

Evaluation of Timor-Leste WFP Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020

Evaluation Report – Volume I OEV/2019/005



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Executive summary

INTRODUCTION

EVALUATION FEATURES

- 1. The Timor-Leste country strategic plan (CSP) covers the three-year period from 2018 to 2020. The scope of this CSP evaluation, however, covers 2015 to mid-2019, to take into account previous operations and thus assess strategic and operational continuity. It assesses WFP's strategic positioning and the extent to which WFP made the shift expected under the CSP; WFP's effectiveness in contributing to strategic outcomes; the efficiency with which the CSP was implemented; and factors explaining WFP's performance.
- 2. The evaluation was timed to inform the design of a second CSP for Timor-Leste, with field work conducted in November and December 2019. It employed mixed methods, drawing on monitoring data, document review and semi-structured interviews with stakeholders and beneficiaries. Particular attention was paid to developing a methodology for the assessment of capacity strengthening, a core objective of the CSP. Attention was also paid to developing a systematic framework for assessing whether WFP engaged in gender-responsive programming. Both primary and secondary data were carefully triangulated to minimize dependence on any single source and ensure the validity of findings.

CONTEXT

3. Having gained independence in 2002, Timor-Leste is one of the world's newest states. Largely as a result of oil revenues, which account for 48 percent of gross domestic product,¹ Timor-Leste is now classified as a lower-middle-income country.²

¹ Timor-Leste Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. 2017. *2017 Reconciliation Report*. https://eiti.org/files/documents/2017.tl-eiti.report.pdf.

² World Bank. 2019. Data: Timor-Leste. https://data.worldbank.org/country/timor-leste.

TABLE 1: SOCIOECONOMIC INDICATORS					
Year	Indicator	Value			
2019	Total population	1.4 million			
2018	Life expectancy at birth	69.0 years			
2018	Gross domestic product per capita (purchasing power parity)	USD 3 154.92 (current USD)			
2019	Human Development Index score	0.626			
2014	Population living below income poverty line of USD 1.90 a day	30.3%			
2014	Income Gini coefficient	28.7			
2018	Gender Development Index score	0.899			
2013–2018	Wasting – moderate and severe – among children 0–4 (weight for height)	11%			
2013–2018	Stunting – moderate and severe – among children 0–4 (height for age)	51%			
2013–2018	Overweight – moderate and severe – among children 0–4 (weight for age)	1%			

Sources: United Nations Development Programme. 2019. Human Development Report 2019. http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2019.pdf; World Bank. World Development Indicators; http://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/; United Nations Children's Fund. The State of the World's Children 2019: Children, food and nutrition, Growing well in a changing world. https://www.unicef.org/reports/state-of-worlds-children-2019; United Nations Population Fund. World Population Dashboard. https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population-dashboard.

- 4. Agriculture, especially subsistence farming, is an important sector for most of the population, and particularly for poor people. However, productivity is low and agriculture accounts for only 17 percent of non-oil gross domestic product. Important gender inequalities persist, gender-based violence is a major concern and harmful social norms have resulted in unequal access to food for women and girls.
- 5. Timor-Leste faces severe malnutrition challenges (see table 1). It had the third highest rate of undernourishment in the Asia and the Pacific region during the period 2016–2018: 24.9 percent of the total population were undernourished, compared with 11.4 percent for the region as a whole.⁴ A 2018 study found that only 25 percent of the population could be considered food-secure.⁵
- 6. The national strategic development plan for 2011–2030 guides the country's development efforts and reflects its commitment to state building, social inclusion and economic growth. However, the conversion of policies into action has been challenged by several years of instability in government.

THE WFP COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN

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