World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

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Timor-Leste, Agro-climate outlook/ Perspetiva Agro-klimatica

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Contents

Key messages

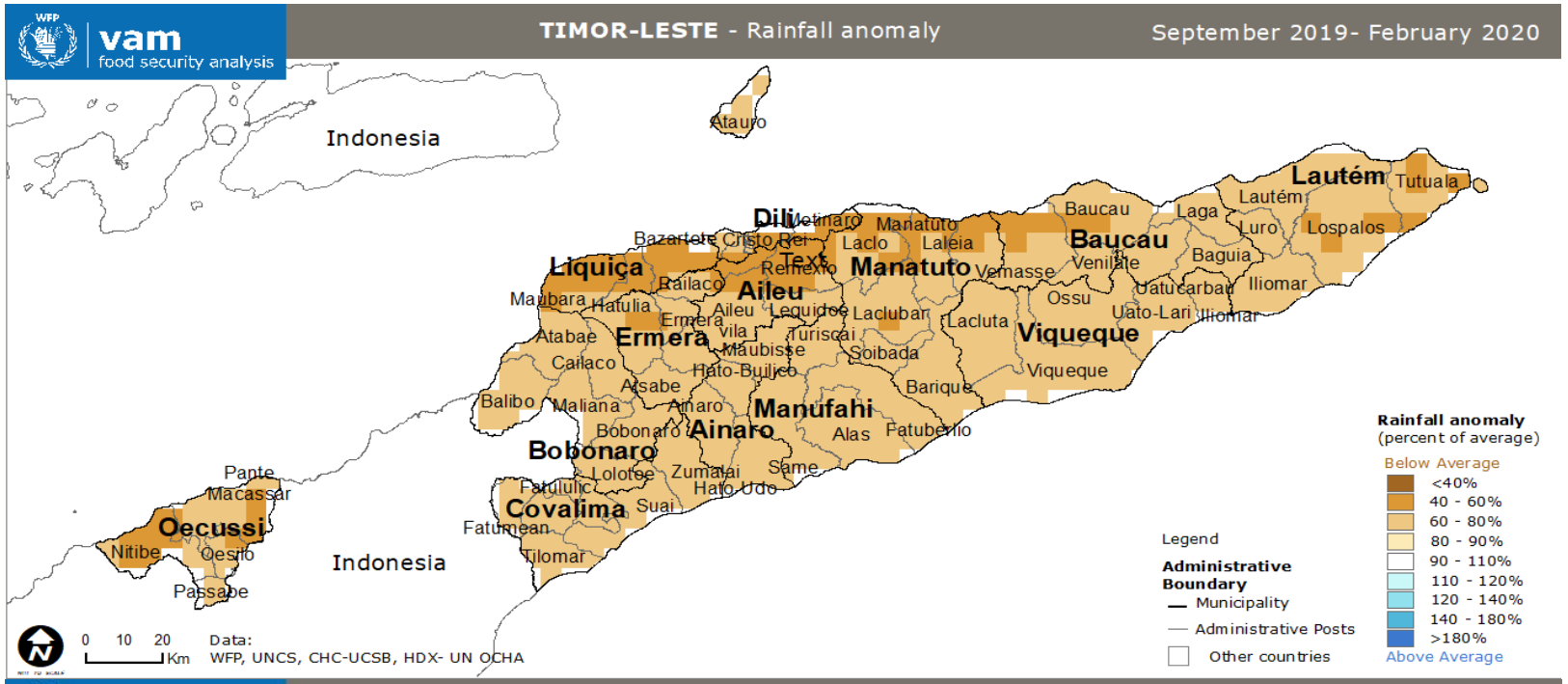
- Despite having received low rainfall for most of the year in 2019, the country has received increasing rain with variations in accumulation over the different dekads in January and February 2020.
- Compared to preceding years, the current rainy season had a slow onset. Examining the delay in the planting season would thus be crucial as impacts thereof may culminate in harvest loss.
- Following the previous dry spell, the recent and current rains should be a good sign for cultivation in various parts of the country as depicted in the Vegetation Health Index.
- According to the forecast from IRI-Columbia University, Timor-Leste will not experience unusually dry or wet conditions except for Oecussi which is predicted to experience slightly increased conditions of dryness.
- Fall Army Worm (FAW): There was a reported outbreak of the FAW in Liquica and Baucau. The FAW is known to be highly migratory, and thrive in warm and wet conditions. However, there is no concrete information on the cause and dispersion of the FAW in Timor-Leste. As such, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) is planning a rapid assessment through 6 carefully selected municipalities to ascertain the FAW situation and its potential impact in Timor-Leste.

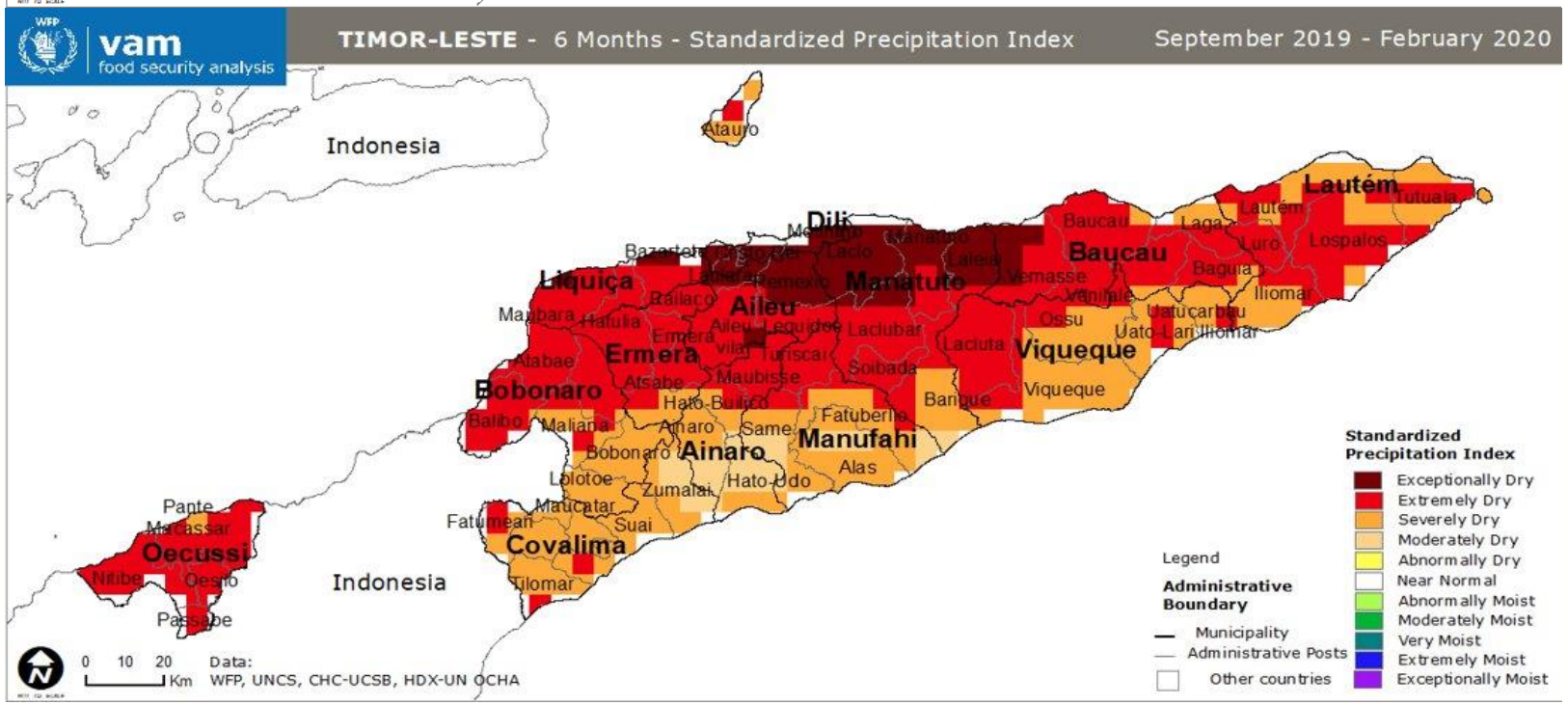
The analysis is merely based on remote sensing data. Ground checks would thus be necessary to ensure coherence of satellite and field observed data such as that collected by MAF, National Directorate of Meteorology and Geophysics (DNMG), FAO and other relevant partners. More information about previous reports and WFP in general can be found at https://www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste

Mensajen Savi

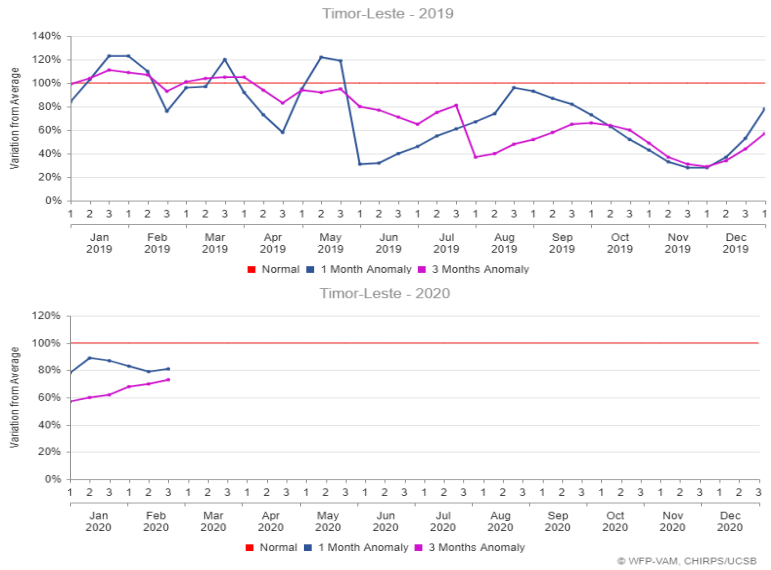
- Mesmu ho udan been ne'ebe menus kuaje iha tinan tomak 2019, maibe iha tinan 2020 iha Timor-Leste hetan udan been diak mesmu iha akumulasaun variasaun kompara ho tinan hirak ba kotuk iha fulan Janeiru no Fevereiru 2020.
- Kompara ho tinan hirak kotuk, udan been tinan nee ladun makaas ne'ebe afeta plantasaun tarde no la tuir nia tempu no ikus la fo resultadu kultivasaun ho diak. Examinasaun tarde ba halo planta tarde Iha nia tempu ne'be krusial no sei afeita ba iha tempu koileta produsaun ne'ebe mak lakon.
- Hafoin de tempu bailoron, udan ida foin lalalis ne no agora ne tuir lolos ne sai hanesan sinal diak ida ba Timor-Leste hodi halo kultivasaun oi-oin iha fatin hotu-hotu, hanesan hatudu ona liu husi indeks Vegetasaun Saude nian.
- Bajeia ba previsaun husi IRI, Timor-Leste sei la experiensia Kondisaun rai maran ou bokon ne'ebe la hanesan baibain exceptu Ocecuse ne'ebe iha ona predisaun sei iha Kodisaun rai maran ne'ebe aumenta .
- Fall Army Worm (FAW): Iha reportasaun ne'ebe fo sai husi FAW iha Liquica no Baucau. FAW ne'ebe hatene hanesan altamente migratoriu, no desenvolve iha kondisaun diak no bokon. Maibe, laiha informasaun konkretu husi kausa ne, fahe husi FAW iha Timor-Leste. Hanesan Ministeriu Agricultura no Fisiariu (MAF) planu ona sei halao asesementu ne'ebe rapidu liu husi halo seleksaun ne'ebe kuidado los ba munisipiu 6 atu hatene FAW nia situasaun no ninia potensial impaktu iha Timor-Leste.

Analize ida ne'e bazeia ba dadus sekundariu. Nune'e importante hodi halo observasaun liu hosi satellite no observa direitamente iha baze no data hanesan ne kolekta husi MAF, Departamentu Meterolojia no Geo-fisika (DNMG), FAO no parseiro relvante. Atu hatene liu tan informasaun konaba reportasaun foin lalais ne ninian no infomasaun em jeral konaba WFP bele vizita https://www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste





Rainfall performance & SPI in the last 6 months Sept-Feb 2020

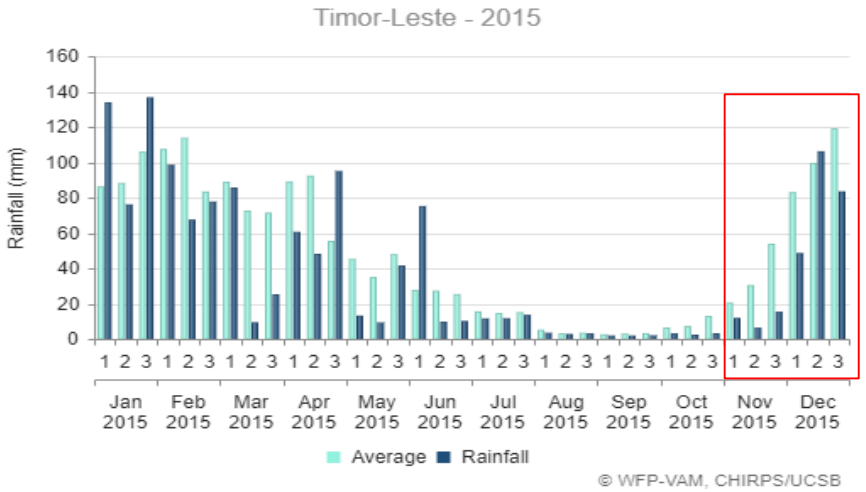


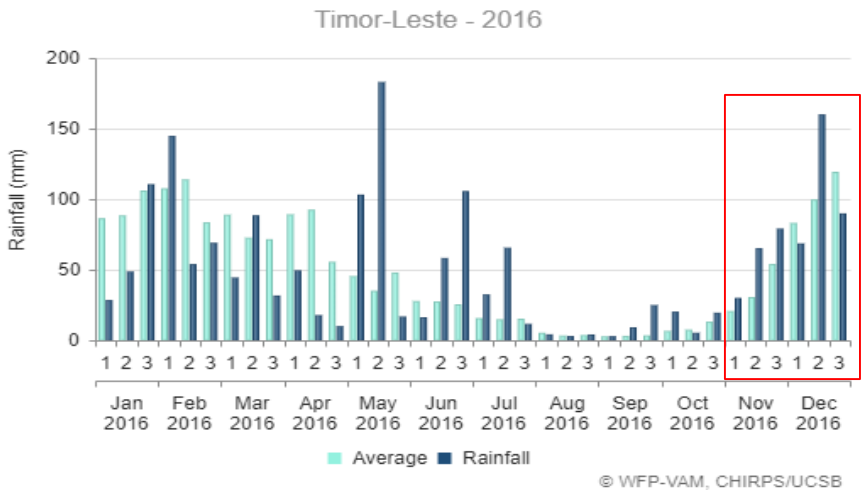
Compared to previous years, in the last 6 months (September 2019 to February 2020), Timor-Leste generally experienced less rainfall compared to the Long-Term Average (LTA) with the deviation ranging between 60-80% across the country except for Dili, Liquica, parts of Oecussi, Aileu, Baucau and Lautém. However, there has clearly been an influence of the rainy season as seen in the graphs, as more rainfall was received, the deviations from LTA became less.

The SPI of longer timescales (6 months; September 2019 - February 2020) is related to groundwater and reservoir storage. Lower performance of rainfall over the past 6 months as shown from above may have reflected into SPI. Over the long-time scale; the last six months, most parts of the country are shown to have been extremely dry with the most affected areas being Oecussi, the North and Eastern parts of the country as depicted in red on the lower map.

Data: CHIRPS, CHG UCSB

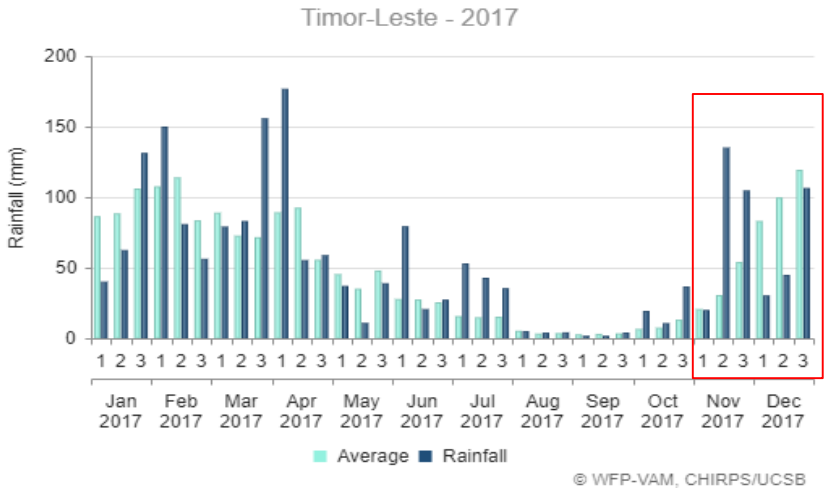
Rainfall performance of the preceding years (2015-2018)

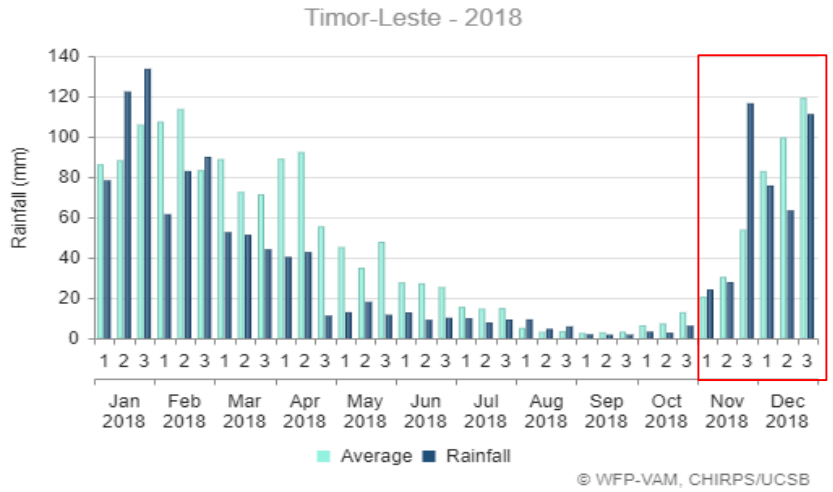


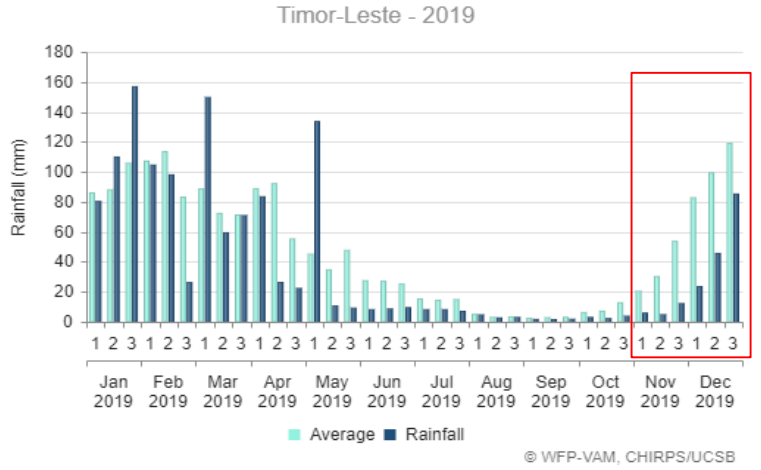


As depicted in the graphs on the left hand side, the rainy season in preceding years (2015-2018) is observed to have started in November. However, in 2019, the rainy season is seen to have been more pronounced in December (see graph below).

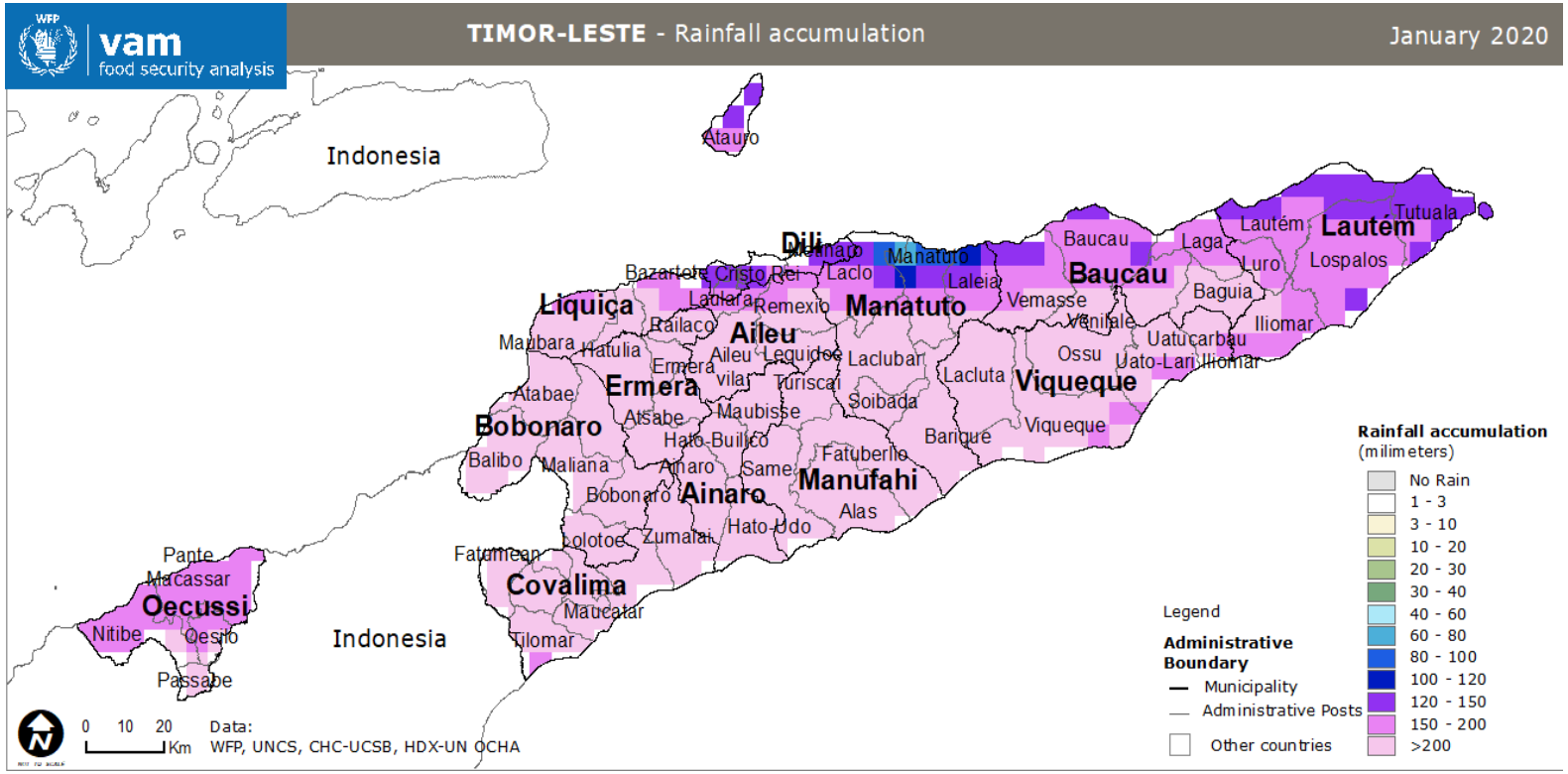
As such, planting seasons could have been delayed in places where farmers usually plant in November. However, this needs to be ascertained with ground observations.





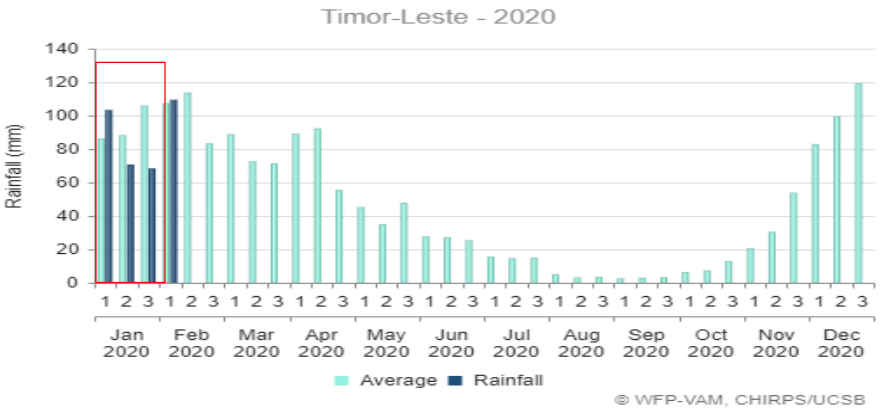


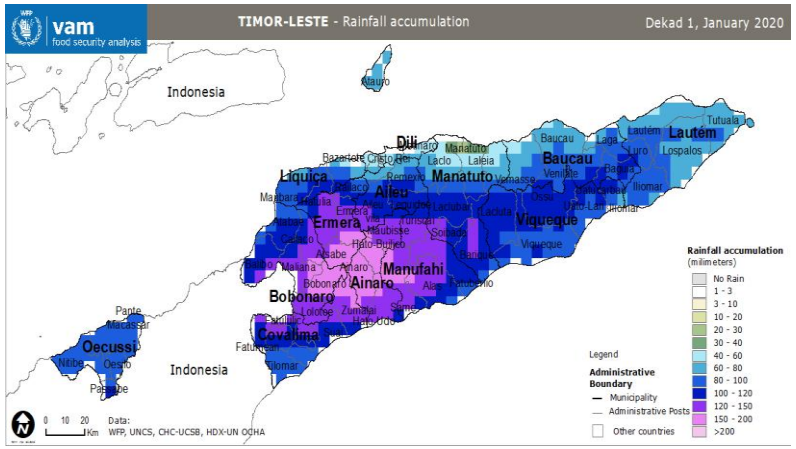
Rainfall Accumulation, January 2020

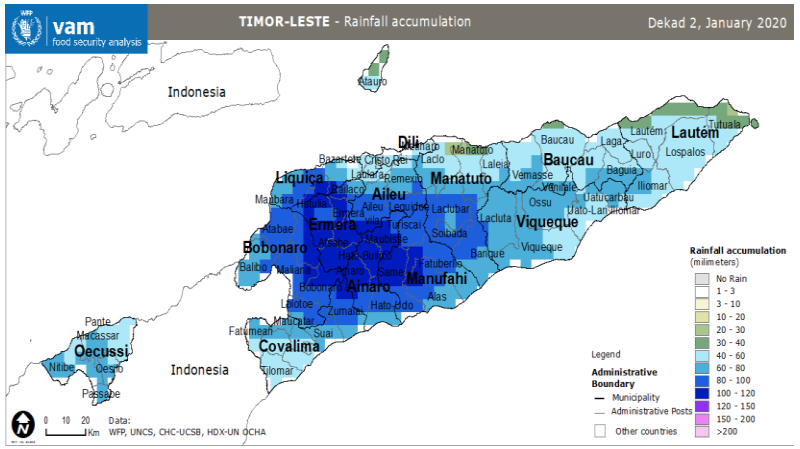


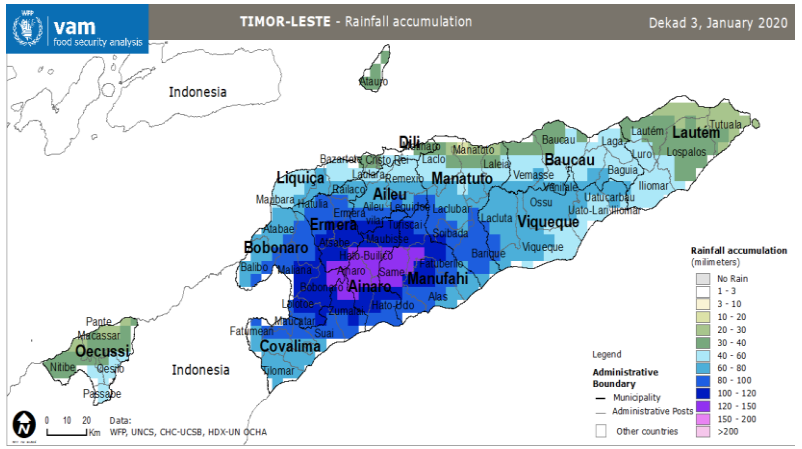
Despite receiving below average rainfall at the beginning of the wet season (throughout December 2019), Timor-Leste is shown to have generally received much more rainfall in January 2020. As depicted in the map on the left, most of the country is shown to have received rainfall above 200mm although there were exceptions notable in parts of Manatuto, Lautém and Dili (see map on the left above).

The first dekad of January registered much more rainfall than the second and third dekad with highland areas in Ainaro, Bobonaro, Ermera and Manufahi receiving the most rainfall (see smaller maps below).

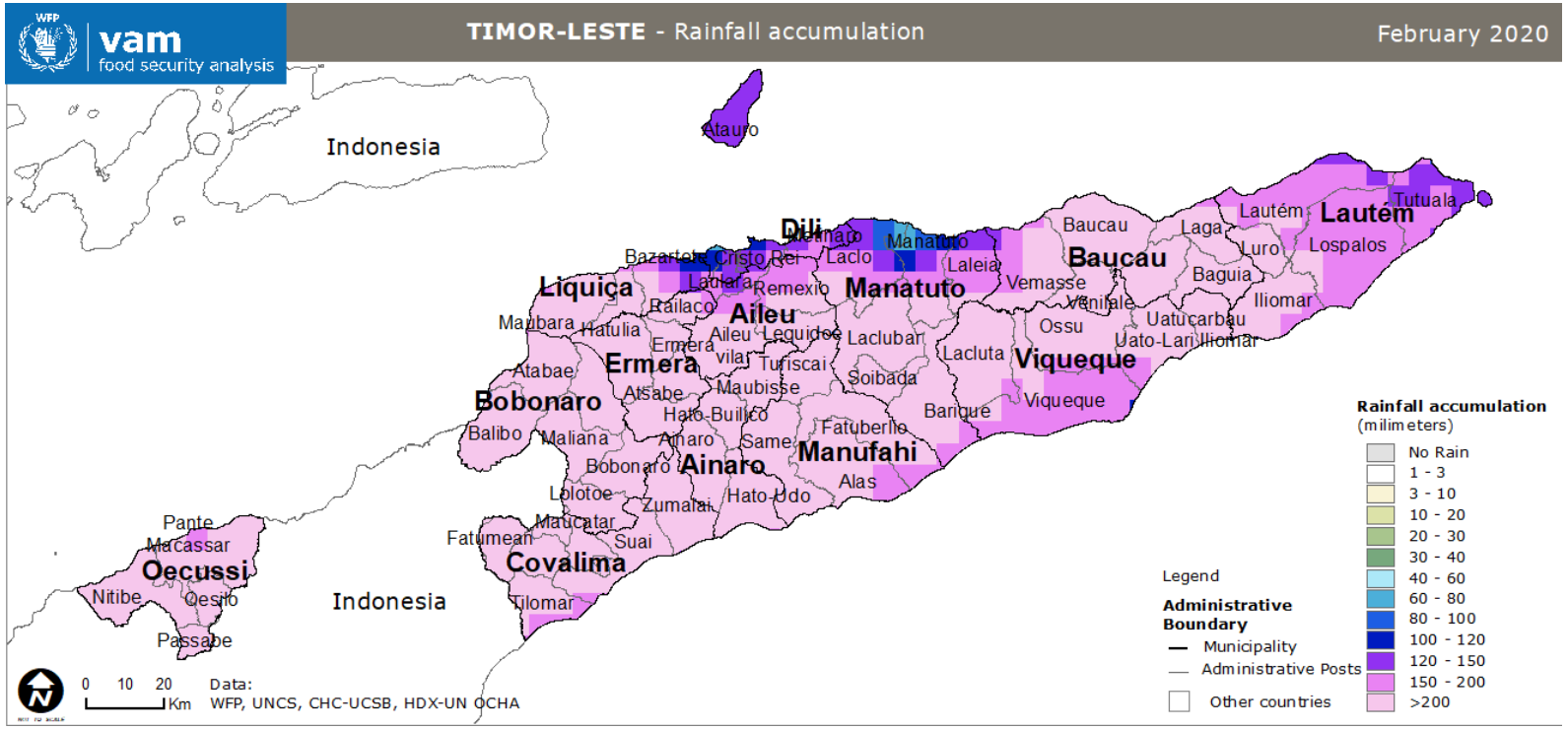








Rainfall Accumulation, February 2020



In February 2020, most of the country is still shown to have experienced heavy rainfall except over Dili, parts of Liquica, Manatuto, Lautém and Viqueque (see map on the left above).

In the first dekad of February, most of the country is depicted to have received over 80mm of rainfall. However, other places like Dili Municipality, Manatuto in Manatuto Municipality and Bazartete in Liquica experienced relatively lower rainfall. Lautém similarly experienced lower rainfall amounts compared to the rest of the country. The second and third dekad of February 2020 registered lower rainfall compared to that of the first dekad with a concentration mostly around highland areas of Ainaro, Ermera and Manufahi (see smaller maps below).