Established in 2000, Yasiru Mutual Provident Society Limited is a mutual benefit programme in Sri Lanka. It receives Financial, Technical and Re-insurance support from the Rabobank Foundation and Eureko Re in the Netherlands. It aims to effectively manage and reduce the risk factors affecting the lives of vulnerable communities in rural Sri Lanka by social security coverage. It provides relief to members in times of death, accident, distress sickness. It does this by setting up mutual societies in partnership with CBO’s and NGOs who are local and deal with the poorer strata through their field operations.

The members of Yasiru are the policy holders and they along with the 9 partners are represented in the Board of Management of Yasiru.

**Eligibility Conditions**

Membership is open to all adults from 18 to 65 years and covers children of the members aged between 90 days – 18 years. Additional dependents between 18 and 75 years may be covered if the House Hold (HH) income is less than LKR 3,000. However a maximum of 3 persons aged 65-75 can be covered.

**Exclusions**

Households with an income of above LKR 3000 per household member per month.

Suicide and contagious diseases

**Plan Benefits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death after the age of 18 and before 65 due to an accident</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>108,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent disability after three months before the age of 65 due to an accident</td>
<td>96,000</td>
<td>216,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death after the age of 18 and before 65 due to natural causes</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudden death before reaching the age of 18</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudden death between the age of 65 and 75</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalization cost per day for a maximum of 15 days (range)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional or similar treatment cost per day for a maximum of 15 days (range)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Premium**

Members are classified according to their family situation. In each class, members can choose among 5 monthly premiums. Monthly premiums range from LKR 10 ($0.1) to LKR 150 ($1.5) per month.

1. Household with no children: LKR 30, 50, 100, 120, 150 or 180
2. One parent with children: LKR 30, 50, 100, 120, 150 or 180
3. Household with children: LKR 45, 75, 150, 180, 225 or 270
4. Other adult > 18 years: LKR 15, 25, 50, 60, 75 or 90

**General Overview**

- **Starting date:** 2001
- **Ownership profile:** Registered Society
- **Target group:** Small-scale farmers, estate workers and low income group
- **Outreach:** 6 districts in South & Central Sri Lanka
- **Intervention area:** Rural
- **Risks covered:** Health, Life & Accident
- **Premium Insured/yr:** LKR 360 – 2700/yr
- **Co-contribution:** 
- **No of insured:** 25,000

**Operational Mechanisms**

- **Type of scheme:** In-house
- **Insurance company:** NA
- **Insurance plan year:** Not fixed (open all year)
- **Insured unit:** Family of 5
- **Type of enrolment:** Voluntary
- **One-time enrolm.fee:** No
- **Premium payment:** Monthly
- **Waiting period:** 30 days for hospitalisation

**Scope of Health benefits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Health benefits</th>
<th>Hospitalization: Range from LKR 90 – 540 per day for max of 15 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary health care:</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitalization:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliveries:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to medicines:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary health care:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Addit. financial ben.:** wage compensation during sickness

**Addit. non-fin. ben.:** Health educ. progr.
Insurance Plan Key Features

- Through a mutual model Yasiru offers products that are affordable for the members and gives reasonable compensation in case of death, permanent disability or hospitalization.
- Children and other adults in the family can be covered under the scheme.
- The scheme is member based and has a democratic system of management.
- There is no actual maturity payment in the scheme, but there is a mechanism for profit sharing. Yasiru opens an account for each member. When a member reaches the age of 75, or terminates the membership, he/she will receive the credit balance of the account if the membership has lasted for more than five years. Forty percent of the scheme’s profit is credited to members’ accounts.
- As part of its development support Eureko Re provides reinsurance.

Main Achievements

- A steady increase in membership over 8 years – Membership in 2008 was 7,397 covering a total of 24,018 insured.

Remaining Challenges

- In the short term, community mobilisation, sensitisation and organisation is a big need.
- In the long term, institutionalisation & leadership development is the long term strategy;
- To negotiate and organize a co-contribution mechanism.

Development Plans

- There is the opportunity to link up with a Government Farmers insurance scheme with an outreach of 2 million farmers.
- Cooperative sector has also shown interest in the products for their members.
- Over a five year period, the goals is to have 100,000 policies by 2010, and the profit share to LKR 10 million as endowment fund.