

Country Context

Sri Lanka, an island in the Indian Ocean with an area of 66,000 kilometers, became independent in 1948. A 26-year civil conflict ended in 2009. The capital is Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte.

Most of the country's 20.8 million people live in rural areas, but urbanization is rapidly increasing. There is a Sinhalese (mainly Buddhist) majority, with Tamil (mainly Hindu) and Muslim minorities. Sinhala and Tamil are official languages with English as a link language.

Sri Lanka is a democracy with an executive President elected by direct popular vote. Parliament is elected by proportional representation.

Gross national income per capita is \$2,580, with about 7% annual growth. Unemployment is 4%.^a Agriculture has export (plantation) and subsistence components. Industry is dominated by garment manufacturing. There is a strong tourism sector. The main source of foreign income is workers' remittances.^b

It ranks 97th out of 187 countries in the United Nations 2011 Human Development Index. Life expectancy at birth is 75 years, adult literacy is 90.6%. 7.0% of the population live below \$1.25 per day.^c A growth rate of less than 1.0% has led to the fastest-aging population in South Asia.^d Sri Lanka ranks 39th out of 135 countries on gender equality.^e

^a 'Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, 2012: Sri Lanka,' ADB website. <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/ki/2012/pdf/SRI.pdf> accessed 02 April 2013.

^b 'The remittance game of chance: playing with loaded dice?.' 2012. *Consumers International* website. <http://www.consumersinternational.org/media/886482/the%20remittances%20game%20of%20chance.pdf> accessed 02 April 2013.

^c 'Sri Lanka Country Profile: Human Development Indicators,' UNDP website. <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/lka.html> accessed 10 February 2013.

^d Ghazy, Mujahid & Siddhisena, KAP. 2009. *Demographic Prognosis for Asia: a future of rapid ageing*, UNFPA, Bangkok, p 53.

^e Hausmann, Ricardo, Tyson, Laura D & Zahidi, Saadia. 2012. *Global Gender Gap Report 2012*, Geneva: World Economic Forum.

Civil Society: An Overview

The earliest nongovernment organizations (NGOs) in Sri Lanka were ecumenical organizations affiliated to the 19th century Christian missions, for example, the Ceylon Bible Society, established in 1812, the Christian Literature Society of Ceylon in 1858, and the Young Men's Christian Association in 1882. These engendered, in reaction, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and nondenominational organizations, which followed their structure.¹

The arrival in 1880 of the American Theosophists,² Helena Blavatsky and Henry S. Olcott, led to the establishment of the Buddhist Theosophical Society, which in turn bore offshoots such as the Women's Education Society (1889), the Mahabodhi³ Society (1891), and the Young Men's Buddhist Association (1898). Notable among the voluntary organizations spawned by the nationalist movement were the Ceylon Women's Union (1904), which aimed to raise the status of women, and the Ceylon Social Reform Society (1905), which sought to defend the country's cultural values.^{4, 5}

Traditional community-based organizations (CBOs), such as Temple Development Societies and Death Donation Societies (funeral aid societies), were supplemented in 1906 by the first



Thrift and Credit Co-operative Societies, established under the Co-operative Societies Ordinance. It was only in 1940 that the first Consumer Co-operative Societies were set up.^{6, 7}

The women's movement for suffrage gave rise to the Lanka Mahila Samiti (Women's Association), which was established in 1931 to raise women's social, health, and economic standards. Based on the Women's Institutes in the West, it became the first broad-based NGO in Sri Lanka, expanding to 125 branches by 1948. These were complemented after 1940 by government-promoted rural development societies and other CBOs.^{8, 9, 10}

In the immediate post-independence period, there was a gradual increase in the number of NGOs. They spread out from the densely populated, more urbanized southwest of the country to the rural hinterland.¹¹

The Department of Rural Development was active in promoting village rural development societies for voluntary self-help work. On its initiative, several international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs), notably *Service Civil International*, were introduced to Sri Lanka.^{12, 13}

The involvement of civil society in human rights activism commenced in the aftermath of the 1971 insurrection by radical, mainly rural underprivileged, youth with the formation of the Civil Rights Movement to campaign for the release of incarcerated insurgents.¹⁴ Many of the NGOs formed in this period had roots in left-wing political activism.¹⁵

In the late 1970s, the liberalization of the economy and the relaxation of exchange controls and travel restrictions as well as the increased flow of foreign assistance resulted in the rapid growth of the NGO sector, in numbers and activities, which became more diversified.¹⁶

As a consequence of their proliferation, their socio-political impact increased correspondingly. This process was accelerated following the outbreak of the civil conflict in 1983, during which the numbers and activities of NGOs steeply increased.¹⁷

Issues of human rights took on a new importance, which increased with the outbreak of a second insurrection in the south of the country. NGOs were affected as they came under attack from the southern insurgents, and many were forced to stop their activities. The women's movement became particularly



active in this period, launching a number of initiatives to protect human rights.¹⁸

As a consequence of its intervention in political affairs, civil society activism became a subject of controversy in Sri Lanka, amid which the government appointed a 'Presidential Commission of Inquiry in Respect of Non-Governmental Organizations Functioning in Sri Lanka.'¹⁹

In its aftermath, new emergency regulations regarding the registration of NGOs were issued under the Public Security Ordinance. Subsequently, the government recognized the work done by civil society, but insisted on greater accountability and transparency on the part of NGOs.²⁰

The change of government in 1994 led to a diffusion of tension between state and civil society. NGO personnel were recruited by the government for its peace programs and state funds were made available to NGOs.²¹ However, in 1996 the government set up a National Secretariat for the Registration of NGOs to register NGOs and, in 1998, despite opposition, further amended the existing legislation by the Voluntary Social Services Organizations (Registration & Supervision) (Amendment) Act to enable greater supervision.²²

In the wake of the destruction caused by the 2004 tsunami, there was a rapid increase of NGO numbers and activities, combined with an unprecedented inflow of funds. The scale of the disaster, in which nearly 40,000 Sri Lankans died, found the government unprepared. The gap was filled by NGOs, through which most foreign aid was channeled.

With the end of the civil conflict in May 2009, civil society found itself facing the task of rebuilding the North and East and rehabilitating the people of the area, many traumatized by the intense fighting.

The precise number of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the country, notwithstanding the government's efforts to monitor them, remains unknown, estimates varying from 20,000 to 50,000.²³

The main categories of CSO operating in Sri Lanka are:

- INGOs involved in humanitarian and post-conflict activities
- INGOs and domestic CSOs involved in advocacy
- Domestic NGOs involved with poverty alleviation in conjunction with government programs
- Local NGOs and CBOs involved in grassroots development



The issues that concern most NGOs currently operating in Sri Lanka are: poverty alleviation and sustainable development; environmental conservation and green technologies; health and sanitation; education and training activities; rehabilitation and reforms; human rights and issues of peace; conflict-related trauma and rehabilitation; disaster management; rural development; development of slum communities; development of social infrastructure; organizing credit and services; building and sustaining community leadership; cultural politics and rights; research and publication; evangelization; women's issues and empowerment; and rights of children.

The dominant identity of NGOs in Sri Lanka has arguably been political and rights oriented, rather than economical and 'development' oriented. Their impact has been high through lobbying and advocacy on human rights and pluralism.²⁴

Broadly speaking, civil society in Sri Lanka today remains uncoordinated and spans a broad spectrum of political and ethnic interests. Since the mid-90s the character of NGOs has changed, with newer, more

professional personnel who view them primarily as sources of employment.²⁵

A major challenge faced by civil society today is their reliance on overseas funding.²⁶ In the last decade of the 20th century, Death Donation Societies were the only CBOs with a reputation for not receiving financial aid from elsewhere.²⁷ This situation remains unaltered, although CBOs involved with infrastructure (e.g., community water supply) tend to be self-sustaining.

The Legal Framework for Civil Society

Before 1980, there were no specific laws and regulations governing the operation of NGOs in Sri Lanka. Nonprofit organizations could (and may still) register under a number of acts and ordinances.

In 1980 the Parliament enacted the Voluntary Social Services Organizations (Registration & Supervision) Act which registered NGOs that receive government grants or which require visas for expatriate staff mandatory. It was not, however, implemented strictly.²⁸

The 1980 legislation was amended by the Voluntary Social Services Organizations (Registration & Supervision) (Amendment) Act No. 8 of 1998, which allowed government-appointed boards of management for

NGOs involved in fraud or misappropriation of funds. This was supplemented by the Voluntary Social Services Organizations Regulations, No. 1 of 1999, which laid down the procedure for boards of inquiry and provided that the records of financial accounts, membership, officeholders, and minutes be maintained by all NGOs. It further mandated that all NGOs register with the National Secretariat for the Registration of NGOs.

However, since there is no rigid definition in the legislation of what constitutes an NGO, thus providing a loophole, not all NGOs are registered with the National Secretariat for the Registration of NGOs.

The Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 (known as the “Companies Act”) governs all companies in Sri Lanka—including overseas companies which have established a place of business in Sri Lanka—and off-shore companies and associations, and their subsidiaries. It provides for the incorporation of companies and associations, including companies and associations limited by guarantee, their administration, and reporting procedure and related matters.

Government–Civil Society Relations

Relations between the government and civil society has been seesawing since the late 1980s, with periodic tightening or easing of tension between them.



The increase in the late 1970s in the number of NGOs, particularly of foreign-linked NGOs, was welcomed by the government. NGOs were expected to play a complementary role to the development activities of the government. However, the generally anti-statist ideologies of many NGOs caused the government to view their activities negatively, and on several occasions to slate them for undermining national security, disrupting ethnic harmony, and supporting terrorism.²⁹

In the early 1990s, the government's discomfiture with civil society increased because of pressures from foreign donors to share responsibility for poverty alleviation with NGOs. This led to greater government scrutiny of civil society.³⁰

As the civil conflict³¹ escalated, government expenditure grew, while income did not, raising dependency from foreign aid inflows. The government has raised concerns about aid conditions regarding politics, peace and human rights, as well as economic conditions. Most bilateral donors fund small projects via civil society, which reduces the government's say in these projects.³²

Much of the recent criticism of NGOs in Sri Lanka must be seen from the perspective of the character of the political system and of the political agendas of civil society itself. NGOs are disparaged for their perceived foreign or non-national nature, stemming from their heavy dependence on overseas funding sources and, hence, their activities being tailored to a certain extent to attract external financial support.³³

The proliferation of NGOs involved in the 2004 tsunami relief efforts caused unease, especially since much of the foreign aid received was channeled through NGOs rather than through the government.

Antagonism between government and civil society increased in the final phase of the civil conflict. In 2008 a select committee of parliament was appointed to investigate the operations of NGOs and their impact on sovereignty, national security, and national and social well-being. Government suspicions about the NGO sector were aggravated after the conflict ended in 2009, when some international advocacy groups lobbied against Sri Lanka in international fora.

However, tension eased somewhat thereafter, with the government extending tax benefits to NGOs operating in the affected areas, through the "Guidelines for remission of NGO tax payable" issued in 2011. In fields

other than the political, both foreign and domestic NGOs continue to work closely with the government on programs and projects.

NGO Registration

International NGOs (foreign and off-shore companies and associations, and their local subsidiaries) and most National NGOs (private, public, public quoted, guarantee, unlimited companies and associations) need to be incorporated in terms of the Companies Act and must register themselves with the Registrar of Companies.

Alternatively, they may be registered as Trusts under the Trust Ordinance No. 17 of 1917, as Charities under the Inland Revenue Act No. 38 of 2000, as Approved Charities under the Inland Revenue Act No. 4 of 1963 or the Inland Revenue Act No. 28 of 1979 or under the Mutual Provident Societies Act No. 55 of 1949.

Cooperative societies and associations having at least 10 individual members or at least three institutional members must register themselves with the Registrar of Cooperatives of the Department of Co-operative Development.

All NGOs, including NGOs with less than 10 members, operating within a province of Sri Lanka must register themselves with the Provincial Registrar of Business Names under the Business Names Ordinance of the relevant provincial council. In terms of the Voluntary Social Services Organizations (Registration & Supervision) Act of 1980 as amended by the Voluntary Social Services Organizations (Registration & Supervision)(Amendment) Act No. 8 of 1998, all NGOs must register with the National Secretariat for the Registration of NGOs. Applicants must submit with their applications the relevant documents, including the recommendation of the Department of External Resources. Applications are checked, corrected, and forwarded, along with other information, to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Defense and Urban Development. On the recommendations provided by the two ministries, applications are either rejected or the applicants are registered and issued registration certificates.

The registration of NGOs outside Sri Lanka, domestic NGOs receiving foreign funds for their operations, and domestic NGOs operating in more than one administrative district—known as "national-level NGOs"—are carried out by the National Secretariat.

The National Secretariat for the Registration of NGOs functions under the Ministry of Defense and Urban Development in terms of the Special Gazette notice

dated 30 April 2010, the Director General reporting to the Secretary, Ministry of Defense and Urban Development. Under the Director General are the head office sections dealing with registration, visas, and monitoring; and the district offices, which coordinate with district secretaries and divisional secretaries.

NGOs operating within the boundaries of an Administrative District are registered by the District Secretariat concerned, while those operating only within the boundaries of an Administrative Division are registered by the relevant Divisional Secretariat.

Tax Treatment of NGOs

Taxation of NGOs is governed by Section 102 of the Inland Revenue Act No. 10 of 2006 and by the Guidelines for remission of NGO tax payable issued in 2011. All NGOs are subject to a 3% tax on all their income from grants, donations, and contributions, which are deemed as profit (over and above profit from trading or other economic activity).

NGOs may receive tax remissions if they are involved in activities connected to infrastructure, or in livelihood support to displaced persons or if they are identified as being involved in specified disaster relief operations.



List of Umbrella, Coordinating Bodies, and CSOs

In Sri Lanka, umbrella networks of CSOs have emerged since the 1930s, but most have not maintained their momentum. Ad hoc coalitions may arise over certain specific issues, but sustainable associations are few. Some of the most important are listed below:

Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA)

The CHA is an association of humanitarian agencies working in, and supporting work in, Sri Lanka. Its roots lay in the Consortium for Relief and Rehabilitation, which began functioning in 1984 as an informal network of NGOs. Drawbacks in its lack of a formal structure and changed ground conditions led to the establishment of the CHA, which was formalized in 1997 by the establishment of a secretariat. It has a membership of 26 national and international civil society bodies and 6 localized NGO consortia.

Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (GTE) Limited
86, Rosmead Place, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka
Tel/Fax: +94 11 4626100
E-mail: info@cha.lk
Web: <http://www.econsortium.info/cha/>

Green Movement of Sri Lanka (GMSL)

The GMSL is a consortium of NGOs, CBOs, and other civil society groups involved in natural resource management around Sri Lanka. Its main concerns are environmental conservation and the creation of awareness. It provides environmental education resources and uses legal measures as well as lobbying to achieve its aims. Part of a network of 78 international organizations, it has a membership of 153 organizations.

Green Movement of Sri Lanka Inc.
9, First Lane, Wanata Road, Gangodawila,
Nugegoda, Sri Lanka
Tel: +94 11 2817156
Fax: +94 11 4805274
E-mail: office@gmsl.lk
Web: www.gmsl.lk

Mothers and Daughters of Lanka (MDL)

MDL is a coalition of progressive women's groups concerned about human rights, violence against women, and political violence, which lobbies around peace issues through demonstrations and petitions. It was established in 1989 to fight against political violence. It is constituted of six women's civil society organizations working at the community level in the Free Trade Zones, plantations, semi-urban and rural sectors and in conflict affected areas.

Mothers and Daughters of Lanka
c/o Women's Centre
52/61, Peris Watta, Minuwangoda Road,
Ekala, Ja-ela, Sri Lanka
Tel/Fax: +94 11 2231152

Civil Society Directories

Directory of Development Organizations

The International Directory of Development Organizations includes a section on Sri Lanka. This lists over 900 development-related organizations, annotated by nine categories:

- international organizations;
- government institutions;
- private sector support organizations;
- finance institutions;
- training and research centers;
- civil society organizations;
- development consulting firms, including references to job opportunities and vacancy announcements;
- information providers (development newsletters/journals); and
- grant makers.

The Directory can be accessed at http://www.devdir.org/asia_middle_east.htm

National Secretariat for Nongovernment Organizations—Directory of Registered NGOs in Sri Lanka

Since all NGOs are required to register with the National Secretariat for NGOs, it has the most comprehensive record of civil society institutions in Sri Lanka. Its web directory lists 1,400 NGOs alphabetically, giving details of registration number, type (foreign or domestic), address, and contact person and contact details.

The Directory of registered NGOs can be accessed at http://www.ngosecretariat.gov.lk/web/index.php?option=com_statistics&Itemid=67&lang=en

Sri Lanka Directory of Environmental NGOs

The Sri Lanka Directory of Environmental NGOs is published by the Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum (SLEJF), a nonprofit association of media professionals working in all sectors of the mass media. It profiles over 700 environmental NGOs in Sri Lanka by province and district, giving details of

their status, contact persons, mission, activities, e-mail, fax and telephone numbers, mailing addresses, and websites. It also includes emergency numbers, and information on Sri Lanka, on environmental days, environmental information centers, and of influential environmentalists, environmental academics, communicators, NGOs, and politicians in Sri Lanka. The Directory was compiled in 2004. It can be accessed at http://www.environmentaljournalists.org/images/Sri_Lanka_Directory_of_Environmental_NGO.pdf

Web Directory of Sri Lankan Environmental NGOs

To compensate partly for the drawbacks of the Sri Lanka Directory of Environmental NGOs, the SLEJF publishes a Web Directory of Sri Lankan Environmental NGOs on its website. This is simply an alphabetical list of the websites of Sri Lankan environmental NGOs. The directory was compiled in 2004 and can be accessed at http://www.environmentaljournalists.org/sri_lanka_green_NGO.html

Civil Society Capacity

There is a continuing need to build capacity to meet the current demands and prepare local communities and NGOs to respond to future demands. Issues of deficiencies in capacity are exacerbated by the limited mechanisms available for sharing lessons learned from past experiences.

Earlier, NGO personnel tended to come to civil society from political activism and had no special training in the tasks they were called upon to undertake. However, through previous study of political literature, they generally had good communication skills.³⁴

However, from the mid-90s onwards, the key personnel entering NGOs at leadership, administrative, and technical levels originated from academic or professional backgrounds, some of them educated overseas. Hence, there has been an improvement in staff capacities.³⁵

Nevertheless, capacity issues remain, especially among smaller NGOs, whose workforces tend to be less trained than those of the INGOs, to which better trained personnel tend to migrate. In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, many domestic NGOs lost personnel to INGOs, thus reducing their capacity. This was the experience of ADB with implementing partner NGOs in projects supported in the conflict and tsunami-affected north and east: they were found initially to be weak in

capacity due to the loss of their experienced people to INGOs immediately after the tsunami.

Even in INGOs, weaknesses in effective capacity do occur, mainly due to the lack of training and experience of expatriate staff in dealing with local conditions and operations—sometimes even lacking in expertise—while domestic experts are left to deal with administrative matters.³⁶

ADB–Civil Society Cooperation in Sri Lanka

ADB considers CSOs, including NGOs, as significant players in the development process at both the operational and advocacy levels and cooperates with them to improve the impact, sustainability, and quality of its services. ADB's extensive cooperation with CSOs has contributed to greater coherence and harmonization of development assistance. At the operational level, ADB pursues cooperation with NGOs/CSOs in the design, implementation, and monitoring of ADB-supported project and technical assistance activities.

NGOs add value in promoting sustainable development through innovation—identifying new approaches and models for specific development activities, drawing upon their close knowledge of local communities; accountability—helping ensure that project components are implemented as envisaged and planned; responsiveness—encouraging the implementation of projects to respond to local needs; participation—serving as bridges between project authorities and affected communities, and providing structures for citizen participation; and sustainability—nurturing continuity in project work, especially when implementing agencies lack capacity or when staffing changes. ADB in Sri Lanka has supported many projects involving civil society in different combinations of the above strengths.

ADB encourages the involvement of local NGOs in the design, process, implementation, and monitoring of ADB-funded projects. Many projects in Sri Lanka have been implemented with the support of implementing partner NGOs. ADB and the executing agencies of projects will advertise for local NGOs/firms to apply to engage in project design, implementation, or monitoring activities of the project components.

ADB, in partnership with NGOs, mobilized communities for village development activities through the North East Coastal Community Development Project. ADB worked

with government counterparts and CSOs to identify the reconstruction priorities of target villages, develop village development plans (VDPs), build community infrastructure, improve livelihoods, and strengthen community management of natural resources in coastal communities in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. This innovative project involved a range of local and national-level NGO partners, who were trained in social mobilization, community development, and participatory rural needs appraisal to ensure the quality of their support. The NGOs carried out a wide array of activities to mobilize and strengthen CBOs for gender- and environment-sensitive village development planning and sub-project development for community infrastructure; to train them for livelihood development; and to provide greater access to microfinance resources, to enable many residents to initiate new income-generation activities.

ADB approved the Jaffna and Kilinochchi Water Supply and Sanitation Project, intended to provide safe drinking water to an estimated 250,000 people, and sanitation facilities to approximately 50,000 people. It was part of social and physical reconstruction efforts for returning internally displaced people who had been subjected to decades of internal conflict. It is designed using a participatory approach to encourage community ownership and promote sustainability, building the capacity of local CBOs for operations and maintenance. It provided opportunities to form and empower CBOs to coordinate and collect payments for metered community water facilities. During its preparation, participatory meetings took place, including CSOs and local communities. CSOs were included in committees for redressing grievances and for land acquisition and resettlement. NGOs were engaged to support community mobilization and to deliver essential training in planning, monitoring, and evaluating sanitation and hygiene improvement to CBOs.

ADB's Secondary Towns and Rural Community-Based Water Supply and Sanitation Project was intended to provide safe water to 969,000 people and sanitation to 171,500 in urban and rural areas and to increase the government's capacity to provide safe water by strengthening water sector institutions. CBOs were formed, with 50% of office bearers being women, to participate in the construction program and to manage, regulate, and distribute water from facilities with less than 1,000 connections. As part of the gender action plan, women's associations were formed, which were brought together in women's fora at the Pradeshiya Sabha level. NGOs were recruited to support CBOs, to monitor the Participation and Community Mobilization Plan, and to implement public awareness programs for sanitation, health,

and hygiene education in parallel with the physical investment activities.

Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction projects involving NGOs

The Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) was established in May 2000 by the Government of Japan and ADB as an untied grant facility. From an initial contribution of \$90 million, the Fund now stands at more than \$500 million, of which \$460 million has been committed.

The JFPR assists ADB clients to provide direct relief to the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society, while building up their capacities for self-help and income generation. Specifically, the JFPR initiates and supports innovative programs with high potential for improving the affected countries' situations; provides relatively rapid, demonstrable benefits through initiatives that can be developed and sustained in the long term; and helps local populations and civil society design and implement programs. The JFPR provides an opportunity for local communities and civil society, including NGOs to participate actively in development.

NGO participation is ingrained in JFPR grants. The primary objective was to improve project quality, thus NGOs and community groups are routinely involved in the different stages of project cycles.

In Sri Lanka, the JFPR financed a \$3 million project, JPFR (Grant) 9143: Improving Connectivity to Support Livelihoods and Gender Equality. It was linked to the ADB-financed Eastern and North-Central Provincial Road Project and involved three districts and 27 local authorities. Its primary objective was to improve the quality of life for conflict-affected and isolated rural poor communities, especially women, through a community-driven, participatory livelihood development program linked to the rehabilitation and maintenance of rural access roads.

Over 2,000 members of the target communities (85% of them women) were involved in, and benefited from income from work on road rehabilitation. Four NGOs were involved in collecting baseline data on the poverty and socioeconomic status of vulnerable people in the project areas, facilitating access to skill training and livelihood enhancement programs, and supporting and monitoring the cash-for-work program to rehabilitate rural roads.

The \$3 million JPFR (Grant) 9158: Improving Gender-Inclusive Access to Clean and Renewable Energy in Bhutan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka aims to increase access for poor rural women to affordable and reliable clean and renewable energy sources and technologies by supplementing three ADB energy projects. The project has three main outputs: Output A: Good practices in incorporating pro-poor and gender-related aspects in energy sector policies, laws and regulations identified in all South Asia Department's developing member countries; Output B: Effective interventions supporting gender-inclusive access to clean and renewable energy identified for replication; and Output C: Project Performance and Monitoring System (PPMS) producing data on social and gender-related results. In Sri Lanka, activities associated with Output B will be implemented by the government with support from the national partner NGO.

Endnotes

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- ²² Van Brabant. 1995.
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- ²⁴ Fernando. 2007. p. 119.
- ²⁵ Perera, Sasanka. 1998 and 1999.
- ²⁶ *Ibid*.
- ²⁷ Perera, GKG. 1990.
- ²⁸ 'About Us,' *National Secretariat for Non-governmental Organizations* website. [http://www.ngosecretariat.gov.lk/web/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&accessed 02 April 2013](http://www.ngosecretariat.gov.lk/web/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=46&accessed=02%20April%202013).
- ²⁹ Perera, GKG. 1990.
- ³⁰ Fernando. 2007. p 110.
- ³¹ In 1983 a conflict arose between the government and militants demanding a separate Tamil state, including the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The LTTE eliminated most of its rivals before being defeated finally in May 2009.
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For more information about ADB's work in Sri Lanka, visit www.adb.org/countries/srilanka; www.adb.org/publications/srilanka-fact-sheet

Definition and Objectives of Civil Society Collaboration

Civil society is an important stakeholder in the operations of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its borrowers and clients. It is distinct from the government and the private sector and consists of a diverse range of individuals, groups, and nonprofit organizations. They operate around shared interests, purposes, and values with a varying degree of formality and encompass a diverse range—from informal unorganized community groups to large international labor union organizations. Of particular relevance to ADB are nongovernment organizations, community-based organizations and people's organizations, foundations, professional associations, research institutes and universities, labor unions, mass organizations, social movements, and coalitions and networks of civil society organizations (CSOs) and umbrella organizations.^a

ADB recognizes CSOs as development actors in their own right whose efforts complement those of governments and the private sector, and who play a significant role in development in Asia and the Pacific. ADB has a long tradition of interacting with CSOs in different contexts, through policy- and country strategy-level consultation, and in designing, implementing, and monitoring projects.

In 2008, ADB launched Strategy 2020, which articulates the organization's future direction and vision until 2020.^b Above all, Strategy 2020 presents three complementary strategic agendas to guide ADB operations: inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. These agendas reflect the recognition that not only the pace of growth but also the pattern of growth matters in reducing poverty in the region. In this new strategic context, partnerships with a range of organizations, including CSOs, will become central to planning, financing, implementing, and evaluating ADB projects.

^a ADB. 2012. *Strengthening Participation for Development Results*. Manila.

^b ADB. 2008. *Strategy 2020: The Long-Term Strategic Framework of the Asian Development Bank, 2008–2020*. Manila.