



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief September 2021



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. Sri Lanka is ranked 30th globally on the Climate Risk Index highlighting the exposure and vulnerability to climate change. Hydro-meteorological hazards 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 are overweight or obese; **33 percent** of pregnant and nursing women are anaemic (Demographic and Health Survey, Sri Lanka, 2016).

WFP will pay out approximately **US\$ 35,000** as cash-based transfers to 1,936 beneficiaries who joined resilience building activities in September.

US\$ 0.84 million - six months net funding requirement (October 2021 – March 2022)

Situation Updates

- The COVID-19 situation in Sri Lanka gradually improved over September. Although the countrywide lockdown was in force, public transport operated in a very limited way while essential services continued. Test positivity rates and daily cases remained high, and at the end of September, a total of 516,465 people were diagnosed, while 457,488 people recovered. The total number of deaths stood at 12,847. During the period, Sri Lanka reached an important milestone with 50 percent of the population being fully vaccinated (11.7 million people).
- Following reduced availability and price increases of essential food items (attributed to a combination of hoarding and disruptions in food imports) the Government imposed emergency regulations to set controlled prices on food items as a consumer protection measure. The import supply disruptions were owed to a shortage in foreign exchange availability.

Operational Updates

- WFP continued with farmer engagement sessions in the Last Mile Climate Services pilot project in Thanamalwila and Thunukkai, to improve the knowledge of farmers on the importance of agrometeorological forecasts for agricultural activities. The pilot aims to develop capacities of service providers while promoting climate information among rural farmers facing the adverse effects of climate change.
- WFP, together with the Scaling Up Nutrition People's Forum (SUNPF), conducted seven virtual orientation sessions for government officials on nutrition and social behaviour change communication with a gender lens. Stakeholder institutions which participated included the Department of Samurdhi Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs, the District and the Divisional Secretariats of Batticaloa, Kalutara, Mannar, Matale, Moneragala and Mulathivu districts.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
53.97 m	30.56 m	0.84 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's informal collaboration with Youtube Influencer Anoma of "Anoma's Kitchen" helped to commence a series of fortnightly cookery programmes featuring healthy recipes. This is part of WFP's broader efforts to promote healthy eating habits and create a movement of a healthier nation.

Monitoring

- The Food Security Sector meeting was held in September. It brought together donors and partner organisations to discuss the current food security situation and the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities. WFP updated members on the recent trends in commodity price fluctuations.
- WFP initiated discussions on establishing a food security surveillance system in Sri Lanka, in collaboration with Department of Census and Statistics. This will include conducting a feasibility assessment to understand the capacity of stakeholders to engage in this exercise.
- WFP and the Ministry of Women's Development organized a virtual workshop with the participation of national level officials, divisional and district level women development officers (WDO) to understand possible collaboration of women empowerment activities in the Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSP). The WDOs will closely work with divisional committees for HGSP and mobilize women school-meal suppliers to join women's development committees at village level to empower them under an organised structure.

Donors

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