



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief September 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 decade to 2017, according to the Global Hunger Index. However, Timor-Leste's rates of malnutrition are the highest in Asia and are categorised as serious by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

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



The boundaries and names and the designations

Population: **1.2 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **132 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **50% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**4.1 mt** of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) distributed to 1,350 girls and boys under five

**9.5 mt** of Super Cereal distributed to 1,590 pregnant and nursing women

**8** nutrition education sessions organised in public schools in five municipalities, reaching 410 students

**US\$ 2.46 m** six months (October 2018 - March 2019) net funding requirements

**2,940 people assisted** in September 2018



## Operational Updates

- In September, 10 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 685 participants, a quarter of which were men and boys.
- 8 nutrition education sessions were organized in schools in five municipalities, reaching 410 students (213 boys, 197 girls) aged between 11 and 18 years.
- With the Australian-funded programme Farming for Prosperity (To'os ba Moris Di'ak – TOMAK), WFP organized a municipality workshop in Bobonaro to share the results of the formative research on adolescents' health and nutrition on 20 September. The findings were also shared with members of the maternal and reproductive health working group.
- Under the leadership of KONSSANTIL (inter-ministerial council for food security and nutrition), several technical consultations on rice fortification took place in September. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and KONSSANTIL both endorsed the acceptability trial of fortified rice for the school feeding programme in two schools in Dili.
- A scoping mission from WFP's Regional Bureau in Bangkok took place from 10-14 September. The mission met with key stakeholders to assess opportunities and identify priorities for action on SCOPE (WFP's beneficiary and transfer management platform), social protection and emergency preparedness and response.
- WFP, the UN Children's Fund and WHO conducted a joint assessment on AdenBox and AdenCare (app to manage and track medicines and medical supplies) in Maliana, Ermera and Liquiça Municipalities, organized by the Ministry of Health, from 24-28 September. The aim was to assess the functionality of the apps and make recommendations to the Ministry of Health regarding their continuation.

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Further information: [www1.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste](http://www1.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste)

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Oct-March Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.97 m	2.0 m	2.46 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 8<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Government was formed on 22 June. The delayed appointment of some cabinet ministers, including the Minister of Health, 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.
- Distribution of Super Cereal for pregnant and nursing women resumed in September and is expected to last until February 2019. Additionally, the Country Office is expecting new arrival of 70.5 metric tons of Super Cereal that will cover the needs until mid-May.
- A new consignment of RUSF arrived to Dili at the end of September and is expected to cover the needs until December 2018. Further stock outs are expected unless new contributions are received and programmed timely.

## Monitoring

- WFP and the Ministry of Health conducted a joint monitoring visit to Bobonaro to monitor the implementation of activities and introduce the new registration books and the Health Information System forms for municipality health staff at the Community Health Centers.
- WFP undertook a field mission to Ainaro Municipality to monitor the implementation of nutrition activities and of the school feeding programme.
- WFP field support units (FSUs) visited 149 of the 180 households and 99 of the 125 health facilities targeted quarterly in the six municipalities where WFP operates.

## Highlight of the Month



WFP Country Director hands over Super Cereal to H.E. Vice Minister of Health Strategic Development at Vera Cruz, Dili.

WFP Country Director, Dageng Liu, handed over 110 metric tons of Super Cereal and 12 metric tons of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) to H.E Vice Minister of Health for Strategic Development, Mr. Bonifácio Mau Coli dos Reis.

The Ministry of Health and WFP signed an agreement in June this year, where the government donated \$210,000 to support ongoing treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition targeting pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under five years of age in six municipalities. The nutritious food will ensure that mothers and children targeted by the supplementary feeding programme get the nutrients.

## Donors

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