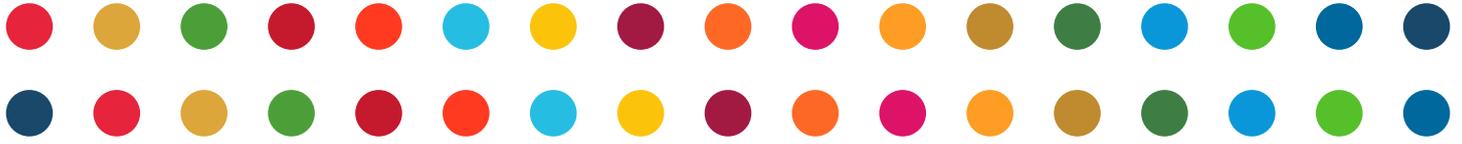




September 2020



“COVID-19 pandemic is an unparalleled health crisis which is having significant socio-economic consequences that are affecting everyone’s life.”

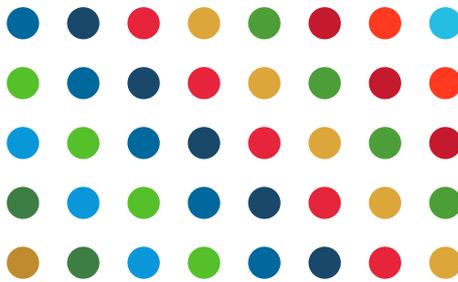
- ROY TRIVEDY
UNITED NATIONS RESIDENT
COORDINATOR, TIMOR-LESTE



Although the duration of the pandemic is unknown, we are confident of the UN Country Team in Timor-Leste’s commitment to continue to work together to find effective ways of supporting people however long it takes. There is no going back to the pre-COVID-19 world until a vaccine is available and globally distributed. We stand hand-in-hand to assist the Government and people of Timor-Leste to make appropriate choices and provide effective assistance.

COVID-19 pandemic is an unparalleled health crisis which is having significant socio-economic consequences that are affecting everyone’s life. The most vulnerable people are the hardest hit. Businesses and entrepreneurs that provide people with jobs and income have also been badly hit in Timor-Leste and around the world. Additionally, the pandemic is impacting on the lives of men, women, and children, and further exacerbating gender inequalities.

The impact of the pandemic determines the need to increase investments in health, economic and social systems because COVID-19 has pushed humankind to alarming levels of deprivation. While the fallout continues, the devastating impact on human development will add significant roadblocks to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. That’s why, what we do now matters. We need increased investments to protect human development for all – especially the most vulnerable.



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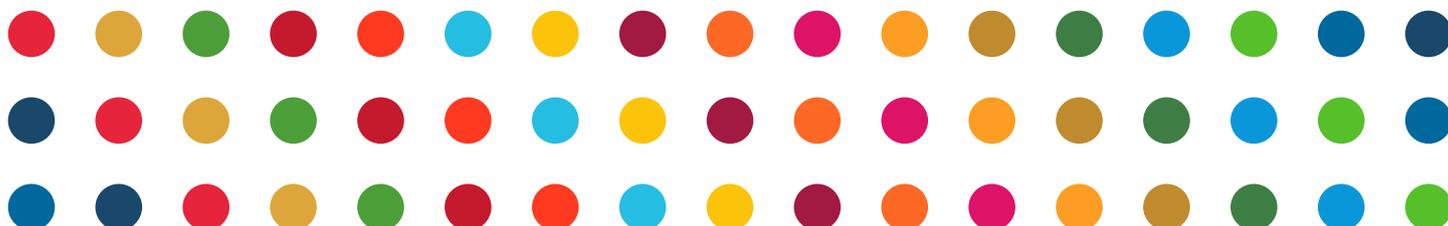
<https://twitter.com/UNTImorLeste>





FASTER TESTING FOR COVID-19

- WHO has further strengthened surveillance and the effectiveness of the National Health Lab (NHL) with a new RT-PCR machine, for faster testing. This is the third RT-PCR machine handed over by WHO to the NHL
- To ensure the safety of frontline health workers, WHO provided the third batch of medical supplies, including PPE, to the MoH. These supplies were donated by the Alibaba Group to WHO especially for Timor-Leste. These supplies were delivered thanks to the WFP humanitarian aviation service
- WHO, with financial support from USAID, provided technical assistance to the MoH in training in infection prevention and control. This training was provided for more than 25 health workers, cleaners, border staff, security and drivers at the Indonesian border health and quarantine facilities
- This month's focus went beyond the threat of COVID-19 to include preventing outbreaks of Japanese Encephalitis. 500 lumbar puncture kits for diagnosis of the mosquito born disease were provided by WHO to the National Hospital (HNGV) so outbreaks can be swiftly identified and contained
- The Timor-Leste delegation took part in the 73rd WHO South East Asia Regional Committee meeting which was focused on measures to contain the outbreak, maintain essential health services, and the transition to the 'new normal'
- UNICEF, with USAID funding, supported the set-up of health promotion corners in seven community health centres (CHCs) in Covalima Municipality. These spaces enable community members to interact with healthcare providers during outpatient visits and access essential health information, including on the prevention of COVID-19, as well as on nutrition, immunization and more



FOOD SECURITY



FOOD DISTRIBUTION CONTINUES

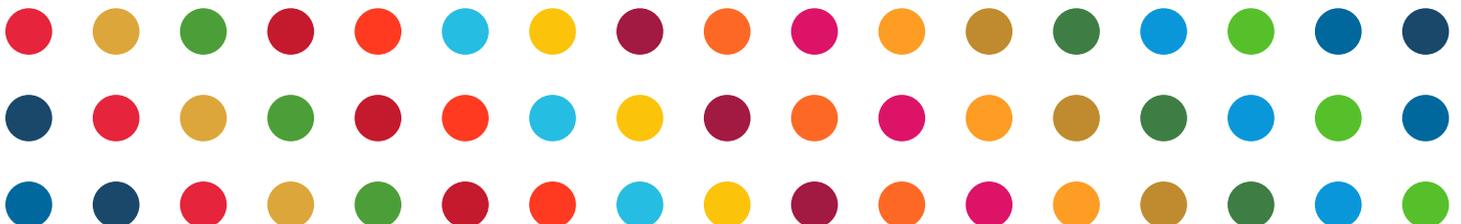
- The UNDP-led food distribution reached 622 households and 3,881 people. In partnership with MoF and MAP, residents of Dili, Baucau, Bobonaro and Oecussi were helped
- In the coming months, 25,000 vulnerable people will receive food assistance, through USD 1 million support from MoF, ADB and the Government of Japan
- WFP's Home Grown School Feeding programme was endorsed by MoEYS and is being piloted in 5 Dili schools
- WFP and General Directorate of Statistics' digitised platform for the Consumer Price Index continues to gather and publish data on market conditions and commodities
- The Food Security Bulletin is being resumed by MAF with WFP's support and input from government ministries. The bulletin reports on agro-climate data

NUTRITION



NATIONAL NUTRITION SURVEY COMPLETED

- Data collection for the Timor-Leste Food & Nutrition Survey 2020, supported by the EU and KOICA, was completed. UNICEF and the WFP supported the MoH to undertake the survey, which will help the government and its partners to respond to the nutrition situation of children and their families across the country. 64 specially trained enumerators collected information from thousands of individuals, from all 13 municipalities, over a period of three months
- The infant and young child feeding counselling package, for children 6-23 months, was adapted for the Timor-Leste context with UNICEF support
- WFP is working to improve social and behaviour change communications in Timor-Leste with the Health Promotion Department of the MoH. Together they created a Field Level Agreement



EDUCATION



WASH FACILITIES FOR NEWLY OPENED SCHOOLS

- The 'Restore Learning Safely' or 'Back to School Campaign' is ongoing
- As schools reopen, good WASH facilities are needed, as well as encouragement to students to wear masks. UNICEF provided 6,540 portable handwashing buckets to improve hand washing in classrooms
- UN agencies are putting learning first with a workshop for municipal leaders and school inspectors from 13 municipalities. This is aimed at helping them organise and develop resilient approaches to learning recovery
- 17 children's books were recorded and made available as audio books to Timorese children



WASH



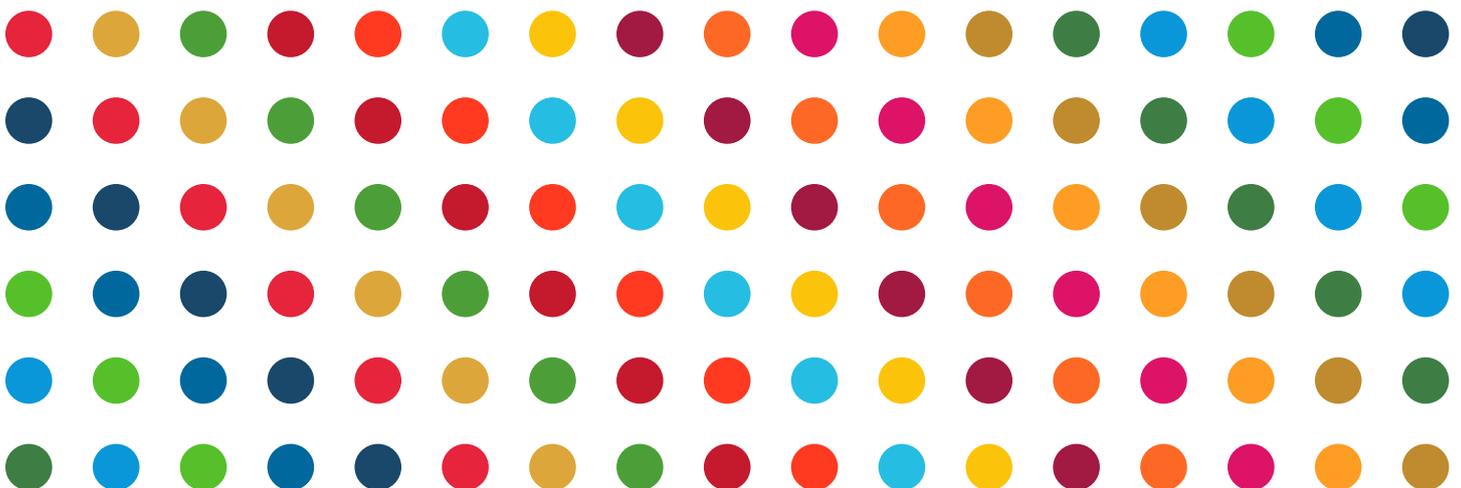
HANDWASHING STATIONS FOR OECUSSI

- 15 standalone handwashing stations with 1,100 litre capacity were installed in Oecussi
- The WASH in Health Facility Improvement program assessed 33 CHC's in 5 municipalities to ensure they are COVID-19 compliant
- 10 WASH facilities, used by people crossing the Indonesian border, were improved
- 4 additional engineers were recruited to help improve WASH in Timor-Leste



ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLIANCE DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY

- Human Rights Adviser Unit, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defense, F-FDTL and the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice, conducted a training in Baucau for F-FDTL on their role, and human rights compliance, during the state of emergency
- The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, in collaboration with Maluk Timor and MoH, developed a booklet on COVID-19 and GBV prevention for people in quarantine. The English version will be printed and distributed with support from WHO. UN Women and UNFPA delivered 500 copies of the Tetum version to MoH to be distributed to 8 quarantine facilities as part of their dignity kits
- Flow monitoring at 20 key transit points across borders continues. This month the number of movements across the border reached 662
- IOM distributed 100 hygiene kits to the Suai Quarantine Centre
- UNICEF continues to support the Social Service Workforce, developing training modules on Child Protection in the COVID-19 context. These are to be included in the training curriculum for the SSW in the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI)
- To ensure RCCE compliance the 'Catch up Learning Safely' campaign materials were written to include protection issues such as violence, stigma and discrimination at schools



LOGISTICS



FLIGHTS CONTINUE TO SUPPLY TIMOR-LESTE'S HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- The WFP Humanitarian flight has to date transported a total of 433 passengers and 6,437 kg of humanitarian cargo
- WFP is continuously tracking incoming shipments of food items by the private sector and monitoring the shipping schedule in coordination with GIZ. In August 2020, as per customs statistics, a total of 37,146 MT of rice has been imported by the private sector in Timor-Leste. This represents a significant increase compared to the previous months

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- The UN joint Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (with UNDP and UNFPA as technical lead) was completed and the draft was shared with UN agencies for feedback. It includes 419 interviews with households, 99 interviews with Medium, Small and Microenterprises (MSMEs), and 40 key-informant interviews. Data analysis and draft reporting is now complete and has been presented to the UNCT
- In Oecussi, UNDP provided extra income for 633 people, 307 of whom were women, through farming, basket weaving, non-medical mask production and supporting small businesses
- ILO signed contracts with 10 local contractors for the implementation of ILO RBSA COVID-19 response funding. This will maintain 275 kms of roads and provide employment to a total of 1,850 vulnerable rural community beneficiaries. It will be implemented through the DFAT funded R4D-SP and EU funded ERA-Agro Forestry projects



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