



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief September 2021



Operational Context

The World Food Programme (WFP) Timor-Leste Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2018-2022) supports the attainment of the Government of Timor Leste's vision and contributes to the National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030.

The WFP CSP promotes the shift from the provision of food assistance to policy engagement and capacity development. It emphasizes 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\$ 0.00 m six months (October 2021 – March 2022) net funding requirements.

Situation Updates

- Timor-Leste registered 2,811 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in September. The Government maintained the imposition of General Mandatory Confinement (lockdown) of the Municipality of Dili.
- Since the April floods, six evacuation centers in Dili temporarily shelter 131 families. A total of 28,896 affected families have received emergency support and 2,133 families are yet to receive assistance.

Operational Updates

Emergency Response and Preparedness

- On 21 September, WFP and the Government of Japan signed Exchange of Notes for a US\$ 3 million contribution for the emergency food security programmes supporting people affected by COVID-19 and recent flooding.
- WFP, as the lead agency for the Global Logistics Cluster, 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. In September, WFP, together with the Australian Relief and Mercy Services (ARMS) and the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI), distributed food items to people with disabilities.
- Through the collaboration between SAMES and WFP, 37 mt of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) purchased with a contribution from New Zealand have been dispatched to identified health centres across Timor-Leste. Distribution is ongoing.

Nutrition

- WFP, with its partner agencies, continued to support the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) focal points in conducting the sub-national dialogues on the Food Systems Summit, Nutrition for Growth and School Meal Coalition.
- WFP conducted a session on Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) and HEBs for the District Public Health Officers for Nutrition from all municipalities.
- Working closely with the Ministry of Health (MoH), WFP distributed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on HEBs for pregnant and lactating women. Total 73 Community Health Centers (CHCs) in the country have received IEC materials to raise public awareness.

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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	10.22	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

- WFP provided ICT equipment to the Ministry of the Parliamentary Affairs and Social Communication (MAPCOMS). Through this partnership, information on food security and nutrition will be aired through RTTL, the national radio and TV broadcaster, for the next 6 months.

Food Fortification

- A total of 5 mt of Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) donated by DSM has arrived in Dili port.
- WFP and the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry (MCTI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). MCTI committed USD 100,000 for the procurement of FRK to scale up the food fortification programme.

School Feeding

- WFP continued to engage with line ministries for the School Meal Coalition to strengthen the National School Feeding Program. WFP presented and shared the School Feeding Coalition Guideline with the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MOEYS). The guideline defines and formulates school feeding coalition commitments.
- WFP conducted consultations with MOEYS and the Ministry of State Administration on using iris scan in the framework

of the school feeding programme. WFP plans to pilot the biometric technology in five schools in Dili to help enhance the paperless payment and market value-chain links between schools and retailers for food procurement.

Supply Chain

- On 21 September, WFP and the Secretary of State for Civil Protection (SSCP) signed a MoU for Disaster Preparedness and Response.
- WFP conducted its warehouse assessments at the district warehouses of SSCP, MSSSI, MoEYS, and National Logistic Centre (NLC).
- WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries through the National Directorate for Quarantine and Biosecurity to conduct a Kharpa beetle survey across the country.

Research Assessment and Monitoring

- WFP published the [bi-weekly food price monitoring report](#). The report indicated that local rice prices continue to improve seasonally as harvests are ongoing in several municipalities.
- WFP completed the Food Security Assessment data collection of key informants in 13 municipalities and finalized a draft report. WFP changed its data collection method to telephone interviews as a response to the impacts of COVID-19 and travel restrictions.
- WFP supported the Government to submit the National Pathway on Food Systems Transformation under the UN Food systems Summit platform.
- WFP continued to support the Government food subsidy programme as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery package ("Cesta Basica"). WFP submitted a final draft of the Cesta Basica report and a long-term national food basket policy to the government.
- On 27 September, WFP led the monthly food security forum meeting with government and development partners.
- On 30 September, WFP presented the Food Security Chapter for the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) to the government.

Challenges

- COVID-19 "sanitary fences" and movement restrictions between municipalities have impacted the transport of food commodities and food stock availability.
- In the municipality of Dili, all commercial, industrial, craft or service-providing establishments in the private sector have been closed to the public.

Donors

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