



Country card
Sri Lanka
2023





HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Sri Lanka program has 09 staff members.

Sri Lanka





General data of the country

a. General Data

Country ¹	Sri Lanka	Neighboring country (India)	France
Population	22181000	1.393.409.033	67.499.343
IHDI	0.78	0.65	0.90
Maternal mortality	29	143	4
Gender Development Index	0.949	0.820	0.987
Population under HCR mandate	9301	245.935	580.898
INFORM index	3.3	5.2	2.3
Fragile State Index	90.3	75.3	30.9
GINI Index	37.7	35.7	32.4
Population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)	36.4	24.4	100

b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

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

c. Geopolitical analysis

¹ https://hinside.hi.org/intranet/jcms/pl1_2540344/fr/2020-update-country-indicators-2ndary-data/-/donnees-secondaires-mises-a-jour



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

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

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

In early April 2022, massive protests erupted in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, demanding the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. In May 2022, pro-government forces brutally attacked demonstrators. As a result, Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, President Rajapaksa's brother, resigned and was replaced by former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Sri Lanka is currently experiencing a macro-economic crisis. The United Nations has launched a humanitarian action plan to provide emergency food and livelihood assistance (among other things) to at least 6.3 million people - 30 per cent of the country's 22 million population.

Summary of HI presence in the country

HI implemented its first project in Sri Lanka in 1992/1993, focusing on training rehabilitation professionals in Colombo and Jaffna. In 2003, in partnership with UNDP, HI developed a quality standard procedure for mine clearance. In 2004, a programme for mine survivors in eastern Sri Lanka was established. On 26 December 2004, the tsunami hit Sri Lanka, killing



35,000 people and leaving more than 250,000 homeless. HI's new project focused on survivors in the districts of Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee and Hambantota.

With the end of the war in Sri Lanka, HI also shifted its activities to the Northern Province to provide post-conflict assistance. Faced with the forced displacement of 300,000 people from Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu to army-run camps in Vavuniya, HI began responding to the needs of IDPs through a physical rehabilitation project. HI undertook further projects to integrate rehabilitation services into the public health system.

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

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

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

HI Sri Lanka is also currently working on several projects that will be focused not only on rehabilitation for children who has clubfoot, but also on economic inclusion, resilience to climate change and disaster risk reduction for 2024.



Overview on ongoing projects

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

Project title and main sectors of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project	Donors
Physical and Functional Rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support to health facilities and their staff to provide quality treatment.• Establish referral links between the community and clubfoot clinics to promote the long-term goal of early detection and treatment.• Link patients and their families to services to increase adherence to treatment protocol.	<p>Children born with clubfoot and their parents.</p> <p>Total amount of direct beneficiaries : 1416 previously enrolled children and 311 new children</p>	Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children Batticaloa Hospital, Kandy Hospital MoH, Teaching Hospital Jaffna	Batticaloa Kandy Colombo, Batticaloa, Kandy, Jaffna	01/07/2021-30/06/2022 (Fifth phase)	Miracle Feet



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work towards the successful integration of clubfoot treatment into the public health system at a national level.					
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Donors

