



The Philippines, Indonesia and Timor-Leste (PINT) program was created on the 1st of January 2017. This country sheet covers the democratic republic of Timor-Leste. The regional office is based in Manilla, Philippines

General data of the country

a. Data

Country	Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste					
Population ¹	1.2 million (1/03/2017)		Density: 82.4 p/m ² (2017)			
HDI	Average/female/male: 0.595/0.548/0.631 (133/188) - Medium					
IHDI	0.421 (108/151)					
Child mortality	54.6 for 1 000 live births (under 5 mortality rate)					
Gender Development Index (2015)	0.868 (group 5)					
Population within UNHCR mandate	N/A (313 persons in 2014)					
INFORM Index (2017) ²		Value	Rank		Value	Rank
	Inform Risk	4.2	69	Vulnerability	5	48
	Hazard & Exposure	2.1	133	Lack of Coping Capacity	7	22
Fragile State index (2016) ³	Rank: 35 Total: 90.8					
	Demographic Pressures		9.2	Legitimacy of the State		7.1
	Refugees and IDPs		6.5	Public Services		8.7
	Group Grievance		6.7	Human Rights		5.5
	Human Flight		7.3	Security Apparatus		7.4
	Uneven Development		7.0	Factionalized Elites		8.3
	Poverty and Economic Decline		8.1	External Intervention		9.0
Number of land mine victims (2014)	0					
GINI Index (2007) ⁴	31.6%					
Net official development assistance received	6% of GNI (2013)					

¹ UN <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Timor-Leste>

² <http://www.inform-index.org/Countries/Country-profiles>

³ <http://fsi.fundforpeace.org/rankings-2016>

⁴ World Bank <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI/>

Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

→ Mine Ban Treaty / Status:	State party
→ Convention on Cluster Munitions / Status:	Non-signatory
→ UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities / Status:	Non-signatory

b. Geopolitical analysis

East Timor declared itself independent from Portugal on 28 November 1975 and was invaded and occupied by Indonesian forces nine days later. An unsuccessful campaign of pacification followed over the next two decades, during which an estimated 100,000 to 250,000 people died. In an August 1999 UN-supervised popular referendum, an overwhelming majority of the people of Timor-Leste voted for independence from Indonesia. However, in the next three weeks, anti-independence Timorese militias - organized and supported by the Indonesian military - commenced a large-scale, scorched-earth campaign of retribution. The militias killed approximately 1,400 Timorese and forced 300,000 people into western Timor as refugees. Most of the country's infrastructure, including homes, irrigation systems, water supply systems, and schools, and nearly all of the country's electrical grid were destroyed. On 20 September 1999, Australian-led peacekeeping troops deployed to the country and brought the violence to an end. On 20 May 2002, Timor-Leste was internationally recognized as an independent state.

Social/cultural/demographic elements

Under Indonesian rule, the use of Portuguese was banned and only Indonesian was allowed to be used in government offices, schools and public business. During the Indonesian occupation, Tetum and Portuguese were important unifying elements for the East Timorese people in opposing Javanese culture. Portuguese was adopted as one of the two official languages upon independence in 2002 for this reason and as a link to Lusophone nations in other parts of the world. As of 2012, 35% speak, read, and write Portuguese. But the choice of Portuguese is questionable, given the few Lusophony countries in the world and their influence, and the fact that the language is not spoken in other countries in the region. Most Timorese cannot speak English, and local authorities often have to use interpreters or translate documents into Tetum.

It is one of the two Christian nations in Asia (the other one being the Philippines) with around 98% of the Timorese being Roman Catholic.

The culture of East Timor reflects numerous influences, including Portuguese, Roman Catholic and Indonesian.

Politics

Presidential elections were held on 20 March 2017. The result was a victory for Francisco Guterres of Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (FRETILIN), a left-wing nationalist party that began as a resistance movement fighting for independence from Portugal and then Indonesia. The new president took office on the 20th May, for a period of 5 years. While the president has veto power over legislation the role is largely symbolic, and is seen as a unifying figure for the country. Elections for the unicameral parliament will be held later this year. After these elections, the president appoints as prime minister the leader of the majority party or majority coalition.

Administrative Structure

Timor-Leste is divided into 13 districts/municipalities, which in turn are subdivided into 65 administrative posts, 442 sucos (villages), and 2,225 aldeias (hamlets). The districts/municipalities in Timor-Leste are: Oecusse, Liquiçá, Dili, Manatuto, Baucau, Lautém, Bobonaro, Ermera, Aileu, Viqueque, Cova Lima, Ainaro, Manufahi. Administrative decentralisation is embedded in Timor-Leste's Constitution. However, considering the lack of institutional capacity even at national level, Timor-Leste is highly unlikely to find sufficient institutional capacity in its districts. No one can safely say when district governments will have sufficient skills and systems to handle a larger portion of the national budget. In the meantime, the 12 districts, besides Dili, will remain largely reliant on the national government for any improvements in government services and economic vibrancy.

Economic elements

Since its independence in 1999, Timor-Leste has faced great challenges in rebuilding its infrastructure, strengthening the civil administration, and generating jobs for young people entering the work force. The development of offshore oil and gas resources has greatly supplemented government revenues, as oil accounts for over 90% of government revenues. This technology-intensive industry, however, has done little to create jobs as there are no production facilities in Timor-Leste. Gas is currently piped to Australia for processing, but Timor-Leste has expressed interest in developing a domestic processing capacity.

In June 2005, the National Parliament unanimously approved the creation of the Timor-Leste Petroleum Fund to serve as a repository for all petroleum revenues and to preserve the value of Timor-Leste's petroleum wealth for future generations.

In Transparency International's 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index, Timor-Leste obtained a score of 35 on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean), and currently ranks 101/176⁵, at exactly the same level as the Philippines.

Regional dynamics

Timor-Leste sought membership of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2007, and a formal application was submitted in March 2011. Indonesia supports Timor-Leste's bid to join ASEAN. However, until beginning of 2017 this has not been realized yet.

Governance

The country has also obtained consistently poor results on the World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators. Rule of law and government effectiveness were highlighted as areas of particular weakness, with the country scoring around 10 out of a 100 on both indicators. Voice and accountability appeared, on the other hand, to be relatively strong areas, with Timor-Leste receiving a score of 51.7 out of 100⁶.

Conflicts

The volume of violence witnessed and experienced by Timorese society over the past few decades makes conflict resolution integral to the future health of the nation. In addition, Timor-Leste is still facing some threats internally resulting from weak state institutions, rivalries among elites and between security forces, land property issues and large-scale youth unemployment. The country is still awash with gangs – from martial arts groups and politically-linked clans to spiritual organisations and neighbourhood street boys – comprising an estimated 90,000 members, or just under one-tenth of the population. Fighting continues, although all gangs have been banned since 2013.

Human rights

Timor-Leste faces challenges upholding human rights, reducing impunity and increasing access to basic public services. Gender-based violence remained a significant issue. A survey revealed that three in five women between the ages of 15 and 49, who had ever been in a relationship, had suffered sexual or other physical violence by a husband or male partner in their lifetime.

HI presence in the country

HI launched its operations in Timor-Leste in 2001 offering support to victims of the independence conflict with Indonesia. HI continued its aid effort in 2002 and 2003 before withdrawing from the country. After almost 10 years of absence, HI then re-established its office and team presence in Timor-Leste in 2012.

Main achievements

- The development of a national disability action plan, covering 10 sectors, and the nomination of 9 disability focal points in 9 different ministries.

⁵ Transparency International 2016

⁶ World Bank 2014

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- The development of a draft Decree Law for establishment of the National Council, but approval on standby due to the election process
- Successful mainstreaming of disability within the national vocational Center (CNEFP), however this is hampered by the overall low level of education of persons with disabilities.
- Support to several self Help Groups in Liquica to access livelihood small grants scheme from the Ministry of Commerce Industry after the advocacy efforts.

Two projects have been implemented:

- Inclusive education, HI provided technical support to Plan International on inclusive education in Aileu district from 2013 – 2015 and implemented inclusive education project independently, between 2014 and 2016. In this project, parents of children with disabilities received information and training on how to properly take care of their children with disabilities, children were referred for relevant rehabilitation services, and physical accessibility of some schools was improved.
- Access to justice and support to disabled people organizations: the Advocating for Change (AfC) project is the most important intervention of HI in the country so far. The project focusses on three components: 1/ support to MSS to establish, set-up and/or implement relevant institutions, mechanisms, policies and processes towards becoming a party to the UNCRPD, 2/ establishment of models of inclusive local governance in 4 sucos of Bazarte & Liquica sub-districts, 3/ support to young persons with disabilities to build vocational capacities and increase livelihood opportunities.

Projects

Thematic	Title of action	Donor	Duration
<u>Support to DPOs</u> ⁷ - Livelihood - Advocacy	Advocating for Change for Persons with Disabilities in South and South East Asia – Phase 2	BMZ (covering also the project in Indonesia and India)	1 st October 2015 – 30 th September 2017 (24 months)

**The Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and
Development (BMZ)**

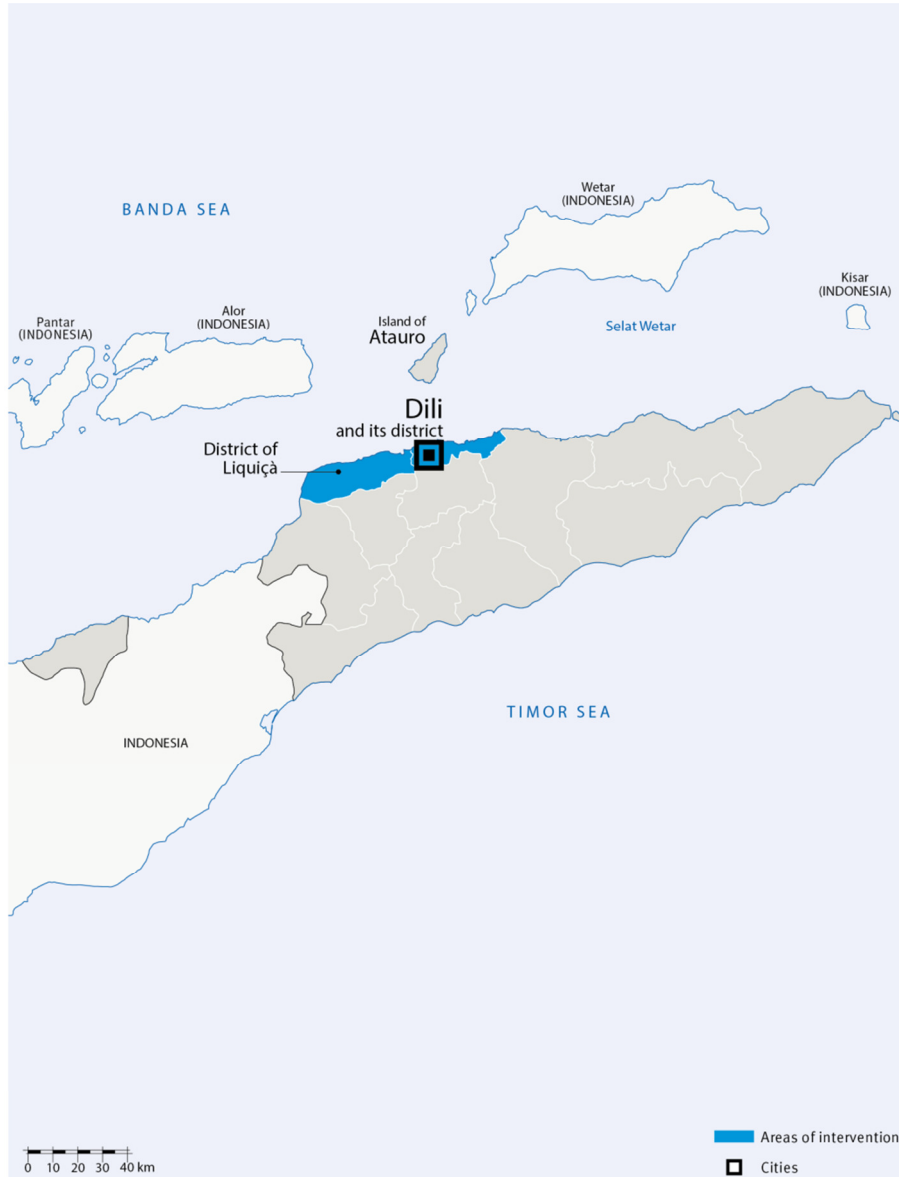


⁷ Disabled People Organizations


HI team in Timor Leste

HI Timor Leste became regional in January 2017. It is now made of 3 countries –Philippines, Indonesia and Timor-Leste with the regional office and coordination based in Manila. The remaining team in Timor-Leste has 3 staff members.

Timor-Leste



Projects ongoing (date – July 2017) : Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on operational partnerships ongoing

Sector	Objectives	Type of intervention	Target Beneficiaries	Partners	Place
<p>Rights and policy</p> 	<p>Enhance participation of people with disabilities, and work with their representative organizations (DPOs) as key agents for change;</p> <p>Objective: Support the creation of favourable conditions for the ratification of the UNCRPD</p>	<p>Supporting the preparation of adequate institutions and policies at the national level, and setting model practices of disability-inclusive governance and economic empowerment at the local level.</p>	<p>Representatives from 4 local NGOs/platforms working for people with disabilities and 4 disabled people organizations; executives staff and 10 Ministries/State secretaries; representatives from self-help groups and from village councils; young persons with disabilities and their families; etc.</p>	<p>Klibur Domin, Ahisaun, Resomliq, ETBU, Caucus, HDMTL</p>	<p>Dili, the capital city of Timor-Leste and Liquica district.</p>