



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka

Country Brief

March 2024



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Operational Context

Sri Lanka is recovering from its worst economic crisis since independence. This resulted in 6.2 million people becoming food insecure, in 2022. The situation in 2024 has stabilized with the inflation rate January at 6.5 percent (NCPI). About 24 percent of households were estimated to be moderately acute food insecure in October 2023. However, significant concerns remain as households (43 percent) adopt livelihood-based coping strategies, while 42 percent still adopt food coping strategies.

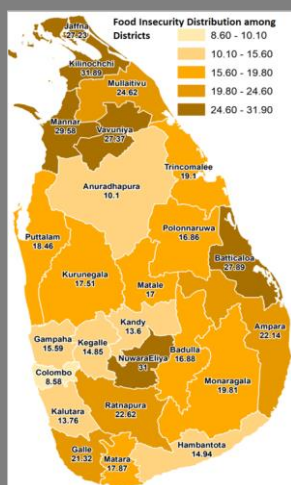
The country also faces significant threats from climate risks. Rising temperatures and extreme heat pose risks to human health and living standards and could potentially put downward pressure on agricultural yields. As the food security situation continues to show gradual improvement, WFP is implementing activities aimed at assisting communities in transitioning from emergency relief to early recovery and long-term resilience building while also focusing on improving the nutritional outcomes of the population and institutional capacity strengthening. 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**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2023/2024 Human Development Index: **78 out of 193 countries**

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

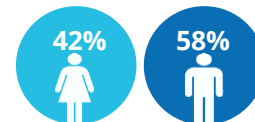


In Numbers

4.57 mt of food distributed

US\$1.05 million six-month (April-September 2024) net funding requirements

1,575 people assisted in March 2024



Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 255 flood-affected households in the district of Ampara with two-week rations (12 kgs of rice, 5 kgs of yellow split peas, and 1 litre of cooking oil). In early January 2024, extensive rainfall across Sri Lanka led to widespread flooding in various regions of the island, causing a substantial impact on infrastructure and livelihoods.
- WFP conducted an awareness raising workshop on fortified rice, food safety, and social behavioural change in rice fortification. The workshop was conducted for 379 school principals, teachers, and education officials in two education zones in Anuradhapura District.
- WFP kicked off the anticipatory action technical working group with development partners on 06 March, where a joint action plan was developed. As part of next steps, WFP will share the action plan with the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Environment. WFP is co-chairing this technical working group together with Red Cross, World Vision and the International Water Management Institute.
- WFP organized two training-of-trainers programmes, benefiting 151 officers of the Department of Animal Production and Health in the North Central Province. Participants were trained on monitoring of the home-grown school feeding programme poultry farms, while 43 education officers from the Southern province were trained on the National School Meal Programme guidelines, food-based dietary guidelines in collaboration with the Health and Education ministries.
- As part of WFP's rice fortification project, 15 mt of fortified rice was blended, and will be distributed to 33,000 schoolchildren in the Anuradhapura district.
- Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network (SBN) convened its members to form and appoint a new steering committee. Six private sector members were included in the steering committee, along with a focal point from SBN and WFP each.

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

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

² The NCPI is issued monthly with a time lag of 21 days.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
104.87 m	54.77 m	1.05m

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.

Assessments and Monitoring

- WFP conducted a three-day Python and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) training for the staff at Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute, to enhance the analysis of price data collection.

Gender and Protection

- WFP organized a learning session for all staff to commemorate International Women's Day with a storytelling activity on the importance on investing in women and girls to promote positive food security and nutrition outcomes.
- WFP co-organized the first quarterly dialogue with UN Women on gender norms for the Gender Task Force of the United Nations Sri Lanka on 27 March with participants from other United Nations agencies and facilitated by from the MenEngage Alliance. The dialogues aim to increase gender sensitivity and capacities among staff as part of the annual work plan.

Communication and Advocacy

- As WFP concluded its flood relief response in the Ampara district, a social media post highlighting feedback and story from a recipient was published ([Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)) showcasing the impact of WFP's food assistance on flood-affected families.
- A photo story featuring Partheepan, person with disability who is one of the recipients of cash assistance from the Joint Food Security Initiative (JFSI) supported by Australia was published on social media ([Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)). The story highlights the impact of supporting marginalised people during challenging times.
- A powerful message from two female farmers/entrepreneurs supported by WFP's resilience-building projects was featured in a video, as a part of the International Women's Day social media campaign. ([Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#))
- Highlighting the impact of WFP's 'Home Grown School Feeding' project, a video featuring Anusha, a school meal caterer, was published on social media ([Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)). The video showcases how supporting school meal caterers has economically uplifted them and enabled them to provide a steady supply of fresh and nutritious school meals for students.