



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief April-May 2025



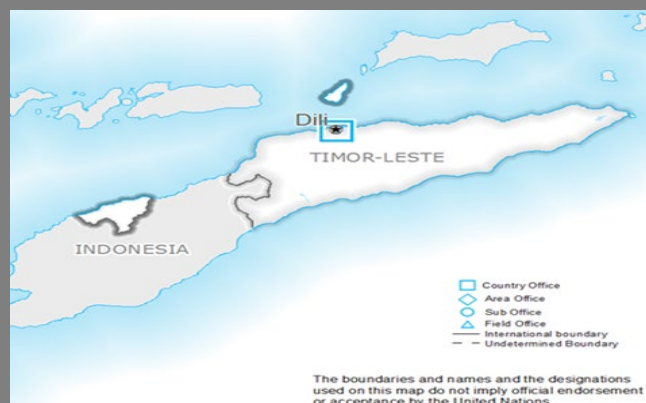
Government partners participated in the national orientation session for the School Kitchen Food Safety Certification Programme organized by WFP. ©Americo Marques

Operational Context

Almost one in two children are stunted in Timor-Leste, which is one of the highest rates in the world. 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, 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 national session to guide ministries on implementing the School Kitchen Food Safety Certification Programme, promoting food hygiene, safety, and standardised monitoring to improve school meals in Timor-Leste.
- WFP facilitated the procurement of a new blending machine to enhance rice fortification, supporting nutrition and food security outcomes in the country.

Operational Updates

School Feeding

- To strengthen implementation and oversight of the School Kitchen Food Safety Certification Programme at the municipal level, WFP organized a national orientation session for government partners. The session introduced the certification programme, outlined key food hygiene and safety practices to support safer school meals in Timor-Leste, and provided guidance on using the certification checklist, scoring system, and reporting format. Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of State Administration, and the National Council for Sovereignty, Food Security and Nutrition (CONSSAN-TL).
- In line with the new guidelines following the promulgation of a decree-law by the President of Timor-Leste concerning subsidies for the School Feeding Programme (SFP), WFP supported the Government in updating and disseminating a revised School Feeding Manual, adapting its content to each municipality. In addition to several coordination meetings with line ministries and development partners, the first national consultation workshop on revising the manual was held in Dili in April. The event brought together municipal presidents and other relevant local authorities to incorporate new implementation modalities and oversight roles in schools.

Rice Fortification

- WFP facilitated the procurement of a blending machine to support the national government in strengthening rice fortification efforts. The aim is to improve the nutrition of the population, including that of students who receive school meals through the national school feeding programme. The machine is expected to arrive in the country by July.

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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)

Total Requirement (In US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
21.2 m	17.93 m	0.81 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.

Social Protection

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion and WFP are advancing the preparation of a nutrition-sensitive social protection pilot project. The initiative, which aims to strengthen social protection systems and enhance capacity for adaptive, shock-responsive programmes, will be implemented in three municipalities: Covalima, Ermera, and Oecusse. The project is financially supported by the governments of Timor-Leste and France, and the Asian Development Bank.

Country Strategic Plan 2026-2030

- WFP's Country Strategic Plan in Timor-Leste for 2026-2030 has been submitted for review by the WFP Strategic Plan Review Panel and is being prepared for socialization and approval at the WFP Executive Board meeting in November. WFP continued to hold consultation sessions with the government and other development partners to ensure strategic alignment with Timor-Leste's development aspirations and national priorities, including key focus areas such as food security, nutrition, and social protection.

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