

WFP Sri Lanka Situation Report

6 July 2022



Vegetables now cost two to five times the pre-crisis price. As a result, consumers spend less on vegetables hence skipping on much needed dietary nutrients on a daily basis. © WFP/Arete/Tashiya de Mel

In Numbers

3 in 10 households (6.26 million people) are food insecure, of which **65,600** are severely food insecure

200,000 households are using emergency livelihood coping strategies

3 million people targeted by WFP to receive emergency food, nutrition, and school meals until December

Situation Update

- **The population continues to feel the brunt of the economic and food crises. About 3 in 10 households (6.26 million people) are food insecure**, 65,600 of which are severely food insecure, according to WFP's latest food security assessment.
- **Food inflation is alarmingly high at 57.4 percent in June 2022.** Steeply increasing food prices have crippled the population's ability to put sufficient and nutritious food on the table.
- **The majority of assessed households (61 percent) are regularly employing food-based coping strategies** such as eating less preferred and less nutritious food, and reducing the amount of food they eat. Two in five households are not consuming adequate diets.
- **The food security situation is worst among people living in the estate sector**, where more than half of households are food insecure. In all measures of food insecurity and coping strategies, these households have consistently poorer outcomes than urban and rural populations. While urban households are depleting savings to cope for now, estate populations are already turning to credit to purchase food and other necessities.
- **An estimated 200,000 households are using emergency livelihood coping strategies** that are likely to severely impact their medium- to long-term capacity for income-generating activities. WFP anticipates that even more people will turn to these coping strategies as the crisis deepens.

Highlights

- **WFP has distributed 88 percent (2,100) of the first 2,375 vouchers to pregnant women.**
- **Three in ten households are food insecure**, according to WFP's latest food security assessment. The majority of households are eating less preferred and less nutritious food, and reducing the amount of food they eat.

- **Schools and government offices are closed until further notice** due to the scarcity in oil supply.
- **Headline inflation in June is at 54.6 percent**, the highest since 1954. The food security, agriculture, livelihoods, and health sectors are the hardest hit.

WFP Response

WFP is responding to the ongoing crisis, starting in the capital city of Colombo. It plans to support 3 million vulnerable people of Sri Lanka from June through December 2022.

WFP is prioritizing families who are unable to purchase increasingly expensive food, particularly those with children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and persons with disabilities. This support will be delivered through in-kind food, cash-based transfers, school meals, and nutritional support.

Emergency Food Assistance

- WFP has reached about **2,100 pregnant women (88 percent) of its initially targeted 2,375 beneficiaries in Colombo**. This is the first round of WFP's emergency food assistance to support the most vulnerable populations, starting with nutritionally at-risk pregnant women registered in the Government's ante-natal care programme across nine maternal clinics in the capital city.
- Each pregnant woman receives three vouchers with a combined value of Rs. 15,000 (approx. US\$ 40 and roughly half the cost of a nutritious diet for a family of four for a month) to supplement the

family's ability to purchase nutritious food and other necessities. Beneficiaries may redeem their food vouchers at all Cargills Food City stores until 15 July.

- WFP is scaling up its emergency food assistance with upcoming cash-based transfers and general food distributions in selected districts. WFP will start implementation soon, prioritizing vulnerable households whose incomes have been affected by the crisis.



School Meals

- In partnership with the Government, WFP will support 1 million schoolchildren aged 5 to 10 with school meals starting in October. WFP will prioritize vulnerable schools, where the Government's national school meals programme has been halted due to budget constraints.
- WFP has purchased iron-fortified rice, pulses, oil and commodities. These are expected to arrive in August.



Nutrition

- WFP is supporting the resumption of Sri Lanka's *Thripasha* nutrition programme that provides food fortified with vitamins and minerals to malnourished children under five and pregnant and lactating women.



Assessments

- WFP and FAO are currently undertaking an in-country mission to assess crop and food security until next week. This is the second phase of a two-part Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) following the completion of a household-level survey in June.
- Once completed, the findings from the CFSAM will further inform WFP and FAO's priorities to support the Government in alleviating the economic and food security challenges. A full report of the CFSAM is expected by the end of August.

- WFP has so far received **US\$18.14 million** from the governments of Australia, Japan, and New Zealand. This represents 28 percent of its emergency appeal for US\$63 million.

Funding requirement

(Jul-Dec 2022)

US\$ 63M* 

*represents emergency response requirement only, not inclusive of the US\$10 million required under the Country Strategic Plan at the beginning of 2022.

28% FUNDED



ShareTheMeal

WFP has launched a campaign to gather support from individual donors through its crowdfunding app [#SHARETHEMEAL](#). WFP aims to raise funds equivalent to half a million shared meals and has currently raised 275,400 meals as of 5 July.

It only takes a few taps on your phone to start having an impact. Download ShareTheMeal app on [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).



"Because of the economic crisis and the diesel shortage situation, my husband had to close his shop. These days we don't have a proper meal and [we] eat only rice and gravy. We got three vouchers from WFP. This is a big help to us with the current economic crisis in Sri Lanka. I can buy many things that I need for myself and the baby."

Jeevanthi Sandeepa, 25, is 18 weeks pregnant with her first baby. She and her family are among those affected by high food prices and their situation is further exacerbated by reduced family income. She has recently received food vouchers from WFP.

Resourcing Update

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