



OVERVIEW OF

Timor-Leste

Overview of Timor-Leste



YEAR OF
2002
INDEPENDENCE

POPULATION
1,172,390
MILLION

41%
Population
BELOW
poverty line

Languages

Tetum, Portuguese, Baikenu, Bunak, Fataluku, Kemak, Makasai, Mambai, Tokodede

Under-five Mortality Rate: 54 per 1,000 live births. Timor-Leste ranks 51 in the world.

89% of Timorese children ages 3-6 do not attend preschool*

Timor-Leste has one of the highest fertility rates in the world with each woman having an average of 6.1 children

Human Development Index (HDI) for 2012: 0.576 (ranked 134 out of 187, indicating medium human development).

58% of children under 5 are stunted due to chronic malnutrition

Brief History of ChildFund in Timor-Leste

ChildFund came to Timor-Leste: 1990

Number of districts: 7

Number of enrolled children (FY13): 11,453

Number of participants FY13: 190,984

ChildFund has been operating in Timor-Leste since 1990, initially under the operations of CCF Indonesia. A National Office was established in 1999 after Timor-Leste's referendum for the restoration of independence. The referendum marked the end of a 25 year occupation in which an estimated 250,000 Timorese lost their lives. During the early stages of recovery and rebuilding, ChildFund Timor-Leste focused on the most pressing needs of the people, with projects in food security and the prevention of common diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis.

**Republica Democratica Timor Leste, Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030*

Brief History (continued)



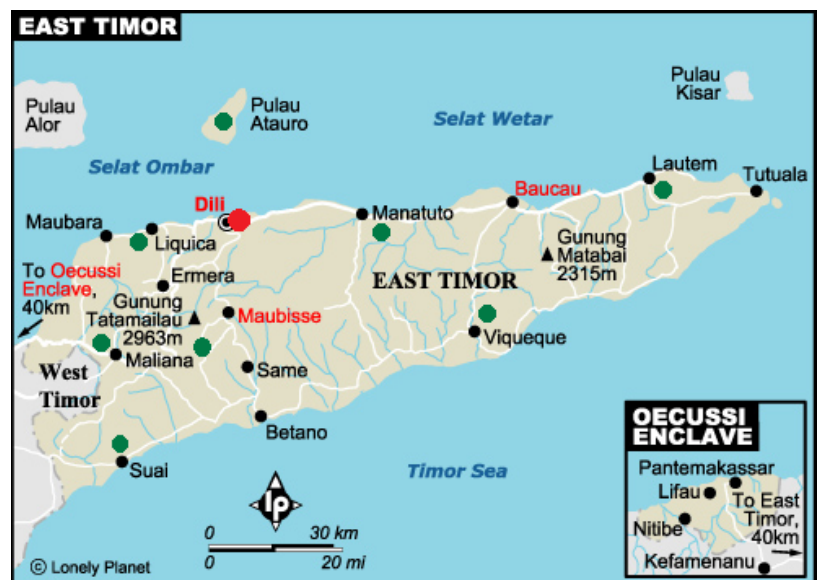
During civil unrest in 2006, which resulted in the internal displacement of around 150,000 people, ChildFund Timor-Leste worked with children and families in IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps. ChildFund provided a sense of order and safe havens for children by creating child centered spaces and giving young people opportunities for education and recreation. ChildFund also provided clean, accessible water and systems for the safe disposal of human waste within the camps. More recently, ChildFund Timor-Leste has broadened its focus in line with the government's strategic development plan, encompassing a broad range of health, education, youth and community development projects in seven (7) districts.

Where We Work



Districts where we work:

- Atauro Island
- Bobonaro
- Cova Lima
- Lautem
- Liquica
- Manatuto
- Viqueque



Brief Program Overview



ChildFund Timor-Leste's diverse programs are designed to improve local capacity to overcome the most pressing challenges faced by children and communities- maternal and child health, education, water and sanitation, food security, and youth leadership and livelihoods.

ChildFund Timor-Leste works with children throughout their lives ensuring children living in poverty have what they need to meet their potential. Our particular focus is on the earliest years, supporting 73 Early Childhood Development (ECD) service providers and working closely with the Ministry of Health to safeguard the health of infants and mothers. Students, parents, and teachers are actively involved in the development of schools and educated, confident children. Water, sanitation and hygiene programs help communities build clean water sources, sanitation facilities and highlight the importance of hygiene in the prevention of illness. ChildFund Timor-Leste also supports youth with a focus on building leadership and life skills and creating meaningful livelihood opportunities.

2013 Program Achievements

Healthy and Secure Infants

The period from birth to five years is when a child's development is fastest and most fragile and serves as a cornerstone for all the growth that follows. With one of the highest fertility rates in the world, there is a strong need for quality programs designed for expectant mothers and the youngest of children. ChildFund Timor-Leste works together with parents and communities to ensure that infants have the nutrition, health care, safety and stimulation they need to achieve their potential day by day.

In 2013, 3,300 children ages 0-5 accessed ChildFund supported Early Childhood Development (ECD) services. More than 80 preschool teachers and almost 40 parent volunteers attended training in growing and cooking local foods, good health and hygiene practices, children's brain development and the importance of stimulation. ChildFund also partnered with the Ministry of Health to deliver breastfeeding and colostrum training to more than 700 mothers, ensuring newborns have strengthened immunity to disease and heightened nutrition for physical and mental development.

In Timor-Leste, malaria is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality, and children under five represent nearly 40% of the total cases (RDTL). In 2013 over 4,000 insecticide treated bed nets were distributed to rural communities, targeting children and pregnant mothers, and communities were trained in the effective use of nets. The challenge of malaria and other common illnesses such as dengue fever, diarrhea, respiratory infections and tuberculosis was also addressed through a number of avenues including training of nurses, midwives and 538 Community Health Volunteers.

2013 Program Achievements (continued)



Educated and Confident Children

ChildFund Timor-Leste's Child Friendly Schools (CFS) project improves learning competencies and develops life skills of children ages 6 to 14. This is achieved using three main strategies: (1) developing participatory school governance; (2) improving school facilities; and (3) training teachers on active learning methods. Implemented by local partners and ChildFund Timor-Leste, working with the Ministry of Education, 143 primary school teachers are now shifting from traditional teaching styles to participatory and effective teaching methodologies that allow children to be active rather than passive learners.

ChildFund Timor-Leste places children's participation in school governance at the forefront of its Child Friendly Schools project. In 2013, 13 Student Councils with 104 members were trained in facilitating skills, conducting school situation analyses, and Child Rights and Child Protection. These young leaders have since created advocacy and school improvement groups. Participation of parents in school governance is also vital in addressing issues and problems that result in low learning outcomes. More than 100 parents from Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) were mobilized and received training on how to maximize their impact. As a result, these PTA members have identified the most pressing needs in schools, created school improvement plans and implemented school rehabilitation projects in 13 schools. These projects, which are managed by PTAs, included the construction and rehabilitation of libraries and school fences and purchasing of library and classroom materials. These projects are benefiting approximately 6,500 children.

ChildFund also works with Student Councils to form groups of Health Scouts who are trained in active learning methods and health issues so they can promote healthy lifestyles in their schools and communities. There are currently 80 Health Scouts in 4 schools, with the ability to promote good health practices to more than 600 of their peers and their parents. Last year ChildFund also collaborated with TOMS Shoes to bolster school attendance and participation. We distributed 356 pairs of new shoes to children in 66 public schools. In a country with a very hot climate and severe lack of transport facilities, school attendance and participation is improved as children no longer have to walk barefoot to school.

Skilled and Involved Youth

ChildFund assists youth in the transition to adulthood by providing training in the skills they need to enter the workforce and meet challenges as they grow into adults. In 2013, 30 youth attended various vocational training schools, including carpentry, dress making, horticulture, and small business management. More than 180 youth participated in life skills training in areas such as basic management, leadership, CV writing and proposal writing. Youth also gained access to HIV education and prevention programs as well as reproductive health seminars and gained skills to become peer educators in these areas.

2013 Program Achievements (continued)



ChildFund Timor-Leste enables young people to act as community leaders and become meaningfully involved in the betterment of their communities. In 2013, we supported 160 youth from throughout the country to participate in a three day youth forum entitled “Youth Involvement in Peace and Development.”

Civil Society

Access to improved water and sanitation is poor in Timor-Leste, with coverage rates among the lowest in the region (WHO). To address this challenge, ChildFund works with communities to construct clean water and sanitation facilities. In 2013, clean water facilities were constructed in 12 remote communities, benefiting more than 2000 people. Communities received materials, support and expert guidance from ChildFund to construct their own toilets; as a result 31 toilets were self-built by 8 communities and 82 households constructed their own toilets.

In 2013, 538 Community Health Volunteers were trained in the prevention of malaria, dengue fever and diarrhea. They visited 725 households with health promotion messages and distributed 4,300 education brochures on the prevention of common yet preventable illnesses. Furthermore, 167 adults and 108 children also received special training to become hygiene promoters in their schools and communities. Subsequently, more than 400 adults and 4,000 children participated in hygiene promotion sessions, often incorporating short films, games and songs.

Challenges

Timor-Leste has one of the lowest human development indicators (HDI = 0.576 and ranked 134 out of 187 in 2013) in Southeast Asia. Almost every second person lives below the poverty line. Deprivation and difficult access to health and services, basic sanitation and education are some of the main challenges affecting people living in the rural and remote areas in which ChildFund works.

In terms of health, the population is at risk of malaria, dengue fever, respiratory infections and tuberculosis. In children these diseases are closely related to lack of proper access to water and sanitation services as well as poor nutrition. Access to education as well as quality of education is particularly challenging. Almost 90% of the education infrastructure was damaged or destroyed during the 1999 struggle for independence and the country was left with just a handful of qualified teachers. Today, teachers lack basic skills and schools often need refurbishment and educational materials. Just 1 in 10 children aged under 6 access pre-school education and high school drop out rates are high.

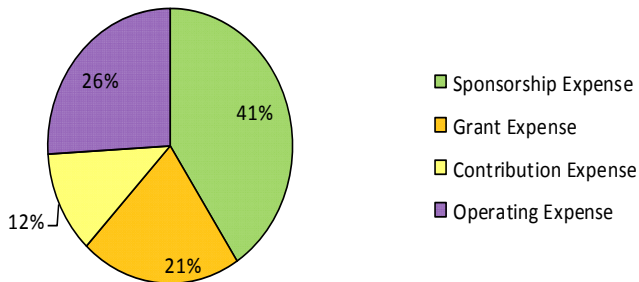
Challenges (continued)

Poor infrastructure in Timor-Leste also represents a major impediment to social and economic development. A journey of just 200km can take more than six (6) hours by car due to poor road conditions. During the wet season, roads may become impassable, making some villages inaccessible. The only reliable banking facilities in the country are located in the capital, Dili, and outside of Dili, Internet and communications are still in their infant stages.



Financial Report

**Timor Leste Total FY13 Expenses:
\$4,754,779**



Timor Leste FY13

Sponsorship Expense	1,939,546	41%
Grant Expense	1,008,834	21%
Contribution Expense	572,534	12%
Operating Expense	1,233,866	26%
Total Expense	4,754,780	100%

Why Sponsorship is Important

When 12 year old Zeliana's sponsor came to Timor Leste to visit her at her school last year, it was an unforgettable moment for her. "When my sponsor visited me, I could share the joy I had with my friends and teacher at school." It was a memorable moment for the whole family, who proudly display photos from the visit on their front porch, as well as letters and photos sent from their sponsor over the years.

Zeliana, who has been sponsored for more than 7 years, is confident and popular with her peers. She is currently in grade 6 in primary school and is happy about the gifts that support her schooling, such as stationery, books and school shoes. She wants to be a doctor one day. Her parents are farmers in one of the driest regions of Timor-Leste and the family depends heavily on the wet season to produce enough to get by. *"By the dry season, there is no water, therefore we can't do our work, and we can't produce anything to support our lives. Thanks for the support given by our sponsor, especially the water pump and hose to help us get water in any season,"* says Zeliana's father, Fortunatu, with a big smile.



Agostino, a 14 year old boy, is from Balibo, a small town near the Indonesian border. He has one sister and four brothers. His parents, Mario and Ribka, try their best to support their family of 8 through farming on their small plot of land.

Agostino has been a sponsored child since 2005, and maintains regular contact with his American sponsor by sharing stories and his activities in letters. He loves writing to his sponsor, who he affectionately addresses as "Inan doben" which means "beloved mother" and is a term of very high respect and tenderness in the local language. In his letters he thanks her for helping him attend school. *"I*



feel happy, grateful and confident to share my daily activities including school updates with my sponsor", says Agostino, who is now in the sixth grade and aspires to become a police officer.

Agostino has attended Letter Writing training conducted by ChildFund, which he finds very helpful in giving him more ideas and increasing his writing skills. Through the sponsorship program, children in Agostino's community also have access to child related activities such as training in child's rights, hygiene promotion and reproductive health promotion.