

# Timor-Leste

## Food Security Bulletin

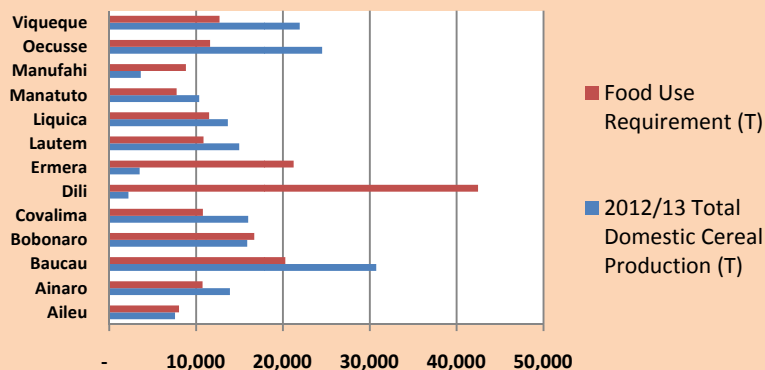
Issue No. 2 October-December 2012

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Figure 1. Domestic Cereal Production & Food Use Requirement



## FOOD SECURITY SITUATION SUMMARY

The domestic availability of cereals during 2012 was estimated at 178,843 tonnes, accumulated from the first and second crop production milled rice equivalent of 83,736 tonnes, 95,107 tonnes of maize and government opening stock of 17,222 tonnes. The second season production for both maize and rice appears very low compared to the initial forecast by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF). Many districts reported to have no or very low production and productivity. In fact, harvest was not possible for the estimated 90 hectares where maize failed to grow due to rainfall variability (in some areas farms destroyed by too much rain or plants failed to grow due to limited rain) or destroyed by rodents and other pests.

Timor-Leste requires about 193,788 tonnes of cereals for the projected population of 1,118,429. This means an estimated cereal deficit amounts to about 70,826 tonnes (30,869 tonnes maize deficit and 39,957 tonnes rice deficit). A total of 43,279 tonnes of rice was imported this year, both from the Ministry of Commerce Industry and Environment (MCIE) importation of 19,967 tonnes and Customs reported rice importation of 23,308 tonnes (Sources: Ministry of Finance -Customs and MCIE). This means a final cereal deficit of 27,547 tonnes and additional cereal imports to anticipate food shortage otherwise root crops such as cassava, taro, sweet potato and other food crops like banana could partly cover this deficit.

The fourth quarter Food Price Index (FPI) increased from 12.2% to 12.4% year-on-year and from 1.6% to 8.2% over the previous quarter while the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the corresponding periods was 6.7 % and 10.9% (Source: MoF-National Directorate for Statistics (NDS)).

The total percentage of underweight children this quarter is 29.3% compared to the previous quarter of 29.6%. There is a small reduction of severely underweight from 8.8% (previous quarter) to 8.7% (this quarter) and moderately underweight from 20.8% to 20.6% respectively (Source: Ministry of Health – HMIS).

Food is available countrywide, however, access to food remains a significant challenge, thus, the Government of Timor-Leste continues to distribute subsidized price rice. This quarter, the government distributed a total of 1,894 tonnes subsidized rice to both the national and sub national markets (Source: MCIE). Nonetheless, cereal market prices have been stable and the overall supply situation is reportedly normal from October to December 2012 in most areas except for some upland and remotely located areas such as Taiboco (Oecusse), Lcomesac (Manatuto), Hohorai (Manatuto), Guda (Bobonaro) appeared repeatedly in the Suco Level Food Security Monitoring System (SLMS) where cereals more than the average market price.

*The Timor Leste Food Security Bulletin (FSB) is a product of the EU and FAO supported project on establishing a sustainable National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) on Food Security in Timor Leste. The FSB aims of reporting and providing information on national and household food security situation in a quarterly basis. This is a MAF led innovation of ensuring the timely delivery of information to decision makers and wider stakeholders on the general overview of the food security situation in the country as an early warning to mitigate the serious impact of food shortages and hunger. This fourth quarter issue provides the final production estimates for maize and rice as well as the projected cereal deficits. It also includes market information and price data for the main food products, rainfall information and vulnerability.*

**The European Union funds this product. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.**



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# OVERALL PRODUCTION AND FOOD AVAILABILITY

## Crop production

The second season production estimates are low compared to the early forecast set by the National Directorate for Agriculture and Horticulture (NDAH) of MAF of about 69,429 tonnes for maize and 34,135 tonnes for rice respectively.

Second crop estimation of maize production was finalized by NDAH at 15,541 tonnes from the harvested area of 8,040 hectares, which is only 22% of the target. On the other hand, the final rice estimates for the second cropping is 16,265 tonnes (equivalent to 9,759 tonnes milled rice), which is 48% of the target. Compared to the first cropping both the maize and rice productivity reduced during the second cropping from 2.2 t/ha to 1.93 t/ha for Maize and 3.37 t/ha to 2.59 t/ha for rice. Other than availability of farm labour, adequate irrigation facilities, weather variability and

pest attack are some of the factors that triggered the low production during the second season.

Figure 2: Second Cropping Domestic Cereal Production

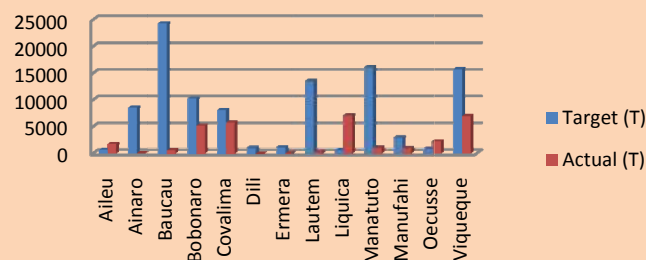


Table 1: Second Crop Maize Production

District	Potential Area (Ha)	Cultivated Area (ha)	Harvested Area (ha)	Productivity (ton/ha)	Total Maize Production (ton)
Aileu	13,000	1,342	1,342	1.21	1,624
Ainaro	9,000	0	0	0	0
Baucau	16,000	0	0	0	0
Bobonaro	<b>25,477</b>	1,630	1,630	1.65	2,690
Covalima	56,113	1,543	1,500	2	3,000
Dili	3200	0	0	0	0
Ermera	5,000	36	36	1.09	39
Lautem	20,000	0	0	0	0
Liquica	5,000	2,496	2,496	2.64	6,589
Manatuto	19,896	5	5	1.14	6
Manufahi	10,000	108	108	2.2	237
Oecusse	19,435	470	470	0.67	315
Viqueque	12,500	500	453	2.3	1,042
<b>Total</b>	<b>214,621</b>	<b>8,130</b>	<b>8,040</b>	<b>1.93*</b>	<b>15,541</b>

Source: National Directorate for Agriculture and Horticulture

\*Average productivity

Table 2: Second Crop Rice production

District	Potential Area (Ha)	Area cultivated (ha)	Harvested Area (ha)	Productivity (t/ha)	Production 2011/12 (t)	Milled rice equivalent 2012 (t)
Aileu	776	49	46	1.20	56	34
Ainaro	6,076	-	-	-	-	-
Baucau	14,423	220	220	2.76	608	365
Bobonaro	7,662	763	763	3.25	2,480	1,488
Covalima	5,615	1,245	1,245	2.21	2,752	1,651
Dili	150	-	-	-	-	-
Ermera	2,345	16	16	2.75	44	26
Lautem	3,864	136	136	2.15	292	175
Liquica	1,866	244	244	1.96	478	287
Manatuto	12,731	351	351	3.00	1,053	632
Manufahi	9,942	348	348	2.20	766	460
Oecusse	5,705	1,331	1,331	1.40	1,864	1,118
Viqueque	9,793	1,587	1,587	3.70	5,872	3,523
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,948</b>	<b>6,290</b>	<b>6,287</b>	<b>2.59</b>	<b>16,265</b>	<b>9,759</b>

Source: National Directorate for Agriculture and Horticulture

## Agro-meteorology

Some of the major challenges that constantly affect food production in Timor-Leste are weather variability (insufficient water or excessive rainfall) and availability of inputs (insufficient seeds, insufficient labor and unavailable tractor). During quarter four, insufficient water is the major concern of most farmers. The report on insufficient rain is consistent to the rainfall information generated from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) Joint Research of European Commission (MARS Viewer of JRC-EC). During the month of October most of the areas (other than districts Liquica and part of Ermera) in Timor-Leste received low rainfall from 1.58 to 34.06 mm (Figure 3). This limited rain is very favorable for the harvest of the second crop (maize) and land preparation, while unfavorable to some areas that are sowing and planting maize for the 2013 as a first crop. However, limited rainfall becomes an issue for better growth of the second season rice, especially areas in the northern coast.

Areas that received good rainfall, started sowing and planting of maize for the 2013 first season on time, while the opposite was true for areas that received less rain. Rainfall in November increased compared to October with a minimum of 10 mm and maximum of 80 mm (Figure 4). However, rainfall remained unpredictable and limited in most of the areas in the east and southern coast (districts Lautem, Viqueque & Baucau). It is expected that harvest to these areas will be delayed. Otherwise, the good rainfall performance with a minimum of 50 mm and maximum of 306 mm (Figure 5) during the month of December helps the recovery and facilitates the re planting process of rice.

Temporal profiles of the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), which is an indicator of green biomass were selected from the main producing districts (Figure 6 to 11). The 2012 NDVI for all districts is near or above the long-term average. This is an indication of good yield and good production performance during the second crop season harvest (April to January).

Figure 3: Cumulative rainfall in October

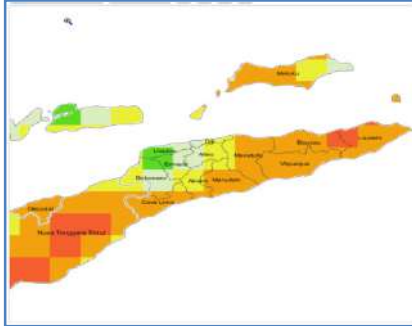


Figure 4: Cumulative rainfall in November

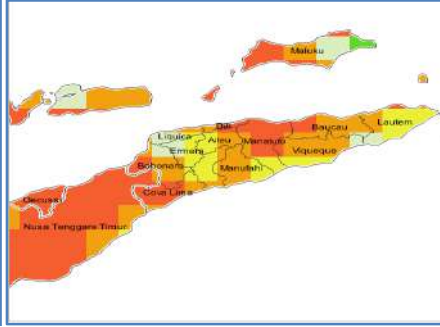
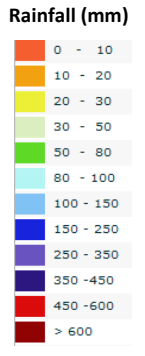
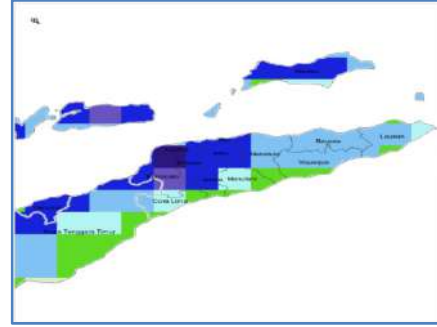


Figure 5: Cumulative rainfall in December



Source: MARS Viewer of JRC-EC

Figure 6 to 11: NDVI profile during the second season of Baucau, Ermera, Aileu, Ainaro, Bobonaro, Oecusse Districts



## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

This quarter, the Government of Timor-Leste through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment (MCIE) imported rice to about 6,367 tonnes. A total of 1,894 tonnes was distributed to both national and sub national markets and retailers with a whole sale price of \$12 for 25 kg, this means a remaining rice stocks to about 20,870 tonnes available at the MCIE warehouse in Tibar (Source: MCIE).

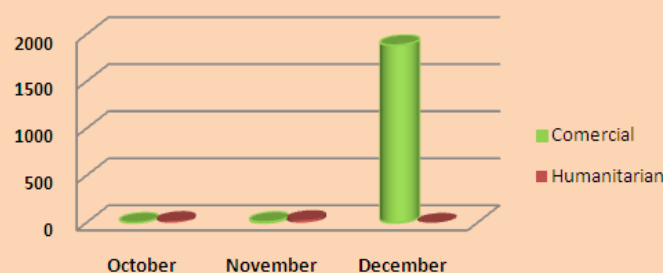
The government subsidized rice distribution slightly increased from 1,793 tonnes from the previous quarter to 1,894 tonnes this quarter, in which the distribution concentrated in December (1,886 tonnes) due to the Christmas celebration and responding to cereal shortage in some areas. In addition, the MCIE reported of distributing 49 tonnes rice for humanitarian response on top of the 170.5 tonnes distributed by the Ministry of Social and Solidarity (MSS) for the orphanages, technical schools, veterans, internship students, non-government institutions and through the food for work projects in every district (Source: MSS-National Directorate for Social Assistance (NDAS)).

This quarter, of those who had access to pesticides, fertilizers and seeds, reported of received seeds from the government (MAF) (29%) while 28% received pesticides and 16% received fertilizers. On the other hand, small number of farmers mentioned that they received pesticides, fertilizer

and seeds from non-governmental organizations. Most of the non-governmental organizations trained farmers in producing organic pesticides, organic fertilizers and seed savings. However, most (41%) farmers mentioned that self purchased fertilizers and 34% mentioned that produced organic pesticides, while 33% reportedly used farm-saved seeds.

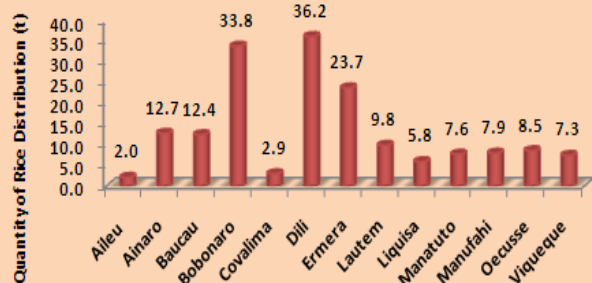
The free plowing program (*Fila Rai Gratiutu*) of MAF remains accessible to farmers for those that able to contribute the fuel. During the second cropping, a total of 8,130 hectares were ploughed in the districts of Aileu, Bobonaro, Covalima, Ermera, Liquica, Manufahi, Oecusse and Viqueque.

Figure 12. MCIE Rice Usage, by Month



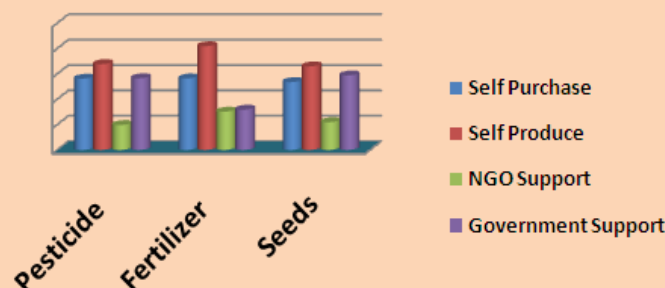
Source: MCIE

Figure 13. MSS Humanitarian Rice Distribution, by Districts



Source: MSS-NDAS

Figure 14: Access to Inputs, by sources



Source: MAF-SLMS

## FOOD BALANCE AND NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY

A revised National Food Balance Sheet presents the general food situation of the country by looking at the domestic production, importation, stocks and consumption requirement, other food uses requirement and the post harvest losses for the marketing year 2012/13. The national food balance sheet is adjusted considering the final second crop estimates, total production and the consumption of the projected 2012 population of 1,118,429. The estimated cereal deficit is 70,826 tonnes, as accumulation of 30,869 tonnes maize deficit and 39,957 tonnes rice deficit. During this quarter, a total of 43,279 tonnes of imported rice

entered into the market both from the private sector and from the government that partly covered the deficit. Therefore, the remaining cereal deficit of 27,547 tonnes is estimated, which means additional cereal import is necessary to anticipate food shortage in January to March 2013, although root crops such as cassava, taro, sweet potato and some other food crops like banana could partly cover this deficit. Immediate action from the government is necessary to ensure food availability and supply especially in areas most vulnerable to food insecurity.

Table 3: Updated National Food Balance Sheet, April 2012 to March 2013 marketing year

	Rice	Maize
<b>Total availability from domestic sources</b>	<b>100,958</b>	<b>95,107</b>
Opening stocks 1/	17,222	
Production from main season 2/	73,977	79,566
Production from second season	9,759	15,541
<b>Total utilization</b>	<b>140,915</b>	<b>125,976</b>
Food use 3/	118,553	74,935
Seed requirement 4/	485	3,821
Feed use 5/		16,000
Post harvest losses 6/	21,877	31,220
Targeted closing stocks 7/		
<b>Deficit/Surplus</b>	<b>-39,957</b>	<b>-30,869</b>
Required imports/to be covered by other crops/food	-39,957	-30,869

1/ Only government stocks.  
2/ Milling rate of paddy to rice is estimated at 60 percent  
3/ Based on 106 kg per year/per person of rice consumption and 67 kg per year/person of maize and a population of 1,118,429 in 2012, according to 2010 census population of 1,066,409 + 2.41% per year increase  
4/ According to the Directorate of Agriculture and Horticulture (DAH) of MAF, standard use of seed for: rice 25-35 kg/ha, maize 40-50 kg/ha  
5/ There is no information available on the use of grains to feed animals. However, it is known that the 60% extraction rate of rice already takes into account and 6% that remains in the husk is given to animals. Maize, in turn is extensively used as feeding. Only chicken feeding is used for this calculation, based on MAF's standard consumption rate  
6/ DAH/MAF estimates 15-20% post harvest losses in both rice and maize  
7/ It may include contingency stocks

## FOOD PRICES AND MARKET SUPPLY

The fourth quarter Food Price Index (FPI) increased from 12.2% to 12.4% year-on-year, whereas the official data indicates that food prices increased by 8.2% over the previous quarter (1.6%). The overall increase this quarter was contributed by alcohol (14.7%), meat and meat products (10.7%), non-alcoholic drinks (9.5%), fresh fish (9.4%), health service and pharmaceuticals (8.8%), women's clothing (8.7%) and men's clothing (7.3%) (*Source: MoF - NDS*).

The index of alcohol (24%) and Non-alcoholic drinks (19.4%) along with nuts (18.7%), fresh fish (16%) and meat and meat products are seen to be contributing to the overall increase of CPI this quarter to 6.7 % month-on-month and 10.9% year-on-year. House building cost (11.4%), transport (10.6%) and women's clothing (9.4%) also contributed to the overall increase of the CPI (*Source: MoF - NDS*).

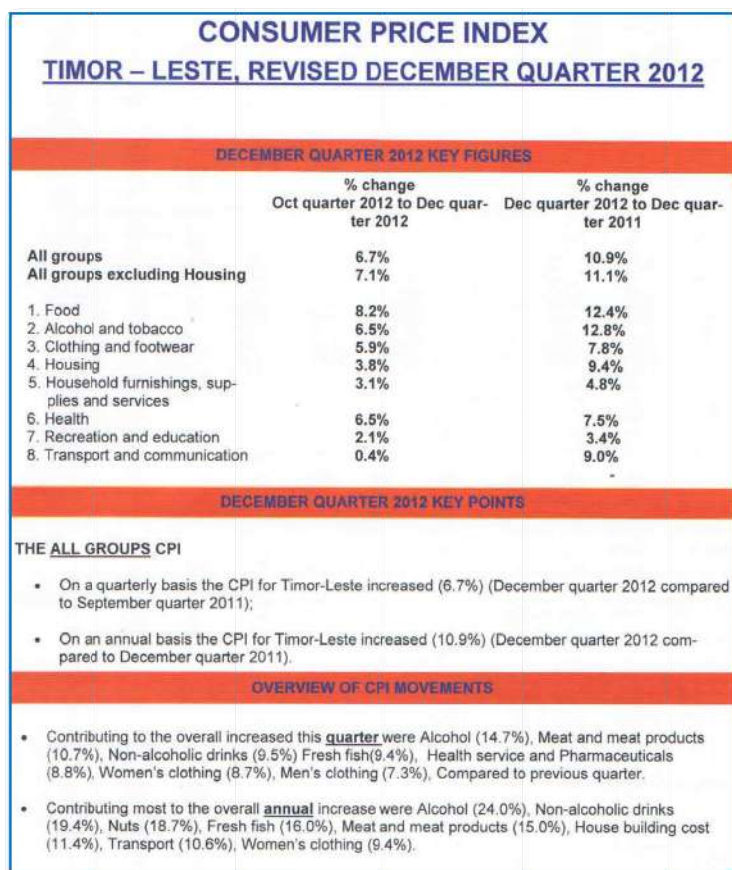
Both the Consumer Price Index and the Food Price Index (FPI) had a steady increase from February to November, while in December the CPI dropped and the FPI remains the same. Cereal, roots and their products after a steady increase from August to January had been fluctuating from February to July and steady back in August to October just right after the first season harvest and drastically increased from November to December during the start of the lean season. On the other hand, the meat and meat products index showing a trend of a strong increase in November and December each year otherwise most months the index is either steady or slightly fluctuating (*Figure 16*).

Recently, the MoF reviewed the food basket and designed market price monitoring system that will cover markets

outside capital Dili. The new food basket will be used to analyze the new FPI and CPI starting year 2013. The MoF is planning to conduct dissemination on the new food basket and market price monitoring system as soon as the new system is ready. Market price monitoring is one of the task force recommendations to analyze food access. With this new market price monitoring system, it is expected that MoF will provide updated and reliable price information that is crucial to help in analyzing food accessibility particularly in vulnerable areas.

The average price from July to December 2012 for maize was \$.75/ kg, subsidized rice \$.61/kg and for commercial rice \$.69/kg. Out of the targeted 420 villages covered by the SLMS, 132 villages are submitting complete food security information including retail cereal prices. Maize price peaked at \$2.50/kg from October to December in certain upland areas in the Districts of Oecusse, Manatuto and Aileu (*Source: MAF-SLMS*). Considering the limited second season harvest, prices of cereal will possibly increase as price trend in December (*Figure 17*) particularly in low producing areas like the districts of Liquisa, Ermera, Aileu, Ainaro, Manufahi and off-grid areas of Dili. Local rice price from January to December more or less stable throughout the year with little increase from July to December, while the price of the subsidized rice decrease during the month of July and August when the price of maize and local rice increase. However, maize price is considerably high during the month of July, August, December and January, which are normal price trend after the end of the harvests (*Figure 17*).

Figure 15: CPI and FPI – Fourth Quarter 2012



Source: MoF-NDS

Figure 16: Trend of the Timor Leste CPI and FPI

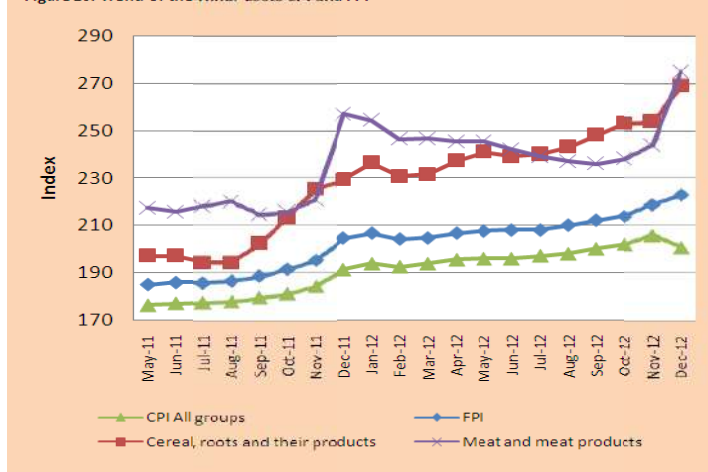
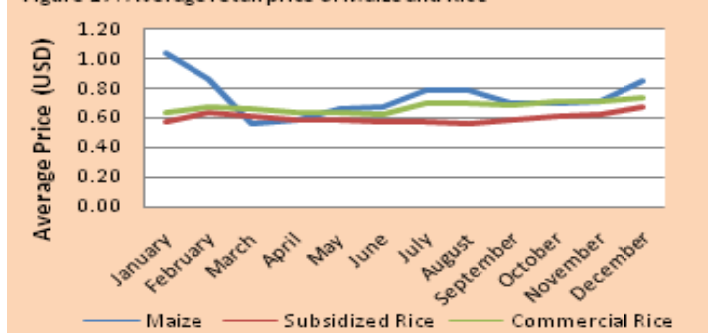


Figure 17: Average retail price of Maize and Rice

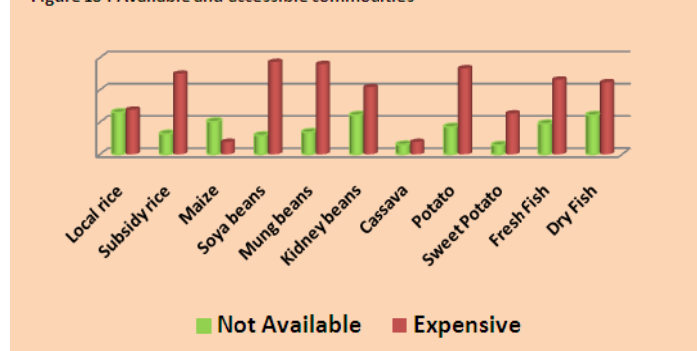


Source: MAF-SLMS

## HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY

Generally, food supply situation across the country has been reportedly normal, especially for maize and rice (both local and imported). Other food products such as beans and fish were available in the local markets although hardly accessible for the communities considering the high prices. The Suco Level Food Security Monitoring System (SLMS) reported that subsidized rice is available (13%) in some local markets but unfortunately, the retail price is higher than the government fixed price. Soya beans, mung beans, subsidized rice and potato, along with fresh and dry fish and kidney beans were the most expensive food products, while root crops are mostly available and accessible. Animal protein sources food such as fresh and dry fish constantly unaffordable especially in the rural areas.

Figure 18 : Available and accessible commodities



The districts marked in red (Ermera, Manatuto, Manufahi, Baucau and off grid areas of Dili) are those with estimated maize deficits for marketing year 2011/12 (Table 4). These areas are also reported to have high incidence of malnutrition. Therefore, these districts need to be closely monitored. Other areas with chronic cereal deficits and high incidence of malnutrition are Liquica, Oecusse, Covalima, Viqueque, Aileu and Bobonaro districts. These districts are also very vulnerable to food insecurity. Therefore, household food stock monitoring should also be organized for a timely coordinated mitigation actions and response mechanisms on food security.

Table 5 presents districts with rice deficit. There are eight districts that production is not enough to cover the whole year rice requirement of 106 kg/person/year such as districts of Aileu, Bobonaro, Ermera, Lautem, Liquica, Manufahi, Oecusse and off grid areas of Dili. This year the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment (MCIE) distributed 16,085 tonnes for both national and local markets, while National Customs imported 23,308 tonnes of rice during 2012. This partly addressed cereal deficits. However, additional cereal importation during the first quarter of 2013 is needed to anticipate food shortage from January to March. Cereal importation should be coordinated between MAF and MCIE for the timely delivery and availability in the markets. Root crops such as cassava, taro, sweet potato and other locally grown energy rich food could cover part of the cereal deficits.

This quarter, insufficient water, pests, plant diseases, high winds and flooding reportedly affected a total of 4,815 hectares. Compared from the previous quarter the damaged caused by these vectors increased by 782 hectares. The total damage area is very significant to the aim of increasing food production in Timor-Leste. The SLMS reported that 2,468 hectares of maize farms, 865 hectares of coffee farms, 783 hectares of red beans farms, 427 hectares of cassava and 144 hectares of rice fields affected by these vectors.

Figure 19: Total Area per Crops affected by Hazards, Pests and plant Diseases

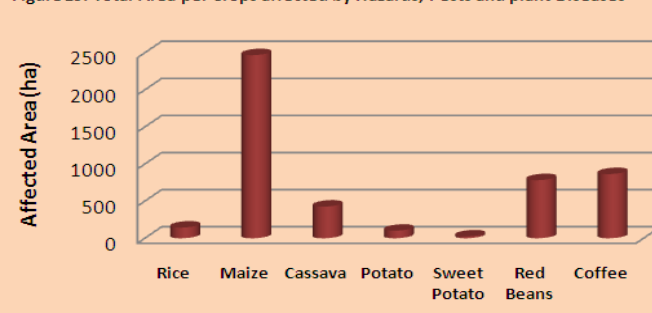


Table 4: Maize production, food requirement and deficit/surplus without considering losses and other uses, per district

District	2012 First Crop Production (t)	2012 Second Crop Production (t)	Total 2012 Production (t)	2012 Projected Population (increase of 2.41%/year)	2012 Maize Requirement for food (t)	2012 Maize Deficit & surplus without considering losses and other uses (t)
Aileu	5,290	1,624	6,914	46,487	3,115	3,799
Ainaro	8,116	-	8,116	62,062	4,158	3,958
Baucau	6,207	-	6,207	117,143	7,849	(1,642)
Bobonaro	4,588	2,690	7,278	96,539	6,468	810
Covalima	4,914	3,000	7,914	62,355	4,178	3,736
Dili	2,052	-	2,052	245,442	16,445	(14,393)
Ermera	715	39	754	122,774	8,226	(7,471)
Lautem	10,824	-	10,824	62,703	4,201	6,623
Liquica	6,489	6,589	13,078	66,496	4,455	8,622
Manatuto	2,417	5	2,422	44,827	3,003	(581)
Manufahi	1,366	237	1,603	51,000	3,417	(1,814)
Oecusse	19,365	315	19,680	67,148	4,499	15,181
Viqueque	7,224	1,042	8,266	73,452	4,921	3,345
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,566</b>	<b>15,541</b>	<b>95,107</b>	<b>1,118,429</b>	<b>74,935</b>	<b>20,172</b>

Source: MAF-NDAH

Table 5: Rice production, food requirement and deficit/surplus without considering losses and other uses, per district

District	2012 First Crop Production Milled Rice Equivalent (t)	2012 Second Crop Production Milled Rice Equivalent (t)	Total 2012 Production Milled Rice Equivalent (t)	Total 2012 Gov. (MCIE) Subsidized Price Rice distributed to Markets (t)	Total Rice Available in every district (t)	2012 Projected Population (increase of 2.41%/yr)	2012 Rice Requirement for food (t)	2012 Rice Deficit & surplus without considering losses and other uses (t)
Aileu	620	33.34	653	620	1,273	46,487	4,928	(3,655)
Ainaro	5,774	0	5,774	876	6,650	62,062	6,579	72
Baucau	24,171	364.9	24,536	1,722	26,258	117,143	12,417	13,841
Bobonaro	7,114	1,487.85	8,602	1,162	9,764	96,539	10,233	(469)
Covalima	6,431	1,650.87	8,082	1,187	9,269	62,355	6,610	2,659
Dili	156	0	156	598	754	245,442	26,017	(25,262)
Ermera	2,721	26.4	2,747	1,246	3,993	122,774	13,014	(9,021)
Lautem	3,966	175.44	4,141	1,412	5,553	62,703	6,647	(1,094)
Liquica	300	286.65	587	810	1,397	66,496	7,049	(5,652)
Manatuto	7,302	631.8	7,934	623	8,557	44,827	4,752	3,805
Manufahi	1,568	459.36	2,027	1,613	3,641	51,000	5,406	(1,765)
Oecusse	3,714	1,118.29	4,832	1,130	5,962	67,148	7,118	(1,155)
Viqueque	10,140	3,523.14	13,663	3,085	16,748	73,452	7,786	8,962
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,977</b>	<b>9,758.04</b>	<b>83,735</b>	<b>16,085</b>	<b>99,820</b>	<b>1,118,429</b>	<b>118,554</b>	<b>(18,734)</b>

Source:MAF-NDAH

## NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Nutritional status of health seeking children under five shows improvement based from the monthly data collected from Health Management Information System (HMIS) of the Ministry of Health (MoH). The H-MIS monthly report presents the nutritional status of the children under two and five years of age. The HMIS data are collected from the health services in the Regional or Referral Hospitals, Community Health Centers (CHC), Health Posts and from the Integrated Community Health System (SISCA) posts in 13 Districts.

For the time being, nutrition information generated from the H-MIS reflects only the nutritional status of health seeking children or children that are utilizing the health services. Since the number of these children is limited (e.g this quarter 23.7%), therefore, the current H-MIS generated data cannot be used to conclude the general nutritional situation of the country but rather distinguish nutrition trends and denotes the number of children reached by MoH as well as suggest the nutritional situation changes at the district level.

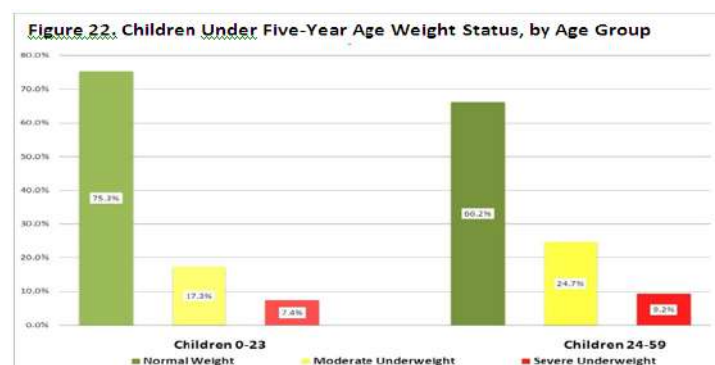
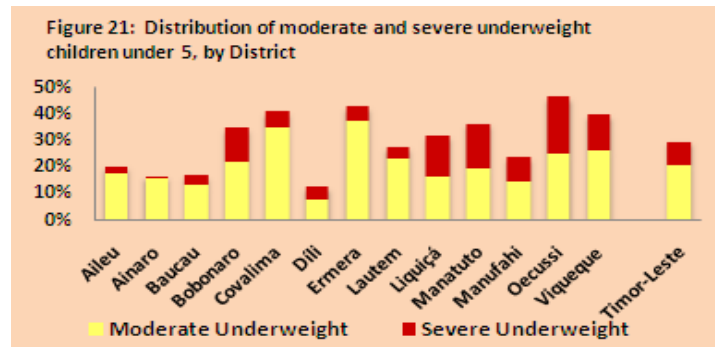
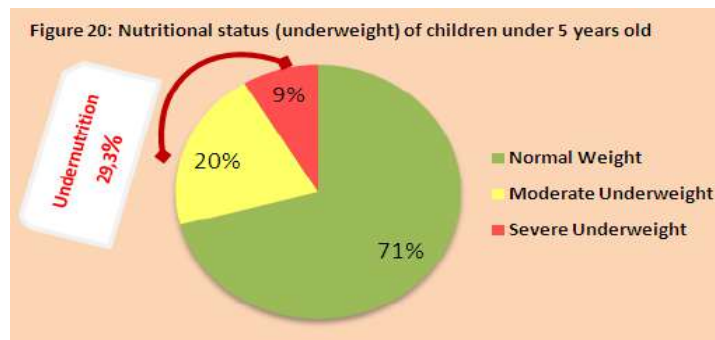
Generally, the percentage of underweight children under five is decreasing quarter by quarter. Figure 5 presents the prevalence of underweight for children under 5 years of age. This quarter the prevalence of underweight children is 29.3% that is slightly lower compared to the previous quarter (29.6%). The percentage of moderate and severely underweight has decreased during the year, passing from 23.7 % (quarter 1) to 20.6 % (quarter 4) for moderate underweight and from 10.5 % (quarter 1) to 8.7 % (quarter 4) for severely underweight.

Learning from this achievement, increasing the number of children attendance and families accessing health services remained to be MoH goal. The MoH continues boosting partnership with development partners for concerted efforts to achieve MoH vision and long lasting nutrition and health programs outcomes and impacts.

Similar from the previous quarter seven districts remained to have higher incidence of underweight children (beyond 30%). These districts are Oecusse (46%), Ermera (42.39%), Covalima (40.59%), Viqueque (39.3%), Manatuto (36.1%), Bobonaro (34.3%) and Liquiça (31.5%). However, among these seven districts, five districts (Bobonaro, Covalima, Ermera, Liquiça and Manatuto) have higher severe underweight children compared from the previous quarter. From these five districts, three districts (Bobonaro, Covalima and Manatuto) reduced the percentage of moderate underweight children compared to quarter 3, although the percentage of the severe underweight increased. On the other hand, the severe underweight in districts Oecusse and Viqueque reduced while the moderate underweight increased. However, district Liquiça percentage of both severe and moderate underweight slightly decreased this quarter.

Consumption of diversified nutritious food is one of the causes of malnutrition in Timor-Leste. Hidden hunger pervasively exists in almost all family in Timor-Leste. Prevalence of diseases especially infectious diseases such as acute respiratory infections, pneumonia, malaria and diarrhea is high. These diseases are also contributed to the increase of risk for children under five of becoming malnourished and delay the recovery of children experiencing severe and moderate malnutrition.

This continued report of high percentage of malnourished children in Timor-Leste becomes the motivation of the growing partnership between the MoH – UN Agencies (World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and WFP) and the many local and international NGOs. The partnership is centered on working towards strengthening the nutrition and health services delivery in different levels (from the national to the community). Some of the ongoing interventions to combat malnutrition include the supplementary feeding programme for moderate acute malnutrition, the therapeutic feeding programme (inpatient and outpatient) for severe acute malnutrition, vitamin A supplementation and de-worming. Other than this, capacity building is considered to be MoH backbone for better service delivery, reasons for implementing different types of training, workshops, exposure



visits both national and international and other capacity building actions for MoH technical staff, nurses, doctors and community health volunteers (Programa Saude Familia (PSF) are included in the overall strengthening of the nutrition and health sectors.

Figure 22 shows that the nutritional status of children under 2 years old (0-23 months) is better for those children more than two years old (24-59 months). Compared from the previous quarter, the percentage of normal weight increased while the percentage of severe underweight decreased for both children under two years old (0-23 months) and more than two years old (24-59 months).

Under two years old children are habitually breastfed and even for some families and areas in Timor-Leste exclusively breastfed for six months. Campaign of exclusive breastfeeding continued to be one of the priorities of MoH in collaboration with the Aloia Foundation. The MoH encourage complementary feeding for children after six months old while continue breastfeeding. Since most children, under two years old are susceptible to diseases and very vulnerable, thus they are the focus of family's attention particularly of bringing to health facilities and getting the necessary treatment compared to older children. The MoH is also implementing monthly supplementary food ration focus on under two years old.