

● SEVERE

# Sri Lanka



**The Global Food Crisis  
in Sri Lanka**

  
Compassion®



# Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is slowly emerging from a decades-long civil war that ended in 2009. This scenic country carries the scars of the conflict, and poverty continues pushing its way into every area of children's lives.

**Poverty is overwhelmingly concentrated in rural communities in the northern and eastern regions** where access to education, healthcare and adequate shelter and nutrition are limited.

This island nation is also highly susceptible to natural disasters like tsunamis.



## 2009

**PARTNERSHIP WITH COMPASSION BEGAN**

## Over 110

**LOCAL PARTNERS**

## Over 21,000

**CHILDREN SUPPORTED**

## Primary Diet

**INCLUDES RICE, FISH, VEGETABLES AND FRUIT**



**Sri Lanka is facing severe food insecurity and malnutrition in local children is worsening.**



## Comparing countries



**Australia**



**0.7% OF POPULATION**  
cannot afford a healthy diet

**2% OF CHILDREN**  
under 5 have stunted growth\*

**642,500 PEOPLE**  
facing undernourishment



**Sri Lanka**



**49% OF POPULATION**  
cannot afford a healthy diet

**16% OF CHILDREN**  
under 5 have stunted growth\*

**4.9 MILLION PEOPLE**  
facing food insecurity

*\*Stunting, based on a child's height and age, is a measure of chronic nutritional deficiency.  
Source: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), 2022*



## Thamilselvi's impossible decision

As a devoted mother of three, Thamilselvi never imagined she would willingly leave her children and live in another country. But the economic crisis in Sri Lanka left her with no choice.

"I have to go abroad to work. At least then my children will have three good meals a day if I send money," says Thamilselvi.

Since the nation defaulted on its debts in early 2022, the entire country has experienced fuel shortages, daily electricity cuts and queues of thousands waiting to buy basic groceries. In more stable times, Thamilselvi's husband Vigneswaran worked as a tuk-tuk driver. His income was sufficient to support his wife and children. Now, he can't keep up with rising costs.

**Vigneswaran once waited in line for 15 days for fuel.** He sat in his tuk-tuk day and night to keep his place in the queue, trying not to fall asleep.

**"You can't close your eyes even for a minute," he says. "If you do, someone will steal your battery or even a mirror from your tuk-tuk."**

The couple's two youngest sons are sponsored through their local Compassion centre. This support is a lifeline for their family and gives Thamilselvi hope that her children are not alone.

"We don't want Thamilselvi to leave her family, but it is their decision," says Thanuja, a local centre worker. "We will always look out for her children and make sure they are well taken care of."



# How is Compassion responding?

Compassion is leading a local-first response to the global food crisis through partnerships with over 8,500 local partners across four continents.

**Our partners are responding in two ways:**



## SHORT-TERM AID

Meeting vulnerable families' immediate nutritional needs through the delivery of food packages.



## LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Equipping families with seeds, fertiliser, livestock and agricultural training to stop ongoing hunger.



**Our local partners have decades of established community trust and are best positioned to assist in this crisis — they've been there before, will be there during and will remain long after the crisis.**



# Answer hunger with hope

You can help ensure children and families in poverty have food to eat during the global food crisis.



01

## GIVE TODAY

Your tax-deductible donation will help provide short-term aid and long-term solutions.

To give, visit [cmprsn.co/stophunger](https://cmprsn.co/stophunger) or scan the QR code.



02

## EXPLORE MORE

Deepen your understanding of the global food crisis through our interactive website.

To learn more, visit [cmprsn.co/explore](https://cmprsn.co/explore) or scan the QR code.



03

## GET INVOLVED

Take on the 345 Challenge to fundraise for children facing severe food insecurity.

To sign-up, visit [cmprsn.co/challenge](https://cmprsn.co/challenge) or scan the QR code.





**SEARCH FOR  
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Compassion Australia is authorised to fundraise in NSW (CFN/10658), VIC (FR0010734), QLD (CH1569), SA (CCP2632), TAS (FIA-208) and WA (20740). No authority to fundraise is required in the ACT or the NT.