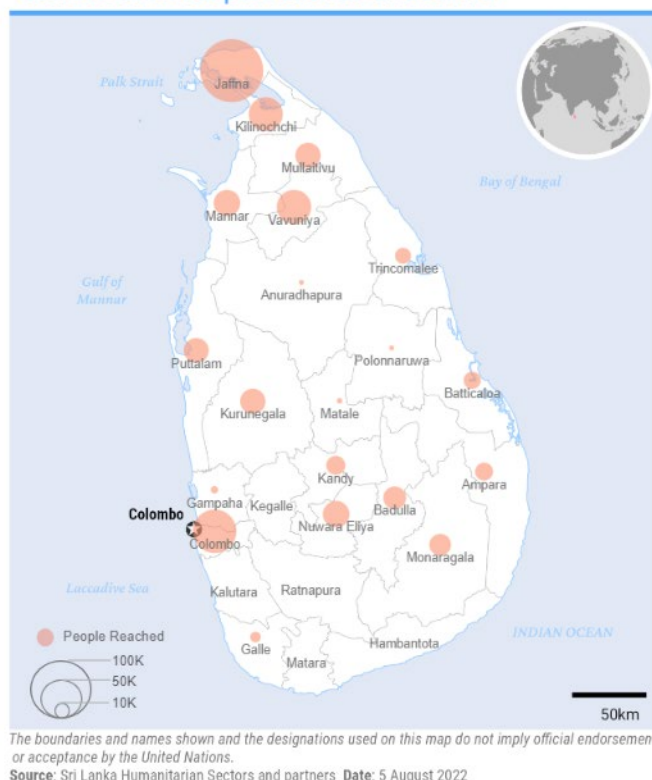


This report is produced by the OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) on behalf of the ISCG. The updates below cover activities carried out between 16 and 29 July 2022 and provide an overview of response activities to meet the needs articulated in the Humanitarian Needs and Priorities (HNP) Plan.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sri Lanka is facing a multidimensional crisis compounded by food insecurity, threatened livelihoods, shortages of vital and essential medicines, and rising protection concerns. The economic crisis is the worst since the country's independence in 1948.
- It is estimated that 5.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, with 4.9 million being food insecure. A total of 1.7 million are prioritized through the Humanitarian Needs and Priorities (HNP) Plan, launched on 9 June 2022.
- The HNP Plan calls for US\$47.2 million to implement responses to lifesaving priorities between June and September 2022, with a particular emphasis on averting a further deterioration of needs in lifesaving sectors and thus prevent a full-scale humanitarian crisis.
- The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has approved a US\$5 million rapid response allocation to address urgent needs on food assistance, basic agricultural and livelihoods support, vital and essential medicines and supplies, child protection, nutrition, safe water and education in priority districts.
- Fuel shortages in Sri Lanka are a major operational constraint for the humanitarian response, as they affect effective programme implementation and monitoring.

SRI LANKA: People reached under HNP



KEY FIGURES

5.7M¹
People in Need

1.7M
People Targeted

346.9K
People Reached
(as of 4 August 2022)

20.1%
% Reached

¹ Out of 5.7 million people in need, **4.9 million people are food insecure**. For a detailed breakdown of people in need by sector, see <https://humanitarian.info/plan/1107>

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Sri Lanka continues to experience an unprecedented economic crisis with high inflation, rising commodity prices, power shortages and lack of fuel. The crisis is deepened by a serious reduction in agricultural production caused by a failed agricultural transition. Following heavy shortages of food, fuel, medicines, and other essential items, mass protests broke out in March 2022. On 13 July, the President of Sri Lanka left the country and the Prime Minister, in his capacity as an acting President, declared a state of emergency.

In June, food inflation reached record highs of 75.8 per cent. With less money and high prices for essential food commodities, families' purchasing power has been greatly reduced. As a result, they have resorted to consuming less diversified and nutritious diets. Needs assessment conducted in nine districts in June revealed that a vast majority of households (85.1 per cent) reported income loss since the economic crisis commenced and 58 per cent of households have lost more than half of their income. Vulnerable groups, such as female-headed households, are disproportionately affected by the crisis. Families are also reportedly using other negative coping mechanisms to get by, such as: 1) selling of belongings; 2) borrowing money; 3) withdrawing from savings, and 4) pawning of belongings.

The loss in income reflects on food intake practices, where 74 per cent of households had to adjust their normal food intake practices. At least 56,000 children under 5 with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) are currently in need of ready to eat therapeutic food. Pending results of ongoing nutritional surveys, malnutrition is likely to have worsened and been exacerbated by the suspension of the national nutrition programme since November 2021.

Incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) are reportedly increasing, while the capacity of government services to respond is severely affected. Service providers lack fuel for field and home visits and are currently working only two days per week. Many women shelters have run out of space, and the police has only limited capacity to review cases, as they are being assigned to monitor fuel stations. In addition, there is a lack of financial support for women and girls at risk of GBV.

The current crisis is impacting the education of children, who were already affected for the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to recent assessments in nine districts, more than half (55 per cent) of the households reported negative impact on children's education while 33.9 per cent households struggle to support their children to continue education. Children are being affected by a loss of learning and increasing school dropouts, especially among the most disadvantaged without immediate access to online learning, the urban-poor and young children (preschool and primary). Many schools are fully or partially closed, while the fuel shortage continues to limit students and teachers' ability to go to school.

About 80 per cent of medical supplies in Sri Lanka are imported. Many vital and essential medicines and items both in the public and private sectors are out of stock. At the same time, the price of drugs has increased by 30 per cent around the country. The functionality of the health system is further affected by the fuel crises and frequent power cuts. Water treatment services are also negatively affected due to the lack of testing chemicals and reduced number of water-pumping hours. About 66.8 per cent households in the estate sector do not have access to safe drinking water sources.

There are concerns that financial reform programmes may be delayed until some level of political stability is reached. At the same time, the limited functionality of Government services is impeding humanitarian operations as many agencies are partnering with government counterparts for their programming.

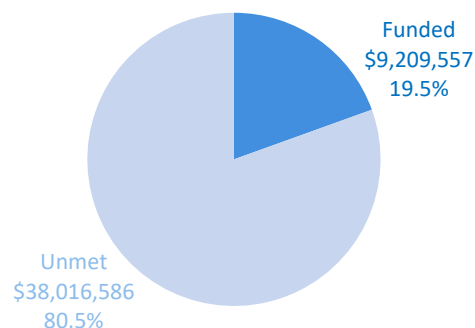
FUNDING

Sri Lanka HNP 2022

US\$47.2 million requested

Funding by sector (in million US\$) as of 5 Aug 2022

■ Funded ■ Unmet % Covered



Sector	Funded	Unmet	% Covered
Education	2,577,978		8%
Food Security and Livelihoods		30,745,489	12%
Health	8,000,000		34%
Nutrition	3,594,876		6%
Protection	2,095,300		10%
Water	212,500		100%

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org or through the link <https://fts.unocha.org/content/report-contribution>

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Key Cumulative Response Figures Since 9 June 2022

Sector	Activity	People Reached
Agriculture & Livelihoods	Number of farmers receiving legume seeds material and cash assistance to re-engage in agriculture	6,005
Education	Number of children accessing uninterrupted learning	48,000
	Number of children receiving individual learning materials	271,148
Food Security	Number of individuals supported with food assistance	40,915
	Number of pregnant and lactating women receiving the pregnancy cash transfer for nutrition items	2,031
Health	Number of persons accessing continued primary healthcare through facilities receiving lifesaving essential medicines, supplies and devices	1,200
Nutrition	Number of public preschool children receiving a meal through the preschool meal programme	1,651
Protection	Number of children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	323
	Number of children who have received individual case management	343
	Number of parents and caregivers reached with messages on positive parenting and MHPSS	1,257
WASH	Number of people in urban, estate and rural sectors accessing safe water through water quality improvements	31,450

Agriculture and Livelihoods

Response:

- 400 home gardens were established across eight districts on 29 July 2022.

Constraints:

N/A

Food Security

Response:

- 35,848 people received in-kind food assistance (dry rations) across 13 districts between 16 and 29 July.
- 7,899 children received school meals across 15 districts between 16 and 29 July.
- 3,062 people received nutrition packs across 4 districts between 16 and 29 July.
- 3,078 people participated in cash for work activities in one district between 16 and 29 July.
- An additional 56 pregnant women received value vouchers in Colombo on 21 July.
- 246 children under five, 28 pregnant mothers, and 31 lactating mothers received food assistance in Monaragala and Trincomalee between 16 and 29 July.
- 5,453 children have received 162,870 meals across eight districts up to 19 July 2022.
- 12,607 dry rations were distributed across the country between 17-29 July 2022.
- 173 dry ration packs donated via Food Bank program within eight districts up to 19 July 2022.

35,848

People received in-kind food assistance.

Constraints:

- Community kitchen programmes are disturbed and has highly impacted the operational travel plans for both programme implementation and monitoring of program quality.
- Food distribution had to be paused in some districts due to fuel shortages, and some goods (potatoes and onions) have reached their expiry dates. The number of meals provided during the reporting period were reduced due to the closure of schools and ECD centres.

Nutrition

Response:

- 1,258 preschool children (642 girls and 616 boys) received school meals starting 29 July.

Constraints:

N/A

1,258

Preschool children received school meals

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Response:

No updates in the reporting period.

Constraints:

No updates in the reporting period.

Health

Response:

- 1,200 at risk women at health facilities across the island are benefitting from the first consignment of 14 essential medicines for children and pregnant mothers that were handed over to the Ministry of Health on 28 July 2022. These medicines were procured for 643 hospitals across the country.
- 54 medical officers and nursing officers from high-risk districts of Jaffna, Batticaloa and Western province provided with training on clinical management of dengue by WHO in partnership with Ministry of Health.
- 51 medical specialists in venereology and medical officers working in STD/AIDS clinics were provided with updates on the current global and regional situation of monkeypox and its epidemiology.

1,200

At-risk women
benefitting from
essential medicine

Constraints:

- With airlines starting to reduce frequencies to Sri Lanka, partners faced unexpected delays in delivering the medicines procured offshore.

Protection

Response:

- 323 children and parents/caregivers accessed mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in seven districts between 16 – 29 July.
- 343 children received individual case management support in 10 districts.
- 1,800 parents and caregivers were reached with messages on positive parenting and MHPSS in 13 districts.
- Ongoing support for 7 shelters to remain accessible for clients and provide essential services for recovery of survivors.
- Rapid assessment of available services for GBV (covering police, shelters and Women Development Unit) ongoing. Completed assessment of 19 shelters.

1,800

Parents/caregivers
reached with key
messages

Constraints:

- Service providers and humanitarian aid workers themselves are mentally traumatized due to inflation and current uncertain situation, and in need of self-care support.
- Frontline humanitarian aid workers lack fuel for service provision and protection support.
- The ongoing crisis and resulting negativities are hindering active participation by community members in common activities implemented at the community level. As a result, a reduction in community contribution to the humanitarian response activities can be observed.

Education

Response:

- 253,471 children reached with teaching-learning materials and educational supplies in 12 districts.
- 48,563 children accessing uninterrupted learning in five districts between 16 – 29 July.
- 3,900 children supported through supplementary education activities in seven districts.

253,471

Children reached with
teaching materials and
educational supplies

Constraints:

- Service providers and humanitarian aid workers themselves are mentally traumatized due to inflation and uncertainty of their own children's future, and in need of self-care support.
- Frontline humanitarian aid workers lack fuel for service provision and protection support.

GENERAL COORDINATION

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) agreed to set up a **humanitarian coordination structure** complementing and consistent with the implementation of the HNP Plan. The HCT, led by the Resident Coordinator with support from OCHA and composed of heads of agency represented in the HNP, has been meeting weekly for strategic discussions and decision-making on issues around the HNP. At the operational level, there is an Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group (ISCG), co-led by OCHA and the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO), that meets every two weeks to facilitate coordination with sector lead agencies. Thematic working groups such as Information Management and Analysis Working Group (IMAWG), co-chaired by WFP and OCHA/RCO, and the Cash Working Group (CWG), co-chaired by WFP, UNICEF, SCI and RCO, are active and meet every two weeks. A task team on Accountability to Affected People (AAP) and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) was constituted within the ISCG to discuss and come up with collective mechanisms for AAP and PSEA.

OCHA's regional office deployed Information Management Officers (IMOs) for 6-8 weeks until 31 July, as well as Humanitarian Coordination capacity in the country. Additional deployments are lined up to strengthen support to humanitarian operations. A dedicated IMO has started on 8 July while the AAP/PSEA Officer has been identified and is currently going through onboarding processes. As early as 20 June, a Cash Capacity (CashCap) expert has been fully on boarded and serves as an inter-agency resource available to the whole humanitarian community. This resource does not replace the leadership of WFP, SCI and UNICEF (and non-programmatic lead role of RCO) of the CWG, rather it is a scale up capacity to support the excellent work the CWG is doing in Sri Lanka.

OCHA continues to provide remote support on Communications, Reporting, and on Information Management (IM). A series of IM technical trainings were conducted for HNP agencies during the IM officers' deployment in Colombo (e.g. 5W reporting, PowerBI dashboard design, QGIS for mapping). In collaboration with the HNP agencies, regular coordination and IM products are produced. These include regular inter-sector and sector coordination meetings, **common calendar of humanitarian meetings and events** and IM products such as **operational presence and 5Ws**, **funding overview** and **assessment registry**. There are 31 assessments either completed, ongoing or planned: Nine assessments are completed as of early August. Eight assessments in the sectors of food security and livelihoods, nutrition and protection are ongoing, and 14 assessments in the sectors of food security and livelihoods, health and protection are planned between August and December 2022.

The ISCG has started discussions around streamlining collective mechanisms. While individual agencies have their respective mechanisms and processes, there is the need to have a common approach for agencies in the HNP Plan. A task team on AAP/PSEA, reporting to the ISCG, was constituted and will meet separately to come up with a collective approach. The task team is composed of four agencies. On localization, the ISCG is determining existing capacities and the sub-national presence of NNGOs/CSOs that could potentially support the HNP Plan implementation and other operational concerns.

Background on the crisis

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in Sri Lanka, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, has launched a Humanitarian Needs and Priorities (HNP) Plan on 9 June 2022. This Plan targets 1.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, amounting to \$47.2 million with particular focus on critical and urgent life-saving needs, to avert further deterioration of the situation and preventing a full-scale humanitarian crisis. Currently, Sri Lanka is experiencing multi-dimensional crisis compounded by food insecurity, threatened livelihoods, shortage of essential medical items and rising protection concerns. The economic crisis is the worst since the country's independence in 1948. This is further exacerbated by the political instability of the country as citizens call for reform in government and the people have lost trust in Government institutions. The dynamics of government bureaucracy have significantly affected operations as many agencies are partnering with government counterparts for the humanitarian response. Moreover, the fuel shortage in the country has impeded humanitarian operations and requires innovative ways and complementation of available resources to be able to reach the people in need. The international community is enjoined to support and advocate to relevant stakeholders for an agile and timely humanitarian assistance.

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For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/ce-2022-000199-lka> | <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/sri-lanka>