



World Food Programme

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# WFP Sri Lanka

## Country Brief

December 2025



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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

2025 Human Development Index: 89 out of 193 countries

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

## In Numbers

In December 2025

**US\$ 149,000** in cash distributed

**67 MT** of fortified food distributed across five districts

**266,800** people assisted

### Situation Update

On 28 November 2025, Cyclone Ditwah made landfall in Sri Lanka. After days of continuous rainfall, widespread flooding and landslides, official reports cited over 2 million people affected nation-wide. The United Nations launched the [Humanitarian Priorities Plan](#), a coordinated response to the Government of Sri Lanka's request for international assistance. To follow WFP's response, view the situation reports [here](#).

### Operational Updates

#### Emergency response

- WFP distributed 67 mt of fortified food to over 260,000 people. The emergency fortified food was distributed in five of the worst-hit districts, namely, Kandy, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Kegalle and Mannar.
- WFP assisted 6,800 people (1,700 households) with one-time cash assistance in Badulla and Nuwara Eliya districts. In the coming weeks, WFP will assist more affected households with cash and voucher assistance.
- The second phase of the Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA), led by the Disaster Management Centre was published in December. WFP supported the coordination between contributing partners. The JRNA [report](#) highlights sectoral cyclone impacts and establishes a baseline to guide prioritization of interventions and monitor recovery efforts.
- The United Nations Sri Lanka launched the Humanitarian Priorities Plan (HPP), a four-month framework for delivering multi-sectoral support to those affected by the cyclone. The requirement to meet the food security, agriculture and nutrition needs is US\$ 17 million.

#### Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF)

- As part of the HGSF programme, WFP conducted a series of workshops in December in Monaragala and Anuradhapura, which brought together beneficiaries and economic development officers with a focus on building network, improving coordination at divisional level and promoting cross-sectoral collaboration.

Contact info: [WFP.Colombo@wfp.org](mailto:WFP.Colombo@wfp.org)

Country Director: Mr. Philip Ward

Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/sri-lanka>

- WFP continued to provide agriculture and poultry support to HGSP farmers and suppliers in Nuwara Eliya and Matale. Progress was also made toward strengthening local feed supply systems by procuring feed plant equipment which are expected to enhance local feed availability and sustainability of poultry interventions.

#### Climate and Disaster Ready

- WFP, in collaboration with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and the Employers’ Federation of Ceylon, conducted a national workshop on Business Continuity Management Systems (BCMS) for entrepreneurs with disabilities. Thirty entrepreneurs participated in the three-day workshop to ensure persons with disabilities are equipped with skills to protect their businesses in times of crises and shocks.

#### Nutrition advocacy

- WFP participated in a technical review meeting organized by the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) to review the draft Code of Practice for Fortified Rice Production. The meeting focused on assessing the proposed standards and operational requirements to ensure quality, safety, and compliance across the fortified rice value chain. WFP contributed technical expertise aligned with global food fortification practices and to support national efforts to strengthen regulatory frameworks for fortified rice production in Sri Lanka. The finalized Code of Practice is expected to guide manufacturers and relevant stakeholders in implementing standardized procedures, thereby contributing to improved nutritional outcomes through large-scale food fortification initiatives.

#### Research, Assessments, and Monitoring

- WFP activated remote household food security surveys (mVAM) to generate real-time insights into food security conditions following Cyclone Ditwah. The first round of the survey found that food insecurity has increased and food consumption has deteriorated. Currently, 39 percent of households are not consuming adequate diets, representing a deterioration compared to last year.

### Gender and Protection

- WFP presented its Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) at the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) inter-agency working group.
- Prior to the start of cash and voucher assistance, WFP will conduct sensitization sessions with beneficiaries in the selected districts. Posters and FAQs will also be displayed in these locations, available in all three languages.

### 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                          | 1.6 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, Canada, ECHO, 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.