



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief January 2020



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: **1.3 million**

2019 Human Development Index:
131 out of 189

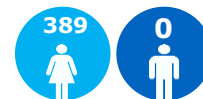
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 806,000 six months (February – July 2020) net funding requirements

389 people assisted in January 2020



Operational Updates

- WFP, in coordination with UNICEF, supported the Ministry of Health in conducting a two-week training for 64 enumerators who will conduct data collection for the 2020 Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey. During this training participants learned techniques on data collection and the use of online applications for the survey.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Health, WFP has finalized a social and behavioural change communication video which will be used in schools throughout the country, to educate students on adolescent nutrition.
- WFP provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for the National School Feeding Manual review workshop. A total of 122 relevant stakeholders including school management, development partners, Ministry of State Administration and municipal authorities attended the event. This event provided an opportunity for the stakeholders to provide their feedback and review the drafted school meal manual.
- On 9 January, WFP met with the Minister of Education, Youth, and Sport to discuss the partnership and the current national school feeding program.
- WFP drafted a concept note and technical agreement for the pilot home-grown school feeding programme. This pilot project will be implemented through tripartite collaboration between the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Agriculture and WFP. The next step is for WFP-CO to plan a homegrown school feeding assessment.
- WFP conducted 15 warehouse visits, logistics capacity and needs assessments across seven municipalities (Manatutu, Baucau, Lautem, Viqueque, Manufahi, Ainaro, and Covalima). These assessments will help the Government and WFP to be better prepared to respond in the case of emergencies.
- WFP has updated its business continuity plan in view of the increased spread of the 2019-novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.97 m	5.1 m	0.81 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.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted joint monitoring with the Ministry of Health for the social behaviour change communication activities and Moderate Acute Malnutrition program in four municipalities; Bobonaro, Ermera, Covalima and Oecusse. The monitoring team found that supplementary foods were not delivered to community health centers regularly, thus making it difficult for nutrition focal points to monitor the nutrition status of the beneficiaries.

Challenges

- Chronic underfunding of the CSP 2018-2020 affected project implementation, particularly in treatment and prevention of malnutrition, and improving nutrition for children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and adolescent girls. An influx of funding in Q4 2019 has reduced the gap and will help CSP implementation in 2020.
- WFP is facing delays in formalizing partnership agreements with several line ministries and other national institutions. This is hampering implementation of critical activities in the safety net program, and emergency preparedness and response.

Priority Under 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 MoH for SBCC Manual and National SBCC Strategy
3. Production of ICE Materials (videos, posters, magazines, games, etc.) to combat adolescent and child malnutrition

Priority Under Activity 2: Nutrition policy through Filling Data Gaps

Interventions:

1. Finalization and distribution of the FNG/CotD 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.

Priority Under 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. Introducing innovative tools and solutions for achieving effective safety net programs.

Priority Under 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 disaster and climate change through governmental capacity strengthening, policy creation, and introducing innovative tools to support capacities and programmes.

Cover photo:

Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, H.E Dulce de Jesus Soares, WFP Representatives Mr. Dageng Liu, and the MoEYS advisers and director as well as WFP Programme Team during the meeting on 9th of January.

Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), SRAC/Multilateral Contributions, China, Japan and Australia.