

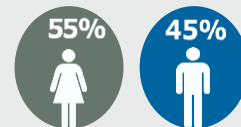


# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

June 2018

## In Numbers

**3.2 mt** of supplementary food (RUSF) distributed to **1,093** girls and boys under the age of five



**22** nutrition education sessions organized in public schools in four municipalities, reaching **758** students

**US\$ 2.2 million** six months (July-December 2018) net funding requirements

## Operational Context

Timor-Leste is one of the world's newest countries, being internationally recognized as an independent state in 2002.

Poverty rates have dropped from 49.9 percent in 2007 to 41.8 percent in 2014 according to the World Bank.

The proportion of hungry poor reduced from 46.9 percent to 34.3 percent over the past decade as per 2017 Global Hunger Index. However, Timor-Leste's rates of malnutrition are the highest in Asia and are categorised as serious by WHO.

WFP has been present in Timor-Leste since 1999. WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2018-2020) supports attainment of the national Government's vision and contributes to its Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030.



Population: **1.2 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## Operational Updates

- WFP and Timor-Leste's Ministry of Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Directed Multilateral Contribution Agreement of USD 210,000 to ensure WFP's activities and programs are implemented within the Constitutional Government Policy and in close coordination and collaboration with Ministry of Health representatives at all levels. WFP will continue to assist the Government by providing nutritious food and raising awareness on good nutrition through Social Behaviour Change Communication.
- WFP and the Australian funded programme, Farming for Prosperity (To'os ba Moris Di'ak – TOMAK), are collaborating on a formative research on adolescent nutrition and health in Timor-Leste, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Secretary of State of Youth and Employment. The qualitative study is taking place between May and August 2018 in the municipalities of Baucau, Bobonaro, Dili and Ermera. The objective is to develop culturally appropriate and effective strategies to improve adolescents' nutrition, health and related gender social norms.
- WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, has produced a second story on adolescents' nutrition needs, as part of CARE International's [Lafaek Community Magazine](#), aiming to raise awareness among community members on the prevention of anaemia via consumption of iron-rich foods, particularly among adolescent girls. This second story will feature in Edition No. 3 of 2018, to be published in September, and distributed to approximately 90,000 households.
- WFP and WHO jointly hosted the monthly United Nations lecture at the Timor-Leste National University (UNTL) on 20 June. The lecture focused on Sustainable Development Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- In June, 17 cooking demonstrations and nutrition education sessions were organized across communities in Ainaro, Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera and Oecusse by WFP field staff, in collaboration with Ministry of Health personnel, reaching out to 1,203 participants, 28 percent of whom were men and boys.

**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Denita Baptista  
Caption: Three-year old Dozia eats her daily RUSF sachet in the presence of her mother and brother in Lenuk Hun hamlet, in Dili Municipality, on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

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WFP Timor-Leste Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	July-December Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2018-2020)</b>		
16.9 m	2.0 m	2.2 m
<b>Strategic Result 2:</b> No one suffers from malnutrition		
<b>Strategic Outcome 1:</b> Children under five, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and adolescent girls in Timor-Leste have improved nutrition towards national targets by 2025. <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i>		
13.5 m	0.7 m	2.2 m
<b>Strategic Result 5:</b> Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs		
<b>Strategic Outcome 2:</b> National and sub-national government institutions have increased capacity to sustainably deliver food, nutrition and supply chain related services by 2020. <i>Focus area: Resilience</i>		
3.4 m	1.3 m	0m

## WFP Country Activities

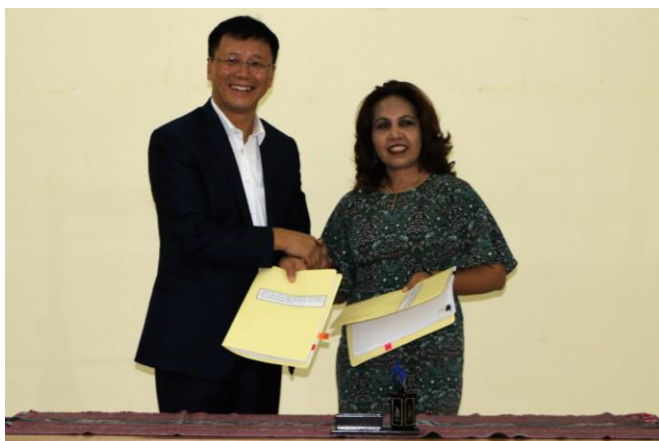
### Strategic Outcome 1

1. Provide nutritious food and raise awareness through SBCC to targeted individuals
2. Provide technical assistance and evidence, for enhancing efficiency of national programmes and safety nets, to Government and partners

### Strategic Outcome 2

3. Provide technical expertise for improved targeting, monitoring and programme analysis effective supply chain management system to Government and partners
4. Provide technical expertise for the development of an efficient and effective supply chain management system to Government

## Highlight of the Month



WFP and Ministry of Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Directed Multilateral Contribution Agreement of USD 210,000. The Director General of Ministry of Health, Dra. Odete Viegas and WFP Timor-Leste Country Director, Dageng Liu, were part of the signing ceremony celebrated the 19 June at Palacio das Cinzas, Ministry of Health, in Dili.

- 22 Nutrition education sessions were organized in schools in Bobonaro, Covalima, Ermera and Oecusse Municipalities, reaching a total of 758 students (51 percent boys, 49 percent girls) mostly between 11 to 15 years old.
- WFP met with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) to discuss how WFP can best support the strengthening of Timor-Leste's social protection programme *Bolsa da Mae*, particularly on targeting and beneficiary registration, while also increasing its impact on good nutrition for children.
- WFP held several meetings with the Ministry of Education to discuss strengthening of School Feeding Programme (SFP), following the support WFP provided to Oecusse Municipality in updating the SFP guidelines.
- WFP made a joint visit to two schools in Ermera with the Royal Thai Embassy and Ministry of Education to see school gardens supported by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.
- WFP conducted seven warehouse assessments jointly with Timor-Leste's National Logistics Centre in Dili and Liquica, and assessed two locations in Baucau and Manatuto as potential locations for new National Logistics Centre warehouses.

## Monitoring

- WFP visited 220 of the 180 households and 113 of the 125 health facilities targeted quarterly in the six municipalities where WFP operates.

## Challenges

- Early Parliamentary elections were held on 12 May, and a new Government was formed mid-June. However, the Minister of Health (WFP's main partner) has not yet been appointed. This has delayed decision-making and engagement on CSP agreement and implementation.
- Underfunding of the CSP, particularly Activity 1, is strongly affecting project implementation and challenging the consolidation of previous gains. There has been no distribution of supplementary food for targeted pregnant and nursing women since March 2018.
- The break in the supply of supplementary food for pregnant and nursing women will continue until the purchases of 110 mt of Super Cereal - expected to arrive in country by mid-July - are repackaged and ready for distribution in August/September 2018.
- Further stock outs are expected by December 2018 unless new contributions are received and programmed urgently. WFP has been coordinating with the Ministry of Health and SAMES (Medical and Pharmaceutical Supply Agency) to optimize the utilization of in-country stocks to mitigate the pipeline break.

## Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, SRAC/Multilateral Contributions, Private Donors