WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief
January 2022

Operational Context

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.

Highlights
WFP conducted training on Rice Fortification in collaboration with the Secretary of the National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition in Timor-Leste (KONSSANTIL) and the Directorate of Food Security of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF).

Situation Updates
Timor-Leste registered an additional 83 locally transmitted new COVID-19 cases in January 2022. Since March 2020, 19,946 cases have been confirmed in the country.

Operational Updates
Emergency Response and Preparedness
- WFP supported the procurement of additional High Energy Biscuits to ensure sufficient emergency food reserves as part of the country’s preparedness efforts for natural disasters.
- WFP participated in a Disaster Risk Management workshop organized by the Secretary of State Civil Protection. The workshop was in preparation for the upcoming International Seminar for Disaster Risk Management in April 2022 in Dili, which aims to strengthen emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction.

Nutrition
- WFP together with the Nutrition and Health promotion departments developed and finalized a 2022 work plan based on the CSP 2018-2022.
- Continuing its efforts to provide technical support to Prime Minister Office’s Scale Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Secretariat, WFP supported the development of the SUN Secretariat’s Consolidated National Action Plan for Nutrition and Food Security (CNAF-NFS) Monitoring and Evaluation framework, a Terms of Reference for SUN Timor-Leste Task Force, and led preparations for the upcoming high-level workshop on stunting prevention in the country.
- WFP and the Ministry of Health continued to monitor and report on the distribution of High Energy Biscuits from Community Health Center’s across the country in efforts to support improving the nutritional status of vulnerable pregnant and nursing mothers.

Food Fortification
- WFP submitted the final version of the Food Fortification Decree-Law — versions in English, Portuguese and Tetum — to the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, and Industry (MCTI) for its submission to the Council of Ministers (CoM).

Contact info: Jiyoung Michelle Han (jiyoungmichelle.han@wfp.org)
Country Director: Dageng Liu (dageng.liu@wfp.org)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste
School Feeding

- WFP supported the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MoEYS) to procure food items and washable face masks. This was for the distribution of a take-home rations and COVID-19 prevention to students for five schools in Bobonaro and Oecusse through the Republic of Korea Embassy’s contribution to improve students’ nutritional intake. In addition, WFP completed the construction of the school kitchen in EBF Lelaus as a pilot project with MoEYS for school feeding.

- WFP conducted a Global School Feeding survey exercise with MoEYS and shared it with Global Child Nutrition Foundation. The survey was to capture information on the current state of school feeding in the country, in relation to government policy, nutrition and health status, and food security issues.

Supply Chain

- To support the Autonomous Service of Medicines and Medical Equipment (SAMES), WFP handed over 282 pallets and a forklift to strengthen logistics operations.

- WFP continued to conduct surveys and assessments on warehouse capacity, and food suppliers in advance of upcoming distributions of Government rice across the country.

- In January, WFP provided warehouse management training to 24 participants from the National Logistics Center, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), the Customs Authority, the Authority for Inspection of Economic, Sanitary and Food Activities, Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MoEYS).

Research Assessment and Monitoring

- WFP attended the launching ceremony of Timor-Leste’s Climate Public Expenditure Review (CPER) 2022, chaired by the Ministry of Finance. The CPER will provide a comprehensive review of the climate-relevant policies, institutions, and expenditures supported by the government for each of the sixteen key sectors.

- To reaffirm its support in tackling the challenges of climate change, WFP attended the Post-COP26 Workshop (the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference) chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

- WFP participated in the Second stakeholder consultation workshop for Nationally Determinate Contribution on Climate Changes, chaired by the Secretary of State for Environment.

- WFP began the consultation process to draft the Food Security Bulletin for the fourth quarter of 2022 with the Inter-Ministerial Council for Food Security and Food and KONSSANTIL.

- In collaboration with the General Directorate of Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, WFP continued data collection of the price of staple food items for food price monitoring which provides information on price changes for the most commonly consumed staple commodities.

Challenges

- The Government continues to face challenges in its efforts to raise the national vaccination rates. In addition, malnutrition prevention and treatment services require more investments and provisions for the vulnerable populations in Timor-Leste following the April floods and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, Australia, Brazil, China, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea.