



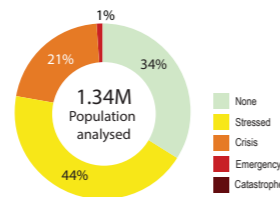
**Current Acute Food Insecurity | November 2022 - April 2023**



Nearly 300 thousand people in Timor Leste are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between November 2022 and April 2023.



22% of the analysed population of 1.34 million is experiencing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).



**Overview**

Timor-Leste ranks 16th according to the World Risk Index, which indicates the country's severe exposure, vulnerability, and susceptibility to shocks – as well as the lack of coping and adaptive capacities. Floods, in particular, have affected food insecurity significantly in 2022. During the current period of analysis (November 2022 to April 2023), corresponding to the lean season, nearly 300,000 people representing 22% of the total population face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), of which 286,000 people (21% of the total population) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), and 13,000 (1%) in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Urgent action is required to protect livelihoods, reduce food consumption gaps, and save lives and livelihoods of the people experiencing Crisis or Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). Out of the fourteen municipalities, eleven are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), whereas three municipalities are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). The main drivers of high acute food insecurity include high food prices, reduced purchasing power, and the persistent impacts of the COVID-19-pandemic as well as the 2021 and 2022 floods.

The projection period, May to September 2023, corresponds to the harvest / post-harvest season and shows a slight reduction of people classified in IPC Phase 3 or above, from 22% to 20%. Of this group, Ermera has 5% of its population in Phase 4 (Emergency), making up 1% of the total population in Phase 4 (Emergency). The main factor contributing to a slight improvement of food security is the expected positive impact of harvest, which generates agriculture-related employment opportunities, improves food availability in the market from local production, and increases food stock for households relying on agriculture. However, the positive results of the projection period will depend on how severely climatic shocks like floods and droughts will affect the 70% of the population dependent on agriculture. Moreover, people with unsustainable sources of income, which often generate irregular and inadequate income, will still find it difficult to obtain resources in order to mitigate their food gaps. Prices of local products are expected to decline during the post-harvest season; however, they will remain high compared to the pre-pandemic levels.

**Key Drivers of Acute Food Insecurity**



**Reduced purchasing power:**

The COVID-19 pandemic as well as the Russia-Ukraine conflict have intensified underlying issues in Timor-Leste, reducing incomes and increasing food and fuel prices.



**Floods:**

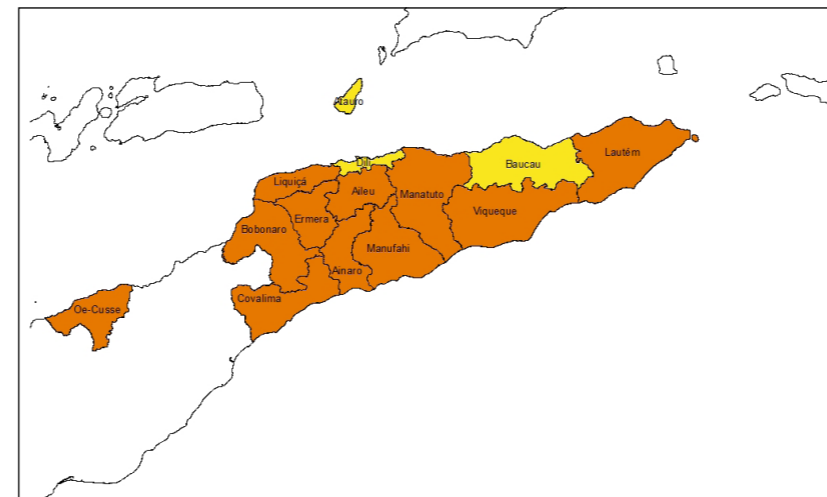
The floods in early 2022 and 2021 have significantly affected the population, creating long-lasting effects on food security of affected populations into the current period.



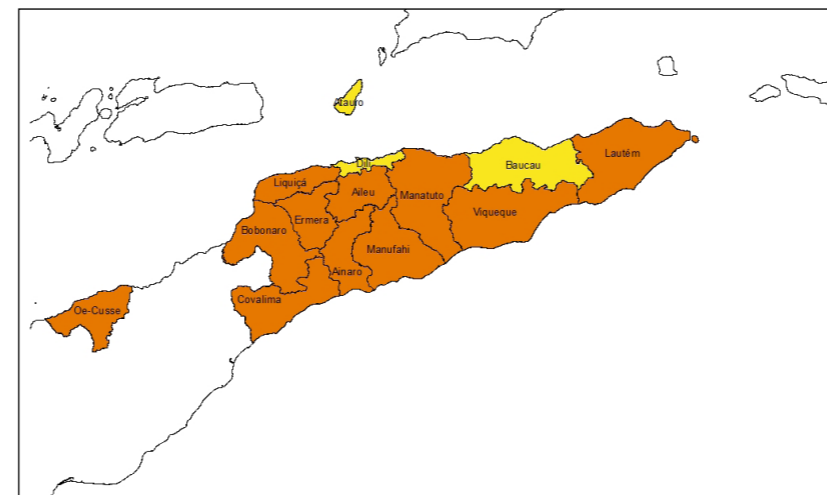
**COVID-19:**

The pandemic has intensified the underlying issues in Timor-Leste, resulting in poorer harvest, reduced income, and increased household debt, etc.

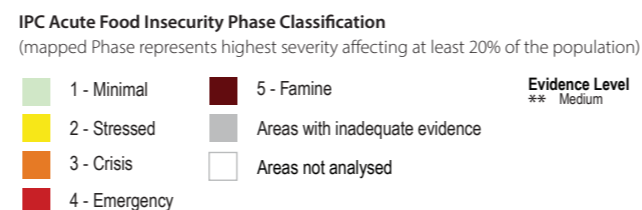
**Current Acute Food Insecurity | November 2022 - April 2023**



**Projected Acute Food Insecurity | May - September 2023**



**Key for the Map**



**IPC Analysis Partners:**



\*IPC population data is based on population estimates from the General Directorate of Statistics (Timor-Leste)  
Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition/endorsement of any physical and political boundaries. This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and General Directorate of Statistics. It has benefited from the technical and financial support of WFP and FAO, as well as the joint SDG fund.



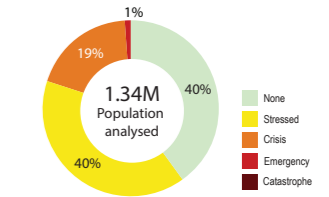
**Projected Acute Food Insecurity | May - September 2023**



Between May and September 2023 (the post-harvest season), a slight improvement in food security is expected with the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above likely decreasing to 262 thousand; making a 2% reduction compared to the current period of analysis.



20% of the analysed population of 1.34 million is experiencing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).



**Comparison with the 2018 IPC Chronic Food Insecurity Analysis**

The IPC Chronic Food Insecurity (CFI) analysis refers to a Food Insecurity (FI) that persists over time mainly due to structural causes, including intra-annual seasonal food insecurity with medium and long-term objectives of improving the quality and quantity of food consumption for an active and healthy life. However, the IPC Acute Food Insecurity refers to a FI that is found at a specific point in time and of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context, or duration with short-term objectives of decreasing severe food insecurity that threatens lives or livelihoods. The IPC CFI focuses more on the quality of diet in addition to quantity, while the AFI focuses on the quantity of food (whether minimum kilo caloric needs are met). This report suggests not directly comparing the results of the two different sets of analyses due to the different analytical focus and methodology used in the two analyses. Additional work needs to be conducted to better understand the linkages between AFI and CFI. Furthermore, the response priorities are different for the two analyses; Chronic prioritizes the long-term, structural solutions focusing on the quality of food, whereas Acute prioritizes responses that have an immediate positive impact in reducing food consumption gaps and restoring livelihoods.

**Recommended Actions**



**Humanitarian assistance**

Provide humanitarian Assistance: In order to protect the lives and livelihoods of the 22% population classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above, an immediate launch of humanitarian support is required, also considering the three municipalities with a 5% population in Emergency food insecurity (IPC Phase 4). Any delays in the humanitarian response will lead to the deterioration of the food security of the population.



**Livelihood support**

According to the findings of the 2022 mVAM Food Security Survey, seven out of ten households are engaging in livelihood-based coping strategies to mitigate their food shortages. Furthermore, the survey reveals that the primary concerns of households are increased food prices (67%) and shortage of food (16%). Therefore, the scale-up of livelihood support programs is required to ensure income sources and mitigate the loss of purchasing power of the most vulnerable households.



**Resilience-building**

Considering the regular occurrence of extreme climatic shocks, stakeholders should focus their attention and funding on programs that aim to build resilience to disasters and strengthen emergency preparedness to mitigate the impact. In particular, investing in climate-resilient infrastructure is essential, as Timor-Leste continues to be affected by climate-related disasters without sustained improvements in critical infrastructure.