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Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# Nutrition in Adversity

Some Lessons from Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis

# Sri Lanka's Economic Crisis

## 2021

- April 2021: Ban on chemical fertilizers leads to sharp declines in agricultural production.
- Rice yields drop by 50%, increasing food prices.
- Tea exports fall, reducing foreign exchange earnings.
- October 2021: Widespread shortages of fuel and essential goods emerge.

## 2022

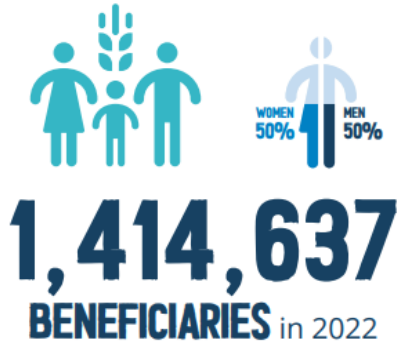
- March 2022: Protests erupt nationwide against rising inflation, power cuts, and fuel shortages.
- April 2022:
  - Depletion of foreign forcing the government to default on debt payments.
  - Basic services, including healthcare, struggle due to lack of imported medical supplies.
  - Halted Thripasha Production
- May 2022:
  - 6.3 million people facing food insecurity.
- Sep 2022:
  - Inflation → 69.8%
  - Food inflation → 94.9%

## 2023

- March 2023: IMF approves loan, tied to tax hikes and subsidy cuts. These reforms exacerbate hardship for the vulnerable population. 23% of the population remained below the poverty line → 9% in 2019.

# WFP's Impact Snapshot - 2022

## IN NUMBERS



**6,323** MT OF FOOD  
distributed



**72,753** estimated number of  
assisted people with disabilities

Rice for the school meals programme:  
**1,053,041** SCHOOLCHILDREN reached



Cash and food assistance to mitigate the effects of the  
economic crisis: **354,373** INDIVIDUALS



Technical assistance and training to strengthen  
national capacities in food and nutrition:  
**3,644** INDIVIDUALS



**101,600** PEOPLE received cash assistance to mitigate the  
impact of the economic crisis



**USD 5.45** MILLION cash and value vouchers distributed to  
crisis-affected people



**4,814** MT of FOOD distributed to crisis-affected people in  
seven districts



**7,912** SCHOOLS supported with approximately 1,500 mt of  
rice for the school meals programme

# WFP's Impact Snapshot - 2023



**2,871,789**

people were assisted in 2023 across all of WFP's activities through its four strategic outcomes.

**57%**  
WOMEN



**43%**  
MEN



**US\$ 12 MILLION**

worth of cash and commodity vouchers transferred to people



**450**

workshops, training sessions and meetings were organized to strengthen national capacities



**12,817 MT**

of rice, maize and soya were distributed to ensure the continuation of the school meals and *Thripasha*\* programmes.



**2.8 million**

people were assisted with cash, vouchers, food, school meals and nutrition support.



**USD 11.7 million**

worth of cash and vouchers were distributed to people affected by the economic crisis.



**5,586 children**

experiencing moderate acute malnutrition received nutritious food baskets in Nuwara Eliya and Anuradhapura.



**15,107 MT**

of food (rice, lentils and oil) was provided to crisis-struck people.

*\*Thripasha is a highly nutritious supplementary blended food distributed free of charge to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and undernourished children*

# This presentation explores:

- 1 How **NEEDS ASSESSMENTS** informed WFP's interventions.
- 2 The role of **PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION - Resilience Programming and Nutrition-sensitive And Specific Programming.**
- 3 Collaborative approaches through **MULTISECTORAL INTEGRATION.**
- 4 The importance of **MONITORING AND EVALUATION** for adaptive responses.





# NEEDS ASSESSMENTS



## WFP's INTERVENTIONS

### CFSAM:

A rapid, inter-agency assessment of crop and food security.

### Remote Surveys:

Provided real-time data on household food security.

### Market Functionality Index Reports:

Assessed market dynamics during the crisis.

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## LESSONS LEARNED

### Informed Responses:

Enabled precise targeting of interventions for vulnerable groups.

### Localized Assessments:

Provided a comprehensive assessment of agricultural production and household food security was crucial.

### Collaborative Value:

Multi-agency efforts improved recognition, resource optimization, and reduced duplication.



# PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Social protection programming  
and resilience building



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## WFP's INTERVENTIONS

### Shock-Responsive social protection Assistance:

Scaled up existing social protection programs through top-ups (vertical expansion).

### Early Recovery Livelihood Support:

Distributing agricultural inputs.

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## LESSONS LEARNED

### Utilizing Existing Networks:

Used existing social protection systems and programmes to channel emergency funds rapidly and efficiently (Samurdhi).

Linked voucher programmes to local micro-retailers to empower local livelihoods.

### Supporting Livelihoods:

Supported farmers to sustained farming communities, and prevent negative coping mechanisms .

### Scaling Responsiveness:

Prompt and targeted action supported by evidence generated from rapid assessments.

Government partnerships ensured widespread impact and locally relevant programming.



# PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

NUTRITION SENSITIVE AND  
SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES



## WFP's INTERVENTIONS

### Take Home Rations and Food in Kind through the National School Meal Programme (NSMP):

Supported towards improving nutrition among children.

### Providing Fortified Rice and lentils:

Ensured the availability of essential micronutrients in staple diets.

### Supporting Thriposha Programme:

Adapted to supply challenges by outsourcing essential inputs (soy, maize).  
Leveraged to distribute nutrition products despite supply disruptions.

## LESSONS LEARNED

### Adapting/building on to Existing Government Initiatives:

The NSMP: to provide fortified rice to school children

Thriposha Programme: effectively target households with PBW, and children under 5.





# PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

NUTRITION SENSITIVE AND  
SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES

Cont.



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## WFP's INTERVENTIONS

### Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) interventions:

Promoted better nutrition practices in communities.

### Home Grown School Feeding:

Promoted enhanced and resilient local economy to produce agriculture products and poultry farming to support the NSMP.

## LESSONS LEARNED

### Complementary Interventions:

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Integrating SBC into nutrition interventions supports resilient nutrition habits.

### Empowering local production of Nutritious food items:

Ensured the availability of locally sourced nutritious food.

Sustained local livelihoods.

Supported the prompt resumption of the NSMP within the areas.



# MULTISECTORAL INTEGRATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



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## WFP's INTERVENTIONS

### Livelihood Programmes

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## LESSONS LEARNED

### Food Cluster Coordination:

Acted as a central platform for resource sharing, prioritization, and gap identification.

### Social Protection and Disaster Management Integration:

Economic crises revealed a need for clear cross-sector collaboration mechanisms.

### Defined Roles in Economic Crises:

Disaster management systems need to adapt for non-natural emergencies.



# MONITORING AND EVALUATION



## WFP's INTERVENTIONS

### Cost of Diet Analysis:

Guided adjustments to Cash Based Transfer (CBT) values.

### Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM):

Feedback on the effectiveness and reach of assistance.

### Market Monitoring:

Tracked price fluctuations and supply chain issues.

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## LESSONS LEARNED

### Evidence-Based Decision Making:

M&E ensured program relevance and efficiency.

### Real-Time Feedback:

Enabled adjustments to meet evolving needs.

### Nutrition Indicators in Assessments:

Holistic understanding of gaps to support policy advocacy.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

## EVIDENCE DRIVEN DECISIONS

Ensure that actions are informed, and well-targeted to maximize impact and resource efficiency.

## LEVERAGE EXISTING PLATFORMS

Build on ongoing programs for faster, more efficient, and inclusive response.

## COLLABORATE

Stronger intersectoral coordination avoids duplication and enhances the reach and impact.

## MONITOR, ADAPT, AND IMPROVE

Real-time data collection and feedback loops ensure program relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and impact.

