



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief October 2024



WFP supported Timor-Leste's Government at the Committee on World Food Security held in Rome in October. ©Jonio da Costa

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, the 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.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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 and the Government of Timor-Leste highlighted food security and social protection strategies at the committee of World Food Security 52 in Rome.
- Together with the Government of Timor-Leste, WFP reached over 17,000 people affected by El Niño in six municipalities with a food assistance package over the past five months.
- *Food that Provides Good Nutrition* is the song launched in Timor-Leste to promote locally grown food and improve nutrition in schools and the general population.

Operational Updates

Nutrition and Food Security

- WFP and the Ministry of Education organized a school feeding training that brought together 119 members of the School Management Committees in the Manufahi municipality, including cooks, school inspectors, and directors. Using locally sourced ingredients, participants learned skills such as safe food handling, supply organization, and nutritious meal preparation based on the National School Feeding programme recipe book. Download the complete recipe book [here](#).
- On [World Food Day](#), the Vice Prime Minister for Social Affairs, Rural Development, and Community Housing launched the song *Food that Provides Good Nutrition*. Developed by the Ministry of Health and WFP, it encourages children and adolescents to choose locally grown, nutritious foods daily. Enjoy the song [here](#).
- WFP completed the broadcast of *Glow Up!*, a 12-episode podcast focusing on nutrition and the holistic well-being of adolescents and young adults, available on various podcast platforms and YouTube. Access *Glow Up!* episodes [here](#).

Social protection

- Timor-Leste, as chair of the Global Task Force on Social Protection for Nutrition, Human Capital, and Local Economic Development (GTF), participated in the 52nd session of the [Committee on World Food Security](#) (CFS) in Rome, with support from WFP, as the Global Task Force Secretariat. The delegation highlighted food security challenges in fragile states and Least Developed Countries, advocating for improved food security to reduce inequality through social protection systems. The country also led a side event, sharing experiences and lessons learned from linking social protection with food security and nutrition, and invited other nations to join the initiative.

Contact info: **Mariano Redondo** (mariano.redondo@wfp.org)
Country Director: **Jacqueline de Groot** (jacqueline.degroot@wfp.org)
Further information: 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\$)
21.18 m	10.44 m	0.844 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

Strategic Outcome 4: Humanitarian & development actors are more efficient & effective.

CSP Outcome 4: Communities vulnerable to and affected by crises in Timor-Leste benefit from improved services and enhanced capacities of Government and humanitarian and development actors to prepare and respond to crises by 2025.

Focus area: Service Delivery

Activities:

4. Provide on-demand services including food and non-food procurement, and logistics supply chain capacity to the government and humanitarian and development partners.

Emergency, Preparedness and Response

- As part of the El Niño response, WFP concluded its support to the national government in distributing food to affected communities in six municipalities. WFP reached 17,000 people with as rice, beans, and vegetable oil, as well as nutrition support (Super Cereal) in the past five months.
- In preparation session for the national Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) in December, WFP engaged with over 30 stakeholders from the Civil Protection Authority, Municipal Authorities, National Logistics Centre, Timor-Leste’s Red Cross Society, IOM, Australian Embassy, US Embassy, USAID/BHA, and other humanitarian actors. Feedback from the participants will help tailor the design and facilitation of the upcoming SIMEX.
- WFP field staff in Baucau, Bobonaro, and Lautem municipalities participated in the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) activities led by the Civil Protection Authority. WFP's participation included delivering a presentation on humanitarian assistance and emergency logistics.

Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, Central Emergency Response Fund, China Aid, KOICA, USAID BHA

