In Numbers

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

US$ 1.94 m six months net funding requirement (January 2022 – June 2022)

Situation Updates

- Through December, the government COVID-19 vaccination programme continued. Since its inception, over 13 million people have received both doses, from which 4 million people received the third booster shot as well. There were a cumulative 586,746 COVID-19 cases registered at the end of December while deaths increased to 14,962. The total number of recoveries stood at 560,494 people.

- Prices of essential food items continued to rise throughout the month. In some areas, a shortage of domestic liquid petroleum gas cylinders was reported. This was due to stocks which did not conform to the required standards, being taken off the market following reports of cylinders exploding. This further raised the price of gas. The Government instituted inquires and took measures to address the issues.

- While the ban on fertiliser has been eased, the next harvesting season is anticipated to bear the consequences of the period during which the importation of chemical fertilizers was banned. The Government is taking steps to meet the country’s food requirements, including arrangements to import rice from Myanmar.

- The depleted foreign exchange reserves continued to impact the import of food commodities and other goods into the country, while the Central Bank continued to explore different initiatives to overcome the setbacks.

Operational Updates

- WFP continued its support to the Government for Emergency Preparedness and Response through the donation of computer equipment to five Divisional Secretariats in Jaffna district, to establish the Divisional Emergency Operation Centres. These Centres work on hazard-specific contingency planning, coordinating, and managing emergency response and relief provision carried out by disaster management agencies in times of crisis. Similarly, smartphones were handed over to the Disaster Management Centre to assist in drone operations during emergency response.

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**WFP Country Strategy**

### Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

<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>53.97 m</td>
<td>35.32 m</td>
<td>1.94 m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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.

- To commemorate Nutrition Month under the theme “Nutrition for Protection” emphasising proper nutrition through healthy eating amidst COVID-19, WFP's pilot Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) programme established school nutrition corners in Monaragala district to facilitate nutrition education and behavioural change communication among school children. This was complemented by nutrition awareness programmes for school meal caterers engaged in the HGSF programme.

- WFP's partnership with Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) People's Forum resulted in gender awareness and social behaviour change promotional activities for 1,517 pregnant and nursing mothers on nutrition. The SUN People's Forum assessed the influence of nutrition related message sharing using mobile phones. The findings revealed that the community preferred this method of receiving nutrition messages, however, the utilization of radio and television for key messages could potentially influence post-intervention values. It was also understood that nutrition education messages should be aimed for wider groups such as family members, relatives and friends as they had an influence over household nutritional practices.

### Monitoring

- WFP completed the final third round of the food security longitudinal assessment with partner Johns Hopkins University (JHU) which characterizes the food security status of vulnerable groups, including smallholder farmers, estate workers, and the urban poor. The preliminary results showed an increase in the prevalence of moderate and severe food insecurity across all groups from 25 percent between March and April to 38 percent in October 2021. The increase was expected, given the escalating food prices during this period. Over half of respondents reported experiencing further income losses between May and September. Food and cash support were distributed, with food support coming from multiple providers such as the Government, relatives and neighbours, while the majority of the cash support was provided by the Government.

### Donors


Cover Photo: WFP helped to establish Nutrition corners in schools in Monaragala district and held awareness programmes on good nutrition practices for the school caterers in the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, @WFP.