IMF: 2nd REVIEW

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First Capital Research

Analyst: Anjali Mathews



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IMF PROGRAM STATUS



- IMF completed the Second Review under the 48-month Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Sri Lanka on June 12, 2024
- About USD 336.0Mn will be disbursed under the 3rd tranche, bringing the total disbursed to around USD 1.0Bn, to date
- Total amount of Sri Lanka's EFF is about USD 3.0Bn as of the IMF approval on Mar 20, 2023



IMF Timeline



Note: The IMF timeline has consistently aligned with the projections made by First Capital Research, and as expected, the approval for the 3rd tranche occurred in mid Jun 2024.

Key Takeaways – 2nd Review







Revenue-Based Fiscal Consolidation

External Buffers and Price Stability





Calls for strengthening of:

- Macroeconomic policies to restore stability and growth
- Debt management framework
- Finalization of the MoU with official creditors and final agreements with China Exim Bank

Emphasis on prioritizing key reforms:

- i. Liberalization of trade
- i. Improvement of SOE governance and efficiency
- iii. Reduction of gender gaps in the labor market
- iv. Mitigation of climate vulnerabilities
- v. Reduction of corruption vulnerabilities
- vi. Electricity sector reforms

Calls for:

- Maintaining a sustainable primary balance path, supported by revenue mobilization
- Furthering tax reforms and limiting tax exemptions
- Introduction of imputed rental income tax

Maintenance of price stability by:

- Anchoring inflation expectations
- Refraining from monetary financing
- The gradual unwinding of government security holdings

Building external buffers by:

- Maintaining exchange rate flexibility
- Strengthening CBSL independence

Calls for:

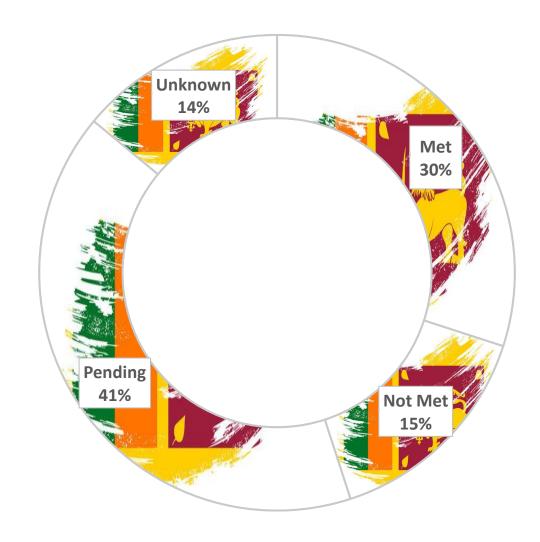
- Completion in restructuring of domestic law, foreign currency loans, and recapitalization of commercial and state-owned banks
- Securing of revenue overperformance from 2023
- Strengthening of antimoney laundering and counterterrorism financing framework

Calls for:

- Protecting social spending and improving the social safety net
- Continuation of SSN reforms to protect the poor from the adverse effects of the crisis

IMF Tracker

As of May 2024, Sri Lanka
 has met 30 out of 100 IMF
 commitments and has
 failed to meet 15 IMF
 commitments



Source: Manthri

IMF TARGETS

IMF Targets (2024/2025)

| | DATE | STATUS |
|---|--------------|---------|
| NEWLY PROPOSED AND REFORMULATED | | |
| Submission to Parliament of revenue measures to support fiscal consolidation | End-Jun 2024 | Pending |
| Parliamentary approval of revenue measures to support fiscal consolidation in 2025 | End-Jul 2024 | Pending |
| Operationalize the BSTA to determine cost-recovery based electricity tariff and government transfer requirement | End-Jun 2024 | Pending |
| Collect information from a representative sample of 5,000 standard properties | End-Aug 2024 | Pending |
| Obtain cabinet approval of an (IT) strategic plan to deliver RAMIS version 3.0 | End-Aug 2024 | Pending |
| Obtain a cabinet approval of the repayment schedule of CEB's legacy debts, starting in April 2025 | End-Dec 2024 | Pending |
| Establish and fully operationalize a digital SPRR that is accessible by IRD, the land registry, and public | End-Mar 2025 | Pending |
| Completion of the recapitalization for two largest State-owned banks; restructure CPC FX loans | End-Aug 2024 | Pending |
| Completion of the recapitalization for private sector banks | End-Dec 2024 | Pending |
| Establish Public Debt Management Agency (PDMA) | End-Dec 2024 | Pending |
| Develop implementation plans to launch a program of anti-corruption measures in revenue departments | End-Aug 2024 | Pending |
| Publish a strategic plan for the CIABOC with IMF Consultation | End-Oct 2024 | Pending |
| Submission to parliament amendments to the SDP Act, with IMF technical assistance | End-Feb 2025 | Pending |

IMF Targets (2024/2025)

| | DATE | STATUS | | |
|--|--------------|---|--|--|
| FISCAL, SOE, AND SOCIAL SAFETY NET REFORMS | | | | |
| Cabinet approval of revenue measures for fiscal consolidation during 2024 | End-Jul 2023 | Not met | | |
| Completion of the rollout of the ITMIS | End-Sep 2023 | Not met | | |
| Improve the Bulk Supply Transaction Account (BSTA) to accurately measure the electricity subsidy | End-Dec 2023 | Not met; Reformulated | | |
| Submission to Parliament of a new Public Financial Management (PFM) law | End-Feb 2024 | Not met (prior action for the second review) | | |
| Cabinet approval of revenue measures to support fiscal consolidation during 2025 | End-Sep 2024 | Not Met; Reformulated to end-June 2024 | | |
| FINANCIAL SECTOR | | | | |
| Cabinet approval of a full revision of the Banking Act | End-Jun 2023 | Not Met; Reformulated (In Progress) | | |
| Implementation of the amendments to the Banking Act | End-Mar 2024 | Not met; Expected for June 2024 | | |
| GOVERNANCE | | | | |
| Enact new anti-corruption legislation and integrate it with the UN Convention Against Corruption | End-Jun 2023 | Not Met; Implemented with delay in July, lacks transparency | | |
| Enact Asset Recovery Law to integrate with the UN Convention Against Corruption | End-Apr 2024 | Not Met; Reprogrammed End-Nov 2024 | | |

IMF PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

IMF PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

- Program performance at end-December has been strong
- All quantitative targets for end-December 2023 were met, except the indicative target on social spending
- Most structural benchmarks due by end-April 2024 were either met or implemented with delay

| | Targets | | Actual/Preli | Status | |
|---|---------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----|
| Quantitative Performance Criteria (QPC) | | | | | |
| Primary Balance (floor): | | | | | |
| End-Dec 2023 | LKR | -209.0Bn | LKR | 173.0Bn | Met |
| Expenditure Arrears (ceiling): | | | | | |
| End-Dec 2023 | | 0 | | 0 | Met |
| Tax Revenue (floor): | | | | | |
| End-Mar 2024 | LKR | 750.0Bn | LKR | 837.0Bn | Met |
| Net credit to the government (ceiling): | | | | | |
| End-Dec 2023 | LKR | 2,800.0Bn | LKR | 2,742.0Bn | Met |
| Net International Reserves (floor): | | | | | |
| End-Dec 2023 | USD | -2.4Bn | USD | -2.2Bn | Met |
| Initial Target (IT) | | | | | |
| Primary Balance (floor): | | | | | |
| End-Mar 2024 | LKR | 70.0Bn | LKR | 316.0Bn | Met |
| Expenditure Arrears (ceiling): | | | | | |
| End-Mar 2024 | | 0 | | - | - |
| Tax Revenue (floor): | | | | | |
| End-Dec 2023 | LKR | 2,550.0Bn | LKR | 2721.0Bn | Met |
| Net credit to the government (ceiling): | | | | | |
| End-Mar 2024 | LKR | 2800.0Bn | LKR | 2,691.0Bn | Met |
| Net International Reserves (floor): | | | | | |
| End-Mar 2024 | USD | -2.0Bn | USD | -1.4Bn | Met |

IMF PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

Budget Financing

CBSL will continue to offload T-bills, net credit to the government level is expected to remain flat from Sep-2024 to Mar-2025

Budget Financing Restrictions

Direct financing of the budget deficit should be eliminated and the unwinding of CBSL's treasury holdings should be restrained

2025 Revenue Measures

Revenue measures will be introduced in 2025 to compensate for shortfalls from the property tax

Revenue Requirements

As the 2023 revenue overperformance is saved permanently (0.3% of GDP), tax revenue gains in 2025 equivalent to 1.5 parts per thousand of GDP is needed to bring tax ratio to the target of 14.0% in 2025

Revenue Gains

Revenue gains for 2025 are expected to stem from new measures (0.7% of GDP)

Revenue Compensation

All these measures and the 2023 overperformance are expected to compensate the shortfall from the property and gift inheritance taxes (1.2% of GDP)

Gradual Unwinding of CBSL Holdings

Once market liquidity improves, CBSL should unwind existing holdings in government securities to mitigate sterilization needs from reserve accumulation

IMF PROPOSED CONDITIONS

Proposed Conditions To Strengthen IMF Program

- 1. To revise targets for end-June 2024—Net International Reserves
- 2. New quantitative targets for end-Sep 2024 (SBs)
- 3. New SBs for parliamentary approval of revenue measures for the 2025 budget
- 4. New IT ceiling on FX guarantees as of Sep 2024

External Financing Gap and Program Financing, 2022-2027

(in millions of US dollars)

| | | | | | | | Total |
|---------------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|------------|------------|---------|
| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2022-27 |
| Financing Gap (A) | -2,834 | -5,670 | -4,621 | -4,800 | -3,206 | -4,400 | -25,532 |
| Program Financing (B) | 2,834 | 5,670 | 4,621 | 4,800 | 3,206 | 4,400 | 25,532 |
| IMF EFF | 0 | 678 | 679 | 682 | 683 | 342 | 3,064 |
| IFI program financing support | <u>0</u> | 1,220 | 768 | 740 | <u>558</u> | <u>550</u> | 3,836 |
| World Bank* | 0 | 570 | 368 | 270 | 258 | 250 | 1,716 |
| ADB | 0 | 650 | 400 | 470 | 300 | 300 | 2,120 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (|
| Debt moratorium: external | | | | | | | |
| arrears accumulation | 2,834 | 3,772 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,606 |
| Debt relief | 0 | 0 | 3,174 | 3,378 | 1,965 | 2,008 | 10,526 |
| Sovereign bonds (market access) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Shortfall (A+B) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | (|
| Memorandum: | | | | | | | |
| Gross International Reserves | 1,898 | 4,387 | 5,605 | 7,174 | 9,262 | 13,466 | |
| Project loans | 1,473 | 680 | 1,000 | 1,556 | 1,603 | 1,651 | |

Source: CBSL and IMF Staff Projections

^{*} World Bank CY 25-27 figures are indicative as WB CPF will be reviewed in FY 2025, and the size of IDA 21 is unknown.

An additional \$135 million disbursment from the WB on deposit insurance is not included in program financing, as it will be ringfenced.

IMF PROGRAM RISKS & POLCY RESPONSE

Impact: Policy Response: Higher international financial institution Program financing risks financing, deeper debt restructuring, broader Program becomes underfinanced and more frontloaded revenue mobilization (HIGH RISK) measures Enforce program slippage with corrective Waning reform momentum Fiscal slippages, weakened confidence, action, streamline and prioritize reforms, delayed access to external financing (HIGH RISK) monitor program performance closely Delays in addressing banking Expedite implementation of banks' Weak balance sheets can hinder credit sector reform recapitalization strategy and legislative changes growth and worsen economic recovery to strengthen governance of state-owned banks (HIGH RISK) **Domestic** Risks Social unrest (due to falling real Proactively implement inclusive reforms: anti-Can delay or reverse progress of incomes) corruption & social security, strengthen public important reforms communication (HIGH RISK) Upside inflation risks Can de-anchor inflation expectations and Monitor inflation development and tighten reduce real income monetary policy Slow progress in debt Worsen government financing and Improve government financing: revenue restructuring balance of payments, and create wider mobilization, flexible exchange rate, higher financing gaps access to external financing (HIGH RISK) Easing monetary policy & targeted fiscal Disrupt trade, remittances, and capital Escalation of regional conflict support, flexible exchange rate and higher inflows, worsening BOP (HIGH RISK) access to external financing Commodity price volatility Increased volatility to inflation dynamics Monitor implications to inflation and maintain and uncertainties in economic activity agility of monetary policies (HIGH RISK) External Risks Deepening geoeconomic Develop FDI and export promotion strategies, Slow growth in trade in FDI, increased monitor implications to inflation and maintain fragmentation input costs, inflationary pressure agility of monetary policies (HIGH RISK) Easing monetary policy & targeted fiscal Abrupt global slowdown Slow trade and capital inflows with support, flexible exchange rate, higher access to negative spillovers to growth (HIGH RISK) external financing Note: "Medium Risk" is a probability between 10-30%

and "High Risk" is a probability between 30-50%

Capacity to Repay the Fund

- There is a financial risk arising from:
 - i. Lower reserve accumulation
 - ii. Financing shortfall from external partners
 - iii. Difficulties in issuing longer term bonds
 - iv. Adverse effects from restructuring domestic FX debt; high interest burden
 - v. Higher than expected bank and CBSL recapitalization needs
 - vi. Lower tax revenue collection
- Fund credit outstanding would peak at 3.2% of GDP in 2027, corresponding to 13.4% of exports of goods and services and 22.5% of gross reserves
- EFF repurchases and charges would peak in 2031, at 2.5% of exports of goods and services and 3.8% of gross reserves



IMF PROGRAM POLCY RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy Recommendations

FISCAL POLICY

Sustained revenue mobilization, finalization of debt restructuring, protection of priority spending, enhancement of fiscal discipline and SOE reforms

MONETARY AND EXCHANGE RATE POLICY

Price stability, prohibition of monetary financing, safeguarding CBSL independence, exchange rate flexibility, phasing out of BOP

FINANCIAL POLICY

Restoration of bank capital adequacy, increased governance of stateowned banks

ANTI-CORRUPTION AND GOVERNANCE REFORMS

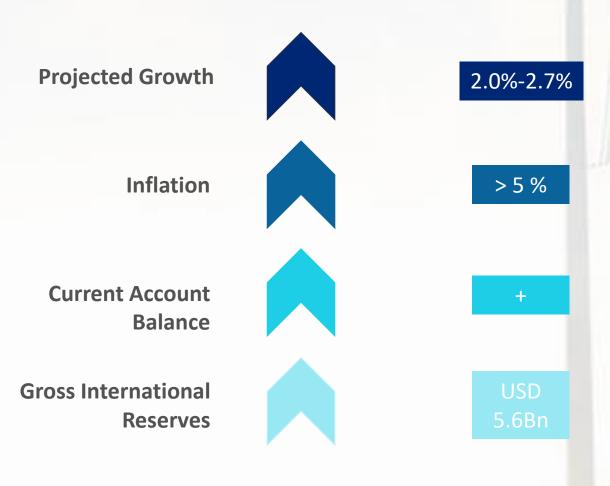
Steadfast implementation of governance reforms in revenue collection and tax policy

STRUCTURAL POLICY

Trade liberalization, labor reforms, SOE reforms, promotion of a level playing field for the private sector, mitigation of climate vulnerabilities

IMF OUTLOOK

Economy Outlook 2024



Real growth is anticipated to recover from -3.6% in 2023 to 2.0%-2.7% in 2024-25. Growth is constrained by limited bank credit, fiscal consolidation, and uncertainties around debt restructuring and the upcoming elections

To exceed the 5.0% target in 2024 due to new fiscal measures and base effects before returning to target after the transitory effects dissolve

To remain positive in 2024, driven by improved tourist arrivals and remittances. This is expected to be partially offset by FX deposits abroad amid the absence of domestic dollar generating investment opportunities

To reach USD 5.6Bn in 2024 (vs. USD 5.3Bn at the first review), following improved tourism and worker remittances

Sri Lanka: Economic Indicators (2023-2025)

| | 2023 (Prel.) | 2024 (Proj.) | 2025 (Proj.) |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Nominal GDP Growth (%) | 14.8% | 11.9% | 9.8% |
| Real GDP (%) | -2.3% | 2.0% | 2.7% |
| Inflation (end of period %) | 4.0% | 6.9% | 5.5% |
| Public Debt (% of GDP) | 115.7% | 114.2% | 113.1% |
| Credit to Private Sector (% change, end of period) | -0.8% | 7.2% | 9.2% |
| Credit to central government and public corporations | -1.6% | 11.0% | -0.9% |
| Gross Official Reserves | USD 4,387.0Mn | USD 5,605.0Mn | USD 7,174.0Mn |
| External Debt | USD 52,700.0Mn | USD 53,600.0Mn | USD 55,600.0Mn |
| Current Account Balance | USD 2,644.0Mn | USD 412.0Mn | USD -926.0Mn |
| Primary Balance (% of GDP) | 0.6% | 1.0% | 2.3% |
| Expenditure (% of GDP) | 19.4% | 20.9% | 20.3% |

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Contact Us

First Capital Holdings PLC

No: 02, Deal Place, Colombo 00300, Sri Lanka.

E: research@firstcapital.lk







Dimantha Mathew

Chief Research & Strategy Officer

T: +94 11 2639 853

E: dimantha@firstcapital.lk

Ranjan Ranatunga

Assistant Vice President – Research T: +94 11 2639 863

E: ranjan@firstcapital.lk

Vinodhini Rajapoopathy

Assistant Manager - Research T: +94 11 2639 866 E: vinodhini@firstcapital.lk

Tharusha Ashokgar

Senior Analyst T: +94 11 2639 866

E: tharushaash@firstcapital.lk

Zaeema Jihan

Senior Research Associate T: +94 11 2639 866 E: zaheema@firstcapital.lk

Anjali Mathews

Senior Research Associate T: +94 11 2639 866 E: anjali@firstcapital.lk

Nethmi Fernando

Associate T: +94 11 2639 866 E: nethmi@firstcapital.lk

