WFP Timor-Leste
Country Brief
November 2022

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 centre of the country’s development efforts through the Road Map for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (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 in areas where WFP has a comparative advantage and potential to maximize the impact of its assistance to ensure that no one is left behind.

Highlights

- WFP Executive Board approved WFP Timor-Leste Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-2025.
- WFP supported visits of the Global Coordinator of the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and UN Assistant Secretary-General, Ms. Gerda Verburg, with the national SUN focal points under the Prime Minister’s Office, Mr. Filipe da Costa and Ms. Dirce Maria Soares.

During the visit, WFP provided technical support for meetings, advocacy, and talk shows with key government members, civil society organizations, and broadcasting stations to promote national discussion on the nutritional status of children, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, adolescents, and actions to reduce malnutrition.

- On 4 November, WFP signed a tripartite Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) and the Ministry of State Administration (MSA) for a three-year collaboration. This will strengthen the national school feeding programme by 1) introducing fortified rice to school meals and home-grown school feeding, 2) ensuring healthy and nutritious eating, and 3) monitoring and evaluation.

- WFP, together with Food and Agriculture Organization, conducted training, survey, and analysis of acute Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) with 42 food security focal points from the National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition in Timor-Leste (KONSSANTIL) members, the national SUN Movement Secretariat, and NGOs.

The IPC analysis will inform key decision-makers to focus on short-term objectives to prevent, mitigate, or decrease severe food insecurity in the country.

- WFP facilitated a two-day workshop for the Ministry of Solidarity and Social Inclusion (MSSI) officials to provide information on distribution, logistics, documentation, and reporting to prepare for food assistance to the most vulnerable population in six municipalities (Baucau, Covalima, Dili, Ermera, Manatuto, and Manufahi).

Situation Updates

- Timor-Leste registered an additional 41 locally transmitted COVID-19 cases in November. 23,184 cases were confirmed since March 2020. As of the end of November, 79.5 percent of the population aged 12 years and above were fully vaccinated. All WFP Timor-Leste Country Office staff are fully vaccinated.

Operational Updates

Nutrition

- WFP initiated a six-month advertising campaign on GMN-TV, a local TV station, with videos that promote targeted supplementary feeding (Super Cereal), food fortification, and school feeding activities.

Contact info: Jiyoung Michelle Han (jiyoungmichelle.han@wfp.org)
Country Director: Cecilia Garzon (cecilia.garzon@wfp.org)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in US$)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in US$)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25.74 m</td>
<td>18.09 m</td>
<td>2.3 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategic Result 2:** No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Children under 5, 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 provided technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and KONSSANTIL for World Food Day celebration in two municipalities (Ermera and Ainaro). The event held cooking demonstrations with Super Cereal and locally produced food items to promote healthy and nutritious eating.
- WFP, together with MoH and MoEYS, established nutrition education clubs in 13 municipalities. The nutrition education clubs will continue to reach school-going adolescent girls and boys to deliver nutrition messages with gender-sensitive approaches and social and behaviour change communication.

Food Fortification

- WFP conducted stakeholder interviews with the Government and the private sector. The interview aimed to understand the value chain of local rice and the scale-up of rice fortification in Timor-Leste, as a part of a multi-country study with Regional Bureau in Bangkok.

School Feeding

- WFP, together with World Health Organization, the MoEYS and the Ministry of Health, held the first Steering Committee meeting for Say No to 5S (Starvation, Soil-transmitted Helminthiasis, Skin diseases, Smoking and Sugary/Alcoholic Drinks) project to discuss updates on the progress, achievement and challenges.
- WFP, together with MoEYS, facilitated a School Feeding meeting with the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, through collaboration with WFP Brazil Center of Excellence, to foster home-grown school feeding.
- WFP co-hosted a consultation meeting on the School Feeding Manual Review with MoEYS and MSA for the school feeding programme to align with the School Feeding Decree Law and the implementation of the school feeding budget increase per student from 25 cents to 42 cents.

Supply Chain

- WFP provided equipment, such as plastic pallets, to two local rice millers to improve warehouse management for WFP’s rice fortification activities.
- WFP conducted warehouse management training for 51 MSSI field staff to prepare for basic food assistance for the vulnerable population in 6 municipalities.
- WFP continued to provide technical guidance to Autonomous Medical Services and Health Equipment to manage the movement of Super Cereal Plus to support breastfeeding mothers to 72 community health centers across the country.

Research, Assessment and Monitoring

- WFP published Market Monitor Report, which highlighted a stabilization of market prices in the third quarter compared to the previous quarter, with a notable increase of imported and local rice in Timor-Leste.
- WFP published the October Price Monitoring Report. It found that the prices of cereal and non-cereal items remained steady, and October cooking oil prices continued to decrease, marking a 38.4 percent decrease since June.
- WFP, together with KONSSANTIL, finalized the Food Security Bulletin for July-September 2022 in Tetum.

Challenges

- Malnutrition prevention and treatment services for women and children require more resources following the food price increases.

Donors

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