



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief July 2021



Launch of 1st National Food Systems Summit Dialogue in Timor-Leste on 13th July.

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.



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\$ 0.24 m six months (August 2021 – January 2022)
net funding requirements.

Situation Updates

- Timor-Leste registered 1,676 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in July outside of quarantine. On the 12th of July, the Government announced that the first Delta variant cases were detected in the quarantine facilities. The Government imposed a nation-wide lockdown and imposed "sanitary fences" that prohibit people from travelling to different regions across the country.
- As of 15th of July, a total of 30,322 households have been affected across all 13 municipalities by Cyclone Seroja which hit the country in April. The Government, with support from humanitarian partners, responded to the immediate crisis. Humanitarian donors and partners committed over USD 19.42 million towards the response.

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. In July, WFP supported UNDP to transport 11.3 mt of medical supplies for the COVID-19 response.
- WFP, together with MoH and New Zealand Embassy, visited health centers and evacuation centers to monitor High Energy Biscuit (HEB) distribution and beneficiary consumption. A new shipment of 35 mt HEB is ready to distribute in August for Pregnant and Lactating Women.

Nutrition

- Continuing its support to the Ministry of Health, WFP worked with UNICEF and WHO to discuss the upcoming simplified protocol for acute malnutrition.
- WFP worked closely with 5 Community Health Centers (CHC) in Dili to disseminate Information Education Communication (IEC) materials on the nutrition benefits of supplementary food (such as HEB) for health workers and Pregnant and Lactating Women.

Food Fortification

- WFP engaged with National Logistic Center to successfully install a blending machine at the Tibar warehouse to embark on the production of fortified rice in Timor-Leste. Fortified rice packaging bag production is under way, and 10,000 bags will be ready by Quarter 3.

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
21.39 m	9.31 m	0.24 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: 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.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 3: The Government of Timor-Leste has access to augmented services during and the aftermath of crisis

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

5. Provide on-demand food procurement services to the Government of Timor-Leste

- A Food fortification logo has been developed and pre-tested with 80 participants from the line ministries and partner agencies. The logo will be finalized and used for the Rice Fortification Technical advisory group (RF-TAG).
- WFP drafted a food fortification decree-law with food standard annexes in collaboration with the line ministries, UN partner agencies, and development partners.

School Feeding

- WFP engaged with the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, Ministry of State Administration, and the Office of the Prime Minister to build a national coalition to strengthen the School Feeding Program further. WFP presented the coalition agenda at the National Dialogue of Food Security in preparation for the Food Security Summit in September.

- WFP signed an agreement to introduce a pilot iris recognition technology in school feeding program. The biometric technology will help enhance the paperless payment and market value-chain links between schools and retailers.
- 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 supported SAMES (Central Medical Distribution Center), and health facilities in Dili on storage and a distribution plan of supplementary foods.
- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Logistic Center. WFP is in the process of finalizing a MoU with Civil Protection in line with the Country Strategic Plan of WFP Timor-Leste, focusing on activities aiming to enhance overall 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 price continues to improve seasonally as harvests continue in several municipalities.
- The Crop and Food Security Assessment Missions (CFSAM) data collection through telephone interviews of key informants in 13 municipalities was completed, a draft report is expected in August. The switch to telephone interviews was made due to the impacts of COVID-19 and travel restrictions.
- WFP led the monthly food security forum meeting with government and development partners.
- On 13th July, the first national dialogue on the Food Systems Summit was convened by the Government of Timor-Leste with support from UN and other key stakeholders in order to be part of the global initiative that seeks to transform food systems using a combination of local and global solutions.
- 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, as well as long-term policy development.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports and the Ministry of State Administration with IT equipment, face masks, and logistic support materials including pallets and Mobile Storage Units (MSU) as part of the COVID-19 response.

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.