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Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - EDITION 07, JULY 2026

Welcome to the latest edition of the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities' (FSLGA) monthly newsletter!

FSLGA is the National Association of Local Councils in Sri Lanka. Our work focuses on strengthening the capacities of elected councilors and administrators, providing technical assistance to councils to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery, strengthening the councils' legal and policy framework, and conducting research and studies to assess further improvements to local governance systems in Sri Lanka.

Recent Programs

FSLGA Presents a Policy Review to the Caucus on Climate Parliament of Sri Lanka



FSLGA presented a policy review, titled ***Strengthening Climate Resilience and Disaster Preparedness in Sri Lanka: Policy Analysis, Gaps, and Strategic Recommendations***, to the Co-chairs of the Caucus on Climate Parliament of Sri Lanka, Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition, and Hon. Prof. L. M. Abeywickrama, Member of Parliament.

Based on the *Enhancing Community Resilience to the Impacts of Climate Change and Disaster Management in the Sabaragamuwa Province* project, the policy review includes an evidence-based analysis of Sri Lanka's climate resilience and disaster preparedness framework. It also identified key policy gaps with practical measures to strengthen Sri Lanka's the local governance system, institutional coordination, and implementation framework. FSLGA remains committed to promoting evidence-based policy reforms and empowering local governments as the foundation for a climate-resilient Sri Lanka.

DAP Project Closing Ceremony

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DAP PROJECT CLOSING CEREMONY



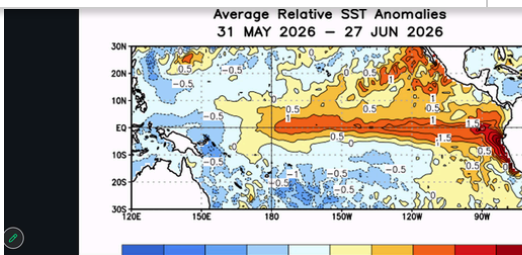
FSLGA held the official closing ceremony for our two-year pilot project: ***Enhancing Community Resilience to the Impacts of Climate Change and Disaster Management in the Sabaragamuwa Province*** in Ratnapura. The project was carried out through a Direct Aid Program (DAP) from the High Commission of Australia and enabled the strengthening of local council-led disaster and climate resilience in four disaster-prone areas of the Sabaragamuwa Province. To commemorate the efforts and achievements of this project, FSLGA held a closing ceremony which included a presentation of the project's overview followed by a panel discussion alongside stakeholders we worked with during the project's timeline. The event concluded with an award distribution ceremony for our four partner councils, the Commissioner of the Local Government Office in Sabaragamuwa and the Assistant Commissioner for Local Government Offices in Kegalle and Ratnapura. We remain grateful to the project's funding partner, the High Commission of Australia to Sri Lanka, the project's co-ordinational funding partner: the Sri Lanka Support Unit, officials from our partner councils, district-wise local government bodies and other stakeholders who worked alongside our team to see through the completion of this project.

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The FSLGA Team was invited to present at the Close-Out Event and Partner Storytelling Showcase organised by the Sri Lanka Support Unit. The event was held to commemorate the completion of several Direct Aid Program (DAP) Projects. Accordingly, FSLGA's showcase featured an interactive discussion on the ***Enhancing Community Resilience to the Impacts of Climate Change and Disaster Management in the Sabaragamuwa Province*** project. The event also saw the participation of Deputy High Commissioner for Australia in Sri Lanka, Ms. Ruth Baird.

FSLGA outlined the project's key milestones, including: presenting a policy brief to the Parliamentary Climate Caucus of Sri Lanka, conducting multiple capacity and knowledge-building workshops for local government officials, and updating disaster preparedness maps for vulnerable communities in the partner council areas.

FSLGA Hackathon Webinar



FSLGA successfully kickstarted the webinar series under ICLEI South Asia's **Youth for Climate Hackathon 2.0** with our webinar titled *El Niño in Sri Lanka – Separating Fact from Fiction in Our Changing Weather*. The session brought together partners and stakeholders from South Asia and beyond to explore the science behind the El Niño Effect, its implications for Sri Lanka's changing climate, and why understanding climate variability is critical for building resilient communities. While FSLGA facilitated the webinar, expert insight was provided by Mr Malitha Fernando from the Department of Meteorology of Sri Lanka. We thank the ICLEI South Asia team for the opportunity to be a part of this series and encourage everyone to participate in the subsequent webinars of this impactful series over the next few weeks.

Meeting the Commissioner of Local Government in the Eastern Province



of Local Government, Eastern Province, Mr. A.T. M. Rafi. During the meeting, an overview of the projects and key initiatives implemented in the Eastern Province was presented, highlighting ongoing development activities, achievements, and future collaboration opportunities. FSLGA remains committed to building strong partnerships at the provincial levels to strengthen and expand the outreach of Sri Lanka's local government sector.

FSLGA's Inter-Council Debating Tournament Kick-starts in the Eastern Province



The preliminary round for FSLGA's Inter-Council Debating Tournament commenced for the Eastern Province in July. The tournament brought together participants from across the province, providing a platform to develop communication, critical thinking, and public speaking skills while promoting healthy competition among the participants. *The Inter-council Debate Tournament is organised by the FSLGA Academy.*

Conducting Capacity-Building Programs for Partner Councils Under the *Preparing Sri Lanka's Local Government for Fiscal Transition* Project

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Capacity-building training programs were conducted for officials and elected members in the Eastern Province to strengthen their institutional capacity, administrative procedure adherence, and service delivery within their councils. Discussed topics included: council meeting procedures for council members and the gazette process for charges, rates, and taxes for relevant local authority staff. These programs saw the participation of council members and Staff of Namal Oya, Aliyadivembu and Pottuvil Pradeshiya Sabha. *This initiative was implemented in partnership with the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), funded by the European Commission.*

Proposal Call Officially Launches for *Youth Climate Action Fund 2.0*

The proposal call for applicants interested in the **Youth Climate Action Fund 2.0** project officially launched in the second week of July! Applications are now open for youth participants to conduct environmental conservation and green projects within the perimeters of Gampola. This initiative provides an excellent opportunity for youth groups to engage in climate advocacy and change-making. Under this initiative, selected applicants will be provided with a grant to carry out their project, which will cumulatively play a role in building a greener and more resilient Gampola. Applications are open to all youth groups and will close in the second week of October, 2026. *This initiative is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.*

Interactive Sessions for the Women's District Networks

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Interactive sessions to improve the networking and coordination capabilities of the established Women's District Networks were held in multiple districts during July. These sessions focused on the sustainability of the district networks, and discussed the LKR 50,000/- grant pledged by PMI-WILL per district to initiate projects that will strengthen the financial capacities of the caucuses. These Women's District Networks for women councilors were established with the aim of bringing together the elected women and potential candidates to promote women participation in politics. These initiatives are supported under the *Partnerships for Municipal Innovations – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) project* and is funded by the *Global Affairs Canada (GAC)*.

PMI-WILL Service Initiatives are in Progress



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Koralai Pattu and Nattandiya to monitor the work in progress. These service initiatives include constructing public washrooms at the bus stand in the Gampola town, installing a water purification system for communities in the Iranawila village in Nattandiya, upgrading a playground in Maskeliya Pradeshiya Sabha, and developing a facility center at Kiran Market in Koralai Pattu Pradeshiya Sabha. These initiatives are expected to be completed by August 2026. The service initiatives are supported under the *Partnerships for Municipal Innovations – Women in Local Leadership (PMI-WILL) project* and is funded by the *Global Affairs Canada (GAC)*.

Upcoming Events

August 2026

- Monitoring visit from the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Specialist of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for the District-Wise Women's Networks under the PMI-WILL Project.
- Monitoring visit from the Monitoring and Evaluation team from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to support the drafting process of the final report for the service initiatives under the PMI-WILL Project.
- Official opening ceremony for the YCAF Project in Gampola

Thank you!



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