

United Nations in Sri Lanka

Public Information – Contact List

UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator



The United Nations presence in Sri Lanka is convened under the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator System. This system helps to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of UN operations at the country level. The UN Resident Coordinator / Humanitarian Coordinator leads the UN Country Team of agencies and is the highest ranked UN Official in the country.

Media Contact: Gordon Weiss, UN Spokesman

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United Nations Information Centre



Established in 1961, UNIC Colombo is the information arm of the entire UN system in Sri Lanka. UNIC is a unit of the global information network of the UN System which comes under the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat. It serves as the central point for dissemination of information on the UN system with the aim of promoting and achieving UN ideals and objectives, to all sections of the community.

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Asian Development Bank



The ADB is a multilateral development finance institution, based in Manila. It is dedicated to reducing poverty in the Asia and Pacific region through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration.

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Food and Agriculture Organization



The FAO is the UN agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. FAO helps developing countries and countries in transition to improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and to ensure good nutrition for all.

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International Fund for Agriculture and Development



The IFAD is dedicated to eradicating rural poverty in developing countries. In particular, IFAD initiatives focus on helping poor people to improve agricultural productivity and service delivery. IFAD funded projects target the poorest including poor rural women and pilot innovative approaches to community empowerment.

Media Contact: Dr. Anura Herath, Sri Lanka Country Programme Management Facilitator

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International Labour Organization



ILO promotes social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. The ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labour rights, abolition of forced labour, equality of opportunity and treatment, and other standards regulating work-related issues.

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International Organization for Migration



IOM works to ensure the orderly and humane management of migration and provides humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and IDPs.

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United Nations joint programme on HIV/AIDS



UNAIDS, a joint venture of the UN family, brings together the efforts and resources of the UN system to support the scaling up towards universal access for prevention, treatment, care and support in the national AIDS response in Sri Lanka.

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United Nations Development Programme



UNDP, the global development network agency of the UN, promotes development by connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP helps Sri Lankans find their own solutions to the challenges of development. UNDP Sri Lanka focuses on the overall achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and supports national programmes aimed at reducing poverty, fostering democratic governance, ensuring sustainable energy and environment and promoting gender.

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



UNESCO promotes international co-operation among its Member States in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. UNESCO believes that building capacity in member states achieves a far more ambitious goal: to build peace in the minds of people. Sri Lanka became the 51st member state of UNESCO in 1949.

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United Nations Population Fund



UNFPA is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. In Sri Lanka, UNFPA enhances national capacities including that of the state and civil society to improve access to quality reproductive health services for men, women and young people.

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United Nations Agency for Human Settlements



UN-HABITAT is mandated to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. In Sri Lanka UN-HABITAT's endeavors include promoting access to commercial finance for the upgrading low income housing, improved urban governance, basic urban services and post disaster relief and recovery through empowering communities rebuild their homes and infrastructure.

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The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



UNHCR protects and assists people internally displaced by conflict in Sri Lanka, UNHCR works to as well as refugees arriving from other countries and Sri Lankan refugees returning from overseas.

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United Nations Children's Fund



UNICEF reaches an estimated 1 in 4 Sri Lankan women and children throughout the island with its education, health, child protection, water and sanitation and nutrition programmes.

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United Nations Industrial Development Organization



The UNIDO promotes industrial development and international industrial cooperation. In Sri Lanka, UNIDOs larger projects are concerned with rural energy for productive use, promotion of cleaner industrial production, and market access support through capacity building in measurement, testing, and conformity.

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United Nations Industrial Development Organization



UNOPS provides project management, procurement and other support services to United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, governments and non-governmental organizations. In Sri Lanka, UNOPS helps the tsunami reconstruction effort of the government by rebuilding critical infrastructure including roads, bridges, health clinics, schools and water supply systems.

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United Nations Volunteers



UNV supports sustainable human development globally through the promotion of volunteerism. UNV contributions are varied and include sustainable human development, poverty reduction, demobilization and reintegration in a range of UN and partner programmes. In addition, UNV gives opportunities for Sri Lankan nationals to become volunteers both locally and internationally.

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World Food Programme



As the food aid arm of the UN, WFP uses its food to meet emergency needs and support economic and social development. WFP works to put hunger at the centre of the international agenda, promoting policies, strategies and operations that directly benefit the poor and hungry. WFP provides food assistance to over one million Sri Lankans, including school children, pregnant/nursing mothers, infants and people affected by the conflict.

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World Health Organization



Over fifty years on, WHO remains a steadfast intergovernmental organization committed to supporting the people of the country to attain the highest level of health through the strengthening of the health system on the principles of equity, fairness and responsiveness with emphasis on the poor and marginalized.

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World Bank



The central purpose of the WB is to reduce global poverty. World Bank assistance has helped to develop Sri Lanka's energy, transport, and telecommunication infrastructure, expanded health, education, water and sanitation services, enhanced agricultural productivity and financed nascent private enterprise.

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