



# COVID-19 RAPID GENDER ANALYSIS

Timor-Leste has confirmed COVID-19 cases. The INFORM Global Risk Index ranks Timor-Leste second of 25 countries in the Asia Pacific region for risk of COVID-19, indicating that an outbreak of COVID-19 would be devastating for the country. The index identifies that Timor-Leste is most at risk for access to healthcare, existing health conditions and food insecurity. Systemic gender inequality and the exclusion of marginalised groups from leadership positions and decision making, service provision, and access to and control of resources would exacerbate the impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1 **Analyse and understand** the different impacts, needs, capacities and coping strategies that COVID-19 potentially has on women, men, girls and boys and other vulnerable groups in Timor-Leste.
- 2 **Inform humanitarian programming** in Timor-Leste based on the different needs of women, men, girls and boys and other vulnerable groups with a particular focus on gender-based violence; health; water, sanitation and hygiene; and women's economic empowerment.

## METHODOLOGY

Research methods for this Rapid Gender Analysis focus on secondary data review of existing gender information from CARE International and CARE Pacific gender analysis, existing CARE International in Timor-Leste project gender analysis, secondary research from sources such as UN, WHO, Government of Timor-Leste, and peer agencies, and the most recent COVID-19 data for Timor-Leste.

## FINDINGS



Women's unpaid workload as primary caregivers may increase.



Risks of gender-based violence may increase. Gender-based violence rates are among the highest in the world and family violence is one of the most common forms.



Women's food insecurity may increase due to reduced livelihoods and gender norms in which men and children eat first.



Current water, sanitation and hygiene facilities are not gender- or disability-inclusive.



Women's access to maternal, reproductive and sexual health services may be reduced. 60% of women have reported problems accessing healthcare.



Prevention and response strategies are not gender-sensitive or disability-inclusive.



Women's lower levels of education, employment, and economic security makes them more vulnerable to financial impacts.



People with disabilities, children, and rural communities face additional vulnerabilities, exclusion and risks.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1 Gender-sensitive prevention and response strategies

Ensure COVID-19 prevention and response strategies and measures by the Government of Timor-Leste, government ministries and agencies at all levels, and other actors (e.g. UN, EU, INGOs, local CSOs) are developed and implemented in a gender-sensitive manner, with an understanding of their impact on different genders and vulnerable groups, and with measures to mitigate gender-related risks.

### 2 Information for all community members

Ensure information education communication materials on COVID-19 reach all members of the community, including women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and rural communities.

### 3 Sex, age and disability disaggregated data

Ensure availability of sex, age and disability disaggregated data, including on differing rates of infection, economic impacts, care burden, and incidence of gender-based violence.

### 4 Gender-based violence prevention and response services

Prioritise services for prevention and response to gender-based violence in communities affected by COVID-19 and consider different ways people can access services in isolation and how services can be more inclusive of people with disabilities.

### 5 Essential health services for women and girls

Protect essential health services for women and girls, including maternal, sexual and reproductive health services.

### 6 Safe and accessible WASH services and facilities for all

Ensure that water, sanitation and hygiene services and facilities are safe and accessible for women, girls, and people with a disability. Ensure that water, sanitation and hygiene services are adequately available in rural communities.

### 7 Inclusive financial assistance and food security measures

Ensure financial assistance strategies and food security measures are developed and implemented in manner that is inclusive of women and builds women's economic resilience.

### 8 Updated Rapid Gender Analysis

Continually update Rapid Gender Analyses (or equivalent) with contextualised recommendations as the crisis evolves.

