

Insight Summary- National Child Data Monitor

Panel 1: Child Population

There is a significant impact on child migration and childbirth during the COVID-19 pandemic period. But overall, the child population increased until 2022. From 2015 to 2021, child arrivals exceeded departures, indicating net child immigration. There are hints that Sri Lanka will enter a lower fertility stage. Strategic policies are necessary to maintain population balance.

Panel 2: Child Education

In 2020, pre-school student enrollment was highest in the Colombo District. Similarly, school student enrollment was notably high in Colombo, Gampaha, and Kurunegala, while the Northern Province recorded lower enrollment levels in schools and pre-schools. Western Province shows a high level of child education enrollment, while Northern Province shows a low level of child education enrollment in the year 2020.

Panel 3: Child Health and Nutrition

The Nutrition Status of children was calculated in June of every year, which is indicated as "Nutrition Month". Nutrition Status was measured using 3 indicators: Wasting, Underweight, and Stunting. Stunting is a condition where a child is too short for their age. Wasting is a condition where a child is too thin for their height. Underweight is a composite measure of both wasting and stunting, height-for-age, and weight-for-height. Children aged 1-2 years have a lower nutritional status than infants. The nutrition status of children in Sri Lanka is improving over time.