



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

## October 2021



Contribution Agreement between the Government of People's Republic of China and WFP Timor-Leste to provide emergency food assistance for vulnerable populations (@WFP/Noel Soares)

### 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.



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 6-59 months**

### In Numbers

**US\$ 0.00 m** six months (November 2021 – April 2022) net funding requirements.

### Situation Updates

- Timor-Leste registered 294 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in October. The Government maintained the imposition of General Mandatory Confinement (lockdown) in the Municipality of Dili.
- The movement restrictions of citizens between Dili and municipalities as well as between the municipalities across the territory have been lifted. However, the Government called on communities to follow the COVID-19 guideline and safety regulations recommended by the Ministry of Health and WHO.

### Operational Updates

#### Emergency Response and Preparedness

- WFP and the Government of China signed a contribution agreement of US\$ 1 million for emergency food assistance through the Ministry of Health to support malnourished pregnant and lactating women in Timor-Leste.
- WFP and the Autonomous Service of Medicines and Medical Equipment (SAMMES) completed the distribution of High Energy Biscuits (HEBs) to Community Health Centres in all municipalities with the support from the district public health officers. The HEB distribution supported 13,000 pregnant and lactating women.
- WFP continued to support the Government and humanitarian partners' post-flood response activities. Since September, WFP has completed the distribution of Take-Home Rations (THR) to 55 people with disabilities with the Australian Relief and Mercy Services (ARMS) and the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI).

#### Nutrition

- WFP supported KONSSANTIL (National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition in Timor-Leste) to host World Food Day events in Dili and different municipalities. During the events, WFP presented the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) report and hosted local cooking competitions to promote healthy and balanced diets.
- WFP coordinated with the Ministry of Health to distribute nutrition-sensitive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to the Community Health Centres in all municipalities.
- WFP co-hosted a National Nutrition Award event with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) department of the Prime Minister's Office.

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**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>21.39 m</b>	<b>10.10 m</b>	<b>0.00 m</b>

**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 conducted a joint warehouse management and nutrition training in municipalities, with the SAMES and the National Directorate of Pharmacy and Medicines (DNFM).

**Food Fortification**

- WFP is procuring 10 mt of Fortified Rice Kernels and two Fortified Rice blending systems with support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Government of Australia, to scale up rice fortification in Timor-Leste.
- WFP hosted a training session for the National Logistic Centre on monitoring, operations, and maintenance of a fortified rice blending machine system. This will facilitate a regular use and maintenance of the rice blending machine in Tibar warehouse.
- WFP hosted a workshop on a national consultation on food fortification decree law with the private sector and the civil society.

**School Feeding**

- WFP continued to engage with line ministries for the School Meal Coalition to strengthen the National School Feeding Program. WFP presented the School Feeding Coalition Guideline to the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MOEYS) to follow through MOEY's school feeding coalition commitments..

**Supply Chain**

- WFP completed warehouse assessments at the National Logistic Centre's district warehouse and conducted a supply chain assessment.
- With WFP's support, the National Directorate for Quarantine and Biosecurity (DNQB) completed a Kharpa beetle survey to gain better visibility on food safety in food storage units and warehouses.

**Research Assessment and Monitoring**

- On 11 October 2021, WFP supported the National Consultation Seminar on Timor-Leste Food Fortification Decree-Law, chaired by the Ministry of Tourism, Trade, and Industry and co-chaired by the Ministry of Health.
- On 28 October 2021, WFP organized the October monthly food security forum meeting with the Government and development partners.
- WFP submitted the final report for its support to the Government's food subsidy program ("Cesta Basica") as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery package.

**Challenges**

- In addition to the Government ministries' efforts to raise the national vaccination rates, malnutrition prevention and treatment services require more investments and provisions for the vulnerable populations in Timor-Leste after the April floods and in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

**Donors**

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