

# Standard Project Report 2015

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

## SRI LANKA

### Food assistance for flood victims in Sri Lanka

Project Number	200809
Project Category	Single Country IR-EMOP
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	238,400
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	238,400
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	250,450

Project Approval Date	15 Jan 2015
Planned Start Date	19 Jan 2015
Actual Start Date	19 Jan 2015
Project End Date	28 Jan 2015
Financial Closure Date	20 Jul 2015

Approved budget as 31 December 2015 in USD	
Direct Support Costs	25,020
Food and Related Costs	834,066
Indirect Support Costs	60,137
Total Approved Budget	919,222

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Total Approved Commodities	1,184
Planned Commodities in 2015	1,184
Actual Commodities in 2015	1,176

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## Country Overview



## COUNTRY BACKGROUND

With a population of 20 million, Sri Lanka is a lower middle income country ranked 73 among 187 on the 2014 Human Development Index. Despite rapid economic growth, the country still faces challenges with human development disparities across regions.

The civil war, which lasted 27 years, came to an end in 2009. Over a quarter of a century of violence claimed some 60,000 lives and ravaged infrastructure in the Northern and Eastern provinces. Arable land was devastated by the conflation of landmines, resulting in the loss of traditional methods of livelihoods. The socio-economic situation of the affected provinces has been further impacted by the global recession, the 2004 Tsunami, flash floods, droughts and landslides, all contributing to volatile food prices in the region.

In December 2014, Sri Lanka experienced floods and landslides which caused displacement, loss of assets and livelihoods and jeopardised agricultural production with the threat of up to 55 percent of paddy rice losses feared for the Maha (major) harvest. Household resilience was weakened and unsustainable debts soared. More than half of the affected population were food-insecure, with 238,100 severely food insecure and in need of immediate food assistance.

Although Sri Lanka has been on the right trajectory for achieving its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the repercussions of the civil war and the natural disasters have been tangible, particularly in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, where poverty levels are critical. Preliminary findings confirm poor access to food and signs of malnutrition, resulting from imbalances and insufficient food intake over a prolonged period. Nearly 4.8 million people out of a population of approximately 20 million are undernourished and 2.4 million people are food-insecure. Malnutrition affects nearly a quarter of children and women. The 2012 National Nutrition and Micronutrient survey found the prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight at 13.1, 19.6 and 23.5 percent respectively among children aged 6-59 months. In the Northern Province, underweight children are as high as over 40 percent, which is above the critical levels compared to the World Health Organization standard of 15 percent.

## SUMMARY OF WFP ASSISTANCE

As a result of the transition made by Sri Lanka from the end of civil war to economic growth, WFP also made a transitional shift of programme focus from emergency to recovery and development. However, with the impact of about three decades of war and recent natural disasters still palpable, it is estimated that of the 2.4 million food-insecure and vulnerable people, 50 percent are residing in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, which were heavily affected by the conflict. WFP's operations, which are aligned with the government's social protection policy and the national development plan, help strengthen the government's capacity.

WFP currently operates through a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) which began in January 2013 and came to an end in December 2015, aimed at reducing hunger in conflict-affected areas of the Northern Province, in line with the Millennium Development Goal (MDG1 - poverty reduction). It addressed the nutritious needs of school children, children under 5 years of age, pregnant and lactating women (in line with MDGs 4 and 5 - reduce child mortality and improve maternal health), internally displaced people, and as well as returnees from India. The project consisted of both food and voucher-based safety nets in the areas of education, nutrition, livelihood support and support for the government's efforts to tackle food security challenges.

An immediate response operation was put in motion in January 2015, following alternating asperity weather patterns in the preceding four years, from droughts, landslides and the unexpected onset of flooding in 2014. The duration of the emergency intervention was for a period of 10 days to respond to the immediate food and nutrition needs of flood victims of the most affected districts.

A Climate Change Adaptation project begun in January 2013 will come to an end in December 2016. WFP invests in disaster preparedness and mitigation through a climate change adaptation initiative jointly implemented with the Ministry of the Environment.

Through a joint programme on 'Scaling up Nutrition through a Multi-Sector Approach' with FAO, WFP continues to provide assistance in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the government's nutrition programmes and reduce maternal and child undernutrition. Under this joint programme, in support of the government's Multi-Sector Action Plan for Nutrition, WFP along with FAO and the relevant ministries have developed action plans targeting areas needing technical and funding support to scale up nutrition. Furthermore, under the Scaling up Nutrition movement, WFP partners with Save the Children, to support the Civil Society Alliance formed to engage and carry out the implementation of Sri Lanka's Multi-Sector Action Plan for Nutrition nationwide.

All WFP projects have contributed to MDGs 1, 2, 4 and 5 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, reduce child mortality, and improve maternal health).

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Number of children below 5 years of age	33,014	35,418	68,432
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	98,170	101,220	199,390
Number of adults	85,410	97,133	182,543
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	216,594	233,771	450,365
Total number of beneficiaries in 2014	213,200	235,464	448,664
Total number of beneficiaries in 2013	151,469	163,464	314,933

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	2,113	321	537	420	272	3,663
Single Country IR-EMOP	912	53	211			1,176
Total food distributed in 2015	3,025	375	748	420	272	4,840
Total food distributed in 2014	6,031	526	1,254	546	192	8,549
Total food distributed in 2013	5,444	582	1,106	1,296	527	8,953

# Operational SPR

## OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND RELEVANCE

Sri Lanka has been experiencing erratic weather conditions for four consecutive years. Due to low pressure areas developed in the Bay of Bengal, Sri Lanka encountered torrential rainfalls in mid-December 2014. The island was inundated with unrelenting rainfall at a record high of 380 mm to 500 mm, leading to the overspilling of 57 of the country's 72 major reservoirs. Over 1.1 million people were affected in 22 districts, most of whom were in the Eastern, North-Central, North-Western, Central and Uva Provinces of the country. Livelihoods were damaged and a significant number of people were rendered homeless. The farming sector, which was still recovering from the drought of the previous year, suffered significant losses.

On 29 December 2014, the government formally requested the support of WFP to carry out a rapid emergency assessment. WFP led a Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) assessment in 13 affected districts, with the support and collaboration of other United Nations agencies and international NGOs. The assessment findings indicated that 18 percent of the affected population had either completely lost their livelihoods or suffered long-lasting negative impact on their livelihoods. Sixty percent of the affected households experienced crop losses of 2014/2015 Maha (major) harvest. Food consumption among the affected population deteriorated. The assessment estimated that nearly 419,000 people among the affected population were food-insecure, of whom 238,400 were severely food insecure and in need of immediate food assistance.

Against this backdrop, the IR-EMOP was launched to provide immediate food relief to the affected in the 13 hard-hit districts: namely Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee of the Eastern Province, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa of the North Central Province, Kurunegala and Puttalam of the North-Western Province, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya of the Northern Province, Badulla of the Uva Province and Matale of the Central Province. The operation complemented ongoing efforts of the other WFP operation ongoing in the country, the PRRO 200452. The operation was in line with WFP Strategic Objective 1 - save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies, and Strategic Objective 2 - support food security and nutrition and (re)build livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies.

## RESULTS

### Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

The government provided cooked meals and dry rations to the most affected people during the first seven days of displacement and thereafter, WFP commenced food assistance through the same government-established disaster response mechanism. Food was distributed through the government's District Secretariat in close collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Development as the major implementing partner.

WFP was involved in the processes of beneficiary targeting, selection and validation. The households that suffered livelihood and property damage and had become severely food insecure, comprised subsistence farmers, fishermen, casual labourers, widows, widowers, elderly people, etc. WFP worked with local authorities and NGOs to establish the beneficiary targeting criteria, taking into consideration food insecurity and vulnerability factors such as people living below 50 percent of the poverty line, female-headed households, elderly people and the disabled. The initial HCT assessment had estimated 238,400 people as severely food-insecure but during the registration and distribution phases, the actual number was recorded at 250,400.

The daily food ration was composed of 425 g of rice, 100 g of pulses and 25 g of oil, and provided 2,100 kcal per person per day. Distributions began on 15 January 2015 for about a quarter of a million beneficiaries. WFP initially planned to provide ten days of assistance, based on the initial beneficiary estimates and the availability of resources. In reality, when the numbers of people receiving food were revised, WFP had to reduce the number of feeding days to nine, keeping the daily food ration unchanged.

It must be noted that various NGOs, operating in some of the same districts, also distributed some food items at the same time although at a limited scale, thus complementing the government's and WFP's emergency relief operation. Regular HCT meetings enabled information sharing and good coordination among stakeholders, hence avoiding potential duplications of food assistance.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number of adults	80,400	88,000	168,400	82,910	94,100	177,010	103.1%	106.9%	105.1%
Number of children 5 to 18 years of age	20,000	22,000	42,000	20,700	23,750	44,450	103.5%	108.0%	105.8%
Number of children below 5 years of age	12,500	15,500	28,000	13,200	15,790	28,990	105.6%	101.9%	103.5%
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	112,900	125,500	238,400	116,810	133,640	250,450	103.5%	106.5%	105.1%
The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant in one or more of the following groups, or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants									

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Beneficiaries of General food distribution (GFD)/ targeted food distribution/assistance (GFD-TFD/A)	112,900	125,500	238,400	116,810	133,640	250,450	103.5%	106.5%	105.1%

## Commodity Distribution

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Rice	915	912	99.6%
Split Peas	215	211	98.3%
Vegetable Oil	54	53	98.8%
<b>Total for 2015</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>99.3%</b>

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP took into consideration protection concerns such as distance, physical barriers and insecurity, when selecting distribution sites. Together with government implementing partners, WFP mapped out the distribution sites in a way that would ensure convenience of access for beneficiaries, and minimise security risks for them when going to and returning from a distribution centre. Other measures were also deployed, such as waiting time and crowd control, to make sure that distributions took place safely and that vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and the disabled were not negatively affected. For transparency purposes, beneficiary selection criteria and ration entitlements were communicated through community channels such as village leaders, evacuation centre volunteers and staff of local administration.

There were no security incidents encountered during the brief implementation period. However, due to the short duration of the project and difficulties accessing some populations during the flood, WFP and government partners were not able to collect detailed information on indicators such as the proportion of assisted people who did not experience safety problems travelling to and from distribution sites; and the proportion of assisted people informed about the programme. In future responses, WFP will work with partners to find solutions to such challenges.

## Outputs

Due to the opening of many evacuation centres, more severely affected people were identified, resulting in a larger number of beneficiaries than estimated and as a result, a further 12,000 affected people received WFP assistance. However, as a result, each beneficiary on average received nine days of WFP food entitlement, compared with the initially planned ten days. All commodities for the operation were procured locally by WFP and made available to the government for distributions. Given the urgency of the operation, WFP supported the government in covering the transport and distribution costs.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>SO 1: GFD</b>				
Number of days rations were provided	day	10	9	90.0%

## Outcomes

The operation was mainly handled by the local authorities and supported by WFP and NGOs. As the emergency intervention was for a very short duration, data on outcome indicators was not collected. Nevertheless, discussions with beneficiaries during food distributions and monitoring visits revealed positive acknowledgement of WFP food assistance. Beneficiaries noted that the assistance had helped them meet their immediate food needs, and that it had enabled them to save some money for spending on other non-food needs, that would otherwise have been spent on food.

## INPUTS

### Resource Inputs

The project was funded through WFP's immediate response account; the funds were used to purchase rice, pulses and vegetable oil for the nine-day emergency assistance. WFP coordinated with the government through the Ministry of Economic Development, District Secretaries, Divisional Secretaries, and the Disaster Management Centre to organize and implement the activity. The government provided cooked meals and dry rations at the onset of the emergency and contributed significantly to WFP's operation by deploying staff at provincial and district levels to arrange the transportation of food commodities and to monitor the distributions.

Donor	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL		1,184	1,184
<b>Total:</b>		<b>1,184</b>	<b>1,184</b>

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

### Food Purchases and in-kind Receipts

All items distributed during this reporting period were procured locally and were of good quality.

Commodity	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Rice	915	0	0	
Split Peas	215	0	0	
Vegetable Oil	54	0	0	
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	



## Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Due to the urgent nature of the operation, the locally procured food items were dispatched immediately to the distribution sites by the government, using hired trucks. The commodities were then transported by tractors to reach rural areas, but some delays occurred owing to the inaccessibility of roads eroded by heavy rains.

## Post-Delivery Losses

Post-delivery losses were kept to a minimum as food was dispensed immediately. Less than 1 percent of food commodities was recorded as losses, attributed to poor handling. WFP will provide further training for government counterparts to improve food storage and handling in future operations.

## MANAGEMENT

### Partnerships

WFP engaged with various partners during the emergency operation, including UNICEF and ILO for the rapid nutritional and livelihood assessment, and Plan International for beneficiary registration, verification and food distribution monitoring in one of the affected districts. WFP also coordinated with the government for verification and registration of beneficiaries as well as for logistics and food distribution purposes.

Partnerships	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	1	4		2

### Lessons Learned

The regular meetings of the HCT during the first two weeks of the emergency enabled WFP to share information with other stakeholders on the number of affected people by location. This resulted in obtaining accurate beneficiary numbers, helped prevent duplication of assistance and ensured good coordination in general.

Good community mobilization and effective and timely coordination with all the key government ministries resulted in reaching affected populations without major delays. WFP will continue to prepare to better anticipate an estimate emergency needs for future responses, using the knowledge gained from this IR-EMOP.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors			Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/ Purchased in 2015 (mt)
Donor	Cont. Ref. No	Commodity	In-Kind	Cash	
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Rice		915	915
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Split Peas		215	215
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Vegetable Oil		54	54
Total:				1,184	1,184