



Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste Round 2 (SEIA 2.0)

RESULTS FOR DILI* MUNICIPALITY

* Atauro Island was declared a new municipality since January 2022. At the time of SEIA 2.0, Atauro was an Administrative Post of Dili Municipality hence the results are not presented separately for Atauro.



**Dili**

12 July to 27 July 2021

**21**

Sucos

**740**

Households

**11.0%**

Agricultural activities

**15.4%** Households
Headed by women**4626**

Individual members

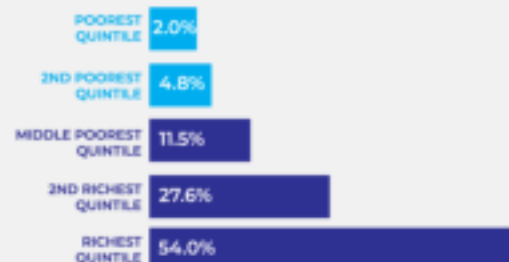
48.2%
Female**51.8%**
Male**14** Interviewers
from Dili**1.0%** of individuals aged above 15 years old had a disability.

Data presented in this report are representative of Dili. The results represent the households interviewed. Caution must be applied in interpreting data. Data are reported only at municipality level- for confidentiality purposes, suco and aldeias included in the survey are not mentioned in this factsheet. For the survey analysis, sample weights were calculated to address the unequal household selection probabilities, non-response and under-coverage. Separate weights were calculated for household-level data, individual-level data and respondent-level data.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR DILI

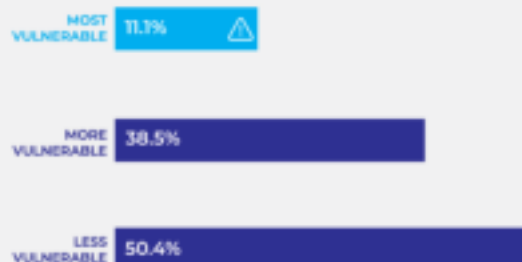
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

WEALTH QUINTILES IN DILI



Wealth seems to be concentrated in Dili, where, according to the SEIA 2.0, only 6.8% of all households are found in the poorest two quintiles in Dili.

VULNERABLE GROUPS IN DILI



The social vulnerability index measures the number of characteristics of persons in the household that place them at higher risk of economic deprivation, exclusion, and social isolation.

Households with members of older age, having a disability, female headship of the household and the number of children vis à vis persons in the working-age groups (the child dependency ratio) were measured. Households are divided into 3 groups – Most Vulnerable, More Vulnerable and Less Vulnerable.

Economic vulnerability of households was measured through a wealth index and making comparisons between the poorest (lowest wealth quintile) and relatively well-off (highest wealth quintiles) households. The wealth index was calculated based on households' assets, ownership, utilities, and dwelling characteristics.

**11.1%** most vulnerable
households in Dili**21.7%** most vulnerable
households in the whole country**35.3%**
of the persons living in MOST
VULNERABLE households were men**64.7%**
of the persons living in MOST
VULNERABLE households were women

Among the people living in Most Vulnerable households, there were more women than men. The proportion of men and women living in More Vulnerable households was similar. In contrast, more than half of the people living in Less Vulnerable households were men (54.6% men and 45.4% women).

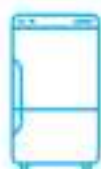
HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Before the April 2021 Easter flood, did the household have or own one or more of the following items?



76.0%

national average 49.3%



62.8%

national average 30.4%



90.1%

national average 69.9%

Before the April 2021 Easter flood, did any member of this household have or own one or more of the following items?



42.0%

national average 16.8%



96.1%

national average 92.7%



56.5%

national average 40.3%

Digital technologies and private transportation have been heavily relied upon to mitigate the effects of physical distancing and movement restrictions. Dili has the highest number of households owning various equipment and assets.

WASH



97.0%

have water available
in the house



84.6%

national average



97.2%

used soap



75.7%

national average

Number of households with water and soap available in the house was high.

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE



36.5%

have some savings



13.4%

borrowed money



58.2%

member(s) with bank accounts



31.8%

national average



30.7%

national average



40.3%

national average

Proportion of households with someone with savings, with bank accounts and who has borrowed money was considerably lower than the average.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN DILI

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION



3052

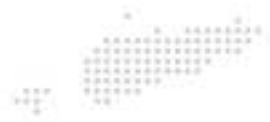
individuals aged 15+ years

The SEIA 2.0 asked about their employment situation during the COVID-19 pandemic.



36.3%

labour force participation rate



51.9%

national average

Dili has the lowest labour force participation rate in the country. One of the explanations for this could be longer durations of participation in education among persons under 20.

Proportion of employed people in the working-age population



14.3%

nationwide employment
41.7% for women



20.6%

nationwide employment
48.6% for men



17.6%

of the working-age population
were employed in Dili



45.2%

national average

The employment rate of both women and men were significantly lower than the national average. More men were employed than women.

Unemployment and economically inactive people in the working-age population

UNEMPLOYED



15.4%



21.3%

INACTIVE



70.3%



57.3%

The proportion of economically inactive individuals is higher than the national average. More women were economically inactive than men.

Proportion of employed persons in vulnerable employment



63.1%

individuals in
vulnerable employment

The percentage of employed individuals in vulnerable employment was lower than the national average.

The categories of self-employed without employees and contributing family workers are considered as being in vulnerable employment.



22.7%

self-employed
(without employees)

35.9%

contributing
family workers



23.2%

self-employed
(without employees)

47.3%

contributing
family workers

86.3%
national average



More than half of the employed individuals had temporarily lost their jobs due to COVID-19. Slightly more men (57.6%) than women (50.6%) had temporarily lost their jobs.



In many, if not most cases, the recorded 'job loss' should be interpreted as a temporary suspension of work.

CHANGES IN TIME SPENT DOING HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19

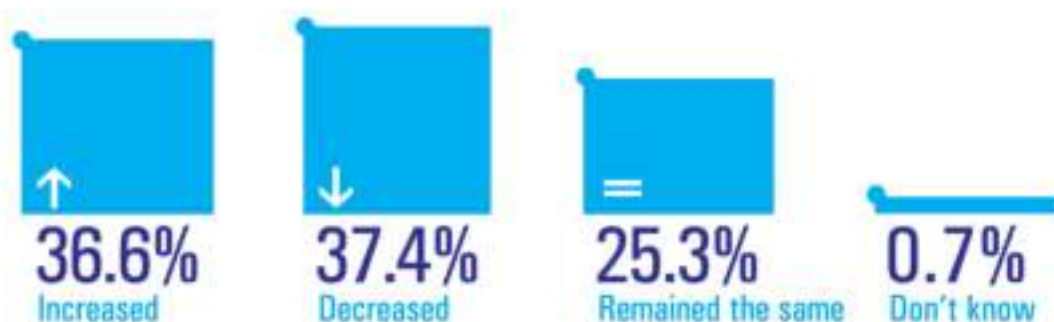


Nearly one-third of the households mentioned increase in time spent doing various household chores because of the COVID-19 Emergency. The majority of persons who were most affected by a change in time spent on domestic chores were women. In cooking and cleaning, of all the persons affected women comprised 89.6%.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Has the level of your household expenditures increased or decreased due to the corona situation, or did it remain the same?

COVID-19 has impacted 74.0% of households' expenditure in terms of either increasing or decreasing expenditure.



HOUSEHOLD SOURCES OF INCOME DURING COVID-19



The most common source of income was income from work or sale of products before and after the COVID-19 Emergency.



36.3% of the individuals who had an earning said their income was affected by COVID-19

24.6% national average

FOOD INSECURITY DURING THE PANDEMIC



41.1%
households in Dili
were affected by moderate
or severe food insecurity

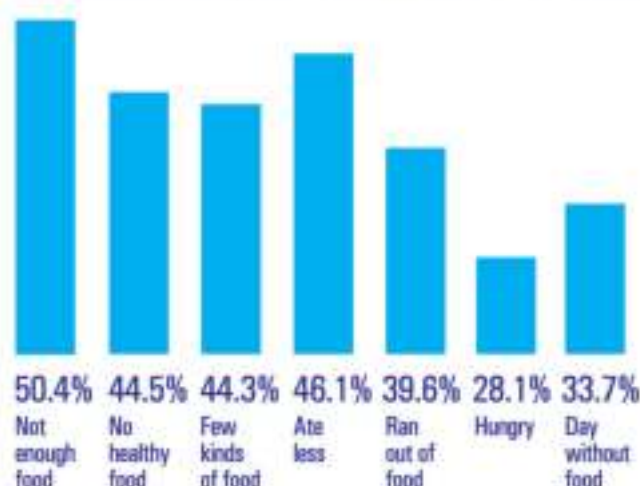
41.4%
national average



20.4%
were affected
by severe food
insecurity

19.3%
national average

Food concerns experienced in the last one month



A large number of households reported there was a time when 'household members were hungry' and 'went without eating for a whole day' due to lack of money or other resources for food'.

LIVELIHOOD COPING MECHANISMS

Because of a lack of food or a lack of money to buy food, did your household in the last one month had to ...?



Most common coping strategies used were spending savings and reducing education and health costs. A larger proportion of the economically vulnerable households had used different coping mechanisms. Due to their deprived economic position, they are more frequently forced to cope differently to put food on the table.



41.9%
households mentioned they faced major difficulties
or shocks affecting their lives since the COVID-19
State of Emergency



18.8%
households experienced
poor harvest



17.3%
households experienced
Erratic rainfall / dry spells

Further 14.4% of respondents were most worried about the negative effects of the COVID-19 on the national economy. 3.0% said they did not have concerns related to COVID-19.



What is your main
concern about COVID-19?

41.5% lack of
money or food

37.0%
health

The proportion of those concerned with
the national economy was the highest
compared to other municipalities.

EASTER FLOOD

Over the Easter weekend in the beginning of April 2021, Timor-Leste suffered devastating floods and landslides. The combination of the pandemic and the Easter Flood created a perilous situation that posed a direct threat to people's health and livelihood.



40.7%
households had their dwelling damaged by the Easter Flood
(significantly higher than the national average)



54.3%
agricultural households interviewed had their standing crops and harvest destroyed due to Easter flood



59.8%
persons who had an income indicated that their income had changed because of the Easter Flood (national average 62.8%)

SOCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19

HEALTH



51.5%
households interviewed needed medical treatment
national average 60.8%



51.9%
could access health services
ALWAYS



47.1%
could access health services
SOMETIMES



1.1%
household mentioned they are **NEVER** able to access health services

As a result of the COVID-19 situation, what has been the change in your household's utilization of health services?



60.0%
No change



36.4%
Increased



2.9%
Decreased

Have any of the children below age 10 in this household missed vaccinations (immunization) since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency?

52.0% of the households that missed child vaccination said it was due to the COVID-19 situation.



22.5%
missed child vaccination (immunization)
national average 20.3%



Did any female members of the household aged between 15-49 miss family planning or any other reproductive health service since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency?

Further 32.6% said they missed reproductive health services due to other reasons.



25.2%
missed reproductive health services
national average 29.3%

90.3%
have heard about COVID-19 vaccines
national average 91.7%

37.2%
had concerns about COVID-19 vaccines
national average 50.4%

37.2%
were worried about health side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines

22.2%
were worried COVID-19 vaccines could cause death or serious illness

There was no difference in the response based on household wealth. Vaccine advocacy and socialization programmes should continue to keep the economy open and protect the people.

EDUCATION

The SEIA 2.0 tried to identify the impact of COVID-19 on education services in the country by looking at missed in-person learning opportunities and sources of distance learning. Education-related questions were asked to all household members aged between 4 and 25 years.



2480

persons aged 4-25 years in the survey in Dili



50.4%

male



49.6%

female

Educational attendance after school reopening in 2021



55.8%

students were attending schools regularly



29.2%

attending schools irregularly



14.9%

did not attend at all when schools reopened

Majority of students have been attending schools regularly when the schools reopened in 2021. For 85.0% of those who did not attend at all or attended irregularly, it was mainly because schools remained closed.



41.0%

students continued studying at home on a daily basis during school closures

national average 62.6%



15.3%

used student workbooks of the Ministry of Education

national average 48.6%



48.0%

used online material 'Learning Passport' of the Ministry of Education

national average 13.3%



19.0%

used TV programme 'Eskola Be Uma'

national average 10.4%

The use of online learning platform was highest in Dili compared to other municipalities.

30.7%

studied irregularly

28.3%

did not continue studying at home during school closures

57.8%

mentioned 'Lack of printed learning materials at home' as the main reason for not continuing studying at home.

Among those who studied irregularly or did not study, 'person did not want to study' was the second most mentioned reason (19.6%).

Whilst focusing on improving digital learning, the Government should also support different platforms and methods of distance learning. Improving the production and distribution of printed learning materials across the country, reaching the poorest households, and remote locations is important.

There was no significant difference based on gender of the students.

TRUST AND SUPPORT



95.5%
strongly trust or trust others
in their community
national average 89.6%

More men (79.6%) than women (57.0%) mentioned they trust in their community.



88.0%
of all respondents said
people's trust in each
other got better since the
start of the COVID-19
State of Emergency
national average 72.9%



95.3%
of households
received help of
some kind
national average 68.1%

There was no significant difference based on gender of the respondent.



30.5%
of households
had given help of
some kind to others
national average 30.2%

Top 2 types of support received by households

From the households that received support



Food

97.6%



Cash

38.7%



Food

56.2%



Cash

22.3%

The proportion of households that received food and cash support among the total households was high in Dili compared to the national average.

Top 2 support providers to the households



63.8%
National
government



11.9%
Church and other
social institutions



Among the households that received support, national government was the main source of support during the COVID-19 Emergency followed by Church and other social institutions.

SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING

How people view their life and how they feel is important to understand the social conditions of the society. Therefore, the SEIA 2.0 asked how people evaluate various aspects of their lives and how they felt just a day before the interview.

Overall, how satisfied
are you with life as a
whole these days?



male **92.3%**



female **91.7%**

In total, 92.0% of respondents said they are satisfied with their life as a whole these days. This is lower compared than the national average.

Proportion of the respondents saying they felt.. yesterday



sad

30.3%

24.4%



worried

38.8%

29.0%



tired

65.3%

63.8%



felt happy

73.0%

75.6%

A relatively higher proportion of respondents mentioned they felt tired. More men than women had felt sad at some point during the day before the interview. The feelings of worry and sadness were related to losing livelihoods, not being able to sell their products in markets and concern for their children's education due to school closures.

Majority of respondents had felt happy at some point during the day before the interview.

SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY MEASURES

The results show the satisfaction of the people in Ainaro with the government response and how the national and local Government worked closely with the communities to disseminate information about COVID-19 and to provide relevant support measures.



55.9%
found the
information timely

national average 44.9%



28.6%
found the information
somewhat timely

national average 36.8%



64.5%
found the
information useful

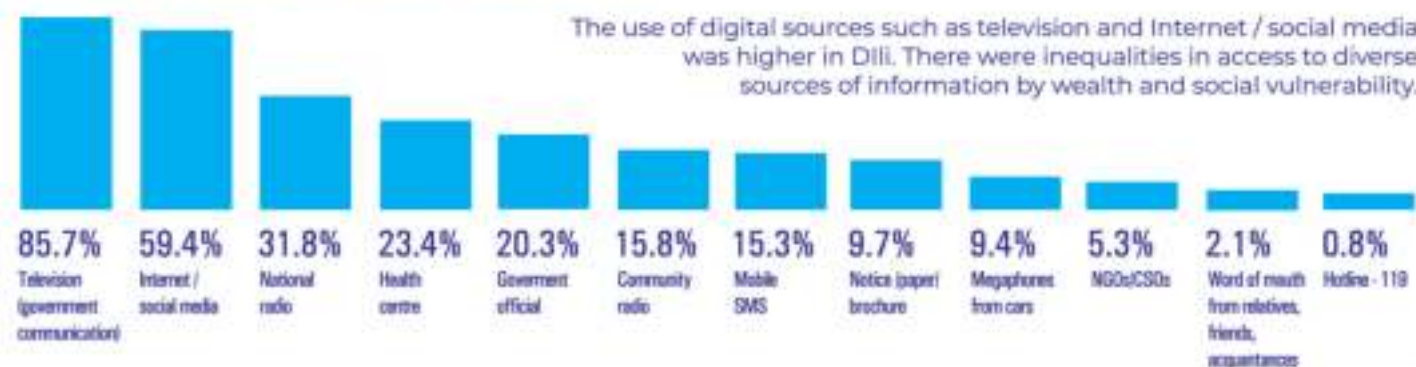
national average 55.6%



32.9%
found the information
somewhat useful

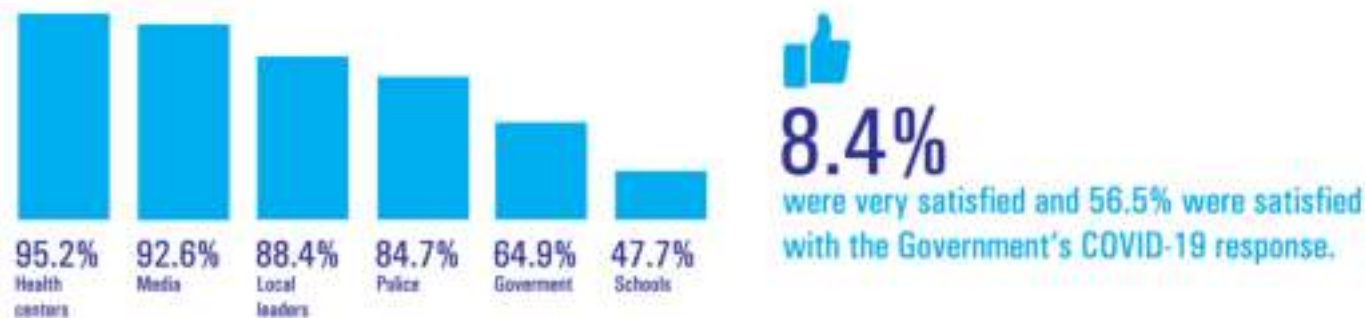
national average 40.9%

Households' sources of COVID-19 information



How satisfied are you with the response of the <following institutions> to COVID-19 in supporting citizens?

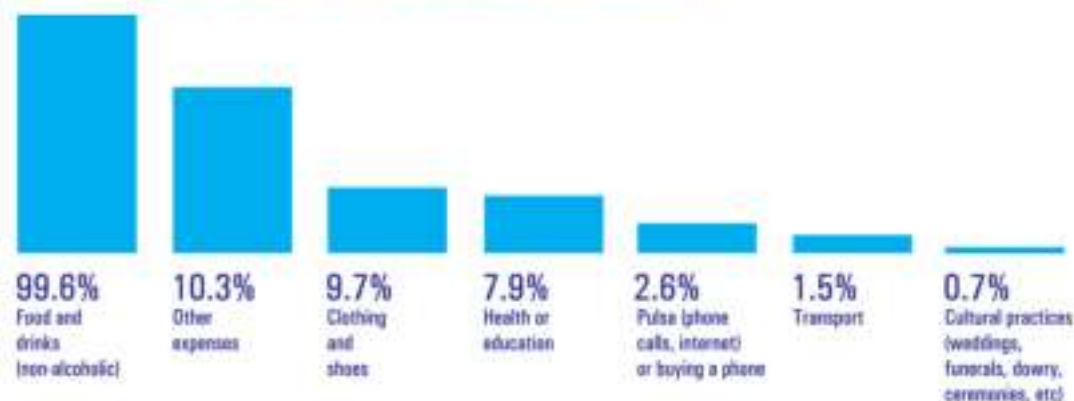
Proportion of respondents satisfied with institutions' responses to COVID-19



Dili was one of the municipalities with lowest levels of satisfaction with schools and the Government's response to COVID-19.

The SEIA 2.0 asked how the households used the Uma Kain subsidy.
(One household can choose several options)

Households' spending of the Uma Kain subsidy



Nearly all households that received the Uma Kain subsidy have used it to buy food and non-alcoholic drinks.

Cesta Básica satisfaction



There was no significant difference in the responses between men and women.

In your opinion, what are the most important measures the government should implement to support household livelihoods or micro businesses?

Top 2 preferred livelihood support measures



The study shows how the COVID-19 situation has exacerbated underlying issues within the country, including large gaps in development between different income groups, rural and urban settings, the effects of climate hazards, and limited access to education, health services, social protection programmes and markets.

To cope with the confluence of the pandemic, Easter Flood and major difficulties, households have employed coping strategies that hinder further improvement in their lives.

The study also finds resilience among communities, the important role of the national government in social support, and continued efforts of various government and civil society organisations to reduce these negative impacts.

During the entire COVID-19 pandemic period, the Government of Timor-Leste has taken proactive measures to protect the population from spread of the virus and has implemented concrete steps to counteract the worst socio-economic consequences of twin shocks.

Using the SEIA 2.0 findings, a series of recommendations for policymakers to consider in developing strategy for a robust socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are proposed in the full report.

ABOUT THE SEIA 2.0 PROJECT

This Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste, Round 2 (SEIA 2.0) was led by UNDP and UNFPA and conducted in collaboration with UN Women, UNICEF, UN Timor-Leste Resident Coordinator's Office, and the General Directorate of Statistics of the Ministry of Finance in Timor-Leste.

The nationwide SEIA 2.0 was conducted between April 2021 and October 2021 covering 4292 households with 23,362 members from 13 municipalities in Timor-Leste. The SEIA 2.0 seeks to inform what livelihood, healthcare, and other essential services are necessary to allow planners and practitioners from all sectors to target their responses to the needs of the population.

Full reports and executive summaries in English and Tetum can be accessed here:

<https://www.tl.undp.org/content/timor-leste/en/home/library/poverty/socio-economic-impact-assessment-of-covid-19-in-timor-leste--r.html>



SCAN ME

CONTACT

UNDP Timor-Leste

UN House, Caicoli Street (Obrigado Barracks)

P.O. Box No. 008 Dili, Timor-Leste

Email: media.tl@undp.org

Website: www.tl.undp.org

General Directorate of Statistics

Rua de Caicoli, Apartado 10/PO Box 10, Dili, Timor-Leste

Email: dge@mof.gov.tl

Website: www.statistics.gov.tl