SRI LANKA
Disaster Management Reference Handbook

December 2017

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Welcome - Note from the Director

Disasters, including the recent floods in Sri Lanka, have claimed lives and devastated communities. Recent disasters have been met with assistance from neighboring countries as well as regional partnerships. In June 2017, a southwest monsoon caused heavy rainfall in Sri Lanka triggering heavy flooding and landslides. United States (U.S.) sailors worked alongside local government agencies and the Sri Lanka Red Cross to assist local communities with humanitarian relief efforts.[1]

Since 2014, the U.S. and Sri Lankan militaries have worked together annually through health engagements and various exercises. Enhancing regional partnerships, interoperability and medical readiness between the two forces has been an overall mission.[2] The U.S. Navy has a good relationship with the Sri Lanka Navy and specifically with the Makin Island ARG-11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) team. Recently, in March 2017, both countries aboard USS Somerset conducted a meaningful bilateral humanitarian assistance exercise. The exchange exercised best naval practices for regional security and humanitarian assistance.[3]

Sri Lanka and the U.S. have participated in multilateral exercises including Tempest Express. The exercise was valuable because it gives participants an opportunity to discuss how they can extend support to each other during natural or man-made disasters. It also promotes mutual understanding and interoperability of participating countries and their armed forces and other relevant agencies.[4] Other engagements include a Pacific Airlift Rally Exchange in September 2017, which brought together flying training exercises focused on Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response (HADR) operations. U.S. military personnel also train with the Sri Lanka Navy in regards to disaster assistance and underwater demining.[5]

This Sri Lanka Disaster Management Reference Handbook provides the reader a baseline of understanding of regional-specific factors, which influence disaster management. CFE-DM provides education, training and research about disaster management and humanitarian assistance, particularly in international settings that require coordination between the DOD and civilian agencies.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Martin, SES
Director

Information about the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance

Overview

CFE-DM is a U.S. DOD organization that was established by U.S. Congress in 1994. The Center is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Pacific Command and is located on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

CFE-DM was founded as part of the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye's vision. The Senator had witnessed the effects of Hurricane Iniki that struck the Hawaiian Islands in 1992, and felt the civil-military coordination in the response could have been more effective. He set about to establish CFE-DM to help bridge understanding between civil and military responders, and to provide a DOD platform for building Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (DMHA) awareness and expertise in U.S. forces, and with partner nations in the Asia-Pacific. While maintaining a global mandate, the Asia-Pacific region is our priority of effort and collaboration is the cornerstone of our operational practice.

Mission

The Center's mission is to advise U.S. Pacific Command leaders; enable focused engagements, education and training; and increase knowledge of best practices and information to enhance U.S. and international civil-military preparedness for disaster management and humanitarian assistance.

Vision

CFE-DM exists to save lives and alleviate human suffering by connecting people, improving coordination and building capacity.

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Disaster Management Reference Handbook Series Overview

The Disaster Management Reference Handbook Series is intended to provide decision makers, planners, responders and disaster management practitioners with an overview of the disaster management structure, policies, laws, and plans for each country covered in the series. Natural and man-made threats most likely to affect the country are discussed. The handbooks also provide basic country background information, including cultural, demographic, geographic, infrastructure, and other relevant data.

Conditions such as poverty, water and sanitation, vulnerable groups, and other humanitarian issues are included. A basic overview of the health situation in the country and disease surveillance is also covered. The handbooks include information on key national entities involved in disaster management, disaster response and preparation, and the military's role in disaster relief. Information on United Nation agencies, international non-governmental organizations (NGO), major local NGOs, and key U.S. agencies and programs in the country, are also provided.

The overall aim is to offer a guide that brings together important information about disaster management and response for each country in an effort to provide a basic understanding for the reader. Information in the handbooks are compiled and based primarily on trusted, reliable, publicly available sources. Much of the information used is from U.S. or other government sources, United Nation sources, NGO websites, scholarly references, foreign government websites, and various media sources. When available, a link to the original internet source is provided.

Each handbook is a working document and will be updated periodically as new, significant information becomes available. We hope that you find these handbooks informative, relevant, reliable, and useful in understanding disaster management and response for this country. We welcome and appreciate your feedback to improve this document and help fill any gaps to enhance its future utility. Feedback, comments, or questions can be emailed to cfe.dmha.fct@pacom.mil. You may also contact the Center for Excellence at: (808) 472-0518. Please visit our website (https://www.cfe-dmha.org) to view the latest electronic versions available or to request a hard copy of a disaster management reference handbook.

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared in good faith based primarily on information gathered from open-source material available at the date of publication. Most of the information used was from United States (U.S.) or other government sources and is therefore considered to be in the public domain. Such sources include the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Fact Book, U.S. Department of State (DOS), and foreign governments' web pages. Where possible, a link to the original electronic source is provided in the endnote (reference) section at the end of the document. Other sources used include NGO home pages, ReliefWeb, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Bank, and Asian Development Bank (ADB). While making every attempt to ensure the information is relevant and accurate, Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency of the information in this publication.

Executive Summary

Sri Lanka is a lower middle-income country with an estimated total population of 21.2 million people. For decades the country was fraught with civil war, which ended in 2009. The civil war affected the national economy, foreign trade and investments, and the livelihoods of the Sri Lankan people. The end of the civil war in 2009 brought about legislative commitment to reconstruction and economic growth. This has allowed the economy to grow, an average of 6.2 percent annually. Since 2009, Sri Lanka has observed many elections and changes in leadership. Sri Lanka is still rebuilding as human rights grievances over war crimes and violations remain unsettled.[6] The Government of Sri Lanka is concentrating on passing constitutional and economic reforms, advancing public financial administration, expanding public and private investments, addressing infrastructure restrictions, enhancing government effectiveness, and directing governmental service distribution.[7]

Recently, Sri Lanka has been impacted by multiple natural disasters. Sri Lanka experienced a landslide in October 2014, and flooding in December 2014.[8] Sri Lanka withstood the worst drought conditions witnessed in four decades in 2016; the extreme drought conditions extended into 2017 and produced substantial economic and social effects. The drought was responsible for an increase in national poverty levels, due to reduced cultivation income, especially for rural farmers. Estimates suggest over 500,000 families were affected by the drought conditions in 20 districts, forcing the Government of Sri Lanka to initiate relief programs. In May 2016, Sri Lanka was hit by a tropical storm that caused widespread flooding and subsequent landslides. One year later, in May 2017, Sri Lanka experienced continuous rains causing flash floods and extreme devastation.[9] However, despite natural disasters and challenges posed by a complex political environment, Sri Lanka's financial performance remained largely satisfactory in the first half of 2017.[10]

Sri Lanka has mainly remained an agricultural nation. Rice, tea, rubber, and coconut are significant cultivated crops in Sri Lanka. Cocoa and spices such as cinnamon, cardamom, nutmeg, pepper, and cloves are notable crops. Sri Lanka also produces fruit and vegetables, native to the region. In addition, Sri Lanka is a key exporter of precious and semi-precious stones.[11] However, food insecurity has been increased among many communities in drought affected regions. Some regions in Sri Lanka have reached alarming levels of poor or borderline food consumption.[12] The total amount of rice cultivated this year (2017) is less than half of that produced in 2016. In response, the government has been providing drinking water, relief packs of dry rations and other household items, and international assistance has included rice and cash assistance.[13]

The Sri Lankan economy is transitioning from rural-based industries to manufacturing and urban-based business. In September 2017, the Government of Sri Lanka introduced the Vision 2025 to advance democratic reforms, wide-ranging and equitable development, and to ensure good governance. The Government of Sri Lanka has focused on and made substantial advancements in human development. Current social markers rank amongst the highest in the South Asia region and compete favorably with other middle-income nations. National poverty has declined from 15.3 percent in 2007 to 6.7 percent in 2013. Sri Lanka's economy is propelled by private expenditure and investments and is estimated to increase by 4.6 percent in 2017 and slightly exceed 5.0 percent in the medium-term. The Government of Sri Lanka is dedicated to fulfill a reform plan intended at advancing competitiveness, governance, and public financial management which would realize long-term benefits.[14]

SRI LANKA
Country Overview

Country Overview

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, commonly referred to as Sri Lanka, is an island off the south-eastern coast of India, 880 km (547 miles) north of the equator, in the Indian Ocean.[15] Today, Sri Lanka is a free, independent and sovereign nation with a population of slightly over 21 million. It was previously run by Portuguese, Dutch, and British rule. Sri Lanka established its independence in 1948; prior to gaining independence Sri Lanka was referred to as Ceylon. Sri Lanka has a multi-party parliamentary system. A new government is elected by the people, through a vote, every five years. Legislative authority is executed by a parliament which is elected through a vote. The President is elected by the people and exercises executive power and defense. The administrative captial is Jayawardenepura Kotte and the commercial capital is Colombo.[16] Sri Lankans have a life expectancy of 75 years and a literacy rate of 92.2 percent.[17] The nation's primary export is textiles; however, tea, rubber, coconuts, and precious gems are also significant to the economy. National proceeds from the tourism industry are crucial to the economy, as the industry continues to grow. Additionally, the Sri Lankan economy benefits significantly from the remittances from the hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankans working overseas, primarily in the Gulf region.[18] Photo 1 depicts the National Flag of Sri Lanka.[19]

Culture

Sri Lanka is comprised of an ethnic mix of Sinhalese, Tamil, Moor, Burgher, and other various groups which contribute to the rich culture of the nation. The official spoken and written languages are Sinhala and Tamil; however, English is also a commonly used language. The national religion is Buddhism, though other religions are practiced.[20]

The Sri Lankan identity is defined by the unique culture of the Sri Lankan people. Hospitality is well-regarded in the Sri Lankan culture, cultivating one of the most welcoming nations in the world. The culture of Sri Lanka is deeply rooted in traditions and ceremonies passed down from one generation to the next dating back over 2,000 years. Sri Lankan culture is displayed through the use of art, architecture, sculptures, and local food. Sri Lanka is known for its colorful festivals. Religion and religious customs make significant contributions to the Sri Lankan culture and traditions.

The Sri Lankan way of life is modest. The Sri Lankan culture is also shaped by Indian and

Photo 1: National Flag, Sri Lanka

European customs, as throughout history, Sri Lankan kings married Indian princesses. As a result, elements of the Indian culture were incorporated into Sri Lankan culture. The European influence was a result of invasions throughout history by the Portuguese, Dutch, and British.[21] Photo 2 depicts the Ruwanweliseya Stupa (Ruwanveli Seya Stupa) in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.[22]

Demographics

Ethnic Makeup

The population of Sri Lanka is made up of various ethnic groups; the main ethic group, the Sinhalese, account for 74.9 percent. The other ethnic groups present in Sri Lanka include: Tamil account for 15.4 percent; Moors account for 9.2 percent; Burgher (descendants of Dutch and Portuguese colonists) and others account for 0.5 percent.[23]

Key Population Centers

The current population of Sri Lanka is 21.2 million. The population density in Sri Lanka is 333 per Km^2 (862 people per sq. mile). The total land area is 62,710 Km^2 (24,212 sq. miles). In 2017, 19.4 percent of the Sri Lankan population lives in urban areas. The legislative capital of Sri Lanka is Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, which is a suburb of the commercial capital and largest city, Colombo. The city of Colombo is the most populated city in Sri Lanka.[24] Photo 3 depicts a photo of Colombo, located in western Sri Lanka.[25]

Photo 2: Ruwanweliseya Stupa, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka

Photo 3: Colombo, Sri Lanka

Language

There are three predominate languages in Sri Lanka. Sinhala and Tamil are the official languages and English is widely spoken throughout the nation. The primary language, Sinhala, is spoken by the majority of the population. Tamil is spoken mainly by the Tamil and Muslim ethnic minorities and English is broadly spoken and comprehended. Signs throughout Sri Lanka for locations and on modes of public transportation are typically written in all three languages.[26] Photo 4 depicts a standard road sign in Colombo written in various languages.[27]

Photo 4: Street Sign, Colombo

Religion

Buddhism (70.19 percent) is the predominate religion practiced in Sri Lanka, though other religions are also practiced in the country which include: Hinduism (12.61 percent), Christianity (7.45 percent), and Islam (9.71 percent). Buddhism was officially introduced in the third century B.C. and was adopted rapidly and in a short time frame the entire country became Buddhist.[28]

Buddhism is observed by the majority in Sri Lanka. The Buddhist monkhood (also referred to as Sangha) is the greatest and most active assembly of religious specialists in Sri Lanka. The Sangha are ordained for their lifespan to adhere to a life of celibacy devoted to the separation from worldly life. The Sangha are temple monks who offer spiritual leadership to worshipers. Temple monks serve as role models to the laypeople. They do not provide direction on nonspiritual affairs or life-cycle ceremonies, with the exception of loss of life rituals. The Sangha have significant influence in historical and modern Sri Lankan society.[29] Photo 5 depicts a Buddhist statue in Sri Lanka.[30]

Vulnerable Groups

Sri Lanka has many vulnerable groups including displaced persons, the poor, children, women, trafficked persons, the Tamil population, as well as other groups.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Prolonged displacement and the ongoing associated risks of continued displacement of Sri Lankans is a result of natural hazards, disparities in human rights, civil war, and urbanization. Vulnerable persons such as minorities, migrants, women, children, the elderly and disabled persons are at risk. During Sri Lanka's civil war, from 1986 to 2009, more than one million individuals were displaced.[31] Photo 6 depicts displaced civilians in 2009 from parts of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts as a result of the civil war.[32]

However, since the end of the civil war, many of the displaced persons have gone back to their communities or moved to different regions of Sri Lanka. Even so, tens of thousands of displaced Sri Lankans still require protection and support in the relocation process and have yet to find a permanent resolution.[33] In addition, there are approximately 100,000 refugees living in India that are slowly returning to Sri Lanka.[34] The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami resulted in more than 35,000 deaths and the displacement of approximately a million people in Sri Lanka. Since the end of the war, the Government of Sri Lanka has worked to recover and reestablish its national disaster risk management system, to varying levels of success.[35]

In May 2015, reports indicated that approximately 74,000 IDPs remained in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern districts. Additionally, it is estimated that tens of thousands of the nearly 794,000 persons recorded as having gone back to their homes continue to have unmet needs associated with their previous IDP status. Displacement deprived many of the IDPs from access to land, livestock, fishing grounds, and equipment resulting in many IDPs relying solely on government assistance and provisions from host communities. In 2015, a new government was established which generated new optimism for IDPs affected by conflict. A national policy on resilient solutions

Photo 5: Buddhist Statue, Sri Lanka

Photo 6: Internally Displaced Persons (IDP's), Sri Lanka, 2009

for conflict-affected IDPs, refugee returnees, and populations affected by displacement was officially ratified in August 2016, though major concerns for IDPs in Sri Lanka persist.[36] In addition, the IDP population is also vulnerable of returning to war-torn areas filled with landmines. They are at risk of being injured by landmines from the 27-year civil war.[37] The Sri Lankan Government still has to remove extensive landmines left by years of warfare. Sri Lanka joined the Mine Ban Treaty in December 2017, which bans antipersonnel landmines, and requires destruction of stockpiles, clearance of mined areas, and assistance to victims of the weapons.[38] The U.S. is one of the largest donors of humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka, including food aid and de-mining assistance.[39]

The Poor

The Government of Sri Lanka has worked hard to reach middle-income status. Sri Lanka boasts one of the lowest rates of extreme poverty throughout the region; however, living conditions in some regions are poor. Areas of severe poverty remain an issue in the country. Weak governance continues to hinder increased national progress and has permitted continuing exploitations of government power. Climate change impacts also result in an increasing number of floods, droughts, and epidemics in Sri Lanka that result in severe economic hardships for the agriculture and fishery sectors. A large part of the poor population relies on farming and fishing for food and income.[40]

Children

Children in Sri Lanka face many hazards and difficulties. The conflict that Sri Lanka faced over the last few decades has had a direct effect on children. During the conflict, thousands of people in Sri Lanka disappeared or went missing, which left children to care for themselves. Although some of these children have been reunited with family members, most of them have been abandoned, are homeless and do not have access to aid. At the time of the conflict between the Sinhalese National Army and the rebel groups, it was common for children to be recruited to fight. Having brothers in conflict against each other was also a common reoccurrence, since they didn't always get recruited by the same side. Although the conflict ended in 2009, many child soldiers continue to have persistent problems from that time. Those children still suffer effects from the armed conflict due to the violence, torture, and cruelty they witnessed or were forced to take part in. Children in Sri Lanka are also faced with child labor. In Sri Lanka, one out of every eight children has a job. Poverty tends to be the main reason for children working, therefore their families have them work in tea plantations or as household help for rich families.[41]

Tamil Population

In Sri Lanka, those who belong to the Tamil communities may not be respected by everyone in the country and face discrimination. A segment of the population views them with hostility and believes that they refuse to be part of the Sri Lanka society. According to a United Nations report from the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Tamil population continues to face challenges including high levels of poverty, poor compensation for work, poor working conditions, and poor housing conditions. This ethnic minority also faces difficulty gaining access to health services, obtaining citizenship documents, and lack access to quality education opportunities. Due to the difficulty obtaining identity and citizenship documents, Tamils face challenges in opening bank accounts or owning homes.[42]

Women

Women across Sri Lanka continue to be impacted by adversities arising from prolonged conflict in the nation. During the civil war, Tamil speaking women in the northern and eastern regions endured hardships inflicted by both the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Sri Lankan military and government.[43] During the Marxist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) insurrections in the south during the 1970s and 1980s, many women also lost family members and are still searching for answers on their lost loved ones. After the end of the conflict with the LTTE in 2009, many women, both from the north and south, have campaigned for justice for women's encounters of rape and sexual violence, the killings of family members, involuntary enlistment, and the destruction of dwellings and villages.[44] These protests have raised attention to these issues on the national and international agenda. Yet, while attention on transitional justice issues has been brought to the forefront, the remnants of war continue to perpetuate human sufferings, especially on conflict-affected women. Women continue to have a lack of information on unaccounted family members, displacement from their property, economic deprivation, psychological suffering, and are susceptible to continued sexual violence and corruption.[45] Photo 7 depicts a Tamil woman cooking in what remains of her old home in the village of Kurivisuttakulam, in Northern Sri Lanka.[46]

Photo 7: Tamil Woman

Trafficked Persons

The 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report by the United States Department of State has listed Sri Lanka as Tier 2. Tier 2 countries are the countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), although the countries are making substantial attempts to attain compliance with the standards. Although the Government of Sri Lanka has made noteworthy efforts to counteract human trafficking, the government has not completely met the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

The 2017 TIP report indicates the Government of Sri Lanka has shown increasing efforts through the implementation of new anti-trafficking units and developing a special police division for the safeguarding of witnesses and victims of all offenses. The 2017 TIP stated that the Government of Sri Lanka investigated 18 officials for falsifying documents in order to offer workers employment in a foreign country, and took legal action and convicted more traffickers than in the previous reporting period. However, the Sri Lankan government did not meet the minimum standards in several key areas:

- At times, the governments' inconsistent identification of victims resulted in the penalization of victims for prostitution and for immigration violations committed as a result of the victims' subjection to trafficking;
- The government provided no specialized services to male victims and sometimes housed child victims in government detention centers; and
- The government maintained specific requirements for migration of female migrant workers including those migrating for domestic work, which observers stated increased the likelihood women would migrate illegally and therefore heightened their vulnerability to human trafficking.

The 2017 TIP report recommended that the Government of Sri Lanka should enhance efforts to investigate and prosecute suspected traffickers and convict and punish offenders, including allegedly complicit officials and convict and punish offenders with sentences commensurate with other serious crimes.[47]

Economics

The 2016 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Sri Lanka was approximately US$ 81 billion. GDP growth came in at 4.0 percent in the second quarter of 2017. Natural hazards, predominately a prolonged drought event, impacted the agricultural sector. However, the agricultural sector has begun to recover. The industrial and services sectors have been the primary contributing sectors to growth in 2017. Both industries have shown exponential expansion, with the industrial sector benefitting considerably due to increased construction. Export growth has continued to increase in 2017, with earnings from foreign freights increasing.[48]

The agriculture industry in Sri Lanka has prosperous business interactions with some of the world's largest agriculture companies. Agriculture accounts for 15.1 percent of the country's GDP. Additionally, agriculture accounts for approximately 25 percent of Sri Lanka's total export revenues, and nearly a third of Sri Lanka's workforce is employed in the agriculture sector. Sri Lanka's primary agricultural goods include; tea, rubber, and coconut which are commonly exported as raw products and processed out of the country, therefore they yield less economic returns than processed goods. The Government of Sri Lanka is working progressively to intensify domestic production and to process products under the Sri Lankan name. The government has increased interest in rice production, horticulture, and fishing; however, the acquisition of plantation land, specifically for international investors, may be an ongoing issue.

Historically, apparel production has been Sri Lanka's principal commerce and the primary foreign-exchange product. Apparel productions employ 17 percent of the Sri Lankan workforce and account for approximately 60 percent of the nation's industrial exports. The Sri Lankan apparel and textile sector has substantially profited from the preferential tax arrangement from the European Union (EU) and enterprises from the United States (U.S.). Sri Lanka's apparel sector has more competitive laborers such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Cambodia. Sri Lanka is burdened with labor shortages, predominantly unskilled workers, harsh labor policies, and increased labor and production costs as compared to competitors in the region, which have all been contributing factors in the decline of the apparel sector.[49]

Additionally, the tourism sector in Sri Lanka

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has shown steady growth in the last three decades and has become a critical industry for the nation. An increased production in the manufacturing industries, which offer a variety of exports such as petroleum products, leather goods, textiles and electronics, has provided stimulation to the national economy.[50] Table 1 depicts the Sri Lanka economic data for 2012 to 2016.[51]

Government

Sri Lanka's current constitution dates to 1978, although the government is in the process of reforming it. The 1978 constitution established the executive presidency. Since the implementation of the executive presidency (1978-2016), six executive presidents have been

elected in Sri Lanka. Two of them have served two consecutive terms, and one was assassinated during the first term. The current President, Maithripala Sirisena was elected in 2015.[52] The 1978 constitution established that an elected president serves as the chief of state, head of government, and the commander in chief of the Sri Lankan Armed Forces.[53] President Sirisena, after his 2015 victory, pushed through a 19th amendment to the constitution which limits the power of the executive presidency, and established multiple oversight commissions.[54]

The Sri Lankan President appoints and serves as the head of a cabinet of ministers responsible to Parliament. The President's deputy is the prime minister, and directs the ruling party in Parliament. However, the President of Sri Lanka is accountable to Parliament for the application

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Population (Million)	20.7	20.8	21.0	21.1	21.3
GDP per Capita (USD)	3,313	3,567	3,785	3,813	3,811
GDP (USD Billion)	68.4	74.3	79.3	80.5	81.0
Economic Growth (GDP, annual variation in %)	9.1	3.4	5.0	4.8	4.4
Consumption (annual variation in %)	2.6	7.0	5.7	8.8	0.9
Investment (annual variation in %)	21.7	-8.8	7.2	1.2	18.1
Industrial Production (annual variation in %)	1.5	-0.5	6.1	9.1	-2.5
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.4
Fiscal Balance (% of GDP)	-5.6	-5.4	-5.7	-7.6	-5.4
Public Debt (% of GDP)	68.7	70.8	71.3	77.6	77.2
Money (annual variation in %)	18.3	18.0	13.1	18.9	-
Inflation Rate (CPI, annual variation in %, eop)	9.2	4.7	1.3	4.6	4.5
Inflation Rate (CPI, annual variation in %)	7.5	7.0	2.8	2.2	4.0
Policy Interest Rate (%)	9.50	8.50	8.00	7.50	8.50
Exchange Rate (vs USD)	164.0	171.6	173.5	151.0	161.8
Exchange Rate (vs USD, aop)	127.6	129.1	130.6	136.1	146.2
Current Account (% of GDP)	-5.7	-3.4	-2.5	-2.3	-2.4
Current Account Balance (USD bn)	-3.9	-2.5	-2.0	-1.9	-1.9
Trade Balance (USD billion)	-9.4	-7.6	-8.3	-8.4	-9.1
Exports (USD billion)	9.8	10.4	11.1	10.6	10.3
Imports (USD billion)	19.2	18.0	19.4	18.9	19.4
Exports (annual variation in %)	-7.5	6.3	7.1	-5.2	-2.3
Imports (annual variation in %)	-5.4	-6.2	7.9	-2.5	2.5
International Reserves (USD)	6.9	7.5	8.2	7.3	6.0
External Debt (% of GDP)	54.2	53.7	54.2	55.7	-

Table 1: Sri Lanka Economic Data

of responsibilities under the Sri Lankan constitution and laws. Under the decree of the Sri Lankan constitution, the Parliament with the concurrence of the Supreme Court, reserves the right to remove the elected president from office by a two-thirds vote.[55]

Elections in Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan government is made up of the President and Legislature which are elected on a national level. Elections are held every five years. The President of Sri Lanka is elected by the people. Members of Parliament are directly elected; however, vacant seats during the serving period of a Parliament are filled by nominees from the party that holds the seat. Of the 225 members of Parliament, 196 are elected in multiple seat constituencies from the 22 electoral districts through a system of proportional representation. The remaining 29 are then appointed by the secretary of each party in proportion to the number of votes the party obtained. Sri Lanka has a multi-party system where the two dominant parties ally with smaller parties into two major alliances: the United National Front for Good Governance (UNFGG) and the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA).[56] The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) is an umbrella group of parties representing the Tamil people of the north and east, and its leader R. Sampanthan is the current leader of the Opposition in Parliament.[57]

Government Stability

After parliamentary elections in August 2015, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and the United National Party (UNP) agreed to form a coalition government to push forward good governance reforms.[58] The UNP and SLFP maintain opposing political philosophies, however, and agreement on specific reforms has been uneven.[59] Both parties reached an agreement in 2017 to extend their arrangement until the next parliamentary election in 2020.[60]

Environment

Geography

The island of Sri Lanka lies in the Indian Ocean, to the southwest of the Bay of Bengal. The Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait separate Sri Lanka from the Indian subcontinent. A wide range of topographic features such as extensive faulting and erosion, have shaped over time, making Sri Lanka one of the most geographically diverse places in the world. The country is divided into three zones based on elevation (the central highlands, the plains, and the coastal belt).[61]

Sri Lanka is mostly made up of plains that are between 30 and 200 meters (98 and 656 feet) above sea level. In the southwest, ridges and valleys rise to merge with the central highlands, which give a divided appearance to the plain. In the east and north, the plain is flat and it is divided by long, narrow ridges of granite running from the central highlands. Photo 8 depicts the Kotmale plains in Sri Lanka.[62] There is a coastal

Photo 8: Kotmale Plains in Sri Lanka

belt of about thirty meters above sea level that surrounds the island. Much of the coast consists of sandy beaches indented by coastal lagoons.[63]

Borders

Sri Lanka is a tropical island, therefore; it does not share borders with any country.

Climate

Sri Lanka has warm weather, but it is moderated by the ocean winds and moisture. The mean temperature ranges from a low of 15.8° C (60.4° F) in Nuwara Eliya, part of the central highlands, to a high of 29° C (84.2° F) in Trincomalee, on the northeast coast.[64]

The climate in Sri Lanka is tropical and consists of very distinctive dry and wet seasons. The average temperature of Sri Lanka usually ranges from 28 – 32 degrees Celsius (82.4 – 89.9 degrees Fahrenheit) which may differ due to global weather conditions as a whole. The coldest months according to the mean monthly temperature are December and January while the warmest months are April and August.[65]

Climate Change

Climate change in Sri Lanka has caused weather aberrations through the country. This has resulted in extreme weather events, which have become increasingly common. Farmers and agricultural workers are faced with the highest impacts due to the hard-to-predict rains. In addition, the increased frequency of flood and drought occurrence in the last ten years has caused severe hardships to farmers across Sri Lanka. Many coastal regions are affected by climate change, and a large proportion of the population resides in these Maritime Provinces. Deforestation has taken a toll on the climate in Sri Lanka. Even though the climate supports forest growth and virtually the entire land area was once covered with forests, deforestation has made soils less productive and has affected the natural water supply. The majority of water resources in Sri Lanka are generated by the hills in the central region, which intercept the moisture-laden monsoonal winds from the south-west and north-east. This creates a unique rainfall pattern and the surface water is transferred by 103 distinct natural river basins that cover 90 percent of the island. The available surface water is primarily used for agriculture and hydro-electricity generation.[66] Sri Lanka has an extremely complex water management system spread across multiple government authorities and Ministries, which leads to water management that is not sensitive to disaster resilience or the effects of climate change. In light of the prolonged agricultural drought, and the effect on the hydro-electricity generation, Sri Lanka is starting to examine ways to change its water management.[67]

SRI LANKA
Disaster Overview

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Disaster Overview

Hazards

Many natural hazards such as floods, landslides, cyclones, droughts, wind storms, coastal erosion, tsunamis, sea surges, and sea level rise threaten Sri Lanka. These natural disasters have caused loss of life, and vast damage and destruction to property.[68]

Sri Lanka has two monsoon seasons. Between May and September the south-western monsoon brings rain to the south-west of Sri Lanka, making the dry season in this region from December to March. The north-eastern monsoon affects the north and eastern coastal regions of the country, which produces wind and rain from October to January, and drier weather from May to September. There is also an inter-monsoonal period during October and the first half of November, when rain and thunderstorms can occur across the island.[69] These seasons are increasingly unpredictable.[70]

Flood

Floods are the most reoccurring natural hazard in Sri Lanka. Of the 103 river basins in Sri Lanka, ten rivers are considered major. Among these major rivers Kelani, Gin, Kalu, Nilwala, and Mahaweli are vulnerable to floods. People are forced to live in these areas due to the increase in population and need of land; this increases the risk of loss of life and property in the event of major floods. Heavy rainfall, deforestation, improper land use, and the absence of scientific soil conservation practices are also major contributing factors for floods in Sri Lanka. Additionally, urbanization has created issues because of insufficient infrastructure facilities such as drainage systems. Inadequate drainage in urban areas triggers flash floods. Climate change impacts have also increased rainfall intensities which perpetuates urban flooding. The Southwest monsoon rains affect the districts of Kegalle, Ratnapura, Kalutara, Colombo, Gampaha, and Galle, while the Northeast rains affect Ampara, Trincomalee, Badulla, Polonnaruwa, Batticaloa, Matale, and Monaragala.[71]

Landslides

Landslides threaten the life and property of the people in the hill slopes, particularly in the districts of Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Ratnapura, Kandy, and Matale. The highest risk is in the Kegalle District, followed by the Ratnapura and Nuwara Eliya Districts. The cultivation of tobacco on steep slopes, land clearing in the hills, blocking of drainage paths, and the impact of the large reservoir construction further contributes to the frequency of landslides.[72]

Drought

In terms of people affected and relief provided, drought is the most significant hazard in Sri Lanka. Drought occurs in the south-eastern, north central and north-western areas of Sri Lanka due to low rainfall during monsoons. In some areas, consecutive years of drought have resulted in lasting impacts on the livelihoods of persons residing in the affected regions. Even though Sri Lanka receives an average of 70 inches of annual rainfall, it is unevenly distributed. A large part of the island is drought-prone from February to April and on to September if the subsidiary rainy season from May to June is dry. The south-eastern district of Hambantota and the north-western region of the Mannar and Puttalam have a higher risk of drought. Due to heavy rainfall, the risk of drought is less in the south-west corner of Sri Lanka.[73] Twenty out of twenty-five districts have been affected by drought since late 2016, affecting approximately 1.8 million people. The drought has impacted the primary and secondary harvests of 2017, as the total amount of rice cultivated in 2017 is less than half of that produced in 2016.[74]

Tsunami

While Sri Lanka is far away from the plate boundaries, it is close enough to the highly active seismic zone near Sumatra and other regions to its south-east where earthquakes may cause a tsunami hazard in Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka, tsunamis are extremely infrequent. Sri Lanka experienced a tsunami in 1883 and in 2004.

Sri Lanka has a tsunami warning system that is in disrepair.[75] While earthquakes cannot not be predicted in advance, once the earthquake is detected there is a one hour notice of a potential Tsunami for every 500 km (310 miles) of distance from the epicenter. This warning system is in place across the Pacific Ocean.[76]

Cyclone

Sri Lanka is mainly affected by cyclone activity generated in the Bay of Bengal. The eastern, northern, and north central regions are the cyclone prone areas of Sri Lanka. Although

cyclones do not occur frequently in Sri Lanka, cyclones are not totally outside the range of disasters.

Sri Lanka has endured four severe cyclones within the last 100 years, as well as a number of severe and moderate storms. Cyclones passing through Sri Lanka originate from the Bay of Bengal during the north-east monsoon season which develops in November and lasts a few months. In Sri Lanka, 80 percent of cyclones and storms occur in November and December. Incidences of cyclones passing through Sri Lanka in other seasons are rare due to the island's geography and the regional climatology.[77]

Recent History of Natural Disasters

Cyclone and Floods, November 2017

A cyclone occurred in November 2017 and impacted Colombo, Ratnapura, Matara, Kalutara, and Galle.[78] More than 13,000 people across the Jaffna District were affected by flooding caused by rain from the northeastern monsoon. The Disaster Management Center (DMC) reported that 235 homes were damaged and 46 destroyed.[79]

Floods, May 2017

Heavy rains were received on 25 May to the south-western watersheds in the country. A large amount of rain was received within 12 hours in the south-west region, including Namunuthanna, Bulathsinghela, Morawaka, and Walasmulla leading to riverine floods of the Kalu, Nilwala and Gin rivers. Approximately 717,622 people were affected in 15 Districts and 212 deaths were reported. Additionally, over 2,313 houses were fully destroyed and an estimated 12,529 houses were partially damaged.[80] The Agricultural record shows that the event was a 40 year return of this nature.[81]

Drought, 2016-2017

Since late 2016, the country has been experiencing severe drought and considered to be the worst drought in 40 years. Twenty out of twenty-five districts have been affected by drought, affecting approximately 1.8 million people. The drought has also been linked to a sudden rise in Dengue fever. The rise of the disease is partly attributable to the low levels of water in many water reservoir tanks, providing a breeding area for mosquitos that spread the fever. Reservoirs (available water sources) country-wide are at alarming low levels with 18.5 percent

full, compared to 51 percent at the same time the year before.[82]

Tropical Cyclone, Flooding, & Landslides, May 2016

Sri Lanka was hit by a severe tropical storm that caused flooding and landslides in 22 out of 25 districts. This caused severe damage to homes and put entire villages under water. The landslide in Aranayake (Kegalle District) devastated three villages.[83] The disaster affected almost half a million people, and caused a loss in income for over a million people dependent on agriculture, trade and industries. Over 200 people lost their lives or remain missing and a total of 90 healthcare institutions were either directly or indirectly affected. The President of Sri Lanka declared a state of emergency in several districts.[84] Extensive relief operations were conducted at national, provincial, district, and divisional levels.[85] These relief operations were supported by the Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force, civil society organizations, the private sector, and by individual contributors.[86] The meteorological record shows that it was a 25 year returning flood.[87]

Floods and Landslides, September 2015

Heavy rain resulted in floods and landslides in September 2015 and affected approximately 138,600 people in 14 of the 25 districts. In addition, more than 52,500 people were affected by flooding in the Jaffna District in the Northern Province in Sri Lanka. Many were displaced due to the high risks of landslides in the Badulla District. The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society responded to various emergencies as a result of the floods and landslides.[88]

Floods and Landslides, December 2014

Approximately 1.1 million people were affected by floods, landslides, and high winds. It affected 22 out of the 25 districts. Thirty nine people were killed. Over 6,400 houses were destroyed and approximately 18,537 were damaged.[89]

Drought, August 2014

Sri Lanka received below average rainfall from September 2013 to March 2014, leading to prolonged drought. Over 1.8 million people in 16 districts were affected. The Government of Sri Lanka, INGOs, and the Red Cross responded.[90]

Floods and Landslides, June 2014

The southern region of the country received heavy rainfall and high winds in a relatively short period of time in June 2014. A massive landslide in the Kalutara District was caused by heavy rainfall in just six hours. The floods and landslides affected approximately 104,500 people and caused 27 deaths, affecting eleven out of the country's 25 districts. Approximately 1,300 houses were damaged and 288 houses were destroyed.[91]

Tropical Cyclone, May 2013

Cyclone Mahasen affected Sri Lanka by causing heavy rains and landslides on May 14.[92]

Country Risks

Deforestation

Deforestation in Sri Lanka has become an issue affecting water quality, food security, and coastal conservation.[93] The climate in Sri Lanka promotes forest growth and virtually the entire land area was once covered with forests, but deforestation has made soils less productive and has affected the natural water supply.[94] Currently, the Government of Sri Lanka is attempting to increase forest cover from 24 percent to 35 percent by 2020.[95]

Coastal Erosion

Sri Lanka has a coastline of 1585 km (985 miles) and more than half of the 21.2 million people living in Sri Lanka live in the coastal districts. The economic importance of the coastal areas has increased further with rapid urbanization, the development of commercial harbors (Colombo, Galle and Trincomalee), fishing harbors and anchorages, main lines of communication (road and rail) recreational facilities and tourism. It has been estimated that over 50-55 percent of the shoreline is subjected to or threatened by coastal erosion. The effects of coastal erosion are largely felt in the west, south-west, and southern coastal belt. Coastal erosion severely affects infrastructure facilities such as the railway, road system and disturbs economic activities along the coast such as fishing, recreational, and other coast-related activities.[96]

Sea Level Rise

Sea level rise in Sri Lanka has occurred at a mean rate of 1.8 mm (0.04 inches) per year for the past century. Recently, during the satellite altimetry sea level measurement, the sea level rates were at a range of 2.9-3.4 mm (0.11-0.13 inches) ± 0.4-0.6 mm (0.02-0.023 inches) per year from 1993–2010. Sri Lanka's marine ecosystem will be highly affected due to sea level rise. Other issues caused by sea level rise are the increase of soil salinity and the deterioration of water quality.[97]

Country Risk Profile

The exposure of hazards in a country, how vulnerable the country is, as well as the coping capacity of a country are important factors in Disaster Risk Management. Figure 1 shows INFORM's (Index for Risk Management) risk profile for Sri Lanka. INFORM is a global, objective, and transparent tool for understanding the risk of humanitarian crises. INFORM is a composite indicator, developed by the Joint Research Center, combining 53 indicators into three dimensions of risk: hazards (events that could occur) and exposure to them, vulnerability (the susceptibility of communities to those hazards) and the lack of coping capacity (lack of resources that can alleviate the impact). The index results are published once every year. They give each country an overall risk score of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 the highest) for each of the dimensions, categories, and components of risk. The higher the score the more vulnerable a country is. The purpose of INFORM is to provide an open, transparent, consensus-based methodology for analyzing crisis risk at global, regional or national level. Sri Lanka has a 2017 Hazard and Exposure risk of 4.5/10; a Vulnerability score of 3.5/10; and a Lack of Coping Capacity score of 4.1/10. Physical exposure to tsunamis and floods are the highest.[98]

	Value	Rank	Trend (3 years)
INFORM Risk	4.0	82	➜
Hazard & Exposure	4.5	60	➜
Vulnerability	3.5	80	➜
Lack of Coping Capacity	4.1	111	➜

Figure 1: INFORM's Country Risk Profile for Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA
Organizational Structure

Organizational Structure for Disaster Management

Figure 2 depicts the organizational structure of disaster management in Sri Lanka.[99] This includes the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), the Ministry of Disaster Management (MDM), the Department of Meteorology (DOM), the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), the National Building Research Organization (NBRO), and the National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC).[100]

The highest disaster management body of Sri Lanka is the National Council for Disaster Management. It is chaired by the President and vice-chaired by the Prime Minister and is composed of different line ministries involved in all phases of Disaster Management. The Council's main implementing body is the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights. The Ministry houses the Disaster Management Centre, the secretariat of the Disaster Management Council.[101]

Lead Government Agencies in Disaster Response

In December of 2004, Sri Lanka experienced a devastating tsunami disaster which resulted in than 35,000 deaths, and caused approximately a million people to be internally displaced. As a result, a Parliamentary Select Committee was established to define an institutional and legal structure to prepare for and respond to disasters. As a result of the recommendations from the select committee, the Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005 was passed by Parliament and subsequently, the National Council for Disaster Management and the Disaster Management Centre were established. A Cabinet Ministry was formed called the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights (now called the Ministry of Disaster Management).[102]

The lead government agencies in disaster response include the Ministry of Disaster Management (MDM), the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), Department of Meteorology (DOM), Disaster Management Centre (DMC), National Building Research Organization (NBRO), and the National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC).[103]
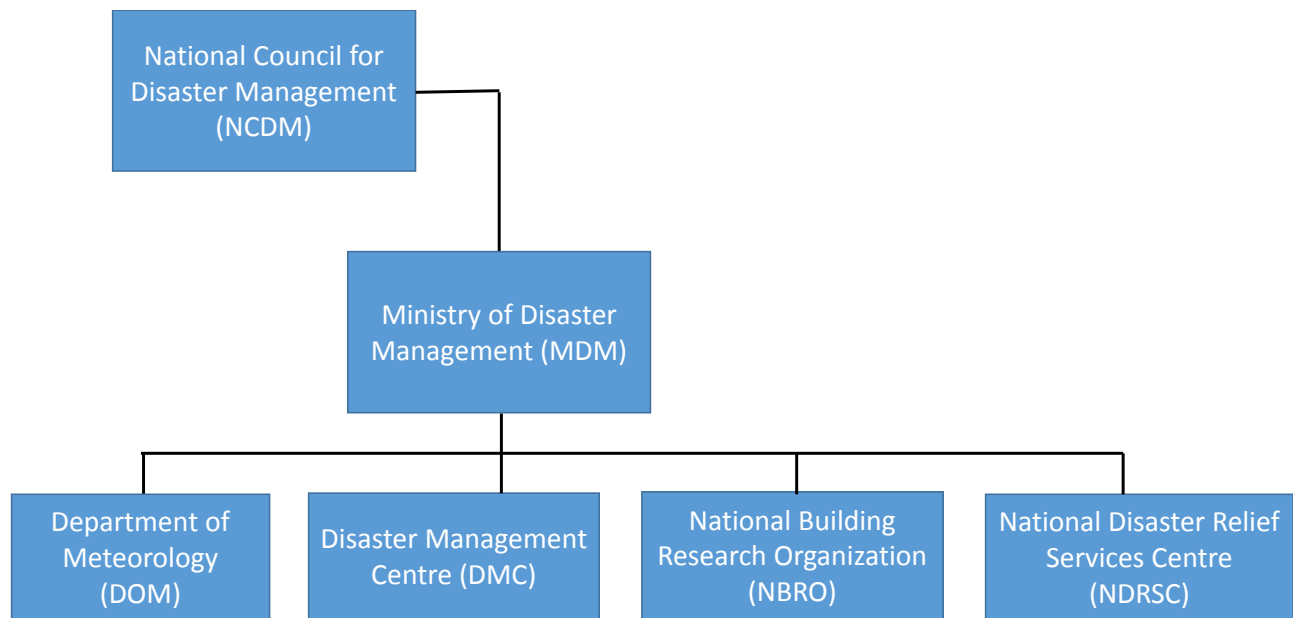
Figure 2: Organizational Structure for Disaster Management in Sri Lanka

National Council for Disaster Management

The National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) is the supreme body for disaster management in Sri Lanka under the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005. It works side by side with the Ministry of Disaster Management.[104] While the NCDM is the head council, it does not currently hold a functional role.[105]

Ministry of Disaster Management

The Ministry of Disaster Management functions under the role of Secretary and two additional Secretaries for 1. Relief & Development, and 2. Administration & Finance. Further, the secretariat for the NCDM function is under the Director at the Ministry. The Ministry of Disaster Management carries out the following major interventions:[106]

- Implementation of disaster prevention and mitigation projects identified in the Ten Year Road Map for Disaster Risk Mitigation;
- Planning and implementation of disaster preparedness activities and creation of a culture of safety among communities;
- Issuing and dissemination of early warning messages and developing linkages through regional cooperation schemes;
- Capacity development of key stakeholders involved in disaster early response teams and early relief activities at national and sub national levels; and
- Conducting disaster management awareness and training programs for pre-determined target groups to facilitate coordination among key partners involved in disaster management.

The Ministry of Disaster Management has authority over the Department of Meteorology, the Disaster Management Centre, the National Building Research Organization, and the National Disaster Relief Services Centre. In September 2015, the following functions were assigned to the Ministry of Disaster Management:[107]

- Formulation of policies, programs, and projects, monitoring and evaluation in regard to the subject of disaster management;
- Coordination and management of activities in relation to mitigation, response, recovery and relief in natural and man- made disasters;

- Facilitation of the development of the National Disaster Management Plan and the National Emergency Operation Plan based on national policies;
- Initiation and coordination of foreign aided projects for disaster mitigation, response and recovery;
- Liaison with ministries, government institutes and agencies, private institutes, and local and foreign nongovernmental organizations to ensure timely execution of above activities;
- Encouraging research and development into appropriate technology for housing and construction sectors; and
- Coordination of international humanitarian relief service programs.[108]

Department of Meteorology

The major functions of the Department of Meteorology includes the provision of meteorological, climatological and limited astronomical services; the provision of early warning services with regard to meteorological hazards and tsunami; and to contribute to technical activities on climate change.[109] The national Tsunami Early Warning Centre also lies within the department.[110]

Disaster Management Centre

The Disaster Management Centre was established as the executing arm of the National Council for Disaster Management in accordance with the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005. The Centre coordinates and collaborates with ministries, departments, agencies, local and national authorities, armed forces, police, international and national NGOs in regards to managing disaster risk reduction in Sri Lanka.[111] As soon as the Disaster Management Centre gets a warning from the Department of Meteorology, they send the warning to their subscriber base of media, police, military, and other networks.[112] The Disaster Management Centre has line offices in all districts and coordinates with the district Government Agent and then replicates down to the Divisional Secretariats. This may compete with the National Disaster Relief Centre (NDRC) at the district level and lead to confusion.[113] The Centre has the following objectives/roles:[114]

- Development and implementation of National Disaster Management Plan and National Emergency Operation Plan under the provisions of the DM Act.[115]

- Provide hazard and risk information using appropriate methods to enable proper disaster management decisions;
- Formulate and implement mitigation strategies for potential future losses;
- Provide for accurate early warnings and ensure their effective dissemination;
- Build capacity to respond quickly and effectively to disasters;
- Enable competent emergency operations management;
- Effective management of post-disaster activities; and
- Improve community understanding of risks in order to enhance their resilience in the face of disasters.[116]

National Building Research Organization

The role of the National Building Research Organization is to promote disaster mitigation, preparedness and safety through disaster education, research and training often by using a technology aspect. The organization has line offices in most districts, coordinates with the district Government Agent, and provides the following services:[117]

- Geo technical and foundation engineering and soil investigation and testing;
- Landslide related studies, mitigation, and slope stability measures early warning and real time forecasting;
- Human settlement planning design of cost effective housing and training;
- Testing and quality control of construction materials, guidance and training to the industry;
- Environmental quality monitoring and advisories, environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments, watershed health risk assessments and management, monitoring air, water, waste water, soil, and noise and vibration monitoring for environmental compliances;
- Total consultancy services on architectural, structural, engineering, and preparation of tender documents and tender evaluation reports for building projects. Investigation of structural safety of buildings and associated structures;
- Research and development in the field of housing construction technology;
- Research and development on disaster mitigation; and
- Research on and provision of limited early warning services for, landslide hazards.

National Disaster Relief Centre

The National Disaster Relief Centre handles preparation, response, and recovery measures assigned to it and has the following functions:[118],[119]

- Planning and implementation of programs to meet impact of disasters;
- Providing relief assistance to victims of disasters and coordination of national and international relief assistance;
- Monitoring, coordination and evaluation the activities of disaster response and recovery with relevant authorities and parties concerned;
- Implementation of recovery programs to regain and reestablish livelihood and economic activities disrupted by disasters;
- Contribution to sustainable development programs of the affected areas through disaster response and recovery;
- Examine and reorganizing existing relief assistance program to ensure for providing excellent services to disaster victims; and
- Preparation of divisional level disaster contingency and action plan to each divisional secretariats.

The NDRC has line offices in all districts and coordinates with the district Government Agent and then replicates down to the Divisional Secretariats. This may compete with the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) at the district level and lead to confusion.[120]

Organizations in Sri Lanka

Figure 3 shows the operational presence of organizations and agencies in Sri Lanka as a result of the floods and landslides that occurred in May, 2017.[121] The southwest monsoon triggered flooding and landslides in Sri Lanka's southwest provinces.[122] The agencies which provided assistance (as of July 2017) include Alliance Development Trust (ADT), World Health Organization (WHO), World Vision Sri Lanka (WV-SL), SL Red Cross, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (A-PAD), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Sarvodaya, United Nations Volunteers (UNV), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) SL, Americares, Habitat for Humanity SL, International Labor Organization (ILO), Lanka Evangelical Alliance & Development Services (LEADS), Muslim Aid, Oxfam, Peace Winds

SRI LANKA: Floods and Landslides (3W)
Operational Presence of Agencies - as of 27 July 2017

UNITED NATIONS
SRI LANKA

Number of agencies per district

- 19-24
- 6-8
- 1-3
- No reported responding agencies

Mullaitivu

Vavuniya

Trincomalee — LEADS

Batticaloa

ADT
WHO
WV-SL

A-PAD, Sarvodaya
SL Red Cross,
UNICEF,
WHO, WV-SL

Gampaha

Kegalle

WV-SL

A-PAD, IWMI,
Sarvodaya
SL Red Cross
UNV, WHO

Colombo

Nuwara
Eliya

ACTED/HELVETAS
/People in Need,
A-PAD,
Americares,,
Humedica Int.
ILO, IOM, IWMI,
Islamic Relief SL,
Japan Emergency
NGO, LEADS,
Muslim Aid, Oxfam
Plan Int. SL,
Sarvodaya,
SL Red Cross,
Team Rubicon UK,
UNFPA,
UNICEF, UNV,
WFP, WHO, WV-SL

ADRA SL, ADT, A-PAD,
Americares,
Habitat for Humanity SL,
ILO, IWMI, LEADS, Muslim
Aid, Oxfam, Peace Winds
Japan, Sarvodaya, SL Red
Cross, UNFPA, UN-Habitat,
UNICEF, WFP, WHO, WV-SL

Kalutara

Ratnapura

ADRA & Muslim Aid SL,
A-PAD, ADT, ChildFund
SL, Humedica Lanka,
IOM, IWMI, LEADS,
Sarvodaya, Save the
Children, SL Red Cross,
UNFPA, UN-Habitat,
UNICEF, UNV, WFP,
WHO, WV-SL

Galle

Matara

Hambantota

A-PAD, CBM &
Navajeevana,
IWMI,
LEADS, SL Red
Cross, WHO,
UNFPA

ADRA & Muslim Aid SL, A-PAD,
CBM/Navajeevana, Handicap Int.,
Humedica SL, IOM, IWMI, Islamic
Relief SL, LEADS, Muslim Aid, Oxfam,
PARCIC, Plan Int., Sarvodaya,
Save the Children, SL Red Cross,
Team Rubicon UK, UNFPA, UNICEF,
WFP, WHO

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used
on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

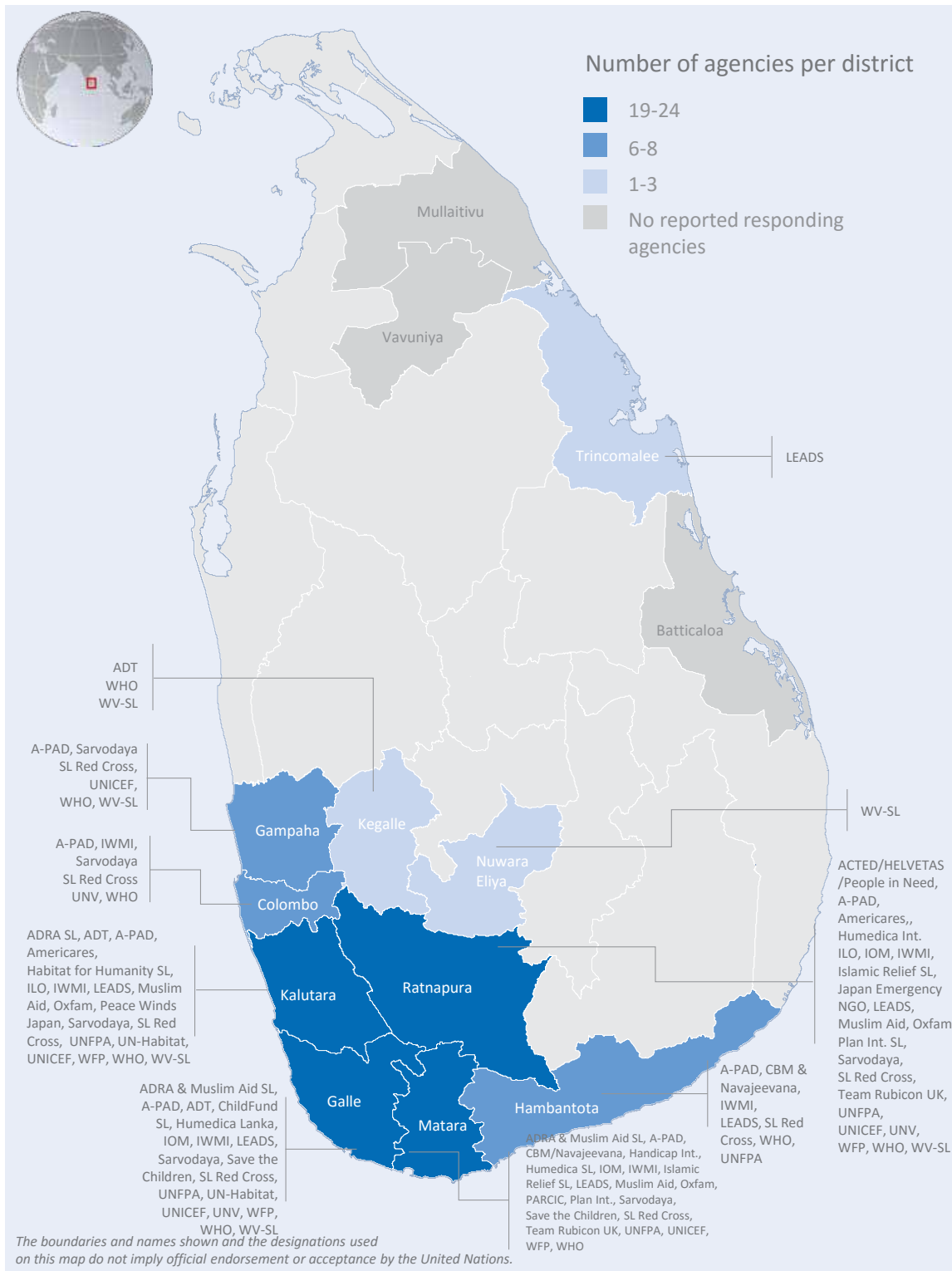Creation date: **29 July 2017** | Sources: Operational Agencies| Feedback: rco.lk@one.un.org

Figure 3: Operational Presence of Agencies in Response to Floods and Landslides

Japan, UN Habitat, World Food Program (WFP), ADRA & Muslim Aid SL, ChildFund SL, Humedica SL, UN International Organization for Migration (IOM), Save the Children, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), CBM/Navajeevana, Handicap Int., Oxfam, PARC Interpeoples' Cooperation (PARCIC), Plan Int., Team Rubicon UK, ACTED/HELVETAS/People in Need, Japan Emergency NGO, and Oxfam Plan Int. SL. Assistance included aid to food security, shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI), Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Coordination, Health, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), and Search & Rescue sectors.[123]

UN agencies are also committed to assisting Sri Lanka in disaster response and include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN-Habitat, ILO, The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UN Women and Financial Planning Association (FPA), UNFPA, IOM, and UNICEF as previously mentioned as providing assistance to the May floods.[124]

These humanitarian organizations coordinate through the Humanitarian Country Team which are chaired by the UN. Since the May 2017 floods, groups have been functioning in a "Sector" model, similar to the cluster system, which has improved coordination and learning, and reduced redundancy.[125]

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS)

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) is the National Society of the Red Cross in Sri Lanka. SLRCS mobilizes its organization and volunteers to carry out disaster response. It has a disaster management program that aims to improve institutional preparedness for disaster management and community preparedness for disaster risk reduction. The SLRCS also maintains a readiness to respond to natural and manmade disasters. The SLRCS is also engaged in DRR activities by strengthening early warning systems thus improving Sri Lanka's resilience to future disasters.[126]

Formerly the Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society, the SLRCS was established through a Royal Charter in 1951. Based on its charter, SLRCS has the legal mandate to provide "aid to the sick and wounded irrespective of nationality, in time of war or in the case of any great public disaster, calamity or need" within Sri Lanka. Since 2004, the

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), also enjoys diplomatic status in Sri Lanka and is recognized by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to operate in country under the Diplomatic Privileges Act No. 9 of 1996 by virtue of its Legal Status Agreement.[127]

The SLRCS has expanded its DRR initiatives up to the community level; it has also provided support to national levels and has been involved in regional and global level initiatives in disaster management. They have established strong collaboration with the other stakeholders involved in DM especially with the Sri Lankan Government. The SLRCS is a member of National Disaster Management Committee (NDMCC). The SLRCS has partnered with other Red Cross societies, organizations from the corporate sector, as well as non-governmental organizations such as World Vision Lanka, Oxfam Sri Lanka, Direct Relief USA, and UNHabitat Sri Lanka.[128]

As part of its auxiliary role, the SLRCS actively assists the Sri Lanka government in disaster risk management assistance to internally displaced persons and health. SLRCS has been particularly active in disaster relief and recovery efforts after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Under the 2011 amendment to the Disaster Management Act of 2005, the SLRCS and other government organizations are identified as "designated agencies" which may be called upon by the Minister for Disaster Management to assist the Disaster Management Centre.[129]

SLRCS and IFRC are members of the Community Based Disaster Risk Management and the Preparedness and Response Plans and Program working groups, respectively, under the 2006 Road Map for Disaster Risk Management. SLRCS continues its active engagement in disaster management implementation under the Sri Lanka Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme for 2014-2018. It is also part of the National DM Technical Committee, an expert panel established under the 2011 amendment, and is identified as an actor in institutionalizing DRR and CCA plans at the village level.[130]

U.S. Government Agencies in Sri Lanka

USAID

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works with the government and the people of Sri Lanka to help the citizens of the country benefit from

nationwide progress, in coordination with the USAID regional Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).[131] USAID/Sri Lanka works closely with the Government of Sri Lanka on disaster preparedness and response. They have helped mitigate the loss of lives and property resulting from flash floods and landslides. USAID brought the lead designer of the World Meteorological Organization's Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) to Sri Lanka to work with the Ministry of Disaster Management.[132] USAID also supports coordination and technical assistance to the Ministry and the Humanitarian Country Team.[133]

In recent years, USAID/OFDA responded to four natural disasters that resulted in more than 470 deaths across Sri Lanka: flooding and landslides in May 2017, flooding and landslides in May 2016, flooding in December 2014, and a landslide in October 2014. USAID/OFDA supported humanitarian partners to provide emergency relief supplies, as well as WASH assistance, to disaster-affected populations. USAID has worked very effectively on disaster response and recovery. For example, a small grant to Sarvodaya resulted in lives saved between the 2016 and 2017 floods in Colombo and Gampaha Districts. Thanks to cleaning of water channels in those districts, neglected for nearly 45 years, during the May 2017 rains, the area did not flood, and the community diverted the excess water from these channels for paddy cultivation. Further, thanks to the disaster preparedness activities, the communities were proactive and knew where to go, what to do, and what to take with them, and no lives were lost. The GN, DS, and Sarvodaya field staff from Rathnapura, Kalutara, Matara, and Galle highlighted that the USAID-supported project with Sarvodaya was the first to respond immediately after the disaster and thanked them for reaching the most affected. This is in line with global best practices in disaster relief, going local goes further.[134]

In addition to disaster response activities, USAID/OFDA supports disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects in Sri Lanka to build capacity for disaster early warning, response, and mitigation at the national and community level. Through $1 million, USAID/OFDA is supporting local NGOs to promote rainwater harvesting systems in areas of Sri Lanka that receive erratic rainfall, while establishing flood-resistant water systems in disaster-prone areas to mitigate future risks.[135] Cumulatively, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly $17.4 million since FY 2001 to support stand-alone DRR projects and programs that integrate DRR with disaster response in Sri Lanka.[136] The USAID office in Sri Lanka is located below:[137]

USAID Sri Lanka
No.44, Galle Road
Colombo 3
Sri Lanka
Phone: +94 (11) 249-8000
Email: infosl@usaid.gov

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy in Colombo, Sri Lanka leads the American government's effort to promote and defend American interests in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.[138] It has an American Citizen Services (ACS) Unit located at the Embassy that provides services to U.S. citizens visiting and residing in Sri Lanka and Maldives.[139] The address of U.S. Embassy Colombo is located below.[140]

U.S. Embassy in Sri Lanka
210 Galle Road
Colombo 03
Sri Lanka
Phone: +94 (11) 249-8500
Fax: +94 (11) 243-7345

Participation in International Organizations

Sri Lanka participates in the following international organizations:[141]

Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (ABEDA), Asian Development Bank (ADB), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Bay of Bengal Initiative (BIMSTEC), Commonwealth (C), CD, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) (observer), Colombo Plan (CP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Group of 11 (G-11), Group of 15 (G-15), Group of 24 (G-24), Group of 77 (G-77), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) (national committees), Institute of Catastrophe Risk Management (ICRM), International Development Association (IDA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Finance Corporation (IFC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS),

International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Mobil Satellite Organization (IMSO), Interpol, International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Organization of American States (OAS) (observer), Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Prudential Corporation Asia (PCA), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) (dialogue member), United Nations (UN), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), United Nations Interim Security Forces for Abyei (UNISFA), United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Customs Organization (WCO), World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU), World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), World Trade Organization (WTO).[142]

Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response

Sri Lanka has focused their foreign relations around attracting donor aid to increase investment into their economy in order to support development. They are keen on maintaining an independent foreign policy, which in turn will allow them to balance their relationships with China and the U.S., while maintaining a key bilateral relationship with India.[143]

During the 2017 disasters, many foreign governments assisted with disaster relief support. The Disaster Relief Service Centre cleared foreign aid given by a number of countries. Among the countries that provided aid were the U.S., Japan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Maldives, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Bahrain, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and Malaysia.[144] The Government of Sri Lanka designated a duty free facility to the Ministry of Disaster Management.[145] In addition to monetary aid, the U.S. supported Sri Lanka during the 2017 floods by also sending the air assets, personnel and USS LAKE ERIE to provide relief support operations.[146]

Laws, Policies, and Plans on Disaster Management

Disaster Management Act and Policy
The Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act was enacted in 2005. This provides the legal basis for a DRM system in the country. The Act established the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), the appointment of technical advisory committees, and the preparation of disaster management plans.[147] The NCDM is chaired by the President, vice-chaired by the Prime Minister with participation from opposition, and Chief Ministers of the Provinces. This high-level oversight body provides direction to DRM work in the country.[148]

National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP)
The National Disaster Management Plan, which was prepared in 2009, was revised taking into consideration aspects such as climate change and effects of extreme weather during the last two years. The plan was approved by the NCDM and the Cabinet of Ministers.[149] The next version of NDMP is underway focus on more investment in DRR under the Sendai Framework for DRR, 2030 global agenda.[150]

National Emergency Operation Plan (NEOP)
The NEOP identifies the roles and responsibilities of different agencies involved in emergency operations and includes communication mechanisms at the national and sub national levels and among agencies.[151]

Education and Training

The Training, Education, and Public Awareness Division provide training and public awareness for various levels of the community in Sri Lanka. Several different programs fall under the division; below you will find more details on their training capacities:

National Level Training in Disaster Risk Management

The Training Division of the DMC conducts training and awareness in collaboration with other divisions within the DMC and with funding available through other sources.

Special Training Programs at Sub-National Levels

Provide training related to risk assessment, preparedness, and early warning, response, relief, recovery, and reconstruction activities.

Disaster Management Incorporation to Primary Education Curricula

The Sri Lankan Ministry of Education has taken the necessary measures to incorporate disaster management education in primary education programs with the development of the 'National Guidelines for School Disaster Safety'. Adolescents in the primary education system and educators may provide a means for sharing information on disaster awareness and for developing a culture of safety in educational institutions and community outreach.[152]

In the aftermath of the 2004 Tsunami, the Government of Sri Lanka recognized a need for incorporating disaster management education and awareness into the primary education system. Various governmental and also NGOs began to implement awareness and preparedness programs in to the education of teachers and students. Additionally, emergency management plans were developed for schools. The Ministry of Education was the lead agency in coordinating disaster management and education programs and provided orientation and guidelines for a unified incorporation into all schools. The DMC provided support in defining the Sri Lankan school disaster safety strategy.[153]

General Public Awareness

Public awareness programs are organized with the involvement of the DMC District Units, various government stakeholder agencies, NGOs, and media.[154]

Implementation of Training and Capacity Building Programs

A sum of Rs. 3 million (USD 20,000) was allocated in 2016 to conduct training programs to improve the knowledge, attitudes and skills of the officers in the head office of the National Disaster Relief Service Centre and disaster relief service officers attached to the district and divisional secretariat divisions.

Disaster Management Communications

Early Warning Systems

One of the main responsibilities of the DMC is to capture risk and hazard early warning information and to evaluate risk and communicate them through early warning mechanisms.[155] The Disaster Management Center (DMC) along with development partners working in Sri Lanka have established early warning systems with local and international technical agencies and a 24-hour Emergency Operations Center.[156]

Responsible Agencies for Flood and Storm Warning

The Department of Meteorology is the primary responsible agency to issue Hydro-meteorological warning along with Department of Irrigation.[157] The DMC serves as the primary agency responsible for coordinating early warnings, along with relevant technical agencies and Technical Committees. The Emergency Operations Centre is in charge of maintaining constant coordination with all technical agencies responsible for natural and man-made hazards and is responsible to inform all responsible officers for communication dissemination to the sub-national levels and communities.[158]

The DMC will be responsible for:
- Maintenance and operation of early warning towers and early warning dissemination equipment;
- Dissemination of early warning messages to include remote villages;
- Co-ordination of donor assistance to strengthen capacity of technical agencies for early warning;
- Development of strategies and policies in the affected area;
- Initiating awareness on activities related to early warning; and

- Guiding District Disaster Management Units in the coordination and implementation of warning dissemination related activities at the province, district, local authority, division, Grama Niladhari and community levels.[159]

Other Responsibilities
- Establish coordination with the local technical agencies responsible for forecasting different hazards;
- Establish communication system from technical agencies to the Emergency operating Centre (EOC) and to Provincial/District Control Rooms directly or through (EOC);
- Ensure alternative communication systems are in place;
- Dissemination of information through communication with the media; and
- Create awareness among communities on the communication system in use for early warning and what immediate actions to be taken before, during, and after a disaster.[160]

Disaster Risk Management
In the past decade the economic and physical impacts of natural disasters in Sri Lanka have been substantial. Persistent flooding and drought conditions have had far reaching economic and socio-economic effects. The Sri Lankan Government, with the assistance of the World Bank, is working to implement measures to improve Sri Lanka's resilience to natural disasters and climate change. The Climate Resilience Improvement Project (CRIP) seeks to significantly lessen the vulnerability of at risk populations, especially in rural areas. The project aims to access climate hazards and to increase the government's capability to act in response, effectively to potential disasters.[161]

Communication Systems for Early Warning Dissemination
The existing system of communication from the national level to lower levels is primarily by means of the police and armed forces communication systems, radio communications, multi-hazard early warning towers, media outlets and telecommunications. Nation-wide communication systems are established and the DMC has established a system to notify vulnerable communities promptly. The Nation-wide Emergency Communication System establishes a method of early warning for:

- Cyclones, floods, landslides, epidemics, sea surges, tsunami and storms;
- Impending floods due to dam breach, rapid opening of sluice gates; dam and reservoir related floods;
- Flooded areas, and closure of roads and bridges that have become impassable; and
- Evacuation routes and safe areas.[162]

Military

The Sri Lankan military consist of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Civil security in the country is administered by the Sri Lankan police.[163] The SLA (Sri Lankan Army) provides protection from domestic and international threats. The SLA is organized, qualified, prepared, and capable to deal with moderately low-level, but high-intensity intermittent insurgent operations. The Sri Lankan armed forces have the resources and experience in responding to natural disasters and are usually the first responders.[164]

The responsibilities of the SLA include the elimination of LTTE weapons, clearing of minefields, and the removal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) throughout the country. The army also participates in United Nations peacekeeping missions. The SLA has deployed troops to the UN missions in Haiti and Lebanon, and observers to the UN missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, South Sudan, and Western Sahara. Additionally, the SLA has an important function in the execution of humanitarian and construction assistance programs established to deliver support for approximately 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDP's) under the auspices of the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms. The SLA is also tasked with national reconstruction and infrastructure development projects.[165]

The Sri Lankan military agencies play a massive role in emergency management with their capacities on search & rescue efforts. Civil-military coordination is a major concern of the Ministry of Disaster Management, and both the USAID and UN agencies are supporting enhancement of the coordination especially on urban rescue efforts. The UN is facilitating the Ministry of Defense in obtaining International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) certification for global recognition for these SAR teams.[166]
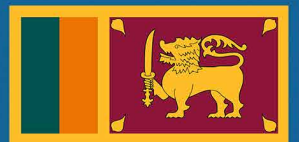
SRI LANKA
Infrastructure

Infrastructure

Airports

Sri Lanka has two international airports, Bandaranaike International Airport Colombo located in Katunayake (22 miles north of Colombo) and Mattala Rajapaksha International Airport in Hambantota. The lack of non-military airports outside Colombo limits the availability of air service in-country. [167]

Colombo Airport is the central hub for Sri Lankan Airlines. The airport is one of the most active hubs in the region and operates direct flights to Asia, Europe, the U.S., Oceania, and Middle Eastern countries. Colombo Airport operates three terminals: an international passenger terminal, a domestic passenger terminal, and one cargo terminal. More than 35 airlines operate in and out of the Colombo Airport. The Colombo Airport is presently being expanded to accommodate up to 15 million annual passengers. [168]

The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport, located in southeast Sri Lanka, is an international airport serving the city of Hambantota. It can accommodate over 800 foreign passengers. The airport was designed to support air-sea cargo transportation and shipments in conjunction with the Hambantota Port, located 15 miles away. The first phase of construction of the airport was completed in 2012. The airport will be Sri Lanka's second international airport upon completion. The second phase of construction is expected to be completed in 2018. The Chinese Government provided financial assistance for the project. The airport was built by the China Harbor Engineering Company and is managed by the Sri Lanka Airport and Aviation Services Ltd.[169]

Seaports

Sri Lanka Ports Authority

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) was constituted under the provisions of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority Act, No. 51 of 1979 (subsequently amended by Act No. 7 of 1984 and Act No. 35 of 1984) on the 1st of August 1979, effecting the merger of the Colombo Port Commission Department and the two existing statutory corporations. This resulted in a unified organization with a streamlined structure. The Ports Authority does not receive financial allocations from the government, but operates on its own revenue and resources.[170]

Photo 9 depicts the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.[171]

Photo 9: Sri Lanka Ports Authority

Colombo Port

Colombo Port is a rapidly growing maritime hub of the South Asia Region. Cargo originating from and destined to Europe, East and South Asia, the Persian Gulf, and East Africa is conveniently connected through the Colombo Port. The Colombo Port is primarily a container port. In 2015, it handled about 5.1 million TEU of containerized cargo. The original port had a harbor area of 184 hectares. In 2008, the South Harbor area (285 hectares) was developed to accommodate deep water berths and the latest generation of mainline vessels. The harbor is served by a two-way channel with an initial depth of 20m and a width of 570m. In addition to the container terminals in the original port area, the Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA) planned to develop three terminals (each having capacity of 2.4 million TEU) in the South Harbor, the first of which was built and in operation on a build operate-transfer (BOT) basis by Colombo International Container Terminals Limited (CICT), a joint venture company of China Merchants Holding (International) Co. Ltd and SLPA.[172]

Galle Port

Galle Harbor is a natural harbor located in south-western Sri Lanka. Galle port functions as one of the most operational regional ports in Sri Lanka. This is also the only Sri Lankan port which can accommodate pleasure yachts.[173]

Trincomalee Port

Trincomalee harbor is a natural harbor and its water and land area is about 10 times that of the Port of Colombo. Trincomalee caters to bulk, break bulk cargo, and port related industrial activities including; heavy industries, tourism, and agriculture.[174]

MRMR Port

The construction of Hambantota Port is one of the major development projects that have been undertaken by Sri Lanka Ports Authority. The port development work is scheduled to be implemented in phases. Phase I developments has already been completed while phase II development is in progress. This port is located very close proximity to the major international east-west shipping route and well positioned at a strategic location on maritime gateway to India. A large number of ships pass Sri Lanka daily along this shipping route and creates good business opportunities for providing services like supply of fuel, water, and crew changes in addition to the usual port operations. On domestic trade perspectives, it is better positioned with direct roadway connection to the southern, central and eastern areas of the island and serves the southern half of the island through linking with the central and eastern provinces by roads. The harbor area is protected by 312m and 988m long two breakwaters. An access channel of 210m width and 17m depth is provided with a turning circle of 600m diameter and 17m deep to facilitate vessels up to 100,000 DWT.[175]

Oluvil Port

The Government of Sri Lanka has elected to build a port in Oluvil under the "Nagenahira Navodaya" Program which was launched to accelerate growth activities in the region. Increased priority was given for the Oluvil Development Project and this port will serve as the catalyst for the growth of the eastern region of Sri Lanka. The port will form the southeastern link in the developing chain of coastal harbors in the country and will provide more suitable and cost effective access to and from the southeastern region for supplies and freight coming from the west coast.[176]

Kankesanthurai Port

A project is planned for the Kankesanthurai Port in order to repair and rehabilitate the existing breakwaters, piers, and roads including dredging, wreck removal and construction of a new pier. The dredging process to turn the basin up to a depth of 8m has already been completed to ensure cargo handling work may be conducted continuously without interruptions.[177]

Land Routes

Roads

Sri Lanka is a densely populated island and has one of the highest road densities in the region. Sri Lanka has a road network of 109,000 km (67,729 miles). The network is focused in the greatly populated southwest and Colombo region. The road network in Sri Lanka is the primary means of transportation for passenger traffic and freight due to the underdeveloped railway network in the country. The greater parts of paved roads in Sri Lanka are classified as Class A (Trunk) or Class B (Main) highways. A majority of the road infrastructure was

developed in the 1950s, and the majority of the inter-city highways are narrow single or two lane roads. Road congestion is regularly a problem in the capital city.

In spite of recent improvements to the road network, and significant government spending, the road network has continued to deteriorate because of insufficient attention to fix and maintain roads in rural areas, and the extremely high vehicle concentration in urban regions of Sri Lanka. There are an estimated three million registered vehicles in Sri Lanka and the number of registered vehicles has continued to increase by ten percent each year. Sri Lanka also has a high occurrence of traffic related accidents which contribute to significant issues associated with the road system.

Significant expansion projects have been introduced in recent years which included the development of five expressways; Colombo-Katunayake Airport, Colombo-Matara, Colombo-Kandy, and an Outer Circular Highway for Colombo. However, many of the expansion projects have been deferred because of political concerns and numerous changes in the Sri Lankan Government. In March 2007, the global construction firm, Vinci, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work on the Colombo-Katunayake expressway.[178]

Railways

During the British Colonial rule, the railway network was developed. Currently the railway network in Sri Lanka is minimal and is only responsible for a small portion of the nation's transport needs. The railway in Sri Lanka is predominately utilized for passenger transport and has minimal capacity for the transportation of goods and supplies. Rail travel in Sri Lanka is slow and the routes are limited.[179]

Sri Lanka's railway is comparatively small and is in a state of deterioration. In the late 1800's the railway was developed to transport coffee from the hill country to Colombo. Later the railway network was extended to transport coconut and rubber and to import Tamil laborers from the south of India. With the exception of providing a link with the port of Trincomalee, the southern and eastern regions of the island were ignored during railway development.

At present in Sri Lanka the development and maintenance of the railway network is the responsibility of Sri Lanka Railways (SLR), a government department that functions under the Ministry of Transport. The total length of operational railway track is 1,640 km (1,019 miles). Passenger transport and the transportation of goods are among the primary purposes of the railway system. The Government of Sri Lanka is considering programs to create international technical and financial assistance in order to implement improvements to the railway network; however these plans have been meet with little interest.[180] Photo 10 depicts the Sri Lanka Railway's Kandy Station.[181] Table 2 depicts the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation operation statistics from 2011 to 2016.[182]

Photo 10: Kandy Station, Sri Lanka Railway

Year	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016
Total trips operated (Both passenger and Goods trains)	119,392	121,782	122,269		128,747
Number .of Passengers Carried (in millions)	96.11	106.05	118.71	133.29	-
Length the passengers carried on (Km in million)	4,574.19	5,039.45	6,257.38	7,407.39	-
Quantity of goods carried (Km in millions)	153.9	142.4	133.0	-	-
Quantity of goods loaded (Tons in millions)	1.934	2.059	1.910	127.39	-
Number of trains a day	-	-	-	398	-
Number of Passenger trains per day	-	-	-	366	379
Number of goods train per day	-	-	-	32	20
Number of passengers carried a day	-	-	-	360,000	359,037
Number of employees (permanent & casual)	-	-	-	16,559	14,353

Table 2: Sri Lanka Railways Operational Statistics

Waterways

Sri Lanka has a relatively large river and lake network. The majority of the rivers and lakes in Sri Lanka stem from the central highlands. The waterways extend to the plains of Sri Lanka and eventually reach the sea. Waterways in the upper highlands are typically not navigable due to the rivers velocity and turbulent conditions. In the central highlands many of the rivers run over high cliffs and create waterfalls. In the lower regions rivers slow down as they navigate through the vast flood plains and deltas.

The longest river of Sri Lanka, the Mahaweli, extends for 330 km (205 miles). The Mahaweli River runs northeastward across the central highlands and pours into the Bay of Bengal on the eastern coast of the island. The second longest river in Sri Lanka is the Aravi Aru, extending nearly 220 km (136 miles) on a northwest path, from the central highlands to the Gulf of Mannār.

Photo 11 depicts the Mahaweli River in Sri Lanka.[183]

There are no natural lakes in Sri Lanka; however, multiple dams on the Mahaweli River and various other rivers throughout the country have fashioned sizeable reservoirs. Additionally, multiple smaller reservoirs, some dating over 2,000 years old, are present in the north central plains; the smaller reservoirs are called tanks and are utilized to store water for the drier seasons.

The majority of the Sri Lankan landscape is dry and fosters only a small number of permanent rivers. Though, in the southwestern region there are areas known as wet zones which have plentiful rivers flowing into the central plains. The various river basins in the central plains foster prevalent populations of aquatic plants, bivalves, and fish. Sri Lanka is also known for their abundant freshwater species.[184]

Photo 11: Mahaweli River, Sri Lanka

Schools

Sri Lanka has 10,390 government schools. Schooling is required for children from ages five to thirteen. Education in Sri Lanka is state subsidized and provided free of charge, including the universities. Education is a high priority of the Sri Lankan government. The government has worked progressively to progress the national education system and accessibility to education at all levels. The Government of Sri Lanka provides free textbooks and all national curriculum is sanctioned by the Ministry of Education (MoE). Literacy rates and educational attainment have steadily risen since Sri Lanka gained independence in 1948. The Sri Lankan national adolescence literacy rate is 97 percent. English is taught as a second language in the majority of Sri Lankan schools.

The education system in Sri Lanka is separated into five levels: primary, junior secondary, senior secondary, collegiate, and tertiary. Sri Lanka has fifteen universities. All universities are public institutions. Other options for higher education include medical schools, engineering schools, schools of law, technical and vocational training schools, and National Colleges of Education. Admissions at the undergraduate level to public universities are based solely on tests results and are exceedingly competitive. Six percent of the students who take the admittance examination are admitted to universities. Sri Lanka also has seven Post Graduate Institutes.[185]

Photo 12 depicts Zahira College in Dharga Town, Sri Lanka.[186]

Communications

Roughly 30 percent of the Sri Lankan population had access to the internet in 2017; however, relatively high cost continues to be a factor. Cellular phone usage in Sri Lanka has continued to increase.[187]

The Sri Lankan constitution affords freedom of expression. The formation of republic states in Sri Lanka implemented a concept which conveys that the rights of the state remain with people. State and the public institutions are upheld by the

Photo 12: Zahira College, Dharga Town, Sri Lanka

tax earnings of the people. This development of republic states establishes that the people have the right to be informed of how public funding is utilized to support specific functions of the state.[188]

Three mechanisms are in place to safeguard the people's right to information and include:

- Access to information: this denotes that the ability of people to receive information with no hindrance. It means the free availability of information and also diverse range of means of receiving information are operated within the society. The ensuring a state of affairs that enshrines no censorship or restriction on media and having freedom of access to information without any undue influence;

- Responsibility of state institutions to publish information: State institutions should be embedded with a responsibility to establish an enabling ambiance for people to have access to information which are significant for them. It will also be the obligation of the state to guarantee that the information are available for people in a simple and an understandable manner; and

- Responsibility to release information: signifies the obligation of releasing information affiliated to different personnel upon a due request. Subject to exceptions such as state secrets, people should have the right to demand information from state institutions. Releasing private information and information related to accomplishments being done using the public tax funds is a responsibility of public officials. It is a right of the people to receive such information without any delay and with complete accuracy.[189]

The 1979 Prevention of Terrorism Act encompasses exceedingly wide-ranging limitations, such as a ban on bringing the government into contempt. Additionally, the Official Secrets Act of Sri Lanka prohibits reporting on classified information, and persons that are convicted of disobeying the provisions may be imprisoned for to up to 14 years.[190] In 2003 the Sri Lankan Government rescinded criminal defamation laws, but government representatives and political persons continue to bring about civil cases, resulting in considerable charges, versus the media. The recognized Sri Lankan Governmental code administering civil servants, actively dissuades the right to use information on public-interest bases. Efforts by

the opposition to establish a right to information law in the government have been dejected on multiple occasions by the governing majority.[191]

The 1973 Press Council Act, revived in 2009, makes it illegal to release specific financial, defense, and security information. In Sri Lanka the broadcasting authority is not self-governing, and licensing verdicts can be subjective and politically partial. Approximately one third of websites that apply for licensing are approved, due to rules imposed by regulations. In December 2013, the Government of Sri Lanka announced that because of a shortage of frequencies, the government would no longer license new radio or television stations. Additionally, Sri Lankan journalists, predominantly individuals who report on human rights or armed forces concerns, are met with government opposition.[192]

Utilities

Power

According to Sri Lanka's Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy, the country faces many challenges in the energy sector. The economy has to manage indigenous energy resources and imported fossil fuels. The country's energy supply is mainly based on three primary resources including biomass, petroleum and hydroelectricity. The electricity main supply is run by state sector institutions, the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and Lanka Electricity Company (Pvt) Ltd (LECO).[193] Figure 4 shows the total electricity coverage as of September, 2015.[194]

Water and Sanitation

The drought which has affected Sri Lanka since late 2016 has caused 25 percent of households to be seriously concerned about access to drinking water. The World Food Programme (WFP) completed assessments in August 2017, which showed that 45 percent of communities reported their closest reservoirs of water are empty, as shown in Figure 5.[195] The lack of rainfall has developed into the worst drought in 40 years in Sri Lanka.[196] There has been a trend of increasing seasonal water scarcity in the drier areas of Sri Lanka over the past twenty years. This may cause inter-group disputes over water-sharing.[197]
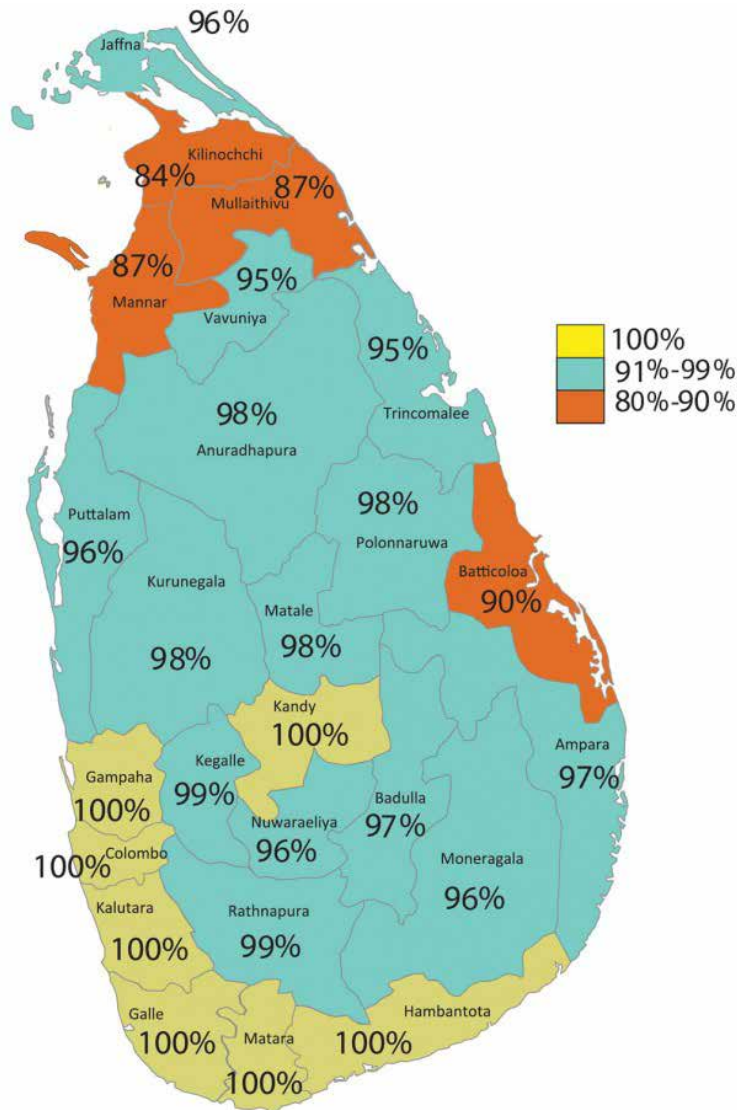
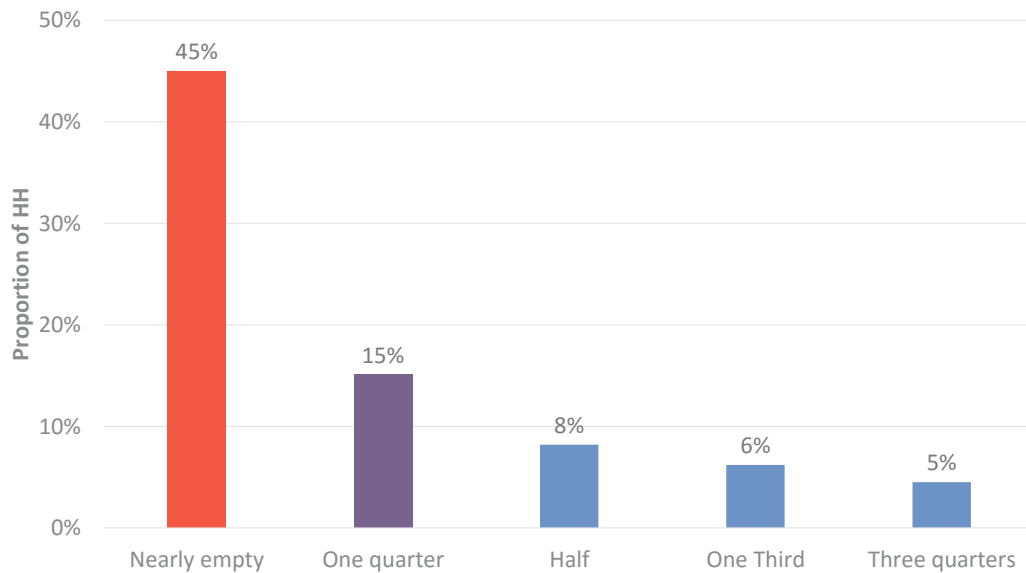Figure 4: Electricity Coverage in Sri Lanka

Figure 5: Community Water Levels Affected by Drought Conditions

SRI LANKA
Health

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Health

Health Overview

With a rapidly aging population, rural to urban migration, and an increased burden of non-communicable diseases throughout Sri Lanka, the healthcare system and accompanying healthcare costs to Sri Lanka are undergoing a significant transition. In addition to demographic and epidemiological shifts, increasing prosperity and education throughout Sri Lanka have contributed to a notable increase in healthcare seeking behavior. Sri Lanka has taken concrete action to accelerate the transformative agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), closely monitoring progress in the implementation of SDG 3, "to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." The primary causes of mortality and morbidity in Sri Lanka are cardiovascular disease, suicide, and cancer. In addition to NCDs, there continues to be a high risk of infection and transmission of communicable diseases in Sri Lanka, including HIV/AIDS, Dengue Fever, Tuberculosis and Leprosy.[198]

Sri Lanka continues to adopt and implement health system strengthening activities with sustained political and financial commitments to healthcare, which have significantly reduced the incidence of many communicable diseases throughout the country, to include the elimination of malaria, a disease that had affected Sri Lanka since the 1970s, and lymphatic filariasis.[199] Sri Lanka's model of primary healthcare, available free throughout Sri Lanka through the government health system, and significant improvement in social and economic status over the past decade, ranking 73 out of 188 countries in the 2016 Human Development Index (2016), has further complimented these activities.[200]

Sri Lanka has successfully reduced maternal, neonatal and infant mortality levels in recent years, however, progress on further reducing these numbers have stagnated due to an increased number of infant deaths resulting from prematurity and birth defects, resulting in Sri Lanka's renewed focus to develop approaches to overcoming these challenges. Despite good health indicators at the national level, maternal and child undernutrition continues to be a major challenge in Sri Lanka, resulting in greater susceptibility and interaction with infections, effects on cognitive development, educational attainment, and adult productivity.[201] This issue was further exacerbated by the country's worst drought in 40 years, resulting in significant harvest declines throughout the country. According to the 2016 Global Food Security Report, 22 percent of Sri Lankans are undernourished and over 40 percent of the population in the Northern and Eastern Provinces are food insecure. The prevalence stunting (height for age) among children under five years of age was 17.3 percent while prevalence of underweight (weight for age) and wasting (height for weight) were 20.5 percent and 15.1 percent, respectively, per the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine's 2016 Demographic and Health Survey.[202]

While significant improvements in Sri Lanka's health indicators have been made on behalf of the national government, the health system will continue to be challenged by socio-economic, epidemiological, demographic and technological transitions. New policies and initiatives are being introduced to bring greater health benefits to the population and reduce disparities in healthcare and socioeconomic inequalities throughout the country.[203]

Healthcare System Structure

Sri Lanka has an extensive network of public health units and hospitals spread across the country, centrally governed through the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine. Reporting to the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Provincial Health Services, overseeing provincial and district-level healthcare services and activities, provide a wide range of preventive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare services throughout the country. Healthcare is provided by the government, private sector, and a limited portion is provided by the non-profit sector.[204] There is western (allopathic) and indigenous (Ayurveda) systems of health services in the country and both are supported by the government, and cater to large numbers of patients. In the western system, the ratio of doctors is 1 for every 3,000 people. The ratio for hospitals is 9 for every 3,000.[205]

Challenges in the Healthcare System

Government provided healthcare services are free, but access to these services remain

inconsistent. There are also allegations of corruption within hospital waiting lists. There is reliance on tertiary and secondary level hospitals and under-utilized primary care facilities that often lack staff and adequate services. Medical facilities in the north and east are poor and on the decline.[206]

Health Cooperation

A number of organizations are actively cooperating with Sri Lanka to build capacity within the health sector, including United Nations agencies (International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Development Program, United Nations Family Planning Association, United Nations Children's Fund, World Food Program and the World Health Organization), international NGOs, multi-lateral and bi-lateral organizations (World Bank, Asia Development Bank, United States Agency for International Development, Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and others), and several academic institutions. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and the GAVI Alliance are also making significant contributions to the health sector, complemented by other global health initiatives.[207]

Compared with the past 30 years, rainfall during the North-Eastern monsoon season in 2016 was highly erratic and far below average in many parts of the country.[208] Twenty out of twenty-five districts have been significantly affected by the 2016 drought in terms of health, economic activity, livelihood, and food insecurity.[209] In August 2017, World Vision Sri Lanka extended their classification of the drought as a Category 2 Disaster. As of September 19, 2017 an estimated 2 million people have been affected.[210] This causes a significant health and wellbeing burden on the country.[211] Food insecurity has been deteriorating and increasing in the drought affected regions. Some regions are reaching alarming levels of poor/borderline food consumption.[212] The drought has also been linked to a sudden rise in Dengue fever. The rise, in part, is attributable to low levels of water in storage tanks causing a breeding site for mosquitos that spread Dengue fever. The government has responded by providing drinking water and dry food rations and household items. The Sri Lankan Army is helping the government with the distribution of supplies. In addition, a National Agricultural Insurance Plan was initiated as well as an agricultural compensation plan for destroyed crops due to the drought that the country has been experiencing.[213] UN agencies and NGOs are providing assistance by addressing short and long-term needs in these communities, including health. They are supplementing the government's programs with cash programming activities.[214]

Communicable Diseases

Sri Lanka has made significant progress in the prevention and control of communicable diseases throughout the country. As previously noted, Sri Lanka achieved two major public health milestones in 2016 through the elimination of both malaria and lymphatic filariasis, representing several years of collaborative efforts on behalf of the government, public health system, and healthcare workers.[215] In 2016, the WHO declared and certified Sri Lanka to be malaria free.[216] Sri Lanka remains alert to rising rates of HIV/AIDS cases, tuberculosis, dengue fever and leprosy, requiring additional political and financial commitments, and addressing the underlying social determinants associated with these diseases.[217]

The WHO in Sri Lanka has focused in the following areas:
- Prevention and control of vaccine preventable diseases;
- Prevention and control of emerging and re-emerging diseases such as Leptospirosis, Dengue, Cutaneous Leishmaniosis and other zoonotic diseases;
- Reinforcing the country's ability to sustain the communicable disease elimination efforts by national capacity building in the areas of surveillance, research, and legislation;
- Supporting the strengthening of the existing disease surveillance system by expanding it to capture morbidity data from the out-patient departments of public and private medical facilities;
- Reviewing the disease control programs and providing technical assistance to improve the weaker areas in implementation;
- Strengthening capacity in outbreak preparedness and response, including pandemic preparedness and response;
- Preparation of mid-term strategic plans and budgeted operational plans;
- Resource mobilization efforts mainly for TB,

HIV, and malaria control programs;
- Providing new and quality assured technologies mainly for diagnosis and management of diseases; and
- Conduct of operational research for evidence-based decision making.[218]

Dengue

Sri Lanka has experienced an increase in the number of Dengue cases reported in the past year. From January 2017 to July 2017, there were 82,543 confirmed dengue cases reported, including 250 deaths, reported by the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine. The number of cases in 2017 is three-and-a-half times more than the average number of cases reported for the same period between 2010 and 2016.[219]

Leprosy

In 1995, Sri Lanka eliminated leprosy as a public health problem, but in recent years, there have been an estimated 2,000 cases of leprosy reported annually. Leprosy can be cured, but early detection and treatment is important in order to prevent disabilities and deformities.[220]

HIV/AIDS

Overall HIV/AIDS prevalence remains low; however, 235 new cases were detected in 2015. Self-referral for HIV-testing needs to be strengthened among vulnerable groups.[221]

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis has been a difficult communicable disease to defeat in Sri Lanka. In order to control the disease, action inter-sectoral collaboration and engagement of stakeholders beyond the health system is required.[222]

Non-Communicable Diseases

Prevention and control of NCDs is Sri Lanka's greatest public health challenge, increasingly burdening the community with disease, disability, and premature deaths, adversely affecting the economy, and resulting in escalating healthcare costs.[223] The population suffers from cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory diseases. Figure 6 depicts the non-communicable diseases which are

prevalent in Sri Lanka and the mortality rates associated with each disease.[224]

Currently, chronic NCDs are the dominant health problem in Sri Lanka. They are the leading causes of mortality, morbidity, and disability.[225] Seventy-five percent of all deaths in the country are a result from NCDs. The NCD epidemic poses a serious economic issue, as a significant proportion of the annual health budget is spent on NCD treatment.[226] Total healthcare expenditure cost the Government of Sri Lanka an estimated 3.5 percent of Sri Lanka's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (latest figures from 2014).[227]

Training for Health Professionals

Public Health Emergency and Disaster Management Training Courses are conducted by the Health Emergency and Disaster Management Training Center (HEDMaTC) in Sri Lanka. This course is intended for health administrators, clinicians, teaching staff from academic institutions, government administrators, law enforcement officers, city council members, and members from other essential services, who are either involved in formulating or updating national policies, guidelines, and standard operating procedures or training for health sector disaster management.[228]
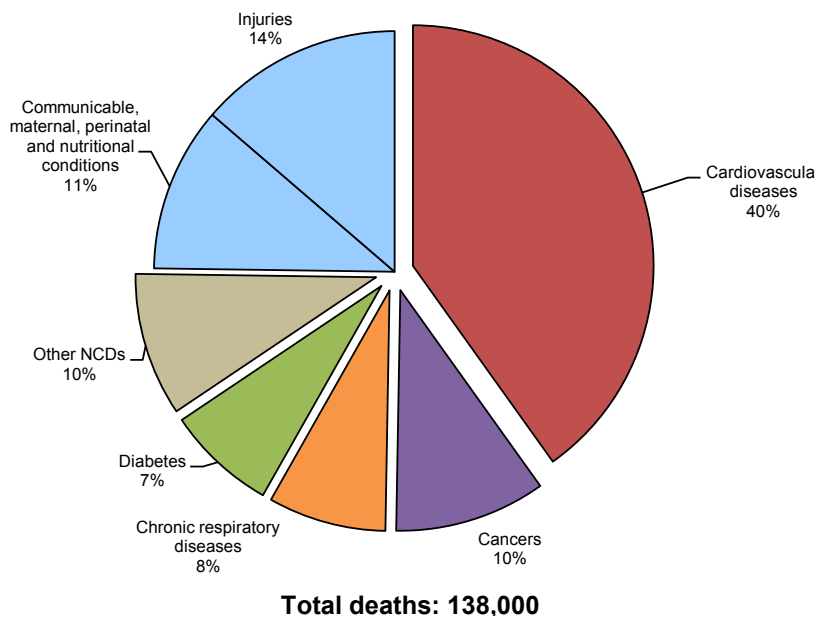

Total deaths: 138,000

Figure 6: WHO Non-Communicable Disease Country Profile 2014

SRI LANKA
Women, Peace, and Security

Women, Peace, and Security

Sri Lanka has had significant advances in the education and health sectors, for both men and women. However, it is lacking with gender inequality in employment and political participation.[229] Only five percent of parliamentarians are women, and women make up less than three percent of local councilors.[230] This places Sri Lanka amongst the lowest South Asian countries on women's representation in political life.[231] Sri Lanka is making strides to address this issue; however, and reform to the law on local elections in 2017 saw the addition of a 25 percent quota for women. Elections under this new law will be held in 2018.[232]

In 1981, Sri Lanka approved the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).[233] This makes women equal to men under the general law, including in inheritance rights, and the 1978 Constitution guarantees fundamental rights and non-discrimination on grounds of sex. Sri Lanka also has a provision for special measures to ensure women's right to equality. There are no legal barriers to women working outside the home, engaging in financial transactions, or obtaining credit.[234]

Even though women's rights are equal by law, women are struggling in different areas. Women in Sri Lanka are falling behind in the workforce, even with their economy expanding, the female labor force declined from 41 percent in 2010, to 36 percent in 2016. This makes them the 14th country with the largest gender gap in the workforce.[235] Sri Lanka is ranked 100 out of 144 countries listed on the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) for 2016. This means that out of 144 countries, 99 have a smaller gender gap than Sri Lanka.[236]

One of most widespread human rights violations in Sri Lanka is violence against women.[237] The current laws have been reinforced to enhance the legal protection for women through amendments to the Penal Code. This includes Amendment No. 22 of 1995 which defined constituted rape, incest and sexual abuse, harassment, and exploitation. However, these violations still remain high.[238]

Women from low-income families have been seeking employment as domestic workers in other countries. The demands of labor in countries like Bahrain, Cyprus, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and the United Arab Emirates, have increased the amount of departures for foreign employment. Most of the female migrant workers from Sri Lanka work as domestic workers, and send remittances to Sri Lanka.[239] The inflow of remittance to Sri Lanka averaged US$ 487.78 million from 2009 to 2017.[240] Figure 7 depicts the remittances to Sri Lanka from 2016 to 2017.[241]

Figure 7: Sri Lanka Remittance Table 2017

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Conclusion

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Conclusion

Sri Lanka has faced many natural disasters in the past including floods, landslides, tsunamis, droughts, and cyclones.[242] With the exception of three months during the year, flooding is a frequent problem which causes problems with landslides, loss of life and property, transportation, the economy, infrastructure, health, education, food security, and clean water.[243] In addition, climate change effects have intensified inconsistencies in temperatures and rain, resulting in increased frequency of floods, droughts and epidemics in the country.[244] Disasters cause economic hardships for the agriculture and fisheries sectors. This greatly affects the population as they rely on agriculture for a source of food and income.[245]

Sri Lanka was affected by the December 2004 tsunami which caused significant damage in the east. The tsunami was triggered by an earthquake that occurred in Sumatra, Indonesia. The tidal wave took about two hours to travel across the ocean and reach Sri Lanka. More than 35,000 people died as a result of the tsunami because in 2004, South Asia did not have a tsunami detection system of its own. Sri Lanka did not have any disaster management mechanism to connect with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii.[246]

Many development partners are working closely with the Government of Sri Lanka Disaster Management Center to reduce the impact of future disasters.[247] USAID/OFDA funds disaster risk reduction initiatives, including flash flood and landslide early warning systems and disaster management capacity-building.[248] There is a strong need for this in the country.[249] Sri Lanka also does not have disaster scenario models like other developed countries have. According to the Sri Lanka Red Cross there is a need for these scenarios to better prepare for future disasters.[250] Improving the early warning system is increasingly important for Sri Lanka because it is hit by a growing number of disasters like floods, cyclones, and storms. The country has a robust system of alerts and interventions once a disaster begins to occur but needs to be better equipped to send out mass early warnings. Mechanisms have yet been put in place to get early warnings sent directly to communities before a crisis hits.[251]

Sri Lanka has made substantial progress in the reduction of poverty, but this progress is unevenly distributed in the country and more efforts are needed to achieve the development goals outlined in the government's medium-term development strategy. Poverty is concentrated in rural areas in the northeast, and income inequality is high. It is suggested that the country improve physical and government service infrastructure neglected since before the war, improve its overall water management, disaster prevention, management, and response, and overall resilience, particularly for vulnerable groups.[252]

SRI LANKA
Appendices

Appendices

DMHA Engagements in the Past Five Years (FY 2012-2017)

September 2017- Enhanced Pacific Airlift Rally Subject Matter Expert Exchange

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) supported the U.S. Pacific Airforce (PACAF)'s execution of the "Enhanced Pacific Airlift Rally Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE): Military's Role in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) from 12-15 September 2017, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The SMEE was designed to share best concepts and best practices with Sri Lankan Air Force (SLAF) medics, civilian disaster management agencies, local NGOs, and others in various medical aspects of disaster response. PACAF and SLAF co-hosted this event. The SMEE was part of a bigger biennial exercise (Pacific Airlift Rally) that brings various nations together for a command post and flying training exercise focused on HADR operations. The exercise scenario involved a cyclone hitting the East Coast of Sri Lanka causing significant infrastructure damage.[253]

September 2017-Sri Lanka Health Engagement

The U.S. and Sri Lankan Marines and Sailors took part in a two week medical capability exchange during the Sri Lanka Health Engagement at Naval Base Welisara, Sri Lanka, from 11-22 September, 2017. Sri Lankan Marines and Sailors reviewed basic life-saving skills and casualty management with U.S. counterparts during the Sri Lanka Health Engagement. The training is intended to not only help save their soldiers in the battlefield, but also in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief situations.[254]

June 2017-Humanitarian Relief Mission in Sri Lanka

More than 400 U.S. Sailors from the Ticonderoga-Class Guided-Missile Cruiser, USS LAKE ERIE (CG 70) provided humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka. A southwest monsoon caused heavy rainfalls, which triggered flooding, and landslides. Thousands of people were displaced, and damage to homes and buildings was significant. The U.S. Sailors worked alongside local government agencies and the Sri Lanka Red Cross to assist local communities with humanitarian relief efforts.[255] Photo 13 shows U.S. Sailors and the Sri Lankan Marines rebuilding a levee during the humanitarian assistance operations.[256]

Photo 13: Humanitarian Relief Mission in Sri Lanka, June 2017

March 2017-Pacfic Partnership

During a bilateral Humanitarian Aid/Disaster Relief Symposium that took place during Pacific Partnership 2017, members of the U.S. Armed Forces and Sri Lankan Air Force and Navy exchanged best practices and lessons learned. This symposium focused on disaster management and relief response in natural disaster scenario-based events such as tsunamis and flooding. Sri Lanka government officials, the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy and their Sri Lankan counterparts discussed many key aspects of disaster relief operations and participated in a Field Training Exercise on the beaches of Hambantota, Sri Lanka. In addition, U.S. and Sri Lankan Navy colleagues provided an opportunity to exercise coordinated sea-based distribution capabilities. Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Asia-Pacific. Through medical readiness and preparedness for manmade and natural disasters, it aims to enhance regional coordination in the region. Pacific Partnership has continued to enhance regional partnerships through civil-military cooperation for the past twelve years.[257] Photo 14 shows Capt. Frances M. Silva conducting an eye exam to a Sri Lankan patient at a medical site during Pacific Partnership 2017.[258]

March 2017-Bilateral Humanitarian Assistance Exercise

The U.S. and Sri Lanka participated in military exchanges focused on the infantry and logistical skills necessary to implement humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in March 2017, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and Sri Lanka participated in a military-to-military exchange for the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group (ARG). Information exchanges included humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training; basic offensive and defensive tactics; combat lifesaving skills; tactical convoy operations; and amphibious assault vehicle familiarization.[259]

Photo 14: Pacific Partnership, 2017, Sri Lanka

November 2016-Galle Dialogue Maritime Security Conference

Commander of U.S. Pacific Command, Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr. visited Sri Lanka November 27-29, 2016 to attend the Galle Dialogue Maritime Security Conference and meet with senior government and military leaders, including President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe. Admiral Harris traveled to Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, to visit sites where U.S. military personnel continue to train with the Sri Lanka Navy in regards to disaster assistance and underwater demining.[260] Photo 15 shows Admiral Harris visiting Sri Lanka government and military leaders during the conference.[261]

Photo 15: Galle Dialogue Maritime Security Conference, Sri Lanka, 2016

August 2016-Pacific Angel

Pacific Angel is a joint and combined humanitarian assistance and civil military operation led by PACAF. Pacific Angel provided medical care in general health, optometry, dental and physical therapy. PACAF provided services to rural Sri Lanka towns because it is difficult for some to make the long trip for medical treatment.[262] Photo 16 shows Staff Sgt. Victoria Campbell, a 154th Medical Group medic, treating a child's head wound during Pacific Angel in Sri Lanka.[263]

August 2016-Sri Lanka Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA)

In Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, U.S. Sailors assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5 and Sri Lankan Navy personnel participated in underwater Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) removal training program during the Sri Lanka Humanitarian

Photo 16: Pacific Angel-Humanitarian Assistance and Civil Military Operation, Sri Lanka

Mine Action (HMA) in August, 2016. EODMU 5 assisted the Sri Lankan Navy in developing its underwater demining capacity and capability to address UXO in Sri Lanka's water.[264]

July 2014-Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA)

USPACOM deployed military EOD personnel to Vavuniya, Sri Lanka, to conduct UXO disposal training as well as conduct an underwater Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) project with the Sri Lankan Command Dive Unit East at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. The UXO disposal training included demining and first-responder medical training, with an emphasis on blast-trauma injuries for the Sri Lankan Armed Forces. Humanitarian supplies, equipment, services, and mine action activities were also provided.[265]

April 2014-Tempest Express 24

The Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT) Tempest Express Staff Planning Workshop took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 1-9 April 2014. Foreign participants included 20 officials from the U.S, Sri Lanka, and representatives from Vietnam, Canada, Bangladesh, Australia, Philippines, New Zealand, Nepal, Maldives, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore, Thailand and Japan. During the exercise the participants discussed how they can extend support to each other during natural or man-made disasters.[266] The multinational exercise was co-hosted by the Sri Lankan Office of the Chief of Defence Staff on behalf of the Ministry of Defence and Urban Development, and United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) on behalf of the U.S. Department of Defense. Representatives from 17 nations contributed to the chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, high explosives (CBRNE) portions of the Sri Lankan response plan, and helped to increase the Government of Sri Lanka's ability to respond to CBRNE and toxic industrial material disasters.[267]

International/Foreign Relations

Sri Lanka is strategically located in the Indian Ocean along major shipping routes from India, China, and the Middle East. Due to this location there is also an interest on international politics and strategy.[268] Sri Lanka participates in multilateral diplomacy to promote sovereignty, independence, and development. Sri Lanka is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and has taken a non-aligned foreign policy

stance. Sri Lanka's centuries of foreign rule and decades of internal conflict has had an effect on this independent foreign policy. However, China has funded and partially managed many of Sri Lanka's new infrastructure projects including the Colombo Port Expansion Project. This alliance to Chinese interests has created concerns to India and many of its allies. As a result, India and the U.S. have increased bilateral and multilateral engagements and support.[269] In addition, the Chinese have invested billions of dollars in Sri Lanka through military loans, infrastructure loans, and port development.[270] The U.S. (through USAID) has assisted in areas of the economy, developing democratic institutions, and promoted reconciliations of ethnic and religious communities in Sri Lanka.[271] Australia is also involved in bilateral relations with Sri Lanka in regards to security and sustainable development in the Indian Ocean region. Australia's aid program assists the poor, women, and the community at large. Sri Lanka maintains relations with many countries including but not limited to the U.S., China, India, Australia, and the European Union.[272]

Force Protection/Pre-Deployment Information

The following information is provided for pre-deployment planning and preparations.

Passport/Visa

Before entering Sri Lanka, you must ensure that your passport has at least six months validity remaining from the date of departure from Sri Lanka.

U.S. citizens visiting Sri Lanka must have either an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) or a visa to enter Sri Lanka.

U.S. citizens intending to visit Sri Lanka for purposes of tourism or transit require an approval notice from Sri Lanka's ETA System, onward/return ticket, and proof of sufficient funds. This travel authorization allows entry for up 30 days and is available online or at the port of entry; however, the online system is strongly urged to use, to avoid lengthy delays at the port of entry. Foreigners entering the country on a tourist visa cannot convert their visa to a non-tourist one, and risk deportation if they engage in other activities without the appropriate visa.

If you are only transferring between flights inside the airports in Sri Lanka or expect to enter Sri Lanka and remain there for 2 days or less, you are considered a transit passenger and do not require an ETA approval or a visa.

U.S. citizens intending to visit Sri Lanka for short-term business activities (meetings, conferences, workshops, etc.) are required to obtain a business ETA. Business travelers must obtain travel authorization from the nearest Sri Lankan Embassy or Consulate before arrival in Sri Lanka, or at the port of entry in Sri Lanka and they are not available online. U.S. citizens intending to visit Sri Lanka for religious or volunteer work or for local employment must also obtain entry visas from the nearest Sri Lankan Embassy or Consulate before arrival in Sri Lanka.

If you plan to stay beyond the expiration date of your visa, you must obtain a visa extension from the Department of Immigration and Emigration in Colombo and pay the associated fees.

Note: Travelers must have yellow fever and cholera immunizations if they have traveled from an infected area.[273]

Emergency Contact Information

U.S. Embassy Colombo
210 Galle Road
Colombo 03
Sri Lanka
Telephone: +(94) (11) 249-8500
Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(94) 077-725-6307
Email: colomboacs@state.gov[274]

Emergency Numbers:
The local equivalent to the "911" emergency line in Sri Lanka is 119. This number only contacts the police and does not provide access to emergency medical services. Although the number is answered 24 hours a day, police responsiveness may vary.[275]

U.S. citizen victims of sexual assault should first contact the U.S. Embassy: [276]
Telephone: +(94) (11) 249-8500
Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(94) 077-725-6307

The U.S. Embassy can assist U.S. citizens with the following: [277]
- help you find appropriate medical care
- assist you in reporting a crime to the police
- contact relatives or friends with your written consent
- explain the local criminal justice process in general terms
- provide a list of local attorneys
- provide our information on victim's compensation programs in the U.S.
- provide an emergency loan for repatriation to the U.S. and/or limited medical support in cases of destitution
- help you find accommodation and arrange flights home
- replace a stolen or lost passport

Currency Information

The currency for Sri Lanka is the Sri Lanka Rupee. The symbols used for the Rupee is Rs or SLRs.[278]

Travel Health Information

Medical Care

It is suggested that you make sure that your health insurance plan provides coverage overseas. Most providers only accept cash payments. Supplemental insurance may be needed. In

Colombo Sri Lanka, there are six large hospitals but hospitals outside of Colombo are limited.[279]

Vaccinations and Prescriptions

Before arriving in Sri Lanka, make sure you are up-to-date on all vaccinations recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).You will also want to bring any medications you are taking with you.[280]

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Travel Recommendations for Travel to Sri Lanka Note: The information in Table 3 is taken directly from the CDC website.[281]

Eat and drink safely

Unclean food and water can cause travelers' diarrhea and other diseases. Reduce your risk by sticking to safe food and water habits.[282]

Eat
- Food that is cooked and served hot
- Hard-cooked eggs
- Fruits and vegetables you have washed in clean water or peeled yourself
- Pasteurized dairy products

Routine vaccines (for all travelers)	Make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.
Hepatitis A (for most travelers)	CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in Sri Lanka, regardless of where you are eating or staying.
Typhoid (for most travelers)	You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in Sri Lanka. CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.
Hepatitis B (for some travelers)	You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so CDC recommends this vaccine if you might have sex with a new partner, get a tattoo or piercing, or have any medical procedures.
Japanese Encephalitis (for some travelers)	You may need this vaccine if your trip will last more than a month, depending on where you are going in Sri Lanka and what time of year you are traveling. You should also consider this vaccine if you plan to visit rural areas in Sri Lanka or will be spending a lot of time outdoors, even for trips shorter than a month. Your doctor can help you decide if this vaccine is right for you based on your travel plans.
Rabies (for some travelers)	Rabies can be found in dogs, bats, and other mammals in Sri Lanka, so the CDC recommends this vaccine for the following groups: -Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities (such as camping, hiking, biking, adventure travel, and caving) that put them at risk for animal bites. -People who will be working with or around animals (such as veterinarians, wildlife professionals, and researchers). -People who are taking long trips or moving to Sri Lanka -Children, because they tend to play with animals, might not report bites, and are more likely to have animal bites on their head and neck.
Yellow Fever	There is no risk of yellow fever in Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka requires proof of yellow fever vaccination only if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever. This does not include the U.S. If you are traveling from a country other than the U.S, check this list to see if you may be required to get the yellow fever vaccine.

Table 3: Travel Health Information (Suggested Vaccinations)

Don't Eat
- Food served at room temperature
- Food from street vendors
- Raw or soft-cooked (runny) eggs
- Raw or undercooked (rare) meat or fish
- Unwashed or unpeeled raw fruits and vegetables
- Unpasteurized dairy products
- Bush meat (monkeys, bats, or other wild game)

Drink
- Bottled water that is sealed
- Water that has been disinfected
- Ice made with bottled or disinfected water
- Carbonated drinks
- Hot coffee or tea
- Pasteurized milk

Don't Drink
- Tap or well water
- Ice made with tap or well water
- Drinks made with tap or well water (such as reconstituted juice)
- Unpasteurized milk

Take Medicine

Talk with your doctor about taking prescription or over-the-counter drugs with you on your trip in case you get sick.

Prevent Bug Bites

Bugs (like mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas) can spread a number of diseases in Sri Lanka. Many of these diseases cannot be prevented with a vaccine or medicine. You can reduce your risk by taking steps to prevent bug bites.

To prevent bug bites:
- Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats;
- Use an appropriate insect repellent (see below);
- Use permethrin-treated clothing and gear (such as boots, pants, socks, and tents). Do not use permethrin directly on skin;
- Stay and sleep in air-conditioned or screened rooms; and
- Use a bed net if the area where you are sleeping is exposed to the outdoors.

For protection against ticks and mosquitoes:

Use a repellent that contains 20 percent or more DEET for protection that lasts up to several hours.

For protection against mosquitoes only:

Products with one of the following active ingredients can also help prevent mosquito bites. Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer protection. Always use insect repellent as directed.

- DEET
- Picarie (also known as KBR 3023, Bayrepel, and icaridin)
- Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or PMD
- IR3535

Safety and Security

U.S. citizens living or traveling in Sri Lanka should do the following: [283]
- Be aware of their personal surroundings
- Follow security practices
- Avoid political rallies, public demonstrations, military installations, and closed areas of high security zones (HSZs).

The Sri Lankan military maintains a presence in the north with HSZs. Travelers should stay on main, heavily traveled roads, and never walk in forested or agricultural areas or in abandoned properties, and should not touch anything that resembles a landmine or UXO, and should notify local police if they see something that resembles a landmine. Landmines and UXOs are still found in parts of the Northern, Eastern, and North Central Provinces, particularly in Ampara, Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, Polonnoruwa, Trincomalee and Vavuniya. The government, INGOs and NGOs continue operations to locate and dispose of landmines in the north, and a number of areas are still mined. The government's National Mine Action Center estimated 54 km2 remained to be surveyed and/or cleared in these districts in 2016.

Colombo has regular demonstrations and many are peaceful, resulting only in traffic congestion; however, some have ended in violence between the protesters and police/opposition groups. The majority of demonstrations are related to internal Sri Lankan politics; however, protests have been directed toward western embassies and international organizations and they can occur with little or no advance notice. U.S. citizens should avoid areas of demonstrations and exercise caution if in the area of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations. It is suggested that travelers

should check the U.S. Embassy Colombo website updates, and enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive e-mail messages or cellular phone short message service (SMS) texts that monitor media coverage of events.

U.S. citizens are advised against travel on public buses because passengers can be targets of criminal activity and bus drivers do not consistently obey driving regulations.

Sri Lanka has experienced heavy rain fall and flooding in low lying urban areas and near rivers does occur. This may cause dangerous landslides in Colombo, as well as Central, Western, Sabaragamuwa, and other Provinces.

Crime is a threat in Sri Lanka. Most violent crime occurs within the local community; however, reports of violent crime, sexual assaults and harassment directed at foreigners. Police response to assist victims can vary from a few minutes to hours. Organized and armed gangs are known to operate in Sri Lanka and have been responsible for targeted kidnappings and violence. Thefts of personal property and pick-pocketing, is common if the traveler does not take appropriate safeguards.

Travelers, should consider travelling with other people when possible, especially women. Western women have reported incidents of verbal and physical harassment by men, and most frequently has occurred in crowded areas.

U.S. citizens should carry their U.S. passports on them at all times while in the country because they may be subject to additional scrutiny upon arrival and while in the country.

Sendai Framework

The Sendai Framework is the global blueprint and fifteen year plan to build the world's resilience to natural disasters.[284] The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks:

- Understanding disaster risk;
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
- Investing in disaster reduction for resilience; and
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

It aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries over the next 15 years. It was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in 2015.[285] Japan International Cooperation Agency (JAICA) has worked with Sri Lanka extensively on the Sendai Framework and has embedded technical staff at the Ministry of Disaster Management.[286] Figure 8 shows the Sendai DRR Framework.[287]

Chart of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
2015-2030

Scope and purpose

The present framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters, caused by natural or manmade hazards as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors

Expected outcome

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries

Goal

Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience

Targets

Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015	Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100,000 between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015	Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030	Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030	Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020	Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030	Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030

Priorities for Action

There is a need for focused action within and across sectors by States at local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas.

Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4
Understanding disaster risk	Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk	Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience	Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to «Build Back Better» in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Figure 8: UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Hyogo Framework for Action Country Progress Report

The Hyogo framework for Action (HFA) was adopted as a guideline to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards. The HFA assists participating countries to become more resilient and to better manage the hazards that threaten their development. The levels of progress of the 2013-2015 results of the HFA for Sri Lanka are represented in Figure 9 and Table 4. Table 5 provides an overview of the overall challenges and the future outlook statement from the HFA report.[288] The 2013-2015 is the most recent HFA report available for Sri Lanka.[289]
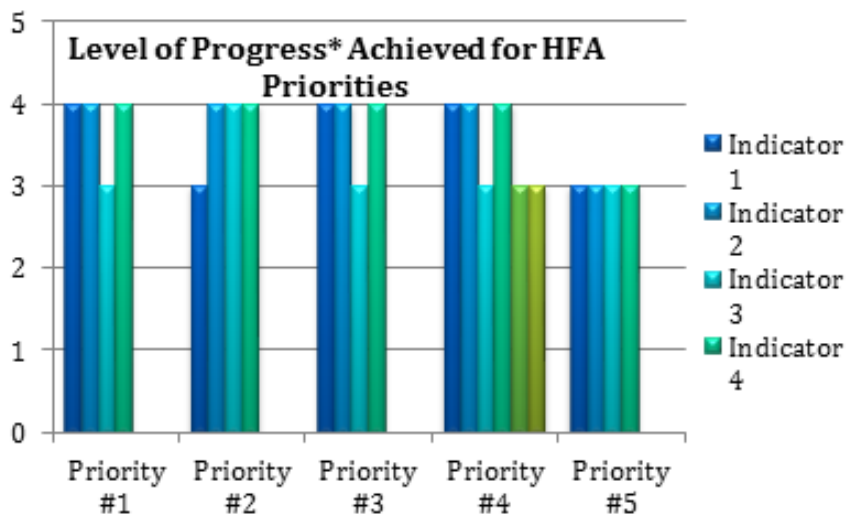
Figure 9: HFA Level of Progress Achieved

Priority for Action #1: Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.		
Core Indicator*	Indicator Description	Level of Progress Achieved
1	National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralized responsibilities and capacities at all levels.	4
2	Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels.	4
3	Community Participation and decentralization is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels.	3
4	A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.	4

Priority #2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning		
Core Indicator*	Indicator Description	Level of Progress Achieved
1	National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.	3
2	Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities.	4
3	Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.	4
4	National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans-boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.	4

Table 4: National Progress Report on the Implementation of the HFA 2013-2015

Priority #3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels		
Core Indicator*	Indicator Description	Level of Progress Achieved
1	Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems, etc.).	4
2	School curricula, education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.	4
3	Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.	3
4	Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.	4

Priority #4: Reduce the underlying risk factors		
Core Indicator*	Indicator Description	Level of Progress Achieved
1	Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.	4
2	Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.	4
3	Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities.	3
4	Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.	4
5	Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes.	3
6	Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.	3

Priority #5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels		
Core Indicator*	Indicator Description	Level of Progress Achieved
1	Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.	3
2	Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programs.	3
3	Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.	3
4	Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews.	3

Table Notes:

*Level of Progress:

1 – Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

2 – Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

3 – Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

4 – Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

5 – Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Table 4: National Progress Report on the Implementation of the HFA 2013-2015

Future Outlook Area 1: The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.	
Challenges:	Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and mainstreaming DRR into development involve number of sectors, agencies, and require appropriate institutional powers and technical capacity and the endorsement of political authorities. The Disaster Management Act does not provide authority to formulate regulation which is one of the major challenges for the implementation of the certain activities entrusted by the act. Lack of a proper mechanism to either disseminate or share data and information at local-national-global level is a challenge that needs to be addressed at higher level. Assumption based analysis and design create lot of technological disasters. Minimum interest on reporting and maintenance of databases especially on pre as well as post disaster conditions create tremendous impact on disaster management as these databases are very much important to conduct the damage and loss assessments and the cost benefit analysis. Decision makers are not properly sanitized on risk sensitive investment. Public interest on disaster management has to be developed and attitude on disaster should be changed by increasing awareness on disaster management. Maintaining trust of the vulnerable people on the early warning systems, early warning messages and evacuations instructions is a challenge. Since there is a knowledge gap on DRR & Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) but interface is available, it is essential to take steps to integrate scientific information and local knowledge. Confusion on CCA versus mitigation is also another challenge. Further, there is a lack of standards for DRR & CCA plans & implementation modalities, and effective implementation of DRR & CCA to the national to local level and private public partnership in DRR & CCA.
Future Outlook Priorities:	Data and information on risk assessment and evaluation is the core of mainstreaming DRR into development. Therefore it is required to ensure mechanism for data sharing and dissemination at national as well as local level by implementing National spatial Data Infrastructure. Sustainable development tools such as the Integrated Strategic Environment Assessment (ISEA), Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) have to be use more effectively to evaluate the disaster impact on the development. A mechanism of project evaluation with respect to a disaster management component will be established and enforced in relation to all public or private sector investment projects to cover all applicable aspects of disaster risk management. Tools such as Cost Benefit analysis, damage and loss assessment need to be made available for the proper implementation of the Mainstreaming DRR into development process. Survey, Research and data analysis will be given the prominence in disaster risk management spectrum. Strategic direction and, managerial, scientific, technological and all other knowledge bases of disaster management will be accordingly updated continuously in all government organizations involved in disaster risk management.

Table 5: HFA Country Progress Report Future Outlook Areas, Sri Lanka

Future Outlook Area 2: The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.	
Challenges:	The Disaster Management (DM) Center was established in 2005 under the parliament Act no13 of 2005. It is the apex body that bare the responsibilities of coordination and implementation of the disaster management activities in the country. Major challenges identified is the lack of understanding of the disaster management act and provisions for the formulation of regulations to implement certain activities given in the DM Act. The act should be properly interpreted and the amendment has to be introduced to the act and legislation powers have to be enacted. Public Sector agencies involved in disaster risk management activities without legal framework should be strengthened legally to address specific issues. The shortcomings such as inadequate institutional capacity and information communication systems should be rectified.

-There is a lack of /inadequate consultation and participation in project formulation and implementation form the local stakeholders as well as effective multi-stakeholders coordination.
-Institutional arrangement is not fully implemented, and is overlapping and duplicated.
-There is an unequal level of understanding, knowledge on system & approaches of different stakeholders groups and differing priorities of different groups. |
| Future Outlook Priorities: | The Disaster Management Act has to be revised and finalized considering all the gaps as this is one of the major tasks that have to be accomplished immediately.

All the Public Sector Agencies including stakeholder Ministries should prepare a Disaster Management Plan for the Institution and submit it to the National Council for approval.

Public and private sector institutions should be prepared to face any disaster with minimum affect to the people and infrastructure.
The institutional mechanism established number of coordination bodies at the national and local level is in place, needs to become functional.
Gaps between the intentions in the regulations / policies and implementation particularly at local level and the needs for more evidence base of community partnership in building 'resilient community'. |

Table 5: HFA Country Progress Report Future Outlook Areas, Sri Lanka (cont.)

Future Outlook Area 3: The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs in the reconstruction of affected communities.	
Challenges:	The Disaster Management Center (DMC) made lots of attempts to popular disaster risk management concepts among all strata in society, while implementing different programs on DRM following challenges are identified. -Absence of guidelines for preparation of emergency preparedness plan is big challenge for consistency of preparedness plan. -There is a lack of standardized training manuals covering all aspect of DRM. It is essential to guide training programs. Lack of high skilled trained professionals in the DRM sector is an issue. Multi-lingual professional are also essential. -DMC has been entrusted with the dissemination of early warning, but technical agencies directly issue early warning massages to media. Therefore, establishing an acceptable mechanism to all stakeholders on early warning message dissemination is a challenge. -There is a lack of knowledge and local community awareness on "How to behave during calamity" and camp management. -Institutions that directly handle natural disasters belong to different ministries and therefore their priority may be different, which causes a huge impact on the sustainable disaster management in the country. -Maintenance of relationship with armed forces is one of the most important tasks for disaster management as they are the key respondents for search rescue, responses on disaster. -Maintenance for functions of early warning systems (Towers, DEWN System, satellite Communication etc.) are also identified as a challenge in disaster preparedness. -Integration of DRR and CCA into development planning has been taking place but it is difficult to determine with certainty the extent and the success of its application. -Framing and implementing disaster and climate change risk-integrated development practices are still focused on physical/infrastructure, and it should focus more on non-structural interventions. There are gaps in policy leadership on Climate Change (CC) risk reduction while balancing the emphasis on relief as short and longer term action sustainable development agenda.
Future Outlook Priorities:	Building community resilience –turning vulnerability into resilience and reducing exposure/ underlying risk factors have been identified as the most important sector that have to be highly focused during the post HFA programs. Reviewing and aligning grant programs related to infrastructure and capacity building with respect to localized disaster risk should support development of synchronized strategic master plans for improvement of operational mechanism to reduce the underline risk factors throughout the country. -Establish legal requirements to perform disaster/impact assessment (as part of EIA) for large private/ public investments and promote public/ private investments for risk avoidance/risk reduction/ risk transfer; facilitate the process, provide accurate timely information. Disaster risk information should be made available to decision makers to make decisions in future development programs. Mainstreaming DRR into the development process would be helpful for sustaining the investment made. Motivating and enabling actions are essential to adapt and implement proven incentives and ward programs to motivate individuals and communities to reduce underline risk factors and further develop mechanism to facilitate and enable engagement. Urban and regional planners need to develop long and short-term plans for the use of land and the growth and modernization of urban, suburban, and rural communities and the regions in which they are located with respect to disaster exposure. They help local officials forecast and preempt or alleviate social, economic, and environmental problems by recommending locations for roads, schools, and other infrastructure and suggesting zoning regulations for private property—to meet existing and future community continuity needs.

Table 5: HFA Country Progress Report Future Outlook Areas, Sri Lanka (cont.)

Country Profile

The information in the Country Profile section is sourced directly from the CIA World Fact book. Additional numbers on country comparison to the world can be found by going directly to the CIA website.[290]

Background:
The first Sinhalese arrived in Sri Lanka late in the 6th century B.C., probably from northern India. Buddhism was introduced circa 250 B.C., and the first kingdoms developed at the cities of Anuradhapura (from circa 200 B.C. to circa A.D. 1000) and Polonnaruwa (from about 1070 to 1200). In the 14th century, a south Indian dynasty established a Tamil kingdom in northern Sri Lanka. The Portuguese controlled the coastal areas of the island in the 16th century and the Dutch in the 17th century. The island was ceded to the British in 1796, became a crown colony in 1802, and was formally united under British rule by 1815. As Ceylon, it became independent in 1948; its name was changed to Sri Lanka in 1972. Prevailing tensions between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil separatists erupted into war in 1983. After two decades of fighting, the government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) formalized a cease-fire in February 2002 with Norway brokering peace negotiations. Both the LTTE and the government unofficially abrogated the ceasefire and violence between the LTTE and government forces intensified in 2006, but the government regained control of the Eastern Province in 2007. The government officially withdrew from the ceasefire agreement in January 2008 and by May 2009; the remnants of the LTTE had been defeated.

Since the end of the conflict, the government has enacted an ambitious program of economic development projects, many of which are financed by loans from the Government of China. In addition to efforts at reconstructing its economy, the government has resettled more than 95 percent of those civilians displaced during the final phase of the conflict and released the vast majority of former LTTE combatants captured by Government Security Forces. Progress continues to be made on more contentious and politically difficult issues such as reaching a political settlement with Tamil elected representatives and holding accountable those alleged to have been involved in human rights violations and other abuses during the conflict.

Geography:

Southern Asia, island in the Indian Ocean, south of India

Geographic coordinates:

7 00 N, 81 00 E

Map references:

Asia

Area:

Total: 65,610 sq. km

Land: 64,630 sq. km

Water: 980 sq. km

Country comparison to the world: 123

Area - comparative:

Slightly larger than West Virginia

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

1,340 km

Maritime claims:

Territorial sea: 12 nm

Contiguous zone: 24 nm

Exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

Continental shelf: 200 nm or to the edge of the continental margin

Climate:

Tropical monsoon; northeast monsoon (December to March); southwest monsoon (June to October)

Terrain:

Mostly low, flat to rolling plain; mountains in south-central interior

Elevation:

Mean elevation: 228 m

Elevation extremes: lowest point: Indian Ocean 0 m

Highest point: Pidurutalagala 2,524 m

Natural resources:

Limestone, graphite, mineral sands, gems, phosphates, clay, hydropower, arable land

Land use:

Agricultural land: 43.5 percent

Arable land 20.7 percent; permanent crops 15.8 percent; permanent pasture 7 percent

Forest: 29.4 percent

Other: 27.1 percent (2011 est.)

Irrigated land:

5,700 sq. km (2012)

Population - distribution:

The population is primarily concentrated within a broad wet zone in the southwest, urban centers along the eastern coast, and on the Jaffna Peninsula in the north

Natural hazards:

Occasional cyclones and tornadoes

Environment - current issues:

Deforestation; soil erosion; wildlife populations threatened by poaching and urbanization; coastal degradation from mining activities and increased pollution; freshwater resources being polluted by industrial wastes and sewage runoff; waste disposal; air pollution in Colombo

Environment - international agreements:

Party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Wetlands

Signed, but not ratified:

Marine Life Conservation

Geography - note:

Strategic location near major Indian Ocean sea lanes; Adam's Bridge is a chain of limestone shoals between the southeastern coast of India and the northwestern coast of Sri Lanka; geological evidence suggests that this 50-km long bridge once connected India and Sri Lanka; ancient records seem to indicate that a foot passage was possible between the two land masses until the 15th century when the land bridge broke up in a cyclone

Population:

22,409,381 (July 2017 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 57

Nationality:

Noun: Sri Lankan(s)

Adjective: Sri Lankan

Ethnic groups:
Sinhalese 74.9 percent, Sri Lankan Tamil 11.2 percent, Sri Lankan Moors 9.2 percent, Indian Tamil 4.2 percent, other 0.5 percent (2012 est.)

Languages:

Sinhala (official and national language) 74 percent, Tamil (official and national language) 18 percent, other 8 percent

Note: English, spoken competently by about 10 percent of the population, is commonly used in government and is referred to as the link language in the constitution

Religions:

Buddhist (official) 70.2 percent, Hindu 12.6 percent, Muslim 9.7 percent, Roman Catholic 6.1 percent, other Christian 1.3 percent, other 0.05 percent (2012 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 24.06 percent (male 2,750,004/female 2,642,606)

15-24 years: 14.63 percent (male 1,666,859/female 1,611,379)

25-54 years: 41.58 percent (male 4,571,200/female 4,747,119)

55-64 years: 10.06 percent (male 1,043,199/female 1,210,930)

65 years and over: 9.67 percent (male 917,014/female 1,249,071) (2017 est.)

Dependency ratios:

Total dependency ratio: 51.2

Youth dependency ratio: 37.2

Elderly dependency ratio: 14.1

Potential support ratio: 7.1 (2015 est.)

Median age:
Total: 32.5 years

Male: 31.2 years

Female: 33.7 years (2016 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 95

Population growth rate:

0.8 percent (2017 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 137

Birth rate:

15.2 births/1,000 population (2017 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 126

Death rate:

6.2 deaths/1,000 population (2017 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 153

Net migration rate:

-1.3 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2017 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 145

Population distribution:

The population is primarily concentrated within a broad wet zone in the southwest, urban centers along the eastern coast, and on the Jaffna Peninsula in the north

Urbanization:

Urban population: 18.5 percent of total population (2017)

Rate of urbanization: 1.11 percent annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

Major urban areas - population:

Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte (legislative capital) 128,000 (2014); COLOMBO (capital) 707,000 (2015)

Sex ratio:

At birth: 1.04 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.04 male(s)/female

15-24 years: 1.03 male(s)/female

25-54 years: 0.96 male(s)/female

55-64 years: 0.86 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.74 male(s)/female

Total population: 0.96 male(s)/female (2016 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth:

25.4 years

Note: median age at first birth among women 30-34 (2006/07 est.)

Maternal mortality rate:

30 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 118

Infant mortality rate:

Total: 8.6 deaths/1,000 live births

Male: 9.5 deaths/1,000 live births

Female: 7.6 deaths/1,000 live births (2016 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 146

Life expectancy at birth:

Total population: 76.8 years

Male: 73.3 years

Female: 80.4 years (2016 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 82

Total fertility rate:

2.07 children born/woman (2017 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 106

Health expenditures:

3.5 percent of GDP (2014)

Country comparison to the world: 173

Physician density:

0.73 physicians/1,000 population (2010)

Hospital bed density:

3.6 beds/1,000 population (2012)

Drinking water source:

Improved:

Urban: 98.5 percent of population

Rural: 95 percent of population

Total: 95.6 percent of population

Unimproved:

Urban: 1.5 percent of population

Rural: 5 percent of population

Total: 4.4 percent of population (2015 est.)

Sanitation facility access:

Improved:

Urban: 88.1 percent of population

Rural: 96.7 percent of population

Total: 95.1 percent of population

Unimproved:

Urban: 11.9 percent of population

Rural: 3.3 percent of population

Total: 4.9 percent of population (2015 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:

<.1 percent (2016 est.)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:

4,000 (2016 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 108

HIV/AIDS - deaths:

<200 (2016 est.)

Major infectious diseases:

Degree of risk: high

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea and hepatitis A

Vector-borne disease: dengue fever

Water contact disease: leptospirosis

Animal contact disease: rabies (2016)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:

6.8 percent (2014)

Country comparison to the world: 155

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

26.3 percent (2012)

Country comparison to the world: 23

Education expenditures:

2.2 percent of GDP (2015)

Country comparison to the world: 168

Literacy:

Definition: age 15 and over can read and write

Total population: 92.6 percent

Male: 93.6 percent

Female: 91.7 percent (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

Total: 14 years

Male: 14 years

Female: 14 years (2013)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

Total: 20.7 percent

Male: 16.5 percent

Female: 27.3 percent (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 69

Country name:

Conventional long form: Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Conventional short form: Sri Lanka

Local long form: Shri Lanka Prajatantrika Samajavadi Janarajaya/Ilankai Jananayaka Choshalichak Kutiyarachu

Local short form: Shri Lanka/Ilankai

Former: Serendib, Ceylon

Etymology: the name means "resplendent island" in Sanskrit

Government type:

Presidential republic

Capital:

Name: Colombo (commercial capital); Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte (administrative capital)

Geographic coordinates: 6 55 N, 79 50 E

Time difference: UTC+5.5 (10.5 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions:

9 provinces; Central, Eastern, North Central, Northern, North Western, Sabaragamuwa, Southern, Uva, Western

Independence:

4 February 1948 (from the UK)

National holiday:

Independence Day (National Day), 4 February (1948)

Constitution:

History: several previous; latest adopted 16 August 1978, certified 31 August 1978

Amendments: proposed by Parliament; passage requires at least two-thirds majority vote of its total membership, certification by the president of the republic or the Parliament speaker, and approval in a referendum by an absolute majority of valid votes; amended many times, last in 2015 (2017)

Legal system:

Mixed legal system of Roman-Dutch civil law, English common law, and Jaffna Tamil customary law

International law organization participation: Has not submitted an ICJ jurisdiction declaration; non-party state to the ICCt

Citizenship:

Citizenship by birth: no

Citizenship by descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of Sri Lanka

Dual citizenship recognized: no, except in cases where the government rules it is to the benefit of Sri Lanka

Residency requirement for naturalization: 7 years

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Executive branch:

Chief of state: President Maithripala SIRISENA (since 9 January 2015); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government; Ranil WICKREMESINGHE (since 9 January 2015) holds the title of prime minister

Head of government: President Maithripala SIRISENA (since 9 January 2015)

Cabinet: Cabinet appointed by the president in consultation with the prime minister

Elections/appointments: president directly elected by preferential majority popular vote for a 5-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 8 January 2015 (next to be held by January 2021); note - the January 2015 election was held nearly 2 years ahead of schedule

Election results: Maithripala SIRISENA elected president; percent of vote - Maithripala SIRISENA (SLFP) 51.3 percent, Mahinda RAJAPAKSA (SLFP) 47.6 percent, other 1.1 percent

Legislative branch:

description: unicameral Parliament (225 seats; 196 members directly elected in multi-seat constituencies by proportional representation vote using a preferential method in which voters select 3 candidates in order of preference; remaining 29 seats allocated to other political parties and groups in proportion to share of national vote; members serve 5-year terms)

Elections: last held on 17 August 2015 following President SIRISENA's dissolution of Parliament in late June 2015 in an effort to consolidate power and pass reforms (next to be held in 2020)

Election results: percent of vote by coalition/party - EYJP 45.7 percent, UPFA 42.4 percent, JVP 4.9 percent, TNA 4.6 percent, SLMC 0.4 percent, EPDP 0.3 percent other 1.7 percent; seats by coalition/party EYJP 106, UPFA 95, TNA 16, JVP 6, SLMC 1, EPDP 1

Judicial branch:

Highest court(s): Supreme Court of the Republic (consists of the chief justice and 9 justices); note - the court has exclusive jurisdiction to review legislation

Judge selection and term of office: chief justice nominated by the Constitutional Council (CC), a 9-member high-level advisory body, and appointed by the president; other justices nominated by the CC and appointed by the president on the advice of the chief justice; all justices can serve until age 65

Subordinate courts: Court of Appeals; High Courts; Magistrates' Courts; municipal and primary courts

Political parties and leaders:

Eelam People's Democratic Party or EPDP [Douglas DEVANANDA]

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna or JVP [Anura Kumara DISSANAYAKE]

Jathika Hela Urumaya or JHU [Karunarathna PARANAWITHANA and Ven Hadigalle WIMALASARA THERO]

New Democratic Front or NDF [Shalila MOONESINGHE]

Sri Lanka Freedom Party or SLFP [Maithripala SIRISENA]

Sri Lanka Muslim Congress or SLMC [Rauff HAKEEM]

Tamil National Alliance or TNA [Rajavarothiam SAMPANTHAN] (alliance includes Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [Suresh PREMACHANDRAN], Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi Mavai SENATHIRAJAH], People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam [D. SIDDARTHAN], Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization Selvam ADAIKALANATHAN])

United National Front for Good Governance or EYJP [Ranil WICKREMESINGHE] (coalition includes JHU, UNP)

United National Party or UNP [Ranil WICKREMESINGHE]

United People's Freedom Alliance or UPFA [Maithripala SIRISENA] (coalition includes SLFP)

Political pressure groups and leaders:

Buddhist clergy

Sinhalese Buddhist lay groups

Diaspora groups

Other: labor unions; hardline nationalist Sinhalese groups such as the National Movement Against Terrorism

International organization participation:

ABEDA, ADB, ARF, BIMSTEC, C, CD, CICA (observer), CP, FAO, G-11, G-15, G-24, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (national committees), ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, MINURSO, MINUSTAH, MONUSCO, NAM, OAS (observer), OPCW, PCA, SAARC, SACEP, SCO (dialogue member), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNISFA, UNMISS, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation in the U.S.:

Chief of mission: Ambassador Prasad KARIYAWASAM (since 14 July 2014)

Chancery: 3025 Whitehaven Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

Telephone: [1] (202) 483-4025 through 4028

FAX: [1] (202) 232-7181

Consulate(s) general: Los Angeles, New York

Diplomatic representation from the U.S.:

Chief of mission: Ambassador Atul KESHAP (since 21 August 2015); note - also accredited to Maldives

Embassy: 210 Galle Road, Colombo 3

Mailing address: P. O. Box 106, Colombo

Telephone: [94] (11) 249-8500

FAX: [94] (11) 243-7345

Flag description:

Yellow with two panels; the smaller hoist-side panel has two equal vertical bands of green (hoist side) and orange; the other larger panel depicts a yellow lion holding a sword on a maroon rectangular field that also displays a yellow bo leaf in each corner; the yellow field appears as a border around the entire flag and extends between the two panels; the lion represents Sinhalese ethnicity, the strength of the nation, and bravery; the sword demonstrates the sovereignty of the nation; the four bo leaves - symbolizing Buddhism and its influence on the country - stand for the four virtues of kindness, friendliness, happiness, and equanimity; orange signifies Sri Lankan Tamils, green Sri Lankan Moors, and maroon the Sinhalese majority; yellow denotes other ethnic groups; also referred to as the Lion Flag

National symbol(s):

Lion, water lily; national colors: maroon, yellow

National anthem:

Name: "Sri Lanka Matha" (Mother Sri Lanka)

Lyrics/music: Ananda SAMARKONE

Note: Adopted 1951

Economy - overview:

Sri Lanka is attempting to sustain economic growth while maintaining macroeconomic stability under an IMF program. The government's high debt payments and bloated civil service cadre, which have contributed to historically high budget deficits and low tax revenues, remain a concern. Government debt is about 77 percent of GDP and remains among the highest of the emerging markets.

The new government in 2015 drastically increased wages for public sector employees, which boosted demand for consumer goods but hurt the overall balance of payments and reduced foreign exchange reserves. Tourism has experienced strong growth during recent years following the resolution of the government's 26-year conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. The government has been pursuing large-scale reconstruction and development projects in its efforts to spur growth.

GDP (purchasing power parity):

$260.6 billion (2016 est.)

$249.9 billion (2015 est.)

$238.4 billion (2014 est.)

Note: data are in 2016 dollars

Country comparison to the world: 62

GDP (official exchange rate):

$82.62 billion (2016 est.)

GDP - real growth rate:

4.3 percent (2016 est.)

4.8 percent (2015 est.)

4.9 percent (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 52

GDP - per capita (PPP):

$12,300 (2016 est.)

$11,800 (2015 est.)

$11,400 (2014 est.)

Note: data are in 2016 dollars

Country comparison to the world: 124

Gross national saving:

29.1 percent of GDP (2016 est.)

26.1 percent of GDP (2015 est.)

29.8 percent of GDP (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 27

GDP - composition, by end use:

Household consumption: 67.6 percent

Government consumption: 8.6 percent

Investment in fixed capital: 27.6 percent

Investment in inventories: 3.9 percent

Exports of goods and services: 21.4 percent

Imports of goods and services: -29.1 percent (2016 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

Agriculture: 8.2 percent

Industry: 30.6 percent

Services: 62.6 percent (2016 est.)

Agriculture - products:

Rice, sugarcane, grains, pulses, oilseed, spices, vegetables, fruit, tea, rubber, coconuts; milk, eggs, hides, beef; fish

Industries:

Processing of rubber, tea, coconuts, tobacco and other agricultural commodities; telecommunications, insurance, banking; tourism, shipping; clothing, textiles; cement, petroleum refining, information technology services, construction

Industrial production growth rate:

6.7 percent (2016 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 27

Labor force:

8.805 million (2016 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 57

Labor force - by occupation:

Agriculture: 28.4 percent

Industry: 25.7 percent

Services: 45.9 percent (30 Jun 2015)

Unemployment rate:

4.4 percent (2016 est.)

4.3 percent (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 57

Population below poverty line:

6.7 percent (2012 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

Lowest 10 percent: 1.6 percent

Highest 10 percent: 39.5 percent (2009)

Distribution of family income - Gini index:

49 (2010)
46 (1995)

Country comparison to the world: 20

Budget:

Revenues: $11.63 billion

Expenditures: $16.03 billion (2016 est.)

Taxes and other revenues:

14.1 percent of GDP (2016 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 197

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):

-5.3 percent of GDP (2016 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 160

Public debt:

79.3 percent of GDP (2016 est.)

77.6 percent of GDP (2015 est.)

Note: covers central government debt, and excludes debt instruments directly owned by government entities other than the treasury (e.g. commercial bank borrowings of a government corporation); the data includes treasury debt held by foreign entities as well as intra-governmental debt; intra-governmental debt consists of treasury borrowings from surpluses in the social funds, such as for retirement; sub-national entities are usually not permitted to sell debt instruments

Country comparison to the world: 38

Fiscal year:

Calendar year

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4 percent (2016 est.)

2.2 percent (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 162

Central bank discount rate:

7 percent (30 September 2016)

6 percent (31 December 2015)
Country comparison to the world: 50

Commercial bank prime lending rate:

10.49 percent (31 December 2016 est.)

6.96 percent (31 December 2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 77

Stock of narrow money:

$5.184 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

$4.963 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 98

Stock of broad money:

$32.2 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

$28.16 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 77

Stock of domestic credit:

$46.21 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

$39.22 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 68

Market value of publicly traded shares:

$20.8 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

$23.67 billion (31 December 2014 est.)

$18.81 billion (31 December 2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 65

Current account balance:

-$1.942 billion (2016 est.)

-$1.883 billion (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 152

Exports:

$10.31 billion (2016 est.)

$10.55 billion (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 87

Exports - commodities:

Textiles and apparel, tea and spices; rubber manufactures; precious stones; coconut products, fish

Exports - partners:

U.S. 27.3 percent, UK 10.2 percent, India 7.3 percent, Germany 5 percent, Italy 4.2 percent (2016)

Imports:

$19.4 billion (2016 est.)

$18.93 billion (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 73

Imports - commodities:

Petroleum, textiles, machinery and transportation equipment, building materials, mineral products, foodstuffs

Imports - partners:

India 21.7 percent, China 12.1 percent, UAE 6.1 percent, Singapore 5.9 percent, Japan 5.4 percent (2016)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold:

$6.019 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

$7.303 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 89

Debt - external:

$45.26 billion (31 December 2016 est.)

$43.92 billion (31 December 2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 65

Stock of direct foreign investment - at home:

$NA

Stock of direct foreign investment - abroad:

$NA

Exchange rates:

Sri Lankan rupees (LKR) per U.S. dollar –

145.58 (2016 est.)

145.58 (2015 est.)

135.86 (2014 est.)

130.57 (2013 est.)

127.6 (2012 est.)

Energy:

Electricity access:

Population without electricity: 1,334,100

Electrification - total population: 94 percent

Electrification - urban areas: 99 percent

Electrification - rural areas: 93 percent (2013)

Electricity - production:

12 billion kWh (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 93

Electricity - consumption:

11 billion kWh (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 89

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 137

Electricity - imports:

0 kWh (2013 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 140

Electricity - installed generating capacity:

3.4 million kW (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 94

Electricity - from fossil fuels:

51.1 percent of total installed capacity (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 143

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:

0 percent of total installed capacity (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 186

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:

47 percent of total installed capacity (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 54

Electricity - from other renewable sources:

1.9 percent of total installed capacity (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 83

Crude oil - production:

0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 201

Crude oil - exports:

0 bbl/day (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 108

Crude oil - imports:

34,860 bbl/day (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 60

Crude oil - proved reserves:

0 bbl (1 January 2016 es)

Country comparison to the world: 200

Refined petroleum products - production:

32,780 bbl/day (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 85

Refined petroleum products - consumption:

98,000 bbl/day (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 81

Refined petroleum products - exports:

2,682 bbl/day (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 105

Refined petroleum products - imports:

56,570 bbl/day (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 75

Natural gas - production:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 116

Natural gas - consumption:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 167

Natural gas - exports:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 188

Natural gas - imports:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 104

Natural gas - proved reserves:

0 cu m (1 January 2014 es)

Country comparison to the world: 135

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

16 million Mt (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 89

Communications:

Telephones - fixed lines:

Total subscriptions: 2,479,802

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 11 (July 2016 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 52

Telephones - mobile cellular:

Total: 25,797,199

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 116 (July 2016 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 55

Telephone system:

General assessment: telephone services have improved significantly and are available in most parts of the country

Domestic: national trunk network consists mostly of digital microwave radio relay; fiber-optic links now in use in Colombo area and fixed wireless local loops have been installed; competition is strong in mobile cellular systems and mobile cellular subscribership is increasing

International: country code - 94; the SEA-ME-WE-3 and SEA-ME-WE-4 submarine cables provide connectivity to Asia, Australia, Middle East, Europe, U.S.; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (Indian Ocean) (2016)

Broadcast media:

Government operates 5 TV channels and 19 radio channels; multi-channel satellite and cable TV subscription services available; 25 private TV stations and about 43 radio stations; 6 non-profit TV stations and 4 radio stations (2017)

Internet country code:

.lk

Internet users:

Total: 7,126,540

Percent of population: 32.1 percent (July 2016 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 74

Transportation:

National air transport system:

Number of registered air carriers: 3

Inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 25

Annual passenger traffic on registered air carriers: 4,911,730

Annual freight traffic on registered air carriers: 381,381,300 mt-km (2015)

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix:

4R (2016)

Airports:

19 (2013)

Country comparison to the world: 137

Airports - with paved runways:

Total: 15

Over 3,047 m: 2

1,524 to 2,437 m: 6

914 to 1,523 m: 7 (2013)

Airports - with unpaved runways:

Total: 4

914 to 1,523 m: 1

Under 914 m: 3 (2013)
Heliports:

1 (2013)

Railways:

Total: 1,447 km

Broad gauge: 1,447 km 1.676-m gauge (2014)

Country comparison to the world: 80

Roadways:

Total: 114,093 km

Paved: 16,977 km

Unpaved: 97,116 km (2010)

Country comparison to the world: 42

Waterways:

160 km (primarily on rivers in southwest) (2012)

Country comparison to the world: 100

Merchant marine:

Total: 21

By type: bulk carrier 4, cargo 13, chemical tanker 1, container 1, and petroleum tanker 2

Foreign-owned: 8 (Germany 8) (2010)

Country comparison to the world: 94

Ports and terminals:

Major seaport(s): Colombo

Container port(s) (TEUs): Colombo (3,651,963)

Military and Security:

Military expenditures:

2.44 percent of GDP (2016)

2.55 percent of GDP (2015)

2.41 percent of GDP (2014)

2.15 percent of GDP (2013)

2.16 percent of GDP (2012)

Country comparison to the world: 29

Military branches:

Sri Lanka Army, Sri Lanka Navy (includes Marine Corps), Sri Lanka Air Force, Sri Lanka Coast Guard (2016)

Military service age and obligation:

18-22 years of age for voluntary military service; no conscription; 5-year service obligation (Air Force) (2012)

Transnational Issues:

Disputes - international:

None

Refugees and internally displaced persons:

IDPs: 44,000 (civil war; more than half displaced prior to 2008; many of the more than 480,000 IDPs registered as returnees have not reached durable solutions) (2016)

Trafficking in persons:

Current situation: Sri Lanka is primarily a source and, to a lesser extent, a destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking; some Sri Lankan adults and children who migrate willingly to the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Afghanistan to work in the construction, garment, and domestic service sectors are subsequently subjected to forced labor or debt bondage (incurred through high recruitment fees or money advances); some Sri Lankan women are forced into prostitution in Jordan, Maldives, Malaysia, Singapore, and other countries; within Sri Lanka, women and children are subjected to sex trafficking, and children are also forced to beg and work in the agriculture, fireworks, and fish-drying industries; a small number of women from Asia, Central Asia, Europe, and the Middle East have been forced into prostitution in Sri Lanka in recent years

Tier Rating:

Tier 2 Watch List – Sri Lanka does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so; in 2014, Sri Lanka was granted a waiver from an otherwise required downgrade to Tier 3 because its government has a written plan that, if implemented, would constitute making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; law enforcement continues to demonstrate a lack of understanding of trafficking crimes and inadequate investigations, relying on trafficking cases to be prosecuted under the procurement statute rather than the trafficking statute, which carries more stringent penalties; authorities convicted only one offender under the procurement statue, a decrease from 2013; the government approved guidelines for the identification of victims and their referral to protective services but failed to ensure that victims were not jailed and charged for crimes committed as a direct result of being trafficked; no government employees were investigated or prosecuted, despite allegations of complicity (2015).

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
ABEDA	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
ACS	American Citizen Services
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
A-PAD	Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ARG	Amphibious Ready Group
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative
BOT	Build Operate-Transfer
C	Commonwealth
CA	Constitutional Assembly
CC	Climate Change
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDC	U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEB	Ceylon Electricity Board
CFE-DM	Center in Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CICA	Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia
CICT	Colombo International Container Terminal Limited
COIN	Counter-Insurgency
CP	Colombo Plan
CRPI	Climate Resilience Improvement Project
DCR	Democratic Republic of Congo
DM	Disaster Management
DMC	Disaster Management Centre
DMHA	Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance
DOD	Department of Defense
DOM	Department of Meteorology
DOS	Department of State
DRC	Disaster Management Center
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EOC	Emergency Operating Center
EODMU	Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit
ETA	Electronic Travel Authorization
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFGS	Flash Flood Guidance System
FPA	UN Women and Financial Planning Association
GDP	Gross Domestic Product

Acronym	Definition
HADR	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response
HEDMaTC	Health Emergency and Disaster Management Training Center
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
HMA	Humanitarian Mine Action
HSZs	High Security Zones
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICRM	Institute of Catastrophe Risk Management
IDA	International Development Association
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFRCS	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IHO	International Hydrographic Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IMSO	International Mobil Satellite Organization
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
ISEA	Integrated Strategic Environment Assessment
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITSO	International Telecommunications Satellite Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
LECO	Lanka Electricity Company (Pvt) Ltd
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
MDM	Ministry of Disaster Management
MEU	Marine Expeditionary Unit
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
MMR	Measles-Mumps-Rubella
MoE	Ministry of Education
MONUSCO	United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPAT	Multinational Planning Augmentation Team
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NBRO	National Building Research Organization
NCDM	National Council for Disaster Management
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases

Acronym	Definition
NDF	New Demonstrate Front
NDMCC	National Disaster Management Committee
NDRC	National Disaster Relief Centre
NFI	Non-Food Items
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OLE	Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
PACAF	U.S. Pacific Airforce
PCA	Prudential Corporation Asia
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACEP	South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme
SCO	The Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SEA	Sustainable Energy Authority
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SLA	Sri Lankan Army
SLAF	Sri Lankan Air Force
SLPA	Sri Lanka Ports Authority
SLR	Sri Lanka Railways
SLRCS	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society
SMEE	Subject Matter Expert Exchange
STEP	Smart Traveler Enrollment Program
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
TVPA	Trafficking Victims Protection Act
U.S.	United States
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Forces for Abyei
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNOPS	The United Nations Office for Project Services
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
UPFA	United People's Freedom Alliance
UPU	Universal Postal Union
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
USPACOM	United States Pacific Command
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

Acronym	Definition
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WCO	World Customs Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WFTU	World Federation of Trade Unions
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

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