



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief July 2019



Operational Context

Despite progress on many of the SDGs, Sri Lanka continues to struggle with the effects of a 27-year civil conflict on communities and frequent climate shocks which cause significant damages economically and to livelihoods. While now an Upper Middle Income Country, there are significant gaps in human development including the nutritional status of children, women and adolescents which remains stagnant.

The Demographic and Health Survey (2016) informs that poor nutrition is prevalent throughout the life cycle, especially moderate acute malnutrition – which is “wasting” or thinness – in children under 5 years of age. 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 50 years, since 1968.



Population: **21 million**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle
income earning country**

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

In Numbers

Poor nutrition among women of reproductive age remains an issue in Sri Lanka, with **10 percent underweight and 45 percent overweight or obese**. Meanwhile, 33 percent of pregnant and lactating women are anaemic.

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

US\$ 4.35 million – Six months net funding requirement (July 2019 – December 2020)

Operational Updates

- WFP, UNFPA, together with Government partners, kick started a series of workshops in July linked to WFP-supported resilience building and livelihood support activities in five districts. The workshops target government staff at the community level to raise awareness and understanding on gender topics, such as gender division of labour, gender inequality, women’s empowerment, gender and nutrition, gender and food security and gender transformative programming. This is part of a WFP-UNFPA joint project called ‘CHANGE’, which is addressing gender equality and women’s empowerment through improved nutrition, food security, sexual and reproductive health, and access to health services in Sri Lanka.
- In July, Experts from WFP’s Bangkok and India offices provided government partners from the Health Promotion Board (HPB) with training on nutrition and social behaviour change communication. The training aimed to build capacity across planning a nutrition communication strategy. With Sri Lanka’s nutrition status on malnutrition and obesity worsening, WFP and the Government are working together to increase awareness and advocate for healthy diets. The HPB of the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine has identified the need to update the National Nutrition Communication Strategy in Sri Lanka (2007-2011), WFP continues to provide it with technical and some financial support.
- WFP and the International Food Policy Research Institute are rolling out operational research to assess the impact of resilience-building activities on nutrition outcomes. This study, which will begin data collection towards the end of 2019 to early 2020, will add to the body of evidence for the nutrition-sensitive programme within the country as well as globally.

Main Photo

Credit: NguyenDuc Hoang
Caption: WFP supported resilience building activities to combat climate shock

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug 2019-Jan 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
46.6 m	12.84 m	4.35 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.

Operational Updates (continued)

- WFP and International Water Management Institute a Memorandum of Understanding in July. The agreement focuses on collaboration related to climate and drought impact analysis and reporting. The two organisations will work together to develop knowledge products, which highlight seasonal outlooks including risk of climate-hazards, potential impacts, and recommendations for reducing those risks.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Disaster Management and the National Disaster Relief Services Centre, concluded stakeholder consultations and awareness raising of contingency planning workshops across 20 targeted District Secretariat Divisions. This collaborative effort worked to enhance district stakeholders' disaster awareness and to create contingency plans for the emergencies most likely to impact their areas. This initiative will ensure that there is greater preparedness for future shocks.
- WFP conducted a workshop strengthening the capacity of the Government officials in Matale, Moneragala, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu and Mannar districts. The participants from District Planning Secretariat, District Partnership Units, Divisional Secretariat Divisions and village clusters participated in the workshop where they received training on the selection of households for the rainwater harvesting project. WFP is working to improve targeted households' resilience to weather extremes by providing tanks to store water in the rainy season for irrigation when it is dry.

Challenges

Presidential elections in Sri Lanka have been confirmed to take place between November and December 2019. Accordingly, government officials are highly focused on the process. A new President and Government will take office in early January.

Donors

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