



## WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

## Highlights

- From January 2015 to December 2017, a total of **50,124** children under the age of 5 years and **71,952** pregnant and nursing mothers were treated for malnutrition.
- From January 2015 to December 2017, **426.861** mt of locally-produced Timor Vita, a specialised nutritious food for women, and **141.72** mt of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food was distributed to **125** health facilities in 6 municipalities.
- From January to December 2017, **201** health staff and volunteers (**105** men and **96** women) were trained on nutrition, behaviour change and counselling throughout the 6 municipalities.

### WFP Assistance

Capacity Development for Health and Nutrition	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
DEV 200770: (Jan 2015 - Dec 2017)	13.8 m	9.35 m (68%)	-

\*November - December 2017

GENDER MARKER **2A** DEV 200770

WFP's assistance is focused on improving the nutritional status of vulnerable people, most notably pregnant and nursing women, and children from six months to five years of age. Through a targeted supplementary feeding programme, WFP helps improve the nutritional status and prevent mortality among vulnerable populations affected by acute malnutrition. The assistance is in line with the Government's strategic plan, and with the Ministry of Health's national goals to reduce maternal and child undernutrition and mortality. The Ministry is the main implementing partner of the nutrition project, with two community based organizations (Alola Foundation and World Vision International) who have established community groups to promote proper infant and young child feeding, hygiene and nutrition practices.

WFP's strategy in Timor-Leste is to partner for improved nutrition, social behaviour change communication around nutrition, monitoring and evaluation, and logistics, with the overarching goal of strengthening the Government's ability to design, plan and manage the entire supplementary feeding programme. WFP also works closely with other United Nations agencies, local NGOs and CSOs to implement its programmes in support of health, education, poverty eradication, adaptation to climate change, and capacity development of government systems.

WFP's activities address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDGs on poverty, hunger, health and gender equality.



Credit: WFP Timor-Leste

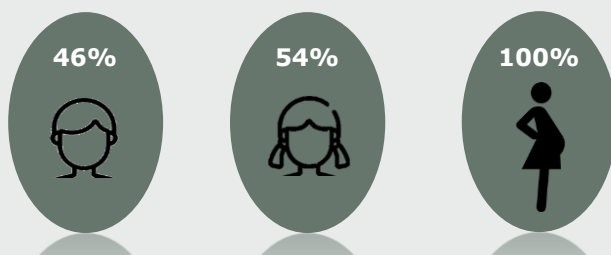
Caption: WFP took part on the 16 Days of Activism Campaign by organising a series of activities within the office, as well as with other partners and local communities. A wellness session at the iconic Cristo Rei Beach in Dili was organized to raise awareness and say no to gender-based violence in Timor-Leste and worldwide.

### In Numbers (December 2017)

**3,720** pregnant or nursing mothers treated for malnutrition

**1,158** girls under the age of 5 years treated for malnutrition

**1,000** boys under the age of 5 years treated for malnutrition



**Photos** Credit: WFP Timor-Leste/Dionisio Dacruz  
Caption: A child tries WFP-provided RUSF Plumpy'Sup in Bobonaro Municipality.



December 2017

## Operational Updates

- WFP supported the development of the Timor-Leste Strategic Review: Progress and Success in Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 undertaken by local non-governmental organization (NGO) the Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD) and Johns Hopkins University in May 2017. The Strategic Review identified gaps and opportunities for the Government of Timor-Leste, communities and development partners to achieve zero hunger.
- The Strategic Review provided WFP with solid grounds for the preparation of the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2018-2020, which identified improved nutrition for children under 5 years, pregnant and nursing women and adolescent girls, as well as capacity building of government institutions on sustainable food supply chain management, as key outcomes for the upcoming years. The CSP has been submitted for the WFP Executive Board's approval in February 2018 with early release in January 2018.
- WFP is supporting the Timor-Leste Medical Supply Agency's (SAMÉS) expansion of the online supply chain management system, mSupply. WFP has staff in SAMÉS' office and in the field assisting the strengthening of its capacity and health facilities for more effective and efficient delivery of general medical supplies and specialised nutritious food in all districts.
- WFP's cooperating partners Alola Foundation and World Vision conducted cooking demonstrations with the participation of **6,000** men and women in Covalima, Oecusse and Dili, and screened **26,000** children under 5 for acute malnutrition.
- From January to December, health staff have provided **9,163** caregivers with nutrition education and information to prevent undernutrition of their children.
- From January to December, WFP field staff jointly with District Public Health Officers (DPHOs) for nutrition conducted monitoring in **393** health facilities and interviewed **613** households with family members enrolled in the programme.
- WFP, at the request of the Ministry of Health, is expanding the provision of specialised nutritious food, Timor Vita, for pregnant and nursing women to 3 additional municipalities (Baucau, Lautem and Viqueque) until the end of February 2018, with support from CARE International.
- A National Consultation on Rice Fortification was organized jointly by the National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition in Timor-Leste (KONSSANTIL) and WFP in November. The set-up of a Technical Advisory Group is expected shortly to work on the various recommendations resulting from the consultation and landscape analysis.
- WFP has engaged with Lafaek Community Magazine produced by CARE International to develop a series of publications focusing on adolescent nutrition, as part of a new channel for social behaviour change communication.

## Challenges

- The limited transport fleet capacity of SAMÉS and the lack of private transportation options impede the effective delivery of food to priority districts. Storage options in field locations are limited and the technical skills of health workers on warehouse management need to be strengthened.
- Monitoring activities indicate that complementary feeding practices among mothers and caregivers could be further improved, and coverage rates of the programme in 2017 have been low. The programme will continue to work with health staff for behaviour change promotion and emphasize the importance of addressing acute malnutrition at an early stage.



Timor-Leste was internationally recognised as an independent state in 2002. Since 1999, a number of United Nations peacekeeping missions have been deployed to assist the country and augment its capacity in terms of security, governance and justice systems. The last peacekeeping missions withdrew at the end of 2012.

The 2016 Human Development Report indicates the country has made important strides. Timor-Leste ranks 133 out of 188 countries, placing Timor-Leste within the medium human development category. Poverty rates have dropped from 49.9% in 2007 to 41.8% in 2014 according to the World Bank. Timor-Leste's rates of malnutrition have decreased but are still the highest in Asia and are categorised as serious. The 2009 Demographic Health Survey found 58 percent stunting and 19 percent wasting which were categorised as "serious". However, by 2013, the Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey, found rates had reduced to 50 percent and 11 percent respectively. A Lancet report applauded the country's progress on reducing maternal mortality, being one of nine countries to do so since 1990.

The Government has adopted a national roadmap for the SDGs that identifies SDG2 — to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture as one of its priorities.

Population: **1.2 million**

2016 Human Development Index:  
**133 out of 188**

Poverty: **41.8% live below poverty line** (2014 data)

Chronic malnutrition: **50.2% of children between 6-59 months**

## Donors

KOICA, European Union, private donors

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