



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

March 2022



WFP, WHO, the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, and the Ministry of Health launched the School Health Project, "KOICA Say No to 5S" on 8th of March (Noel Soares © WFP)

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**

2020 Human Development Index: **141 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **50% of children between 6-59**

Highlights

- The Government of Timor-Leste provided a US\$1.5 million donation to support the WFP's humanitarian response in Ukraine, to show solidarity with the people affected by the war in Ukraine.
- WFP and WHO launched the joint School Health and Nutrition Project, "Say No to 5S (Starvation, Soil-transmitted Helminthiasis, Skin diseases, Smoking, and Sugary/alcoholic drinks in schools)" together with the government partners, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, and the Ministry of Finance. The project is funded by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) to improve the health and nutrition of schoolchildren.
- WFP presented on the impact of climate change on food security at the 4th Climate Change Conference, organized by the Government of Timor-Leste on the 29th and 30th of March 2022.

Situation Updates

- On 19 March 2022, Timor-Leste completed the first round of its presidential election. On 29 March, after a general evaluation of the result by the National Commission for Election, the Court of Appeal announced that two candidates — the incumbent President, Francisco Guterres, and the former president, José Ramos-Horta — will be running for the second round of the elections on 19 April 2022.
- Timor-Leste registered 82 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in March 2022. Since March 2020, 22,827 cases have been confirmed in the country. As of March 2022, 72.7 percent of the population age of 18 years and above have been fully vaccinated. 100 percent of WFP Timor-Leste staff are fully vaccinated.

Operational Updates

Emergency Response and Preparedness

- WFP supported the State Secretariat of Civil Protection with the delivery of 2000 mt of donated rice to the National Logistic Center warehouse.
- WFP supported preparations for the upcoming Disaster Response Planning Seminar in April under the leadership of the State Secretariat of Civil Protection.

Nutrition

- WFP completed Social Behavioral Change Communication training for health workers and teachers in five municipalities – Manatuto, Covalima, Bobonaro, Likisa, and Dili – together with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.
- WFP continued to work with CARE international to develop the 3rd edition of Lafaek children's magazine to enhance social and behavioral communications on healthy diets and eating behaviors.
- WFP supported the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on a technical review of the M&E framework of Consolidate National Action Plan for Nutrition and Food Security (SDG2 CNAP-NFS).

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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
25.56 m	17.23 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

biometric technology. This Iris Scan pilot project aims to enhance the paperless payment and market value-chain links between schools and retailers for food procurement.

Supply Chain

- WFP supported the 3rd food quality and pest control survey with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the National Directorate for Quarantine and Biosecurity in four districts.

Research Assessment and Monitoring

- On the 25th of March, WFP led a consultative meeting with the private sector and government on Food Market Dynamics in the wake of global challenges such as conflicts, rising costs, COVID-19, and Climate Change. Participants agreed to facilitate further policy engagements and dialogues in food production, imports, and price developments to improve food security and transparency in the country.
- WFP continued its engagement with the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, and Industry on the technical assistance on Cesta Basica, the Government's food basket program.
- WFP coordinated the official launch of the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund Project, "Strengthening National Food Systems and Promoting Disaster Risk Reduction" on the 31st of March. WFP, together with World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization, will jointly implement the project with government partners – the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Ministry of Health.

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 impacts of the April floods and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Donors

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

Food Fortification

- WFP continued to support the maintenance of the National Logistics Center's milling machine at the Tibar warehouse to prepare the upcoming fortified rice packaging in April.
- WFP procured 10 mt of Fortified Rice Kernel through its arrival at the National Logistics Center's Tibar warehouse, to prepare WFP's upcoming rice fortification work.

School Feeding

- To support pregnant and nursing mothers, WFP consulted the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion and the Ministry of Health regarding the assistance of beneficiaries in six municipalities.
- The Director-General of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports has endorsed WFP's Iris scan pilot program to be conducted in one school in Dili municipality. With