



UNITED NATIONS
TIMOR-LESTE



RESULTS REPORT 2022 TIMOR-LESTE





RESULTS REPORT 2022

TIMOR-LESTE



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FOREWORD

FUNMI BALOGUN, UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT COORDINATOR

In 2022, Timor-Leste marked its 20th anniversary of the Restoration of Independence and its accession to the United Nations family as its 191st member. The country celebrated these milestones by recommitting to sustainable development, peace, and stability, while leaving no one behind.

The special connection to the UN System was further recognised on the margins of the 77th UN General Assembly when the Peacebuilding Commission, for the first time, engaged with Timor-Leste in a high-level briefing provided by His Excellency Mr. Ramos Horta, the President of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Maun Xanana Gusmão, and representatives from civil society. The Commission acknowledged Timor-Leste's role in international engagement in support of conflict-affected countries and regions, including as a founding member of the G7+.

Timor-Leste has made significant strides towards becoming a lower middle-income country and graduating from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The country can be rightly proud of its democratic credentials, with considerable gains in human rights and press freedom. There have also been improvements in human development, including a 50 per cent reduction in infant mortality and 96 per cent of the population having access to electricity. Infrastructural development has facilitated access to schools, health services, transportation, and improved trade within and outside the country.

Despite the achievements made by Timor-Leste, there are still several challenges ahead. Without considerable investments and political commitments, the country is unlikely to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Timor-Leste continues to have one of the highest rates of malnutrition, not only due to food insecurity but also because of social norms. Although the Parliament has over 30 per cent representation of women, gender inequality remains prevalent, and sexual-based violence is still rife. Inconsistent policies and implementation mean that access to quality education and health services is limited and unequal.

The country faces a significant risk of not diversifying its economy quickly and reaching a fiscal cliff because of its total dependence on oil exports, which are predicted to run out by 2034. As a half-island country, climate change is causing incessant floods and displacements, disrupting the growth of an economy struggling to recover post-pandemic. Parliamentary elections are scheduled for May 21, 2023, and the formation of a new government provides an opportunity to prioritise human capital, including upskilling the youth population, and consolidate all gains made since independence.

There are other opportunities for diversifying Timor-Leste's economy, including joining ASEAN, becoming a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and graduating from LDC status. However, these opportunities would require support in improving finance and governance systems, including fiscal and public sector reforms. It is also crucial to increase investment in human capital and health, especially for young people, and to improve nutrition, including food security systems. Furthermore, promoting access to quality education, including foundational education, is essential. Timor-Leste should continue to protect human rights and freedoms, maintain judicial independence and public trust, strengthen gender equality and women's empowerment, and increase women's participation in all governance structures. Reducing sex-based violence and strengthening resilience are also crucial goals to achieve.

To achieve the above by 2030, the Government must consistently commit to scaling up investments for the development of human capital, strengthening education outcomes, fast-tracking access to population groups, including those in hard-to-reach places, to health services, transform agriculture as a source of food security, and as integral to economic diversification. The country also needs to promote access to justice provision of relevant skills to young people through a genuine decentralisation process that is people and rights-focused and one that enables people to make demands not only for services but also for their rights, for equality, including gender equality, freedom

from violence, in public and private, and a system of governance that works beyond just participating in elections.

The UN system in Timor-Leste recognises the Government's leadership in setting its priorities, coordination of development assistance, and allocation of resources to where it is needed, and UN support in the year ahead is to strengthen its positioning to implement its plans, leveraging UN global commitments to fast-track the implementation and achievement of SDGs. Important global processes, including the SDG Summit in September and the High-Level Political Forum Review (VNR), are opportunities for the Government to re-commit to an acceleration plan for the SDGs. The UN system in Timor-Leste will use these opportunities to support the Government and its institutions and structures to improve policy coherence, strengthen structures that deliver effective services, facilitate the capacities for the Government to make intentional prioritisation and allocation of resources to those most in need and leaving no one behind. The UN remains committed to supporting the Government in implementing and reporting on its normative human rights commitments, including gender and women's, reproductive, and children's rights. The UN will continue to facilitate greater stakeholder engagement, not only as a deliverer of services but also in holding the Government accountable for service provision and implementation of human rights. This enables all citizens to realise their full potential and contribute to a strong and prosperous Timor-Leste, a country that genuinely has the best chance of achieving the SDGs and transforming into a thriving economy that delivers for everyone.

The UN System in Timor-Leste will continue its partnership and support for the Government and people of Timor-Leste in achieving their development objectives, as it always has, by mobilising additional resources, skills, global expertise, and norms while remaining impartial and independent.

CHAPTER 1

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

With a successful presidential election held this year, Timor-Leste started to recover from the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the worst flooding in the country's recent history. Although the daunting effects of the war in Ukraine swayed heavily on the national socio-economic outlook, the country worked hard to improve its economic outlook, as indicated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which signalled an expected 2.5 per cent annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2022 and 2023. The World Bank (WB) data showed a non-oil GDP forecasted growth of 3 per cent in 2022 and 2023.

Challenges remained, however. Fiscal sustainability relied on withdrawals from the Petroleum Fund to finance the country's large budgetary deficits. As of 1 January 2023, it contained US\$17.4 billion. Under the current expenditure trend, the fund is set to deplete in 2034. The Bayu-Undan oil fields have ceased producing, and developing new petroleum reserves via the Greater Sunrise project may take 5 to 7 years to materialise, if it materialises at all, given the massive input of financial investments needed and the move away from fossil fuels. The depletion of the Petroleum Fund was accelerated due to increased government spending on social protection in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, flooding, and global economic conditions leading to lower returns on investment.

Timor-Leste continued to be heavily import-dependent and thus highly vulnerable to global price increases. The disruption caused by the war in Ukraine added to price pressures, with costs likely to remain for the next few years. The WB indicated a steep 7.5 per cent inflation increase toward the last quarter of 2022; the highest spike registered in the past years that can negatively impact the lives of households. Persistent food price inflation, low agricultural productivity, and climate-change impacts have affected households' nutrition

and food insecurity, especially in socio-economically vulnerable groups, including children. The World Risk Index Assessment report showed that nearly 300,000 people (22 per cent of the population) face high levels of acute food insecurity. Regarding children, a leading cause of child mortality was inadequate nutrition; nearly half of all deaths in children under 5 were attributable to undernutrition. Food insecurity is likely to improve if people are more resilient to crises, increase their agricultural productivity, and human capital is sufficiently accumulated.

To address this daunting situation, the Government continued implementing strategies and instruments to support households, communities and socioeconomically vulnerable populations. These include (i) the Cesta Basica programme; (ii) the Bolsa da Mae programme (ii) the one-off US\$200 cash payment to all families other than those of civil servants; (iv) the new National Strategy for Social Protection; (v) the Consolidated National Action Plan for Food Security and Malnutrition, and Timor-Leste National Health Sector Nutrition Strategic Plan 2021–25.

One of the current government priorities was education, particularly removing access barriers and ensuring that all children and young people have access to quality education regardless of their socio-economic status. Improvement in primary school attendance was the most notable progress made in education, although the country still lagged in preschool attendance rates. Secondary and tertiary levels faced important challenges due to obsolete school facilities, low-quality teaching and poor learning environment. Through UN continued advocacy, the Government increased its budget to education and skills spending in 2022/2023 budget. This is to respond to a very high youth unemployment rate, which were 43.3 per cent of those aged 25 to 39 in 2020 and 2021.

The health sector showed improvements, including the vaccination rates against COVID-19 and health-focused taxation. By the end of 2022, over 90 per cent of the eligible population received their first dose of vaccine and around 70 per cent received their second dose. At the end of 2022, Timor-Leste recorded fewer confirmed COVID-19 cases and a lower death toll compared to other countries in the region. The UN supported the Government looking to increase domestic taxes by starting with products that can have impacts on health, such as tobacco, sugar and sugary beverages in Timor-Leste. These pro-health taxes are expected to have a transformative and catalytic impact in reducing the prevalence of a variety of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like cardiovascular disease, respiratory diseases, and diabetes in the country.

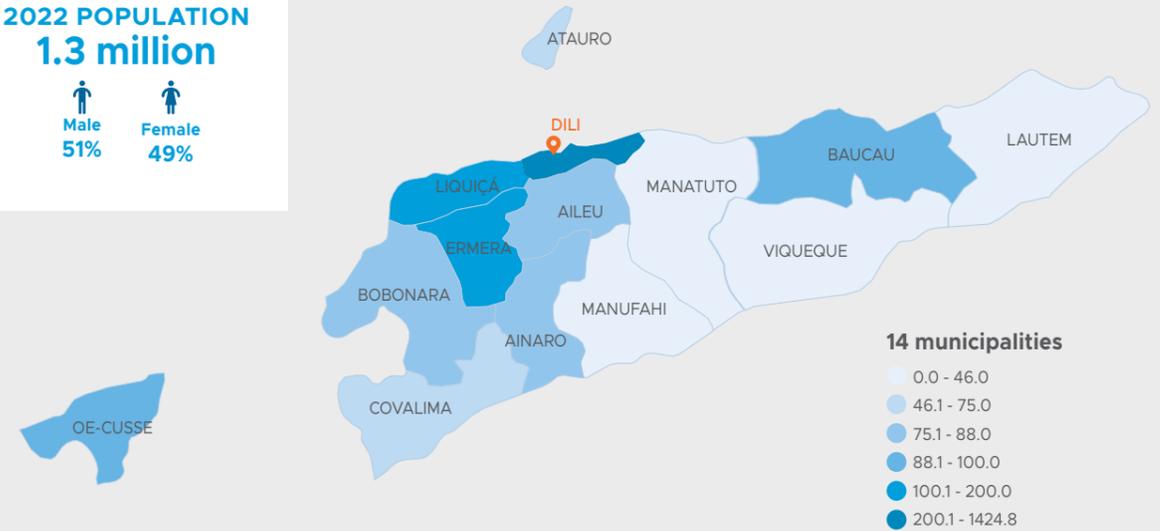
Progress has been made on national responses to climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR). At COP27, Timor-Leste successfully negotiated the establishment of a financing facility to address loss and damage, further

opening opportunities for funds to address climate-related negative impacts. The country adopted the Sendai Framework for DRR and committed to establishing a national policy framework for disaster risk management as per Sendai Guiding Principles. The UN supported the Civil Protection Authority (CPA) that is responsible for disaster management with legal instruments to align with international standards, well-trained and equipped human resources, and facilities for DRR with UN support on technical assistance, multi-hazard and vulnerability risk assessments, and the establishment of a national command operational centre.

Timor-Leste strengthened its regional partnerships. In November 2022, following the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, ASEAN issued a statement agreeing "in principle" to Timor-Leste's membership, granting the country observer status at high-level meetings and stating that a roadmap to full membership would be submitted at the 2023 summit.



TIMOR-LESTE COUNTRY SNAPSHOT



Adapted from General Directorate of Statistics (GDS) (2022).



THE GOVERNMENT OF TIMOR-LESTE BUDGET (US\$ MILLION)



Source: Ministry of Finance (2021; 2022²). Note: US\$ million. Created by Datawrapper. The Government Budget refers to the combined sources' government budget, including development partners; the Government Expenditures refers to the expenditures by Fund, including loans, but excluding social security excess.

THE UNSDCF IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING (US\$ MILLION)



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Source: ILOSTAT³ (2021).



CHAPTER 2

UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2.1 UNSDCF RESULTS OVERVIEW

The UNSDCF 2021-2025 has successfully completed the second year of its implementation with the contributions of 20 UN agencies. It follows the national Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2011-2030 and the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, UN Timor-Leste continued to foster great partnerships with the Government, development partners, civil society organisations (CSOs), academia, and other key groups to leverage the effects of funds, programmes, and projects across the UNSDCF's six strategic priorities (SPs). The UN agencies made significant efforts to work together as One UN under the UNSDCF, ensuring coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency across six thematic and operational areas. The promise to leave no one behind (LNOB), gender equality, and human rights were ensured in all activities supported by the UN and its partnerships with multi-stakeholders.

Timor-Leste is in the process of becoming an early adopter of the SDG Output Indicator Framework, which has quality-assured, SDG-focused output indicators aimed at improving the consistency of planning, monitoring, implementation, reporting, and evaluation of the UNSDCF. The framework aims to increase transparency, accountability, and reduce transaction costs.

Supporting the Government of Timor-Leste to achieve its national development goals, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals requires a strong, integrated, effective and transparent UNCT that Delivers as One, speaks in one voice, and responds to the country's needs as defined by the Government and all stakeholders. Throughout 2022, better UN coordination and a strong, joint Country Office in the spirit of the UN Reform have improved UN support of the Government towards achieving the SDGs and contributed to the Government's solid results across all strategic priorities, as summarised in brief below and further elaborated throughout this report.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1**NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY,
AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

In 2022, through UN support to government, and using an integrated approach (education, agriculture, food, behaviour change campaigns), to support Timor-Leste to locally produce 49.3 metric tons (mts) of fortified rice, and with direct delivery of services, UN was able to provide food to around 39,561 nutritionally vulnerable individuals. The UN also advocated for increasing the Government's focus on nutrition, food security, and sustainable agriculture, leading to the approval of the National Breastfeeding Campaign – the campaign is very critical, given that the driver of malnutrition in Timor-Leste, one of the highest in the world, is because of poor breastfeeding practices fuelled by social norms.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2**SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES AND DECENT
WORK FOR ALL**

The UN system supported the Government of Timor-Leste to reduce poverty and create sustainable economic opportunities by diversifying the country's economy. This was done through facilitating consultations on the blue economy and a Loan Guarantee Facility scheme and providing initial capital to provide young people with access to business financing and make local businesses more resilient. The establishment and rehabilitation of approximately 320 km of rural roads this year provided economic opportunities, access to markets, and social services to more than 17,000 individuals living in rural areas. Additionally, UN provided technical assistance for the development and launching of a national strategy for social protection to support families and children most impacted by crisis.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3****EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT
AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING
OUTCOMES AND SKILLS**

The national education system has taken critical steps towards its transformation through rigorous assessments, evaluations, participatory discussions, policymaking, capacity building, and the provision of school materials and facilities. UN advocacy activities have yielded great results, including the Government's official participation in the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization. Students have improved their access to education with the support of the UN and its partners, including distance-learning assistance to 15,220 students through the national educational broadcasting system in the aftermath of COVID-19. Schools have improved their WASH facilities' proper installations, education, and training for students, teachers, and their communities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4**QUALITY HEALTHCARE
AND WELL-BEING**

UN agencies have been working closely with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to establish critical care units in all five referral hospitals across the country, which increased immunisation coverage and a significant reduction in maternal and child mortality rates. UN agencies have also provided technical support for developing crucial policies and guidelines, including the National Medicines Policy, Essential Medicines List, and Essential Diagnostic List, while actively supporting the Ministry of Health in developing and operating their Health Management Information System. The UN is committed to developing the capacity of healthcare workers by providing competency-building training programmes in emergency care, infection control, surveillance, immunisation, and more. The UN advocacy efforts have helped increase pro-health taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks, resulting in a significant boost to domestic revenues. The UN have also been instrumental in developing various health-related policies and guidelines, such as the National TB, HIV, and Malaria strategies, integrated health services, and a national strategy for NCD prevention and management.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5**ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUSIVE
AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE
AND QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES**

UN supported the country in organising the two rounds for the Presidential elections, the first and runoff successfully. The Government started to operate the Migration Information Data Analysis System (MIDAS) to strengthen its border management strategy with UN support. In addition, a remittance mobilisation strategy and diaspora engagement policy were developed. The national parliament approved the first protection law for children, the Law for Protection of Children and Youth in Danger. Legal frameworks for the National Institute for Social Impact (INIS) and Child and Family Welfare Policy were finalised and tabled in the Council of Ministers for approval. The Secretary of State for Youth and Sports (SSYS), with UN support, launched operational guidance on the right to involvement of adolescents and youth with disabilities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6**SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

Important steps were taken under the strategic priority for sustainable natural resource management and resilience, including ratifying the Kigali Amendment and improving existing national regulations to better prepare and cope with the risks of disasters and shocks. Enhancing the national early warning system was another key priority for Timor-Leste, successfully implemented through strong joint efforts of multi-stakeholders. The LNOB principals were ensured in disaster response. Government partners greatly increased their capacities for resilience, including establishing various management systems for sustainable land and coastal management. Communities gained sustainable, renewable energy sources and improved their abilities to adapt to climate change and build sustainable landscape management, climate-resilient sustainable agriculture and value chains.



2.2 UNSDCF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY, AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

By 2025, nutrition, food security and agricultural productivity have improved for all, irrespective of individual ability, gender, age, socio-economic status and geographical location.



39,561

out of 300,000 nutritionally vulnerable people received food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening transfers with UN support in 2022⁴



82

governmental and non-governmental institutions increased their capacity to design, implement and fund policies preventing and reducing malnutrition and promoting healthy diets with UN support in 2022⁵



10

out of 14 municipalities benefited from Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions with UN support in 2022⁶

Contributing agencies





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY, AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Timor-Leste made significant strides in improving nutrition, food security, and sustainable agriculture policies and coordination, with the support of the UN. The Government developed the breastmilk substitute code (BMC) and the food fortification decree law, established the joint codex secretariat, and initiated constitution processes of the national codex committee to strengthen the food security and safety systems. With UN support, the MoH re-activated the national committee for iodine deficiency disorders (NCCIDD) control, adopted the demographic health information system (DHIS2) platform, and integrated nutrition supplies into a list of essential medicines.

The Government and the UN worked collaboratively to collect SDGs baseline data to track national progress toward SDGs achievement.⁷ The first-ever national food control system assessment was conducted with multi-sectoral stakeholders, including the UN. The national council for food security, sovereignty and nutrition in Timor-Leste (KONSSANTIL) collaborated with the UN to conduct the acute integrated food security phase classification (IPC) analyses, a multi-sector, standard

global tool for assessing the food security situation. Meanwhile, KONSSANTIL, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) and the UN jointly published monthly market monitoring reports and food security bulletins.

Government staff boosted their capacities for nutrition and food security management through training with UN support. Around 150 MoH staff participated in training to manage supplementary feeding programmes, while the National Institute of Health (INS) and local NGOs collaborated with the UN to train around 2,480 health workers and mother support group members in 12 municipalities on infant and young child feeding (IYCF). About 190 agriculture extension officers bolstered their capacities for planning, monitoring, and evaluating the agriculture sector investment with UN support. The National Logistics Centre (CLN) built its capacity to locally produce and blend fortified rice, yielding 49.3 metric tons (mts) this year. Approximately 880 government officers, farmers and students increased their knowledge on the Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) through training supported by UN.

Two municipalities further increased food security by utilising two domestic rice millers for fortified rice production with comprehensive training sessions assisted by the UN. Meanwhile, 101 farmer groups, of which 3,000 rural households are members, increased their capacities with UN's technical assistance and provision of agricultural inputs and machineries. Additionally, 846 farmers participated in bio-pesticide production and application to control fall army worm.

Around 25,000 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers received fortified corn-soy blend supplementary foods, while approximately 4,000 children benefited from the improved acute malnutrition management services with UN support. The UN also supported the Government in procuring 574 mts of fortified supplementary nutritious food to prevent and treat malnutrition for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers across the country.

The multi-year project Say No to 5S⁸ was initiated this year for WASH promotion and advocacy, as well as nutrition, food security and deworming administration supported by the UN and KOICA. Through WASH interventions, around 160 communities achieved open defecation-free (ODF) status this year by taking a Community-Led Total

Sanitation approach, 102 households increased their water availability⁹ by developing water conservation practices and reforesting their areas. The MoH installed eight mini-laboratories at their ministry for water quality verification and disabled-friendly and gender-segregated toilets at seven community health centres. Additionally, the MoH received UN support to launch the National Strategy of Environmental Health and Climate Change 2022-2026 and Guidelines on Healthcare Waste Management, orient health workers, conduct evaluations, and complete the UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-water (GLASS) Survey.

Remarkable progress was made in advocating for increasing the Government's focus on nutrition, food security, and sustainable agriculture. The Prime Minister's Office continued the national scaling up nutrition (SUN) movement with joint efforts between multi-stakeholders, including a three-member delegation, the President, the Prime Minister, parliamentarians, youth, civil society organisations (CSOs), media, and the UN. The National Breastfeeding Campaign obtained government approval this year, owing to UN advocacy.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

By 2025, institutions and people throughout Timor-Leste in all their diversity, especially women and youth, benefit from sustainable economic opportunities and decent work to reduce poverty.



Over **17,000** individuals living in rural areas obtained economic opportunities and access to markets and social services through approximately 320 km of road establishment and rehabilitation



Nearly **100,000** families in five municipalities with high stunting rates in the country received support from the Government's one-off payment



472 private sector entities with improved performance, business transactions, and income generation resulted from UN support in 2022¹⁰

Contributing agencies





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

This year, the Government and UN were able to align sectoral and national financing strategies with the SGDs through the Integrated Financing Framework (INFF), while the country further aimed to bring about a blue economy and produced a range of knowledge products dedicated to blue economy financing, conducted the Blue Talk advocacy events, and implemented pilots to explore potential value chains for marine resources, such as seaweed. The efforts to diversify the blue economy aimed to cope with the country's increased risk to fiscal sustainability with the gradual depletion of the Petroleum Fund and unclear prospects of additional revenues from oil and gas. Meanwhile, local businesses received support to become economically more sustainable and resilient. The support included a joint programme assisting women entrepreneurs in three municipalities to respond to increased inflation and energy prices and facilitate a green energy transition. The UN also supported innovative business models, which aim to link youth-led enterprises to business development services and finance.

The Government collaborated with the UN to reinforce the national social protection system against the lingering effects of the COVID-19 economic slowdown. The Government launched the national strategy for social protection 2021-2022 this year while closely working with the UN and development partners for the Unique ID and Cash Plus initiatives. The Cash Plus initiatives include the new generation Bolsa da Mãe, which aims to support pregnant women and young children economically. Nearly 100,000 families in five municipalities with the highest stunting rate in the country received support from the Government's one-off payment of US\$200 with nutrition messages-included calendars. Over 17,000 individuals living in rural areas obtained economic opportunities and access to markets and social services owing to the establishment and rehabilitation of around 320 km of rural roads with UN support this year.



Critical steps were taken to ensure the protection of the rights of children. The UN finalised and submitted the child labour national action plan to the Government and is now waiting for approval. For a better understanding of child labour, the government partners and the UN conducted qualitative research on the drivers of child labour, a joint survey on knowledge, attitudes and practices on child labour, and a gap analysis on national legislations for the harmonisation of age limits with the age of completion of compulsory schooling.

The Government aimed to combat human trafficking by allocating funds towards counter-trafficking activities that enhanced the country's law enforcement capacity and led to the implementation of Victim Identification and Referral Guidelines on human trafficking.

National data systems were strengthened through a series of initiatives with the UN. The Government completed the national census successfully with UN technical assistance, paving the way for fresh measurements of key indicators. The census methodology included the revision of questions to make the census more disability-inclusive, with UN contribution. The high frequency (HiFy) survey, the first phone survey in Timor-Leste, was conducted with UN support to inform policies that respond to the challenges of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN also supported the establishment of the technical working group for social protection statistics, particularly to calculate the SDG Indicator 1.3.1 for the 1st Bulletin of Statistics of Social Protection. Other flagship publications that the UN supported include the Labour Force Survey 2021 and the Enterprise and Skills Survey Report 2022.

IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF TIMORESE YOUTH WITH STRONG GOVERNMENT TRUST

The Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Skills (YEES) project was launched this year to improve capacity building and sustainable economic opportunities for the young generation, including those who returned to Timor Leste from abroad. The project secured funding from the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Government of Timor-Leste through the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (MTCI), and the UN.

With the Government's strong trust and support, the UN and the MTCI led the operation of the Loan Guarantee Facility under the YEES project. The Government in Timor Leste prepared a budget of US\$50 million to grow the facility. To date, 37 micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) have received access to soft loans, totaling around US\$572,400. Around one-third of the MSMEs were led by women. The soft loans are expected to enable better financial access, fostering youth entrepreneurship and supporting the reintegration of returnee migrants.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING OUTCOMES AND SKILLS

By 2025, all people of Timor-Leste, regardless of gender identity, abilities, geographic location and particular vulnerabilities, have increased access to quality formal and innovative learning pathways (from early childhood through lifelong learning) and acquire foundational, transferable, digital and job-specific skills.



Over **187,000** teaching materials were co-produced by teachers, UN, and the MoEYS¹



Over **2,500** science and mathematics teachers completed teachers' training



Around **5,000** students attended the school readiness programme and strengthened their reading skills



7 sector policy, planning and financing frameworks reviewed and aligned with SDG 4 with UN support in 2022¹²

Contributing agencies





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING OUTCOMES AND SKILLS

Timor-Leste has strengthened its joint efforts to transform the national education system. The UN facilitated over 500 representatives from the Government, civil society organisations (CSOs), organisations for persons with disabilities (OPD), students, teachers, and development partners gathered to discuss COVID-19 pandemic-related learning recovery, the pivotal role of teachers, digital technologies, and strengthening public financing in preparation for the Transforming Education Summit convened by the UN Secretary General. The process culminated in a National Statement of Commitment, endorsed by the President of the Republic, to transform education in Timor-Leste.

The country conducted key assessments and evaluations, including the first nationally representative learning assessment, a comprehensive assessment of ICT infrastructure and human capacity in general secondary and vocational schools, an education situation analysis, and monitoring indicators policy briefs for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Additionally, a country-led

evaluation of the preschool education sub-sector was finalised to inform future preschool policies and programming. Meanwhile, the UN and development partners collaborated to finalise the preschool management decree law and submitted it to the Government to endorse community-based preschools' (CBPS) sustainability. With joint advocacy from the UN, government officials participated in the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization for the 2024 round of the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics and developed and approved the school feeding (SF) decree law.

Schools have significantly improved their teaching materials and facilities. Supported by the UN, pre- and basic education schools obtained over 2 million study materials for their students, along with teacher guidelines to mitigate the impacts of the children's learning losses. With UN support, schools increased their access to water and toilets through small grants for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and guidelines on a community-led solution to access water. Group handwashing stations were installed

in 30 primary education schools. The government partners and the UN successfully supported 787 out-of-school and in-school students to enjoy comprehensive sex education (CSE) programmes, including their peer educators' mentoring activities.

To improve access to and completion of quality basic and secondary education, over 2,500 science and mathematics teachers completed teachers' training and co-produced over 187,000 teaching materials supported by the UN and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS). Meanwhile, around 540 students and teachers completed ICT training and acquired two computer labs at their schools, supported by the UN and the MoEYS. Approximately 5,000 students also participated in the school readiness programme and strengthened their reading skills. For menstrual hygiene management, 340 female students and teachers attended training on reusable sanitary pads. Nineteen schools collaborated with community leaders and parents of students to encourage their students to participate in school activities and management.



ADVANCING SCIENCE EDUCATION THROUGH EDUCATIONAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM DURING COVID-19 IN TIMOR-LESTE

In response to COVID-19, the Government and the UN collaborated to advance the national Educational Broadcasting System (EBS) to ensure the continuation of basic science education. School-aged children were able to continue their science education through the EBS, which is accessible for free and covers all of Timor-Leste's territory. This year, the EBS produced around 160 broadcasted episodes for quality learning of all cycles for students and teachers, enabling them to complete their distance learning through the EBS.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

QUALITY HEALTHCARE AND WELL-BEING

By 2025, the people of Timor-Leste increasingly demand and have access to gender-responsive equitable, high quality, resilient and inclusive Primary Health Care and strengthened social protection, including in time of emergencies.



1.3 million
people benefited from the UN-supported health services in 2022¹³



32
out of 41 scores rated as a strength level of the primary health care system supported by UN in 2022¹⁴



12
national policies on health developed and adopted¹⁵ in accord with human rights standards with UN support in 2022

Contributing agencies





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

QUALITY HEALTHCARE AND WELL-BEING

Timor-Leste has made significant strides in improving its primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare systems with the support of the UN. Through concerted efforts, healthcare facilities completed training on various approaches, including Saude na Familia, which utilises a participatory diagnostic approach to strengthen the capacity of primary healthcare workers. Community health workers were revitalised, deworming initiatives were conducted in schools, and maternity centres received upgrades in basic emergency obstetric and newborn care (BEmONC) and comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) training.

Moreover, family planning and mobile clinic services training was provided in four municipalities, and antenatal and post-natal care (ANC-PNC) at healthcare facilities was strengthened with the national standards for WASH guidelines and protocols. To enhance awareness, training was conducted on HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) prevention, transmission, and treatment. Key populations were encouraged to undergo HIV testing, while community

health centres (CHCs) received maternal, newborn, and child health care (MNCH) equipment across six municipalities.

Emergency and critical care capabilities were enhanced, including the establishment of critical care units in all regional and referral hospitals and training of health workers, alongside the implementation of cervical cancer screening to aid in the detection and control of the disease.

Basic Chest Radiology training for community-based active tuberculosis (TB) screening was provided to medical doctors in five municipalities.¹⁶ Around 68,000 individuals were screened for TB in three municipalities¹⁷ and around 860 health personnel were trained to support in strengthening the national health system to end TB. TB peer educators' training modules were designed with the UN's help. Also Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) training was rolled out to monitor maternal and perinatal death. To combat COVID-19, WHO, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health (MoH) scaled

up COVID-19 vaccination at all primary healthcare facility levels, which contributed to 64 per cent of the population receiving at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccination.

The digitalisation of the health system continued with upgrades to the DHIS2 to include programme indicators and the development of dashboards to monitor indicators' completeness and timeliness. The supply chain systems were improved with the training of 67 key service providers in the use of mSupply software, and regional warehouses were established with cold chain capacities to store Pfizer vaccines and routine antigens. Meanwhile, the first digitalised population and housing census 2022 was completed, and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) obtained technical, financial, and logistic support to expand digital health technology at the sub-national level.

Peer-support groups were formed in four municipalities to help individuals quit tobacco and provide psychosocial support. Awareness campaigns were conducted on gender-based violence (GBV), and three safe spaces against GBV were established. The third National Action Plan on GBV was developed, and interventions were designed to support survivors. Awareness campaigns were conducted in 16 schools on preventing early pregnancy, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and GBV. For youth, the UN implemented Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) programmes in both in-school and out-of-school settings with local CSOs, using the Boys and Girls Circle manual to promote gender-equitable norms and behaviours in 16 schools and 103 participants. The UN continued to extend critical health procurement assistance to the Government of Timor-Leste, which included implementing a US\$12 million procurement for essential medicines and health equipment and capacity building. Through all these initiatives, Timor-Leste has made significant progress in improving its healthcare system, providing access to essential services, and creating awareness on critical health issues.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES

By 2025, the most excluded people of Timor-Leste will be empowered to claim their rights, including freedom from violence, through accessibility, accountability and gender.



Significant progress made in meaningful participation of right-holders, especially women and discriminated groups, supported by the UN in 2022¹⁸



Substantial oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms are in place and functioning, which conforms to international human rights standards, with UN support in 2022¹⁹



9 measures implemented with UN support to gender equality and women's empowerment in 2022²⁰



3 gender-responsive, conflict-sensitive development institutions, policies, plans, or cross-border initiatives in place, with UN support in 2022

Contributing agencies





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES

Women, children, migrants and people with disability (PWD) being the priority in this results area as they are considered vulnerable in building up the democratic inclusive governance. To continue collaborating with the UN towards the SP5 outcome goal, the Government established the Migration Information Data Analysis System (MIDAS) in December 2022, which is fully operated and owned by the Government, allowing them to collect, store, process and analyse data of travellers in real time. Frontline border officials and other Migration Services officers were trained for capacity building on migration management. The Government also developed the remittance mobilisation strategy and diaspora engagement policy to strengthen its border management with UN support.

The UN supported democratic efforts in the country by aiding in two rounds of presidential elections and strengthening the capacity for broad-based participation through civic education campaigns for young voters, braille literacy training for

voters with disabilities, rehabilitation for electoral administration, and supporting a national strategy to strengthen women's leadership in elections. With UN support, the national parliament approved the first protection law for children, the Law for Protection of Children and Youth in Danger. Additionally, legal frameworks for the National Institute for Social Impact (INIS) and Child and Family Welfare Policy were finalised and tabled in the Council of Ministers for approval. The UN also supported the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports (SSYS) to strengthen adolescent and youth civic participation, promoting child-responsive planning and budgeting at local and national levels. Around 100 sub-national SSYS staff completed capacity-building training. SSYS, with UN support, launched operational guidance on the right to involvement of adolescents and youth with disabilities.

As a result of sustained efforts and advocacy by the UN, government partners including the PNTL Training Center, Ministry of Defence, F-FDTL, and PDHJ²¹ have

built their capacities on human rights issues, with a focus on the use of force according to international standards and the protection of vulnerable groups. The Government of Timor-Leste, with support from UN agencies, has reviewed the implications raised by all human rights mechanisms related to the rights of persons with disabilities, LGBTQI+ rights, and children. Additionally, the UN and government partners successfully supported the Fact-Checking Alliance by convening 30 representatives from media outlets, organisations, CSOs and academia to secure media commitments and plan concrete steps for launching the national alliance.

The third National Action Plan (NAP) on GBV was approved this year, recommitting politically to accelerated actions on GBV through a multi-sectoral, comprehensive and coordinated approach.²² The UN Supported Phase II of NAP 1325 towards enhancing the participation of women and vulnerable groups in mediation, peace processes, and peace agreements, and increasing women and youth participation as frontline mediators in building peace and contributing to the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda. The National Mediation Network was established through UN support with consultations involving line ministries and local CSOs to ensure women and vulnerable groups have access to justice systems in Timor-Leste.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

By 2025, national and sub-national institutions and communities (particularly at-risk populations, including women and children) in Timor-Leste will be better able to manage natural resources and achieve enhanced resilience to climate change impacts, natural and human-induced hazards, and environmental degradation inclusively and sustainably.



21,000 ha
preserved as Marine Protected Area (MPA) for sustainable land management, supported by the UN in 2022²³



1,000
households reached by clean, affordable, and sustainable energy with UN support in 2022²⁴

Contributing agencies





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Timor-Leste continued its efforts to improve resilience against disasters and shocks. This year, the Government ratified the Kigali Amendment and finalised the legal text to include hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) control into the existing national regulations. National entities, implementing partners, and the UN were actively involved in implementing the new Green Climate Fund (GCF) project to enhance the national early warning system and build better resilience to hydro-meteorological hazards, enabling Timor-Leste to acquire funding through the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF). With the continued advocacy of the UN and humanitarian partners, the Civil Protection Authority (CPA) increased its commitment to integrating gender equality and protection concerns into disaster response, particularly addressing the needs of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities (PwDs), and LGBTQI+ groups, as stated in the draft national disaster emergency plan.

Government partners have significantly increased their capacity for resilience. The CPA and the National Directorate of Meteorology and Geophysics (NDMG) have increased their capacity to provide weather forecasting and early warning systems through the establishment of the Disaster Aware platform. Seventy CPA staff and municipal commanders have improved their understanding of gender-responsive and inclusive disaster risk management through joint training on gender-responsive and inclusive DRR. Other exercises and knowledge management products that have built capacity include multi-hazard vulnerability and risk assessments (MHVRA) dynamic maps and models, the Renewable Energy Decree Law, research on sea-level rise and coastal erosion, community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM) manuals, and the Joint Meeting of the South Asia, Southeast Asia and Pacific Island Countries Networks of National Ozone Officers.

For sustainable natural resource management, government partners have made great efforts to establish the national environmental information system (NEIS), local integrated coastal management (ICM), the spatial data infrastructures (SDI) lab at the national command centre, and climate-proofed rural road infrastructure in four municipalities, with UN support. The water authority (ANAS) and the UN have started coordination and discussion on the groundwater management project this year. At the community level, 25 villages located in remote areas have gained 4,000 highly efficient solar lamp systems supported by the UN. The community-based water catchment management project has enabled 15 sub-villages to significantly improve water retention and groundwater recharge, including educating school children on the importance of water catchment management. For rural communities, multi-stakeholders have made joint efforts to increase the communities' abilities to adapt to climate change and build enabling sustainable land management. In the project, the communities have focused on ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), sustainable landscape management, climate-resilient sustainable agriculture, and value chains.



RECOVERING FROM DISASTERS AND SHOCKS WITH EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUPPORT

The UN partners have provided support to Timor-Leste's National Services of Ambulance & Medical Emergency to establish Health Emergency Operation and e-Health Learning Centres, and conduct training on public health disaster management.

In the aftermath of COVID-19, Cyclone Seroja dramatically inflated food and fuel prices, and families in Timor-Leste received emergency response assistance with the support of the UN and its partners. Over seven southern coast municipalities and 29,000 pregnant and breastfeeding mothers nationwide received food distribution to cope with the disasters and shocks. Community health centres (CHCs) were able to obtain and distribute 574 mts of super cereals to households with the UN's technical and financial support.

Joint efforts with multi-stakeholders were highlighted for their effective emergency responses this year. The civil protection authority (CPA), the national logistics centre, and the UN collaborated on logistics for the emergency responses, funded by the Government of India for US\$62,314. The UN and the Department of Quarantine and Bio-Security (DNQB) cooperated to conduct national food quality and pest surveys and to improve the IT equipment and funds to undertake three separate surveys across 13 districts.



ON THE PROMISE TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND (LNOB)

GENDER SCORECARD

The 2022 UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality (GE) Scorecard report focused on five performance indicators that were identified as needing further improvement in the 2021 annual progress report in Timor-Leste. Of these indicators, three showed

significant achievements in engagement with government and civil society organisations (CSOs), as well as the gender ratios of the UN workforce in the country. The UNSDCF monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and gender mainstreaming capacities maintained their previous scores.

Indicators	Previous score	2022 score
Engagement with Government	Meets requirements	Exceeds requirements
Engagement with women's and gender equality CSOs	Meets requirements	Exceeds requirements
Gender parity	Approaches requirements	Meets Requirements
UNSDCF M&E	Meets requirements	Meets requirements
Capacities for gender mainstreaming	Approaches requirements	Approaches requirements

Note: the assessment scale consists of "Not assessed since baseline - Missing requirements - Approaches requirements - Meets requirements - Exceeds requirements".

YOUTH SCORECARD

In 2022, the youth scorecard assessment showed improvements in two additional indicators to meet or exceed minimum requirements compared to the previous year. The assessment was conducted across five areas: 1) youth focus in UNSDCF, 2) UNCT leadership, culture, architecture, and capacities for youth, 3) UNCT support to the Government on youth and SDGs, 4) UNCT's youth-led solutions, Knowledge Exchange, Communication and Advocacy, and 5) UNCT's support to youth, COVID-19 response and recovery.

DISABILITY SCORECARD

Of the 14 indicators, the UNCT Timor-Leste showed improvements in two. For strengthening data on persons with disabilities (PwDs), the Government received UN support to improve disability-disaggregated data, showing many gaps in the national census and the demographic health survey (DHS) in the previous years. For disability inclusion to be mainstreamed in humanitarian planning and response, the UN exceed requirements by increasing coordination works to better respond to and capture the needs of PwDs. The Joint Preparedness Plan 2021-2022 for future humanitarian situations ensured the inclusion of PwDs. The PwDs and their respective organisations participated in the humanitarian coordination mechanisms, providing insights and expertise on the specific needs of PwDs.



LNOB: TOWARDS A MORE DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

In Timor-Leste, the UN system, along with government partners and civil society organisations, continued their efforts to make a more inclusive society for persons with disabilities (PwDs). Examples include the UN support for the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports (SSYS) compound to equip it with ramp and facilities to be more accessible to youth with disabilities. The UN contributed to the development of operational guidance on the rights of children and youth with disabilities, which helped the Government and development partners to effectively cope with multi-dimensional barriers and be more involved with youth with disabilities.

The national statistics office also revised their questions for the national census to be more disability inclusive. With the UN contribution, the office and multi-stakeholders collaborated to adopt the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability, which will help identifying the needs of people with disabilities, playing a key role in policymaking.

These achievements are a testament to the power of collaboration and a shared commitment to creating a more inclusive society for all. The partners involved will continue to work towards this goal, and hope to see further progress in the years to come.

FOR BETTER LNOB PROGRESS IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM)

The draft national DRM Policy 2019-2023 acknowledged children, women, and persons with disabilities (PwDs) as vulnerable groups, but there is a need for further discussions and plans to include them in risk assessments, capacity development, and DRR planning. The text highlights the lack of progress towards including these vulnerable groups in disaster risk management despite their identification in the policy.

2.3 PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS: THE SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

The Spotlight Initiative aimed to demonstrate how a significant, concerted and comprehensive investment in ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) and achieving gender equality can make a lasting difference in the lives of women and girls and in the achievement of all SDGs. The success of the programme's implementation in Timor-Leste relied on strong partnership between the EU, the UN, the Government, and civil society organisations (CSOs). The partnership was further institutionalised in the programme's governance mechanism in the form of a steering committee, which included representatives from the donor (EU), Recipient UN Organisations (RUNOs), the Government and relevant line ministries, and CSOs through the Civil Society National Reference Group.

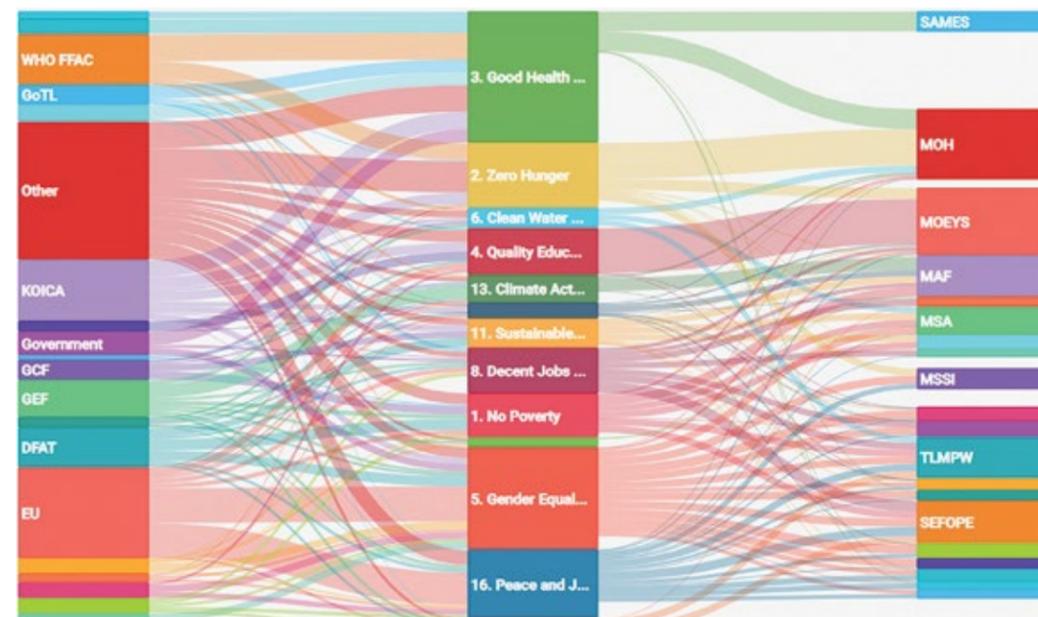
On the programme implementation side, the programme was further strengthened with close CSO engagement and collaboration. The Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG) is an institutional mechanism that brings in civil society participation and expertise. The CS-NRG advised the Spotlight Timor-Leste Programme, advocated and formed partnership with the UN in support of the Timor-Leste Programme to achieve its objectives.

The Spotlight Initiative was funded by EU with over US\$14 million for up to three years as part of a global partnership

with the UN backed by EUR €500 million to address gender inequality. The EU funding was complemented by the UN's own through RUNOs for 10 per cent of the total budget and focused on three target municipalities - Bobonaro, Ermera and Viqueque - in addition to a national programme. The Spotlight Initiative was a significant, concerted and comprehensive investment in gender equality and ending violence to make a transformative difference in the lives of women and girls, and it supported concrete measures to end violence.

As part of this initiative, significant funding between 2019 and 2023 was set aside for Timor-Leste to develop and implement a strategy to tackle address intimate partner violence, supporting the National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence (NAP GBV) strategy led by the Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion. The Spotlight Initiative programme was also complemented by another EVAW programme funded by KOICA called "Together for Equality". This programme addresses sexual violence, domestic violence (DV), and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in supporting of the Government effort to prevent GBV and improve essential health and justice sector responses to GBV survivors. KOICA's funding of US \$7.7 million covered four municipalities including Baucau, Covalima, Dili and Raeoa.

FUNDING, CONTRIBUTING AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS, AND THE SDGS IN TIMOR-LESTE



Note: From the left to the right, the figure shows the funding flows from contributing partners, SDGs, and implementing partners.

2.4 ONE UN TIMOR-LESTE, WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER

In Timor-Leste, UN agencies continued to work together as One UN under the UNSDCF, ensuring coherence, effectiveness and efficiency across six thematic and operational areas.

GENDER THEMATIC GROUP (GTG)

The UN Gender Theme Group served as the collective gender think tank of the UN to influence gender-responsive national legislation, programming, policies and national budgets through agency-level programming and advocacy. In 2022, the GTG committed to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) in line with Timor-Leste's national commitments and international obligations by evaluating the current status through joint mechanisms and reporting, along with close Gender Coordination. The GTG led the UNCT-SWAP GE Scorecard Annual Progress Reporting 2022 and supported the development of the Country Gender Equality Profile (CGEP) with UN Women to ensure the systematic monitoring of Timor-Leste's commitments towards the achievement of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and SDGs. The GTG supported PSEA workshops organised by UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women for Implementing Partners (IPs) and PSEA UN Focal Points. In total, 10 UN agencies and 36 partner organisations were trained. Advanced Gender Coordination was undertaken through partnership frameworks and coordination meetings, including the Gender Equality Coordination Group (GECG) and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Coordination Group (GEWECG).

MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) GROUP

The UN M&E Group provided M&E technical support to UNSDCF (United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework) Results Groups (RGs) and to UNCT. In 2022, the M&E group conducted two regular meetings before the RGs meeting to collectively understand their tasks. As a result, the M&E group, through its RG focal point, supported the RGs' 2022 annual review and 2023 annual planning, including the 2022 mid-year review processes and adjusting some of the UNSDCF indicator baseline and targets on the available data in the UN INFO system. The M&E group supported the RGs with their inputs to the first UNSDCF annual One UN Country Results Report. With the support of the M&E group, the 2022 Information Management System (IMS) surveys for coordination, programmatic, and normative areas were completed and submitted.

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT TEAM (OMT)

The UN in Timor-Leste shared the common Premises whereby efficiency via economies of scale was critical. The OMT of Timor-Leste supported the harmonisation of Common Premises long-term agreements (LTAs), resulting in three new and one renewed LTAs on security service, cleaning and gardening service, pest control service, building and maintenance service, waste and liquid collection and One Internet solution. Harmonising common LTAs resulted in efficiency gains for UN agencies, forming part of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS), in which 12 UN agencies participated.²⁵ Through the consolidated efforts supported by OMT, the UNCT Timor-Leste became one of the first countries in the region to complete and sign the BOS initiative. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the OMT was crucial in supporting UNCT in making timely decisions and WHO in two vaccination roll-out programmes for the UN Staff and dependents. The OMT also made good progress in developing a business case for further expansion of the solarisation project in the UN Compound to be fully powered via solar energy, for which work will continue into 2023.

SECURITY MANAGEMENT TEAM (SMT)

The SMT provided regular advice and support to review the prevailing security situation and ensure effective management at all locations within the Designated Area where United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) personnel were present. They reviewed, maintained, and implemented Security Risk Management (SRM) measures established in accordance with UNSMS policies, and approved the Locally Cost-Shared Security Budget and security plan for Timor-Leste.

UN COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (UNCG)

Communicating as One is critical to ensuring the strategic positioning of the UN in Timor-Leste, in the context of the UN System Reform. Supported by the UN Communications Group and spearheaded by the Regional Coordinator’s Office, the power of joint communications has helped strengthen its one voice in line with national priorities, UNSDCF, and Agenda 2030 by focusing on developing common messages and policy positions, enhancing the outreach of the UN System by pooling efforts, and supporting communications about the UN’s comparative advantages.

Joint communications has strengthened the response and impact of the UN in Timor-Leste on critical areas and events, including COVID-19, Cyclone Seroja, celebrations of key UN days, the Cesta Basica Social Protection Programme, EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19, Diversification of the Economy Analysis, US\$30 million Humanitarian Appeal, COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, Nutrition and the Food Systems Summit 2021, Presidential Elections 2022, Timor-Leste’s accession to ASEAN/CTBTO/WTO, Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, and the Census 2022. The Government’s appreciation and recognition of the UN’s continued support on national priorities proves that the UN in Timor-Leste is telling its story much better.

YOUTH GROUP

The UN Youth Results Group continued to support the training of over 500 youth as facilitators and engaged other national youth organisations through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative and Together for Equality (T4E) projects with the substantial ownership and leadership from the Secretary of State of Youth and Sport (SSYS). The projects included around 60 youths to be trained as facilitators and engaged with 29 national youth organisations and SSYS municipal youth focal points for sensitisation of young people in the community. According to the pre-and post-tests during the training of trainers (ToT), those newly trained youth representatives enhanced their knowledge and attitudes on SRH and GBV and facilitation skills by about 30 per cent. Another highlight of 2022 was UN’s engagement in the development of the National Action Plan on Youth (2023-2027), including the M/E framework, costing and mapping exercises. UN also focused its attention on the development and promotion of entrepreneurship and employability opportunities for youth in Timor-Leste, including ICT education and financial literacy. Finally, several initiatives also took place to promote youth political participation, including the revision of the Youth Parliament curricula to include issues related to gender and SRH as well as civic participation.

2.5 EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The UN Timor-Leste will update the conclusions, lessons and implications of the UNSDCF evaluation report in 2024 (planned). Prior to this, UN RCO is planning a review of the Results Groups and UNSDCF to review alignment to global processes around Transforming Education Summit, Just Transitions and Food Security, the Voluntary National review to be

presented in July, and aspirations of the Government of Timor-Leste on ASEAN and WTO ascension and potential LDC graduation/delay. This is to ensure that the UNSDCF is still fit for purpose, and able to support government in the acceleration of the achievement of the SDGs.

2.6 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

In 2022, the UN had a required budget of US\$84.7 million for the UNSDCF implementation in Timor-Leste. Of this amount, US\$80 million was obtained, leaving a funding gap of US\$4.7 million. The UN was able to spend a total of US\$48.6 million, resulting in an overall delivery rate of 65 per cent.

The second strategic priority of the UNSDCF, which aims to enhance sustainable economic opportunities and decent work for all, had the highest delivery rate of 84 per cent this year. Priority 3, which centres on early childhood development and life-long learning outcomes, followed with a delivery rate of 74 per cent.

UNSDCF Strategic Priorities (SPs)	Total Required Resources (US\$ million)	Available Resources	Expenditure	Delivery Rate (Expenditures vs. Available Resources)
SP1. NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY, AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE	12.3	10.1	5.6	55 %
SP2. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL	9.8	9.5	8	84 %
SP3. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING OUTCOMES AND SKILLS	7.6	7.4	5.5	74 %
SP4. QUALITY HEALTHCARE AND WELL-BEING	16.4	14.4	10.4	72 %
SP5. ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES	16.3	18.4	12.2	66 %
SP6. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE	22.3	20.3	6.8	334%

The total funding amount through joint programmes was around US\$25 million this year. Of the total of eight joint programmes, three were newly initiated in 2022 with around US\$0.78 million of funding from

UNTFHS, PUNOS, UNPRPD²⁶ and SDGs Fund to improve the human rights of women, persons with disabilities (PwDs), and economic and environmental well-being of households in rural areas.

Fund	Joint Programme	Amount
Initiated in 2022		
UNTFHS PUNOs	Cash for Work for Improved Rural Communities’ Livelihoods and Employment (CIRCLE)	US\$ 0.53 million
UNPRPD	Empower for inclusion to eliminate violence against women and girls with disabilities in Timor-Leste	US\$ 0.1 million
SDGs Fund	Entrepreneurship, Energy and Empowerment for Women	US\$ 0.15 million
Continued in 2022		
EU	Spotlight Initiative	US\$ 14.2 million
KOICA	Together for Equality	US\$ 7.7 million
SDGs Fund	Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) and Financial Diversification in Timor-Leste	US\$ 1 million
SDGs Fund	Strengthening national food systems and promoting disaster risk reduction (DRR)	US\$ 0.95 million
UNTFHS	Assessing vulnerabilities and resilience in border communities in Timor-Leste through the human security approach in the context of COVID-19	US\$ 0.3 million

CHAPTER 3

UNCT KEY FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

2023 will be a crucial year for Timor-Leste as political elections planned in May can present a potential new government with new and updated priorities, challenges, and opportunities. The United Nations Country Team will be positioning UN system as partners of choice through provision of policy advice, technical assistance, potential implementers of scaled up interventions on transforming education, food systems, on decentralisation and public sector reforms, including implementation of fiscal reforms and supporting an intentional resource allocation to decentralised structures and preparing government for commitments to SDG Summit, and Summit of the Future, in accelerating to the Government's vision and strategy to achieve SDGs for its people.

The UNCT will have the key task of supporting the country in approaching accession to ASEAN with a clear strategy and a focus on ensuring that membership benefits are shared equitably among the population. With careful planning and sustained effort, Timor-Leste can leverage its membership in ASEAN to build a more prosperous and sustainable future for its people.

In 2023, the Government of Timor-Leste will present its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High-Level Political Forum in New York as the country is coming out of the COVID-19 global pandemic, and also conduct a mid-term evaluation of the National Strategic Development Plan. The theme for the second VNR is "People-Centred Sustainable Development: Leaving No One Behind," and the UNCT will play an essential role in facilitating the national consultation process and technical review of the SDGs.

The UN will continue to support the country, focusing on advancing gender equality, promoting and protecting human rights, advancing human security, addressing inequalities to encourage inclusion, building resilience, and promoting digitisation. As Timor-Leste continues to be vulnerable to disasters and other socio-economic shocks and challenges, the United Nations will continue to support the country in its journey towards further development, economic diversification, addressing inequalities, and advocating for human rights and adequate connectivity.

Through its Results Group, the UNCT will strive to act as a think tank to identify entry points to better align and support the Government in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. With a renewed emphasis, the UNCT will perform collective analysis on the current country situation, political changes, and post-pandemic situation to identify entry points in each of all 14 municipalities for collective policy advice and closer inter-agency collaboration for joint programming; explore strategic partnerships and financing/funding opportunities for joint common pooled funds that can be collectively pursued as part of the strategic priority area; produce investment cases in the priority areas of the UNSDCF.

Building on the success of the joint programmes implemented during the past year, the UNCT will focus on the possibility of mobilising national pooled funds to support the Government in realising some of the great options identified in the national budget, leveraging the added value of the UN resident and non-resident agencies.

A bolder involvement in the country is expected in the field of environment, disaster risk reduction, nutrition, and education to follow up on some internationally agreed activities such as the Scaling Up Nutrition, Transforming Education, Sendai Framework, Global Environmental Facility, and Paris Agreement.

Effective communication, strong partnerships, and impactful advocacy are crucial elements in promoting the UNCTs' work for the SDGs, generating cost savings, and building trust in the United Nations' efforts in Timor-Leste. To achieve this, we must collaborate with civil society, the media, the private sector, social movements, and the public, and work together to create an enabling environment for SDG progress.

The RC Office, in partnership with the UN Country Team, will mobilise resources to reinforce the UN's position as the most reliable and effective sustainable development partner by communicating the actions and results of UN entities and partners, fostering trust and confidence in the United Nations development system, promoting the values, norms, and standards of the UN, enhancing the visibility of the UN and its entities in their contributions to positively impacting people's lives, and presenting a unified and cohesive image of the UN Country Team.

FUNDING FOR THE UNSDCF IN 2023

Strategic priorities (SPs)	Total required	Total required (US\$)	Available/ Total required
SP 1. NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY, AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE			
1.1 Nutrition, access to water and sanitation	7,013,693	6,483,427	92%
1.2 Agri-food systems and food security	4,276,470	1,839,387	43%
Sub-total	11,290,163	8,322,814	74%

SP 2. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL			
2.1 Policy and institutional framework for decent work and productive employment	3,663,434	1,143,195	31%
2.2 Business environment	408,258	408,258	100%
2.3 Skills development	4,549,022	1,525,805	34%
Sub-total	8,620,714	3,077,258	36%

SP 3. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING OUTCOMES AND SKILLS			
3.1 Access to ECD and ECE	650,000	650,000	100%
3.2 Access to and completion of quality basic and secondary education	2,870,032	2,870,032	100%
3.3 Life-long learning	190,000	190,000	100%
Sub-total	3,710,032	3,710,032	100%

SP 4. QUALITY HEALTHCARE AND WELL-BEING			
4.1 Primary Health Care	8,043,146	6,712,446	83%
4.2 Evidence-based decision-making and digital system	1,036,980	812,197	78%
4.3 Behaviour change	1,140,973	915,473	80%
4.4 Health financing and budgeting	364,370	180,000	49%
Third-party procurement	1,905,000	1,905,000	100%
Sub-total	12,490,469	10,525,116	84%

SP 5. ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES			
5.1 Rule of law and access to justice	1,388,109	1,288,109	93%
5.2 Reform of public administration	1,063,355	930,923	88%
5.3 Citizens' participation and decentralised service delivery	8,536,993	3,313,828	39%
5.4 Elimination of GBV and violence against children	7,808,371	7,248,398	93%
Sub-total	18,796,828	12,781,258	68%

SP 6. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE			
6.1 Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation	23,801,929	18,238,209	77%
6.2 Resilient infrastructures	3,632,547	3,632,547	100%
6.3 Terrestrial and ocean resources sustainable management	8,011,009	3,110,273	39%
Sub-total	35,445,486	24,981,030	70%

Total	90,353,692	3,397,508	70%
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ENDNOTES

- ¹ Ministry of Finance. "State Budget 2021," 2021. <https://assets.ctfassets.net/60pzqxyjaawg/6QljkMwnqSDFROsjnaHOKy/e52f653f443171138ef7291d5a3d37cb/BB1-2021-EN.pdf>.
- ² Ministry of Finance. "State Budget 2022," 2022. https://assets.ctfassets.net/60pzqxyjaawg/7a4q1kSsWpJ6FMEMcoHWAK/6f8b64b6aaaa219569f5c47cde8236ca/BB1_2022_EN_Aprovado_compressed.pdf.
- ³ ILOSTAT. "ILOSTAT - The Leading Source of Labour Statistics." Accessed April 14, 2023. <https://ilostat.ilo.org/>.
- ⁴ Output indicator 2.4/ 2.1.1_6. The number 300,000 of nutritionally vulnerable people refers to those with high acute food insecurity, rated as integrated food security phase classification (IPC) 3 or above (WFP, 2023: <https://www.laohamutuk.org/DVD/2023/2302IPCFoodInsecurityEn.pdf>)
- ⁵ Output indicator 2.3/ 2.1.1_2.
- ⁶ Ten out of fourteen municipalities in the nation, namely Aileu, Ainaro, Atauro, Baucau, Dili, Ermera, Manatuto, Lautem, Liquica and Viqueque.
- ⁷ Specifically, the SDGs indicators 2.3.1, 2.3.2, and 2.4.1.
- ⁸ Starvation, Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis, Skin Disease, Smoking and Sugary/Alcoholic Drink in Schools.
- ⁹ Increased by 50 per cent within the 5HH.
- ¹⁰ Output indicator 8.2. The private sector entities include micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)
- ¹¹ The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
- ¹² Output indicator 4.1.1_5
- ¹³ Output indicator 3.3/3.8.1_2
- ¹⁴ Output indicator 3.2/3.8.1_1.
- ¹⁵ Output indicator 3.1/3.3.5_1
- ¹⁶ Bobonaro, Baucau, Covalima, Ermera and Dili.
- ¹⁷ Covalima, Ermera and Bobonaro.
- ¹⁸ Output indicator 16.4
- ¹⁹ Output indicator 16.2
- ²⁰ Output indicator 5.2
- ²¹ Abbreviations: National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL); Timor-Leste Defence Force (F-FDTL); Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ).
- ²² The NAP GBV, supported by the UN, is in alignment with the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Convention on the Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Social and Economic Rights (ICESR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Children (CRC).
- ²³ Output indicator 15.3/15.5.11
- ²⁴ Output indicator 7,3 (7.1.1_6)
- ²⁵ FAO, ILO, IOM, WHO, WFP, RCO, UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN WOMEN and UNCDF
- ²⁶ Abbreviated: United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS); Participation United Nations Organisations (PUNOs); United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD).

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