Operational Context

Sri Lanka has shown steady growth over the last decades with progress on SDGs, reflecting the country’s elevation to middle-income status. Despite the progress, the country faces many socio-economic challenges, including a nutritional ‘triple burden’ comprising of undernutrition, overnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Although Sri Lanka is ranked 30th on the Climate Risk Index, hydro-meteorological hazards brought about by climate change have a serious impact on vulnerable communities. Moreover, the outbreak of Covid-19 in March 2020, with serious effects on the economy and livelihoods of vulnerable people, will hinder progress towards the country’s socio-economic status, as is the case globally, in reaching zero hunger by 2030 in all its forms.

WFP has been present in Sri Lanka since 1968, working in partnership with the Government for the past 50 years to save lives in times of crises, and improve livelihoods for the future.

In Numbers

- 45 percent of women of reproductive age group are overweight or obese; 33 percent of pregnant and lactating women are anaemic (Demographic and Health Survey, Sri Lanka, 2016).

The scaling up of the Home-Grown School Feeding programme is being planned for four districts covering 750 schools, aiming to benefit approximately 100,000 school children and 1,400 caterers.

US$ 2.39 million - six months net funding requirement (Jun - November 2021)

Situation Updates

- COVID-19 cases continued to rise dramatically, registering 183,452 patients. The death toll also rose to 1,441, while 151,740 people recovered.

- To contain the rapidly spreading virus, the Government imposed travel restrictions from 12 May onwards, allowing only essential services to operate. However, as patient numbers continued to rise, health workers and medical staff remained cautious, advocating for more stringent measures.

- By the end of May, over a million people had been vaccinated against COVID-19, and the Ministry of Health is expecting further shipments of the Sinopharm vaccine in early June.

- In May, WFP supported the Government to prepare for the upcoming Southwest Monsoon season, ensuring efforts were adapted to the COVID-19 context.

Operational Updates

- Signalling the onset of the South-West monsoon season, Cyclone Tauktae brought heavy rain and strong winds to the south-western part of the island in mid-May, creating minor flooding in some districts. In the following weeks, Cyclone Yaas developed over the Bay of Bengal bringing strong winds and incessant rain, resulting in widespread flooding and landslides affecting 245,212 people across 10 districts in the Western, Central, Sabaragamuwa and Southern provinces. During these events, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) coordinated the response with the military in emergency search and rescue missions and with the National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRC) and District Secretariats to provide emergency relief to some 15,600 affected people evacuated to 72 safety centres.

- In support of government efforts, WFP delivered emergency response gear such as personal protective kits, liquid sanitiser, safety goggles, gloves, disinfecting sprayers and foot-operated wash-basins to be used by first-responders in the south-western region to help mitigate and control the spread of COVID-19, that could be exacerbated during the monsoon season. Further support in the form of food assistance to affected people or assisting in recovery efforts, is being discussed with the Government.
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022 (CSP)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46.57 m</td>
<td>29.21 m</td>
<td>2.39 m</td>
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</tbody>
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**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 Outcome #4:** Food systems are sustainable

**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 further continued supporting the DMC with reporting and information management during the DMC’s emergency response. Together with DMC and the World Health Organization (WHO), WFP launched a risk-communication campaign to help bring awareness amongst communities to the disaster risks. The safety guidelines in local languages were disseminated through UN and WFP’s social media channels and through other non-governmental organisations providing relief.

- En route to Colombo harbour, a fire erupted on board the “MV X-press Pearl” carrying hazardous chemicals, which resulted in heavy pollution of the marine environment along the western shoreline. The Sri Lanka Navy and other agencies led the clearing operations, while the Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) also activated the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCOP) to prepare for a potential oil spill. Under the CSP, WFP has been supporting MEPA for the NOSCOP particularly in procurement of oil spill combat equipment and carrying out pre-arrangements and equipment deploying exercises, annual simulation as well as training on implementing the NOSCOP.

- As the temporary suspension of the national school meals programme continued due to COVID-19, WFP supported the Government to help provide take-home rations to 41,000 primary school children of vulnerable households in the Western province, helping to alleviate family burdens and ensure continued nutrition for the children.

- Continuing WFP’s support to enhance the national social protection scheme “Samurdhi”, WFP provided a cash grant of USD 107,000 to the Department of Samurdhi Development. Cash-based transfers will be provided to 1,517 pregnant and nursing mothers in June impacted by COVID-19 in six districts. The cash assistance will comprise of LKR 10,000 each (approximately USD 50), helping to ensure their ability to purchase food and essentials. Access to good nutrition and health care is vital to prevent maternal and infant malnutrition.

- Through WFP’s pilot initiative on Last Mile Climate Services in the districts of Monaragala and Mullaitivu, a “Village Context Analysis” (household and key informants survey) helped to identify the strong need for localised climate information by smallholder farmers and government service providers. WFP supports the Departments of Meteorology and Agriculture to simplify agrometeorological information and disseminate them in local languages ahead of the cultivating seasons, helping farmers to make the right decisions on seasonal cropping.

**Monitoring**

- Connecting with FAO, WFP continued to facilitate the finalizing of data analysis with the Department of Census and Statistics to integrate the survey tool “Food Insecurity Experience Scale” (FIbES) into the national Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), enabling the tracking of food insecurity as per the global indicator framework to achieve SDG2.

**Donors**

Top donors to WFP Sri Lanka CSP 2018-2021 include:
- Government of Korea, Regional Trust Fund allocations,
- Government of Japan, Private donors, UN funds, USA