

# UN Timor-Leste Results Report 2020



UNITED NATIONS  
TIMOR-LESTE



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## Foreword by the UN Resident Coordinator

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In 2020, the United Nations turned 75. Three-quarters of a century from its founding, 2020 was a year that reaffirmed the continued relevance of multilateralism. Perhaps not in a way that we had originally envisaged, with big and joyous celebrations. Rather, through multilateralism creating a platform for finding effective solutions to complex global challenges, rooted in global solidarity.

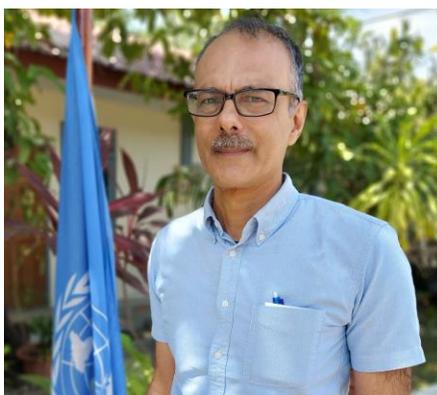
In Timor-Leste, the UN was able to support the Government and other stakeholders to prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, joining hands with other development partners and friends of Timor-Leste. I am incredibly proud of our collective achievements under the strong leadership of the Government of Timor-Leste.

While UN programmes were re-focused to prioritize the immediate health and socio-economic response to COVID-19, we continued to keep our eyes on the longer-term challenges to sustainable development and inclusive growth in Timor-Leste. Through the finalization of the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025, developed through numerous multi-stakeholder consultations in 2019 and 2020, we have developed a shared commitment between the Government and the UN in Timor-Leste to maximize our efforts in support of national priorities and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The UNSDCF process also made the UN Country Team in Timor-Leste “stronger than the sum of our parts,” with a unity of purpose.

Challenges will continue in 2021 and we must remain focused. Amidst all the uncertainties, I dare to be optimistic for Timor-Leste and its people.

Roy Trivedy  
United Nations Resident Coordinator

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## Message from the Government

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*“Timor-Leste and the United Nations share a history that goes back to the time before Timor-Leste restored its independence.*

*The United Nations provided an avenue for the protection of the rights of Timorese people for self-determination and supported Timor-Leste during the transitional period after the referendum and following the restoration of independence in different areas, such as peace and security, human rights, health, agriculture and good governance. Timor-Leste is committed to further strengthening cooperation with the United Nations to achieve our common objective for Timor-Leste that is a prosperous and strong country.”*

H.E. Adaljiza Albertina Xavier Reis Magno  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste  
On the occasion of UN Day 2020



## Acronym List

<b>AJC</b>	Access to Justice Clinics
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>CBDRM</b>	Community-Based Disaster Risk Management
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<b>COVAX</b>	COVID-19 Vaccines Global Alliance
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease 2019
<b>CPRP</b>	Country Preparedness and Response Plan
<b>CSA</b>	Climate Smart Agriculture
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence
<b>EAA</b>	Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture
<b>EmONC</b>	Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
<b>ESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>ESP</b>	Essential Services Package
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GCF</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>Ha</b>	Hectares
<b>HGSF</b>	Home Grown School Feeding
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization of Migration
<b>IPC</b>	Infection and Prevention Control
<b>IPG</b>	Institute of Petroleum and Geology
<b>IPV</b>	Intimate Partner Violence
<b>IUU</b>	Illegal, unreported and unregulated
<b>KJFL</b>	Knua Juventude Fila-Liman
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Country
<b>LGBTI</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex
<b>LTA</b>	Long-Term Agreement
<b>LNOB</b>	Leaving No One Behind
<b>NHRI</b>	National Human Rights Institution
<b>NCD</b>	Noncommunicable Diseases
<b>NDRMD</b>	National Disaster Operation Centre-National Disaster Risk Management Directorate
<b>MAF</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
<b>MoF</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoJ</b>	Ministry of Justice
<b>MINCH</b>	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
<b>NAP GBV</b>	National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>ODF</b>	Open Defecation Free



<b>PHC</b>	Primary Health Care
<b>PNTL</b>	National Police of Timor-Leste
<b>PPE</b>	Personal Protective Equipment
<b>PwD</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>RCCE</b>	Risk communication and community engagement
<b>RC</b>	Resident Coordinator
<b>SAM</b>	Severe Acute Malnutrition
<b>SBCC</b>	Social and Behavior Change Communication
<b>SDP</b>	Strategic Development Plan
<b>SEIA</b>	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
<b>SERP</b>	Socio-Economic Response Plan
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>SUN</b>	Scaling Up Nutrition
<b>TLFNS</b>	Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCDF</b>	United Nations Capital Development Fund
<b>UNCG</b>	United Nations Communications Group
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UNDSS</b>	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UN OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>VAWG</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls
<b>VPU</b>	Vulnerable Persons Unit
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization



# United Nations in Timor-Leste and Its Partners



The UN in Timor-Leste works in collaboration with the Government, development sector, businesses, and civil society to achieve the SDGs. These partnerships are instrumental in increasing access to and quality of programme activities specially to reach vulnerable groups



## Chapter 1: Key Developments in Timor-Leste

2020 was an unprecedented year, both globally and in Timor-Leste. The COVID-19 pandemic did not leave Timor-Leste unscathed. At the end of December 2020, there were 44 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 and fortunately no deaths as a result of the pandemic. However, the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic were severe with many business closures, services interruptions and effect on livelihoods.

The relatively successful COVID-19 health response in Timor-Leste is attributed to the Government's bold and decisive public health measures from the outset of the pandemic to rapidly detect, diagnose, and prevent the further spread of the virus. The Government also recognized repeatedly the close partnership and support from the development partners, hailing it as a success for international cooperation and solidarity. There were high levels of solidarity and social cohesion within Timorese society, despite - or perhaps because of - the challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>1</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affected the marginalized and at-risk groups, amplifying the underlying vulnerabilities and inequalities in Timor-Leste. According to the rapid Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) conducted by the UN in Timor-Leste in mid-2020, nearly 57% of the households surveyed had no sources of income, compared to 18% before the first State of Emergency (SoE). Of those whose employment was terminated due to COVID-19, 61% were women.<sup>2</sup> Nearly 37% of households surveyed reported moderate to severe food insecurity. Disruption of services had a



disproportionate impact on women and girls. With closure of schools during the SoE, women were identified as the primary caregiver for children in nearly 80% of households surveyed in the SEIA. With increased burden of unpaid care work carried by women, intra-household inequalities deepened.

To address the immediate socio-economic impact of COVID-19, the Government adopted 19 measures to be implemented during the first three months of the SoE (June to August). These included the Government's COVID-19 national social cash-transfer scheme targeting low-income households. The disbursement of over USD 61 million reached 98% of all eligible households, aimed to Leave No One Behind (LNOB).

According to the World Bank, Timor-Leste's economy was forecasted to contract by 6.8% in 2020, the sharpest fall since the country's restoration of independence in 2002. Economic recovery is likely to be slow, forecasted at 3.1% GDP growth in 2021. The impact of COVID-19 on the economy – both globally and in Timor-Leste – is a concern, particularly as Timor-Leste's economy is highly reliant on oil and gas revenues, and as such vulnerable to economic shocks.

To address the short and medium-term socio-economic impact, the Government developed the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan (August

<sup>1</sup> According to the rapid SEIA, a majority of the respondents felt that trust was "better" (45%) or "much better" (15%) during the SoE.

<sup>2</sup> As a proportion of all those employed before the start of COVID-19 outbreak, 13% of women and 3% of men were terminated as a result of COVID-19.



2020 - 2022), which presented a set of recovery measures and defined clear investment priorities. These included agriculture, tourism, housing, human capital (education, health and social protection) and institutional reforms.

Politically, 2020 started with continued political impasse, with collapse of the governing alliance in late January after the 2020 State Budget was voted down and offer of resignation by the Prime Minister (which was not accepted by the President). By mid-2020, a new power arrangement was in place, with the previous opposition FRETILIN entering the government and the CNRT (who had been in government) forming the Opposition. The new coalition government, led by H.E. Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak, ensured that the 2020 State Budget was finally passed in September 2020 by the Parliament. The 2021 State Budget – the largest in the history of Timor-Leste at USD 1.895 billion - was passed in early December 2020.

Maintaining of the political stability will remain a key priority for the country in 2021.

## Chapter 2: UN Support

### Overview of Results

In 2020, the UN continued to support the Government in achieving the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) (2011-2030) and accelerating progress towards SDGs. The UN enhanced collaboration with Government, civil society and development partners.

The UN supported the advancement of gender equality, promoted and protected human rights, built resilience of people, communities and institutions, and addressed inequalities including through investment in social protection. The principle of LNOB was operationalized through a stronger emphasis on working through partnerships, including with marginalized groups representing youth, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and the LGBTI community. The UN

supported government by responding to the pandemic through five pillars:

Firstly, the UN supported the Government in **protecting health services**. Essential services were protected, including access to maternal and child health, immunization, nutrition, and greater visibility was brought to GBV in health services. The UN enhanced the population's awareness on COVID-19 prevention through behavioral change communications. The UN also supported the Government in the development of the COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan.

Secondly, the UN helped to **protect vulnerable groups of people**, by supporting the Government COVID-19 cash transfer scheme for vulnerable households, maintaining access to essential items and food. The UN also ensured access to water, education and provision of services for GBV victims.

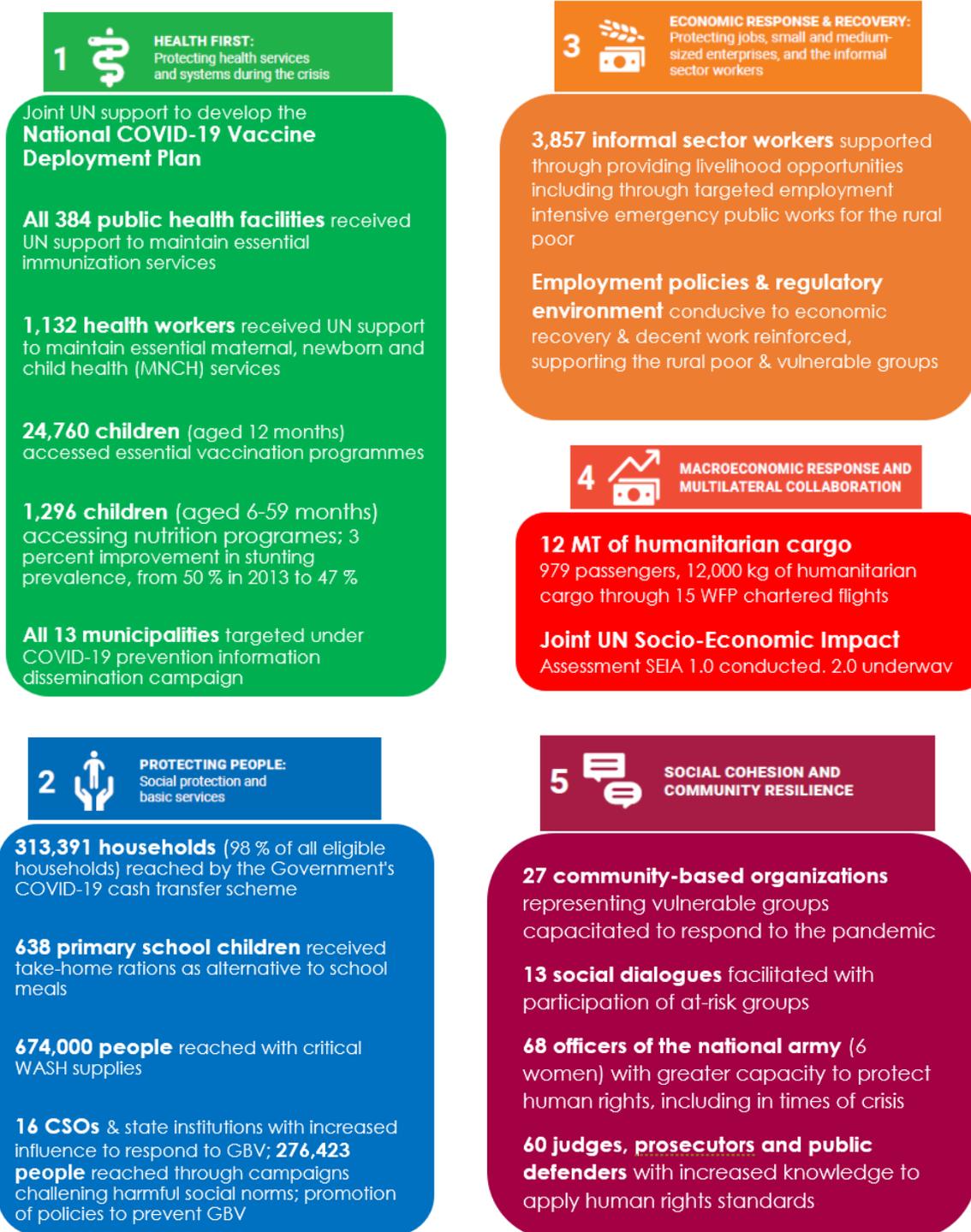
Thirdly, to **strengthen the economic response and recovery**, the UN provided direct employment as well as livelihood opportunities for vulnerable groups, including women, youth and PwDs. The UN strengthened resilience to climate change and disaster risk management, including through supporting informal workers.

Fourthly, the **macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration was strengthened**. Humanitarian and medical assistance was provided through the chartered WFP humanitarian flights during the year. The UN also enhanced the evidence-base on the socio-economic effects of COVID-19, which was shared with policy makers to inform the Government's response to the pandemic.

Finally, the UN **enabled social cohesion** by establishing inclusive partnerships with civil society and strengthening the respect and protection of human rights in the security and justice sectors.



## COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Snapshot<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup>A snapshot of the UN's COVID-19 socio-economic response in support of the Government of Timor-Leste's efforts. Indicators are cumulative, and several

align with the COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plan (SERP) global indicators.





# 2.1 Protect Health Services

Health First: Protecting health services and systems during the crisis

## 2.1.1 Ensuring the continuity of health services

Timor-Leste has a fragile health system with limited capacity to cope with the health impact of emergencies and disasters. From the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, UN Timor-Leste acted quickly to **protect and ensure the continuity of health services**. The UN supported the Government with health preparedness and response measures, in line with the pillars of the Country Preparedness and Response Plan (CPRP).

The UN procured essential medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE) and Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) supplies for health facilities, quarantine and isolation centers. The UN supported the protection of health services for **maternal and child health**, including sexual and reproductive health and Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC). The establishment of the Maternity Isolation Care Center in the capital Dili was supported by the UN, increasing the readiness to respond to the needs of COVID-19-positive pregnant mothers. Over 300 midwives and doctors in all 13 municipalities gained increased capacity to save lives, through orientations on the prevention and management of COVID-19 for pregnant mothers.



To maintain **essential immunization services**, the UN supported all 384 government health facilities in the country, enabling 24,760 children (aged 12 months) to access essential vaccination programs. The UN also supported the continuity of health services for controlling **communicable diseases** (including tuberculosis, HIV, malaria, Neglected Tropical Disease, hepatitis) and **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** (including



diabetes, hypertension, strokes, cancer and chronic respiratory disease). This included systematic screening for tuberculosis cases of all forms through active case finding. The UN supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) in applying for the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility (COVAX). Joint UN support was provided to develop the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Programme, resulting in the Prime Minister endorsing the inter-ministerial COVID-19 Vaccine Coordination Committee.

The UN improved the coordination of the **national risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) for the COVID-19 response** and helped develop the national strategy together with MoH. 95% of the total population – including mobile populations, migrants and border communities - was successfully reached with COVID-19 prevention messaging, enabling communities to foster positive behaviour change.

### 2.1.2 Ensuring access to nutrition services

In 2020, the Government affirmed Timor-Leste's commitment to reduce malnutrition and food insecurity by joining the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. Through this movement, the UN provided support in the development of the Consolidated National Action Plan for Food Security and Nutrition, which strategically outlines the main priorities to be met in this area by relevant ministries, CSOs and partners.

Malnutrition is a major concern in Timor-Leste and the prevalence of stunting and wasting are amongst the highest in the region. The Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey (TLFNS) 2020, conducted by MoH with support from the UN and development partners, showed tangible improvements in the rate of stunting (a reduction from 50.2% in 2013 to 47.1% in 2020) and wasting (a reduction from 11% in 2013 to 8.6% in 2020). The survey highlighted the

importance of continued joint efforts to provide supplementary foods to pregnant and lactating women, infants and young children to maintain good progress on the nutrition status.

Community **access to nutrition services and information** was enhanced, in close collaboration with MoH and the Primary Health Care (PHC) network. In 2020, a total of 1,286 children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) were reached with treatment (with a cure rate > 80%), and 111,445 and 74,930 children received Vitamin A and deworming tablets, respectively. Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) interventions were expanded, including through the establishment of Mother Support Groups in 126 villages, **promoting positive practices** in health, nutrition, WASH, and related gender equitable norms. *For more on nutrition see [Section 2.2.2](#).*

### 2.1.3 GBV in the health sector response

Timor-Leste has one of the highest reported rates of violence against women and girls (VAWG) globally, with 59 % of women reported having experience violence<sup>4</sup>. The levels of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Domestic Violence (DV) have often been overlooked by health and other service providers and have been traditionally seen as a family matter. The UN contributed to bring greater attention to VAWG as part of the COVID-19 response in the health sector. To ensure more **accessible and quality health care services for GBV survivors**, 442 MoH frontline workers (292 women, 150 men) working in quarantine facilities were supported by the UN to be better able to conduct basic examinations for GBV victims and connect victims the referral pathway for assistance. *For more on supporting victims of GBV, see [Section 2.2.6](#).*

<sup>4</sup> 15-49 years old, DHS 2016





## 2.2 Protecting People

Social protection and basic services

### 2.2.1 Scaling up and expanding resilient and pro-poor social protection schemes

Cognizant of the negative socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 on its citizens, the Government introduced a package of economic measures in April 2020. One of the measures financed by this package was a cash transfer scheme targeting low income (with an income of less than USD 500 per month) households. The UN – with funding from the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund - provided operational and technical support for the implementation of the country's first ever social cash transfer scheme. The purpose of the cash transfer was to mitigate the socio-economic effects of the pandemic on the most vulnerable, to enable access to food and to stimulate the local economy. In total, **313,391 low-income households received the cash transfer** of USD 200 per household. The cash transfer reached 98% of all eligible households in the country, 20% of which were female-headed. As a national household database was not comprehensive, UN technical support included identifying and verifying households. Furthermore, the UN equipped women's

organizations and marginalized groups (including women, domestic workers and the LGBTI community) to partner with Government to support the monitoring of the programme, ensuring increased accountability and the principle of LNOB.

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*"I will buy food, clothes and books for my children to continue their schooling" – Filomena DeJesus*

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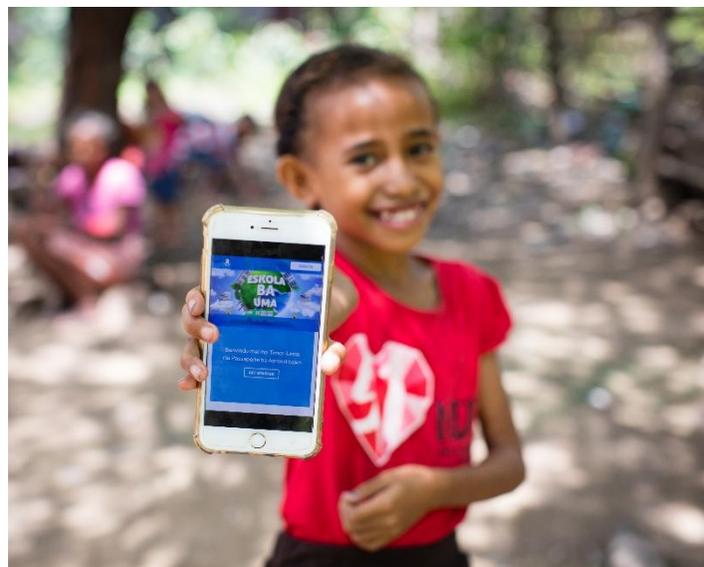
### *Strengthen national registration systems*

The UN continued to strengthen national registration and data systems. The birth registration and provision of legal identity has been slow in Timor-Leste. If people do not legally exist, then programmes are not designed to include them. The UN therefore contributed to **strengthening the birth registration** system. The central civil registration database under the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) was upgraded, enabling timely synchronization of civil registration data. The UN also continued to support the Government to introduce a **Unique ID system**, to improve state planning and decrease identity fraud for social benefits. Additionally, ahead of the national elections in 2022/2023, the **voter database** was further enhanced with support from the UN, now including a total of 829,236 registered voters (including 398,697 female voters).

#### 2.2.2 Maintaining essential food and nutrition services for children, women and particularly vulnerable populations

To determine the scale of the food security needs and impact of the Government's COVID-19 measures on the market, the UN assisted the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) together with CSO partners, with a rapid market resilience assessment and collected prices of essential food commodities.

The UN, through a circular economy approach, supported the distribution of 6,614 food baskets with locally produced food to 28,802 individuals (15,245 women) in 5 municipalities. The Government scaled up this approach by taking further measures through a universal **basic basket (cesta basica) programme**. Under this ambitious programme, the entire population was to receive a food basket with transfer value of USD 50 per person. The UN provided technical support, including the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).



The pandemic impacted the education sector, and the school closures led to a suspension of the national school feeding programme, affecting 320,000 school children (aged 6-15). When schools reopened, UN supported MoEYS to launch a pilot project on climate-smart agriculture practices under the home-grown school feeding (HGSF) in five schools in Dili. Through the HGSF, the UN promoted sustainable agriculture through the use of rice husk as organic fertilizer to minimize the use of pesticides and create eco-friendly school gardens for production of locally-sourced, nutritious and safe school meals.

#### 2.2.3 Ensuring continuity and quality of water and sanitation services

Access to safe water and sanitation remains a critical issue in Timor-Leste, particularly in rural areas where 30% of the population do not have access to basic water services, and 66% do not have access to basic sanitation facilities.

Increased attention on hand hygiene in the context of COVID-19 led to upgrading WASH facilities – with UN support - in public places and institutions, including 10 critical border locations. The UN supported Timor-Leste to reach the national Open Defecation Free (ODF)



target, through the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiative that created access to non-shared toilets and in-house handwashing in three municipalities. To prepare for the reopening of schools, the UN provided 239 schools with water tanks with hand-washing stations, buckets with taps and small grants to ensure water availability for schools lacking access to regular water. In 2020, a total of 674,000 people in the country were reached with critical WASH supplies.

To better assess the enabling environment of WASH delivery, track and remove barriers to sustainable services, the UN facilitated Timor-Leste's first-ever WASH Sector Bottleneck Analysis.

To assist long-term water security for all, the UN supported a local NGO in water conservation activities using practical measures to conserve water and prevent soil erosion, integrating traditional cultural elements and using locally sourced materials. Around 300 youth participants from 13 municipalities participated at this water conservation camp, with approximately 100 females and 200 males.

Moreover, to initiate national capacity building on climate change resilience, the UN, in consultation with the National Designated Authority for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and water supply authorities, initiated a proposal to the GCF to integrate climate change readiness in water resources management.

#### 2.2.4 Securing sustained learning for all children, and adolescents in schools

In early March, the UN together with MoEYS launched a school-based campaign targeting 520 public, private and community preschools to raise awareness on actions to prevent COVID-19 cases. When schools closed in late March, the UN collaborated with MoEYS to immediately introduce the distance learning program *Eskola ba Uma* (School Goes Home) allowing children

to continue learning through TV, radio, online devices and printed materials.

The UN also played a leading role to facilitate the return to school, with 95% of the country's education workforce better able to respond to and prevent COVID-19 through the *Learning Passport* online training. In an effort to bring all children back to school, the *Back to School Campaign* promoted collective efforts to disseminate key messages through television, radio and print media, and community mobilization activities.

To ensure equitable access to education, the *Learning Passport* made available e-books and resources in several national languages. All *Eskola ba Uma* lessons on COVID-19 on TV were provided in sign languages, and some story books were converted into audio for visually impaired children.

The UN also reviewed the National Action Plan for Disabilities to ensure alignment with inclusive education priorities and supported the development of a school reentry policy, which will make it mandatory for schools to include pregnant girls and adolescent mothers. For WASH in schools see [Section 2.2.3](#).

The UN continued to provide capacity building for teachers on Tourism Vocational Education for Sustainable Development in Timor-Leste. Around 40 tourism vocational teachers from tourism schools in eight municipalities participated strengthened their capacity in sustainable development in four subjects of tourism vocation education (tour and travel, hospitality, marketing and communication, and communication in English for tourism).

In addition, as basic math and science still are a challenge in the country, the UN continued to provide support through the Strengthening Science and Mathematics Primary Education project. The National baseline survey for Science and Mathematics increased the understanding



of challenges faced by teachers as well as the situation regarding Science and Mathematics in Primary Education cycle 1 and 2. 22 teachers (41% female) from 13 municipalities actively participated to identify the gaps and needs to support science and mathematics primary education.

### 2.2.5 Supporting the continuity of social services and access to shelters to assist children, women, and families at risk of violence, neglect and family separation

The UN advocated for the prevention of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and delivered necessary services and assistance for addressing vulnerability and exploitation, and ensured continuity of care of migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, including identified victims of trafficking, separated and unaccompanied children, as well as other vulnerable migrants.

The UN supported the Government of Timor-Leste to provide immediate assistance and facilitate the safe return home of 11 (8 men and 3 women) vulnerable migrants through the Voluntary Returns Support and Reintegration Assistance for Bali Process Member States Programme.

### 2.2.6 Support survivors of GBV

The Government renewed its commitment on ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG), and the State Secretariat for Equality and Inclusion (SEII) has taken a larger role as the coordinating entity for the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence (NAP GBV). This commitment to accelerate progress in support of gender-equitable norms and practices was

particularly critical given the impact of COVID-19 on VAWG in Timor-Leste.

The Gender and Protection Working Group, convened by the UN in the end of March, in response to concerns about rising levels of VAWG in the context of COVID-19. The Working Group identified priority areas for attention, enabled technical coherence of programming, and fostered multi-partner coordination. Local civil society and marginalized groups were enabled to regularly share priorities and access updates with up to 50 international and national organizations, including the EU Delegation and civil society members. The UN strengthened public and policy-level awareness of the UN Essential Services Package (ESP) for Women and Girls Subject to Violence and COVID-19. This **enhanced the availability of VAWG services** to ensure that women and girls could continue to access high-quality services during the pandemic. The UN also coordinated the development of a **Code of Conduct for staff in quarantine facilities** and a quarantine booklet in Tetun and English, which included information on violence and support services available.

The UN supported the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) to better respond to the immediate needs of GBV survivors in the COVID-19 context, through the provision of PPE and the improvement of a safe space for the Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) responsible for handling VAWG cases. The UN strengthened the capacity of community police and VPU members<sup>5</sup> to support GBV survivors. To provide critical information on justice services, women's legal empowerment and laws in remote areas that would not otherwise be reached, the UN conducted legal outreach campaigns through the Access to Justice Clinics (AJCs). AJCs ensured that knowledge of services were enhanced for 326 community members (including *suco* and

<sup>5</sup> 36 community police (67% women) and 116 VPU members (10% women).



*aldeia*<sup>6</sup> chiefs, *suco* council members, religious leaders, community police officers, veterans and LGBTI members - 45% of which were women).

The UN generated evidence to improve the legal and policy framework on GBV; to strengthen national data on GBV and identified key aspects for revision of the NAP GBV. The UN enabled 76,423 people to better challenge harmful practices and social norms, through awareness campaigns.

The capacity of 16 women's organizations and CSOs to respond to VAWG was increased. This included engagement of non-traditional EVAWG partners such as faith-based organizations, scouts, PwDs and the only two LGBTI organizations in Timor-Leste. *For more on GBV in the health response, see [Section 2.1.3](#).*



<sup>6</sup> There are 442 sucos (villages) and 2,336 aldeias (communities) in Timor-Leste.





## 2.3 Economic Response & Recovery

Protecting jobs, SMEs and the informal sector workers

### 2.3.1 Integrated, country-specific policy advice and programme support

The socio-economic impact of COVID-19 has amplified the need for a robust social protection system not only in Timor-Leste but across the world. The UN – together with development partners – supported MSSI with the development of the draft National Social Protection Strategy. Once approved, the UN will jointly support MSSI to operationalize the Strategy. The UN also jointly advocated for increased allocation of public resources for social protection.

To support the development of the Government’s Economic Recovery Plan (2020-2022), the UN seconded a senior economist who facilitated provision of coordinated technical support from the UN.

### 2.3.2 Scaling-up employment intensive programming

#### *Rural roads development*

The UN supported the COVID-19 economic recovery efforts by providing targeted emergency employment for the rural poor and vulnerable population. Through the routine

maintenance of 165 km of road, approximately **819 workers benefited from direct employment** (44% of whom were women; 1.4% of whom were PwDs).

In regular programming, the UN rehabilitated rural roads to improve market access to agro-forestry plantations. To promote more and better jobs and inclusive growth, 2,631 people (22.3% of whom were women; 2.1% of whom were PwDs) benefited from employment. In total, 71.9% of the planned 51.33 km of rural roads in Baucau, Viqueque and Manatuto were rehabilitated in 2020.



### *Creating jobs and livelihood opportunities*

The UN supported the creation of jobs and livelihood opportunities for 3,038 individuals (including women, youth and PwDs) within agriculture, fishery, tourism, livelihoods and waste management sectors. 700 youth strengthened their labor market position, with 56 youth finding employment and 61 becoming entrepreneurs with support from UN's youth hub, *Knua Juventude Fila-Liman* (KJFL). The UN also supported the Oecussi Business Incubation for youth and the Agribusiness Programme for 1,108 individuals (782 of whom women). A total of 319 (125 of whom women) from coastal communities benefited from the "cash-for-trees" initiative, and a further 272 individuals (of whom 117 women) benefited from various livelihood activities including handicrafts, horticulture and fisheries. The integrated waste management facility in Dili, established with the UN's support created 9 jobs (3 of whom occupied by females). The UN also supported in capacity building on good practices on refrigeration and air conditioning services to more than 60 technicians, which increased their job opportunities to provide more service contracts.

To protect and safeguard rural women's weaving and livelihoods, UNESCO supported the Secretary State for Art and Culture (SEAC) to



nominate and seek international recognition of *tais* as an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH).

### 2.3.3 Improve productivity and working conditions within agriculture, green businesses for poverty alleviation

The agricultural sector is the backbone of the non-oil economy in Timor-Leste, employing 64.2% of the workforce, however productivity remains low. To reorient agricultural systems and ensure food security in a changing climate, the UN continued to promote the expansion of **Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies**, in particular Conservation Agriculture (CA). This expansion increased the capacity of 1,538 farmers in 8 municipalities on applying CSA technologies on 925.5 Ha on their individual farms and demonstration plots.

Overfishing remains a continuous threat to the marine ecosystem. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including significant transboundary fishing, is a serious threat to fishery resources. To **sustain coastal and marine fish stocks and biodiversity**, the UN supported strengthening of transboundary cooperation between Timor-Leste and Indonesia. The UN supported the development of a revised aquaculture decree incorporating the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA). To enhance local knowledge on sustainable fisheries, 51 women gained capacity on conducting fish post-harvest processing. The UN also supported the improvement of environmentally friendly agricultural and fishery productivity through promoting the use of more sustainable (green) cooling and preservation of these products.

### *Sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to climate change*

In 2020, Timor-Leste ranked 20th among the countries with the highest disaster risk. Extreme weather events (heavy rainfall, flooding, drought



and increased temperatures) will increase the risk of transmission of water- and vector-borne diseases, food insecurity and under-nutrition, as well as heat-related mortality. Climate change has been attributed to social marginalization, damaged infrastructure, decreased agricultural production, with vulnerable populations (including pregnant women, children, the elderly) particularly susceptible.

The **adoption of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)** as a national standard significantly increased the Government's capacity to conduct CBDRM planning. To provide relevant stakeholders from different sectors with contextual knowledge on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and CSA, a compendium with 49 good practices was prepared with support from the UN<sup>7</sup>.

Timor-Leste's first **GCF project was launched with UN support, to ensure that 130 rural infrastructure works are climate-resilient** and to mainstream climate risk-informed planning across sectors. UN support included strengthening of watershed management and construction of climate resilience infrastructure to reduce vulnerabilities.

In less than 70 years, the country has lost 80% of its mangroves, with adverse impacts on marine and aquatic ecosystems causing recurrent flash flooding in some coastal areas. Most mangrove losses are due to unsustainable harvesting for timber and fuelwood as the main source of energy for cooking. With UN support, in 2020, **256,700 (28.6 Ha) mangroves were restored through plantation (95% survival rate)**<sup>8</sup>. The UN supported national awareness raising on the benefits of reducing firewood consumption and indoor air pollution. Since 2015, 21,265

households in rural and urban areas accessed cost-efficient technology for cooking through Improved Cook Stoves (ICS).

The UN **strengthened the institutional capacity** of the Government and the communities to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change and be better prepared to cope with and respond to natural disasters. This included technical support for the development of the national Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policy and its accompanying legislation; improving DRR programming through capacity building on information management; emergency rapid assessments; gender and protection during emergencies; evacuation center management, and safe shelter and settlements. The UN provided equipment to the national directorate of meteorology and geophysics to establish a weather monitoring center and installed early warning systems in villages most at risk to disasters.



<sup>7</sup> To strengthen the disaster prevention at the national level, the UN also supported the drafting of the National Climate Change Policy as well as the Second National Communication report and the National Adaptation Plan.

<sup>8</sup> Reforestation, rehabilitation, and agroforestry using various native species of plants and multipurpose trees and fruit-trees in inland areas covered 69.5 Ha between 2019-2020.





## 2.4 Macroeconomic Response & Multilateral Collaboration

### Comprehensive impact assessment

#### 2.4.1 Improve connectivity and lower transaction and transport costs

To ensure that commercial air transport closures did not restrict **humanitarian and medical assistance**, WFP launched a **global air service** that connected Dili with Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 15 WFP flights operated between Dili and Kuala Lumpur, transporting 979 passengers and 12,000 kg of medical cargo (including test kits, PPE etc).

While the Government procured a high volume of COVID-19 medical supplies, the Medical and Pharmaceutical Supply Agency did not have the required storage area to accommodate these items, so the UN provided two mobile storage units. In addition, the UN responded to a request from the MoH donating four sets of prefabricated buildings as temporary offices and isolation units for incoming passengers at the airport. In addition to the capacity augmentation interventions, the UN provided training on procurement, logistics and supply chain management in several municipalities.

#### 2.4.2 Conducted a comprehensive impact assessment at the household level and completed a socio-economic impact analysis

The UN conducted a rapid [SEIA](#) between April and August 2020, which highlighted how the crisis magnified underlying vulnerabilities in the country. The negative impacts on small-scale farmers, people living in remote areas and urban settlements, and MSMEs, were exacerbated by compounding climate, development and governance factors. Intra-household inequalities deepened, with the burden carried by women. The results were disseminated among policy makers, development partners and civil society and informed the Government's Economic Recovery Plan (2020-2022).





## 2.5 Social Cohesion & Community Resilience

Inclusive social dialogue, empower communities & support the rule of law

### 2.5.1 Inclusive social dialogue, advocacy and political engagement

The UN facilitated a national dialogue on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (**CEDAW**) **symposium** with government, CSOs and partners<sup>9</sup>. Recommendations and findings will be an input to the CEDAW shadow report to the CEDAW Committee, as well as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process in 2021/2022.

To accelerate progress on EVAWG, the UN created a space for dialogue between the Government and CSOs, including marginalized groups. Civil society engaged for the first time in the Inter-Ministerial NAP GBV Commission convened by SEII, fostering further **cooperation to EVAWG and strengthen the NAP GBV**.

To advance female vendors' access to decent work and economic autonomy, the UN engaged over 2,000 rural women in policy dialogues on **safe public spaces** and infrastructure. This was

possible through Safe Bacau, which raised these issues to be part of the national discourse.

The UN facilitated consultations between the MoJ, the National Human Rights Institution and civil society organizations to share data on progress and challenges in implementing the obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Inputs were considered for the first ever report being submitted by the Government to the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Committee.

### 2.5.2 Empower community resilience, participation and equitable service delivery

To ensure that no one is left behind (LNOB) in the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, including the Government's COVID-19 social cash transfer scheme, the UN supported the women's network Rede Feto to coordinate across 14 women's organizations to carry out qualitative research focusing on women's empowerment and the impact of the cash transfer on diverse women and marginalized

<sup>9</sup> Key issues highlighted included that women and girls with disabilities are unable to the formal justice information; harmful gender norms are still strong in

family life; and discrimination against women, LGBTIQ and PwDs is growing.



groups (rural women, LGBTI, single mothers, domestic workers, survivors of past violence and PwDs). The involvement of civil society strengthened the credibility of advocacy efforts to Government to improve social protection and incorporate gender mainstreaming in future emergencies. The UN provided recommendations for future social protection programmes, to ensure inclusiveness and increased accountability. *See more on the social cash transfer scheme in [Section 2.2.1](#).*

The COVID-19 pandemic added additional obstacles and challenges for PwDs to access their rights. The UN commissioned a study on the impact of COVID-19 on the rights of PwDs and their families in Timor-Leste. Respondents stated that - despite efforts by the Government and several organizations to be disability-inclusive in their COVID-19 prevention and response measures by adding persons with disabilities to their target groups - these measures (particularly on accessing information, education and benefit packages) were designed without considering the special needs of this group. The study is an important advocacy tool for the rights of PwDs to be taken more into account while designing strategies in the COVID-19 pandemic context and beyond.

### 2.5.3 Support to governance, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law

Although considerable progress has been made in integrating human rights throughout the Timor-Leste's processes and systems, much remains to be done.

The UN continued its longstanding support to increase democratic governance, focusing on the most excluded groups, especially women and girls. Significant progress was made at the institutional level with the **approval of the country's first Anti-Corruption Law**, to which UN

contributed to through nationwide awareness campaigns on anti-corruption. Additionally, through an enhanced evidence-base that feeds into planning and budgeting processes, the responsiveness of institutions was strengthened.

Following the Government's announcement of its proposal to restore the criminalization of defamation<sup>10</sup> in June, the UN provided technical input to the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and other stakeholders regarding concerns over the draft legislation. In this context, the UN facilitated the engagement of civil society organizations with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. The UN also supported the NHRI to develop its monitoring and analytical capacity during the first two States of Emergencies declared in Timor-Leste. Towards the end of the year, the UN supported the NHRI to organize a national seminar with Government and civil society actors to reflect on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the human rights situation in the country. The support provided enhanced the knowledge and skills of the NHRI staff, improved its working methodology and highlighted - vis a vis the public and the Government - the important role that the NHRI plays particularly in moments of crisis.

Through its capacity building program on human rights, the UN, together with the NHRI and the Ministry of Defense, supported 68 officers (of whom 6 were women) of the **national army with increased capacity to protect and respect human rights** in times of crisis, during arrests, use of force and searches. During the initial stages of the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions, specific attention was given to the military's role in protecting human rights in the context of states of emergency. The UN also continued its capacity building program on

<sup>10</sup> Criminalization of defamation and injuries in response to situations of offense of honor, good name and

reputation of individuals and entities, in media and social networks



human rights for the National Police, in partnership with the NHRI and the National Police Academy, adding a new focus on policing activities during States of Emergency, considering the pandemic context and the initial complaints received about the performance of security forces in implementing the COVID-19 prevention related restrictions. A total of 72 police officers (45 of which women) were trained. One of the trainings was specifically focused on women police. In this context, the UN also initiated the revision of the Police and Human Rights Manual, in collaboration with the two institutions mentioned earlier.

To **strengthen accountability of the justice system**, 60 judges, prosecutors and public defenders increased their abilities to apply human rights standards in judicial proceedings. Additionally, 20 MoJ staff (8 of whom were women) gained knowledge on GBV for women and children with disabilities, focusing on equal treatment and access to general court services.

With UN support, the Human Rights Defenders' Network (HRDN)<sup>11</sup> continued to conduct joint public advocacy, focused on addressing impunity and better respect of human rights. 21 youth representatives, including former criminals, from the community police council in Ainaro municipality increased their knowledge on how to respect and protect rights of vulnerable groups in their community, including PwDs and the LGBTI persons. *For more on GBV in the justice sector, see [Section 2.2.6](#).*

The UN continued to support in **strengthening of self-regulatory mechanisms of the media**. The capacity of the Timor-Leste Press Council was strengthened and in the long term to foster an enabling environment for sustainable, free, independent and professional media in the country as crucial contributors to a democratic society. The UN continued to provide journalism

training in photography, video-audio production, website management and news writing. Between 2018 and 2020, a total of 372 journalism students including 194 female and 178 male students from UNTL and UNITAL gained strengthened knowledge on self-regulation of the media, including code of ethics and quality journalism.



#### 2.5.4 Support to national and sub-national institutions and communities to enhance resilience to climate change and environmental degradation

The UN, together with Ministry of Coordination of Economic Affairs established the policy measures to minimize the use of ozone and climate harmful substances through capacity strengthening programme to national officers, enforcement officers and other relevant national stakeholders. The programme also included information dissemination and awareness raising to the general public to take cooperative actions in achieving climate resilience.

The National Disaster Operation Centre-National Disaster Risk Management Directorate (NDRMD) and the Institute of Petroleum and Geology (IPG) participated in the World Tsunami Awareness Day, gaining a broader understanding of the

<sup>11</sup>Comprising of 11 NGOs



Indian Ocean Community UN Tsunami Ready program, and also presented on community preparedness, activities, challenges, gaps and needs of the country.

## 2.6 UN coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

### UN Joint Communications and Advocacy

In 2020, the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) strengthened inter-agency cooperation on communications and public information to promote UN activities in support of the people and Government in line with the UNSDCF.

The UNCG implemented an **COVID awareness campaign titled #Applaud4TimoreseHeroes**. The campaign, which ran from April to June, recognized contribution of the frontline workers tirelessly battling COVID-19 in Timor-Leste. The messages widely circulated on social media, and a large number of people across Timor-Leste participated in the campaign.

The UNCG marked **UN's 75th anniversary** in 2020 in the backdrop of the pandemic while aiming to strengthen and reinvigorate support for global cooperation and multilateralism. This pandemic was a reminder of how important it is that we work together - across borders, sectors and generations - to overcome the challenges we face. In Timor-Leste, the campaign aimed at using multimedia platforms together with an innovative approach of utilizing mobile messaging to inspire everyone, especially millennials, to take part in the survey and share their voices. Under UN75 campaign, 4 videos, 4 posters, 1,000 t-shirts were produced. The campaign delivered 700,000 messages through various platforms.

Observance of **UN Day** (24 October) and other special occasions provided an opportunity to showcase the work of the UN and rally greater support at the national level. The UNCG

contributed to joint celebration of Human Rights Day, AIDS Day, 16 Days of Activism, and World Health Day.

The UNCG liaised with UNIC Australia to contribute to Education Outreach Programme at the University of Canberra and the University of Sydney, through two sessions on the SDGs and their importance for the future of Timor-Leste. The UNCG also partnered with Scouts Association and Xanana Gusmao Reading Room to conduct UN75 sessions.

### UN Joint Business Operations and BOS 2.0.

In 2020, UN in Timor-Leste not only stayed and delivered, but also enabled the international humanitarian community to continue to support COVID-19 life-saving response through humanitarian logistics. WFP, with backstopping support from RCO, set up and operated 15 humanitarian passenger and cargo flights, which enabled nearly 1,000 humanitarian personnel and 12 MT of humanitarian cargo to come into Timor-Leste during the SoE (which continues to date).

To assist the UN to "Stay and Deliver" during the pandemic, the UNCT worked together to implement COVID-19 occupational safety, health and well-being measures to ensure necessary support to UN personnel and their dependents. UNCT contingency plans and SOPs for COVID-19 were developed under the coordination of RCO, together with WHO and UN Department of Safety and Security (UN DSS). Regular all staff briefings on COVID-19, including prevention and risk mitigation measures, were organized by the RC in 2020, in recognition of UN staff as change agents in the country. UN Health and Wellness Consultation Room with full-time doctor and nurse contracted by the UN was set up to ensure UN personnel and dependents' access to essential medical services and to deal with emergency medical cases. A female staff counselor was recruited to address the psycho-



social support needs of UN personnel and dependents.

The UN common premises – which houses 11 out of the 12 agencies with physical presence in Timor-Leste - continued to be improved, including through: new vendors for the UN canteen to promote use of locally produced, healthy and nutrition products; greening of the compound; renovation of the former gym to create a new meeting room and the UN Health and Wellness Consultation Room; and, surgery of trees that were creating safety hazards to the UN buildings. As a part of flood preparedness, four new pumps were installed, and drains were cleared.

To improve efficiencies, the number of Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) were increased, with all new LTAs having a piggy-back clause to allow for application of mutual recognition principle. For increased cost saving and energy efficiency, UN agencies upgraded the AC systems and installed LED lights in all offices. Savings from the solar panel are continuing to be monitored. A joint office space was created for the full-time staff engaged in the Spotlight Initiative Country Programme, a first attempt at co-location of staff across agencies working on joint programmes.

## 2.7 Lessons Learned

The COVID-19 pandemic compelled all stakeholders to consider the potential of technology for programme implementation, in a country with a multitude of remote villages and where the frequency of disasters is likely to grow due to climate change.

The crisis exposed systemic weaknesses that previously received limited attention, which has in turn helped increase political will for action. The preparation of the Government's COVID-19 social cash transfer, for instance, was slowed down by poor population data. This helped build momentum for implementing the

transformative Unique ID initiative, which aims to improve identity management and facilitate planning.

### Type of support provided by the UN



In a year of unprecedented challenges, the dedication and flexibility of UN staff was a critical success factor. Working from home was the norm for part of the year, and many staff, as secondary front liners, continued to participate in essential face-to-face meetings and support Government activities on-site. However, this special situation took a human toll, and stress levels were high. With no commercial flights, the difficulty of securing medevac and visa arrangements for COVID-19 or other critical medical care remained a key concern throughout the year. To support staff, the UNCT established a UN Health and Wellness Consultation Room that provided UN personnel with medical and counselling support services.

## 2.8 Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

In 2020, the UN in Timor-Leste capitalized on a number of joint programming opportunities: Spotlight Initiative Country Programme; Joint SDG Fund-supported SDG Financing joint programme; UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund-supported joint programme on support to COVID-19 social cash transfer scheme; and, KOICA-supported GBV joint programme. Several other joint programmes are also in the pipeline. Mobilizing resources through the global pooled funds has resulted in UN agencies benefiting from global technical guidance and resources, as well as horizontal learning and knowledge sharing.

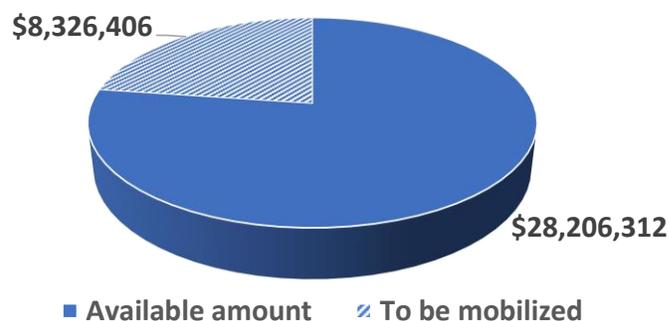
The UN, together with the EU and development partners, commenced its support to the Government-led Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) initiative, a framework for financing sustainable development priorities in Timor-Leste. As a planning and delivery tool to finance the SDGs at the national level, the UN has identified three financing areas, including pro-health taxation, diaspora financing, and climate financing, for catalyzing strategic

investments in Timor-Leste. Through the INFF initiative, which will be officially launched in early 2021, a financing strategy will be designed to mobilize and increase additional resources, manage risks, and achieve national development priorities as laid out in the SDP and the SDGs. INFF will closely align with and contribute towards the Government's ongoing Public Finance Management reform, which is one of the priority reform areas of the Government.

Joint resource mobilization for the UN's COVID-19 response was facilitated through the development of two plans, the CPRP and the UN COVID-19 Multi-Sectoral Response Plan, both of which were budgeted and financial tracking regularly done.

In 2021, UNCT will develop a joint Strategic Partnership and Resource Mobilization Strategy, to guide joint partnership and resource mobilization for UNSDCF 2021-2025 delivery.

### UN COVID-19 Expenditure in 2020 (USD)



## Chapter 3: UNCT Key Priorities for 2021

Despite the many moving parts and continued uncertainties in 2021, the UN remains committed and forward looking. 2021 is the first year of the implementation of the UNSDCF, and the UN will be focusing on “getting it right” from the get-go. The annual Joint Work Plans were completed by January 2021 and the first UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee meeting (co-chaired by the Director-General of MNEC and the UN Resident Coordinator) took place in the first week of February 2021. The UN with partners will ensure that this positive momentum translates to implementation and early results in 2021.

As the country responds to COVID-19, with a recent surge in the number of cases, the UN continues to prioritize support to the Government’s COVID-19 response, including the national COVID-19 vaccination programme. In parallel, in support of the Government’s COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan (2020-2023), the UN will continue to provide COVID-19 socio-economic recovery support with People at the center for inclusive recovery. To support building a more inclusive and greener future, the UN - together with the EU and other development partners – will support the Government’s efforts to finance and implement the SDP and accelerate progress towards the SDGs, through the UN’s joint support to the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) initiative.

LNOB will continue to be at the core of the UN’s work. As Timor-Leste prepares for the third cycle of the UPR – set for early 2022 - and reaffirms its commitment to promote and protect human rights, the UN will support the duty bearers and all rights holders to effectively engage in the UPR process. Support to accelerate progress towards gender equality remains a key priority, including

through the Spotlight Initiative to end violence against women and girls in Timor-Leste. LNOB will also be taken forward through the UN’s joint business operations and joint communications and advocacy efforts. The UN will continue to deliver on our strong commitment to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

Social cohesion will continue to be a priority of the country, including in the context of COVID-19 and as the country prepares for the 2022/2023 elections. To enable evidence-based policy making, in 2021 the UN will jointly support the second phase of the COVID-19 SEIA 2.0. covering all municipalities. The UN will also support the 2021 National Population and Housing Census, the first since 2015.

UNCT will jointly support Timor-Leste’s meaningful participation in global initiatives to create momentum to advance key sustainable development priorities for the country. Building Timor-Leste joining the SUN Movement in 2020 and capitalizing on the opportunity created by the Food Systems Summit, the UN will jointly support the Government and national stakeholders to improve on food security and nutrition, through multi-sectoral actions to address the high-levels of malnutrition in Timor-Leste. Ahead of COP26, the UN will support the Government to implement climate action including identifying options for increased climate financing and green/blue recovery. The UN will jointly support the Government’s commitment to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and through the national UN Migration Network in Timor-Leste increase capacity for its implementation.

While the decision on graduation of Timor-Leste from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) status has been deferred to 2024, the UNCT will continue to support Timor-Leste beyond the short-term economic recovery to create an enabling environment for inclusive growth. The UN stands ready to support the Government to



develop a longer-term growth strategy, as well as review of the SDP (2011-2030). The UNCT – including through support of non-resident agencies – will continue to support the Government’s ongoing efforts to create a conducive environment for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) membership and World Trade Organization (WTO) accession.

Finally, the UN will play its convening role, investing in expanding strategic partnerships with development actors, including young people, to create a national coalition for SDGs. These will include enhanced engagement with universities, media, private sector, and the civil society.



**1** Supported Government COVID-19 social cash transfer scheme reaching 313,391 low-income households



**2** Technical support to universal basic food basket programme *Cesta Basica*



**3** Protected essential health services; supported MoH to access COVAX Facility



**4** Supported MoEYS to ensure children can continue learning through *Eskola ba Uma*



**5** Ensured accessible and quality services for GBV survivors; promoted behavioural change



**6** Provided WASH facilities in critical border locations & schools; supported to reach ODF target



**7** AC systems upgraded, and solar panels monitored at UN House



**8** Created employment & livelihood opportunities in several sectors, including in rural roads development



**9** Launched GCF to develop 130 climate-resilient infrastructures



**10** 27 partnerships with civil society including marginalized groups (youth, PWDs, LGBTI)



**11** 332,362 mangroves were planted (95% survival rate) by 2020



**12** Provided 21,625 households with cost-efficient technology to reduce firewood consumption



**13** Promoted the expansion of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies



**14** Supported revised aquaculture decree to include Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA)



**15** 256,700 (28.6 Ha) mangroves restored through plantation



**16** Prepared for 3rd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)



**17** Development of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF)




**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development