WFP Sri Lanka
Country Brief
May 2023

In Numbers

14,454.32 mt of food distributed

US$7.4 million in cash and vouchers distributed

US$22 million six-month (June-November 2023) net funding requirements

365,351 people assisted in May 2023

Operational Context

Sri Lanka is experiencing its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948. Economic instability adversely impacted food and nutrition security. This 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. 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.

Food inflation in May was at 21.5 percent (NCPI). 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. 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.

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Further information: https://www.wfp.org/countries/sri-lanka
## WFP Country Strategy

### Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<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>WFP</td>
<td>74.87 m</td>
<td>36 m</td>
<td>22 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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 Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**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 3: Food systems are sustainable

**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: 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.

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### Activity # People reached

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th># People reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash transfers &amp; Value vouchers</td>
<td>610,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind food assistance</td>
<td>763,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School meals</td>
<td>1,061,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thriposha</td>
<td>659,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,095,219</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Capacity building

- WFP is coordinating with the Government and partners to provide maize and soybean to the Government’s Thriposha facility which is targeting pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 5. So far, over 1 million packets of Thriposha have been distributed to 659,704 people.
- As of May 2023, WFP distributed rice to 7,922 schools, reaching over 1 million children.

### Communication/Awareness promotion

- WFP, in partnership with the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for ICT, and the Geo-informatics Center/Asian Institute of Technology and ITC-University of Twente conducted a training on Virtual Technologies for Disaster Risk Management from 23 to 25 May, to strengthen the capacities of government officials for disaster risk management in Sri Lanka.

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1. Thriposha is an additional nutritious food aimed at minimizing and preventing maternal and child malnutrition and promoting local agricultural economy.

Cover Photo: Primary grade students Ayushika and Yaheiya are enjoying their morning meal at St. John’s Maha Vidyalaya, Colombo 15. The meals include US-funded rice, fortified with iron and folic acid, ided through the UN World Food Programme. © WFP/Carol Taylor.

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Morning school meals prepared and ready to be served. © WFP/Carol Taylor