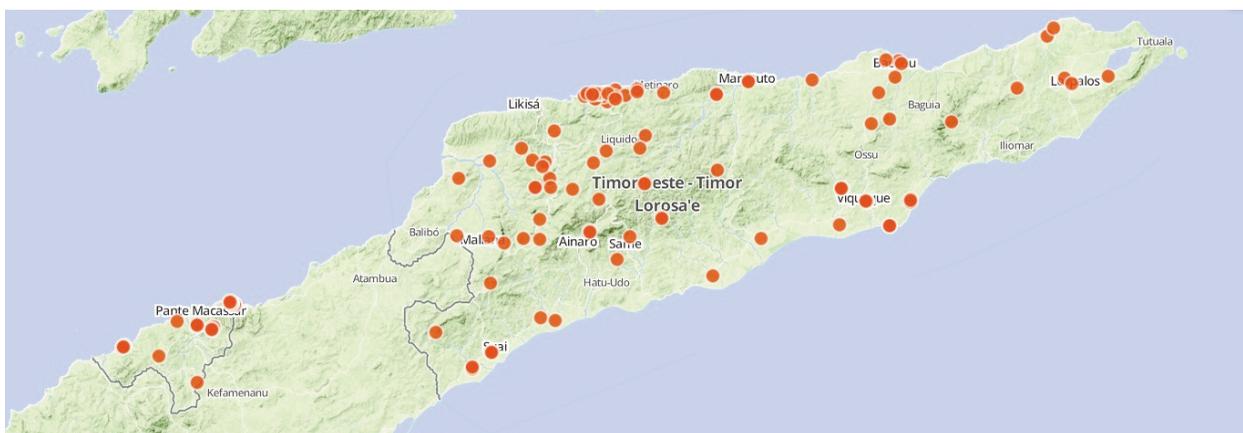


# Timor-Leste Public Opinion Poll

In February- March 2013, The Asia Foundation surveyed the opinions of 819 adults across all 13 districts of Timor-Leste. Respondents were selected at random – regardless of status, seniority or education. By doing this, the opinion poll provides a snapshot of what average Timorese people think about important issues including the performance of the government, the conditions in their local area, and their confidence in the future. The Foundation intends to carry out this poll on a regular basis to better explore how people’s opinions change over time.

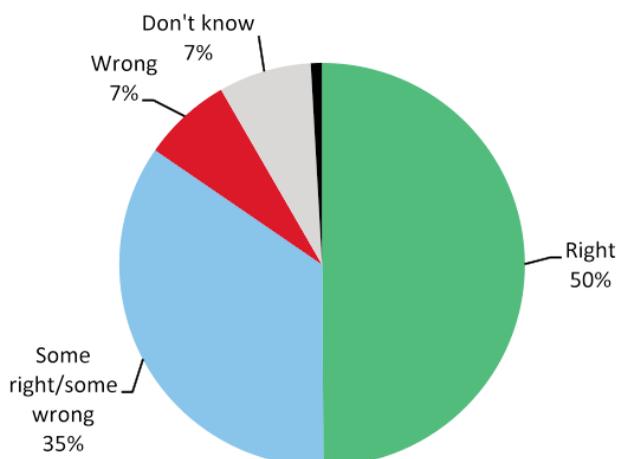


819 interviews were conducted from randomly selected sampling points in each of the country's 13 districts (shown above)

## OVERALL PROGRESS

Half of all respondents say the country is going in the right direction. Only 7 percent say it is going in the wrong direction. Thirty-five percent gave a mixed response, saying some things are going in the right direction but other things are going in the wrong direction.

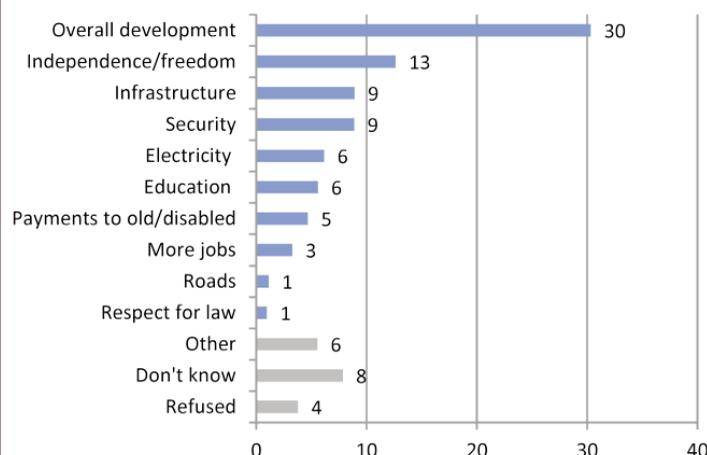
*Generally speaking, do you think things in Timor-Leste today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction?*



## WHY RIGHT DIRECTION?

Among respondents who said the country was going in the right direction, 30 percent gave the country’s overall development as their main reason for saying so. Thirteen percent cited independence and freedom. Improvements in infrastructure and security each attracted 9 percent of responses, while electricity and education were each cited by 6 percent of respondents.

*Why do you say that things are moving in the right direction?*

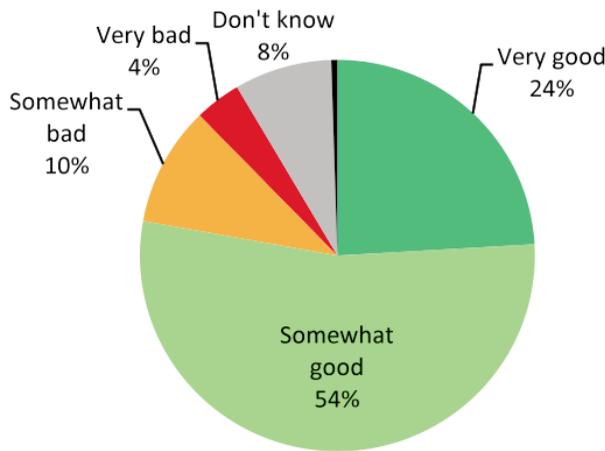


# Timor-Leste Public Opinion Poll

## GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Seventy percent of respondents said the government is doing a good job, including 54 percent who say “somewhat good” and 24 percent who say “very good.” Fourteen percent of respondents said the government is doing a bad job, including 4 percent who said “very bad” and 10 percent who said “somewhat bad”.

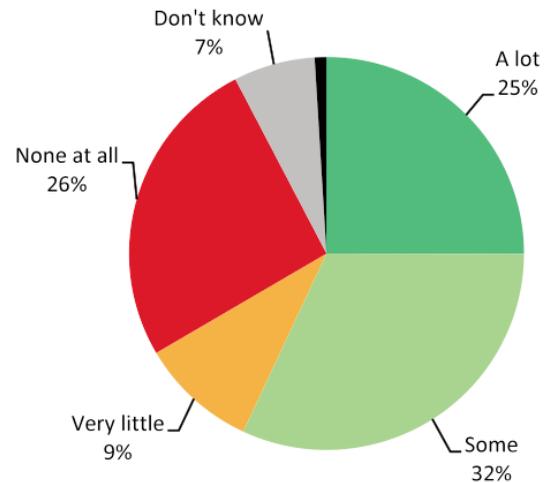
*Thinking of the government, how do you feel about the way it is carrying out its responsibilities? Are they doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or very bad job?*



## INFLUENCE ON GOVERNMENT

Twenty-five percent of respondents said they have “a lot” of influence over government decision-making and 32 percent said they have “some” influence. Ten percent said they have “very little” influence and 26 percent said they have “none at all”.

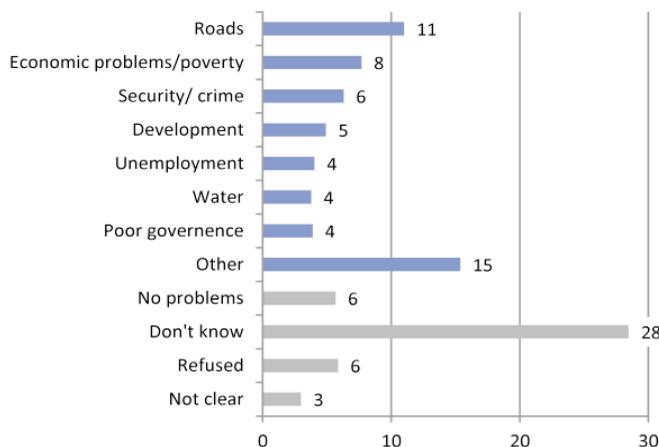
*How much influence do you think someone like you can have over government decisions?*



## BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING THE COUNTRY

Asked what was the biggest problem facing the country, 11 percent of respondents cited roads. After roads came development (8 percent), general economic issues (8 percent), unemployment (6 percent) and water (5 percent).

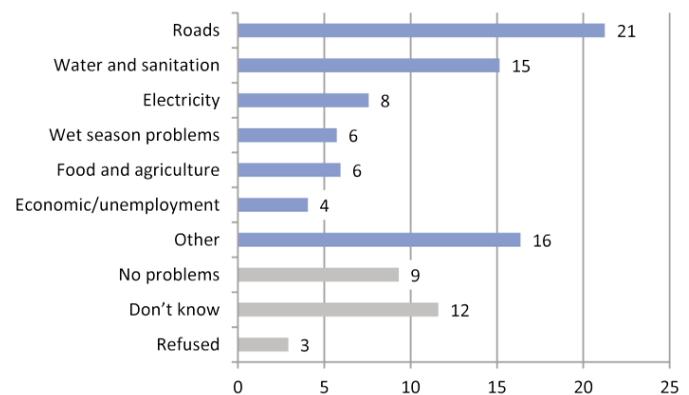
*In your view, what is the biggest problem facing Timor-Leste as a whole?*



## BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING LOCAL AREA

Twenty-one percent of respondents nominated roads and bridges as the biggest problem in their local area, followed by water and sanitation (15 percent) and electricity (8 percent). Six percent of respondents cited rivers, drainage, rain or natural disasters – problems associated with the wet season. Respondents were twice as likely to nominate roads if they lived in a rural area rather than an urban area.

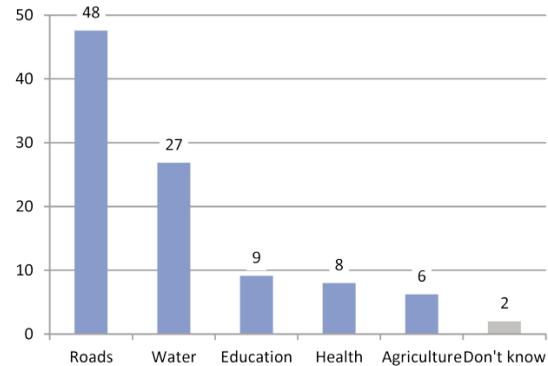
*What is the biggest problem in your local area?*



## LOCAL PRIORITIES

Faced with a choice between education, healthcare, agriculture, access to water, and roads, 48 percent of respondents said improving roads was the biggest priority in their local area. Twenty-seven percent said access to water. Nine percent said education, 8 percent healthcare, and 6 percent agriculture.

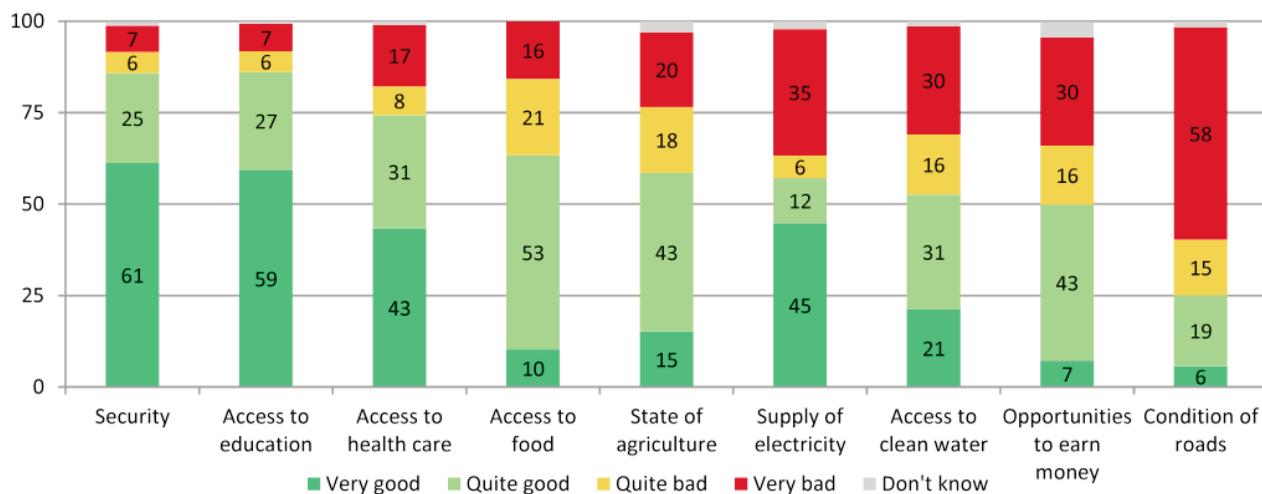
*Of the following issues, which do you think most needs to be improved in this area – education, health care, access to water, agriculture, or roads?*



## CONDITIONS IN LOCAL AREA

Respondents were asked to rate various conditions in their local area. Security and access to education received the highest ratings, with 86 percent of respondents saying the condition of each was either “somewhat good” or “very good”. Roads received by far the lowest rating, with only 25 percent of respondents rating the condition of roads as either “somewhat good” or “very good”.

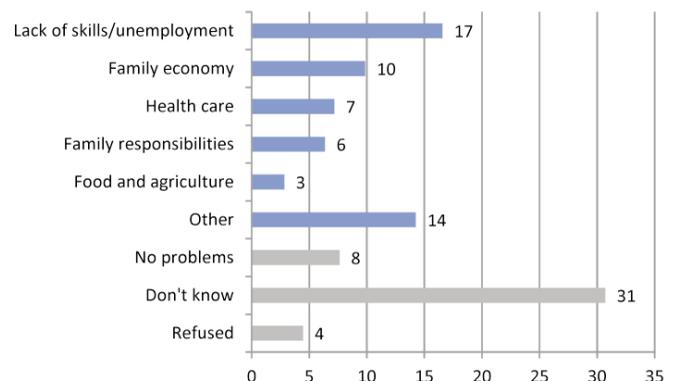
*I would like to ask you about today's conditions in the village/neighbourhood where you live. Would you rate (insert item here) as very good, quite good, quite bad, or very bad in your area?*



## BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING WOMEN

Seventeen percent of respondents cited a lack of skills and unemployment as the biggest problem facing women. This was followed by the economic situation of the family (10 percent), healthcare (7 percent) and family responsibilities (6 percent). Women were more likely than men to nominate economic-related issues including unemployment and a lack of skills, as well as family responsibilities.

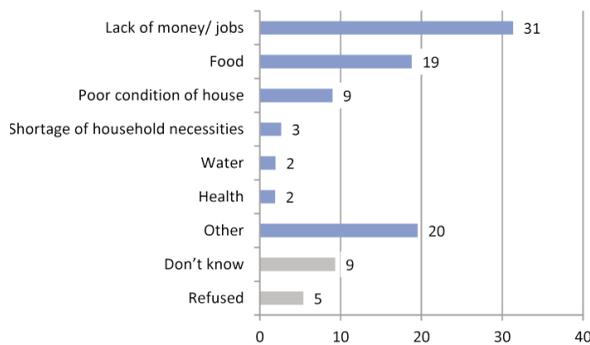
*What is the biggest problem facing women in this area?*



## BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING HOUSEHOLD

Thirty-one percent of respondents cited a shortage of money or jobs as the biggest problem facing their household. This was followed by food (19 percent) and the physical condition of the house (9 percent).

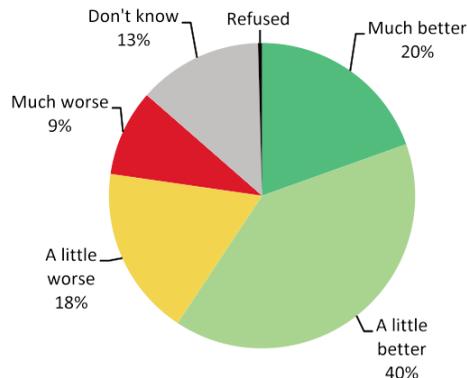
*What is the biggest problem facing your household?*



## EXPECTED ECONOMIC SITUATION

Sixty percent of respondents said they expected the economic situation of their household to improve (“much better” or “a little better”) over the next year. But 27 percent of respondents said they expected their economic situation to get worse (“much worse” or “a little worse”) over the next year.

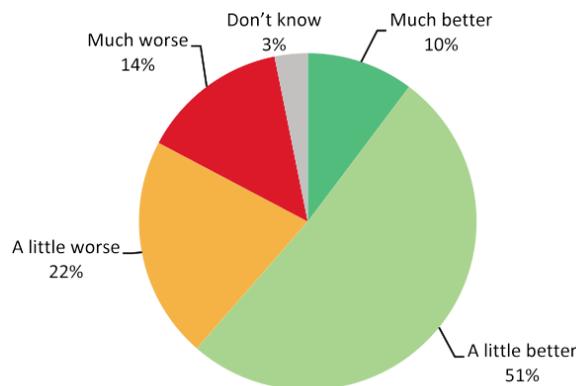
*What do you think will happen to the economic situation of your household in a year's time? Would you say it will be much better, a little better, a little worse or much worse?*



## ECONOMIC SITUATION OF HOUSEHOLD

Sixty-one percent of respondents said the economic situation of their household had improved (“much better” or “a little better”) over the past two years. But 36 percent of respondents said they were worse off (“much worse” or “a little worse”) compared with two years ago.

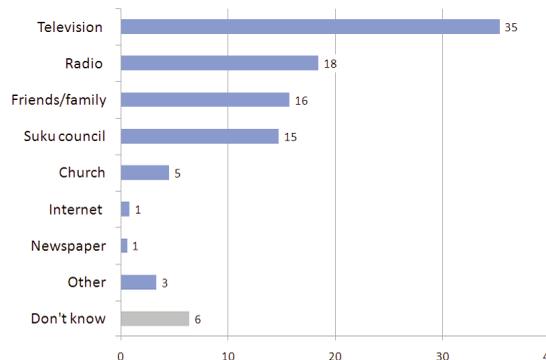
*How does the economic situation of your household compare to two years ago? Would you say it is much better, a little better, a little worse or much worse?*



## MAIN SOURCE OF NEWS AND INFORMATION

The most-used source of news and information was television (35 percent), followed by radio (18 percent), family/friends (15 percent) and the respondent's suku council (15 percent). Only 1 percent of respondents nominated a newspaper.

*Which of the following sources do you use most often for news and information?*



*The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.*

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