

Millennium
Development Goals
Country Report
— 2005 —



Sri Lanka



The cover story



"A hand of a child on the palm of an adult represents our nation's commitment, responsibility and the passion in leading our future generation to a more secure, prosperous and a better world... for all"

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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

Message from Her Excellency the President

In September 2000, the Government and people of Sri Lanka joined the international community, in pledging their support for the Millennium Declaration at the United Nations Millennium Summit. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the world's targets for dramatically reducing extreme poverty in its many dimensions by the year 2015. The goals are targeted to reduce poverty, hunger, disease, exclusion, lack of infrastructure and shelter while promoting gender equality, education, health and environment sustainability.

Sri Lanka can meet these goals if we commit ourselves to work together for a better future for us all. This report provides a testimony of Sri Lanka's achievements over the last decade while identifying challenges and opportunities for the future. It also points out areas that require improvement and systems for monitoring and evaluation.

Over the past ten years, Sri Lanka has made considerable progress in the areas of social and human development. We are already on track in achieving the MDG targets for primary education, infant and maternal mortality and gender equality in education. More people have access to basic infrastructure and services today than a decade ago. However, poverty still remains a major challenge in the country and we are aggressively re-aligning our development initiatives with the objective of reducing socio-economic disparities across the country.

This report is a timely contribution to promote dialogue in the sphere of policy-making with all the stakeholders in the country and with the donor community. Although our country is presently fighting against the setbacks caused by the tsunami disaster, I remain confident that my government will achieve the MDGs ahead of the scheduled time frames and pitch for MDG plus status thereafter. In this ambitious task, we require well-targeted adjustments to our policies, development plans and resource allocations at the provincial level to reduce isolation and increase participation, while broadening and deepening such efforts at the national level.

I believe that this report will open a forum for dialogue and encourage broader participation of the people in our journey towards achieving MDGs.

Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga



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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka



Message from United Nations Resident Coordinator - Sri Lanka

The Millennium Development Goals represent international consensus about essential actions needed to overcome challenges to humanity in the 21st century. Reduced poverty and greater equality, improved health, education and environmental sustainability are essential for human progress. The MDGs measure progress in terms of real improvements in people's lives.

Each country must find its own path to achieve the Goals. Sri Lanka has long been at the forefront of human development among developing countries. Access to health and education is widespread, and the results have been impressive. But still millions of Sri Lankans are living in poverty. If this problem could be solved by one set of actors or by one initiative, then greater reduction in poverty would have occurred already.

Achieving these ambitious Goals requires all of society to come together with one shared vision. "Business as usual" is not enough. Government, political parties, private sector, civil society and other actors need to come together to develop a shared vision for a society without poverty and inequality, and find consensus about the main priorities. This is the foundation for the creative partnerships and coalitions needed to achieve the Goals.

The MDGs place people at the centre, by focusing on investments in people's capabilities to take charge of their own development. People living in poverty often suffer disproportionately from poor health, nutrition, and education, and they are more dependent on natural resources. Not only is it critical to invest in their resources, skills and abilities, but also to involve them directly in making their own strategies for reducing poverty. This in itself will strengthen governance and effectiveness of development.

The tsunami disaster and the two-decade internal conflict have raised tremendous challenges for Sri Lanka. This progress report is produced by the Government of Sri Lanka, on behalf of the country and its people, during a historically challenging time. The commitment and dedication shown by those involved is a promising first step. The next steps should involve intense dialogue and constructive debate about how to take the MDG agenda forward.

The MDG agenda highlights the opportunity for the country to come together for peace and recovery through a development framework owned by all, and centered on the needs of the most vulnerable. On behalf of the UN system in Sri Lanka, I express our fullest support in this endeavor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miguel Bermeo'.

Miguel Bermeo

United Nations Resident Coordinator

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Contributors

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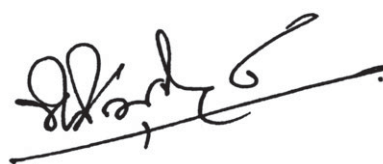
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The Country Team

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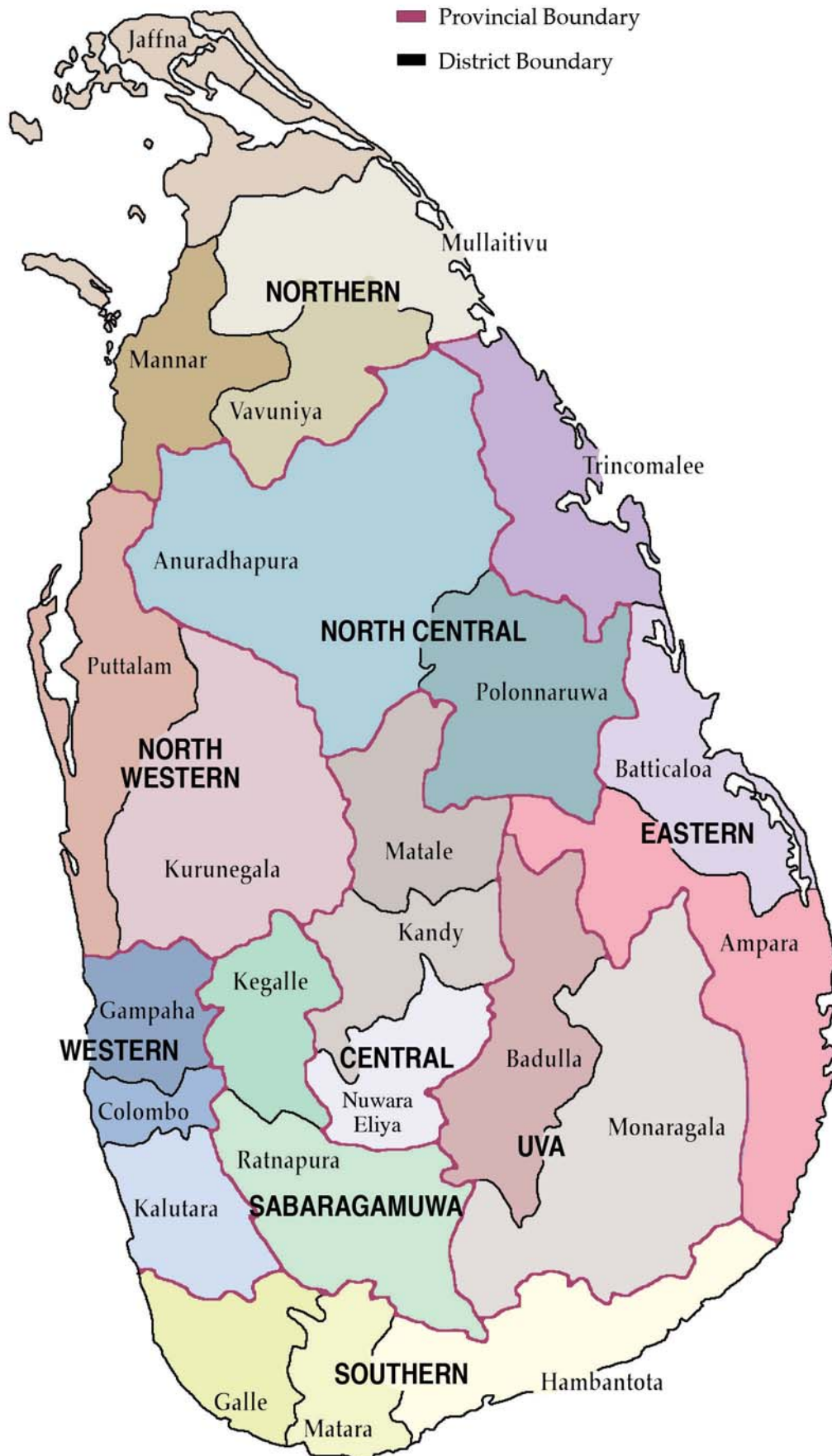
P. B. Jayasundera

*Chairman / Secretary General
National Council for Economic Development*

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Acronyms

BA	Bangkok Agreement	IMF	International Monetary Fund
BIMST-EC	Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand - Economic Corporation	ISFTA	Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement
CCPI	Colombo Consumer Price Index	LGA	Local Government Authorities
CEA	Central Environmental Authority	LKR	Lankan Rupees
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women	LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
CEPA	Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	MCH	Maternal and Child Health
CFSES	Consumer Finance and Socio Economic Survey	MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
CHDR	Child Health Development Record	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
CPH	Census of Population and Housing	NCED	National Council for Economic Development
DCS	Department of Census and Statistics	NE	North East
DDT	Dichloro-Diphenyl-Trinchloroethane	NGOs	Non Governmental Organisations
DHS	Demographic Health Survey	NHS	Nutrition and Health Survey
DOE	Department of Examinations	NHDA	National Housing Development Authority
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short	NPA	National Procurement Agency
EPF	Employees' Provident Fund	NSACP	National STD/AIDS Control Programme
ERM	Environmental Resource Management	NW	North West
ETF	Employees' Trust Fund	ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	PC	Personal Computers
FMRA	Fiscal Management Responsibility Act	PEM	Protein Energy Malnutrition
GCE A/L	General Certificate Examination - Advance Level	PHC	Primary Health Care
GCE O/L	General Certificate Examination - Ordinary Level	QLFS	Quarterly Labour Force Survey
GDCF	Gross Domestic Capital Formation	SAFTA	South Asian Free Trade Agreement
GDI	Gender Development Index	SAPTA	South Asian Preferential Trading Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	SLHDS	Sri Lanka Health and Demographic Survey
GSTP	Generalised System of Trade Preferences	STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
HDI	Human Development Index	STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey	TIFA	Trade and Investment Framework
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
HPI	Human Poverty Index	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ISPs	Internet Service Providers	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IT	Information Technology	UXO	Unexploded Ordinance
ILFTA	Indo-Lanka Free Trade Agreement	WHO	World Health Organisation
ILO	International Labour Organisation	WLL	Wireless Local Loop
		WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
		WTO	World Trade Organisation
		YEN	Youth Employment Network