

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



20 Years of WFP Operations in Timor-Leste



September 2019

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Foreword

Dr. José Ramos-Horta

Timor-Leste is committed to the elimination of hunger and malnutrition in all its form. This is an imperative for ethical, political economic and social reasons.

Investing in nutrition will improve the lives of all Timorese citizens and the economy of the country through improved productivity and economic growth, reduced health care costs and better achievement of educational outcomes, intellectual capacity and social development.

Personally, I do not see anything more important than optimal food and nutrition security for every Timorese citizen. Despite much political rhetoric on these topics and some progress made, Timor-Leste still has some of the highest prevalence of malnutrition in the world. Most of our children under five remain malnourished and a substantial proportion of households cannot ensure regular access to nutritious food that meets their dietary needs around the year for a healthy and productive life.

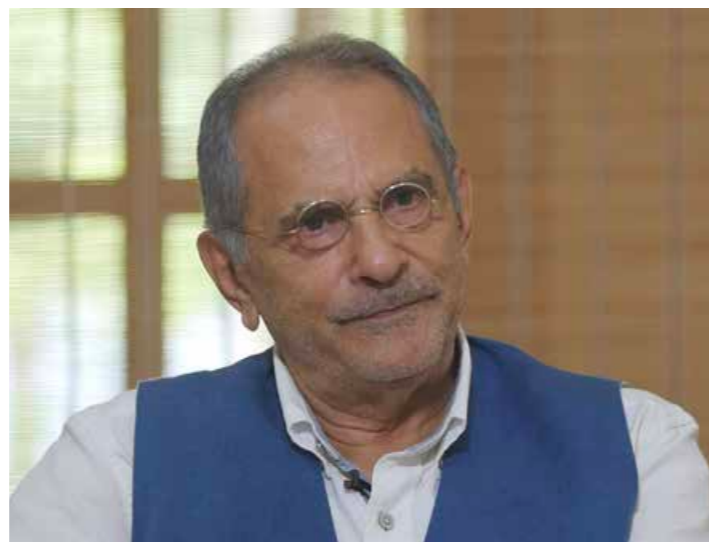
In Timor-Leste's 20-year history, we have made significant development progress across a range of sectors, yet we have not seen gains in food and nutrition security consistent with this growth. This means finding solutions towards strategic development goal 2 to eradicating hunger remains of utmost importance.

UN agencies including WFP played a critical role in delivering emergency food aid to hundreds of displaced people during critical moments in our nation's history; however, we have reached a stage of political stability that necessitates a shift from food aid to locally owned and sustainable hunger solutions. WFP's strategic support to the government now includes support to developing strategies and programmes to improve food security in the country. This is much valued as it is aligned with Timor-Leste Government's vision to create a prosperous and strong nation.

Dr. José Ramos-Horta

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 1996

Former President & Prime Minister of Timor-Leste



“UN agencies including WFP played a critical role in delivering emergency food aid to hundreds of displaced people during critical moments in our nation's history.”

Foreword

David Kaatrud

For Manulete, a remote mountain town 70 km southwest of the capital city, Dili, the busiest place is always its health post. Every day, in the shadows of Mt Ramelau, Timor-Leste's highest peak, a steady stream of mothers, fathers with their children passes through. Pregnant and nursing mothers get regular health check-ups, and children have their weight, height, and upper-arm circumference measured for signs of malnutrition.

Despite its modest appearance, this little health post, along with many others, is vitally important for the families and communities of Timor-Leste. It is through facilities like this, the Government, with the support of WFP and partners, is able to reach them with essential health and nutrition services, including treatment of malnutrition for children. Seventeen years since its independence, the young nation has made great progress in providing adequate, equitable and quality services to its people, and along the way, alleviating poverty and hunger. WFP is privileged to be here, witnessing many milestones since the organization first set up its operations in 1999.

In 2008, the ministries of health and tourism and WFP signed an MoU on food fortification. In 2011, the Government began taking over the responsibility for the school feeding programme from WFP. By the end of 2019, the Ministry of Health will take over the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme for the management of malnutrition – a testament to the Government's unwavering commitment to realizing food security and providing good nutrition to its citizens.

In the coming years, WFP will continue its support to Timor-Leste's quest towards zero hunger. I am optimistic that children in Manulete, and across the country, will all have a future that is brighter than ever.

David Kaatrud

Regional Director

United Nations World Food Programme

Asia and the Pacific: 2014 - 2019



“In the coming years, WFP will continue its support to Timor-Leste's quest towards zero hunger.”

Timeline

History of Partnership between World Food Programme (WFP) and Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL)

1999 - 2002 Emergency Food Assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operation started• Provided emergency food assistance for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)• WFP closed its operation in 2002 after an external analysis concluded there was little evidence of food insecurity in the country	2003 Food Assistance to Drought and Flood Affected Populations & Re-establishing WFP presence in TL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GoTL appealed to international community for urgent food supplies for people affected by drought and floods• WFP re-established its presence in TL in September 2003.	2004 - 2007 Investing in People's Future & Emergency Food Assistance to IDPs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launched Project of Investing in Peoples Future, focusing on three main activities: (1) School Feeding, (2) Mother and Child Health, (3) Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR)• Provided food assistance to IDPs	2008 - 2011 Assistance to Vulnerable Population in Timor-Leste & Logistic Augmentation and Capacity Development for the GoTL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Signed MoU with MoH and Ministry of Tourism on fortifying locally produced food• Signed LoU with GoTL to assist vulnerable people facing food insecurity and malnutrition• GoTL requested to take over the School Feeding Programme	2012 - 2014 Country Programme Timor-Leste <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed the full hand over of the School Feeding Programme to GoTL• Shifted focus from in-kind food assistance to capacity development• Supported initial establishment of Timor Vita production• Provided technical assistance on supply chain	2015 - 2017 Capacity Development for Health and Nutrition & MAM Intervention in drought affected areas <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rolled out Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme in six municipalities• Provided supplementary food to population affected by 2016 El Nino in three eastern municipalities• Launched National Zero Hunger Strategic Review	2018 - 2019 Country Strategic Plan 2018 -2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Started CSP implementation prioritising four main activities• Supporting GoTL in achieving national targets on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 2: Ending Hunger and Malnutrition
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Budget and Beneficiaries

WFP Timor-Leste Operations Project List

Project Title	Approval Year to Project End Date	Planned Budget USD	Actual Budget USD	Planned Beneficiary	Actual Beneficiary
Food Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in East Timor	Sept 1999 – Nov 1999	8,945,438	5,175,785	550,000	150,000
Food Assistance to Victims of Civil Strife	Oct 1999 – June 2002	26,476,939	22,387,95	594,000	354,297
Emergency Food Assistance to IDPs and Urban Poor	Oct 1999 – Dec 2000	17,063,705	13,368,853		
Assistance to Drought and Flood Affected Population	Sept 2003 – Aug 2004	2,719,531	1,131,098	110,000	6,391
Investing in People's Future	Dec 2004 – Aug 2008	24,974,185	18,210,569	400,550	304,461
Assistance to vulnerable population in Timor-Leste	Jul 2008 – Aug 2011	50,937,484	22,539,452	377,400	307,556
Logistic Augmentation and Capacity Building for the GoTL	Dec 2009 – Aug 2011	1,986,322	1,125,485	N/A	N/A
Country Programme Timor Leste	Jun 2011 – Dec 2011	25,707,726	15,616,210	75,000	48,542
	Jan 2012 – Dec 2012			87,000	55,860
	Jan 2013 – Dec 2013			100,000	38,788
	Jan 2014 – Dec 2014			12,508	15,548
Capacity Development for Health and Nutrition	Jan 2015 – Dec 2017	13,783,739	8,387,079	27,790	28,213
Moderate Acute Malnutrition Intervention in Drought Effectuated Areas	Aug 2016 – Mar 2017	847,040	494,147	20,681	29,580
Country Strategic Plan	Feb 2018 – Dec 2020	16,972,701	1,616,508	72,000	13,673
Total Budget USD		190,414,810	110,053,136		

Key Achievements

Celebrating 20 years of the WFP's Assistance and Partnership in Timor-Leste

- Since 1999 WFP has been supporting local, national, and international efforts to implement various food assistance interventions to fight food insecurity and combat malnutrition in Timor-Leste. Initial support provided to respond to post-civil unrest included emergency food aid as many Timorese were in danger of severe food insecurity. Food assistance provided by WFP played a vital role in saving lives, supporting and improving health and nutrition (with special attention paid to women and other high-risk groups), and was attributed to preventing mass migration. WFP's assistance contributed to ongoing efforts aimed at consolidating stability, social cohesion and peace.
- Short term food aid offered by WFP gradually transitioned into supporting the government's establishment of national programmes and a system promoting food produced locally as sustainable solutions to combat hunger.
- WFP supported the government's development policy through support for the establishment of a national **School Feeding Programme** that was handed over in 2012. The initiative contributed to increasing access to education through increased net enrolment, increased student attendance, improved student performance in primary schools, reduced short-term hunger and improved diets of children, including the most vulnerable.
- WFP has nurtured a solid collaboration with UNICEF to strengthen the government's efforts to **prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition** among pregnant and lactating women and children under 5. In 2011, assistance was provided to the government to set up a facility to fortify food produced locally in partnership with the private sector and relevant line ministries. A multi-agency food security monitoring system was established to evaluate the national and sub-national food security situation and offer recommendations for action to mitigate or respond to food insecurity.
- WFP supported the strengthening of national public-sector capacity in supply chain management and emergency preparedness by establishing warehouses for medical and food storage in municipalities and providing capacity development opportunities to staff.
- In October 2016, WFP supported the National Parliament's approval of resolution 17/2016 recognizing malnutrition as a major issue hindering Timor-Leste development. The resolution included an action plan that promised to reduce wasting, stunting, and anaemia through increased funding for programmes aimed to strengthen food security and nutrition.

- WFP supported the National Strategic Review of SDG 2 by John Hopkins University and Centre of Studies for Peace and Development (CEPAD) through the leadership of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Former President and Prime Minister H.E. Dr José Ramos-Horta and H.E. Bishop Dom Virgílio do Carmo da Silva. The review proposed a set of priority actions and recommendations paving the way for Timor-Leste's roadmap for achieving SDG 2.
- WFP together with other UN agencies has provided strategic and policy support and technical assistance to the National Council on Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition (KONSSANTIL) to leverage its efforts to coordinate the implementation of Timor-Leste SDG Roadmap for Zero Hunger by 2030.

- Since 2018, WFP's role has been shifting from directly implementing food assistance programming to an enabling role focusing on policy and strategic engagement, technical assistance and capacity strengthening on four main activities, namely:
 - improving nutrition of children under the age of five, adolescents, and pregnant and nursing women through the provision of supplementary nutritious foods;
 - gradual handover of that component to the Government and Social Behaviour Change Communications (SBCC) to promote healthy diets;
 - rice fortification and evidence generation;
 - strengthening targeting, monitoring and evaluation and programme analyses of national school feeding programmes and social protection, as well as, strengthening national institutions capacity in supply chain management.



A UN helicopter carrying food supplies.

1999 - 2002:

Emergency Food Assistance

After the Portuguese left the former colony in 1975, civil war broke out, which prompted Indonesia's military annexation of East Timor. From the beginning of this "annexation", however, there was consistent armed opposition to Indonesian rule.

In June 1999, the United Nations Security Council, by resolution 1246, established the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) to organise and conduct a popular consultation. The decision to establish a mission in the country was made when an agreement between Indonesia and Portugal reached an agreement in May 1999 requesting the United Nations to play a substantive role in the post ballot period. The security situation in Timor-Leste remained precarious leading up to the popular consultation in August that year. On election day, however, more than 98 percent of the eligible voters (about 450,000 people) exercised their right to vote. The results were announced by the UN Secretary-General, simultaneously in Jakarta and New York, that 78.5 percent of the voting populace opted for independence from Indonesia.

Following the election, widespread civil strife and rioting (mainly instigated by anti-independence militias) broke out, forcing many Timorese to flee their homes, exposing them to acute food insecurity. Most of the country's public and private infrastructure, particularly in the western part of the country, was severely damaged. Economic activity and agricultural production were also critically disrupted.



WFP launched its operations in Timor-Leste on October 27, 1999, with a budget of USD 26.4 million as an emergency operation to distribute food aid to IDPs and post-conflict returnees. The initial operation was designed to provide 25,804 metric tons of food aid to more than 400,000 beneficiaries over a six-month period.

Initially, full rations were provided to approximately 225,000 individuals who were unable to either produce or purchase food. In addition, half rations were offered to approximately 188,000 individuals who had some access to alternative



Civil Unrest in Dili. 2006.



WFP food supplies are being unloaded. 2000.

sources to meet their food requirements. The number of beneficiaries gradually rose with the return of refugees from West Timor. Humanitarian organizations observed malnutrition to be primarily disease-related and originating in refugee camps in West Timor. Consequently, WFP and other health and nutrition NGOs established supplementary feeding programmes in these areas.

In early 2000, WFP began transitioning from general food to targeted food distributions, which provided monthly rations of rice or maize, and beans and vegetable oil to vulnerable populations. The Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) was launched in early 2000, where WFP distributed more than 15,000 metric tons of food country-wide, including to the Ambeno Enclave (in West Timor).

WFP worked together with other agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and CARE International to support communities in need in Timor-Leste and assumed the overall food and logistics co-ordination role. This project facilitated the return and settlement of displaced people with special attention to female-head of households.

Food was shipped, and air freighted to Díli and Baucau, where it was transported overland and distributed by WFP and/or its implementing partners (which included CARE, CARITAS, World Vision and Catholic Relief Services). Cooperation and coordination with local civil society organizations were essential. Additionally, in 1999 the International Force East Timor (INTERFET), a United Nations-mandated multinational force, was established to address the humanitarian and security situation in Timor-Leste.

In April 2001, an external analysis of Timor-Leste's food security situation indicated that there was no evidence of food insecurity in the country, except at very localised levels.



WFP food aid being loaded into a plane for airdrops.

Government officials, WFP and partners agreed that food aid was no longer an appropriate modality response for the development of Timor-Leste and that WFP should gradually withdraw from operations, completing its mandate by the end of June 2002.

This decision was conditional, however, on the political and social stability of the country and the absence of overall food insecurity. Over the following year, WFP would refine its targeting strategy, both individual and geographic, to focus its activities on the most vulnerable and reduce its presence in the field by closing five field offices and keeping only a central office in Díli.

WFP's operations and activities were completely phased out by 2002; food and logistics assets were gradually reduced and transferred to the Government of Timor Leste and to WFP's regional warehouses; government staff were trained in emergency food aid management, and WFP's office in Díli was closed.

“We worked hard during the Emergency Relief Project. We would wait at the docks for the ships to bring the food supplies, and after cataloguing

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A WFP staff with Timorese children standing on top of WFP food supplies in the background. 2000.