



WFP Sri Lanka Country Brief

Highlight

- The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and WFP signed a three-year agreement to roll out activities that improves food security, nutrition and resilience to climate-related shocks in nine disaster-prone districts of Sri Lanka.
- WFP is monitoring the ongoing drought in Sri Lanka that has affected 216,000 families. The Meteorological Department has expressed its concern that there will be 50 percent less rainfall than expected.

WFP Assistance

Country Programme Sri Lanka	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
CP 200866 (Jan 2016-Dec 2017)	19.7 m	15.5 m (79%)	-

*November 2016 – April 2017



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 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 capacities to address food and nutrition insecurity.

Through the **School Meals Programme**, WFP provides nutritious mid-morning meals to 160,000 schoolchildren 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 climate shock-affected communities.

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.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Sadhana Mohan
Caption: KOICA Country Director Mr. Lee Dong Ku, left, and WFP Deputy Country Director Mr. NguyenDuc Hoang, right, shake hands honouring the partnership.

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, funded by the Spanish Cooperation through the Sustainable Development Goal Fund (SDG-F). The action plan includes conducting nutrition baseline surveys, promoting food fortification and supporting policy formulation.

WFP provides technical support to the Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medicine to **enhance the impact of Thripasha**, a nutritious, locally fortified blended food, distributed at health clinics island-wide and under the national supplementary feeding programme.

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

WFP supports the Government's advocacy effort to promote nutrition for the first 1,000 days of a child through partnership with Save the Children and civil societies.

Through the **Climate Change Adaptation Project**, WFP assists 14,000 farming families in the Mahaweli River Basin through the implementation of adaptation measures such as water harvesting, improved home gardening, alternative livelihoods, etc. 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.

WFP is supporting the **National Strategic Review for Food Security and Nutrition towards Zero Hunger**. As part of broader efforts by Sri Lanka to nationalise the new SDGs, this review focusing on SDG 2 is led by the former President Madam Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga (1994-2005) as the lead convener, and will be conducted by the South Asia Policy and Research Institute (SAPRI). The findings and recommendations will contribute to the national development action plan of the Government, and will inform key actors on high priority food security and nutrition trends and response gaps.



October 2016

Operational Updates

- KOICA funding of USD 4 million will support the design and implementation of assets that build resilience to climate shocks and alternative livelihood and skills development activities, aimed at benefiting 30,000 people. The projects will be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs; Child, Youth and Cultural Affairs; Environment and Mahaweli Development; and Irrigation and Agriculture.
- The Multi-Stakeholders and Action Group Meeting for the National Strategic Review for Food Security and Nutrition towards Zero Hunger was conducted on 7 October with the participation of the Government, NGOs, civil society, private sector and academia. An overarching Action Group was also formed during this meeting.
- WFP and the National Food Promotion Board of the Ministry of Agriculture signed an agreement on the implementation of the rice fortification pilot programme.
- WFP is supporting the Ministry of Environment and Mahaweli Development on a Climate Change Adaptation Project. The fourth quarter (2016) funding of USD 677,000 was transferred to the Ministry for the effective implementation of watersheds, feeder roads and water catchment systems in Polonnaruwa and Nuwara Eliya.
- WFP is providing capacity development and technical support to the Ministry of Disaster Management in implementing a 72-hour approach on disaster rapid impact assessment.
- A school feeding outcome data collection training programme was successfully completed for 72 district education officials and supervising officers of the district management unit in the Northern Province.
- WFP Country Director, Brenda Barton, presented her credentials and took up her duties in mid-October.

Challenges

- A severe drought situation is reported in 22 out of 25 districts in Sri Lanka – causing water shortages for agriculture and household use. The Ministry of Disaster Management is supplying water for primary household use by setting up temporary tanks. WFP is monitoring the drought situation and providing daily updates to the United Nations Humanitarian Country Team which is on standby with the Government to provide assistance if the drought situation continues.
- WFP had planned to assist 40,000 victims of floods and landslides who require assistance for their most basic food needs and to mitigate their negative coping strategies. Due to funding shortfalls of the emergency response to floods and landslides in the aftermath of cyclone Roanu, WFP was only able to assist 22,900. A lessons learned exercise on the innovative use of the Government's national social safety net system, Diveneguma, for a cash-based flood response will be held on 9-10 November.

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. Nearly 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 affect nearly 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, United States Agency for International Development, Japan, Korean International Cooperation Agency, Spanish Cooperation, Lithuania, Alwaleed bin Talal Foundation – Global, ECHO, KOICA

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