



WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief November 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



In Numbers

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

WFP will pay out **US\$ 3,795** as cash-based transfers to 99 participants who joined resilience building activities in November.

US\$ 700,000 - six months net funding requirement (December 2021 – May 2022)



Situation Updates

- By end of November, 563,267 COVID-19 cases were registered and 14,328 people succumbed to the disease, while 540,387 people recovered. The Government's vaccination programme reached 13.9 million people, however, the Ministry of Health renewed the safety guidelines for the public amid concerns of the Omicron variant.
- Inter-provincial travel restrictions were lifted. With the re-opening of schools, the national school meals programme was restarted by the Ministry of Education.
- Food prices continued to rise as demand increased ahead of the December holiday season.

Operational Updates

- The first phase of expansion of WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme continued, with Batticaloa district's planning meeting taking place in November. Twenty-five government stakeholders, including district and divisional authorities, health, agriculture and education officials met to decide on further divisional level planning events in the following month.
- WFP initiated a Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on the analysis of Cost of the Diet. Fifteen government officials including officers from Ministry of Health, Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute and Department of Census and Statistics, and academics from the Universities of Peradeniya and Wayamba who participated in the TOT, committed to appointing a national committee to periodically conduct and publish a country-level Cost of the Diet Analysis. WFP uses the Cost of the Diet of a nutritious meal for different individuals and a typical family in a country or a local region.

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**

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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	27.46 m	0.70 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 produced a video to spotlight its integrated efforts towards building the resilience of rural communities against the effects of climate change. The benefits reach smallholder farmers vulnerable to climate shocks and stressors, to improve nutrition and food security.
- WFP's support the Government to scale up emergency preparedness in flood-prone areas helped pre-register 6,492 vulnerable households in 11 divisional secretariat divisions in

Kalutara district, through WFP's digital beneficiary management platform "SCOPE". This technical assistance will prepare the Department of Samurdhi Development to streamline the provision of assistance through the national social protection mechanism "Samurdhi", to quickly reach affected households in times of disasters.

- WFP partnered with the Scaling Up Nutrition Peoples' Forum (SUNPF), to complete the social media awareness campaign on nutrition, child feeding, gender awareness and management of cash assistance provided through the "Samurdhi" programme to pregnant and nursing mothers to help them overcome the impacts of COVID-19.

Monitoring

- In collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, WFP conducted the food security and livelihood assessment for fisheries communities in the coastal areas of Negombo. They were significantly affected by the "MV X-Press Pearl" marine disaster that happened in the western coastal waters during May 2021. The study helped WFP to assess the livelihood and food consumption coping strategies adopted by affected fisheries families and other socio-economic aspects, to inform recovery efforts and reduce their vulnerability to similar risks in the future.
- To strengthen WFP's contribution to improving the prospects for peace, WFP Sri Lanka teamed with SIPRI to conduct in-country research on gender. The findings will provide ground for building WFP's understanding of conflict and gender related analysis and resulting specific country needs.
- WFP conducted an independent evaluation of the Sri Lanka Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022, to inform the formulation of the CSP for the next five years. Qualitative data collection focus group discussions and key informant interviews were done in four districts to evaluate the effectiveness of projects and programmes as well as the implementation process undertaken through the previous five years. The final evaluation report is expected in mid-2022.

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.

Cover Photo: WFP conducted the food security and livelihoods assessment for fisheries families affected by the "MV Xpress Pearl" marine disaster, learning about their coping strategies and other socio-economic aspects. @WFP/Sri Lanka