

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 – 2018

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 more than 14 million children and their families in over 60 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, and works in partnership with children, their communities and local institutions to create lasting change, respond to humanitarian emergencies and promote children's rights. With a focus on maternal and child health, quality education, sustainable livelihoods, and child nutrition, 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 (CFTL) changed its management from ChildFund International to ChildFund Australia as of October 1, 2017. ChildFund Australia's goals in Timor-Leste are to achieve and demonstrate effectiveness and accountability in its program activities and add value to the efforts of its partners through quality development programs that are respectful, responsive, and effective in helping children in poverty, their families, and communities.

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Front cover: Children in Bobonaro municipality, Timor-Leste

FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR



The 2017-2018 financial year was a very exciting time for ChildFund Timor-Leste as it was the year we officially became part of the ChildFund Australia family. As a result, the past year has been one of great change, learning, and patience as we worked to align

ourselves with the systems, structures, and priorities of ChildFund Australia.

We bid a fond farewell to our former Country Director Bernice Roldan in September 2017 and we were very fortunate to have the interim leadership of Simon Mugabi who stepped up as interim country director to keep the programs running well and the transition moving forward until my arrival in July 2018.

Despite the significant changes at the country office level, ChildFund Timor-Leste has continued to provide uninterrupted services in health, education, child protection, and justice for the children across five municipalities of Timor-Leste.

Within the health sector, ChildFund Timor-Leste has provided children with access to services for immunisations, vitamin supplementation, and deworming. We also established parent support groups in Lautem Municipality to address child malnutrition, with Timor-Leste having some of the highest rates in the ASEAN region. In addition, we continued to provide adolescent sexual reproductive health, and family planning support to new mothers, in Liquica Municipality.

Our educational interventions, which include community preschools, and literacy and youth leadership programs, have benefited children of all ages. In addition, we have focused on reducing violence in schools and ensuring children have a safe environment in which they can learn.

This past year, a birth registration project conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Justice was successfully implemented. More children are now legal citizens of Timor-Leste, meaning their rights are recognised and they can access services.

After living and working in Timor-Leste from 2003 until 2011, I feel fortunate to be able to return to a country that I love very much. Many things have changed in Timor-Leste for the better, but there are still many challenges in the health and education sectors.

In addition, Timor-Leste is struggling to provide opportunities for young people – who make up more than 60% of the population – to positively engage in their communities and lead successful, fulfilling futures.

We are looking forward to developing an innovative and impactful strategic plan to help us address the needs of Timor-Leste's children and youth, empower communities to become the stewards of their own development, and prepare the country for the challenges that lie ahead.

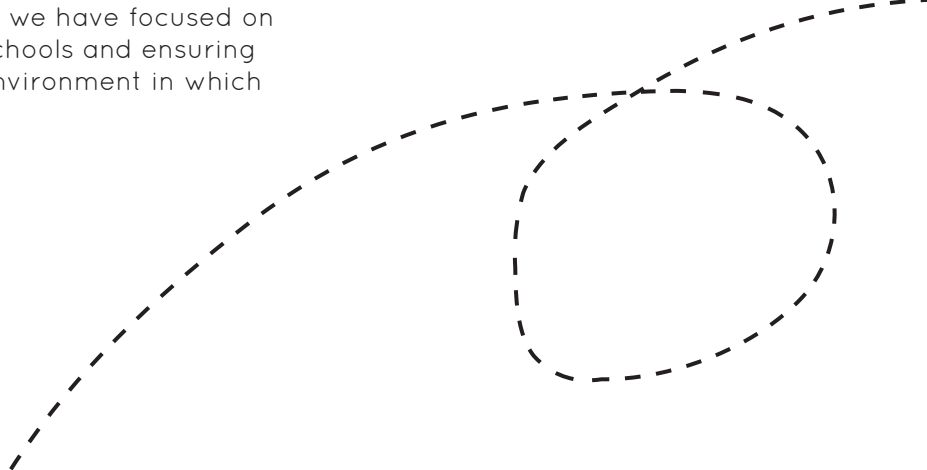
I am immensely grateful for our dedicated staff, government stakeholders and local partners who have supported us through this very busy year of transitions.

On behalf of the ChildFund Timor-Leste team, I would also like to thank all our generous donors who make our work in Timor-Leste possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Diane Francisco', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Diane Francisco
Country Director
ChildFund Timor-Leste





**I AM
SAFE**



SECURING CHILDREN'S FUTURES

Birth registration can be critical for identification purposes and for a child to access education and healthcare services. A fully registered birth and an accompanying birth certificate helps a child secure their right to a nationality and also helps to safeguard other human rights.

In Timor-Leste only about 55% of children under the age of five have had their birth registered.

ChildFund Timor-Leste is ensuring more children have their births registered by establishing registration facilities that are accessible to remote villages and educating parents, guardians and village leaders about the importance of birth registrations.

To date more than 6,000 children, including Irene's two-year-old son Deonizio (both pictured above), across 20 villages in Bobonaro municipality have had their births registered with ChildFund's help.

STRONG FOUNDATIONS IN LITERACY

While education has been free in Timor-Leste for children under the age of 17 since 2007, the quality of education in the country has remained poor.

A lack of strong foundations in reading and comprehension has contributed to high rates of children in Timor-Leste repeating grades and dropping out of school. The limited number of government schools, and their distance from many remote and rural populations, also hinders access to education for children.

ChildFund Timor-Leste and partner organisations are working to improve the literacy skills of children in Grades 1 to 3 by providing mobile libraries and educational toys, and training parents and other community members as volunteer tutors to run regular reading sessions for children in their communities.



**I AM
EDUCATED**

A DAY TO CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Primary school students in Bobonaro District celebrated International Children's Day with sports activities, song and dance at an event supported by ChildFund Timor-Leste.

More than 900 children between the ages of five and 15 attended the event, where ChildFund worked with the Ministry of Justice and National Child Rights Commissioner to deliver messages on the

importance of birth registration and children's rights. Parents and other community members in Bobonaro also joined in the celebration.

The Director General of Education, Cidalio Leite, urged the community to prioritise children's rights and education.

"It is an obligation of parents to bring their children who are at least six years old to school, and there are no exceptions for schools to not receive these children," he said.


**I AM
HEARD**



CREATING YOUNG LEADERS

Timor-Leste has one of the youngest populations in the Asia-Pacific region, with a median age of 17.4 years. Seventy-four per cent of the population are under the age of 35. Young people have the potential to play an important role in the development and direction of the country's future.

However, inadequate investments in education and training have resulted in a large pool of unemployed youth who feel unprepared for, and lack the skills required to access, employment opportunities.

Through training sessions, ChildFund Timor-Leste is helping out-of-school youth develop their leadership, life and social

skills so they can be more resilient and active contributors in their communities.

Topics covered in the training sessions include gender equality, gender-based violence, economic empowerment, child safeguarding, and public speaking, among others.

Since participating in the training, Joana, 25, now has the confidence and skills to speak about issues affecting young people, and is leading youth advocacy campaigns in her community.

"The training enhanced my capacity and confidence to share information with my community and other youth in my community," she says.




**I AM
HEARD**



I HAVE A FUTURE



KEEPING BABIES SAFE AND HEALTHY

Healthcare clinics in Timor-Leste fall well below ideal standards and lack adequate water and sanitation, as well as properly trained staff. In rural areas, where 70% of the population lives, it can be impossible to access even these basic services.

There is a serious shortage of skilled healthcare staff with maternal and child health training, and a lack of general health information among many communities. Many parents do not know how to recognise the danger signs of common illnesses, and many children die every day from preventable causes.

In Timor-Leste a third of child deaths occur in the first month of life, and more than 60% in the first 12 months.

ChildFund Timor-Leste is training Community Health Volunteers so that early warning signs of illness and disease among newborns and young children can be detected, and they can be referred to a hospital when necessary.

Parents, such as Rosa (above), are also being given essential skills in nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, and other areas of child development so they can give their newborn children the best chance at life.

THANK YOU

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 • Asosiasaun Moris Foun • Ba Futuru • Balibo ba Oin • Community Radio Maliana • Fraterna • Graca • Mary MacKillop • Minister of Health • Ministry of Justice • MOFFE • PlanBørnefonden • Plan International • Radio Televizaun Timor-Leste • Taiwan Fund for Children and Families

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for the nine-month period ended 30 June 2018

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	2018 (US\$)
Income	2,047,211
Expenditure	1,243,869
Total Comprehensive Income	803,342

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	30 JUNE 2018 (US\$)
Total Assets	986,421
Total Liabilities	183,079
Net Assets	803,342

**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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