Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2022 Thematic Report

NAVIGATION THE FUTURU: A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN TIMOR-LESTE

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA TIMOR-LESTE, I.P.

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Preface

The population and Housing Census 2022, conducted by the Timor-Leste National Institute of Statistics (INETL) from 5 September to 5 October 2022, underscored our continuing commitment to decision-making grounded in robust data analysis. Utilizing modern technology in the form of tablets for data collection, the census laid the foundation for a comprehensive understanding of our nation's demographic landscape. Initial census basic tablets were released in the latter part of 2023, enriching our understanding of the demographic intricacies captured during the 2022 Population and Housing Census.

This publication, is one of several detailed thematic census reports, addressing crucial areas such as fertility and nuptiality, mortality, migration, population projection, household and housing conditions, labour force and economic activity, disability, youth, gender, and a comprehensive census atlas, that will provide nuanced insights into specific demographic dimensions.

This volume provides a detailed analysis of mortality in Timor-Leste. Encompassing critical areas such as infant mortality, under five mortality, life expectancy, age specific mortality rates and maternal mortality, we expect this report to serve as a cornerstone for informed policymaking.

At this juncture, I would like to acknowledge the collective dedication of the INETL staff and the multi-stakeholder Census Technical Committee, led by Mr. Elias dos Santos Ferreira, President of INETL, I.P., in the successful completion of this Census. Their tireless efforts steered the census process from its initiation to the release of this report. Gratitude is also extended to our development partners from the UN System, among them, the UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, and WFP, whose invaluable contributions have significantly enriched the census endeavour. Similarly, the support that we received from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) throughout the census process is also duly recognized.

On behalf of the Ministry of Finance, I would like to invite to all individuals with a keen interest in demographics and statistical data to leverage the insights presented in this publication. It is our hope that this compilation shall serve as reliable resource for informed discourse and evidence-based decision-making in the realm of our country's national development.

Thank you.

MINISTRA DAS FINANÇAS
RDTL

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The Timor-Leste National Institute of Statistics (INETL), formerly the General Directorate of Statistics, implemented the Population and Housing Census 2022 under the slogan 'Our census, our future be part of it'.

The census was largely financed by the Government of Timor-Leste through the Ministry of Finance. Additional financial and material support in form of tablets and power banks, was provided by UNFPA, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF and WFP. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the unwavering support towards the census.

I would like to acknowledge the invaluable technical support provided by UNFPA throughout the census process. The support provided during field staff training by UN Women is also acknowledged.

Let me also thank a team of independent international monitors from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, who worked with us throughout the enumeration period, their feedback from the field was valuable and timely.

I would like to further express my appreciation to all members of the Census Technical Committee for their advice and guidance in the census. The Census Publication Commission led a successful implementation of the census publicity campaign to ensure that the stakeholders, including the general public, were informed about the census.

Special thanks go to each and every enumerator and supervisor who worked tirelessly, visiting households across the country to collect the census information. They worked for long hours and also at odd hours in trying to collect the information.

Finally, I would like to commend the work of all staff from INETL headquarters and municipality offices, who continue to work for the success of the 2022 census project. I am grateful to the people of Timor-Leste for their cooperation, without which a successful census would not have been possible.

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Abbreviations

AFR	Adolescent Fertility Rate
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
GDS	General Directorate of Statistics
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
INETL	Institute of National Statistics of Timor-Leste
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
NAPSA	Narcotics, Psychotropic and Addictive Substance
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSD	National Statistics Directory
PHC	Population and Housing Census
SMAM	Singulate mean age at marriage
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDP	Strategic Development Plan
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
TLPHC	Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WG	Washington Group
WHO	World Health Organization

Concepts and Definitions

Population	Children	Persons under the age of 18 years
	Child mortality rate	The child mortality rate is the probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying between the age of 1 year and before reaching the age of 5 years, if subject to age-specific mortality rates of that period, expressed per 1000 survivors up to age 1.
	Child dependency ratio	The ratio of the population of children aged 0-14 to the working-aged population 15-64, per 100 working-aged persons

	Nuclear household	Nuclear household, defined as a household consisting entirely of a single family nucleus. It may be classified into:
		i. Married couple family:
		a. With child(ren);
		b. Without child(ren);
		ii. Partner in consensual union (cohabiting partner):
		a. With child(ren);
		b. Without child(ren);
		iii. Father with child(ren);
		iv. Mother with child(ren);

	Orphan	An orphan as a child under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents to any cause of death.
	Youth bulge	Percentage of the working-aged population aged 15-64 that are youth aged 15-24
	Youth	Persons in the age group 15-24 years
	Adjusted-labour force participation	Similar to the labour force participation but 'household work' is classified as 'participated' or in labour force instead of 'not participated'.
	Employment rate	Proportion of the working-age population that is employed: Employed = employee, employer, own account worker, and contributing family worker. This is also known as the employment-to-population ratio
	Labour force participation rate	Labour force participation rate is the ratio of the labour force to the working-age population where the labour force is the sum of the number of persons employed and the number of persons unemployed: Participated (or labour force) = employee, employer, own account worker, contributing family worker, sought work; Not-participated = did not seek work, full-time student, household work, pensioner, retired, elderly person, ill, disabled. 'Other' is included as not participating.
	Unemployment rate	Unemployment rate is the ratio resulting from dividing the total number of unemployed by the corresponding labour force. Unemployed persons do not have work but are seeking work.

Education	Vunerable employment	Vulnerable employment is defined as the sum of the employment status groups of own-account workers (i.e. self-employed without employees) and contributing family workers
	Youth unemployment rate	Youth unemployment rate is the unemployment rate of persons aged 15 to 24.
	Literacy rate	Literacy Rate is the total number of literate persons in a given age group, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group.
	School attendance	Regular attendance at any regular, accredited educational institution or programme, public or private, for organised learning at any level of education at the time of the census. Instruction in particular skills, which is not part of the recognised educational structure of the country (for example, in-service training courses in factories), is not considered school attendance for census purposes
Marriage	Child marriage	Child marriage is defined as any formal marriage or informal union before the age of 18
	Singulate mean age at marriage	The singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM): is the average length of never-married life for those who subsequently marry before age 50 and is calculated from the proportions never married in five-year age groups from a census or survey (Hajnal, 1953).
Fertility	Adolescent fertility (AFR)	The AFR is defined as the number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years in a given year.
	Age at first birth	The age at which a woman has her first live birth.
	Sex ratios at birth	The number of male births per 100 female births
	Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	The Total Fertility Rate is the number of children that a woman would have by the end of her childbearing period if she were to experience the currently observed age-specific fertility rates.

Executive Summary

Childhood and youth constitute a critical phase in any person's life. The living conditions and experiences during the first phase of life often profoundly impact the rest of their life. It is a time in which persons follow an education, experience puberty, become more and more independent, build relationships, start being economically active and often begin their reproductive period. This thematic report describes the experiences of children and youth as statistically reported in the 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census (TLPHC 2022). The report aims to provide information to monitor progress in implementing the 2016 National Youth Policy. For this purpose, an indicator framework was developed to gather the main indicators from the 2022 TLPHC related to the National Youth Policy. This indicator framework is presented in Annex 1 of this report.

Children and youth in the population

In the report, children are defined as persons under the age of 18, while youth were classified in the age group 15 to 24. According to the 2022 TLPHC, out of a total population of 1,341,737 persons, 561,857 were children in the age group 0 to 17 years old. This constitutes 41.9 percent of the total population. There are somewhat more boys than girls in the 0-17 age groups: 287,530 boys versus 274,327 girls. Over 42 percent of the total male population are boys below age 15, against 41.5 percent for girls. These numbers are probably somewhat higher. As in many countries, there seems to be an undercount of children below age 2. The sex ratio of 106.9 boys per 100 girls may indicate that the undercount was somewhat higher for girls than for boys. Timor-Leste is still a very rural society; 73.2 percent of all children and 67.6 percent of youth live in rural areas.

Between the censuses of 2015 and 2022, the population aged 0 – 25 increased with an annual rate of 1.2 percent. This is slower than the overall population growth of 2.1 percent per annum between 2015 and 2022. The decline in fertility from a Total Fertility Rate of 5.7 children per woman in 2010, to 3.6 children per woman in 2022, resulted in a drop in the percentage of children in the total population from 46.6 percent in 2015 to 41.9 in 2022. On the other hand, more than 50,000 persons more youth are present in the age group 15 to 24 than in 2015, which means that the capacity of secondary and higher education needs to be increased and that more young persons will enter the labour market year by year. The changes in the age composition may indicate that Timor-Leste is opening the window of opportunity for its demographic dividend. The demographic dividend arises from shifts in a population's age structure during the demographic transition, characterized by a decline in fertility rates leading to fewer children. During the early stages of this decline, the population is yet to experience significant ageing, although, over time, population ageing will occur. This transition is intrinsically tied to a country's economic development. Since children and older adults are typically considered inactive segments of the population, having fewer individuals in these age groups temporarily increases the proportion of the working-age population.

Marital status

As in many countries, the age pattern of marital status is quite different between males and females. At age 24, 52.2 percent of women are still unmarried, against 75.4 percent of men. At age 19, only 97.2 percent of men are never married, against 86.6 percent of women. The singulate mean age at marriage method (SMAM) is typically used to calculate the mean age at first marriage from census data . The SMAM for both sexes, according to the 2022 TLPHC, was 27.0 years. The SMAM for males was about 3.5 years older than for females: 28.8 years against 25.3 years.

Child marriage is a gross violation of child rights and a form of violence against children too often ignored. For males and females, the percentage who were married before age 15 is very small, 0.03 percent for males and 0.23 percent for females. The percentage of males who were married before age 18 remains small, but for females, it shows that almost one in 20 females is married before age 18. Compared to other countries in the world, child marriage is relatively low in Timor-Leste. Low educational attainment and belonging to the lowest wealth quintile are important factors in determining the chance of a child ending up in marriage at a very young age. But by far after controlling for other intervening factors, the chance of a girl marrying below age 18 is more than ten times higher than for boys.

Fertility

There is no doubt that the fertility levels in Timor-Leste are declining,. The TFR droppd from 5.7 children per won in 2010 to 3.6 children in 2022. There is a long list of negative consequences related to adolescent fertility and teenage pregnancies. The Adolescent Fertility Rate (AFR) is defined as the number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years in a given year. In 2022 the AFR stood at 33.8 births per 1,000 adolescent women. Over the years, there has been a clear downward trend in the levels of adolescent fertility.

The 2022 TLPHC, based on information on the last child born to each woman 15 years of age and older, indicated a sex ratio at birth of 113.8 boys per 100 girls. It is unlikely that sex-selective abortion plays any role. It is more likely that there is a data quality issue and that the birth of baby girls was more underreported than the birth of baby boys.

Assistance during childbirth

In the census, the respondent was asked who had assisted her during the last delivery. Based on the answers, a simple division was made to analyse skilled and non-skilled birth attendants to calculate the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. The percentage of women whose last childbirth during the last 12 months before a skilled birth attendant attended the census was 68.8 percent compared to 56.7 percent in the 2016 DHS. The percentage of skilled birth attendance among 15 to 19-year-old females was 68.3 percent.

International migration

A total of 4,113 persons below age 25 were registered in the census as former household members living abroad, out of 17,618 emigrants for all age groups Overall, the number of males is about three times higher than that of females, 13,189 against 4,426. Also, among children and youth, the number of males is higher than the number of females, 2,670 against 1,443.

Internal migration

During the census, a total of 407,546 internal lifetime migrants were recorded. This constitutes 30.4 percent of the total population. The number of female migrants (208,266) was somewhat larger than the number of male migrants (199,280). Much of the internal migration flows in Timor-Leste are directed from rural areas to urban areas. In urban areas, 72.8 percent of the population was not born in the same administrative post as their current residence. Among all 211,349 internal migrants, 175,205 are currently living in Dili. Among them, 130,324 moved between administrative posts within Dili, while 44,881 came from other municipalities to live in the Dili municipality. '*Followed family' is the most important reason for both sexes at the youngest age. As age increases, 'education or training' becomes more important. At age 20, for 60.8 percent of young females and 57.3 percent of young males, migration for education was the most important reason.*

Literacy

In 2022, the youth literacy rate (ages 15-24) in Timor-Leste was 87.3 percent. This reflects an improvement from the previous censuses conducted in 2015 and 2010, where the youth literacy rate stood at 84.4 percent and 79.1 percent. The literacy rate for young men rose from 80.0 percent in 2010 to 86.4 percent in 2022, while for young women, it increased from 78.1 percent to 88.3 percent during the same period. Literacy increased from 51.3 percent in 2004 to 68.9 percent in 2010, 80.2 percent in 2015 and 85.5 percent in 2022 in the 10 – 14 age group.

School attendance

Overall, school life expectancy between the censuses of 2015 and 2022 decreased, frpm 15.2 years in 2015 to 14.2 years in 2022. The census also observed that the proportion of children who had never attended school had increased since 2015. Although further inquiries should be made to fully ascertain the reason for this, the impact of COVID-19 may be the answer. The effect of COVID-19 on the school-going population was felt most severely at the very young ages of primary school and after secondary school.

In the 2022 TLPHC, a total of 304.7 thousand employed workers were enumerated. This implied an overall employment-to-population ratio[1] of 34.9 percent. The total male employment-to-population ratio was 40.8 percent, while the total female employment-to-population ratio was 29.8 percent. Among all persons employed in Timor-Leste, 15.1 percent are in the age group 15 to 24. For men and women, this percentage is 14.8 and 15.5, respectively. Most young people 10 – 24 years old are active as self-employed workers (36.0 percent of all employed persons 10 – 24 years old). The status in employment of young people 10 – 24 changes by age. At age 10 – 14 years, only 7.3 percent of persons 10 – 14 years old work as employees, against 26.8 percent among those 20 – 24 years old. Many children start to work as helpers in a family business or farm; 37.3 percent of all 10-14-year-olds work as contributing family workers. This percentage drops quickly to 28.8 percent for 15 to 19-year-olds and 14.8 percent for those 20 to 24.

Employment

Among all employed persons 10 – 24 years old, 58.9 percent are working in vulnerable employment. Those in the youngest age group (10 – 14 years) are most vulnerable: three-quarters of all children 10 – 14 years have a vulnerable employment position. Among 20 – 24-year-olds, this is 48.9 percent. More young women than men in the age groups 10 – 24 years are in vulnerable employment:

In the TLPHC, a child was considered working if they were either performing paid employment during the week before the census, were temporarily absent from work, or were unpaid family workers. Out of a total of 242,288 children between 10 and 17 years old, 16,088 were working, which is 6.6 percent.

Unemployment

Unemployment is low in Timor-Leste. The youth unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed 15 – 24 year-olds in the labour force. The number of unemployed youth in the census was 1,403 men and 1,128 women. The unemployment rate was found to be 5.2 percent, which is higher than the rate for the population 15 years of age and older. The youth unemployment rate for men was 5.0 percent and 5.5 percent for women. Youth unemployment is highest in Dili. In Dili, unemployment among youth (10.0 percent) is twice the national average. Also, Ainaro has a youth unemployment rate (7.9 percent) well above the national level. The lowest youth unemployment was observed in Viqueque (2.2 percent), Liquiça (2.2 percent), and Oe-cusse (1.8 percent).

Attending education is the most important reason young persons are not economically active: 64.5 percent of persons 15 – 24 years old indicate education as the main reason. Little

[1] '*The employment-to-population ratio is defined as the proportion of a country's working-age population that is employed. The youth and adult employment-to-population ratios are the proportion of the youth and adult populations –typically persons aged 15 to 24 years and 25 years and over, respectively – that are employed'* (ILO, 2024).

difference exists between male and female youth. The second most important reason is 'to care of the home/family'. This reason is more pronounced for females than males: 19.9 percent against 10.5 percent. The third most important reason is that 8.4 percent of young people thought no work was available.

NEET

The NEET indicator *(*not in education, employment or training*)* is crucial for monitoring progress towards realizing several SDGs for young persons. The NEET indicator is linked to SDG Goal 8 on Decent Work. It helps to identify gaps in the education system where young people are dropping out or not transitioning smoothly from education to employment. According to the 2022 TLPHC, 29.3 percent of the 15 – 24 years population was not in employment, education, or training, 29.1 percent for males and 29.6 percent for females. Compared to the 2015 PHC, the NEET rate is somewhat higher. At that time, the NEET rate was 20.3 percent, 16.8 percent for males and 23.7 percent for females. The percentage of youth NEET gradually increases from age 15 to age 24. At age 15, the NEET rate is somewhat higher for males than females. Around age 20, this pattern reverses, and the NEET rate for females is higher than for males. At age 24, the NEET rate for males is 41.9 percent, against 49.3 percent for females.

Disability

Questions on disability in censuses are notorious for providing underestimates of the prevalence of disability. This is mainly because, for cultural, psychological, and socio-economic reasons, respondents conceal household members with a disability. On the other hand, enumerators sometimes are uncomfortable asking questions on disability and easily fill in the questions with 'no problem'. The observed disability prevalence rate in the census was only 0.33 percent for those between the ages of 5 and 24. This means that one in 300 young people would have a disability, which shows that there is a serious undercount of people with disabilities. *The analysis looked into disability rates. Large differentials were observed. However, it is unclear whether* there were large differences or differences were due to differences in disability reporting.

Out-of-school children

The percentage of children out-of-school is very high in the youngest age groups: 61.8 percent of children age 5 are not in school, at ages 6 and 7, this is 37.3 percent and 22.4 percent, respectively. For all ages, the percentage of boys not going to school is somewhat higher than that of girls. In general, the percentage of children not attending school is considerably higher in rural areas than in urban areas. Among both sexes, the percentage of children out of school was 15.0 percent in urban areas against 24.6 percent in rural areas.

Orphans

According to the TLPHC, 11,575 children 0 – 17 years old currently living in Timor-Leste had lost their mother, 27,728 had lost their father, and 2,344 children lost both parents. By age six,

5.4 percent of all children have either lost their mother, father or both parents, 3.8 percent lost their father, 1.3 percent their mother and 0.3 percent both parents. The fact that at age 17, 2.1 percent of children lost their mother, 9.0 percent lost their father, and 1.1 percent lost both parents, shows the rapid increase in orphanhood as children grow older.

Among all 561,732 children in the census, 11,058 (2.0 percent) an absent mother, but their father present; 31,450 (5.6 percent) had their mother present and an absent father, and 20,147 (3.6 percent) had both parents absent. 11.2 percent of all children had one or two parents absent. The highest percentage of fathers absent is at ages 1 and 2, where 7.1 percent are absent. The percentage of children who live without both parents increases rapidly after age 13. At age 13, 4.0 percent of children have both parents absent, by age 17, this has more than doubled to 8.5 percent.

Conclusions and policy recommendations

The well-being and development of children and youth in Timor-Leste have seen substantial progress. Yet, numerous challenges persist. Chapter 6 of this report brings together some conclusions and policy recommendations, based on the data analysis of this report. The interested reader is referred to Chapter 6 for the conclusions and policy recommendations.

Introduction

Children and youth below the age of 25 are a dynamic and crucial segment of Timor-Leste's population, representing 56.4 percent of the nation's population. The country has one of the youngest populations in Asia (Timor-Leste National Institute of Statistics, 2023). Since independence in 2002, the country has made significant strides in building its infrastructure and institutions. However, the challenges facing the youngest generations remain complex and multifaceted. The country's future is closely tied to the investment in and empowerment of its children and youth, as they form the heart of the nation's quest for sustainable development, peace, and stability. Children and youth today are at the forefront of innovation and advocacy, driving progress across various domains such as climate action, education, gender equality, and economic growth. By investing in children and youth and fostering their leadership, Timor-Leste can harness their energy, creativity, and resilience to accelerate the achievement of national and international goals.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report examines the current status of children (0-17 years) and youth (15-24 years) in Timor-Leste, based on the 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census (TLPHC). The report is part of a broader initiative of thematic reports that have been published based on the 2022 TLPHC data, including on the subjects of population projection, fertility, mortality, migration, education and evaluation of age and sex data.

It highlights the situation of children and youth in 2022 in marriage, fertility, the household, migration, education, the workforce and further discusses several vulnerable groups.

Through comprehensive analysis, the report provides actionable insights and recommendations to assist the Government of Timor-Leste and its partners in fostering a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous future for the next generation.

The **2016 National Youth Policy** recognizes that investing in young people's health, education, and economic empowerment is not only a moral obligation but a strategic necessity for Timor-Leste's future. The policy was revised and approved by the Council of Ministers in 2017. It outlines the current situation, goals, and strategic interventions for the key challenges faced by Timorese children and youth: education, healthy lifestyle, employment and employability, civic participation, and violence and crime. The policy also outlines priority target groups, including young men and women in rural areas, out-of-school youth and drop-outs, youth with disability, young women, illiterate youth, and unemployed youth (Secretary of State for Youth and Sports, 2016).

The **2011-2030 Strategic Development Plan**'s (SDP) main focus is building social capital, infrastructure, and economic development. It also covers youth, envisioning that "youth achieve their potential as healthy, educated and ethical citizens and as leaders who are proud to be Timorese." The plan aims to achieve this through several initiatives:

- Establishing a youth fund that supports youth projects and programs;
- Establishing youth associations;
- Promoting a youth parliament;
- Building a national youth center in Dili and improving existing ones, as well as constructing multipurpose youth centers in all districts; and
- Developing and running leadership training camps (Government of Timor-Leste, n.d.).

An evaluation of the SDP period until 2020 was conducted in 2021 and included some of the abovementioned youth initiatives. The evaluation showed that by 2016, the national youth fund had not been created due to a freeze on the creation of new government funds and because it was deemed unnecessary. Support for youth programs was provided to 36,666 youth over the 2018-2020 period. The sustainability of government funding for these programs was highlighted as a concern. The National Youth Center in Dili and the multipurpose youth centers in rural areas were not constructed due to a lack of available land. Instead, several existing structures were rehabilitated and repurposed as youth centers. The evaluation revealed that while several SDP initiatives focused on youth were carried out with great enthusiasm, it also identified critical areas for improvement. It underscored the need to refine the approach to ensure an effective path forward that aligns with the needs of children and youth (Office of the Prime-Minister, 2021).

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** present a comprehensive blueprint for achieving a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. Central to this vision is the empowerment and active participation of youth, who are beneficiaries of these goals and crucial agents of change. **Timor-Leste's Roadmap for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs** mentions youth as a key population group requiring urgent attention. It underscores the critical need for creating more and better job opportunities for youth to address the high unemployment rates they face. Additionally, the roadmap advocates for youth inclusion, representation and participation in local suco-level elections by reserving seats for them, thereby fostering greater engagement and empowerment of young citizens in the political process. By investing in education, health and employment, the Roadmap foresees the opportunity for accelerated productivity growth and economic gains by reaping the demographic dividend (Government of Timor-Leste, n.d.).

This report covers different topics related to youth and children in Timor-Leste based on the 2022 TLPHC. **Chapter 2** covers the demographic characteristics of children and youth in Timor-Leste compared to the total population. Furthermore, it discusses the regional distribution, type of residence children and youth live in, sex- and dependency ratios, religion and socioeconomic status. Chapter 3 presents marriage, cohabitation, fertility, and household structure. Migration is covered in **Chapter 4**. Relevant aspects related to education, such as literacy, school attendance and educational attainment, are covered in **Chapter 5**. Characteristics of youth in the workforce, their occupation, the industry they work in, as well as unemployment, reasons for not working or those not in education, employment or training,

will be covered in **Chapter 6**. The final **Chapter 7** covers vulnerable groups such as children and youth with disabilities, those out-of-school, and young migrants. The report concludes with a conclusion and policy recommendations. In the appendix, further information is presented through means of statistical data.

In various instances, the report will use **logit regressions**. A logit regression belongs to the statistical family of linear regression. With a logit regression, one tries to understand the impact of several independent, explanatory variables on the likelihood of a binary outcome, e.g.' yes' or 'no' being literate. In a regression, the effect of each explanatory variable on the dependent variable is quantified through the regression coefficients. With logit regressions, the regression coefficients are the natural logarithms of the odds ratios for each category of the explanatory variables. As this measure is hard to interpret, the regression coefficients' exponential function is calculated to show the odds ratios. Note that an odds ratio is different from a probability. In a logit regression, the odds ratio is the ratio of the probability of the occurrence of the event against the probability that the event does not occur, compared to the reference category. For instance, that a woman is literate, compared to a male person, male being the reference category. As a multivariate model is used, the odds ratio gives the net effect of the explanatory variable on the dependent variable after statistically controlling for the other variables in the equation. Suppose an odds ratio is larger than 1. In that case, it means that a person in this category has higher odds of experiencing the event than someone from the reference category and lower odds if the value is smaller than 1.

In the analysis, the results of logit regressions are depicted graphically in bar charts. The reference categories for each explanatory variable have a value of '1' and are depicted in green (unless they are high-risk). High-risk categories were depicted in red, and those with medium risk were depicted in orange. The colour blue is given if there is little or no effect.

2016 National Youth Policy – Goals and Strategic Interventions (Secretary of State for Youth and Sports, 2016)	
Youth and Education	
Goal: Be educated and civic-minded citizens of Timor-Leste, who live a long and productive life which allows them to participate in the economic, social and political development process.	**Intervention 1.** Develop and improve the education system and provide trainings that: ♣ Favours equal opportunity for young people in rural and urban areas so that they are able to access a modern quality education which is inclusive and accessible; ♣ Is oriented toward improving knowledge and entrepreneurial skills of youth so that they are able to participate in economic, social and political development processes; ♣ Foments character and civic behaviour, ensuring healthy lifestyle, promoting democratic culture, ethics and morality in schools in order to complement cognitive development of youth.
	Intervention 2. Raise awareness about the use of information and communication technology for youth and society in order to encourage the use of modern technology. It is also necessary to raise awareness about the importance of education in the community to prevent the habit of not sending children to schools.
	Intervention 3. Develop and strengthen public service management and increase the capacity of human resources that are adequate in the area of education and training; give attention to the well-being of education personnel, especially in rural areas.
	Intervention 4. Develop school infrastructures (facilities, materials, equipment including library and laboratory), which is adequate to support an effective learning environment in both rural and urban areas.
Youth and Healthy Lifestyle	
Goal: Timor-Leste's youth live healthy lifestyles and are able to access youth-friendly and quality health services. Young people themselves become promoters of healthy living.	**Intervention 1.** . Develop capacity and health facilities to provide youthfriendly service and medical advice in health posts, in schools, in youth centres, in religious centres and through the means of information communication technology.
	Intervention 2. Promote education about the concept of a family to parents and educators in relation to adolescence development.
	Intervention 3. Provide education and disseminate information about sexual reproductive health, including about HIV/AIDS to young people in the communities and in schools in cooperation with Youth Associations and/or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO).

	Intervention 4. Encouraging the development of healthy mind-sets and skills of youth for healthy lifestyles by promoting their participation in physical and sport education activities.
	Intervention 5. Develop the mechanisms to control and regulate the access, use and consumption of NAPSA for youth in cooperation with Youth Associations and/or NGOs.
	Intervention 6. Promote participation of youth in health policy/programme development, which includes mental health, and increase adult and youth awareness about prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases,
	Intervention 7. Increase youth organizations' capacity to influence decision makers to give attention to the situation of youth health.
Youth and Employment and Employability	
Goal: Young men and women, including youth with disabilities have equal opportunities to increase their employment skills, are able to employ themselves, have employment opportunities and are able to demonstrate good performance in the work place.	**Intervention 1.** Increase opportunities and resources so that young people can practice their skills and knowledge and create more opportunities for decent work for young women and men in rural and urban areas.
	Intervention 2. Improve and further develop formal and non-formal education systems with the objective of increasing labour market responsive knowledge and skillsets and fostering youth entrepreneurial skills.
	Intervention 3. Increase financial and human resource capacity of youth organizations and/or non-governmental organizations that are working with or for youth to provide youth entrepreneurship promotion programmes.
	Intervention 4. Strengthen laws and policies to protect young workers within the country and establish cooperation with overseas institutions to protect youth labourers who are working overseas.
Youth and Civic Participation	
Goal: The young people of Timor-Leste, guided by a spirit of solidarity, participate actively and constructively in the development process at all levels, and value their culture.	**Intervention 1.** Increase access to multimedia information from community centres up to municipal level.
	Intervention 2. Promote youth civic participation and involvement by involving them more in the process of planning, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes that affect their lives.

	Intervention 3. Promote better communication between generations in order to strengthen understanding about historical values and cultural diversity.
	Intervention 4. Strengthen initiatives that promote volunteerism.
	Intervention 5. Adopt an inclusive approach to enable young people to express their ideas and talents, including young people with disabilities.
	Intervention 6. Create and develop learning spaces to raise awareness about civic values and to develop leadership potential and talents of youth.
	Intervention 7. Further promote development that is sensitive to gender and to people with disabilities in all sectors.
	Intervention 8. Develop the institutional capacity of youth organizations and other organizations that are working with or for the youth in order to ensure civic values promotion and civic participation in local community, at the national and international level.
Youth and Violence and Crime	
Goal: The young people of Timor-Leste possess a strong spirit, a sense of responsibility and social sensitivity, and are able to create a peaceful environment through the strengthening and application of democratic principles.	**Intervention 1.** Increase the capacity of youth organizations to become facilitators of conflict transformation and promote the practice of maintaining peace in the community.
	Intervention 2. Create space and opportunity that can facilitate young people's initiatives and promote youth creativity in order to strengthen and enhance sentiments of social solidarity, the spirit of volunteerism and national unity.
	Intervention 3. In accordance with the principle of Sovereign Democratic State, reinforce the justice system through developing child protection laws and fomenting awareness around the importance of compliance to the laws related to youth in order to maintain peace and stability in society
	Intervention 4. Create a secure space for young people, especially young women, to support them and to keep them away from the vicious cycle of violence.
	Intervention 5. Promote positive relationships among youth and their parents and family. This can provide a significant influence in young people's confidence and behaviour. This influence must start from young children and continue through the stages of youth and adulthood. The risk of violence will increase more from negative relationship elements in the family environment.

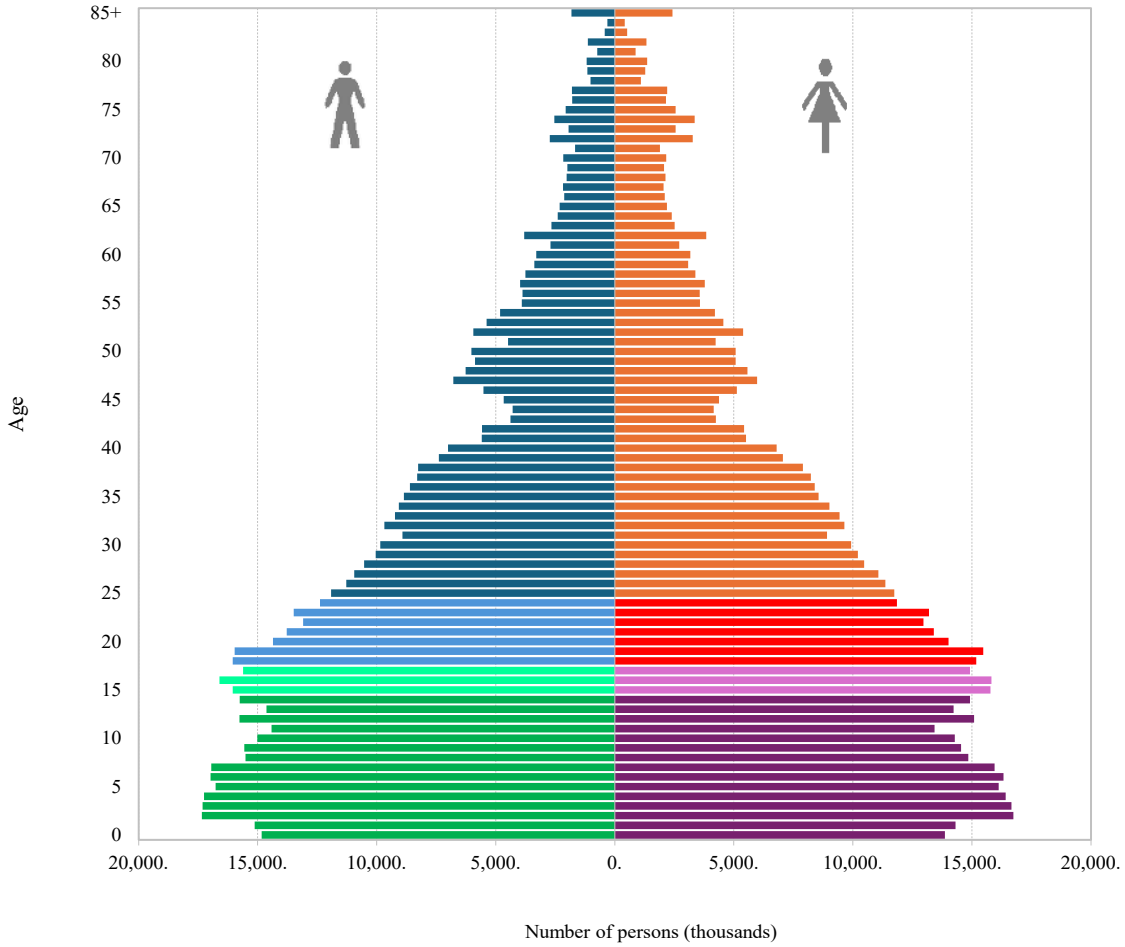
Chapter 1. Children and youth in Timor-Leste

i. Size and structure

Number of children and youth

According to the 2022 TLPHC, out of a total population of 1,341,737 persons, 561,857 were children in the age group 0 to 17 years old. This constitutes 41.9 percent of the total population. There are somewhat more boys than girls in the 0-17 age groups: 287,530 boys versus 274,327 girls. Over 42 percent of the total male population are boys below age 15, against 41.5 percent for girls. The number of youth is formed by the population in the age group 15 to 24 years of age. In 2022, 290,246 persons in Timor-Leste were in this age category, 147,500 males and 142,746 females. This constitutes 21.6 percent of the country's total population. The fact that 56.4 percent of the total population is below age 25 shows the young age structure of the population in Timor-Leste (see Figure 1. 1). The pyramid's bright green and purple colours emphasize the overlap between childhood and youth, from age 15 to 17.

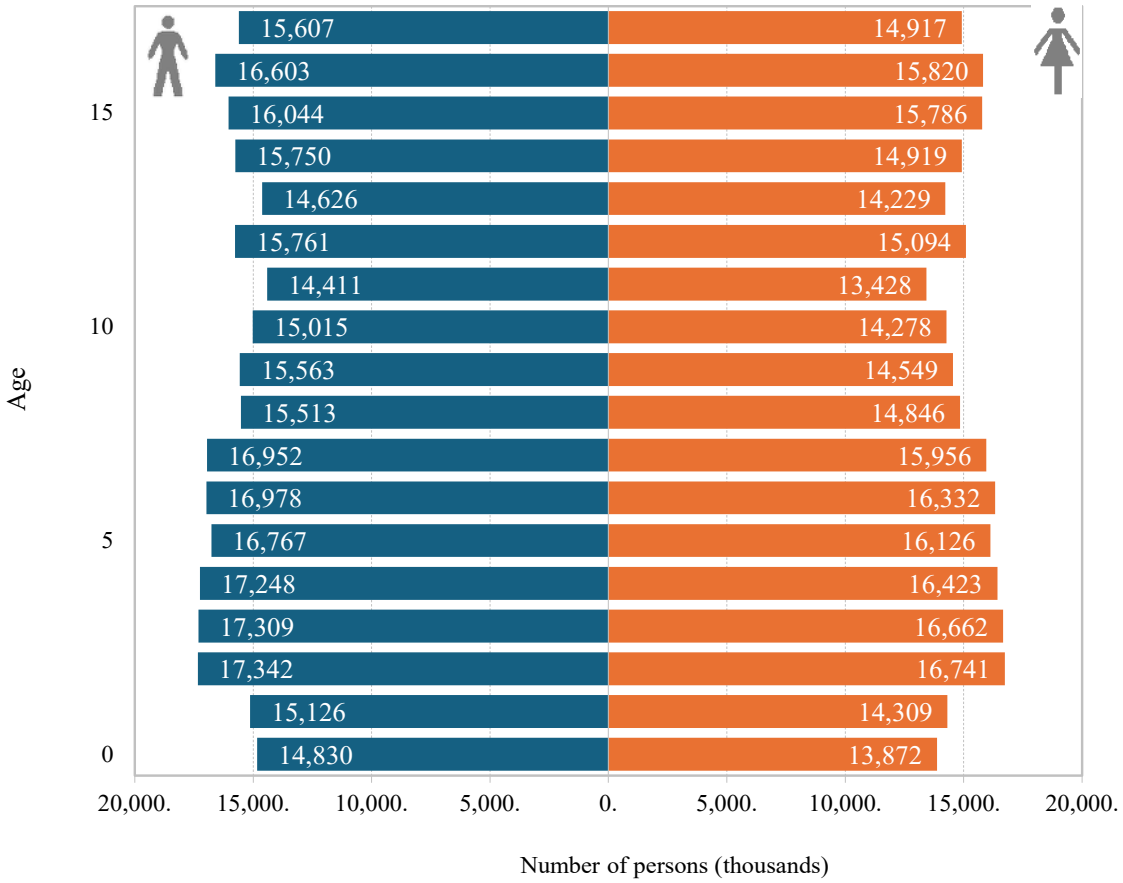
Figure 1. 1. Population pyramid in single ages



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Figure 1. 2 depicts the population pyramid for children 0 – 17 years old. The age distribution of children shows the fertility decline that has taken place over the years in Timor-Leste. While the Total Fertility Rate was 4.5 children per woman in 2015, it decreased to 3.6 children per woman in 2022 (INETL, 2024). Consequently, not much difference can be observed in the number of younger and older children. As in many countries (Pelletier, 2020), there seems to be an undercount of the youngest two age groups in the census. Moreover, fewer children were enumerated at ages 11 and 13. It is unclear why this is the case, but perhaps some ages were misreported.

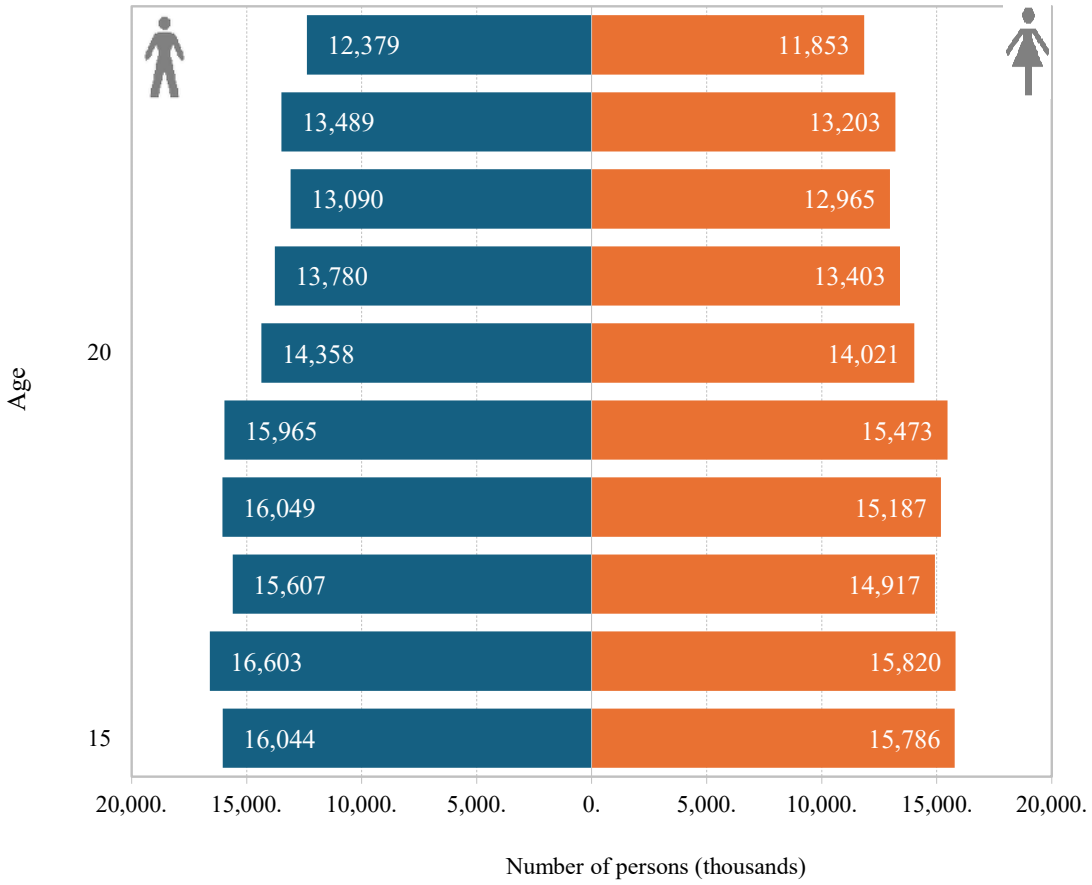
Figure 1. 2. Population pyramid children 0 - 17 years



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

The population pyramid for youth is shown in Figure 1. 3. The age structure among Timor-Leste's youth shows a higher population in the younger ages. In 2022, the population of 24-year-old men and women was 12,379 and 11,853, against 16,044 men and 15,786 women among 15-year-olds. This age structure is in line with the higher total fertility of the past.

Figure 1. 3. Population pyramid youth 15 - 24 years



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Growth rates

Between the censuses of 2015 and 2022, the population aged 0 – 25 increased with an annual rate of 1.2 percent (Table 1.1). This is slower than the overall population growth of 2.1 percent per annum between 2015 and 2022 (INETL, 2023). The figures in Table 1.1 show that some changes are taking place in Timor-Leste's age structure. While the percentage of children in the total population was 46.6 percent in 2015 percent in 2015, it dropped rapidly to 41.9 percent in 2022. The percentage of youth changed less dramatically and even Saw a slight increase from 20.4 to 21.6 percent. While the annual growth of the total number of children is relatively low (0.5 percent), the number of youth in the country grows much faster (2.8 percent). The rapid growth of the youth population has severe consequences for the country's development.

The fact that currently, more than 50,000 persons more youth are present in the age group 15 to 24 than in 2015 means that the capacity of secondary and higher education needs to be increased and that more young persons will enter the labour market year by year. The increasing number of young people entering the labour force creates challenges and opportunities, as was explainged in Timor-Leste's 2018 National Human Development Report (UNDP, 2018)(i

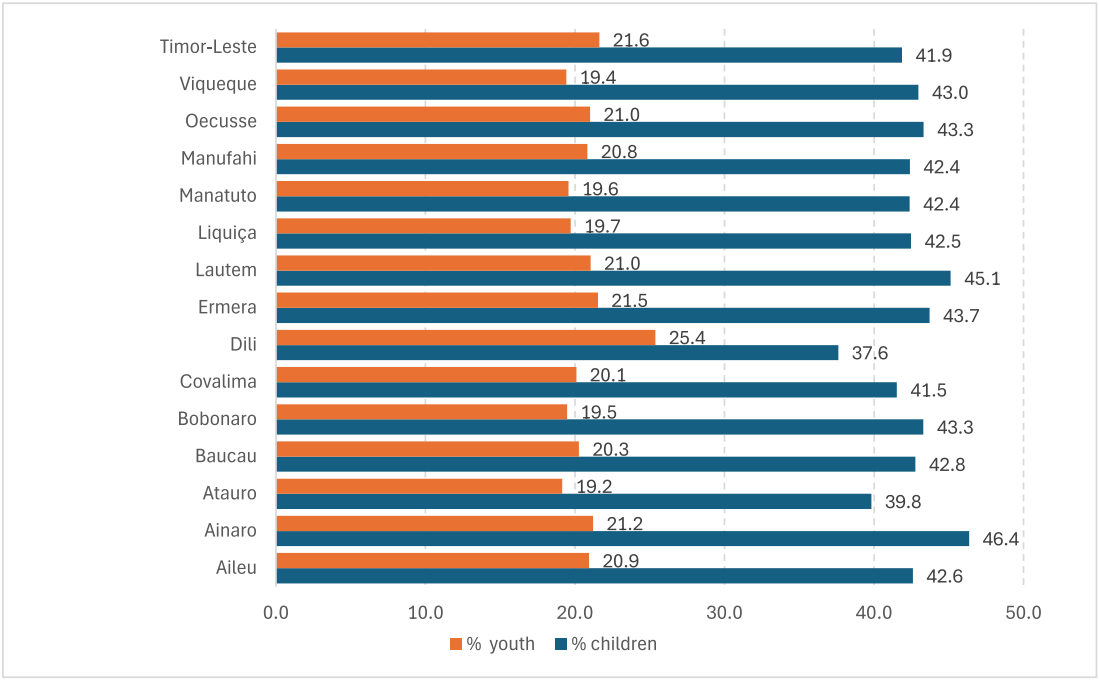
Table 1. 1. Total number and percentages of children and youth, annual growth, Timor-Leste

	2015			2022		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Tot. 0 -24	356,183	339,865	696,048	386,555	370,392	756,947
% of total	60.2	59.1	59.7	56.8	56.1	56.4
% growth				1.2	1.2	1.2
Tot children	280,062	263,000	543,062	287,445	274,287	561,732
% of total	47.3	45.8	46.6	42.2	41.5	41.9
% growth				0.4	0.6	0.5
Tot youth	119,401	118,430	237,831	147,364	142,628	289,992
% of total	20.2	20.6	20.4	21.6	21.6	21.6
% growth				3.0	2.7	2.8

Source: 2015 & 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Timor-Leste is still a very rural society; 73.2 percent of all children and 67.6 percent of youth live in rural areas, respectively 411,380 and 196,348 persons. Some variation among municipalities exists in the total population's percentage of children and youth (see Figure 1.4). The percentage of children is highest in Ainaro (46.4 percent) and lowest in Dili (37.6 percent). While Dili has the lowest representation of children, it has the highest percentage of youth among all municipalities (25.4 percent). This is most likely because many young people move to the capital to pursue a higher education or find employment.

Figure 1. 4. Percentage of children and youth in the total population



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

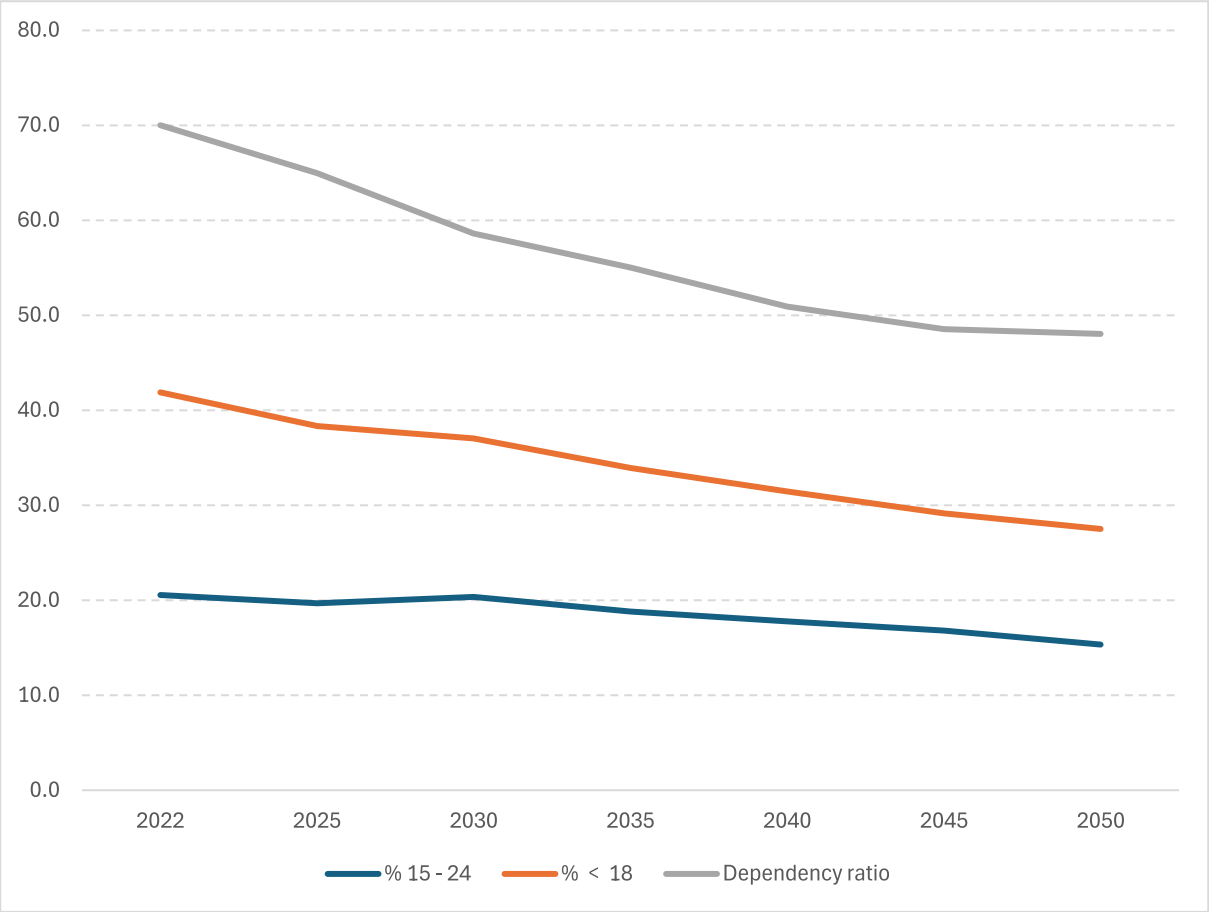
Changing age structure and demographic dividend

Over time, countries undergo a demographic transition, moving from a state of high fertility and high mortality to one characterized by low fertility and low mortality. This transformation is referred to as a demographic transition and typically involves several stages, beginning with a decline in mortality rates due to improvements in healthcare, sanitation, and nutrition, for example, followed by a subsequent decline in fertility rates as social and economic conditions evolve. Timor-Leste was relatively late in beginning its demographic transition. However, the country is currently making significant progress in reducing both fertility and mortality rates.. During the period 2000 – 2023, the country saw a significant rise in male life expectancy from 57.4 years in 2004 to 65.3 years in 2022 - an increase of 7.9 years (INETL, 2024). Female life expectancy increased from 58.9 to 69.2 years. In the meantime, the level of fertility decreased drastically. In 2004, the average number of children that were born to a woman was 7.2. Between 2004 and 2022, the total fertility rate decreased to 3.6 children per woman (INETL, 2024).

The demographic dividend arises from shifts in a population's age structure during the demographic transition, characterized by a decline in fertility rates leading to fewer children. During the early stages of this decline, the population is yet to experience significant ageing, although, over time, population ageing will occur. This transition is intrinsically tied to a country's economic development. Since children and older adults are typically considered inactive segments of the population, having fewer individuals in these age groups temporarily increases the proportion of the working-age population. This demographic shift can lead to enhanced economic growth and higher per capita income, as a greater concentration of people in their productive years boosts economic output. This potential for rapid economic growth is known as the demographic dividend.

The demographic dividend may be a significant element in Timor-Leste's economic development. For this reason, a separate thematic report will be dedicated to this topic. The dependency ratio measures a country's position to harness the benefits of the demographic dividend. The dependency ratio is calculated as the sum of the number of persons in the economically inactive age groups (0 – 14 years and 65 years and over) divided by the number of persons in the active age group (15 – 64 years). Figure 1. 5 shows that between 2022 and 2050, the dependency ratio is expected to drop from a level of 70.0 to a level of 48.0 in 2050. The population projections based on the 2022 TLPHC show that the proportion of children is expected to fall from 41.9 percent in 2022 to 27.5 percent in 2050. In the meantime, the percentage of youth will decrease from 20.6 percent of the total population to 15.4 percent. However, reducing the proportion of children and youth in the total population does not mean that the absolute number of persons in both groups will decrease to the same extent. For instance, according to the 2022 population projections, the absolute number of children will only decrease from 579,089 to 545,871 in the period 2022 – 2050.

Figure 1. 5. Percentage of persons 0 - 17, the percentage of youth in the population and the dependency ratio 2022 – 2050



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

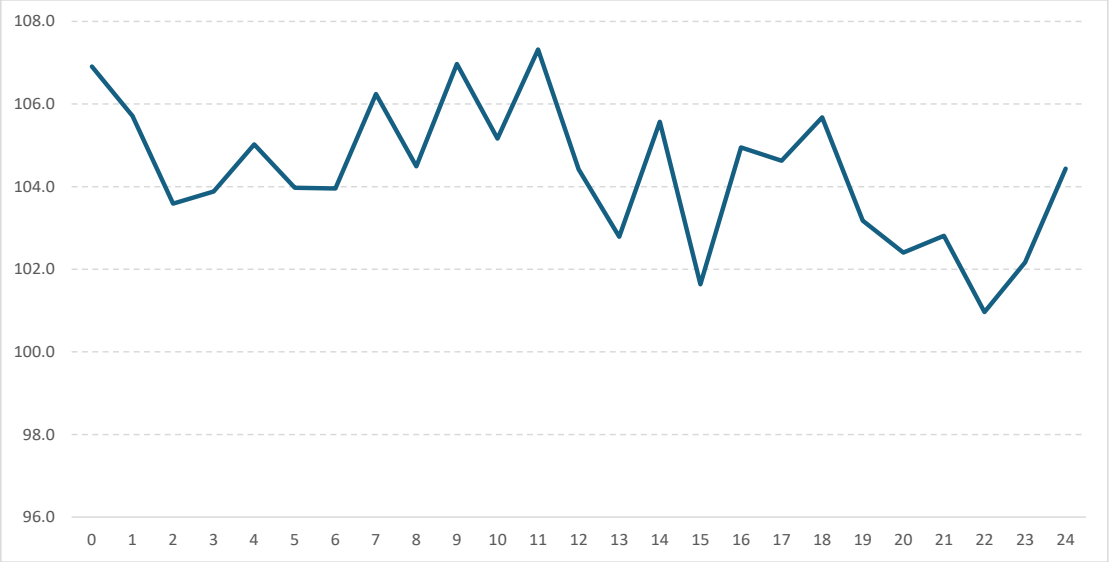
Sex ratios

The sex ratio shows the number of men per 100 women. The 2022 TLPHC found that 21 thousand more males than females live in Timor-Leste. This implies a sex ratio of 103 men per 100 women (INETL, 2023). According to the 2022 TLPHC, the sex ratio for children was 104.8 boys per 100 girls. This is higher than among the general population. The sex ratio among youth (103.3) is almost the same as for the general population.

The age-specific sex ratios of persons 0 – 25 years show a somewhat erratic pattern (Figure 1. 6). Globally, the sex ratio at birth varies between 104 and 107. As such, the sex ratios in the youngest age groups are relatively high but still fall within a common range. Among children in their first year, the sex ratio equals 106.9 girls per 100 boys.

This elevated ratio persists between ages one and two, where it stands at 105.7. It is unclear whether this trend reflects an established pattern or if it results from higher under-enumeration of girls compared to boys. Additionally, higher sex ratios are observed among children aged 7, 9, and 11.

Figure 1. 6. Sex ratios of children and youth by single age

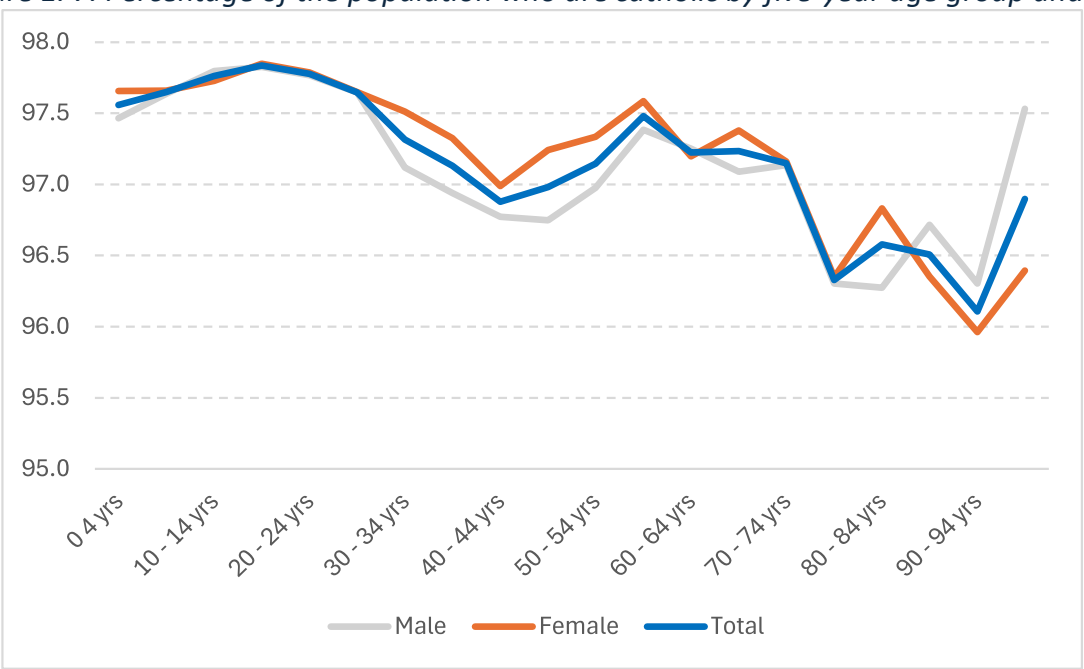


Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

ii. Religion

In the 2022 TLPHC, a question was asked about the religious affiliation of each household member. The following answer categories were included: 1) Christianity – Catholicism, 2) Christianity – Protestantism / Evangelicalism, 3) Islam, 4) Buddhism, 5) Hinduism, 6) Indigenous religion, 7) Other, 8) No religion, 9) No answer. The census showed that the largest group of people in Timor-Leste are Catholic (97.5 percent). Figure 1. 7 shows that very little difference exists between younger and older people regarding their religious affiliation.

Figure 1. 7. Percentage of the population who are catholic by five-year age group and sex



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

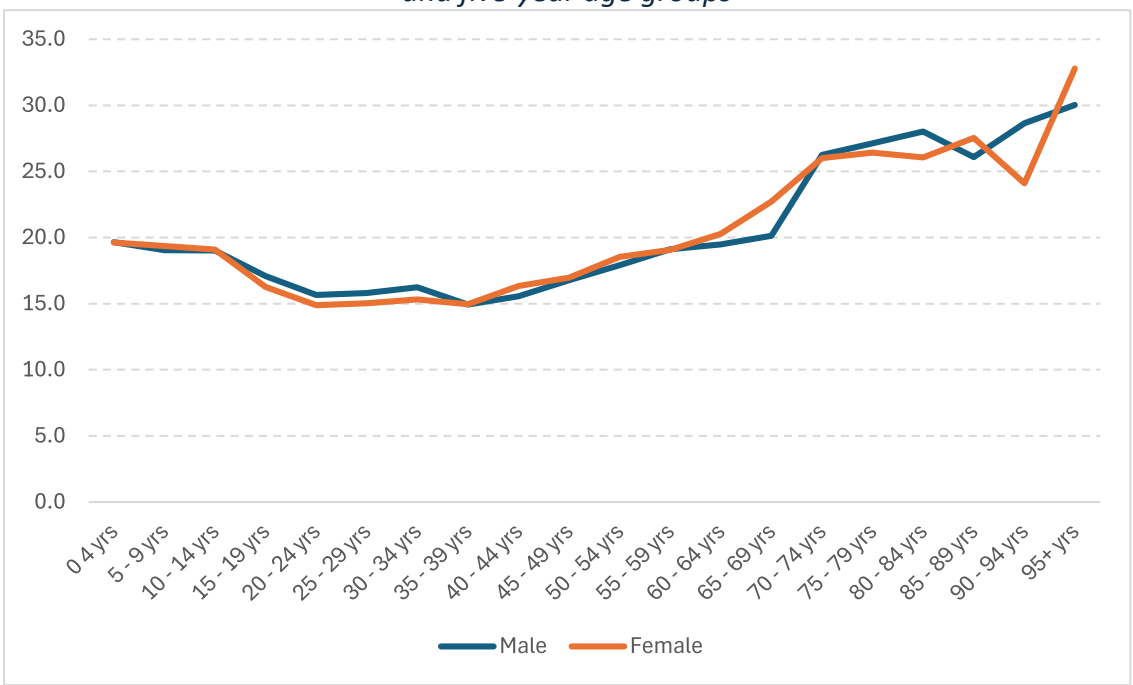
iii. Socioeconomic status

Wealth index

Data on child and youth poverty is essential for creating informed policies, improving health and educational outcomes, fostering economic growth, upholding human rights, and monitoring development progress. Unfortunately, a census does not provide adequate data to establish the poverty status of individuals and households, as it lacks direct information on income and expenditure. However, census data do allow for the calculation of a wealth index. The wealth index summarizes all wealth characteristics of households in a single indicator. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) methodology was used to calculate the wealth index. The interested reader is referred to the 2008 DHS working paper (no. 60) called 'DHS Wealth Index: Approaches for Rural and Urban Areas' by Rutstein (2008).

The calculation of the wealth index is based on Principal Component Analysis, which summarizes the selected variables into weights based on their impact on the variability of all the variables in the whole population. It creates principal components, from which the first is taken as the index of wealth, and then calculates a weight for each household, indicating the household's position in terms of wealth. These weights are then subdivided into five equal parts (quintiles). Each household gets a number from one to five, indicating their wealth group. The value one is given if the household belongs to the poorest quintile of the population, and the value five is given if the household belongs to the wealthiest quintile.

Figure 1. 8. Percentage of the population who belong to the lowest wealth quintile, by age and five-year age groups



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

A test was performed to examine the poverty status of children and young people based on the following principle. If there was no difference between younger and older people of all ages in terms of their belonging to the poorest quintile in the population, precisely 20 percent of the population would belong to the lowest quintile. If in a certain age group, the percentage in the lowest quintile would be lower than 20, it indicates that in that age group, there are fewer poor people than in the general population. Figure 1. 8 show that this is not the case. While very young children belong to the poorest quintile in about the same proportion as the general population, only 16.7 and 15.3 percent of young persons in the age groups 15 – 19 and 20 – 24 belong to the lowest wealth quintile. On the other hand, persons 70 years of age and older belong much more to the lowest economic group in society. For both males and females in these five-year age groups, more than 25 percent belong to the lowest wealth quintile.

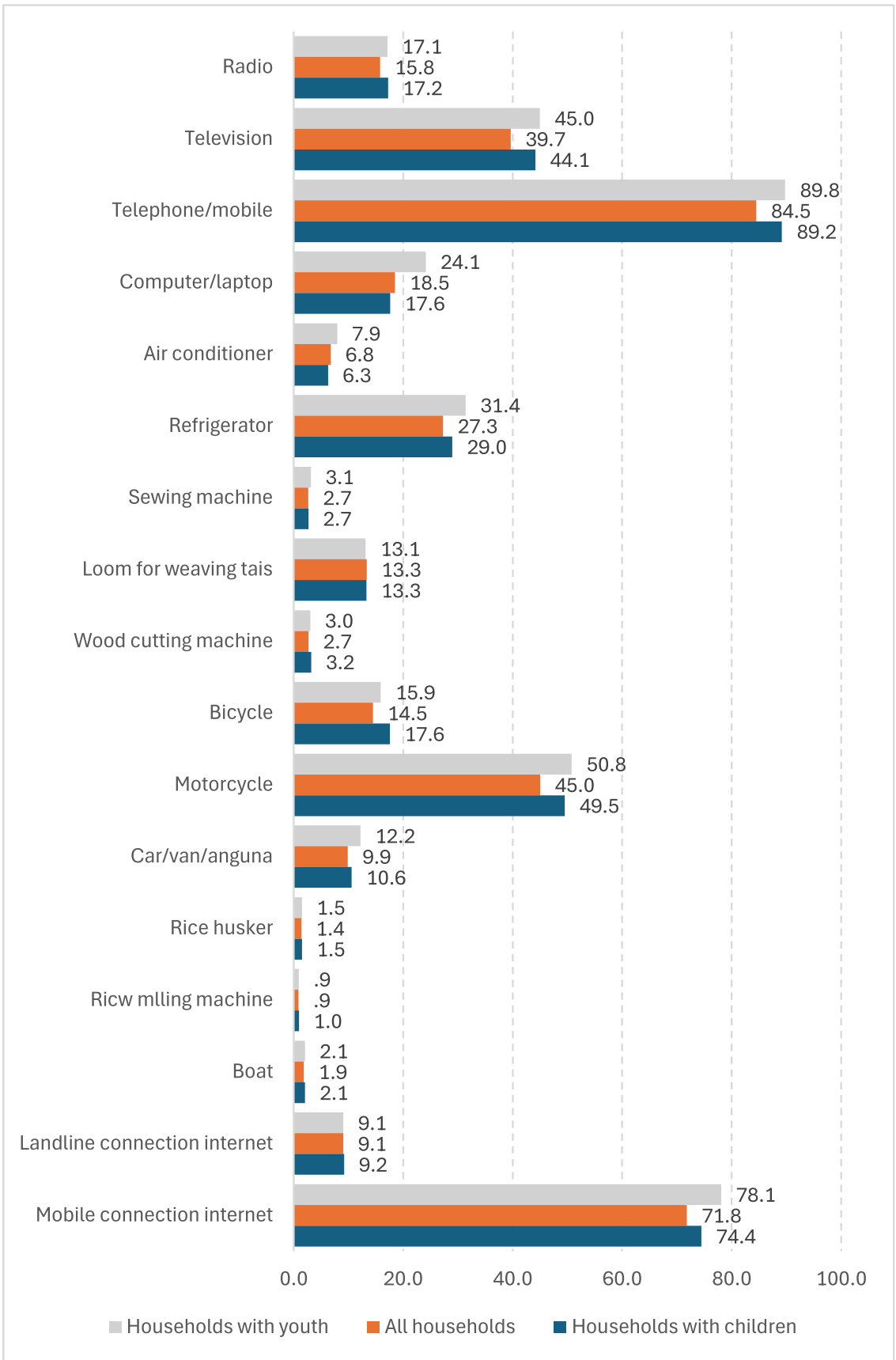
Assets

The disadvantage of the wealth quintile is that it is a relative measure. Belonging to the poorest quintiles is relative to the economic position of the rest of all households in the country. Without direct income data, a more direct way to look into poverty and deprivation is to look into amenities available to children and youth. In the census, questions were asked about a series of items that the household owned or not. Figure 1. 9 depicts the percentage of households with children or youth owning a series of dwelling amenities. Enumerators were instructed only to note down amenities that were in working condition.

Interestingly, the item most often owned by households is a telephone or mobile phone. Almost 90 percent of all households with children or youth have at least one telephone or mobile phone. Households without children or youth own fewer phones (84.5 percent). The large majority of households with telephones also have access to the internet. Among all households, 71.8 percent have mobile internet. For households with children or youth, this is 74.4 and 78.1 percent, respectively. An additional 9.1 percent have a landline internet connection.

Radio has become less important as more households get connected to the internet. According to the 2022 TLPHC, only 15.8 percent of all households possess a radio. In 2015, this was still 27.0 percent (INETL, 2024). Television ownership has remained somewhat the same (39.7 percent in 2022, against 36.8 percent in 2015). For all types of transportation, households with children and youth have somewhat higher ownership than all households. The means of transportation that is most often owned by the households is a motorcycle (45.0 percent). This is considerably higher than it was in 2015 (23.6 percent). Around ten percent of households possess a car. Households with young members have slightly higher possession (12.2 percent). Households with youth have a higher possession of a computer or a laptop: 24.1 percent

Figure 1. 9, Percentage of households with children and youth with the presence of certain amenities in the house



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

iv. Marriage

According to Law No. 10/2011, article 1467, '*Marriage is the contract entered into by two persons of different genders who intend to constitute family by means of full cohabitation, pursuant to the provisions of this Code'* (Law NO. 10/2011 of 14 September, 2011). A person below the age of 16 is prevented by law from marrying, while authorization from the parent (or a guardian) is needed if the person is '*under the age of 17 and above the age of 16'*.

In the census, four questions related to marriage and cohabitation were asked:

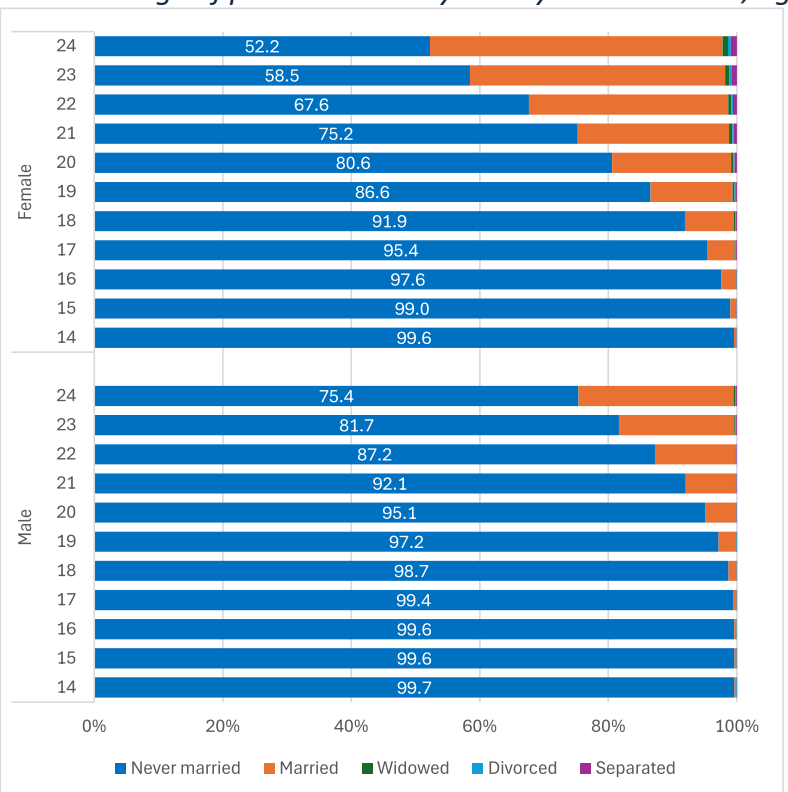
- Marital status;
- Age at first marriage;
- Whether or not the person is living with a partner on a permanent basis;
- Identification of the partner in the household.

In the census, all information about marital status was only asked for persons 14 years of age and older.

Marital status

As in many countries, the age pattern of marital status is quite different between males and females. Figure 1. 10 shows the percentage of persons 14 - 24 years by marital status, age and sex, as observed in the 2022 TLPHC. At age 24, 52.2 percent of women are still unmarried, against 75.4 percent of men. At age 19, only 97.2 percent of men are never married, against 86.6 percent of women.

Figure 1. 10. Percentage of persons 14 - 24 years by marital status, age and sex



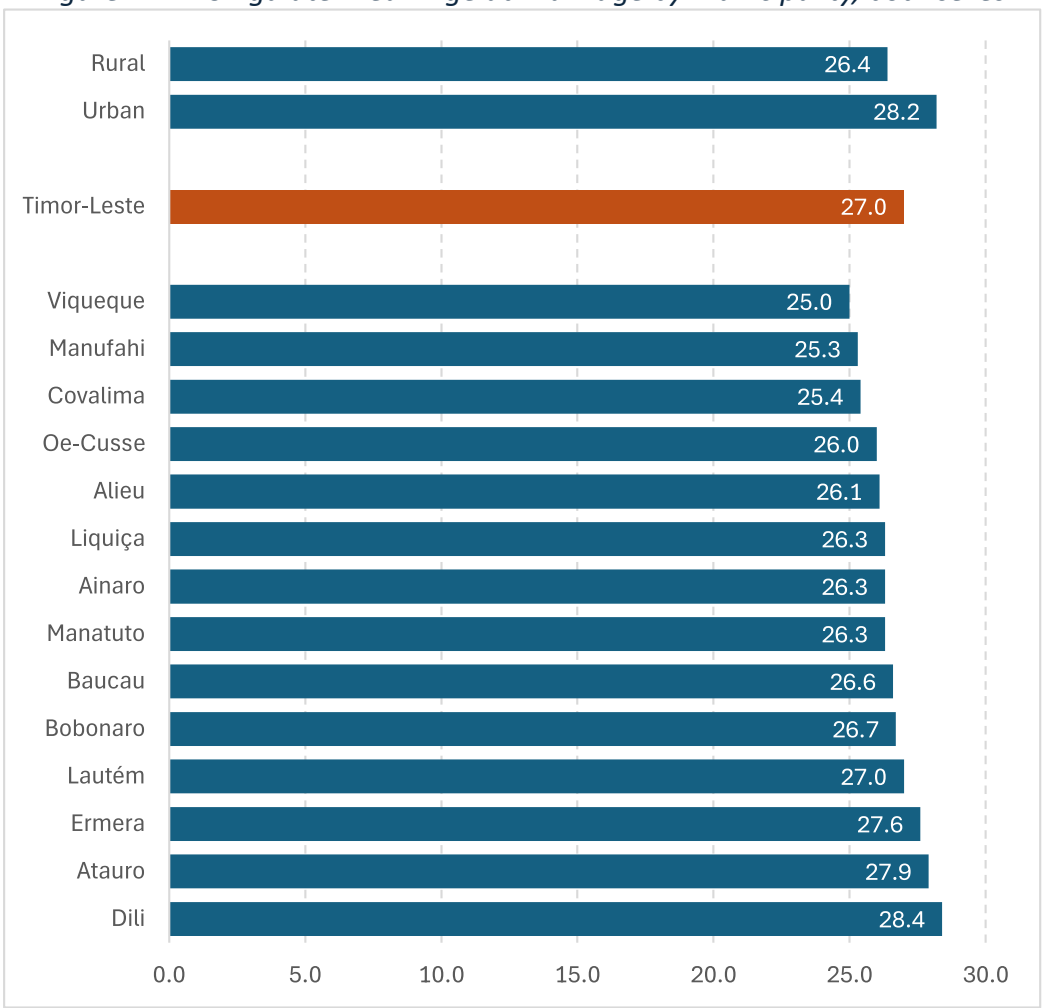
Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Age at first marriage

The difference in the timing of marriage formation is reflected in the mean age at first marriage. The singulate mean age at marriage method (SMAM) is typically used to calculate the mean age at first marriage from census data [2]. The SMAM for both sexes, according to the 2022 TLPHC, was 27.0 years (INETL, 2024). The SMAM for males was about 3.5 years older than for females: 28.8 years against 25.3 years. Compared to 2015, the mean age at first marriage has remained fairly constant. In 2015, the SMAM for males and females was 28.4 years and 25.0 years, respectively (GDS, 2018).

The age at first marriage is almost two years higher in urban areas than in rural areas, 28.2 years against 26.4 years (Figure 1. 11). Age at first marriage for both sexes differs greatly among Timor-Leste's municipalities. While SMAM is 28.4 years in Dili, it is more than three years less in Viqueque (25.0 years).

Figure 1. 11. Singulate Mean Age at Marriage by municipality, both sexes



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

[2] The singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM): is the average length of never-married life for those who subsequently marry before age 50 and is calculated from the proportions never married in five-year age groups from a census or survey (Hajnal, 1953).

Age at first marriage is highest among urban males. On average, they are 29.8 years old before they tie the knot. The thematic report on fertility and nuptiality also shows that persons with tertiary education marry at significantly higher ages (30.6 years for females and 27.8 years for males) than persons with secondary and primary education. The highest difference between male and female mean age at marriage is among persons with no education. On average, males with no education marry at 28.6 years of age, against 24.2 years for females.

Child marriage

Child marriage is defined as any formal marriage or informal union before the age of 18 (UNICEF, 2022). It is a gross violation of child rights and a form of violence against children too often ignored. Child marriage interferes with children's educational development and is associated, among others, with intimate partner violence, premature pregnancy, maternal and child mortality and increased rates of sexually transmitted diseases (UNICEF, 2021). Target 5.3 of the SDGs is directed to '*eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations'.* The indicator to measure progress in reducing child marriage is the proportion of women aged 20 to 24 who were married or in union before age 15 and before age 18. The census age at first marriage was asked, but not at first union. As such, the indicator may be a slight undercount of the true level of child marriage.

Among all young persons below age 18, 268 men and 1,282 women have been married, i.e., are currently married, divorced, separated or widowed. Table 1.2 shows the percentage of persons 20 to 24 years old who were married before age 15 and 18.
For males and females, the percentage who were married before age 15 is very small, 0.03 percent for males and 0.23 percent for females. The percentage of males who were married before age 18 remains small, but for females, it shows that almost one in 20 females is married before age 18. Compared to other countries in the world, child marriage is relatively low in Timor-Leste. According to a UNICEF data brief on trends and future prospects of child marriage (UNICEF, 2018), the global percentage of women aged 20—24 years who were first married or in a union before their 18th birthday was 21 percent.

Table 1. 2. Percentage of persons 20 - 24 years old who were married before age 15 and 18

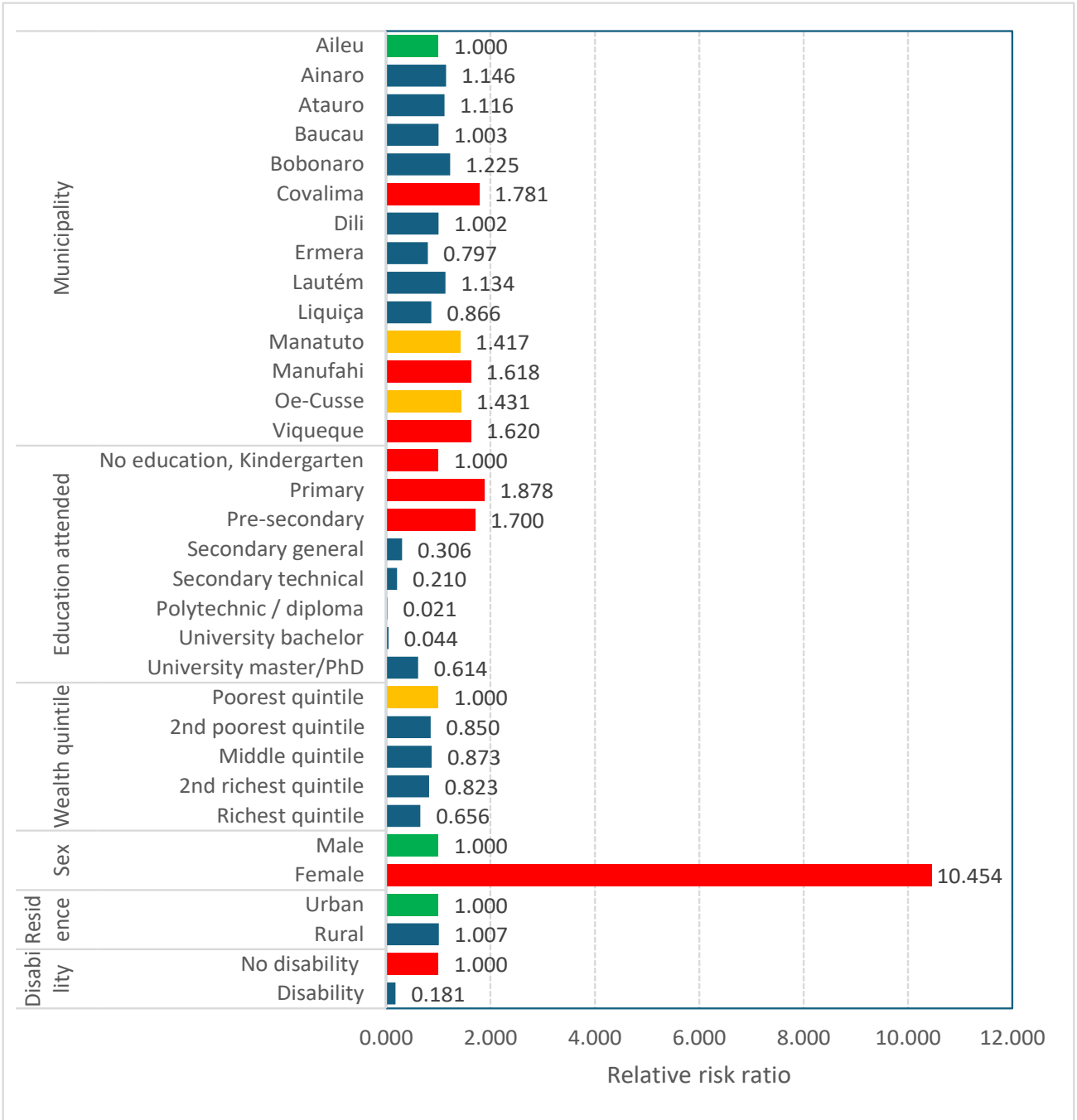
	Before age 15	Before age 18
Male	0.03	0.60
Female	0.23	4.87

Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

A logit regression was performed to examine differentials in child marriage. The dependent variable was whether a person who was 20 – 24 years old in the census was married before the age of 18 or not. The relative risk ratios for this analysis are depicted in Figure 1.12.
The relative risk ratios are the exponentials of the regression coefficients in the logit regression model. The explanatory variables included in the analysis are municipality, rural/urban residence, sex, disability status, education attended, and wealth quintile. All

relative risks refer to the reference category, i.e., the first category in each explanatory variable. The logit analysis shows the net effect of each of the explanatory variables after controlling for all other intervening covariates.

Figure 1. 12. Relative risk ratios, logit regression on persons married before age 18 among all persons in the age group 20 - 24 years



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

The analysis shows significant regional differences regarding child marriage between the Timor-Leste municipalities. Compared to Aileu (the reference category), the odds of experiencing a child marriage are considerably higher in Covalima, Manufahi and Viqueque.

Somewhat higher risk ratios were found in Manatuto and Oe-Cusse. The lowest odds for experiencing child marriage were found in Liquiça.

Low educational attainment is an important factor in determining the chance of a child ending up in marriage at a very young age. For instance, the odds for a young person who attended at least some secondary general education to marry before 18 are more than three times lower than a person who never attended school. Interestingly, persons who attended at least some primary or pre-secondary education scored considerably higher than those without. The odds for child marriage are highest for those who belong to the poorest wealth quintile. However, the effect is less outspoken as for educational attainment. By far, sex is the the most significant discriminating factor in child marriage. The regression shows that, after controlling for other intervening factors, the chance of a girl marrying below age 18 is more than ten times higher than for boys. Adolescents with a disability have lower chances than those without a disability.

Dissolution of marriage: divorce, widowhood and separation

The levels of divorce and separation are very low in Timor-Leste. Among all men and women, only 0.4 percent of men and 0.8 percent of women are divorced, and 0.6 percent of men and 1.4 percent of women are separated. Among the 873 young men 15 – 19 years old, who indicated they were ever married, 2.2 percent reported being divorced. Among the 4,525 ever-married women aged 15 to 19, 1.3 percent indicated to be divorced. This percentage was higher for both sexes than for any five-year age group.

It is also interesting to see that widowhood among young persons 15 – 19 years is a bit high: 5.4 percent of ever-married men in this age group indicate they were widowed. Among young women in the same age group, this is 2.6 percent. Whether this is a real trend or some data quality issue is unclear.

v. Fertility

Age-specific levels of Fertility

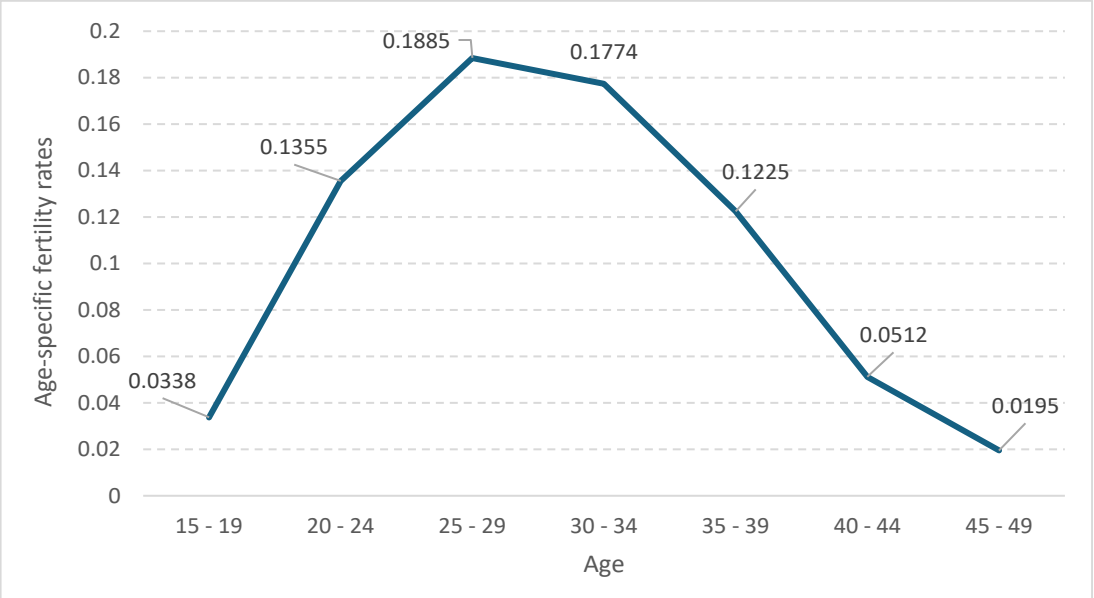
There is no doubt that the fertility levels in Timor-Leste are declining rapidly. According to the DHS, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR)[3] was 5.7 children per woman in 2010 (NSD, Ministry of Finance, and ICF Macro, 2010). The 2016 DHS showed a rapid decline in the TFR to 4.2 children per woman (GDS, Ministry of Health and ICF, 2018). These figures are in line with the TFRs from the 2010 and 2015 censuses when total fertility was estimated to be 5.9 and 4.5 children per woman, respectively (INETL, 2024). Using the own children's indirect estimation method, the author of the Thematic Report on Fertility estimated that the 2022 TFR stood at 3.6 average children per woman (INETL, 2024). There is still quite a big difference in the TFR between urban

[3] The Total Fertility Rate is the number of children that a woman would have by the end of her childbearing period if she were to experience the currently observed age-specific fertility rates.

and rural areas. The estimated TFR in urban areas was 3.0 children per woman, against 4.0 children per woman in rural areas.

Figure 1. 13 shows the age-specific fertility rates from the fertility schedule based on the 2022 TLPHC. The age-specific fertility rate of 0.0338 for the age group 15 to 19 means that for every 1,000 women aged 15 to 19 in a given population, approximately 33.8 births occur annually. In the same way, an estimated 135.5 children are born between the ages of 20 and 24. The mean age of the fertility schedule was found to be 23.7 years (INETL, 2024).

Figure 1. 13. Estimated age-specific fertility rates, own children method



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Among all women 15 to 19 years old, 95.1 percent had never given birth. For those in the age group 20 to 24, this was 70.6 percent. For those 4.9 percent of 15 to 19 year old who already gave birth, 3.5 percent had one birth, 1.0 percent had two births, 0.2 percent had three births, and 0.1 percent had four births.

Adolescent fertility

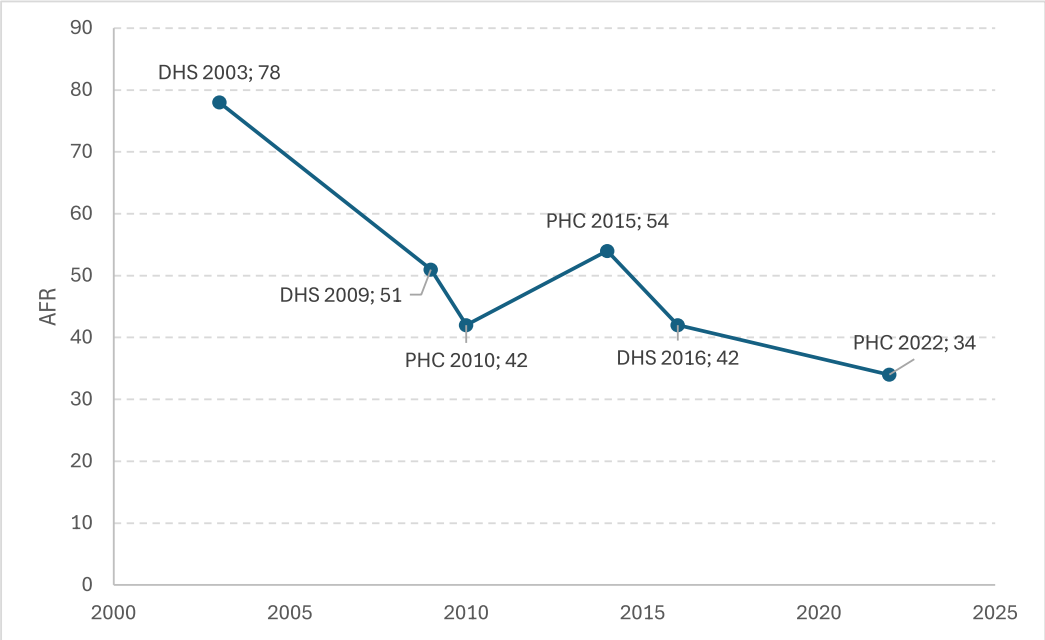
There is a long list of negative consequences related to adolescent fertility and teenage pregnancies, impeding the fulfillment of a young person's full potential. Teenage mothers are at a higher risk for complications such as preeclampsia, anaemia, and postpartum haemorrhage. They have greater chances of experiencing poverty due to limited opportunities for education and employment. They are likelier to drop out of school and often have lower academic performance. Their babies are more likely to have low birth weight and higher rates of neonatal mortality. At the societal level, adolescent fertility can lead to a less skilled labour force and place an extra burden on society due to higher healthcare costs, increased welfare dependency, and lost economic potential.

The standard indicator for measuring adolescent fertility is the Adolescent Fertility Rate (AFR). The AFR is defined as the number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years in a given year.

The AFR provides a clear measure of how prevalent adolescent childbearing is within a population. As indicated above, the AFR was 33.8 births per 1,000 adolescent women.

Over the years, there has been a clear downward trend in the levels of adolescent fertility. Figure 1. 14 shows data from the subsequent censuses and DHS surveys. According to the 2003 DHS, the adolescent fertility rate was 78 children per 1,000 women 15 - 19 years old. Over the course of 20 years, adolescent fertility has more than halved to the current level of 34 children per 1,000 women 15 – 19 years. The decrease was most intense during the first decade of the new century. Between the two DHS surveys of 2003 and 2009, the AFR dropped from 78 to 51 children per 1,000 adolescent women. According to the censuses from 2010 and 2015, adolescent fertility increased again from 42 to 54. It is unclear whether this is a trend or whether there were data problems in the TLPHC of 2010 or 2015.

Figure 1. 14. Trend in adolescent fertility rates based on censuses and DHS[4]



A large variation exists in the Southeast Asian region with regard to adolescent fertility. Singapore is at the lower end of the spectrum, with only two children born per 1,000 women 15 – 19 years old. Also, Malaysia (9) and Brunei Darussalam (10) have very low levels of adolescent fertility. The country with the highest adolescent fertility rate in the region is Laos, with 72 births per 1,000 adolescent girls. Timor-Leste is somewhere in the middle, with an AFR of 34 per 1,000. Its AFR comes very close to Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia and Vietnam (Figure 1. 15).

[4] Based on the census thematic reports for 2010, and 2015, (Ministry of Health, NSO Timor-Leste, University of Newcastle, Australian National University, ACIIL, 2004) and 2022. The DHS figures were retrieved from, (GDS, Ministry of Health and ICF, 2018), and (Ministry of Health, NSO Timor-Leste, University of Newcastle, Australian National University, ACIIL, 2004)

Figure 1. 15. Adolescent fertility rates Southeast Asian countries, World Bank database, 2024

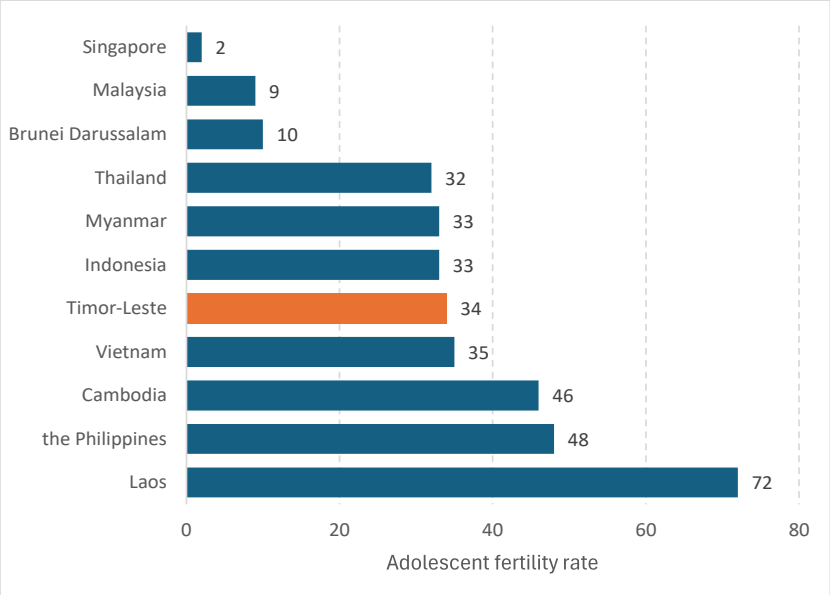
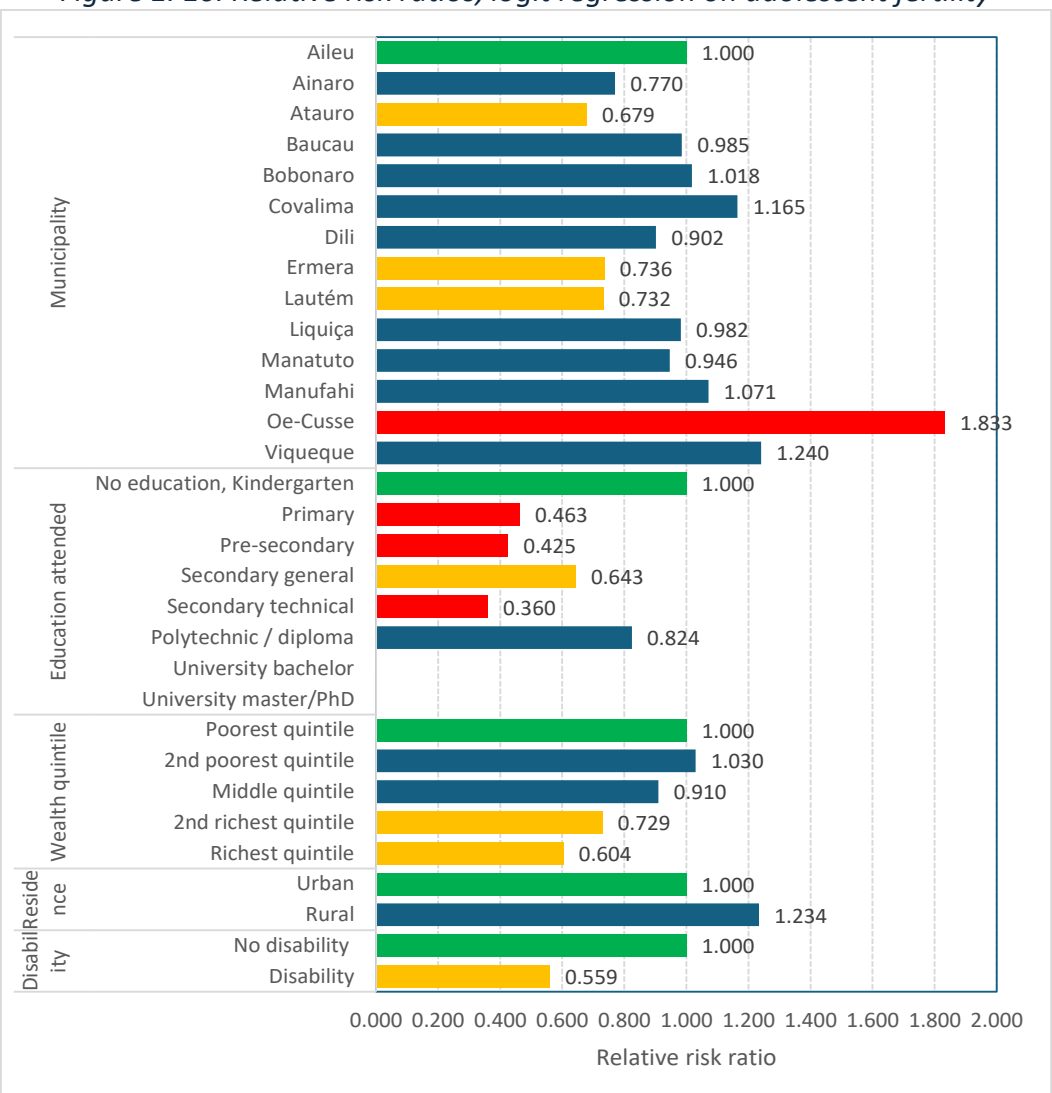


Figure 1. 16. Relative risk ratios, logit regression on adolescent fertility



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Within the country, large differences exist in the levels of adolescent fertility. To examine these differentials, a logit regression was set up, in which the dependent variable was whether a woman between the ages of 15 and 19 had ever given birth to a child. The same explanatory variables were used as before, except for sex, as the fertility questions were restricted to women. For education, university education was excluded, as there were only a few cases available. The relative risk ratios for this regression are presented in Figure 1. 16.

Large differences between municipalities in adolescent fertility can be observed after controlling for intervening factors. The relative risk ratio for women between ages 15 and 19 in Oe-Cusse to have a baby is about 1.8 times larger than for women in Aileu, the reference category. The lowest relative odds ratio is in Atauro (.679), which is slightly lower than in Ermera (0.736) or Lautém (0.732). Adolescent fertility is much higher in adolescent women with no education than in any other educational category. The difference between no education and primary education stands out. The relative risk of giving birth in the age group 15 – 19 adolescent women with primary education is less than half of those without education. Poorer women have significantly higher odds than women in the higher wealth quintiles to give birth before their 20th birthday. Finally, adolescent women living in rural areas have about 20 percent higher odds of giving birth (1.234) and adolescent women with a disability have significantly lower odds (.559).

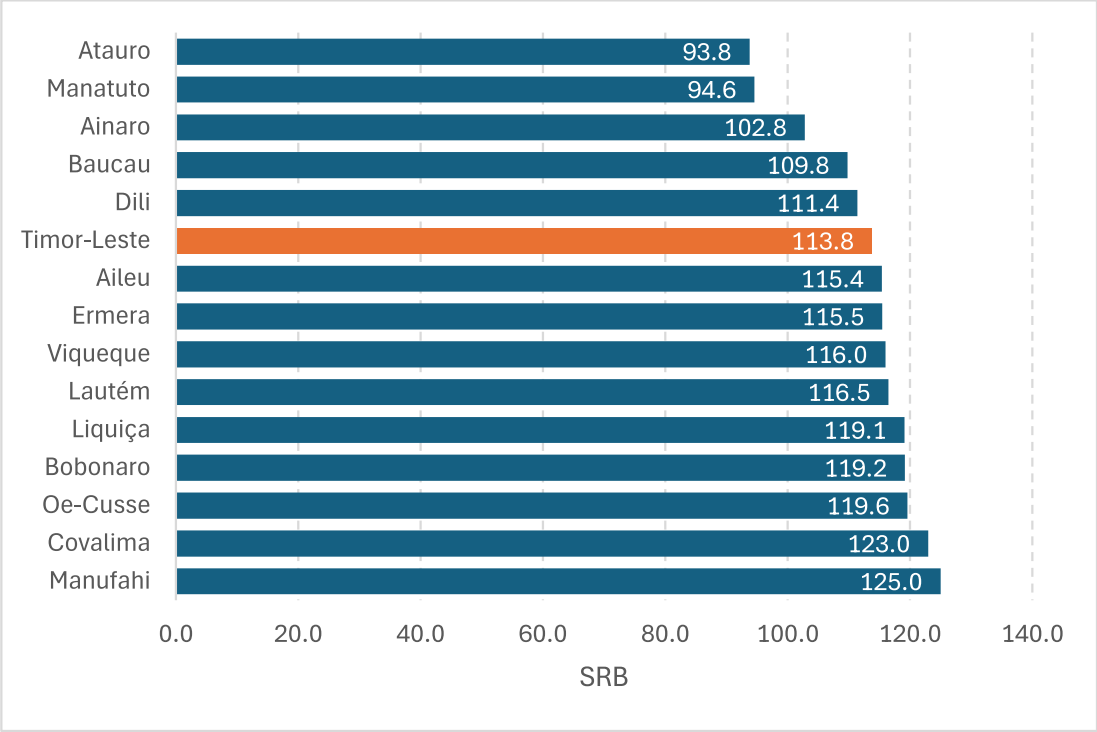
Sex ratios at birth

The natural sex ratio at birth is 104 to 107 male births per 100 female births. In countries with a high preference for boys, parents may rely on sex-selective abortion. During pregnancy, a test may be done to determine the sex of the unborn child, and if it proves to be a girl, parents may opt for an abortion. This results in distorted sex ratios at birth.

In the 2022 TLPHC, the date of birth and sex of the last child born to each woman 15 years of age and older were asked. Based on this information, the sex ratio at birth was calculated for children born in the year before the census. The sex ratio at birth was found to be 113.8 boys per 100 girls (INETL, Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2022, Thematic Report – Fertility and Nuptiality, 2024).

The fertility thematic report indicated that the sex ratio at birth was not very different between urban and rural areas. However, large differences exist between different municipalities (Figure 1. 17). The sex ratios at birth vary from 93.8 male births per 100 female births in Atauro to 125.0 male births per 100 female births in Manufahi. It is unclear what exactly caused the high sex ratio at birth in some of the provinces. Given the legal restrictions on abortion, it is unlikely that sex-selective abortion plays any role. It is more likely that there is a data quality issue and that the birth of baby girls was more underreported than the birth of baby boys. It should be noted that in the 2016 DHS, the sex ratio for 2016 births was 104.1.

Figure 1. 17. Sex ratio by municipality for births born during the 12 months before the census



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Birth attendance

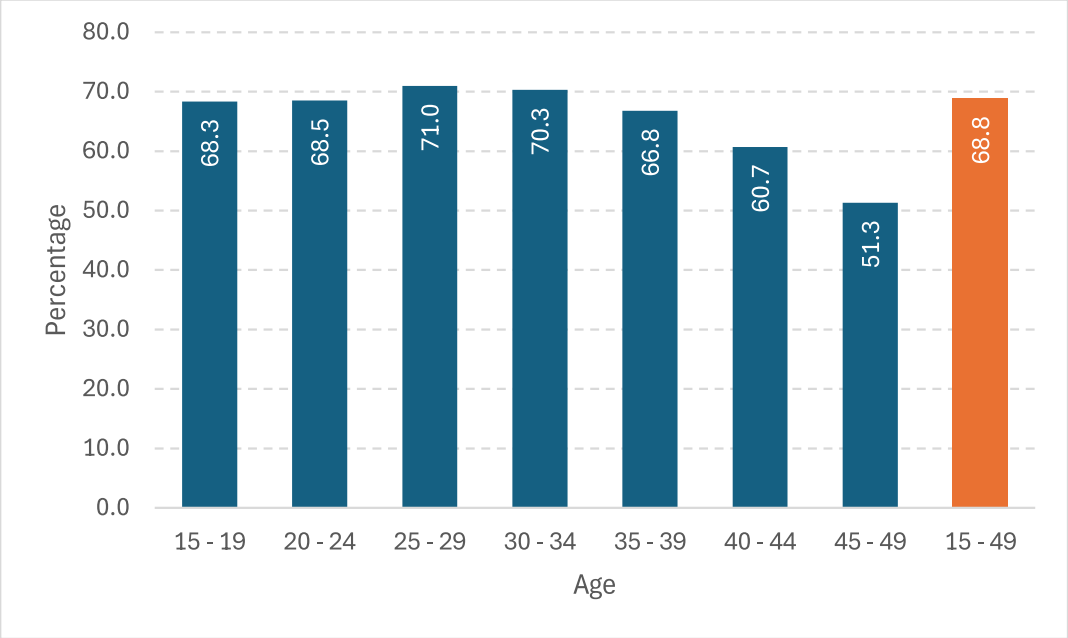
Childbirth should be attended by skilled health personnel for several essential reasons, primarily to ensure the safety and well-being of both mother and newborn. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), skilled health personnel, including doctors, nurses, and midwives, are specially trained to manage normal deliveries and identify potential complications early on. Their expertise is critical in providing necessary interventions and ensuring a safe delivery process (World Health Organization, n.d.). As such, it is part of SDG 3 to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births. SDG 3.1.2 measures the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel.

In the census, the respondent was asked who had assisted her during the last delivery. The categories used were: a) doctor, b) nurse, c) midwife, d) traditional birth attendant, e) relative, neighbour, friend, f) other, and g) no one. A simple division was made to analyse skilled and non-skilled birth attendants to calculate the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (SDG Indicator 3.1.2).

The percentage of women whose last childbirth during the last 12 months before the census was attended by a skilled birth attendant was 68.8 percent. The census data shows that skilled birth attendance has further improved during the last few years. In the 2016 DHS, the percentage of deliveries by a skilled health provider was 56.7 percent. According to the 2009 DHS, the percentage of births attended by skilled personnel was only 29.9 percent.

Figure 1. 18 shows the percentage of births assisted by skilled birth attendants by five year age groups. The graph illustrates that little difference exists between women who gave birth at a very young age and their older counterparts in terms of assistance during delivery by skilled birth attendants. The percentage of skilled birth attendance among 15 to 19-year-old females was 68.3 percent, according to the 2022 PHC.
This is around the national average but slightly lower than the percentage among 25 to 29-year-olds.

Figure 1. 18. Percentage of births assisted by skilled birth attendants by five-year age groups



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

vi. Household structure

Relationship to head of household

In the census, a question was asked about the relationship of each person to the head of household. This variable can be used to determine the type of household the person lives in. Table 1.3 shows the relationship to the head of household for children
0 – 17 years old and for youth 15 – 24 years old. Four out of five children in private households are the son or daughter of the head of the household, while 1.6 percent of children are adopted or stepchildren of the head. A significant group of 15.4 percent of children are grandchildren of the head of household. As can be expected, the relationship between young persons 15 – 24 years old and the head of household is more diverse and quite different between males and females. While 76.8 percent of young males still live as children of the head, this is only 66.8 percent for young females. Heads of household in Timor-Leste are predominantly men, and age of marriage is lower for women than for men. This explains why 7.5 percent of women 15 – 24 years old indicated to be the spouse of the head, while 0.0 percent of men did. Among young persons, other categories start to have significant coverage,

such as daughter of son-in-law (3.4 percent), sister/brother (6.0 percent) and other relative (5.5 percent).

Table 1. 3. Relationship to the head of the household by sex, for persons 0 - 17 years old and 15 - 24 years old

	0 - 17 year old			15 - 24 yer old		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Head of household	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.9	1.4	2.7
Spouse (husband/wife)	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	7.5	3.7
Daughter/son	80.7	80.1	80.4	76.8	66.8	71.9
Adopted child or stepchild	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.6	2.4	2.5
Daughter-in-law/son-in-law	0.0	0.2	0.1	1.6	5.3	3.4
Sister/brother	0.8	0.9	0.8	5.9	6.1	6.0
Sister-in-law/brother-in-Law	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.8	0.7
Grandchild	15.4	15.5	15.4	3.5	3.2	3.4
Other relative	1.4	1.5	1.4	4.9	6.1	5.5
Live-in domestic servant	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Other non-relative	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2

Tabl

Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Household type

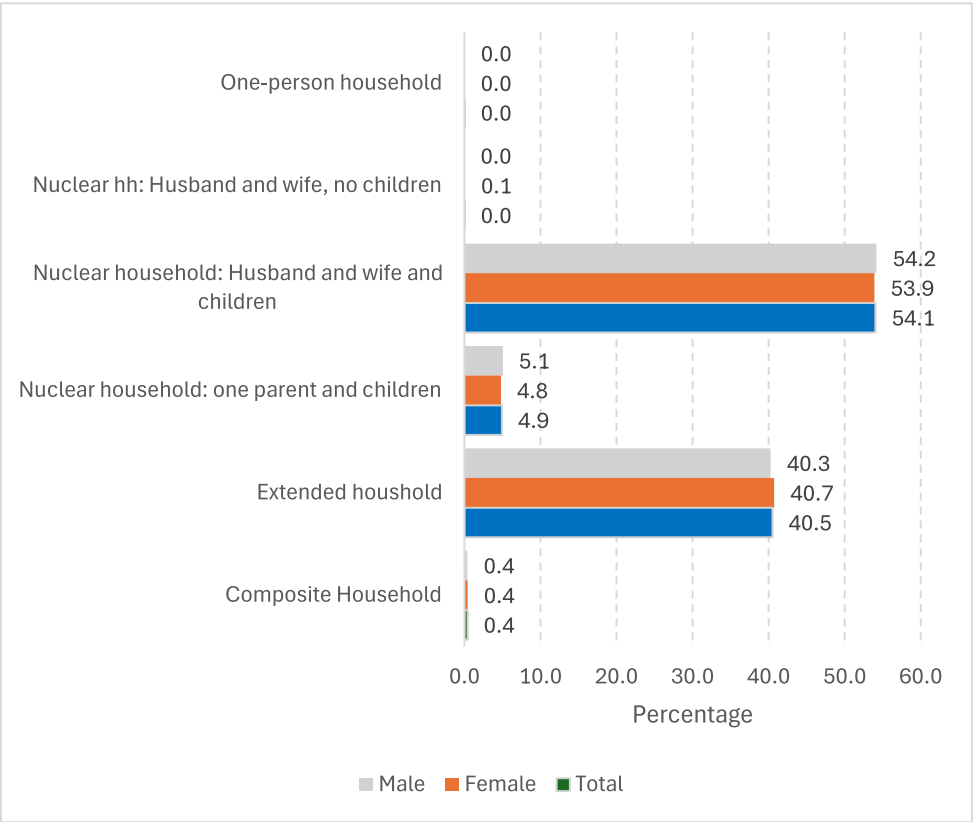
A child or young person's well-being is closely related to the family and household environment in which they grow up. For instance, a child living in a household where one or both parents are absent can influence a child's development and health. Single parents may be less available and may face more challenges, combining the task of being a caregiver and breadwinner. Their finances may be more constrained, which increases the chance of children living in poverty and deprivation.

Figure 1. 19 shows that 54.1 percent of all children 0 – 17 years live in a nuclear household consisting of a husband, wife, and children, while 40.5 percent live in extended households[5]; 4.9 percent of children grow up in nuclear households with only one parent. While most children live in nuclear households, more youth live in extended households than in nuclear households with both parents present: 48.1 percent against 42.5 percent (Figure 1. 20). Also, more young persons 15 – 24 years than children live in a nuclear household: 7.4 against 4.9 percent, respectively.

Only very few persons younger than 25 years old live on their own. The census enumerated 1,504 persons under 25 living in a one-person household.

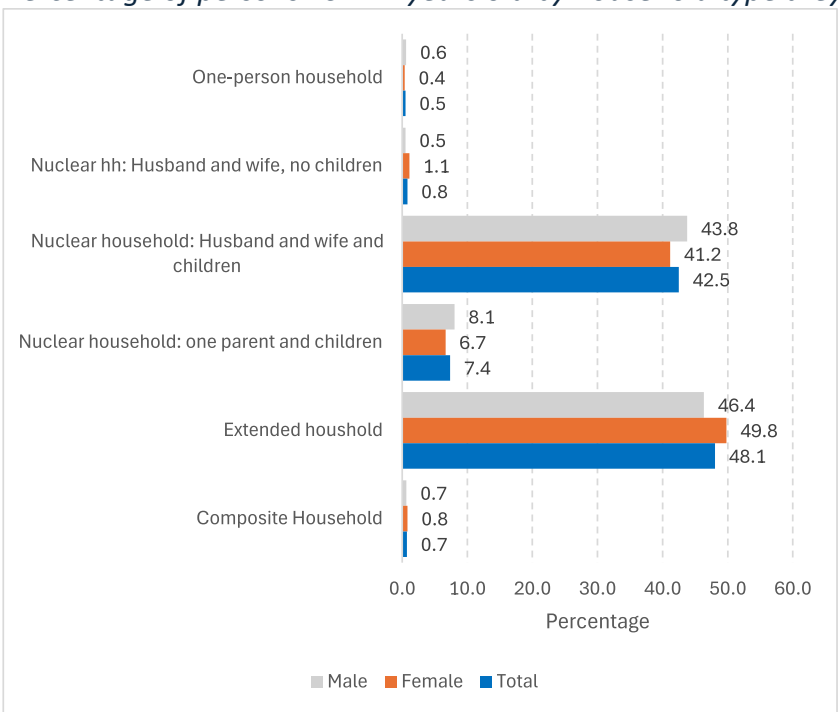
5

Figure 1. 19. Percentage of persons 0 - 17 years old by household type in which they live and sex



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Figure 1. 20. Percentage of persons 15 - 24 years old by household type they live and sex



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Chapter 2. Migration

i. International migration

Country of birth

Timor-Leste is not a large receiving country of international migration. Out of the total population, only 10,486 people were born abroad. This accounts for 0.8 percent of the total population. Among this total, one can find a number of older persons who indicated to have been born in Indonesia when Timor-Leste was still part of that country. Among people 0 to 24 years old, out of a population of 756,947, only 2,810 were born outside of Timor-Leste, constituting only 0.4 percent of this age group. Most (70.0 percent) of those born outside Timor-Leste were born in Indonesia. The second most important group of foreign-born youngsters were born in Angola (235), which is 8.4 percent of all those born abroad. The third group comprises youngsters whose country of birth is Australia (113, i.e. 4.0 percent).

Citizenship

Even fewer children and youth hold foreign citizenship. Only 1,292 persons age 0 to 24 indicated in the census that they held a foreign nationality. This is a mere 0.2 percent of the total population under 24. Again, Indonesia (704 persons) is the most important country, followed by Angola. No other nationality group had more than 100 persons.

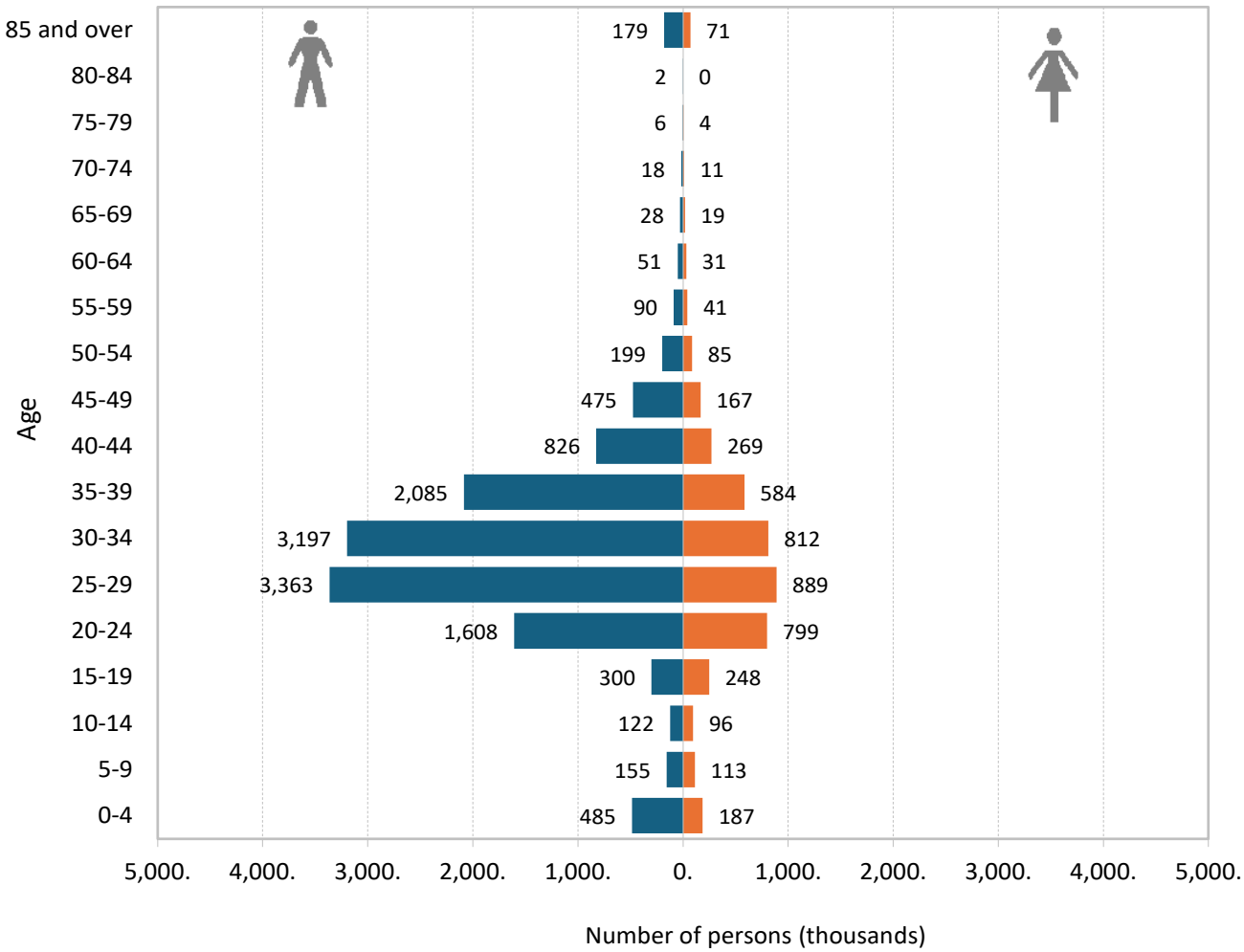
Movement across international borders

A separate module on former household members was included in the questionnaire to collect information on Timor-Leste citizens residing abroad at the time of the census. The questions were asked about persons living in a foreign country and who were usual members of the household before their migration. Only basic background information was gathered about these persons, such as sex, age, relationship to the present head of household, current country of residence, the main reason for emigrating, and the number of years abroad.

Although the questions in the section on former household members try to give an estimate of the number of persons from Timor-Leste living abroad, there is one shortcoming. The questions are asked to a household member who stayed behind. This means no information about households where all members moved overseas can be gathered. As such, the numbers generated by the questions in this section will always be an undercount of the true numbers of Timor-Leste's citizens who moved abroad. The only way to find out the number of emigrants from Timor-Leste would be to look into the censuses from receiving countries. This, however, is out of scope for this report. Another shortcoming is that questions were asked about former household members. This means that children born overseas to parents from Timor-Leste will often be overlooked.

Figure 2. 1 shows the population pyramid for former household members. As can be seen, youngsters and children below the age of 25 are only a small minority. A total of 4,113 persons below age 25 were registered in the census as former household members living abroad, out of 17,618 emigrants for all age groups Overall, the number of males is about three times higher than that of females, 13,189 against 4,426. Also, among children and youth, the number of males is higher than the number of females, 2,670 against 1,443. Interestingly, at each five-year age group, the number of males is higher than the number of females. The difference between boys and girls is apparent in the age group 0 to 4 years old, with 485 boys against 187 girls. Of course, it is also possible that reporting former young girls is more easily forgotten than reporting former boys.

Figure 2. 1. Population pyramid former household members

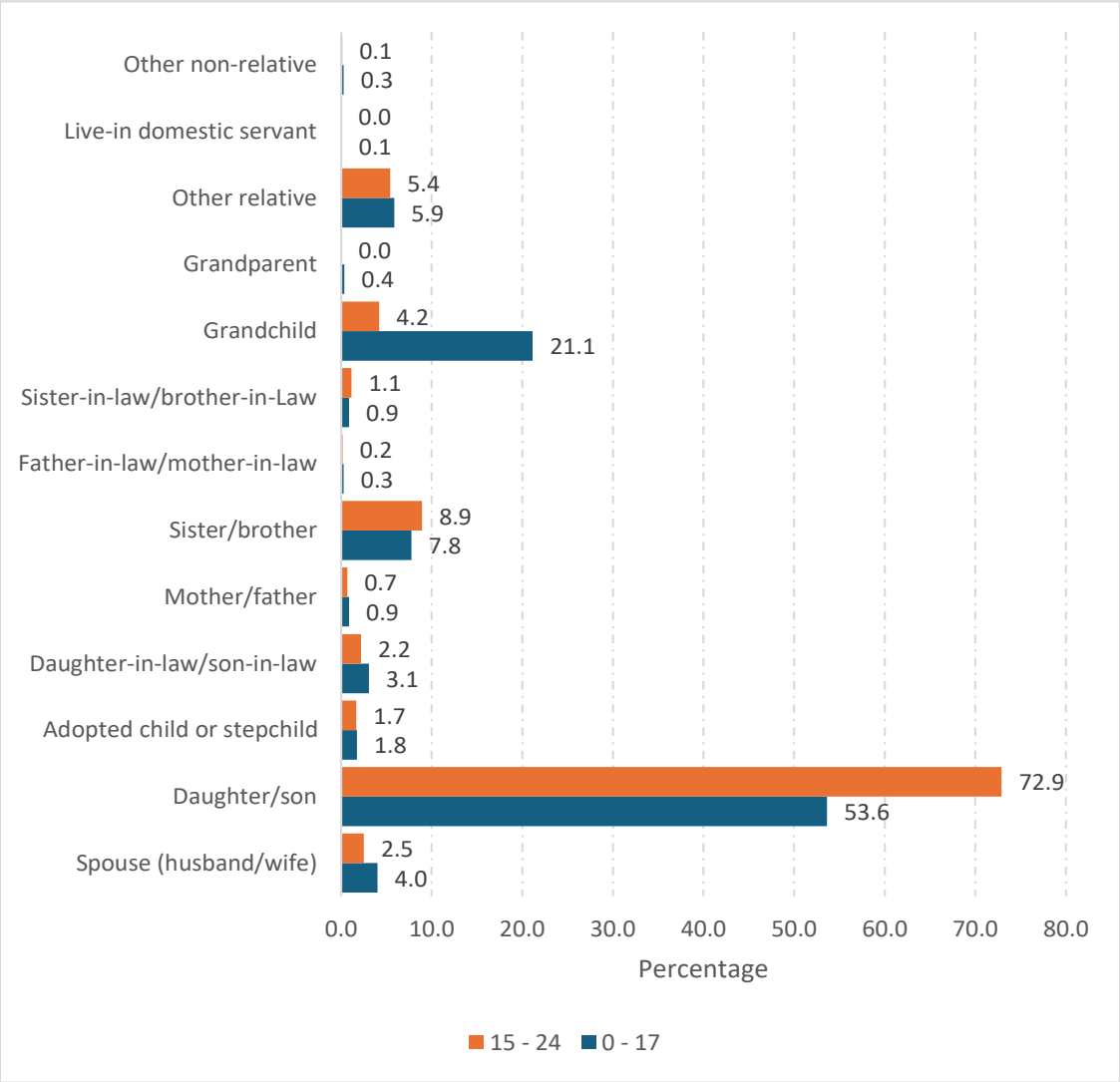


Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Among all 1,367 children living abroad, 53.6 percent are children of the head of the household where they were enumerated (Figure 2. 2). The second largest group of relationships among children is grandchild, while the third largest group is brother/sister (7.8 percent). Among young persons who moved abroad, the most frequent relationships to the head of household in the census were son or daughter (72.9 percent), sister or brother (8.9 percent) and other relative (5.4 percent). Few 15 – 24 year olds migrate, leaving their spouse behind (2.5 percent).

For children this percentage is higher (4.0 percent), but this seems to be more related to data quality issues rather than being a real trend.

Figure 2. 2. Relationship to the current head of household of former household members, children, and youth



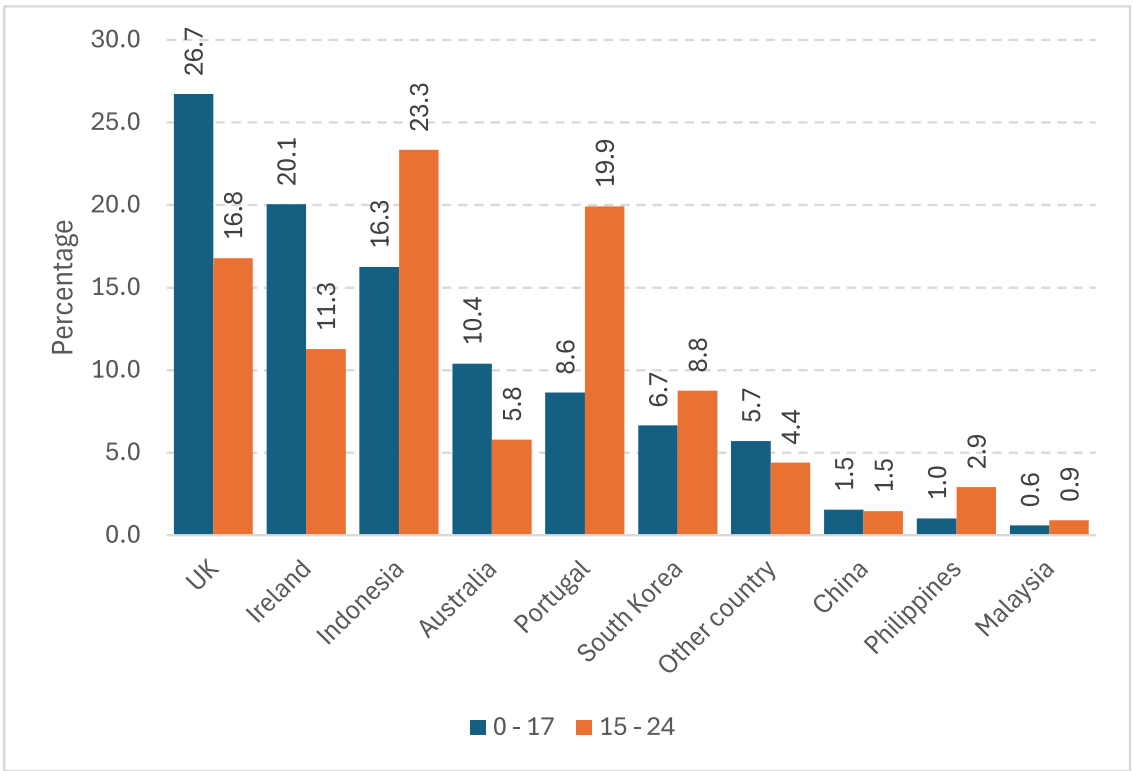
Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2023), in 2020, the country with the largest number of emigrants from Timor-Leste was Indonesia (23,681), followed by the United Kingdom (2,787) and Portugal (1,969). The 2022 census indicated a different picture. For all age groups, 5,327 migrants were living in the United Kingdom, 3,436 in Ireland, and 2,120 in Indonesia. It may well be that the shortcoming in the census, which was that no complete migrating households were counted, may be the reason for this discrepancy. Note that the total number of Timor-Leste migrants living overseas was 18,715, while the estimate by IOM was 40,000.

Figure 2. 3 shows the most important receiving countries for children and youth from Timor-Leste as a percentage of child and youth migrants. The most important receiving country for children and youth is the United Kingdom, where 26.7 percent of all migrant children are living. The second most important country is Ireland, and the third country is Indonesia. For young persons 15 – 24 years old, the distribution is different. Indonesia is the most important, followed by Ireland and Portugal.

The case of Ireland is a bit strange as IOM did not at all indicate the country as a destination country. Most probably, these persons are not in Ireland but in Northern Ireland. This fact is mentioned by Wigglesworth and Boxer (2019) using data from a National Survey of Public Opinion undertaken in November 2016. They state, '*As there are no known Timorese communities in the Republic of Ireland, it can be assumed that the 6% in 'Ireland' are in Northern Ireland (part of UK)*'.

Figure 2. 3. Percentage of total migrants of children and youth, reported as a former household members



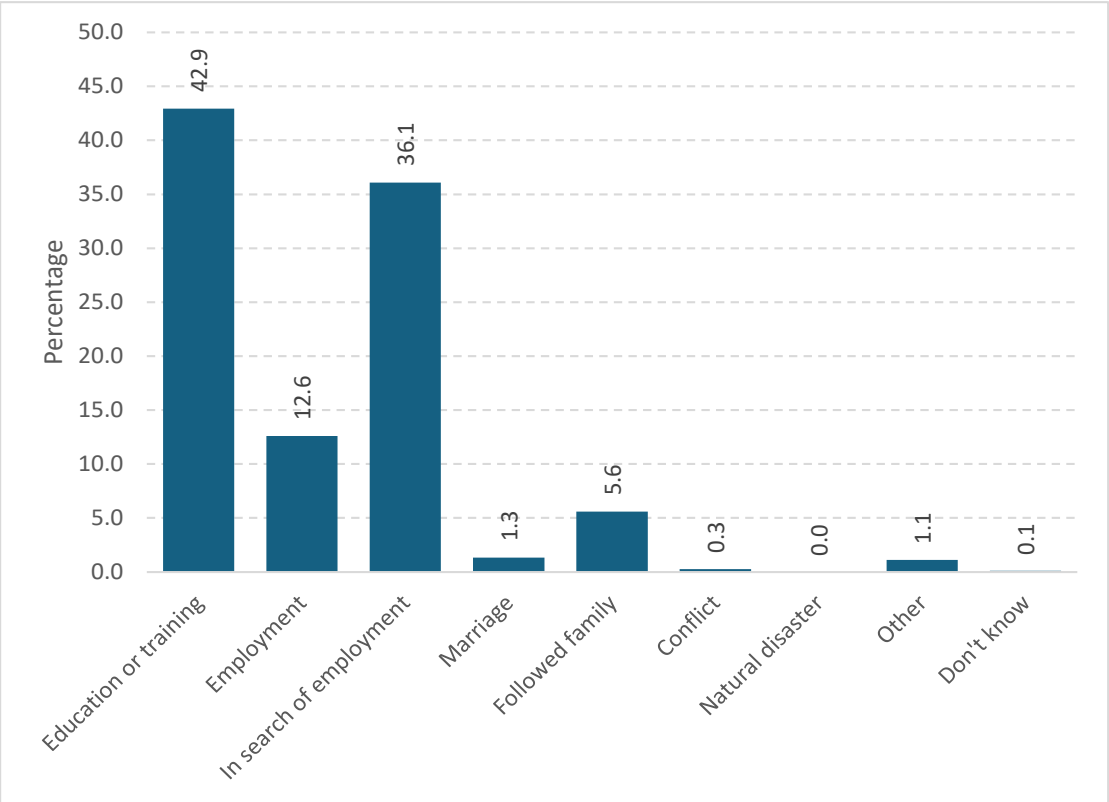
Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

There seems to be some data problem with the reason for international migration for children. It seems many respondents gave the same reason for all household members who went abroad. As such, many children were given 'in search of employment' as the reason for migration (31.8 percent), while 11.4 percent apparently went abroad for employment. As such, the reason for children's migration is not displayed in Figure 2. 4.

Among young persons 15-24 years old who moved out of the household to live overseas, 42.9 percent did so to pursue an education or training abroad, 36.1 percent went looking for

employment, and 12.6 percent went for employment. Only a small proportion of 5.6 percent migrated to follow the family.

Figure 2. 4. Main reason for migration for young persons 15 - 24 years



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

ii. Internal migration

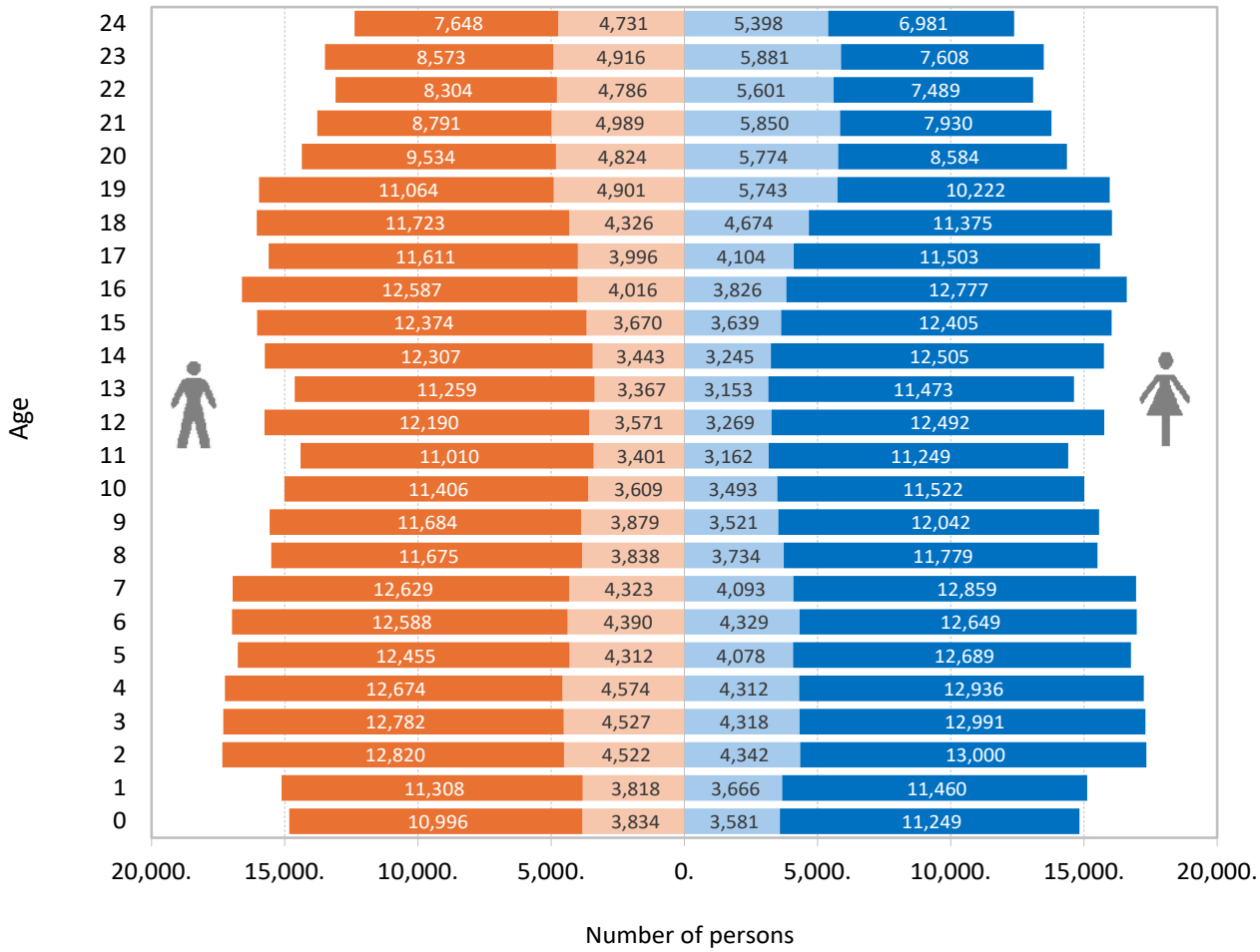
The pattern of internal migration has been discussed thoroughly in the thematic report on migration. This report will only concentrate on the migration patterns of children and youth.

Lifetime internal migration

The definition of lifetime internal migrants in this report is the same as in the migration thematic report, i.e.' *those that moved between administrative posts within the municipality and beyond the municipality*' (INETL, 2024). An internal migration variable was created in which the person was considered a lifetime internal migrant if his/her administrative post of birth differed from the administrative post where he/she was residing at the time of the census. During the census, a total of 407,546 internal lifetime migrants were recorded. This constitutes 30.4 percent of the total population. The number of female migrants (208,266) was somewhat larger than the number of male migrants (199,280). Much of the internal migration flows in Timor-Leste are directed from rural areas to urban areas. In urban areas, 72.8 percent of the population was not born in the same administrative post as their current residence. Little difference exists between males (72.6 percent) and females (73.0 percent).

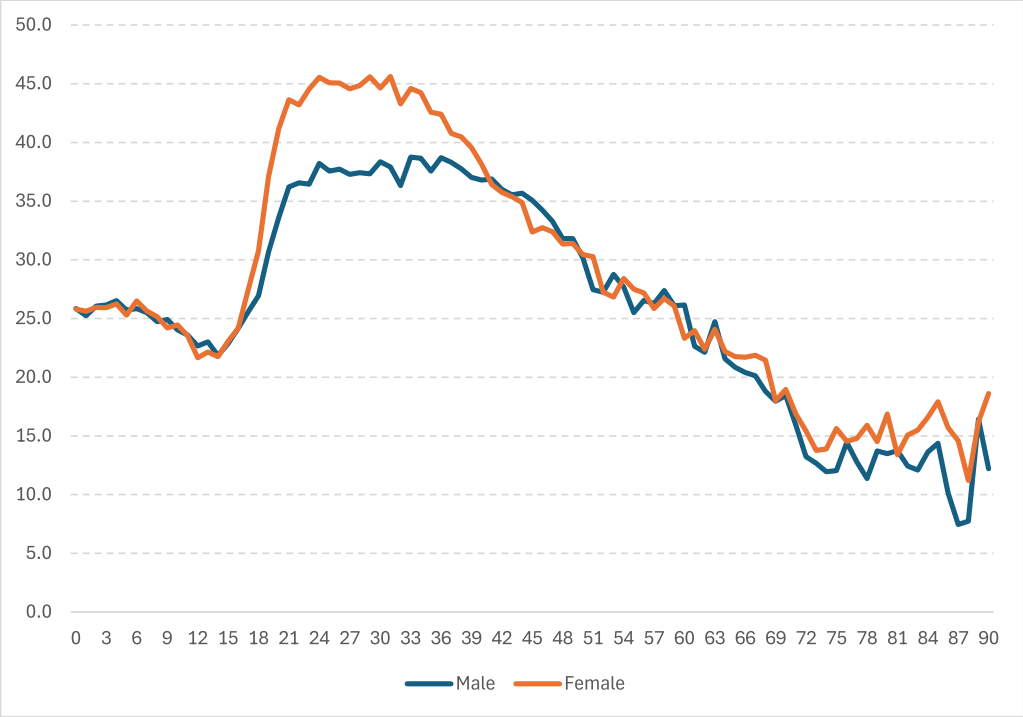
Figure 2. 5 shows a population pyramid for persons 0 – 24 years old, with their internal migration status. The 2022 PHC showed that internal migration in Timor-Leste is high. Out of 877,673 persons below age 25, 211,349 were living in an administrative post different from the one they were born in, which is 24.1 percent of the total. The percentage of males and females who are lifetime internal migrants is the same for most ages, except for the ages between 19 and 35, where the proportion of internal lifetime migrants is considerably higher for females than for males. For instance, at age 20, 30.7 percent of all males are internal migrants, against 37.1 percent of all females. This trend is probably related to the higher school attendance ratio of young females in tertiary education. The thematic report on education based on the 2022 census showed that 28,081 female students were attending tertiary education, against 22,464 male students, implying a sex ratio of 80.0 male students per 100 female students. As most tertiary education occurs in Dili and other urban areas, it is normal for more young females to move to urban centres. The fact that more females than males are lifetime migrants after the standard ages to follow education suggests that a proportion of these young females stay in the urban areas, probably for employment that is not available in their original place of residence.

Figure 2. 5. Population pyramid person 0 – 24 years of age, by internal migration status



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Figure 2. 6. Distribution of persons 0 – 24 years of age by internal migration status



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Table 3.1 indicates the number of internal lifetime migrants aged 0 to 24 by municipality of residence during the 2022 TLPHC and their municipality at birth.

Remember that internal migration was measured at the administrative post level. This means that a number of persons migrated but have the same municipality at birth and their current residence. These cells are highlighted in light blue in the table. The table clearly shows that the majority of internal migration is concentrated in the Dili municipality. Among all 211,349 internal migrants, 175,205 are currently living in Dili. Among them, 130,324 moved between administrative posts within Dili, while 44,881 came from other municipalities to live in the Dili municipality. Note that the number of internal migrants living in all other municipalities is 36,144. Most young internal lifetime migrants in Dili who come from another municipality come from Baucau (8,092), Viqueque (5,276), Ermera (4,770), and Lautém (4,354).

Some problems were encountered with the information on the main reason why young people had migrated. Although, in many cases, the current residence's administrative post differed from the administrative post of birth, no reason was filled in as to why the person moved. The percentage distribution of the main reason for migration for those young males and females who answered the question is depicted in Figure 2. 7Figure 2. 6. One can see that '*followed family*' is the most important reason for both sexes at the youngest age. As age increases, 'education or training' becomes more important. At age 20, for 60.8 percent of young females and 57.3 percent of young males, migration for education was the most important reason. For females, marriage, especially after age 16, is an important reason for migration to a new administrative post. After age 20, 'employment' and 'in search of employment' become a reason, but they are never as important as education, family, or marriage

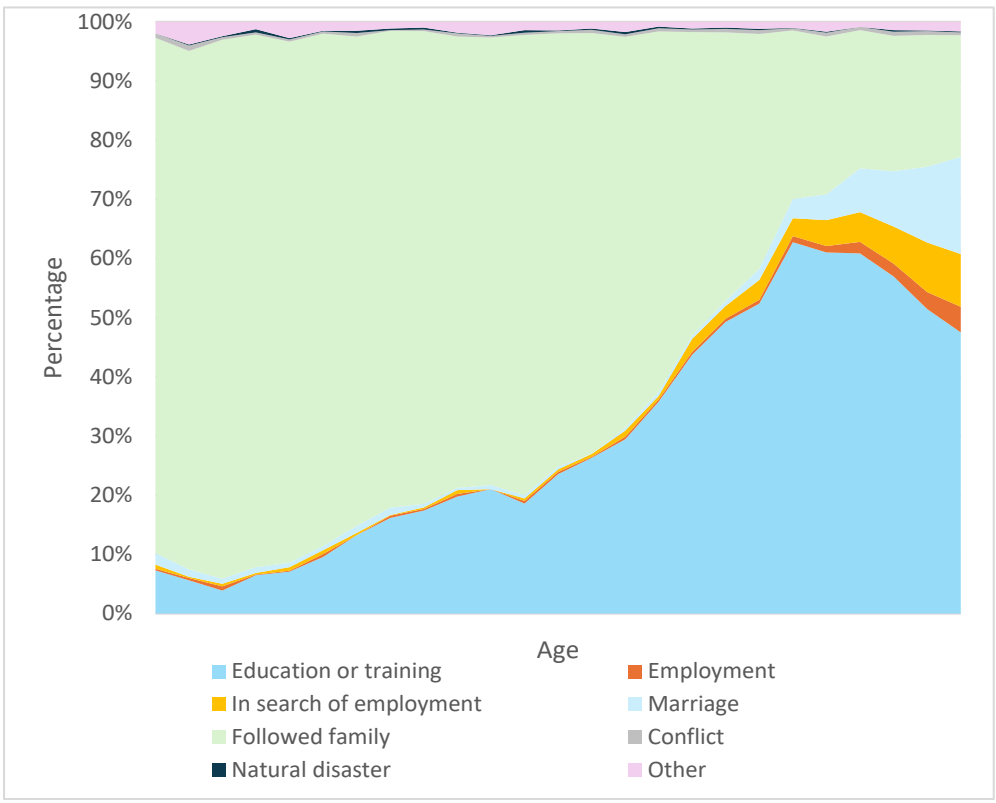
Table 3. 1. Number of internal lifetime migrants aged 0 - 24 by municipality of current residence and municipality of birth

		Municipality of current residence														
		Aileu	Ainaro	Atauro	Baucau	Bobonaro	Covalima	Dili	Ermera	Lautém	Liquiça	Manatuto	Manufahi	Oe-Cusse	Viqueque	Total
Municipality of birth	Aileu	745	102	2	50	23	28	1,861	95	24	64	85	65	13	24	3,181
	Ainaro	284	612	-	57	34	120	3,321	68	12	68	27	435	7	24	5,069
	Atauro	9	6	-	9	1	-	334	6	2	7	8	5	3	5	395
	Baucau	46	16	11	3,268	38	29	8,092	34	256	92	165	61	25	620	12,753
	Bobonaro	38	47	1	55	1,632	352	5,176	136	18	258	42	80	20	24	7,879
	Covalima	49	111	1	48	146	1,620	3,078	17	3	77	26	47	4	24	5,251
	Dili	1,005	382	115	1,027	642	466	130,324	619	655	1,481	1,164	534	190	594	139,198
	Ermera	265	58	3	69	191	29	4,770	3,059	21	346	38	47	25	51	8,972
	Lautém	7	10	13	212	9	12	4,354	14	1,234	33	19	19	3	29	5,968
	Liquiça	62	19	9	70	79	24	1,570	178	27	1,490	47	45	17	24	3,661
	Manatuto	68	15	2	92	23	10	2,324	21	14	42	984	80	3	38	3,716
	Manufahi	81	370	2	25	25	40	2,317	31	15	51	95	637	6	40	3,735
	Oe-Cusse	32	21	11	140	34	22	2,408	31	14	115	51	31	1,526	30	4,466
	Viqueque	32	15	8	502	28	23	5,276	38	23	41	149	57	11	902	7,105
	Total	2,723	1,784	178	5,624	2,905	2,775	175,205	4,347	2,318	4,165	2,900	2,143	1,853	2,429	211,349

Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

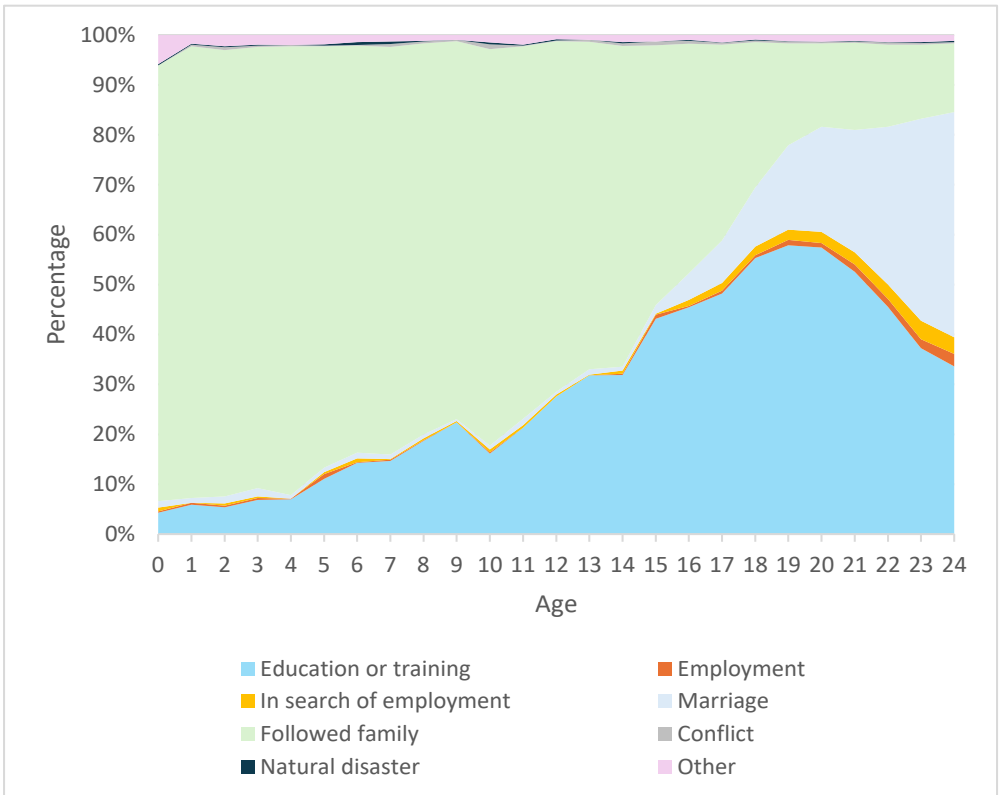
Figure 2. 7. Main reason to move for migrants 0 - 25 years, by age and sex

a. Males



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

b. Females



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Chapter 3. Education

Education is fundamental to achieving the SDGs and has become a key priority for the Timor-Leste government. It provides individuals with the knowledge, skills, and values needed for sustainable development. Quality education promotes economic growth, reduces inequalities, and improves health outcomes.i An additional year of education can increase one's earnings by an average of 10 percent and raise the gross domestic product per capita by 18 percent.ii Therefore, by ensuring inclusive and equitable education, marginalized communities are uplifted, gender equality is supported, and a generation capable of addressing national and international challenges is cultivated (UNESCO, 2019).

Education in Timor-Leste is compulsory for primary-school-aged children from 6 to 11 years, followed by secondary education (12 to 17 years). Education is state-run and state-funded. The government, supported by various international initiatives, is actively enhancing technical, vocational, and higher education to meet labour market demands better. The 2024 Education Monograph based on the 2022 TLPHC further provides education information for the overall population. [add source]

i. Literacy

Literacy is a fundamental pillar for development and the foundation for acquiring knowledge and skills necessary for growth. It empowers individuals to participate fully in their communities, improve their livelihoods, and make informed decisions, thus driving sustainable development and reducing inequalities.

The 2022 census assessed a person's literacy by asking the following yes-no question: *'Can <Name> read and write a short letter to a friend in any language?'.* If yes, a follow-up question was posed to determine in which language (Tetun, Portuguese, Bahasa Indonesian, English) the person is able to read and write a short letter to a friend.

This approach slightly differed from the questions in the previous census. In 2015, literacy was assessed by inquiring whether each individual aged five and above can speak, read, or write in Tetun, Bahasa Indonesia, Portuguese, or English. In 2015, the response categories were:

'1. Do not speak, read or write'
'2. Speak only'
'3. Read only'
'4. Speak and read only'
'5. Speak, read and write'.

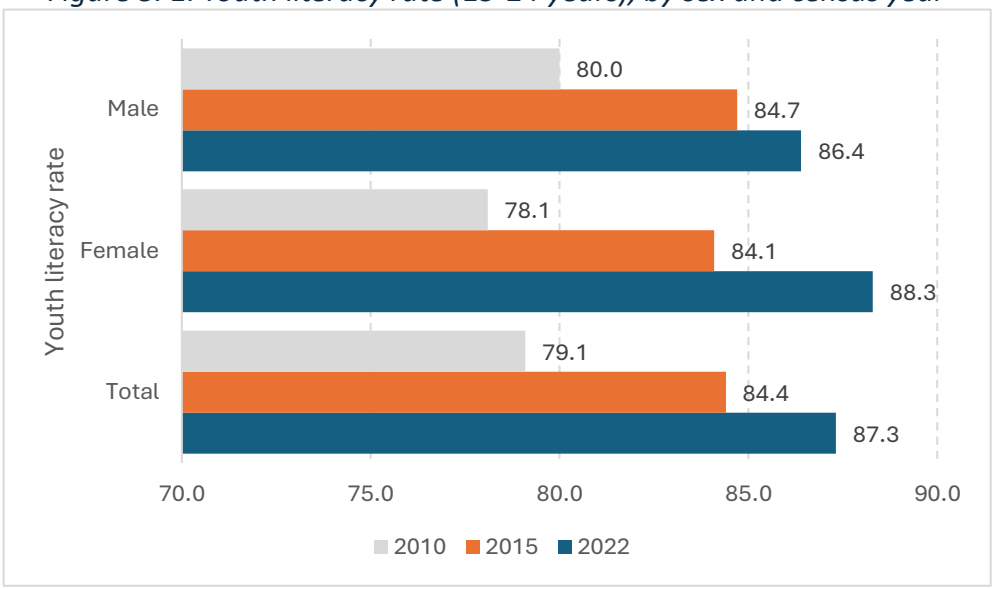
A person was deemed literate in a language if they responded positively that they could both speak, read, and write in that language (answer category 5).

General characteristics

The total literacy rate (persons 5 years and older) in Timor-Leste is 70.7 percent. The higher literacy rates among males (72.5 percent) than females (68.8 percent) is due to significantly lower literacy rates among older women. The 2022 TLPHC showed that this difference no longer exists at younger ages.

In 2022, the youth literacy rate (ages 15-24) in Timor-Leste was 87.3 percent. This reflects an improvement from the previous censuses conducted in 2015 and 2010, where the youth literacy rate stood at 84.4 percent and 79.1 percent (Figure 3. 1). The literacy rate for young men rose from 80.0 percent in 2010 to 86.4 percent in 2022, while for young women, it increased from 78.1 percent to 88.3 percent during the same period. Notably, female youth literacy has risen more rapidly and now surpassed that of young men, fully closing the gender gap in literacy. While improvements in youth literacy have been made, more progress remains to be made to achieve universal literacy and have a fully literate young population.

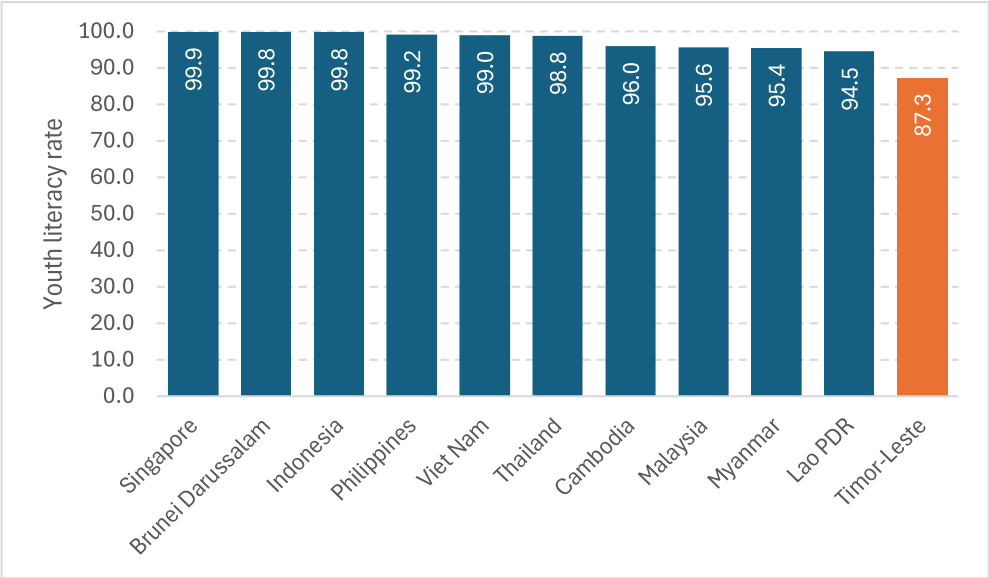
Figure 3. 1. Youth literacy rate (15-24 years), by sex and census year



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Compared to other Southeast Asian nations, which boast youth literacy rates well above 90 percent and some nearing complete literacy among their young populations, Timor-Leste's youth literacy rate lags behind. Figure 3. 2 illustrates this, with Lao People's Democratic Republic having the second lowest youth literacy rate at 94.5 percent. This is still 7.2 percent higher than Timor-Leste's rate. Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Viet Nam are nearing a completely literate youth population.

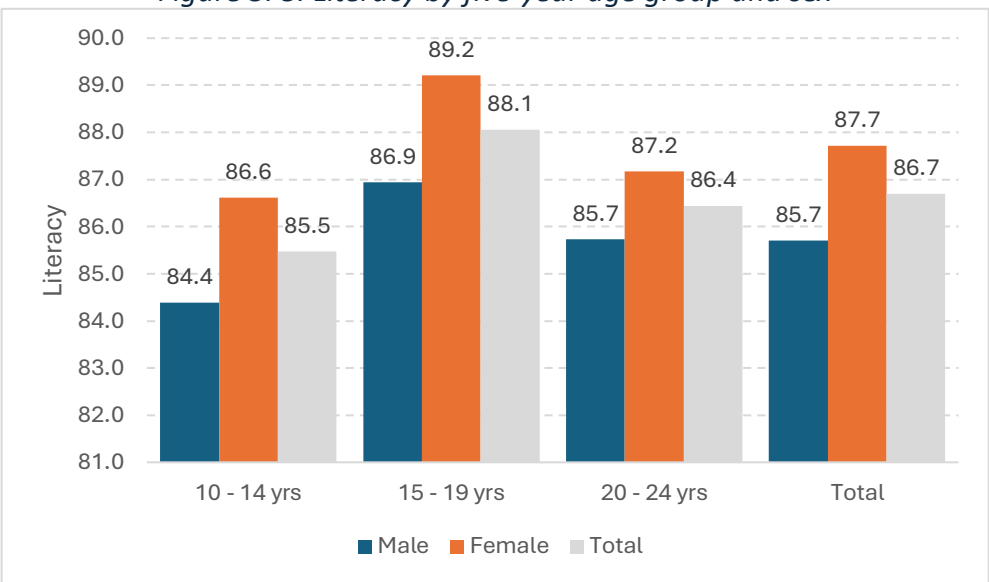
Figure 3. 2. Youth literacy rates (15-24 years) in Southeast Asian countries, World Bank Group



Source: (World Bank Group, n.d.)

When considering five-year age groups among youth ages 10 to 24, those between 15 and 19 years are most literate (88.1 percent) compared to 86.4 percent of 20-24-year-olds and 85.5 percent of 10-14-year-olds. A similar trend, whereby 15-19-year-olds have the highest literacy rate among those aged 10-24 years, was seen in the 2004, 2010 and 2015 censuses (Figure 3. 3).

Figure 3. 3. Literacy by five-year age group and sex

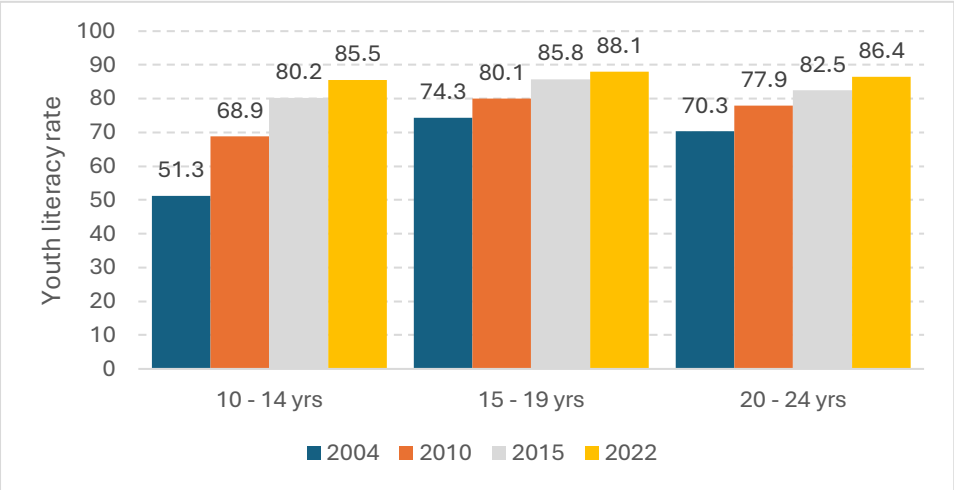


Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Figure 3. 4 shows the significant progress made in improving literacy among the country's young population according to the last four censuses. The most significant change can be seen in the 10-14 age category, whereby literacy increased from 51.3 percent in 2004 to 68.9 percent in 2010, 80.2 percent in 2015 and 85.5 percent in 2022. This represents an increase of 34.2 percentage points, compared to a rise of 13.8 percentage points among 15-19 year olds

and 16.1 percentage points rise among 20-24 year olds. This progress obviously also has to do with the fact that this population is the youngest and started with the lowest rate, so the most gains could be made. Tracking literacy rates over time can also give a sense of how literacy changed in the same group. For example, most of the youth who were in the 20-24 age category during the 2022 census were more or less aged 10-14 in the 2010 census over a decade ago. Therefore, the literacy of this group improved from 68.9 percent when they were aged 10-14 years to 86.4 percent when they were 20-24 years. While this shows that significant improvements have been made in literacy and that educational efforts have been successful, further gains could and should be made.

Figure 3. 4. Literacy by five-year age group and census year



Source: (General Directorate of Statistics (GDS), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) & United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 2017); 2022 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Pronounced differences exist in youth literacy between rural and urban areas, with the former being 83.9 percent and the latter 93.2 percent. In both areas, females are more literate than young males, though the rural-urban difference is more pronounced in females. About 85 percent of females in rural areas are literate compared to nearly 94 percent in urban areas. For males, the rural-urban divide is 82.8 percent compared to 92.6 percent. Figure 3. 5 clearly indicates that males in rural areas are those most left behind when it comes to attaining literacy.

Figure 3. 6 showcases the significant variations that exist in the literacy rate among the population of 10-24 years across municipalities. These variations could have been influenced by access to education, infrastructure, or socio-economic conditions. In Dili, for example, as the capital city and the most urbanized area, the literacy rate for both males and females is the highest in the country. Nearly 93 percent of the persons aged 10-24 residing in Dili can read and write a short letter to a friend, compared to 89.6 percent of the total population aged ten years and over (Timor-Leste National Institute of Statistics, 2023). Oecusse has the lowest literacy rate among males (73.0 percent) and females (78.3 percent).

Figure 3. 5. Literacy rate 5-24 years by urban/rural and sex

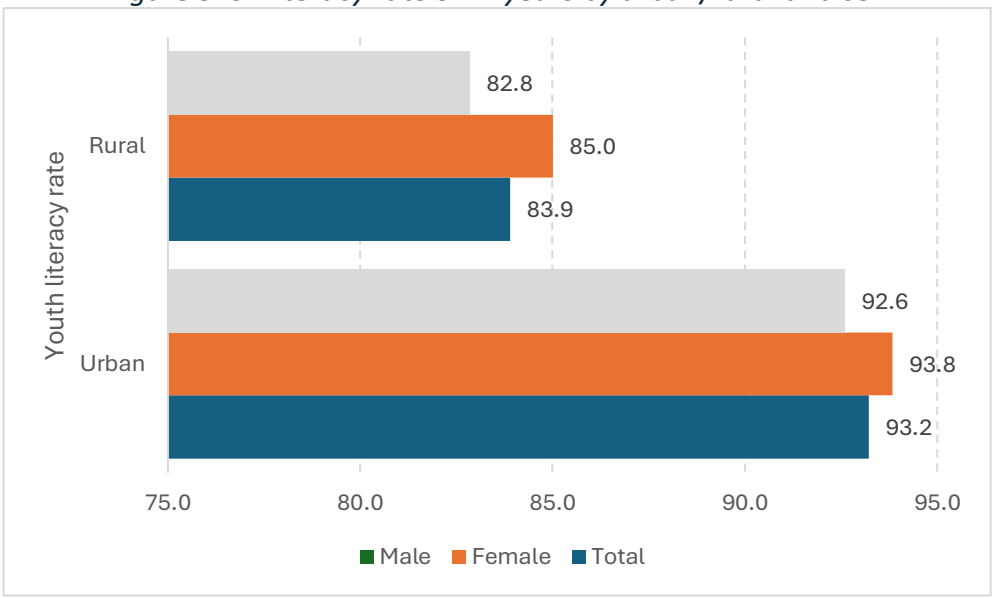
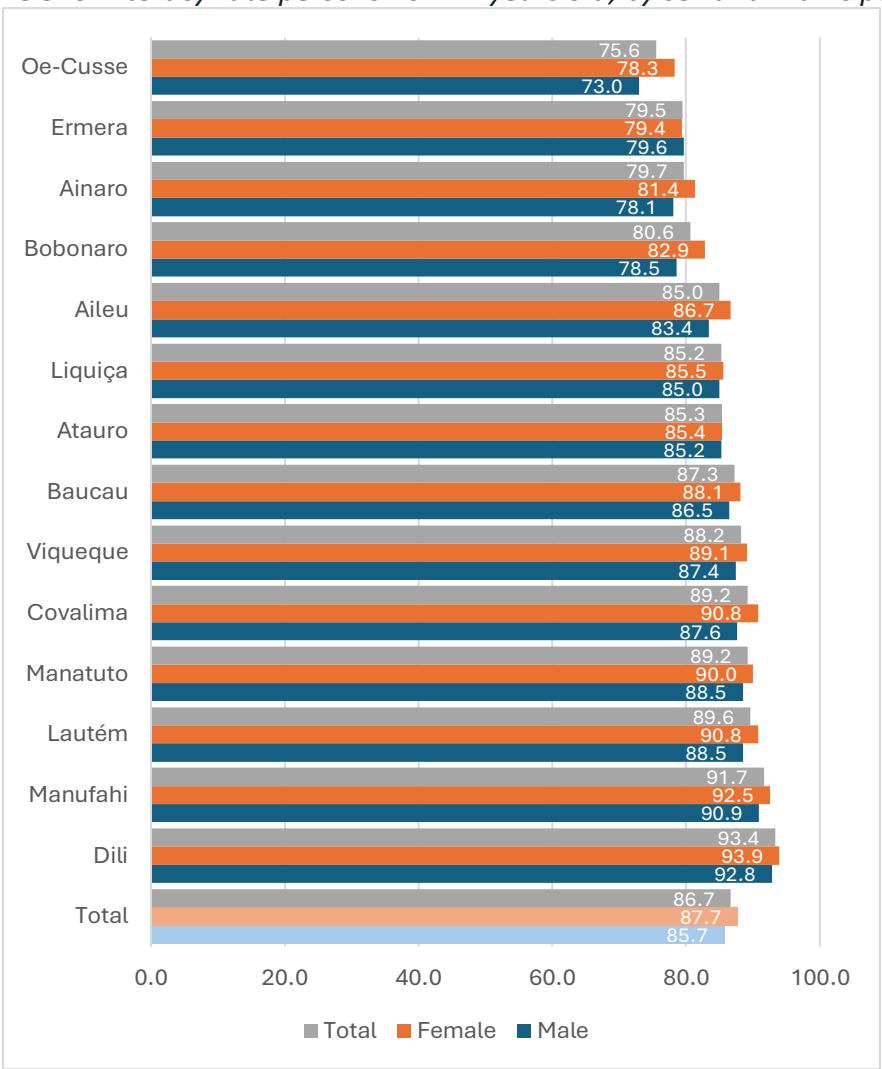


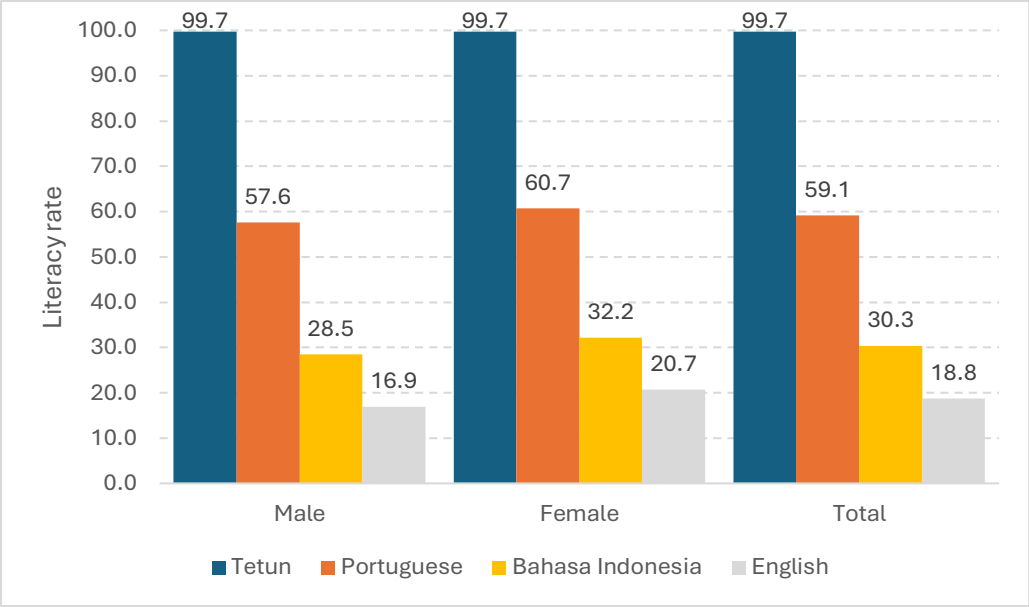
Figure 3. 6. Literacy rate persons 10 - 24 years old, by sex and municipality



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

The following TLPHC question was posed regarding the literacy language(s): *'In which of the following languages is <Name> able to read and write a short letter to a friend?'.* Results are presented in Figure 3. 7. Tetun is the most common language, with 99.7 percent of all literate males and females aged 5-24 being able to read and write a short letter in Tetun. The second most common language is Portuguese, with 59.1 percent of the literate population, followed by Bahasa Indonesia (30.3 percent) and English (18.8 percent). Only minor differences can be observed between men and women.

Figure 3. 7. Percentage of people aged 5-24 years who are literate in each particular language by sex



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

A logit regression was run to determine the variations in illiteracy among different groups of 10 to 24-year-old persons. The dependent variable was whether a person between 10 and 24 was illiterate in any language. Similar to previous logit regressions, the dependent variable was linked to several explanatory variables, including municipality, wealth index quintiles, age group (10-14, 15-19 and 20-24 years), whether a person lived in a rural or urban area, whether they had a disability or not, and their sex. For each explanatory variable, a reference category was chosen (marked in green) in which the odds ratios compare the illiteracy of someone belonging to a particular category to someone in the reference category. Again, the categories with the highest discriminatory effect have been given a red colour, and categories with a more modest effect have an orange colour, whilst blue indicates a mild or no effect. A value higher than one indicates that individuals in that category have higher odds of being illiterate compared to those in the reference category. In contrast, a value lower than one suggests that individuals in that category have lower odds of being illiterate than those in the reference category.

The first variable presented in Figure 3. 8 are Timor-Leste's municipalities, with Aileu used as the reference category. The figure illustrates that there are large differences in illiteracy between the municipalities after controlling for other intervening factors. After controlling for the other variables in the equation, Oe-Cusse stands out as having the highest odds for illiteracy. The relative risk ratio for a person to be illiterate is 1.74 times higher than in Aileu. Other municipalities with higher odds ratios are Ainario (1.371), Bobonaro (1.464), and Ermera (1.349). One would expect that Dili would have the lowest illiteracy, however, again after taking into account other intervening variables, persons 10 – 24 years old Covalima (0.741), Manufahi (0.517), and Viqueque (0.720), all show lower odds than in Dili.

For the wealth index, the poorest quintile was used as the reference category. Figure 3. 8 shows that there is a clear relationship between literacy and wealth. There is a gradual decrease in a person's odds of being illiterate if they belong to a higher wealth quintile. Young persons' odds of being illiterate in the highest wealth quintile (0.255) are about four times smaller than persons belonging to the lowest wealth quintile.

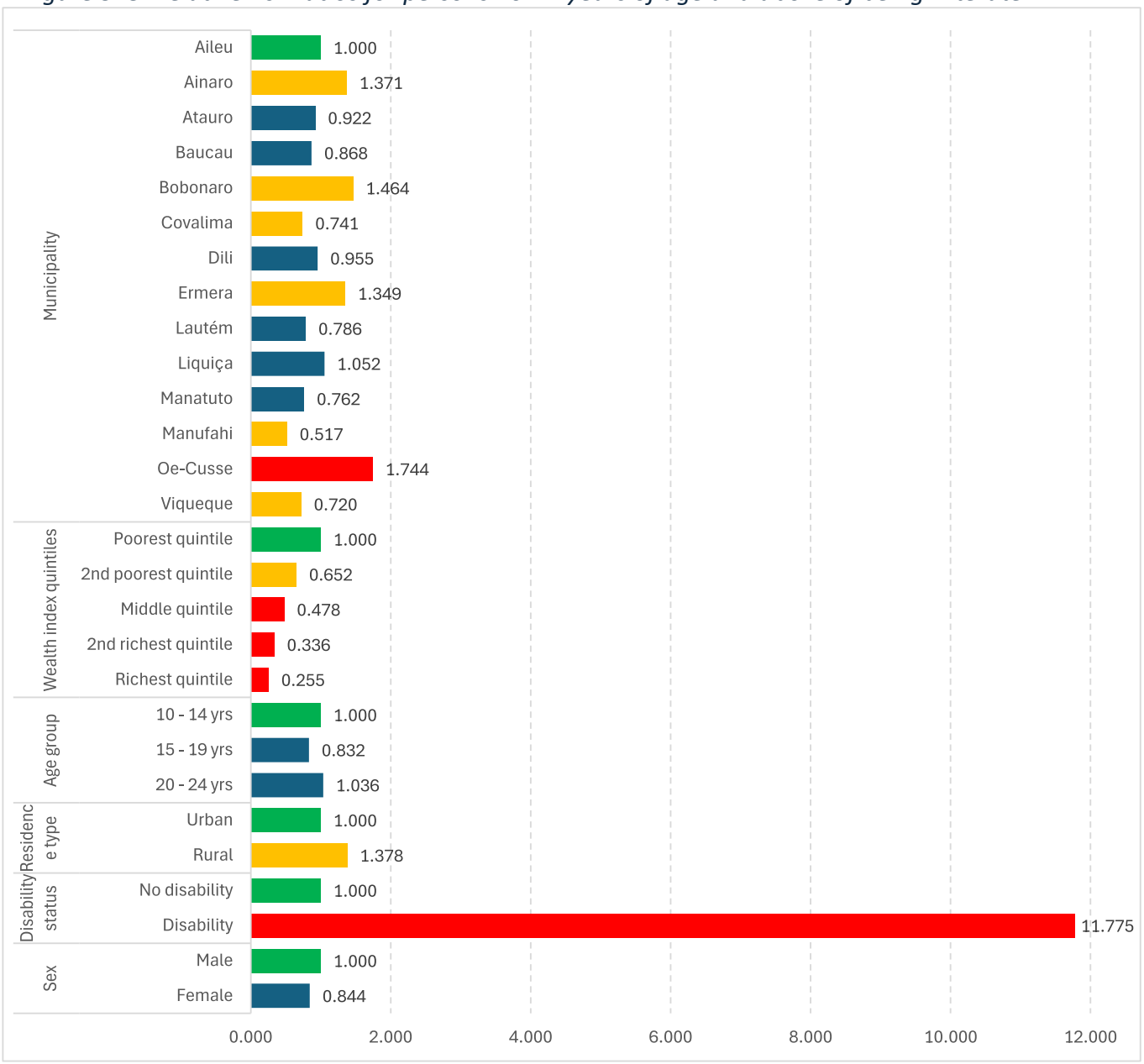
When it comes to the different age categories, no big differences in illiteracy were found between those aged 10-14 and 15-19. Persons in the age category 15 – 19 years of age had somewhat lower odds of being illiterate (.832). This may be do to the fact that many young children do not start primary school at age six. This pattern may have been aggravated by the COVID-19 epidemic.

A comparison of the odds of someone being illiterate in a rural area compared to an urban area (reference category) was also considered. Persons aged 10-24 years who live in a rural area have higher odds to be illiterate than those in urban areas. In fact, their odds are 37.8 percent higher than in urban areas.

In Timor-Leste, persons aged 10-24 years with disabilities face significantly higher odds of being illiterate compared to those without disabilities. In fact, disability is the single most discriminating factor of those considered in determining one's literacy, as those with a disability have the highest odds of being illiterate. This situation is often due to a combination of factors including limited access to inclusive education, social stigma, inadequate resources, and insufficient support services for people with disabilities. Someone with a disability between the ages of 10 and 24 years has a nearly 12-fold odd of being illiterate than someone without a disability. A further description of youth and children with a disability are provided in Chapter 6.

Finally, the graph also indicates the lower odds of females aged 10-24 years of being illiterate compared to males, as described above.

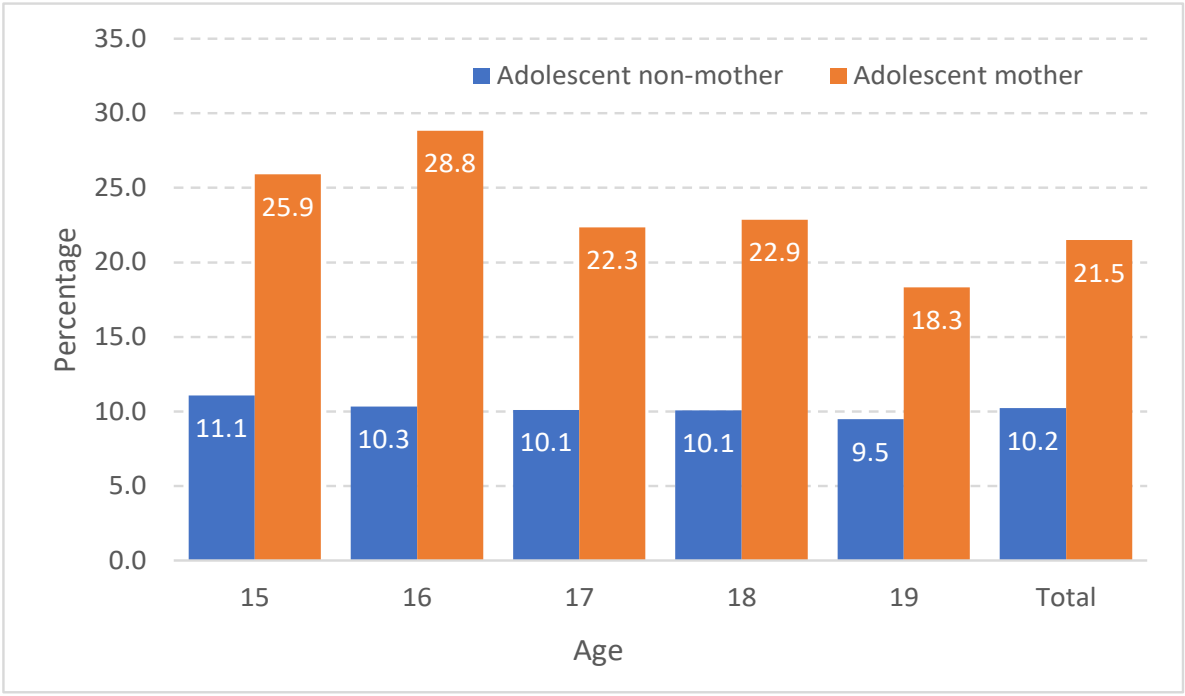
Figure 3. 8. Relative risk ratios for persons 10-24 years of age and above of being illiterate



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Figure 3. 9 shows illiteracy rates for adolescent females 15 – 19 years old by age and whether they had given birth at the time of the census or not. For all ages, illiteracy is much higher among adolescents who have already given birth than among those with no births. As most women would generally have learned to read and write before giving birth (i.e. before age 15), the graph most probably indicates that fertility is higher among illiterate women, rather than that because of having a baby at a young age, women are left without reading and writing skills. While illiteracy hovers around 10 percent for women who did not give birth, especially in the youngest age groups, it is considerably higher for illiterate women.

Figure 3. 9. Percentage of illiteracy among adolescent girls, by age and whether they have given birth or not



Source: (National Institute of Statistics Timor-Leste (INETL), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) & United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), 2024)

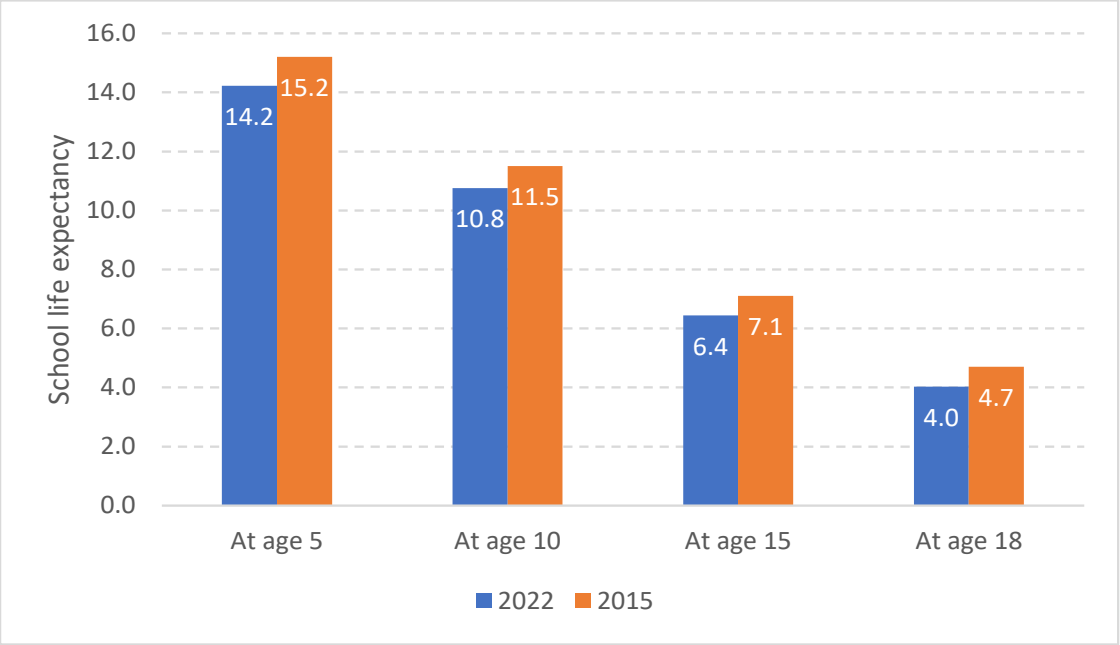
ii. School attendance

In the 2022 TLPHC, school attendance was defined as "regular attendance at any regular, accredited educational institution or programme, public or private, for organised learning at any level of education at the time of the census. Instruction in particular skills, which is not part of the recognised educational structure of the country (for example, in-service training courses in factories), is not considered school attendance for census purposes."

Overall, school life expectancy between the censuses of 2015 and 2022 decreased (Figure 3. 10). When a child at age 5 had a school life expectancy of 15.2 years in 2015, it had been reduced by a full year by 2022. It is striking that the reduction in school life expectancy is much more considerable for boys than girls. In 2015, boys' expected duration in school at age five was 15.6 years, and dropped to 14.0 by 2022. This drop was less pronounced for girls, from 14.8 years to 14.5 years. Similar differences were observed for the other ages.

The TLPHC 2022 also asked whether the person ever attended education. In 2022, the percentage of those ever attending school was 78.5 percent for 5-9 year olds, 89.6 percent for 10-14 year olds, 89.2 percent for 15-19 year olds and 85.3 percent for 20-24 year olds. This indicates that progress has been made in school attendance over the years.

Figure 3. 10. School life expectancy by age and census year (2015 – 2022)



Source: 2015 and 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

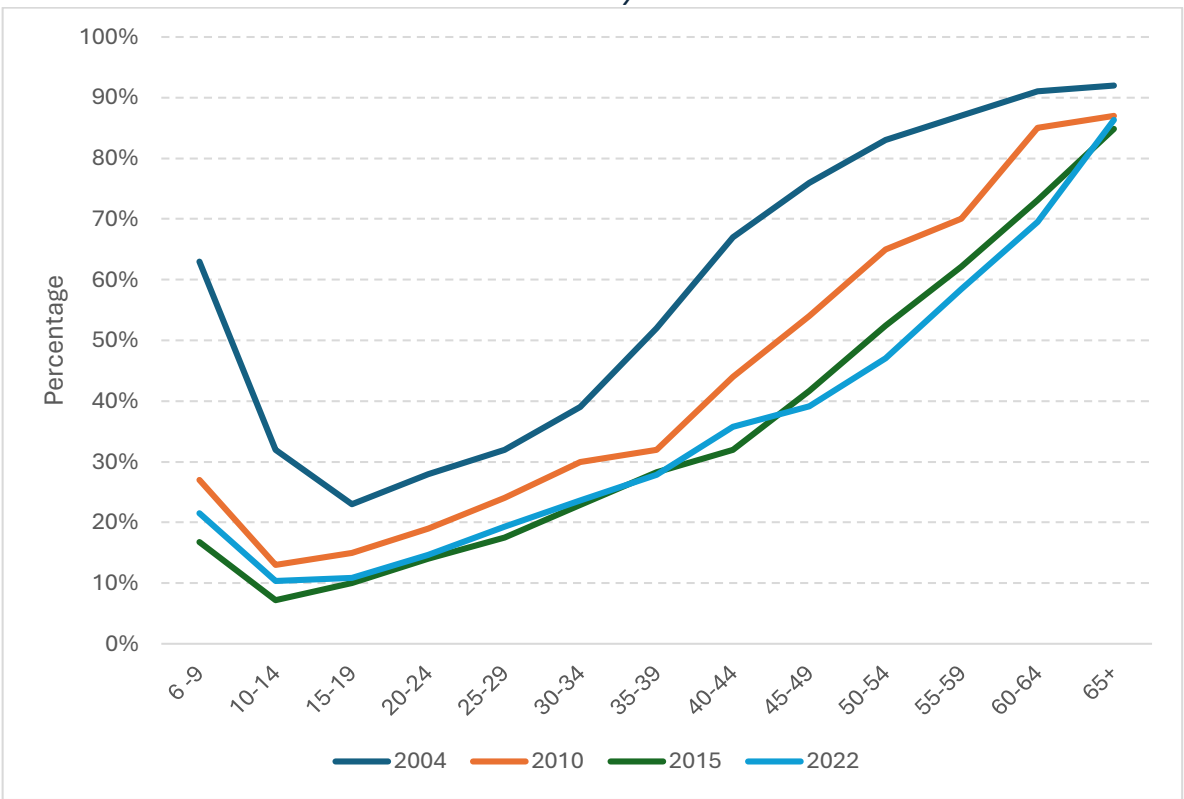
Table 3. 2 and Figure 3. 11 provide an overview of those that answered 'no' to the question, meaning that they never attended school. The table illustrates that between 2004 and 2022, a general decrease can be seen in the population aged 5-24 years that never attended school. The percentages for younger ages are higher, as some of these children may have not yet started their education yet. Between 2015 and 2022 however, the percentage of those not attending school increased again for all three age categories (6-9 years, 10-14 years, and 15-19 years). For example, in 2004 about 32 percent of those aged 10-14 did not attend school. This decreased to 13 percent in 2010 and seven percent in 2015. In 2022 however, the not-attending school population aged 10-14 years increased to one in ten children. Although further inquiries should be made to fully ascertain the reason for this, the impact of COVID-19 may be the answer. The effect of COVID-19 on the school-going population was felt most severely at the very young ages of primary school and after secondary school. Parents probably postponed the entrance of their young children to primary school, while a group of young persons who had just finished secondary school may have decided not to continue (immediately) with their higher education. Whether these postponements are temporary or permanent is yet to be confirmed.

Further information on the percentage of children and youth not attending school, disaggregated by numerous categories such as urban-rural, age, sex, and in comparison with other censuses, is presented in Section 6.2 on out-of-school children.

Table 3. 2. Percentage of population 5-24 years that never attended school by age group and census year

	2004	2010	2015	2022
6 -9	63	27	17	21.5
10-14	32	13	7	10.4
15-19	23	15	10	10.8
20-24	28	19	14	14.7
25-29	32	24	17	19.3
30-34	39	30	23	23.6
35-39	52	32	28	27.8
40-44	67	44	32	35.8
45-49	76	54	42	39.1
50-54	83	65	52	47.0
55-59	87	70	62	58.5
60-64	91	85	73	69.5
65+	92	87	85	77.0
Total	49	33	26	87.6

Figure 3. 11. Percentage of population 6-24 years that never attended school by age group and census year



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Chapter 4. Children and youth in the workforce

Decent work is crucial for multiple reasons, including economic stability, social equity, and individual well-being. It also plays a central role in achieving inclusive and sustainable development. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), decent work involves opportunities for everyone to access productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity (International Labour Organization, n.d.).

i. Characteristics of children and youth in the workforce

In the census, the definition and approach to determining a person's labour force status differed from the 2015 PHC and was revised following the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (United Nations, 2017). For the census, the definition of employed persons was brought in line with the System of National Accounts. This effectively meant that fewer people were defined as 'employed', different people as 'unemployed', and more people as 'outside the labour force'. Questions on employment status were asked to all persons in the census, ten years of age and older.

Labour force in the 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

In the 2022 census analysis, persons in employment are defined as all those aged 15 and over who, during the reference week before census night (29 August to 4 September 2022), were engaged in any activity to produce goods or provide services for pay or profit. It excludes persons only engaged in farming-, fishing- and animal-production activities if mainly or only done for family consumption. In previous census analyses, persons only engaged in subsistence food production were included in the category 'employed persons'. The revised definition of employment implies that the number of persons who meet the criteria for being in employment has become smaller.

In the 2022 census analysis, unemployed persons are defined as all those aged 15 and over who:

1. were not in employment in the reference week, and
2. were actively looking for work or trying to start a new business in the past month,
3. were available to take up employment within two weeks if a job would be available or a business could be started.

Employed young population

In the 2022 TLPHC, a total of 304.7 thousand employed workers were enumerated. This implied an overall employment-to-population ratio[6] of 34.9 percent. The total male employment-to-population ratio was 40.8 percent, while the total female employment-to-population ratio was 29.8 percent (INETL, 2023). In Timor-Leste, out of 289,992 young persons 15 to 24 years, 46,006 were employed. This translates into a youth employment-to-population ratio of 15.9 percent (Table 5. 1). The youth employment-to-population ratio for males is somewhat higher than for females, 18.1 against 13.6 percent.

Table 4. 1. Employed population, youth employment-to-population ratio, by sex

	Employed	Total population 15 - 24	Youth employment-to-population ratio
Male	26,653	147,364	18.1
Female	19,353	142,628	13.6
Total	46,006	289,992	15.9

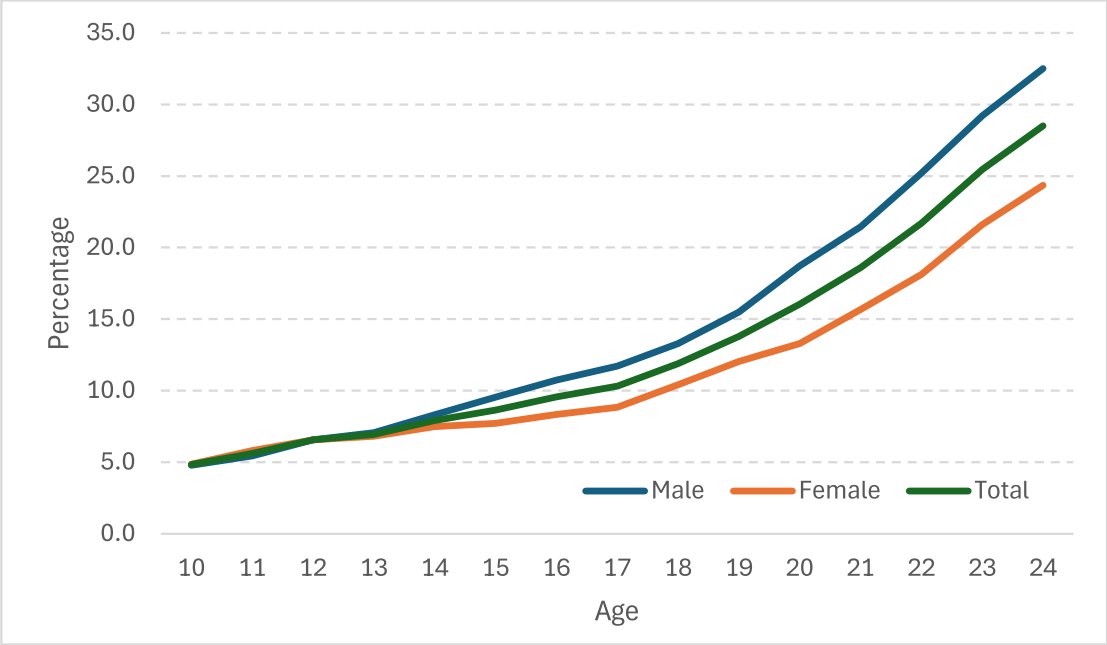
Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

The age pattern of employment among children and youth 10 – 24 years shows some important characteristics (Figure 4. 1). First, it is clear that children are already active in the labour force at a very young age. Among ten-year-olds, almost five percent of children are working. The percentage is about the same for boys and girls. There is a constant increase in the percentage of children and youth who are working. After age 18, these percentages increase at a faster pace to reach a level of 32.5 percent for males and 24.4 percent for females at age 24.

According to the TLPHC 2022, the working-age population was 874.0 thousand persons 15 years of age and older; 441.6 thousand were men and 432.4 thousand were women. About 304.7 thousand persons were employed. This means that among all persons employed in Timor-Leste, 15.1 percent are in the age group 15 to 24. For men and women, this percentage is 14.8 and 15.5, respectively.

[6] '*The employment-to-population ratio is defined as the proportion of a country's working-age population that is employed. The youth and adult employment-to-population ratios are the proportion of the youth and adult populations –typically persons aged 15 to 24 years and 25 years and over, respectively – that are employed'* (ILO, 2024).

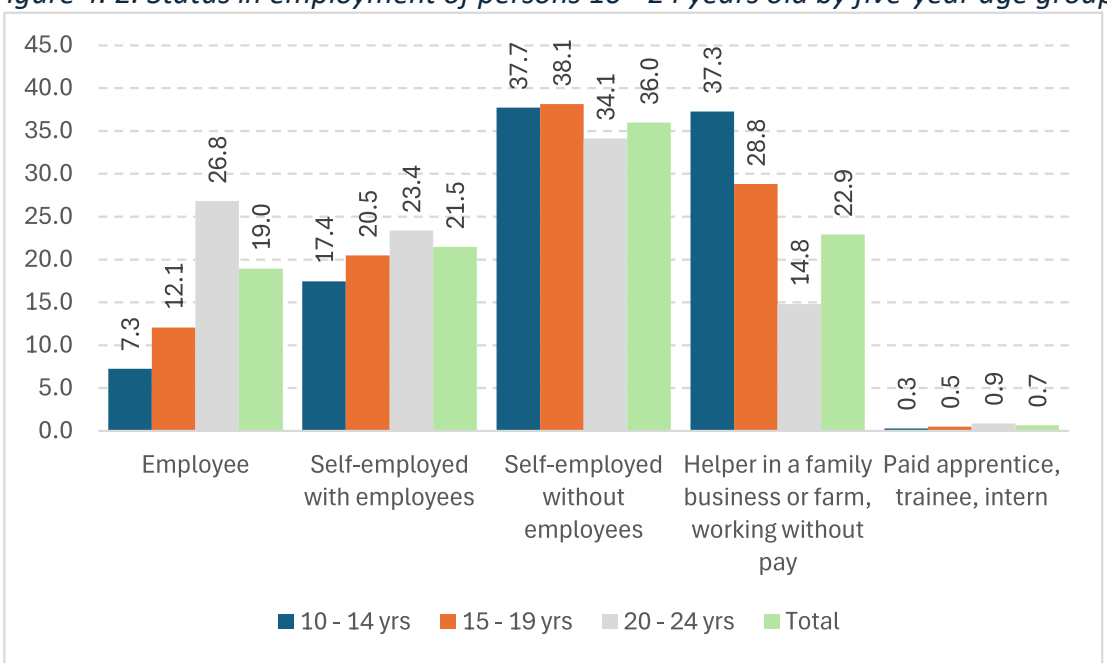
Figure 4. 1. Youth employment-to-population ratio by age and sex



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Figure 4. 2 shows that most young people 10 – 24 years old are active as self-employed workers (36.0 percent of all employed persons 10 – 24 years old). The status in employment of young people 10 – 24 changes by age. At age 10 – 14 years, only 7.3 percent of persons 10 – 14 years old work as employees, against 26.8 percent among those 20 – 24 years old. Many children start to work as helpers in a family business or farm; 37.3 percent of all 10-14-year-olds work as contributing family workers. This percentage drops quickly to 28.8 percent for 15 to 19-year-olds and 14.8 percent for those 20 to 24.

Figure 4. 2. Status in employment of persons 10 - 24 years old by five-year age group



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Based on a person's employment status, one can determine whether or not they are engaged in vulnerable employment. According to the ILO, vulnerable employment is defined as the sum of the employment status groups of own-account workers (i.e. self-employed without employees) and contributing family workers (ILO, 2018). The 2022 TLPHC shows that many children and youth are working in vulnerable employment. Among all employed persons 10 – 24 years old, 58.9 percent are working in vulnerable employment. Those in the youngest age group (10 – 14 years) are most vulnerable: three-quarters of all children 10 – 14 years have a vulnerable employment position. Among 20 – 24-year-olds, this is 48.9 percent. More young women than men in the age groups 10 – 24 years are in vulnerable employment:

It would be interesting to examine the type of occupation and the main activity of the workplace where young people work. Unfortunately, no ISCO or ISIC codes were given for many answers to the questions on occupation and industry. This makes it impossible to determine the most common occupations and industrial groups for persons in the age group 10 – 24 years old.

Working children

Child labour is a direct violation of children's human rights. Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals pertains to child labour: '*Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms* (Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, 2017)[7].

Child labour is defined as work that is *mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or interferes with their schooling by: depriving them of the opportunity to attend school; obliging them to leave school prematurely; or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work* (ILO, 2024). It is often difficult to distinguish between child work and child labour, i.e., work permissible to be performed by children and those not.

According to the 2016 National Child Labour Survey, out of the 421,655 children 5-17 years old, 83.9 percent are not working, 12.5 percent are involved in child labour, and 3.6 percent are working in permissible forms of child work (FUNDAMENTALS, 2019). In the TLPHC, questions were asked about employment for all persons ten years of age and older. No specific questions were asked that could distinguish between child labour and child work. Therefore, the results presented in this section refer to children working and not to child labour. However, the National Child Labour Survey showed that the majority of children working were, in fact, involved in child labour (FUNDAMENTALS, 2019).

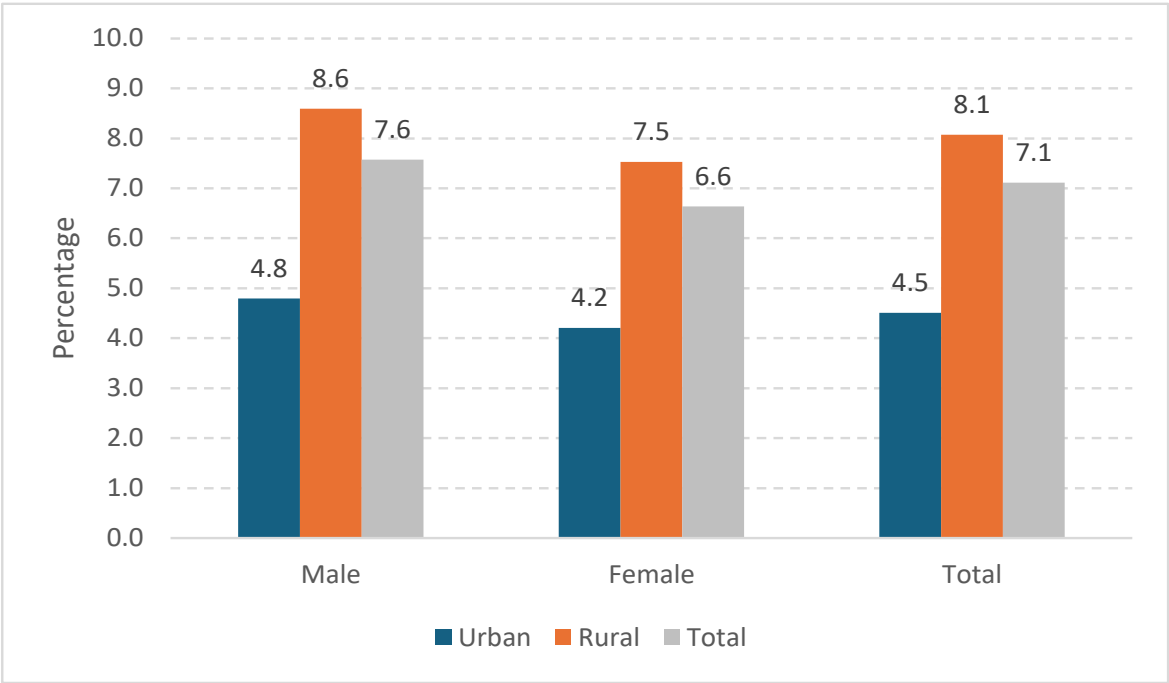
[7] The analysis on working children, and its connection to education was already done in the thematic report on education (INETL, 2024). This section was partially taken from that report.

In the past, the Government of Timor-Leste established various laws and regulations related to child labour. According to a 2022 assessment made by the US Department of Labour, gaps still exist in legislation to protect children from the worst forms of child labour. Among others, no minimum age is set for doing hazardous work. This minimum age is internationally set at 17 years (US Department of Labour, 2024).

In the TLPHC, a child was considered working if they were either performing paid employment during the week before the census, were temporarily absent from work, or were unpaid family workers. Out of a total of 242,288 children between 10 and 17 years old, 16,088 were working, which is 6.6 percent. Note that this is considerably lower than in the 2016 National Child Labour Survey. This may be due to a different operationalization, changes over time, or the effect of COVID-19 on child employment. Among all working children, 8,716 were boys (7.0 percent of the total), and 7,372 (6.2 percent) were girls.

The percentage of children working is considerably higher in rural than in urban areas. The census showed that 8.1 percent of children 10 to 17 years old were engaged in child work in rural areas, against 4.5 percent in urban areas. This trend was about the same for boys and girls (Figure 4. 3).

Figure 4. 3. Percentage of children 10 - 17 years old who were working, by type of residence and sex

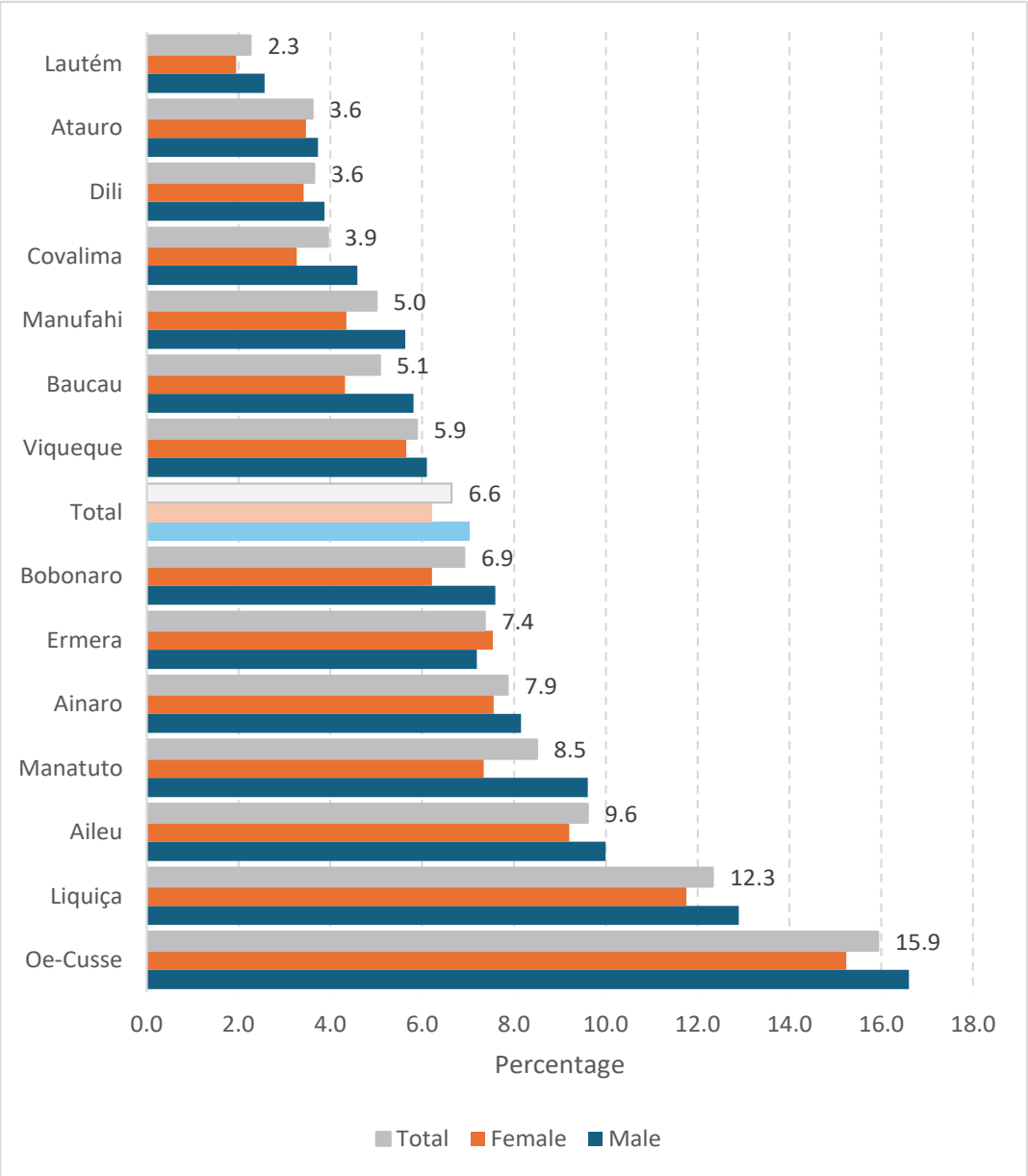


Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Also, large differences exist between Timor-Leste's municipalities in terms of child work (Figure 4. 4). The percentage of children working is highest in Oe-Cusse, where 15.9 percent of children worked during the week before the census. Liquiça is the only other municipality where more than ten percent of children were working. The percentage of child work is lowest

in Lautém, where only 2.3 percent of children were active. Dili municipality scores second lowest, together with nearby Atauro. They each score 3.6 percent. In all municipalities, child work is a bit higher among boys than among girls, except for Ermera, where girls have a slightly higher percentage.

Figure 4. 4. Percentage of children 10 - 17 years old who were working, by municipality and sex



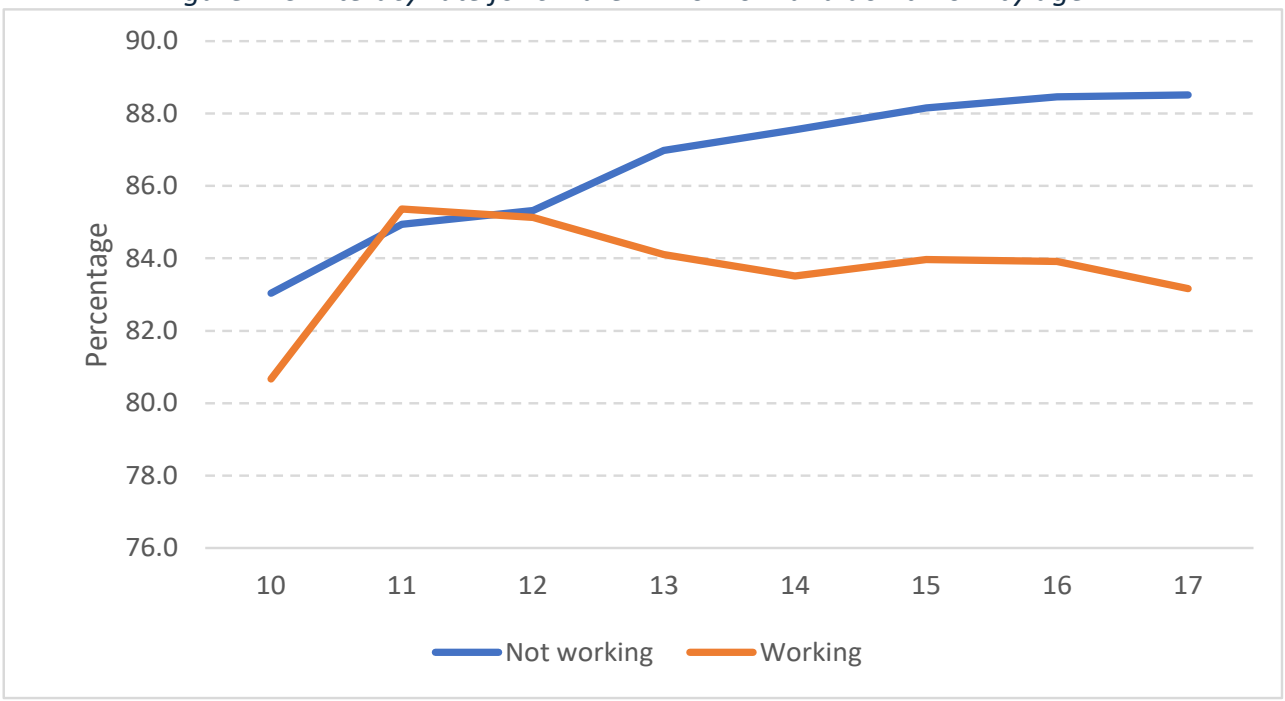
Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

The difference between literacy for children who are working and those who are not, increases somewhat with age (Figure 4. 5). While at ages 11 and 12, literacy rates for both groups are quite the same, they increase to a level of about five percentage points at age 17.

There is a clear difference between schoolgoing rates for children who are working and those who are not, according to their age. While the percentages of children going to school are about the same for both employment groups at age 10, gradually the difference becomes

bigger, with working children leaving school. At age 17, 79.0 percent of non-working children are still in school, against 55.1 percent of working children.

Figure 4. 5. Literacy rate for children who work and don't work by age



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Figure 4. 6. School attendance for children who work and don't work, by age

Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

ii. Youth unemployment

In many countries, high levels of youth unemployment are a serious problem, jeopardizing equitable socioeconomic development. SDG target 8.5 stresses the need to reduce the high levels of youth unemployment and *'By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value'.* Progress in reaching this goal is measured by SDG Indicator 8.5.2: *Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities*.

The 2022 PHC follows the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (2017) and considers a person unemployed if he/she:

1. was not in employment in the reference week,
2. was actively looking for work or trying to start a new business in the past month,
3. was available to take up employment within two weeks if a job would be available or a business could be started (INETL, 2023).

Unemployment is low in Timor-Leste. In the 2022 PHC, 9,172 unemployed persons were counted, 5,173 men and 3,999 women. The unemployment rate[8] was 2.9 percent, 2.7 percent for men, and 30 percent for women. Persons 15 to 24 comprise 15.1 percent of the total population. However, they comprise 27.6 percent of all unemployed people. The census counted 1,403 unemployed men 15 – 24 years old and 1,128 women.

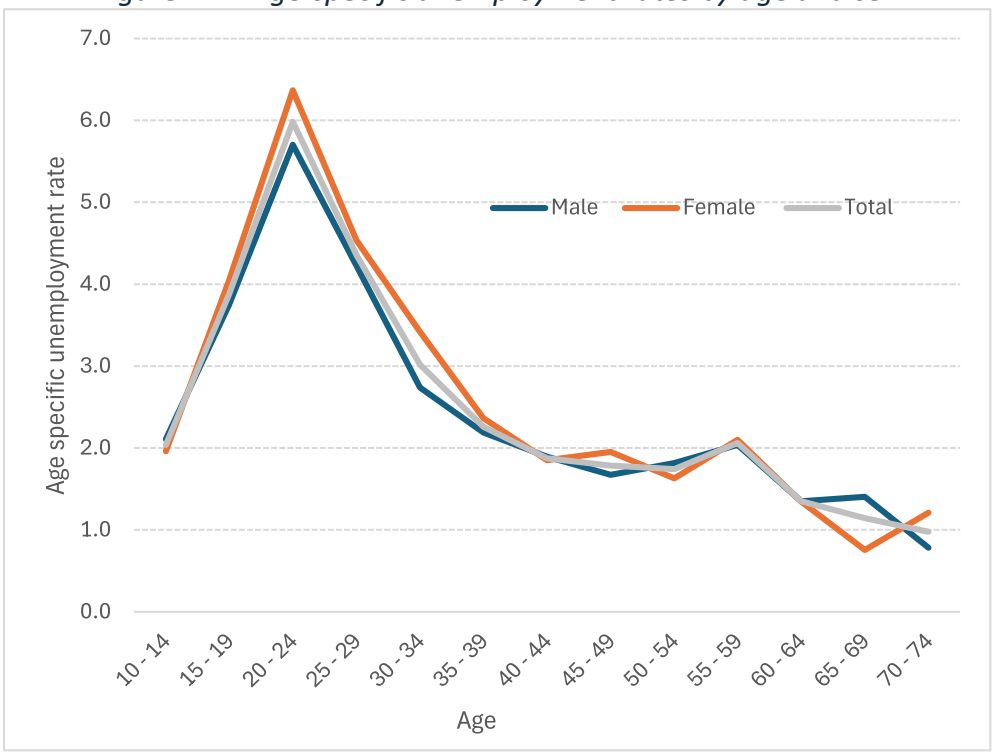
The youth unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed 15 – 24 year-olds in the labour force. The number of unemployed youth in the census was 1,403 men and 1,128 women. The unemployment rate was found to be 5.2 percent, which is higher than the rate for the population 15 years of age and older. The youth unemployment rate for men was 5.0 percent and 5.5 percent for women.

Figure 4. 7 shows the age-specific unemployment rates by sex for five-year age groups. The graph clearly shows that unemployment is low among the youngest two age groups and then shoots up in the age group 20 to 24 to 5.7 percent for young men and 6.4 percent for young women. Unemployment is still higher in the age group 25 to 29 (4.4 percent), but then drops fairly quickly to very low levels.

Youth unemployment is highest in Dili (Figure 4. 8). In Dili, unemployment among youth (10.0 percent) is twice the national average. Also, Ainaro has a youth unemployment rate (7.9 percent) well above the national level. The lowest youth unemployment was observed in Viqueque (2.2 percent), Liquiça (2.2 percent), and Oe-cusse (1.8 percent).

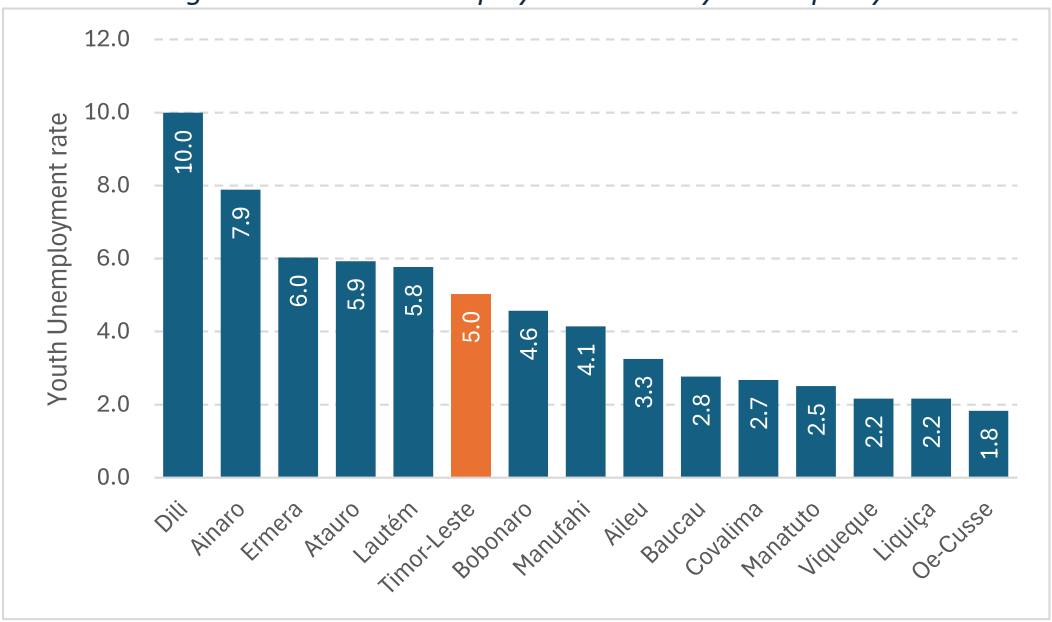
[8] The unemployment rate is defined as the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force (i.e. the sum of employed and unemployed persons).

Figure 4. 7. Age-specific unemployment rates by age and sex



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

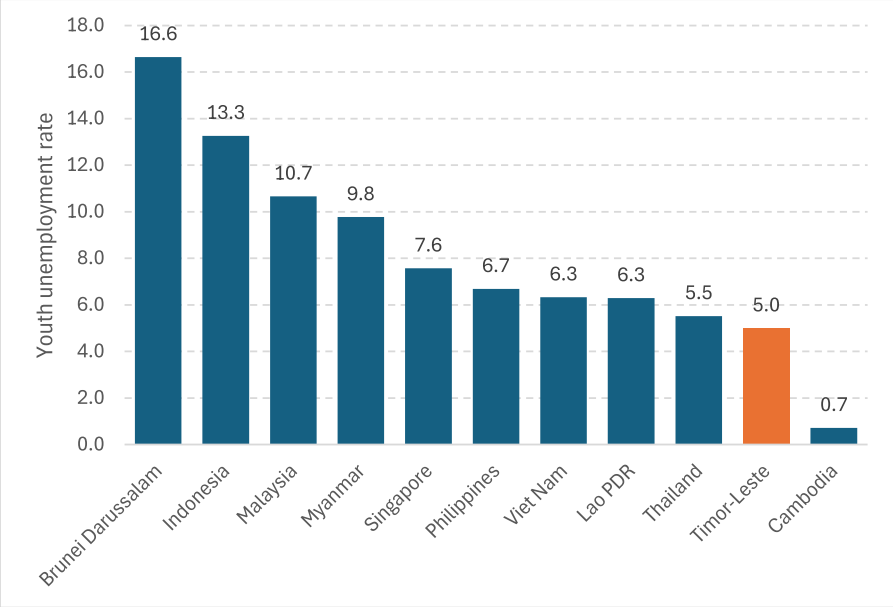
Figure 4. 8. Youth unemployment rates by municipality



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Compared to other countries in the Southeast Asian region, youth unemployment in Timor-Leste is low (World Bank, 2023). Only Cambodia has a lower youth unemployment rate than Timor-Leste (0.7 percent). The highest regional unemployment is in Brunei Darussalam, where 16.6 percent of young people in the labour force are unemployed. A number of countries (Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, and the Philippines) have youth unemployment rates that are only slightly higher than in Timor-Leste.

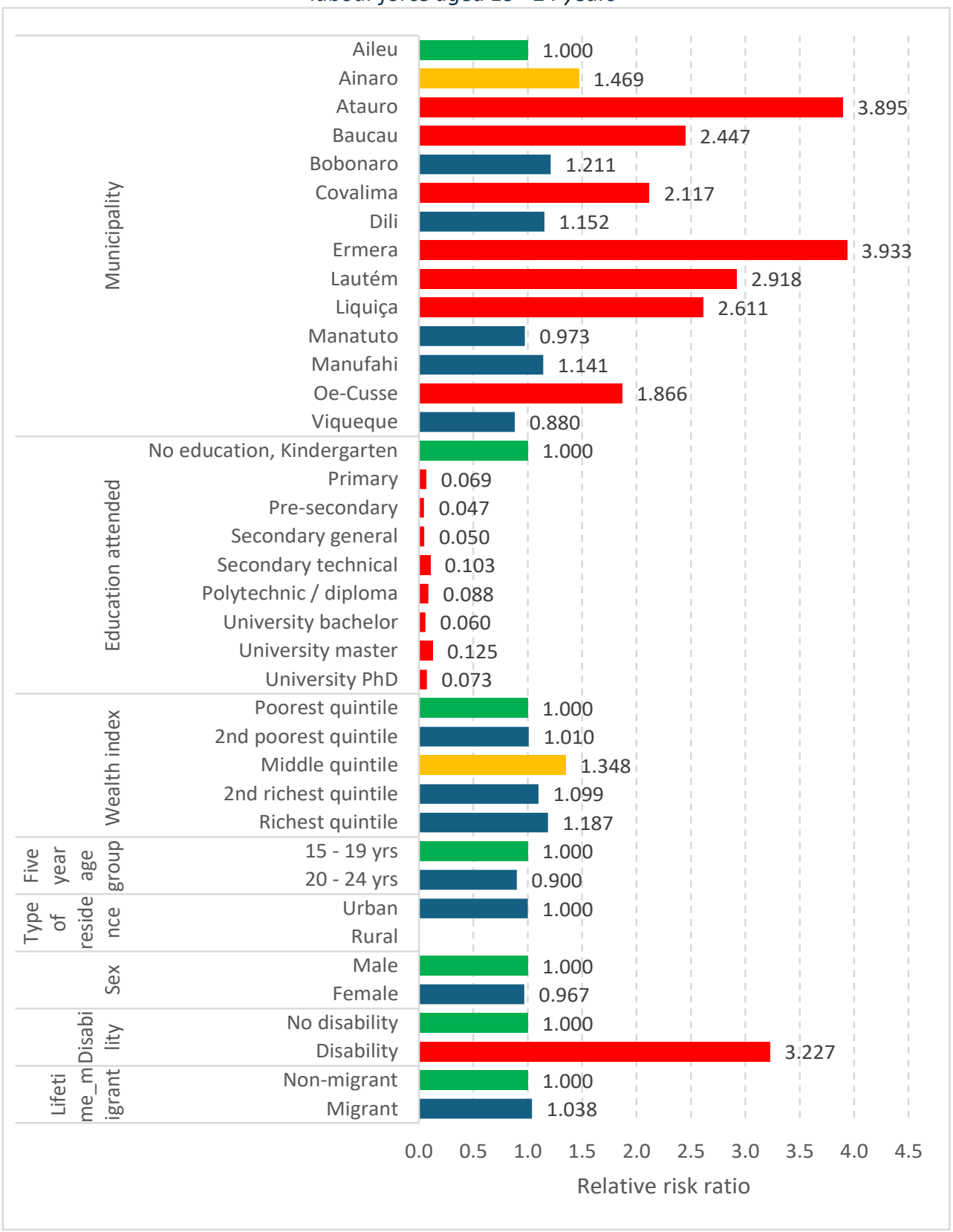
Figure 4. 9. Youth unemployment rate (15 – 24 years) Southeast Asian countries, World Bank Database



A logistic regression allows us to look at the net effect of a number of explanatory variables on a person's chances of being unemployed. The dependent variable used in this analysis was whether a person in the age group 15 – 24 years old and who was in the labour force at the time of the census was unemployed or not. The explanatory variables used were municipality, highest educational level attended, five-year age group (15 – 19 or 20 -24 years old), type of residence (urban-rural), sex, having a disability or not, and whether the person was a lifetime migrant or not. Note that literacy was not included in the regression model, as this would give problems of multicollinearity. In a regression analysis, explanatory variables should not be intercorrelated, which is clearly the case between the education level and literacy. The relative risk ratios from this logit regression are depicted in Figure 4. 10. Again, the categories with the highest discriminatory effect have been given a red colour, and categories with a more modest effect have orange colours, while the reference categories are green. Although Dili was the municipality with the highest youth unemployment, after statistically controlling for other intervening factors, the effect of living in Dili on its own does not make unemployment much higher than in Aileu. Living in some other municipalities increases the odds of being unemployed much more. The highest effect is living in Ermera and Atauro, which have a relative risk ratio of 3.933 and 3.895, respectively. Persons living in Baucau, Covalima, Lautém, Liquiça, and Oe-Cusse also have a higher risk ratio of youth unemployment than in Aileu.

A person's education level strongly affects their risk of being unemployed. Having not attended any school increases the odds of not finding work by about a factor of ten. After controlling for other intervening factors, belonging to a lower or higher wealth quintile barely affects one's chances of being unemployed as a young person. Finally, having a disability affects a person's chances of finding employment. The relative risk ratio for a young person to be unemployed is more than three times higher than for a person without a disability.

Figure 4. 10. Relative risk ratios, logit regression on unemployment among all persons in the labour force aged 15 - 24 years



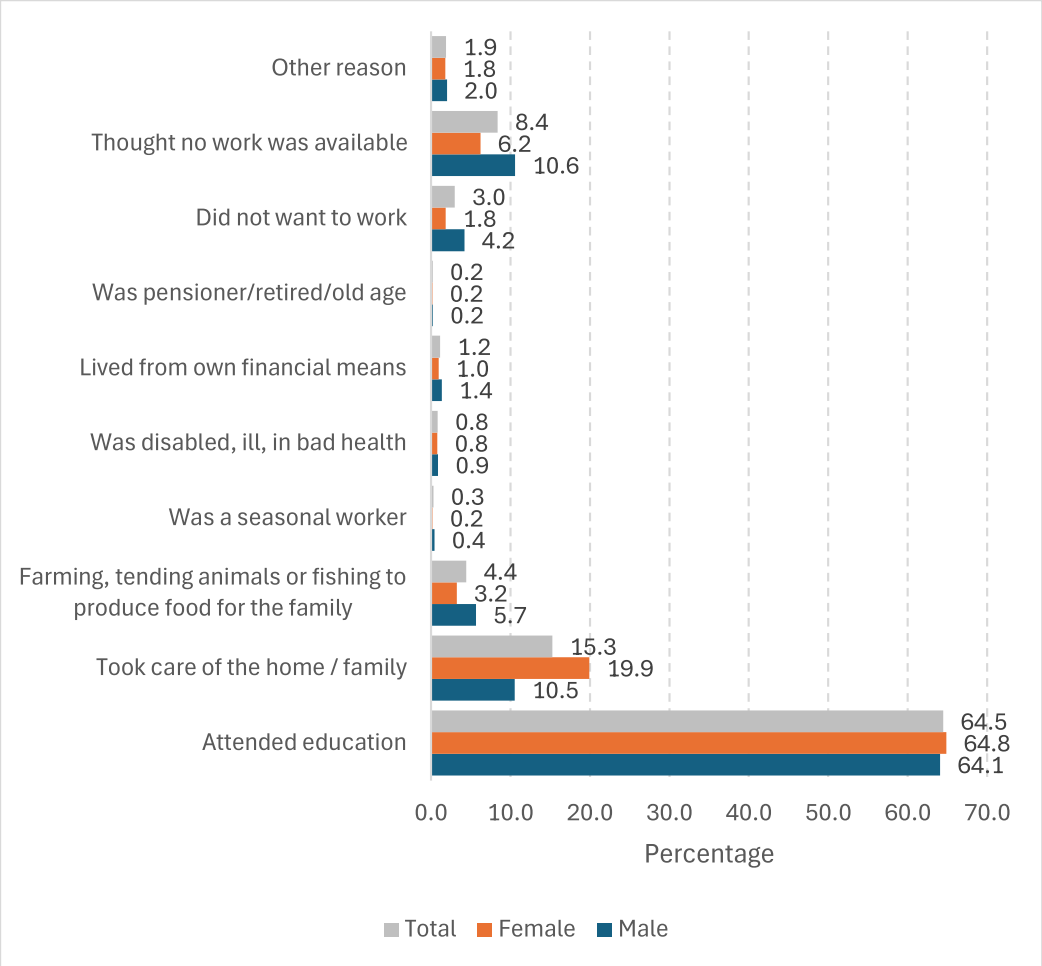
Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

iii. Inactive youth

Reasons for not working

In the census, economically inactive people (not employed and unemployed) were asked the reason for not working or looking for work. Only the most important reason was requested. Attending education is the most important reason young persons are not economically active: 64.5 percent of persons 15 – 24 years old indicate education as the main reason. Little difference exists between male and female youth. The second most important reason is 'to care of the home/family'. This reason is more pronounced for females than males: 19.9 percent against 10.5 percent. The third most important reason is that 8.4 percent of young people thought no work was available.

Figure 4. 11. Main reason for being jobless for persons 15 - 24 years old



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Not in education, employment, or training

Those not in education, employment or training (NEET) is defined as '*the number of young persons not in education, employment or training as a percentage of the total youth*

population. It provides a measure of youth who are outside the educational system, not in training and not in employment, and thus serves as a broader measure of potential youth labour market entrants than youth unemployment, since it also includes young persons outside the labour force not in education or training' (ILO, 2024). The NEET rate is calculated by dividing the number of youth not in employment, not in education, and not following training by the total number of youth aged 15 to 24.

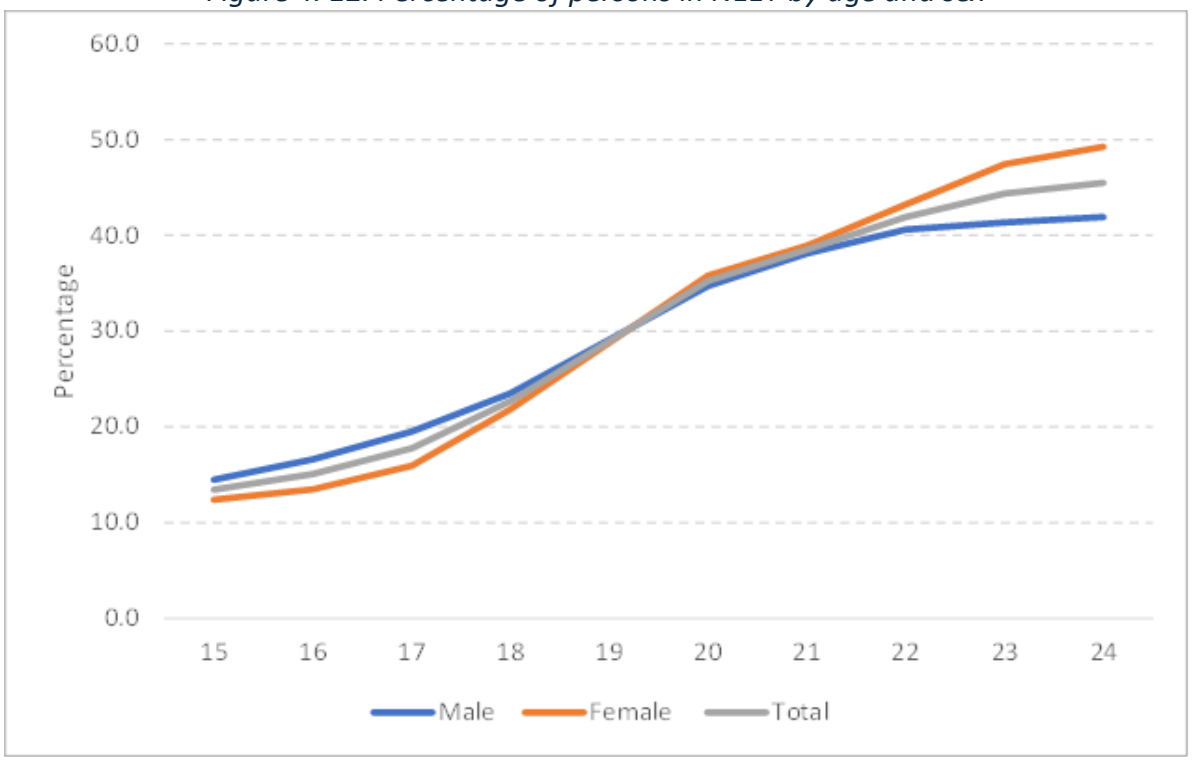
The NEET indicator is crucial for monitoring progress towards realizing several SDGs for young persons. The NEET indicator is linked to SDG Goal 8 on Decent Work. It helps to identify gaps in the education system where young people are dropping out or not transitioning smoothly from education to employment. The NEET rate often reflects broader socioeconomic inequalities. Higher NEET rates are commonly seen among disadvantaged groups, including those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, ethnic minorities, and rural areas. As NEET is generally related to higher levels of poverty, the NEET indicator can help policymakers develop social protection and employment programs targeted at young people.

According to the 2022 TLPHC, 29.3 percent of the 15 – 24 years population was not in employment, education, or training, 29.1 percent for males and 29.6 percent for females. Compared to the 2015 PHC, the NEET rate is somewhat higher. At that time, the NEET rate was 20.3 percent, 16.8 for males and 23.7 percent for females (General Directorate of Statistics, 2017). This was about the same as in 2010, when the NEET rate was 21.4 percent. However, note that the definition of employment was diferent in the 2015 and 2022 census.

Figure *4. 12* shows the NEET rate by age and sex. The percentage of youth NEET gradually increases from age 15 to age 24. At age 15, the NEET rate is somewhat higher for males than females. Around age 20, this pattern reverses, and the NEET rate for females is higher than for males. At age 24, the NEET rate for males is 41.9 percent, against 49.3 percent for females.

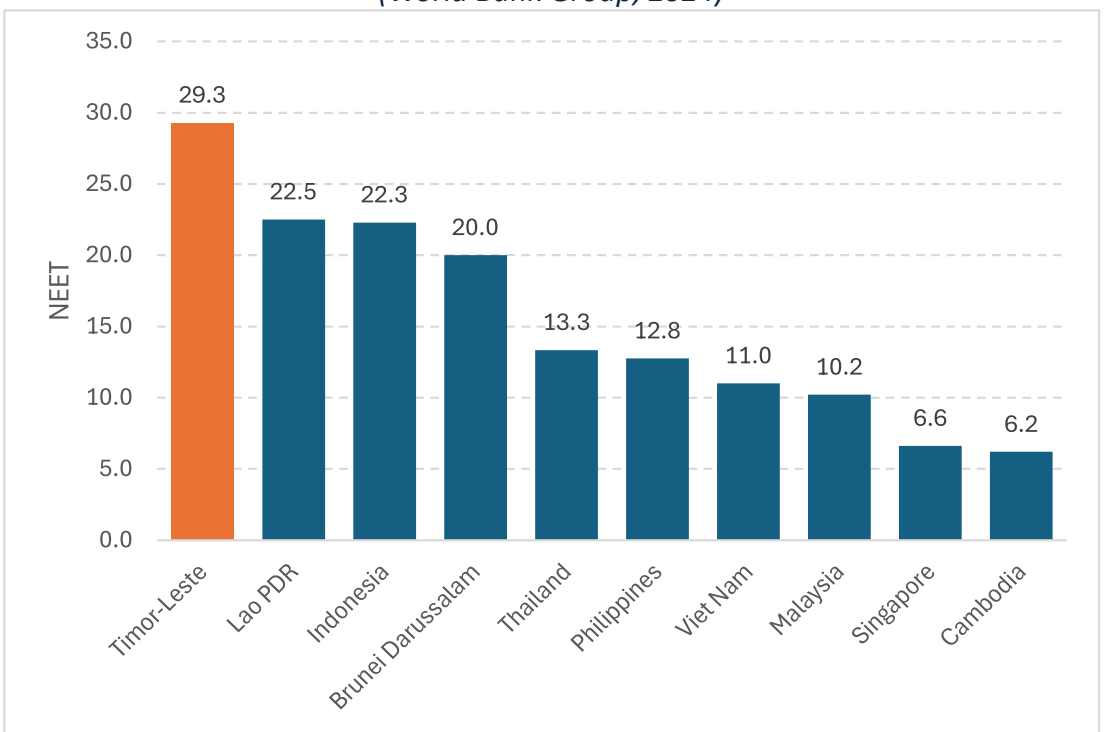
Figure 5.9 indicated that Timor-Leste was positioned somewhere in t
he middle with regard to youth unemployment in the Southeast Asia region. One would expect the country to be around the same position regarding the NEET rate. Figure 5.13 shows that this is not the case. Among all Southeast Asian countries, Timor-Leste has the highest percentage of youth who are not employed, educated, or trained. With 29.3 percent, Timor-Leste scores much higher than Lao PDR, which has a NEET rate of 22.5 percent. The country with the lowest reported NEET rate is Cambodia, which has a NEET rate of only 6.2 percent. This is only slightly higher than Singapore, which has the second-highest percentage of NEET (6.6 percent).

Figure 4. 12. Percentage of persons in NEET by age and sex



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

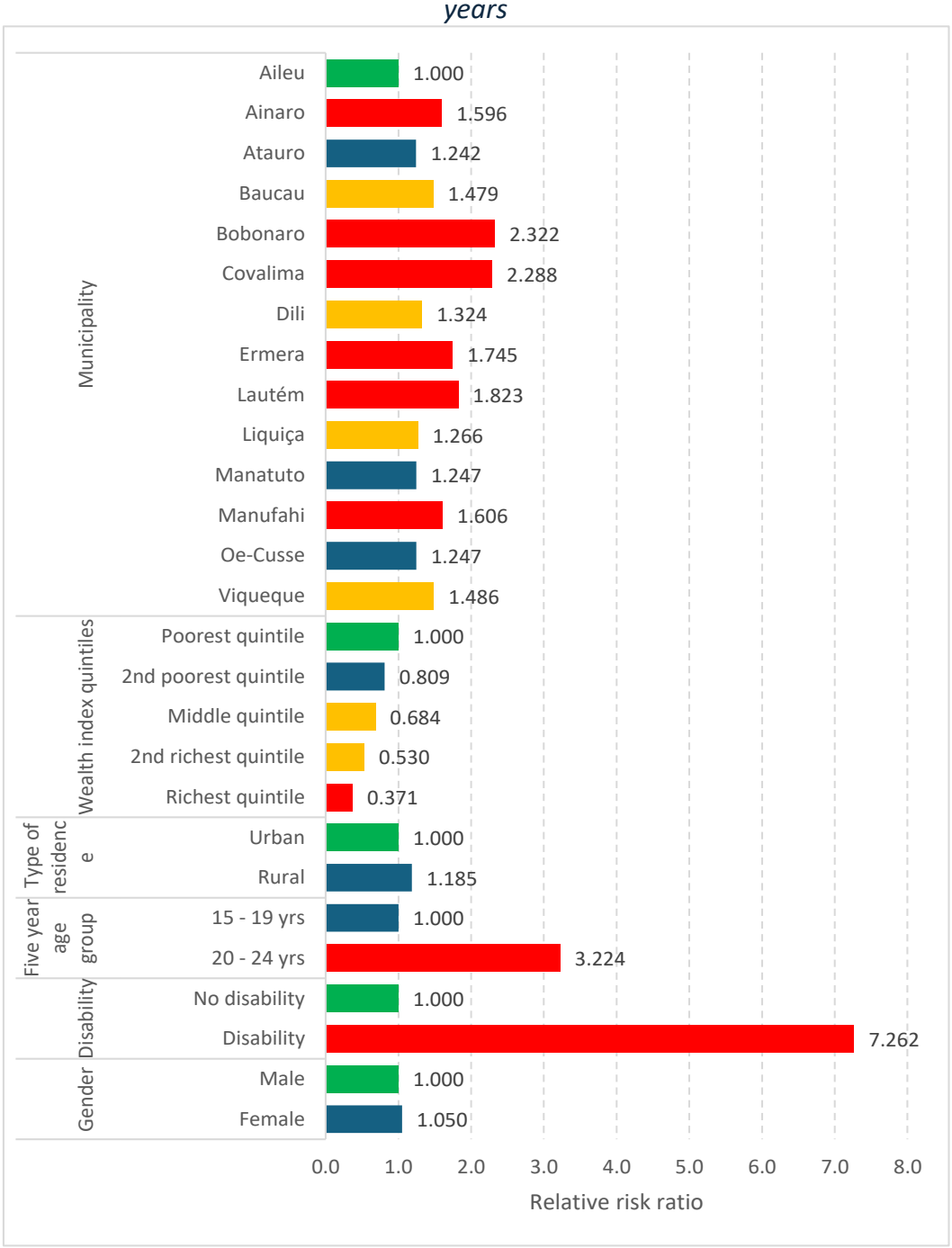
Figure 4. 13. Percentage of persons in NEET for Southeast Asian countries, World Bank data (World Bank Group, 2024)



For policymaking it is important to know which groups in society have higher chances of not being in employment, education, or training. A logit regression was constructed to examine the differentials between different youth groups. The dependent variable was whether the person 15 – 24 years old was in employment, education, or training. The explanatory variables used in the regression were municipality, wealth quintile, type of residence, five-year age group, sex, and disability status. Again, the categories that have the most significant effect on the odds of a person being NEET are coloured red; somewhat minor effects are coloured orange, while the reference categories are given the colour green.

Figure 4. 14 shows that young people in Aileu have the lowest chance of being NEET after controlling for other intervening factors. The NEET rate is highest in Bobonaro and Covalima, where the odds for young persons to be in NEET are more than two times higher than in Aileu. The chance of being NEET is also considerably higher in Ainaro (relative risk = 1.596), Ermera (1.745), Lautém (1.823), and Manufahi (1.606). The regression showed that young persons living in the poorest quintile of households have the highest risk of not being in employment, education, and training. The higher the wealth quintile, the higher the chance for a young person to be NEET. The relative risk ratio for a person in the highest quintile is only 0.371 compared to a person in the lowest quintile. The NEET rate is slightly higher in rural areas (1.185) compared to urban areas. Youngsters in the age category 20 – 24 have an odds ratio of more than three compared to those in the age category 15 to 19 years old. This should not be a surprise, as more persons 15 to 19 years old are in school than those aged 20 to 24. Little difference was observed in the NEET rate between males and females after controlling for the other factors in the regression model. By far, the highest risk to be NEET is for young persons with a disability. Their odds of being NEET are more than seven times higher than those without a disability.

Figure 4. 14. Relative risk ratios, logit regression on NEET among all persons aged 15 - 24 years



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Chapter 5. Vulnerable groups

i. Children and youth with disabilities

In the census, a person's disability status was measured using the methodology developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. The Washington Group (WG) methodology uses a set of six questions. These questions all relate to a person's capacity to perform daily activities (Washington Group on Disability Statistics, 2022):

- Does <Name> have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?
- Does <Name> have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
- Does <Name> have difficulty walking or climbing steps?
- Does <Name> have difficulty remembering or concentrating?
- Does <Name> have difficulty with self-care, such as washing all over or dressing?
- Because of a physical, mental or emotional health condition, does <Name> have difficulty communicating, for example, understanding others or others understanding <Name>?

In addition, a question was asked about the cause of the main disability. Note that in the 2015 PHC, only four questions were asked about a person's functional limitations.

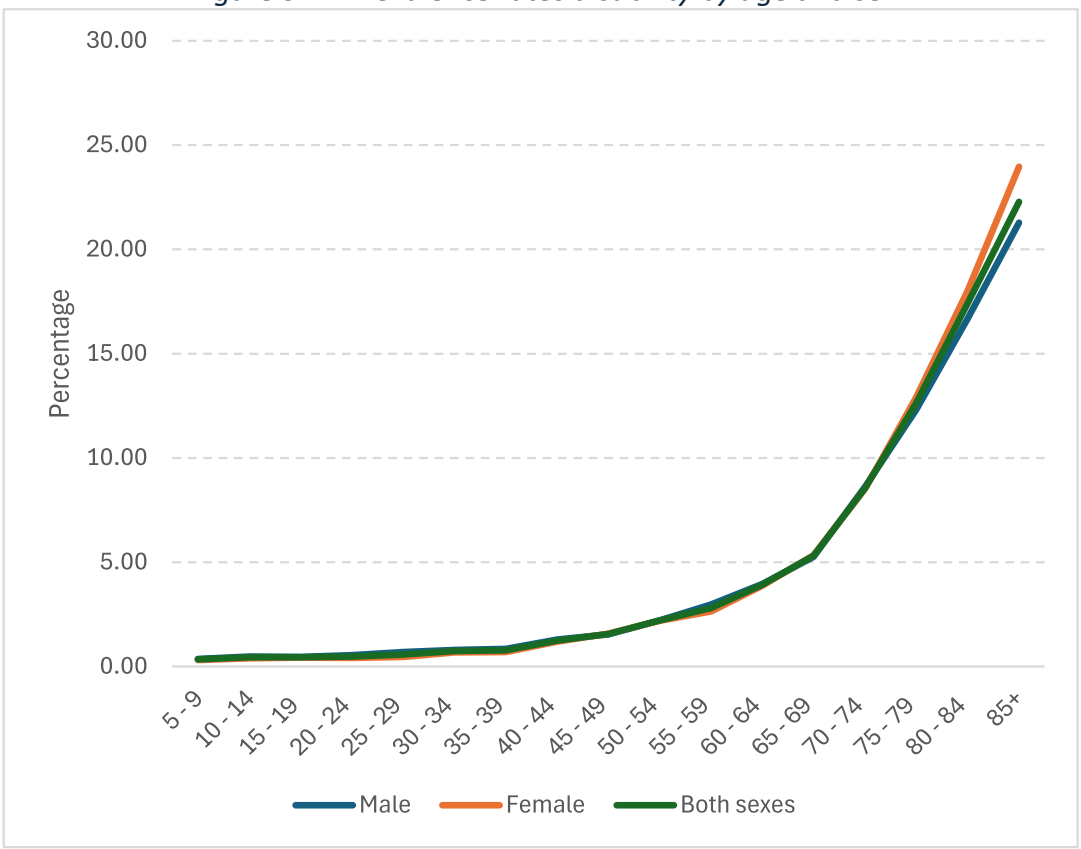
In this report, persons who answered '*cannot do at all*' or answered '*lot of difficulty*' to one or more of the six WG questions were defined as having a disability. Questions on disability in censuses are notorious for providing underestimates of the prevalence of disability. This is mainly because, for cultural, psychological, and socio-economic reasons, respondents conceal household members with a disability. On the other hand, enumerators sometimes are uncomfortable asking questions on disability and easily fill in the questions with 'no problem'. However, the primary purpose of the census should not be to provide a correct prevalence of disability in the population, but rather to describe the living conditions of persons with disabilities.

In the 2022 TLPHC, only 1.33 percent of the total population indicated that they could not do one of the six functional categories or had many problems doing them. In the 2015 PHC, only four out of the six WG were asked. The prevalence was found to be significantly higher at 3.2 percent of the population. However, in the analysis, people who indicated 'some problem' were also included as having a disability. The 2016 DHS used the same definition as the 2022 TLPHC. The total disability rate in the DHS was 1.8 percent for all persons five years and older. This is somewhat higher than in the 2022 census, but probably also an underestimate of the total prevalence.

Figure 5.1 shows the prevalence rates by age and sex in the 2022 census.
The age pattern of disability shows a very low prevalence at the younger ages. Only after age 45 does the disability prevalence increase more rapidly. For none of the five-year age

groups before age 25, the prevalence is higher than 0.5 percent. Differences between young males and females are negligible regarding the disability prevalence rate.

Figure 5. 1. Prevalence rates disability by age and sex



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Table 5. 1 presents the disability prevalence rates by sex and the absolute number of persons by background characteristics for persons 5 to 24 years old. The observed disability prevalence rate in the census was only 0.33 percent for those between the ages of 5 and 24. This means that one in 300 young people would have a disability, which shows that there is a serious undercount of people with disabilities.Disability is such a sensitive topic that often respondents and enumerators try to avoid the topic Almost no difference exists between males and females. Somewhat more youngsters with a disability are found in rural than in urban areas, 0.36 against 0.25 percent. Some differences exist between the various municipalities in the country in terms of the prevalence of disability. The prevalence is lowest in Oe-Cusse (0.22 percent) and highest in Aileu (0.47 percent). However, it is unclear whether these differences are due to higher and lower prevalence of disability or differences in the degree of reporting a disability. A clearer pattern exists between the prevalence of disability and educational attainment. Disability prevalence among youngsters with no education (0.72 percent) is considerably higher than among other educational groups. A similar pattern emerges with the wealth quintiles, where young persons belonging to the poorest quintile have a higher disability prevalence than the other groups.

Table 5. 1. Disability among young persons 5 - 24 years old, by background characteristics

		Prevalence rate			Number of persons with a disability		
		Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes
Municipality	Aileu	0.46	0.48	0.47	74	72	129
	Ainaro	0.34	0.25	0.30	76	53	25
	Atauro	0.55	0.38	0.47	15	10	268
	Baucau	0.39	0.32	0.36	152	116	231
	Bobonaro	0.46	0.32	0.39	140	91	132
	Covalima	0.34	0.32	0.33	70	62	474
	Dili	0.29	0.22	0.26	270	204	328
	Ermera	0.39	0.43	0.41	159	169	119
	Lautém	0.32	0.27	0.29	66	53	187
	Liquiça	0.43	0.37	0.40	103	84	106
	Manatuto	0.40	0.36	0.38	58	48	97
	Manufahi	0.30	0.27	0.29	53	44	99
	Oe-Cusse	0.22	0.21	0.22	52	47	176
	Viqueque	0.45	0.35	0.40	103	73	2517
Reside	Urban	0.28	0.23	0.25	312	244	556
	Rural	0.39	0.34	0.36	1079	882	1961
Marital status	Never married	0.51	0.47	0.49	783	618	1401
	Married	0.17	0.11	0.12	16	26	42
	Widowed	1.35	2.61	2.32	-	13	15
	Divorced	1.41	0.80	0.93	-	-	-
	Separated	1.43	0.79	0.87	-	4	5
Highest attended education	No education	0.75	0.68	0.72	993	821	1814
	Primary	0.24	0.19	0.22	218	158	376
	Pre-secondary	0.19	0.13	0.16	97	67	164
	Secondary	0.15	0.11	0.13	75	63	138
	Secondary technical	0.05	0.13	0.09	-	4	6
	Polytechnic / diploma	0.00	0.31	0.19	-	-	-
	University bachelor	0.08	0.10	0.10	6	11	17
	University master	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
	University PhD	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
wealth quintile	Poorest quintile	0.50	0.38	0.44	348	250	598
	2nd poorest quintile	0.39	0.37	0.38	293	266	559
	Middle quintile	0.36	0.31	0.34	287	238	525
	2nd richest quintile	0.29	0.26	0.27	235	200	435
	Richest quintile	0.29	0.22	0.25	228	172	400
	Total	0.36	0.30	0.33	1391	1126	2517

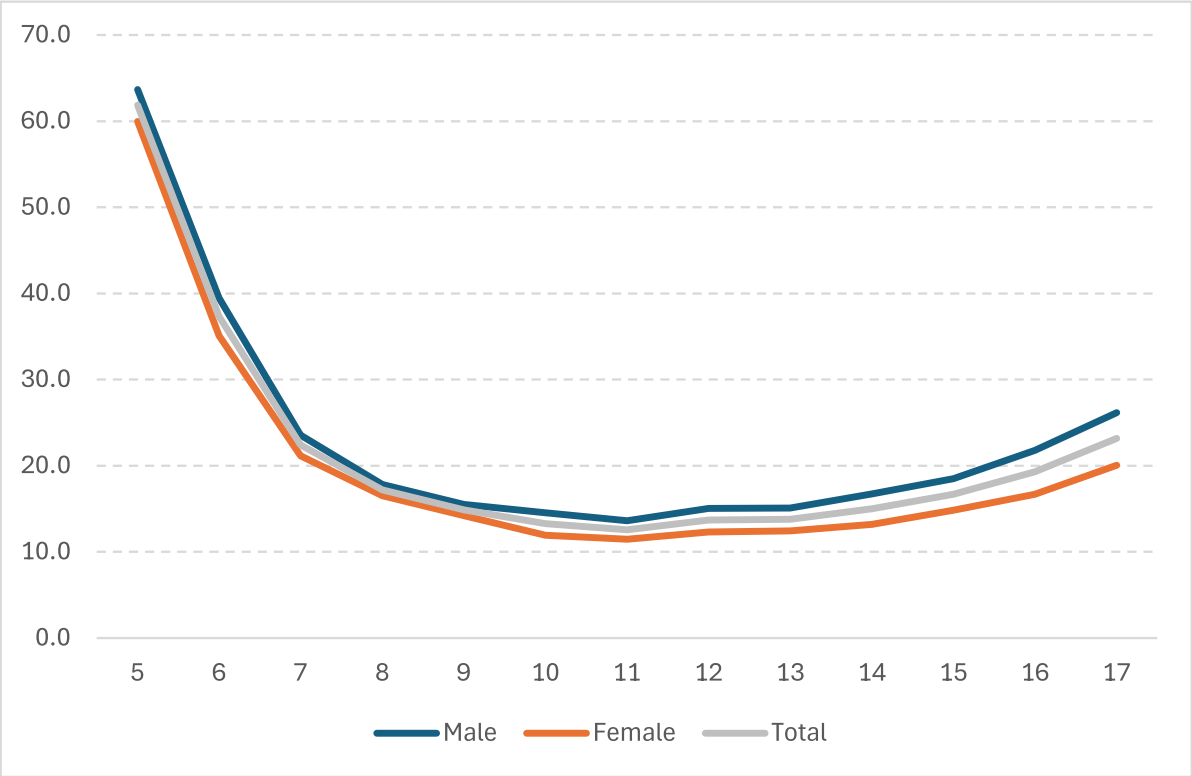
Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

ii. Out-of-school children

The 2022 census thematic report on education showed that the percentage of persons out of school in 2022 was higher than in 2015. This was most probably due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused all schools to be temporarily closed. Although the COVID-19 pandemic might have been all but over in September 2022, it may well be that some long-term effects of COVID-19 were still affecting school attendance.

The current analysis will focus on children and less on youth. Many youth who are not in school have already finished their school career and should not be considered vulnerable. Among all 401,870 children 5 – 17 years old, 88,671 were not attending school, which is 22.1 percent of all children. The percentage of boys not attending school is slightly higher than that of girls, 23.6 percent against 20.4 percent. Figure 5. 2 shows the percentage of children 5 - 17 years, not attending school by age and sex. The graph shows that the percentage of children out-of-school is very high in the youngest age groups: 61.8 percent of children age 5 are not in school, at ages 6 and 7, this is 37.3 percent and 22.4 percent, respectively. For all ages, the percentage of boys not going to school is somewhat higher than that of girls. The difference is highest at age 17, with 26.1 percent of boys and 20.0 percent of girls out of school. The lowest out-of-school rate for both sexes is at age 11. However, at that age, 12.6 percent of children still do not follow an education.

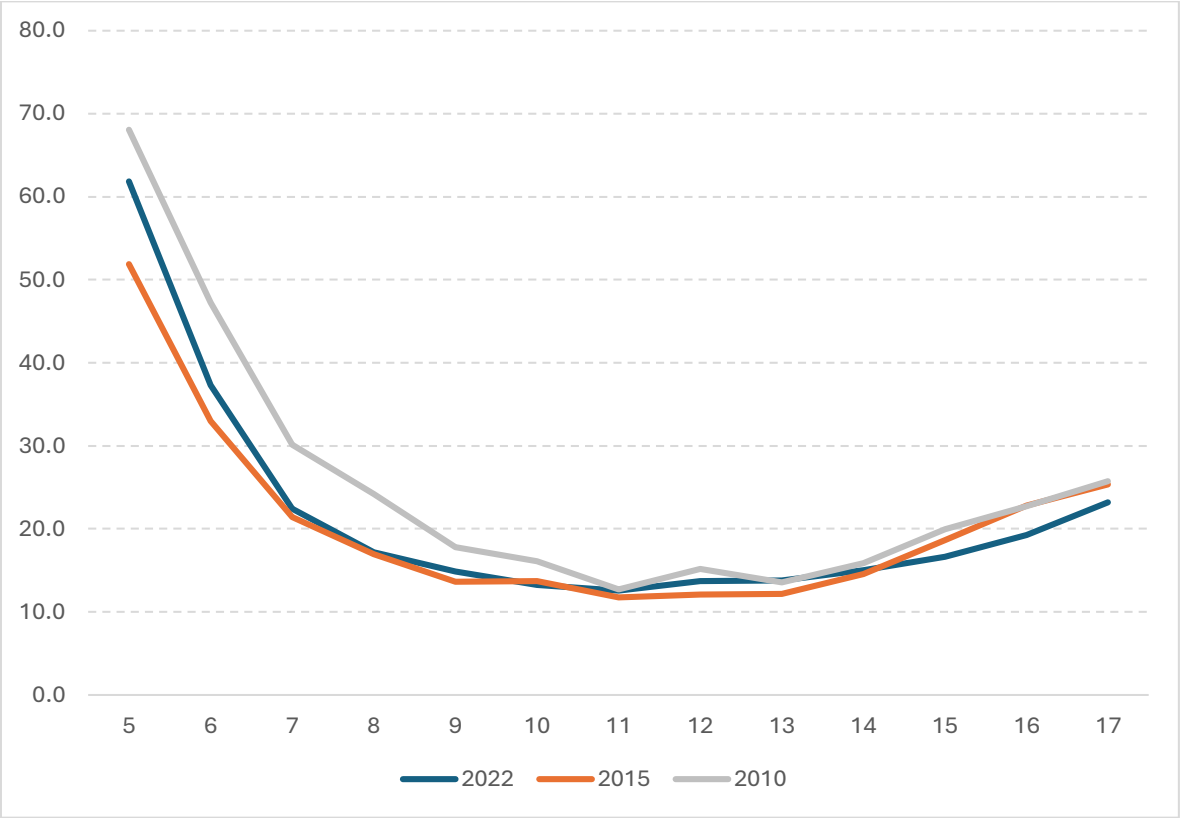
Figure 5. 2. Percentage of children 5 - 17 years, not attending school by age and sex



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

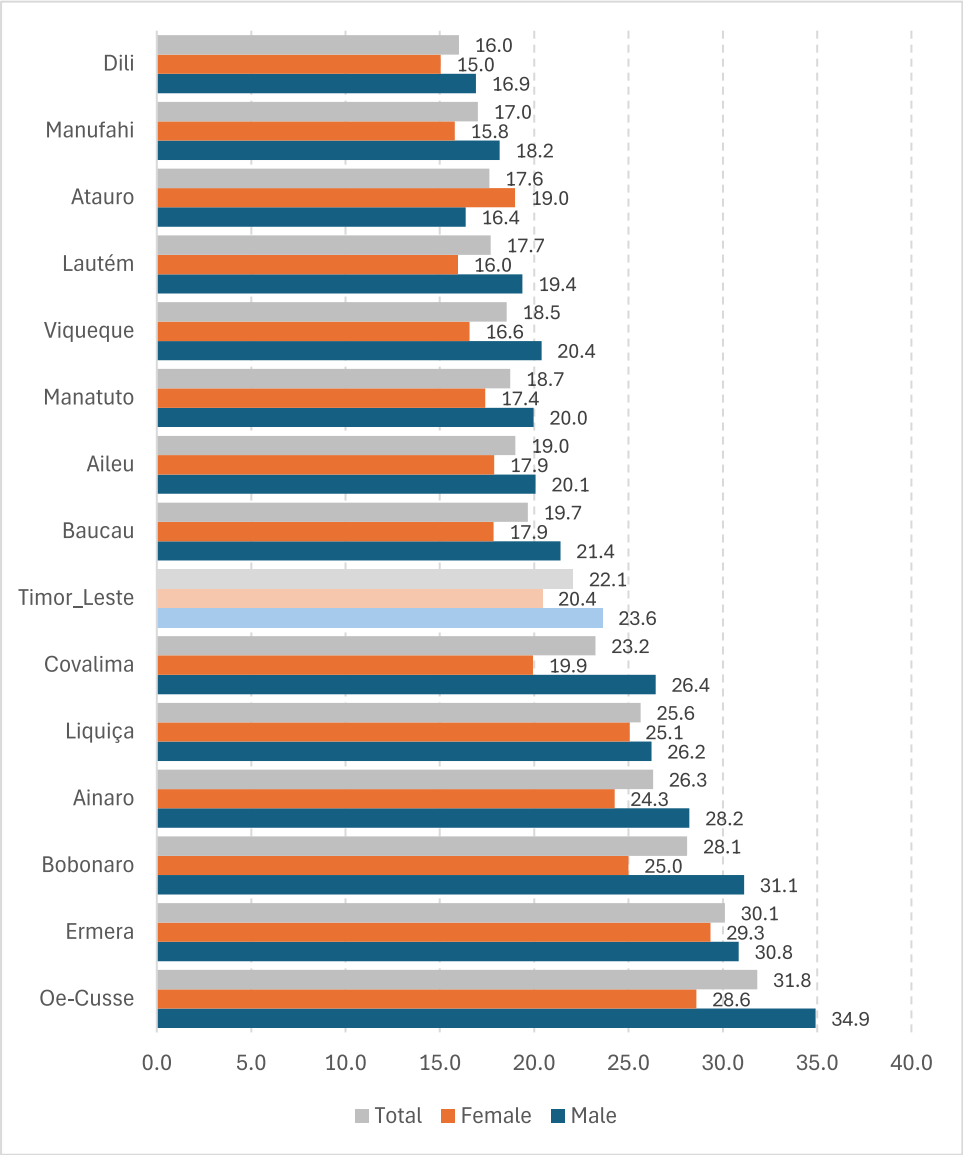
Over the years, the percentage of children not in school has not changed much. In 2010, the percentage of out-of-school children was higher than in the censuses of 2015 and 2022. However, the rate in 2022 is higher than in 2015, especially at very young ages. At age 6, 33.0 percent of all children in 2015 were not in school, against 37.3 percent in 2022. Parents may have taken extra precaution with sending very young children to school after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 5. 3. Percentage of children 5 - 17 years old not attending school PHC, 2010, 2015, and 2022, Timor-Leste.



Protocols to reopen schools after the pandemic varied between acrossmunicipalities. Especially in areas bordering West-Timor, schools remained closed for extended periods of time. Schools in Dili and some other municipalities reopened in July 2021, soon closed again and reopened in September 2021 (United Nations Timor-Leste & General Directorate of Statistics, Ministry of Finance, Timor-Leste, 2021). The 2022 TLPHC results demonstrate large differences between different municipalities (Figure 5. 4). Dili showed the smallest percentage of out-of-school children. In the age group 5 to 17 years old, 16.9 percent of children were not going to school. The highest percentage was in Oe-Cusse, where almost a third of all children were not attending school at the time of the 2022 census. Four other municipalities have more than a quarter of children not attending school: Ermera (30.1 percent), Bobonaro (28.1 percent), Ainari (26.3 percent) and Liquiça (25.6 percent).

Figure 5. 4. Percentage of children 5 - 17 years old not attending school by municipality and sex



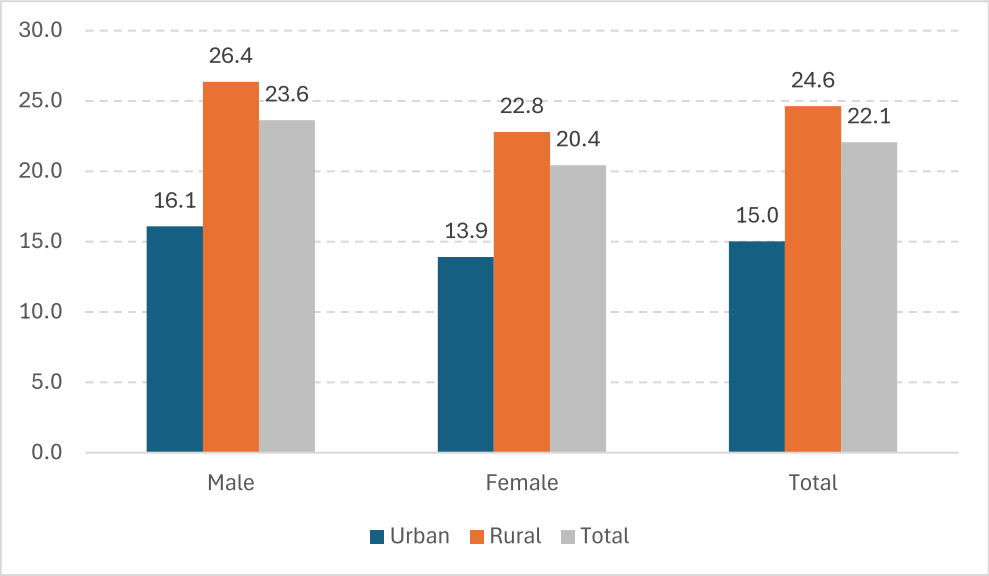
Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

In general, the percentage of children not attending school is considerably higher in rural areas than in urban areas (Figure 5. 5). Among both sexes, the percentage of children out of school was 15.0 percent in urban areas against 24.6 percent in rural areas. The discrepancy between urban and rural areas was similar for boys and girls.

The fact that a child is not attending school is closely related to the socio-economic position of the households in which they live. In Figure 5. 6, the percentage of children out of school is depicted by the wealth quintiles and by sex. The graph clearly shows that children who belong to poorer households have a much higher chance of not attending school. While 35.0 percent of children from the poorest quintile are out of

school, only 11.8 percent of children from the richest quintile are out of school. As wealth increases, the percentage of out-of-school children decreases significantly.

Figure 5. 5. Percentage of children 5 - 17 years old not attending school by type of residence and sex



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Figure 5. 6. Percentage of children 5 - 17 years old not attending school by wealth quintile and sex

Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

iii. Orphans

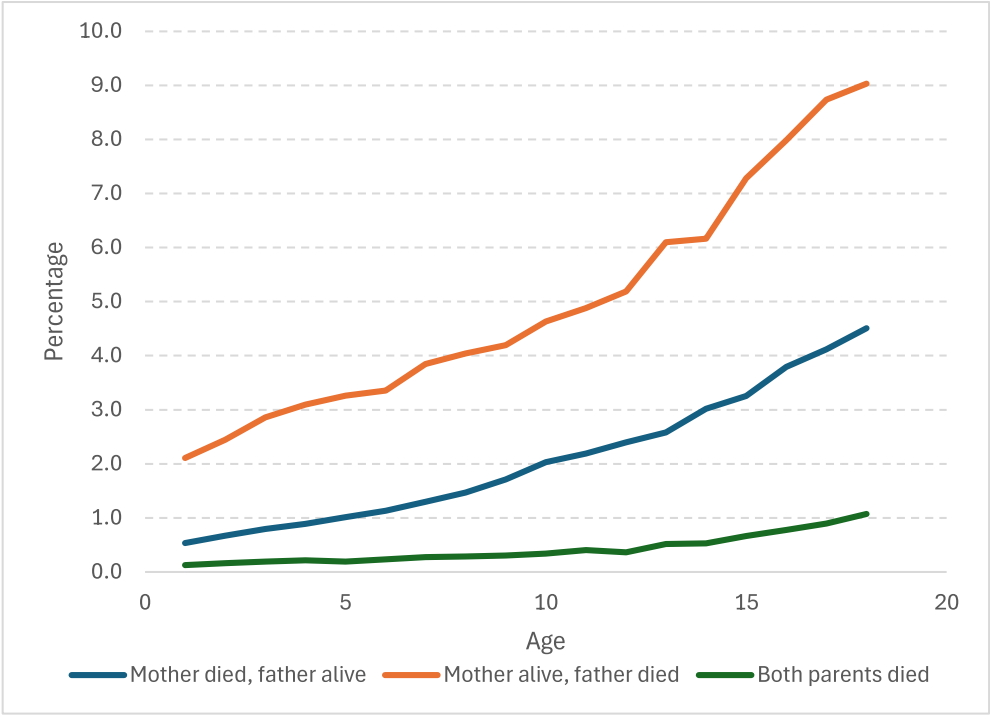
UNICEF defines an orphan as a child under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents to any cause of death. According to the UNICEF global database, in 2021 there were 147 million orphans worldwide (UNICEF, 2024). Orphanhood can have profound effects on a child's health and well-being, particularly in low-income countries where resources and support may be

limited. Orphaned children may be at higher risk of malnutrition, poor hygiene, and lack of access to healthcare. Besides effects on their health, orphaned children may face problems of stigmatization and isolation. They may have to deal with feelings of grief, emotional trauma and loneliness, face barriers to education and are often at higher risk of living in poverty.

In the census, two questions were asked about whether the respondent's mother and father were still alive. Based on this information, the orphanhood status of children can easily be determined.

According to the TLPHC, 11,575 children 0 – 17 years old currently living in Timor-Leste had lost their mother, 27,728 had lost their father, and 2,344 children lost both parents. Figure 5. 7 shows the percentage of children 0 to 17 years by their orphanhood status. By age six, 5.4 percent of all children have either lost their mother, father or both parents, 3.8 percent lost their father, 1.3 percent their mother and 0.3 percent both parents. The fact that at age 17, 2.1 percent of children lost their mother, 9.0 percent lost their father, and 1.1 percent lost both parents, shows the rapid increase in orphanhood as children grow older.

Figure 5. 7. Orphanhood status of children 0 - 17 years by age



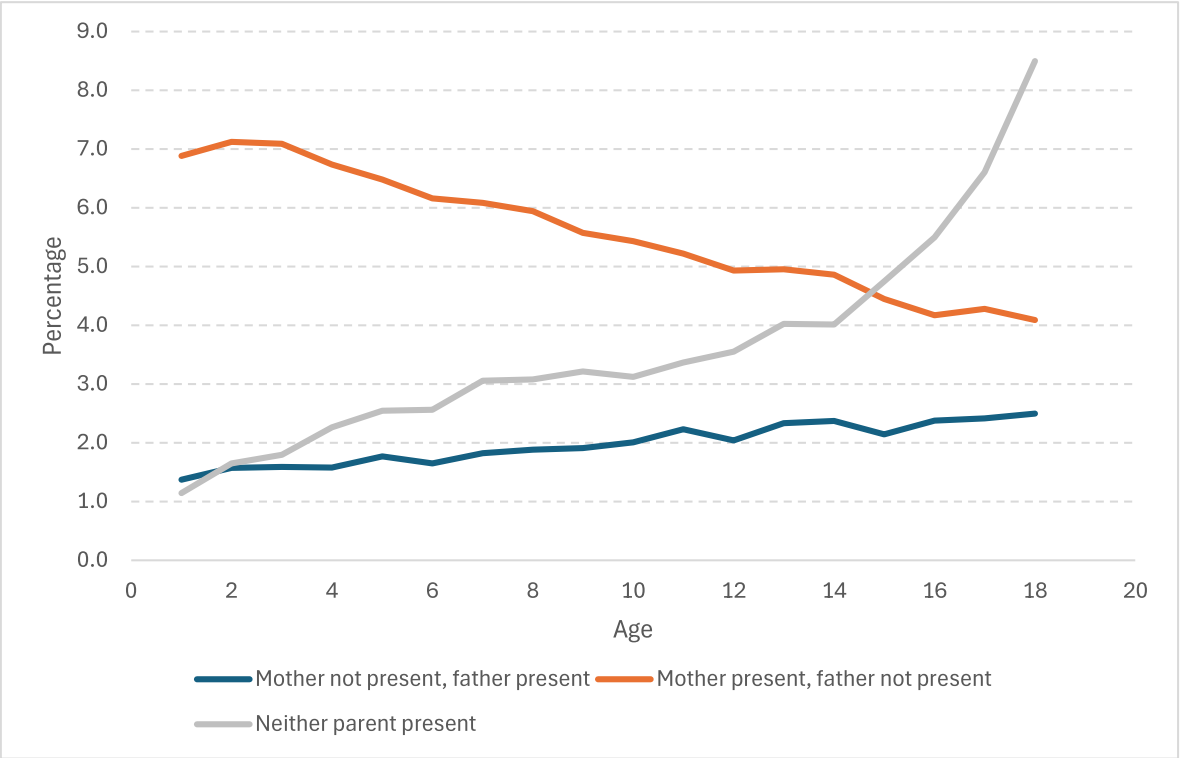
Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Another factor that may impact the well-being of children is the presence or absence of one or both parents in the household. For persons who had their mother alive, it was asked whether they were living with them in the same household. The same question was asked for the father. Among all 561,732 children in the census, 11,058 (2.0 percent) an absent mother, but their father present; 31,450 (5.6 percent) had their mother present and an absent father, and 20,147 (3.6 percent) had both parents absent. 11.2 percent of all children had one or two parents absent.

iv. Parental presence

Figure 5. 8 shows the percentage of children by presence of parents in the household by age. The age pattern of the absence of mother and father is a bit unexpected when children get older. The percentages of those with the mother absent and the father present slightly increases, while the percentages of those with the father absent and the mother present decrease. The highest percentage of fathers absent is at ages 1 and 2, where 7.1 percent are absent. The percentage of children who live without both parents increases rapidly after age 13. At age 13, 4.0 percent of children have both parents absent, by age 17, this has more than doubled to 8.5 percent.

Figure 5. 8. Percentage of children by presence of parents in the household by age



Source: 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census

Chapter 6. Conclusion and policy recommendations

The well-being and development of children and youth in Timor-Leste have seen substantial progress. Yet, numerous challenges persist. Efforts to improve access to education and literacy rates, adolescent fertility, access to education, and social protection have contributed to better outcomes. However, issues such as child marriage, low birth attendance, and reaching universal literacy remain, particularly for some segments of the youth and child population, still impede overall development. The ongoing commitment of the government, in partnership with international organizations, remains crucial in driving the development agenda forward. By continuing to prioritize and invest in comprehensive strategies for children and youth, Timor-Leste can foster a healthier, more educated, and empowered younger generation, which is crucial for the nation's sustainable future.

The National Youth Policy of Timor-Leste envisions a population of young people that are "*healthy, educated, competitive, active and responsible citizens, who are proud to be Timorese*." It provides a strong vision and comprehensive description of the situation and actions to be taken. However, it lacks the accountability measures needed to track progress, and it should include a monitoring and evaluation system with agreed-upon targets and indicators. A robust system for collecting and analyzing data on youth, such as tracking adolescent fertility, should be implemented to ensure the national youth policy responds to needs most effectively and efficiently. The 2022 TLPHC results can serve as important baseline figures and inputs for developing an accountability framework.

The national youth policy lists nine priority target groups with specific needs requiring further attention:

- Young women and men in rural areas;*
- Out-of-school youth and school drop-outs*
- Youth with a disability*
- Young people who earn a living on the streets
- Young women*
- Young people who do not have enough opportunities to practice their skills and apply their knowledge*
- Illiterate youth*
- Unemployed youth*
- Most at-risk youth (e.g. those involved in drugs, alcohol abuse, smoking, crime and violence, and/or living with HIV/AIDS)

This thematic report covered most of these priority groups (indicated with an asterisk '*'). More specific results and recommendations for these groups and beyond are presented below.

Demographic dividend

Figures from the 2022 TLPHC show that a fertility decline has taken place over the years. This has resulted in some initial changes in the country's age structure, with a smaller proportion of persons in the age groups below 15. This favourable demographic condition may allow Timor-Leste to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend. Although the demographic dividend shows potential and hope for the country's economic development, the country faces several challenges. UNDP's National Human Development Report (UNDP, 2017) emphasizes improving youth well-being and enhancing their economic contribution to realizing this dividend.

Recommendations

Harnessing the demographic dividend will require significant investments in education, healthcare, and job creation to ensure the young population is skilled and productive. This will require strategic planning and policy implementation. Based on the current analysis, some more lessons and/or recommendations can be learned:

- The TLPHC provided updated information on the current size and composition of the population in Timor-Leste. In addition, based on the census data, population projections were made until 2050. The updated population data and projections are recommended to be leveraged to inform strategic planning and policy development. Essentially, this would mean aligning current policies and programs with the 2022 TLPHC results. This could include integrating the new population data into an updated national youth policy, current education and training programs, employment opportunities, and social protection and community-based services supporting vulnerable groups. Doing so would improve data-driven decision-making and ensure that efforts are targeting the areas and populations most in need. In addition, it would create a stronger evidence-base for understanding the underlying conditions that can aid or impede the harnessing of the demographic dividend in Timor-Leste.
- For the fertility transition to result in a demographic dividend, it should be 'swift, irreversible and broad-based' (Elounou-Enyegue , 2013). If the demographic transition occurs too slowly, the child dependency ratio decreases slowly. Consequently, ageing may increase the dependency ratio before the fertility transition has ended. This would seriously hamper the possibilities of a demographic dividend simply because the window of opportunity would never fully open. In the last two decades, the TFR in Timor-Leste dropped rapidly from 7.2 in 2004 to 3.6 in 2022. At the current level, the fertility transition is not yet complete. To further complete the fertility transition, the government must ensure that the fertility transition does not stall.
- Furthermore, the 2016 DHS indicated that the wanted fertility rate in Timor-Leste was 3.5 children per woman, while the actual total fertility rate was 4.2 children. In order to ensure every pregnancy is wanted and rights and choices for all, a combination of strategies should be continued or introduced to create the best possible conditions for

further reducing the TFR. This includes continuing investment in education and improving access to reproductive health services (e.g. family planning) and healthcare infrastructure in both rural and urban areas. The further implementation of policies that promote gender equality and empower women, as well as enforcing supportive laws and providing services to tackle gender-based violence, are also needed for informed decision-making.

- For planning purposes and the allocation of financial resources, it is essential to realize that the reduction in the proportion of children and youth in the total population does not mean that the absolute number of persons in both groups will decrease to the same extent. The analysis showed that the decrease in the absolute number of persons below age 15 goes slower than the decrease in the child dependency ratio.

Child marriage

Child marriage endangers the health and lives of girls and limits their future opportunities.. The 2022 TLPHC showed that 4.9 percent of all women aged 20 – 24 had been married before 18. The analysis showed that regional and educational differences exist in the prevalence of child marriage (Figure 2.12). The logit analysis on child marriage showed that low educational attainment increases a girl's chances of marrying before age 18 in Timor-Leste.

Recommendations

- Actions should concentrate on those groups that run higher risks for childhood marriage. As such, keeping girls in education beyond primary and pre-secondary education is a strong means to avoid child marriage and policies, programmes, and legislation should be strongly enforced to end child marriage in Timor-Leste.

Adolescent fertility

Over the years, there has been a clear downward trend in the adolescent fertility rate. In 2003, the AFR was 78 per 1000 women. According to the 2022 TLPHC, this was reduced to 34 children per woman aged 15 to 19 years old. The negative effects of adolescent and teenage fertility on the well-being of girls are well-known and discussed on page 28 of this report.

Recommendations

- Measures should be taken to reduce the levels of unwanted adolescent pregnancies further further. Schools should play an important role in the reduction of adolescent pregnancies through the implementation of age-appropriate, culturally sensitive comprehensive sexuality education. Furthermore, access to reproductive health services and in- and out-of-school empowerment programs for girls should be in place. Actions taken on the previous point (child marriage), will also aid in reducing the TFR as
- As all children have the right to education, authorities should take the necessary steps to allow young, adolescent mothers to continue their education in the best possible

circumstances. Policies should be enacted to allow the re-entry of girls into the school system after giving birth.

Birth assistance

The health, well-being, and safety of mothers and newborns during and after childbirth depends on the assistance of skilled personnel. The 2022 TLPHC showed that 68.3 percent of women 15 – 19 years old and 68.5 percent of women 20 -24 years old delivered their last birth in the presence of a skilled birth attendant. This was significantly higher than observed in the 2016 DHS.

Recommendations

- Increase the number of skilled personnel by implementing programs to train more midwives, nurses, and doctors in maternal and neonatal care.
- Enhance public awareness about the need for skilled birth attendance through community outreach programs, media campaigns, and educational initiatives. Educate girls and young women on maternal health, newborn care, and family planning through community programs, and within the education system.
- Develop and maintain data collection and reporting systems to monitor maternal and neonatal health outcomes, track progress, and identify areas for improvement.

In addition to skilled birth attendance, the government should implement programmes to improve facilities where women can have a safe childbirth. These facilities should have adequate transportation, sufficient medication stock, and be adequately equipped to deal with emergency obstetric care.

Education

The current report analyzed some aspects of Timor-Leste's children and youth education. A more comprehensive picture was provided in the thematic report on education based on the 2022 TLPHC. The country's education policy is based on the National Education Strategic Plan 2011 – 2030 and the 2020 – 2024 Education Sector Plan. The thematic report on education used the 2022 TLPHC data to evaluate the progress made in implementing these education strategies. Based on this evaluation, a number of recommendations were made. As most recommendations were already made in the education report, the current recommendations are limited to some specific additional themes that deal specifically with children and youth.

Recommendations

- The 2022 TLPHC results showed that the youth literacy rate (ages 15-24) in Timor-Leste was 87.3 percent. This was an improvement compared to the censuses in 2004, 2010 and 2015. However, compared to the other countries in Southeast Asia, Timor-Leste is still at the bottom of the list. The fact that a proportion of young persons ar still illiterate may jeopardize equitable development in the country. Specific measures should be taken to ensure all children and youth have access to school or community literacy

programs. These programs should specifically target areas and populations where illiteracy is higher than among other groups. This includes those living in rural areas or certain municipalities such as Oe-Cusse, Ermera and Ainaro had the lowest literacy rates. The logit regression showed that those in the poorest quintile, with a disability, living in a rural area and males have higher odds of being illiterate. In addition, illiteracy is much higher among girls who have given birth.

- The 2022 TLPHC showed that school life expectancy declined for children at ages 5, 10, 15 and 18. Moreover, between 2015 and 2022, however, the percentage of those not attending school increased for children aged 6 – 9, 10 – 14 , and 15 – 19 years. It was assumed that there was still an effect of COVID-19 on children's school-going behaviour. Further research is needed to determine the exact reason why school attendance has decreased. Investigating which actions should be taken to reverse this trend is also important.

Labour force

The census showed that among all persons employed in Timor-Leste, 15.1 percent are in the age group 15 to 24. Among those economically active, many children and youth are working in vulnerable employment. Among all employed persons 10 – 24 years old, 58.9 percent are in vulnerable employment. Those in the youngest age group (10 – 14 years) are most vulnerable: three-quarters of all children 10 – 14 years have a vulnerable employment position. Among 20 – 24-year-olds, this is 48.9 percent.

Among all 242,288 children between 10 and 17 years old, 16,088 were working, which is 6.6 percent. More children in rural than in urban areas are working. As explained earlier, there is a difference between children working and child labour. In the census, it is impossible to determine the number of children in child labour. Therefore, results are only reflective of those who are working.

The unemployment rate in the age group 15 – 24 years was 5.2 percent. Compared to other countries in Southeast Asia, this is relatively low. However, significant regional differences were observed. Also, young persons with no education were found to have much higher odds of being unemployed than young persons with a disability.

The NEET indicator is crucial for monitoring progress towards realizing several SDGs for young persons. At age 15, the NEET rate is somewhat higher for males than females. This pattern reverses in Timor-Leste, around age 20, and the NEET rate for females is higher than for males. At age 24, the NEET rate for males is 41.9 percent, against 49.3 percent for females.

<u>Recommendations</u>

- To protect the position of young people in the labour market, the Government of Timor-Leste should take action to reduce the number of young people in vulnerable employment. There are various avenues for the government to pursue this goal, including:

        - Improve young people's access to quality education and training that is relevant for decent employment.
        - Develop vocational training that equips young people with practical skills.
        - Create decent jobs that offer security, social protection, and fair wages.
        - Take measures to help young people become self-employed or start a business.
        - Develop equitable policies that allow young people from vulnerable groups to find decent jobs. Pay special attention to addressing gender inequalities in the labour market.
- The government should continue its commitment to eradicate child labour in Timor-Leste completely. A major aspect of curbing child labour is providing quality, affordable and equitable education for all children. In addition, public awareness campaigns must be directed to parents and employers to convince them to keep children under the age of 17 out of the labour force by emphasizing the negative impact of child labour on a child's physical and mental well-being. Child labour is closely related to the poverty of their family. Poverty alleviation policies are needed to take away the need for parents to let their children engage in child labour.
- To avoid young people who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training, a holistic approach is needed involving several strategies:
        - Follow-up studies on NEET should be conducted to understand the problem and find innovative ways to prevent young persons from ending up in NEET.
        - Ensure that young people can stay in school by making education available and in line with the demands of the labour market, incorporating vocational and technical education. Support educational programs through scholarships and financial aid.
        - Implement youth employment programs for decent job opportunities. Priority should be given to economic sectors where many young workers can be incorporated. In addition, these programs should offer a range of services, from counselling, training, job search assistance, and stipends, and they need to be flexible and diverse in order to respond to the needs of a diverse youth population.
        - Align curricula and educational programs with current labour market demands by partnering with relevant organisations and industries.
        - Promote and support entrepreneurship among young people.

Disability

Population censuses are notoriously bad in estimating the prevalence of disability in a country. In many countries, disability is such a sensitive question that many respondents, and often enumerators, try to avoid giving accurate information. On the other hand, censuses are useful

in elucidating the living conditions of persons with disabilities. As such, the census should not be used as a source to determine the number of persons with a disability in Timor-Leste.

Throughout the analysis, disability status proved to be the single most discriminating factor in almost all thematic areas analyzed. To improve the situation of persons with disabilities in Timor-Leste, a number of key aspects should receive further attention and investment:

- A specialized disability or health survey should be used to establish the disability prevalence rate and make an analysis of the living conditions and the needs of people with disabilities. In addition, a dedicated census thematic report should be made to do an in-depth analysis of the characteristics of persons with a disability in the census.
- Ensure that children and youth with disabilities can access inclusive quality education. This requires inclusive education policies, adequately trained teachers, and the provision of schools with the necessary resources, support, and infrastructure. As much as possible, children with special needs should be part of the mainstream education system and remain close to their own living environment and family. This can effectively help to avoid social exclusion and stigma. Children with disabilities may need to learn specific skills, such as braille reading and sign language. The government should ensure that all children with special needs can learn these special skills.
- Ensure the needs of persons with disabilities are met in terms of housing, assistive devices,
- Special care should be given, and measures to support persons with disabilities should be included in all labour laws, policies, and plans. Ensure anti-discrimination laws and policies are in place so as to avoid discrimination in the workplace and during the recruitment process (e.g. by creating incentives for employers to hire and retain employees with a disability) and provide vocational training that aligns with the interests and needs of youth with a disability.
- Access to decent employment for people with disabilities can only be achieved through good education and technical training. The quality of education and the availability of qualified teachers sets the basis for equitable access of people with disabilities to decent employment.
- Transportation and public infrastructure should be accessible and available to aid the mobility of persons with disabilities;
- The analysis showed that young people have a much higher chance of remaining single. This means that they will be more reliant on family and social organizations for social support during their lives. Social protection programs must be developed that support persons with disabilities and their families to ensure that their basic needs are being cared for.
- Create a more inclusive society through public awareness campaigns that combat stigma and discrimination.

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Annex

Indicator framework, thematic report Children and Youth

Chapter	Subsection	Children and young people related indicators	Sub-groups
1. Children and Youth in Timor-Leste	Demographic indicators	Youth dependency ratio	Municipalities, urban/rural
		Percentage Population < 15	Municipalities, urban/rural, sex
		Total dependency ratio	Municipalities, urban/rural
		Average yearly Growth tot. pop.	Municipalities, urban/rural
		Average yearly growth pop. 0 - 18	Municipalities, urban/rural
		Average yearly growth pop. 15 - 24	Municipalities, urban/rural
		Sex ratio	Municipalities, urban/rural
		Children and youth by municipality, administrative post	Sex
	Other social characteristics	Religion	Municipalities, urban/rural, sex
		Urban/rural distribution	Sex
2. Marriage, fertility and household structure	Fertility	Age-specific fertility rates	
		Total Fertility rate (TFR)	Municipalities
		Adolescent fertility rate	
		Mean age of the fertility schedule	Municipalities
		Percentage of women age 15-19 who have started childbearing	Municipalities
	Nuptiality	Percentage of total population 15 - 24 years by marital status	Sex
		Singulate mean age at marriage	Sex, type of residence, municipality
		Percentage of women aged 20 - 24 years old, who were married before the age of 18 andn15	Sex
		Percentage distribution of married population age 15-19 by sex	Sex
	Household structure	Percentage of children and youth by type of household they live in	Sex
		Number of children who live alone	Sex
		Distribution of children and youth according to their relationship to the head of household	Sex

		Percentage of children by orphanhood status (one, two parents)	Single years of age
		Percentage of children with father, mother or two parents absent	Single years of age
3. Migration	Internal migration	Percentage of children and youth born outside the district of residence, but living in TL	Sex, municipality, type of residence
		Number of children and youth who migrated from another district for educational purposes	Sex, municipality, type of residence
	International migration	Percentage of children and youth born outside TL	Sex
		Number of youth indicated to have left the household to live in another country	Sex
4. Education	Attending school	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	Sex
		Percentage of young people 15 - 24 years old in education	Sex, municipality, type of residence
		Percentage of children 0 - 17 years old in education	Sex, municipality, type of residence
		Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	Sex
	Gender parity	Gender parity index primary education (NAR)	
		Gender parity index primary education (GAR)	
		Gender parity index pre-secondary education (NAR)	
		Gender parity index pre-secondary education (GAR)	
		Gender parity index secondary education (NAR)	
		Gender parity index secondary education (GAR)	
	Urban'rural parity	Urban/rural parity index primary education (NAR)	
		Urban/rural parity index primary education (GAR)	

		Urban/rural parity index pre-secondary education (NAR)	
		Urban/rural parity index pre-secondary education (GAR)	
		Urban/rural parity index secondary education (NAR)	
		Urban/rural parity index secondary education (GAR)	
	Literacy	Literacy rate: 10 years of age and older	Sex
		Literacy rate by age: 10 - 14, 15 - 19 and 20 - 24 and sex	Sex and age
		Literacy rate 15 - 24 years	Sex, municipality, type of residence
	NEET	Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	Sex, municipality, type of residence
5. Children and youth in the workforce	(15 - 24 years old)	Percentage of children 10 - 17 years by employment status	Sex, age, municipality, type of residence
		Percentage of youth by employment status	Sex, age, municipality, type of residence
	Child work	Percentage of children 10 - 17 years old who are employed	Sex, age
	Employment	Labour force participation rate, 15-24	Sex, municipality, type of residence
		Employment-to-population ratio, 15-24	Sex, municipality, type of residence
	Unemployment	Youth unemployment rate	Sex, educational attainment
6. Vulnerable groups	Disability	Percentage of children and youth living with a disability	Sex, age, municipality, type of residence
		Percentage children and youth with a disability attending school	Sex
		Employment-to-population ratio, persons with a disability 15-24 years old	Sex
	Young people who do not go to school	Percentage of youth who do not go to school	Sex, age, municipality, type of residence

1. Children and Youth in Timor-Leste

Demographic indicators		
Youth dependency ratio (YDR)		
YDR	58.4	Youth dependency ratio: The ratio of the population of children aged 0-14 to the working-aged population 15-64, per 100 working-aged persons

YDR by municipality	**%**
Municapality	
Aileu	61.6
Ainaro	69.1
Atauro	53.9
Baucau	62.1
Bobonaro	63.2
Covalima	59.3
Dili	47.4
Ermera	62.0
Lautém	65.1
Liquiça	61.9
Manatuto	61.3
Manufahi	60.9
Oe-Cusse	62.3
Viqueque	63.2
Total	58.4

Percentage Population < 15	
% < 15 yrs	34.8

% < 15 yrs by municipality	
Municapality	
Aileu	36.0
Ainaro	38.3
Atauro	32.8
Baucau	35.4
Bobonaro	36.1
Covalima	34.5
Dili	31.5
Ermera	36.6
Lautém	36.9
Liquiça	36.0
Manatuto	35.2
Manufahi	35.0
Oe-Cusse	35.4
Viqueque	35.2
Total	34.8

% < 15 yrs by type of residence	
Type of residence	
Urban	32.5
Rural	35.7
Total	34.8

Total dependency ratio		
% < 15 yrs	67.8	The dependency ratio is a demographic measure of the number of dependents aged zero to 14 and those age 65 and over, compared with the total population aged 15 to 64.
% < 15 yrs by municipality		
Municapality		
Aileu	70.9	
Ainaro	80.6	
Atauro	64.1	
Baucau	75.5	
Bobonaro	75.2	
Covalima	71.7	
Dili	50.5	
Ermera	69.4	
Lautém	76.4	
Liquiça	71.8	
Manatuto	73.9	
Manufahi	73.8	
Oe-Cusse	76.1	
Viqueque	79.6	
Total	67.8	

% < 15 yrs by type of residence	
Type of residence	
Urban	54.1
Rural	74.1
Total	67.8

Average yearly Growth total population		
Yearly growth rate (%)	**1.8**	
Municapality		**The calculation of the annual growth rate is discussed in Preston, Heuveline and Guillot (2001), p.9.**
Aileu	1.6	Preston S H, Heuveline P and Guillot M (2001). Demography. Measuring and Modeling Population Processes. Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford.
Ainaro	2.1	
Atauro	1.5	
Baucau	1.2	
Bobonaro	1.2	
Covalima	1.8	
Dili	2.7	
Ermera	1.3	
Lautém	1.0	
Liquiça	2.2	
Manatuto	1.3	
Manufahi	1.7	
Oe-Cusse	2.3	
Viqueque	0.7	
Total	1.8	

Type of residence	
Urban	1.3
Rural	2.0
Total	1.8

Average yearly growth pop. 0 - 24, 0 - 18 and 15 - 24						
	2015			2022		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Tot. 0 -24	356,183	339,865	696,048	386,555	370,392	756,947
% of total	60.2	59.1	59.7	56.8	56.1	56.4
% growth				1.2	1.2	1.2
Tot children	280,062	263,000	543,062	287,445	274,287	561,732
% of total	47.3	45.8	46.6	42.2	41.5	41.9
% growth				0.4	0.6	0.5
Tot youth	119,401	118,430	237,831	147,364	142,628	289,992
% of total	20.2	20.6	20.4	21.6	21.6	21.6
% growth				3.0	2.7	2.8

Average yearly growth pop. 0 - 24, 0 - 18 and 15 - 24						
	2015			2022		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Tot. 0 -24	356,183	339,865	696,048	386,555	370,392	756,947
% of total	60.2	59.1	59.7	56.8	56.1	56.4
% growth				1.2	1.2	1.2
Tot children	280,062	263,000	543,062	287,445	274,287	561,732
% of total	47.3	45.8	46.6	42.2	41.5	41.9
% growth				0.4	0.6	0.5
Tot youth	119,401	118,430	237,831	147,364	142,628	289,992
% of total	20.2	20.6	20.4	21.6	21.6	21.6
% growth				3.0	2.7	2.8

Sex ratio

Sex ratio: is the number of males for every 100 females in a population.

Sex ratio	Children	104.8												
	Youth	103.3												
	Aileu	Ainaro	Atauro	Baucau	Bobonaro	Covalima	Dili	Ermera	Lautem	Liquiça	Manatuto	Manufahi	Oecusse	Viqueque
Sex ratio children	104.9	105.0	106.5	104.9	103.5	104.3	105.3	103.9	104.2	104.3	105.0	105.8	104.5	107.2
Sex ratio youth	108.9	107.6	105.6	107.7	109.3	110.1	94.9	100.8	108.7	102.3	108.7	111.0	104.8	110.5
	Urban	Rural												
Sex ratio children	104.8	104.8												
Sex ratio youth	96.8	106.6												

Children and youth by municipality, administrative post				
Number of children 0 - 17 years by municipality and administrative post				
Municipality	**Administrative Post**	**Sex**		**Total**
		Male	**Female**	
Aileu	Aileu Vila	5,660	5,260	10,920
	Laulara	1,550	1,453	3,003
	Lequidoe	1,704	1,669	3,373
	Remexio	2,929	2,912	5,841
	Total	11,843	11,294	23,137
Ainaro	Ainaro	4,184	4,004	8,188
	Hato-Udo	2,521	2,392	4,913
	Hato-Builico	3,752	3,585	7,337
	Maubisse	6,897	6,556	13,453
	Total	17,354	16,537	33,891
Atauro	Atauro	2,115	1,985	4,100
	Total	2,115	1,985	4,100
Baucau	Baguia	2,652	2,566	5,218
	Baucau	12,102	11,549	23,651
	Laga	4,225	3,979	8,204
	Quelicai	3,842	3,623	7,465
	Vemasse	2,478	2,367	4,845
	Venilale	4,239	4,062	8,301
	Total	29,538	28,146	57,684
Bobonaro	Atabae	2,753	2,597	5,350
	Balibo	3,731	3,527	7,258
	Bobonaro	5,924	5,739	11,663
	Cailaco	2,238	2,107	4,345
	Lolotoe	1,647	1,579	3,226
	Maliana	7,191	7,126	14,317
	Total	23,484	22,675	46,159
Covalima	Fatululic	442	433	875
	Fatumean	783	731	1,514
	Fohorem	892	873	1,765
	Maucatar	2,252	2,166	4,418
	Suai	5,421	5,297	10,718
	Tilomar	2,217	2,083	4,300
	Zumalai	3,667	3,447	7,114
	Total	15,674	15,030	30,704
Dili	Cristo Rei	15,206	14,560	29,766
	Dom Aleixo	31,912	30,143	62,055

	Metinaro	1,698	1,520	3,218
	Nain Feto	6,059	5,788	11,847
	Vera Cruz	7,755	7,480	15,235
	Total	62,630	59,491	122,121
Ermera	Atsabe	4,322	4,165	8,487
	Ermera	8,872	8,610	17,482
	Hatulia A	4,506	4,333	8,839
	Hatulia B	5,108	4,996	10,104
	Letefoho	4,596	4,317	8,913
	Railaco	3,264	3,112	6,376
	Total	30,668	29,533	60,201
Lautém	Iliomar	1,432	1,453	2,885
	Lautém	4,039	3,838	7,877
	Lospalos	6,963	6,680	13,643
	Luro	2,008	1,896	3,904
	Lore	818	826	1,644
	Tutuala	797	784	1,581
	Total	16,057	15,477	31,534
Liquiça	Bazartete	7,322	6,946	14,268
	Liquiça	5,729	5,521	11,250
	Maubara	5,084	4,916	10,000
	Total	18,135	17,383	35,518
Manatuto	Barique	1,259	1,156	2,415
	Laclo	2,234	2,226	4,460
	Laclubar	2,754	2,664	5,418
	Laleia	821	783	1,604
	Manatuto	3,212	2,974	6,186
	Soibada	758	714	1,472
	Total	11,038	10,517	21,555
Manufahi	Alas	2,113	1,941	4,054
	Fatuberlio	1,864	1,791	3,655
	Same	7,404	7,066	14,470
	Turiscai	1,842	1,701	3,543
	Total	13,223	12,499	25,722
Oe-Cusse	Nitibe	2,947	2,861	5,808
	Oesilo	2,755	2,619	5,374
	Pante Macassar	10,187	9,745	19,932
	Passabe	1,968	1,870	3,838
	Total	17,857	17,095	34,952
Viqueque	Lacluta	1,417	1,313	2,730
	Ossu	4,189	3,866	8,055

	Uato-Lari	4,014	3,764	7,778
	Uatucarbau	1,845	1,734	3,579
	Viqueque	6,364	5,948	12,312
	Total	17,829	16,625	34,454

Number of youth 15 - 24 years by municipality and administrative post

Municipality	Administrative Post	D.04 Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
Aileu	Aileu Vila	2,895	2,544	5,439
	Laulara	743	736	1,479
	Lequidoe	871	790	1,661
	Remexio	1,415	1,360	2,775
	Total	5,924	5,430	11,354
Ainaro	Ainaro	2,046	1,787	3,833
	Hato-Udo	1,262	1,079	2,341
	Hato-Builico	1,689	1,535	3,224
	Maubisse	3,041	3,060	6,101
	Total	8,038	7,461	15,499
Atauro	Atauro	1,013	959	1,972
	Total	1,013	959	1,972
Baucau	Baguia	1,244	1,098	2,342
	Baucau	5,775	5,509	11,284
	Laga	2,092	1,918	4,010
	Quelicai	1,909	1,721	3,630
	Vemasse	1,218	1,098	2,316
	Venilale	1,935	1,811	3,746
	Total	14,173	13,155	27,328
Bobonaro	Atabae	1,561	1,371	2,932
	Balibo	1,894	1,712	3,606
	Bobonaro	2,172	2,089	4,261
	Cailaco	1,036	881	1,917
	Lolotoe	663	580	1,243
	Maliana	3,503	3,257	6,760
	Total	10,829	9,890	20,719
Covalima	Fatululic	204	185	389
	Fatumean	427	360	787
	Fohorem	465	458	923
	Maucatar	1,147	1,042	2,189
	Suai	2,761	2,537	5,298
	Tilomar	1,061	955	2,016
	Zumalai	1,707	1,532	3,239

	Total	7,772	7,069	14,841
Dili	Cristo Rei	9,371	9,576	18,947
	Dom Aleixo	21,010	22,459	43,469
	Metinaro	739	720	1,459
	Nain Feto	3,902	4,113	8,015
	Vera Cruz	5,099	5,430	10,529
	Total	40,121	42,298	82,419
Ermera	Atsabe	1,938	2,056	3,994
	Ermera	4,548	4,692	9,240
	Hatulia A	2,255	2,049	4,304
	Hatulia B	2,373	2,383	4,756
	Letefoho	2,369	2,258	4,627
	Railaco	1,394	1,320	2,714
	Total	14,877	14,758	29,635
Lautém	Iliomar	571	585	1,156
	Lautém	1,941	1,756	3,697
	Lospalos	3,380	3,106	6,486
	Luro	905	873	1,778
	Lore	419	412	831
	Tutuala	383	325	708
	Total	7,599	7,057	14,656
Liquiça	Bazartete	3,424	3,351	6,775
	Liquiça	2,514	2,476	4,990
	Maubara	2,399	2,292	4,691
	Total	8,337	8,119	16,456
Manatuto	Barique	585	502	1,087
	Laclo	999	960	1,959
	Laclubar	1,258	1,235	2,493
	Laleia	353	332	685
	Manatuto	1,688	1,466	3,154
	Soibada	302	274	576
	Total	5,185	4,769	9,954
Manufahi	Alas	1,065	957	2,022
	Fatuberlio	895	698	1,593
	Same	3,885	3,614	7,499
	Turiscai	804	722	1,526
	Total	6,649	5,991	12,640
Oe-Cusse	Nitibe	1,517	1,435	2,952
	Oesilo	1,385	1,262	2,647
	Pante Macassar	4,659	4,538	9,197
	Passabe	1,114	1,043	2,157
	Total	8,675	8,278	16,953

Viqueque	Lacluta	644	546	1,190
	Ossu	1,968	1,765	3,733
	Uato-Lari	1,834	1,725	3,559
	Uatucarbau	790	742	1,532
	Viqueque	2,936	2,616	5,552
	Total	8,172	7,394	15,566

Other social characteristics		
Religion		
Children 0 - 17 yrs		
	Number	Percentage
Christianity - Catholicism	458,624	97.7
Christianity - Protestantism / Evangelicalism	8,980	1.9
Islam	921	0.2
Buddhism	19	0.0
Hinduism	17	0.0
Indigenous religion	59	0.0
Other	414	0.1
No religion	363	0.1
No answer	115	0.0
Total	469,512	100.0
Youth 15 - 24 yrs		
	Number	Percentage
Christianity - Catholicism	283,613	97.8
Christianity - Protestantism / Evangelicalism	5,531	1.9
Islam	533	0.2
Buddhism	30	0.0
Hinduism	20	0.0
Indigenous religion	6	0.0
Other	178	0.1
No religion	55	0.0
No answer	26	0.0
Total	289,992	100.0

Urban/rural distribution						
Children 0 - 17 yrs						
	Male	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Urban	76,960	73,424	150,384	26.8	26.8	26.8
Rural	210,485	200,863	411,348	73.2	73.2	73.2
Total	287,445	274,287	561,732	100.0	100.0	100.0
Youth 15 - 24 yrs						
	Male	**Female**	**Total**	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
Urban	46,106	47,649	93,755	31.3	33.4	26.8
Rural	101,258	94,979	196,237	68.7	66.6	73.2
Total	147,364	142,628	289,992	100.0	100.0	100.0

2. Marriage, fertility and household structure		
Fertility		
Age-specific fertility rates		
Age	Age-specific fertility rates	Age Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR) is the number of live births per thousand women of a specific age group, it shows the age pattern of fertility.
15 - 19	0.0338	
20 - 24	0.1355	
25 - 29	0.1885	
30 - 34	0.1774	
35 - 39	0.1225	
40 - 44	0.0512	
45 - 49	0.0195	
Total Fertility rate (TFR)		
	TFR	Total Fertility Rate (TFR) which is the number of children that a woman would have by the end of her childbearing period if she were to experience the currently observed age-specific fertility rates.
Total	3.6	
Type of residence		
Urban	3.0	
Rural	4.0	
Municapality		
Aileu	4.2	
Ainaro	4.7	
Atauro		
Baucau	4.1	
Bobonaro	4.0	
Covalima	3.9	
Dili	3.0	
Ermera	4.1	
Lautém	4.5	
Liquiça	3.9	
Manatuto	3.9	
Manufahi	4.0	
Oe-Cusse	4.0	
Viqueque	4.1	

Adolescent fertility rate		
		The Adolescent Fertility Rate (AFR) is defined as the number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years in a given year.
Adolescent fertility rate	**33.8**	
Mean age of the fertilit schedule		
	Mean age	
Total	23.7	
Type of residence		
Urban	23.3	
Rural	24.6	
Municapality		
Aileu	22.9	
Ainaro	23.1	
Atauro		
Baucau	23.2	
Bobonaro	23.2	
Covalima	22.4	
Dili	24.6	
Ermera	23.4	
Lautém	23.2	
Liquiça	23.4	
Manatuto	22.9	
Manufahi	22.5	
Oe-Cusse	22.4	
Viqueque	22.3	

Percentage of women age 15-19 who have started childbearing	
	%
Total	4.3
Type of residence	
Urban	3.1
Rural	5.2
Municapality	
Aileu	5.3
Ainaro	4.5
Atauro	3.8
Baucau	5.0
Bobonaro	5.8
Covalima	6.0
Dili	3.0
Ermera	4.3
Lautém	3.6
Liquiça	5.3
Manatuto	4.7
Manufahi	5.7
Oe-Cusse	10.2
Viqueque	6.8

2. Nuptiality

Percentage of total population 15 - 24 years by marital status							
Sex	Type if residence	Marital status					
		Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Total
Male	Urban	43,700	2,353	13	24	16	46,106
	Rural	93,795	7,248	124	38	53	101,258
	Total	137,495	9,601	137	62	69	147,364
Female	Urban	41,729	5,671	59	81	109	47,649
	Rural	74,991	18,998	434	164	392	94,979
	Total	116,720	24,669	493	245	501	142,628
Total	Urban	85,429	8,024	72	105	125	93,755
	Rural	168,786	26,246	558	202	445	196,237
	Total	254,215	34,270	630	307	570	289,992

Sex	Type of residence	Marital status					
		Never married	**Married**	**Widowed**	**Divorced**	**Separated**	**Total**
Male	Urban	94.8	5.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	100.0
	Rural	92.6	7.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0
	Total	93.3	6.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Female	Urban	87.6	11.9	0.1	0.2	0.2	100.0
	Rural	79.0	20.0	0.5	0.2	0.4	100.0
	Total	81.8	17.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	100.0
Total	Urban	91.1	8.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	100.0
	Rural	86.0	13.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	100.0
	Total	87.7	11.8	0.2	0.1	0.2	100.0

	Total	87.7	11.8	0.2	0.1	0.2	100.0
Sex	Municipality	Marital status					
		Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Total
Male	Aileu	5,505	402	16	-	1	5,924
	Ainaro	7,478	548	9	2	1	8,038
	Atauro	983	29	1	-	-	1,013
	Baucau	13,029	1,117	11	8	8	14,173
	Bobonaro	10,192	619	13	4	1	10,829
	Covalima	7,094	662	6	1	9	7,772
	Dili	38,030	2,044	9	22	16	40,121
	Ermera	13,907	935	18	14	3	14,877
	Lautém	7,208	378	7	2	4	7,599
	Liquiça	7,656	668	8	1	4	8,337
	Manatuto	4,817	362	5	-	1	5,185
	Manufahi	6,086	556	3	-	4	6,649
	Oe-Cusse	8,111	540	13	4	7	8,675
	Viqueque	7,399	741	18	4	10	8,172
	Total	137,495	9,601	137	62	69	147,364
Female	Aileu	4,271	1,119	9	16	15	5,430
	Ainaro	5,989	1,393	29	9	41	7,461
	Atauro	819	130	4	1	5	959
	Baucau	10,541	2,495	21	25	73	13,155
	Bobonaro	8,001	1,784	62	19	24	9,890

	Covalima	5,191	1,736	98	10	34	7,069
	Dili	37,186	4,892	41	71	108	42,298
	Ermera	12,119	2,539	54	27	19	14,758
	Lautém	5,841	1,185	9	5	17	7,057
	Liquiça	6,437	1,599	36	17	30	8,119
	Manatuto	3,844	884	24	5	12	4,769
	Manufahi	4,464	1,475	20	4	28	5,991
	Oe-Cusse	6,348	1,848	34	16	32	8,278
	Viqueque	5,669	1,590	52	20	63	7,394
	Total	116,720	24,669	493	245	501	142,628
Total	Aileu	9,776	1,521	25	16	16	11,354
	Ainaro	13,467	1,941	38	11	42	15,499
	Atauro	1,802	159	5	1	5	1,972
	Baucau	23,570	3,612	32	33	81	27,328
	Bobonaro	18,193	2,403	75	23	25	20,719
	Covalima	12,285	2,398	104	11	43	14,841
	Dili	75,216	6,936	50	93	124	82,419
	Ermera	26,026	3,474	72	41	22	29,635
	Lautém	13,049	1,563	16	7	21	14,656
	Liquiça	14,093	2,267	44	18	34	16,456
	Manatuto	8,661	1,246	29	5	13	9,954
	Manufahi	10,550	2,031	23	4	32	12,640
	Oe-Cusse	14,459	2,388	47	20	39	16,953

	Viqueque	13,068	2,331	70	24	73	15,566
	Total	254,215	34,270	630	307	570	289,992

Sex	Municipality	Marital status					
		Never married	Married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Total
Male	Aileu	92.9	6.8	0.3	-	0.0	100.0
	Ainaro	93.0	6.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
	Atauro	97.0	2.9	0.1	-	-	100.0
	Baucau	91.9	7.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	100.0
	Bobonaro	94.1	5.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
	Covalima	91.3	8.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0
	Dili	94.8	5.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	100.0
	Ermera	93.5	6.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	100.0
	Lautém	94.9	5.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0
	Liquiça	91.8	8.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
	Manatuto	92.9	7.0	0.1	-	0.0	100.0
	Manufahi	91.5	8.4	0.0	-	0.1	100.0
	Oe-Cusse	93.5	6.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0
	Viqueque	90.5	9.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	100.0
	Total	93.3	6.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
Female	Aileu	78.7	20.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	100.0
	Ainaro	80.3	18.7	0.4	0.1	0.5	100.0
	Atauro	85.4	13.6	0.4	0.1	0.5	100.0
	Baucau	80.1	19.0	0.2	0.2	0.6	100.0

	Bobonaro	80.9	18.0	0.6	0.2	0.2	100.0
	Covalima	73.4	24.6	1.4	0.1	0.5	100.0
	Dili	87.9	11.6	0.1	0.2	0.3	100.0
	Ermera	82.1	17.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	100.0
	Lautém	82.8	16.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	100.0
	Liquiça	79.3	19.7	0.4	0.2	0.4	100.0
	Manatuto	80.6	18.5	0.5	0.1	0.3	100.0
	Manufahi	74.5	24.6	0.3	0.1	0.5	100.0
	Oe-Cusse	76.7	22.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	100.0
	Viqueque	76.7	21.5	0.7	0.3	0.9	100.0
	Total	81.8	17.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	100.0
Total	Aileu	86.1	13.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	100.0
	Ainaro	86.9	12.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	100.0
	Atauro	91.4	8.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	100.0
	Baucau	86.2	13.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	100.0
	Bobonaro	87.8	11.6	0.4	0.1	0.1	100.0
	Covalima	82.8	16.2	0.7	0.1	0.3	100.0
	Dili	91.3	8.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	100.0
	Ermera	87.8	11.7	0.2	0.1	0.1	100.0
	Lautém	89.0	10.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0
	Liquiça	85.6	13.8	0.3	0.1	0.2	100.0
	Manatuto	87.0	12.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	100.0
	Manufahi	83.5	16.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	100.0

	Oe-Cusse	85.3	14.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	100.0
	Viqueque	84.0	15.0	0.4	0.2	0.5	100.0
	Total	87.7	11.8	0.2	0.1	0.2	100.0

Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM)

Sex	**Type if residence**	**SMAM**	
Male	Urban	29.8	yrs
	Rural	28.3	yrs
	Total	28.8	yrs
Female	Urban	26.7	yrs
	Rural	24.5	yrs
	Total	25.3	yrs
Total	Urban	28.2	yrs
	Rural	26.4	yrs
	Total	27.0	yrs
Municapality		**SMAM (both sexes)**	
	Aileu	26.0	yrs
	Ainaro	26.3	yrs
	Atauro	27.9	yrs
	Baucau	26.6	yrs
	Bobonaro	26.7	yrs
	Covalima	25.4	yrs
	Dili	28.4	yrs
	Ermera	27.6	yrs
	Lautém	27.0	yrs
	Liquiça	26.3	yrs
	Manatuto	26.3	yrs
	Manufahi	25.3	yrs
	Oe-Cusse	25.4	yrs
	Viqueque	25.0	yrs

Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM): is the average length of never married life for those who subsequently marry before age 50 and is calculated from the proportions never married in five-year age groups from a census or survey. The method was proposed by Hajnnal (1953).

Percentage of women aged 20 - 24 years old, who were married before the age of 18 and 15		
	Before age 15	Before age 18
Male	0.03	0.60
Female	0.23	4.87

Percentage distribution of married population age 15-19 by sex		
Age	**Male**	**Female**
14	0.3	0.4
15	0.4	1.0
16	0.4	2.4
17	0.6	4.6

Household structure					
Percentage of children and youth by type of household they live in					
Children 0 - 17 years old					
Type of household			**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
One-person household			0.0	0.0	0.0
Nuclear hh: Husband and wife, no children			0.0	0.1	0.0
Nuclear household: Husband and wife and children			54.2	53.9	54.1
Nuclear household: one parent and children			5.1	4.8	4.9
Extended houshold			40.3	40.7	40.5
Composite Household			0.4	0.4	0.4
Householdtype not clear			0.0	0.0	0.0

Youth 15 - 24 years old					
Type of household			**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
One-person household			0.6	0.4	0.5
Nuclear hh: Husband and wife, no children			0.5	1.1	0.8
Nuclear household: Husband and wife and children			43.8	41.2	42.5
Nuclear household: one parent and children			8.1	6.7	7.4
Extended houshold			46.4	49.8	48.1
Composite Household			0.7	0.8	0.7
Householdtype not clear			0.0	0.1	0.0

Number of children 0 - 17 who live alone	
	Number
Male	89
Female	66
Total	155

Distribution of children and youth according to their reltionship to the head of household						
	Children 0 - 17 yrs			Youth 15 - 24 yrs		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Head of household	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.9	1.4	2.7
Spouse (husband/wife)	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	7.5	3.7
Daughter/son	80.7	80.1	80.4	76.8	66.8	71.9
Adopted child or stepchild	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.6	2.4	2.5
Daughter-in-law/son-in-law	0.0	0.2	0.1	1.6	5.3	3.4
Sister/brother	0.8	0.9	0.8	5.9	6.1	6.0
Sister-in-law/brother-in-Law	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.8	0.7
Grandchild	15.4	15.5	15.4	3.5	3.2	3.4
Other relative	1.4	1.5	1.4	4.9	6.1	5.5
Live-in domestic servant	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Other non-relative	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2

Percentage of children by orphanhood status (one, twoo parents)					
	Orphanhood status of child				
	Mother died, father alive	Mother alive, father died	Both parents died	Parents both alive	Total
0	0.5	2.1	0.1	97.2	100.0
1	0.7	2.4	0.2	96.7	100.0
2	0.8	2.9	0.2	96.2	100.0
3	0.9	3.1	0.2	95.8	100.0
4	1.0	3.3	0.2	95.5	100.0
5	1.1	3.4	0.2	95.3	100.0
6	1.3	3.8	0.3	94.6	100.0
7	1.5	4.0	0.3	94.2	100.0
8	1.7	4.2	0.3	93.8	100.0
9	2.0	4.6	0.3	93.0	100.0
10	2.2	4.9	0.4	92.5	100.0
11	2.4	5.2	0.4	92.1	100.0
12	2.6	6.1	0.5	90.8	100.0
13	3.0	6.2	0.5	90.3	100.0
14	3.3	7.3	0.7	88.8	100.0
15	3.8	8.0	0.8	87.4	100.0
16	4.1	8.7	0.9	86.3	100.0
17	4.5	9.0	1.1	85.4	100.0
Total	2.1	4.9	0.4	92.6	100.0

Percentage of children with father, mother or two parents absent					
	Parents present in the household				
	Mother not present, father present	Mother present, father not present	Neither parent present	Parents both present	Total
0	1.4	6.9	1.1	90.6	100.0
1	1.6	7.1	1.6	89.7	100.0
2	1.6	7.1	1.8	89.5	100.0
3	1.6	6.7	2.3	89.4	100.0
4	1.8	6.5	2.5	89.2	100.0
5	1.6	6.2	2.6	89.6	100.0
6	1.8	6.1	3.1	89.0	100.0
7	1.9	5.9	3.1	89.1	100.0
8	1.9	5.6	3.2	89.3	100.0
9	2.0	5.4	3.1	89.4	100.0
10	2.2	5.2	3.4	89.2	100.0
11	2.0	4.9	3.5	89.5	100.0
12	2.3	5.0	4.0	88.7	100.0
13	2.4	4.9	4.0	88.8	100.0
14	2.1	4.4	4.7	88.7	100.0
15	2.4	4.2	5.5	88.0	100.0
16	2.4	4.3	6.6	86.7	100.0
17	2.5	4.1	8.5	84.9	100.0
Total	2.0	5.6	3.6	88.8	100.0

3. Migration

Internal migration		
Percentage of children born outside the district of residence, but living in TL		
Sex		Persons who were born outside the administrative post they were born, they are often refered to as lifetime migrants
Male	Female	Total
24.7	24.7	24.7

Municipaliy														
Aileu	Ainaro	Atauro	Baucau	Bobonaro	Covalima	Dili	Ermera	Lautém	Liquiça	Manatuto	Manufahi	Oe-Cusse	Viqueque	Total
7.8	3.5	3.3	6.5	4.2	6.2	93.9	4.3	5.3	7.8	10.3	5.2	3.3	5.0	24.7

Type of residence		
Urban	Rural	Total
65.5	9.8	24.7

Percentage of youth born outside the district of residence, but living in TL		
Sex		
Male	**Female**	**Total**
30.6	35.4	33.0

Municipaliy														
Aileu	Ainaro	Atauro	Baucau	Bobonaro	Covalima	Dili	Ermera	Lautém	Liquiça	Manatuto	Manufahi	Oe-Cusse	Viqueque	Total
10.3	5.1	3.0	9.8	6.9	8.2	96.3	7.7	6.5	10.7	10.0	8.3	5.6	6.2	33.0

Type of residence		
Urban	**Rural**	**Total**
75.7	12.6	33.0

Number of children who migrated from another district for educational purposes				
	Sex			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**	Percentage stands for the proportion of all lifetime migrants who migrated for educationl purposes
Number	2,437	2,644	5,081	

Municipaliy														
	Aileu	Ainaro	Atauro	Baucau	Bobonaro	Covalima	Dili	Ermera	Lautém	Liquiça	Manatuto	Manufahi	Oe-Cusse	Viqueque	Total
Number	69	56	8	407	124	49	3,502	297	152	118	118	71	68	42	5,081

Type of residence			
	Urban	**Rural**	**Total**
Number	3,782	1,299	5,081

Number of youth who migrated from another district for educational purposes							
Sex							
	Male	**Female**	**Total**				
Number	9,235	11,034	20,269				

Municipality															
	Aileu	Ainaro	Atauro	Baucau	Bobonaro	Covalima	Dili	Ermera	Lautém	Liquiça	Manatuto	Manufahi	Oe-Cusse	Viqueque	Total
Number	75	55	4	440	200	74	18,063	402	181	222	136	252	150	15	20,269

Type of residence			
	Urban	**Rural**	**Total**
Number	17,103	3,166	20,269

International migration			
Percentage of children born outside TL			
	Male	Female	Total
Number	803	808	1,611
% born abroad	0.3	0.3	0.3

Percentage of youth born outside TL			
	Male	Female	Total
Number	717	786	1,503
% born abroad	0.5	0.6	0.5

4. Education

Attending school				
Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex				
Male	36.3		One year before the official primary entry age is taken as age 5.	
Female	40.0		The participation rate is expressed as a percentage	

The participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex as defined as the percentage of children in the given age range who participate in one or more organized learning programme, including programmes which offer a combination of education and care. Participation in early childhood and in primary education are both included. The age range will vary by country depending on the official age for entry to primary education

Percentage of children 0 - 17 years old in education		
Sex		
Male	Female	Total
94.3	95.5	94.9

Municipaliy														
Aileu	Ainaro	Atauro	Baucau	Bobonaro	Covalima	Dili	Ermera	Lautém	Liquiça	Manatuto	Manufahi	Oe-Cusse	Viqueque	Total
95.8	95.2	90.9	95.3	93.9	93.2	95.3	94.9	95.4	94.4	95.0	95.8	94.4	95.2	94.9

Type of residence		
Urban	**Rural**	**Total**
95.8	94.6	94.9

Percentage of young people 15 - 24 years old in education		
Sex		
Male	**Female**	**Total**
62.9	65.4	64.1

Municipaliy														
Aileu	Ainaro	Atauro	Baucau	Bobonaro	Covalima	Dili	Ermera	Lautém	Liquiça	Manatuto	Manufahi	Oe-Cusse	Viqueque	Total
60.6	65.7	63.5	62.6	58.9	52.1	68.5	64.8	65.2	58.7	66.7	60.5	67.6	62.6	64.1

Type of residence		
Urban	**Rural**	**Total**
69.0	61.5	64.1

Parity indices of percentage of children that are attending school	**Parity index**	
female/male	1.01	The Gender Parity Index (GPI) is the ratio of female to male values of a given indicator. In this report the GPI is used to indicate the difference between school attendance ratios between males and females. A GPI equal to 1 indicates parity between females and males. In general, a value smaller than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of boys and a value greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of girls. In the same way as a gender parity index, parity indices can be calculated for urban/rural, wealth quintiles and disability status
rural/urban	0.99	
bottom/top wealth quintile	96.0	
disability/no disability	0.80	

Parity indices of percentage of youth that are attending school	**Parity index**
female/male	1.04
rural/urban	0.89
bottom/top wealth quintile	79.0
disability/no disability	0.66

Gender parity		
	Gender parity index primary education (NAR)	1.02
	Gender parity index primary education (GAR)	0.96
	Gender parity index pre-secondary education (NAR)	1.22
	Gender parity index pre-secondary education (GAR)	1.04
	Gender parity index secondary education (NAR)	1.31
	Gender parity index secondary education (GAR)	1.06

Urban'rural parity		
	Urban/rural parity index primary education (NAR)	1.12
	Urban/rural parity index primary education (GAR)	0.96
	Urban/rural parity index pre-secondary education (NAR)	1.50
	Urban/rural parity index pre-secondary education (GAR)	1.12
	Urban/rural parity index secondary education (NAR)	1.79
	Urban/rural parity index secondary education (GAR)	1.35

Literacy

Literacy rate: 10 yras of age and older				Youth Literacy Rate is the percentage of people ages 15-24 who can, with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement on their everyday life
Male	**Female**	**Total**		
74.7	70.0	72.4		
Literacy rate by age: 10 - 14, 15 - 19 and 20 - 24 and sex				
	Male	Female	Total	
10 - 14	84.4	86.6	85.5	
15 - 19	86.9	89.2	88.1	
20 - 24	85.7	87.2	86.4	

Municipality

	Literacy rate	Youth Literacy Rate is the percentage of people ages 15-24 who can, with understanding, read and write a short, simple statement on their everyday life
Aileu	85.2	
Ainaro	79.4	
Atauro	87.8	
Baucau	87.8	
Bobonaro	80.7	
Covalima	89.8	
Dili	94.3	
Ermera	79.1	
Lautém	90.5	
Liquiça	85.1	
Manatuto	89.0	
Manufahi	91.6	
Oe-Cusse	75.7	
Viqueque	88.6	
Total	87.3	

Type of residence

Urban	94.0
Rural	84.1
Total	87.3

NEET			
Sex			The NEET rate is calculated by the number of youth who are not in employment, not in education, and not following training, divided by the total number of youth. As mentioned in this report, youth are considered young persons between 15 and 24
Male	**Female**	**Total**	
29.1	29.6	29.3	

Municipality														
Aileu	Ainaro	Atauro	Baucau	Bobonaro	Covalima	Dili	Ermera	Lautém	Liquiça	Manatuto	Manufahi	Oe-Cusse	Viqueque	Total
25.1	33.4	28.9	30.3	39.6	39.7	21.1	36.7	32.3	28.3	26.1	33.0	28.5	30.9	29.3

Type of residence		
Urban	**Rural**	**Total**
21.4	33.1	29.3

5.Employment status

Percentage of children and youth by employment status

Percentage of children 10 - 17 years by employment status									
Age and sex									
	Male			Female			Total		
	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force
10	4.8	0.1	95.1	4.9	0.1	95.0	4.8	0.1	95.1
11	5.4	0.1	94.5	5.8	0.1	94.1	5.6	0.1	94.3
12	6.6	0.1	93.3	6.6	0.2	93.3	6.6	0.1	93.3
13	7.1	0.2	92.8	6.8	0.1	93.1	6.9	0.1	92.9
14	8.3	0.2	91.5	7.5	0.2	92.3	7.9	0.2	91.9
15	9.5	0.2	90.3	7.7	0.2	92.1	8.6	0.2	91.2
16	10.7	0.3	89.0	8.3	0.2	91.4	9.6	0.3	90.2
17	11.7	0.5	87.8	8.8	0.3	90.9	10.3	0.4	89.3
Total	8.1	0.2	91.7	7.1	0.2	92.7	7.6	0.2	92.2

Municality and sex									
	Male			Female			Total		
	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force
Aileu	14.3	0.2	85.6	12.8	0.1	87.1	13.5	0.2	86.3
Ainaro	9.8	0.9	89.3	9.0	0.9	90.1	9.4	0.9	89.7
Atauro	4.8	0.0	95.2	3.7	0.1	96.2	4.3	0.1	95.6
Baucau	6.8	0.0	93.1	5.2	0.0	94.8	6.0	0.0	94.0
Bobonaro	8.6	0.1	91.2	7.0	0.1	92.9	7.8	0.1	92.0
Covalima	5.1	0.0	94.9	3.7	0.1	96.2	4.4	0.1	95.5
Dili	4.2	0.2	95.5	3.7	0.1	96.2	4.0	0.2	95.9
Ermera	7.8	0.4	91.9	8.3	0.3	91.4	8.0	0.4	91.6
Lautém	3.0	0.1	97.0	2.1	0.0	97.9	2.5	0.1	97.4
Liquiça	15.5	0.1	84.3	13.7	0.1	86.2	14.6	0.1	85.3
Manatuto	11.4	0.1	88.6	8.8	0.0	91.2	10.1	0.1	89.8
Manufahi	6.3	0.0	93.7	4.8	0.0	95.2	5.6	0.0	94.4
Oe-Cusse	18.0	0.4	81.6	16.7	0.3	83.1	17.4	0.3	82.3
Viqueque	6.8	0.1	93.1	6.2	0.0	93.8	6.5	0.1	93.4
Total	8.1	0.2	91.7	7.1	0.2	92.7	7.6	0.2	92.2

Type of residence and sex									
	Male			Female			Total		
	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force
Urban	5.0	0.2	94.9	4.3	0.1	95.6	4.6	0.1	95.2
Rural	9.2	0.2	90.6	8.1	0.2	91.7	8.7	0.2	91.1
Total	8.1	0.2	91.7	7.1	0.2	92.7	7.6	0.2	92.2

Percentage of youth 15 - 24 years by employment status									
Age and sex									
	Male			Female			Total		
	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force
15	9.5	0.2	90.3	7.7	0.2	92.1	8.6	0.2	91.2
16	10.7	0.3	89.0	8.3	0.2	91.4	9.6	0.3	90.2
17	11.7	0.5	87.8	8.8	0.3	90.9	10.3	0.4	89.3
18	13.3	0.5	86.2	10.4	0.6	89.0	11.9	0.5	87.6
19	15.5	0.9	83.6	12.0	0.7	87.2	13.8	0.8	85.4
20	18.7	1.2	80.1	13.3	1.0	85.7	16.0	1.1	82.8
21	21.5	1.3	77.2	15.7	1.1	83.2	18.6	1.2	80.2
22	25.2	1.7	73.1	18.1	1.2	80.6	21.7	1.5	76.8
23	29.2	1.7	69.1	21.6	1.2	77.1	25.4	1.5	73.1
24	32.5	1.8	65.7	24.4	1.7	74.0	28.5	1.7	69.8
Total	18.1	1.0	81.0	13.6	0.8	85.6	15.9	0.9	83.3

Municipality and sex									
	Male			Female			Total		
	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force
Aileu	30.9	1.1	68.0	23.2	0.7	76.1	27.2	0.9	71.9
Ainaro	19.4	1.6	79.1	14.7	1.4	84.0	17.1	1.5	81.4
Atauro	16.3	0.8	82.9	10.9	0.9	88.1	13.7	0.9	85.4
Baucau	17.9	0.5	81.6	11.7	0.4	87.9	14.9	0.4	84.6
Bobonaro	17.7	0.8	81.5	12.9	0.7	86.4	15.4	0.7	83.9
Covalima	15.4	0.5	84.1	10.9	0.3	88.9	13.2	0.4	86.4
Dili	14.6	1.6	83.9	10.6	1.2	88.2	12.5	1.4	86.1
Ermera	16.9	1.0	82.1	13.8	0.9	85.3	15.3	1.0	83.7
Lautém	9.1	0.5	90.4	5.0	0.4	94.6	7.1	0.4	92.4
Liquiça	29.2	0.6	70.2	22.8	0.6	76.6	26.1	0.6	73.4
Manatuto	23.7	0.7	75.5	15.0	0.3	84.8	19.5	0.5	80.0
Manufahi	15.7	0.6	83.7	11.9	0.6	87.4	13.9	0.6	85.5
Oe-Cusse	26.7	0.6	72.8	26.4	0.4	73.2	26.5	0.5	73.0
Viqueque	16.7	0.4	82.9	13.3	0.3	86.4	15.1	0.3	84.6
Total	18.1	1.0	81.0	13.6	0.8	85.6	15.9	0.9	83.3

Type of residence and sex									
	Male			Female			Total		
	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force	Employed	Unemployed	Outside the labour force
Urban	15.0	1.4	83.7	10.7	1.1	88.2	12.8	1.2	86.0
Rural	19.5	0.8	79.7	15.0	0.7	84.4	17.3	0.7	82.0
Total	18.1	1.0	81.0	13.6	0.8	85.6	15.9	0.9	83.3

Child work			
Percentage of children 10 - 17 years old who are employed			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
	8.1	7.1	7.6

Employment			
Labour force participation rate, 15-24			
Sex			
Male	**Female**	**Total**	Labour force participation rate is the ratio between the total labour force divided by the total working-age population. The working age population in this case refers to people aged 15 to 24.
95.0	94.5	94.8	

Municality and sex			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Aileu	96.6	96.9	96.7
Ainaro	92.6	91.5	92.1
Atauro	95.4	92.1	94.1
Baucau	97.4	97.0	97.2
Bobonaro	95.8	94.8	95.4
Covalima	97.1	97.7	97.3
Dili	90.4	89.5	90.0
Ermera	94.3	93.5	94.0
Lautém	95.0	92.7	94.2
Liquiça	98.0	97.6	97.8
Manatuto	97.0	98.3	97.5
Manufahi	96.4	95.1	95.9
Oe-Cusse	97.9	98.5	98.2
Viqueque	97.8	97.8	97.8
Total	95.0	94.5	94.8

Type of residence and sex			
	Male	Female	Total
Urban	91.7	91.0	91.4
Rural	96.2	95.8	96.0
Total	95.0	94.5	94.8

Employment-to-population ratio, 15-24	**Sex**			Proportion of the working-age population that is employed: Employed = employee, employer, own account worker, and contributing family worker.
	Male	**Female**	**Total**	
	18.1	13.6	15.9	

Municality and sex			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Aileu	30.9	23.2	27.2
Ainaro	19.4	14.7	17.1
Atauro	16.3	10.9	13.7
Baucau	17.9	11.7	14.9
Bobonaro	17.7	12.9	15.4
Covalima	15.4	10.9	13.2
Dili	14.6	10.6	12.5
Ermera	16.9	13.8	15.3
Lautém	9.1	5.0	7.1
Liquiça	29.2	22.8	26.1
Manatuto	23.7	15.0	19.5
Manufahi	15.7	11.9	13.9
Oe-Cusse	26.7	26.4	26.5
Viqueque	16.7	13.3	15.1
Total	18.1	13.6	15.9

Type of residence and sex			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Urban	15.0	10.7	12.8
Rural	19.5	15.0	17.3
Total	18.1	13.6	15.9

Youth unemployment rate			Youth unemployment rate is the unemployment rate of persons aged 15 to 24.Unemployment rate is the ratio resulting from dividing the total number of unemployed by the corresponding labour force.
Sex			
Male	**Female**	**Total**	
5.0	5.5	5.2	

Municipality and sex			
	Male	Female	Total
Aileu	3.4	3.1	3.3
Ainaro	7.4	8.5	7.9
Atauro	4.6	7.9	5.9
Baucau	2.6	3.0	2.8
Bobonaro	4.2	5.2	4.6
Covalima	2.9	2.3	2.7
Dili	9.6	10.5	10.0
Ermera	5.7	6.5	6.0
Lautém	5.0	7.3	5.8
Liquiça	2.0	2.4	2.2
Manatuto	3.0	1.7	2.5
Manufahi	3.6	4.9	4.1
Oe-Cusse	2.1	1.5	1.8
Viqueque	2.2	2.2	2.2
Total	5.0	5.5	5.2

Type of residence and sex			
	Male	Female	Total
Urban	8.3	9.0	8.6
Rural	3.8	4.2	4.0
Total	5.0	5.5	5.2

Type of residence and sex			
	Male	Female	Total
Urban	8.3	9.0	8.6
Rural	3.8	4.2	4.0
Total	5.0	5.5	5.2

6. Vulnerable groups

a. Disability

Percentage of children and youth living with a disability

Age and sex			
	Male	Female	Both sexes
5 - 9	0.36	0.32	0.34
10 - 14	0.48	0.39	0.44
15 - 19	0.47	0.42	0.44
20 - 24	0.54	0.42	0.48

Municipality and sex			
	Prevalence rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Aileu	0.46	0.48	0.47
Ainaro	0.34	0.25	0.30
Atauro	0.55	0.38	0.47
Baucau	0.39	0.32	0.36
Bobonaro	0.46	0.32	0.39
Covalima	0.34	0.32	0.33
Dili	0.29	0.22	0.26
Ermera	0.39	0.43	0.41
Lautém	0.32	0.27	0.29
Liquiça	0.43	0.37	0.40
Manatuto	0.40	0.36	0.38
Manufahi	0.30	0.27	0.29
Oe-Cusse	0.22	0.21	0.22
Viqueque	0.45	0.35	0.40

Type of residence and sex			
Urban	0.28	0.23	0.25
Rural	0.39	0.34	0.36

Percentage children and youth with a disability attending school

Children 5 - 17 years		
Male	**Female**	**Total**
73.2	78.5	75.6

Youth 15 - 24 years		
Male	**Female**	**Total**
38.8	47.2	42.4

Employment-to-population ratio, persons with a disability 15-24 years old		
Male	**Female**	**Total**
11.1	7.4	9.4

Young people who do not go to school			
Percentage of young persons who do not go to school			
Sex, age			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
15	18.5	14.8	16.7
16	21.8	16.7	19.3
17	26.1	20.0	23.2
18	33.5	30.0	31.8
19	43.2	41.4	42.3
20	54.7	51.5	53.1
21	62.0	56.7	59.4
22	68.2	63.2	65.7
23	72.6	70.2	71.4
24	75.7	74.0	74.9
Total	45.8	42.0	43.9

Municality and sex			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Aileu	48.8	45.7	47.3
Ainaro	50.6	45.8	48.3
Atauro	37.4	46.9	42.0
Baucau	45.5	41.2	43.5
Bobonaro	56.2	49.8	53.2
Covalima	55.3	50.8	53.2
Dili	38.2	32.0	35.0
Ermera	49.6	51.7	50.6
Lautém	42.6	38.9	40.8
Liquiça	51.2	49.6	50.4
Manatuto	42.1	38.0	40.1
Manufahi	46.1	44.6	45.4
Oe-Cusse	48.0	48.5	48.2
Viqueque	44.6	44.0	44.3
Total	45.8	42.0	43.9
Type of residence			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Urban	37.8	31.8	34.7
Rural	49.4	47.2	48.3
Total	45.8	42.0	43.9

Municipality and sex			
	Prevalence rate		
	Male	Female	Both sexes
Aileu	0.46	0.48	0.47
Ainaro	0.34	0.25	0.30
Atauro	0.55	0.38	0.47
Baucau	0.39	0.32	0.36
Bobonaro	0.46	0.32	0.39
Covalima	0.34	0.32	0.33
Dili	0.29	0.22	0.26
Ermera	0.39	0.43	0.41
Lautém	0.32	0.27	0.29
Liquiça	0.43	0.37	0.40
Manatuto	0.40	0.36	0.38
Manufahi	0.30	0.27	0.29
Oe-Cusse	0.22	0.21	0.22
Viqueque	0.45	0.35	0.40

Type of residence and sex			
Urban	0.28	0.23	0.25
Rural	0.39	0.34	0.36

Percentage children and youth with a disability attending school		
Children 5 - 17 years		
Male	Female	Total
73.2	78.5	75.6
Youth 15 - 24 years		
Male	Female	Total
38.8	47.2	42.4

Employment-to-population ratio, persons with a disability 15-24 years old		
Male	Female	Total
11.1	7.4	9.4

b. Young people who do not go to school

Percentage of young persons who do not go to school			
Sex, age			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
15	18.5	14.8	16.7
16	21.8	16.7	19.3
17	26.1	20.0	23.2
18	33.5	30.0	31.8
19	43.2	41.4	42.3
20	54.7	51.5	53.1
21	62.0	56.7	59.4
22	68.2	63.2	65.7
23	72.6	70.2	71.4
24	75.7	74.0	74.9
Total	45.8	42.0	43.9

Municality and sex			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Aileu	48.8	45.7	47.3
Ainaro	50.6	45.8	48.3
Atauro	37.4	46.9	42.0
Baucau	45.5	41.2	43.5
Bobonaro	56.2	49.8	53.2
Covalima	55.3	50.8	53.2
Dili	38.2	32.0	35.0
Ermera	49.6	51.7	50.6
Lautém	42.6	38.9	40.8
Liquiça	51.2	49.6	50.4
Manatuto	42.1	38.0	40.1
Manufahi	46.1	44.6	45.4
Oe-Cusse	48.0	48.5	48.2
Viqueque	44.6	44.0	44.3
Total	45.8	42.0	43.9

Type of residence			
	Male	**Female**	**Total**
Urban	37.8	31.8	34.7
Rural	49.4	47.2	48.3
Total	45.8	42.0	43.9

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