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Sri Lanka

Economic Crisis 2023

Situation Report No. 1



Reporting Period: 1 January to 30 June 2023

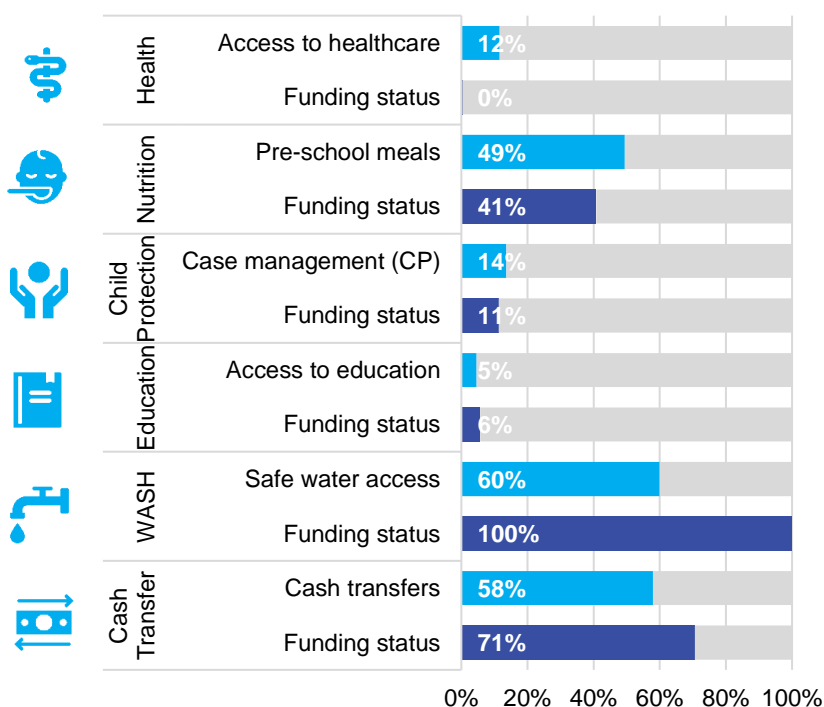
Highlights

- After a year of economic hardship in Sri Lanka, 2023 showed some stabilization of the economy with the IMF debt restructuring agreement on 20 March 2023. However, many vulnerable families continue to face food insecurity and nutrition challenges loss of livelihoods, and rising protection concerns as they continue to depend on negative coping mechanisms.
- As of May 2023, 3.9 million people were moderately food insecure with over 10,000 households facing severe food insecurity¹. Over 2.9 million children need humanitarian assistance to access lifesaving nutrition, health, education, water & sanitation, protection, and social protection services.
- UNICEF reached over 647,900 people, including 360,941 children with humanitarian assistance in the first half of 2023.
- Through UNICEF interventions, over 143,000 women and children have access to primary health care facilities, 120,000 people have access to safe drinking water, 30,733 children in rural and estate areas participated in on learning recovery programmes, and 53280 children received educational materials. UNICEF’s humanitarian cash transfers reached 70,571 households ensuring nutrition food access to mothers with young children in the most vulnerable districts.

Situation in Numbers

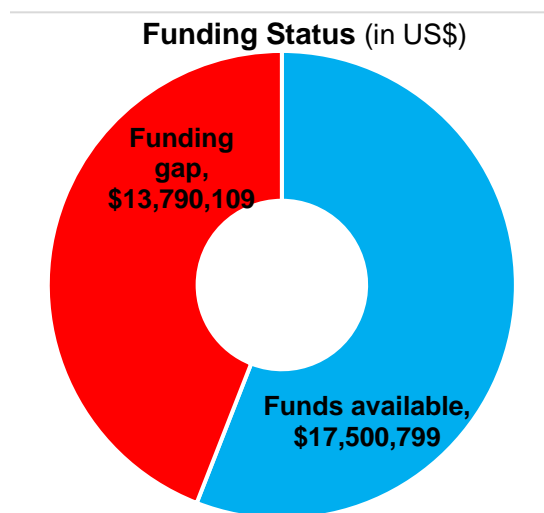
- 2.9 million** children in need of humanitarian assistance
- 6.2 million** people in need (HNP, November 2022)
- 2.8 million** Children and women in need of nutrition services
- 1.1 million** Children in need of education support

UNICEF’s Response and Funding Status



UNICEF Appeal 2023

US\$ 28 million



*Funds available includes funds received in the current year and funds carried forward

¹ [Special Report: FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission \(CFSAM\) to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka](#) (25 May 2023)

Funding Overview and Partnerships

In June 2022, UNICEF appealed for USD 28.3 million to provide timely life-saving services for women and children affected by the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. And in December 2022, a second Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) was launched by UNICEF to cover the requirements for 2023. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to public and private donors for the US\$ 2.9 million received in 2023, including from the Government of France, Japan, and the Global Humanitarian Thematic Funds, and US\$14.5 million funding raised in 2022, which are being utilized for humanitarian responses from January 2023. However, a 13.3 million (49 per cent) funding gap remains for the remainder of the year.

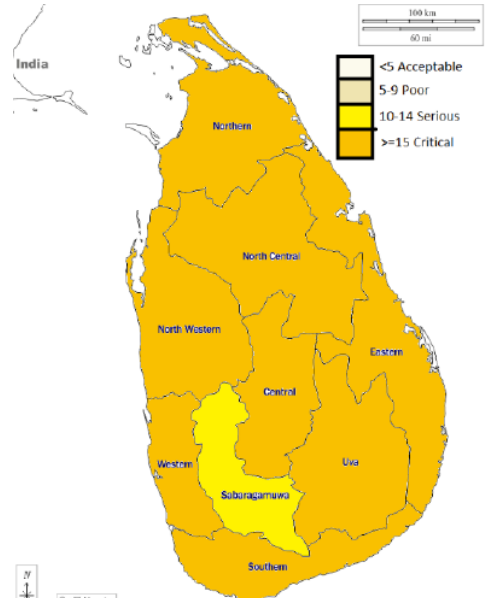
Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

During 2022, Sri Lanka's economy contracted by 7.8 per cent¹ resulting in many employment and livelihood losses. Simultaneously, the country was suffering from a political crisis with unstable governance and widespread civil unrest. Combined with the rapidly increasing inflation and cost of living, the economic and political crises contribute to double the national poverty (25 per cent) and triple urban poverty (15 per cent)². After Sri Lanka secured adequate debt relief assurances from the official creditors on 20 March 2023, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board approved US\$ 3 billion for 48 months under the Extended Fund Facility programme. With the IMF bailout, the country is currently seeing economic stability. However, Sri Lanka's economy is forecasted to further contract in 2023 (4.3 percent according to World Bank and 3.1 percent according to IMF estimates) before it begins a slow and long recovery process.³

The FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to Sri Lanka in May 2023 reports that 3.9 million people are moderately acutely food insecure while over 10,000 households are severely acutely food insecure.⁴ Estate sector communities are found to be suffering from the highest level of acute food insecurity followed by households highly dependent on social protection schemes such as Samurdhi or disability benefits.⁵ Despite the apparent economic stability and improved food security in the country, a significantly high percentage of households (62 per cent) are adopting livelihood-based coping strategies (i.e. withdrawing savings, borrowing money, purchasing food on credit) to access food compared to 48 percent in May 2022. The report highlights that 26 percent of households are employing emergency or crisis-level livelihood coping strategies, which include "selling productive assets (e.g., farming equipment), reducing essential health/education expenses, withdrawing children completely from school, and selling land".⁶

With the strengthening of El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), Sri Lanka is experiencing delayed Southwest monsoon and less rainfall affecting 139,149 people in 7 districts with drought and water scarcity. The National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC) under the Ministry of Disaster Management had begun distributing water through bowsers to 57,718 people (21,122 families) in the severely affected districts. Drought conditions may negatively affect the upcoming "Yala" agriculture season⁷ and already 45,000 acres of paddy fields in the Hambantota district are at high risk of being destroyed due to severe drought⁸. With the worsening drought conditions affecting the yala harvest, rice wholesale and retail prices are expected to increase, exacerbating the existing food insecurities in the country. In addition, many forest fires had been reported across the country due to the prevailing dry weather conditions, including in the water catchment-protected areas.

Sri Lanka: Prevalence of wasting in children 6-59 months in Sri Lanka



Source: 2022 National Nutrition and Micronutrient Survey

¹ Sri Lanka Development Update 2023, 4 April 2023, World Bank, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/srilanka/publication/sri-lanka-development-update-2023>

² ibid.

³ Economist Intelligence (EIU) <http://country.eiu.com/Sri%20Lanka> and [Sri Lanka's Journey to Recovery Has Just Started, ADB](#)

⁴ FAO. 2023. Special Report – FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. CFSAMs Special Reports. 25 May 2023. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6202en>

⁵ ibid. p.1

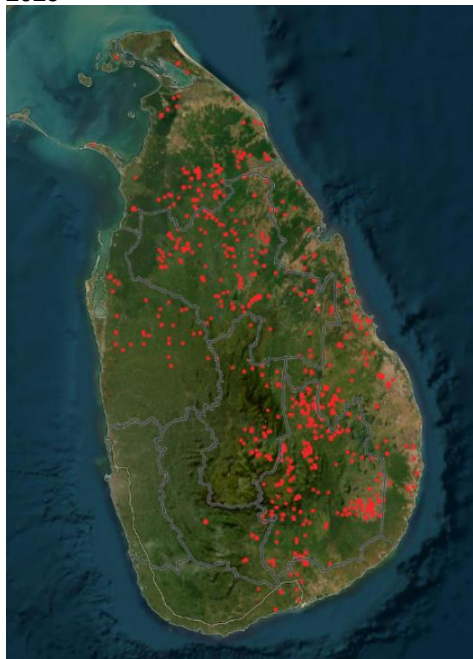
⁶ ibid. p.53

⁷ Rice is the staple food in Sri Lanka and is cultivated twice year with rainwater during Northeast monsoon (Maha season) and using irrigated water during May to end of August (Yala season).

⁸ Yala paddy harvest could be affected by drought, 18 July 2023, Daily News, Retrieved from:

<https://www.dailynews.lk/2023/07/18/local/34911/yala-paddy-harvest-could-be-affected-by-drought/>

Sri Lanka: Forest fires from 17 – 24 July 2023



Source: NASA [Fire Information for Resource Management System](#), 24 July 2023

The National Nutrition and Micronutrient Survey 2022 indicates the increasing prevalence of wasting among children 6-59 months of age at 19.8 per cent compared to 2021 when the prevalence was 13.2 per cent⁹. The prevalence of severe wasting has also increased from 1.7 per cent¹⁰ to 2.5 per cent¹¹. Similar worsening of indicators was noted for all undernutrition indicators and across various age groups. For instance, the prevalence of stunting in children 6-59 months has also increased from 12.7 per cent to 13.7 per cent. Similarly, in children 5-9 years, the prevalence of thinness increased from 20.9 per cent to 25.8 per cent. A high prevalence of Vitamin D deficiency and emerging micronutrient deficiencies, particularly among children between 5-9 and 10-17 years of age, such as vitamin B12 and Zinc were the other nutritional concerns that the country is currently facing. Similarly, the National Nutrition Month data for October 2022 showed wasting levels in children under-five years to be 10.1 per cent, up from 8.2 per cent in 2021¹². In April 2023, the percentage of children under five years who were underweight was 15.8 per cent, compared to 13.1 per cent in April 2022¹³.

A year into the crisis from May 2022, more families resort to negative coping mechanisms to prioritize food consumption over expenses for education, health, and protection. Parents are facing challenges in prioritizing income at the household level for education. As a result,

partner reports indicate irregular school attendance which could lead to school-drop out eventually, is increasing among students, along with increasing mental health issues related to education among children. The education sector is progressively moving towards long-term guidance rather than focusing only on immediate humanitarian response, in line with the humanitarian-development nexus, focusing on remedial programmes and learning recovery to address the long-term learning crisis in line with the ongoing Education Reforms. A recent study by the Ministry of Education (MoE) revealed that in 2021/2022 only 14 per cent and 15 per cent of Grade 3 students achieved minimum essential learning competency in literacy and numeracy respectively, and the pre-existent disparities in learning outcomes are widening due to the adverse impact of the last 3-years of serious disruptions of children's learning. The data shows that all the positive gains in education achieved pre-COVID-19 time, including access, and learning outcomes, are now being reversed. MoE with UNICEF's support is taking action to address this learning crisis particularly focusing on foundational learning at primary and preschool levels as a top priority and calling on extended support from the UN and other partners. However, funding for the education sector had been minimal in both 2022 and 2023, limiting the humanitarian capacity to support the needs.

In addition, anecdotal reports indicate an increasing trend in domestic violence, mental health issues bordering suicides, child abuse, and child labour. However, given the weak capacity of the routine data collection systems, such anecdotal evidence could not be verified. The government probation and childcare services still report an increase in requests to admit children to institutional care. The protection sector focuses on addressing these systemic issues and strengthening the government capacity to provide child protection services both in humanitarian and development phases.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

The UNICEF Sri Lanka HAC was launched on 5 December 2022 and the programme response interventions detailed below reflect results achieved by the end of June 2023.

⁹ National Nutrition and Micronutrient Survey Sri Lanka 2022; Department of Nutrition, Medical Research Institute, Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WFP and UNICEF, retrieved from: <http://www.mri.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/National-Nutrition-and-Micronutrient-Survey-Sri-Lanka-2022.pdf>

¹⁰ Nutrition Status and Gaps in the Diet of Sri Lankans during the Pre-economic crisis period (from September to December 2021); Department of Nutrition, Medical Research Institute, Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF, 2022

¹¹ National Nutrition and Micronutrient Survey Sri Lanka 2022; Department of Nutrition, Medical Research Institute, Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WFP and UNICEF

¹² National Nutrition Month October 2022 <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dbNHZkNd4zJmP1etkIGhRuGGmRCvoCzx/view?pli=1>

¹³ FHB Dashboard https://fhb.health.gov.lk/stat_dashboard_fhb.html

Health

UNICEF supported the immunization clinics by ensuring facilities for infection prevention and control are in place in 164 Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Clinics in Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Kandy, and Matale Regional Director of Health Services areas. MCH clinics provide prenatal, antenatal, and postnatal care services for women and also provide child health services such as growth monitoring, promotion, management, and immunization for all children under 5 years of age. The improvement of facilities in the above centres enabled ensuring access to primary health care for 143,000 children and women over the past 6 months.

Nutrition

UNICEF supported the procurement of RUTF BP 100 for the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in under 5 children throughout Sri Lanka. All the children diagnosed with SAM are referred for treatment at a specialized centre in a hospital for management (Paediatric or Nutrition clinic). As most of the children detected with SAM are not reaching the referred hospital to get the treatment, UNICEF, through locally recruited Civil Society Organizations, supported parents to transport their affected children to the referral centres and outreach clinics for further management. In the first half of 2023, UNICEF supported 9,212 children affected by SAM to enrol for management in 20 districts in the country. Further, all children at 6, 12, and 18 months were provided with Multiple Micronutrients (MMN) for 2 months to improve the micronutrient status. Through UNICEF support, MMN was provided to 287,000 children 6-24 months across all the districts in Sri Lanka. Caregivers of children received awareness on how MMN can be given to children 6-24 months with complimentary food provided to the child.

With UNICEF's support, Early Childhood Development (ECD) authorities in Uva, Central, and Sabaragamuwa provinces have provided school meal programmes to 18,035 preschool children in 652 preschools during the reporting period. These preschools are located in the tea estates and most of them cater for the disadvantaged children of the families living in the estates who are not employed by the estates. A preschool-enrolled child's mother was selected as the meal provider for that preschool. After selecting the meal provider, the Public Health Inspector (PHI) of the area visited the house and has given recommendations for maintaining hygiene throughout the process. The same PHI is visiting the location from time to time to ensure the hygiene conditions are being maintained. ECD authorities conducted orientation programs for the teachers of all selected preschools to create awareness of the required hygiene conditions and process of the payments. The preschool meal menu which had been developed by the Children's Secretariat was customized with the consultation of the provincial health authorities and adopted for this preschool meal program. The programme has observed a remarkable increase and sustaining in regular preschool attendance, visible improvement of their physical and psychosocial conditions, along with increased nutrition and education awareness among preschool teachers, parents, and school communities.

In Eastern Province, a UNICEF-supported preschool meal program has benefited 30,121 children, with 15,722 in the Ampara district, 6,749 in the Batticaloa district, and 7,650 in the Trincomalee district. The program is overseen by the respective District Secretaries, and meals are primarily supplied by parents chosen through a preschool-level meeting. Reimbursements follow government procedures via divisional secretariats but occur monthly due to administrative complexities. Local health authorities monitor health and nutrition aspects, while ECD officers and government authorities engage in regular supervision during field trips. Despite challenges in meal monitoring and timely payments, preschool attendance and parental participation have seen positive increases. The authorities continue to encourage preschool and home gardening in participating preschools.

Additionally, mid-day meals were provided to 37 preschools and 4-day care centres in Colombo managed by the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) up to the 30th of April 2023. In addition, dry ration packs were provided for the same children to maintain proper nutrition during the government school holiday in the month of May. Around 1,290 urban-poor preschool aged children, including 20 children with disabilities, benefited from these activities. Acknowledging the positive, multi-faced effects of the programme on children's school attendance and development, CMC has allocated government funding to continue the meal program from June 2023. Plans were made to include this activity into their annual plans, from 2024. To ensure the sustainability of these activities, with UNICEF's support, all the public health staff attached to CMC was trained on the importance of balance nutrition during the preschool age. UNICEF also introduced drama as one of the highly effective modalities that the Public Health staff attached to the CMC can use for public awareness programs on nutrition.

Child Protection

UNICEF continuously helps to establish, coordinate and manage the protection sector response among key stakeholders, including monitoring the impact on child protection and gender-based violence. UNICEF undertook an assessment of the routine data collection system for child protection, which would provide baselines on key indicators and support the government to regularly collect and disaggregate data on child protection. The final report will be ready by August 2023. UNICEF continued to strengthen the online case management system, which was introduced in response to COVID-19, through the development and roll-out of Standard Operating Procedures and training of Child Protection Officers on how to use the online system. 682 children (317 boys and 365 girls, including 9 children with disabilities) received from governmental and non-governmental organizations emergency case management and family-strengthening support to reduce protection risks.

To address the growing concerns around children's mental health, UNICEF continued to facilitate Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, including through the training of 96 government officers and front-line workers. In the Northern, Eastern, Uva, and Central Provinces, UNICEF helped establish mental health coordination networks to strengthen divisional-level psychosocial capacities benefitting 1,652 children (713 boys and 939 girls) and 612 parents/primary caregivers, with another 107 children receiving individual psychosocial support. In providing MHPSS through the school system, during the first half of 2023, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Education (MoE) focused on designing zonal-level MHPSS trainings. A technical team was formed to oversee the process and a guidance note and the roll-out strategy along with the timeline were developed and finalized by June 2023. Further, officials responsible for conducting the training and reporting were identified for every zone. Having completed this comprehensive designing phase, as a next step, the MoE would transfer funds to the nine Provincial departments of Education (PDEs) for conducting training to Counselling Directors, In-service Advisors (ISAs), and teachers in the zones under the overall guidance of MoE. The zonal-level training is expected to be completed by November 2023.

UNICEF also supported different community outreach modalities to provide psychosocial support. In the East, 'Listening Places' are continuing in targeted locations to identify children who need support and provide psychological first aid, as well as promote play and recreational activities. While, in the North, the child befriender network continued providing 287 children with psychosocial support and referred 36 for specialized services. UNICEF also supported the training of 70 Probation Officers and Child Rights Promotion Officers (CRPOs) in Uva and Central provinces as trainers and mentors to provide peer support and psychological first aid. These officers conducted field-level training for 112 youth leaders (prefects in schools and leaders of children's clubs) on peer support mechanisms, including psychological first aid for at-risk peers. UNICEF also helped establish 12 Village Child Development Committees and 8 Children's Clubs to identify and address mental health and psychosocial issues faced by children.

The COVID-19 crisis and ongoing economic crisis highlighted the need for strong business continuity plans to be in place to ensure that vulnerable children continue to get the protection support they need even in times of crisis. In this regard, UNICEF is continuing to support the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) and the Department of Probation and Child Care Services to roll out their business continuity planning in response to a crisis and any ensuing country lockdown or restriction of movement. The plan included uninterrupted child helpline services during an emergency, for which six interns were recruited to support the 1929 child helpline¹⁴, and relevant infrastructure was put in place, reaching around 386 children with referral support and follow-up services.

Education



Learning continuity programme

The learning continuity program has been implemented in 271 schools in Uva and Central provinces to help 24,569 (12,530 girls and 12,039 boys) students from grades 1 to 4 in type 3 schools of rural and estate areas to catch up on their lost learning. The program is being implemented two days per week after school hours, one hour for grades 1 and 2 and one and a half hours for grades 3 and 4. Students are provided a snack to help them stay for the extended learning hours and the teachers are provided with additional allowance for their travelling. As per the observations and feedback received from each zone, this program is very successful. Students are highly

¹⁴ ChildLine 1929 is a private and confidential service for child related inquiries and reporting any child protection cases.

motivated to attend school and they are asking the teachers to implement this program every day. Teachers are also conducting the classes very happily since this is a different experience for them. Some teachers said that they are now using this approach for their normal teaching process after learning the benefits of using the new methodologies.

In the Eastern province, the literacy and numeracy programme which started in 2022 to support learning recovery targeting the identified 6,650 under-performing primary students, marked a remarkable success. The end-line assessment found that 74 per cent and 86 per cent of the targeted students enhanced numeracy and literacy skills, respectively. As a result, the remaining 1,346 students have continued the programme in 2023. In addition, in 2023, UNICEF provided vital support to the Eastern Provincial Department of Education (PDE) in conducting a diagnostic assessment among 117,548 (59,949 girls and 57,599 boys) primary grade students (Grade 1-5). The analysis aimed to establish a baseline for another cohort of students in literacy and numeracy for both Tamil and Sinhala schools. The assessment revealed that certain students faced challenges with foundational skills, including between 4.2 per cent to 14.4 per cent achieved less than 50 marks. Consequently, the PDE identified additional 4,818 children from 233 schools to receive remedial support with the assistance of UNICEF. The programme included sensitization for 17 zonal primary officials, awareness for 233 school principals, and a two-day refresher training for 235 teachers, focusing on multi-level training encompassing integration remedial approaches, inclusiveness, positive classroom management, functional skills, and activity-based teaching. Moreover, implementation instructions were provided to classroom teachers for the provision of additional learning activities and support to the targeted children.

Furthermore, in the Eastern province, 26,014 individual children learner kits and 500 teacher kits were provided to needy schools and children who have lost both parents, come from single-parent families or are poor. UNICEF also provided exercise books among 27,266 primary students in Uva and Central provinces as additional support for continuing their education.

WASH

UNICEF supported 20 poor urban settlements in Colombo District to improve the hygiene conditions of households including Menstrual Hygiene with a special focus on adolescent girls (6,000). The hygiene promotion programme conducted by the Urban and Estate Health Unit and Health Promotion Bureau mainly promotes oral health and hand hygiene by supplying hygiene items, awareness material, and behaviour change monitoring tools. A Training of Trainers programme was conducted for the Development Officers of the Urban Settlement Development Authority to promote hygiene knowledge.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to develop WASH standards and monitoring indicators for the integration of WASH indicators into Health Management Information Systems (HMIS). Two workshops have been conducted at the national level to finalize standards and monitoring indicators related to WASH in Health Care Facilities. About a hundred health staff trained in Health Care Waste Management in 12 districts. Provincial-level health staff (40) were trained to conduct provincial-level healthcare waste assessment and develop a provincial-level healthcare waste management plan in each province (9 provinces). The Ministry of Health was supported to strengthen the coordination with provincial-level healthcare facilities by purchasing online communication facilities (zoom package for one year) and facilitating online training.

116 health clinics were supported to provide WASH facilities through which around 120,000 people benefited (including under-5 years old children, pregnant and lactating mothers, well-women clinic clients, and family planning clients). Around 30,000 beneficiaries (including under-5-year children, pregnant and lactating mothers, well-women clinic clients, and family planning clients) were reached by providing hygiene items in 28 clinics.

Cash-based Programming

UNICEF provides nutrition-sensitive cash transfers to families with young children for four months. The aim is to increase the purchasing power and knowledge of women/caretakers with young children to access nutritious foods and essential health and nutrition services. In addition to the cash assistance, beneficiaries will receive nutrition-relevant and age-appropriate messages, information and communication materials, and regular home visits.

Children are eligible for the programme when (1) they are born between 1 May 2021 and 31 December 2022, thereby prioritizing an age that is in the formative stage of life and hence particularly vulnerable and (2) the households reside in one of the most vulnerable districts in terms of the prevalence of severe wasting (based on Demographic and Health Surveys 2016 data, data available when the programme was designed). The targeted districts are Puttalam, Anuradhapura, Monaragala, Kegalle, Killinochchi, Mullaitivu, Ratnapura, Vavuniya, and Nuwara Eliya. Each eligible child receives a monthly benefit amount of LKR 6,750 (approximately USD 21.5) for 4 months, in most cases via bank transfers. The beneficiary registration was coordinated by district authorities in close collaboration with UNICEF. UNICEF supported the registration planning process, through the in-depth training of enumerators on a UNICEF-developed digital data collection tool. Frontline workers such as Public Health Midwives, Development Officers, nominated by districts, worked as enumerators.



Meeting target people for humanitarian cash transfer programme

As of 30 June 2023, 113,294 households were registered in the targeted districts. In the first six districts, cash payments for March until June were delivered to 70,571 out of a total of 73,235 registered households, benefiting already a total of 71,390 eligible children (35,286 girls and 36,104 boys). The remaining caseload will be delivered in the coming weeks; in addition, cash assistance will start in the remaining three districts in July 2023.

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Communications for Development (C4D), Accountability to Affected Population

Together with the focal units of the Ministry of Health, UNICEF supported strengthening and mobilizing the Mother Support Groups (MSGs), as a community-level platform to promote health and nutrition, especially targeting pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 5 years. This intervention, which reached over 100,000 individuals, focussed to establish new MSGs and reactivate existing groups; improve monitoring of MSG activities at the ground level; promote financial management as an approach to sustain health and nutrition during economic crisis; and introduce locally developed cereal products (nutritional snacks) through locally available ingredients mainly targeting children with nutritional problems. Also, UNICEF collaborated with Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement (a local CSO) and established 256 village-level health promotion networks last year. Together with the ground-level public health officials, UNICEF capacitated around 3,840 community leaders attached to these networks in health and nutrition-related areas. These trained community leaders are currently engaged in community actions to address health and nutrition-related challenges in their communities.

UNICEF collaborated with Provincial Council of the Northern Province to introduce a Participatory Community Appraisal (PCA) model to improve community participation in the sub-national planning process. A contextualized model of PCA was introduced after a rigorous consultation process with the provincial officials; trained 185 front-line workers; and developed a pool of master trainers. UNICEF also recommended the required amendments to the existing planning procedure(s) of the province to institutionalize the model and to improve community participation in planning for development and emergencies.

UNICEF amplified the voices of young people through U-Report, a mobile messaging platform aimed to engage young people in programme priorities, emergency response and advocacy actions. UNICEF conducted opinion polls to understand the effects of the socio-economic crisis, provided key related information, and promoted the voices of young people in areas including corporal punishment, poverty, and water source protection by reaching 11.1 million and by engaging 2.8 million individuals through social media. Usage of U-Report to rally young people with 'Sri Lanka Children's Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation' was awarded as the 'Best in Emergency Innovation' during the Inspire Awards 2023 ceremony – an annual internal awards programme organized to recognize UNICEF campaigns and initiatives in fundraising, advocacy, communication, and engagement.

Together with the Department of Probation and Child Care Services (DPCCS), UNICEF promoted Digital Storytelling, as an effective approach to sharing and amplifying voices of young people. UNICEF conducted a national-level validation programme with the key officials of DPCCS, children, and field officers to finetune the programme content which includes basics of digital storytelling; tools and techniques of digital storytelling; privacy and security in digital spaces; ethics in digital space etc. Programme will be rolled out in all provinces targeting the field officers and children through three-day ToT series starting from July, 2023. With the effects of the economic crisis, the avenues children had to share their voices got restricted (i.e. mainly with the reduction of the physical spaces). This intervention would provide/enable young people to share their voices during this difficult context.

With support from UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia, UNICEF Sri Lanka will be organizing a capacity-building workshop on Accountability to Affected People (AAP) targeting 40 participants from government, CSOs and UN agencies in early July 2023. The workshop aims to facilitate a systematic, predictable, and responsive process of addressing feedback or complaints; and contribute to ensuring the crisis response and recovery efforts are more accountable.

UNICEF supported the development of positive parenting manuals during this period and this manual was launched in June 2023. Around 1,000 parents were reached through positive parenting during the period. As part of positive parenting promotions, the prevention of corporal punishment webinar was conducted in April 2023 with around 100 government, INGO, and NGO participants.

Ensuring AAP in the context of the nutrition-sensitive cash transfer programme, UNICEF partners with the local civil society organization Sarvodaya. This includes communication about the programme to ensure that no one is left behind, receiving feedback and complaints (through a toll-free hotline, text messages, and by email), and monitoring activities (including payment verification surveys and Focus Group Discussions).

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is leading four sectors and one Area of Responsibility (AoR): the Protection sector, including the Child Protection AoR, Nutrition, Education, and WASH. Child Protection AoR and the Education sector leadership are co-led with Save the Children while the WASH sector is co-led with the Ministry of Water Supply. The nutrition sector is co-led with WFP to ensure close collaboration with the food security sector. UNICEF co-led sectors and AoR are all part of the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) led by the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) at the national level, based on the guidance provided in the Humanitarian Response and Coordination in 2023. UNICEF actively participates in the in-country inter-agency PSEA Task Force as well. UNICEF also leads and coordinates the UN Communications Group which supports the UN Country Team on humanitarian communication and advocacy.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

External Media

- [Little Vishnu is ready to learn and thrive! | UNICEF Sri Lanka](#)
- [Kaveena bounces back to a healthy childhood | UNICEF Sri Lanka](#)
- [Access to Education for All: Home-Based Learning Supports Learning Continuity During Crisis](#)
- [Pre-school meals means so much more to Dinithi and her friends](#)
- [Recognizing UNICEF Sri Lanka's Empowerment of Youth Engagement and Drive for Social Norm Change](#)

Next SitRep: January 2024

UNICEF Sri Lanka Crisis: [SRI LANKA CRISIS: | UNICEF Sri Lanka](#)

UNICEF Sri Lanka Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: [Sri Lanka Appeal | UNICEF](#)

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Summary of Programme Results (as of 30 June 2023)

Sector		UNICEF and IPs Response				Sector Response		
		Total needs	2023 target	Total results	Change* ▲▼	2023 sector target	Total results	Change* ▲▼
Indicator								
Health								
# of children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities	people	1,967,858	1,236,480	143,000	143,000			
Nutrition								
# children 6 - 59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment	children and women	2,810,062	47,567 ¹⁵	9,212 ¹⁶	9,212	47,567	12,000	12,000
# of children aged 6 to 24 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders			430,000	287,000	287,000	430,000	287,000	287,000
# of primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving IYCF counselling			320,000	287,000	287,000	320,000	287,000	287,000
# of pre-school children reached through school feeding programmes (age group 2 - 5 years)			100,000	49,446	49,446	100,000	49,446	49,446
Child Protection								
# of children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)	children and parents/caregivers	1,994,000	1,994,400 ¹⁷	2,551 ¹⁸	2,551	10,000	5,281	5,281
# of children who have received individual case management includes: # (women), girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response intervention			5000 (CM) including 400(GBV)	682	682	5000	2235	2235
# of children and adults have access to safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)			2,000	386	386	3000	781	781

¹⁵ SAM target was based on an estimate using Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in 2016.

¹⁶ During the Nutrition month 2022, where 99% of under 5 children monitored, SAM total number detected was 18,420. UNICEF focused in 7 provinces with the case load of 12,267 SAM children. The government authorities have shared information on 11,843 SAM children till 30th June 2023. out of them 9212 Children were enrolled for treatment. Children who have passed 59 months of age at time the data was shared were not enrolled for treatment as per protocol. There are new cases identified in some provinces also included. Based on the data shared by government and reports from UNICEF CSO partners 78% (9,212*100/11,843) of the SAM Children in UNICEF targeted 7 provinces were admitted for treatment.

¹⁷ 1.9 million students in secondary schools are expected to be reached through this intervention, in addition to community-based MHPSS interventions.

¹⁸ Only the children and adolescents reached through community-based MHPSS interventions are included here. The MHPSS services in schools have not yet commenced as planning and preparation for teacher trainings had been prioritized during the reporting period.

# of girls and boys assisted through access to assistive devices and specialized services			2,000	156	156	4000	816	816
Education								
# of children accessing formal or non-formal primary or secondary education	Children	1,128,580	665,690	30,733	30,733	665,690	30,733	30,733
# of children receiving individual learning materials (teaching-learning materials)			665,690	53,280	53,280	665,690	53,280	53,280
WASH								
# people accessing sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	people	2,575,620	200,000	120,000	120,000	200,000	120,000	120,000
# children accessing appropriate WASH facilities and hygiene services in learning facilities and safe spaces			50,000	0 ¹⁹	0	50,000	0	0
# girls and women accessing menstrual hygiene management services			5,000	6,000	6,000	5,000	6,000	6,000
# people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items)			400,000	24,000	24,000	400,000	24,000	24,000
Social Protection			655,000					
# of households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers	mothers	480,187	121,796	70,571	70,571			
C4D, Community Engagement and AAP								
# of parents and caregivers provided with messages on positive parenting and MHPSS	people	500,000	35,000	1,000				
# of people with access to established feedback and accountability mechanisms			110,000	113,628				
# people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services			500,000	6 Mill				

¹⁹ The relevant interventions have not been funded by existing donor proposals.

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available			Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Other resources used in 2023	Resources available from 2022 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Nutrition	6,432,900	2,165,618	252,167	7,037,411	0	0
Health	2,337,000	0	0	9,259	2,327,741	100
Water, sanitation and hygiene	984,000	545,748	0	0	438,253	45
Child Protection, GBVIE & PSEA	2,494,440	198,000	0	518,241	1,778,199	71
Education	6,455,040	0		182,913	6,272,127	97
Social Protection	9,319,232	0	0	6,577,442	2,741,790	29
Cross-sectoral (C4D, RCCE & AAP)	246,000	14,000	0	0	232,000	94
Total	28,268,612	2,923,366	252,167	14,325,266	13,790,109	49

* As defined in Humanitarian Appeal of 5 December 2022 for a period of 12 months