World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

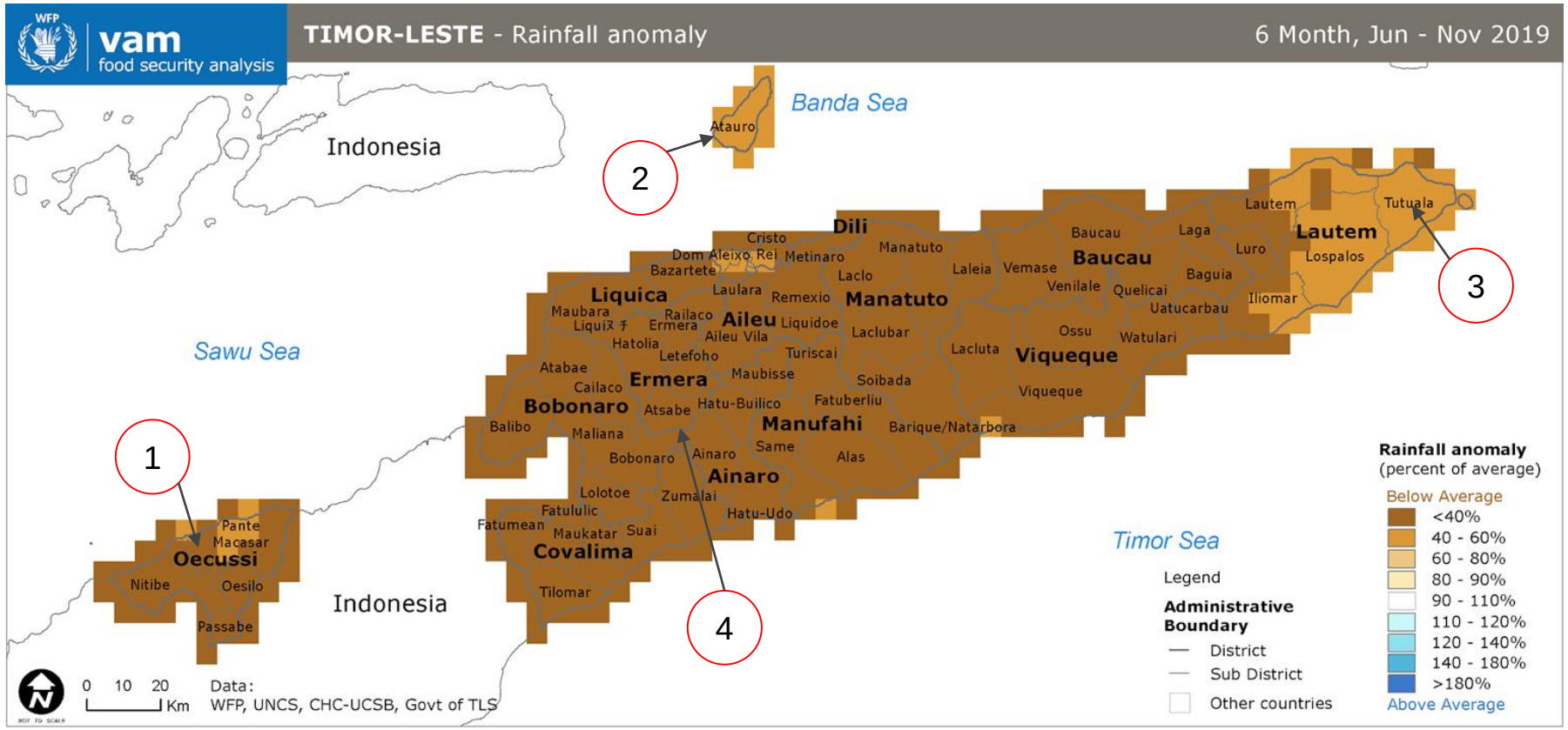
Timor-Leste, Start of Rainy Season 2019 - 2020

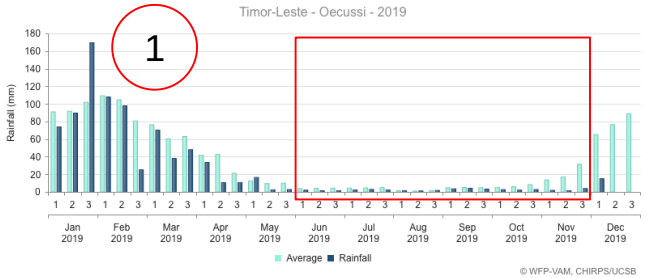
Timor-Leste Country Office and
Bangkok Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

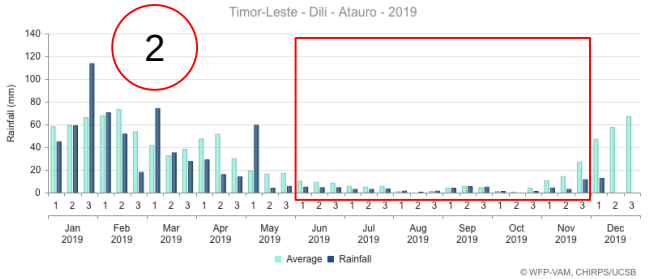
Ver. Dec 19, 2019

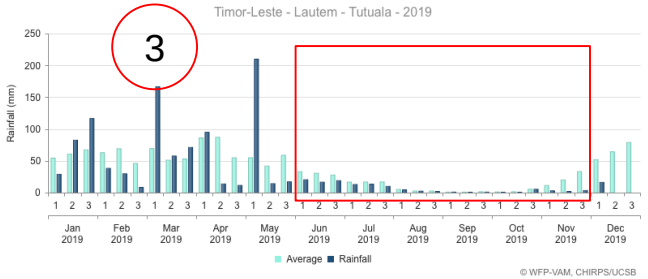
Contents

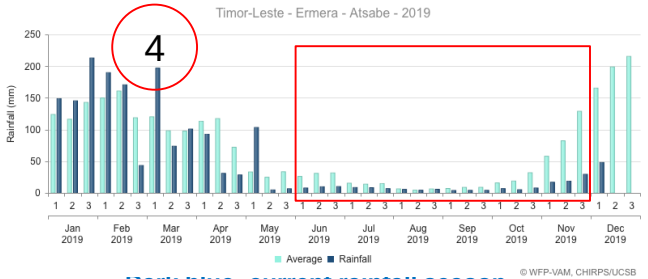
Rainfall performance in the last 6 months







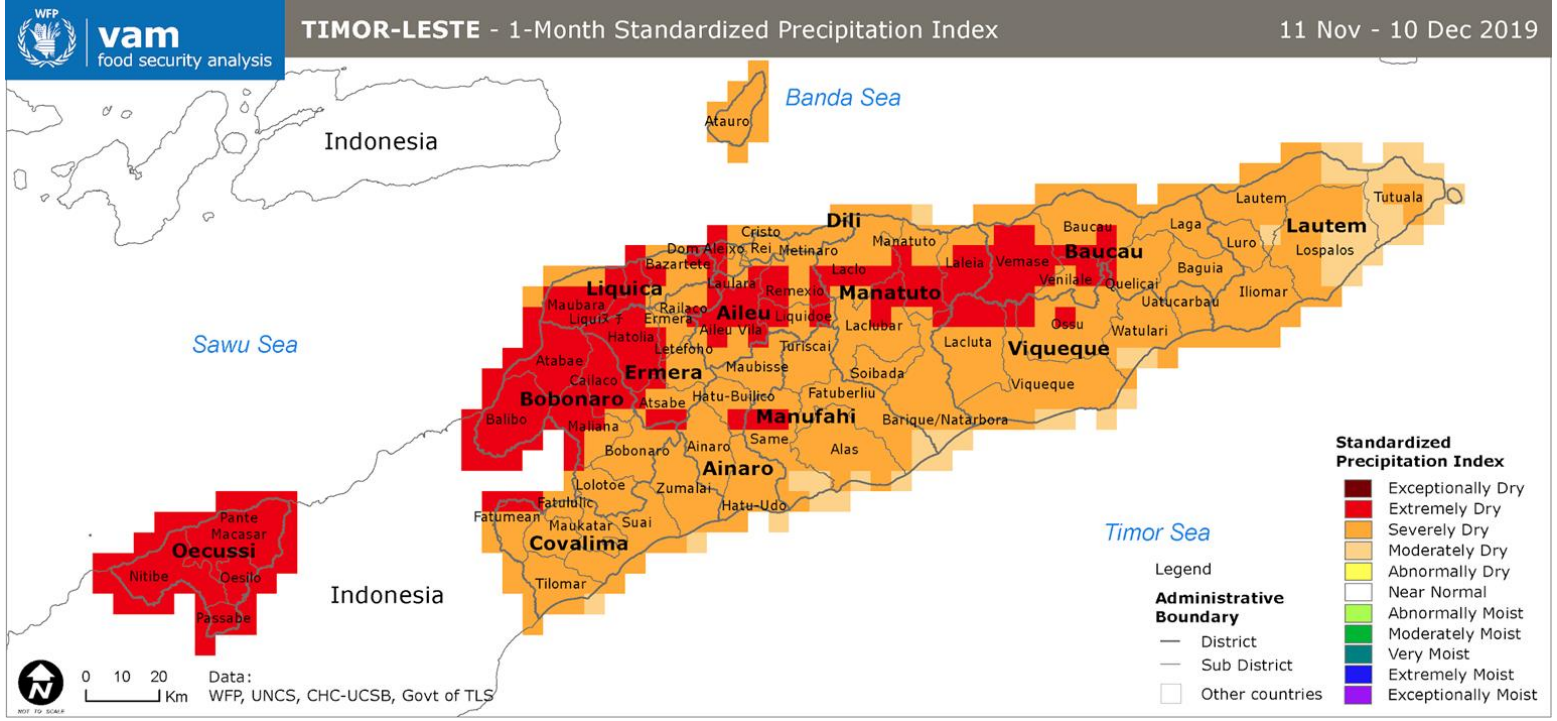


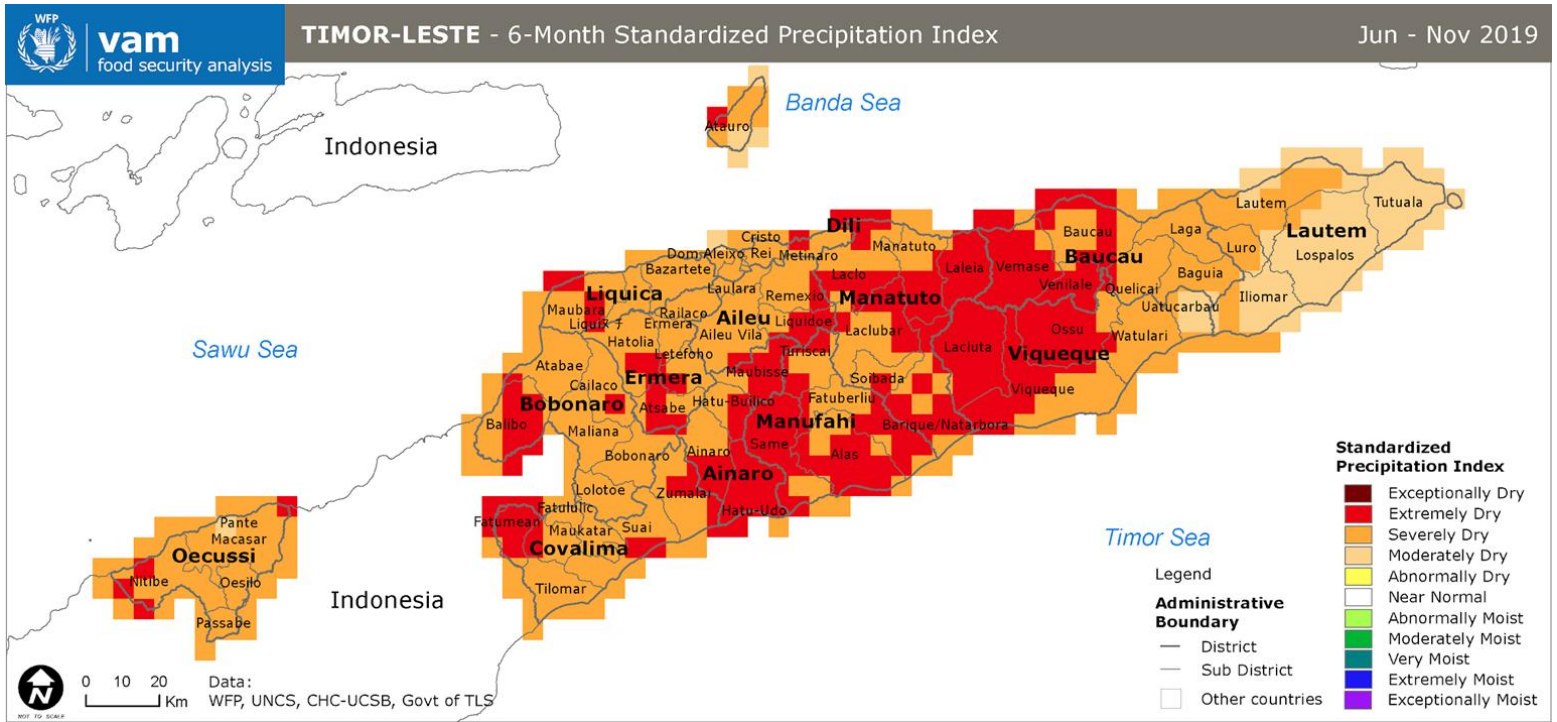


In the last 6 months from June to November 2019, Timor-Leste generally experienced far below normal rainfall, with a number of localized below normal rainfall e.g Los Palos and Tutuala; the eastern part of Lautem.

Intensity of rainfall is currently about 40% than long term average. As seen in the graphs, the current data is represented by the dark blue bar while the light blue bar represents the long term average

- Dark blue: current rainfall season
- Light blue: long term average (LTA) rainfall





1 and 6 month of Standardized Precipitation Index

On short timescales (**1 month, 11 Nov - 10 Dec 2019**), the standardized precipitation index (SPI) generally indicates soil moisture.

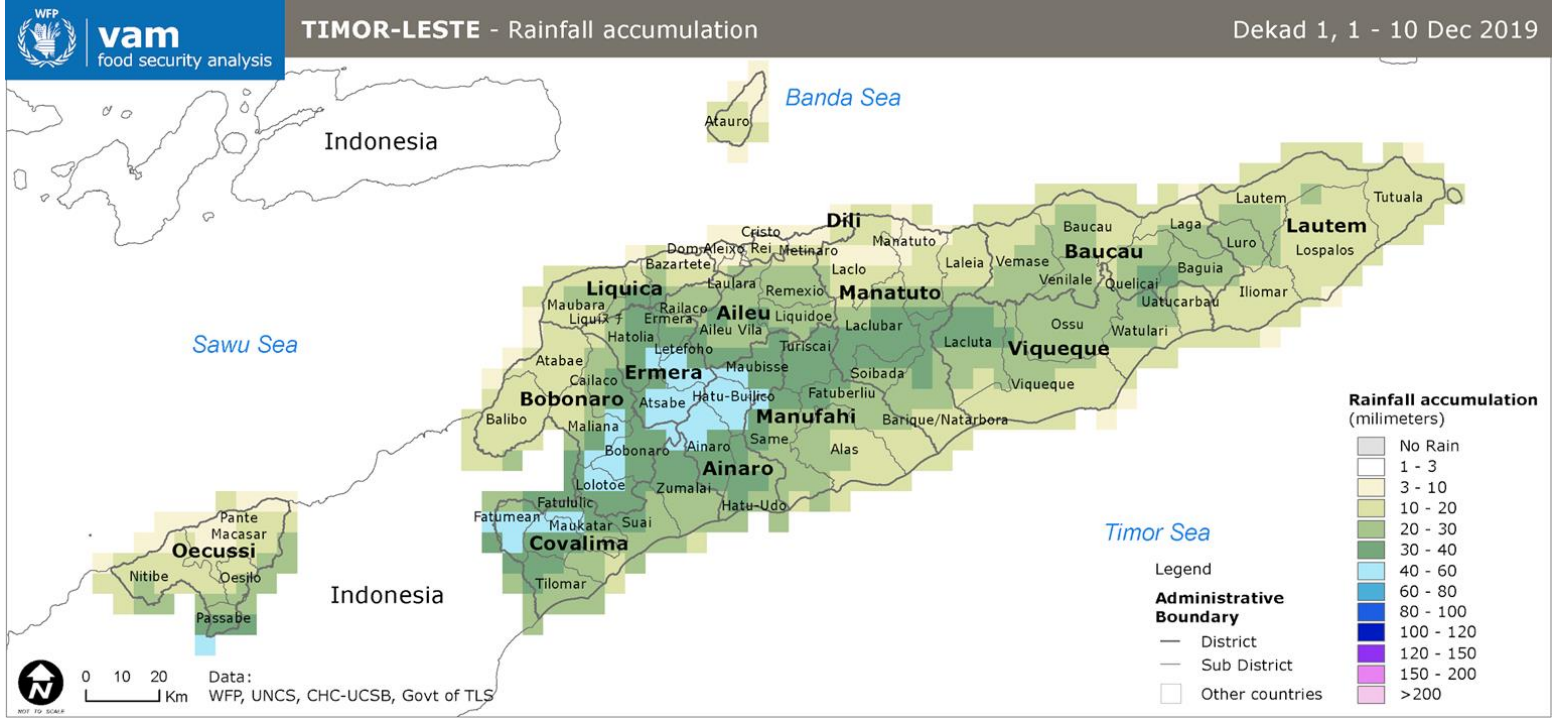
The country is currently entering a rainfall season as most areas have experienced 1-6 consecutive days of wet spell. However, the effects of the rainfall received are not reflected because the soil needs a certain span of permeation time. As such, the SPI analysis still identifies a number of severely dry condition areas (the red grids on the map).

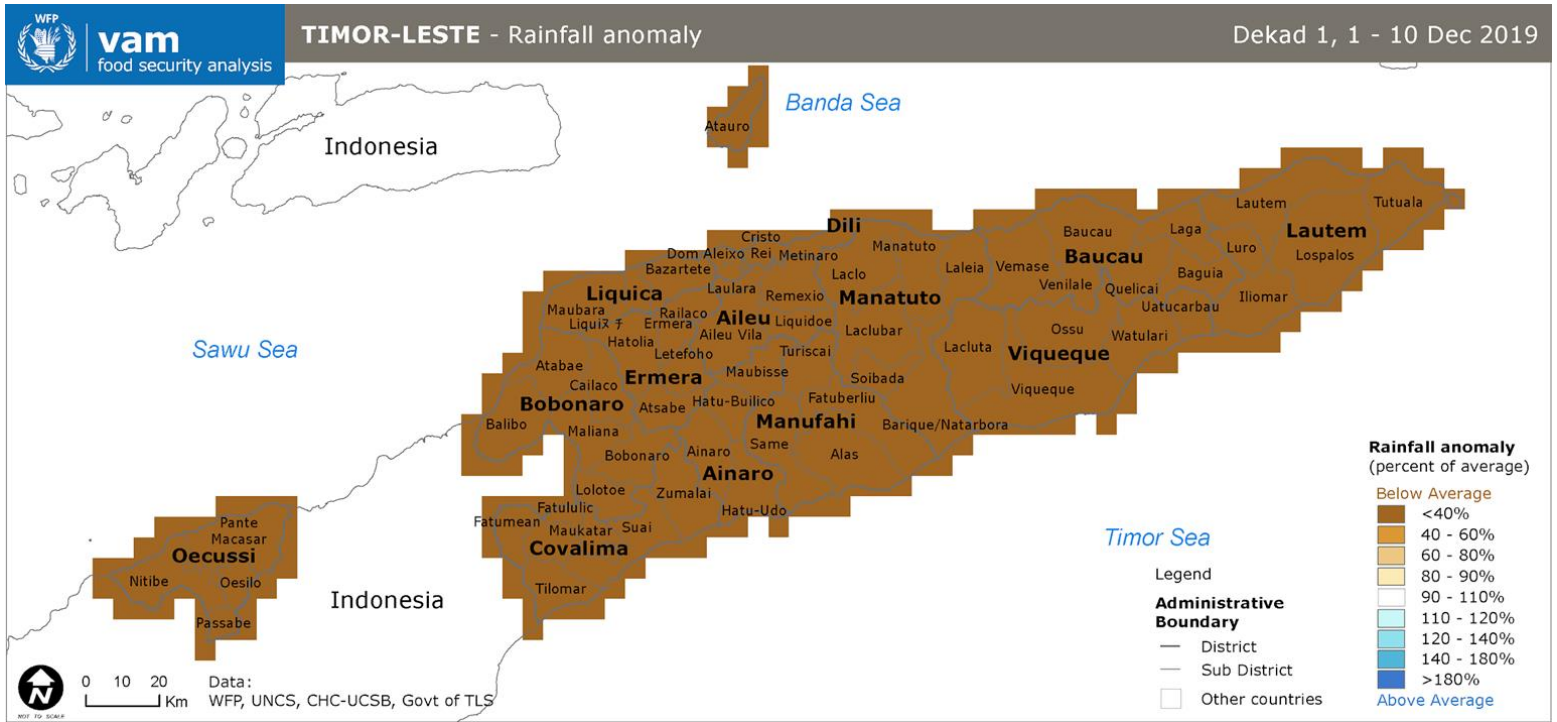
On the other hand, the SPI of longer timescales (**6 months; Jun - Nov 2019**) is related to groundwater and reservoir storage.

Over the long time scale, the most affected areas are: Viqueque and parts of Baucau, Manatuto, Manufahi, Ainaro and Manatuto.

Moderately to severely dry conditions are spreading from Ainaro, Manufahi, Manatuto, and almost all areas in Viqueque.

Data: CHIRPS, CHG UCSB

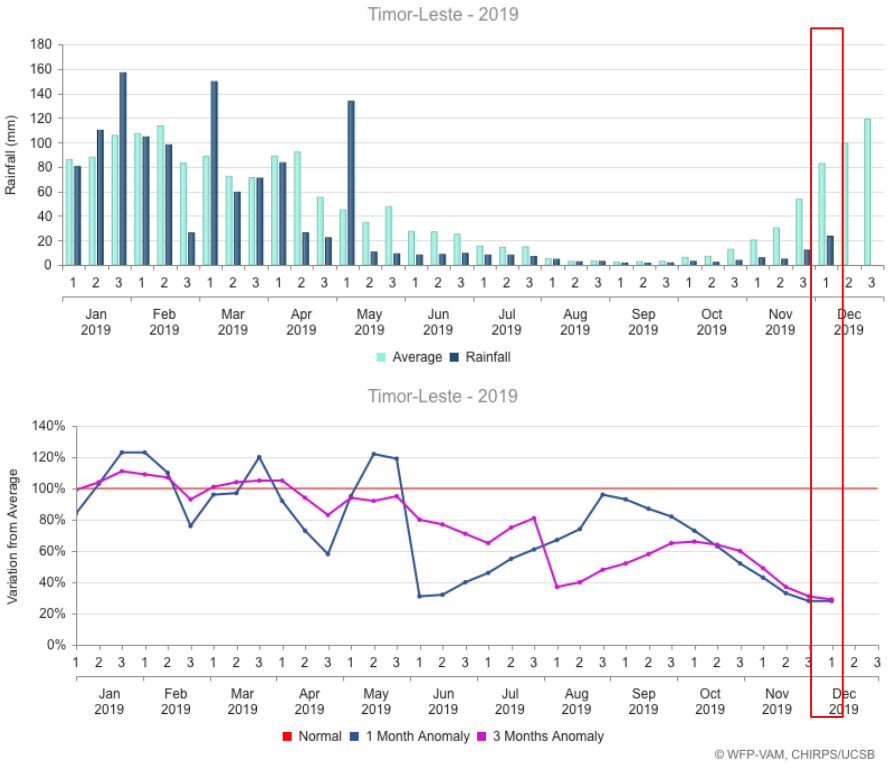




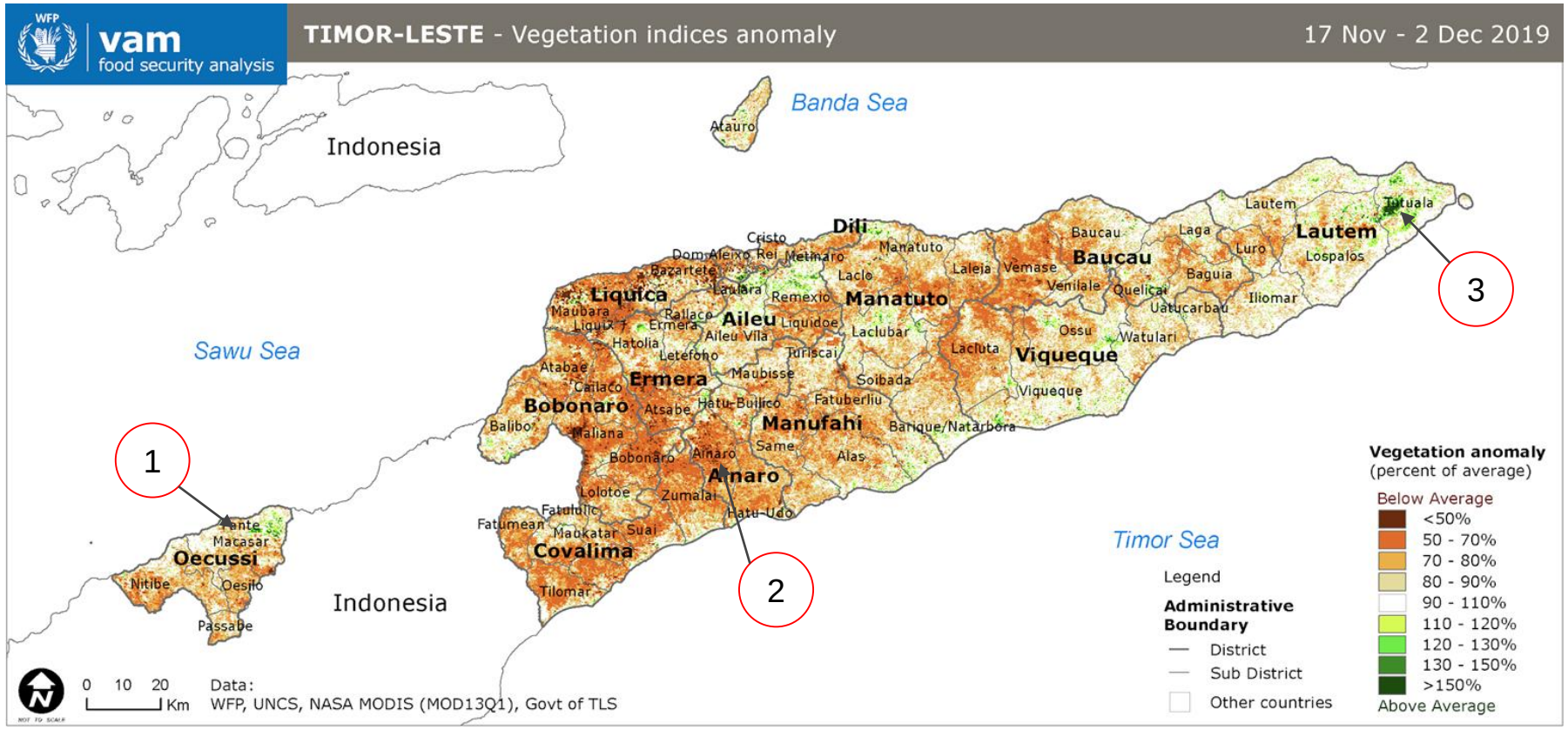
Latest situation

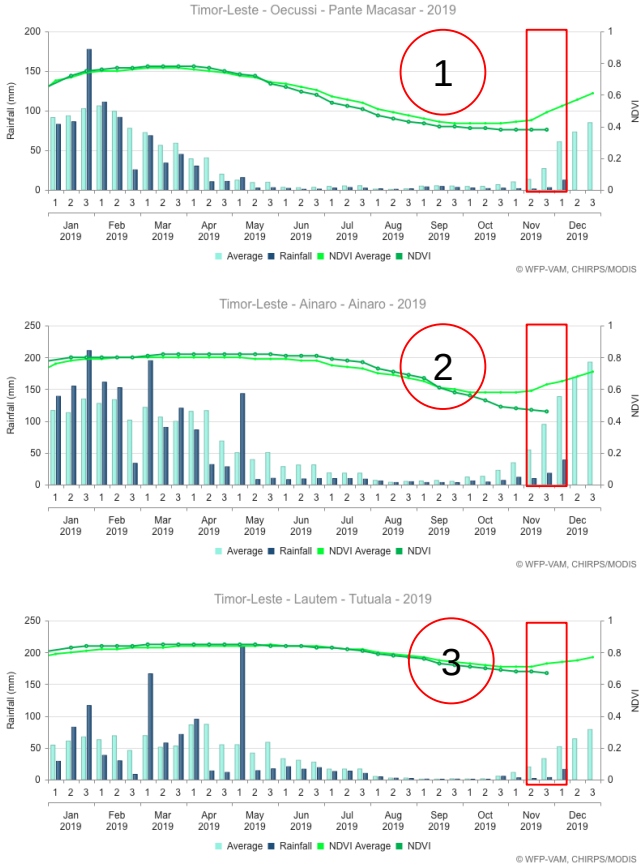
Dekad 1, 1 - 10 Dec 2019

In the 10-days ending 10 Dec 2019, all areas in Timor-Leste experienced below normal rainfall, only received rainfall max 40% than long term average (see graphs). However, this does not necessarily mean the whole area experienced dry conditions. Infact, some highland areas e.g. Atsabe in Ermera, Hatu-Builico and Maubisse in Ainaro experience rainfall ie. 40-60 mm in 10 days.



Vegetation status, 17 Nov - 2 Dec 2019

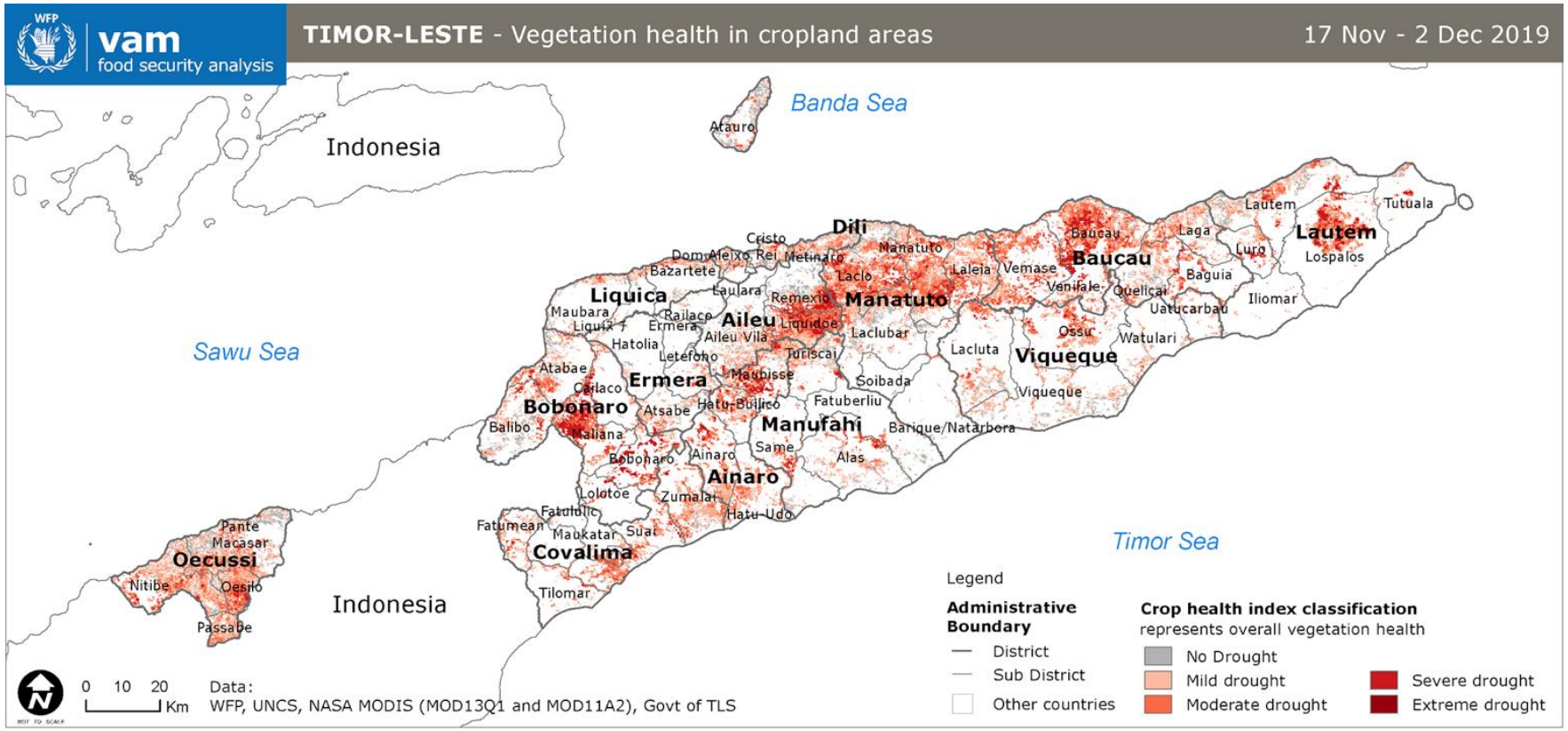




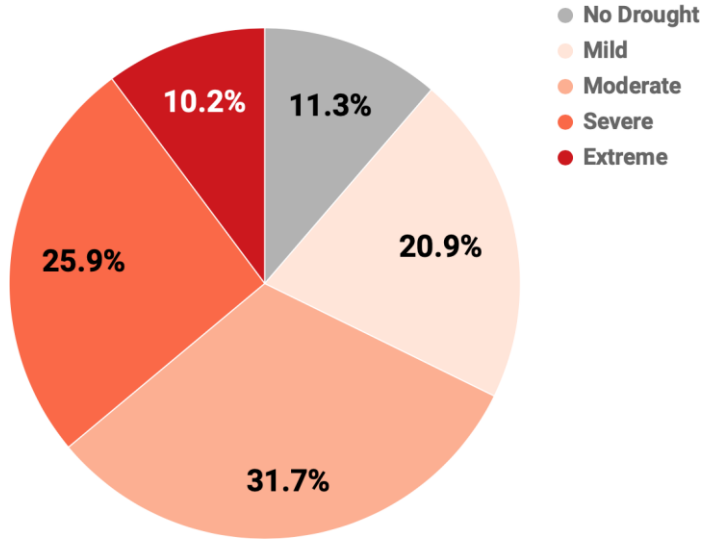
- Corresponding to SPI analysis, lower rainfall in early November (Dekad 1) is expressed in vegetation status map above. Dry condition remains detected in most areas.
- Low vegetation indices are found in Bobonara, Ermera, Ainaro and some other areas in the highland. Average or normal level of vegetation are maintained in some coastal areas and even above average is detected near Tutuala

- **Dark blue: current rainfall season**
- **Light blue: long term average (LTA) rainfall**
- **Dark green: current vegetation index**
- **Light green: long term average (LTA) EVI**

Vegetation health in cropland areas, 17 Nov - 2 Dec 2019



Potential Impact of drought in cropland areas

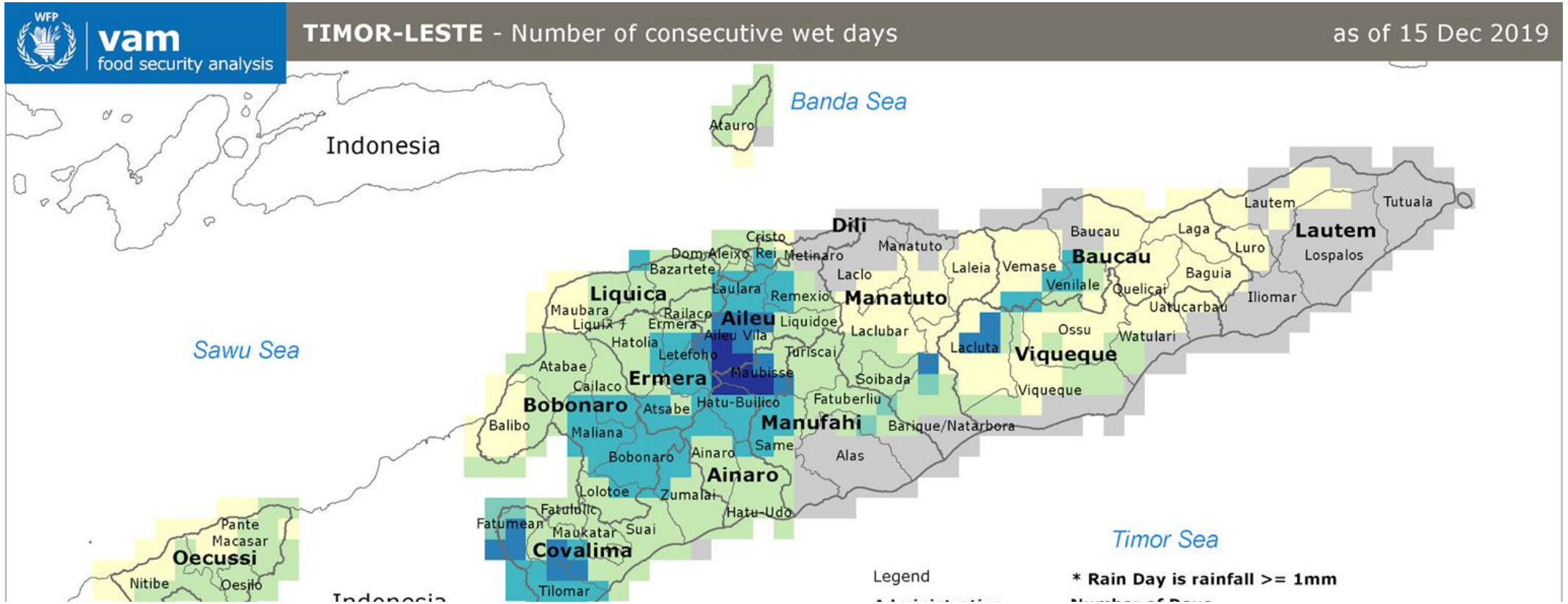


Estimates of hectares and percent of crop areas in drought nation-wide

The above chart displays the national estimates of crop areas in drought. Up to **210,000 hectares** of crop areas are estimated to be in **extreme** or **severe drought** for period 17 Nov - 2 Dec 2019, representing **36%** of all crop areas in **Timor-Leste**.

- Similar to vegetation status in general, vegetation health in cropland does not immediately respond to rainfall in late November/early December
- Also, poor vegetation health **does not** necessarily **mean harvest loss**, it instead shows the **potential impact** of a prolonged drought in **food crop areas**.
- The Vegetation Health Index (VHI) combines two components: deviations in land surface temperature and the extent to which vegetation density varies from normal patterns. The VHI depicts stress on vegetation and can be used to assess potential crops losses. **Data: USGS MODIS, MOD11A2 and MOD13Q1**

Wet-spell, as of 15 Dec 2019



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_4167