



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief June 2024



WFP, in support of the Government of Timor-Leste, started providing critical food assistance to the people affected by the El Niño event last year.

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 Condicional*, *Merenda Escolar*), food value chain, 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 supported the purchase and delivery of 357 mt of Super Cereal Plus for the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Social, Solidarity, and Inclusion (MSSI), started food distribution to 18,000 El Niño-Affected people in six municipalities.

Operational Updates

Nutrition

- WFP supported the MoH Directorate of Nutrition in clearing and delivering 357mt of Super Cereal Plus to the MoH national warehouse as part of the service agreement with the entity.
- WFP provided the MoH National Directorate with technical information on the quantity and targeted recipients of the Specialized Nutritious Food (SNF) to be procured. WFP and the MoH advance in discussions on a second procurement of Super Cereal Plus for USD 694,000 in the coming months.

Social Protection / School Feeding

- The Steering Committee for the Say No to 5 S (SN5S) Project met to present the achievements and challenges of the 2024 programme implementation, share key outcomes and output indicators, and discuss the work plan for the year's second half. Attendees included high-level representatives from KOICA, WFP, WHO, and various Timor-Leste government ministries. The project Say No To 5 S (Starvation, Soil-transmitted Helminthiasis, Skin diseases, Smoking and Sugary/Alcoholic Drinks) in Schools aims at improving health and nutrition of schoolchildren in Timor-Leste.
- A groundbreaking ceremony was held on 6 June to construct one of the SN5S Programme's ten school kitchens in Baucau-EBF Ostico. The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Education, the President of the Municipal Authority of Baucau, the WFP Country Representative, and the KOICA Country Director.
- WFP collected and analysed data from qualitative formative research on children's nutrition status in seven schools across three municipalities. The findings will be published and shared in the third quarter.

Emergencies

- As part of the project funded by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), WFP started providing food assistance to over 18,000 people affected by the impact of El Niño for the next three months. This initiative, led by the MSSI, the Civil Protection Authority, and other line ministries, will also distribute specialized nutritious foods – Super Cereal – to pregnant and breastfeeding women to prevent malnutrition.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)

Total Requirement (In US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
17.32 m	9.89 m	0.66 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

Operational Updates (continued)

Logistics and Supply Chain

- WFP supported the procurement and delivery 925 pallets to the Ministry of Social, Solidarity, and Inclusion. These pallets will be used to improve food storage conditions in 13 municipalities.
- WFP supported the fortification of 39.4 mt of rice in Bobonaro municipality and planned to fortify an additional 157.5 mt in July. This staple is intended for distribution to El Niño affected people as part of the CERF-funded project.

Research, Assessment, and Monitoring

- WFP trained a partner organization that will conduct distribution monitoring to reach 18,600 vulnerable people with food baskets. Additionally, WFP activated a community feedback mechanism (CFM) to collect and respond to feedback and complaints from beneficiaries.

Partnerships

The Civil Protection Authority signed an agreement to loan fortified milled rice WFP for immediate distribution to those affected by El Niño, ensuring the project could start as initially planned in June. This effectively mitigated potential delays in project implementation due to supply chain challenges.

Challenges

The price of food staples, such as rice, remains high and continues to be impacted by global inflation. In April and May 2024, food prices increased by 7.1 percent, nearing the level recorded a year earlier.

Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, European Union, China Aid, Republic of Korea, USAID BHA, Joint SDG Fund

