



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

August 2021



Signing ceremony of the agreement between MTCI and WFP. ©WFP

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 m six months (September 2021 – February 2022) net funding requirements.

Situation Updates

- Timor-Leste registered 5,596 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in August outside of quarantine. State of Calamity in Dili was ended on 4 August, but home confinement resumed on 25 August due to the surge of positive cases. The Government imposed “sanitary fences” that prohibit people from travelling to different regions across the country.
- A total of 30,629 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 US\$ 19.4 million towards the response.

Operational Updates

Emergency Response and Preparedness

- WFP, as the lead agency for the Logistics Sector, continued to support the Government and humanitarian partners' post-flood response activities by transporting and distributing relief material in evacuation centres in Dili and surrounding municipalities.
- WFP supported the National Directorate of Civil Protection (DNPC) to enhance its supply chain management system through physical inventory stock-taking activities at the DNPC warehouses.

Nutrition

- WFP worked together with the Ministry of Health to advocate for the Food System Summit through radio, and TV broad casting channels.
- WFP together with partner agencies provided technical and financial support to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement focal points in conducting the sub-national dialogues meeting on the Food System Summit, Nutrition for Growth, and School Meal Coalition.
- WFP supported the Office of the Prime Minister and the members of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Food Security (KONSSANTIL) to launch the National Nutrition Awards as part of the SUN movement.
- WFP and the Government of Timor-Leste through the Ministry Trade Commerce and Industry (MTCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a US \$100,000 grant to combat malnutrition

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WFP Country Strategy

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	0.00 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

School Feeding

- WFP continued to engage with line ministries for the School Meal Coalition to strengthen the National School Feeding Program further. On 14 July, through the office of the Prime Minister, the Government signed the Declaration of Commitment for the School Meal Coalition as part of the Government's commitment to the broad goals and objectives.
- WFP Signed an agreement with Australian Relief (ARMS) to support Take Home Rations (THR) and rehabilitation of chicken rearing.
- WFP has completed the construction of a kitchen in one of the School Health and Nutrition (SHN) pilot project's schools, as well as water rehabilitations in three schools.

Supply Chain

- An MoU between WFP and the National Logistic Center (NLC) has been signed as part of an ongoing process to enhance government supply chain management systems as part of post-flood activities and the strengthening of food systems.
- WFP together with NLC embarked on a Logistic Capacity Assessment exercise. WFP also financially supported Civil Protection for food procurement, and supported MAF to conduct a Kharpa beetle survey across the country.

Research Assessment and Monitoring

- WFP produced the [bi-weekly food price monitoring report](#) highlighting the trend in food prices. The report indicates that overall trend is above that of 2020 and the 2-year average. However, food prices have been decreasing March 2021.
- WFP participated in the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) training and drafted the Food Security Chapter.
- WFP drafted the Food Systems National Pathway for the Government based on the national and subnational dialogues. This is in preparation for the United Nations Food Systems Summit scheduled for the 23 September.
- WFP continued to support the Government food subsidy program as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery package (*Cesta Basica*) to produce a final report, as well as on long-term policy development.

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.

Food Fortification

- WFP drafted the Food Fortification Decree-law, which is ready for further consultation with the Minister of Health, private sector and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in September 2021.
- A Food fortification logo has been pre-tested and finalized. The summary report of the result has been shared with Secretariat of the KONSSANTIL (MAF-Directorate of Food Security) so that it can be further shared with the Rice Fortification technical group.
- WFP completed the installation of the blending machine at Tibar warehouse, which is ready to produce fortified rice by September 2021; 6,000 repackaging bags are ready to be handed over to the National Logistic Center in September