WFP Sri Lanka
Country Brief
August 2022

In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>US$ 1.3 million</th>
<th>in cash and vouchers distributed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US$ 44.97 million</td>
<td>six-month (September 2022 – February 2023) net funding requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31,724 people assisted</td>
<td>in August 2022</td>
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Situation Updates

- Sri Lanka continues to face a serious economic crisis, with food security levels deteriorating to concerning levels in recent months.

- In urban areas of Colombo, food inflation (year-on-year) increased to 93.7 percent in August from 90 percent last month, according to the Colombo Consumer Price Index.

- In August, over one-third of the population faced acute food insecurity, exacerbated by the economic crisis, price hikes and inadequate agricultural production. The situation is likely to worsen without assistance during the lean season from October 2022 to February 2023.

- A substantial proportion of markets were reporting concerns around rising and/or unstable prices, according to WFP’s recently released Market Functionality Index (MFI) report for August.

Operational Updates

Emergency Response

- WFP reached a total of 31,724 people with cash assistance in August. This came as a part of WFP’s scale-up to reach 3.4 million additional people in 2022, through unconditional food assistance (cash or in-kind), school meals and nutrition support.

- WFP concluded its first round of value voucher distributions for 2,490 pregnant women across 11 urban poor communities in Colombo. Each beneficiary received LKR 15,000 (US$40) to cover their food and nutritional needs.

- To support 1 million children with school meals for a period of three months, WFP procured 1,475 mt of rice and 775 mt of iron-fortified rice. This will directly support schoolchildren through the Government’s national school meals programme.

- WFP aims to reach 1 million pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 to meet their nutrition needs. WFP is coordinating with the Government and donors to provide raw materials to the Government’s Thriposha facility.

Operational Context

Sri Lanka is experiencing its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948. The population is struggling to meet their daily food needs in the face of shortages and higher food and fuel prices. This exacerbates the hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the last two years, reversing years of developmental gains since elevating to lower middle-income-country status in 2019. Food inflation is at an all-time high of 93.7 percent in August 2022.

The country also faces significant threat from climate risks. Rising temperatures and extreme heat poses risks to human health and living standards and could potentially put downward pressure on agricultural yields.

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. In 2022, WFP has made a budget revision of its Country Strategic Plan to reflect actual needs of the current economic and food crises. WFP aims to support an additional 3.4 million people whose lives and livelihoods were severely impacted by the crisis.

Population: 22 million
Income Level: Lower middle
Chronic malnutrition: 17% of children between 6-59 months

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1 WFP Remote Household Food Security Surveys
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

<table>
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<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>117.34 m</td>
<td>65.37 m</td>
<td>44.97 m</td>
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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 Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

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 3: Food systems are sustainable

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: 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.

Capacity Strengthening

- WFP continued a series of Food Safety Risk Assessment workshops with the participation of senior officers from the provincial Ministries of Education, Health, Agriculture and Animal Production and members of the Ruhunu University. WFP and Ruhunu University conducted discussions with provincial level stakeholders on the findings and recommendations from phase one of the Food Safety Risk Assessment study to develop the food safety and quality provincial level action plan.

- In collaboration with Hirdaramani Apparel, WFP has been piloting a series of financial literacy training planning workshops for Women Development Officers, in areas where the home-grown school meals programme is being conducted. The programme provides women with a platform for economic empowerment, and covers topics like savings accounts for women, and debt analysis and management. These Women Development Officers will then deliver the training on to communities, empowering around 350 women through cash management techniques.

Communications

- WFP carried out a risk communication campaign on social media to raise awareness on mitigating the impact of landslides to support the National Building Research Organisation (NBRO). The campaign ran in all three languages and targeted communities faced with a higher risk of landslides.

- To commemorate World Humanitarian Day observed on 19 August, WFP carried out a social media campaign themed It takes a village. The campaign highlighted WFP staff members who embody the spirit that ‘it takes a village’ to carry out WFP’s work amidst the on-going challenges within Sri Lanka.

Monitoring

- The Remote Household Food Security Survey Brief was released after WFP conducted nationwide telephone surveys in August 2022. The brief provides insight into household food security, nutrition, access to food, markets, livelihoods and debt.

- WFP released the Market Functionality Index (MFI) Report for August 2022. The report informs and strengthens the understanding of market functionality and risks associated with cash-based transfers, in the context of the ongoing economic crisis.

Donors

Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Italy, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Regional Trust Fund allocations, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, UN CERF, the United States of America, and the private sector

Cover Photo: Mohamed Murshid (28) comforts his child in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Skyrocketing food and fuel prices, spiralling inflation and shortages of essentials are putting adequate and nutritious diets out of reach for many families in Sri Lanka. © WFP/ Ryal Riffai

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