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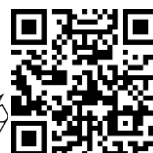
Country programme document

Timor-Leste

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Timor-Leste is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of \$5,715,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and \$40,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2026 to 2030.

* [E/ICEF/2025/27](#).



Programme rationale

1. Timor-Leste is home to around 1.4 million people and the median age is 21.5 years. Forty-two per cent of the population is under 18 years of age.¹ The age dependency ratio has been declining and is currently 70 per cent,² albeit with significant urban/rural disparities. Some 71 per cent of the population lives in rural areas that are characterized by rain-fed subsistence agriculture and limited infrastructure. With a Human Development Index of 0.634 in 2023, Timor-Leste ranked 142nd out of 193 countries and territories (medium human development), a significant rise from 0.507 in 2000.³ The country's progress across the Sustainable Development Goals is uneven, with significant data limitations and capacity constraints impeding a full assessment.⁴
2. Since regaining its independence in 2002, Timor-Leste has significantly improved living standards, reducing poverty rates by 16 per cent (international poverty line of \$2.15 per person, per day)⁵ yet almost half of children (47.8 per cent) continue to live below the national poverty line and 54 per cent live in multidimensional poverty.⁶ The Asian Development Bank reports that 29.7 per cent of people who are employed earn less than \$2.15 per day.⁷
3. As a small island developing State, Timor-Leste is disproportionately vulnerable to natural disasters that are forecast to increase in intensity and frequency as climate change accelerates.⁸ Cyclones, earthquakes, droughts, fires, floods, landslides and rising sea levels are among the most pressing risks, with immediate and substantial implications for food security, education, health, sanitation, livelihoods and fragility.
4. The Petroleum Fund of Timor-Leste, the main source of budget funding, is expected to be depleted within the next decade following the end of production at the Bayu Undan field in 2023. The uncertain development of additional reserves, like the Greater Sunrise development, pose a significant risk to sustainable social services,⁹ highlighting the urgent need for reforms to diversify revenue sources and curb unsustainable spending patterns.

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all data emanate from the three main national surveys: National Institute of Statistics, Timor-Leste (INETL) Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census, 2022; INETL, Demographic and Health Survey 2016; and Ministry of Health, Timor-Leste Food Security and Nutrition Survey 2020.

² INETL, Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2022, Thematic Report – Population Projection, Dili, May 2024.

³ United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Index – Timor-Leste, <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data#/countries/TLS>, accessed on 1 June 2025.

⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, SDG Indicators Database, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/countryprofiles/TLS>, accessed on 1 June 2025.

⁵ INETL; Government of Timor-Leste, Poverty in Timor-Leste 2014, World Bank, Washington, D.C., 2014, <https://inetl-ip.gov.tl/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/TL-Living-Standard-Survey-2014.pdf>.

⁶ Timor-Leste Ministry of Finance and UNICEF, Options Paper: Understanding and Measuring Multidimensional Poverty in Timor-Leste, Dili, 2021; <https://www.unicef.org/timorleste/media/4466/file/MDP%20paper%20update%20Dec2021.pdf>; UNICEF Situation Analysis of Children in Timor-Leste, <https://www.unicef.org/timorleste/media/4431/file/SitAn%202020%20English%20Snapshot.pdf>, accessed on 2 June 2025.

⁷ Asian Development Bank, Basic Statistics, Asia and the Pacific, <https://www.adb.org/mobile/basic-statistics-2024> accessed on 1 June 2025.

⁸ United Nations Timor-Leste, 2021.

⁹ World Bank, Timor-Leste Economic Report: From resources to results: Transforming public spending to high growth, Washington, D.C., 2025.

5. Maternal mortality remains alarmingly high, with an estimated 142 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2017.¹⁰ Skilled birth attendance is low among the poorest quintile of women (26 per cent) compared with the wealthiest quintile (90 per cent), highlighting stark inequities. Similarly, although 83 per cent of women attend at least four antenatal care visits, only 14.8 per cent of the poorest women receive postnatal care within two days of delivery, compared with 61.5 per cent of the wealthiest women. With a neonatal mortality rate of 22, infant mortality rate of 36, and under-5 mortality rate of 50 deaths per 1,000 live births, Timor-Leste is falling behind the Sustainable Development Goal targets and facing disparities based on rural/urban status and wealth.¹¹ Immunization coverage has improved, with 86 per cent for DTP3 (the third dose of combined diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis vaccine) and 97 per cent for BCG, but some communities continue to struggle with low coverage despite regular campaigns.

6. Timor-Leste faces challenges in addressing malnutrition and food insecurity. About half of children are stunted, 8.6 per cent are wasted and 45 per cent are underweight. Poor diets, diseases and inadequate maternal nutrition are major contributing factors. Feeding practices among children aged 0–23 months remain poor, with 42 per cent breastfed within the first hour of birth, 64.2 per cent of infants under six months exclusively breastfed and 14.3 per cent of children aged 6–23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet. Additionally, 27 per cent of the population faces acute food insecurity¹² worsened by the high cost of food at the household level (78 per cent higher than 2019)^{13,14} and climate change. Despite efforts, coverage of integrated nutrition services remains low, and many communities lack robust nutrition screening. Moreover, the nutritional status among women of reproductive age remains poor, with 31.9 per cent of adolescent girls (aged 15–19 years) underweight and 40.2 per cent suffering from anaemia – indicating serious public health concerns. Similarly, 38.4 per cent of women of reproductive age are anaemic, reflecting systemic gaps in nutritional access and care. With a rate of 12.5 per cent, low birthweight remains a concern and is one of the highest rates in the region.

7. Currently, only 23.6 per cent of the population is effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit.¹⁵ Coverage excludes children not in school due to age, poverty or disability, and all children under 5 years of age. Cash assistance programmes are also not effectively targeted, support for vulnerable children is insufficient, and benefits are too small to significantly impact child welfare or to improve health and nutrition outcomes.

8. Evidence shows that, despite reforms, children in Timor-Leste continue to experience violence, exploitation, abuse, neglect and harmful practices. For example, 15 per cent of girls are married by the age of 18 years. Fifty-nine per cent of ever-partnered women aged 15–49 years have experienced violence in their lifetime, with

¹⁰ World Health Organization South-East Asia, Fact Sheet 2021 Timor-Leste, 31 August 2021, https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/349289/Timor-Leste2021_EPISheet-eng.pdf?sequence=1.

¹¹ United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, Levels and Trends in Child Mortality, Report 2024, UNICEF, New York, 2025.

¹² Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Timor-Leste IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, 29 February 2024, https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Timor_Leste_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Nov2023_Sept2024_Report.pdf.

¹³ World Food Programme, Timor-Leste, Fill the Nutrient Gap Timor-Leste, Final report, December 2019, Dili, 2019; IPC, Timor-Leste IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, 29 February 2024.

¹⁴ <https://www.wfp.org/publications/timor-lesote-cost-diet-analysis-2023-update>

¹⁵ International Labour Organization, World Social Protection Data Dashboards, www.social-protection.org/gimi/WSPDB.action?id=19, accessed on 1 June 2025.

the rate higher for women with low education and from the poorest households.¹⁶ In addition, 256 out of 100,000 of children are separated from their families and institutionalized. Despite having a functioning birth registration system, only 34 per cent of children have birth certificates. There are inadequate child-friendly justice mechanisms for children in contact or in conflict with the law, and child protection services are underdeveloped.

9. The education sector faces critical challenges, particularly in achieving equitable access to quality education, improving early literacy and addressing digital literacy gaps. Despite the National Education Strategic Plan 2011–2030 target of 80 per cent enrolment in organized learning programmes for children aged 3–5 years, only 31.8 per cent of children are currently enrolled. Overall, the data indicate near-universal enrolment in primary education (90.17 per cent) yet the enrolment in secondary education is only 75.7 per cent. However, learning outcomes remain poor, with 76 per cent of Grade 1 students scoring zero in reading comprehension¹⁷ coupled with an average primary school dropout rate of 3.74 per cent.

10. The youth literacy rate stands at 87.3 per cent; but is lower in rural areas (84 per cent) compared to urban areas (94 per cent).¹⁸ Furthermore, the proportion of youth classified as not in employment, education or training has risen sharply from 21.1 per cent in 2015 to 29.3 per cent in 2022.¹⁹ Despite significant investments in technical and vocational education and training, only 27 per cent of graduates are employed,²⁰ indicating a misalignment between training programmes and labour market demands. These challenges are compounded by an underfunded education sector, with just 8 per cent of government expenditure allocated to education²¹ – far below the international benchmark of 15 to 20 per cent.

11. There are rural/urban disparities in access to basic water and sanitation services, with 87 per cent of urban and 82 per cent of rural populations having access to water. According to the Joint Monitoring Programme 2023 update, 58 per cent (rural 52 per cent; urban 72 per cent) of the population is accessing basic sanitation services while 10 per cent (rural 15 per cent) is still practising open defecation. With only five more years to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal target 6.2 of safely managed sanitation, the current progress in sanitation is not satisfactory. While there have been improvements in access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, water quality remains a concern due to the vulnerability of existing systems, contamination and poor wastewater treatment practices.

12. The 2015 Concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women highlighted that children with disabilities in Timor-Leste experience widespread discrimination, neglect and limited access to education and healthcare. Early literacy development outcomes suggest limitations in the quality of education, with 16 per cent of Grade 1 students not being able to identify

¹⁶ The Asia Foundation, Understanding Violence against Women and Children in Timor-Leste: Findings from the Nabilan Baseline Study – Main Report, Dili, 2016; The Asia Foundation, Fact Sheet 4: Sexual Violence against Women in Timor-Leste, Dili, updated March 2016.

¹⁷ World Bank Timor-Leste, Using EGRA for an Early Evaluation of Two Innovations in Basic Education in Timor-Leste: The New Curriculum and the Professional Learning and Mentoring Program, Dili, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/984551587359566014/pdf/Using-EGRA-for-an-Early-Evaluation-of-Two-Innovations-in-Basic-Education-in-Timor-Leste-The-New-Curriculum-and-the-Professional-Learning-and-Mentoring-Program.pdf>.

¹⁸ Education Management Information System, 2023.

¹⁹ INETL, Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2022: Thematic report - Education, 2024.

²⁰ Secretary of State for Professional Training and Employment Policy, Tracer Study Technical Training Graduates 2014: A tracer study to evaluate the satisfaction and employment prospects for graduates of accredited technical training courses in Timor-Leste, Dili, 2014.

²¹ Ministry of Education State Budget Analysis.

letters. The challenges are often worse for girls and women with disabilities who remain largely unrecognized. Many children with intellectual disabilities are kept at home and not enrolled in schools, leading to long-term negative impacts, including disparities in employment and livelihoods as they grow older.

13. The rationale for selection of programme priorities is based on consultations with national counterparts, United Nations agencies and key development partners regarding the country's development challenges. These discussions identified the need to focus on child-related national objectives, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, reduce equity gaps and utilize UNICEF strengths in coordination with the United Nations and other partners. The priorities are also informed by the country programme evaluation completed in December 2024 and the gender and disability programmatic review from April 2023.

14. The country programme components will include health, nutrition, WASH, education, child protection, social policy and programme effectiveness.

Programme priorities and partnerships

15. The country programme aligns with the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030, the ninth constitutional government programme to meet its commitment to respect, protect and fulfil child's rights in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other national and international obligations.

16. The country programme integrates digital transformation and social innovations to enhance efficiency, expand accessibility and scale up interventions where they are most needed. A strong emphasis is placed on early childhood development, primary school-aged children and adolescent programming, all recognized as critical pillars for building the foundations of long-term investment in human capital. These efforts are complemented by a proactive focus on emerging challenges, such as economic uncertainties, cuts in official development assistance, and addressing climate change, urbanization, migration and the demand for mental health support, ensuring marginalized and vulnerable populations are not left behind.

17. The country programme is guided by the principles of equity, gender equality, resilience and sustainability, and will contribute to the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029 and the Timor-Leste United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2026–2030. The country programme is based on the following theory of change in both development and humanitarian settings:

(a) If children benefit from early stimulation, nurturing care and diets, and if children, their mothers and young people increasingly access inclusive, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable high-impact health interventions, are better protected from undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and diseases;

(b) If children and adolescents, particularly the most disadvantaged, increasingly gain sustainable access to and use of safe WASH services and practices, and benefit from reduced environmental pollution, climate and natural disaster risks;

(c) If children, from early childhood to adolescence, including the most marginalized, have equal quality learning and participation opportunities and acquire foundational and transferable skills in a safe, digitally integrated and resilient environment;

(d) If children and adolescents living with their families and outside of family care are empowered and protected from online and offline violence and exploitation,

including in homes, schools, communities and institutions, and benefit from quality child protection services in an environment that promotes positive social norms;

(e) If children benefit from evidence-driven decentralized planning, equitable budgets and child-sensitive anti-poverty policies and programmes, including effective, shock-responsive social protection;

(f) Then children and adolescents in Timor-Leste, especially the most marginalized, will have their rights respected, protected and fulfilled, and develop to their full potential in an inclusive and healthy society.

18. The cross-cutting strategies that will be used by UNICEF to overcome the identified barriers include: generating data and evidence for advocacy to achieve positive changes in policies, practices and legislation and gain support for the organization and the child rights agenda; supporting decentralized systems strengthening for provision of quality services, particularly for the most vulnerable; strengthening and expanding strategic partnerships, including by engaging young people and community-based groups; furthering technology for development and digital transformation for increased impact and scale; implementing gender-responsive interventions and social and behaviour change to promote positive norms, strategic communication, service improvements, systems strengthening and supportive public policies.

Health

19. This programme component will contribute to UNSDCF outcomes 1 and 3 and focus on strengthening primary healthcare services, including community-based primary healthcare, for children, youth and mothers, enhancing immunization, integrating WASH, supporting health system resilience and fostering multisectoral partnerships in line with the National Health Sector Strategic Plan 2011–2030. Jointly with the Ministry of Health and other ministries, community groups and partners, UNICEF will support increased access to quality and inclusive healthcare services through strengthening policies, programmes and services, institutional capacity and resourcing. Maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health will be holistically addressed, including the impacts of environmental pollution and promoting adolescent health and well-being.

20. UNICEF will aim to build resilient health systems, prioritizing quality and accessible health service delivery, health supply chains, information systems and capacity-building of the health workforce. UNICEF will continue to work with the Ministry of Health and others line ministries at the national and subnational levels, and with development partners through advocacy for strengthening the strategic policy framework, monitoring, accountability and sufficient budget allocation to health services. Jointly with the Government and other partners, UNICEF will adopt innovative approaches to promote positive behaviours and social norms including peer education, and the integration of initiatives to improve community engagement, ownership and demand generation for accessing and utilizing health services, including strengthening the successful model of mother support groups.

Nutrition

21. The nutrition programme will contribute to UNSDCF outcomes 1, 2 and 3. It is designed to comprehensively address the causes of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, with a focus on improving the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations. The programme aligns with national strategies, including the National Health Sector Nutrition Strategic Plan (2022–2026), the Consolidated National Action Plan for Nutrition and Food Security and the National Multisectoral Action

Plan to Combat Stunting 2024–2030. It will incorporate the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, focusing on critical issues such as reducing under-5 malnutrition, addressing adolescent nutrition and improving maternal nutrition practices.

22. In partnership with the Government and other partners, including academia, the programme will ensure that multisectoral systems integrate preventive and curative nutrition services across the life cycle. By adopting a systems-strengthening and rights-based approach, UNICEF will support government efforts to protect children, adolescents and women from undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies through strengthened referral pathways. UNICEF will support the scale up and delivery of quality child feeding, counselling, early detection and management of acute malnutrition, coverage of micronutrient supplementation, nutrition surveillance through innovative technologies, and school food environment interventions. UNICEF will partner with the private sector to strengthen national capacities to systematically make nutritious food available and affordable. Integrated multisectoral policies and programmes will be promoted within the Nurturing Care Framework, including the first 1,000 days, early learning and protection.

23. Jointly with the Government and other partners, UNICEF will promote positive behaviours and social norms on nutrition and early development, empowering caregivers to meet children's needs through nurturing care, nutritious diets, optimal feeding and physical activity. As the lead agency for the nutrition cluster, UNICEF will continue to build resilience through emergency preparedness and climate and disaster risk management. Data and evidence will support the design of policies, programmes and budgets for maternal and child nutrition.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

24. This programme component will contribute to UNSDCF outcome 3 and focus on WASH service components essential to reaching Sustainable Development Goal 6 and making WASH services climate-resilient while strengthening systems and communities. Moreover, WASH sector support will make indirect contributions to achieving both the Sustainable Development Goal targets and national policy compliance in the health, nutrition and education sectors by ensuring functioning WASH services in institutions, including health facilities and schools.

25. Since WASH-related deprivations are more dominant in the rural parts of the country, UNICEF will focus on supporting the Government to develop a national business model for rural WASH services and systems. UNICEF will contribute to the Government's priority of addressing water security by supporting national monitoring and the development of national standards for water catchment management through the generation of data and evidence on climate-induced water shortages and adaptation means.

26. UNICEF will work with the Government, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector and communities to increase awareness and support behaviour change on water quality, safe sanitation and human excreta management to foster increased public demand for Sustainable Development Goal 6-compliant WASH services through empowered communities. Support will also be targeted towards scaling up community-based water conservation by improving the practices to conserve, retain and store water through nature-based solutions.

Education

27. The education programme aligns with UNSDCF outcomes 1 and 3, the National Education Strategic Plan 2011–2030 and the Education Sector Plan 2020–2024. The programme intends to support Ministry of Education to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goals 4 and 5. The programme will seek improvements in quality, inclusive, climate- and disaster-resilient and gender-responsive learning systems that are adequately financed and ensure that children and adolescents progress through different education levels (pre-primary to secondary), are age appropriate and help children and adolescents to acquire learning and develop twenty-first century skills.

28. The programme will support the development of robust data systems and improved cross-sectoral accountability mechanisms for improved equity, monitoring and reporting, including at the school and community levels. Given the demands and needs for digital education and twenty-first century skills, the focus will be on systematic capacity-building, including teaching, digital learning and monitoring at all levels of the education system.

29. Enhanced engagement, participation and leadership among communities and rights holders in influencing programmes, policies and quality of services for learning, development and the well-being of children and adolescents will be done in coordination with partners, including the private sector.

Child protection

30. This programme component aligns with UNSDCF outcomes 1, 3 and 4, and will focus on child protection and strengthening justice systems, ensuring at-scale programming for climate resilience, gender equality and disability inclusion. The programme will leverage recent opportunities in Timor-Leste, including the Law for the Protection of Children and Young People in Danger, the country's anticipated upcoming full membership of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2025, and the commitments from the Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children (Bogotá Conference, 2024).

31. In collaboration with the Government and other partners, UNICEF will prioritize social service workforce strengthening. The programme will promote family strengthening and family-based childcare rather than institutional childcare. UNICEF will continue to engage in high-level advocacy to secure recognition and greater ownership of and increased public financing for the child protection agenda. Three proven accelerators for ending violence, endorsed by the Bogotá Conference, will be prioritized: universal access to parenting and caregiver support; universal access to safe and enabling school environments; and response and support services, including during emergencies, online or offline and in all settings, in collaboration with other sectors, including education and health.

32. UNICEF will work closely with children, youth, parents, teachers, community members and faith-based leaders to promote positive social and gender norms, along with nurturing practices in homes, schools, religious settings and communities to address violence, including online, and harmful practices. Evidence-based social and behaviour change interventions, with a focus on preventing child marriage, violence, neglect, gender discrimination and unnecessary family separation, and on increasing birth registration, will be promoted.

Social policy

33. The social policy programme component is aligned with the UNSDCF outcomes 1, 3 and 4. Programme implementation will involve close coordination with the relevant line ministries, CSOs, academia and municipal authorities to ensure that vulnerable children and adolescents, especially those with disabilities, benefit from optimal public investments, climate- and disaster-resilient social protection, increased decentralization of functions and resources, and greater political commitment to reducing child poverty and furthering child rights and climate action.

34. The programme will build evidence to support and advocate for increased financial allocations and expenditure across sectors, and for more effective and efficient use of resources for the well-being of children. UNICEF will support the social registry system that can track and address the needs of vulnerable populations. Shock-responsive social protection measures will be scaled up to respond to climate shocks and disasters. The programme will advocate for institutionalized child poverty analysis, helping to ensure that the Government uses the findings to guide and improve equitable and inclusive planning, decision-making and budget allocation at the national and municipal levels.

35. In line with the focus on decentralized local governance, the programme will focus on institutional strengthening and social and behavioural change communications at the district level for demand generation and awareness-building within communities. It will aim to build the capacity and knowledge of community-based institutions to advocate for and promote greater access to social sector services, including social protection services to meet the needs of vulnerable populations and ensure wider coverage. Capacity-building of local institutions and communities and improving their knowledge of child rights will help them to improve planning and increase access to social services.

Programme effectiveness

36. This component aims to ensure results-based planning, monitoring and evaluation of programmes; strengthen government capacity to generate and use disaggregated, equity-focused data; and promote positive social and behaviour change strategies. It will adopt innovations, promote adolescent empowerment and participation, including in UNICEF programming, and promote communication, advocacy and partnerships to raise visibility, influence decision-making, mobilize resources and leverage public and private sector support.

37. All programme components will be strengthened to use multi-hazard and climate risk analysis, to fulfil the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, and to link development, humanitarian and peacebuilding interventions. Programme effectiveness will also include external communication and advocacy; fostering innovation; adolescent development and participation; social and behaviour change with mainstreaming of gender equality across programmes; evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation; and partnership management. The programme will ensure efficient and quality-assured supply and financial operations.

Summary budget table

<i>Programme component</i>	<i>(In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
	<i>Regular resources</i>	<i>Other resources</i>	<i>Total</i>
Health	420	7 970	8 390
Nutrition	420	4 090	4 510
Water, sanitation and hygiene	420	3 260	3 680
Education	420	14 560	14 980
Child protection	1 125	5 550	6 675
Social policy	1 685	2 210	3 895
Programme effectiveness	1 225	2 360	3 585
Total	5 715	40 000	45 715

Programme and risk management

38. This country programme serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results achievement and resources assigned to the programme. UNICEF programme and operations, policies and procedures prescribe managers' accountabilities at the country, regional and headquarters levels for country programmes. As the programme leverages strategic partnerships to foster inclusive and scalable solutions, UNICEF will work closely with the Government and the United Nations country team on UNSDCF implementation and monitoring.

39. The country programme relies on sustained government commitment to implement activities and policies that support the comprehensive development of children and adolescents in Timor-Leste, including to scale up results achieved under the current country programme. The new country programme will leverage the entry points offered by the anticipated forthcoming full membership of Timor-Leste in ASEAN, the space provided by recently enacted laws and policies, and the emerging recognition of the importance of addressing climate change.

40. UNICEF will identify and mitigate additional critical risks to achieving programme outcomes. This includes security and business continuity management, the harmonized approach to cash transfers and emergency preparedness, as well as protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, in coordination with other United Nations agencies. Analyses of risks and vulnerabilities, including climate assessments in the report Nationally Determined Contribution Timor-Leste 2022–2030 that was used to prepare this country programme, will inform the risk management response. UNICEF co-leads sectoral humanitarian partner clusters and supports the disaster management authorities at the national and subnational levels. UNICEF has integrated climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction approaches into all programme components, in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action.

41. Risks related to the under-resourcing of the programme will be addressed in coordination with other United Nations agencies through a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy.

Monitoring, learning and evaluation

42. UNICEF will strengthen national and local capacities for child rights monitoring and evaluation. Regular joint field monitoring, analysis of administrative and survey data and periodic reviews will assess the progress made and lessons learned and inform adjustments to workplans. By strengthening the national data system and administrative data, there will be annual reporting of disaggregated information, including UNICEF and UNSDCF indicators aligned to national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals. UNICEF will apply learning and recommendations, including from the strategic evaluations listed in the costed evaluation plan. Partners will include the United Nations, CSOs and national, district and municipal planning and statistics departments.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Timor-Leste – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2026–2030

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Articles 1–7, 9–10, 12–13, 15, 19–21, 23–24, 26–29, 31, 34–37, 39–40 National priorities: Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030: Program of the IX Constitutional Government; national action plans Sustainable Development Goals: All 17 goals								
United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) outcomes involving UNICEF: Outcome 1: By 2030, the people of Timor-Leste will have better access to quality gender-responsive social services and protection and a life free from violence and discrimination. Outcome 2: By 2030, Timor-Leste makes significant improvements towards ensuring a diversified and inclusive economy for all, availability of decent work and optimization of the demographic dividend, [and] sustainable livelihood opportunities. Outcome 3: By 2030, people in Timor-Leste –particularly children, women, youth, persons with disabilities, and the most marginalized – benefit from resilient infrastructure, safe water and sanitation, and strengthened systems that enhance resilience to climate change-induced disasters, through integrated approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Outcome 4: By 2030, Timor-Leste’s governance and public financial management systems are more inclusive, digital, transparent, accountable, and responsive to women, children, youth and people with disabilities, and ensure equitable access to public services.								
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2026–2029 impact results: 1–5								
UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
Outcomes 1 and 3	1: By 2030, all children, adolescents and women in Timor-Leste have equitable access to inclusive, integrated and climate and disaster-resilient healthcare	National budget allocated for health B: 4.7% T: 8%	State budget report	By 2030: 1. MOH has increased governance, planning, service delivery, monitoring, human resources and healthcare financing capacity to provide quality, inclusive, equitable and socially accountable health services.	MOH	420	7 970	8 390
		District or equivalent administrative unit with at least 80 per cent coverage of measles-containing vaccine for children under 1 year receiving the vaccine	Ministry of Health (MOH) report – Health Management Information					

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
	services and practice positive behaviours.	B: 92% T: 93%	System (HMIS)	2. MOH, national and subnational structures and key ministries have increased capacity to provide equitable immunization services for children, adolescents and women of reproductive age. 3. Government and key stakeholders at national and subnational levels have increased knowledge and capacity to ensure provision, access and demand for quality essential healthcare services for mothers, newborns, children and adolescents in communities. 4. Government and key stakeholders have increased capacity to implement climate and disaster- resilient health risk surveillance and response, ensuring preparedness, business continuity and early recovery,				
		Births attended by skilled health personnel (doctor, nurse, midwife, or auxiliary midwife) B: 60% T: 80%	Same as above					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
				with a focus on children and their families.				
Outcomes 1, 2 and 3	2: By 2030, all children, adolescents and women in Timor-Leste have realized their right to nutrition, with reduced malnutrition in all its forms.	Percentage of children aged 6–59 months with acute malnutrition (wasting) and chronic malnutrition (stunting) B: Wasting: 6.7% Stunting: 47.1% T: Wasting: <5% Stunting: <25%	HMIS (MOH); Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey, 2020	1. Children have enhanced access to quality nutrition services to prevent and treat all forms of malnutrition. 2. National Government has increased capacity for evidence-based planning, service delivery, monitoring, human resources and financing, leading to quality, inclusive and equitable nutrition services.	MOH and the National Council for Sovereignty, Food Security and Nutrition in Timor-Leste (with all relevant line ministries under its umbrella) MOH	420	4 090	4 510
		Percentage of children aged 0-23 months exclusively breastfed for the first six months B: 64.7% T: >70%	National Nutrition Survey					
		Number of coordination bodies for nutrition established and functioning at the municipality level B: 3 T: 14	Unit of Mission to Combat Stunting annual report	3. Communities, caregivers, children and adolescents have improved knowledge and understanding of adequate nutrition practices. 4. Government and key stakeholders have increased capacity to implement child				

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
				focused climate and disaster-resilient nutrition services at all levels, including during emergency response and early recovery.				
Outcome 3	3: By 2030, households and institutions in Timor-Leste have improved access to safely managed and climate and disaster-resilient water, sanitation and basic hygiene services	Percentage of households using safely managed sanitation service B: Not available (NA) T: 70%	World Health Organization /United Nations Children's Fund Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene (JMP) report, national census and national WASH data platform	1. Government has increased institutional capacity to improve WASH sector's enabling environment, coordination and infrastructure through integrated national and municipal interventions. 2. Rural communities have increased knowledge and awareness of safely managed WASH services. 3. Communities and WASH sector actors have the capacity to deliver on WASH services through nature-based solutions and climate-smart approaches.	Ministry of Public Works Ministry of Education (MOE) MOH	420	3 260	3 680
		Percentage of households using safely managed drinking water B: NA T: 70%	Same as above					
		Percentage of households accessing basic hygiene services B: 43% T: 70%	Same as above					

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		Percentage of health facilities using safely managed drinking water and sanitation B: Not Available T: 70%	Same as above					
Outcomes 1 and 3	4: By 2030 all children and adolescents have equitable access to quality learning opportunities, acquire twenty-first century skills (including digital and green skills), are empowered to foster positive change and development, and are protected, healthy and well-equipped to transition to next phase of their life.	Percentage of children aged 36–59 months attending an early childhood education programme B: Total: 32%; Female (F): 40%; Male (M): 36 % T: Total: 80%	Education Management Information System (EMIS), Population and Housing Census	1.By 2030, policies, plans, public financing, robust data and accountability systems are strengthened for climate-smart, disaster-resilient and gender-responsive quality education for children and adolescents 2. Education service providers have enhanced capacity to implement climate-smart, disaster-resilient, flexible, inclusive and gender-responsive, quality services for learning and skills development 3. Schools will have enhanced capacity to provide climate-smart and disaster-resilient	MOE, Ministry of Finance (MOF) Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization	420	14 560	14 980
		Primary education net enrolment rate B: Total: 91.7%; F: 95%; M: 88% T: Total: 94%; F: 95%; M: 93%	EMIS, Population and Housing Census					
		Percentage of children (Grades 2 to 3 and 5 to 6) achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics B: Not available T: Total: 60%; F: 60%; M: 60%	Early grade assessments					

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
				infrastructure, and a safe and secure learning environment for all children and adolescents 4. Children, adolescents, families and communities have enhanced capacity to demand, influence, use and monitor quality services for learning and skills development				
Outcomes 1, 3 and 4	5: By 2030, all children and adolescents can access an effective, adequately resourced, integrated and climate and disaster- resilient child protection system that protects them from all forms of violence in all settings.	Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month, by age and sex B: To be determined (Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2025) T: To be determined	DHS	1. National capacities to legislate, plan, coordinate, operate, generate evidence, finance child protection and justice for children, including adolescents and in response to climate shocks and disasters, are enhanced across all sectors and levels.	Ministries of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI); Justice; Information; State Administration (MSA); Institute for the Defense of Children's Rights (INDDICA); Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor; For the Future (Ba Futuru) CSOs	1 125	5 550	6 675
		Percentage of girls and boys in contact with justice and administrative bodies who benefit from interventions to improve children's access to justice	Partner reports	2. Core and allied social service workforce has enhanced capacities, funding and supervision to				

UNSDCF outcomes	UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
						RR	OR	Total
		B: 0% T: 50%		effectively implement existing laws and policies, providing high- quality, climate- resilient, gender- responsive and disability-inclusive child protection services for all forms of violence in various settings.				
		Percentage of children in family-based care of the total number of children in all forms of formal alternative care B: Less than 1% T: 30%	Partner reports					
		Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority B: 66% T: 90%	DHS	3. Children, youth, families, caregivers, religious leaders, teachers, traditional leaders and communities have enhanced knowledge and skills to promote positive social and gender norms and nurture practices that prevent and respond to violence against children, including during emergencies.				
Outcomes 1, 3 and 4	6: By 2030, children and adolescents in Timor-Leste, especially the most vulnerable, have improved and equitable	Number of children living as per (a) international extreme poverty line, (b) national monetary poverty lines, or (c) national multidimensional poverty lines	Living Standards Survey	1. The Government at all levels has increased capacity to generate and use evidence on child poverty to shape social and economic policies, including child-	Ministry of Finance (MOF), National Institute of Statistics (INETL), MSSI, MSA, Secretary of State for Equality (SSE),	1 685	2 210	3 895

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
	access to inclusive and climate-smart social protection and quality social services and live free from poverty.	B: Children under national poverty line: B: 48% T: 25% B: Children under multidimensional poverty line: B: 54% T: 30%		focused local governance 2. Government and community have improved their ability to implement and monitor child-sensitive, inclusive, and gender-responsive social protection programmes and family-friendly policies that address the impacts of climate change on vulnerable children and their households. 3. National and subnational governments, communities and key stakeholders have improved knowledge, awareness and capacities to strengthen public finance for improved well-being of children.	INDDICA, World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, World Food Programme			
		Extent to which measurement, analysis or policy advice has informed policies and programmes to reduce child poverty B: Data not available T: At least two national policies or strategies, or the action plans, will inform the reduction of child poverty	Research/ study/ evaluation					
	7: Country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated,	Performance scorecards meet organizational benchmarks	InSight	Oversight, risk management, financial management, people and culture,	Ministry of Youth, Sports, Art and Culture, SSE	1 225	2 360	3 585

<i>UNSDCF outcomes</i>	<i>UNICEF outcomes</i>	<i>Key progress indicators, baselines (B) and targets (T)</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Indicative country programme outputs</i>	<i>Major partners, partnership frameworks</i>	<i>Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
						<i>RR</i>	<i>OR</i>	<i>Total</i>
	managed, and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children.	B: Overall performance index 0.66 (average performance) T: At least 0.81 (high performance)		donor relations, country programme results and annual management results				
Total resources						5 715	40 000	45 715