



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief July 2018



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% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

4.4 mt of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) distributed to 1,497 girls and boys under the age of five

11 nutrition education sessions organised in public schools in four municipalities, reaching 402 students

US\$ 2.35 m six months (August 2018-January 2019) net funding requirements

1,497 people assisted
in July 2018



Operational Updates

- In July, 18 cooking demonstrations and nutrition education sessions were organized across communities in Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera and Oecusse by WFP field staff, in collaboration with Ministry of Health personnel, reaching out to 867 participants, 295 men and boys and 572 women and girls.
- 11 nutrition education sessions were organized in schools in five municipalities, reaching a total of 402 students (186 boys, 216 girls) mostly between 11 to 15 years old.
- 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.
- 110 metric tons of Super Cereal arrived in Dili on 8 July. The supplementary food for pregnant and lactating women will be repackaged into smaller bags of 3kgs for easier distribution to the beneficiaries, expected to commence in September.
- 70 mt of Super Cereal for pregnant and nursing women and 12 mt of Ready-to-use Supplementary Food for children under the age of five will arrive to Dili in late August.
- WFP Timor-Leste Country Office organised an internal one-day workshop on partnerships for all units on 25 July, to enhance the capacity of all staff for improved partnerships.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Aug-Jan Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.97 m	2.0 m	2.35 m

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 1: Children under five, adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women have improved nutrition towards national targets by 2025

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

1. Provide nutritious food and raise awareness through social and behaviour change communication for targeted individuals.
2. Provide the Government and partners with technical assistance and evidence for enhancing the efficiency of national programmes and safety nets.

Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 2: National and subnational government institutions have increased capacity sustainably to deliver food-, nutrition- and supply chain related services by 2020.

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

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

Challenges

- Early Parliamentary elections were held on 12 May, and the 8th Constitutional Government was formed on 22 June. The delayed appointment by the President of some cabinet ministers has slowed down decision-making and engagement on CSP agreement and implementation by the concerned line ministries.
- 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 fortified blended food (Super Cereal) for pregnant and nursing women since March 2018. The pipeline break will continue through September 2018 when the Super Cereal, newly repacked from 25 kg to 3 kg, becomes available to the communities.
- Further food 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.

Monitoring

- Together with Ministry of Health, WFP conducted a joint monitoring for a week in Oecusse to review progress of the implementation of nutrition programme in seven health facilities.
- WFP visited 46 of the 180 households and 13 of the 125 health facilities targeted quarterly in the six municipalities where WFP operates.

Highlight of the Month

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.

Participants of the research are varied, including students (age 10 – 19), community leaders and influencers, health staff, and the community. The research is conducted through one on one interviews, group discussions and community workshops.

Data collection will be finalised by early August 2018 after the focus group discussions with adolescents in the four municipalities. The findings and recommendations will be discussed with various participants during a validation workshop on 15 August. The final report is expected to be released in September.

Donors

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