



World Food
Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief October-December 2025



Japan's USD 650,000 contribution delivers rice to 350 schools nationwide. ©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 Condisional*, 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

The Government of Japan partners with WFP to deliver rice for school meals for 100,000 children in Timor-Leste.

WFP Timor-Leste's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan has been approved, aligning with national priorities on nutrition and food security.

Operational Updates

WFP Country Strategic Plan

- The new WFP Country Strategic Plan 2026-2030 was approved at the WFP Executive Board meeting in Rome in November. The five-year plan was presented by WFP Timor-Leste Country Director Jacqueline de Groot, with a statement from Timor-Leste's Ambassador to the United Nations, Dionisio Babo, endorsing WFP's work on nutrition and food security and highlighting the plan's alignment with national priorities in these areas.



Jacqueline de Groot, WFP Country Director, presents the Timor-Leste Country Strategic Plan 2026-2030 at the WFP Executive Board meeting. ©WFP

School Feeding

- In early December, WFP strengthened the National School Meals Programme in Manufahi Municipality by handing over key infrastructure and machinery under the KOICA-funded *Say No to Starvation, Sugary/Alcoholic Drinks, Smoking, Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis, and Skin Infections* (SN5S) project. Together with the Government of Timor-Leste, WFP inaugurated three new school kitchens, reaching the target of 10 kitchens across pre-identified municipalities and improving meal safety for thousands of children. WFP also handed over a rice blending machine and rice fortification kernels, enabling the production of fortified rice for school meals.
- WFP and the World Health Organization (WHO) shared key achievements with the Government of Timor-Leste under the SN5S project, supporting the National School Feeding Programme. Since 2021, the initiative has reached 71,201 students in Baucau, Bobonaro, and Manufahi municipalities through the construction of 10 school kitchens, the provision of school meal equipment to 393 schools, rice fortification, and nutrition training.

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2025)

| Total Requirement (In US\$) | Allocated Contributions (in US\$) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 23.5M | 19.6M | 1.6M |

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 Government of Japan and WFP signed a USD 650,000 (JPY 100,000,000) agreement to support Timor-Leste's national school feeding programme. The contribution will supply 330 metric tonnes of rice to over 350 schools, reaching 100,000 children and improving food security during the first half of 2026.

Social Protection

- WFP and the Government of Timor-Leste launched the distribution of specialised nutritious foods (SNF) for vulnerable pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under three, starting in Manatuto municipality. Supported by the Government of France, the initiative will expand to three additional municipalities, reaching nearly 8,500 beneficiaries and strengthening national nutrition and social protection systems.



The Minister of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, with the French Cooperation and WFP Representatives, launched the SNF distribution in Manatuto. ©WFP/Isabel Pereira

- WFP facilitated Timor-Leste's participation, as co-chair of the Global Task Force on Social Protection for Nutrition (GTF), at the Second World Summit for Social Development held in Doha in November. During the summit, national leaders reaffirmed their commitment to universal social protection for food security and resilience. As part of the agenda, the GTF hosted a side event titled 'From Reform to Impact: Governments Paving a New Era of Universal Social Protection for Food Security and Nutrition'.
- In December, WFP supported Timor-Leste in co-hosting a global exchange on Social Protection for Nutrition in Pakistan, under the umbrella of the GTF. The event brought together government teams from Asia and Africa to share lessons and strengthen nutrition-sensitive social protection policies, particularly in fragile and least developed contexts.



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