

Timor-Leste Country Office

COVID-19 Situation Report

SitRep No: #3

Date: 13 April 2020

1. Situation in Numbers

Total Confirmed Cases in Country	Total Confirmed new cases in Country (since last SitRep)	Total deaths in Country
4	3	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.

This week Timor-Leste confirmed 3 new COVID-19 cases. The persons are Timorese students who have returned from Indonesia via the land border and have been in mandatory quarantine.

The State of Emergency remains in force till April 2h. It applies to the whole country. The entry of foreigners and Timorese is now prohibited and those who had entered the country are in mandatory quarantine for fourteen days. Those who are not in mandatory isolation, don’t have a job or have been exempted from working at their normal location must voluntarily isolate at home. When a person leaves their residence, they must go alone and maintain a distance of 1 metre from others, and must wear a face mask.

All school activities are suspended, and the facilities of educational establishments are closed. Public transport services are suspended. Meetings or demonstrations of more than five people are forbidden. In addition, social, cultural, sporting and religious activities that involve a gathering of people are forbidden.

Expected Social and Economic Impact

- Fear is high amongst the population, fuelled by the dissemination of false information, even on national news broadcast.
- There has been an immediate loss of income for the majority of the Timorese, as significant numbers are dependent on daily work. High numbers of people from Dili left to go to the municipalities.
- There are concerns over a lack of supplies (the country is dependent on import for essential (food) supplies. There is already a shortage of medicines. Goods over land border with Indonesia are still allowed, but could be affected with further worsening of the situation in Indonesia.
- All children are out of school with the vast majority not having access to any (online) learning means.

- The political impasse has not moved, and there is still no approved state budget nor a new coalition. This could potentially be an additional deep frustration. Coupled with an outbreak, introduction of more intense measures, it could lead to more civil unrest in the country.
- The council of ministers is discussing 150 million Emergency budget for the response including medical equipment as well as for social support for vulnerable households, private sector. parliamentary support for these measures will be essential given the lack of a national budget, and the clearly restricted legitimacy of the interim government.

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.
- ChildFund Timor-Leste moved to a WFH arrangement from March 30th. A skeleton staff is still working from the office.
- 1 staff has just completed voluntary self-quarantine (till 30 March 2020).
- 1 expatriate staff repatriated on 29th March 2020

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.
- Potential challenges in the banking system are anticipated. But so far banks are still operational.
- MoU's with MoH and MoE have progressed but not finalised. Non-essential government staff have been sent home, and others have shifted focus to COVID, so difficult to pursue at the moment.
- Country Office has some challenges with IT infrastructure, in terms of aged equipment, no VPN and staff experience more challenges with internet quality at home.

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.
- **Incidents of violence;** mainly around isolation wards, and mandatory quarantine facilities (stone throwing and protests). Some incidents of violence/harassment against Chinese and foreigners in general, but not widespread.
- A few cases reported of police enforcing restrictions not part of the government decree and using violence. Police using threatening language to enforce people to stay at home
- **Additional Security guidelines Country Office:** Travel to districts > Business essential only with prior approval of Country Director. NGO Travel authorization needed from Crisis Management Committee and District Administrator.(access passes obtained)

- **Evacuation plans:** No commercial flights available, evacuation in case of escalating emergency based on assumption of potential assistance embassies, and ability to get medical visa –not guaranteed during these times.

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
	C4C (TIM-14)					X
	LFA				X	
HEALTH	Nutrition (TIM-11)				X	
	MCH (TIM-7)					X
YOUTH	IYC (TIM-12)				X	
	CFPICB (RO-06)					X
DRR	Disaster ready (AHP3)/PPF				X	

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

Summary:	<p>The past two-weeks Childfund Timor-Leste has been supporting MoH in the COVID response (supporting the nutrition department with the food distribution at the quarantine sites). We participate in the Pillar 2 taskforce (community awareness and prevention). Together with the INGO Forum we have obtained permission to go to the municipalities for COVID preparedness activities. INGO's set up a coordination mechanism and made a joint code of conduct. ChildFund is now the lead for Lautem municipality and will be supporting in Liquica (and possibly Manatuto. This week our staff are supporting MOH there with awareness and DRR coordinator will stay in Lautem to take part in the Municipality taskforce.</p> <p>We are further planning the response working project by project pivoting/redirection for COVID response and to document variations.</p>
Education:	<p>Request by Ministry of Education is currently being considering. Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Re-print existing MoE Youth and sports primary school learning materials and distribute to students - Distribution of hygiene kits to households with children under 18 years
Child Protection:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considering production and distribution of IEC materials on child development and wellbeing, parenting support and COVID .
DRR/ ER:	<p>DRR coordinator has travelled back to Lautem and is supporting the start-up of the Municipal COVID task force.</p>

Health:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are supporting the Health Promotion Department with awareness raising in Lautem this week and have printed 5000 copies of the IEC materials. - Lautem: Coordination at village level and dissemination of COVID messages by 2 nutrition staff in Lautem on request of Local government and village chief
SEL:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CVTL oriented PIB coaches on COVID prevention and are running a WhatsApp group for coaches to share key messages. - Ba Futuru is planning a social media blast and through Youth Changemakers targeting TIM-012 locations. We are discussing plans and budget.

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?
- Alola: Temporarily closed down operation till April 26, 2020 and staff WFH.
 - Ba Futuru: Staff WFH. Planning to respond integrating COVID awareness in TIM-012.
 - MMT: Temporarily closed down.
 - CVTL: Actively involved in the response, working closely with government. CFPIB activities on hold following closure of schools.
 - Fraterna: Operating at minimum level, mostly conducting village coordination for tree planting
 - Catalpa: Sends COVID related messages through Liga inan SMS service. (pregnant women/young mother that are registered through our nutrition project will receive those messages)
- Sponsorship partners:**
- BBO: Put most activities on hold, primarily focusses on reporting.
 - Moris Foun: Limited movement but continue to deliver DFC door to door and confirmed to be completed today. Key staff are supporting other organization provide awareness on COVID and distribute hygiene kits prepared by MOFE to community.
 - Graca: Working on reporting but some information need to collect from facilitators with the challenges of limited movement.

4.4 Safeguarding

The GBV referral network remains active during State of Emergency. PRADET, Fatin Hakmetek and shelters are still open. www.hamahon.tl. Staff have the updated phone numbers.

4.5 Child Sponsorship

Number of children (sponsored and/enrolled) affected by COVID-19:	All (indirectly)
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Due to State of Emergency, the delivery of DFC and correspondence has been temporarily suspended where staff have to travel to the district. In Manatutu and Maliana Local Partners's still deliver some DFC's. At some point, there might be difficulties in responding to sponsor queries due to ravel limitation for the field staff at the municipality level.