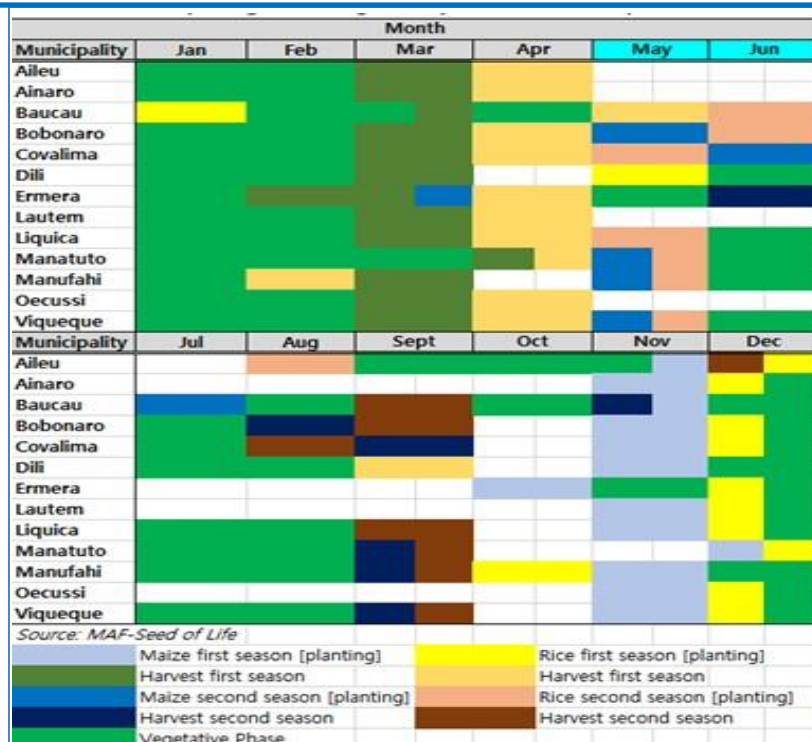


# Food Security Bulletin

Edition no. 19 July - September 2020

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## Highlights

- The national Rice production for 2020 was estimated at 49,983 tonnes, while Maize production was estimated at 77,606 tonnes.
- Based on the Cereal Balance Sheet in Table 1, the availability of both staple food (rice and maize) shows a surplus during the reporting period. However, there are tendencies of decrease in rice and maize stock after the implementation of Cesta Basica (Government Food Basket) in the country as rice and maize commodities are currently being bought and will be distributed to the population before the end of the year as a part of the Cesta Basica programme.
- Although the prices of food commodities remain stable as per the Market Price Monitoring reports, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) shows that both local and imported rice prices increased by 2.5 indexes on average during this quarter (July to September 2020), The global increased in cereal prices significantly affected rice prices.
- The Government and Private sector rice imports for Timor-Leste from July to September 2020 were 25,010 tonnes compared to 44,846 tonnes during the last quarter (April to June 2020). There was a decrease of 19,836 tonnes in imported rice.
- The National Logistic Center (NLC) and MSSSI have a total food stock of 30,000 tonnes of imported rice and 541 tonnes of local rice by the end of September 2020.

The Timor-Leste Food Security Bulletin (FSB) is a product of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) supported by WFP and FAO supported project on establishing a sustainable National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) on Food Security in Timor-Leste. The FSB aimed at reporting and providing information on national and household levels of the food security situation quarterly. This is a MAF led innovation of ensuring the timely delivery of information to the decision-makers and wider stakeholders on the general overview of the food security situation in the country as an early warning to mitigate the impacts of food shortage and hunger. The data sources used for this bulletin included primary and secondary data such as Rapid Assessment of Food Security by MAF in collaboration with development partners, Fill Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis 2019, satellite and remote sensing data collected by WFP and MAF, food prices data reported by Directorate General of Statistics, importation data collected by Customs, food availability data collected by MAF and the food utility data reported by National Logistic Center, Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) and Civil Protection (CP).



World Food Programme

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## National Food Supply and Demand 2020

Analysis of food supply and demand indicates that the availability of both staple food (rice and maize) shows a surplus during the reporting period (July -September 2020), as seen in the Cereal Balance Sheet below. However, there are tendencies of decrease in rice and maize stock after the implementation of “Cesta Basica” (Government Minimum Food Basket) in the country as rice and maize commodities are currently bought for distribution to the population as a part of the Cesta Basica programme. The calculation within the Cereals Balance Sheet shows a total surplus of 34,112 tonnes of Rice and 3,556 tons of Maize. The details are described below in Table 1.

**Table 1: Calculation of the Cereals Balance Sheet**

| Descriptions                        | Rice-MT        | Maize-MT      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Total Availability 1/</b>        | <b>181,909</b> | <b>77,606</b> |
| Importation (Jan -Sept 2020)        | 95,357         |               |
| Importation forecast (Oct-Dec 2020) | 36,569         |               |
| Production                          | 49,983         | 77,606        |
| <b>Total Utilization 2/</b>         | <b>147,796</b> | <b>74,050</b> |
| Food Utilization                    | 137,800        | 72,800        |
| Food for animals                    |                | 1,250         |
| Harvest loss                        | 9,996          | 806           |
| <b>Deficit/Surplus</b>              | <b>34,113</b>  | <b>3,556</b>  |
| Anticipated commercial import       | 0              |               |
| Anticipated import by government    | 0              |               |

Calculation of food consumptions for 9 months (January-September 2020) (formula and explanation in 4 and 5)

1/ Rice and Maize production is finalized in 2020

2/ Annual consumption: rice-106 kg and maize 56 kg annually per person for 1.3 million.

Source : MAP-DNAHE,2020

## National Food Production

### *Rice and Maize production*

**Rice:** The national Rice production for 2020 was estimated at 49,983 tonnes. Generally, Baucau and Viqueque have higher rice production during 2020 with a total of 13,167 and 12,831 tonnes, while the least rice production was in Dili, Liquica, Aileu, Lautem, Ainaro, and Manufahi. Table 2 below shows the details on rice production.

**Maize:** The national maize production for 2020 is nearly at the average expected yield, estimated at 77,606 tonnes. Baucau, Bobonaro, and Covalima have higher maize production during 2020 with a total of 15,175, 11,396, and 9,623 tonnes, while the least maize production was in Dili, Liquica and RAEOA (see Table 2).

**Table 2: Rice and Maize Production in 2020 by Municipality**

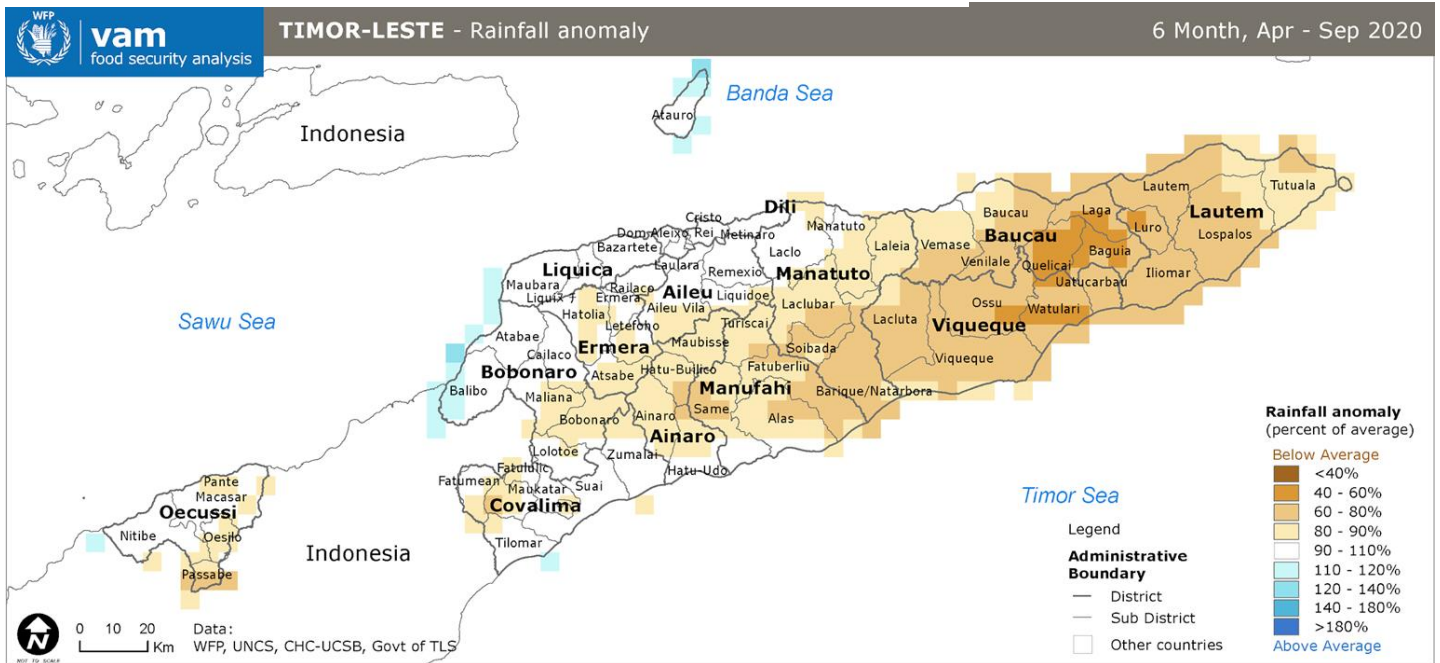
| No.                            | Names of Municipalities | Rice Production | Maize Production |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1                              | Aileu                   | 644             | 4,205            |
| 2                              | Ainaro                  | 1294            | 5,030            |
| 3                              | Baucau                  | 13167           | 15,175           |
| 4                              | Bobonaro                | 6245            | 11,396           |
| 5                              | Covalima                | 5041            | 9,623            |
| 6                              | Dili                    | 27              | 547              |
| 7                              | Ermera                  | 1457            | 4,724            |
| 8                              | Lautem                  | 854             | 5,304            |
| 9                              | Liquica                 | 234             | 5,481            |
| 10                             | Manatuto                | 2970            | 2,614            |
| 11                             | Manufahi                | 1389            | 5,134            |
| 12                             | Oecussi (RAEOA)         | 3830            | 3,377            |
| 13                             | Viqueque                | 12831           | 4,997            |
| <b>TOTAL ANNUAL PRODUCTION</b> |                         | <b>49,983</b>   | <b>77,606</b>    |

Source: MAP-DNAHE,2020

# Summary of climate impact on food production

## Rainfall Conditions

**Map 1: Rainfall distribution for the last 6 months (April-September 2020)**

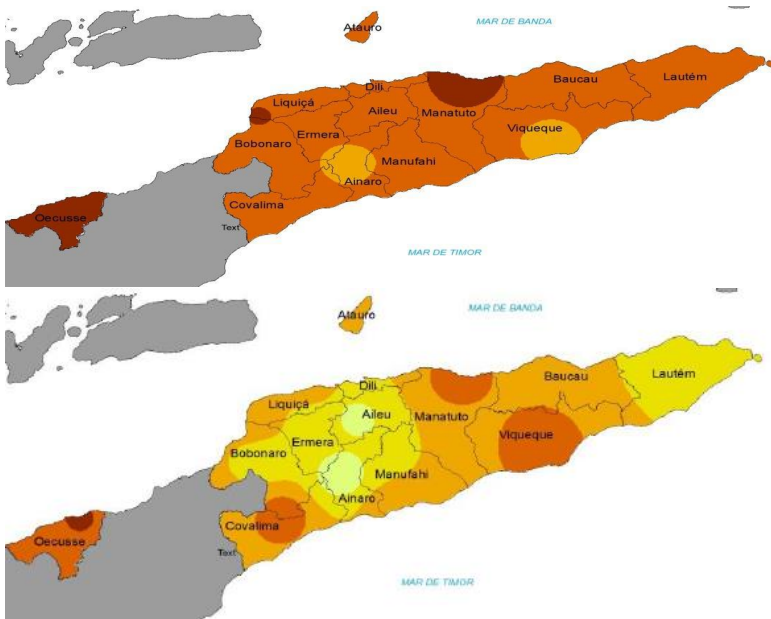


Sources :WFP-VAM

In the last 6 months, from April to September 2020, Timor-Leste generally experienced below-normal rainfall, with several localized rainfall in Liquica, Dili, Bobonaro, Covalima, and the North-East part of Aileu. However, few areas in the Atauro and the West Coast of Bobonaro experienced slightly above normal rainfall from April 11 to 20, 2020.

Most areas in the Eastern part of the country experienced below normal rainfall (around 60 - 90% of the usual amount of rainfall). While only a few areas of Quelicai, Baguia, and Laga in the Baucau District only experienced 40 - 60% rainfall from the normal condition (see Map 1 above).

**Map 2: Seasonal Climate Rainfall Forecast (October to December 2020)**



### October 2020

During October 2020, rainfall varied from below to moderate in Timor Leste with the intensity of 50-100mm/month. In some areas like Viqueque, Ainaro, Covalima, and Ermera experiencing rainfall with an intensity of 100-150 mm/month. In the Oecussi region some areas on the North like Manatuto, Liquica, and Bobonaro show low rainfall of 20 mm/months.

### November 2020

In November 2020, rainfall varied significantly compared to October. The central part of Ainaro and Aileu still presents a high intensity of 200-300mm/month. In other Municipalities, the rainfall intensity is still moderate (100-200 mm/month) except for Viqueque, north Manatuto, and Oecussi where rainfall varied from 20-100 mm/Month.



Source: DNGM-Ministerio Infrastrutura

**December 2020**

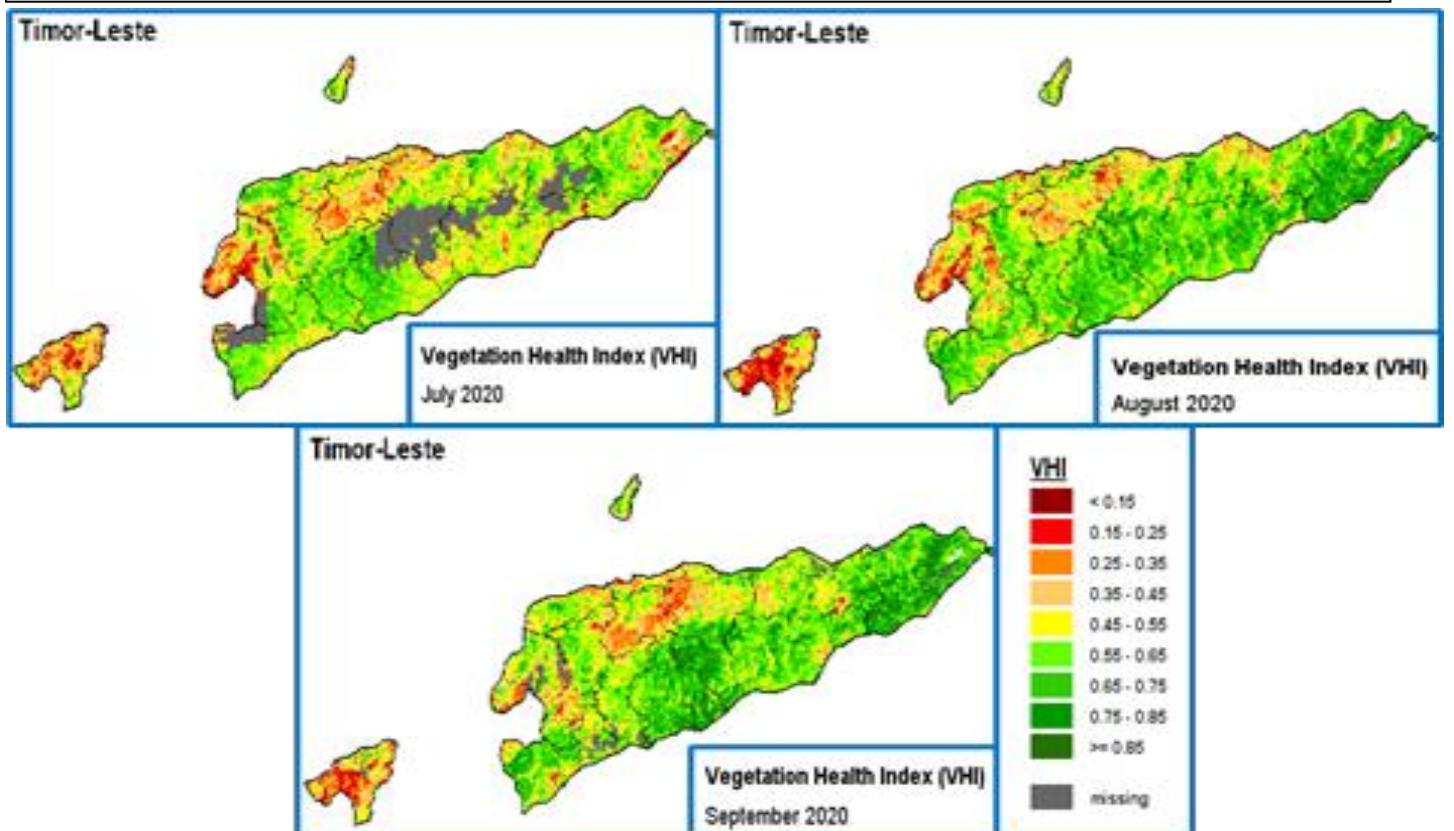
In December 2020, the predation shows that the rainfall will continue to intensify compare to November and October. It is also observed that the majority of Timor-Leste will experience rainfall with intensity varies from 100-300 mm/months. Only Oecussi and other parts in south Manufahi will have rainfall intensity below 20-100 mm/months.

**Vegetation Health Index (VHI) conditions**

The overall Vegetation Health Index indicates that the level of vegetation was around 0.55 to 0.85 throughout the country from July to September 2020 except Oecussi and another northside of the country has a low vegetation index.

In July 2020, VHI indicates that the level of vegetation was low between 0.15 to 0.55 (red colour) in Oecussi, Dili, Manatuto, Maubara, Baucau Villa, Aileu, Maliana, Atabae, Lospalos, Tutuala and Oecussi. On the north side, the vegetation index shows green (0.65 to 0.85) in Ermera, Ainaro, Covalima, Manufahi, Laclubar, Quelicai, Ossu, and Lautem. While in August to September the vegetation index increased to an index of 0.65 to 0.85 (green) in Southside of Country. However, Oecussi and other northside of the country continue experiencing low vegetation (see Map 3 below).

**Map 3: Vegetation Health Index from July to September 2020**



Sources: ALGIS-MAP 2020

## National Food Importation and Exportation

### Importation

**Rice Imports:** Importation data from Customs shows that the Government and Private Sector rice imports for Timor-Leste from July to September 2020 were 25,010 tonnes compared to 44,846 tonnes during the last Quarter (April to June 2020). There was a decrease of 19,836 tonnes in imported rice (see Table 3 below).

**Table 3: Rice importation in Timor-Leste during January 2019-June 2020 (Unit: Tonnes)**

| Years | Jan    | Feb    | Mar    | Apr   | May    | Jun    | Jul    | Aug    | Sep   | Total   |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|---------|
| 2019  | 18,431 | 18,181 | 17,424 | 9,042 | 7,445  | 1,951  | 13,776 | 12,777 | 9,756 | 108,783 |
| 2020  | 11,484 | 4,431  | 9,583  | 4,728 | 21,494 | 18,627 | 9580   | 11640  | 3790  | 95,357  |

Source: Custom-MoF

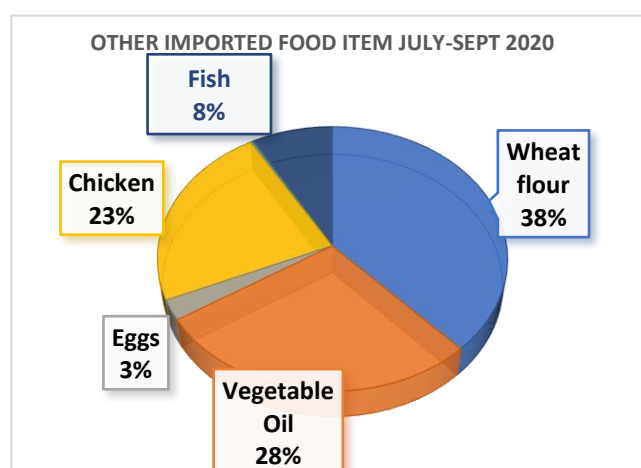
**Importation of other Food items:** During the last Quarter (July to September 2020), there were also other food items imported such as wheat four, vegetable oil, chickens, eggs, pork, beef, and fish (see Table 4 and Figure 1 below).

**Table 4: Total Importation of other food items (Unit: Tonnes)**

| Food Items            | July  | Aug   | Sep   | Total |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Vegetable Oil (Liter) | 1,545 | 1,721 | 593   | 3,859 |
| Eggs                  | 137   | 69    | 205   | 412   |
| Chicken               | 1,272 | 1,286 | 1,397 | 3,955 |
| Pork                  | 13    | 28    | 27    | 69    |
| Beef                  | 3     | 0     | 1     | 4     |
| Fish                  | 454   | 301   | 257   | 1,011 |
| Wheat Flour           | 2,101 | 1,349 | 1,784 | 5,234 |

Sources: Autoridade Aduaneira

**Figure 1: Other imported food items**



### Exportation

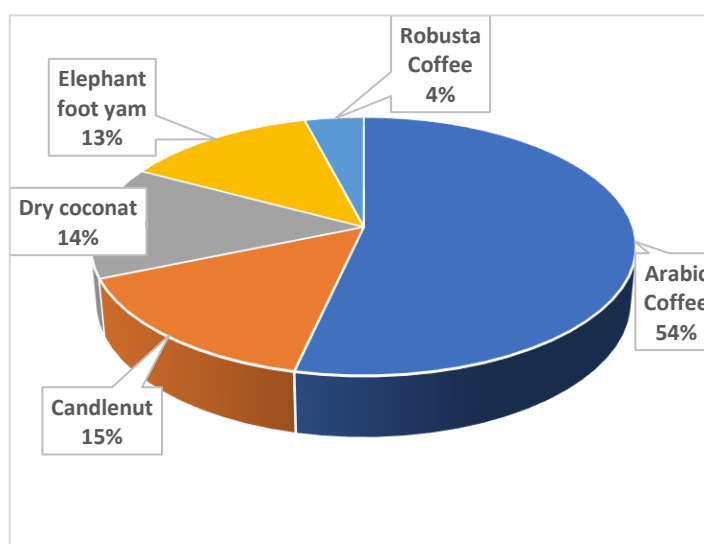
In Quarter 3 (July to September 2), Timor-Leste exported 2,860 tonnes of other food items. Food items exported were Arabic Coffee at 1,526 tonnes, Candlenut at 436 tonnes, Dry Coconut at 390 tonnes, Elephant Foot Yam at 366 tonnes, Robusta Coffee at 127 tonnes, Clave at 10 tonnes and Cashew at 5 tonnes. Besides, other small quantities of products that are used for private needs such as Sweet Potatoes at 0 tonnes, and Noni at 0 tonnes were also exported (see Table 5 below). The most exported products to countries are shown in Figure 2 below.

**Table 5: Total Exported Product (July-September 2020)**

| Exported Product  | Quantity(Tonnes) | Percentages |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Arabic Coffee     | 1,526            | 53%         |
| Candlenut         | 436              | 15%         |
| Dry Coconut       | 390              | 14%         |
| Elephant foot yam | 366              | 13%         |
| Robusta Coffee    | 127              | 4%          |
| Clove             | 10               | 0%          |
| Cashew            | 5                | 0%          |
| Sweet Potatoes    | 0                | 0%          |
| Noni              | 0                | 0%          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>2,860</b>     | <b>100%</b> |

Sources : DNQB-MAP 2020

**Figure 2: Percentages of Product Exported)**



## Availability and Distribution of Rice (January to September 2020)

### National Logistic Centre (NLC)

NLC is an institution responsible for the management and distribution of rice in Timor Leste. From January to September 2020, NLC purchased and stored within CLN and MSSSI warehouses 541 tonnes of local rice and 30,000 tonnes of imported rice from Vietnam. With the existing stock, NLC will continue to distribute the rice to relevant Government Ministries for market interventions and humanitarian assistance (see Table 6 below).

**Table 6: Accumulation of rice distributions to line ministries between January to September 2020**

| No                        | Types of Intervention  | Quantities/Sack | Tonnes/Kg      |
|---------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|
| 1                         | Delivering assistance to Civil Protection                          | 5,829           | 145,725        |
| 2                         | Humanitarian assistance to MSSSI                                   | 7,670           | 191,750        |
| 3                         | Humanitaria assistance to educación                                | 200             | 5000           |
| 4                         | Assistance for vulnerable commodities                              | 189             | 4,725          |
| 5                         | Assistance to Police UFP-Maliana                                   | 366             | 9,159          |
| 6                         | Humanitaria assistance to vulnerable families RAEOA/DILI           | 1,200           | 30,000         |
| 7                         | Humanitaria assistance to vulnerable families - Kendara Ana/Atauro | 50              | 1,250          |
| <b>TOTAL INTERVENTION</b> |  | <b>15,504</b>   | <b>387,609</b> |

Source: National Logistic Centre (CLN), 2020

### Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI)

Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) through the National Directorate of Social Assistance (DNAS), is responsible for delivering rice to vulnerable groups in Timor Leste. In general, the rice received by the NLC was distributed to victims of disaster, vulnerable families, and hospitals. In Quarter 3 (July-September 2020), rice distributed to the vulnerable groups was 36.5 tonnes. This assistance has decreased to a total of 50.2 tonnes as compared to Quarter 2 (April-June 2020) see Table 7 below.

**Table 7: Rice Distribution to Vulnerable Families and Groups (July-September 2020)**

| Category of Groups     | Total (Tones) | Total (Sacs) |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Vulnerable groups      | 4.15          | 166          |
| CSSI Municipality      | 28            | 1,100        |
| Religious institutions | 1.10          | 44           |
| Other needs            | 3.75          | 150          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>37</b>     | <b>1,460</b> |

Sources: -DNAS - MSSSI, 2020

### Ministry of Interior – Secretary of Civil Protection

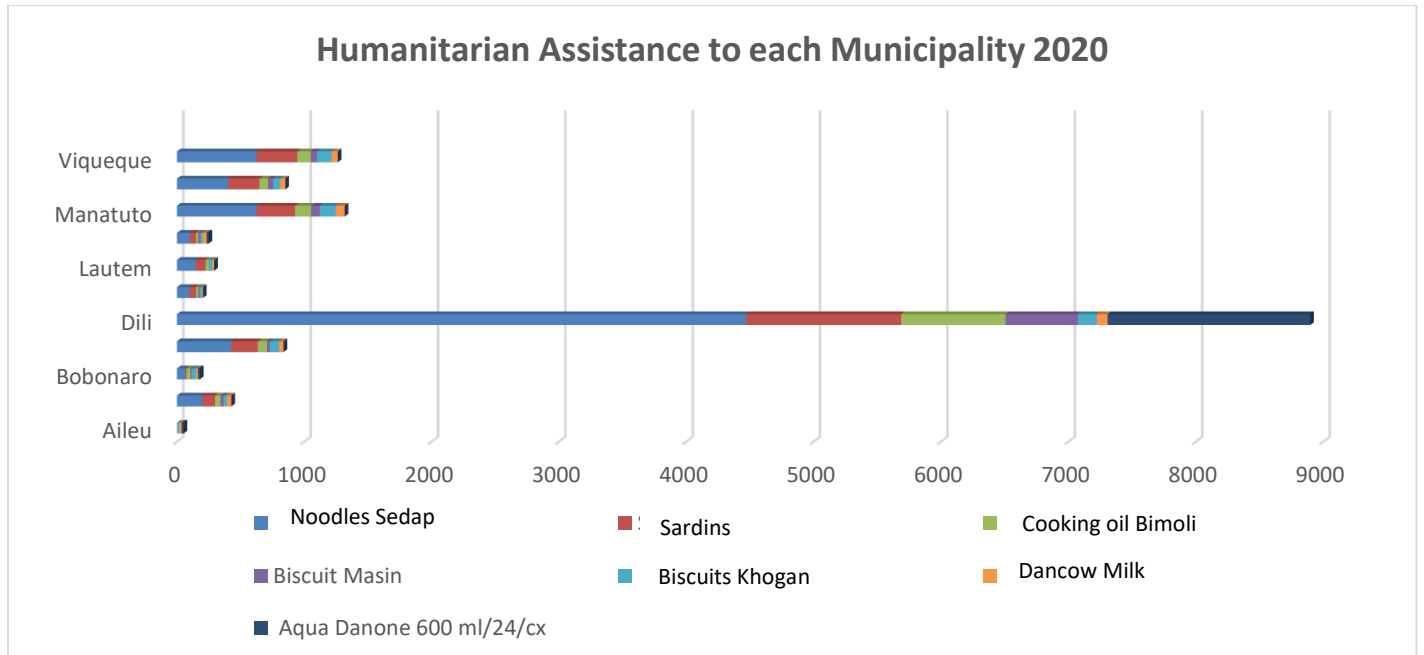
Ministry of Interior through the Secretary of Civil Protection is one of the Government Agencies responsible for delivering food to disaster victims in Timor Leste. From January to September 2020, a total of 41.87 tonnes of rice out of the 145 tonnes received from the National Logistic Center (NLC) has been distributed to disaster victims by Civil Protection (CP). The rice was distributed mainly in municipalities as shown in Table 8. As seen in Figure 3 below, most of the food items were distributed to disaster victims in Dili Municipality than in any other disaster-affected areas in the country.

**Table 8: distribution of rice to natural disaster affected areas by municipality 2020.**

| Municipality | Viqueque | Lautem | Covalima | Manufahi | Baucau | Manatuto | Liquica | Total |
|--------------|----------|--------|----------|----------|--------|----------|---------|-------|
| <b>Sacs</b>  | 450      | 150    | 275      | 100      | 100    | 300      | 80      | 1,555 |
| <b>tones</b> | 11.45    | 3.82   | 7.00     | 2.54     | 2.54   | 7.63     | 2.04    | 39.57 |

Source: Ministry of Interior – Secretary of Civil Protection

**Figure 3: Food Items Distribution to Natural Disaster Affected Areas (January to September 2020)**

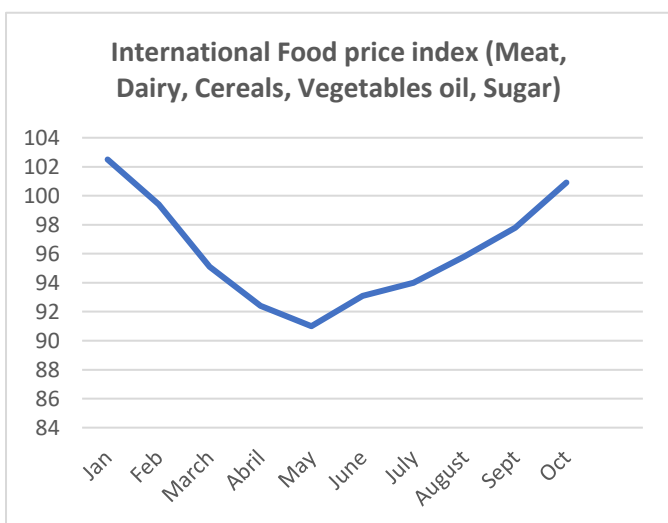


Source: Ministry of Interior – Secretary of Civil Protection

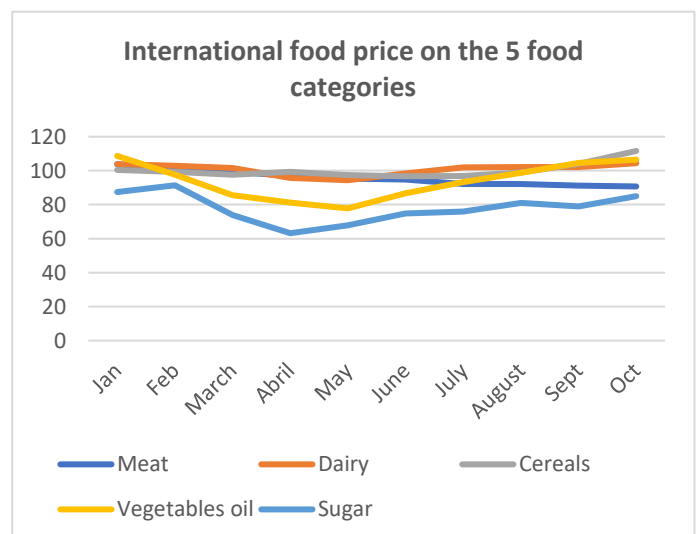
## International Food Price

According to the FAO Food Price Index, the prices of five category food commodities (Meat, Dairy, Cereals, Vegetable oil, and Sugar) sharply increased significantly around 90 to 100 Price Index from June to September 2020, as compared to January to May 2020 when the prices dropped from 100 to 90 (see Figure 4). As seen in Figure 5, Cereals prices increased fluctuated from January to June, and the cereals prices started to increase significantly from July to September 2020. All food category prices increased except for only meat's price decreased slightly from July to September 2020.

**Figure 4: FAO International Food Price Index**



**Figure 5: Food Price based on 5 food categories**



Source: FAO:

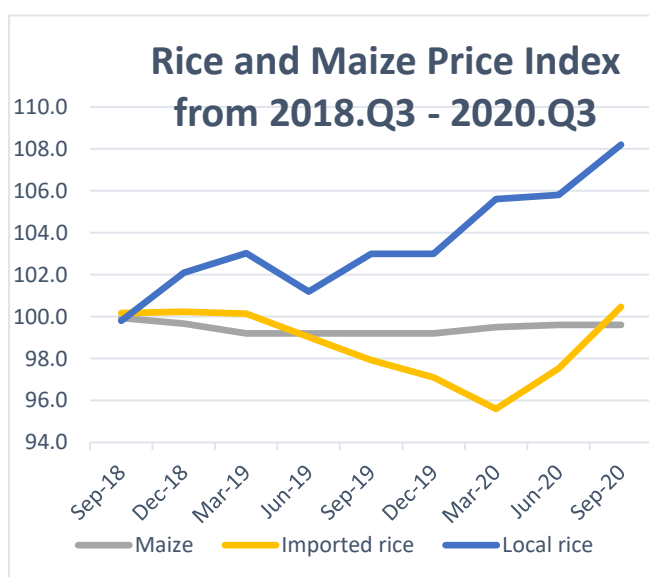
<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/#:~:text=The%20FAO%20Food%20Price%20Index,the%20groups%20over%202014%2D2016>

## Consumer Price Index (CPI)

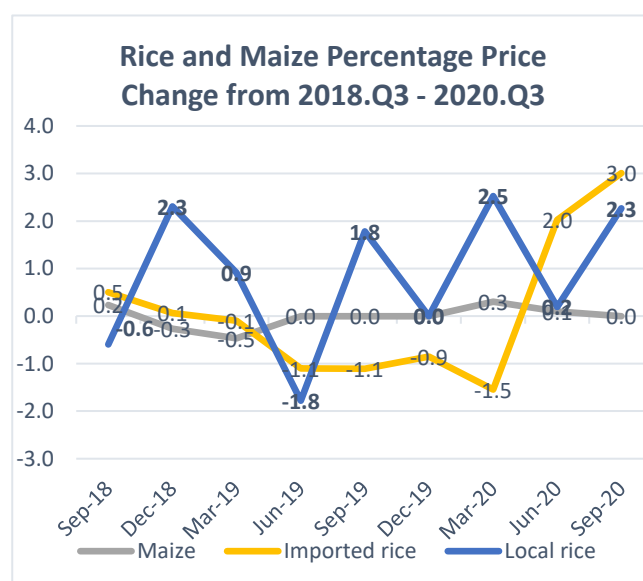
The overall price for local and imported rice by 2.5 indexes on average during this quarter (July to September 2020). The global increase in cereal prices significantly affected rice prices while the prices of maize remain stable in Quarter 3 (July - September 2020) compared with Quarter 2 (April - June 2020). The index price for imported rice increased to (100.5) in July - September 2020, compared to 97.5 in April - June 2020. The price index for local rice also increased from July to September with 108.2 compared with 105.8 in April - June 2020. The Price Index for Maize is 99.6 in July - September 2020, there was no change compared to April - June 2020 (see Figure 7).

Imported rice percentage change was (+3%) from July - September 2020, compared to April - June 2020, which increased by (+2%). This value is affected by international market price and the "Cesta Basica" Government of Timor-Leste Minimum Food Basket programme implementation. Percentage changes for local rice were (+2.3%) in July - Sept compared to April - June which were (+0.2%). The local rice prices do not follow the local production season. Percentage changes for maize price in July - September has no change (+0.0%) compare with April - Sept 2020 which was (+0.1%). Please see details in Figure 8 below.

**Figure 6: Rice and Maize Price Index**



**Figure 7: Rice and Maize Percentages Price Change**

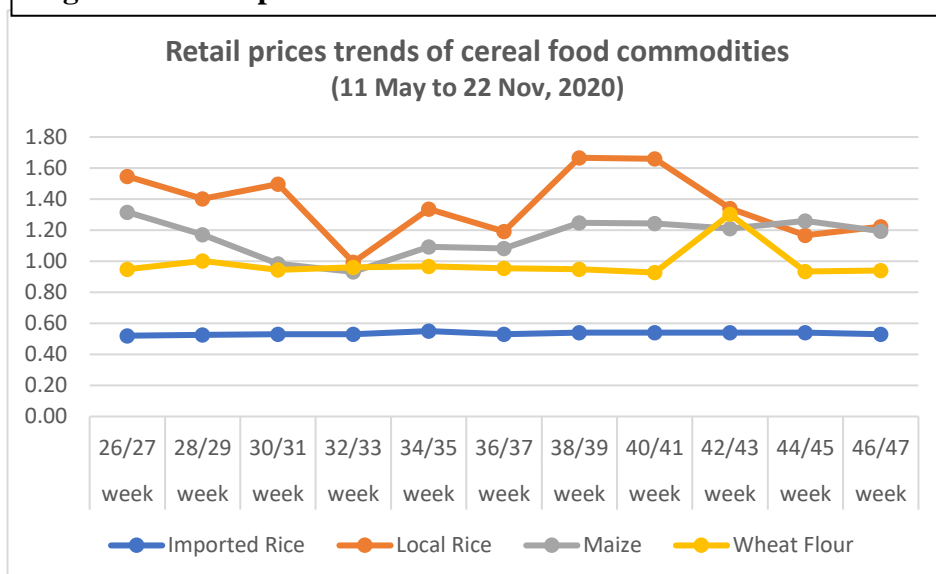


Sources : DGE-Statistics

## Food Prices Monitoring

Timor-Leste relies on rice imports to meet rice consumption needs. COVID-19 restriction, (temporary) rice export bans and the lockdown in South East Asian Countries continue to cause food supply risks for Timor-Leste. Although the Consumer Price Index (CPI) shows that both local and imported rice prices increased by 2.5 indexes on average during this quarter (July to September 2020), imported rice prices remain relatively stable as per the bi-weekly food prices monitoring during the reporting period. The details are shown in Figure 8.

**Figure 8: Retail prices trends of cereal food commodities**



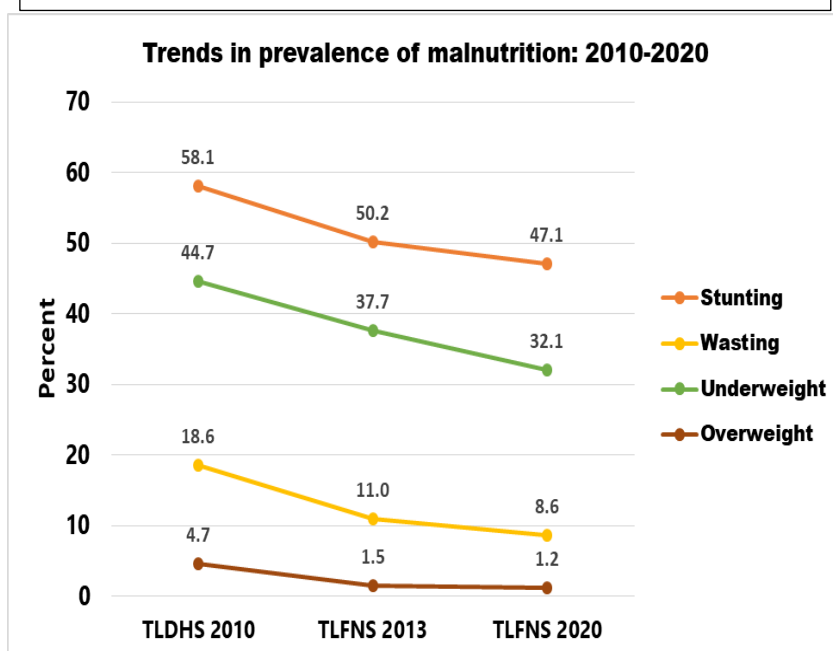
Source: WFP-VAM



## Food and Nutrition Survey 2020

Despite recent progress, Timor-Leste has some of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world. The preliminary results of the 2020 Food and Nutrition Survey (TLFNS 2020) indicated that 47.1% of children (age 0-59 months) suffer from chronic malnutrition (stunting), 8.6% suffer from acute malnutrition (wasting), and 32.1% (underweight). The prevalence of stunting is considered “very high” according to the World Health Organization (WHO) public health classifications, while the prevalence of underweight is consistent with a “severe” public health problem. To respond to the nutrition needs of the population, the 2019 Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis provided key recommendations for each of the prioritised sectors (see Table 8 below).

Figure 9: Trends in Prevalence of Malnutrition (2010 - 2020)



Sources TLFNS 2020

Table 8: Timor-Leste 2019 Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) Analysis Prioritized Recommendations

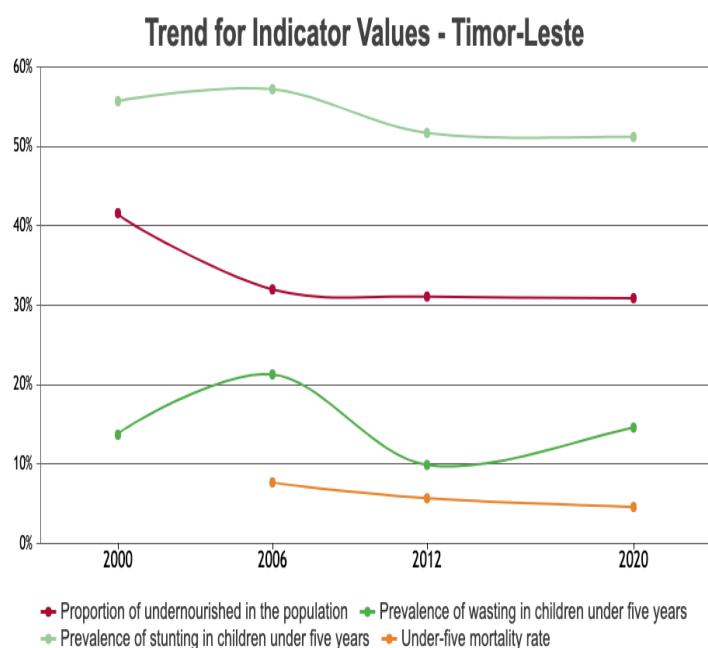
| Sector                | Prioritised Interventions  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Health                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple micronutrient supplementation for Pregnant and Lactating (PLW,) Infant Young Children (IYC) and Adolescent Girls</li> <li>Targeted supplementary feeding for PLW and IYC</li> </ul>  |
| Social Protection     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vouchers for nutritious foods for vulnerable households</li> <li>Increase Bolsa da Mae transfer</li> <li>Targeted nutrition Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) with transfers</li> </ul>  |
| Education             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase budget for from 25c to 50c per child per day</li> <li>Specify inclusion of the most nutritious food options from menu</li> <li>Strengthen home grown school feeding</li> <li>Include fortified rice in school feeding meals</li> </ul> |
| Agriculture           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support diverse homestead production</li> <li>Include nutrition BCC with extension messages</li> </ul>  |
| Commerce and Industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fortification of staple foods</li> </ul>  |

Sources: FNG 2019 survey

## Global Hunger Index (GHI)

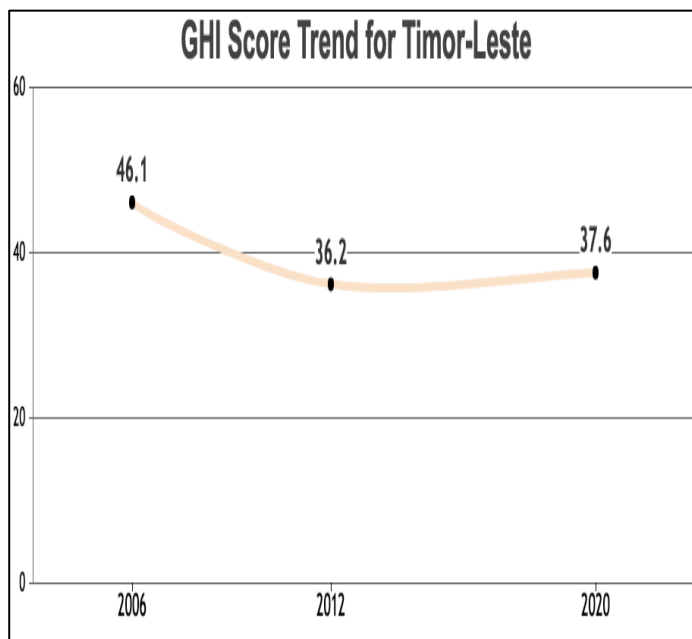
The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2020 ranks Timor-Leste 106<sup>th</sup> out of the 107 countries with a score of 36.7 based on 4 indicators (Undernourishment of the entire population, Wasting, Stunting, and Mortality Rates of children under 5 years of age). Figure 10 below show the Timor-Leste GHI trend for indicator values. Besides, with a score of 36.7, the GHI shows that Timor-Leste has a level of hunger that is alarming and need some immediate interventions (see Figure 11 below).

**Figure 10: GHI Trend for Indicator Values**



Sources: GHI website

**Figure 11: GHI Score Trend - Timor-Leste**



Sources: GHI website

## Nutrition Status for Children Under 5 Years with Access to Health Centre (July to September 2020)

The overall data for the number of children who held access to the health center from July to September 2020 shows that 95% have normal weight, 4% with moderate underweight, and 1% with severe underweight (Figure 12 below). In Dili, children who access the health center exceeded the number of children who got health booklet (LISIO) by 140%. The lowest number of children that held access to health centers were in Oecussi and Manufahi (see Figure 13 below).

Children aged between 0-59 months with underweight were found in Ermera (12%), Oecussi (9%), while Municipalities with children that held low underweight visiting the health facilities were found in Covalima, Liquica, and Manufahi (see Figure 14 below). On the other hand, the percentages of children with severe underweight were again found in Oecussi (4%). However, Viqueque, Manufahi, Liquica, Covalima, Bobonaro, and Aileu has not registered any child visiting the health facilities with severe underweight from July-September 2020 (see Figure 15 below). Lastly, the higher percentages of children visiting the health facilities with wasting were in Dili with 28% (see Figure 16 below).

Figure 12: Underweight nutrition status for children

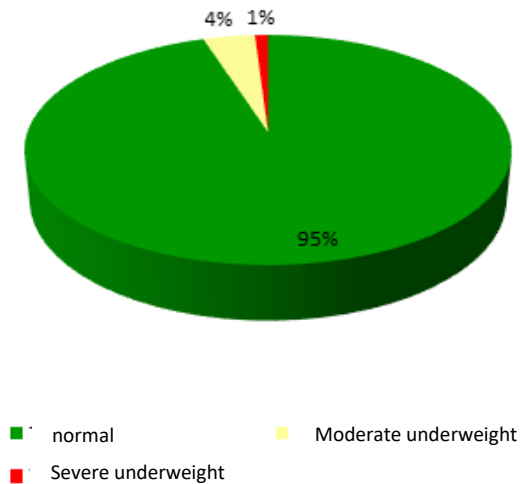


Figure 13: Percentages of average children access to health centre by municipality during July-Sep 2020)

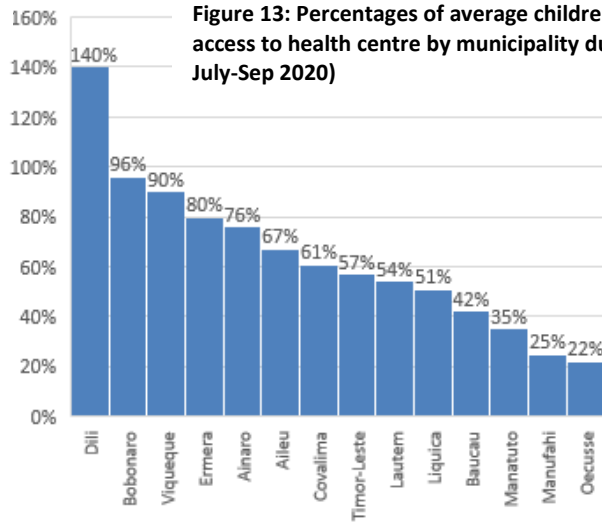


Figure 14: Percentages (%) of children with underweight aged 0-50 months

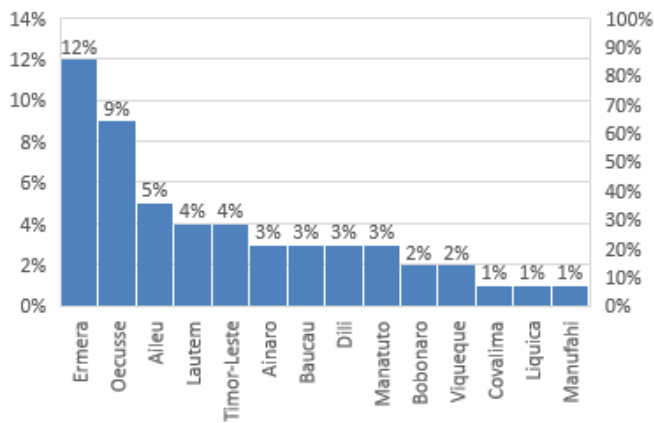


Figure 15: Percentages (%) of children with severe underweight aged 0-50 months

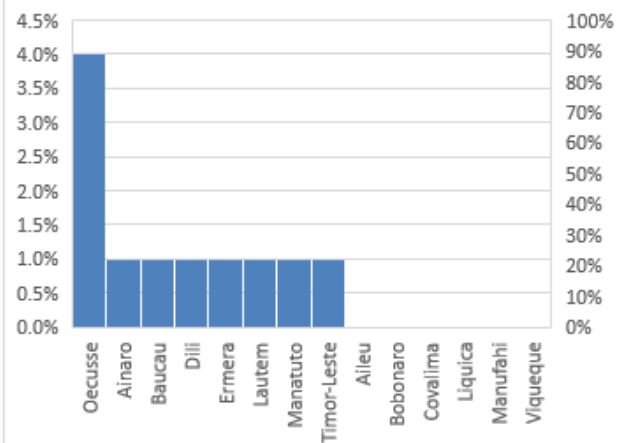
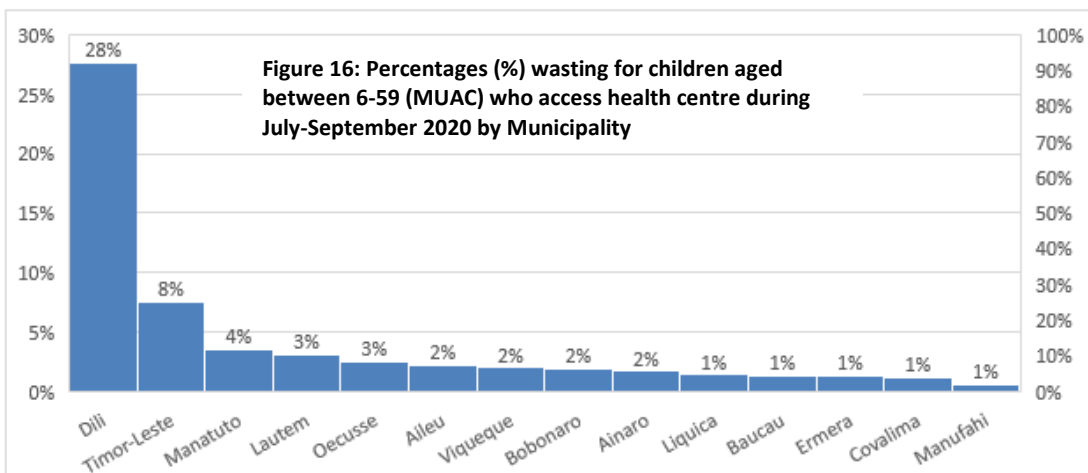


Figure 16: Percentages (%) wasting for children aged between 6-59 (MUAC) who access health centre during July-September 2020 by Municipality



Sources : NIES-MdS

