

SRI LANKA

COUNTRY PROFILE



The people of Sri Lanka have endured much tragedy in recent decades, including a 26-year civil war that ended with intense violence in 2009. Thousands of people were killed or injured. Families were forced to flee their homes and live in displacement camps. The small island nation was also hit hard by the 2004 tsunami—a disaster that killed 35,000 Sri Lankans and displaced half a million, but opened the door for World Concern to work there. In early 2011, Sri Lanka faced yet another disaster — severe flooding, which affected many people who had just begun rebuilding their lives.



Many children in Sri Lanka have experienced war and devastating disaster in their short lives. We're helping their families start over.

WHO WE SERVE

We are helping people displaced by these disasters start over again. We also continue to serve the poor in rural villages. Although Sri Lanka has well developed urban areas, many people in rural communities live on less than \$2 a day without electricity, adequate sanitation or safe drinking water.

HOW WE HELP

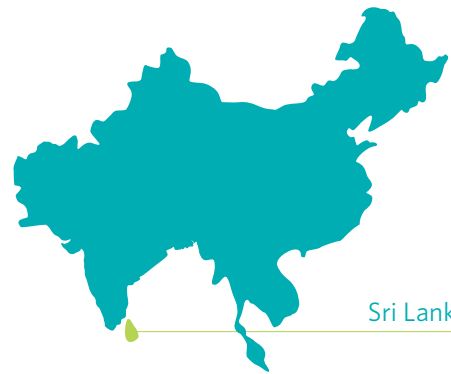
Livelihood support / We equip people to earn income through livelihood support and training, including agricultural and livestock assistance. For example, dairy farmers utilize World Concern-sponsored milk chilling centers, enabling them to keep milk and dairy products fresh for market.

Support for widows and vulnerable women / Solar lighting is installed in homes and remote villages, providing safety and protection at night. Women also receive vocational training and equipment, such as sewing machines and tailoring instruction.

Support for churches and children at risk / World Concern works to strengthen existing communities through local churches, which play a key role in networking to protect children. Throughout our programs, peace and reconciliation are promoted between ethnic groups.

Resettlement of displaced families by:

- Food security grants
- Home/shelter improvements
- Clean water sources
- Improved sanitation facilities



Sri Lanka

MEET KAMALADEDI

Just days after her husband was killed by shelling in her village, Kamaladedi and her three children fled their home, leaving everything behind. Like many others, they ended up in a displacement camp until the fighting ended and it was safe to return home. When they came back, they discovered everything had been destroyed.

As Kamaladedi struggled to rebuild her life, a new fear began to grip her – the fear of darkness. She had heard of other widows who had been attacked in their homes by men who preyed on vulnerable women at night.

World Concern provided solar lighting and a new fence around Kamaladedi’s property. We also fixed her well, which had been damaged in the war, and provided her with a sewing machine so she could begin earning an income again. Now, she says, she sleeps better at night, knowing her family is safe.



Kamaladedi lost her husband in the violence from Sri Lanka’s civil war. She and her children are rebuilding their lives with help from World Concern, which includes well repairs, solar lighting for safety, and livelihood assistance.

ABOUT WORLD CONCERN

World Concern is a Christian global relief and development organization. With our supporters, our faith compels us to extend life-saving help and opportunity to people facing the most profound human challenges of extreme poverty. At World Concern, the solutions we offer, the work we do—with your help—creates lasting, sustainable change. Lasting change that provides lasting hope.

Our areas of expertise include disaster response, clean water, education, food security, child protection, microfinance and health. For more information about our work, please visit worldconcern.org.

ABOUT SRI LANKA

Population / 20,502,000

Life expectancy / 71 years

Infant mortality rate / 15 deaths per 1,000 live births

Religions / Buddhist 69.1%, Muslim 7.6%, Hindu 7.1%, Christian 6.2%, unspecified 10%

Literacy rate / 90.7%

Population below poverty line / 40%

Average income / USD \$4,720 per year

Primary school enrollment / 9%

Sources: CIA World Factbook, UNICEF