



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief December 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 increasing 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 in the reproductive age group are overweight or obese

33 percent of pregnant and lactating women are anaemic

US\$ 5,848 provided in cash-based transfers (December 2019)

US\$ 2.21 million – Six months net funding requirement (Jan – June 2020)

Operational Updates

- WFP upgraded the flagship Platform for Real time Information and Situation Monitoring (PRISM) to integrate historical flood layers using the analytics of past weather events. PRISM has been in operation for the past three years, monitoring the impacts of meteorological and agricultural drought. With the recent advancements, the Disaster Management Centre can now use the system for monitoring the impacts of sudden onset disasters as well.
- WFP joined government partners and donors at the SUN Business Network Quarterly Meeting to develop the next work plan, focusing on the importance of healthy snacks and other good nutrition initiatives. A representative from the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management made the keynote speech, highlighting the private sector's role in disaster response.
- As a part of the CHANGE project, WFP together with partner UNFPA organized a comprehensive training for health care providers on developing the national guidelines and standard operating procedures for first contact points to respond to gender based violence.
- WFP, together with the ILO and the Government, successfully concluded the "EMPOWER" project which benefitted a large number of women still living in a fragile, post war environment in Mullaitivu in the Northern province. The women received income generation opportunities through commercial agricultural projects including household water harvesting and irrigation. Gender and nutrition awareness training were part of the activities together with knowledge and cultural exchange visits to southern districts which helped the women farmers to learn improved farming practices, indigenous pest control methods, contributing to building their community knowledge base. The project recently received positive evaluation from independent evaluators.
- As a part of the South-South Cooperation pilot project on improving post-harvest management, a joint WFP and government team visited the People's Republic of China to gain exposure to new

Contact info: Tamara Nanayakkara (tamara.nanayakkara@wfp.org)

Country Director: Brenda Barton

Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/sri-lanka>

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
46.6 m	19.2 m	2.21 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.

Operational Updates (cont)

technologies in increasing productivity, reducing losses and promoting value aggregation and access to markets.

- WFP has completed the data collection for the Urban Food Security Survey to analyse the risk factors for health, nutrition and socio-economic issues faced by the urban poor. Important information on issues such as the prevalence of non-communicable diseases and nutrition deficits in early childhood will lead WFP to advocate for immediate, medium-term and long-term action and policy reforms to ensure the essential needs of people living in slums.

Monitoring

- WFP carried out baseline data collection and training sessions on field testing for government officials through the flagship R5n resilience building project, across all five implementing districts. Upon completion of the training, participants engaged in a joint data collection exercise, where they conducted household interviews using digital data collection devices.

Challenges

- The early onset of heavy rains in the northeast monsoon season hindered the progress of the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes and construction of agro-wells under resilience-building projects. Working together with farmer organisations, WFP prioritized the most urgent projects as a mitigation measure, to ensure completion within the project timelines.

United in creating violence-free spaces for women and girls

- WFP celebrated the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence with over 200 residents of “Methsevana”, the state house of rehabilitation for women who have faced violence in their lives.

Gardening, creative arts and music were part of the programme. The day concluded with a collective donation of commodities and equipment, complementing the centre’s ongoing efforts to create a space where girls and women feel free and secure.

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,