

APRIL 2020



# UNITED NATIONS TIMOR-LESTE COVID19 RESPONSE



UN Timor-Leste at the forefront of development and cooperation

## SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND ASSISTANCE

### World Health Organisation

Being the technical lead agency on health, WHO has led the support to the government in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. From developing Preparedness & Response plan to costed National Action Plan for COVID-19 to technical guidance on every aspect of COVID-19 – from case management to infection prevention control – to strengthening laboratory and surveillance capacity to providing test kits (for 1000 tests and other lab equipment) for COVID-19 testing to providing personal protective equipment gear to the training of over 1000 health workers to community sensitization to setting up of Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC) to 111 sensitization sessions for government agencies, civil society organizations, schools and universities, faith-based organizations and defence organizations. In addition to all of the above, WHO has also been running aggressive social media campaigns and risk communication and community engagement activities to prevent spread of misinformation and stem rumours.



"In recent weeks, Timor-Leste had to adapt to the national emergency restrictions in an effort to curtail the COVID19 outbreak. United Nations agencies in Timor-Leste are fully engaged in assisting and responding to the unfolding health crisis. By joining hands with local partners, government entities and civil society, the UN is working on preventing and containing the transmission of the virus as well as responding to rising socio-economic challenges exacerbated by the health emergency."

**ROY TRIVEDY**  
**UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR**



### United Nations Development Programme

UNDP has signed a \$5.7 million agreement with the GoTL to procure equipment, medicines, and commodities. The agency has contributed to National Prevention of Campaign by printing and distributing over 40,000 brochures across all municipalities and producing videos on COVID prevention, child rights, and handwashing. The UNDP and KOICA decentralization partnership with the Ministry of State Administration has also allowed the UNDP to assist with information materials distribution to rural communities.

Through its youth and entrepreneur networks, UNDP Accelerator Lab and Knua Juventude Fila Liman have also started domestic hand-sanitizer production using 100% local ingredients and knowledge. The UNDP is also working with the State Secretary for the Environment to improve food security and domestic value chains by supporting farmers growing locally-suitable vegetables. This includes supplementary plans to distribute bulk fresh vegetables to vulnerable and remote communities.

### International Labour Organisation

ILO has helped organising tripartite meeting between SEFOPE, KSTL and CCI-TL to inform COVID19 Policy Guidance for consideration of the Council of Ministers. ACTION II Programme provided support to the Ministry for Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) on Social Protection Guidance Measures to Mitigate to COVID-19 Crisis and Advisory Note on proposed Universal Benefit Scheme. Meanwhile, 4 projects being implemented by ILO are raising awareness around COVID-19.

### UN Women

UN Women's response supports: (1) Coordination and technical assistance on gender equality and women's empowerment by co-chairing a multi-stakeholder Gender and Protection Working Group with UNICEF; (2) Women's economic empowerment with a focus on women in informal work, engaging Baucau Safe Market Taskforce, and monitoring the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19; (3) Ending Violence Against Women and Girls by providing technical assistance via EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, convening the Civil Society Reference Group, facilitating grants to CSOs, and supporting VAWG prevention through risk communications and remote parenting support interventions; (4) Women, Peace and Security by raising awareness of existing networks of women leaders; (5) Communications, raising the visibility of women's roles in COVID-19 responses and the gendered experiences of the pandemic. UN Women distributed over 1,000 WHO brochures on COVID-19 prevention with CSO and women's group in Dili and Baucau municipalities.



### UN Human Rights Advisers Unit

The HRAU has been collaborating with and supporting technically and financially the NHRI in discharging its constitutional mandate in the current pandemic situation, including in what regards the implementation of the State of Emergency and restrictions to freedom of movement, as well as other human rights related concerns particularly affecting vulnerable groups. The HRAU is also continuing to engage and support technically the Human Rights Defenders Network in its advocacy efforts for the respect of fundamental human rights in the context of the current crisis.





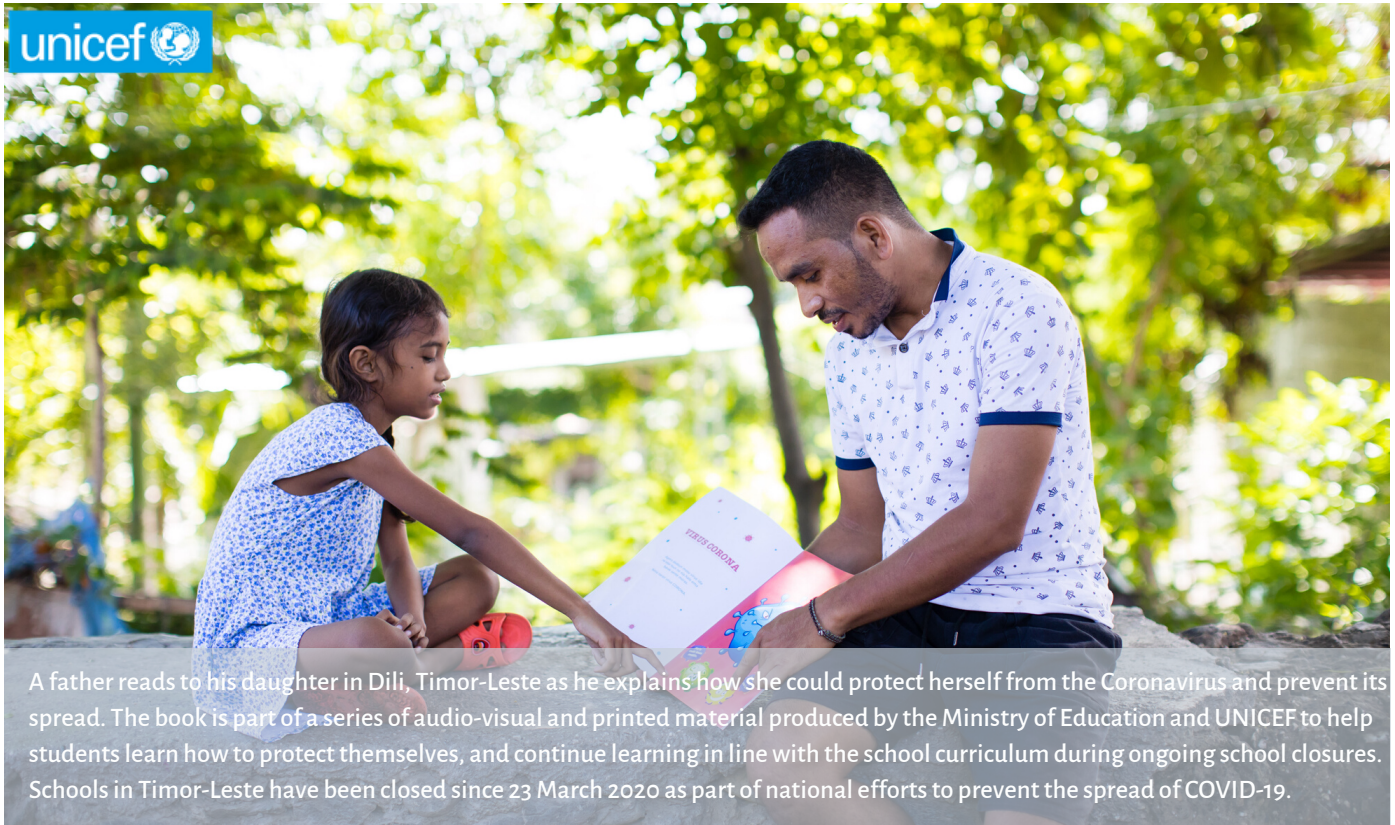
## International Organization for Migration

IOM is working closely with the Ministry of Health and key line ministries to improve COVID-19 response for migrants, mobile populations and border communities who may be disproportionately vulnerable to COVID-19 transmission due to their living and working conditions, border closures and barriers to access the health system, public education and outreach. IOM being an active member of the MoH COVID-19 Task Force, is complimenting the MoH and WHO efforts to improve quarantine centre standards by providing support for data collection and entry to assess eight quarantine facilities in Dili Municipality. IOM aims to ensure that mobility is taken into account in public health messaging, and that information is communicated to migrants and mobile populations including taxi drivers, microlet drivers, truck drivers and travellers, and border communities. IOM has developed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in local languages that have been shared with border communities in Bobonaro Municipality.

## UNICEF

UNICEF has provided multi-sectoral support to the COVID-19 response, in coordination with a number of partners and donors. This includes the provision of medical equipment for isolation and treatment centers and WASH supplies for quarantine centers, public spaces and government institutions. To ensure children continue learning, UNICEF helped develop the 'school goes home' initiative through an online platform, television and radio programmes, sms, electronic and printed books. As part of the strategy of reaching communities across Timor-Leste with accurate messaging, UNICEF has supported the development of a range of communication materials, audio and video messages on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and is supporting outreach in the municipalities, including through community radio and television; and helped develop guidance on how to protect children from violence/abuse, and explain COVID-19 to children with special needs. UNICEF also continues supporting the provision of routine nutrition, health and other services.





A father reads to his daughter in Dili, Timor-Leste as he explains how she could protect herself from the Coronavirus and prevent its spread. The book is part of a series of audio-visual and printed material produced by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF to help students learn how to protect themselves, and continue learning in line with the school curriculum during ongoing school closures. Schools in Timor-Leste have been closed since 23 March 2020 as part of national efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## HOW IS WHO SUPPORTING TIMOR-LESTE IN RESPONDING TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### Technical support & capacity building

- Health workers trained for COVID-19 preparedness **1184**
- Training sessions for doctors, nurses, point of entry staff, emergency and rapid response teams **85**
- Co-produced a costed Action Plan with MoH
- Co-chaired emergency health cluster meetings
- Supported establishment of Health Emergency Operation Centre (HEOC)
- Provided technical guidance documents **54**



### Laboratory capacity strengthening

- Provided primers and probes for COVID-19 tests **1000**
- Laboratory and surveillance training **10**
- Provided PCR Workstation **2**
- Logistical & financial support to test samples in Darwin
- HR support to the national Laboratory for COVID-19 testing



### Provided PPE to MoH

- Gloves **18 600**
- N95 respirators mask **60**
- N95 mask **4955**
- Surgical mask **88 500**
- Gown **890**
- Goggles **400**



### Situation Reports

- Situation reports issued since 3 February **24**

### Risk Communication & Community Engagement

#### Sensitization sessions and briefings for communities

- Line ministries **44**
- Defence Institutions **12**
- INGOs & NGOs **20**
- Religious Organization **7**
- Civil Society Organizations **13**
- School/Universities **7**



#### Sensitization through mass media

- Prime time national TV shows on COVID-19 **5**
- Explainer videos in Tetum **5**
- Printed IEC materials distributed across the country by WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP & partners **107 000**



#### Social Media

- COVID-19 Facebook posts **232**
- Facebook post engagement **247 316**
- People saw Facebook posts **1 218 240**
- Tweets **324**
- Impression **1,731 000**

