



World Food Programme

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# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief November 2023



WFP supported the launch of a new school feeding recipe book designed to improve school children's nutrition. Photo: WFP

## Operational Context

Almost one in two children are stunted in Timor-Leste, which is one of the highest rates in southeast Asia. Twenty-two percent of the population face acute food insecurity.

In response, World Food Programme (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.

WFP's 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 the 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.



Population: **1.36 million**

2021/22 Human Development Index: **141 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

## Highlights

- WFP conducted a 2023 Acute Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC) level 1 training and analysis, revealing a deterioration of food security.
- WFP supported UNMICS (The National Unit to Combat Stunting) and the Vice Prime Minister's office to further the development of a five-year national action plan to combat stunting in Timor-Leste, in partnership with UNICEF and other stakeholders.
- WFP supported the Office of the President, Minister of Education, Minister of Health, Minister of State Administration and Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry to launch a new school feeding recipe book, based on local food preferences and locally grown seasonal produce.

## Operational Updates

### Nutrition

- WFP continued to engage with the Ministry of Health to support their efforts to revitalise the local production of Super Cereal (specially blended food for malnourished women and children).
- WFP supported UNMICS (The National Unit to Combat Stunting) and the Vice Prime Minister's office to further the development of a five-year national action plan to combat stunting in Timor-Leste in partnership with UNICEF and other stakeholders.

### Social Protection / School Feeding

- WFP supported the launch of a school feeding recipe book led by the office of the President with the Minister of Education, Minister of Health, Minister of State Administration, and Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry. The recipe book, based on local food preferences and food availability, will be distributed across all municipalities.
- WFP commenced delivery of school kitchen utensils to 50 schools in three municipalities – Baucau, Bobonaro and Manufahi - under the Say No to Five S's (SN5S - starvation, soil-transmitted worms, skin diseases, smoking, sugary/alcoholic drinks) project. The distribution will conclude in December.

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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	7 m	2 m
<b>Strategic Outcome 1:</b> People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs		
<b>CSP Outcome 1:</b> 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.		
<b>Focus area:</b> Crisis response		
<b>Activities:</b>		
1. Provide food and nutrition assistance to crisis-affected populations.		
<b>Strategic Outcome 2:</b> People have better nutrition, health and education outcomes.		
<b>CSP Outcome 2:</b> 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.		
<b>Focus area:</b> Root causes		
<b>Activities:</b>		
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.		
<b>Strategic Outcome 3:</b> National programmes and systems are strengthened		
<b>CSP Outcome 3:</b> People vulnerable to shocks in Timor-Leste benefit from enhanced national capacity for disaster preparedness and response and supply chain management by 2025		
<b>Focus area:</b> Resilience building		
<b>Activities:</b>		
3. Provide technical assistance to national institutions in strengthening disaster risk and supply chain management		

## Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Joint SDG fund, Small Island Developing States.



## Social Protection / School Feeding continued

- WFP reviewed project progress at the second SN55 project steering committee meeting with the Minister of Education, Vice-Minister of Health, KOICA, and WHO representatives. A joint visit by WFP, KOICA and four ministries will be conducted in the first quarter of 2024 to monitor field implementation.

## Emergencies

- WFP continued supporting the Civil Protection Authority (CPA) in fumigating 1000 mts of fortified rice stored at two private sector warehouses in two municipalities. The rice is now ready to be prepositioned for the Ministry of Education for the school feeding programme, and for the CPA for El Niño response preparedness.

## Logistics and Supply Chain

- WFP engaged HELP Logistics to explore possible collaboration on logistics trainings to strengthen humanitarian logistics capacities in Timor-Leste.

## Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- WFP conducted a 2023 Acute Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC) level 1 training and analysis with 30 participants from ministries, UN agencies and NGOs. The analysis revealed a deterioration of food security since the 2022 Acute IPC analysis was conducted in October 2022, and will be presented and validated by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry in December.
- WFP supplemented the Food Security Assessment survey carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry and the National Institute of Statistics (INETL), with qualitative research in Atauro municipality to further investigate the consumption patterns of protein dense foods across different communities.

## Challenges

- Food security is being impacted by late and lower than average rates of rainfall due to El Niño and ongoing global food price inflation.