



RECENT CHANGES IN LABOR MIGRATION TRENDS AND POLICIES IN ASIA

10th ADBI-OECD-ILO Roundtable on Labor Migration in Asia Future of
labour migration in Asia Challenges and opportunities in the next
decade

6-7 February 2020





RECENT CHANGES IN LABOR MIGRATION TRENDS AND POLICIES IN SRI LANKA

- Country at a Glance
- Recent changes in labour Migration trends and related policies in Sri Lanka
- Challenges /problems and innovative strategies.





Sri Lanka at a Glance



Statistics	
Population	22 million
Nationality	Sri Lankan
Capital	Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte
Religions	Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity
Education	Compulsory to 16 years
Primary school attendance	96.5%
GDP	US\$ 65 (2018)
Economic growth Rate	5.1% (2018)
Main Contributors to Growth	Tourism, Shipping, Aviation, telecom, Trading and Financial Services
Major Products	Rice, Tea, Rubber, Coconut, Spices
GDP by Sector	Agriculture 8% Services 56% Industry 27% Other



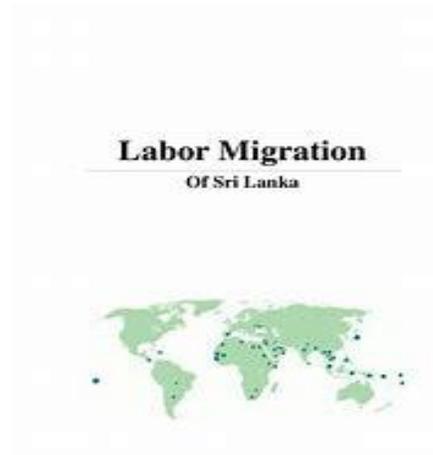
Recent changes in labour Migration trends and related policies in Sri Lanka

Labour Migration Trends

Governance of labour Migration

Protection and welfare of migrant workers and their families

Migration and Development



Departure for Foreign Employment 1991 – 2019



Year	Male		Female		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	
1991	21,423	32.97	43,560	67.03	64,983
1992	34,858	28.00	89,636	72.00	124,494
1993	32,269	25.00	96,807	75.00	129,076
1994	16,377	27.22	43,791	72.78	60,168
1995	46,021	26.68	126,468	73.32	172,489
1996	43,112	26.52	119,464	73.48	162,576
1997	37,552	24.99	112,731	75.01	150,283
1998	53,867	33.71	105,949	66.29	159,816
1999	63,720	35.45	116,015	64.55	179,735
2000	59,793	32.82	122,395	67.18	182,188
2001	59,807	32.50	124,200	67.50	184,007
2002	70,522	34.61	133,251	65.39	203,773
2003	74,508	35.51	135,338	64.49	209,846
2004	80,699	37.59	134,010	62.41	214,709
2005	93,896	40.60	137,394	59.40	231,290
2006	90,170	44.65	111,778	55.35	201,948
2007	103,476	47.37	114,983	52.63	218,459
2008	128,232	51.19	122,267	48.81	250,499
2009	119,381	48.31	127,745	51.69	247,126
2010	136,850	51.16	130,657	48.84	267,507
2011	136,307	51.84	126,654	48.16	262,961
2012	144,135	51.03	138,312	48.97	282,447
2013	175,185	59.75	118,033	40.25	293,218
2014	190,217	63.26	110,486	36.74	300,703
2015	172,788	65.58	90,655	34.41	263,443
2016	160,302	65.99	82,628	34.01	242,930
2017	139,271	65.64	72,891	34.36	212,162
2018	129,774	61.37	81,687	38.63	211,461
2019	104,972	56.20	81,807	43.79	189,779

Departure for Foreign Employment 2017 – 2018

Employment category



Country	Male			Female (Except HM)			Housemaids			Total		
	2017	2018	%	2017	2018	%	2017	2018	%	2017	2018	%
Saudi Arabia	25330	21191	-16.34	1169	1009	-13.69	11247	13667	21.52	37746	35867	-4.98
Qatar	52309	46254	-11.58	1587	1650	3.97	2739	2870	4.78	56635	50774	-10.35
U A E	24125	22116	-8.33	5304	4635	-12.61	7239	6085	-15.94	36668	32836	-10.45
Kuwait	12173	13261	8.94	1600	1797	12.31	23634	31893	34.95	37407	46951	25.51
South Korea	5756	5353	-7.00	49	56	14.29	2		-200	5807	5409	-6.85
Oman	2981	2715	-8.92	557	337	-39.50	5327	5294	-0.62	8865	8346	-5.85
Maldives	5906	6819	15.46	244	336	37.70	129	145	12.40	6279	7300	16.26
Jordan	1485	1541	3.77	1729	1994	15.33	711	628	-11.67	3925	4163	6.06
Bahrain	1726	1696	-1.74	196	250	27.55	1080	976	-9.63	3002	2922	-2.66
Malaysia	1389	1757	26.49	400	528	32.00	207	170	-17.87	1996	2455	23.00
Lebanon	454	428	-5.73	24	15	-37.50	1930	1786	-7.46	2408	2229	-7.43
Cyprus	328	437	33.23	1012	1106	9.29	770	706	-8.31	2110	2249	6.59
Israel	942	737	-21.76	1495	1279	-14.45	50	17	-66.00	2487	2033	-18.25
Singapore	687	695	1.16	845	960	13.61	263	262	-0.38	1795	1917	6.80
Other Countries	3676	4774	29.87	631	795	25.99	553	441	-20.25	4860	6010	23.66
Total	139267	129774	-6.82	16842	16747	-0.56	55881	64940	16.21	211990	211461	-0.25



Comparison of Foreign Employment

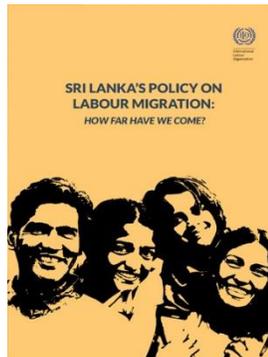
Year	2018	2019
Male	129,774	104,972
Female (Except Housemaids)	16,747	25,288
Housemaid	64,940	56,519
Total (Female)	81,687	81,807
Total Departures	211,461	186,779



Governance of labour migration



- Updating the existing policy on Labour Migration in line with the SDG s and GCM objectives
- Updating the existing operational manual for Labour Welfare officials in Sri Lanka Diplomatic Mission in Destination countries.
- Legislative amendments to the existing SLBFE act 21/1985.
- Introducing of Code of Ethical Conduct for Licensed recruitment Agents
- Decentralize the services of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment
- Initiated to establish Special Mediation Boards
- Strengthened the National Advisory committee on Labour Migration
- Operationalized the National Task Force for Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking





Protection and welfare of migrant workers and their families

- Introduced a Social Protection Programme “**Shramika Surekuma**”
- Develop and implement “**Family Development Plans**”
- Proposed Pension Schemes for Migrant Workers
- Concessionary loan schemes, scholarship programmes
- Enter into MOU/BLAs to protect and promote welfare measures for Sri lankan Migrant workers
- Close and strong partnership with International Organizations.
- Actively participated and joined with collaborative projects.





International Agreements and Bilateral Labor Migration Agreements

Country name	Country Name
Jordan	Afganistan
UAE	Italy
Quarter	Oman
Baharain	Korea
Korea	Malaysia
Kuwait	Germany
Seychelles	Japan
Seychelles	JapanMOC
Switzerland	JapanMOC
Iraq	UAE
Kingom of Saudi Arabia	



Migration and Development

- Skills Development initiatives
- Implementing the Policy on return and re-integration of Sri Lankan migrant workers
- Introduced programmes to country's development
- Introduced programmes/ packages to increase remittances





Challenges/Problems and innovative strategies.....

- Need of horizontal integration and vertical integration
- Lack of better data in some sectors
- Competition amongst labour sending countries
- Incompatibility of policies between Sri Lanka and some destination countries :





Innovative Strategies to deal with such Challenges

- Political Will
- Whole Govt Approach
- Whole Society Approach
- Evidenced-based policy formulation process
- Decent Work Policy
- Well structured legal framework
- Efficient grievance handling





Whole-of Govt Approach

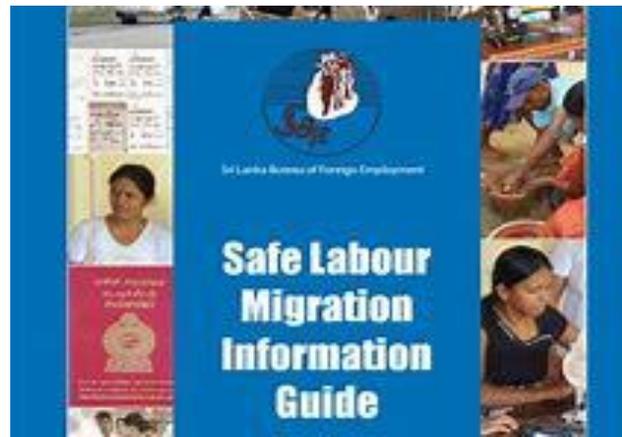
- We always follow the principle of whole- of -Govt approach since the labour migration is a multi-disciplinary sector which needs active involvement of number of govt actors'. In each and every activity related to labour migration , the Line Ministry has invited to participate and submission of inputs to improve the strategies/activities sharing the responsibilities among relevant govt. authorities to implement allocating their Human and financial resources appropriately





Whole-of -Society Approach

- Whole-of -Society Approach: Preparation /designing/implementing national policies and programmes, the participation of the civil society, NGOs, trade unions, recruitment agencies, corporate sector ,research organisations and academia was encouraged by the Govt. and the representatives were included to sub committees/advisory committees to get their inputs.



A country' plan/ Strategy



- The Strategic Action Plan (2020-2024) is designed, developed and presented under five (5) key thematic areas in foreign employment
 - Governance
 - Protection, Rights and Wellbeing of Migrant Workers and their Families
 - Promotion and Skills Development
 - Linking Migration to Development
 - Monitoring, Research and Documentation



Conclusion



Sri Lanka has taken different policy initiatives and strategies to;

- Governace of Labour Migration to decent and productive employment
- Secure rights and Protection of Migrant workers and ensure wellbeing of their families
- Promote of employment opportunities for skilled and semi skilled migrant workers in local and global Economies
- Enhance benefits of Migration and its nexus with national development.





Thank you.