

# Factsheet: Sri Lanka

Last update: 5 June 2014

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The national youth policy (2014) of Sri Lanka defines youth as between 15-29 years.

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **18**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

**Upper House** **--**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)  
Unicameral.

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex	With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	18	--	XX	XX
Female	18	--	XX	XX

No data for marriages with parental consent. Homosexual acts illegal. Source: [Sri Lanka Government Information Centre, ILGA](#)

### VOTING AGE

**18**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

### MAJORITY AGE

**18**

Source: [UN Child Rights Periodic Report \(2008\)](#)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**8**

**Minimum Age**  
Children between the ages of 8 and 12 who have not attained sufficient maturity of understanding shall not be prosecuted.  
Source: [Penal Code \(1883\)](#)

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

**0.67**

72 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

### LITERACY RATES

**98.76%**

Both sexes (15-24) %

**98.36%** **99.17%**

Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

### NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

**85.41%**

Both sexes %

**83.37%** **87.50%**

Male % Female %

Year: 2011

Source: [UNESCO](#)

### GDP PER CAPITA

**USD 3279.89**

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

### HDI

**0.715**

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)  
73 out of 187 countries.

### GINI

**36.4**

Year: 2010

Source: [World Bank](#)

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**38**

85 out of 177 countries.  
Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

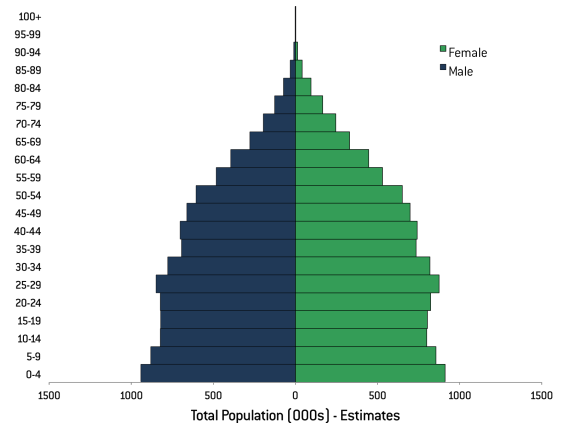
### PRESS FREEDOM

**59.13**

165 out of 180 countries.  
Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

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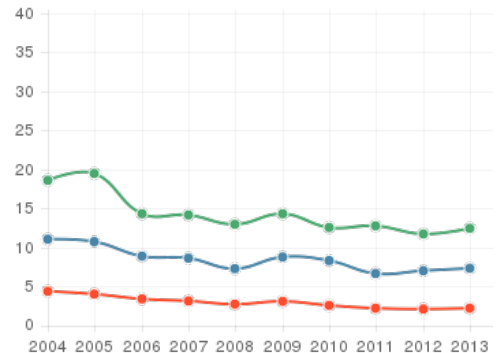
Male % Female %

Year: 2011

Source: [UNESCO](#)

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

### Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### PREVALENCE OF HIV

**0.1%**

Male (15-24) %

**0.1%**

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

### TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

**9.10%**

Both sexes (13-15) %

**12.40%**

Male (13-15) %

**5.80%**

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

## POLICY & LEGISLATION

The national youth policy (2014) aims "to develop the full potential of young people to enable their active participation in national development for a just and equitable society." The policy focuses on nine areas for policy intervention: Education; Skills development and vocational training; Youth employment; Civics & citizenship; Youth work; Health & well-being; Social exclusion & discrimination; Peace & reconciliation; Arts, recreation, sports & leisure. A coalition of youth organisations, in an open letter to the Minister on 6 July 2007, were highly critical of the 2007 draft with claims of plagiarism, tokenism and unreflective content. As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Sri Lanka is a signatory of The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) 2006-2015.

### Is there a national youth policy?

**YES**

Sri Lanka launched a new youth policy in 2014 after a long and partly disputed process.

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or

## BUDGET & SPENDING

The Youth Development Division within the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Skill Development is responsible for youth affairs and is the "main institution" responsible for implementing the national youth policy (2014). An inter-ministerial 'Presidential Youth Development Commission' is established in the national youth policy (2014) to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the policy. The Youth Development Division is also responsible for policies relating to youth development, including careers guidance, cultural programmes, and international cooperation.

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

**YES**

youth programming?

**LKR 11.2 BILLION**  
**USD 85.7 MILLION**

According to the Budget Estimates 2014, the total estimate for the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Skill Development is LKR 11.2 billion (USD 85.7 million). The National Youth Services Council is allocated LKR 692 million (USD 5.2 million). According to the World Bank, Sri Lanka spent 12.87% of its government expenditure and 2.00% of its GDP on education provision in 2011.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

The National Youth Services Council (NYSC), known as Sri Lanka Youth, acts as the focal point for youth clubs and organisations. It delivers extensive programmes including youth awards, education, sports, media, international youth affairs, skills and training. It has close links to government ministries and receives government funding. The NYSC organised the World Conference on Youth in 2014 and is a member of the Commonwealth Youth Council. The NYSC has a large organisational structure, and it is unclear what leadership role young people have.

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

**YES**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP**

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

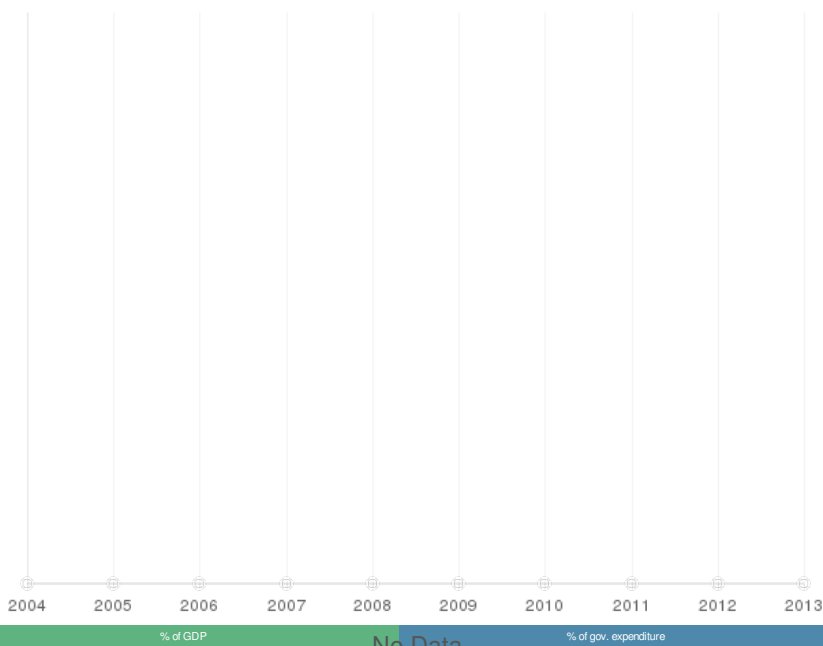
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What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

**LKR 11.2 BILLION**  
**USD 85.7 MILLION**

No Data

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP**



Source: World Bank  
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

% of GDP      % of gov. expenditure

Source: World Bank  
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

**PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS**

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