



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



**DAYS OF ACTIVISM**  
AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

## WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief November 2022



### Operational Context

Sri Lanka is experiencing its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948. A majority of the population is struggling to meet their daily food needs in the face of shortages and high 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 in November was at 73.7 percent (CCPI), in urban areas of Colombo. 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 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**

2021/2022 Human Development Index:  
**73 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **17% of children**  
**between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**US\$5.2 million** in cash and vouchers distributed

**US\$40 million** six-months (December 2022 – May 2023) net funding requirements

**572,923 people assisted in November 2022**

### Situation Updates

- In the face of Sri Lanka's economic crisis, food insecurity remains at concerning levels. 36 percent of households are food-insecure, according to WFP's latest Household [Food Security Survey](#) (October 2022).
- In urban areas of Colombo, food inflation (year-on-year) was at 73.7 percent in November, according to the latest [Colombo Consumer Price Index](#) (October 2022)
- While food availability has widely improved from the previous month, coinciding with the Yala harvest, markets continue to report concerns around price volatility, according to WFP's October [Market Functionality Index](#). High and unstable prices are further impacting food accessibility for households.

### Operational updates

#### Emergency response

WFP plans to assist 3.4 million people through general food distribution, school meals and nutrition support.

- Since the start of emergency operations in mid-August 2022, WFP has reached 576,944 people with cash assistance (479,908) and in-kind assistance (97,036). This is a result of WFP's response scale-up aimed at reaching 1.4 million people through unconditional food assistance (cash or in-kind).
- WFP distributed rice to 3,517 schools in November and has reached 479,087 children to date. WFP plans to support 1 million children with school meals through the Government's national school meals programme.
- WFP is coordinating with the Government and donors to provide raw materials (maize and soybean) to the Government's Thriposha<sup>1</sup> facility which is targeting approximately 1 million pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and young children with nutritious food support.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>117.34 m</b>	<b>88.88 m</b>	<b>40 m</b>

### 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.

## Donors

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

Cover Photo: Sri Lanka. Muniwara Hameed, 39, is a former school meal caterer who has had her life turned upside down due to the economic crisis affecting Sri Lanka. © WFP/Josh Etsey

## Total beneficiaries reached (as of Nov. 2022)

Activity	# Beneficiaries reached
Cash transfers	479,908
In-kind food assistance	97,036
School meals	479,087
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,056,031</b>

## Capacity strengthening and support

- WFP supported the Marine Environment Protection Authority to conduct regional level oil-spill response contingency planning and sensitive mapping for oil/hazardous and noxious substances in Batticaloa and Galle districts.
- WFP, in close collaboration with the National Dengue Control Unit and Disaster Preparedness and Response Division, conducted a multi-hazard scenarios-based training of trainers on the north-eastern monsoon preparedness planning in Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts. The objective of the training, which began in October, is to develop a handbook that can be used to create simulation-based training for public health workers in preparation for the upcoming 2022 north-eastern monsoon.

## Monitoring

- WFP recently released the [Household Food Security Survey](#) for October 2022. The report found that 36 percent of households are food-insecure, and 76 percent of households resort to negative coping strategies, such as consuming less preferred food, limiting portion sizes and/or reducing the number of meals.
- The [Market Functionality Index](#) for October 2022 was released. The assessment found that Sri Lanka's markets currently have a wide range of products and a resilient supply chain. However, spikes and instability in prices continue to pose threats to market functionality, as over 80 percent of households report issues in accessing food.

## Communication/Awareness promotion

- WFP published a series of [social media](#) posts to commemorate 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.
- A meeting was held between the new Ambassador of France to Sri Lanka, Mr. Jean-François Pactet and WFP's Representative and Country Director, Abdur Rahim Siddiqui. A [press release](#) was issued, announcing a funding of EUR 500,000 from France which will be used to provide food baskets to children under 5.

<sup>1</sup>Thripocha is an additional nutritious food aimed at minimizing and preventing maternal and child malnutrition and promoting local agricultural economy.