



WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief

March 2018

Operational Context

Sri Lanka is a lower middle-income country that continues to struggle with the effects of a 27-year civil conflict that resulted in significant economic and social damage. Improvements in human development, nutritional status of children, women and adolescents remain stagnant.

The Demographic and Health Survey (2016) informs that poor nutrition is prevalent throughout the life cycle, starting with almost 1 in 6 infants born with low birth weight, and 1 in 6 of all children 0-59 months are wasted (low weight for height). Further, Sri Lanka is ranked 4th among 181 countries prone to climate shocks (Global Climate Risk Index) contributing to increased frequency of natural disasters (droughts and floods) that compound food and nutrition security. WFP has been present in Sri Lanka since 1968



Population: **2.1 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Acute Malnutrition (wasting): **15% between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

1 in 5 children (15%) are acutely malnourished (wasting) in Sri Lanka

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

US\$ 5.8 m six months April – September-2018) net funding requirements, representing 33% of total requirement for 2018

Operational Updates

- WFP and ILO jointly launched the project 'EMPOWER', an 18-month project for USD 2 million funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF). The project supports conflict-affected women members of the all-female cooperative in Puthukkudiyiruppu, Mullaithivu (Northern Province). The objective is to empower them economically and socially through social integration and opportunities for income generation with market linkage.
- WFP jointly with the government conducted project appraisal missions on the resilience building sub-project proposals submitted by 13 districts. WFP provided technical assistance to enhance the quality of the projects. The appraisal missions also contributed to enhancing the capacity of the government counterpart staff at the sub-national level. The project implementation will begin in May in 13 districts.
- WFP Sri Lanka for the first time provided consultancy service to the World Bank on drought impact analysis at *Grama Niladari* Division (local government level). The data generated from the service will be used for the WB's climate smart agriculture. The consultancy service is worth USD 33,000 and will enable WFP to enhance PRISM (Platform for Real-Time Information and Situation Monitoring) – a smart, responsive information and service delivery platform that helps the government and WFP to improve the effectiveness of emergency preparedness to combat the effects of climate shocks.
- The EPR Trust Fund funding of USD 109,000 from Australia will support WFP and the Government of Sri Lanka to develop the second phase of PRISM that enables fast-onset disaster impact analysis and capacity development on shock responsive safely nets. PRISM phase 1, already handed over to the Ministry of Disaster Management, enables monitoring of slow on-set disasters such as droughts.

WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	April to September Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
46.8 m	4.8 m	5.8 m
Strategic Result 1: Crisis response		
Strategic Outcome 1: <i>Crisis-affected people have access to food all year around</i>		
15.1 m	0.5 m	1.9 m
Strategic Result 2: Crisis response		
Strategic Outcome 2: <i>School-age children in food-insecure areas have access to food all year around</i>		
13.3 m	2.4 m	1.6 m
Strategic Result 3: Root causes		
Strategic Outcome 3: <i>Children under 5, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age have improved nutrition by 2025</i>		
3.9 m	0.0 m	0.5 m
Strategic Result 4: Resilience building		
Strategic Outcome 4: <i>Vulnerable communities and smallholder farmers have strengthened livelihoods and resilience to shocks and stresses all year around</i>		
14.3 m	1.9 m	1.8 m

- The successful completion of overall skills training programmes (such as handloom weaving, batik designing) has increased by 8 percent
- The improvement is very evident among the female participant increasing by 13 percent
- Income generation are three times higher from service related training courses (such as motor mechanism) in comparison to agriculture or industry manufacturing related courses (e.g. poultry and hand craft).

Challenges

A drought impact analysis report (March) was formulated by WFP and the Ministry of Disaster Management to assess the impact of the 2016-17 drought that is continuing through 2018 affecting the populations living in the dry zone. The findings inform that as of January, the harvest is less than 79 percent which will be sufficient for only seven months of the national consumption. Further, the total rainfall in January was reported below the average of approximately 30 percent. As a result of limited availability of ground water as well as the drop of the water levels, affected households face difficulties in finding drinking water.

The report recommends that the government take immediate action to reduce the impact of drought among the vulnerable population and take measures to safeguard the upcoming *Yala* (secondary) harvest season.

EMPOWER Project: Women to become business leads in their community

Sivasubramaniam Nandini remembers returning after the war to her village in Puthukkudiyiruppu of Mullaitivu district only to find her house that had been made unliveable by the war and prolonged abandonment. With no one to stand guard, wild elephants had devastated her family's once thriving coconut plantations. "We had come with big expectations, but everything was upside down," says Nandini.

For a group of 15 women with similar background, their solution was to form their own network. It was the start of what would become the Puthukkudiyiruppu D.S Division Women Entrepreneurs' Cooperative Society. Today, Nandini is the President of the cooperative.

The only all-female cooperative in the district, the move allowed them to reach more women. Now with close to 500 members and counting, they are getting set for a new, more ambitious phase under the WFP-ILO supported Empower project that will build peace through the social and economic empowerment of these women in Northern Sri Lanka."

Donors

KOICA, Japan, UN Peacebuilding Fund, Earthwater, Italian Comitato, Australia

WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)

Confirmed Contributions (in USD)

April to September Net Funding Requirements (in USD)

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

46.8 m

4.8 m

5.8 m

Strategic Result 1: Crisis response

Strategic Outcome 1: *Crisis-affected people have access to food all year around*

15.1 m

0.5 m

1.9 m

Strategic Result 2: Crisis response

Strategic Outcome 2: *School-age children in food-insecure areas have access to food all year around*

13.3 m

2.4 m

1.6 m

Strategic Result 3: Root causes

Strategic Outcome 3: *Children under 5, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age have improved nutrition by 2025*

3.9 m

0.0 m

0.5 m

Strategic Result 4: Resilience building

Strategic Outcome 4: *Vulnerable communities and smallholder farmers have strengthened livelihoods and resilience to shocks and stresses all year around*

14.3 m

1.9 m

1.8 m

WFP Country Activities

SO 1 Provide food assistance to crisis affected people

Provide technical and policy support on delivery of nutrition-sensitive school meals to government

SO 2 Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance, in partnership with government, to school-aged children

Provide evidence based advice and advocacy, and technical assistance, to government and implementing partners

SO 3 Provide technical assistance and advocate the scaling up of the fortification of staple food specialized nutritious foods to government and other stakeholders, including the private sector

Support nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative livelihood diversification and income generation through integrated resilience-building activities

SO 4 Provide technical assistance for emergency preparedness and response operations to the Government

Provide technical assistance to government and related agencies in the building of improved, unified, shock-responsive safety-net systems

Monitoring

WFP, jointly with the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs conducted outcome level monitoring to assess the impact of technical skills training for sustainable livelihood impact. Accordingly the following was identified based on nine types of training courses through focus group discussion: