



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka

Country Brief

October 2024

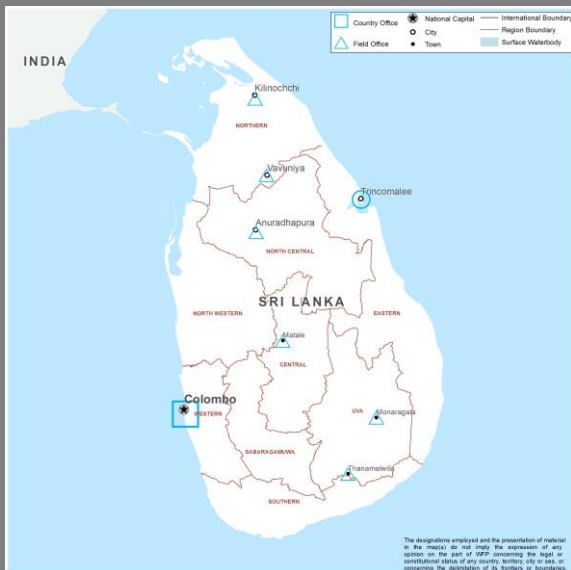


A student from Nugagolla Primary School, where children receive fresh, diverse and healthy food through the National School Meals Programme. © WFP/ Marco Frattini

Operational Context

Sri Lanka is recovering from its worst economic crisis since independence. The food inflation rate in 2022 reached an all-time high of 95 percent as the government defaulted on its foreign debts. The situation in 2024 has stabilized with the inflation rate at 6.5 percent (NCPI) in January. However, significant concerns remain as 4 in 10 households adopt livelihood-based and food-based coping strategies.

The country faces significant threats from climate risks. Rising temperatures and extreme heat pose risks to human health and negatively impact agricultural yields. WFP implements 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.



Population: **22 million**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

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

Operational Updates

Climate Adaptation

- WFP secured cabinet approval for the Adaptation for Resilience (ADAPT4R) project, a collaborative [initiative](#) with WFP India. This five-year endeavour aims to bolster food security and enhance the livelihoods of farming communities grappling with climate-induced challenges in both countries.
- WFP [formalized](#) the ADAPT4R Project through a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife, Forest Resources, Water Supply, Plantation and Community Infrastructure. The project will concentrate on districts (Monaragala, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Mannar, Trincomalee and Kurunegala in Sri Lanka) in both countries where adverse weather conditions significantly impact agricultural production and livelihoods.

Support for the national school meal programme

- The Department of National Planning has approved the initiation of the 2025 Value for Money study on Sri Lanka's National School Meals Programme. Through rigorous, evidence-based analysis, the study aims to support advocacy and strategic decision-making, securing continued support and investment to benefit Sri Lankan children. This study is a pivotal opportunity to underscore the importance of schoolchildren's nutrition.

Home-grown school feeding

- The home-grown school feeding programme was expanded in the Batticaloa District to include over 500 available caterers. WFP actively participated in the district review alongside key state departments, to finalize the proposed list of beneficiaries, ensuring the programme reaches those most in need.

Capacity strengthening

- An inauguration meeting was held with development partners health and nutrition working group, co-hosted by the World Health Organization and the World Bank. This meeting initiated collaborative efforts to address pressing health and nutrition challenges in Sri Lanka, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss strategic priorities, potential interventions, and capacity-strengthening opportunities. Through this partnership, WFP aims to enhance support to address malnutrition and strengthen health systems to better serve vulnerable communities.
- WFP conducted a two-day workshop on "fast floods" for government officials, especially from disaster management agencies and Departments of Irrigation and Meteorology. The training focused on technical aspects of flood modelling and enhancing the participants' capacity in effective flood risk management.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
104.9 m	56.9 m	0

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

Research, assessments and monitoring

- Data collection for WFP's latest food security survey began in October, covering 15,000 households nationwide. This survey will provide insights into the household food security situation and results are expected by December 2024. The survey is part of an ongoing series of food security assessments conducted by WFP, with the latest conducted in September 2023.
- WFP expanded the District Food Security Network to three additional districts (Trincomalee, Vavuniya and Kilinochchi) in October. The network provides a platform for relevant stakeholders to collect, share, and analyze food security and nutrition information, quarterly.

World Food Day

WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization and International Fund for Agricultural Development commemorated World Food Day with a joint [opinion editorial](#) titled "Turning the right to food into reality: Collective path to a food-secure future".

The campaign kicked off with an [event](#) marking the start of a two-week exhibition featuring photography and poetry competitions on the theme "Right to Foods for a Better Life and a Better Future".



"We are working so that all people at all times will have access to affordable, safe and nutritious foods." WFP Representative and Country Director Abdurrahim Siddiqui at the World Food Day event. ©WFP/ Carol Taylor

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