

# **Evaluation of Sri Lanka WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2022**

Terms of reference



**World Food  
Programme**

**SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES**

**June 2021**

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# 1. Background

1. These terms of reference (ToR) were prepared by the WFP Office of Evaluation based upon an initial document review and consultation with stakeholders.
2. The purpose of these terms of reference is to provide key information to stakeholders about the evaluation, to guide the evaluation team and to specify expectations during the various phases of the evaluation. The ToR are structured as follows: Section 1 provides information on the context; Section 2 presents the rationale, objectives, stakeholders and main users of the evaluation; Section 3 presents the WFP portfolio and defines the scope of the evaluation; Section 4 identifies the evaluation approach and methodology; and Section 5 indicates how the evaluation will be organized. The annexes provide additional information.

## 1.1. INTRODUCTION

3. Country strategic plan evaluations (CSPEs) encompass the entirety of WFP activities during a specific period. Their purpose is twofold: 1) to provide evaluation evidence and learning on WFP performance for country-level strategic decisions, specifically for developing the next country strategic plan (CSP); and 2) to provide accountability for results to WFP stakeholders. These evaluations are mandatory for all CSPs and are carried out in line with the WFP Policy on Country Strategic Plan and the WFP Evaluation Policy.

## 1.2. CONTEXT

### General overview

4. Sri Lanka is a lower middle-income country in South Asia with a population of 21,803,000 people and the female and male proportions accounting for 52 percent and 48 percent respectively. Population ages 15–64 years make up the highest proportion at 65 percent, followed by ages 0–14 years at 24 percent, while persons 65 years and above make up only 11 percent. Life expectancy at birth is 77 years (2018),<sup>1</sup> adolescence birth rate was 21 percent in 2015,<sup>2</sup> with a total fertility rate of 2.2.<sup>3</sup>
5. In 2019, Sri Lanka's Human Development Index (HDI) was 0.782, putting the country in the high human development category and ranking 72 out of 189 countries; its HDI is higher than the average of 0.641 for countries in South Asia. Between 1990 and 2019, Sri Lanka saw a steady increase in its HDI components as follows: life expectancy by 7.5 years and expected years of schooling by 2.8 years. Its Gross National Income (GNI) per capita also increased by about 229.4 percent during the same period.<sup>4</sup> The volume of remittances was 7.9 percent of its total GDP in 2018.<sup>5</sup> The net official development assistance received was 0.2 percent of its GNI in 2019.<sup>6</sup>
6. More recently, however, the GDP per capita fell from USD4,081 in 2018 to USD3,853 in 2019 and because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economy further contracted by 3.6 percent in 2020.<sup>7</sup> Its foreign direct investments net inflows as percentage of GDP also fell from 1.83 percent in 2018 to 0.9 percent in 2019.<sup>8</sup>
7. The gap between the average income and consumption of the richest and the poorest 10 percent of the population increased from 0.364 in 2008 to 0.398 in 2016, as represented by the income Gini.<sup>9</sup> 14 percent of its population is vulnerable to multidimensional poverty<sup>10</sup> whereas only 0.3 percent is in severe multidimensional poverty. Indeed, only 0.8 percent of its population live below USD1.90 a day.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Sri Lanka | Data (worldbank.org)

<sup>2</sup> WHO: Adolescent birth rate (per 1000 women aged 15-19 years) (who.int)

<sup>3</sup> UNFPA: <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population-dashboard>

<sup>4</sup> Sri Lanka Human Development Report (HDR) 2020: [LKA.pdf \(undp.org\)](#). Standard of living is measured by GNI per capita.

<sup>5</sup> SDG Country Profiles (unstatshub.org)

<sup>6</sup> Workbook: OECD DAC Aid at a glance by recipient\_new (tableau.com)

<sup>7</sup> Sri Lanka Overview (worldbank.org)

<sup>8</sup> Sri Lanka | Data (worldbank.org)

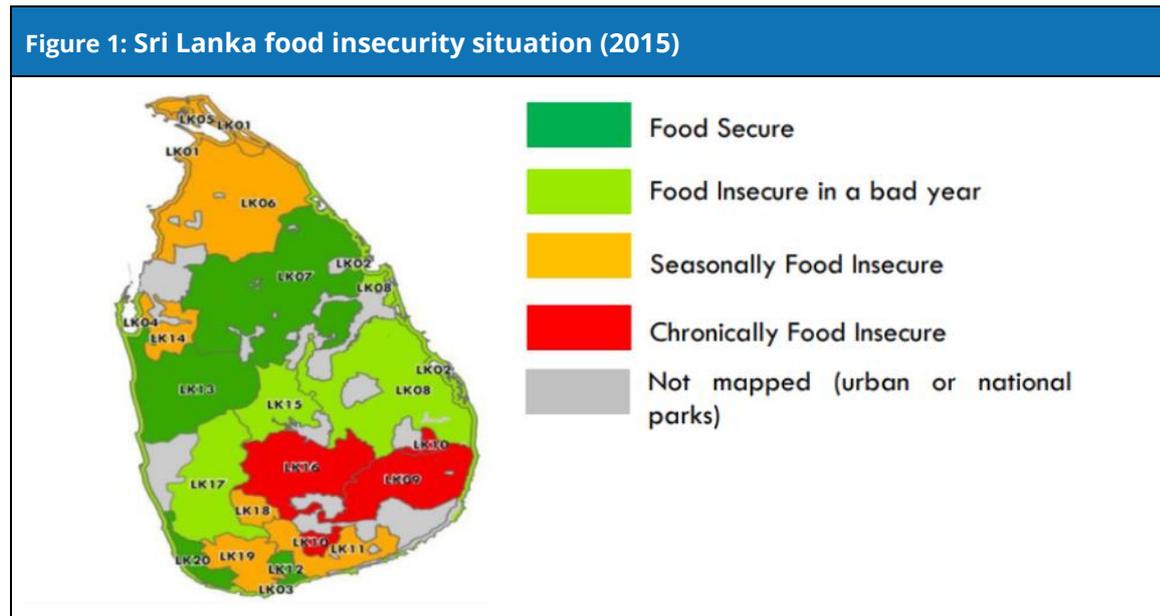
<sup>9</sup> OECD. 2019. *Society at a Glance: Asia/Pacific: 0006afd1-en.pdf (oecd-ilibrary.org)*

<sup>10</sup> According to the UNDP HDR, the multidimensional poverty index identifies multiple deprivations suffered by individuals along 3 dimensions: health, education, and standard of living.

<sup>11</sup> UNDP. 2020. *Human Development Report*

## Food and nutrition security

8. Poverty is the main cause of food insecurity in Sri Lanka with most of the poor having low resilience to climatic shocks.<sup>12</sup> As seen in figure 1 below, households in the tea estates, southeastern rain-fed paddy farming and sugarcane zones are chronically food insecure. According to WFP/FAO, 4.7 million people were estimated to be undernourished in 2017;<sup>13</sup> in the same year, poor food consumption score was highest in drought affected households. Extreme weather events affect the poorest and already food insecure households. Climate shocks were the forecast drivers for food insecurity in 2019.<sup>14</sup>
9. In 2020, Sri Lanka had a moderate level of hunger with a global hunger index of 16.3, ranking it 64 out of 107 countries. It has made significant progress in reducing hunger in the last ten years largely due to improved economic conditions.<sup>15</sup> In 2019, Sri Lanka ranked 47 out of 113 countries in the Global Food Security Index.<sup>16</sup>



Source: Sri Lanka Food Security Atlas 2015 (WFP)

10. Micronutrient deficiencies, yield stagnation, rising food prices, income inequalities, poor road and marketing infrastructure, climate change, and gender inequalities are affecting progress in achieving food security and nutrition.<sup>17</sup>
11. Both undernutrition and obesity are principal issues related to nutrition, with wasting being a health issue in most districts.<sup>18</sup> Between 2003 and 2018, 15 percent of children under 5 years were suffering from wasting, 17 percent were stunted, while 15 percent were overweight.<sup>19,20</sup>

<sup>12</sup> 2017. FAO, WFP. Crop and Food Security Assessment

<sup>13</sup> 2017 Sri Lanka Rapid Post Disaster Needs Assessment

<sup>14</sup> 2019 Global Report on Food Crises

<sup>15</sup> 2020. FAO. State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World

<sup>16</sup> [Global Food Security Index \(GFSI\) \(eiu.com\)](https://www.eiu.com)

<sup>17</sup> National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition

<sup>18</sup> 2019. WFP. Fill the Nutrient Gap

<sup>19</sup> 2019. UNICEF. State of the World Children's Report

<sup>20</sup> [Global Nutrition Report | Country Nutrition Profiles - Global Nutrition Report](#)

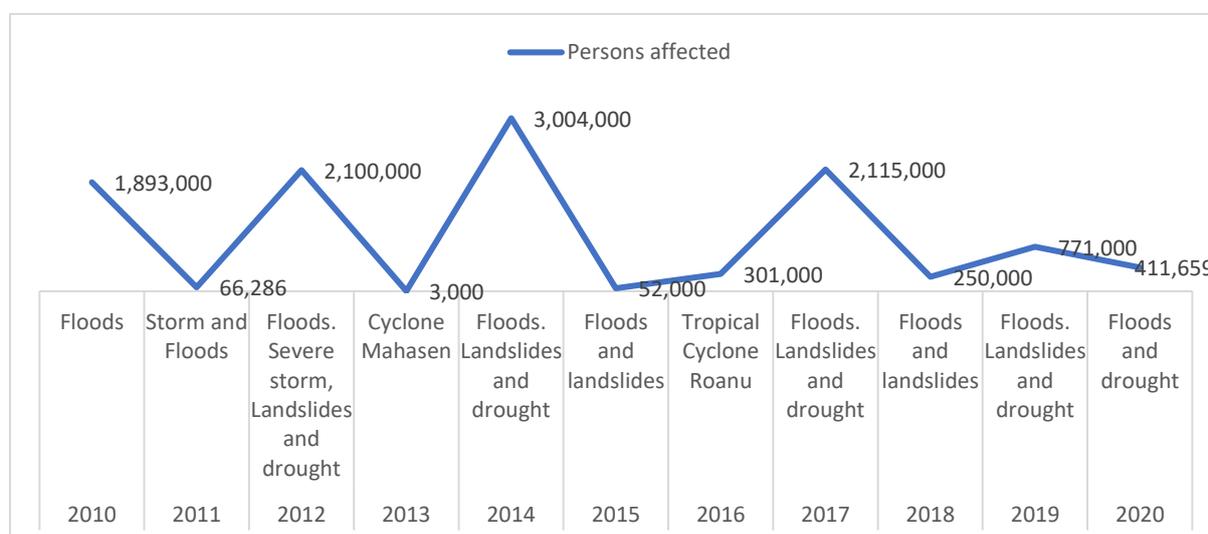
## Agriculture

12. Sri Lanka is a tropical country with four agro-climatic regions: wet zone, dry zone, intermediate zone and arid zone. Agriculture is one of the most important sectors in the Sri Lankan economy. 60 percent of the land is used for agriculture with paddy the main crop. Food availability is mainly determined by local food production which accounts for 80 percent of its food requirements;<sup>21</sup> the country is self-sufficient in its staple food rice and other main food sources but imports 20 percent of its food needs with wheat being the biggest item (in terms of value).<sup>22</sup> The issues concerning the agricultural sector are mainly related to productivity, quality of food production, post-harvest losses, environmental degradation, and frequency and severity of hazards.<sup>23</sup>
13. Agriculture accounted for 7.41 percent of Sri Lanka's GDP in 2019,<sup>24</sup> the major export crops (tea, rubber, coconut and spices) represented the largest contribution (35 percent) to the agricultural GDP followed by paddy (29 percent).<sup>25</sup> The sector employs around 28 percent of the labour force, and small-scale farmers produce most of the country's agricultural output; it employs more than 1 million farmers directly or indirectly; most farmers operate on a small scale and some common problems relate to marketing their products, non-availability of inputs and in accessing credit.<sup>26</sup> Changing weather patterns have emerged as the main risk for the entire agriculture sector.<sup>27</sup>

## Climate change and vulnerability

14. In the last decade, Sri Lanka has been hard-hit by floods, drought, cyclones, and landslides affecting millions of people, as seen in figure 2. The Global Climate Risk Index 2021 ranked Sri Lanka the 30th most affected by extreme weather events among 180 countries. The country was ranked no. 2 in 2017 when exceptionally heavy rain caused dramatic flooding that killed 200 people and left hundred thousands of people homeless.<sup>28</sup> The most frequent natural hazards are droughts, floods, landslides, cyclones, and coastal erosion. During the last two decades, the severity of landslides has increased through a combination of heavy rains, geological changes and deforestation.<sup>29</sup>

**Figure 2: Timeline of natural disasters in Sri Lanka: 2010 - 2020**



Source: [Disasters | ReliefWeb](#)

15. In view of the issue of natural hazards, the Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) was established by the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment in 2008 as a national platform to address climate

<sup>21</sup> National Food Production Programme 2016 – 2018: Presidential Task Force on National Food Production

<sup>22</sup> National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition

<sup>23</sup> National Food Production Programme 2016 – 2018: Presidential Task Force on National Food Production

<sup>24</sup> [Sri Lanka | Data \(worldbank.org\)](#)

<sup>25</sup> 2019. Sustainable Sri Lanka Vision 2030

<sup>26</sup> [Sri Lanka \(ifad.org\)](#)

<sup>27</sup> 2019. Sustainable Sri Lanka Vision 2030

<sup>28</sup> Germanwatch. 2020. [Global Climate Risk Index 2021](#)

<sup>29</sup> World Bank. Climate Knowledge Portal (accessed on 15 April 2021).

change issues in Sri Lanka. The CCS holds consultation forums and develops policies, actions, and research studies and also promotes private sector participation in clean development mechanism projects and ensures that the policies are consistent with national development priorities and objectives. Sri Lanka ratified the Paris Agreement on September 21, 2016.<sup>30</sup> Sri Lanka as a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change submitted its Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce the emissions by focusing on 14 sectors during the target period of 2021-2030.

## Education

16. Sri Lanka's literacy rate for adults (15 years and older) is a high 91.7 percent. This is due to a high degree of participation in partaking of educational opportunities. Both primary and secondary gross enrolment ratio are at 100 percent. 80 percent of the adult population had at least secondary education between 2015-2019, with a slightly lower percentage for females (79.2 percent) than for males (81 percent).<sup>31</sup>
17. Government's expenditure on education amounted to some two percent of the GDP; as a share of total expenditure in public institutions, this was 74.7 percent in 2018.<sup>32</sup> Sri Lanka's preschool sector is however largely unregulated. Many children do not receive the quality preschool education they need to enter primary schools. Further, in certain pockets of poverty, particularly in the tea-estate areas and in former conflict-affected areas of the North and East, levels of learning remain low.<sup>33</sup>

## Gender

18. Sri Lanka was ranked 72nd out of 162 countries in 2019 on the Gender Development Index (GDI) with a ratio of 0.955; with a slight steady increase in the rating from 2016 onwards. In terms of gender inequality, the country was ranked 90th in 2019.<sup>34</sup> This also reflects lower labour force participation rates for women as compared to men - 35.4 percent against 74.6 percent respectively. Some 73 percent of women own an account at a financial institution or with mobile money-service providers.<sup>35</sup>
19. Supply-side factors undermining women in labour markets include more restrictions on women's mobility than men's—lack of social support for women commuting to work— and preventing women from accessing safe and comfortable transportation to work, and parents' greater encouragement of sons' rather than daughters' pursuit of careers.<sup>36</sup>
20. Women in Sri Lanka are more than twice as likely to have experienced physical violence by a partner in their lifetime (17.4 percent) than by anybody else (7.2 percent). Sexual violence by a partner is also more prevalent than sexual violence by a non-partner (6.2 percent compared to 4.1 percent in her lifetime). Impacts on mental health are high with emotional distress reported at much higher rates by women who experienced violence compared with women who did not. The impact of gender-based violence (GBV) is felt by their children; women with school age children who had experienced partner violence were more likely to report their child(ren) had nightmares (21.2 percent) than women who had no physical or sexual partner violence (11.8 percent).<sup>37</sup>
21. The government has taken several steps to address GBV. For instance, in 2016, the government drafted a Policy Framework and National Plan of Action to address Sexual and Gender-based Violence Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV).<sup>38</sup> Further, the draft National Policy on Women outlines recommendations in several key areas to advance equal rights and opportunities for women.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> UNICEF. [The State of the World's Children 2019](#)

<sup>32</sup> World Bank. <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators> (accessed on 15 April 2021)

<sup>33</sup> [Education | UNICEF Sri Lanka](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Statistical Update 2018 | Human Development Reports \(undp.org\)](#)

<sup>35</sup> UNDP. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/LKA> (accessed on 15 April 2021)

<sup>36</sup> World Bank. Getting to Work: Unlocking Women's Potential in Sri Lanka's Labor Force. Directions in Development, 2020

<sup>37</sup> [Women's Wellbeing Survey - 2019 \(statistics.gov.lk\)](#)

<sup>38</sup> Government of Sri Lanka. 2016. The Policy Framework and National Plan of Action (NPoA) to address Sexual and Gender-based Violence 2016-2020, Sri Lanka Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, June 2016

<sup>39</sup> Government of Sri Lanka. 2019. Draft National Policy on Women, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and Dry Zone Development.

## Migration, refugees and internally displaced people

22. As of 31 December 2020, there were 1,400 internally displaced people (IDP) and 19,000 occurrences<sup>40</sup> of displacements (in the year 2020) due to natural disasters.<sup>41</sup> Migration is particularly important coping strategy in response to environmental change and low employment, among others. Sri Lanka is both a labour-sending country (with over 2 million of its citizens working abroad), and a labour-receiving one – with a growing number of migrant workers from countries such as India and China arriving to work on large-scale infrastructure projects. Such development is projected to further increase population mobility into and within the island. The end of a protracted civil conflict led to a return of Sri Lankan refugees from India and other countries, and of IDPs to their places of origin. Sri Lanka is one of the few countries to have a dedicated migration health policy framework inclusive of all migrant typologies.<sup>42</sup>

## Humanitarian protection

23. The security situation in Sri Lanka improved following the end of the civil conflict in May 2009. The elections of 2015 led to the first political transition since the end of the civil conflict and empowered Sinhala and Tamil moderates with popular mandates for peacebuilding and governance reform. The creation of the Ministry of Human Rights provides a mechanism for follow up and implementation of Sri Lanka's international human rights commitments. Sri Lanka was among the first countries to complete a National Plan of Action to fulfil its commitments made for children.<sup>43</sup>

24. The National Policy on Durable Solutions for Conflict-affected Displacement acknowledges the adverse impact of the civil conflict on all communities in Sri Lanka and affirms the need to respond to all IDPs and displacement-affected populations in a non-discriminatory, fair, just and equitable manner. The policy provides a rights-based set of principles and standards to guide all stakeholders working with IDPs, in accordance with Sri Lankan law and policy and international law and humanitarian standards, including the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.<sup>44</sup>

## COVID-19 pandemic

25. COVID-19 mitigation measures from March and July 2020 reduced the income of many households due to lower remittances, exports and tourism earnings. Sri Lanka's unemployment rate was expected to rise to 6 percent in 2020. The Government recognised the vulnerability of Sri Lankan households to the economic fallout by committing USD 270 million or 0.33 percent of GDP in monthly transfers to beneficiaries in April and May 2020. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka supported affected firms with suspensions of loan payments and a concessional refinancing programme. The Government also committed 0.1 percent of GDP for quarantine and containment measures; USD 5 million to the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund; a Petroleum Stabilization Fund (PSF) built utilizing the lower international prices of oil; and a presidential contributory fund of USD 7.4 million.<sup>45</sup> The UN Resident Coordinator together with a core group of UN agencies, developed an Advisory Note on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 that supported revamping the implementation architecture of the UNSDF in light of COVID-19 and the subsequent Socio-economic Response Plan.<sup>46</sup>

## National policies and the SDGs

26. Sri Lanka has developed over the years several national policies and development plans to guide its

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