



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief March 2024



Minister of Education, Dulce de Jesus Soares, hands over a Nutrition Education School Club certificate to a Manleuana School student. Photo: WFP/Mariano Redondo

## Operational Context

Almost one in two children are stunted in Timor-Leste, which is one of the highest rates in Southeast Asia. Twenty-six 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 held a ceremony for Nutrition Education School Club (NESC) with Ministry of Education to celebrate the achievement of students completing Nutrition Education School Clubs in Dili.
- WFP is transporting 500 metric tonnes (mt) of fortified rice from two private rice millers to schools in three municipalities to support the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of State Administration's School Meals Programme.
- WFP convened meetings with the technical working group (TWG) co-chairs to collaborate on shaping the anticipatory action (AA) roadmap. This initiative aims to integrate the AA strategy in national practices under the umbrella of the anticipatory action TWG in Timor-Leste.

## Operational Updates

### Nutrition

- WFP, in support of the Government of Timor-Leste, held a certificate-giving ceremony for the Nutrition Education School Club (NESC), one of the social behaviour change communication (SBCC) programmes, to celebrate the achievement of students completing NESC classes in Dili.
- WFP prepositioned 236 mt of fortified rice from two local rice millers to schools in Baucau, Bobonaro, and Manufahi municipalities for the school meal programme (SMP).

### Social Protection / School Feeding

- WFP continued developing the kitchen construction model for school feeding programmes as part of the *Say No to Five S* (SN5S - starvation, soil-transmitted worms, skin diseases, smoking, sugary/alcoholic drinks) project, in consultation with the Education Infrastructure Department of the Ministry of Education.
- WFP and the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion conducted a field visit to Oecusse municipality to meet beneficiaries for the social protection intervention, following the Ministry's decision to adopt the specialized nutritious food (SNF) intervention.
- WFP, in support of the Ministry of Education, organized a handover ceremony for the school meal menu at Manleuana School in Dili, which was launched last November based on local food preferences and locally grown seasonal produce.

Contact info: **Natsuki Tsuda** ([natsuki.tsuda@wfp.org](mailto:natsuki.tsuda@wfp.org))

Country Director: **Cecilia Garzon** ([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>17.32m</b>	<b>9.89m</b>	<b>1m</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

## Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, China, EU, Republic of Korea, Joint SDG fund



## Emergencies

- To enhance coordination and readiness for disaster response, WFP has begun discussions with the Civil Protection Authority regarding the 2024 work plan and outcomes. This follows the completion of the onboarding process with the Global Logistics Cluster for the Field Based Preparedness Project.

## Logistics and Supply Chain

- WFP is transporting 500 mt of fortified rice from two private millers to schools in Baucau, Bobonaro, and Manufahi to support the Ministry of Education and Ministry of State Administration on the School Meals Programme. Deliveries are expected to be completed by the beginning of April.

## Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- WFP attended the meeting of the National Council for Food and Nutrition Security and Sovereignty (CONSSAN-TL), where Decree Law 9/2024 was presented, and the inter-ministerial technical working groups (TWGs) were re-established. WFP confirmed its participation in the TWGs on food security and nutrition, ensuring alignment with national priorities and strategies for addressing food and nutrition security.
- WFP held meetings with the technical working group (TWG) co-chairs to contribute to developing the anticipatory action (AA) roadmap for mainstreaming the AA approach in the country.

## Partnerships

- WFP responded to the National Directorate of Climate Change (NDCC) and the Ministry of Agriculture by providing technical guidance on a climate adaptation project being conceptualized for the Green Climate Fund.
- WFP supported the Vice Prime Minister's advisor in establishing an orchard to implement the Global Task Force on Social Protection, Human Capital, and Nutrition in accordance with the government ministries.

## Challenges

- Heavy rains during the rainy season have triggered landslides and flooding, resulting in the destruction of homes. As a response WFP is gathering information and gearing up to provide emergency assistance.