



TIMOR-LESTE

Disaster Management Reference Handbook

March 2022

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Front Cover

Manatuto, Timor-Leste. Photo by Trevar Skillicorn-Chilver on Unsplash.
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Letter from the Director

In 2022, Timor-Leste commemorates the 20th anniversary of the country's independence. Timor-Leste has achieved notable progress in securing lasting peace and security and in state building. Notwithstanding the progress achieved, challenges remain particularly in reducing high levels of poverty, encouraging private sector-led economic growth, and mitigating the impact of climate change.

Climate-related hazards such as erratic and extreme rainfall, floods, droughts, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and water-borne diseases, presents significant challenges for the country's development. Timor-Leste is strengthening its disaster management capability in light of major flood events in 2021 and 2020, through legislative reform. In addition, the Timorese government's development of the National Adaptation Plan in 2021 is a significant achievement towards addressing the impact of climate change and indicates the country's commitment to addressing climate risks through adaptation.

With nearly two decades of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Timor-Leste, our two countries continue to work closely together to advance a shared vision of a free, open, inclusive, peaceful, and secure Indo-Pacific region. The Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Timor-Leste Exercise held on 7-15 December 2021 underscores this shared commitment. Over the course of nine days of exercise events, Timor-Leste and U.S. naval forces made tremendous progress in learning more about each other's capabilities and building trust and understanding.

This has been followed by the launch in January 2022 of joint work by U.S. Air Force Engineers and the Timor-Leste Defense Force (F-FDTL) to rehabilitate the Baucau Airfield, located east of the Dili capital. The project will lay the groundwork for the arrival of an American-made Cessna 206 aircraft, gifted by the U.S. to provide the F-FDTL with air surveillance capability to conduct, among other tasks, search and rescue missions in a disaster.

This Timor-Leste Disaster Management Reference Handbook offers an operational understanding of the country's disaster management capability as well as information on demographics, hazards, climate risks, organizational structure for disaster management, laws and policies, infrastructure, and other areas vital to a comprehensive disaster management knowledge base. It is hoped that individuals and organizations planning for or executing a disaster response operation in Timor-Leste will benefit from this information to support the country's responders and affected communities in their times of need.



Sincerely,

Joseph D. Martin, SES
Director

About the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance

Overview

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) is a United States (U.S.) Department of Defense (DoD) organization comprised of nearly 30 subject matter experts that provide academic research, civil-military coordination training, and operational insights to support decision making before, during, and after crises. The Center is designed to bridge understanding between humanitarians, civilian, and military responders. CFE-DM partners with a diverse group of governmental and nongovernmental actors, as well as academic institutions to increase collaborations and capabilities in humanitarian assistance and disaster response. While maintaining a global mandate, the Indo-Pacific region is our priority of effort and collaboration is the cornerstone of our operational practice. The Center is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) and is located on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Vision

The Joint Force, allies, and partners are fully prepared to conduct and support foreign humanitarian assistance.

Mission

CFE-DM builds crisis response capacity in U.S. and partner militaries, enhances coordination and collaboration with civilian and foreign partners, and strengthens those relationships to save lives and alleviate human suffering before, during, and after humanitarian crises.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Timor-Leste is exposed to floods, landslides, tropical cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, and epidemics.¹ Climate change is expected to cause more erratic and extreme rainfall and higher temperatures. The country's agricultural sector, upon which about 70% of the population depends for food and livelihoods, stands to be the economic sector most affected by climate change.²

Timor-Leste is a young country. In 2022, Timor-Leste celebrates 20 years since the restoration of the country's independence. Timor-Leste is also a small country, with an estimated population of 1.3 million people in 2021 and a land area of 14,874 square kilometers (5,742.88 square miles).³ Approximately 42% of the country's population is classified as living below the national poverty line, based on data collected in 2014.⁴ The country's economy is dominated by the oil and gas sector, which accounts for 90% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 70% of government spending.⁵

In April 2021, Timor-Leste faced the dual challenge of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and major flooding that affected all 13 of the country's municipalities and led to widespread displacement. The damage caused by the floods tested the Government of Timor-Leste's (GoTL) capacity to respond. The Prime Minister led a whole-of-government response with the support of international partners. A joint After Action Review (AAR) by the United Nations (UN) and non-government organizations (NGOs) and a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report prepared by the UN Agencies and World Bank highlighted key gaps in the legal framework, institutional arrangements, early warning, needs assessment, and data collection.⁶ The AAR further highlighted the need to promote gender inclusion and localization in future responses.⁷

Timor-Leste's disaster management capabilities fall within the country's civil

protection framework, which is currently in a state of transition due to recent legal changes. The passage of the Civil Protection Law by the National Parliament in 2020 represents a positive step towards strengthening the country's disaster management system. The law establishes the Integrated Protection and Relief Operations System (in Portuguese, *Sistema Integrado de Operações de Proteção e Socorro* - SIOPS) as the mechanism for oversight of disaster risk management (DRM) and disaster response. In particular, the SIOPS provides a set of structures, rules, and procedures that ensure that all civil protection agents and planned entities are articulated at the operational level, under a single command.⁸ The law could help to clarify DRM and disaster response roles and responsibilities going forward.

In addition to the Civil Protection Law, subordinate legislation has been developed to establish the Civil Protection Authority (CPA) as the lead agency to oversee the SIOPS. The draft Decree-Law Establishing the Organic Structure of the CPA (Organic Structure Decree-Law) was approved by the Council of Ministers on 15 December 2021 and is pending promulgation by the President. However, until the Organic Structure Decree-Law comes into effect, no agency has clear lead responsibility for disaster response and a multi-agency response under leadership of the Prime Minister is the likely scenario.

Looking ahead, Timor-Leste is facing major climate-related hazards.⁹ The GoTL's development of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in 2021 is a notable achievement and indicates a commitment to addressing climate risks through adaptation strategies. The NAP highlights the agriculture, water resources, forestry, and public health sectors, as the sectors most vulnerable to climate change.¹⁰

Timor-Leste is in the final stages of preparing a National Climate Change Policy, which will provide the necessary mandate for the NAP.¹¹

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Timor-Leste is one of the newest states in Southeast Asia; it gained the restoration of its independence on 20 May 2002, following a popular referendum in 1999.¹² The country occupies the eastern half of the island of Timor with a coastal enclave, the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno (Oecusse enclave), located on the western part of the island of Timor (West Timor is a part of East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia). Figure 1 shows a map of Timor-Leste with the major population centers including the capital Dili and the districts of Baucau, Ermera, Liquica, Manatuto, Pante Makasar, and Suai.¹³

The U.S. established diplomatic relations with Timor-Leste at the restoration of the country's independence. Since then, the U.S. has had a significant bilateral development assistance program in Timor-Leste and is also a major donor to a number of multilateral agencies active in the country, such as the UN, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the World Bank.¹⁴

One of the country's top foreign policy objectives is to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Timor-Leste applied for ASEAN membership in 2011, but an ASEAN decision to admit the country is still pending. Timor-Leste is a member of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP).¹⁵ It has strong relationships with its nearest neighbors, Indonesia and Australia.

History

Timor was involved in Southeast Asia's historic trading networks for centuries and by the 14th century exported aromatic sandalwood, slaves, honey, and wax. A number of local chiefdoms ruled the island in the early 16th century when Portuguese traders arrived, drawn by the relative abundance of sandalwood on the territory.¹⁶

The Portuguese first settled on the island of Timor in 1520, and the Spanish arrived in



Figure 1: Map of Timor-Leste

1522. The Dutch took possession of the western portion of the island in 1613. The British governed the island in 1812-1815 (during a short period when Britain took control of most of the Netherlands Indies from the Dutch).¹⁷ The Dutch and the Portuguese fought for supremacy over Timor. Treaties signed between the two countries in 1860 and 1893 (the latter effective in 1914) gave Portugal sovereignty over the eastern half of the island.¹⁸ During World War II, Japan occupied Timor, and Australia also had forces on the territory fighting alongside Timorese allies against the Japanese occupation.¹⁹ After the war, East Timor and the Oecusse enclave reverted to Portuguese possession until 1975.²⁰

In November 1975, the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (*Frente Revolucionária do Timor-Leste Independente* – Fretilin), one of the major political parties in the country, gained control of much of the territory in East Timor and declared its independence as the Democratic Republic of East Timor. A month later, Indonesia (which gained independence from Dutch colonial administration in 1949)

invaded and annexed the territory as the Indonesian province of East Timor. An estimated 100,000 to 250,000 people in East Timor died resisting Indonesian occupation or as a result of famine and disease.^{21, 22} East Timor remained under Indonesian control for 24 years until it gained the restoration of independence through a referendum authorized by the Indonesian government and supervised by the UN on 30 August 1999.²³

Following the independence referendum, the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) administered Timor-Leste from 25 October 1999 until the country's Restoration of Independence Day on 20 May 2002. UNTAET exercised executive and legislative authority and supported capacity building for Timor-Leste's self-government.²⁴ The UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET) succeeded UNTAET and was present from 20 May 2002 to 20 May 2005.

In 2006, protest by members of Timor-Leste's defense force, F-FDTL (*Forças Armadas da Libertação Nacional de Timor-Leste (FALINTIL)-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste*) led to a violent armed rebellion that caused a political, humanitarian, and security crisis. On 25 August 2006 the UN Security Council established the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) as a multidimensional, integrated UN peacekeeping operation to restore order.²⁵ At Dili's request, an Australian-led International Stabilization Force (ISF) was also deployed to the country. The events known as the 2006 Crisis claimed at least 37 lives and displaced 155,000 people (15% of the population) and sent shock waves through an already fragile polity.²⁶ The ISF and UNMIT restored stability, allowing for presidential and parliamentary elections to take place in 2007 in a largely peaceful atmosphere.²⁷

In February 2008, a rebel group of soldiers from F-FDTL staged an unsuccessful attack against the president and prime minister. Then-President José Ramos-Horta was shot but survived. The rebel ringleader, Alfredo Reinado, was killed in the attack, and most of the rebels surrendered in April 2008. Since the attack, the

government has enjoyed stability, including successful 2012 parliamentary and presidential elections and a successful transition of power in February 2015.²⁸

UNMIT closed its mission on 31 December 2012. ISF closed its mission in November 2012, and the last troops departed Timor-Leste in March 2013.²⁹ The 2015–2019 UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) period was the first time since the restoration of independence in 2002 that the UN mandate had focused solely on sustainable development without the presence of a UN peace operation.

Culture and Demographics

Timor-Leste's population in 2021 was estimated to be 1.3 million people. The country's average annual rate of population growth is 1.9%.³⁰ The last Population and Housing Census (Census) in Timor-Leste was conducted in 2015 and counted 1,183,643 individuals (50.8% male; 49.2% female), which represents a population growth of 33% since 2000.³¹ Timor-Leste is a young country with a median age of 20 years and with the population under 18 years of age comprising 48.7% of the total population.³²

Figure 2 depicts a population pyramid for Timor-Leste based on the 2015 Census results. The graphic highlights that 20% of the population falls into the youth segment of the population (ages 15-24). Given the massive youth population, the GoTL faces challenges in the provision of education, skills, and opportunities to engage young people in productive work.³³

The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI) assessed Timor-Leste's HDI value in 2019 at 0.606—placing the country in the medium human development category and ranking it at 141 out of 189 countries and territories (1 being highest; 189 being lowest). Between 2000 and 2019, Timor-Leste's HDI value increased from 0.484 to 0.606, a rise of 25.2%.

The HDI is a summary measure for assessing long-term progress in three basic dimensions

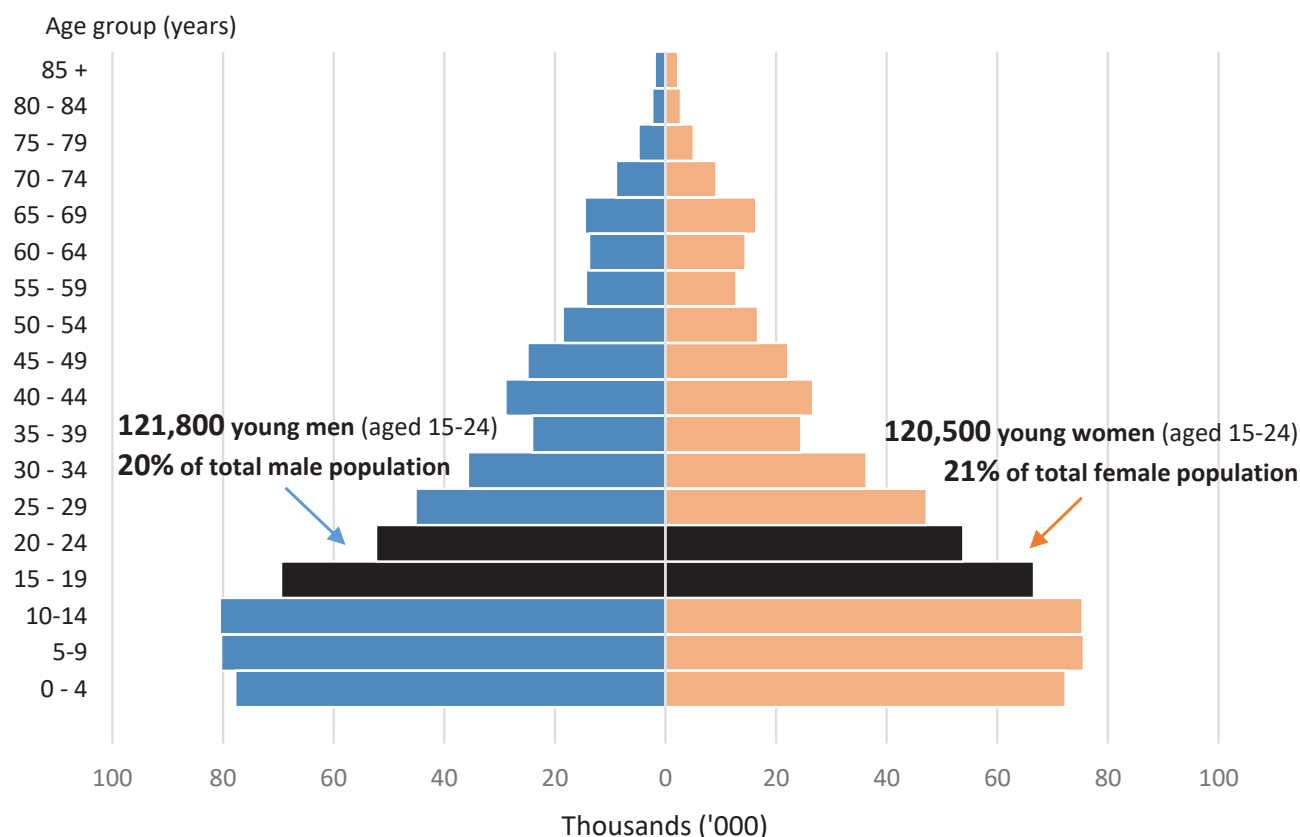


Figure 2: Timor-Leste Population Pyramid Based on 2015 Census

of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and a decent standard of living.³⁴ Between 1990 and 2019, Timor-Leste's life expectancy at birth increased by 21 years, mean years of schooling increased by 2 years and expected years of schooling increased by 2.8 years. Timor-Leste's Gross National Income (GNI) per capita increased by about 74% between 1990 and 2019.³⁵

Life expectancy is 69.62 years in 2021 (67.94 years for males; 71.41 years for females). The fertility rate is 4.32 children born/woman, with the mother's median age at first birth being 23 years. Maternal mortality is high compared to other countries in the region, at 142 deaths/100,000 live births in 2017 although this rate is down from 506/100,000 live births in 2005.³⁶ The infant mortality rate is also high at 34.47 deaths/1,000 live births based on 2021 estimates.³⁷

Ethnic Makeup

The major ethnic groups are: Austronesian (Malayo-Polynesian) (includes Tetun, Mambai,

Tokodede, Galoli, Kemak, and Baikenu), Melanesian-Papuan (includes Bunak, Fataluku, and Bakasai).³⁸ There are also small populations of Portuguese and Chinese, as well as of people of mixed Timorese and Portuguese origin known as *mestiços*.³⁹

Key Population Centers

Most of the population is concentrated in the western part of the country, particularly around the capital, Dili. The urban population makes up 31.7% of the total population, and urbanization is expected to continue to grow at a rate of 3.31% during 2020-2025.⁴⁰

Language

Tetun and Portuguese are the official languages of Timor-Leste. Indonesian and English are the common working languages. There are about 32 indigenous languages including: Tetun Prasa (30.6%), Mambai (16.6%), Makasai (10.5%), Tetun Terik (6.1%), Baikenu (5.9%), Kemak (5.8%), Bunak (5.5%), Tokodede (4%), Fataluku (3.5%), Waima'a (1.8%), Galoli

(1.4%), Naueti (1.4%), Idate (1.2%), Midiki (1.2%), and other (4.5%).⁴¹

Religion

The population of Timor-Leste is predominantly Catholic (97.6%) with small groups of Protestant/Evangelical Christians (2%), Muslims (0.2%), and others (0.2%).⁴²

The Timorese Catholic Church has its beginnings at the time of the arrival of Portuguese missionaries in Lifau, Oecusse enclave, in 1515.⁴³ The Catholic Church and its leaders played a significant role in Timor-Leste's independence struggle and retain popular support. However, a child sex abuse case involving a member of the Church in Oecusse district came to light in 2021 and is drawing attention to the role of the Church in Timor-Leste society.⁴⁴

Vulnerable Groups

Timor-Leste's National DRM Policy 2008 defines vulnerable groups to include women, children, the elderly, widows, returnees, refugees, religious and ethnic minorities, and people living in hazard-prone areas.⁴⁵

In the aftermath of the April 2021 floods, the UN reported that particular groups, such as women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and others, experienced an exacerbated impact due to existing vulnerabilities such as gender inequality, high prevalence of violence against women and children, and stigmas towards certain vulnerable groups.⁴⁶

Women

Women and children are at 14 times greater risk than the average population of death and injury in an emergency and the aftermath, according to CARE International's Country Director in Timor-Leste, speaking in the aftermath of the April 2021 floods. This is because "women bear most of the responsibility for households and young children in the country, and this puts them at the heart of the danger in a situation like the April 2021 floods."⁴⁷ During those floods, a particularly

vulnerable sub-group were pregnant women, who were displaced by the floods, experienced a disruption in their prenatal care, and faced a hard time getting critical medical care in the wake of the disaster due to impassable roads that hindered relief efforts.⁴⁸

Timorese women continue to experience high levels of violence despite the enactment of laws that aim to protect women from gender-based violence (GBV).⁴⁹ In particular, domestic violence is one of the most pervasive human rights violations in Timor-Leste, with nearly 6 out of 10 women who had ever been in a relationship experiencing some form of physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, according to the 2015 survey by The Asia Foundation (TAF).⁵⁰ GBV has increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has contributed to triggers for violence, such as financial stressors, close confinement of families, and isolation from support networks.⁵¹ The April 2021 floods further placed women and children at risk of GBV. Many evacuation centers were housing women and children, as men stayed at the family property to safeguard it from threats. The evacuation centers varied in their protocol, including the provision of measures to mitigate GBV risks.⁵²

Recognizing the heightened risk of GBV in emergencies (GBViE), the Nabilan Program, for example, implemented by TAF with support from the Australian government, with the aim to end violence against women and girls, mobilized its staff in the immediate aftermath of the April 2021 floods to provide support to evacuation centers. The Nabilan Program team joined other volunteers to assess evacuation centers around Dili, identifying high-risk areas and securing bedding, food, and water for evacuees.⁵³

Nabilan/TAF was one of the organizations that provided GBViE support to the flood-affected women and girls. The GBV Sub-Sector (in lieu of a "cluster" system, not established in Timor-Leste), led by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), carried out the GBViE work.

Children

The April 2021 floods had a devastating impact on children, who were displaced from their homes, lost their belongings, and ended up living in evacuation centers for up to several months.⁵⁴ The disaster exacerbated existing vulnerabilities that children faced, including malnutrition, disrupted schooling, and high rates of GBV.

Children in Timor-Leste experience high rates of chronic malnutrition. Almost half of all Timorese children under five are stunted – the second highest rate in the world. Stunting affects cognitive and physical development, which adversely impacts educational outcomes and employment prospects.⁵⁵

Timor-Leste also has high rates of non-school attendance amongst school-aged children. According to the 2015 Census, 11.3% of all children between the ages of six and 14 years have never attended school (a decline from 24% in the 2010 Census). Child labor is common to support family income, and families often prioritize labor over education for their children, especially in rural areas.⁵⁶

To address some of these challenges during the April 2021 floods response, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported mobile clinics, which provided health care services and medicine to children under five in evacuation centers. UNICEF also conducted malnutrition screening for children in evacuation centers, as well as promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding practices. Child friendly spaces were established to provide mental health and psychosocial support to children, eventually at the community level rather than in evacuation centers.⁵⁷

People with Disability

According to the 2015 Census, there are just over 38,000 people with a disability in Timor-Leste, and the most prevalent form of disability is related to sight. People with a disability have poorer education outcomes than other groups. For example, women 15 years and older who have a severe disability have an adult literacy rate

of 9.5%, well below the 60.2% literacy rate among women overall.⁵⁸ People with disability also experience high rates of poverty, which the GoTL is addressing through a universal old-age and disability pension introduced in 2008.⁵⁹

The vulnerabilities of people with disability can be exacerbated during a disaster. These citizens are often left out of disaster response because systems set up before disasters make it hard for them to be involved. In Timor-Leste, Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) play a crucial role in supporting the inclusion of people with disability in disaster preparedness and response.⁶⁰

National DPO Raës Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO), for example, has worked with Oxfam on disability inclusion in disaster risk reduction (DRR) since 2018 as part of Disaster READY, a program of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership between the Australian government and NGOs. Oxfam and RHTO collaborated on the Dili flood response in March 2020, which was the first time a government-led disaster response involved DPOs. During the April 2021 floods, the government consulted DPOs in response efforts, including with RHTO. About 6.7% of the flood-affected residents were people with disability. Within hours of the flood, RHTO volunteers and staff engaged in evacuations, assessments, and the provision of support to people with disability.⁶¹

Economics

Timor-Leste is considered a lower middle-income country by the World Bank and is further classified by the UN as one of the 46 Least Developed Countries (LDC) in the world.^{62,63} In 2020, Timor-Leste's GDP per capita stood at US\$1,442.71.⁶⁴ In 2014, approximately 42% of Timorese were classified to be living below the national poverty line.⁶⁵

Given the country's high levels of multi-dimensional poverty, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on development progress, with the economy contracting by 8.5% in 2020. According to the ADB, the future trend is more positive, with GDP expected to grow

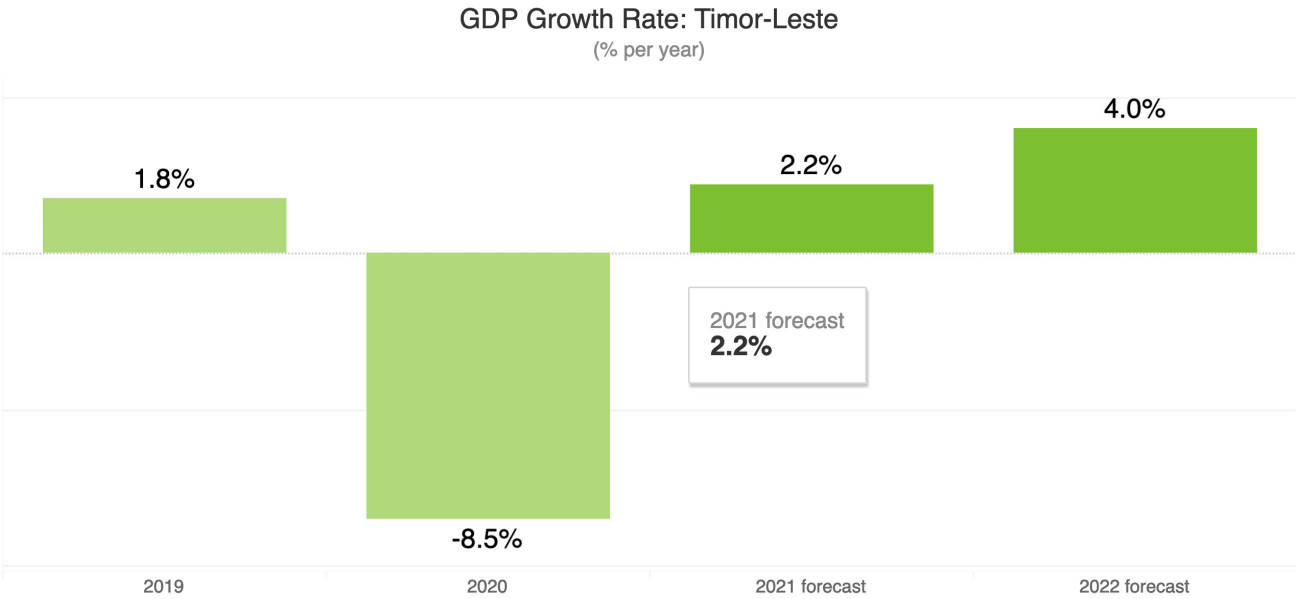


Figure 3: GDP % Change in 2019 and 2020 and the ADB’s Forecasted GDP % Change for 2021 and 2022

at 4% in 2022, up from 2.2% in 2021. Figure 3 depicts the rate of GDP growth in Timor-Leste in 2019 and 2020, and the ADB’s forecasted growth rates for 2021 and 2022.⁶⁶

Timor-Leste is among the most oil-dependent economies in the world. In June 2005, the National Parliament unanimously approved the creation of the Timor-Leste Petroleum Fund (the Fund) to serve as a repository for all petroleum revenues and to preserve the value of Timor-Leste’s petroleum wealth for future generations. In 2016 the Fund held assets of US\$16 billion.⁶⁷ In 2019, the oil and gas sector accounted for 90% of the country’s GDP and 70% of government spending.⁶⁸ Oil and gas production began in 2004 and was predicted to finish in 2021. However, recent explorations show that production can be extended until 2024/2025.⁶⁹

Yet the expansion of the oil and gas sector over the past two decades has done little to create jobs, partly because all production is processed abroad as there are no processing facilities in Timor-Leste. Moreover, the overall contribution of the oil and gas sector to the national economy has declined in recent years both in absolute terms and in relation to other sectors. Notwithstanding, the GoTL expects the oil and gas sector to play a significant role in the country’s economic development and is actively courting investment aimed at expanding production, establishing

processing facilities in the country, and providing the requisite infrastructure to increase exports.⁷⁰

Timor-Leste and Australia are partners in offshore oil and gas production in the Timor Sea. In August 2019, the Treaty Between Australia and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Establishing Their Maritime Boundaries in the Timor Sea (Maritime Boundary Treaty) came into force. The treaty brings oil and gas fields previously shared between the two countries in the Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA) under Timor-Leste’s exclusive jurisdiction.⁷¹

The treaty also defines the arrangement between the two countries for the Greater Sunrise fields, paving the way for its further development. Under the new arrangement, Timor-Leste stands to benefit 70% (and Australia 30%) from upstream revenue in the event the Greater Sunrise fields are developed by means of a pipeline to a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) processing plant in Timor-Leste. Alternatively, the ratio could be 80% to Timor-Leste (and 20% to Australia) if the LNG processing plant is located in Australia. Figure 4 shows the location of the maritime boundary established by the Maritime Boundary Treaty in the Timor Sea.⁷²

Non-oil and gas sectors of have grown about 10% annually since 2006, largely driven by state capital expenditure. The non-oil and gas economy is primarily agrarian, with

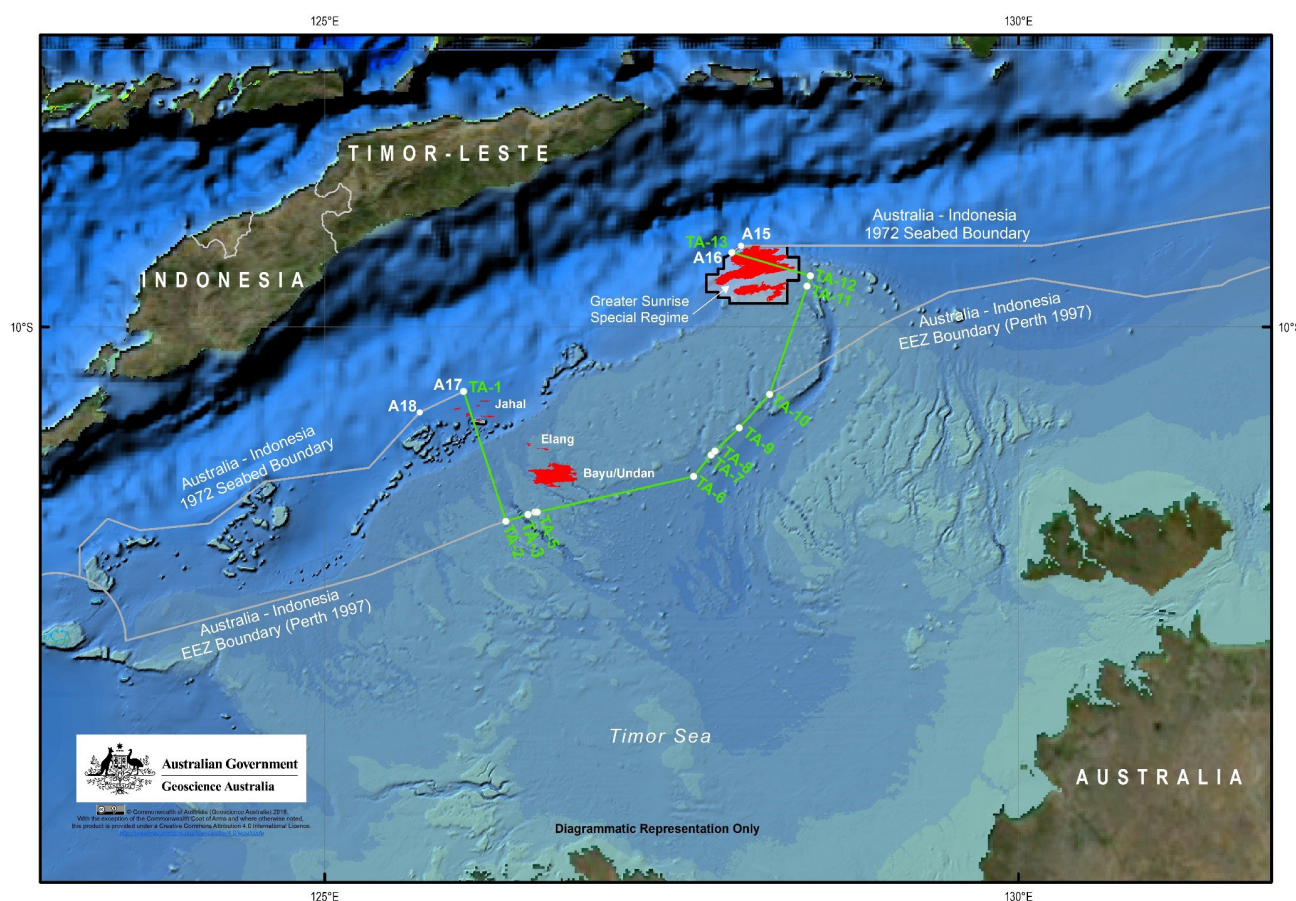


Figure 4: Maritime Boundary under a 2019 Maritime Treaty between Timor-Leste and Australia

approximately 70% of the population reliant on agriculture for their livelihood (although some sources report this figure as 66%).⁷³ Other sectors include construction, which is driven by state infrastructure investment, local commerce, and fisheries.⁷⁴ Commodities exports include coffee, sandalwood, and marble.⁷⁵

Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2011-2030 sets a vision that reflects the aspiration of the Timorese people to create a prosperous and strong nation and forms the foundation for all government actions in the country. The SDP 2011-2030 covers three key areas: 1) social capital, 2) infrastructure development, and 3) economic development. Within these three key areas, the SDP 2011-2030 describes a range of strategies, actions, and goals. Besides oil and gas, the SDP 2011-2030 identified the agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism industries as three strategic and priority sectors to diversify the economy and to reduce, in the medium term, reliance on the petrochemical industry.⁷⁶

Although Timor-Leste has received high levels of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the past, ODA as a share of GNI has declined since its peak of 44.87% in 2000, to 16% in 2006, and to 8.6% in 2019.⁷⁷ The Ministry of Finance holds an annual development partners meeting for the GoTL and development partners to jointly review progress and align future development assistance to national development goals and objectives.⁷⁸

Government

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is a semi-presidential republic. The President is the Head of State and the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. The President has the power to promulgate or veto legislation, dissolve parliament, and call a national election, among other powers. The President is directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in two rounds of elections, if needed, for a five-year term, and is eligible for a second term. The incumbent is

Francisco Guterres (since 20 May 2017); and the next Presidential election is set for 19 March 2022.⁷⁹

The head of the government is the Prime Minister. The President appoints the leader of the majority party or majority coalition in Parliament as the Prime Minister. The incumbent is Taur Matan Ruak (since 22 June 2018). The governing coalition in the Parliament proposes cabinet member candidates to the Prime Minister, who presents these recommendations to the President for swearing in.⁸⁰

Timor-Leste has a unicameral National Parliament with 65 seats, and members are directly elected in a single nationwide constituency by proportional representation vote to serve five-year terms. The last parliamentary election was held on 12 May 2019; the next election is scheduled for July 2023.⁸¹

Timor-Leste has a civil law system with influences from the Portuguese legal tradition, Indonesia, and the legacy of UNTAET and subsequent UN Missions. Currently the country is served by four district courts in Dili, Baucau, Suai, and the Oecusse enclave, as well as the Court of Appeals. The district courts each hear cases from about four surrounding districts/ municipalities (of 13 total). In line with transitional arrangements provided for in the Constitution, the Court of Appeal has assumed the functions of the Supreme Court until such

a time as the Supreme Court is established. The Dili District Court previously included the Special Panel for Serious Crimes, but this body was dissolved on 20 May 2005 with the departure of UNMISSET.⁸²

Timor-Leste’s Constitution envisions several courts that have yet to be established, including the Supreme Court of Justice; the High Administrative, Tax, and Audit Court; and the Military Court. The Constitution also provides for the possible establishment of Maritime Courts and Arbitration Courts.⁸³

At the sub-national level, Timor-Leste is divided into 13 municipalities (also referred to as districts). The populations of the 13 municipalities (based on the 2015 Census) are as follows: Dili (175,730), Ermera (103,169), Baucau (100,748), Bobonaro (83,579), Viqueque (65,449), Oecusse (57,616), Lautem (56,293), Liquica (54,973), Covalima (53,063), Ainaro (52,480), Manufahi (45,081), Aileu (37,967), and Manatuto (38,580).⁸⁴ The 13 municipalities are shown in Figure 5.⁸⁵

The 13 municipalities are further subdivided into 67 sub-districts, with one designated as the capital, and the other administrative subdivisions – *suco* or *suku* (villages) – ranging 2-18 per sub-district. The largest sub-district is Lospalos in Lautem municipality, with an area of 635 square kilometers (sq. km)(245 square miles (sq. mi)), while Nain Feto in Dili is considered to be the



Figure 5: Map of the 13 Municipalities of Timor-Leste

smallest at only 6 sq. km (2.3 sq. mi).⁸⁶

The smallest administrative division in Timor-Leste is the *suco* or *suku* (village), which can comprise one or many *aldeias* (hamlets). Timor-Leste has 498 villages, an average of seven per sub-district. Baucau municipality has more villages (63) than any other municipality, while Ainaro is the municipality with the fewest divisions (21 villages).⁸⁷

Environment

Geography

Legend says that the island of Timor was formed from a crocodile. The country's steep, mountainous topography reflects its young geological history. The island is the result of the collision between the Australian continental plate and the Banda volcanic arc over the last few million years, making Timor-Leste not only one of the youngest nations politically but also geologically.⁸⁸

Timor-Leste is located in Southeast Asia, northwest of Australia in the Lesser Sunda Islands at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago. Timor-Leste includes the eastern half of the island of Timor, the Oecusse enclave on the northwest portion of the island of Timor, and the islands of Atauro and Jaco.⁸⁹

Timor-Leste is geologically different from the other islands of the Lesser Sunda Arc. The country's soils are generally shallow, rocky, alkaline, do not store water well, and are easily eroded. However, some small areas with better alluvial soils exist in the river valleys and the flat land along the coasts.⁹⁰

Most of the country's land area has a slope of 8-25%, and approximately 44% of the country has a slope of greater than 40%. The interior of the country is dominated by a mountain

range, which has several peaks rising to over 2,000 meters (m) (772 feet (ft.)); the highest is Mount Ramelau at 2,986 m (1,153 ft.). On the northern side, the mountains extend almost to the coast, but to the south the mountains taper off some distance from the coast, which provides areas of coastal plain.⁹¹

Timor-Leste has more than 100 rivers, but the longest is only 80 km (31 mi) long, and very few streams flow year-round; only eight river courses have perennial flows.⁹²

Borders

Timor-Leste shares a land border to the West with Indonesia (253 km or 97.6 mi). The country has 706 km (272.5 mi) of coastline, with the Timor Sea to the South, the Savu Sea to the Northwest, and the Banda Sea to the North. Timor-Leste's geographic coordinates are 8 50 S, 125 55 E.⁹³

Climate

Timor-Leste's climate is tropical, hot, and humid. The country has distinct rainy and dry seasons.⁹⁴ There are five generalized ecological zones: marine and coastal zone; arid lowland zone; mountainous zone; highland plains zones; and wetlands and lakes.⁹⁵ Photo 1 is an image of the coast of Baucau, east of the capital of Dili.⁹⁶



Photo 1: Coast of Baucau

DISASTER OVERVIEW

Timor-Leste is exposed to floods, landslides, tropical cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, and epidemics. Floods are the most frequently occurring disaster and have had the most severe impact on lives, livelihoods, and the economy. Offshore earthquakes also occur regularly. Although these quakes may be felt across the country, these events do not usually result in deaths or significant damage.

Climate change is expected to result in more erratic and extreme rainfall and higher temperatures, which will have a significant impact on Timor-Leste's agricultural sector upon which about 70% of the population depends for food and livelihood. Timor-Leste's food production is projected to be among the most affected by changes in rainfall in Southeast Asia.⁹⁷

Timor-Leste's NAP 2021 identifies the following key environment concerns: climate variability causing droughts and floods; land degradation associated with unsustainable agriculture practices and overgrazing; water scarcity especially in the northern part of the country where the dry season is longer; poor water quality and pollution in urban areas; lack of wastewater management and limited sanitation infrastructure in most of the country; deforestation affecting all 13 municipalities; mangrove degradation; and overfishing.⁹⁸

Climate Change

Given the country's location near the equator, the West Pacific Monsoon and a mountainous environment heavily influence Timor-Leste's climate. The country is heavily impacted by the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which can cause variations in the inter-annual quantity of rainfall by up to 50% and affect the timing of peak annual rainfall.⁹⁹

In the country's NAP 2021, the GoTL identified the following major climate-related hazards: floods, erratic and extreme rainfall, landslides, cyclones, coastal erosion, strong winds, excessive heat (heat waves), drought,

forest fires, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and water-borne diseases.¹⁰⁰

According to Timor-Leste's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), one-third of the land in Timor-Leste is at high risk of erosion and approximately one-half of the land is at risk of degradation and fertility decline. Climate projections forecast an increase in rainfall intensity, which will exacerbate soil erosion, landslides, and local flooding.¹⁰¹

The GoTL has identified the following key areas/sectors as vulnerable to climate change: water security, environmental degradation, food security and agriculture, life and safety, human health and well-being, livestock health, coral reef ecosystem health, deep water fishing, and infrastructure.¹⁰² The most vulnerable sectors are agriculture and livestock, and water.¹⁰³

Climate Future

The World Bank's multi-model predictive analysis for Timor-Leste's climate future projects an increase in the frequency of extreme high temperatures under all emissions pathways. Annual mean surface air temperatures in Timor-Leste are projected to increase by approximately 2.9°C (5.22°F) by the 2090s under a high emissions pathway, and by 0.9°C (1.62°F) under a low emissions pathway.¹⁰⁴

Timor-Leste is heavily dependent on its agriculture sector, with 70% of households in the country relying on some form of farming activity for their livelihoods. Climate change is projected to alter rainfall patterns, with Timor-Leste's food production likely to be one of the most affected by changes in rainfall in Southeast Asia. The rising seasonal temperatures, leading to reduced yields, will further impact agriculture production.¹⁰⁵

Timor-Leste's high level of poverty means the country is especially vulnerable to climate change, particularly in the area of food security.

Approximately 42% of its population were classified as living below the national poverty line in 2014, a result of low productivity and limited employment opportunities.¹⁰⁶

Timor-Leste's NAP 2021 identifies how

climate change is anticipated to impact the achievement of development goals under the SDP 2011-2030. How climate change will impact the achievement of sector-specific goals under the SDP 2011-2020 is summarized in Table 1.¹⁰⁷

Key Area	SDP 2011-2030 Goal	Indicative Climate Impact
Social Capital: Health	By 2030, Timor-Leste aims to have a healthier population as a result of comprehensive high quality health services accessible to all Timorese people. In turn, this will have reduced poverty, raised income levels, and improved national productivity.	Increasing temperature will increase heat-related illness and mortality and could lead to the spread of vector-borne diseases. Increased disaster frequency and intensity have a range of implications for health. Climate impacts on agricultural productivity will indirectly impact health by threatening food security.
Social Capital: Social Inclusion	By 2030, Timor-Leste aims to be a strong, cohesive, and progressive nation where the rights of its most vulnerable citizens are protected.	Climate change impacts fall disproportionately on already vulnerable and marginalized groups in society, further exacerbating social imbalances and inequities.
Social Capital: Environment	By 2030, Timor-Leste aims to restore the strong bond between its people and the environment. Timor-Leste's natural resources and environment will be managed sustainably for the benefit of all.	Changes in climatic conditions may adversely impact biodiversity and ecosystem resources by aiding the spread of invasive species, reducing critical habitats, and reducing the provision of ecosystem services. Pressures from changing climate conditions will make existing human pressures on the natural environment worse.
Infrastructure Development: Roads and Bridges	An extensive network of quality and well-maintained roads will connect communities, promote rural development, industry, and tourism, and provide access to markets.	Long-term increases in temperature and rising sea levels threaten to erode the expected benefit stream of infrastructure investments and increase operations and maintenance costs; an increase in frequency and intensity of weather-related extreme events will contribute to more infrastructure failures.
Infrastructure Development: Water and Sanitation	By 2030, all citizens in Timor-Leste will have access to clean water and improved sanitation.	Changes in rainfall patterns and longer dry periods will affect both surface and groundwater resources; coastal aquifers will be susceptible to salt-water intrusion from rising sea levels. Increased flooding is likely to have adverse impacts on sanitation and hygiene.
Infrastructure Development: Seaports	New seaports are a national priority to support Timor-Leste's growing economy and to meet future industry and freight demands.	Sea level rise may impact port infrastructure investments if not incorporated into design processes.
Infrastructure Development: Airports	To meet the future demand for air traffic and boost key industry sectors, Timor-Leste will expand its international airport and build a network of district airports.	Weather and climate hazards in the future (e.g., increased flooding, sea level rise) may impact airport investments if not incorporated into siting and building processes.
Economic Development: Rural Development	The creation of local jobs is the best way to improve the lives and livelihoods of people living in rural areas.	Long-term changes in temperature and precipitation regimes, as well as increased extreme hydrometeorological disasters, may adversely impact investments in agriculture and rural infrastructure, thereby negatively impacting job creation and livelihood improvements.

Table 1: Summary of Climate Change Impacts on Sector-Specific Development Goals

Key Area	SDP 2011-2030 Goal	Indicative Climate Impact
Economic Development: Agriculture	A thriving agriculture sector is needed to reduce poverty, provide food security, and promote economic growth in rural areas and the nation as a whole.	Long-term changes in temperature and precipitation regimes, as well as increased extreme hydrometeorological disasters may adversely impact investments in agriculture and rural infrastructure, thereby negatively impacting job creation and livelihood improvements. In addition, productive agricultural lands near the coast will be increasingly susceptible to salt-water intrusion, affecting productivity.
Economic Development: Tourism	With much to offer international visitors, Timor-Leste will position itself to provide a range of tourism experiences that take advantage of its natural beauty, culture, and heritage.	Medium- and long-term changes in the physical environment driven by changing climate conditions may negatively impact nature-based tourism resources (e.g., coral reefs, biodiversity).

Table 1: Summary of Climate Change Impacts on Sector-Specific Development Goals (cont.)

Climate Response

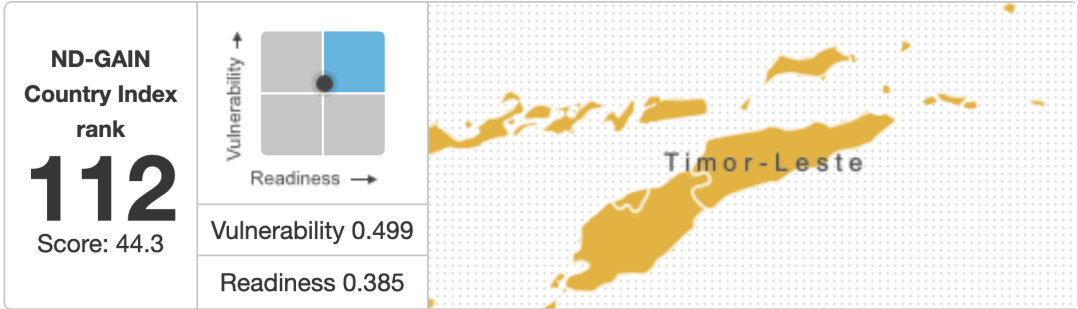
Timor-Leste ranks 112 out of 181 countries on the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Index based on a score of 44.3 out of 100 (where 1 is more vulnerable and 100 less vulnerable). The ND-GAIN Index ranks 181 countries using a score which calculates a country’s vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges, as well as readiness to improve resilience. The more vulnerable a country is, the lower its score, while the more ready a country is to improve its resilience the higher the score will be.¹⁰⁸ Figure 6 shows a

summary of Timor-Leste’s 2020 ND-GAIN Index rank and score including the country’s rankings since 1995.¹⁰⁹

Since independence in 2002, Timor-Leste has made a number of important commitments, including ratifying the UNFCCC (2006), Kyoto Protocol (2008), Paris Agreement (2016), Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCCD), UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), and Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Protocol.¹¹⁰

Timor-Leste

GDP (PPP) per capita (2019): 3,709.81 Int. Dollar Population (2019): 1,293,119 HDI (2019): 0.61



The high vulnerability score and high readiness score of Timor-Leste places it in the upper-right quadrant of the ND-GAIN Matrix. It is on the road to responding effectively to climate change, but the adaptation needs and urgency to act are greater. Timor-Leste is the 52nd most vulnerable country and the 89th least ready country.

ND-GAIN Ranking since 1995

Year	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Ranking	97	98	97	97	101	101	102	104	100	106	140	146	144	141	136	125	118	118	116	112	106	111	113	113	112

Figure 6: Timor-Leste ND-GAIN Score and Rank in 2020 and from 1995 to 2019

In 2016, Timor-Leste submitted its NDC to the UNFCCC and in 2021 the GoTL prepared the country's first NAP. The NAP 2021 serves as the national policy instrument for coordinating and driving actions of all actors and stakeholders in pursuit of adaptation goals and outcomes.¹¹¹ Formulating and submitting the NAP to the UNFCCC represented a key milestone for Timor-Leste and validates the country's plans to adapt critical sectors to climate change impact. Timor-Leste was one of the first of the LDCs to submit a NAP before the 26th United Nations Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP26) held in Glasgow, Scotland, in 2021.¹¹²

At the policy level, Timor-Leste is in the final stages of preparing a National Climate Change Policy. This policy will define objectives and a vision for addressing climate change and will provide the necessary mandate for the NAP.¹¹³ The policy will support the integration of several issues into *Tarabandu* (traditional customary rules) including: water conservation, water use management, and climate risk reduction.

At the programming level, several priority projects and programs have been identified from the Green Climate Fund Program, including the following efforts:¹¹⁴

- Strengthening the capacity of national and local institutions and communities in managing climate risks (floods, drought, landslides);
- Addressing the needs of vulnerable communities and groups;
- Using ecosystem-based DRR in coastal areas and coral reefs;
- Improving water resources management under climate change;
- Promoting sustainable land management under climate change;
- Improving public health services to deal with climate related public health issues;
- Building climate-resilient livelihoods.¹¹⁵

As one of the 46 LDCs, who are the most impacted by climate change despite contributing the least to it, Timor-Leste's Green House Gas emissions are among the smallest in the world

contributing only 0.003% of the total global emissions.¹¹⁶ Timor-Leste supports the LDCs' call for developed nations to increase ambitious global action in mitigation, adaptation, and climate finance.^{117, 118}

Hazards

The most frequently occurring hazards in Timor-Leste include floods, epidemics, droughts, storms, and earthquakes as shown in Figure 7.¹¹⁹

Average Annual Natural Hazard Occurrence for 1980-2020

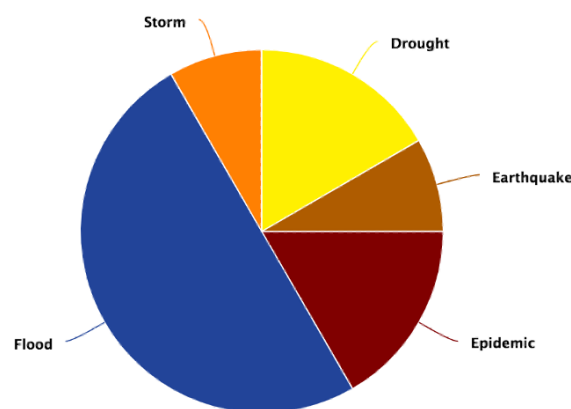


Figure 7: Natural Disaster Occurrence (1980-2020)

Flooding and Landslides

Timor-Leste is exposed to river, coastal, and flash (surface) floods, with more severe flooding events occurring in recent years. The country is vulnerable to flash floods during heavy rainfall, brought by La Niña, such as the flooding events of 2010 and 2011. Landslide risks are heightened during heavy rainfall, due to the poor quality of the country's soils, which are shallow, rocky, alkaline, store little water, and are easily eroded. Upland farming practices and clearing of vegetation also contribute to soil erosion.¹²⁰

Although the INFORM Global Risk Index rates Timor-Leste's flooding risk as low, at a score of 1.7 out of 10 (with 1 being least risk and 10 being highest risk), the World Bank's data of natural disaster occurrence in Timor-Leste from 1980 to 2020 show that floods account for 50% of all disaster events.¹²¹ All of Timor-Leste's 13 municipalities are flood-prone and were affected by severe flash flooding in April 2021 (as shown in Photo 2 of a flooded Dili).¹²² The floods caused



Photo 2: Damage Caused by Flooding in the Capital of Dili in April 2021

by heavy rainfall from Tropical Cyclone (TC) Seroja affected an estimated 31,029 households across all municipalities, as well as 2,163 hectares (ha) of agricultural land. It resulted in the evacuation of an estimated 15,876 people (at the peak). and 41 deaths (including 14 missing presumed dead).¹²³

Drought

Timor-Leste experiences two types of droughts, meteorological (associated with a precipitation deficit) and hydrological (associated with a deficit in surface and subsurface water flow, potentially originating in the region's wider river basins). There are few documented drought events from before Timor-Leste's independence in 2002, but anecdotal evidence suggests that droughts occurred frequently.¹²⁴ Drought from delayed, intermittent, or absent rain occurred in 2015 and 2016 and seriously affected agricultural yields due to the failure, deterioration, and delay of crops.¹²⁵

The GoTL has identified water security as a key area of focus under its NAP 2021.¹²⁶ Both urban and rural coastal areas are dependent on groundwater, and groundwater accounts for more than 60% of the annual water supply

for agriculture, industry, and domestic use even in Dili. Although, water resources have potential for development, the country faces several challenges in this area, including steep topography of catchment areas, variable sediment run-off following flash flood events, and the wet-dry tropical monsoon climate. A combination of high variability and poor management makes Timor-Leste's water resources highly vulnerable to scarcity, increasing the risk of drought.¹²⁷

Epidemics

Timor-Leste has high exposure to epidemics.¹²⁸ Trans-boundary hazards are also a significant epidemic threat. The country is within a major migratory bird pathway between Australia and Asia and is exposed to possible transmission of animal to human disease with pandemic potential, notably the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1).¹²⁹

In 2022, Timor-Leste, like the rest of the world, is battling COVID-19. Despite the country's early success in containing the virus, in 2021 COVID-19 spread quickly, mostly due to low rates of vaccination and exacerbated by widespread displacement during the April 2021 flood.¹³⁰ Timor-Leste began its vaccination

campaign in April 2021. As of 7 January 2022, the country had confirmed 19,856 cases of the disease, recorded 122 deaths, and administered over 1 million vaccine doses to a population of around 1.3 million people, with 49.5% of the population receiving at least one dose.^{131, 132}

Prior to the arrival of COVID-19 in the country, Timor-Leste was battling an epidemic of African swine fever (ASF) affecting livestock. The epidemic had a significant economic impact as most households in Timor-Leste own at least one pig, with large animals valued at US\$1,000. As such, pigs in Timor-Leste are tied to social status, particularly for women. Pigs provide a cash reserve to pay for healthcare, education, food, or other out-of-pocket costs. The spread of ASF in Timor-Leste was exacerbated by the practice of allowing animals to roam freely and scavenge for food scraps, as well as the practice of feeding them with swill (food scraps that contain animal material or have been in contact with animal materials).¹³³

The country has been assessed not to be ready for the next epidemic, with gaps in preparedness, International Health Regulation (IHR) coordination, communication and advocacy, zoonotic disease control, a national laboratory system, and workforce development. Notwithstanding, Timor-Leste has shown progress in immunization and real time surveillance.¹³⁴

Tropical Cyclones and Storms

Due to Timor-Leste's proximity to the equator, the country experiences relatively low intensity and few cyclones. The World Bank and ADB's 2021 Climate Change Profile of Timor-Leste predicts a decrease in the frequency of tropical cyclones by 2100, although tropical cyclones when they do occur are forecasted to be more intense, particularly in terms of higher wind speed.¹³⁵ In April 2021, TC Seroja caused severe flooding and landslides, which affected all municipalities across the country as discussed earlier.¹³⁶

Earthquakes

Timor-Leste's earthquake exposure is high.¹³⁷ Timor-Leste is located near one of the most active tectonic plate boundaries in the world, the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, which refers to a region where many volcanic eruptions and earthquakes occur.^{138, 139} According to the World Bank's analysis, earthquakes made up 8.33% of natural hazards that occurred in Timor-Leste between 1980 and 2020.¹⁴⁰ As recently as 16 December 2021, the country was impacted by a 5.7-magnitude offshore earthquake, which had an epicenter 245 km (152 mi) from the country's northeastern municipality of Lospalos.¹⁴¹ Communities across the country felt the impact with slight damage caused to poorly constructed buildings. Figure 8 depicts a Shake Map published by the World Food Programme (WFP) highlighting the impact of the 16 December 2021 event.¹⁴²

Tsunami

Although rare, Timor-Leste has moderate exposure to tsunami based on a 10% chance of a tsunami occurring in the next 50 years.¹⁴³ The country is located in a region vulnerable to tsunami. According to the UNDP, in the last 50 years there have been 37 deadly tsunamis globally, approximately one in every one-and-one-half years, with most taking place in the Asia-Pacific region. UNDP is partnering with Tohoku University in Japan and the International Tsunami Information Centre (ITIC), with funding from the Government of Japan, to conduct tsunami drills across the region, including in Timor-Leste. In 2018, UNDP's tsunami drills were conducted in five primary schools situated at less than 500 m (1,640 ft.) above sea level across the country.¹⁴⁴ Furthermore, Mercy Corps and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are both partnering with the Institution of Petroleum and Geology (IPG) to strengthen tsunami early warning systems by improving their predictive analytic capacity given their current seismic monitoring.¹⁴⁵

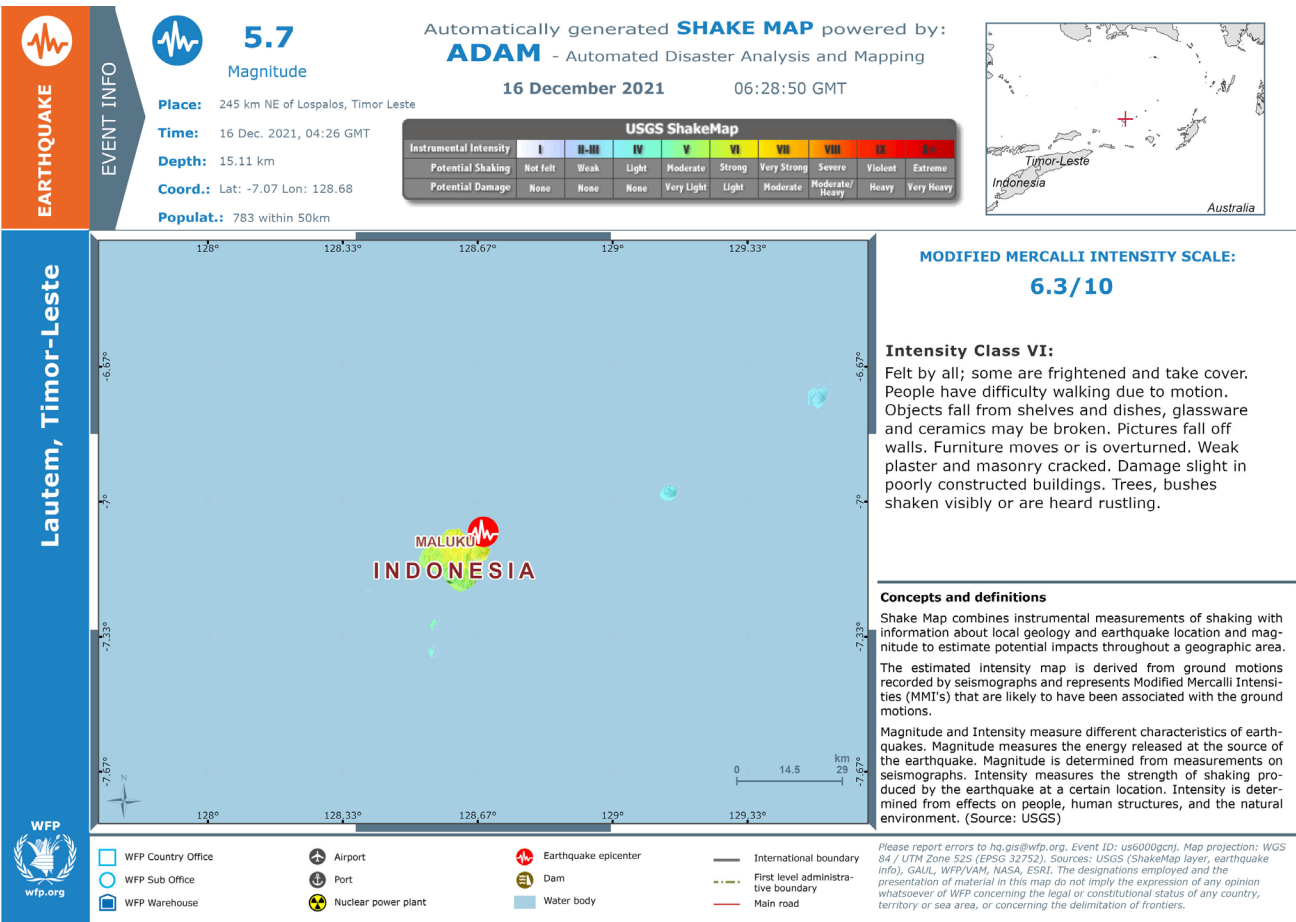


Figure 8: Shake Map of Earthquake on 16 December 2021

History of Natural Disasters

The following is a list of natural disasters in Timor-Leste in the last ten years.

December 2021 – Earthquake

An offshore earthquake of magnitude 5.7 shook Timor-Leste on 16 December 2021. The epicenter of the earthquake was 245 km (152 mi) from the country's northeastern municipality of Lospalos.¹⁴⁶ The intensity of the earthquake reached 6.3 out of 10 (VI out of X) intensity class on the Modified Mercalli (MM) Intensity Scale (with 1 being not felt except by a very few under especially favorable conditions and 10 being extreme with some well-built wooden structures destroyed).^{147, 148} This event was followed on 29 December by an offshore earthquake of magnitude 7.3 with an epicenter 125 km (78 mi)

from Lospalos. The estimated intensity of the second quake was VI to VII on the MM Scale.¹⁴⁹

October 2021 – Earthquake

An offshore earthquake of magnitude 5.5 occurred 95 km (59 mi) north of Dili on 30 October 2021. The intensity of the earthquake reached 4.5 out of 10 or VI Intensity Class on the MM Intensity Scale and was felt throughout the country.

April 2021 – Floods

In April 2021, Timor-Leste experienced major flooding, which resulted in a state of calamity being declared by the GoTL in Dili on 8 April 2021 and a request from the GoTL for international assistance. The state of calamity remained in place until 4 August 2021.¹⁵⁰

Leading up to the event, weather disturbances surrounding the Sawu Sea from 29 March to

early April resulted in the formation of Tropical Depression (TD) 99S on 2 April; the TD strengthened on 5 April to form Tropical Cyclone (TC) Seroja. TC Seroja first impacted Indonesia as a tropical storm with wind speeds up to 65-85 km per hour (40-53 mi per hour) and attained peak intensity when it reached Australia, with wind speeds up to 120-130 km per hour (75-81 mi per hour) on 10 April.¹⁵¹

While TC Seroja did not make landfall in Timor-Leste, it brought torrential rains and caused significant damage through secondary hazards in the form of flash floods, landslides, and liquefaction.¹⁵² All 13 municipalities were affected, with Dili and low-lying Viqueque and Covalima the worst affected. According to the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) in their post-disaster assessment report, these areas experienced a precipitation rate of “more than 400% of their normal average rainfall.”¹⁵³ On 4 April, these areas received 24 hours of rainfall with an average intensity of over 14 millimeters (mm) (0.5 inches (in)) per hour and a peak intensity of over 70 mm (2.8 in) per hour.¹⁵⁴

The government-led response included

setting up 30 evacuation centers (housing a total of 15,876 at the peak). Humanitarian partners provided assistance worth nearly US\$27.3 million.¹⁵⁵ Health, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) concerns were raised when two children died of suspected diarrhea and acute respiratory infection in the flood affected communities of Masilidun in Tasi Tolu on 27 and 28 April.¹⁵⁶ An estimated total of 31,029 households (with 82% in Dili) were affected with 48 fatalities (including 14 missing persons) and 2,163 ha of agricultural land destroyed.^{157, 158} Total damage caused by the disaster was estimated at over US\$ 307. 7 million.¹⁵⁹ Damage was inflicted on houses, roads, and infrastructure as shown in a video produced by TAF in Timor-Leste, captured in Figure 9.¹⁶⁰

March 2020 – Floods

Floods and mudslides triggered by heavy rain were reported on the north coast of Timor-Leste, affecting more than 9,000 people. According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), seven people were injured and at least 190 houses were destroyed by floodwaters and mud. The worst affected areas



Figure 9: Flash Floods Caused by TC Seroja in April 2021

were Cristo Rei, Nain Feto, Dom Aleixo, Vera Cruz, and Hera districts in Dili.¹⁶¹

May 2019 – Floods

Flooding due to Cyclone Lili was reported on 11 May 2019 near Baucau and Lospalos. Several homes were damaged, resulting in some residents having to evacuate their homes. Infrastructure was also affected, but no fatalities were reported.¹⁶²

April 2019 – Earthquake

A magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck 196.34 km (122 mi) north-northwest of Dili at 21:55 on 6 April 2019. The U.S. Geological Survey reported the earthquake and assigned it an alert level of green, indicating zero fatalities and less than US\$1 million in losses.¹⁶³

2015-2017 – Drought

Timor-Leste suffered from severe drought during 2015-2017 due to an El Niño event that prevailed during that period. The rainy seasons during that timeframe did not provide sufficient water to recover the land causing crop failure and livestock reduction, which threatened food security. Agriculture is one of the main industries in the country, and citizens are particularly vulnerable to food losses. The Prime Minister's declaration of emergency in May 2016 was followed by a revised emergency appeal in September 2016 requesting around US\$776,492 to support Timor-Leste's Red Cross Society (*Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste* – CVTL) in delivering humanitarian assistance to 27,500 people; national and international partners responded.¹⁶⁴

November 2015 – Earthquake

On 4 November 2015 a magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck Dili causing minor damage and no reported casualties. Some buildings were damaged and telephone lines were temporarily affected. Aftershocks measuring 5.7 and 4.9 in magnitudes followed but caused no additional damages.¹⁶⁵

July 2013 – Floods

Excessive rainfall in June 2013 resulted in severe flooding in four districts including Viqueque, Bacau, Same, and Soi. It was reported that 2,572 families (totaling approximately 20,624 people) were affected. No human casualties were reported. The GoTL coordinated the response to the affected population and 1,700 families were returned to their homes after living in temporary shelters during the event. Flood waters contaminated 125 wells, and schools were closed for several days until confirmation that the buildings sustained no damage. Among the responding organizations, the National Disaster Risk Management Directorate (then under the Ministry of Social Solidarity) provided essential support including food and clothing; the Ministry of Health and district health offices provided medical support and organized awareness in affected areas to prevent diarrhea; and UNICEF provided 410,000 water purification tablets and 840 family hygiene kits to affected families. Additionally, 1,280 jerry cans and 1,240 bars of soap were provided to the district of Soi. CVTL and Oxfam responded by providing family kits including tents, tarpaulins, cooking pots and pans, blankets and hygiene kits, soap, rice, and disinfectant. Oxfam also assisted with cleaning the well in the Soi district.¹⁶⁶

Country Risks

Country Risk Profile

Risk calculation takes into account exposure to hazards, vulnerability, and institutional coping capacity, all of which are important factors in DRM. The Index for Risk Management (INFORM) Global Risk Index (GRI) measures the risk of humanitarian crisis and disasters in 191 countries. The INFORM GRI supports a proactive crisis management framework. INFORM GRI is helpful for establishing an objective allocation of resources for disaster management as well as for coordinating actions focused on anticipating, mitigating, and preparing for humanitarian emergencies.

The INFORM GRI model is based on risk concepts published in scientific literature with three dimensions of risk: Hazards & Exposure, Vulnerability, and Lack of Coping Capacity. The first dimension measures the natural and human hazards that pose the risk. The second and third dimensions cover population factors that can mitigate against or exacerbate the risk. The vulnerability dimension considers the strength of individuals and households relative to a crisis while the lack of coping capacity dimension considers factors of institutional strength.¹⁶⁷

The INFORM GRI model is split into different levels to provide a quick overview of the underlying factors leading to humanitarian risk. INFORM gives each country a risk score of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 the highest) for each of the dimensions, categories, and components of risk, as well as an overall risk score.¹⁶⁸ The higher the score the more at risk a country is to disasters.

In the 2022 INFORM Global Risk Index, Timor-Leste had an overall risk of 4.3/10, which INFORM categorizes as the “Medium” risk class. The Hazards and Exposure dimension score takes into account a combination of both natural and human hazards, and Timor-Leste rated 2.7/10. The Vulnerability dimension score was 5.1/10, and the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension score was 5.9/10. Physical exposure to epidemic 6.4/10, was the highest risk in the Hazards & Exposure dimension, with development and deprivation measuring at a 7.5/10 risk for the vulnerability dimension. Governance was rated 6.4/10 in the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension.¹⁶⁹ Figure 10 depicts the INFORM Risk scores for Timor-Leste, comprising ratings for hazards and exposure, vulnerability, and lack of coping capacity.¹⁷⁰

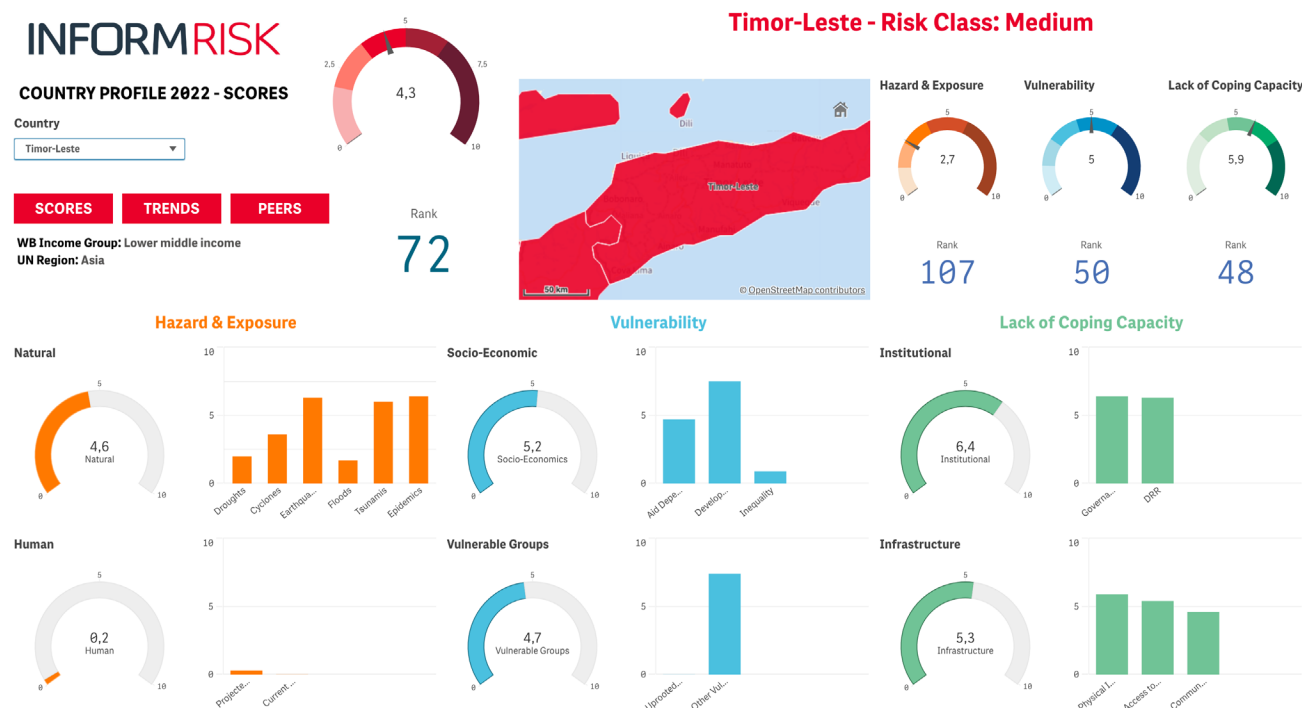


Figure 10: Timor-Leste 2022 INFORM Risk Profile

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Timor-Leste's disaster management structure falls within the country's civil protection framework. Civil Protection is a component of the Integrated National Security System (*Sistema Integrado de Segurança Nacional* – SISN), alongside National Defence and Internal Security, and was first defined under the 2010 National Security Law.¹⁷¹ The law establishes the Integrated Crisis Management Center (*Centro Integrado de Gestão de Crises* - CIGC) to act as the specialist advisory body for the technical and operational coordination of the activities of the entities that make up the SISN, including responding to public calamity, natural catastrophes or disasters, and serious disturbances of law and order.¹⁷² The CIGC is directly under the power of the Prime Minister, who may delegate some of its powers.¹⁷³

In 2019, the GoTL passed Government Resolution 3/2019 to create the Inter-ministerial Council for Civil Protection and Natural Disaster Management (*Conselho Interministerial de Proteção Civil e Gestão de Desastres Naturais* - CIGD). The CIGD was created as a “national coordination body for the prevention of the risks inherent to major accidents or disasters, in order to mitigate its effects, protect and rescue people and property in danger when these situations occur.”¹⁷⁴

In the same year, operational responsibility for disaster response, which until then had been held jointly by the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) and the Ministry of Interior (MoI), was transferred fully to the MoI's Secretary of State for Civil Protection (*Secretário de Estado da Proteção Civil* - SEPC) also commonly referred to as Civil Protection, and herein Civil Protection/SEPC.¹⁷⁵ MSSI retained a mandate for disaster response with regards to vulnerable populations.¹⁷⁶ However, despite the transfer of responsibility from MSSI to Civil Protection/SEPC, the legal framework

was not clear or complete with regards to Civil Protection/SEPC's responsibilities in DRM and disaster response vis-à-vis other ministries/agencies. Namely, the ambiguity lies in the potentially overlapping mandate between Civil Protection/SEPC and the Ministry of State Administration (State Administration) with regards to sub-national disaster response. State Administration has a mandate to coordinate DRM and disaster response at the municipal and local administrative-level. This mandate was reiterated under the Local Power and Decentralization Administrative law (Parliamentary Law No. 23/2021) passed on 10 November 2021.

In December 2020, Timor-Leste enacted a stand-alone Civil Protection Law (Parliamentary Law No. 12/2020)¹⁷⁷, which was developed under the leadership of the Acting Minister of Interior and the Secretary of State for Civil Protection. According to the Council of Ministers (i.e. Cabinet), the new law sets out “the fundamental principles of civil protection, defines and organizes the bases of civil protection in Timor-Leste, highlights the CPA as an authority that will shape the entire civil protection system and defines the structure of the National Civil Protection System at regional and municipal level”.¹⁷⁸ The law envisions the establishment of an Integrated Protection and Relief Operations System (*Sistema Integrado de Operações de Proteção e Socorro* - SIOPS) to ensure a single operational command for all civil protection agents and entities.¹⁷⁹ Passage of the law is expected to initiate the development of an updated DRM framework for Timor-Leste.¹⁸⁰ While the Civil Protection Law 2020 provides detail of the new roles and responsibilities of the CPA, subordinate laws are required to enable implementation.¹⁸¹

In April 2021, Timor-Leste faced a disaster when TC Seroja caused flash floods on 4 April

that affected all 13 of the country's municipalities with Dili worst affected. Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak declared a state of calamity on 8 April and requested international assistance in response efforts. To support response efforts, the GoTL allocated approximately US\$41.4 million from the 2021 General State Budget and received around US\$27.3 million in humanitarian funding support from international partners, including donors, UN agencies, the humanitarian community, and the private sector.¹⁸²

The Prime Minister led a whole-of-government response through the mechanism of the CIGD (not the CIGC which was then, and still is now, focused on the country's COVID-19 response). Civil Protection/SEPC was designated by the Prime Minister as the operational lead and conducted the daily operational coordination meetings with responders and partners.¹⁸³ Photo 3 shows an emergency response coordination meeting held by Civil Protection/SEPC's Directorate of Disaster Risk Management (DNGRD) with development partners and line



Photo 3: DNGRD/SEPC Hold Emergency Coordination Meeting During April 2021 Floods

ministries on 4 April 2021.¹⁸⁴

State Administration led a Task Force for Civil Protection and Natural Disaster Management and was the lead agency for data collection.¹⁸⁵ State Administration carried out its assessment utilizing local governance structures such as villages and sub-village heads.¹⁸⁶ Coordination difficulties led to a delay in the assessment and challenges in obtaining reliable data for response

planning.¹⁸⁷ The first Emergency Development Partners Meeting on 13 April was organized by the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Civil Protection/SEPC, State Administration, MSSI, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Public Works, and the Ministry of Agriculture played a role in sector response efforts.¹⁸⁸

Experts have highlighted that overall disaster preparedness and readiness presents a significant challenge for Timor-Leste.¹⁸⁹ In the joint UN-NGO AAR the Director General of Civil Protection/SEPC acknowledged that the floods were a significant event for a small country like Timor-Leste to manage. The Director also acknowledged gaps in the early warning system, which could have saved lives if they were more adequate. He further identified the need to improve Civil Protection/SEPC information management system to support disaster response communication and coordination.¹⁹⁰

At the request of the Vice Prime Minister, the GoTL, UN and the World Bank jointly prepared the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) of the April 2021 floods. Total damage and losses due to the April floods are estimated to be approximately US\$ 307.7 million. Recovery needs across 12 sectors are estimated to be approximately US\$ 530 million, pointing to the need to build back better, including utilizing climate-resilient solutions, technologies and know-how.¹⁹¹ The maximum damage and loss has been in the infrastructure sectors (58%), followed by social sectors (27%), productive sectors (9%) and cross-cutting sectors (5%). Transport (infrastructure) and housing (social) have been the most affected sectors.¹⁹²

Further, and also at the request of the GoTL, the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) assessed damages caused by the April 2021 floods as well as the longer-term implications for DRM and published a report in December 2021. The report found that before the development of the Civil Protection Law 2020, DRM activities in Timor-Leste had been mainly associated with emergency response and implemented

on an ad-hoc basis.¹⁹³ The SDP 2011-2030, the blueprint for development for Timor-Leste, does not include mainstreaming DRM as one of its development priorities, and the National DRM Policy issued in 2008 is in the process of being updated and does not have a statutory underpinning.¹⁹⁴ The report also notes, “there is currently a legislative gap for comprehensive DRM planning and policy, early warning services, and post-disaster recovery coordination. There remains a need to develop an institutional framework for DRM that outlines the responsibilities and procedures across sectors and levels beyond the roles described in the Civil Protection Law 2020, which is mainly focused on defense and national security.”¹⁹⁵

In December 2021, Timor-Leste took a step forwards towards addressing the legislative and structural gap in its disaster management framework. On 15 December 2021, the Council of Ministers approved additional legislation to establish the CPA, through the Organic Structure Decree-Law. Although approved by the Council of Ministers, the law has not been promulgated by the President and is not yet in effect. When the law comes into effect, it will establish the CPA as the national lead agency to regulate all civil protection activities. The CPA will carry out the operational, administrative-logistic, and financial management of the entire civil protection system. The CPA will be headed by a President (equivalent to Director-General), who will act as the focal point for liaison at the political level.¹⁹⁶ Once passed, the law will enable implementation of the Civil Protection Law 2020. However, experts have warned that the decree-law is ambitious in terms of setting a structure for civil protection for the future. It is not a structure that currently exists nor can be readily implemented and funded in the near term.¹⁹⁷

Lead Government Agencies in Disaster Response

This section discusses the existing government agencies with disaster-related responsibilities and

the new structures set out in the Civil Protection Law 2020 and Organic Structure Decree-Law (pending promulgation).

Integrated Crisis Management Centre (CIGC)

The CIGC was established as a specialized arm of the government under the supervision of the Prime Minister pursuant to the National Security Law 2010. The CIGC was established to coordinate strategic development for prevention, mitigation, and resolution of threats, conflicts, catastrophes, and calamities. Its mission is to coordinate, provide advice to, and to consult with technical and operational directorates for activities conducted by entities involved in the SISN.¹⁹⁸

The CIGC, among other responsibilities, holds the following powers related to natural disasters:

- To study and to submit proposals on inter-ministerial coordination arrangements to ensure internal security and to address natural disasters or public calamities;
- The CIGC Director has powers to ensure adequate coordination between the security forces and services and the National Directorate for DRM to address natural disasters or public calamities.¹⁹⁹

In February 2021 by Order of the Prime Minister the GoTL activated the CIGC as the Situation Room to respond to the rising severity of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The Situation Room is located in the Dili Convention Center and has three territorial units in Oecusse, Bobonaro, and Covalima. The territorial units are responsible for implementing the activities of the Situation Room at the municipal-level. The Operational Commander of the Situation Room is the Prime Minister, who is responsible for the direction of all the operations developed, for coordinating the units, and for linking the Situation Room with the Council of Ministers, and the individual bodies of the GoTL.²⁰⁰

Inter-ministerial Council for Civil Protection and Natural Disaster Management (CIGD)

In 2019, the GoTL established the CIGD as the national coordinating body responsible for the prevention and mitigation of disaster risks and the protection and rescue of people and property when accidents or disasters occur. The CIGD is responsible for the development and approval of the National Civil Protection Policy, as well as the development of legal diplomas and administrative regulations necessary for its work.²⁰¹

The CIGD is composed of the Vice-Prime Minister (National Coordinator) and representatives of MSSI, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, and ministries responsible for Infrastructure; Commerce, Industry, and Tourism; Economy and Development; Agriculture and Fisheries; and State Public Works. It also incorporates other government representatives including the Commanders of Timor-Leste's Defence Force, F-FDTL; the Police, Polísia Nasionál Timór Lorosa'e or Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL); CVTL; representatives of civil society; and the UN.²⁰² Recently, in response to the April 2021 floods, the Prime Minister used the mechanism of the CIGD to coordinate inter-ministerial response efforts with meetings held at the Government Palace.²⁰³

Secretary of State for Civil Protection under MoI (Civil Protection/SEPC)

Since 2019, Civil Protection/SEPC under the MoI has been the notional lead national agency for disaster management. Although international partners generally view Civil Protection/SEPC as the lead agency for disaster management, this perception is not universally shared by other government ministries/agencies. In practice, Civil Protection/SEPC has shared operational responsibilities for disaster response with other ministries/agencies.

For example, in the aftermath of the April 2021 floods there was uncertainty about the role of Civil Protection/SEPC and State

Administration at the sub-national level.

As discussed earlier, Civil Protection/SEPC was designated by the Prime Minister as “an operational center for [the] collection of humanitarian support” and performed the role of central focal point for coordinating the various partners and designating key areas for support.²⁰⁴ State Administration led a Task Force for Civil Protection and Natural Disaster Management and was the lead agency for data collection and the preparation of the multi-sector assessment and household assessment.²⁰⁵

Civil Protection/SEPC disaster management responsibilities are outlined in the Organic Law for the MoI and MoI Ministerial Diploma 28/2021. The MoI Organic Law is broad, and the Diploma goes into more detail.²⁰⁶ Figure 11 depicts the organizational structure of the MoI and Figure 12 depicts the organizational structure of the SEPC.²⁰⁷

Advisory Board of the MoI members include:

- Secretary of State for Civil Protection;
- Commander, PNTL;
- Director-General, Migration;
- Inspector-General, Inspection and Audit Office;
- Any other Director-Generals;
- Director, Advisory Office.²⁰⁸

Internal Security Advisory Board members include:

- Secretary of State for Civil Protection;
- Commander, PNTL;
- Director-General Migration;
- Director-General Administration and Finance.²⁰⁹

The SEPC's overall responsibilities include:

- Design, plan, coordinate, and execute public policy of civil protection;
- Prevention of and reaction to accidents and disasters;
- Provide relief to affected populations.²¹⁰

The main directorates under the SEPC include:

- Directorate of Bombeiros (fire fighters) (DNB);

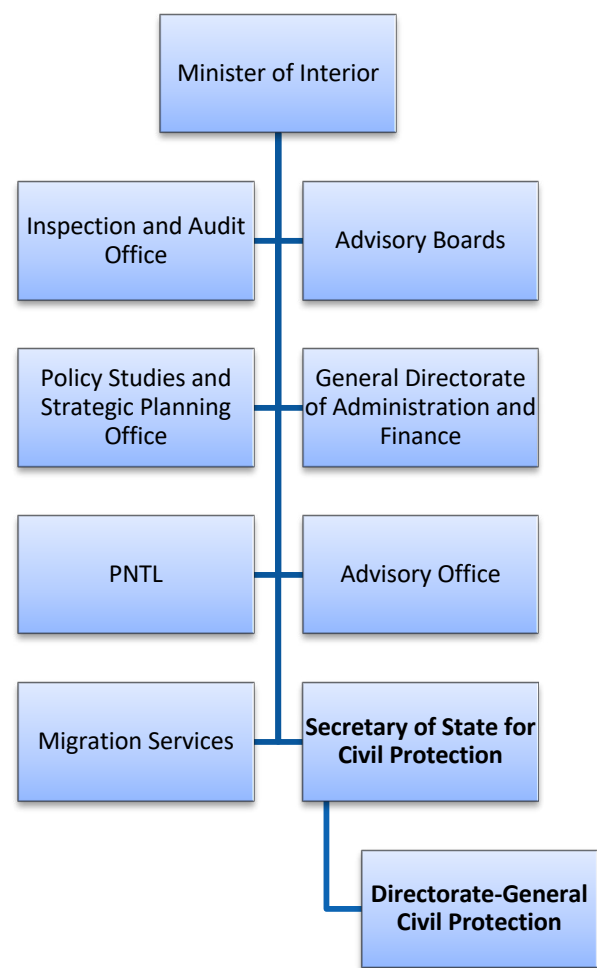


Figure 11: Organizational Structure of the Mol

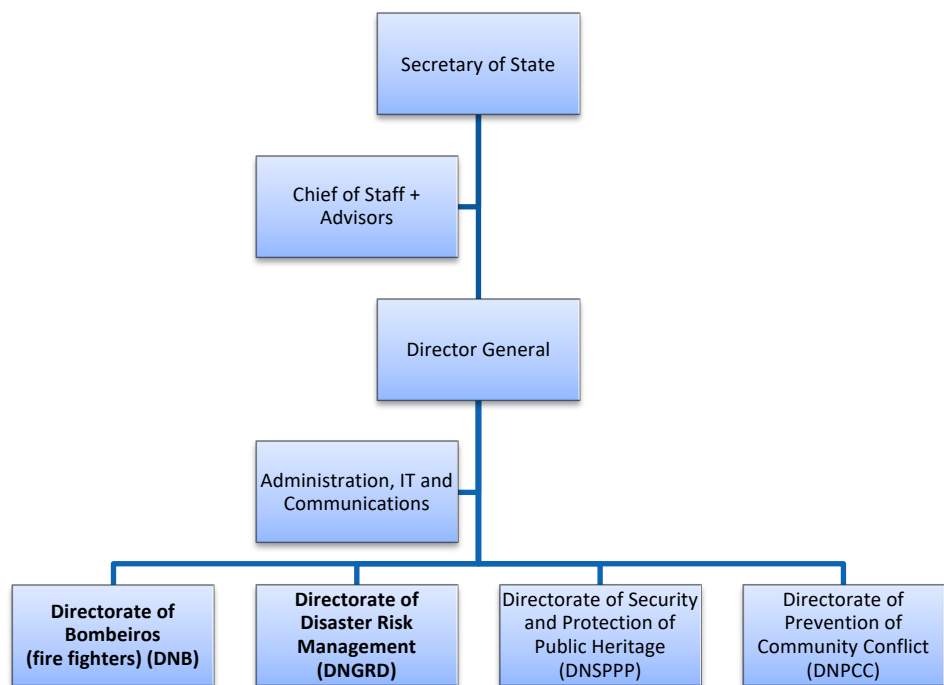


Figure 12: Organizational Structure of the SEPC under Mol

- Directorate of DRM (DNGRD);
- Directorate of Security and Protection of Public Heritage (DNSPPP);
- Directorate of Prevention of Community Conflict (DNPCC).²¹¹

The following discusses the DNB and DNGRD and as the key entities of the SEPC with direct disaster management responsibilities.

National Directorate of Fire Fighters (DNB)

The National Directorate of Bombeiros (*Direcção Nacional dos Bombeiros – DNB*) has the following overall responsibilities (in addition to firefighting):

- Encourage and support volunteers to participate;
- Work with municipalities on forest protection;
- Implement and manage protection zones;
- Identify critical points and places of refuge;
- Fuel management in forests (hazard reduction);
- Compliance with regulations in public and private buildings;
- Inspections and investigations.²¹²

Currently, about 10 out of the 13 municipalities have functioning fire services. The three municipalities without a fire service are Ermera, Liquica, and Manatuto, which are being supported by the Dili fire service until such time that they can stand up municipal fire services. At the municipal level Bombeiros (fire fighters) perform search and rescue (SAR); clear roads; provide water; and perform other support functions during disaster response and recovery. Bombeiros participate in the District Disaster Management Committees, where they are established and active.²¹³ Figure 13 depicts the organizational structure of the DNB, and Photo 4 shows members of the Bombeiros participating in a disaster preparedness workshop at the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet-led Pacific Partnership 2019. The Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific region.²¹⁴



Photo 4: Bombeiros (Fire Fighters) Participate in the Pacific Partnership 2019

National Directorate of Disaster Risk Management (DNGRD)

The National Directorate of Disaster Risk Management (*Direcção Nacional de Gestão de Risco de Desastres – DNGRD*) has the following overall responsibilities:

- Formulate public policy relating to DRM;
- National coordination of operations performed under the elements of this policy;
- Plan emergency food and non-food distributions;
- Empower the population to recognize, survey, and analyze natural and non-natural risks;
- Develop operational directives related to natural and non-natural risks;
- Promote the study, standardization, and application of prevention and relief techniques;
- Organize a national early warning system, including creating a national database to allow automatic warnings to be sent out during high risk weather;
- Order relocation of destroyed private infrastructure where owners have been compensated with money or materials;
- Develop guidelines for planning Civil Protection's Emergency responses;
- Promote assessment of natural and technological risks and vulnerabilities;
- Coordinate application of CPLP and UN

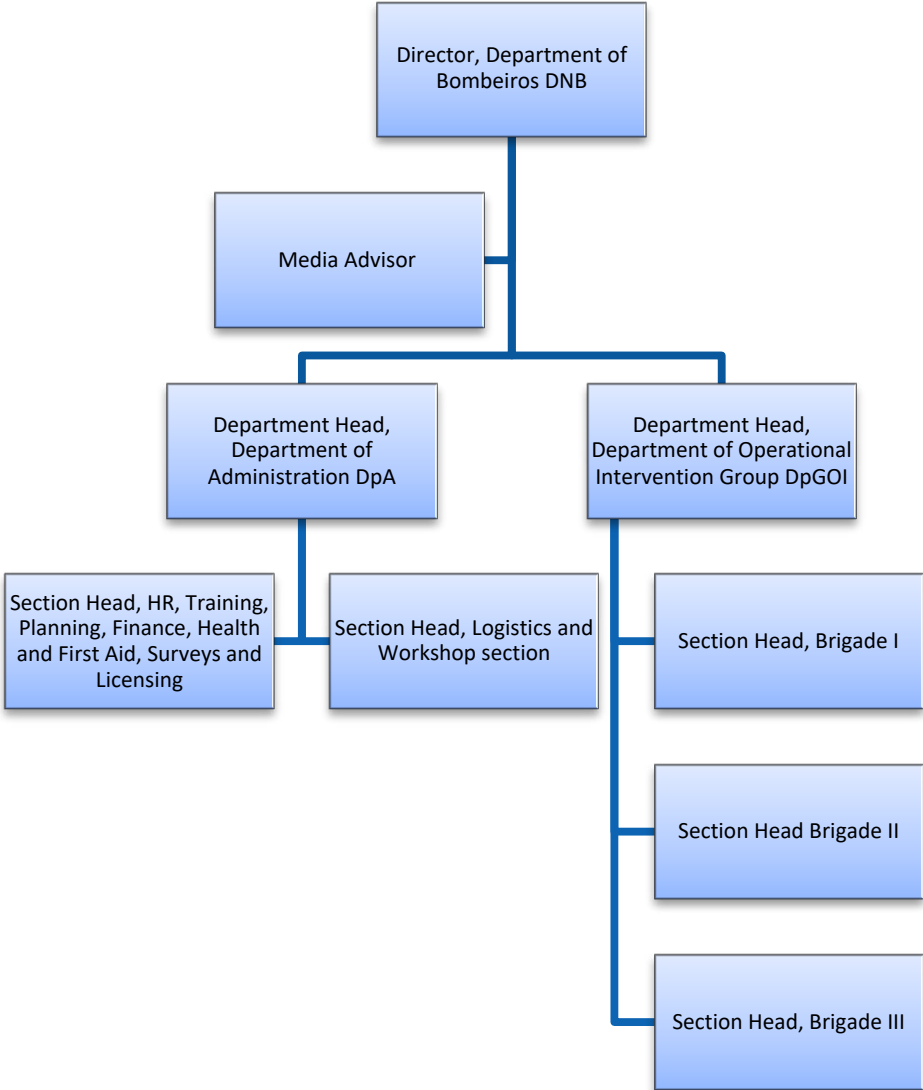


Figure 13: Organizational Structure of the DNB under SEPC/Mol

- decisions, including International Strategy for Reduction of Disaster Risk;
- Prepare studies and technical advice, as well as administration and document control, for national and international agreements;
- Coordinate the process of providing support for emergencies, monitor the effectiveness of use of donated materials, and ensure total reconstruction of houses.²¹⁵

The responsibilities of the Department of Preparation, Prevention, and Mitigation of Disasters (*Departamento de Preparação, Prevenção e Mitigação de Desastres - DpPPMD*) under the DNGRD includes:

- Prepare disaster awareness plan;
- Prepare disaster prevention and mitigation plan;
- Prepare ‘script’ (guidelines) for disaster response;
- With other relevant bodies, identify risk areas;
- Create, develop procedures for, and monitor Early Warning Systems and raise community awareness;
- Collect and organize all data and manage and update a central database;
- Create and apply procedures for Evacuation Centers;
- Prepare guidelines for housing reconstruction.²¹⁶

The responsibilities of the Department of Emergency Management and Recovery (*Departamento de Gestão e Recuperação de Emergências - DpGER*) under the DNGRD includes:

- Organize disaster response and coordinate the resources available;
- Prepare guides for emergency management and recovery;
- Prepare emergency management plans (national, regional, municipal);
- Manage food and non-food items in national, regional, and municipal warehouses;
- Collect data on affected people and provide support;
- Survey damage;
- Organize and coordinate all support, including international;
- Certify safe places for evacuation;
- Manage warehouses, shipments, and inventory.²¹⁷

Figure 14 depicts the organizational structure of the DNGRD with the DpPPMD and DpGER highlighted.²¹⁸

Ministry of State Administration (State Administration) and municipal authorities

The Local Power and Decentralization Administrative Law (Law No. 23/2021) enacted on 10 November 2021, gives State Administration authority and competencies to oversee municipal and local government administrations with regards to civil protection and disaster response.²¹⁹

The municipalities hold, within the scope of their respective territory, a mandate for civil protection and management of serious accidents and disasters among other functions.²²⁰ Municipalities hold the following competencies in the field of civil protection and management of serious accidents and catastrophes:

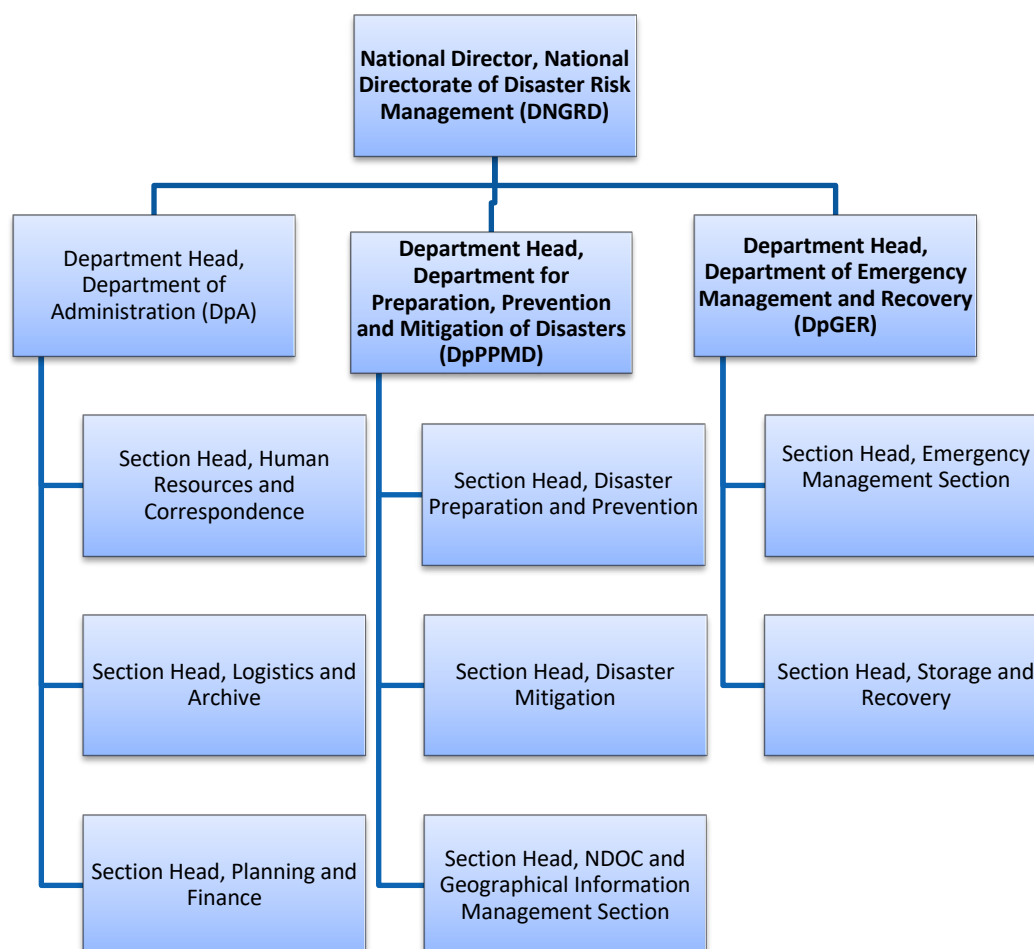


Figure 14: Organizational Structure of the DNGRD under SEPC/Mol

- Construction and maintenance of fire stations;
- Acquisition of equipment for fire fighters;
- Construction, maintenance, and management of facilities and municipal civil protection centers;
- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure for prevention and support for fighting forest fires;
- The execution of cleaning programs and improvement of forests;
- The development and execution, in collaboration with the central administration, of the municipal emergency and civil protection plan; the evacuation plans for public buildings and equipment collectives in emergency situations; and other collective risk prevention and response plans;
- Promote, plan, and execute, in coordination with the central administration, the identification of areas of municipal territory with high risk of occurrence of natural disasters; etc.²²¹

According to an expert, one way to interpret the division of authority between Civil Protection/SEPC and State Administration is that the former is responsible for disaster management at the national level, and the latter is responsible for disaster management at the sub-national level. That is, unless a situation rises to the level of a national calamity, the responsibility for disaster response lies with municipal authorities.²²²

District Disaster Coordinators (DDC), District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC)

District Administrators serve as the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) and are responsible for disaster response decision-making within districts (also referred to as municipalities). They coordinate on decision-making with a District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), comprising district representatives of key government and non-governmental agencies.²²³ Civil Protection/SEPC is represented in the DDMCs by the Bombeiros (fire fighters), who

have a presence in 10 out of 13 municipalities.

Despite efforts to strengthen coordination mechanisms, according to the World Bank's and GFDRR's report, DRM is decentralized with the district-level administration serving as the "core territorial unit for risk management, and coordination between the national and local levels is reportedly weak."²²⁴

National Council for Civil Protection (to be established)

The Civil Protection Law 2020 establishes the National Council for Civil Protection as the GoTL's consultation and coordination body in matters of civil protection at the national level.²²⁵

The National Council for Civil Protection comprises:

- The member of the GoTL responsible for the area of civil protection, who presides;
- One representative, with a managerial level, designated by the respective member of the GoTL, of the defense areas, the interior, justice, finance, trade and industry, the environment, public works, transport and communications, agriculture, forests and fisheries, social solidarity, health, education, and state administration;
- The president of the CPA;
- The national civil protection operational commander;
- The National Director of the Fire Department.²²⁶

In addition, the following members will also participate in the National Council for Civil Protection:

- F-FDTL;
- PNTL;
- Director-General of the Migration Service;
- Scientific Police for Criminal Investigation (*Polícia Científica para Investigação Criminal* - PCIC);
- National Intelligence Service;
- National Maritime Authority;
- Timor-Leste Civil Aviation Authority (*Autoridade de Aviação Civil de Timor-Leste* - AACTL);
- Public Airport Administration Company

and Air Navigation of Timor-Leste (ANATL, E.P.);

- National Ambulance and Medical Emergency Service.²²⁷

The National Council for Civil Protection is responsible for:

- Ensuring the implementation of the general lines of governmental civil protection policy in all Public Administration services;
- Advising the Government on the general bases of the organization and the functioning of the bodies and services that, directly or indirectly, perform civil protection functions;
- Giving an opinion on agreements or conventions on international cooperation in the field of civil protection;
- Approving civil protection emergency plans pursuant to paragraph 4 of article 48 of the Civil Protection Law 2020;
- Giving an opinion on national civil protection emergency plans;
- Proposing mechanisms for institutional collaboration between all bodies and services with responsibilities in the field of civil protection, as well as forms of technical and operational coordination of the activity carried out by them, within the specific scope of the respective statutory attributions;
- Identifying and proposing technical criteria and standards on the organization of the inventory of resources and means, public and private, able to be mobilized at the municipal, regional, or national level in the event of a major accident or catastrophe;
- Proposing technical criteria and standards on the preparation and operationalization of protection emergency plans civil;
- Identifying and proposing priorities and objectives to be defined with a view to scaling up efforts by bodies and structures with responsibilities in the field of civil protection in relation to its preparation and participation in common tasks of civil protection;
- Promoting the dissemination of civil protection objectives and public awareness of

civil protection;

- Promoting the development and consolidation of a national civil protection culture through incorporation of thematic content in all levels of the national education system that address comprehensive and clear ways to manage risks and prevention and self-protection mechanisms, as well as for the elaboration and promotion of disclosure on civil protection in education establishments;
- Giving an opinion on the external cooperation instruments that the organisms and structures of civil protection develop in the fields of their specific duties and competences;
- Monitoring the alert, contingency, and calamity statements.²²⁸

The National Council for Civil Protection is also responsible for:

- Proposing to the Government the formulation of requests for international assistance from organizations or foreign states;
- Advising the Prime Minister on the exercise of competence provided for in Article 24.²²⁹

Regional Council for Civil Protection (to be established)

The 2020 Civil Protection Law also establishes the Regional Council for Civil Protection as the consultation and coordination body for Oecusse-Ambeno.²³⁰

The Regional Council for Civil Protection comprises:

- The President of the Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno (RAEOA) Authority, who presides;
- The regional civil protection operational commander;
- Representatives, at the level of service managers devolved from the direct administration of the State, designated under the terms of paragraph 1.b) of Article 31;
- The top officer responsible for the defense forces and by the security forces and services existing in the RAEOA;
- A regional representative of the National

- Service for Ambulance and Medical Emergency;
- A commander of the Fire Department.²³¹

The secretariat of the Regional Council is provided by the Regional Civil Protection Service. The operating regulations of the Regional Council are approved by the President of the RAEOA Authority.²³²

Municipal Civil Protection Councils (to be established)

The 2020 Civil Protection Law further establishes the Municipal Council for Civil Protection as the consultation and coordination body at the municipal level.²³³

The Municipal Council for Civil Protection comprises:

- The president of the respective municipal authority or the municipal administrator;
- The respective municipal civil protection operational commander;
- Representatives, at the level of service managers devolved from the State's Direct Administration, designated under the terms of Article 31(1)(b);
- The top officer responsible for the defense forces and by the security forces and services existing in the municipality;
- A municipal representative of the National Service for Ambulance and Medical Emergency;
- The municipal commander of the Fire Department.²³⁴

The secretariat of the Municipal Council for Civil Protection is provided by the Municipal Civil Protection Service. The functioning regulation of the Municipal Council of Civil Protection is approved by the president of the municipal authority or by the municipal administrator.²³⁵

Civil Protection Authority (CPA) (Pending)

The formation of a CPA (in Portuguese, *Autoridade de Proteção Civil* - APC) was envisioned more than a decade ago in the National Security Law 2010. The law states that the CPA “shall be tasked with the planning,

coordination, and implementation of the civil protection policy, namely the prevention and response to serious accidents and catastrophes, assisting communities, and supervising the work of the fire brigade.”²³⁶ The CPA is further envisioned in the Decree Law 14/2019 on the Organic Law of the Ministry of Interior under Article 17, which states, “the Civil Protection Authority is the coordinating body of entities involved in civil protection operations.” This has been followed by the Civil Protection Law 2020, which highlights the CPA as the authority that will shape the entire civil protection system.²³⁷

Ultimately, on 15 December 2021 the Council of Ministers approved the Organic Structure Decree-Law discussed earlier, to establish the CPA.²³⁸ In or around July 2021, Civil Protection/SEPC delivered a presentation to disaster management stakeholders and partners in Dili depicting an organogram of the CPA, which is copied under Figure 15.²³⁹ The organogram envisions the CPA falling under the Office of the SEPC. The draft Organic Structure Decree-Law is pending promulgation by the President.

Disaster Relief and Emergency Response

Currently, if a disaster hits, the CIGC, CIGD, Civil Protection/SEPC, and State Administration, among other ministries and agencies all have legislated responsibility to coordinate a response.

Declaration of a Calamity

According to Article 16 of the Civil Protection Law 2020, the “declaration of a calamity is the responsibility of the Government and takes the form of a Government resolution.”²⁴⁰ The declaration must expressly mention the following:

- The nature of the event that gave rise to the situation declared;
- The temporal and territorial scope;
- The establishment of specific directives regarding the operational activity of civil protection agents and of the entities and institutions involved in the protection and assistance operations, through the obligation

- affected areas and analyze the results;
- Coordinate district financial resources to provide the most effective response to identified needs; and
- Recommend requests for national support, identifying the type, scale, and timing of the support, and the logistical information needed for effective delivery.²⁴⁴

At the sub-district level, the Sub-District Administrator (SDA) leads emergency and DRR activities; within each village, the Suco Chief and village leaders oversee DRM.²⁴⁵

Integrated Protection and Relief Operations System (SIOPS)

The Civil Protection 2020 law provides a little more clarity to the current system, by establishing the SIOPS as the mechanism for DRM and disaster response. The law states that SIOPS is “the set of structures, rules, and procedures that ensure that all civil protection agents and planned entities are articulated at the operational level, under a single command, without prejudice to the respective hierarchical and functional dependence.”²⁴⁶

Civil protection agents include:

- Fire brigades (Bombeiros);
- The entity responsible for risk management of disasters, catastrophes, and public calamities;
- The entity responsible for the security and protection of the public heritage;
- The entity responsible for community-based conflict prevention;
- PNTL (police);
- F-FDTL (military);
- The entity responsible for the management of the ambulance and emergency medical teams;
- The National Maritime Authority;



Figure 16: “Civil Protection” Organizational Structure in Timor-Leste

- AACTL (civil aviation authority);
- The entity responsible for the administration of airports and air navigation;
- The entity responsible for the area of forests, coffee, and industrial plants;
- Municipal authorities;
- Municipal administrators;
- Sucos (villages).²⁴⁷

Armed Forces Role in Disaster Relief

Military F-FDTL

Timor-Leste’s military is known as the FALINTIL- Forças Defesa Timor-Lorosae (F-FDTL). FALINTIL is the acronym of the Portuguese name Forças Armadas da Libertação Nacional de Timor-Leste, (Armed Forces for the National Liberation of East Timor).

At the time of its creation in 2001, F-FDTL

was envisioned as a 1,500-strong force with two light infantry battalions and a small naval component. Timor-Leste's Constitution assigns F-FDTL the responsibility of protecting the country against external threats, and the Police (Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste in Portuguese or Polisia Nasional Timor Lorosae in Tetum; PNTL), the responsibility for internal security. In practice, F-FDTL has taken on a policing role at times to support internal security.²⁴⁸ For example, during the 2012 Presidential elections, F-FDTL was deployed in nine of the 13 municipalities to provide an additional sense of security.²⁴⁹

In 2007, the GoTL released a strategic 'white paper' called Force 2020 to develop the F-FDTL into a 3,000-strong fully-fledged national military including conscription, anti-armor weapons, armored personnel carriers, and patrol boats.²⁵⁰ In 2012, authorization was given to expand the military to a maximum of 3,600 troops by 2020.²⁵¹ The SDP 2011-2030 calls for an integrated defense and security policy, with less demarcation between external and internal threats to the country. The plan also reiterates Force 2020 as the country's "model for the consolidation and development of the F-FDTL, in accordance with priorities defined by the Minister or Secretary of State for Defence (MoD) and the Chief of Defence Forces".²⁵²

In 2020, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in its publication *The Military Balance* assessed the F-FDTL "has been reconstituted but is still a long way from meeting the ambitious force-structure goals set out in the Force 2020 plan."²⁵³ Notwithstanding, on 28 October 2020, the GoTL approved a Decree-Law regarding the New Regulation of the Military Service Law, which provides for mandatory military service of 18-months, representing a step towards achieving the target force strength.²⁵⁴

In 2021, the F-FDTL is estimated to have 2,748 personnel. F-FDTL is comprised of land, air, naval, and service support under Joint Headquarters in Dili. The Land Component is notionally comprised of two infantry battalions (however at the time of writing only one battalion has been raised) with the Headquarters

located in the municipality of Baucau to the east of Dili.²⁵⁵

The Maritime Component of the F-FDTL (also known in Portuguese as the Armada) currently has an estimated five vessels, many of which have major serviceability issues and none of which can reach all areas of territorial waters, particular in the South Timor Sea.²⁵⁶ A further two Portuguese-donated patrol craft were in service until 2020 but have now been retired from service. A South Korean-donated vessel has suffered major serviceability issues and when serviceability allows, is limited to movements between ports only. The F-FDTL is also in possession of two small patrol vessels, also donated by the Republic of Korea, which are infrequently used for travel between Port Hera, Dili port, and Atauro, weather conditions permitting. The F-FDTL has two serviceable vessels, procured from China in 2011, and delivered in 2014. These vessels are of a riverine design, with a length of 45 m (147.638 ft) by a beam of only 6 m (19.685 ft), precluding operations above sea-state 3. Australia has committed to donate two highly capable modern patrol vessels as part of the Pacific Maritime Security Program (PMSP). The program aims to deliver in excess of 120 sea days for each vessel annually. These new vessels are scheduled to be gifted to Timor-Leste in mid to late 2023. The Guardian Class Patrol Vessels will generate a very significant maritime capability improvement; they are able to patrol at sea for 20 days and are easily able to reach the furthest extremity of the Timorese Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) within 24 hours. Amongst other maritime security tasks, this capability will enable reliable F-FDTL SAR and with the onboard rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RHIB), an ability to access all coastal areas of Timor-Leste.²⁵⁷

F-FDTL does not currently have any combat aircraft. The U.S. has committed to donating an American-made Cessna 206 aircraft, which will provide the F-FDTL with air surveillance capability to contribute to SAR. The aircraft will be provided as part of a joint U.S.-Timor-Leste project to rehabilitate the airfield located in Baucau district (east of Dili).²⁵⁸

F-FDTL's Role in Disaster Relief

The F-FDTL's role in disaster relief is stated in a number of key laws and policy documents. The SDP 2011-2030 envisions the F-FDTL holding, among other responsibilities, the following disaster-related responsibilities: supporting civilian authorities in case of disaster or emergency, and participating in peace support operations of a humanitarian nature and crisis management operations within the United Nations or organizations for cooperation and regional security.²⁵⁹ The Civil Protection Law 2020 under Article 50 provides that the F-FDTL will collaborate, within the scope of their specific mission, in civil protection functions. The Draft Organic Structure Decree-Law envisions the CPA, once established, coordinating with the F-FDTL's Air Support Component air resources for emergency and civil protection missions.²⁶⁰ At the sub-national level, the F-FDTL participates in the DDMCs, and at the national-level in the CIGD. The F-FDTL will be a member of the National Council for Civil Protection, which will be formed upon passage of the Draft Organic Structure Decree-Law.²⁶¹

F-FDTL's role in disaster relief has not been effectively utilized due to limitations in the overall civilian structure for disaster preparedness and readiness. In early 2020 CFE-DM supported a research project by graduate students at the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) focused on understanding ways to strengthen disaster preparedness and response in Timor-Leste through training and coordination. According to a defense expert interviewed for the study, the "F-FDTL has unique professional capabilities that are suited to supporting civilian agencies in disaster response including a professional command structure, a relatively quick reaction time, a ready pool of disciplined people familiar with uncertain and dangerous situations, and field engineering capabilities, etc. However, there is not enough discussion and understanding around military roles and responsibilities in disaster management on the practical level."²⁶²

As an example, a defense expert who was

interviewed for the same study shared that when 200 to 300 F-FDTL personnel were dispatched during the March 2020 floods (discussed earlier) to the flood-stricken area, "they were not equipped with necessary tools needed for response. Specifically, engineering units skilled in construction and rubble removal were urgently needed, as was the heavy machinery required to accomplish it. However, skilled personnel were not tasked to this response, while personnel without these skills were. Furthermore, these units were given on-site tasks more suited to heavy equipment such as excavators, while other needed tasks were left unattended. This mismatch between demand and supply could be attributed to a lack of communication and coordination between the F-FDTL and civilian agencies responsible for the initial assessment."²⁶³

F-FDTL's capacity to respond did not improve when it was tested again the following year in the April 2021 floods. The F-FDTL received three tasks, which it struggled to carry out to a varying extent. The F-FDTL was unable to immediately perform SAR around the river mouths and mangrove areas to rescue people who had been washed out to sea due to a lack of serviceable small boats (e.g., Zodiacs). Another task was to clean up the Presidential Palace, which the F-FDTL was not able to undertake efficiently due to a lack of appropriate equipment (i.e., a non-operational excavator). The F-FDTL were however able to provide food distribution to an isolated community in Tasi Tolu, west of Dili, with support from the Australian-funded Defence Cooperation Program. Resources from the program were re-purposed to support the F-FDTL's food distribution efforts since the F-FDTL did not have allocated resources to carry out the task. The Defence Cooperation Program further supported the F-FDTL's provision of emergency power, food, water, and clean-up activities over a period of 12 days. The efforts of the F-FDTL were publicly praised in this section of their response.²⁶⁴

Police (PNTL) Role in Disaster Relief

The PNTL does not have an explicit mandate for DRM or disaster response that is stated in

legislation or policy. The PNTL plays a role in disaster management as a member of the civil protection system. The PNTL is a critical part of the SISN and leads the Internal Security component.²⁶⁵ The PNTL participates in the DDMCs at the sub-national level and in the CIGD at the national-level and will be a member of the National Council for Civil Protection, which will be established upon passage of the Draft Organic Structure Decree-Law.²⁶⁶ Similarly to the F-FDTL, the Civil Protection Law 2020 envisions the PNTL will collaborate, within the scope of its specific missions, in civil protection functions. However, the 2021 Organic Structure Decree Law only mentions the PNTL playing a role to support the CPA's National Directorate for the Prevention of Community Conflicts and is silent on the PNTL's disaster-related responsibilities.²⁶⁷

In practice the PNTL have played an active role in disaster response. During the April 2021 floods response, the PNTL was a member of the Gender & Protection sector team. The PNTL were also active in recovery efforts, including, for example, disinfecting the homes of flood victims in Dili and surrounding municipalities where they received support from former Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao, who attended flood-affected areas and volunteered his labor.²⁶⁸ The PNTL further received support from the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to maintain operations after the floods and continue its focus on border posts and the delivery of enhanced training to combat gender-based violence.²⁶⁹

Furthermore, the Maritime Police of the PNTL has some large vessels that can provide maritime capacity for SAR.

However, the vessels are rarely operational due to major maintenance issues and human resource limitations.

U.S. Defense Cooperation

The GoTL and the U.S. signed two Memoranda of Understanding on 28 June 2021 launching the Joint Rehabilitation of Baucau Airfield Project (the Project) and setting the intent to engage in good faith discussions regarding potential U.S. Government support for the civil aviation sector in Timor-Leste. The Project funded by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), allocates an initial US\$10.6 million intended to enhance Timor-Leste's capacity in the areas of security, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response operations to contribute to the development of a resilient and diversified economy. This includes support to the development of the F-FDTL's Air Component. Furthermore, the Project will support small-scale construction to improve security and storage capabilities at the Baucau Airfield.²⁷⁰ On 12 January 2022, U.S. Air Force engineers began work in partnership with the F-FDTL on the Project as shown in Photo 5.²⁷¹ The joint work between U.S. and Timorese engineers will result in the construction of a new storage warehouse and a repaired perimeter fence to support future F-FDTL and commercial operations.



Photo 5: U.S. Air Force Engineers work in partnership with F-FDTL to Rehabilitate Baucau Airfield

A detailed list of the U.S. DoD's disaster management and humanitarian assistance activities with Timor-Leste is provided in the Appendices.

Australian Defense Cooperation

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is supporting the F-FDTL through the Defence Cooperation Program (DCP). The DCP with Timor-Leste focuses on developing capabilities in English language skills, maritime security, engineering, logistics, infantry skills, strategic policy, governance, finance, and communications. Assistance is being delivered by 24 in-country advisers, comprising 21 Australian Army personnel (stationed at Dili and Metinaro), two Navy personnel (stationed at Port Hera), and one civilian adviser. Methods of assistance include mentoring, infrastructure development, participation in ADF exercises and training, and direct service-to-service training. Further training opportunities are offered in Australia, including those run by the Australian Defence Force Academy, Australian Defence College, Royal Military College – Duntroon, and through the Defence Cooperation Scholarship Program. A formal Defence Cooperation Agreement covering the relationship between Australia-Timor-Leste's defense organizations is under development. According to the Defence Cooperation Program, current F-FDTL priorities include developing military infrastructure, investing in logistics, communications, and equipment, developing a peace operations capability, maritime security, and fostering cooperation with foreign partners.²⁷²

Portugal Defense Cooperation

Portugal has assisted in the development and professionalization of the F-FDTL since independence and has supported initiatives including the provision of advisors, assistance with basic training, and training within Portugal of selected Timorese officers and officials. Cooperation in the defense sector

has been defined by a number of agreements beginning with the Framework Agreement on Cooperation between Portugal and Timor-Leste signed in Dili on the day of the restoration of Independence (20 May 2002) and the Framework Program for Technical Military Cooperation covering the period 2014-2016.²⁷³ In December 2012, Portugal's National Republican Guard (*Guarda Nacional Republicana* – GNR), through UNMIT, transferred to the GoTL moveable and immovable assets, including as vehicles, furniture, and the GNR's headquarters in Caicoli Dili, which is being used by the PNTL.²⁷⁴

New Zealand Defense Cooperation

Following the 1999 referendum that led to the restoration of independence, the New Zealand Defense Force (NZDF) and New Zealand police personnel were deployed to Timor-Leste in significant numbers. Since the withdrawal of the UNMIT in December 2012 and the withdrawal of the ISF in March 2013, New Zealand's defense and police presence was reduced significantly. Two NZDF personnel are deployed with the F-FDTL, providing strategic and logistics advice to the Timorese military.²⁷⁵

Disaster Management Partners

In response to the April 2021 floods, humanitarian partners, the UN, multilateral and bilateral donors, and the private sector provided US\$27.3 million in funding support (through humanitarian funding or by re-purposing existing resources). Figure 17 shows the level of funding contributed by partners, donors, and the private sector, and Figure 18 shows financial contribution per sector.²⁷⁶

Timor-Leste receives support from multilateral and bilateral donors, as well as humanitarian and development international NGOs (INGO) and NGOs, to carry out disaster-related activities. The following is a summary of some of the key disaster management partners active in Timor-Leste.

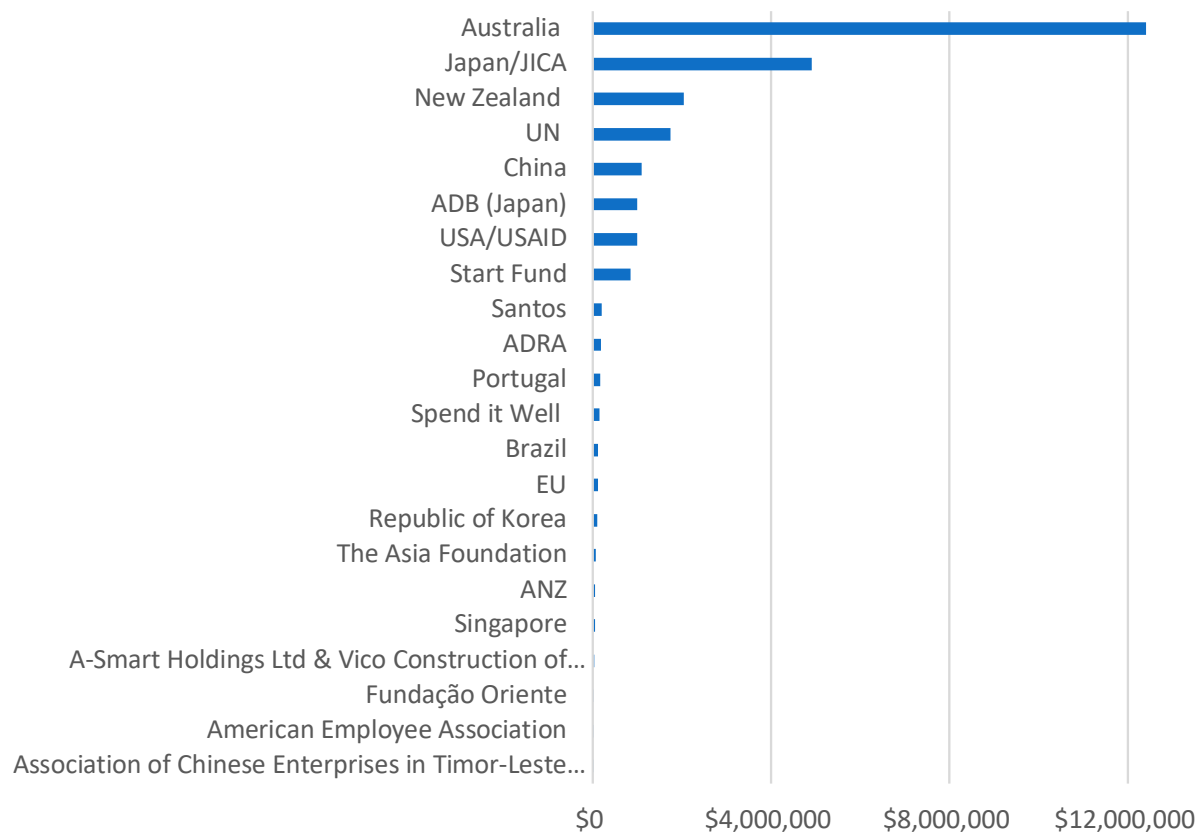


Figure 17: Sources of Funding Contributions to the April 2021 Floods Response

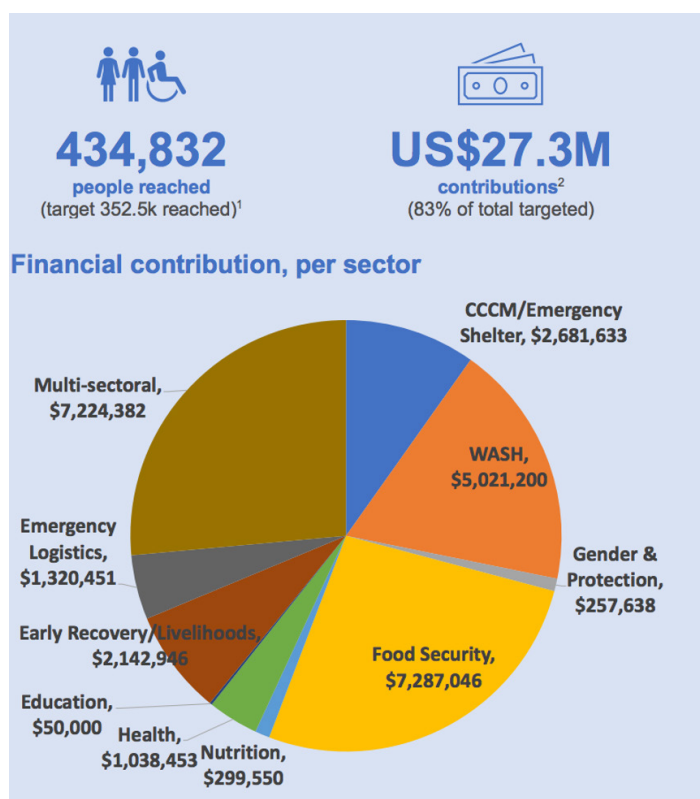


Figure 18: Financial Contributions Per Sector to the April 2021 Floods Response

Bilateral Partners and Multilateral Partners

Table 2 contains a short profile of some of the bilateral and multilateral partners providing development and humanitarian assistance

in Timor-Leste including for disaster-related activities (sample drawn from the joint UN-NGO AAR for the April 2021 Floods).²⁷⁷

 Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Australia is Timor-Leste’s largest development (and security) partner, investing AU\$105.2 million (equivalent to US\$75 million) in Official Development Assistance (ODA) for 2021-2022. The Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) supports bilateral programs in Timor-Leste, as well as regional programs that include Timor-Leste. DFAT’s development assistance to Timor-Leste is focused on three priorities: health security, stability, and economic recovery. In addition, the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) is a five-year (2017-2022), AU\$50 million (US\$35 million) partnership between DFAT and Australian NGOs that aims to save lives, alleviate suffering, and enhance human dignity during and in the aftermath of conflict, disasters, and other humanitarian crises. The AHP also provides a new strategic initiative (Disaster READY) to strengthen disaster preparedness and management across the Pacific and Timor-Leste. The six Australian NGO partners are CARE Australia, Caritas Australia, Oxfam Australia, Plan International Australia, Save the Children Australia, and World Vision Australia. More information about DFAT’s work in Timor-Leste can be found at DFAT’s website: https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/timor-leste/development-assistance/development-partnership-with-timor-leste
	The U.S. government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) delivers development assistance to Timor-Leste through the framework of the Country Development and Cooperation Strategy (CDCS). The goal of the USAID/Timor-Leste CDCS is an inclusive, prosperous, and healthy Timor-Leste that is more self-reliant. The CDCS aims to bolster the country’s capacity to address its development challenges by improving human capacity, expanding workforce development, strengthening the business-enabling environment, and increasing government accountability. The strategy aims to seize a window of opportunity to equip youth, women, and other marginalized populations with the tools necessary to participate in and benefit from Timor-Leste’s economic growth and improving well-being for all. In line with U.S. Government priorities in the Indo-Pacific region, USAID will advance the goal through two primary objectives: 1) Timor-Leste’s non-oil economy strengthened, and 2) good governance enhanced. More information about USAID’s work in Timor-Leste can be found on at USAID’s website: https://www.usaid.gov/timor-leste/cdcs

Table 2: Bilateral and Multilateral Partners Providing Development Assistance in Timor-Leste

	The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is supporting Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 through three priority areas: 1) development and improvement of socioeconomic infrastructure, 2) promotion of industry diversification, and 3) improvement and expansion of social service delivery. JICA is supporting Timor-Leste's transition from the dependency on oil and natural gas mined in the nearby seas, by continuing to diversify domestic industries, create jobs, and develop basic socio-economic infrastructure. JICA has been contributing on infrastructure development such as the Dili ferry terminals, the construction of roads and bridges, and the buildings of the Faculty of Engineering, Science, and Technology (FEST) at the National University of Timor-Lorosae (UNTL), the only national university in Timor-Leste. Recently JICA is focusing more on human resource and organizational development, such as increasing production and improving distribution of domestic rice, managing natural resources to support the sustainable livelihoods of residents in mountain areas, and supporting FEST, UNTL in collaboration with faculty members of Japanese University. For more information see JICA's website: https://www.jica.go.jp/easttimor/english/index.html
	Portugal and Timor-Leste cooperation began in 1999 leading up to Timor-Leste's independence. In the past decade, Portugal has invested €470 million (equivalent to US\$531 million) in assistance to Timor-Leste. The Government of Portugal provides development assistance to Timor-Leste through the Camões Institute for Cooperation and Language, a public institution. Portugal's ODA for Timor-Leste increased after 2015 and stabilized between 2016-2019 at €13 million per year (equivalent to US\$14 million), both in net and gross terms. In 2019, Timor-Leste was the fourth largest recipient of Portugal's net bilateral ODA, having received an average of €13.05 million (equivalent to \$US15 million) per year between 2015-19. Portugal's last Strategic Cooperation Programme (2014-2017) focuses on the following priorities: 1) Governance, Rule of Law, and Human Rights – Institutional, 2) Human Development and Global Public Resources – Social Capital; 3) Economic Development – Promoting a sustainable economic growth; and 4) Infrastructure Development. More information about Portugal's development assistance to Timor-Leste can be found at: https://www.instituto-camoes.pt/en/activity-camoes/what-we-do/co-operation/programmes-and-projects/all-countries/timor-leste

Table 2: Bilateral and Multilateral Partners Providing Development Assistance in Timor-Leste (cont.)

 EUROPEAN COMMISSION	The European Commission is supporting the National Indicative Program (NIP) for the period 2014-2020 with of €95 million (US\$107 million). The key areas of priority are: good governance, rural development, and support measures, such as potential support to Timor-Leste’s accession to the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN). More information about the NIP can be found at: https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/timor-leste/14705/timor-leste-national-indicative-programme-period-2014-2020_en
	The Asian Development Bank and Timor-Leste Country Partnership Strategy (2016-2020) will support economic growth and diversification by removing infrastructure bottlenecks and institutional constraints and investing in human capital. This is fundamental for widespread poverty reduction and continued state building. The strategy builds on Timor-Leste’s achievements in peace and stability and is aligned with the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan, 2011–2030 and the Midterm Review of ADB’s Strategy 2020. More information about the ADB’s work in Timor-Leste can be found at the ADB’s website: https://www.adb.org/documents/timor-leste-country-partnership-strategy-2016-2020
 KOICA Korea International Cooperation Agency	The Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has been implementing grant-aid program since the independence of Timor-Leste along with a number of assistance and cooperative initiatives in various sector, and officially opened its office in Timor-Leste in September 2010. KOICA currently provides funding to Mercy Corps to conduct a project to improve flood early warning systems in Dili. In November 2022, the GoTL and KOICA signed a US\$5 million grant agreement to support the GoTL’s efforts to build a digital archiving system in Centro Nacional Chega! (A Site of Conscience); to develop a quality record of history and peace education; and to strengthen capacities and partnerships for conflict reconciliation and peace building. More information about KOICA’s work in Timor-Leste can be found at: http://www.koica.go.kr/sites/tls_en/index.do
 NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE Manatū Aorere	The New Zealand government works with Timor-Leste to support the development of a sustainable and growing economy. Key areas of priorities include private sector development, education and training, security, and justice. Current programs are focused on agriculture, fisheries, education, and law and justice. For more information see the New Zealand’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s (MFAT) website: https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/our-aid-partnerships-in-south-east-asia/timor-leste/

Table 2: Bilateral and Multilateral Partners Providing Development Assistance in Timor-Leste (cont.)

 TIMOR-LESTE 	Under the current UN Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDCF) for 2021-2025 there are six strategic priorities that have been identified for the UN's work during the period. One of those focuses on sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to climate change. The output is to ensure that by 2025, national and sub-national communities (particularly at-risk populations including women and children) in Timor-Leste are better able to manage natural resources and achieve enhanced resilience to the impacts of climate change, natural and human-induced hazards, and environmental degradation, inclusively and sustainably. At least 16 UN entities are currently working in Timor-Leste. The UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) all work on programs under the above-mentioned results group. The UN Resident Coordinator Office (UN RCO) supports and coordinates the work of UN entities to improve the impact, efficiency, and effectiveness of the UN's operational activities for sustainable development at the country level. The UN RCO – with support from UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) regional office in Bangkok - has worked closely alongside the GoTL in disaster response, including supporting the coordination of the recent response to the April 2021 floods. From 2008-2022 IOM has supported disaster prone communities and strengthened the ability of governmental, municipal, and local actors to prevent, mitigate and manage disaster through several Disaster Risk Reduction projects with funding from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA). More information about the UN's work in Timor-Leste can be found at: https://timorleste.un.org/en/about/un-entities-in-country.
	In November 2019, the World Bank Group (WBG) approved the Country Partnership Framework for Timor-Leste. This strategy, developed in consultation with various stakeholders following the publication of the first "Systematic Country Diagnostic" report in late 2018, guides the WBG's program between the 2020 and 2024 fiscal years. The Framework aims to support the GoTL to transform its natural wealth into improved human capital and sustainable infrastructure in three key focus areas: 1) strengthening the foundation for private sector-led growth and economic stability, 2) investing in human capital and service delivery, 3) raising productivity through investments in connective infrastructure. More information about the WBG's work in Timor-Leste can be found at: https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/timor-leste/overview#2

Table 2: Bilateral and Multilateral Partners Providing Development Assistance in Timor-Leste (cont.)

International NGOs and NGOs

Table 3 provides a brief profile of some of the INGOs and NGOs working in Timor-Leste on disaster-related activities (sample drawn from the joint UN-NGO AAR for the April 2021 Floods).

A profile of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Timor-Leste’s Red Cross Society known as CVTL is discussed further below under a separate dedicated section.²⁷⁸

	The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Timor-Leste is focused on five impact areas: 1) health; 2) water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); 3) agriculture; 4) women; and 5) emergency. Under emergency ADRA is ‘Reducing the Impact of the COVID-19 in Viqueque Municipality’ funded by the New Zealand Embassy in Timor-Leste with a total budget of US\$50,000 USD. The project is working with the Viqueque COVID-19 Task Force led by the District Administrator and seven partners to: enhance the resources of Viqueque Department of Health Service with supplies of hygiene materials for health facilities; increase knowledge of COVID-19 through trainings on tippy tap guidelines (for hands-free washing stations with a foot lever and hanging water container) and distributions of soaps and hand washing units to 38 savings groups and 53 farmer groups; installing hand washing stations in key locations for public access; increase access to agriculture production capitals among smallholder farmers; and improve supply chain effectiveness between farmers and buyers. Website: https://adra.tl/
	Catholic Relief Services operated an Indonesia sub-office in Timor-Leste from 1979 to 1986, carrying out emergency and food programs. Today, CRS in Timor-Leste is focused on five program areas: 1) agriculture, 2) emergency response, 3) health, 4) nutrition, and 5) peacebuilding. CRS is supporting communities to become stronger and more resilient by helping families have enough food, engaging communities to manage natural resources in an inclusive and sustainable way, and strengthening community level structures to be able to respond to disasters when they occur. Website: https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/where-we-work/timor-leste-east-timor
	CARE has been working in the Timor-Leste region since 1994. CARE’s current programs focus on families in disadvantaged areas and aim to achieve better education for children and adults, more babies being born safely, improved skills of health workers, and greater resilience of communities in the face of natural disasters and the effects of climate change. CARE’s work focused on five areas: 1) health, 2) strengthening communities, 3) education, 4) disaster risk reduction, and 5) food and livelihood security. Website: https://www.care-international.org/where-we-work/timor-leste

Table 3: INGO and NGO Partners Supporting Disaster-Related Activities in Timor-Leste

	The Child Fund has been working in Timor-Leste since 1990. The organization's work focuses on three areas of priority: Education, WASH, and Health and Nutrition. In response to the April 2021 floods, the Child Fund through the Government of New Zealand's MFAT supported nearly 2,000 people through: distributing non-food items to 350 families (hygiene kits, dignity kits, blankets, toys, and learning packs); distributing education packs to 1,050 children; establishing child-safe spaces for children aged three to twelve; conducting parenting sessions to support child learning and protection; and conducting training for tutors on child-friendly spaces and child protection. More information can be found at the Child Fund's Timor-Leste webpage: https://childfund.org.nz/pages/timor-leste
	Since 2004, Mercy Corps has been promoting a community-led, market-based approach to addressing the key relief, recovery, and resilience challenges alongside the people of Timor-Leste. Mercy Corp's work is focused on four key areas: 1) community-driven market change, 2) building an inclusive, circular economy, 3) nutrition interventions for a healthy future, and 4) disaster prepared, resilient communities. Mercy Corps is strengthening community disaster preparedness by partnering with local leaders to create community responsive disaster management plans, building more resilient communities that can withstand shocks and stresses. On 14 July 2021 Mercy Corps signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Civil Protection/SEPC to implement a community-based disaster risk reduction program for five years. Website: https://www.mercycorps.org/where-we-work/timor-leste
	Oxfam in Timor-Leste has a long track record in humanitarian response and development since 1999. Today Oxfam in Timor-Leste works with and funds 19 national and local NGOs and networks. Oxfam in Timor-Leste's country strategy (2021-2025) focuses on Gender Justice, Just Economies, and Climate Justice. Within Climate Justice Oxfam supports the rights of people in crisis such as through disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action. In addition, Oxfam is promoting disability inclusion in DRR through support to disabled people's organizations (DPOs) including national DPO Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO). As a result, DPOs are playing an active role in response and recovery efforts including in the 2020 and 2021 flood responses. Website: https://www.oxfam.org/en/what-we-do/countries/timor-leste-east-timor

Table 3: INGO and NGO Partners Supporting Disaster-Related Activities in Timor-Leste (cont.)

	Plan International has been working in Timor-Leste since 2001. Plan International’s work directly impacts 52,000 Timorese (including 25,000 sponsored children) with particular attention to excluded groups such as marginalized girls, teenage mothers, malnourished children, children with disabilities, and those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, questioning, intersex, plus others (LGBTQI+). Plan International’s priorities include: 1) gender equality and girls’ empowerment, 2) early childhood development (nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene), 3) climate resilience (disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation), and 4) influencing (e.g., campaign work). Website: https://plan-international.org/timor-leste
	The Asia Foundation’s work in Timor-Leste is focused on addressing reform and inefficiencies in the country’s new institutions, increasing citizens’ understanding of the role of government, diversifying an oil-based economy, and ensuring safety for all, especially women. Although the Foundation does not typically carry out humanitarian assistance, its teams became active responders during the April 2021 floods. In the first 48 hours of the flooding, members of the Foundation’s Nabilan Program team joined other volunteers to assess evacuation centers around Dili, identifying high-risk areas and securing bedding, food, and water for evacuees. The Foundation’s Tourism Program team, with support from the Embassy of New Zealand in Timor-Leste, assembled emergency supplies for distribution to flood- and landslide-affected areas in Aileu and Maubisse. The team sent three large trucks full of food, bedding, temporary shelters, and sanitary materials to more than 500 displaced individuals from 70 families as shown in Photo 6. Website: https://asiafoundation.org/where-we-work/timor-leste/
	WaterAid Timor-Leste’s work is focused on six key areas: 1) championing WASH as a human right, 2) strengthening municipal government, 3) securing resources for WASH, 4) promoting sanitation and hygiene behavior, 5) climate resilience, and 6) assessing performance. To support climate resilience, WaterAid works with communities to help them understand and manage the quantity and quality of domestic water, both of which are increasingly under pressure. WaterAid adds value through the demonstration of approaches to enable communities to measure, manage, and protect their water resources, and build supporting capacity within local government. Website: https://www.wateraid.org/au/where-we-work/timor-leste
	World Vision Timor-Leste began its first project in Aileu municipality in 1995. In 1999, World Vision opened its national office in Dili. World Vision works on three strategic areas: 1) ensure children enjoy good health, safe water, and improved sanitation; 2) reduce violence against women and children; and 3) enhance community resilience and livelihoods. Website: https://www.wvi.org/Timor-Leste

Table 3: INGO and NGO Partners Supporting Disaster-Related Activities in Timor-Leste (cont.)



Photo 6: TAF Distributes Bedding During April 2021 Floods

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

International Committee of the Red Cross

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a private, independent humanitarian organization, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The ICRC bases its activities on the provisions of International Humanitarian Law, and it is neutral in politics, religion, and ideology. The ICRC assists with the protection of civilian victims of armed conflict and internal strife and their direct results. Within these roles, it may take any humanitarian initiative as a neutral and independent intermediary.²⁷⁹

In Timor-Leste, the ICRC is developing the capability of the GoTL authorities to identify people who died during the 1975-1999 conflict and to react to large-scale emergencies. ICRC is promoting international humanitarian law within the armed forces and police and training the CVTL in community engagement, restoring family links, and the management of dead bodies during emergencies. The work in Timor-Leste is covered by the regional delegation in Indonesia.²⁸⁰

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is a humanitarian organization that provides assistance and

promotes humanitarian activities carried out by the National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering. IFRC was founded in 1919 and includes 192 National Societies. The IFRC carries out relief operations to assist victims of disasters and combines this with development work to strengthen the capacities of its member National Societies.²⁸¹

In addition to the IFRC's support to building the capacity of Timor-Leste's National Society, the CVTL, it also coordinates support from other partners to CVTL. For example, IFRC coordinates support from the New Zealand Red Cross and the American Red Cross. The IFRC also facilitates peer-to-peer support with the Indonesian Red Cross and CVTL, who have agreed to increase humanitarian cooperation, specifically along the border area of Indonesia and Timor-Leste.²⁸²

Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL)

CVTL, was established in 2000 and was recognized by the IFRC on 11 November 2005. Domestically, CVTL is formally recognized as an auxiliary to the GoTL under Decree Law 6/2005 enacted on 5 September 2005.²⁸³ CVTL has 2,367 members, 164 staff, 2,858 volunteers, and a network of 13 branches across all of the 13 municipalities in the country. Its headquarters is located in the capital, Dili.²⁸⁴

As an auxiliary to the GoTL, CVTL plays a key role as a first-responder in saving lives and restoring livelihoods, including via the provision of emergency water and sanitation, hygiene promotion, protection, shelter, non-food items, and livelihoods support. National and branch staff and volunteers conduct needs assessments, distribute relief items, attend coordination meetings with other emergency response actors, and where necessary, assist evacuation of at-risk communities.

CVTL participates in national emergency management planning, including developing inter-agency contingency plans and standard operating procedures (SOPs). CVTL carries out contingency planning and awareness raising programs to prepare the public for various

scenarios. This includes annual district-level simulations as well as other educational initiatives related to health emergencies including disease outbreaks, such as monitoring mosquitoes that transmit dengue, as shown in Photo 7.²⁸⁵

In April 2019, the Civil Protection/SEPC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CVTL for cooperation in managing/responding to natural disasters (2019-2024). The goal is to build cooperation between the Civil Protection/SEPC and CVTL and to build the country's human resources for response.²⁸⁶ Figure 19 depicts a summary of CVTL's response to the April 2021 floods.²⁸⁷



Photo 7: CVTL Volunteers Monitor Dengue-Transmitting Aedes Albopictus Mosquitoes

U.S. Government Agencies in Timor-Leste

U.S. Embassy in Timor-Leste

The U.S. established diplomatic relations with Timor-Leste at independence on 20 May

2002. Since then, the U.S. has provided more than US\$500 million in bilateral assistance. U.S. agencies present in Timor-Leste include the Departments of State, Defense, and Justice, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and Peace Corps. In 2022, the Ambassador is Kathleen M. Fitzpatrick, who was preceded by Ambassadors Karen Stanton, Judith Fergin, Hans Klemm, and Grover Rees III.²⁸⁸

The Mission Disaster Relief Officer (MDRO) is appointed by the Chief of Mission (CoM) and is the focal point at the Embassy for disaster-related information, planning, and activities affecting the host country. In posts that have a USAID Mission, the CoM often delegates the responsibility for selecting the MDRO and the alternate MDRO to the USAID Mission Director.²⁸⁹

The U.S. Embassy Timor-Leste office is listed below with contact information:

U.S. Embassy Dili
Street address: Avenida de Portugal, Praia dos Coqueiros, Dili
Timor-Leste
Phone: +670 330 2400
Fax: +670 330 2418
Website: <https://tl.usembassy.gov/>

United States Agency for International Development

As part of USAID's humanitarian assistance to Timor-Leste, USAID's Building Community Resilience program is supporting sustainable preparedness strategies that empower vulnerable communities to cope with natural disasters independently. USAID is partnering with IOM to improve DRR and DRM programming at national, municipal, and local levels with a focus on decentralization of the GoTL's disaster management system. The project focuses on support to Civil Protection/SEPC to develop a national DRM strategy.²⁹⁰

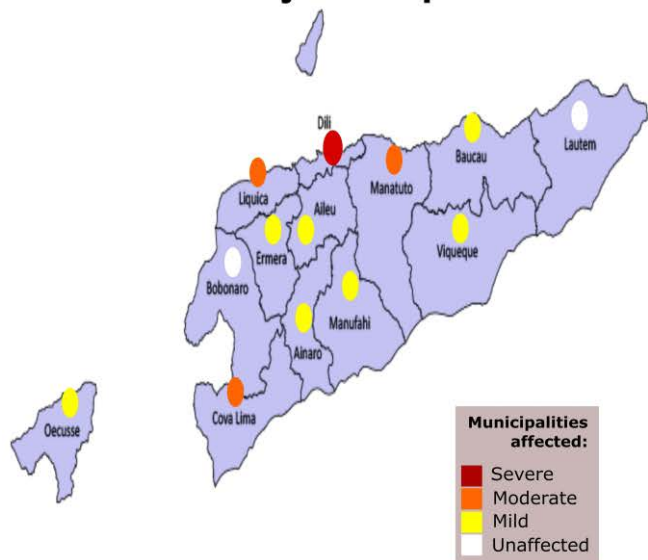
2021 FLOOD RESPONSE



Cyclone Seroja struck Timor-Leste on April 4. Torrential rain resulted in severe flooding and landslides across the country, leaving thousands of people homeless. CVTL's national disaster workforce in 11 branches helped many of the flood victims.

Data correct as of 7 January, 2022 Data from: State Secretariat of Civil Protection, Govt RDTL; CVTL Disaster Response Database

Countrywide Impact



Total Affected		Displaced Households	Dili Evacuation Centres
Households	People		
30,367	151,835	2,471	53
Fatalities	Missing	People	Current
32	9	14,181	0

Over 80% of affected households were in Dili.

CVTL Operations

Support

Staff **23**

Volunteers **74**

Donations

Individuals **33**

Organisations **54**

In Seven CVTL Evacuation Centres:

Households	Population	Females	Males	Breastfeeding Mothers
2,327	10,835	5,488	5,347	175
Pregnant Women	Children 0-5	Elderly People	People with disabilities	
87	946	119	64	

Assistance Provided

Food	Water	Kits
589 Meals	Drinking: 265 Boxes of bottles	Family: 2,269
640 Snack Boxes	41 Gallon Bottles	Baby: 415
2529 Sakcs of Rice	Household: 4 Tanks 80,000 L Via Truck	Hygiene: 275
Boxes of Masks 514	2 Toilets	Kitchen: 94
38 Items of Clothing	2 Washing Facilities	Cleaning: 671
113 Mosquito Nets	24 Sleeping Mats	Tools: 40
2,304 Tarpaulins	\$500 Worth of Electricity Credit	57 Blankets
		37 Agriculture tools and seeds

We at CVTL are grateful to all our donors.

Figure 19: CVTL Response Efforts to April 2021 Floods

USAID's contact information includes:

Mission Contact

Zema Semunegus, Mission Director
United States Agency for International Development
Street Address: 8250 Dili Place, Sergio Vieira De Mello Rd. Farol, Dili
Timor-Leste
Phone: +670 33 00 500
Fax: +670 332-2216
Email: usaid-timor-leste-info@usaid.gov

USAID Contact

Zachary Child, Desk Officer
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523
USA
Phone: +1 202-216-6967
Email: zchild@usaid.gov

Peace Corps

In 2018, Peace Corps Timor-Leste re-launched the Community Development project into the Community Economic Development (CED) project. This change was made to better meet the requested needs of Timorese communities. CED Volunteers work to:

- Improve the capacity of community members in personal money management and financial literacy
- Support the development of income generation and entrepreneurial activities
- Improve basic employability skills
- Strengthen organizational project design and management practices

Volunteers live and work in rural communities assisting women's groups, youth groups, and community leaders

At the request of the Government of Timor-Leste, in 2018 Peace Corps Timor-Leste introduced the English Education project. Living in rural communities, English Education Volunteers worked in secondary schools and:

- Co-teach English classes with Timorese English teachers
- Strengthen the teaching skills and language proficiency of English teachers
- Strengthen English language proficiency among students
- Increase student engagement in formal and informal learning opportunities
- Strengthen community support of school activities
- Enhance classroom materials and resources

More information can be found on the Peace Corps in Timor-Leste webpage: <https://www.peacecorps.gov/timor-leste/projects/>

Laws, Policies, and Plans on Disaster Management

Timor-Leste does not have a stand-alone statutory framework for disaster management, and its disaster management structure is laid out in various legal instruments including:

- Draft Decree-Law Establishing the Organic Structure of the Civil Protection Authority (approved by the Council of Ministers on 15 December 2021; pending promulgation by the President);
- Civil Protection Law 2020;
- Government Resolution 3/2019 "Establishing the Inter-ministerial Council for Civil Protection and Natural Disaster Management"; and
- MoI Ministerial Diploma 28/2021.

Moreover, Timor-Leste's civil protection structure is a component of the broader integrated national security framework set out in the National Security Law 2010. Besides Civil Protection/SEPC, State Administration has a mandate to coordinate DRM and disaster response at the municipal and local administrative level under the Local Power and Decentralization Administrative Law (Law No. 23/2021).

There are currently three statutory inter-ministerial coordinating mechanisms that are authorized to respond to a natural disaster in the country: Inter-ministerial Commission on Security (CIGC), Inter-ministerial Council for Civil Protection (CIGD), and the newly legislated National Council for Civil Protection. The three bodies' legislative source, memberships, role, leadership, and schedule of performance are set out in Table 4.²⁹¹

Civil Protection Law 2020

On 2 December 2020, Timor-Leste enacted the Civil Protection Law (Law No. 12/2020) as the first stand-alone law outlining the civil protection framework in the country.²⁹² Civil protection was first outlined in the National Security Law of 2010. The Civil Protection Law of 2020 establishes a SIOPS as well as coordinating bodies in the form of the National Council for Civil Protection, Regional Council for Civil Protection, and Municipal Councils for Civil Protection.²⁹³ The law also highlights the CPA as an authority that will shape the entire civil protection system but does not establish it. Further legislation was envisioned to create the CPA, in the form of the Decree-Law Establishing the Organic Structure of the CPA.

Draft Decree-Law Establishing the Organic Structure of the Civil Protection Authority

On 15 December 2021, the Council of Ministers approved the Organic Structure Decree-Law and the decree-law is currently pending promulgation by the President. The decree-law establishes the CPA as the national lead agency to regulate all civil protection activities, which would enable implementation of the Civil Protection Law 2020. The CPA will carry out the operational, administrative-logistic, and financial management of the entire civil protection system. The CPA will be headed by a President (equivalent to Director-General), who will act as the focal point for liaising at the political level.²⁹⁴

Government Resolution 3/2019 Establishing the Inter-ministerial Council for Civil Protection and Natural Disaster Management

In 2019, the GoTL passed Government Resolution 3/2019 to create the CIGD as a “national coordination body for the prevention of the risks inherent to major accidents or disasters, in order to mitigate its effects, protect and rescue people and property in danger when these situations occur.”²⁹⁵

The role of the CIGD is to promote coordination, exercise powers, or perform materials acts related to:

- Assessment and prevention of collective risks;
- Reduction of the effects of disasters;
- Protection of people and goods;
- Development and approval of a National Policy for Civil Protection;
- Development of legal diplomas and regulations to execute this policy, including a diploma establishing a National Civil Protection System.²⁹⁶

The membership of the CIGD is outlined under Article 3 in the Resolution (and highlighted in Table 4 as discussed earlier). The Prime Minister can appoint ‘mission units’ to implement the council’s decisions.²⁹⁷ Mission Units are defined in Ministerial Diploma 2/2019. The Ministry of State Administration in collaboration with MSSSI coordinates mission units. The units can include representatives from a range of agencies depending on the crisis.²⁹⁸

National Security Law of 2010

The 2010 National Security Law defines national security matters as comprising “National Defence, Internal Security, and Civil Protection.”²⁹⁹ The law describes the Integrated National Security System with the three components.³⁰⁰ The law envisions the F-FDTL as responsible for national defense, the PNTL as responsible for internal security, and a future authority for “Civil Protection.”³⁰¹ Civil Protection is defined as “the set of activities undertaken by the State, citizens and all public and private entities that are aimed at preventing

	Inter-ministerial Commission on Security	Inter-ministerial Council for Civil Protection	National Council for Civil Protection
Legislation	National Security Law 2010	Government Resolution 3/2019	Civil Protection Law 2020
Members	• Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers of State from Defence, Security, Justice, Finance, Foreign Affairs, State Administration, Spatial Planning, and Solidarity ministries; • Directors General, National Intelligence Services and Migration • Chiefs F-FDTL • Commander, PNTL • Director, CIGC	Prime Minister, the Director of the CIGC, and ‘members of government’ (Ministers) of the following: • Security Governance • Finance • Foreign Affairs • State Administration • Health • Social Solidarity • Public Works • Transport and Communications • Agriculture and Fisheries • Defence	Minister/Secretary of State for Civil Protection, the President of the Civil Protection Authority (not yet established), the Operational Commander (not defined), Director of the Bombeiros, plus one representative from each the following ministries: • Defence • Interior • Justice • Finance • Trade • Environment • Public Works • Transport and Communications • Agriculture • MSSI • Health • Education • State Administration • F-FDTL • PNTL • Migration • Criminal Investigation • National Intelligence Service • Maritime Authority • Aviation Authority • Airports Administration Corporation • Air Navigation TL • National Ambulance and Medical Emergency Service
Role	Advise Prime Minister on, and develop guidelines and diplomas for, policy regarding internal security.	Coordinate and provide material support for: • Assessment and prevention of collective risks • Reduction of the effects of disasters • Protection of people and goods • Development and approval of a National Policy for Civil Protection • Development of legal diplomas and regulations to execute this policy, including a diploma establishing a National Civil Protection System	Government consultation and coordination, approval of emergency plans, proposes requests for international assistance.
Chair	Prime Minister	• Prime Minister	Secretary of State, Civil Protection
Schedule	On request	• On request	Activated by Calamity declaration

Table 4: Statutory Bodies Authorized to Respond to Natural Disasters

collective risks associated to serious accidents or catastrophes, mitigating their effects and assisting and protecting people and assets when such circumstances occur.”³⁰² Since no Civil Protection authority existed at the time of the law’s passage, the law envisioned that “[a]ll the entities that make up the Integrated System of National Security shall become agents of Civil Protection if the circumstances so require, within the scope of their specific functions and powers and without prejudice to their independence, autonomy and specificity of their respective missions.”³⁰³

The law also establishes the CIGC as the central coordination body for disasters. The CIGC is directly under the Prime Minister, who may delegate some of its powers.³⁰⁴ The law differentiates between security issues that require the use of force and those that do not. Any use of force requires parliamentary approval and presidential endorsement.³⁰⁵ If use of force is approved, the Prime Minister and CIGC do not intervene. If there is no use of force, the CIGC Director leads the response on behalf of the Prime Minister.³⁰⁶

National Disaster Risk Management Plan 2008

Since the time of UNTAET and until 2019, the MoI and MSSSI have held joint responsibility for disaster response. MoI was responsible for the GoTL’s early approach through its release of the National Disaster Management Plan, which was transformed into a National Disaster Risk Management Policy by MSSSI, and released in 2008 (2008 Policy).³⁰⁷ The 2008 Policy outlines plans to develop DRM programs including risk analyses, vulnerability monitoring, early warning, emergency management, post-disaster research and review, recovery and knowledge development, awareness raising, and human resource development. The 2008 Policy aligns with internationally recognized approaches to DRM, notably the Hyogo Plan for Action 2005-2015. The policy also takes into account socio-cultural, local, regional, political, economic, and environmental realities of Timor-Leste. It recognizes the need for institutional capacity building, organizational and decentralized

administration of disaster risk management, as well as the need for participation of youth, women, and vulnerable groups. In its December 2021 report the WBG and GFDRR notes the 2008 Policy is “in the process of being updated and does not have a legislative underpinning” and “[t]here remains a need for an institutional framework for DRM that outlines responsibilities and procedures across sectors and levels.”³⁰⁸

National Adaptation Plan 2021

In 2021, the GoTL submitted its first National Adaptable Plan (NAP) to the UNFCCC. The overall vision of the NAP is “to build a climate resilient development trajectory for the country and its people.” It is aligned with other policies and strategies relevant to Timor-Leste’s adaptation response to climate change. The NAP also establishes clear linkages with the SDP 2011-2030.³⁰⁹

The NAP is comprised of nine chapters: 1) background on the formulation process; 2) legal basis and institutional arrangements; 3) country context; 4) rationale for adaptation; 5) alignment with existing strategic, legal, and regulatory frameworks; 6) summary of the results of impact, risk, and vulnerability assessments; 7) priority adaptation programs; 8) NAP implementation plans for the near term (2020-2022), medium term (2023-2025), and long-term (2026-2030); and 9) conclusion and next steps.³¹⁰

Timor-Leste launched its NAP process in 2019. The National Directorate of Climate Change under the Secretary of State for Environment with support from the UNDP in Timor-Leste led a process that involved consulting local communities at the “suco” or “village” level to inform a vulnerability assessment; holding a national-level consultation workshop with sectoral stakeholders from line ministries (i.e., Public Works, Agriculture and Fisheries, Health, and Finance) and the DNGRD under Civil Protection/SEPC; producing an initial NAP document in June 2020; and holding a validation workshop leading to the government’s validated plan in September 2020.³¹¹

Notably, the NAP recognizes Tara Bandu, Timor-Leste’s customary law, as an important entry point for engaging communities and conducting bottom-up resilience building activities. Tara Bandu is a traditional law that governs, among other things, the management of natural resources. For example, Tara Bandu prohibits the burning of forests, the cutting of trees, collection of forest products, agricultural harvests, hunting and fishing, and other activities in a forbidden zone for a defined period of time.³¹²

MoI Ministerial Diploma 28/2021

The MoI’s Ministerial Diploma 28 sets out the current structure of SEPC including the DNB and the DNGRD as depicted earlier under Figures 12, 13, and 14, respectively. This document will likely be updated to reflect structural changes when the new CPA is created.

***Local Power and Decentralization
Administrative law (Law No. 23/2021)***

The Local Power and Decentralization Administrative Law (Law No. 23/2021) enacted on 10 November 2021, gives State Administration authority and competencies to oversee municipal and local government administrations with regards to civil protection and disaster response (Articles 33 and Article 40, respectively). Some experts have interpreted existing laws to create a division of authority between Civil Protection/ SEPC and State Administration, whereby the former is responsible for disaster management at the national level, and State Administration is responsible at the sub-national level.³¹³

**Disaster Management
Communications
Early Warning Systems**

The National Directorate of Meteorology and Geophysics is responsible for multi-hazard warnings and the National Disaster Operations Center is responsible for dissemination of early warning in coordination with municipalities. However, budget shortfalls, communications

network limitations, transportation difficulties, and human resource shortages have limited implementation. In addition to gaps in weather stations and other structures that can send alerts, the challenge of who will respond to alerts, relay them, and prioritize response remains unanswered in many districts.³¹⁴ Locations that have received NGO or international financial and technical assistance are more likely to have stronger EWS protocols.³¹⁵ Likewise, suco disaster management committees only exist where there has been NGO-driven effort to support their creation.³¹⁶ Experts have stressed the greatest challenge for Timor-Leste’s early warning system (EWS) is that there is currently no mechanism to collect reliable data and disseminate it widely and credibly.³¹⁷

***National Directorate of Meteorology and
Geophysics (DNMG)***

DNMG under the Ministry of Public Works, Transport, and Communication (MPWTC) is responsible for managing a multi-hazard EWS. The DNMG is responsible for providing meteorological, climatological, and seismological information to public and public-private entities. The DNMG provides one-day, three-day, and seven-day weather forecasts. According to policy, in the event of extreme events such as tropical cyclones, information is disseminated to the public through social media, TV, and radio. The DNMG works with the National Disaster Operation Center (NDOC) to disseminate information to focal points in 13 municipalities.³¹⁸ In practice, information dissemination has been more limited.

National Disaster Operations Center (NDOC)

The NDOC under the DNGRD is mandated to disseminate early warning information in the 13 municipalities. During the April 2021 floods, NDOC experienced telecommunication challenges disseminating warning information to municipalities. The joint UN-NGO AAR identified challenges in the flow of information from DNMG to the NDOC and then to the wider public. During the AAR, it was

suggested the telecommunication sector be integrated into the EWS protocol.³¹⁹ Since the floods, Civil Protection/SEPC has entered into an agreement with a telecommunication provider and is sending alerts (often daily) via a WhatsApp group chat (discussed below), and a Facebook page. However, experts have noted that dissemination can be improved with better prioritization and grading of information.³²⁰

In early 2022, there have been some positive improvements in EWS capability. For example, Mercy Corps and its private sector partner Similie, who are conducting an EWS strengthening project (discussed below), observed the first instance of the project-supported EWS system fully executed in February 2022. Flood information collected from the EWS in Dili, provided data to DNMG, who created forecast/alerts, which was fed to NDOC who then disseminated the information via their telecommunication channels.

Institution of Petroleum and Geology (IPG)

The Institution of Petroleum and Geology (IPG) established in 2012 is a public institution of the GoTL under the supervision of the Ministry of Petroleum and Ministry of Mineral Resources. The IPG was established with the objective of developing geological studies of mineral resources, including Timor-Leste's oil and gas, using modern technical and scientific basis, enabling the development of the country.

In 2016, the IPG in collaboration with the DNMG acquired the permanent monitoring system of seismic waves on land and at sea, which is managed by the IPG. The system uses seismological software (SEISCOMP3)³²¹ for data acquisition, processing, distribution and interactive analysis. The collected data is processed by real time foreign earthquakes and tsunamis monitoring institutions, such as the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), GEOFON (seismological broadband network), the BMKG (Indonesian Institute of Meteorology and Geophysics), the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), and

the University of Southern California. Once the results have been received in the IPG, they are sent to the DNMG for further dissemination.³²²

While IPG's primary role is to conduct research their equipment and high technical capacity have historically meant that they are involved in early warning work. The IPG is part of the GoTL Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for earthquake and tsunami EWS.³²³

International Meteorology Partners

The DNMG relies on its international partners for warning alerts. During the UNTAET period, the Bureau of Meteorology Australia provided meteorology services and today continues to provide aviation observation and forecast information. Timor-Leste also partners BMKG through a Memorandum of Understanding between DNMG and BMKG; and with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) including participating in the WMO Southeastern Asia-Oceania Flash Flood Guidance (SAOFFG) System.³²⁴

NGO-Support EWS Initiatives

In January 2020, Mercy Corps initiated a collaborative pilot project with Similie in the Belulic river catchment area of Ainaro municipality to strengthen the development of an EWS for Timor-Leste. The goal of the project is to deploy and test state-of-the-art artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms to improve thresholds for alerts that can support Timor-Leste communities to prepare for and respond to the impacts of natural disasters. Leveraging the existing warning system, the project team envisioned a co-installation of hardware sensors to generate additional data flows that can support the selection of optimal parameters and threshold settings for EWS alerts.³²⁵

Mercy Corps built on the Ainaro system (including the integration of machine learning to help correct for historical data gaps) to expand coverage to Dili with financial support from KOICA and the EU, and in partnership with Civil Protection/SEPC. The installation was finalized for the Dili system in December 2021

and includes monitoring stations in the four rivers in Dili as well as data collection in the Dili plain and catchment areas through water level monitors, soil moisture monitors, automated weather stations, and rain gauges.³²⁶ The hazard-monitoring platform developed through the Mercy Corps and Similie's project also integrates data from the UNDP Dili-Ainaro corridor EWS investments as well as the GoTL-run automated weather stations.³²⁷

EWS Needs and Challenges

During the April 2021 floods, the GoTL received forecasts of heavy rain caused by TC Seroja from partners in Australia and Indonesia. A message was shared to an established WhatsApp group chat with 100-150 individuals. However, the message was not graded and did not reflect the severity of the warning. The WhatsApp group chat was not a reliable source of early warning given the broad range of information, including unrelated information that is regularly shared on the platform.³²⁸ Since the disaster, Civil Protection/SEPC has been sharing hazard information via the same WhatsApp group chat and a newly created Facebook page.³²⁹

The WBG and GFDRR December 2021 report, "Learning from Tropical Cyclone Seroja: Building Disaster and Climate Resilience in Timor-Leste," notes that while EWS has been codified into national policy, implementation at the municipal, district, and suco (village) levels has been slow. The report highlighted the need to clarify institutional responsibilities, strengthen capacity to issue impact-based warnings, respond to and relay alerts, and prioritize response. The report further notes the following needs and challenges:

- Budget shortfalls, communications network limitations, transportation difficulties, and human resource shortages are some of the factors that constrain implementation of effective multi-hazard EWS;
- DNMG has limited technical capacity and insufficient human and financial resources;
- More investments are needed in observation

and forecast systems, such as automatic weather stations and weather radar networks; maintaining these systems also requires complementary support for technical training and increased financial capacity;

- DNMG has highlighted the need for warnings to be delivered in a timely manner – including through non-technological means, as Internet connections are unreliable; and
- There is opportunity to develop accessible and targeted multi-hazard EWS products for diverse and vulnerable groups.³³⁰

There are a number of initiatives that began in late 2021 following the April floods to support the DNMG and Civil Protection/SEPC in sharing coordinated information. This includes the creation of an EWS working group, and the GoTL is currently receiving various capacity building and technical assistance on EWS from UNDP, IOM, UNEP, UNESCO, and other organizations. For example, IOM is supporting Civil Protection/SEPC with capacity building on Comprehensive Action Plans (CAP), and by providing technical assistance to DNMG, as well as computers and other equipment.

Information Sharing

Understanding how to overcome the information challenges that civilian and military agencies experience during a typical disaster response mission is important. Knowing what the available humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) resources are will assist Joint Task Force leaders and staff during mission planning.³³¹ Sharing information is critical since no single responding entity, NGO, international governmental organization (IGO), assisting country government, or the host government can be the source of all the required information.³³²

Collaboration, information sharing (IS), and networking have been the backbone of successful disaster response and preparation. Disseminating information not only to those in-country and threatened by disaster, but also to those responding to assist in the emergency has been

crucial to timely, efficient, and effective disaster response. Recent technology has advanced to aid predicting and alerting of disasters around the world which has resulted in early warning and evacuation measures as well as opportunities to react and prepare for incoming threats to countries. The following are some of the ways in which information regarding disaster risk management and response are shared. Managing information is central to the overall mechanisms within disaster preparedness and response. There are many resources, stakeholders, and components to consider with IS before, during, and after a natural disaster. This section will discuss country-specific, humanitarian, regional, government, and DoD information sources.

Timor-Leste Information Sources

Humanitarian Partners Group, Timor-Leste

The Humanitarian Partners Group (HPG) in Timor-Leste operates in lieu of a Humanitarian Country Team in the country. The UN RCO leads the HPG with CARE and Oxfam as co-chairs (as of February 2022).

UN RCO Contact:
UN House
Caicoli Street
Dili, Timor-Leste
PO Box 008
Tel: +670 333 333

Secretariat of State for Civil Protection (Civil Protection/SEPC)

Contact: Director General Ismael Da Costa Babo
Phone: +670 7729 0998
Email: idacostababo@gmail.com

Cruz Vermelha De Timor-Leste (CVTL)

Address: Rua 20 de Maio, No. 79, Formosa, Na'in Feto, P.O. Box 268, Dili, Timor-Leste
Phone: +670 7317-2613
E-mail: info@redcross.tl
Website: www.redcross.tl
Facebook: Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste

Directorate of Meteorology and Geophysics (DNMG)

Ministry of Transport and Communication
Rua Avenida Fransisco Xavier do Amaral, N° 8
Ex.Telecom Mercado Lama
Dili, Timor-Leste
Phone: +670 333-9355/9353
Website: <http://www.mtc.gov.tl/>

Joint Australia Tsunami Warning Centre, Bureau of Meteorology and Geoscience Australia

Since 2013, Australia has provided tsunami-warning services to Timor-Leste.
Website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/tsunami/iotwms/>

Indonesian Tsunami Early Warning System, Indonesia's Bureau of Meteorology

As a Tsunami Service Provider (TSP) for the Indian Ocean Countries, the Indonesian Tsunami Early Warning System (InaTEWS) offers web access to ocean-wide tsunami warning products.
Website: <http://rtsp.bmkg.go.id>

Humanitarian Information Sources

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

UN OCHA's ROAP seeks to optimize the speed, volume and quality of humanitarian assistance and coordinates emergency preparedness and response in the world's most disaster-prone region in support of national governments. ROAP covers 41 countries partnering with them for coordinated and effective international responses to emergency situations.
Website: <https://www.unocha.org/roap>
For OCHA situation reports, click on "Subscribe" button on bottom of page.

ReliefWeb

ReliefWeb is a service of OCHA that consolidates information and analysis from organizations, countries, and disasters for the humanitarian community.
Website: <https://reliefweb.int/>

PreventionWeb

PreventionWeb is provided by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) to consolidate disaster risk reduction information into an online, easy to understand platform. Website: <https://www.preventionweb.net/english/>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

IFRC is the world's largest humanitarian organization, comprised of its 192-member National Societies including the CVTL, a secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, and over 60 delegations around the world. The IFRC carries out relief operations to assist victims of disasters and combines this with development work to strengthen the capacities of its member National Societies. IFRC's work focuses on four core areas: promoting humanitarian values, disaster response, disaster preparedness, and health and community care.³³³ Website: <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc>

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

ICRC is an impartial, neutral, and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. It also works to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. ICRC, together with IFRC and the 192 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, make up the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.³³⁴ Website: <https://www.icrc.org/en>

Humanitarian Response

Humanitarian Response is a platform providing the humanitarian community a means to aid in coordination of operational information and related activities. Website: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info>

Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)

GDACS is a cooperation framework between the United Nations, the European Commission, and disaster managers worldwide to improve alerts, information exchange, and coordination in the first phase after major sudden-onset disasters. Website: <https://www.gdacs.org/alerts/>

Virtual OSOCC

The Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) is a real-time online coordination tool for disaster response professionals from urban search and rescue (USAR) teams, national authorities, as well as regional and international organizations at a global level. Website: <https://vosocc.unocha.org/>
The latest alerts can be found here: <http://www.gdacs.org/Alerts/default.aspx>
To subscribe: <http://www.gdacs.org/About/contactus.aspx>

Consider other information resources, such as:

Think Hazard!

ThinkHazard! is an online tool that provides a general view of the hazards, for a given location, that should be considered in project design and implementation to promote disaster and climate resilience. The tool highlights the likelihood of different natural hazards affecting project areas (very low, low, medium, and high), provides guidance on how to reduce the impact of these hazards, and where to find more information. The hazard levels provided are based on published hazard data, provided by a range of private, academic, and public organizations. Information is provided on the Timor-Leste regarding hazards, country assessments, projects, early warning systems, and other resources. Website: <http://thinkhazard.org>

Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT)

HCT is a strategic and operational decision-making and oversight forum established

and led by the Humanitarian Coordinator in each country. It is generally comprised of representatives from UN agencies including the IOM, international NGOs, and the IFRC as well as the respective National Society in the country. During a disaster response, HCTs often produce a Situation Report (SitRep), usually in conjunction with OCHA. In Timor-Leste, the HPG discussed earlier is operates in lieu of a HCT.

Most HCT SitReps can be found through ReliefWeb: <https://reliefweb.int/>

Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)

HDX is an open platform for sharing data across crises and organizations launched in 2014 with the goal of centralizing humanitarian data for easy access and analysis. HDX is managed by OCHA's Center for Humanitarian Data in The Hague.

Website: <https://data.humdata.org/>

Regional Information Sources

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)

The AHA Centre is an intergovernmental organization, which aims to facilitate cooperation and coordination among ASEAN Member States and with the UN and international organizations for disaster management and emergency response in the ASEAN region.

The ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADINET) is a repository of information concerning hazards and disasters that have occurred in the region. The platform is open to the public and allows for members of the public to submit information about any hazard or disaster to the AHA Centre. The AHA Centre will verify and validate submitted information as well as add new information from its sources. ADINET has been recording disaster information in the region since the AHA Centre became operational in 2012.

Website: <https://ahacentre.org/disaster-information-management/>

Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC)

Changi RHCC was launched in September 2014 by the Singapore Ministry of Defence to support the military of a disaster affected state in coordinating assistance with assisting foreign militaries. It aims to provide open, inclusive, and flexible platforms that allow both regional and extra-regional militaries to work together effectively in a multinational disaster response. Changi RHCC manages the OPERA CIS web portal to broadcast the updated situation status of multinational military responses to disasters to minimize duplication and gaps in the provision of foreign military assistance.

Website: <https://www.changirhcc.org/>

To subscribe to RHCC Weekly and Spot Reports, email: Changi_RHCC@defence.gov.sg

U.S. Government (USG) Sources

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID is committed to responding to crises around the world to help people and places most in need. They aim to:

- Promote Global Health
- Support Global Stability
- Provide Humanitarian Assistance
- Catalyze Innovation and Partnership
- Empower Women and Girls

USAID produces a monthly newsletter called USAID Newsletter which is available digitally at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/newsletter>.

More information and updates from USAID are available via their blog, IMPACT, at <https://blog.usaid.gov/> and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

Website: <https://www.usaid.gov/>

USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) is responsible for leading and coordinating the U.S. Government response to disasters overseas. BHA responds to an average of 75 disasters in 70 countries every year. BHA fulfils its mandate of saving lives, alleviating

human suffering, and the reduction of the social and economic impact of disasters worldwide in partnership with USAID functional and regional bureaus and other U.S. government agencies. BHA works with the international population to assist countries prepare for, respond to, and recover from humanitarian crises.³³⁵

USAID/BHA products include situation reports and maps, which are available via email mailing lists as well as Reliefweb.org. Info products (HA Updates/Fact Sheets, etc.) are also available on USAID.gov (<https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance>)

For BHA updates on a disaster response, ask the BHA representative for the respective DoD Geographic Combatant Command to add you to the email list, if you have a U.S. government email address:

- BHA.INDOPACOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.SOUTHCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.NORTHCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.AFRICOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.SOCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.CENTCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.EUCOM@usaid.gov

Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) Global

Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) Global has trademarked an early warning and decision support system called DisasterAWARE®. DisasterAWARE is primarily for disaster management practitioners and senior decision makers. It supports disaster risk reduction and best practices throughout all phases of disaster management from early warning to multi-hazard monitoring. It has a collection of scientifically verified, geospatial, data and modeling tools to assess hazard risks and impacts. A restricted version of DisasterAWARE is the EMOPS (Emergency Operations) system, which is specifically for the disaster management community, including government agencies and humanitarian assistance organizations serving at local, state, federal, and regional levels.³³⁶

PDC also provides a public version, Disaster Alert, which offers open access to a world map documenting 18 hazard types.³³⁷ Disaster

Alert has a free, early-warning app to receive customizable maps based visual alerts of active hazards. The app offers a global notification system covering natural and man-made hazards. It is available on both iPhone and Android.³³⁸

Website: <https://www.pdc.org/> and <https://www.pdc.org/apps/disasteraware/>

Emergency Operations (EMOPS) system (request account): <https://emops.pdc.org/emops/>

All Partners Access Network (APAN)

APAN is the Unclassified Information Sharing Service (UISS) for the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). APAN provides the DoD and mission partners community space and collaboration tools to leverage information to effectively plan, train, and respond to meet their business requirements and mission objectives. Importantly, APAN's technology team has been supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) operations for over 15 years.³³⁹ APAN has played an integral role in the success of disaster responses, such as the 2015 California Wildfire Response and the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan Response, in which they provided organizations and militaries a centralized location to share information, increase situational awareness, and decrease response time and duplicated efforts for best practices in HADR services.³⁴⁰

Website: <https://www.apan.org/>

Note: The Multinational Communications Interoperability Program (MCIP) has an APAN site used in planning exercises and real world HADR information sharing.

Joint Typhoon Warning Center

JTWC provides advanced warning for U.S. Government agencies and organizations in relevant areas.

Website: <https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html>

Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI-APCSS)

DKI-APCSS is a U.S. Department of Defense institute that addresses regional and global

security issues, inviting military and civilian representatives of the U.S. and Asia-Pacific nations to its program of executive education and workshops.

Website: <https://apcss.org/>

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM)

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) is a U.S. Department of Defense organization that was established by U.S. Congress in 1994 and is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. CFE-DM provides training and education to help U.S. and foreign military personnel navigate complex issues in disaster management and humanitarian assistance. They produce country focused disaster management reference handbooks, after action reports, best practices, and lessons learned for advancement in response coordination. CFE-DM also works to improve cross-coordination and reduce duplication of efforts and promote U.S. involvement in civil-military consultations and dialogues with relevant HADR parties such as the AHA Centre, OCHA, and the Changi RHCC. CFE-DM provides resources and updates at its website, as well as via their Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Website: <https://www.cfe-dmha.org/>

Disaster Management Reference Handbooks are available for download at: <https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications/Disaster-Management-Reference-Handbooks>

CFE-DM Disaster Information Reports, Studies, Fact Sheets, Liaison Magazine issues and other information resources are available for download at: <https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications/Reports>

Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief Missions: Best Practices for Information Sharing, as well as other Best Practices pamphlets, is available here: <https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications/Best-Practices-Pamphlets>

COVID-19 Information Sharing Sources

Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center

The John Hopkins University (JHU) provides two key resources on COVID-19 information:

- JHU Coronavirus Resource Center provides a Daily COVID-19 Data in Motion report, which shares critical data on COVID-19 from the last 24 hours. Website: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>
- Data repository operated by the JHU Center for Systems Science and Engineering (JHU CSSE). It is also supported by ESRI Living Atlas Team and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab (JHU APL). Website: <https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19>

INFORM's COVID-19 Risk Index

The INFORM COVID-19 Risk Index is a composite index that identifies “countries at risk from health and humanitarian impacts of COVID-19 that could overwhelm current national response capacity, and therefore lead to a need for additional international assistance.”³⁴¹

The INFORM COVID-19 Risk Index is primarily concerned with structural risk factors, i.e., those that existed before the outbreak. It can be used to support prioritization of preparedness and early response actions for the primary impacts of the pandemic and identify countries where secondary impacts are likely to have the most critical humanitarian consequences.³⁴²

The main scope of the INFORM COVID-19 Risk Index is global and regional risk-informed resource allocation, i.e., where comparable understanding of countries' risk is important. It cannot predict the impacts of the pandemic in individual countries. It does not consider the mechanisms behind secondary impacts - for example how a COVID-19 outbreak could increase conflict risk.³⁴³ Website: <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/inform-covid-19-risk-index-version-0-1-4>

INFRASTRUCTURE

Timor-Leste's infrastructure is focused on the domestic movement of people and goods. Given the country's minimal role in international trade, cargo movement to and from the country tends to be sea-based and regional in character. Meanwhile, international passenger arrivals are predominantly via air except for some overland and sea routes (e.g., Dili-Oecusse ferry) between Timor-Leste and Indonesia. The road network is the most important transport mode for most Timorese; the road network serves 90% of passengers and 70% of freight movement throughout the country, and an estimated 50% of that network is underdeveloped.³⁴⁴

The Timor-Leste SDP 2011–2030 emphasizes investments in road infrastructure and prioritizes the rehabilitation and improvement (upgrading) of the existing road network. The SDP 2011–2030 prioritizes the development of human and physical capital through infrastructure development and capacity building. An infrastructure fund, backed by the Petroleum Fund, makes multi-year budgeting for large infrastructure projects. It is used as counterpart funds for donor-financed development projects, including transport infrastructure.³⁴⁵

In 2013, with additional support from the ADB, the GoTL enacted new public-private partnership (PPP) legislation, which underpins the implementation and development of PPP projects in the country. The first major PPP project is the construction of a seaport at Tibar Bay, which commenced in 2019 and is due for completion in 2022.³⁴⁶

Transport

Timor-Leste's transport sector includes road, air, and sea. Table 5 is a list of the government authorities responsible for the different sectors.³⁴⁷

Airports

Government authority over airports is shared between the Civil Aviation Authority of Timor-

Leste (AACTL) and the Aerial Navigation and Airports of Timor-Leste (ANATL) under the Ministry of Transport and Communication (MoTC). AACTL is responsible for promoting the safety, efficiency, and regulation of the aviation services in Timor-Leste. AACTL also has the responsibility for overall planning, implementation, and operation of the aviation services. ANATL is responsible for providing basic services for airports and air traffic control.³⁴⁸ Research into the aviation industry conducted by TAF in 2017 found that current policy making is divided and not coordinated between AACTL and ANATL, and the industry could benefit from a unified policy formulation unit.³⁴⁹

Timor-Leste has one international airport, Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport, located a 10-minute drive from Dili. Photo 8 is an image of the entrance to the airport. There are four international air routes to Dili:

- Denpasar (Bali, Indonesia);
- Kupang (Indonesia);
- Darwin (Australia);
- Singapore.³⁵⁰



Photo 8: President Nicolau Lobato International Airport

Table 6 contains information on Timor-Leste's airports (international and domestic) including International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)/ International Air Transport Association (IATA) codes, location, runway dimensions, surface material, and other notes.³⁵¹

Sector	Responsible Government Authority	Website
Airports	Shared responsibilities between the Civil Aviation Authority of Timor-Leste (AACTL) and the Air Navigation Administration (ANATL) under the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC).	https://www.facebook.com/people/Civil-Aviation-Authority-of-Timor-Leste/100069111254197/
Seaports	Port Authority of Timor-Leste (APORTIL) under MoTC.	https://customs.gov.tl/other-gov-agencies/custom-authority-timor-lemte/
Roads	Directorate of Roads, Bridges, and Flood Control (DRBFC) under the MoTC.	n/a

Table 5: Government Authorities Overseeing Airports, Roads, and Seaports

Airport	ICAO/ IATA Code	Location	Runway	Surface	Notes
Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport	WPD/LIL	Dili (10-minute drive from city center)	1,850 m x 30 m (6,070 ft. x 98 ft.)	Asphalt	Short runway with limitations on payloads
Suai (Covalima) Airport	WPDB/UAI	Covalima (4 km or 2.5 mi east of Suai or 5-hour drive, south from Dili)	1,050m x 30 m (3,445 ft. x 98 ft.)	Asphalt	Opened in 2017 for domestic passenger flights from Dili. Northern Oil & Gas Australia operate flights for its personnel between Suai and Darwin, Australia
Cakung Airport (Baucau Airfield)	WPEC/BCH	Baucau (2.5-hour drive, east from Dili)	2,509 m x 56 m (8,232 ft. x 184 ft.)	Asphalt	Under rehabilitation
Atauro Airport	WPAT/AUT	Atauro	n/a	n/a	Not in operation
Viqueque Airport	WPVQ/VIQ	Viqueque (4.5-hour drive from Dili)	n/a	n/a	Not in operation
Maliana Airport	WPMN/MPT	Maliana (3.5-hour drive from Dili)	n/a	n/a	Not in operation
Oecusse Airport	WPOC/OEC	Oecusse (7-hour drive, west from Dili, or 8-12-hour ferry journey from Dili)	n/a	n/a	Not in operation
Dili heliport	WPDH	Dili	n/a	n/a	Status unknown
Fuilor Airfield	WPFL	Lospalos (4.5-hour drive, east of Dili)	n/a	n/a	Not in operation

Table 6: Codes and Runway Dimensions for Timor-Leste Main Airports

The runway length at Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport does not meet international standards. The existing runway does not have the ICAO specified Runway End Safety Areas (RESA) which are at least 90 m (295 ft.) long and required for safe aerodrome operation. The runway can accommodate Code C aircrafts such as the B737 and A320, but operations of these aircrafts are under significant restrictions on payload because the length of the runway is short. The current Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) is also in poor condition and does not fully meet the requirements even for the existing runway.³⁵² In October 2021, the ADB approved a loan of US\$135 million to help Timor-Leste upgrade the airport by extending the runway, constructing a new air traffic control tower, and reconfiguring relevant facilities on the airside. The project will improve airport safety to attract more airlines and passengers and increase cargo flows.³⁵³

Timor-Leste has around six domestic airports recognized by the ICAO and IATA, but only one, Suai Airport (Covalima Municipality), is operational after opening in 2017 to domestic passenger flights as shown in Photo 9. Suai Airport also services a Suai-Darwin (Australia) flight route operated by Northern Oil & Gas Australia for human resource transport operations for oil platforms in the Timor Sea.³⁵⁴ Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport and the Baucau/Cakung aerodromes are designated as international aerodromes. However, Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport presently is the only aerodrome authorized for regular commercial operations on a charter basis.³⁵⁵ The Baucau Airport/Airfield is under rehabilitation with support from the U.S. DoD as discussed earlier.³⁵⁶ The remaining airports/airfields are not generally in service.

TAF's 2017 research also finds that "international accessibility to Timor-Leste is fragile, as international air transport to and from the country is wholly dependent on privately owned foreign airlines, and thus on the ability of these airlines to profit. The lack of capacity is also



Photo 9: Suai Airport Opened in 2017 for Domestic Flights from Dili

a serious bottleneck for the domestic aviation market, as current dependence on foreign carriers and regulations limits flexibility, making existing small-scale and charter flight services in the domestic aviation market too expensive for most Timorese.”³⁵⁷ The paper further finds that the current infrastructure serves the current demand, and although safety, security, and comfort upgrades are desirable, there is no need for costly upgrades to aviation infrastructure. To this effect, the GoTL has prioritized road upgrades under the SDP 2011-2030 as discussed below.

Seaports

The Autoridade Portuária Timor-Leste (APORTIL) under the MoTC is responsible for managing the Dili Seaport. The seaport is located in the center of the capital and is currently the only international port in Timor-Leste. The Dili Seaport is operational 24/7 for functions such as unloading/loading of vessels on the berth, removal of containers and bulk cargo (rice, cement, and timber), and returning empty containers for loading onto berthed vessels. The Dili Seaport has three gates for entry and exit of vehicles and container transport. There is a 24-hour security presence by the Maritime Police of the PNTL known as Unidade Polisia Maritima (UPM) and the National Directorate of Public Security (*Diresaun Nasional Seguransa Patrimoniu Publiku* - DNSPP) who

are responsible for gate access management and general security within the Port area.³⁵⁸

Cargo volumes handled at Dili Seaport have grown rapidly in recent years. The infrastructure is often overloaded and the port's operations are inefficient and unsafe.³⁵⁹ The port has no facilities to handle bulk cargos. Thus, shipments are restricted to containerized and conventional cargos. Storage facilities are very limited and the port suffers from congestion. The harbormaster indicates a maximum capacity of 1,000 containers can be stored on the hard standing. One ramp facilitating roll-on, roll-off vessels is located past the east end of the jetty, and a second one is present on the west side.³⁶⁰ Figure 20 is an aerial image of the Dili Seaport.³⁶¹

A second port, the Tibar Bay Seaport (12 km or 7.4 mi west of Dili) is under construction and is expected to open in 2022. The construction of the Tibar Bay Seaport marks the first major PPP infrastructure project for the country. The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, worked with support from the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) and the ADB to help the GoTL define its PPP pipeline and to select Tibar Bay port as the country's first PPP project. The Bank also mobilized funding from Australia's DFAT to support the PPP work.³⁶²

In 2016, the French transport conglomerate, Bolloré, won the 30-year concession to construct the port through a competitive tender.³⁶³ Bolloré established a local company to be the Concessionaire – Timor Port S.A. (TPSA) – and reached financial close on the project in August 2018. TPSA subcontracted the design and construction work to China Harbour Timor Lda (CHT), a subsidiary of China Harbour Engineering Company, one of the biggest port builders in the world.³⁶⁴ Bolloré invested US\$150 million in the first stage of construction, the largest private investment in the country to date outside of the oil and gas sector, with the GoTL contributing \$130 million in viability gap financing. Construction was expected to take place over three years (2019-2021).³⁶⁵ Once completed, the Tibar Bay seaport will be a

multipurpose facility, handling all types of cargo, including containers and vehicles, and it will also be home to an access channel and berth 16 m (52 ft.) deep that will enable it to receive large vessels.³⁶⁶ Figure 21 is an aerial image of Tibar Bay Port.³⁶⁷

Roads

Roads are the primary means of passenger and cargo transport across Timor-Leste. The network consists of national (1,426 km; 886 mi), district (869 km; 534 mi), and rural (3,025 km; 1,880 mi) roads. National roads are those that connect districts, and these include the two major coastal roads (North and South) as well as five roads that cross the interior to connect the coastal roads; on this network can be found 456 two-lane bridges.³⁶⁸

The main highways are:

- South: Dili to Ainaro via Aileu (110 km; 68 mi);
- East: Dili to Baucau via Manatuto (118 k; 73 mi);
- West: Dili to the Indonesia border via Liquica (115 km; 71.4 mi).³⁶⁹

The country is mountainous, and most of the road network passes through terrain that requires road-widening work with new embankments or slope cuttings.³⁷⁰ Much of the road network is in poor condition. Timor-Leste's slope instability and frequent landslides also pose a challenge to the provision of road transport. The results of a September 2015 World Bank survey indicated that 13% of rural roads were rated good, 30% were rated fair, 44% were rated poor, and 13% were rated bad.³⁷¹ Poor condition of roads slows both service delivery to rural areas and the movement of agricultural products from the main farming areas to coastal cities and export hubs. Poor road conditions have a big impact on seriously ill patients living in remote communities due to the long travel time it takes to reach the hospital in Dili.³⁷² Among others, the World Bank, the ADB, and Japan's JICA, are all participating in road rehabilitation projects intended to provide all-weather road surfaces.³⁷³

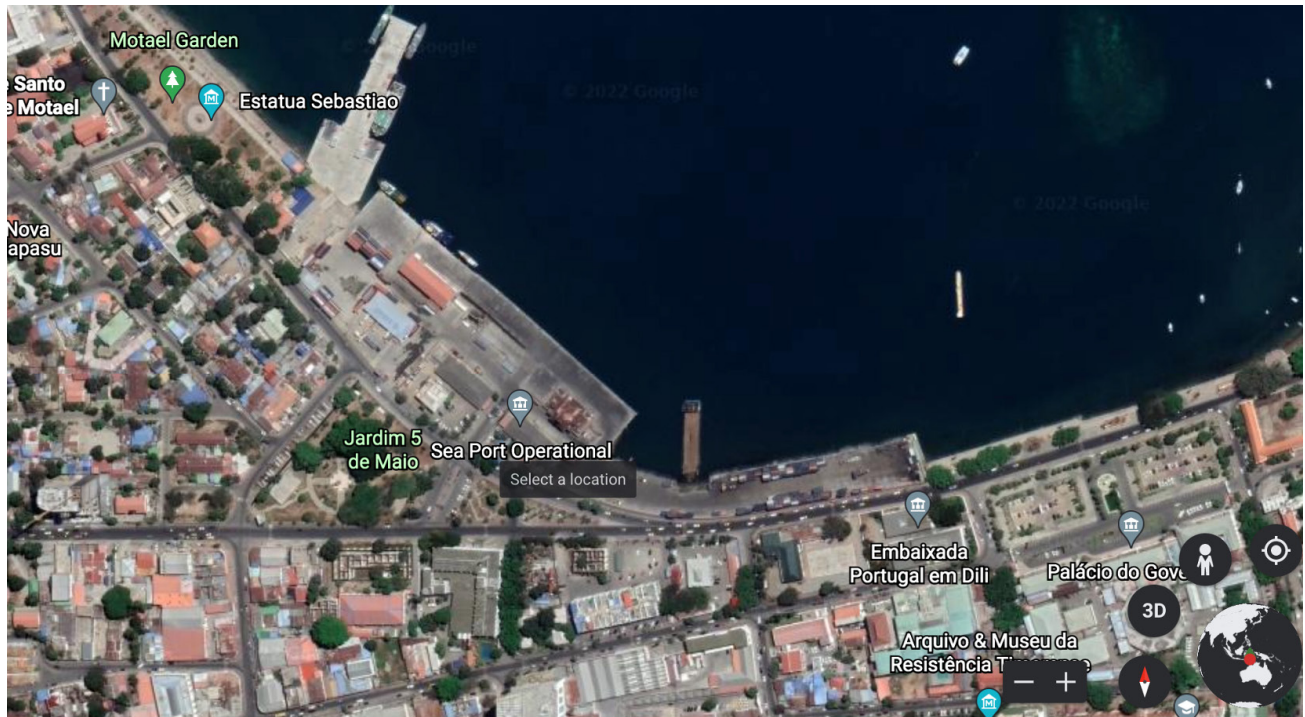


Figure 20: Dili Seaport (January 2022)



Figure 21: Tibar Bay Port (January 2022)

For example, the ADB's 'Road Network Development Sector Project' financed part of the medium-term Road Network Development Program of the GoTL. The project improved about 116 km (72 mi) of national roads to maintainable condition, established a road maintenance program, built access roads and parking areas of cross-border facilities, improved the capacity of national contractors to implement road works, improved the capability of the government agencies to administer road projects and the road maintenance program, increased road safety awareness, and instilled climate-proofing in road design and construction.³⁷⁴ Figure 22 is a depiction of the roads improved under the 'Road Network Development Sector Project'.³⁷⁵

Railways

There are no railways in Timor-Leste or international rail links to Timor-Leste.³⁷⁶

Waterways

Timor-Leste has no lakes that host water transport, and the country's rivers are dry much of the year. Thus, any inland water transport is seasonal and local.³⁷⁷

Schools

Timor-Leste's education framework is laid out in the 2008 Basic Law of Education, the SDP 2011-2030, and the recently prepared Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2020–2023.³⁷⁸

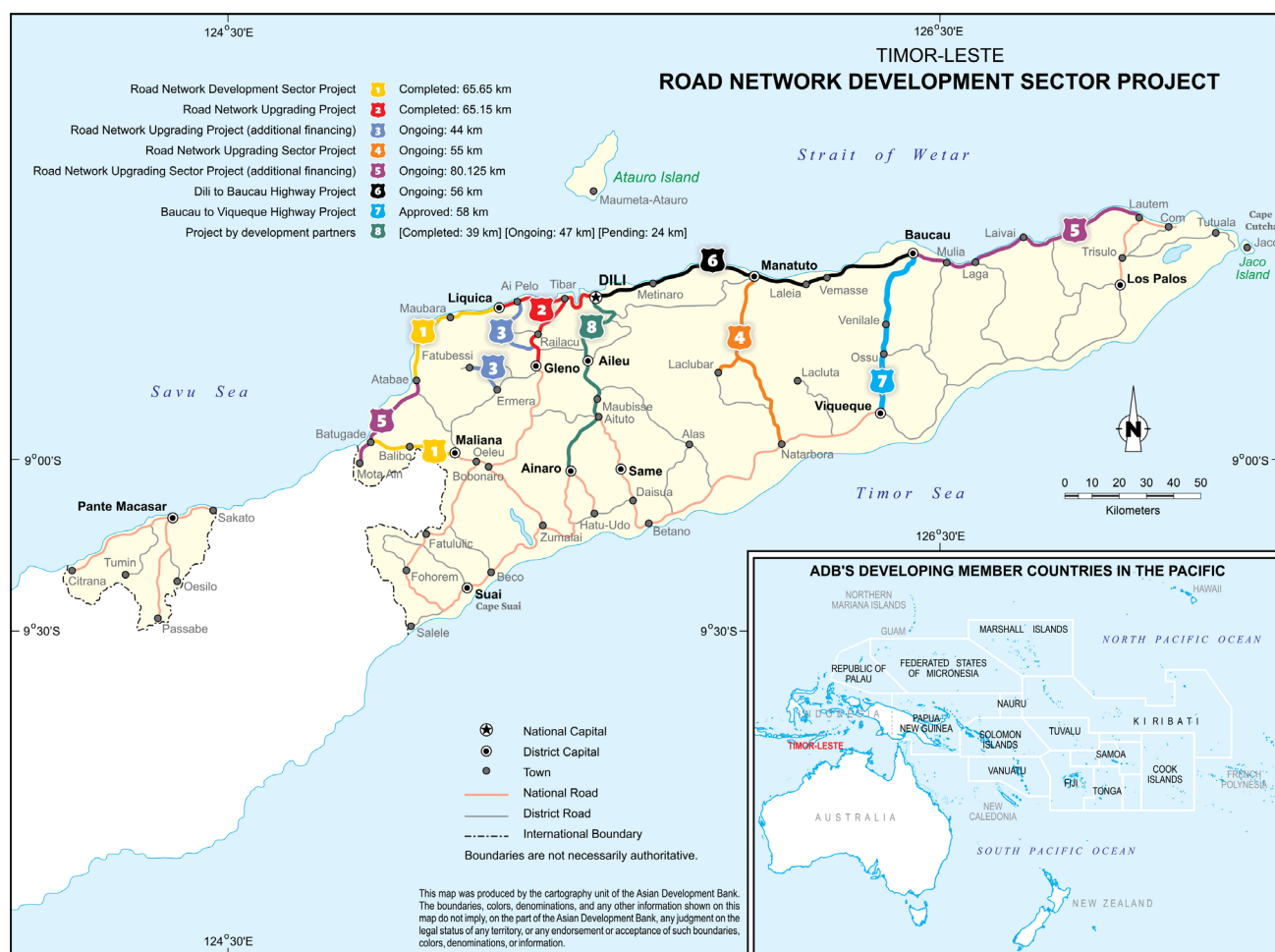


Figure 22: ADB Road Network Development Sector Project

The education system in Timor-Leste is comprised of:

- Preschool education (3-5 years of age);
- Basic education (primary school: 6-11 years of age);
- High school (lower secondary: 12-14 years of age, and higher secondary: 15-17 years of age);
- Technical (University) and Vocational Secondary Education;
- Recurrent Education.³⁷⁹

The academic year begins in January and ends in December, and the official primary school entrance age is six years old. The system is structured so that the primary school cycle lasts six years; lower secondary lasts three years and upper secondary lasts three years. In 2017, Timor-Leste had a total of 373,000 pupils enrolled in primary and secondary education. Of these pupils, about 223,000 (60%) were enrolled in primary education.

According to the 2015 Census, a total of 31,440 children between the ages of 6 and 14 years had never been to school (11.3% of all children between 6 and 14 years old). The non-attendance of boys in primary education is slightly higher than for girls (11.7% of boys compared to 11% of girls, consistent with the country's sex ratio of 1.06 males/females aged 0-14 years).³⁸⁰ Many children also do not enroll in the primary school system at the appropriate age.³⁸¹

Although DRR efforts in the education sector are ongoing, the April 2021 floods brought to the fore some immediate relief and recovery needs. During the response to the floods, the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF, and Plan International led the education sector relief and recovery efforts, with support from the WFP, Child Fund, Care International, HANDS, the Portuguese Embassy, Oxfam, World Vision, and the Timor-Leste Coalition for Education (TLCE). The following needs were identified in the aftermath of the disaster:

- Immediate need to address the psychosocial and learning needs of affected children;

- Immediate need to provide learning materials, WASH materials, and safe drinking water to schools affected by flooding;
- Immediate need to provide school meals through take-home rations for affected students/children; and
- Longer-term need to reconstruct and renovate affected schools.³⁸²

The following gaps and constraints were further identified:

- Data gaps on the numbers of school-aged children and teachers affected;
- Funding gap for immediate response and for reconstruction and renovation of school buildings and materials;
- Difficulties in mobilizing teachers to support flood response interventions in schools due to the COVID-19 situation; and
- Difficult access to some schools in the outskirts of, or outside of Dili, due to damaged roads and the COVID-19 related sanitary fence.³⁸³

UNICEF and Plan International supported the MoE to draft the Education Chapter of the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) led by the Vice Prime Minister's Office and coordinated by UN RCO/UNDP.

Disaster Risk Reduction in the Education Sector

In 1999, most education infrastructure in Timor-Leste was destroyed. Since then, significant resources have gone into building and rehabilitating schools, but there remain large shortfalls in basic construction (classrooms and facilities) in addition to ensuring that those facilities can withstand potential disasters (flooding, land-/mudslides, etc.). While construction is ongoing, there are also glaring gaps in the national curriculum regarding standardized emergency preparedness.³⁸⁴

Plan International, World Vision, and other partners are involved in running preparedness drills and education in some areas of the country. Plan International has helped children, parents,

teachers, and community members to learn how to prepare, mitigate, and prevent disasters through Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR). Between January 2015 and June 2018, the CCDRR program was implemented in an additional 20 primary schools in Aileu district.³⁸⁵ The program helped 26 schools to establish DDMCs made up of children, teachers, parents, and community members. These committees identify what students should do before, during, and after a disaster, and they have identified risks to their safety and methods for making their schools and homes safer. In addition, the program has provided DRR Safe Schools Training to more than 1,550 children and adults. These participants are now able to share this information – how to prepare for, mitigate, and prevent a disaster, and what to do if there is one – with their peers and members of their communities.

In February 2019, through World Vision's Disaster READY project, the Leolima Suco Disaster Management Committee (SDMC), the Balibo Administrative Post Disaster Management Committee, and World Vision worked in Bobonaro Municipality to conduct a disaster risk assessment for 12 schools in the community. The Community Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (COVACA) process developed a risk and hazard map to identify the dangers school students faced in Leolima Suco. Through the assessment, an action plan was developed to construct a small bridge and barriers along a creek to prevent flooding and landslide risks for children who must take the route to school each day.³⁸⁶

In 2019, UNDP released a regional guide to provide practical guidance to school administrations around the Asia-Pacific region on how to prepare for and respond to a tsunami risk. The guide aims to support schools in tsunami-prone areas, as well as flood-prone or even multi-hazard areas. The guide outlines the Seven Steps of School Tsunami Evacuation Drills and School Tsunami Preparedness.³⁸⁷ UNDP's guide builds off UNDP's work in Timor-Leste in 2018, where 750 school students in coastal areas

received tsunami evacuation training. Students received a detailed briefing before participating in simulated exercises, which involved taking cover in classrooms and evacuating the building and re-convening at a designated meeting point. Trained medics from the CVTL also provided a practical demonstration on evacuating and caring for the injured.³⁸⁸

Communications

For the first 10 years of Timor-Leste's independence, the country only had one telecommunications company, Timor-Telecom, to provide all services, including Internet service. In 2012, a new law was enacted to liberalize the telecommunications industry by renegotiating the exclusive contract with Timor-Telecom and allowing more companies to enter the market.³⁸⁹ Two new telecommunications companies started operating in the country, Telkomcel Indonesia and Telemor Vietnam, which helped reduce costs and improve services. Industry reforms included establishing an independent regulatory agency, the Autoriedade Nacional de Comunicações, which was mandated to ensure compliance with regulations in the newly competitive market and to support universal access in less commercially viable areas.³⁹⁰

The SDP 2011-2030 notes that access to telephones, Internet, and broadband is very low, with limited coverage in rural areas and high prices. Existing telecommunication capacity does not enable the government to coordinate and control emergency services in the event of a national disaster.³⁹¹ This limitation was highlighted during the April 2021 floods, whereby telecommunication challenges limited the ability of the government to share early warning and response-relevant communication via mobile cellular networks with municipalities outside of Dili.³⁹²

Fixed Telephones

In 2020, Timor-Leste fixed telephone subscriptions numbered 2,012, representing a decline from the peak of 3,557 in 2014.³⁹³ This

represents a subscription rate of 0.153 lines per 100 people in 2020 (and 0.303 per 100 people in 2014).³⁹⁴

Mobile Cellular

Conversely, in 2020, mobile cellular subscriptions numbered 1,377,915, up from 614,151 in 2011.³⁹⁵ This represents a subscription rate of 104.511 per 100 people in 2020, up from 55.172 per 100 people in 2011.³⁹⁶

Internet Access

In 2020, 27% of Timor-Leste's population was using the Internet, representing an increase from 4% in 2011.³⁹⁷ In 2019 Timor-Leste was estimated to have 600 fixed broadband subscriptions, up from 22 in 2005.³⁹⁸ These numbers suggests that most of the population accesses the Internet via mobile cellular devices.

Mass Media

Radio is the most popular mass medium in Timor-Leste with many community radios operating with funding from international agencies and NGOs. Public radio has near-nationwide reach; public TV has a smaller coverage. Major newspapers include the Dili Weekly (in Tetum); Suara Timor Lorosae (in English); Timor Post (English, Portuguese, and Tetum), and the Tyneside East Timor Solidarity (English).³⁹⁹ Many expats and the English-speaking population are subscribed to the East Timor and Indonesia Action Network (ETAN) listserv, which is a forum for sharing the latest news relevant to the international aid and development community, as well as job postings, request for proposals, etc.⁴⁰⁰ Another key news outlet is Tatoli, a website, which covers national and international news in Tetum, Bahasa Indonesia, English, and Portuguese.⁴⁰¹

According to Freedom House, "while media freedom is constitutionally protected, domestic media outlets are vulnerable to political pressure due to their reliance on government financial support in a small media market with limited nongovernmental sources of support. Journalists are often treated with suspicion, particularly

by government officials, and self-censor. However, in recent years, journalists have been more willing to produce articles critical of the government."⁴⁰²

Post

In April 2000, Timor-Leste established its postal service.⁴⁰³ Correios De Timor-Leste (CTL) is the government agency responsible for providing postal services. CTL became a member of the Universal Postal Union on 28 November 2003. The authority has also been a member of International Association of Portuguese-Speaking Communications (AICEP) since 2002.⁴⁰⁴

In 2010, Timor-Leste Post Office Central Headquarters at Quintal Qui'ik in Dili was inaugurated after being built with financial support from KOICA. The headquarters is equipped with a software system that follows the international postal service standards.⁴⁰⁵ Timor-Leste's Post Office mostly implements international services. Domestic postal service is limited within the country.

International shipping services FedEx, UPS, and DHL, are available in Timor-Leste. FedEx is represented in Timor-Leste by a nominated service contractor.⁴⁰⁶ UPS is represented by JVK NAGA International Movers Timor, Lda.⁴⁰⁷ DHL opened a service center in Dili in 2019.⁴⁰⁸

Utilities

Power

In 2019, 95% of the population was estimated to have access to electricity.⁴⁰⁹ The rate of access is 100% of the urban population and 92% of the rural population.⁴¹⁰

Timor-Leste is a net exporter of crude oil; however, there are no refining facilities in the country. Energy consumption relies on imported energy, mostly for generation of electricity and fuel for transportation, leading to relatively high expenditures for the annual energy budget.⁴¹¹

Electricidade de Timor-Leste is the main generator and distributor of electric power in areas served by its limited grid system and in isolated areas served by its diesel generators.

The main power supply is from the 16-megawatt (MW) diesel-fired Comoro power station in Dili, as well as two facilities in Hera (120 MW) and Betano (135 MW) that both run on heavy fuel oil and were installed by Finnish company Wartsila. In many areas not serviced by the electricity grid, small diesel-fired generators are the main source of electric power. Many villages have no electricity, and candles are commonly used.⁴¹²

At the High-Level Dialogue on Energy on 24 September 2021, the Minister of Public Works stated that over US\$1.2 billion has been invested in the construction of power plants, substations, and transmission and distribution lines. In 2020, the GoTL established an autonomous public utility and a regulatory body to improve the management and upgrading of electricity service in the country. In terms of renewable energy, in addition to the conversion of current diesel power plants to natural gas, the government is preparing a tender for 100-MW solar parks to supply more than half of the country's current energy demand and has conducted a feasibility study of surface water with a viability of a 50-MW hydropower facility. Remote areas will be powered through the use of individual home solar panel system and off-grid mini solar parks. These efforts will reduce energy costs and carbon dioxide emissions. Furthermore, the GoTL plans to digitize the existing distribution grid to improve the power feed reliability.⁴¹³

Water and Sanitation

Considerable improvements have been made in drinking-water services since independence in 2002, although a large proportion of the

population still lacks access to sanitation. Rural areas are lagging behind in terms of both water and sanitation services, especially in difficult-to-access mountainous regions where some of the poorest members of the population live. Difficult-to-access communities rely on local government authorities that lack funding and training. Landslides and flooding threaten the services that do exist.⁴¹⁴

In 2022, an estimated 191,232 people do not have clean water (more than one in ten persons), and 570,006 people do not have a decent toilet (40% of the population).⁴¹⁵

WASH services in Timor-Leste are led by the Ministry of Public Works under the Secretary of State for Water and Sanitation and supported by several other ministries, NGOs, and international agencies. A WASH coordination body including all main ministries and NGOs meets regularly.⁴¹⁶

In 2020, the World Bank approved a US\$25 million (with a US\$5 million contribution from the GoTL), Timor-Leste Water Supply and Sanitation Project to benefit up to 25,000 people in Timor-Leste's second largest city, Baucau. The project will support the Ministry of Public Works to construct and ensure efficient and sustainable management of a centralized water supply system to provide treated drinking water with connections to household premises, businesses, schools, and community services. Similarly, a treatment plant and community-based sewerage schemes will be built for collection and treatment of domestic wastewater. The project will deliver a sustainable and safer, clean water and sanitation system by 2026.⁴¹⁷

HEALTH

In 2022, COVID-19 is spreading quickly throughout the country, despite early successes in containing the virus.

Meanwhile, flooding and landslides have caused considerable human loss and economic damage. The simultaneous occurrence of the pandemic and floods highlighted and exacerbated underlying weaknesses in Timor-Leste's health system. These include shortages in medical equipment, supplies (e.g., personal protective equipment and other medical consumables), and medicines.⁴¹⁸

Recent flooding has exacerbated the increased transmission of infectious diseases (e.g., dengue and waterborne diseases) and higher incidence of respiratory infections, among others. In addition, challenges with public financial management and procurement have delayed plans to rehabilitate and fit existing infrastructure to serve as quarantine and isolation facilities.⁴¹⁹

Disruptions to health and nutrition services arising from these crises may have a multiplier effect on access to care for routine and essential care, setting back the country's progress on health outcomes and human capital development.⁴²⁰

Persistent challenges include a high rate of childhood stunting, infectious diseases, and poor maternal and child health outcomes. These challenges are being compounded by a rising burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCD) alongside the need to respond to COVID-19.⁴²¹

Health Care System Structure

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has five national directorates: 1) community health services; 2) planning and finance; 3) administrative logistics and procurement; 4) hospital and referral services; and 5) human resources. Official external partners of the Ministry include the WHO and UNICEF.

One of the MoH's key programs is the Integrated Community Health Services, which has functioned since 2008. It is an initiative to extend the reach of basic primary health care services to the community and household level.⁴²²

Tertiary care is currently provided overseas as a result of limited technology and specialized human resources to perform complex interventions. Referral hospitals to secondary care are located in five strategic regions. They have Emergency, In-Patient, and Outpatient Departments, and they cover four clinical areas including surgery, pediatrics, gyno-obstetrics, and internal medicine.⁴²³

Figure 23 shows Timor-Leste's National Health Service configuration, as depicted in its National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2011-2030.⁴²⁴

Health Strategies and Surveillance

The WHO partners with Timor-Leste's MoH. The WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) with Timor-Leste for 2015-2019 identified five strategic priorities:

- Strategic Priority 1: Strengthening health systems to ensure universal health coverage;
- Strategic Priority 2: Reducing the burden of communicable diseases;
- Strategic Priority 3: Reduce the burden of NCDs, mental health, violence and injuries, disabilities, and ageing, through inter-sectoral collaboration;
- Strategic Priority 4: Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, adolescent health, and nutrition; and
- Strategic Priority 5: Emergency preparedness, surveillance, and response including implementing the provisions of the International Health Regulations.⁴²⁵

Since 2020, Timor-Leste has faced the dual challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and a major disaster in the form of the April 2021

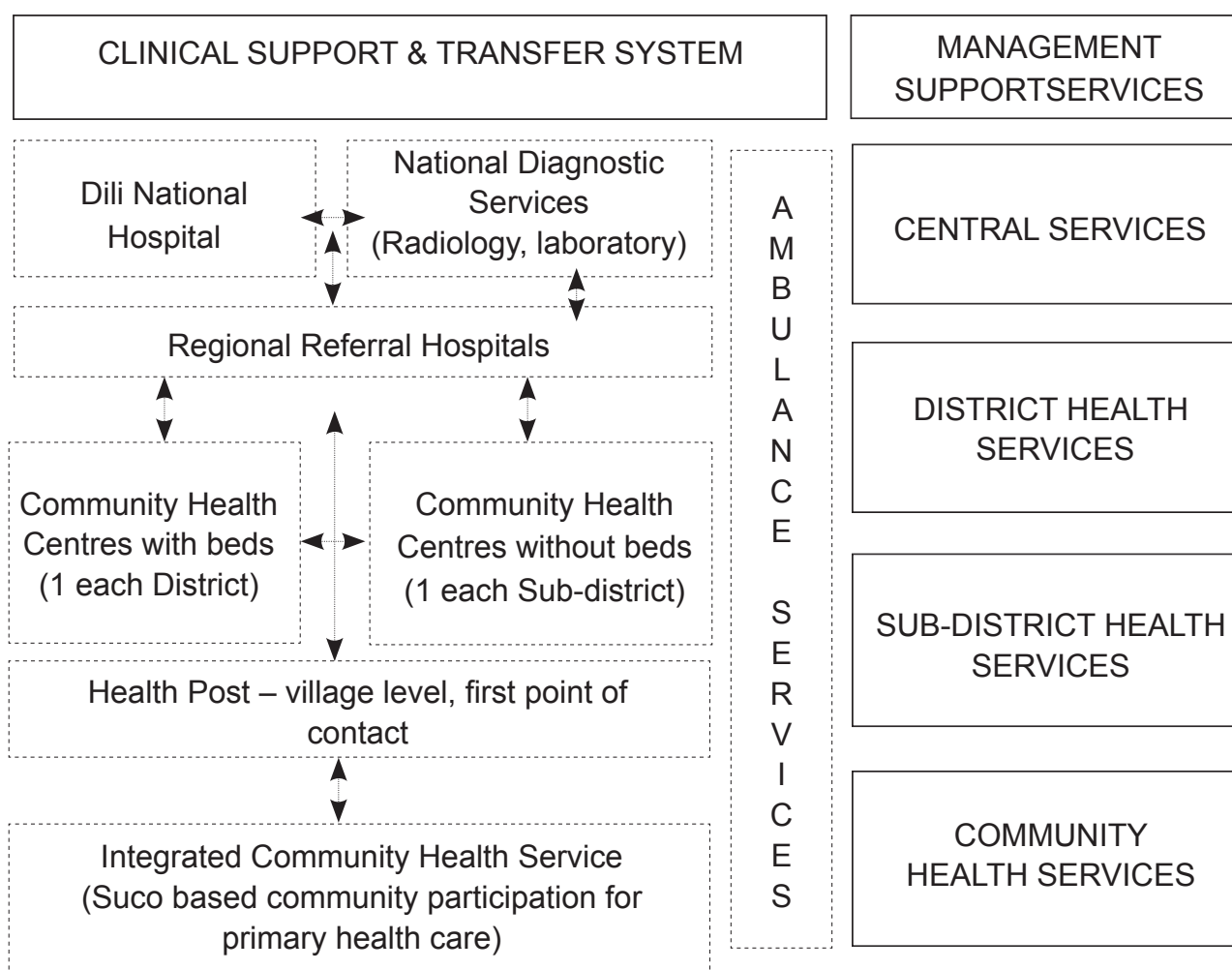


Figure 23: Timor-Leste National Health Service Configuration

floods. The World Bank Group's 'Timor-Leste Economic Report: Charting a New Path' of May 2021 highlights the challenge for the country of tackling multiple agendas simultaneously. While Timor-Leste is working towards its SDG targets by improving maternal and child health and addressing communicable diseases, it is also tackling a growing burden of NCDs and emerging health challenges.⁴²⁶ According to the report, there has been variable progress in the coverage of essential health services over the past decade. Several maternal and child health services have improved significantly, such as antenatal care coverage rates (four+ visits) – which increased from 55% in 2009 to 77% in 2016. However, health service utilization remains relatively low. In 2017, the outpatient utilization rate was approximately two and a half visits per person per year, significantly lower than most

countries in the East Asia and the Pacific region. In addition, access to care is uneven across municipalities.⁴²⁷

Disruptions to health and nutrition services arising from COVID-19 and the torrential floods have adversely affected access to routine and essential care. In particular, disruptions have affected seven key services: antenatal care, emergency obstetric care, regular obstetric care, post-natal care, essential new-born care, immunization, and wellness checks for children and adults (e.g., growth monitoring, routine visits).⁴²⁸

Furthermore, the compounding effects of COVID-19 and the flooding crises have elevated mental health concerns. A pulse survey (frequent surveys that serve as a short check-in with the same audience) identified that many citizens felt increased levels of stress and negative

impacts towards their jobs (52%) and their household income (50%). Young people were less positive about their physical health, personal relationships, spending time with family, feeling part of the community, and ability to deal with everyday challenges. The adequacy of mental health and psychosocial support services will be an emerging need.⁴²⁹

Communicable Diseases

Timor-Leste is burdened with the following communicable diseases: tuberculosis, dengue, HIV/AIDS, and leprosy. This section also discusses leprosy and malaria, which have both been effectively eradicated in the country, but cases are still reported.

Tuberculosis

Timor-Leste has a very high burden of tuberculosis (TB). In 2018, the national rate of TB prevalence and mortality was among the highest rates in Southeast Asia.⁴³⁰

Timor-Leste's TB burden was first recorded in 1995 and averaged 707 cases per 100,000 people. In 2010 it stood at 378 cases per 100,000, and in 2018, 100 cases per 100,000 people in the country. Timor-Leste has achieved significant progress in reducing the burden of TB, although the country's TB rate remains high for the region.⁴³¹ Malnutrition and smoking are the top known drivers of the TB epidemic.⁴³² TB case detection remains an ongoing challenge due to passive health seeking behavior among the population and poor quality of specimen collection and transportation to smear microscopy centers.⁴³³

The Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant TB (PMDT) service was initiated in 2008 with support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund) and technical assistance from the WHO. PMDT services are available across all municipalities of the country under the National TB Program (NTP) framework. Other partners supporting the GoTL in TB control include Caritas, Klibur Domin (NGO), Bairo Pite Clinic (NGO), IOM, Burnet Institute, Café Cooperativa Timor, Clinic

(Corporate Sector partner), KOICA, and JICA. Assistance has focused on active case finding, nutrition support, laboratory expansion, private sector engagement, and treatment of TB, including drug resistant-TB.⁴³⁴

Dengue

Although Timor-Leste has made significant progress in effectively eliminating malaria, dengue remains a burden with several epidemics occurring in the past decade. Dengue incidence is highly seasonal and geographically clustered, with positive associations with temperature, precipitation, and demographic factors.⁴³⁵

Due to poor access to and use of health care, high case-fatality rates (12%) have been reported during prior epidemics. During January–April 2019, the WHO office in Timor-Leste reported an increase in the number of cases of dengue compared with the same period in the previous year and five deaths, consistent with a dengue epidemic.⁴³⁶

In 2020, Timor-Leste faced another dengue epidemic coincident with the COVID-19 pandemic. In June 2020 the country recorded 1,000 dengue cases and eight deaths. The spike in dengue cases is connected with the longer rainy season, which increased the number of breeding spots for the mosquito that carries the dengue virus.⁴³⁷

In January 2022, Timor-Leste is again reporting a high incidence of dengue. According to data from the MoH, 1,198 total dengue fever cases have been recorded, compared to 901 total cases in all of 2021. Approximately 78% of the total cases are reported in children aged 1-14 years.⁴³⁸

Dengue control in Timor-Leste involves a multi-pronged approach based on case management through early detection and diagnosis, vector control via spraying, education on prevention, and surveillance.⁴³⁹

HIV/AIDS

In 2015, national estimates indicated that Timor-Leste continued to be a low prevalence country; however, there are areas and groups where the HIV epidemic could be “concentrated.”

The first case of HIV was identified in 2003 and the cumulative number of cases reported grew to 725 as of December 2017. Case identification is clustered in six municipalities and around larger urban areas and districts bordering on Indonesia (Bobonaro, Oecusse, and Covalima) or seaports (Dili, Baucau, and Oecusse). Ainaro, another municipality, is also regarded as a high burden area due to the mobility of people through this district to land borders.

There is a lack of detailed understanding of key drivers of the epidemic, and the provision of services to some groups is hampered by limited access to HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and care services. For example, there are exceptionally low testing rates among Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) patients. To eliminate transmission of HIV and reach the “90-90-90 targets” (90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy; 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression)⁴⁴⁰ set out in the National Strategic Plan for HIV and STI 2017–2021, continued and accelerated service access and delivery was recommended in the 2018 Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Country Progress Report for Timor-Leste.⁴⁴¹

Leprosy

From 2000 to 2022, the MoH recorded more than 5,000 cases of leprosy in the country. In 2010, the number of leprosy cases dropped significantly, leading Timor-Leste to declare zero leprosy cases in 2011.⁴⁴² However, new cases have been reported since 2011.⁴⁴³ There were 491 cases of leprosy per 10,000 inhabitants registered in 2004 in Timor-Leste. This rate dropped dramatically to less than one case per 10,000 inhabitants - the rate at which a country can be considered free from the leprosy threat. Notwithstanding, there are still pockets of the disease in Timor-Leste.⁴⁴⁴ In 2021, the MoH recorded 150 cases of leprosy in eight municipalities and the Special Administrative

Region of Oecusse Ambeno (RAEOA); with 30 cases detected in Baucau; 28 cases in Dili; 19 cases in Covalima; 18 cases in Ainaro; 17 cases in Manatuto; 15 cases in RAEOA; seven cases in Liquiçá, two cases in Lautém; and one case in Viqueque.⁴⁴⁵

Malaria

Timor-Leste established the National Malaria Control Program just after independence in 2003 with two officers. The program expanded over the years, and strategic malaria control activities in an organized manner commenced in 2009 with funding from the Global Fund.⁴⁴⁶

The incidence of malaria declined dramatically from 223,002 cases in 2006 with the last indigenous case being reported in June 2017. Many efforts contributed to the significant drop in cases, including ensuring universal access to malaria prevention, quality assured diagnostic tools and effective anti-malarial medicines at point of care, intensified surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building, including training of staff. Imported cases of malaria since 2016 have been traced to Indonesia, where malaria is endemic. There is frequent undocumented migration through the Timor-Leste–Indonesian border, and nearby Indonesian islands are frequently visited by residents of Timor-Leste for various purposes.⁴⁴⁷

The Malaria Elimination Oversight Committee of the WHO indicated in 2019 that Timor-Leste was eligible to apply to the WHO for malaria-free certification by mid-2020.⁴⁴⁸ However, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) still recommends travelers to Timor-Leste take prescription medicine to prevent malaria.⁴⁴⁹

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

The first case of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste was confirmed on 21 March 2020. The GoTL declared a State of Emergency (SoE) on 28 March 2020. Given Timor-Leste’s weak health system and high level of multi-dimensional poverty, the GoTL and its development assistance partners anticipated the impact of the COVID-19

outbreak in the country would be severe, with the poor, the excluded, and the most vulnerable populations disproportionately affected.⁴⁵⁰

Despite these challenges, Timor-Leste was effective in preventing the spread of the pandemic in 2020. The GoTL responded quickly and established two key mechanisms to coordinate the overall response. The first was a COVID-19 emergency fund, which was capitalized with US\$219.5 million transferred from the Petroleum Fund and used as a clearing-house for all COVID-19-related expenditures. Establishing the fund allowed the GoTL to approve a health response and an economic stimulus package equivalent to 10.8% of GDP. The GoTL also stood up the CIGC with support from the WHO to lead the health response.⁴⁵¹

However, in 2021, COVID-19 spread quickly throughout the country, exacerbated by floods in early April that led to widespread displacement.⁴⁵² Flood damage prompted authorities to temporarily lift COVID-19 restrictions. Evacuees were gathered in group shelters where social distancing was difficult. Flooding also resulted in power cuts to some COVID-19 treatment centers and put extra pressure on Timor-Leste's health system.⁴⁵³

According to the WHO in Timor-Leste, from 3 January 2020 to 25 January 2022, there were 22,584 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 126 deaths (as shown in Figure 24). On 25 January 2022, a total of 1,237,678 vaccine doses had been administered.⁴⁵⁴

Non-Communicable Diseases

NCDs, also known as chronic diseases, are not passed from person to person, but are usually of long duration and result from a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental, and behavioral factors. The main types of NCD with which Timor-Leste grapples are cardiovascular diseases (such as heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma), and diabetes.⁴⁵⁵ NCDs are responsible for 71% of all deaths worldwide and 45% of all deaths in Timor-Leste.⁴⁵⁶

Tobacco use is a high-risk factor that contributes to NCDs in the country. Timor-Leste has one of the highest smoking rates in the world. About 60.7% of adult males and 9.4% of adult females used tobacco in 2020. The tobacco prevalence among young people is similarly high, with about 42% of boys and 21% of girls ages 13-15 using tobacco in 2019. Every year, more than 700 people in Timor-Leste are killed by tobacco-related diseases while the economic cost of smoking amounts annually to US\$64 million, or about 1.5% of GDP.⁴⁵⁷

The GoTL is addressing the risk of prevalent tobacco use. In 2004, the government ratified the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC). In 2016, the country passed strong tobacco control legislation. The law bans tobacco advertising and promotions and bans smoking in

Timor-Leste Situation

22,584
confirmed cases

126
deaths

Source: World Health Organization
Data may be incomplete for the current day Jan 1 or week.

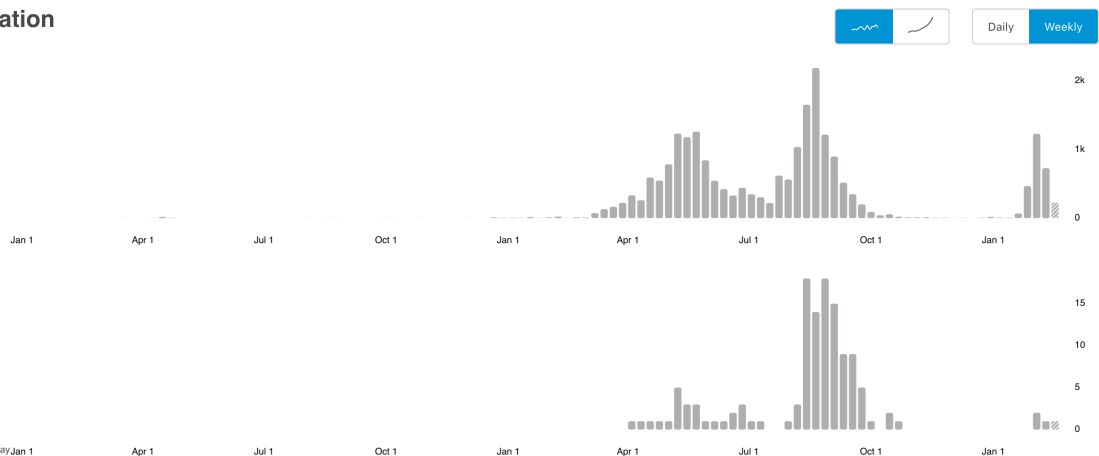


Figure 24: WHO Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Deaths (25 February 2022)

public spaces, public gatherings, offices, meeting venues, and inside public transport such as taxis and microlets (mini-buses). The 2016 law also prohibits the sale of tobacco products to children under the age of 17 and the sale of tobacco products at educational facilities, playgrounds, stadiums, and healthcare institutions, as well as via vending machines and the Internet.⁴⁵⁸

High blood pressure is another risk factor significantly driving death and disability in Timor-Leste. However, less than half the population has had their blood pressure measured, as indicated in a 2016 survey among women and men 30-49 years of age. Among survey respondents, 39% of women and 32% of men reported having their blood pressure measured, and 18% of women and 12% of men reported being told by a health professional that they have high blood pressure. Among those told of their high blood pressure, 65% of women and 54% of men are currently taking medication for it.⁴⁵⁹ While NCDs are responsible for a significant portion of mortality in Timor-Leste, progress is being made in reducing some risk factors.

Training for Health Professionals

In 2001, Timor-Leste had only around 20 doctors. Cuban doctors first arrived in Timor-Leste in 2004 as part of a large-scale medical training program. Cuba offered 1,000 scholarships to train Timorese medical students, and by 2009, 680 medical students were studying in Cuba while 190 medical students were receiving Cuban-sponsored training at home in Timor-Leste. Cuba also provided a brigade of 300 health workers, with the majority dispatched to the district and sub-district level, starting the core of a rural doctor-centered health service.⁴⁶⁰

By the end of 2017, more than 1,000 Timorese doctors were to have entered the national health system.⁴⁶¹ In 2019, Timor-Leste had 0.769 physicians per 1,000 people.⁴⁶²

Notwithstanding the positive rise in the number of doctors in the country, quality of care can be improved substantially, especially through better training. A 2016 study found that the performance of general practitioners was very good in terms of attitude (91%), but only moderate in health education, history taking, and treatment accuracy. More importantly, the average physical examination performance score was low at 28%. Low performance scores were due to a lack of clinical knowledge, which suggested that the quality of both pre- and in-service training for health workers could be improved. The survey also found that pre-service training, mainly at the Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL) suffers from a lack of resources such as adequate library facilities, laboratories, and practice sites. UNTL has not introduced core competency frameworks and competency-based curricula, leaving many graduates without suitable skills and competencies when they enter the workforce. In-service training at the National Health Institute (INS) is highly dependent on donor resources, and training programs are poorly coordinated with MoH service delivery priorities. This has resulted in a disconnect between the training received by health workers and staffing needs on the ground.

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) adopted in 2000, reaffirmed the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts. UNSCR 1325 affirms the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and peacebuilding, and stresses their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the promotion of peace and security.⁴⁶³

Timor-Leste acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 16 April 2003 without reservations.⁴⁶⁴ In October 2016, Timor-Leste published its National Action Plan (NAP) for implementing UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS).⁴⁶⁵ Timor-Leste's NAP is the result of a participatory process involving multiple stakeholders that the Secretary of State for Security started in 2013. The NAP draws upon experiences of men and women during armed conflict starting from Indonesia's invasion in 1975, while affirming more actions are needed for Timorese women to achieve equal rights and justice. The NAP has four main pillars: 1) Participation, 2) Prevention, 3) Protection, and 4) Peacebuilding.

With regards to women's political participation, women in Timor-Leste are more numerous in the Parliament and Cabinet (Council of Ministers) than in most other countries in Southeast Asia. As a result of a quota system, women currently hold 38% of the parliamentary seats. However, challenges remain in ensuring women's meaningful participation. Women, although present, are pressured to be silent. These pressures come from limited support for women's leadership, lack of information, low self-esteem or confidence to speak up, and other challenges. Women who do voice their concerns might not have their contributions heard and responded to by duty

bearers.⁴⁶⁶

Women's participation in the security sector can be improved. A 2014 assessment by UN Women and the PNTL Gender Section found that most female officers are in low positions (logistics or administration), lack equal career prospects and education opportunities, lack facilities - such as separate changing rooms or toilets - and are not allowed to carry weaponry during operations, even though they are trained to use them.⁴⁶⁷

When it comes to prevention, more effort is needed to increase the number of women conflict mediators, whose numbers remain low compared to men. As a collectivist society, many community conflicts originate in the family and household and later develop into a conflict between two families. Gender-based and domestic violence are often the trigger of community conflicts. Women mediators can play a role in providing peer support and referrals for victims of domestic violence and GBV. Increasing the number of women mediators will ensure dispute resolution practices and norms applied are more gender-sensitive.⁴⁶⁸

Domestic violence remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations in Timor-Leste. TAF's 2016 study found that three in five women aged 15 to 49 years (59%) who had ever been in a relationship said they had experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a male intimate partner at least once in their lifetimes.⁴⁶⁹ The Law Against Domestic Violence (LADV 2010) has been a significant step forward in recognizing domestic violence as a crime. However, barriers persist to reporting GBV due to fear, pressure to resolve matters within the family/village, and lack of trust in the police and formal justice system.⁴⁷⁰

Furthermore, Timor-Leste has recognized that women's economic participation is central to women's ability to fully participate and

contribute to the country's reconstruction and development. Supporting women's rights to land and inheritance, access to credit, equal access to education, as well as investment in the skills-training and capacity building of women and girls, and addressing the needs of female-headed householders are needed interventions.⁴⁷¹

To address these challenges, the NAP includes the following objectives under the components of participation, prevention, protection, and peacebuilding:

1. Participation:
 - Increased representation of women elected or appointed to roles in decision-making positions in the security and justice sectors at local and national levels;
 - Laws, Policies, and Programs regarding peace and security are developed with maximum participation from various groups of women and men, and promote gender equality;
 - Increased promotion, recruitment, and representation of women in national institutions for security, defense, and justice; and
 - Community conflict resolution mechanisms and leaders provide opportunities for women to participate actively as mediators and focal points in peace and security.⁴⁷²
2. Prevention:
 - Integrate modules on gender in training manuals of defense, security, and justice training institutions and provide mandatory courses on gender equality, human rights, and HIV/AIDS awareness;
 - Include a gender perspective in conflict prevention mechanisms;
 - Promote a culture of peaceful conflict resolution in the community;
 - Ensure that laws and policies that guide conflict resolution and mediation are gender sensitive; and
 - Strengthen (public) awareness on gender-sensitive conflict prevention through media.⁴⁷³
3. Protection:
 - Improve the gender sensitivity of the formal justice system through the implementation of gender-sensitive laws and the equal and gender-sensitive interpretation of laws and regulations; and
 - Expand awareness and accessibility of voluntary counselling and testing for HIV/AIDS and STIs in municipalities.⁴⁷⁴
4. Peacebuilding:
 - Ensure women have access to natural resources - including land, clean water, and other basic needs - to allow them to build sustainable livelihoods and contribute to a stable and peaceful society;
 - Promote women's roles in peacebuilding and conflict resolution at the community level;
 - Implement the government recommendations and provisions of the Timor-Leste Commission for Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation (more commonly known by its Portuguese acronym CAVR, Comissão de Acolhimento, Verdade e Reconciliação de Timor Leste) and the Commission on Truth and Friendship (more commonly known by its Portuguese acronym CVA, Comissão Verdade e Amizade) regarding women's rights; and
 - Former women combatants and veterans receive justice and recognition for their contributions to peace.⁴⁷⁵

Since the NAP 1325 was adopted in 2016, the MoI has established a Secretariat and a coordination structure to liaise with 12 other line ministries and various civil society organizations to take forward the Plan's 47 activities. As an example, the "Enhancing Women's Meaningful Participation in Peacebuilding and State building" project, supported by the Government of Japan and UN Women, is helping Timor-Leste to implement its NAP 1325 (2016-2020), with a focus on women's participation and role in conflict prevention.⁴⁷⁶

CONCLUSION

The dual challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and the major floods of April 2021 seriously tested Timor-Leste's disaster management capability. The damage caused by the floods and widespread displacement tested the government's capacity to respond. The Prime Minister led a whole-of-government response through the mechanism of the CIGD with the support of international partners. Government ministries/agencies that played a key role included Civil Protection/SEPC of MoI, State Administration, MSSl, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Works, and the Ministry of Agriculture, among others. To support response efforts, the GoTL allocated approximately US\$41.4 million from the 2021 General State Budget and received around US\$27.3 million in humanitarian funding support from international partners, including donors, UN agencies, the humanitarian community, and the private sector.⁴⁷⁷

The joint UN-NGO AAR and the WBG and GFDRR post-disaster assessment report highlighted key gaps in the legal framework, institutional arrangements, early warning, needs assessment, and data collection.⁴⁷⁸ The AAR further highlighted the need to promote gender inclusion and localization in future responses.⁴⁷⁹ The joint UN-World Bank PDNA of the April 2021 floods estimated total damage and losses to be approximately US\$ 307.7 million. Recovery needs across 12 sectors are estimated to be approximately US\$ 530 million, pointing to the need to build back better, including utilizing climate-resilient solutions, technologies and know-how.⁴⁸⁰ The maximum damage and loss has been in the infrastructure sectors (58%), social sectors (27%), productive sectors (9%) and cross-cutting sectors (5%). The transport (infrastructure) and housing (social) have been the most affected sectors.⁴⁸¹

Timor-Leste's disaster management structure is situated within the country's civil protection framework, which is in a state of transition

due to recent legal changes. The enactment of the Civil Protection Law in 2020 by the National Parliament is a positive step towards strengthening the country's disaster management system. The law establishes the SIOPS as the mechanism that will cover DRM and disaster response. In particular, the SIOPS provides a "set of structures, rules and procedures that ensure that all civil protection agents and planned entities are articulated at the operational level, under a single command, without prejudice to the respective hierarchical and functional dependence."⁴⁸² The legal framework may help to clarify DRM and disaster response roles and responsibilities going forward. However, the law cannot be implemented without further subordinate legislation to set up the CPA as the lead agency to oversee the SIOPS.

The draft Organic Structure Decree-Law to establish the CPA was approved by the Council of Ministers on 15 December 2021 but is pending promulgation by the President. Until the law comes into effect, no agency has clear lead responsibility for disaster response. If the law is not enacted before the next disaster, a multi-agency response, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, will be the most likely scenario.⁴⁸³

Looking ahead, Timor-Leste is facing major climate-related hazards including floods, erratic and extreme rainfall, landslides, cyclones, coastal erosion, strong winds, heat waves, drought, forest fires, sea-level rise, ocean acidification, and waterborne diseases.⁴⁸⁴ The GoTL's development of the NAP is a notable achievement and indicates its commitment to addressing climate risks through adaptation strategies. The NAP has highlighted the agriculture, water resources, forestry, and public health sectors to be the most vulnerable sectors to climate change.⁴⁸⁵

Timor-Leste is in the final stages of preparing a National Climate Change Policy. This policy will define objectives and a vision for addressing climate change and will provide the necessary mandate for the NAP.⁴⁸⁶

APPENDICES

DoD DMHA Engagements in the Past Five Years (FY 2017-2022)

The list below describes the DMHA Engagements that the U.S. DoD has had with Timor-Leste in the last five years.

Joint Rehabilitation of Baucau Airfield – January 2022

On 12 January 2022, U.S. Air Force engineers launched work in partnership with the Timor-Leste Defense Force (F-FDTL) to support construction and repair projects as part of the Joint Rehabilitation of Baucau Airfield. These projects lay the groundwork for the arrival of a U.S.-provided Cessna 206 later in the year. In June 2021, the U.S. committed over \$10 million to jointly rehabilitate the Baucau Airfield with the GoTL. Through the creation of an Air Component, the project will assist the F-FDTL and help the Timorese government improve its maritime awareness, respond to natural disasters, and promote economic development.⁴⁸⁷

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Construct School in Baucau – December 2021

U.S. Navy Seabees from the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) inaugurated a four-room schoolhouse in Baucau, Timor-Leste on 10 December 2021. The school was constructed jointly with the Timor-Leste Defense Force, F-FDTL, and a combat engineer regiment of the Australian Army, the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment (CER). The U.S. Navy Seabees have had a continuous presence in Timor-Leste since 2009, rotating groups of American military engineers every six months, building educational facilities and health clinics in many parts of the country.⁴⁸⁸

U.S. Navy-Supported KADABUNAK Health Clinic Refurbishment Complete – May 2021

U.S. Ambassador to Timor-Leste Kevin Blackstone, Minister of Health Odete Belo, Dili Municipality President Gasper Soares, and Chief Matos da Costa Suku Camea joined in a ribbon-cutting ceremony on 21 May 2021 to inaugurate the refurbished KADABUNAK Health Clinic located in Cristo Rei, Dili. The refurbishment was made possible through funding from the U.S. Navy as part of the U.S.'s humanitarian support efforts and disaster response capacity building programs in Timor-Leste. The upgrades, valued at \$152,839, will benefit over 5,000 residents across five villages.⁴⁸⁹

Task Force Oceania and Seabees Team Up in Timor Leste – March 2021

Task Force Oceania's Team Timor-Leste and members of the U.S. Navy Seabees worked together to conduct joint-humanitarian efforts in the country on 6-7 January 2021, including on site-surveys, hospitals, and schools, as well as humanitarian visits to orphanages. Task Force Oceania is a U.S. Army effort to build foreign partner relationships, interoperability, and capacity in the region.⁴⁹⁰ Team Timor-Leste worked with the U.S. Navy unit to create a list of organizations that would benefit most from the donations and, together, delivered them to those groups.⁴⁹¹

Pacific Partnership – April 2019

Timor-Leste was one of several host nations for Pacific Partnership 2019 including the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Philippines, the Federated States of Micronesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Thailand. Pacific Partnership's mission has evolved over the years from emphasis on direct care to an operation focused on enhancing partnerships through host nation subject matter expert and civil-military exchanges. The mission incorporated engineering civic-action projects, humanitarian

assistance-disaster relief drills, medical and dental readiness, and outreach events.⁴⁹²

Ground-breaking Ceremony of National Health Institute – April 2019

National Health Institute construction was carried out by U.S. Navy Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR (NMCB 4) and Amphibious Construction Battalion ONE (ACB 1), who were working with the F-FDTL CAS Engineers.⁴⁹³

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of Sarlala Balibo Primary School – April 2019

The U.S. Ambassador to Timor-Leste opened Escola Ensino Basico Filial Sarlala Balibo (Maubisse Balibo School's), the first of two phases of construction. Phase II will involve NMCB FOUR and F-FDTL CAS Engineers constructing a detached head facility. NMCB THREE personnel and F-FDTL CAS engineers worked side by side on Phase I.⁴⁹⁴

Harii Hamutuk 2018 Closing Ceremony – September 2018

Harii Hamutuk is a training opportunity partnering Timor-Leste with the U.S., Australia, and Japan to develop key infrastructure projects as a training opportunity for ongoing defense and security cooperation. This collaboration demonstrates continued commitment shared by partner nations in support of capacity building in Timor-Leste.⁴⁹⁵

United States and Timor-Leste Convene for CARAT Exercise – August 2018

The U.S. Navy and Timor-Leste Defense Force (F-FDTL) began the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Timor-Leste exercise at Port Hera Navy Base. During CARAT Timor-Leste 2018, U.S. Navy Sailors assigned to Coastal Riverine Group (CRG) 1 Det. Guam and 7th Fleet Surgeon's Office trained with their F-FDTL counterparts at Port Hera.⁴⁹⁶

UCT 2 Constructs Pier for Timor-Leste Maritime Police – April 2018

U.S. Navy Seabees from Underwater Construction Team (UCT) 2's Construction Diving Detachment Bravo (CDDDB) completed

construction of the Timor-Leste National Police's PNTL Maritime Police Unit (MPU) small boat pier in Dili Harbor. The \$400,000 project, funded through the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, provides berthing for four small boats and supports the U.S. Pacific Command's Asia Pacific Regional Initiative to increase law enforcement and maritime security in this remote region of the globe.⁴⁹⁷

Pacific Angel 2018 to Feature Humanitarian Assistance for Suai Residents – June 2018

Pacific Angel 2018 (PAC ANGEL 18), a joint and combined regional humanitarian assistance and disaster relief engagement led by Pacific Air Forces, included U.S. military personnel in Suai, Cova Lima Municipality. PAC ANGEL 18 included general health, dental, optometry, pediatrics, and engineering programs, as well as various subject-matter expert exchanges. Pacific Angel is part of the ongoing cooperation between the United States and Timor-Leste to help improve the lives of Timorese and build the capacity of local authorities and security forces.⁴⁹⁸

Seabees Complete Hari'i Hamutuk 2017 – November 2017

Seabees assigned to NMCB 4 marked the end of Exercise Hari'i Hamutuk 2017 with a closing ceremony at Metinaro Military Base.⁴⁹⁹ Representatives from NMCB 4, U.S. Marine Corps combat engineers, Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JMSDF), Royal Australian engineers (RAE), and engineers from the Timor-Leste Defense Force (F-FDTL) celebrated the successful completion of Hari'i Hamutuk, which included the renovation of a 3,000 sq. ft. kitchen facility at Baucau Military Base and refurbishment of the Sidara Health Clinic in Hera community.⁵⁰⁰

U.S. Ambassador Inaugurates the Vatobou Health Clinic with U.S. NAVY Seabees – October 2017

U.S. Ambassador Stanton and the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three, also known as the Seabees, officially inaugurated the Vatobou Health Clinic in Liquiçá District. With

support from the Ministry of Health, the Seabees worked for more than three months to construct the facility, which will provide health care to more than 5,000 residents in the local area.⁵⁰¹

Exercise Crocodilo events in Metinaro – September 2017

U.S. Marines with Task Force Koa Moana 17 and members of the F-FDTL attended Exercise Crocodilo events in Metinaro. Koa Moana 17 is designed to improve interoperability, enhance military-to-military relations, and expose the Marine Corps forces to different types of terrain for familiarity in the event of a natural disaster in the region.⁵⁰²

U.S., Timor-Leste Partner for Annual CARAT Exercise – July 2017

The U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, F-FDTL, and PNTL joined CARAT Timor-Leste 2017 on 31 July to 4 August 2017. CARAT Timor-Leste 2017 was focused on maritime security capabilities and increasing interoperability among participants. Skill areas exercised include small boat maintenance, evidence collection, diving procedures, and antiterrorism security. CARAT 2017 was the 5th year in Timor-Leste. U.S. Navy assets participating in the exercise included Commander, Task Group 75.5, Coastal Riverine Group 1, Underwater Construction Team 2, and U.S. Marines with Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team Pacific.⁵⁰³

Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three in Timor-Leste – June 2017

Seabees from NMCB 3's Construction Civic Action Detail (CCAD) deployed to Timor-Leste to execute humanitarian assistance construction projects throughout the nation. The projects were aimed at improving the quality of life and health of the residents within the growing nation and developing enduring relationships with the government, military, and people of the country.⁵⁰⁴

DHAPP – June 2017

U.S. Department of Defense's Defense HIV/AIDS Awareness & Prevention Program

(DHAPP) and Church World Services held a three-day workshop for 13 selected F-FDTL members to be new facilitators regarding health issues such as HIV/AIDS prevention, reproductive health, and sexually transmitted diseases.⁵⁰⁵

International/Foreign Relations

The U.S. and Timor-Leste enjoy positive relations as two democracies with shared interests in promoting rule of law and human rights. The U.S. also provides important assistance through USAID and other programs that help Timor-Leste develop its democratic institutions, diversify its economy, and enhance security capacity.⁵⁰⁶

The U.S. has a large bilateral development assistance program and is also a major donor member to a number of multilateral agencies active in Timor-Leste such as the UN, ADB, and World Bank. U.S. assistance focuses on bolstering stability by strengthening the foundations of good governance, accelerating economic growth thus creating jobs for the rapidly growing population, improving the health of the Timorese people, and supporting the professionalization of the Timorese security forces.⁵⁰⁷

Timor-Leste's foreign policy places high priority on its relationships with Indonesia, Australia, other neighbors, and friendly countries and donors, most notably the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) and member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). During Timor-Leste's two-year presidency of the CPLP from 2014 to 2016, it prioritized economic integration between member states, as well as joint exploration and production of oil and gas.⁵⁰⁸

In addition to U.S. assistance, Timor-Leste receives extensive political, economic, and security assistance from Australia, New Zealand, Portugal, and the UN. The country's relationship with Australia is particularly important. Australia is the largest international donor to Timor-Leste, and it played a large role in providing stability

in the new nation's early years. Timor-Leste and Australia settled a long-standing maritime boundary dispute in 2018, utilizing compulsory dispute resolution under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The two nations still disagree over their joint development of hydrocarbon resources in the Timor Sea. Timor-Leste hopes to construct an onshore LNG processing plant, while the Australian company Woodside Petroleum favors LNG processing at existing facilities in northern Australia.⁵⁰⁹

Timor-Leste has broadly maintained good working relations with Indonesia.⁵¹⁰ One of the country's top foreign policy objectives is to join ASEAN. Timor-Leste applied for ASEAN membership in 2011, but an ASEAN decision to admit the nation is still pending.⁵¹¹

China has increased its assistance to Timor-Leste in recent years. Although its overall development assistance is lower than those of many donor nations, China has constructed the nation's Parliament building, presidential palace, and foreign ministry headquarters. China also sold Timor-Leste two naval patrol boats in 2010, and has provided training to dozens of Timorese government officials.⁵¹²

Timor-Leste has embassies in about 33 countries including: Angola, Australia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Cambodia, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mozambique, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, U.S., The Vatican, and Vietnam.⁵¹³

Timor-Leste and the U.S. belong to many of the same international organizations, including the UN, ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank.⁵¹⁴

Participation in International Organizations

Timor-Leste participates in the following international organizations:

African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP); Asian Development Bank (ADB); Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS); ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF); Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG); Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – Observer; Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP); Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Group of 77 (G-77); International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); International Development Association (IDA); International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); International Finance Corporation (IFC); International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC); International Labour Organization (ILO); International Monetary Fund (IMF); International Maritime Organization (IMO); International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL); International Olympic Committee (IOC); UN International Organization for Migration (IOM); Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); International Telecommunications Union (ITU); Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA); Non-Aligned Movement (NAM); Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW); Pacific Island Forum (PIF) – Observer; United Nations (UN); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); Union Latina; World Tourism Organization (UNWTO); Universal Postal Union (UPU); World Customs Organization (WCO); World Health Organization (WHO); World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); World Meteorological Organization (WMO); and World Trade Organization (WTO-Observer).⁵¹⁵

Timor-Leste does not currently contribute personnel to UN peacekeeping missions. The following missions were active in Timor-Leste during its transition to independence:

- UNTAET (25 October 1999 – 20 May 2002),⁵¹⁶

- UNMISSET (20 May 2002 – 20 May 2005);⁵¹⁷
- UNMIT (25 August 2006 – 31 December 2012).⁵¹⁸

Force Protection/Pre-Deployment Information

The following information is provided for pre-deployment planning and preparations. Visit www.travel.state.gov prior to deployments for further up-to-date information. DoD personnel must review the Foreign Clearance Guide (FCG) for travel to Timor-Leste (www.fcg.pentagon.mil). All official travel and personal travel for active duty personnel must be submitted through an APACS request. Contact information for the Defense Attaché Office can be found in the FCG if you have additional questions.⁵¹⁹

Passport/Visa

Travelers require a passport valid for six months beyond the date of arrival in the country. A blank page is required for the entry stamp.

Travelers arriving by air may obtain a 30-day tourist visa-on-arrival for a fee of US\$30. Travelers have the option to extend this visa for an additional 30 days, provided they apply at least 15 days prior to the expiration of their current visa. Forms to apply for the extension are available at the office of the Ministry of Interior in Dili. Visitors traveling via air must transit in Singapore; Darwin, Australia; or Bali, Indonesia, en route to Timor-Leste.

If entering Timor-Leste by land, you will need to apply in advance at the Timor-Leste Consulate in Kupang, Indonesia for a “Visa Application Authorization.” When you arrive at the border, the “Visa Application Authorization” must be presented to an immigration official. Your passport must be valid for at least six months and you must pay \$US30 to receive a visa. Visas on arrival at the land border with Indonesia are no longer available.⁵²⁰

Safety and Security

Timor-Leste has experienced several episodes of violence since becoming independent in 2002. There have been no major country-wide

civil disturbances since 2008, however, and international peacekeepers departed the country at the end of 2012.

Pick-pocketing, purse snatching, residential and automobile break-ins, and theft occur, especially in Dili. These crimes often happen in recreational areas and facilities frequented by foreigners. Victims of crime who resist may face physical violence by perpetrators.

Women walking or exercising alone in Dili have reported harassment, indecent exposure, and groping incidents. Women should avoid traveling or taking taxis alone, especially at night.

Stone-throwing attacks on vehicles occur during gang conflicts and periods of civil unrest. Avoid travel at night or alone in unfamiliar areas.

Timorese security forces occasionally establish official security checkpoints along roads. You may be expected to show your passport at these checkpoints.

Report crimes to the local police at 112 and contact the U.S. Embassy at +670-7723-1328. Local authorities are responsible for investigating and prosecuting the crime.⁵²¹

Emergency Contact Information

U.S. Embassy Dili, Timor-Leste

Av. de Portugal

Praia dos Coqueiros

Dili, Timor-Leste

Telephone: +(670) 332-4684

Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(670) 7723-1328

Fax: +(670) 331-3206

Email: ConsDili@state.gov

Currency Information

The local currency is the U.S. dollar.⁵²² There are no currency restrictions on entry or exit.⁵²³

Travel Health Information

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides guidance that all travelers to Timor-Leste should be up to date on routine vaccinations. The following are additional recommendations for travel to Timor-Leste. The information in Tables 7 and 8 are taken directly

from the CDC website under the Travelers Health Section (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/>).⁵²⁴

Health Alerts for Timor-Leste: At the time of writing this handbook (3 February 2022), the CDC lists Timor-Leste as a “Level 1” or “low level” country for COVID-19.

The agency recommends the following for persons traveling to Timor-Leste during the pandemic:

- Make sure you are vaccinated and up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines before traveling to Timor-Leste.
- Avoid cruise travel, regardless of vaccination status.

Routine vaccines	Make sure you are up-to-date on all routine vaccines before your trip. Some of these vaccines include • Chickenpox (Varicella) • Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis • Flu (influenza) • Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) • Polio • Shingles
COVID-19	Everyone 5 years of age and older should get fully vaccinated for COVID-19 before travel.
Hepatitis A	Recommended for unvaccinated travelers one year old or older going to Timor-Leste. Infants 6 to 11 months old should also be vaccinated against Hepatitis A. The dose does not count toward the routine 2-dose series. Travelers allergic to a vaccine component or who are younger than 6 months should receive a single dose of immune globulin, which provides effective protection for up to 2 months depending on dosage given. Unvaccinated travelers who are over 40 years old, immunocompromised, or have chronic medical conditions planning to depart to a risk area in less than 2 weeks should get the initial dose of vaccine and at the same appointment receive immune globulin.
Hepatitis B	Recommended for unvaccinated travelers of all ages to Timor-Leste.
Japanese Encephalitis	Recommended for travelers who: • Are moving to an area with Japanese encephalitis to live • Spend long periods of time, such as a month or more, in areas with Japanese encephalitis • Frequently travel to areas with Japanese encephalitis Consider vaccination for travelers: • Spending less than a month in areas with Japanese encephalitis but who will be doing activities that increase risk of infection, such as visiting rural areas, hiking or camping, or staying in places without air conditioning, screens, or bed nets • Going to areas with Japanese encephalitis who are uncertain of their activities or how long they will be there Not recommended for travelers planning short-term travel to urban areas or travel to areas with no clear Japanese encephalitis season.
Malaria	CDC recommends that travelers going to Timor-Leste take prescription medicine to prevent malaria. Depending on the medicine you take, you will need to start taking this medicine multiple days before your trip, as well as during and after your trip. Talk to your doctor about which malaria medication you should take. Find country-specific information about malaria.
Measles	Infants 6 to 11 months old traveling internationally should get 1 dose of MMR vaccine before travel. This dose does not count as part of the routine childhood vaccination series.

Table 7: CDC Information for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in Timor-Leste

Rabies	Rabid dogs are commonly found in Timor-Leste. If you are bitten or scratched by a dog or other mammal while in Timor-Leste, there may be limited or no rabies treatment available. Consider rabies vaccination before your trip if your activities mean you will be around dogs or wildlife. Travelers more likely to encounter rabid animals include: • Campers, adventure travelers, or cave explorers (spelunkers) • Veterinarians, animal handlers, field biologists, or laboratory workers handling animal specimens • Visitors to rural areas Since children are more likely to be bitten or scratched by a dog or other animals, consider rabies vaccination for children traveling to Timor-Leste.
Typhoid	Recommended for most travelers, especially those staying with friends or relatives or visiting smaller cities or rural areas.

Table 7: CDC Information for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in Timor-Leste (cont.)

Chikungunya	Mosquito bites can carry chikungunya; there is no prophylaxis. Avoid bug bits.
Dengue	Mosquito bites can carry dengue; there is no prophylaxis. Avoid bug bits.
Hepatitis A	Recommended for unvaccinated travelers one year old or older going to Timor-Leste. Infants 6 to 11 months old should also be vaccinated against Hepatitis A. The dose does not count toward the routine 2-dose series. Travelers allergic to a vaccine component or who are younger than 6 months should receive a single dose of immune globulin, which provides effective protection for up to 2 months depending on dosage given. Unvaccinated travelers who are over 40 years old, immunocompromised, or have chronic medical conditions planning to depart to a risk area in less than 2 weeks should get the initial dose of vaccine and at the same appointment receive immune globulin.
Hantavirus	Hantavirus can be spread by breathing in air or accidentally eating food contaminated with the urine, droppings, or saliva of infected rodents, or bite from an infected rodent. Less commonly, it is spread by being around someone sick with hantavirus (only occurs with Andes virus). To avoid infection, avoid rodents and areas where they live, and avoid sick people.
Leptospirosis	Leptospirosis can be contracted by touching urine or other body fluids from an animal infected with leptospirosis, swimming or wading in urine-contaminated fresh water, or contact with urine-contaminated mud, or by drinking water or eating food contaminated with animal urine. To avoid infection, avoid contaminated water and soil.
Tuberculosis (TB)	TB is most commonly contracted when one breathes in TB bacteria that is in the air from an infected and contagious person who has coughed, spoken, or sang. To avoid potential contamination, avoid sick people.

Table 8: CDC Information for Non-Vaccine-Preventable Diseases in Timor-Leste

Actions you can take to stay healthy and safe on your trip include:

Eat and Drink Safely

Unclean food and water can cause travelers' diarrhea and other diseases. Reduce your risk by sticking to safe food and water habits.

Eat

- Food that is cooked and served hot
- Hard-cooked eggs
- Fruits and vegetables you have washed in clean water or peeled yourself
- Pasteurized dairy products

Don't Eat

- Food served at room temperature
- Food from street vendors
- Raw or soft-cooked (runny) eggs
- Raw or undercooked (rare) meat or fish
- Unwashed or unpeeled raw fruits and vegetables
- Unpasteurized dairy products
- “Bushmeat” (monkeys, bats, or other wild game)

Drink

- Bottled water that is sealed
- Water that has been disinfected
- Ice made with bottled or disinfected water
- Carbonated drinks
- Hot coffee or tea
- Pasteurized milk

Don't Drink

- Tap or well water
- Ice made with tap or well water
- Drinks made with tap or well water (such as reconstituted juice)
- Unpasteurized milk

Take Medicine

Talk with your doctor about taking prescription or over-the-counter drugs with you on your trip in case you get sick.

Prevent Bug Bites

Bugs (like mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas) can spread a number of diseases in Timor-Leste. Many of these diseases cannot be prevented with a vaccine or medicine. You can reduce your risk by taking steps to prevent bug bites.

What can I do to prevent bug bites?

- Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and hats.
- Use an appropriate insect repellent (see below).
- Use permethrin-treated clothing and gear (such as boots, pants, socks, and tents). Do

not use permethrin directly on skin.

- Stay and sleep in air-conditioned or screened rooms.
- Use a bed net if the area where you are sleeping is exposed to the outdoors.

What type of insect repellent should I use?

- **FOR PROTECTION AGAINST TICKS AND MOSQUITOES:** Use a repellent that contains 20% or more DEET for protection that lasts up to several hours.
- **FOR PROTECTION AGAINST MOSQUITOES ONLY:** Products with one of the following active ingredients can also help prevent mosquito bites. Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer protection.
 - DEET
 - Picaridin (also known as KBR 3023, Bayrepel, and icaridin)
 - Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-menthane-diol (PMD)
 - IR3535
 - 2-undecanone
 - Always use insect repellent as directed.

What should I do if I am bitten by bugs?

- Avoid scratching bug bites, and apply hydrocortisone cream or calamine lotion to reduce the itching.
- Check your entire body for ticks after outdoor activity. Be sure to remove ticks properly.

What can I do to avoid bed bugs?

- Although bed bugs do not carry disease, they are an annoyance.

Safety and Security

Note that conditions can change rapidly in a country at any time. To receive updated Travel Advisories and Alerts for the countries you choose to visit, sign up at step.state.gov.

Sendai Framework

The Sendai Framework is the global blueprint and fifteen-year plan to build the world's resilience to natural disasters. The information in this section is sourced directly from the Sendai Framework. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 outlines seven clear targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks:

The Seven Global Targets include:

- Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality rates in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020 -2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
- Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030.
- Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.
- Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030.
- Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

The Four Priorities of Action include:

- Understanding disaster risk;
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
- Investing in disaster reduction for resilience; and
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

The Sendai Framework aims to achieve the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities, and countries over the next 15 years. It was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in 2015.

The Sendai Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

Figure 25 shows the Sendai DRR Framework.

Chart of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Scope and purpose

The present framework will apply to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters, caused by natural or manmade hazards as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. It aims to guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors

Expected outcome

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries

Goal

Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience

Targets

Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100 000 global mortality between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015	Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global figure per 100 000 between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015	Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030	Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030	Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020	Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030	Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030
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Figure 25: UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

HFA Country Progress Report

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was adopted as a guideline to reduce vulnerabilities to natural hazards. The HFA assists participating countries to become more resilient and to better manage the hazards that threaten their development.

The levels of progress of the 2009- 2011 results of the HFA for Timor-Leste are represented in Figure 26 and Table 9. Table 10 provides an overview of the overall challenges and the future outlook statement from the HFA report. The 2009-2011 is the most recent HFA report available for Timor-Leste.⁵²⁵

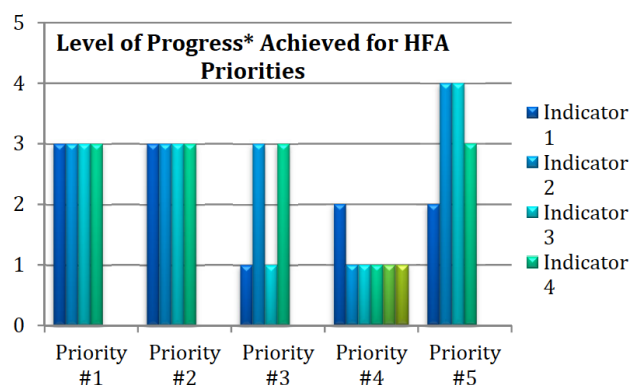


Figure 26: HFA Level of Progress Achieved

Priority for Action #1: Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.		
Core Indicator*	Indicator Description	Level of progress Achieved*
1	National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralized responsibilities and capacities at all levels.	3
2	Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels.	3
3	Community participation and decentralization is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels.	3
4	A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.	3
Priority for Action #2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.		
1	National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.	3
2	Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities.	3
3	Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.	3
4	National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans-boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.	3
Priority for Action #3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels		
1	Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems, etc.).	1
2	School curricula, education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.	3
3	Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.	1
4	Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.	3

Table 9: National Progress Report on the Implementation of the HFA

Priority for Action #4: Reduce the underlying risk factors.		
1	Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.	2
2	Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.	1
3	Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities.	1
4	Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.	1
5	Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes.	1
6	Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.	1
Priority for Action #5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.		
1	Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.	2
2	Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programs.	4
3	Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.	4
4	Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews.	3

Table Notes:

*Level of Progress:

1 – Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

2 – Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

3 – Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

4 – Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

5 – Comprehensive achievement with sustained commitment and capacities at all levels

Table 9: National Progress Report on the Implementation of the HFA (cont.)

Future Outlook Area 1: The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.	
Challenges:	Although the Government of Timor-Leste considers DRM as a priority and supports the dissemination of DRM policy to the district level, the current Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 of Timor-Leste has not explicitly reflected nor integrated DRM as one of its development priorities. Disaster Management is included in the Strategic Plan Document of MSS 2009-2012.
Future Outlook Statement:	In March 2008, the NDMD established a National Disaster Risk Management Policy for the next five years (2007-2012) to guide in the identification of the government's development priorities, objectives, and strategies. The policy includes risk analyses, vulnerability monitoring, early warning, emergency management, post-disaster research and review, recovery and knowledge development, awareness raising, and human resource development. The policy outlines plans to develop DRM programs and recognizes the need for institutional capacity building, organizational and decentralized administration of disaster risk management, as well as the need for community participation, including by vulnerable groups.
Future Outlook Area 2: The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.	
Challenges:	The United Nations Transitional Administration East Timor (UNTAET), the East Timor Transitional Authority (ETTA), and UNDP conducted an overall analysis of the disaster risks and vulnerabilities in Timor-Leste. The findings suggest there is a need for the NDMD to also establish Disaster Operations Centers (DOC) in every district to receive and to send disaster-related data / information to and from the community. Due to budget constraints, NDMD has only managed to establish three DOCs in three districts: in Dili, Lautem, and Bobonaro. NDMD is expecting to receive more funding this year to set up more DOCs in the rest of the country.
Future Outlook Statement:	Timor-Leste intends to improve its profile and performance in order to reach internationally accepted standards and principles of DRM. With this regard, Timor-Leste will focus on promoting DRM as a multi-sectoral responsibility, assigning accountability for disaster losses and impacts, allocating necessary resources for DRR, enforcing implementation of DRM, and facilitating participation from civil society and the private sector.
Future Outlook Area 3: The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs in the reconstruction of affected communities.	
Challenges:	DDMC provides relief assistance and construction materials to the communities who are affected by disasters. However, due to personnel and funding shortages, DDMC could not monitor how the beneficiaries used the assistance, esp. the construction materials based on DRR measures when rebuilding their damaged houses.
Future Outlook Statement:	Timor-Leste is interested in developing and strengthening its capacities, especially the investment in disaster preparedness. Currently, contingency planning is included in several key sectoral planning of civil protection and health. With the collaboration of the CBDRM Working Group, capacity building and training for the NDMD at the national level, and DDMC and DOC staff at the district level, has been ongoing. The trainings include Disaster Management Orientation, Emergency Management Training, and Training-of-Trainers. The trainers have also given trainings to the community at the local level.

Table 10: HFA Country Progress Report Future Outlook Areas, Timor-Leste

Country Profile

The information in the Country Profile section is sourced directly from the CIA World Factbook for Timor-Leste. Additional numbers on country comparison to the world can be found by going directly to the CIA website (<https://www.cia.gov>). It discusses topics including geography, people and society, government, economy, energy, communications, military and security, transportation, terrorism, and transnational issues.⁵²⁶

Background

Timor was actively involved in Southeast Asian trading networks for centuries and, by the 14th century, exported aromatic sandalwood, slaves, honey, and wax. A number of local chiefdoms ruled the island in the early 16th century when Portuguese traders arrived, chiefly attracted by the relative abundance of sandalwood on Timor; by mid-century, the Portuguese had colonized the island. Skirmishing with the Dutch in the region eventually resulted in an 1859 treaty in which Portugal ceded the western portion of the island. Imperial Japan occupied Portuguese Timor from 1942 to 1945, but Portugal resumed colonial authority after the Japanese defeat in World War II. East Timor declared itself independent from Portugal on 28 November 1975 and was invaded and occupied by Indonesian forces nine days later. It was incorporated into Indonesia in July 1976 as the province of Timor Timur (East Timor). An unsuccessful campaign of pacification followed over the next two decades, during which an estimated 100,000 to 250,000 people died. In an August 1999 UN-supervised popular referendum, an overwhelming majority of the people of Timor-Leste voted for independence from Indonesia. However, in the next three weeks, anti-independence Timorese militias - organized and supported by the Indonesian military - commenced a large-scale, scorched-earth campaign of retribution. The militias killed approximately 1,400 Timorese and displaced nearly 500,000. Most of the country's

infrastructure, including homes, irrigation systems, water supply systems, and schools, and nearly all of the country's electrical grid, were destroyed. On 20 September 1999, Australian-led peacekeeping troops deployed to the country and brought the violence to an end. On 20 May 2002, Timor-Leste was internationally recognized as an independent state.

In 2006, internal tensions threatened the new nation's security when a military strike led to violence and a breakdown of law and order. At Dili's request, an Australian-led International Stabilization Force (ISF) deployed to Timor-Leste, and the UN Security Council established the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), which included an authorized police presence of over 1,600 personnel. The ISF and UNMIT restored stability, allowing for presidential and parliamentary elections in 2007 in a largely peaceful atmosphere. In February 2008, a rebel group staged an unsuccessful attack against the president and prime minister. The ringleader was killed in the attack, and most of the rebels surrendered in April 2008. Since the attack, the government has enjoyed one of its longest periods of post-independence stability, including successful 2012 elections for both the parliament and president and a successful transition of power in February 2015. In late 2012, the UN Security Council ended its peacekeeping mission in Timor-Leste and both the ISF and UNMIT departed the country.

Geography

Location

Southeastern Asia, northwest of Australia in the Lesser Sunda Islands at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago; note - Timor-Leste includes the eastern half of the island of Timor, the Oecussi (Ambeno) region on the northwest portion of the island of Timor, and the islands of Pulau Atauro and Pulau Jaco.

Geographic coordinates

8 50 S, 125 55 E

Map references

Southeast Asia

Area

Total: 14,874 sq km

Land: 14,874 sq km

Water: 0 sq km

Area - comparative

Slightly larger than Connecticut; almost half the size of Maryland.

Area comparison map**Land boundaries**

Total: 253 km

Border countries (1): Indonesia 253 km

Coastline

706 km

Maritime claims

Territorial sea: 12 nm

Contiguous zone: 24 nm

Exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm

Climate

Tropical; hot, humid; distinct rainy and dry seasons

Terrain

Mountainous

Elevation

Highest point: Foho Tatamailau 2,963 m

Lowest point: Timor Sea, Savu Sea, and Banda Sea 0 m

Natural resources

Gold, petroleum, natural gas, manganese, marble

Land use

Agricultural land: 25.1% (2018 est.)

Arable land: 10.1% (2018 est.)

Permanent crops: 4.9% (2018 est.)

Permanent pasture: 10.1% (2018 est.)

Forest: 49.1% (2018 est.)

Other: 25.8% (2018 est.)

Irrigated land

350 sq km (2012)

Population distribution

Most of the population is concentrated in the western third of the country, particularly around Dili.

Natural hazards

Floods and landslides are common; earthquakes; tsunamis; and tropical cyclones.

Geography - note

Timor comes from the Malay word for “east”; the island of Timor is part of the Malay Archipelago and is the largest and easternmost of the Lesser Sunda Islands; the district of Oecussi is an exclave separated from Timor-Leste proper by Indonesia; Timor-Leste has the unique distinction of being the only Asian country located completely in the Southern Hemisphere.

People and Society**Population**

1,413,958 (July 2021 est.)

Nationality

Noun: Timorese

Adjective: Timorese

Ethnic groups

Austronesian (Malayo-Polynesian) (includes Tetun, Mambai, Tokodede, Galoli, Kemak, Baikenno), Melanesian-Papuan (includes Bunak, Fataluku, Bakasai), small Chinese minority

Languages

Tetun Prasa 30.6%, Mambai 16.6%, Makasai 10.5%, Tetun Terik 6.1%, Baikenu 5.9%, Kemak 5.8%, Bunak 5.5%, Tokodede 4%, Fataluku 3.5%, Waima’a 1.8%, Galoli 1.4%, Naueti 1.4%, Idate 1.2%, Midiki 1.2%, other 4.5% (2015 est.)

Note: Data represent population by mother tongue. Tetun and Portuguese are official languages. Indonesian and English are working languages. There are about 32 indigenous languages.

Religions

Roman Catholic 97.6%, Protestant/Evangelical 2%, Muslim 0.2%, other 0.2% (2015 est.)

Demographic profile

Timor-Leste’s high fertility and population growth rates sustain its very youthful age structure – approximately 40% of the population is below the age of 15, and the country’s median age is 20. While Timor-Leste’s total fertility rate (TFR) – the average number of births per woman – decreased significantly from over seven in the early 2000s, it remains high at 4.3 in 2021 and will probably continue to decline slowly. The low use of contraceptives and the traditional preference for large families are keeping fertility elevated. The high TFR and falling mortality rates continue to fuel a high population growth rate of nearly 2.2%, which is the highest in Southeast Asia. The country’s high total dependency ratio – a measure of the ratio of dependents to the working-age population – could divert more government spending toward social programs. Timor-Leste’s growing, poorly educated working-age population and insufficient job creation are ongoing problems. Some 70% of the population lives in rural areas, where most people are dependent on the agricultural sector. Malnutrition and poverty

are prevalent, with 42% of the population living under the poverty line as of 2014. During the Indonesian occupation (1975-1999) and Timor-Leste’s fight for independence, approximately 250,000 Timorese fled to western Timor and, in lesser numbers, Australia, Portugal, and other countries. Many of these emigrants later returned. Since Timor-Leste’s 1999 independence referendum, economic motives and periods of conflict have been the main drivers of emigration. Bilateral labor agreements with Australia, Malaysia, and South Korea, and the presence of Timorese populations abroad, are pull factors, but the high cost prevents many young Timorese from emigrating. Timorese communities are found in its former colonizers, Indonesia and Portugal, as well as the Philippines and the UK. The country has also become a destination for migrants in the surrounding region, mainly men seeking work in construction, commerce, and services in Dili.

Age structure

0-14 years: 39.96% (male 284,353/female 268,562)

15-24 years: 20.32% (male 142,693/female 138,508)

25-54 years: 30.44% (male 202,331/female 218,914)

55-64 years: 5.22% (male 34,956/female 37,229)

65 years and over: 4.06% (male 27,153/female 29,024) (2020 est.)

Dependency ratios

Total dependency ratio: 90.3

Youth dependency ratio: 83.7

Elderly dependency ratio: 6.6

Potential support ratio: 15.2 (2020 est.)

Median age

Total: 19.6 years

Male: 18.9 years

Female: 20.2 years (2020 est.)

Population growth rate

2.19% (2021 est.)

Birth rate

31.45 births/1,000 population (2021 est.)

Death rate

5.67 deaths/1,000 population (2021 est.)

Net migration rate

-3.84 migrant(s)/1,000 population (2021 est.)

Population distribution

Most of the population is concentrated in the western third of the country, particularly around Dili.

Urbanization

Urban population: 31.7% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization: 3.31% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Total population growth rate v. urban population growth rate, 2000-2030

Major urban areas - population
281,000 DILI (capital) (2018)

Sex ratio

At birth: 1.07 male(s)/female

0-14 years: 1.06 male(s)/female

15-24 years: 1.03 male(s)/female

25-54 years: 0.92 male(s)/female

55-64 years: 0.94 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.94 male(s)/female

Total population: 1 male(s)/female (2020 est.)

Mother's mean age at first birth
23 years (2016 est.)

Note: *median age at first birth among women 25-49*

Maternal mortality ratio

142 deaths/100,000 live births (2017 est.)

Infant mortality rate

Total: 34.47 deaths/1,000 live births

Male: 37.85 deaths/1,000 live births

female: 30.86 deaths/1,000 live births (2021 est.)

Life expectancy at birth

Total population: 69.62 years

Male: 67.94 years

Female: 71.41 years (2021 est.)

Total fertility rate

4.32 children born/woman (2021 est.)

Contraceptive prevalence rate

26.1% (2016)

Drinking water source

Improved:

urban: 100% of population

Rural: 72.3% of population

Total: 80.7% of population

Unimproved:

urban: 0% of population

rural: 27.7% of population

Total: 19.3% of population (2017 est.)

Current Health Expenditure

4.3% (2018)

Physician density

0.72 physicians/1,000 population (2018)

Sanitation facility access

Improved:

urban: 90.9% of population

rural: 50.3% of population

total: 62.6% of population

Unimproved:

urban: 9.1% of population

rural: 49.7% of population

total: 57.4% of population (2017 est.)

HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate

0.2% (2020)

HIV/AIDS - people living with HIV/AIDS

1,200 (2020)

HIV/AIDS - deaths

<100 (2020)

Major infectious diseases

Degree of risk: very high (2020)

Food or waterborne diseases: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever

Vector borne diseases: dengue fever and malaria

Obesity - adult prevalence rate

3.8% (2016)

Children under the age of 5 years underweight

37.5% (2013)

Education expenditures

6.8% of GDP (2018)

Literacy

Definition: age 15 and over can read and write

Total population: 68.1%

Male: 71.9%

Female: 64.2% (2018)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24

Total: 13.2%

Male: 10.9%

Female: 15.9% (2016 est.)

People - note

One of only two predominantly Christian nations in Southeast Asia, the other being the Philippines

Environment

Environment - current issues

Air pollution and deterioration of air quality; greenhouse gas emissions; water quality, scarcity, and access; land and soil degradation; forest depletion; widespread use of slash and burn agriculture has led to deforestation and soil erosion; loss of biodiversity

Environment - international agreements

Party to: Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Climate Change-Paris Agreement, Desertification, Law of the Sea, Ozone Layer Protection

Signed, but not ratified: Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban

Air pollutants

Particulate matter emissions: 17.88 micrograms per cubic meter (2016 est.)

Carbon dioxide emissions: 0.5 megatons (2016 est.)

Methane emissions: 4.74 megatons (2020 est.)

Climate

Tropical; hot, humid; distinct rainy and dry seasons

Land use

Agricultural land: 25.1% (2018 est.)

Arable land: 10.1% (2018 est.)

Permanent crops: 4.9% (2018 est.)

Permanent pasture: 10.1% (2018 est.)

Forest: 49.1% (2018 est.)

Other: 25.8% (2018 est.)

Urbanization

Urban population: 31.7% of total population (2021)

Rate of urbanization: 3.31% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)

Revenue from forest resources

Forest revenues: 0.13% of GDP (2018 est.)

Revenue from coal

Coal revenues: 0% of GDP (2018 est.)

Waste and recycling

Municipal solid waste generated annually: 63,875 tons (2016 est.)

Total water withdrawal

Municipal: 99 million cubic meters (2017 est.)

Industrial: 2 million cubic meters (2017 est.)

Agricultural: 1.071 billion cubic meters (2017 est.)

Total renewable water resources
8.215 billion cubic meters (2017 est.)

Government

Country name

Conventional long form: Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Conventional short form: Timor-Leste

Local long form: Republika Demokratika Timor Lorosa'e [Tetum]; Republica Democratica de Timor-Leste [Portuguese]

Local short form: Timor Lorosa'e [Tetum]; Timor-Leste [Portuguese]

Former: East Timor, Portuguese Timor

Etymology: timor" derives from the Indonesian and Malay word "timur" meaning "east"; "leste" is the Portuguese word for "east", so "Timor-Leste" literally means "Eastern-East"; the local [Tetum] name "Timor Lorosa'e" translates as "East Rising Sun"

Note: pronounced TEE-mor LESS-tay

Government type

Semi-presidential republic

Capital

Name: Dili

Geographic coordinates: 8 35 S, 125 36 E

Time difference: UTC+9 (14 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)

Administrative divisions

12 municipalities (municípios, singular município) and 1 special administrative region* (região administrativa especial); Aileu, Ainaro, Baucau, Bobonaro (Maliana), Covalima (Suai), Dili, Ermera (Gleno), Lautem (Lospalos), Liquica, Manatuto, Manufahi (Same), Oe-Cusse Ambeno* (Pante Macassar), Viqueque

Note: administrative divisions have the same names as their administrative centers (exceptions have the administrative center name following in parentheses)

Independence

20 May 2002 (from Indonesia); note - 28 November 1975 was the date independence was proclaimed from Portugal; 20 May 2002 was the date of international recognition of Timor-Leste's independence from Indonesia

National holiday

Restoration of Independence Day, 20 May (2002); Proclamation of Independence Day, 28 November (1975)

Constitution

History: drafted 2001, approved 22 March 2002, entered into force 20 May 2002

Amendments: proposed by Parliament and parliamentary groups; consideration of amendments requires at least four-fifths majority approval by Parliament; passage requires two-thirds majority vote by Parliament and promulgation by the president of the republic; passage of amendments to the republican form

of government and the flag requires approval in a referendum

Legal system

Civil law system based on the Portuguese model; note - penal and civil law codes to replace the Indonesian codes were passed by Parliament and promulgated in 2009 and 2011, respectively

International law organization participation

Accepts compulsory International Criminal Court (ICC) jurisdiction with reservations; accepts International Criminal Court (ICCt) jurisdiction

Citizenship

Citizenship by birth: no

Citizenship by descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of Timor-Leste

Dual citizenship recognized: no

Residency requirement for naturalization: 10 years

Suffrage

17 years of age; universal

Executive branch

Chief of state: President Francisco GUTERRES (since 20 May 2017); note - the president is commander-in-chief of the military and can veto legislation, dissolve parliament, and call national elections

Head of government: Prime Minister Taur Matan RUAK (since 22 June 2018)

Cabinet: the governing coalition in the Parliament proposes cabinet member candidates to the Prime Minister, who presents these recommendations to the President of the Republic for swearing in

Elections/appointments: president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote, in two rounds if needed, for a five-year term (eligible for a second term); election last held on 20 March 2017 (next to be held in 2022); following parliamentary elections, the president appoints the leader of the majority party or majority coalition as the prime minister

Election results: Francisco GUTERRES elected president; percent of vote - Francisco GUTERRES (FRETILIN) 57.1%, Antonio DA Conceição (PD) 32.5%, Jose Luis GUTERRES (Frenti-Mudança) 2.6%, Jose NEVES (independent) 2.3%, Luis Alves TILMAN (independent) 2.2%, other 3.4%

Legislative branch

Description: unicameral National Parliament (65 seats; members directly elected in a single nationwide constituency by proportional representation vote to serve five-year terms)

Elections: last held on 12 May 2018 (next to be held in July 2023)

Election results: percent of vote by party - AMP - 49.6%, FRETILIN 34.2%, PD 8.1%, DDF 5.5%, other 2.6%; seats by party - AMP 34, FRETILIN 23, PD 5, DDF 3; composition - men 39, women 26, percent of women 40%

Judicial branch

Highest courts: Court of Appeals (consists of the court president and judges)

Judge selection and term of office: court president appointed by the president of the Republic from among the other court judges to serve a four-year term; other court judges appointed - one by the Parliament and the others by the Supreme Council for the Judiciary, a body chaired by the court president and that includes mostly presidential and parliamentary appointees; other judges serve for life

Subordinate courts: Court of Appeal; High Administrative, Tax, and Audit Court; district courts; magistrates' courts; military courts

Note: *the UN Justice System Programme, launched in 2003 and rolled out in four phases through 2018, helped strengthen the country's justice system; the Programme aligned with the country's long-range Justice Sector Strategic Plan, which includes legal reforms.*

Political parties and leaders

Alliance for Change and Progress or AMP [Xanana GUSMÃO"] (collapsed in 2020; alliance included CNRT, KHUNTO, PLP)

Democratic Development Forum or DDF
Democratic Party or PD [Mariano Assanami SABINO]

Frenti-Mudança [Jose Luis GUTERRES]

Kmanek Haburas Unidade Nasional Timor Oan or KHUNTO [Jose do Santos NAIMORI Bucar]

National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction or CNRT [Kay Rala Xanana GUSMÃO]

People's Liberation Party or PLP [Taur Matan RUAK]

Revolutionary Front of Independent Timor-Leste or FRETILIN [Mari ALKATIRI]

International organization participation

ACP, ADB, AOSIS, ARF, ASEAN (observer), CPLP, EITI (compliant country), FAO, G-77, IBRD, ICAO, ICCT, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCS, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ITU, MIGA, NAM, OPCW, PIF (observer), UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, Union Latina, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WMO

Diplomatic representation in the U.S.

Chief of mission: Ambassador Isilio Antonio De Fatima COELHO DA SILVA (since 6 January 2020)

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Diplomatic representation from the U.S.

Chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant), Charge d’Affaires Thomas DALEY (since August 2021)

Embassy: Avenida de Portugal, Praia dos Coqueiros, Dili

Mailing address: 8250 Dili Place, Washington, DC 20521-8250

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ConsDili@state.gov

<https://tl.usembassy.gov/>

Flag description

Red with a black isosceles triangle (based on the hoist side) superimposed on a slightly longer yellow arrowhead that extends to the center of the flag; a white star - pointing to the upper hoist-side corner of the flag - is in the center of the black triangle; yellow denotes the colonialism in Timor-Leste’s past, black represents the obscurantism that needs to be overcome, red stands for the national liberation struggle, and the white star symbolizes peace and serves as a guiding light

National symbol(s)

Mount Ramelau; national colors: red, yellow, black, white

National anthem

Name: “Patria” (Fatherland)

Lyrics/music: Fransisco Borja DA COSTA/ Alfonso DE ARAUJO

Note: *adopted 2002; the song was first used as an anthem when Timor-Leste declared its independence from Portugal in 1975; the lyricist, Francisco Borja DA COSTA, was killed in the Indonesian invasion just days after independence was declared*

Economy

Economic overview

Since independence in 1999, Timor-Leste has faced great challenges in rebuilding its infrastructure, strengthening the civil administration, and generating jobs for young people entering the work force. The development of offshore oil and gas resources has greatly supplemented government revenues. This technology-intensive industry, however, has done little to create jobs, in part because there are no production facilities in Timor-Leste. Gas is currently piped to Australia for processing, but Timor-Leste has expressed interest in developing a domestic processing capability.

In June 2005, the National Parliament unanimously approved the creation of the Timor-Leste Petroleum Fund to serve as a repository for all petroleum revenues and to preserve the value of Timor-Leste’s petroleum wealth for future generations. The Fund held assets of \$16 billion as of mid-2016. Oil accounts for over 90% of government revenues, and the drop in the price of oil in 2014-16 led to concerns about the long-term sustainability of government spending. Timor-Leste compensated for the decline in price by exporting more oil. The Ministry of Finance maintains that

the Petroleum Fund is sufficient to sustain government operations for the foreseeable future.

Annual government budget expenditures increased markedly between 2009 and 2012 but dropped significantly through 2016. Historically, the government failed to spend as much as its budget allowed. The government has focused significant resources on basic infrastructure, including electricity and roads, but limited experience in procurement and infrastructure building has hampered these projects. The underlying economic policy challenge the country faces remains how best to use oil-and-gas wealth to lift the non-oil economy onto a higher growth path and to reduce poverty.

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)

\$4.19 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2020 est.)

\$4.59 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2019 est.)

\$3.87 billion note: data are in 2017 dollars (2018 est.)

Note: *data are in 2017 dollars*

Real GDP growth rate

-4.6% (2017 est.)

5.3% (2016 est.)

4% (2015 est.)

Real GDP per capita

\$3,200 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2020 est.)

\$3,600 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2019 est.)

\$3,100 note: data are in 2017 dollars (2018 est.)

Note: *data are in 2017 dollars*

GDP (official exchange rate)

\$2.775 billion (2017 est.)

Note: *non-oil GDP*

Inflation rate (consumer prices)

0.6% (2017 est.)

-1.3% (2016 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin

Agriculture: 9.1% (2017 est.)

Industry: 56.7% (2017 est.)

Services: 34.4% (2017 est.)

GDP - composition, by end use

Household consumption: 33% (2017 est.)

Government consumption: 30% (2017 est.)

Investment in fixed capital: 10.6% (2017 est.)

Investment in inventories: 0% (2017 est.)

Exports of goods and services: 78.4% (2017 est.)

Imports of goods and services: -52% (2017 est.)

Agricultural products

Rice, maize, vegetables, coffee, roots/tubers, other meats, cassava, pork, beans, mangoes/ guavas

Industries

Printing, soap manufacturing, handicrafts, woven cloth

Industrial production growth rate

2% (2017 est.)

Labor force

286,700 (2016 est.)

Labor force - by occupation

Agriculture: 41%

Industry: 13%

Services: 45.1% (2013)

Unemployment rate

4.4% (2014 est.)

3.9% (2010 est.)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24

Total: 13.2%

Male: 10.9%

Female: 15.9% (2016 est.)

Population below poverty line

41.8% (2014 est.)

Gini Index coefficient - distribution of family income

28.7 (2014 est.)

38 (2002 est.)

Household income or consumption by percentage share

Lowest 10%: 4%

Highest 10%: 27% (2007)

Budget

Revenues: 300 million (2017 est.)

Expenditures: 2.4 billion (2017 est.)

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-)

-75.7% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

Public debt

3.8% of GDP (2017 est.)

3.1% of GDP (2016 est.)

Taxes and other revenues

10.8% (of GDP) (2017 est.)

Fiscal year

Calendar year

Current account balance

-\$284 million (2017 est.)

-\$544 million (2016 est.)

Exports

\$60 million note: data are in current year dollars (2020 est.)

\$120 million note: data are in current year dollars (2019 est.)

\$120 million note: data are in current year dollars (2018 est.)

Exports - partners

Singapore 51%, China 20%, Japan 9%, Indonesia 6% (2019)

Exports - commodities

Crude petroleum, natural gas, coffee, various vegetables, scrap iron (2019)

Imports

\$850 million note: data are in current year dollars (2020 est.)

\$1.04 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2019 est.)

\$1.06 billion note: data are in current year dollars (2018 est.)

Imports - partners

Indonesia 39%, China 27%, Singapore 10%, Malaysia 5% (2019)

Imports - commodities

Refined petroleum, cars, cement, delivery trucks, motorcycles (2019)

Reserves of foreign exchange and gold
\$544.4 million (31 December 2017 est.)

\$437.8 million (31 December 2015 est.)

Note: *excludes assets of approximately \$9.7 billion in the Petroleum Fund (31 December 2010)*

Debt - external
\$311.5 million (31 December 2014 est.)

\$687 million (31 December 2013 est.)

Exchange rates
The US dollar is used.

Energy

Electricity access

Electrification - total population: 85.6% (2018)

Electrification - urban areas: 100% (2018)

Electrification - rural areas: 79.2% (2018)

Electricity - production
0 kWh NA (2016 est.)

Electricity - consumption
0 kWh (2016 est.)

Electricity - exports
0 kWh (2017 est.)

Electricity - imports
0 kWh (2016 est.)

Electricity - installed generating capacity
600 kW NA (2016 est.)

Electricity - from fossil fuels
100% of total installed capacity (2018 est.)

Electricity - from nuclear fuels
0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

Electricity - from hydroelectric plants
0% of total installed capacity (2017 est.)

Electricity - from other renewable sources
0% of total installed capacity (2018 est.)

Crude oil - production
33,000 bbl/day (2018 est.)

Crude oil - exports
62,060 bbl/day (2015 est.)

Crude oil - imports
0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

Crude oil - proved reserves
0 bbl (1 January 2018 est.)

Refined petroleum products - production
0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

Refined petroleum products - consumption
3,500 bbl/day (2016 est.)

Refined petroleum products - exports
0 bbl/day (2015 est.)

Refined petroleum products - imports
3,481 bbl/day (2015 est.)

Natural gas - production
5.776 billion cu m (2017 est.)

Natural gas - consumption
0 cu m (2017 est.)

Natural gas - exports
5.776 billion cu m (2017 est.)

Natural gas - imports
0 cu m (2017 est.)

Natural gas - proved reserves
200 billion cu m (1 January 2006 est.)

Communications

Telephones - fixed lines

Total subscriptions: 2,012 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: less than 1 (2020 est.)

Telephones - mobile cellular

Total subscriptions: 1,377,915 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 104.5 (2020 est.)

Telecommunication systems

General assessment: following years of civil unrest, the government and operators are working toward rebuilding key infrastructure, including telecommunications networks; service in urban and some rural areas is expanding with competition; most of the population has access to 4G LTE service; increase in mobile-broadband penetration; government aims to boost e-government services with new national terrestrial fiber-optic network; launch of satellite and approval for submarine cable link to Australia will boost sector growth; importer of broadcasting equipment from Indonesia and China (2020).

Domestic: system suffered significant damage during the violence associated with independence; limited fixed-line services, less than 1 per 100, and mobile-cellular services have been expanding and are now available in urban and most rural areas with teledensity of 110 per 100 (2019).

International: country code - 670; international service is available; partnership with Australia telecom companies for potential deployment of a submarine fiber-optic link (NWCS); geostationary earth orbit satellite

Note: The COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a significant impact on production and supply chains globally. Since 2020, some aspects of the telecom sector have experienced downturn, particularly in mobile device production. Many network operators delayed upgrades to infrastructure; progress towards 5G implementation was postponed or slowed in some countries; consumer spending on telecom services and devices was affected by large-scale job losses and the consequent restriction on disposable incomes; the crucial nature of telecom services as a tool for work and school from home became evident, and received some support from governments.

Broadcast media

7 TV stations (3 nationwide satellite coverage; 2 terrestrial coverage, mostly in Dili; 2 cable) and 21 radio stations (3 nationwide coverage) (2019)

Internet country code
.tl

Internet users

Total: 599,700 (2021 est.)

Percent of population: 27.49% (2019 est.)

Broadband - fixed subscriptions
Total: 75 (2020)

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: less than 1 (2020 est.)

Transportation

National air transport system

Number of registered air carriers: 2 (2020)

Inventory of registered aircraft operated by air carriers: 2

Civil aircraft registration country code prefix
4W

Airports**Total:** 6 (2013)**Airports - with paved runways****Total:** 2**2,438 to 3,047 m:** 1**1,524 to 2,437 m:** 1 (2013)**Airports - with unpaved runways****Total:** 4**914 to 1,523 m:** 2**under 914 m:** 2 (2013)**Heliports****8** (2013)**Roadways****Total:** 6,040 km (2008)**Paved:** 2,600 km (2008)**Unpaved:** 3,440 km (2008)**Merchant marine****Total:** 1**By type:** other 1 (2021)**Ports and terminals****Major seaport(s):** Dili**Military and Security****Military and security forces**

Timor-Leste Defense Force (Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-L'este, Falintil (F-FDTL)): Joint Headquarters with Land, Air, Naval, Service Support, and Education/Training components; National Police (Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste, PNTL) (2021)

Military expenditures

1.2% of GDP (2020 est.)

1% of GDP (2019)

0.7% of GDP (2018)

0.9% of GDP (2017)

1% of GDP (2016)

Military and security service personnel strengths

The Timor-Leste Defense Force is comprised of approximately 2,000 personnel. (2021)

Military equipment inventories and acquisitions

Timor-Leste Defense Force's limited inventory consists of equipment donated by other countries; the only recorded deliveries of major arms to Timor-Leste since 2010 are naval patrol craft from China and South Korea. (2021)

Military service age and obligation

18 years of age for voluntary military service; 18-month service obligation (2021)

Military - note

Since achieving independence, Timor-Leste has received security assistance from or has made defense cooperation arrangements with Australia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Portugal, the UN, and the U.S.; some F-FDTL personnel train with the Indonesian military and the two countries maintain a joint Border Security Task Force

to jointly monitor and patrol the border, particularly the Oecussi exclave area where smuggling and trafficking are prevalent. The F-FDTL is a small force comprised of two infantry battalions and operates fewer than 10 patrol boats; it does not have any combat aircraft.

Transnational Issues

Disputes - international

Three stretches of land borders with Indonesia have yet to be delimited, two of which are in the Oecussi exclave area, and no maritime or Economic Exclusion Zone boundaries have been established between the countries. Maritime boundaries with Indonesia remain unresolved. Timor-Leste and Australia reached agreement on a treaty delimiting a permanent maritime boundary in March 2018; the treaty will enter into force once ratified by the two countries' parliaments.

Trafficking in persons

Current situation: human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Timor-Leste, and traffickers exploit victims from Timor-Leste abroad. Traffickers exploit Timorese women, girls, and occasionally young men and boys from rural areas in sex trafficking or domestic servitude. Timorese men are exploited in forced labor in agriculture, construction, and mining. Families place children in bonded domestic and agricultural labor to pay debts. Traffickers deceive young men and women with promises of a scholarship or employment opportunities in Indonesia, Malaysia, and other countries in the region, only taking them to a different county, taking their passports, and forcing them into labor, including domestic servitude. Sex traffickers in Timor-Leste prey on foreign women from East and Southeast Asia; traffickers also recruit Timorese women to send them to China, Indonesia, or Malaysia for commercial sex.

Tier rating: Tier 2 Watch List — Timor-Leste does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. Efforts include re-establishing funding to NGOs for victim services and integrating an anti-trafficking curriculum for officials; however, authorities decreased investigations and convictions, victim protection services were inadequate, and no government-wide standard operating procedures for victim identification were implemented. Understanding of trafficking remains low among officials. (2020)

Illicit drugs

NA

Acronyms and Abbreviations

°C	Celsius
°F	Fahrenheit
AACTL	Timor-Leste Civil Aviation Authority
AAR	After Action Review
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADF	Australian Defence Force
ADINET	ASEAN Disaster Information Network
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
AHA Centre	Assistance on Disaster Management
AHP	Australian Humanitarian Partnership
AICEP	International Association of Portuguese-Speaking Communications
ANATL	Public Airport Administration Company
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
APAN	All Partners Access Network
APC	Autoridade de Proteção Civil
APG	Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering
APORTIL	Autoridade Portuária Timor-Leste
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ATCT	Air traffic control tower
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
BMKG	Indonesian Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency
CARAT	Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training
CAVR	Commission for Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation
CCAD	Construction Civic Action Detail
CCDRR	Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction
CDCS	Country Development and Cooperation Strategy
CDDDB	Construction Diving Detachment Bravo
CED	Community Economic Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CER	Combat Engineer Regiment
CFE-DM	Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance
CHT	China Harbour Timor Lda
CIGC	Centro Integrado de Gestão de Crises. In English "Integrated Crisis Management Centre"
CIGD	Conselho Interministerial de Proteção Civil e Gestão de Desastres Naturais. In English "Inter-ministerial Council for Civil Protection and Natural Disaster Management".
COP26	26th United Nations Conference of the Parties on Climate Change

COVACA	Community Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPA	Civil Protection Authority
CPLP	Community of Portuguese Language Countries
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CTL	Correios De Timor-Leste
CVA	Truth and Friendship Commission
CVTL	Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste
DCP	Defence Cooperation Program
DDC	District Disaster Coordinators
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DFAT	Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DHAPP	Defense's Defense HIV/AIDS Awareness & Prevention Program
DKI-APCSS	Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies
DNB	Directorate of Bombeiros (fire fighters)
DNGRD	Directorate of DRM
DNMG	National Directorate of Meteorology and Geophysics
DNPCC	Directorate of Prevention of Community Conflict
DNSPPP	Directorate of Security and Protection of Public Heritage
DoD	U.S. Department of Defense
DpGER	Department of Emergency Management and Recovery
DPO	Disabled People's Organizations
DpPPMD	Department for Preparation, Prevention, and Mitigation of Disasters
DRBFC	Directorate of Roads, Bridges and Flood Control
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
EMOPS	EMOPS
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
ESP	Education Sector Plan
ETAN	East Timor and Indonesia Action Network
EWS	Early warning system
F-FDTL	Forças Armadas da Libertação Nacional de Timor-Leste - Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCTC	Framework Convention for Tobacco Control
FEST	Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology
Fretilin	Frente Revolucionária do Timor-Leste Independente
ft.	feet
G-77	Group of 77
GBV	Gender-based violence

GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDACS	Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
Global Fund	Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GNI	Gross National Income
GNR	Guarda Nacional Republicana. In English "Portugal's National Republican Guard"
GoTL	Government of Timor-Leste
GRI	Global Risk Index
HADR	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
HCT	Humanitarian Country Teams
HDI	Human Development Index
HDX	Humanitarian Data Exchange
IATA	International Air Transport Association
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDA	International Development Association
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGO	International Governmental Organization
IHR	International Health Regulation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFORM	Index for Risk Management
INGO	International non-governmental organizations
INSS	Integrated National Security System
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOC	International Olympic Committee
IOM	International Organization for Migration – the UN Migration Agency
IPG	Institute of Petroleum and Geology
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
IS	Information sharing
ISF	International Stabilization Force
ITIC	International Tsunami Information Centre
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
JHU	John Hopkins University
JHU APL	Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab
JHU CSSE	JHU Center for Systems Science and Engineering

APPENDICES

JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JMSDF	Japan Ground Self Defense Force
JPDA	Joint Petroleum Development Area
JTWC	Joint Typhoon Warning Center
km	Kilometers
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex +
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
m	meters
MCIP	Multinational Communications Interoperability Program
MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
MM	Modified Mercalli
MMR	Measles-Mumps-Rubella
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoTC	Ministry of Transport and Communications
MPU	Maritime Police Unit
MSSI	Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAP 1325	National Action Plan for implementing UNSCR 1325
NCB	Non-communicable disease
NCDs	Non-communicable diseases
ND-GAIN	Notre Dame Global Adaption Initiative
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDMD	National Disaster Risk Management Directorate
NDOC	National Disaster Operation Center
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NIP	National Indicative Program
NMCB	Naval Mobile Construction Battalion
NOGA	Northern Oil & Gas Australia
NTP	National TB Program
NZDF	New Zealand Defence Force
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
OPCW	Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OSOCC	On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
PAC ANGEL 18	Pacific Angel 2018

PDC	Pacific Disaster Center
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PIF	Pacific Island Forum
PMDT	Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant TB
PNTL	Polícia Nasionál Timór Lorosa'e or Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste
PPIAF	Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility
PPP	Public-private partnership
RAE	Royal Australian Engineers
RAEOA	Special Administrative Region of Oecusse-Ambeno
RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
RESA	Runway End Safety Areas
RHCC	Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre
RHTO	Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
SAOFFG	Southeastern Asia-Oceania Flash Flood Guidance
SDA	Sub-District Administrator
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDP	Strategic Development Plan
SEPC	Secretary of State for Civil Protection
SIOPS	Integrated System of Protection and Relief Operations
SISCa	Integrated Community Health Services
SISN	National Security Integration System
SitRep	Situation Report
SOPs	Standard operating procedures
sq. km	Square kilometers
sq. mi	Square mi
State Administration	Ministry of State Administration
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
TB	Tuberculosis
TC	Tropical cyclone
TD	Tropical depression
TLCE	Timor-Leste Coalition for Education
TPSA	Timor Port S.A.
TSP	Tsunami Service Provider
UISS	Unclassified Information Sharing Service
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCBD	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
UNCCCD	United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification

UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNMISSET	United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor
UNMIT	United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
UN RCO	UN Resident Coordinator’s Office
UNSCR 1325	United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
UNTAET	United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor
UNTL	National University of Timor-Lorosae
UNWTO	World Tourism Organization
UPM	Unidade Polisia Maritima
UPU	Universal Postal Union
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
WASH	Water, sanitation, and hygiene
WBG	World Bank Group
WCO	World Customs Organization
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WPS	Women, Peace, and Security
WTO	World Trade Organization
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WCO	World Customs Organization
WFTU	The World Federation of Trade Unions
WHO	World Health Organization (UN)
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WTO	World Tourism Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Endnotes

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