Australia maintains an interest in supporting Sri Lanka to develop as a secure, stable and prosperous partner in the Indian Ocean region, underpinned by an effective post-conflict reconciliation process.

Strategic direction

The Australian development cooperation program in Sri Lanka is based on an economic partnership approach. We focus on creating economic opportunities for all Sri Lankans. Our work contributes towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development goals (SDGs), especially SDG10 on reducing inequality. All our investments seek to support social unity and reconciliation.

Three objectives guide the program in Sri Lanka:

- expand economic opportunities (SDG8) for the poor;
- support government to be more responsive to the needs of citizens and the private sector (SDG16); and
- increase gender equality (SDG5).

Program highlights

- The Market Development Facility has led to the creation of more than 460 jobs in tourism and related sectors, many of them for women in conflict-affected areas of Sri Lanka.
- The Women in Work program has led to 18 of Sri Lanka’s largest companies committing to promote women’s leadership, recruitment and retention.
- The Governance for Growth program assisted the Sri Lankan Government to revise its trade policy, establish a Trade Information Portal and prepare for a National Single Window on trade.

For more details:
Aid Investment Plan for Sri Lanka 2015-19