

Capacity Building Workshop on Designing the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) Phase II – November 19 and 20, 2025

The Regional Development Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL), with the participation of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) and several other key departments, successfully organized a Capacity Building Workshop on Designing the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) Phase II. The two-day programme was designed to support CBSL in conducting a comprehensive review of NFIS Phase I (2021–2024) and to enhance institutional capacity for independently designing and implementing NFIS Phase II with a strong focus on emerging priorities.

The workshop brought together a panel of international experts, including Ms. Bhavana Srivastava (Team Leader & Financial Inclusion Strategy Expert, Fin Value), Ms. Aashraya Sharma (Monitoring and Evaluation Expert), Ms. Sandhya Saraswathi (Research Associate), and Ms. Laura Ramos (Senior Policy Manager, Inclusive Green Finance, Alliance for Financial Inclusion – AFI). Their technical input covered several critical thematic areas:

- Inclusive Green Finance
- Consumer Protection
- Market Conduct Supervision

Held at The Kingsbury Hotel, Colombo, the sessions saw active participation from multiple CBSL departments including the Bank Supervision Department, Department of Supervision of Non-Bank Financial Institutions, Payments and Settlements Department, Financial Consumer Relations Department, and Macroprudential Surveillance Department, along with two representatives from the Financial Intelligence Unit. The programme also incorporated practical exercises and interactive discussions, enabling participants to apply concepts to real-world scenarios and strengthen cross-departmental collaboration.

This workshop marks an important step toward shaping a more resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking financial landscape in Sri Lanka, laying a strong foundation for the successful development and implementation of NFIS Phase II.

