East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) province is located in eastern Indonesia. It consists of one urban district and 20 rural districts and is home to a population of 4.68 million people. It is dominated by three main islands: Timor, Sumba and Flores. Out of some 1,000 islands, 42 are inhabited. WFP has its operational presence in Timor Island, which is one the most vulnerable area in terms of food and nutrition insecurity in the province.

With the majority of the population relying on small-scale subsistence farming, any minor shocks including climate change can have an immediate impact on population’s livelihoods. Natural disasters such as flooding and landslides, as well as drought, affect the islands every year.

NTT is identified as one of most vulnerable provinces in eastern Indonesia and has the most alarming food insecurity rates. Lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, with limited access to health education and facilities are among the contributing factors to chronic high child mortality and under-nutrition rates in NTT.

NTT is among the five provinces in Indonesia which had the highest poverty levels, with 23.36% of people living below the national poverty line in 2011. The Human Development Index of NTT province is ranked at 31 out of 33 provinces.

Stunting in most eastern provinces is above the World Health Organization’s critical threshold of 40 percent (Ministry of Health Survey 2010). In NTT, the stunting rates in 2010 reached 58.4 percent, the highest rate in Indonesia.
Food Security is a condition when all people in the household have sufficient food at all times, represented as sufficient quantity and quality of food in safe and achievable conditions.

The national and provincial FSVA which WFP has assisted to develop, is based on three pillars of food security:

(i) food availability (physical presence of food);
(ii) food access (household’s ability to acquire adequate amounts of food); and
(iii) food utilization (households’ use of the food to which they have access, and individuals’ ability to absorb and metabolize the nutrients – the conversion efficiency of the body).

High prevalence of nutritional problems (58.4% stunting and 29.4% underweight) among children under five in NTT province can be seen as indicator of high micronutrient deficiencies and probability of poor nutrition during the first 1,000 days of a child. Stunted children are often referred to as a “lost generation”.

The first 1,000 days in the life of a child, from the womb through the first two years of life are a critical window of opportunity to ensure the optimum development of a child. The impact of poor nutrition during this period is lasting and irreversible, with effects reaching beyond health to affect cognitive development, educational achievement and economic opportunities.

### Key Findings

**Food availability**

In general, the majority of NTT Province is food self-sufficient in cereal production, and food availability at the provincial level is adequate. However, food production is not equally distributed inside the districts and many sub-districts are still cereal deficient (TTS, TTU, Kupang, Belu, Sumba Timur, Flores Timur, Manggarai, Sikka, Nagekeo, Ngada and Alor districts, some sub-districts in Ende and most sub-districts in Sabu Raijua).

**Food access**

Limited access to food for the poor as a result of a combination of poverty, lack of stable employment, low and irregular cash income and limited purchasing power remain a greater challenge. In 2009, more than 1 million people (23.31%) lived below the provincial poverty line.

**Food Utilization and the Nutritional Situation**

- According to Ministry of Health’s Basic Health Research (RISKESDAS) in 2010, chronic malnutrition (stunting) is widely prevalent among young children in the province and considered as critical with 58.4% of children under 5 stunted.
- One in three households did not have access to clean drinking water in the province. The poorest access (>40%) was in Sumba Barat, Sumba Timur, Kupang, TTS dan Sabu Raijua districts.
- The female illiteracy rate was very high in districts of Sumba Barat Daya (32%), Sumba Tengah (30%), Sumba Barat (26%) and TTS (22%) districts.

**Areas with Higher Vulnerability to Food Insecurity**

- Based on composite analysis of nine (9) chronic food insecurity indicators on food availability, access and utilization, 135 of 280 sub-districts are ranked as higher priority that need special attention: 38 in Priority 1, 31 in Priority 2 and 66 in Priority 3 with a total estimated population of 1.96 million people.
- Half of the sub-districts in the higher priority category are located in Timor island districts, with most sub-districts in TTS district, followed by TTU and Belu.
In supporting Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction activities, WFP implements Food for Asset (FFA) programmes in selected NTT districts. The FFA programme objective is to improve immediate food security and livelihood of poor households by distributing food as well as providing them with the opportunity to create and produce agriculture assets that benefit their communities. The assets are designed to strengthen the community’s resilience towards disaster risk and their adaptation toward the climate change. With WFP, local government and community were combining resources to implement all activities.

The FFA activities range from land conservation with seedling nurseries, terracing, tree and food crop planting in sleeping lands and reforestation, to the development of water catchment to increase water access for both agricultural and non-agricultural use. A mangrove plantation activity was carried out in coastal areas to rehabilitate and conserve the coastal environment.

Knowledge transfer to improve community awareness is stressed throughout the implementation of each activity. One special appreciation from the community is the introduction of biopory holes technique in planting trees to reserve water and soil nutrients, since water scarcity and critical land is one of the main challenges in tree planting efforts in this dry area.

In 2012, in collaboration with NTT’s forestry office, FFA covered close to 3,500 vulnerable households (13,700 beneficiaries) in 10 villages in TTS district. Between 2009 and 2011, more than 24,000 households participated in FFA activities and around 125,000 people benefited directly from the programme.

Over four years (2009 – 2012), 13 units of water catchments were developed, accommodating up to more than 63,000 m³ water; more than one million trees (agroforestry and mangroves) were planted in over 10,000 ha of sleeping lands; and 2,500 m² of irrigation channel were developed. Food crops were also planted in mostly opened sleeping land in the initial first two years period. More than 27 thousand households participated in the FFA activities, which means that nearly 135,000 of food insecure people in 4 rural districts in West Timor directly benefited from the food assistance, and many more are expected to have medium and longer term gains from the community asset created.

WFP has also started collaboration with the Provincial District Disaster Management Body (BPBD) and Social Office to enhance capacity of government staff and to loan a mobile storage unit for disaster preparedness in the province. WFP has provided the province with NTT’s Logistic Capacity Assessments (LCAs). LCAs are formal evaluations designed to obtain a fundamental understanding of NTT’s transportation infrastructure, the objective is to enhance government/WFP’s response during emergencies.
Food Security Monitoring, Analysis and Mapping

Together with NTT’s Food Security Council, WFP has developed the NTT Province Food Security and Vulnerability Atlas (FSVA) 2010. The atlas plays an important role in identifying areas which are more vulnerable to chronic food insecurity, as a guidance to the government from province to sub-district level to target the most needy populations. WFP also supported capacity building of both provincial and district government in implementing Food and Nutrition Surveillance System (FNSS) as a tool for early warning and targeting guidance for government to prevent high risk households and villages from being food insecure every year.

At the policy level, WFP supported the local government in developing the multi-year and multi-sector Food and Nutrition Action Plan (FNAP) at provincial and district level as a guideline for all stakeholders in an effort to improve food security and nutrition in NTT (the pilot programme is in TTS district). There are five pillars of FNAP: 1) improve nutrition status of society; 2) improve access to diverse food; 3) improve quality control on food safety; 4) improve healthy life style; and 5) strengthen food and nutrition institution. Gender issues are mainstreamed into those five pillars.

Social Safety Net Programme

Maternal and Child Nutrition (MCN)

High prevalence of under-nutrition among children under-five in NTT Province is one indicator of high micronutrient deficiencies and of poor nutrition during the first 1,000 days of a child’s life which could lead to a lost generation. The right food at the right time is regarded as appropriate step to overcome the above nutritional problem among under five.

The WFP’s mother and child nutrition (MCN) programme addresses under-nutrition and micronutrient deficiencies in children under five and pregnant and lactating women through the provision of fortified food and nutrition education at the local community health post (Posyandu).

The goals of the MCN intervention programmes are to: a) to improve micro-nutrient status and health status of pregnant lactating mothers and children of 12-59 months through distribution of fortified blended food; b) to improve knowledge and understanding of pregnant and lactating mother as well as mother of children under five about food consumption, breast feeding, supplementary feeding, child care and health and hygiene practices; c) to encourage women’s attendance at Posyandu; d) and to strengthen Posyandu through Kader (volunteer) capacity building.

The MCN program is implemented in 14 sub districts spread over 340 posyandus, which cover close to 27,000 children under five and 5,500 pregnant and lactating women.
Local Food Based School Meal (LFBSM)

WFP supports government initiatives to revitalize the national school feeding programme (known as PM-TAS, a school canteen program as one of important social safety net), integrating nutrition education and diversifying diets as well as supplementing the livelihood and income opportunities of the rural poor.

Following national initiatives and provincial recommendation for promoting local food, WFP launched the Local Food Based School Meal (LFBSM) pilot in 2010 in collaboration with local government. Besides empowering children to concentrate, promoting dietary diversity and hand washing, WFP also empowered community surrounding the school in longer term by connecting the school to local farmer groups. In addition to that, WFP provides the farmer groups with milling machines.

Salty and sweet recipes are cooked three times a week in selected schools by trained cooking groups. The local ingredients come from local farmer groups that have been empowered and trained to provide maize grits and mungbeans through WFP procurement and from parents who are providing fresh ingredients to enhance the nutritious quality of the food served, and who also serve as cooks.

The 2010 pilot in 20 schools in TTS district has been expanded to another 12 schools in the district and new pilot started in 9 schools in Kupang district. Currently LFBSM covers 41 primary schools with over 7,600 school children in TTS and Kupang districts. Strong commitment from both local government and community to share responsibilities and resources is seen as well as ownership of the programme. A key success is of the programme being replicated in two schools in TTS and Kupang, which have their own independent programme which WFP supports with technical assistances and limited non-food items.

WFP’s evidence based findings in NTT region

Gender Rapid Assessment Report

Gender Issues in Food and Nutrition Security in NTT Province

The Gender Rapid Assessment (GRA) aims to understand the underlying causes of gender marginalization in NTT and how they can be addressed.

NTT women play a critical role in achieving food and nutrition security. Empowering women to make free and informed choices for their family is critical in improving food and nutrition security. By considering women as part of the solution, women empowerment programmes are tailored to support women in decision-making processes that affect the nutritional wellbeing of the family.

Cash Transfer Feasibility Study in Nusa Tenggara Timur and Nusa Tenggara Barat

Recommendations of Cash Transfer Programme implementation in NTB and NTT Provinces based on understanding from research activities, includes desk review, field study and in-depth interview.

January 2013
WFP and Government of Indonesia have signed a 2012-2015 partnership agreement to ensure support for national efforts to achieve food security for all in Indonesia. The vision of WFP’s Indonesia Country Strategy is to partner with the Government of Indonesia as a catalyst in achieving food security, while laying the foundation for Indonesia to become a global champion against hunger.

WFP Country Programme will have a twin-track approach, responding to immediate food and nutrition needs amongst the most vulnerable communities, while investing in capacity development that fosters local ownership and sustainability.

The three strategic priorities over the period of 2012-2015 are to:
1) Address food insecurity through enhance monitoring, analysis and mapping capacity
2) Prepare for and respond to disasters and shocks; and
3) Reduce under-nutrition below critical levels.

TTS District has been selected as WFP main focus district in the province for the Country Program 2012 – 2015, where programs on Nutrition-Specific interventions encompass activities aiming at behavior changes such as complementary feeding and hygiene practices, as well as provision of micronutrients including food fortification for acute malnutrition.

Additional Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions includes activities related to food security monitoring, analysis and mapping, Food for Asset, and Disaster Risk Reduction Management of the three strategic priorities are implemented.