



## WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief

### WFP Assistance

Country Programme Sri Lanka	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
200866 (Jan 2016-Dec 2017)	20.9 m	16.4 m (78%)	-

\*April – September 2017

GENDER MARKER  CP 200866

The objective of the Country Programme (CP) is to transition towards providing a more holistic support to the government's efforts to address hunger and malnutrition and build resilience to climate-related shocks. The CP is implemented in partnership with government ministries, United Nations agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and the private sector.

The CP aligns with the Government's commitment to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 'Zero Hunger' and the UN Development Assistance Framework cycle 2013-2017.

The goals of the CP are to:

- Reduce undernutrition among children under 5 and pregnant and nursing women;
- Increase food intake and school attendance among primary schoolchildren in food insecure areas;
- Enhance vulnerable households' resilience to shocks and facilitate adaptation to climate change; and
- Increase government capacity to address food and nutrition insecurity.

Through the **School Meals Programme**, WFP provides nutritious mid-morning meals to 160,000 school children in the Northern Province, contributing to increased attendance and retention rates and improved learning performance.

WFP **supports resilience building** against climate shocks through adaptation measures to improve food and nutrition security for the shock-affected communities.

Main Photo

Credit: Disaster Management Centre, Sri Lanka  
Caption: A farmer showing his land, now affected by drought which has limited the possibility of planting for the next harvest season.

## Highlights

- Almost 900,000 people in hard-hit areas of Sri Lanka are faced with serious food insecurity and malnutrition due to the country's worst drought in 40 years. The main harvest (*Maha*) in March 2017 declined by more than half and the secondary harvest (*Yala*) in September will also be significantly impacted, bringing hardship and suffering, and increasing indebtedness for poor families.
- WFP requires USD 7.2 million to provide a package of assistance including emergency cash distributions to start immediately, resilience-building activities and innovative monitoring systems to bolster against future shocks.

WFP also focuses on the **treatment of moderate acute malnutrition** through targeted supplementary feeding for children aged 6-59 months using Super Cereal Plus, a nutritious corn soya blend.

### Other projects:

#### **Scaling-Up Nutrition through a Multi Sector**

**Approach:** WFP and FAO support the Government in implementing its Multi-Sectoral Action Plan on Nutrition. The action plan includes nutrition baseline surveys, promoting food fortification including a rice pilot and policy formulation. The joint programme is funded by the Spanish Cooperation through the Sustainable Development Goal Fund (SDG-F).

WFP provides technical support to the Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine to **enhance the impact of Thripasha**, a nutritious, locally fortified blended food (completion, production, supply chain)

#### **Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) – People's Forum:**

WFP supports the Government's advocacy effort to promote nutrition for the first 1000 days of a child through the partnership with Save the Children and Civil Societies.

Through the **Climate Change Adaptation Project**, WFP is assisting 14,000 farming families in the *Mahaweli* River Basin, targeting 72 small tanks rehabilitation in 2017

#### **The Climate Adaptation Management and Innovation Initiative (C-ADAPT)**

aims to enhance food security among vulnerable subsistence lagoon fishermen and women's groups through improved livelihoods in the least resilient communities.

## Operational Updates

### Emergency response to drought:

- The Government of Sri Lanka, with technical support from WFP and the participation of UNICEF, FAO and Save the Children, released the report, [Joint Assessment of Drought Impact on Food Security and Livelihood](#). The report is based on a survey to assess the impact of the drought on people in the ten districts most affected by the drought.
- The Ministry of Disaster Management has formally requested support from WFP to assist with the drought emergency response. WFP is planning to support through:
  - **Emergency assistance for 25,000 severely affected people** by providing cash-based food assistance in the four most severely drought-impacted districts;
  - **Asset creation for resilience** to help affected communities by increasing existing projects on water harvesting, improvement of irrigation and watershed management; and
  - **Technical support to government relief programmes** through an integrated drought monitoring system that fuses remote monitoring using satellite precipitation data with real time field level data collected.
- WFP has obtained initial funding for an IR-EMOP. Generous funding support was received from the Japanese Association for WFP to initiative the emergency response.

### Nutrition – Rice Fortification

- In support of the national effort to scale up food fortification, WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine and the Food Fortification Initiative organised a national workshop on food fortification. The workshop was held on 22-23 March, with 70 participants from various government ministries, the private sector, academia, civil society and United Nations agencies. Delegates from India and Bangladesh also attended to share their experience on rice fortification.

## Challenges

- The drought will have a multiplier effect, contributing to increased indebtedness, hydro power generation, the spread of communicable diseases, rice/staple price shocks, amongst other effects. Urgent funding is required to support the affected communities with an emergency relief package.

## Country Background & Strategy



Sri Lanka graduated to lower middle-income country status in 2010 due to the adoption of effective development policies. Notwithstanding, the country continues to struggle with the effects of a 27-year civil conflict that resulted in significant economic and social damage. Improvements in human development, and the nutritional status of children, women and adolescents have remained stagnant.

The increased frequency of natural disasters such as drought and flash floods further compounds food and nutrition insecurity. 4.7 million (23 percent of the population) people are undernourished according to [the State of Food Insecurity in the World, 2015](#), and underweight and anaemia affects a quarter of children and women. As per WFP's most recent [Cost of Diet Analysis](#), 6.8 million people (33 percent) of the population cannot afford the minimum cost of a nutritious diet.

WFP is aligned with the Government's commitment to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

WFP has been present in Sri Lanka since 1968.

Population: **20.9 million**

2015 Human Development Index:  
**73 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle income**

Malnutrition (stunting): **13.1%**  
Acute Malnutrition (wasting): **19.6%**

## Donors

Canada, Sri Lanka, Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Spanish Cooperation, Japan Association for WFP, Alwaleed bin Talal Foundation- Global