



World Food Programme

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

August 2019

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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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Photo caption: Children taste-testing the fortified rice for the Acceptability Trial run by WFP in Metinaro, Dili.

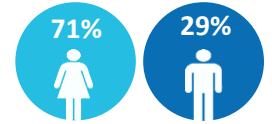
In Numbers

18 nutrition education sessions and cooking demonstrations were organized in 5 municipalities (Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera and Oecusse), reaching 854 community members.

US\$ 1.99 m six months (September 2019 – February 2020) net funding requirements

People assisted

Women	Men	Total
610	244	854



Operational Updates

- For Breastfeeding Month in Timor-Leste, WFP and other UN Agencies supported the Ministry of Health to highlight the importance of breastfeeding exclusively for the first 6 months of a child's life and with complementary food until the age of two.
- As part of a larger strategy to build the Government's capacity, WFP has taken steps to develop a plan to handover the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme to the Ministry of Health, including the facilities for producing Super Cereal, a fortified blended food for treating malnutrition in pregnant and lactating mothers.
- WFP is conducting research to identify gaps in nutrition in Timor-Leste and understand the cost of a nutritious diet. These analyses apply the 'Fill the Nutrient Gap' tool and will inform the Ministry of Health's fight against malnutrition. Findings will be presented to relevant ministries in a workshop in October.
- WFP provided a 'Cost of the Diet' analysis training to University of Timor-Lorosa'e (UNTL) students and 15 officials from KONSSANTIL, a joint-ministerial committee combating malnutrition and food insecurity in the country. Participants learned how to analyse the data used to determine the cost of a nutritious diet.
- WFP is running a trial in two schools in Dili to find out whether schools and school children would accept the introduction of fortified rice into the national School Feeding Programme. Providing fortified rice in schools has the potential to deficiencies in micronutrients (such as iron, zinc and essential vitamins) among school children.
- WFP conducted a training on Humanitarian Supply Chain Management to World Vision staff which highlighted common humanitarian supply chain challenges and bottlenecks that impact logistic operations.
- WFP and the National Logistic Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding which highlighted the active partnership between the two parties and potential for future technical support and capacity development.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	September 2019 – February 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.97 m	3.28 m	1.99 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 (continued)

- 35 mt of internationally-purchased Super Cereal was dispatched to five municipalities (Bobonaro, Covalima, Ermera, Dili, and Oecusse) which were identified as having the greatest need. The Super Cereal will be distributed in Health Centers from September to meet the needs of 5,880 pregnant and lactating women. This is funded through the support of the Government of Timor-Leste.

Challenges

- Additional stocks of Super Cereal will be needed in October to provide micronutrient support to pregnant and lactating women who otherwise face moderate to acute malnutrition.
- Underfunding of the Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020), particularly Strategic Outcome 1 is affecting project implementation and hindering the consolidation of earlier gains in nutrition.
- 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.

Monitoring

- WFPs Field Support Units visited **32** Health Facilities and **21** Households as part of their routine monthly visits.

Highlight of the Month



Left to Right: WFP Representative and Country Director – Dageng Liu and NLC President – Mr. Augusto Junior Trindade signing the MoU between the two agencies.

The MoU signed between WFP and the National Logistic Centre this month highlighted the current partnership efforts between the two agencies and agreed on a path forward for future capacity development and technical assistance. As a workplan between the two agencies will be finalized in the coming weeks, WFP and NLC look forward to the potential benefits of the partnership, specifically in improving the overall supply chain management, warehouse management and the efficient distribution of food items to the national School Feeding Programme.

Donors

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