



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief September 2020



WFP Representative, Mr. Dageng Liu (third left) and Minister of Health, Odete Belo (C) in the Closing Ceremony of Timor-Leste 2020 Food and Nutrition Survey in Manatuto on 18 September

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 for three months, was then paused and then re-instated on August 6 to present. WHO and MoH COVID-19 protocols and border restrictions are 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 2018-2021) supports the attainment of the Government's vision and contributes to the National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030.



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\$ 0.00 m six months (October 2020 – March 2021)
Net Funding Requirement (NFR).

Situation Updates

- Timor-Leste registered one new case of COVID-19 on 28 September 2020. As a result, the Government of Timor-Leste declared another thirty day State of Emergency.
- WFP is supporting the Government in finalizing the food safety guidelines for the school feeding programme and developing advocacy materials with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.
- Data collection for the WFP joint monitoring of the 2020 Food and Nutrition Survey (TLFNS 2020) was completed in thirteen municipalities. The preliminary report is expected in November.

Operational Updates

- In September, WFP provided three WFP's humanitarian chartered flights connecting Kuala Lumpur to Dili and Port Moresby, with 212 humanitarian passengers and 2,993 kg of cargos. Subsequent flights are scheduled for October and November 2020.
- In September, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports continued to prepare for a second round of take home ration distributions. This second distribution (of rice, beans, eggs, and vegetables) is scheduled to be launched on 8 October along with the launch of the home-grown school feeding programme to primary students of the EBC Metinaro.
- WFP conducted a one-day workshop on the home-grown school feeding programme in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Ministry of State Administration, during which the discussions centered on the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.
- WFP is providing technical support on request by the Government on the design of food baskets and vouchers under the Government's Economic Recovery Plan.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce and release the [April to June Food Security Bulletin](#).

Contact info: Felizberto Duarte (felizberto.duarte@wfp.org)
Country Director: Dageng Liu (dageng.liu@wfp.org)
Further information: www1.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
18.17 m	6.16 m	0.00 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 the monitoring of the shipping schedule in coordination with GIZ. In September, as per customs statistics, 9,430.91 mt of rice have been imported by the private sector in Timor-Leste, similar to an import figure of September 2019.
- WFP continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the General Directorate of Statistics to collect market price data in all municipalities, with the exception of Viqueque.
- A partnership formed between WFP and the General Directorate of Statistics to develop a digitalized platform for Consumer Price Index data collection market and commodities identification is on-going.

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.

- Most school feeding programmes have also been paused due to delays in approval of the Government's budget for the programmes.

Current Priority Areas

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

Interventions:

1. WFP continues to advocate with the Ministry of Health for its Moderate Acute Malnutrition treatment intervention.
2. WFP provided technical support to KONSSANTIL secretariat for the preparation of the World Food Day to be held on 16 October 2020, including developing a SUN Movement Video and Information, Education and Communication materials in collaboration with UNICEF, FAO and WHO.
3. WFP displayed two billboards at strategic locations in Dili for 30 days in September. These displayed key findings from the Fill the Nutrient Gap study.
4. Together with other UN agencies, WFP continues to support and participate in the discussion on the finalization of the simplified Protocol and Global Action Plan on Wasting.
5. WFP continues the technical discussion with the Health Promotion Department of the Ministry of Health for the strengthening of the Mother Support Group activities in the country.

Priority Under Activity 2: Nutrition Policy through Filling Data Gaps

Interventions:

1. Procurement of Fortified Rice Kernel is ongoing with expected arrival in Dili in October.
2. WFP is finalizing the Food Safety Guide for schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Health and WFP.
3. The procurement of one blending machinery for the rice fortification program in the country is ongoing.

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

Interventions:

1. WFP completed the proposal for the home-grown school feeding garden for the National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL).
2. WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports continues the implementation of the home-grown school feeding pilot program within five schools in Dili Municipality.

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

Interventions:

1. WFP completed the bid evaluation for the transport services, and issued contracts to selected contractors.
2. Local Procurement and Contract Committee (LPCC) has agreed to the procurement of 2,880 units of pallets and sent the Purchase Order to the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD).
3. WFP received quotations from the UNHRD to procure additional mobile storage units and a small wiki hall. WFP will issue a purchase order to the UNHRD for procurement after an LPCC meeting.

Donors

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