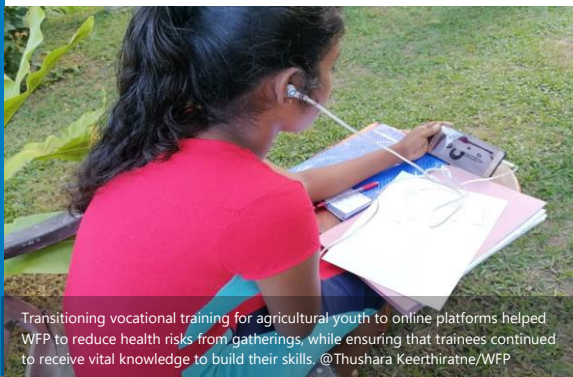




World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief June 2021



Transitioning vocational training for agricultural youth to online platforms helped WFP to reduce health risks from gatherings, while ensuring that trainees continued to receive vital knowledge to build their skills. @Thushara Keerthiratne/WFP

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.



Population: **21 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **72 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

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).

US\$ **1.80 million** - six months net funding requirement (July - December 2021)

Situation Updates

- At the end of June, a total of 257,255 COVID-19 patients were diagnosed in the country, while the death toll rose to 3,030. The recoveries stood at 225,952.
- The COVID-19 vaccination programme continued throughout June, with 3.8 million people who have received at least one dose. Further shipments of Sinopharm vaccines continued to arrive in the country.
- Travel restrictions have been relaxed within districts. However, inter-province travel remains restricted, except for essential services.
- Schools remained temporary closed while the Ministry of Education continued with online lessons and televised educational programmes as the delivery method.

Operational Updates

- Continuing the assistance to the Department of Meteorology (DoM) to improve weather forecasting capabilities, WFP provided information technology (IT) infrastructure such as computers, digital boards and video conferencing systems, to establish an automated weather data system in 23 meteorological stations around the country. WFP also conducted training activities on Numerical Weather Prediction with IT skills development through networking and programming workshops.
- In June, WFP worked with the Government to conduct a vocational training programme for youth in agriculture. To meet COVID-19 safety measures, WFP transitioned the training to online platforms, enabling access to learning opportunities. This year-long training will equip youth from the Monaragala, Matale and Mullaitivu districts with the necessary skills to help them establish their own agri-related businesses. While providing each trainee with a daily allowance to facilitate their participation, WFP will award the youth who successfully complete the training with financial grants to assist them in setting up their businesses. WFP's projects help promote self-reliance and strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers vulnerable to recurring climate shocks.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
46.57 m	29.33 m	1.80 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.
- In addition to the cash assistance provided to 1,517 pregnant and nursing mothers from low-income families impacted by COVID-19, WFP continued with preliminary arrangements to hold awareness sessions on nutrition with a gender lens to the identified beneficiaries with an aim to enhance the food security outcomes. Through WFP's beneficiary management platform "SCOPE" an additional 160 pregnant and nursing mothers in 11 districts were registered, ensuring a systematic process and accountability.

- Under the Home-Grown School Feeding pilot project, WFP held a workshop with the Women's Bureau of the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Primary Education, to initiate joint strategic planning on economically empowering the women caterers by improving their financial autonomy, skills to manage cash, and the ability to develop school meal provision as a small-scale business. This also included planning for private sector support partnerships for training on financial management and literacy upliftment awareness of the school meal suppliers.

Monitoring

- Subsequent to the cash assistance provided to pregnant and nursing mothers under the Samurdhi social protection scheme, WFP commenced post distribution monitoring in six districts. The remote data collection exercise began in Mullaitivu, Batticaloa and Mannar districts after completion of training for enumerators and pre-testing the tools.

Donors

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



WFP provided essential equipment such as computers, digital boards and video conferencing systems to the DoM, helping to establish automated weather data systems. @DoM