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).

Situation Updates

• The COVID-19 booster vaccination drive continued at a faster pace than in December 2021, with 5 million people taking the booster shot out of a cumulative 13 million people. Despite this, the number of COVID-19 cases increased to 610,103 at the end of January, while deaths increased to 15,420. However, a total of 578,432 people have so far, recovered from the virus.

• While food inflation increased to 25 percent in January 2022 from 22 percent in December 2021, the latter part of January saw a turn in the market for essential food items. As planned in the previous month, the Government imported about 30,000 mt of rice from India which is available in the market at a lower price. This helped to hold back the continued increase of prices of local rice varieties, seen during the past few months. In addition, prices of vegetables also slightly decreased, which could be attributed to an improved harvest, compared to crop losses incurred during monsoon rains in November and December of 2021.

• The supply of domestic liquid petroleum gas used for household cooking across the country, has been restored, however, the prices have not decreased.

Operational Updates

• Farmers in Matale district engaged in WFP’s Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) pilot project, encountered difficulties in sourcing poultry feed for their farms. WFP, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry and the Divisional Secretariat initiated a poultry feed production plant and provided beneficiaries with equipment and related technical training. The plant has helped local farmers to improve their poultry and egg production thereby ensuring an uninterrupted supply of eggs for the school meals programme. This also mitigates the risk faced across the supply chain due to import restrictions on maize and other commodities that constitute poultry feed production.

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 23rd 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.
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>2.14 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 3: 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.

With the deteriorating economic situation and the impact of COVID-19, WFP initiated the provision of cash transfers to 637 low-income families with children under 5, through the Samurdhi national social protection programme, in collaboration with the Department of Samurdhi Development. Each family received LKR 10,000 (USD 50), within 11 flood-prone, administrative divisions of Kalutara district. Awareness raising on nutrition, gender and social behaviour change communication through the Scaling Up Nutrition People's Forum (SUNPF) is fully integrated in the programme, thereby ensuring that families could make informed decisions on making the best use of the cash provided. Officials of Samurdhi Department and Health Department in Kalutara district received the awareness training, which ensured their full engagement at the national and the sub-national level.

- The Government of Sri Lanka signed the declaration to join the Global School Meals Coalition, upon the invitation of WFP. By signing the declaration, Sri Lanka became part of a growing body of members who have pledged commitment towards providing healthy meals for school children.
- WFP and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) were presented with a token of appreciation by the State Ministry of Women and Child Development, Preschool and Primary Education, School Infrastructure and Education Services. At the special event, the Ministry recognised KOICA and WFP for effective COVID-19 recovery support in Sri Lanka and assistance provided to build a better future for vulnerable communities.

Monitoring

- WFP initiated the second phase of qualitative and quantitative data collection in the R5n project’s outcome monitoring assessment. The R5n project aims to improve the lives and livelihoods of rural smallholder farmers by strengthening their resilience to recurring climate shocks. Along with this, the pilot testing of standard indicators for the resilience capacity score was also conducted at the divisional level.

Donors


Cover Photo: WFP Sri Lanka Country Director Mr. Abdur Rahim Siddique, in conversation with Honourable Dinesh Gunawardena, Minister of Education, during the signing of the declaration by the Government of Sri Lanka to join the Global School Meals Coalition. @Press/Ministry of Education.