



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief July 2023



WFP responded to flood-affected households providing food and non-food items to 350 households in nine municipalities at the request of the Civil Protection Authority. @WFP/Comms

## 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**

2021/2022 Human Development Index: **140 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **47% of children (6-59 months old)**

## Highlights

- WFP supported the Civil Protection Authority's (CPA) response to 350 flood-affected households by coordinating the transportation of 220 mt of food and non-food items and providing technical guidance on data management.
- WFP, as Co-Chair of the Cash Working Group (CWG), advocated for a commonly accepted Minimum Expenditure Basket, supporting the calculation of a multipurpose cash grant transfer.
- WFP supported government representatives to highlight Timor-Leste's food system achievements and challenges at the UN Global Food System Stocktaking moment in Italy.

## Operational Updates

### Nutrition

- WFP presented findings on Timor-Leste's Food Systems Pathway to relevant food security actors, including KONSSANTIL - the National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition in Timor-Leste, and other line ministries. Findings focused on improved nutritional status of rural populations, water scarcity, investment in kitchen gardens at the household level, providing quality seeds and improved quality practices.
- WFP provided technical support to develop a Term of Reference to establish a Ministry of Health-led National Committee to establish a breast milk subsidy code. Once set up, the committee will plan the roadmap to implement the code.

### Social Protection / School Feeding

- WFP progressed the development of new menus for school meals in all 14 municipalities incorporating 65 nutritious school meals. The menus, based on a March 2023 Cost of the Diet analysis, will increase the use of locally produced food for school meals. The menus will be officially launched in August.
- WFP supported the selection of ten schools by the Ministry of Education and municipal government where new kitchens will be constructed under the 'Say no to 5S in Schools' project — (5S stands for Starvation, Skin infections, Soil-transmitted worms, Smoking, and Sugary/alcoholic drinks). WFP also issued a Request for Proposal for the construction of six of the ten kitchens to be built by the end of 2023.
- WFP progressed the procurement of a third batch of kitchen utensils that will help improve school meal hygiene in a further 150 schools.

Contact info: [Imogen Wilson](mailto:Imogen.Wilson@wfp.org) ([Imogen.Wilson@wfp.org](mailto:Imogen.Wilson@wfp.org))  
Country Director: [Cecilia Garzon](mailto:cecilia.garzon@wfp.org) ([cecilia.garzon@wfp.org](mailto:cecilia.garzon@wfp.org))  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste](http://www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste)

**Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)**

Total Requirement (In US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
<b>13.9 m</b>	<b>6.41 m</b>	<b>0.9 m</b>

**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

- WFP invited the Minister of Education to attend the Global Ministerial Meeting of the School Meals Coalition hosted by the Government of France in Paris, in October 2023 to share the country's progress on their commitments to the coalition.

**Food System**

- WFP provided funding to support two government representatives to attend the UN Global Food Systems stocktaking event in Rome, Italy in July, ensuring Timor-Leste's food security achievements and challenges were presented and recognized.

**Logistics and Supply Chain**

- WFP coordinated the transportation of 220 mt of food and non-food items at the request of the Civil Protection Authority (CPA) to over 350 households affected by flooding and landslides. A total of nine out of 14 municipalities were affected.

**Research, Assessment, and Monitoring**

- WFP provided technical assistance to the CPA with their data management system, responding to the needs that arose from flooding and landslides in nine municipalities.
- WFP, as the lead agency for the UN-SDG funded for Small Island Developing States programme "Strengthening National Food Systems and promoting Disaster Risk Reduction," presented progress activity updates to the Joint Steering Committee in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization. This included the production of the first Acute Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis in the country and the validation of the results of the Cost of the Diet update as of March 2023.
- WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry (MALFF) and the National Institute of Statistics to update the food price data collection questionnaire and assisted MALFF in preparing for the first Food Security Cluster meeting and high-level KONSSANTIL meeting, scheduled in August.
- As Co-Chair of the Cash Working Group (CWG), WFP invited international NGOs to join the group, advocating for building a commonly accepted Minimum Expenditure Basket. This will support the calculation of a multipurpose cash grant transfer and strengthen collaboration in the country.

**Challenges**

- Food inflation remains high due to 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, Small Island Developing States.

