

8TH EDITION

TATOLI! 2023

A SURVEY OF THE TIMORESE PEOPLE



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Introduction

Since 2013, The Asia Foundation has gathered the views and opinions of Timor-Leste's population through *Tatoli! A Survey of the Timorese People (Tatoli!)*. The full title is a slight deviation from previous editions (i.e., *Tatoli! Public Perception Survey*) to bring light to the Timorese voice.

This report presents findings of The Asia Foundation's eighth *Tatoli!*, conducted between January and February 2023. Through its partner organizations, the Timor-Leste Research and Advocacy Network (TRAIN), the Foundation interviewed a national representative sample of 3,754 adults (with a $\pm 1.6\%$ margin of error). The survey captured information on the population's employment, income and economic wellbeing, as well as their perceptions about: 1) social capital, 2) infrastructure development, 3) economic development, 4) institutional frameworks, 5) economic context and macroeconomic direction, 6) remittances, and 7) media and information access. This year's survey data was gathered in between the 2022 Presidential and 2023 parliamentary elections.

It is worth noting that perceptions gathered from participants are subjective based on an individual's lived experience and their circumstance at the time of data collection. A limitation to this method of data collection is that it is not uncommon for perceptions to be more positive than expected, especially upon reflection and when shared with the broader public. The adequate sample and cited margin of error do present these data as reliable and valid, though the limitations of perception data must be considered during interpretation.

Unlike previous reports, the 2023 *Tatoli!* is structured in accordance with Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 (SDP), in an effort to align perception data with national commitments to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Not all SDP thematic areas are covered in the data and some *Tatoli!* data points fall outside of the SDP. However, the restructuring supports audiences and users of the data, including policy makers, government, civic society, development partners and international community, with the ability to track progress among perceptions. Therefore, this year's *Tatoli!*, at the 10-year anniversary of its

inception, outlines the perceptions of the Timorese People and alignment with the country's SDP, in addition to other key social topics, such as international remittance and views on information access through media.

This iteration of *Tatoli!* has retained some of the same questions from previous surveys to allow longitudinal comparison of perceptions and priorities on key issues. Some questions have also been added and/or modified to adapt to the nation's ever-changing context. Additionally, survey responses in this year's survey pivot from those provided in the 2022 survey, as the direct impact of COVID-19 on individuals and their community has subsided.



Methodology

Tatoli! 2023 interviewed 3,754 adults (17+) from all fourteen municipalities and sample comprised of 1,874 men, 1,873 women, 3 transgender individuals and 4 non-binary individuals.

The sample was stratified by municipality and gender using the most recent available population estimates from the 2015 Timor-Leste Census, which was provided by the General Directorate of Statistics, Ministry of Finance.



SAMPLE DESIGN

The data were weighted to be representative of the Timor-Leste adult population. Based on previous weighting schemes and information available in the 2015 Timor-Leste Census, the following four variables were used for weighting: gender, age, district and urban/rural allocation. A higher sample (i.e., oversampling) of respondents from Baucau and Bobonaro was included in this year's version of the survey to generate better representation for communities outside of Dili, since the majority population of the country lives outside of the nation's capital. Oversampling in Baucau and Bobonaro allowed for improved statistical weighting and precision during data analysis.

HOW WAS THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED?

Tatoli! 2023 was conducted in Timor-Leste between 12 January and 7 February 2023. The Asia Foundation's survey team designed and coded the survey questionnaire using Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) tablets. Fourteen teams comprising a total of 72 enumerators (52 male and 20 female) from TRAIN conducted face-to-face interviews at the household level. The Foundation led quality assurance during and after data collection.

MARGIN OF ERROR

A stratified random sample of 3,754 respondents was surveyed in all fourteen municipalities. At the national level, the maximum margin of error for this sample (n=3,754) at a 95 percent confidence interval is $\pm 1.6\%$ percent. The survey methodology was designed to provide an adequate margin of error for the purpose of a national survey. Municipal-level margins of error will naturally be substantially higher.

DEFINING DISABILITY

Tatoli! 2023 captured respondent impairments and/or disabilities using the short set of Washington Group questions.¹ These cover self-reported levels of difficulty across six functions: vision, hearing, mobility, cognition, self-care and communication. Aligned with the Washington Group guidelines, a respondent reporting a high level of difficulty or inability to perform at least one of these functions is considered to have a disability. Based on this methodology, 198 survey respondents (5%) (98 male, 99 female, one non-binary) have a disability.²



READER NOTES

Throughout the report, results are shown at the overall level post statistical weighing. Differences between demographic groups (e.g. gender, age and location) described in the commentary are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. Results compared to previous years are described where available. If previous years' results are not shown this is because the question was only added in 2023 or was changed enough that deemed results no longer comparable.

Where colours are used in some charts to show different rounds of the survey, the most recent results are shown in the darkest colours.

In some places results may not naturally add up to exactly 100% due to rounding. Where this occurs, results are manually rounded to 100%. Results less than 1% are not shown in stacked bar charts to aid presentation.

More complete technical information, such as detailed methodology, is available in the appendix at the end of this report.

¹ Washington Group questions are internationally recognized as a primary method to capture impairments and/or disabilities through a set of uniform questions. The 2023 *Tatoli!* utilised the Short Set on Functioning questions. See: <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>

² After applying statistical weights to the results, the proportion of the sample that have a disability is 4%.



Main Issues Faced and Concerns

Tatoli! 2023 asked respondents for their views regarding main issues faced at the individual, community, and national levels. Additionally, women, youth, and people with disabilities were segmented and asked about what they perceived as the most important issues in the country.

The following provide high-level insights:

- ◇ In 2023, concerns around the COVID-19 pandemic substantially diminished and financial challenges have emerged as the most important;
- ◇ Employment concerns are increasing in Dili and urban areas;
- ◇ Infrastructure concerns are more critical in rural areas;
- ◇ Among women, concerns regarding violence have increased in the absence of COVID-19.



ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FACING THE NATION, COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS

When participants were asked what they thought the biggest problems facing the nation were, poverty (60%) was the most widely reported issue overall, followed by lack of quality employment opportunities (46%) and lack of infrastructure (39%).

Lack of quality employment opportunities was a greater concern among those living in urban areas (52%, compared to 44% of those living in rural areas) and in Dili (54%, compared to 44% of those living outside Dili).

Lack of infrastructure was a greater concern among those living in rural areas (46%, compared to 23% of those living in urban areas) and outside of Dili (45%, compared to 18% of those living in Dili). Respondents in Baucau (58%) and in Bobonaro (59%) echoed concern about infrastructure, as did those broadly categorized as living outside of Dili.



³ Results for this question are not comparable to 2022 as it was asked as a single response question in 2022.

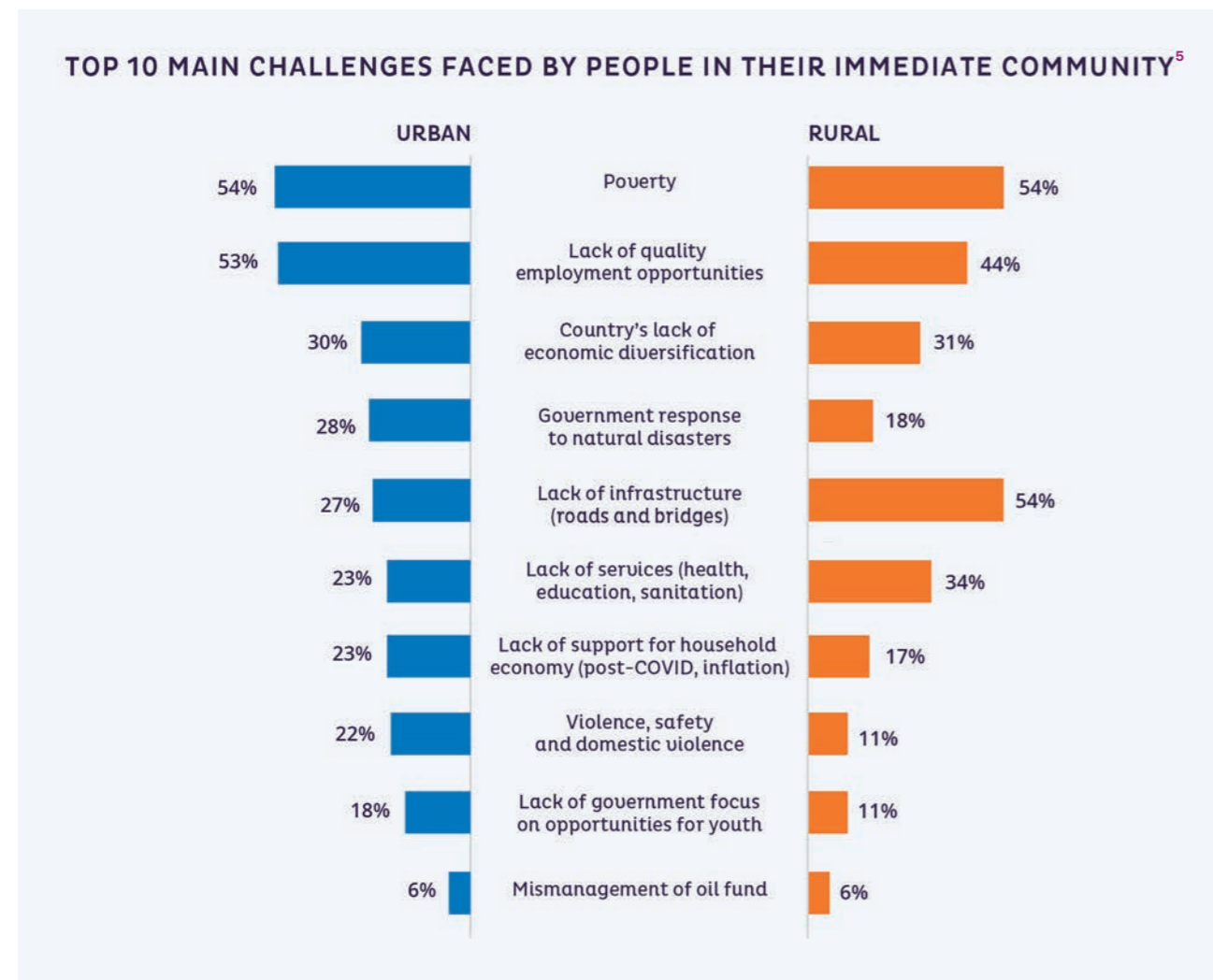
TOP 10 MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY TIMOR-LESTE AS A NATION: DILI VS. BAUCAU VS. BOBONARO⁴

	DILI	BAUCAU	BOBONARO
Poverty	58%	52%	74%
Lack of quality employment opportunities	54%	48%	27%
Inability to respond to natural disasters	31%	9%	16%
Country's lack of economic diversification	27%	25%	36%
Violence, safety and domestic violence	27%	10%	8%
Lack of support for household economy (post-COVID, inflation)	26%	4%	25%
Lack of infrastructure (roads and bridges)	18%	58%	59%
Lack of services (health, education, sanitation)	17%	42%	24%
Lack of government focus on opportunities for youth	16%	14%	8%
Mismanagement of oil fund	7%	1%	6%

⁴ Results for this question are not comparable to 2022 as it was asked as a single response question in 2022.

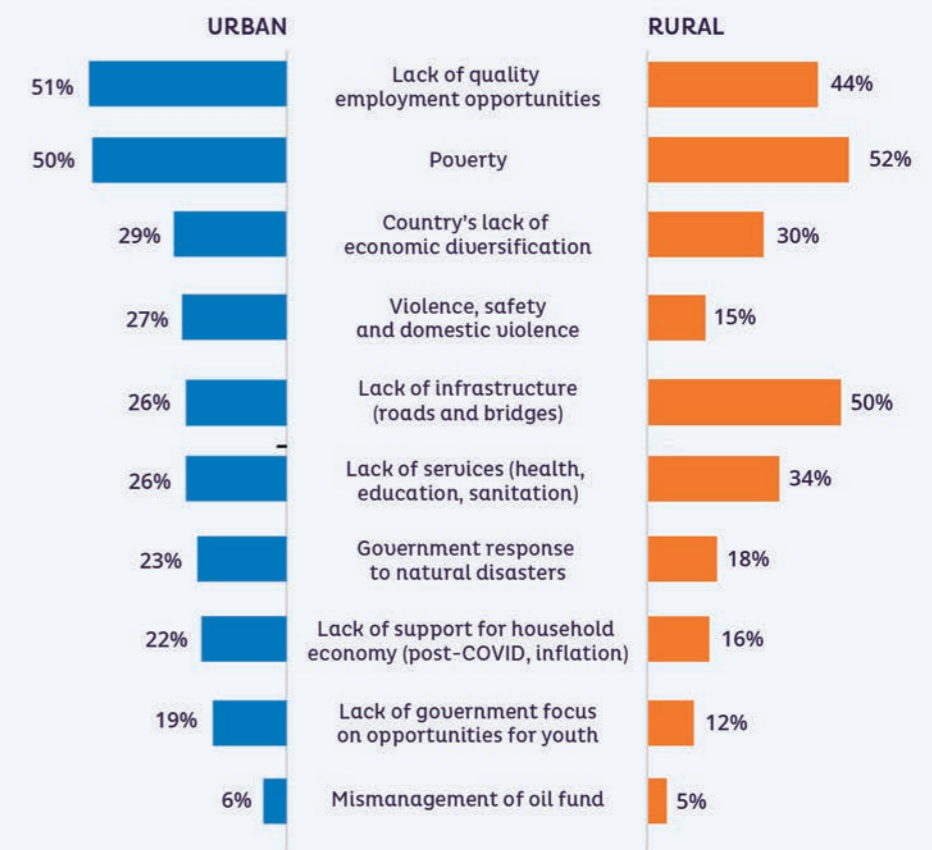
When asked about the biggest problems facing their immediate community, poverty (54%, up from 9% in 2022), lack of quality employment opportunities (47%, up from 32%) and lack of infrastructure (45%, up from 28%) were again considered the biggest problems. Although concern about each of these areas was higher compared to 2022, this could be attributed to the impact of COVID-19 as being the most important issue in 2022, while very few respondents reported concern about COVID-19 in the 2023 results.

At the community level, lack of quality employment opportunities was also a greater concern among those living in urban areas (53%, compared to 44% of those living in rural areas), especially in Dili (53%, compared to 45% of those living outside Dili). Additionally, lack of infrastructure was again considered a bigger problem among those living in rural areas (54%, compared to 27% of those living in urban areas), outside Dili (53%, compared to 21% of those living in Dili). Concern about infrastructure in Baucau (72%) and Bobonaro (63%) increased when participants were asked to reflect on their own community rather than the country as a whole. Respondents living in rural areas also reported greater concern about lack of services compared to their counterparts.



⁵ Results for this question are not directly comparable to 2022 due to changes in list of issues.

TOP 10 MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIVIDUALS⁶



When asked to reflect individually, the main challenges faced by respondents were poverty (51%, up from 12% in 2022), lack of quality employment opportunities (46%, up from 32%) and lack of infrastructure (43%, up from 27%). Again, increases in concern about each of these areas could be attributed to the impact of COVID-19 measures no longer being reported as the dominant issues in 2023.

Those living in urban areas (51%, compared to 44% of those living in rural areas) and in Dili (54%, compared to 44% of those living outside Dili) reported greater concern about lack of quality employment opportunities for them personally.

Those living in rural areas (50%, compared to 26% of those living in urban areas), outside Dili (50%, compared to 20% of those living in Dili), in Baucau (65%) and in Bobonaro (62%) reported greater concern about lack of infrastructure on a personal level.

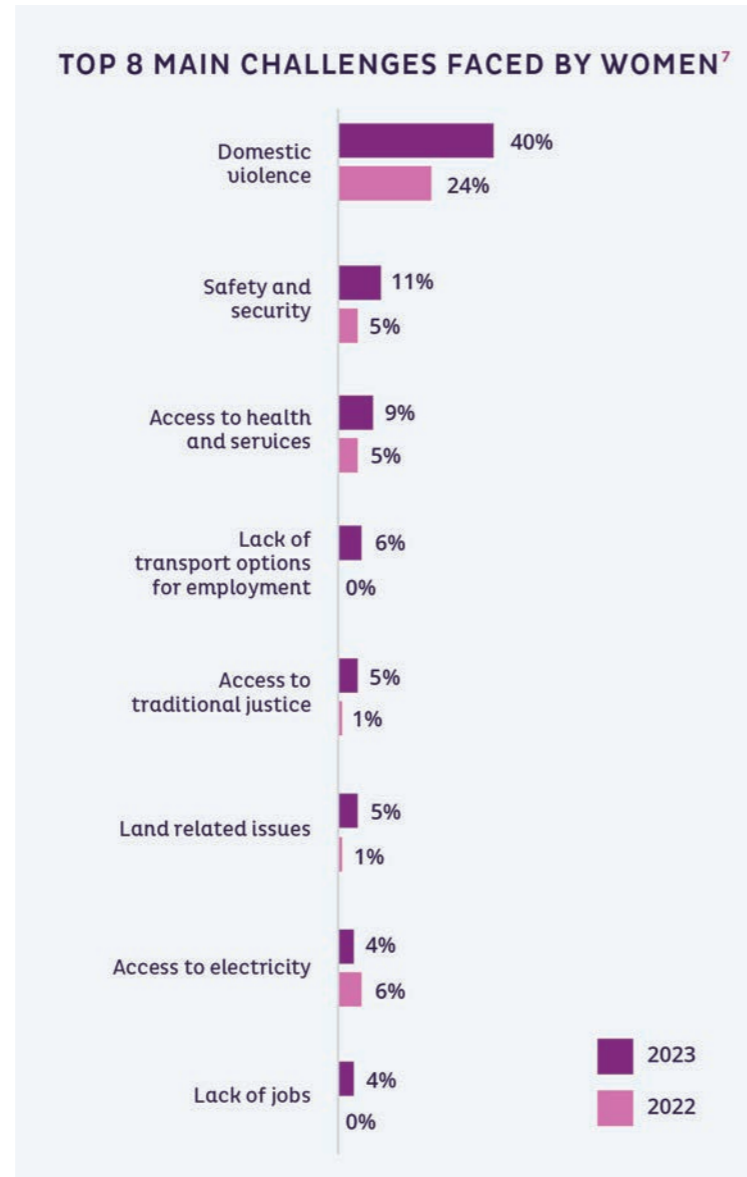
Overall, responses at the national, community, and individual levels are largely consistent among respondents. A noticeable and observational difference could be that when individuals in rural areas are asked to consider questions from the viewpoints of themselves or their direct community at large, as opposed to the nation, concerns about infrastructure increase.

⁶ Results for this question are not directly comparable to 2022 due to changes in list of issues.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES AMONG WOMEN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

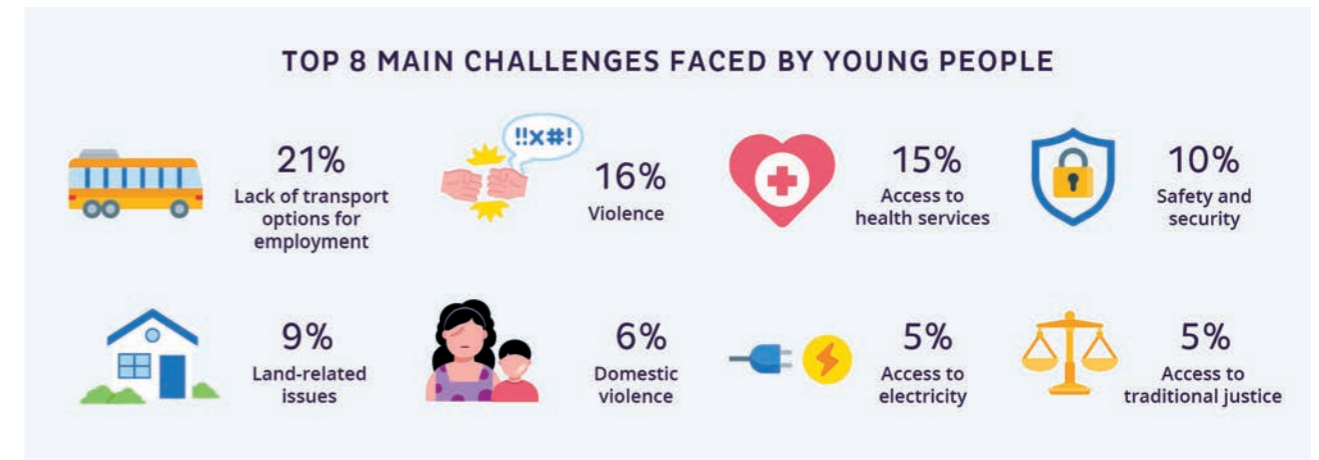
From the perspective of all participants (not only women), domestic violence (40%, up from 24% in 2022) was by far considered the biggest challenge faced by women in Timor-Leste, followed by safety and security (11%, up from 5%). Note the increase in these reported challenges compared to 2022 could be explained by COVID-19 not being reported as a concern in 2023. More respondents living in Dili (46%) and Baucau (49%) felt domestic violence was the biggest challenge faced by women, where respondents in Bobonaro (24%) found domestic violence to be less of a challenge.

The only significant differences found between responses from women and men is that women find land related issues a significantly bigger challenge than men (5% compared to 4%) and men find that women are still significantly excluded from society (2% compared to 1%). There were no significant differences in responses between women and men in any other category.



From the perspective of all participants (not only young people), lack of transport options for employment (21%), violence (16%) and access to health services (15%) were considered the most important issues faced by young people in Timor-Leste. More respondents living outside Dili (23%, plus 33% in Baucau while just 10% in Bobonaro) considered lack of transport options for employment the biggest issue for young people.

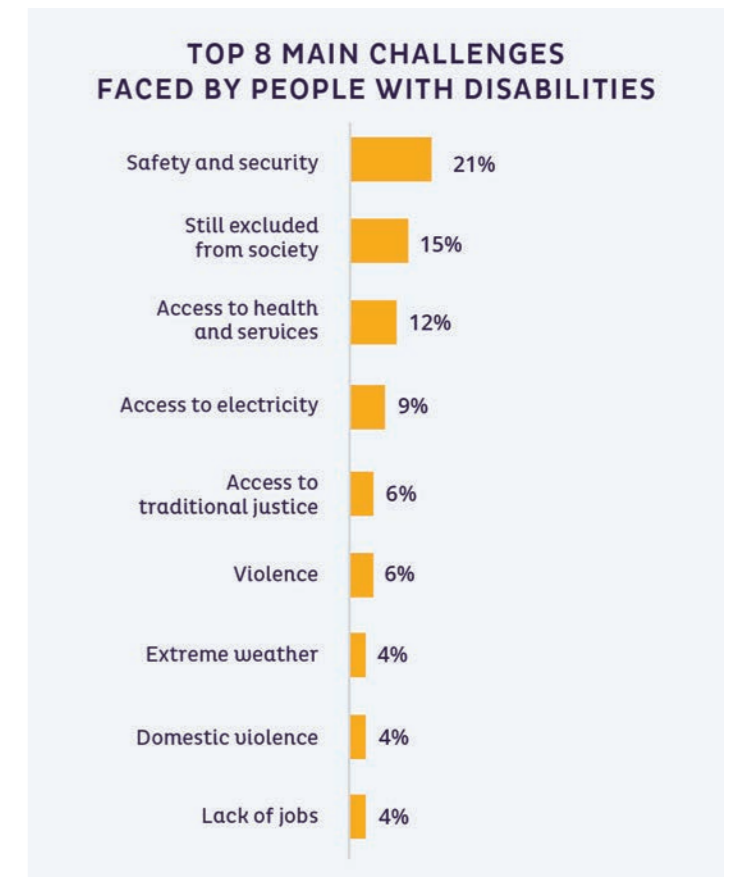
Differences in responses are uncovered when segmented by age group. For example, significantly more young people viewed access to health services as an important issue (16%) compared to individuals



aged 55+, who viewed access to health services for young people as less important (12%). Additionally, 11% of individuals aged 35-54 found safety and security to be a significantly more important issue compared to 9% of young people who found safety and security important.

From the perspective of all respondents (not only people with disabilities), safety and security (21%), exclusion from society (15%) and access to health services (12%) were considered the most important issues faced by people with disabilities. More respondents living in urban areas (24%, compared to 11% of those living in rural areas) and in Dili (29%, compared to 10% of those living outside Dili) felt exclusion from society was the most important issue facing people with disabilities.

Differences are revealed when focusing on responses specifically from people with disabilities, rather than all respondents as a whole. For example, while safety and security remain the most important issue for people with disabilities, it is less important for people with disabilities compared to those without a disability (16% for people with a disability; 21% for people without a disability). The same is true for exclusion from society (11% with a disability; 15% without a disability) and access to health services (9% with a disability; 12% without a disability). It should be noted that significantly more people with disabilities responded 'don't know' (13% with a disability; 6% without a disability) or refused to respond (4% with a disability; 1% without a disability) to questions.



⁷ Results for this question are not directly comparable to 2022 due to changes in list of issues.



Social Capital

Tatoli! 2023 asked respondents about various aspects of social capital that contribute to overall quality of life among Timorese people. This included 1) access to and perceptions of education and health services, 2) social inclusion, 3) preparedness for natural disasters and 4) culture in their community.

Findings this year are consistent with or higher than those in 2022. Additionally, respondents from Dili and urban areas are generally more positive than those in rural areas.

The true wealth of any nation is the strength of its people. Maximizing the overall health, education and quality of life of the Timorese people is central to building a fair and progressive nation.

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment

The majority (72%) of respondents had completed some formal education, including 36% who had completed at least some secondary school. Educational attainment was similar between males and females. Around one quarter (26%) had completed no schooling at all, down from 29% in 2022. More respondents living in rural areas (31%, compared to 17% of those living in urban areas), living outside Dili (31%, compared to 13% of those living in Dili) and respondents with disabilities (61%, compared to 26% of those without disabilities) had not completed any schooling.

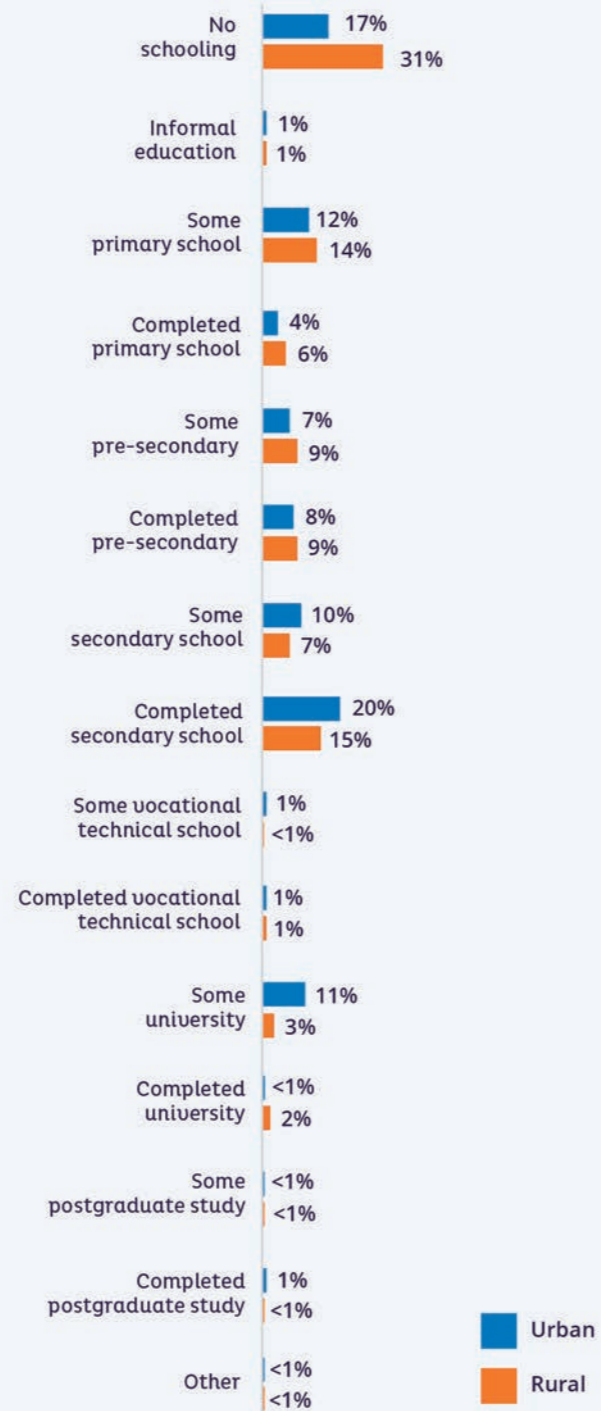
Education Services

Among respondents with children aged under 17 in their household, most (93%) reported that their children were attending school, with 68% of those reporting their children attend government schools. More children of respondents living in rural areas attended government schools (71%) compared to those living in urban areas (62%).

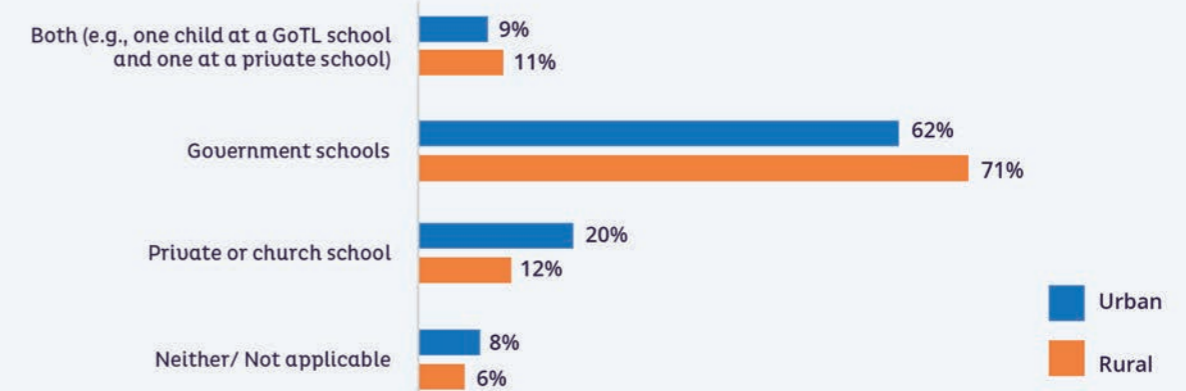
Respondents with children who attended school generally reported positive perceptions of education services, particularly for:

- ◇ Teachers coming to school to teach (91% 'always' or 'very frequently', up from 78% in 2022);
- ◇ Their children being treated with respect at school (90%); and
- ◇ Their children being able to understand the language used by teachers in the classroom and in books (79%, up from 71% in 2022).

HIGHEST LEVEL OF SCHOOL COMPLETED



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AMONG HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 17 YEARS OF AGE

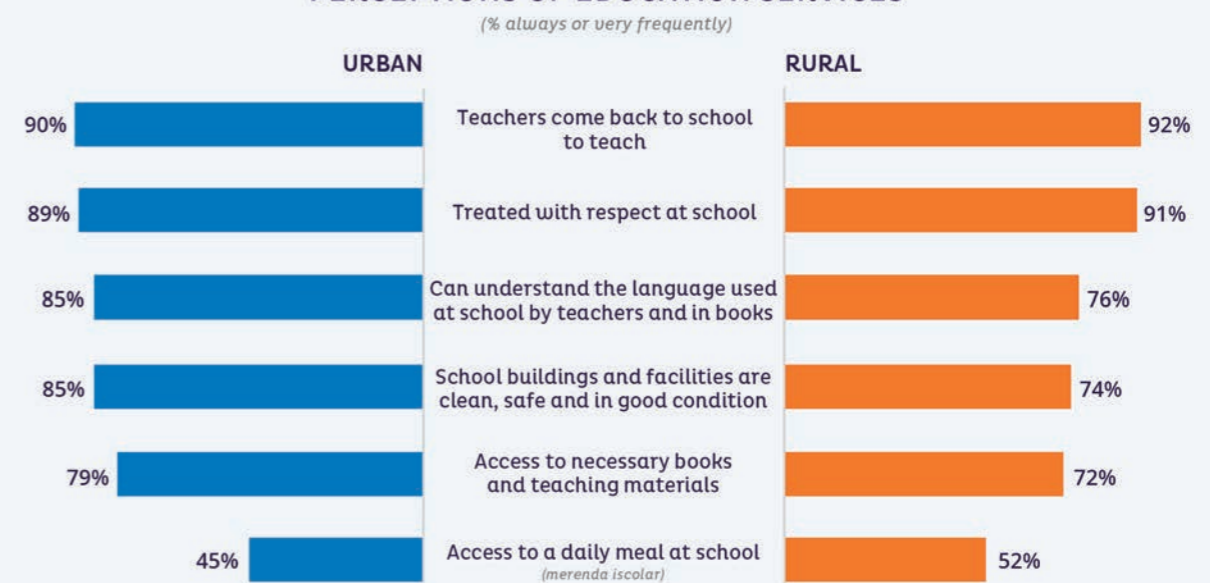


As shown in the chart below, perceptions of education services were more positive among those living in urban areas in relation to:

- ◇ Children being able to understand the language used in school (85%, compared to 76% of those living in rural areas);
- ◇ School buildings and facilities being clean, safe and in good condition (85%, compared to 74%); and
- ◇ Access to books and teaching materials (79%, compared to 72%).

More respondents living in Dili also reported their children could 'always' or 'very frequently' understand the language used in school (84%, compared to 77% of those living outside Dili), in addition to accessing school buildings and facilities that were clean, safe and in good condition (84%, compared to 75% of those living outside of Dili).

PERCEPTIONS OF EDUCATION SERVICES



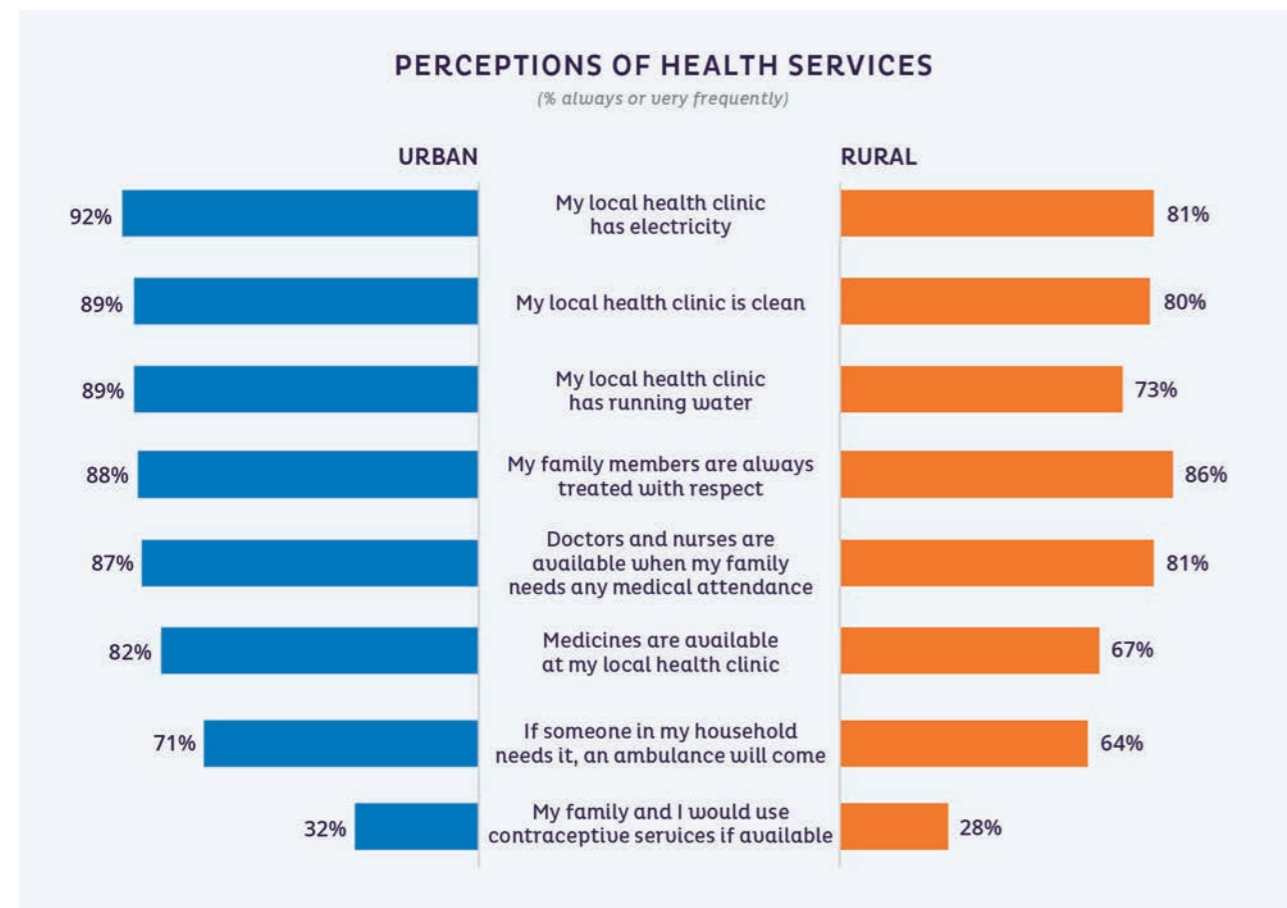
HEALTH

Twenty per cent (20%) of respondents felt that providing health services was one of the most important functions of government. Only a few respondents (4%) felt improving nutrition for all citizens was an important function.

The majority of respondents (76%) indicated they could 'always' or 'very frequently' access a health clinic whenever they need it. Respondents living in rural areas (72%, compared to 84% of those living in urban areas) and outside Dili (72%, compared to 89% of those living in Dili) reported poorer access to health clinics. Lower income respondents (74% of those with an average monthly income of less than \$100 per month, compared to 85% of those earning more than \$100 per month) and people with disabilities (63%, compared to 77% of people without disabilities) also reported poorer access.

Perceptions of health services were generally positive and were in line with 2022 results. Respondents were most likely positive about:

- ◇ Being treated with respect when accessing their local clinic (87% 'always' or 'very frequently');
- ◇ Cleanliness of their local health clinic (83%, in line with 81% in 2022);
- ◇ Doctors and nurses being ready any time their family needed medical assistance (83%);
- ◇ Availability of medicines at their local clinic (72%); and
- ◇ Their local clinic having electricity (85%) and running water (78%).



As shown in the chart in the previous page, those living in urban areas reported more positive perceptions of health services compared to those living in rural areas, particularly in relation to availability of medicines (82%, compared to 67%) and their local health clinic having electricity (92%, compared to 81% of those living in rural areas), running water (89%, compared to 73%) and being clean (89%, compared to 80%). Similarly, those living in Dili and those with a higher monthly income (over \$100 per month) reported more positive perceptions of health services across most aspects.

Twenty-nine percent (29%) of respondents felt their family would 'always' or 'very frequently' use contraceptive services, if available. This proportion was similar between males (29%) and females (30%). More respondents aged 35-54 felt their family would use contraceptive services (36%), compared to those aged 17-34 (29%) or 55+ (20%).

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Disability

Tatoli! 2023 captured respondent impairments and/or disability using the short set of Washington Group questions.⁸ These cover self-reported levels of difficulty across six functions: vision, hearing, mobility, cognition, self-care, and communication. Aligned with Washington Group guidelines, a respondent reporting a high level of difficulty or inability to perform at least one of these functions is considered to have a disability.

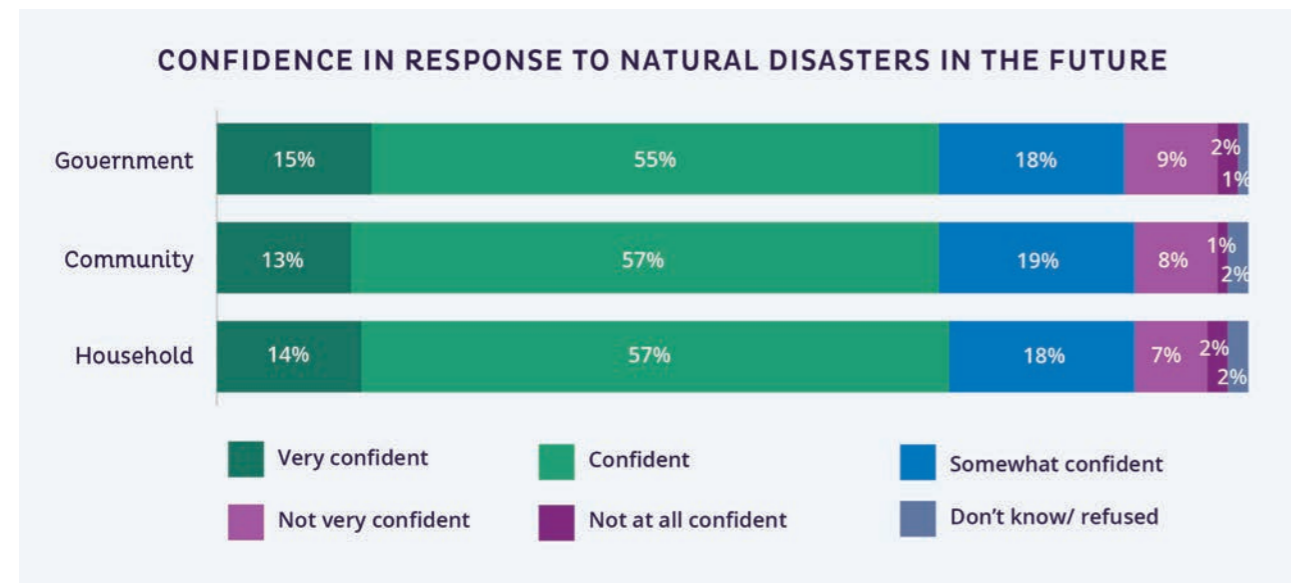
Based on this methodology, 4% of respondents have a disability after applying statistical weights (in line with 5% in 2022). Older respondents aged 55+ years (14%, compared to 3% of those aged 35-54 years and 1% of those aged 17-34 years) and respondents living in rural areas (5%, compared to 3% of those living in urban areas) were more likely classified as having disabilities.

Across all demographics surveyed, 10% or less of all respondents defined social inclusion as the most important issue facing the nation, communities, or individuals. While 10% of people with disabilities find social inclusion as the most important issue for themselves, 1% of people living in Dili believe that social inclusion is the most important issue for the nation (compared to 6% in Baucau and 8% in Bobonaro).

⁸ Washington Group (WG) questions are internationally recognised as a primary method to capture impairments and/or disabilities through a set of uniform questions. The 2023 *Tatoli!* utilised the WG Short Set on Functioning questions. See: <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>

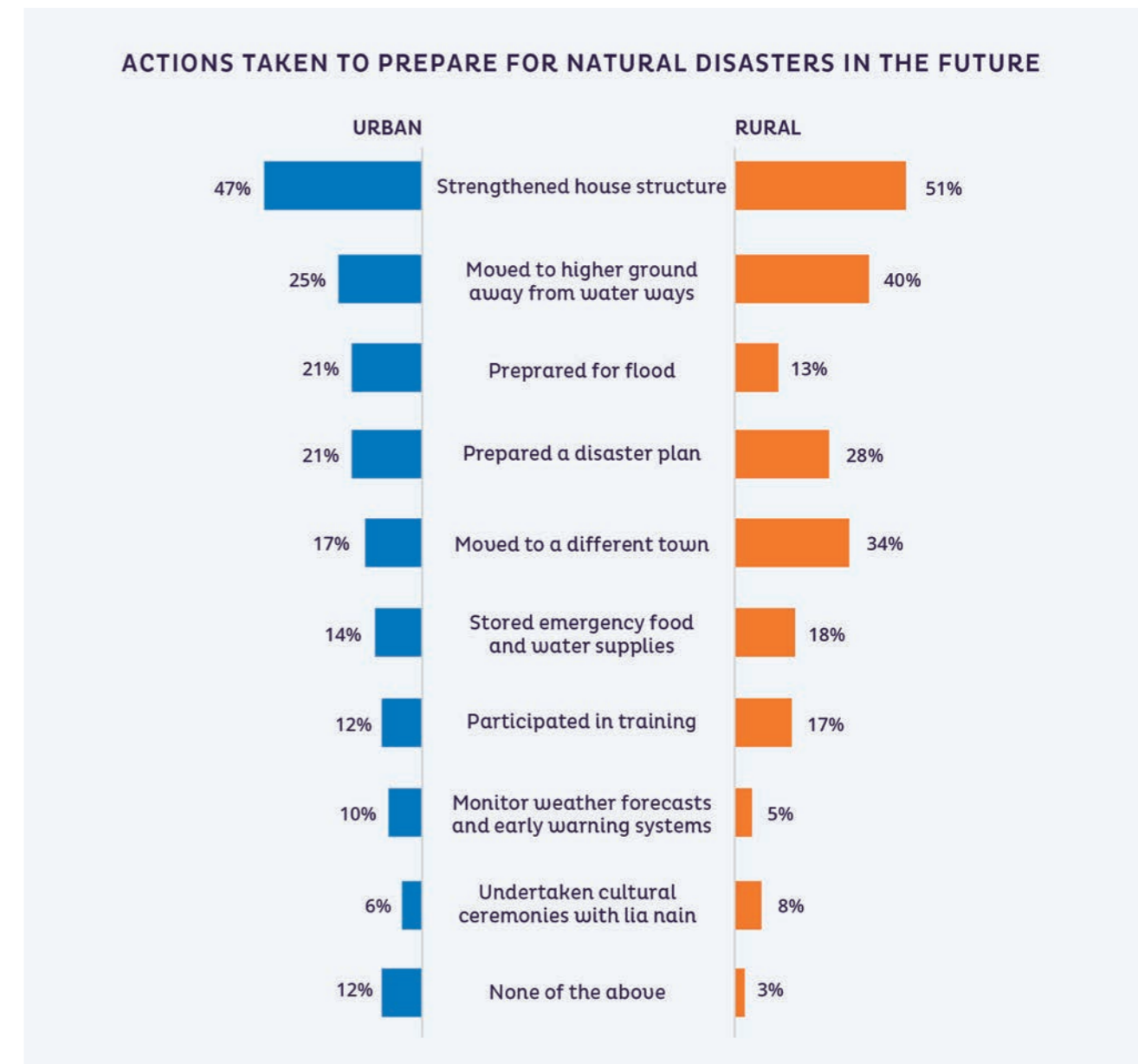
RESILIENCE

Twenty-four per cent (24%) of respondents felt that the biggest issue facing the nation was the government not being able to prepare for or respond to natural disasters from climate change. However, when prompted specifically about government responses to natural disasters, most respondents were at least 'somewhat' confident that the government could sufficiently respond to natural disasters in the future (88%). Most were also confident in their community's (89%) and household's (89%) ability to respond to natural disasters.



Levels of confidence in the government responding to natural disasters were similar at all levels between those living in urban and rural areas, as well as between those living in Dili and outside Dili. However, higher income respondents were more confident their household could sufficiently respond to natural disasters (80% of those with an average monthly income over \$500, compared to 71% of those with an income less than \$100 per month).

Most (89%) respondents had undertaken at least one action to prepare for the next natural disaster. Respondents had most commonly strengthened their house structure (49%), moved to higher ground away from water ways (36%) and/or moved to a different town (29%). Those living in rural areas and outside Dili were more likely to have undertaken these three actions compared to their urban counterparts.

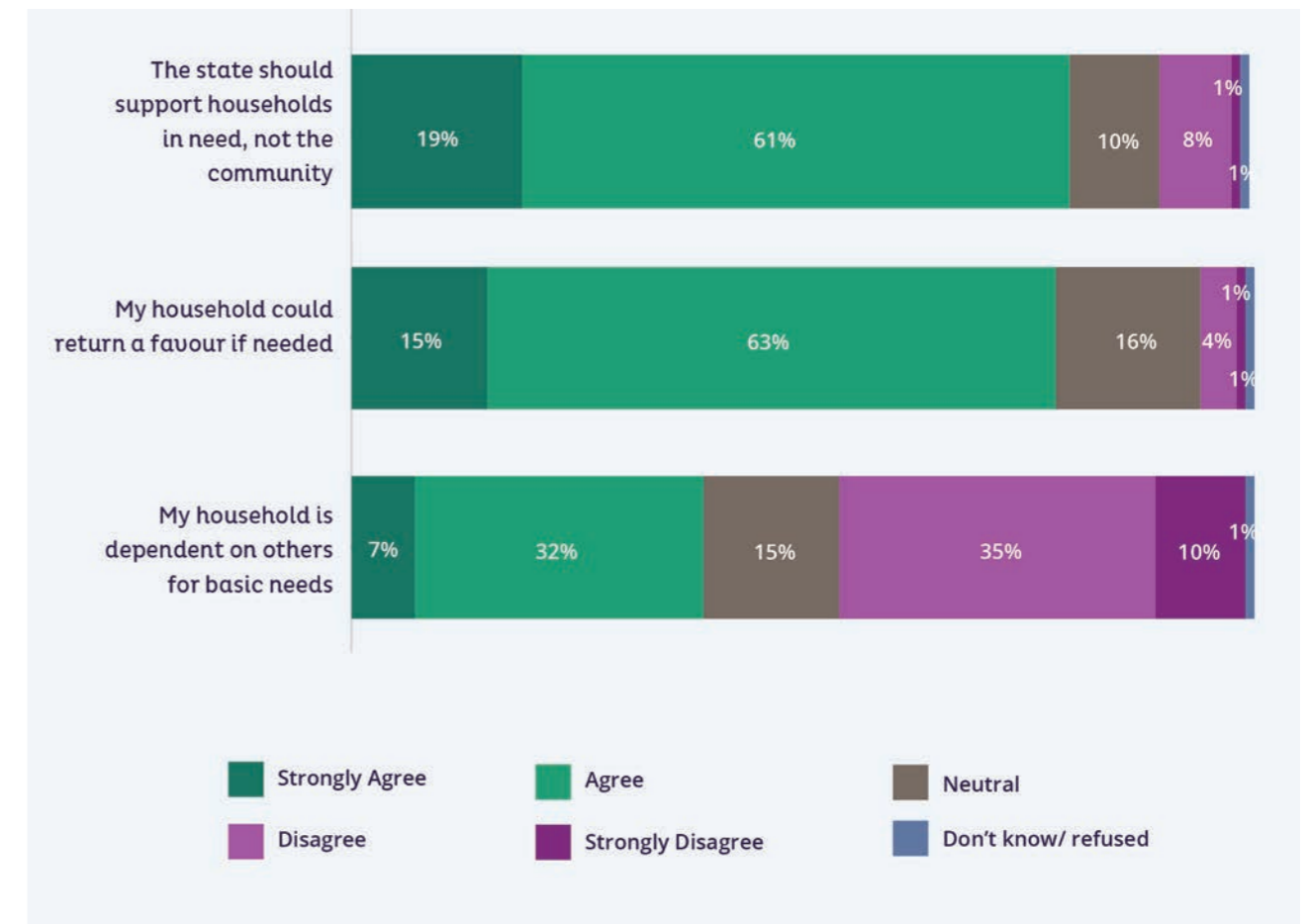
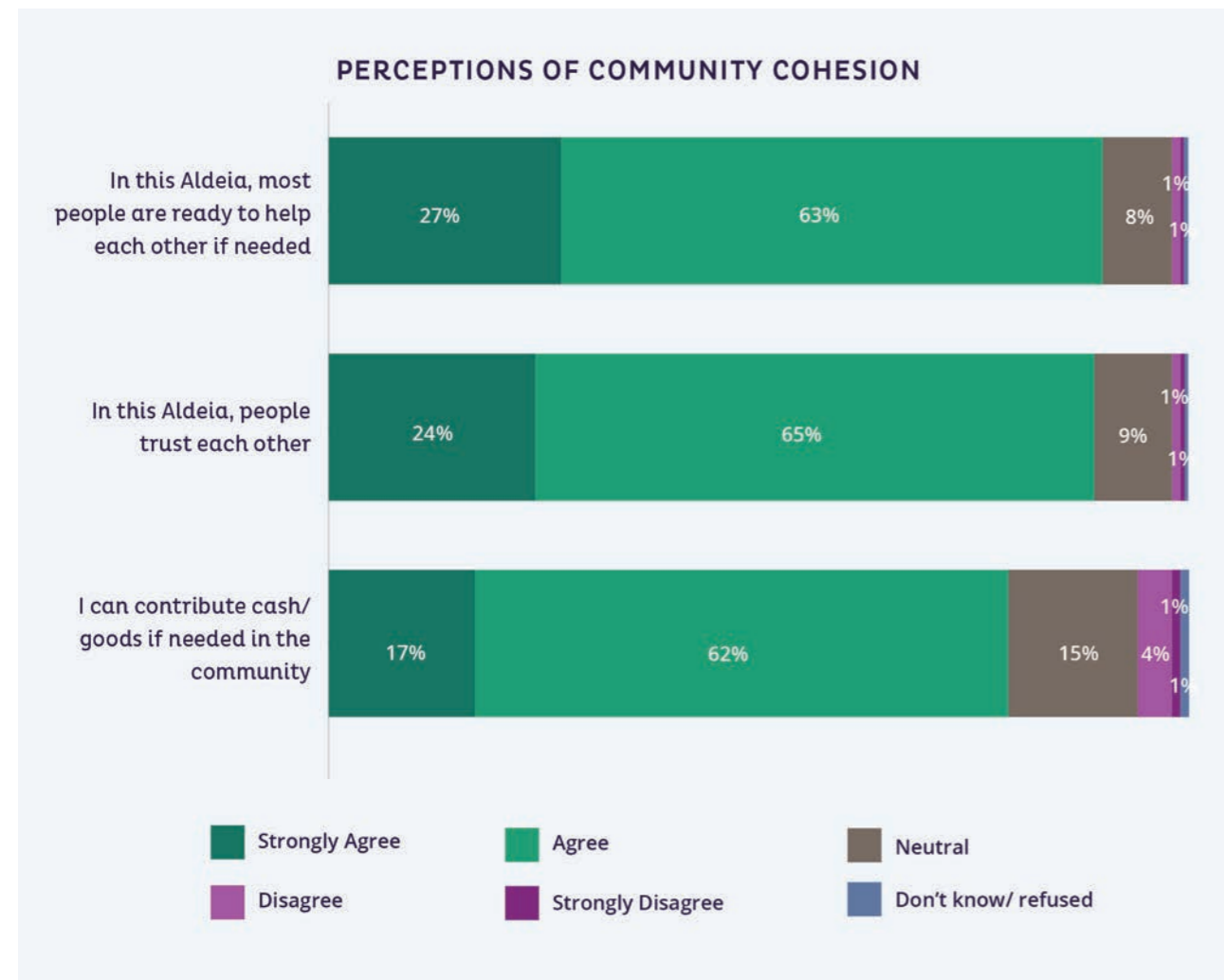


COHESION

The majority of respondents agreed that in their Aldeia, most people are ready to help each other if needed (91% 'agree' or 'strongly agree') and people trust each other (89%). The agreement was similar between those living in urban and rural areas, and those living in Dili and outside Dili. Perceptions of trust and willingness to help were also similar among respondents of different income levels.

Most respondents also felt their household could return a favour (78%) or contribute cash/goods to the community (79%), if needed. While most lower income respondents with an average income of less than \$100 per month still felt they could return a favour (78%) or contribute cash/goods to their community (79%), agreement was lower compared to those with higher incomes of \$100-\$500 per month (84% and 88%, respectively) and more than \$500 per month (91% and 90%).

A minority (39%) reported their household depended on others for basic needs. Notably, respondents with an average income of less than \$100 per month were less dependent on others for basic needs (38%, compared to 43% of those with an average income of more than \$100 per month).





Infrastructure Development

Tatoli! 2023 asked respondents about their access to and perceptions of various aspects of infrastructure, including roads and bridges, water and sanitation, and telecommunications.

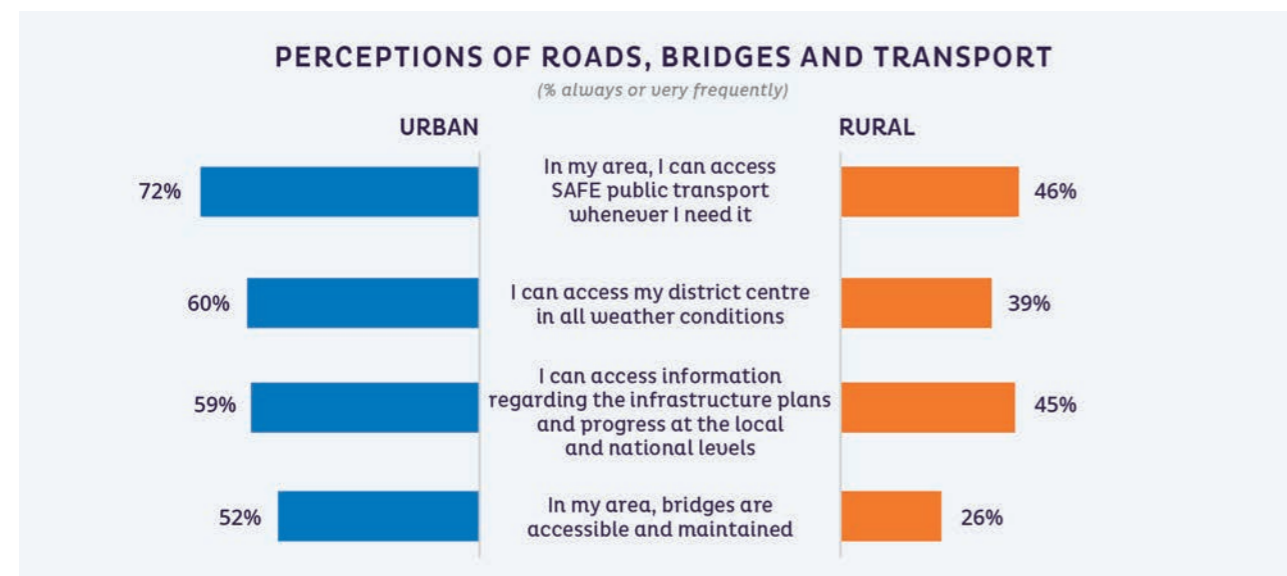
Overall, infrastructure is a bigger concern among rural respondents. Respondents in rural settings place more importance on traditional sources, such as Suco Councils and local leaders for information, while those in Dili and urban areas tend to place more importance on media sources, such as television.

Timor-Leste will invest in the core and productive infrastructure needed to sustain a growing, productive and connected nation.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

Half (50%) of respondents reported they could 'always' or 'very frequently' access information regarding the infrastructure plans and progress at the local and national levels. A similar proportion (54%) reported they could access safe public transport whenever they needed it. However, a minority of respondents reported that bridges in their areas were accessible and maintained (34%). Less than half reported that they could access their district centre in all weather conditions (45%).

As shown in the chart below, perceptions of infrastructure were less positive among those living in rural areas, compared to those living in urban areas. Perceptions of infrastructure were also less positive for all aspects among people with disabilities and those living outside Dili or in Baucau (respondents living in Bobonaro generally had more positive perceptions about infrastructure).



WATER AND SANITATION

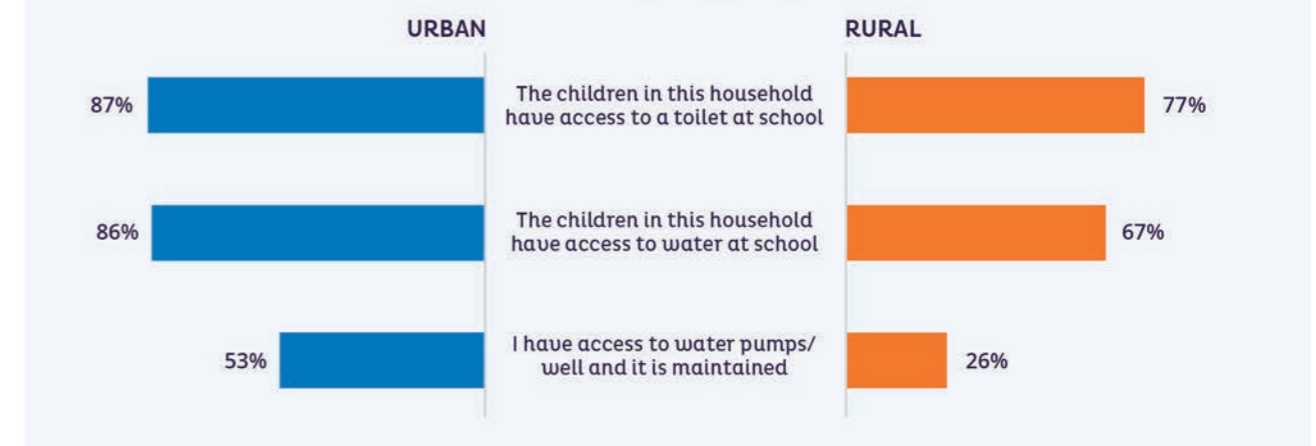
Most respondents had access to a toilet at their house (88%). Respondents living in urban areas (94%, compared to 85% of those living in rural areas) and living in Dili (95%, compared to 85% of those living outside Dili) were more likely to have access to a toilet in their house.

Only one third (35%, down from 43% in 2022⁹) of respondents 'always' or 'very frequently' had access to water pumps or a well that were maintained. Respondents living in urban areas (53%, compared to 26% of those living in rural areas) and living in Dili (62%, compared to 26% of those living outside Dili) reported greater access to water pumps/wells.

⁹ Please note this result is not directly comparable due to change in question wording. Previous question wording in 2022 was: "The water pumps/well at my water station work well"

ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

(% always or very frequently)



Among respondents with children attending school, most reported that children in their household had access to a toilet (80% 'always' or 'very frequently', up from 71% in 2022) and water (73%, in line with 70% from 2022) at school. Similarly, more respondents living in urban areas and in Dili reported children in their household had access to a toilet and water at school.

People with disabilities reported poorer access to water pumps/wells (25%, compared to 35% of those without disabilities), and that children in their household had poorer access to water (59%, compared to 73%) and a toilet (68%, compared to 81%) at school.

ELECTRICITY

Twenty seven percent (down from 31% in 2022¹⁰) of respondents felt electricity should be one of the GoTL's top priorities. Electricity was a greater priority among older respondents aged 55+ (31%, compared to

26% of those aged 17-34), those living in rural areas (34%, compared to 11% of those living in urban areas) and those living outside Dili (33%, compared to 9% of those living in Dili).

Similarly, 28% (up from 17% in 2022¹¹) felt supplying electricity, water and other basic infrastructure was the most important function of government.

Having no access to electricity was reported as a main challenge for respondents in accessing information (28%), particularly among those living in rural areas (34% outside of Dili; 31% in Baucau; 38% in Bobonaro).

A small portion of respondents felt access to electricity was the most important issue facing women (4%), young people (5%) and people with disabilities (9%).

¹⁰ Results for this question are not directly comparable to 2022 due to changes in list of issues.

¹¹ Results for this question are not directly comparable to 2022 due to changes in list of issues.



Economic Development

Tatoli! 2023 captured information related to the economic development of Timor-Leste, including access to resources and infrastructure to support agricultural activities. Despite respondents in Dili and urban areas reporting higher levels of concern about economic issues, they show more positive results relating to economic access and conditions than those in rural areas.

Timor-Leste will build a modern, diversified economy based on the agriculture, tourism and petroleum industries, with a flourishing private sector and new opportunities for all our people.

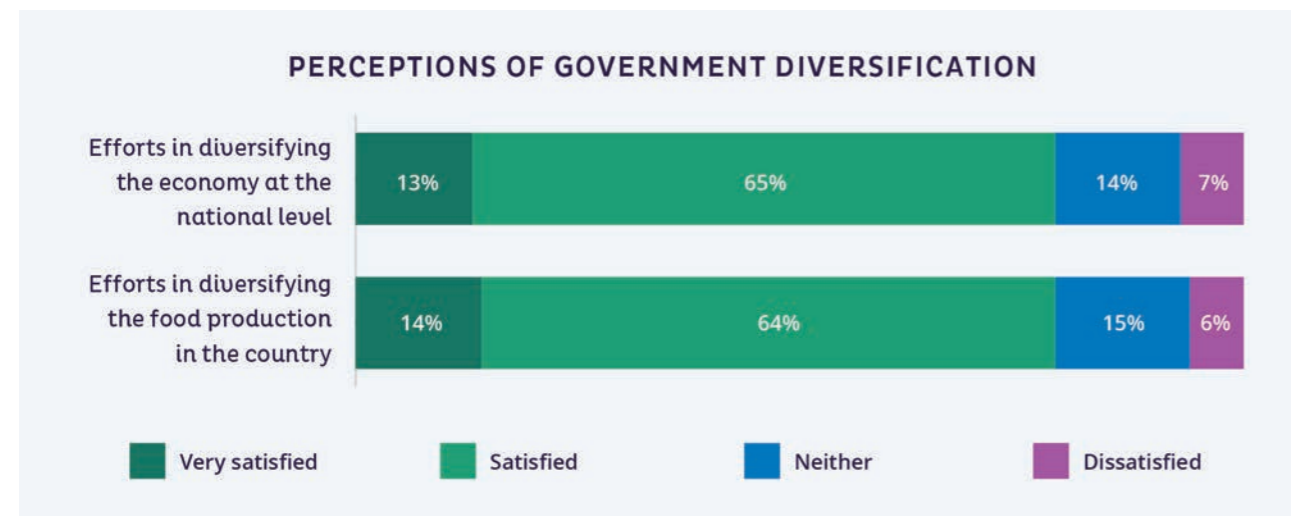
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure and services were reported as a greater priority among respondents living in rural areas, compared to those living in urban areas. Among those living in rural areas, lack of infrastructure (e.g., roads and bridges) was considered one of the biggest problems facing the nation (46%) and communities directly (54%). Many rural respondents also felt a lack of health care, education and sanitation services at the national (28%) and local level (34%).

AGRICULTURE

Nine percent (down from 13% in 2022) of respondents felt agriculture (including irrigation) should be the GoTL’s top priority. More respondents in rural areas (10%, compared to 7% of those in urban areas) felt agriculture should be a priority.

The majority of respondents were satisfied with the GoTL’s efforts to diversify the economy (78%) and food production (78%) at the national level. Satisfaction with each aspect was lower among those living in rural areas (76% diverse economy; 76% food production), those working on their own farm (71% diverse economy; 70% food production) and those working for a small-medium business (73% diverse economy; 76% food production).

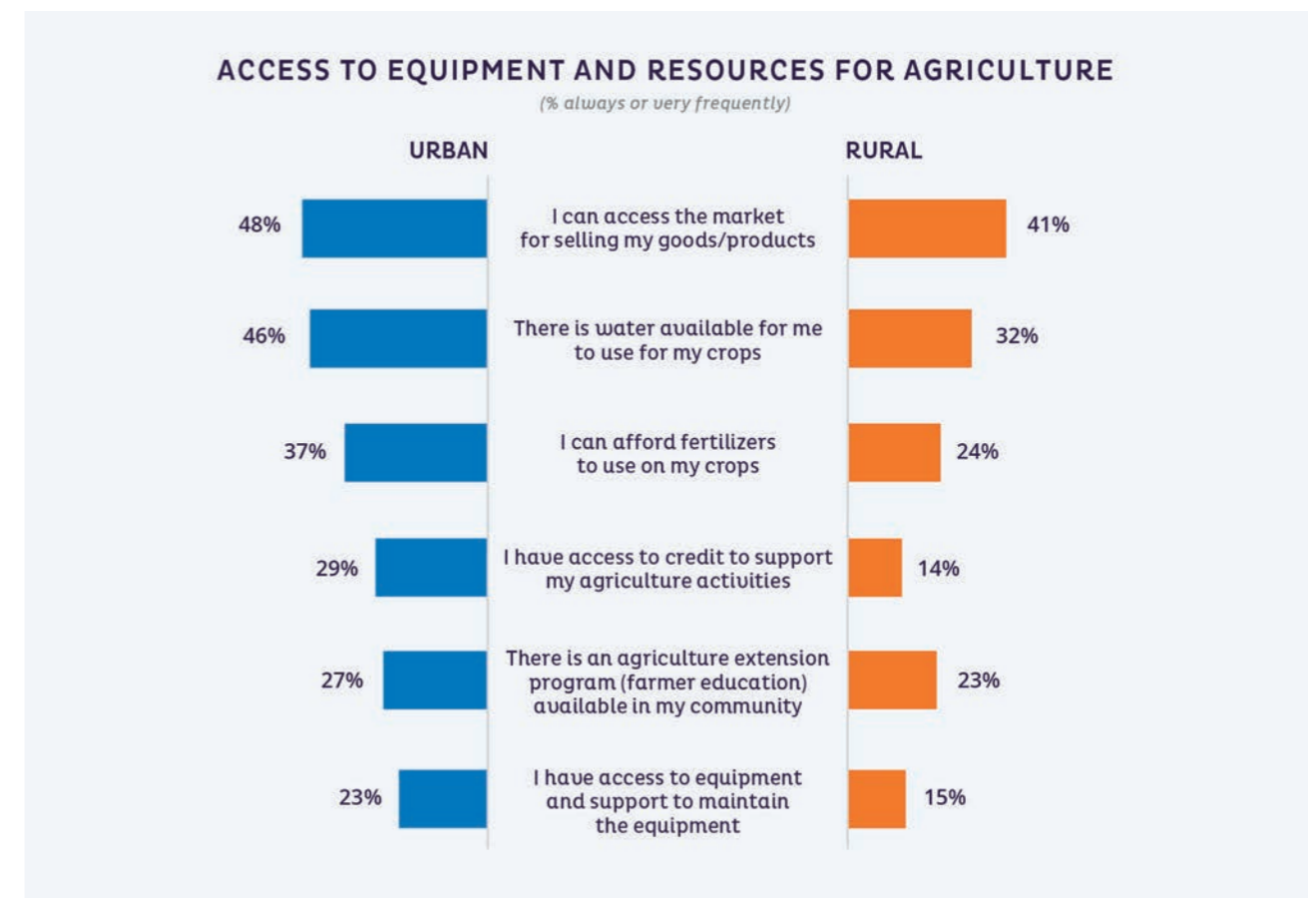


Among respondents working on their own farm, less than half (42%) reported they could ‘always’ or ‘very frequently’ access the market to sell their goods/products. While most agreed they had access to enough quality seeds to grow their crops (71%), less than half reported they ‘always’ or ‘very frequently’ had access to other goods and services to support their work, including:

- ◇ Water available for them to use for their crops (34%);
- ◇ Fertilizer to use on their crops (26%);
- ◇ An agriculture extension program in their community (23%);
- ◇ Equipment and support to maintain the equipment (16%); and
- ◇ Credit to support their agriculture activities (16%).

Respondents living in Baucau reported poorer access to equipment and resources for all aspects, except for access to water. Respondents in Bobonaro generally have better access to equipment and resources, with a high number of respondents (63%) saying they have access to enough quality seeds to grow crops.

As shown in the chart below, access to equipment and resources was greater for those living in urban areas compared to those living in rural areas.





Institutional Framework

Tatoli! 2023 captured information about aspects related to stability and security in Timor-Leste. This included awareness of overseas support for Timor-Leste, perceptions of the GoTL and engagement with political processes.

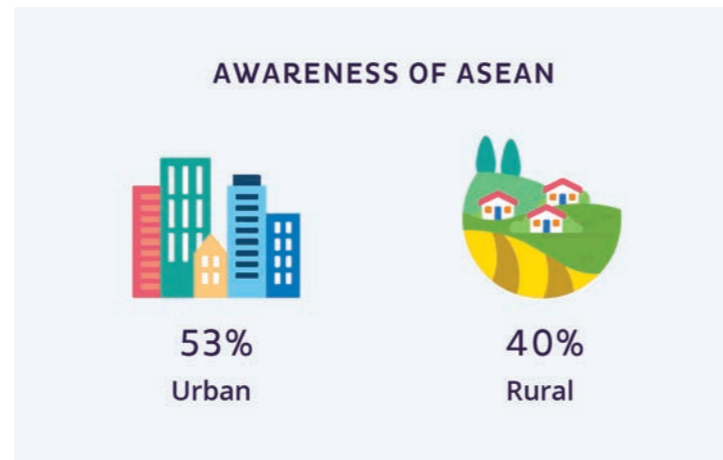
As seen in other areas, urban respondents felt that government has a higher responsibility in terms of employment and jobs (including education and training), while rural respondents place a greater emphasis on infrastructure issues. Additionally, there is a reduced emphasis on the role the GoTL played in independence on how political parties are viewed.

Stability and security are necessary preconditions to social and economic development. After many years of conflict, Timor-Leste's goal is to be a stable and secure nation that recognises the rule of law and provides access to justice for all our citizens.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Forty-four percent of respondents had previously heard about the ASEAN and the following groups reported higher awareness of ASEAN:

- ◇ Respondents living in urban areas (53%, compared to 40% of those living in rural areas);
- ◇ Respondents living in Dili (57%, compared to 40% of those living outside Dili);
- ◇ Males (48%, compared to 40% of females);
- ◇ Younger respondents (50% of those aged 17-34 and 45% of those aged 35-54, compared to 28% of those aged 55+); and
- ◇ Higher income respondents (86% of those with an average household income of more than \$500 per month, compared to 63% of those earning \$100-\$500 per month and 39% of those earning less than \$100 per month).



Awareness of ASEAN was also higher among respondents who used chat apps (64%) and social media for news and information, including Instagram (66%), YouTube (58%), Twitter (58%) and Facebook (54%).

A low portion of respondents felt that providing positive business environments for domestic and foreign investors (9%) and maintaining the nation's treaties and international agreements (2%) should be the most important functions of government. In addition, just 3% felt economic opportunities outside the country should be a government priority.

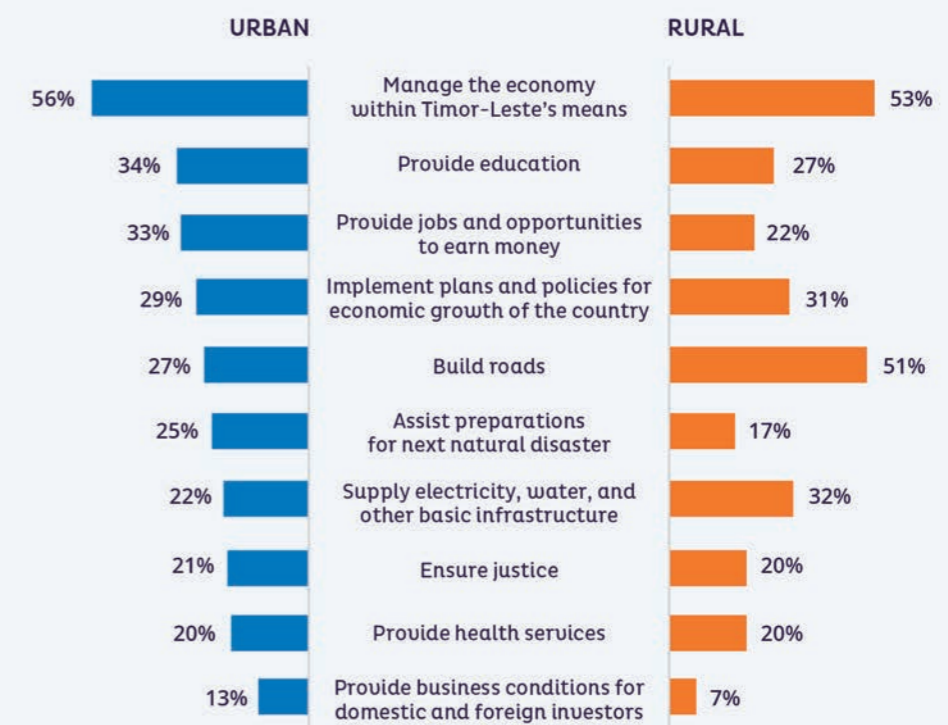
PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Perceptions of the Government

Respondents considered the most important function of government is to manage the economy within Timor-Leste's means (54%), followed by implementing plans and policies for economic growth (30%) and supplying basic infrastructure, such as water and electricity (28%).

While managing the economy was considered the most important function among both urban and rural respondents, perceptions of other functions differed. More respondents living in rural areas felt the most important functions of government included infrastructure, specifically building roads (51%, compared to 27% of those in urban areas) and supplying electricity, water and other basic infrastructure (32%, compared to 22% in urban area). These areas were also considered more important among those living outside Dili, plus in Baucau and in Bobonaro.

TOP 10 GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS



In contrast, more respondents in urban areas prioritised jobs and opportunities to earn money (33%, compared to 22% of those living in rural areas), education (34%, compared to 27%) and preparedness for natural disasters (25%, compared to 17%).

Respondents most felt the GoTL's top three priorities should be:

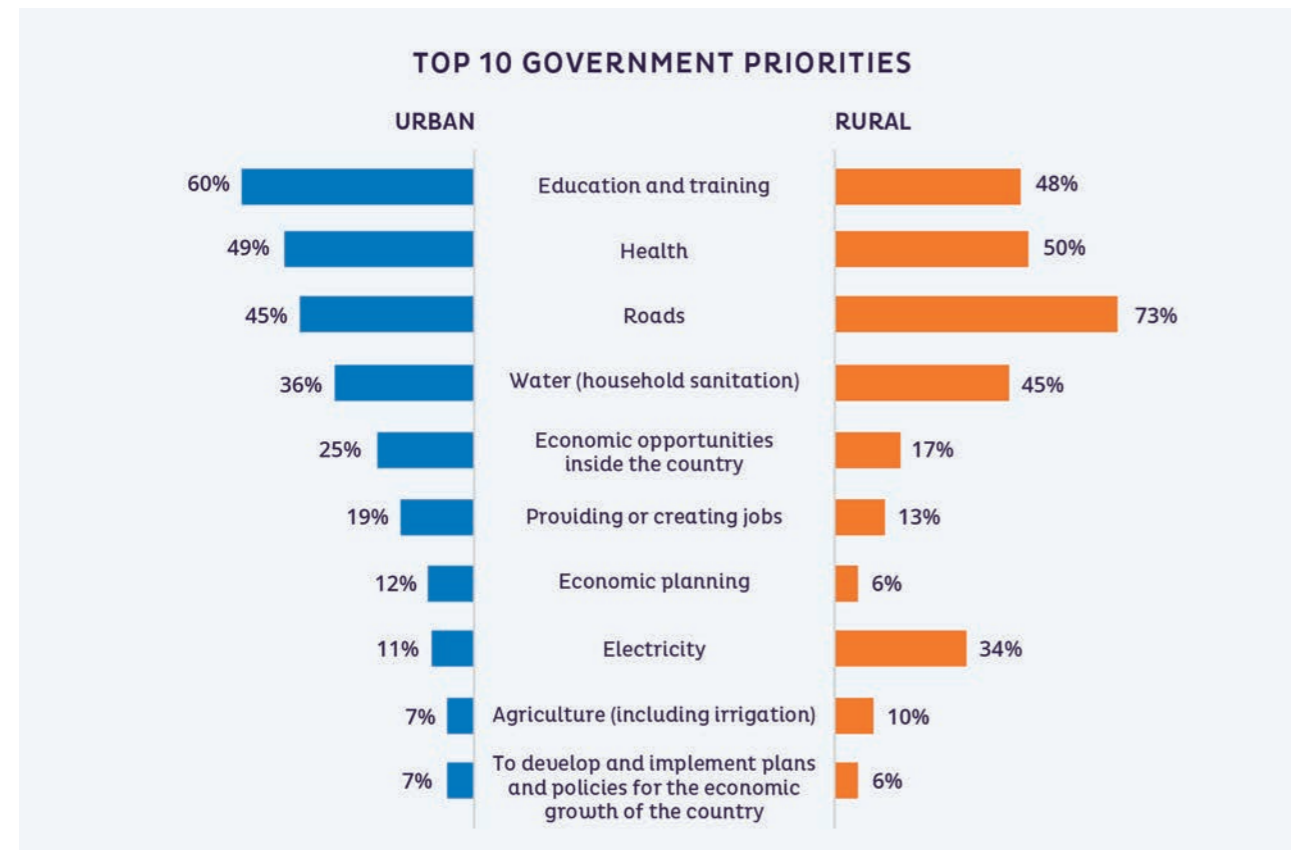
- ◇ Roads (64%, in line with 65% in 2022¹²);
- ◇ Education and Training (52%, up from 46%); and
- ◇ Health (50%, in line with 52%).

Respondents living in rural areas placed greater priority on infrastructure including roads (73%, compared to 45% of those living in urban areas), water (45%, compared to 36%) and electricity (34%, compared to 11%). Similarly, respondents living outside Dili, in Baucau and in Bobonaro felt these should be the GoTL's priorities.

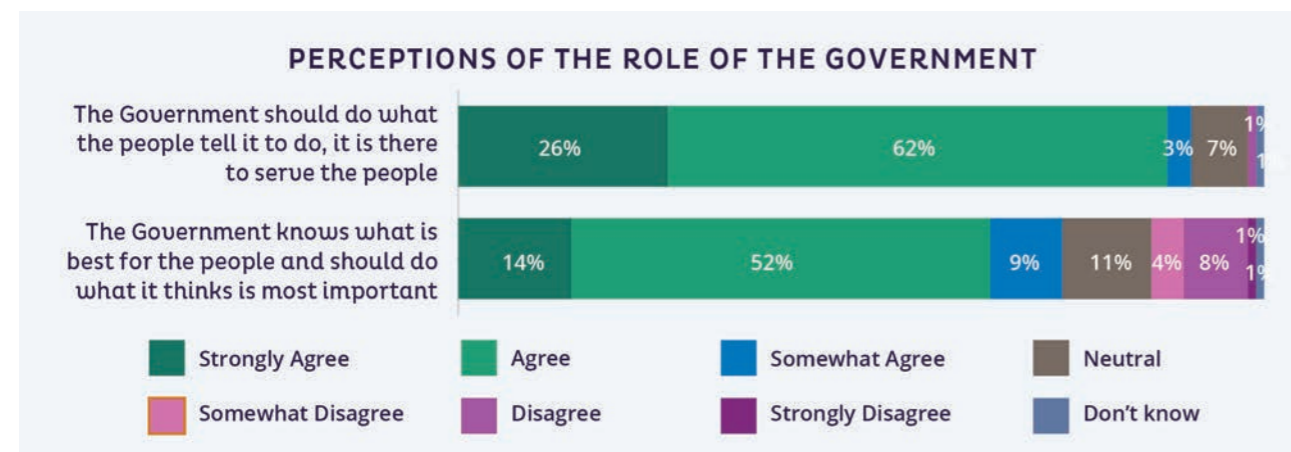
More respondents living in urban areas felt education and training (60%, compared to 48% of those living in rural areas) should be a priority.

¹² Please note previous years' results are not directly comparable due to change in response options. Previous years' results have been adjusted to align with new response scale in 2023.

Younger respondents aged 17-34 were more likely to feel that education and training (55%, compared to 50% of those aged 35-54 and 47% of those aged 55+) and providing/creating jobs (17%, compared to 13% of those aged 35-54 and 12% of those aged 55+) should be a priority, compared to older age groups.

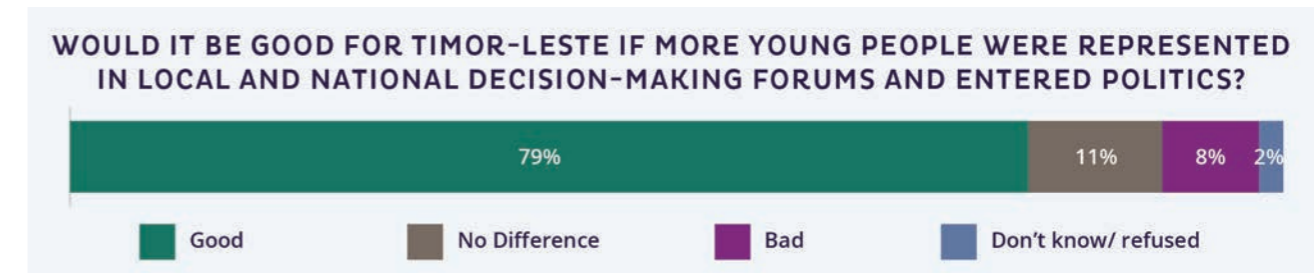
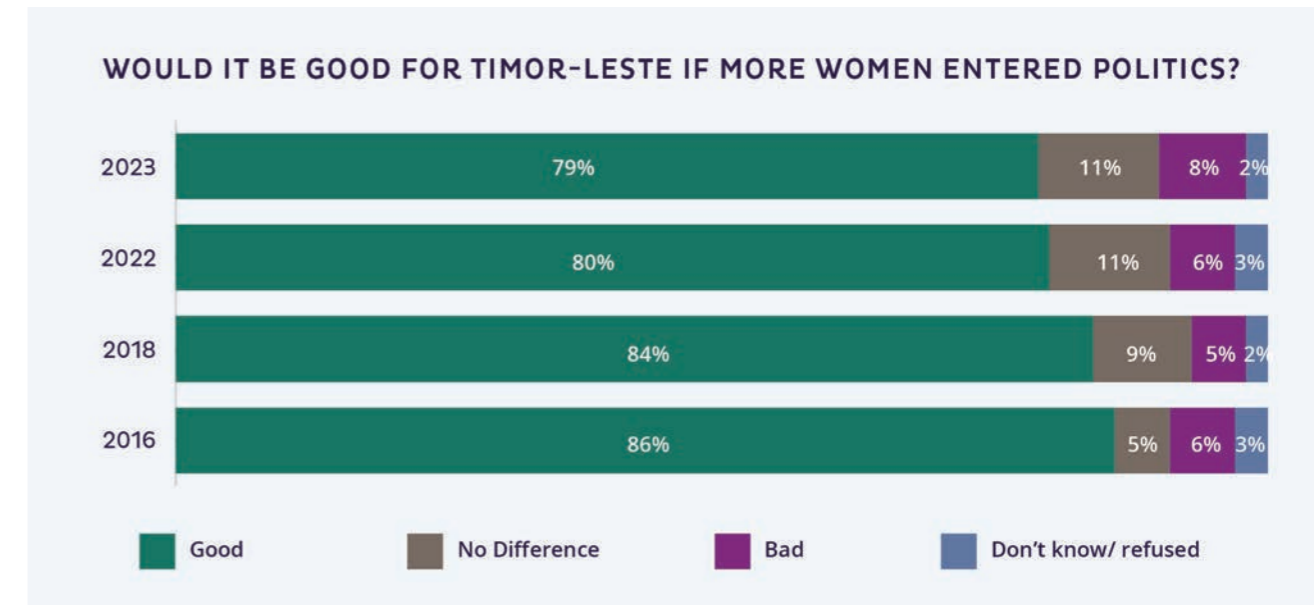


Most respondents felt the GoTL should do what the people tell it to do, as the government is there to serve the people (91%). However, most respondents also felt the GoTL knows what is best for the people and should do what it thinks is most important (75%).



Support for Women and Young People in Politics

Most respondents felt it would be good if more women (79%, in line with 80% in 2022) and young people (79%) had greater involvement in politics. Younger respondents aged 17-34 years, those living in rural areas and those living outside Dili were more likely to respond that it would be good if more women and young people entered politics.



Representation of People with Disabilities

Most respondents (65%), not only people with disabilities, felt it would be 'good' if more people with disabilities were represented in local and national decision-making forums and entered politics. However, this figure was lower compared to the proportion who felt it would be 'good' if more women (79%) and young people (79%) were represented in decision-making and politics.

Younger respondents (67% of those aged 17-34, compared to 58% of those aged 55+), respondents living in rural areas (67%, compared to 61% of those in urban areas) and respondents living outside Dili (66%, compared to 62% of those living in Dili) were more likely to feel 'good' if people with disabilities had more representation.

WOULD IT BE GOOD FOR TIMOR-LESTE IF MORE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WERE REPRESENTED IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL DECISION-MAKING FORUMS AND ENTERED POLITICS?



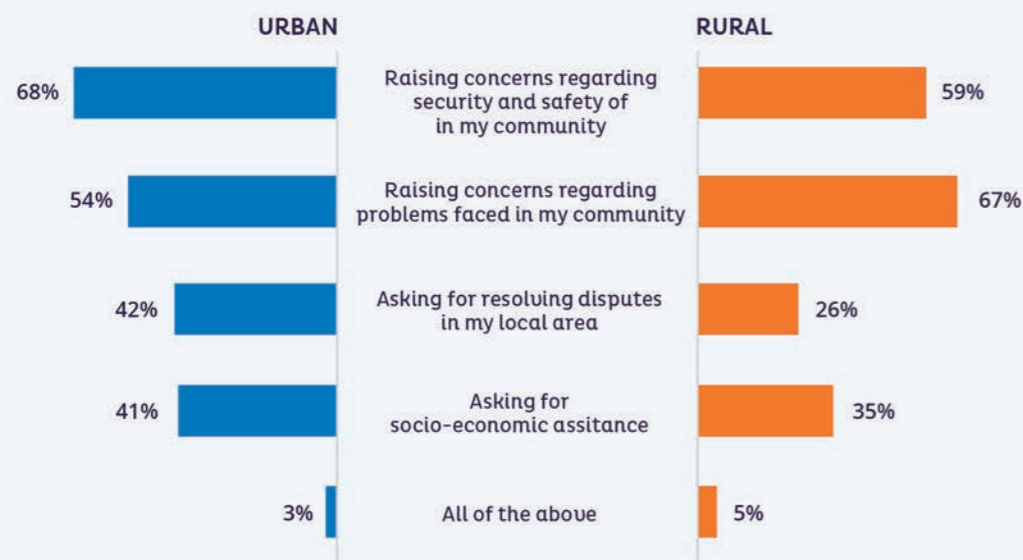
People with disabilities are less inclined to believe it is ‘good’ if they are represented in local and national decision-making forums compared to individuals without a disability (58% with a disability; 65% without a disability). A significantly higher number of people with disabilities responded ‘don’t know’ (14%) or refused to answer (2%) this question compared to people without disabilities.

Local Leaders

Around half (45%) of respondents have contacted their local authority leaders in the past six months. More male respondents (49%, compared to 41% of females) and older respondents (48% of those aged 35–54 years and 47% of those aged 55+ years, compared to 42% of those aged 17–34 years) had contacted local authority leaders.

Those who had contacted local authority leaders were most likely to have contacted them to raise concerns about security and safety (62%) or other problems, such as sanitation (63%) in their community. More respondents in rural areas had contacted local authority leaders to raise concerns about problems in their community, such as clean water and sanitation (67%, compared to 54% of those in urban areas), whereas more respondents living in urban areas contacted local authority leaders to raise concerns about safety/security (68%, compared to 59% of those living in rural areas) and dispute resolution (42%, compared to 26%).

REASONS FOR CONTACTING LOCAL AUTHORITY LEADERS

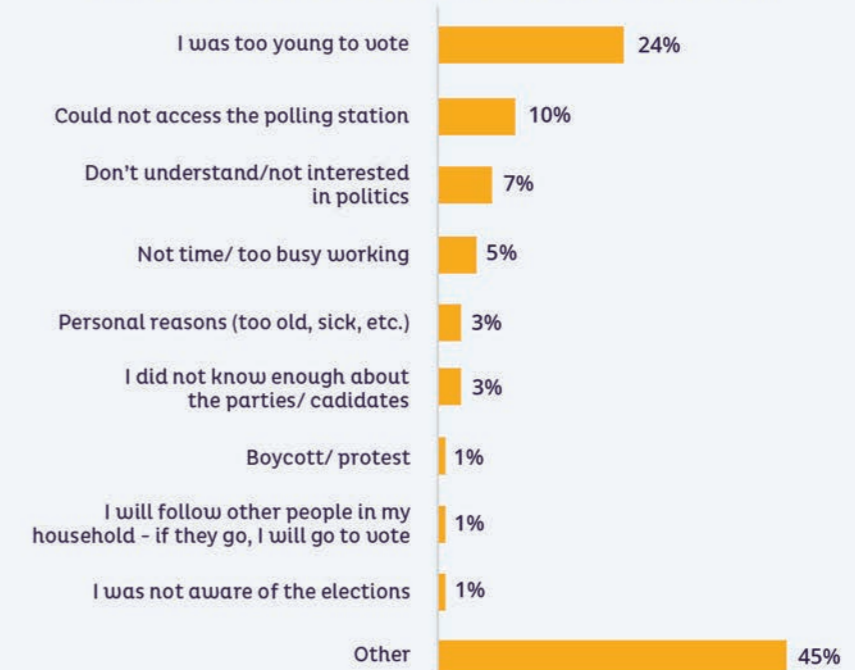


Civic Engagement

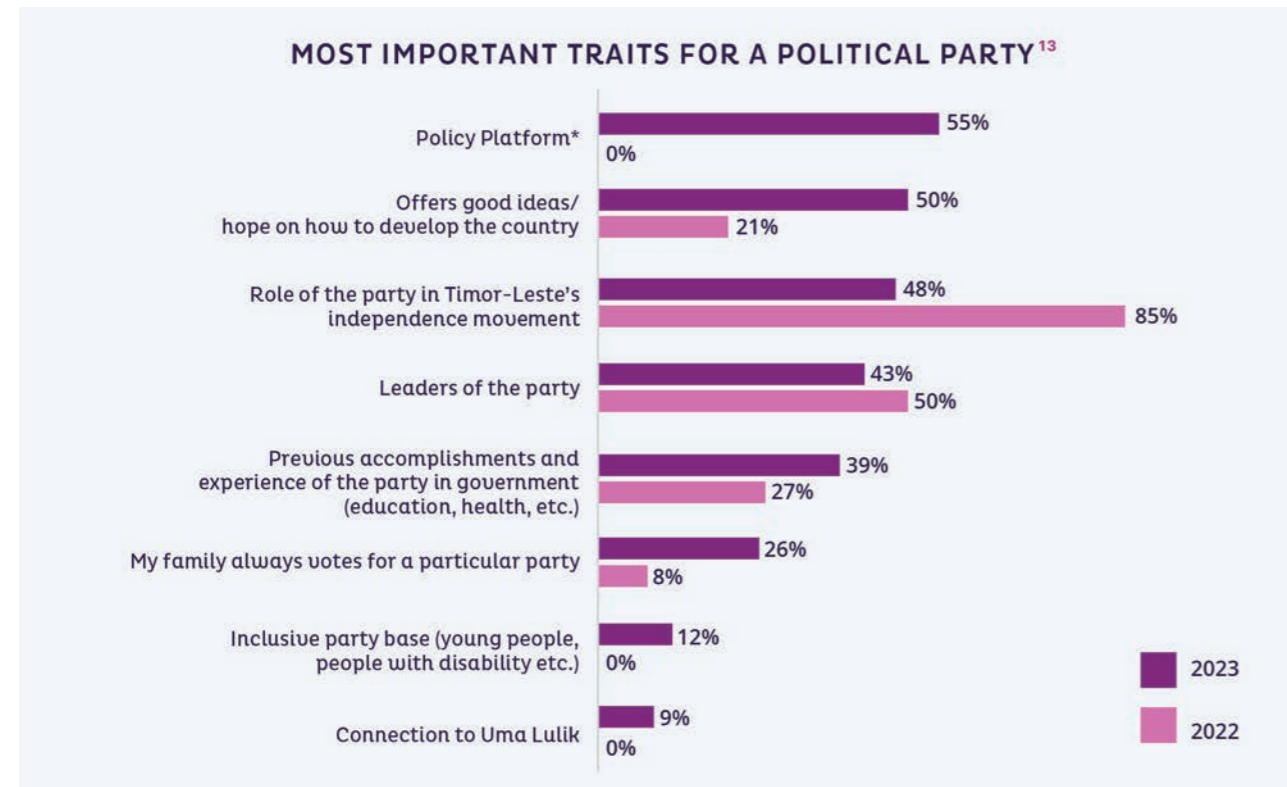
Nearly all respondents had voted in the 2022 Presidential election (97%) and intended to vote in the upcoming election (99%). Participation in the 2022 Presidential election was slightly lower among females (96%, compared to 98% of males), younger respondents aged 17–34 (96%, compared to 99% of those aged 55+) and those living in Baucau (93%). Voting turnout among respondents was 97% in Dili and 96% in Bobonaro.

Among those that did not vote in the 2022 election, the most common reasons were because they were too young to vote (24%) or for other reasons (45%), such as not having an electoral card.

REASONS FOR NOT VOTING IN 2022 ELECTION



Policy platform (55%), ideas/hope on how to develop the country (50%, up from 21% in 2022) and the role of the party in Timor-Leste's independence movement (48%, down from 85%) were considered the most important attributes for a political party.



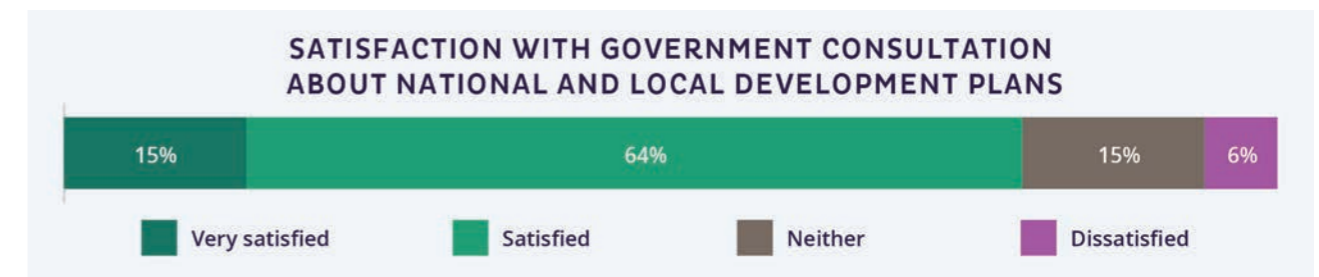
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY/ ECONOMIC POLICY AND INVESTMENT POLICY

Half (50%) of respondents indicated they could 'always' or 'very frequently' access information regarding infrastructure plans and track progress at the local and national levels. The following groups reported better access to information about infrastructure plans:

- ◇ Males (54%, compared to 46% of females);
- ◇ Younger respondents aged 17-34 (51%, compared to 43% of those aged 55+);
- ◇ Those living in urban areas (59%, compared to 45% of those in rural areas);
- ◇ Those living in Dili (60%, compared to 46% of those living outside Dili);
- ◇ People without disabilities (50%, compared to 38% of those with disabilities); and
- ◇ Respondents with higher levels of educational attainment (67% of those who started/completed vocational technical education or above, compared to 42% of those who did not complete any education).

Respondents who used Instagram (77%), YouTube (58%) and chat apps (64%) for news and information also reported greater access to information about infrastructure plans.

Most respondents were satisfied with the level of government consultation about national and local development plans (79%). Satisfaction with government consultation was slightly higher among males (81%), younger respondents aged 17-34 (80%), those living in urban areas (82%), those living in Dili (83%) and respondents with higher levels of education (83% of those who had attempted/completed secondary school or higher).



¹³ Please note previous years' results are not directly comparable due to change in response options.



Economic Context and Macroeconomic Direction

Tatoli! 2023 captured information regarding the employment, income and economic wellbeing of respondents and their households. The set of employment-related questions were restructured in *Tatoli! 2023* to gather information regarding respondents' workforce participation and involvement in other activities. Questions about income included receipt of government assistance programs and international remittances. For the first time, the survey asked respondents about their intentions to and perceptions of work overseas.

Our vision is that by 2030 Timor-Leste will have joined the ranks of upper middle-income countries, eradicated extreme poverty and established a sustainable and diversified non-oil economy.

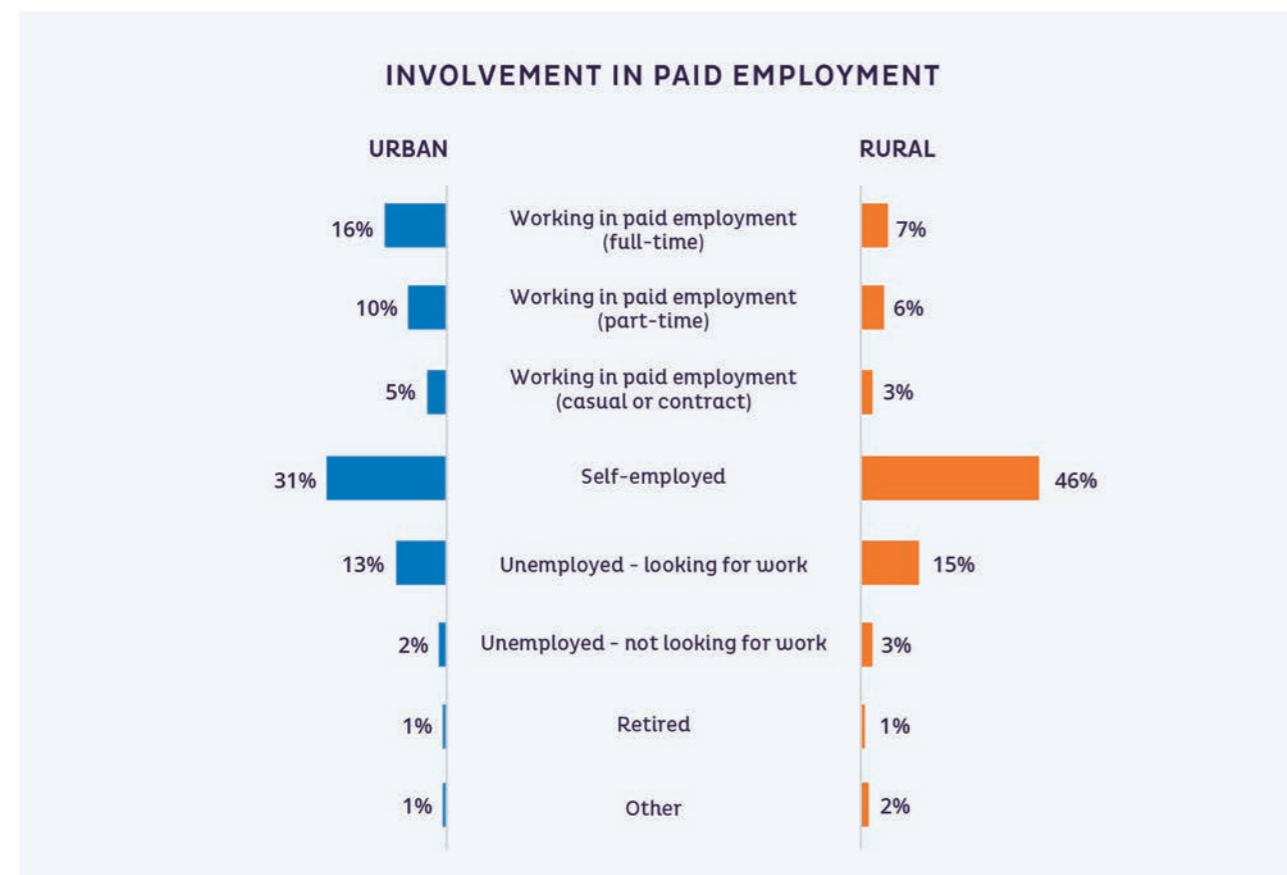
EMPLOYMENT

Paid Employment

Over half (58%) of respondents were involved in paid work at some capacity – including 41% who were self-employed. Overall participation in paid work was higher among males (75%, compared to 41% of females), respondents aged over 35 (68%, compared to 48% of those aged 17–34) and respondents who were married or partnered (64%, compared to 30% of those who were single, a pattern observed for both males and females). People with disabilities were less likely to be involved in paid work (51%, compared to 62% of people without disabilities).

While total employment was similar between respondents living in rural (58%) and urban (59%) areas, more respondents living in rural areas were self-employed (46%, compared to 31% of those living in urban areas). In contrast, more respondents living in urban areas were employed by somebody else in a full-time, part-time or in a casual/contract capacity (30%, compared to 15% of those living in rural areas).

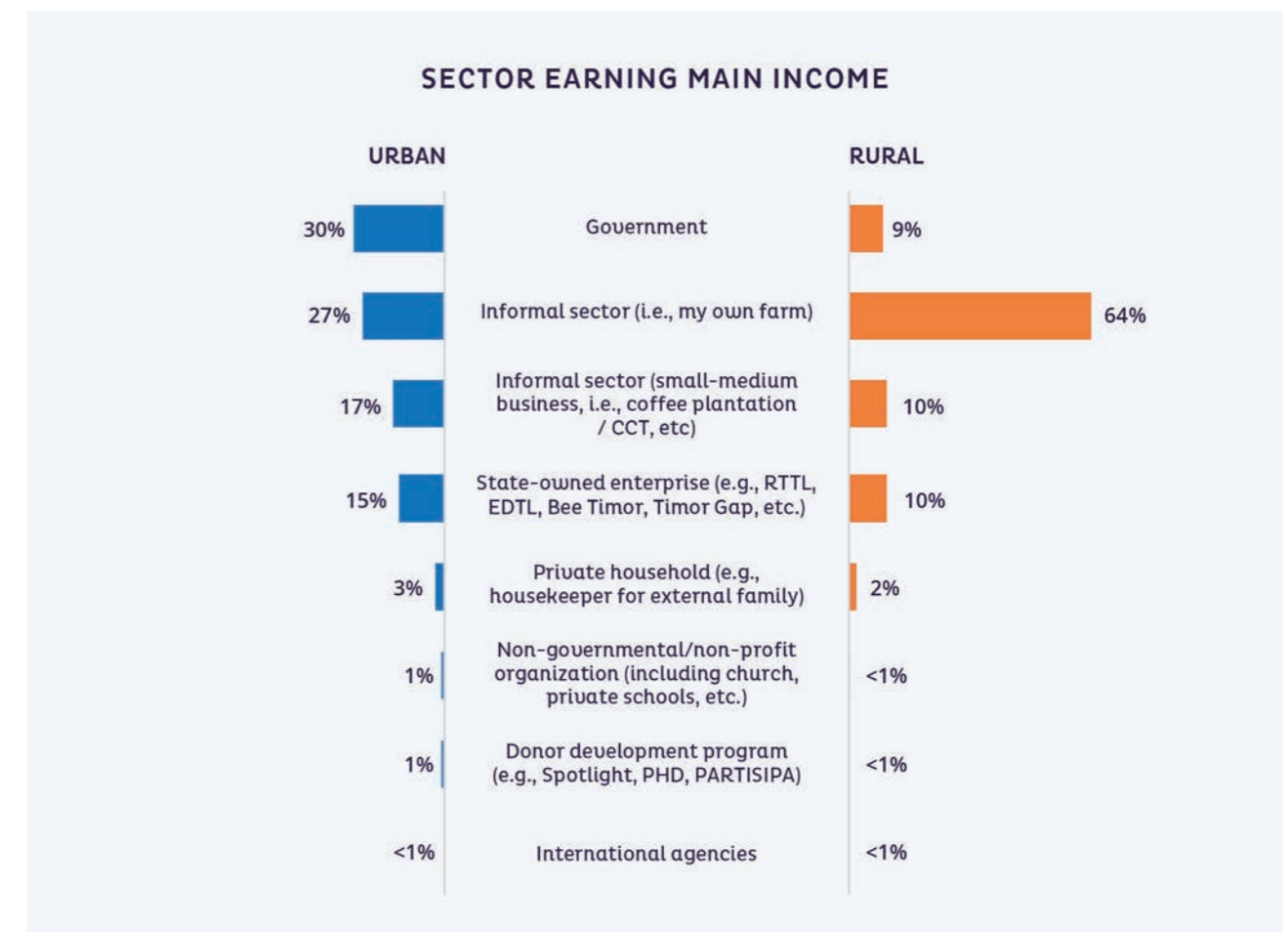
Those without any formal education (54%) or who had only attended/completed primary school (46%) were more likely to be self-employed than those who had attended/completed secondary school (30%) or higher (17%).



Among those who had paid employment, respondents living in urban areas were most likely to earn their main income in the government (30%) or from their own farm (27%). The majority of respondents living in rural areas earned their main income from their own farm (64%). Most of those who reported they were self-employed indicated they earned their main income from their own farm (68%) or as a part of a small-medium business (13%).

Those working in full-time paid employment were most likely to earn their main income in state-owned enterprise (43%) or government (23%) sectors.

Respondents earning a higher average income were most likely to work in the government (37% of those earning more than \$500 per month, compared to 10% of those earning less than \$100 per month) or state-owned enterprise (28%, compared to 6%) sectors. Lower income respondents earning less than \$100 per month were most likely to earn their main income from their own farm (66%, compared to 10% of those earning more than \$500 per month).



Involvement in Home Duties and Study

Around one third (30%) of respondents were involved in home duties with more females (51%, compared to 9% of males) and respondents living in rural areas (33%, compared to 23%) taking on these roles.

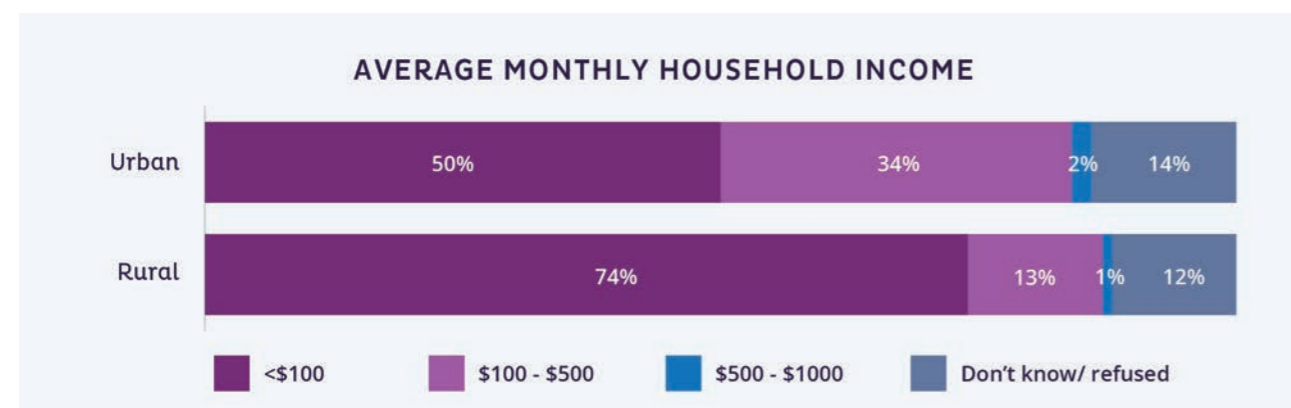
Only a minority of respondents were currently studying (8%). Greater proportions of younger respondents aged 17–34 years (16%, compared to 1% of those aged 35 years and over) and those living in urban areas (13%, compared to 6% of those in rural areas) were currently studying.



HOUSEHOLD INCOME

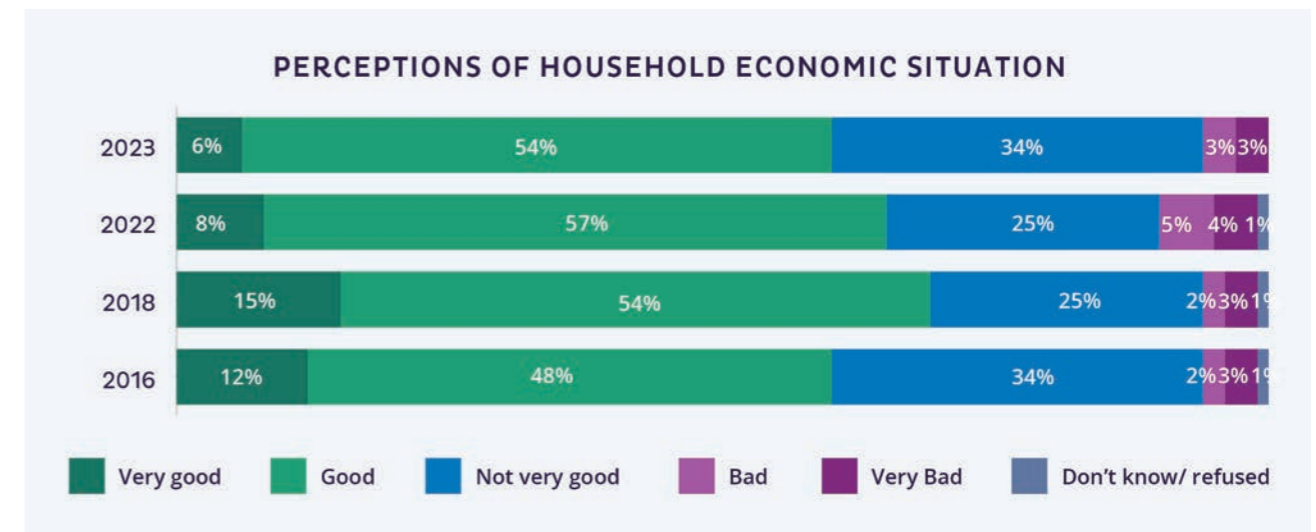
Most respondents (86%) had an average household income of less than \$500 per month, including 66% with an income of less than \$100 per month. On average the following groups reported lower household income of less than \$100 per month:

- ◊ Respondents living in rural areas (74% less than \$100 per month, compared to 50% of those living in urban areas); and
- ◊ Respondents living outside Dili (75%, compared to 40% of those living in Dili) reported lower household income.

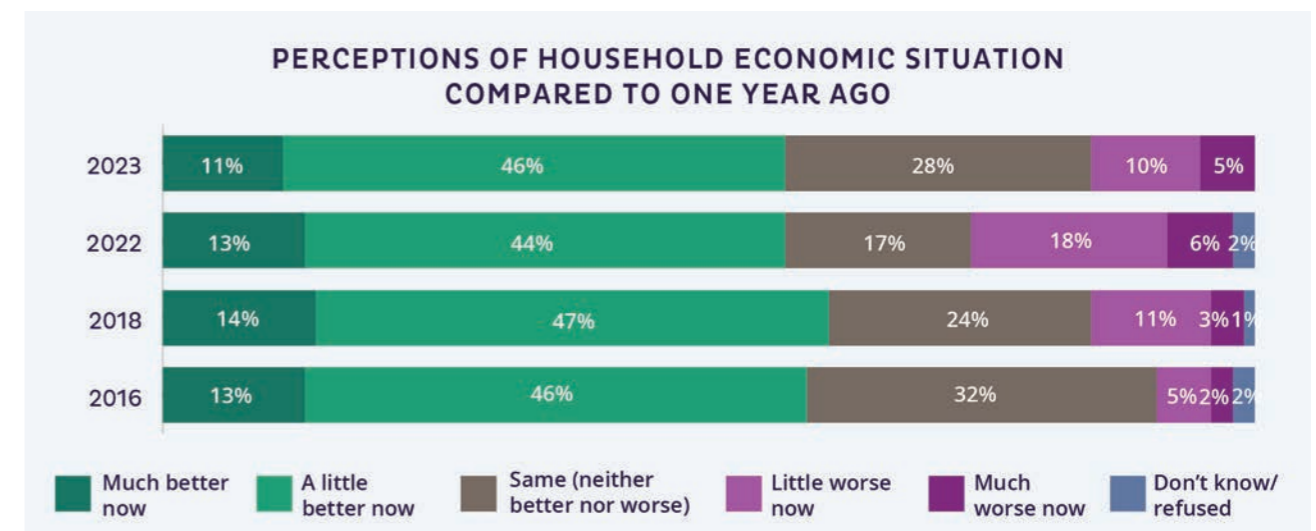


ECONOMIC SITUATION

Sixty percent of respondents rated their household’s economic situation as ‘very good’ or ‘good’, lower than 65% reported in 2022 and 69% in 2018. Those living in rural areas (55%, compared to 69% of those living in urban areas) and living outside Dili (55%, compared to 73% of those living in Dili) were less positive about their household’s economic situation. In addition, respondents with disabilities (45%, compared to 60% of those without disabilities) and lower income respondents (56%, compared to 78% of those earning \$100-\$500 per month and 87% of those earning more than \$500 per month) were also less positive about their household’s economic situation.



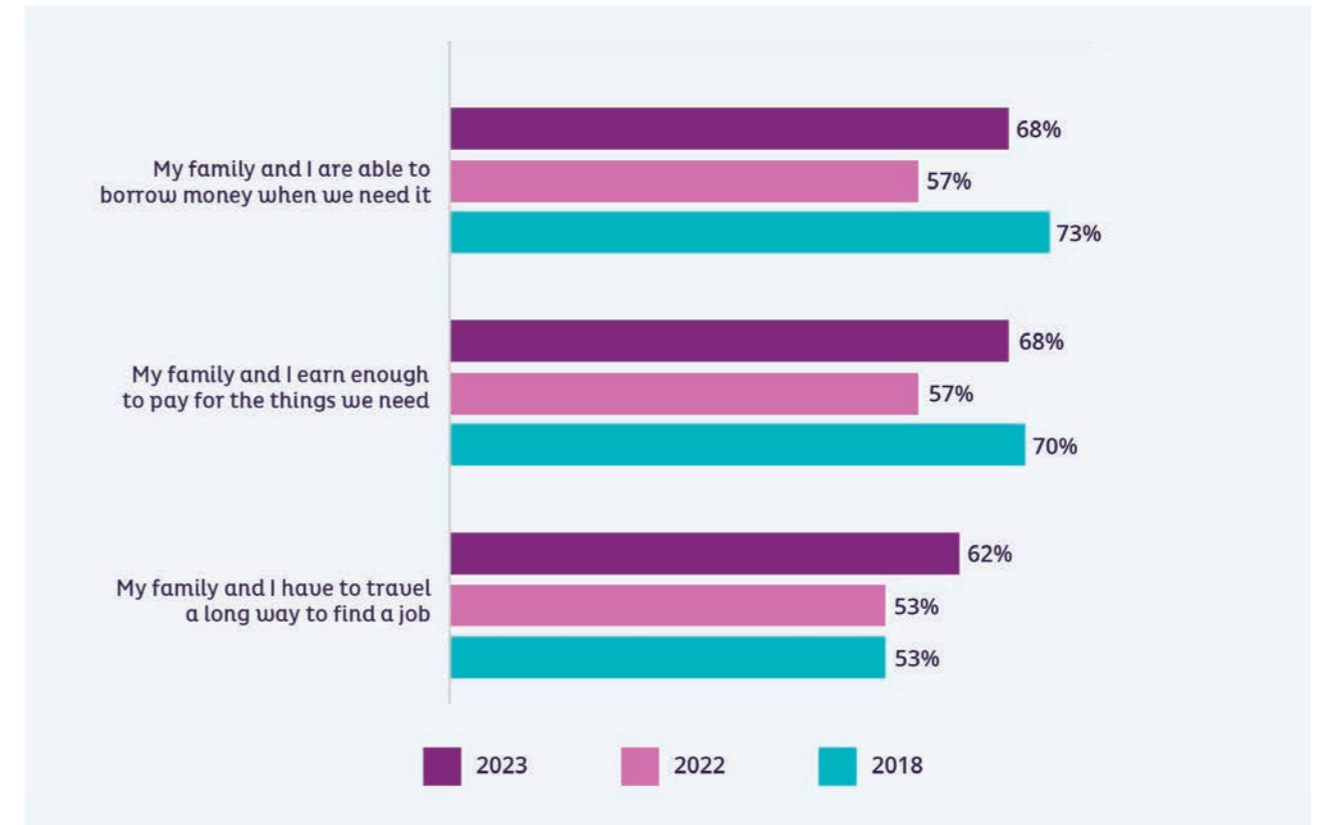
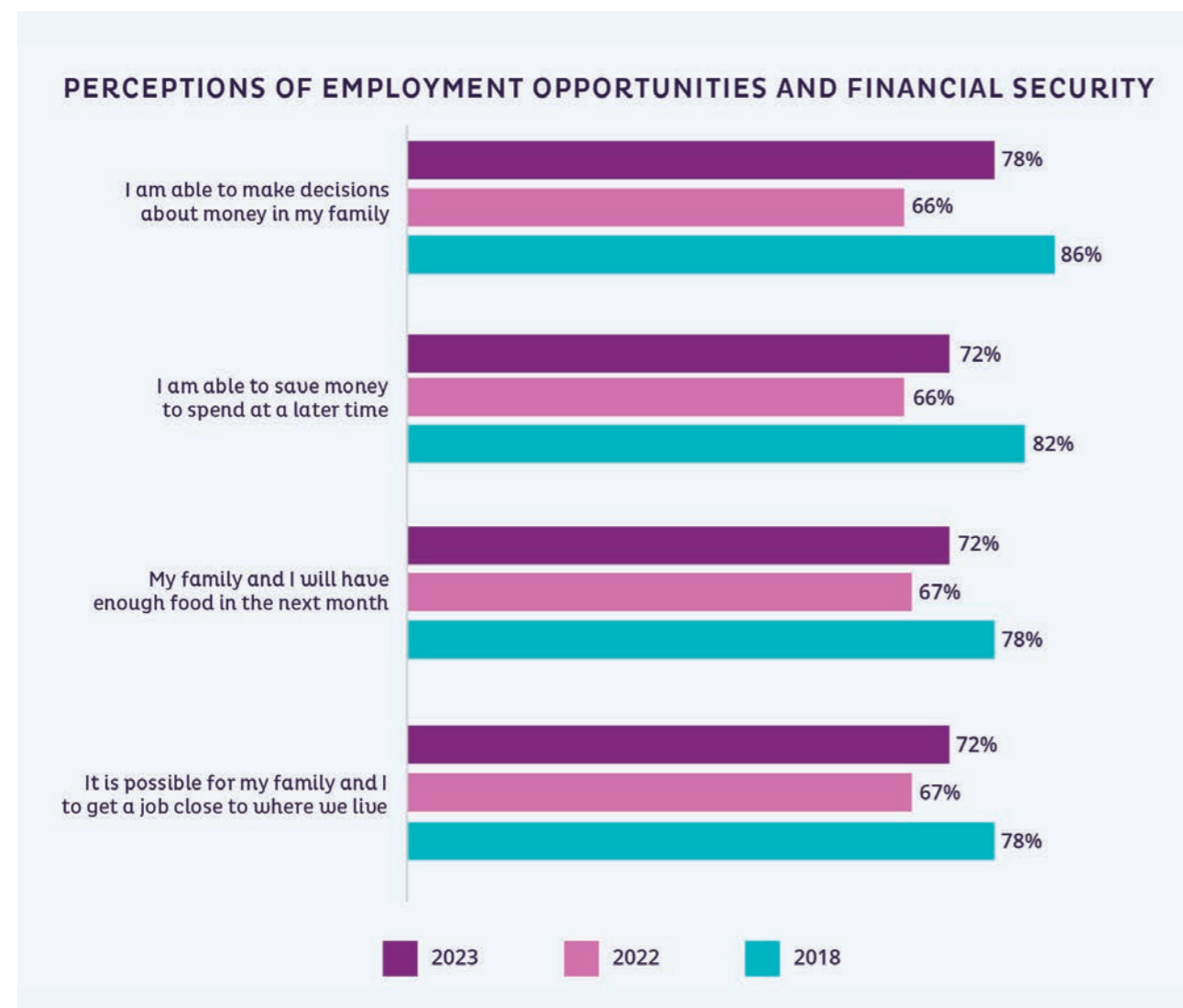
Fifty-seven percent (in line with 56% in 2022) of respondents felt their household’s economic situation was better compared to one year ago. Fifteen percent felt it was now worse, lower than 24% in 2022. Although perceptions were similar between urban and rural areas overall, those living in Baucau (23%) were less likely to report their economic situation was better now, compared to those living in Dili (58%) and Bobonaro (51%).



Despite less positive perceptions of economic situation overall compared to 2022, respondents were more positive about their ability to meet their needs across most individual aspects, including:

- ◇ Being able to make decisions about money in their family (78% 'strongly agree' or 'agree', up from 66% in 2022);
- ◇ Being able to save money to spend later (72%, up from 66%);
- ◇ Having enough food for their family (72%, up from 67%);
- ◇ Their family being able to get a job close to where they live (72%, up from 67%);
- ◇ Earning enough to pay for the things they need (68%, up from 57%); and
- ◇ Being able to borrow money when they need it (68%, up from 57%).

Those living in urban areas reported being more likely to get a job close to where they live compared to those in rural areas (77%, compared to 70% of those in rural areas). Respondents living in urban areas also reported having enough to pay for things they need (72%, compared to 66% to rural) and having enough food for the next month (75%, compared to 71% in rural).

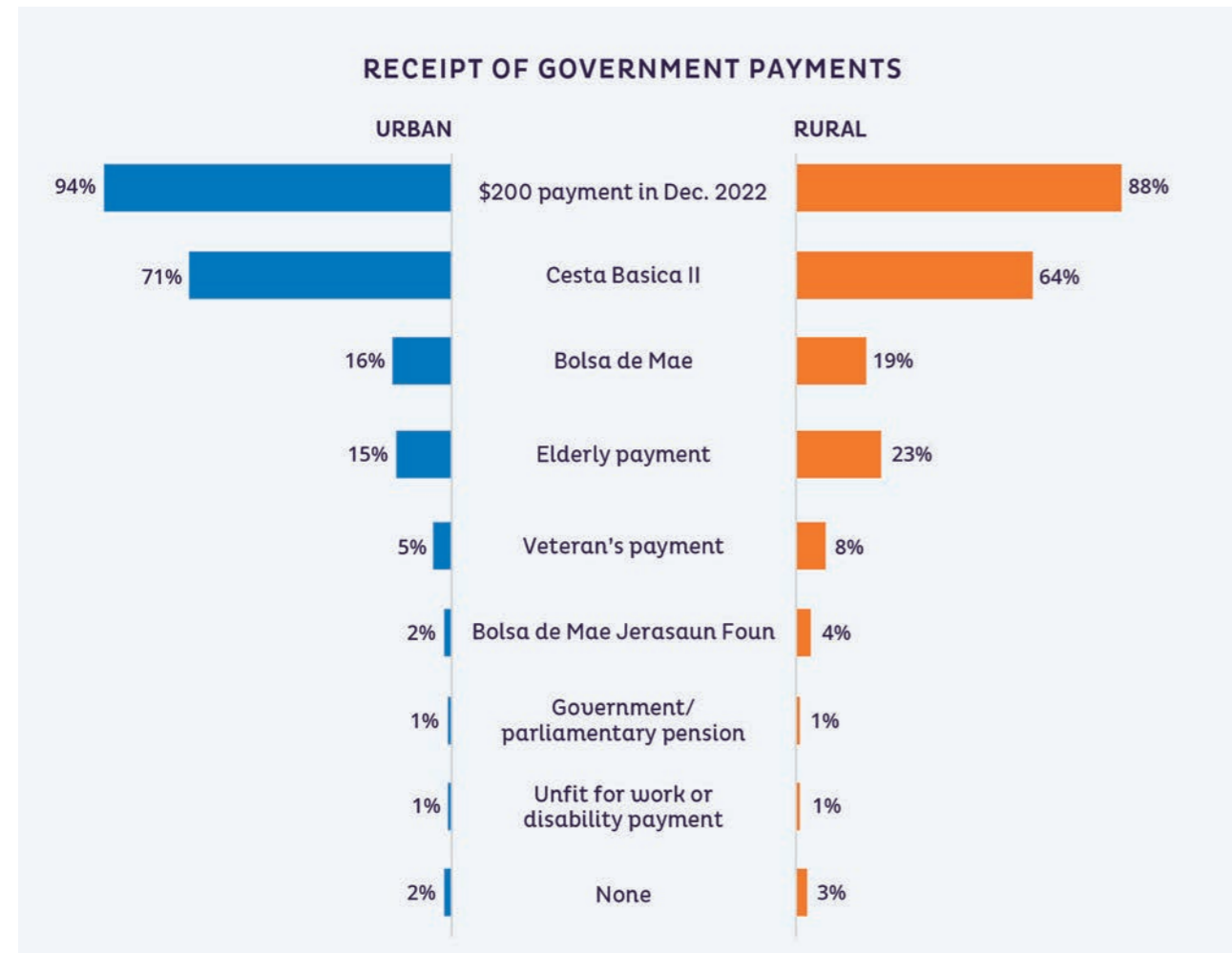


SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Nearly all respondents (97%) reported they or somebody in their household had received government payments – most commonly the \$200 payment in December 2022 (90%) and Cesta Basica II (66%). Respondents with an average monthly household income of less than \$100 per month were most likely to receive any payment (98%), compared to 96% of those earning \$100-\$500 per month and 92% of those earning more than \$500 per month.

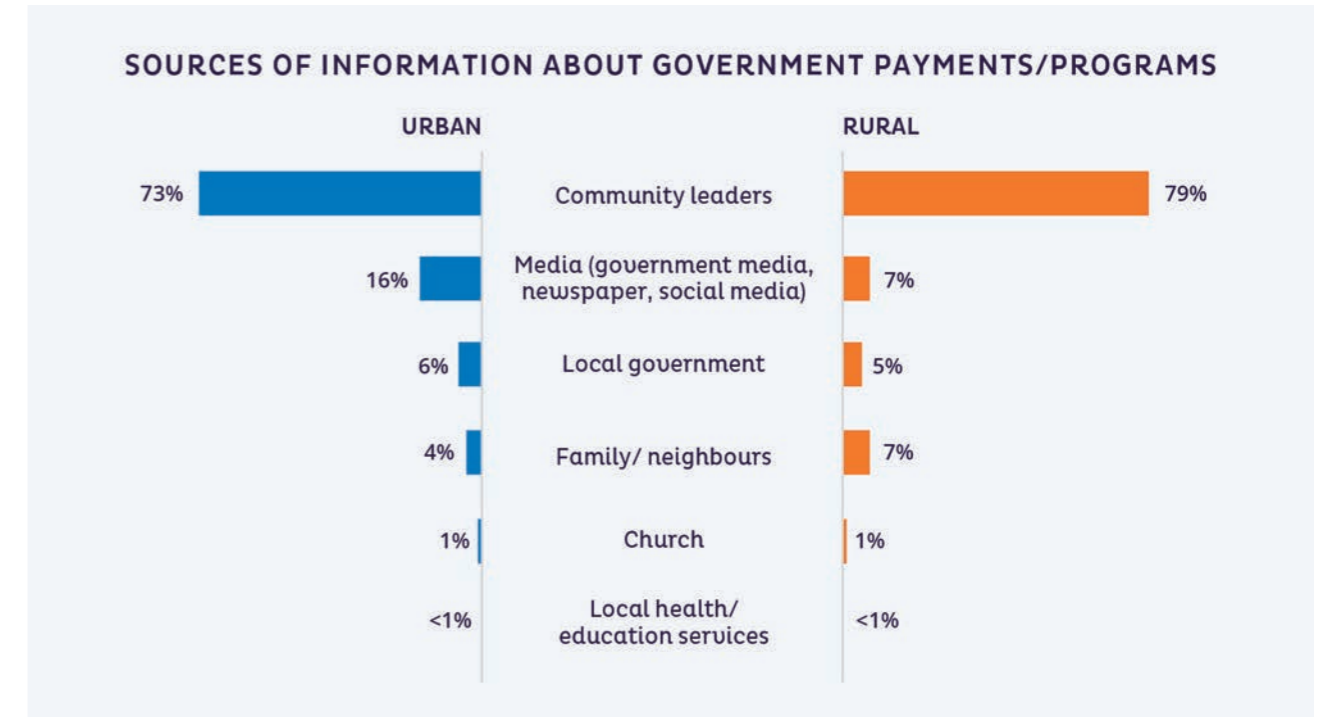
More respondents living in urban areas had received the \$200 payment (94%, compared to 88% of those living in rural areas) and Cesta Basica II (71%, compared to 64%). However, more respondents in rural areas had received other payments including Bolsa de Mae (19%, compared to 16%), elderly payment (23%, compared to 15%) and veteran's payment (8%, compared to 5%).

Payments were most commonly used to purchase household items (97%) and support education or health for their family (74%).

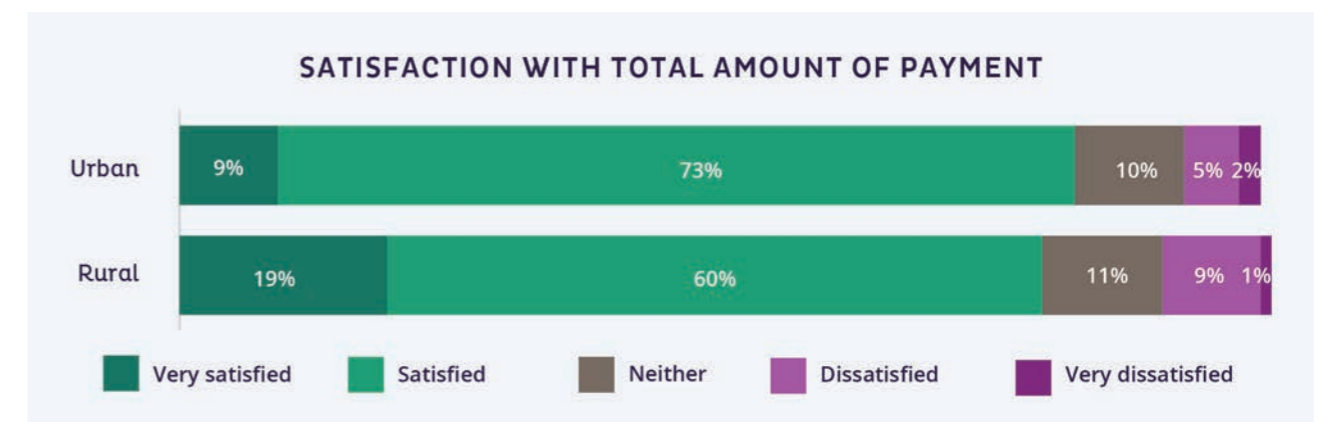


Among those who had received payments, respondents primarily received information about these programs from community leaders (77%) and the media (10%).

More respondents living in rural areas received information about the program from community leaders (79%, compared to 73% of those living in urban areas). More respondents living in urban areas had received information from the media (16%, compared to 7% of those living in rural areas).



Among those who had received payments, most respondents (80%) were satisfied with the total amount of payment. Satisfaction was higher among those living in Dili (88%, compared to 77% of those outside Dili).





Remittances

Participants in the *Tatoli! 2023* survey were asked about their experience with and perception of receiving money from abroad and desire to work abroad. As Timorese culture evolves to be more globally connected, it is important to understand the influence of overseas activity on daily life at home.

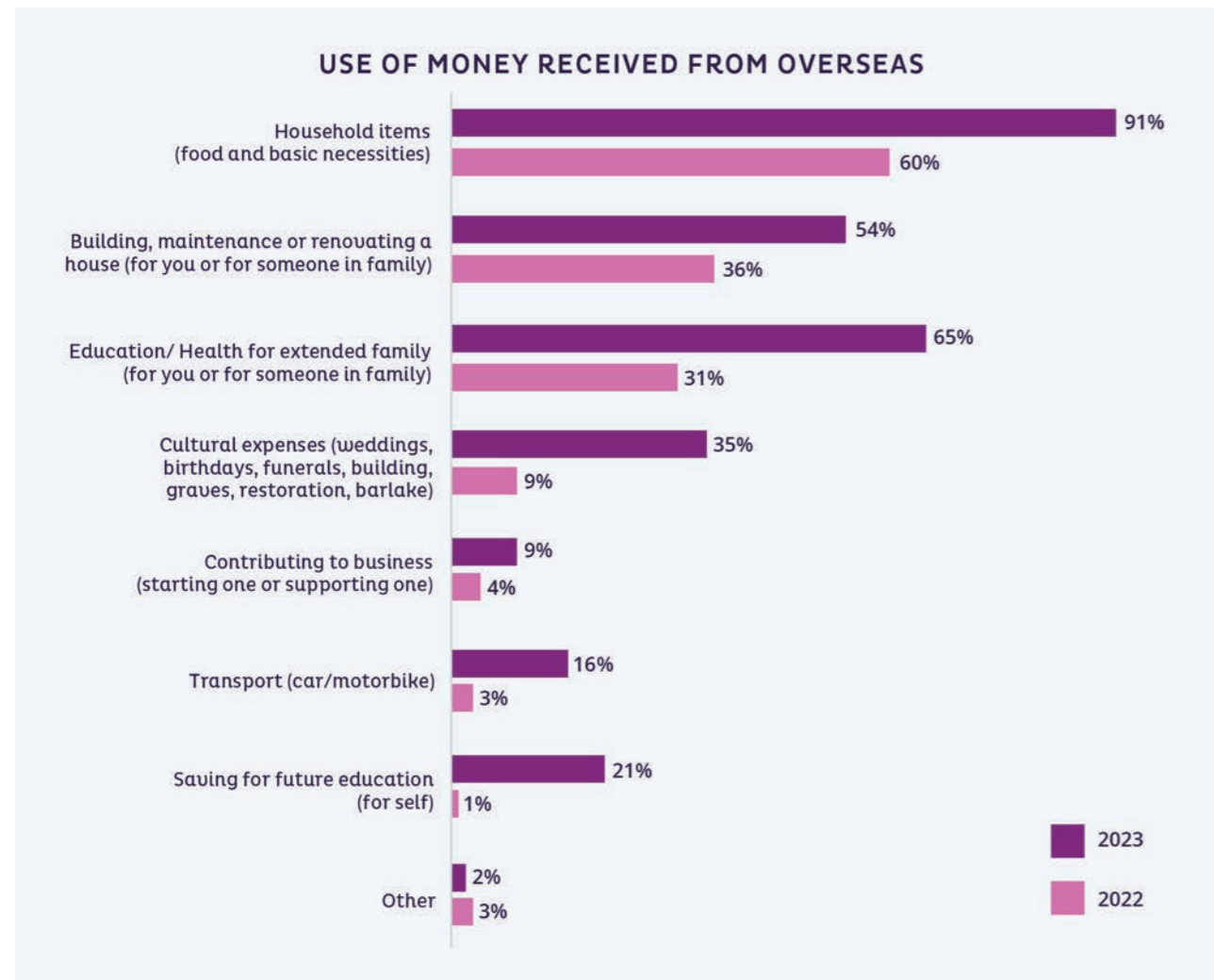


REMITTANCE

In the past six months, 20% (up from 10% in 2022) of respondents had received money from a family member or friend overseas. More respondents living in urban areas (30%, compared to 15% of those living in rural areas) and living in Dili (33%, compared to 15% of those living outside Dili) had received money from overseas. In addition, respondents with higher monthly incomes were more likely to receive money from overseas (33% of those earning more than \$500 per month and 30% of those earning between \$100–\$500 per month, compared to 16% of those earning less than \$100 per month).

Among those who had received money from overseas, the most common uses for this money were:

- ◇ Household items (91%, up from 60% in 2022);
- ◇ Education/health for their family or extended family (65%, up from 31%); and
- ◇ Building, maintenance or renovating a house (54%, up from 36%).



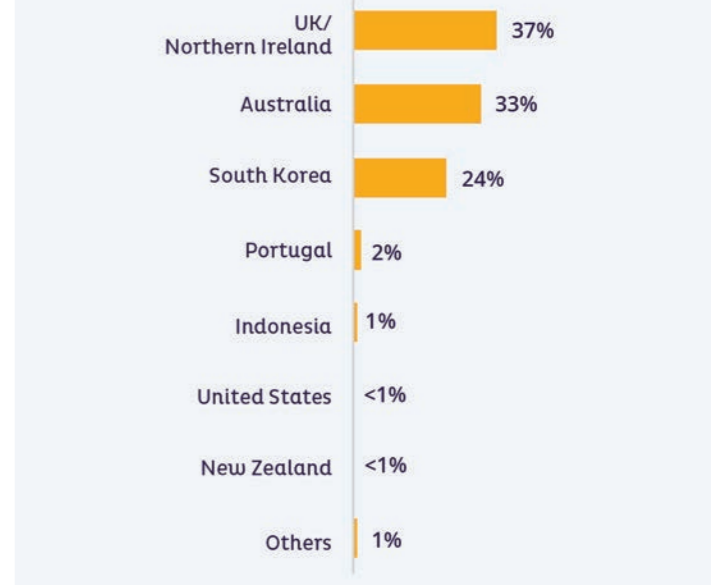
WORKING OVERSEAS

Twenty-four percent (24%) of respondents indicated they were planning to work overseas this year, and another 15% reported that they would like to but did not yet have a plan. More respondents living in urban areas (32%, compared to 21% of those in rural areas), living in Dili (33%, compared to 21% of those outside Dili) and individuals aged 17-34 (30%, compared to 21% of those aged 35-54 and 14% of those aged 55+) were already planning to work overseas. Among those already planning to work overseas, respondents most intended to work in UK/Northern Ireland (37%), Australia (33%) or South Korea (24%).

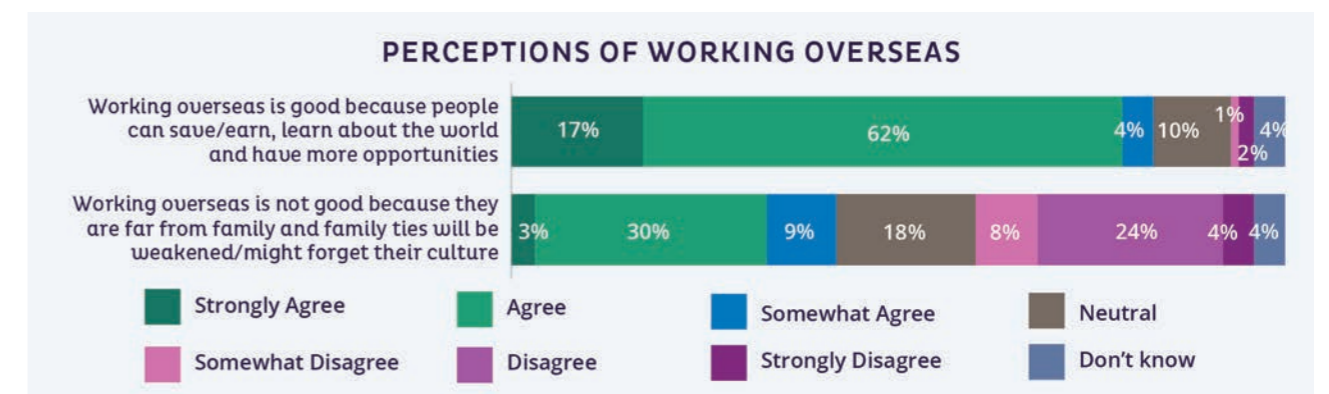
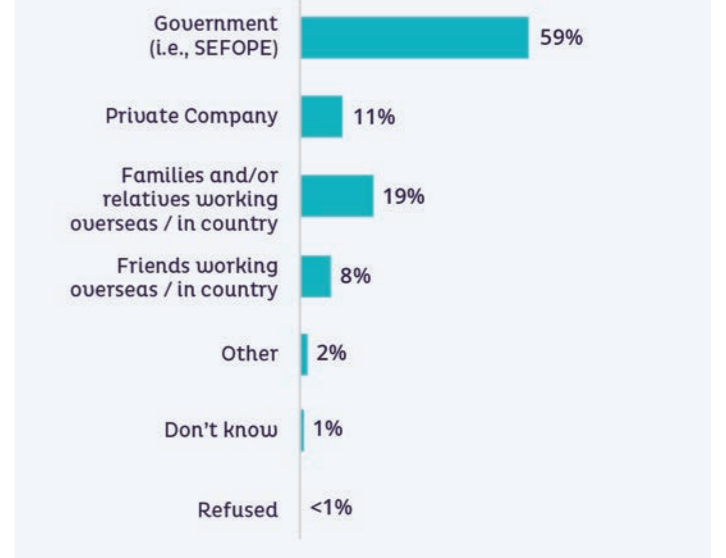
Respondents already planning to or interested in working overseas were more likely to obtain information from the government (59%) or family/relatives working overseas (19%).

Respondents at the national level reported generally positive perceptions of working overseas, with the majority (83%) agreeing that working overseas was good. Perceptions of working overseas were more positive among younger respondents aged 17-34 (86%) compared to older respondents aged 55+ years (73%).

COUNTRY INTENDING TO WORK IN OVERSEAS



SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT WORKING OVERSEAS





Media

Tatoli! 2023 participants were asked about their experience with media outlets, including where they access information and what is the most trusted source. When possible, responses were compared with data from previous surveys to shed light on any existing trends. Participants were also asked about challenges faced in accessing information and the role of media in society.

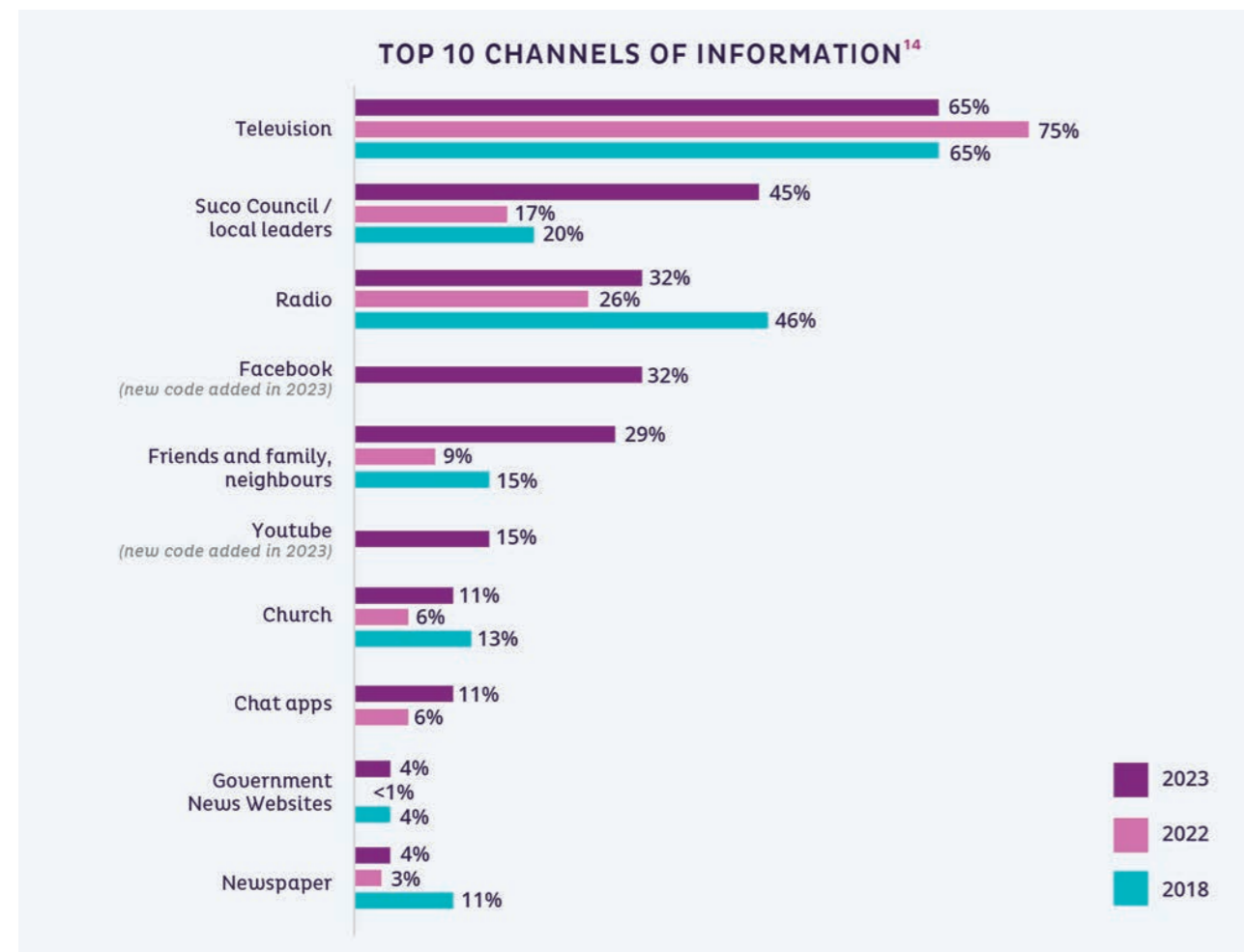


ACCESSING NEWS AND INFORMATION

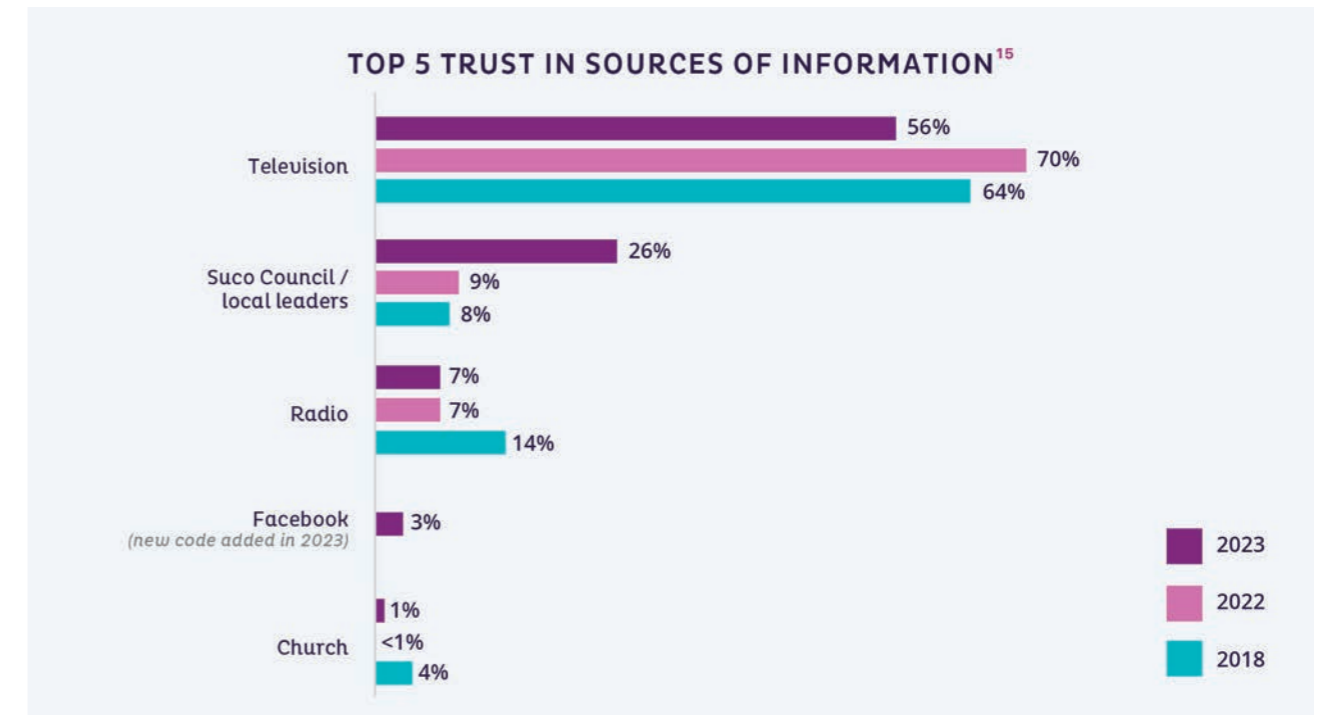
Television (65%, down from 75% in 2022) remained by far the most used media source for news and information. Suco Council/local leaders (45%, up from 17%), radio (32%, up from 26%) and Facebook (32%) were also popular channels.

Respondents living in rural areas relied more on word-of-mouth for news and information, such as Suco Council/local leaders (56%, compared to 23% of those living in urban areas) and friends/family/neighbours (36%, compared to 16%). Rural respondents also used radio more (35%, compared to 25%). Higher usage of these channels was also observed among respondents living outside Dili. Those living in Bobonaro relied less on Suco Council/local leaders (31%) for information compared to those living in Baucau (74%).

Respondents living in urban areas relied more on television (74%, compared to 60% of those living in rural areas) and social media, including Facebook (44%, compared to 26%), YouTube (25%, compared to 11%) and chat apps (16%, compared to 9%) for news and information. Similarly, respondents living in Dili reported greater usage of these channels compared to those outside Dili.



¹⁴ Please note previous years' results are not directly comparable due to change in response options. Previous years' results have been adjusted to align with new response scale in 2023.



Television remained the most trusted source of news and information (56%, down from 70% in 2022), followed by Suco Council/local leaders (26%, up from 9%). More respondents living in urban areas trusted television most (71%, compared to 49% of those living in rural areas), while more respondents living in rural areas trusted their Suco Council/local leaders (34%, compared to 10% of those living in urban areas) the most.

The main challenges respondents faced in accessing information were:

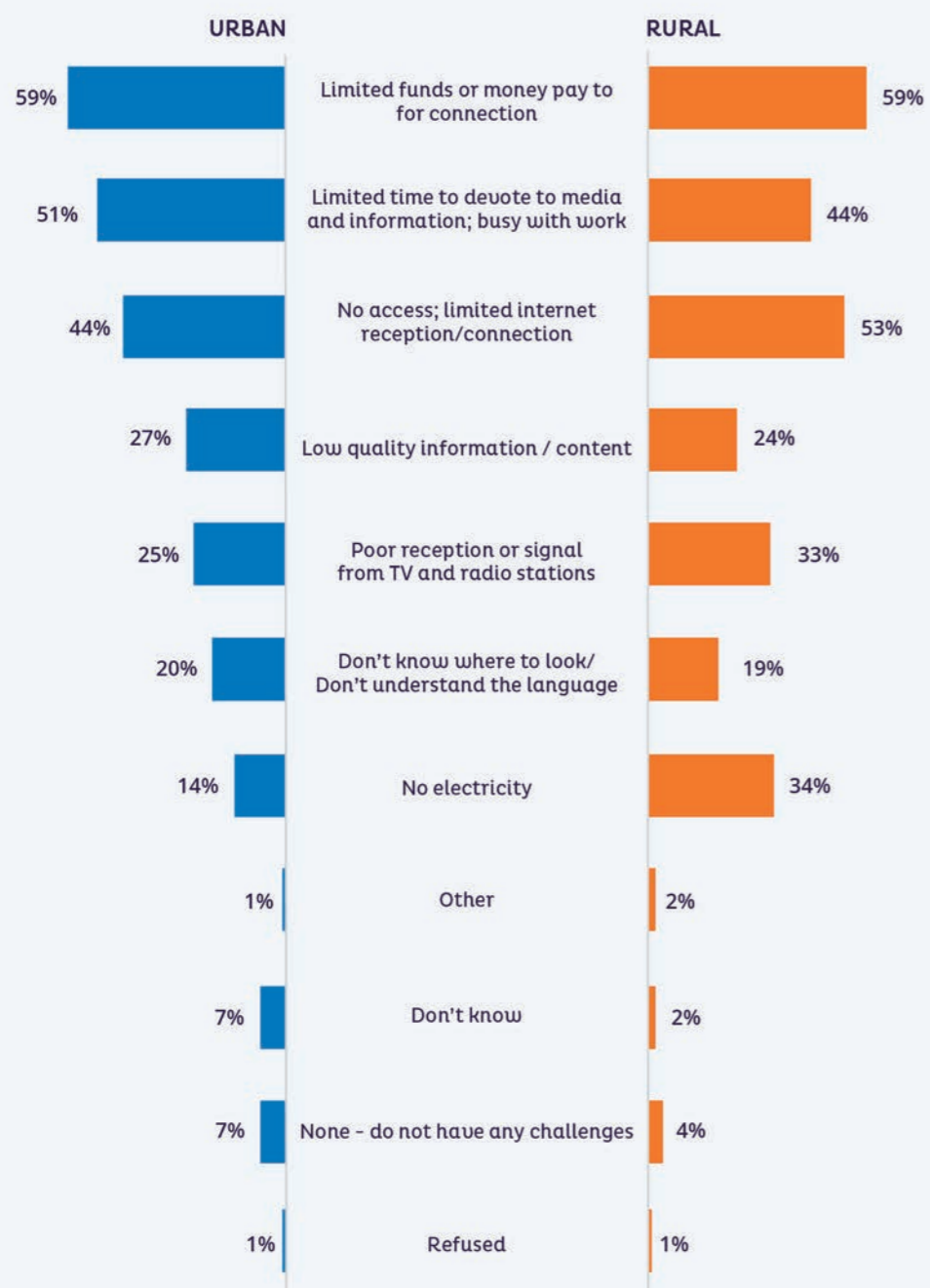
- ◇ Limited funds or money to pay for connection (59%, in line with 61% in 2022¹⁶);
- ◇ Having no access or limited internet reception/connection (50%); and
- ◇ Limited time to devote to media and information (46%, up from 38%).

Respondents living in rural areas reported greater challenges in accessing information due to having limited internet reception/connection (53%, compared to 44% of those in urban areas), no electricity (34%, compared to 14%) and poor reception or signals (33%, compared to 25%). More respondents living outside Dili also reported these challenges, compared to those living in Dili.

¹⁵ Please note previous years' results are not directly comparable due to change in response options. Previous years' results have been adjusted to align with new response scale in 2023.

¹⁶ Please note previous years' results are not directly comparable due to change in response options. Previous years' results have been adjusted to align with new response scale in 2023.

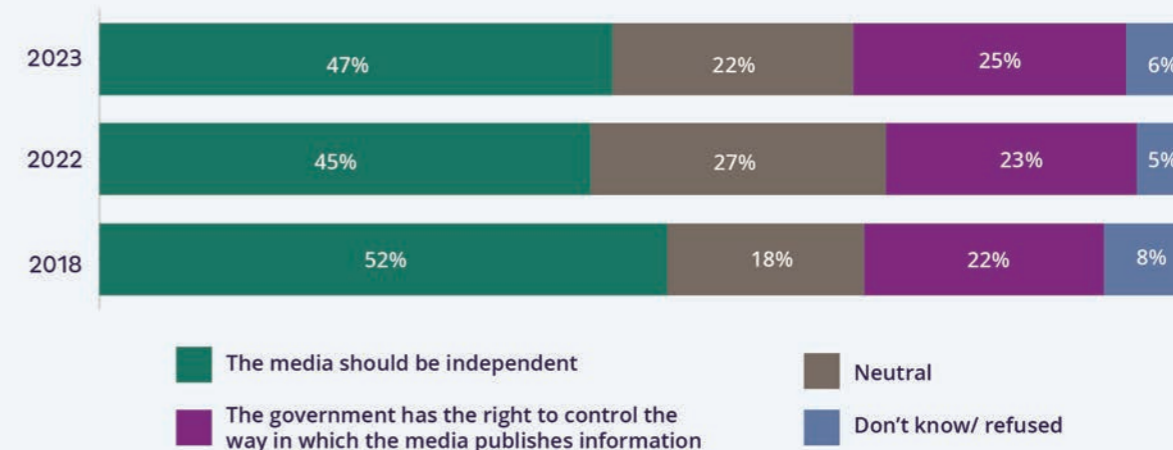
CHALLENGES IN ACCESSING INFORMATION



PERCEPTIONS OF THE MEDIA

Around half of respondents (47%, in line with 45% in 2022) felt the media should be independent and able to publish stories that are critical of the government without government control or restrictions. Respondents living in Baucau were less likely to feel the media should be independent (30%); however, this could be attributed to a larger portion of respondents saying they 'don't know' (22%, compared to 4%). Respondents in Dili (46%) and Bobonaro (50%) had higher perceptions of the media functioning independently, both with 'don't know' responses less than 3%.

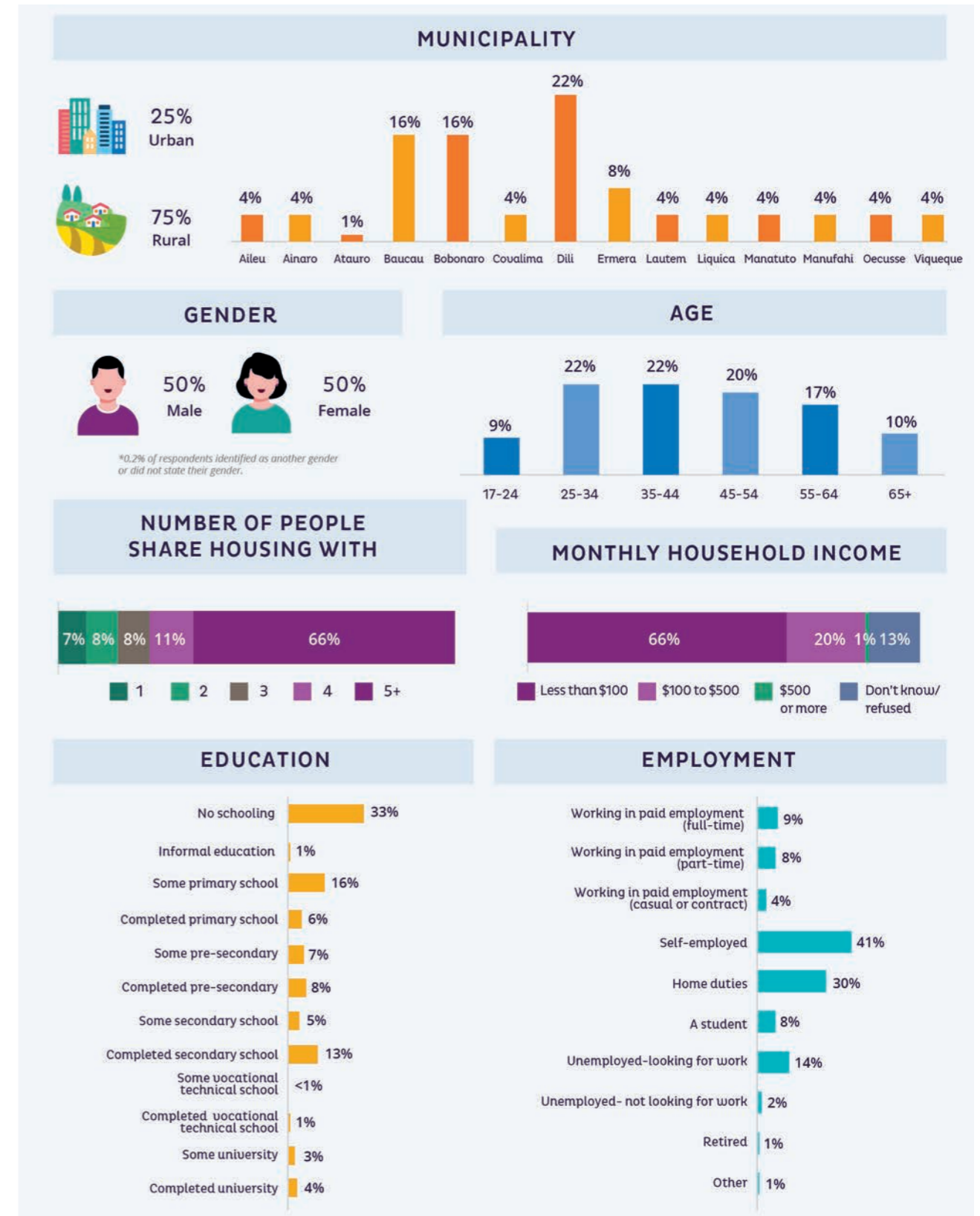
PERCEPTIONS OF THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA



Appendix

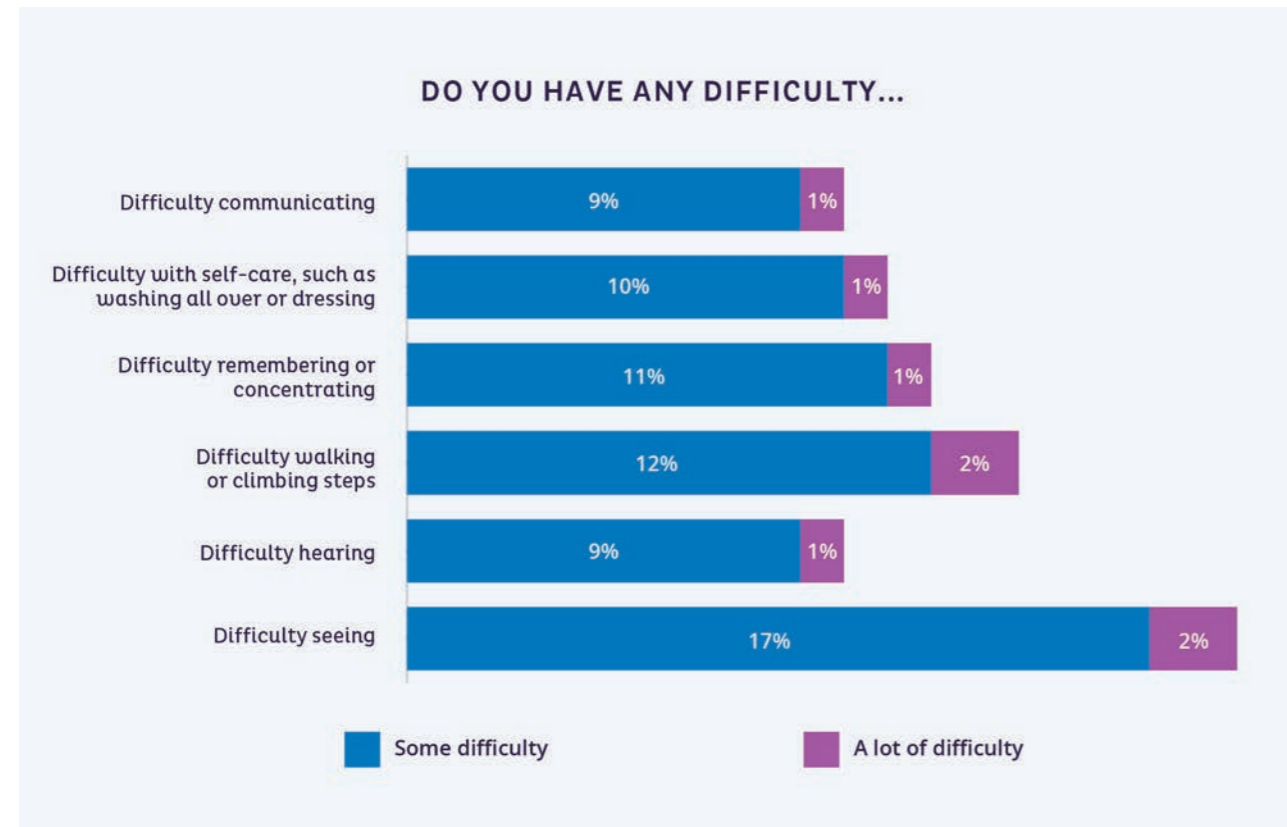
APPENDIX A: RESPONDENT PROFILE

The profile of respondents below is based on unweighted data (raw counts of respondents, not adjusted to reflect the Timor-Leste population).



Disability Status

Using the Washington Group definition, respondents were classified as having a disability if they indicated 'a lot of difficulty' or 'cannot do at all' for any of the questions below.¹⁷ Overall, 5% of respondents were classified as having a disability.



APPENDIX B: METHODOLOGY

How was the questionnaire developed?

The Asia Foundation led the development of the questionnaire, with ORIMA Research providing advice where appropriate. Questions were drawn from previous research conducted by the Foundation, including the previous *Tatoli!* 2022, COVID-19 survey, and consultation with stakeholders and the community. The Foundation oversaw the programming and translation of the questionnaire into Open Data Kit (ODK), an open-source survey software platform.

How was the sample frame developed and how effective was it?

In 2023, The Asia Foundation polled 3,754 adult respondents from all 14 municipalities. The sample was stratified by municipality and gender-based on the most recent population estimates from the General Directorate of Statistics, Ministry of Finance's 2015 National Census. Respondents in Bobonaro and Baucau were intentionally oversampled to allow greater statistical precision of results for respondents in these areas.

This survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews at the Aldeia level and randomly selected eight households in each Aldeia. The enumerators used the Kish Grid to randomly select the respondent in each household. Nine Aldeia were replaced due to inaccessibility caused by rain and bridge closures.

How were the face-to-face interviews conducted?

To conduct the fieldwork, The Asia Foundation partnered with the TRAIN and most enumerators previously worked on projects with the Foundation. A detailed list of TRAIN members is provided in the Appendix. The Foundation employees undertook callback recontacts for validation purposes, with no major issues found. Monitoring was also conducted by The Asia Foundation.

Nearly all surveys were conducted in Tetum, with only a handful conducted in other languages such as Bunak, Makaleru, Fatuluku, Bahasa Indonesia, Kemak, Galolen, Makasae and Baikenu.

SAMPLE LIST	3,754
REFUSALS	0
FINAL DATASET	3,754
RESPONSE RATE	100%
FIELDWORK START	12 Jan 23
FIELDWORK END	07 Feb 23
MEDIAN LENGTH OF INTERVIEW ¹⁸	57m13s
NUMBER OF INTERVIEWERS	72

¹⁷ <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/fileadmin/uploads/wg/WGDocument5E-AnalyticGuidelinesfortheWG-SSSeverityIndicators-SPSS.pdf>

¹⁸ Median length calculated after excluding 420 cases where interview duration field was invalid or length was over 2 hours, most likely due to not pressing the final "submit" button.

What steps have been taken to ensure the data is representative of the Timor-Leste population?

The research was designed to be as representative as possible of the adult (17+) population¹⁹ of Timor-Leste as defined by the 2015 census. Considerations in the sampling included the need to enable comparisons between municipalities, as well as being practical within the relatively short timeframe and limited sample.

The sample was weighted to population benchmarks as defined in the 2015 census. This is to correct response bias from middle-aged respondents, as well as slight under-sampling of urban areas. Random Iterative Method (RIM) weighting using the anesrake package in R studio was chosen as the most appropriate weighting method with consideration to future comparability, simplicity and representation of the population. The variables used for weighting, the proportions within population and unweighted proportions are shown in the table on the right.

What data processing steps were taken?

Once ORIMA received the data, the following data processing steps were conducted:

- ◇ A duplicate check and speeder check was conducted.
- ◇ String question responses in Tetum were translated by The Asia Foundation.
- ◇ "Don't know" answers in multiple-response questions were made exclusive.

	POPULATION (n= 634,477)	TATOLI 2023 UW (n=3,754)
Age		
17-24	25%	9%
25-34	26%	22%
35-44	17%	22%
45-54	13%	20%
55-64	9%	17%
65 and over	11%	10%
Gender²⁰		
Male	50%	50%
Female	50%	50%
Location		
Rural	68%	75%
Urban	32%	25%
Municipality		
Aileu	4%	4%
Ainaro	5%	4%
Atauro	1%	1%
Baucau	10%	16%
Bobonaro	8%	16%
Covalima	6%	4%
Dili	26%	22%
Ermera	10%	8%
Lautem	5%	4%
Liquica	6%	4%
Manatuto	4%	4%
Manufahi	4%	4%
Oecussi	6%	4%
Viqueque	6%	4%

- ◇ Back-coding was conducted where appropriate.
- ◇ Variable labels and value labels were checked and modified for the purposes of reporting.
- ◇ Weighting was conducted as above.

Answers indicating a type of non-response (such as "Don't know", "Not applicable" and "Refused") have been included in the base in this report, as in previous years.

How confident can I be in the results?

The statistical margin of error is calculated using a proportion percentage of 50% at the 95% confidence level. Figures within text that are flagged as different amongst sub-groups were found to be significant in at least one other category when using a Welch T-test at a 95% confidence interval within the cTables interface of SPSS. Analysis of variance amongst sub-groups are subject to higher margins of error and these tests take this into account. However, they must only be used as a general guide. Tests are not highlighted where no sub-group difference existed.

Margin of error at 95 percent confidence interval for each municipality.

MUNICIPALITY	SAMPLE SIZE	MARGIN OF ERROR (95% CI)
National	3,754	1.6%
Aileu	152	7.9%
Ainaro	152	7.9%
Atauro	56	13.1%
Baucau	594	4.0%
Bobonaro	601	4.0%
Covalima	152	7.9%
Dili	831	3.4%
Ermera	304	5.6%
Lautem	152	7.9%
Liquica	152	7.9%
Manatuto	152	7.9%
Manufahi	152	7.9%
Oecusse	152	7.9%
Viqueque	152	7.9%

¹⁹ Population proportions for the adult population aged 18+ years was used as only n=8 respondents were aged 17 years.

²⁰ Note 0.2% of respondents identified as transgender, non-binary or did not state their gender.

APPENDIX C: TIMOR-LESTE RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY NETWORK

Data collection was conducted with enumerators from the Timor-Leste Research and Advocacy Network (TRAIN). Members of the TRAIN network taking part in the 2023 *Tatoli! A Survey of the Timorese People* fieldwork were:

1. Forum Tau Matan (FTM)

FTM is a registered non-governmental organization operating in the Municipality of Aileu. They are currently implementing two major programs: monitoring and advocacy to strengthen the judicial system for youth, end child labor, and educate on human rights and social research. The organization was established in 2003 and became a member of the TRAIN network in 2018. As part of TRAIN, they conducted the enumeration work for the sixth (2018), seventh (2022), and eighth (2023) rounds of the Tatoli! Public Perception Survey of the Foundation. Additionally, they participated in the Social Audit program on education in 2017–2018, the 2020 Financial Services Survey of the Central Bank of Timor-Leste, and the Foundation’s 2021 Security and Justice survey.

Director: Eduarda Martins

Municipality: Aileu

Local Language: Mambae

2. Maubisse Hametin Future (MAHARU)

Maharu is a registered NGO that operates in the Municipality of Ainaro, focusing on education, livelihoods, and water and sanitation. The organization was established in 2003 and became a member of the TRAIN network in 2015 to take part in The Asia Foundation’s Community Policing Perception Survey in 2015 and again in 2018. As a member of TRAIN, Maharu has conducted enumeration work for the Foundation’s Tatoli! Public Perception Survey in the fifth (2016), sixth (2018), seventh (2022), and eighth (2023) rounds. In addition, the organization participated in the Central Bank of Timor-Leste’s Financial Services Survey in 2020, PNDS survey in 2016, Land survey in 2017, and the Foundation’s 2021 Security and Justice survey.

Director: Bonifacio Ralmalho

Municipality: Ainaro

Local Language: Mambae

3. Centro Feto Haburas Dezenvoluimentu (CFHD)

CFHD is a registered NGO that operates in the Municipality of Baucau, focusing on advocacy and prevention in the economy and empowering vulnerable women through small businesses. The organization was established in 2010 and became a member of the TRAIN network in 2015 to participate in The Asia Foundation’s Community Policing Perception Survey in 2015 and 2018. As a member of TRAIN, CFHD has conducted enumeration work for the Foundation’s Tatoli! Public Perception Survey in the fifth (2016), seventh (2022), and eighth (2023) rounds. Additionally, the organization participated in the Central Bank of Timor-Leste’s Financial Services Survey in 2020, PNDS survey in 2016, and the Foundation’s Security and Justice survey in 2021.

Director: Teresa Pereira

Municipality: Baucau

Local Language: Makasae

4. Hametin Asaun Dezenvoluimentu Edukasaun no Ekonomia Rural (HADEER)

HADEER is a registered NGO that operates in the Municipality of Bobonaro, focusing on rural economy and education. The organization was established in 2006 and became a member of the TRAIN network in 2016 to participate in The Asia Foundation’s Community Policing Perception Survey in 2018. As a member of TRAIN, HADEER has conducted enumeration work for the Foundation’s Tatoli! Public Perception Survey in the fifth (2016), sixth (2018), seventh (2022), and eighth (2023) rounds. The organization also participated in the social audit pilot on agriculture, specifically the quality of seed rice, in 2016, as well as the 2017–2018 Social Audit on Agriculture, the PNDS survey in 2016, the Central Bank of Timor-Leste’s Financial Services Survey in 2020, and the Foundation’s Security and Justice survey in 2021.

Director: Abel Pereira Mau Recu

Municipality: Bobonaro

Local Languages: Kemak and Bunak

5. Centro Comunidade Covalima (CCC)

CCC is a registered organization working in the Municipality of Covalima, established in 2000 with a focus on education and women’s empowerment. Since the establishment of the TRAIN network in 2015, CCC has participated in the data collection work of The Asia Foundation, including the Community Policing Perception Surveys in 2015 and 2018, Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys in 2016, 2018, 2022, and 2023, the Central Bank’s Financial Services Survey in 2020, the PNDS survey in 2016, and the Security and Justice Survey in 2022.

Director: Alberto Barros de Jesus

Municipality: Covalima

Local Languages: Tetum Terik and Bunak

6. Mata Dalan Institute (MDI)

MDI is a registered organization that was established in 2005 and operates in the Municipalities of Dili, Liquica, and Manatuto. It focuses on civic education programs, monitoring and advocacy, and community strengthening. Since the establishment of the TRAIN network in 2015, MDI has participated in The Asia Foundation’s data collection work, including the Community Policing Perceptions Surveys in 2015 and 2018, Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys in 2016, 2018, 2022, and 2023, the Central Bank’s Financial Services Survey in 2020, the Land survey in 2016, PNDS phone call survey in 2017, and the Social Audit program on infrastructure in the municipalities of Liquica and Manatuto funded by the EU and implemented by The Asia Foundation and FONGTIL in 2017–2018. MDI also participated in the International Visitor Surveys in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, MSME surveys in 2020, 2021, and 2022, Covid-19 phone call surveys from round 1-8 in 2020–2021, and the Mobile food security survey in 2022.

Director: Estevanus Coli

Municipality: Dili

Local Language: Tetum

7. **Timor-Leste Coalition for Education (TLCE)**

TLCE is an umbrella organization based in Dili that was established in 2009 to coordinate and support organizations working in the education sector in Timor-Leste. TLCE joined the TRAIN network in 2018 and has since participated in various data collection projects with The Asia Foundation, including the Community Policing Perceptions Survey (2018), Tatoli! Public Perception Survey (2023), Financial Services Survey for the Central Bank (2020), Social Audit program on education (2017-2018), and Security and Justice Survey (2021).

Director: Jose Monteiro

Municipality: Dili

Local Language: Tetum

8. **Hametin Demokrasi no Igualdade (HDI)**

HDI, established in 2012, is a duly registered organization focused on socio-economic research and advocacy in the Municipality of Ermera. Since the establishment of the TRAIN network in 2015, HDI has actively participated in data collection work of The Asia Foundation, including the Community Policing Perceptions Surveys (2015 and 2018), Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys (2016, 2018, and 2023), Financial Services Survey for the Central Bank (2020), PNDS survey (2016), land and justice survey in 2016, and social audit pilot on education in 2016. Additionally, HDI participated in the social audit program on school feeding, which was funded by the EU and implemented by The Asia Foundation and FONGTIL in 2017-2018.

Director: Eurico Ediana da Costa

Municipality: Ermera

Local Language: Mambae

9. **Fundasaun Amizade Tanba Amor (FUNDAMOR)**

FUNDAMOR is a duly registered organization established in 2007 and focused on improving education in the Municipality of Lautem. Since joining the TRAIN network in 2018, FUNDAMOR has actively participated in The Asia Foundation's data collection efforts, including the Community Policing Perceptions Surveys (2018), Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys (2018, 2022, 2023), Financial Services Survey for the Central Bank (2020), the social audit program on Education funded by the EU and implemented by The Asia Foundation and FONGTIL in 2017-2018, and the Security and Justice Survey (2021).

Director: Angelina dos Santos

Municipality: Lautem

Local Language: Fataluku

10. **Fundasaun Moris Foun (FMF)**

FMF, a duly registered NGO based in the Municipality of Liquica, was established in 2003 with a focus on human rights, health, and education. Since the TRAIN network was established in 2015, FMF has participated in the data collection work of The Asia Foundation, including the Community Policing Perceptions Surveys (2015 and 2018), Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys (2016, 2018, 2022, 2023), Social Audit program on Education (2017-2018), Financial Services Survey for the Central Bank (2020), PNDS survey in 2016, and the Security and Justice Survey (2022).

Director: Graciana da Silva

Municipality: Liquica

Local Language: Tokodede

11. **Organizasaun Feto ba Furutu (OFF)**

OFF is a non-governmental organization established in 2009 that focuses on women's economic empowerment in the Municipality of Manatuto. The organization is duly registered and has participated in The Asia Foundation's data collection work since the TRAIN network was established in 2015. Their participation includes the Community Policing Perceptions Surveys (2015 and 2018), Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys (2016, 2018, 2022, and 2023), PNDS survey in 2016, Financial Services Survey for the Central Bank of Timor-Leste (2020), and the Security and Justice Survey (2022).

Director: Eugenia da Costa

Municipality: Manatuto

Local Language: Galolen

12. **Assosiasaun Mouimentu Kablaki Timor-Leste (AMKTL)**

Established in 2019, AMKTL is a duly registered organization that works in the areas of agriculture, research and advocacy, education, environment, and health in the Municipality of Manufahi. Since joining the TRAIN network in 2021, AMKTL has participated in the data collection work of The Asia Foundation, including Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys (2022, 2023) and the Security and Justice Survey (2021).

Director: Vicente Sarmiento

Municipality: Manufahi

Local Languages: Tetum Terik and Mambae

13. **Asosiasaun Masine Neo Oecusse (MANEO)**

MANEO, a duly registered NGO, was established in 2013, and is based in the autonomous region of Oecusse. It focuses on livelihood programs and became a part of the TRAIN network in 2020. Since joining, MANEO has participated in three surveys organized by The Asia Foundation, including the seventh and eighth rounds of the Tatoli! Public Perception Survey in 2022 and 2023, respectively, as well as the Security and Justice Survey in 2021.

Director: Ramila da Costa

Municipality: Oecusse

Local Language: Baikenu

14. **Knua Haberan Komunitade (KHC)**

KHC is a duly registered NGO based in the Municipality of Viqueque that was established in 2010. Its main focus areas are education, gender equality, and governance (monitoring government programs). Since joining the TRAIN Network in 2015, KHC has collaborated with The Asia Foundation on data collection for various surveys, including the Community Policing Perception Surveys in 2015 and 2018, a Social Audit pilot on Health in 2016, the PNDS survey in 2016, the Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys in 2016, 2018, 2022, and 2023, and the Security and Justice Survey in 2021.

Director: Agosto Pinto

Municipality: Viqueque

Local Languages: Tetum Terik, Naueti and Makasae

Povu Nia Hanoi



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