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Sri Lanka countryside.
Welcome -
Note from the Director

Dear Reader,

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DMHA) has a mandate to provide and facilitate education, training, and research in civil-military operations, particularly operations that require international disaster management and humanitarian assistance and operations that require coordination between the Department of Defense and other agencies. In line with that mandate, CFE has conducted research to create reference books on disaster management roles, processes, capabilities and vulnerabilities.

This Disaster Management Reference Handbook Series is designed to provide decision makers, planners and responders a comprehensive understanding of in-country disaster management plans and structures, including information on key domestic disaster response entities, basic country background, and local and international humanitarian organizations present in the country. CFE produces country reference books to provide a commonly available baseline of information regarding disaster management environments. Many places in the Pacific Basin are subject to a variety of disasters including floods, droughts, and landslides, and these handbooks provide a context for country-specific factors that influence disaster management.

This reference book has been compiled by CFE from publicly available sources. It is a working document and will be periodically updated to reflect changes in information. We request your feedback to improve this document and help fill any gaps to enhance its future utility. Please send any feedback or questions to cfe-dmha.fct@pacom.mil.

Sincerely,

Col Joseph D. Martin
Director
Overview

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance is a U.S. Department of Defense organization that was established by U.S. Congress in 1994 and is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Pacific Command. The Center is located on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The Asia-Pacific region is our priority of effort and collaboration is the cornerstone of our operational practice.

CFE-DMHA was founded because of a worldwide need based on lessons learned in complex humanitarian emergencies that took place in the Balkans, the African Great Lakes Region, Somalia and the Middle East since the beginning to mid-1980s. The need was for integrated education, training, certification, operational research, and interagency cooperation and coordination among many agencies and organizations, both civilian and military, to provide relief and regional stability.

Our Mission

Facilitate collaborative partnerships, conduct applied research, and develop education, training, and information sharing programs in order to enhance U.S. and international civil-military preparedness, knowledge, and performance in disaster management and humanitarian assistance.

Vision

Promote excellence in disaster management by connecting people, improving coordination, and building capability.

Contact Information

Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance
456 Hornet Ave
JBPHH HI 96860-3503
Telephone: (808) 472-0518
http://www.cfe-dmha.org
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. Overviews of 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 basic country data. Endemic conditions such as poverty, water and sanitation, food security 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 is discussed. Information on UN agencies, international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), major local NGOs, and key U.S. agencies and programs in the country, are also provided. The overall aim is to provide 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, UN sources, NGO websites, scholarly references, foreign government websites, and various media sources.

Whenever further information available may be relevant, 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. Constructive feedback is requested to further refine this document.

We hope that you find these handbooks informative, reliable and useful in understanding disaster management and response for this country. For comments, questions or to request additional printed copies of our Disaster Management Reference Handbooks please contact the Center for Excellence at: (808) 472-0518.

Please visit our website (http://www.cfe-dmha.org) to view the latest electronic versions available.
Map of Sri Lanka
Executive Summary

This country book focusing on Sri Lanka is intended to be a reference for individuals deploying to conduct disaster preparedness engagements or disaster response operations in Sri Lanka, but it is not meant to be a checklist or manual for all disaster response operations. The research team conducted extensive research and analysis on existing Sri Lankan plans, policies, and capabilities related to disaster management and risk reduction. The team also reached out to United States Government (USG) stakeholders and open source research to compile this book.

Sri Lanka is vulnerable to disasters due to their high population density and economic activities which are mainly concentrated in flood-prone and coastal areas. The disasters which threaten the country are mostly weather and water-related such as flooding, landslides, lightning, and drought. Sri Lanka’s disaster hazards are well known and mapped, and Sri Lankan officials and citizens have a better knowledge and understanding of the hazards, how to mitigate disasters, and taking the required steps for disaster risk reduction. Impacts to these disasters are felt largely in coastal areas because of its high population due to its importance to the economy.

Sri Lanka was severely affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, leaving thousands of people killed and displaced. Significant changes occurred to the disaster management system after this event. In 2005, the Ministry of Disaster Management and the Disaster Management Centre were established along with the development of a road map for a safer Sri Lanka to aid in disaster preparedness planning. Sri Lanka continues to implement disaster risk reduction efforts through many non-governmental agencies assistance. Other efforts being implemented in country are tied to recovery programs in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Sri Lanka brought an almost three decade war of conflict and ethnic tensions to a close in 2009, but it left behind widespread destruction of infrastructure, loss of life, and displacement of individuals. The country is currently under scrutiny by the United Nations Human Rights Council and in March 2014, the council voted for an inquiry into rights abuses and crimes which occurred at the end of the conflict. Despite these prominent events along with the global recession, Sri Lanka is on the edge of progressive economic growth and development. The country has also attained middle-income status and is expected to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The country is rapidly developing and urbanizing, with infrastructure projects driving economic growth. Sri Lanka is taking advantage of their strategic location along an international sea route. Climate change impacts are being considered for planning purposes. The expected impacts would be to agriculture, water resources, energy, environment and fisheries. With Sri Lanka being vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events, impacts to socio-economic activities are expected.
Country Overview

Sri Lanka is known as the “Pearl of the Indian Ocean” due to its natural beauty, location, and its people. It is home to tropical forests and varied landscapes. Sri Lanka is a diverse country, home to many ethnicities, religions, and languages. The harbors are geographically situated at the crossroads of global shipping routes. The population of Sri Lanka is 20.7 million and is projected to reach its highest of 21.9 million people in 2031. By 2041, one out of every four people is expected to be an elderly person, making Sri Lankans the oldest population in South Asia.

Sri Lanka is at a defining moment in its history. In 2009, came the end of over two decades of conflict and ethnic tensions, and has opened the possibility of a new period of sustained peace and prosperity. Despite the conflict, the 2004 tsunami and the impact of the global recession, the country has achieved middle-income status and is the only country in South Asia to rate high on the Human Development Index. Sri Lanka is well positioned to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

The country has a long history of international engagement and is a founding member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations, the G77 and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Culture

Sri Lankan culture is diverse, and varies from region to region. Religion encompasses many aspects of life and establishes the basic element of this diversity. The main religions in Sri Lanka are Buddhism and Hindu, which both have great influences on political, cultural, and social life. The influences of the two religions along with the caste system have formed a culture that worked within a hierarchical system. Sri Lankans are very cognizant of social order and status. All relationships, whether at work or home, are based upon people’s place within the hierarchy.

Along with Buddhism and Hinduism, Christianity and Islam are also practiced. Buddhism is accorded the “foremost place” in Sri Lanka’s constitution and about 70 percent of the island’s 20 million people are Buddhist. It is regarded as the highest ethical and philosophical expression of Sinhalese culture and society. Hinduism is primarily practiced by the Tamils who ethnically belong to south India where Hinduism is the main religion. Hinduism was brought to Sri Lanka during the reign of the Tamil kings and Hindu shrines were then built. Muslims make up about 7 percent of the population. Christianity was introduced by the Portuguese.

The Asia Foundation conducted the National Values in Sri Lanka survey in 2011 to gain a better understanding of people’s perceptions of religious beliefs and practices, influence of religious leaders, inter-religious relations, and tolerance for religious expression. The survey concluded that Sri Lankans overwhelmingly perceive their society as becoming significantly more religious, and adherence to core religious practices and rituals is high among all people of all faiths. It also concluded that religious education is becoming more important for Sri Lankans of all faiths.

Politics in Sri Lanka is a reflection of the historical and political differences amongst the two main ethnic groups, the Sinhala and the Tamils. Women represent about five percent of parliament members, and the numbers are even lower at the provincial and local levels. The Women’s
Leadership Development Project (WLDP) implemented by UNDP trains women on political skills and knowledge to help in making them better and more confident leaders.¹¹ The male-dominated clergy from the Buddhist population have played an influential role in Sri Lankan politics.¹²

Sri Lanka ranks 91 out of 177 countries on Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2013 with a score of 37 out of 100.¹³ The police sector is the most corrupt public sector in Sri Lanka by accepting bribes during investigations. The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), which is state-owned, is corrupt which has caused the increase in electricity tariffs.¹⁴ The customs system lacks transparency, isn’t always efficient, and at times dangerous. Customs officers have been killed and threatened after exposing products being smuggled into the county. The transparency at the border is rated low in relation to irregular payments in export and import.¹⁵ While this score may be cause for concern in some sectors, there are no confirmed cases that corruption has a significant influence on the provision and distribution of resources for emergency preparedness or response. However, there have been allegations of tsunami aid gone missing.¹⁶

Demographics

Understanding the demographic context of Sri Lanka provides insight into socio-cultural factors that will affect disaster management effectiveness, disaster vulnerabilities, and resident capabilities. It is important to reflect gender, ethnicity, economics, and vulnerable groups in the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response activities to address gaps and risks.

Ethnic Makeup

Sri Lanka is a multi-ethnic, religious and cultural society which is a reflection of the successive waves of foreign immigrants. The Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslims make up about 99 percent of the country’s population. The Sinhalese are the largest ethnic group in Sri Lanka and account for three-fourths of the population. The Tamil people are comprised of two groups, the Sri Lankan Tamils and the Indian Tamils. The Sri Lankan Tamils are long-settled descendants from southeastern India. The Indian Tamils are recent immigrants also from southeastern India, who are mostly migrant workers brought to Sri Lanka under British rule. Muslims account for about 7 percent of the population. Burghers and other groups make up less than a percent of the population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Makeup¹⁷</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sinhalese</td>
<td>73.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lankan Moors (Muslims)</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Tamil</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lankan Tamil</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unspecified</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Language and religion determine identity amongst the major ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. The Sinhalese can be easily distinguished mainly by their language, Sinhala. They primarily live in the southern, western, central and north-central areas of the country. In the rural areas of the Wet Zone, they make up 95 percent of the population. The Sri Lankan Tamils concentrate mainly in the Jaffna peninsula and the northern lowland districts which are adjacent. The Indian Tamils are a distinct ethnic group of mostly plantation workers, who live in the higher areas of the Central Highlands. Muslims mainly live in the eastern lowlands and can also be found in large cities but in smaller numbers.

Key Population Centers

Sri Lanka is densely populated with the majority of people living in rural areas and dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. A UN report on world urbanization and urban habitats describes Sri Lanka as a country with a low urbanization rate. The trend in most countries is to move to urban cities to be closer to services, but in Sri Lanka it is the opposite. People living in Colombo are returning to their villages because they cannot deal with the negative effects of urbanization. The report also states that Sri Lanka has the lowest urbanization rate of all Asian countries. President Rajapaksa has developed both urban and rural areas with the goal of providing infrastructure such as roads and electricity. People will not need to move to cities if these facilities are present.¹⁸
Sri Lanka continues to urbanize as it transitions from a rural economy to one based on services and manufacturing. Their Urban Vision is to develop a system of competitive, environmentally sustainable, and well-linked cities and provide every family with affordable and adequate urban shelter by 2020. A South Asia Economist stated, “By creating a linked system of cities, Sri Lanka can tap into its diverse and resource-based competitive advantages, such as tourism, agro processing and fisheries.” The Urban Vision will be eased by the country’s small land, easy topography, and government plan to improve connectivity by building a network to link most cities. The United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT) says Sri Lanka is in a good position to ensure adequate and affordable shelter to urban residents because they already are providing basic services and expanding infrastructure to the poor population. Since the country is rapidly developing and urbanizing, planned settlements need to be well thought out. The government’s goal is to guarantee these settlements grow in a systematic and sustainable way through improved urban and regional planning. Climate change impacts will also be considered for planning.

The country is divided into nine provinces and 25 districts. Each province is a self-governing body and is not under the authority of any ministry. Each province is run by an elected provincial council. Districts (Also known as Disa in Sinhala and Mawaddam in Tamil) are administered under a District Secretariat. Districts are further subdivided into 256 divisional secretariats and these, in turn, to approximately 14,008 Grama Niladhari divisions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Capital</th>
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<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Kandy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Trincomalee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>Anuradhapura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Jaffna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Western</td>
<td>Kurunegala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabaragamuwa</td>
<td>Ratnapura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Galle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uva</td>
<td>Badulla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Colombo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Sri Lanka Urbanization

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Urban Population ('000)</th>
<th>Level of Urbanization (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,921</td>
<td>3,360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population Density (Source: International Research Institute for Climate and Society)
Colombo is the largest city in Sri Lanka with 4.6 million people of all ethnic groups living within the city limits. It is located on the west coast of the island adjacent to Jayawardenepura Kotte, which is the official capital of Sri Lanka. Colombo is the administrative capital of Western Province and the district capital of Colombo District. The city's urban area extends past the boundaries of a single local authority and is comprised of other municipal councils. The city is home to corporate offices, restaurants, and entertainment. It is lively and busy, and has a mixture of both colonial and modern buildings. The Urban Regeneration Project for the City of Colombo is led by the Urban Development Authority. The project's goal is to eliminate shanties, slums and other rundown housing in Colombo. The project calls for the resettlement of these people who are living in poor and unhygienic conditions to new housing, with the goal of making Colombo a more attractive city. Upon completion, 70,000 families will be relocated into new houses through a community development and marketing program. The ultimate goal of the Sri Lankan government is to transform Colombo into a modern, world-class capital by reducing the physical and socioeconomic impacts of flooding, and to improve capacity for operating and maintaining infrastructure.

Kandy is located in the central province and sits between many mountain ranges. This administrative and religious city is the capital of the central province. The city is home to the Temple of the Tooth, one of the most sacred places of worship in the Buddhist world and is a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) world heritage site since 1988. Kandy is a transportation gateway to the central highlands and can be reached by rail and road. Jaffna is the capital of the Northern Province and is located on a peninsula on the island’s northern tip. Insurgent uprising and military occupation have been happening here since the 1980's. At the end of the civil war in 2009, many refugees and internally displaced people returned home, and the reconstruction began. The majority of the population residing in Jaffna is Sri Lankan Tamils. Galle, located in the southwestern tip of the island is the fourth largest city in Sri Lanka and is the capital of the Southern Province. Thousands of Galle residents were killed during the 2004 tsunami caused by the Indian Ocean earthquake.

Vulnerable Groups

As the military moved closer into Tamil Tiger territory towards the end of the Sri Lanka civil war, there was concern for the almost 350,000 trapped mainly Muslim civilians. A safe zone was created by the government but the military repeatedly attacked that zone and killed and injured thousands. The final periods of the war created 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) who were brought to camps against their will. President Rajapaksa assured all IDPs would be resettled.

Allegations of rape and torture of Tamils by Sri Lankan security forces arose years after the end of the war. The Sri Lankan government says they do not tolerate torture, but a Human Rights Watch report documented over 60 cases of sexual violence against security forces after the war. Allegations of war crimes have also been raised against the Tamil Tigers and the Sri Lankan military, mainly concentrated during the final periods of the war. In 2013, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said there had been no comprehensive effort from Sri Lanka to investigate these allegations and recommended UNHCR conduct their own. In March 2014, the United Nations Human Rights Council voted for a resolution for an inquiry into rights abuses at the end of the war.

According to UNHCR, the main groups of people of concern in Sri Lanka are refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs),

### Numbers At A Glance

<table>
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<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Refugees</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum-seekers</td>
<td>1,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDPs in Sri Lanka</td>
<td>93,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP Returnees</td>
<td>483,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee Returnees</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Refugees (UNHCR-September 2013)
Asylum-seekers (UNHCR-September 2013)
IDPs in Sri Lanka (UNHCR-December 2012)
IDP Returnees (UNHCR-2009-June 2013)
Refugee Returnees (UNHCR- Jan-Feb 2014)
IDP returnees and refugee returnees. The majority of IDPs in the country have returned to their original home, however individuals still remain displaced because they cannot return home due to land and property issues. There is a lack of a national policy on land rights which has impacted returns. Progress has been made in the north to re-establish infrastructure, but returnees are still having difficulties meeting their basic needs. There is an increasing amount of people arriving in Sri Lanka seeking asylum.

Labor laws in Sri Lanka accommodate women and children, child labor is not tolerated and women receive maternity leave. However, women receive lower wages than men for the same type of work. Women’s access to public services in Sri Lanka are unequal and face more corruption when seeking legal services from the police or judiciary. Ethnic minority, women from war and disaster affected areas, along with plantation workers are victims of this corruption. Female headed households mainly in the north and east, which make up about 40,000, are affected by corruption and irregularities than of male headed households. The heavy presence of military in the north and east has contributed to insecurity for minority women. Many who are widows, an estimated 89,000 are vulnerable to sexual harassment, exploitation or assault by military personnel. Ongoing lack of security in north and east Sri Lanka is a serious problem facing women in these areas.

Economics

Sri Lanka is a middle-income country and is well positioned to achieve their Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2012 Human Development Index (HDI) value for Sri Lanka is 0.715, putting them in the high human development category, and placing them 92 out of 187 countries. In the Gender Inequality Index (GII) which reflects gender-based inequalities (reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity), Sri Lanka ranked 75 out of 148 countries in the 2012. Sri Lanka’s economic freedom score is 60.0, ranking its economy the 90th freest in the 2014 index. Their score slipped 0.7 from the prior year, resulting in small declines in five of the ten economic freedoms. Out of the 42 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the country ranked 17th, just below the world average. There have been noteworthy reforms over the past years such as the easing of foreign exchange controls and the reduction of individual and corporate marginal income tax rates below 30 percent. Obstacles remain, they struggle to promote sustainable economic development and continue to score below the world average in rule of law.

Since 2012, Sri Lanka’s economy has grown at a low number of around 6 percent which could be a result of their low GDP per capita and possibly rural poverty. The main economic areas are: tourism, tea export, apparel, textile, rice production and other agricultural products. In addition, overseas employment has contributed to foreign exchange and remittances. Unemployment is low at 4 percent, even though there is a low female labor participation at 30 percent.
The government identified tourism in its national policy as a key driver of socio-economic development. Tourism has been one of the fastest emerging industries of the economy and attracts about a half million tourists each year.\(^{44}\) Infrastructure is also powering economic growth such as new ports, airports, and communications systems.\(^{45}\) Sri Lanka is taking advantage of their strategic location along an international sea route. The country’s promotion, “Wonder of Asia”, targets the Port of Hambantota as the key to growth and attract development. Once the port is completed, it is estimated to provide 40 percent of the government’s income by 2020 and create 70,000 direct and in-direct job opportunities.\(^{46}\)

Rice is the main source for agriculture production in Sri Lanka, producing around 2.7 million tons annually. Tea production is one of the main sources of foreign exchange for the country accounting for 2 percent of GDP. Sri Lanka is the fourth largest producer of tea in the world.\(^{47}\) Over 50 types of fruits and vegetables are grown in Sri Lanka and exports both fresh and processed fruits and vegetables around the world. The majority of its fresh produce is sent to the Middle East and the majority of processed products are sent to Europe.\(^{48}\)

Sri Lanka is a challenging place to conduct business due to its high transaction costs which are tied to an unpredictable economic policy environment. Inflation is high and exports are declining, however growth has remained moderate. Foreign direct investment (FDI) flow averaged US$500 million per year between 2006 to 2010. The labor market is small, with a limited supply of skilled workers. The average worker has just under ten years of schooling, with two-thirds of labor force being male. Roughly 8 million Sri Lankans were employed in 2011, with 43 percent in services, 24 percent in industry, and 33 percent in agriculture.\(^{49}\)

**Environment**

Environmental considerations influence disaster management in profound ways, from the types of risks that are prevalent to natural protections that mitigate disasters. This section outlines some of the key environmental factors that contribute to Sri Lanka’s disaster hazards and affect potential response operations.

**Borders**

Sri Lanka is an island, and therefore has no land borders. It is located in the Indian Ocean southwest of the Bay of Bengal. The Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait separate Sri Lanka from India. Maritime boundaries exist between Sri Lanka, India, and the Maldives. Below are listings of all maritime agreements:\(^{50}\)

- **July 10, 1974**: Agreement between Sri Lanka and India on the boundary in historic waters between the two countries and related matters
- **March 23, 1976**: Agreement between Sri Lanka and India on the Maritime Boundary between the two countries in the Gulf of Mannar and the Bay of Bengal and Related Matters
- **July 23-24, 31, 1976**: Trilateral Treaty – Agreement between Sri Lanka, India and Maldives concerning the determination of the trijunction point between the three countries in the Gulf of Mannar
- **November 22, 1976**: Supplementary Agreement between Sri Lanka and India on the extension of the maritime boundary between the two countries in the Gulf of Mannar from position 13 m to the trijunction point between Sri Lanka, India and Maldives

**Geography**

Sri Lanka is an island located in the Indian Ocean with a total land area of 65,525 square kilometers. Sri Lanka has a tear-dropped shape and a varied topography divided into three zones. These zones are divided by its elevation: central highland, plains, and the coastal belts.\(^{51}\)

The central highland located in the south-central part of the country and is considered the heart of Sri Lanka. The area contains many complex topographical features such as ridges, peaks, plateaus, basins, valleys and escarpments. The remaining parts of the country are flat except for several small hills that rise abruptly in the lowlands. These topographical features strongly affect the spatial patterns of winds, seasonal rainfall, temperature, relative humidity and other climatic elements, particularly during the monsoon season. A varied plain surrounds the highland with varied elevation of ranges from sea level to 1,000 feet. The terrain around the central
highland is a mixture of plateaus, ridges, escarpments, intermontane basins and valleys. This plain makes up around five-sixths of the country’s total area. Sri Lanka’s highest mountains are located in this area – Pidurutalagala (8,281 feet), Kirigalpotta (7,858 feet), and Adam’s Peak (7,559 feet).

The coastal belt surrounding the entire island is made of sandy beaches and lagoons. The best beaches are along the southern coast, southwestern coast and eastern coast. In the northeast and southwest, the coasts cut across the layers of crystalline rocks, cliffs, bays and offshore islands, making one of the world’s best natural harbors at Trincomalee and a small rock harbor at Galle.

There are around a hundred rivers in Sri Lanka and 12 of those are considered major and account for 75 percent of the annual river discharge of the country. All major rivers flow outward from the central highland to the sea except for the Mahaweli River. The Mahaweli River is 208 miles long and originates from the western slopes of the highest part of the highlands and follows a route to the plains in the eastern highlands then flows towards the northeast coast.

Most soil in Sri Lanka is suitable for some type of agricultural use. However, reduction of the natural fertility of the soil has occurred widely, mainly in the rugged terrain of the highlands. Much of Sri Lanka’s vegetation cover has been depleted by clearing of forests for settlements, timber, and agriculture. Forests in Sri Lanka are rich in flora and fauna. Exploitation is depleting wildlife such as elephants, leopards, bears, buffalo, and peafowl along with tree species like ebony, mahogany, satinwood, and teak.

Climate

Sri Lanka is situated in the equatorial and tropical zone making for regular high temperatures. The climate is influenced by monsoons which allow for four distinct seasons. The many elevations contribute to temperature variations. Monthly temperatures in the lowlands range from 72 and 92 degrees Fahrenheit, and 44 to 71 degrees Fahrenheit in the higher altitudes of the Central Highlands. Sunny and warm days are common during peak monsoon season. Northeast monsoons bring rain in the northern and eastern regions in December and January, and the western, southern, and central regions get rain from May through July from the southwest monsoon. The rainfall pattern is influenced by the monsoon winds of the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal, and is marked by four seasons:

- First Monsoon Season: March – April
- Southwest Monsoon Season: May – September
- Second Inter-Monsoon Season: October – November
- Northeast Monsoon Season: December – February

Climate change is expected to impact agriculture, water resources, energy, environment and fisheries. Sri Lanka will be involved in the global effort to minimize greenhouse gas emissions within the framework of sustainable development and principles protected by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Due to being an island vulnerable to climate change impacts and extreme weather events, these weather changes are likely to impact socio-economic activities in the country. The National Climate Change Policy of Sri Lanka was developed to provide guidance and direction for all stakeholders to address the adverse impacts of climate change efficiently and effectively.
Disaster Overview

Hazards

Sri Lanka has made substantial development progress in recent years, but the country also faces destructive disaster hazards that have the potential to undo some of these gains unless effective disaster risk reduction and mitigation approaches are implemented. The good news is that Sri Lanka’s disaster hazards are largely well known and mapped. Although the frequency of disasters seems to be increasing, Sri Lankan officials and citizens have a better knowledge and understanding of the hazards and what to do to mitigate the disasters. They are taking the necessary steps for disaster risk reduction education and programming.

Natural

Sri Lanka is threatened by a range of disasters which are mostly hydro meteorological in nature (weather and water related). As a small island nation in the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka is heavily dependent on its coastal region, which is loosely described as “an area having a maritime boundary and extended to the hinterland of the country.” The coastal region is important to manufacturing, fishing, tourism, trade, banking, and insurance in Sri Lanka with over 44 percent of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) tied to the coastal region in 2004. Until 2007, almost 60 percent of Sri Lanka’s population lived in the coastal region. These data points show that the coastal region is important to Sri Lanka’s people and economy with the predominance of hydro meteorological hazards affecting the coast, which will have disproportionate impacts to the population and the country as a whole.

Drought

Drought is a slow-onset disaster that results from weather causing a shortage in precipitation over one or more seasons, and it is not the same as a permanent arid climate. Due to its range of causes and effects, drought is one of the most complex natural disaster hazards and its slow-onset nature makes it difficult to tell when a drought is starting and when it has ended. Additionally, drought effects build up over time, so an accumulation of impacts can last for years after the actual drought event has ended.

Sri Lanka has been subjected to drought over the course of its long history. The commonality of this hazard in Sri Lanka is notable as the Disaster Management Act No. 13, 2005 recognized drought “as the most frequent natural disaster out of its 21 natural or man-made disasters.” Sri Lanka has four physical features that affect rainfall: it is a small island in the tropical Indian Ocean, it is close to the equator, it has a large group of hills in the middle of the island that acts as a barrier to monsoons, and the massive Indian subcontinent is in close proximity to the northwest. These physical characteristics lead to drought when combined with three weather conditions: northern high pressure systems coming to Sri Lanka from across the dry Indian subcontinent during the Northeast monsoon season of December to February; a decrease in tropical depressions and storms in the Bay of Bengal in the October to January timeframe; and dry air in the May to September monsoon air streams because of deviations from the normal air flow direction.

As of April 2014, Sri Lanka has been experi-
Sri Lanka is positioned on the western side of the Bay of Bengal, which is an active, albeit not highly active, region for cyclones. The Bay of Bengal has an average of 4 to 6 cyclones per year out of an average of 80 such storms across the globe. Even considering that number of annual storms in the Bay of Bengal, Sri Lanka is rarely a target of cyclones and has only been hit by 19 cyclonic storms in the past 130 years. Historically, the Bay of Bengal has two storm cycles in a year, with peaks in May and November. October to December has been by far the more active and destructive of the two cycles for Sri Lanka, and this is the time of year that more and stronger storms hit Sri Lanka. The cyclones that hit Sri Lanka almost always hit the east coast of the island first and then move across the country toward the west or the north. Sri Lanka is also affected by the winds and storm surges of cyclones that pass near the island.

**Coastal Erosion**

Sri Lanka’s coastal areas are at threat of erosion from natural occurrences like ocean tides and currents, monsoons, tropical storm surges, and tsunamis, and also from human development and extraction. Some areas of the Sri Lankan coastline experience accretion of sand and silt because of natural formations or construction projects. While these accretion spots would add land in locations, those areas will actually lead to greater erosion downstream if not managed properly because water and sand flows to other coastal areas will be rerouted and the natural process of replacing eroded sand will be disrupted. Most of Sri Lanka’s coastal accretion is a result of river outflow to the sea or the ocean, and sedimentary deposits tend to build up near the mouths of rivers and rocky outcroppings that catch sand and soil. Coastal erosion is a long-term, slow onset hazard, but its potential effects on most of Sri Lanka’s population and economy emphasizes the importance of understanding the causes of this complex phenomenon and planning for the effective management and sustainment of the island’s coastal region.
**Floods**

The Sri Lanka Disaster Management Center lists five classifications for floods:

- **Riverine floods**, which are overflows of rivers due to runoff from saturated catchment or river obstructions. Riverine floods generally build up over time and from higher elevations to combine in lower river systems, potentially providing enough time for early warnings.

- **Flash floods** from areas with steep slopes and narrow channels that cause water to move very fast, catching people downstream by surprise.

- **Localized floods** in urban environments caused by impermeable surfaces.

- **Floods created by reservoir operations** in which the gates of a reservoir are opened to release excess water. These operations are planned and supervised, but they can still cause damages.

- **Floods caused by reservoir breaches** when a dam or other type of reservoir fails, leading to sudden, catastrophic flooding.

While a flood may on occasion have qualities or causes that fit into multiple classifications, the majority of floods will be in just one category. The importance of classifying floods lies in understanding the causes of floods, which categories of floods are most common and planning for preparedness and mitigation of the types of floods that are most likely and most dangerous.

**Landslides**

Sri Lanka has seen an increase in the landslide risk as development and construction projects move onto slopes that were previously untouched. Heavy monsoonal rains loosen hillsides and soil that are already made more vulnerable by construction projects. As construction projects and semi-urban population centers grow on hillsides, the threat becomes more pronounced and the damages and loss of life will become worse. Studies of historical records have shown that Sri Lanka experienced a dramatic increase in the number and impact of landslides in recent years, as demonstrated in the graphic below.

Sri Lanka’s topography limits the landslide hazard to the central and southern parts of the island. The National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) within the Ministry of Disaster Management has implemented landslide zone mapping projects to identify where the landslide hazards are the greatest. The NBRO has also published guidelines and instituted programs to mitigate landslides.
Tsunami

Large tsunamis are extremely rare for Sri Lanka, but they are an ever-present threat because of the Sunda Subduction Zone in the Andaman-Sumatra trench that stretches from Bangladesh to Indonesia on the eastern side of the Bay of Bengal. This trench was the site of the 2004 9.1-9.3 Indian Ocean earthquake and the ensuing tsunami that devastated parts of 14 countries and killed an estimated 35,000 Sri Lankans and displaced another 800,000. Another seismic zone posing a potential tsunami hazard is the Makran Subduction Zone, which runs west to east along the coastlines of Iran and Pakistan.

Manmade Hazards

Conflict

The Government of Sri Lanka fought a conflict against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), also called the Tamil Tigers, for about 30 years. The LTTE was fighting to form an independent state for the Tamil ethnic minority in Sri Lanka.
Lanka, and since the end of the conflict in 2009, the LTTE has been designated a terrorist organization by the Sri Lankan government. While the conflict is no longer actively being fought, the remnants of the fighting still present humanitarian needs and hazards. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that there were still 80,216 internally displaced persons (IDP) in Sri Lanka as of mid-2013. Additionally, landmines laid during the conflict still present a threat to civilians in farms and residential areas. Non-governmental organizations (NGO) and international donor agencies have contributed to landmine clearance and the training of local staff.

**Infectious Disease**

Sri Lanka has made commendable progress towards reducing or eliminating many communicable diseases, including tuberculosis, HIV, and malaria. The country does have occasional outbreaks of dengue fever and reported the largest such outbreak of 35,008 cases in 2009, followed by 34,105 cases in 2010. This is a significant spike in the number of cases and the deaths caused by dengue fever, as outlined in the chart below. The number of cases in 2011 dropped to 26,722 which are still much higher than any years prior to the 2009 outbreak.

Sri Lanka also experiences periodic outbreaks of leptospirosis, but had a spike in 2008 when the number of cases in a year jumped from approximately 2,000 to 7,423 with 207 deaths. Since that jump, the number of cases has remained high each year.

The cause for the sudden increase in dengue and leptospirosis cases in the late 2000s is unclear.

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**Table 2: Sri Lanka Morbidity and Mortality Trends for Dengue**

**Table 3: Sri Lanka Morbidity Trend for Leptospirosis**
Government Structure for Disaster Management

Disaster management in Sri Lanka has progressed through several major developmental phases and approaches. Prior to 1996, individual legislation was submitted by separate government agencies however a unified disaster management focus was lacking. The laws did not adequately address the critical issues related to preparedness, emergency response, and long-term mitigation. The reformation of disaster management activities became the focal point in 1996 with the creation of the National Disaster Management Center (NDMC) under the authority of the Ministry of Social Welfare. The NDMC operated as the central disaster management agency and coordinated the appropriate agencies in the areas of disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and long-term rehabilitation and recovery. Through the NDMC, the required legal and institutional framework was established at the national and sub-national levels through the national disaster management law and plan together with preparedness and response plans at the district and local levels.

The preparation of comprehensive Disaster Preparedness and Response plans at the district levels was another milestone in the disaster management growth. Prior to the 2004 tsunami, five districts with high vulnerability to natural disaster completed the plans. The District Disaster Management Committee headed by the district secretary held primary responsibilities as written into the plans. Committee members were representatives from the district, division, and local government levels, and NGOs active in the district. Subcommittees were responsible for early warning, evacuation, search and rescue, relief distribution, restoration of critical services (healthcare), and public awareness. Reporting lines between the district committees and the national level were detailed in the plans to deal with communication flow. The division and village levels adopted comparable plans and formed committees.

The government sought to institute two more key disaster management agencies through the Disaster Management Bill drafted in 2000. The bill initiated the establishment of the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) and the Disaster Management Center (DMC). The NCDM would coordinate the preparation of comprehensive local and sectoral disaster management plans by committees and government ministries. The DMC together with technical advisory committees would implement policies. The Disaster Management Bill was not formally adopted however the government officially addressed disaster management in the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act, No. 13 of 2005. The act was created due to the government’s strong political commitment to establish a strong legal and institutional disaster management foundation after the country suffered the devastation of the 2004 tsunami. The act completed the establishment of the NCDM and DMC.

National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM)

The National Council for Disaster Management provides guidance and monitors the implementation of the Disaster Management Act. The President chairs NCDM and council members include the Leader of Opposition, Ministers in charge of subjects listed in the Act, Chief Ministers of Provinces, five Parliament members representing opposition appointed by the Speaker of Parliament. In the event of a major disaster, the NCDM will coordinate and provide guidance to all responding ministries and agencies. The primary responsibilities of the NCDM involve formulating national policies, programs and plans, exercising the related powers, and executing the related powers, and executing management and decision making as pertains to disaster management.

Disaster Management Coordination Framework

Sub-national coordination occurs at the Provincial, District, Divisional, Local Government and Village/Community levels through the provincial and district administrations and facilitated by line ministries and national agencies. The National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee (NDMCC) members coordinate at appropriate levels as guided and assisted by the government.

Disaster Management coordination occurs at these levels:

- National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee
• District Disaster Management Committees
• Divisional Disaster Management Committees
• Grama Niladhari (GN) Level Community Disaster Management Committees
• Sub Committees at GN Level (Early Warning, Medical/Health, Search and Rescue, Camp Management, Village Security)

National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee (NDMCC) – national platform

The National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee (NDMCC) established in 2007, serves as the national platform to coordinate stakeholder agencies in disaster risk reduction in alignment with the Hyogo Framework. The NDMCC holds monthly meetings which are used as a forum to exchange current disaster management status and propose new areas to research and study. The Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management is the chairman. The NDMCC’s goal is to contribute to the national level efforts to reduce disaster impacts and to build disaster resilient communities.

District Disaster Management Coordination Committees (DDMCCs)

The District Disaster Management Coordination Committees are responsible for studying disaster management issues from the pre-disaster phase and coordinating emergency response activities in a disaster. Key stakeholders comprise the disaster committee and include representatives from the International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The DDMCC is further subdivided into sub-committees with assigned roles. Task assignments include early warning dissemination, search and rescue, and camp management as examples of the duties.

District Disaster Management Coordinating Units (DDMCUs)

Sri Lanka has 8 provinces which are organized into 25 administrative districts. Each district is divided into Secretary Divisions which are fur-
ther subdivided into Grama Niladhari Divisions. The District Secretary manages the district-level administration and will represent the line ministries at the district level. Together with the Disaster Management Coordinators, the Secretaries hold the district responsibility of implementing and monitoring disaster management projects and aiding the lower-level subdivisions.82

Secretary District Disaster Management Coordinating Units (DDMCUs) are established in the 25 districts in the country and staffed with 25 Assistant Directors (District) and 85 District Disaster Management Assistants. The DDMCUs manage the district Emergency Operations Center and coordinate with their partners as the planning body for disaster preparedness and mitigation. Military have been assigned to the specific areas of Colombo, Kaluthara, Galle, Matara, Hambanthota, and Puttalam.83

Ministry of Disaster Management8485

The Government of Sri Lanka first established the Ministry as the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights in February 2006. In April 2010, the office was renamed to the Ministry of Disaster Management with authority over the National Disaster Relief Services Centre. The mission focuses on protecting lives through prevention and mitigation of natural and human induced disasters. The objectives emphasize protecting of people and property from disasters, building a resilient society, and facilitating recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

The Ministry of Disaster Management functions encompass the following.

• Implement and coordinate disaster relief services in natural and man-made disasters
• Formulate policies, programs, and projects for disaster mitigation, response and recovery
• Direct and implement policies, programs, and projects within the time frames agreed with the National Planning Authorities and within budget resources
• Formulate the National Disaster Management Plan and National Emergency Operation Plan based on the National Policy
• Initiate and coordinate foreign aid projects for disaster mitigation, response and recovery
• Liaise with Ministries and Government institutions to ensure the timely execution of described activities
• Coordinate awareness programs on natural and man-made disasters
• Provide relief for disasters due to flood, drought, epidemics, and other exceptional causes
• Implement the early warning system
• Research and develop in the fields of housing and building construction and technology
• Facilitate meteorology surveys and research
• Inclusive the aforementioned functions are any functions associated with the institutions under the Ministry

The operational structure of the ministry is comprised of four institutions/division and these entities assist the ministry to accomplish the specific assigned functions.

• Department of Meteorology
• Disaster Management Centre
• National Building Research Organization
• National Disaster Relief Services Centre

Department of Meteorology

The Department of Meteorology is mandated to provide meteorological and climatological services, and early warning services on weather-related disasters and tsunami. The department operates the head office in Colombo and 22 external offices with over 461 staff. The Head Office consists of the National Meteorological Center, Research Division and technical divisions for climate, rainfall, agro-meteorological, radiosonde, computer, and the Centre for Climate Change Studies. The offices at the Katunayake, Mattala, and Ratmalana airports provide meteorological services for international and domestic aviation purposes.

Department of Meteorology Functions:

• Provide meteorological and climatological services to the general public and to user communities
• Provide warnings and advisories on bad weather situations such as cyclones, heavy rain, lightning, strong winds, etc. and tsunami
• Provide aviation meteorological services for international and national aviation
• Maintain climatological databases
• Provide meteorological and climatological services and data/information for national development and research purposes / Provide assistance for study and research in Meteorology, Climatology, Climate Change and related subjects
• Organize and contribute to public awareness programs on thematic areas of weather, climate, climate change and related issues

Functions for Department Divisions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Key Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Meteorological Centre</td>
<td>Obtain regional and domestic meteorology data, quality control, analysis, and forecasting, track regional earthquake/tsunami, issue warnings as needed, raise public awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainfall Division</td>
<td>Collect, quality control and archive daily rainfall data obtained by rain gauge centers around country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agro Meteorological Division</td>
<td>Collect, quality control, and archive agro meteorological data obtained from agro meteorological centers around country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climatology Division</td>
<td>Collect, quality control, and archive meteorological data obtained from regional meteorological centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Division</td>
<td>Collect, quality control, and archive meteorological data obtained by automatic equipment set-up at meteorological centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Division</td>
<td>Conduct meteorological research and activities related to weather research and forecast computer model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiosonde Division</td>
<td>Obtain quality control and archive upper atmospheric meteorological parameters through radiosonde balloon observation, conduct awareness programs for schools and visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meteorological Equipment Division</td>
<td>Maintain and repair meteorological equipment, standardize equipment and participate in exhibits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change Study Centre</td>
<td>Conduct activities related to climate change</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Disaster Management Centre (DMC)

The Disaster Management Centre is the lead disaster management agency as mandated by the Sri Lanka government in the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act, No 13, 2005/Amended 2013. The organization is the executing agency of the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM). The National Council is mandated to develop national policy and deliver strategic direction. The Ministry of Disaster Management is responsible for guiding and administering the activities of the DMC.

The DMC implements and coordinates national and sub-national level programs with the participating relevant stakeholders to reduce the risk of disasters. The major actions for the center encompass disaster mitigation, preparedness,
public awareness, and dissemination of early warning to vulnerable populations, emergency operations, and coordination of relief and post disaster activities in collaboration with other key agencies.

Disaster Management Centre Functions:
- Develop National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) and National Emergency Operations Plan (NEOP) based on the National Policy
- Conduct hazard mapping and risk assessment
- Coordinate and conduct training and awareness programs
- Prepare to respond to disasters and assist government agencies to develop Preparedness Plan
- Facilitate early warning and dissemination
- Facilitate emergency operations management and coordination of search and rescue operations
- Coordinate post disaster activities including relief
- Liaise with Ministries, Government authorities, agencies, private sector agencies, NGOs, INGOs, and other relevant agencies on disaster risk reduction activities to ensure timely execution of the responsibilities
- Initiate and coordinate foreign aided projects for disaster mitigation, response and recovery

Knowledge Management:
The DMC maintains an official website (www.dmc.gov.lk) which is tri-lingual (English, Sinhala, and Tamil). The website is interactive and provides updates on current disaster warnings, situation reports on the latest disasters, and news updates. The Mitigation and Technology Division of DMC maintains and updates the Disaster Information Management System (DesInventar). The information system allows for the regular collection, documentation, and analysis of data as a result of losses due to natural disasters.

Emergency Response Committee (ERC)
The Emergency Response Committee assists the DMC in the coordination of emergency response activities during disasters and to prepare for disasters. The ERC members are senior members of critical services and stakeholder agencies directly involved in emergency response activities. The committee members serve as liaisons with their respective organizations and aid in the mobilization of resources to respond to manmade and natural disasters.

DMC Divisions:
a. Disaster Mitigation, Research and Development Division
The Disaster Mitigation, Research and Development Division is involved with flood, landslide, and drought mitigation projects in the districts. Together with the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the division will incorporate disaster risk reduction in development plans, hold technical training workshops, and integrate disaster risk information into economic modeling.

b. Training, Education, and Awareness Division
The Training, Education, and Awareness Division is assigned the responsibility of conducting the public awareness and training programs for the internal staff of the DMC, government agencies, vulnerable communities, academic institutions and non-governmental stakeholders. The programs are collaborated with government and non-government organizations.

c. Preparedness Planning Division
The primary responsibility of the Preparedness Planning Division is to prepare Disaster Management Plans and to organize disaster preparedness planning activities for the multiple hazards experienced in Sri Lanka. The preparation of plans occurs at the district, division, vulnerable Grama Niladhari
division, and state sector organizations as mandated by the Disaster Management Act No. 13, 2005.

d. **Emergency Operations Centre**

The Emergency Operations Centre has existed since 2006 and functions 24/7. The Centre receives early warning information on impending natural disasters from the technical agencies, disseminates the information, and monitors the situation. In the multi-hazard warning system, the Emergency Operations Centre supports the DMC in collecting disaster information. The DMC prepares a daily situation report which is distributed to the President, Minister of Disaster Management, and Secretary to the Ministry and all media institutions. In the event of a disaster, the EOC coordinates with the Police and Armed Forces and organizes rescue, evacuation, and relief operations.

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**National Building Research Organization**

The National Building Research Organization (NBRO) is a technical service provider and research and development institution. NBRO provides landslide related studies and services for the country. The organization has expertise in the disciplines of environmental science, human settlement planning, engineering project management, geotechnical and building materials engineering, and serves as the research arm of the Ministry of Disaster Management. All activities are designed to focus on disaster risk reduction.

Objectives and Functions of NBRO:

- Engage in research and development work for disaster risk reduction and secured environment
- Research and development for problematic soils
- Improve alternative sources of building materials, products and technology
- Serve as the national focal point for landslides and geo-hazards
- Research and provide guidelines on planning and development of sustainable housing and safe human settlements in disaster prone areas and areas endangered by climatic conditions
- Provide standard reports for buildings and construction/damage assessments and technical solutions
- Support educational programs with specialized staff, training, and technology
- Provide testing and consultation, conduct research on geology, geo-technical engineering, building materials, structures, structural engineering and building services, project management, environmental management, and human settlement planning and other areas

There are six technological divisions: Landslide Research and Risk Management Division, Geo-Technical Engineering Research Division, Building Materials Research and Testing Division, Disaster Impact Studies Division, Project Management Division, and the Human Settlements Planning and Training Division.

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**National Disaster Relief Services Centre**

The National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC) is guided by the Minister and Secretary of the Disaster Management. The vision of the organization is to support Sri Lanka towards optimal post-disaster relief service. While the NDRSC was renamed to the National Disaster Management Centre in 2007, the Ministry’s continues to refer to the organization as the NDRSC.

The main functions of the NDRSC are:

1. Post disaster management activities
   - Provide disaster relief through an effective process to the appropriate beneficiary
   - Reconstruct houses demolished due to disaster
   - Empower DMR Officers on post disaster relief measures
2. Enhancement of the information communication system
   - Obtain information within a short time frame through internet
3. Public awareness programs
   • Enhance the communication network
   • Mobilize village level disaster committees to mitigate disaster impacts
   • Conduct awareness programs on post-disaster conditions
   • Promote awareness of post-disaster conditions to school children

4. Good governance
   • Operate, supervise, and evaluate relief services
   • Adhere to circular and guidelines

The NDRSC implements programs such as house damage, crops loss, and self-employment loss relief services. Other services include provision of cooked meals, funeral expenses, and relief support for injuries, livelihood tools, and kitchen utilities.

Declaration of a State of Disaster

A state of disaster declaration and process is authorized through the President or Prime Minister dependent on the level of disaster. The Prime Minister (Vice Chair of the Council) has the authority to declare a state of disaster if the extent or severity of a disaster or impending disaster requires counter measures beyond the resources available to a Divisional or District level administration. The Prime Minister may consult with the Disaster Management Centre and Order (as proclaimed in the Gazette, Sri Lanka's government official notification forum). The state of disaster will be declared in a Divisional or District area. The President (Chairman of the Council) has the authority to declare a state of disaster if the extent or severity of a disaster or impending disaster impacts several districts, provinces or the whole country.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) is a significant disaster response volunteer-based organization partner as identified in the National Disaster Management Plan. SLRCS has an extensive network of branches in all 25 districts (district and sub-district levels) with a communication system of staff and volunteers throughout the country. The 100,000 members and 6,500 active volunteers are trained in disaster management disciplines. The disaster risk reduction work carried out in 275 risk communities and 16 districts focus on strengthening community safety and resilience to natural and human-made hazards. The SLRCS has disaster response capacities which include:

   • A national disaster response team (50+ trained members of staff and volunteers trained in health aspects of disaster response)
   • Over 20 branch level disaster response teams (600+ trained staff and volunteers)
   • Established disaster response procedure manuals and guidelines
   • At least 75 disaster management trainers
   • At least 25 SLRCS members trained in disaster management internationally

Laws, Policies, and Plans on Disaster Management

The Government of Sri Lanka recognizes that the management of disasters requires a comprehensive understanding of hazards and the processes necessary to minimize risk with active engagement of stakeholders from the government, private, and public sectors. The government has stated the vision, mission, and objectives for disaster management and created the institutional and regulatory framework to ensure the sustainability and resilience of the nation.

Vision: Towards a Safer Sri Lanka

Mission: Effective disaster management for safety and resilience of lives and properties

Objectives:

1. Appropriate institutional, legal, and implementation mechanisms
2. Informed, scientific, multi-hazard risk reduction approaches mainstreamed in development and reconstruction based on national priorities
3. Participatory, multi-agency, multi-stakeholder engagement in line with national and international standards for effective disaster relief and response
Disaster Management Act No. 13, 2005/Amended in 2013

Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No. 13, 2005 provides for executive level coordination and establishes the institutional framework for disaster management with the creation of the National Council for Disaster Management and the Disaster Management Centre and delineation of the powers and authorities of the organizations. The Act empowers the President to declare the state of disaster. The Act addresses disaster management holistically which led to policy shifting from response based mechanisms to a proactive approach.92, 93

The government amended the Act in 2013 to rectify the implementation issues that were encountered with the original document. One of the major revisions of the amendment involves the clear delineation of the Disaster Management Centre's responsibilities with an expanded section in the amendment speaking to the multiple functions. The Amended Act alters the declaration of the state of disaster based on severity of the disaster or impending disaster. There is a declaration at the Divisional or District level as proclaimed by the Prime Minister (Vice Chairman of the Council) and a declaration by the President (Chairman of the Council) for a disaster of greater magnitude affecting several districts, provinces or the entire country.94

National Disaster Management Policy95

The National Disaster Management Act mandated the formulation of a national policy and the Parliament Select Committee (PSC) report (convened after the Indian Ocean Tsunami) recommended the policy development. The policy outlines the institutional and regulatory framework which encompasses acts, policies, instrumental disaster management agencies, and coordination processes.

Key Sections in the Policy:

Guiding Principles: There are principles which speak to the rights of the affected population to receive disaster assistance and at the same time discourage dependency on disaster relief. Agencies delivering services are held accountable and responsible for applying equitable and quality services which allow for the participation of the communities and stakeholders. Early warning notification is stated as a requirement for the designated agency to disseminate a unified message to all potential vulnerable areas.

National Disaster Management Policy Statements:

Governance of Disaster Management defines how disaster management should be conducted using an inclusive approach with all stakeholders involved in the initiatives, training, education, planning and application of the processes. Good governance in disaster management is promoted to meet the requirements of the population focuses on the people being aware of potential hazards, their vulnerabilities, and capabilities to prepare and respond.

Disaster Risk Reduction will be mainstreamed into overall planning and development efforts and incorporate comprehensive risk analysis with specific mention of climate change risks, impact, and mitigation using the technical tools and methodologies available. Early warning and emergency response systems will be positioned at the national, regional, local and community levels to reduce injury and loss of life and property damage. National and international guidelines will be used to take care of the victims' needs. Civil and private sector organizations should work with the ministries prior to engagement in risk reduction, disaster mitigation, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.


National Policy on Local Government

The National Policy on Local Government mandates the role of the local government in disaster management. The local government is the planning authority and will be actively involved in disaster preparation, mitigation and management within the District framework. The local authority will identify disaster-prone areas, potential disaster-risks, and hazards and develop the comprehensive action plan specific to the
area. Local authorities should obtain technical guidance and assistance from the related Ministries and authorities. The plan should include strategies and rapid response systems in accordance with the policy and operational guidelines from the Disaster Management Act.

Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan (2009-2014)

The Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Plan follows the guidelines for the Disaster Management Act and National Disaster Management Policy. The plan details the management arrangements, relationships, mechanisms, strategies and associated timeframes to establish the disaster risk management framework and implement the related programs with multi-stakeholders participation for all disaster management cycles. The plan has been revised as of 2013 to include aspects such as climate change and effects of extreme weather as experienced in the country over the last two years. The plan has been approved by the NCDM.

Corporate Plan for Disaster Management Centre (DMC) 2010-2014

The Corporate Plan for Disaster Management Centre (2010-2014) expounds on the history, development efforts and programs of the organization. The objective of the comprehensive document is to identify the working environment and the means to navigate through this environment to accomplish the changes necessary to ensure long term success of the center. The DMC will plan the annual program based on the corporate plan.

National Emergency Operations Plan (NEOP)

The Ministry has prepared the National Emergency Operations Plan (NEOP) sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which was submitted for approval in November 2013. A NEOP website has been created which utilizes different methods to view disaster response and the associated organizations. One view depicts four different scenarios – flood, landslide, cyclone, and tsunami. Each scenario contains a matrix of disaster response tasks and delineates the responding agencies. An Excel spreadsheet lists all of the appropriate agencies and denotes which response level the agency is involved in. The stages include receiving information, issuing early warning at the national or non-national level, formulating the evacuation notice, dissemination of evacuation notice, evacuation to safe locations, search and rescue, disaster victim identification, treatment of injured, emergency declaration, all clear message and dissemination, immediate relief and response, rapid damage loss and needs assessment, and entry and exit of goods and people. Next, the NEOP information can be viewed by disaster or by organization. The disaster view allows the user to select the hazard which then opens to an option to select the organization and view their role before, during, and after the hazard. The organization view goes through the same process by accessing the organization first then the hazard. Hazard selections include air craft crash, air raid, chemical accident, civil or internal strife, coastal erosion, cyclone, dam breach, drought, earthquake, epidemic, explosion, fire, flood-coastal, flood-flash/reservoir, flood-general, flood-local/urban, flood-riverine, forest fire, industrial disaster, landslide, lightning and thunderstorm, manmade disaster, maritime hazard, nuclear disaster, oil spill, radiological hazard, and tsunami. The website http://www.neop.gsa.lk/index.php allows information to be downloaded.

District Plans

Disaster preparedness plans provide the district mechanism framework for disaster response. On a national level, the Preparedness Planning Division of the DMC is required by the Disaster Management Act to prepare District Management Plans for districts, divisions, vulnerable Grama Niladhari Division, and state sector organizations. The Preparedness Planning Division also conducts planning activities for the various hazards such as floods, landslides, tsunami, and cyclones. The District Disaster Management Coordination Committee organizes emergency response activities in the event of a disaster and is comprised of key stakeholders. The district plans outline the role of the DDMCC and responsibilities for activities such as early warning dissemination, search and rescue, camp management, etc. The plans contain details specific to the area for base line data, risk and vulnerability assessments for hazards specific to the area, contact information for the focal points, available resources, and stakeholder responsibilities.

The United Nations Development Programme
has supported the development of District Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans in different districts involving national and local disaster management organizations. The National Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Social Welfare, District Emergency Operations Centre, and District Secretariat have been involved for district plans for Hambantota, Galle, Kalutara, Mataara, and Ratnapura.  

Disaster Preparedness Emergency Response Plans (DPERPs) are in various stages of development for the districts, divisions and community levels. As of September 2013, 17 district management plans have been completed. Nine districts are completing revisions of current plans. At the divisional level, workshops have been conducted to initiate preparation of plans or to present draft plans to stakeholders. At the Grama Niladhari level, 97 Community Preparedness and Emergency Response Plans (CPERPS) have been completed in 21 districts.

**Government Capacity and Capability**

The first formal national level disaster management structure began in 1996, when the Government of Sri Lanka established the National Disaster Management Center to centralize and organize disaster management related activities. Since 1996, the country has continued to advance in disaster preparation and response however the impact of the 2004 tsunami provided to be a pivotal point in the government’s investment in disaster risk reduction. The country experienced the destructive effects of the 2004 tsunami which led to the government’s commitment to develop a firm legal and institutional framework for disaster management to address the shortcomings of the system.

The Sri Lanka National Progress Report for 2011 to 2013, dated May 2013, documents the Government’s disaster management actions against the Hyogo framework with progress levels ratings. The Priority for Action items and the ratings provide insight on the government’s progress.

A summarization of the results is detailed below:

**Priority for Action 1 and Core Indicator 1: National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralized responsibilities and capacities at all levels**

**Level of Progress Achieved: 4**

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

**Description:** The Government of Sri Lanka focused on Acts, policies and assignment of resources to meet this core indicator. Several Acts were written and the drafts forwarded for review through the government process.

**Drafted Acts, Policies and Guidance:**
- Final draft of amended Disaster Management Act (within the Disaster Management Act, the disaster relief function was written under the Ministry of Disaster Management
- Draft Act of the National Building Research Organization
- Draft Act for Chemical Emergencies for the implementation of the Chemical Weapon Convention
- Draft Disaster Management Policy
- Department of Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Development provided guidance to consider disaster risk reduction measures in their planning process

Some resource allocation was completed for important supporting positions with the provision of staff and facilities for the Disaster Management Centre, appointments of Assistant Directors to the District Disaster Management Coordinating Units for all districts and appointment of Interim Management Committee for the DMC.

**Discussion on Context and Constraints:** Continued work on disaster plans was predicated on the approval and finalization of the Disaster Management Act. The comprehensive Disaster Management Plan, national policy, National Emergency Operation Plan, and state sector plans were impacted. Staffing appointments were pending for the steering committee and other Disaster Management Center positions such as Deputy Director.

**Core Indicator 2: Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels**
Level of Progress Achieved: 4

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

Description: The Government annually allocates funding to the Ministry of Disaster Management and the Disaster Management Center. The Government has invested money in projects which enhance weather forecasting, reduce disaster vulnerability, and water infrastructure to mitigate drought hazards.

The country has received project support and funding from international organizations and partner nations for disaster risk management.

- The Government of Netherlands implemented Phase III of the Emergency Response and Capacity Development Project in 2010
- Funding to improve disaster risk management capacity and activities at the national, provincial, and local levels have been provided by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), AUSAID, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and China have provided technical support on weather forecasting and hazard monitoring systems
- The World Bank concentrated on emergency response and institutional community preparedness for dam failures

Discussion on Context and Constraints:

Core Indicator 3: Community participation and decentralization is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress Achieved: 3

Institutional commitment attained but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description: Disaster risk reduction authorities and requirements have been developed through the Local Government Policy approved by the Cabinet of Ministers and the Local Government Act. District and divisional level committees are established and are involved in disaster preparedness and response planning. Bylaws and city resilience programs incorporate disaster risk reduction activities. Local organizations and village committee members contribute to the planning and preparation process as well.

Discussion on Context and Constraints: Disaster management focus has not been delegated to the provincial government or the associated funding. Local authorities require financial and organizational assistance to implement disaster risk reduction activities.

Core Indicator 4: A national multi-sector platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning

Level of Progress Achieved: 4

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

Description: The National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee is the national platform utilized as the forum for disaster risk reduction. To support the national platform are various government organization layers also functioning at the national level. Senior level committee members such as departmental, institutional, or NGO heads meet once every six months. Operational representation from Ministries departments, institutions and organizations participate in three core groups. The three groups chaired by the Disaster Management Center are 1) Disaster Preparedness and Planning, 2) Rehabilitation, Recovery, Reconstruction and Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development, and 3) Early Warning Emergency Operation and Recovery.

The District Disaster Management Coordinating Committee had been proposed and would meet once a month to discuss disaster risk reduction with representatives from the regional and local level. There are no separate women’s organizations representing NDMCC however the NGOs and INGOs implement plans connected to the needs of women’s organization

Discussion on Context and Constraints: Lack of awareness of the Hyogo framework priorities and indicators at the institutional level and information sharing hinder the action plan.

Education Programs

Disaster preparedness activities are conducted
at all administrative levels of government to strengthen disaster response capabilities and improve availability of resources for use during a disaster.

National

The DMC Awareness Division conducts training and public awareness programs for the organization’s staff, government agencies, vulnerable communities, academic institutions and non-governmental stakeholder organizations. National level training programs include capacity building and equipment instruction for the district disaster management level. Capacity building programs for the stakeholders (school teachers, government medical officers, local authorities and youth volunteers, etc.) involve hazard awareness, safety programs, first aid, camp management, and disaster management. First aid training has been provided to the military for the search and rescue team members as sponsored by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. Public awareness programs use the mobile public awareness vehicle which travels to the vulnerable communities and shows hazard and disaster management videos.

The Disaster Management Centre initiated preparedness for communities at risk for disasters related to large dams. Large dam disasters can occur due to a cyclone or earth tremor and the safety of the communities is being addressed in the Dam Safety & Water Resource Project (DS-WRP) implemented by the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Management. Communities located downstream of major dams receiving the DMC awareness program are able to form subcommittees for search and rescue, first aid, camp management, village security, development of early warning dissemination mechanisms, inundation area mapping, signboards displays, and conduct of evacuation drills.

Sri Lanka responders are being trained on the Incident Command System (ICS) which is being incorporated in disaster management internationally. Intermediate training course on ICS has been completed by the Incident Management Team (IMT) which was established under the Marine Environmental Protection Authority (MEPA). The 20 member IMT received the training in 2013 to be able to implement the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

The annual Deyata Kirula national exhibit is used as a forum for education and training for the public and government workers. The DMC sponsored first aid and disaster management training which attracted 250 public and 50 government officers in 2013. The DMC also organizes emergency response activities such as mock drills and contingency plan preparation for the police, health workers, and armed forces.

General public education is administered on the annual December National Safety Day which began in 2006. The objective of the national day is to raise awareness of the population on the mitigation, prevention, and preparedness for natural and man-made disasters. Throughout the year, awareness programs are conducted by the Department of Meteorology with involvement from various government agencies. The programs cover hazards and methods to minimize damages together with specific topics of concern such as methods to protect against lightning.

District

District education and training is handled by the district disaster management system. The District Disaster Management Coordination Units have conducted disaster preparedness activities for the Grama Niladari Divisions. Activities have included the following.

- Hazards awareness, risk identification, and early warning
- Formation of disaster management committees and sub-committees
- Preparation of community level hazard map which depicts risk areas, evacuation routes to safe locations and other details
- Training on search and rescue, first aid, camp management and other topics
- Provision of early warning dissemination equipment such as megaphones, public address systems, sirens and rain gauges
- Conduct of mock drills/simulation exercises for tsunami, landslide, and cyclone hazards

District Disaster Management Assistant Directors coordinate the school disaster safety program and have conducted the School Awareness Programme, School Tsunami and Cyclone Evacuation Drills. Activities within the program include preparing the school hazard map, forming disaster management school committees and subcommittees, conducting mock drills, providing first aid training and providing equipment such as fire extinguishers and rain gauges.
To strengthen disaster response capacities for the communities, the DMC addressed the lack of resources by purchasing equipment such as water bowsers (mobile water tanks) and backhoes to use for landslide prone areas. The GN division received equipment provided to the camp management sub-committees. The Ministry of Disaster Management helped the sub-committees by buying kitchen utensils. The GN divisions have been recipients of over 150+ mock drills for flood, landslide, and tsunami hazards.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society is the primary provider of First Aid training in the country. Disaster Management training is incorporated into the junior Red Cross circles in schools and youth clubs. Since 2007, SLRCS has trained 1,000 school teachers in disaster preparedness and risk reduction. The society organizes mass awareness campaigns and regular simulation exercises at the community level.

Sri Lanka benefits from technical training supported by international organizations such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). WMO sponsored two meteorologists to receive post graduate training at the University of Philippines. Scientific staff members have traveled to India, Poland, China and other locations to learn about forecasting capabilities, public affairs, seasonal predictions, aeronautics, and additional topics as recommended by WMO. Scientific and engineering staff members have participated in short training programs organized between the Government of Sri Lanka and the partnering agencies of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES), and Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA). Domestic technical training is conducted by the Department of Meteorology in a series of training programs for technical service officers. In 2013, over 65 officers participated in training which highlighted new meteorological technology.

Disaster Management Communications

Early Warning System

A multi-hazard early warning system exists with linkages between the technical agencies, Disaster Management Centre, and relevant agencies to notify the vulnerable communities. The National Emergency Operations Centre within the Department of Meteorology is operated 24/7 and receives alerts from regional and local institutes with 24/7 operating centres for real time monitoring and reporting.

International partners connect with Sri Lanka to provide satellite imagery in emergency responses. The Imagery from the United Nations Platform for Space-based information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), United Nations Institute for Training and Research – Operational Satellite Applications Program (UNOSAT), and Sentinel Asia Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) support the country. The Department of Meteorology will be acquiring a Doppler weather radar system to track weather system changes throughout the country. The radar will be installed at Gongala Peak, Deniyaya.

Tsunami Warning System

Sri Lanka has a real time sea level monitoring network with data tracked by the Colombo, Trincomalee, and Kirinda stations. The Department of Meteorology Department receives information from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) in Hawaii, Japanese Meteorological Agency (JMA) and other service providers. Bulletins are sent from PTWC and JMA to the department by GTS, fax, and e-mail. Technical information is received from various countries using different disaster alert systems.

Landslide and Flood Warning System

The Department of Meteorology (DoM) monitors rainfall and posts the information on their website. The Automatic Rainfall Measurement System tracks rainfall from the Elapatha, Kahawatte, Kalawana, Nivithigala, and Pelmadulla stations and feeds the data to the DoM and National Building Research Organization. A dynamic model is used to analyze the data which
is reported to the DMC for early warning dissemination. The NBRO is involved in the spread of the information through the established communication methods.

**Multi-Hazard Early Warning Dissemination System**

The multi-hazard early warning dissemination system utilizes the government structure and various media venues to notify the population of the hazard. Multiple sources of data input exists from other countries which feed into the DMC unit. Information flows between the DMC, 24 Emergency Operation Center, District, Divisional, and Village Management Committees. A lateral notification process is used between the DMC and the Government agencies, media, military, police, and regional and international organizations (UN, INGOs, NGOs). Another lateral notification process is used between the 24 Emergency Operation Center and sub-national government entities such as departments, councils, and secretariats (provincial, district, local), police, hospitals, and other organizations at the community level.

The communication network includes the use of radio, SLT/Dialog, SMS, fax, internet, satellites, warning towers, media, and other communication systems from the police and military. The communication network can be described and broken down by the levels. The national level utilizes TV and radio stations, early warning towers, police and military communications, cell broadcast/SMS, technical devices, satellite and radio communication (HF and VHF), and telephones working through the Early Warning Unit and the 24x7 Emergency Operations Centre. The provincial/district level utilizes radio communication, telephone, police and military communication working through the Emergency Operations Centre, and disaster management coordinators. The AGA division/village level uses telephone, police vehicles with speakers, PA systems, sirens, temple and church bells, and messengers (riders, bicycles, motor cycles) working through the Early Warning System.
Warning Sub Committees/Team and NGOs and Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

The media is prominently involved in disseminating information through the over 50 channels of television and FM radio.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TV Channels</th>
<th>Independent Television Network (ITN), Rupavahini, Sirasa TV, Derana TV, Shakthi TV, Swarnavahini TV, Siryatha TV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>News Alerts</td>
<td>JNW News Alerts, Derana Alerts, Live at 8 Alerts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>News Websites, Satellite TV, PEO TV (news announcements)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Government agencies have various types of equipment to include HF/VHF equipment and satellite phones. Over 25 districts in Sri Lanka are covered by HF/VHF frequencies and satellite communication. Fixed and mobile phones are heavily used for communication with public warning messages relayed by Short Message Service (SMS) and cell broadcasting facilities. The Disaster Early Warning Network (DEWN) disseminates information by SMS to over 5000 key contacts, and by cell broadcast to over 9,000,000 people. The general notification process uses the Internet and e-mail to share information and early warning notification. The Disaster Management Centre operates an official website which tracks events.

At the local level, traditional methods involve the use of megaphones and public addressing systems, and electric and manual sirens. The community level “Last mile dissemination” system employs traditional methods supplemented with messengers/runners, police vehicles with speakers, telephones and radios. Data is obtained through the Disaster Management Centre and circulated to the district division, police, military, and media. The different aforementioned communication tools convey warnings such as tsunami and flood and evacuation guidance. Information is sent to the Police from EOC-DMC and the Police emergency hotline is used to distribute the message to all coastal police stations for tsunami warning and evacuation.

Military Role in Disaster Relief

The Ministry of Defense performs disaster response responsibilities as constituted in the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act 2005, Amended and as stated in the disaster plans. The Amended Act empowers the Chairman (President) to constitute a Disaster Management Task Force with members of the Armed Forces, Police, Fire Brigade, and Paramedical Services. The Task Force will assist in the coordination of preparedness, early warning, mitigation, and specialist response to disaster and disaster response situations in collaboration with the Provincial and District Disaster Management Coordination Units of the DMC. The military supports the disaster management structure as assigned by the government. A total of 97 Army and Air Force personnel are attached to the District Disaster Management Coordinating Units in Colombo, Kaluthara, Galle, Matara, Hambanthota, and Puttalam.

Ministry of Defense is comprised of the Sri Lanka Air Force, Sri Lanka Army, Sri Lanka Coast Guard, Sri Lanka Navy and Civil Security Department. The Sri Lanka Armed Forces consist of the Air Force, Army, and Navy. Disaster response has not been the primary role of the military historically however this dynamic has changed due to the Government’s increased priority on disaster response. As the military is widely disseminated throughout the country, every district has access to military support as needed. The District Secretary is able to request military assistance for smaller disasters. The Military Headquarters in Colombo authorizes the use of the military with procedures prepared to expedite the approval process. Once the President issues an “emergency”, a District Coordinator is appointed from the military forces which supersede the civil administration.

The Sri Lankan Army has allocated a dedicated military force to each district to assist the civil authorities which reflects the level of inter-agency cooperation that exists. The force size will be adjusted according to the assessed risk levels of high, medium, or low. The dedicated forces are titled “Search and Rescue” however at the time of reference report, these forces had not received specialized training or equipment. The Air Force is charged with the task of deploying throughout the country at short notice as needed. The Air Force is the only government organization with the rotary wing aircraft capability and plays an integral
logistical support role for transport and aerial rescue. While the military component fulfills a key role in disasters, specialized equipment has not been allocated to maximize the assistance. The Navy has a dedicated response squad to support emergencies in coastal and major waterways in addition to providing vessels for disaster response.\footnote{126}

The military brings to fore substantial manpower strategically located throughout the country and major equipment capabilities in a well-structured command and control organization to support the disaster response. The level of assistance could be elevated with additional specialized training and equipment. The Department of Civil Security supplements the military’s assistance in disaster response. The Civil Defence Department has over 36,000 personnel throughout the communities that are able to assist as well.\footnote{127}

The National Emergency Operations Plan (NEOP) outlines the designated responsibilities for the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, and Navy. The majority of the responsibilities are similar between the military components as delineated in the four major disaster scenarios of flood, landslide, cyclone, and tsunami.\footnote{128}

Sri Lanka’s defense budget has been decreasing in GDP since 2010. The GDP is reported for 2010 at 3.09%, 2011 at 2.85% and 2012 at 2.45%. Military expenditures of US$1,464 million have been recorded for 2012. The number of Armed Forces is reported as 161,000 and another 6,000 is estimated for reservists.\footnote{129}

Military responsibilities summarized from the NEOP. Additional responsibilities for a scenario are highlighted in blue.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Component</th>
<th>Flood</th>
<th>Landslide</th>
<th>Cyclone</th>
<th>Tsunami</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka Air Force</td>
<td>• Dissemination of Early Warning</td>
<td>• Dissemination of Early Warning</td>
<td>• Dissemination of Early Warning</td>
<td>• Issue of Early Warning</td>
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<td>• Evacuation to Safe Locations (public and staff)</td>
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<td>• Treatment of Injured</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka Army</td>
<td>• Dissemination of Early Warning</td>
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<td>• Treatment of Injured</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka Coast Guard</td>
<td>• Dissemination of Early Warning</td>
<td>• Receiving Information</td>
<td>• Dissemination of Early Warning</td>
<td>• Issue of Early Warning</td>
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<td>• Evacuation to Safe Locations (public and staff)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka Navy</td>
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<td>• Receiving Information</td>
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Military Role in Early Warning and Evacuation System

The military early warning dissemination process is clearly defined through the communication notification chart. Once the Joint Operations Headquarters (JOH) initiates the messaging, each component is responsible for distributing the information through the specific command. The military supports the early warning and evacuation system and assists with public notifications. The DMC will contact the JOH. The JOH initiates information dissemination through the Army, Navy, and Air Force commands. The military components will assist the vulnerable communities. As an example, warnings are communicated to the vulnerable population through the coastal military locations.

Military Role in Search and Rescue

The Army and the Navy operate search and rescue teams from the Defense Services. All of the search and rescue teams are equipped with HF/VHF and mobile phones.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military Service</th>
<th>Locations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Army Search and Rescue Teams (1 x coy)</td>
<td>Colombo, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Ampara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Mulathive, Jaffina, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Puttalam, Gampaha, Vavuniya, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Matale, Kurunegala, Kandy, Kegalle, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Monaragala, Rathnapura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy Research and Rescue Teams (Commands)</td>
<td>Western (15 x teams), Southern (15 x teams), Eastern (20 x teams), Northern (10 x teams), North Central (20 x teams), North Western (8 x teams)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Civil Security Department of Sri Lanka

As stated in the Gazette notification No. 1462/20 dated September 13, 2006, the Civil Security Department (CSD) is responsible for assisting in disaster mitigation activities in the event of floods, tsunamis, landslides, etc. While the main functions of the CSD are concentrated on enforcing security during various conditions, this same security role could apply to disaster situations as necessary.

Functions of the CSD:

- Serve as a Supplementary Force to aid and assist Armed Forces and Police Service due to the existing security condition
- Safeguard villages, properties and cities when terrorist threats are present
- Assist Police and Armed Forces to protect Law and Order in country
- Engage in security for national and other important events
- Assist in mitigation activities for disasters (floods, landslides, tsunami)
- Assist in Social Welfare activities
- Engage in special functions as ordered by the government
- Establish a CSD headquarters

Logistics

Logistics Air

The Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka abides by the Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The Sri Lanka Air Service Authorization Requirements section of the Foreign Air Operator Certification Manual states the requirements for foreign air operators wishing to operate a commercial air service into and out of Sri Lanka.

- Obtain an Air Service Authorization from Sri Lanka (unless exempted by the Director-General Civil Aviation) in pursuance of an Air Service Agreement between the operator and the Government of Sri Lanka
- The Air Transport Section, Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka issues the Air Service Agreement to non-scheduled international services or scheduled international services operated by non-Sri Lanka operators
- This requirement is separate from the International Air License (IAL)
- The IAL issue process is detailed in the “Foreign Air Operator Certification Manual.”
- Sri Lanka agreed to the terms in the Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944) which includes articles related to health measures for aircraft.

Logistics Land

The Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society (MPCS) under the Ministry of Cooperatives maintains commercial outlets which are leveraged as distribution points for aid deliveries during a disaster due to the large network country-wide. The Districts do not own warehousing capacity or have pre-positioned stockpiles of emergency relief items or food. The required capacity is fulfilled by the SLRCS instead as the organization has a series of warehouses supplied with relief items for up to 200 families dispersed throughout the affected areas. The warehouses are rented from commercial companies which in turn could strain the resources in the area. The districts would benefit for building greater capacity in distribution and warehousing capacities.

Driving License:

Applicants with foreign country driving license are able to obtain a license for a light vehicle without going through the written or practical examinations.

- The issuer country of the license should be approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles
- If the license is not in English, an English translation of the license should be issued by the relevant Embassy
- Required documents and costs will be the same as obtaining a new license
- The Government Information Centre states different required documents then the Department of Motor Traffic.
- The Centre states to provide: original and
photocopy of birth certificate, original/photocopy of a valid passport, three copies of black and white photos the size of 2x2, and medical certification from a MBBD certified medical officer

- The Department of Motor Traffic states to provide: foreign driving license valid for at least 6 months, visa valid for at least one month, medical fitness certificate obtained from the National Transport Medical Institute within a period of 6 months, and passport

**Logistics Sea**

The Colombo port is the country’s main point of entry for cargo and is becoming an international container hub. If this port becomes inaccessible during a disaster, the nation would experience major difficulties in receiving international aid. Informal private sector partnerships exist to support the Colombo port with specialized skills as necessary. The port’s significant storage facilities and capacity have been leveraged in disasters such as the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami response. The Port Authority worked with the Red Cross during the tsunami response to ensure relief supplies were off-loaded, organized, and distributed. The Navy provides security for the port.134
Infrastructure

The Government of Sri Lanka recognizes the investment needs of its transportation sector to meet the country’s social and economic needs. The Mahinda Chintana (the Thinking of Mahinda) is Sri Lanka’s guiding principle developed by President Mahinda Rajapaksa and is the strategic focus for Sri Lanka’s five-fold hub: maritime, aviation, energy, knowledge and commerce. The Mahinda Chintana is based on the economic idea that growth in gross domestic product (GDP) alone would not bring economic success to the society. The Mahinda Chintana Goal (MCG) is to increase GDP to provide benefits to every part of society in an acceptable way. Economic success for the people cannot rely entirely on market based results requires connectivity through roads, electricity, telecommunications, information technology, education and health services. The strategy depends not only on promoting investments on infrastructure based commercial and economic returns, but also the creation of equitable access to infrastructure development to enable people to engage in gainful economic activities.

Airports

Sri Lanka has three international airports and twelve domestic airports. Airports are administered by Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Ltd. Bandaranaike International Airport is one of two international airports serving the city of Colombo, the other is Ratmalana Airport. Bandaranaike International Airport is located 22 miles north of Colombo and is the busiest airport in the country with over 6 million passengers per year. A new runway to support the Airbus A380 and a terminal are under construction and are expected to be completed by 2016. The largest aircraft Bandaranaike can support is a Boeing 747 and military aircrafts the size if a C5 Galaxy or Antonov 124 is not supported.

Ratmalana Airport is the other international airport located in Colombo. In 1964, after the new Bandaranaike Airport was completed, Ratmalana only handled domestic flights. In 2012, the airport was converted into a city airport which would provide services to foreign private jets and small aircrafts. The intent of this change was to improve internal air services within the country and since the change was made, the number of private jets traveling to the Sri Lanka has increased.

Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport is located in southern Sri Lanka in the city of Hambantota. It is the third largest of the international airports and serves as a secondary hub for Sri Lankan Airlines and Mihin Lanka. The airport opened in March 2013, with a capacity to facilitate over 800 passengers during peak hours. The airport is strategically located to connect to more than half of the world within 8 hours. It will also be the first airport in Sri Lanka to have A380 flight facilities. The design of the buildings and airport infrastructure was planned to combine with the environment. A quarter of their energy consumption will be sourced from renewable energy. The airport is also expected to boost tourism and encourage people to travel.
Sri Lanka has many large ports and harbors. All ports and harbors in Sri Lanka are maintained and governed by the Government of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. There are six major ports: Colombo, Hambantota, Galle, Trincomalee, Kankasanthurai and Oluvil. The development of port infrastructure has been a priority in recent years. Key projects include the Colombo South Harbour Project, Hambantota Port Development Project, Oluvil Port Development Project and Galle Tourist Port Development Project. These ports and harbors will increase cargo handling capacity by 4.5 million tons per year upon completion of all of these projects.143

The Port of Colombo is Sri Lanka’s primary commercial port and is one of the leading performing ports in Asia. This port handles conventional cargo along with containers, and it has also been acknowledged as one of the most economical ports in the region.144 The JAYE Container Terminal of Colombo is a fully equipped modern seaport. It has a 632 meter long port with a draught of up to 13 meters making it capable of handling modern container vessels. Dry dock and bulk handling facilities are available at Colombo.145 In 2013, a new Chinese-built container terminal opened at the port which will be able to handle 2.4 million containers a year.146

Trincomalee harbor is located on the east coast of Sri Lanka and one of the fifth largest natural harbors in the world. It is equipped with unlimited draught and is capable of accommodating large vessels.147 The port at Galle can handle two vessels along-side berths. This port has road and rail access and is well equipped with transit sheds.148

Taking advantage of Sri Lanka’s geographical location along an international sea route, Sri Lanka is promoting itself as the “Wonder of Asia” which is targeted towards the Port of Hambantota. Port Hambantota is a natural harbor and is located on the southern tip of Sri Lanka close to international shipping routes. The port underwent a $US360 million renovation and re-opened in 2012, and the government expects the port to provide 40 percent of the government’s income by 2020 and create 10,000 direct and more than

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### Airports in Sri Lanka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Airport Name</th>
<th>Usage</th>
<th>Runway</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>International</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombo</td>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Bandaranaike International Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>10,990ft 13,000ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombo</td>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Ratmalana Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>6,600ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hambantota</td>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Mattala Rajapaks International Airport</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>11,500ft</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ampara</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Ampara Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>3,599ft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anuradhapura</td>
<td>North Central</td>
<td>Anuradhapura Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>4,898ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batticaloa</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Batticaloa Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>3,497ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dambulla</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Sigiriya Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>5,801ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Koggala Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>3,143ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaffna</td>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Jaffna Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>7,562ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalutara</td>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Katukurunda Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>3,199ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kandy</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Kandy Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>6,600ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilinochchi</td>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Iranamadu Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>4,900ft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puttalam</td>
<td>North Western</td>
<td>Hingurakgoda Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>7,200ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trincomalee</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>China Bay Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>7,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vavuniya</td>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Vavuniya Airport</td>
<td>Public/Military</td>
<td>5,000ft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Land Routes

Roads are the backbone of Sri Lanka’s transportation sector. They are important for the movement of people and goods and play a vital part in integrating the country, facilitating economic growth, and reducing poverty.

Roads

Roads are the primary mode of transportation in Sri Lanka with approximately 90 percent of passengers and 98 percent of freight carried by road. However, years of neglect and poor maintenance have led to low travel speeds and service. This has hindered long distance traffic and the spread of economic activities and development outside of Colombo. Sri Lanka has a higher road density than in other developing countries, but the conditions are inadequate to meet the growing traffic. Over 50 percent of the national roads have poor surface conditions and are majorly congested. Roads are very important for the 65 percent of the Sri Lankan population who live in villages. Roads are the primary mode of transport for most rural people to reach essential services such as hospitals, schools, markets, which are located far from their villages.

The road network is dense and well laid out, providing basic coverage to the population and economic activity centers. Sri Lanka’s road density is among the highest in Asia as the ratio of road kilometers to population exceeds the related indicators in neighboring countries. The road network consists of 112,997 kilometers. They are divided into national, provincial, rural and others.

In 2004, the ‘Maga Neguma’ rural road development program was initiated by the President when he was the then Prime Minister and Minister of Highways. The program is designed to improve rural roads through direct labor of Road Development Authority (RDA) or with the participation of community-based organizations. Rural roads make up 72 percent of the road network in Sri Lanka. The government has made road improvement a top priority because they will open opportunities for national integration and contribute to the acceleration of economic growth and regional development. The government plans to improve the entire road network with modern technology from 2011-2020.

The Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) is a state organization which provides public service 24 hours every day through its organized network across the country. There are roughly 5,000 state and 17,500 private buses contributing to passenger transportation.

The RDA is the highway authority in Sri Lanka and is responsible for the maintenance and development of the National Highway Network along with the planning, design and construction of new highways, bridges and expressways to augment the existing network in the country.

Bridges

The RDA is responsible for the maintenance and development of roads and bridges in the National Highway Network, and the design and construction of new roads and bridges. The 2004 tsunami caused heavy damage and destruction to many bridges. Numerous bridges were either replaced or rebuilt with funding from

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<td>Regional Port</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Kankesanthurai</td>
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<td>Oluvil</td>
<td>Commercial and fishery harbor</td>
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List of Ports

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</table>

Transport Network Indicators, 2009

| Population Density: 311       |
| Road Density (km/1000 people): 5.50 |
| Road Density (km/km2 of land): 1.71 |

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many international donors and/or countries. Several communities relied on ferries to link them to schools, hospitals, and markets due to bridges being destroyed or damaged.\textsuperscript{158}

| Bridge Construction: 2010-2013\textsuperscript{159} |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Number of Bridges |
| 2010 | 55 |
| 2011 | 58 |
| 2012 | 93 |
| 2013 | 30 |

There are around 4,000 bridges in Sri Lanka. The longest bridge is the Aviththawa Bridge at 695 meters long located in the Galle district. The Kinniya Bridge used to be the longest bridge at a length of 396 meters long and 10 meters wide and was constructed on the A-15 highway. It crosses the lagoon area surrounded by Koddiyar and Tambalagam Bay. The bridge links Trincomalee with Kinniya which allows people to cross the Kinniya Lagoon to reach the Kinniya and Muttur areas. It allows for vehicle and pedestrian traffic with 7.4 meters in width dedicated to vehicles, and 1.5 meters for pedestrians. The Irakkandi Bridge links Trincomalee with Pulmodai is 300 meters in length and 7 meters wide with two 1.5 meter pedestrian lanes.\textsuperscript{160}

### Railways

Railways in Sri Lanka once had a dominant role in the country’s transportation sector, but over the years have faced competition from road transportation.\textsuperscript{161} Sri Lanka Railways (SLR) is a government department under the Ministry of Transport and is the only rail transport organization in the country. Limited rail network and low quality of services make rail an unattractive mode of transportation for both passenger and freight. Roughly 7-8 percent of services are cancelled yearly and only 30 percent arrive on time. However travel speed has improved with some rail improvements like extensions and upgrading of the network.\textsuperscript{162}

SLR operates approximately 300 trains which include 45 long distance and 12 intercity trains that carry about 0.29 million passengers daily. Sri Lanka’s railway network consists of 1,420 kilometers of rail tracks, 175 locomotives, 900 carriages and the signaling network. They currently employ 14,400 people. Intercity (ICE) trains offer express service between main cities like Colombo, Kandy, Vavuniya and Batticaloa. Fast passenger trains offer semi-express service between Colombo and other major outstations. Special charter services for large groups are also offered.\textsuperscript{163}

| Operation\textsuperscript{164} |
| --- | --- |
| Number of Trains/Day | 310 |
| Passenger Trains/Day | 300 |
| Goods Trains | 10 |
| Passengers Carried/Day | 0.29M |
| Number of Stations | 164 |
| Number of Sub Stations | 162 |
| Train Control Centers | 3 |

In 2010, the Sri Lankan government launched a 10 year Railway Development Strategy highlighted in the Mahinda Chintana to bring railway back to suitable condition. New diesel-multiple units (DMU) replaced current trains. The Southern line track damaged from the 2004 tsunami was upgraded to handle trains at 62 miles per hour allowing for shorter travel times. The Northern line is also being upgraded.

### Schools

The tsunami of 2004 completely destroyed or heavily damaged fewer than 200 schools.\textsuperscript{165} Most of these schools were located in the coastal areas and will not be rebuilt within 100 meters of the shore.\textsuperscript{166} Many schools were used as camps for internally displaced people.\textsuperscript{167}

The Sri Lanka Urban Multi-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Project (SLUMDMP) is a project implemented by the Centre for Housing Planning and Building (CHPB). Many activities were carried out to ensure safer building practices, such as:\textsuperscript{168}

- Development and publication of Guidelines for Construction in Disaster Prone Areas
- Development and publication Guidelines for Stabilization of Areas Prone to Landslide Disaster in local language
- Training and awareness activities for relevant personnel at national and local levels
The National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) took on the task of the Landslide Zonation Mapping from the Central Province Provincial Council. The mapping identifies critical, moderate and safe areas, and creates awareness on the building practices. The National Committee on Reviewing Building Guidelines (NCRBG) was established after the 2004 tsunami because community infrastructure facilities were not planned or constructed to withstand the wrath of natural disasters. The NCRBG is comprised of professionals from the Sri Lanka construction fields who initiated programs which developed model type plans for schools and hospital buildings.

Communications

Sri Lanka has nine fixed and mobile operators and around 40 other companies involved in a variety of telecommunication services throughout the country. Sri Lanka’s telephone systems are good for urban, semi-urban, and international services. However, inadequate service remains in rural and remote areas. The Colombo Lotus Tower will stand 350 meters once completed in 2015, and it will facilitate the transmission of signals of 50 television channels and over 35 radio stations.

Utilities

Approximately 94 percent of households in Sri Lanka are provided with electricity, and the government is aiming for 100 percent. Grid electricity is provided to about 80 percent of households and around 3 percent of households use off-grid systems. Currently, 40 percent of electrical energy is consumed in households, another 40 percent in the manufacturing industry, and the remaining amount in the commercial sector.

Power

Energy supply in Sri Lanka is based on three primary resources: biomass, petroleum, and hydroelectricity. The demand for energy is growing to aid Sri Lanka’s economic and social development and is expected to increase to 15,000 ktoe (thousand tonnes of oil equivalent) by 2020 at an average growth rate of 3 percent. The electricity grid extends to 55 percent of the population and only 40 percent in rural areas. Infrastructure is being built to extend the services, but there is a shortage of generating capacity. In 2013, roughly 1.3 million Sri Lankans didn’t have reliable electricity from the grid. Solar power is an option since it is cheaper than diesel. Sarvodaya Economic Enterprise Development Services (SEEDS) has financed the installation of 52,000 solar home systems in rural areas since 1998. The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) is the main electricity utility and is responsible for the generation, transmission and 90 percent of the distribution of electricity in Sri Lanka. The Lanka Electricity Company Ltd (LECO) covers the 10 percent balance of distribution in the urban coastal areas. CEB’s distribution system contains approximately 17,000 grid and distribution substations that are fed with 25,365 km of transmission and medium voltage distribution lines.
is estimated that hydropower will reduce between 20 to 40 percent by 2020, while coal-fired thermal generation is estimated to reach 70 percent in 2020. Increased electricity prices and negative environmental externalities may occur due to coal dependency.\(^{176}\)

The demand for off-grid systems has reduced, but the Ministry of Power and Energy started a program to provide electricity through off-grid renewable sources to remote villages and inhabited islands.\(^{177}\) Renewable energy is rising, and the government expects to meet its target of 10 percent of renewables by 2015. So far, solar and wind power hold the most potential.\(^{178}\)

The island’s power generators will also see costs rise if the rains fail. In normal years, around 40 percent of Sri Lanka’s power demand is met through hydropower generation. If the rains are good, this share can even rise to more than 50 percent. But in years of poor rainfall, the country is forced to rely heavily on expensive thermal power generation, as it was in 2012. That year, half of Sri Lanka’s $4.2 billion oil import bill was for furnace oil for the generators. Last year, Finance Secretary Punchi Banda Jayasundera admitted that the country’s balance of payments was adversely impacted by the high cost of importing oil. Asoka Abeygunawardana, Executive Director of the Sri Lanka Energy Forum and an advisor to the country’s technology ministry, said that Sri Lanka’s long-term energy plans rely on hydropower generation for at least 30 percent of the country’s power needs. He believes Sri Lanka must look at alternative renewable energy sources to shake its dependency on oil and on rainfall. Agriculture department official Punyawardena said that if Sri Lanka were to meet the challenges posed by extended warm weather conditions, it also must change its attitude to water usage. “Water today is an expensive luxury good. It should be treated like one,” he said, adding that farmers needed to consider adopting climate-resistant crop varieties instead of depending on the current varieties.\(^{179}\)

### Composition of Future Energy Mix
(Source: Mahinda Chintana)

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### The Sri Lanka Electricity Act No. 20 of 2009

- The provision of 24 hours uninterrupted electricity for all at all times
- The adoption of a transparent tariff policy acceptable to the Government, consumers and utilities to ensure reasonable cost recovery
- The implementation of lower cost generating plants and the adoption of open competitive transparent bidding processes for the procurement of electricity by utilities, the establishment of a transparent power plant dispatch programme 2009 and the upgrading of Management information
- Update of provisions to be compatible with the latest technology advances and to protect the rights and advances and to protect the rights and safeguard the interest of consumers
- Making the Ceylon Electricity Board more efficient and effective, while being made accountable for its functions to the general public, consumers and the government.
Total Installed Capacity (Hydro Power) 1207 MW
Total Installed Capacity (CEB Thermal Power) 618 MW
Total Installed Capacity (Wind Power) 3 MW

Source: Cylon Electricity Board
Water and Sanitation

Sri Lanka is on track to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets for both water and sanitation. However, access to water supply and sanitation in the estate populations is lagging. The delivery of drinking water and improved sanitation is a government priority. As of 2012, Sri Lanka has the lowest rate of open defecation rate among South Asian countries with only 1.7 percent reportedly not using a toilet and 86 percent of the population has toilets in their households.

Sri Lanka receives an average of 70 inches of rainfall annually. The northern areas report low rainfall totals even during monsoon season. During the dry season, wells go dry leaving residents to travel long distances for water or buying private water bowsers with their income. In the northern district of Vavuniya, only 5 percent of the residents have running water in their homes. In 2012, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded a grant to the Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum (LRWHF), an organization which revives the ancient technology of using rainwater for household and community use. LRWHF trained masons to build 750 tanks which were placed in households and at schools and hospitals. The tanks collect rainwater from the roof and divert it into a tank into their land. This initiative educated people on the benefits of harvesting rainwater and also addressed livelihood and sanitation needs.

The National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) have primary responsibility for development of water and sewerage facilities for urban and rural communities. The NWSDB is the largest operator of the urban water supply systems with a country-wide operation of 315 major and minor water supply systems. These systems provide treated water to over 1.3 water connections by producing 500 million cubic meters of treated water per year. Regional Support Centres were established to spread and improve productivity of the NWSDB. Each center manages a series of projects to expand supply of water to Urban and Rural areas under their purview and each center is headed by a deputy general manager. The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division (RWSSD) of the NWSDB has jurisdiction over rural water supply. Private companies are responsible for providing basic water and sanitation infrastructure in the estate areas. People residing in the estates, mainly tea and rubber plantation estates have less access to water and sanitation services. The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources Management of Sri Lanka manages the irrigation sector and the water resources of the country, maintaining a balance between the trends on rapid economic development and sustainable use of water resource base.

Access to Safe Water Coverage

- NWSDB Water Supply Coverage (43.7%)
- Protected Dug Wells (36.6%)
- Tube Wells/Hand Pumps (3.2%)
- Rain Water Harvesting and Other (0.5%)
Health

Overview

Healthcare in Sri Lanka is provided by the government, private sector, and the non-profit sector. The country provides universal healthcare, free education, strong gender equality and better opportunity for social mobility. Sri Lanka has a robust public health network with over 1,000 institutions nationwide. There is a system of primary and referral facilities. In practice, patients are allowed to go to the institution of their choice and the one which is more accessible. Sri Lanka has made many achievements compared to other developing countries and is on the way for achieving most of their MDG targets. However, demographic and epidemiological changes pose a challenge which calls for the reform of the primary healthcare model for Sri Lanka.

A key document, The Health Master Plan was developed after several meetings with officials and stakeholders at the national and provincial level. This plan will enable the people of Sri Lanka to work towards a healthier nation. It was designed to support the country’s overall economic and social goals. The objective of the plan is to facilitate equity through ease of access to health services, improve productivity and ensure resources allocated to health result in a healthier population. The overall goal of improving health status and reducing inequalities will be accomplished by these five strategies:

- To ensure the delivery of comprehensive health services which reduce the disease, burden and promote health;
- To empower communities (include households) towards more active participation in maintaining their health;
- To improve the management of human resources for health;
- To improve health financing, resource allocation and utilization; and
- To strengthen stewardship and management functions of the health system.

The main goals of Sri Lanka’s health policy are defined and summarized into eight areas listed below. Sri Lanka has accomplished some of these goals over the years and has improved the health of its people. The Ministry of Health has introduced health development programs through its many institutions.

4. Reform of the organizational structure of management of the health system to improve efficiency, effectiveness and accountability;
5. Establishment of mechanisms to provide need-based care set priorities and allocate resources equitably;
6. Focusing of services on vulnerable groups and community needs that require special attention; the elderly, disabled and mental health;
7. Improvement of patient care provision and quality by reorganizing health care delivery system especially at district and provincial levels;
8. Rationalization of human resource development;
9. Increase of life expectancy by reducing preventable deaths from both communicable and non-communicable diseases;
10. Improvement of “Quality of Life” through healthy lifestyles and by reduction of preventable diseases and disabilities; and
11. Promotion of health through IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities and use of media

A Second Health Sector Development Programme (SHSDP) was developed for a five year period and outlines strategies which will be implemented under the National Health Sector Development Plan (NHSDP) 2013-2017. Areas which will be covered are: malnutrition, maternal and infant health, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and health system improvement. The SHSDP will benefit the entire country, mainly the poor and vulnerable populations who rely on the public health services.
Structure

The Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Services provide a wide range of preventative, curative and rehabilitative healthcare. The national and provincial health services provide a range of promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care through a network of healthcare institutions.\(^{189}\) The Ministry of Health operates at the central level and is responsible for the protection and promotion of people’s health. Its key functions are setting policy guidelines, medical and para medical education, supervision of medical, nursing and paramedical education and training and procurement of medical supplies.\(^{190}\)

Under the central level are eight Provincial Directors of Health Services (PDHS) who are responsible for the management of provincial and base hospitals (secondary care institutions) and district hospitals, peripheral units, rural hospitals and maternity homes, and outpatient facilities such as central dispensaries and visiting stations. There are 25 Deputy Provincial Directors of Health Services (DPDHS) at the district level to assist the Provincial Directors. Within each district, there are several divisions and each DPDHS is then divided further into several Divisional Director of Health Services (DDHS)/Medical Officers of Health (MOH). Public Health staff such as Public Health Inspectors (PHI), Public Health Nursing Sisters (PHNS) and Public Health Midwives (PHM) work at the field level under the Ministry of Health.\(^{191}\) At the community level, there is a team of Community Support Officers (CSOs) who are volunteers from disaster-affected communities. The CSOs are given two week training by the Ministry of Health on basic communication skills, identification, and referral of people with signs and symptoms of mental health illness for proper management.\(^{192}\)

The Ministry of Health has a Disaster Preparedness and Response Unit/Department located in Colombo which is responsible for leading post-disaster response activities. The Ministry also works closely with other stakeholders such as, government institutions, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and civil society groups.\(^{193}\) The Ministry has a surveillance system which is able to identify 22 notifiable diseases. Reports are collected daily and sent to the Epidemiological Unit in Colombo. There are Public Inspectors located at the community level which are tasked with disease surveillance activities along with ensuring environmental, sanitation, hygiene and availability of safe water.\(^{194}\)

Legal

The government of Sri Lanka has written key laws and policies to define the legal environment and govern the operations of the health sector.

Health Services Act:

This act provides for the constitution and responsibilities of the department of health and for the establishment of Regional Hospitals Boards and Hospital Committees, and to secure more efficient administration by the local authorities in relation to public health.\(^{195}\)

Provincial Council Act:

Provincial councils have legislative power over a variety of matters including agriculture, education, health, housing, local government, planning, road transport and social services.\(^{196}\)

Cosmetics, Devices and Drugs Act No. 27:

An act to regulate and control the manufacture, importation, sale and distribution of cosmetics, devices and drugs, to establish cosmetics, devices and drugs technical advisory committee and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.\(^{197}\)

Policies

Sri Lanka National Health Promotion Policy:

This policy is based on (a) the evidences from Sri Lanka health promotion situation analysis, (b) the international accepted concept, the WHO guiding principle for health promotion and the World Health Assembly resolutions and WHO South East Asia Regional Committee Resolution, and (c) the State Policy and Strategy for Health and the Health Master Plan 2007-2016.\(^{198}\)

National Medicinal Drug Policy:

Developed to ensure rational use of medicines and their affordability. The quality of medicines in the public and private sectors will be tested routinely to ensure the uninterrupted distribution of potent medicines at the point of services delivery.\(^{199}\)
HEALTH

Other Policies

• Mass Casualty Management Plans
• Mental Health Policy
• Poisons, Opium and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance
• National eHealth Guidelines and Standards for Sri Lanka

Health system

Sri Lanka has one of the most effective health systems amongst developing nations and provides universal healthcare to all citizens. The health system is enriched by a mix of allopathic, ayurvedic, unani and other systems of medicine. Allopathic medicine is the more dominant and caters to the majority of the population’s health needs. The Ministry of Health is responsible for preventative and promotional healthcare. There are numerous curative care institutions within the primary healthcare level which provide treatment at primary care institutions. They are: district hospitals, peripheral units and central dispensaries. Patients may seek curative care at any medical institution. Curative care services are provided by over a thousand curative care institutions throughout the country.

Services are provided by both the public and private sector. The provision of public health service in Sri Lanka takes place at the central, provincial, district and divisional levels. Most of the population lives within 5 kilometers of a health facility. There are a few pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in the country, although the majority of them are imported. The health system in the northern and eastern parts of the country was affected by the long conflict and needs urgent attention. Recovery in these areas can pose to be a challenging task. Resettlement has already begun and responding to quick health needs of the resettled people while looking at the long term recovery of the health system is of great importance.

Public Healthcare

Public sector healthcare is universally accessible for all citizens of Sri Lanka and are free of charge. Public health services concentrate on preventative and promotive and do not include first contact care facilities. First contact care facilities are provided at no charge to the public at outpatient divisions at all state sector hospitals from the National Hospital at the highest level to Rural Hospitals at the lowest level. The state sector also has Central Dispensaries throughout the country which also provides first contact medical services.

Private Healthcare

The private healthcare sector plays a vital role in developing healthy citizens. The Sri Lankan government encourages individuals to pay for their own healthcare if they are able to. Private sector healthcare is relatively low-cost. In 2006, legislation was passed to provide the government the framework to regulate private healthcare. The fastest growing part of private sector health is outpatient and ambulatory care. In 2012, 70 percent of the population used private hospitals for outpatient services and 30 percent used them for inpatient services.

Hospitals

Sri Lanka has an extensive system of public health units and hospitals all across the island. In general, hospitals are staffed well and equipped to meet the increasing health demands of the community. The National Hospital is located in Colombo and is the country’s referral center comprising of 75 wards, 35 operating rooms, 12 intensive care units and 3,000 beds. The hospital is the training center for graduates of the Faculty of Medicine. There are three levels of curative care institutions which individuals may seek care:

• Primary Healthcare Institutions – Central Dispensaries, Maternity Homes, Rural Hospitals, Peripheral Units and Districts Hospitals
• Secondary Care Institutions – Base and Provincial Hospitals
• Tertiary Care Institutions – Teaching and Special Hospitals
### Distribution of Curative Care Institutions in Sri Lanka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Hospital</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Hospital/Provincial General Hospital</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District General Hospital</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base Hospital Type – A</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base Hospital Type – B</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional Hospital Type – A (more than 100 patient beds)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional Hospital Type – B (between 50-100 patient beds)</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional Hospital Type – C (less than 50 patient beds)</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Medical Care Unit (Central Dispensaries and Maternity Homes)</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinics and Other Curative Institutions</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Hospital</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1151</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Ministry of Health Performance Report 2011.

---

### Health Institution in Sri Lanka

- **TH** = Teaching Hospital
- **GH** = General Hospital
- **BH** = Base Hospital

Laboratories

The Medical Research Institute (MRI) is Sri Lanka’s main center for bio-medical and applied research health. MRI is a major service provider for all hospitals in Sri Lanka with special and specified diagnostic laboratory tests. It is also the national laboratory for Japanese encephalitis, measles, rubella and influenza, and the regional reference laboratory for poliomyelitis.

Sri Lanka has several Bio-Safety Laboratory (BSL) laboratories located at medical schools. The MRI established a BSL3 laboratory, but it is not operational due to lack of maintenance. There are currently no national biosafety regulations in place.

Challenges in the Healthcare System

Sri Lanka is on track to achieve or on the right track to achieving the health MDG targets by 2015. The World Health Organization reported there is a need for the reform of the primary healthcare model, the importance of public health needs to be revitalized. The health system in the northern and eastern provinces was affected by the years of conflict and is in need of attention. Sri Lanka will need a more modernized and efficient health system which uses more international standards to handle the health problems of a middle income country effectively. This will improve living standards and social inclusions along with contribute to bigger objectives like economic growth stated in the Mahinda Chintana. To better address the needs of the country, the current health system will need to develop a modern health management information system, establish a quality assurance system, and strengthen coordination between institutions and agencies.

A major challenge in the health system is sustaining free health services at the point of delivery. Sri Lanka struggles with emerging health challenges, like changing lifestyles with income growth, the rise of non-communicable diseases, an aging population, and the healthcare financing policy needs a comprehensive reconsideration. Allocating more money is a must and better allocation of existing resources with more focus on primary level health care is also essential.

The WHO Regional Health Financing Strategy for the Asia Pacific Region (2010–2015) and the World Health Report (2010) highlighted three dimensions that should be considered towards universal coverage and social protections at a sustainable quality, without financial suffering.

- **Dimension 1: Breadth of Coverage** – People who are in under-served areas are not able to access private healthcare because they are located in rural areas. This is where the ‘depth of coverage’ comes in useful, by treating more of the population by scaling up the primary care system.

- **Dimension 2: Depth of Coverage** – While the country needs more money to spend for health care, increasing efficiency of resource allocation through re-orienting the primary level care services in the sector is an essential complement to bridge the funding gap, i.e., more health for the money spent.

- **Dimension 3: The Height of Coverage** – Insufficient public health expenditure results in higher individual out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) and lower population coverage. This can be tackled by making available essential medicines, especially for NCDs, at primary care facilities (Divisional Hospitals).

Outbreaks

Communicable diseases

Accomplishments have been made in almost eliminating vaccine preventable diseases along with leprosy, malaria, Japanese encephalitis, congenital syphilis, neonatal tetanus, lymphatic filariasis and measles. Dengue and other tropical diseases such as leptospirosis are an ongoing threat.

Dengue is a problem in Sri Lanka, but progress has been made through the establishment of a presidential task force on dengue which involves the ministries of health, defense, environment, education and local government, and headed by the President. The ministries collaborated together to launch widespread education campaigns, cleanup mosquito breeding grounds, and enforce fines for illegal dumping. In 2010, there were 34,105 reported dengue cases, and in 2011, the number dropped to 26,722.

Tuberculosis (TB) is an ongoing health problem in the country. Over five thousand cases of TB are notified every year and 60 percent are smear-positive pulmonary TB cases. The National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases (NPTCCD) is a decentralized unit which controls TB and other chest diseases in Sri Lanka. It operates through a network of
Non-communicable diseases

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are rising in Sri Lanka. Mostly the cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, alcohol and substance abuse, chronic kidney disease are increasing quickly and account for over 70 percent of illness in Sri Lanka. The leading cause of hospitalization is due to traumatic injuries.

Proportional Mortality (% of total deaths, all ages)

Mental health issues are also a main priority particularly for people located in post conflict areas. According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), one out of five persons in Sri Lanka suffers from a mental illness, and only 20 percent receive treatment. NIMH also reports that suicide attempts are on the rise and report around 10 suicides daily, with half the victims suffering from depression. At the end of 2012, NIMH reported that 50 percent of the population suffered from alcoholism.

Training for Health Professionals

The Government of Sri Lanka provides training for doctors, dental surgeons, assistance medical officers and nurses through its universities. The Ministry of Health is responsible for training of personnel for provision of healthcare. Postgraduate training is conducted both locally and abroad. The Postgraduate Institute of Medicine provides training courses for 40 different special-
SRI LANKA

Conclusion

Conclusion

The CFE-DMHA Sri Lanka Country Book revealed a number of significant findings in Sri Lanka’s disaster management systems, authorities, capabilities, and vulnerabilities. These findings have been outlined in each of the sections of the report, but a summarization of key findings is captured here in the conclusion for quick reference. This country reference book is an important step in developing a common understanding of the disaster management context in Sri Lanka and to identify Sri Lanka’s strengths and vulnerabilities for future disaster responses and capability-building engagements.

Finding #1: The Indian Ocean earthquake in 2004 served as a turning point in Sri Lanka’s disaster management and risk reduction programs.

Sri Lanka was hit by a tsunami on December 26, 2004 resulting from the Indian Ocean earthquake which originated off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. The southern and eastern coasts of Sri Lanka were impacted the most, taking the lives of many and displacing thousands.

Prior to the 2004 tsunami, Sri Lanka focused more on reactive measures after a disaster. The country lacked an institutional framework for disaster response and a proactive policy to take on the trend of increasing disasters therefore, the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) was established to create this framework. The Ministry of Disaster Management was formed to lead the strategic planning for disaster preparedness, response, risk mitigation and risk reduction, and the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) was established to facilitate the implementation of these strategic plans. Both were established after the tsunami under the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act, No. 13 of 2005. The act was created due to the government’s strong political commitment to establish a strong legal and institutional disaster management foundation after the country suffered the devastation of the 2004 tsunami.

A Road Map for Disaster Risk Management was developed to guide the disaster preparedness planning and implementation process of the country. The Road Map serves as a vision document for leading the way towards a safer Sri Lanka and incorporates prioritized activities which need to be implemented over the short, medium and long terms.

Finding #2: Frequency of disasters is increasing, but Sri Lanka’s disaster hazards are mapped.

Sri Lanka is exposed to many natural hazards that have caused severe impacts over the past years affecting lives, displacing people, and damaging property. Local authorities saw the urgent need to develop a comprehensive natural hazards profile for the country. These profiles will minimize the impact of disasters and ensure sustainability of the national development. The profiles are used by decision makers for planning that will minimize the impacts of disasters. With the assistance of the UNDP and other agencies, nine profiles have been developed: coastal erosion, drought, floods, landslides, lightning, sea level rise, storm surge, tropical cyclone and tsunami. These profiles are utilized for planning at the regional level and incorporate disaster risk reduction at every level.

Finding #3: Sri Lanka is vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events, resulting in impacts to socio-economic activities.

Climate change is expected to impact Sri Lanka due to its vulnerability as an island nation. Socio-economic activities in Sri Lanka will be impacted due to extreme weather events. Agriculture, water resources, energy, environment and fishing will each be impacted. Effects are already being seen in parts of country due to the temperature varying climate. Crop cultivation will be affected which will lead to social issues, as farmers will need to find other means of living. Coastal areas may become submerged and the increased intensity of hydro meteorological events is expected. Clearing trees to make way for the construction of new buildings is affecting the way the sun is heating the earth. Increased deaths could be due to heat waves, heat strokes, mosquitoes and parasites can increase, and increased rain with dry areas at the same time could lead to wild fires.

Sri Lanka is taking the necessary steps to prepare for climate change effects and developed The National Climate Change Policy of Sri Lanka to provide guidance and direction for all stakeholders to address the adverse impacts of climate change efficiently and effectively. The Ministry of Environment’s Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) addresses climate change challenges at the national level.
Appendices

Disaster Statistics

Table 4: Statistical Disaster Information for Sri Lanka from 2003 to 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disaster type</th>
<th>Occurrence</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Total affected</th>
<th>Total damage (US$ x 1,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drought</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthquake</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35,399</td>
<td>1,019,306</td>
<td>$1,316,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemic</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>695,000</td>
<td>$32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>62</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,068</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,714,306</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,348,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Landslide deaths from 2003-2008 totaled 290.

Disaster Management Laws and Guidelines

The Sri Lankan Parliament investigated the country’s preparedness to meet emergencies and to recommend steps to be taken to minimize the damage caused by similar natural disasters. Based on these recommendations, the Sri Lanka Disaster Management (DM) Act, No. 13 of 2005 was enacted. The National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) was established as the national body for disaster risk management coordination and monitoring in Sri Lanka as per the DM Act.

This act provides for the coordination at the highest executive level, establishment of the institutional framework for disaster management including the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), Disaster Management Centre (DMC) and elaborates powers and functions of the institution. The act also recognizes the cross-cutting nature of the disaster management and empowers the President to declare a state of disaster.

Department of Defense DMHA Engagements in the Past Five Years (FY 2009-2013)

The following list contains US DoD engagements related to disaster management that involved Sri Lanka from 2009 to 2013.

FY 13

December 2013:
- PACOM, USACE, USAID and CMSE sponsored the Musali Gov. Tamil Mixed School (GTMS) project in Mannar from December 2012 to December 31, 2013. This project provided construction of a new school building in Musali village in Mannar District, Northern Province and benefited current students that were attending classes in damaged buildings and/or outdoors under tree shade. It also served returning IDPs over the next couple of years.
- PACOM, USACE, USAID and CMSE sponsored the Pooneryn, Pallai, and Oddusuddan Divisional Hospitals project in Kilinochchi, Jaffna, Mullaitivu. This project focused on building new hospitals for Pooneryn, Pallai, Oddusuddan, and Mulankavil in the Northern Province and was proposed based on the comprehensive health infrastructure assessment that was conducted in January 2010.
- PACOM, USACE, USAID and CMSE sponsored the Kilinochchi Maha Vidalayam School project in Kilinochchi from December 2012 to December 31, 2013. This project enabled the construction of a new building as well as removal of rubble from a destroyed building, and complete furnishing of the facilities so that the school could become fully operational.
- PACOM, USACE, USAID and CMSE sponsored the Kilinochchi Maha Vidalayam School from December 2012 to December 31, 2013. This project involved renovating the primary wing of the largest Primary/Secondary School in Kilinochchi District.
October 2013: The Ladies School project began in December 2012 and was completed October 25, 2013 in the Northern Province. The project was sponsored by PACOM, USACE, and USAID. The project provided construction of a new school building based on the comprehensive educational infrastructure assessment that was conducted in January 2010. The objective was to afford education services to a vulnerable region/population which did not have effective education services during the Sri Lankan Civil War.

October 2013: The Osmaniya Secondary School project began in November 2012 and was completed October 20, 2013 in Jaffna. This project provided new construction of a school building and complemented USAID’s Reintegration and Stabilization of the East and North (RISEN) program and its support to economic development by providing health care to resettling internally displaced persons (IDPs) and allowing them to better focus on their livelihoods. This school was also recommended by the Ministry of Education.

October 2013: The Sri Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Program took place October 1-2, 2013 in Mannar and Vavuniya. Dry season droughts affect wide parts of northern Sri Lanka each year. This program built 30 rainwater harvesting systems in public spaces (schools, hospitals, community centers, municipal structures) in drought prone and vulnerable urban centers in Sri Lanka’s Northern Province in order to better capture rain water. Concurrently, USAID funded (distinct of PACOM) rainwater harvesting community development programs through NGO partners to ensure community involvement and sustainability.

August 2013: In 2013, Sri Lanka Pacific Angel was held from August 5-8, 2013 in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Operation Pacific Angel engagement promoted regional military/civilian partnerships and enhanced mil-mil, mil-civ, mil-NGO, and mil-interagency interoperability and involved execution of health services outreach, medical SMEEs and ENCAP events.

June 2013: The Multinational Force Standing Operating Procedures (MNF SOP) 17 Workshop took place June 17-21 2013 in Colombo. This workshop was an MPAT program involving civilian and military planners from Sri Lanka, UN, and military participants from select MPAT nations to conduct the annual update of the MNF SOP.

FY 12

September 2012: The UN Civil Military Coordination sponsored by PACOM J7 took place September 17-28, 2012 in Colombo. The purpose of the course was to prepare trained staff officers for service in UN multinational headquarters. The course establishes basic staff skills necessary to operate within a UN, coalition, or regional peacekeeping force headquarters.

September 2012:

- USACE sponsored the KN/Akkryan GTMS, Konavil, KN/Veravil Hindu MV Schools projects in the Kilinochchi District. The project span was October 2011 to September 30, 2012. This project provided construction of new school buildings in Konavil and Veravil. This project complemented USAID’s RISEN program and its support to economic development by providing health care to resettling IDPs and allowing them to better focus on their livelihoods. This school was also recommended by the Ministry of Education.

- USACE sponsored the Mullativu Divisional Hospital in the Mullaitivu District from October 2011 to September 30, 2012. This project involved a complete renovation to a damaged maternity ward and was proposed based on the comprehensive health infrastructure assessment that was conducted in January 2010. The assessment was done to identify the health needs of the North following the 26 year conflict between the Sri Lankan Government and LTTE.

- USACE sponsored the Kallapaadu Gramodaya Health Center (GHC) in Mullaitivu District from October 2011 to September 20, 2012. This project enabled construction of a new Kallapaadu GHC and was proposed based on the comprehensive health infrastructure assessment that was conducted in January 2010.

- USACE sponsored the Veravil Divisional Hospital in Kilinochchi District from October 2011 to September 30, 2012. This project enabled construction of a new Veravil Divisional Hospital and was proposed based on the comprehensive health infrastructure assessment that was conducted in January 2010.

August 2012: PACAF hosted the sixth annual multilateral military nursing exchange was held
in Sri Lanka. The Asia-Pacific Military Nursing Exchange (APMNE) provides a unique opportunity for US military nurses to engage with military colleagues within the USPACOM AOR on issues of mutual interest, such as military nursing practices, nursing roles in stability operations, disaster preparedness/mitigation/response, infection control/infectious disease mitigation practice, global pandemic preparedness, evidence-based practice, nursing education and career development. APMNE develops capabilities to enhance critical nursing skills in care of mass casualties and compares deployment/humanitarian mission experiences of military nurses. This exchange shares the latest information on nursing advancement and capitalizes on the prospect for enhanced interoperability and improved multilateral relationships. The exchange included participants from 13 countries.

**June 2012:** The Puttalam Community Water Project started in January 2012 and was completed on June 1, 2012 in Puttalam. This project focused on providing drinking water to Grama Niladhari Division, Puttalam via system extension. This project was the third of a three phase plan to offer full water services to Puttalam. The project was a direct request from the Mayor of Puttalam to the US Ambassador as well as the Civil Military Support Element (CMSE) on the ground.

**FY 11**

**September 2011:** The Kilinochchi Culverts project occurred from April-September 30, 2011. The project was sponsored by PACOM, USACE, USAID and CMSE. This project focused on the purchase of 100 culvert concrete pipes (800mm x 1000mm). Halo-Trust, a Sri Lankan NGO, used these pipes to construct culverts to access critical "hazardous mine areas" in order to conduct demining operations.

**September 2011:** Mankulam, Mallavi, Akkarayankalum, and Nattankandal Divisional Hospitals in Mullaitivu District, Northern Province and were proposed based on the comprehensive health infrastructure assessment that was conducted in January 2010. These projects started in 2010 and were completed in September 2011.

**September 2011:** The Konavil, Unionkulam, Skandapuram, Malaiyalaparam Gramodaya Health Centers project provided construction of new health centers in Konavil, Skandapuram, and Malaiyalaparam in Kilinochchi District, Northern Province and renovation of a center in Unionkulam. Gramodaya Health Centers are village-level medical facilities that are critical for providing services to rural populations that are isolated by lengthy distances to larger facilities and lack of transportation.

**May 2011:** SOCPAC hosted the Sri Lanka Medical Seminar in Batticaloa from April-May 15, 2011. Host Nation (HN) medical professionals in Sri Lanka requested Medical Seminar opportunities and SMEEs with US DoD on the treatment of trauma management and behavioral health. This Medical Seminar enhanced the HN medical knowledge and capabilities and improved USG/DoD interoperability with the local Sri Lankan medical community, the Ministry of Health, and the Government of Sri Lanka (GSL).

**February 2011:** PACOM J07 hosted the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute (DMRTI)/CENTCOM Medical Blast Injury Workshop in Colombo from February 15-17, 2011. This workshop focused on education exchange on the medical and surgical management of injuries caused by explosive ordnance including on-site management of casualties and patient transport. Participating countries includes: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the United States.

**FY 10**

**December 2010:** The Renovation of Kilinochchi District General Hospital spanned April to December 31, 2010. This project renovated the primary wing of the District General Hospital in Kilinochchi.

**December 2010:** The Hand Pump in Puttalam project was sponsored by PACOM, USACE, USAID and CMSE from September-December 23, 2010. The recommendation was for the main city water line to be extended out to the village along the road 1 1/2 km from the last water point. This project provided a clean drinking water source right next to the two villages as opposed to relying on the city’s water truck to provide water.

**November 2010:** The Water Wells in Puttalam (2) project provided a clean drinking water source right next to the two villages as opposed to relying on the city’s water truck to provide wa-
Puttalam is a predominantly Muslim community which falls within the guidelines of the US Ambassador’s Muslim Outreach Group. The project was held July-November 30, 2010.

**August 2010:** PACAF sponsored the Sri Lanka Pacific Angel in the north central provinces of Cheddikulam and Puttalam from August 16-21, 2010. This Pacific Angel event focused on capacity building with the Sri Lankan military, embassy team and local authorities through MEDCAPS, ENCAPS and SME Events. Specifically, this PAC ANGEL focused efforts on the North Central section of Sri Lanka in the Tamil and Sinhalese communities. The MEDCAP events included three SMEs focusing on community outreach, public health, mental health and pediatric emergencies while the sites engaged in primary care, women’s health, dental, optometry and pediatric care to the populace.

**July 2010:** PACOM, USAID, and CMSE hosted the Construction of and Equipment for Psychosocial Center in Trincomalee from June to July 19, 2010. This project improved and furnished a building as a psychosocial center that assisted in the rehabilitation of children affected by the conflict.

**July 2010:** MARFORPAC sponsored a humanitarian assistance port visit from the USS Pearl Harbor and elements of the 15th MEU in Trincomalee. The visit consisted of: first aid training for the Sri Lankan Navy and Coast Guard; a Maritime Public Safety Program on avoiding marine mines; a Public Health SMEE with Sri Lankan Health Ministry personnel; COMRELS with mixed Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslim communities; a women’s outreach program; and boarding procedures for combating maritime crime.

**July 2010:** CFE-DMHA hosted a Pandemic Influenza Recovery Planning Symposium in Colombo from July 1-3, 2010. This was a regional workshop that focused on potential international response to a pandemic. Focus areas included public education at the local levels, community mitigation and recovery strategies.

**March 2010:** SOCPAC Medical Supplies event occurred from February-March 1, 2010 in Trincomalee. Medical supplies were provided to a medical center in Kuchchaveli as part of a disaster management and medical readiness exercise planned by the SOCPAC Surgeon’s Office in coordination with Sri Lanka’s Disaster Management Centre, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Defense. The medical supplies provided first responders and other medical personnel with the required medications and supplies to prepare for emergency situations.

**December 2010:** The Kilinochchi Maha Vidyalayam School project involved renovating the primary wing of the largest Primary/Secondary School in Kilinochchi District. The project was sponsored by PACOM, USACE, USAID and CMSE from December 1-31.

**FY 09**

**September 2009:** PACAF hosted the Sri Lanka CASEVAC HA in Trincomalee from January-September 30, 2009. PACAF International Health coordinated the delivery of casualty evacuation training, CASEVAC, working with SOCOM and SOCPAC. HCA funding supported training and delivery of medical equipment and supplies to increase capacity of Sri Lankan government to better move civilian and military casualties.

**September 2009:** PACAF and Tripler Army Medical Center executed a surgical MEDCAP from September 11-18 2009. The MEDCAP focused on chronic eye, ear, and cleft repair surgeries. Also included: mental health SMEE on combat stress and PTSD.
Disaster management partners in Sri Lanka

The following contact list is included with the intent to provide planners and deploying personnel initial contacts for disaster management-related organizations in Sri Lanka. Out of consideration for privacy concerns, this list does not contain individual contact information, but instead has email addresses and telephone numbers for offices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Logo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adventist Development and Relief Agency</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@adrasrilanka.org">info@adrasrilanka.org</a></td>
<td>94 11 284 1940</td>
<td>ADRA has been working in Sri Lanka since the late 1980’s. By 2015, ADRA Sri Lanka will have empowered 8,000 vulnerable families through its expertise in WASH and its substantial portfolios in Livelihood and Emergency Management.</td>
<td><img src="ADRA.png" alt="ADRA" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia Development Bank</td>
<td>Resident Mission</td>
<td></td>
<td>94 11 267 4499</td>
<td>ADB has been working with the government since it joined ADB as a founding member in 1966. ADB’s country partnership strategy (2012-2016) for Sri Lanka focuses on three pillars: inclusive and sustainable economic growth, catalyzing private investment and enhancing the effectiveness of public investment, and human resource and knowledge development.</td>
<td><img src="ADB.png" alt="ADB" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Disaster Preparedness Center</td>
<td>Project Office</td>
<td></td>
<td>94 777 148 222</td>
<td>ADPC and the Government of Sri Lanka have a MOU on regional cooperation on multi-hazard early warning arrangements, preparedness and mitigation of natural hazards.</td>
<td><img src="ADPC.png" alt="ADPC" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Aid</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AusAID primarily focuses on health, education and economic development – with governance a cross-cutting theme for all aid in Sri Lanka.</td>
<td><img src="Australian_AID.png" alt="Australian AID" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Direct Aid Program</td>
<td>Australian High Commission</td>
<td><a href="mailto:namal.perera@dfat.gov.au">namal.perera@dfat.gov.au</a></td>
<td>94 11 246 3242</td>
<td>DAP is a flexible small grants program with the aim to advance developmental objectives and addresses humanitarian hardships. In Sri Lanka, grants are mainly for community health, education, small infrastructure, rural development and human rights training.</td>
<td><img src="DAP.png" alt="DAP" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection</td>
<td>Regional Support Office South Asia – New Delhi, India</td>
<td><a href="mailto:echo.new-delhi@echofield.eu">echo.new-delhi@echofield.eu</a></td>
<td>91 491 95 300</td>
<td>ECHO has been present in Sri Lanka since 1994. They have helped address the needs of war-displaced people and provided funds for food assistance, healthcare, livelihood support, shelters, water and sanitation, de-mining and protection services. They also support communities to reduce the risks arising from natural disasters.</td>
<td><img src="ECHO.png" alt="ECHO" /></td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>FAO/UN/NGO/Other</td>
<td>Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
<td><a href="mailto:FAO-Sri-Lanka@fao.org">FAO-Sri-Lanka@fao.org</a></td>
<td>94 11 258 8537</td>
<td>FAO has assisted Sri Lanka in the establishment of structures needed for development, which include national strategies for development, programs for food security and the alleviation of poverty.233</td>
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<tr>
<td>German Development Cooperation</td>
<td><a href="mailto:giz-srilanka@giz.de">giz-srilanka@giz.de</a></td>
<td></td>
<td>GIZ Sri Lanka focuses on the priority area of conflict transformation and peacebuilding. GIZ implements projects in the following sectors: education, social integration, private sector development, and vocational training.234</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery</td>
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<td>In Sri Lanka, GFDRR’s support has helped strengthen safety nets, establish a Disaster Management Fund, and develop by-laws and an operational manual for the Disaster Management Fund.235</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Federation of Red Cross</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@red-cross.lk">info@red-cross.lk</a></td>
<td>94 11 269 1095</td>
<td>The SLRCS covers all 25 administrative districts of the country and has 25 branches. Main programmes include: disaster management, health and care, IDP programme, organizational development, humanitarian values, post flood recovery assistance, and restoring family links.236</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
<td><a href="mailto:colombo@ilo.org">colombo@ilo.org</a></td>
<td>94 11 259 2525</td>
<td>Sri Lanka became a member of the ILO in 1948. ILO’s strategic objectives in Sri Lanka are: fundamental principles and rights at work and international labour standards; employment and income opportunities; social protection and social security; and social dialogue and tripartism.237</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sratnayake@imf.org">sratnayake@imf.org</a></td>
<td>94 11 247 7155</td>
<td>Sri Lanka joined the IMF in 1950. In 2013, the IMF provided Sri Lanka with a $2.6 billion loan to help overcome the effects of the global financial crisis and support the economy following the end of its extended conflict.238</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
<td><a href="mailto:iomcolombo@iom.int">iomcolombo@iom.int</a></td>
<td>94 11 532 5300</td>
<td>IOM established its presence in Sri Lanka in 2002. IOM’s activity in Sri Lanka covers numerous sectors from labour migration and technical cooperation to migration health for in and out-bound migrants, from returns and reintegration of vulnerable populations to counter-trafficking in persons initiatives.239</td>
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<td>Organization</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan Internati-</td>
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<td>JICA opened its Sri Lanka office in 1982 and is one of the country’s largest bilateral donors. They have supported the government to implement a wide range of projects. They are strengthening infrastructure, expanding social services, launching disaster management and climate change initiatives.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS</td>
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<td>National HIV prevalence remains low in Sri Lanka through support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS. Sri Lanka provides free access to HIV treatment for all eligible people.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korea International Coopera-</td>
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<td>KOICA’S focus areas in Sri Lanka are: Education, Governance, Industry Energy, Environment and Others.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
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<td>OCHA has been present in Sri Lanka after the 2004 tsunami. They support ongoing operations and respond to emerging needs – especially related to natural disasters.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Save the Children</td>
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<td>Save the Children has been working in Sri Lanka since 1974. Their work is based on the UN Convention in the Rights of Children. Their work is focused on: education, child protection, child rights governance, health and nutrition, livelihoods and humanitarian.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Asia Foundation</td>
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<td>The Asia Foundation is helping Sri Lanka achieve long-term peace and prosperity by strengthening institutions of governance and improving the environment for economic growth, security, and justice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swiss Agency for Development and Coopera-</td>
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<td>Current strategy in Sri Lanka is the promotion of inclusive peace building, rehabilitation and sustainable development and support the post-war rehabilitation process in northern Sri Lanka.</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<td>UNDP started operations in Sri Lanka in 1967. UNDP’s goal is to support the country in attaining their Millennium Development Goals and the reduction of poverty. They also work closely with the government in line with the Mahinda Chintana.</td>
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<td>Organization</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lkaco@unhcr.org">lkaco@unhcr.org</a></td>
<td>94 11 268 3968</td>
<td>Currently, UNHCR’s current work ranges from providing protection for internally displaced persons and refugee status determination for third party country nationals seeking asylum in Sri Lanka, material assistance to IDPs and returnees, community services and work against sexual and gender based violence, and the coordination of humanitarian intervention for displaced people by the conflict.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Human Settlements Programme</td>
<td>Programme Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@un-habitat.lk">info@un-habitat.lk</a></td>
<td>94 11 258 0691</td>
<td>UN-HABITAT currently has over a dozen active projects in Sri Lanka. Projects vary from tsunami recovery and reconstruction projects to supporting an urbanization framework.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Office for Project Services</td>
<td>Operations Centre</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lkoc@unops.org">lkoc@unops.org</a></td>
<td>94 11 250 6096</td>
<td>UNOPS opened in 2005 to help the government and partner organizations deliver social and economic rehabilitation in areas affected by the 2004 tsunami and decades of armed conflict. UNOPS helps clients achieve project goals in: physical infrastructure, environment, and poverty mitigation.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:srilanka@unfpa.org">srilanka@unfpa.org</a></td>
<td>94 11 258 0840</td>
<td>UNFPA works on advancing the health of women and young people, particularly their reproductive health.</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Volunteers</td>
<td>Programme Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:unv.com.lk@undp.org">unv.com.lk@undp.org</a></td>
<td>94 11 258 0691</td>
<td>UNV has been a partner for comprehensive and sustainable development in Sri Lanka for over three decades. UNV Sri Lanka mobilized and integrated volunteers, involving local communities to participate in the process towards peace, recovery, and sustainable development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:infosl@usaid.gov">infosl@usaid.gov</a></td>
<td>94 11 249 8000</td>
<td>Key USAID priorities in Sri Lanka are to facilitate peace and reconciliation, give all Sri Lankans an equitable stake in the island’s economic growth, and foster a more democratic and inclusive society.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The World Bank</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:infosrilanka@worldbank.org">infosrilanka@worldbank.org</a></td>
<td>94 11 556 1323</td>
<td>The World Bank in Sri Lanka is focusing on long-term strategic and structural development challenges as it strives to transition to an upper middle income country.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wfp.colombo@wfp.org">wfp.colombo@wfp.org</a></td>
<td>94 11 258 6244</td>
<td>WFP activities in Sri Lanka focus on meeting the food and nutrition needs of the most vulnerable especially returnees as they attempt to regain their livelihoods, thus promoting food security and peace and reconciliation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td>Contact Information</td>
<td>Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sriregistry@searo.who.int">sriregistry@searo.who.int</a></td>
<td>94 11 237 9191</td>
<td>WHO and the Sri Lankan government have been working together to improve the health of people. The Country Cooperation Strategy provides an in-depth analysis of the key challenges and key strengths, and takes into account the objectives of the MOH while detailing how WHO will support the national health development strategies. 257</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Vision</td>
<td>Country Office</td>
<td><a href="mailto:srilanka@wvi.org">srilanka@wvi.org</a></td>
<td>94 11 269 1233</td>
<td>World Vision has been serving the people of Sri Lanka since 1977 through development and relief programs. Main programs in Sri Lanka include: Area Development Programmes, Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs programmes and the Area Rehabilitation Programmes. Through these programs, they serve 1,500 villages. 258</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Force Protection/Pre-Deployment information

The following information is provided for pre-deployment planning and preparations. Visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) prior to deployments for further up-to-date information.

Passport/Visa

1. As of January 1, 2012, visitors to Sri Lanka are required to obtain Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) for issuance of visa.

2. The ETA approval is required even if the traveler carries a valid visa to Sri Lanka including six months, one year or five year visas.

3. On receipt of the ETA approval which is obtained by making the ETA processing fee (US$ 30/for US passport holders), together with the following listed below.
   - From Sri Lanka Embassy in Washington DC, Sri Lanka Consulate General in Los Angeles or Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN in New York or
   - Obtain visa on arrival for 30 days at Colombo International Airport, by submitting the ETA approval
   - Visitors are kindly requested to make ETA processing fee ONLY in United States Dollars at the on arrival ETA Counter at the Bandaranaike International Airport

4. It is required to submit the following to process your visa:
   - ETA Approval Notice
   - Duly filled visa application form (in case of more than 30 days stay)
   - Visa fee (in case of more than 30 days stay) – cash, money order or certified check
   - Valid Passport of not less than 6 months duration
   - Proof of sufficient funds to meet expenses during the stay
   - Return air ticket

For the most up-to-date visa information, visit [http://slembassyusa.org/consular/visitors-to-sri-lanka/](http://slembassyusa.org/consular/visitors-to-sri-lanka/)

Emergency Contact Information

For U.S. Citizens, contact the U.S. Embassy in Colombo:

- 210 Galle Road, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka
- Telephone: (94) (11) 249-8500
- Emergency Telephone: (94) (11) 249-8888
- Embassy Fax Number: (94) (11) 249-8590

Currency Information

The currency in Sri Lanka is the Sri Lankan Rupee
Additional Information

- Before visiting Sri Lanka, the CDC advises travelers get the following vaccinations:
  - Standard routine vaccinations (all travelers)
  - Hepatitis A (most travelers)
  - Typhoid (most travelers)
  - Hepatitis B (some travelers)
  - Rabies (some travelers)
  - Japanese Encephalitis (some travelers)
  - Malaria (some travelers)
  - Yellow Fever (some travelers)
- Sri Lanka Calling Code: +94 (11)
- Sri Lanka Time Zone is UTC/GMT +5:30 hours

Sri Lanka Characteristics

- Official Name: Sri Lanka
- Government: Republic
- Language: Sinhala (official and national language) 74%, Tamil (national language) 18%, other 8%
- Note: English, spoken competently by about 10% of the population, is commonly used in government and is referred to as the link language in the constitution
- Geography: Sri Lanka has an area of 65,610sq km, which makes it slightly larger than West Virginia. The Capital of Sri Lanka is Colombo.
- People: There are 21,866,445 people living in Sri Lanka. The ethnic makeup are: Sinhalese 73.8%, Sri Lankan Moors 7.2%, Indian Tamil 4.6%, Sri Lankan Tamil 3.9%, other 0.5%, unspecified 10% (2001 census provisional data). The country’s primary religious groups include: Buddhist (official) 69.1%, Muslim 7.6%, Hindu 7.1%, Christian 6.2%, unspecified 10% (2001 census provisional data).
- Climate: Tropical monsoon; northeast monsoon (December to March); southwest monsoon (June to October)

Risks and vulnerabilities

- There is an elevated criminal threat in Sri Lanka. Most violent crime occurs within the local community. However, reports of violent crime, sexual assaults and harassment directed at foreigners have been increasing in recent months.
- U.S. citizens are advised against travel on public buses in Sri Lanka; as passengers can be targets of criminal activity and bus drivers do not all obey driving regulations.
- Routine petty crime, especially thefts of personal property and pick-pocketing, is not uncommon if the traveler does not take appropriate safeguards. Cell phone theft is the most frequently reported crime against foreigners. Street hustlers or “touts” are common around hotels, shopping centers, and tourist sites.
- U.S. citizens living or traveling in Sri Lanka should be aware of their personal surroundings and follow prudent security practices. You should avoid political rallies, military bases, military or police convoys, and closed areas of high security zones.
Culture and Customs

- Don’t take pictures of people unless you ask their permission. Don’t take photos of people if there are religious buildings or shrines in the background (posing next to a Buddha is especially frowned upon). And don’t take photos of military installations, bridges, airports or other strategic areas. Even some religious buildings have camouflaged gun emplacements and military bunkers.

- A good rule of thumb to bear in mind is that Sri Lankans are naturally shy, so when someone approaches YOU with excellent English, they want your money, pure and simple.

- If you see a seat on a bus or train with ‘Reserved for Clergy’, it is advisable to stay clear. It is one of the signs really to be taken serious and tourists may be taking a big risk disobeying this sign.

- When visiting any place of worship (beach wear is not suitable for temples and shrines). All visitors to Buddhist and Hindu temples are expected to be unshod and have their heads uncovered.

- There are many souvenirs you can bring back from Sri Lanka, but please do NOT buy anything that remotely looks like it is made from turtle shell or any other endangered species of Sri Lanka. Do not try to bring home any artifacts from the historical sites of Sri Lanka. It is illegal.

Health Information

Medicines/Items:

- The prescription medicines. Have enough to last during the trip. Keep them in their original prescription bottles and always in carry-on luggage.

- Medicine for diarrhea, usually over-the-counter.

- Iodine tablets and portable water filters to purify water if bottled water is not available.

- Antibacterial hand wipes or alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.

- To prevent insect/mosquito bites, bring:
  - Lightweight long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and a hat to wear outside, whenever possible.
  - Flying-insect spray to help clear rooms of mosquitoes.

During the Trip:

Many diseases, like malaria and dengue, are spread through insect bites. One of the best protections is to prevent insect bites by:

- Using insect repellent (bug spray) with 30%-50% DEET. Picaridin, available in 7% and 15% concentrations, needs more frequent application.

- Wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and a hat outdoors.

- Remaining indoors in a screened or air-conditioned area during the peak biting period for malaria (dusk and dawn).

Food and Water:

Diseases from food and water are the leading cause of illness in travelers. Follow these tips for safe eating and drinking:

- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not avail-
able, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol).

- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes. If this is not possible, learn how to make water safer to drink.
- Do not eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Make sure food is fully cooked.
- Avoid dairy products, unless they have been pasteurized.
- Check bottles for cracked seals.

**Traveling with Medications**

When medications are necessary for travel, it is important to remember the following:

- **Original containers:** All medications should be carried in their original containers with clear labels, so the contents are easily identified. Although many travelers like placing medications into small containers or packing them in the daily-dose containers, officials at ports of entry may require proper identification of medications.

- **Prescriptions:** Travelers should carry copies of all prescriptions, including their generic names.

- **Physician notes:** For controlled substances and injectable medications, travelers are advised to carry a note from the prescribing physician on letterhead stationery.

- **Restricted medications:** Travelers should be aware that certain medications are not permitted in certain countries. If there is a question about these restrictions, particularly with controlled substances, travelers are recommended to contact the embassy or consulate of the destination country.
## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronyms</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APMNE</td>
<td>Asia-Pacific Military Nursing Exchange</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSL</td>
<td>Biosafety Laboratory</td>
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<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
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<td>CEB</td>
<td>Ceylon Electricity Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHPB</td>
<td>Centre for Housing Planning and Building</td>
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<td>CMSE</td>
<td>Civil Military Support Element</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPERPS</td>
<td>Community Preparedness and Emergency Response Plans</td>
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<td>CPI</td>
<td>Corruption Perception Index</td>
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<td>CSD</td>
<td>Civil Security Department</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Community Support Officers</td>
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<td>DDHS</td>
<td>Divisional Director of Health Services</td>
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<td>DDMCC</td>
<td>District Disaster Management Coordination Committee</td>
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<td>DDMCU</td>
<td>District Disaster Management Coordinating Unit</td>
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<td>DEWN</td>
<td>Disaster Early Warning Network</td>
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<td>DM</td>
<td>Disaster Management</td>
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<td>DMC</td>
<td>Disaster Management Centre</td>
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<td>DMRTI</td>
<td>Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute</td>
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<td>DMU</td>
<td>Diesel-Multiple Units</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPERP</td>
<td>Disaster Preparedness Emergency Response Plans</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPDHS</td>
<td>Deputy Provincial Directors of Health Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSWRP</td>
<td>Dam Safety and Water Resource Project</td>
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<td>ENCAP</td>
<td>Engineering Civic Action Program</td>
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<td>ETA</td>
<td>Electronic Travel Authorization</td>
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<td>ERC</td>
<td>Emergency Response Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDI</td>
<td>Foreign Direct Investment</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<td>GFDRR</td>
<td>Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery</td>
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<td>GII</td>
<td>Gender Inequality Index</td>
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<td>GN</td>
<td>Grama Niladhari</td>
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<td>GSL</td>
<td>Government of Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>HDI</td>
<td>Human Development Index</td>
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<td>HFA</td>
<td>Hyogo Framework for Action</td>
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<td>HN</td>
<td>Host Nation</td>
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<td>IAL</td>
<td>International Air License</td>
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<td>ICAO</td>
<td>International Civil Aviation Organization</td>
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<td>ICE</td>
<td>Intercity</td>
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<td>ICS</td>
<td>Incident Command System</td>
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<td>Acronyms</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Person</td>
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<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information, Education and Communication</td>
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<td>IMT</td>
<td>Incident Management Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<td>ITN</td>
<td>Independent Television Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAXA</td>
<td>Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency</td>
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<td>JICA</td>
<td>Japan International Cooperation Agency</td>
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<td>JMA</td>
<td>Japan Meteorological Agency</td>
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<td>JOH</td>
<td>Joint Operation Headquarters</td>
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<td>KOICA</td>
<td>Korea International Cooperation Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>LECO</td>
<td>The Lanka Electricity Company Ltd</td>
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<td>LRWHF</td>
<td>Lanka Rainwater Harvesting Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>LTTE</td>
<td>Liberation of Tamil Eelam</td>
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<td>MCG</td>
<td>Mahinda Chintana Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDCAP</td>
<td>Medical Civic Action Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEPA</td>
<td>Marine Environmental Protection Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNF</td>
<td>Multinational Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOH</td>
<td>Medical Officers of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPCS</td>
<td>Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRI</td>
<td>Medical Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBRO</td>
<td>National Building Research Organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCD</td>
<td>Non-Communicable Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCDM</td>
<td>National Council for Disaster Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCRBG</td>
<td>National Committee on Reviewing Building Guidelines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDMC</td>
<td>National Disaster Management Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDMCC</td>
<td>National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDP</td>
<td>National Disaster Management Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDRSC</td>
<td>National Disaster Relief Services Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEOP</td>
<td>National Emergency Operations Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHSDP</td>
<td>National Health Sector Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIMH</td>
<td>National Institute of Mental Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPTCCD</td>
<td>National Programme for Tuberculosis Control and Chest Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWSDSB</td>
<td>National Water Supply and Drainage Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OOPE</td>
<td>Out-Of-Pocket Expenditure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACAF</td>
<td>Pacific Air Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PACOM</td>
<td>Pacific Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDHS</td>
<td>Provincial Directors of Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronyms</td>
<td>Definition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHI</td>
<td>Public Health Inspectors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHM</td>
<td>Public Health Midwives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHNS</td>
<td>Public Health Nursing Sisters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC</td>
<td>Parliament Select Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTWC</td>
<td>Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDA</td>
<td>Road Development Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIMES</td>
<td>Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RWSSD</td>
<td>Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAARC</td>
<td>South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEEDS</td>
<td>Sarvodaya Economic Enterprise Development Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHSDP</td>
<td>Second Health Sector Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIF</td>
<td>Singapore International Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLBC</td>
<td>Sri Lanka Broadcasting Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLTB</td>
<td>Sri Lanka Transport Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLR</td>
<td>Sri Lanka Railways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLRCS</td>
<td>Sri Lanka Red Cross Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLUMDMP</td>
<td>Sri Lanka Urban Multi-Hazard Disaster Mitigation Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMEE</td>
<td>Subject Matter Expert Exchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMS</td>
<td>Short Message Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCPAC</td>
<td>Special Operations Command Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOP</td>
<td>Standard Operating Procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TB</td>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN-HABITAT</td>
<td>United Nations Human Settlements Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commission for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOCHA</td>
<td>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOSAT</td>
<td>United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN-SPIDER</td>
<td>United National Platform for Space-based information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USACE</td>
<td>United States Army Corps of Engineers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USG</td>
<td>United States Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WLDP</td>
<td>Women’s Leadership Development Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMO</td>
<td>World Meteorological Organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HFA Country Progress Report

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was adopted as a guideline to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards. The HFA assists the efforts of these countries to become more resilient to, and manage better the hazards that threaten their development. Below is a summarization of the 2011-2013 results of the HFA for Sri Lanka. The full report is available at http://www.preventionweb.net/files/28829_lka_NationalHFAprogress_2011-13.pdf.

Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (Hyogo Framework)

Expected Outcome
The substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries

Sri Lanka’s challenges in implementing the HFA are:

- Absence of a Disaster Management Plan for state sector agencies
- Need to appoint steering committee under the Road Map for “Safer Sri Lanka”
- Weak resources for local authorities in vulnerable areas
- Lack of institutional awareness on HFA priorities, indicators, and terminology hinders implementation of action plan
- Lack of awareness and availability of hazard profile at the local and regional level
- Insufficient mechanism in place to maintain proper database for damage loss and relief distribution
- Strengthen regional DRR cooperation and research
- Poor maintenance of disaster response equipment

Strategic Goals

The integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning

Development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities to build resilience to hazards

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs

Sri Lanka’s Priorities for Action

1. Ensure that DRR is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation

2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

4. Reduce the underlying risk factors

5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

To address these priorities Sri Lanka is taking the following action:

- Establish methodology for the development of vulnerability maps and risk profiles
- Prepare Disaster Preparedness Plans for districts, divisions and villages
- Develop Hazard Calendars for all districts to facilitate implementation of early warning response requirements
- Complete a hazard profile on drought, flood, landslide, cyclone, and coastal hazards
- Incorporate DRR in Local Authority Act
- Complete building guidelines on safe construction against hazards
- Conduct mock drills for safe evacuation of vulnerable communities
- Establish an intergovernmental networking system
- Upgrade the Desinventar database based on the disaster situation report prepared under EOC
- Maintain early warning system by testing and monitoring regularly
- Establish National Emergency Operation Plan
- Strengthen local authorities and communities by providing early warning equipment
- Maintain and update website to share data and information on disasters
- Develop DRR concepts to be included in school curricula
- Conduct early warning and evacuation drills at the national and local level
- Maintain public awareness campaigns
- Develop guidelines for construction in hazard prone areas
- Establish an Incident Command System in several districts
- Improve ICT facilities at local level facilitating rapid access to data and information on DRM

Sri Lanka’s lessons learned in implementing the HFA:

Major success factors driving progress of the implementation of the HFA in Sri Lanka include: Completion of the Final Draft of the Amended Disaster Management Act; Restructuring of the National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee (NDMCC); Continuous information exchanges with regional institutions.

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was adopted as a guideline to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards. The HFA assists the efforts of these countries to become more resilient to, and manage better the hazards that threaten their development. Below is a summarization of the 2011-2013 results of the HFA for Sri Lanka. The full report is available at http://www.preventionweb.net/files/28829_lka_NationalHFAProgress_2011-13.pdf

Overall, the level of HFA progress reported for Sri Lanka either matched or surpassed the regional averages for Asia-Pacific. Sri Lanka generally scored at the regional average on preparedness for effective response. The areas where Sri Lanka scored above the regional average were DRR policy, disaster risk reduction, education, and public awareness.

### Future Outlook Area 1: Integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels.

**Challenges:**
- DM Act lacks involvement of Provincial Council;
- Proper mechanism to share information and data is a challenge.

**Future Outlook Priorities:**
- A project evaluation tool with a DM component will be established and enforced.

### Future Outlook Area 2: Development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms, and capacities at all levels to build resilience to hazards.

**Challenges:**
- Lack of proper mechanism to monitor, evaluate disaster risk management activities.

**Future Outlook Priorities:**

### Future Outlook Area 3: Incorporation of risk reduction approaches in the preparedness, response, and recovery programs during the reconstruction of affected communities.

**Challenges:**
- Lack of knowledge and local community awareness;
- Lack of DRM training materials;
- Maintain relationship with armed forces as they are key responders.

**Future Outlook Priorities:**
- Ensure access of DRR data and information;
- Analysis to identify essential skills and knowledge needed to achieve set goals of disaster management.


**Challenges:**
- Attention needs to focus on local sectors and should adapt with national policies and priorities.
Many countries around the world are committed to taking action to reduce disaster risk. The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was adopted as a guideline to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards. The HFA assists the efforts of these countries to become more resilient to, and manage better the hazards that threaten their development. Below are the 2011-2013 results of the HFA for Sri Lanka:

**Priority for Action #1: Making disaster risk reduction a policy priority, institutional strengthening**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Indicator</th>
<th>Indicator Description</th>
<th>Level of Progress Achieved*</th>
<th>Regional Average Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralized responsibilities and capacities at all levels.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Community Participation and decentralization is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Priority for Action #2: Risk assessment and early warning systems**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Indicator</th>
<th>Indicator Description</th>
<th>Level of Progress Achieved*</th>
<th>Regional Average Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans-boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Priority for Action #3: Education, information and public awareness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Indicator</th>
<th>Indicator Description</th>
<th>Level of Progress Achieved*</th>
<th>Regional Average Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc.).</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>School curricula, education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Priority for Action #4: Reducing underlying risk factors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Indicator</th>
<th>Indicator Description</th>
<th>Level of Progress Achieved*</th>
<th>Regional Average Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk. | 4 | 2.74
3 Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities. | 3 | 2.88
4 Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes. | 4 | 2.84
5 Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes. | 3 | 3.0
6 Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure. | 3 | 2.73

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority for Action #5: Preparedness for effective response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place. | 3 | 3.29
| 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 | 3.42
| 3 Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required. | 3 | 3.33
| 4 Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews. | 3 | 3.34

*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
Country Profile
Sourced directly from: Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook.

Introduction: Sri Lanka

Background: The first Sinhalese arrived in Sri Lanka late in the 6th century B.C., probably from northern India. Buddhism was introduced in about the mid-third century B.C., and a great civilization developed at the cities of Anuradhapura (kingdom 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 coastal areas of the island were controlled by the Portuguese in the 16th century and by 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. 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. Violence between the LTTE and government forces intensified in 2006, but the government regained control of the Eastern Province in 2007. By May 2009, the government announced that its military had defeated the remnants of the LTTE. 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 to reconstruct its economy, the government has resettled more than 95% of those civilians who were displaced during the final phase of the conflict and released the vast majority of former LTTE combatants captured by Government Security Forces. At the same time, there has been little progress 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: Sri Lanka

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

Geographic coordinates:
7 00 N, 81 00 E

Map references: Asia

Area:
Total: 65,610sq km
Country comparison to the world: 122
Land: 64,630 sq km
Water: 980 sq km

Area - comparative: Slightly larger than West Virginia

Land boundaries: Total: 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 extremes:
Lowest point: Indian Ocean 0 m

Highest point: Pidurutalagala 2,524 m

Natural resources: Limestone, graphite, mineral sands, gems, phosphates, clay, hydropower

Land use:
Arable land: 18.29%
Permanent crops: 14.94%
Other: 66.77% (2003)

Irrigated land: 5,700 sq km (2003)

Total renewable water resources: 52.8 cu km (2011)

Freshwater withdrawal (domestic/industrial/agricultural):
Total: 12.95 cu km/yr (6%/6%/87%)

Per capita: 638.8 cu m/yr (2005)

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:

Signed, but not ratified:
Marine Life Conservation

Geography - note: Strategic location near major Indian Ocean sea lanes

People and Society:
sri lanka

Nationality: Noun: Sri Lankan (s)
Adjective: Sri Lankan

Ethnic groups: Sinhalese 73.8%, Sri Lankan Moors 7.2%, Indian Tamil 4.6%, Sri Lankan Tamil 3.9%, other 0.5%, unspecified 10% (2001 census provisional data)

Languages: Sinhala (official and national language) 74%, Tamil (national language) 18%, other 8%

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

Religions: Buddhist (official) 69.1%, Muslim 7.6%, Hindu 7.1%, Christian 6.2%, unspecified 10% (2001 census provisional data)

Population: 21,866,445 (July 2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 57

Age structure:
0-14 years: 24.7%
(male 2,758,360/female 2,648,073)

15-24 years: 14.9%
(male 1,651,901/female 1,606,465)

25-54 years: 42.1%

(male 4,504,395/female 4,708,288)

55-64 years: 8.7%
(male 966,295/female 1,117,310)

65 years and over: 8.4%
(male 812,669/female 1,092,689) (2014 est.)

Dependency ratios:
Total dependency ratio: 50.7%
Youth dependency ratio: 37.9%
Elderly dependency ratio: 12.8%
Potential support ratio: 7.8 (2013)

Median age: Total: 31.8 years
Male: 30.6 years
Female: 32.9 years (2014 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.86% (2014 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 130

Birth rate:
16.24 births/1,000 population (2014 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 122

Death rate:
6.06 deaths/1,000 population (2014 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 164

Net migration rate:
-1.54 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2014 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 157

Urbanization:
Urban population: 15.1% of total population (2011)
Rate of urbanization: 1.36% annual rate of change (2010-15 est.)
Major urban areas - population:
COLOMBO (capital) 681,000 (2009)

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: 0.96 male(s)/female
65 years and over: 0.75 male(s)/female
Total population: 0.96 male(s)/female (2014 est.)

Maternal mortality rate:
35 deaths/100,000 live births (2010)
Country comparison to the world: 118

Infant mortality rate:
Total: 9.02 deaths/1,000 live births
Country comparison to the world: 147
Male: 9.98 deaths/1,000 live births
Female: 8.02 deaths/1,000 live births (2014 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
Total population: 76.35 years
Country comparison to the world: 83
Male: 72.85 years
Female: 79.99 years (2014 est.)

Total fertility rate:
2.13 children born/woman (2014 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 107

Contraceptive prevalence rate:
68% (2006/07)

Health expenditures:
3.4% of GDP (2011)
Country comparison to the world: 177

Physicians density:
0.49 physicians/1,000 population (2006)

Hospital bed density:
3.1 beds/1,000 population (2004)

Drinking water source:
Improved:
Urban: 98.8% of population
Rural: 91.5% of population
Total: 92.6% of population

Unimproved:
Urban: 1.2% of population
Rural: 8.5% of population
Total: 7.4% of population (2011 est.)

Sanitation facility access:
Improved:
Urban: 98.8% of population
Rural: 92.6% of population
Total: 91.1% of population

Unimproved:
Urban: 1.2% of population
Rural: 8.5% of population
Total: 7.4% of population (2011 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate:
0.1% (2012)
Country comparison to the world: 144

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS:
3,000 (2012)
Country comparison to the world: 134

HIV/AIDS - deaths:
200 (2012)
Country comparison to the world: 113

Obesity - adult prevalence rate:
5.1% (2008)
Country comparison to the world: 155

Children under the age of 5 years under-weight:
21.6% (2005)
Country comparison to the world: 28
**Education expenditures:**
1.7% of GDP (2012)
Country comparison to the world: 168

**Literacy:** Definition: age 15 and over can read and write
Total population: 91.2%
Male: 92.6%
Female: 90% (2010 census)

**School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):**
Total: 14 years
Male: 13 years
Female: 14 years (2012)

**Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:**
Total: 17.3%
Country comparison to the world: 74
Male: 14%
Female: 23.5% (2012)

**Government: Sri Lanka**

**Country name:** Conventional long form: Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
**Conventional short form:** Sri Lanka

**Local long form:** Shri Lanka Prajatantrika Samajavadi Janarajaya/Illankai Jananayaka Choshali-chak Kutiyarachu

**Local short form:** Shri Lanka/Illankai

**Former:** Serendib, Ceylon

**Government type:** Republic

**Capital:** Name: Colombo
Geographic coordinates: 6 55 N, 79 50 E
Time difference: UTC+5.5 (10.5 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)
Note: Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte (legislative capital)

**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, 4 February (1948)

**Constitution:** Several previous; latest adopted 16 August 1978, certified 31 August 1978; amended many times, last in 2010 (2010)

**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

** Suffrage:** 18 years of age; universal

**Executive branch:**
Chief of state: President Mahinda Percy RAJAPAKSA (since 19 November 2005); note - the president is both the chief of state and head of government; Dissanayake Mudiyanselage JAYARATNE holds the largely ceremonial title of prime minister (since 21 April 2010)

Head of government: President Mahinda Percy RAJAPAKSA (since 19 November 2005)

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

(For more information visit the World Leaders website)

Elections: president elected by popular vote for a six-year term, eligible for a second term; election last held on 26 January 2010 (next to be held in 2016)

Election results: Mahinda Percy RAJAPAKSA re-elected president for second term; percent of vote - Mahinda Percy RAJAPAKSA 57.88%, Sarath FONSEKA 40.15%, other 1.97%

**Legislative branch:**
Unicameral Parliament (225 seats; members elected by popular vote on the basis of an open-list, proportional representation system by electoral district to serve six-year terms)
Elections: last held on 8 April 2010 with a repoll in two electorates held on 20 April 2010 (next to be held by April 2016)

Election results: percent of vote by alliance or party - United People's Freedom Alliance 60.93%, United National Party 29.34%, Democratic National Alliance 5.49%, Tamil National Alliance 2.9%, other 1.34%; seats by alliance or party - United People's Freedom Alliance 144, United National Party 60, Tamil National Alliance 14, Democratic National Alliance 7

Judicial branch:

Highest court(s): Supreme Court of the Republic (consists of the chief justice and 10 justices); note - the court has exclusive jurisdiction to review legislation

Judge selection and term of office: the chief justice appointed by the president; the other justices appointed by the president with the advice of the chief justice; all justices hold office until age 65

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

Political parties and leaders:

Coalitions and leaders: Democratic National Alliance, led by General (Retired) Sarath FONSEKA

Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna or JVP [Somawansa AMARASINGHE]

Tamil National Alliance led by Illandai Tamil Arasu Kachchi [R. SAMPANTHAN]

United National Front led by United National Party [Ranil WICKREMESINGHE]

United People's Freedom Alliance led by Sri Lanka Freedom Party [Mahinda RAJAPAKSA]

Political pressure groups and leaders:

Buddhist clergy

Labor unions

Hard-line nationalist Sinhalese groups such as the National Movement Against Terrorism

Sinhalese Buddhist lay groups

International organization participation:

ABEDA, ADB, ARF, BIMSTEC, C, CD, 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, IMOS, 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 US:

Chief of mission: Ambassador Jaliya Chitran WICKRAMASURIYA (since 18 July 2008)

Chancery: 2148 Wyoming Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

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

FAX: [1] (202) 232-7181

Consulate(s) general: Los Angeles

Consulate(s): New York

Diplomatic representation from the US:

Chief of mission: Ambassador Michele J. SISON (since 29 September 2012); 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 dark red 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 the Sri Lankan Moors; dark red
represents the European Burghers, but also refers to the rich colonial background of the country; yellow denotes other ethnic groups; also referred to as the Lion Flag

National symbol(s):
- Lion

National anthem:
- Name: "Sri Lanka Matha" (Mother Sri Lanka)
- Lyrics/music: Ananda SAMARKONE
- Note: adopted 1951

**Economy: Sri Lanka**

**Economy - Overview:** Sri Lanka continues to experience strong economic growth following the end of the 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 in war-torn and disadvantaged areas, develop small and medium enterprises and increase agricultural productivity. The government's high debt payments and bloated civil service have contributed to historically high budget deficits, but fiscal consolidation efforts and strong GDP growth in recent years have helped bring down the government's fiscal deficit. However, low tax revenues are a major concern. The 2008-09 global financial crisis and recession exposed Sri Lanka's economic vulnerabilities and nearly caused a balance of payments crisis. Agriculture slowed due to a drought and weak global demand affected exports and trade. In early 2012, Sri Lanka floated the rupee, resulting in a sharp depreciation, and took steps to curb imports. A large trade deficit remains a concern, but strong remittances from Sri Lankan workers abroad help offset the trade deficit. Government debt of about 80% of GDP remains among the highest in emerging markets.

**GDP (purchasing power parity):**
- $134.5 billion (2013 est.)

**Country comparison to the world:**
- 65

**GDP (official exchange rate):**
- $65.12 billion (2013 est.)
- GDP - real growth rate:
  - 6.3% (2013 est.)

**Country comparison to the world:**
- 32

**GDP - per capita (PPP):**
- $6,500 (2013 est.)

**Country comparison to the world:**
- 145

**GDP - composition, by end use:**
- Household consumption: 69.7%
- Government consumption: 13.2%
- Investment in fixed capital: 29%
- Investment in inventories: 1.7%
- Exports of goods and services: 20.1%
- Imports of goods and services: -33.7% (2013 est.)

**GDP - composition, by sector of origin:**
- Agriculture: 10.6%
- Industry: 32.4%
- Services: 57% (2013 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:**
- 10% (2013 est.)

**Country comparison to the world:**
- 15

**Labor force:**
- 8.528 million (2013 est.)

**Country comparison to the world:**
- 55
Labor force - by occupation:
  Agriculture: 31.8%
  Industry: 25.8%
  Services: 42.4% (June 2012)
Unemployment rate: 5.1% (2013 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 49
4% (2012 est.)
Population below poverty line: 8.9% (2010 est.)
Household income or consumption by percentage share:
  Lowest 10%: 1.6%
  Highest 10%: 39.5% (2009)
  distribution of family income – gini index:
  49 (2010)
  Country comparison to the world: 24
  46 (1995)
Budget:
  Revenues: $8.43 billion
  Expenditures: $12.57 billion (2013 est.)
Taxes and other revenues:
  12.9% of GDP (2013 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 200
Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-):
  -6.4% of GDP (2013 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 184
Fiscal year:
  Calendar year
Inflation rate (consumer prices): 4.7% (2013 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 151
9.2% (2012 est.)
Central bank discount rate:
  6.5% (31 December 2013 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 34
  7.5% (19 December 2012 est.)
Commercial bank prime lending rate:
  9.88% (31 December 2013 est.)
  Country comparison to the world: 46
  14.4% (31 December 2012 est.)
Stock of narrow money:
  $3.629 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
  Country comparison to the world: 113
  $3.539 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
Stock of Broad Money:
  $23.55 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
  Country comparison to the world: 81
  $20.39 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
Stock of domestic credit:
  $32.98 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
  Country comparison to the world: 70
  $28.86 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
Market value of publicly traded shares:
  $18.48 billion (31 November 2013 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 66
  $17.05 billion (31 December 2012)
  $19.44 billion (31 December 2011 est.)
Current account balance:
  -$2.452 billion (2013 est.)
  Country comparison to the world: 152
  -$3.931 billion (2012 est.)
Exports:
  $10.39 billion (2013 est.)
  Country comparison to the world: 93
  $9.774 billion (2012 est.)
Exports - commodities:
  Textiles and apparel, tea and spices; rubber manufactures; precious stones; coconut products, fish
Exports - partners:
  US 20.4%, UK 9.9%, India 5.8%, Italy 4.7%, Belgium 4.3%, Germany 4.3% (2012)
Imports:
  $18 billion (2013 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 81
$19.19 billion (2012 est.)

Imports - commodities:
Petroleum, textiles, machinery and transportation equipment, building materials, mineral products, foodstuffs

Imports - partners:
India 22.7%, Singapore 8.8%, UAE 7.7%, China 7%, Iran 6.1%, Malaysia 4.5% (2012)

Debt – external:
$33.67 billion (31 December 2013 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 70
$29.39 billion (31 December 2012 est.)
stock of direct foreign investment – at home:
$NA

Stock of direct foreign investment – abroad:
$NA

Exchange rates: Sri Lankan rupees (LKR) per US dollar -
129.6 (2013 est.)
127.6 (2012 est.)
113.06 (2010 est.)
114.95 (2009)
108.33 (2008)

Energy: Sri Lanka

Electricity - production:
11.8 billion kWh (2012 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 92

Electricity - consumption:
8.927 billion kWh (2011 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 91

Electricity - exports: 0 kWh (2012 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 116

Electricity - imports:
0 kWh (2012 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 125

Electricity - installed generating capacity:
2.685 million kW (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 92

Electricity - from fossil fuels:
53.8% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 146

Electricity - from nuclear fuels:
0% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 61

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants:
44.6% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 54

Electricity - from other renewable sources:
1.6% of total installed capacity (2011 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 77

Crude oil - production:
0 bbl/day (2012 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 159

Crude oil - exports:
0 bbl/day (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 95

Crude oil - imports:
36,380 bbl/day (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 60

Crude oil - proved reserves:
0 bbl (1 January 2013 es)
Country comparison to the world: 115

Refined petroleum products - production:
35,440 bbl/day (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 86

Refined petroleum products - consumption:
89,620 bbl/day (2011 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 81
Refrined petroleum products - exports:
0 bbl/day (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 162
Refrined petroleum products - imports:
44,270 bbl/day (2010 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 74
Natural gas - production:
0 cu m (2012 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 113
Natural gas - consumption:
0 cu m (2012 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 129
Natural gas - exports:
0 cu m (2012 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 77
Natural gas - imports:
0 cu m (2012 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 172
Natural gas - proved reserves:
0 cu m (1 January 2013 es)
Country comparison to the world: 122
Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:
13.1 million Mt (2011 est.)
Country comparison to the world: 95

Communications: Sri Lanka
Telephones - main lines in use:
2.796 million (2013)
Country comparison to the world: 52
Telephones - mobile cellular:
19.533 million (2013)
Country comparison to the world: 51
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, US; satellite earth stations - 2 Intelsat (Indian Ocean) (2011)

Broadcast media:
Government operates 8 TV channels and a radio network; multi-channel satellite and cable TV subscription services available; 35 private TV stations and about 50 radio stations (2012)

Internet country code: .lk
Internet hosts:
9,552 (2012)
Country comparison to the world: 136
Internet users:
1.777 million (2009)
Country comparison to the world: 77

Transportation: Sri Lanka
Airports: 19 (2013)
Country comparison to the world: 138
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: 1,449 km
Country comparison to the world: 80
Broad gauge: 1,449 km 1.676-m gauge (2007)
Roadways: Total: 114,093 km
Country comparison to the world: 41
Paved: 16,977 km
Unpaved: 97,116 km (2010)

**Waterways:**
160 km (primarily on rivers in southwest) (2012)
Country comparison to the world: 101

**Merchant marine:** Total: 21
Country comparison to the world: 94
By type: bulk carrier 4, cargo 13, chemical tanker 1, container 1, petroleum tanker 2
Foreign-owned: 8 (Germany 8) (2010)

**Military: Sri Lanka**


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

Manpower available for military service:
- Males age 16-49: 5,342,147
- Females age 16-49: 5,466,409 (2010 est.)

Manpower fit for military service:
- Males age 16-49: 4,177,432
- Females age 16-49: 4,574,833 (2010 est.)

Manpower reaching militarily significant age annually:
- Male: 167,026
- Female: 162,587 (2010 est.)

Military expenditures:
2.43% of GDP (2012)
Country comparison to the world: 31
2.89% of GDP (2011)
2.43% of GDP (2010)

**Transnational Issues: Sri Lanka**

Disputes - international: None

Refugees and internally displaced persons:
IDPs: as many as 90,000 (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) (2014)

Trafficking in Persons:
Current situation: Sri Lanka is primarily a source and, to a much 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 Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Bahrain, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, Malaysia, and Singapore to work as domestic servants, construction workers, or garment factory workers face conditions indicative of forced labor; some Sri Lankan women are forced into prostitution in Jordan, Singapore, Maldives, and other countries; within Sri Lanka, women and children are subjected to sex trafficking in brothels, while other children are forced to work in the agriculture, fireworks, and fish-drying industries

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; law enforcement efforts and victim protection, particularly identification, are very weak, with no reported prosecutions or convictions under the country's penal code article prohibiting human trafficking; government employees' complicity in trafficking offenses remains a problem; the government has not approved its draft standard operating procedures for identifying trafficking victims and referring them to protective services, consequently, victims may have been punished for crimes committed as a direct result of being trafficked; the government adopted an anti-trafficking action plan in 2012 (2013)
Sri Lanka Indices

Health
- In 2000, the World Health Organization ranked Sri Lanka's health system 91 out of 191. ²⁶⁰
- Sri Lanka's ranking for life expectancy at birth is 80/180. ²⁶¹
- Regarding mortality under the age of five, Sri Lanka ranks 113th out of 193 countries. ²⁶²

Government
- According to Transparency International, Sri Lanka's Corruption Perceptions Index rank is 91/177. ²⁶³

Education
- Sri Lanka Youth (15-24 years) literacy rate from 2008-2012 was 97.7% for males and 98.6% for females. ²⁶⁴

Other
- Sri Lanka placed 75th out of 148 countries ranked for gender inequality. ²⁶⁵
- According to the Human Development Index, which measures longevity, education, and standard of living, Sri Lanka ranked 92nd. ²⁶⁶
- When considering exposure, vulnerability, susceptibility, coping capabilities, and adaptive capabilities, the World Risk Index places Sri Lanka at number 63. ²⁶⁷
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