



TIMOR-LESTE

Disaster Management Reference Handbook

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Disclaimer

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Welcome - Note from the Acting Director

Dear Reader,

CFE-DM provides education, training and research about disaster management and humanitarian assistance, particularly in international settings that require coordination between the Department of Defense (DOD) and civilian agencies. In line with its charter, CFE-DM has created reference books on disaster management roles, processes, capabilities and vulnerabilities. This Disaster Management Reference Handbook Series is designed to provide decision makers, planners and responders a baseline of understanding of national disaster management plans and structures, including information on key domestic disaster response entities, basic regional background, and local and international humanitarian organizations present in the region. The Indo Asian Pacific region is the nexus of naturally occurring weather phenomena and tectonics resulting in powerful cyclones, volcanos, earthquakes and tsunamis that can be very destructive.¹ The seismically and volcanically active littoral area stretching from New Zealand up the eastern edge of Asia to Alaska and down the western coastal areas of North and South America is known as the Ring of Fire- 75 percent of earth's volcanoes and 90 percent of earthquakes occur in this region.² During the period 2001-2010 on average, more than 200 million people were affected and more than 70,000 people were killed by natural disasters annually.³ These handbooks provide a context for country and regional-specific factors that influence disaster management.



Sincerely,

Douglas W. Wallace
Acting Director

Information about the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance

Overview

The CFE-DM is a U.S. DOD organization that was established by U.S. Congress in 1994. The Center is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Pacific Command and is located on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

CFE-DM was founded as part of the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye's vision. The Senator had witnessed the effects of Hurricane Iniki that struck the Hawaiian Islands in 1992, and felt the civil-military coordination in the response could have been more effective. He set about to establish the CFE-DM to help bridge understanding between civil and military responders, and to provide a DOD platform for building DMHA awareness and expertise in U.S. forces, and with partner nations in the Asia-Pacific. While maintaining a global mandate, the Asia-Pacific region is our priority of effort and collaboration is the cornerstone of our operational practice.

Mission

The Center's mission is to advise U.S. Pacific Command leaders; enable focused engagements, education and training; and increase knowledge of best practices and information to enhance U.S. and international civil-military preparedness for disaster management and humanitarian assistance.

Vision

CFE-DM exists to save lives and alleviate human suffering by connecting people, improving coordination and building capacity.

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Disaster Management Reference Handbook Series Overview

The Disaster Management Reference Handbook Series is intended to provide decision makers, planners, responders and disaster management practitioners with an overview of the disaster management structure, policies, laws, and plans for each country covered in the series. Natural and man-made threats most likely to affect the country are discussed. The handbooks also provide basic country background information, including cultural, demographic, geographic, infrastructure and other relevant data.

Conditions such as poverty, water and sanitation, vulnerable groups and other humanitarian issues are included. A basic overview of the health situation in the country and disease surveillance is also covered. The handbooks include information on key national entities involved in disaster management, disaster response and preparation, and the military's role in disaster relief. Information on United Nation agencies, international NGOs, major local NGOs, and key U.S. agencies and programs in the country, are also provided.

The overall aim is to offer a guide that brings together important information about disaster management and response for each country in an effort to provide a basic understanding for the reader. Information in the handbooks are compiled and based primarily on trusted, reliable, publicly available sources. Much of the information used is from U.S. or other government sources, United Nation sources, NGO websites, scholarly references, foreign government websites, and various media sources. When available, a link to the original internet source is provided.

Each handbook is a working document and will be updated periodically as new, significant information becomes available. We hope that you find these handbooks informative, relevant, reliable, and useful in understanding disaster management and response for this country. We welcome and appreciate your feedback to improve this document and help fill any gaps to enhance its future utility. Feedback, comments, or questions can be emailed to cfe-dmha.fct@pacom.mil. You may also contact the Center for Excellence at: (808) 472-0518. Please visit our website (<https://www.cfe-dmha.org>) to view the latest electronic versions available or to request a hard copy of a disaster management reference handbook.

Executive Summary

Timor-Leste is located in the southern-most part of Southeast Asia on the eastern half of the island of the Timor Sea between Indonesia and Australia. Timor-Leste has a population of approximately 1.1 million people.⁴ In May 2002, Timor-Leste gained independence from Indonesia. Prior to independence, United Nations (UN) peace-keeping forces were installed in Timor-Leste in late 1999 (following the referendum for independence) to stop the ensuing violence, and establish a national government. In 2006, the country suffered large-scale internal conflict, which led to the displacement of 150,000 people. This resulted in the deployment of an International Stabilization Force (ISF).⁵ In 2012, the peaceful transition of government resulted in withdrawing of the ISF and the UN forces, with security transferred to local law-enforcement bodies.⁶

Despite its troubled political past, Timor-Leste's economy continues to grow rapidly. Offshore gas reserves have increased state income, and government spending is starting to contribute to poverty reduction and improved social outcomes. However, food insecurity remains widespread throughout Timor-Leste. Though the majority of the population works in subsistence agriculture, agricultural productivity is low and Timor-Leste depends on food imports. High inflation rates, partly caused by the large oil-exports, make access to food and services increasingly difficult. Malnutrition among children is a widespread health concern with health services in Timor-Leste characterized by weak infrastructure and low human resource capacity.⁷ Conflict and hunger are strongly associated in Timor-Leste because they have recently emerged from conflict. This association is common for countries with the lowest level of food security.⁸

Timor-Leste is prone to severe and recurrent drought, flooding and landslides. Tropical cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis also represent risks.⁹ Landslides and flash floods are the most common natural hazards in Timor-Leste, disrupting the land transport system by destroying bridges and washing out roads. Drought can be a problem during the dry season, exacerbating the country's food security problem. Additionally, Timor-Leste is near the intersection of three continental plates, making it vulnerable to major earthquakes. Timor-Leste's vulnerability to natural hazards means if particular care is not taken in the development of the country's infrastructure, it will remain at risk to disruption. In November 2011, the UN mission in Timor-Leste reported the country had suffered 470 disaster events over the previous ten years.¹⁰ While Timor-Leste has a medium exposure to hazards, its lack of coping and adaptive strategies makes it the 7th most disaster prone country in the world.¹¹

Timor-Leste is presently a low income country, but aims to be an upper-middle income country by 2030. The plans for Timor-Leste's economic development are laid out in the 2011-2030 Strategic Development Plan. Timor-Leste is in the development stages of its disaster management program. Timor-Leste developed the 2008 National Disaster Risk Management Policy, which lays out the government's vision of its disaster management process from the national to the village level. Additionally, through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), they have conducted national hazards, vulnerability and risk assessments. Through Plan International they have initiated the integration of disaster management education into public schools. Although the Government of Timor-Leste considers DRM as a priority and supports the dissemination of DRM policy to the district levels, 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 2009-2012.¹²

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 United Nations, Asian Development Bank, 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.¹³



TIMOR-LESTE

Country Overview

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Country Overview

Timor-Leste, also known as East Timor, was colonized in the 16th century by Portugal, and was known as Portuguese Timor. The surrounding islands which eventually became Indonesia were colonized by the Dutch, and known as the Dutch East Indies.¹⁴ Figure 1 is a map of Timor-Leste. Portugal predominantly utilized the colony as a place to exile political prisoners and criminals. During World War II,

Portugal was neutral, but Australian and Dutch forces occupied the island in anticipation of Japanese invasion; Japanese occupation resulted in the deaths of 40,000-70,000 Timorese. After WWII, Timor-Leste was returned to the Portuguese. In 1955 Timor-Leste was declared an “Overseas Province” of Portugal.¹⁵

Timor-Leste was a Portuguese colony for 426 years. In 1975 Portugal pulled out and Timor-Leste declared independence. Nine days later, before their independence became internationally recognized, Indonesian forces invaded and began an occupation which would



Figure 1: Timor-Leste Map

last 24 years. Reasons for the occupation included preserving the natural resources of the country as well as stopping the communist government which had begun to form in Timor-Leste; for this reason, the U.S. backed Indonesian involvement. President Suharto, the leader of Indonesia in 1975, began the invasion with full approval from Henry Kissinger and the White House.¹⁶ Subsequent Indonesian efforts to stop Timorese resistance movements resulted in the deaths of approximately 150,000 Timorese citizens. In 1991, a peaceful pro-Timorese memorial service turned violent when Indonesian troops opened fire on a crowd, killing approximately 270 people. Ultimately, this resulted in a UN, Portuguese and U.S. backed independence referendum in 1999. Approximately 78 percent of the population voted for independence. Indonesian troops violently responded and killed 2,000 foreigners and Timorese citizens and forced 300,000 people into Indonesian West Timor as refugees, destroying the infrastructure of Timor-Leste.

In 2002, UN and Australian peacekeeping forces were able to terminate the conflict, and Timor-Leste was finally internationally recognized as an independent state. Ethnic conflict on a much smaller scale still continues between western and eastern Timorese groups, and anti-western sentiment is still present in some groups, though the government has formed a close tie with the U.S. government.¹⁷

In 2006, internal antagonism within the military, security forces and the political leadership resulted in widespread civil violence and an attempted coup. The coup resulted in youth gang violence, open gunfire between military and police forces on the streets of Dili and the displacement of 150,000 people. The crisis resulted in 14,000 damaged or destroyed homes and 40 deaths. An ISF successfully created 56 internally displaced persons camps. Resettlement, re-stabilization and rebuilding efforts are still taking place.¹⁸ The 2006 crisis that brought large international deployments back to Timor-Leste through the ISF and the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste demonstrated the

challenges associated with achieving long-term sustainability in a young country still grappling with poverty and unresolved political and security tensions.

Despite a number of setbacks, including the political and security crisis of 2006 and the assassination attempts of early 2008, Timor-Leste has made substantial progress in security and development. It has years of stability, during which the government has been able to focus on development. It has also launched a 20-year Strategic Development Plan that sets out a path for engagement with international partners and has consolidated stability by holding peaceful presidential elections in 2012.¹⁹

Culture

Timor-Leste's culture is a melting pot of various influences, including Portuguese, Roman Catholic and Indonesian. Photo 1 is an example of the traditional Tais (dress) from the region of Tutuala, Timor-Leste.²⁰

Portuguese influences come mainly from both its time as a colonial hegemon and from the frequency of Timorese and Portuguese interracial marriage. Portuguese style buildings



Photo 1: Traditional Dress in Timor-Leste



Photo 2: Timorese Cultural Celebration

are extremely common, and the language is one of two official languages, along with Tetum, the native Timorese language. Before, during and after Portuguese rule, the Timorese people maintained a strong belief in animism. Animism is the belief that all nature is alive and filled with unseen spirits that may be worshipped or placated; and/or seeing a soul in trees, rivers, stones, and heavenly bodies. During their 24 year-long occupation in Timor-Leste, Indonesia did not recognize traditional beliefs and required adherence to one of five officially recognized religions. The Roman Catholic Church became the prominent religion openly supporting the end of Timorese persecution and the independence of the nation.

Timorese citizens are fiercely proud of their independence and remain very aware of how hard they had to fight for it. Another Timorese custom is poetry writing, which had an essential role in the independence movement. The first president of independent Timor-Leste, Xanana Gusmão, used poetry to drive the movement. Without a common enemy of the

Indonesians, frequent civil clashes are common within Timor-Leste, specifically in the capital city of Dili. Despite this, Timorese people are extraordinarily kind and welcoming; hospitality is very important in their culture. They welcome foreigners and will often offer food or drink and take pictures with tourists.²¹ Photo 2 shows Timorese children in traditional dress taking part in a ceremony for the International Day of Peace, celebrated annually in September.²²

Demographics

Understanding the demographic context of Timor-Leste provides insight into socio-cultural factors which will affect disaster management effectiveness and disaster vulnerabilities. It is important to reflect gender, ethnicity, vulnerable groups, and economics in the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response activities to address gaps and risks. Table 1 provides basic demographic information on Timor-Leste.²³

Area	14,874 sq. km
Language	Tetum (official); Portuguese (official); Mambae; Macassae; Indonesian; English
Religion	Roman Catholic; Protestant/Evangelical; Muslim
Time Zone	UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) +9
Population	1,167,242 (2015 Census)
Neighbors	Indonesia – Indonesian West Timor; Papua New Guinea; Australia
Capital City	Dili
Primary Ports	Dili
Primary Airport	Presidente Nicolau Lobato International Airport
Currency	United States Dollars (USD)

Table 1: Basic Demographic Information

MALAYO-POLYNESIAN GROUPS	POPULATION	GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION
Tetun (or Tetum)	100,000	North coast, around Dili
Mambere	80,000	Central Timor-Leste (mountains)
Tukudede	63,170	Area around Maubara, Liquisa
Galoli	50,000	Eastern Timor-Leste
Kemak	50,000	North-central Timor
Baikeno	20,000	Area around Pantemakassar

PAPUAN ETHNIC GROUPS	POPULATION	GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION
Bunak	50,000	Central interior Timor
Fataluku	30,000	Eastern tip, around Los Palos
Makasae	No estimates	Eastern Timor-Leste

Table 2: Ethnic Makeup of Timor-Leste

Ethnic Makeup

The Timorese people are collectively known as Maubere. The Timorese population consists of many different ethnic groups, the majority of which are of mixed Malayo-Polynesian descent and Melanesian/Papuan, with a small Chinese population. Table 2 represents the ethnic makeup of Timor-Leste.²⁴ As a former Portuguese colony, there is a small population of Timorese-Portuguese descent as interracial marriage was common. Due to the ethnic conflict caused by Indonesian occupation, clashes between western and eastern Timorese groups are still present.

Key Population Centers

Timor-Leste has a population of 1,167,242 (2015 Census). Dili, its capital, is the biggest

city, with a population of 252,884. The urban population is estimated at 328,281, or 28 percent of the population.²⁵ Dili is rapidly urbanizing and has an annual growth rate of 4.6 percent and in 2010 over 85,194 in-migrants moved to Dili.²⁶ The violence of 1999 drastically affected the infrastructure of its cities. Between 50-90 percent of the houses in each of the 442 sukus (villages) at the time were burned down. One survey noted 7,165 houses were burned down in Dili District alone. The rapid urbanization of Dili has caused various problems, such as increasing poverty levels, unemployment and livelihood difficulties.²⁷

Language

The official languages of Timor-Leste

are Tetum and Portuguese. Indonesian and English are also significantly spoken. Tetum is understood by about 80 percent of the population. Indonesian is understood by about 40 percent of the population, Portuguese by about 5 percent, and English by 2 percent. During the Indonesian occupation of Timor-Leste, Indonesian was made the official working language of the government and the language used in schools. English has become the preferred language of business. Changes in language use have created communication challenges between the government, businesses, the education system and the population. The diversity of the population is very significant as over 30 languages and dialects are used.²⁸

Religion

Roman Catholicism is the official religion of Timor-Leste and is practiced by 96.9 percent of the Timorese population. Other religions include Protestants and Evangelicals 2.2 percent, Muslim 0.3 percent, and other 0.6 percent (2005).²⁹ Protestant denominations include Seventh-day Adventists, Pentecostals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Christian Vision Church. There are also a number of small, nondenominational Protestant congregations. Most citizens of Timor-Leste continue to retain animistic beliefs and practices, which they do not view as incompatible with their formal religious affiliation. Timor-Leste had a considerable Muslim population during the Indonesian occupation, comprised predominantly of ethnic Malay immigrants from Indonesian islands.³⁰ Additionally, a few ethnic Timorese converts to Islam were noted, as well as a small number of descendants of Arab Muslims residing in the country during the era of Portuguese colonial rule prior to 1975. Typically the Arab Muslims were well integrated into Timor-Leste society, however ethnic Malay Muslims often were not, and only a few hundred remained in the country following independence in 2002.

The Timor-Leste Constitution, in addition to other laws and policies, protects religious freedom and, in practice, the government commonly imposes these securities. Timor-Leste laws at all levels, protects the religious freedom right of Timorese citizens in full against abuse, either by governmental or private actors. Members of Protestant and Muslim communities also have some political influence and have held high positions in the executive and legislative

branches of government and in the military.³¹ The Timor-Leste Government observes the following religious holidays as national holidays: Good Friday, Assumption Day, All Saints' Day, and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Christmas, Eid al-Fitr, and Eid al-Adha.³²

Vulnerable groups

Timor-Leste's history is fraught with extremely violent and unstable periods. Human rights violations were extremely common. During these periods of time, the people entrusted to provide security in the region became serious threats to the entire population. Violence by small groups, the proliferation of small arms and a weak and burdened judicial system threatens security and increases the likelihood of social conflict and violence in Timor-Leste. There is limited legislation in human rights abuse, human trafficking and land and housing rights. This combined with cultural, economic and logistical constraints to access justice exposes the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children, to serious protection risks.³³ In this context, vulnerable groups' views on security can only be understood by considering how the present relates to their past. Vulnerable groups in Timor-Leste include women, children, the displaced, the poor and disabled.

Women

During Indonesian occupation, Indonesian troops and security forces would forcibly take Timorese women to military barracks where they were held as sexual slaves, subjected to gang rape and forced to carry their children; many of these women would face ostracism for having carried multiple children from multiple men. In modern day Timor-Leste, men are still the first protection for women, and become extremely vulnerable in the mans absence. However, domestic violence is still prevalent, and women are not protected in their own homes. Rape and violence against women has begun to be reported to police in Timor-Leste, although women are much more likely to go to their village council or a Catholic nun; they are then referred to an NGO which will aid them in police proceedings. A law implemented to combat domestic violence, Law against Domestic Violence, provides assistance for women in the form of access to shelter, legal representation, medical and psychological assistance and emergency support. Despite these advances, UN studies estimate nearly 40 percent of Timorese women over the age of



Photo 3: Women in Maliana

15 have experienced physical violence, while 34 percent of married women report abuse by their husbands. It is believed this is caused by a deeply entrenched patriarchy, as well as women continually being excluded from political, economic and social life.

Although there are no differences in primary school enrollment, there are higher dropout rates of girls than boys from post-secondary school level onwards which possibly reflects some evidence of son's preference in access to education.

Concerns have also been raised about women's access to justice through traditional justice mechanisms where women are excluded from traditional proceedings and compensation is provided to male members of the victims' family.³⁴ Photo 3 depicts a photo of women in Maliana, Timor-Leste.³⁵

Children

Children were less affected by Indonesian occupation, although they were often used by troops as "operational help." Some children reported being treated relatively well, whereas some reported cruel and inhumane treatment. In 2006, many youth were involved in the civil unrest and gang violence. Additionally tens of thousands of

children were also displaced. The modern Timorese Government created the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity has stationed a child protection officer in every district. Despite this, violence and abuse towards children is under-reported as it is viewed as a family matter.³⁶ Child poverty and labor are also widespread; 45.3 percent of children under five are underweight (2010), and 10,510 children between the ages of 5-14 are forced into child labor (2002).

Men are allowed to marry at 18 and women at 15. Child marriage is generally accepted, especially in cases where a marriage has been arranged at birth or tied to extreme poverty where a bride price is agreed. Bride price is legal and still common in many districts with exchange of goods between both families. Traditionally this is viewed as most important in the marriage rite. Practices such as bride price are also reported to be associated with domestic violence.³⁷ Photo 4 depicts children in a remote village of Timor-Leste.³⁸



Photo 4: Children in Rural Village

Displaced

A report carried out in 2005 called the Commission for Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation in Timor-Leste found that most individual Timorese citizens have experienced at least one period of displacement, and many have experienced several. More than 400,000 Timorese were forcibly displaced during the 1999 crisis. Indonesian forces placed them in camps and used starvation as a weapon of war. During the 2006 crisis, around 150,000 people were displaced, around 14,000 houses were destroyed, and the displaced Timorese were divided between 56 Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps. The people in these camp were extremely vulnerable to attacks from outside forces, and internally, women frequently were abused or raped. Most of these camps were able to close down in 2010 due to rebuilding in the areas the citizens had fled from.³⁹

Poor

Approximately 37 percent of the Timorese population lives under the poverty line (2011). Most of the Timorese people are highly vulnerable to food loss. Photo 5 is an image of women and children searching a garbage dump for cans to sell in order to buy food.⁴⁰ Agriculture is one of the most vital industries in the country, and natural hazards and climate change threaten

food security. High rates of poor sanitation and inaccessibility to clean water contributes to the spread of highly infectious diseases, of which Timor-Leste is of very high risk.⁴¹ The poor are also more directly affected by internal conflict, natural disasters, malnutrition, and poor health. The establishment of a free universal healthcare system has drastically reduced risks for those in poverty.⁴²

Disabled

There are no specific laws regulating the treatment and protection of persons with mental disabilities.⁴³ Recent UN studies have found that persons with disabilities, both men and women, are up to three times more likely than persons without disabilities to become victims of physical and sexual abuse and rape. Disabled women are especially vulnerable because they face double discrimination. Additionally, a UN Human Rights Team has found evidence that members of the Police National Timor-Leste (PNTL) have sexually violated disabled women. Though disabled citizens have their rights protected under the Timorese constitution, there is no official mechanism designed to investigate violations. The Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice can deal with these issues, though they have not carried out any investigations.⁴⁴



Photo 5: The Poor in Dili, Timor-Leste

Economics

The World Development Report (2011) suggests post-conflict countries take between 15 to 30 years to build resilience and transition out of fragility. According to the United Nation's Human Development Index, Timor-Leste is one of the poorest countries in the world. It ranks 120 out of 169 countries.⁴⁵ Relative to research, Timor-Leste's economic and social development can be viewed as vastly improved.⁴⁶ Timor-Leste's greatest economic challenges since independence include rebuilding its infrastructure, strengthening the civil administration and creating jobs for its young population. Historically, the government has failed to spend the entirety of its budget. A significant portion of the budget goes to infrastructure building, but limited experience in construction has limited

this. Timor-Leste's agriculture sector accounts for 5.9 percent of its GDP, but employs 64 percent of its population. The industry and services sectors account for 77.4 percent and 16.8 percent, respectively, but only employ 10 percent and 26 percent of the population (2010).

The country's oil sector accounts for most of its economic activity, accounting for 90 percent of government revenues, but they have a strong dependence on it, making the economy potentially unsustainable. The oil sector has also not created an abundance of jobs, as gas is currently piped to Australia for processing. A Petroleum Fund designed to preserve the country's petroleum wealth for future generations is predicted to sustain government operations for the foreseeable future. The current economic policy focuses on how to use the oil and gas wealth to lift other parts of the economy.⁴⁷ Table 3 represents the economic status of Timor-Leste.

GDP (PPP)	\$7.101 billion (2015)
GDP – per capita	\$5,800 (2015)
Unemployment Rate	11 percent (2013)
Population below poverty line	37 percent (2011)
Inflation	0.7 percent (2015)
Exports	\$15.5 million (2014)
Imports	\$764.2 million (2014)

Table 3: Economic Status of Timor-Leste

Agriculture is the most important source of employment and subsistence to a large segment of the population. Agricultural exports account for more than 90 percent of non-oil exports, of which the main export commodity is coffee. Agricultural productivity and crop yields, on average remain subpar, due to the lack of irrigation, low use of fertilizers and poor seed quality. Additionally, the lack of infrastructure and high transportation costs reduce the marketability of agricultural produce.⁴⁸

The government's Strategic Development Plan for 2011 – 2030 offers a vision, targets and indicators for the next two decades. It is built around four pillars:

- Social capital health, education and social protection;
- Infrastructure including transport, telecommunication, power, and water supply and sanitation;

- Economic foundations which target three sectors for development – agriculture, tourism and petrochemicals – to bring about growth, jobs, and new sources of public revenues beyond oil; and
- Institutional framework which focuses on macroeconomic management and improving the capacity and effectiveness of government institutions.⁴⁹

Environment

Environmental considerations influence disaster management in many ways. This section outlines some of the key environmental factors which contribute to Timor-Leste's disaster hazards and affect potential response operations within the Timor-Leste region.

Geography

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, also referred to as East Timor, is an island country, occupying the eastern half of Timor Island and the islands of Atauro and Jaco which is shared and bordered by the Indonesian West Timor. Timor-Leste includes the enclave of Oecussi, which is located within West Timor (Indonesia). Timor-Leste has volcanic origins which have produced a rugged terrain, characterized by a central spine of steep mountains that cascade to the sea in the north while giving way to a gentler decline in the south, where a coastal plain has formed. Deep valleys score the mountains, hampering movement beyond the coastal regions.⁵⁰ After Indonesia, Timor-Leste's closest neighbor is Australia, 400 miles to the south. It is semiarid and mountainous (Photo 6).⁵¹

Timor-Leste is located in Southeast Asia between the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. Timor-Leste is part of the Malay dry land and the highest point on the island is Foho Tatamailau.⁵² Table 4 provides the basic geographic information on Timor-Leste.⁵³

Borders

Timor-Leste borders one country, Indonesia on the west side of Timor Island. Indonesia and Timor-Leste have experienced border issues since 2002 when Timor-Leste became independent from Indonesia. They have agreed on more than 900 coordinates as border points, but two land borders, Noel Besi-Citrana and



Photo 6: Aerial Mountain View near Dili, Timor-Leste

Location	Eastern part of the Timor Island at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago. Between latitudes 8’15 and 10’30 south, and longitudes 124’50 and 127’30 east.
Area	14,874 km including the enclave of Oecusse on the north coast within Indonesian West Timor, and the two smaller islands, Atauro to the north and Jaco on the eastern tip.
Surroundings	Bordered by West Timor on one side, it is otherwise surrounded by water. North: Savu Sea and Straits of Wetar, moving into the Banda Sea beyond. South: the Timor Sea fills the less than 400 nautical mile distance between Timor-Leste and Australia.
Topography	Diverse and dramatic: a steep, central east-west mountain range declining sharply and flanked by riverine and/or coastal plains, terminating in wide, braided streams or sometimes coastal cliffs. Several peaks > 2,000m above sea level: Mount Ramelau (2,963m), Mount Matebian (2,373m), Mount Curi (1,300m), Mount Paitchau (995m)

Table 4: Basic Geographical Information for Timor-Leste

Bijael Sunan-Oben, remain unresolved. Despite this, both countries are committed to speeding up negotiations and resolving the issues as soon as possible on land borders, and aim to start maritime border talks at the end of 2016. Both countries intend to strengthen their close friendship, and Indonesia has committed to being the main partner to Timor-Leste for its development.⁵⁴

Climate

Timor-Leste has a tropical, hot and humid climate. Its climate is affected by the West Pacific

Monsoon. December to April is the wet season on Timor-Leste, and the dry season lasts for six months, between June and October; these seasons are very distinct. The temperature year round tends to stay between 75 °F and 86 °F (24 °C and 30 °C). For most of the wet season average monthly rainfall is above 100 mm per month while in the dry season it is less than 30 mm per month.⁵⁵ Timor-Leste suffers periodically from significant El Niño droughts which interrupts its normally heavy rainfall.⁵⁶



TIMOR-LESTE

Disaster Overview

Disaster Management Reference Handbook | 2016

Disaster Overview

Hazards

Timor-Leste is characterized by a dispersed rural population, mountainous topography, and heavy monsoonal rain in their wet season. Additionally, it is located in a region with high seismic activity and its land has been affected by years of poor agricultural techniques. The island of Timor is also greatly influenced by La Niña and El Niño climate events.⁵⁷ These factors expose the country to several natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods, cyclones, and locust infestations. Timor-Leste is also extremely vulnerable to food shortages and agriculture challenges due to natural hazards. A comprehensive risk assessment on climate change has not yet been performed in Timor-Leste, but similar countries in the region have experienced food security problems, forest degradation, increasing incidence of disease, and coastal vulnerability as effects of climate change.⁵⁸ Table 5 provides a list of recorded Hazards in Timor-Leste since Independence from 2002 to 2013. Note: this data base is updated infrequently, therefore it may be incomplete.

Earthquakes, Landslides and Tsunamis

Due to Timor-Leste's geographical location north of the Eurasian and Australian tectonic plates, it is exposed to the risk of earthquakes and associated tsunamis. Earthquakes, though not the most frequently occurring natural hazard in Timor-Leste, cost the country more than any other singular natural hazard.⁵⁹ Earthquakes cause significant damage because they normally trigger extensive landslides, damaging livestock, roads, infrastructure, and property. Access to bridges and roads become impassable, and houses are regularly destroyed or damaged. The mountainous terrain of Timor-Leste as well as years of poor agricultural techniques contribute to the likelihood of landslides. Though there is no recorded history of tsunami occurrences, they have the ability to cause significant damage to coastal cities, especially along the south coast.⁶⁰ This is complicated by the fact there are few earthquake resistant structures in Dili or district capitals. The majority of private dwellings being constructed are non-engineered concrete/masonry buildings (Photo 7).⁶¹

These buildings will likely have a high rate of failure, in a strong earthquake (6.0-6.9 magnitude) and devastating levels in a major earthquake (7.0-7.9) with an epicenter close to Dili or other district capitals.⁶² Table 6 provides a review of historical losses due to strong winds, flood and landslide (1992-2013) by district.⁶³



Photo 7: Traditional Home in Timor-Leste

Event	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
Accident		2							4	1		1	8
Conflict	2		1		2	5		1		3	1	1	16
Drought		1											1
Epidemic										1			1
Fire	2	8	4				1	40	20	29	55	22	181
Flood	1	10			1	7	4	7	88	36	25	75	254
Landslide		1						4	16	12	9	6	48
Strong Wind	3	3	5		3	3	12	32	93	47	74	33	308
Total	8	25	10	0	6	15	17	84	221	129	164	138	817

Table 5: Recorded Hazards in Timor-Leste Since Independence, 2002-2013

District	Losses due to strong wind events				Losses due to flood events				Losses due to the landslide events			
	Houses Destroyed	Houses Damaged	Victims	Affected	Houses Destroyed	Houses Damaged	Victims	Affected	Houses Destroyed	Houses Damaged	Victims	Affected
AILEU	3	7	4	7	2	8	11	10	-	15	-	15
AINARO	38	1,415	4,538	1,571	5	310	312	906	-	95	-	36
BAUCAU	1	65	100	54	-	10	3	10	25	19	44	44
BOBONARO	61	30	272	89	-	15	38	8	-	10	-	10
COVALIMA	-	110	78	-	650	5,312	5,998	5,036	-	54	54	41
DILI	3	86	99	267	6	3,478	1,625	3,264	8	41	116	135
ERMERA	3	306	266	364	-	168	162	162	-	1	-	-
LAUTEM	-	57	59	82	-	275	275	245	-	2	2	2
LIQUICA	-	30	-	86	1	56	75	140	-	-	-	-
MANATUTO	1	17	5	14	-	386	125	1,451	4	18	96	103
MANUFAHI	2	436	238	439	21	1,540	2,095	2,963	-	-	-	-
OECUSSE	-	43	1	43	-	73	147	73	-	2	2	2
VIQUEQUE	17	210	403	223	1	23	24	23	-	-	-	-

Table 6: Timor-Leste Historical Losses Due to Strong Winds, Flood and Landslide By District (1992 -2013)

Floods and Cyclones

Timor-Leste is affected by two sets of monsoonal conditions: the Northwest (wet monsoon) brings storms and flooding and the Southeast (dry monsoon) causes strong winds and cyclones to form in the south of the island. La Nina and El Nino also contribute to flooding and cyclones. Floods and cyclones on the island contribute heavily to infrastructure damage and food insecurity.⁶⁴ Additionally, floods are the most frequently occurring and the most deadly natural disaster.⁶⁵ Photo 8 depicts an image of the excessive flooding in Dili, the capital city of Timor-Leste.



Photo 8: Flooding in Dili

Food Security

Timor-Leste's rugged terrain, poor clay soils, and varying rainfall have always presented challenges to agriculture. The principal staple crops are rice and maize, supplemented by cassava and sweet potatoes. Coffee is the main rural export commodity. The main long-term challenge to Timor-Leste's ability to provide a stable source of staple foods is the rapid move towards urbanization, poor transport infrastructure, and the danger that a culture of dependency will undermine the still strong communal ethic that has enabled the Timorese to cope in times of shortages. Other more technical problems are being addressed, notably the replenishment of livestock (particularly poultry, cattle, and water buffalo) lost during the 1999 violence. The UN and other agencies have also made restoring and expanding irrigation systems

a priority. Because these networks and pumping systems are essential for farming, pro-Indonesian militias singled out these networks and their pumping systems for destruction.

Most Timorese citizen's livelihood is dependent on agriculture; the industry employs around 65 percent of the population.⁶⁶ This makes the population extremely vulnerable to food loss and insecurity. Agriculture consistently produces less food than is needed by the population due to poor soil and climate conditions. The number of households that face food insecurity in Timor-Leste stands at 64-70 percent.⁶⁷ Almost all of the natural hazards affecting Timor-Leste contribute to food vulnerability. In addition to the hazards described above, Timor-Leste has experienced serious drought and locust infestations that have significantly damaged crops and seriously contributed to food loss and vulnerability.⁶⁸ Photo 9 shows a Timor-Leste farmer carrying away crops destroyed by heavy rains.⁶⁹



Photo 9: Timor-Leste Farming

Recent History of Natural Disasters

Figure 2 depicts Timor-Leste’s reported frequency of disasters from 1990 to 2013. From the circle chart, floods represent the most frequent of hazards at approximately 70 percent, with storm and drought occurring at the same rate of approximately 14 percent each.⁷⁰ Figure 3 represents the mortality rate of hazards for the same time period. Below is a list of Timor-Leste’s natural disasters from 2001-2015.

September 2015 – El Nino induced droughts affected many countries in the Pacific, including Timor-Leste.⁷¹

January 2014 – Beginning in January 2014, Timor-Leste’s capital city of Dili faced a severe outbreak of dengue fever. As of the first week of February, 197 cases had been reported with two fatalities.

April 2009 – Timor-Leste was affected by the outbreak of Influenza A (H1N1); the worldwide pandemic lasted from April 2009 to August 2010.

July 2007 – In July 2007, Timor-Leste experienced severe rains leading to flooding and landslides. 947 people were severely affected, and this contributed to food shortages. Funds of US \$125,800 were allocated for relief and rebuilding. During 2007 approximately 100,000 people were still living in internally displaced persons camps from civil conflict in 2006; additionally, droughts from February to March 2006 led to food scarcity.

January 2006 – Tropical Cyclone “Daryl” off the western coast of Australia caused a cyclonic wind disturbance in Timor-Leste for four days, destroying more than 500 houses and corn and rice crops. The enclave of Oecussi faced food shortages as it was cut off from the rest of Timor-Leste, and also experienced severe flooding that was viewed as the worst flooding since 1972. These events led to crop damages that resulted in chronic food shortages, and it affected over 5,000 people.

June 2003 – Unseasonal rains in the southwestern part of Timor-Leste caused severe flooding. This led to substantial damage in infrastructure including the destruction of key roads, bridges, livestock facilities, and resulted in the displacement of 450 to 600 villagers, and two deaths.

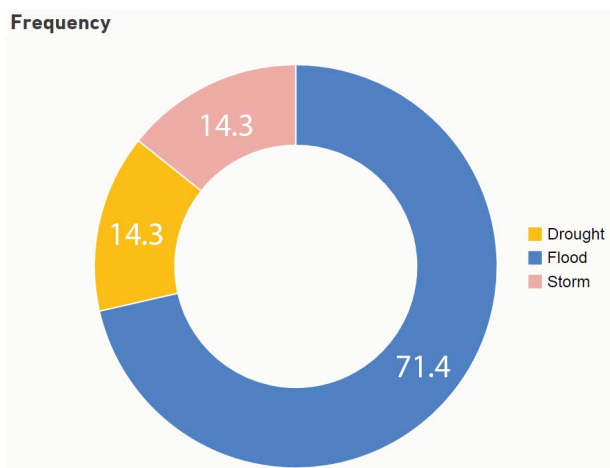


Figure 2: Frequency of Hazards between 1990-2013

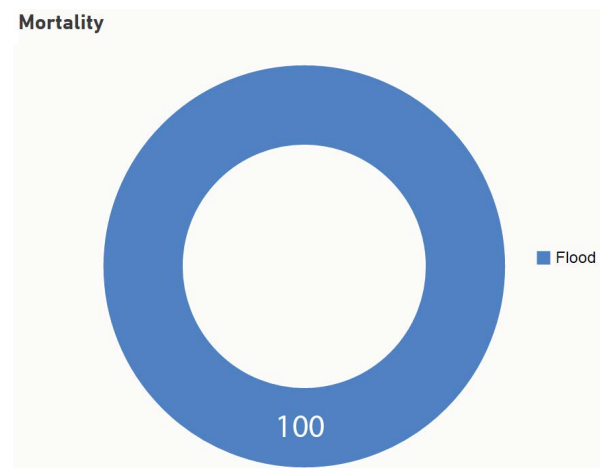


Figure 3: Mortality Rate from Floods 1990-2013

Figure Note: For a disaster to be entered into the database at least one of the following criteria must be met:

- Ten or more people reported killed;
- Hundred (100) or more people reported affected;
- Declaration of a state of emergency; and
- Call for International Assistance.

December 2003– Torrential rains caused severe flooding in southeast Timor-Leste. Over 400 people were seriously affected and in need of assistance; 16 houses were reported as severely damaged or destroyed. The affected people faced severe food shortages. An estimated US \$40,700 was provided.

June 2001 – Three days of heavy rain led to flooding in inhabited areas of Los Palos (population: 7,000) in Lautem District (population: 55,000), located in the east of Timor-Leste. More than 1,000 people were in need of assistance, and 68 houses were damaged. One person was reportedly killed. Difficult access to affected areas posed a significant problem. The National Disaster Management Office of

the East Timor Transitional Authority (ETTA) received emergency relief aid items from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP, and the United Nations Children Fund, and received an emergency aid grant of (US) \$20,000 from Office of Coordination and Humanitarian Affairs.

Figure 4 shows the Index for Risk Management (INFORM)'s index for Timor-Leste in reference to Hazards score. INFORM is a global, objective and transparent tool for understanding the risk of humanitarian crises. The INFORM index is a way to understand and measure the risk of a humanitarian crisis. INFORM is a composite indicator, developed by the Joint Research Center, combining 53

RISK PROFILE

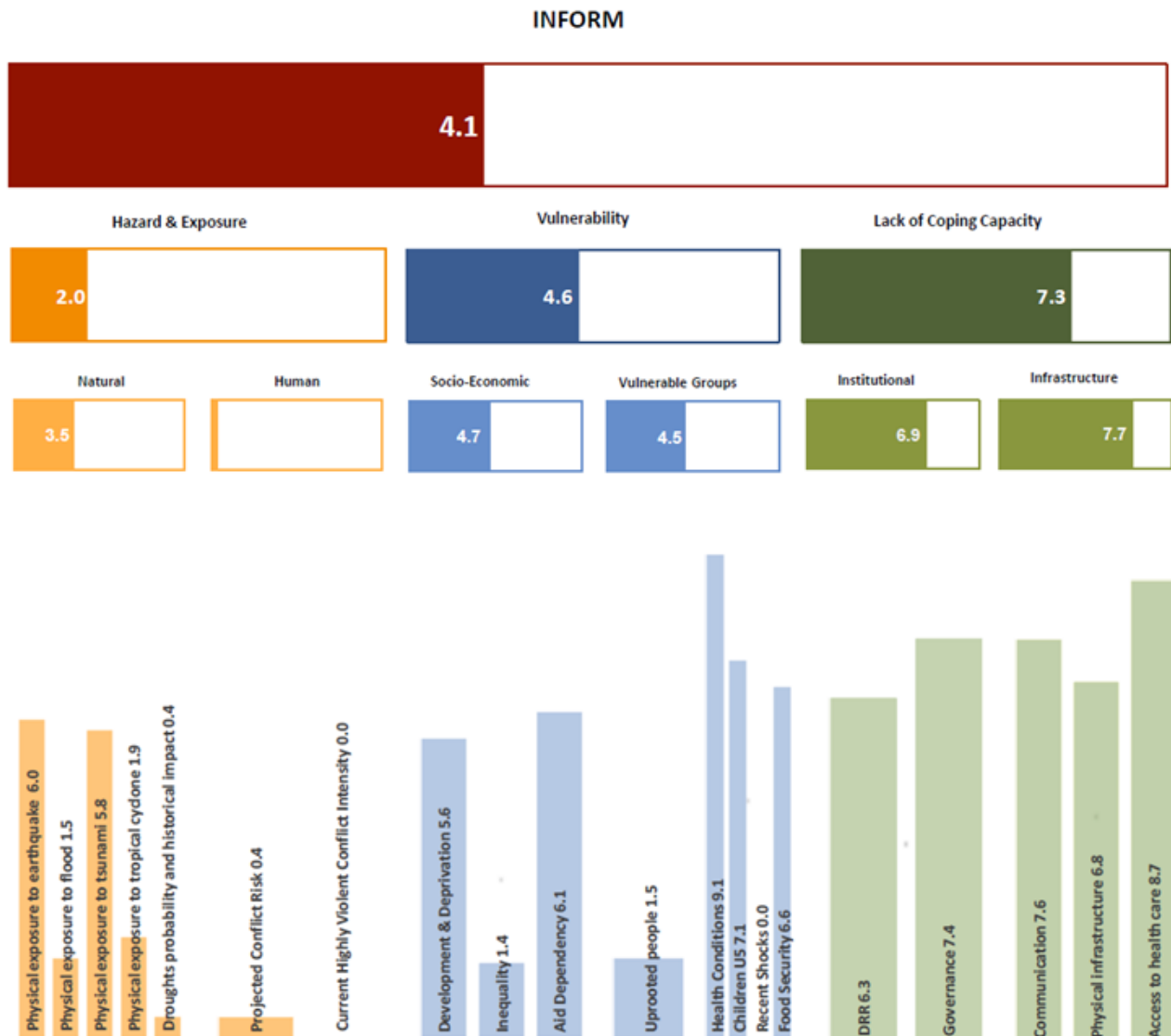


Figure 4: INFORM Country Risk Profile for Timor-Leste

indicators into three dimensions of risk: hazards (events that could occur) and exposure to them, vulnerability (the susceptibility of communities to those hazards) and the lack of coping capacity (lack of resources that can alleviate the impact). The index results are published once every year. They give each country an overall risk score of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 the highest) for each of the dimensions, categories, and components of risk. The purpose of INFORM is to provide an open, transparent, consensus-based methodology for analyzing crisis risk at global, regional or national level. Timor-Leste has a 2016 Hazard and Exposure risk of 2.0/10; a Vulnerability score of 4.6/10; and a Lack of Coping Capacity score of 7.3/10. Access to Healthcare inefficiencies rate the highest.⁷²

Climate Change

Timor-Leste faces multiple potential threats to population health, food security, and development due to climate change. Increased climate variability will severely affect vulnerable groups, especially the impoverished and displaced persons. Climate change has already begun to affect agriculture and food production. Communities in coastal regions, including the capital city of Dili, are in danger of flooding from rising sea levels, and natural hazards could occur more frequently.⁷³ Timorese citizens have already reported hotter dry seasons, shorter and unpredictable rain seasons, more frequent extreme rainfall, and sea water intrusion.⁷⁴

Though there is limited history of climate conditions in Timor-Leste due to Indonesian, Japanese, and Portuguese occupation, records kept from 1950-2009 reflect sea surface temperatures in the region have increased by 0.15-0.2°C per decade; air temperatures have most likely increased by a similar amount. The sea level in the region has risen by about 9mm per year since 1993, much larger than the global average of 2.8-3.6 mm per year. Future projections predict increasingly warm air temperatures, leading to very hot days, which affect crop health; extreme rainfall is predicted, though the frequency in drought will remain unaffected; rising sea levels present a threat to coastal cities and communities; and ocean acidification is projected to increase and threaten coral reef ecosystems.⁷⁵

Increased flooding as a result of extreme rainfalls contributes to food shortages and the spread of waterborne diseases. The effects of

climate change on food supplies and natural hazards will be the most detrimental to Timor-Leste in the future.⁷⁶

In 2013, the Timor-Leste Government put in place fishing measures and other protective measures to enable the replenishment of fish stocks and protecting coral reefs. The measures are designed to preserve Timor-Leste's marine based reserves, which is necessary for food security and economic development of Timor-Leste. This will help facilitate climate resilience, serve as reef fish spawning sites, enable fisheries replenishment, and protect dive and snorkel sites.⁷⁷ Climate projections for Timor-Leste suggest the following:

- By 2030, temperatures are expected to increase by 0.4-1.0 degrees Celsius;
- Dry season rainfall will decrease while wet season rainfall will increase. There will be little change in the frequency of droughts in this century;
- Extreme rainfalls are likely to occur more often while there will be a decrease in the number of tropical cyclones;
- By 2030, the sea level is expected to rise between 6-15 centimeters; and
- The sea-level rise combined with natural year to year changes will make more noticeable the impact of storm surges and coastal flooding.⁷⁸

Timor-Leste has fulfilled its commitments to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by completing the Initial National Communication, and developing a National Adaptation Program for Action. However, there are reported challenges in capacities that hinder linkages between Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. For example, despite government commitment resulting in sound policy development and senior-level backing at department levels, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction activities are constrained by critical staff capacity at the middle operating levels of government departments and limited acknowledgement of the needs for climate risk management. Frameworks are also recent and as a result, there is limited application and coordination. With over a decade of internal conflict, opportunities for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction education and training have been limited. It may require a 5-10 year period to develop this.⁷⁹

Infectious Disease

The risk of major infectious diseases is relatively high in Timor-Leste due to the general lack of access to clean drinking water sources and clean sanitation facilities. Infectious disease risks in Timor-Leste include Hepatitis A, Malaria and Typhoid. The method of transmission is normally through contaminated food or water.⁸⁰

Infectious Diseases

- Hepatitis A: Symptoms: Sudden onset of fever, tiredness, loss of appetite nausea, stomach pain and jaundice;
- Hepatitis B: Symptoms: High fevers, shaking, chills and flu-like illness;
- Typhoid: Symptoms: High Fevers, weakness, stomach pains, headache and loss of appetite; and
- Additionally, rabies can be found in dogs, bats and other mammals.

Timor-Leste also has conditions such as high poverty rates and a highly vulnerable female population that lead it to be highly vulnerable to HIV.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides medicine and vaccine travel recommendations for those traveling within the region.

Public health issues in Timor-Leste are increased with limited access to clean water and basic sanitation contribute to the spread of infectious diseases such as:

- Diarrhea, which can be fatal;
- Malaria which is highly endemic in all districts with the highest morbidity and mortality rates reported in children;
- Tuberculosis (TB) which is a major public health problem with an estimated 8,000 active TB cases nationally;
- Infectious disease, low utilization of skilled assistance for antenatal and poor reproductive health are the most common causes of infant mortality; and
- Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are common in sexually active age groups, mostly in Dili and Baucau districts.

Endemic Conditions

Timor-Leste has several natural and manmade conditions that are prevalent. Climate change and environmental sustainability issues are becoming an integral part of national planning policies. The Secretariat of State for Environment is currently developing a short, medium and long-term environmental strategic plan to better address environmental services as stated in the National Constitution.⁸¹

The original vegetation of Timor Island was a diversity of lowland and mountainous ecosystems dominated by forests and woodlands of various structural and floristic types. The natural environment, forests and woodlands however are now significantly degraded and altered by a combination of natural and anthropogenic (resulting from or produced by humans) factors. The fragile physical conditions of the environment in tandem with an extended period (over 5,000 years) of human exploitation and unsustainable land management practices has transformed the natural environment into a predominantly rural agricultural landscape surrounding remnant pockets of natural vegetation, high mountain grasslands and degraded savannah rangelands. The use of fire as a tool for agriculture and livestock feeding and historic broad scale deforestation for timber has had a significant impact in this transformation. Logging has been banned since 2000 and currently the major threats to the natural environment are uncontrolled burning, agriculture and timber cutting for fuel wood.⁸²

Deforestation

Agricultural techniques as well as destruction of natural forests by Indonesian occupation forces have contributed to deforestation in Timor-Leste. Soil erosion, deforestation, and the mountainous terrain of the country have contributed to landslides, which lead to extreme damage of infrastructure. Reforestation efforts are a suggested way of combating climate change and natural disasters in the country.⁸³



TIMOR-LESTE

Organizational Structure

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Organizational Structure for Disaster Management

The current (2008) organizational structure for Disaster Risk Management in Timor-Leste is shown in Figure 5. The Minister of Social Solidarity has the mandate to coordinate preparation and response in relation to any emergency that may occur. Under this Minister's authority is the National Disaster Management Directorate (NDMD), which includes the Disaster Operation Centre (DOC), the Departments of Preparedness and Formation, Prevention and Mitigation, Response and Recovery, and disaster management committees at districts, sub-district and village levels.⁸⁴

Inter-Ministerial Commission for Disaster Management (CIGD)

An Inter-Ministerial Commission for Prevention of Natural Disasters was established by the Prime Minister's Office as a government response to the public fear of earthquakes/tsunamis after the Asian tsunamis of 26 December 2004. As this policy uses the all-hazards approach, it is necessary to expand the commission and elevate into a CIGD comprised of the following Ministries and Agencies:⁸⁵

- Vice-Prime Minister (National Coordinator)
- Minister of Social Solidarity and Secretary of State for Social Assistance
- Natural Disasters (Deputy-Coordinator)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
- Minister of State Administration
- Minister of Finance
- Minister of Justice
- Minister of Education
- Minister of Health
- Minister of Infrastructures
- Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism
- Ministry of Economy and Development
- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Secretary of State Public Works
- Secretary of State for Youth and Sport
- Secretary of State for Professional Training

- Secretary State of Natural Resources
- Secretary of State for Defense
- Secretary of State for Security
- Secretary of State for the Promotion of Gender Equality
- Commander of Timor-Leste Defense Force (F-FDTL)
- Commander of PNTL
- Secretary General of Red Cross Timor-Leste (CVTL)
- Representative of Civil Society
- Representative of UN

The Minister or Secretary of State responsible for disaster risk management may appoint representatives of other organizations to the CIGD, either for specific issues for a specific time, or for an indefinite period, or in the role of observers. The CIGD will convene twice a year in non-disaster/emergency times. It will also be activated at Stage 2 of an impending emergency.

The functions of the CIGD are as follows:⁸⁶

- Conduct an annual review of national disaster risk reduction policy and strategic development by the last sitting of parliament each calendar year;
- Provide an annual report to the Prime Minister on national disaster risk reduction by 31 December each year; this report will include recommendations on priorities for the next reporting year;
- Provide technical and policy advice and resource support to the National Disaster Coordinator (NDC) and the Joint National DOC during response operations, if required;
- Assign responsibilities related to disaster risk management to relevant departments and other bodies; and
- Carry out any other disaster risk reduction related tasks as allocated by the Minister or Secretary of State responsible for disaster risk management.

National Disaster Management Directorate (NDMD)

The NDMD is responsible for providing disaster risk management coordination and technical support to the government and community in Timor-Leste. It works in support of the NDC during times of operational disaster response.

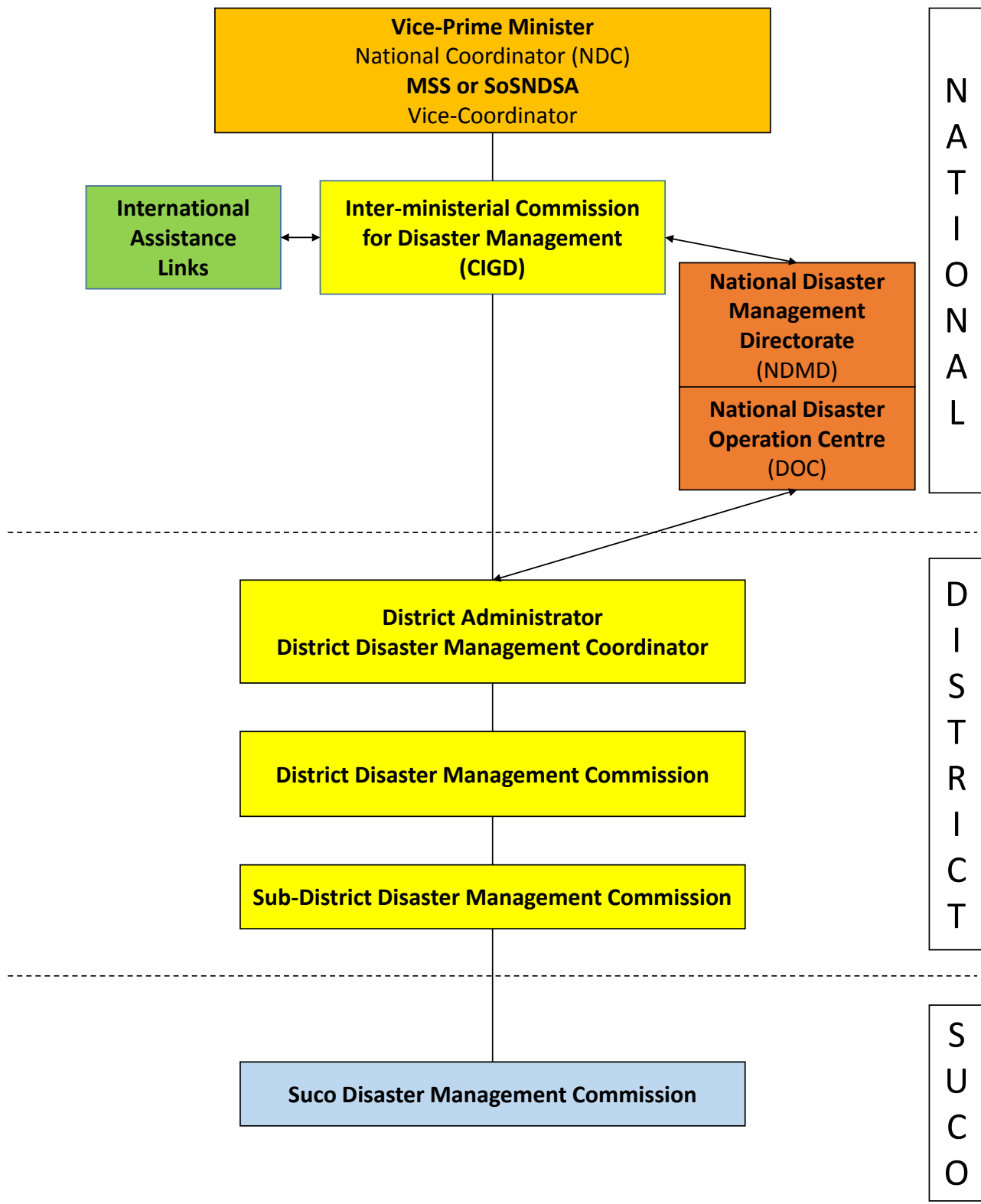


Figure 5: Timor-Leste Disaster Management Structure

Functions of the NDMD include:⁸⁷

- A national regional strategic stockpile of disaster response assets;
- Developing strategies in disaster risk reduction including preparedness and response;
- Plans and procedures and assisting in district planning;
- Administering and providing secretariat support to the CIGD;
- Establishing and sustaining links to risk assessment and monitoring in the region; Interpreting and providing warning and strategic planning in relation to developments that may affect Timor-Leste;
- Acting as the contact point for initial reports of emergencies and disasters in conjunction with the DOC;
- Coordinating disaster risk management including scheduling of regular meetings of actors and stakeholders;
- Organizing and leading multi-sector damage and needs assessment teams during response;
- Developing disaster risk reduction and emergency response training programs in conjunction with relevant partners;
- Maintaining and developing a National Disaster Risk Management Information System;
- Developing or identifying the sources of baseline data for use in disaster preparedness and response activities;
- Maintaining, reviewing and developing the NDRMP and advising on other sector and development policies, strategies and legislation related to disaster risk management;
- Administering a national regional strategic stockpile of disaster response efforts; and
- National DOC.

The Joint National DOC is to be staffed on a 24-hour basis by well-trained personnel and equipped with communications equipment, a secure power supply and disaster proof structures. The DOC staff will be distributed according to a 3-tier system:⁸⁸

- Tier 1: Essential personnel such as the Fire Brigade, Health and PNTL, all of them will be drawn from the core of disaster and operations managers;

- Tier 2: Personnel drawn from other Departments of Civil Protection Directorate to be activated in emergencies; and
- Tier 3: Personnel from another Government Ministries to be activated in large emergencies.

The DOC will be staffed with a minimum number of essential personnel distributed in the three tiers and fully trained in multi-functions (one person is trained in more than one emergency required skill). Other specialized personnel such as for risk information and disaster/emergency operations would be available for risk analysis before the onset of emergencies. These will include staff from social services, public works, NGOs and other disaster actors as necessary. In particular, it needs to include staff from emergency medical services to be set up in cooperation with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and other relevant agencies. In large-scale disasters, the DOC will be coordinating operations through the direct participation of the government members, of the specialized agencies, of the press and observers. All actors will be working in the Emergency Operations Room of the DOC to ensure smooth coordination.

The functions of the DOC are as follows:⁸⁹

- Directions and control of the population's survival recovery efforts and operations;
- Public information regarding emergencies;
- Early warning and notification;
- Damage assessment;
- Evacuation, traffic control and security;
- Health and emergency medical care;
- Emergency food and shelter;
- Debris clearance;
- Restoration of utilities; and
- Organizational Structure at district, sub-district and sucos.

Districts

The district is the key to risk management at the administration level. District Administrators (DAs) should have their mandates extended to include their functions as District Disaster Coordinators (DDCs). Should the DA be unavailable, the Deputy DA will act as the DDC. A District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) assists the DDC in response operations and disaster risk reduction. Membership may

vary from district to district, but typically might include members of the District Administrator's staff, sectoral officers, F-FDTL, PNTL, representatives of Catholic and Protestant Churches, mosques, CVTL, major NGOs and appropriate community leaders.

Additional members may be called from time to time to meet particular needs. Details of the committee (personnel, contact details) are to be sent to the NDMD annually or when there are significant changes. The DDMC will provide guidance and policy advice on disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response and recovery matters in the district. Annual reports on disaster risk management activities within the district are to be sent to the NDMD annually by 20 October.

The DDC will be responsible for disaster response decision-making within the district and assists in decision-making by the DDMC when appropriate. Contingency plans, which will include food security, are to be developed for use in the districts affected by food shortages as well as other disasters.⁹⁰ During an emergency response, functions of the DDMC may include:

- Coordination of rapid assessment surveys of affected areas and analysis of results;
- Coordination of financial resources of the district to provide the most effective response to identified needs; and
- Recommendations on the timing and content of requests for national support, identifying the description, scale and timing of the support and the logistical information needed for effective delivery.

Sub-Districts

Generally, at sub-district level, the Sub-District Administrator (SDA) is responsible for emergency and disaster risk reduction activities. When the response to a major emergency or disaster is beyond the capability of sub-district resources, assistance should be sought from the DDC, then from national level if necessary.⁹¹

Sucos

Generally, within each village, the Suco Chief and village leaders (such as elders, traditional leaders and village councils) are responsible for emergency and disaster risk reduction activities. When a village requires assistance, a request should be passed through the village head to the SDA.⁹²

Declaration of State of Disaster

Civil authorities and agencies most appropriately manage the response to national catastrophe or public disaster situations. However, there will be times when the resources and capabilities of civil agencies alone are insufficient to address disasters or emergency situations. Accordingly, Chapter II of the Organic Law No. 7/2004 for the F-FDTL provides for civilian authority support missions by the F-FDTL. Declaration of a State of Disaster conveys certain powers on the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC), CIGD and the District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC). It should be noted that some international donors might require declaration of a State of Disaster before disaster relief assistance will be provided.⁹³

Government

Constitution

The constitution, which was approved on 22 March 2002 grants equality to all citizens and forbids discrimination on the grounds of color, race, marital status, gender, ethnic origin, language, social or economic status, political or ideological convictions, religion, education, and physical or mental condition. The protection of senior citizens, disabled people, and children are also specifically mentioned, which, in the case of children, applies to all forms of abandonment, discrimination, violence, oppression, sexual abuse, and exploitation. Among the basic rights included are those of personal freedom, security, and integrity. They include the freedom to demonstrate in accordance with the law; the right to political participation; the right to free speech; the guarantee of a free press and other mass media; freedom of conscience, religion, and worship; freedom of movement; and freedom to assemble peacefully when granted. Voting is regarded as a civic duty for all citizens over the age of 17. The organs of sovereignty, comprising the executive, legislature, and courts, must observe the principle of separation and interdependence of powers. Table 7 reflects the current political landscape in Timor-Leste.

Executive

Fernando de Araújo's cabinet has 37 ministers, considerably smaller than Xanana Gusmão's cabinet that consisted of 55 ministers. Under Gusmão, most of the important policy decisions were made by a 15-member Council of Ministers

Presidential Elections	Next contest: 2017 March; Last contest: 17 March and 16 April 2012;
Legislative Elections	Next contest: 2017 July; Last contest; 7 July 2012.
Head of State	José Maria Vasconcelos (Taur Matan Ruak) (since 20 May 2012)
Finance	Santina Cardoso (since 16 February 2015)
Foreign Affairs	Hernani Coelho (since 16 February 2015)
Defense/Security	Cirilo Jose Cristovao (since 8 August 2012)
Economy	Estanislau Da Silva (since 16 February 2015)
Justice/Attorney General	Dionisio Babo-Soares (since 16 February 2015)
Justice/Attorney General	Ivo Valente (since 16 February 2015)

Source: IHS and CIRCA People in Power

Table 7: Timor-Leste Political Landscape

within the cabinet. It is unclear how Araújo will organize his cabinet, but Gusmão will likely continue to play an important role as minister for planning and strategic investment. The executive is better resourced and has greater expertise than parliament, which in the past has led then-president José Ramos-Horta voicing concerns that government policy was not properly scrutinized.

Legislature

The unicameral parliament is vested with legislative supervisory and political decision-making powers. The constitution allows for a membership of between 52 and 65 members serving for a five-year term, although the first Constituent Assembly, inaugurated on 15 September 2001, consisted of 88 members. The constitutional changes to the electoral composition of the legislature require parties to put forward a minimum of 90 candidates and that parties must achieve 3 percent of the vote to achieve representation. These amendments clearly favor larger parties and have resulted in a move towards coalitions.

Judiciary

The judiciary is independent and subject only to the constitution and the law. There are three categories of courts: the Supreme Court of Justice and other courts of law; the High Administrative, Tax, and Audit Court and other administrative courts of first instance; and Military Courts. The Supreme Court of Justice is the highest court of law and has jurisdiction throughout the national territory and is headed by the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, who is appointed by the president of the republic from among judges

of the Supreme Court for a four-year term. The other judges of this court are designated by the Superior Council for the Judiciary, except for one who is elected by parliament. The High Administrative, Tax, and Audit Court monitors the lawfulness of public expenditure and audits state accounts as well as judging actions aimed at resolving disputes arising from legal, fiscal, and administrative relations. Its president is elected from among and by respective judges for a term of office of four years.⁹⁴

Community Based Disaster Risk Management in Timor-Leste

Plans for Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) are addressed in the 2008 National Disaster Risk Management Policy. It conveys that communities in high risk areas should receive priority for CBDRM and risk communication. Additionally, it iterates that partnerships with various communities (i.e. NGO's, National Red Cross, etc.) are critical to community risk management capacity development programming for national risk priorities.

Planning commences with partners assisting communities to map hazards, vulnerability and risk. Out of the National Risk Priorities, community specific risks would be identified and community centric management solutions developed. Identified community-based activities may include first aid, swimming lessons, and traditional and universal survival skills.

For coastal communities hazard specific survival skills will include recognizing and responding to tsunami, lowland, marine flooding

and sea level change. For upland and highland communities risk management would cover risks such as flash flooding, wind damage, landslides and climate change.

If a community at the village level is unable to meet disaster management needs, help should be sought from the sub-district administration. In turn, the sub-district may seek assistance from the district if it also lacks the resources to meet a need. Further the district administration may seek national assistance when its resources cannot meet a need. If the government has reached the limit of its capacity to deal with significant events, assistance may be sought from the international community in-country and or externally.⁹⁵

Foreign Disaster Relief and Emergency Response

When a foreign country suffers a disaster, it may request assistance from the U.S. through the Department of State (DoS) and Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. If deemed necessary, the DoS requests disaster relief assistance from the DOD. Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict) approves the request and forwards it to Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) for action. DSCA (Programs Directorate) identifies the required supplies (Humanitarian Daily Rations, Excess Property, etc.) and works directly with the Joint Staff Logistics Directorate (J4) to provide transportation in support of disaster relief efforts.⁹⁶

Congressional Notification for Foreign Disaster Assistance

Not later than 48 hours after the commencement of disaster assistance activities, the President is required by law (10 U.S.C. 404) to transmit a report to Congress containing notification of the assistance (proposed or provided) and a description of the following as is available: the manmade or natural disaster for which disaster assistance is necessary; the threat to human lives presented by the disaster; the U.S. military personnel and material resources involved; the disaster assistance provided by other nations or public or private relief organizations; and the anticipated duration of the disaster assistance activities.⁹⁷

U.S. Government Agencies

U.S. Embassy Timor-Leste⁹⁸

Avenida de Portugal
Praia dos Coqueiros
Dili, Timor-Leste
T: 670-332-4684, Emergencies after hours 670-7723-1328
F: 670-331-3206
E: ConsDili@state.gov
W: <http://timor-leste.usembassy.gov>

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

8250 Dili Place
Sergio Vieira De Mello Rd. Farol
Dili, Timor-Leste
T: 670-332-2211
F: 670-332-2216
E: usaid-timor-leste-info@usaid.gov
W: <https://www.usaid.gov/timor-leste>

USAID supports Timor-Leste in its efforts to build a more prosperous, healthy and democratic nation through programs that foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth, especially in the agriculture sector; improve the health of the Timorese people, particularly women and children; and strengthen the foundations of good governance.⁹⁹

Disaster Management Organizations in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste Red Cross Society

Rua Jacinto Candido
Barrio Formosa
Dili, Timor-Leste
T: 670-332-1668
F: 670-332-2010
E: info@redcross.tl
W: <http://www.redcross.tl>¹⁰⁰

Collaboration between the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society and the government is strong. The Timor-Leste Red Cross works as an auxiliary to the government in the humanitarian field on a range of programs including emergency response, water and sanitation, health, disaster preparedness and risk reduction, livelihoods, First Aid, HIV/Aids and dissemination of humanitarian values.¹⁰¹

International Agencies

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

UNICEF Dili
UN House
P.O. Box 212
Dili, Timor-Leste
T: 670-331-1302
F: 670-331-3532
E: dili@unicef.org
W: <http://www.unicef.org/timorleste/>

UNICEF is a leading advocate for children's rights, working in more than 190 countries, territories and areas. UNICEF in Timor-Leste is part of this global organization. Since 2002, UNICEF has been working in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste and other development partners to accelerate the realization of the rights of all children to survival, development, protection and participation.¹⁰²

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations House
Caicoli Street
Dili, Timor-Leste
E: dacruz@unfpa.org
W: <http://countryoffice.unfpa.org/timor-leste/#>

Since 2003 UNFPA Timor-Leste has supported governmental and nongovernmental organizations activities to address population issues and has strongly promoted reproductive rights and gender equality as key elements to achieve human rights and human dignity. Over the past decade UNFPA assistance contributed towards establishing basic social services and generating baseline socio-demographic data for the newly-independent Timor-Leste. In the area of sexual and reproductive health, UNFPA supported the provision of comprehensive reproductive health services and training, with a focus on safe motherhood, particularly emergency obstetrical and newborn care (EmONC), and family planning (FP). Major achievements included the development of the National Reproductive Health Strategy 2004-2015, the 2004 National Family Planning Policy and the National Behavior Change Communication Strategy for Reproductive Health 2008-2012.¹⁰³

UN Women

UN Agency House
Caicoli Street
Dili Timor-Leste
T: 670-331-0156
W: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/timor-leste>

UN Women established a presence in Timor-Leste with an initial needs assessment in 2000, and opened a project office in 2001. Currently, UN Women works in the following areas:

- Gender-Responsive Planning and Budgeting;
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women implementation in Timor-Leste; and
- Women, Peace and Security.¹⁰⁴

A baseline study of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) was initiated in two pilot districts on the western border of Indonesia, a region formerly known for human trafficking and other petty crimes. This study identified the causes and types of SGBV and domestic violence, categorized available services to survivors and gaps for intervention. The current phase of the program facilitates training key stakeholders including the PNTL and F-FDTL on Security Council resolution 1325, supports community-led initiatives through the development of self-help groups to increase community building and reduce rates of sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence. Grants to small, often women-headed self-help groups is enabling communities to manage issues of income generation and food security as well as providing services to survivors of domestic violence.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization)

Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO
Rua Belarmino Lobo N 01
Bidau Lcidere
Dili, Timor-Leste
T: 670-732-1288
F: 670-333-9667
E: tnationalcom@gmail.com
W: <http://www.unesco.org.tl>¹⁰⁵

Plan International

Rua NU'U Laran 20. Bairro dos Grilhos
Dili, Timor-Leste
T: 670-331-2492
E: Terence.mccaughan@plan-international.org
(country director)
W: <https://plan-international.org/timor-leste>

Plan International has been working in Timor-Leste since 2001 and is focused on helping children and youth to access their rights to education, health, livelihoods and protection.¹⁰⁶

World Food Program (WFP)

WFP Timor-Leste
UNHCR Compound
Rua de Balide, Mascarenhas
Dili, Timor-Leste
Post Box No. 133
T: 670-331-0112
F: 670-331-0113
E: WFP.Dili@wfp.org
W: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste>

WFP has been present in Timor-Leste since 1999 with brief interruptions in 2001-2002 and 2004. The country office was re-established in 2004, recognizing a need for medium-to-longer term recovery programs. Current WFP activities focus on improving the nutritional status of children under five and women, increasing school enrollment, attendance and retention, and improving food security for the poorest.¹⁰⁷

Participation in International Organizations

Timor-Leste and the U.S. belong to many of the same international organizations, including the United Nations, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Regional Forum, Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank.¹⁰⁸ Timor-Leste also belongs to the following organizations:¹⁰⁹

- Asian Development Bank
- Alliance of Small Island States
- ASEAN (observer)
- Automobile Club of Portugal
- Community of Portuguese Language Partners
- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

- Food and Agriculture Organization, Group of 77
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- International Council on Clean Transportation
- Institute of Certified Records Managers
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- International Finance Corporation
- International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
- International Labor Organization
- International Police
- International Organization for Migration
- Inter-parliamentary Union
- International Telecommunication Union
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- Non-Aligned Movement
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- Pacific Island Forum (observer)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations
- Union Latina
- United Nations World Trade Organization
- Universal Postal Union
- World Customs Organization
- WHO
- World Meteorological Organization

**Note on potential ASEAN membership. Timor-Leste is hoping to gain membership to ASEAN by 2020.

In November 2001, the Timor-Leste Council of Ministers formalized their intentions by authorizing Ramos-Horta, then foreign minister, to proceed with plans to sign a Treaty of Amity and Co-operation with ASEAN and to apply for observer status immediately following independence. As an interim measure, in July 2005 ASEAN invited Timor-Leste to become a member of the ARF, the organization's security forum. In March 2011, Timor-Leste formally applied to join ASEAN when the Minister of Foreign Affairs signed the application while visiting Indonesia. In April of 2013 ASEAN agreed to allow Timor-Leste participate as an observer in the grouping's future meetings.¹¹⁰

Laws, Policies, and Plans on Disaster Management

National Disaster Risk Management Policy

The 2008 National Disaster Risk Management Policy lays out the government's approach to disaster risk management. The principle and objectives of this policy enables the Timorese people to be more prepared and participative in the prevention of disasters and disaster risk management.¹¹¹

2011-2030 Strategic Development Plan

The strategies and actions set out in the Strategic Development Plan aim to transition Timor-Leste from a low income to upper middle income country, with a healthy, well-educated and safe population by 2030. This objective reflects the aspirations of the Timorese people as expressed during extensive national consultation in 2010 and builds on the 2002 National Development Plan and Timor-Leste 2020, *Our Nation, Our Future*. The plan aims to develop core infrastructure, human resources and the strength of society. The plan encourages the growth of private sector jobs in strategic industry sectors, a broad based agriculture sector, a thriving tourism industry and downstream industries in the oil and gas sector.¹¹²

2010 National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) for Climate Change

The overarching vision set out in the NAPA is to make the Timorese people more resilient to climate change, recognizing their high vulnerability in an economy that is dominated by subsistence agriculture. Adaptation measures are focused on reducing the adverse effects of climate change and promoting sustainable development. These measures build on existing strategies and plans across all sectors within Timor-Leste including the National Priorities process.

The following priority adaptation measures were proposed by Timor-Leste:

- **Food Security:** Reduce the vulnerability of farmers and pastoralists to increased drought and flood events;
- **Water Resources:** Promote Integrated Water Resource Management to guarantee water access in a climate change context;

- **Human Health:** Enhance the capacity of the health sector and communities to anticipate and respond to changes in distribution of endemic and epidemic climate-sensitive diseases, and reduce the vulnerability to infection of populations in areas at risk from expansion of climate-related diseases;
- **Natural Disasters:** Improve institutional and community (including vulnerable groups such as women and children) capacity to prepare for and respond to climate change induced natural disasters;
- **Forests, Biodiversity and Coastal Ecosystems:** Maintain and restore mangrove and forests and promote awareness raising to protect coastal ecosystems and forests from climate change impacts;
- **Livestock Production:** Improve planning and legal framework for the promotion of sustainable and balanced food for livestock production;
- **Physical Infrastructure:** Improve regulations, standards and compliance for climate-resilient infrastructure;
- **Supporting the ambitious national poverty reduction target in relation to the expected increased storm intensity at sea by improving the capacity to forecast and adapt offshore oil and gas infrastructure to withstand strong storms and waves; and**
- A ninth priority area, underpinning all others, focuses on developing National Institutional Capacity for Climate Change through which overarching program level coherence will be ensured.

2013 National Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment

This assessment was undertaken in conjunction with the (UNDP). The assessment informed the Timor-Leste Government in the development of a new Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Policy and Legislation.¹¹³ The overall objective of the study was to develop disaster risk management capacity at the national and district levels. The key priority defined under the scope of this study was to undertake a national multi-hazard vulnerability and risk assessment to understand the disaster risk in Timor-Leste.¹¹⁴

2006 National Disaster Contingency Plan for Flooding

This plan highlights specific flooding risks and resources available including and implementation strategy, mechanisms and coordination. Additionally, sectoral emergency responses and information on the Public Information Campaign is included.¹¹⁵

2009 National Disaster Operations Center Manual

This manual serves as a guide for persons working in the DOC. It contains checklists for assigned personnel to carry out their emergency duties. It is also a reference document for disaster management activities such as formal training and exercises.¹¹⁶

2014 Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan

This document was prepared by the Timor-Leste Humanitarian Country Team. It provides an overview of the analysis, preparedness and response measures identified by the humanitarian community. The goal of the plan is to improve coordination and information within the humanitarian community to support the existing government framework.¹¹⁷

Education and Training

Plan International's DRM program is focused on helping children, parents, teachers and community members to learn how to prepare, mitigate and prevent disasters through Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) and community-driven and cost-effective methods such as cutting down potentially dangerous trees and repairing school roofs.

- By June 2018, CCDRR is projected to be implemented in an additional 20 primary schools in Aileu district.
- In total, 26 schools in Timor-Leste have established Disaster Management Committees 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.

- More than 1,550 children and adults have received Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Safe Schools Training. These participants are now able to share this information – how to prepare, mitigate and prevent a disaster and what to do if there is one – with their peers and members of their communities.¹¹⁸
- NDMD, DDMC and partners from CBDRM working group are very active in providing public campaigns on DRR in all Districts. They have trained local governments on ToT at the district level as well as the national level. Training has also been provided at the community level.¹¹⁹
- The U.S. Government, through USAID and the U.S. Forest Service conducted a six-day training course for Timor-Leste government officials on the Incident Command System (ICS). Thirty government officials from the national and district level of the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the MOH, the PNTL, and the F-FDTL, as well as members of the Red Cross, Oxfam, and Bombeiros participated in the training.¹²⁰

Disaster Management Communications

Early Warning Systems

Early Warning systems are in place in every district in Timor-Leste, but not at the village level. When the DDMC receives warning about a disaster from DOC, they immediately use all available networks to inform the community about the incoming danger. This includes going to the villages directly since there is no access for local communities to receive information about the incoming danger. Other basic communication tools such as telephone and mobile phones are not yet available or if any, are still very limited. DDMC relies on the national police radio and existing networks to spread the news. Bobonaro and Lautem are pilot project places in setting up communication systems. Timor-Leste receives alerts from the Australia Bureau of Meteorology for climatology and cyclones, the Japan Meteorology Agency for earthquake, and U.S. Geological Survey for all type of hazards. They also receive notification from Indonesian Meteorology Geophysics and Climatology. Timor-Leste receives alerts manually – through focal points. There is no automated alert system yet in place.

Furthermore, a memorandum of understanding establishing cooperation between the Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics of the Republic of Indonesia AND the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, IN the fields of meteorology, climatology, and geophysics.¹²¹

Early Warning Systems are irregular and not integrated throughout the whole country. Some districts may have strong Early Warning Systems because of NGO or donor support to purchase materials and train the community while others do not. Even though there are some Early Warning Systems in place, they do not communicate with other systems or central locations that give timely advice and warnings.¹²²

In terms of local system preparedness, Lautem is the only district where the community has established their own evacuation plan, map, and signs for emergency alerts. DDMC is active in Lautem and works closely with NGO's on DRR concerns. Lautem sets a good example for other districts that in showing how DRR works better through a participatory approach. As a result, many other districts are competing to perform better. As an example, Manufahi district is currently also working on its participatory preparedness system. PNTL and Television of Timor-Leste are active partners in helping NDMD to disseminate early warning. NDMD is also trying to approach different telecommunication providers, such as Timor-Telecom.¹²³

Responsible Agencies for Flood and Storm Warning

Timor-Leste has minimal monitoring or analysis of hazards and climate changes. They depend on information and warning from Indonesia, Australia, and Japan. Cyclone tracking and early warning is available from

the Australian Bureau of Metrology and other international bodies calculating the frequencies of cyclonic events.¹²⁴

Military Role in Disaster Relief

The Falintil – Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste [F-FDTL (Timor-Leste Defense Force)] is a small and very limited force, comprising a minor land force and a nascent naval component (there is no air element). The F-FDTL's primary missions are to defend Timor-Leste against external threats, maintain internal security, and safeguard the country's maritime resources from illegal exploitation.¹²⁵ The Timor-Leste government has also tasked the F-FDTL with so-called 'new missions', to include crisis management and support to maintain peace, humanitarian assistance, and intergovernmental co-operation.¹²⁶ Between 2006 and 2012, two long-standing international missions - the Australian-led International Stabilization Force (ISF) and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste undertook these roles. However, in 2012 these missions concluded at the request of the Timor-Leste government. Table 8 shows the Defense Force size and Table 9 reflects the monetary appropriations spent on Defense from 2011-2013.¹²⁷

Force 2020

A long-term strategic plan called 'Force 2020' was first circulated publicly by the Timor-Leste government in 2007. It is not clear if it remains under review by government, but certain elements appear to have been embraced, at least informally. The document called for a defense force larger than the initial target size of the F-FDTL. It envisioned a regular force of 3,000 personnel and the creation of conscription to meet that target.

	Total Strength	Army	Airforce	Navy
Active Personnel	1,800	1,600	0	200
Reserves	0	0	0	0

Table 8: Timor-Leste Defense Force Manpower

	2013	2012	2011
Total Defense Spending (USD million)	32.9	39.6	31.3
Total Defense Spending (percent GDP)	2.7	3.5	3.0

Table 9: Timor-Leste Defense Appropriations 2011-2013

In total, it proposed the creation of:

- Two “land units” (45 percent of the total force) including an armored cavalry unit and artillery;
- A naval unit (35 percent) including a marine corps;
- A logistics and service unit (15 percent); and
- A headquarters and command element (5 percent).

In terms of equipment, ‘Force 2020’ called for a defense force deploying missile-equipped combat vessels, armored assault vehicles (specifically M113 armored personnel carriers), MILAN antitank missiles, heavy machine guns, night-vision equipment, and other small arms. Reserve forces would also be created. The largest land force formation would initially be company-sized, and would be transformed into guerrilla groupings in wartime. An air support component was not an immediate requirement, but the document anticipated eventually deploying attack helicopters to support the land force. The plans were controversial from the outset within domestic political circles and abroad because of its more aggressive composition and its degree of support from the president and prime minister remain unknown. However, the F-FDTL has since moved forward with some elements of the plan, including the establishment of a marine corps and the procurement of a few additional naval vessels. It remains to be seen whether the government will finance expanding the force.

The government now maintains that the F-FDTL and the police are capable forces, although it maintains as a top priority - the continued rebuilding of the defense force. To this end, the government is trying to slowly build up training and procure suitable equipment. Some elements of a proposed national strategy document called ‘Force 2020’ are being used to help guide this process, although the document has yet to be formally approved by the government.¹²⁸

Foreign Military Assistance

In May 2008, Timor-Leste signed a military cooperation agreement with a consortium of seven other Portuguese-speaking countries, with Brazil and Portugal agreeing to assist with military training of F-FDTL personnel.¹²⁹

The F-FDTL worked closely with the militaries of Australia, New Zealand, Portugal, Malaysia, and the United States while personnel from these countries were deployed to Timor-Leste as part of the ISF mission. As the lead country for the ISF mission, Australia was the dominant partner. Although the ISF mission has now concluded, a joint Australia-Timor-Leste security agreement was signed in September 2013 to formalize post-ISF bilateral security cooperation. A handful of personnel from the Australian Defense Force remain in country to help mentor and advise the F-FDTL. Additionally, Australia and the U.S. provide extensive military training through mobile training teams, naval ship visits, and U.S. Navy Seabee (Construction Battalion) teams.

Foreign Assistance and International Partners

United States

Since 2000, the U.S. has provided more than \$350 million in assistance to Timor-Leste. The U.S. also supports Timor-Leste through international financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. U.S. military engagement with Timor-Leste is focused on the professionalization of the armed forces and humanitarian assistance.

Multiple U.S. agencies support law enforcement in Timor-Leste, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, and Naval Criminal Investigative Service, through the “Supporting Police, Sustaining Peace” program promoting conflict prevention and increasing civil society engagement. The U.S. also supported Timor-Leste’s 2012 elections by sponsoring international observation missions, training domestic observers, and providing voter and civic education.

U.S. programs are reducing poverty in Timor-Leste by increasing private sector opportunities and building links between farmers and markets. This promotes improved health through increased immunization rates and helps to conserve and manage Timor-Leste’s sensitive marine resources. In November 2015, the U.S. launched USAID’s Avansa Agrikultura Project in Timor-Leste. This US\$19.2 million agriculture project will develop links between farmers and markets to stimulate economic growth in rural areas and address rural poverty, natural resource degradation, food insecurity, and malnutrition.

By the end of the five-year project, USAID anticipates that over 33,000 people in 250 communities throughout five municipalities (Aileu, Ainaro, Bobonaro, Dili, and Ermera) will be transitioning from subsistence to commercial farming, earn higher incomes, improve nutrition practices, and manage their economic assets more effectively.

USAID provides legal aid assistance to thousands of underserved citizens and trains village councilors about their rights and responsibilities under local law. USAID has supported journalists to raise professional standards. USAID's Property Rights Project is implementing the first-ever survey and registration of land in Timor-Leste, strengthening land regulations and administrative systems, and developing dispute resolution mechanisms.¹³⁰

Australia

Australia is committed to being an effective, responsive and long-term partner in Timor-Leste's development. Australia's aid contributes to a shared goal of a prosperous and secure nation, enabling the people of Timor-Leste to overcome poverty. Since 2011, Australia has supported 56,000 farming households to gain access to improved seed varieties of staple crops. Since 2008, Australia has supported over 9,800 people to gain access to safe water supply and over 79,000 people to basic sanitation. Additionally, Australia has supported the establishment of a new business registration office, which has reduced time to register a business from three months to five days.¹³¹ The ADF continues to conduct regular bi-lateral and multi-lateral exercises in order to support a professional, capable and sustainable *Falintil Forças de Defesa de Timor Leste* (F-FDTL). The skills and interoperability developed between the F-FDTL and ADF units enhance the F-FDTL's border and maritime security capabilities and foster security and stability in the region. As a consequence of Timor-Leste's proximity to Australia and the persistent threat of natural disasters the ADF can expect to support the F-FDTL in future HADR operations.¹³²

New Zealand

New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel take part in a number of community engagements in Timor-Leste as part of the annual Pacific Partnership. In addition to helping provide direct medical care 'shoulder to shoulder'

with local providers, the NZDF members also share their knowledge and skills on preventative medicine, oral health, nursing, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief planning, including a focus on gender considerations in disasters.¹³³ The NZDF supported various stability and security operations in Timor-Leste from 1999 until December 2012.¹³⁴

Japan

Japan has implemented development projects under Japan's Grant Assistance for Human Security Project. Since 2000, the Government of Japan has initiated 76 projects in all 13 districts of Timor-Leste. These projects included providing water supply systems, irrigation channels, construction of and rehabilitation of school buildings and other important infrastructures. The Government of Japan implemented 18 projects for primary and secondary education. The most recent project was the provision of \$240,000 for construction of primary and junior high schools in Dili and Suai.¹³⁵

Portugal

Portugal represents Timor-Leste's most important European relationship. Portugal is a former colonial power and cultural icon that distinguishes East Timorese society from the society across the border in Indonesian West Timor. This was demonstrated by its involvement in Australian-led intervention in 2006 and the provision of Timor-Leste's entire budget for its first five years of independence. It has provided approximately \$50 million a year since.

Portugal is the only country outside the region that has played a key role in training and supporting the new armed forces. Portugal has also funded training for more than 200 teachers at the request of Timorese leaders to help re-establish Portuguese as the official language.¹³⁶

Cuba

Approximately 140 Cuban medical personnel are working in Timor-Leste under the Integral Health program, under which 842 Timorese students have also been trained as doctors.



TIMOR-LESTE

Infrastructure

Disaster Management Reference Handbook | 2016

Infrastructure

Decades of occupation has left infrastructure in Timor-Leste in poor shape. The infrastructure of the country has been destroyed multiple times, due to Indonesian occupation, civil unrest, and its extreme vulnerability to natural disasters. The government recognizes the strong need for major infrastructure development. Approximately 70 percent of Timor’s buildings were destroyed; roads, electricity, water supply and telecommunications were also ruined. Further damage occurred during the 2006 unrest. A lot of international assistance now focuses on rebuilding infrastructure, but much work remains. Potholes, open sewers and abandoned buildings are a fact of life in many of Timor-Leste’s urban settings. Poor infrastructure makes road travel time consuming and sometimes dangerous while poor sewage systems result in a large range of health issues. Electricity supplies can be very unreliable and are non-existent in some areas. Care should be exercised at all times while driving in Timor-Leste. Road accidents are common.¹³⁷

Airports

The primary airport of Timor-Leste is the President Nicolau Lobito International Airport, otherwise known as Comoro Airport located in the capital city of Dili. Photo 10 shows Dili International Airport.¹³⁸ Round trip air services to Darwin and Denpasar are available. The 1,850 m (1.15 miles) runway can only accommodate B727 planes and similar category aircrafts. This airport is the only international airport in the country authorized for regular commercial operations on

a charter basis; the other international airport, Bacau, requires special approval from the Civil Aviation Department CAD of Timor-Leste. Bacau Airport was previously the main airport for the Indonesian military, and has a nicer and longer runway, but is poorly placed to be the main international airport. Other airports include Sai (1,050 m sealed runway) (.65 miles) and Oecussi (a gravel runway). All of the airports in the country are owned by the Timorese Government.¹³⁹ Air Timor is the only airline in Timor-Leste, operating a single Cessna 208B Grand Caravan.

The virtual airline charters an aircraft from Singapore’s SilkAir for flights to that country and aircraft from Indonesia’s Citilink for services within Timor-Leste, including the Oecussi enclave in West Timor, as well as to Jakarta and Bali.¹⁴⁰ Table 10 reflects airports in Timor-Leste.¹⁴¹



Photo 10: Dili International Airport

ICAO	ATA	Airport	Location	Surface	Runway
WPEC	BCH	Baucau	Baucau	Paved	2509 meters
WPMN	MPT	Maliana	Maliana	Paved	2150 meters
WPOC	OEC	Oecussi	Oecussi	Gravel	1050 meters
WPDL	DIL	Presidente Nicolau Lobato International	Duli (Komoro)	Paved	1849 meters
WPDB	UAI	Suai	Suai	Paved	1051 meters
WPVQ	VIQ	Viqueque	Viqueque	Paved	1050 meters

Table 10: Airports in Timor-Leste

Table Notes:

ICAO-code: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) – a 4 letter airport location indicator

IATA-code: International Air Transport Association (IATA) a 3-letter identifier for the relevant airport.

Seaports

The seaport in Dili is the main and only international seaport of entry to Timor-Leste. The harbor is surrounded by a natural reef that provides protection against severe weather. The 300m (.186 miles) long wharf can handle a maximum of two vessels at any one time, and is divided into three multi-functional berths. Roll on, roll off facilities are available for front-loading vessels. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force, the Government of Japan, and the Emergency Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project invested US \$7 million into reconstructing the wharf. Small wharfs or jetties are located at Hera, Tibar, Com, Caravela, the enclave of Oecussi, and the island of Atauro. The latter two are the only means of access to these localities of Timor-Leste. None of the internal waterways in the country are suitable for transport due to being too steep.¹⁴²

access. Though the extent of the road network is high by comparison to other low-income countries, road conditions are generally poor. Most roads are too narrow, with inadequate draining methods. Most villages in Timor-Leste are an average of 0.7km (.4 miles) from a vehicle passable road, though poorer communities have more limited access (Photo 11).¹⁴³



Photo 11: Poor Road Conditions in Rural Areas of Timor-Leste

Land Routes

Roads

The road network of Timor-Leste is estimated at 6,040 km (3753 miles). 1,430 km (888 miles) of it links district centers and forms the national network; another 870 km (540 miles) link to large administration centers. The remaining roads are for rural

Road maintenance is expensive for the Timorese Government due to damages from natural disasters. There is presently a Timor-Leste Road Climate Resilience Project designed to rehabilitate the entire 110km (68.3 miles) road corridor from Dili to Ainaro. This route is a vital link between the north and the south of the country and connects three districts—Dili, Aileu and Ainaro—which jointly account for a third of the country’s population. The original project focused on delivering emergency repairs along key sections of the road, where road closures are frequent due to flooding or damage caused by heavy rainfall. Recent credit and loan funding has enabled rehabilitation of the entire road corridor across the three districts.¹⁴⁴

The credit and loan funding is being utilized for construction works to stabilize slope structures along the entirety of the network, and improve drainage and repair pavements. It also supports feasibility studies and detailed designs for possible future road improvements linked to the Dili-Ainaro corridor. Additionally, an

emergency maintenance and response system is being designed to help the government plan for managing extreme weather events, such as landslides and heavy rain. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Public Works and financed with US \$40 million from the World Bank’s IDA (US \$25 million) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (US \$15 million). The Government of Timor-Leste is contributing US \$47 million to the project.¹⁴⁵

Bridges

The national road network has around 317 bridges, though bridges are frequently blocked off or destroyed during natural disasters. The average bridge length is 34 meters, though around half of the bridges are less than 10 meters in length. There are several commercial weigh bridges available, though lack of maintenance makes accuracy questionable.¹⁴⁶ Photo 12 shows Manatuto Bridge in TimorLeste.¹⁴⁷



Photo 12: Manatuto Bridge in Timor-Leste

Railways

Due to the size and mountainous terrain of the country, no rail infrastructure has been developed.¹⁴⁸

Waterways

There are no significant inland waterways. During the dry season (April to November), most of the river systems dry up; during the monsoon the same rivers are too fast-flowing to be navigable.¹⁴⁹ Timor-Leste's terrain and high rainfall has left the country with short, winding, and fast-flowing rivers. In the rainy season, rivers and streams rapidly become torrents and cause significant erosion as they channel large quantities of material down from the mountains. The majority of rivers and streams become totally arid during the dry season, while the deltas of the few permanent watercourses that reach the sea are characterized by coastal marshes and sandbanks.¹⁵⁰

Timor-Leste has a coastline of approximately 700 km (435 miles) but, owing to its abrupt relief and lack of major rivers, there is very little in the way of sheltered anchorage. Numerous coral reefs off the coast provide a further hazard to shipping.¹⁵¹

Schools

After Indonesian occupation of Timor-Leste, the education system of the country was forced to be almost entirely rebuilt; the Indonesian Government had made the language of the education system Indonesian, and the transition back to teaching in Tetum or Portuguese has presented many communication challenges. Additionally, many schools were destroyed during the conflict at the end of Indonesian occupation. The current education system was established in 2008. Basic education

has an official entry age of six, and most children complete the entire 12 years of the compulsory and free education system.¹⁵² In 2012, The World Bank and the Ministry of Education developed the Education Sector Support Project to rebuild the education system. Over 2,000 classrooms were built or rehabilitated, raising completion rates from 73 percent in 2009 to over 83 percent in 2012. The school populations are now almost equally divided between female and male students.¹⁵³ Photo 13 shows a primary school in Timor-Leste.¹⁵⁴

Communications

Access to communications is limited in Timor-Leste. There is rudimentary telephone service in urban and some rural areas, and much of the system was damaged in the violence associated with independence. Less than one percent of the population has access to the internet and there is only one nationally broadcasting TV station and one public radio broadcaster with a station in each district.¹⁵⁵ Radio still has the highest reach of any communication medium, though as sources of information, community leaders are still the most accessed and most trusted sources. Studies conducted in 2010 showed that 16 percent of the



Photo 13: Primary school in Timor-Leste

population had no access to any form of media.¹⁵⁶

Communication gaps in Timor-Leste create significant challenges to effectively managing disasters, conflict and climate change adaptation. Disasters, emergencies and conflicts since 1999 indicate a reliance on committees whose ability to communicate is severely limited. In many instances, the impact of disasters and conflicts can partly be attributed to uninformed decisions and the spread of misinformation.¹⁵⁷

Utilities

Power

The main fuel sources for power generation in Timor-Leste are fossil fuels. The majority of power supply is based on diesel generation. Nevertheless, extensive wood fuel used for cooking is raising deforestation concerns. It is believed that more than 90 percent of the energy requirements of Timor-Leste are met by biomass fuels (primarily fuel wood) for cooking and heating applications.¹⁵⁸ One third of the population of Timor-Leste has access to energy, with 36,000 households having access to electricity.¹⁵⁹ The Timorese Government has invested in finding new ways to produce their own clean, renewable energy and aim to stop importing the majority of their own energy.¹⁶⁰ Additionally, in a 2008 study it was estimated at least 185,000 households had no access to electricity, except through the use of batteries. Moreover, the electricity supply of rural Timor-Leste now consists of 58 isolated grids (11 on a district level and 47 on the sub-district or village level), all equipped with diesel generators, but with some being inoperative, due to the lack of maintenance or fuel, or due to vandalism. For lighting, the rural population relies mainly on kerosene, plant oils and batteries. However, the Power Sector Development Plan for Timor-Leste aim is that at least 80 percent of households have access to electricity by 2025.¹⁶¹

Water and Sanitation

Much of the water and sanitation infrastructure was damaged or destroyed in the violence for independence. Around 28 percent of the population only has access to unimproved water sources, and 59.4 percent of the population only has access to unimproved sanitation facilities (2015).¹⁶² Much of the basic, essential services for most of the population have been restored, though 300,000 people do not have access to safe drinking water (nearly 1/3 of the population) and an estimated 700,000 people do not have access to adequate sanitation.¹⁶³ As a result of this, diarrheal illnesses are very easily obtained, and affect much of the population. Many communities have no way of properly disposing of sewage other than river systems. Frequent flooding worsens these conditions considerably, and flooding usually leads to increased spread of bacterial diarrhea and typhoid fever.¹⁶⁴ High rates of poor sanitation and inaccessibility to clean water contributes to the spread of highly infectious diseases, of which Timor-Leste is of very high risk.¹⁶⁵ Photo 14 shows a latrine that a family constructed Uma Quic, Timor-Leste. This was a result of Community-Led Total Sanitation activities, led by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).¹⁶⁶



Photo 14: WASH Activities in Timor-Leste



TIMOR-LESTE
Health

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Health

Overview

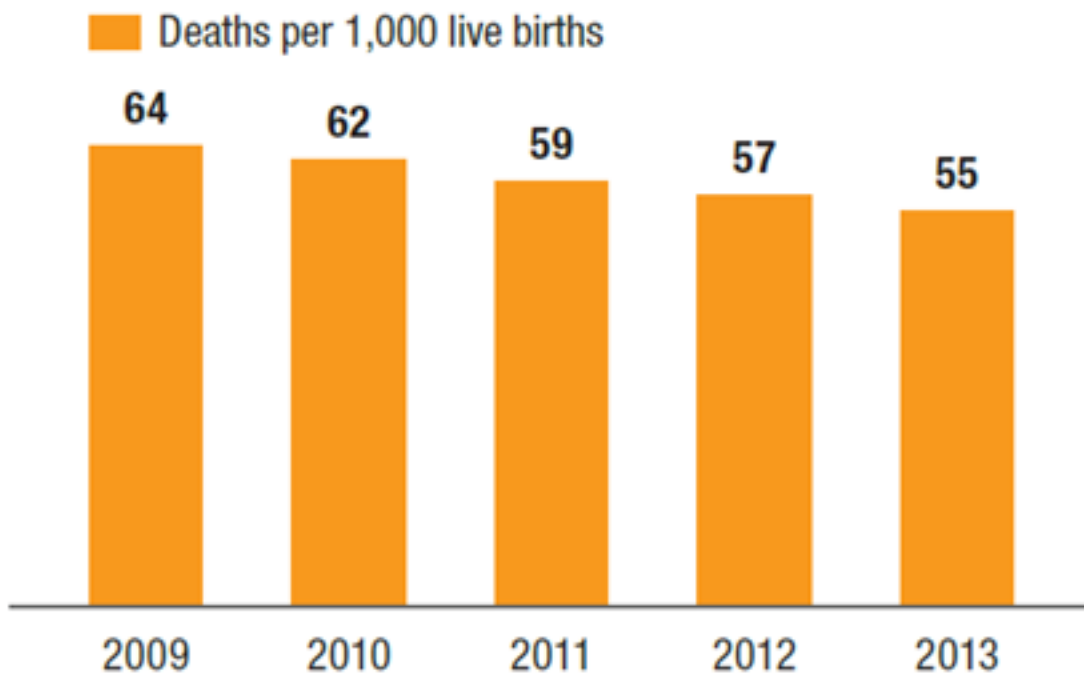
Since 2011, Timor-Leste is in the group of lower middle-income countries, yet poverty remains widespread, particularly in rural areas. 70 percent of the population live in small, dispersed, isolated villages, and improving people's health is an overwhelming challenge. Nevertheless, steady progress has taken place during the last decade. Health facilities were renewed and community-based, integrated health services – expanded. National medical graduates are joining the health work force, to serve at district and sub-district levels.¹⁶⁷

Timor-Leste is fraught with a high infant mortality rate mostly due to infectious disease, premature birth rates and trauma incurred during the delivery process. Only one in five births is

rendered with the presence of qualified medical personnel. Furthermore, the maternal mortality rate is significant with estimates as high as 300 per 100,000 live births.¹⁶⁸ Children under the age of five have a mortality rate of 55 per 1000 and this can be attributed to childhood illnesses, such as respiratory and diarrheal diseases (Figure 6).¹⁶⁹

Malaria and dengue infections are also persistent in young children and render high mortality rates. It is further estimated that nearly 80 percent of all children suffer from an intestinal parasitic infection in Timor-Leste. Malaria is a wide spread endemic condition in most areas of Timor-Leste and presents the highest mortality rates in children. Timor-Leste is also endemic for leprosy, with case report rates at 1.8 per 10,000 Timorese citizens. Additionally, Tuberculosis is a major public health problem, with an estimated 20,000 active TB cases nationally. Tuberculosis and other communicable disease are further complicated by the presence of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI). STI are common and widespread throughout the region. The existing curative institutions report a total

UNDER-5 MORTALITY RATE



Source: UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation 2014.

Figure 6: Mortality Rate for Children Under-5 in Timor-Leste

of about 35 STI cases per week, mostly in Dili and Baucau districts. The general population lacks the proper education and knowledge on existing national health problems endemic to the region and health promotion needs to serve as catalyst for public health education and shared knowledge. The highest mortality rate, which accounts for nearly 60 percent of all deaths in Timor-Leste, is attributed to communicable disease such as respiratory infections, diarrhea and malaria.¹⁷⁰ Photo 15 shows such needed training in the area.¹⁷¹ In the photo, hospital Corpsman conducts basic life support training for Timorese students at the International Health Institute during Pacific Partnership 2016 in Dili, Timor Leste, June 2016.

In addition to infectious and communicable disease, 3-4 percent of children under the age of five are acutely malnourished and nearly 20 percent of those children are classified as chronically malnourished.¹⁷² The 2015 Global Hunger Index lists Timor-Leste (along with Burundi and Eritrea having the highest prevalence of stunting (low height for age), with

more than 50 percent of children under age five suffering from stunting.¹⁷³ According to the Global Nutrition Report for Timor-Leste (2015 Nutrition Country Profile), Timor-Leste is off course and making no progress for this under-5 stunting category (Figure 7).¹⁷⁴

Structure

Post-independence Timor-Leste, under the general direction of the Division of Health Services, received a majority of their healthcare from International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The division of health services also worked closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop health policies and arrange services required for the country. The MOH was subsequently formed and it is responsible for the healthcare system of the country. Their mission is to ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of healthcare services to all the people of Timor-Leste. MOH is also responsible to regulate and



Photo 15: International Health Institute, Pacific Partnership 2016

WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY INDICATORS: PROGRESS AGAINST GLOBAL WHA TARGETS

Under-5 stunting, 2009 ^a	Under-5 wasting, 2009 ^b	Under-5 overweight, 2009 ^a	WRA anemia, 2011 ^b	EBF ^a
Off course, no progress	Off course	On course, at risk	Off course	NA

Sources: ^aDefinitions of progress developed by GNR's Independent Expert Group with guidance from WHO/UNICEF; ^bWHO 2014.
Notes: Currently it is only possible to determine whether a country is on or off course for five of the six WHA targets. The year refers to the most recent data available; on/off-course calculation is based on trend data.
WRA = women of reproductive age. EBF = exclusive breastfeeding. NA = not available.

Figure 7: World Health Assembly Indicators

promote the health sector.¹⁷⁵

Health services in Timor-Leste are currently provided by a large number of different entities. Coverage of the population is uneven both in terms of physical access and the services provided. This situation has arisen from the necessary involvement of international NGOs. The WHO developed a strategy in 2000 to implement and guide the restoration of the health sector, which intends to:

- Be rapidly implementable;
- Ensure delivery of basic services to the maximum possible population;
- Build capacity among Timorese health staff;
- Ensure more efficient use of resources;
- Not interfere with the development of the future health system; and
- Take into account the principles developed by the Timor-Leste Professional Working Group, including sensitivity to culture, religion and traditions of the Timorese people.¹⁷⁶

The WHO has played a catalytic role in Timor-Leste in the formation of the future direction of health development, its health authority and formulating health policy, planning and health regulations. WHO has been instrumental in overall coordination amongst NGOs, national and international institutions, UN agencies and donors involved in the restoration process of the health sector in Timor-Leste. Moreover, health sector redevelopment has implemented a sector-wide approach, strongly



Photo 16: Bairo Pite Health Clinic, Dili, Timor-Leste

advocated by WHO, and works continually to restore access to basic services and to rebuild a sustainable health system.¹⁷⁷ Photo 16 shows the Bairo Pite clinic in Dili, Timor-Leste.¹⁷⁸

Healthcare System

The national healthcare system of Timor-Leste is divided into two sectors, hospital services and community health services. On the hospital services side of the healthcare structure there are two reference hospitals (major hospitals) and three regional hospitals which have the capacity to perform simple operations. The community health side of the structure includes 65 community health services and boasts more than 200 healthcare centers. The healthcare centers connect with over 600 Integrated Community Health Service centers throughout the country.¹⁷⁹

Timor-Leste has an Ambulance Central Center which serves the population within the Districts and utilizes multifunction cars to serve the residents in sub-district levels. The multifunctional cars are utilized to transport patients from the sub-level districts to the districts, and from there the ambulance system transports all patients to Dili, the capital city. In the districts with limited infrastructure, non-accessible by ambulances, aerial transportation is used; Timor-Leste has contracted an Australian airplane for the transport of patients from Suai and Oecussi to Dili. Additionally Timor-Leste has requested a UN helicopter for patient transportation and has a boat to connect Ataúro to Dili. Timor-Leste also relies on over 50 horses, which transport patients through rivers, tough terrain and shallow waterways.

To supplement their patient transportation capacity, Timor-Leste has patient transfer agreements to Singapore, Australia and Indonesia. In Indonesia there is collaboration with three hospitals, one directed at the treatment of veterans and two others for the treatment of the population in general.¹⁸⁰

Challenges in the Healthcare System

The many challenges the Timor-Leste healthcare system faces are attributed to the years of conflict in the battle for Timor-Leste's independence. In 2002, after Timor-Leste gained its

independence, the country immediately started a transformation of their entire infrastructure, including the healthcare system. However, the transformation phase did not come without challenges and the country contended with a number of impediments. During the national conflict for independence with Indonesia, violence devastated and critically damaged a vast majority of the health centers and hospitals in the country. Additionally, a considerable portion of the healthcare personnel in the pre-independence nation were Indonesians. Once granted independence, this resulted in a national deficit of qualified healthcare workers when the majority of Indonesian workers left the country.¹⁸¹

Nearly 85 percent of the Timor-Leste population live in rural areas of the county and have limited access to healthcare facilities. The rural areas of the country also account for some of the poorest Timorese citizens, which pose one of Timor-Leste's biggest healthcare challenges.¹⁸² Additionally, the healthcare system of Timor-Leste consists of the National Healthcare Service sector as well as the private healthcare sector. These healthcare sectors are regulated and monitored by the government and provide Timor-Leste citizens with the freedom of choice. However, most of the population, which live in poverty, cannot afford to utilize the services offered by the private healthcare sector. The total expenditure of Timor-Leste on health is around 13.6 percent of the country's GDP.¹⁸³

In general, healthcare services in Timor-Leste are extremely limited and many do not extend to dental and or optical services. Moreover, the infrastructure of the healthcare system in Timor-Leste is very weak and provides limited services to the residents who can access the healthcare system. Unequal access to health services continues to hinder Timor-Leste and is the major issue affecting the performance of the healthcare system in the country. Although hospitals and health centers are readily available in the urban districts of the country, the facilities are ill equipped to handle complex medical emergencies. Therefore medical evacuation, a costly alternative, is often the only choice in the case of serious illness or complex surgery.¹⁸⁴

Communicable Diseases

In Timor-Leste communicable diseases remain a concern for the healthcare system and healthcare infrastructure. Communicable diseases can be acquired through contaminated

foods or water, sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products. Additionally rabies is persistent in the region and can be transmitted from dogs, bats and other mammals within the region. Moreover, tuberculosis is a major problem in the country, affecting over 8,000 people as of 2000 (31 percent under the age of 15 years). Limited access to healthcare in rural areas, high occurrences of respiratory illnesses, sexual transmitted disease and a lack of public education and risk knowledge create a high-risk environment.¹⁸⁵ The major causes of death are communicable diseases (60 percent).¹⁸⁶

Non-Communicable Diseases

Although Timor-Leste has the lowest number of publications in medicine, available preliminary data particularly on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes within the country indicate a significant presence of chronic conditions among the elderly. Research indicates that among the 50-96 year old population, cardiovascular and circulatory diseases account for approximately a 25 percent of the total Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs). For the population aged 70 years and above, these diseases account for approximately 36 percent of the total DALYs. Specifically, ischemic heart disease in 2010 accounted for approximately 12 percent and 16 percent of the total DALYs for 50-69 year and 70+ year population respectively. The disease burden of diabetes mellitus (in terms of DALYs) among the 50-69 and 70+ year population has also increased from 3.6 percent to 4 percent of the total disease burden affecting this population. The overall diabetes prevalence in Timor-Leste is currently low at 2.9 percent. Available data indicate that 7 out of 10 cases occur in those over 40 years. Furthermore, there is very low awareness of diabetes in the country which is a risk factor for increased diabetes prevalence. Urbanization and economic development have the potential to rapidly increase the prevalence rate. Currently, Timor-Leste does not have a national strategy in place to address the diabetes.¹⁸⁷ Figure 8 depicts the non-communicable diseases which are prevalent in Timor-Leste and the mortality rates associated with each disease. The figure further depicts age-standardized death rates.

Cooperation for Health

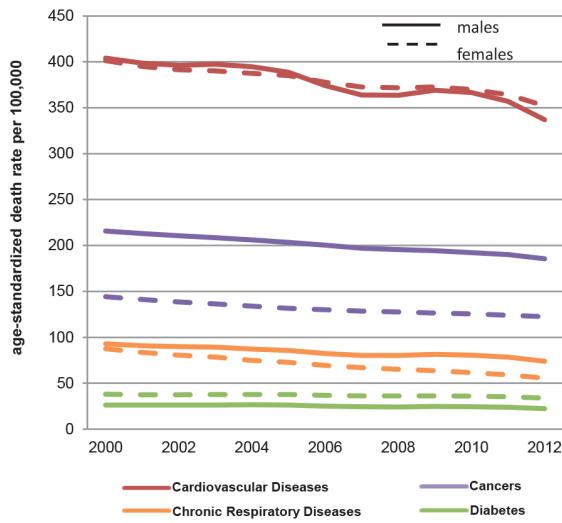
After gaining its independence Timor-Leste is now a post-crisis country and is now in developmental stage for government and

Timor-Leste

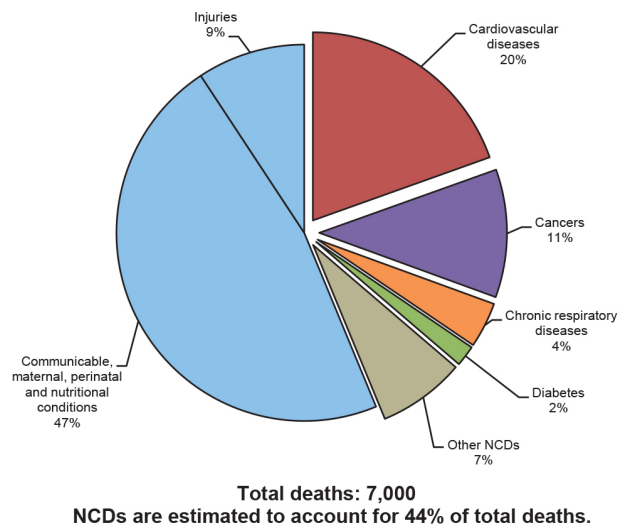
Total population: 1 114 000
Income Group: Lower middle

Percentage of population living in urban areas: 28.3%
Population proportion between ages 30 and 70 years: 22.3%

Age-standardized death rates*



Proportional mortality (% of total deaths, all ages, both sexes)*



Premature mortality due to NCDs*

Figure 8: WHO-Non-Communicable Disease Country Profile, 2014

healthcare infrastructure. The healthcare infrastructure is presented with various challenges in affording healthcare services to Timorese citizens. Plans have been developed and are in the process of being implemented to improve the healthcare structure in Timor-Leste.¹⁸⁹ Key national policies, strategies and legislations are in place. The National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 and the National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2011-2030 (NHSSP) reflect the State’s commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and for provision of free universal healthcare. NHSSP reveals a vision towards a “Healthy East Timorese People in a Healthy Timor-Leste”. This is enhanced by several national strategies, such as the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child & Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Strategy (2014-2018); the National Strategy for the Prevention and Control of NCDs, Injuries, Disabilities and Care of the Elderly and NCDs National Action Plan (2014–2018); a National Blood Policy and National Blood Programme (2014-2018) and Laboratory Strategic Plan (2015-2019).

Since Timor-Leste became an independent country WHO has been involved in the reimplementation of intergraded health services. The Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) is WHO’s mechanism for alignment with national strategies. The CCS defines the roles and responsibilities of WHO in supporting the National Health Plan as well as clearly defines

each agencies function. The CCS is a system of government-wide reference, which standardizes development, accounting, and resource allocation throughout the country. Additionally, the CCS is constructed on the country’s health situation, government health strategy and plans, key partners, and lessons from WHO’s work in the country. The CCS is meant to support in marshalling human and financial resources for strengthening WHO support to Timor-Leste to further promote national health development.¹⁹⁰

Additionally, the CCS has ranked the methods of WHO under six major capacities and will directly associate with the goals, working ideologies and policies of the MOH. Demographic and socioeconomic advances influence present-day and future health challenges. These challenges are related to health infrastructure, available resources, access to quality health services, risk factors related to communicable and non-communicable diseases, high maternal and child mortalities, malnutrition, and health awareness of citizens, preparedness and response to emergencies, and collaboration and partnership of all partners in health. WHO’s role has begun to shift from implementing specific health programs to supporting the MOH to building in-country capacity to formulate evidence-based contextually relevant policies and plans, and strengthen health systems for effective service delivery.¹⁹¹



TIMOR-LESTE
Women, Peace and Security

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Women, Peace and Security

Women's empowerment and the promotion of gender equality are paramount to achieving sustainable development globally. Greater gender equality may enhance economic efficiency and improve other development outcomes by removing barriers which prevent women from having the same access as men to human resource endowments, rights, and economic opportunities. Giving women access to equal opportunities allows them to emerge as social and economic actors. Improving women's status also leads to more investment in their children's education, health, and overall wellbeing from a global perspective. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325), adopted in 2000, recognizes that the experiences and needs of women and girls differ from those of men and boys in conflict and post-conflict situations, particularly in relation to human rights violations such as sexual and gender-based violence. 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.¹⁹²

Timorese society is still strongly divided along gender lines. Traditionally, men are seen as breadwinners and community leaders, while women are responsible for maintaining the house and raising the family. Women face strong obstacles to full participation in community life, including high rates of domestic violence, lack of control over reproductive health, socially conservative attitudes to a woman's chastity, discrimination in employment and the legal system. However, women do hold key roles in government, and make up approximately 19 percent of the police force. They play a vital role in the economy, particularly in agriculture, and are largely responsible for maintaining family welfare. Decreases to the birth-rate, increased access to contraception and improvements to maternal health have the potential to change the status of women in society and allow for greater participation in the work force. In addition to this, proactive steps are being taken to improve the status of women.^{193 194}

Progress towards community rejection of domestic violence is progressing slowly, but

is significantly hindered by an inadequate judicial system and a population desensitized to violence by recent history.¹⁹⁵ Nearly 40 percent of Timorese women over the age of 15 have experienced physical violence, while 34 percent of women who have been married report having been abused by their husbands. Domestic violence is broadly considered a private, family matter, or "a normal occurrence" to some women. Services for survivors are scarce or non-existent. During conflicts, rape and sexual violence were used repeatedly as a weapon of war, and though some trauma-counseling projects were initiated in the post-conflict period, women still lack sufficient access to these services. The situation of women is precarious in isolated villages as in the western border districts where they are vulnerable due to geographical isolation, history of violence and sexual abuse, incest and lack of economic opportunities. Women in border districts are at high risk of sex-trafficking.¹⁹⁶

The creation of the new constitution provided an opportunity for women's human rights, and a Gender and Constitution Working Group was set up with support from UN Women and its partners to ensure that women's rights were included in the new constitution. This resulted in guarantees of equality between women and men, and a declared state objective to promote and guarantee equal opportunities in the political and social sphere for all. A recent amendment to the electoral law states that 33 percent of the political parties' lists must be women candidates, resulting in 38 percent of seats in the National Parliament being women, the highest rate in the Asia Pacific region. The Ministers of Finance and Social Solidarity, four Vice-Ministers, namely Health, Education, Management, Support and Resources, and four Secretary of State Positions are held by women. At the local level, there are currently 11 women village Chiefs (Chefes de Suco), two women sub-village Chiefs (Chefes de Aldeia), and six elders that function as traditional leaders (lian nain). Each village council is guaranteed three women representatives.

Other legislative measures have come into effect as well, such as the Law against Domestic Violence passed in 2010 naming domestic violence a public crime, and the National Action Plan on Gender-based Violence, a strategy of prevention and provision of services for survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence.¹⁹⁷



TIMOR-LESTE

Conclusion

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Conclusion

Timor-Leste is prone to severe and recurrent drought, flooding and landslides. Tropical cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis also represent risks.¹⁹⁸ Landslides and flash floods are the most common natural hazard in Timor-Leste, disrupting the land transport system by destroying bridges and washing out roads. Drought can be a problem during the dry season, exacerbating the country's food security problem. Additionally, Timor-Leste is near the intersection of three continental plates, making it vulnerable to major earthquakes. Timor-Leste's vulnerability to natural hazards means if particular care is not taken in the development of the country's infrastructure, it will remain at risk to disruption. While Timor-Leste has a medium exposure to hazards, its lack of coping and adaptive strategies makes it the 7th most disaster prone country in the world.¹⁹⁹

After gaining its independence, Timor-Leste is now a post-crisis country and is now in developmental stage for government and healthcare infrastructure. The healthcare infrastructure is presented with various challenges in affording healthcare services to Timorese citizens. Plans have been developed and are in the process of being implemented to improve the healthcare structure in Timor-Leste.²⁰⁰ Key national policies, strategies and legislations are in place. The Government of Timor-Leste continues to make progress in reducing residual humanitarian needs across the country. Assistance to affected populations, increasing DRM programs and preparedness and the formulation of the Disaster Management Policy are some of the most recent developments.²⁰¹ They are actively working on building the nation and its community's resilience to disasters. They have regularly reported their implementation of priority actions of the HFA through a multi-stakeholder process since 2010. Improvements are required in all priority areas; however, the biggest needs are in reducing underlying natural disaster risk factors and the use of knowledge and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.²⁰²

Timor-Leste is still a new state. In relation to disaster risks, they have been undertaking a Comprehensive National Hazard Assessment and Mapping through a multi-stakeholder consultation that will be completed with a National Risk Assessment. This assessment will

inform and guide decision makers of the Fifth Constitutional Government in the development of a new Policy, Act and Investments for disaster risk management across all sectors and levels of government in the country.

Timor-Leste still has many competing development priorities to address. Therefore, it remains a challenge to fully implement the disaster risk reduction agenda. The country is experiencing high economic growth and significant investment in infrastructure. They must ensure the infrastructure investments do not add to existing risks and that they are risk resilient. Their priorities are to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination, raise public awareness on disaster risk reduction through media campaigns, provide professional and formal education, and expand integrated community-based disaster risk management and adaptation with a focus on the participation and needs of women.²⁰³

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 is needed for Timor-Leste. 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 needs to be strengthened. Risk reduction approaches need to be incorporated into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, and into the response and recovery programs in the reconstruction of affected communities.²⁰⁴

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 a collaboration of the CBDRM Working Group, substantial capacity building and training for NDMD at the national level, and DDMC and DOC staff at the district level have been ongoing. The training includes Disaster Management Orientation, Emergency Management Training, and Training of Trainers. Training has also been provided at the local level.²⁰⁵



TIMOR-LESTE

Appendices

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Appendices

Department of Defense DMHA Engagements in the Past Five Years (FY 2011-2016)

June 2016- While in Timor-Leste personnel work side-by-side with civilian leadership from the Dili community and Timor Leste Defense Forces in a disaster relief symposium, civil engineering projects, cooperative health engagements (CHE), subject matter expert exchanges (SMEEs) and community relations projects.²⁰⁶

November 2015- Integrated teams of F-FDTL and U.S. Marines participated in Exercise Crocodilo, an annual event which contributes to the defense professionalization and maritime security efforts in Timor-Leste.²⁰⁷

September 2015- The U.S., New Zealand and Timor-Leste jointly participated in Pacific Angel 2015, with the aim of simulating a joint humanitarian operation, organizing a free medical clinic for the people of Baucau and upgrading key facilities in case of a humanitarian operation.²⁰⁸

July 2015- The U.S. Navy and F-FDTL conducted the third CARAT exercise in Dili, Timor-Leste. It enabled the navies to work together through cooperative training events, exchanges, and symposia.²⁰⁹

October 2014- MARFORPAC participated in HARI HAMUTUK, a trilateral (U.S., Australia, Timor-Leste) engineer exercise. Projects entailed construction, renovation and repairs to public facilities such as wells and water abatement, and schools in the vicinity of the FTX.

June 2014- The U.S. participated in Pacific Partnership 2014 in Timor-Leste. Pacific Partnership is the largest annual multilateral humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Pacific.²¹⁰

February 2014- The U.S. Navy and F-FDTL participated in a CARAT Timor-Leste exercise. CARAT Timor-Leste is part of an annual bilateral exercise series between the U.S. Navy and the

naval forces of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. CARAT helps regional navies work together to address shared maritime security priorities during a series of cooperative training events and subject matter expert exchanges.²¹¹

October 2012- The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit trains with the Australian Defense Force/ISF. This included observation by the F-FDTL along with a limited bilateral engagement.

June 2011- PACFLT participated in Pacific Partnership 2011 in Dili.

Timor-Leste Government Ministries, Offices and Committees

The **Prime Minister** leads the government and presides over the Council of Ministers, directs and guides overall policy of the government and the governing actions, represents the Government and the Council of Ministers in their relationship with the President of the Republic and the National Parliament, guides the overall policy of the government in its external relations and represents the government regarding the international community.

The **Minister of State and of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers** assists the Prime Minister with the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and with the government coordination, being the government spokesperson.

The **Minister of State and Coordinator of Social Affairs** assists the Prime Minister with the supervision of the general policy for the governance of social affairs. The ministry is specifically responsible for the work and activities developed by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Secretary of State for Woman Support and Socio-economic Promotion, the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the National Liberation Fighters and the Commission for Combating HIV/AIDS.

The **Minister of State and Coordinator of Economic Affairs** assists the Prime Minister with the supervision of the general policy for the governance of economic affairs, being specifically responsible for the work and activities developed and the provision of related services

by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as the Minister and of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, as the Minister, and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture, the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications, the Secretary of State for the Policy of Vocational Training and Employment, the Fishing and cattle farming Industries and the Cooperative Sector.

The **Minister of State and Coordinator of State Administration Affairs and Justice** assists the Prime Minister with the supervision of the general policy for the governance of State Administration and Justice Affairs.

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation** is responsible for the design, execution, coordination and assessment of the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the areas of international diplomacy and cooperation, consular tasks, and promotion and defense of the Timorese living abroad.

The **Ministry of Finance** is responsible for the design, execution, coordination and assessment of the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the areas of budget and finance annual planning monitoring.

The **Ministry of Justice** is responsible for the design, execution, coordination and assessment of the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the areas of justice, land and property, law and human rights.

The **Ministry of Health** is responsible for design, execution, coordination and assessment of the policy defined and adopted by the Council of Ministers, for the areas of health and pharmaceutical activities.

The **Ministry of Social Solidarity** is responsible for design, execution, coordination and assessment of the policy defined and adopted by the Council of Ministers, for the areas of social security, social assistance, natural disasters and community reinsertion.

The **Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment** is responsible for the design, execution, coordination and assessment of the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the areas of industrial, and

commercial economic activities and co-operative sector, as well as environment.

The **Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture** is responsible for the design, execution, coordination and assessment of the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the areas of tourism, arts and culture.

The **Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications** is responsible for the design, execution, coordination and assessment of the policy defined and approved by the Council of Ministers for the areas of public works, housing, supply, distribution and management of water, sanitation and electricity, transport and communications.

The **Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources** is responsible for the design and execution of the energy policy and management of mineral resources, including oil and other strategic minerals, as approved by the Council of Ministers, as well as for licensing and regulation of extractive activities, industrial activities of improvement of oil and minerals, including the petrochemical and refining industry.

The **Ministry of Defense** is responsible for the design, execution, coordination and evaluation of policy, defined and adopted by the Council of Ministers, for the areas of national defense and military cooperation.

The **Ministry of the Interior** is responsible for the design, execution, coordination and evaluation of policy, defined and adopted by the Council of Ministers, for the areas of internal security, of migration and border control, the civil protection and police cooperation.

The **Ministry of Planning and Investment Strategy** is responsible for the design, execution, coordination and evaluation of policy, defined and adopted by the Council of Ministers, for the areas of promotion of economic and social development of the country.²¹²

Hyogo Framework for Action 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 Interim HFA for Timor-Leste are represented in the graph to the right (Figure 9) and Table 11. Future outlook areas 1 through 3 are also discussed in Table 12.²¹³

Level of Progress* Achieved for HFA Priorities

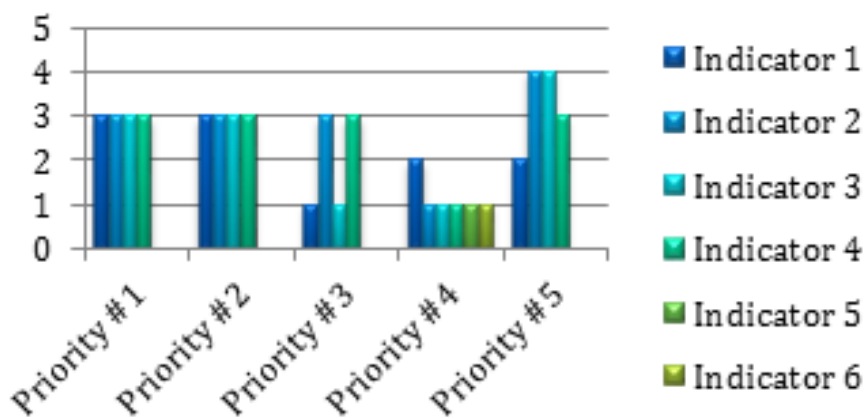


Figure 9: HFA Level of Progress

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 #2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning		
Core Indicator*	Indicator Description	Level of Progress Achieved
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 #3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

Core Indicator*	Indicator Description	Level of Progress Achieved
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	Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.	3

Priority #4: Reduce the underlying risk factors

Core Indicator*	Indicator Description	Level of Progress Achieved
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.	2
3	Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities.	2
4	Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.	2
5	Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes.	2
6	Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.	3

Priority #5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Core Indicator*	Indicator Description	Level of Progress Achieved
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.	2
3	Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.	2
4	Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews.	2

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 11: Hyogo Framework for Action Country Progress Report Priorities and Progress Achieved

<p>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.</p>	
<p>Challenges:</p>	<p>Although the Government of Timor-Leste considers DRM as a priority and supports the dissemination of DRM policy to the district levels, 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.</p>
<p>Future Outlook Priorities:</p>	<p>In March 2008, the NDMD established a National DRM Policy for the next five years (2007-2012) to guide in the identification of 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 the vulnerable groups.</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Challenges:</p>	<p>The United Nations Transitional Administration Timor-Leste, the 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 a Disaster Operations Center (DOC) in every district to receive and to send disaster-related information to and from the community. Due to budget constraints, NDMC currently only manages to establish three DOCs in three districts: in Dili, Lautem and Bobonaro. NDMD is expecting to receive more funding to set up more DOCs in the rest of the country.</p>
<p>Future Outlook Priorities:</p>	<p>Timor-Leste intends to improve 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 of disaster losses and impacts, allocating necessary resources for DRR, enforcing implementation of DRM, and facilitating participation from civil society and the private sector.</p>
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Challenges:</p>	<p>The DDMC provides relief assistance and construction materials to communities who are affected by disasters. However, due to personnel and funding shortages, DDMC is unable to monitor how the beneficiaries use the assistance, especially the construction materials based on DRR measures when rebuilding their damaged houses.</p>
<p>Future Outlook Priorities:</p>	<p>Timor-Leste is highly interested to develop and strengthen its capacities, especially the investment in disaster preparedness. Currently, contingency planning is included in several key sectoral planning of civil protection and health. With a collaboration of the CBDRM Working Group, substantial capacity building and training for NDMD at the national level, and DDMC and DOC staff at the district level have been ongoing. The training includes Disaster Management Orientation, Emergency Management Training, and Training of Trainers. Training has also been provided at the local level.</p>

Table 12: Hyogo Framework for Action Country Progress Report Future Outlook Areas

Force Protection/Pre-Deployment information

Passport/Visa

All foreigners seeking to enter Timor-Leste on a temporary visa (including a Tourist Visa) are required to have a valid national passport with an expiry date not less than six months from the date of entry into Timor-Leste. Travelers of any nationality may obtain a Tourist & Business Visa on arrival if arriving at Dili International Airport or Dili Seaport. Visas on arrival are granted for 30 days stay, single entry. Land Border Crossings for nationals of Indonesia and Portugal may obtain a visa or entry clearance on arrival at a land border. All other nationalities are required to apply for a “Visa Application Authorization” prior to entering at a land border crossing.²¹⁴ Persons working for the UN in Timor-Leste, or a UN agency in Timor-Leste are granted a special stay authorization by operation of the Migration and Asylum Law 2003 and so long as they remain an employee of the UN or an UN agency in Timor-Leste they will not require a visa. However, if a person ceases work for the UN the individual will need to depart the country or obtain the appropriate visa should they wish to extend their stay. If an individual is a holder of a Portuguese passport they will not be required to apply for a visa on arrival or before they travel according to the terms of a bilateral agreement between Timor-Leste and Portugal.^{215, 216}

Emergency Contact Information

The local equivalent to the “911” emergency line in Timor-Leste is 112. For U.S. Citizens, contact the U.S. Embassy in Dili.

U.S. Embassy Dili, Timor-Leste

Avenida de Portugal
Praia dos Coqueiros
Dili, Timor-Leste
T: 670-332-4684, Emergency After-Hours
Telephone: 670-723-1328
F: 670-331-3206
W: ConsDili@state.gov

Currency Information

In accordance with the implementation of Regulation 2000/7 of 24 January 2000, the US dollar (US\$) was adopted as the new legal tender in Timor-Leste. For the Timorese citizens this means all formal transactions must be paid for with the US\$. However, the currencies of other countries present in Timor-Leste may still be utilized. The following currencies are accepted in Timor-Leste: the Indonesian rupiah, Australian dollar, Portuguese escudo and Thai baht for everyday business. The US\$ was selected because of its global stability; it is a strong currency and is broadly accepted throughout the world. The National Consultative Council adopted the resolution to utilize the US\$ in Timor-Leste.²¹⁷

Travel Health Information

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following precautions and interventions when traveling to Timor-Leste. Table 13 depicts the communicable and non-communicable disease traveler recommendations from the CDC.

Routine vaccines	Make sure you are up-to date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.
Hepatitis A	CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in Timor-Leste, regardless of where you are eating or staying.
Malaria	You will need to take prescription medicine before, during, and after your trip to prevent malaria. Your doctor can help you decide which medicine is right for you, and also talk to you about other steps you can take to prevent malaria.
Typhoid	You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in Timor-Leste. CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.
Hepatitis B	You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so CDC recommends this vaccine if you might have sex with a new partner, get a tattoo or piercing, or have any medical procedures.

Table 13: Communicable and Non-communicable Disease Traveler Recommendations

Country Profile

The Information in the Country Profile section is sourced directly from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Fact book.²¹⁹

Country name: Timor-Leste (Note: pronounced TEE-mor LESS-tay)

Geography:

Area - comparative: Slightly larger than Connecticut

Land boundaries: Total: 253 km

Coastline: 706 km

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.

Maritime claims:

Territorial sea: 12 nm

Contiguous zone: 24 nm

Exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm

Elevation extremes:

Lowest point: Timor Sea, Savu Sea, and

Banda Sea 0 m

Highest point: Foho Tatamailau 2,963 m

Natural resources: Gold, petroleum, natural gas, manganese, marble

Land use:

Agricultural land: 25.1 percent

Arable land 10.1 percent; permanent crops 4.9 percent; permanent pasture 10.1 percent

Forest: 49.1 percent

Other: 25.8 percent (2011 est.)

Irrigated land: 350 sq km (2012)

Environment current issues:

Widespread use of slash and burn agriculture has led to deforestation and soil erosion.

People and Society

Nationality: Timorese

Ethnic groups:

Austronesian (Malayo-Polynesian)

Papuan

Small Chinese minority

Religions:

Roman Catholic 96.9 percent

Protestant / Evangelical 2.2 percent

Muslim 0.3 percent

other 0.6 percent

Age structure:

0-14 years: 41.82 percent (male 264,636/ female 250,184)

15-24 years: 20.02 percent (male 124,937/ female 121,508)

25-54 years: 29.59 percent (male 175,569/ female 188,726)

55-64 years: 4.84 percent (male 30,584/ female 29,010)

65 years and over: 3.73 percent (male 21,948/ female 24,014) (2015 est.)

Dependency ratios:

Total dependency ratio: 92.3 percent

Youth dependency ratio: 81.5 percent

Elderly dependency ratio: 10.7 percent

Potential support ratio: 9.3 percent

Median age:

Total: 18.6 years

Male: 18 years

Female: 19.2 years (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 205

Population growth rate:

2.42 percent (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 30

Birth rate: 34.16 births/1,000 population

Country comparison to the world: 28

Death rate:

6.1 deaths/1,000 population

Country comparison to the world: 162

Net migration rate:

-3.86 migrant(s)/1,000 population

Country comparison to the world: 189

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: 0.93 male(s)/female

55-64 years: 1.05 male(s)/female

65 years and over: 0.91 male(s)/female

Total population: 1.01 male(s)/female

Mother's mean age at first birth: 22.1

Note: median age at first birth among women 25-29 (2009/10 est.)

Maternal mortality rate:

215 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 41

Infant mortality rate:

Total: 37.54 deaths/1,000 live births

Male: 40.5 deaths/1,000 live births

Female: 34.39 deaths/1,000 live births

Country comparison to the world: 55

Life expectancy at birth:

Total population: 67.72 years

Male: 66.17 years

Female: 69.37 years (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 165

Total fertility rate:

5.01 children born/woman (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 15

Contraceptive prevalence rate: 22.3 percent

Health expenditures:

1.3 percent of GDP (2013)

Country comparison to the world: 156

Physician density: 0.07 physicians/1,000 population (2011)

Hospital bed density: 5.9 beds/1,000 population (2010)

Drinking water source:*Improved:*

Urban: 95.2 percent of population

Rural: 60.5 percent of population

Total: 71.9 percent of population

Unimproved:

Urban: 4.8 percent of population

Rural: 39.5 percent of population

Total: 28.1 percent of population

Sanitation facility access:

Improved:

Urban: 69 percent of population

Rural: 26.8 percent of population

Total: 40.6 percent of population

Unimproved:

Urban: 31 percent of population

Rural: 73.2 percent of population

Total: 59.4 percent of population

Major infectious diseases:

Degree of risk: very high

Food or waterborne diseases:

bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever

Vector borne diseases:

dengue fever and malaria (2013)

Obesity adult prevalence rate:

1.8 percent (2014)

Country comparison to the world: 178

Children under the age of 5 years underweight:

45.3 percent (2010)

Country comparison to the world: 1

Education expenditures:

9.4 percent of GDP (2011)

Country comparison to the world: 7

Literacy:

Definition: age 15 and over can read and write

Total population: 67.5 percent

Male: 71.5 percent

Female: 63.4 percent (2015 est.)

School life expectancy (primary to tertiary education):

Total: 12 years

Male: 12 years

Female: 11 years (2010)

Child labor children ages 5-14:

Total number: 10,510

Percentage: 4 percent (2002 est.)

Unemployment, youth ages 15-24:

Total: 14.8 percent

Male: 10.4 percent

Female: 22.7 percent (2010 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 79

Government

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"

Government type: 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:

13 administrative districts; Aileu, Ainaro, Baucau, Bobonaro (Maliana), Cova-Lima (Suai), Dili, Ermera (Gleno), Lautem (Los Palos), Liquica, Manatuto, Manufahi (Same), Oecussi (Ambeno), Viqueque

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

National holiday:

Proclamation of Independence Day, 28 November (1975)

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 ICJ jurisdiction with reservations; accepts ICtJ jurisdiction

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

Political parties and leaders:

Democratic Party or PD [Fernando "Lasama" de ARAUJO]

Frenti-Mudanca [Jose Luis GUTERRES]
National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction or CNRT [Kay Rala Xanana GUSMAO]

Revolutionary Front of Independent Timor-Leste or FRETILIN [Mari ALKATIRI]
(Only parties in Parliament are listed)

Political pressure groups and leaders: NA**Diplomatic representation in the US:**

Chief of mission: Ambassador Domingos Sarmento ALVES (since 21 May 2014)
Chancery: 4201 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 504, Washington, DC 20008
Telephone: [1] (202) 966-3202
FAX: [1] (202) 966-3205

Flag description:

Red, yellow, black colors with white star

National symbol(s):

Mount Ramelau

National anthem:

"Patria" (Fatherland)

Lyrics/music:

Fransisco Borja DA COSTA/Afonso DE ARAUJO

Economy:

The development of oil and gas resources in offshore waters 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 capacity. Annual government budget expenditures increased markedly between 2009 and 2012 but dropped significantly in 2013-15. 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. 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.

GDP (official exchange rate):

\$4.231 billion

Note: non-oil GDP (2015 est.)

GDP real growth rate:

4.3 percent (2015 est.)

4.5 percent (2014 est.)

2.8 percent (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 57

GDP composition, by end use:

Household consumption: 25.8 percent

Government consumption: 29.1 percent

Investment in fixed capital: 16 percent

Investment in inventories: 0 percent

Exports of goods and services: 79.4 percent

Imports of goods and services: -50.3 percent (2015 est.)

GDP - composition, by sector of origin:

Agriculture: 5.9 percent

Industry: 77.4 percent

Services: 16.8 percent (2015 est.)

Agriculture products:

Coffee, rice, corn, cassava (manioc, tapioca), sweet potatoes, soybeans, cabbage, mangoes, bananas, vanilla

Industries:

Printing, soap manufacturing, handicrafts, woven cloth

Industrial production growth rate:

-6 percent (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 192

Labor force:

259,800 (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 167

Labor force - by occupation:

Agriculture: 64 percent

Industry: 10 percent

Services: 26 percent (2010)

Household income or consumption by percentage share:

Lowest 10 percent: 4 percent

Highest 10 percent: 27 percent (2007)

Distribution of family income Gini index:

31.9 (2007 est.)

38 (2002 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 114

Budget:

Revenues: \$300 million

Expenditures: \$2.1 billion (2015 est.)

Taxes and other revenues: 7.1 percent of GDP (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 214

Budget surplus (+) or deficit (-): -42.5 percent of GDP (2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 218

Fiscal year: Calendar year

Commercial bank prime lending rate: 13 percent (31 December 2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 54

Current account balance:

\$673 million (2015 est.)

\$1.064 billion (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 42

Exports commodities:

Oil, coffee, sandalwood, marble

Note: Potential for vanilla exports

Imports commodities:

Food, gasoline, kerosene, machinery

Debt external:

\$311.5 million (31 December 2014 est.)

\$687 million (31 December 2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 185

Exchange rates:

The US dollar is used

Electricity production:

349.4 million kWh (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 169

Electricity consumption:

125.3 million kWh (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 198

Electricity - exports:

0 kWh (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 206

Electricity imports:

0 kWh (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 210

Crude oil production:

76,490 bbl/day (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 50

Crude oil - exports:

77,280 bbl/day (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 38

Crude oil imports:

0 bbl/day (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 136

Crude oil proved reserves:

0 bbl (1 January 2015 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 201

Refined petroleum products production:

0 bbl/day (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 138

Refined petroleum products consumption:

1,300 bbl/day (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 197

Refined petroleum products exports:

0 bbl/day (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 139

Refined petroleum products imports:

1,264 bbl/day (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 191

Natural gas production:

0 cu m (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 138

Natural gas consumption:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 202

Natural gas exports:

0 cu m (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 196

Natural gas imports:

0 cu m (2013 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 143

Natural gas proved reserves:

200 billion cu m (1 January 2006 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 45

Carbon dioxide emissions from consumption of energy:

496,300 Mt (2012 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 180

Communications**Telephones fixed lines:**

Total subscriptions: 3,000

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: less than 1 (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 212

Telephones mobile cellular:

Total: 676,900

Subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: 56 (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 163

Telephone system: rudimentary service in urban and some rural areas, which is expanding with the entrance of new competitors.

Domestic: system suffered significant damage during the violence associated with independence; limited fixed-line services; mobile-cellular services have been expanding and are now available in urban and most rural areas.

International: country code - 670;

International service is available (2012)

Internet country code: .tl

Internet hosts: 252 (2012)

Country comparison to the world: 194

Internet users:

Total: 12,000

Percent of population: 1.0 percent (2014 est.)

Country comparison to the world: 205

Transportation

Heliports: 8 (2013)

Roadways:

Total: 6,040 km

Paved: 2,600 km

Unpaved: 3,440 km (2005)

Country comparison to the world: 150

Merchant marine: Total: 1

By type: passenger/cargo 1 (2010)

Country comparison to the world: 151

Ports and terminals: Major seaport(s): Dili

Military branches:

F-FDTL: Army, Navy (Armada) (2013)

Military service age and obligation:

18 years of age for voluntary military service; 18-month service obligation; no conscription but, as of May 2013, introduction of conscription was under discussion (2013).

Military expenditures:

2.92 percent of GDP (2012)

2.6 percent of GDP (2011)

2.92 percent of GDP (2010)

Country comparison to the world: 23

Transnational Issues

Disputes International: In 2007, Australia and Timor-Leste signed a 50-year development zone and revenue sharing agreement in lieu of a maritime boundary.

Trafficking in persons: Timor-Leste is a source and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking; Timorese women and girls from rural areas are lured to the capital with promises of legitimate jobs or education prospects and are then forced into prostitution or domestic servitude, and other women and girls may be sent to Indonesia for domestic servitude; Timorese family members force children into bonded domestic or agricultural labor to repay debts; foreign migrant women are vulnerable to sex trafficking in Timor-Leste, while men and boys from Burma, Cambodia, and Thailand are forced to work on fishing boats in Timorese waters under inhumane conditions.

Tier rating: Tier 2 Watch List – Timor-Leste does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking. However, it is making significant efforts to do so. In 2014, legislation was drafted but not finalized or implemented that outlines procedures for screening potential trafficking victims. Law Enforcement has made modest progress, including one conviction for sex trafficking, but efforts are hindered by prosecutors' and judges' lack of expertise in applying anti-trafficking laws effectively. The government rescued two child victims with support from an NGO but did not provide protective services (2015).

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Risk Management
CCDRR	Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction
CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CIGD	Inter-Ministerial Commission for Disaster Management
CCS	Country Cooperation Strategies
CVTL	Secretary General of Red Cross Timor-Leste
DDC	District Disaster Coordinators
DALY	Disability Adjusted Life Years
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DOC	Disaster Operations Center
DoS	Department of State
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSCA	Defense Security Cooperation Agency
ETTA	East Timor Transitional Authority
F-FDTL	Timor-Leste Defense Force
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ISF	International Stabilization Force
MOH	Ministry of Health
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action
NDC	National Disaster Coordinator
NDMD	National Disaster Management Directorate
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PNTL	Police National Timor-Leste
SDA	Sub-District Administrator
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization

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