



World Food Programme

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WFP Sri Lanka

Country Brief

April-May 2025

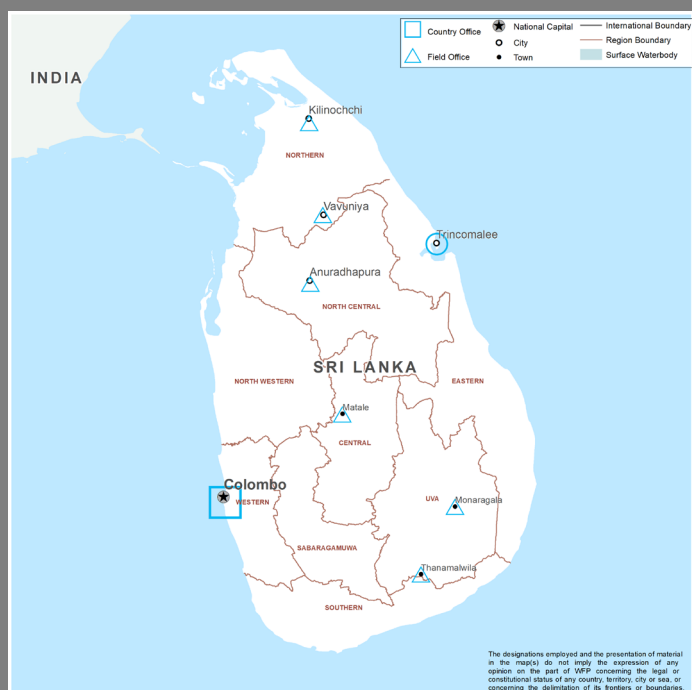


WFP supports mothers and children's food security and nutrition through resilience-building initiatives. ©WFP/Marco Frattini

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**

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Highlights

Household food security survey

- WFP [published](#) its latest Household Food Security Survey. The survey revealed that 16 percent of households were moderately food insecure in December 2024. To cope with the lack of food, 38 percent of households employed at least one livelihood-based coping strategy.

Operational Updates

Rice fortification

- The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Land, and Irrigation, [visited](#) the National Food Promotion Board's fortified rice production facility in Anuradhapura to observe the recent enhancements made to the fortification process. The facility now operates with advanced machinery, provided by WFP, ensuring the precise fortification of rice with vital micronutrients, including iron and folic acid. This upgrade, supported by WFP's technical assistance, significantly strengthens the facility's capacity to address iron-deficiency anaemia and improve nutritional outcomes.
- The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka convened a high-level inter-ministerial dialogue to address critical policy and implementation barriers impeding the national rice fortification agenda. Senior officials from the Ministries of Health, Education, and Agriculture, along with the National Food Promotion Board and WFP, emphasized the urgency of generating rigorous, context-specific evidence to inform scale-up decisions. The session marked a pivotal moment for mobilizing multi-sectoral alignment and accelerating the transition from pilot to national implementation.

Adaptation for Resilience (ADAPT4R)

- WFP presented the local adaptation plans at a national workshop held with key national stakeholders, empowering the Government to target and implement projects. The workshop was a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Environment, Partnerships Secretariat for World Food Programme Cooperation (PSWFPC), and WFP. The workshops, held in Monaragala and Mullaitivu districts, aimed to foster wider stakeholder engagement and ensure robust validation at a district level.

Social protection

- WFP led the coordination of the Sri Lanka Policy Dialogue on social protection, together with the social protection working group and the National Planning Department. The event brought together diverse stakeholders to exchange views and contribute to shaping the new National Social Protection Strategy: Road to 2030. Key discussions focused on areas such as climate action, gender and disability inclusion, nutrition, digital transformation, economic inclusion and access to jobs, social insurance and care support systems and financing social protection.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
104.9 m	58.66 m	2.88 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, 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.

Home-grown school feeding programme

- WFP hosted a high-level delegation from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), which included senior members of LCIF and other stakeholders. The visit featured a technical briefing on WFP's integrated School Meal Programme (SMP), the Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) approach that strengthens local agricultural value chains, and the rice fortification initiative aimed at addressing micronutrient deficiencies at scale.

Food Assistance for Assets

- As part of WFP's food assistance for assets project, 13 community assets (six in Kilinochchi and seven in Matale) were approved for implementation. These assets primarily consist of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, including community water reservoirs and irrigation/drainage channels. The programme is being implemented through the respective District Secretariats, with technical support from relevant government agencies.

Government capacity strengthening

- WFP conducted a FastFlood awareness workshop at the Hydrology Branch Conference Hall, Department of Irrigation targeting irrigation engineers in the district of Ampara. Representatives from the Survey Department, Department of Meteorology and Disaster Management Centre joined the discussion on the implementation of the FastFlood model in Ampara, focusing on data sharing, technical feasibility, and stakeholder collaboration.

Communications and advocacy

- WFP, together with other UN agencies, kicked off the UN 70/80 campaign commemorating 70 years of partnership in Sri Lanka and 80 years globally with a [video](#) with the theme #OurUN.
- WFP [commemorated](#) Mother's Day with a tribute to all school meal suppliers who prepare daily school meals for schoolchildren.

