



© WFP/ Riyal Riffai

WFP Sri Lanka Situation Report

07 November 2022

In Numbers

32 percent of households are food insecure (September 2022)¹

3.4 million people are being prioritized to receive emergency assistance from WFP in 2022

Around 490,000 people have received WFP assistance since the start of the emergency response²

Situation Update

- **Around one-third (32 percent) of households are food insecure**, according to WFP's recent [Household Food Security Survey](#) for September 2022. Nearly seven in ten households (68 percent) are turning to food-based coping strategies such as eating less preferred food, reducing the number of meals and limiting portion sizes.
- **Markets are reporting concerns about price volatility and unavailability of items**, according to the recently released [Market Functionality Index](#) for September 2022. Traders most commonly reported an increase in prices for cereal foods (81 percent of traders), and non-cereal food items (73 percent of traders). This volatility in prices is further threatening food security across the country.
- **Sri Lanka is listed as a 'hotspot of high concern'** according to the [recently](#) released Hunger Hotspots report for October 2022 – January 2023 Outlook.
- Food inflation (year-on-year) in urban areas of Colombo remains high in October at 85.6 percent ([Colombo Consumer Price Index](#)).

Highlights

- **WFP has now expanded its operations by rolling out in-kind food assistance and school meals.**
- **WFP reached 101,040 people with cash assistance** from 24 October to 6 November.
- **Over 36,000 schoolchildren have been supported with school meals prepared with WFP-provided rice.** WFP aims to reach 1 million schoolchildren through the Government's school meals programme.
- **WFP has started rolling out its in-kind food assistance.** On 3 November, nearly 400 people received food assistance, with the aim of scaling up to 400,000 people in November.

WFP Response

- WFP's economic crisis response aims to reach a total of **3.4 million people across three main activities**: (1) unconditional food assistance through cash or in-kind; (2) school meals; and (3) nutrition support.

Unconditional Food Assistance

- **WFP has begun rolling out in-kind food assistance.** In November, WFP aims to distribute 7,398 MT of food to support approximately 400,000 people in five districts, namely Mullaitivu, Nuwara Eliya, Ampara, Kurunegala and Vavuniya.
- **WFP reached 101,040 people with cash assistance in the past two weeks** (24 October to 6 November). Overall, WFP has reached 456,664 people with cash and voucher assistance so far for its emergency response.
- WFP is disbursing cash assistance through *Samurdhi* Bank (for low-income households registered with the Government's social safety net)

1. According to the September round of Face-to-Face Household Food Security Surveys.

2. This includes 456,664 people with cash assistance, nearly 400 people with in-kind assistance and 36,000 with school feeding. Overlaps between groups are not yet deducted. Additional beneficiary numbers from previous rounds of cash-based transfers have been added, since the last Situation Report.

and through *Western Union* (for those households not registered as part of the safety net).

- Beneficiaries in Colombo are receiving assistance through value vouchers in partnership with Cargills (Ceylon) PLC.
- WFP has reached pregnant women with value vouchers across 11 urban poor communities in Colombo. Each beneficiary received LKR 15,000 (US\$40) to cover their food and nutritional needs, working in close collaboration with the Colombo Municipal Council.

School Meals

- **WFP aims to support 1 million children with school meals for three months. 7,900 schools received rice for the school meals programme** and over 36,000 schoolchildren have been supported with school meals made with rice provided by WFP so far.

Nutrition

- **WFP aims to reach 1 million pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 to help meet their nutrition needs.** WFP is taking action to provide raw materials (soya beans and maize) to the Government's *Thripasha*¹ facility. WFP looks to complement the programme to ensure continuity of nutrition support.

Assessments

- WFP released its [Market Functionality Index Report](#) for September 2022, which found that markets are reporting concerns around price volatility of essential items. In particular, more than three quarters of traders were reporting instability in prices for flour, rice, meat, fish and eggs. These volatile prices threaten to further impact access to food and are pushing people to adopt coping strategies, such as reducing the number of meals and purchasing less expensive food items.
- WFP recently released the September round of the [Household Food Security Survey](#). This survey

3. *Thripasha* is an additional nutritious food aimed at minimizing and preventing maternal and child malnutrition and promoting local agricultural economy. The product is distributed through the Government's national nutrition programme.

found that the impact of the economic crisis has persisted, with a substantial number of households continuing to face food insecurity (32 percent). Data collection for the October round is complete, with results to be released in the coming weeks.

Supply Chain

- **WFP has 24,590 mt of food currently in the pipeline**, with 10,335 mt already in storage. Commodities are currently being distributed as part of WFP's emergency food assistance response.

Resourcing Update

- To date, WFP has received a total of **US\$43.7 million** from the governments of Australia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the United States and Switzerland, as well as from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, private sector partners, and multilateral donors. **This represents over two-thirds 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.



WFP has launched a campaign to gather support from individual donors through its crowdfunding app [#SHARETHEMEAL](#). WFP aims to raise funds equivalent to 500,000 shared meals. Thanks to the generosity of its donors, the campaign has raised over 100 percent of its target.

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

Contact Us:

WFP Country Director:

Abdur Rahim Siddiqui: abdurrahim.siddiqui@wfp.org