



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief April 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\$ 5.28 m** six months in net funding requirements (May – October 2019).

## Operational Updates

- WFP operations, while slightly curtailed, continue following the tragic Easter Day bomb attacks.
- WFP continues to support the Government of Sri Lanka through its innovative and sustainable new project, R5n, which supports Sri Lanka's most vulnerable **R**ural communities to enhance their **R**esilience against recurrent natural shocks, **R**educe and mitigate climate risk through the **R**ecoconstruction of productive assets, and ensure **R**ecovery and diversification of livelihoods, with impact multiplied by **n**utrition interventions.
  - o WFP provided technical assistance in Community-based Participatory Planning (CBPP) consultations at village clusters in five districts. The technical consultations brought together communities, partners and the local government to identify issues and tailor programme responses to local requirements under its resilience building planning.
  - o A district orientation workshop was held with government ministries and technical agencies from national and sub-national level on capacities, systems and policies to scale up successful capacity strengthening experiences. The purpose of the workshop is to multiply the impact of the project.
  - o Further, WFP provided technical expertise using the innovative 'three-pronged approach' that strengthens the design, planning and implementation of programmes in resilience building.

Main  
Photo

Credit: WFP/Sadhana Mohan  
Caption: A farmer in his home garden filled with vegetables and fruits

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## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	May - Oct Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>46.6 m</b>	<b>12.00 m</b>	<b>5.28 m</b>

#### 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 the government and implementing partners.
- Provide technical assistance and advocate the scaling up of the fortification of staple food and specialized nutritious foods to the 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 the government and related agencies in the building of improved, unified, shock-responsive safety-net systems.

- WFP is supporting the Ministry of Social Empowerment – Department of Samurdhi Development, Sri Lanka's national social safety net system to digitalize the last-mile beneficiary identification and payment tracking that is currently maintained manually at the Samurdhi Banks in the communities. As a pilot programme, the Department of Samurdhi Development and WFP is rolling out SCOPE, a flexible and powerful digital beneficiary management tool, through training of Samurdhi bank officers as enumerators, providing tablets and tools for biometric beneficiary registration, authentication and payment in four districts.
- District meetings with related and important government stakeholders will be scheduled for the coming months to identify the status and issues related to nutrition, food security, sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender in six districts. This is to effectively deliver the WFP and UNFPA joint project 'CHANGE', addressing gender equality and women's empowerment through improved nutrition, food security, sexual and reproductive health, and access to health services in Sri Lanka.
- Procurement of equipment is underway to improve infrastructure facilities of selected health clinics in project areas and will be handed over to the Ministry in the coming months.

## Challenges

- On 21 April, Easter Sunday, three churches across Sri Lanka and three luxury hotels in the commercial capital Colombo were targeted in a series of coordinated terrorist suicide bombings, killing scores of people and injuring hundreds. All WFP staff were safe. Currently, the army and police in Sri Lanka are investigating and making further arrests.

WFP has maintained operations also working remotely throughout the period while taking necessary security precautions. A priority is the May monsoon/cyclone season preparedness measures, with scenario planning and contingency/simulations being rescheduled.

## Donors

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