



## Country profile

# Sri Lanka

### The housing need in Sri Lanka

Despite great advances through Sri Lankan housing programs, the need for safe, secure and permanent housing in the country is made more pressing by poverty, civil strife and disasters such as cyclones, floods and landslides. More than a decade after the 26-year civil war ended in 2009, many internally displaced families are still living in temporary tin sheet shacks in the North and East of the country. It is estimated that one in two people living in the capital Colombo is a slum dweller who lacks adequate access to clean water and safe sanitation. The shortage of decent housing for plantation workers is another area of concern. These poverty-stricken workers live in inadequate housing known as line houses without proper water and sanitation facilities.



### HABITAT FACTS:

- Habitat started in Sri Lanka in 1994.
- **Individuals served in FY2019 – 32,175**
  - Through new construction – 5,715
  - Through incremental building – 660
  - Through market development – 25,800
- **Volunteers engaged in FY2019 – 371**

### COUNTRY FACTS:

**Capital city** – Colombo  
**Population** – 21.7 million  
**Life expectancy** – 76.8 years  
**Unemployment rate** – 4%  
**Below poverty line** – 4.1%

# How Habitat addresses the need

## House construction

Habitat Sri Lanka works with families to build decent, affordable homes measuring 51 square meters in size. Building their core house incrementally gives a family the option of expanding it when funds are available. Under the homeowner-driven construction approach, families contribute to the house design and choose the materials and suppliers while Habitat Sri Lanka provides technical support and construction expertise. Families are also trained in the use of eco-friendly, locally available construction materials and appropriate construction technologies.

## Disaster response

Habitat Sri Lanka helps disaster-affected families through the distribution of emergency shelter kits and clean-up kits. Transitional shelters and core houses may also be provided at a later stage. Habitat Sri Lanka helped 80 landslide-hit families to rebuild their houses following May 2016's Cyclone Roanu and distributed emergency hygiene kits to 1,000 families after 2017's Cyclone Mora. With funding from the European Union, Habitat is building 2,455 homes with internally displaced persons in Kilinochchi, Batticaloa and Mullaitivu districts. In addition, 37 families who lived in temporary shelters in a flood-prone community in Kalutara partnered with Habitat Sri Lanka to construct their own homes.

## Water and sanitation

With chronic kidney disease being a serious health problem, particularly in rural Sri Lanka, Habitat is committed to providing families with access to safe drinking water. Projects included the installation of water tanks, construction of wells and latrines, distribution of water filters and training in water purification and good hygienic practices. In 2018, with support from Hatton National Bank, water storage tanks were installed, providing 50 families in Batticaloa with access to safe drinking water. More than 150 students also gained access to safe sanitation through the construction of three toilets.

# What you can do

## DONATE

USD \$: [habitat.org/donate](https://www.habitat.org/donate)

*To donate to Habitat Sri Lanka, click on "Designate your donation to a location or cause".*

## VOLUNTEER

Join one of the scheduled Global Village trips to Sri Lanka or lead your own. For more information go to: [habitat.org/gv](https://www.habitat.org/gv)

## TITHE

Establish a strong and rewarding tithe partnership to help build houses globally! Write SRI LANKA on your checks sent to: Habitat for Humanity International, Attn: Affiliate Tithe, 121 Habitat St. Americus, GA 31709

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