



Sri Lanka

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For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal www.ReturningfromGermany.de, or contact your local return and reintegration office.

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1 Health Care

General information on health care

Sri Lanka follows a publicly funded free healthcare system and is guided by a 'Free Health' Policy. The public healthcare system includes state-financed and administered healthcare facilities which are provided free of charge covering 50% of the outpatient services and 90% of inpatient admissions and all preventive services and curative care needs. The health system in Sri Lanka encompasses western allopathic and other systems such as Ayurvedic, Siddha, Unani, acupuncture, and indigenous treatments that derive from traditional knowledge in Sri Lanka. Healthcare in Sri Lanka is provided by both the government and the private sector and non-profit organizations provide limited services.

Allopathic and traditional systems of healthcare are overseen by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and majority of the Sri Lankans receive treatments through the allopathic system. Private healthcare services operate in parallel to the public healthcare system and mainly provide ambulatory care, inpatient care, and rehabilitative care. Private healthcare services are financed by individuals through out-of-pocket payments and private health insurance schemes. Private hospitals provide inpatient and outpatient services along with specialist consultations. There are many private pharmacies and laboratories to provide investigative services within private hospitals and as independent entities in Sri Lanka. The private health insurance market has grown during the past years and the insurance coverages are given by entities such as Sri Lanka Insurance,

Allianz Sri Lanka, and Softlogic Life. Returnees could always approach public healthcare facilities in Sri Lanka as they could undergo treatments and obtain medicine free of charge.

Availability of medical facilities and doctors

Medical facilities are available throughout Sri Lanka in both metropolitan and rural areas. There are 1054 public sector hospitals in Sri Lanka covering all the 25 Districts in the country. Further information can be found on the official website of the Ministry of Health http://www.health.gov.lk/moh_final/english/hospital_government.php?spid=24. There are 141 private hospitals in Sri Lanka that provide inward patient care services. Private sector health care brings certain benefits to patients as, unlike public healthcare as the services are available at convenient times and don't require to be on waiting lists like at public healthcare facilities. In addition, the returnee also has the ability to choose the specialist of his/her choice and the treatments can continue under the care of the same physician.

Admission to medical facilities

In the public healthcare sector, the patient can visit the Outpatient Department for treatment to be examined by a Physician which is operational from Monday to Friday from 07.30 am to 04.00 pm and on Saturday from 08.00 am to 12.00 pm. Based on the patient's condition and medical status, he/she will be

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requested to be admitted to the medical facility to undergo further treatments or investigative procedures. At that time, the individuals should have the National Identity Card of Sri Lanka, or any other identification proof document and the Doctor's referral note. The public hospital can be freely chosen by the patient and most of the time since there are public hospitals established island-wide, the patients decide to visit the closest public hospital for their residences. On the other hand, if an individual decides to obtain medical facilities from a private healthcare facility, a medical appointment has

to be taken first through the channeling service with the preferred physician of the relevant hospital before visiting the facility. Afterward, based on the medical condition of the individual, he/she will be asked to be admitted to the facility. The individual must have identification documents (NIC, driver's license, or Passport), a Doctor's referral note, and a substantial amount of money for the admission and treatment costs.



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Availability and costs of medication

Access to medicines in public health-care facilities in the state sector is free of charge as Sri Lanka follows a free and universal healthcare system. However, in case certain prescribed drugs or treatments are not available, the patients are expected to purchase the medicines from a private pharmacy through out-of-pocket expenditure or undergo the treatment if available at a private health-care facility. In addition, if the patient decides to consult a Physician at a private healthcare facility, the individual has to bear the cost of medication, treatments, and for other investigative services. (Note: Since the beginning of 2022, there has been a significant shortage of essential medicine in Sri Lanka due to the ongoing economic crisis. There are import delays and drastic changes in prices from time to time along with the prices for treatments. If an individual doesn't have private health insurance and prefers to undergo medication at a private healthcare institute, the individual will have to bear a substantial cost for medication.)

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Any Sri Lankan national has access to the island-wide public health care facilities which are free of charge. There is no requirement to be insured in order to obtain inpatient and outpatient services from the public healthcare system. Returnees can directly go to the preferred hospital and start their treatments immediately. If the returnees prefer private health insurance coverage, they have to get registered under an insurance organization that provides health insurance schemes and the conditions may depend on the organization.

Registration procedure: The returnee does not have to register anywhere to obtain services under the public healthcare system. Private insurance companies have established their branches in many districts in the country and the registration procedure may vary according to the organization. The most prominent private healthcare insurance organizations are mentioned above. The specific procedure, requirements, and rates are available on their websites.

Required documents: The National Identification Certificate or the Passport and medical documents will be required to be admitted to a hospital or to receive any other treatment.

2 Labour Market

General information on labour market

The population in Sri Lanka was at 22.16 million in 2021 and the labor force in Sri Lanka has declined to 8.467 million in 2020 from 8.592 million in 2019. Thereby, the economically inactive population in the country has increased to 0.125 million in 2020. This significant increase was steered as many people lost employment due to restrictions, lack of job openings, and health risks that prevailed amidst the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The male Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has decreased to 71.9% and the female LFPR has decreased to 32.1%. The COVID19 pandemic has intensified gender inequalities in the labor force. The employed population has decreased to 7.99 million in 2020 and the declines were observed in temporary and casual categories of employment. The unemployment rate increased to 5.8% in the third quarter of 2020. The employment in Agriculture sector has increased to ensure food security with the imposed import restrictions and disruptions to food supply due to COVID-19. The foremost employment generator has been employed in industry and services which declined to 26.9% in 2020. New jobs such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) manufacturers, and delivery workers have been created with the new demands that emerged during the pandemic. The main employment generator in Sri Lanka was the private sector in 2020. The most important industries that have created employment opportunities are agriculture, manufacturing, construction, mining and quarrying, and public utilities. In 2020, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in Sri Lanka was

recorded as 4052.75 US dollars which is equivalent to 32% of the world's average. Currently, Sri Lanka is undergoing a severe economic crisis and the Sri Lankan rupee has undergone a steep depreciation which would have a negative impact on many industries and sectors.

Finding employment

If people are interested in finding employment abroad, they could approach Sri Lanka Bureau for Foreign Employment (SLBFE) and seek employment through licensed recruitment agents. Further details can be accessed at <http://www.slbfe.lk/>.

Local employment opportunities are advertised on websites, newspapers, and applications and shared on social media platforms including the following:

- <https://topjobs.lk/>
- <https://xpress.jobs/>
- <https://www.careerfirst.lk/>
- <https://www.dreamjobs.lk/>

Unemployment assistance

Sri Lanka Institute of Career Guidance was established in 2019 to provide professional career guidance services to youth between the ages of 13 to 35 across the country in order to minimize unemployment. The institute provides help to youth with career choices, career changes, and career planning. The contact details of the institute are mentioned on the Page, further information can be obtained through <http://slcig.gov.lk/slcig/>. There are no employment benefit schemes that become operational when people lose their jobs in Sri Lanka.

2 Labour Market



IOM 2017

2 Labour Market

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: If the age limit and educational qualifications are met, the returnees can join Technical and Vocational Education sector courses to obtain further training and qualifications to obtain a job in the trade, industry, manufacturing sectors, or in entrepreneurship. There are six Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions that provide vocational/training courses on different subjects. Returnees can visit the websites of these institutes (mentioned under further education and training) and select a suitable vocational course. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a pathway to obtaining an NVQ certificate showcasing their skills and past work experience. Returnees with previous work experience do not require to follow a course to obtain NVQ certificates, instead, they have to face a practical test related to their trade experience. Depending on the expertise and skills, the NVQ level will be awarded, and the returnees have to bear an expense between LKR 7000-15000 depending on the trade. RPL can be obtained from NAITA, DTET, and VTA but NAITA is considered as the leading institute to obtain RPL certificates.

Registration procedure: There are no unemployment assistance programs to get registered returnees but can check with the relevant 'Grama Sewaka' officer on their eligibility for 'Samurdhi Poverty Alleviation Program'. In addition, can check with the Sri Lanka Institute of Career Guidance for advice on seeking employment opportunities, career planning, and selecting which employment opportunity would suit the best.

This institute provides services only for youth between 13 to 25 years but exceptionally provides services to persons up to 35 years as well.

Required documents: When looking for employment, it is important to have identity proof documents, educational qualifications, letters to confirm work experience, and a resume.

3 Housing

General information on housing

According to the Housing Needs Assessment Survey done in 2016 by the Ministry of Housing and Construction, out of the six million families living in Sri Lanka, only 5.2 million have some form of housing. Providing adequate and affordable housing is a major issue in the housing sector of Sri Lanka. Those who face this issue the most are people from low-income families, communities in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, people who live in disaster prone areas and middle-income groups who migrate to urban areas. Only 20% of the people have the potential to access housing loans due to the financial constraints and irregular employment. Almost 88.3% of the households in the urban sector are single houses and 30.6% of the households are in the estate sector as single houses or line rooms, row houses, and twin houses which have many occupants. The share of single houses in the urban area is higher and many prefer to share accommodation due to the increasing rents and related expenses. The rent will be based on the number of rooms in a house, the location, and the facilities provided. However, the average rent of a 2-room house would be Rs. 35,000 in the urban area and Rs. 20,000 in rural areas. Due to the economic crisis, the tariff imposed on electricity and utilities was risen to 100%, accordingly, The utility bills would be based on the consumption, and an average of Rs. 8000 should be allocated for water and electricity. Demand for housing and property rent in urban areas have increased as many of the employments are in urbanized areas. Since having their own house

has become expensive, many people are looking to have houses for rent in both urban and rural areas.

Finding accommodation

The National Housing Development Authority supports communities that face housing problems in Sri Lanka. This authority supports poor families who mainly live in estate line rooms, rural low-income families, and urban low-income families who do not have a permanent house or permanent income source. The Urban Development Authority supports middle-income families to obtain housing assistance for an affordable price in Colombo, Colombo Metro region, Kandy, Rathnapura, Anuradhapura, and other major urban areas where lands are often limited and very expensive. Apartments and houses advertised for rent can be found in newspapers and in below mentioned websites.

- <https://ikman.lk/en/ads/sri-lanka/house-rentals>
- <https://www.patpat.lk/property/house>
- <https://www.lankapropertyweb.com/rentals/index.php>

Social grants for housing

There are no social grants for housing in Sri Lanka, but the National Housing Development Authority (NHDA) provides a housing loan of Rs. 500,000 to low and lower middle-income families as it is difficult to get housing loans from Banks. In order to receive the loan, the monthly income of the family should be less than

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Rs. 45,000, age should be below 55, should have genuine housing requirement and pre-preparation and have suitable land for housing. Application can be obtained by NHDA District office or Housing Officers attached to Divisional Secretariats. The documents to prove ownership of the land, income certificate, plan of the house approval of the Local Authority, Declaration of the Guarantors and other requirements mentioned in the application are required. For more details <https://www.nhda.lk/index.php/en/about-usa/introduction>.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Temporary accommodation and shelter facilities will be available to returnees who have registered with the Sri Lanka Bureau for Foreign Employment (SLBFE) and who are in vulnerable situations. "Sahana Piyasa" welfare centre is maintained by the SLBFE and is located in close proximity to the Katunayake airport. Shelters are mostly provided for people displaced due to conflict/natural disasters victims of trafficking or victims of domestic violence and are usually run by different NGOs and the government.

Registration procedure: There are no social housing schemes available in Sri Lanka.



Photo: Unsplash/ Chathura-Indika 2017

4 Social Welfare

Social welfare system

There are few social welfare programmes initiated by the government. The Samurdhi programme implemented by the government provides food stamps to eligible households, savings and credit programs with loans destined for entrepreneurial and business development, provide rehabilitation and development of community infrastructure, and relief programs that include cash transfers, social security funds and nutrition programs. The assistance through the Samurdhi program will only be given to eligible individuals. Sri Lanka provides free education from kindergarten level to university level following the constitutional policy where school textbooks, uniforms, and scholarships are given. In addition, Sri Lanka has a universal healthcare system that provides free healthcare to all citizens. There are various NGOs and religious institutes that provide social welfare services in Sri Lanka supporting children, low-income families, the differently abled, and the elderly.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: The Samurdhi program only supports low-income families and eligibility has to be checked with the relevant 'Grama Sewaka' officer. More information can be obtained at <https://www.samurdhi.gov.lk/web/index.php?lang=en>.

Registration procedure: The registration for the program will depend on the eligibility of the returnee which has to be determined by the authorities -Samurdhi program and the Grama

Sewaka officer who will assess the financial background of the returnee

Required documents: confirming the income, and certificate issued by the Grama Sewaka officer.

*The Sri Lanka Bureau for Foreign Employment (SLBFE) provides a welfare scheme to migrants who have registered with the SLBFE prior to their departure from Sri Lanka. Visit SLBFE website (<http://www.slbfe.lk/page.php?LID=1&MID=39>) or call SLBFE hotline 1989 for further information.

Pension system

The pension scheme is applicable only for employees under public and private sectors. Employees of the public sector will receive a pension fund provided on a monthly basis for an interim benefit under the Employees Trust Fund (ETF) and retirement benefit under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF). The employees of the private sector are eligible for ETF, EPF and Payment of Gratuity for those who have served continuously for five years and more under one employer. According to the Ministry of Public Services, the retirement age of a public servant in Sri Lanka is now 55 years as of January 01, 2023. However, the civil officers have the freedom to retire at the age of 60 if they wish. The employee is entitled to receive a pension if the employment was held for 10 years. Employees who retire are eligible for pension benefits, relevant forms should be filled and sent to the Pensions Department, upon the death of a pensioner the amount can requested to be

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given to the widow of the pensioner and unemployed unmarried children under 26 years. Those who are engaged as employees of cooperative societies, domestic workers, personal chauffeurs, or any establishment employing less than 15 persons during the period of 12 months immediately preceding the termination of services of a worker are not entitled to the pension scheme. Further information can be obtained via https://www.pensions.gov.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17&Itemid=149&lang=en#about-foreign-pension-division.

The retirement age for employees in the private sector is based on the terms of the agreement between the employee and employer.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: If the returnee is eligible to get an occupation either in the Public or Private sector, the returnee will be eligible to receive a pension, ETF, or EPF upon retirement. This will be only applicable if the returnee meets the relevant conditions.

Registration procedure: The registration for the pension scheme will be done by the employer.

Required documents: The required documents will be advised by the employer and can be obtained by the Department of Pensions, Sri Lanka.

Vulnerable groups

There are many vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka such as communities in rural areas, daily wage laborers, female-headed households, differently-abled people, returned migrants, and foreign migrant households where people have migrated as domestic workers. People who are residing and working in rural areas face many difficulties in Sri Lanka as they lack access to better infrastructure facilities, transport, education, and healthcare as they have to travel long distances without using transportation methods. Since Sri Lanka follows a free healthcare system, it is accessible to all communities and are eligible for pensions if they have been employed under an occupation eligible for pension in public or private sector. There are many organizations in Sri Lanka that support vulnerable groups. The government has established Department of Social Services (DSS) to support marginalized and disadvantaged communities by enabling them to be self-reliant, making them active stakeholders of national development, and addressing the problems faced by them. DSS conducts community-based rehabilitation programs, provides vocational training to differently-abled people, supports early childhood development of children with disabilities, and offers care for mentally retarded children. For further information please refer <https://www.socialservices.gov.lk/web/index.php?lang=en>. The Department of Social Welfare, Probation, and Child Care Services supports the elderly, differently-abled, and, children in the Central Province. IOM Sri Lanka supports vulnerable migrants and migrant communities. In addition, other

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UN agencies in Sri Lanka, Humanity & Inclusion, USAID, World Vision, and Habitat for Humanity are the main organizations that support vulnerable groups through different projects such as livelihood support, reintegration assistance, psychosocial support, financial assistance etc.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Returnees who are extremely vulnerable and come from below the poverty line are eligible to receive support from the Samurdhi Program implemented by the government. Department of Social Services (DSS) should be contacted if any assistance is required to improve any skills in order to become self-reliant and reintegrate to the society. To receive vocational training under DSS, the person has to be between 16 to 35. The vulnerable groups will also be identified and supported through different projects implemented by IOM Sri Lanka, ILO, USAID, and other organizations.

Registration procedure: The returnees should contact the relevant 'Grama Sewaka' officer assigned to his/her area of residence to check on the eligibility of receiving support.

Required documents: Proof of residence, National Identification Card, or Passport



Photo: Unsplash, 2020

5 Education

General information on education

Sri Lanka follows a free education policy where every child from the age of five until university level will receive free education. The British colonial period has influenced the country's education system. Hence the school examinations and curricular content is models on the British examinations such as GCE O-Levels and A-Levels. Children in Sri Lanka start school at the age of 5 and is mandatory to stay until the age of 16. The language of instructions includes Sinhala, Tamil, and English. According to the Ministry of Education, there are 9931 government schools offering free education and 98 recognized private schools which are based on fees. It is competitive to enter government schools in urbanized areas and faces the issue of overcrowding. The private sector remains relatively small, and it is attended by wealthier people. There are adequate schools in rural areas but there are large disparities in access to resources, facilities, and teachers. There is poor infrastructure, health, and sanitary facilities remain major obstacles in getting enough teachers for such schools to provide better education for children in rural areas. Daycare is not provided for elementary school children of government schools but there are private schools that provide this service.

Cost, loans, and stipends

The education from Grade 01 up to the University level is free of charge. The free education policy adopted in Sri Lanka also covers the costs of textbooks and uniforms and other school supplies

such as books, notebooks, and other stationery have to be borne by the students. Most of government schools provide elementary and secondary education and provide textbooks, uniforms, and other welfare benefits such as subsidized transportation and health services to support students from vulnerable communities. Students who pass the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination and GCE OLevel with high scores as set by the Ministry of Education will receive the opportunity to attend a government school in an urban area which is deemed better due to the availability of better facilities and resources. The students who score high marks at GCE A-Level will receive the opportunity to attend State University where the education will be free. University bursary is provided for students from low-income families. Students who attend private sector universities have to pay semester fees and some students will receive scholarships or reduced tuition fees based on their academic performance. There are many educational loans given by Banks to facilitate students' higher education in Sri Lanka.

Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

Approval and verification of foreign degrees/diplomas and certificates obtained abroad will be recognized in Sri Lanka Country fact sheet 2021 based on letter of recognition provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the requests for such verifications are accepted only via online and the letters of recognition will be issued via online as

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well. The application can be obtained online, and the payment too can be done online. If not the request letter with the requested documents should be emailed to recog@ugc.ac.lk. Recognition of Degrees/Diplomas offered by foreign universities will be charged Rs. 2500 per certificate and if it is recognition for any other qualification, it will be Rs. 2000 per certificate. For further information, please refer https://www.ugc.ac.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1741%3Apaymentgateway&catid=144%3Apayment-gateway&Itemid=92&lang=en

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: Returnees can enroll for any public or private school upon coordinating with the relevant authorities. Returnees will be entitled for free education, if decided to attend a public school. If either Grade 5 scholarship examination or GCE OL are passed with high scores, the returnees will be eligible to attend a better public school with more facilities and recourses. In addition, the returnees will be eligible for a state university if GCE A-Level is passed with high scores. If preferred and have sufficient funding, the returnees could also attend private schools.

Registration procedure: Returnees should contact the relevant school authorities or private universities to get registered/enrolled.

Required documents: Copy of Valid Identification Document (NIC/Passport), Certificate issued by the 'Grama Sewaka' officer, transcript of grades for the education received, certificate of equivalence from the Ministry of Education, letter of recognition by UGC.



Photo: IOM 2017

6 Children

General situation of children and infants

Over the past years, Sri Lanka has made considerable progress in enhancing day-to-day lives of children and despite the effects of a prolonged war, natural disasters and political conflicts, the country has done well in improving the situation of children. Many families have been able to emerge from extreme poverty, many efforts have been taken to reduce under-five mortality and improve access to proper nutrition and antenatal care, improvement in quality and coverage of water and sanitation facilities and provide free education to children. Many children have benefitted from free healthcare provided in Sri Lanka. There are vulnerable communities that face challenges of infant and under-five mortality, undernutrition, and unequal access to preventative and curative health services. Sri Lanka ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1992 and since then the government has taken significant measures with regard to child protection. The National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and the Department of Probation and Child Care Services were established to protect the rights of children. Sri Lanka also reports to the CRC committee indicating the measures taken by the government towards protecting the rights of children every five years. The Ministry of Health conducts several immunization programs for the betterment of children's health.

(Non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

There are many Non-Governmental actors committed to the protection of the rights

of the child such as Save the Children, Child Action Lanka, PEaCE/ECPAT Sri Lanka, Friends Lanka Child Foundation, and LEADS. In addition, UNICEF conducts many programs and takes initiatives for the betterment of children in Sri Lanka and for a better future. The objective of these organizations is to give a healthy life to children, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. They are committed in building an environment enabling child survival, development, and protection.

Access for returnees

Eligibility and requirements: The children when returning should have their international birth certificate, vaccination record, education records and history of medication. These will be requested when the child has to be admitted to a school or for healthcare.

Registration procedure: The Ministry of Education sets deadlines for Grade 01 Admission to public schools which is advertised in the Ministry of Education website <https://moe.gov.lk/> and newspapers. Obtaining admission to a public school in the middle of the education process for instance like Grade 2 or Grade 6 will have to be coordinated with the relevant school authorities.

Required documents: Confirming the period stayed abroad, reasons for staying abroad, Electoral List Registration of the parents, birth certificate, Grama Niladhari Certificate confirming place of residence, previous education certificates.

7 Contacts

International Organization for Migration
UN Migration Agency
 9th Floor, Institute of Bankers of Sri Lanka Building No.80A, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 00800/
 +94 11 5325 300 / +94 11 2112 600

Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment
Create efficient pathways to benefit from skills in overseas employment markets
 Head Office – No 234 Denzil Kobbekaduwa Mawatha

Sri Lanka Institute of Career Guidance
Career guidance services for youth in Sri Lanka
 High Level Road Maharagama
+94 011 2333467
<http://slicg.gov.lk/slicg/>

Ministry of Education Sri Lanka
Manages the entire education system in the country
 Isurupaya, Battaramulla Pannipitiya Road Battaramulla 10120
 0112 785 14
info@moe.gov.lk

National Housing Development Authority
Assist communities who face housing problems in the country
 Sir Chitampalam A Gardiner Mawatha, P.O. Box 1826, Colombo 02, 011 2431932
info@nhda.lk

Department of Samurdhi Development
Economic Development
 4th Floor, Sethsiripaya Battaramulla
 0112 887722, Mr. Senaka Ubesinghe (Information/Media Officer), Senaka.ubesinghe@gmail.com

Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka
Training Centre
 4th Floor, Nipunatha Piyasa 354/2, Elvitigala Mawatha Colombo, 0112 352 190
cgjp@vtasl.gov.lk
<https://www.vtasl.gov.lk/>

National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority
Training Centre
 971 Sri Jayawardenepura Mawatha
 Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte
 0112 888 782
info@naita.gov.lk

8 At a glance

Measures to be taken before return

- **Health:** Bring the vaccination records of each individual and if not in English it should be translated and certified. Obtain all medical reports from physicians if the returnee has been undergoing any medication or treatments. Check for the availability of medicines and treatments in Sri Lanka as currently there is a huge shortage of medicine in the country due to the ongoing economic crisis.
- **Education:** Have Degrees/ Diplomas any other educational qualification received translated into English and certified by relevant authorities. The educational qualifications have to be sent to University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka requesting letter of recognition.
- **ID Documents:** Ensure the travel document is valid and if not contact the nearest Embassy of Sri Lanka for further advice. Bring the Passport and National Identification Card if available. Obtain a certified birth certificate legalized by the Embassy of Sri Lanka and the citizenship of the children born outside of the country has to be registered at the Department of Immigration and Emigration within one year of birth. Failure to register will incur extra fees.
- **Family and Friends:** Make sure that immediate family and friends are informed of the arrival so the necessary support and coordination can take place for a smooth return.

Measures to be taken upon arrival

- **ID Documents:** If you do not possess a National Identification Card (NIC), apply for one and register with relevant authorities
- **Bank account:** Open a bank account in a preferred bank in Sri Lanka. Your NIC or passport will be required.
- **Reintegration:** Contact the relevant IOM office in Sri Lanka as soon as you arrive, within the given time period to obtain reintegration support if eligible. Call and make an appointment before you visit the office