



## WFP SRI LANKA

COUNTRY BRIEF  
FEBRUARY 2026

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP continues to support the people affected by Cyclone Ditwah through its emergency response. WFP's assistance, which began in December 2025 with the distribution of non-food items and fortified foods, has now expanded to cash and voucher assistance.
- WFP continues to augment the Government's response by supporting disaster management agencies and Government-led assessments.
- Compared to December 2025, food security has improved, according to WFP's latest remote food security survey.

### IN NUMBERS



**10,172** people assisted in January 2026



**USD 222,255** cash transferred



**USD 1.8M** (FEB – JUL 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Credit: © WFP/Arete/Riyal Riffai

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Sri Lanka is showing signs of macroeconomic recovery and stabilized inflation. However, the island nation faces significant threats from climate risks. Rising temperatures and extreme heat pose risks to human health and reduce agricultural yields.
- In late 2025, Cyclone Ditwah caused widespread rains, landslides and flooding across the country, displacing families, damaging infrastructure, and disrupting essential services for nearly two million people. In response to the Government of Sri Lanka's request for international assistance, the United Nations launched the [Humanitarian Priorities Plan](#).
- WFP implements activities aimed at assisting communities in transitioning from emergency relief to early recovery and 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.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### Emergency Response – Cyclone Ditwah

- WFP assisted over 10,000 people with cash assistance in the districts of Badulla, Kandy and Nuwara Eliya via bank transfers. WFP is expanding its response to include additional districts affected by the cyclone.
- In December, WFP activated remote household food security surveys (mVAM) to monitor post-cyclone conditions. By January 2026, food security had improved due to increased food consumption compared to the immediate aftermath of the cyclone. Data collection for the February round will begin shortly.
- Following the launch of the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) by the Disaster Management Centre and the National Planning Department, WFP is co-leading the Food Security and Agriculture sector assessment with FAO and Government counterparts. WFP is also contributing to the disaster risk reduction & governance sector as a key partner.

### Home-grown school feeding (HGSF)

- WFP, in collaboration with the Industrial Services Bureau, delivered training for HGSF beneficiaries in Monaragala and Buttala. The programme promotes income diversification and entrepreneurship, reaching a total of 69 individuals (21 male, 48 female). These sessions enhanced business skills, strengthened enterprise development capacity, and expanded opportunities expanded for sustainable livelihood recovery.
- WFP implemented field-level interventions to restore productive assets and strengthen household food security across the districts of Monaragala, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura, and Polonnaruwa. As part of these efforts, WFP distributed agricultural equipment and home gardening guidance material to strengthen resilience and promote sustainable food security at household-level.

### Cross- Cutting Issues

- WFP delivered training sessions on accountability to affected populations (AAP) and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) for cooperating partners in Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla and Kegalle. These

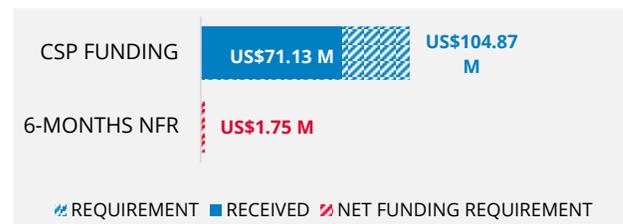
sessions reinforced safeguarding standards and strengthened partner capacity to uphold accountability in Ditwah humanitarian response.

### Communications and Partnerships

- Actor Ed Skrein [called](#) for urgent support for WFP Sri Lanka's Cyclone Ditwah response in an appeal video filmed during his visit to the WFP Sri Lanka Country Office, where he learned about WFP's on-the-ground assistance to affected communities and highlighted the importance of continued support for recovery efforts.
- WFP's Deputy Country Director [met](#) with the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Sri Lanka to discuss WFP's Cyclone Ditwah response. The meeting highlighted Korea's contribution, which will provide cash assistance to cyclone-affected communities, supporting their immediate recovery needs and strengthening household resilience.
- WFP and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) signed the agreement for 'Sow and Grow', a programme designed to strengthen smallholder farmer capacity and boost local maize production to ensure sustainable supply of Thripasha. Implementation is now underway, with field personnel deployed to identify small and medium-holder farmers, aggregators, and government extension officers as direct beneficiaries.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

### Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)



### Donors:

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