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World Food
Programme

WFP Sri Lanka Situation Report

26 September 2022

In Numbers

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

73,700 people reached by WFP for the emergency response so far

Four in ten households are consuming inadequate diets. (August 2022)¹

Highlights

- **WFP reached over 10,000 people with cash assistance in the latest week** (19 to 23 September).
- **WFP has reached more than 70,000 people so far** with cash and voucher assistance since beginning its emergency response to the current crisis.
- **The food security situation remains unstable.** Around eight in ten people are turning to food-based coping mechanisms to keep food on the table, according to WFP's August remote household food security surveys.

Situation Update

- **The intensifying economic crisis continues to threaten food security.** The persistence of high food and fuel prices has pushed food further out of reach. In the face of inaction, the situation could deteriorate even further.
- **More than one-third of the population (37 percent) is now facing acute food insecurity,** according to WFP's remote household food security surveys for August. This represents an increase against the results of the face-to-face Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission for June.²
- **Anxieties about food and fuel prices have increased steeply.** Nearly half (43 percent) of the population are concerned about disruptions to their jobs and livelihoods. In addition, the proportion of people concerned about access to medicine has also risen from 42 to 56 percent between July and August.
- **Diets are in a precarious state.** Nearly four in ten households are facing insufficient food consumption, with many consuming far less diverse diets as food prices remain high across the country.

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 reached 10,152 people with cash assistance in the past week** (19 to 23 September).
- **Overall, WFP has reached 73,700 people with cash and voucher assistance** so far for its emergency response. This comes as part of WFP's scale-up to reach an additional 3.4 million people in 2022.
- WFP is disbursing cash assistance through *Samurdhi* Bank (for low-income households registered with the Government's social safety net) and through *Western Union* (for those households not registered as part of the safety net). Beneficiaries in Colombo are receiving assistance through e-vouchers in partnership with Cargills (Ceylon) PLC.

¹ June figures are based on a face-to-face Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI), while July and August figures are based on a remote CARI. More detail on the CARI methodology is available [here](#).

² Ibid.

- **WFP has reached pregnant women with value vouchers** across 11 urban poor communities in Colombo, namely Bandaranayake Mawatha, Borella, Forbes Road, Kuppiyawatta, Maligawatta, Modara, Mohideen Masjid, New Bazar, Slave Island, St. Paul's, and Wasala Road. 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 has procured 1,475 mt of rice and 755 mt of iron-fortified rice** to support 1 million children with school meals for three months. The first consignment of rice has arrived and is planned to be served to children from 1 October.

Nutrition

- **WFP is coordinating with the Government and donors to provide raw materials** (soya beans and maize) to the Government's *Thripasha*⁴ facility. The facility is currently producing *Thripasha*, but with limited food stocks. WFP looks to complement the programme to ensure continuity of nutrition support. WFP aims to reach 1 million pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 to help meet their nutrition needs.

Assessments

- WFP is continuing to collect data for the September round of the [Market Functionality Index \(MFI\)](#). This helps to better understand and assess the changes in market conditions to inform the response. Data collection is ongoing for the September round.

⁴Thripasha 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.

Supply Chain

- **WFP has 24,835 mt of food currently in the pipeline**, with 2,152 mt of food in storage, 1,125 mt under customs clearance, 5,328 mt in transit and 16,230 mt to be delivered.
- **WFP is continuing to prepare prepositioning of food** in strategic locations as part of its roll out in-kind food assistance, which is to begin in October.

Resourcing Update

- To date, WFP has received a total of **US\$29.35 million** from the governments of Australia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, United States and Switzerland, as well as from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, private sector partners, and multilateral donors. **This represents nearly half 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.

47% FUNDED

FUNDING SHORTFALL – US\$ 34M



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](#).

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