



World Food Programme

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WFP Timor-Leste

Country Brief

April 2022



A joint visit by WFP Representative and H.E. Prime Minister to municipalities for the nutrition-sensitive community development activities and the Prime Minister's Nutrition Awards (Crispin da Costa Araujo © 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.



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

- WFP Representative, Dageng Liu, joined the field missions with H.E Prime Minister, Taur Matan Ruak, in Ermera, Liquica, and Bobonaro on last week of April 2022 to observe the nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart community development activities funded by the Civil Society Support and Social Audit Services (SASCAS) and Prime Minister's Nutrition Award.
- WFP Timor-Leste's new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-2025 has been drafted. This CSP is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025 and will be further discussed with the government prior to the November Executive Board meeting.

Situation Updates

- Timor-Leste registered an additional 43 locally transmitted **COVID-19** cases in April 2022. Since March 2020, 22,875 cases have been confirmed in the country. As of end-April 2022, 72.2 percent of the population aged 18 years and above have been fully **vaccinated**. All of WFP Timor-Leste staff are fully vaccinated.

Operational Updates

Emergency Response and Preparedness

- WFP conducted meetings with local restaurants and NGOs to plan and establish a **Long-Term Agreement** with potential partners for the provision of **ready-to-eat food**, such as hot meals and drinking water, to improve emergency preparedness and response efforts.
- WFP procured additional **High Energy Biscuits** to replenish emergency food reserves used to respond to natural disasters that occur in the country.

Nutrition

- WFP continued to provide technical support to **the Scale-up Nutrition Secretariat** under the Prime Minister's Office to finalize the M&E framework of the Consolidated National Action Plan for Nutrition and Food Security.
- WFP received 1 mt of Super Cereal, as the first consignment of China's contribution, to **support malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers** in Timor-Leste.
- WFP finalized the **information, education, and communications materials** for the upcoming Super Cereal distribution and rice fortification campaign.

Food Fortification

- WFP continued to provide support for the maintenance of the rice milling machine in Tibar for packing fortified rice.
- WFP identified vendors to procure two blending machines to support the rice fortification activities of domestic millers.
- WFP provided training to officials from the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce, and Industry on the technical and policy aspects of rice fortification.

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

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
25.74 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

School Feeding

- Following construction of the school kitchen, WFP handed over the school kitchen facilities to the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports (MoEYS) at three schools – Eskola Bázika Filiál (EBF) Lelaus, Eskola Básica Central (Central Basic School) Darlau, EBF Lelaus, and EBF Lebutun.
- WFP supported the Ministry of State Administration by providing coordination and technical support for the School Feeding Decree-Law Consultation meeting on 29 April 2022.
- WFP confirmed financial support to MoEYS for distribution of pallets to four municipalities towards the MoEYS school feeding programme.
- WFP participated in a workshop for 21st-century education infrastructure, which is a part of an ongoing effort to assess and improve educational infrastructure across the country. The workshop was organized by the BEST project team, the World Bank, and the MoEYS to enhance and expand the inter-agency partnership.

Supply Chain

- WFP donated 70 plastic pallets to the State Secretariat of Civil Protection for their mobile **storage units** to improve their **stock** (food and non-food items) **management**.
- WFP allocated funding to the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion to support the reorganization and clean-up of their warehouses in preparation for incoming food items.
- WFP conducted a **warehouse management** training for 20 staff from the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, and Industry (MTCI).
- WFP finalized supply chain and logistics questionnaires for the upcoming assessments. The assessments aim to prepare the food assistance for the vulnerable populations in the country, which was made possible through the contribution from Japan.

Research Assessment and Monitoring

- WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries continued joint **price monitoring** activities for food security.
- WFP developed questionnaires for upcoming **assessments** to evaluate **emergency preparedness and response**, warehouse conditions, and school profiles.
- WFP shared the analysis of the government's basic food basket program (Cesta Basica 2.0) with MTCI to enhance the programme's effectiveness and inclusiveness of food assistance.
- WFP developed a **monitoring and evaluation framework** and reporting format for the Super Cereal program, which will be implemented with the support of contributions from China, and the General Food Distribution Program through the contribution from Japan.
- WFP conducted **training** for a **market assessment** in Dili to ensure accurate data collection and effective coordination.

Challenges

- According to WFP's market price monitoring, a marginal increase in the price of local rice was observed in April 2022, compared to the previous month (May 2022). For the next few weeks, fresh harvests are expected to arrive at local markets.
- While the prices of imported rice continue to show an upward trend both at the local and global level, they remain lower compared to a year-on-year measure. Considering the high level of global uncertainty, including the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, WFP together with the Government of Timor-Leste, will continue to monitor food and non-food item prices to respond to food security needs in the country.
- In addition to the Government's 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 2021 and in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Donors

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