



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief

November 2019

Operational Context

Sri Lanka has shown steady growth over the last years with progress on SDGs – reflecting the country’s elevation to upper middle-income status. Presidential elections were held in November this year, with parliamentary polls scheduled for April 2020.

Despite the progress, the country faces many socio-economic challenges, including the impact of a nutritional ‘double burden’ — undernutrition rates unchanged for over a decade in addition to soaring rates of overweight and obesity. For 2020, Sri Lanka is ranked 6th on the Climate Risk Index.

WFP has been present in Sri Lanka since 1968, working together with the Government for the past 50 years.



Population: **21 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **76 out of 189**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **15% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

45 percent of women of reproductive age are overweight or obese

33 percent of pregnant and lactating women are anaemic

Heavy monsoon floods **affected 5,000 people** across nine districts

US\$ 0.73 million – Six months net funding requirement (December 2019 – June 2020)

WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Updates

- A tropical low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal brought an early onset of the north-east monsoon, with heavy rains affecting 5,000 people across nine districts. WFP supported the Disaster Management Centre in emergency reporting including flood impact mapping, government response information, system tracking and forecasting.
- WFP commenced formative research with the International Food Policy Research Institute, under their global programme on agriculture for nutrition and health. The study aims to generate evidence on the impact and relationship between nutrition and climate resilient agriculture (including value chain development). The study will also offer insights on gender and equity in agriculture.
- A joint WFP and government team attended the Global Gathering of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network in Nepal, where Sri Lanka was internationally recognized for successfully catalysing the private sector to take bold action in improving nutrition.
- As a part of the CHANGE project, WFP and UN Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly conducted trainings for 150 public health midwives and leaders of mother support groups. These trainings promoted healthy meal preparation practices and brought awareness to myths which reinforce gender discrimination.

Monitoring

- WFP initiated a joint baseline training and data collection with the Government in the R5ⁿ resilience project across all five project districts. This baseline will set the benchmark against which project results will be measured.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
46.6 m	18.93 m	0.73 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 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 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

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: Food systems are sustainable

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 has initiated preparatory work for the final external evaluation of the Climate Change Adaptation project. The evaluation will assess the project's relevance, performance, management methods (including contribution to capacity strengthening) and achievement of national environmental objectives.

Challenges

- The early and sudden onset of rain has hindered the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes and construction of agro-wells under WFP's resilience building projects. Along with government officials, WFP is identifying key requirements to expedite the rehabilitation work within the project timeline.
- Intense weather across the island also stretched government capacity. As a result, the Ministry of Disaster Management required WFP to provide technical support for flood mapping and emergency reporting.
- The change in the country's political leadership after the presidential elections has resulted in several changes in the Government. WFP is continuing to introduce projects to new government counterparts. Parliamentary elections in 2020 may bring further changes.

Sri Lanka and WFP: 50 years of partnership

- **The Government of Sri Lanka released a limited-edition postal stamp to mark 50 years of working with WFP.** The stamp was launched at the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, during the 50th Anniversary commemorative event graced by dignitaries from the Government, the United Nations and other development organizations.

Donors

Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Government of Japan, UN Peace-building Fund, The Earth Group, Italian Comitato, Government of Australia, Office of the US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Government of Denmark, Japan Association for WFP, FEED