



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

June 2020



WFP Representative Mr. Dageng Liu, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Lee Chin-bum and UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Roy Trivedy in front of WFP chartered flight in Dili airport, 28 June 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.

Timor-Leste confirmed its first COVID-19 case on March 21, 2020. On March 28, the Government declared a 'State of Emergency' that lasted until June 26, 2020, when it was lifted. WHO and MoH COVID-19 protocols are however, still in place.

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 the 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: **1.3 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **132 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 0.52 m Six Months (July - December 2020)
Net Funding Requirement(NFR).

Situation Updates

- The Government of Timor-Leste lifted the State of Emergency on 26 June, 2020, but the public is still required to observe the COVID-19 health protocols issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health (regular handwashing, wearing masks, and practicing social distancing).
- Following the lifting of the State of Emergency, local markets have now reopened across all municipalities, while public transport and commercial vehicles are also providing services, with restrictions to observe the WHO and Ministry of Health COVID-19 protocols.

Operational Updates

- WFP Aviation, authorized by the Government of Timor-Leste, launched chartered flights linking Díli to Kuala Lumpur on 14, 21 and 28 June. These flights enabled the transport of 1879 kg of vital medical supplies and 48 passengers for the COVID-19 response.
- WFP provided technical support on data collection quality for the Timor-Leste 2020 Food Security & Nutrition Survey data collection, along with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF, in the Covalima Municipality. WFP also provided financial support to the National Institute of Health to conduct joint monitoring of the survey in a number of municipalities.
- The National Council for Food Security, Food Sovereignty, and Nutrition in Timor-Leste (KONSSANTIL) held a technical working group meeting at the United Nations compound on 25 June to discuss the translation of the [2019 Fill the Nutrient Gap](#) findings into action. WFP, in collaboration with the Government, national, and international development partners, supports KONSSANTIL to implement Zero Hunger strategies.
- WFP has completed the initial assessment for home-grown school feeding to be piloted in five schools in Díli Municipality. WFP's support will include improving water sources and establishing handwashing stations; providing washable and reusable face masks; and providing COVID-19 information, education and communication materials - including posters for SBCC (social and behavioral change communication) activities.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
16.97 m	6.14 m	0.52 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 continues tracking incoming shipments of food items by the private sector and monitoring shipping schedules in coordination with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). In June 2020, as per customs statistics, a total of 21,500 mt of rice has been imported by the private sector into Timor-Leste.

Challenges

- The Ministry of Health is experiencing a pipeline break of supplies for its moderate acute malnutrition treatment programme for pregnant women and children under five.
- Most school feeding programmes have also been paused due to: 1) a lack of government budget for the programmes; and 2) an absence of students due to classes remaining suspended.

Current Priority Areas

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

Interventions:

1. Training for Enumerators for the 2020 Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey was conducted for four consecutive days for a total of 64 participants from different municipalities. The enumerators were trained on data collection techniques as well as on how to use online applications for the survey.
2. On the COVID-19 response, WFP continues to support the Government to establish and launch physical social distancing among marketeers in Dili municipality markets.
3. WFP continues to provide technical support to the Ministry of Health with more focus on Pillar 2 during the COVID-19 response (Risk Communication and Community Engagement).

Priority Under Activity 2: Nutrition Policy through Filling #Data Gaps

Interventions:

1. For the celebration of 'World Food Safety Day 2020' at the national level, WFP participated in a joint planning session with WHO, FAO, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and AIFAESA to prepare advocacy tasks (TV and radio talk shows).
2. WFP supported market price monitoring in eight municipalities by providing online training to the field officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on how to use the weighing scales during data collection.
3. Participated in a joint planning session with the Department of Food Security at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) on the dissemination of the 2019 Fill the Nutrient Gap final findings.

Priority Under Activity 3: Strengthening Nutrition-related Social Safety Nets

Interventions:

1. WFP is developing a Concept Note seeking the allocation of South-South opportunity funds to support two schools in Metinaro to improve the kitchen facilities and other related items including materials for the establishment of hand-washing stations (mainly non-food items) for the school feeding programme.
2. The National Directorate for School Social Action and Education of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports requests WFP's support in the finalization of the school feeding manual.

Priority Under Activity 4: Assuring an Effective Emergency Response and Logistic Network in Timor-Leste

Interventions:

1. On 15 May 2020, WFP formally handed over one mobile storage unit to [SAMES Timor-Leste](#), the logistics arm of the Ministry of Health to store the new arrivals of medical supplies and personal protective equipment for the COVID-19 response.
2. On 18 June 2020, WFP has officially handed over three prefabricated office buildings, 13 units of laptops, and 26 units of USBs to the Ministry of Health as a part of COVID-19 response and support to the Government.

Donors

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