



Social Safety Nets Project

Progress As at 20th March 2021
and the Way Forward

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

To contribute to the improved equity, efficiency and transparency of Sri Lanka's Social Safety Net programs for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable.



Project Time Plan

▼ Important Dates



New DLR Matrix after Restructuring Project Components

DLI	Year	DLR	Value (US\$MN)	Progress
DLI 1	Year 1	WBB fully functional and its secretariat established	2.5	Achieved
	Year 4	Welfare Benefits Board fully staffed and conducting regular Board meetings	1.5	
	Year 5	Welfare Benefits Board fully staffed and conducting regular Board meetings	1.0	
DLI 2	Year 1	SRIS active and SRU maintained with suitably qualified staff	5.0	Achieved
	Year 4	At least 70% of divisional secretariats have access to the SRIS interface and at least one staff member is trained in its use	3.0	Achieved
	Year 5	At least 90% of divisional secretariats have access to the SRIS interface and at least one staff member is trained in its use	2.0	By November 2021
DLI 4	Year 4	Data on 70% of Samurdhi beneficiaries accessible in the Social Registry	5.0	Achieved
	Year 5	Data on 90% of Samurdhi beneficiaries accessible and updated in the Social Registry	5.0	By November 2023
DLI 7	Year 4	Samurdhi program scaled up to provide relief to households	45.0	Achieved
		Project management and monitoring	5.0	On going
		Total	75.0	

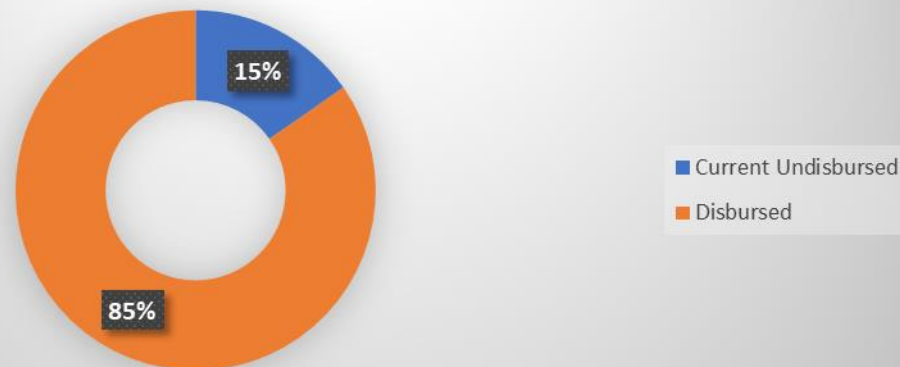
Financial Progress

December 31st 2019			September 30 th 2020		
Target	Progress	%	Target	Progress	%
10,949	512	5%	10,949	7884.41	72%

Progress to date

Original Approved Amount	75,000,000.00
Current Undisbursed	11,728,086.01
Disbursed	64,816,967.99
Financial Progress	85%

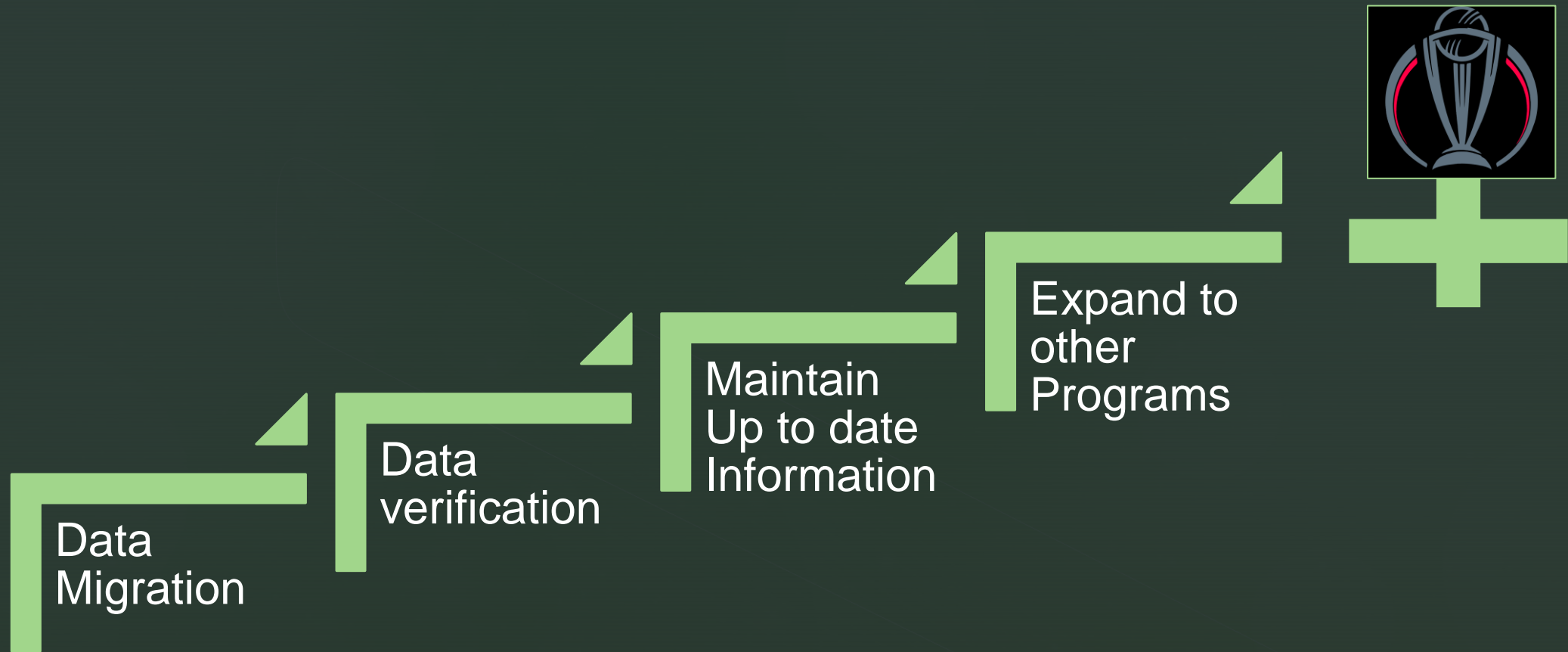
Financial Progress as at 20th March 2021



Expected major outcomes from the social safety nets project

- Establish a Welfare Benefits Board (WBB), under the Ministry of Finance (MoF), that will assume control of beneficiary selection and payment for all of the country's social welfare programs
- Integrated Welfare Management System to facilitate entry and updating of beneficiary data and application of the new selection criteria to determine program eligibility
- National Social Protection Strategy
- Graduation and Exit Strategy

The way forward to IWMS



Four Stage Strategy for Supporting Social Safety Net Programs.

1

Initiate: Transfer the Available Electronic Information on to the SRIS System. (**Data Migration Routine**)

2

Create: Update the Available Electronic Information to 2021 Information. (**Field Validation Module**)

3

Maintain: Ensure the updated 2021 Information is continuously kept updated. (**IWMS System**).

4

Expand: Register the balance 20 odd social safety net assistance programs within the IWMS System.

Stage 1: Initiate - Completed

- The SRIS System was verified and accepted.
- The signing of the Maintenance Agreement is pending
- Migrated all information available to the Samurdhi Department onto the SRIS System.
- At least one officer in 240 DS Divisions have been given an initial training.
- An independent verification found up to around 70% completeness of the information.
- To increase the completeness to 90% - currently undertaking the verification.

Stage 2: Data Verification

1. The verification module was developed in-house by Social Safety Nets project.
2. Piloting this verification module is in progress at Nuwargampalatha East in Anuradhapura District.
3. Total 3,250 families to be verified including Samurdhi, Elderly, Disabled and CKDU and progressing well.
4. According to the decision taken at the Project steering Committee held on October 2020, the Eligibility Criteria will be tested using the data of 5 DS Divisions.
5. 20 tablet computers for the data verification have now arrived and the data verification of the balance DS Divisions would be started immediately.

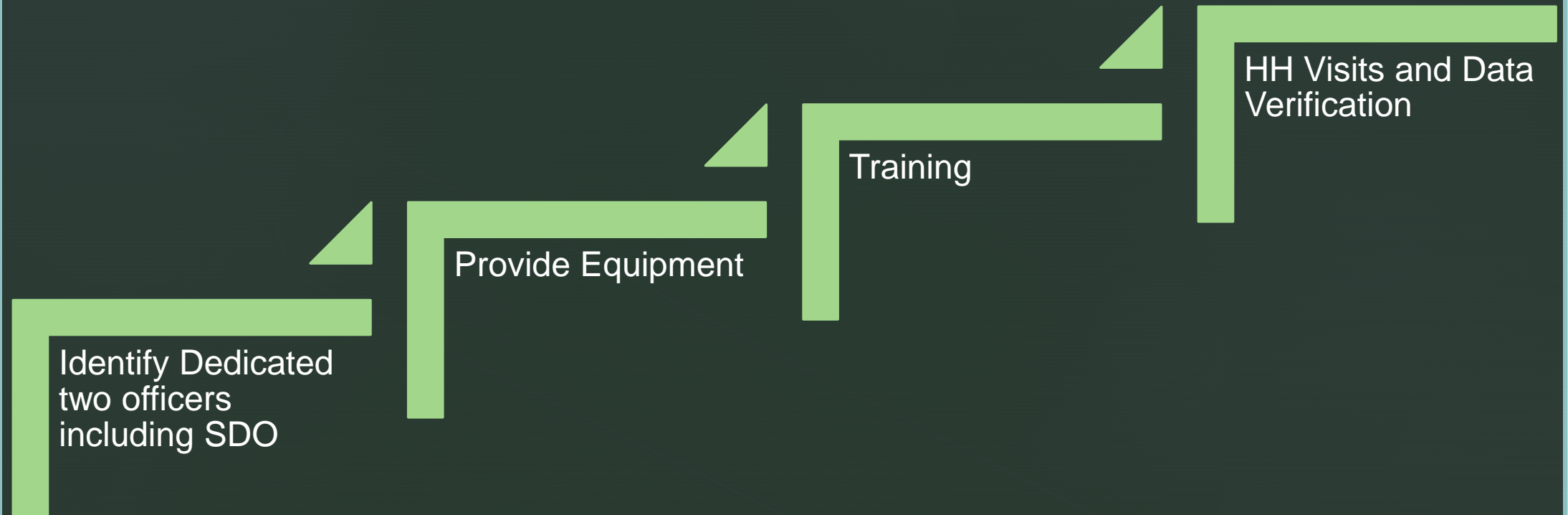
Stage 2: Pilot Data Verification Method

- ❑ Samurdhi Department identifies the appropriate DS Division and informs the Samurdhi Officers of the initiative to undertake the Data Verification within their DS Division.
- ❑ Through the Ministry of Internal (Home) Affairs the Divisional Secretary is requested to support this initiative.
- ❑ The SSNP Team visits and undertakes an initial introduction to identify the capabilities and standards of the various officials and appoints a co-ordinator.
- ❑ Several training sessions were conducted for the different officers.
- ❑ After the training, teams (2 officials) were sent to capture the data. Each Official are paid an honorarium of Rs. 40/- per household.
- ❑ Around 10 households are completed by a team per day.

Stage 2: Lessons Learnt

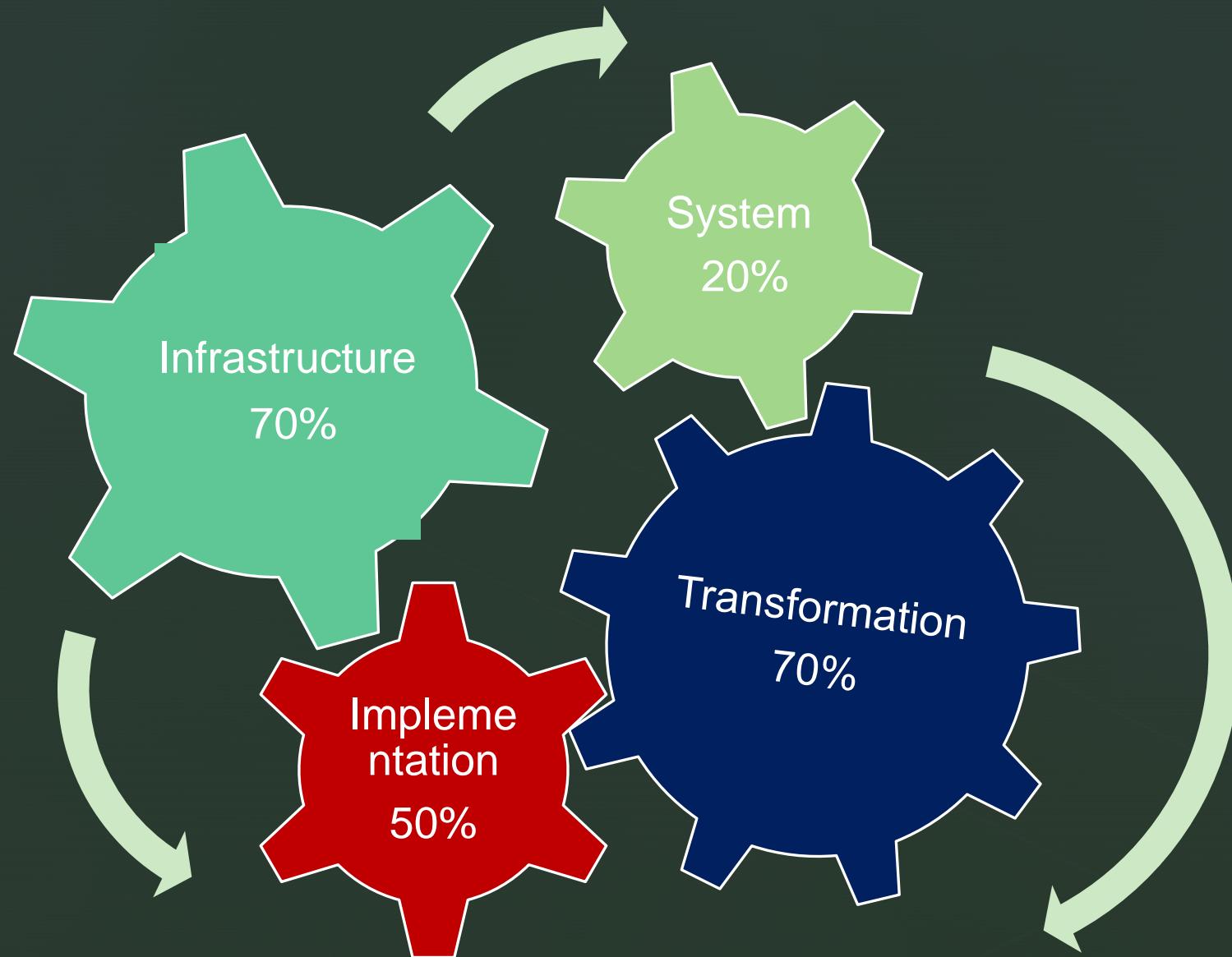
- ❑ There is a high degree of enthusiasm to use the digital equipment to gather the data, mainly **among the younger officers**.
- ❑ The capacity to undergo training and use the 'verification module' varied depending on the **specific officer**.
- ❑ The team consisting of the **Samurdhi Officer and Gramaniladhari did not raise any suspension among the public**. No unwanted discussions were heard among the public in relation to this effort.
- ❑ The tab was a **useful method** to capture that data.
- ❑ The **structure of the form and the process** was simple enough for most to adopt.
- ❑ Around 80% of the officials were highly enthusiastic and motivated.

Stage 2: Deployment plan for 332 DS Divisions



Average Number of HH Per DSD	Number of Dedicated Officers/Tablets per DSD	Ave. Number of Households completed per Day	Average Number of Households per months	Number of Months to Complete a DSD
3,000	2	10	400	7.5

Overall Project Progress after Data verification



Stage 3: How to Maintain the Information Up-to-Date

It is necessary to move from the Static Database – which will be obsolete in around 6 months, to maintain the information always accurate and up-to-date.

This would require the implementation of the IWMS (Integrated Welfare Management System).

- The design of the IWMS System was finalized and presented to the PSC.
- Policy decision on the development of the Systems needs approval.
- The long-term ownership, operation and maintenance of the IWMS System should also be considered, as it would eventually include all 23 Social Welfare Programs spanning multiple Ministries and Departments.
- In order to keep the information being collected current – the IWMS development should also start as soon as possible.

Expand to other Programs -IWMS Development

- Attention is now turning to the development of the remaining components of the Integrated Welfare Management System (IWMS), including management interfaces for specific programs, real-time data capture and updating, and user-friendly interfaces for beneficiaries to access their accounts and apply for benefits through a 'one-stop shop'.
- An updated Business Process Redesign (BPR) for this system has been completed.
- The Project is currently in the process of developing ToRs to recruit a consulting firm to support the development of the IWMS.
- IWMS - Implementation Strategy has developed

3 (c) National Social Protection Strategy

Current status

- A consultant firm has been hired to develop the National Social Protection Strategy.
- Assessment report has been reviewed by NPD and to be tabled to the TRC.
- Comments to be intergraded from TRC and start strategy development
- NPD will decide the methodology for the development of strategy

Preparation of Graduation and Exit Strategy

- Consultant has been appointed to develop Graduation and Exit Strategy.
- IT Manager, Training Manager, Communication Manager are also appointed
- Assessment report and draft operational manual has been submitted and approved.
- Piloting model for selected five GNDs is in progress

Procurement Management Actions

- Purchasing Tablets for Pilot study has been completed
- Clearance for awarding of contract for MTR contract has not been done delayed for 3 Months

Next steps

- Start procurement process for purchasing tablets for verification of 331 DS Levels HH data after getting PSC approval
- Getting final decision for MTR

Financial Actions

- Budget for 2021 has been approved for Rs.192 Mn.
- Payment process for the Graduation Cell has been discussed and agreed by both parties

Next Steps

- Presentation of the DS Level Achievement to PSC and PTC
- Getting Approval for the next steps
- Policy Decision for Beneficiary Selection Methodology
 - Review existing Gazette if necessary
 - Revise the Criteria if necessary
 - Re-Gazette
 - Approval
 - Policy Implementation
- Start development of IWMS
- Start Data Verification in 331 DS Divisions

Points to be discussed

- Piloting of SRIS data collection is going much too slowly
- 90% DLR Target (7 US\$ Million)
- The graduation work at Samurdhi is going very slowly
- The development of the Social Protection Strategy is still not begun
- Clearance for MTR contract. It's basically beyond worth doing this now.

Thank you!

