Draft country programme document

Sri Lanka, 2023–2027

George Laryea-Adjei
Regional Director
South Asia

UNICEF Executive Board – Informal consultation – 23 June 2022

4 (a) Country programme documents
Reference document: E/ICEF/2022/37
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

- **Universal Child Immunization Status**: Maintained **Since 1989**
- **Maternal Mortality**: Achieved low rates of **29.2** (per 100,000 live births)
- **Under 5 Mortality**: Maintained low rates of **11.0** (per 1000 live births)
- **Safe Drinking Water**: Sustained a high % of population with access to **88.5%**
- **Enrollment Rates in Education**: Maintained high enrollment rates in education of **99.1%** (Primary) and **91.0%** (Secondary)
- **Neonatal Mortality**: Maintained low rates of **6.6** (per 1000 live births)

*Source: 2019 Annual Health Bulletin, Family Health Bureau*

---

UNICEF Executive Board – Informal consultation – 23 June 2022

**Item 4 (a): Country programme documents**
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

© UNICEF Sri Lanka / Capture Eye
**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.

**Outcome 1**: Strengthened, resilient and equitable social service systems and enhanced wellbeing.

**Outcome 2**: Sustainable and inclusive, green led growth, people centred economic recovery, livelihoods and productivity.

**Outcome 3**: Natural resource management, climate resilience and environmental sustainability.

**Outcome 4**: Inclusive governance, justice and rule of law.

**Outcome 5**: Social cohesion, peace and human rights.

**Outcome 6**: Gender equality and women’s empowerment.
**CPD Programme Priorities**

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

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

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

4. An inclusive, child-sensitive, gender-responsive and shock responsive **social protection** system and key social services.
Strategic Focus and Shifts

**Overarching principles to programming**

- **Equity-focused programming** to reach the most vulnerable children, leaving no child behind
- **Nexus approach** to respond to the current crisis, while strengthening existing systems to deliver essential social services for all children, particularly the most vulnerable

**Nexus approach to programming**

- **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

**Strategic Focus and Shifts**

- **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

**UNICEF Executive Board – Informal consultation – 23 June 2022**

**Item 4 (a): Country programme documents**
## Summary Budget 2023 - 2027

### Programmes and Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Component</th>
<th>Regular Resources</th>
<th>Other Resources</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>1,475</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>5,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>7,675</td>
<td>8,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>9,825</td>
<td>10,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>1,475</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Effectiveness</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>3,330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Regular Resources</th>
<th>Other Resources</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4,760</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>29,760</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you