

## WORLD VISION COMMUNITY PROFILE



WorldVision has been involved with Sri Lanka's tea estate workers for many years and our work in Lindula is an extension of these efforts. Tea plantation workers have been marginalised in Sri Lanka for a very long time. Originally brought in from South India over 150 years ago, they were eventually exploited for work and isolated from the rest of the country. WorldVision's interventions focus on the well-being of children to ensure that their health, nutrition, education and social needs are met.

### BRIEF INFORMATION

#### IMPACT AREA POPULATION

28,750 people

#### PROGRAMME LIFESPAN

2013-2028

### GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Lindula is located in the Nuwara Eliya district in the Central province.

There is widespread land degradation due to deforestation, forest fires and illegal land clearing. Landslides, floods and tornadoes are frequent occurrences during the rainy season, endangering the lives of those who live on the hill slopes, while occasional droughts affect potable water sources.

### PROGRAMME GOAL

Ensuring that the community has a physically, mentally and spiritually strong child population.

# LINDULA SRI LANKA

## REALITIES

### Economic Poverty

In Lindula, majority of the people work as pickers and labourers in the tea estates. They are paid daily, and when work is not available, they face a severe shortage of income. The tea plantations provide around 10-15 days of work a month. An alternate source of income is in vegetable farms. But during the dry season, crops cannot be grown and labour is not required. Though there has been greater contribution from the government in the area of economic development, many gaps in basic social services still exist.

### Educational Difficulties

45% of the population under 12 are illiterate. This is due to long travel distances, poor transport facilities and lack of finances for education resulting in a dropout rate of 14.5%, almost 10 times the national average. The education system is not structured to support children who drop out of school with life skills education. Once they drop out, these children typically migrate to other areas and end up in cities as unskilled labourers. There are limited pre-schools and existing ones are faced with limited facilities and poor programmes. A lack of pre-school education inhibits the future growth of children intellectually and socially.

### Healthcare and Child Protection Challenges

74% of people live in dismal housing. Whole families live in a single room that is linked to others to form a "line house". There is little ventilation, no privacy, and conditions are often unsanitary. Only 67.1% of households have their own latrines. The incidence of diarrhoea is 17.9% and most parents do not have proper knowledge on how to treat diarrhoea. In addition, most babies are not breastfed and miss out on critical nutrients. 28% of mothers receive less than the optimal amount of food needed during pregnancy, resulting in low birth weight babies. Malnutrition among children remains widespread due to lack of nutritious food and misguided traditional eating practices. 37.1% of them are stunted. 41.5% of people in Lindula have limited access to health services. Other social problems include domestic violence and sexual violation of children.



KEY CHALLENGES AND WORLD VISION'S KEY INITIATIVES



Children learn about child rights and child protection.



Rehabilitation is provided for malnourished children.

**CHALLENGE** Lack of protection for children within families and the community

**INITIATIVE** Promote a secure environment where children are loved and cared for

To combat prevalent social issues, World Vision establishes proper child rights and protection systems in the community. Children are encouraged to participate in activities to empower them and engage them on child protection issues. In addition, family counselling programmes on childcare and family time are also conducted, along with awareness campaigns that highlight the importance of familial roles and responsibilities.

**CHALLENGE** Lack of access to quality education, with children struggling to perform

**INITIATIVE** Educate children in an improved child-friendly learning environment

To decrease the high dropout rate and boost literacy among children and youths, World Vision promotes good governance in school systems through strengthening School Management Committees. Training for teachers and peer-based learning activities are conducted to improve access to quality teaching and learning opportunities. In addition, child-friendly learning environments are enhanced through renovations and construction.

**CHALLENGE** Poor health and nutrition of children with limited access to health services

**INITIATIVE** Help children and families be healthy, with their basic needs adequately met

World Vision seeks to facilitate and support the construction of health centres and other critical infrastructure to improve access to primary healthcare services. Households and schools are also encouraged to have proper solid waste treatment and increased access to clean water and hygienic latrine facilities.

**CHALLENGE** Parents do not earn enough to provide for their families

**INITIATIVE** Increase household incomes to provide for children

Opportunities for alternative income are provided through vocational and career guidance training. Savings groups are established to encourage the habit of saving within households. In the event that extra finances are needed to meet families' living expenses, World Vision also facilitates access to micro loans.

Through all these interventions, World Vision is transforming the lives of children in Lindula, making a change today as well as giving them hope for the future!

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

**Sponsor a child** or give towards a **Gift Catalogue item**, which benefits the community!

Thank you for your heart for the poor, and for making a difference in the lives of children and families in Sri Lanka.

**Because of our community-focused solutions, for every child you help, four more benefit too!**