



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## SRI LANKA

COUNTRY BRIEF  
MAY 2026



### IN NUMBERS



**146,204** people assisted\*

*\*Figures overlap because some people received more than one form of support.*



**USD 2.6M** cash transferred



**USD 0.69M** (MAY – OCT 2026) net funding requirements



**SBCC** posters reached schools in multiple districts; rollout complete in Anuradhapura and ongoing in Matale

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP's response to people affected by Cyclone Ditwah began in December 2025 with the distribution of non-food items and fortified foods and has since expanded to cash and voucher assistance, including nutrition top-ups for households with children under five.
- WFP continues to support Government's response by strengthening disaster management agencies and contributing to government-led assessments, including the post-disaster needs assessment.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- In March 2026, Sri Lanka's National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) increased to 210.9, up from 209.4 in February 2026, reflecting a month-on-month increase of 1.5 index points. Year-on-year inflation rose to 2.4 percent in March 2026, compared to 1.6 percent in February 2026, marking a modest uptick after earlier disinflation trend.
- Following the Government of Sri Lanka's request for international assistance after Cyclone Ditwah, the United Nations launched the Humanitarian Priorities Plan (HPP). The plan concluded in April 2026, with residual activities being finalized and an after-action review planned.
- WFP continues to support communities in transitioning from emergency relief to recovery and resilience, while also improving nutrition outcomes and strengthening institutional capacity. WFP has been present in Sri Lanka since 1968.

### OPERATIONAL UPDATES

#### Emergency Response – Cyclone Ditwah<sup>1</sup>

- WFP provided multipurpose cash assistance of LKR 27,000 (approximately USD 86) per household to 52,000 households across Kurunegala, Badulla, Kandy, and Nuwara Eliya.

<sup>1</sup>Emergency Response beneficiaries are cumulative since January 2026.

- WFP distributed value vouchers worth LKR 20,400 (approximately USD 65) per household to over 11,000 households across Kegalle, Badulla, Kandy, and Nuwara Eliya through Cargills supermarket outlets as part of its Emergency Food Assistance Programme.
- WFP also delivered nutrition top-up value vouchers of LKR 24,000 (approximately USD 75) per household to over 4,000 vulnerable households with at least one child under five years of age.
- An operational after-action review will be conducted across all five districts targeted by WFP assistance, commencing in early May.
- In April, WFP's Community Feedback Mechanism received 2,142 calls (1,249 from men and 893 from women), with most inquiries focused on WFP's emergency assistance.

### Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF)

- Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) school posters were distributed across multiple districts to support awareness and behaviour change initiatives. Distribution was completed Anuradhapura in early April 2026, while Batticaloa distributed posters across 8 schools and Monaragala reached 10 schools. In Matale, distribution is ongoing, with 75 percent of the target achieved, showing steady progress in reinforcing programme messages at the school level.
- A World Earth Day content shoot for Michael Kors in Matale highlighted WFP's impact on communities and the environment at Palutawa Primary School in Sigiriya. Students engaged in activities and discussions around environmental awareness. These efforts showcase how WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding programme, empowers local farmers (many of them women), strengthens livelihoods and reduces environmental impact.

### Nutrition Advocacy

- Nutrition sensitization sessions were conducted in Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, and Kegalle districts to strengthen implementation of the nutrition top-up programme to support Ditwah affected households with children under the age of 5 years of age.

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### Anticipatory Action

- WFP supported the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) and the National Anticipatory Action Working Group in conducting a one-day review workshop to finalize the Anticipatory Action Roadmap. The workshop brought together key government and humanitarian stakeholders.

### Communications and Partnerships

- To mark the close of Women's month, the [Sunday Times](#) published an editorial celebrating women caterers and farmers supported through WFP's Home-Grown School Feeding programme.
- WFP teams and US Government officials [visited](#) cyclone-affected communities in Kandy district where they heard firsthand accounts on how US-funded cash assistance from WFP helped through the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah.
- WFP teams [visited](#) a school in Sigiriya, Kimbissa to observe school meals provided under the WFP supported Home Grown School Feeding project, where school meal caterers grow and cook food locally to ensure, fresh, nutritious and hot meals for students.
- WFP's Representative and Country director joined Lions Clubs International Foundation's Chairperson Mr. Fabricio Oliveira and local Lions in a [press conference](#), reinforcing our shared commitment to nourishing futures.

### FUNDING OVERVIEW

#### Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)



#### Donors:

Australia, Canada, European Union (ECHO), Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Russian Federation, United States of America, private donors (Michael Kors and other private sector entities), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), UN Central Emergency Response Fund, and the UN Trust Fund.

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