



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief January 2019



## 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> of 176 countries** prone to climate shocks (Global Climate Risk Index).

**US\$ 5.3 m** six months in net funding requirements (Feb – July 2019).

## Operational Updates

WFP conducted a series of trainings on shock responsive social protection systems for the Department of Samurdhi, Ministry of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment. The training equipped the staff of Samurdhi (Sri Lanka's social protection system) to transfer relief funds in the event that people are affected by climate shocks, such as floods and drought. The trainings were conducted for both central and district level staff.

WFP is coordinating with the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs and the Department of National Planning to conduct a National Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment in 2019. The Department of National Planning is appointing a research team of technical experts from ministries and government departments such as agriculture, health, census and statistics, and education. Meanwhile, WFP has commenced a bidding process to select a research institution to conduct the assessment under the supervision of the research team appointed by the Department of National Planning. The assessment is scheduled to begin by mid-March.

WFP conducted an initial [impact assessment](#) on the North East monsoon floods in Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu district that impacted over 3,000 families in December 2018. As a follow-up, WFP conducted a brief assessment of its emergency preparedness and response activities in partnership with the Ministry of Public Administration and Disaster Management in the two districts to identify the impact of capacity development and identify areas that needs strengthening. The document will be published in early February.

### Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Sadhana Mohan  
Caption: A farmer, whose harvest survived floods, thanks to three water tanks rehabilitated with WFP support that prevented flooding.

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# WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Feb - July Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
46.6 m	11.5 m	5.3 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 and the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is pivoting into a 3 ½ year project on resilience building activities and livelihood support that strengthen communities to withstand the impact of climate shocks, particularly reoccurring drought affected areas in dry zones. The project will invest USD 6 million to improve the lives of 21,600 people in Matale, Monaragala, Badulla, Manner, Mullaithivu, and Batticaloa with:

- Rain and ground water harvesting by rehabilitating minor irrigation schemes.
- Household water harvesting, drip irrigation units and water pumps to expand irrigation.
- Skill training for women and youth and seed funding to start their own small businesses.

An induction workshop and consultative session by WFP and the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs brought together government officials from six districts to kick-start the project and begin implementation. WFP has also carried out stakeholder mapping and designed a process flow for cash transfer model through the Government Treasury.

Supported by the Government of Denmark, WFP and UNFPA are jointly working to improve women’s nutrition and promote gender equality and women’s empowerment by providing critical information and services on sexual and reproductive health, nutrition and food security in 2019. An inception meeting brought together national, district, and divisional level stakeholders who will take part in the project implementation participated in the event. The Nutrition Division, under Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, took the lead of organizing this inception workshop. National level representatives from Nutrition Division, Family Health Bureau, Health Promotion Bureau and Ministry of Women’s and Child Affairs are some of the representatives who came together for the consultation project planning sessions.

## Challenges

The floods in Mullaithivu that occurred between 21-23 December affected the livelihoods of the members of Puthukkudiyiruppu women’s cooperative. Their crops, particularly chilli and banana, have been completely destroyed. This is a major setback to the community and the project ‘EMPOWER’ jointly implemented by WFP and ILO.

## Donors

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