INITIAL FINDINGS FROM THE ASIA FOUNDATION'S

Timor-Leste TATOLI! Public Perception Survey 2022

The Asia Foundation is pleased to release initial findings from its seventh Timor-Leste TATOLI! Public Perception Survey conducted between January and February 2022 with a nationally representative sample of 2,489 respondents. The findings reflect the Timorese population's perceptions of the country's direction, wellbeing and priorities. The Asia Foundation will release the full set of results in the second quarter of 2022.

In the context of the ongoing COVID-19 recovery, respondents signaled economic hardship.

Fewer respondents reported improvements in their economic situation over the past year than in prepandemic 2018. Fifty-seven percent of respondents felt their family's economic situation was 'a little' or 'much' better compared to one year ago, lower than 61% in 2018. Twentyfour per cent also felt their current situation was 'a little' or 'much' worse compared to 14% in 2018.

More than forty percent of respondents report that their family is not able to cover their needs. One third are concerned about food security in the next month and are not able to save money. There are marked increases in economic hardship compared with prepandemic 2018.



FAMILY WELL-BEING



Respondents highlighted COVID-19 as the most pressing challenge.

About half of respondents reported COVID-19 (including impact on health) as the main issue facing the country, their community, and them as individuals.

RESPONDENTS CITING COVID-19 AS MAIN CHALLENGE FACING...



*respondents were asked to identify the single biggest challenge facing the country and the main three challenges facing their community and themselves.

Jobs, economic diversification and rural infrastructure were also key issues.

Beyond COVID-19 and related issues, respondents highlight jobs and unemployment, and economic diversification as key issues facing their community.

Outside of Dili, roads and bridges is the second most reported issue.

CHALLENGES FACING YOUR COMMUNITY (TOP 6 RESPONSES)



*respondents were asked to identify the main three challenges facing their community.

Respondents considered the most important issues facing women today to be Domestic Violence/Violence against Women and Children, and COVID-19.



Within the context of these challenges, respondents highlighted their views regarding the key responsibilities of government and the investments they believe government should prioritize.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNMENT (TOP 10 RESPONSES)



**respondents were asked to identify the main three responsibilities of government.*

AREAS GOVERNMENT SHOULD INVEST IN THE MOST (TOP 5 RESPONSES)



*respondents were asked to identify the main three areas government should invest in.

More than one third of respondents agreed that Timor-Leste is going in the right direction, and only 17% disagreed. A notable proportion (37%) felt neutral.



Nearly all (98%) respondents planned to vote in the 2022 Presidential Election.

The most common reasons for voting were to support the candidate they intended to vote for (73%), because voting is their civic responsibility (39%) and because they always vote (34%).



Most respondents (80%) felt that it would be good for Timor-Leste if more women entered politics.



ABOUT THE TATOLI! PUBLIC PERCEPTION SURVEY

Since 2013, The Asia Foundation has gathered the views and opinions of Timor-Leste's population across the nation's thirteen municipalities through its TATOLI! Public Perceptions Survey. The Asia Foundation carried out the seventh TATOLI! Public Perception Survey between January and February 2022. The nationally representative survey included 2,489 voting-age respondents; 49.3% percent identified as female, 49.2% as male, and 1.5% identified as another gender or did not state their gender. The survey has a national margin of error of ± 2%. It was conducted by enumerators from the Timor-Leste Research and Advocacy Network (TRAIN); with data processing by Orima Research. The Foundation will release the full set of results in the second quarter of 2022. Presented 2018 data is from The Asia Foundation's 2018 TATOLI! Public Perception Survey.

ABOUT THE ASIA FOUNDATION

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Working through our offices in 18 countries and informed by deep local expertise and six decades of experience, we address the critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century by supporting: good governance; women's empowerment and gender equality; inclusive economic growth; environment and climate action; and regional and international relations. In Timor-Leste, the Foundation is currently focused on strengthening governance and policy, ending violence against women, developing inclusive tourism, and promoting peace and justice.