



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief July 2019



## 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.

According to the first Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Analysis Report released in January 2019, approximately 430,000 people (36 percent) are chronically food insecure, out of which 15 percent are experiencing severe chronic food insecurity (IPC Level 4). The major contributing factors are low agricultural productivity, poor quality and quantity of food consumption, and low value livelihood strategies combined with high dependency on single livelihoods.

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

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

**Photo caption:** Participants complete a WFP-SAMES supply chain and warehouse management training in Dili

## In Numbers

15 nutrition education sessions and cooking demonstrations were organized in 5 municipalities (Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera and Oecusse), reaching 708 community members.

US\$ 2.0m six months (August 2019 – January 2020) net funding requirements

## Operational Updates

- WFP met with both the Vice Minister and the Interim Minister of Health to discuss pipeline breaks of specialised nutritious foods, the reinstatement of the 'mSupply' commodity tracking system and the handover of equipment from Timor Global, a facility that produces nutritious foods for Timor-Leste, to the Ministry of Health.
- WFP signed a cooperation agreement with [Catalpa International](#) to support programming related to SBCC in conjunction with the Ministry of Health. Ongoing projects include consolidating the results of an SBCC Partnership Mapping Survey and developing an integrated SBCC Knowledge Management System that will be accessible to the general public.
- To understand how to adapt its strategy to ensure that every person in Timor-Leste has access to nutritious foods, WFP is running the Fill the Nutrient Gap programme. So far, WFP has collected data in five municipalities (Baucau, Dili, Ermera, Manufahi and RAEOA) which is being analysed to determine the 'Cost of the Diet' and identify the barriers preventing some Timorese from enjoying a healthy nutritious diet. The information will be presented next month in a workshop that will come up with an action plan to overcome these challenges.
- WFP met with the Minister of Education, Youth and Sport and the Vice Minister and Acting Minister of State Administration to discuss the possibility of a tripartite agreement to strengthen the National School Feeding Programme (SFP). Ministry Officials and WFP identified areas for future cooperation, restated the benefits of introducing fortified rice in Timor-Leste and discussed the need to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to better manage the SFP.
- WFP conducted a two-day training on warehouse management in collaboration with Timor-Leste's Medical and Pharmaceutical Supply Agency (SAMES). 35 participants attended the training from different line ministries and government institutions. WFP and SAMES signed a Letter of Understanding outlining their future partnership during a ceremony at the end of the training.
- WFP and the National Logistic Centre (NLC) are in the process of formalising a technical agreement that outlines WFP's commitment to provide technical assistance and capacity strengthening on warehouse management, supply-chain management of the SFP and to support the NLC's effort to introduce rice fortification.

- WFPs Field Support Units visited 33 Health Facilities and 45 Households as part of their routine monthly visits.

Highlight of the Month



Left to Right: WFP Deputy Country Director - Patrick Teixeira and SAMES Executive Director - Dr Odete Maria Freitas signing the Letter of Agreement (LoU) between the two agencies.

The LoU between WFP and SAMES, signed on 26 July, will provide assurance of continued support from WFP to SAMES in areas including warehouse and supply chain management. WFP and SAMES have developed a strategic partnership in Timor-Leste that is ongoing and focuses on strengthening national capacities in supply chain management and emergency preparedness and response.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	August 2019 – January 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.97 m	2.2 m	2.0 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.

Operational Updates Cont.

- 35 mt of internationally-purchased Super Cereal, funded through the support of the Government of Timor-Leste, arrived and was transferred to SAMES for distribution in Health Centers across the country to meet the needs of 5,880 pregnant and lactating women in five municipalities.

Challenges

- Underfunding of the CSP, particularly Strategic Outcome 1 is affecting project implementation and hindering the consolidation of earlier gains on nutrition.
- Additional Super Cereal provisions will be needed in October to provide micronutrient supports to pregnant and lactating women in the country.
- Delays in formalizing partnership agreements with several line ministries and other national institutions are hampering the implementation of critical activities on nutrition, social protection and safety nets.

Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), SRAC/Multilateral Contributions, Private Donors