

Timor Leste Country Office

COVID-19 Situation Report

SitRep No: #12

Date: 20 July 2020

1. Situation in Numbers

Total Confirmed Cases in Country	Total Confirmed new cases in Country (since last SitRep)	Total deaths in Country
24	0	0

Please refer to WHO Sit Reps to populate this table. Available [here](#).

2. Key Issues

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- Key government updates, including mitigation and response measures.
- Brief contextual analysis of the situation, including impact on health, education and other essential services.
- Impact on children and families in ChildFund operational areas.
- Impact and effects on ChildFund team.
- The work of other agencies and ChildFund’s relationship with them.

Timor Leste has had no active cases of COVID-19 for over 2 months. The State of Emergency ended on 27 June. Border closures and mandatory quarantine have remained in place. The Government hasn’t finalised new laws re mandatory quarantine, movement restrictions, continuation of border entry restrictions, but they are expected to be finalised soon.

The work of the crisis committee has been handed over to the Ministry of Health (MoH), which in partnership with WHO is socialising the importance of Timor Leste remaining vigilant. The public campaign with the slogan ‘Nobody is safe until everybody is safe’ encourages people to keep washing hands with soap frequently, maintain physical distance and respiratory hygiene.

The land border is open 2 hours per week, with some people returning to the country via the few flights (Darwin once a week and WFP flight from Kuala Lumpur once a month). It is of utmost importance that the mandatory quarantine continues to be implemented and illegal border crossings prevented.

A new government coalition has been formed with a majority in parliament. All minister posts have been filled, with new ministers sworn in at the end of June. Despite earlier concerns, the security situation in the Dili area has remained calm. Government services have resumed however the ministries are still running on the Duo Decimo month-by-month budget, in absence of an approved national budget.

A large percentage of schools have reopened after the 3-month State of Emergency, running classes with smaller numbers of students. However, there are still large numbers (roughly 40%) of schools unable to meet the criteria such as sufficient WASH facilities and certificates of COVID-19 training completed by all teachers. These have remained closed.

There are concerns regarding the impact of the pandemic on Timor-Leste’s economy and food security situation, with the rapid assessment done by the Ministry of Agriculture and Development partners highlighting concerns. When the food security should be at its peak (end of harvest season) a larger percentage of families only have food stocks for 2 months. This situation

is expected to worsen in the next quarter. The pandemic-induced downturn and lack of a government budget has prompted the World Bank to forecast a contraction of 5 per cent or more for the national economy in 2020, compared with pre COVID-19 forecasts of 4.6 per cent growth. The ChildFund Timor Leste office is open with COVID-19 prevention guidelines (ie, handwashing, max number in meeting room, WFH even with mild symptoms). Project activities include COVID-19 preventive practices in all activities.

3. Operations Update

3.1 People and Organisational Development

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- Number of staff affected by COVID-19, including the number of staff in self-isolation.
- International arrivals and departures of staff since COVID crisis.
- WFH arrangements, including any related challenges.

Dili office reopened on 8 June. Refresher training done by Maluk Timor for field staff on continuation of COVID-19 prevention measures, application during activities in the community including psychosocial first aid (12 June).

3.2 Finance, IT and Administration

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- Challenges that relate to registration, MoU's, contracts, cash transfers and general banking.
- IT situation.

No changes

3.3 Security

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- Update on general security level in ChildFund operational areas and security incidents impacting ChildFund since the last situation report. Please include *analysis* where necessary/possible.
- Any changes/updates to the security guidelines/evacuation plans.

WFP air bridge is active connecting Dili to Kuala Lumpur twice a month (any passengers leaving need special permission; no one can enter the country without special permission of the president; few cases of approval now given. Incoming travellers must quarantine for 14 days but can do this at home if approved. Australia border is closed for non-Australian citizens but some exceptions have been granted for transits or medical emergencies.

3.4 Office Status

OFFICE	OFFICE STATUS			
	Open, Fully Operational	Majority of staff working from home	100% Working from Home	Shutdown, non-operational
Dili Office	X			

4. Programs Update

4.1 Programs Activity Level (indicator of current programming level)

Project	PROGRAM OPERATIONS				
	75 - 100%	50 - 74%	25 - 49%	< 25%	0%
EDUCATION					
EDIC (TIM16)			X		
Every Child A Reader (TIM-8)		X			
HAKAS(Tim 17)	x				
LFA	x				
HEALTH					
Nutrition (TIM-11)	x				
MCH (TIM-7)		X			
YOUTH					
IYC (TIM-12)		X			
DRR					
Disaster ready (AHP3)/PPF	x				

4.2 Overview of ChildFund Activities (with a focus on COVID work)

Summary:	ChildFund has been supporting the MoH in COVID-19 response in the areas of risk communication and community engagement (pillar 2); essential services (eg, MCH, family planning, immunisation (pillar 9). Although the State of Emergency has expired and restrictions eased, ChildFund continues to take part in MoH planning meetings and keep updated on new developments and opportunities to further maintain a strong working relationship with the MoH. Some projects have started the activities in the new financial year. A few projects with variations are pending final review at PQC. By August 2020, all approved projects will be in start-up implementation mode.
Education:	TIM-017 began early July with foundational activities and consultation with target schools. TIM-016 and TIM-008 are under variation and pending final review at PQC. LFA/Reel project has begun with teach teacher training.
Child Protection:	There is no child protection focused project in FY2021 however all continuing education projects feature child protection as a cross-cutting issue, particularly TIM-016.
DRR/ ER:	AHP DRP and PPF1 have continued smoothly since mid-June 2020 and are focused on community and school level, small scale DRR activities, including tree nursery and tree planting, home garden and terracing, DRR school activities, disaster simulations and continue with village hazard risk assessment.
Health:	TIM-011 project started with foundational activities and training of community health volunteers on MCH and nutrition topics. TIM-0-7 has been recently reviewed at PQC and approved. the project is set to start in July after signing off agreements with implementing partner.
SEL:	End of project evaluation for TIM-012 will be carried out with an external consultant and Sydney SEL Advisor. Pending grant approval for a new Youth Changers project.

4.3 Partnerships

Include a brief statement on each of the following:

- The status of partner organisations and to what extent they have been able to continue operations during the reporting period.
- What, if any, support, monitoring, information sharing and/or collaboration has taken place with local partners during the reporting period?

Conversation with Alola ongoing re budgets for new financial year, but no major issues. Partners are struggling with the financial impacts. Eg, Ba Futuru shared that they have financial challenges and implemented staff redundancies.