



World Food Programme

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WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief February 2023



The first IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis report in Timor-Leste was launched by the Government of Timor-Leste © WFP/Injun Song

Operational Context

The World Food Programme (WFP) Timor-Leste Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2023-2025) supports the Government of Timor-Leste's vision for zero hunger and contributes to the National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030.

WFP will shift to be an enabler and strengthen the country's capacity to reduce hunger, with a nutrition- and climate-sensitive food systems approach. It emphasizes putting people at the centre in line with the Road Map for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including ending hunger, combating all forms of malnutrition, and establishing sustainable and climate-resilient food systems. The overall goal of CSP is to improve food security and nutrition through strengthening the existing social protection programmes (Bolsa da Mãe Zerosaun Foun, Merenda Escolar), food value chain (Cadeia de Valor, supply chain management, and home-grown school feeding), and emergency shock response.

The CSP will support the Government in achieving their goals under SDG 2: Zero Hunger to ensure that no one is left behind with a gender and disability inclusion lens.



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

- On 14 February, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Analysis on Acute Food Insecurity [report](#) was launched and published by the National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition (KONSSANTIL), the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), and the Minister of Coordinating Economic Affairs (MCAE). The results were disseminated among relevant line ministries, government representatives, UN agencies, development partners, and other relevant stakeholders at the event.

According to the analysis, **22 percent** (300,000 people) out of the 1.3 million population of the country face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between November 2022 and April 2023. Among them, 13,000 are classified as in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Eleven out of fourteen municipalities are classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

Urgent action is required to protect livelihoods, reduce local food consumption gaps, and save the lives of those experiencing IPC Phase 3 or above levels of food insecurity.

Operational Updates

Nutrition

- In February, WFP continued to broadcast nutrition messages through national media (GMN-TV) to raise awareness on Super Cereal, rice fortification, and school meals programme, in line with WFP's support in the country.
- WFP conducted training with two domestic rice millers, Acelda (Baucau) and Graca Agro (Bobonaro), to provide guidance on technical and programmatic aspects of rice fortification, food safety, and warehouse management. WFP is currently supporting rice fortification activity in Timor-Leste.
- WFP and Timor-Leste's Autonomous medical services and health equipment (SAMES) dispatched 64 mt of Super Cereal to all community health centres, with a dispatch ceremony with WFP, SAMES, and the Embassy of People's Republic of China, across three municipalities (Aileu, Bobonaro and Manufahi) for the targeted supplementary feeding programme for pregnant and lactating women.

Social Protection

- WFP supported the municipal administration of Baucau in the dissemination of the revised national School Meals Manual. The manual was endorsed by the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports and the Ministry of State Administration and provides guidance on enhancing the quality of school meals programme through healthy and nutritious school meals, food safety standards, and monitoring and evaluation aspects.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
13.9 m	5.8 m	0.85 m

Strategic Outcome 1 : People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

CSP Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in Timor-Leste have equitable access to adequate nutritious foods that meet their basic nutritional needs during and in the aftermath of shocks.

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

1. Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations.

Strategic Outcome 2: People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes.

CSP Outcome 2: People vulnerable to nutrition insecurity, in particular women, adolescent girls and school-age children, in Timor-Leste have equitable access to enhanced nutrition-sensitive programmes that promote and enable healthy diets by 2025.

Focus area: *Root causes*

Activities:

2. Provide technical assistance to national institutions working to enhance the quality and nutrition integration of school-based programmes and other social assistance programmes by improving the availability, affordability, equitable access to and consumption of nutritious and safe food

Strategic Outcome 4: National programmes and systems are strengthened

CSP Outcome 3: People vulnerable to shocks in Timor-Leste benefit from enhanced national capacity for disaster preparedness and response and supply chain management by 2025

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

3. Provide technical assistance to national institutions in strengthening disaster risk and supply chain management

WFP, together with World Vision, as a co-chair, launched the Cash Working Group among the partners with the Government of Timor-Leste. Members of the group, including other UN agencies and development partners, participated in the launch event. The group will promote the use of cash and voucher-related assistance programmes for the vulnerable population in the country.

Emergency Preparedness

- In ensuring readiness for a potential flood emergency response, WFP carried out retailer assessments in Manatuto to ensure that local capacity is available for emergency assistance.

Logistics and Supply Chain

- WFP supported the dispatch of over 291 mt of Super Cereal Plus from SAMES national and municipal warehouses to reach to community health centres as a last-mile delivery point. The nutrition assistance will support nutritionally at-risk pregnant and lactating women to improve their nutritional status.

Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- WFP supported the analysis of multi-year data on national food production and consumption collected by KONSSANTIL from all municipalities to gain an understanding of the gaps and surpluses in local food commodities to improve food security in the country.

Challenges

- Given the global economic uncertainty due to the conflict in Ukraine, WFP continues to closely monitor the prices of food and non-food items, in collaboration with the Government of Timor-Leste.
- Malnutrition prevention and treatment services for women and children require more resources following the food price increases.

Donors

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