



**Save the Children**

**IN SRI LANKA**

# Who we are

**Save the Children is a global leader in development and humanitarian programming, working for over 100 years as the pre-eminent voice for children with governments, civil society and private sector partners in 120 countries worldwide.**

In Sri Lanka, Save the Children was established in 1974, at the request of the government, to assist in their efforts to address issues faced by children in the country. We have been contributing to both humanitarian and development needs in Sri Lanka for 45 years. Save the Children is currently present in six provinces – Northern, Southern, Uva, Western, Central and Sabaragamuwa – covering 11 out of the 25 districts in the country through its education, child protection, nutrition, vocational skill development, early childhood care and development (ECCD) and child rights governance programs. Building on our strong working relationships with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs,

Save the Children strives to improve laws and policies at both national and provincial levels to benefit all children in Sri Lanka.

With Sri Lanka's graduation from a lower-income country to an upper-middle-income country, and as major emergencies are no longer a key concern, we are now geared towards demonstrating best practices and driving ourselves to become a technical service and advocacy organization, providing high quality and timely technical services to enrich government efforts.

We aim to focus on research and evidence-based policy advocacy and campaigning on critical issues relating to child rights, developing innovative and technology-based solutions that enrich the country's ability to address these issues. Our Country Strategic Plan 2019–2021 and future operating modality is built on this foundation and is intended to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals – mainly 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 16 – by 2030.

## Our vision

A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

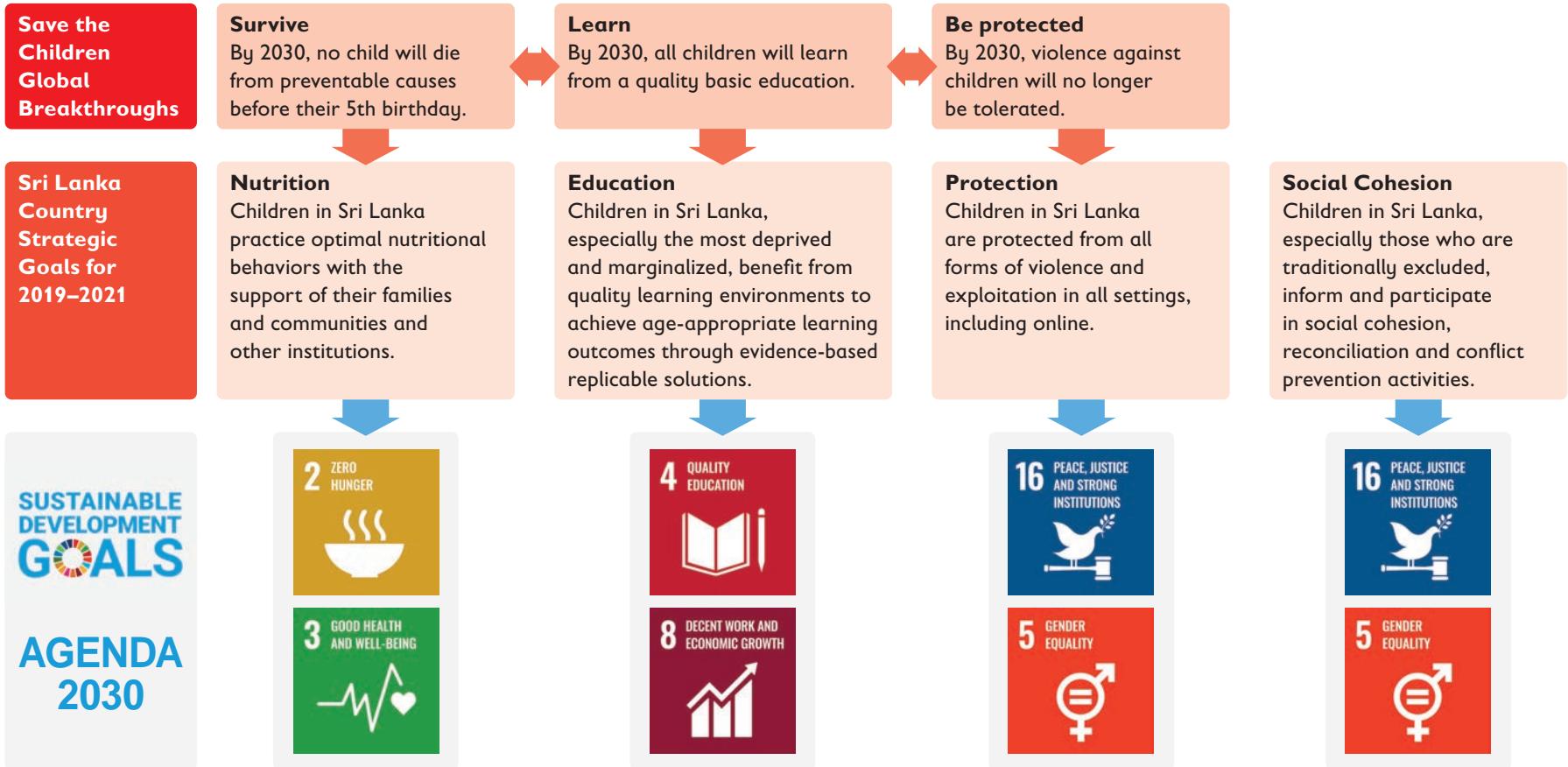
## Our mission

To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

## Our values

Accountability, ambition, collaboration, creativity and integrity.

# Towards 2030: how Save the Children aims to contribute to SDG goals



# Our reach

**300,000+**

Total reach of Save the Children's ongoing programs in Sri Lanka

## National level activities

Reach through national level activities aimed at policy reform, system strengthening, capacity building on countering child trafficking, ending online violence against children, social cohesion and child protection through the Social Protection Action Plan:

**29,800+**

## District level activities

Reach through district level activities:

Kilinochchi: **20,190**

Mullativu: **19,650**

Trincomalee: **14,670**

Matale: **2,000**

Kandy: **38,960**

Nuwara Eliya: **83,390**

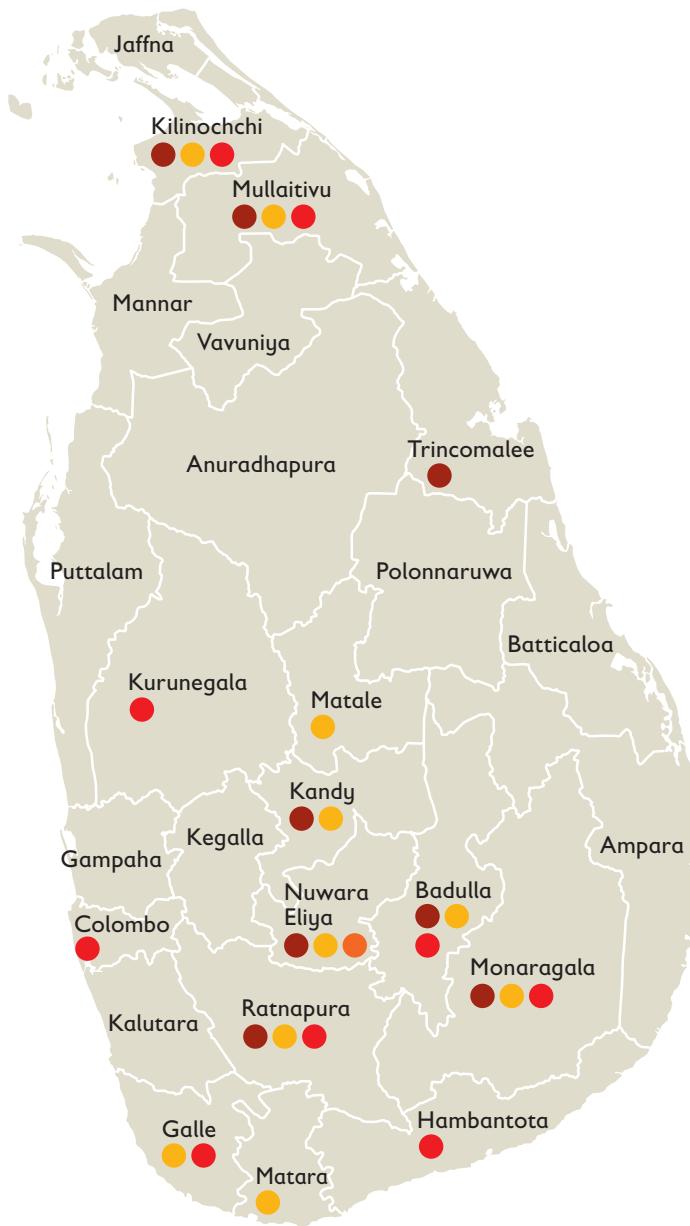
Monaragala: **28,210**

Badulla: **28,770**

Ratnapura: **21,940**

Galle: **3,000**

Matara: **8,760**



Education



Nutrition



Child protection



Child protection at national level

# What we do

## Child protection

Protection of children from all forms of violence is a key priority of Save the Children globally and in Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka our child protection work aims to strengthen child protection systems and address key child protection concerns including online violence and exploitation; child trafficking; protection of children who are left behind due to migration; corporal punishment; and protection of children in the tea supply chain through Child Rights and Business Principles.

All our child protection initiatives are implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, National Child Protection Authority and the Department of Probation and Child Care. We are also working with civil society organizations, academia and the private sector to bring their expertise and accountabilities to ensure protection of all children.



## Education

Education is a global priority of Save the Children. We have contributed to the education sector in Sri Lanka in both emergency and development contexts. We aim to promote early childhood care and development (ECCD) by improving access, quality and policies related to ECCD, enhancing home-based ECCD and building capacities of ECCD providers to identify and support children with learning disabilities.

To improve the education of children in primary grades, we build capacities of teachers and in-service advisors (ISAs); provide reading materials and libraries; strengthen community participation in the learning agenda; and aim to increase our investments in research to provide evidence supporting national policies and practices on early grade literacy pedagogy to create sustainable change. Recognizing the importance of health and nutrition and with the aim of improving attentiveness among children at school, we are working to promote the efficiency of the school meal program.

In rural and plantation communities, Save the Children is working to develop the vocational skills of youth to empower them to engage in sustainable and diversified livelihoods. This program also facilitates trained youth, both males and females, to engage with private institutions and local agriculture industries.



## Nutrition

Save the Children's work on nutrition is focused on complementing the efforts of the Ministry of Health to address issues relating to low birth rates, stunting and malnutrition of children in Sri Lanka.

Especially in the plantation sector, Save the Children has partnered with plantation companies, health providers and estate communities to improve the quality and accessibility of maternal and child health and nutrition services. This work has effectively bridged the gap between private tea plantation companies and the public health and nutrition sectors for culturally appropriate health and nutrition service delivery.

We are also working to strengthen the school meal program in over 1,000 schools with the aim of reducing child nutrition problems, increasing daily attendance in school, improving food and health habits and promoting local food culture in the eight districts with the lowest child nutritional indicators.



## Social cohesion

Save the Children believes that it is critical that we contribute towards the social cohesion and reconciliation efforts of the government and other stakeholders in Sri Lanka. Therefore, Save the Children has a strategic priority to promote children and young people's engagement in social cohesion efforts. We strongly believe that children and young people should be listened to, participate in and contribute to the process of promoting social cohesion and integration. We will work with children and young people to understand their views of social cohesion and facilitate their active participation in developing meaningful solutions. Our aim is to work at school- and community levels to involve children and youth groups across the country in engaging in and promoting social cohesion in Sri Lanka.



## Emergency response

Since 1974 Save the Children has been working during emergencies and responding to impacted communities in Sri Lanka. Save the Children is currently co-leading both the Child Protection and Education Working Groups, and we are also representing the Cash Transfer and Food Security Working Groups in the Humanitarian Country Team.

Our future work will primarily focus on using our experience and expertise both locally and globally to strengthen local actors including the government, CSOs and the private sector to become effective and high quality in their response processes. We will continue to support the government to enhance their preparedness, disaster risk reduction and resilience initiatives by facilitating coordination, technical support and financial investments for systemic improvements. As a key priority in education we are committed to implementing the Safe School standards in Sri Lanka.



# Cross-thematic priorities

## Inclusive programming

### Gender equality

Save the Children believes that it is critical to directly address gender discrimination and promote gender equality in order to ensure that every child attains their equal right to survival, protection, development and participation.

### Child participation

Save the Children will ensure the participation of children, including the most marginalized and those of different ages and abilities, is taken into account when decisions that concern them either directly or indirectly are made.

### Disability inclusivity

Save the Children will promote, protect and uphold the rights of people living with disabilities and make all services and initiatives disability sensitive.



# Innovative solutions

## A Pathway to End Online Violence

Save the Children is working with the government, CSOs, telecommunications service providers and academia to reform policies, strengthen systems, build stakeholder capacities and raise public awareness relating to online violence. Save the Children's pilot project on online violence has established a cybercrimes monitoring unit at the National Child Protection Authority, provided digital applications for reporting and referrals and initiated extensive research to understand the prevalence, nature and risk factors of online violence for children.

## Women Wealth and Influence

Women Wealth and Influence (WWI) is a savings model introduced by Save the Children that aims to empower women by increasing their financial independence and influence in decision making at community level. The WWI model encourages women to form savings groups with other women in their communities and to collectively decide to save each month a common amount of money – an amount of money which they consider insignificant. The core of the WWI model is that all decisions relating to the savings groups' activities are made collectively by the group members – women.

## Child Protection Standards for Tea Plantation Companies

Save the Children has advocated with five tea plantation companies in Sri Lanka to adopt 10 child protection standards to improve the wellbeing of children in plantation communities in Sri Lanka. A public-private partnership was also signed between the government and the five tea plantation companies to improve their collaboration in implementing the child protection standards introduced by Save the Children. This initiative is a stepping stone for future initiatives of Save the Children to promote Child Rights Business Principles in the private sector.

# Campaign priorities 2019–2021

## Promoting Child Rights Business Principles

The objective of this campaign is to promote the adoption of Child Rights Business Principles among corporate sector stakeholders in the tea plantation, tourism and garment industries.

## Actions to support children's voices in climate change

The objective of this campaign is to enhance the voice of children and youth on an issue clearly of concern to many and which threatens the future of many more.

## Addressing online violence in Sri Lanka

The objective of this campaign is to mobilize the public and educate children and adults on digital literacy and online safety.

# Who we work with

## Funding Save the Children members

- Save the Children Australia
- Save the Children Denmark
- Save the Children Finland
- Save the Children Hong Kong
- Save the Children Korea
- Save the Children Netherlands
- Save the Children Spain
- Save the Children Sweden
- Save the Children Switzerland
- Save the Children UK
- Save the Children US

## Donors

- British Council
- C&A Foundation
- Disaster Relief Fund – Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
- Dubai Cares
- EC DEVCO – International Cooperation and Development (European Commission)
- Embassy of Japan
- European Union
- Fundación Probitas
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Global Fund to End Violence against Children
- IKEA Foundation
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency
- Kulczyk Foundation
- Margaret A. Cargill Foundation
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark – DANIDA
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
- Osaka Marathon
- Porticus
- Start Network
- U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

## Government partners

- Ministry of Disaster Management
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of National Policy and Economic Affairs
- Ministry of Vocational Training
- Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
- National Education Commission
- National Institute of Education

## Provincial government institutions

- Central Provincial Council
- Eastern Provincial Council
- Northern Provincial Council
- Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council
- Southern Provincial Council
- Uva Provincial Council

## Government academic institutions

- Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
- University of Colombo

## Implementing partners

- IESC
- Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya Inc.
- Leads
- Oxfam
- Plan International
- Plantation Human Development Trust
- UNICEF
- World Vision

## Private partners

- Bogawantalawe Tea Plantation PLC
- Elkaduwa Tea Estate PLC
- Elpitiya Plantation PLC
- Horana Plantations PLC
- Kelani Valley Plantation PLC
- Kotagala Plantations PLC
- Maskeliya Plantations PLC
- Namunukula Plantations PLC
- Pussellawa Plantations PLC
- Talawakale Tea Estate PLC



**Save the Children**

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