



World Food Programme

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# WFP Sri Lanka

## Country Brief

June – July 2025



Nilani Jayaratne is a school meal caterer supported by WFP's home-grown school feeding programme in Matale, Sri Lanka  
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### 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 participated in high-level discussions and side events on food fortification at the regional conference "Nourishing South Asia - Reducing Anaemia in Adolescent Girls and Women of South Asia" organized by UNICEF in collaboration with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. The event, held in July, provided a platform for regional dialogue with key partners. A dedicated display area featured WFP's work on advancing nutrition outcomes in the region, including rice fortification activity.

### Home-Grown School Feeding

- WFP conducted an entrepreneur training in Monaragala and Anuradhapura districts, empowering 218 participants with vital skills and knowledge on management, basic marketing, operation management, and gender and enterprise.
- Nuwara Eliya, the newest district to join the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) initiative, completed a series of orientation meetings with school meal suppliers and education officials across Walapane, Ambagamuwa, and Hanguranketha, engaging 256 participants. WFP also met with the Government Agent and Additional Secretaries to ensure the effective implementation of activities at the divisional level.

### Food Assistance for Assets

- WFP is progressing with work across project sites in Matale and Kilinochchi districts. Related work includes improvements to irrigation and drainage canals, as well as community reservoirs. In Kilinochchi, the first cycle of cash transfers was disbursed to 156 participating households.

### Camp Management Training

- A series of five-day residential training programmes on camp management were conducted for staff officers of the National Disaster Relief Services Centre. The programme aligns with national commitments under the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, and the Disaster-Related Statistics Framework. The training also included gender and disability inclusion as part of leaving no one behind.

### Nutrition Advocacy

- A joint mission from WFP headquarters and regional bureau on the Modelling and Mapping of the risk of Inadequate Micronutrient Intake (MIMI) was completed in July. A key highlight was a half-day workshop, where key national stakeholders discussed various methodologies that would favour a MIMI study, taking into account the health and nutrition policies and local macronutrient intake practices. The mission also conducted a capacity-strengthening workshop at the Department of Census and Statistics, enhancing local expertise in applying MIMI modelling methodologies.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

| Total Requirement<br>(in US\$) | Allocated<br>Contributions (in US\$) | Six-Month Net Funding<br>Requirements (in US\$) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 104.87 m                       | 58.66 m                              | 1.43 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 sub-national levels

## National Social Protection Policy

- WFP, along with other UN agencies, Asian Development Bank, World Bank and LIRNEasia [supported](#) a policy dialogue on developing Sri Lanka's National Social Protection Strategy. The dialogue, led by the National Planning Department, focused on several key areas, including responding to natural shocks and prioritizing the most vulnerable.

## Anticipatory Action Road Map

- WFP supported the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) and the National Anticipatory Action Working Group to convene the initial consultation workshop for the development of Sri Lanka's Anticipatory Action (AA) Road Map 2025–2030. The primary objective of the AA Road Map is to establish a coordinated national framework to implement anticipatory actions ahead of climate-related hazards, with the aim of reducing the humanitarian and economic impacts of disasters. The Road Map seeks to align with national disaster risk reduction strategies and global frameworks such as the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement.

## Government Capacity Strengthening

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, conducted two sub-national level Training of Trainers workshops in Monaragala and Nuwara Eliya districts. The five-day workshops especially focused on business continuity management systems, with the participation of high-level government and leading private sector representatives.
- WFP conducted a five-day residential training programme on post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA), targeting operational and field-level officials from key government ministries and agencies. PDNA integrates post-disaster impact assessments with recovery planning and financing strategies. The Government of Sri Lanka is working to institutionalize PDNA capacity across national systems.
- WFP partnered with DMC to deliver a series of Emergency Response Capacity Enhancement training programmes. These sessions aimed to strengthen institutional and individual capacities through experiential learning and technical instruction. Across the three completed programmes, 185 DMC staff were trained. Additional training programmes are planned in August.

## 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.

- WFP, in partnership with the National Building Research Organization (NBRO), delivered two Landslide Risk Management trainings to strengthen national technical and operational capacities. The sessions equipped 131 NBRO scientists and professionals with advanced skills in slope stability, geological profiling, excavation safety, environmental considerations, and stabilization techniques adapted to Sri Lanka's terrain.
- WFP supported a stakeholder workshop in July to raise awareness on the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) 2023–2030 and promote coordinated action for its implementation. The event brought together 132 participants from government ministries, the Tri-Forces and Police, UN agencies, NGOs, and other disaster management stakeholders. The workshop enhanced understanding of the NDMP's strategic framework and guided participants through its objectives on risk reduction, preparedness, and climate-resilient recovery.

#### Research, Assessments and Monitoring

- As part of AA activities, a field visit was conducted to Ampara district, where three community awareness workshops were held alongside a flood model validation exercise through participatory discussions. These sessions aimed to enhance local understanding and gather valuable insights for refining the flood model. Concurrently, a LiDAR survey was carried out by the Survey Department for the Ampara Divisional Secretariat Division, in collaboration with the Department of Irrigation, to support the technical implementation of the flood model.
- WFP held the District Food Security Network (DFSN) analytical workshop in Kilinochchi and Jaffna districts. The workshops trained enumerators on data collection and analysis, to strengthen divisional-level food security and nutrition data.

## Gender and Protection

- WFP held a meeting with the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment and the Ministry of Education, on the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) to provide an overview and request support to conduct sensitization sessions to relevant government officials. The meeting also focused on understanding the directives to refer feedback and complaints received relevant to the Government's National School Meal Programme and social welfare schemes.

## Communications and Advocacy

- WFP's Research Assessments and Monitoring (RAM) officer was featured in a [podcast episode](#) hosted by the local think tank, Advocata, highlighting WFP's latest household food security survey findings and recommendations to build a more food secure nation.



*Video by: Advocata Plus, YouTube, July 2025*

- A video featuring a Lions Club official was produced [highlighting](#) the impact of WFP Sri Lanka's Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) initiative supported through the joint funding from World Food Program USA and Lions Clubs International.