



# WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief February 2020

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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: **71 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\$ 3,934** of cash-based transfers made in February 2020

**US\$ 2.45 million** – Six months net funding requirement (March 2020 – August 2020)

## Operational Updates

- Together with the Government, WFP organized a stakeholder consultation on climate-related shocks, resilience building and adaptive measures to combat disasters. The Government highlighted the priorities and strategies put in place to address climate change and invited the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) to join in potential opportunities to support Sri Lanka's efforts in climate action. The UNCT will continue to adopt a cohesive approach towards new projects to ensure agencies are complementing each other's existing work.
- Outlining a mission to end malnutrition, WFP joined the UNCT at the presentation of an abridged version of the report *State of the World's Children*, to the President of Sri Lanka, emphasizing the imperative need to address child malnutrition in the country.

At the event, the World Bank also highlighted key findings from the Financial Assessment of Nutrition in Sri Lanka. These studies helped to reiterate the importance of nutrition as a fundamental building block and cornerstone of development in a child's life.

- Following a study tour for farmers to China through the South-South and triangular cooperation initiative on post-harvest improvements, WFP supported four workshops to disseminate lessons learned from the study. The participating farmers from Monaragala District shared their knowledge and observations with the membership of their respective farmer organizations. Altogether, 207 smallholder farmers attended the sessions to learn of improved technologies practiced in China and the supporting strategies and policies put in place by the Chinese Government.
- WFP conducted a protection mission in Sri Lanka with the aim of identifying areas to mainstream protection and disability in the country's context, recognize the gaps and discover individual organizational expertise for better coordination, through joint programmes and pooled funding.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>46.6 m</b>	<b>19.15 m</b>	<b>2.45 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 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)

The findings of the protection mission will contribute to the global-level update of the WFP Protection Policy, which will better ground the policy in field-based practice. It will also focus more strongly on leadership to implement protection considerations across a range of contexts, including a Disability Road Map for the organization grounded in the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy.

## Monitoring

- In line with the strategic shift to national capacity strengthening to achieve zero hunger, WFP organized a workshop on adopting a theory of change to meet new information needs for evidence-based decision-making.

The theory of change workshop helped to envision and strategically position WFP's programmes in the light of a changing political and economic landscape, while also re-visiting assumptions and risks.

These will feed into a mid-term review of WFP Sri Lanka's Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022), through which WFP will aim to adopt more robust programme interventions and a strategic approach to monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The review will help to demonstrate the performance of WFP's operations and improve project design and implementation based on evidence and lessons learned.

## 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, DSM N.V



A farmer emphasizing lessons learned in post-harvest management from the study tour to China in the South-South and triangular cooperation project.

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Discussing the needs of women and children during the protection mission.

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