



WFP SRI LANKA

COUNTRY BRIEF
MARCH 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.
- In February, WFP expanded cash and voucher assistance, reaching over 4,000 households with cash and 7,212 with value vouchers.
- WFP continues to augment the Government's response by supporting disaster management agencies and Government-led assessments.

IN NUMBERS



45,040 people assisted in February 2026



USD 377,000* (approx.) cash transferred
**Cumulative since December 2025*



USD 2.4M (MAR – AUG 2026) net funding requirements



47 Officers received training as part of the HGSF programme.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Sri Lanka's National Consumer Price Index ([NCPI](#)) stood at 211.4 in January 2026, reflecting a month-on-month increase of 0.9 index points from December 2025. Year-on-year inflation eased to 2.4 percent, down from 2.9 percent in December, indicating continued stabilization in consumer prices.
- In late 2025, Cyclone Ditwah brought widespread rains, landslides and flooding, displacing nearly two million people families and damaging infrastructure and essential services. 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 provided multipurpose cash assistance of LKR 27,000 (approximately USD 86) per household to 4,048 households. Of these, WFP 3,790 households received support through bank transfers, while 258 households in Kandy and Badulla districts were assisted through over-the-counter (OTC) cash disbursements..
- WFP supported 7,212 households in Kegalle, Badulla, and Nuwara Eliya districts to redeeming value vouchers through Cargills supermarket outlets. Each voucher, valued at LKR 20,400 (approximately USD 65), is part of the ongoing Emergency Food Assistance Programme.
- WFP's cooperating partners, together with local authorities, conducted community-level sensitization sessions to inform households about their entitlements and guide them through the voucher redemption process. These sessions also raised awareness on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), ensuring safe, informed, and accountable programme delivery.
- In February, WFP's Community Feedback Mechanism received 265 calls—145 from men and 120 from women. Most callers requested information regarding WFP's emergency assistance.

Home-grown school feeding (HGSF)

- In Nuwara Eliya, a home-garden data-recording system was introduced to farmers and Economic Development Officers (EDOs) in Mathurata, aimed to strengthening the monitoring of the documentation of home-garden activities. Additionally, in Matale, the ED Advance Training Programme was conducted with the participation of 47 field officers (8 male and 39 female), focusing on enhancing technical capacity and improving the quality and effectiveness of programme implementation at the field level.
- The feed plant implementation is currently underway in Dambulla and Pallepola in the Matale District. In parallel, the selection of new

beneficiaries for 2026 is ongoing in selected schools across the district. The 2026 activity plan for Matale has been finalized, introducing several new initiatives aimed at promoting a more sustainable programme approach. Planned activities include collaboration with the Education and Department of Animal Production and Health.

Adaptation for Resilience (ADAPT4R)

- WFP facilitated District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC) processes across four districts, advancing Year 2 planning in alignment with Local Adaptation Plans, climate-risk assessments, and value-chain priorities. Districts reaffirmed proposal submission timelines, while WFP supported activity sequencing, financial clarification, and strengthened inter-agency coordination.
- Field missions confirmed strong Year 1 progress, including effective community mobilization, climate-smart agriculture demonstrations, livelihood diversification, and improved district-level governance. Building on this, four districts established Year 2 adaptation planning frameworks integrating LAPs, climate-risk data, and value-chain insights, alongside strengthened environment systems sustainability compliance and enhanced resilience through improved water-use efficiency and community engagement.

Nutrition Advocacy

- WFP participated in the pilot implementation meeting of the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan for Nutrition (MSAPN) in Nuwara Eliya, joining government counterparts, district authorities, development partners, and technical experts to review progress and operational requirements for the rollout. WFP contributed to strengthening coordination mechanisms, integrating evidence-based nutrition interventions, and supporting district-level capacity development to ensure effective multisectoral implementation. The engagement allowed WFP to reaffirm its technical support to the MSAPN process and align upcoming programme activities with the priorities and operational needs.

- WFP advanced the Modelling and Mapping the Risk of Inadequate Micronutrient Intake (MIMI) study, sharing preliminary findings with national technical groups. A WFP Headquarters mission collaborated with the Country Office and government partners to refine analyses and strengthen national capacity. WFP also convened technical workshops, including machine-learning sessions, to familiarize stakeholders with the modelling approaches applied in MIMI. The engagement facilitated technical exchange, validation of early results, and joint planning for the next phase of the study.
- The Cost of the Diet (CoTD) analysis reflection and 2025 Inception Meeting was convened on 20 February 2026 at the Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI). The meeting served as an important platform to review findings from previous CoTD analyses and formally initiate the 2025 CoTD analysis process. It brought together representatives from government institutions, development partners, and technical experts to review methodological considerations, agree on priorities for the upcoming analysis, and ensure alignment with national policy objectives.

Capacity Strengthening

- WFP conducted a workshop providing foundational training on the use of satellite imagery to identify protected agricultural tunnels used for cultivating tunnel-grown crops. This initiative strengthens the Ministry of Agriculture and HARTI's efforts to develop a comprehensive tunnel database and equips technical staff with practical skills in ArcGIS Pro and object-detection methodologies that have been successfully applied in other countries.

Communications and Partnerships

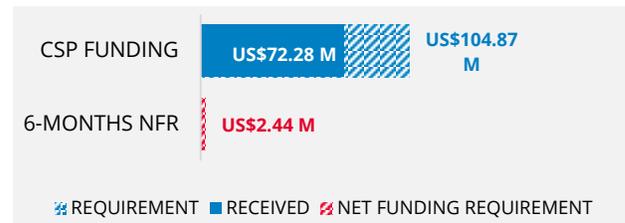
- WFP and UNICEF conducted a joint field mission for an ECHO delegation comprising representatives from the regional office in India and headquarters in Brussels. The visit presented the impact of the ongoing assistance and highlighted the continued need for humanitarian support for affected communities.
- WFP marked two months since Cyclone Ditwah with the release of a acknowledging the support of key partners, including WFP's Dubai Humanitarian Depot, Airlink, Emirates, and the

Airbus Foundation, for airlifting life-saving emergency nutrition supplies.

- WFP Representative and Country Director along with the High Commissioner for Canada in Sri Lanka and Maldives [visited](#) cyclone-affected communities to observe recovery efforts and reaffirm continued support for those impacted

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.



Watch: *WFP expresses appreciation to partners for supporting the airlift of essential supplies*



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