



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief December 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. 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**

2017 Human Development Index: **76 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Acute malnutrition (wasting): **15% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

15 percent of children under age 5 have moderately acute malnourishment, rates of which have remained stagnant over the last 10 years.

Sri Lanka ranks **2nd of 176 countries** prone to climate shocks (Global Climate Risk Index).

US\$ 0.6 m six months in net funding requirements (Jan – June 2019).

Operational Updates

- Over 3,000 families were displaced due to flash floods in the Northern districts of Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu. The heavy rainfall (250mm) on 21-22 December, damaged crops and disrupted the livelihoods of agriculture dependent families.
- Based on the request by the government, WFP conducted an initial impact assessment inform the Ministry of Public Administration and Disaster Management's plan on needed response. Overall, the assessment informed that the government had taken effective preparedness measures, a contributing factor to which is WFP's platform for real-time information and situation monitoring (PRISM) tool, and capacity development on emergency preparedness for the government officials at central and district level. [Link to the report](#)
- Following the warning given on potential impact of El-Nino, WFP in coordination with the Ministry of Public Administration and Disaster Management provided a refresher training on rapid assessment tool kit (72-hour approach) to 20 government officers involved in emergency preparedness and response. This training programme was funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).
- A one-day technical awareness session was also conducted for the officials of the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) – Emergency Operations Centre on the subject of extreme events related to El-Nino events. The workshop was organised by DMC in collaboration with the Department of Meteorology with the technical support of WFP and funding support by USAID.

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Jan - June Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
46.6 m	11.5 m	0.6 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.

- WFP’s two-year programme on resilience building and livelihood support was completed in December. Funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), it led to the creation of 778 wells and rainwater harvesting storage units to improve home gardening. In addition, 73 minor irrigation schemes were rehabilitated, and tools for maintenance provided. Some 1,500 women and youth were trained with entrepreneur skills, and granted seed funding to start their own small-businesses. Post monitoring and evaluation informed:
 - The rainwater household water storage units have enabled home gardening area expansion to households, increasing overall monthly income by 75 percent (approximately USD 108 per month).
 - 18 percent of the participants informed that the rehabilitation of the minor reservoirs had enabled them to harvest during both Maha (main) and Yala (secondary) harvest season, due to the increased availability of water. Previously the communities only benefitted from a single season.
 - About 19 percent of additional land (increase in cultivation acreage) was obtained for agricultural activities upon the completion of the minor reservoirs.

Gardening against the odds!

Forty varieties of vegetables, fruits and herbs within half an acre land that generates an income of USD 330 (LKR 60,000) – an impossible task achieved by Ms. Kamani Munasinghe. She is the winner of the competition ‘Gardens of the City’ in Central Province and Matale District.

The 45-year-old mother of two, overcame domestic violence. Just over 18 months before, she was depressed, with no form of livelihood and living below the poverty line. Today she is selling produce from her organic home garden and earning an amount that some in her region would call ‘lucrative’.

“Through the support of WFP, KOICA and the Government, I was given a water storage unit, roofing sheets, and drain-pipes to harvest rainwater, and seeks to plant”, said Kamani. “Don’t underestimate a person’s courage - with the assistance, I got to work by designing the garden using a ‘food scalping model’ The assistance I received was instrumental for me to become who I am today – I will continue to inspire women like myself to become successful”.

Donors

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