DISASTER NEEDS ANALYSIS – 07 Sept 2012

PREPAREDNESS
TIMOR–LESTE

Country Overview

In May 2002, Timor-Leste gained independence from Indonesia. In 2006, the country suffered large-scale internal conflict, which led to the displacement of 150,000 people.

The latest parliamentary polls on 7th July, 2012 were considered an important milestone towards peaceful democratic governance. The UN announced that evidence of fair and peaceful polls would trigger the withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping force UNMIT and additional forces comprised mainly of Australian troops.

Despite its troubled political past, Timor-Leste’s economy continues to grow rapidly. Offshore gas reserves have increased state income, and Government spending is starting to contribute to poverty reduction and improved social outcomes.

However, food insecurity remains widespread throughout Timor-Leste with 20% of the population food insecure and 44% vulnerable to food insecurity. Though the majority of the population works in subsistence agriculture, agricultural productivity is low and Timor-Leste depends on food imports. High inflation rates, partly caused by the large oil-exports, make access to food and services increasingly difficult.

Malnutrition among children <5 is a widespread health concern with health services in Timor-Leste characterized by weak infrastructure and low human resource capacity.

The country is prone to severe and recurrent drought, flooding and landslides. Tropical cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis also represent risks.

Most vulnerable areas

- LIVELHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY: Aileu, Ainaro, Ermera, Manatuto and Oecussi
- HEALTH AND NUTRITION: Dili, Ainaro, Lautem, Manatuto
- WASH: Dili, Baucau, Oecussi and Liquica
- SHELTER: Dili and Baucau
- PROTECTION: Dili, Baucau and Viqueque

Priority concerns

- Agricultural productivity is severely hampered by lack of (market) infrastructure, poor agricultural practices and lack of inputs. This is the key underlying cause of food insecurity that affects 20 to 45% of the population.
- A weak health infrastructure coupled with a lack of adequate human resources impedes access to health care. Poor reproductive health and malaria are major health concerns as is the worrying nutritional status of children <5.
- Inappropriate waste disposal practices and low access to improved water sources, particularly in rural areas, are WASH related concerns that exacerbate existing health risks.
- Proliferation of small arms and increasing gang membership leads to augmented criminality, including human trafficking and human rights abuses. Sexual and gender based violence continues to be a major protection concern, with around 40% of women being exposed to physical violence. The lack of legal instruments relating to landownership is a factor contributing to tensions and social conflict.
- Urban areas are unprepared for possible disasters. This is especially a concern with regard to a lack of earthquake resistant structures in Dili or district capitals and the urban nature of displacement in Timor-Leste.
**Information Gaps and Needs**

- Disaggregated data on available water resources.
- Limited evidence documenting trafficking of children.
- There is no updated information on poverty rates per district.
- There is a lack of health information management systems.
- Lack of environmental health and disaster information due to limited capacity to collect and analyze the necessary information enabling appropriate risk assessments to be included in the disaster management processes.

**Operational Constraints**

- Almost 70% of all infrastructure was destroyed during the 1999 conflict and although there has been some recovery, around 90% of roads remain in poor condition. Seaports, airports and telecommunications need urgent improvement (WB 2012, IMF 2012, and OHCHR 2008/12).

- Road transport is hampered in the rainy season (November to March/April). Roads in areas of high elevation are prone to landslides and erosive degradation while roads in low laying areas can be blocked by flooding and landslides (LC 2009, LogCluster 2009).

- While highland communities are wetter, steeper and more isolated, lowland communities tend to be drier and flatter, have better infrastructure and accessibility, (CARE 2011).

- The port in Dili is the main and only international port of entry. However, storage facilities, including storage for humanitarian purposes are limited, and the port suffers from congestion (LogCluster 2009).

**Disaster profile**

- While Timor-Leste has a medium exposure to hazards, its lack of coping and adaptive strategies makes it the 7th most disaster prone country in the world (UN WRI 2011).

- Timor-Leste’s combination of seismic risks, heavy monsoonal rain, high winds, steep topography and prevalent deforestation make it prone to floods, landslides, river shifts and erosion. Rural communities face various other hazards affecting agricultural livelihoods such as crop and animal diseases and pest infestation. Urban areas are unprepared for possible disasters ranging from disease outbreaks, fires, chemical spills and sewage run off (UNDP 2010, WFP 2006).

- Timor-Leste also has a history of political instability. After the 1999 conflict, the civil unrest in 2006 led to the destruction of homes and other property and the displacement of over 150,000 people (UNDP 2010, WFP 2006). Apart from the civil unrest and factional violence of 2006-2007, crises are typically small, localised events, affecting on average approximately 10 households per event. The most recent humanitarian crisis was related to the prolonged wet season of 2010, with over 25 communities affected by flash flooding and landslides. In relative terms, the 2007 Timor-Leste Living Standards Survey determined that natural disasters are the most frequent cause of shocks to livelihoods, impacting 79% of the population (ACAPS 2012).
Earthquakes, Tsunamis

- Timor-Leste is located in an area of high seismic activity and is exposed to earthquakes and tsunamis due to its geographical location north of the subduction zone between the Eurasian and Australian plates (GoTL 2008).

- The northern and southern coasts of Timor-Leste are high-risk areas for earthquake hazards and associated tsunamis due to their proximity (100 km) to the active subduction zone (see map Sumatra Subduction Zone).

- With 44% of the country having a slope of approximately 40%, earthquakes can trigger extensive landslips impacting people’s lives, livestock, roads, infrastructure and property. Although low and mid-size earthquakes result in minimal loss of human lives, infrastructure is frequently impacted. Roads and bridges are left impassable after regular damage from flooding, earthquakes, and landslips (WB).

- Past studies on likelihood of earthquake damage to locations in the Pacific Rim have put Timor-Leste in classification VIII1. This classification indicates exposure to earthquakes with intensities classified as “destructive” which could cause significant damage and loss of life. The classification also indicates a 20% probability of exceeding level VIII and experiencing a “ruinous” to “catastrophic” intensity earthquake within 50 years (UNDP 2010).

- The coastal communities of Timor-Leste are at risk of tsunamis. The entire coastline of Viqueque District is especially vulnerable because of the relatively wide shoaling stretch combined with a flat topography inland from the coast (WB, UNDP 2010).

- Past experience and scientific data relating to recent tsunamis indicate that islands surrounding Timor-Leste would offer little protection against a tidal wave or tsunami (GoTL 2008).

- Currently, a Tsunami Watch Information for the Indian Ocean is available for Timor-Leste through the Japan Meteorological Agency in coordination with the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. A warning is expected to be issued with a target of 20 to 30 minutes after the occurrence of the earthquake depending on the condition of communication and the availability of seismic data. In case of a warning, specific information will be communicated, including the estimated tsunami travel times to reach the respective coasts of the countries in the Indian Ocean region (only for the earthquake of M>7.0) (GoTL 2008).

- Despite recognition of the risk, no governmental bodies in Timor-Leste have accurate data on tsunami occurrence (WB).

Floods

- Flooding in Timor-Leste occurs as flash-flooding when heavy seasonal rains in catchment basins converge in tributaries as they descend, resulting in a rapid rise of discharge in the water courses (UNDP 2010).
Landslides
- Almost all areas of “very high” and “high” landslide risk are located in the eastern half of the country (UNDP 2010).

Seasonal Hazards
- Three climate zones exist that can be delineated topographically (northern coastal and lowland zone, mountain zone, and southern coastal and lowland zone) (WB).
- Wet and dry seasons vary in length from the northern and southern zones as a product of the mountainous ridge through the centre of the country.
- Seasonal monsoon rains and strong winds or cyclones strike Timor-Leste and regularly damage and destroy homes, particularly in rural areas. The country is affected by two sets of monsoonal conditions: the Northwest or wet monsoon that brings storms and flooding, and the Southeast or dry monsoon that brings strong winds to the south of the island. Monsoons are very active between November and April (GoA).
- The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) strongly affects the wet seasons over Timor-Leste. During El Niño the monsoon onset is delayed and the wet season ends earlier leading to overall less rainfall. The dry season extends to a six month period without rainfall (GoA).

Cyclones
- To date, cyclones have a low frequency of occurrence and effect tends to be weak (GoTL and GoA). In the future, however, this may change. Climatologists predict that, due to climate change, Timor-Leste is likely to become increasingly vulnerable to cyclones, tropical storms, flood and landslides (GoTL 2008).
- Cyclone tracking and early warning information is available from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and other international bodies. However, due to lack of additional data and professional capacity within Timor-Leste to undertake analysis, the Meteorological Service cannot provide full risk estimation and evaluation. Neither systematic tidal measurements nor sea-level rise monitoring are carried out for Timor-Leste in any port of the Pacific or Indian Ocean (WB).

Volcanoes
- Although Timor-Leste has no active volcanoes, it could be affected by the Holocene volcanic groups on neighbouring Indonesian Islands (GoTL 2008).

Locusts and Vermin
- Locust and mice plagues threaten food security and increase vulnerability (IFRC 2010).

Droughts
- Timor-Leste experiences the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) related weather anomalies associated with droughts regionally and occurring in cycles every couple of years. In addition to El Niño, the La Niña weather phenomena has had a significant impact on Timor-Leste communities, both positive, in terms of improving agricultural production and water security, and negative in terms of increased flooding, landslides and erosion (GoTL 2008).
- The majority of high and medium drought risk areas are close to the northern coast.
Climate Change

- Climate change is acknowledged to have the potential to exacerbate all weather-related hazards (including slow onset conditions such as drought).

- Scientific understanding of the nature and incidence of these changes in Timor-Leste remains very limited (WB).

- Climate projections for Timor Leste suggest the following:
  - By 2030, under a high emissions scenario, temperatures are expected to increase by 0.4-1.0°C
  - A decrease in dry season rainfall and an increase in wet season rainfall, with little change in the frequency of droughts throughout this century
  - Extreme rainfall days are likely to occur more often
  - A decrease in the number of tropical cyclones
  - By 2030, under a high emissions scenario, the sea level is expected to rise between 6-15 cm
  - The sea-level rise combined with natural year-to-year changes will accentuate the impact of storm surges and coastal flooding (GoTL and GoA, 2011).

Lessons Learned

- Communication gaps in Timor-Leste pose significant challenges to the effective management of disasters, conflict and climate change adaptation. Analysis of emergencies, disasters and conflict since 1999 reveals a pattern of reliance on committees whose capacity to communicate effectively is limited. Often, the degree of impact of disasters and conflict can indirectly or partly be attributed to uninformed decisions and the spread of misinformation (WB).

- There is no credible in-country monitoring or analysis of hazards and climate changes. The country continues to depend on information and warnings from Indonesia, Australia, and Japan (WB).

- In the past, the inability to quickly address the locust problem resulted in widely spreading and dramatically increasing damage. The recurrence of locust infestation causes crop failures and is compounded by drought, flood, heavy winds, and landslides resulting in crop damage (WB).

- Casualties and severe disruption to road networks are common in the rainy season, the latter having a significant impact on food security and livelihoods (UNDP 2010).

- There are few earthquake resistant structures in Dili or district capitals. Almost all private dwellings being constructed are non-engineered concrete/masonry buildings. Such buildings could be expected to have high rates of failure in a strong earthquake (6.0-6.9 magnitude) and devastating levels in a major earthquake (7.0-7.9) with an epicentre close to Dili or other district capitals (UNDP 2010).

Country Profile

Main characteristics

- Timor-Leste has a low human development and was ranked 147 out of 187 countries in the 2011 HDI (HDI 2011).

- The situation in Timor-Leste is categorised as ‘alarming’ on the 2011 Hunger Index, due to the high number of underweight children and an undernourished population (IFPRI 2011).

- In 2010, life expectancy at birth was 62 years (63 female and 61 male) compared to 69 in Indonesia (70 female and 67 male) (WB 2010).

- Literacy rate among adults aged >15 is 51% (IMF 2012).

- With 58% of children <5 stunted, and 33% severely stunted, Timor-Leste has the third highest child malnutrition rate in the world after Yemen and Afghanistan (DHS 2010).

- Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births was 557 in 2010, compared to a regional average of 78 (WB 2010, DHS 2010).

- The <5 mortality rate was 55 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2010 (UNICEF 2012, WHO 2012).
Geography and climate

Timor-Leste is a small country, 14,874 sq. km, comparable to Swaziland and Montenegro (CIA 2012).

The geography of the country is characterized by mountainous terrain, shallow rocky soils and approximately 700 km of coastline (CARE 2011).

The island is covered by a core of rugged hills and mountains running from east to west and physically dividing the country in distinctive climatic patterns for the northern and southern parts. The northern part has one rainfall peak within the wet season lasting between four to six months. The southern part has two rainfall peaks during the wet season which lasts between seven and nine months. The first peak is situated in December and February and the second peak in May and June (FAO/WFP 2007).

The climate has an average temperature of 24°Celsius on the coastline and 20°C in the highlands (FAO/WFP 2007).

Economy

The independence war and social unrest in 2006 and in 2007, have taken a heavy toll on the country and its economy is characterized by volatile GDP growth, high unemployment and poverty (UNDP 2009).

However, Timor-Leste has extensive offshore oil and gas resources that are rapidly increasing state income. In 2002, Timor-Leste’s national budget was less than $20m; for 2011 it is more than $1 billion (Economist 2011/03).

GDP growth was 9.3% in 2011 and will average 8.7% a year in 2012-13 (EIU n.d.).

Coffee accounts for nearly all of the country’s non-oil exports (FAO/WFP 2007).

The US dollar was adopted as the national currency in January 2000 (WFP 2006).

Timor-Leste is a food deficit country and relies heavily on food imports (IMF 2012).

Although there is limited information available on the level of remittances, it is presumed that remittances are only of limited importance to the national economy (ACP 2010/09).

Out-migration of Indonesians after the independence in 1999 left a large human resources gap, particularly in skilled areas (ADB 2004).

According to the Global Competitiveness Report 2011–12, inadequate infrastructure is the most problematic factor for doing business in Timor-Leste (IMF 2012).

Social-cultural characteristics

70% of Timorese live in rural areas (GoTL 2010/10/20).

In 2010 30% of the population lived in urban areas with 18% of the total population in Dili City. In 2004 the urban population accounted for 26% with 11% living in Dili (GoTL 2010).

Tetun and Portuguese are official national languages; Tetun is most commonly spoken. There are over 20 different languages spoken throughout the nation. Approximately half the population speaks Bahasa Indonesian. Less than 5% speaks Portuguese, and 2% speak English (WFP 2006).

Timor-Leste is nearly entirely (98%) Roman Catholic, with 1% Muslim and 1% Protestant (CIA 2012).

Education

Following the 1999 violence, only 5% of education institutions were left standing (Nicolai, 2007).

The net enrolment rate in primary schools in 2010 was 85%. For every 100 boys 96 girls were enrolled (WB 2012).

In secondary school, the gross enrolment rate of girls is 58% as compared to 64% of boys (GoTL, Census 2010). Factors that contribute to lower rates of transition from primary to secondary school for girls include the following:

- difficult access due to greater average distance from home to the nearest junior secondary school;
- the perceived greater vulnerability of girls outside their own village;
- lack of sanitation facilities at junior secondary schools;
- strong demand for older girls to support the household;
- prevalence of early marriage and the importance of bride price to household income;

- New era 2009
- WFP 2010
- ACP 2010/09
- UNDP 2009
- ADB 2004
- Global Competitiveness Report 2011–12
- Economist 2011/03
- GO Jobs 2009
- GoTL 2010
- GoTL 2010, Census 2010
- FAO/WFP 2007
- EIU n.d.
Higher age of girls completing primary school, and; the prevalence of traditional values in rural communities.

- Children in urban areas are almost four times more likely to be enrolled in a secondary school than their peers in rural areas (GoTL 2010).
- 85% of its schoolteachers fail a test of basic competency (Economist 2012/03/09).
- Debates about language issues have distracted attention from education quality. The decision to phase out the use of Indonesian language in favor of Portuguese is controversial. There are few young people among the 5% of the population able to speak Portuguese and hardly any Portuguese-proficient teachers (Nicolai, 2007).
- One in five school-aged children does not attend school (Nicolai, 2007).

### Demographic profile
- According to the 2010 census, Timor-Leste has a total population of 1,066,582 (GoTL 2010).
- Timor-Leste had a 2.4% annual population growth between 2004 and 2010, significantly slower than 2004 projections of 3.2% per year. However, it is still the highest in the Southeast Asia and Pacific region (GoTL 2010/10/20).
- Average fertility rate of 5.6 is one of the highest in the world (WB 2012).
- Average household size is 5.8 (GoTL 2010/10/20).
- Timor-Leste has a young population, with over 40% aged between 0-14 (GoTL 2010).

### Governance and political situation
- Timor-Leste became independent in 2002 (UN 2011).
- The country is a republic and is administratively divided into five regions, further divided into 13 districts. Each district is divided into 65 sub-districts comprising 443 Sucos (villages). Sucos are further divided into 2,500 Aldeias (hamlets) (WFP 2006).
- Timor-Leste ranks 127th out of 178 countries on the Corruption Perceptions Index, similar to Syria and Uganda (Transparency International 2011).
- In April 2006, anti-government protests led to fighting between heavily armed groups, including the military, the police and rebel factions (WFP 2007).
- The two major political parties in Timor-Leste are the Congresso Nacional de Reconstrução de Timor-Leste (CNRT) and the party that headed the country's first government: Frente Revolucionária de Timor-Leste Independente (Freltilin). While CNRT is a party that is organised around its leader Xanana Gusmão, Fertilin holds an organised base particularly in the eastern districts of the country (ICG 2012).
- The main threat to Timor-Leste is not external, but rather internal strife resulting from weak state institutions, rivalries among elites and between security forces, and large-scale youth unemployment (Congressional Research Service, 2012).

### Media and communication
- Mobile phones are the fastest growing communication tool in Timor-Leste, with 61% of households having access to a mobile phone. 90% of households in Dili have access to a mobile phone (UNMIT, 2011).
- Timor Telecom offers mobile GSM services in Timor-Leste covering 74% of the population (Timor Telecom).
- Radio has the highest reach of any single communications medium, with a weekly reach of 55% (UNMIT, 2011).
- Only 0.5% has access to the Internet, access is mostly restricted to the capital (SEAPA 2012/05, UNESCO 2011).
- Only 37% of citizens have access to any form of media due to the overall low level of infrastructure development in the country (SEAPA 2012/05).
- 16% of the population does not access any form of media (radio, television, newspapers (UNMIT 2011).
- CARE International in Timor-Leste produces and distributes Lafaek, a community magazine for low-literate adults and children n rural areas. More than 90,000 people from four Districts (Bobanaro, Covalima, Ermera and Liquica) access the magazine (CARE 2012).
- Oecusse lags behind in several ways, including newspaper readership and mobile phone ownership. Other districts with significantly high numbers of non-users of media are Aleu, Viqueque, Alinaro and Covalima (UNMIT 2011).
Population per district, 2010 Census

The province of Oecussi is not part of this map. The population figure within this province, 64,000, is similar to the number of people living in Liquiça (63,400).

Livelihoods and Food Security

**Highlights**

- Although more than 70% of the population is involved in subsistence farming, low agricultural production and underdeveloped market systems means that Timor-Leste relies heavily on food imports to meet its food needs.
- One fifth of the population is food insecure and 44% are vulnerable to food insecurity, particularly within the districts of Aileu, Ainaro, Ermera, Manatuto and Oecussi.
- Limited access to arable land, limited commercial farming and continued vulnerability to natural disasters exacerbate chronic food insecurity.
- The following groups are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity: female headed households, children under 5, subsistence agriculturalists, returnees, and those without access to irrigated land and basic services.

**Key characteristics**

**Livelihoods**

- Only 10% of the workforce consists of paid workers. The majority is involved in subsistence economic activities without regular income earnings (UN MDG 2009).
- The unemployment rate in 2010 was 9.8% (ADB 2012/04).
- Youth unemployment is at 40% (Congressional Research Service, 2012).
- Most rural households practice inter-cropping of maize and cassava and other tubers or legumes (GoA 2012/06, UN MDG 2009).
- Maize is the most important crop for 83% of the farming population, and rice for 13% (FAO/WFP 2007).
- Livestock raised in Timor-Leste includes cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry. Production is small scale and based on traditional systems with no commercial livestock in rural areas.
- The fishery sector is still greatly underdeveloped. This sector represented only 1.4% of GDP in 2009, though there is a large coastline, an exclusive economic zone of approximately 75,000 sq km and an abundant marine ecosystem (WFP 2007).
Although around 80% of employment is in the agriculture sector, the contribution to GDP is only 26%, indicating a low agricultural productivity.

Main factors limiting agricultural productivity:
- Low quality seed varieties due to a lack of access and availability of seeds
- Lack of arable land (Congressional Research Service, 2012)
- Poor soil preparation
- Lack of mechanization
- Poor post-harvest practices, including poor drying practices, lack of adequate storage equipment and know-how
- Crop loss - farmers currently lose up to 33% of crops before and after harvest due to pests, diseases and inefficient rice milling (Young, Santos & Shetty, 2010)
- Around 92% of households do not use fertilizers despite the low and decreasing fertility of soils.
- Limited credit institutions with insufficient reach
- Rural-urban migration and a resulting reduction in farming labour force
- Scarce market access due to a poor road network, high transport costs and rudimentary marketing channels
- Lack of irrigation and appropriate water management.
- There is a high level of dependency on climatic conditions, with rain making up 80% of water sources for agricultural land. Only 15% comes from irrigation systems
- A high percentage of the farming activity happens in steeped high lands with a high exposure to climate associated disasters
- Lack of government investment: only 1.5% of state budget is reserved for agriculture (IRIN 2012/03/12, FAO/WFP 2007, WFP 2007, WB 2010).

The proportion of women employed increases with age. Current employment is lowest among women of age 15-19 (23%) and highest among those aged 45-49 (58%). Divorced, separated, or widowed women are more likely to be employed than other women. Current employment is highest among women with no education and lowest among women with secondary education (DHS 2009). The likely reason for this is the fact that women without access to safety nets are more likely to be obliged to provide for their own income.

Food Insecurity
- According to a 2007 Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission, 20% of households are food insecure and 44% are vulnerable to food insecurity (WFP 2007).
- Food insecurity is more pronounced in rural upland areas where subsistence farmers are not able to engage in other activities.

Poverty and food insecurity are most pronounced in Aileu, Ainaro, Ermera, Manatuto and Oecussi districts (UNESCO 2009).

Key underlying causes of food insecurity include:
- Low agricultural production and very high post-harvest losses
- Poor access to income generating activities outside of agriculture
- General isolation and lack of infrastructure, particularly in the province of Oecussi
- Limited market access, with villages being on average 32km away from the nearest market
- Lack of effective demand by rural subsistence farmers and impoverished city dwellers
- Absence of policies to promote domestic production in the face of strong international competition, especially for rice
- Poor access to adequate farmland and shortages of secure on-farm storage capacity
- Dietary practices leading to poor diet
- Poor access to healthcare
- Inadequate sanitation and hygiene practices
- Loss of traditional knowledge in the use of local resources
- High dependency on external inputs (WFP 2007, WFP 2006).

Food shortage usually occurs for at least 2-3 months before the maize and rice harvest. Usually the lean season lasts from October/November to February and food security appears stable during March – September (FAO/WFP 2007, CICR 2012/01).
Characteristics of the food insecure are:
- Female headed households
- Subsistence agriculturalists without access to trading, skilled labour, or salaried jobs. Rice growers are often completely specialised in this crop, weakening their food security to the extent that they cannot resort to other crops as a coping mechanism in case of shocks.
- Households without access to irrigated land
- The uneducated
- Households with poor access to health care and services (WFP 2006, FAO/WFP 2007).

Markets and prices
- Dependency on imported food in combination with the difficulty in controlling the inflation rate, results in price fluctuations (UN MDG 2009).
- Prices for food commodities have sharply increased in recent years fuelled by worldwide increase in food prices and rise in fuel prices (CICR 2012/01).
- Food comprises about 60% of the consumer price index basket (IMF 2012).

- People often consume the food they produce themselves instead of using it for commercial purposes due to isolation in remote areas, poor extension services offered to producers, lack of access to financial services, competition with cheap imports and food aid, lack of effective demand from both a non-monetized rural economy and general low prices of agricultural products (UN MDG 2009, OHCHR 2008/12/01).
- The Government introduced a rice subsidy program in 2008 to dampen the impact of rising global rice prices. However, this programme is to end soon (IMF 2012).

Lessons Learned
- Common shocks for the agricultural sector are;
  - delayed onset of rains or below normal rainfall
  - outbreak of locusts
  - shortage of seeds (FAO/WFP 2007).
- A severe rice shortage was one of the main factors leading to the violent demonstrations in February 2007 (ICG 2012/02/21).
- During the 2006 crisis, IDPs who remained in IDP camps in Dili District received Government food assistance. Food distribution to camps in Dili was comprehensive, but camps in areas outside Dili were largely neglected (OHCHR 2008/12).
- El Niño years in Timor-Leste bring delays in rainfall of up to three months, and changes in the volume of precipitation, both during the El Niño year and during the following year, thereby heavily impacting the agricultural sector. In 2010 and 2011, Timor Leste’s maize production was severely impacted by La Niña (CARE 2011).
- Cyclonic winds generated by tropical cyclone Daryl in 2006 disrupted the only transport link between Dili and the enclave of Oecussi. The enclave, which was already suffering from a food shortage quickly ran short of basic supplies (IFRC 2006).

Coping strategies: households rely on less preferred and less expensive food during the lean season. The second most common strategy used by 65% of households is restricting the number of meals for the adults in the family, taking children out of school and sales of livestock (FAO/WFP 2007).
Health and Nutrition

Highlights

- Health services in Timor-Leste have weak institutional, human resource capacity and limited infrastructure. These negatively combine with poor health knowledge and practices by the population. Long distance to health facilities constrains many people from seeking health care. The poor quality of health services and a weak referral system further aggravate the health situation.

- Malaria is a major health risk in Timor-Leste, with 75% of the population at high risk of contracting the disease.

- Access to reproductive health care is low. Only 21% of rural and 59% of urban births is delivered by skilled birth personnel (WHO 2012). With a high fertility rate, high iron-deficiency anemia prevalence, short timespans between pregnancies, women of child-bearing age are exposed to a high health risk. One in 44 women faces the lifetime risk of maternal death (STC 2012).

- The nutritional status of children <5 is a health concern. 45% of children <5 is underweight, and 15% severely underweight.

Key characteristics

Access and Coverage

- Access to health care and health infrastructure (including laboratory facilities) is hindered by geographic remoteness and low population density in some districts (WHO 2006).

- Access to reproductive health services is poor. Only 18% of births are attended by skilled health personnel (UNFPA, 2011), fewer than 12% in highland areas (WHO 2006). Women’s lifetime risk of maternal death is one in 44 (UNFPA, 2011).

- More than 96% of Timorese women reported at least one problem when accessing health care. The two major concerns were no availability of drugs (87%) and no availability of a health care provider (82%). Concerns about not having a female provider are also sizeable (63%). Over 50% of women expressed concerns regarding distance to health facilities and the need for transport (DHS 2010).

- Human resources are limited with only 0.1 physicians per 1,000 population. Nurses and midwives are slightly more common, at 2.19 per 1,000 population compared to 5.6 doctors and 10.9 nurses regionally (WB 2011). Insufficient quantity and quality of human resources is a challenge, especially at the district level (MoH MTR 2010).

- Most health facilities provide free consultation. However, various costs are associated with the health care provision. Traditional providers may negotiate a small charge (“kasu”). Government services do not entail charges, but consultation outside of normal working hours may incur charges. Additional costs such as transportation for referral from primary to secondary and tertiary health facilities may occur, especially during the rainy season (MoH MTR 2010).

- There is a lack of transport facilities at Community Health Centres and Health Posts. No system of public transport is available. Logistical and infrastructural support is crucial (MoH MTR 2010).

Communicable Diseases:

- TB: The prevalence of tuberculosis is 498 per 100,000 compared to 278 per 100,000 regionally and 337 per 100,000 in Papua New Guinea (WHO 2011).

- It is estimated that MDR-TB rates are 1.6% among newly diagnosed and 14.5% among previously treated TB cases (WHO 2009).

- Malaria remains a leading public health problem. The malaria incidence in 2009 was 113 per 1,000 people (MoH MTR 2010).

- Most (75%) Timorese are at high risk of malaria, with about 80% of cases reported from just 4 of 13 districts—Dili, Viqueque, Covalima and Lautem. However, the intensity of transmission varies with altitude; malaria is less endemic at higher altitudes (DHS 2010, WHO 2011).
• The number of confirmed cases has increased from 15,212 in 2000 to 48,137 in 2010. The percent of reported cases attributable to P. falciparum increased from 53% to 75% from 2002-2010. These changes may reflect a real increase in malaria or could be partly attributable to increased efforts at diagnosis (WHO 2012).

• Climatologists predict that, due to climate change, Timor-Leste may become increasingly vulnerable vector borne diseases like Malaria and Dengue (GoT 2008).

• HIV prevalence in Timor-Leste is low as is knowledge of HIV and HIV prevention methods, especially amongst women. Despite concentrated efforts from the Government, under half of female population (44%) has heard of HIV (WB 2011).

Non communicable diseases:

• Timor-Leste and Myanmar are the only two countries in South-East Asia where NCDs cause less than 50% deaths (WHO 2011).

• 66% of men smoke cigarettes, while 25% consume tobacco in other forms, compared with 3% of women who smoke cigarettes and 3% who consume other forms of tobacco. Timor-Leste has the highest tobacco use prevalence among youth (boys and girls) aged 13-15 in the region at 55% (WHO 2011).

• 4% of pregnant women and women currently breastfeeding use tobacco (DHS 2010).

• The age-standardized incidence rate of lung cancer per 100,000 persons is 28.6 among men and 7.2 among women (WHO 2011).

• 28% of men and 25% of women aged >25 have high blood pressure (WHO 2012).

Maternal Health

• Maternal mortality in 2010 was 557 per 100,000 live births compared to 250 in Papua New Guinea (WHO 2012).

• In 2010 maternal deaths accounted for 42% of all deaths to women age 15-49; More than two in five Timorese women who died in the seven years preceding the 2010 DHS died from pregnancy or pregnancy related causes (DHS 2010.)

• Timor-Leste has one of the highest fertility rates in the world with 5.6 births per women in 2010 compared to 1.8 for the Asia-Pacific region. (2.1 in Indonesia and 4.0 in PNG). This number is, however, lower in the percentile of the richest population with only 4.1 births per woman (WB 2012). Districts of Ainaro (7.2) and Lautem (6.7) have the highest fertility rates. Dili (4.5) and Covalima (4.4) the lowest (MoH MTR 2010).

•Births to women aged 15–19 years have the highest risk of infant and child mortality and a higher risk of morbidity and mortality for the young mother. The adolescent fertility rate is moderate at 53 births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years (WB 2011).

• Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among Timorese women of reproductive age (MoH MTR 2010).

• 21% of rural and 59% of urban births are delivered by skilled birth personnel (WHO 2012).

• Unmet need for contraception is high at 31% indicating that women may not be able to choose their family size. Induced abortion remains a challenge with 40% of all emergency obstetric care cases in two major hospitals due to incomplete and complicated abortions (WB 2011).

• Iron deficiency (anemia) is a common nutritional problem. One in five (21%) Timorese women aged 15-49 are anemic, with 18% mildly anemic, 4% moderately anemic, and less than 1% severely anemic (DHS 2010).

• Anemia is a major threat to maternal health and child health. More than one in three (38%) Timorese children age 6-59 months old are anemic, with 25% mildly anemic, 13% moderately anemic, and <1% severely anemic (DHS 2010).

• Children in Manatuto district have the highest prevalence of anemia (68%); children in Ermera district have the lowest prevalence (15%) (DHS 2010).

• On average, four in five children are breastfed within the first hour of birth (82%), and 96% are breastfed within one day of birth. Contrary to WHO recommendations, however, only about half (52%) of children <6 months are exclusively breastfed (DHS 2010).

Infant and Child Health

• The <5 mortality rate was 55 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2010. Regional variations show that rural <5 mortality rates are significantly higher with 86 deaths per 1,000 live births (UNICEF 2012, WHO 2012).
• Pneumonia (20%) and prematurity (19%) are the major causes of deaths for children <5 (UNICEF 2012).

• 45% of children <5 with suspected pneumonia receive antibiotics (UNICEF 2012).

• The nutritional status of children <5 is a health concern. 58% of children <5 are stunted, and 33% are severely stunted. 19% of children <5 are wasted and 7% are severely wasted. The weight-for-age indicator shows that 45% of children <5 are underweight and 15% are severely underweight. In addition, 5% of Timorese children <5 are overweight (DHS 2010).

• 53% of children aged 12-23 months is fully immunized, but 23% received no vaccinations. 47% of children age 12-23 months is fully vaccinated by 12 months of age (DHS 2010).

**Lessons Learned**

• There is limited systematic compilation of field based health evidence across districts to enable joint analysis.

• The lack of data, with inadequate and ineffective functioning of the health management information and the surveillance systems, leads to poor planning and management (GoTL 2009).

• The DHS-process experiences funding gaps due to delays in national/district transfers of funding.

• Inaccurate or inefficient (late) provision of essential medicines to district and sub-district levels leads to limited service efficiency and reduced quality and coverage (MoH MTR 2010).

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**WASH**

**Highlights**

• The most common sources of water are the public tap (source for 26% of households) and unprotected springs (26% of households).

• For 28% of the population, it takes longer than 30 minutes to fetch water.

• 41% of households use improved toilet facilities.

• 40% of the population uses an improved mode of human waste disposal; the remaining human waste is discharged into drains, rivers, fields, or gardens.

**Key characteristics**

• Timor-Leste has a low risk of water scarcity (Maplecroft 2011).

• Although there is sufficient water to meet needs, water availability is unreliable over time, uneven from place to place, and for deep groundwater, expensive to access.

• Climate change is a major threat to groundwater resources because of variations in rainfall and sea-water intrusion from rising sea levels (GoA 2012/05/24).

• Water sources in Dili, Liquica, Oecussi and Baucau are areas of high potential impact from climate change. High population growth and density increases the potential impacts in Dili and Baucau. Liquica's localised, low yielding aquifers and poor rainfall and the extremely low yield of Oecussi's fractured rock aquifers mean that reduced groundwater availability could have a high impact in these regions (GoA, 2012).

• In relation to water quality, there are two principal threats:
  o High levels of land erosion
  o Urban and domestic waste - leading to biological, chemical and physical pollution (DHS 2010).

• Improvements in sustainable access to improved water sources were hampered by the 2006 political crisis. This setback will make it difficult to reach the MDG 2015 target of 78% (UN 2009).
Regarding access to improved sanitation, there has been significant improvement and the country is likely to achieve the MDG 2015 target (UN 2009).

Poor hygiene practices remain widespread. Most households report disposing of infant faeces at public taps or water bodies. Hand washing with soap rates are low (GoA 2011/07).

Water access and coverage
• In 2010, 63% of the population used improved drinking water sources (DHS 2010).

• The major source of rural drinking water is unprotected springs (33%) (DHS 2010).

• For 52% of households, water is not available on the premises and for 28% of the population it takes longer than 30 minutes to fetch water (DHS 2010).

• Water is usually collected by women aged 15+ years (DHS 2010).

• Less than half of Dili’s water is supplied from a water treatment plant with unsafe sources including shallow boreholes, wells, springs and rivers meeting remaining demand. Dili’s water supply is constrained by a poor distribution system, inadequate maintenance of mains and a high record of illegal connections (GoA n.d.).

Sanitation access and coverage
• 41% of households use improved toilet facilities, 65% of urban households and 34% of rural households (DHS 2010).

• 40% of the population uses an improved mode of human waste disposal (GoTL 2010).

• No sewer system exists in Dili or other urban centres. Sewage is typically discharged untreated, or with minimal onsite treatment into drains, rivers, fields, or gardens (GoA n.d.).

Lessons Learned
• A study in Aileu and Lautem Districts found 70% of water systems are not fully functional a year after construction and ¼ of new toilets abandoned within a year (GoA nd).

• Barriers to the adoption of hygiene practices include environmental and motivational drivers that influence a household’s willingness to invest in improved sanitation and hygiene (e.g. building a latrine with local materials, purchasing soap) (AusAid 2011).
• Research suggests that at the community level, access to safe water is constrained by the breakdown of community engagement in the planning, design, construction, management and maintenance of water systems including limited women’s decision-making on both design and management of rural water systems (AusAid 2011).

• Heavy rain has previously contaminated deep wells with flood water (IFRC 2007).

Shelter

Key characteristics

• There are 375,227 residential buildings in Timor-Leste (WB, 2011).

• The type of flooring material used in dwellings is a proxy indicator of the socioeconomic status of a household. Most households have rudimentary or natural flooring made of earth, sand, or mud mixed with dung. Finished floors made of tiles, cement, polished wood, and carpet are seen in 36% of households. The inability to repair or rebuild poor quality homes is a large concern (CICR 2011, DHS 2010/11).

• The 2007 Timor-Leste Living Standards Survey indicates that 62% of households in Dili live in permanent housing. 95% of these have roofs of metal sheets and zinc (TLSLS 2007).

• 11% of households cook inside the house, 84% in a separate building, and 5% outdoors. 95% of households use solid fuel (primarily wood) for cooking. Nearly all rural households use wood for cooking (99%) against 81% of urban households (DHS 2010/11). Among households using solid fuel, 83% do not use a chimney or hood causing indoor pollution (DHS 2010/11).

Lessons Learned

• During the 2006-7, the lack of sufficient housing options was a major factor contributing to protracted displacement (USAID 2008/05/16).
Protection

Highlights

- Violence by armed groups, the proliferation of small arms and a weak and overburdened judicial system threaten security and increase the potential for social conflict and violence in Timor-Leste.
- There is a lack of legislation in the areas of human rights abuses, human trafficking, land and housing rights. This coupled with cultural, economic and logistical constraints to access justice exposes the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children, to serious protection risks.

Key characteristics

Displacement

- The majority of Timor-Leste’s population has experienced violent displacement at least once. In 1999, following a UN-supervised referendum on independence from Indonesia, 80% of the population fled violence unleashed by pro-integration militias backed by the Indonesian security forces (IDMC 2011).

- In 2006, an estimated 150,000 people were displaced, as homes and property in Dili were seized or destroyed during violence. The causes included political rivalries and land disputes dating back to the struggle for independence, divisions between easterners and westerners within the new state, chronic poverty and a lack of job prospects (IDMC 2011).

- In July 2007, the Government ceased providing assistance to the IDPs in Bacau, causing about half the IDPs in Bacau to return to Dili, to camps in Metinaro and Jardim. By the beginning of 2008, an estimated 100,000 people were still displaced, with at least 30,000 living in 51 camps in and around Dili, the remainder living with family or friends (IOM 2012).

- The Government reported no more IDPs in 2010, after it closed the last camps and paid compensation to remaining residents. However, it remained unclear in 2011 whether returnee IDPs had achieved durable solutions. There were also concerns related to the capacity of communities to reintegrate IDPs and resolve land disputes in the absence of a national framework (IDMC 2011).

- In January 2011, an estimated 1,000 people were evicted from a former police compound where they had settled after displacement in 1999. Most received compensation, but it was reportedly insufficient to secure housing and land. At the end of 2011, many remained in temporary shelters. The security of tenure of such people could be put at further risk by proposed land laws which were awaiting enactment at the end of 2011 (IDMC 2011).

Human Rights

- Allegations of human rights violations by the police and military continue, including ill-treatment and excessive use of force. Despite efforts to strengthen internal accountability mechanisms to deal with abuses by members of the security forces, few have been prosecuted for these abuses. Following the 2006 violence, a vetting and certification process was introduced for police officers, but not for members of the armed forces. Although now almost complete, the vetting process has not yet resulted in any dismissals based on past human rights violations or criminal conduct within the police force (AI 2011).

- Crimes against humanity and other human rights violations were most acute during the Indonesian occupation, including unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment, war crimes, sexual violence, violations of the rights of the child, and violations of economic, social and cultural rights. The overwhelming majority of these violations, perpetrated mostly by the Indonesian security forces and their auxiliaries, have yet to be addressed (AI 2011).

Access to Justice

- Access to justice remains restricted. Three district courts are located outside Dili, but far from the majority of the population. Transport costs and court fees are prohibitively expensive for many. There is low public awareness of formal justice mechanisms, including how to gain access to public defenders (UNMIT 2009).

- In reality, marginalized groups, including women, children and the poor face additional cultural and economic challenges accessing the formal justice system. Delays in investigations have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable persons. In some cases, suspected perpetrators of serious crimes, including sexual assault, remain in communities where victims live, exposing them to threats by the suspects (UNMIT 2009).
The judicial system remains slow and ineffective in addressing crimes due to a large backlog within the prosecution office and a lack of adequate staffing and administrative resources (AI 2011).

Language complications further impede the judicial process as interpretation and translation services are often required in court proceedings. Portuguese is the main legal language, which most of the population does not speak (AI 2011).

There is a lack of a strong deterrent to political violence and human rights violations. The denial of justice through effective criminal proceedings has eroded the rule of law and a strong and independent judiciary (AI 2011).

The lack of access to the formal system contributed to most cases being resolved through customary mechanisms that were more accessible and timely, but did not always conform to international human rights standards (UNMIT 2009).

**Human Trafficking**

In early 2012, anti-trafficking legislation was submitted to the Council of Ministers for review. Timor-Leste’s revised penal code prohibits and punishes the crime of trafficking, prohibits slavery and the sale of persons (USDS 2012).

Timor-Leste is a destination country for women and girls from Indonesia, China, and the Philippines subject to sex trafficking and men and boys from Myanmar, Cambodia, and Thailand subject to forced labour (USDS 2012).

Migrant women are recruited for work in Dili and report being locked up upon arrival and forced by brothel owners and clients to use drugs or alcohol while providing sexual services. Traffickers regularly keep victim’s passports and reportedly rotate sex trafficking victims in and out of the country every few months (USDS 2012).

**Women’s Rights SGBV**

Domestic violence is the most common form of gender-based violence. Reporting domestic violence is a social taboo, and it is uncommon to seek justice (DHS 2010).

The National Parliament in Timor-Leste passed a Law Against Domestic Violence in 2010 which states that domestic violence is a public crime and provides for medical, legal, and psycho-social support for survivors.

The 2009 Penal Code of Timor-Leste criminalizes most sexual crimes, including rape, sexual assault, incest and child abuse, as a violation of women’s rights to physical security and integrity. Criminal proceedings do not depend on a formal complaint by the victim (TLAVA 2009).

The 2009-2010 DHS indicates that 38% of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence since the age 15; 29% of women have experienced physical violence often or sometimes within 12 months prior to the survey. Almost half (48%) the interviewed women aged 25-29 reported physical violence. Among married women, 74% reported having been subjected to physical violence by a current husband or partner (DHS 2010).

Abortion is a punishable offence under the newly adopted Penal Code, increasing risks for women seeking unsafe abortions (SIGI 2012).

**Discrimination/Inequality**

Whilst there are no gender differences in primary school enrolment, there are higher drop-out rates of girls than boys from pre-secondary school level onwards which provides some evidence of son preference in access to education (SIGI 2012, GoTL 2009).

Concerns have been raised about women’s access to justice through traditional justice mechanisms where women are excluded from traditional proceedings and compensation is given to male members of the victim’s family.
• The labour market is traditionally dominated by men, and opportunities for women to enter the labour market are limited. Female contribution in non-agricultural sectors is low, with only 36% in 2007 (GoTL 2009).

• Women cannot become traditional leaders, even if they are from matrilineal clans. Some serve in village councils, but never in senior positions (UNDP 2010).

**Inheritance Rights**
• The law and practice on women’s inheritance rights is unclear. In 2009, the Government reported that women and men have equal rights to inheritance. However, sons are generally recognized as the heads of family and recipients of family inheritance. A 2004 survey on inheritance rights of unmarried women found that women inherit land differently under matrilineal and patrilineal systems. Where women inherit land under patrilineal systems (30% of respondents) it was expected that the land would pass to the woman’s brother if she married (SIGI 2012).

**Child Protection**
**Child Marriage**
• Men can marry at 18 and women at 15. Child marriage is accepted, mainly in cases where a marriage has been arranged at birth or as a result of extreme poverty where barlaka (bride price) is agreed. Bride price is legal and still observed in many districts with exchange of goods between the man’s family and the woman’s family seen as most important in the marriage rite. Practices such as bride price are also reported to be associated with domestic violence (SIGI 2012).

• In 2009, 19% of women aged 20-24 years were married by age 18 (UNICEF 2012).

• Polygamy is outlawed, but the practice continues. 2% of married women live with co-wives. Women in the youngest age group (15-19) and older women (40-49) are more likely to be in polygamous unions than women age 20-39 (DHS 2010).

**Child Labour**
• The Labour Code sets the minimum employment age at 15, though children working in family businesses or vocational schools are exempt. It is illegal for children aged 15-18 to perform work that jeopardizes their health, safety, or morals (USDL 2009).

• 6% of children aged 7-14 years reportedly combine work and school (USDL 2009).

• Within agriculture, children primarily work cultivating and processing coffee. Children also work in fishing where they are at risk of drowning and exposure to the elements (USDL 2009).

• Children work as street vendors, in construction and domestic work (USDL 2009).

• The placement of children in bonded domestic and agricultural labor by family members to pay off family debts has been reported (USDS 2012).

**Violence**
• There are four main sources for continued armed violence and social tension: property disputes, gang turf competition, orchestrated violence and revenge.

• Armed violence is a serious protection concern. Martial Arts Groups (MAGs) and gangs have grown significantly in recent years. In 2009, there were 20,000 registered members across 13 districts. The unofficial number stands at 90,000 (TLAVA/SAS 2009).

• Armed groups are commonly organized into patronage and kinship networks centred on a single figure with loyalty sustained through small-scale service provision; gangs fulfil an important source of patronage and are often the only source of welfare or credit in poor villages (TLAVA/SAS 2009).

• As observed in neighbouring Papua New Guinea, high rates of rural to urban migration and unemployment leads to conflict involving MAGs (TLAVA/SAS 2009).

• Income source for MAGs include protection rackets, gambling, as well as emerging human-trafficking and drug-trafficking (TLAVA/SAS 2009).

• The presence of rapid influx of small arms has triggered periodic widespread violence. Although small arms and light weapons availability is not new, high levels of militarization in civilian society is a relatively new phenomenon (SAS 2010).

• New transfers of arms are comparatively rare, but existing public stockpiles and patronage-led diffusion constitute the largest source of new weapons. Management and administration of weapon stocks continue to pose major challenges to security (SAS 2010).
**Persons with a disability**

- During 2010, at least nine cases were confirmed of persons with mental disabilities being held in permanent or long-term restraints (UNHR, 2011).

- There are no specific laws regulating the treatment and protection of persons with mental disabilities (UNHR, 2011).

- From April 2010 to March 2011 there were nine known cases of alleged rape against women with disabilities (UNHR, 2011).

- Problems affecting the rights of children with disabilities include inadequate access to healthcare, social services and exclusion from education (UNHR, 2011).

- The existing national legal framework requires further development to protect persons with disabilities from discrimination and to guarantee their access to public services (UNHR, 2011).

**Land housing rights**

- Challenges of enforcing property rights are complex and have the potential for conflict. Overlapping claims inherited from two colonial administrations as well as widespread illegal occupation of property after the 1999 displacement of over half the population pose further challenges to resolving land ownership (ICG 2010).

- Land disputes have grown out of a history of displacement that includes forced relocations, military occupation and deadly internal upheavals. Despite this troubled history, few disputes over land ownership lead to violence (ICG 2010).

- Land titling in Timor Leste is underway. As of February 2012 54,892 land claims had been collected in 13 districts of Timor-Leste: Aileu, Baucau, Bobonaro, Liquiça, Manatuto, Oecusse, Dili, Lautem, Ainaro, Covalima, Ermera, Covalima and Viqueque.

- The level of disputes over land claims is below 10%. The process has brought dormant issues to the surface, such as intra-familial inheritance concerns and tensions over shared community land (ICG 2010).

- The government has been unable to provide alternative housing to the displaced or evicted, an essential element of the constitutional right to housing (ICG 2010).

- Homes are often shared by 2-3 families, producing a situation where conflict is as common within the household (81% in target areas) as between neighbours (88%) (CICR 2011).

**Lessons Learned**

- A number of agencies have tried to use traditional ceremonies and authorities, with some success. However, the overlapping nature of communal and gang conflicts complicate peace agreements, as can the interrelationship of rural and urban communal disputes. Most traditional mediation attempts have dealt with conflict at the community level, and so do not account for gang rivalries (TLAVA/SAS 2009).

- Violence in 2006-2007 was particularly intense in eastern districts of Baucau and Viqueque, although communal conflict in these regions predates the birth of contemporary political parties and gangs. Part of this conflict can be attributed to forced relocations during the Indonesian occupation and the refusal of settlers to return to original lands. Similar land disputes motivate other rural communal conflicts in the region; some disputes go back 70 years or more (TLAVA/SAS 2009).

- The internal displacement in 2006 was urban in nature. Most affected were the capital city, Dili, and, to a lesser extent in the eastern city of Bacau (IOM 2012).
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Key background documents


Methodology

The data within this document has been collected and analysed by ACAPS and reviewed by CARE International Timor-Leste. It aims to inform decision making for preparedness and emergency response and intents to complement and integrate assessment-related data from other agencies. Feedback to improve the DNA is welcome (dna@acaps.org). ECB, ACAPS and MapAction thank agencies and NGOs who have shared data and analysis.

Disclaimer

Information provided is provisional as it has not been possible to independently verify field reports. As this report covers highly dynamic subject, utility of the information may decrease with time.

References

Please note that all sources are hyperlinked (in brackets) and that an accompanying glossary is available here.