



Timor-Leste



Introduction to TIMOR-LESTE

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE, free from Indonesia since 2002 (and previously owned by Portugal), has struggled in its independence, as violence and take-overs have left the nation unstable for most of the past decade. The small country, known by some as East Timor, lies on the eastern half of a Pacific island shared with Indonesia.

The TIMORESE people

Total population:	1,131,612
Children under 15:	392,137
Average Life Expectancy:	67.27 years
Per capita annual income:	\$2,300
% children in primary school:	62.98%
Average years of education:	N/A*
Literacy rate:	58.6%
Internet users:	1,800
Cell phones in use:	101,000
Major/official language(s):	

Tetum
Portuguese
English
Indonesian

Risk issues impacting children:

- Tens of thousands of people displaced by the unrest are living in hastily erected camps and shelters.
- Preventative disease rates are high.
- Domestic and gender-based violence is commonplace.

More about TIMOR-LESTE

Capital city:	Dili
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	14,874
General terrain:	Mountainous
Major industries/jobs:	Coffee, rice, other agriculture, printing
National motto:	"Honour, Homeland and People"
Major airport(s):	Nicolau Lobato International

Reaching TIMOR-LESTE

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

Christian - 99%
Muslim - 1%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic - 95.4%
Protestant - 4.4%
Independent - 0.1%

Unreached People Groups: 0 (0% of pop)

Average annual Christian growth: 0.029

Average annual baptisms: 60,993

Foreign missionaries: 110
Per million: 103.07

National Christian workers/pastors: 200
Per million: 187.39

Number of churches/congregations: 170

Children's ministry in TIMOR-LESTE

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Timor-Leste. The following information regards general children's ministry in Southeast Asia, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

Overview: • In some Southeast Asian nations, religious activity is viewed with suspicion or banned altogether.

- Children's leaders in Southeast Asia are passionate about reaching children.
- People need training, tools, and empowerment to do effective ministry in this region. Tools need to be portable, as travel is difficult in many areas. Little training is currently available for children's leaders, especially in rural areas.
- Urban areas tend to be better-resourced and quality training may be available.
- Most children's workers are women.
- Parents tend to put the responsibility for a child's spiritual development on the church

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
170 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
392,137 children for Christ