



UNITED NATIONS
TIMOR-LESTE



**RESULTS
REPORT
2021**
TIMOR-LESTE







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RESULTS REPORT 2021

TIMOR-LESTE







FOREWORD

2021 was a challenging year for Timor-Leste. The sudden surge in COVID-19 cases in March, followed by severe flooding in April, meant that the country was in emergency response mode for half of the year. Many individuals and families struggled to cope with these challenges – and needed additional support from government and all development partners.

Under the new UN Timor-Leste Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021-2025, the UN system quickly responded to the multiple challenges through agility, partnerships, dedication, and commitment. Together with other development partners, UN staff and programmes fully supported the Government to rapidly scale-up the COVID-19 health response and successfully rolled-out and implemented the national COVID-19 vaccination programme launched in early April. The joint UN Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 Round 2 (SEIA 2.0.) provided evidence of the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic to inform and help prioritize government policies and interventions to assist vulnerable families and to support socio-economic recovery in 2022 and beyond.

The UN and humanitarian partners assisted the government's emergency response, reaching nearly 435,000 flood-affected people with humanitarian assistance. It helped the government launch an emergency appeal that raised approximately US\$27.3 million additional financing from partners

to support the humanitarian response. Together with the NGOs, the UN co-led the humanitarian partners' after-action review of the flood response, the lessons from which were immediately reflected in the joint preparedness plan for the 2021/22 wet season, including efforts to strengthen the humanitarian coordination architecture. Along with the World Bank, it also carried out a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment after the floods that affected many parts of the country to inform future planning and prioritization.

Despite the double shocks of the pandemic and floods, Timor-Leste continues to keep its line of sight to achieve SDG acceleration. The UN is honoured to accompany the country's journey across the six strategic priority areas of Nutrition, Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture; Sustainable Economic Opportunities and Decent Work for All; Early Childhood Development and Life-Long Learning Outcomes and Skills; Quality Health Care and Well-Being; Accountable, Inclusive and Participatory Governance and Quality Public Services; and, Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Resilience to Climate Change.

In 2022, as the country marks its 20th anniversary of the restoration of independence, the UN in Timor-Leste will continue to support the Government to achieve its sustainable development aspirations, further our contributions to the country's development, and build trust and confidence in the UN system.

Roy Trivedy

United Nations Resident Coordinator





MESSAGE

BY HER EXCELLENCY **MS. ADAL JÍZA MAGNO**
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION

The last two years have witnessed significant upheaval globally and for Timor-Leste. The COVID-19 pandemic introduced radical changes as it curtailed our movement, stalled our daily lives, and affected our relationships with family members and friends.

Globally, the pandemic has a detrimental impact on the health and socio-economic sectors. Plummeting economies further exacerbated pre-existing challenges by deepening inequality, social distress, conflict and hunger, pushing people into extreme poverty.

Timor-Leste was no exception. However, the Government took decisive action to prevent an outbreak by declaring and implementing the State of Emergency, closing the land border with neighbouring Indonesian West Timor and launching a widespread public information campaign. The cooperation of the people of Timor-Leste and the State institutions during this time is commendable.

Devastating floods and landslides further ravaged the country on 4 April 2021. To mitigate and recover from the economic crisis quickly and sustainably, the Government actioned powerful medium- to long-term measures by establishing a Commission for formulating the Economic Recovery Plan. This clear and realistic plan will enable the Government to develop a more resilient, productive, and efficient economy.

As a demographically young country, we ensure that our youth is at the epicentre of development. Maintaining peace and justice is essential for creating jobs and opportunities. Education and good health are pillars of a productive workforce, stronger institutions and economic growth, reducing the risks of conflict and instability and creating amenable conditions for human and economic development.

However, our reality as a subsistence economy, coupled with dependency on oil revenues, low productivity, high import dependency and lack of foreign investment, remains challenging.

The Government of Timor-Leste highly appreciates the United Nations and its agencies for providing frequent assistance in critical sectors, including agriculture, food security, healthcare, education, and sustainable economic and human rights issues.

During the pandemic, UNICEF and WHO supported the Government in developing the National Action Plan, providing technical advice, helping operationalize the National Vaccine Deployment Plan for COVID-19 Vaccination, and facilitating access to the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility (COVAX).

As one of the least developed countries, Timor-Leste depends heavily on its natural environment, and the April 2021 floods dealt a heavy blow. Supported by UN agencies, the Government immediately responded by providing basic needs, shelter, health assistance and budget allocation to “build back better”.

The country plans to launch development activities to address the numerous challenges in line with the VIII Constitutional Government Programme to accelerate progress of the 2030 Agenda. The Government will further strengthen cooperation with the United Nations and development partners to achieve our common goals.

I am grateful to the Resident Coordinator and UN agencies for supporting this critical report, which reflects on both the accomplishments and the work ahead.

Timor-Leste is on the path to consolidating its democratic institutions and ensuring that National Development is inclusive and balanced, meets the needs of all citizens, and leaves no one behind.

ACRONYM LIST

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



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





UNITED NATIONS IN TIMOR-LESTE AND ITS PARTNERS



1

KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT





2021 was a challenging year for Timor-Leste, with the double crises of the surge in COVID-19 and the worst flooding in the country's recent history.

After a year of successfully controlling the COVID-19 outbreak, the country experienced a sudden surge in COVID-19 cases in early March. The pandemic status improved by the end of 2021 due to the successful national COVID-19 vaccination programme, which saw over 83 per cent of the eligible population receiving their first dose and over 68 per cent completing their second dose. By 2021, Timor-Leste recorded slightly under 20,000 confirmed cases with 122 deaths. While it was able to limit the health impact of COVID-19 compared to other countries in the region, the socio-economic implications were felt by many, disproportionately affecting the marginalized and at-risk groups and amplifying the underlying vulnerabilities and inequalities in Timor-Leste. Businesses were adversely affected, and unemployment increased.

According to the joint UN Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste Round 2 (SEIA 2.0), moderate or severe food insecurity prevalence rose from 36 per cent prior to the pandemic to 41.1 per cent. The prevalence of severe food insecurity also increased to 19.3 per cent, from 15 per cent severe chronic food insecurity (IPC 4) in 2018. Children experienced disruption of learning: over one-third of students stopped studying or studied irregularly during school closure due to the scarcity of printed learning materials. Students on the wrong side of the digital divide had challenges continuing their education. The youth were the worst hit by job loss and unemployment: 43.3 per cent of those aged 25 to 39 lost their jobs in 2020-2021.

In addition to the COVID-19 impact, heavy rains across Timor-Leste from 29 March to 4 April resulted in flash floods and landslides across all 13 municipalities, with the capital Dili and surrounding low-lying areas worst affected. The disaster affected over 31,000 households, 82 per cent of them in Dili municipality. According to the Post-

Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) conducted jointly by the Government of Timor-Leste, UN and World Bank, damage and losses from the flooding are estimated at approximately US\$307.7 million. However, recovery needs across 12 sectors are estimated at US\$530 million, pointing to the need to Build Back Better.

While uncertainties remain, macroeconomic indicators point to some signs of economic recovery. According to the Asian Development Bank, GDP is expected to grow by 2.2 per cent in 2021 and 4.0 per cent in 2022. The World Bank states that non-oil GDP contracted by 8.6 per cent in 2020 but is projected to recover by 1.6 per cent in 2021 due to base effects and COVID-19-related fiscal expansion. Also according to the World Bank, inflation increased to 3.6 per cent in the second quarter of 2021 – an eight-year high primarily driven by rising food, beverage, alcohol, and tobacco prices. Inflation may negatively impact the household economies of vulnerable households. In 2021, total government expenditure decreased to 75.3 per cent from 83.5 per cent in 2020. With the amendment of the Public Finance Management (PFM) law from 2021 onwards, the government has started applying programme-based budgeting.

In accelerating progress towards the SDGs, important high-level political commitments were made in advancing SDG 2 in Timor-Leste during the UN Food Systems Summit and the Nutrition for Growth Summit, in addition to finalizing the Consolidated National Action Plan for Nutrition and Food Security (CNAP-NFS). Furthermore, Timor-Leste's participation in COP26 created momentum to scale-up climate action. At the same time, preparation for the third round of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reaffirmed Timor-Leste's commitment to further advance the human rights agenda, building on the country's progress over the past 20 years as an independent nation.

2

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





2.1 OVERVIEW OF UNSDCF RESULTS

In 2021, the UN supported the Government in achieving the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) (2011-2030) and accelerating progress towards the SDGs. Furthermore, the UN continued to invest in sustainable development while addressing the dual shock of the pandemic and the April floods that threatened to reverse the development gains. Guided by the principles of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) and adopting a human rights-based approach, the UN has been jointly making catalytic investments across six strategic areas of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Timor-Leste (UNSDCF) 2021-2025: Nutrition, food security and sustainable agriculture; Sustainable economic opportunities for all; Early childhood development and life-long learning; Quality healthcare and well-being; Accountable, inclusive and participatory governance and quality public services; and, finally, Sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to climate change.

The UN continued to enhance its partnerships with the Government, development partners, and civil society. The Government's ownership of the UN's joint work has increased - mainly through the engagement of the UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee (JSC) with membership from key line ministries, the UN, and civil society. Through this mechanism, the Government leads promoting progress across the six strategic areas of the UNSDCF. The principle of LNOB was operationalized through a stronger emphasis on working through partnerships that include marginalized groups representing youth, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and the LGBTQI community. Civil society increased their engagement and influence with the UN, for example, through the reference group which oversees and advises all the UN's programmes on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG). The UN makes some of its most significant investments in this area.

Through its response to the dual shock, the UN demonstrated flexibility and agility by reprogramming and mobilizing new financing to support the Government's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts and the humanitarian response following the floods.

Under the UNSDCF that started in 2021, the UN in Timor-Leste is implementing more joint programmes than ever before. Through the joint programme on Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), the UN supports the Government to increase and diversify financing for the SDP sustainably and the SDGs, including climate and diaspora financing and health taxation. The INFF endorses the Government's budget-based programming and stronger alignment with the SDGs. The UN is jointly supporting efforts to make the upcoming elections in 2022/2023 resilient to COVID-19, while promoting enhanced participation and leadership of women. The UN demonstrated its pledge to support the national commitment to EVAWG by successfully implementing three joint programmes: EU-UN Spotlight Initiative of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, KOICA-UN Together for Equality: Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence in Timor-Leste, and UNPRPD Empower for Change - Reducing Violence and Discrimination against Women and Children with Disabilities in Timor-Leste. Additionally, three new joint programmes – human security in the border communities, school health and nutrition, and strengthening food systems – were finalized in 2021 and will start implementation in early 2022.



COVID-19 RESPONSE



In 2021, the UN provided a humanitarian airbridge between the nation's capital Dili and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, when there was no other air transport during the COVID-19-related border closure. The UN chartered nine World Food Programme (WFP) flights, and in total, 13 air bridges were operated. This airbridge was essential to supporting the response, which included providing PPE, essential medicines and medical supplies, and COVID-19 vaccines. In total, 1,000 doses of Astra Zeneca (289 kg), 100,000 doses of Sinovac (3.1 MT), and supplies including syringes of 609 kg/4.7m3 on behalf of the Ministry of Health (MoH) were delivered through the UN-supported humanitarian airbridge.

As a part of the **health response to the pandemic**, the UN supported the government-led COVID-19 response across all nine pillars of the national health response.¹ The UN played an important role in facilitating MoH access to the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility (COVAX). The national vaccine roll-out was supported, including the vaccination programme, other essential logistics support and production of the vaccination cards. The UN supported the scaling-up of surveillance and contact tracing capacity, disseminated Information and Education Communication (IEC) materials and conducted awareness-raising activities to boost vaccination uptake. The UN strengthened IPC by providing PPE and IPC materials, followed by IPC training in isolation centres, hospitals and laboratories. The UN additionally strengthened COVID-19 case management by providing case management guidelines.

To provide the Government with a robust evidence base to respond to the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, the UN supported the General Directorate of Statistics (GDS) to conduct the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Round 2 (SEIA 2.0). The SEIA 2.0 was used to inform several key government policies related to social protection, socio-economic and fiscal policy, promoting a more targeted approach to social protection, focusing on reaching the most vulnerable groups through safety nets. Based on lessons learned from the food basket programme Cesta Básica in 2020, the new food assistance programme Segurancia Alimentar was developed to ensure achieving minimum food consumption to protect vulnerable households and groups against various shocks (budgeted at US\$20 million and included in the national 2022 budget). In addition, SEIA 2.0 informed the provision of grants and a loan guarantee scheme to support start-ups, businesses and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to support the socio-economic response. Informed by SEIA 2.0, the Government's 2022 budget included an enhanced focus on job creation.




PROTECTING PEOPLE



140,670 people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services



231,933 children supported with distance/home-based learning



440 primary school children received meals or alternatives to meals (rice, beans, and oil)



HEALTH FIRST



22,745 people accessing non-COVID-related health services including maternal health, nutrition, and vaccination programmes



1,433 health workers received the UN support to maintain essential services²



All 384 health facilities receiving the UN support to maintain essential services during the pandemic



ECONOMIC RESPONSE AND RECOVERY



UN supported **employment policies** and **regulatory environment** conducive to economic recovery and decent work



738 informal sector workers supported



351 MSMEs supported during and after the COVID-19 State of Emergency



MACROECONOMIC RESPONSE AND MULTILATERAL COLLABORATION



Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA 2.0) conducted in response to the COVID-19 crisis, with a focus on vulnerable groups and at-risk populations



Fiscal, socio-economic and social protection **policies informed** by SEIA 2.0



SOCIAL COHESION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE



CCITL and KSTL benefited from the institutional capacity building so that governments, employers' and workers' organizations could work together to shape socio-economic policy responses



26 community-based organizations capacitated to respond to and mitigate the impact of the pandemic and fight against DV and GBV during COVID-19



APRIL FLOOD RESPONSE



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The Government led the humanitarian response, with support from the UN, development partners, civil society, NGOs, and donors across nine sectors. The humanitarian support reached 434,832 people (exceeding the target of 352,500 people), and the financial contribution amounted to US\$27.3 million (83 per cent of the total target).

The **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)/Emergency Shelter sector** addressed the immediate needs of the affected population in the evacuation facilities and community by distributing non-food items (NFIs), tents and tarpaulins and supported the reconstruction and rebuilding of damaged houses.

The **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector** ensured access to water and sanitation for flood-affected people, including installing water tanks, handwashing stations, and temporary toilets. The **Food Security sector** met the food security needs of the most vulnerable groups, including nursing

mothers, children, the disabled and the elderly. The **Nutrition sector** ensured access to quality, curative nutrition services and nutrition screening and treatment for children 0-59 months and pregnant women. The **Health sector** supported the COVID-19 response among the affected populations and continued essential health services to affected people, preventing the spread of water-, vector-borne and skin diseases. A Mobile Maternity Clinic and Mobile Health Clinics provided integrated outreach and medical consultations. The Education sector addressed affected children's psychosocial and learning needs, and Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) were established in evacuation centres to ensure safe, continued learning. The **Gender and Protection sector** mitigated violence by sharing child protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV) messages and provided Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS). The **Early Recovery and Livelihoods sector** ensured supporting households whose livelihoods and homes were destroyed. A cash-for-work programme provided employment opportunities to more than 5,000 people that stimulated local recovery and rehabilitation. The Emergency Logistics sector provided crucial logistics services and materials to all sectors. Three inter-agency rapid aerial assessments were conducted to assess infrastructural and agricultural damage.

Together with the government and the World Bank, the UN supported the development of the **Post- Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)**.³ The assessment advocated for continued support and budget allocation towards the recovery of affected communities to "Build back better and inclusive, equitable and green recovery for all Timorese people with a special focus on improving the well-being of the most vulnerable and marginalized". The PDNA estimated the total damage and losses due to the April flood at approximately US\$307.7 million and recovery needs at US\$530 million.



10,000 DISPLACED FAMILIES SEEK REFUGE IN EVACUATION CENTRES AS FLOODS DESTROY HOMES IN TIMOR-LESTE

Humanitarian workers continued rescue missions to remote locations in Timor-Leste using excavators and cranes, as the death toll from recent flash floods reached 46, and many were still reported missing by local authorities.

Families relied on the generosity of their neighbours to seek temporary shelter in the few houses left standing after the devastating floods and landslides. An estimated 10,000 people were left homeless.

Impassable roads and power blackouts engulfed the country, hindering relief efforts in the island nation.

Anna Dosantos Lucia, a 39-year-old mother of seven from Lemonara in Dili, currently hosted at Balide Catholic Church parish hall – one of the 19 evacuation centres set up by the Government of Timor-Leste – had to wait for three days before she received support from local authorities.

“I have never seen such destructive floods in my life. I have lost my items and money. I have received help from neighbours who have hosted me and my family for the last three nights,” she says.



The recent Social-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA 2.0) of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste conducted by UN agencies recommends the need for integrated policies and responses that coordinate between crisis response, health and gender equality, among other aspects.

FLOOD RESPONSE



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM) / EMERGENCY SHELTER



580 households received shelter tool kits and cleaning kits to support the safe return home from evacuation centres



446 households received construction materials and labour costs support to reconstruct and rebuild their homes



NUTRITION



484 children screened in 22 evacuation centres for malnutrition and treatment provided



67 pregnant women screened for malnutrition and treatment provided



668 mothers in 22 evacuation centres received counselling and information promoting IYCF



57 MT complementary food items (rice, mung beans, and eggs) for 6-59 months children and pregnant and lactating women distributed in 22 evacuation centres. 37 MT high Energy Biscuits distributed



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



44 million litres of clean water filled by BEE TL through 229 water tanks in evacuation facilities and affected communities. Regularly monitored. A portable water filter with a capacity to filter up to 136,800 litres of water was handed over to BEE TL



200 temporary handwashing stations reached 4,000 people



200,000 aquatab tablets for purifying water distributed. Also, a mobile purification unit, 4 sky hydrant water purification filters were provided



170 units of temporary toilets installed in 10 evacuation centres benefiting 4,000 people



HEALTH



80,000 IDP individuals received masks, hand sanitisers, and IEC materials on COVID-19 prevention and control



4,342 consultations conducted for acute respiratory infection, skin diseases, acute gastritis, diarrheal diseases, and hypertension



501 women of reproductive age, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers received support through Mobile Maternity Clinic




EDUCATION



1,500 children in Child Friendly Spaces in 13 evacuation centres and communities benefitted from recreational and ECD kits, learning materials for psychosocial support, learning activities



Continued learning supported through provision of learning materials, including online (Ekola ba Uma)



GENDER & PROTECTION



1,500 children in 13 evacuation centres and surrounding communities benefitted from CFS activities



2,409 children in 23 communities reached with community based MHPSS activities



9,570 women and girls received dignity kits, including torches in evacuation centres



1,573 people reached with key messages on GBV prevention and response and referral hotline numbers in evacuation facilities



FOOD SECURITY



Food Security Assessment Missions was conducted to analyze the floods impact on harvest, particularly in all municipalities outside Dilli



887 MT of nutritious food (hot meal and dry food, including rice, beans, and oil) distributed to evacuation centres and affected communities reaching 25,109 households



Nutritious standard food basket redesigned for civil protection and government workplan



EARLY RECOVERY & LIVELIHOODS



5,411 persons engaged in emergency employment opportunities through a cash-for-work programme, stimulating local recovery and rehabilitating 42 aldeias in Dili



37,000+ individuals received agriculture inputs, tools, seeds, etc. to help re-build homes and livelihoods most severely damaged by floods



Household and Building Damage Assessment covering building damage and livelihood impact. Assessed 860 households and commercial buildings



Post Disaster Needs Assessment evaluated value of physical and economic loss and identified human resources needs



LOGISTICS



496 MT of food and NFIs transported to emergency shelter locations in Dili and affected communities across the country



13 relief and charter flights brought in by multiple development partners, supporting medical and NFI needs (family and hygiene kits, medical supplies, and PPEs)



121 MT of relief items, medical supplies, nutritious foods, high energy biscuits, vaccines, and humanitarian passengers brought in through WFP, DFAT, and New Zealand flights

2.2 CF PRIORITIES, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

Nutrition, Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture



In 2021, the UN supported the government to ensure that by 2025, nutrition, food security, and agricultural productivity has improved for all, regardless of individual ability, gender, age, socio-economic status, and geographic location. The rates of malnutrition and food insecurity in Timor-Leste are among the highest globally. One-third of the country's total population is chronically food insecure. The prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age⁴, adolescents⁵ and women of reproductive age points to the need for an inter-generational approach to breaking the cycle of malnutrition. Although the agriculture sector is the backbone of the non-oil economy, providing subsistence to an estimated 80 per cent of the population, productivity is very low.⁶

Agri-food systems and food security

The UN works jointly to end hunger and establish sustainable food systems. In 2021, the UN successfully supported the Government to engage with global and national actors across sectors to support food system transformation. Timor-Leste subsequently committed to the **national pathway to ensure a resilient national food system** by 2030. In the follow-up to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, the Prime Minister also signed the declaration of Timor-Leste's commitment to join the **School Meals Coalition**. This would ensure that all school-aged children have school meals, expected to reach 323,846 students, or about one-fourth of the population.





Nutrition, access to water and sanitation

In 2021, the UN advocated scaling-up evidence-based nutrition actions and leveraging affirmed high-level political commitments. UN supported the **Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)** Secretariat – tasked to develop the national commitment for Nutrition for Growth Summit and the Food Systems Summit – to develop the multi-sectoral roadmap to accelerate the reduction of child wasting under the Global Action Plan (GAP) on Child Wasting framework. To improve the micronutrient consumption in Timor-Leste, the UN collaborated with the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce & Industry (MTCI) and

Ministry of Health (MoH) to develop a mandatory **Food Fortification Decree-Law**. Through food fortification, the Government committed to addressing the major public health challenge of micronutrient deficiencies, improving upcoming generations' growth and development and ensuring that everybody has the right to access adequate and nutritious food. The UN also developed guidelines to promote a healthy diet and food safety guidelines for the national school feeding programme and successfully finalized the **National Health Sector Nutrition Strategic Plan 2022-2026**.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Sustainable Economic Opportunities and Decent Work For All



The UN achieved transformational results to ensure that 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. The economy is non-diversified and heavily reliant on public financing through petroleum and gas revenues. A large portion of the population is young - with 70 per cent of the population under 35 – which puts pressure on the labour market.

Policy and institutional framework for decent work and productive employment

The **National Strategy for Social Protection 2021-2030** is the first of its kind in the country, approved by the Council of Ministers to reduce poverty, improve and expand social security for workers, and promote institutional development. With support from the UN, the government – led by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and Ministry of Coordination of Economic Affairs (MNEC), launched the **SEIA 2.0** to contribute to the COVID-19 response and recovery.⁷ Although COVID-19 has exacerbated the increased burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women, the UN conducted a study to map out policies and gaps as an evidence base to advocate for suitable policy recommendations to reduce the burden for women.

From Where I Stand

“The extracurricular activities with the UN have paved the way for my professional career,” says Amandina.

Amandina’s first engagement with social service was through the Digital Literacy Training in 2021. **“I’ve been leading advocacy and activist groups, particularly on work to shift families’ perception on allowing girls to seek opportunities and be more mobile,”** she says.

The UN provided her with the first opportunity to speak publicly. Her growing confidence enabled her to help establish Voice for Voiceless, where she is leading the team on digital literacy and gender equality training for 50 high school students. **“Being a midwife student and having been active in the social service, I was told by my classmates that nursing is not my field. I told them, we are in a society where all the social issues affect all of us in many ways and we all have a role to contribute to social change. The extracurricular activities with UN Women have paved the way to my professional career”,** Amandina says.





Business environment

The UN provided technical advice to the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry (MTCI) to create the first-ever **loan guarantee facility**, which provides MSMEs with soft loans to overcome the economic hardship caused by COVID-19 restrictions. So far, 72 MSMEs have applied. Through this scheme, MSMEs will access US\$2.4 million in soft loans at a lower interest rate and less risk exposure. The UN continued to enhance the **entrepreneurship ecosystem** by drafting frameworks to regulate and supervise the digital Finance Systems, to support businesses driven by low-income individuals, women, and youth to increase their usage of digital payments. The UN supported the youth by developing entrepreneurial skills with a comprehensive package of interventions to recover from the pandemic.

Skills development

The UN continued to create job opportunities for the underserved population, for example, through the development of the **rural roads sector**, with approximately 88 kms completed in 4 municipalities.[2] The roads have provided access and market linkages for the agro-forestry sector and access to social services (schools, health, and other services), realizing work opportunities for 4,303 beneficiaries, 1,007 of whom are women. The tourism sector has been identified as a sector that can grow the Timorese economy. In collaboration with MTCI, the UN has conducted research on “Equality and the Economy: Exploring the Gender Dimensions of Timor-Leste’s Tourism Sector”. The UN, together with MTCI and IADE, launched **Innovation challenges competition** and Business Incubation, which provided access to government subsidies.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

Early Childhood Development and Life-Long Learning Outcomes and Skills



In 2021, the UN supported the Government to ensure that by 2025, all people, regardless of gender identity, abilities, geographic location and particular vulnerabilities, have increased access to quality formal innovative learning pathways - from early childhood through life-long learning - and acquire foundational, transferable, digital and job-specific skills. According to the SEIA 2.0, 37 per cent of students (ages 4-25) studied irregularly during school closures. Learning outcomes, critical

for building human capital, have been hard hit by COVID-19, affecting education for the second year in a row, as well as by the April floods. This is estimated to have caused a significant learning loss, and halted associated initiatives such as school feeding. School closures heighten the risk that some students do not return, increasing the out-of-school population. Distance learning only imperfectly bridged the learning gap, including access and connectivity.



Access to and completion of quality basic and secondary education

Around 90 episodes for the distance-learning app “Eskola ba Uma” were produced to respond to school closures and ensure continued learning. The digital Learning Passport Platform was accompanied by training on distance learning for 1,024 school leaders and teachers in all municipalities. The Back-to-School campaign disseminated key messages to help children catch up on learning and maintain safety protocols. To determine the extent of learning loss, 35,475 students from Grades 1-9 participated in a test assessing literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional well-being (report available in 2022).

To support access to quality, inclusive tertiary education and learning of basic science, the UN helped print 90,108 copies of Basic Science Students’ workbooks for Grades 7-9. To enhance nutritional intake, support on school health and nutrition (SHN) benefited over 3,000 children, and ensuring access to water, handwashing facilities and supplies benefited 13,339 students.



Access to Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Early Childhood Education (ECE)

To support strong Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) systems and service delivery, the UN supported the implementation of 104 Community-Based Preschools (CBPs), benefiting 2,892 children (1,494 boys and 1,398 girls). The School Readiness Programme reached 908 students (458 boys, 450 girls) to prepare children who did not attend preschool for their smooth transfer to formal schooling. Interventions focusing on providing learning opportunities were accompanied by support in policies and programmes, and recommendations helped inform decision-makers to ensure children who temporarily left school could return. The UN supported an evaluation of the pre-primary education sub-sector focusing on the relevance and sustainability of the ECE policies and programmes.

Life-long learning

To equip out-of-school youth with knowledge on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), preventing early pregnancy, and GBV, the UN helped develop the Healthy Relationship manual, a contextualized Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) training guideline aligned with the National Youth Strategic Plan priorities. The UN supported the review of school re-entry policy and the draft proposal for the formal legal policy on inclusive re-entry to school for all children, including adolescent mothers and girls and boys with diversity. Additionally, the UN continued capacity building for journalism in Timor-Leste, including through providing journalism-related equipment.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

Quality Healthcare and Well-Being



UNCT supported the Government to ensure that by 2025, the people of Timor-Leste increasingly demand and have access to inclusive primary healthcare and strengthened social protection that are gender-responsive, equitable, high quality, and resilient - including in times of emergencies. The UN supported strengthening primary healthcare, evidence-based decision and digital systems, behaviour change for determinants of health, and finally, health financing and budgeting.

The UN integrated the COVID-19 response through existing Primary Health Care (PHC) settings while minimizing the disruption to essential services. The UN supported the government-led **comprehensive COVID-19 response** across all nine pillars of the national response. Support and coordination included planning, financing, monitoring, surveillance, epidemiological investigation, contact tracing, case management, diagnostics, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), clinical operations, therapeutics, operational and logistic support, and supply chain management.

The UN supported **COVID-19 vaccination**, including facilitating the Government's registration as a member of the COVAX Facility, and helped form donor support groups and bilateral partnerships, vaccine procurement, and maintaining a cold chain system. The UN also provided technical support to develop guidelines and training modules and mentoring support for its implementation through improved micro- planning and monitoring and evaluation tools. Additionally, the UN supported social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) to create vaccine acceptance and ensure maximum community participation during the vaccination campaigns.

The UN supported the **continuation of Essential Health Services to "build back better"**. Besides helping the COVID-19 response, the UN has been instrumental in maintaining other non-COVID-19 healthcare services to revive the essential health service delivery. This includes revising the National Health sector Strategic Plan II 2011-2030 (NHSSP-II), advocating and establishing decadal health priorities at the policy level. The UN also supported the initiation of the first-ever tobacco





Clean water flows to school in rural Timor-Leste for the first time in 10 years

An innovative funding scheme by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, supported by UNICEF and the Global Partnership for Education, is helping bring water to rural schools in Timor-Leste and helping keep students safe from COVID-19.

Eskola Basic Filial, or EBF Zona Golgota-Baucau school, has 211 students - 99 girls and 112 boys. It sits on a plateau, offering stunning views of the beaches and crystal-clear waters of the ocean in Baucau Municipality, east of the capital Dili. However, for close to a decade since it opened, the school had difficulties accessing water.

Students and teachers used their lunch break to walk to a communal water pipeline a kilometre away, and then carried heavy buckets of water along the rocky paths back to the school.

A small-grant scheme called 'Fundu Ki'ik' (Small Grant), launched in March 2021 by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, with funding from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and support from the UN, is helping at least 240 schools in the 12 municipalities and special Region of Oecussi enclave improve access to clean water and help them protect children against COVID-19 and other diseases like diarrhoea.



“For the first time in a decade, our school has running water and students can now have more time to play, instead of having to go and fetch water for their basic needs,” says Principal dos Santos Marques. “Teachers also have more time to prepare lessons and support students.”

cessation centre and quit-line services for Timor-Leste, which will help in reducing risk factors for non-communicable diseases (NCDs), especially lung cancer. Through the INFF joint programme, health financing will increase and diversify through the pro-health taxation on tobacco, effective in January 2022, which is expected to generate an extra US\$18 million in tax revenues per year. The high-level commitment to end tuberculosis (TB) was supported by facilitating a joint agreement between the Prime Minister and MoH, followed by focused case detection, treatment, and follow-up for TB cases and support to migrants during COVID-19. The UN supported the Maternal Health programme by establishing and certifying an emergency obstetric and neonatal care (EmONC)

centre and maternity COVID-19 isolation centre at Vera Cruz; and developed guidelines on Antenatal Care (ANC) and Post Natal Care (PNC). The strides in the implementation roadmap for resuming the essential health services (EHS) package for primary healthcare will ensure universal health coverage to the population at their doorsteps. The UN supported the successful completion of the transmission assessment survey (TAS), defining the prevalence of neglected tropical diseases - such as lymphatic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, yaws and scabies - which will help in finalizing the course of vector-borne disease programme services for 2022. The UN supported 25 community healthcare facilities to access safe water and sanitation services.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5

Accountable, Inclusive and participatory governance and quality public services



The UN aims to ensure that by 2025, the most excluded people of Timor-Leste are empowered to claim their rights, including freedom from violence, through accessible, accountable and gender-responsive governance systems, institutions and services at national and sub-national levels.

The rule of law and access to justice

The UN supported duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations and rights-holders to claim their rights, focusing on women and youth. To enhance the capacities of women mediators to promote social norms upholding women's rights in mediation and alternative dispute processes, the UN helped develop the **Gender-Responsive Conflict Prevention and Resolution Decree (No.47/2020)** in the context of the second **National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (NAP WPS) 1325**. Support was provided to the police and defence sectors to protect and respect human rights. The UN supported the finalization of regulation on the open regime for youth in detention to access education, training and employment.

Citizen's participation and decentralized service delivery

To ensure safe, democratic and transparent elections, the UN provided technical advisory support to the election management bodies to develop **COVID-19-resilient election procedures** and manuals. Critical recommendations for legislative consideration were developed, as well as guidance on implementation. The UN supported the MoJ to strengthen the **birth registration system**, raising awareness of its importance.





Reform of public administration

Effective, decentralized public administration is key to ensuring service delivery. To bring governance closer to the people, the UN helped the National Parliament promulgate **legislation enabling the decentralization** process and formalizing the democratic election of municipal authorities: the municipal electoral law, law on local administration, and legislation on organization of the justice sector. To improve citizens' access to services – voter, civil registry, health, and education registries – and to reduce identity fraud, the UN supported the government's **Unique ID Initiative**, aiming to reach 1 million people with a digital identity by 2025. The UN helped the Prime Minister's Office (UPMA⁸) develop a **child marker for State planning and budgeting**, increasing accountability on child-responsive budgeting.

Elimination of Gender-Based Violence and violence against children

Up to 59 per cent of women in Timor-Leste experience violence in their life. To **accelerate EVAWG**, the UN implemented the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative and KOICA Together for Equality. The NAP GBV was revised, and legislative commitments were enhanced by adjusting the Penal Code, the Labour Law based on ILO Convention 190, and the development of the Child Protection Law. To support Gender-Responsive Budgeting, an analysis of the state budget was conducted. Municipal authorities' governance was strengthened to create safe markets. Justice and health sectors and referral services could also better deliver services, and grassroots advocacy increased care-seeking demand. Prevention approaches breaking the inter-generational nature of VAWG generated agents of change. Stronger disaggregated data and administrative systems will support NAP GBV reporting. Women's organizations, including PwD and LGBTQI, were better positioned to access new funding to respond to VAWG.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6

Sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to climate change



To meet the Strategic Priority on sustainable management of natural resources and resilience to climate change, the UN supported the Government, partners, and communities to better manage natural resources and achieve enhanced resilience to climate change impacts, natural and human-induced hazards and environmental degradation – inclusively and sustainably.

Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation

The April 2021 Flood Response was a wake-up call, highlighting the importance of the UN's coordinated support to the Government to strengthen Disaster Risk Management

(DRM). To this end, the UN support in 2021 included establishing a Special Database Information (SDI) system for monitoring, recording and accounting climate-induced damages to inform climate-risk reduction planning and budgeting; climate hazard mapping; climate-risk assessment and risk model development; capacity building for emergency response; evacuation centre assessments; shelter repair kit and non-food item (NFI) distributions; and improvements to Early Warning Systems (EWS). The UN also supported the Government in strengthening the enforcement and monitoring of import and export control of controlled substances under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.





Resilient Infrastructures

The UN also took critical steps towards the climate-proofing of rural and urban infrastructure. This included ensuring that rural communities benefit from climate-resilient infrastructure planning and identifying entry points for climate and disaster risk-informed decision-making. For example, in 2021, the UN supported the installation of a highly efficient Solar Lamp System (LTSHE) in remote villages in Manatuto municipality and completed preparatory works for nine rural infrastructures (5 roads and 4 irrigation schemes), including field assessments, technical designs and BOQs, and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), with construction expected to commence in early 2022.

Terrestrial and ocean resources sustainable management

In 2021, the UN successfully ensured that the agreement on Information Sharing, data & information management was signed and supported establishing the Timor-Leste Environment Information System-Web Based Platform within the Secretary of State for Environment. Additionally, the UN promoted sustainable coastal and marine ecosystems and resource management by establishing a new Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Manufahi municipality and improved management of an existing MPA in Nino Konis Santana National Park. The UN also facilitated an assessment of coastal erosion in crucial areas of Timor-Leste and developed an inventory of biological resources, including animal and plant species, as part of the early identification and pre-screening of biological resources suitable for bioprospecting.

2.3 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

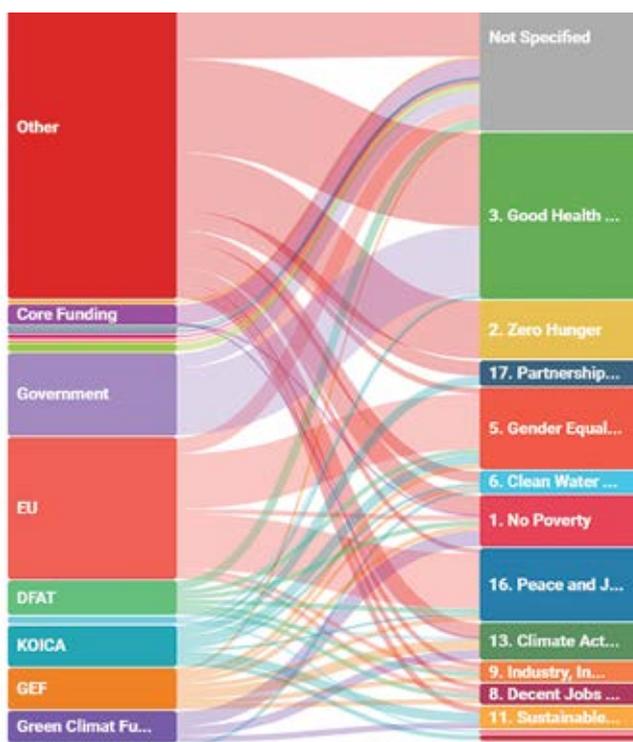
The UN supported the Government and partners to finance the SDP and 2030 Agenda. In 2021, the UNSDCF collective expenditure amounted to US\$44,444,526, or around 60 per cent of the planned budget of US\$78,414,287.⁹ In 2021, the most significant expenditures were under Strategic Priority 4 on quality healthcare and well-being, followed by Strategic Priority 5 on accountable, inclusive and participatory governance, and Strategic Priority 2 on sustainable economic opportunities for all. The implementation was on track against the 88 activities planned in the UNSDCF Joint Work Plan (JWP).

The UN successfully mobilized additional resources to support the COVID-19 response and the Flood Response. As a result, the response is

integrated into nearly all the JWP activities to be COVID-19 sensitive and responsive. For the Flood Response, the UN mobilized additional funding of US\$1.7 million to support all the response sectors.

The UN in Timor-Leste continues to successfully apply for joint programming, leveraging the comparative advantages of the UN agencies. For 2022, within the area of nutrition, the UN secured the funding for the joint School Health and Nutrition project across the country, the Joint Programme for Small Island Developing State (SIDS) on strengthening national food systems and promoting disaster risk reduction (DRR) and assessing vulnerabilities and resilience in border communities in Timor-Leste through the human security approach in the context of COVID-19.

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS AND THE SDGs





2021

FUNDING FOR THE UNSDCF IN 2021

Outcome	Expenditures (US\$)	Total required (US\$)	Expenditure/ Total required
OUTCOME 1. NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY, AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE			
Sub-outcome 1.1 Nutrition, access to water and sanitation	4,033,136	4,489,764	90%
Sub-outcome 1.2 Agri-food systems and food security	2,049,333	4,056,583	51%
Total	6,082,469	8,546,347	71%
OUTCOME 2. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL			
Sub-outcome 2.1 Policy and institutional framework for decent work and productive employment	6,759,656	6,257,474	108%
Sub-outcome 2.2 Business environment	74,705	637,813	12%
Sub-outcome 2.3 Skills development	1,472,210	2,152,075	68%
Total	8,306,571	9,047,362	92%
OUTCOME 3. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING OUTCOMES AND SKILLS			
Sub-outcome 3.1 Access to ECD and ECE	300,000	625,000	48%
Sub-outcome 3.2 Access to and completion of quality basic and secondary education	1,341,531	1,913,306	70%
Sub-outcome 3.3 Life-long learning	136,085	1,539,372	9%
Total	1,777,616	4,077,678	44%
OUTCOME 4. QUALITY HEALTHCARE AND WELL-BEING			
Sub-outcome 4.1 Primary Health Care	6,192,604	7,817,146	79%
Sub-outcome 4.2 Evidence- based decision-making and digital system	220,000	1,800,000	12%
Sub-outcome 4.3 Behaviour change	1,292,623	2,025,973	64%
Sub-outcome 4.4 Health financing and budgeting	180,000	364,370	49%
Third-party procurement	5,400,000	5,400,000	100%
Total	13,285,227	17,407,489	76%
OUTCOME 5. ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES			
Sub-outcome 5.1 Rule of law and access to justice	1,038,147	1,522,230	68%
Sub-outcome 5.2 Reform of public administration	652,949	1,100,606	59%
Sub-Outcome 5.3 Citizens' participation and decentralized service delivery	3,974,273	5,767,267	69%
Sub-outcome 5.4 Elimination of GBV and violence against children	\$,519,885	12,520,976	28%
Total	9,185,254	20,911,079	44%
OUTCOME 6. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE			
Sub-outcome 6.1 Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation	4,158,863	11,216,136	37%
Sub-outcome 6.2 Resilient infrastructures	545,983	2,029,503	27%
Sub-outcome 6.3 Terrestrial and ocean resources sustainable management	1,647,648	5,178,693	32%
Total	5,807,389	18,424,332	34%
Total for year 1	44,444,526	78,414,287	57%

2.4 RESULTS OF THE UN WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER, UN COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

Through the UNSDCF, the UN has worked more and better together. Each of the Strategic Priority areas is coordinated by a Results Group, an inter-agency group chaired and co-chaired by a Head of UN agency. The Results Groups consist of experts from relevant UN agencies, and a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) focal point supports the group. The Results Groups have proven to be a key mechanism in ensuring that the **comparative advantages of the UN agencies** are leveraged to increase the coherence and effectiveness of programming and implementation. Through joint planning, implementation and evaluation, various UN agencies contribute and complement each other with their expertise, skills, partnerships, and funding. While UN agencies previously tended to work in siloes, including engagement in multiple, parallel conversations with the government, the

UNSDCF and its mechanisms provides a strong foundation that ensures that the UN delivers coherent support to the country.

The **UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee**, led by the government and co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator, includes members from key line ministries, civil society, and Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Results Groups. Through the UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee, the Results Groups provide clear and consolidated information on planning, implementation, review, results, and finances. The UNSDCF JWPs showcase to the government a broad yet detailed picture of the overall contribution of the UN. This allows the UNSDCF Joint Steering Committee to meaningfully engage with the UN - providing leadership, recommendations, guidance, and endorsement.

The **Joint Programmes** have been an effective means for the UN to enhance programmatic coherence and rally the development partners to tackle the most pressing issues facing Timor-Leste jointly. The governance mechanism of the Secretariat, as well as the joint planning, monitoring, implementation and evaluation, have allowed for more coherent activities and greater achievement of results. As multiple UN agencies engage with a wide array of partners – including key ministries, development partners, private sector, civil society, and NGOs – the Joint Programmes can have a broad reach and effect while at the same time facilitating cohesive and coordinated communication. An example of a robust inter-agency collaboration has been the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, where relevant UN agencies have delivered a broad and multi-sectoral impact on EVAWG. The Spotlight Initiative team physically sits in the same office space, which is a tangible reflection of the new way of working.





2.5 EVALUATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The Final Evaluation of the UNSDCF will be conducted in the penultimate year of the UNSDCF (i.e., 2024). Therefore, there was no overall evaluation of the UNSDCF for this year.

Integration of GEWE and EAWG in the UNSDCF

The UN is dedicated to integrating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) in the UNSDCF and addressing EAWG and PSEAH. The progress made was evident in the UN Country Team (UNCT) **Gender Equality Scorecard (UNCT-SWAP)**. The UNCT-SWAP shows with the support of the Gender Theme Group (GTG), the Results Groups and M&E Group have ensured that the JWP integrates the Gender Marker and data disaggregation to the extent possible. The Gender SWAP card shows that UNCT demonstrated a positive trend towards achieving gender parity in staffing in 2021. Overall, women made up 45 per cent of the total number of UN staff (excluding drivers). UNCT is on track to achieve all GEWE results – as planned in the UNSDCF outcomes in line with the SDGs.

The GTG adopted a new and innovative Annual Learning session, which reflected on the three Joint programmes that focus on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE). Gender equality and social inclusion is a top priority at the UN, and UN agencies discussed their comparative advantages, including expertise and partners.

Lessons Learned from the April Flood Response

The humanitarian partners' joint After-Action Review (AAR) exercise included a component capturing the voices and feedback from the affected communities, led by the Australian Humanitarian Partnership consortium, whose

findings corresponded to the humanitarian actors' self-reflection. The recurring themes from the AAR exercise were localization, social inclusion, accountability, and coordination. Around these four themes, humanitarian actors identified and agreed on a set of "low-hanging fruits" actions that can be immediately taken on ahead of the 2021/22 wet season. Key recommended action areas included the following:

The humanitarian partners are **formalizing the sectoral and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms**, with tripartite co-leadership arrangement across sectors, between the Government, UN and NGOs, by the comparative advantages these actors have. In the medium-term, the humanitarian partners are working to increase the participation of local actors in the humanitarian coordination mechanism, with a view of building local humanitarian leadership and improving the inclusiveness of these structures.

The humanitarian actors have concluded a **mapping of UN and NGOs' preparedness efforts** and response capacity across the country to support the Government's response. These include mapping human resources, expertise, available relief stock, and available funding (development/DRR funding that can be re-allocated to emergency response). The humanitarian partners are making concerted efforts to strengthen and **invest in local humanitarian leadership and capacities**, including dialogue with humanitarian donors on the increased allocation of humanitarian funding to local actors. The humanitarian partners are **reviewing and updating existing assessment tools**, forms, checklists, guidelines, list of evacuation centres/sites used during the April flood response. This will help ensure that these tools are more inclusive and capture the needs of the groups most vulnerable to disasters, including women, children, persons with disabilities and older people.

3

UNCT KEY FOCUS
FOR NEXT YEAR





The year 2022 marks 20 years since Timor-Leste's Restoration of Independence. Much progress has been made since the country's independence.

However, the investments and progress towards the SDP and SDGs need to be sustained. The UN will continue to support the country, focusing on advancing gender equality, promoting and protecting human rights, advancing human security, addressing inequalities to promote inclusion, building resilience, and promoting digitalization.

The landscape ahead includes the upcoming Presidential **elections** in March 2022 and Parliamentary elections scheduled in 2023, which are important events for Timor-Leste. The country continues to be vulnerable to disasters and the **effects of climate change**. Economically, with the expected depletion of the Petroleum Fund in the coming years, there is a dire need for economic diversification. The country may also face increased inflation, with the global rise in commodity prices, further growing inequalities. The UN will continue to support the government to prioritize its efforts to ensure the country's continued stability and inclusive growth as it pursues its aspirations to join ASEAN and WTO and graduate from LDC status. The UN will continue to provide technical support in the Public Financial Management Reform and develop a national monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for the SDP and SDGs.

In 2022, the UN will continue to prioritize the strategic areas which have been jointly identified together with the Government:

Through Strategic Priority 1 on **nutrition, food security and sustainable agriculture**, the UN will continue to leverage the global, high-level commitments of the UN Food Systems Summit. The UN has actively supported the development of the Consolidated National Action Plan for Nutrition and Food Security (CNAP-NFS) and the 17 priority areas identified across seven sectors. The UN will continue to provide support to this common, costed, measurable, multisector, consolidated

NAP which aligns partners with achieving SDG 2 under the leadership of the PMO collectively. The UN supports the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Secretariat on its continuous commitment to the Nutrition for Growth Summit and the Global Action Plan (GAP) for Child Wasting Framework. A new Joint Programme will strengthen national food systems and promote disaster risk reduction in Small Island Development States (SIDS). The Joint Programme on School Health and Nutrition also started implementation in 2022, which will provide an integrated package of nutrition and health interventions.

Through Strategic Priority 2, the UN will promote **economic opportunity and decent work for all**. The National Strategy for Social Protection 2021-2030 is operationalized, a key policy given the increased demand for social protection because of COVID-19 and risk for disasters. The UN will continue to promote employability – including youth and PwDs – through rural roads development, agriculture and the industry sectors. The UN will also support the revitalization of the National Employment Strategy. To support economic diversification, the UN will develop an Ocean or Blue Economic Diversification Strategy and explore financially viable initiatives and bankable solutions for blue and green economic diversification. The promotion of financial literacy and digital payments will continue to support enhanced digitalization. The commitment to EAWG and GEWE will continue with the advancement of Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB), safe cities and markets and advocacy on addressing the burden of unpaid care work on women. The UN continues to scale-up evidence-based assessments to inform policies, including through the Labour Force Survey (LFS) conducted in 2021, with the analysis to be finalized in 2022 and the multidimensional poverty analysis. The UN will continue to address trafficking in persons, fraudulent labour practices and advocacy against child labour.



Through Strategic Priority 3 on **education and life-long learning**, the UN will minimize learning loss and ensure school access, particularly after the impacts of COVID-19 and the flooding on learning. To ensure children return to schools and to promote nutrition, advocacy for the School Feeding Programme to be adequately funded throughout the year will continue. The UN will explore how to leverage the COVID-19 distance learning and mainstream this into the education system. To better represent young people and future generations, the UN will help to prepare for the Transforming Education Summit in September 2022.

Emerging from the dual disasters of floods and pandemic, the primary focus of Strategic Priority 4, **health and well-being**, will be to “Build Forward Better, Greener and Safer”. One of the major lessons learned is that a strong and resilient health system is needed to respond to a health emergency, including basic health infrastructure, trained and skilled health human resources, adequately equipped laboratory, and a health information system to provide timely information. The UN will promote a sustained COVID-19 response, including 80 per cent coverage of the entire population with COVID-19 vaccinations and robust emergency and critical care services. The UN will support climate-resilient health system strengthening, including the incremental use of digital systems. Quality services will be improved by Essential Health

Services Packages (EHSP) at all levels, delivered with strengthened public financial management systems. Digital transformation and digitalization will also be great enablers in health through increased connectivity and applications.

Under Strategic Priority 5, **Governance**, the UN will emphasize ensuring gender-responsive, COVID-19-resilient elections, enhancing women’s leadership and participation in the elections, and supporting various electoral assistance interventions. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Third Cycle and the recommendations adopted by Timor-Leste will provide an entry point for the UN to support the Government implementing its UPR commitments. This is particularly important as the country recently announced its candidacy to become a UN Human Rights Council member. This strategic area will continue to promote access to justice, especially for women and girls in remote areas. The momentum and partnerships gained towards addressing VAWG and GBV will continue and accelerate. Enhancing resilience to shocks – such as the pandemic- will strengthen public services, governance, and justice sector reform. The UN strives to promote inclusive digitalization and e-governance systems.

Under Strategic Priority 6 - **Resilience to Climate Change**, the UN will strengthen coordination approaches with the global Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) to identify gaps, work together, and ensure a more coordinated approach to respond to climate change. The areas to be strengthened include governance frameworks, DRR, CCA, EWS, information systems, emergency preparedness, and management of resources, including climate financing. A large assessment on hazard mapping will be conducted, model systems will be integrated into national systems, and national partners will be supported to maintain these systems. Given the climate issues and their challenges, it is also necessary to look at how small and large-scale rural infrastructure is built and maintained. This strategic area will focus on sustainability, national ownership, alignment with national priorities, promoting coherence and synergies, and capacity building.



2022

FUNDING FOR THE UNSDCF IN 2022

Outcome	Available (US\$)	Total required (US\$)	Available/ Total required
OUTCOME 1. NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY, AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE			
Sub-outcome 1.1 Nutrition, access to water and sanitation	6,259,830	6,496,307	96%
Sub-outcome 1.2 Agri-food systems and food security	1,263,887	3,854,470	33%
Total	7,523,717	10,350,777	73%
OUTCOME 2. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL			
Sub-outcome 2.1 Policy and institutional framework for decent work and productive employment	3,629,046	6,475,604	56%
Sub-outcome 2.2 Business environment	394,138	908,258	43%
Sub-outcome 2.3 Skills development	1,173,469	1,296,522	91%
Total	5,196,653	8,680,384	60%
OUTCOME 3. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING OUTCOMES AND SKILLS			
Sub-outcome 3.1 Access to ECD and ECE	200,000	200,000	100%
Sub-outcome 3.2 Access to and completion of quality basic and secondary education	1,498,057	1,606,871	93%
Sub-outcome 3.3 Life-long learning	172,186	211,000	82%
Total	1,870,243	2,017,871	93%
OUTCOME 4. QUALITY HEALTHCARE AND WELL-BEING			
Sub-outcome 4.1 Primary Health Care	6,545,465	8,170,007	80%
Sub-outcome 4.2 Evidence- based decision-making and digital system	220,000	1,800,000	12%
Sub-outcome 4.3 Behaviour change	1,408,632	2,141,982	66%
Sub-outcome 4.4 Health financing and budgeting	415,466	505,466	82%
Third-party procurement	5,400,000	5,400,000	100%
Total	13,989,563	18,017,455	78%
OUTCOME 5. ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUSIVE, AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY PUBLIC SERVICES			
Sub-outcome 5.1 Rule of law and access to justice	492,289	2,100,450	23%
Sub-outcome 5.2 Reform of public administration	1,039,257	1,171,689	89%
Sub-Outcome 5.3 Citizens' participation and decentralized service delivery	3,406,328	8,497,683	40%
Sub-outcome 5.4 Elimination of GBV and violence against children	7,826,897	8,186,897	96%
Total	12,764,771	19,956,720	64%
OUTCOME 6. SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE			
Sub-outcome 6.1 Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation	7,420,354	12,180,213	61%
Sub-outcome 6.2 Resilient infrastructures	5,549,815	5,630,850	99%
Sub-outcome 6.3 Terrestrial and ocean resources sustainable management	2,781,094	4,629,293	60%
Total	15,751,263	22,440,356	70%
Total for year 1	57,096,210	81,463,563	70%

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Including coordination, planning, financing, monitoring, surveillance, epidemiological investigation, contact tracing, case management, diagnostics, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), clinical operations, therapeutics, operational and logistic support, and supply chain management.
- ² The UN provided support to the COVID-19 isolation facility in Vera Cruz to ensure that services functioned for pregnant mothers that suffered from COVID-19. These indicators are based on the global COVID-19 indicators.
- ³ Post Disaster Needs Assessment, <https://timorleste.un.org/en/171745-timor-leste-post-disaster-needs-assessment-pdna>
- ⁴ The levels of stunting (47.1%) and wasting (8.6%) are high among children under 5 years of age, and 32.1% of children in this age group are underweight.
- ⁵ 15- 19 years of age.
- ⁶ Agriculture continues to be the second-largest single sector in the Timor-Leste economy, after the mining and quarrying sector.
- ⁷ The SEIA 2.0 covers 4,292 households and 1,086 formal and informal businesses.
- ⁸ UPMA has transformed to the National Agency for Planning, Monitorization and Evaluation (ANAPMA).
- ⁹ The total planned funding for the entire UNSDCF between 2021-2025 is approximately US\$255,961,651. Note that all financial data provided are provisional and are updated throughout the year.

CONTACTS

UN Resident Coordinator's Office
UN House, Caicoli Street, Dili
TIMOR-LESTE

Phone: +670-3311-220

 www.un.org/tl/en

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