**Gender Country Profile**

**Sri Lanka**

**General**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALES</th>
<th>FEMALES</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total population under 15</td>
<td>2,760,821</td>
<td>2,652,747</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total population over 15</td>
<td>8,105,752</td>
<td>8,715,680</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ALL DATA FROM CIA, 2017*

**Health**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>FEMALES</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live birth</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2015 est.</td>
<td>CIA, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>2016 est.</td>
<td>CIA, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>UN Statistics, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>UN Statistics, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births attended by a skilled health professional</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>WHO, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of HIV among adults aged 15–49</td>
<td>&lt; 0.1</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>WHO, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy for men</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>2016 est.</td>
<td>CIA, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy for women</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>2016 est.</td>
<td>CIA, 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Education**

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth literacy rate, ages 15-24</td>
<td>98.37%</td>
<td>99.17%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate, ages 15+</td>
<td>93.62%</td>
<td>91.71%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross enrolment rate in primary education</td>
<td>102.73%</td>
<td>100.61%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross enrolment ratio in secondary education</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
<td>101.97%</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education</td>
<td>15.56%</td>
<td>23.96%</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*ALL DATA FROM UNESCO INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS, 2017*

- Female graduates from tertiary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 55.6%
- Female students enrolled in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 74.8%
- Female teachers in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 86.3%
- Female teachers in secondary education: Insufficient data
- Female teachers in tertiary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 42.6%
Sri Lanka

Economic Activity
- Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (2016) (World Bank, 2017): 76.0%
- Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (2016) (World Bank, 2017): 30.1%
- Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution, or with a money mobile service provider (2011) (UN Statistics, 2017): 85.39%

Decision-Making

Human Rights
- Girls married before 15 (UNICEF, 2016): 2%
- Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 12%
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime (UN Women, 2016): Insufficient data
- Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during the last 12 months (UN Women, 2016): Insufficient data

Gender and Development Trends in Sri Lanka

Health
In 2014, approximately 35% of deaths in Sri Lanka occurred as a result of diseases attributable to household air pollution. Women and children remain at a particularly high risk for diseases causes by indoor pollution, including strokes, lung cancer, and chronic pulmonary diseases (WHO, 2016b).

According to a government health bulletin (Ministry of Health, 2014), there is a recognised and inverse relationship between a mother’s educational attainment and the probability of death of a child, in Sri Lanka. The mother’s age, birth order and birth interval are also some of the key factors affecting child mortality in the country (Ministry of Health, 2014: 8).

Education
Female literacy in Sri Lanka increased from 42% in 1946 (compared to 70% male literacy in the same year) to 92% in 2013 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2014; Gunewardena, 2015)

Economy
Sri Lanka’s female labour force participation rate remains between 35-40% over the last decade, compared to a male participation rate of 75% (Gunewardena, 2015).

In 2013, the unemployment rate for females was twice as high as that for males; 6% for females and 3% for males (Department of Census and Statistics 2014). Sri Lanka also holds the 17th largest gender gap in labour force participation globally (World Bank, 2017).

Governance
Though women constitute 51% of the Sri Lankan population, they make up only 6% of the national legislature, 6% of seats in provincial councils, and 2% of seats in local government (UNDP, 2015b).

Human Rights
The Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act permits girls to marry at age 12, in contrast to the civil law, which sets the minimum marital age at 18 and the minimum age of sexual consent at 16 (U.S. Department of State, 2016).

According to the Gender Based Violence Forum, at least 60% of all women in Sri Lanka have experienced domestic violence (Gender Based Violence Forum Sri Lanka, n.d).

Sri Lanka SDG Progress Profile

- Sri Lanka is currently ranked 97th for overall performance under the SDGs, with a median rank of 116th.
- Sri Lanka has ranked 73rd in the UN’s 2015 Gender Inequality Index (GII) (UNDP, 2015a).

SDG 4: Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all levels. (Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)

- Expected years of schooling (years): 13.7 (SDG threshold met)
- Literacy rate of 15-24 years old (%): 98.2 (SDG threshold met)
- Net primary school enrolment rate (%): 94.1 (significant challenges remain)

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality, protect and empower women, the youth and persons in vulnerable situations.
(Data retrieved from SDG indicator profiles, 2016)
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- Women in national parliaments (%): 4.9 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Female years of schooling (% male): 98.5 (SDG threshold met)
- Female labor force participation (% male): 46.7 (major challenges must be overcome)
- Unmet demand for contraceptives (%): 29.1 (significant challenges remain)
References


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