

Commitment #5

Change behaviour of school children to say “No” to Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol and other Substances by 2020

1st March 2019– 31st August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry in charge of Child Affairs, Ministry in charge of Education		
Commitment description			
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	Use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco by school children in both urban and rural areas has been a significant concern for well over a decade particularly because it is a sensitive age where such use can lead to long-term addictions. The main reasons for children becoming vulnerable to use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco is peer pressure or lack of knowledge or guidance about their adverse consequences. Many children who have engaged in drug use were found to have dropped out from school. There are other adverse social and health issues affecting children with drug-use behaviours.		
What is the commitment?	The Ministries in charge of Child Affairs and Education in collaboration with the Presidential Secretariat will establish and strengthen School Drug Prevention Committees in 6400 secondary schools. The School Drug Prevention Committees composed by school children, parents and teachers will be an effective decision making forum for drug prevention activities. Other strategies to discourage drug and other substance use by children will be implemented through Rural Committees and religious organisations. A proper mechanism will be in place to monitor the School Drug Prevention Programme. An Annual Summit will be held to review the School Drug Prevention Programme and share best practices.		
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	This commitment will use creative strategies to involve school children as active participants in drug prevention activities. They will be empowered to take informed decisions and be self-motivated to change any drug use behaviours. Participation of communities in Rural Committees will work towards creating drug-free environments in their villages. Equipped with a proper understanding of the risks and dangers of drugs and a physical environment to support drug prevention, the probability of children engaging in drug-user behaviours will be minimised.		
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment promotes public participation and transparency as citizens, including school children, parents, teachers and communities, get involved in implementing and monitoring strategies for drug prevention.		
Additional information	The commitment will strengthen the national programme for drug prevention conducted by the Presidential Secretariat and the policies and programmes for protection of children.		
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
1. School Drug Prevention Committees will be established and strengthened in 6400 secondary schools to implement strategies to		March 2019	June 2019

discourage use of drugs among school children.		
2. Strategies will be implemented through Rural Committees to discourage drug use by children outside school premises.	May 2019	August 2019
3. Drug prevention activities for children will be implemented through the intervention of religious leaders and religious places.	September 2019	November 2019
4. The School Drug Prevention Programme will be monitored.	March 2019	August, 2021
5. An Annual Summit will be held to review the School Drug Prevention Programme and share best practices.	September, 2019	September, 2020

Contact information

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Title, Department		
Email and Phone		
Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Presidential Secretariat, National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, National Authority of Tobacco and Alcohol, National Child Protection Authority.
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Alcohol and Drugs Information Centre; Foundation for Innovative Social Development, Healthy Lanka, Sarvodaya and other CBOs working on this issue

Commitment #15

Promote the creation of a child friendly environment by implementing the 2018 Concluding Observations of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in a participatory manner

1st March 2019– 31st August 2021

Lead implementing agency/actor	Ministry in charge of Child Affairs
Commitment description	
What is the public problem that the commitment will address?	<p>Sri Lanka is bound by international obligations to safeguard the rights of Sri Lankan children having ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in 1991. In this regard, the Committee on the Rights of the Child monitors the progress made on these obligations by reviewing the information submitted by each State Party and makes recommendations or Concluding Observations to help States improve the situation of children.</p> <p>The latest Concluding Observations on Sri Lanka made in 2018 have identified the main factors leading to violations of child rights and make recommendations on how they could be prevented. Sri Lanka is required to submit its next periodic report by 2023 and to include therein information on the follow-up to the present Concluding Observations. Recommendations have been made to address a number of issues including low level of societal awareness on child rights; gender-based violence; children deprived of a family environment; effects of climate change on child rights; internally displaced children; trafficking in children etc. It is important to note, however, that the skills and knowledge of parties with responsibility to implement these recommendations are at a low level.</p>
What is the commitment?	By implementing the relevant recommendations of the UNCRC Concluding Observations, the Ministry in charge of child affairs, together with other agencies, aims to strengthen its efforts to build a country in which the rights of children are protected. In this regard, the Ministry recognizes the need to create a knowledgeable society that is aware of child rights and the importance of safeguarding them; consider legislative changes in the light of cultural changes; and enable social recognition for activists appearing for child rights.
How will the commitment contribute to solve the public problem?	This commitment will increase the awareness on the importance of safeguarding child rights. It will promote behaviour and practices to hear the opinion of children when taking decisions concerning them; empower the society to report on incidences of child exploitation; and effectively address factors that contribute to violence against children.
Why is this commitment relevant to OGP values?	This commitment enhances public participation, transparency and accountability through social mobilization to identify instances of child rights violations and initiatives to protect child rights.
Additional information	The responsibilities to protect the rights of children facilitated through this

		commitment will help promote societal values.	
Milestone Activity with a verifiable deliverable		Start Date:	End Date:
1. New laws and policies (eg: Alternative care policy) will be introduced and implemented.		March 2019	March 2020
2. Child Rights Protection Committees at rural, divisional, district, provincial and national levels will be strengthened.		March 2019	March 2020
3. Societal awareness on the importance of child rights protection will be enhanced.		March 2019	September 2020
4. Take action based on the study made on the reintegration of institutionalized children into society.		March 2019	March 2021
Contact information			
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Title, Department		Commissioner, Department of Probation & Childcare Services	
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Other Actors Involved	State actors involved	Department of Probation & Childcare Services, District Secretariats, Divisional Secretariats, Ministry in charge of Education, Ministry in charge of Health, National Child Protection Authority, Children's Secretariat	
	CSOs, private sector, multilaterals, working groups	Save the Children, Foundation for Innovative and Sustainable Development (FISD), UNICEF, Leads, FRIDSRO, SOS, World Vision, Plan Sri Lanka, Child Fund, Sarvodaya, Emerge Lanka	

5. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

A Ministerial Steering Committee will be in place to monitor progress, provide guidance and direction for the effective implementation of the National Action Plan. In addition, an Officials Committee chaired by Secretary to the President and composed of officials of key implementing agencies will review and assess the progress of the Second National Action Plan of the Open Government partnership at quarterly intervals. These meetings will be attended by the Focal Points of all implementing agencies and members of relevant civil society organizations. Every agency implementing commitments will be supported by a Monitoring & Evaluation framework that will facilitate and ensure the achievement of their milestones. The progress of the National Action Plan will be updated at quarterly intervals and published in a website under the Presidential Secretariat. In addition, government officers and citizens will be able to provide views on the Action Plan via ogp.progress@gmail.com. The officer from the Presidential Secretariat functioning as the Official Point of Contact will maintain a continuing dialogue and coordination with other implementing agencies and civil society stakeholders.