



© Yuichi Ishida/UNDP Timor-Leste

## PROJECT FACTSHEET



UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

ILO | OHCHR | UNDESA | UNDP | UNESCO | UNFPA | UNICEF | UN WOMEN | WHO

# Empower for Change – Reducing Violence and Discrimination against Women and Children with Disabilities in Timor-Leste

## Country Context

Since restoring independence in 2002, Timor-Leste has made significant progress in rebuilding the country from conflict towards sustainable development.

Human rights, including the rights of persons with disabilities, are enshrined in the Constitution. The Government has expressed its intention to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It is committed to establishing a disability council to oversee the implementation of the 2012 National Policy on the Inclusion and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In 2017, Timor-Leste's Government adopted a roadmap on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that recognizes inclusion as a key enabler for progress towards sustainable development.

Despite key progress, challenges exist. On average, disabilities affect 15% of the global population. The 2015 Census identified that only 3.2% of the population in Timor-Leste has a disability, indicating potential under-estimation. Discriminatory attitudes against persons with disabilities among families, communities and service providers persist. This results in persons with disabilities not being able to exercise various rights. For example, 72% of persons with disabilities have not attended school (2015 Census data). Gender-based violence (GBV) is high in Timor-Leste. Although there is limited data on how GBV affects women with disabilities in Timor-Leste, global evidence finds that women with disabilities are twice as likely to experience GBV as compared to women without a disability. This suggests that the level of GBV against women with disabilities in Timor-Leste is likely to be significant. Survivors of GBV, particularly those with disabilities, face great difficulty to access justice.

## Project in Brief

<b>Time Frame:</b>	2018 – 2020 (3 Years)
<b>Budget:</b>	US \$400,000
<b>Key National Partners:</b>	Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion; Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice; Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports; Ministry of Justice; Judiciary; NGOs working in the area of disabilities; and Disabled Persons' Organizations
<b>UN Agencies:</b>	UN WOMEN, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, Human Rights Adviser's Unit Nationwide, Dili
<b>Area of Impact:</b>	<b>10 (Reduced inequalities) 5 (Gender Equality), 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and 4 (Quality Education)</b>
<b>SDGs:</b>	
<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Anjet Lanting</b> Human Rights Adviser <a href="mailto:anjet.lanting@one.un.org">anjet.lanting@one.un.org</a> <b>Liliana Amaral</b> National Programme Officer <a href="mailto:liliana.amaral@unwomen.org">liliana.amaral@unwomen.org</a>



© Felix Maia/UN Women 2018



*"Girls and women of all ages with any form of disability are among the more vulnerable and marginalized of society. There is therefore need to take into account and to address their concerns in all policy-making and programming. Special measures are needed at all levels to integrate them into the mainstream of development."*

—General Assembly Resolution S-23/3 of 10 June 2000

## What does the project do?

The project aims to support persons with disabilities to enjoy their right to live free from discrimination and violence, and to advance the equal rights of women and girls with disabilities facing multiple forms of discrimination. The project will contribute to preventing and addressing violence, GBV against women and children with disabilities. The project will partner with organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) to reduce harmful attitudes against persons with disabilities. It will strengthen service provider capacities to disaggregate and use data on disability to better refer and deliver inclusive and accessible services for persons with disabilities, the Ministries of Social Solidarity, Education and Health, Justice as well as the Judiciary.

## Empower for Change – Theory of Change

IF

Legislation, planning and policy frameworks that integrate the rights of persons with disabilities and their implementation are strengthened with mechanisms to monitor and report on UN-CRPD are in place

AND

Key service providers that work on prevention and response to gender-based violence have increased capacity to fulfill obligations

AND

Persons with disabilities have better capacity to advocate for rights and to access disability inclusive GBV services

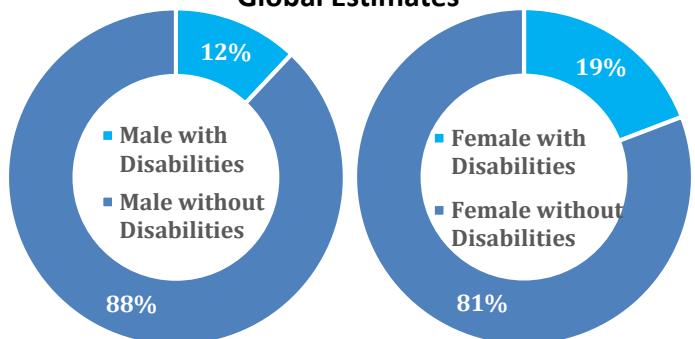
THEN

Persons with disabilities in Timor-Leste, especially women and children, will be free from discrimination and gender-based violence

The project will support action towards ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), thereby reinforcing various national and international commitments made by Timor-Leste around disability. The project will strengthen the capacity of institutions and DPOs to draft legislation and policies in line with the rights of persons with disabilities and for disability responsive budgeting. Capacity of DPOs and State Institutions for implementation and monitoring of the rights of persons with disabilities, including CRPD and other treaties ratified by Timor-Leste, will also be increased. DPOs will have higher capacity to train service providers, and to monitor and document cases of GBV. The project will also support bringing children with disabilities, who do not go to school, into the education system. It will work with inclusive education centres to train teachers on the principles and practices of inclusive education and how to teach children with various disabilities.

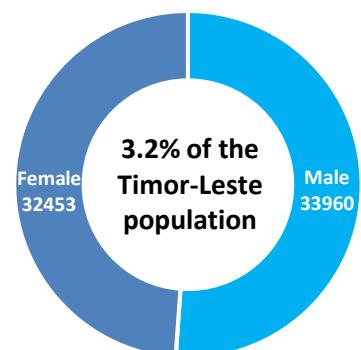
### Percentage of Population with Disabilities

#### Global Estimates



Data Source: World Report on Disability, WHO & The World Bank, 2011

Data collected in  
Timor-Leste  
indicates potential  
under-estimation



Data Source: Timor-Leste National Population and Housing Census, 2015