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# Timor-Leste



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## Country snapshot\*

- Population: 1.1 million\*\*
- Achieved Independence: 2002
- Life expectancy at birth: 60.7 years
- Adult literacy rate: 50.1%
- Access to improved water source: 62%
- Infant mortality rate: 61 per 1000 births
- Maternal mortality rate: 380 per 100,000 live births
- HIV prevalence: 2%

\* Source: United Nations Human Development Report 2009/10  
\*\*Source: CIA

## Program overview

CARE has been operating in Timor-Leste since 1994, originally as part of CARE Indonesia and as an autonomous Country Office since 2000. In that time, CARE has engaged in two major emergency responses following the violent events that occurred in 1999 and 2006.

CARE in Timor-Leste focuses on long-term sustainable development projects in agriculture and disaster risk reduction, education, community health and nutrition, capacity building, urban community outreach and peace-building, rural infrastructure and employment, and women's participation and gender equality.

## Health

CARE is supporting the Ministry of Health to train health staff and volunteers, conduct regular growth monitoring in remote areas, and to distribute supplementary food to malnourished children under five, as well as pregnant and lactating women. CARE has also designed health promotion posters and brochures and is supporting activities that combine nutrition education and access to nutritious foods, such as the establishment of kitchen gardens.

## Strengthening Communities

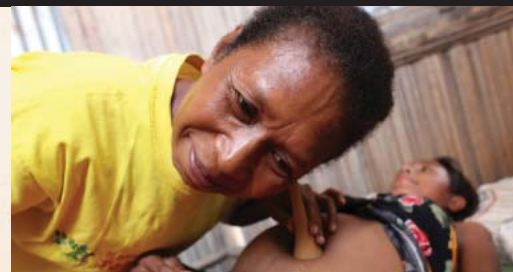
CARE aims to reduce violence by strengthening local leadership to address the root causes of conflict, developing community-based techniques for reducing conflict and encouraging community participation.



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## Education

Lafaek is the only magazine for children produced in Timor-Leste's national language of Tetum. Five times a year, CARE distributes 327,000 copies around the country. The magazines provide information about children's rights, health, civic education, natural sciences and the environment. Lafaek empowers children by providing a forum through which they can voice their opinions, submit original stories and artwork and gives them tools to develop into self-confident and responsible adults.

## Disaster risk reduction

CARE is integrating disaster risk reduction into our programs to help communities lower their vulnerability to disasters, including drought and flood, by building local capacity and helping local government to support communities.

## Food and livelihood security

Over one-third of Timor-Leste's population regularly experiences food shortages due to poor agriculture techniques and irregular rainfall. CARE supports 6,000 vulnerable households to address the underlying causes of food insecurity by empowering people to access social and agricultural support services, and increasing the availability of improved seeds for planting. CARE recognises that improving food security requires involving communities and addressing social, economic and environmental factors so that people can be equipped with more diverse ways of earning a living.

## Major donors

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), European Commission (EU), New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), Austrian Development Agency, Timor Leste Ministry of Education, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and various private and corporate donors.

## CARE International members supporting current programs

CARE Australia, CARE UK, CARE Austria.



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