



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief August-September 2025



WFP and MSSSI sign USD 4.8million agreement to strengthen social protection efforts. ©WFP/Mariano

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 alignment 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: **1.34 million**
(Population and Housing Census 2022)

2023 Human Development Index:
142 out of 193

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

Highlights

WFP and MSSSI sign a USD 4.8M, three-year MoU for a nutrition-sensitive social protection programme to prevent stunting, supporting vulnerable families during children's first 1,000+ days.

The Government of Timor-Leste, with support from WFP, launched the *HAFOUN* Report, a Return-on-Investment study outlining interventions to fight hunger and malnutrition nationwide that will help yield USD 3.5 for every USD 1 invested.

Operational Updates

School Feeding

- In September, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and WFP, visited Baucau and Viqueque to observe activities under the *SN5S Project* (Say No to Starvation, Sugary/Alcoholic Drinks, Smoking, Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis, and Skin Infections), supported by the Korean agency. The team engaged with students, parents, school staff, farmers, and local authorities, gathering valuable insights to strengthen nutrition initiatives such as school feeding and kitchen construction.



KOICA member discusses school meal improvements with kitchen cooks in Baucau. ©WFP/Isabel Pereira

- WFP, together with the ILO and UNICEF, hosted a consultation and inception workshop to launch a new programme supporting the Government of Timor-Leste in addressing malnutrition and promoting social inclusion through the national school meals programme. The workshop convened line ministries, local authorities, and representatives from the municipalities of Dili, Aileu, Covalima, and Lautem to discuss the programme's goals, roles, and work plan. Backed by EUR 10 million from the European Union, the programme will strengthen national systems and community practices to improve access to nutrition, health, and social protection for children, families, women, and the most vulnerable.

Rice Fortification

- WFP, with KOICA funding, procured, transported, installed, and tested a new rice blending machine, which will operate in Manufahi Municipality. As part of the SN5S project, the machine will produce fortified rice for school meals and serve as a preparedness measure, ensuring fortified rice is available in case of emergencies. The machine is scheduled for official launch in the last quarter of 2025.

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 USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
53 m	19.57 m	1.75 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.

Food Security

- The Vice Prime Minister for Social Affairs and Rural Development, with support from WFP and partners, launched the *HAFOUN* Report, based on an independent assessment conducted by Mettalytics.

The report presents an evidence-based roadmap to break the cycle of hunger and poverty through targeted investments in food security, nutrition, and agriculture through nine key interventions. It highlights that every dollar invested in these interventions could generate a return of up to USD 3.5 in economic terms and social benefits. Access the report [here](#).



The HAFOUN Report was launched by the Vice Prime Minister for Social Affairs and Rural Development. ©WFP/Mariano Redondo

Social Protection

- The Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) and WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the *Bolsa da Mãe Kondisional ba Saúde Nutrisaun Inan no Oan* (Mother and Child Health and Nutrition) programme, a three-year, USD 4.8 million pilot initiative to reduce the prevalence of stunting among children under three from vulnerable families in Timor-Leste. Implemented under the leadership of MSSI with support from the Ministry of Health, and the National Statistics Institute, and technical support from WFP and ADB, the programme will run from 2025 to 2028 in Covalima, Ermera, and Oecusse municipalities, focusing on the critical first 1,000+ days from pregnancy to a child's third year of life.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- The *Timor-Leste Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA)* was recently updated by WFP, with support from government partners, to strengthen emergency preparedness. The document provides essential information on the country's infrastructure, services, and resources, enabling humanitarian teams to plan and respond more effectively during crises in order for assistance to timely reach people. Access it [here](#).

Donors

