



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



SRI LANKA

COUNTRY PROFILE

Sri Lanka is an island nation located along major maritime trade routes in the Indian Ocean. Following democratic elections in 2015, the end of 26 years of conflict in 2009 and a decade of recovery from a devastating tsunami in 2004, the country has entered a new era. Sri Lanka now focuses on strengthening its democracy, promoting reconciliation and fostering sustainable economic growth.

USAID works with the Government and the people of Sri Lanka to help all Sri Lankans benefit from nationwide progress.

OUR WORK

In recent years, Sri Lanka has experienced steady economic growth, achieving middle-income status in 2010 and a gross domestic product growth rate of 6.5 percent in 2015. The 2015 elections resulted in a sweeping reform agenda that is ushering in a new chapter in Sri Lanka's history.

Despite steps forward, significant disparities in income and access to basic services persist across the country. Post-conflict issues permeate society and hinder development. In this context, USAID promotes economic growth, advances reconciliation in conflict-affected communities and supports good governance and the implementation of democratic reforms.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRADE

In support of economic growth and financial stability, USAID forges partnerships with small- and medium-sized businesses to create jobs, increase incomes, promote investment and develop skills through training. We have created more than 10,000 employment opportunities, leveraged \$14 million in private sector funds and increased incomes by more than \$8 million. Our efforts help foster entrepreneurship, support employability among youth, strengthen public procurement processes and improve the business-enabling environment.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

USAID is one of the few development partners working directly with communities on natural disaster and risk management. We build on our decades-long support to communities affected by natural disasters by providing clean water and sanitation facilities as well as psychosocial and early recovery support to the most vulnerable populations. We have provided job skills to more than 50,000 vulnerable Sri Lankans affected by conflict and natural disasters. USAID also provides vital services to disadvantaged groups including war widows, female-headed households, disabled persons and resettling families.

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

USAID assistance strengthens good governance, builds a robust civil society and promotes reconciliation—all of which are prerequisites for long-term stability and prosperity. We support key democratic institutions, including Parliament, the Election Commission, the judiciary and the media. USAID also helps build citizen engagement in social and political reforms and helps address drivers of conflict by assisting in community-level reconciliation, peace building and promoting an inclusive Sri Lankan identity.



USAID supports budding entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka's former conflict zones.

PHOTO CREDIT: USAID/Biz+



USAID-supported street dramas raise awareness of gender-based violence.

PHOTO CREDIT: USAID/CSI.ROL

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