

## Timor-Leste

### Update on the context and situation of children

Timor-Leste is a small island nation, and with restoration of its independence in 2002, it is one of the world's youngest countries. With a total population of 1.2 million, over 70% living in rural areas, Timor-Leste has also one of the youngest populations in the world and in Asia: 46% of the total population is under 18 years old and 62% is below the age of 25. The 10–24-year-old age group, at approximately 400,000, accounts for one third of the population. [\[1\]](#)

Timor-Leste is considered as a lower-middle-income country because of its GDP, but a Least Developed Country [\[2\]](#) due to its low Human Asset Index. While the poverty rate declined from 50% (2007) to 42% (2014), it is higher in rural areas, at 47% compared to 28% in urban areas. Nearly half of all children live below the national poverty line. [\[3\]](#) Children at highest risk of being left behind live in rural areas, particularly hard-to-access, remote, mountainous regions away from urban centers. Poverty and inequality are not just caused by lack of income, but also by issues such as access to food, water, sanitation, health, social protection, education, skills and decent work.

Timor-Leste is vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards, including strong winds, landslides, earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, and to a lesser extent cyclones and regional volcanic activity. With 42% of its population living below the poverty line, its lack of coping capacity and its vulnerability are high (World Bank) [\[4\]](#). According to the ND-GAIN vulnerability index, Timor-Leste has a high vulnerability score and low readiness score (it ranks 124 on 180) [\[5\]](#).

While the under-five mortality rate declined from 64 to 41 per 1,000 live births between 2009 and 2016 (DHS), [\[6\]](#) it is still one of the highest in the region. Childhood mortality is generally higher among children of low-educated mothers (48 per 1,000 live births) and those from poorer households (55 per 1,000 live births). In comparison between 2009 and 2016, Neonatal Mortality has not declined much from 22 (2009) to 19 (2016) per 1,000 live births.

The stunting rate among children under five years old is strikingly high at 50.2%, [\[7\]](#) causing irreversible effects on early childhood development. [\[8\]](#) Timor-Leste ranks 110 out of 117 countries on the Global Hunger Index 2019, scoring 34.5 based on rates of undernourishment, wasting, stunting and child mortality. Access to improved water and sanitation is a critical issue affecting children and their families, particularly in rural areas. Households using improved drinking water sources stand at 75% (urban 92%/ rural 69%), while improved sanitation remains at 57% (urban 93%/ rural 44%) (Census 2015).

Access to education has improved significantly, with the achievement of a primary (grade 1-6) net enrolment rate (NER) of 89% in 2018 (girls: 93%; boys: 86%), compared to only 64% in 2005. However, challenges remain in quality of education, measurement of learning outcomes, improved water and sanitation at schools and high repetition rates, among others. The preschool gross enrollment rate was 21% in 2018, behind the national target of Ministry of Education to achieve 50% by 2015.

Domestic violence is widely recognized as a serious issue in Timor-Leste affecting women and children, who are both witnesses and victims. Data from the 2016 TLDHS show that 30.3% of women aged 15- 19 years had experienced physical violence since the age of 15. A 2016 study also shows that 75% of boys and 67% of girls reported experiencing physical violence by a teacher at school in the last 12 months. [\[9\]](#)

The Constitution of Timor-Leste includes the right to national identity, yet only 60% of children under five years old had their birth registered, and among those registered, only 30% have actual birth certificate (Census 2015).

Adolescents and youth face significant challenges, including lack of access to reproductive health information and services, lack of access to education and skills development outside of formal education, especially for pregnant adolescent girls, and few viable job opportunities. 19% of women aged 20-24 report being married by age 18, and 3% by age 15. The adolescent birth rate is 51 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 and 9% of girls have given birth by age 18, and 24% by age 20, with rural girls being twice as likely to become mothers as their urban counterparts.

Social protection cash transfers are not well targeted or distributed in Timor-Leste and many vulnerable groups lack coverage or adequate support. Such schemes tend to focus more on social cohesion and peace, with important investment in veteran pensions, than on poverty reduction. For instance, *Bolsa de Mãe*, which specifically targets vulnerable families and reached 61,000 households (29% of total households) in 2017, offers \$5 per child (up to three children) per month, which is insufficient to have an impact on poverty reduction. [\[10\]](#)

2019 saw increased stability, but continued uncertainty, within Government. The State Budget 2019 failed to clearly prioritize social and productive sectors, with health and education sectors at 4% and 8% of the total proposed government budget. Delays in approving the 2020 budget could once again lead to delays in funding of government programmes and a

## Timor-Leste

shortened year for budget execution.

[1] Research Bulletin – Timor-Leste’s Youth Population: A Resource for the Future, RDTL, UN and national Transfers Account, 2018

[2] UN Committee for Development Policy, Development Policy and Analysis Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2017 June)

[3] Government of Timor-Leste (2018). Sustainable Development Goals – Child Data Book 2018 Timor-Leste

[4] [4] World Bank, Timor-Leste Systematic Country Diagnostic: Pathways for a New Economy and Sustainable Livelihood (2018)

[5] <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>

[6] GOTL MOF/GDS, DHS 2009-10 and 2016

[7] GOTL MOH 2015, TL Food and Nutrition Survey 2013 ( final report in 2015)

[8] James J. Heckman 2012, Invest in early childhood development: Reduce deficits, strengthen the economy

[9] Study on Violence against Children in Timor-Leste, 2016

[10] Challenges and way forward to extend social protection to all in Timor-Leste: Assessment-Based National Dialogue report. ILO and Ministry of Social Solidarity of Timor-Leste, 2018

### Major contributions and drivers of results

#### Child Survival and Development

During 2019, UNICEF continued to support, mainly through the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Public Works (MOPW), access to and utilization of health, nutrition and WASH services at national, sub-national and community levels, with equity as the guiding principle to ensure no one left behind.

UNICEF continued to play a critical role in supporting the Government of Timor-Leste in its efforts to end all forms of malnutrition among children and women, in line with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). UNICEF supported the MOH to maintain the delivery of nutrition services, including ensuring availability for nutrition supplies (life-saving therapeutic supplies, including RUTF, and micronutrients powder) through efficient forecasting and procurement services. The capacity of 70 Nutrition Coordinators was increased, through the provision of refresher trainings and development of strategies to improve access to quality nutrition services through community health centers and health posts. As of 30 September, [1] UNICEF’s contribution reached 114,280 children aged 6-59 months (56,797 boys; 57,483 girls) with vitamin A supplementation, 22,481 children aged 6-23 months (11,344 boys; 11,137 girls) with micronutrient powder [2] and 95,620 children 12-59 months with deworming tablets. During the same period, 20,814 pregnant women received iron-folic acid supplements.

As of September 2019, 1,056 children (434 boys and 622 girls) suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) benefited from SAM treatment services, representing 82.3% of the UNICEF annual target of 1,283 and 9.1% of the annual estimated burden of 11,649 children. In 2020, UNICEF will support the MOH to implement the active case finding for both SAM and MAM cases and strengthen case management by ensuring availability of supplies and continued capacity building of service providers. UNICEF also supported the establishment of a breastfeeding café at the national hospital to support mothers and families to ensure newborns are successfully breastfed.

In 2019, children, adolescents and teachers from 1,476 schools and health workers from 442 health care facilities across the country, and more than 700 children and adolescents who watched the first national health and nutrition quiz, benefitted from child and adolescent friendly communication materials on Health, Nutrition and WASH, including specific issues for adolescent girls. Also, UNICEF supported MOH to bring together, for the first time, 267 adolescents from all 13 municipalities to discuss adolescent health and nutrition issues, with strong participation from adolescent girls (71%).

UNICEF supported the MOH to fully equip 13 municipalities and the Central Medical Store (SAMES) with remote

## Timor-Leste

temperature monitoring devices (RTMD) to enhance effective vaccine management. 40 Health Workers (HWs) gained capacity on installation and basic maintenance of RTMD. 10 remote health facilities were equipped with cold chain equipment and SAMES was provided with a refrigerated vehicle to assist vaccine distribution to Municipalities. SAMES successfully introduced the Visibility for Vaccines (ViVa) platform, a tool for EPI managers to enable early identification of potential stock issues and to ensure vaccine inventory management control. The information provided by the platform was useful for procurement process planning and contributed to zero stock out of immunization supplies.

UNICEF supported 9 senior decision makers to participate in regional and global fora, which resulted in increased focus on SDG 6 monitoring, knowledge management, service delivery and sanitation solutions beyond ODF. Moreover, Timor-Leste's commitment with the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) global platform was re-established after three years. These engagements helped the sector to better focus on the current key priority of achieving ODF status by 2020 and overcoming constraints related to rural water supply.

Basic level water supply was provided to 135 people through a gravity-fed piped water system. Five municipal health departments also became capable of verifying all the essential water quality parameters through mini laboratories provided by UNICEF.

UNICEF's continued support for the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach resulted in triggering in 211 aldeias (sub villages) with 102,757 people (approximately 10% of the country's population). Out of them 55,821 people in 174 aldeias achieved ODF status in 2019 and now live in a safe environment. In 2019 UNICEF's continuous support enabled the two municipalities of Bobonaro and Ainaro to fully achieve ODF status, adding to Ermera and Aileu which achieved ODF status in 2018.

UNICEF also supported 300 families affected by bushfires in two municipalities with basic WASH supplies to address challenges faced in maintaining basic household water and sanitation practices.

### Quality Education

In 2019, there was good progress in the education sector. Three main achievements were the finalization and approval of the Education Sector Plan (ESP) 2020-2024; the contribution of community-based preschools for 3 percentage points in national gross enrollment; and the approval by the Ministry of Education of the National WASH in Schools Strategy (WinS) and Costed Action Plan.

UNICEF continued to support Education sector coordination, seeing the finalization of the Education Sector Plan 2020-2024 (ESP), which was approved by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) and endorsed by Development Partners in November 2019. The ESP qualifies Timor-Leste for a Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Grant of \$9.1 million. The ESP is a significant accomplishment for Timor-Leste, as it is the first review of the National Education Sector Plan 2011-2030 and presents a comprehensive plan for the medium term with measurable indicators.

In 2019, 3,581 children (1,830 boys and 1,751 girls) were enrolled in UNICEF-supported community preschools in Ermera and Viqueque Municipalities. UNICEF-supported community preschools cater to nearly half (46%) of preschool-going children in the two target Municipalities, representing about 3 per cent of all children in preschools in Timor-Leste. Trainings were provided to 232 preschool facilitators and 10 field officers on classroom management, development and use of locally available materials for play-based learning.

Data for the first year of the longitudinal study on how children from community preschools perform in early grades of primary school, in comparison to children from other preschools or those with no preschool experience, was successfully collected. A review of the legal framework and policy environment for preschool education in Timor-Leste was completed and is being used to inform a preschool management decree law under development by the Ministry, which will include the community preschool model under the government network of preschools.

UNICEF also supported the Government to strengthen basic education. A School Readiness programme was carried out in 26 schools and preschools in Ermera and Liquica municipalities, aiming to reduce the very high repetition rate in Grade 1. In total, 1,415 students from preschools (570), Grade 1 (626) and Grade 5 and 6 (219), 265 parents, teachers, and school coordinators (PTA) and 375 community members participated through information sessions and training, and child-to-child peer mentoring by Grade 5 and 6 students to help Grade 1 children better transition to and succeed in basic education.

UNICEF continued to support student council activities in 46 schools to increase student leadership and engagement, with the other schools receiving support from the Ministry. Close to 1,000 students in the 46 schools participated in various sports activities and 105 students participated in WASH-related activities (menstrual hygiene management, hygiene promotion and WASH maintenance) to ensure a child-friendly and safe school environment. Guidelines for Student Councils were developed and approved by MoEYS with UNICEF support.

## Timor-Leste

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UNICEF worked with other UN agencies to map education services provided to children with disabilities that will be used to develop an action plan to implement the National Inclusive Education Policy. In collaboration with MoEYS and Australia, a Training of Trainers was conducted for 60 participants, in preparation for the testing of functional screening/early detection tools to identify children with learning difficulties in schools across 5 municipalities in 2020.

The Expand Safe School model using the Comprehensive School Safety Framework was launched in three Municipalities in collaboration between MoE, Plan International and UNICEF covering 10 schools at risk of natural disaster. A total of 286 students (139 girls, 147 boys) participated in training and orientation, and members of disaster management committees received a 3-day training on risk mapping, building local knowledge and capacity to be prepared for and effectively respond to natural disasters.

In collaboration with UNDP, a pilot programme on ICTs in Education started in 15 schools in Oecusse, targeting 5,350 students in pre-secondary and secondary schools. In 2019, all procurement was completed and ICT Handbooks for teachers, secondary-school students and pre-secondary school children were developed. Two interactive educational games are also being developed (in Tetum and Portuguese) to help students acquire financial skills and environmental awareness.

UNICEF also supported water, hygiene and sanitation at school. The WASH in Schools (WinS) Strategy and Costed Action Plan, developed in 2018 with UNICEF support and approved by the ministry in 2019, is included in the Education Sector Plan as one of the medium-term priorities of the Government.

In 2019, UNICEF rehabilitated WASH facilities and provided two water systems that benefited 2 communities, with a total population of 720 persons, including children and adolescents and two schools with 294 students (140 females and 154 males) were connected to the water systems, and 140 female students in these schools were given menstrual hygiene management training.

UNICEF supported the construction of a new basic education school building in EBF Caitehu school, including two additional classrooms and school furniture, a library room, school kitchen, multipurpose room and two group handwashing facilities designed for smaller children. The school was supported as a model for developing a more student friendly school environment and to create additional opportunities for engagement and support from local communities in school activities.

### Child Protection and Participation

To ensure every child can access quality child protection services, UNICEF provided support to the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) in revising and implementing a comprehensive social welfare workforce training. This in-service curriculum, which reflects the principle of the 2016 Child and Family Welfare Policy promoting the principles of building on positive traditional and community values, was endorsed by the ministry along with a competency framework and code of ethics. The capacity of 222 social welfare workers - including MSSI and Ministry of Education staff at municipal level, police officers, local authorities, community leaders, media representatives and NGO representatives - was increased in performing case management and coordination in three municipalities. The curriculum is ready to be rolled out for the second phase of implementation in 2020, targeting 100 participants.

In addition, UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, is conducting a mapping on the social welfare workforce in four municipalities, Dili, Oecusse, Viqueque, Liquica and Baucau. The mapping will document the size, scope and structure of the workforce, as well as review policy, legislation, qualifications for professionalization of the social welfare workforce. This mapping will contribute to the future planning, development and support of the workforce.

UNICEF continued to support MSSI to model a parenting programme in two municipalities. In 2019, 376 community sessions were conducted in Ermera and Viqueque Municipalities, benefiting 9,024 parents and caregivers (4,695 females; 4,329 males) and 16,442 children aged 0-17 years. The parenting program extended its target beneficiaries to include schools, prisons and police offices. In addition, 274 households received targeted support through home visits. Through the integration of Fathers Networks in the parenting education programme, 4,329 fathers made up 47% of total attendees, an increase from 33% in the previous year. Participation of fathers as agents of change and promoting fathers' involvement and participation in child rearing also contributed to overcoming gender discriminatory roles and expectations related to parenting.

To achieve universal birth registration in Timor-Leste, particularly for children under 5 years, the capacity of 1,239 civil registrars, community leaders and midwives from 11 municipalities was enhanced through birth registration training. To strengthen the birth registration system in the country, UNICEF procured IT equipment for all municipalities, to be distributed in early 2020, so that the existing computerized birth registration database can be used effectively.

To increase engagement with adolescents and youth, UNICEF partnered with other UN agencies to launch Generation

## Timor-Leste

Unlimited and Youth Co-Lab as an avenue for adolescents and youth to express and create their own solutions to their own problems. These initiatives have reached 492 adolescents and youth. In addition, UNICEF's collaboration with youth groups was strengthened by connecting four groups together and holding regular joint meetings with them around different issues of youth involvement and programming. UNICEF also supported the Government's Life Skills Based Education programme, contributing to training sessions that reached 120 adolescents and youth in Dili.

### Social Policy and PME

UNICEF worked closely with the Government to strengthen evidence generation and use for planning and budgeting. A key achievement was the publication in May 2019, with the National Statistical Office and UNFPA, of the SDG Child Databook. This reference document brings together official statistics on children's issues related to each SDG, with sex, age, and geographic disaggregation when available, and a visual representation of equity issues. A Situation Analysis (SitAn) of children was developed, taking into account consultations conducted by young facilitators and artists, engaging 850 adolescents in all municipalities -58% of whom were girls.

UNICEF continued its efforts to promote evidence-based programming by building internal and external capacity on real-time monitoring using mobile phones or tablets. Several trainings were conducted on using free, open-source software Kobo Toolbox and KoboCollect for mobile data collection and analysis, reaching 100 participants from UNICEF, the Government, CSO partners, university students and youth groups. The tool is used, among others, to monitor two programmes supported by UNICEF, a community pre-school model to expand access to early childhood education, and a parenting education programme. Moreover, to reach new audiences and promote an M&E culture, UNICEF developed a series of Kobo video tutorials in Tetum, which will be disseminated in 2020.

In 2019, UNICEF supported the Secretary of State for Youth and Sport (SSYS) to finalize the Timor-Leste Youth Parliament Evaluation, and jointly with SSYS developed the management response action plan. UNICEF also contributed to the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) evaluation, another important knowledge piece that fed into the development of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. Moreover, UNICEF initiated a joint evaluation with the Government of the country's community-led total sanitation initiative, which will be conducted in 2020.

In 2019, UNICEF continued to strengthen national and subnational planning and budgeting capacities, in the context of public financial management reforms including the adoption of programme budgets, and foster dialogue between national and subnational levels planners and financiers. It supported the Ministry of Finance to conduct training sessions on budget planning using RBM principles, with a focus on child and gender indicators. These reached 240 participants involved in planning and finance from the national level and five municipalities, and completed the efforts started in previous years to cover all municipalities.

UNICEF helped the Government explore how to strengthen the right to a legal identity and better manage service delivery, through a joint project with UNDP, 'Unique ID for All as a Gateway to Social Inclusion and E-Government.' This project is a feasibility assessment to help the Government of Timor-Leste decide whether to introduce a single registry or Unique ID system, as a way to improve planning, decrease identity fraud and ease access to services. In 2019, the project introduced the concept of a Unique ID to a wide range of Government officials, and further discussed with key ministries the potential models of Unique ID adapted to the country's context.

In the realm of social protection, initial plans for supporting the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion to review the Bolsa de Mae cash transfer changed in the course of the year, as ILO and Australia started investing in this sector and placed several advisers within the Ministry. Discussions are currently underway in the Ministry to explore how the grant could focus more on younger age groups, and UNICEF continues to coordinate with the Ministry and development partners on reforms to the current social protection system.

### Communications

In 2019, key decision makers and influencers highlighted issues faced by children, adolescents and youth face. A key step forward was the establishment of a multi-partner Civil Society Child Rights Advocacy Group coordinated by the Commission on the Rights of the Child, improving coordination and collaborative advocacy on child rights. UNICEF advocacy included the appointment of a popular singer, Marvi, as a Youth Advocate, and engagement with Parliamentary Commission F (responsible for health, social security and gender equality) and with the Archbishop of Dili, government officials and development partners. The 'UNICEF Café' approach to facilitate dialogue around child rights has resulted in discussions between children and adolescents, government and development partners on topics ranging from the need for more engagement by fathers in improving nutrition for children; equal rights for all children, including differently-abled children; prevention of early marriage and teenage pregnancy.

UNICEF also raised the profile of child rights by organizing or supporting 30 events, including the SDG 16+ global event in

## Timor-Leste

Dili and lighting up in blue the country's largest monument, Cristo Rei, on World Children's Day. Some 4,000 youth and adolescents are also engaging with UNICEF supported organic youth collective, 'Hamutuk Ita Rezolve' (Together We Resolve), mainly online but also through real-life events, driving civic action on climate change and promoting youth engagement, online safety, prevention of SGBV, and adolescent health.

Social behavior change efforts were bolstered through printed and video/photo material and adaptation of global videos. The partnership with radios expanded to 16 community radios and national radio, resulting in the broadcast of 320 radio programmes (126 primarily developed by 55 child reporters on ending of violence against children, early childhood development, health and nutrition, sanitation and hygiene and birth registration; and another 197 separately produced on birth registration). Two community radios conducted public outreach broadcasting to promote birth registration in 11 villages with a population of 3,650, and university students helped monitor results of radio programming on birth registration in 6 municipalities.

[1] HMIS report, MOH.

[2] MOH, nutrition department database

### Lessons Learned and Innovations

Uncertainty continued to be a dominant government feature in 2019, with a late start of the government budget implementation negatively impacting the coverage of social sector interventions. Similar constraints are expected in 2020, with significant uncertainties around the proposed 2020 budget and therefore the viability of the current government. While change and uncertainty within government led to some implementation challenges in 2019, it also provided opportunities to advance on cross sectoral issues. Moving forward, expanding alliances with CSOs, especially local ones, and with the private sector, could be a way forward to partly mitigate the impact of long-term political instability on programming.

Partnerships remain key toward successful programme implementation, with partnerships expanding with a range of UN partner agencies, CSOs and development partners in the areas of law and policy development, community engagement, adolescents, gender and violence against women, girls and children. Leveraging partnerships with high-profile organizations and institutions has shown to be beneficial in obtaining access to and advocate with high-level officials. For instance, in the nutrition sector, UNICEF engagement with a range of partners and the Prime Minister's Office has opened a new avenue to advocate for allocation of resources for children.

**While UNICEF continues to support a broad range of programmes to expand access and quality to care and services for children, partner capacities remain an obstacle to scaling up and sustainability. As an example, the parenting programme has been well accepted by communities and local officials, but current capacities and lack of government resources create challenges in its expansion. UNICEF and partners are taking these constraints into account both in the design and implementation phase of programming, working to develop workable models within existing capacities and expanding capacities as needed.**

Recent years have seen increased engagement at community level, in both modeling innovative programming and in social and behavior change. Active engagement of local leaders has facilitated stronger community participation in programming, but increased engagement at the design and planning levels has been shown to have a much greater impact and community ownership. Decisions, such as who will perform construction work and which community members can best facilitate activities, can have a large influence on community buy-in and ownership.

**2019 saw increased participation and partnership with adolescents and youth, particularly through nation-wide engagement for the situation analysis of children (SITAN).** The large-scale adolescent consultations around the SITAN integrated several innovations: they were conducted by youth facilitators and artists; facilitators' training included a session on ethical research involving children; consultations integrated real-time data collection through Kobo Collect; workshops were independently monitored by youth group members in three municipalities; and workshops integrated drawing, videos and theatre for adolescents to express their situation and act out the change they would like to see. In the end, not all these innovations were successful. The youth facilitators had excellent facilitation skills, but limited analytical/synthesis capacity, which resulted in UNICEF taking on time-consuming data entry and analysis. Similarly, some of the drawings produced by young artists provided powerful illustrations of the situation and desired change, but the video and theatre activities did not yield the expected outputs. These are useful lessons – on the need to strengthen youth group's analytical capacities, and to provide guidance and possibly cameras/tablets to ensure better audiovisual products.

Another lesson learned through engagement with adolescents was that while adolescents pointed to many expected issues, their causality analysis at times differed from UNICEF's. Their analysis also showed how interconnected issues were, requiring UNICEF to rethink its positioning in some areas, and to work with partners to ensure that matters of significance

## Timor-Leste

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to adolescents are acted upon. Finally, adolescents see themselves as change makers, as evidenced by recommendations addressed to their age groups rather than to adults, showing that supporting their actions, and not just their participation, should be prioritized.

UNICEF strengthened its level of engagement with the field in 2019 and gained valuable insights. In particular, field monitoring helped UNICEF identify challenges in the application of new knowledge and skills provided through trainings. In some areas, it also pointed to limited ownership and maintenance of UNICEF-supported programmes both by the Government and community. Altogether, it highlighted the necessity and value of regular monitoring, but also pointed to the need to establish more systematic partnerships at the local level to sustain dialogue and feedback loops. Taking advantage of innovative technology and participatory approaches could provide a way forward.

While a system is in place for monitoring the implementation of the National Child Action Plan, it is insufficient to spur strong follow-up, due to the gradually lower institutional positioning of the Commission on the Rights of the Child and to the low priority given to this action plan. This points to the need for high-level advocacy, but also calls for greater engagement with civil society and other partners, to diversify and amplify calls to prioritize children's issues.

Building on the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and utilizing key tools such as the UNICEF Café helped raise the profile of child rights across arrange of stakeholders in government, development partners, children, adolescents and youth. In addition, in a country where access to information remains an important challenge, the expansion of partnerships with community radios has helped reach more communities, children and families across Timor-Leste with messaging on nutrition, immunization, birth registration, education, prevention of violence against children, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

Data use remains a central challenge, with a wealth of statistics and analyses remaining under-used in decision-making. The production of visual, comprehensive products can be a good practice in this regard, as evidenced by requests from Parliamentarians to obtain copies of the SDG Child Databook publication to support the 2020 State budget debate. This publication owed its appeal to the visual representation of statistics, with infographics, graphs and charts, and to its comprehensive nature, as it compiled all key child statistics related to the SDGs.