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The Third Issue of the Poverty Portal Newsletter

The Poverty Portal is an interactive resource platform for professionals, academics, students and all interested parties, which aims to encourage better policy-making practices and awareness on poverty in Sri Lanka through information collation and dissemination.

You can visit the site, upload resources and engage in a debate on poverty issues by clicking on www.povertyportal.lk

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- ➔ Introducing Poverty Portal Partner Organisations
- ➔ Recent News and Upcoming Events

New Resources

The following resources are now available in the Poverty Portal Library:

- Contribution of Agricultural Insurances to Development of Livelihood of Rural Farmers by Agricultural and Agrarian Insurance Board (AAIB)
- Has GSP+ Contributed to Poverty Reduction and Fostered 'Sustainable Development' in Sri Lanka? By Muttukrishna Sarvananthan and H.M.P.Sanjeewanie
- District Statistical Information Handbook for Ampara 2003
- Vavuniya District Statistical Handbook (2004)
- Statistical Handbook Mullaitivu District (2004)
- Statistical Information for Jaffna District (2005)
- Statistical Information of the North East Province (2002)
- Statistical Information of the Trincomalee District (2006)

Poverty Portal Blog

The Poverty Portal blog is a new feature that allows members of the Portal to address and discuss pertinent issues related to poverty. Below is the first blog article and the related discussion points which has been published at:

<http://povertyportal.lk/blogs/blog-1-17.html>

Please log on to the Portal and contribute to the discussion.

Supported by



Contribution of Agricultural Insurances to Development of Livelihood of Rural Farmers

The article on contribution of agricultural insurances on livelihood of rural farmers submitted by Agriculture and Agrarian Insurance Board (AAIB) to the Poverty Portal highlights the importance of agricultural insurance for a farmer to withstand adverse conditions. Further, the article addresses issues which are important to consider in the efforts of poverty reduction and improvement of livelihoods of rural farmers:

1. Lower participation of private sector in the agricultural insurance sector
2. Less demand for agricultural insurance from farmers due to lack of awareness of farmers

The complete article can be found at http://www.povertyportal.lk/resource_library/Book_details-4-845.html

With the above views, the discussion points are as follows:

1. **What are the factors needed to get greater support from the private sector to offer insurance services to farmers?**
2. **What are the innovations that can be introduced to align the insurance to farmers' needs?**
3. **How can we create a culture of use among farmers?**

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Poverty Portal Features: Maps & Stats

In the next issue...

- ➔ Introducing Poverty Portal Partner Organisations
- ➔ New Resources
- ➔ News and Events

Maps & Stats is component of the Poverty Portal which aims to collect and share statistical and spatial information that has been prepared for publication on a wide range of themes of poverty in Sri Lanka. This feature can be accessed at <http://povertyportal.lk/stats/Home-0.html>

Maps and Stats provide an enhanced presentation of poverty mapping in Sri Lanka. It is a dynamic navigation tool through the spatial poverty characteristics, generating regional poverty profiles down to Divisional Secretariat areas. Members can perform aerial and thematic searches to improve the awareness of information gaps between national & regional poverty in Sri Lanka. It also features a library of maps and statistics aimed at knowledge enhancement while providing a means for members to share their own maps & statistical presentations with the Portal's library.

Maps & Stats > Home

Maps and Stats

This is an on-going project to collect and share statistical and spatial information that have been prepared for publications in a wide range of aspects on poverty in Sri Lanka. Please note that we have started working on Sabaragamuwa province and other areas are still under construction.

Sri Lanka

Select an area to search
[District View](#)

Poverty Head Count Index	
26.6 -33.8	0 -10.9
17 -26.6	No data
10.9 -17	

Poverty Indicators

Poverty Head Count Index: 15.2%

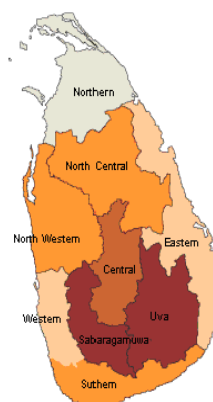
Poverty Gap Index: 3.1%

Unemployment rate (2007): 6

Literacy rate (male- 2007): 92.1

Literacy rate (female- 2007): 86.6

Sources: <http://www.statistics.gov.lk/poverty/PovertyIndicators.pdf>



Maps and Stats Library Please login to view

Sample Spread by Category of Loss
CEPA was appointed as Independent External Monitors to the resettlement activities of the Southern Transport Development Project in 2006 by the RDA/GOSL and the ADB. A

Search by Theme

- Educational Attainment
- Employment Status
- Headcount Index
- Other
- Population by sector
- Unemployment rate

Poverty Portal on a CD for Offline Access

The Poverty Portal team, as part of its outreach work, is compiling a Poverty Portal CD-Rom in order to bring the Portal to users who do not have internet access. The CD will contain the resource database as seen on the Portal in an index form, where users can search the library by title, author, publisher and keywords. A list of keywords will also be presented in Sinhala, Tamil and English to make the search process easier for the users. The CDs will be distributed at the outreach workshops and presentations conducted by the Portal team, as well as to those who request it.

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Introducing the Poverty Portal Partner Organisations



Have a question
about the Portal
and/or your involve-
ment?

Get in touch with
us...

Via email:
info@povertyportal.lk

or contact us on:
Tel:+94 112-676955-8,
266 7967-8
Fax:+ 94 11267 6959

Ministry of Plan Implementation (MPI) is mandated for monitoring and evaluation of all development projects and programmes implemented in the country with government funds and foreign aid. Please visit www.mpi.gov.lk for further details on functions and work programmes of the Ministry. There are three agencies which come under the purview of the ministry, namely: Department of Foreign Aid and Budget Monitoring (FABM); Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and National Operations Room (NOR).

A web based **National electronic Project Monitoring System (ePMS)** maintained by the FABM tracks the progress of all foreign funded development programmes implemented by the government. This system captures information related to financial progress, physical progress, results, key issues and constraints in the implementation of projects and thereby helps to expedite project implementation.

The web based **Evaluation Information System (EIS)** maintained under the NOR captures the findings and lessons of all evaluations of the development interventions. It ensures wider dissemination of evaluation findings and integration of those into the planning, budgeting and policy making process.

MPI has commenced a number of initiatives to introduce **Managing for Development Results (MfDR)** or Results Based Management (RBM) approach within government to ensure 'results' or 'outcomes' rather than 'outputs', through effective utilization of resources. In preparation of Budget Estimates 2010, all 55 line ministries were facilitated by MPI in collaboration with Ministry of Finance and Planning to identify their thrust areas and key performance indicators to ensure the practice of MfDR at National level.

MPI recognizes the CEPA poverty portal as a useful initiative to gather and disseminate information related to poverty and its trends to a wider range of stakeholders including development planners, policy makers, students and general public. Therefore MPI wishes to be a member of Poverty Portal with a view to provide assistance to improve its quality and ensure its sustainability.

Recent News and Upcoming Events

Recent News

The Centre for Poverty Analysis held the 39th Open Forum on Poverty on the 30th of September at South Asia Partnership - Sri Lanka. The forum featured a presentation by Prashan Thalayasingam under the theme 'Community Level Conflict Management: Lessons from the Making peace- Keeping peace study', followed by a discussion led by Mr. Sunil Bastian.

Upcoming Events

The second Poverty Portal Network Partners' meeting will be held on the 15th of October 2009 at the Centre for Poverty Analysis, 29 Gregory's Road, Colombo 7.

The Portal team will be conducting an introductory session of the Poverty Portal at the Puttalam NGO Consortium for local NGOs on the 13th of October.

Introductory sessions will also be held for the faculty and final year students of the Department of Economics and the Department of Agro-Economics at the University of Ruhuna on the 21st of October.