



## WFP Timor-Leste Country Brief

### WFP Assistance

Capacity Development for Health and Nutrition	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
DEV 200770: (Jan 2015 - Dec 2017)	13.8 m	9.35 m (68%)	-

\*November - December 2017

GENDER MARKER **2A** DEV 200770

WFP's assistance is focused on improving the nutritional status of vulnerable people, most notably pregnant and nursing women, and children aged five years and below. Through a targeted supplementary feeding programme, WFP helps reduce the infant and maternal mortality rate and helps improve the health of the most vulnerable populations. The assistance is in line with the Government's strategic plan, and with the Ministry of Health's strategic goals to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates. The Ministry is the main implementing partner of the nutrition project, with two community based organizations who have established mother support groups to demonstrate proper infant feeding practices, hygiene and nutrition.

WFP's strategy in Timor-Leste is to partner for improved nutrition, social behaviour change communication around nutrition, monitoring and evaluation, and logistics, with the overarching goal of strengthening the Government's ability to design, plan and manage the entire supplementary feeding programme. WFP also works closely with other United Nations agencies to implement its programmes in support of health, education, poverty eradication, adaptation to climate change, and capacity development of government systems.

WFP's activities address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDGs on poverty, hunger, health and gender equality.

**Photos** Credit: WFP/Caleb Gorton  
Caption: Health staff in Ermera Municipality screening for malnutrition among children under 5 years.

## Highlights

- From January 2015 to October 2017, a total of 46,217 children under the age of 5 years and 63,217 pregnant and nursing mothers were treated for malnutrition.
- From January 2015 to October 2017 355.782 mt of locally-produced Timor Vita, a specialised nutritious food for women, and 148.428 mt of Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food was distributed to 125 health facilities in 6 municipalities.
- From January to October 2017, 104 health staff (39 men and 65 women) and volunteers were trained on nutrition, behaviour change and counselling.



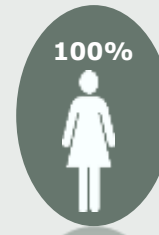
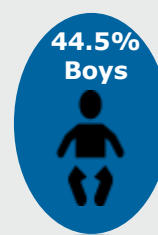
Credit: WFP/Laura Ballester Nieto  
Caption: Ms. Cidalia Lopez Guterres, wife of the President of Timor-Leste, visiting the display from nutrition and dietary students from Timor-Leste National University (UNTL) supported by WFP, during 2017 International Rural Women's Day Celebrations.

## In Numbers (October 2017)

**4,096** pregnant or nursing mothers treated for malnutrition

**1,092** girls under the age of 5 years treated for malnutrition

**877** boys under the age of years treated for malnutrition



## Operational Updates

- WFP supported the conduct of the Timor-Leste Strategic Review: Progress and Success in Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 undertaken by local non-governmental organization (NGO) the Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD) and Johns Hopkins University in May 2017. The Strategic Review identified gaps and opportunities for the Government of Timor-Leste, communities and development partners to achieve zero hunger. The launch of the Tetum version of the report took place in October as part of the World Food Day celebrations.
- The National Strategic Review of SDG 2 provided WFP with solid grounds for the preparation of a Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2018-2020, which identified improved nutrition for children under 5 years, pregnant and nursing women and adolescent girls, as well as capacity building of government institutions on sustainable food supply chain management, as key outcomes for the upcoming years. The CSP has been submitted for Executive Board's approval in February 2018 with an early release in January 2018.
- WFP is supporting the Timor-Leste Medical Supply Agency's (SAMES) expansion of the online supply chain management system, mSupply. WFP has staff in SAMES' office and in the field assisting the strengthening of SAMES' capacity and health facilities for more effective and efficient delivery of specialised nutritious food and general medical supplies to priority districts Ainaro, Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera and Oecusse.
- Between January and October 2017, 104 health staff and volunteers were trained on nutrition, behaviour change communication and/or counselling in Oecusse, Covalima, Dili and Ainaro.
- WFP's cooperating partners Alola Foundation and World Vision conducted cooking demonstrations with the participation of 6,026 men and women in Covalima, Oecusse and Dili and screened 26,000 children under 5 years of age for acute malnutrition.
- From January to October, Health staff have provided 8,543 caregivers with nutrition education and information on how to prevent undernutrition of their children.
- From January to October, WFP field staff jointly with District Public Health Officers (DPHOs) nutrition conducted monitoring of health facilities and households to interview beneficiaries enrolled in the programme. A total of 360 health facilities and 540 households were visited during this period. Five joint monitoring missions with Ministry of Health/Nutrition Department staff have been conducted in Ainaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera and Oecusse municipalities to monitor the progress of the targeted supplementary feeding programme for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.

## Challenges

- Post distribution monitoring indicates that one third of health staff provide counselling only "occasionally or rarely" as part of the treatment of acute malnutrition. The programme will continue to provide training to health staff to improve the delivery of nutrition messages and provide counselling to caregivers and pregnant and nursing women as an integral part of the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.
- The limited transport fleet capacity of SAMES and the lack of private transportation options impede the effective delivery of food to priority districts. Storage options in field locations are limited and the technical skills of health workers on warehouse management need to be strengthened.



Timor-Leste was internationally recognised as an independent state in 2002. Since 1999, a number of United Nations peacekeeping missions have been deployed to assist the country and augment its capacity in terms of security, governance and justice systems. The last peacekeeping missions withdrew at the end of 2012.

The 2016 Human Development Report indicates the country has made important strides. Timor-Leste ranks 133 out of 188 countries, placing Timor-Leste within the medium human development category. Poverty rates have dropped from 49.9% in 2007 to 41.8% in 2014 according to the World Bank. Timor-Leste's rates of malnutrition have decreased but are still the highest in Asia and are categorised as serious. The 2009 Demographic Health Survey found 58 percent stunting and 19 percent wasting which were categorised as "serious". However, by 2013, the Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey, found rates had reduced to 50 percent and 11 percent respectively. A Lancet report applauded the country's progress on reducing maternal mortality, being one of nine countries to do so since 1990.

The Government has adopted a national roadmap for the SDGs that identifies SDG2 — to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture as one of its priorities.

Population: **1.2 million**

2016 Human Development Index:  
**133 out of 188**

Poverty: **41.8% live below poverty line** (2014 data)

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

## Donors

KOICA, European Union, private donors

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste](http://www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste)