

Aswesuma — Sri Lanka's Algorithmic Welfare-Targeting Score, and Its Exclusion Problem

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Sri Lanka

Quality score: 40/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Sri Lanka's Aswesuma programme uses a 22-indicator Multi-dimensional Deprivation Score computed by the Department of Census and Statistics to sort welfare applicants into benefit tiers; independent reviews document high exclusion of eligible households and low transparency in how

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	3/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	0/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[Welfare Benefits Board / Department of Census and Statistics, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[Human Rights Watch: Sri Lanka's Chaotic Social Security Reform](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[Groundviews: Aswesuma - High Exclusion, Low Transparency?](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

[IPS Sri Lanka: Recalibrating Aswesuma](#) — accessed 2026-08-31

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