



WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

April 2018

Operational Context

Timor-Leste is one of the world's newest countries, being internationally recognized as an independent state in 2002.

The 2016 Human Development Report indicates the country has made significant strides. Timor-Leste ranks 133 out of 188 countries, placing it within the medium human development category. Poverty rates have dropped from 49.9 percent in 2007 to 41.8 percent in 2014 according to the World Bank.

The proportion of hungry poor reduced from 46.9 percent to 34.3 percent over the past decade as per 2017 Global Hunger Index. However, Timor-Leste's rates of malnutrition are the highest in Asia and are categorised as serious by WHO.

WFP has been present in Timor Leste since 1999.



Population: **1.2 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
133 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **50.2% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

4.2 mt of supplementary food for children under 5 years distributed

US\$1.1 m six months (May-October 2018) net funding requirements, representing 64% of total

1,424 people assisted
in April 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP has recently signed an agreement with an Australian funded programme, Farming for Prosperity (To'os ba Moris Di'ak – TOMAK), to conduct formative research on adolescent health in Timor-Leste.
- WFP, at the request of the President of Authority Special Administrative Region Oecusse Ambeno – Special Zone of Social Market Economy (RAEOA-ZEESM), is supporting Oecusse, one of 13 municipalities with special autonomy, on school feeding and nutrition through the deployment of a school feeding/nutrition specialist to provide technical assistance for strategic planning of the school meals programme for four months.
- A two-day training was held for 27 local cooks from Oecusse, selected by the Suco Commission for the School Feeding Programme, on how to prepare healthy nutritious meals for the students using locally produced ingredients. The training was organised by the Authority of RAEOA –ZEESM and facilitated by WFP.
- WFP supported a two-day workshop on Women's Health for F-FDTL (Timor-Leste Defence Force) and their families through the distribution of nutrition materials displays and handouts. The workshop covered various topics on health presented by doctors and UN agencies including World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN children's agency UNICEF.
- WFP participated in World Health Day celebration on 10 April, organized by the Ministry of Health and WHO. A health exposition at the Dili Convention Center was organized jointly by MoH's partners. WFP supported the Nutrition Department during the exposition through the provision of nutrition information and by organizing a cooking demonstration of several local nutritious recipes for the visitors. The Minister of Health, H.E. Dr. Rui Maria de Araujo, and Vice Minister of Health H.E. Sr. Luis M.R.F. Lobato visited the stand where the cooking demonstration took place.

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Laura Ballester Nieto
Caption: Ingredients for the cooking demonstration of local nutritious recipes during World Health Day celebration in Dili the 10th April

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WFP Timor-Leste Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	May-October Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)

16.9 m	1.8 m	1.1 m
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 1: Children under five, pregnant and lactating women and girls, and adolescent girls in Timor-Leste have improved nutrition towards national targets by 2025. <i>Focus area: Root Causes</i>		
13.5 m	0.47 m	1.1 m
Strategic Result 5: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs		
Strategic Outcome 2: National and sub-national government institutions have increased capacity to sustainably deliver food, nutrition and supply chain related services by 2020. <i>Focus area: Resilience</i>		
3.4 m	1.1 m	0 m

Figures provisional

WFP Country Activities

1. Provide nutritious food and raise awareness through SBCC to targeted individuals

SO 1 2. Provide technical assistance and evidence, for enhancing efficiency of national programmes and safety nets, to Government and partners

3. Provide technical expertise for improved targeting, monitoring and programme analysis effective supply chain management system to Government and partners

SO 2 4. Provide technical expertise for the development of an efficient and effective supply chain management system to Government

Highlight of the Month



WFP Timor Leste's new Country Director, Dageng Liu arrived in Dili on 22 April, replacing Stephen Kearney. A week-long handover included meetings with the Minister of Health to discuss WFP's support on nutrition, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs to present his credentials.

Mr. Liu also met with representatives from the Republic of Korea, the European Union, Australia, USA, New Zealand, Japan, China, Portugal, Philippines and Thailand.

- WFP participated in the Radio Spot 'Lidun Governu – Hora da Saúde' (Government Corner - Health Hour) on 19 April at Metro FM 94.7 to talk about nutrition in Timor-Leste and the UN's contribution to nutrition development in the country, as part of a communications campaign from the Ministry of Health to raise awareness on health issues, including nutrition.
- In April, 17 cooking demonstrations and nutrition education sessions were organized across communities in six municipalities (Ainaro, Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera and Oecusse) by WFP field staff, in collaboration with Ministry of Health personnel, reaching out to a total of 956 participants, 9 percent of whom were men and 16 percent were boys.
- Nutrition education sessions were also organized in 3 public basic and pre-secondary schools (between grade 1 and 9) in Ermera Municipality, reaching a total of 137 students (60 percent boys, 40 percent girls).

Monitoring

- WFP visited 41 of the 125 health facilities targeted quarterly in the 6 municipalities where WFP operates.
- WFP visited 55 of the 180 households targeted quarterly in the 6 municipalities where WFP operates.

Challenges

- The President of the Republic of Timor-Leste dissolved the national Parliament and called for anticipated elections to be held 12 of May. The caretaker Government is operating under the duo-decimal budget which hinders investment above last year budget. A contribution from Government for nutrition activities has been received but WFP continues to explore funding opportunities to ensure the continuity of the nutrition programme.
- Underfunding of the CSP, particularly Activity 1, is strongly affecting project implementation and challenging the consolidation of previous gains. The nutrition programme is already experiencing a break in the supply chain with a lack of supplementary food for pregnant and nursing women, which will continue until new purchases arrives by the end of May. Further stock outs by December 2018 will be experienced unless new contributions are received and programmed urgently. WFP has been coordinating with the Ministry of Health and SAMES to optimize the utilization of in-country stocks to mitigate the pipeline break.

Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, SRAC, Private Donors

