



Timor-Leste

Assessing Vulnerabilities and Resilience in Border Communities in Timor-Leste Through the Human Security Approach in the Context of COVID-19

Background information

Across the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in significant backsliding in development gains, giving rise to stark increases in inequalities within and across countries. In Timor-Leste, border communities, particularly those hardest to reach, faced multiple and interlinked insecurities prior to the pandemic. Due to their remoteness, these communities confronted limited access to basic social services, including WASH facilities, health clinics, and schools. At the same time, cross-border movement and trade, a daily feature of community life and a main source of economic security, was critically impacted as borders closed and travel was severely restricted due to the pandemic.

Goals and objectives

The key objective of the programme is to develop and conduct human security assessments with the aim to: (i) better understand the specific needs and challenges faced by people in remote border and at-risk communities; (ii) strengthen partnerships and coordination among local and national stakeholders to prepare and respond to complex challenges; and (iii) create mechanisms to upstream local assessments and related priorities into national planning processes by policymakers and practitioners.



DURATION

December 2021 – October 2024



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

IOM, UNICEF



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Prime Minister's office, other relevant government offices both at national and subnational levels



BENEFICIARIES

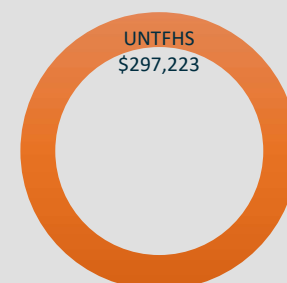
71,058



TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 297,223

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme directly benefits 71,058 people in 24 villages bordering Indonesia in Bobonaro, Covalina, and Oecuss municipalities, including 35,360 women. At the same time, the wider population of Timor-Leste will indirectly benefit from the programme.

Applying the Human Security approach

With an emphasis on people's survival, livelihood and dignity, human security ensures a disaggregated understanding of the risks and challenges faced by those who are most vulnerable and furthest behind. As such, it is an essential lens to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities of remote border communities in Timor-Leste in the context of COVID-19.

By guiding the elaboration of human security assessments to capture diverse challenges at the local level, human security informs the development of responses that are both comprehensive and targeted. Specifically, human security assessments consider the coping mechanisms and existing assets of local communities and specific groups, with a special focus on how challenges affect children, youth, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, as well as specific professions at risk given the restrictions on their mobility as a result of the pandemic, such as, cross-border traders, bus and truck drivers, and fisherfolks.

In linking the needs and vulnerabilities of these remote communities and vulnerable groups with existing assets and coping mechanisms, human security assessments and their application build on what works, address gaps, develop capacities, and promote the foundation for improved strategies and greater resilience to current and future challenges. Additionally, through the findings of the assessments and the identification of priorities at the local level, they open avenues for dialogue and discussion among policymakers and local stakeholders. These support the elaboration of targeted strategies within the overall response, recovery, and sustainable development plans by government and non-governmental institutions, thus ensuring a stronger and more resilient development progress, both locally and nationally.



www.un.org/humansecurity



humansecurity@un.org



[@UNHumanSecurity](https://twitter.com/UNHumanSecurity)



[@UNTFHS](https://www.facebook.com/UNTFHS)



United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.