



## WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief

June 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 - amongst the top ten worst rates globally). Climate shocks contribute 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: **21 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 6 children (15%) are acutely malnourished (wasting)

Sri Lanka ranks 4<sup>th</sup> of 184 countries prone to climate shocks (Global Climate Risk Index)

**US\$ 1 m** six months (July - December 2018) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- WFP and the Ministry of Health, Nutrition, Indigenous Medicine (MoH) conducted a consultative workshop on food fortification, a vital requirement that the government is exploring as a form of tackling malnutrition (wasting) rates in the country. The 29 June workshop brought together technical experts on food quality and safety with regional expertise.
- WFP participated in the Africa Sun Business Network (SBN) meeting to learn from countries in the region on mechanisms to establish the SBN. Sri Lanka is exploring opportunities to engage the private sector in contributing to address the high levels of malnutrition in the country.
- WFP and the Government are continuing to implement resilience-building and livelihood development activities in 55 village clusters, in 13 of the 25 districts in Sri Lanka, with funding support from the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Especially for shock prone parts of the country, the project builds community resilience through the rehabilitation of bands and micro tanks that provide irrigation for agriculture production to combat the drought and floods. Further, women and youth received skills and vocational training linked with market for alternative income generation diversifying family livelihood. A total of 10,500 people (2,630 families) receive assistance with priority given to families with disabled members, widows and elderly.

**Main  
Photo**

Credit: WFP/Sadhana Mohan  
Caption: School students in the Nuwara Eliya District of Sri Lanka

**Contact info:** Sadhana Mohan ([sadhana.mohan@wfp.org](mailto:sadhana.mohan@wfp.org))  
**Country Director:** Brenda Barton  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/sri-lanka](http://www.wfp.org/countries/sri-lanka)

WFP Sri Lanka Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	July-December Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)</b>		
<b>46.6 m</b>	<b>9.6 m*</b>	<b>1 m</b>
<b>Strategic Result 1:</b> Crisis response		
<b>Strategic Outcome 1:</b> <i>Crisis-affected people have access to food all year around</i>		
<b>15. m</b>	<b>0.5 m</b>	<b>0.8 m</b>
<b>Strategic Result 2:</b> Crisis response		
<b>Strategic Outcome 2:</b> <i>School-age children in food-insecure areas have access to food all year around</i>		
<b>13.5 m</b>	<b>0.3 m</b>	<b>1.4 m</b>
<b>Strategic Result 3:</b> Root causes		
<b>Strategic Outcome 3:</b> <i>Children under 5, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age have improved nutrition by 2025</i>		
<b>3.9 m</b>	<b>0.0 m</b>	<b>0.3 m</b>
<b>Strategic Result 4:</b> Resilience building		
<b>Strategic Outcome 4:</b> <i>Vulnerable communities and smallholder farmers have strengthened livelihoods and resilience to shocks and stresses all year around</i>		
<b>14.2 m</b>	<b>7.9 m</b>	<b>0</b>

\*includes 1.2m contribution not yet allocated to an SO.

## WFP Sri Lanka 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

- The national crop forecast provided an improved outlook for the Yala (secondary harvest season) predicting that the total rice production in year 2018 is sufficient until end 2018, an improvement compared to the failure of the Maha 2018 (main harvest season) due to drought conditions. There is an exceptionally high increase of vegetable prices of 30-108 percent in comparison to last year.
- National Nutrition Month: The Health Ministry has declared the month of June every year as the National Nutrition Month with the goal of promoting better nutrition among the population. Special programmes were planned to educate the people to improve nutritional standards and create a conceptual change. Under the theme of 'proper way to reduce abdominal fat' a pressing problem in country, the advocacy initiative was launched by Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Rajitha Senaratne and Brenda Barton, WFP Representative. WFP also provided support for Nutrition Month through an island-wide healthy recipe competition.
- WFP together with Dialog Axiata, the largest mobile service provider in the country is enabling 'emergency responders connected mechanism'. The partnership will tap into increased telecommunication technology for emergency preparedness and response initiatives through disseminate early warning messages, enable distribution of cash assistance using mobile money, real-time data capture during field assessments, enable community feedback mechanisms, and digital identity.

## Monitoring

- WFP, IOM and FAO jointly are conducting a Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) Rapid Assessment (Phase 1). The assessment links climate change, environment degradation and migration factors for consideration in rural development and food security plans.

## Donors

KOICA, Japan, UN Peace-building Fund, The Earth Group, Italian Comitato, Australia, OFDA

**GENDER MARKER 1** 