

Draft country programme document

Sri Lanka, 2023–2027

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4 (a) Country programme documents

Reference document: E/ICEF/2022/37

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Development Context

- **Sri Lanka is facing an acute crisis** with significant debt following the impact of COVID-19 and other compounding factors
- The **country has been profoundly impacted**. Inflation is at an all-time high (39.1 per cent in May 2022), indicating exchange rate depreciation, supply shortages and significant increases in fuel and food prices. Poverty rates are likely to rise substantially in the medium term.
- Sri Lanka has an estimated child population of 6.2 million and a total population of 22.2 million. The **country ranks 72nd out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index** (2020) and 116th out of 156 countries on the Global Gender Gap Index (2021).
- Sri Lanka has made **impressive progress against key social indicators** with universal child immunization, low rates of maternal, infant and neonatal mortality, high rates of enrolment in education and a high percentage of the population with access to safe drinking water.
- The crisis threatens to reverse this progress. **Persisting inequalities are being widened**, disproportionality affecting the poorest, most marginalized and vulnerable children and their families.
- This crisis is **poised to escalate into a crisis for children** depriving them of the full enjoyment of their rights and impacting their well-being and development.



Progress for children in Sri Lanka

■ Latest data point



maintained **Universal Child Immunization Status**

Since 1989



achieved **low rates of maternal mortality** (per 100,000 live births)

29.2

Source: 2019 Annual Health Bulletin ,Family Health Bureau



maintained **low rates of under 5 mortality** (per 1000 live births)

11.0

Source: 2019 Annual health bulletin Family Health Bureau



sustained a high % of population with access to **safe drinking water**

88.5%

Source: 2019 Household and Income Expenditure Survey (HIES)



maintained high **enrollment rates in education**

99.1%

Primary

91.0%

Secondary

Source: UNESCO Institute for statistics



maintained low rates of **neonatal mortality** (per 1000 live births)

6.6

Source: 2019 Annual health bulletin Family Health Bureau

Challenges

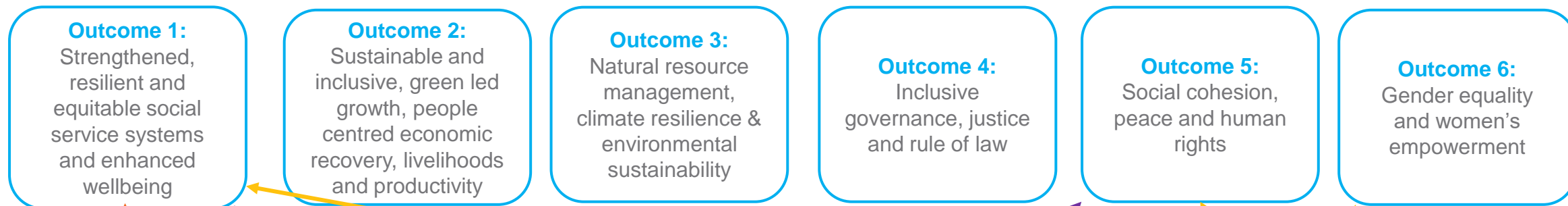
- **Increasing poverty rates** with 42.2% of children under age five multidimensionally poor
- More than 50% of vulnerable **households with children are excluded from social protection**
- **Less than 5% of GDP** allocated for health, education and key social protection programmes combined
- **17.3% of children under five are stunted**, with as high as 32% in the estate sector
- **Significant disparities** exist in learning outcomes and pre-school attendance rates which are being widened in this crisis
- **More than 10,000 children** live in poorly managed institutions (**more than 60% female**) and likely to increase in this crisis
- **Rising reports of violence** against children, with corporal punishment widely accepted and practiced at home and school
- Sri Lanka ranked among the **top 10 vulnerable countries** to the effects of climate change



CPD fully aligned with national priorities and UNSDCF

Vision :The National Policy Framework (NPF) of the Government aims to achieve the fourfold outcome of a productive citizenry, a contented family, a disciplined and just society and a prosperous nation

UNSCDF



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CPD Programme Priorities



Essential and lifesaving, quality and gender-responsive **health and nutrition** services to prevent all forms of malnutrition among children



Continued and improved **learning** in an inclusive and resilient education system that develops the skills children need for the future



Child friendly services and positive social norms that better **protect children from violence** and **exploitation** and **prevent family separation**



An inclusive, child-sensitive, gender-responsive and shock responsive **social protection** system and key social services



Strategic Focus and Shifts

Equity-focused programming

to reach the most vulnerable children, leaving no child behind

Overarching principles to programming

Nexus approach

to respond to the current crisis, while strengthening existing systems to deliver essential social services for all children, particularly the most vulnerable

Emergency measures in the short term and recovery in the medium term

to safeguard children and mitigate a worsening situation, while expanding quality services



Evidence, data and monitoring

to identify and address critical gaps in services for children



Strategic policy advocacy

for adequate investments in children across key social sectors, particularly in a crisis



Piloting nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes

to address food insecurity among pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 years



Climate change action

to increase community awareness and resilience, as well as reduce vulnerabilities



Risk-informed and resilient education systems for children

to provide a safe and protective learning environment for children



Social and behaviour change interventions

to address harmful social norms related to nutrition, corporal punishment and violence against women and girls



Expand partnerships

with key stakeholders, including with the private sector, to drive results for children



Communication and Advocacy

to amplify children's voices and engagement and advocate for child rights



Summary Budget 2023 - 2027

(In thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Programme Component</i>	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Health & Nutrition	1,475	4,000	5,475
Education	490	7,675	8,165
Child Protection	490	9,825	10,315
Social Policy	1,475	1,000	2,475
Programme Effectiveness	830	2,500	3,330
Total	4,760	25,000	29,760

Thank you

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