



STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE IN SRI LANKA

Australia is supporting inclusive, resilient, and accountable governance systems in Sri Lanka. Through a portfolio of partnerships with civil society, national, international, and multinational partners, Australia is investing in strengthening governance in Sri Lanka to:

1. Strengthen evidence-based policy decision-making.
2. Improved service delivery.
3. Improved voice, agency, and representation.
4. Economic governance and stability at a national level

A summary of Australia's work strengthening governance partnerships and focus is provided below.

The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation (TAF) is working to improve subnational service delivery through the promotion of evidence-based policy and decision-making. To do this, TAF aims to build capacity within subnational government departments to collect a robust evidence base that can be drawn upon when exercising their mandated legislative and regulative functions. This will improve their ability to innovate, monitor and respond to emergencies; deliver services that are inclusive and accountable; and promote local economic development in alignment with national priorities and frameworks.

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) is focused on building the capacity of subnational governance systems to address women's needs, reduce gender gaps, and promote gender equality. IFES is also working towards strengthening electoral processes to promote democratic and representative participation and a fair and transparent electoral system.

Sri Lanka Evaluation Association

The Sri Lanka Evaluation Association (SLEVA) is working to improve governance through institutionalization of evaluation and evidence in policy making and by supporting the Parliament to process the National Evaluation Bill. The objective is to encourage greater evidence-based decision making within government agencies through the institutionalisation of evaluation. The Association will also build the capacity of the Parliamentary Research Unit, progress the use of research and evidence to evaluation programs and advocate for evaluations of programs that are particularly relevant to vulnerable communities.

The World Bank

Australia has partnered with the World Bank to support economic governance and fiscal stability in line with IMF recommendations following the 2022 economic crisis. Australia and the World Bank are providing technical assistance to Sri Lankan authorities as they implement economic stabilisation and the larger, growth-enhancing reform agenda of the World Bank Development Policy Operation. Inclusive economic activity and growth underpins the reform program, along with the removal of constraints to investment, boosting investor confidence, creating a supporting trade policy framework, strengthening the financial sector safety net, reform of state-owned enterprises and support for growth-enhancing structural reforms to shorten the economic recovery timeframe.

Sri Lanka Press Institute

The Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI) was awarded a A\$50,000 Direct Aid Program grant in 2022 to deliver the Right to Information for a Better Democracy project. The project objective is to ensure journalists and communities better understand their rights to access information held by authorities, and how to do so. SLPI undertook an impact assessment of the application of the Right to Information between 2019 and 2021 to identify gaps in knowledge and the extent to which the Right to Information was upheld. The findings informed a series of recommendations and Right to Information awareness sessions with journalists, civil society and government.