



# 2022 TATOLI!

## Public Perception Survey



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# INTRODUCTION

## Background

Since 2013, The Asia Foundation (The Foundation) has gathered the views and opinions of Timor-Leste's population through its Tatoli! Public Perception Survey (Tatoli! Survey).

This report presents the findings of The Asia Foundation's seventh Tatoli! Survey conducted between January and February 2022. The Foundation interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,489 adults (with a  $\pm 2\%$  margin of error), through its partner enumeration organizations. The survey captured information on the population's employment, income, and economic wellbeing, as well as their perceptions regarding:

- The direction of the country,
- Government functions, service delivery and performance,
- Governance and politics, and
- The use of news and information sources.

Each iteration of Tatoli! Survey has retained many of the same questions. This allows a longitudinal comparison of the Timorese population's perceptions and priorities on key issues. Some questions have also been added and/or modified to adapt to the nation's ever-changing context, including the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

## Context

The Asia Foundation conducted the 2022 Tatoli! Survey between 21 January and 02 February 2022. In the year preceding the survey, Timor-Leste continued to experience the effects of COVID-19, including infection spikes in the latter half of 2021 due to the Delta variant, and again in January 2022 due to the Omicron variant. The Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) led a comprehensive vaccination campaign. At the time of writing (May 2022), over 80% of the adult population has received one dose and over 63% a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccinations, combined with quarantine, lockdowns and sanitary fence measures served to minimise the spread of the virus. However, Timor-Leste experienced significant economic and social impacts from the pandemic and accompanying response measures. The context has exacerbated inequalities and hardships faced by already vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

In April 2021, tropical cyclone Seroja led to severe flooding across the country, magnifying the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The floods damaged essential infrastructure and left an estimated 70,000 people in Dili without water and/or with limited access to potable water sources, as well as resulted in 15,876 people having to live in temporary evacuation shelters and 46 lives being lost. GoTL declared a State of Calamity which lasted until 04 August 2021, and estimated the cost of damage at over USD 300 million (AUD 412 million).

In addition to the ongoing pandemic and flood recovery, at the time of the 2022 Tatoli! Survey, Timor-Leste was beginning an 18-month political transition with Presidential elections in March and April 2022 and Parliamentary elections slated for the first half of 2023.

# METHODOLOGY

## Sample design

The 2022 Tatoli! Survey interviewed 2,489 adults (17+) from all thirteen municipalities.<sup>1</sup> The sample comprised 1,225 men, 1,226 women, one transgender respondent, one non-binary respondent and 36 respondents who preferred not to state their gender. The sample was stratified by municipality and gender using most recent population estimates from the 2015 national census of the General Directorate of Statistics, Ministry of Finance.

The data was weighted to be representative of the Timor-Leste adult population. Based on previous weighting schemes, information available in the Timor-Leste Census and 2022 survey data, the following four variables were used for weighting: gender, age, municipality, and urban/rural designation.

## Data Collection

The 2022 Tatoli! Public Perception Survey was conducted in Timor-Leste between 21 January and 02 February 2022. The Foundation's survey team designed and coded the survey questionnaire using Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) tablets. Thirteen teams comprising a total of 70 enumerators from the Timor-Leste Research and Advocacy Network (TRAIN) conducted face-to-face interviews at the household level. The Foundation led quality assurance during and after data collection.

## Margin of error

For the 2022 Tatoli! Survey, a stratified random sample of 2,489 respondents was surveyed in all thirteen municipalities. At the national level, the maximum margin of error for this stratified random sample of n=2,489, estimated proportion p=0.5, and at the 95 per cent confidence interval is  $\pm 2\%$  per cent. The survey methodology was designed to provide an adequate margin of error for the purpose of a national survey. Municipal-level margins of error are naturally substantially higher.

### Reader Notes

Throughout the report results are shown at the overall level post statistical weighing. Where there are statistically significant differences based on gender or location (Dili compared to those living outside of Dili), these are described in the commentary. Where no differences are noted, this means there was no statistically significant difference observed.

In some places results may not naturally add up to exactly 100% due to rounding. Where this occurs, results are manually rounded to 100%.

Complete technical information is available in the Appendix at the end of this report.

<sup>1</sup>The sampling frame for the 2022 Tatoli! Survey was completed prior to Atauro Island being designated as Timor-Leste's 14th municipality, administratively separating it from the Dili municipality.

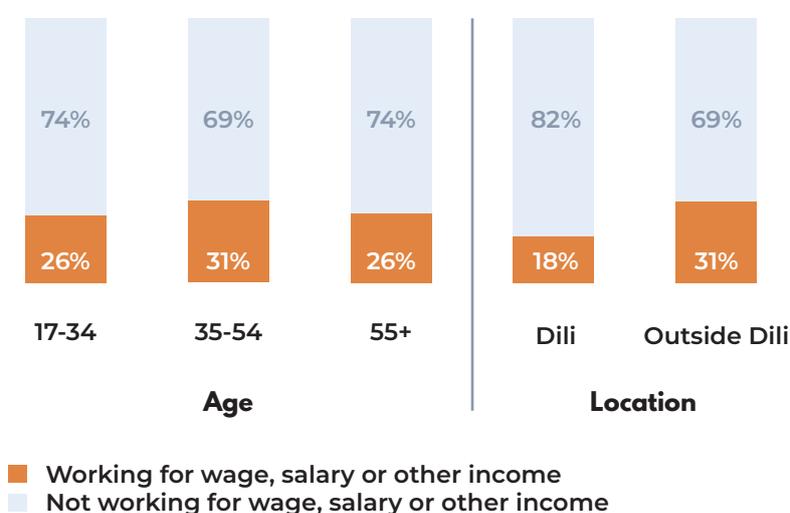
# EMPLOYMENT, INCOME, AND WELLBEING

The 2022 Tatoli! Survey captured information regarding the employment, income and economic wellbeing of respondents and their households. The set of employment-related questions were an addition to the Tatoli! Survey this year and gather information regarding respondents' workforce participation and labor force activities. In the first instance, workforce participation was analysed according to whether a respondent worked for a wage, salary, or other income in cash or in kind.

Inquiries related to income included questions on the receipt of government assistance programs, including those specifically established as part of its COVID-19 response. The survey also collected information regarding international remittances. Regarding economic wellbeing, the survey instrument utilised questions from previous Tatoli! Surveys, allowing a comparison of the 2022 results to previous years.

## Employment — those working for a wage, salary or other income

### Working for a wage, salary or other income

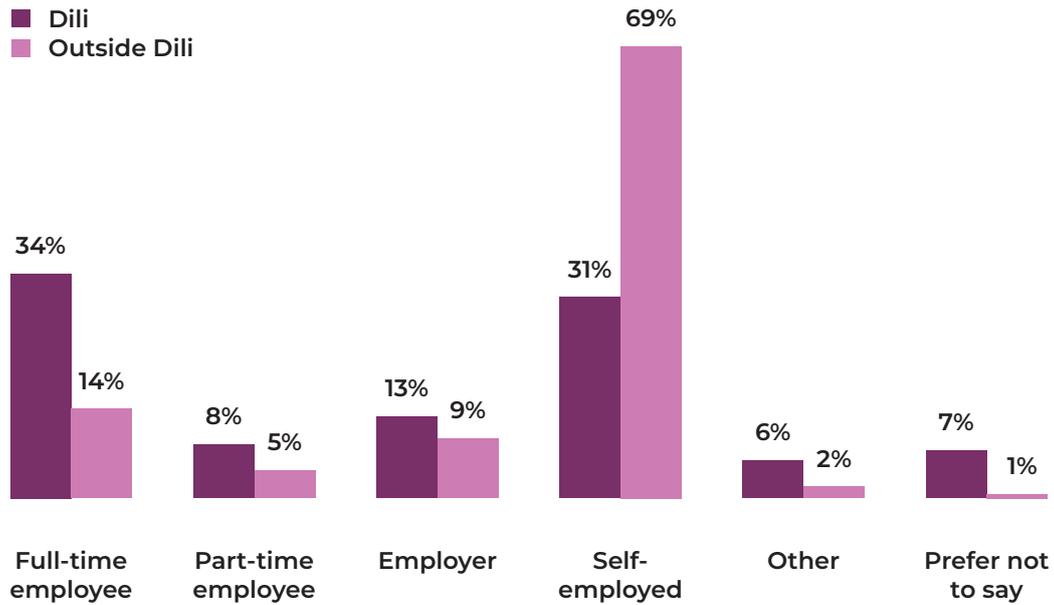


Twenty-eight per cent (28%) of respondents currently worked for a wage, salary, or other income (cash or in kind).

A greater proportion of those aged 35-54 (31%, compared to 26% of those aged 17-34 and 55+) reported working for a wage, salary or other

income. Similarly, a greater proportion of respondents living outside Dili (31%, compared to 18% of those living in Dili) reported working for a wage, salary or other income. There was no significant difference by gender - 26% of women reported working for a wage, salary or other income, compared to 29% of men.

## Employment status



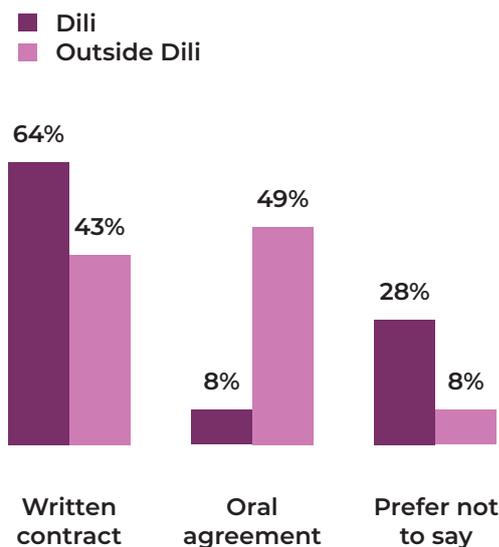
Among those that reported working for a wage, salary or other income, most were self-employed (62%) while some were working as a full-time employee (17%).

More respondents living outside Dili were self-employed (69%, compared to 31% of those living in Dili), while more respondents living in Dili

were working as full-time employees (34%, compared to 14% of those living outside Dili).

Fewer women were employed as a full-time employee (14%, compared to 21% of men), but an equal proportion of women (64%) and men (61%) were self-employed.

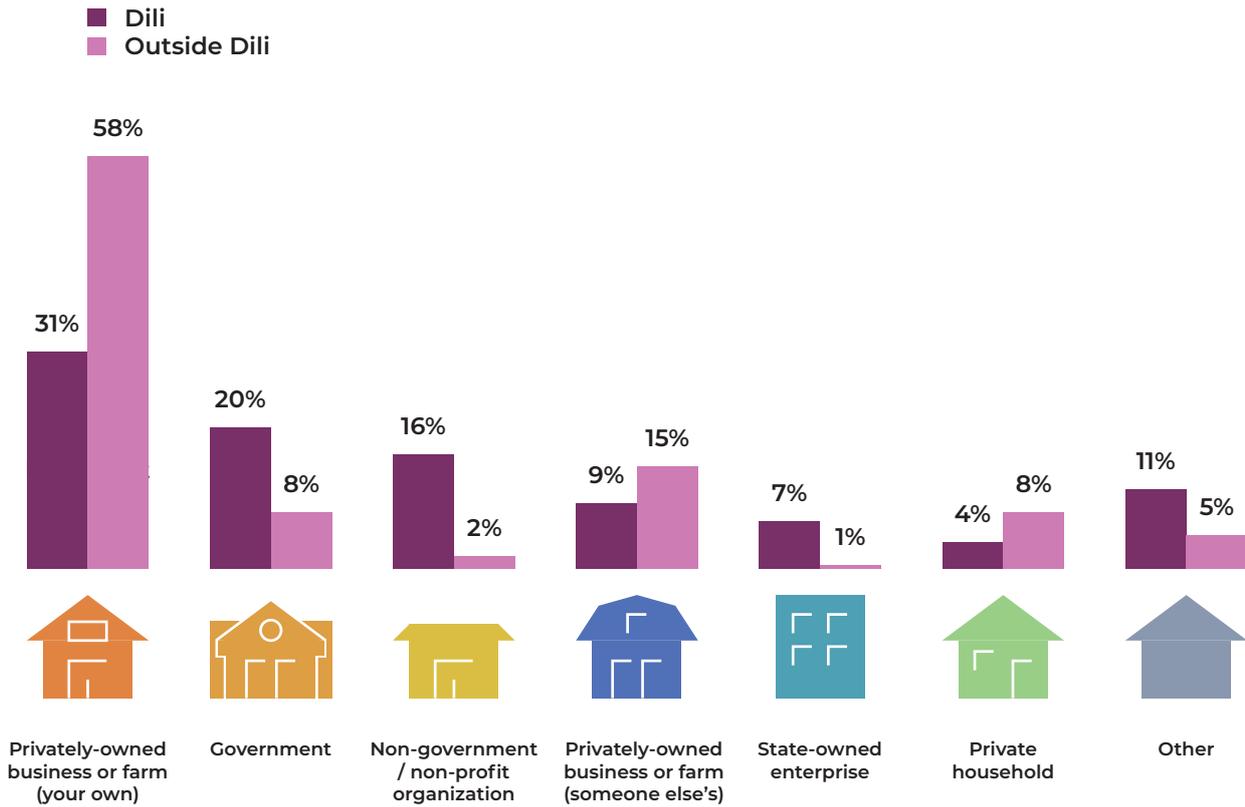
## Nature of employment



Working arrangements among respondents living in Dili were generally more formal compared to those living outside Dili. Among those working for somebody else, more respondents in Dili were employed based on a written contract (64%), compared to those living outside Dili (43%).

On average, those living in Dili had longer employment contracts. Forty per cent (40%) had a contract for more than 12 months, compared to 12% of those living outside Dili.

## Main place of employment



Those currently working for a wage, salary, or other income most commonly reported working for their own privately-owned business or farm. More respondents living outside Dili (58%) worked for their own business or farm than respondents living in Dili (31%).

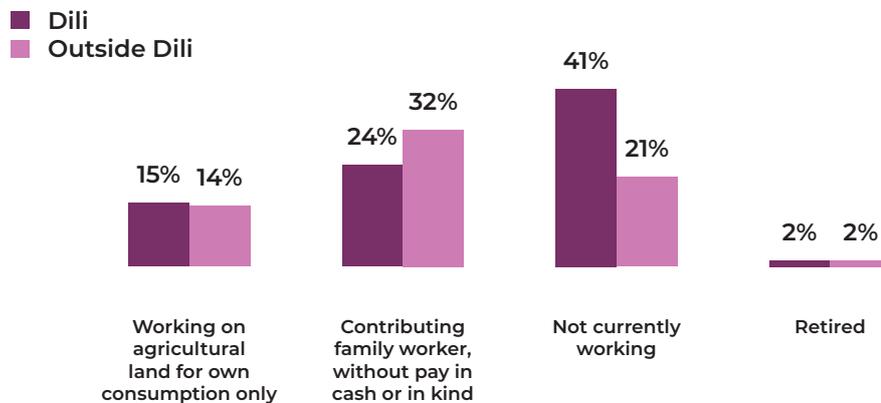
In contrast, more respondents living in Dili worked for the government (20%, compared to 8% of those living outside Dili) or a non-government/non-profit

organisation (16%, compared to 2% of those living outside Dili).

Respondents living in Dili most commonly worked at their place of employment in a building separate from their house (35%) or in their home (24%). Respondents living outside Dili most commonly worked on a farm (50%) or in their homes (28%).

# Employment — those not working for a wage, salary, or other income

Breakdown of those not currently working for a wage, salary or other income by location

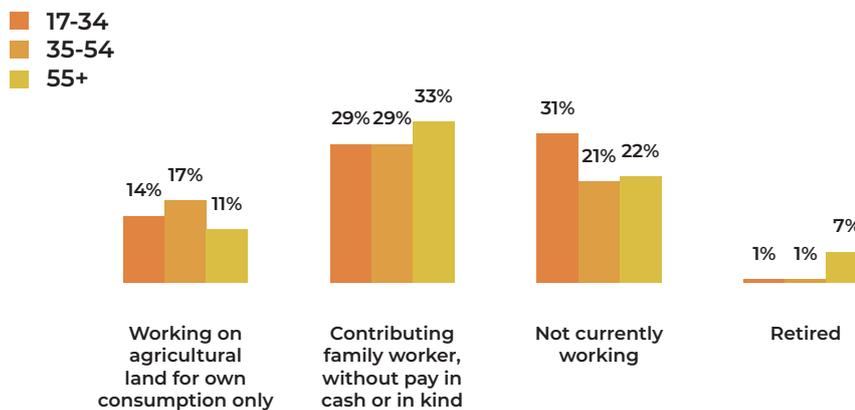


Note: The base for this chart is all respondents, hence results for each location will not add to 100%

The majority (72%) of respondents were not currently working for a wage, salary or other income. Thirty per cent (30%) of respondents were working for their family, but without pay in cash or in kind and 26% were not working at all. Of the 30% working for their family without pay in cash or in kind, half (50%) worked on agricultural land (their own or a family member's).

Employment status varied by location. More respondents living outside Dili worked for their family without pay in cash or in kind (32%, compared to 24% of those living in Dili), while a greater proportion of respondents living in Dili were not working at all (41%, compared to 21% of those living outside Dili).

Breakdown of those not currently working for a wage, salary or other income by age

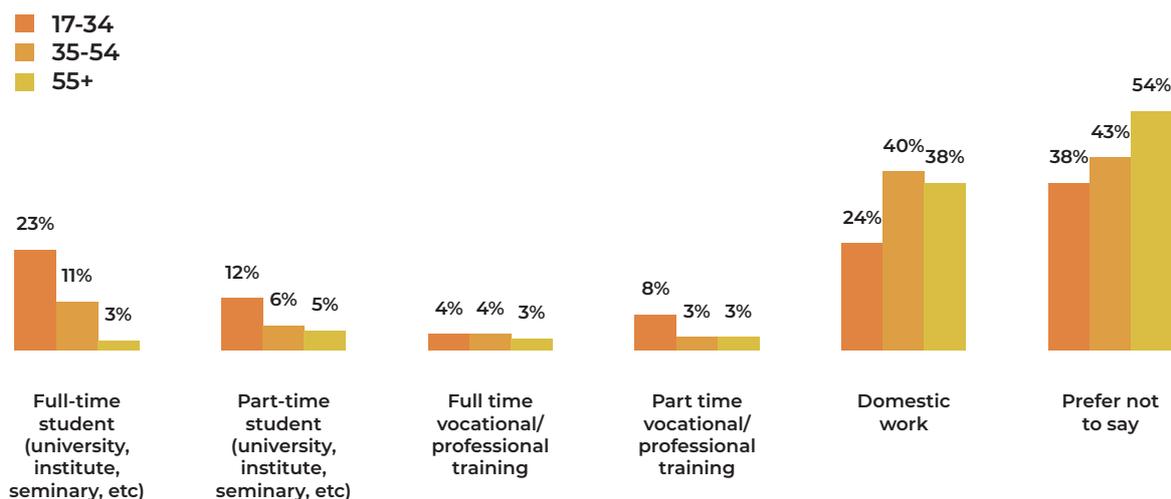


Note: The base for this chart is all respondents, hence results for each age group will not add to 100%

Differences in employment status were also observed by age. More respondents aged 17-34 were not currently working (31%, compared to 21% of those aged 35-54 and 22% of those aged 55+). Naturally, more older respondents aged 55+ reported being retired (7%, compared to 1% of those aged 17-54).

The breakdown of those currently not working for a wage, salary or other income was similar between men and women. However, a greater proportion of women reported they were not currently working (29%, compared to 24% of men).

## Other activities performed by those not currently working by age



Among the 26% of respondents not currently working, respondents were most commonly studying full-time (17%) or engaged in domestic work (30%). A notable proportion (42%) preferred not to say whether they were engaged in study or domestic work.

Among those not currently working, a greater proportion of respondents aged 17-34 were studying either full-time (23%, compared to 11% of those aged 35-54 and 3% of those aged 55+) or part-time (12%, compared to 6% of those aged 35-54 and 5% of those aged 55+). More respondents aged 35-54 (40%) and 55+ (38%) were engaged in domestic work, compared to those aged 17-34 (24%).

Differences by gender were also observed. Among those not currently working, more women (38%, compared to 21% of men) were involved in domestic work, while more men (20%, compared to 14% of women) reported they were a full-time student.

Forty-three per cent (43%, not charted) of those not currently working at all reported they were currently looking for a job. This figure was higher among those aged 17-34 (46%) and 35-54 (54%), compared to those aged 55+ (14%).

## Income from overseas

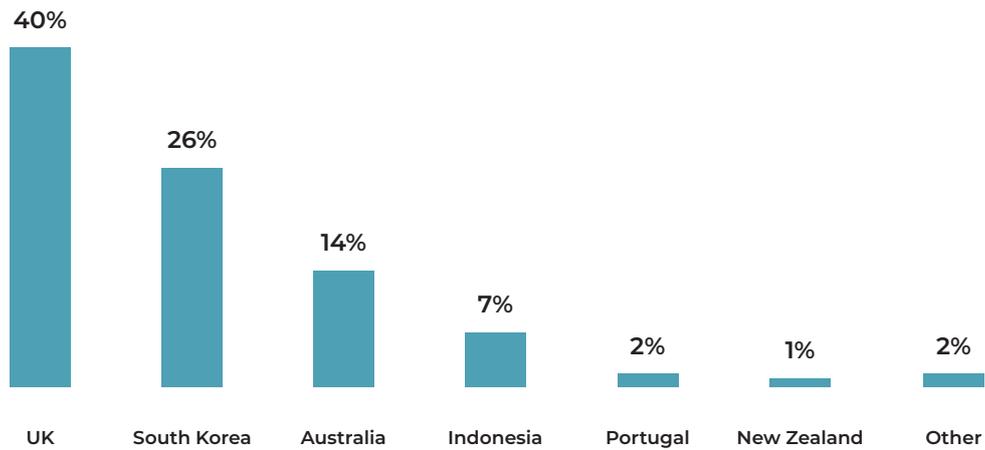
Ten per cent (10%) of respondents indicated a friend or family member overseas had sent them, or members of their household, money in the past six months. More respondents living in Dili (14%, compared to 9% of those living outside Dili) received money from overseas.

Remittances were most commonly sent from the United Kingdom (40%), South Korea (26%), and Australia (14%).

Of respondents receiving remittances, 62% received up to USD 1,000, while a further 18% reported receiving between USD 1,001 and USD 3,000.

Remittances were most commonly used for food and basic living costs (59%), building or renovating homes (36%), and education expenses (31%).

**Where does the person (or people) that sends you or your household money reside overseas?**

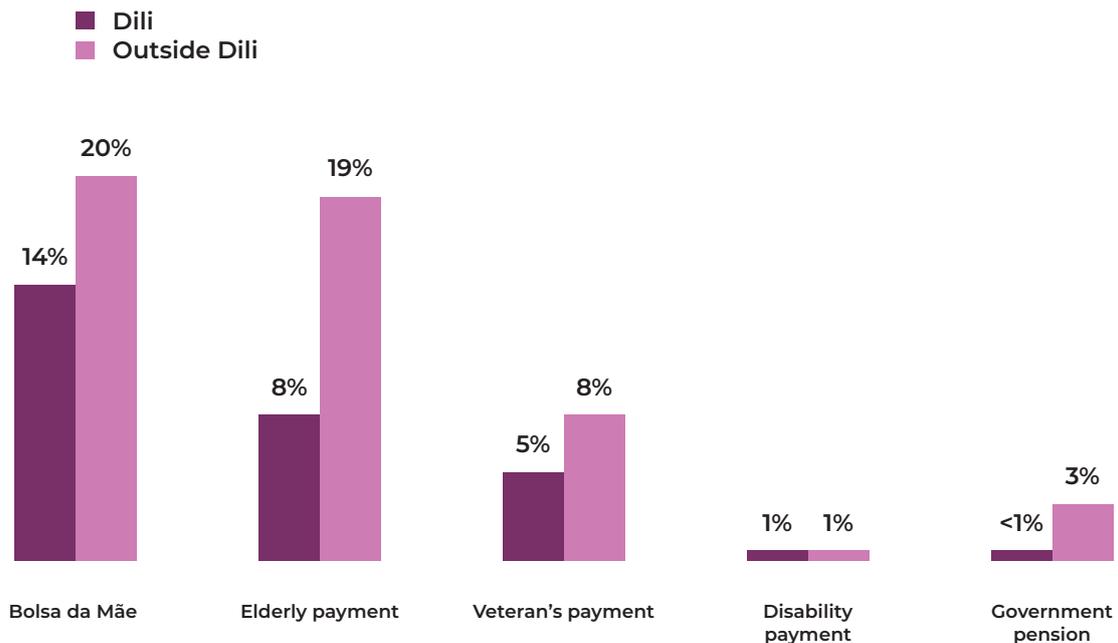


## Government payments

Forty-five per cent (45%) of respondents nationally were receiving at least one government payment regularly. More respondents living outside Dili (51%, compared to 28% of those living in Dili) were regularly receiving a payment. Similarly, more respondents with disability (71%), compared to 43%

of respondents without disability, and older respondents aged 55 and over (75%, compared to 34% of those aged 17-34 and 45% of those aged 35-54) were regularly receiving government payments.

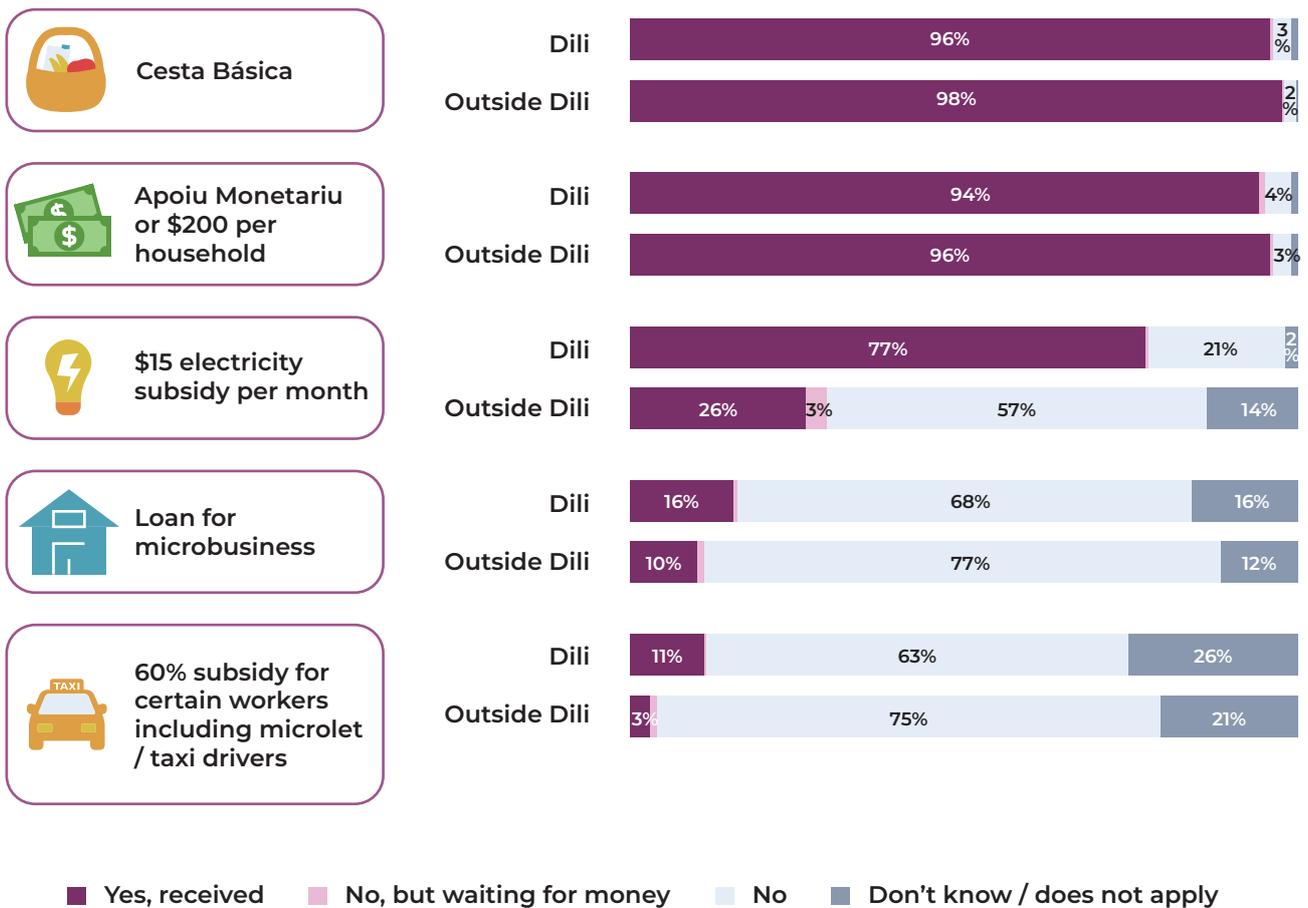
**Which, if any, government payments do you, or a household member that lives with you, receive regularly?**



Respondents were most likely to be receiving Bolsa da Mãe (20% of those outside Dili and 14% of those in Dili), Elderly payment (19% of those outside Dili and 8% of those in Dili) and Veteran's payment (8% of those outside Dili and 5% of those in Dili).

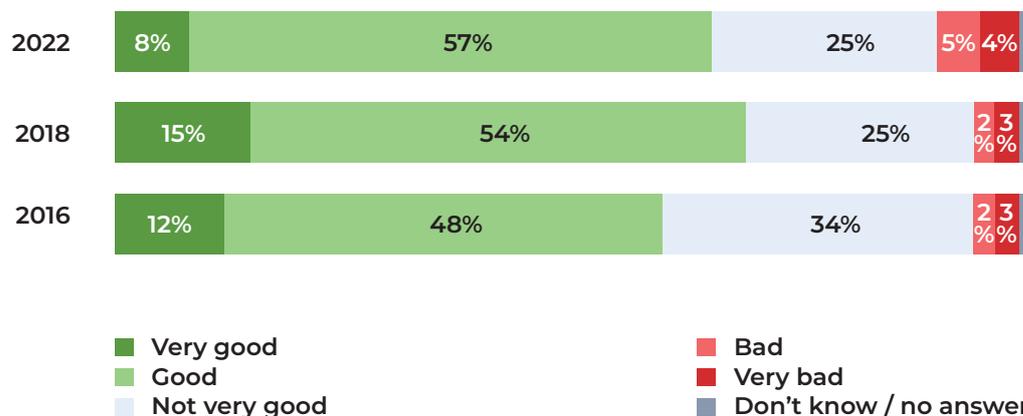
Nearly all respondents had received Cesta Básica (97% nationally) and Apoiu Monetariu /USD 200 per household (95% nationally). More respondents living in Dili received the USD 15 electricity subsidy per month (77%) than those living outside Dili (26%).

**Did you or anyone in your household receive any support as part of the government's social-economic package / stimulus / recovery program?**



## Economic Wellbeing

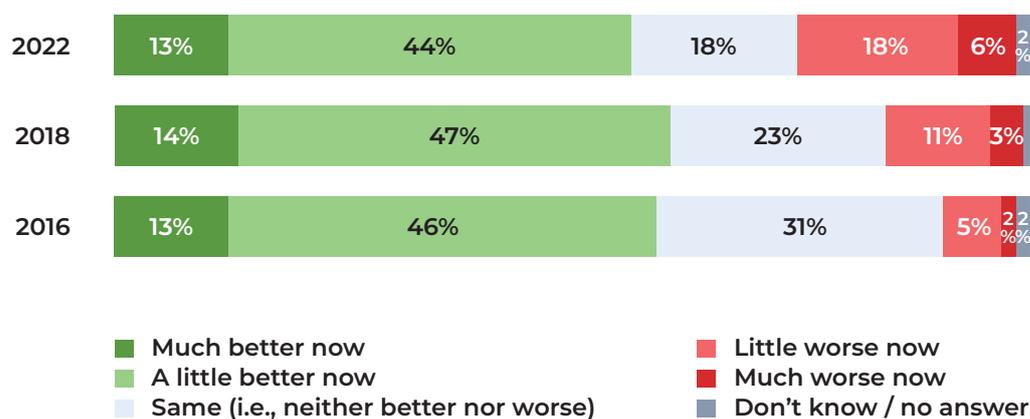
*How would you rate the economic situation of your family today?*



Sixty-five per cent (65%) of respondents nationally rated their household's economic situation as 'good' or 'very good', down from 69% in 2018 but higher than 60% in 2016.

A greater proportion of respondents living in Dili (68%, compared to 64% of those living outside Dili), women (68%, compared to 63% of men) and respondents without disability (66%, compared to 49% of respondents with disability) rated their household's economic situation as 'good' or 'very good'.

*How does the current economic situation of your family today compare to one year ago?*



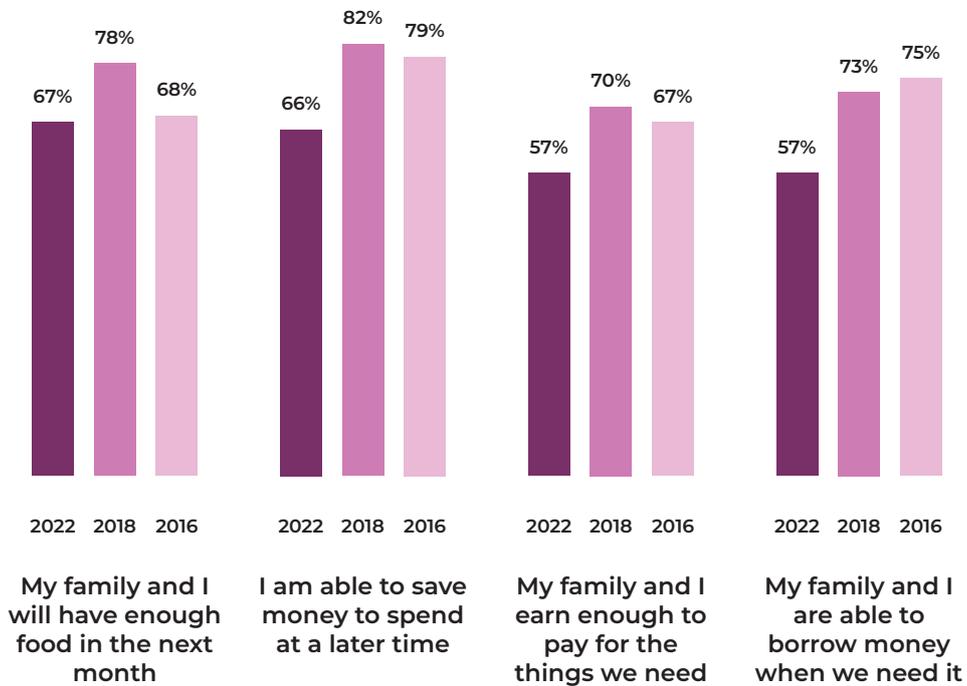
Fifty-seven per cent (57%) of respondents felt their family's economic situation was 'a little' or 'much' better compared to one year ago, lower than 61% in 2018. A greater proportion also felt their current situation was 'a little' or 'much' worse (24%) compared to previous years (14% in 2018 and 7% in 2016).

More respondents living in Dili (64%, compared to 54% living outside Dili) felt their current economic situation had improved compared to one year ago. Also, more respondents without a disability (57%, compared to 42% of respondents with a disability) felt their current economic situation had improved compared to one year ago.

Among those who reported that their economic situation was worse compared to one year ago, 40% agreed this was due to the COVID-19 situation. A similar proportion (38%) of those who felt their economic situation had *improved* also indicated the COVID-19 situation was the main cause.

Respondents' personal and household economic situation were less positive compared to 2016 and 2018. The ability to save money decreased to 66% (from 82% in 2018), and the ability to borrow money when needed decreased to 57% (from 73% in 2018). Respondents also indicated a reduced ability to cover their needs based on earnings: 57% compared to 2018 (70%) and 2016 (67%), respectively. Likewise, only 67% of respondents highlighted that they and their family would have enough food in the coming month, reverting to 2016 levels and 11% lower than in 2018.

**Perceptions of personal and household economic situation (agree or strongly agree)**



# MAIN ISSUES FACING TIMOR-LESTE

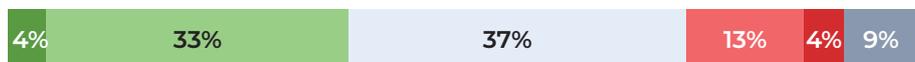
The 2022 Tatoli! Survey asked respondents for their views regarding the overall direction of the country, as well as the main issues facing themselves personally, women, their community, and the country.

## Direction of the country

Overall, 37% of respondents agreed that Timor-Leste today is going in the right direction, while only 17% disagreed. However, a notable proportion (37%) felt neutral and 9% were unable or unwilling to provide an answer to this question.

Agreement that Timor-Leste is going in the right direction was slightly higher among older respondents aged 55 and over (40%, compared to 36% of those aged 17-34 and 37% of those aged 35-54). Similarly, more people living outside Dili agreed that Timor-Leste is going in the right direction (39%, compared to 33% of those living in Dili).

**Generally, Timor-Leste today is going in the right direction.**

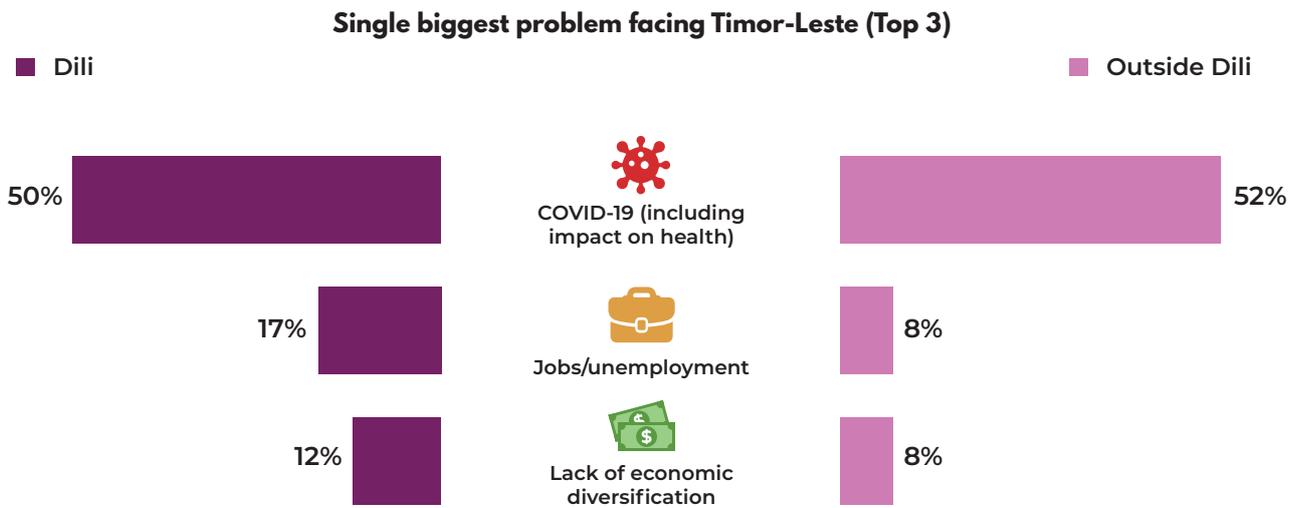


- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither

- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know / no answer

# Main challenges

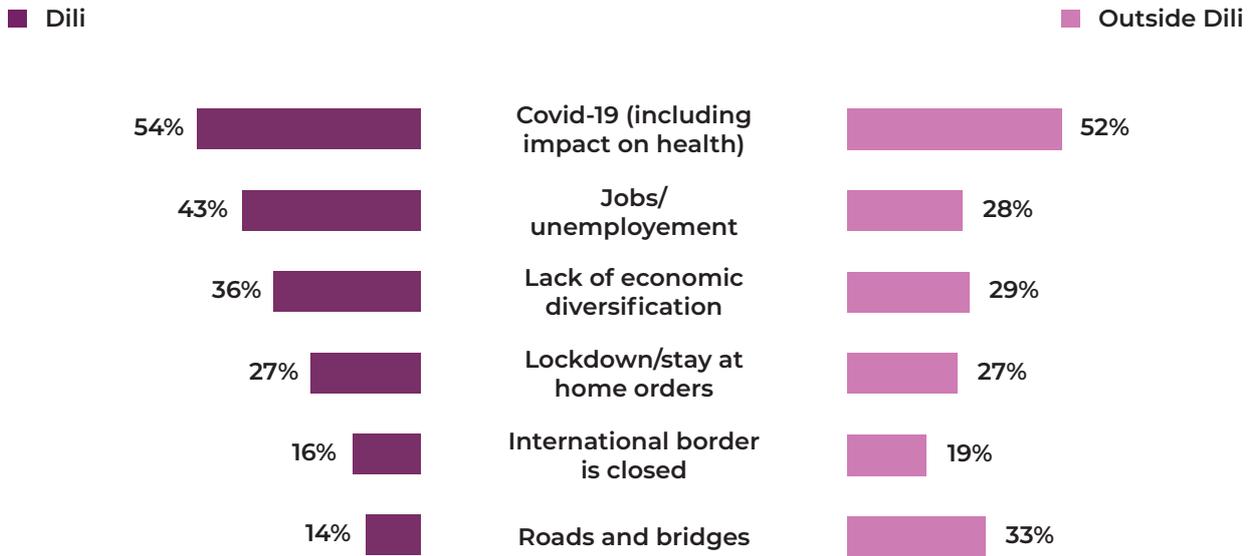
When asked about the biggest problem facing Timor-Leste on a national level, COVID-19 (52% nationally) was by far the most-cited issue among all demographic groups. Jobs/unemployment and lack of economic diversification were identified as problems by respondents living in Dili and outside Dili; however, a greater proportion of those living in Dili identified them as issues.



When asked about the biggest problems facing their *community*, COVID-19 (52%) was again by far the most-cited issue among respondents nationally. Restrictions due to COVID-19, including lockdown/stay-at-home orders (26%), sanitary fences/limited travel between districts (17%) and the international border closure (18%) were also commonly reported as issues.

Apart from COVID-19 and related issues, jobs/unemployment (43%) and lack of economic diversification (36%) were the greatest perceived problems among those living in Dili. Outside Dili, lack of economic diversification (29%) and roads and bridges (33%) were considered the greatest problems.

### Biggest problems facing your community (Top 6)



The biggest problems facing *individuals* were similar to the biggest problems reported for communities. COVID-19 (53%), jobs/unemployment (44%) and lack of economic diversification (38%) were the biggest problems

faced by individuals living in Dili. COVID-19 (47%), lack of economic diversification (33%) and roads and bridges (31%) were the biggest problems faced by individuals outside Dili.

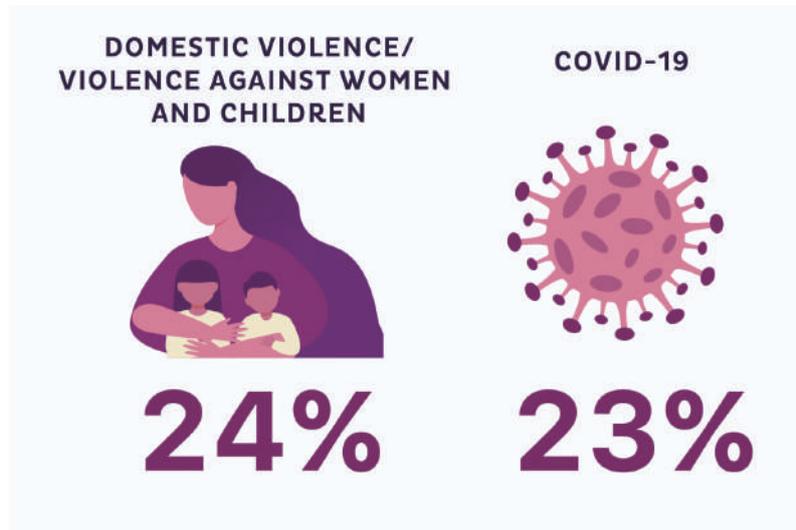
## Issues facing women

Nationally, domestic violence/violence against women and children (24%) and COVID-19 (23%) were considered the most important issues facing women in Timor-Leste today.

Perceptions of the most important issues facing women were similar among women and men—

although more women felt domestic violence/violence against women and children (26%, compared to 22% of men) was the most important issue. More respondents living in Dili also felt domestic violence was the most important issue facing women (32%, compared to 21% of those outside Dili).

### What is the most important issue facing women in Timor-Leste today?



# GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS, PERFORMANCE, AND PRIORITIES

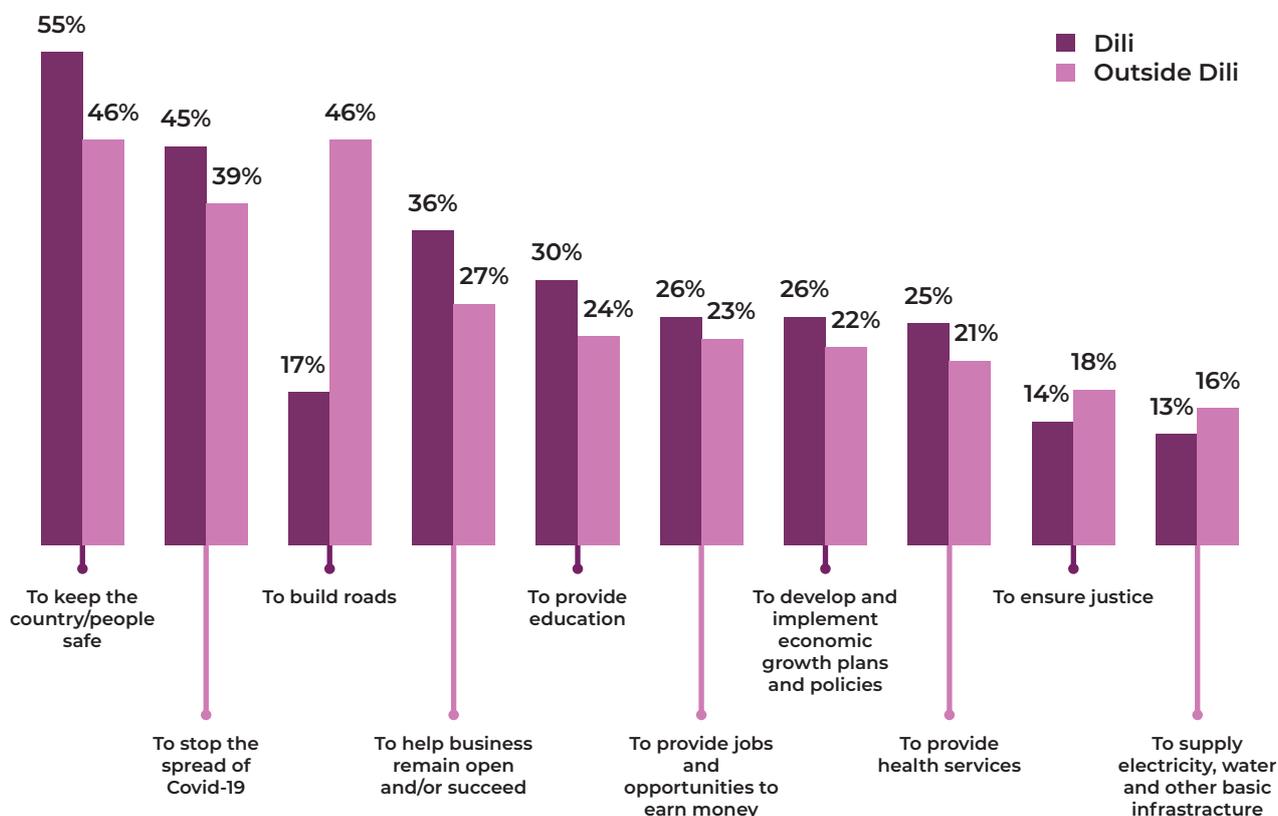
The 2022 Tatoli! Survey asked respondents their views regarding the functions, performance, and priorities of government. As in past Tatoli! Surveys, the survey also asked respondents their opinion as to what impedes the government from doing the best job possible.

## Government Functions

Respondents identified the three most important functions of government. The ordering of the top ten answers in and outside of Dili were almost the same. However, building roads was considered much more important among those living outside Dili (46%) than those living in Dili (17%).



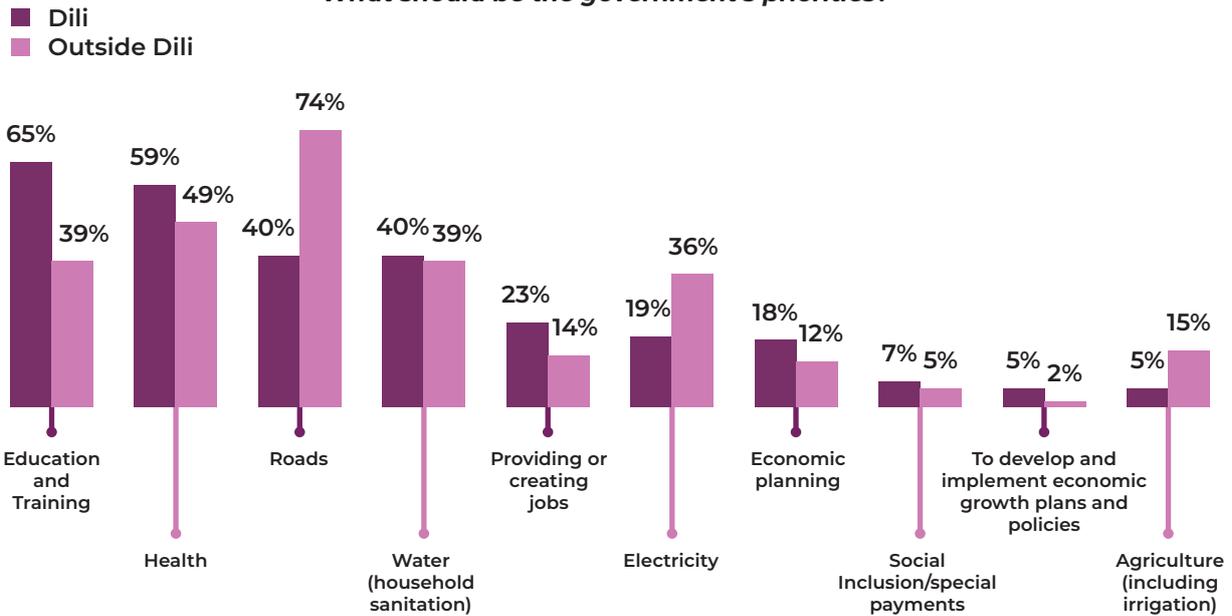
Most important responsibilities of government<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup>Respondents were asked to identify the top three responsibilities of government. The top 10 responses are reflected in the chart.

## Government priorities

What should be the government's priorities?<sup>3</sup>



Nationally, respondents perceived the Government's main priorities to be roads (65%), health (52%) and education and training (46%).

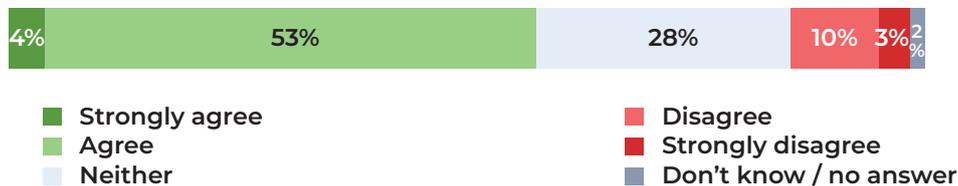
More respondents living outside Dili felt the Government should prioritise infrastructure such as roads (74%, compared to 40% of those living in Dili) and electricity (36%, compared to 19% of those living in Dili), as well as agriculture (15%, compared to 5% of those living in Dili).

A greater proportion of those living in Dili felt the Government should prioritise education and training (65%, compared to 39% of those living outside Dili), health (59%, compared to 49% of those living outside Dili) and providing/creating jobs (23%, compared to 14% of those living outside Dili).

In line with perceived Government priorities, the top areas respondents felt the Government should be investing in were roads (68% nationally), health (55%), education and training (51%), water (42%) and electricity (32%).

## Government consultation and performance

*I am satisfied with the current level of government consultation with citizens to address important problems facing the country*

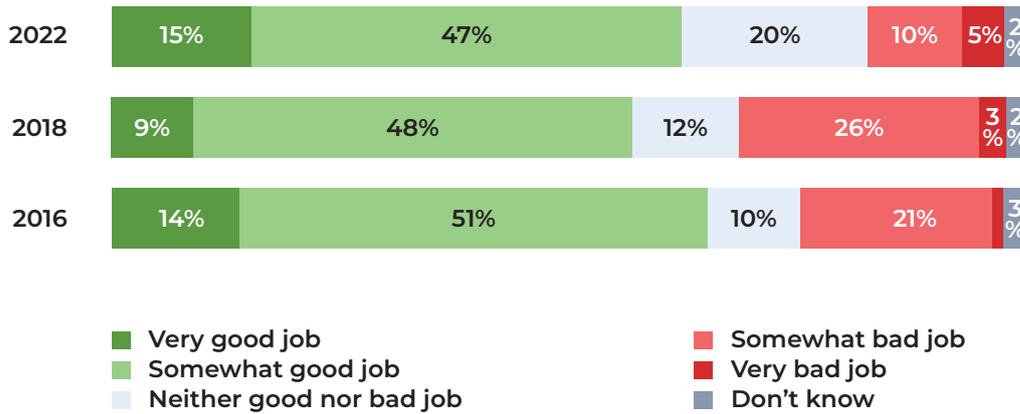


Most respondents (57%) were satisfied with the current level of government consultation with citizens. Agreement was higher among respondents living outside Dili (63%, compared to 43% of those living in Dili).

When asked about the importance of government consultation, 56% indicated the government should do what the people tell it to do, while 17% felt the government knows what is best and should do what it thinks is most important.

<sup>3</sup>Respondents were asked to identify the top three responsibilities of Government. The top 10 responses are reflected in the chart.

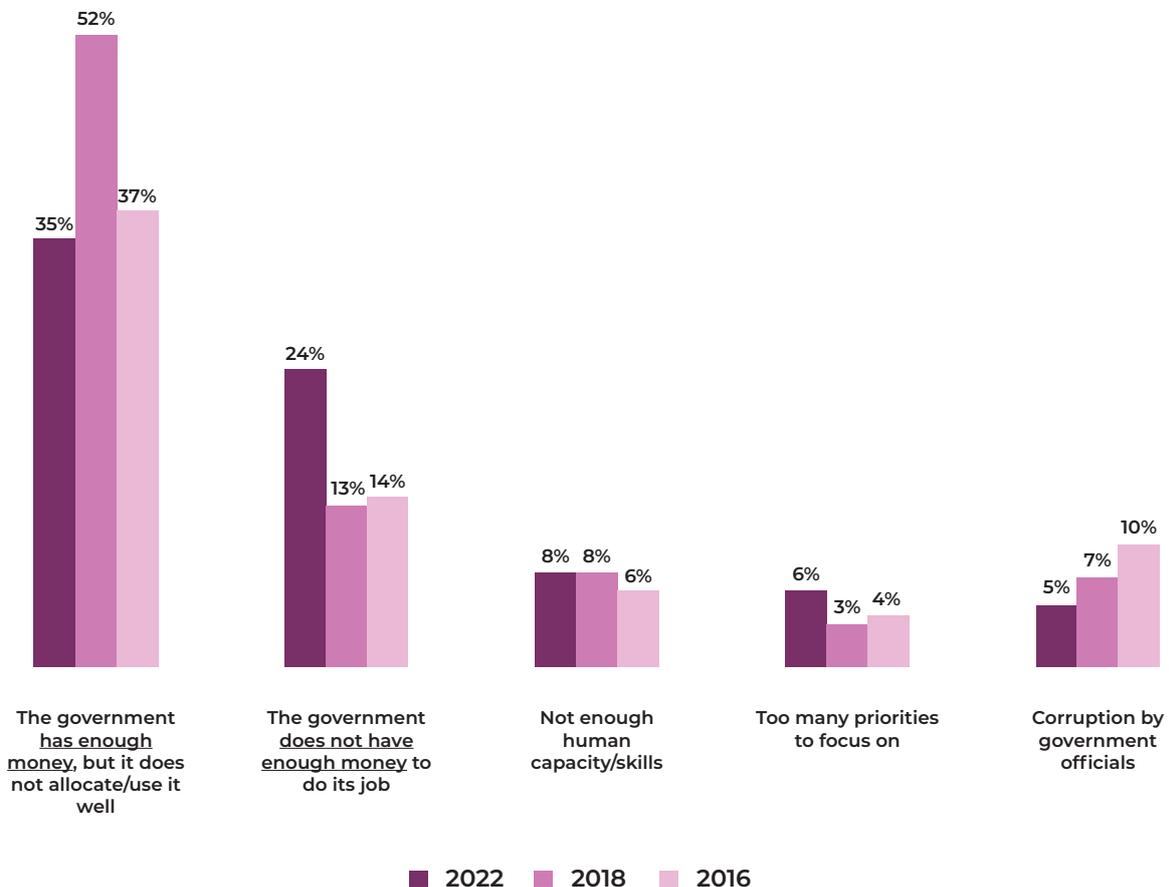
**How do you feel about the way the government is carrying out its responsibilities?**



Sixty-two per cent (62%) of respondents felt the government was doing a 'very good' or 'somewhat good' job carrying out its responsibilities, up from 57% in 2018 but in line with 65% in 2016. Perceptions of the way the government was carrying out its responsibilities were similar among all demographic groups.

Compared to previous years, there was a notable uptick (24%, up from 13% in 2018 and 14% in 2016) in respondents perceiving that lack of money/budget is the main barrier to government doing the best job possible. Relatedly, there was a downtick (35%, down from 52% in 2018) in respondents perceiving that government has enough money/budget, but does not allocate it well.

**What is preventing government from doing its best job possible?**



# Government programs

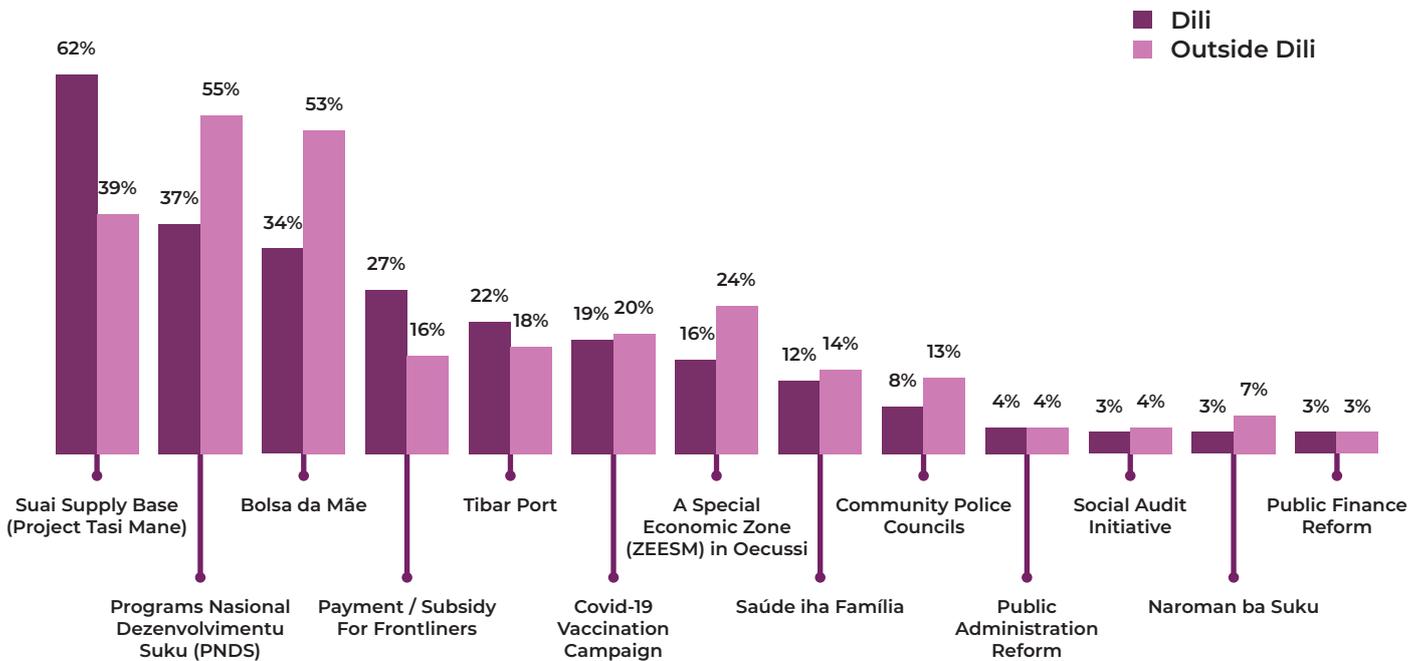
Respondents were asked what government projects and programs they had heard of. Out of the government programs mentioned, respondents were most likely to have heard about *Programa Nasional Dezenvolvimentu Suku-PNDS* (51%), *Bolsa da Mãe* (48%) and *Suai Supply Base* (45%).

More respondents living in Dili were aware of *Suai Supply Base* (62% of those in Dili, compared to 39% of those outside Dili) and payment/subsidy for frontliners (27%, compared to 16%).<sup>4</sup> In contrast, more respondents living outside Dili were aware

of *PNDS* (55% of those outside Dili, compared to 37% of those in Dili), *Bolsa da Mãe* (53%, compared to 34%) and the *Special Economic Zone in Oecussi* (24%, compared to 16%).

Respondents were subsequently asked about the relative importance of each government program. *Suai Supply Base* (32% of those in Dili and 18% of those outside Dili), *Bolsa da Mãe* (14% of those in Dili and 22% of those outside Dili) and *PNDS* (13% of those in Dili and 37% of those outside Dili) were considered the most important programs for both respondents living in Dili and outside Dili.

**Percentage of respondents that have heard of the following government projects/programs**



<sup>4</sup>Frontliner is a frontline worker, especially in healthcare and other essential, often public facing jobs. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, most of the health workers were still showing up to their job to attend to patients.

# SERVICE DELIVERY

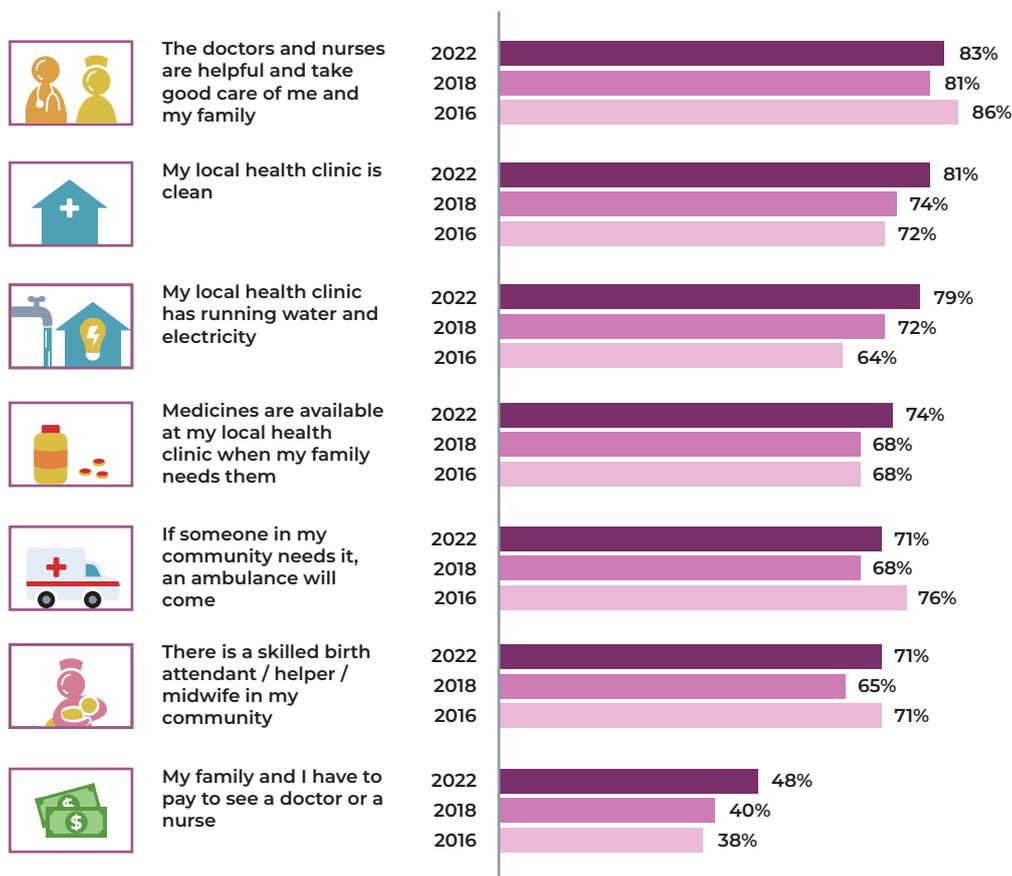
The 2022 Tatoli! Survey asked respondents about the quality of health, education and infrastructure services, and their willingness to pay more taxes for improved services. These results were compared with previous surveys from 2016 and 2018. As in 2018, a question was also asked about people's perception of women's right to education.

## Health services

In the last six months, most (88%) respondents or their family had attended a government health clinic/hospital (82%), private health clinic (3%) or both (4%). Respondents generally had positive perceptions of health services in their community, and improvements were observed across many aspects compared to 2018.

A greater proportion of respondents living outside Dili indicated they 'always' or 'very frequently' had access to helpful doctors and nurses (85%, compared to 76% of those living in Dili), skilled birth attendants/helpers/midwives (75%, compared to 60% of those living in Dili), ambulances (74%, compared to 63% of those living in Dili) and medicines at their local health clinic (76%, compared to 67% of those living in Dili).

### Perceptions of health services in Administrative Post (always or very frequently)



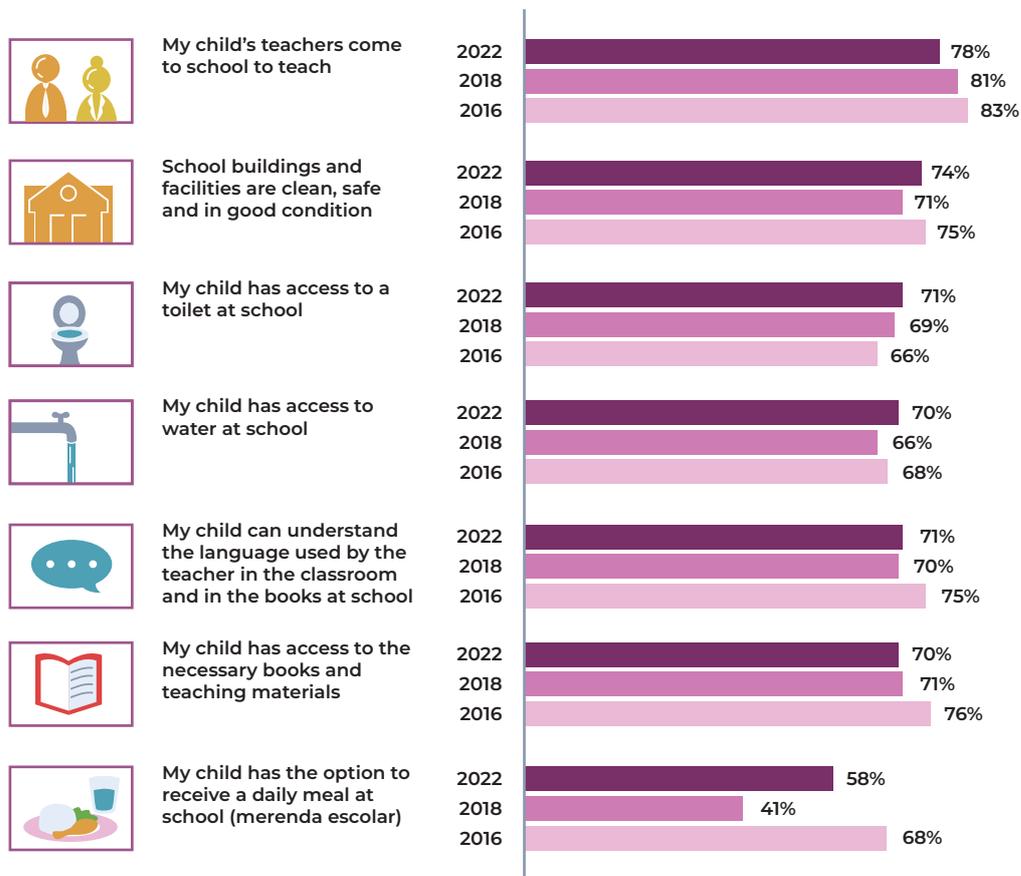
# Education

Most (87%) respondents had children who attended school in the last six months. Sixty-nine per cent (69%) of respondents had children who attended a government school, 13% had children who attended a private school and 5% had children who attended both.

Respondents generally reported positive perceptions of their children's school that were in line with 2018 across most aspects.

However, a greater proportion of respondents indicated their child 'always' or 'very frequently' had the option to receive a daily meal at school (58%, up from 41% in 2018 but lower than 68% in 2016). Respondents living outside Dili reported more positive perceptions across all aspects compared to those living in Dili.

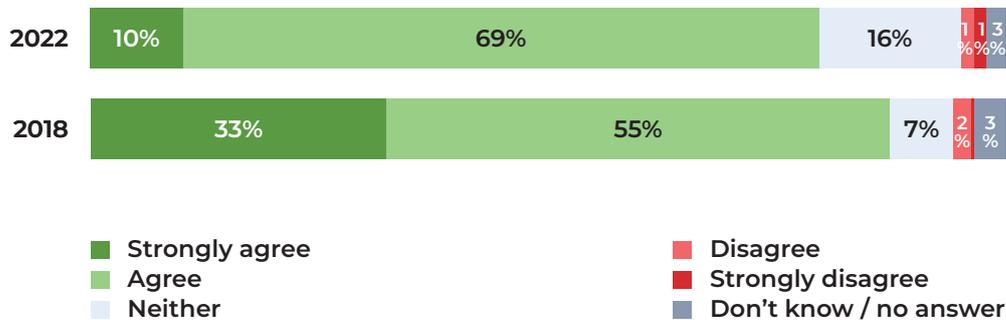
## Perceptions of education services in Administrative Post (always or very frequently)



# Women's right to education

While most respondents (79%) agreed women in their household should have access to education opportunities, agreement was lower than in 2018 (88%).

## Women in my household should have access to education opportunities

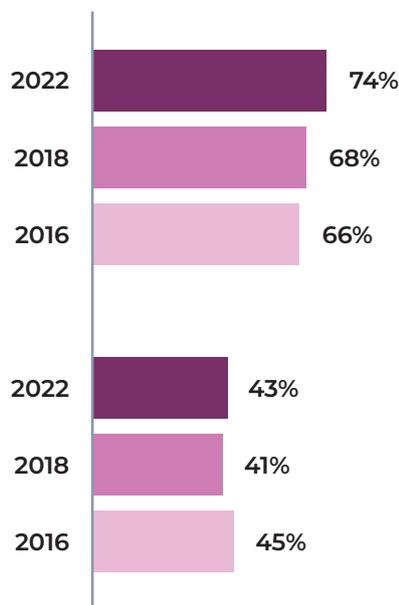


# Infrastructure

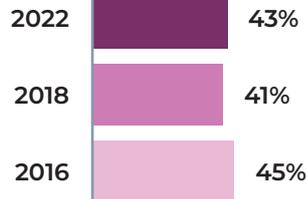
## Water and sanitation (always or very frequently)



I have access to a toilet at / very near my home



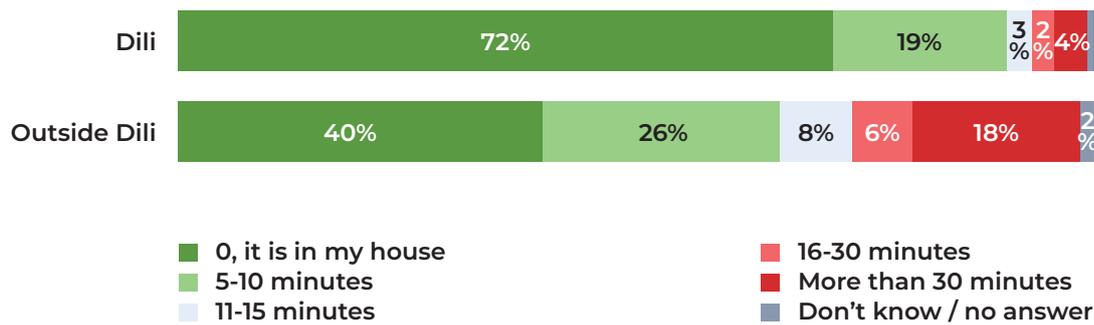
The water pumps / well at my water station work well



Most respondents reported they 'always' or 'very frequently' have access to a toilet at or very near their home (74%), higher than 68% in 2018 and 66% in 2016. However, much lower proportions indicated the water pumps/wells at their water station 'always' or 'frequently' worked well (43%, in line with 41% in 2018 and 45% in 2016).

A greater proportion of those living in Dili reported they 'always' or 'very frequently' had access to a toilet nearby (81%, compared to 72% of those living outside Dili) and a working water station (57%, compared to 38% of those living outside Dili).

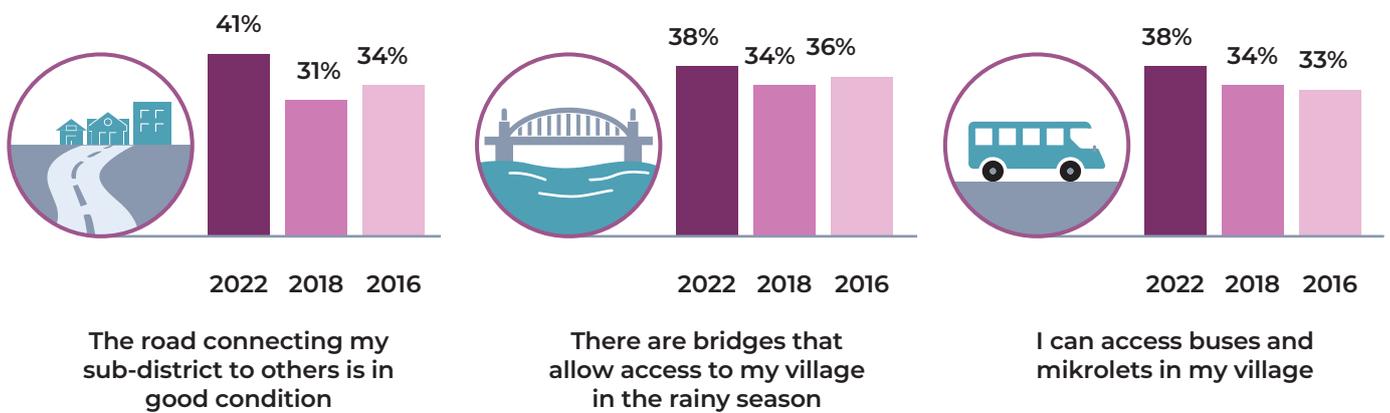
### How long does it take you to fetch water?



On average, respondents living outside Dili took more time to fetch water. Most respondents living in Dili (72%) indicated they had water in their home, compared to only 40% of those living outside Dili. More respondents living outside Dili reported it taking more than 30 minutes to fetch water (18%, compared to 4% of those living in Dili).

In addition, once at the water station/pump, wait times were longer on average for respondents living outside Dili. Thirty-five per cent (35%) of respondents outside Dili reported having to queue for more than 15 minutes to get water, compared to 27% of respondents living in Dili.

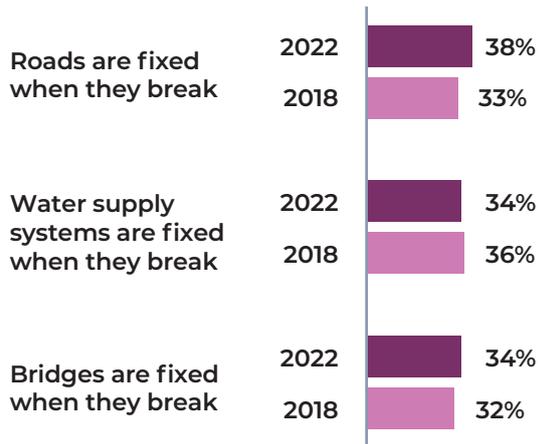
### Roads and transport (always or very frequently)



Compared to 2018, more respondents indicated they 'always' or 'very frequently' had access to connecting roads in good condition (41%, up from 31% in 2018), bridges in the rainy season (38%, up from 34%) and buses and *mikrolets* in their village (38%, up from 34%).

Respondents living in Dili reported more positive perceptions of all aspects of roads and transport compared to those living outside Dili.

**Maintenance of services (always or very frequently)**



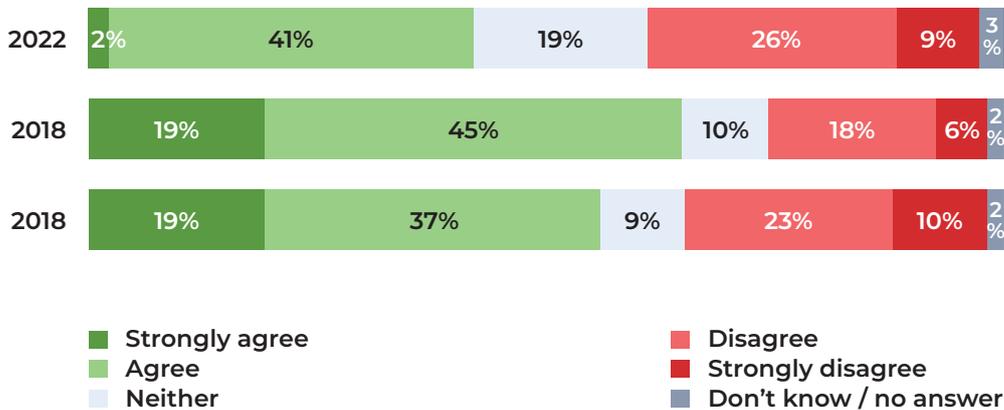
Only around a third of respondents reported that roads (38%, up from 33% in 2018), water supply systems (34%, in line with 2018) and bridges (34%, in line with 2018) were 'always' or 'very frequently' fixed when they broke. Positively, frequency of maintenance was higher compared to 2018 for roads.

More respondents living in Dili indicated that all services were 'always' or 'very frequently' fixed when they broke.

## Willingness to pay more taxes to improve service delivery

Less than half (43%, down from 64% in 2018 and 56% in 2016) agreed they would be willing to pay more taxes to receive better services, a lower proportion compared to previous years.

**I would be willing to pay more taxes to receive better services**



# POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS

The 2022 Tatoli! Survey captured respondent views regarding the characteristics they most value in individual leaders and political parties. It also captured respondent’s perspectives on women and youth in leadership.

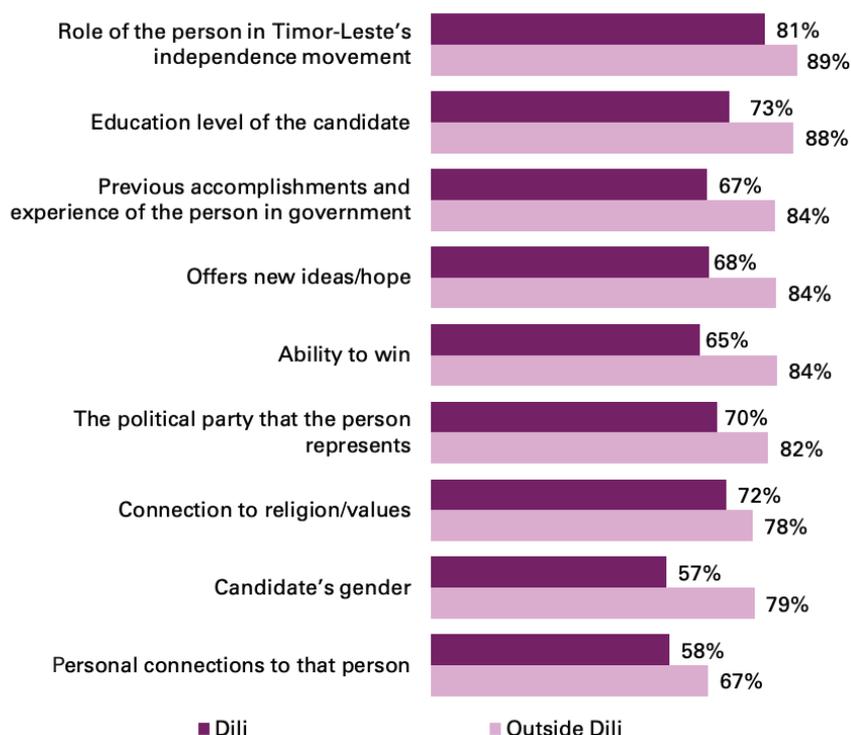
## Leadership Characteristics

Most respondents rated each characteristic as ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ important for a presidential candidate to have. Respondents considered the role of the person in Timor-Leste’s independence movement (87% nationally) and education level (84%) to be the most important characteristics of a candidate. In contrast, respondents felt

the candidate’s gender (73%) and personal connection to them (65%) were relatively less important.

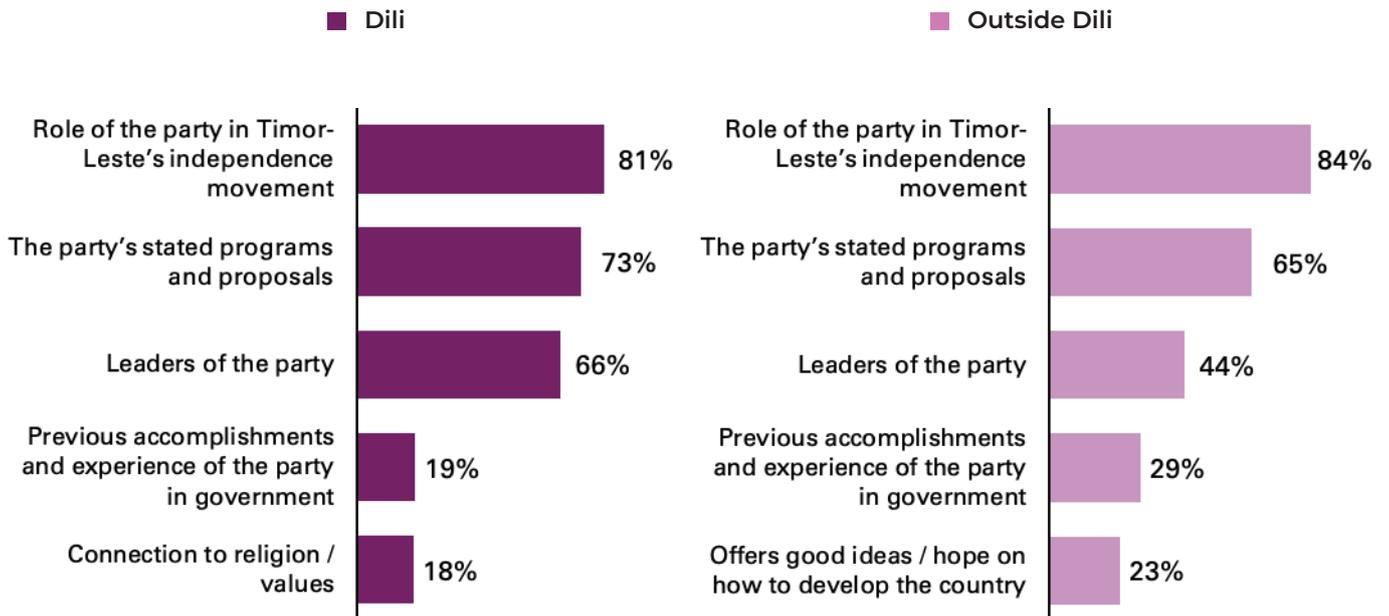
A greater proportion of respondents living outside Dili rated all characteristics as ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ important, compared to those living in Dili.

**How important are the following characteristics of a presidential candidate? (very or somewhat important)**



The three most important attributes for a political party were the role of the party in Timor-Leste’s independence movement (83% nationally), the party’s stated programs and proposals (67%) and the leaders of the party (49%). These were the top three most important attributes for both respondents living in Dili and outside Dili.

**Which are the top three attributes you consider most important for a political party?**



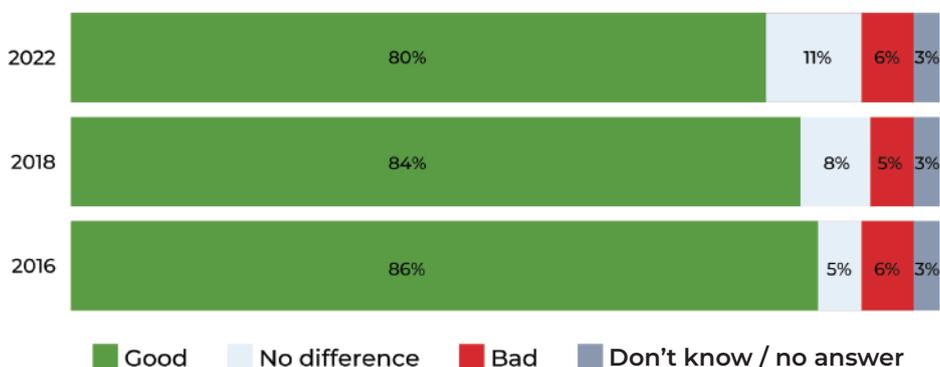
## Admired individuals

As in previous years, former President and former Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão was by far the most admired figure (57% nationally). His popularity also increased compared to 2018 (42%) and 2016 (33%). Nationally, former President, and at the time of this writing President-elect for a second term, José Ramos-Horta (8%) and current President Francisco Guterres Lú-Olo (8%) were the next most admired figures.

The main reasons respondents most admired the leader they chose was due to their role in Timor-Leste's historical independence movement (55%) and their role in Timor-Leste's current development (18%).

## Women in politics

**Would it be good or bad for Timor-Leste if more women entered politics?**



Most respondents (80%) felt it would be good for Timor-Leste if more women entered politics. However, this figure was lower than in 2018 (84%) and 2016 (86%).

More women (82%, compared to 77% of men) and respondents without disability (81%, compared to 62% of respondents with disability) felt it would be good for Timor-Leste if more women entered politics. Similarly, more respondents aged 17-34 (82%) and 35-54 (81%, compared to 74% of those aged 55 and over) felt it would be good for Timor-Leste if more women entered politics.

When prompted about why there are more men than women in high office, respondents most

commonly felt this was because a woman's role is in the household, not public office (22%); women are not interested in becoming political leaders (12%); or people don't want to vote for a woman/there is discrimination against women (11%).

Most respondents (71%) felt that women could reach high office positions at national level. Respondents nominated the highest position women could be elected to as President of Republic or Prime Minister (16%), Minister (28%) or member of National Parliament (8%). Nineteen per cent (19%) felt women can be elected to *any* public office.

## Youth in leadership

Most respondents agreed that they trust younger generations (62%), there are qualified individuals in the younger generation who can lead the country (61%), and the younger generation is starting to lead Timor-Leste (56%).

A greater proportion of respondents without a disability (62%, 62%, and 57%, compared to 52%, 49%, and 44 % of respondents with a

disability) and younger respondents aged 17-34 (67%, 66%, and 60%, compared to 57%, 57%, and 52% of those 35 years and older) agreed with each of the three statements.

In addition, more respondents living in Dili agreed the younger generation was starting to lead Timor-Leste (62%, compared to 54% of those living outside Dili).

### Perceptions of youth in leadership

The young generation is starting to lead Timor-Leste.



There are qualified individuals in the younger generation with experience and qualifications to lead the country.



I trust younger generations.



■ Strongly agree  
■ Agree  
■ Neither

■ Disagree  
■ Strongly disagree  
■ Don't know / no answer

# PERCEIVED CORRUPTION

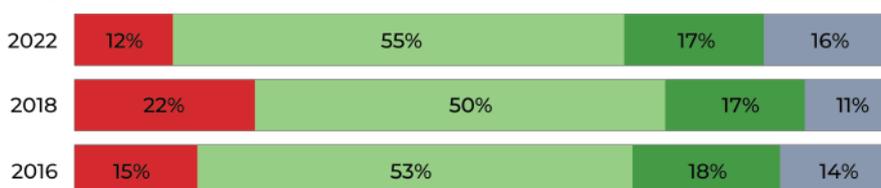
As with the 2016 and 2018 Tatoli! Survey, in 2022 respondents were asked for their perceptions about the extent to which different areas and institutions were affected by corruption.

As reflected in the following two charts, overall perceptions of corruption were in line with previous years. However, there were decreases in perceptions of strong corruption ('significantly' or 'completely') compared to previous years. Perceptions were similar among all demographic groups.

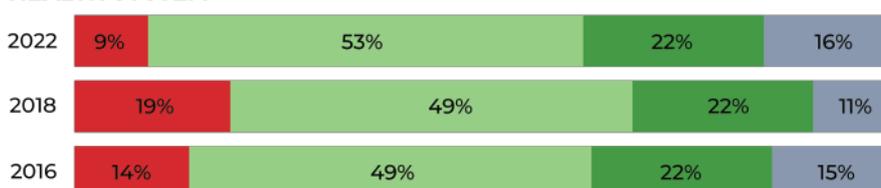
**To what extent do you perceive the following areas to be affected by corruption?**



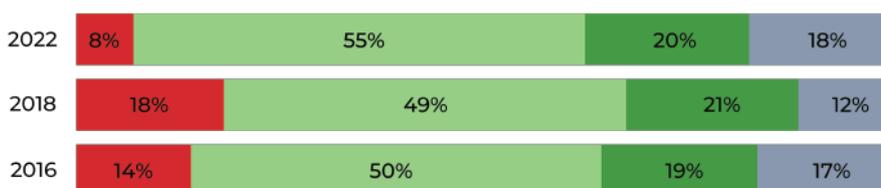
## EDUCATION SYSTEM



## HEALTH SYSTEM



## REGISTRY AND PERMIT SYSTEM



## PROCUREMENT TENDERS



## MAJOR PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS\*



## OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK OVERSEAS\*

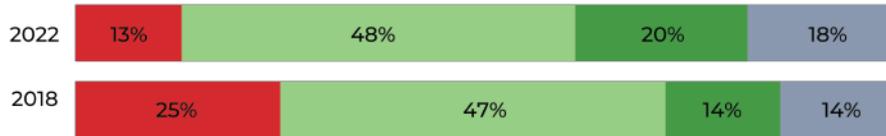


\*New question added in 2022

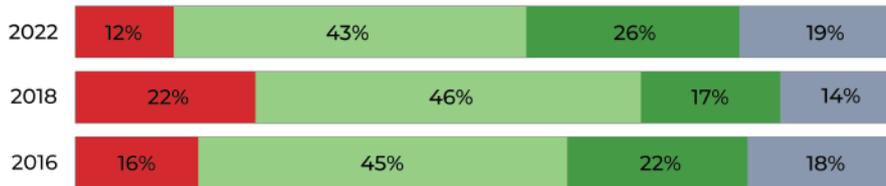
**To what extent do you perceive the following institutions to be affected by corruption?**

■ Significantly + Completely      ■ Not at all  
■ Moderately + A little      ■ Don't know/ No answer

**GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES**



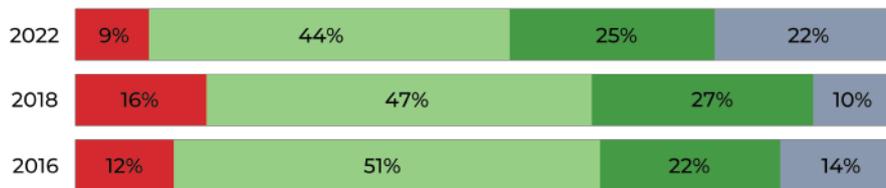
**SUKU COUNCIL**



**COUNCIL OF MINISTERS**



**POLICE (PNTL)**



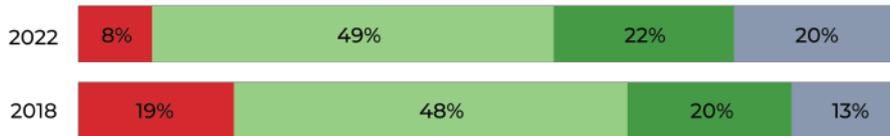
**POLITICAL PARTIES**



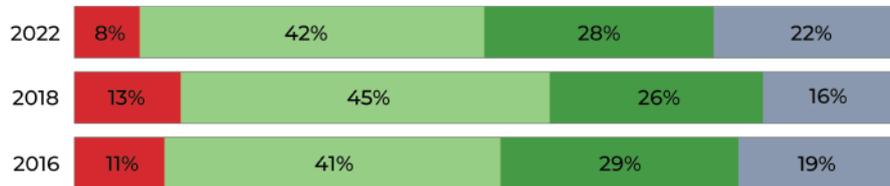
**To what extent do you perceive the following institutions to be affected by corruption?**

■ Significantly + Completely      ■ Not at all  
■ Moderately + A little      ■ Don't know/ No answer

**MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT**



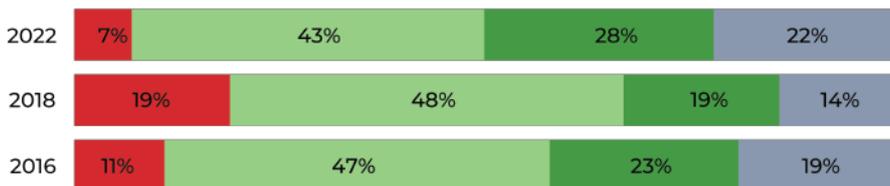
**NATIONAL NGOs**



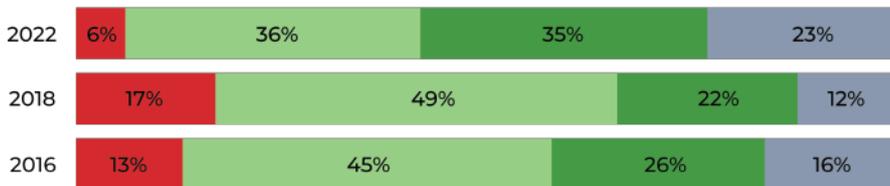
**INTERNATIONAL NGOs**



**BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**



**MILITARY (F-FDTL)**



# MEDIA USE AND INFORMATION

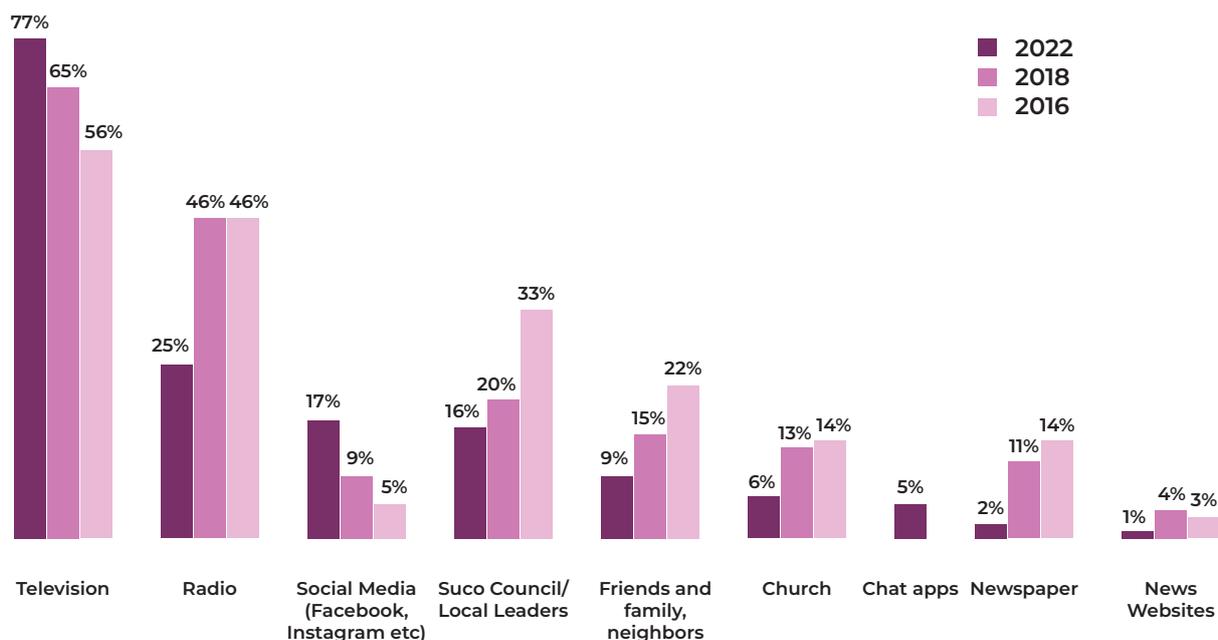
The 2022 Tatoli! Survey captured respondent use of and access to media. The survey instrument utilised questions from previous Tatoli! Surveys, allowing a comparison of the 2022 results to previous years. This year, the survey also asked respondents their views regarding government oversight of traditional and social media.

## Sources of news and information

Sources of information mainly differed by location rather than by demographics. Television was more widely used among respondents living in Dili (93%, compared to 65% of those living outside Dili). More respondents living outside Dili reported using radio (29%, compared to 16% of those living in Dili). Respondents living outside of Dili were more commonly relying on word-of-mouth sources of information: Suco Council/local leaders (21%, compared to 2% of those living in Dili), friends and family (11%, compared to 1% of those living in Dili) and church (7%, compared to 1% of those living in Dili).

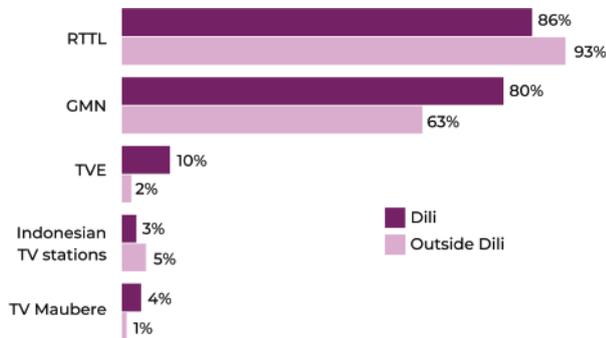
At a national level, television was also by far the most trusted source of information (70%, up from 64% in 2018). Suco Council/local leaders (9%, in line with 8% in 2018) were the next most trusted source of information. More respondents living outside Dili indicated Suco Council/local leaders were their most trusted source (11%, compared to 0.2% of those living in Dili).

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



## Television

**Which television channels do you most often watch?**



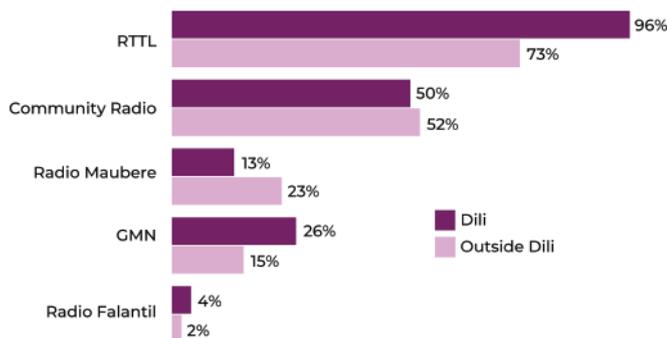
Half (50%) of respondents reported they watched television every day, while a further 17% reported they watch television a few times a week.

Nationally, RTTL (90%) and GMN (69%) were by far the most often watched television channels.

GMN is watched by more respondents living in Dili (80%, compared to 63% of those living outside Dili), respondents without disability (70%, compared to 53% of respondents with disability) and younger respondents aged 17-34 (72%, compared to 61% of those aged 55 and over).

RTTL is watched by a greater proportion of those living outside Dili (93%, compared to 85% of those living in Dili) and respondents aged 35-54 (93%) and 55 and over (93%, compared to 87% of those aged 17-34).

**Which radio stations do you most often listen to?**



## Radio

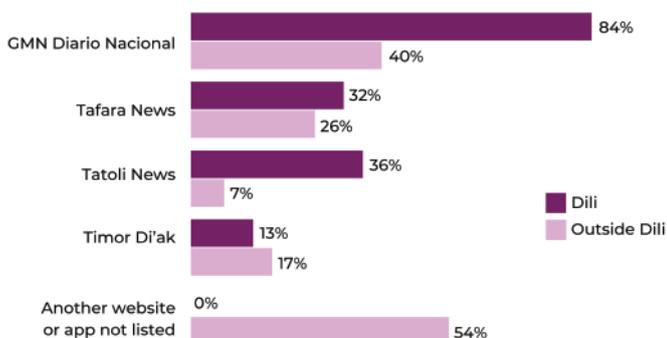
Nineteen per cent (19%) of respondents indicated they listen to the radio every day, and 21% listened a few times a week.

RTTL (77% nationally) was the most popular radio station, followed by community radio (52%).

More respondents living in Dili listened to RTTL (96%, compared to 73% of those living outside Dili) and GMN (26%, compared to 15% of those living outside Dili).

More respondents living outside Dili listened to Radio Maubere (23%, compared to 13% of those living in Dili).

**Which websites do you use most often?**



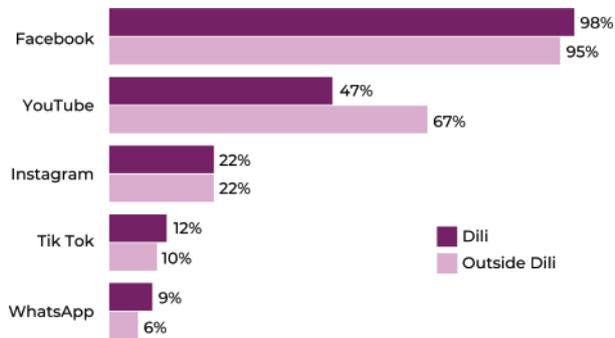
## Websites

Nationally, GMN Diario Nacional was the most popular website used (67%).

More respondents living in Dili used GMN Diario Nacional (84%, compared to 40% of those living outside Dili), Tafara News (32%, compared to 26%) and Tatoli News (36%, compared to 7%).

## Social media

**Which social media do you use most often?**



The majority (76%) of respondents indicated they used social media less than one hour per day. Only 10% reported they used social media more than three hours per day.

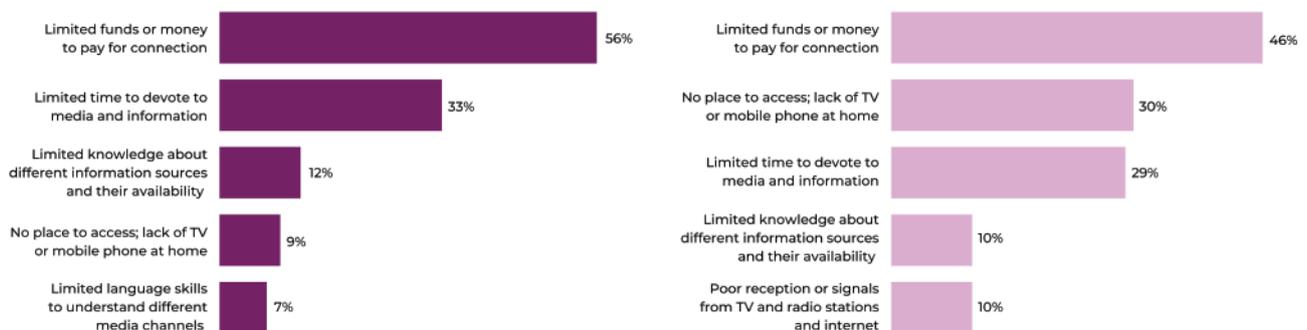
The main reasons respondents used social media were to keep in touch with family and friends (57%) and for news and information (36%). The use of social media for news and information was more common among respondents living outside Dili (38%, compared to 32% of those living in Dili) and older respondents aged 55 and over (44%, compared to 36% of those aged 35-54 and 33% of those aged 17-34).

Facebook (96%) was the most commonly used social media platform nationally and was used by nearly equal proportions of those living in Dili (98%) and outside Dili (95%). YouTube was the next most commonly used platform (62% nationally) but was more widely used by respondents living outside Dili (67%) than those living in Dili (47%).

## Challenges accessing media

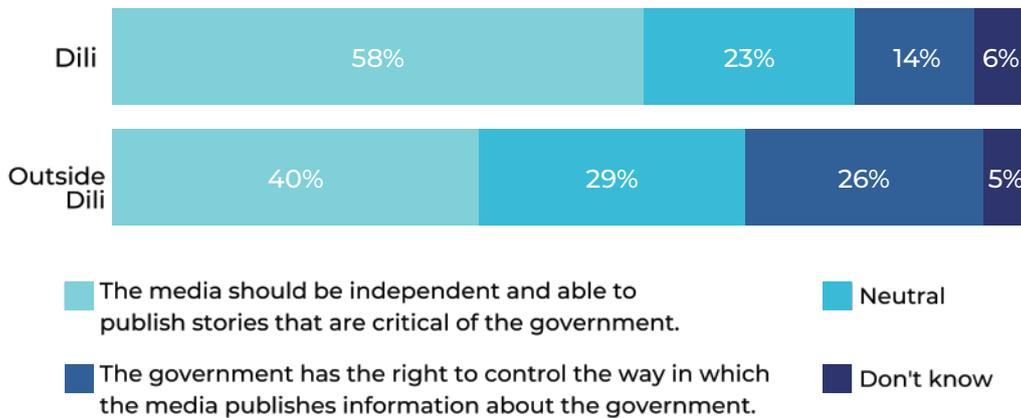
More respondents living outside Dili (92%, compared to 83% of those living in Dili) reported challenges in accessing media. Among those living outside Dili, the main challenges to accessing media and information were limited funds to pay for connection (46%), having no place to access media (30%) and limited time (29%). Those living outside Dili were also more likely to report they had poor reception or signal (10%, compared to 4% of those living in Dili). For those living in Dili, the main challenges in accessing media were limited funds or money to pay for connection (56%), limited time (33%) and limited knowledge about different sources (12%).

**What are the main challenges you face in accessing media? (Top 5)**



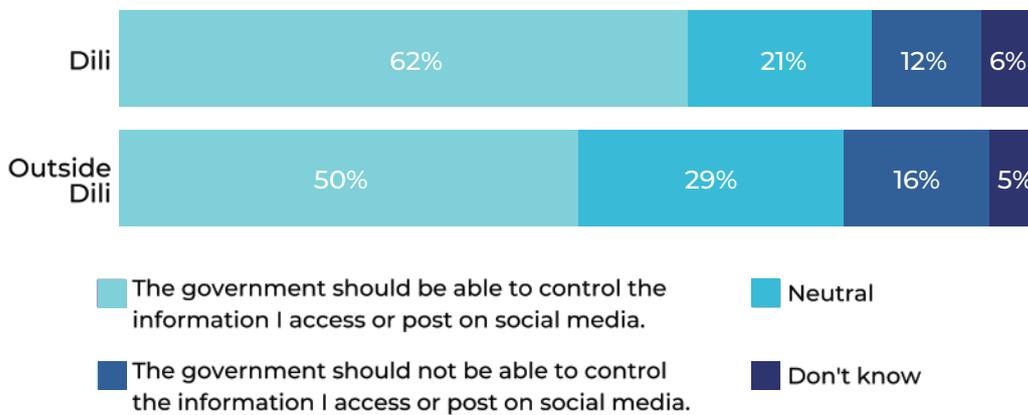
# Perceptions of Government involvement in media

## Perceptions of government control over media



More respondents living in Dili felt the media should be independent and able to publish stories that are critical of the government (58%) than those living outside Dili (40%).

## Perceptions of government control over social media



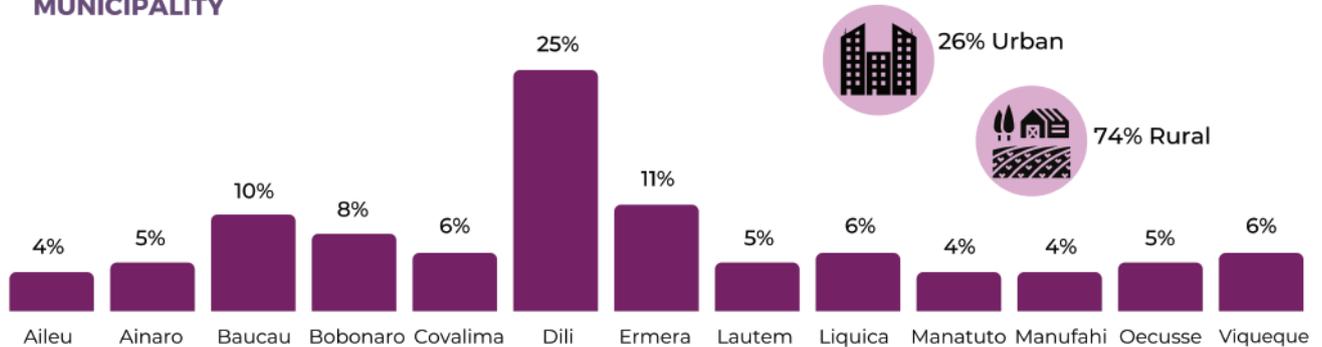
More respondents living in Dili (62%, compared to 50% of those living outside Dili) felt the government should be able to control the information they access or post on social media.

A greater proportion of women (55%, compared to 51% of men) felt the government should be able to control information on social media.

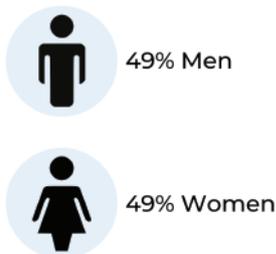
# ANNEX 1: Respondent profile

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

## MUNICIPALITY

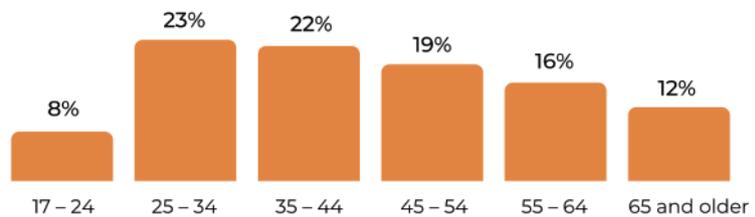


## GENDER

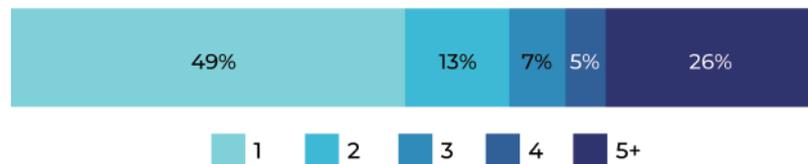


1% of the respondents identified as another gender or did not state their gender

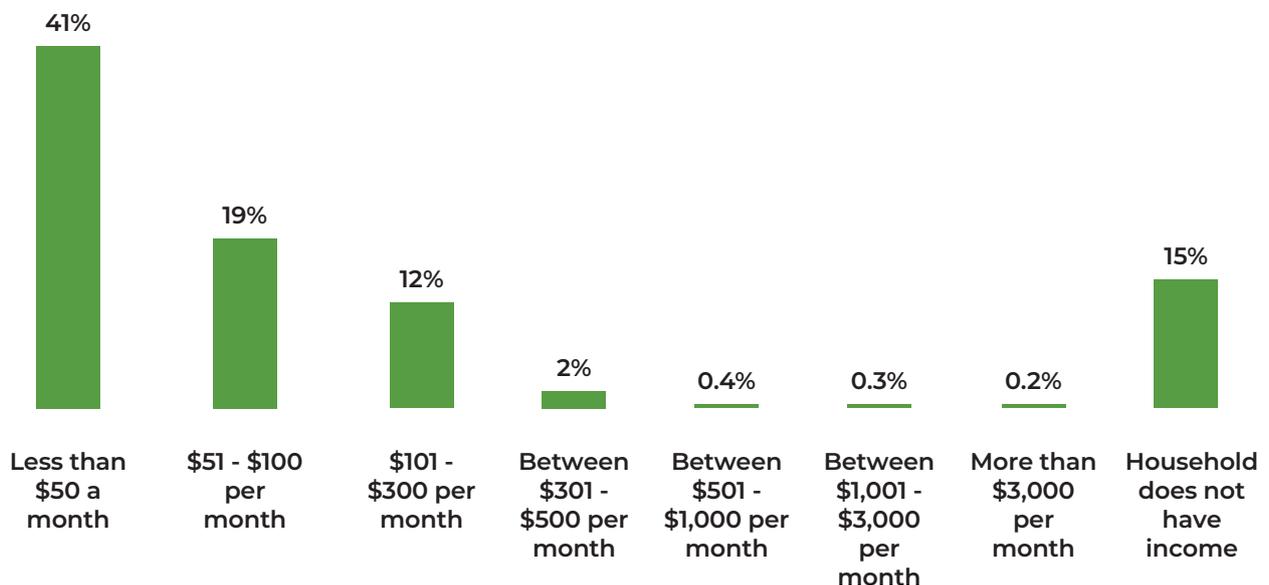
## AGE



## NUMBER OF PEOPLE HOUSING IS SHARED WITH



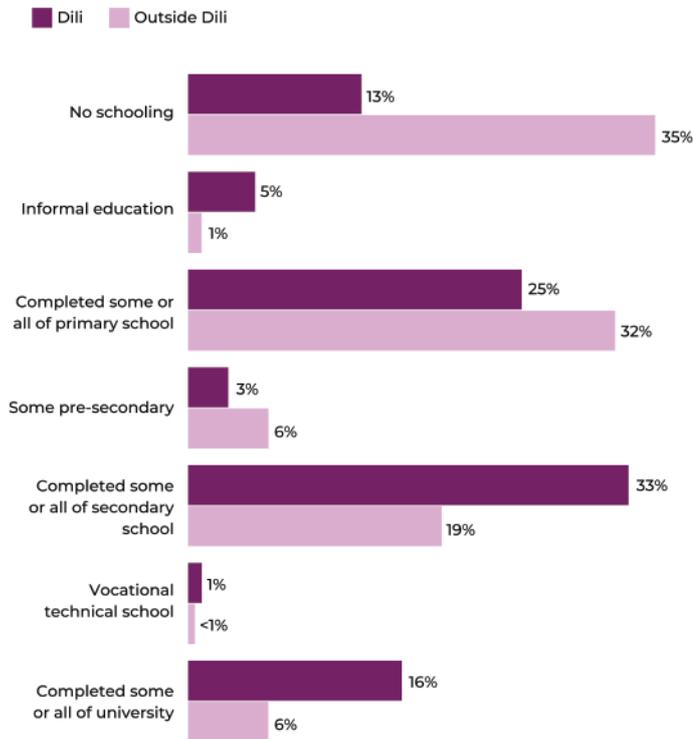
## MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD INCOME



## EDUCATION

Most respondents (58%) had attempted or completed some form of formal education up to secondary school. Only a minority (9%) had proceeded to attempt or complete a university education. Education levels were higher among men (11% had completed at least some university education or higher, compared to 8% of women) and those living in Dili (20%, compared to 7% of those living outside Dili).

### Highest level of school completed

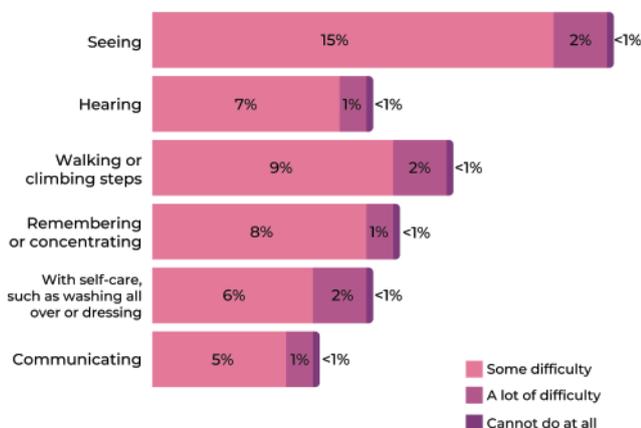


Twenty-nine per cent (29%) of respondents had completed no schooling. More respondents living outside Dili had not completed any schooling (35%, compared to 13% of those living in Dili).

A greater proportion of respondents living in Dili had attempted or completed secondary school (33%, compared to 19% of those living outside Dili) and university (16%, compared to 6% of those living outside Dili).

The same proportion of women (29%) and men (29%) had not completed any schooling. In addition, a similar proportion of women (15%) and men (14%) had completed secondary school. However, a greater proportion of men (11%) had completed at least some university or postgraduate studies than women (8%).

### Do you have any difficulty...



### DISABILITY STATUS

The 2022 Tatoli! Survey captured respondent impairments and/or disability utilising the short set of Washington Group questions.<sup>5</sup> 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, 165 survey respondents (6.6%)—97 men, 64 women, one transgender, and six unreported—have a disability.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup>Washington Group (WG) questions are internationally recognised as a primary method to capture impairments and/or disabilities through a set of uniform questions. The 2022 Tatoli! Survey utilised the WG Short Set on Functioning questions. See: <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>

<sup>6</sup>After applying statistical weights to the results, the proportion of the sample that have a disability is 5%.

# ANNEX 2: DETAILED 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! survey and the COVID-19 survey. 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 survey conducted?

In 2022, The Foundation polled 2,489 adult respondents from all 13 municipalities (including RAEOA).<sup>7</sup> 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.

This survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews at the aldeia level, with eight randomly selected households in each aldeia.

To conduct the fieldwork, The Foundation partnered with TRAIN organizations. The Foundation staff undertook callback recontact for validation purposes, with no major issues found. Monitoring was also conducted by staff from The Foundation.

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

### January 2022

|                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Men in Dili</b>         | 294             |
| <b>Women in Dili</b>       | 328             |
| <b>Others in Dili</b>      | 2 <sup>8</sup>  |
| <b>Men outside Dili</b>    | 862             |
| <b>Women outside Dili</b>  | 839             |
| <b>Others outside Dili</b> | 36 <sup>9</sup> |

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Sample list</b>                             | <b>2,489</b> |
| <b>Refusals</b>                                | 0            |
| <b>Fieldwork start</b>                         | 21 Jan 22    |
| <b>Fieldwork end</b>                           | 02 Feb 22    |
| <b>Median Length of interview<sup>10</sup></b> | 49m18s       |
| <b>Number of interviewers</b>                  | 70           |

<sup>7</sup>The sampling frame for the 2022 Tatoli! Survey was completed prior to Atauro island being designated as Timor-Leste's 14th municipality, administratively separating it from the Dili municipality

<sup>8</sup>Two respondents identified as non-binary (1) and transgender (1)

<sup>9</sup>Thirty-six respondents preferred not to say their gender.

<sup>10</sup>Median length calculated after excluding 288 cases where interview duration field was invalid or length was over 4 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+) population<sup>11</sup> of Timor-Leste as defined by the 2015 Census.

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 to 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 Foundation.
- “Don’t know” answers in multiple-response questions were made exclusive.
- 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.

|                            | Population<br>(N=634,477) | Tatoli 2022<br>UW<br>(n=2,489) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Age</b>                 |                           |                                |
| <b>17-24</b>               | 25%                       | 8%                             |
| <b>25-34</b>               | 26%                       | 23%                            |
| <b>35-44</b>               | 17%                       | 22%                            |
| <b>45-54</b>               | 13%                       | 19%                            |
| <b>55-64</b>               | 9%                        | 16%                            |
| <b>65 and over</b>         | 11%                       | 12%                            |
| <b>Gender<sup>12</sup></b> |                           |                                |
| <b>Men</b>                 | 50%                       | 49%                            |
| <b>Women</b>               | 50%                       | 49%                            |
| <b>Location</b>            |                           |                                |
| <b>Rural</b>               | 68%                       | 74%                            |
| <b>Urban</b>               | 32%                       | 26%                            |
| <b>Municipality</b>        |                           |                                |
| <b>Aileu</b>               | 4%                        | 4%                             |
| <b>Ainaro</b>              | 5%                        | 5%                             |
| <b>Baucau</b>              | 10%                       | 10%                            |
| <b>Bobonaro</b>            | 8%                        | 8%                             |
| <b>Covalima</b>            | 6%                        | 6%                             |
| <b>Dili</b>                | 26%                       | 25%                            |
| <b>Ermera</b>              | 10%                       | 11%                            |
| <b>Lautem</b>              | 5%                        | 5%                             |
| <b>Liquica</b>             | 6%                        | 6%                             |
| <b>Manatuto</b>            | 4%                        | 4%                             |
| <b>Manufahi</b>            | 4%                        | 4%                             |
| <b>Oecussi</b>             | 6%                        | 5%                             |
| <b>Viqueque</b>            | 6%                        | 6%                             |

<sup>11</sup>Population proportions for the adult population aged 18+ years was used as only n=6 respondents were aged 17 years.

<sup>12</sup>Note 1% of respondents identified as transgender, non-binary or did not state their gender.

## 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 and can be used as a general guide when determining whether results are actually different or only different by chance. Other factors, such as the sampling method, non-response bias and measurement error should also be taken into consideration when interpreting results. Figures within text that are flagged as different amongst sub-groups were found as significant to at least one other category when using a Welch T-test at a 95% confidence interval within the cTables interface of SPSS. Analysis of differences amongst sub-groups are subject to higher margins of error and these tests take this into account. Tests are not highlighted where no sub-group difference existed.

### Margin of error at 95% confidence interval for each municipality

| Municipality    | Sample size | Margin of error (95%CI) |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| <b>National</b> | 2,385       | 2.0%                    |
| <b>Aileu</b>    | 104         | 9.6%                    |
| <b>Ainaro</b>   | 120         | 8.9%                    |
| <b>Baucau</b>   | 248         | 6.2%                    |
| <b>Bobonaro</b> | 199         | 6.9%                    |
| <b>Covalima</b> | 138         | 8.3%                    |
| <b>Dili</b>     | 624         | 3.9%                    |
| <b>Ermera</b>   | 279         | 5.9%                    |
| <b>Lautem</b>   | 128         | 8.7%                    |
| <b>Liquica</b>  | 152         | 7.9%                    |
| <b>Manatuto</b> | 96          | 10.0%                   |
| <b>Manufahi</b> | 112         | 8.0%                    |
| <b>Oecussi</b>  | 136         | 8.4%                    |
| <b>Viqueque</b> | 153         | 11.0%                   |

## About The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our work across the region is focused on 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.

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## About ORIMA Research

ORIMA Research is an Australian social research company that specialises in the government and not-for-profit sectors. ORIMA has worked extensively with The Asia Foundation since 2015, including on data processing, survey methodology and analysis and reporting.

For more information about ORIMA Research please visit [www.orima.com.au](http://www.orima.com.au), or contact:

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Povu Nia Hanoin



# TATOLI!