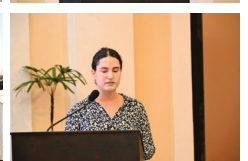
The achievements reflected strong teamwork, participation and sportsmanship, with FPA colleagues representing the organisation across the different events.



Inclusive Health Project : First Steering Committee Meeting

The first Steering Committee Meeting of the Inclusive Health Project was held on 22 September 2026 in Colombo, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss strategic priorities, implementation and next steps towards advancing disability-inclusive sexual and reproductive health services.

Representatives from UNICEF, the European Union, government ministries and departments, including the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community



Empowerment, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and the Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education, as well as INGOs, CSOs and organisations representing persons with disabilities, participated in the discussion.

We want to hear your views and suggestions! Please write to: FPA Sri Lanka, 37/27, Bullers Lane, Colombo - 07, Sri Lanka.

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