



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

April 2021



Operational Context

The World Food Programme (WFP) Timor-Leste Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2018-2021) supports the attainment of the Government of Timor Leste's vision and contributes to the National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030.

The WFP CSP embraces a visualisation that promotes the shift from the provision of food assistance to policy engagement and capacity development. This is built on putting people at the center of the country's development efforts through the Road Map for Achieving the SDGs, including ending hunger, combating all forms of malnutrition, and establishing sustainable food systems.

The CSP addresses food security and nutrition gaps identified by the National Strategic Review on SDG 2 and repositions WFP in areas where it has a comparative advantage and potential to maximize the impact of its assistance to ensure that no-one is left behind.



Population: **1.3 million**

2015 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 (May-October 2021) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

Emergency Response

- Torrential downpours caused by Cyclone Seroja resulted in flash floods and landslides affecting all 13 municipalities in Timor-Leste on 4 April 2021. The capital Dili was the worst hit.
- Following the flooding, The Government of Timor-Leste declared a "State of Calamity" in Dili on 8 April calling for international assistance. On 23 April, the National Parliament approved the amendment of the 2021 General State Budget, almost tripling the allocation to the Contingency Fund from US\$ 23.8 million to US\$ 65.2 million.
- According to the preliminary assessment by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries conducted in nine municipalities to date, a total of 1,820 hectares of rice crops and 190 hectares of maize crops have been affected by the flooding.
- Together with the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO, WFP laid the foundation to conduct an initial crop loss and damage assessment that will determine the overall impacts of the flood on the food security situation. Together with Mission Aviation Fellowship, WFP organized a series of flights to conduct aerial assessments on agricultural and infrastructural damage.
- Given the demand of humanitarian partners, WFP provided two humanitarian-chartered flights in April, connecting Kuala Lumpur to Dili, with 132 humanitarian passengers and 4,263 cargo for COVID-19 and Cyclone Seroja response. Subsequent flights are scheduled for May and June 2021.
- WFP as the lead agency for the Logistics Sector is supporting the Government and humanitarian partners to transport and distribute relief material in evacuation centres in Dili as well as in surrounding municipalities. WFP also participated in Education, Food Security, Nutrition and Logistics sector meetings.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 18.17 m | 6.7 m | 0.00 m |

Strategic Result 1: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome: Children under five, adolescent girls, and pregnant and breastfeeding women have improved nutrition towards national targets by 2025

Focus area: Root Causes

Activities:

- Provide nutritious food and raise awareness through social and behaviour change communication for targeted individuals.
- Provide the Government and partners with technical assistance and evidence for enhancing the efficiency of national programmes and safety nets.

Strategic Result 2: 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:

- Provide the Government and partners with technical expertise for improved targeting, monitoring, and programme analysis.
- Provide the Government and partners with technical expertise for the development of an efficient and effective supply chain management system.

Monitoring

- WFP Developed monitoring tools including questionnaires and trained research assistants to conduct the Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission Post Cyclone Seroja.
- WFP produced the bi-weekly food price monitoring report that highlights the trend in food prices and completed data collection for the first quarter food security bulletin.
- WFP supported Ministry of Tourism Trade and Industry (MTCI) staff with data entry and monitoring of the dashboard for the *Cesta Básica* distribution, especially in Oecussi region.

Challenges

- Lack of critical information regarding access constraints outside of Dili, including the number and location of isolated communities and their needs continues to pose challenges in Cyclone Seroja response plans.
- COVID-19 “sanitary fences” and movement restrictions between municipalities have impacted the transport of food commodities and food stock availability.

COVID-19 Situation Update

- Timor-Leste registered 1,672 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in April outside of quarantine. The Government has imposed a nation-wide lockdown and imposed a “sanitary fence” that prohibits people from travelling to different regions across the country.
- Currently, air, land, and water borders remain largely closed, except for a few humanitarian/cargo flights bringing in essential supplies and personnel to the country.

Capacity Strengthening:

- WFP in collaboration with other UN Agencies discussed and finalized the Global Action Plan for Child Wasting. A way forward consisting of recommendations has been presented at the KONSANTIL for government endorsement.
- The *Cesta Básica* dashboard has been completed and all information from the implementing agency has been entered. The dashboard will be launched by the Prime Minister in May 2021.
- WFP provided logistics capacity to transport relief items such as family and hygiene kits that came to Dili through flights facilitated by the Australian Embassy.
- WFP provided transport services to deliver food and non-food items (NFI) to the evacuation center in Dili as well as to Viqueque. In addition, to strengthen coordination, WFP provided IT and office equipment along with short-term warehouse management training to cooperating partners’ warehouse staff. Furthermore, WFP also provided transport assistance for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to deliver food and NFI to evacuation centers in Dili.
- WFP coordinated and organized meetings with the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for the upcoming KOICA survey on the ‘SN55’ (starvation, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, skin diseases, smoking and sugary/alcoholic drinks) in Schools project which will start in May 2021.
- WFP drafted concept notes for rice fortification that will be submitted to interested donors for funding of the remaining five municipalities that are not covered by KOICA projects or the Hatutan Project by Care International.

Donors

- Government of Timor-Leste, China, Japan, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)