



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief June 2021



Mr. Dageng Liu (WFP Representative) and Dr. Jose Ramos-Horta (1996 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Former President of Timor-Leste).

## 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**

2018 Human Development Index: **132 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **50% of children between 6-59**

## In Numbers

**US\$ 0.22 m** six months (July – December 2021) net funding requirements.

## Situation Updates

- Timor-Leste registered 2,195 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in June outside of quarantine. The Government has imposed a nation-wide lockdown and "sanitary fences" that prohibit people from travelling to different regions across the country.
- As of 14 June, a total of 30,367 households have been affected across all 13 municipalities by the Cyclone Seroja which hit the country in April. The Government, with support from humanitarian partners, responded to the immediate humanitarian needs within 24 hours after the flood. Humanitarian donors and partners contributed over US\$ 15 million towards the response, in addition to the Government's increased allocation to the Contingency Fund (US\$ 65.2 million).
- On 2 June, Floods Response Plan/Joint Appeal was launched by the Government with the support from UN and humanitarian partners. The Joint Appeal highlighted the need for US\$ 8.8 million to respond to remaining humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable groups, and further US\$ 23.9 million to kick-start early recovery efforts, for smooth transition to recovery of the affected population.

## Operational Updates

### Emergency Response and Preparedness

- 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 end of June, WFP transported 470 mt of humanitarian relief items. This included delivering 98 mt of food and building materials on behalf of the Civil Protection, Ministry of Social Solidarity and Red Cross ("Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste") to Atauro Island, Viqueque, and Bobonaro.
- WFP Air Operations conducted its 24th and last flight to Timor-Leste. A total of 26.4 mt of cargo has been transported on behalf of the humanitarian community, including COVID-19 testing kits, oxygen concentrators, and vaccines. In June, WFP facilitated the transport of 4 mt of Cinovac vaccine from China to Dili.
- WFP supported Civil Protection (CP) on food basket distribution plan and designed nutritious food baskets for CP Decree-Law.

**Contact info:** Noel Estevao (noel.soares@wfp.org)  
**Country Director:** Dageng Liu (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)
21.3 m	9.3 m	0.22 m

## 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 2022.

**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.

## Research Assessment and Monitoring

- WFP produced the [bi-weekly food price monitoring report](#) highlighting the trend in food prices and completed data collection for the second quarter food security bulletin. The report indicates that local rice prices have followed a downward trend since March 2021. 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.
- The Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAM) data collection through telephone interviews of key informants in the 13 municipalities was completed, and a draft report is expected towards the end of July. The switch to telephone interviews was made due to the impacts of COVID-19 and travel restrictions
- WFP continued to support the Government food subsidy program as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery package ("Cesta Basica") to run a registration dashboard, produce a final report, and long term policy development.
- WFP lead on bi-weekly food security forum meeting with government and development partners

## Nutrition

- WFP, together with the Ministry of Health (MoH), finalized the 3rd edition of LAFAEK educational magazine to deliver nutrition information for school-aged children. WFP and MoH also developed a pilot distribution plan of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) for pregnant and lactating women and children under 5.
- WFP continued to support MoH together with UNICEF, and WHO to discuss the preparation of the simplified protocol for acute malnutrition.
- WFP engaged with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Social Communication for TV and Radio PSA's broadcasting on Radio Television Timor-Leste (RTTL) channel.
- WFP, together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry (MTCI), WHO, and food security partners, celebrated World Food Safety Day 2021.

## Food Fortification

- WFP engaged with National Logistic Center to procure 5 mt of Fortified Rice Kernel to embark on the production of fortified rice in Timor-Leste.
- WFP continued to draft food fortification decree-law in collaboration with the line ministries, UN partner agencies, and developing partners. The draft law was reviewed through Legal consultation to meet the legal, ethical, and social standards.
- Lafaek educational magazine introduced rice fortification messages printed by CARE international.
- WFP holds an ongoing discussion with the Department of Social Assistance to explore fortified rice support for vulnerable groups.

## School Feeding

- WFP began to build a national coalition to strengthen the School Feeding Program further. WFP shared the coalition directive with the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports for further inputs and the launch is scheduled in September at the Food System Summit.
- WFP continued to engage with the National Directorate of School Social Action to review and finalize the National School Feeding Manual ("Merenda Escolar").

## Supply Chain

- WFP will finalize and sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the National Logistic Center and Civil Protection in line with the Country Strategic Plan of WFP Timor-Leste, in particular activities aiming to enhance overall supply chain management system.

## Challenges

- COVID-19 "sanitary fences" and movement restrictions between municipalities have impacted the transport of food commodities and food stock availability.
- 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.

## Donors

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