



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief July 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 15 percent of infants born with low birth weight, and 15 percent of all children 0-59 months wasted. This is among the 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% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

15 percent of children are acutely malnourished (wasting)

Sri Lanka ranks **4th of 184 countries** prone to climate shocks (Global Climate Index).

US\$0.64 m six months (August – January 2018) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- WFP and the Government of Sri Lanka signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) to further the partnership to enhance food security and nutrition in Sri Lanka. The joint efforts support the Government's Vision 2025 and Agenda 2030. They will be carried out under WFP's new Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022. The LoU will enable WFP and the Government to continue addressing the root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, while promoting longer-term recovery and resilience for thousands of people.

WFP and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), with funding from the Danish Government, are increasing gender equality and equity, sexual and reproductive health rights of women, and improving access to health care services. Focusing through a nutrition and food security lens, the project will be integrated into upcoming food for work and livelihood development activities in six districts supported by WFP and the Government.

- A cabinet memorandum on fortification of common staple foods (predominately rice) with iron and folic acid was tabled at the cabinet meeting of 31 July. The cabinet has approved the appointment of a high-level committee to overlook and support fortification efforts to reduce anemia and anaemia-related health issues in Sri Lanka. This is an important milestone in implementing the national roadmap for rice fortification in Sri Lanka supported by WFP over the last few years.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug - Jan Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
46.6 m	11.5 m	0.64 m

Strategic Result 1: End hunger by protecting access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people have access to food all year round.

Focus area: Crisis Response to ensure humanitarian assistance

Activities:

- Provide food assistance to crisis-affected people.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

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

Focus area: Root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition among school-age children

Activities:

- Provide nutrition-sensitive food assistance, in partnership with the Government, to school-age children.
- Provide technical and policy support for the delivery of nutrition-sensitive school meals programmes to the Government.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

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

Focus area: Immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition.

Activities:

- Provide evidence-based advice, advocacy, and technical assistance to government and implementing partners.
- Provide technical assistance and advocate the scaling up of the fortification of staple food and specialized nutritious foods to government and other stakeholders, including the private sector.

Strategic Result 4: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

Strategic Outcome 4: Vulnerable communities and smallholder farmers have strengthened livelihoods and resilience in the face of shocks and stresses all year round.

Focus area: Resilience building to enable vulnerable communities to better withstand shocks and stresses and to augment government capacity to implement disaster-management and integrated disaster-risk-reduction strategies.

Activities:

- Support nutrition-sensitive and gender-transformative livelihood diversification and income generation through integrated resilience-building activities.
- 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 and the Government implement resilience-building and livelihood development activities in 13 districts, including rehabilitation of bands and micro tanks that provide irrigation for agriculture production to combat the drought. Women and youth received skills and vocational training for alternative income generation. 10,500 people (2,630 families) receive assistance. Monitoring found 95 percent of the planned participants were actively involved.

Food consumption patterns show that all 13 districts have poor vegetable and fruit intake. Economic vulnerability for 'food expenditure' is only 64 percent, showing that the majority of project participants are moderately food insecure.

Story: Karthika becomes a business woman!

Karthika, 22, comes from a family of five, depended on farming. At times of drought when the harvest is lost, her older brother goes in search of agricultural labour opportunities, however, like many in Mullaithivu, the opportunities are limited.

"I finished my advance level schooling, and since then I've been working in the farm, but it is no longer a safe haven to depend for my family. Hopes of a good harvest and income is lost by drought" said Kartika exactly one year back, when the Government and WFP were calling for applications to learn handloom weaving for youth as a skill for income generation.

Today she tells us with a smile "last month I got an order to make sheets for the local hospital and I earned 20,000 rupees (USD 128)!" Karthika continued "I want to make more creative products, I think we could try some new designs and colours to make nice sarees, I also want to bring together few more women and expand a business in producing handloom products".

Karthika is one among the 32 youth who was learning handloom in Mullitivu supported by KOICA and WFP for skills development. She further received seed funding through WFP to start a small enterprise at home. She said her earnings have not only secured a steady income, but also enable her to support her family when harvest loss or agriculture labour opportunities are impacted by climate shocks.

Donors

KOICA, Japan, UN Peace-building Fund, The Earth Group, Italian Comitato, Australia, OFDA, Government of Denmark, Japan Association for WFP