



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief October 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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In Numbers

9.7 mt of Super Cereal distributed to 1,619 pregnant and breastfeeding women.

WFP reached **350** community members through **13** nutrition education sessions and cooking demonstrations in five municipalities (Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera and Oecusse).

US\$ 1.75 m six months (November 2019 – April 2020) net funding requirements

People assisted

| Women | Men | Total |
|-------|-----|-------|
| 1678 | 123 | 1801 |



Operational Updates

- A WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP) Evaluation committee visited the country office on a scoping mission to meet with ministry and development partners to discuss WFP's role in the country. They will return in the end of November to formalize WFP's future Strategic Plan in Timor-Leste.
- WFP has closed the remaining field offices in five municipalities (Bobonaro, Covalima Ermera, Dili, and Oecusse Region) as the agency shifts from a direct implementation to a technical assistance and capacity strengthening role to the Government.
- A delegation from China, WFP and the Ministry of Health (MoH) visited two community health centres in the region of Ermera, as well as the Timor Global Factory where Timor Vita (a supplementary food product) had previously been produced. They discussed a plan to restart production, as well as plans for health and nutrition programming to address malnutrition in the country. This delegation included the Acting Minister of Health Bonifacio Maukoli dos Reis, Chinese Ambassador Dr. Xiao Jianguo, Chinese Counsellor Geng Xiewei, WFP Country Representative Dageng Liu, along with other high level Officials at the MoH.
- WFP presented preliminary results for the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) report including the Cost of the Diet (CotD) analysis at World Food Day events. The findings were presented to line ministries, development partners and the public. A final version is expected to be published by the end of the year. Interim analysis suggests:
 - A diet which meets the **energy requirements is accessible and affordable** to almost all Timorese households;
 - However, **only one in four households can afford a nutritious diet** (one which provides the energy, protein and 13 micronutrients required for healthy development); and
 - Interventions are needed to address access and availability of nutritious foods.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Nov 2019 – Apr 2020 Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 16.97 m | 4.41 m | 1.75 m |

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 1: Children under five, adolescent girls and pregnant and breastfeeding 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

- World Food Day events were rolled out over an entire week highlighting healthy diets and nutrition in Timor-Leste led by line ministries, and supported by WFP, FAO, WHO, UNICEF and other sister UN Agencies and international organizations. WFP and WHO released a joint video highlighted the local context on television and through social media campaigns.
- The Student Acceptability Trial on Rice Fortification in Dili area schools has been completed and data analysis is underway. Preliminary results will be available in November 2019.
- WFP, in collaboration with CARE International and other development partners, are supporting the MoEYS' revision of the School Feeding Manual. A 2-day workshop will be held in late November to seek feedback from stakeholders on the path forward.
- A KOICA Feasibility Study team was in Timor-Leste to evaluate a joint-proposal submitted by WFP and WHO Country Offices for improving the School Feeding and School Health policies and programming.

- As part of the emergency response to bushfires in the country, WFP procured, delivered and distributed **1.1 mt** of Super Cereal (a micronutrient dense supplementary food product) to **168** pregnant and breastfeeding women (1-month supply each) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
- WFP is working on updating the country's Minimum Preparedness Response tools to continue supporting emergency response efforts in the country. This includes offering training to line ministries in 2019 and 2020.

Challenges

- While the CSP 2018-2020 has had an influx of funding in the fourth quarter of 2019, chronic underfunding has affected project implementation in several activities, particularly under Strategic Outcome 1 (which focusses on improving the nutrition of children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and adolescent girls). This underfunding could hinder the consolidation of earlier nutrition gains.
- WFP is facing delays in formalizing partnership agreements with several line ministries and other national institutions. This hampers implementation of critical to activities in nutrition, social protection and safety net programming.
- The 2019 edition of the Global Hunger Index identified Timor-Leste as 110th of 117 countries (or "serious" severity) based on rates of undernourishment, wasting, stunting and child mortality. While this score is disputed by some, WFP's Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) results confirm that increasing access to nutritious food is not enough; consumption behaviours must also change.

Monitoring

- WFP's field support units visited 19 Health Facilities and 12 Households as part of their routine monthly visits.

Highlight of the Month



WFP delivered 1.1 mt of Super Cereal (1-month supply of micronutrients) to women who experienced food insecurity due to the destructive fires across Timor-Leste. WFP also worked with other UN agencies to complete a needs assessment of the affected areas.

Donors

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