



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

August 2020



WFP Representative Mr. Dageng Liu with WHO Representative Dr. Rajesh Pandav in front of WFP chartered flight in Dili international airport.

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.

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. 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.

This situation is likely to exacerbate by the effects of the global pandemic COVID-19. Timor-Leste confirmed its first COVID-19 case on 21 March 2020. On 28 March, the Government declared a 'State of Emergency' that lasted for three months, was then paused and then re-instated on 6 August. COVID-19 protocols and border restrictions agreed by the Ministry of Health and WHO are still in place.



Population: **1.3 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **131 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

US\$ 0.39 m Six Months (September 2020 – February 2021) Net Funding Requirement (NFR).

Situation Updates

- After almost three months without any active case, Timor-Leste registered two new cases of COVID-19 on 4 and 20 August 2020. As a result, the Government declared another 60 days of State of Emergency, starting from 6 August.
- WFP is finalizing food safety guidelines for school feeding and developing advocacy materials with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports.
- WFP continues to participate in the joint monitoring of the 2020 Food and Nutrition Survey (TLFNS 2020). Data collection is completed in 10 out of the 13 municipalities. Preliminary findings are expected by end-September.

Operational Updates

- Since 14 June 2020, the WFP Global Air Service has managed eight chartered flights connecting Dili to Kuala Lumpur, transporting medical and humanitarian personnel, medical supplies and relief items. A total of 381 passengers have been transported along with 6,027 kg of light cargo. The next flights are scheduled for 15, 16, and 30 September 2020.
- WHO and WFP continue to collaborate on food safety matters and support quality control to ensure the safety of fortified rice to be delivered at schools as part of a home-grown school feeding (HGSF) pilot project.
- WFP organized a media briefing celebrating 20 years of WFP operations in Timor-Leste, targeting a wide range of audiences including decision-makers in the country. On this occasion WFP also presented the Fill the Nutrient Gap Analysis.
- The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports endorsed the HGSF pilot project in five schools. As a next step, WFP will hold a one-day workshop with involved ministries and other relevant stakeholders to prepare for the launch.
- On 13 August 2020, WFP supported the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to distribute take-home rations to 189 students at the EBF 1.2.3 Lelaus school. The rations are to last for 30 days. A second round of take-home ration distributions are being planned for students of the EBC Metinaro school.
- WFP is providing technical assistance to the Government on the Economic Recovery Plan, particularly related to the design of the national food basket/voucher assistance programme.

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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	6.16 m	0.39 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 tracking incoming shipments of food items from the private sector. This also includes monitoring the shipping schedule in coordination with GIZ. From 1 to 16 August 2020, as per customs statistics, 27,505 mt of rice have been imported by the Government and private sector, representing a higher import volume than during the first seven months of 2020. The Government of Timor-Leste received 6,000 mt of rice from Vietnam on 13 August 2020 out of its 30,000 mt government-to-government agreement.
- WFP continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the National Logistic Center, and 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 5 years.
- Most school feeding programmes have also been paused due to: 1) delays in approval of the Government's budget for the programmes; and 2) school closures due to COVID-19. WFP is supporting the Government to advocate for take-home ration provision.

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 in Liquisa, Ermera, and Aileu Municipalities to ensure data quality. The preliminary findings of the survey are expected in September 2020.
2. WFP continues to advocate with the Ministry of Health for its moderate acute malnutrition treatment intervention.
3. WFP continues to provide technical support to the Ministry 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. Food safety posters targeting school cooking teams, school management, the Technical Assistance Office (GAT), and students were finalized and approved by the Ministry of Health.
2. WFP and WHO have supported the Ministry of Health with drafting a food safety guideline for schools.
3. Together with WHO and the Ministry of Health, WFP is seeking funding opportunities to progress food standards and the integration of fortified rice in the school feeding programme. The procurement of fortified rice kernels (FRK) for the provision of fortified rice in schools under the HGSP pilot project is underway. WFP has selected a supplier.

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

Interventions:

1. WFP is supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce the Food Security Bulletin for the period April to June 2020.
2. WFP held a coordination meeting with E-Commerce Halo Dili to explore linkages with the HGSP pilot e-payment methods.
3. WFP continues to support the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports in drafting a school feeding manual, which is expected to be finalized by October 2020.

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.
2. In coordination with the UN Humanitarian Response Depot, WFP initiated the procurement of 1,440 units of pallets to support various government warehouses. Following recent requests, the number of pallets to be procured is being doubled.

Donors

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