



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Sri Lanka

Country Brief

October 2025

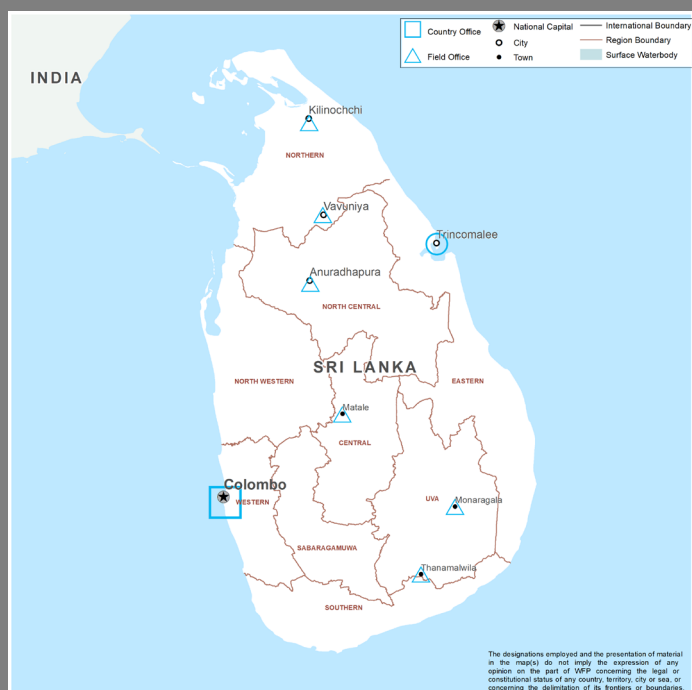


Renuka is at her agricultural farm with her husband and son.
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Operational Context

Sri Lanka's economic situation is improving, through economic reforms and stabilization measures. Inflation is expected to continue a 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 on 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 carried out a series of field and site visits, training sessions, and workshops across Kilinochchi, Monaragala and Matale districts to support local Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) agricultural and poultry initiatives, as well as capacity building for food service providers. Activities included observing poultry and agriculture sites, visiting a poultry plant, conducting a cooking demonstration for caterers, and organizing a network-building workshop. In addition, WFP facilitated multiple food demonstration trainings and two poultry training sessions earlier in the month. These efforts aimed to enhance technical skills, promote nutrition-sensitive practices, and strengthen local food production and service capacities.
- WFP further strengthened the HGSF initiative by supporting poultry and agricultural activities across multiple districts. This included distributing 7,480 chicks to farmers and school meal suppliers, providing essential poultry inputs (vaccines, feeders, drinkers, and feed) to 402 beneficiaries, and initiating poultry cage construction in Nuwara Eliya. In Batticaloa, WFP also supplied key farming inputs such as garden hoses, barbed wire, and water pumps to enhance irrigation and productivity, while conducting additional feed distributions to improve livestock nutrition and household food security.

Food Assistance for Assets Creation

- WFP's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) project is progressing in Matale and Kilinochchi districts. As of October, nearly 13 projects have been completed, including irrigation and drainage initiatives across both districts. In addition to physical rehabilitation, WFP provided 865 tarpaulins and 2,500 grain storage bags to 865 farmer participants. WFP also provided 60 grain dryer cases and 15 grain dryers to farmer organizations engaged in FFA activities.

Nutrition Advocacy

- The Government of Sri Lanka, with support from WFP and the World Bank, conducted a Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) review to strengthen school health and nutrition systems. The assessment covered three areas: policy, essential health services, and school meals, including the National School Meal Programme (NSMP) for primary students. Data collection, carried out between April and May 2025, involved desk reviews, interviews, and school visits to identify achievements and gaps.
- A national validation workshop (28–29 October) and a follow-up meeting (30 October) brought together key ministries, provincial authorities, and development partners to validate the findings and develop an action plan to enhance the quality and sustainability of the NSMP.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
104.9 m	58.7 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

Donors

Australia, Japan, Norway, Italy, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, UN Trust Fund, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, UN CERF, the United States of America, Michael Kors and private sector entities.

Adaptation for Resilience (ADAPT4R)

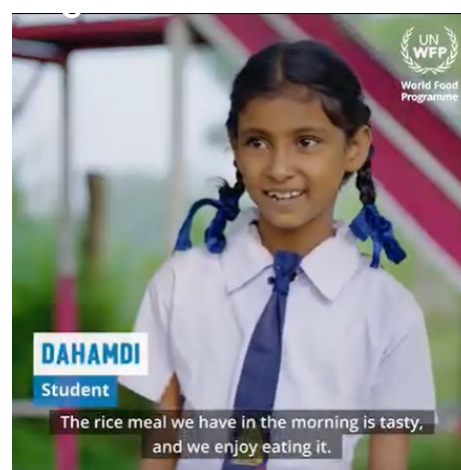
- WFP, under the ADAPT4R project, [handed over](#) the report on Synthesizing Local Adaptation Strategies to the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment. The report reflects community priorities from drought- and flood-prone districts, highlighting needs such as drought-resistant crops, flood-resilient infrastructure, and early warning systems aligned with national adaptation plans. This initiative strengthens food security and climate resilience through community-led planning and policy integration.

Research, Assessments, and Monitoring

- WFP trained 123 government officers from eight districts on the HGSF process monitoring tool. Three sessions were conducted in Kilinochchi, Kandy, and Anuradhapura to strengthen data collection capacities for effective programme monitoring.

Communications and Advocacy

- To commemorate World Food Day, WFP released a [video](#) showcasing its support to the National School Meals Programme through the inclusion of fortified rice. The video highlights WFP's leadership in advancing rice fortification in Sri Lanka to combat micronutrient deficiencies, also known as "hidden hunger", by enriching rice with essential nutrients such as iron and folic acid, thereby contributing to a stronger and healthier nation.



- WFP represented the United Nations in Sri Lanka at the 9th Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Prevention, where WFP's disaster risk reduction and social protection expert participated in a [televised pre-show panel](#) hosted by the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation. The discussion showcased WFP's support for national disaster preparedness and emphasized the vital role of media in promoting climate action and disaster awareness.