



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka

Country Brief

April 2023



Operational Context

Sri Lanka is experiencing its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948. Economic instability continues to adversely impact food and nutrition security. This has exacerbated 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. However, as the food security situation continues to show gradual improvement, WFP is implementing activities aimed at assisting communities in transitioning from emergency relief to early recovery.

Food inflation in April was at 30.6 percent (NCPI). 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 55 years to save lives in times of crises, and improve livelihoods for the future.



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

13,679.43 mt of food distributed

US\$7.4 million in cash and vouchers distributed

US\$22 million six-month (May-October 2023) net funding requirements

49,086 people assisted in April 2023

Situation Updates

- Preliminary findings from the Crop and Food Security Assessment (CFSAM) jointly conducted by the Government of Sri Lanka, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and WFP will be released by the end of May. WFP will be adjusting its response in line with the CFSAM findings.
- According to the latest [National Consumer Price Index](#), food inflation (year-on-year) in the country was at 30.6 percent in April, a decline from 47.6 percent in March. Markets remain functional and currently have a wide range of products, adequate physical availability of essential goods and a resilient supply chain.

Operational updates

Emergency response

In 2023, WFP's plans to implement three interventions: General food distribution, school meals and nutrition support.

- Since the start of emergency operations in June 2022, WFP has reached 577,428 people with cash assistance and 567,192 with in-kind food assistance. In 2023, WFP is planning to provide targeted food assistance to crisis-affected people through cash, commodity value vouchers and in-kind food.
- WFP is coordinating with the Government and partners to provide maize and soybean to the Government's Thriposha¹ facility which is targeting pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 5 to help meet their nutrition needs. So far, over 1 million packets of Thriposha have been distributed to 659,704 people.

Contact info: WFP.Colombo@wfp.org

Country Director: Abdur Rahim Siddiqui

Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/sri-lanka>

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
74.87 m	39.76 m	22 m

Strategic Result 1: End hunger by protecting access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

Focus area: Crisis Response to ensure humanitarian assistance

Activities:

- Provide food and nutrition assistance and essential livelihood support to targeted populations

Strategic Outcome 2: People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes

Focus area: Root causes of food insecurity and malnutrition among school-age children

Activities:

- Provide assistance to targeted children, pregnant and lactating women, children under 5, smallholders and communities vulnerable to food insecurity, unhealthy diets and malnutrition through asset transfers, food and cash assistance, home-grown school feeding, training and social and behaviour change communication to improve nutritional outcomes

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: People have improved and sustainable livelihoods.

Focus area: Immediate and underlying causes of malnutrition

Activities:

- Provide assistance to at-risk and vulnerable communities to develop nutrition-sensitive and inclusive livelihood diversification opportunities that improve resilience to climate change and other risks

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 4: National programmes and systems are strengthened

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:

- Provide technical assistance, including the co-creation, piloting and use of digital technologies among government and other food security, nutrition and social protection actors at the national and subnational levels

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: US-funded fortified rice at the Veyangoda warehouse ready for WFP's distribution to food-insecure communities. © WFP Sri Lanka

- As of April 2023, WFP had distributed rice to 7,913 schools, reaching over 1 million children. WFP surpassed its 2022 plan to support 1 million children with school meals through the Government's national school meals programme.

Total beneficiaries reached (from June 2022 to April 2023)

Activity	# People reached
Cash transfers	577,428
In-kind food assistance	567,192
School meals	1,065,686
Thripasha	659,704
Total	2,870,010

Monitoring

- Post-distribution data collection is currently underway in Badulla and Rathnapura districts, covering 450 households.

Communication/Awareness promotion

- WFP participated in the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) retreat where the UNCG 2023 work plan and key messages were jointly developed for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework pillars.
- Surangani, a mother of two children, illustrated her community and family situation, how she was able to use cash assistance from WFP to buy nutritious meals for a full month and a half. See the video footage [here](#).



A recipient of food rations provided through WFP emergency operation in Mullaitivu district.
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