



World Food Programme

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WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief June 2023



WFP supported the Unit of Mission to Combat Stunting and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry in conducting the National and Regional Food System Stocktaking workshops ©WFP/Sohyun Jeon

Operational Context

Rates of child malnutrition and stunting are at 47 percent and remain a persistent problem. Timor-Leste has the highest rate of stunting in Southeast Asia. Twenty-two percent of the population face acute food insecurity.

In response to these challenges, WFP is shifting programmatic focus to be an enabler and strengthen the country's capacity to reduce hunger, with a nutrition- and climate-sensitive food systems approach. This 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 World Food Programme (WFP) 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. The overall goal of CSP is to improve food security and nutrition through strengthening the existing social protection programmes (*Bolsa da Mãe Jerosaun 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: 47% of children
(6-59 months old)

Highlights

- WFP supported key government partners to deliver one national and four regional Food System Stocktaking consultative workshops.
- WFP established Nutrition School Clubs (NSC) in 5 schools engaging 120 students.
- As the task force coordinator, WFP hosted the first meeting of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) task force in Timor-Leste with World Vision, other UN agencies and Development Partner organizations.

Operational Updates

Nutrition

- WFP is working together with other UN agencies in leading the development of investment cases in nutrition and food security.
- New NSCs were established in five schools in Ermera with 120 students selected and involved in nutrition education. Nutrition education sessions were also conducted in 480 existing nutrition school club members in Dili, Baucau, Bobonaro, and Manufahi. Some 600 students received nutrition education in five municipalities in June.

Social Protection / School Feeding

- WFP and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) handed over kitchen equipment to the President of the Authority of Baucau. This donation will help improve the safety and hygiene of the school feeding programme in the municipality.
- WFP and KOICA monitored the programme implementation under the 'Say No to Starvation, Skin infections, Soil transmitted worms, Smoking and Sugary/alcoholic drinks' project in Baucau municipality. The mission included visits to schools and the rice fortification facility in Darsula.
- WFP facilitated the finalization of the selection of school kitchens for construction of ten schools in three municipalities, Baucau, Bobonaro and Manufahi.
- WFP facilitated the participation of representatives from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to share their experiences of monitoring and evaluation during the third virtual meeting with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries.
- WFP, with support of in-house technical experts from Headquarters, commenced a review and scoping of social protection to set out success stories, challenges, and potential ways forward. The review will be completed in July and the results will inform the country office Mid-Term Review next month.

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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	6.41 m	0.93 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 3: 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

Food System

- As part of WFP's facilitation of Timor-Leste's Food System Stock-taking exercise, WFP supported the Unit of Mission to Combat Stunting the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry and other partners to conduct one national and four regional Food System Stocktaking consultative workshops. Through these workshops, multiple stakeholders discussed and documented the progress made against the Government of Timor-Leste's (GoTL) 2021 Food Systems Pathway Commitment. This progress will be reported by the GoTL at the UN global event on Food System Stocktaking in Rome in July.

- As part of the Civil-Military-Police Interaction workshop organised by the GoTL and supported by the Australian Embassy and Australian Civil-Military Centre, WFP presented on humanitarian principles and its experience in civil-military coordination in Timor-Leste. WFP was also part of a panel with the Civil Protection Authority and CARE on localization of humanitarian responses in the country.

Logistics and Supply Chain

- The Supply Chain team conducted Logistics Capacity Assessments in the Baucau, Lautem, Ermera, and Oecusse municipalities and assessed storage, transport, and other logistics capacities. The assessments showed that the Government has over 60,000 m² of storage space for food and non-food storage across the country.

Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- WFP presented the findings of the 2023 Cost of the Diet analysis to the National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition (KONSSANTIL) members and other technical government stakeholders on 22 June. The validated findings included a \$4 increase in the lowest cost of a nutrient-adequate basket of food from \$6.05 in 2019 to \$10.00 as at March for a five-person household. The nutritious food requirements of adolescent girls contributed to over two thirds of the cost for a household, highlighting their vulnerability and the fragility of Timor-Leste's food systems.
- As Co-Chair of the Cash Working Group and coordinator of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) task force, WFP hosted the first MEB task force meeting with World Vision, other UN agencies and Development Partner organizations.

Challenges

- Food inflation has increased because of ongoing global economic uncertainties and conflicts. In response, WFP continues to constantly monitor the costs of food and non-food goods in cooperation with the Government of Timor-Leste.

Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Joint SDG fund, SIDS.

