



In Numbers

1 in 6 children (15%) are acutely malnourished (wasting) in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka ranked 4 out of 181 countries prone to climate shocks (Global Climate Risk Index 2018)

US\$ 3.5 m six months (January-June 2018) net funding requirements representing 33% of total requirements

WFP COUNTRY Country Brief

January 2018

Operational Context

Sri Lanka graduated to lower middle-income country status in 2010 due to the adoption of effective development policies. Notwithstanding, the country continues to struggle with the effects of a 27-year civil conflict that resulted in significant economic and social damage. Improvements in human development, and the nutritional status of children, women and adolescents have remained stagnant.

The increased frequency of natural disasters such as drought and flash floods further compounds food and nutrition insecurity. 4.6 million (21 percent of the population) people are undernourished according to [the State of Food Insecurity and Nutrition in the World, 2017](#), moreover the [Demographic and Health Survey \(2016\)](#) inform that poor nutrition is prevalent throughout the life cycle – starting with almost 1 in 6 (15 percent) infants are born with low birth weight, and 1 in 6 (15.7 percent) of all children 0-59 months are wasted (low weight for height).

WFP is aligned with the Government's commitment to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.



Population: **21 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **73 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Malnutrition (stunting): **17.1%**
Acute Malnutrition (wasting): **15.1%**

Operational Updates

- Another year of major drought is looking likely following low precipitation during the North East Monsoon season, totaling only 30 percent of the 30 year average rainfall. As of November 2017, only 54 percent of planned paddy areas were cultivated. Accordingly, Sri Lanka is bracing itself for another shock, following the worst drought in 40 years last year and the worst harvest in more than a decade.
- WFP and the International Labour Organization (ILO) jointly initiated the implementation of the EMPOWER Project, a USD 2 million, 18 month peacebuilding programme through economic empowerment for women in Puthukkudiyiruppu divisional secretariat in Mullaitivu, Northern Province. The project is funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. The agencies plan to kick start activities by supporting the first group of 100 cooperative members in commercial cultivation of value-added crops with strong market linkages.
- During 2017, with support from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), WFP established and rehabilitated 468 household water harvesting units and established and expanded home gardens. At the community level, 76 minor irrigation reservoirs were rehabilitated. In addition, 1,097 youth and women received skills diversification training and 24 vocational training centres were upgraded.
- The Global Climate Risk Index 2018 analysis ranked Sri Lanka 4 out of 181 countries, behind Zimbabwe and Fiji. This indicates that Sri Lanka is highly prone to climate shocks, as evidenced by the recurring drought, as well as floods and landslides.
- Earthwater (Canada) and the Italian Comitato are supporting the home grown school feeding programme in Sri Lanka with funding of USD 90,000 and USD 30,000 respectively. This generous funding will be used to for technical and policy support on the delivery of nutrition-sensitive school meals for the Government.

Contact info: Sadhana Mohan (sadhana.mohanl@wfp.org)
Country Director: Brenda Barton
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/sri-lanka

Main Photo Credit: WFP/NguyenDuc Hoang
Caption: A couple engaged in home gardening supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

WFP Country Strategy

| | Total Requirement (in USD) | Total Received (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022¹ | | | |
| Overall | 46.8 m | 4.8 m | 5.8 m |
| Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people have access to food all year around | | | |
| Strategic Result 1 1 Crisis response | 15.1 m | 0.5 m | 1.9 m |
| Strategic Outcome 2: School-age children in food-insecure areas have access to food all year around | | | |
| Strategic Result 2 Crisis response | 13.3 m | 2.4 m | 1.6 m |
| Strategic Outcome 3: Children under 5, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age have improved nutrition by 2025 | | | |
| Strategic Result 3 Root causes | 3.9 m | 0.0 m | 0.5 m |
| Strategic Outcome 4: Vulnerable communities and smallholder farmers have strengthened livelihoods and resilience to shocks and stresses all year around | | | |
| Strategic Result 14 Resilience building | 14.3 m | 1.9 m | 1.8 m |

¹ Resourcing figures as per country office pipeline.

WFP Sri Lanka's Activities

| | |
|------|--|
| SO 1 | Provide food assistance to crisis affected people |
| SO 2 | Provide technical and policy support on delivery of nutrition-sensitive school meals to government Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance, in partnership with government, to school-aged children |
| SO 3 | Provide evidence based advice and advocacy, and technical assistance, to government their implementation partners. Provide technical assistance and advocate for scaling up fortification of staple food and specialized nutrition foods to government and other stakeholders, including private sector. |
| SO 4 | Support nutrition/gender-sensitive livelihood diversification and income generation through integrated resilience building activities Provide technical assistance for emergency preparedness and response operations to government Provide technical assistance for building improved, unified, shock-response safety net systems to government |

In line with the Country Strategic Plan, WFP continues to work on shock-responsive safety nets in Sri Lanka. WFP is the first agency to explore the efficient use of *Samurdhi* (social safety net system) for cash-based transfers in the event of a natural disaster (drought and floods).

WFP's nutrition specialist along with the Government and sister agencies published the following reports:

- [Overview: National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition: Towards Zero Hunger](#)
- [A Landscape Analysis of Rice Fortification in Sri Lanka](#) (Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine in collaboration with WFP)
- [Iodine Deficiency Status In Sri Lanka 2016 - Fourth National Survey](#) (Medical Research Institute in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP)

Challenges

Due to funding shortfalls in 2018, in January the Government's national school meals programme absorbed approximately half of the 160,000 children WFP has been assisting in the Northern Province to the Ministry of Education, the majority of them in grades 1 to 5 as per the national programme. Given the important nutrition and education outcomes of school meals, WFP will continue to mobilise funds for school meals in Sri Lanka while providing technical support to the national programme to strengthen nutrition and linkages with smallholder farmers.

Story

Abdul Janees (aged 32) and his wife Nusra planted papaya trees and vegetables on a half-acre of land. Abdul used to cycle and fetch water some 300 meters away from his home garden. Now, with the earnings from his garden, the couple have purchased a water pump to be able to water his home garden.

Before the support from KOICA and WFP on resilience building and nutrition, the couple earned LKR 8,000 (USD 50) each month on average - barely enough to have nutritious and diversified meals for two week. The support they receive has enabled them to earn LKR 22,000 (USD 140) per month - three times more - while increasing their nutritious food intake.