



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief November 2019

In Numbers

4.9 mt of food distributed

US\$ 2.04 m six months (December 2019 – May 2020) net funding requirements

815 people assisted in November 2019



WFP SAYS NO TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

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.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Population: 1.2 million

2015 Human Development Index: 132 out of 188

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 50% of children between 6-59 months

Operational Updates

- WFP continues contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to be completed next year. This will include a joint work plan between all UN agencies to accelerate progress in Timor-Leste on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The Country Strategic Plan Evaluation team is in country to provide evidence and learning on WFP priorities and propose a way forward from 2021.
- WFP, along with the European Union, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, supported the Nutrition Symposium, which brought together technical experts to review and provide inputs on the National Nutrition Strategy. Participants also developed the Health Sector Nutrition Strategy for 2020-2024.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Health's Nutrition, Health Promotion, and Maternal and Child Health departments, WFP is finalizing a social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) video on improving adolescent nutrition, which will be used in schools throughout the country.
- WFP is finalizing data analysis for its rice fortification acceptability trial and is planning dissemination for late December 2019. Preliminary results suggest that fortified rice would be accepted in primary and secondary schools throughout the country, adding micronutrient content to students' diets as a means of combating malnutrition.
- WFP is working alongside the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Care International and the Ministry of Health on the finalization of the School Feeding Manual. The draft manual will be presented in early 2020.
- WFP helped to contribute to the School Health Strategy (2020-2022) with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, in a workshop organized by the Ministry. The final draft of the strategy will be circulated at the start of 2020.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.97 m	4.4 m	2.04 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 Cont.

- In partnership with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, WFP is working on incorporating into the national monitoring system indicators to measure a minimum acceptable diet and minimum dietary diversity for women and children. Adding this will help inform policies about consumption of nutritious foods in the typical household.

Monitoring

- Based on remote sensing data, WFP released its first dry season monitoring report (as of 24 November 2019) with the concerned ministries and development partners. According to the report, around 500,000 people have experienced more than 60 days without rainfall, and the country may continue to experience below normal rainfall between December 2019 - February 2020. Concerns of minimal rainfall include a higher risk of heat stroke, wildfire, low levels of drinking water and delayed crop plantation.

Challenges

- Chronic underfunding of the CSP 2018-2020 affected project implementation and activities, particularly treatment and prevention of malnutrition for children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and adolescent girls.

An influx of funding in the fourth quarter of 2019 has helped implementation plans for 2020, but closing of our field offices last quarter has hindered WFPs ability to spend the funds which may 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 activities in nutrition, social protection and safety net programming.

Intervention Areas

Activity 1: Nutrition and Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC)

Interventions:

1. Support the Ministry of Health to promote moderate acute malnutrition programming (including Simplified Protocol, Evaluation of Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme and Ready to Use Supplementary Feeding programming).
2. Policy support to the Ministry of Health in developing an SBCC manual and a national SBCC Strategy
3. Production of information, communication and education materials (videos, posters, games, etc.) to combat adolescent and child malnutrition

Activity 2: Nutrition policy through Filling Data Gaps

Interventions:

1. Finalization and distribution of the Fill the Nutrient Gap/Cost of the Diet research to key policymakers and stakeholders to inform policy around social safety nets.
2. Increase consumption of fortified foods through SBCC, policy change and rigorous research.

Activity 3: Strengthening Nutrition related Social Safety Nets

Interventions:

1. Provide capacity development of development partners and government ministries on informed safety net programming.
2. To support the development of effective safety net systems (i.e., school feeding programme, food vouchers, etc.) for the most vulnerable populations.
3. To Introduce innovative tools and solutions for achieving effective safety net programmes.

Activity 4: Assuring an effective Emergency Response and Logistic network in Timor-Leste

Interventions:

1. Developing emergency response and logistic capacities in the country relating to conflict, natural hazards and climate change through governmental capacity strengthening, policy support, and innovative tools.

Donors

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