



**Hon. Dr. Sudarshini Fernandopulle,**  
M.P. - State Minister of Primary Health Care,  
Epidemics and COVID Disease Control

As the government of Sri Lanka we respect the rights of differently abled and disabled people and committed to their economic, social security rights and need of equal opportunities to improve their quality of life. The Department of Social Services which is under the State Ministry of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control has several Vocational Training Centres around the country catering to the rehabilitation and training of many youth with disabilities. I would like to extend my congratulations on the opening of the pizza and food technology training unit with state-of-the-art technology facilities affiliated to the food technology division at the Amunukumbura VTC with ChildFund Sri Lanka in collaboration with Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., under the guidance of the Department of Social Services.



**Dr. Amal Harsha De Silva, Secretary,**  
State Ministry of Primary Health Care,  
Epidemics and COVID Disease Control

Youth with disabilities are among the most marginalized and disadvantaged of the youth population at global and also in Sri Lankan context. Many youth with disabilities face difficulties and uncertainty as they transition from childhood into adulthood, primarily with regards to achieving successful employment and independent living. The Amunukumbura Vocational Training Institute under the Department of Social Services takes step towards empowering the disabled community through vocational training and enabling them to become active participants in the economic flow of the country and provide them the right to live as proud citizens. I would like to extend my congratulations on this occasion.



**Chandana Ranaweera Arachchi,**  
Director, Department of Social Services

Under the guidance of the Hon. Minister and Secretary, State Ministry of Primary Health Care, Epidemics and COVID Disease Control the Department of Social Services conducts vocational training for persons with disabilities, in order to socially integrate them as a dignified citizen. Towards achieving this partnership arrangement, ChildFund Sri Lanka and Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., has collaborated with the Department of Social Services and marks a milestone today. In this special occasion I would like to express my gratitude and heartfelt wishes for all who have contributed.

# Strategic partnership nurtures young people with disabilities reach their full potential



**Neelam Makhijani,**  
Country Director,  
ChildFund India and Sri Lanka



The Amunukumbura Vocational Training Centre in Gampaha is dedicated to youth with disabilities and managed by the Department of Social Services.

Today, ChildFund Sri Lanka in partnership with Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., currently single franchisee for Pizza Hut and Taco Bell in Sri Lanka and with guidance from the Department of Social Services inaugurated a unique project at the Centre, providing these youth with disabilities the necessary resources, connecting them with market relevant training, skills and opportunities enabling them to dream of a brighter future.

Several vocational training courses are already conducted at the Centre to empower youth. The pizza baking module included to the food technology course will support these young women with disabilities to acquire new work and life skills, and transition to the workforce successfully.

We are excited to launch this very unique project which highlights our partnership with the private sector and the government, on the same platform. Together, we have combined our resources and skills to ensure greater opportunities for youth with disabilities, to support the first batch of 30 young women who will benefit from this new pizza making module as part of their vocational training course. Thereafter, 20-30 young women with disabilities will be enrolled annually for the course. The newly renovated buildings, accommodation and sanitation facilities and support through soft skills training provided by ChildFund Sri Lanka will also contribute to eliminating employment barriers for these youth with disabilities and improve their lives. ChildFund is thankful to Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., and the Department of Social Services for their collaboration to equip these young adults with skills to overcome challenges and inspire positive change creating a better future not just for themselves, but for their families and communities.

**Yasa Nadaraja,**  
CEO of Gamma Pizzakraft Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.



Pizza Hut's Social Purpose theme 'An Equal Slice for Everyone' exemplifies our engagement in this project to help Persons with Disabilities get more employment opportunities, thus bridge the gaps the community currently faces. We have established an industrial food technology unit at the Amunukumbura vocational training centre with a state-of-the-art kitchen consisting of latest equipment, with the prime objective of providing these individuals a comprehensive curriculum ranging from food and beverage, hygiene & food safety standards to proficiency in English. This would be a 2-year programme where they would receive the best knowledge under the leadership and guidance of skilled trainers and staff of Pizza Hut. Upon the successful completion of the 2-year course, graduates will be employed within the Pizza Hut chain or with other socially responsible entities in the country, whom we have already initiated discussion with. We are extremely humbled and privileged to inaugurate this project which sets the tone for these students to get started on this unforgettable journey of their lives. We certainly look forward to celebrating its success, with even more great things to come.