



WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief July 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP team monitoring the data collection of Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey 2020 in Ermera Municipality

Operational Context

Timor-Leste was 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\$ 0.46 m Six Months (August 2020 – January 2021)
Net Funding Requirement.

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 hand washing, wearing masks, and practicing social distancing continued throughout July).
- Following the lifting of the State of Emergency, local markets 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

- Since 14 June 2020, WFP Aviation has launched five chartered flights between Kuala Lumpur and Dili, carrying 138 humanitarian passengers, 2 mt of humanitarian cargo, and two loads of office hygiene items. These flights ensure that humanitarian workers, UN, NGOs, humanitarian partners, and medical personnel can rapidly reach the areas where they are needed for the COVID-19 response, amid commercial flight suspensions, and in full compliance with States' public health procedures.
- WFP participated in joint monitoring of the Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey data collection in collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health in Liquisa, Ermera and Aileu Municipalities to ensure data quality. The preliminary findings of the survey will be released in September 2020.
- WFP continues to provide technical support to the Ministry of Health on the preparation of World Breastfeeding Week 2020. Together with UNICEF and WHO, WFP provided technical support and developed a video raising awareness on the importance of breastfeeding and best practices, with the Ministry of Health.
- WFP shared the ten key findings of the [Fill the Nutrient Gap](#) analysis with the Government for their further interventions on relevant recommendations. In addition, a national media campaign was held on the gaps identified – targeting wider audiences, including decision-makers.
- WFP continues the home-grown school feeding pilot project in five schools. WFP held a coordination meeting with the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, Department of Infrastructure, National University of Timor-Leste, and conducted further assessment on the school garden and kitchen facilities.
- WFP continues to collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in raising awareness for farmers on nutritious foods to bring to market.

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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	0.46 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 is continuously tracking incoming shipments of food items by the private sector and monitoring the shipping schedule in coordination with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). In July 2020, as per customs statistics, a total of 9,580 mt of rice has been imported by the private sector in Timor-Leste which is a reduction in comparison previous months. In May and June 2020, the private sector imported 21,494 mt and 18,627 mt rice, respectively.
- WFP continued to collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the National Logistic Center, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to collect market price data in 13 municipalities.

Challenges

- The Ministry of Health is experiencing a significant pipeline break of supplies for its moderate acute malnutrition treatment programme for pregnant and lactating 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. WFP participated in the joint monitoring of the Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey (TLFNS 2020) data collection in collaboration with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Liquisa, Ermera and Aileu Municipalities to ensure data quality. The preliminary findings of the survey are expected in September 2020.
2. WFP, UNICEF and WHO provided technical support and developed a video raising awareness on the importance of breastfeeding and best practices together with the Ministry of Health to be used in August for the World Breastfeeding Week.
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. WFP finalised the infographic on food safety for the school feeding programme targeting the cooks and school management teams.
2. WFP is awaiting feedback from the Ministry of Health on the Food Safety Tetun Guidelines (local language version) for the school feeding programme before sharing it with the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports.
3. The procurement of fortified rice kernels is underway. WFP has issued a purchase order to the selected supplier, the supplier has been looking for the potential delivery method given the reduced availability of transportation amid COVID-19.

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

1. Upon request from the National Directorate for School Social Action and Education, of the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports, WFP in July 2020, continues to support the Ministry in reviewing the school feeding manual, including four days of intensive review and a national workshop on presentation of the draft school feeding programme manual to stakeholders.
2. Coordination meeting held with E-Commerce Hello Dili for potential linkage for the HGSE e-payment methods.

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

1. WFP is continuously tracking incoming shipments of food items by the private sector and monitoring the shipping schedule in coordination with GIZ. In July 2020, as per customs statistics, a total of 9,580 mt of rice has been imported by the private sector in Timor-Leste..
2. WFP has initiated with the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) for the procurement of 1,440.00 units of pallets to support various government warehouses (SAMES, national logistics cluster, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion).

Donors

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