

Sri Lanka: LLRC Implementation Monitor

Implementation Status

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Abbreviated Summary

National Languages, Social Integration and Reconciliation

Verité Research aims to be a leader in the provision of information and analysis for negotiations and policy making in Asia, while also promoting dialogue and education for social development in the region. The firm contributes actively to research and dialogue in the areas of economics, sociology, politics, law, and media, and provides services in data collection, information verification, strategy development, and decision analysis.

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Background

In response to post-war demands for a framework for national reconciliation, President Mahinda Rajapaksa appointed the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) on 15 May 2010. The final report of the LLRC was published in December 2011. On 26 July 2012 the government released a National Plan of Action to Implement the Recommendations of the LLRC (NPA), which contained timeframes, Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and responsible agencies through which recommendations of the LLRC could be implemented.

In November 2012 Verité Research published 'Sri Lanka: LLRC Implementation Monitor – Statistical and Analytical Review No. 1'. The report contained an analytical counting and categorisation of the LLRC recommendations, and an analytical assessment of the NPA. The report specifically examined the overlap and differences between the recommendations of the LLRC and the actions envisaged by the NPA.

The research series titled 'Sri Lanka: LLRC Implementation Monitor – Status of Implementation' is a follow up to the first report.

The objectives of this research series are:

1. To assess the status of implementation of each LLRC recommendation in terms of the degree to which performance indicators have been met; and
2. To evaluate the implementation plans pertaining to recommendations that are yet to be fully implemented.

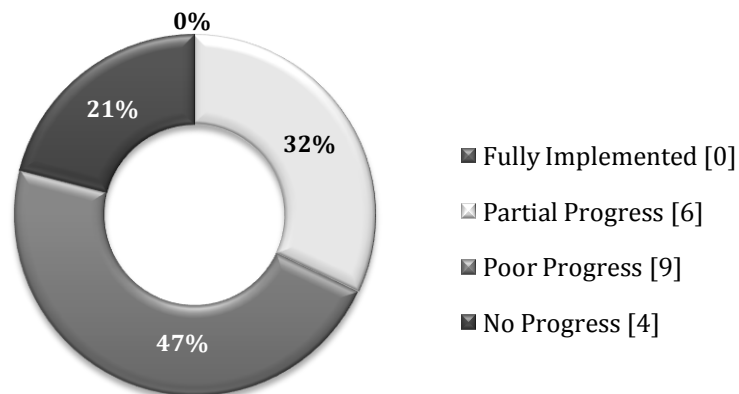
This research series is presented thematically, in order to provide a thematic evaluation of the implementation of LLRC recommendations. In October 2013, we released the first volume of this series, which deals with **Land Dispute Resolution**. The present volume deals with **National Languages, Social Integration and Reconciliation**.

1. Overview

1.1. Overall Status of Implementation

The LLRC made **nineteen** recommendations on the subject of 'national languages, social integration and reconciliation'. Six of these recommendations have seen '**partial progress**', nine recommendations have seen '**poor progress**' and the remaining four have seen '**no progress**'.

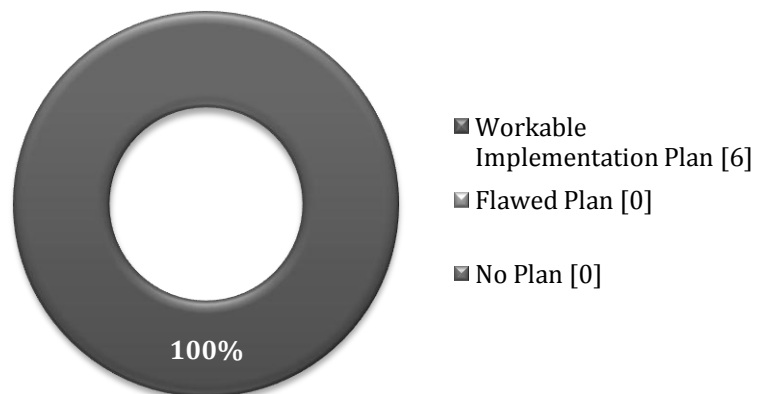
Chart 1: Overall Status of Implementation



1.2. Partial Progress

Six recommendations have seen '**partial progress**' in implementation, as performance indicators in respect of these recommendations have been substantially met. Furthermore, **all** of these recommendations have 'workable implementation plans'.

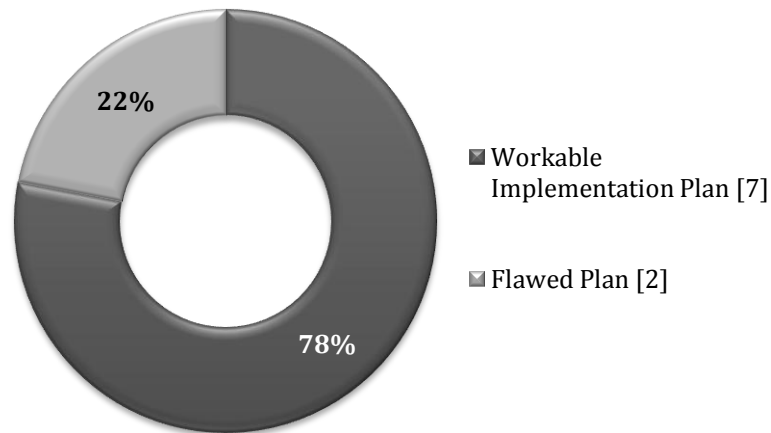
Chart 2: Partial Progress



1.3. Poor Progress

Nine recommendations have seen '**poor progress**' in implementation, as performance indicators applicable to these recommendations have not been met to a satisfactory degree. **Seven** of these recommendations have 'workable implementation plans' and the remaining **two** have 'flawed' implementation plans.

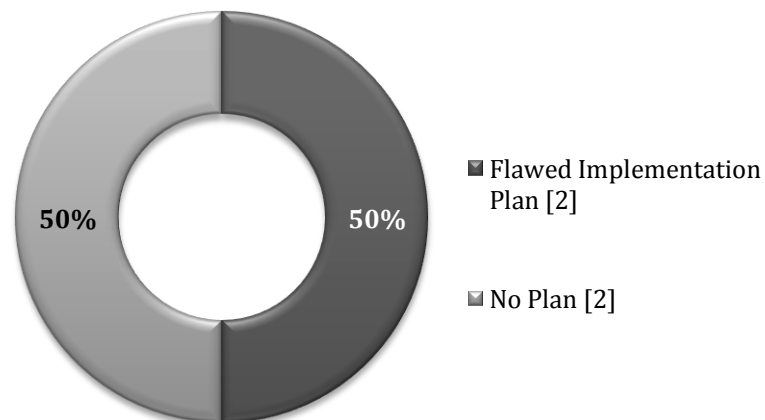
Chart 3: Poor Progress



1.4. No Progress

Four recommendations have seen '**no progress**'. These recommendations are classified as such due to the fact that the performance indicators applicable to these recommendations have not been met to any degree, *in addition to which* the recommendations lack 'workable implementation plans'. **Two** of these recommendations have 'flawed implementation plans' and **two** have 'no implementation plans' whatsoever.

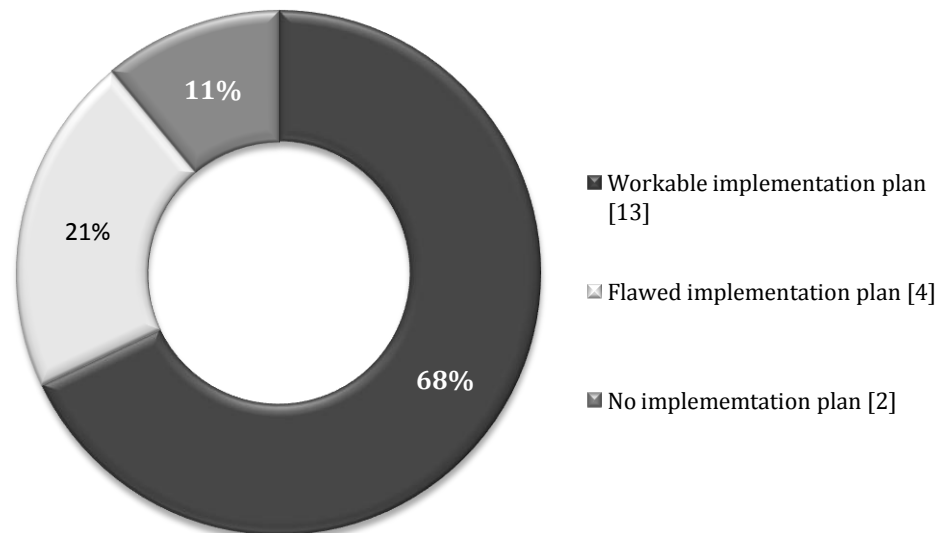
Chart 4: No Progress



1.5. Overall Analysis of Implementation Plans

Thirteen recommendations in this category have ‘workable implementation plans’. These recommendations therefore have a reasonable prospect of being fully implemented. However, the remaining six recommendations lack ‘workable implementations plans’. **Four** such recommendations have flawed implementation plans owing to flawed performance indicators. These recommendations are therefore incapable of being fully implemented under their current implementation plans. **Two** recommendations have no implementation plans (i.e. these recommendations have not been included in the NPA) and are therefore at risk of not being fully implemented.

Chart 5: Overall Analysis of Implementation Plans



2. Summary of Analysis of Implementation Status

Recommendation	Para No	Deadline*	Status of Implementation	Implementation Plan
1. Include, in the full implementation of the language policy, action plans broken down to the community level, and appropriately covering the Divisions and Local Bodies with targets that can be monitored with citizen participation	9.241	July 2013	No progress	Not included
2. Make the learning of each other's languages a compulsory part of the school curriculum	9.243	Within 5 years	Partial progress	Workable
3. Make the necessary budgetary provisions available on a priority basis for teacher training and staffing towards the end of becoming a trilingual nation by the year 2020	9.245	Within 5 years	Partial progress	Workable
4. Ensure that Officers in Government service possess language skills to serve in any part of the country	9.246	Within 5 years	Poor progress	Workable
5. Direct that all Government offices have Tamil-speaking officers at all times. In the case of Police Stations they should have bi-lingual officers on a 24-hour basis	9.247	July 2014	Partial progress	Workable
6. Create branches for the Language Commission in every province whilst retaining effective powers of implementation	9.248	July 2014	Poor progress	Workable
7. Give greater attention to information technology, which can be utilized as an instrument to overcome the language barrier; use translation software until long-term policies take effect	9.249	July 2014	Partial Progress	Workable

Recommendation	Para No	Deadline*	Status of Implementation	Implementation Plan
8. Station interpreters at Police Stations using retired police officers with bilingual fluency	9.250	July 14	No progress	Not included
9. Make a proactive policy to encourage mixed schools serving children from different ethnic and religious backgrounds; develop a carefully conceived policy facilitating the admission of children from different ethnic and religious groups to these schools	9.253	July 14	Poor progress	Workable
10. Encourage greater interaction among students, through mechanisms such as twinning of schools from the different provinces, student exchange programmes and formation of Reconciliation Clubs in schools	9.254	July 14	Partial progress	Workable
11. In giving effect to a trilingual policy, measures should be taken to ensure, as far as possible, that students of different communities have every opportunity to interact. Interaction in the same classroom should be encouraged, as far as practicable. However, for subjects taught in different languages they could be streamed into different classrooms	9.256	Within 10 years	Poor progress	Workable
12. Take steps to ensure public universities have ethnically mixed student populations with a choice of courses offered in all three languages	9.257	July 2013	Poor progress	Flawed
13. Conduct sports tournaments at inter-provincial levels and important national sports competitions should be conducted throughout the island, especially, in the North and East	9.258	July 2015	Partial progress	Workable

Recommendation	Para No	Deadline*	Status of Implementation	Implementation Plan
14. Create greater awareness of linguistic and cultural affinities among the different communities. This must be made part and parcel of a proactive state policy and program	9.274	July 2013	Poor progress	Workable
15. Give special attention to translation, publication and dissemination of major literary works in Tamil into Sinhala, and similarly Sinhala literary works into Tamil	9.275	July 2013	Poor progress	Workable
16. Encourage and disseminate cinema, TV and stage drama, productions that highlight commonalities and mutual understanding between communities for the benefit of the younger generation	9.276	July 2013	Poor progress	Workable
17. Support and maintain the practice of the National Anthem being sung simultaneously in two languages to the same tune	9.277	July 2013	No progress	Flawed
18. Initiate creative programmes such as "Youth Parliament" and "From Palmyrah Grove to Coconut Grove" falling within the purview of Government Ministries and other agencies in cooperation with civil society groups, so that such exchange programmes can be supported, expanded and broad-based	9.281	July 2014	Poor progress	Flawed
19. Set apart a separate event on the National Day to express solidarity and empathy with all victims of the tragic conflict and pledge our collective commitment to ensure that there should never be such blood-letting in the country again	9.285	August 2012	No progress	Flawed

*The deadlines allocated in the above table were obtained from the NPA or by reference to the timeframes suggested in the Ten Year National Plan for a Trilingual Sri Lanka(2012 – 2021). Where neither source produced a reasonable deadline, the following criteria were used to determine a reasonable deadline.

Figure 1: Criteria for assessing the time-scale for implementation



3. Methodology

The methodology pertaining to this study has been developed in an attempt to create, as far as possible, an objective basis. The methodology involves two assessments:

1. Assessment of performance indicators:

- **Step 1:** Quantitative and qualitative assessment of progress in terms of performance indicators. The assessment is carried out in terms of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) contained in the NPA or independently devised reasonable performance indicators.
- **Step 2:** Classification of all recommendations into ‘fully implemented’, ‘partial progress’, ‘poor progress’ or ‘no progress’, based on the degree to which performance indicators have been met.*

*N.B. Even if performance indicators have not been met to any degree, the recommendation would be classified as ‘poor progress’ (as opposed to ‘no progress’) **if** it possesses a workable implementation plan. Hence the second assessment detailed below may retrospectively determine the final classification of a recommendation as ‘poor progress’ or ‘no progress’.

2. Assessment of implementation plans:

- **Step 1:** Determination of whether the recommendation has been included in the NPA or not based on previous study ‘Sri Lanka: LLRC Implementation Monitor – Statistical and Analytical Review No. 1.’
- **Step 2:** If the recommendation is included in the NPA, assessment of the Planning Framework contained in the NPA (i.e. Legalisation or policy; Responsible agency; Budgetary allocations).
- **Step 3:** If the recommendation is not included in the NPA, assessment (based on publicly available information) of steps taken towards the implementation of the recommendation.

The following matrix illustrates the manner in which the status of implementation of each individual recommendation is classified. It also illustrates the manner in which the implementation plan pertaining to a recommendation may determine its classification.

Matrix 1: Classification Matrix

		Performance Indicators			
		Fully met	½ Met	¼ Met	Not met
Implementation plan	Workable				Poor Progress
	Flawed		Partial Progress	Poor Progress	No Progress
	Not included	Fully Implemented			

The reasonable timeframes mentioned in the analyses refer to the timeframes estimated in our previous report: Sri Lanka: LLRC Implementation Monitor – Statistical and Analytical Review No. 1.

Contents of the full report of 'Sri Lanka: LLRC Implementation Monitor - Volume 2: National Languages, Social Integration and Reconciliation

The main study offers a detailed assessment of the implementation status of each LLRC recommendation on the subject of 'land dispute resolution'. The study also critically examines the implementation plans pertaining to each of these recommendations.

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To purchase/receive a copy of the full report of 'Sri Lanka: LLRC Implementation Monitor – Vol.2. No.1: National Languages, Social Integration and Reconciliation, please send in your request to publications@veriteresearch.org.



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