



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Protecting Children in a Changing World



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# Child Protection Impact Highlights 2025



## NATIONAL REACH



# 25

### DISTRICTS

Activities implemented across all 25 districts of Sri Lanka



# 15,000+

### DIRECT BENEFICIARIES REACHED



Strong partnerships established with government and civil society stakeholders

## AWARENESS AND PREVENTION



# 4,468

children reached through awareness sessions



# 2,527

parents engaged on child protection and digital safety



# 1,361

youth participants mobilised as peer advocates



# 66

legal professionals trained on child-sensitive justice and digital evidence

## CAPACITY BUILDING



# 54

Child Protection Officers and Child Rights Promotion Officers trained



# 194

teachers trained on school-based child protection



# 41

police officers trained on online child exploitation investigations



# 544

school prefects trained as peer protection leaders



# 707

Village Child Development Committee members capacitated



# 59

journalists trained in the ethical reporting of child-related issues in 2 districts



# 379

members of the National Youth Services Council trained as change agents

## COMMUNITY MOBILISATION



# 1671

participants engaged through district-level collaboration forums



# 97

Civil Society Organisation representatives trained



# 548

Community-Based Organisation members mobilised



# 1,174

participants in public awareness campaigns launched in 3 districts

## STUDENT EMPOWERMENT AND ENGAGEMENT



# 77

inter-school debates conducted across 25 districts



# 1,144

students engaged in digital safety and online protection

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE



# 737

flood-affected students supported with educational materials and emergency assistance

# Message from the Executive Director

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The year 2025 marked a critical period for child protection in Sri Lanka. As the country continued to recover from economic instability and social disruption, children remained among the most vulnerable. Emerging challenges, particularly those linked to the digital environment, alongside persistent risks such as violence, school disengagement, migration-related issues, and psychosocial distress, continued to impact children across the country.

In response to this evolving context, Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere (PEaCE) | ECPAT Sri Lanka reaffirmed its commitment to advancing safer and more protective environments for all children. Throughout the year, the organisation expanded its reach across all 25 districts, implementing awareness programmes, strengthening institutional capacity, facilitating legal and psychosocial referrals, and delivering survivor-centred services.

A significant development in 2025 was the growing recognition of Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) as a rapidly evolving threat. With increased digital access among children, risks such as online grooming, exploitation, and cyber-related harm have become more prevalent. In response, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka strengthened its focus on digital safety by expanding awareness, enhancing institutional capacity, and improving response mechanisms.

The floods caused by Cyclone Ditwah further highlighted the vulnerability of children during emergencies. Through targeted interventions, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka supported affected children by ensuring continuity in education and providing essential psychosocial support.

Our work in 2025 reaffirmed that effective child protection depends on strong collaboration. Partnerships with government institutions, law enforcement authorities, schools, media, civil society, and community stakeholders played a critical role in strengthening coordinated protection systems and improving access to support services.

This report reflects the dedication and commitment of our staff and volunteers, as well as the trust placed in us by children, families, partners, and donors. We extend our sincere appreciation to Fundación Vicente Ferrer (FVF), KIOS Foundation, UNICEF, government institutions, and all stakeholders who contributed to our work.

As we move forward, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka remains committed to evidence-based programming, survivor-centred approaches, and strengthened accountability, ensuring that every child's right to safety, dignity, and justice is upheld.

Mohammed Mahuruf  
Executive Director  
PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka

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# 1. Executive Summary

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In 2025, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka delivered a comprehensive national response to child protection challenges, with a strong focus on preventing Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA), strengthening access to justice, promoting ethical media engagement, and enhancing community-based protection systems.

Operating across all 25 districts, the organisation reached over **15,000 direct beneficiaries**, including children, parents, teachers, youth leaders, law enforcement personnel, and community stakeholders. Through awareness programmes, capacity-building initiatives, advocacy efforts, and survivor-centred services, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka strengthened both prevention and response mechanisms at national and community levels.

A central priority throughout the year was addressing the growing risks of the digital environment. Expanded digital safety programming improved awareness of online risks, strengthened institutional capacity, and enhanced preparedness to respond to technology-facilitated exploitation.

The organisation also prioritised building the capacity of frontline professionals, including Child Protection Officers, police officers, teachers, legal professionals, and community leaders. Training focused on child-sensitive approaches, trauma-informed care, referral systems, and digital evidence handling, contributing to more effective and coordinated responses.

Survivor-centred referral systems were further strengthened by improved coordination with child protection authorities, law enforcement agencies, and service providers, thereby enhancing access to legal, psychosocial, and protective support.

In parallel, ongoing media monitoring and stakeholder engagement promoted responsible and ethical reporting practices, thereby supporting the protection of children's dignity and privacy.

Despite continued socio-economic challenges and climate-related disruptions, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka maintained its commitment to strengthening protection systems and expanding access to safe, responsive, and supportive environments for children.

## 2. The Situation of Children in Sri Lanka

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The situation of children in Sri Lanka in 2025 reflects a complex balance between progress in child protection systems and persistent vulnerabilities driven by socio-economic, technological, and environmental factors. While national efforts to strengthen child rights frameworks continued, many children remain exposed to multiple and evolving risks.

### Socio-economic Vulnerability

Ongoing economic challenges have significantly affected household stability, limiting access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and social protection. These pressures have contributed to increased risks, including school absenteeism, child labour, unsafe migration, early marriage, and heightened vulnerability to exploitation.

### Emerging Digital Risks

Rapid digital expansion has introduced both opportunities and risks. While increased access to the internet and mobile technologies has supported learning and communication, it has also exposed children to growing online threats, including grooming, cyberbullying, exploitation, and exposure to harmful content. Technology-facilitated abuse has emerged as one of the most critical and rapidly evolving risks, highlighting the need for stronger digital safety awareness, enhanced institutional capacity, and more effective response mechanisms.

### Child Protection Trends and System Challenges

Data from national authorities indicate a wide range of child protection concerns, including sexual abuse, cyber-related harm, and psychosocial issues. Additional challenges include family separation due to labour migration, lack of documentation, and gaps in access to protection services. Several structural challenges continue to affect system effectiveness:

- ◆ Limited technical capacity to address complex digital crimes.
- ◆ Gaps in multi-agency referral and service delivery mechanisms.
- ◆ Social stigma surrounds the reporting of abuse within communities.
- ◆ Unequal access to psychosocial support services across regions.

### Impact of Environmental and Humanitarian Factors

Climate-related events, including the floods caused by Cyclone Ditwah, further compounded existing vulnerabilities. Displacement and disruption to education, livelihoods, and family stability placed additional pressure on children and communities, underscoring the importance of child-sensitive disaster response systems.

### 3. About PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka

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Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere (PEaCE) is a leading national child protection organisation in Sri Lanka dedicated to preventing the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and promoting safer environments for their well-being.

Established in 1991, PEaCE has played a pioneering role in advancing child protection in Sri Lanka. At a time when issues such as child sexual exploitation and child trafficking were largely underreported, the organisation emerged as a grassroots movement to raise awareness, strengthen protection mechanisms, and promote children's rights.

PEaCE is affiliated with ECPAT International, a global network committed to ending the sexual exploitation of children. Through this partnership, the organisation contributes to international advocacy efforts while strengthening national responses through shared knowledge, collaboration, and coordinated action.

Over the years, PEaCE has evolved into a nationally recognised organisation addressing a wide range of child protection concerns. These include Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA), Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA), child trafficking, child-sensitive justice processes, and ethical media reporting. In response to growing digital risks, the organisation has significantly strengthened its focus on online safety and institutional capacity to address technology-facilitated abuse.

The organisation's work is guided by a rights-based and survivor-centred approach, placing the safety, dignity, and best interests of children at the core of all interventions. Programmes are implemented using trauma-informed practices and evidence-based approaches, supported by strong safeguarding standards.

Collaboration remains central to PEaCE's work. The organisation engages closely with government institutions, law enforcement agencies, schools, civil society organisations, and international partners to strengthen coordinated responses and sustainable protection systems across the country.

Today, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka continues to play a vital role in advancing child protection at both national and global levels, working towards a future where every child can grow up in a safe, protective, and empowering environment.

## 4. Vision, Mission and Core Values

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Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere (PEaCE) is a leading national child protection organisation in Sri Lanka dedicated to preventing the sexual exploitation and abuse of children and promoting safer environments for their well-being.



### OUR VISION

A society where every child is protected, respected, and empowered to grow in safety, dignity, and freedom from exploitation and abuse.



### OUR MISSION

PEaCE actively contributes to eliminating child sexual exploitation and abuse while promoting the protection of children from all forms of violence, neglect, exploitation, and harmful practices.

### OUR CORE VALUES

Core Values	Institutional Commitment
<b>Child Rights-Centred Approach</b>	We uphold the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and place the best interests of children at the centre of all interventions.
<b>Dignity and Respect</b>	We respect the dignity, privacy, and voices of every child regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, social background, or ability.
<b>Survivor-Centred Practice</b>	We implement trauma-informed and ethical approaches that prioritise the emotional and physical well-being of survivors.
<b>Accountability and Integrity</b>	We are committed to transparency, professionalism, and responsible stewardship of resources and partnerships.
<b>Collaboration</b>	We believe sustainable child protection requires collective action between communities, institutions, government authorities, civil society, and children themselves.
<b>Inclusion and Participation</b>	We promote meaningful participation of children and youth in building safer communities and advocating for their rights.

# 5. Governance

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PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors that provides strategic leadership, oversight, and accountability, ensuring alignment with the organisation's mandate to protect children and eliminate child sexual exploitation and abuse. The Board comprises experienced professionals from diverse fields and reflects ethnic and professional diversity, reinforcing the organisation's commitment to inclusion and balanced representation.

As the highest decision-making and oversight body, the Board is responsible for guiding the long-term strategic direction, safeguarding organisational integrity, and ensuring that programmes and operations are implemented effectively and efficiently, and in accordance with established standards. The Board meets bi-monthly to review organisational performance across key areas, including programme implementation, financial management, human resources, and strategic priorities.

A clear distinction is maintained between governance and management functions. While the Board provides strategic direction, policy guidance, and oversight, the management team is responsible for day-to-day operations and programme implementation. This structure strengthens accountability, supports effective decision-making, and ensures responsiveness to evolving child protection needs. During 2025, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka further strengthened its governance practices through active Board engagement, regular performance review processes, and strategic oversight.

## 6. Strategic Priorities in 2025

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In 2025, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka implemented a focused strategy to strengthen child protection systems through six key priority areas. These priorities were designed to address emerging risks while reinforcing long-term prevention, response, and institutional capacity.

### Prevention of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse



- ◆ Expanded awareness programmes for children, parents, teachers, and communities
- ◆ Promoted early recognition of abuse, safe reporting, and protective behaviours
- ◆ Prioritised high-risk communities affected by socio-economic pressures and migration

### Addressing Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA)



- ◆ Strengthened digital safety awareness among children and caregivers
- ◆ Addressed risks including grooming, sextortion, cyberbullying, and online exploitation
- ◆ Enhanced institutional capacity to respond to technology-facilitated abuse

### Promoting Ethical Reporting and Accountability



- ◆ Engaged media professionals on child-sensitive reporting practices
- ◆ Promoted protection of children's dignity, privacy, and safety
- ◆ Encouraged responsible and rights-based journalism

### Capacity Building for Duty Bearers



- ◆ Delivered targeted training for police officers, teachers, legal professionals, and child protection staff.
- ◆ Focused on trauma-informed practice, safeguarding, and digital evidence management.
- ◆ Strengthened coordinated institutional responses

### Strengthening Access to Justice



- ◆ Improved survivor-centred referral pathways and coordination
- ◆ Promoted child-friendly justice processes and ethical case handling
- ◆ Facilitated access to legal and psychosocial support services

### Strengthening Community-Based Protection Systems

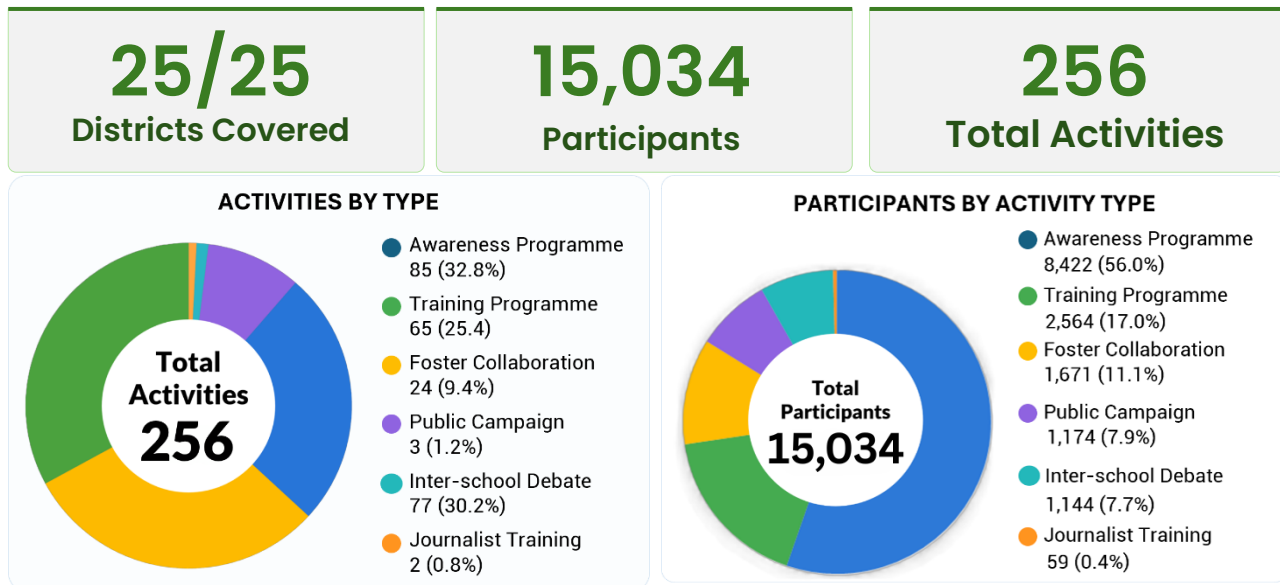


- ◆ Empowered local actors, including youth leaders, schools, and community organisations
- ◆ Strengthened early risk identification and referral mechanisms
- ◆ Promoted community ownership of child-protection efforts

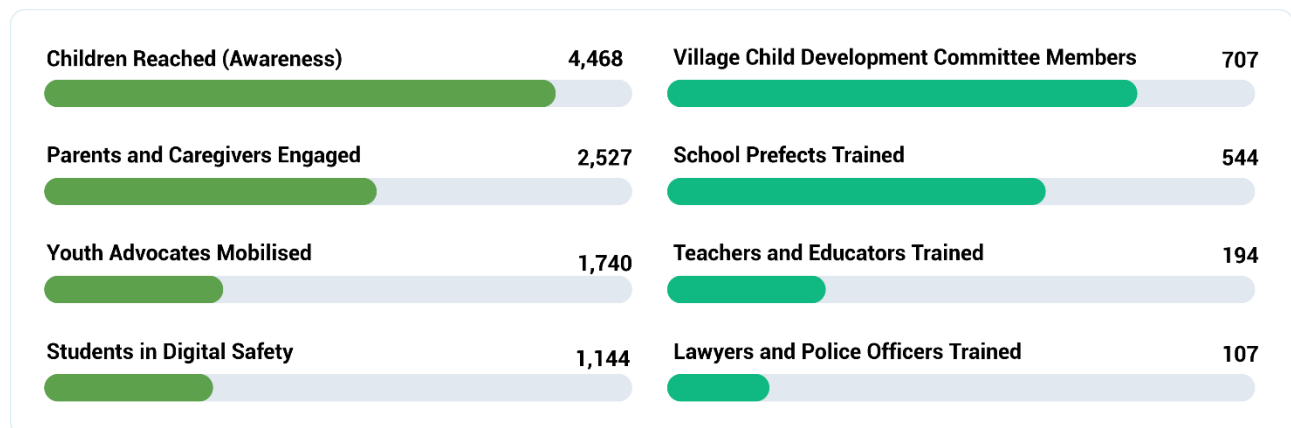
# 7. Impact Overview & Key Achievements

In 2025, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka successfully implemented 256 child protection interventions across all 25 districts, strengthening national and grassroots safeguarding systems. The organisation directly reached over 15,000 beneficiaries through multiple specialised tracks.

## National Performance Dashboard 2025



## Key Target Segments Reached



### Case Study: Breaking the Silence Through Digital Awareness

A 15-year-old student from the Western Province participated in a PEaCE school awareness session on online safety and cyber exploitation. During the session, she began to recognise behaviours associated with online grooming that closely matched her own experiences on social media. Following the programme, the student confidentially approached a school counsellor, which led to a safe referral to relevant child protection services through local authorities. The timely intervention prevented further risk and ensured the student received appropriate support.

## 8. Programme Portfolio and Donor-Funded Projects

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### **Combating Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CCSEA)**

#### **Supported by Fundación Vicente Ferrer (FVF)**

The CCSEA project was launched in July 2024 as a 15-month national intervention aimed at strengthening Sri Lanka's protective environment against child sexual exploitation and abuse. Implemented across multiple districts, the project adopted a comprehensive, community-based approach combining prevention, awareness-raising, institutional strengthening, survivor support, and multisectoral collaboration. Awareness sessions and digital safety education programmes equipped children and caregivers with knowledge on recognising abuse, online risks, safe reporting mechanisms, and protective behaviours. Specialised training programmes for frontline professionals aimed to strengthen child-sensitive responses, referral pathways, and case management processes.

### **Right to Justice for Child Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

#### **Supported by KIOS Foundation**

The project focused on strengthening access to justice for children affected by sexual exploitation and abuse while promoting child-sensitive and survivor-centred legal and institutional responses. The initiative worked to improve coordination between the justice sector, law enforcement agencies, child protection institutions, schools, and civil society stakeholders. Specialised training programmes were conducted for lawyers, law enforcement officers, educators, and child protection stakeholders on child-sensitive justice procedures, trauma-informed approaches, survivor-centred care, and handling digital evidence in child exploitation cases, thereby reducing re-traumatisation during legal processes.

### **Ethical Reporting and Regular Monitoring of Child Rights Violations**

#### **Implemented in partnership with UNICEF**

This project focused on strengthening responsible media practices and improving national-level monitoring of child rights violations in Sri Lanka. A key component involved the daily monitoring and documentation of child rights violations reported through print, electronic, and digital media platforms to identify trends and gaps. The project also promoted ethical journalism standards and child-sensitive reporting practices among media professionals, training 59 journalists in Jaffna and Colombo to discourage sensationalism, victim-blaming, and the disclosure of identifying information related to child survivors.



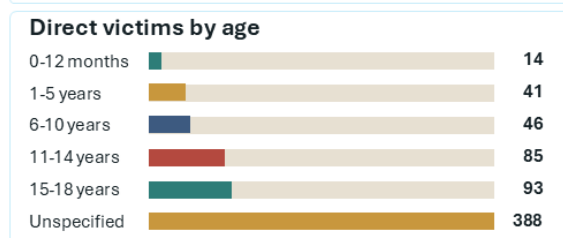
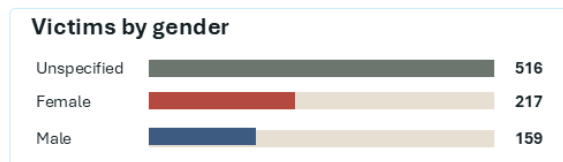
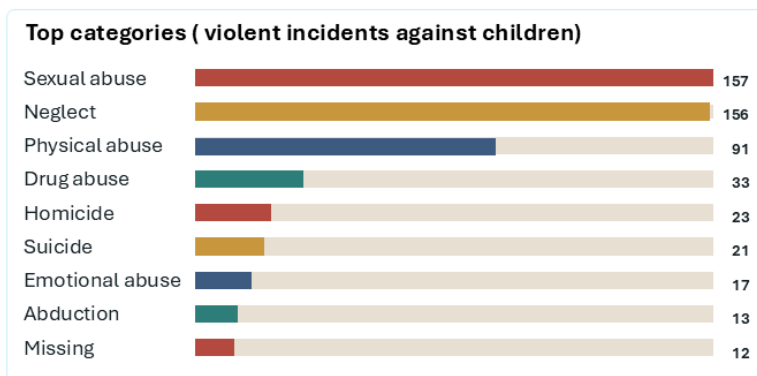


# 9. Media Monitoring and Analysis of Violence against Children

In 2025, the organisation continued its daily media monitoring of violence against children, analysing incidents monthly and disseminating findings via a newsletter that reached over 1,000 stakeholders. From January to December 2025, a total of 530 incidents involving violence against children were reported through media monitoring, affecting 892 child victims directly. There are incidents in which the number of victims exceeds due to multiple victims in several events. Reporting shows consistent levels of violence, with notable spikes in victim numbers linked to group incidents, particularly in June and October.

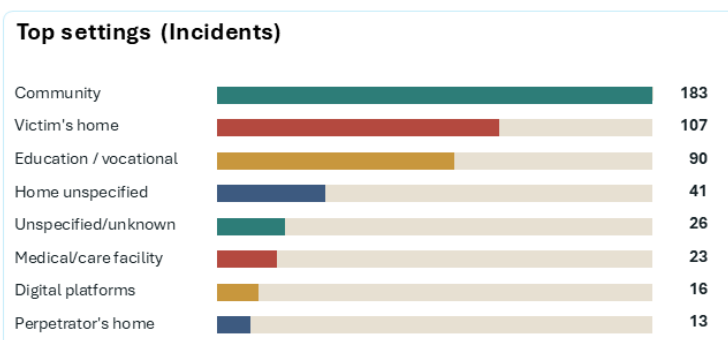
Neglect, sexual abuse, and physical abuse remained the most frequently reported forms of violence. Incidents were most reported in homes, communities, and educational settings, highlighting risks within environments expected to be safe for children. Perpetrators were often individuals known to the child, including family members and those in positions of authority, highlighting significant protection gaps. This monitoring continues to provide critical evidence for advocacy, strengthens ethical reporting standards, and supports efforts to improve child protection systems nationally.

## Violence against Children Report Dashboard



### Top perpetrators (Incidents)

Perpetrator group	Incident	Percentage
Person with formal authority	188	28.1%
Family member	158	23.7%
Other	115	17.2%
Unspecified/unknown	78	11.7%
Intimate partner	37	5.5%
Peer/schoolmate	27	4.0%
Stranger	25	3.7%
Self	22	3.3%



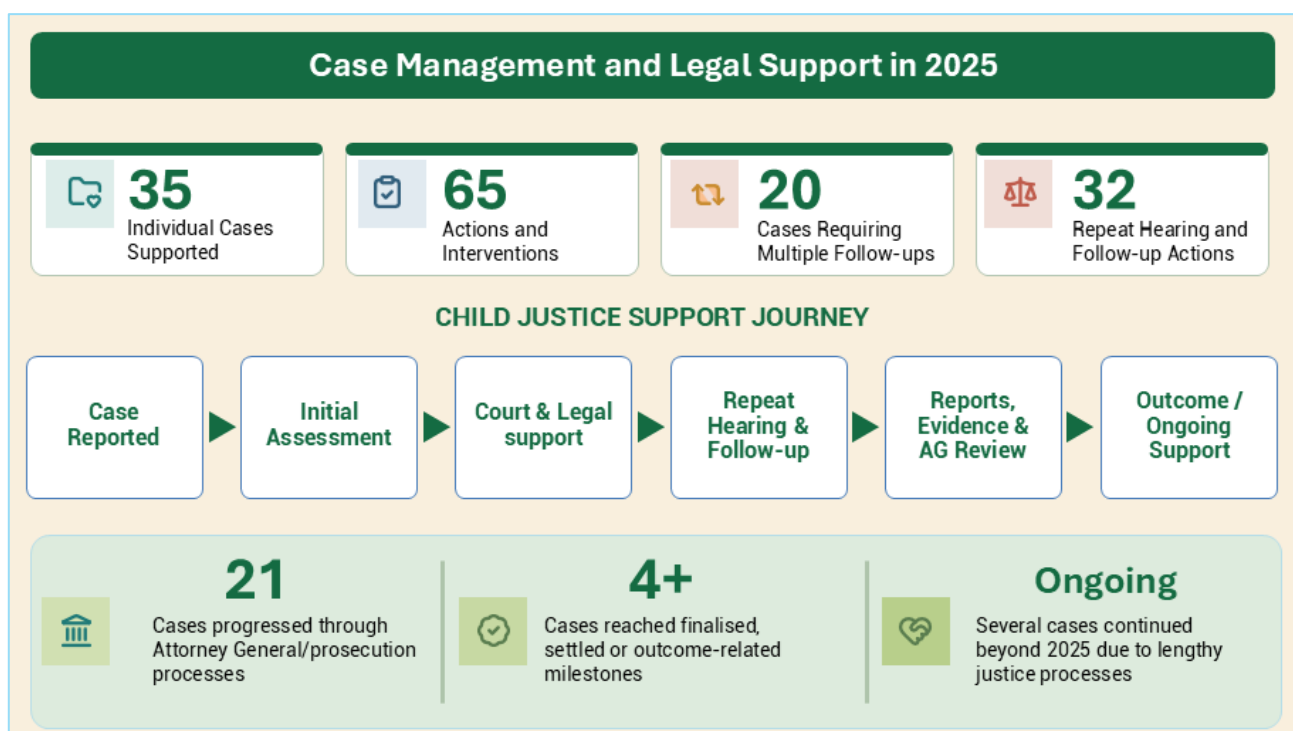
# 10. Case Management and Legal Support in 2025

Throughout 2025, PEaCE/ECPAT Sri Lanka continued to provide comprehensive legal and case management support to children affected by abuse, exploitation, and violence. A total of 35 individual cases were actively supported during the year, resulting in 65 legal and case management interventions, demonstrating the intensive and often long-term nature of child protection work.

Many of the cases handled during 2025 had originated in previous years and remained active within the justice system, while several others are expected to continue beyond the reporting period. The data highlight the importance of sustained engagement: 20 cases required multiple hearings and follow-up actions, resulting in more than 30 repeat interventions throughout the year. These included court appearances, consultations with law enforcement and probation authorities, follow-up on medical and forensic reports, submissions to the Attorney General's Department, and coordination with families and other service providers.

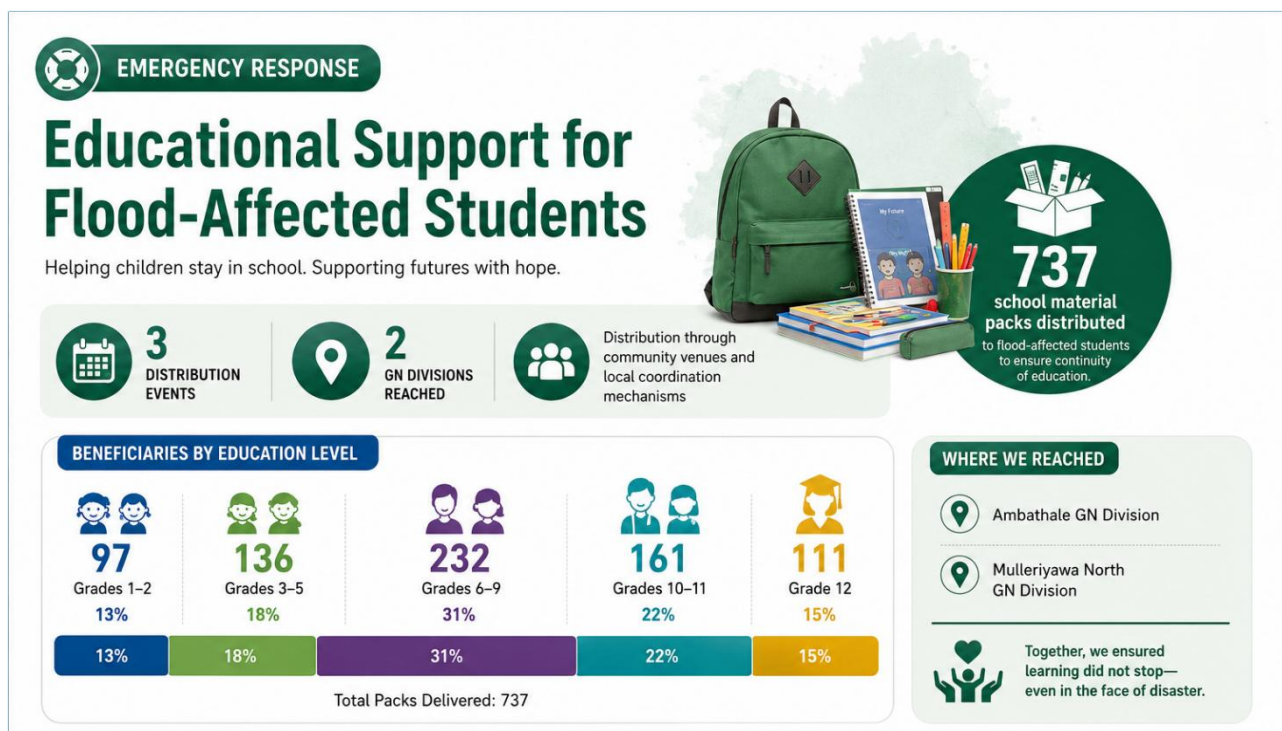
Significant progress was made across numerous cases, with 21 advancing through prosecution or Attorney General review processes, and several reaching important milestones, including settlements, withdrawals, conviction-related orders, or final determinations. Beyond legal representation, the organisation ensured that child victims and their families received continuous guidance, advocacy, and support throughout often complex and lengthy proceedings.

The 2025 case management portfolio reflects PEaCE's commitment to a survivor-centred approach, ensuring that children are supported not only at the point of disclosure but throughout their journey toward justice, protection, and recovery.



# 11. Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Response

In response to flooding and displacement caused by Cyclone Ditwah in late 2025, PEaCE implemented emergency response interventions in Colombo District, providing emergency and educational support to 737 students. Assistance included distributing essential learning materials and providing support to affected families to minimise disruptions to education and wellbeing. These interventions reinforced the importance of integrating child protection into emergency response and recovery efforts.



### Case Study: Protecting Education During Crisis (Kolonnawa DS Division)

*In the end of November 2025, severe flooding caused by Cyclone Ditwah displaced families in the Kolonnawa area, disrupting daily life and access to education. Among those affected was a family with three school-aged children whose learning materials and school supplies were destroyed. Through PEaCE's emergency response initiative, the children were quickly identified and provided with essential educational materials, enabling them to return to school without prolonged interruption. In parallel, volunteers worked with caregivers to assess and address emotional stress arising from the displacement.*

# 12. Financial Overview 2025

PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka remained committed to transparency, accountability, and responsible use of donor resources in 2025. Total programme expenditure reached LKR 80.13 million, supporting a combination of prevention initiatives, response services, institutional strengthening, and operational sustainability. A significant portion of the funding was allocated to operational and administrative systems to ensure effective programme implementation, governance, and compliance. Financial resources were distributed transparently across core strategic areas as follows:

## Expenditure Allocation Breakdown

Strategic Expenditure Category	Key Deliverables Covered	Approximate Allocation (LKR)
<b>Operational &amp; Administrative Systems</b>	Governance, institutional compliance, staffing, and support infrastructure	LKR 26,500,000
<b>Capacity-Building Initiatives</b>	Training of police, teachers, legal professionals, and VCDC members	LKR 16,500,000
<b>Awareness &amp; Prevention Programmes</b>	School sessions, parents' tracks, and youth advocate networks	LKR 13,000,000
<b>Emergency Response Interventions</b>	Cyclone Ditwah flood relief distribution and psychosocial assessments	LKR 10,000,000
<b>Community Mobilisation</b>	District-level forums, CSO networks, and public campaigns	LKR 6,500,000
<b>Media Monitoring &amp; Advocacy</b>	Daily media tracking, reporting analytics, and journalists' training	LKR 5,500,000
<b>Survivor Referral Services</b>	Legal aid coordination, court-related support, and case management	LKR 2,130,000
<b>Total Financial Expenditure (2025)</b>		<b>LKR 80,130,000</b>

# 13. Challenges, Lessons Learned

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The implementation of programmes in 2025 took place within a complex and evolving context shaped by socio-economic pressures, increasing digital risks, and environmental disruptions. These conditions presented both operational challenges and valuable opportunities for learning and adaptation.

## ◆ Key Challenges

- **Increasing digital risks:** Rapid expansion of online platforms has made it more difficult to monitor and respond to emerging forms of exploitation, including online grooming and cyber-related harm
- **Socio-economic vulnerability:** Economic hardship among families continued to affect access to education, increase child labour risks, and limit engagement in protection initiatives
- **Limited institutional capacity:** Gaps in technical knowledge and resources, particularly related to digital investigations and case management, affected the efficiency of responses
- **Social stigma and underreporting:** Cultural stigma surrounding abuse continued to discourage reporting, limiting access to timely support for affected children
- **Disruptions due to climate-related events:** Flooding caused by Cyclone Ditwah affected programme delivery and access to communities, especially in high-risk districts

## ◆ Key Lessons Learned

- **Community-based systems are essential:** Strengthening local-level protection mechanisms improves early identification of risks and timely response
- **Digital safety must be prioritised:** Continuous investment in digital awareness and institutional capacity is critical to address evolving online threats
- **Multi-sectoral collaboration enhances effectiveness:** Strong coordination among government institutions, law enforcement, and community actors leads to more sustainable outcomes
- **Youth engagement strengthens prevention efforts:** Empowering young people as advocates contributes to more effective awareness and behaviour change
- **Adaptive programming improves impact:** Flexible and responsive programming approaches enable effective delivery in rapidly changing contexts

The challenges and lessons identified in 2025 continue to inform the organisation's approach, strengthening programme design and implementation to better respond to the needs of children in Sri Lanka.

# 14. Looking Ahead

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As PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka moves forward, the organisation remains committed to strengthening child protection systems and responding to emerging risks affecting children across the country. Building on the progress achieved in 2025, future efforts will focus on expanding impact, strengthening partnerships, and enhancing institutional capacity.

## ◆ Key Priorities for 2026

- **Expanding digital safety interventions:** Strengthening prevention and response to online child sexual exploitation through awareness, training, and improved institutional capacity
- **Enhancing access to justice:** Improving survivor-centred referral systems and strengthening coordination among legal and protection services
- **Strengthening community-based protection systems:** Expanding grassroots engagement to improve early identification and response at the local level
- **Scaling capacity-building initiatives:** Providing continued training for law enforcement, educators, and child protection professionals
- **Deepening partnerships and collaboration:** Strengthening engagement with government institutions, development partners, and civil society organisations
- **Promoting evidence-based programming:** Enhancing monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems to inform effective and adaptive programme implementation

PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka remains committed to ensuring that every child is protected from exploitation and abuse, and to building a future where children can grow up in safe, inclusive, and empowering environments



# 15. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL)

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In 2025, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka strengthened its Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) systems to ensure evidence-driven programming and continuous improvement.

Structured monitoring processes enabled the organisation to systematically track programme reach, participation, and performance across all 25 districts. Data collected through activity implementation provided clear insights into engagement levels, geographic distribution, and the relative effectiveness of different intervention approaches.

Evaluation processes allowed the organisation to move beyond activity reporting to assess results and identify key patterns, including high-performing districts and areas requiring additional attention. These insights informed adaptive management, enabling timely adjustments to programme strategies to better respond to emerging child protection needs.

Accountability remained central to programme delivery. Feedback mechanisms ensured that the perspectives of children, communities, and stakeholders were incorporated into programme design and implementation, strengthening the relevance and responsiveness of interventions.

Learning generated through MEAL processes was actively applied to improve programme quality, enhance targeting, and support more strategic planning. At the same time, strong data protection practices were maintained to safeguard sensitive information and uphold the rights and dignity of children and survivors.

Overall, the MEAL system contributed significantly to improved programme effectiveness, strengthened accountability, and informed decision-making across all areas of work.



# 16. Partnerships and Institutional Collaboration

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Effective child protection requires strong collaboration across multiple sectors. In 2025, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka strengthened partnerships with government institutions, law enforcement agencies, schools, civil society organisations, and international partners to enhance coordinated responses to child protection concerns.

## ◆ Government and Institutional Partnerships

- Collaborated with the Ministry of Education to support school-based programmes, teacher training, and student engagement initiatives
- Strengthened referral mechanisms and survivor support systems with the National Child Protection Authority and Department of Probation and Child Care Services
- Worked closely with the Sri Lanka Police to enhance capacity in digital investigations and child-sensitive response mechanisms

## ◆ Youth and Community Engagement

- Partnered with the National Youth Services Council to promote youth participation and peer-led advocacy
- Engaged District Secretariats, local authorities, and community-based organisations to strengthen grassroots protection systems
- Supported community mobilisation efforts to improve early identification and referral pathways

## ◆ International and Development Partners

- Continued collaboration with international partners to support programme implementation, capacity-building, and advocacy initiatives
- Facilitated knowledge exchange and alignment with global child protection standards
- Strengthened evidence-based programming through technical and financial support

Through these partnerships, PEaCE strengthened coordination, improved service delivery, and contributed to the development of more responsive and sustainable child protection systems across Sri Lanka.

# 17. Institutional Development and Organisational Strengthening

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In 2025, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka continued to strengthen its institutional systems and operational capacity to support effective programme delivery and long-term organisational sustainability.

A key focus was enhancing technical expertise in addressing emerging child protection challenges, particularly those related to Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA). This included strengthening staff capacities, improving programme approaches, and deepening organisational understanding of digital protection risks.

The organisation also expanded its coordination and outreach at the district level by strengthening partnerships with government institutions, law enforcement agencies, schools, civil society organisations, and community stakeholders. These efforts contributed to improved access to services and more coordinated responses to child protection concerns.

To support community-level implementation, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka strengthened its volunteer engagement systems and grassroots structures, enhancing outreach, awareness, and early risk identification at the local level.

Internal systems for monitoring, reporting, and documentation were further strengthened to improve accountability, learning, and evidence-based decision-making across programmes.

Throughout the year, PEaCE remained committed to integrating trauma-informed and survivor-centred approaches across all interventions, ensuring that programmes uphold principles of safety, dignity, and the best interests of the child.



# 18. Conclusion

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In 2025, PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka continued to strengthen child protection systems in response to evolving risks affecting children across the country. Through a combination of awareness initiatives, capacity-building efforts, and coordinated responses, the organisation contributed to improving prevention, enhancing access to support services, and strengthening institutional and community-level protection mechanisms.

The year also reinforced the importance of collaboration, innovation, and adaptability in addressing complex challenges, particularly those related to the digital environment and socio-economic vulnerability. The progress achieved reflects the collective efforts of staff, partners, communities, and donors working together towards a shared goal.

As PEaCE moves forward, the organisation remains committed to upholding the rights, safety, and dignity of every child, and to continuing its work towards a future where all children can grow up free from exploitation and abuse.

