

AMÉRICA IHA TIMOR-LESTE PARSERIA BA PROSPERIDADE



Our Commitment to Timor-Leste

In addition to the large contributions the United States makes to international organizations, such as the United Nations, for the development of Timor-Leste, the United States has provided nearly \$450 million in direct assistance since 2002, primarily through the activities of the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. State Department, the Peace Corps, and the U.S. Department of Defense. U.S. assistance has focused on building and **maintaining peace & security; strengthening democracy; eliminating poverty; and improving health & education.**

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Peace + Security

- **Community Policing:** In partnership with Timor-Leste and New Zealand, USAID supported the creation of over 110 Community Police Councils, which provide forums for local communities to discuss security concerns directly with the police. USAID has also supported civil society monitoring of the security sector and provided technical assistance to increase the Office of Inspection and Audit's oversight of the national police force.
- **Youth Engagement:** Nearly 600 youth from across the country were involved in USAID's Youth Engagement to Promote Stability Project, which mobilized youth to support conflict prevention and resolution while fostering leadership, community involvement, and dialogue with authorities.
- **Border Security:** The U.S. State Department, in partnership with the U.S. Navy and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, has supported efforts to strengthen Timor-Leste's sea and land borders, training nearly 200 security officials. We have also worked in coordination with the Australians to train local police forces in investigative methods, and are currently working with the International Organization for Migration to strengthen Timorese security forces' capacity to prevent and respond to human trafficking.
- **Military Training:** Since 2002, the U.S. military provided over \$5 million in support for the development of Timor-Leste's armed forces. Nearly 100 Timorese, both civilian and military, have participated in extensive training courses, including areas such as security cooperation and crisis management.

Strengthening Democracy

- **Improving Transparency and Governance:** USAID has been working with the Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights and Justice, helping to support Timor-Leste's decentralization effort through USAID's Ba Distrito Project, and has provided technical assistance to over 2,000 members of Timorese political parties to increase transparency and to open lines of communication between the parties and their supporters.
- **Supporting Timorese Initiatives:** Through the open competition for our Ambassador's small grants program, we have also supported citizen-led efforts to strengthen access to justice for women, combat domestic violence, promote civic education, increase transparency in local government, and fight corruption.

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Eliminating Poverty

- **Raising Farm Incomes:** Since 1999, USAID has provided technical assistance to farmers in an effort to develop and increase agricultural productivity, particularly in the coffee and horticulture sectors. With USAID support, Cooperativa Café Timor is now Timor-Leste's largest private-sector employer marketing its high quality, certified organic and fair-trade coffee around the world. Today USAID and USDA are continuing this effort to help connect subsistence farmers with commercial farm markets and private agribusiness, diversify crops, and have helped to increase farmers' incomes by up to 400%.
- **Infrastructure:** U.S. Navy Seabees have completed nearly 100 construction projects in all of the country's districts, including nearly 50 large scale projects since 2009, all completely funded by the U.S. government. Projects include bridges, 37 schools, 15 health clinics and 7 community centers.

Support for Health & Education Sectors

- **Improved Health Care:** Since 2006, USAID has trained over 10,000 health workers in partnership with Timor-Leste and Australia. USAID has also extended health care access to over 200,000 people in remote farming communities through funding for cooperative-associated health clinics, increased nutrition in rural households by supporting diet diversity, and has saved the lives of both mothers and children by improving preventative monitoring during pregnancies.
- **Disease Control:** From 2011-2013, USAID projects helped extend vaccination coverage for serious communicable diseases such as diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, and measles. USAID also strongly supported the drive to eradicate polio, which was completed in 2014. In addition, USAID contributed to Timor-Leste's successful malaria reduction campaign, providing over 105,000 insecticide-treated nets and training 1,700 volunteers in malaria prevention.
- **University Scholarships:** Nearly 100 Timorese have benefitted or are currently benefitting from full scholarships in the United States through the Fulbright program, USAID's Hillary Clinton Scholarship Program, and the U.S.-Timor-Leste scholarship program. Another 80 Timorese have benefitted from shorter term exchange and professional fellowships, learning valuable skills that they are bringing back to Timor-Leste from the United States.
- **Education:** Throughout the years, USAID has consistently shown its support for the education sector and helped to improve literacy rates in Timor-Leste, whether through big projects such as rebuilding the campus of UNTL following the destruction of its main building in 1999, to more recent projects such as USAID's School Dropout Prevention Program, which involved 10,000 students and 1,100 educators and greatly reduced absenteeism around the country.
- **English training:** Through our ACCESS scholarships, we have provided intensive English language training to nearly 200 Timorese students in the last five years. Nearly 20% of those students have gone on to receive scholarships to study at foreign universities. We also support specialized English language training for Timorese prosecutors, journalists, and members of the Timorese defense forces. Through the English Language Fellow program at the Dili Institute of Technology and the UNTL, we have also supported the training of English language teachers and helped to update these institutions' curricula.
- **Peace Corps:** On October 10th, 2015, 21 U.S. Peace Corps volunteers arrived in Timor-Leste. Following training, the volunteers will serve in local communities where they will live with local host families and work on community health, as well as income generation and entrepreneurship projects.

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