







2024 ANNUAL REPORT

TIMOR-LESTE







<u>FUNMI BALOGUN, UN RESIDENT COORDINA</u>

The past year has been marked by collaboration, impactful achievements, and significant milestones, as the United Nations System continues to reinforce its role as not just a partner, but as a strategic adviser, advocate and thought leader to the people and Government of Timor-Leste and aligned to the priorities set by the IX Constitutional Government and the Strategic Development Plan (2011-2030). Despite a challenging financial environment, the UN successfully mobilized \$58.8 million of the required \$78.4 million for the 2024 UN Joint workplan in 2024.

2024 was a special year in highlighting the influence of Timor-Leste in continuing to promote peace and multilateralism with the historic state visits of Pope Francis and UN Secretary-General António Guterres, and UN was proud and privileged to have partner with government in hosting these events.

During the year, UN responded as one to critical challenges, including the food security crisis driven by El Niño, impacting nearly 27% of the population. Through UN-led initiatives in sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation, and resilience-building, over 300,000 Timorese, representing 30% of the population were supported with nutrition-sensitive food and WASH support, local food production solutions - like the innovative Home Gardening initiative to boost those impacted by the El-Nino. UN supported the restoration of 189 hectares of degraded forest, strengthened national disaster preparedness, strengthening disaster risk reduction strategy aligned with the Sendai Framework and supported enhanced early warning systems.

UN continued to support policy development, including on social protection and security, on education sector plan (2026 – 2030), including on national school safety standards. Over 70,000 students benefited from nutritious school meals, greatly enhancing attendance and learning outcomes, while over 600 individuals received specialized skills training. Additionally, foundational education reached 6,000 young children through community-based preschools and primary schools.

In 2024, with UN support, Timor-Leste significantly strengthened its primary healthcare system, benefiting all people in Timor-Leste. Key achievements included nationwide deworming for over 270,000 children and complete HPV vaccination coverage for approximately 56,000 girls aged 11-14. Community health initiatives reached 104,742 individuals through Mother Support Groups in 2,228 sub-villages, promoting better nutrition, hygiene, and maternal health. The launch of the National Newborn Action Plan equipped 21 healthcare providers with essential lifesaving skills, while two new cervical cancer screening centres increased women's access to critical health services. Investments in digital health empowered 171 focal points nationwide, enhancing the quality and accuracy of health data and enabling more informed decision-making.

Women's leadership and participation in decision-making were strengthened through targeted reforms with support of UN, with eight key institutions and policies improved to meet international human rights standards. The adoption of the second-generation National Action Plan (NAP 1325) reinforced gender-responsive governance

with the UN Country Team leveraged the principles of UN Reform to foster collaboration, streamline resource mobilization, and provide strategic policy analyses and advice. This contributed to the Government's utilization of around 80% (\$1.75 billion) of its budget, prioritizing critical sectors such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

Looking ahead, the UN will continue to prioritize institutionalizing inclusive policies, securing sustainable resources, and deepening our partnership for greater development impact. As we approach the final year of the UNSDCF 2021–2025, preparations are underway for a new Cooperation Framework, rightly aligned with national priorities and reflecting the essence of UN Reform through integrated resource mobilization and coordinated policy support on

social capital, economic development, institution and infrastructure - in transforming food systems, strengthening social capital, economic diversification, climate resilience, and governance. The United Nations will continue to stand as Timor-Leste's dedicated partner, driven solely by the vision of a sustainable, inclusive, and prosperous future for every Timorese citizen.

UN COUNTRY TEAM

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) Timor-Leste is composed of 25 UN entities that have, including representative office, programme/project presence, liaison capacity in RCO/another UN entity/government. There are 17 entities with physical presence & 8 entities non-physical presence. These agencies support the country towards the achievements of the country's strategic development priorities including the implementation of the 2030 agenda through its current UNSDCF 2021-2025. The UNCT membership has steadily increased over the years since the implementation of this cooperation framework.







25 **UNCT Members**





















18



UNCT mermber entities are signa-tories to Cooperation Framework 2021 to 2025















17

Physically Present Out of 25 organizations











8

Non-Physically Present Out of 25 organizations









KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN COUNTRY

Development Partners providing support to United Nations Timor-Leste in 2024

















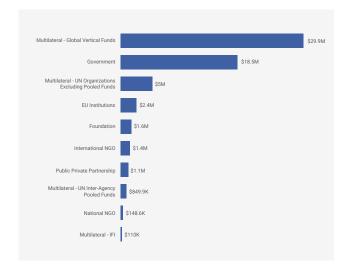




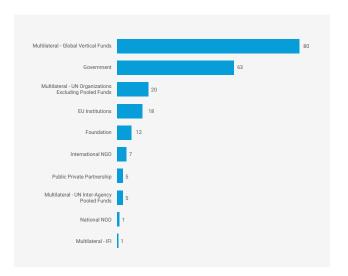




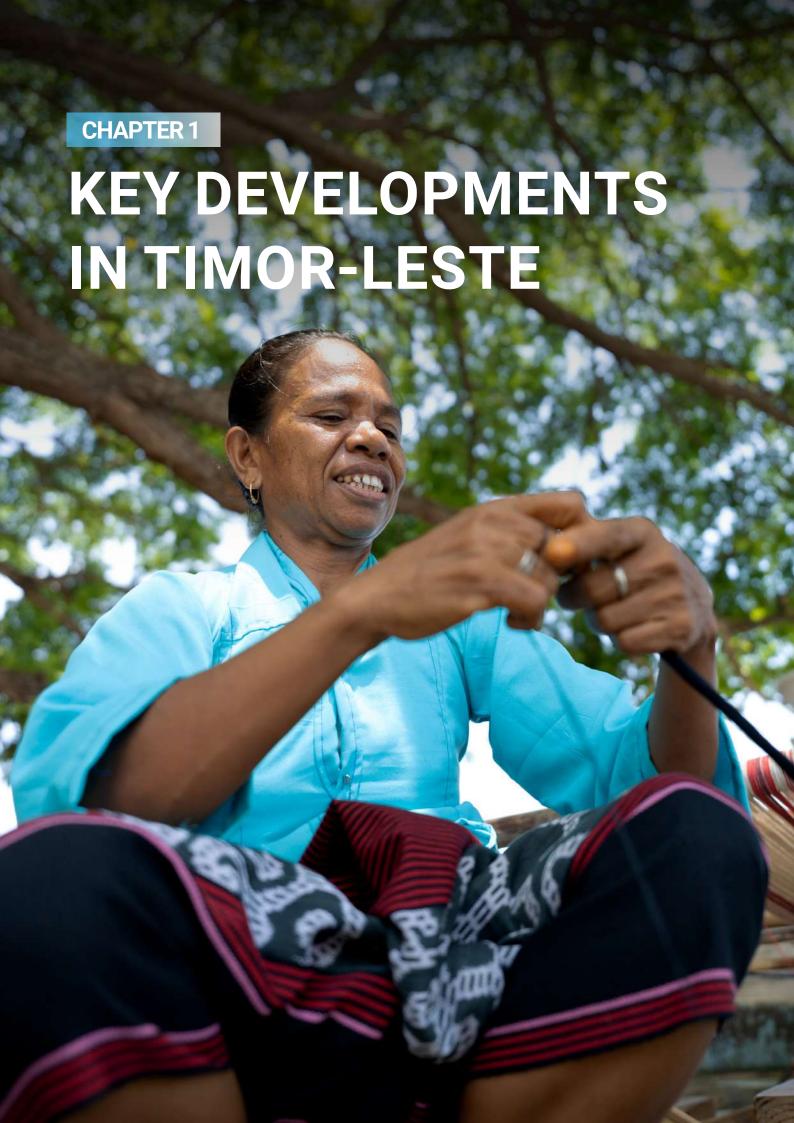
Available Resources per Contributing Partner Type

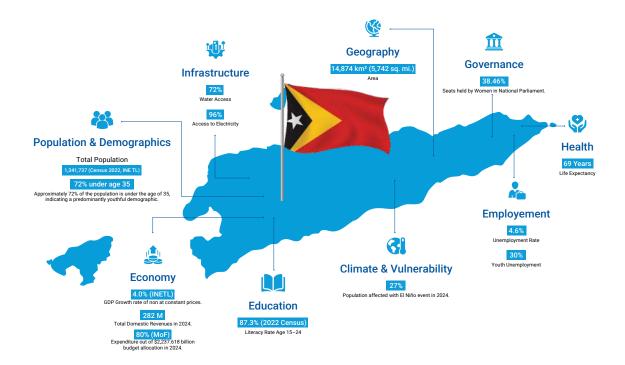


Programmatic Intervations per Contributing Partner Type

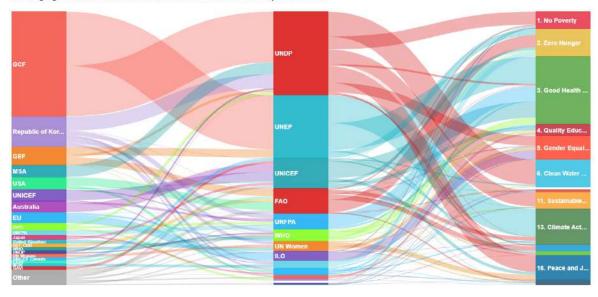


In 2024, the UN Country Team in Timor-Leste strengthened its collaboration with key development partners, including the Government of Timor-Leste, donor governments, international organizations, financial institutions, civil society, the private sector, academia, and the media. Together, these partnerships directly and indirectly impacted the lives of 1.3 million people, advancing sustainable development and aligning with national priorities. The progress achieved-highlighted in this report-reflects the collective efforts and unwavering commitment of all stakeholders. commitment of all stakeholders. A special acknowledgment goes to the Government of Timor-Leste, which has consistently recognized the UN as a key development partner since the restoration of independence in 2002. We also extend our gratitude to the UN Joint Steering Committee members-representing the government, civil society, and the private sector-for their invaluable guidance and support in implementing UN interventions throughout 2024. Their collaboration has been instrumental in driving tangible results and ensuring the sustainability of development efforts





Leveraging UN investments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals



During 2024, Timor-Leste witnessed several critical moments that shaped its socio-economic and cultural landscape. The historic visits by Pope Francis and the United Nations Secretary-General were not merely ceremonial but brought profound inspiration to the nation. A mass held and preceded by the Holiness, Pope Francis on 10 September 2024 in Tasi Tolu in Dili, marks the first time ever more than the country's population attended. This highlights the nation's manifestation of strong Catholicism faith and cultural unity. Both visits reinforced the values of peace, justice, and unity, echoing the hopes and aspirations of Timorese de-

termination for a better future. The government's successful leadership in these events demonstrated its commitment to fostering reconciliation and embracing multilateralism as a pathway to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The country has made significant progress in economic development and continued progress in infrastructure development and social sector areas like health, education, and social protection. However, the year also brought significant challenges. The El Niño event in 2024 cast a long shadow over food security, with nearly 27% of the population affected.

Behind this statistic there are real stories of families struggling to put food on the table and people grappling with malnutrition, and children facing stunting. The UN Country Team and its partners worked together with the local government, focusing on building resilience through better water management and soil enhancement among others to improve agricultural production as improvement of agricultural productivity and guarantees of food security were top government priorities in the agriculture sector.

The social landscape remains complex. Timor-Leste's young population is a source of tremendous potential, but many young people continue to face barriers to accessing quality education and decent work. This situation risks disappointment among youth, who deserve opportunities to contribute meaningfully to their society. Addressing these challenges requires not only policy reforms but also engagement with young people to co-create solutions of the problem they are facing. However, politically, the country remains stable while it continues strengthening democratic institutions and good governance.

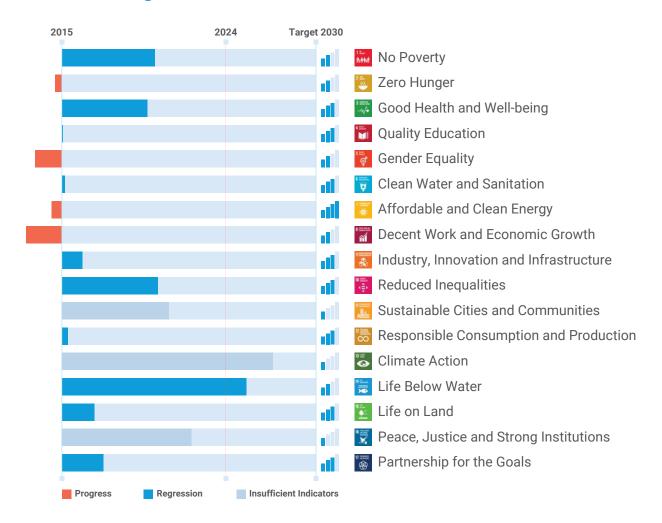
Throughout 2024, the UN maintained a steady course, prioritizing long-term development goals over short-term emergency responses. While the El Niño event

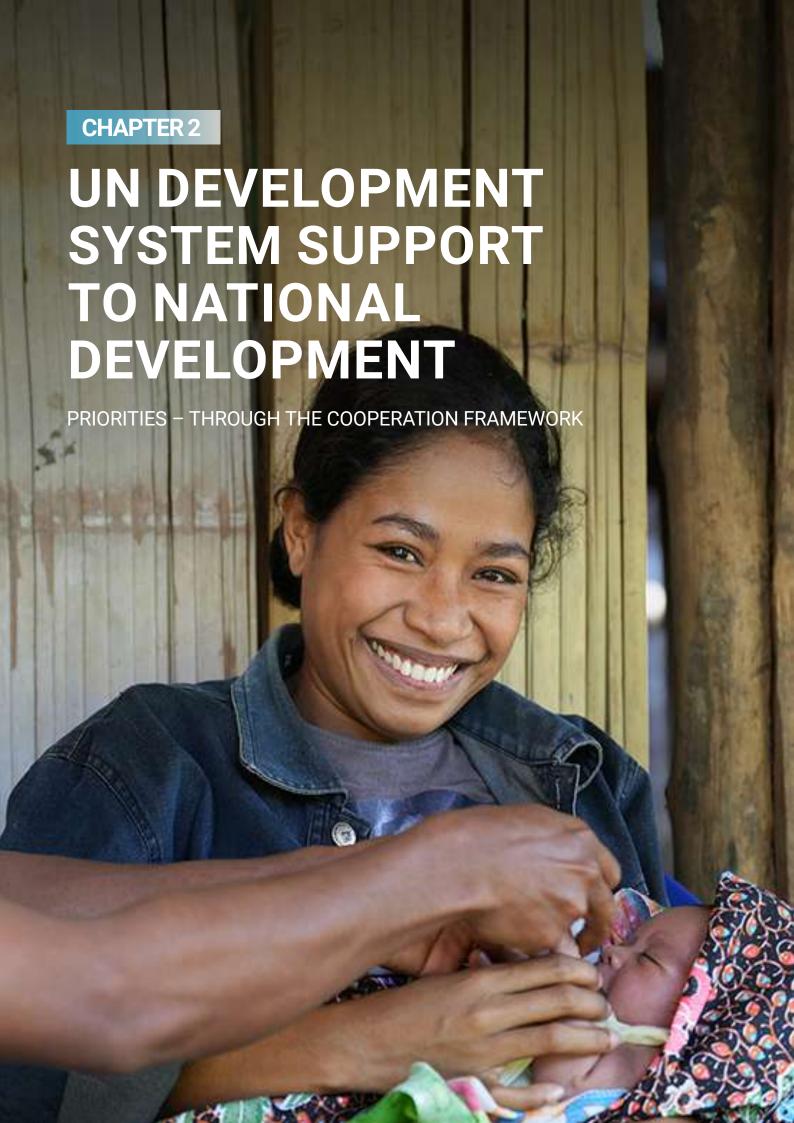
highlighted vulnerabilities, the UN adapted its programming to reinforce resilience rather than turning to immediate relief efforts.

The UN configuration remained stable, with no major changes in membership. However, this consistency allowed for deeper collaboration with government counterparts. The focus remained on capacity development and policy support, promoting good governance, agriculture, climate and sustainable livelihoods, and gender and equality. The government of Timor Leste's development agenda throughout the year continued to be engaged in social and economic development and inclusive growth, where the UNCT played a central role, grounded in capacity development, policy support, and collaborative governance.

By the end of 2024, the Government of Timor-Leste's total expenditure reached \$1,754,306 billion or 80.06% out of the total approved budget of \$2,237,618 billion. This reflected a strong commitment to advancing development across sectors. 81.9% of the budget allocated to education, healthcare, and infrastructure was executed, while 72.6% of the budget for social services was also delivered.

2024 SDG Progress in Timor-Leste

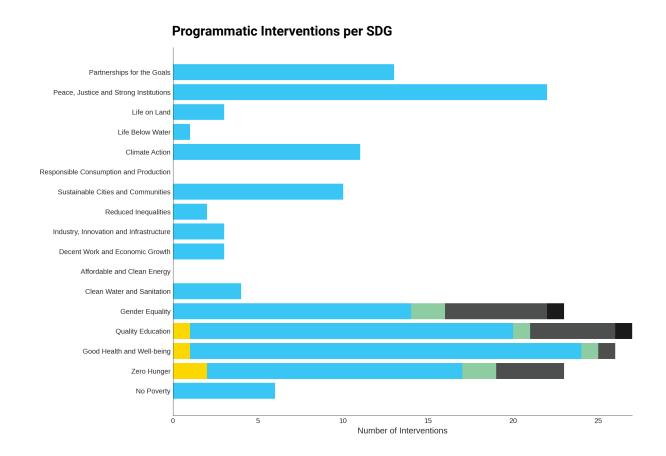




2.1. Overview of Cooperation Frameworks Results

The UN in Timor-Leste made significant progress across its cooperation framework upon the four years of implementation, effectively responding to evolving national priorities, achieving notable results across various outcome areas, and aligning with UN regional and global strategies.

The collaborative efforts of the UN led to significant advancements in nutrition and agricultural productivity, benefiting nearly 300,000 nutritionally vulnerable people in Timor-Leste through effective programming and strengthened partnerships with enhanced the accessibility of social infrastructure. In the realm of economic opportunities and decent work, the UN has been instrumental in fostering sustainable income generation and facilitating a supportive ecosystem for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises. Thousands of children have benefited from UN-supported initiatives, gaining access to inclusive, high-quality, and lifelong learning opportunities, including basic and secondary education. The UN's commitment to serving all people in Timor-Leste has strengthened healthcare services, ensuring broader access to essential health interventions. Moreover, Timor-Leste has made substantial progress in establishing accessible, accountable, and gender-responsive governance systems, institutions, and services, with the continued support of the UN. Additionally, the UN's focus on emergency preparedness and response has reinforced Timor-Leste's disaster management capabilities, benefiting communities through infrastructure projects and improved access to renewable energy.





2.2. Cooperation Framework 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.

Contributing agencies: World Food Programme unicef

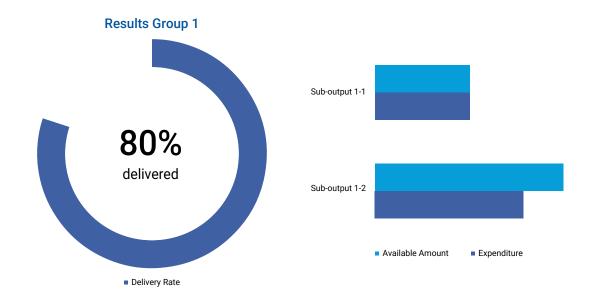
















Government increased their capacity for malnutrition and promoting healthy diets



People reached at safe and available water services when needed



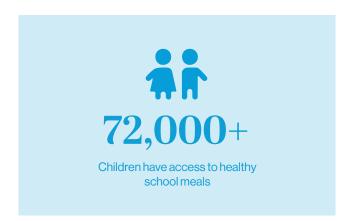
Individuals were supported by the El-Niño emergency response

In 2024, the UN exceeded expectations in outcome area 1, achieving 33% more than planned targets—highlighting the collective impact of the UN system in Timor-Leste. Through effective programming, strengthened partnerships, and evidence-based interventions, the UN advanced nutrition, food security, and sustainable agriculture, reaffirming its commitment to inclusive development.

The UN's focus on evidence generation underpinned its interventions. The largest-ever face-to-face Food Security Assessment in Timor-Leste, along with key reports such as the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, Food Systems Assessment, UN Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water survey, Market Price Monitoring, and the Return on Investments in Agriculture study which supported the government and key stakeholders to prioritize high-impact initiatives, collectively enriched the evidence-base for food security and nutrition in 2024.

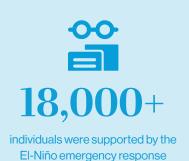
Sub-Outcome 1.1

Nutrition, access to water and sanitation



School-based nutrition programs provided fortified rice in school meals, complemented by SBCC campaigns promoting healthy eating behaviors. Seven new school kitchens—equipped with fuel-efficient stoves and endorsed by the Ministry of Education—set a new standard for school feeding programs. Training for school management committees and millers ensured the smooth integration of fortified rice and locally sourced ingredients.

In response to El Niño-induced drought, the UN partnered with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Social Inclusion and the Civil Protection Agency to deliver emergency food assistance.



A two-stage targeting approach ensured support reached the most vulnerable households, mitigating climate shocks' impacts on food security and nutrition.

Addressing malnutrition, the UN integrated nutrition-sensitive approaches into national systems to lay the groundwork for sustained progress. With technical assistance provided to the Vice Prime Minister's Office, the UN supported the development of a multisectoral planning, implementation, and evaluation framework for nutrition and early childhood development.

Sub-Outcome 1.2

Agri-food systems and food security



7,600

Households are adopted climate-smart and nutrtion sensitive agriculture practices



58

metric tons of seeds and

137.5

metric tons of animal feed were distributed to protect livelihoods



6.300+

households manage their own home gardens

To boost household resilience and agricultural productivity, the UN supported 7,600 households in adopting Climate-Smart and Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture practices, improving the cultivation of cereals, legumes, and vegetables on 4,145 hectares. The UN distributed 58 metric tons of seeds and 137.5 metric tons of animal feed, protecting livelihoods from climate shocks. Over 6,300 households are now empowered to promote home gardening thereby enhancing their nutrition through Home Gardening Initiative.

To combat Fall Armyworm, the UN provided training and promoted locally sourced botanical pesticides. National agricultural capacity was strengthened through assessments, including the Rice Production Assessment and the National Fish Consumption Survey, providing critical data for policy making.

To advance food safety, the UN supported the National Codex Committee in aligning national food standards with the Codex Alimentarius. Our study on unhealthy diets revealed high levels of salt, sugar, and unhealthy fats in processed foods enabled Timor-Leste to inform the drafting of a National Food Law, now under legal review, to reduce non-communicable diseases.

The UN collaborated with the Government of Timor-Leste on high-level advocacy and policy development. Technical support to the President's Global Task Force on social protection advanced priorities related to food security and malnutrition. The UN's leadership in global dialogues reaffirmed Timor-Leste's commitment to addressing these challenges. It also supported the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group under the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce for Social Affairs, from inception to establishing sub-groups on nutrition and food security. These efforts contributed

to developing a nutrition-sensitive social protection pilot targeting the first 1,000 days—a critical window for improving nutrition outcomes.

Timor-Leste's progress in 2024 underscores the transformative potential of collective action. By exceeding planned targets and embedding evidence-based interventions, the UN continues to drive sustainable progress in nutrition, food security, and agricultural resilience.

WOMEN LEAD THE WAY IN ADDRESSING EL NIÑO'S IMPACT WITH UN SUPPORT



When El Nino caused drought and flash floods in Ermera Municipality, Agostina de Graça Lopes, a mother of eight children, lost her crops and had to buy food at a higher price. My business was small; I was selling bawang, banana fritters, and doughnuts and it could not sustain me and my family's living. Of course, like many others, I was worried about my children's future. Esperança de Castro, the mother of three children, was also in the same position; she was short of food and was worried about her children's nutrition after having had to hospitalise her eldest child for malnutrition in the past. In response, the Government of

Timor-Leste with the support of UN through CERF funding, launched emergency assistance in six most affected municipalities. FAO, UNICEF, and WFP coordinated the process. Two thousand four hundred and fifty households (13,000 people) received drought tolerant seeds, livestock feed and home gardening tools from FAO. WFP distributed life-saving food assistance to more than 18,000 people including Agostina's family, to help them regain their strength.

"This is the first time we have gotten assistance like this," said Agostina. "It helped to relieve some of our problems and gave us some time to think."

As for the support, the initiative enhanced the community's resilience. Agostina is one of the 165 members of a Mother Support Group across four municipalities that has been trained and with UNICEF's support she has been able to identify children who are going through malnutrition and refers the serious cases to

health facilities, while giving tips to mothers like Esperança. This speedy and coordinated UN action with the help of CERF and #UNTimorLeste is assisting Timor-Leste in combating climate shocks, protecting lives and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals without forgetting the vulnerable populations.

#MeetTheChangeMakers:

UN Volunteers in Timor-Leste



The most rewarding aspect of my work is the opportunity to collaborate with a wide network of stakeholders, including government agencies, international organizations, and community representatives. This networking not only strengthens my professional relationships but also enhances my understanding of health systems and policies. I've also gained valuable technical knowledge about public health, food safety, and nutrition, which has enriched my expertise in these areas.

@Arsenio Soares da Costa Ferreira, from Timor-Leste, Technical Associate on Healthy Diets at WHO



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.

Contributing agencies:













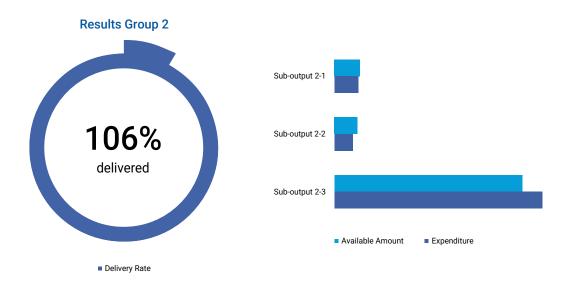














In 2024, the UN provided comprehensive support to Timor-Leste, enhancing its social protection capacity and employment environment. Institutional support underpinned efforts to enhance social protection and employment frameworks in Timor-Leste, including developing tools for the National Strategy of Social Protection, launching a multilingual Social Security Portal, and drafting new social protection laws. The UN also focused on skills development and capacity building in agroforestry and tais industries. This fostered economic opportunities and vocational training for women and youth, empowering them to engage in gainful employment and contribute to the country'sdevelopment.

Sub-Outcome 2.1

Policy and institutional framework for decent work and productive employment

During 2024, the UN supported the the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion to develop the National Strategy of Social Protection Strategy 2021-2030. In addition, UN with the National Institute of Social Security, and the Social Security Reserve Fund, jointly launched the Social Security Portal in Timor-Leste (Página inicial) which provides, in three languages, information on the social security model of the country, available social benefits, registration process, and the rights and duties of employers and workers. In addition, UN supported government to initiate the drafting process for the Basic Law on Social Protection and the revision of the Decree-Law to establish the National Council for Social Protection of Timor-Leste. Once established, the latter shall become the advisory, consultative and informational body of the public powers, mandated to define and monitor the implementation of the social protection strategy.

Sub-Outcome 2.2

Policy and institutional framework for decent work and productive employment

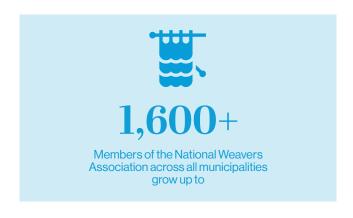
About 2,000 citizens benefited from employability-enhancing support via career development training, business development support, agriculture area training, and financial literacy training.



The UN contributed to institutional capacity building instrumental to foster employability.

Skills development roadmaps for agroforestry and coconut value chain were developed and validated which will represent the short- and long-term basis to structure the investment and offer of educational services and vocational training to cater to the industry. UN in Timor-Leste further supported the review of existing national policies related to culture and creative industries to develop a government action plan.

The UN supported the sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem, cultivating local Tais weavers and handicraft groups. Specifically, the establishment and expansion of the National Weavers Association (Rede Soru Na'in) across all municipalities in Timor-Leste allowing for its growth.



The women weavers benefited from peer-to-peer networking, collective advocacy, exposure to business practices, and new market opportunities. As part of fostering the National Weavers Association, 70 youth-led enterprises are now enabled to establish or develop their own business, benefitting 334 artisans from increased market access through the community shop in Dili, capital of Timor-Leste.

The UN supported Tais weavers and handicraft groups in adopting sustainable materials and diversifying their products. Capacity-building initiatives focused on strengthening weaving skills, promoting the use of local cotton, and introducing natural dyeing techniques. Training sessions in six municipalities—Liquiça, Manatuto, Aileu, Baucau, Bobonaro, and Manufahi—helped weavers create natural dyes from locally available plants.

Weavers also received training on product diversification, enabling them to develop new Tais-based items such as purses, wallets, and souvenir products. These items are now available in weaver group kiosks and network stores, alongside other locally made handicrafts.

Sub-Outcome 2.3

Skills development



68
Individuals get paid internships



24.
Individuals have jobs

EMPOWERING TIMOR-LESTE'S YOUNG ARTISANS

Through coconut fiber products and coconut charcoal/briquettes

Through a UN and EU partnership, support was provided to communities in Baucau with the Centro Dezenvolvimento Comunitaria (CDC) to support skills building on transforming coconut fibre and shells into products with economic potential.

The support created new opportunities for income generation and pro.

"With initiatives like this, coconut shells and fibers that we often overlook can create new innovations and products with great economic value for our communities." Joanico Belo says.

The coconut fiber derived from coconut husks can be transformed into a variety of valuable products, including ropes, mats, doormats, pots, brushes, sacks, mattress stuffing, coco peat, insulation, webbing for soil stabilization, etc. However, in Timor-Leste, the processing of coconut fibre remains very limited. Large amounts of coconut waste are often dumped and left unused, despite its significant potential.

Carlos da Costa, one of the beneficiaries from the Escola Tecnica Agricola (ETA) Don Bosco Fuiluro, expressed his excitement about the skills gained:

"This training has brought many positive benefits. We learned how to process coconut shells and fibers into valuable products such as ropes, mats, and pots. In our community, we often throw away coconut shells without realizing their potential. Now, these new skills can help improve household economies, particularly for farmers and young growers in Lautem municipality."

The coconut fibre products and coconut charcoal/ briquettes skills training not only equipped participants with practical skills but also inspired them to view natural resources as tools for innovation and growth.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Early Childhood Development And Lifelong Learning Outcomes And Skill



















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.

Contributing agencies: unicef unicef



















People directly accessed to skills and lifelong learning



healthy and nutritious school meal



Children are participating to Early Childhood Education and Readiness programme

The UN continued to support the government in advancing inclusive education including early childhood through lifelong learning and skills. The UN supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) in sector coordination as an active member of the Açao Conjunta para Educação Timor-Leste (ACETL- Local Education Group). The UN and government collaborative resulted in the first ever Joint Education Sector Review for the Education Strategic Plan 2020-2024, the findings of which will inform the development of the ESP 2025-2030 coinciding with the last six years of the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN supported the Ministry of Health to develop the National Strategy on Traumacare, Injury and Drowning prevention (2025-2030) as part of the School Health programs.

Though, still key challenge remains.

ííí

Lack of reliable administrative data

With a paper based Education management Information System



Left-behind sector financing as 6%

Below the international benchmark as 15~20%



Insufficient translation

Of policies into action

We learned cooperation between agencies for joint advocacy/coordination resulted in synergy, especially in the interventions.

Close coordination with the stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education is essential to align training programs with government policies and curricula, preventing potential confusion among teachers. Involving school leaders and inspectors in the training programs has proven beneficial in ensuring sustained support for teachers.

Sub-Outcome 3.1

Access to ECD and ECE



are now participating in early childhood education and school readiness programme, through the 87 community-based preschools and 71 primary schools

Sub-Outcome 3.2

Access to and completion of quality basic and secondary education

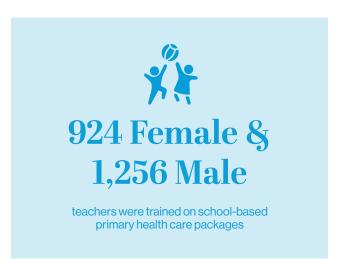


Near 50% of students access to healthy school meal for 95 days

Now 70,000 students across three municipalities were able to access healthy school meals for 95 school days.

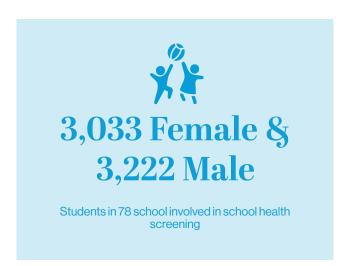
The UN supported institutional enhancement, promising quality education accessibility. The draft of National School Safety Standards, integrating the Health Promoting Schools Framework to support students' physical and socioemotional well-being is under review by stakeholders.

Now 70,000 students across three municipalities were able to access healthy school meals for 95 school days.



This resulted in these teachers playing a key role in health screening and working closely with Community Health Centres and Health posts for the well-being of children.

Qualitative research and screening will be key to identify where we should go.



across six municipalities-Ainaro, Bobonaro, Dili, Lautem, Manatuto, and Viqueque, identifying key health concerns among students. A qualitative research conducted in collaboration with MoE, MoH and MSSI, highlighted the barriers to adopting healthy behaviours and knowledge gaps in nutrition and hygiene. UN work with other development partners finalized the Second Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children leading to Timor-Leste 10 pledges to End-Violence Against Children and was presented at the first Inter-ministerial meeting at Bogota, Columbia, November 2024.

Our work on inclusive education continued.



Grade 7-9 students have enhanced pedagogy on history, human rights, and civic education.

Through our collaborative support with MoE and Centro Nacional Chega!, including training 36 inspectors and 97 teachers. The UN hosted a three-day Transformative Education Forum in Dili under the theme "Quality Education for Sustainable Peace in Timor-Leste", in collaboration with MoE, Centro Nacional Chega!, and INFORDEPE. The forum brought together high-level government leaders, educators, and development partners to reflect on the nation's educational progress, challenges, and the transformative potential of education.

Another noteworthy progress was the finalization of the evidenced based Education Compact under the leadership of the MoE and identified inclusive and equitable education as the key priority reform for the country, which is aligned with the Leave no one behind principle of the UN. This Compact resulted in securing USD\$ 5 million System Transformation Grant from the Global Partnership for Education for the MoE. An important milestone was Timor-Leste's participation in the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics survey for the first time.

7,000+ students & 176 teachers

A nationally representative sample participated in the survey on literacy, numeracy, and teacher related questions.

Sub-Outcome 3.3

Life-long learning

80 out of school adolescents and youth (28 women and 52 men) enrolled in Community Learning Centers are participating in learning programmes aimed to build 21st century skills, including digital literacy.

UN's ongoing partnership with Organizations of People with Disabilities such as Asosiasaun Halibur Defisiénsia Matan iha Timor- Leste along with ALMA Sisters facilitated advocacy on disability inclusion education.



STUDENT COUNCIL EMPOWERS YOUNG LEADERS

and creates a healthier school environment

At 7:30 sharp each morning, the school bell at Fohobua Tilomar Basic Education Centre in Covalima rings loud and clear — signalling more than just the start of the school day. It's rung by none other than Adoti, the school's first female student council leader, whose leadership is helping transform student life.

With support from UN agencies, student councils like the one at Fohobua Tilomar have been activated and strengthened across Timor-Leste to empower students, promote inclusion, and improve learning environments. Since 2009, 121 councils have been established in all 13 municipalities, and training for elected student leaders and their teacher mentors focuses on child protection, hygiene, and gender equality.

"Being part of the council built my confidence. I'm proud that our voices are being heard and that we're making a difference," says Adoti.

In just three months, her council successfully lobbied school authorities to fix an irregular water supply — ensuring a cleaner and safer environment for all. The students also introduced regular school clean-up drives and initiated conversations around menstrual hygiene, helping girls feel more supported and confident in school.

These positive changes reflect the real impact of community-led initiatives that place young people at the heart of school leadership — nurturing responsibility, pride, and participation in shaping a better future for their peers.



#MeetTheChangeMakers:

UN Volunteers in Timor-Leste



Preparing and facilitating the UN supported community preschools facilitator's training in target municipalities is my assignment. The most rewarding aspect of my work is witnessing the transformative impact of quality early education on children's lives and the power of providing training to facilitators, management committees, and parents to support preschool education in the community.

@Mariana Octavia Nolasco, from Timor-Leste, Education Project Officer at UNICEF



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Quality Health Care 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.

Contributing agencies:





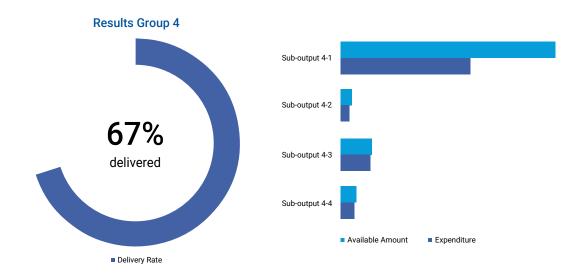














Timor-Leste has made significant progress in strengthening its primary health care system, improving access to high-quality, gender-responsive services, even in emergencies. Investments in digital health systems, evidence-based decision-making, and vaccine management have enhanced health infrastructure and service delivery. These achievements lay a strong foundation for universal health coverage and strengthened social protection by 2025.

Sub-Outcome 4.1

Primary Health Care

The UN support-programme made significant progress in strengthening primary health care. The UN launched a comprehensive primary health care package aimed at improving the health of school-aged children, along with training healthcare workers in the area of sexual and reproductive health.



The rollout of the National Integrated Health Service Delivery initiative enhanced coordination and efficiency.



The national campaign on Family Planning and gender-based violence (GBV), launched in October, has already reached hundreds of thousands of people via social media. Additionally, two new cervical cancer screening centers were established to improve women's health services and two Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care were established in Ermera and RAEOA to improve emergency obstetric care for early detection and management of obstetric complications during pregnancy at primary health care level. The revitalization of the Community Health Volunteers Program was supported through the development of new guidelines and a national workshop. Efforts to institutionalize the Field Epidemiology Training Program progressed



Sub-Outcome 4.2

Evidence-Based Decision-Making and Digital Systems

Supported MoH in strengthening electronic and webbased surveillance data management. Specifically, IT equipment supplied to the MoH and training on Integrated Diseases Surveillance and Reporting to improve surveillance and response to notifiable, emerging, and re-emerging diseases in Timor-Leste. This is a transition effort from paper-based into electronic-based surveillance.

Timor-Leste, with the UN support, has made strides in health information systems and data-driven decision-making. The Human Resource Information System (HRIS) was developed to streamline the registration and functions of the health workforce. The Health Management Information System (HMIS) Strategy 2024-2030 was also developed to enhance data collection, analysis, and reporting, ensuring improved monitoring of public health services.



UN played a crucial role in the socialization of newly approved Monitoring & Evaluation indicators and HMIS forms, including those related to GBV at both national and subnational levels. A National Quality Policy was formulated to enhance health facility standards. Furthermore, an Effective Vaccine Management assessment was completed, leading to the development of a 2025-2029 improvement plan.

To support vaccine-preventable disease surveillance, a national evaluation was conducted, and healthcare professionals were trained in adverse events following immunization causality assessment. The Measles and Rubella outbreak response demonstrated enhanced disease surveillance and rapid intervention capacity.

Sub-Outcome 4.3

Behavior Change for Determinants of Health

Timor-Leste has actively engaged communities, particularly women, girls, and persons with disabilities, to drive behavior change for better health outcomes.

Community awareness initiatives have expanded in key health areas, including non-communicable diseases. Health professionals were trained to improve hypertension and diabetes care, while awareness-raising efforts addressed tobacco and alcohol control, oral health, and eye care. Behavioral Change Campaign's public health messages on DOs & DON'Ts for mass public gathering prior to the visit of His Holiness Pope –Francisco to Timor-Leste with the mass ceremony attended by more than 600,000 pilgrims. These messages were transmitted through TV, radio and social media platforms.

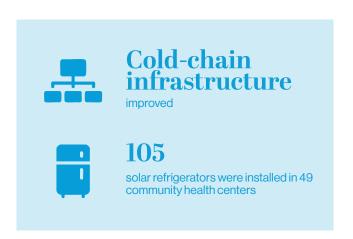
The national Family Planning and GBV campaign focused on promoting three-year birth spacing and raising awareness through social media, reaching a wide audience. Furthermore, In response to GBV, four safe spaces were established in Dili, Baucau, Covalima, and Lautem, providing survivors with a sanctuary for support services, counseling, and recovery resources.

UN supported the development of the National Strategy for Trauma care, Injury and Drowning Prevention, 2025-2030 through community engagement and occupational health and safety programs. Additionally, a Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health Strategy is being developed to enhance community participation in health decision-making and ensure the inclusion of vulnerable populations.

In 2024, with the UN support to work with the Ministry of Health, National Directorate of Education and Health Promotion, and local implementing partners to strengthen community engagement activities in promoting Nutrition, Maternal Child and Newborn Health as well as sanitation and hygiene through Mother Support Groups in 452 villages across 14 municipalities. The Mother Support Groups organized a range of community-based activities. They include food and cooking demonstrations, counselling, World Breastfeeding Week celebrations, school health promotion, home visits, and door-to-door information dissemination on routine immunization and the introduction of new vaccines, such as the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine for girls aged 11 to 14. During the reporting period, MSGs were able to conduct food and cooking demonstrations in 2228 Aldeia (sub-villages), reaching 104,742 people (72,037 female and 32,705 male), including caregivers 54,337 (46,282 female and 8,055 male) and under-five children 50,405 (25,755 girls and 24,650 boys).

Sub-Outcome 4.4

Health Financing and Budgeting



nvestments in cold-chain infrastructure with UN support have strengthened vaccine storage and distribution capabilities. Seven health facilities in Covalima and Bobonaro were identified for solar panel installation as well as twenty other BEmONCs in 12 municipalities in collaboration with the Japan Embassy and UN. This initiative ensures uninterrupted health service delivery, particularly in remote and underserved areas, and directly contributes to reducing maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity in the country.

Furthermore, 14 incinerators were procured and installed to manage medical waste, contributing to safer and more sustainable healthcare environments. Additionally, maternal, newborn, and child health equipment was distributed across 37 health facilities in 14 municipalities, further strengthening service deliver



PROTECTING A GENERATION

HPV Vaccine Rolled Out for Girls in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste took a significant step in women's health this year by launching the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine into its national immunisation programme — protecting girls aged 11 to 14 from cervical cancer, known to be a leading threat to women's health in the country.

With support from UN agencies, including WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, and the Australian Government, the HPV vaccine rollout was officially launched by His Excellency Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão on 19 July. The campaign marked a significant public health milestone in a country where, unfortunately, 60% of cervical cancer cases are diagnosed at an advanced stage.

Thanks to this coordinated effort, over 41,000 vaccine doses have been secured through GAVI, with an additional 38,000 doses provided for catch-up vaccination through support from DFAT Australia. Backed

by WHO-led technical support, nearly 1,700 health workers have been trained nationwide in just three months—ensuring safe, effective vaccine delivery and community engagement.

At the heart of this effort are girls like Alisia, 12, from Dili, who became one of the first in her generation to be vaccinated. "I was scared at first," she said, "but now I know this protects me from cancer. I hope all girls in Timor-Leste get the vaccine too."

The initiative is more than a vaccination campaign — it's a coordinated, multisectoral push to save lives. Teachers, health workers, community leaders, and parents are now informed, mobilised, and engaged in safeguarding the health of our future generations.



#MeetTheChangeMakers:

UN Volunteers in Timor-Leste



The most rewarding thing of my work is I was a data collector and now I am able to support our dear mothers and children to have better access to maternal healthcare with better conditions, as now the UN is supporting renovation of maternal health care facilities and transferring the skills or capacity building to the maternal health care experts.

@Lemos Martins Angela Lopes, from Timor-Leste, Program Assistant at UNFPA

#MeetTheChangeMakers:

UN Volunteers in Timor-Leste



This year, our team's efforts have reached remarkable milestones - distributing deworming tablets to over 300,000 students and providing primary health care services to more than 5,000 students, significantly impacting their educational journey and overall well-being. The most rewarding aspects of my work come from our field visits to schools, where children's bright smiles during health screenings make every effort worthwhile.

@Myungsun Kim, from the Republic of Korea, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at WHO



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

Accountable, Inclusive & Participatory Governance & **Quality Public Service**







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.

SP5 Contributing Partners: women























In 2024, under the UNSDCF, Timor-Leste made substantial progress in strengthening accountable, inclusive, and gender-responsive governance systems. Through collaborative efforts among the UN agencies, the country improved governance structures, human rights protections, and public service delivery, with a strong focus on marginalized communities. These efforts led to significant advancements in access to justice, public administration reforms, citizen participation, and the elimination of gender-based violence (GBV).

Despite these achievements, challenges remain. Limited financial resources and skilled personnel continue to hinder program scalability and sustainability. Deep-rooted societal norms and patriarchal beliefs slow progress in gender equality and social inclusion. Short-term donor funding cycles also pose obstacles to implementing long-term reforms. However, lessons learned from 2024 underscore the importance of integrated UN collaboration, sustained financial commitments, and alignment with national frameworks to drive systemic change.

Sub-Outcome 5.1

Rule of Law and Access to Justice

Timor-Leste took important steps to ensure that the most excluded groups benefit from inclusive and effective justice systems. The adoption of the second-generation National Action Plan 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security reinforced the government's commitment to gender-responsive justice and conflict prevention. The UN played a critical role in conducting a feasibility study for establishing one-stop service centers in Manatuto, Liquiça, and Baucau, improving access to justice for vulnerable populations.





228

GBV cases monitored, and UN legally supported 61% of survivors



387

51 Public defenders and 336 civil servants now enable to provide gender-sensitive mediation

Sub-Outcome 5.2

Reform of Public Administration

Reforms in public administration enhanced governance efficiency and financial transparency.



Increased allocations for disaster risk management and community conflict prevention demonstrated a commitment to evidence-based governance. Budgetary reforms included \$1.9 million allocated to disaster risk management under the Civil Protection Authority and \$1.58 million allocated to community conflict prevention and peacebuilding under the Ministry of Interior. The Government also reinforced accountability by expanding the use of the Gender Marker for budget tracking and monitoring.

Capacity-building initiatives supported civil servants and women's groups in leadership roles, fostering a professional and meritocratic civil service. Through joint efforts, 38 local women's groups received leadership training, while policy briefs targeting border community resilience were developed by the UN.



Sub-Outcome 5.3

Citizens' Participation and Decentralized **Service Delivery**

Citizen engagement and decentralized service delivery expanded through programs such as "Together for Equality", a UN joint programme which engaged nearly 2,000 students, parents, and teachers to promote gender equality and GBV prevention. The rollout of the "Connect with Respect" curriculum in 2025 will further embed gender sensitivity in education, integrating topics such as gender discrimination, harassment, and cyberbullying.

Public awareness campaigns, including those led by the UN, effectively shaped national discourse on gender equality and strengthened civic participation. National pledges against child violence were signed with support from the UN. Training programs targeting the National Police and armed forces reinforced human rights protections for marginalized groups, promoting an inclusive and democratic society.

Community-led initiatives reduced GBV risks by promoting financial independence and resilience. Additionally, the UN contributed to strengthening child protection efforts through national pledges and community outreach initiatives.

Sub-Outcome 5.4

Elimination of Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Children

Timor-Leste also strengthened its response to gender-based violence and violence against children. The establishment of a national GBV hotline and helpline under the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion provided crucial support for survivors. The UN Global Report on Preventing Violence Against Children was completed leading to the Timor-Leste pledges presented at First inter-ministerial Meeting at Bogota, Columbia. Partnerships among UN agencies and the Nabilan Programme ensured a coordinated and sustainable response to GBV. The 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign, supported by the UN and over 20 organizations, raised awareness and promoted safer environments.



local women's groups are now safer from GBV risks during emergencies through livelihood support.

STUDENTS USE TIKTOK

To Speak Out Against Campus Harassment

On International Women's Day 2024, 44 students from the National University of Timor Leste (UNTL) raised their voices against sexual harassment — using TikTok as their platform for change. Through a UN-supported competition, students like Amansya and Santiago, both third-year veterinary students, created powerful videos based on real experiences, challenging stigma and calling for a safer, more respectful campus.

Organised under the Safe Campus Initiative, part of UN Women's global Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Programme, and funded by KOICA through the Together for Equality project, the initiative empowers students to address sexual harassment directly. The competition followed a one-day awareness workshop, where students reflected on their own roles—both as victims and, in some cases, as unknowing perpetrators.

"I was always silent before, but now I know I can speak up," said Amansya, who shared her painful experiences of harassment by classmates and even lecturers. Santiago added, "I never realised the impact of my behaviour—until now. I want to be part of the solution." In just two days, 14 teams submitted powerful video PSAs. The stories sparked a strong institutional response: the university's rector pledged to screen the videos monthly at senior management meetings and committed to increased accountability, including for faculty members implicated in student complaints. The initiative has also strengthened student knowledge of reporting mechanisms, such as the university's PRAPA counselling centre, and police referral pathways for serious cases.

#UNTimorLeste, in partnership with UNTL since 2020, is supporting the development of campus-wide, student-led approaches to end sexual violence in learning spaces—changing mindsets, shifting norms, and ensuring that every student, especially women and girls, can learn without fear.



#MeetTheChangeMakers:

UN Volunteers in Timor-Leste



I have contributed to enhancing visibility and advocacy for gender equality through evidence-based storytelling and social media management. These efforts align with national priorities, amplify the impact of UN Women's initiatives, and engage both governmental and community stakeholders. Witnessing engagement on social media posts, particularly from new individuals, has been especially rewarding, demonstrating our ability to reach a broader audience and foster greater awareness.

@Masaya Okyu, from Japan, Communication and Advocacy Assistant at UN Women

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6

Sustainable Management Of Natural Resources & 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.

Contributing agencies:























Hectares of forest restored

People are now utilizing clean energy



Per 100,000 people are covered by early warning information



National disaster risk reduction strategy is existing

The UN has enhanced disaster risk management and climate adaptation in Timor-Leste through policy development, emergency preparedness, and resilience-building. Ensuring gender inclusion, disability accessibility, and youth engagement, the UN supported and responded to the flood, emergency crisis, and build resilience to the climate change.

Sub-Outcome 6.1

Disaster Risk Management and **Climate Change Adaptation**

The UN in Timor-Leste has strengthened disaster risk management (DRM) and climate adaptation through policy development, emergency preparedness, and community resilience initiatives. The finalized National DRM Strategy and National Civil Protection Emergency Plan now guide comprehensive disaster preparedness and response. Gender-sensitive disaster management remains a priority, with Standard Operating Procedures for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies and Trafficking in Persons integrated into training modules.

Emergency response efforts ensured swift assistance to vulnerable populations.

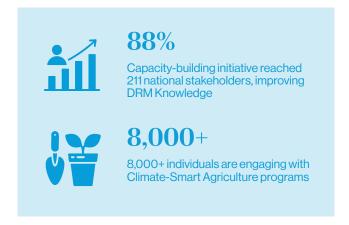


The evacuation of 122 children and their guardians, the establishment of child-friendly spaces, and the distribution of essential supplies safeguarded affected communities.

To bolster climate resilience, the UN supported the Government in developing the Climate-Resilient and Environmentally Sustainable Health Care Facilities Policy and Strategy. Key adaptation activities and mitigation measures have been implemented through building resilience of health systems in Timor-Leste. Three healthcare facilities received LMS water treatment systems.

The Climate Information and Early Warning Systems project in Timor-Leste has enhanced the early warning capabilities in Timor-Leste. The National Framework for Climate Services has undergone multiple national stakeholder validation and is currently undergoing the final endorsement process in the Government of Timor-Leste. Community level capacity and awareness on climate-induced risks, disaster risk reduction and mitigation activities were increased in six sucos in Manatuto, Lautem and Viqueque, reaching 4099 people (2125 women and 1974 men). The communities experienced disaster drills on floods and landslides, gained information on the impacts of climate events on health, and women were empowered to take on leadership roles in community volunteer groups, where they learned how to operate early warning equipment, management evacuation procedures and assist vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. The project also installed Community-Based Early Warning System equipment in Manatuto, Lautem and Viqueque, reaching 7053 people who will benefit from the early warnings disseminated through the new installed equipment.

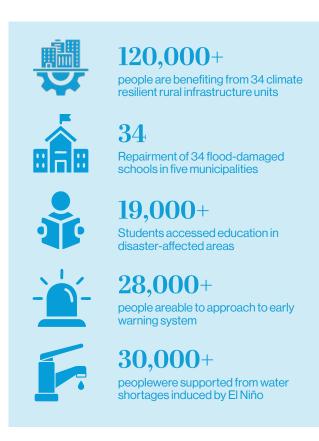
Data-driven resilience efforts advanced with a climate risk vulnerability assessment dashboard covering all 64 sub-districts. Spatial technologies were integrated into the Multi-Hazards Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and the Timor Emergency Response System, enhancing risk assessment and disaster preparedness. Detailed National and municipality specific Subnational Vulnerability and Adaptation assessments and climate health risk profiles for national and for all municipalities have been developed with the government. The Public Health Risk Assessment and the Strategic Toolkits for Assessing Risks on health emergency risk assessment conducted and sub-Health Emergency Operation Centre established at National Hospital Guido Valadares to lead and manage public health emergencies/disasters with the Hospital emergency Preparedness and Response including training and simulation exercises a head the Pope visit to Timor-Leste in September 2024.



Sub-Outcome 6.2

Resilient Infrastructures

The UN has played a critical role in ensuring safe, inclusive, and climate-resilient infrastructure.



UN systems incorporated gender-responsive communication strategies to ensure marginalized communities received timely alerts. Evacuation centers were upgraded to improve accessibility and safety. Two municipal level centers (Lautem and RAEOA) and four suco-level centers (Bobonaro and Covalima) were refurbished with separate sanitation facilities, wheelchair ramps, and designated safe spaces for women and children.



The UN has ensured that resilience-building efforts include marginalized groups, with accessible infrastructure for persons with disabilities and gender-sensitive facilities in evacuation centers. Youth engagement has also been prioritized, with ICT labs established in schools and capacity-building workshops equipping young people with critical skills for future employment.

Sub-Outcome 6.3

Terrestrial and Ocean Resources Sustainable Management

The UN has driven efforts to promote sustainable management of Timor-Leste's land, forests, and marine resources. The nomination of Nino Konis Santana National Park as a UNESCO biosphere reserve highlights significant progress in biodiversity conservation. Climate-smart and conservation agriculture practices expanded across 4,145 hectares in 10 municipalities. To counter drought impacts, 58 metric tons of drought-tolerant seeds were distributed to 5.150 affected households.

206 hectares of degraded land were rehabilitated through agroforestry intervention and supported the protection of 21 highly disaster-prone small-scale rural infrastructure. This intervention benefited 960 farmers and increasing agricultural yields by 15%. Reforestation efforts improved vegetation cover by 12.4%, reducing soil erosion and enhancing water retention. The expansion of the Manufahi Marine Protected Area to 51,000 hectares under the ATSEA 2 project strengthened marine biodiversity protection and sustainable coastal resource management.

The UN has ensured that sustainability efforts remain inclusive and equitable. Women have been actively involved in conservation agriculture and sustainable resource management projects. Additionally, accessibility considerations have been incorporated into environmental initiatives, ensuring that persons with disabilities benefit from these programs. Youth engagement in conservation efforts has also increased through technical workshops and training programs.

GETTING READY FOR CLIMATE SHOCKS

In Timor Leste by Enhancing Community Resilience

Timor-Leste is particularly vulnerable to climatic changes and impact. A combination of technology, community knowledge and UN support could further help to ensure that casualties and damage are kept to a minimum in the face of any extreme weather hit.

Flash floods have been having serious consequences in Timor Leste as they resulted in the loss of more than 30 lives and the destruction of over 4000 thousand homes in the mountainous region of Ermerra communities like Orlalan were taken by surprise in 2021 but are now equipped to handle future emergencies thanks to the assistance from #UNTimorLeste and the Government of Timor-Leste efforts to enhance preparedness for any upcoming disasters, as a result.

Thanks to efforts spearheaded by the UN in collaboration with local organisations to set up early warning systems in at-risk areas along with training programs and vital emergency resources, in place. Communities are now equipped with solar powered alert systems to conduct evacuation exercises and disaster simulations involving children to help them respond promptly and securely during crisis situations.

Armandina Valentina and other residents in Orlalan are actively engaging with their neighbours to educate them on emergency preparedness measures for groups like women and the elderly through door to door visits and disaster drills organised by volunteer Fretiliana Alves with the common aim of saving lives. Timor Leste is making advancements in state-of-theart climate monitoring technology. With assistance from UNEP and the Green Climate Fund Timor-Leste is setting up nine weather stations, three radars and a marine buoy to provide up-to-date information to regions that previously depended solely on estimations. These resources are particularly vital in areas, with internet and phone connectivity. The program supported by the United Nations has benefitted residents by providing training to local emergency responders and ensuring the active participation of individuals with disabilities and other vulnerable populations in all facets of disaster readiness efforts. In the face of escalating climate threats, Timor-Leste is not only reacting but also actively strengthening its resilience from the level by leveraging insights from previous calamities to establish a more secure tomorrow.



#MeetTheChangeMakers:

UN Volunteers in Timor-Leste



As a delegation to the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Philippines, I briefed the Timorese delegation on key sessions, facilitated high-level meetings, and witnessed Timor-Leste's growing commitment to proactive disaster management. Notably, a meeting between the Head of Delegation (President of CPA) and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction marked a pivotal moment, with Timor-Leste committing to transitioning from a reactive to a proactive approach to disaster management.

@Cirilo Lobo Baptista, from Timor-Leste, climate and disaster resilient development specialist at UNDRR

Human Rights

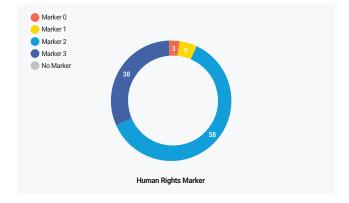
In 2024, the UN in Timor-Leste continued its efforts in strengthening the NHRI, the Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ), with whom it has a long standing and solid partnership and in strengthening civic engagement and institutional collaboration. Through technical support and advisory assistance to PDHJ, the UN supported efforts to address institutional challenges, and facilitated dialogue between PDHJ and civil society organizations, providing a platform for discussions on key human rights concerns. These engagements enabled civil society representatives to raise concerns and propose recommendations.

The UN continued promoting the engagement of PDHJ with international human rights mechanisms, liaising with State and civil society actors, providing technical support on different human rights issues, as well as delivering training on human rights issues upon request for police and military personnel in collaboration

with the National Police Academy and Armed Forces of Timor-Leste. These efforts were recognized for their role in promoting human rights awareness and strengthening institutional capacity in preventing violations, receiving acknowledgment from government institutions, civil society, and beneficiaries.

In particular, the UN provided training sessions for students and teachers to address bullying and harassment targeting LGBTQI+ students, advocating for safer learning environments and policies that promote non-discrimination. By addressing factors leading to school dropouts among LGBTQI+ students, the initiative aimed at creating a more inclusive and supportive educational environment.

Programmatic Interventions by Marker Coding Scale



Programmatic Interventions by Marker Coding Scale





Persons with Disabilities

In 2024, the UN continued to support the advancement of the rights of persons with disabilities in Timor-Leste, focusing on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and strengthening national disability inclusion frameworks through the UN Partnership on Rights of Persons with Disabilities joint project in setting up substantive partnership and coordination mechanisms, and providing training related to the implementation of the CRPD. Following Timor-Leste's accession to the CRPD on 17 January 2023, a key milestone in 2024 is the government's preparation of its first CRPD state report, an essential step toward fulfilling its international obligations. The UN is providing technical assistance to government ministries and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities to ensure the report reflects the realities of persons with disabilities and aligns with CRPD standards. Recognizing the importance of accurate and disaggregated disability data, the UN is working with government agencies and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities to address data gaps identified in the 2022 Housing and Population Census and the Demographic and Health Survey. Strengthening data collection and analysis will support evidence-based policymaking and improve access to essential services for persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, the UN continued to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues, bringing together the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to advance inclusive governance, and disability rights advocacy. Through capacity-building initiatives, policy engagement, and strengthened monitoring mechanisms, the UN is reinforcing Timor-Leste's commitment to ensuring the full participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in national development, recognizing the paramount importance of safeguarding the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. Its objective is to ensure that the principles and provisions enshrined in the CRPD are fully integrated into their policies, practices, and societal norms.

#MeetTheChangeMakers:

UN Volunteers in Timor-Leste



The most rewarding aspects of my work has been witnessing the growing awareness and engagement of stakeholders in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities. Organizing CRPD training workshops, policy consultations, and participating in public awareness campaigns, such as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the 16 Days Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence, allowed me to witness first-hand the power of collaboration in fostering inclusivity.

@Pyounghwa Chung, from the Republic of Korea, Human Rights and Inclusiveness Specialist at OHCHR

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

In 2024, the UNCT-SWAP Gender Equality Scorecard assessed gender mainstreaming progress within UN operations in Timor-Leste. Led by the UN Gender-Thematic Group (GTG) with, the assessment provided strategic insights to enhance gender-responsive programming across UN agencies. GTG facilitated cross-sectoral gender dialogue, capacity-building, and policy coordination, ensuring gender equality remained central to UNCT initiatives.

As part of institutionalizing gender accountability, GTG led discussions shaping the 2024-2025 PSEA Country Action Plan, reinforcing protections against sexual exploitation and abuse. The Gender-Sensitive Reporting Manual, spearheaded by the UN, increased gender-sensitive media coverage by 64%, from 22 stories in 2023 to 36 in 2024, shaping public narratives on gender equality.

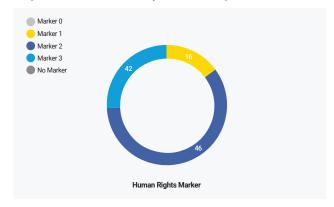
To strengthen gender-based violence in emergencies response, the UN collaborated with the Gender and Protection Sector to revise national Standard Operating Procedures, ensuring survivor-centered approaches. A consultative process involving government institutions and civil society refined these SOPs, reinforcing national frameworks for GBV crisis response. The UN developed Minimum Standards for Creating Safe Spaces, implemented successfully during the Pope's visit to Timor-Leste, setting a benchmark for future public events.

Economic empowerment initiatives yielded tangible results. The UN T4E program supported over 600 women weavers, generating USD 49,464.25 in income by April 2024, providing financial stability and promoting traditional crafts as a viable economic sector. The CERF intervention improved food security, benefiting 89% women, including pregnant and breastfeeding women, ensuring access to essential resources during climate shocks. The UN 2024 Food Security Assessment strengthened gender inclusion by engaging 40% female enumerators, enabling deeper insights into gender-specific vulnerabilities in food security strategies.

Despite these achievements, challenges persist. Short-term donor funding limits the sustainability of gender initiatives, particularly those targeting deep-seated societal norms. While progress has been made in advancing the Leave No One Behind agenda, more targeted efforts are needed to ensure gender-responsive interventions reach marginalized and remote communities. Institutionalizing government ownership of gender policies remains a priority to sustain long-term impact.

Looking ahead, GTG aims to expand economic empowerment programs, strengthen collaboration with government and civil society, and secure long-term funding mechanisms for gender equality efforts in Timor-Leste. By fostering continued engagement and investment in gender-responsive policies, the UNCT remains committed to driving inclusive and equitable progress for all.

Programmatic Interventions by Marker Coding Scale



Funding by Marker Coding Scale





WEAVING A LEGACY

Women Empowerment through Culture and Craft

In the distant region of Oecusse, Paulina Elu, 48, continues to practice Tais weaving, which is an ancient art form in Timor-Leste. A widow and mother of five children, Paulina was taught the craft by her mother and grandmother. It is now passed on to her 13-yearold daughter Francisca. However, weaving Tais, the traditional cloth of Timor, is not at all a simple process. Other weavers, for instance, have to spin cotton by hand, and dye threads with natural materials, while facing water scarcity and restricted access to the materials. Another challenge is the marketing of the finished product because it is costly and tedious to travel from Oecusse to Dili.

This was after Rede Soru Na'in (RSN) a national weavers' network opened a store with the help of United Nations and others in Dili in 2023. The RSN store has been initiated with the support of UN Women, Timor Aid, and the Alola Foundation and has so far created more than \$77,000 in revenue, which has gone directly to 280 women weavers. Now Paulina does not have to move around in order to sell her products. "I can stay here, weave and get information when my Tais is sold," she said proudly.

Since 2018, #UNTimorLeste has supported the formation of networks, increased the visibility, and enhanced the income of over 1,400 women weavers in all the municipalities. In 2023, the Government of Timor-Leste and UN Women signed an MoU to explore how culture can be used as a tool for rural women's economic empowerment. For Paulina and Francisca, Tais weaving is not just a craft, it is a way of preserving their culture and maintaining dignity and hope. "These are the handprints of our ancestors," said Francisca in a low tone. On the International Day of Rural Women, Paulina's experience is an illustration of how, with the appropriate intervention, women in the rural areas can support their families, conserve the culture and be the ambassadors of change in their communities one stitch at a time.





Youth Empowerment

The Youth Theme Group has enhanced youth empowerment by fostering partnerships, expanding education access, promoting gender equality, and increasing employment opportunities.

The UN's Joint Together for Equality initiative in Timor-Leste, has advanced youth empowerment by equipping young people with essential skills and opportunities for active participation. A key milestone in 2024 was the launch of the Safe Campus Support Group at the National University of Timor-Leste, training 69 members (29 women and 40 men) to provide peer support and referrals for those affected by gender-based violence and sexual harassment. Efforts to integrate youth into decision-making through national policies and sports initiatives have strengthened their societal role. Challenges remain in ensuring equitable access for marginalized youth, necessitating sustained support for inclusive policies and programs.

The group provided a strategic platform that enabled the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Art, and Culture (MOY-SAC) to implement the 2024 National Action Plan on Youth. Capacity-building efforts strengthened institutions like the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Interior, along with partners such as FOKUPERS and Plan International, to implement comprehensive sexuality education and "Connect with RESPECT" programs.

Integrating sexuality education into the national curriculum ensures sustainability. In 2024, 514 young people (275 women and 239 men) received out-ofschool CSE training. The "Connect with RESPECT" manual was incorporated into school curricula, training 40,000 students in gender-equitable attitudes. The Safe Campus Initiative, implemented with the National University, fostered safer learning environments, while sports programs in partnership with MOYSAC promoted gender equality and youth engagement.

Child protection and inclusivity remained priorities. Youth programs safeguarded children from violence, improved access to youth centers for persons with disabilities, and facilitated civic engagement through the Youth Parliament. Employment initiatives, including soft skills training, internships, and entrepreneurship programs, enhanced job prospects. A business innovation challenge and digital skills training provided young entrepreneurs with funding and resources. Policy advocacy with the National Parliament supported youth employment and entrepreneurship.

Through these efforts, the UN has strengthened education, child protection, gender equality, and economic opportunities for Timor-Leste's youth, ensuring their active role in national development. Sustained inclusive policies and programs will be critical in securing their future.



Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2024, the Together for Equality (T4E) Programme in Timor-Leste made notable progress in advancing gender equality and addressing gender-based violence (GBV), with a strong focus on long-term sustainability and systemic change. Several initiatives launched in 2023 were expanded and delivered significant outcomes in 2024 across various sectors, including education, legal, sports, health, media, and civil society. These efforts collectively contributed to a more inclusive and equitable society.

In 2024, the T4E Programme made significant strides in the education sector, particularly with the integration of the Connect with Respect (CWR) program and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) into the national curriculum. The Ministry of Education (MoE) committed to incorporating 80% of CWR content into grades 7-9, covering topics such as gender, discrimination, harassment, and cyberbullying. By 2024, CWR had reached 1,983 participants, including 156 teachers, 922 students, and 905 parents. Additionally, CSE reached 1,793 individuals, empowering youth with knowledge about healthy relationships and gender equality, helping foster a nationwide shift toward respectful relationships and gender-equitable attitudes. In the legal sector, the T4E Programme saw substantial progress in increasing access to legal support for survivors of GBV. The number of survivors accessing legal aid grew from 238 in 2023 to 851 in 2024, thanks to increased judicial sensitivity and the provision of written court decisions. These improvements ensured better legal support for survivors and contributed to a more responsive justice system. In collaboration with the Press Council, UN Women launched a Gender-Sensitive Reporting (GSR) Manual, training 52 journalists, resulting in 36 gender-sensitive stories published in 2024. These initiatives helped to raise awareness of gender issues and strengthen the legal framework for addressing GBV.

In the sports sector, the T4E Programme continued to raise awareness about gender equality and GBV prevention. Building on its 2023 partnership with the National Federation of Basketball Timor-Leste (FNBTL), the programme expanded its engagement with the Ministry of Youth, Sport, Art, and Culture (MY-SAC) and the Confederation of Sports of Timor-Leste (CDTL). Through consultations with CDTL leadership, 35 sports federations committed to improving GBV prevention knowledge. Key initiatives included the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and codes of conduct for GBV prevention, with training planned for 120 federation representatives in October 2024. These efforts aim to create a safer, more inclusive sports environment in the country.

T4E made notable progress in the health sector in 2024, particularly in its response to GBV. Safe spaces were established in health facilities across Dili, Baucau, and Covalima, offering survivor-centered services to 1,691 GBV victims, a significant increase from 773 survivors in 2023. The harmonization of medical forensic examination forms across health facilities in 2024 improved the consistency and accuracy of GBV case documentation, supporting better case management and data tracking. These efforts reflect T4E's commitment to strengthening the healthcare system's ability to respond effectively to GBV and support survivors. In 2024, the T4E Programme enhanced gender-sensitive media coverage in Timor-Leste. Through a partnership with the Federation of Media and Development Centers (FMDC), UN Women trained 104 media professionals (58 women, 43 men) to report on sexual violence and gender-based violence (GBV) in a responsible and sensitive manner. This capacity-building initiative resulted in the publication of 36 gender-sensitive stories, a significant increase from 22 the previous year. Additionally, the launch of the Gender-Sensitive Reporting (GSR) Manual and Tools, supported by the Press Council, institutionalized gender-sensitive reporting practices within the media sector. These efforts contributed to improved public understanding of GBV and gender equality while promoting more responsible journalism that challenges harmful stereotypes.

T4E also made significant strides in supporting civil society. The Rede Soru Na'in Association, representing 600 weavers across six municipalities, generated USD \$49,464.25 by April 2024, empowering women economically. The programme also facilitated the establishment of national helplines for GBV and Violence Against Children (VAC), ensuring survivors had access to critical support services. Additionally, T4E contributed to disaster preparedness by distributing 126 Early Warning Systems (EWS) across 20 SDMCs, improving the response to GBV risks during emergencies. These efforts fostered a more supportive environment for women and children, advancing the programme's long-term goal of systemic change in Timor-Leste.

TOGETHER FOR EQUALITY

Transforming Lives and Ending Gender-Based Violence in Timor-Leste

Led by the UN Resident Coordinator and funded by the Government of Korea through KOICA, the Together for Equality (T4E) programme has made remarkable progress in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in Timor-Leste. A collaborative effort between four UN agencies-UN Women, IOM, UNDP, and UNFPA-and Timor-Leste's government, civil society, and public institutions, T4E has directly impacted 64,528 individuals across Baucau, Covalima, Oé-Cusse, and Dili, and indirectly reached over 322,640 people nationwide.

The programme has transformed attitudes through education, engaging over 38,000 participants to challenge harmful beliefs and foster healthier relationships. Survivors like Maria have accessed integrated legal, psychosocial, and health services, supported by Standard Operating Procedures in 34 health facilities. Survivor satisfaction with these services has increased by 31.2%, reflecting the programme's emphasis on dignity and holistic care.

Economic empowerment has been pivotal, with 1,335 women and their families trained in sustainable livelihoods. These women now use their skills to provide for their families, achieving financial independence and enabling their children's education.

Training for 547 police officers has enhanced GBV response, equipping them with survivor-centred approaches and investigation techniques. T4E's multi-sectoral approach has strengthened the capacity of 25 government institutions and 19 civil society organisations, creating a resilient framework to combat GBV.

"T4E has brought real change, supporting survivors, strengthening communities, and inspiring hope," said Sra Elvina Carvelho the Secretary of State for Equality. With leadership from the UN Resident Coordinator and sustained support from KOICA, T4E is building a safer, more equal Timor-Leste, ensuring every woman and girl can live free from fear.

Transforming attitudes, expanding services, and institutionalizing protections for women and girls across Timor-Leste.



SAY NO TO 5S

Under the Say No to 5S (SN5S) project, the World Health Organization and the World Food Programme in Timor-Leste have supported the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education to improve Health and nutrition of school-going children in Timor-Leste since 2021. The project operates at the school-level to prevent the '5S', which stands for Starvation, Soil-transmitted Helminthiasis, Skin diseases, Smoking and Sugary/Alcoholic Drinks. Throughout 2024, the following key achievements have been made by the UN, together with the Government:

In terms of school health, the UN conducted technical orientations at national and local levels to equip school teachers, health workers, and ministry officials with the necessary skills. A national-level training programme prepared 41 master instructors from MoH and MoE, 179 health workers at the municipal level, followed by 851 health workers and 2,180 teachers at the local level.

Pilot health screenings were conducted in 78 selected schools across six municipalities, marking a milestone in expanding health services for schoolchildren. A total of 6,255 students out of 7,479 enrolled students were screened, achieving 84% coverage. Data integrated into DHIS2 identified critical health concerns, including a 21% malnutrition prevalence and 28% dental decay prevalence, highlighting the need for targeted interventions.

A nationwide mass drug administration (MDA) for deworming was conducted in all 1,324 basic education schools to combat soil-transmitted helminths (STH). The first round of MDA achieved 95% coverage, reaching 284,363 students (146,162 male, 138,201 female) across all schools. The second round achieved 94% coverage, reaching 70,804 students (36,136 male, 34,488 female) across 203 schools.

Efforts to enhance school health systems have led to the integration of school health data into the District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2), enabling real-time monitoring and evidence-based decision-making. Trainings were provided to the Health Management Information Service team to ensure effective data management and utilization.

Complementing this, school health rooms were introduced to provide on-site healthcare and health education. In February 2024, the first school health room was established at 10 Decembro School in Dili, staffed

with a full-time school nurse. The facility recorded over 250 student visits out of 834 enrolled students. Following its success, 10 additional schools in Baucau, Manufahi, and Bobonaro have been identified for expansion in 2025.

To further improve the school health environment, the UN collaborated with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education to develop National School Safety Standards, focusing on tobacco-, alcohol-, and drug-free schools. Stakeholder consultations were conducted at national and municipal levels, incorporating input from students and parents.

The UN also supported the third-cycle curriculum update to strengthen health education within the national and global education framework. Revision workshops facilitated local stakeholder feedback, integrating comprehensive health and nutrition content while reinforcing school safety standards, healthy dietary practices, and environmental health measures. These efforts bolstered school health committees and improved the dissemination of health education materials.

In parallel, health promotion initiatives were expanded, including the distribution of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on eye health and oral health to school students. In collaboration with health workers, no-smoking signage and posters were distributed to over 1,300 basic education schools nationwide to reinforce a tobacco-free school environment.

In terms of school feeding, the UN strengthened Timor-Leste's national school feeding programme, Merenda Escolar, by improving policy engagement, infrastructure development, capacity-building, and monitoring systems. At the institutional level, the UN supported the Government in refining national school feeding guidelines, improving coordination, and facilitating knowledge exchanges to integrate global best practices. These efforts laid the foundation to further support the Government's vision for a sustainable, home-grown school feeding model that links local agricultural production with nutritious meals for children.

To strengthen implementation, the UN actively engaged with the Ministry of Education through multiple consultations and discussions to align school feeding initiatives with national education policies. Training sessions were conducted for school management committees, reaching 406 participants (109 male and 297 female) from Baucau and Manufahi, with a focus on school meal management, food hygiene, sanitation, and social behaviour change communication to promote healthy eating habits. Investments in infrastructure further improved programme efficiency, with the construction of seven new school kitchens. Completed within four months and verified by the Ministry of Education, these kitchens aligned with national standards and enhanced the safety and efficiency of meal preparation.

To support evidence-based decision-making, the UN facilitated a Theory of Change workshop with 43 government representatives from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry, and the Ministry of State Administration. Key agencies, including the National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition and the Food Security Council for Dili Municipality, also participated, strengthening interministerial coordination and understanding of the school feeding programme. In parallel, the UN worked with government partners to improve the programme's monitoring and evaluation system, ensuring better tracking of school feeding outcomes.

Efforts to enhance school nutrition were also reinforced through rice fortification initiatives. The UN played a key role in interministerial coordination to ensure fortified rice was distributed to schoolchildren while also making it available for emergency response through the Civil Protection Authority. A total of 500 metric tons of fortified rice were distributed to 393 schools, covering 98% of the planned distribution. This intervention supported school meals for 95 school days, benefiting 68,960 students, including 35,836 boys and 34,116 girls across Baucau, Bobonaro, and Manufahi municipalities.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of State Administration, the UN conducted a qualitative research to assess the nutrition status, handwashing habits, and physical activity levels of school-going children. The study identified financial constraints as a barrier preventing parents from providing sufficient food, while also highlighting the positive impact of school meals on student attendance and concentration. The findings will inform a Social Behaviour Change Communication strategy aimed at enhancing nutrition education and school meal practices, with results shared

with the Government to support policy decisions and long-term improvements.

Through the SN5S project, the UN has contributed to improving food security and nutrition outcomes of school-aged students, by strengthening the operational capacity of school health and school feeding. By holistically improving the school feeding environment in conjunction with school health services, students are able to enhance their learning outcomes, and receive sustained support for cognitive and physical development.

The project has expanded access to healthcare for marginalized groups, including rural children and girls, while national school feeding efforts have improved the efficiency and sustainability of meal provision. Investments in policy, capacity-building, and infrastructure-such as the construction of school kitchens and health rooms-have laid the foundation for long-term improvements in child nutrition and well-being. These combined efforts have contributed to a healthier, more resilient generation and a strengthened food system in Timor-Leste, aligning with broader national goals for education, health, and food security.



Empower for Inclusion

During the reporting period, the Empower for Inclusion (E4I) programme made significant strides toward advancing disability inclusion under the UNPRPD framework. The programme focused on three core outcomes: strengthening national stakeholders' ability to develop and implement disability-inclusive policies, addressing gaps in the preconditions for CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) implementation, and ensuring national development and humanitarian plans, budgets, and programs are disability-inclusive.

Key progress was achieved across these areas. One notable achievement was the enhancement of national stakeholders' capacity to design and revise policies and systems to be more inclusive of persons with disabilities. This was reflected in the fact that 62% of participants reported an increased knowledge or capacity to design policies that integrate disability inclusion, demonstrating a tangible improvement in their ability to influence national policy. This development was supported through a three-day training workshop held from October 28 to 30, 2024, which involved 61 government officials from 11 ministries and OPDs (Organizations of Persons with Disabilities). These sessions provided insights into the CRPD framework, national obligations, Independent Monitoring Mechanisms (IMM), and disability rights, thus strengthening the participants' ability to support the Disability National Action Plan (DNAP) 2021-2030. Specialized sessions on disability-responsive budgeting, led by agencies such as the Ministry of Justice, National Institute of Statistics, and the Ministry of Finance, further contributed to building stakeholders' capacity for resource allocation in disability programs.

The programme also made substantial progress in addressing gaps in CRPD implementation through workshops and collaborative meetings. A significant milestone was the October 2024 workshop that introduced IMM models and discussed their role in CRPD implementation. This workshop involved government officials and disability focal points from various ministries and highlighted examples from Indonesia and the Philippines. The discussions encouraged government representatives to consider establishing a National Disability Council (NDC) for independent monitoring, although the immediate establishment was not deemed feasible. Instead, the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) established a CRPD Secretariat to coordinate efforts and support the CRPD implementation process, marking a shift in focus while maintaining commitment to strengthening disability governance.

Additionally, the programme made considerable headway in empowering OPDs to engage with SDG coordination mechanisms and contribute to national development processes. The "Empower for Inclusion" workshop in July 2024 allowed OPDs and UN agencies to discuss the linkages between CRPD and SDGs, emphasizing the integration of disability inclusion in policies. The Steering Committee Meeting in September 2024 further solidified the commitment to align disability inclusion with national development goals and ensured that OPDs are part of monitoring and decision-making processes. The ongoing involvement of OPDs in the drafting of Timor-Leste's first State Party CRPD report in November 2024 reinforced their role in shaping national policies.



2.4. Results of the UN working more and better together: UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

#MeetTheChangeMakers:

How UNV supports UN



Since 2007, 1508 volunteers served

Now, 39 volunteers, 49% women and 51% men, 25 National and 14 International are serving as UNV in Timor-Leste

Programme Management Team (PMT)

The UN Programme Management Team (PMT) in Timor-Leste was revived in May 2023 to improve the programmatic coordination between UN agencies and provide advice to the UNCT on programmatic matters. Since then, the UN PMT has played an important role in providing quality assurance to UN joint documents and products, managing UN evaluative processes and contributing to the strategic thinking around the new UN Cooperation Framework 2026-2030. More specifically the UN PMT contributed to the following:

Management of the 2021-2025 UN CF evaluation

As a preliminary step in the preparation of the new UN CF, the UN CF evaluation had the objective to promote learning and operational improvement, especially in the context of the development of the new UN CF 2026-2030, and to support accountability of the UNCT to the UN CF stakeholders. The UN PMT managed the process of the UN CF evaluation from developing the ToR of the evaluation to the development of the evaluation management response and including all steps in-between like the selection of the evaluation consultants, collection of relevant documents, supervision of the evaluation team leader, etc.

Contribution to the strategic thinking of the new UN CF

the UN PMT has been a think-tank and advisory team in the strategic thinking for the development of the new UN CF. This has included the participation and contribution of the UN PMT members in various phases of the procees:

A. Development of the UN CF roadmap: a subset of the UN PMT developed the first roadmap of the UN CF and supported the UNCT in the kick-off of the process of development of the framework

B. CCA: the UN PMT members have been involved in contributing to the Common Country Assessment that has analyzed the current context of the country across various social, economic and political aspects. C. Inclusion of crosscutting issues PSEA, LNOB, HRBA: during a workshop organized by the RCO and regional DCO, UN PMT members ensured a holistic approach and views from all UN agencies in ensuring the adoption of PSEA, LNOB and HRBA approaches.

Quality assurance of RGs planning and RGs reporting as senior programme staff within their agencies, UN PMT members have ensured quality assurance of the planning of Results Groups as well as contributed to reporting processes.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Working Group

In 2024, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) group entered a new phase of structured leadership with the introduction of a dedicated chairmanship assigned by the PMT. This marked a significant milestone since the implementation of the current Cooperation Framework (CF) in 2021 as the structured leadership has strengthened the establishment of a comprehensive framework for assessing and improving programme effectiveness. The Data Management & M&E Officers of the RCO assumed roles as the alternate chair and secretary, strengthening coordination and strategic oversight.

Strengthening the UNSDCF Evaluation Process

The M&E group played a crucial role in supporting the ongoing UNSDCF evaluation by ensuring the provision of accurate and timely data to evaluators, and updating the UNSDCF results frameworks. Four M&E members also served as part of the Evaluation Technical Management Team. These efforts contributed to the successful completion of the evaluation exercise. Looking ahead, the M&E group will continue to facilitate the timely update of project progress, performance and the management response in 2025 and beyond. It will also ensure that all feedback and recommendations are addressed effectively.

Enhancing the Joint Work Plan (JWP) for Impactful Implementation

To advance the implementation of the Cooperation Framework (CF), the M&E group actively supported the holistic cycle and key steps in the Joint Work Plan (JWP), ensuring it serves as a comprehensive tool integrating all UN activities. Insights from the 2024 review meeting—where achievements, lessons learned, thresholds, and future directions were discussed—were instrumental in refining the 2025 Joint Work Plan. As the focal point for Result Groups (RGs), the M&E group led efforts to align the JWP with strategic priorities, reinforcing its role as a guiding framework for CF execution.

Developing a Comprehensive UN Database Library

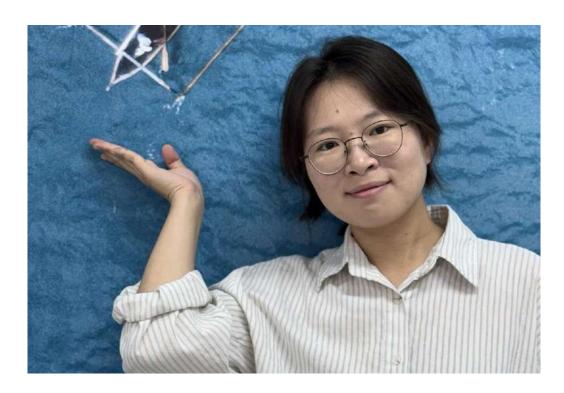
In support of the Common Country Analysis (CCA), the M&E group spearheaded the development of a UN database library, consolidating multiple datasets to enhance efficiency and cross-agency collaboration. This library integrates officially approved documents from both the UN and the government, providing a unified data resource. It is now actively utilized within the UN system to inform planning and decision-making processes.

Advancing Data Visualization and Accessibility

Leveraging newly updated indicators and additional data, the M&E group collaborated with UNESCAP and INETL to enhance indicator visualization files. These visual tools provide a clear and comprehensive snapshot of Timor-Leste's development status. The updated visualizations have been successfully published on the INETL website, ensuring broader accessibility and informed policy discussions.

Through these concerted efforts, the M&E group has significantly strengthened the monitoring, evaluation, and data management landscape in Timor-Leste. Moving forward, the group remains committed to ensuring data-driven decision-making and continuous improvement in tracking and assess the implementation of the Cooperation Framework.

#MeetTheChangeMakers:UN Volunteers in Timor-Leste



One of the most rewarding aspects of this work has been the opportunity to collaborate closely with the national statistical office (INETL). Witnessing these processes unfold not only within the UN system but also in collaboration with INETL and the statistics division of UN ESCAP, and seeing how data support and convey the SDGs, has been truly enlightening.

@Mingyeong Jun, from the Republic of Korea, Monitoring, evaluation, and Reporting Officer at UNRCO

Operations Management Team (OMT)

The UN in Timor-Leste shared the common Premises whereby efficiency via economies of scale was critical. Also, continuous efforts for more efficiency operations brings effective operation among UN system, with substantive support such as quantifying the savings of the UN during the year. The OMT of Timor-Leste supported the harmonisation of Common Premises long-term agreements (LTAs), resulting in three new and one renewed LTA s 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 14 UN agencies participated. 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. Collaborative and advocating project was been enabled via monthly meetings and update matters to the UNCT.

In support of the Common Country Analysis (CCA), the M&E group spearheaded the development of a UN database library, consolidating multiple datasets to enhance efficiency and cross-agency collaboration. This library integrates officially approved documents from both the UN and the government, providing a unified data resource. It is now actively utilized within the UN system to inform planning and decision-making processes.

United Nations Communications Group (UNCG)

In 2024, the UN Communications Group (UNCG) and the communications function within the UN Resident Coordinator's Office played a kkey role in advancing the UN's presence and impact in Timor-Leste. Through strategic engagement with government, media, and development partners, communications efforts helped advance national priorities, including economic diversification, governance, climate action, food security, gender equality, and youth empowerment.

The year was marked by high-profile events that reinforced UN leadership and global visibility. The visit of UN Secretary-General António Guterres in August was a defining moment, with communications ensuring seamless press coordination and powerful messaging that highlighted the UN's enduring partnership with Timor-Leste. Similarly, media strategies around the Summit of the Future, UN Day, and the historic visit of Pope Francis amplified critical conversations on

peace, development, and multilateral cooperation.

A strong advocacy and media engagement kept the UN's work in focus. Over 20 speeches by the UN Resident Coordinator spotlighted key policy priorities, while two major television programmes on the Summit of the Future expanded public discourse. A steady flow of press releases, blogs, and feature stories deepened awareness of UN initiatives. Digital communications also played a vital role, with over 100 social media posts achieving broad national and global reach. Beyond public outreach, communications strengthened UN-government relations, supporting high-level policy discussions on economic growth, governance, and ASEAN accession. Internally, the UNCG fostered collaboration and capacity-building across agencies, ensuring effective and aligned messaging.

Commitment to knowledge-sharing remained a priority, with flagship publications—including the 2024 UN Annual Report and #UNTimorLeste Newsletter—enhancing transparency and advocacy. By weaving storytelling with digital engagement, the UN amplified the voices of youth, communities, and development partners, fostering an informed and engaged society



STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

ASEAN-UN Dialogue Supports Timor-Leste's ASEAN Membership Aspirations

The United Nations in Timor-Leste hosted a dialogue with the six ASEAN embassies in Timor-Leste —Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, the Philippines, and Singapore—to discuss UN's support for Timor-Leste's aspirations for ASEAN membership following the UN-ASEAN Partnership Dialogue in Vientiane, Laos; and on strengthening UN-ASEAN partnership to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs in Timor-Leste.

The dialogue brought together ASEAN ambassadors and heads of UN agencies, focusing on key priorities of improving nutrition and food security, strengthening healthcare systems, and enhancing preparedness for ASEAN accession. Discussions centred around UN actions, successes and challenges in combating malnutrition, promoting climate-smart agriculture, improving health outcomes through evidence-based strategies, and building institutional capacity to meet ASEAN standards.

ASEAN ambassadors and UN representatives recognised the importance of capacity building, particularly in education, legal harmonisation, and human resource development. Discussions also addressed challenges such as climate resilience and economic diversification, emphasising collaboration to overcome gaps in coordination and government capacity.

The dialogue concluded with a commitment from ASEAN ambassadors and the UNCT to continue strengthening collaboration, aligning Timor-Leste's development with ASEAN's goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.





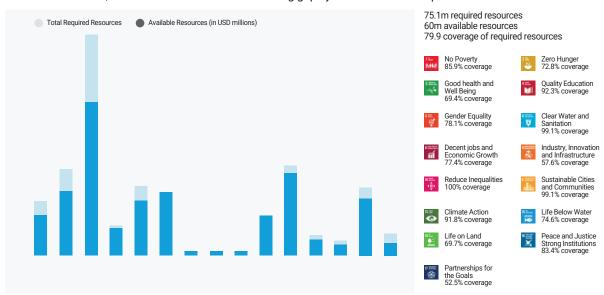
2.5. Evaluations and Lessons Learned

The evaluation of the current United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025 in Timor-Leste highlights its strong alignment with national development priorities but identifies key areas for improvement in strategic guidance, coordination, and impact measurement.



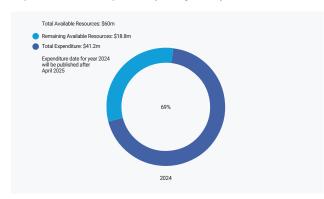
2.6. Financial Overview and Resource Mobilisation

How much we need, how much we have: The UN funding gap by Sustainable Development Goal in Timor-Leste

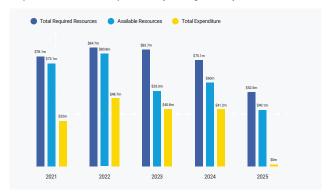


Required, available, and Expenditure by Strategic Priority in 2024

Required, Available, and Expenditure by Strategic Priority



Required, Available, and Expenditure by Strategic Priority



Required, Available, and Expenditure by Strategic Priority



Required, Available, and Expenditure by Strategic Priority



2.7. Resource mobilization and quality of funding

The total funding amount through active joint programmes which continued in 2024 was around US\$40.

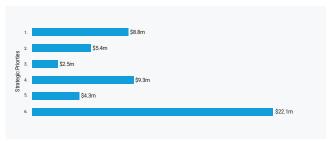
Fund	Joint Programme	Amount
вна	Addressing Protection Risks in Humanitarian Settings in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea	US \$2 million
GCF	Enhancing Early Warning Systems to build greater resilience to hydro-meteorological hazards in Timor-Leste	US \$21.7 million
KOICA	Hamutuk ba Igualdade/Together for Equality	US \$8 million
KOICA	SAY NO TO 5S (Starvation, Soil-transmitted helminthiasis, Skin diseases, Smoking and Sugary/Alcoholic Drinks)	US \$7.8 million
UNPRPD	Empower for inclusion to eliminate violence against women and girls with disabilities in Timor-Leste	US \$0.7 million
CERF	Emergency response to El-Niño in Timor-Leste	US \$2.1 million

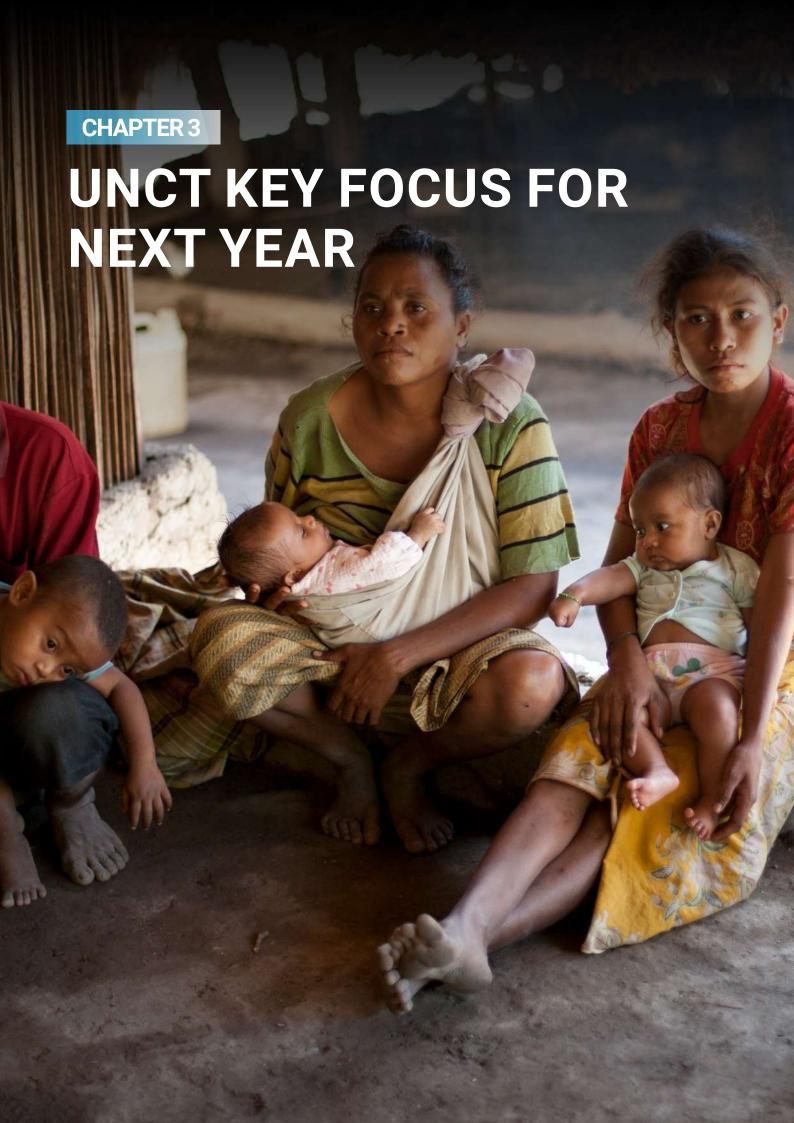
Funding for the UNSDCF in 2025

Required, Available, and Expenditure by Strategic Priority



Required, Available, and Expenditure by Strategic Priority





RG2 RG1 RG3

In 2025, RG1 will continue to focus on strengthening food security, nutrition, and livelihoods in Timor-Leste, with a key emphasis on transforming food systems to be more resilient and sustainable. A major area of focus will be enhancing local production, particularly through the promotion of Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF), and supporting efforts to strengthen food value chains. RG1 will prioritize improving the safety and nutritional value of food at the household level through nutrition-sensitive agriculture, while also ensuring that food systems contribute to better livelihoods. Another key area of focus would be supporting adoption of Codex food standards and strengthening regulatory frameworks to limit unhealthy foods. These actions will help increase access to nutritious foods, particularly for the most vulnerable populations to food insecurity and climate shocks, as well as foster long-term food system transformation.

The 2025 strategy will focus on advancing women's economic empowerment by empowering rural women, strengthening engagement with the private sector, transforming the care economy, and enhancing women's resilience to climate change. Additionally, efforts will be made to support labor mobility and employment opportunities while emphasizing the need for strong coordination among UN agencies to prevent duplication of indicators. Strengthening the national social security system will be a priority to improve coverage and efficiency under the social protection framework. Supporting entrepreneurship, business development, and agricultural activities will help promote sustainable livelihoods through agroforestry and value chains. Lastly, contributions to national climate change strategies, including Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR), will play a key role in ensuring that socioeconomic development remains climate-resilient.

In 2025, UN in collaboration with ACETL will continue to support MoE in finalizing the Education Sector Plan 2026-2030, expansion of early childhood education, developing materials and training on the cycle 3 curriculum and finalization of National School Safety Standards, to shape a more sustainable education ecosystem.

RG4 RG5 RG6

The UN is strengthening Timor-Leste's health system by enhancing climate resilience, preventive care, service integration, workforce capacity, digital health, and emergency preparedness and response. Key initiatives include expanding immunization, RMNCAH strategies, mental health services, TDaumacare, Injury and drowning prevention through community empowerment and occupational health and safety and GBV responses while improving infrastructure, supply chain management, and financial systems. Disaster preparedness efforts include training, emergency health kits, and solar-powered facilities to ensure service continuity.

The UN is supporting Timor-Leste in gender equality, violence prevention, and digital transformation through technical assistance for implementing National Action Plans on GBV, Women, Peace, and Security (NAP 1325), and Trafficking in Persons. Key efforts include expanding One-Stop Service Centers, enhancing water catchment management to reduce women's burden, training teachers and students on positive discipline and leadership, and developing GBV prevention materials. Additionally, the UN is advancing digital public services for vulnerable communities and strengthening the health sector's response to GBV, tobacco, and alcohol control in alignment with global recommendations.

The UN is enhancing Timor-Leste's disaster resilience by expanding the DisasterAWARE Pro platform, strengthening early warning systems, and finalizing emergency preparedness policies. Through a comprehensive approach including establishing National Emergency Medical Teams, improving Health Emergency Operation Centre coordination, and scaling up climate-smart social services with renewable energy integration. Additionally, the UN is advancing sustainable agriculture, drought and flood preparedness, marine conservation, and gender-responsive disaster risk reduction through training and livelihood programs.

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