

Timor Leste Country Office

COVID-19 Situation Report

SitRep No: #8

Date: 18 May 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 0 active cases of COVID-19, and no new cases registered in last 3 weeks. All patients have recovered. The State of Emergency is in force till 27 May; people are asked to remain vigilant and follow the preventative measures, while healthcentre preparedness and further testing is rolled out in the districts. Meanwhile political tensions have been rising. Today extra UN security warning has been issued because of potential demonstrations in front of parliament today. UN has advised all staff to remain alert and avoid places with crowds (see more under security incidents). The tensions stem from January 2020 when the government coalition fell apart over a rejection of the general state budget. As per constitution, there needed to be a new coalition within 60 days or new elections. New proposed coalition led by Xanana fell apart during the voting about the extension of the state of emergency. Current tensions concentrate on the President of the Parliament who is accused of hindering the function of parliament. The Emergency COVID-19 response budget (withdrawn from petroleum reserves) has not reached the Ministry of Health. Economic measures, such as the support of \$US100 per household (for households that have no member earning more that 500 USD) have not yet materialized.

Expected Social and Economic Impact

Fear of an outbreak has shifted to economic hardships. There are concerns regarding longer term impact on food security (the country is dependent on import for essential (food) supplies; there is already a shortage of medicines. Markets have started functioning and internal food transport issues have largely been resolved. Goods over land border with Indonesia are still allowed, but some reports of goods being withheld at the border. Several NGOs have shared issues concerning availability of seeds/farm inputs that are necessary for the current second (short) cropping season. Household and market functioning assessments are currently undertaken by UN and several NGOs to attain better information. All children are out of school with the vast majority not having access to any (online) learning.

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 extended the WFH arrangement. More staff have been allowed to work from the office on a rotational basis. WFH is challenging for some staff with poor internet, and especially joining online meetings.

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.

UN security updates shared with all staff regarding potential political unrest. Staff advised to continue WFH, remain alert when there is a need to go out, avoid areas around parliament and avoid any groups of people. Black Brigade Fighters Association (military wing of command of Falintil during independence struggle) wrote a letter to say they support Xanana and condemn the acts of the current politicians. The specifically note that if there is a 'coup' in parliament today (dismissal of the president of the parliament) they will mobilise people to stop this. A fire began at one of the main markets (Taibessi) today at 4 pm. It is unclear if this was accidental or intentional.

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:	ChildFund -Leste has been supporting MoH in its COVID-19 response. Have permission to travel to municipalities for COVID-19 preparedness activities. INGOs set up a coordination mechanism; ChildFund is lead for Lautem municipality and supporting in Liquica. We are member of Lautem municipality task force led by the district administrator. Pivot plans for projects have been approved and implementation begun.
Education:	Re-print existing MoE primary school learning materials and distribute to students. Set up box libraries where parents can get books for their children. Distribution of hygiene kits to households with children under 18 years
Child Protection:	Planning production and distribution of IEC materials on child development and wellbeing, parenting support and COVID-19. TIM-014 implementing partner has been planning child protection TV campaign as part of pivoting.
DRR/ ER:	DRR coordinator has travelled to Lautem and is supporting the start-up of the Municipal COVID-19 task force. Implementing partners are coordinating with local authorities and planning for the implementation of GESI and women leadership training, and DRR small scale activities. AHP and PPF1 pivot/adjustment planning based on PIA guidelines was completed last week and submitted to PIA and expecting approval this week.
Health:	ChildFund is supporting the Health Promotion Department with awareness-raising in Lautem through printed IEC materials; health posts with water buckets; promoting of tippy tap at household level. In Lautem: dissemination of COVID-19 messages by nutrition staff; distribution of after buckets and 3 large water tanks for health posts. Distribution of food packages and NERS menu to families in the Nutrition program. Distribution of non-cash incentives to community health volunteers.
SEL:	Ba Futuru is developing scripts for short films for a social media blast and through Youth Change makers targeting TIM-012 locations in Tetum and different local languages. Discussions in preparation for MFAT grant on Curriculum Development and with UNICEF for online learning platform (Interest in Aflatoun curriculum)

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?

This week partners were informed about the project budget indications for next year, annual plans are being worked on with attention for COVID-19 mainstreaming

4.4 Child Sponsorship (managing the phase out)

Number of children (sponsored and/enrolled) affected by COVID-19: All (indirectly)

No changes since last report