



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief May 2021



Dageng Liu, WFP Timor-Leste Country Director with DFAT personnel in Dili airport. © WFP/ Eddy Pinto

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 (July-November 2021) net funding requirements

498 mt of relief items transported

Operational Updates

Emergency Response

- As of 22 May, a total of 33,835 households were affected across all 13 municipalities by the Cyclone Seroja. The Government is leading the flood response activities since the declaration of a state of calamity in Dili on 8 April.
- The Government, with support from humanitarian partners, responded to the immediate humanitarian needs within 24 hours after the flood. Until 19 May, humanitarian donors and partners contributed over USD 10.73 million towards the response, in addition to the Government's increased allocation to the Contingency Fund (USD 65.2 million).
- On 25 May, the "Floods Response Plan/Joint Appeal: Consultation with Humanitarian Partners" was held in coordination with the Civil Protection. The Joint Appeal highlighted the need for USD 9.5 million to respond to remaining humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable groups, and USD 27.5 million to kick-start early recovery efforts, for smooth transition to recovery of the affected population.
- 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. Until May, WFP transported 429 mt of humanitarian relief items.
- WFP continued to provide support to Nutrition department to deliver healthy food consisting of fresh fruits and vegetables to evacuation centres, as part of the nutrition response together other UN agencies and the government.
- On behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, a WFP United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHDR) chartered flight delivered 220 family tents to flood affected families.
- WFP Air Operations conducted its 23rd flight to Timor-Leste. So far 22 mt of cargo has been transported on behalf of the humanitarian community which includes COVID-19 testing kits, oxygen concentrators, and vaccines.
- WFP received funding from Australia and New Zealand for its flood and COVID-19 response activities.
- WFP continued to participate in the Education, Food Security, Nutrition and Logistics sector meetings.

Contact info: Seetashma Thapa (seetashma.thapa@wfp.org)

Country Director: Dageng Liu (Dageng.liu@wfp.org)

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
18.17 m	9.09 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 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. The report indicates that local rice prices have followed a downward trend since March 2021, decreasing by almost 8 percent. It is envisaged that the price will continue to weaken or remain steady in the coming weeks as market supply is substantially higher at this time of the year.
- WFP finalised a joint UN proposal for the food systems summit dialogues for Timor-Leste.
- WFP developed monitoring tools, including questionnaires, and trained research assistants to conduct the Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission Post Cyclone Seroja.

Challenges

- 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 6,897 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in May outside of quarantine. The Government has

imposed a nation-wide lockdown and imposed “sanitary fences” that prohibit 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 developed a workplan to provide take-home rations for the education sector for the flood humanitarian appeal.
- WFP engaged with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion to provide food to vulnerable groups post Cyclone Seroja and discussed the possibility of introducing fortified rice into the food basket.
- WFP is finalizing concept notes for the National Logistic Centre and Civil Protection that focus on strengthening supply chain capacity.

Partnerships

- WFP received USD 200,000 from the Government of New Zealand to provide high energy biscuits to pregnant and nursing mothers that are impacted by the flood.
- WFP received USD 2.3 million from Australia for its flood and COVID-19 response programme.
- WFP provided concept note on rice fortification for the Minister of Trade, Commerce and Industries (MTCI) for the initiative on developing local economies through “Loja du Povu”. A Letter of Understanding formalizing the partnership and officiating a fund allocation was also drafted with MTCI. MTCI is committed to support the procurement of fortified rice kernels amounting to USD 100,000 this year.
- WFP and the National Logistic Centre have jointly appealed for USD 5 million for flood response activities through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the Ministry of Finance.

Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, Australia, China, Japan, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and New Zealand.