



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief November 2024 – January 2025

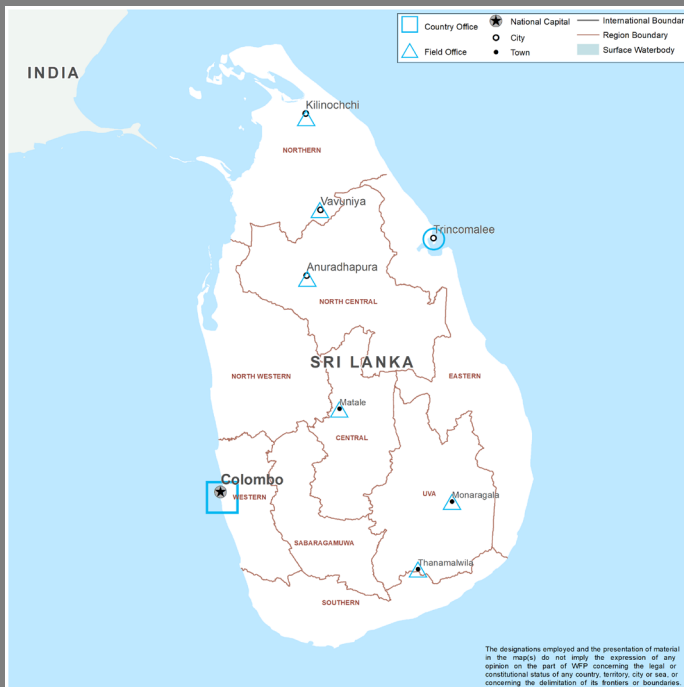


Renuka Malkanthi is a dairy farmer in Wilgamuwa, Matale, Sri Lanka, a district prone to prolonged droughts. © WFP/ Carol Taylor

Operational Context

Sri Lanka's economic situation is improving, through economic reforms and stabilization measures. Inflation is expected to continue its downward trend, although food security and livelihood challenges remain.

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

Rice Fortification

- WFP hosted a Learning Lab titled "Transforming Food Systems for Better Nutrition: The Power of Fortification" during the Delivering for Nutrition Conference by IFPRI in December 2024 in Sri Lanka.

The session focused on enhancing understanding of food fortification's role in nutrition-sensitive food systems, exploring strategies, best practices, policy frameworks, and challenges in scaling fortification initiatives across the socio-economic and cultural contexts of Sri Lanka. The event also fostered collaboration among stakeholders to advance fortification as a key nutrition intervention.

Support for the national school meal programme

- Initial briefing on the Value for Money study were held in December 2024. Key participants included the chair and representatives of the technical working group, the Director General of the Department of National Planning, WFP representatives and resource persons from Harvard University, and the University of Colombo. The study aims to support advocacy and strategic decision-making, securing continued support and investment to benefit Sri Lankan children.

Adaptation for Resilience (ADAPT4R)

- WFP conducted a national induction workshop to ensure the effective implementation of the ADAPT4R project. The workshop focused on three main outcomes: (1) stakeholder orientation, (2) collaboration and synergies and (3) action planning. Key Government stakeholders and agencies were in attendance.
- The National ADAPT4R Project Steering Committee meeting was held in January at the Ministry of Environment. The committee functions as an advisory body, providing guidance and recommendations on activity implementation. The meeting marked a significant milestone in efforts to address climate change and saw the participation of 40 government agents and technical agency representatives.

Home-grown school feeding

- In December 2024, a home-grown school feeding (HGSF) Farmer's Society was launched. This society aims to foster collaboration among poultry and agricultural farmers.

National Evaluation Capacity Development

- WFP, together with UNICEF, the German Development Evaluation Institute and the Sri Lanka Department of Project Planning and Monitoring launched the National Evaluation Capacities Index (INCE) Diagnostic Tool. This tool was designed to strengthen national evaluation capacities, for which WFP will provide technical assistance.

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 US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
104.9 m	58.19 m	2.64 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, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, UN CERF, the United States of America, and the private sector.

¹Thriposha is a nutritious supplementary food

Environmental and Social Safeguards

- WFP hosted the Asia Pacific Regional Workshop on Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) in November 2024. The workshop, held in Colombo, included technical experts and staff representing seven countries, exchanging experiences and best practices on ESS. WFP is committed to ensuring environmental sustainability across all its activities, limiting potential negative impacts on the environment and people.

National technical symposium

- WFP partnered with the Disaster Management Centre to host a national technical symposium “*Reflections on Two Decades from Tragedy to Resilience: Retrospective of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami*”. This symposium marked 20 years since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and saw over 200 participants, including professionals engaged in disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

Thriposha technical support

- WFP supported in the development of a rice-based *Thriposha*¹ formula, as a targeted nutritional intervention to address malnutrition. The factory commenced production of this formula with a focus on supporting the dietary needs of communities in the Nuwara Eliya district, known for its unique demographic and nutritional challenges.

This initiative aims to improve health outcomes by providing a locally sourced, nutrient-rich supplement tailored to the region's specific requirements. To further capacitate this initiative, WFP will contribute towards procuring the essential machinery for rice-based *Thriposha* production, ensuring the sustainability of this initiative.

Government and high-level meetings

- WFP met with the Minister of Rural Development, Social Security, and Community Empowerment, the newly designated partnership secretariat for WFP, to present an overview of its ongoing activities under the CSP. The discussion emphasized the need to ensure effective coordination across multiple implementing agencies at national and sub-national levels. WFP also met with the Secretary of Education to review the school-based programme and nutrition initiatives, highlighting their progress.

Capacity strengthening

- WFP conducted a five-day residential on meteorological data analysis and visualization (visual weather and moving weather systems) for 28 technical staff (metrologists and technical staff) from the Department of Meteorology.

- WFP organized a two-day training on Food Safety and Warehouse Management for participants from various government organizations in administrative and management services.
- WFP conducted trainings on data collection and management for the Family Development Plan questionnaire for the Department of Samurdhi Development. This questionnaire comes as part of the Department's Livelihood Empowerment pilot programme.
- WFP conducted 14 sessions in seven provinces on information privacy, data protection and the Personal Data Protection Act (a national act expected to be implemented in March 2025). Nearly 800 government officials from the Department of Samurdhi Development and Welfare Benefit Board were in attendance.

Research, assessments and monitoring

- WFP expanded the District Food Security Network to Mannar and Kilinochchi, bringing the total number of districts with established networks to eight. The network provides a platform for relevant stakeholders to collect, share, and analyse food security and nutrition information quarterly.
- WFP concluded data collection for the Household Food Security Survey 2024, which surveyed 15,000 households. The survey will outline the food security situation as of the end of 2024 and results are expected in early March.

Gender and Protection

- WFP marked the global campaign with End Gender-Based Violence: Let Her Soar, a thought-provoking and creative kite festival. In smaller groups, staff designed orange kites with powerful messages to raise awareness about GBV. The day concluded at Galle Face Green, where WFP staff and their family members flew the kites, creating a striking visual statement for change.
- WFP conducted Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) sensitization sessions for 51 government officers in the districts of Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura. The sessions covered WFP's zero-tolerance policy for PSEA, presented an overview of CFM and provided guidance on the same.

Communications and Advocacy

- WFP supported the [UN campaign](#) for '16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence' comprising an awareness-raising walk with UN staff, Government counterparts and development, civil society and private sector partners.
- WFP's [HGSF project](#) was chosen as one of the top four outstanding projects by the Korea Financial Industry Foundation.



- Marking 20 years since the Indian Ocean Tsunami, WFP published an [article](#) in the Sunday Times describing WFP's tireless work to support people in the immediate aftermath.

What is anticipatory action?

The last of the ['WFP Staff Voices'](#) series for the year (2024) explained the importance of anticipatory action.

