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World Food Programme

WFP Sri Lanka Situation Report

19 December 2022

In Numbers

36 percent of households are food-insecure (October 2022)¹

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

7 million people in need²

Highlights

- **Over 1.2 million people** have received WFP assistance since the start of the emergency response in June.³
- Of which, **622,458 schoolchildren have received school meals** prepared with rice supported by WFP; **479,908 people received cash and voucher assistance**, and **135,796 people received in-kind food assistance**.

Situation Update

- **Over three in ten households (35 percent) are facing insufficient food consumption**, according to WFP's [Household Food Security Survey](#) in October 2022. Consumption of dairy has halved since June, and continues to be the lowest-consumed food group. Eight in ten households are reporting poorer access to regular food items, while nearly 50 percent of households are reporting issues in accessing markets.
- **Commodity prices continue to be volatile** according to WFP's October [Market Functionality Index](#). Meanwhile, an improvement in the availability of commodities was reported in October, following the paddy harvest season.
- According to [the Department of Census and Statistics](#), the economy shrank by 11.8 percent in the third quarter of 2022, the second worst quarterly economic contraction Sri Lanka has experienced.

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.
- As of mid-December, over 1.2 million people have received WFP assistance so far.



Unconditional Food Assistance

- **WFP is scaling up its in-kind food assistance.** Since the start of the emergency response, WFP has so far reached 135,796 people with in-kind food assistance.
- In December, WFP aims to distribute 7,398 mt of assorted food commodities to support over 300,000 people in six districts, namely Batticaloa, Jaffna, Mannar, Matale, Mullaitivu, and Trincomalee.
- A further 479,908 people with cash and voucher assistance. 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). Engagement of additional financial service providers is being considered.

1. [WFP's October Household Food Security Surveys](#)

2. [Revised Human Needs and Priorities Plan, June – December 2022](#)

3. This includes 479,908 people with cash assistance, 135,796 people with in-kind assistance and 622,458 with school feeding (potential overlapping of beneficiaries not yet determined.)

Unconditional Food Assistance (continued)

- Beneficiaries in Colombo received assistance through value vouchers in partnership with Cargills (Ceylon) PLC, a supermarket chain.
- WFP successfully piloted the use of mobile shops on trucks to support over 5,495 households in Galle District. This allows beneficiaries in remote and estate areas to access food by redeeming their value vouchers provided by WFP, where physical stores are not accessible or available.

School Meals

- **WFP provided rice as part of school meals for 622,458 schoolchildren** across 4,661 schools. This comes as part of WFP's plan to support 1 million children with school meals.

Nutrition

- **WFP aims to reach 1 million pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 to help meet their nutrition needs.** WFP is in the process of delivering raw materials (soya beans and maize) to the Government's *Thripasha*⁴ facility. WFP plans to complement the programme to ensure continuity of nutrition support.

Assessments

- WFP's October [Market Functionality Index](#) found that price volatility continues to be a concern. Traders reported high price instability for cereals such as rice, bread, and millet. Data collection and analysis for the November round is complete. The report is being finalized.
- Data collection for the November round of [WFP's Household Food Security Surveys](#) is complete. The report is being finalized.

4. 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.

Supply Chain

- **WFP has 30,696 mt of food currently in the pipeline**, with 12,076 mt already in storage facilities. Commodities are currently being dispatched and distributed as part of WFP's emergency food assistance response.

Resourcing Update

- To date, WFP has received **US\$43.7 million** from Australia, France, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United States, as well as 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 (July-December 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.*

FUNDING SHORTFALL - US\$19M