



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief October 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.



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**

Contact info: Laura Ballester Nieto (laura.ballester-nieto@wfp.org)
Country Director: Dageng Liu
Further information: www1.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste

In Numbers

2.7 mt of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) distributed to 931 girls and boys under five

18.9 mt of Super Cereal distributed to 3,161 pregnant and nursing women

8 nutrition education sessions organised in public schools in five municipalities, reaching 326 students

US\$ 2.59 million: six months (November 2018 - April 2019) net funding requirements

4,092 people assisted
in October 2018



Operational Updates

- In October, 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 891 participants, a quarter of which were men and boys.
- Eight nutrition education sessions were organized in schools in five municipalities, reaching 326 students (184 boys, 142 girls) aged between 11 and 18 years.
- With the Australian-funded programme Farming for Prosperity (To'os ba Moris Di'ak – TOMAK), WFP continued to share the results of the formative research on adolescents' health and nutrition in the municipalities of Baucau, Dili and Ermera. The findings were also presented to H.E. Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Ms. Dulce de Jesus Soares.
- Discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Education to finalize and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WFP, to operationalize the partnership and initiate planned activities to support Timor-Leste's school feeding programme (SFP), including the strengthening of its monitoring and evaluation system.
- Technical consultations on rice fortification continued in October with the endorsement of the Ministry of Education and KONSSANTIL (inter-ministerial council for food security and nutrition) to undertake an acceptability trial of fortified rice for the school feeding programme in two schools in Dili. Preparations have been initiated and a joint monitoring team established under WFP leadership. The pilot is expected to start after the signing of the MoU with the Ministry of Education.
- WFP conducted a Logistics Capacity Assessment of all warehouses in Dili Municipality (commercial, public and from other agencies) to have up-to-date information on storage conditions and related warehousing capacity, and ensure a timely and efficient response in case of emergency. The exercise will be extended to all 13 municipalities of the country.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Nov-April Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.97 m	2.11 m	2.59 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

- 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. 70.5 metric tons of Super Cereal arrived in October. It is expected to cover the needs until mid-May 2019.
- A new consignment of Ready to Eat Supplementary Food arrived in Dili at the end of September and is expected to cover the needs until December. Further stock outs are expected unless new contributions are received and programmed timely.
- WFP is discussing with the Ministry of Health the extension of the targeted supplementary feeding programme to four additional municipalities (Aileu, Liquica, Mantuto and Manufahi) which should initiate the distribution of Super Cereal for pregnant and nursing women together with Social Behaviour Change Communications to foster improved caring practices and diet diversity through the use of local nutrient-dense foods.

South-South Cooperation

Four representatives from the Government of Timor-Leste (Secretary of State for Civil Protection, Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, National Logistics Center) visited China from 22 October to 3 November attending two training workshops organised by WFP and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs: 1) Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Resilience including Early Warning System and Rapid Assessment and 2) Food Processing and Rice Fortification.

Monitoring

- WFP field support units visited 21 of the 180 households and 19 of the 125 health facilities targeted quarterly in the six municipalities where WFP supports the direct implementation of the programme.

Highlight of the Month



Working Together to Achieve Zero Hunger- World Food Day Celebration in Dili-16 Oct 2018.

From left to right: KOICA Country Director Mr. Sikhyon Kim, H.E. Vice President of National Parliament Mr. Luis Roberto da Silva, WFP Country Director Mr. Dageng Liu, Assistant FAO Representative Ms. Paula Lopes da Cruz, and Director General of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Ms. Maria Odete do Ceu Guterres. Photo by: WFP/ Laura Ballester Nieto.

Donors

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