



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief November 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**

## In Numbers

**3.8 mt** of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) distributed to 1,268 girls and boys under five

**21.3 mt** of Super Cereal distributed to 3,554 pregnant and nursing women

**6** nutrition education sessions organised in five municipalities, reaching 593 community members

**US\$ 2.56 m** six months (December 2018 - May 2019) net funding requirements

**4,822 people assisted** in November 2018



## Operational Updates

- The Ministry of Health has decided to expand the moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) programme to four additional municipalities (Manatuto, Aileu, Liquisa, and Manufahi) to complement the already operational program in six municipalities. Specialized nutritious food will start to be distributed in December 2018.
- WFP conducted a national dissemination of an evaluation report on MAM treatment among stakeholders including Government, NGOs and donors. Dissemination cascaded to the six municipalities where WFP operates to follow up on recommendations from the report findings.
- The Ministry of Health, UNICEF and WFP conducted a joint coverage survey on Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and MAM in three municipalities (Ermera, Baucau and Viqueque). The preliminary report is expected to be presented to relevant parties in December.
- Six 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 593 participants, 10 percent of which were men and boys.
- 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 the school feeding programme. Adjustments are being made to include specific provisions on monitoring and evaluation and rice fortification.
- Preparations for the Fill the Nutrition (FNG) gap study are underway and data collection is planned for the first quarter of 2019.
- WFP assisted Timor-Leste's Medical and Pharmaceutical Supply Agency (SAMES) and Ministry of Health' staff in 10 municipalities for enhanced coordination and capacity on food distribution and commodity tracking.

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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)	Dec-May Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.97 m	2.15 m	2.56 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. Current stock of Super Cereal is expected to meet the requirements in the four newly added municipalities until January 2019. In the remaining six municipalities, stock is enough to cover the requirements approximately until March 2019.
- The new consignment of RUSF is being distributed and will cover the needs of children under five up to mid-February 2019
- Further stock outs are expected unless new contributions are received and programmed timely. If contributions are not received urgently, loss of fragile gains will impact negatively the programme.
- The start of the rainy season can affect food delivery to the municipalities, hindering access due to bad road conditions caused by flash floods and landslides.

- The United Nations in Timor-Leste, including WFP, initiated the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence on 25 November, with several advocacy events to highlight the commitment of the UN and partners.
- A Gender and Protection Mission from WFP's Regional Bureau helped to identify gaps and action for rolling out Gender and Age Marker, complaint and feedback mechanism, and gender-mainstreamed programmes which consider people with disabilities.

## Monitoring

- WFP visited 78 of the 180 households and 38 of the 125 health facilities targeted quarterly in the six municipalities where WFP operates.

## Highlight of the Month



WFP and the National Health Institute (INS) signed a Technical Agreement to strengthen national capacity development on health and nutrition related areas in Timor-Leste.

The formalization of the partnership between WFP and INS will allow both to collaborate and develop trainings, guidance and other materials related to the Ministry of Health' Specific Nutrition Intervention Package (SNIP), as well as capacity strengthening of health staff on Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), and facilitation and coordination of evidence gathering on health and nutrition issues, among others.

The signing took place on 30 November between Mr. Antonio Bonito, Lic. SP, M. Kes, INS Executive Director, and Mr. Dageng Liu, WFP Country Director, at INS' office.

## Donors

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