



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Sri Lanka

## Country Brief

### February and March 2025

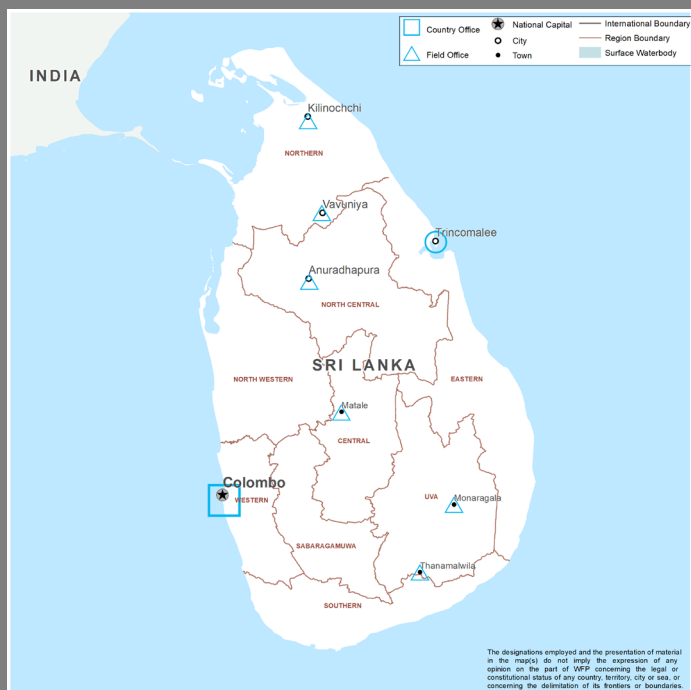


Nilani Jayaratne is a school meal caterer who has been supplying meals for the past 13 years. © WFP/ Marco Frattini

## 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

### Household food security survey

- Preliminary findings from the Household Food Security Survey revealed that 16 percent of households were moderately food insecure in late 2024, while 27 percent of households were consuming inadequate diets. WFP shared the findings with Government officials and UN agencies and a full report will be published soon.

### Rice fortification

- Senior Ministry of Health officials visited the Kalankuttiya rice processing facility, gaining first-hand insight into the fortified rice supply chain. As part of the visit, they also observed the preparation and distribution of school meals, highlighting the critical role of nutrition in school feeding programmes.
- WFP facilitated the distribution of locally blended fortified rice across 12 districts, benefiting over 500,000 students.

### Support for the national school meal programme

- In support of improving school infrastructure, WFP distributed utensils to education officers stationed at school offices across seven districts. This initiative aimed to strengthen the operational capacity of decentralized education and nutrition delivery mechanisms. The intervention reached 1,763 schools and supported 3,519 food suppliers, contributing to the improvement of food preparation and service standards within the school meals programme.

### Adaptation for Resilience (ADAPT4R)

- WFP, the Ministry of Environment, and government representatives conducted district induction workshops to kickstart the Adaptation for Resilience project. The workshops aimed to foster collaboration among key stakeholders and establish a strong foundation for enhancing climate resilience and food security.
- WFP coordinated with district secretaries to establish divisional project implementation committees to establish a foundation for effective project monitoring and accountability.

### Home-grown school feeding programme

- WFP took part in the Governor's Progress Review Meeting at the District Secretariat in Kilinochchi. Notably, the Governor reviewed WFP's implementation of the new solar energy project, which included kitchen renovations, with 15 units allocated to the Kilinochchi South and Vavuniya zones. WFP's solar energy project contributes to the promotion of sustainable cooking practices.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
<b>104.9 m</b>	<b>58.28 m</b>	<b>3.02 m</b>

## 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

## Social protection

- WFP launched its latest [publication](#) providing insights into efforts in strengthening sustainable social protection in Sri Lanka and serves as a useful resource for knowledge-sharing and learning for donors, government agencies and development partners.

## Disaster risk reduction

- The Core Humanitarian Standard Guideline for the private sector was officially launched in February, marking a significant milestone in Sri Lanka's humanitarian assistance landscape. This first-of-its-kind guideline, developed by WFP and the Disaster Management Centre with technical assistance from the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, provides a structured framework for private sector entities engaged in humanitarian assistance, promoting a more ethical, coordinated, and accountable approach.

## Gender and Protection

- To commemorate International Women's Day 2025, WFP organized an event in the district of Matale, recognizing women's contribution to food systems in Sri Lanka, with a special focus on honouring school meal suppliers for their dedication to child nutrition and well-being. The event was organized in collaboration with the Society of Food Science and Technology, University of Peradeniya.

## International Women's Day

Under the theme of '[Feeding the future generation](#)', a series of photo stories were featured on social media to showcase how WFP's support is helping empower women and provide children with nutritious food. The carousel-type posts were dedicated to recognizing the women's role in school meals.



## 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.