

Timor - Leste **Improvement Plan**

Thematic window: Children, Food Security & Nutrition

Programme Title: UNICEF-WFP joint project on children food security and nutrition in Timor-Leste

MDG-F Joint Programme
Promoting Sustainable Food and Nutrition Security in Timor-Leste
Management Response to the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE)
December 2011

Evaluation Recommendation No. 1

Further enhance the development and consolidation of a shared understanding of the reasons for malnutrition in Timor-Leste, amongst GOTL Ministries and Departments and UN agencies.

- Develop a shared framework in which immediate as well as underlying causes of malnutrition and under-nutrition are identified, paying particular attention to the relationships between nutritional aspects and issues of food security (an example of such a framework is presented in Annex 3 of the Final MTE Report).
- Jointly advocate for the use of the framework in the development of initiatives to address nutritional conditions as well as in the reporting of the Food and Nutrition Security Task Force.

Response from the Joint Programme Management

The PMC agrees with the recommendation. A nutrition framework is already developed by UNICEF and used worldwide, and should be contextualized to reflect the situation in Timor-Leste.

Key actions	Time frame	Lead agency & partners	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
1.1 Contextualize the nutritional framework, which is already developed by UNICEF and used worldwide, to Timor-Leste's local situation, and conduct orientation meeting for senior government officials on the framework.	Feb - Sep 2012	UNICEF and MoH				
1.2 Revise the National Nutrition Strategy incorporating conceptual framework of nutrition with specific focus to inter-sectorial aspects (including food security and agriculture) in line with government commitments and strategies of Comoro Declaration by seven ministries.	Feb - Sep 2012	UNICEF and MoH				
1.3 Strengthen advocacy, social mobilization and communication on nutrition and food security at institutional and community levels.	Jan - Dec 2012	UNICEF and MoH				

Evaluation Recommendation No. 2

Enhance relationships between the various components of the programme in particular between food security and nutrition and enhance the synergy that is meant to occur through the combination of programme components at the local level

- Ensure that activities are implemented in the same areas and that there is attention to timing of implementation in order to enhance opportunities for synergy
- Coordinate work planning and make linkages between work plans of GOTL partners and UN agencies as well as amongst UN agencies
- Explicitly link the programme component on home gardening with the promotion of vegetable consumption for small children and women of reproductive age, supporting the provision of information on nutritional values of various food items and options for food preparation

Response from the Joint Programme Management

The PMC agrees with the recommendation. However, while the ultimate objective is to promote the synergy, the geographical convergence with phased-in implementation and coordination is happening over the course of implementation.

Key actions	Time frame	Lead agency & partners	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
2.1 Improve joint work planning by developing a matrix and geographical mapping of interventions.	By March 2012	PMU and implementing partners				
2.2 Improve convergence through implementation of activities in the same areas taking into account the timing of implementation.	Mar – Dec 2012	All implementing partners				
2.3 Conduct coordination meetings both at technical level and senior management (head-of-agency) level to improve sharing of information and facilitate joint problem-solving and decision-making.	Starting Jan 2012	PMU and Implementing agencies				
2.4 Monitoring and technical support to linking home gardening with the promotion of vegetable consumption for improved complementary feeding through improved cooking demonstration using the community support groups such as SISCa, and MSG/SHIO of ALOLA.	March – Nov 2012	FAO & Alola Foundation				

Evaluation Recommendation No. 3

Enhance selected capacity development aspects of the programme

- Focus more explicitly on capacity building as a process, ensuring that the way in which outputs are delivered enhances the capacities of the local stakeholders concerned
- Enhance the focus on farmer groups and farmer field schools, in this way enhancing the demand side aspects of home gardening and improvement of agricultural practices
- Enhance outreach activities / advocacy on multiple levels including those conducted in SISCa's with the various Communication for Development approaches that UN agencies are familiar with
- Assess the need to enhance support to de-worming of children as part of the programme
- Improve evaluation of training and follow-up on gaps identified in knowledge and skills . (new recommendation item)
- Make clear linkages between the individual and organizational levels of capacity development, ensuring that the outputs of training and organizational development are mutually reinforcing in order to enhance programme results

Response from the Joint Programme Management

The PMC agrees with the recommendation. Deworming is already an essential component of nutrition interventions package that is provided through health facilities and SISCa twice a year. It is acknowledged that while coverage of de-worming needs to be increased nation-wide which is 69.2%, the deworming coverage in 4 JP districts is 91.7% (MoH H-MIS Jan –June 2011).

Key actions	Time frame	Lead agency & partners	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
3.1 Conduct orientation on JP implementation process linking with specific technical training for managers, supervisors, and service providers.	Mar – Oct 2012	PMU & implementing partners				
3.2 Enhance farmer's group training through Farmer Field Schools and demonstrative pilot plots.	Starting March 2012	FAO & MAF				
3.3 Strengthen Communication for Development (C4D) at SISCa and other community-based approaches.	Jan – Dec 2012	UNICEF & MoH				
3.4 Strengthen pre- and post-training evaluation and follow-up after training through field visit to monitor on-the-job application of skills.	Feb – Sep 2012	PMU & implementing partners				

Evaluation Recommendation No. 4

Reinforce the targeting of the programme and the extent to which it is adapted to socio-cultural specific contexts and requirements of vulnerable groups through *further focusing* the participatory learning and action approach of the programme in selected districts and communities. In particular the PLA needs to include the following aspects:

- Assess social organization and identify local vulnerable groups
- Assess the extent to which programme initiatives reach vulnerable groups

- Assess the attitudes and practices of vulnerable groups regarding pregnancy and delivery, child feeding and child rearing
- Adapt the programme approach to the requirements of specific vulnerable groups

Response from the Joint Programme Management

The PMC would like to comment that the programme already targets vulnerable groups through working with CSOs like NGOs and Church based organizations and the community-based groups (Mother Support Group).

Key actions	Time frame	Lead agency & partners	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
4.1 Finalize report of joint community assessment to further inform JP interventions.	By March 2012	PMU & FAO				
4.2 Document interventions and lessons learned that have strong emphasis on addressing the vulnerable groups. This includes MSG and PdC activities by UNICEF, homestead food production (home garden, small livestock and aquaculture) by FAO, etc.	Mar – Oct 2012	PMU				
4.3 Conduct National Nutrition Survey and/or in-depth studies/analysis to assess the attitudes and practices of vulnerable groups regarding pregnancy and delivery, child feeding and child rearing.	March – Dec 2012	UNICEF & MoH				

Evaluation Recommendation No. 5

To enhance results-based programme management and maximizing programme results through improved programme monitoring

- Adapt the programme results framework
 - Include outcome level indicators in outcome areas 2 and 3
 - Include additional intermediate level indicators in particular those referring to organizational capacities of partners and process issues
 - Ensure inclusion of indicators on the various levels of the results chains of the programme components
 - Establish clear responsibilities for data gathering on the various levels of the framework
 - Ensure that monitoring data link up with data gathering of government agencies, making use as much as possible of existing data gathering systems
 - Assess the extent to which and the way in which the various components of the programme come together and result in synergy at the local level
 - Include feed-back loops of monitoring information in the Early Warning System as well as in parts of the programme monitoring system, feeding back information on programme level to the entities providing information concerned

- Conduct focused joint monitoring initiatives for key aspects of the programme, including:
 - Joint monitoring of SISCa"s in order to assess present level of coverage in particular regarding vulnerable groups and to identify aspects that need to be enhanced
 - Joint monitoring of supplementary food supplies and storage to identify and address constraints

Response from the Joint Programme Management

The PMC agrees with the recommendation.

Key actions	Time frame	Lead agency & partners	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
5.1 Revise JP results framework, to include indicators as recommended, taking into account data availability and quality.	By March 2012	PMU				
5.2 Develop joint monitoring and supervision forms and plan for 2012.	By March 2012	PMU				
5.3 Conduct field visits for joint monitoring and supervision as per the plan.	Mar – Dec 2012	PMU & implementing partners				
5.4 Strengthen the feed-back mechanism on FSIEWS	March – Dec 2012	WFP & MAF				

Evaluation Recommendation No. 6

Enhance reporting of the programme by improving the analysis of monitoring data involving the various GOTL and UN agencies concerned

Response from the Joint Programme Management

The PMC would like to comment that reporting so far has been following the standard reporting format of the MDG-F Secretariat. However, the PMC agrees that strengthening analysis of monitoring data would benefit the JP implementation.

Key actions	Time frame	Lead agency & partners	Follow-up		Secretariat	
			Comments	Status	Comments	Status
6.1 Conduct quarterly analysis of monitoring data and suggest actions to improve JP interventions.	Starting March 2012	PMU				