



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief July 2021



R5n project communities engaging in micro irrigation system rehabilitation in the Komalgama minor irrigation tank in Thanamalwila. @Suresh Srimal/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: **17% 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).

Moderate acute malnutrition (wasting) of children under 5 is at **15 percent**, which WHO defines as being on the threshold border of "very high" in terms of public health significance.

WFP is providing approximately **US\$ 32,000** as cash-based transfers to **446 participants (1,784 beneficiaries)** of resilience projects.

US\$ 1.70 million - six months net funding requirement (August 2021 – January 2022)

Situation Updates

- COVID-19 continued its spread throughout the country, particularly in the urban centres of Western Province. An increasing number of patients were diagnosed with the highly contagious Delta variant. At the end of July, the patient count had reached 306,662, while the death toll rose to 4,080. However, 277,117 patients had recovered.
- The Ministry of Health had reached 9.9 million people with the first dose of COVID-19 vaccines. Of them, 2.1 million had received both doses. Further shipments of Sinopharm, AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines continued to arrive in Sri Lanka throughout July, enabling further expansion of the vaccination programme in the coming months.
- Inter-provincial travel restrictions were lifted from 16 July, however they were reinstated on 24 July considering the developing COVID-19 situation. Essential services continued to operate as before, but public transport remained limited.
- Schools remained closed while online lessons and televised educational programmes continued to be the standard method of delivery.

Operational Updates

- WFP continued to support smallholder farmers to enhance their productivity and resilience in the dry zone – an area particularly vulnerable to recurring climate shocks. WFP has engaged communities and the Government to rehabilitate community water reservoirs in the Monaragala, Matale, Mullaitivu, Mannar, and Batticaloa districts through the Food Assistance for Assets approach. To ensure the health safety of beneficiaries and government implementing partners from COVID-19, WFP installed handwashing stations at project locations, distributed face masks, and provided contactless thermometers. WFP supports the rehabilitation of community water reservoirs and distribution networks to ensure that farmers continue to have access to water throughout the dry season.

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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	29.46 m	1.70 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 also provided an operational and maintenance training to farmer organizations as part of the community asset rehabilitation, ensuring the long-term viability of investments.
- In the Last Mile Climate Services pilot project, WFP conducted two "Training of Trainers" (TOT) programmes for field based agricultural officials in Monaragala and Mullaitivu districts each, on down-scaling national agromet advisories to their relevant locations and simplifying the technical details. The trainers will then work with farmer communities to

disseminate the localised and tailored agromet advisories to help farmers make timely cropping decisions ahead of the cultivating seasons. WFP works with the Departments of Meteorology, Agriculture, and Agrarian Development, to provide this vital climate information service combined with agricultural information.

- WFP developed a new pilot education and training course on food safety for school meal caterers under the pilot "Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Project" to fill an important gap in ensuring the safety and quality of meals provided to the school children. Due to be piloted in the HGSF programme locations, the training course will help school meal caterers to understand their roles and responsibilities in preventing food contamination and food-borne diseases.

Monitoring

- WFP initiated the planning process to conduct the Joint Rapid Food Security and Livelihood Assessment in the Negombo coastal region in the Western Province, to assess the impact on food security and livelihoods of marine and lagoon fisheries communities affected by the environmental disaster from a fire aboard the vessel "MV Xpress Pearl" in June. The study is planned with the Department of Fisheries and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to assess the loss of income and other socio-economic impacts in affected households and explore recovery efforts to reduce vulnerability and build stronger coping capacities. The assessment will be undertaken in August with the report to be finalized in September 2021.

Donors

Top donors to WFP Sri Lanka CSP 2018-2022 include: [Government of Republic of Korea](#), [Regional Trust Fund allocations](#), [Government of Japan](#), [Private donors](#), [flexible funds](#).



Soil saturation conditions being explained during WFP's Training of Trainers (TOT) programme for field-based agriculture officials of Monaragala district, / LMCS project. @Prabuddha Boralugoda /WFP.