

Timor-Leste

Part 1: Situation update in the country

Political, economic, social and environmental context in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste experienced an exceptionally challenging year in 2018. On 26 January, the President of the Republic of Timor-Leste dissolved the National Parliament, making a new election necessary. An early parliamentary election was held on 12 May, in which the Alliance for Change and Progress (AMP), a coalition of three parties, won an absolute majority of 34 of the 65 seats in Parliament. Following the election, the new VIII Constitutional Government was formed, and its programme was approved on 20 July. However, challenges remained, including the delayed nomination of key ministerial positions (including the Minister of Finance and Minister of Health) and the restructuring of the government organogram, such as nominating a new Commissioner for the Rights of the Child with the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion.

The VIII Constitutional Government Programme stipulates its commitment to advance children's rights in Timor-Leste across programme areas, particularly under the banner 'development of social capital', which includes education, health, and social inclusion. Timor-Leste is in the middle of the second five-year term (2016-2020) of the National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030, and this is a critical period for the country to invest in social sectors, particularly in children under 18 years, who represent around half of the population and the nation's future. Fragility in the country remains, with recurrent challenges and the need for capacity development and implementation of reforms, including within the legislature and in public financial management, among others.

Timor-Leste has a young population, with 46 per cent of the total population under 18 years-old and 62 per cent below the age of 25 (*United Nations Development Programme/UNDP, 2018*). In Timor-Leste, the 10 to 24 year-old age group accounts for one-third of the population, and the young population of 15 to 24-year-olds is expected to increase and reach a peak in 2029 (*United Nations Population Fund/UNFPA, 2017*). If the conditions are right, Timor-Leste has an opportunity to seize a demographic dividend, with a reduced fertility rate of 4.2 children per woman (*Demographic and Health Survey/DHS, 2015*) from 7.1 in 2003 (*DHS, 2013*) and a declining dependency ratio.

International good practice suggests that governments should consider allocating 15-20 per cent of the budget to education (*Education 2030: Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action*) and 15 per cent to health (*Abuja Declaration, 2001*). However, in Timor-Leste the actual allocation of state budget excluding for aid for these key sectors remains low, between 7-9 per cent for education and 4-5 per cent for health in the last three years (*2017, 2018 and 2019 proposed budget*).

Timor-Leste is considered a lower middle-income country according to its Gross National Income but a least-developed country due to its low Human Asset Index - a composite index of

nutrition, health, and education. The Government has significantly scaled up public expenditure, particularly on infrastructure projects and cash transfers, with financing from the Petroleum Fund, established in 2005. While maintaining significant reserves in its Petroleum fund (US\$16.8 billion, 2017), 78 per cent of Timor-Leste's 2017 state budget of US\$1.38 billion drew from the Fund. Timor-Leste has rapidly become one of the most oil-dependent countries in the world. The gross domestic product is estimated to have contracted by 4.7 per cent in 2017 and is expected to be subdued in the coming years.

Timor-Leste is vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards, including strong winds, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, and to a lesser extent, cyclones and regional volcanic activity. The country is also exposed to climate hazards such as floods, flash floods, drought, sea-level rise, storm surge and heavy rainfall. While drought is not frequent, in the last few years an accentuated El Nino/La Nina cycle has exacerbated drought conditions, adding to the impacts of soil erosion and watershed degradation. Sea levels have been rising at around 9mm per year - much higher than the global average - and overall annual rainfall has decreased. With 42 per cent of its population living below the poverty line, Timor-Leste's lack of coping capacity and vulnerability are high. Potential climate shocks and hazards are expected to aggravate poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. There are structures and policies in place that guide disaster and climate risk management for Timor-Leste, and national hazard assessments have been carried out in 2012 and 2013, but institutions lack the resources required to cope with natural disasters (*World Bank, Timor-Leste Systematic Country Diagnostic: Pathways for a New Economy and Sustainable Livelihood, 2018*).

To localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Government of Timor-Leste initiated a SDGs coordination body in 2016, led by the Prime Minister's Office, with support from the National Statistics Office. In 2017, it successfully launched the SDG Roadmap for Timor-Leste. The national coordination mechanism is expected to be revitalized through the Timor-Leste Voluntary National Report 2019, as part of the High-Level Political Forum. This constitutes an excellent opportunity to take stock of progress realized in relation to child-related SDGs, but also to acknowledge the challenges remaining to meet all targets by 2030.

Situation of children in Timor-Leste

The situation of children in Timor-Leste has significantly improved since the nation's restoration of Independence in 2002. Major achievements and milestones have been reached across programmes at national, sub-national and community levels.

However, challenges remain. Timor-Leste's Human Capital Index ranking is 118 out of 157. A child born in Timor-Leste today will only be 43 per cent as productive when grown up compared to that if their full cycle of education had been completed and good health enjoyed. Despite its natural resources, poverty incidence among children is higher than the national average of 42 per cent, even though the overall poverty rate declined from 50 per cent in 2007. Overall, 49 per cent of children under 15 years and 50 per cent of 0 to 8 year-olds live under the national poverty line (US\$46.37 per person per month). Poverty stands at 47 per cent in rural areas, compared to 28 per cent in urban areas. Over half (53 per cent) of all Timor-Leste's poor are in the Central region, the most populated area, which includes Dili and the municipality of Ermera, while 28 per cent reside in the West and 19 per cent in the East. Poverty incidence is highest among households comprising seven or more members and with a high number of dependents. Poor households on average have more children under the age of 15 and more working-age household members. Female-headed households (27 per cent) are less likely to

be poor than male headed-households (43 per cent).

While the under-five mortality rate declined from 64 to 41 per 1,000 live births between 2009 and 2016 (*DHS*), it remained 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). Neonatal mortality declined slightly from 22 per 1,000 live births in 2009 to 19/1,000 in 2016. Maternal mortality declined from 557 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2009 to 218/100,000 in 2016.

The stunting rate among children under the age of five years is strikingly high at 50.2 per cent (*Timor-Leste Food and Nutrition Survey 2013*), causing irreversible effects on early childhood development and the country's prospects. Access to improved water and sanitation are critical issues affecting children and their families, particularly in rural areas. Three-quarters (75 per cent) of households were using improved drinking water sources (urban - 92 per cent, rural 69 per cent), while improved sanitation remained at 57 per cent (urban - 93 per cent, rural - 44 per cent), according to the 2015 Census.

More children and adolescents are attending school, with primary enrolment reaching 91 per cent in 2017, from 88 per cent in 2015. This is remarkable progress, as the entire education system was rebuilt following the restoration of Independence. However, challenges remain in the quality of education, improving water and sanitation at schools, and high repetition rates, among others. A reverse gender trend is emerging with more girls in school, particularly in secondary education. In 2017, the lower secondary gender parity index for net enrolment ratio was 1.26, up from 1.1 in 2015, and 1.35 in upper secondary, up from 1.3 in 2015. The preschool gross enrolment rate was 22 per cent in 2017 (*Ministry of Education/MOE*), below the national target to achieve 50 per cent by 2015.

Domestic violence is widely recognized as a serious issue in Timor-Leste, affecting women and children, both as witnesses and victims of violence. Data from the 2016 DHS showed that approximately 30.3 per cent of women aged 15-19 years had experienced physical violence since the age of 15, barely changed from 30.8 per cent in 2009. Very limited information and reliable data is available on violence against children in Timor-Leste. However, several studies have highlighted the widespread practice of corporal punishment or physical violence used to discipline children at home and in school. A 2016 study showed that 75 per cent of boys and 67 per cent of girls surveyed reported experiencing physical violence by a teacher at school in the previous 12 months (*Study on Violence against Children in Timor-Leste, 2016*). In relation to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), birth registration is a fundamental right for children, yet in 2015 only 60 per cent of children in the country aged under five years were registered, and among those registered, only 30 per cent had an actual birth certificate (*Census 2015*).

Youth and adolescents are recognized as crucially important to national development. Nonetheless, they face significant challenges, including a lack of access to reproductive health information and services, few viable job opportunities and limited access to education and skills development outside of formal education, especially for pregnant adolescent girls (*Gender Responsive Adolescent Health- GRAH Assessment, 2017*). Negative social attitudes towards girls include low expectations and stigma surrounding teenage pregnancy. The pre-secondary net enrolment rate is relatively low, at 56 per cent for girls and 45 per cent for boys (*Education Management Information System/EMIS 2017*). Nineteen per cent of women aged 20-24 reported being married by the age of 18, and three per cent by the age of 15. The adolescent

birth rate was 51 births per 1,000 girls aged 15 to 19 years, more than twice the regional average of 22 births per 1,000. Nine per cent of girls had given birth by the age of 18 years, and 24 per cent by the age of 20 years (*GRAH Assessment, 2017*). Rural girls were twice as likely to become mothers as their urban counterparts.

In 2018, challenges arising from the elections and change in Government, and the related restructuring of some ministries and secretariats, led to some delays in programme implementation and approval of child-related policies. Despite the evolving political and social landscape, UNICEF, together with wide range of partners, contributed to drive for results for children and women in Timor-Leste, as demonstrated in the following section which is framed around the UNICEF global Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

Part 2: Major Results including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the Country Programme Documents

Goal area 1: Every child survives and thrives

Key results

Access to health services improved countrywide in 2018. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) to develop and finalize a national continuous quality improvement framework, standards, tools and leadership manual focusing on maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition, in-line with the global campaign 'Every Child Alive'. This was followed by a gap and needs assessment of health facilities in providing quality maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition services, and the development of an improvement plan, through a consultative process in Ermera and Viqueque municipalities. A national pool of 25 health professionals were trained as national quality improvement leaders, of whom 12 were dispatched to two community health centres in Ermera to pilot the continuous quality improvement initiative. In addition, 94 staff in two municipalities (61 in Ermera, 33 in Viqueque) received orientation on implementation of continuous quality improvement.

UNICEF supported the capacity building of 251 health workers in maternal, newborn and child health in Ermera municipality, with basic equipment for services delivered to its health facilities. In partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF provided 1,000 kangaroo mother care carriers to the national hospital in Dili, to support efforts in reducing neonatal mortality and to facilitate early initiation of breastfeeding for small and pre-term babies.

To improve immunization access, UNICEF in partnership with GAVI procured and distributed cold chain equipment, resulting in improved storage capacity and availability of vaccines in health facilities. Support was provided to MoH to access UNICEF procurement services for vaccines and immunization supplies and advocacy aimed for earmarked budget for vaccines and supplies. In January, UNICEF conducted an orientation on UNICEF procurement rules and policies at SAMES (Serviço Autónomo de Medicamentos e Equipamentos de Saúde), benefiting MoH and Ministry of Finance and facilitating the release of funds for 2019 vaccines.

UNICEF played a key role in supplementary immunization activities campaigns for measles, rubella and polio in July and August, developing and printing related communication materials. The post-campaign survey revealed a coverage of more than the target of 95 per cent (*WHO Immunization Coverage Survey 2018*), and WHO South East Asia Regional Office certified Timor-Leste as a measles-eliminated state.

To contribute to SDG 3 achievement (Good Health and Well-being) UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO and in partnership with the Health Intervention and Technology Assessment Programme provided support to the MoH to improve the quality of data through routine data quality assessments and review of the implementation of district health information systems (DHIS2).

UNICEF played a critical role in supporting the Government of Timor-Leste in its efforts to end all forms of malnutrition in children, in line with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). As of September,, 1,124 children (474 boys and 668 girls) with severe acute malnutrition benefited from community management of acute malnutrition, representing 13.5 per cent of the annual estimated burden of 8,306 children. UNICEF's support to the MoH improved the quality of management of acute malnutrition through implementation of assessment of the implementation of integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) service delivery approach. The assessment revealed gaps in the capacity of health system to provide the services, supply chain and data management. UNICEF, WFP and other nutrition partners initiated support to the MoH to develop an action plan to respond to the recommendations of the assessment.

Inconsistent availability of nutrition supplies in health facilities, a serious challenge that has been hampering the provision of nutrition services, was an area of focus in 2018. Assistance was provided to facilitate an annual forecasting exercise for nutrition supplies; procurement of therapeutic life-saving supplies, vitamin A, iron/folic acid and micronutrients powder; and an evidence-based distribution plan to health facilities. With UNICEF's contribution, during the first three quarters of 2018, 257,936 children aged 6-59 months (125,937 boys; 131,999 girls) received vitamin A supplementation (Health Management Information System/*HMIS, MoH*), 59,582 children aged 6-23 months (30,109 boys; 29,473 girls) received micronutrient powder (*MoH nutrition department database*), and 117,513 children 12 -59 months received deworming tablets (*HMIS, MoH*). Up to June 2018, 13,639 pregnant women received iron/folic acid supplements (*HMIS, MoH*).

UNICEF supported the MoH to protect, promote and support the right to nutrition for infants during the first year of life through multiple strategies, These included a series of advocacy events, use of social media, the celebration of World Breastfeeding Week, the establishment of breastfeeding café where mothers can get support and discuss issues around breastfeeding, and orientation for the MoH and partners to develop a breastmilk substitute code to regulate the advertisement.

Strengthening inter-ministerial coordination to provide quality services for young children is a key objective of the draft early childhood development (ECD) policy, expected to be finalized by the Ministry of Education in 2019. During the year, UNICEF intensified its advocacy on ECD, with an innovative UNICEF Café series launched and a series of talk shows aired on national TV. The UNICEF Café focused on the themes of fatherhood, breastfeeding and baby talk, with influential personalities and public invited to share their parenting experiences. Advocacy videos on early childhood development and early learning via community preschools were produced in Tetun, Portuguese and English and shared through Facebook, YouTube, in meetings, and at other public events.

To address adolescent health with gender-responsiveness, UNICEF continued to offer financial and technical support to the life skills-based education programme, delivered by the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports. In 2018, 309 young people (136 girls and 173 boys), including

38 boys in prison, benefited from the programme, which contained modules on human anatomy and development and reproductive health, with interactive activities about teenage pregnancy, early marriage and menstrual hygiene.

Challenges and way forward

While UNICEF assistance contributed to achievements under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Timor-Leste 2015-2020, specifically to Outcome 1.3 on equal access for all to quality health and nutrition services and behaviour change promotion interventions, the year was particularly challenging due to the uncertain political environment.

For much of the year, the Government operated on a budget covering regular operating expenditures, mostly for permanent staff salaries. While the new Government was installed from June, key positions remained vacant, including the Minister of Health. The budget for MoH has not increased over the last few years and is below international benchmarks. UNICEF, along with other UN agencies and development partners, will continue to advocate for allocating more resources to the health sector for a sustainable and responsive health system that ensures each child survives and thrives.

The availability of quality data for advocacy, evidence-based planning and to measure progress remains a challenge, with 2016 DHS 2016 data exhibiting problems in the areas of nutrition and immunization coverage. Geographic and socio-economic inequities in access to immunization services, coverage and drop-out rates in low-performing municipalities remained a concern. An analysis of the reasons for sub-optimal health and nutrition service coverage will be conducted in 2019 and UNICEF will advocate for resource allocation to address the findings. UNICEF will also advocate for the development of a separate strategy for remote areas, focusing on the revitalization of community health volunteers and the strengthening of mother support groups. Additionally, UNICEF will assist the MoH to implement the Declaration of Astana, to build sustainable primary health care and to empower individuals and communities.

In 2019, with European Union (EU) funding, UNICEF Timor-Leste will support the MoH to improve delivery of health and nutrition services, including effective utilization of budgetary support to Government from the EU. This will cover ensuring MoH and its autonomous agencies have the capacity to implement nutrition, hygiene and sanitation interventions, including implementation of the recommendations from the IMAM evaluation, making evidence-based data available for planning and advocacy for increased resources to the nutrition and health sectors. This will include modelling of adolescent-sensitive nutrition interventions, opportunities to increase dietary diversity, review social behaviour change communication for nutrition including review of the mother support group approach for its inclusivity and sustainability.

Maintenance of equipment and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems in health facilities remains a challenge impacting the quality of health service delivery and increasing capital costs in the long term. In 2019, UNICEF will support the establishment of a cold chain and WASH maintenance system, including guidelines, standard operating procedures, and recording).

Finally, in 2019, a key priority will be to support the Government in updating and finalizing the ECD Policy for approval by the Council of Ministers. High-level advocacy events will be organized, as well as activities in communities, to facilitate increased understanding of ECD.

Goal area 2: Every child learns

Key results

UNICEF's continued support to implementation of models for access to quality preschool and basic education, especially for marginalized children, resulted in strong government commitment for scale-up. For the first time, support for community preschools was included in the Ministry of Education 2019 priorities, which could accelerate expansion of early learning opportunities for children in remote areas. A legal review and policy analysis of government support to community preschools is ready for stakeholder discussion in early 2019 and will contribute to the drafting of a Preschool Management Law to strengthen the governance mechanism for early learning. Drafting and finalization of an ECD Policy is included in the MoE 2019 priorities, which will further strengthen inter-ministerial coordination for early childhood development.

Quality standards for basic education and the licensing of schools is expected to be finalized in early 2019. The licensing system will be expanded to preschools with support from development partners. A review of the clustering of schools generated evidence for MoE to use an equity approach in deciding where to build schools and allocate teachers and other resources. After 18 months of UNICEF modelling in three municipalities, MoE included in its 2019 priorities the re-establishment of student councils throughout the country. UNICEF initiated setting-up student councils in 66 schools as a platform to empower children and adolescents and boost their participation in school activities. Student council members became ambassadors in their schools on 21st century skills, including civic education, global citizenship, and life-skills, and advocates for gender equality and hygiene promotion. Parents were mobilized to support the student councils and school activities.

Peer-to-peer learning between public and private schools, a first in the country, was initiated by UNICEF in 2018. This followed the documentation of good practices in private and public basic education schools completed in late 2017. School exchange visits were conducted to facilitate public schools learning between and among public and private schools, creating a mechanism for communication as an example for expansion.

Gains were achieved in UNICEF support to community preschools, with funding secured up to 2021, allowing UNICEF to focus on systems building and sustainability. The community preschools initiative, now on its third year of full operation, had 3,036 children (1,576 boys and 1,460 girls) enrolled in Ermera and Viqueque Municipalities. The initiative, supported by the New Zealand Government, H&M Foundation and the Morgan Foundation, aims to establish a regulatory framework and governance structure that recognizes community-based preschools as an alternative cost-effective option to reach children in remote areas. The initiative reached 35 per cent of children aged 3-5 years in these municipalities without a pre-school in a two kilometre radius. Of these children, 900 were eligible to enter Grade 1 in 2019 and are expected to be better prepared for formal schooling. To improve quality, training was provided to preschool facilitators and school management committee members throughout 2018. An innovation using real-time data collection to undertake a needs assessment for the community preschools was carried out in March, with results used to shape programming in 2018 and beyond.

To facilitate the smooth transition of children to early grades of basic education, a school readiness intervention commenced in selected schools in Ermera and Dili, with UNICEF

Australia funding. It aims to reduce repetition and dropout in the early grades of primary education by supporting children, their families and schools, as a model for MOE scale-up.

UNICEF continued to exercise leadership through coordination of the development partners and the MoE towards the finalization of the Education Sector Analysis (ESA). The ESA report, funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), was approved in 2018. UNICEF advocated and shared evidence from various studies, including an education monograph supported by UNICEF and based on the 2015 Census, to enable the ESA to have a strong focus on equity. As GPE Coordinating Agency, UNICEF supported the process of identifying a Grant Agent for the preparation of a new Education Sector Plan. To strengthen MoE capacity in sector-wide planning, UNICEF mobilized technical assistance from the UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) and UNESCO Bangkok and organized a workshop in November on Education Sector Plan preparation and streamlining the SDGs. This support is crucial to ensure that SDG 4 targets will be included and for the education sector plan preparation to have a strong capacity development component.

Two key education reports supported by UNICEF highlighted gender issues including an emerging trend of disadvantage for boys. An investigation into the causes will be carried out in 2019. The needs analysis on Timor-Leste's capacity to undertake national and internationally comparable student learning assessments was completed in February. Specific attention was placed on the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics requirements and capacity needs related to classroom-based assessment for Grades 1 to 9. With UNICEF EAPRO assistance, the analysis is being used to tailor UNICEF support in 2019 to strengthen MoE capacity to measure learning outcomes.

In WASH, UNICEF programming put increased emphasis on addressing gender-specific issues with support to selected schools as models for mobilizing student councils in hygiene promotion, including menstrual hygiene management. Materials developed will be used by MoE for hygiene promotion in other schools.

Advocacy and evidence generation on the rights of children with disabilities, using the social model of disability, increased awareness among various stakeholders. UNICEF, as part of a joint UN project on disabilities, documented baseline data attitudes towards disability among teachers and education officials, and guidelines on inclusion in policies and legislation were developed.

The results achieved in advancing UNICEF Strategic Plan Outcome 2 in 2018 also contributed to realizing outcome 1.2 of the UNDAF Timor-Leste 2015-2020 related to the education sub-sector.

Challenges and way forward

Political uncertainty created significant challenges in 2018, with Government operating most of the year without an approved budget. Despite the challenges, UNICEF continued to model ongoing interventions, such as community preschools, and introduced new initiatives like the school readiness programme.

In 2019, UNICEF will build on gains on the ground and focus on influencing policies, especially as the MoE is including several interventions initiated by UNICEF in its 2019 priorities. These include strengthening the legal framework and governance for preschools; expanding student councils to facilitate child and adolescent participation; bolstering an equity approach in

resource allocation, with the finalization of school clusters; and supporting the streamlining of MoE data collection. Improving quality will see the finalization of the licensing system for schools, implementing a policy for teachers to address violence against children in schools, and technical support to implement the Inclusive Education policy. Another priority is the ESP preparation, which is an opportunity to mainstream SDG4 targets and place an emphasis on gender equality, inclusive education, and learning. In 2019, UNICEF will support the MoE to strengthen the curriculum for lower and upper secondary education, with a focus on twenty-first century skills and the use of information technology in education.

Goal area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

Key results

UNICEF Timor-Leste achieved key results in advancing Goal Area 3 of the UNICEF Strategic Plan through its extended contribution towards empowering families to protect themselves and eliminate harmful behaviours; strengthening national systems that prevent and respond to violence against boys and girls; protecting children that come in contact with the law; enabling universal access to birth registration; and promoting children's rights among decision-makers and the wider public. The achieved results are aligned with the UNDAF 2015-2020 Outcome 1.1 for the Social Security sub-sector.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion (MSSI) to deliver a parenting programme called Hametin Familia (Strengthening Families), which empowers families with the skills and knowledge to provide care and protection to their children. In 2018, 415 community sessions were conducted in the municipality of Ermera, benefiting 8,221 parents and caregivers (female – 5,419, male – 2,791) and their 16,442 children aged 0-8 years. The curriculum comprises a multi-sectoral approach that responds to children holistically, addressing issues related to general parenting, health, nutrition, early stimulation, among others. Parents were encouraged to discuss the critical role of fathers in child development and to share personal childrearing experiences. In addition, approximately 430 households received targeted support through home visits.

To increase the impact of the programme, youth drama performances were conducted, reinforcing key behaviour change messages linked to curriculum topics. UNICEF worked with a local NGO, TERTIL, to establish two youth theatre groups in Ermera and Viqueque, engaging 26 local young people who were trained on performance and communication skills. One drama show was performed in each municipality, with audiences of around 1,000 people, demonstrating a high level of community engagement. In 2018, the parenting programme was part of a regional review, led by UNICEF EAPRO, with an in-country visit completed with active engagement of stakeholders in communities and MSSI staff. The final report is expected in the first half of 2019.

The community dialogue initiated through the parenting programme helped create an enabling environment that encouraged parent and caregiver behaviour change. The establishment of a Fathers Network in Ermera municipality saw 25 fathers become agents of change for the promotion of men's involvement and participation in child rearing. The Fathers Network was integrated into community parenting sessions to reach a wider audience, contributing to overcoming gender discriminatory roles and expectations related to parenting. To further address this issue, UNICEF organized its first UNICEF Café on fatherhood in June and a second one on Baby Talk to Dad in October, both widely covered by national TV channels. In partnership with UN Women and the Embassy of Sweden in Jakarta, 'Timorese Dads' was

launched, involving a photography competition, an exhibition of the best 10 photographs (as part of the campaign 'Ending violence against Women and Girls' in Timor-Leste), and a workshop on Respectful Parenting attended by 18 parents.

To ensure every child can access child protection services, UNICEF provided support to MSSI in developing and implementing a comprehensive social welfare workforce training on implementation of the Child and Family Welfare Policy. The Policy recognizes and defines the role of various entities in protecting and responding to child well-being. A key focus of the Policy is to encourage positive attitudes and caring community practices through mediation and dialogue. Fourteen training modules were finalized, and training on six out of the 14 modules was conducted in four sub-municipalities of Dili and Viqueque. In total, 382 social welfare workers – including MSSI and MoE staff, police officers, local authorities, community leaders, media representatives and NGO representatives – were trained to collectively address child protection issues and to improve coordination mechanisms in protecting and responding to child well-being. While progress has been made, further efforts need to be undertaken to ensure the recording of each case to ensure comprehensive and timely support.

A civil society organization (CSO) roundtable discussion, initiated by the commission on the rights, provided space to them advocating for child protection and child rights issues in the country, specifically for the approval of the Child Protection Law, the Juvenile Justice Law, the Civil Registry Law, and the Children's Code. With support from UNICEF, the discussion was conducted with participation from CSOs working in the area human rights, legal aid, and service delivery, including ADTL (Asociasaun Defisensi Timor-Leste), AIFela, ChildFund, Focupers, Casa Vida, and the Forum Communication Oratorio Dom Bosco (FCJ). As result of the discussion, a civil society advocacy network called 'Lian ba Labarik' was established to advocate for a child rights legal provision. Recommendations from the roundtable were finalized and handed over to the Child Rights Commission to pass on to other government organs and the Parliament.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the MSSI, strengthened the prison case management system. Specifically, 30 prison guards in Becora prison, Dili, were trained on how to keep and manage individual case records for children in prison so that their health, education and legal aid status could easily be followed up by prison staff, with monitoring to be conducted in 2019.

To improve coverage of birth registration, two birth registration posts in the municipality-level community health centres of Ermera and Manatuto were established. Ten midwives and five community leaders trained on the operational manual to ensure timely birth registration. As a result, 1,470 children aged 0-17 years were registered in those two health facilities during the year. Birth registration is one of the key targets under SDG 16, and UNICEF will continue to work closely with relevant stakeholders to increase the number of children registered in Timor-Leste. UNICEF signed a three-year Birth Registration Project with the Government of Japan, totalling US\$2.5 million, aimed at improving and strengthening birth registration in the country. The project focuses on system strengthening, local capacity building, community awareness, and empowering children and families on the importance of birth registration as a fundamental human right.

Challenges and way forward

The changing government structure and leadership, in both high and middle levels, affected coordination among officials at central and municipality level, resulting in delayed programme

implementation. In 2019, it will be crucial to align with the new Government's priorities and to reinforce the existing cooperation at all levels.

In the coming year UNICEF will strengthen the parenting programme, expand the birth registration system, and assess the application of the case management system for children in prison. UNICEF will provide technical guidance and assistance to the MSSl in the design and implementation of a three-year project to strengthen the child and family welfare system in Timor-Leste, including strengthening the social services workforce. This project will strengthen standards and regulations and address inconsistencies in the current child protection legislative framework in terms of principles and approaches to prevention and response to violence against children in their homes and communities. Additional issues to be addressed include the need to strengthen mechanisms for regulating residential care institutions and development of clear criteria to safeguard the unnecessary institutionalization of children.

Goal area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

Key results

With UNICEF Timor-Leste assistance in 2018, the entire 130,000 population of Ermera municipality was declared open defecation free (ODF), with high-level officials from national, municipal and community levels honouring the achievement. The achievement, and participation of officials from across the country, increased commitment to achieving ODF national status by 2020.

Community-led total sanitation (CLTS) triggering processes were initiated in 214 communities in the municipalities of Ainaro, Covalima and Oecusse. Messages on improved health and hygiene behaviours were shared with an estimated 23,900 households in these communities, with a total population of 129,175 (*Census 2015*). Community-based hygiene promotion activities were aimed at supporting the uptake and sustainability of good health and hygiene practices at homes, schools and in communities. The Government plans to declare the country ODF by 2020 and UNICEF will support CLTS in three more municipalities in the next two years.

Nationally, WASH coverage remained inadequate, with limited resources available to address the issue. Through the CLTS initiative, the need for a new water supply schemes was identified in 26 ODF communities in Ermera municipality and 18 in Ainaro municipality. UNICEF provided support to communities by preparing a survey and design of water supply schemes, which communities could use to negotiate resources with local government. These water supply schemes will benefit 30,000 people, including 44 schools with 8,800 students.

In 2018, UNICEF continued its advocacy to integrate WASH in schools (WinS), engaging students and parents in hygiene promotion via student councils and parent teacher associations, and linking WinS to broader community engagement on water, hygiene and the CLTS. At policy level, UNICEF promoted a comprehensive and long-term approach to WinS by supporting the Ministry of Education to develop a national WASH in Schools Strategy and Costed Action Plan, which was finalized, incorporating inputs and views from stakeholders. The Strategy highlights hygiene promotion, menstrual hygiene management, and issues linked to gender, inclusion of children with disabilities and climate change adaptation. Another key focus is the link with school health and strengthened inter-ministerial coordination. The WinS Strategy provides a crucial input to the Education Sector Plan to be prepared from 2019, ensuring WASH in schools is included in Government medium-term priorities. Once the sector plan is approved, Timor-Leste will be eligible for a US\$4.1 million funding from the Global Partnership

for Education to implement the entire education sector plan, including WinS.

At the school level, student leaders became advocates for hygiene promotion and maintenance of WASH facilities through orientation and training of student councils established in 66 schools in two municipalities. Student council members, mostly adolescents aged 10-14 years, were trained on hygiene promotion, operation and maintenance of WASH facilities, gender issues and WinS guidelines. Also trained were school principals and their assistants, teachers and parents. A crucial component of the training in 12 schools was the engagement with the community water management group and the municipal representatives of the government water authority to ensure sustainability and to facilitate strong ownership of the community. This is an approach UNICEF is modelling for application across schools in the country. Materials developed, such as videos, posters, and training materials, will be used by the MoE for hygiene promotion across the country.

In 2018, UNICEF started the construction of four water systems to benefit four communities with 155 households and a total population of 1,010 persons, including children and adolescents. Schools and public health centres will be connected to the water systems, reaching 1,801 students. Additionally, community water management groups were established and trained for each community, and UNICEF introduced a low-cost model of an easily-installed group handwashing facilities designed for smaller children in eight schools across two municipalities as a showcase for the MoE and other development partners working in WASH.

An assessment of WASH in health facilities was undertaken, as part of UNICEF's support to the continuous quality improvement programme of the MoH. The report highlighted the urgent need to improve WASH conditions in health facilities, with about 40 per cent of community health centres without regular water supply at their premises, while about 30 per cent of the visited health posts lacked water supply systems. The results of the assessment were presented to the MoH and development partners to address the issues through allocating more resources both from the State budget and partner contributions. In follow up, UNICEF supported MoH to develop national WASH standards for health facilities and improved WASH conditions in two health facilities in Ermera, as part of continuous quality improvement. UNICEF assistance is expected to continue in Viqueque and Oecusse municipalities in 2019.

UNICEF also supported the implementation of initiatives around climate change adaptation and mitigation through disaster risk reduction in schools, implementation of environmental protection measures during construction of schools, gravity-fed water systems in communities, and use of solar water pumps. All interventions support Timor-Leste in achieving SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and contribute to meeting Outcome 2.3 of the UNDAF related to WASH.

Challenges and way forward

Water is a precious commodity in Timor-Leste, with many households, health centres, schools and other public establishments still lacking access to clean and safe water. A significant portion (25 percent) of the rural population lack access to clean and safe drinking water (*DHS, 2016*). Nationwide, while 70.2 per cent of schools have toilets, 29.9 percent of them are partially functioning or not functioning (*MoE, 2016*). Existing water sources are vulnerable to climate change and water quality testing is inadequate. In 2018, little public investment went to the WASH sector, a result of delays in Government budget approval.

In 2019, UNICEF will support Government - which has highlighted WASH as a top priority –to advocate for supportive policies and increased investment in urban and rural areas. Support

will continue to scale-up community-led total sanitation to more municipalities; improve institutional capacities at all levels to implement and sustain CLTS; improve WASH conditions in health facilities and schools; expand interventions around improving water quality management, WASH in urban settings and climate change adaptation; and for the development of WASH sector master plan for health facilities. Emergency preparedness will also be a priority with UNICEF including continuing to co-chair the WASH Cluster. A key approach for 2019 will be to use evidence to mobilize various partners to support WinS as part of funding for the broader WASH sector.

In terms of climate change, UNICEF will continue to engage in the development of the National Climate Change Policy Framework, work on which started in 2017, ensuring issues linked to children and their families are addressed together with the new VIII Government and other development partners.

Goal area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

Key results

Key results have been achieved in advancing the Strategic Plan Goal Area 5, despite the political turmoil in 2018, through the five change strategies of UNICEF's Strategic Plan: (1) winning support for the cause of children from decision-makers and the wider public; (2) developing and leveraging resources and partnership for children; (3) United Nations working together; (4) fostering innovation in programming and advocacy for children; and (5) using the power of evidence to drive change for children.

For social protection, UNICEF contributed to the development and finalization of the Assessment Based National Dialogue, taking an active role in the thematic group on child welfare, comprising MSSSI, the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF, and other social sector line ministries. This process supported the recommendation of increasing investment in children, especially during their early years. For a robust social protection system, an inclusive and universal registration mechanism is a critical component requiring Government support for young people to access a wide range of social services. This starts with birth registration, which remains low in Timor-Leste. Consequently, UNICEF partnered with UNDP and UN Resident Coordinator's Office, through a UNCT joint project on 'Unique ID: the gateway for social inclusion and e-government' in 2018.

Together with the National Statistics Office, UNICEF disseminated Factsheets for SDGs 1,4 and 16, analysed through a lens of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and finalized the comprehensive SDG Child Data Book, which provides disaggregated analysis by sex, age, geographic area, among others.

A civil society network for child rights was established to support the monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of the Child throughout 2018. UNICEF and UN Women worked together providing support for the Unit for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (UPMA) of the Prime Minister's Office in relation to gender and child rights-sensitive budgeting. An inclusive budgeting workshop was jointly organized for CSOs working on gender, child rights and disability issues in the country and inviting Parliamentarians and Ministry of Finance staff. Later, joint recommendations by CSOs were directly submitted to Parliament, followed by a bilateral discussion organized between CSOs and Parliamentarians.

With the aim of bringing young voices into the public domain, a Facebook platform by young

people for young people, was successfully launched. The platform, developed through a consultative process, is managed by eight youth volunteers. In addition, UNICEF supported the implementation of initiatives around the National Youth Policy by printing 1,000 bilingual copies of the document.

To invest effectively and efficiently in the Youth Parliament programme, UNICEF supported the State Secretary of Youth and Sport by conducting an evaluation of the programme, with young people aged 15 to 25 years actively engaged throughout the process. Young people not only demonstrated their capacity to participate effectively in the evaluation exercise, but also added value to its design, raising important questions and sharing useful insights often overlooked by adults and other experts.

Under the UN Youth Result Group, in 2018 UNICEF funded a celebration for International Youth Day together with other UN agencies. The event benefited around 300 young people, who participated in a range of activities such as workshops, a beach cleaning event and a cooking competition. To involve children and adolescents in decisions affecting their lives, UNICEF conducted an advocacy initiative to promote safe learning spaces for children as part of the 'End Violence Against Children' movement. The campaign gained momentum during the celebration of World Children's Day.

The rights of children with disabilities were included in UNICEF's advocacy work, both in programme components and in communication activities and events. Some boys and girls with disabilities performed at a World Children's Day event and participated in the consultation process to provide recommendations for safe and inclusive learning spaces, which were submitted to the Minister of Education.

Gender was a cross-cutting issue addressed and mainstreamed throughout all phases and across all the programmes. Regarding gender discriminatory roles and expectations, the parenting programme, the Fathers Network, and the Timorese Dads initiative, all addressed gender stereotypes and expectations related to parenting. WASH facilities were built according to gender-specific and disability needs. Schools were inaugurated with age-appropriate, gender-sensitive and inclusive measures, and teachers, student councils and parents undertook trainings on menstrual hygiene management, WASH facilities maintenance and hygiene promotion.

Challenges and way forward

To address cross-cutting issues affecting children, especially for the most marginalized, the implementation of the inter-ministerial National Action Plan for Children (NAPC) 2016-2020 in Timor-Leste is critical. The newly established VIII Constitutional Government has demonstrated its commitment as stipulated in the government programme approved in July 2018, "empowering the Commission for the Rights of the Child to implement NAPC". However, the Commission is placed under the General Directorate of the MSSI, which limits its role. As a way forward, UNICEF will continue advocating for the strategic positioning of the Commission, while exploring other potential partners who can support the coordination and monitoring of the NAPC.

In 2019, the Government aims to finalize the National Social Protection Strategy, based on the Assessment Based National Dialogue completed in 2018. The lack of a coordination mechanisms on social protection poses a challenge in knowledge management and coordination among development partners, including within the UN system. An ongoing

UNDAF evaluation for Timor-Leste will provide an opportunity to assess the UN contribution to the field of social protection and other cross-sectoral areas, while providing recommendations to improve the coordination around social protection in the country.

Lack of disaggregated data, especially on disability and on wealth quintiles, limits the capacity of evidence-based policy and planning to address the needs of marginalized children. The ongoing Voluntary National Review, as part of the High-Level Forum 2019 and Census 2020, will be an opportunity to address the evidence gap on disaggregated and quality data. UNICEF Timor-Leste provided feedback on Census 2020 questionnaires in 2018 and will continuously work closely with key stakeholders in 2019.

To build on the momentum created through advocacy initiatives this year, UNICEF will work with Parliamentary committees, such as Commission F and G which are covering health, social security, gender, education, and youth issues, with aims to establish a Children's Caucus. Another priority for 2019 will be to explore ways to rally the private sector in promoting and protecting children's rights.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

Lessons learned and constraints

After the elections in mid-2017 resulted in a minority coalition that was unable to pass a Government programme and budget, the Parliament was dissolved in January 2018. New Parliamentary elections were held in May, with a coalition of three parties winning an outright majority. In June 2018, the Government was formally sworn in, but several ministerial posts, including for the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance, were still not approved by the President at the end of the year. The 2018 budget was formally approved on 27 September.

This series of events resulted in extensive government leadership turn-over, shifting priorities, a lack of government budget and an inability to move forward in key policy areas. Significant uncertainty remains, as the 2019 budget has yet to be approved, and if delayed or rejected, the coming year could see additional changes and challenges.

The unstable and rapidly-changing political and institutional changes that took place in 2018 created several challenges to UNICEF Timor-Leste's programming. Finalization of workplans were delayed, as without an approved programme and budget, the interim Government was unable to fund new programmes or move forward additional policy initiatives. The new government leadership also needed to be appraised on UNICEF programmes and partnerships.

While challenging, the continuity of UNICEF Timor-Leste programmes and partnerships was maintained in most programme areas, through close cooperation and strong engagement of ministries at technical levels. Detailed planning, continuous dialogue and joint decision-making with Government and the regular assessment and review of programmes and partnerships were critical in the achievement of results. These strong relationships, built over years, allowed UNICEF Timor-Leste and technical staff within ministries to provide detailed briefings, updates and description of programme strategies, progress and plans to new ministry leadership, ensuring a continuation of programming, particularly for activities at municipal and community level. However, progress at the policy level was seriously hindered across programmes and

ministries, as new policies could not be put forward under the interim Government, and the new administration was focused on establishing its structures and advancing its agenda.

A priority for UNICEF Timor-Leste in 2018 was to strengthen advocacy, external communications and partnerships, with various innovative initiatives developed and implemented in 2018, in line with the Global Cause Framework and in the context of the country programme. These included the launch of the UNICEF Café series and the Journal of Change – highlighting important results and progress achieved with UNICEF support in 2017. Throughout the year, a range of advocacy tools (photos, videos, stories, publications, events) were developed, contributing to the improved reach and efficacy of advocacy and fundraising initiatives. A lesson learned was the need for a full set of materials and tools that can meet various advocacy requirements and reach different target audiences.

Advocacy around early childhood development and Ending Violence Against Children resulted in expanded partnerships with the National Parliament, Rotary Club and private media. A successful initiative developed and launched in 2018 was the UNICEF Café, where participants from various backgrounds came together to discuss critical aspects of early childhood development through collective learning and dialogue, resulting in the engagement of new stakeholders and the development of new partnerships. UNICEF Café themes in 2018 included Father's Day, breastfeeding and Baby Talk for Dads. The Café was recognized as a global good practice.

The sustainability of UNICEF-supported programmes, within a context of limited government resources and human resource capacities remained a challenge. With Independence restored in 2002, Timor-Leste has rapidly rebuilt its infrastructure, institutions and systems, developed policies and legal frameworks and rapidly expanded access to services. Capacity development, in many cases, has lagged behind the rapid scaling-up of government policies, programmes and services. In this environment, UNICEF Timor-Leste has placed a high value on capacity building and system strengthening to improve the quality, continuity and sustainability of programmes and services for children.

Given the ongoing fragility in Timor-Leste, the importance of systematic monitoring of UNICEF-supported programmes to routinely gauge progress toward achievement of planned outputs and outcomes and to ensure national and local level investment and capacities support sustainability, has become increasingly evident. In 2018, programme monitoring found challenges in the application of new knowledge and skills provided through training, insufficient government and community ownership and maintenance of supported infrastructure (schools, water systems, sanitation facilities) and concerns in the viability and sustainability of community support mechanisms such as mother support groups, parent teacher associations, and community animators. A more systematic and partnership-based approach to programme monitoring is needed, taking advantage of innovative technology and participatory approaches. In 2018, tablet-based real-time monitoring of community preschools, engagement of beneficiaries in all stages of the evaluation of the country's Youth Parliament and joint monitoring with Government and partners of nutrition programmes, confirmed the importance of strong programme monitoring, including engagement of young people, and the potential for improvements in this area for 2019.

UNICEF Timor-Leste's programme is primarily dependent on voluntary funding (Other Resources/OR). In addition to funding from UNICEF National Committees in Australia, Japan, Korea and New Zealand, the timely provision of UNICEF global thematic funding has been

critical in complementing OR funds throughout UNICEF programmes. In the years to come, attracting more predictable, multi-year and unearmarked funding will be critical to building a balanced and strategic country programme portfolio.

The theories of change and results frameworks remained relevant to guide programme delivery, as the programmes continue to address the most pressing challenges faced by children in Timor-Leste. The Annual Management Plan provided clearly articulated priorities and strategies and the means for effective and efficient programme monitoring and biannual reviews.

Cross-cutting strategies

Cross-cutting strategies are utilized by UNICEF Timor-Leste, and in many cases are executed concurrently to achieve the best results for children. Programming for results at scale is at the core of Timor-Leste programming, combining efforts for better integration of programmes; increased cooperation and strengthening of partnerships; capacity building at all levels (policy, management, service delivery); and improved service quality and demand creation at community level. Combined, these elements greatly determine the success of programmes and their potential for scale-up. As systems and services are being built and strengthened simultaneously in Timor-Leste, the scaling up of UNICEF-supported programmes are considered throughout the design, delivery, monitoring, and evaluation of programmes.

In order to support programme success and scale up, advocacy, partnerships and participation are used to win support for the cause of children and to mobilize people, resources and commitment to achieving results for children. Closely linked to advocacy and partnerships is the use of evidence to drive change. The combination of global evidence and good practices, local evidence on what works, and research to identify and test new solutions and approaches, contributes towards quality programme design and strategy formulation. Strong monitoring and evaluation, including the valuable participation of beneficiaries and end-users, feeds back into programmes to make them stronger, more contextualized and more able to adapt to changes as required.

Bringing together the strengths and resources of different UN agencies provides an opportunity for greater success and impact on Timor-Leste's development. Working well together is especially crucial in areas that cut across UN agency mandates, such as adolescents and youth, nutrition, gender and human rights.

Strategies with the potential for greater investment in time and resources include harnessing the power of business and markets for children and fostering innovation. While the private sector in Timor-Leste is small, working with it and with business leaders provides an opportunity to harness business's networks and capacities for driving change and developing innovative and effective solutions. The use of innovative means for communicating, monitoring programmes and harnessing the voice and power of children and adolescents is essential and will continue to be prioritized.

Looking forward

Drawing on lessons learned and emerging opportunities, UNICEF Timor-Leste will focus on five critical and interconnected strategies to drive the development of the new Country Programme (2021-2025) and improve results for children: (1) expanding and strengthening partnerships –

internationally and with development partners at national and local levels; (2) working with Government and partners toward scale and sustainability of programmes; (3) linking evidence and advocacy; (4) broadening participation; and (5) improving the quality of systems and services.

Partnerships will continue to drive UNICEF Timor-Leste programming. Strong partnerships with Government, from national to local level, will ensure alignment with their priorities and contribute to sustained results for children. UNICEF Timor-Leste and Government will also work closely to achieve broad coordination of sectoral areas, such as education, WASH, nutrition and child protection. At community level, programmes and partnerships will be strengthened by supporting communities to guide local development and engaging families in applying positive child-rearing practices. Partnerships with other UN agencies and development partners will build on the strengths and resources of different agencies to pursue opportunities for cooperation and joint programming. Special attention will be placed on strengthening partnerships around nutrition, safe cities, adolescents and youth, health system strengthening and on the development of the education sector plan. Partnerships will also be expanded with international academic institutions, international NGOs and local CSOs. The private sector will be brought in as a vital partner in addressing adolescent and youth issues, and for sharing best practices and investing in education and ECD. Partnerships with media, including television, radio and print media, will continue to be developed, seeking new and innovative ways to advocate for and engage the public in children's issues.

A focus on sustainability and scale-up of programmes and services for children and families is essential, as the current country programme nears completion. Strong evidence generation on what works and what doesn't will guide programme adaptation and implementation and will ensure that what is taken to scale is appropriate and sustainable. The costing of programmes will provide the necessary information to Government and partners regarding the investments needed to scale and sustain results for children. Advocacy for increased financial commitments from the Government will aim to create the fiscal space for improving access to and quality of services, especially for vulnerable groups and those living in rural and remote communities. UNICEF Timor-Leste will also work with development partners and UN agencies to support the Government in setting clear targets and strategies for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind.

Significant and substantive engagement at both the upstream and downstream levels provides UNICEF the opportunity to conduct research and data analysis, monitor policy and programme implementation at local level, and to feedback to Government and partners on what works, who is not being reached and what corrective courses are needed. Empirical evidence of change within communities and improved results for children will be used to develop a compelling case for investment and improved programming for children. Evidence generation and documentation of local experiences will be linked to strong advocacy and communication messaging aimed at leaders, decision-makers, service providers and caregivers. Advocacy channels will include the use of mass media, social media and publications, as well as content development - including video, voice and images. Importantly, advocacy and the sharing of evidence will involve service providers and programme beneficiaries to reinforce quality service delivery, utilization of services and positive child development practices.

Working in a country with one of the youngest populations in the world, UNICEF Timor-Leste will increase its support to the development of national strategies and programmes for adolescents, ensuring their strong participation and engagement. This is aligned with

Government and partner priorities and has enormous potential for going to scale. UNICEF Timor-Leste will work to expand the participation, engagement and contribution of community leaders, parents and caregivers and adolescents in dialogue, solution development and action to address issues such as teenage pregnancy, health and nutrition, safe use of social media, safe spaces and life skills.

As access to services continue to increase, through Government and partner investments, the equity and quality of these services and the results achieved will be prioritized. UNICEF will continue to focus many of its interventions in the hardest-to-reach populations, and expand its programming for vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities and children affected by violence, abuse and neglect. Services will be improved through capacity building and systems strengthening, considering lessons learned and the local context. Continual quality improvement approaches will focus on improving the performance of health services at facility level, in partnership with other UN agencies and development partners. In education, UNICEF Timor-Leste will work with Government and partners in measuring learning outcomes, to better identify subject areas and populations requiring additional support. Across programmes, improved programme monitoring and information sharing will allow for regular review and adjustment of interventions, to ensure service quality improvement efforts are successful and replicable.

UNICEF is well positioned to support Timor-Leste in achieving its national development goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. Partnerships will provide the foundation for improving results for children, supported by joint efforts toward sustainability and scale, evidence generation and advocacy, increased and more meaningful participation, and a commitment to quality services.

END/