



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief June 2022



President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Dr. José Ramos-Horta, and WFP representative, Dageng Liu, visited the Comoro Community Health center to observe and support nutrition assistance to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. (© WFP/Noel Estevo)

## 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.

WFP's 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

- H.E. President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Dr. José Ramos-Horta, and H.E. Minister of Health, Dr. Odete Maria de Freitas Belo, visited EBC Manleuana (Basic Central School) and Comoro Community Health Center, with WFP representative, Dageng Liu. This visit aimed to observe school feeding and nutrition assistance to pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, which was supported by the contribution of the Government of the People's Republic of China through WFP.

The event also involved cooking demonstrations and nutrition counseling as part of WFP's social behavioral change communication to improve nutrition for women.

## Situation Updates

- Timor-Leste registered an additional 43 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in June 2022. Since March 2020, 22,957 cases have been confirmed in the country. As of the end of June 2022, 74.3 percent of the population aged 18 years and above have been fully vaccinated. All of WFP Timor-Leste's staff are fully vaccinated.

## Operational Updates

### Emergency Response and Preparedness

- After the recent flash floods and landslides, WFP worked closely with the Civil Protection Authority (CPA) at the national and municipality levels in their disaster response, by conducting rapid assessments of flood-affected populations in Covalima, Viqueque, and Lautem. WFP will also support the preparation of high-energy biscuits and fortified rice to be distributed to vulnerable populations in the affected areas.

### Nutrition

- WFP, together with the Ministry of Health, conducted training for the Targeted Supplementary Feeding program for Nutrition Coordinators, Saude Na Family focal points, and Maternal and Child health focal points in Dili, Oecusee, Bobonaro, Ainaro, and Manufahi.

WFP is also supporting the Ministry of Health for the distribution of Super Cereal (CSB+) to assist pregnant and lactating women in municipalities after its initial delivery to community health centers.

### Food Fortification

- WFP is in preparation to produce 5 mt of fortified rice with CPA, with rice donated by the Government of India.
- In close cooperation with WFP, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM) office is conducting a legal impact analysis for the food fortification decree law on food fortification, to prepare the decree law to be on the agenda of the Council of Ministers.

### School Feeding

WFP supported and participated in the celebration of World Food Safety Day, with UN agencies and development partners to support the improvement of food safety in the country.

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste](http://www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste)

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
25.74 m	17.84 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

- WFP, together with WHO, participated in a familiarization workshop for the Say No to 5S project (School Health and Nutrition project) to support the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports and the Ministry of Health.
- To prepare for the Say No to 5S project (school health and nutrition) implementation, WFP has completed the field survey of the baseline assessment to assess conditions of school infrastructure and supply chain of school feeding programs and fortified rice provisions for students.

Supply Chain

- WFP coordinated the visit of the advisor of the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the National Logistics Center to the Tibar warehouse to introduce rice fortification. WFP also provided a briefing on the progress of rice fortification to support the strengthening of

National Logistics Centre rice fortification efforts and ownership.

- WFP facilitated a visit to the Timor Global facility in Railaco with the Chief of Staff and the Director of the NLC. This visit was to oversee activities related to Timor Vita, locally produced specialized nutritious food, and to advocate for the Government to invest in the national supplementary feeding programme.
- WFP provided technical support to autonomous medical services and health equipment (SAMSES) to deliver 306 MT of supper cereal to support pregnant and lactating women at 71 community health centers in 13 municipalities and Oecusse.
- WFP coordinated with the NLC to use its regional warehouse in Baucau, Natarbora, and Manufahi to store 165mt for prepositioning super cereal stock to cover three eastern municipalities (Baucau, Lautem, Viqueque) as well as Manatotu, Manufahi. This will support pregnant and nursing mothers in these municipalities.
- WFP supported National Directorate for Quarantine and Biosecurity (DNQB) in the preparation of its national pest survey report about warehouse management and food safety issues.

Research Assessment and Monitoring

- WFP delivered technical assistance to the Government of Timor-Leste for its general food basket assistance program (“Cesta Basica”), for vulnerable populations; this included training for monitoring and advocacy for food safety issues.
- WFP launched [the June 2022 Market Monitor Report](#) and market assessment preliminary report, together with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to assess the impact of global and local food prices on food security in the country.
- On 14 June, WFP presented updates on project progress at the first Joint Steering Committee meeting of the joint SDG Funds project on the Small Island Development Programme with WHO, FAO, and UN Resident Coordinator’s Office, line ministries, and NGOs on reducing disaster risk and strengthening food systems.
- WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on the inspection of purchased livestock (goats) and seeds for the Horticulture and Livestock farming programme. Funded by the Government of Brazil through WFP, this programme aims to restore the livelihoods of farmers lost after Cyclone Seroja in 2021.

Challenges

- Considering the high level of global uncertainty including the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, WFP will continue to monitor closely food and non-food item prices together with the Government of Timor-Leste.
- Malnutrition prevention and treatment services among women and children require more investments following the increase in food prices.

Donors

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