



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka

Country Brief

September 2025



John Keith, a poultry farmer based in Northern Sri Lanka, who feeds nearly 400 schoolchildren a week © WFP/ Rasalingam Nagarajah

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

2025 Human Development Index: 89 out of 193 countries

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

Operational Updates

Home-Grown School Feeding

- WFP supported a series of food demonstration trainings to strengthen community nutrition in food preparation and related activities. The sessions were held in the districts of Matala and Monaragala. These trainings aimed to promote healthy, locally sourced meal preparation and enhance participants' capacity to improve household nutrition.
- WFP conducted a series of entrepreneurship and farmers' awareness activities aiming to strengthen local capacities and support sustainable livelihoods. Training sessions were held in Thanamalwila, Sewanagala, Rattota and in Ambangaga. Follow-up support will continue to ensure that participants are able to apply their newly acquired knowledge effectively.
- The Korea Financial Industry Foundation (KFIF) [engaged](#) in a two-day field visit to Matala district to engage with local farmers, school meal caterers, and students benefiting from the HGSP project. During the visit, the delegation met with farmers and caterers supported under the KFIF-funded HGSP initiative, observing their contribution to producing and delivering nutritious school meals. The team also [visited](#) a primary school, where they interacted with students receiving daily fresh and locally sourced meals.

Climate and Disaster Ready

- WFP, in collaboration with the Disaster Management Centre and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, [launched](#) the FLASH (Fast Local Alerts for Hazards) Early Warning Innovation Challenge. The challenge served as a co-creation platform for youth innovators, private sector representatives, and academia to develop practical tools that enhance community preparedness and national resilience. The initiative aimed to enhance Sri Lanka's early warning systems through tech-driven solutions.

Food Assistance for Assets

- WFP is advancing work across seven irrigation projects in the Matala district and six irrigation and drainage projects in the Kilinochchi district. In September, cash transfers reached over 1,200 participating households in both districts, supporting community engagement and livelihoods.

Support to national legislation on data privacy

- WFP provided assistance to the Welfare Benefits Board to develop their roadmap and implementation plans to align with the 2022 Personal Data Protection Act. The activity covered a wide scope of tasks including but not limited to a survey of processing, a data privacy impact assessment and a data protection management programme policy.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
104.87 m	58.67 m	0.8 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 School Meal Programme (NSMP)

- WFP facilitated the participation of senior officials from the Ministry of Education, Higher Education, and Vocational Education at the second Global Summit of the School Meals Coalition, held in Fortaleza, Brazil. Through this strategic engagement, WFP reinforced its commitment to advancing school nutrition in Sri Lanka by enabling national stakeholders to exchange knowledge, access global best practices, and strengthen multi-sectoral partnerships, thereby contributing to the enhancement of the quality and sustainability of the country's school meal programmes.

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network

- WFP convened a meeting with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to discuss ongoing initiatives under the SUN Business Network (SBN) in Sri Lanka. The discussion focused on strengthening private sector engagement in nutrition-sensitive activities, identifying opportunities for collaboration with SBN member companies, and exploring strategies to promote healthy and nutritious food products, and workforce nutrition. The meeting provided a platform to align efforts between WFP, SBN, and the business community to advance national nutrition goals.

Research, Assessments, and Monitoring

- WFP commenced the baseline survey for the ADAPT4R project, in the relevant project districts across Sri Lanka. The baseline is collaboratively monitored by teams from WFP India and Sri Lanka, which will enable impact measurement and support strategic planning.

Gender and Protection

- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, conducted a joint mission in the North Central province to review the role of the Community Feedback Mechanism in addressing Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) related cases, how to close case loops and to explore possible referral mechanisms for the National School Meal Programme related queries. The team held meetings with school meal suppliers and government officers across three divisions of the Polonnaruwa district and two divisions of the Anuradhapura district.

Communications and Advocacy

- WFP Sri Lanka and the Disaster Management Centre [co-hosted](#) the National Stakeholder Validation Workshop to advance the Anticipatory Action Roadmap 2025–2030. The workshop reinforced national commitment to making early action a cornerstone of disaster risk management.

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 private sector entities.