



WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

February 2020

World Food Programme

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: **1.3 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **131 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

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In Numbers

US\$ 0.83 m six months (March – August 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- The [Fill the Nutrition Gap](#) (FNG) report was launched on 25 February by the National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition in Timor-Leste (KONSSANTIL). The report finds that while almost all Timorese households can afford to meet their energy needs, a nutritious diet meeting the energy, protein and micronutrient requirements would be unaffordable for most households. Pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, infants and young children are at particular risk of malnutrition in Timor-Leste due to high nutrient needs and low nutrient intake. Through modelling of different interventions, the report concludes that nutrition can only be improved if all sectors act together in a coordinated fashion. The [acceptability trial on rice fortification](#) from August to September 2019 was also presented to the stakeholders during the launch of the FNG report.
- From 24-29 February 2020, an independent evaluation team visited Timor-Leste and held an evaluation learning workshop with external stakeholders. Key findings in the light of changing context, capacities, and needs, show that WFP's strategic positioning remained relevant and needed in the country.
- On 3-11 February, WFP conducted a scoping mission for school feeding monitoring & evaluation (M&E). The scoping mission found clear technical gaps in the M&E system of the national school feeding programme, from lacking a proper M&E framework to having limited data flows and timely use of M&E findings. Given WFP's previous role in implementing school feeding in Timor-Leste as well as current strategic planning for the future, there is an urgent and much-needed gap in this area to be filled by WFP in bridging all relevant stakeholders and providing strategic and technical support.
- From February 19-28, 2020, WFP conducted a nutrition scoping mission. The mission recommended the need to reinforce strategic cooperation in nutrition activities. The mission also found that reintegrating school feeding, rice fortification, and integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) programmes would help to improve the nutrition system in the country, especially by linking the activities with supply chain, social and behavioural change communication (SBCC) and evidence-based data.
- There was a reported outbreak of Fall Armyworm (FAW). The FAW is known to be highly migratory and thrive in warm and wet conditions. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, in coordination with FAO and WFP, is planning a rapid assessment in six municipalities to ascertain the impact in March and April.

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	0.83 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 released the February edition of the WFP Agro-Climate Outlook for Timor Leste. The findings show that the current rainy season had a slow onset compared to preceding years. Examining the delay in the planting season would be crucial, as impacts may culminate in harvest loss. Following the previous dry spell, the recent and current rains should be a good sign for cultivation in various parts of the country as depicted in the Vegetation Health Index. However, temperatures have a critical effect on the croplands as well. The effects of both rainfall and temperature should thus be considered, and necessary measures such as basic irrigation should be adopted to augment rainfed agriculture for smallholder farmers.
- WFP and the Ministry of Health held a joint monitoring visit on social and behavioural change communication (SBCC) and moderate acute malnutrition activities in four municipalities; Ermera, Covalima, Bobonaro, and Oecusee. The findings show that communities are acting upon key SBCC messages.

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 the fourth quarter of 2019 has helped implementation plans for 2020.

- WFP is facing delays in formalizing partnership agreements with several line ministries and other national institutions. This is hampering the implementation of critical activities in the safety net program, emergency preparedness and response.

Current Priority Areas

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. Coordinate with Civil Protection, the Secretariat of State for Security, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Interior for developing joint Emergency Response and preparedness activities including Logistic training to capacitate the country relating to natural disaster and climate change through governmental capacity strengthening, policy creation, and introducing innovative tools to support capacities and programmes.
2. Develop joint work plan with National Logistic Centre (NLC) and the National Medical Store (SAMES) related to supply chain activities.
3. Coordinate with NLC to ensure rice allocated for the rice fortification pilot project and scaleup program
4. Coordinate and support Activity 2 to lobby and coordinate with National Logistic Center for developing rice fortification decree-law. This includes a joint meeting with NLC and related agencies, providing technical recommendation, etc.

Donors

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