



ANNUAL REPORT

2021 – 2022

ChildFund Timor-Leste is the representative office of ChildFund Australia – an independent international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in developing communities. ChildFund Australia is a member of the ChildFund Alliance – a global network of 11 organisations which assists almost 23 million children and their families in 70 countries.

ChildFund Australia is a registered charity, a member of the Australian Council for International Development, and fully accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which manages the Australian Government’s overseas aid program.

ChildFund began work in Timor-Leste in 1990, originally under the management of ChildFund International. Since October 2017 it has operated as an office of ChildFund Australia and works in partnership to create community and systems change which enables vulnerable children and young people, in all their diversity, to assert and realise their rights.

ChildFund Timor-Leste is working with rural communities to build a new, stable, and prosperous future for what is one of the world’s youngest nations.

ChildFund Timor-Leste

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In this year's annual report, we will reflect on the activities that have impacted the lives of children and young people in Timor-Leste over the last year. This year, the lives of children were starkly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the aftermath of severe flooding caused by Cyclone Seroja in April 2021 – an

event that saw 15,000 people seeking refuge in emergency shelters.

In the second half of the year, our focus shifted from emergency response to recovery. Schools reopened and children over the age of twelve got access to the COVID-19 vaccine. But the ongoing impact of these emergencies on children's lives were significant. Long-term school closures impacted children's educational journey and there are still significant economic challenges for families.

In this context, we have continued to work with government partners to address the unique needs of children.

As part of the flood emergency response program, ChildFund continued to support impacted families with hygiene materials and essential non-food items such as kitchen utensils and learning materials for children. We worked closely with the State Secretariat for Civil Protection to distribute these items to families who returned from the evacuation centres to build up their homes again. Together, with our local partner Ba Futuru, we were able to ensure continuity of psychosocial support activities for children in ten child-friendly spaces across Dili.

In collaboration with the Alola Foundation, the ChildFund health team worked alongside community health volunteers to support new mother groups and male engagement forums. These provide a vital opportunity to share essential information and support new mothers in the Lautem and Liquica Municipalities with health and nutrition information. The health team also continued to support the Ministry of Health on the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

Based on lessons from the evaluation and consultations with partners from the Ministry of Health and civil society we have designed new health programs that will cover additional communities in Lautem and 2 administrative posts in Manatuto focusing on Maternal Child Health, Nutrition and Youth reproductive health. In our education programs, ChildFund has supported 20 primary schools and communications across Manatuto and Liquica through our school-based reading programs, teaching training and rolled out reading campaigns with parents. Peer tutors and

volunteers have played a significant role in achieving higher literacy levels for children in their early primary years.

We were excited to open five new community preschools in Liquica and Lautem, making it a total of 15 preschools supported by ChildFund in the area. These schools are vital to providing learning opportunities to children in remote areas. I am inspired to see the volunteer tutors doing such an amazing job teaching the children.

This year, the Youth Changemakers program was able to expand to Lautem and Luro Administrative posts in Lospalos. The second cohort of 60 Young Changemakers embarked on an exciting training program focusing on peacebuilding, leadership and economic empowerment. Several local youth organisations strengthened their understanding of how they can play a part in the development of social-emotional skills for their peers. Graduates from the first cohort of Changemakers have formed an active Alumni group and continued initiatives to share what they have learned with youth in and out of schools or act on issues in their community.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and with support from UNICEF, we have been able to support birth registration campaigns in four municipalities. ChildFund raised awareness on the importance of a birth certificate and supported village chiefs in mobilising parents and collecting the required documentation. Now, 20,058 children have received a birth certificate and more are to be processed. This project will expand to three additional municipalities in the next year.

I would like to give a big thanks to our generous donors and our partners including the Timor-Leste Government ministries and departments at the national and district level. You have supported us achieve our goals over the past year and helped achieve remarkable change for children in the communities with whom we work.

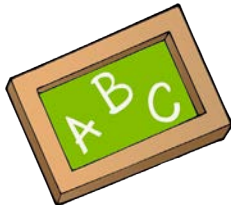
I would also like to thank all the children, youth, volunteers and communities who are playing key roles in our work being at the forefront of making an impact for children each day by teaching, advocating and role-modelling a world in which each child can say: 'I am Safe', 'I am Educated', 'I contribute', 'I have a future'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ERINE' followed by a stylized flourish.

Erine Dijkstra
Country Director

2022 IN NUMBERS

3 EDUCATION PROJECTS



2,119 CHILDREN REACHED

2 HEALTH PROJECTS



2,747 CHILDREN REACHED

1 CHILD PROTECTION PROJECT



4,326 CHILDREN REACHED

1 SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING PROJECT



4,326 CHILDREN REACHED

95 TEACHERS

TRAINED TO BETTER SUPPORT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



131 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

SUPPORTED THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS



WE WANT EVERY CHILD TO SAY



I AM
EDUCATED

I HAVE A
FUTURE

I AM
SAFE

I
CONTRIBUTE



FEATURE STORY: I AM SAFE

EMERGENCY RESPONSE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In early 2021, large parts of Timor-Leste experienced torrential rain and devastating floods. Children and families were forced into make-shift evacuation centres after they lost their homes, or their homes were severely damaged.

After the flooding, ChildFund Timor-Leste and local partner, Ba Futuru, established child-friendly spaces (pictured above) in evacuation centres in Dili and Tasitolu to help ensure children could continue to learn and play.

These spaces also provided psychosocial support to children affected by the floods.

Carmina is a volunteer facilitating psychosocial sessions and other activities in the child-friendly spaces.

"We have breathing exercises, and we have games and other activities where the objective is to calm children when

they think about the flooding," she said.

A year on, ChildFund is keeping these spaces open to help children and young people overcome the trauma of the floods.

Carmina runs two sessions every weekday and reaches 200 children in Tasu Ulun.

Carmina is learning sign language so that she can support a nine-year old girl with a hearing impairment, to ensure she can fully participate in all the activities.

Zelia, whose five-year-old son attended a child-friendly space, said: "The sessions are helpful for my son. He used to be fearful of the rain but through art, games and singing, he is much happier and isn't as scared as he used to be. I have noticed that he is more confident too."

Educational packages containing a school bag, books, pencils, crayons, wooden letter blocks, and toys, were provided to children affected by the floods.

The Australian Humanitarian Partnership project supported the delivery of food packages to 286 households that were affected by the flooding.



I AM EDUCATED

BUILDING PRESCHOOLS IN RURAL TIMOR-LESTE

Early childhood education is a pivotal moment in a child's development. Attending preschool can boost their literacy and numeracy skills, as well as their social skills.

Unfortunately for children in rural Timor-Leste, distance makes it almost impossible for them to attend preschool. One community in Liquica is perched on top of a mountain, and can only be accessed through a rocky, rough road.

In collaboration with staff from Community Based Rehabilitation Network Timor-Leste, ChildFund Timor-Leste worked with local partners to establish 10 community preschools in Lautem and Liquica, so that children aged three to five could access early education.

One of the new preschools (pictured left) is in Caicasavou, the school management committee and volunteer tutors were trained on methods to ensure inclusive education and reached out to the community to ensure all children with a disability, like 6-year-old Leticia, could attend

Leticia's mother said: "When she first started school, we were anxious, but after a week I could see that she was happy because of her friends. She learned many things from the teachers. We can see that she can write. She can dance, she learns the ABCs, she can now count one to 60."

ChildFund's early childhood project this year supported 15 preschools in Liquica and Lautem municipalities.



I CONTRIBUTE

YOUTH CHANGEMAKERS BECOMING COMMUNITY LEADERS

ChildFund in Timor-Leste's Inspiring Youth Changemakers (pictured right) project brings together young people from diverse backgrounds to learn about peacebuilding, leadership, economic empowerment, and other vital life skills to become resilient individuals.

After completing the training, young people share the lessons they have learned with their peers.

Sidilia, age 23, said the training made her "stronger" and more confident in public speaking, sharing her views and working towards a better life. "I need to make a change for myself and for my family," she said.

"Before I attended the training, I was a shy person, I could not even walk through the crowd. But now I feel more confident in public and am brave enough to speak in front of a crowd about issues impacting other youth."

After the training, Sidilia was excited to build on her knowledge of leadership and to share what she learnt with her peers in her village.

This year 112 young people will take part in the project.



I AM SAFE

MOBILE BIRTH REGISTRATION REACHING CHILDREN IN REMOTE AREAS



A birth certificate is an important document for children and their families. Not only does it provide proof of identity, but it also gives them access to health services, education, employment opportunities later in life.

However, for parents in rural and remote areas of Timor-Leste, accessing a birth certificate for their newborn is not an easy task.

ChildFund worked with local communities and partners to raise awareness (pictured left) about the importance of birth registration. Information was shared through radio campaigns, SMS messages, brochures and parents and guardians were invited to attend information sessions in local community centres.

Birth certificates give children a strong start in life. This year the mobile registration project reached nine administrative posts in Lautem, Manatuto and Ermera Municipalities. The births of more than 19,000 children were registered.

I HAVE A FUTURE

AUGUSTA IS SUPPORTING HER COMMUNITY TO IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Augusta (pictured right) has been a community health volunteer with ChildFund Timor-Leste's maternal and child health project since 2004.

In her role she works with ChildFund's local partners Alola Foundation and Klibur Domin to share important information with mothers to help their children stay safe and healthy before, during and after birth.

"I help women learn how they can care for themselves during pregnancy, support breastfeeding mothers, and share information about how mothers can keep their child healthy with local, nutritious food," Augusta said.

Since becoming a volunteer, she has seen positive changes for pregnant women and young mothers in her village. "In my experience, when I approach a pregnant mother and give them advice, they go to the health services for a safe delivery. And I explain in detail why this is better than giving birth at home because it is high risk. So now many women go to the hospital. We also don't have as much malnutrition anymore."

She also advocates to local leaders for vital healthcare supplies.

"Because of my love for my country and my community, I do not want any child to be at risk of malnutrition," Augusta said. "That is why I volunteer."

ChildFund's maternal and child health projects are implemented in Liquica and Lautem Municipalities.





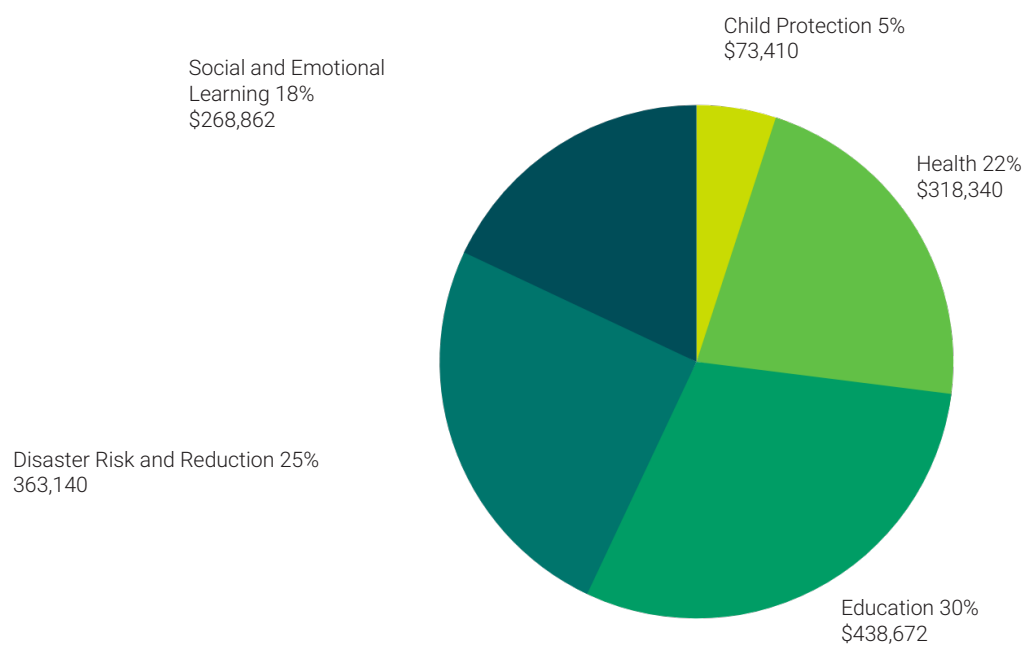
FINANCIAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

REVENUE	FY21 (USD)	FY22 (USD)
Donations	526,367	375,262
Grants	967,097	1,339,348
Other income	35,776	0
Total revenue	1,529,240	1,714,610

EXPENDITURE	FY21 (USD)	FY22 (USD)
Program and projects	1,102,210	1,462,424
Program support	105,744	67,406
Accountability and administration	160,528	200,778
Total expenditure	1,368,482	1,730,608

PROGRAM EXPENDITURE FY2022 (USD)



COLLABORATING TO ACHIEVE CHANGE

Thank you to the following organisations and individuals whose generous support and assistance is vital to the work of ChildFund Timor-Leste:



• Alola Foundation • Ba Futuru • Mary MacKillop Today • ONG Fraterna • Plan International • Library For All • Juventude Ba Desenvolvimento Nacional (JDN) • Community Based Rehabilitation Network (CBRN) Timor Leste •

ChildFund Timor-Leste would also like to thank the Timor-Leste Government for its support.



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

www.childfund.org.au