

# RCC member countries

## Timor Leste



### Country Information

**Region:** Southeast Asia

**Population:** Approximately 1.3 million

**Capital:** Dili

**GDP (US\$):** \$2.955 billion

**Geography:** Timor Leste is an island country, occupying the eastern half of Timor Island, and the islands of Atauro and Jaco which are shared and bordered by the Indonesian West Timor. The country has volcanic origins which have produced a rugged terrain, characterized by a central spine of steep mountains that cascade to the sea in the north while giving way to a gentler decline in the south, where a coastal plain has formed. Deep valleys score the mountains, hampering movement beyond the coastal regions.

**General climate:** The climate is tropical, hot and humid, and it is affected by the West Pacific Monsoon. The wet season is from December to April and the dry season lasts for six months, between June and October.

**INFORM Risk Rating:** 1.6

## Risk Summary

- The country is exposed to several natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, floods, cyclones, and locust infestations; it is also extremely vulnerable to food shortages and agricultural challenges.
- Due to Timor Leste's geographical location north of the Eurasian and Australian tectonic plates, it is exposed to earthquakes and associated tsunamis.
- Earthquakes cause significant damage as they trigger extensive landslides, damaging livestock, roads, infrastructure, and property.
- Although there is no recorded history of tsunamis in the country, they have the ability to cause significant damage to coastal cities, especially along the south coast.
- Floods are the most frequently occurring and most deadly natural disaster. They occur during both monsoon seasons and also due to La Niña and El Niño, causing infrastructural damage and food insecurity.

## Disaster Management System

### National Level

- **Inter-Ministerial Commission for Disaster Management (CIGD)**

The CIGD is comprised of multiple government ministries and agencies. Its functions are to conduct annual reviews of national DRR policies and development; provide technical and policy advice and resource support to the National Disaster Coordinator and the Joint National DOC during response operations; assign responsibilities related to disaster risk management to relevant departments and bodies; and carry out other DRR tasks allocated by the Minister or Secretary of State responsible for disaster risk management.

- **National Disaster Management Directorate (NDMD)**

The NDMD is responsible for coordinating disaster risk management and technical support to the government and the community. Its functions include developing DRR strategies and implementing DRR activities; administering and providing secretariat support to the CIGD; acting as the contact point for initial reports of emergencies and disasters; coordinating disaster risk management; organizing and leading needs assessments; maintaining and developing a National Disaster Risk Management Information System; developing and

identifying baseline data; and maintaining, reviewing and developing the National Disaster Risk Management Plan.

- **National Disaster Operation Centre (DOC)**

The DOC is part of the NDMD and is responsible for recovery efforts; disseminating information to the public, including early warnings; damage assessments; evacuations, traffic control and security; emergency medical care; debris clearance; restoration of utilities; and developing the organizational structure at district, sub-district and *sucos* levels.

## Sub-National Level

- **District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC)**

The DDMC, headed by the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) is responsible for coordinating rapid assessment surveys of affected areas; coordinating financial resources of the district for disaster response; and recommending timing and content of requests for national support.

- **Sub-District Administrator (SDA)**

The SDA is responsible for emergency and DRR activities at the district level. If capacity is exceeded, assistance will be sought from the highest appropriate level.

- **Suco Chief/ Village Leaders**

Within each village, the Suco Chief and Village Leaders are responsible for emergency and DRR activities. If capacity is exceeded, assistance will be sought from the highest appropriate level.

## Helpful Links and Sources

Timor Leste country profile:

<https://data.worldbank.org/country/timor-leste>

INFORM country risk profile:

<http://www.inform-index.org/countries/country-profiles>

Timor Leste Disaster Management Reference Handbook:

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/disaster-mgmt-ref-hdbk-TimorLeste.pdf>