



© Handicap International

Country Sheet
Sri Lanka

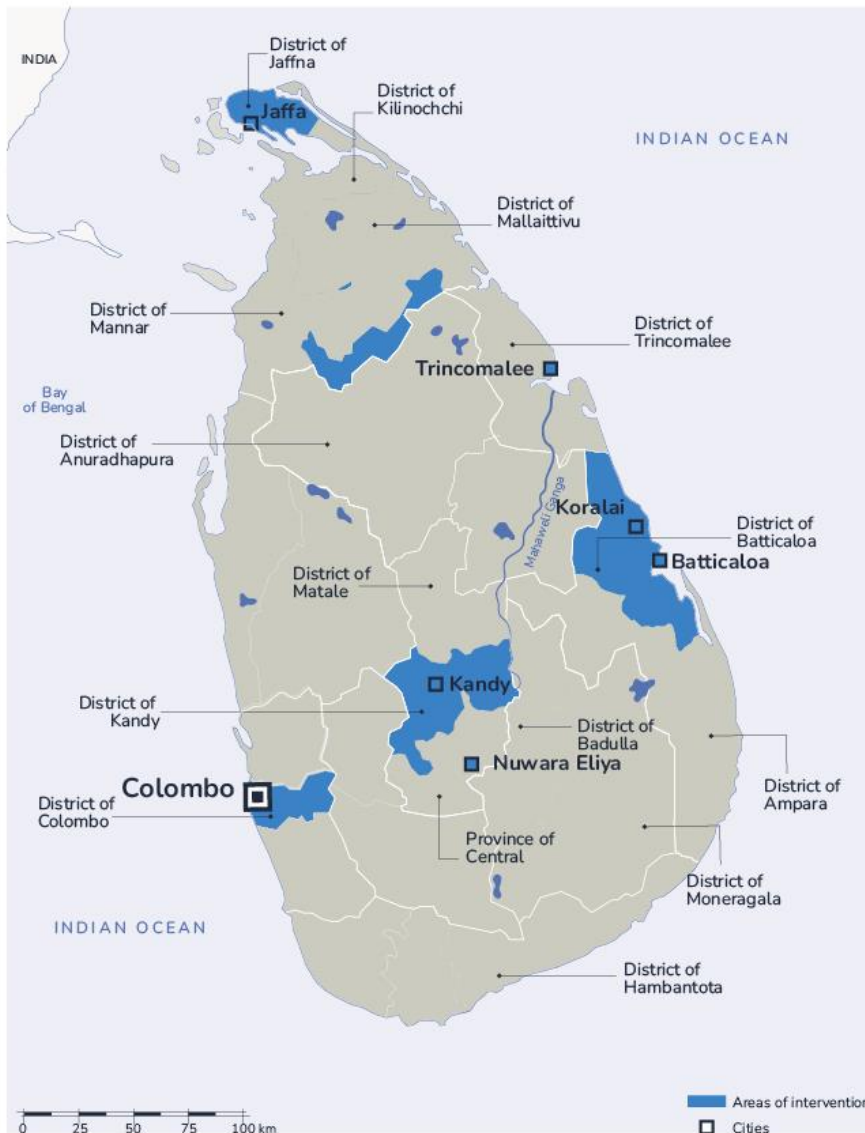




HI Team and intervention areas

HI Sri Lanka, in the South Asia Regional Program, has 8 staff members.

Sri Lanka





General data of the country

a. General Data

DATA	Sri Lanka	India	France
Population	22 037 000	1.428.627.663	68.170.228
IHDI	0.63	0.444	0.82
Maternal mortality	29	103	8
SIGI Score	53.4	43	10.1
Population under HCR mandate	5.242	269.924	762.378
INFORM index	2.9	5.4	2,9
Fragile State Index	88,2	72,3	28,3
GINI Index	37,7	32,8	31,5
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	36.4	24.4	100
Net official development assistance received	11.1	2.831,2	

b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Accessed 2017
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Accessed 2018
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Ratified 2016

c. Geopolitical analysis

Sri Lanka is a South Asian Island in the Indian Ocean. It has a tropical climate with the north-east monsoon from December to March and the south-west monsoon from June to October. The area of 65,610 sq km is mostly flat with mountains in the southern and central parts of the country. 20.7% of the land is arable and 30% is forest. The population of 21,803,000 (2018) is concentrated in the wetlands in the southwest, the urban centres along the east coast and on the Jaffna peninsula.



Persistent cultural attitudes that associate disability with punishment for past sins and a burden influence the dominant charity-based discourse on issues related to persons with disabilities. Attitudinal barriers play a major role in the stagnation of policies and regulations. They further frustrate the accessibility, inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in various areas such as employment.

The country was a British Crown Colony from 1802 until independence in 1948. It changed its name from Ceylon to Sri Lanka in 1972. The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is a presidential republic with 9 provinces, 25 districts and 331 divisions divided into approximately 14,000 Grama Niladhari divisions. While the political system is considered democratic, the political culture is not. The political culture seems to be one of centralization, hierarchy and authority.

Sri Lanka was experiencing a major macroeconomic crisis in the beginning of 2022. In March 2022, mass protests began in Sri Lanka against the government due to its mismanagement of the Sri Lankan economy, which led to a subsequent economic crisis involving severe inflation, daily blackouts, and a shortage of fuel, domestic gas, and other essential goods. The protest continued and expanded for three months. In July 2022, protesters occupied the President's House in Colombo, causing the President Rajapaksa to flee out of the country. A week later, on 20 July, Parliament elected Wickremesinghe as a new President.

Sri Lanka is currently experiencing aftermaths of the macro-economic crisis of 2022. The United Nations launched a humanitarian action plan to provide emergency food and livelihood assistance (among other things) to at least 6.3 million people - 30 per cent of the country's 22 million population. In March 2023 the government concluded a rescue plan with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$2.9 billion loan, at the price of drastic fiscal reforms demanded by the monetary institution: abolition of subsidies on water, electricity and fuel oil, increase in VAT and income tax, restrictions on imports, introduction of a floating system for the rupee, privatization of public enterprises and debt restructuring. IMF closely monitors implementation of reforms.

The 2024 Sri Lankan presidential election was the ninth presidential election in the country's history and was held on 21 September 2024. Left-leaning politician Anura Kumara Dissanayake has won Sri Lanka's presidential election 2024.

Summary of HI presence in the country

HI implemented its first project in Sri Lanka in 1992/1993, focusing on training rehabilitation professionals in Colombo and Jaffna. In 2003, in partnership with UNDP, HI developed a quality standard procedure for mine clearance. In 2004, a program for mine survivors in eastern Sri Lanka was established. On 26 December 2004, the tsunami hit Sri Lanka, killing 35,000 people and leaving more than 250,000 homeless. HI's new project focused on survivors in the districts of Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee and Hambantota.

With the end of the war in Sri Lanka, HI also shifted its activities to the Northern Province to provide post-conflict assistance. Faced with the forced displacement of 300,000 people from Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu to army-run camps in Vavuniya, HI began responding to the needs of



IDPs through a physical rehabilitation project. HI undertook further projects to integrate rehabilitation services into the public health system.

From 2011, HI broadened the scope of its interventions to include livelihoods, inclusive sports, inclusive disaster risk management, and support to rehabilitation professionals and community-based rehabilitation actors.

Following the election of the coalition government in 2015 and the renewed political will to address structural inequalities and national reconciliation, which was widely supported by the international community, HI shifted its interventions to address reconciliation issues, including transitional justice and reducing inequalities through inclusive economic development programs.

At the same time, HI began to respond to small and medium scale natural disasters (floods and droughts) through early recovery programming. Rehabilitation activities resumed in 2017 on a very small scale, focusing only on clubfoot treatment, thanks to the interest of Miracle Feet.

HI Sri Lanka is currently implementing 3 projects: rehabilitation for children who has clubfoot; resilience to climate change and disaster risk reduction; and technical assistance to UNDP in testing model disability assessment. HI Sri Lanka is working for other sectorial projects including economic inclusion, inclusion technical assistance and inclusive education project for 2025.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Project title and main sectors of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project	Donors
PHYSICAL AND FUNCTIONAL REHABILITATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support health facilities and their staff to provide quality treatment. Link patients and their families to services to increase adherence to treatment protocol. Work towards the successful integration of clubfoot treatment into the public health system at a national level. 	Children born with clubfoot and their parents; <u>Direct beneficiaries:</u> 2642 previously enrolled children and 415 new children	No partners, HI as implementing lead.	Batticaloa Kandy Colombo Batticaloa, ,Jaffna, Karapitiya	01/07/2024–30/06/2025 (Fifth phase)	Miracle Feet
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION Connected Communities for Enhanced Climate Resilience and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inception activities (scoping and Rapport building) Inclusive vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) Inclusive preparedness and response plan 	Women Engaged in Home gardening, Women farmers, female members of the	Chrysalis	Batticaloa and Trincomalee	01 January 2024 to 31 st December 2028	MECB Ministry of Environment, Climate and Biodiversity - Luxembourg





<p>Inclusive Risk Management in Sri Lanka</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive stimulation exercise • Identify and facilitate implementation of 6 small scale community-based mitigation measure • Capacity building for CBOs on Climate Change • Technical training and Exposure visit • Resource mobilization • Action (cash) grant • Learning, case studies and Documentation • Studies and Policy Brief • Capacity Building for government Stakeholders • Dissemination and Dialogues 	<p>producer groups; Women Headed Household WHH, Person With Disability (PWD), 12 Registered agriculture small business/ farms, 600 CBO members , 1800 community members from 12 GNs , 120 government officials Indirect beneficiaries 17,640 household members.</p>				
<p>ECONOMIC INCLUSION</p> <p>iDRIVE 4 change Improving Diversity, Resources management, Inclusion and</p>	<p>Result 1: Increased access to economic opportunities for vulnerable persons within the communities.</p> <p>Result 2: 5 Selected SCOPE business have been coached on</p>	<p><u>Direct beneficiaries:</u> 5,613 vulnerable persons (with focus on women, youth and persons with disabilities)</p>	<p>Direct partnership with 2 implementing partners (FOSDOO and PALM Foundation)</p>	<p>Northern Province (Jaffna, Kilinochchi; Mullaitivu; Vavuniya and Manner)</p>	<p>March 2024 – March 2025</p>	<p>GIZ</p>



<p>addressing vulnerabilities in Economic and ecological access for change</p>	<p>diversity & Inclusion and are able to demonstrate changes.</p> <p>Result 3: Improved access and management of community resources and infrastructure, benefiting and uniting community members.</p> <p>Result 4: Increased Diversity identity Recognition leading to increased understanding of society's diversity and specific needs.</p> <p>Result 5: Increased trust in diverse communities (ethnic/ religious) through cross-ethnic and inclusion - focused events.</p> <p>Result 6: Good practices in inclusion, economic development, social cohesion and resources management are captured and shared.</p>	<p><u>Indirect beneficiaries:</u> 11,800</p>		<p>Eastern Province (Ampara; Trincomalee; Batticaloa);</p> <p>Southern Province (Galle, Matara)</p> <p>Central Province (Nuwara Eliya, Kothmale, Walapane)</p> <p>Western Province (Negombo)</p> <p>Northwestern Province (Kurunegala, Puttalam)</p> <p>North Central Province (Polonnaruwa)</p>		
---	---	--	--	--	--	--

Donors

<p>Miracle Feet</p> 	<p>MECB Luxembourg</p>  <p>LE GOUVERNEMENT DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG Ministère de l'Environnement, du Climat et du Développement durable</p>	<p>UNDP</p> 
<p>GIZ</p>  <p>DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH</p>		