



World Food Programme

# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

## November 2020

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



Mrs. Valérie Taton (UNICEF Representative), Mr. Andrew Jacobs (EU Ambassador), Mr. Dageng Liu (WFP Representative) participated in the launch of the preliminary findings of the 2020 Food and Nutrition Survey on 27 November 2020, in partnership with the Ministry of Health.

### 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 October 27 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 a 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.



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**

## In Numbers

**US\$ 0.00 m** six months (December 2020 – May 2021) net funding requirements.

WFP SAYS NO TO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

### Situation Updates

- Timor-Leste registered no new COVID-19 cases in November 2020. Nonetheless, the State of Emergency remained in effect.
- WFP continued the final revision of the Food Safety Guideline for schools. Printing will commence upon signature by WFP and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Health.
- WFP, in conjunction with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and development partners, participated in the launch of the preliminary findings of the 2020 Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey on 27 November. The Government of Timor-Leste will release the final report early next year. Initial findings show that while there is some improvement in the nutrition situation with the stunting rate decreasing from 58 percent in 2010 to 47 percent in 2020, it is still considered as 'very high' according to WHO thresholds (more than 30 percent).

### Operational Updates

- On 18 November, WFP provided one humanitarian chartered flight connecting Kuala Lumpur to Díli, with 75 humanitarian passengers and 2.6 mt of cargo. Subsequent flights are scheduled for 2 and 16 December.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to produce the July to September Food Security Bulletin, and took part in a data consolidation meeting at the General Directorate of Statistics. WFP will release the bulletin in December. [A previous bulletin covered April to June](#).
- WFP will finalize and sign the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in December 2020 in line with the Country Strategic Plan of WFP Timor-Leste, in particular activities aiming to improve basic education quality and student retention.
- WFP donated four laptops and two printers to the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry on 26 November to support the food basket programme of the Government of Timor-Leste.
- WFP is procuring four mobile storage units for contingency stock for emergency response and 15 baby wiki halls for the school feeding program, which will arrive in early January 2020.
- Additionally, WFP procured blending machinery for the rice fortification programme which arrived on 29 November from China for the National Logistics Centre of Timor-Leste.
- The [evaluation](#) on WFP's Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020) in Timor-Leste was endorsed by Mrs. Odete Guterres, Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries endorsed the evaluation.

**Contact info:** Felizberto Duarte ([felizberto.duarte@wfp.org](mailto:felizberto.duarte@wfp.org))  
**Country Director:** Dageng Liu ([dageng.liu@wfp.org](mailto:dageng.liu@wfp.org))  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste](http://www.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)
<b>18.17 m</b>	<b>6.57 m</b>	<b>0.00 m</b>

### 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 November, as per customs statistics, the private sector has imported 7,334 mt of rice into Timor-Leste.

WFP continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the General Directorate of Statistics to collect market price data in 13 municipalities.

- WFP continues to develop a digitalized platform for the Consumer Price Index data collection market and commodities identification, in partnership with the General Directorate of Statistics.

## 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 suspended due to delays in approval of the Government's budget for the programme.

## 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 treatment of moderate acute malnutrition intervention.
2. WFP along with other United Nations Agencies, relevant stakeholders from the Government of Timor-Leste participated in the second consultative review meeting for the National Health Sector Strategy Plan 2011 - 2030 organized by the Ministry of Health.
3. WFP delivered nutrition sessions to students from the National University of Timor-Lorosa'e on: Global and National Nutrition Status - Anthropometric Techniques and Interpretation.
4. WFP engaged with the principals of the five primary schools subjects to pilot projects with the objective of establishing nutrition education clubs.

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

#### Interventions:

1. WFP procured 300 kg of fortified rice kernel which arrived in Dili in November.
2. WFP prepared food safety posters for five schools subject to pilot projects of home-grown school feeding and rice fortification programmes.
3. WFP formed part of the task force to prepare the establishment of the National Commission of Codex Alimentarius or Food Code to harmonize the national food regulations to bring them in line with international standards and recommendations.

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

#### Interventions:

1. University students selected by the National University of Timor-Lorosa'e participated in the implementation of the school garden programme in the primary school pilot project, EBC Metinaro, on land cultivation, crop planting and treatment.
2. WFP donated kitchen items to the five schools, such as plates, spoons and forks.
3. WFP holds an ongoing discussion with Permacultura Timor-Leste on the possible partnership on the home-grown school feeding school garden projects in three primary schools.

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

#### Interventions:

1. WFP Global Aviation Air Service has launched 14 chartered flights connecting Dili to Kuala Lumpur. A total of 847 humanitarian passengers have been transported along with 12 mt of light cargo. Subsequently, two more flights are planned in December.
2. As a part of technical assistance to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the *Cesta Basica* program, WFP has donated four laptops and two printers in November.
3. WFP is procuring trucks for the Ministry of Health and SAMES to strengthen their transportation capacity.
4. WFP has issued a purchase order to the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) for the supply and delivery of four mobile storage units and fifteen baby wikihalls which are expected to arrive in Dili by early January.

## Donors

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