



World Food Programme

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WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief June-July 2025



WFP, UN & EU sign €10M partnership for nutrition and inclusion. ©WFP/Mariano Redondo

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) has taken on a role as an enabler to 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.



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**

2023 Human Development Index:
142 out of 193

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

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Highlights

- WFP and UN sister agencies have signed a new €10 million partnership with the European Union to combat malnutrition and foster social inclusion.
- WFP handed over oxygen concentrators to support community health centres in four municipalities.

Operational Updates

School Feeding

- In July, the final phase of school kitchen construction in Manufahi municipality began with a groundbreaking ceremony at Cossamar School. This marks a key milestone under the *Say No to Starvation, Sugary/Alcoholic Drinks, Smoking, Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis, and Skin Infections (SN5S)* project, which supports the national school feeding programme.
- Following the handover of seven kitchens in Baucau and Bobonaro, construction is now underway for three more in Manufahi, bringing the total to ten across the three municipalities. Funded by Korea International Cooperation Agency, the SN5S project is implemented in partnership with the World Health Organization, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of State Administration, and local authorities.
- The European Union has signed a €10 million partnership with WFP, UNICEF, and the International Labor Organization to support the Government of Timor-Leste in reducing malnutrition and promoting social inclusion. The programme will target vulnerable communities, particularly school children, young women, and farmers, through improved nutrition, school feeding, agricultural practices, healthcare access, and social protection in four municipalities.

Nutrition

- As part of National Health Day celebrations, WFP handed over oxygen concentrators to the Ministry of Health to strengthen health services for vulnerable communities, especially mothers and young children.

The donation responds to requests from health centres in Bobonaro, Covalima, Manufahi, and Oecusse, aiming to improve care for patients.



WFP provided oxygen concentrators to the Ministry of Health.
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Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
21.18 m	17.79 m	1.78 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.

Rice Fortification

- Nearly 31,000 students in 180 schools across Baucau and Bobonaro municipalities received fortified rice through the national school feeding programme. The rice fortification process was supported by WFP, in collaboration with the Government of Timor-Leste.
- The rice aims to enhance children's health and learning by providing essential nutrients for growth, good health, and academic success in the classroom. As a staple in school meals nationwide, rice plays a key role in supporting students' nutritional intake.

Social Protection

- WFP is supporting the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) in advancing a nutrition-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection pilot aimed at strengthening support to the most vulnerable households in Timor-Leste.

As part of this initiative, WFP has provided technical assistance to produce strategic and operational guidelines. Preparations are currently underway to conduct a household census in three selected municipalities. This exercise will help establish locally relevant vulnerability criteria to identify and reach families most in need.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- The Civil Protection Authority and WFP, with support from the Logistics Cluster's Field-Based Preparedness Project, hosted the second Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Workshop in Dili in June.

Bringing together over 100 participants from 42 organizations, including government, humanitarian, civil society, and academic sectors, the two-day workshop aimed to strengthen national leadership in emergency logistics, improve institutional readiness, and enhance coordination for future crisis response.

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