



## WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

May 2018

### Operational Context

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

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. WFP Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2018-2020) supports attainment of the national Government's vision and contributes to its Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030.



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 (RUSF) distributed to **1,426** girls and boys under the age of five

56%

44%



**11** nutrition education sessions organized in public schools in 4 municipalities, reaching **349** students

**US\$ 2.27 m** six months (June-November 2018) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- WFP and the Australian funded programme, Farming for Prosperity (To'os ba Moris Di'ak – TOMAK), are collaborating on a formative research on adolescent nutrition and health in Timor-Leste, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Secretary of State of Youth and Employment. The qualitative study is taking place between May and August 2018 in the municipalities of Baucau, Bobonaro, Dili and Ermera. The objective is to develop culturally appropriate and effective strategies to improve adolescents' nutrition, health and related gender social norms.
- WFP has been providing technical assistance to the Special Administrative Region Oecusse Ambeno – Special Zone of Social Market Economy (RAEOA-ZEESM), on the school feeding programme from January to May 2018. Under the leadership of the President of Authority, and in collaboration with key sectors (education, health, agriculture, infrastructure and local government administration), WFP in partnership with local NGOs Y-Acts and Bifano and financial support from Oxfam, have reviewed the school feeding programme guidelines and established a programme board, regional technical teams as well as suco commissions. Seven schools across Oecusse have been selected to pilot the new guidelines until end of July.
- The first story produced by WFP in partnership with Ministry of Health on protein-rich foods for adolescent growth and development is already out as part of the [Lafaek Community Magazine Ed.2, 2018](#). Meanwhile, WFP is working in the second story which aims to raise awareness among community members on the prevention of iron deficiencies (anaemia) via consumption of iron-rich foods, particularly among adolescent girls.
- WFP Regional Gender Team conducted a Partnership Mapping Mission for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Timor-Leste from 14-18 May. The team met Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Secretary State for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (SEIGIS), JICA, KOICA, USAID, DFAT, The Asia Foundation, Plan International, Alola Foundation, World Vision, CARE International, Caritas, Marie Stopes, TOMAK, the UN Gender Thematic Group as well as other UN Agencies.

**Main Photo** Credit: WFP/Laura Ballester Nieto  
Caption: an adolescent girl goes through WFP poster on good health and nutrition for babies during Menstrual Hygiene Day celebrated 28<sup>th</sup> May in Dili.

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## WFP Timor-Leste Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	June-November Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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### Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2018-2020)

16.9 m	1.15 m	2.27 m
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**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.

**Focus area:** Root Causes

13.5 m	0.15 m	2.27 m
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**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.

**Focus area:** Resilience

3.4 m	1 m	0 m
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## WFP Country Activities

### Strategic Outcome 1

1. Provide nutritious food and raise awareness through SBCC to targeted individuals
2. Provide technical assistance and evidence, for enhancing efficiency of national programmes and safety nets, to Government and partners

### Strategic Outcome 2

3. Provide technical expertise for improved targeting, monitoring and programme analysis effective supply chain management system to Government and partners
4. Provide technical expertise for the development of an efficient and effective supply chain management system to Government

## Highlight of the Month



WFP participated in the commemoration of Menstrual Hygiene Day to talk about the importance of addressing the nutritional needs of adolescent girls as adolescence is a time of significant brain development and physical growth. WFP engaged the adolescent girls present on the occasion by delivering strategic nutritional messages to raise awareness on the importance of eating iron-rich foods, particularly when menstruating, to prevent iron deficiencies such as anaemia.

- In May, 16 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 949 participants, 12 percent of whom were men and 16 percent were boys.
- 11 Nutrition education sessions were organized in public basic and pre-secondary schools (between grade 1 and 9) in Ainaro, Bobonaro, Ermera and Oecusse Municipalities, reaching a total of 349 students (48 percent boys, 52 percent girls).
- WFP facilitated the technical consultations on rice fortification through the leadership of KONSSANTIL (inter-ministerial council on food security and nutrition).
- A pledge of US\$ 210,000 from the Government was received in January 2018 to allow WFP to purchase internationally 122 mt of specialized nutritious foods. 12 mt of ready-to-use supplementary food for children aged 6-59 months arrived in May.

## Monitoring

- WFP visited 99 of the 180 households and 71 of the 125 health facilities targeted quarterly in the 6 municipalities where WFP operates.

## Challenges

- Early Parliamentary elections were held on 12 May, and a new government is expected to form mid-June. This has slowed down the decision-making and engagement on CSP agreement and implementation.
- Underfunding of the CSP, particularly Activity 1, is strongly affecting project implementation and challenging the consolidation of previous gains. There has been no distribution of supplementary food for targeted pregnant and nursing women since March 2018.
- The break in the supply chain of supplementary food for pregnant and nursing women will continue until the purchases of 110 mt of Super Cereal - expected to arrive in country by late-June - are repackaged and ready for distribution in July/August.
- Further stock outs will be experienced by December 2018 unless new contributions are received and programmed urgently. WFP has been coordinating with the Ministry of Health and SAMES (Medical and Pharmaceutical Supply Agency) to optimize the utilization of in-country stocks to mitigate the pipeline break.

## Donors

Government of Timor-Leste, SRAC/Multilateral Contributions, Private Donors

GENDER MARKER 2A