

Plan Sri Lanka

This document describes how Plan Sri Lanka and its partners will mobilize the different resources to improve the welfare and prospects of vulnerable children. It provides the strategic framework for consistent and continued action from 2006-2010.



Country strategic plan summary for 2006 - 2010

Overview

Sri Lanka is an island in the Indian Ocean with an estimated population of 20 million people. The notable characteristic of Sri Lanka is the declining child population while the youth population has increased. The population is distributed between rural, urban and the plantation sector. The three main contributors to the country's economy are tea export, garment exports and foreign remittances. Rice, fruit, and vegetables are grown for local consumption.

Plan in Sri Lanka

Plan has been working in Sri Lanka, since 1980, on the invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka. We work in rural communities across eight districts: the rural drought affected Districts of Kurunegala and Anuradhapura adjacent to the war zone in the north, the tea producing Kandy, Matale and Nuwara Eliya Districts and the rural District of Monaragala adjacent to the war zone in the east (viewed as the poorest district in the country). Plan has restarted work in relief and reconstruction in the Tsunami affected Hambanthota District since January 2005.

Key issues affecting children

It is estimated that poverty affects nearly 1 in 4 Sri Lankans and approximately 400,000 children live in extreme poverty (living on less than US\$1 per day). In Sri Lanka, as elsewhere in the world, poverty has a disproportionate impact on children, making them vulnerable to suffer from severe deprivations. Plan's surveys and studies, along with consultations with children and communities, shows childhood risks reflected in:

- Under nutrition and anaemia.
- Poor knowledge on sexual and reproductive health.
- Diseases due to lack of access to safe water and environmental sanitation.
- Poor quality primary education and lack of access to early childhood care and development services.
- A non continuous supply of food or lack of food security and limited capacity of poor families to cope with income instability.
- Youth unemployment and under employment.
- Not fully exercising their rights.

Plan Sri Lanka program and approach:

As a child centered community development organisation, we always involve children in the planning and implementation of our projects, making sure that they are given an opportunity to express their own viewpoints and their aspirations for the future.

Plan Sri Lanka has started the implementation of the second country strategic plan, which goes from 2006 to 2010. For the second plan, we analysed the issues that affect children as an interactive process that will reinforce and complement the programs that we are implementing, so their combined effects is greater than the sum of their individual effects.



Children share their views and ideas with Plan staff.

During the implementation of the second plan, we will continue working with children, schools, communities, government and other partners to support the implementation of projects with special emphasis in:

Improving the quality of educational services for children by:

- Supporting the implementation of early child care development projects.
- Supporting the improvement of the quality of basic education.
- Advocating for the implementation of new policies.
- Promoting the participation of children by developing their skills through school media clubs and peer groups.



Through the media club we have learned to use our creativity, I have developed many skills, I can communicate better now, said one of the members of the club

Supporting families to have the resources to meet their basic needs by:

- Providing financial and technical support to partners in the provision of sustainable financial services to the poor (focusing on women).
- Rehabilitating minor irrigation systems to ensure economic re-integration, food security and prevent environmental degradation.
- Establishing vocational training for youth and setting up livelihood development centers.
- Constructing low cost community managed roads and introducing non motorised modes of transport.

Protecting the rights of the children by:

- Supporting government authorities to set up and train institutions at all levels about child protection.
- Raising awareness on child rights through children's media.
- Supporting government institutions to modernise their systems and improve birth registration rates.

Improving the health of children and youth by:

- Supporting the establishment and expansion of the community health volunteer system.
- Supporting the primary health care system with a particular emphasis on nutrition and school health.
- Supporting initiatives that create awareness among adolescents to improve their knowledge on reproductive health and hygienic behaviour.
- Advocating at national level for the equal distribution of resources to the poorer provinces.

Improving access to water and environmental sanitation in school and homes by:

- Establishing a sustainable, water and sanitation systems in communities and schools.
- Improving hygiene education and practices in communities and schools.
- Replicating best practices and forming networks of community organisations.



“We would like to have a house with three bedrooms and a baranda where we can entertain our friends” - said the children of a Tsunami affected area as they drew the house of their dreams.

- Developing the skills of children and youth for participation in advocacy, partnerships, community based organisations and development education.

Tsunami Disaster Response Program implements short-term strategies of emergency relief such as school supplies and water and sanitation to long-term strategies of reconstruction of houses and schools and support for the restoration of livelihoods. The program ends in December 2007 but maybe extended to 2009.