Evaluation results – at a glance

Sri Lanka

**Project title**
Strengthening Quality Infrastructure in Sri Lanka II

**BMZ project number**
2018.2021.6

**Sector/CRS code**
Trade Policy and Administrative Management / 33110

**Client**
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Executing agency**
Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

**Implementation partner**
Measurement Units, Standards and Services Department (MUSSD), Sri Lankan Standards Institution (SLSI), Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), and other QI institutions at national and regional level.

**Project volume**
EUR 1.8 million

**Project term**
01/2019 – 12/2023

**Evaluation period**
June to October 2023

Brief description and objectives of the project
The project objective was that *small and medium-sized enterprises from the project region make increased use of the offer of quality assurance services based on international good practices.* This was to be achieved via (1) a strengthened national quality infrastructure, (2) improved capacities of provincial testing laboratories, and (3) upgrading SMEs for certification. A fourth output was added in 2021 to strengthen sustainability.

Important results
- The project has achieved its objective and performed well in a difficult setting.
- The project design was innovative and the results hypotheses were plausible.
- Coordination with UNIDO was outstanding.
- Three objective indicators were fully achieved and one to 90%. Contribution was confirmed and external influence ruled out. The quality of implementation was very good. Several positive unintended effects were observed.
- Production efficiency was good. Allocation efficiency was very good due to the good division of labour with UNIDO and the compelling concept.
- Sri Lanka’s negative economic performance limits the impact. However, project partners and SMEs have shown surprising resilience. The outreach was large, and there were good up-scaling approaches.
- Partners and SMEs stated that they have the capacities to maintain the results, though budget cuts pose a risk for public sector partners.

Overall evaluation: Very successful (1.4)

Conclusions
- The specific project concept with its large SME component that includes awareness raising contributed to the project’s success by helping to stimulate the QI services market.
- The project had a very good monitoring approach. The systematic documentation of lessons learned and observation of unintended effects helped to leverage positive results and at the same time accelerate the response to challenges.