



ANNUAL REPORT

2018 – 2019

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 13 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.

ChildFund Timor-Leste

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Front cover: Dircia, age 8, Timor-Leste



ChildFund Timor-Leste is grateful to be able to share with you our achievements and learnings over the past year.

While I am writing this, Timor-Leste is gearing up to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the referendum in which the people

of Timor-Leste voted for their independence. It marks a special time to reflect and look back on the progress of development in Timor-Leste.

While there are many reasons to celebrate, and good progress has been made in this young country, there are still many challenges that children face, including malnutrition and high illiteracy rates. There is also a lack of opportunities for young people.

Over the past year, together with our partners, we have been able to help mitigate these challenges through interventions focused on education, health and nutrition, youth empowerment and disaster risk reduction. Our work expands across the country, including the municipalities of Lautem, Liquica, Bobonaro, Manatuto and Cova Lima.

In our maternal and child health program, community health volunteers have provided support, advice and care for pregnant women and mothers in Lautem and Liquica. Through mother support groups and cooking demonstrations, these women have learnt essential skills regarding child health and nutrition. Fathers have also been actively engaged in the program, learning about child health and wellbeing and how to best support their children, wives and partners.

We have enhanced the quality of education for children, through community and school-based reading programs and supporting community pre-schools. Children have also been actively involved in interventions to reduce violence

in their schools and communities, raising awareness about children's rights, and the impacts of violence, to their peers, parents, teachers and other community members.

This year we also launched the ChildFund Pass It Back program in Timor-Leste. Through an integrated life skills and rugby curriculum, the program promotes children's right to play, while providing important learning opportunities around leadership, gender equity and planning for the future. Participating boys and girls, and the program's young coaches, have had a lot of fun in the first season of the program playing the 'papaya ball' game!

A key milestone for ChildFund Timor-Leste has been the development of a new strategic plan for 2019-2025. Over the coming years, our work in Timor-Leste will focus on early childhood development, integrated maternal and child health and nutrition, and building youth resilience.

We will continue to ensure our programs are implemented and managed to high standards, and that their impact on children, youth and their communities is measured.

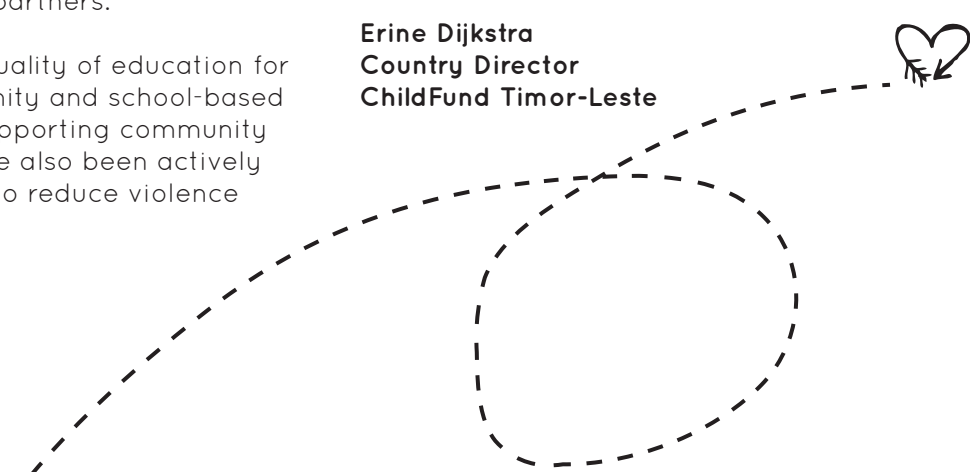
We are thankful for the dedication and support of the Timor-Leste Government and our partners for all the achievements in the past year. Thank you, also, to our committed donors for their ongoing support.

Together, we are ensuring children in Timor-Leste can experience a childhood where they are nurtured, protected and have access to opportunities.

Yours sincerely,

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

Erine Dijkstra
Country Director
ChildFund Timor-Leste





I AM SAFE



EMPOWERING CHILDREN FOR CHANGE

In Timor-Leste, violence is regularly used as a disciplinary method in homes and schools.

ChildFund Timor-Leste is helping to reduce and prevent violence against children by empowering peer educators, parents and teachers to share messages in their community on non-violent methods of discipline, children's rights, and conflict resolution.

Peer educator Ines, age 12 (pictured above) writes: "I have the right to be loved by my family and other people."

Parents and teachers are also being trained on child protection and have developed codes of conduct in schools to reduce and prevent violence against students.

"It's abuse to a child if you use violence to discipline," Ines says. "Children have the right to life, to development and to participation."

A PASSION FOR LEARNING

A lack of quality teaching and limited educational resources have led to poor learning outcomes and high rates of children dropping out of school in Timor-Leste.

ChildFund Timor-Leste is helping to train teachers and provide students with access to a mobile learning centre that provides them with educational resources, such as books in their local language, and interactive classes such as music, drama and arts and crafts.

Children like 10-year-old Sidalia (pictured right) are now developing a passion for learning. "I like reading, playing the tambourines, and painting when the mobile learning centre facilitators come," she says.

"The resources have helped me learn more."



I AM EDUCATED

SPORTING CONFIDENCE

There are few opportunities for youth in Timor-Leste to develop themselves and learn the skills they need to reach their potential.

ChildFund Pass It Back is providing vulnerable boys and girls with the chance to learn the game of rugby, as well as the skills to overcome challenges and inspire positive social change in their communities.

ChildFund Pass It Back coaches and players like Manuel, age 16 (pictured below, far right with his

teammates) are being empowered to become the next leaders of their communities. They are learning about gender equality and how to plan for their futures. They are also learning how to integrate rugby's values of integrity, passion, solidarity, discipline and respect, into their everyday lives.

"The most important values to me are respect and discipline," Manuel says. "I now understand why we should not be late in school and why we must respect one another at school and at home."




**I AM
HEARD**

SAFE AND HEALTHY MOTHERS AND BABIES

In Timor-Leste, mothers too often lose their babies, and children too often lose their mothers because of a lack of health infrastructure, resources and information.

Many mothers, particularly in remote and rural communities, give birth at home without a doctor or a midwife, and in unsafe conditions.

ChildFund Timor-Leste is helping to prevent these deaths by upskilling and training doctors, nurses and midwives on child and maternal health, and encouraging mothers to deliver their babies in health clinics or hospitals rather than at home.

Community health volunteers are also being trained to advise,

support, and care for mothers before and after childbirth.

Community health volunteer Julia has been supporting Anita, age 21 (pictured), since Anita became pregnant with her twin girls two years ago. Julia has been encouraging Anita to have regular pre-natal and post-natal check-ups, and has provided advice on breastfeeding and the types of foods to eat and feed her children.

It was also Julia who called the doctor when Anita went into labour so she could deliver safely at home.

"I know two friends who have passed away giving birth," Anita says. "It makes me feel afraid and worried."

"I believe the presence of the project can help mothers deliver safely."




**I HAVE A
FUTURE**



I HAVE A FUTURE



NURTURING YOUNG BODIES AND MINDS

The effects of malnutrition can result in long-lasting impacts on a child's cognitive and physical development.

In Timor-Leste, nutrition levels across the population are poor, with many children experiencing stunting or wasting. Anaemia is also highly prevalent among women and children.

ChildFund Timor-Leste is training community health volunteers to monitor children's growth and to help prevent, identify and treat child malnutrition in vulnerable communities. Through cooking demonstrations and support groups, parents are learning about healthy hygiene practices and how to grow and cook a wide range of meals using local, nutritious foods.

Anderito was three years old when he was diagnosed with malnutrition. "We were feeding him noodles and rice porridge but we would scoop the vegetables out because he wouldn't eat them," Anderito's mother, Merita, says.

As part of ChildFund Timor-Leste's nutrition project, Merita learnt how to prepare a range of new, tasty and nutritious meals for her son. "Before ChildFund's intervention we did not have good knowledge of how to prepare nutritious foods," she says. "As part of the project we got recipes on how to prepare rice porridge with watercress, spinach, moringa leaf, chicken, eggs."

Today, Anderito is a healthy four-year-old (pictured above with his older brother Dedi, age 6), and loves eating his vegetables.

ChildFund Timor-Leste's project is also helping communities be better prepared for disasters and the impacts of climate change on food availability and food diversity. Backyard and school gardens with a diverse range of nutritious foods are being established, and farmers are learning about climate-smart farming techniques.

"I hope the project will help more children in my community and other areas," Merita says.

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:



Action for Change Foundation • Associacao Futuro Naroman • Associacao Graca • Ba Futuru • Catalpa International • Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste • DHL • Fundasaun Alola • Health Alliance International • Mary Mackillop Today • Moris Foun • ONG Fraterna • PlanBørnefonden • Plan International

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

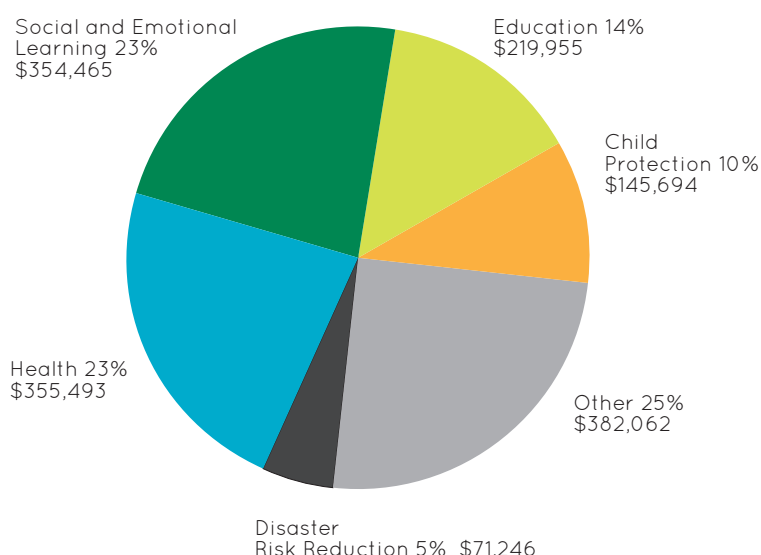
FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial report for year ended 30 June 2019

REVENUE	FY1819 (US\$)	FY1718 (US\$)
Donation	1,500,768	1,715,947
Grants	786,280	310,098
Other income	5,158	21,166
Total revenue	2,292,206	2,047,211

EXPENDITURE	FY1819 (US\$)	FY1718 (US\$)
Program and project	1,528,915	815,164
Program support	226,586	141,221
Accountability and administration	266,960	287,484
Total expenditure	2,022,461	1,243,869

PROGRAM AND PROJECT EXPENDITURE
FY1819 (US\$)



**BECAUSE
EVERY CHILD
NEEDS A
CHILDHOOD**

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