



Sri Lanka



Introduction to SRI LANKA

THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA, which was once home to the Sinhalese people, now hosts an assortment of nationalities on its small island off the southeast Indian coast. Ethnic tensions were at the root of a long-standing civil war with secessionist Tamils in the north, though a ceasefire was called in 2009. The war has caused significant damage to the northern regions.

The SRI LANKAN people

Total population:	21,324,791
Children under 15:	5,087,817
Average Life Expectancy:	75.14 years
Per capita annual income:	\$4,400
% children in primary school:	99.7%
Average years of education:	N/A*
Literacy rate:	90.7%
Internet users:	1.164 million
Cell phones in use:	11.082 million

Major/official language(s):

Sinhala
Tamil
English

Risk issues impacting children:

- Ethnic tensions between the Sinhalese and the Tamils continue.
- Thousands of families are now impoverished after the devastating tsunami in 2004.

More about SRI LANKA

Capital city:	Colombo
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	65,610
General terrain:	Mostly low, flat-to-rolling plains with mountains in south-central interior
Major industries/jobs:	Rubber, tea, coconut and other agricultural processing; telecommunications; textiles
National motto:	N/A*
Major airport(s):	Bandaranaike International

Reaching SRI LANKA

Currently classified as World B: Somewhat Reached

Major religions:

Buddhist	- 69.1%
Muslim	- 7.6%
Hindu	- 7.1%
Christian	- 6.2%
Unspecified	- 10%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic	- 73.2%
Protestant	- 11.4%
Independent	- 7.6%
Other	- 3.9%
Anglican	- 3.8%

Unreached People Groups:	64 (24.8% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.014
Average annual baptisms:	24,208
Foreign missionaries:	1,800
Per million:	94.14
National Christian workers/pastors:	2,500
Per million:	130.75
Number of churches/congregations:	2,026

Children's ministry in SRI LANKA

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Sri Lanka. The following information regards general children's ministry in Southern Asia, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

- Overview:**
- As one of the most densely-populated regions in the world, Southern Asia lacks the numbers needed to reach its millions of children with the gospel.
 - Most established churches have some sort of ministry to children.
 - Isolated areas in mountain regions have little-to-no access to resources, or Christianity at all. In many areas, children have never heard the gospel.
 - Culture varies greatly within national borders, affecting the swift spread of the gospel and the relevance of available resources.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
2,026 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
5,087,817 children for Christ