

April 2023

6 NEWSLETTER FOR HAPPY SENIORS

Enhancing self-employment among senior citizens

— supported by the National Secretariat for Elders —



✓ Outline of the scheme

The population of elders in Sri Lanka is increasing rapidly. Therefore, it is necessary to empower them economically. This project is helpful for creative elders (60 years old or above) living all over the country who would like to continue working for society and be economically independent.

💬 Purpose

- To empower the elderly population economically based on their self-creative abilities and their experiences.
- To create an elderly community that is a fixture of the country's economy.
- To encourage elderly citizens to contribute to the GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

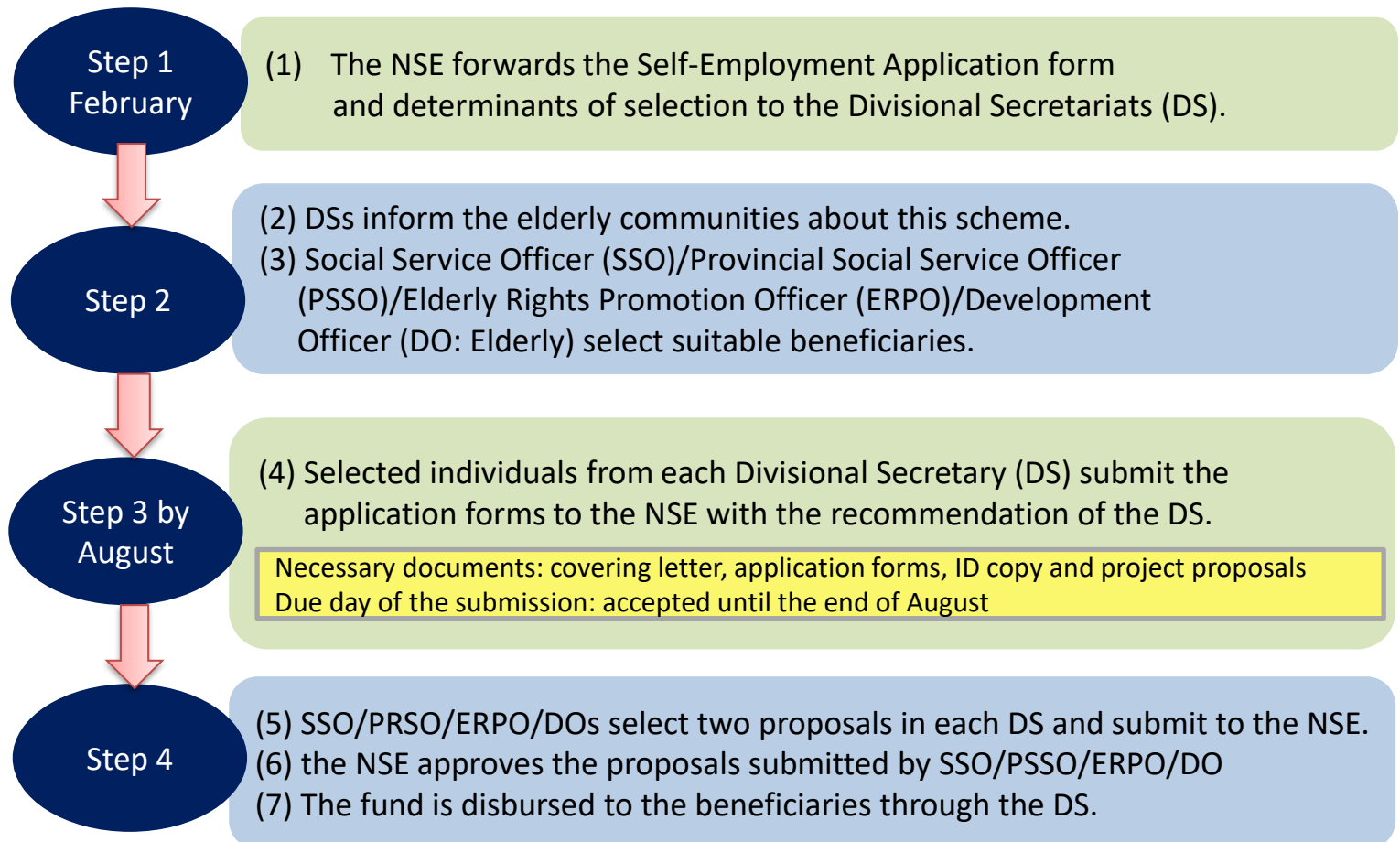
💬 Major points of the scheme

- This scheme supports income generation activities proposed by individual elders or elderly groups, who are currently self-employed, engaged in any industry, or engaged in farming.
- Two beneficiaries are selected from one divisional secretariat (DS).
- The beneficiaries are given necessary items such as equipment, machine tools, raw materials, planting materials, construction and repair of sales booths or necessary technical advice and training, which is equivalent to maximum 30,000.00 rupees.

👤 Eligibility

1. Beneficiaries should be applicants who are 60 years old or above and have low incomes (less than Rs.6,000.00/month).
2. Members of the village Elderly Society or Elderly Committee might be prioritized. The chairman and secretariat of this society must confirm it. It is mandatory to submit a copy of the applicant's national identity card or elder's identity card issued by the NSE.
3. It should be clearly stated how the remaining funds will be ensured if the estimated amount is greater than Rs. 30,000.00.

✓ Process (Usual schedule)



Plant Nursery- Self employment



Fabric and Batik designer- Self employed

Follow-up

1. The SSO/PSSO/Elders Rights Promotion Officer/Development Officer (Elderly) of the concerned divisional Secretariat should forward the cash receipt (about 172) to the National Secretariat for Elders.
2. The certificate confirming the disbursement of money to the beneficiaries should be forwarded to the National Secretariat for Elders.
3. A report on the progress of the concerned beneficiaries should be updated once in three months by the Social Service Officer /Provincial Social Service Officer/Elderly Rights Promotion Officer/Development Officer (Elderly).
4. After three months, the current status and progress of the relevant project should be reported to the National secretariat for elders.

✓ Priority/Selection of beneficiaries

1. Carrying out self-employment related to agriculture.
E.g. turmeric/ginger/chilli/mushroom etc. For short-term crops like turmeric cultivation, it is mandatory to have five perches or more land.
2. For the development of ancient traditional industries with market value and demand, which are slipping away from us today
E.g. Traditional woven mats, pottery, palmyra products, ayurvedic products, bobbin lace [beeralu].
3. For ongoing self-employment.
4. For purchasing necessary equipment, tools, raw materials or planting materials, construction and repair of sales booths or necessary technical advice and training



Gardening- Self employed



Poultry Farming- Self employed



Detailed examples of this scheme (Supported in 2022)

Table 1 Number by Province

| Province | Total |
|--------------------|------------|
| Central | 28 |
| Eastern | 18 |
| North Central | 27 |
| North Western | 13 |
| Northern | 14 |
| Sabaragamuwa | 21 |
| Southern | 30 |
| Uva | 9 |
| Western | 22 |
| Grand Total | 182 |

Table 2 Example of the breakdown in Western Province

| District | Colombo | Kalutara | Gampaha | Total |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Broom/Broom Manufacturing | 2 | 4 | - | 6 |
| Decorative flowers and plantations | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Retail trade | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| Sale of ready made garments | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| Sale of green smoothies | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 7 | 8 | 6 | 21 |

✓ New trial



A new self-employment program was scheduled in Narangwita Elderly Day care center by the National secretariat for Elders for the Elderly Citizens to contribute to economic development.

Activities to introduce manioc and jackfruit products, which are common resources of the area to the market and soap production, have also been organized.

Messages from NSE

At a time when the elderly population in Sri Lanka is growing rapidly, the National Secretariat for Elders has been entrusted with the responsibility of looking after them. Accordingly, it is essential to use their abilities, experiences, and creativity to strengthen the family's economic status, to create economic security and to build a self-sufficient elderly generation. Therefore this Self-Employment Program for Senior Citizens is being carried out as a timely program by the National Secretariat for Elders.

Mr. Shanaka Jayarathne
Development Officer
National Secretariat for
Elders



This newsletter aims to introduce good practices of activities and services for elders. The National Secretariat for Elders (NSE) and the Directorate of Youth, Elders and Disabled (YED) have acknowledged such good practices and services and helped prepare for newsletter articles with support from the JICA Project (ProCEES).

Please send good activity in your community to
jica.procees@gmail.com

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