



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief December 2020



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## 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, 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  
(January 2021 – June 2021)  
net funding requirements.

## Situation Updates

- Timor-Leste registered 13 new COVID-19 cases in December 2020. The State of Emergency remained in effect.
- WFP completed the final revision of the Food Safety Guideline for schools.
- WFP is supporting the Government by informing nutritional values and appropriate content for the food basket, conducting beneficiary registration, and progress monitoring of the ongoing national food basket programme.

## Operational Updates

- In December, WFP provided two humanitarian chartered flights connecting Kuala Lumpur to Díli, with 197 humanitarian passengers and 819 kg of light cargos. Subsequent flights were scheduled for 2 and 20 January 2021.
- 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. The [bulletin](#) was released in December.
- WFP finalized and signed 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 advised the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, and the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs on the standard operating procedures for COVID-19 prevention measures during food basket distributions.
- WFP received US\$ 120,000 support from the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs for technical assistance to the Government's Cesta Basika 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)
<b>18.17 m</b>	<b>6.7 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 December, as per customs statistics, the private sector imported 8,651 mt of rice into Timor-Leste. In total, 116,113 mt of rice had been imported in 2020, which was 24 percent less than the 2019 import figure.

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 and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.
2. WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Health developed a nutrition video for anemia education.
3. WFP continued to engage with the principals of the primary schools subject to pilot projects with the objective of establishing nutrition education clubs.
4. WFP continued to support and participate in the discussion on finalizing the Simplified Protocol and Global Action Plan on wasting.

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

#### Interventions:

5. Planning was conducted with the engineers from a private contractor on the installation of rice fortification blending machinery, procured by WFP.
6. WFP prepared food safety posters for schools subject to pilot projects of home-grown school feeding, and rice fortification programmes.

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

#### Interventions:

1. WFP and the lecturers as well as students from the the University of Timor-LoroSa'e cleared the land, planted and treated the crops and subsequently harvested them, in the primary school, EBC Metinaro, under the implementation of the school garden programme.
2. The proposal from a national NGO, JAPEN, for mushroom installation in selected primary schools was distributed for final approval.
3. WFP donated handwashing stations and non-food items to the five primary schools subject to pilot projects, such as plates, spoons, forks and face masks.
4. WFP signed an agreement with Permacultura Timor-Leste for the home-grown school garden implementation in three additional primary schools.

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

#### Interventions:

1. 2,880 units of pallets from the UNHRD have arrived and are stored at SAME warehouse.
2. Procurement was initiated to provide two trucks for the Ministry of Health and SAMES in support of Health Supply Chain operations.
3. US\$ 50,000 and US\$ 81,000 were transferred respectively to the State Secretary for Civil Protection and SAMES. The funds would be used to strengthen their supply chain systems.

## Donors

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