9th Edition

TATOLI! 2025

A SURVEY OF THE TIMORESE PEOPLE

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Table of Contents

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Cover photo by Mariano Goncalves.

Photo by Ano Tome.

Introduction

Background

Since 2013, The Asia Foundation (TAF), with the support of the Australian Government, has gathered the views and opinions of Timor-Leste's population through *Tatoli! A Survey of the Timorese People* (*Tatoli!*). The survey was developed more than a decade ago to generate policy-relevant data on the interests and priorities of the Timorese public.

This report presents the findings of the ninth edition of the *Tatoli!* survey, conducted from 3 to 27 February 2025. TAF collaborated with the National Institute of Statistics Timor-Leste (INETL) to design the sampling frame and with 14 civil society organisations that are members of the Timorese Research and Advocacy Network (TRAIN) to collect data. *Tatoli!* 2025 interviewed 1,503 adults (18+) from all 14 municipalities in Timor-Leste, providing results that are representative of the country's adult population, with a margin of error of ±2.5%.

The 2025 *Tatoli!* survey captured information on the population's perceptions regarding:

- Main challenges faced at the national, community, and individual levels
- Economic context and economic wellbeing
- Health
- Education
- Infrastructure development
- Relationships with other countries
- Governance and civic engagement
- Safety, security and justice
- Remittances
- Media and information access.

This edition of *Tatoli!* retains many of the core questions from previous years to enable longitudinal comparison and track changes in public perceptions and priorities over time. In addition to these core questions, *Tatoli!* regularly includes special sections to respond to contemporary issues and emerging priorities. Past editions of the survey have collected perceptions data on parliamentary and presidential elections, the Covid-19 pandemic, and government response to the 2021 floods.

In anticipation of rapid advances in digital connectivity, *Tatoli!* 2025 includes a special section on digitalisation, covering internet access, use and behaviours. The survey provides a comprehensive dataset exploring how Timorese people engage with the online space across multiple dimensions, ranging from online security to financial services.

This year's *Tatoli!* survey also expands its coverage of perceptions related to safety, security, and justice. These questions align with TAF's long-running Safety, Security, and Justice Perceptions Survey, conducted regularly since 2008, and last conducted in 2022, allowing for a longitudinal perspective.

Consistent with the eighth edition of *Tatoli!* in 2023, this report is structured around Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 (SDP), such that users of the data, including policymakers, government, civil society, development partners and international community, can track progress of perceptions. It should be noted that not all SDP thematic areas are covered in the data and some *Tatoli!* data points fall outside of the SDP.

The responses collected in this survey represent the personal opinions of the participants. The adequate sample and cited margin of error ensure this data is reliable and valid. However, the limitations of perception data must be considered in interpretation. Perceptions are inherently subjective, as they are based on an individual's lived experience and circumstances at the time of data collection. It is not uncommon for perceptions to trend more positively, as individuals may provide responses thought to be more socially acceptable. Additionally, while perceptions surveys provide useful insights, they are not necessarily able to explain why respondents feel the way they do.

The *Tatoli!* survey was conducted in early 2025, almost two years since the start of the IX Constitutional Government. Over the past year, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth strengthened to 3.3%, and inflation eased markedly. In August 2024, Timor-Leste joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as its 166th member, and later in 2025, it will become a full member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), historic milestones in its economic development and regional integration. Further, in late 2024, higher-speed satellite internet services became available in Timor-Leste, and the country's long-awaited submarine fibre-optic cable is expected to come online later this year. Despite these positive developments, ongoing efforts to expand infrastructure, improve public service delivery, increase financial inclusion and promote civic participation continue to be essential.

In this context, public perceptions data can support the government and development partners to shape policies and programs that respond to the needs and priorities of the Timorese people, particularly important as the country enters a new phase of regional integration and digital connectivity.

Methodology

Sample Design

The 2025 *Tatoli!* survey interviewed 1,503 adults (18+) from all 14 municipalities. The sample comprised 762 men and 741 women. The sample was stratified by municipality and urban or rural location using the most recent population estimates from the 2022 Timor-Leste National Population and Housing Census.

TAF collaborated with the National Institute of Statistics Timor-Leste (INETL) to develop the sampling frame for *Tatoli!* 2025. TAF used the 2022 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census enumeration areas (small geographic areas defined based on population size) as clusters for the survey. Enumeration areas were selected randomly, stratified based on municipality and rural or urban location, based on the rural-urban classification used by INETL. Within each selected enumeration area, a random sample of households was then selected using INETL's household listing.

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

How was the Research Conducted?

Tatoli! was conducted in Timor-Leste between 3 and 27 February 2025. TAF's survey team designed and coded the survey questionnaire using Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) tablets. Fourteen teams comprising 68 enumerators from the Timor-Leste Research and Advocacy Network (TRAIN) conducted face-to-face interviews at the household level. TAF led quality assurance during and after data collection.

Margin of Error

For *Tatoli!* 2025, a stratified random sample of 1,503 respondents was surveyed in all 14 municipalities. At the national level, the maximum margin of error for this stratified random sample of 1,503 respondents at a 95% confidence interval is ±2.5%. The survey methodology was designed to provide an adequate margin of error for the purposes of a national survey. Municipal-level margins of error are significantly higher.

Defining Disability

As with previous versions of the survey, *Tatoli!* 2025 used the Washington Group Short Set of questions on functioning to capture information on disability prevalence in Timor-Leste.[1] These questions cover self-reported levels of difficulty across six domains of functioning: 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, 125 survey respondents (7%) (54 male; 71 female) had a disability.[2]

1 *The Washington Group on Disability Statistics developed the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS) for use in censuses and surveys. These questions are an internationally recognised method to capture information on difficulties a person may have in undertaking basic functioning activities. The questions have been designed to be universally applicable to maximise international comparability. See: https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/*

2 *The proportion of respondents with a disability was 8% of the raw sample. After applying statistical weights to the results, the proportion of the sample that had a disability is 7%.*

Reader Notes

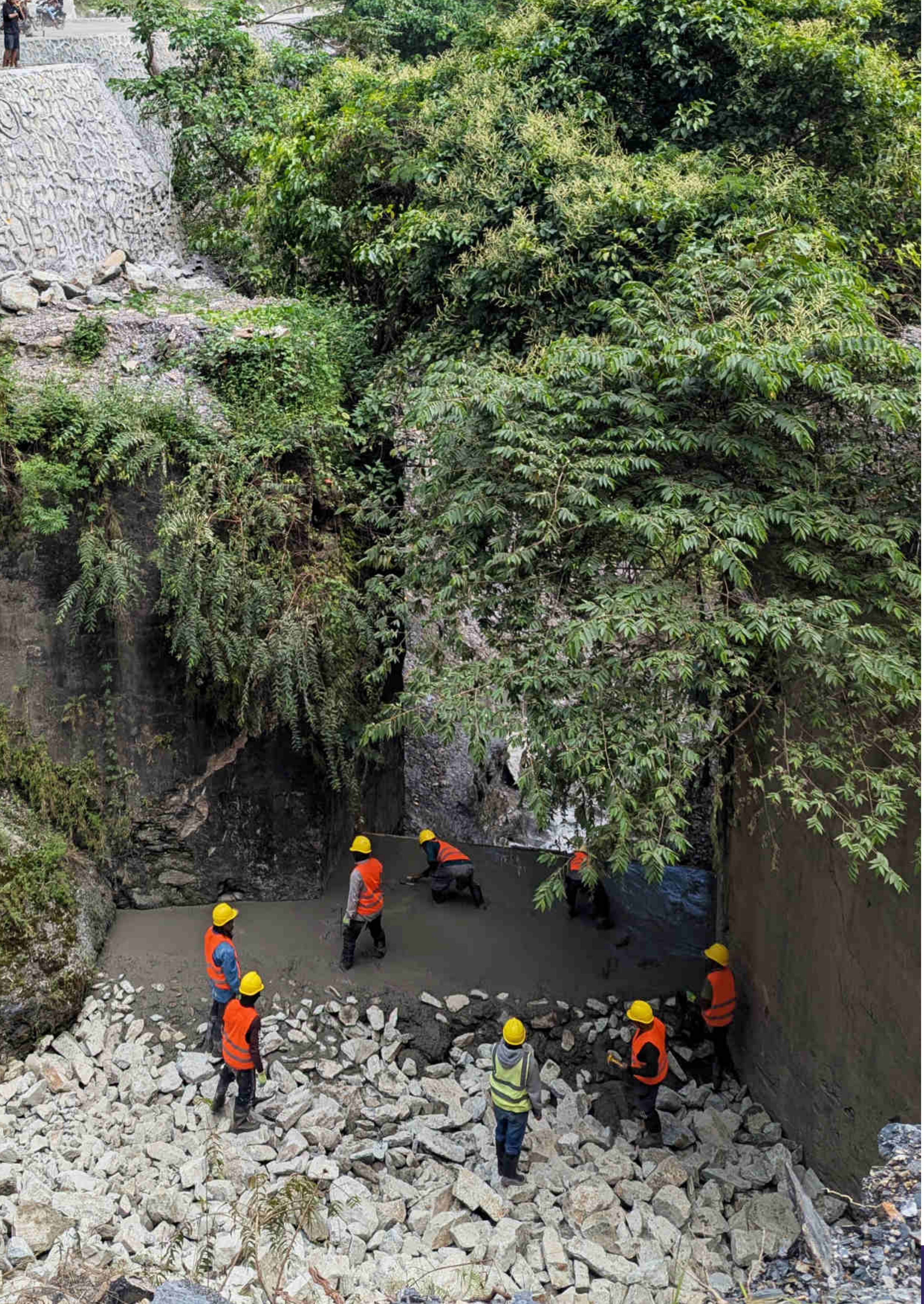
Throughout the report, results are shown at the overall level after statistical weighing. Differences between demographic groups (for example, gender, age and location) described in the commentary are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. Results compared to previous years are described where available – if previous years' results are not shown this is because the question was only added in 2025 or was changed so that results are no longer comparable.

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.

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. "Don't know" and "refused" are combined in charts throughout as "Don't know" to aid presentation.

More complete technical information is available in the appendix at the end of this report.



Main Issues Faced and Concerns

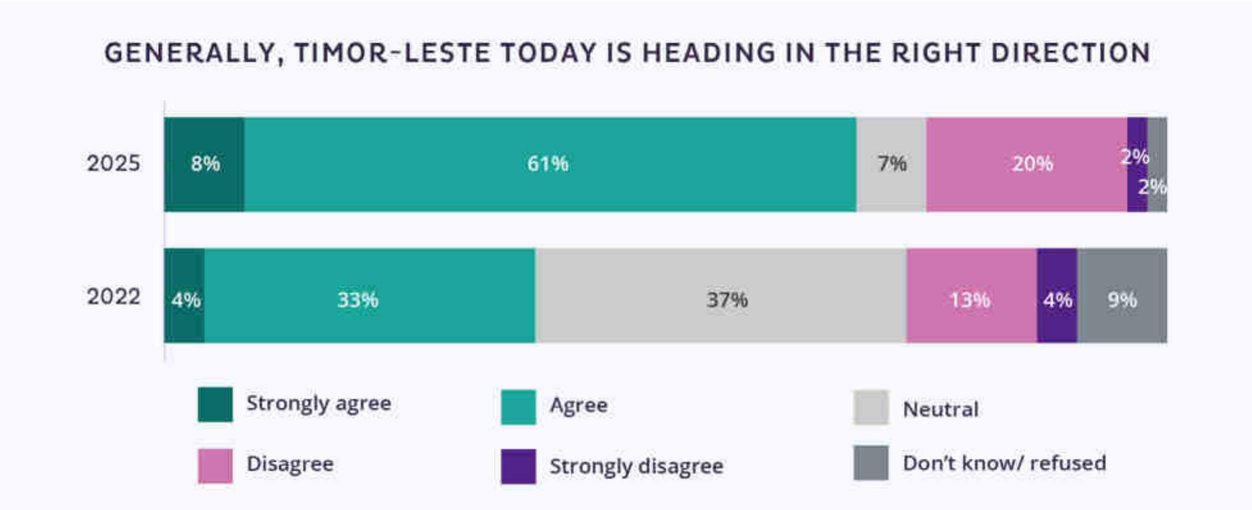
Tatoli! 2025 asked respondents for their views regarding the main issues facing them as individuals, their community, and the country. Respondents were also asked about what they thought were the most significant challenges faced by women, young people, people with disabilities and sexual and gender minorities in Timor-Leste.

Key Insights:

- The majority of respondents felt Timor-Leste was heading in the right direction (and more so than in 2022).
- Low income, lack of infrastructure, lack of quality employment opportunities, and lack of water/sanitation were the main concerns among Timorese people.
- Low-quality education was a greater concern among those living in urban areas.
- Low income, lack of infrastructure and lack of clean water/sanitation were greater concerns among those living in rural areas.
- Lack of jobs was considered the main challenge faced by women, young people, people with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities, and to a greater extent than in 2023.
- Domestic violence was still considered a main challenge faced by women, though to a lesser extent than in 2023.
- As in 2023, respondents felt the government's top three priorities should be health, education and training, and roads. However, 2025 was the first year in which health was the top priority.

Direction of the Country

The majority (69%, up from 37% in 2022, when this question was last asked) of respondents agreed that Timor-Leste today is heading in the right direction. Although agreement was higher than in 2022, there was also evidence of a smaller increase in negative sentiment, with the proportion who disagreed also increasing (22%, up from 17%). More men (72%, compared to 66% of women) and respondents aged 55+ (76%, compared to 67% of those aged 18-34) agreed that Timor-Leste is heading in the right direction.



Issues and Challenges Facing the Nation, Communities and Individuals

Low income (53%), lack of infrastructure (36%) and lack of quality employment opportunities (27%) were considered the biggest challenges facing the nation overall. Not all responses to questions on the main challenges faced at the national, community and individual levels are comparable to 2023.[3] Nevertheless, results reflect the same top three challenges observed in 2023.

In 2025, low income was a greater concern among those living in rural areas (56%, compared to 46% of those in urban areas), but it was the largest concern in both areas. It was also a greater concern for older respondents (60% of those aged 55+, compared to 49% of those aged 18-34) and those with no formal education (59%, compared to 51% of those with some formal education).

Although not one of the top three concerns overall, low-quality education was the second highest concern for those living in urban areas (39%, compared to 18% in rural areas). Low-quality education was also a greater concern among younger respondents aged 18-34 (28%, compared to 16% of those aged 55+) and those with some formal education (28%, compared to 14% of those with no formal education).

[3] In 2025, the survey allowed respondents to provide more detailed responses, instead of grouping responses under head categories.

Lack of infrastructure was the second highest concern for those living in rural areas (39%, compared to 29% in urban areas), younger respondents aged 18-34 (38%, compared to 33% of those aged 35-54 and 34% of those aged 55+) and those with some formal education (37%, compared to 31% of those with no formal education).

Lack of quality employment opportunities was a slightly greater concern among those living in urban areas (30%, compared to 25% in rural areas), younger respondents aged 18-34 (29%, compared to 22% of those aged 55+) and those with some formal education (28%, compared to 21% of those with no formal education).

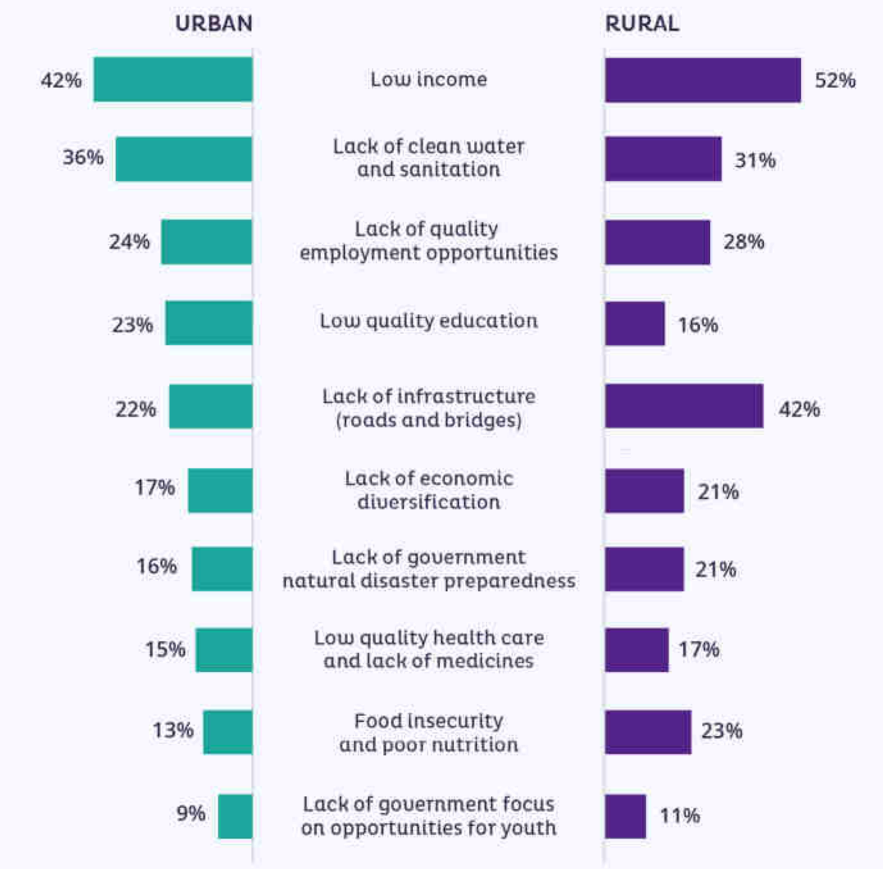
When asked about the biggest problems facing people in their immediate community, low income (49%) and lack of infrastructure (36%) were again considered the biggest issues, followed by lack of clean water/sanitation (32%). This is slightly different from the results recorded in 2023 when the three biggest challenges were poverty (which included low nutrition, food insecurity, and low-quality education), lack of quality employment opportunities and lack of infrastructure.

Like the national level, in 2025, low income was the biggest concern at the community level in both urban and rural areas, and a greater concern for those living in rural areas (52%, compared to 42% in urban areas), older respondents aged 55+ (54%, compared to 46% of those aged 18-34) and those with no formal education (54%, compared to 47% of those with some formal education).

Similarly, lack of infrastructure was a greater concern among those living in rural areas (42%, compared to 22% in urban areas).

Notably, few respondents felt that violence, safety and domestic violence (6%) was the main challenge facing people in their area. However, when specifically asked about the most serious security problems facing people in their locality, about one-third mentioned fighting in general (36%) or domestic violence (32%) (See Justice and Security section, page 57).

TOP 10 MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY PEOPLE IN THEIR IMMEDIATE COMMUNITY

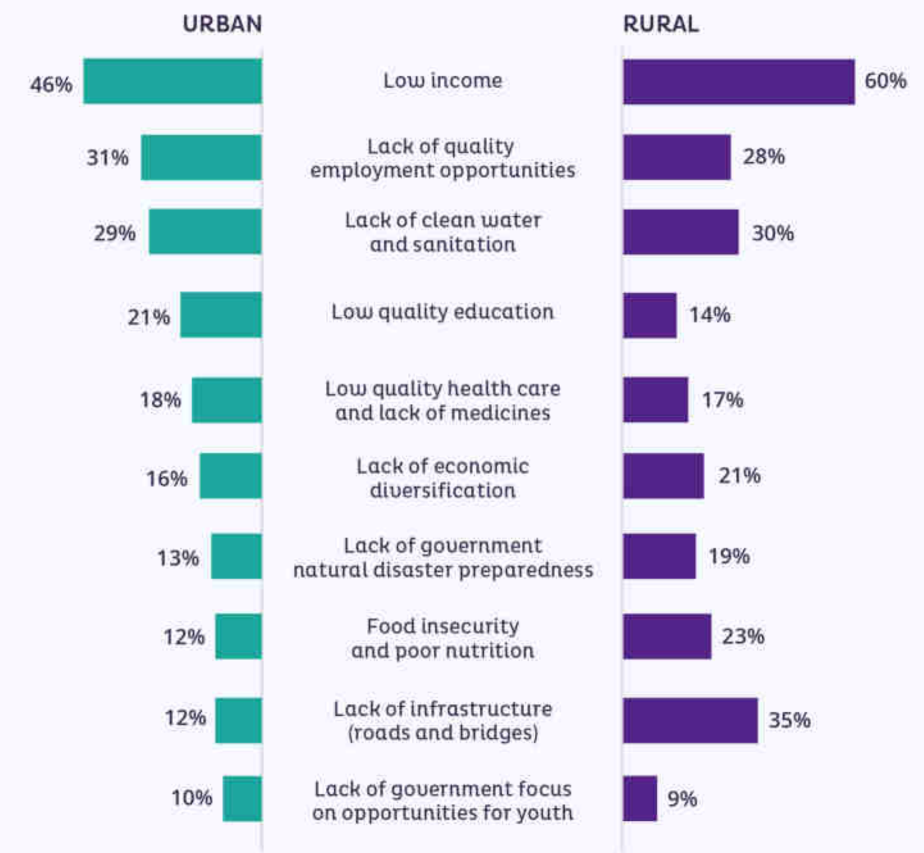


Similar to the national and community levels, the main challenges faced by individuals were low income (56%), lack of clean water/sanitation (30%) and lack of quality employment opportunities (29%). This is also slightly different from 2023, when poverty, lack of quality employment opportunities and lack of infrastructure were the three biggest challenges.

As at the national and community levels, in 2025, low income was a greater concern among those living in rural areas (60%, compared to 46% of those in urban areas), older respondents aged 55+ (61%, compared to 53% of those aged 18-34) and those with no formal education (61%, compared to 54% of those with some formal education).

Lack of quality employment opportunities was a greater concern among younger respondents aged 18-34 (32%, compared to 21% of those aged 55+) and those with some formal education (31%, compared to 20% of those with no formal education).

TOP 10 MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIVIDUALS



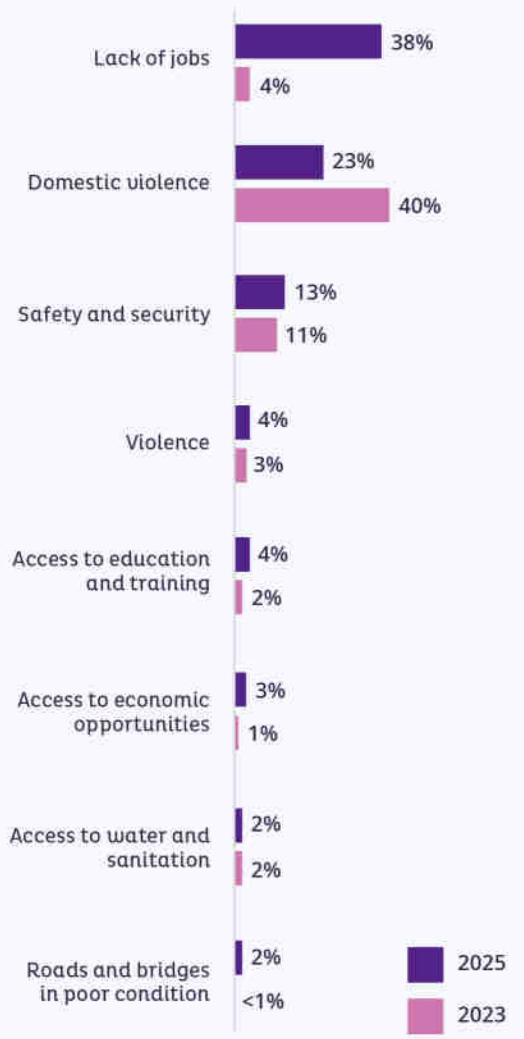
Issues and Challenges for Women, Young People and Other Minorities

The 2025 *Tatoli!* survey asked all respondents what they considered the most serious challenges faced by women, young people, people with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities. Among all respondents (not only women), lack of jobs (38%, up from 4% in 2023), domestic violence (23%, down from 40%) and safety and security (13%, similar to 11%) were considered the most significant challenges faced by women in Timor-Leste today.

Perceptions of challenges faced by women were similar between men and women, but there were some differences by age. More younger respondents aged 18-34 felt domestic violence was the biggest issue (25%, compared to 19% of those aged 55+), while more older respondents aged 55+ felt lack of jobs was the biggest issue (44%, compared to 35% of those aged 18-34).

From the perspective of all respondents (not only young people), lack of jobs (70%, up from 21% in 2023) was by far considered the most significant challenge faced by young people (see chart on next page). Slightly more men (73%) considered lack of jobs to be the most significant challenge compared to women (68%).

TOP 8 MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN[4]

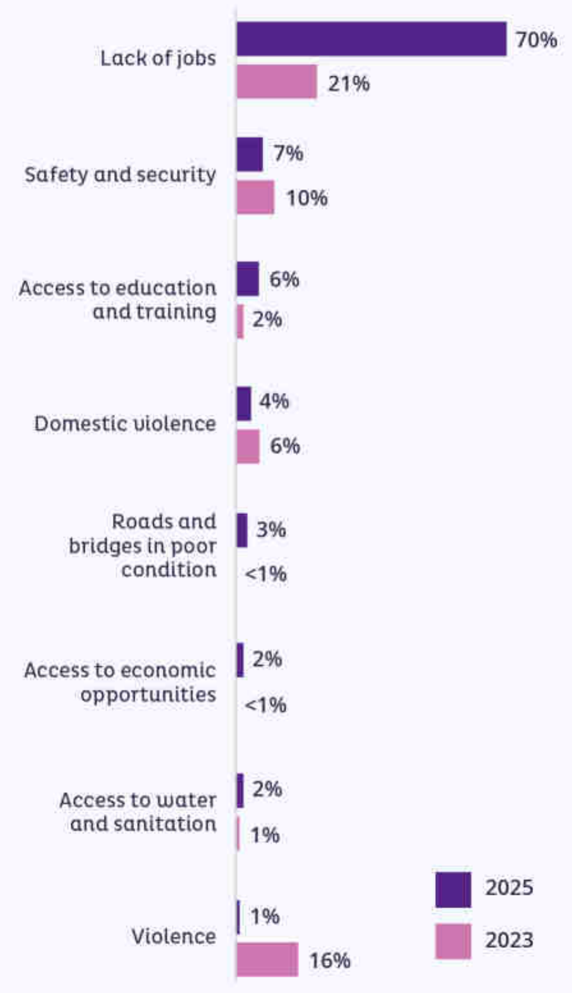


[4] Results for this question are not comparable to 2022 as it was asked as a single response question in 2022.

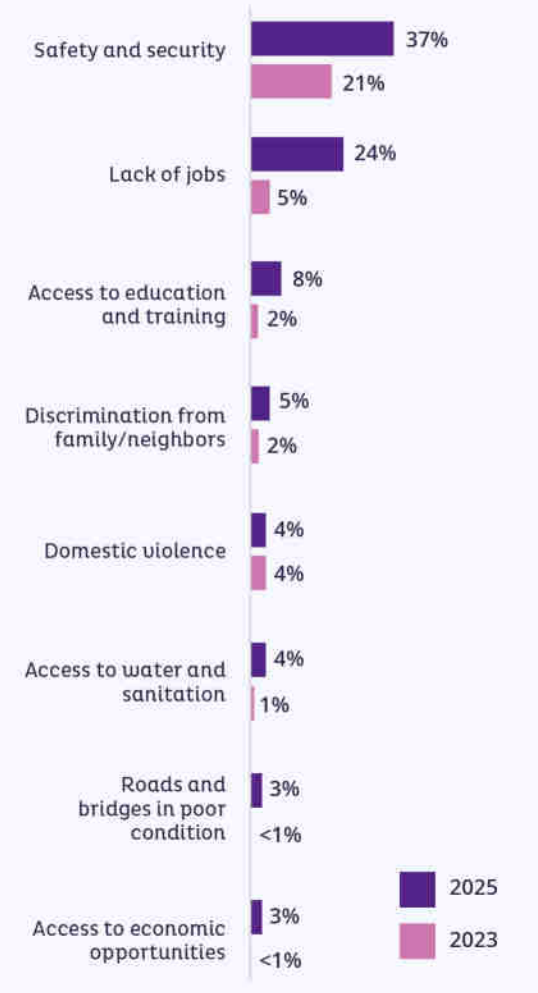
Among all respondents (not only people with disabilities), safety and security (37%, up from 21% in 2023) and lack of jobs (24%, up from 5%) were considered the most significant challenges faced by people with disabilities. While still considered the biggest challenge among people with disabilities, more people without disabilities felt safety and security was the biggest challenge faced (37%, compared to 28% of people with disabilities).

In 2023, all respondents also considered safety and security the most significant challenge faced by people with disability (21%), followed by exclusion from society (15%) and access to health and services (12%). In 2025, meanwhile, only 1% of all respondents believed exclusion from society was the most significant challenge for people with disability, while 5% identified the related problem of discrimination as the biggest challenge. Notably, in 2025, 10% of people with disability believed discrimination from family or neighbours was the biggest challenge faced by people with disability.

TOP 8 MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

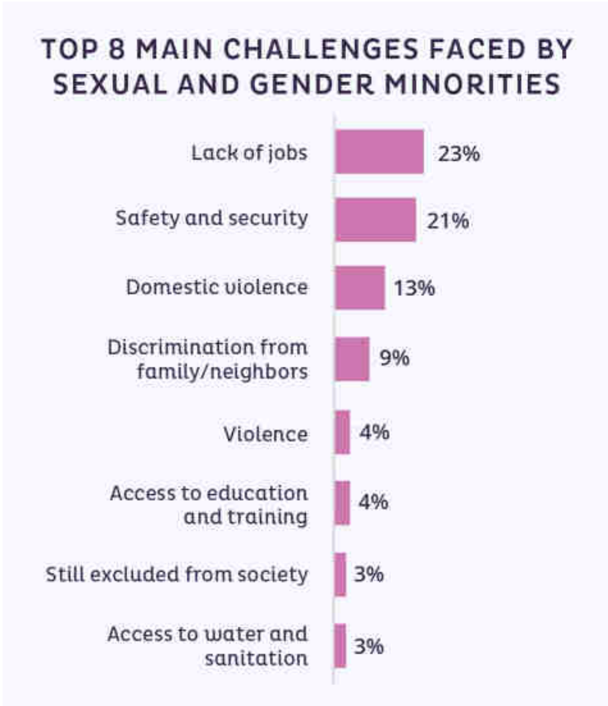


TOP 8 MAIN CHALLENGES FACED BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



In 2025, for the first time, *Tatoli!* also asked all respondents (not only sexual and gender minorities) to identify the main challenges faced by sexual and gender minorities. Lack of jobs (23%), safety and security (21%) and domestic violence (13%) were considered the main challenges.

Lack of jobs was considered the main challenge among more respondents living in rural areas (24%, compared to 19% in urban areas), respondents aged 35+ (31% of those aged 55+ and 25% of those aged 35-54, compared to 18% of those aged 18-34) and those with no formal education (29%, compared to 21% of those with some formal education).



Government Priorities

When respondents were asked to name the top three priorities for the government, they identified health (69%, up from 50% in 2023), education and training (59%, up from 52%) and roads (58%, down from 64%). These were also considered the top three priorities in 2023 and 2022, although their ranking shifted in 2025, with health becoming the top priority for the first time.

As shown in the chart below, more respondents living in urban areas felt both health and education and training should be priorities, while more respondents living in rural areas felt that infrastructure, including roads, water and electricity, should be a priority. These themes are seen throughout the survey.

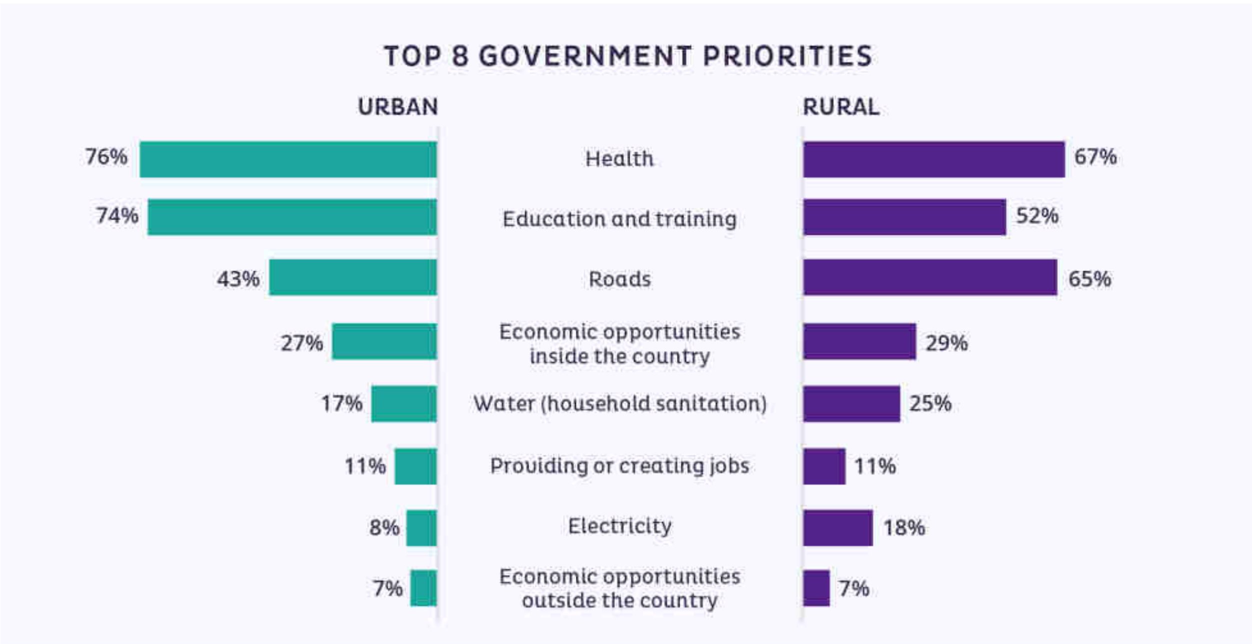


Photo by Timor-Leste Pride.

Human and Social Capital

Tatoli! 2025 asked respondents about various aspects of social capital that contribute to overall quality of life among Timorese people. This included their access to and perceptions of education and health services, social inclusion, and preparedness for natural disasters.

Key Insights:

- Most children were attending school, and school attendance has increased compared to 2023.
- The majority had access to a health clinic whenever they needed it.
- Perceptions of education and health services were generally positive, although some aspects were viewed less positively compared to 2023.
- Those living in rural areas had more positive perceptions of education and health services compared to those in urban areas.
- Most respondents are supportive of the inclusion of sexual and gender minorities in public life, but their support has limits.
- Concern about natural disasters was high and there is a notable proportion of the population that feel unprepared to respond to natural disasters.

Education

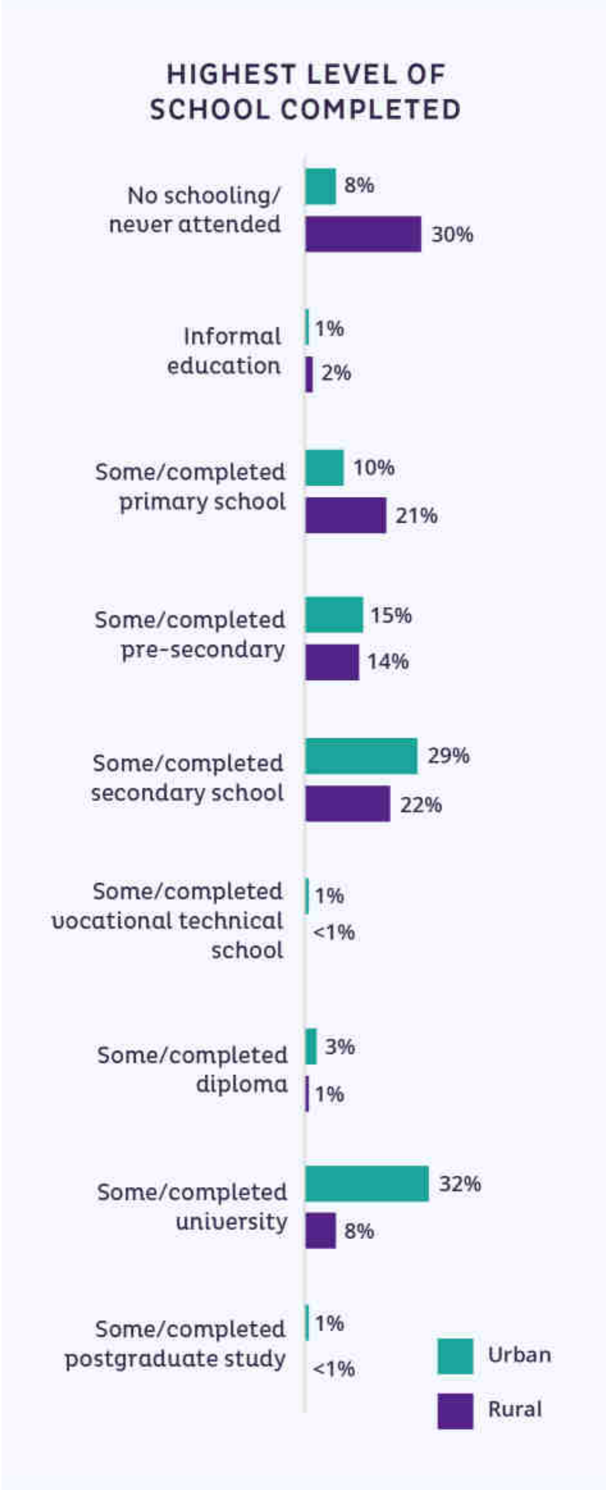
Education and training was the second highest priority (59%, up from 52% in 2023) when respondents were asked what they thought the government's top three priorities should be.

As noted, significant proportions of respondents felt that low-quality education was the biggest challenge at the national level (24%), in their community (18%) in community and for them personally (16%). However, when asked about challenges faced by specific groups, fewer respondents felt that access to education was a challenge among women (4%), young people (6%), people with disabilities (8%) and sexual and gender minorities (4%).

Educational Attainment

Three-quarters (75%, in line with 73% in 2023) of respondents had completed at least some formal education. The proportion who had completed at least some secondary school (42%) was higher than in previous years (36% in 2023 and 32% in 2022).

In 2025, less than one quarter (23%) had no schooling or never attended, down from 26% in 2023 and 29% in 2022. More of those living in rural areas (30%, compared to 8% in urban areas), aged 55+ (60%, compared to 23% of those aged 35-54 and 10% of those aged 18-34) and people with disabilities (52%, compared to 21% of people without disabilities) had not completed any schooling.

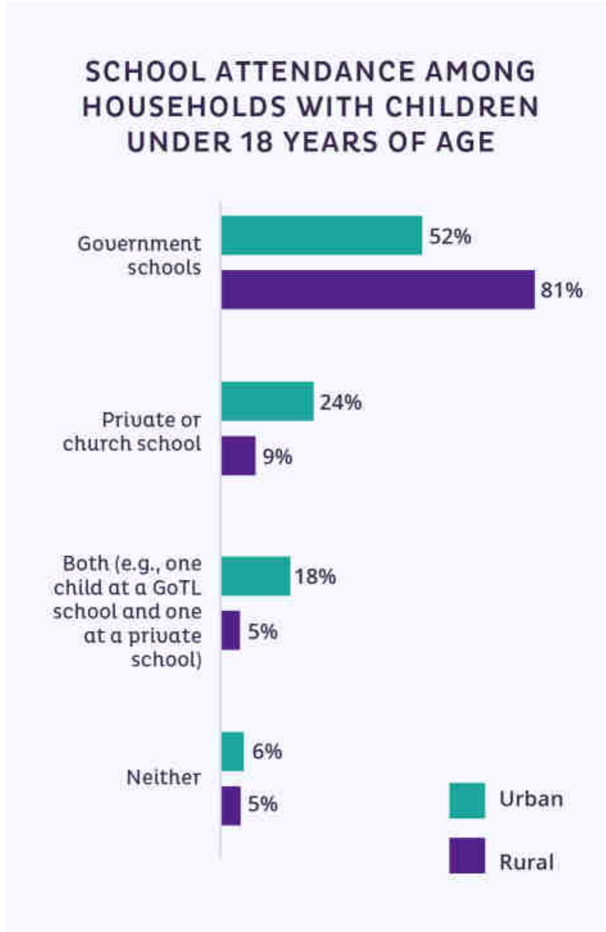


Education Services

Among households with children aged under 18 years, most (95%, up from 90% in 2023) were attending school – mainly government schools (71%). More children living in urban areas attended private or church schools (24%, compared to 9% in rural areas).

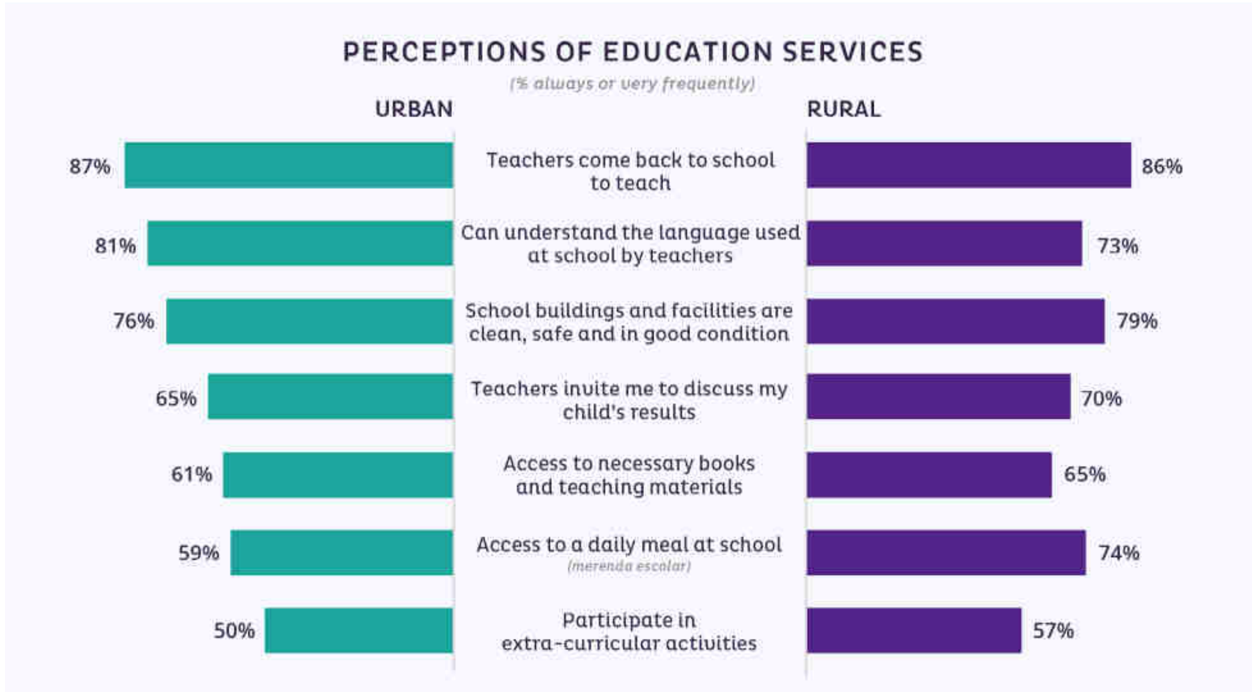
Respondents with children who attended school had generally positive perceptions of education services, particularly:

- Teachers came to school to teach (86% 'always' or 'very frequently', down slightly from 91% in 2023);
- Children able to understand the language used at school by teachers (76%, in line with 79% in 2023); and
- School buildings and facilities were clean, safe and in good condition (78%, in line with 77% in 2023).



As shown in the chart below, more respondents living in rural areas reported:

- Teachers invited them to discuss their child's results (70%, compared to 65% of those in urban areas);
- Their child had access to a daily meal at school (74%, compared to 59% in urban areas); and
- Their child participated in extra-curricular activities (57%, compared to 50% in urban areas).



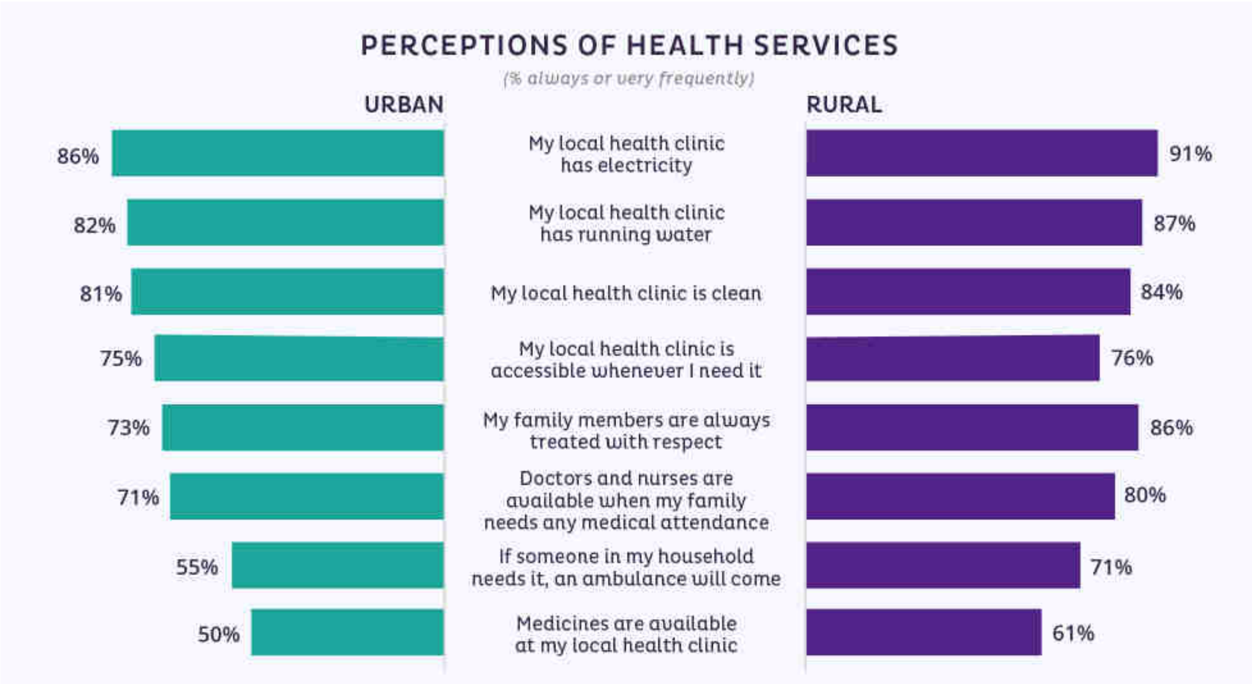
Health

When respondents were asked what they thought the government's top three priorities should be, health emerged as the highest priority in 2025 (69%, up from 50% in 2023). Notable proportions also felt that low-quality health care and lack of medicines was the biggest challenge at the national level (18%), in their community (16%) and for them personally (17%). The majority (76%, no change from 2023) of respondents reported they could 'always' or 'very frequently' access a health clinic whenever they need it. Respondents with a monthly income over $500 (89%, compared to 70% of those with an income of $100-$500 per month and 76% of those with an income less than $100 per month) reported better access to health clinics.

Perceptions of health services were generally positive, although perceptions were less positive for some aspects compared to in 2023. Specifically:

- Doctors and nurses being ready anytime their family needs medical attendance (78%, down from 83% in 2023);
- Their family being treated with respect when accessing their local health clinic (82%, down from 87%); and
- Medicines being available at their local health clinic when their family needs them (58%, down from 72%).

As shown in the chart below, respondents living in rural areas had somewhat more positive perceptions of health services across all aspects compared to those in urban areas. This result is the opposite of what has been observed in previous years, where those in urban areas reported more positive perceptions of health services. The less positive results among urban respondents were driven by respondents living in Dili, who reported more negative perceptions of all aspects compared to those living in urban areas outside Dili. This pattern has also been observed for some other infrastructure services and may reflect higher expectations of services over time among those living in Dili.



Social Inclusion

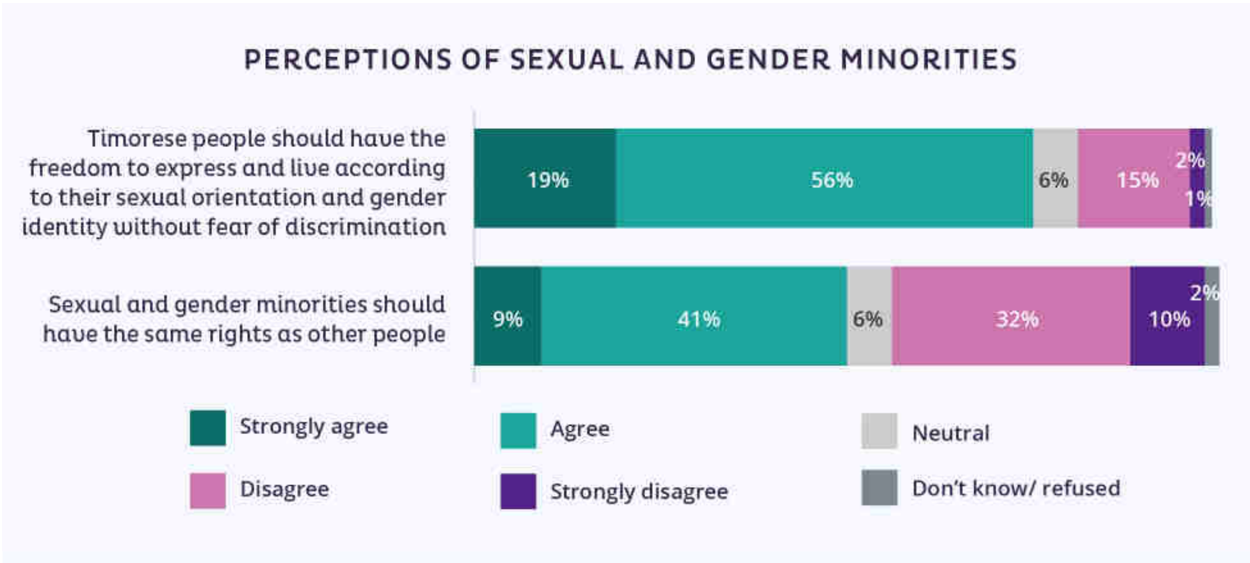
The 2025 *Tatoli!* survey used the short set of Washington Group questions on functioning to capture information on disability prevalence.[5] These questions cover self-reported levels of difficulty across six domains of functioning: vision, hearing, mobility, cognition, self-care, and communication. 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, 7% of respondents had a disability after applying statistical weights (higher than the 4% seen in 2023). More women (9%, compared to 6% of men), older respondents aged 55+ years (17%, compared to 7% of those aged 35-54 years and 3% of those aged 17-34 years), and those with no formal education (15%, compared to 4% of those with some formal education) were classified as having disabilities.

Perceptions of Sexual and Gender Minorities

In 2025, *Tatoli!* sought to gather more information on the social inclusion of sexual and gender minorities in public life. The majority of respondents agreed that Timorese people should have the freedom to express and live according to their sexual orientation and gender identity without fear of discrimination (75%). However, respondents were less likely to agree that sexual and gender minorities should have the same rights as other people (50%). Notably, a significant proportion (42%) disagreed with equal rights for sexual and gender minorities.

Agreement with both statements was similar by gender, age and location. However, agreement with both statements was highest among those with a monthly household income over $500 (82% and 58%, respectively), compared to lower income groups.

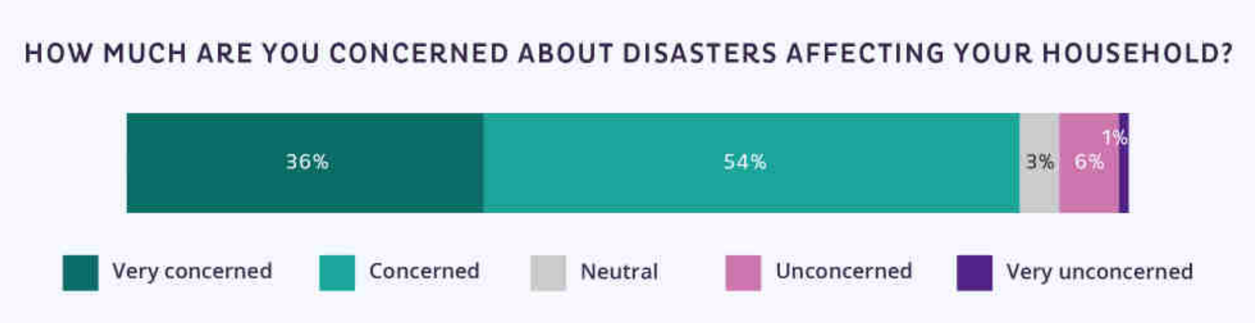


[5] *The Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS) questions are an internationally recognised method to capture information on the difficulties a person may have in undertaking basic functioning activities. The questions have been designed to be universally applicable to maximise international comparability. See: https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/*

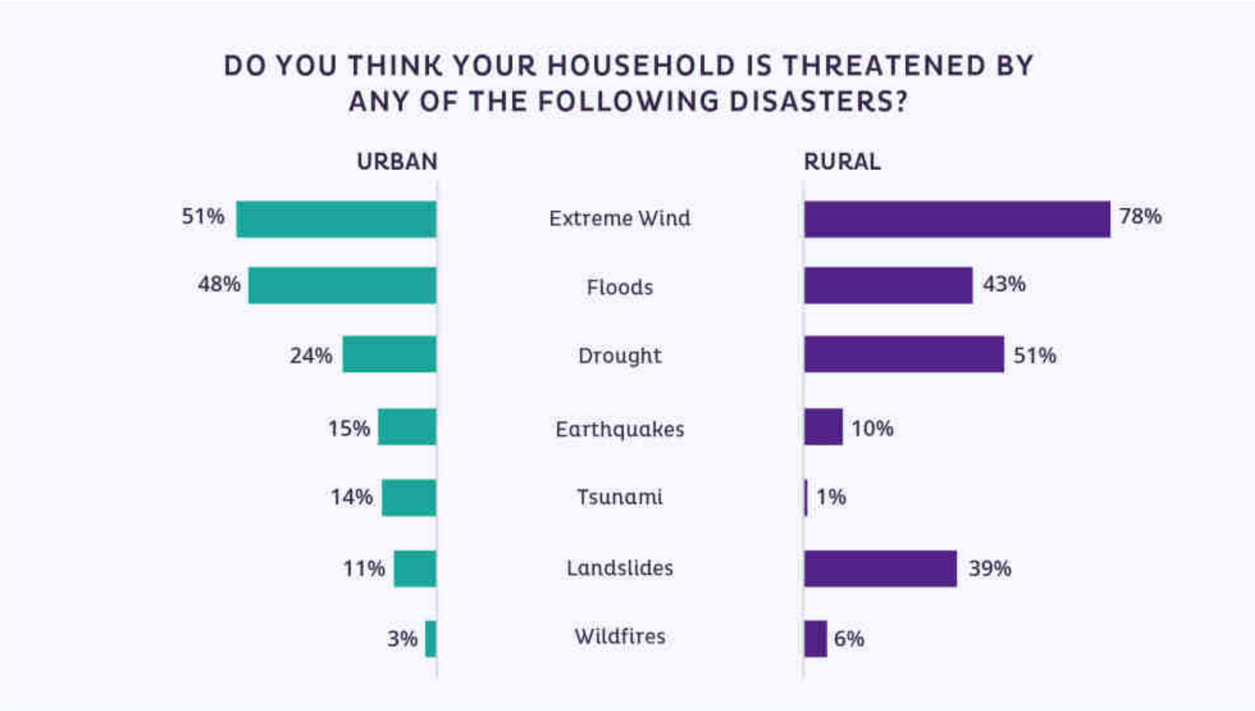
Environment and Disasters

Notable proportions of respondents felt that the government not being able to prepare or respond to natural disasters was the single biggest challenge at the national level (20%), in their community (19%) and for them personally (17%).

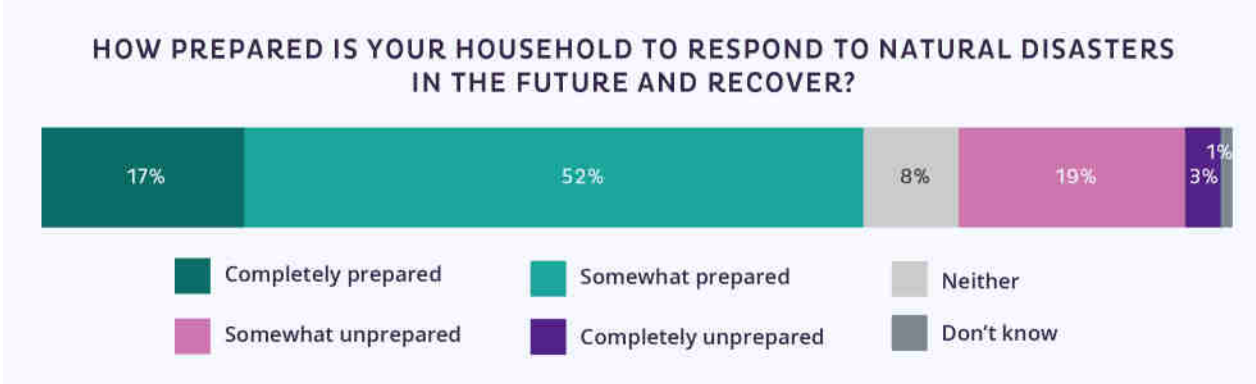
Almost all respondents (90%) were concerned about natural disasters affecting their household. Concern was higher among younger respondents aged 18-34 (94%, compared to 86% of those aged 35-54 and 87% of those aged 55+).



When respondents were asked whether their household was threatened by specific disasters, extreme wind (70%) was the most commonly identified disaster, followed by floods (44%) and drought (43%).



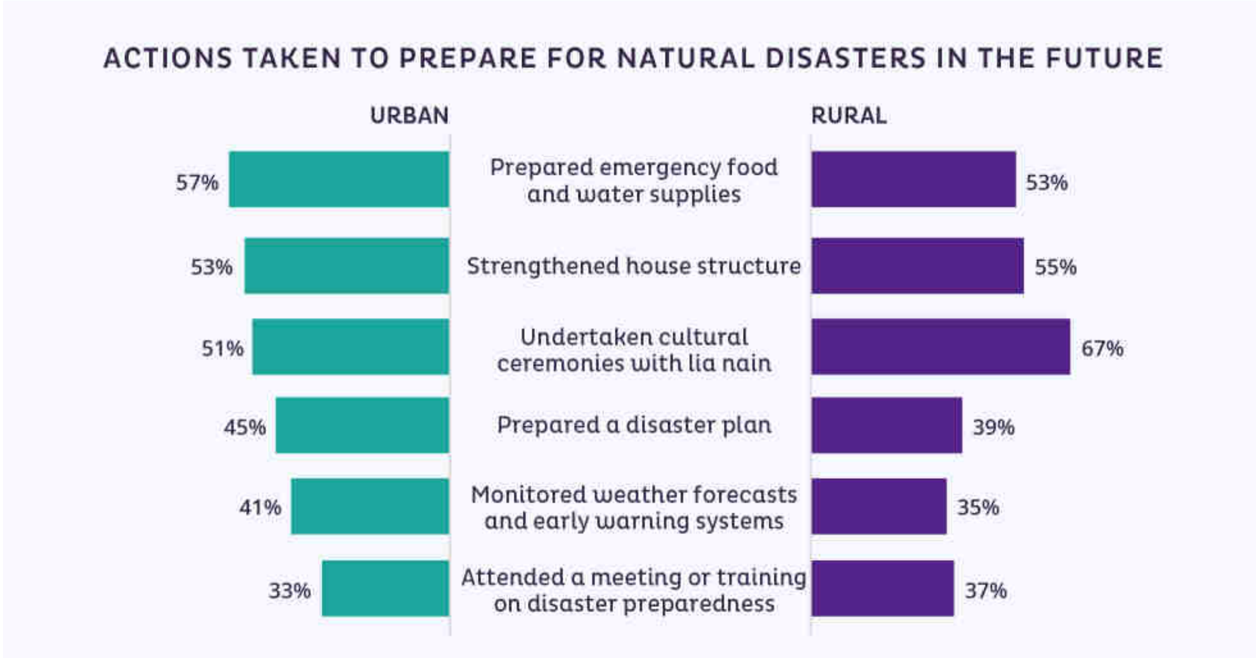
In terms of preparation for these potential threats, 68% of respondents felt their household was at least 'somewhat' prepared to respond to natural disasters in the future, while 22% felt unprepared. Slightly more respondents living in rural areas (70%, compared to 65% in urban areas) felt prepared to respond to natural disasters.



Across all respondents, the most common actions taken to prepare for future natural disasters were undertaking cultural ceremonies with traditional leaders (*lia nain*) (63%), preparing emergency food and water supplies (54%) and strengthening house structures (54%).

More respondents living in rural areas reported having undertaken cultural ceremonies with lia nain (67%) compared to those in urban areas (51%).

Respondents living in urban areas were a little more likely to have prepared a disaster plan (45%, compared to 39% of those in rural areas) and monitored weather forecasts and early warning systems (41%, compared to 35%).



Infrastructure Development

Tatoli! 2025 asked respondents about their access to and perceptions of various aspects of infrastructure, including roads and bridges, water and sanitation, and electricity.

Key Insights:

- Infrastructure was a bigger concern among those living in rural areas.
- Respondents living in rural areas were particularly less positive about roads, bridges and transport in their local area.
- Respondents living in urban areas had better access to water but were less likely to report that their children 'always' or 'very frequently' had access to water or toilets at school.

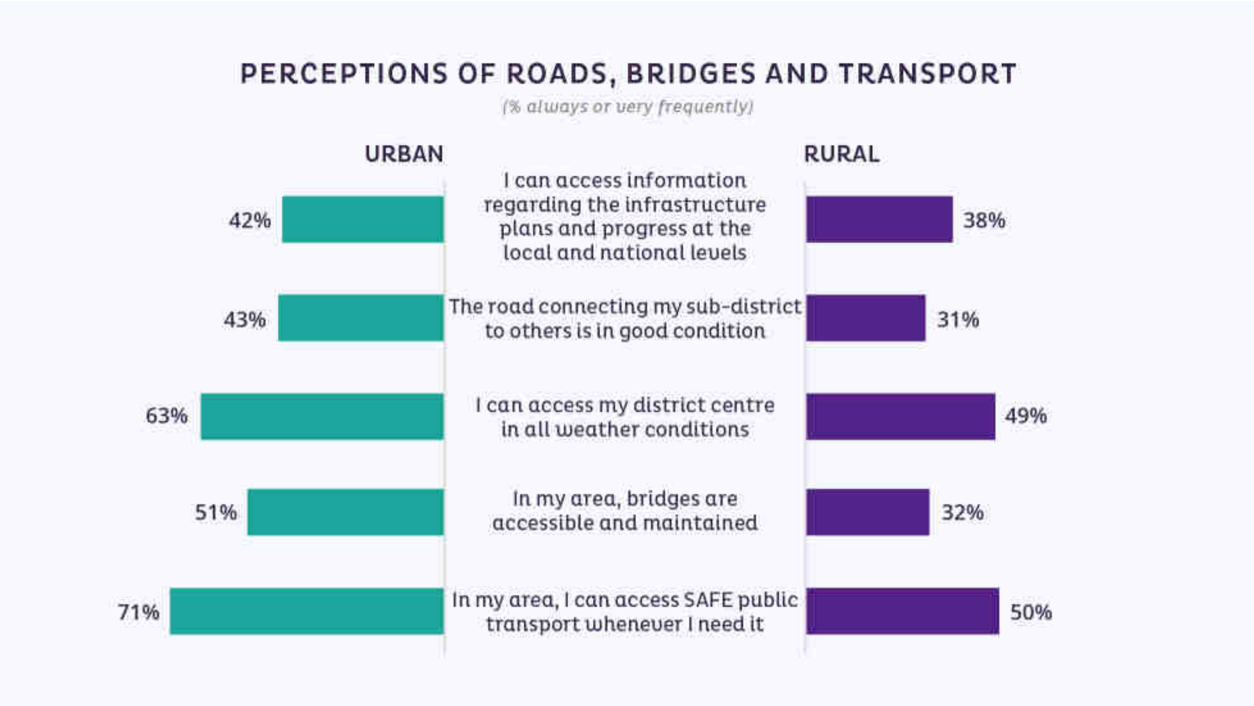
Roads and Bridges

When respondents were asked what they thought the government's top three priorities should be, roads were considered the third highest priority (58%, down from 64% in 2023, when roads were the most reported priority).

In 2025, around half of all respondents reported they could 'always' or 'very frequently' access safe public transport (57%, in line with 54% in 2023) and access their district centre in all weather conditions (53%, up from 45%). The proportion of respondents reporting that bridges in their area were accessible and maintained also increased slightly to 38% (up from 34% in 2023). Among respondents with disabilities, these figures were slightly lower: 47% said they could access safe public transport, 48% said they could access their district centre in all weather conditions, and 29% reported that bridges were accessible and maintained.

Despite slight improvements in access conditions, fewer respondents reported that roads connecting their sub-district to others were in good condition (35%, down from 41% in 2022, when the question was last asked). Likewise, fewer respondents stated that they could access information regarding infrastructure plans and progress at the local and national levels (39%, down from 50%).

As shown in the chart below, those living in urban areas reported more positive perceptions of all aspects of roads and bridges compared to those in rural areas, consistent with the greater concern expressed about infrastructure in rural areas.

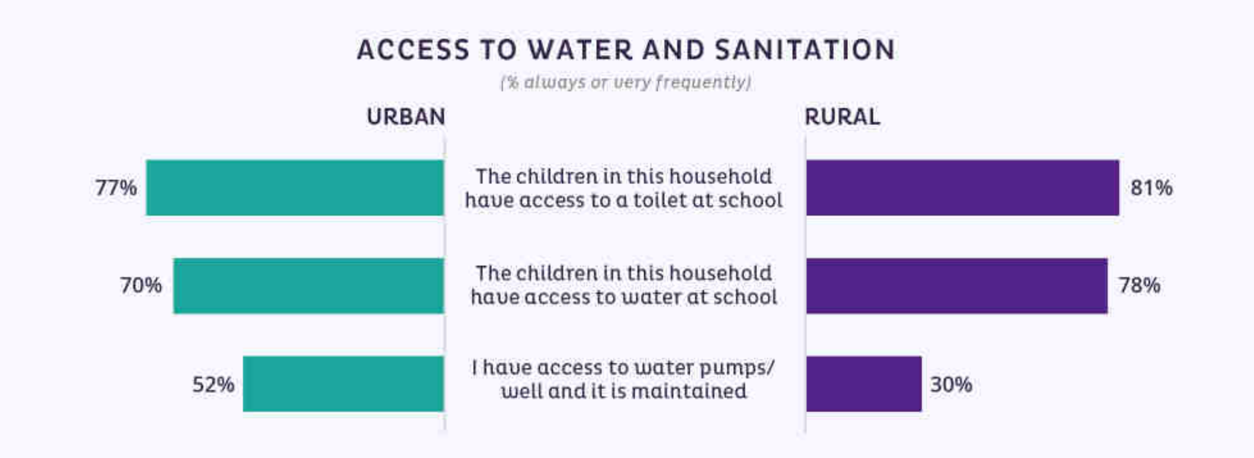


Water and Sanitation

The proportion of respondents who felt that water (and household sanitation) should be one of the government's top three priorities decreased in 2025. Only 22% of respondents believed it should be a top priority, down from 42% in 2023. Respondents in rural areas felt water was a higher priority (25%) compared to those in urban areas (17%).

Among those with children aged under 18 years, most respondents reported that their children always or very frequently had access to a toilet (80%, no change from 2023) and water (76%, in line with 73% in 2023) at school. In contrast to previous years, more respondents living in rural areas reported their children always or very frequently had access to a toilet (81%, compared to 77% in urban areas) and water (78%, compared to 70%) at school. The lower results among urban respondents were again driven by Dili, where 71% of respondents reported their children always or very frequently had access to a toilet (compared to 90% in other urban areas), and 64% reported always or very frequently having access to water (compared to 86% in other urban areas).

A much smaller proportion of respondents reported they had access to water pumps/wells that are maintained (37%, in line with 35% in 2023). More respondents living in urban areas reported they had access to maintained water pumps/wells (52%, compared to 30% of those in rural areas).



Electricity

When asked what they felt should be the government's top three priorities, 15% cited electricity (down from 27% in 2023). Electricity was a greater priority among older respondents aged 55+ (19%, compared to 14% of those aged 18-34) and those living in rural areas (18%, compared to 8% of those living in urban areas).

Having no access to electricity was reported as a key challenge in accessing information (32%, slightly up from 28% in 2023). In contrast to 2023, however, more respondents living in urban areas reported having no access to electricity as a challenge in accessing information (37%, compared to 30% of those in rural areas).

Economic Development

Tatoli! 2025 captured information regarding the employment status, income and economic wellbeing of respondents and their households. The survey also gathered data on rural development and access to resources and infrastructure to support agricultural activities.

Key Insights:

- Overall involvement in paid work was higher than in 2023, and around half of those involved in paid work were self-employed.
- Average household income was higher among those living in urban areas.
- Overall perceptions of household economic situation were less positive compared to 2023 and 2022, but perceptions of specific aspects of financial security were higher – suggesting that expectations may be becoming higher.
- Although overall perceptions of household economic situation were more positive among respondents in urban areas, rural respondents reported similar or slightly more positive perceptions when prompted about specific aspects of financial security.
- Lack of infrastructure (roads and bridges) was one of the biggest challenges facing those in rural areas, as well as lack of quality employment opportunities, lack of clean water/sanitation, low-quality education and low-quality health care.
- Around half of those working in paid employment were working in agriculture.
- Fewer young people reported working in agriculture than in previous years.
- Access to equipment and resources for agriculture was still low.

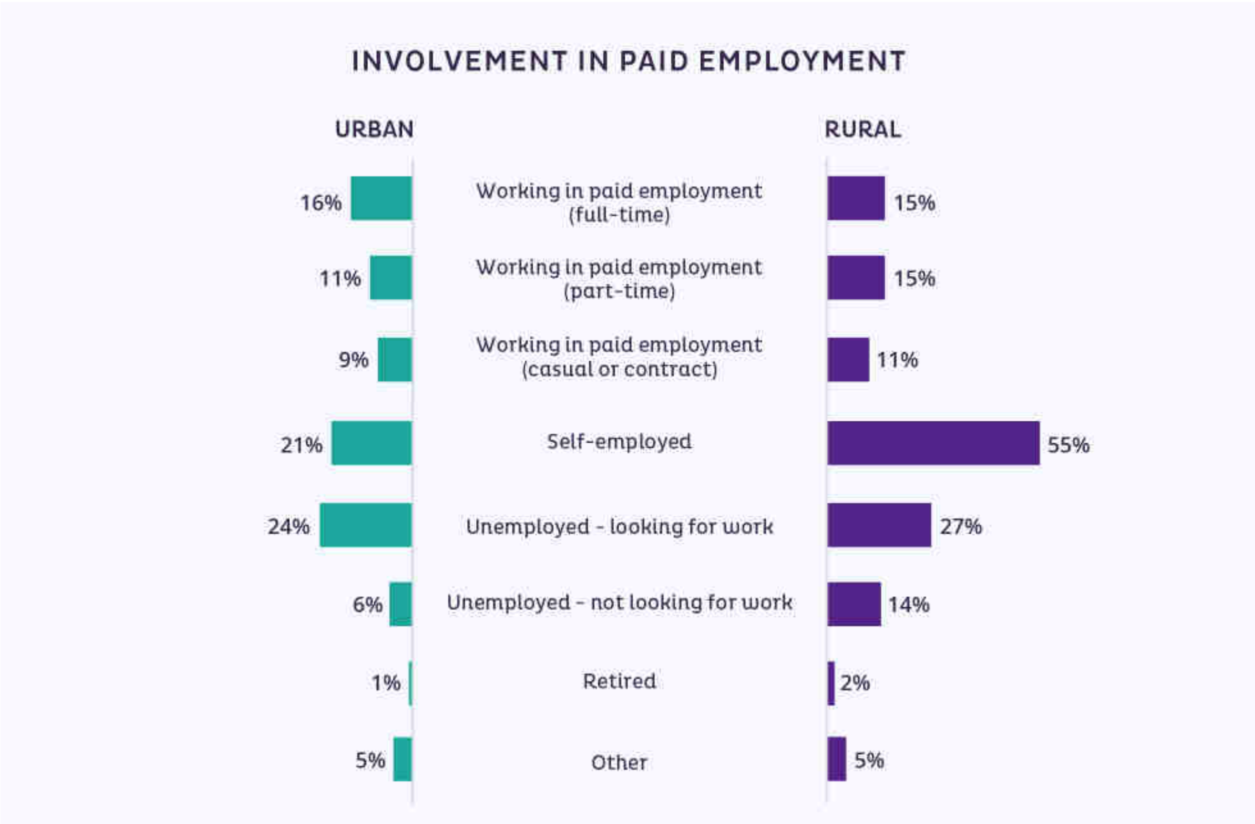
Employment

Paid Employment

Almost two-thirds (64%, up from 58% in 2023) of respondents were involved in some form of paid work – including 45% who were self-employed (up from 41% in 2023). Overall involvement in paid work was higher among men (69%, compared to 59% of women), respondents aged 35 and over (78% of those aged 35-54 and 73% of those aged 55+, compared to 53% of those aged 18-34), those living in rural areas (73%, compared to 45% in urban areas), those with no formal education (76%, compared to 60% with some formal education) and those who were partnered (74%, compared to 41% of those who were not partnered). In particular, more respondents aged 35 and over, living in rural areas, with no formal education and who were partnered reported being self-employed, which largely accounts for why overall involvement in paid work was higher among these demographic groups.

Around one-third (30%, up from 20% in 2023) of respondents were working in paid employment in a full-time, part-time or casual/contract role. The proportion of respondents working in paid employment full-time (15%, up from 9%), part-time (14%, up from 8%) and on a casual/contract basis (10%, up from 4%) all increased compared to 2023.

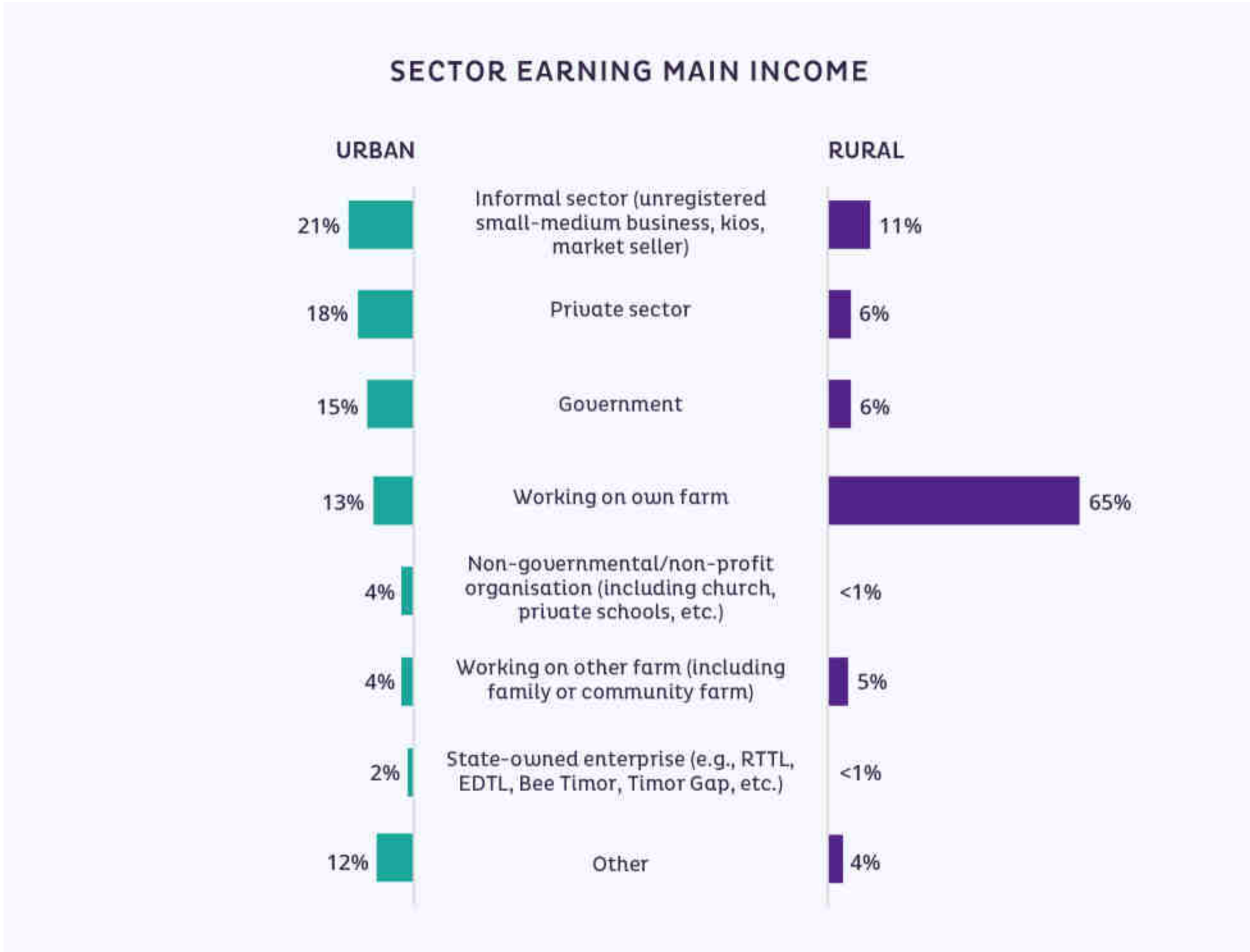
A similar proportion of men (45%) and women (44%) reported they were self-employed. However, more male respondents were working in paid employment in a full-time (19%, compared to 11% of women), part-time (16%, compared to 11%) or casual/contract (12%, compared to 8%) capacity.



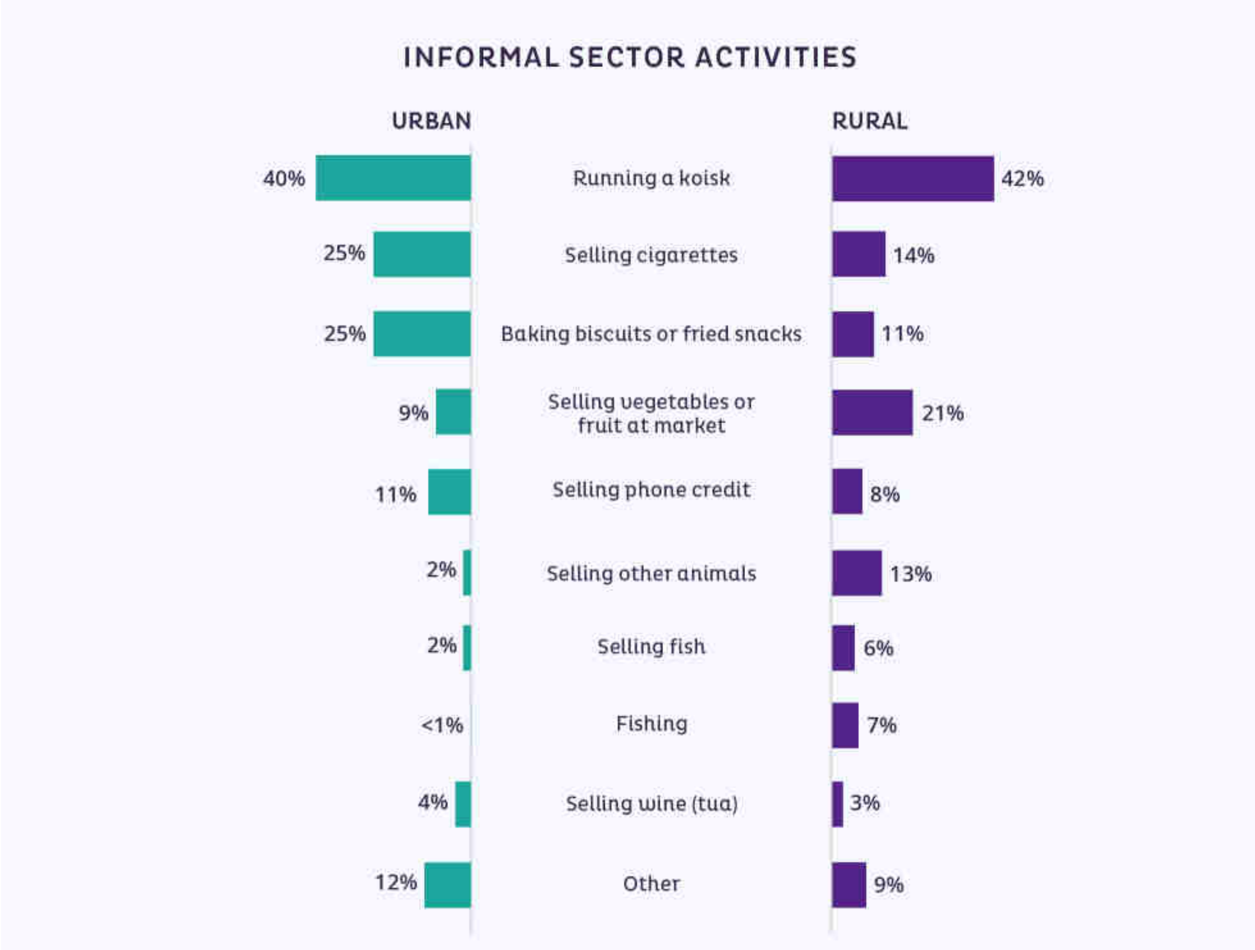
Among those who had paid employment, those living in urban areas most commonly earned their main income in the informal sector (21%), private sector (18%) or government (15%). The majority of those living in rural areas earned their main income from working on their own farm (65%).

Those who were self-employed most commonly earned their income on their own farm (68%) or in the informal sector (18%).

Those working in full-time (35%), part-time (46%) or casual/contract (44%) roles were also most likely to report they earned their main income from their own farm. However, they were also more likely to report working in the government (13-37%) or private (14-16%) sectors compared to those who were self-employed (2-5%).



Among those working in the informal sector, respondents most commonly ran a kiosk (41%), sold cigarettes (19%), baked biscuits/fried snacks (17%) or sold vegetables/fruit (16%).[6] As shown in the chart below, more respondents living in urban areas sold cigarettes and biscuits/fried snacks, while more respondents in rural areas sold vegetables/fruit or animals.



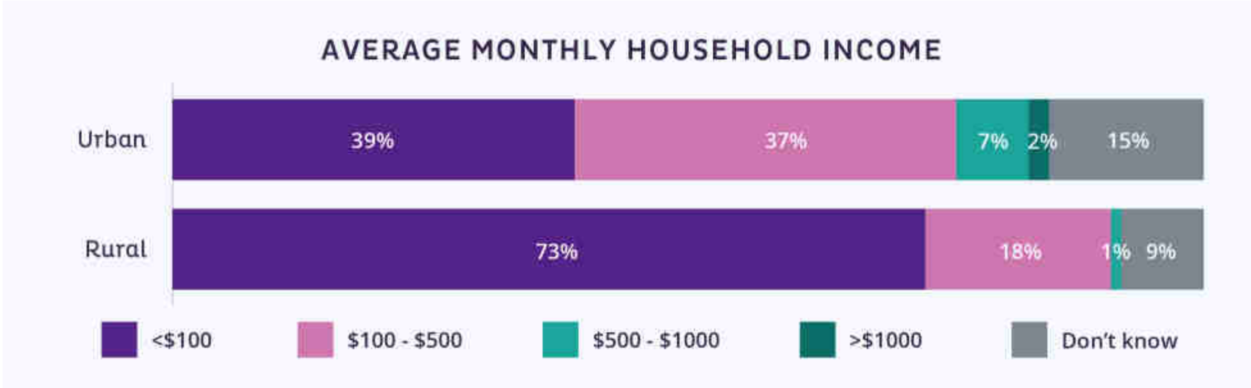
Household Income

Most respondents (86%, no change from 2023) had an average monthly income of less than $500, including 63% with an average monthly income less than $100 (down slightly from 66% in 2023). As shown in the chart below, the average monthly income was higher for those living in urban areas.

More respondents from the following respondent groups reported an average monthly household income of less than $100:

- Respondents living in rural areas (73%, compared to 39% in urban areas);
- Women (66%, compared to 59% of men);
- Older respondents aged 55+ (68%, compared to 60% of those aged 18-34);
- Respondents living outside Dili (73%, compared to 32% living in Dili);
- Respondents with no formal education (79%, compared to 57% with some formal education).

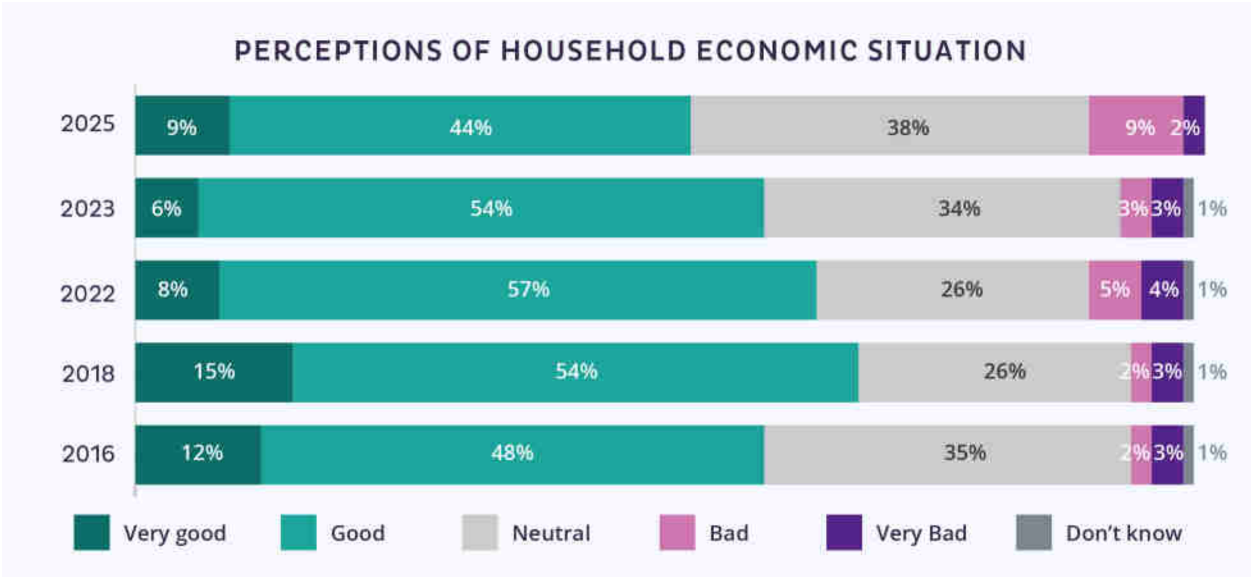
[6] *Domestic workers may be underrepresented in this data, as they may be living and working away from home at the time of data collection.*



Economic Situation

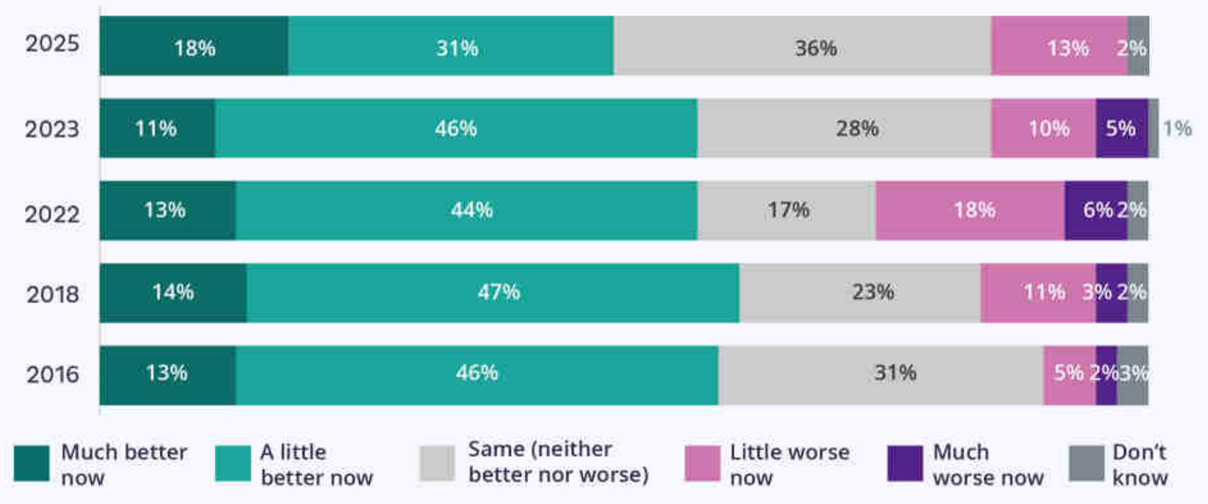
Only about half (53%) of respondents felt their household economic situation was 'good' or 'very good' in 2025. As shown in the chart below, perceptions of household economic situation have become less positive since 2018. Respondents from the following categories had less positive perceptions of their household economic situation:

- Respondents living in rural areas (50% 'good' or 'very good', compared to 61% in urban areas);
- Respondents living outside Dili (48%, compared to 66% living in Dili);
- Respondents with a monthly income less than $100 (50%, compared to 79% with over $500); and
- Respondents with no formal education (49%, compared to 54% with some formal education).



Around half (49%, down from 57% in 2023) of respondents felt their household economic situation was better compared to one year ago, while around one-third (36%, down from 28%) felt it was the same. Only a minority (15%) felt their situation was worse, in line with 2023 (15%).

PERCEPTIONS OF HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC SITUATION COMPARED TO ONE YEAR AGO



Although overall perceptions of household economic situation were less positive compared to 2023 and 2022, when prompted about individual aspects of financial security, respondents were actually more positive about their ability to meet their needs across all aspects, suggesting that expectations are becoming higher over time. In particular, respondents were most likely to agree:

- It was possible for them and their family to get a job close to where they lived (90%, up from 72% in 2023); and
- Their family would have enough food in the next month (89%, up from 72% in 2023);
- They and their family earned enough to pay for the things they needed (87%, compared to 68%);
- They were able to save money to spend at a later time (88%, compared to 72%);
- They were able to borrow money when they needed it (77%, compared to 68%).

Almost all respondents agreed that they were able to make decisions about money in their family (90% 'strongly agree' or 'agree', up from 78% in 2023). Responses were the same for women (90%) and men (90%).

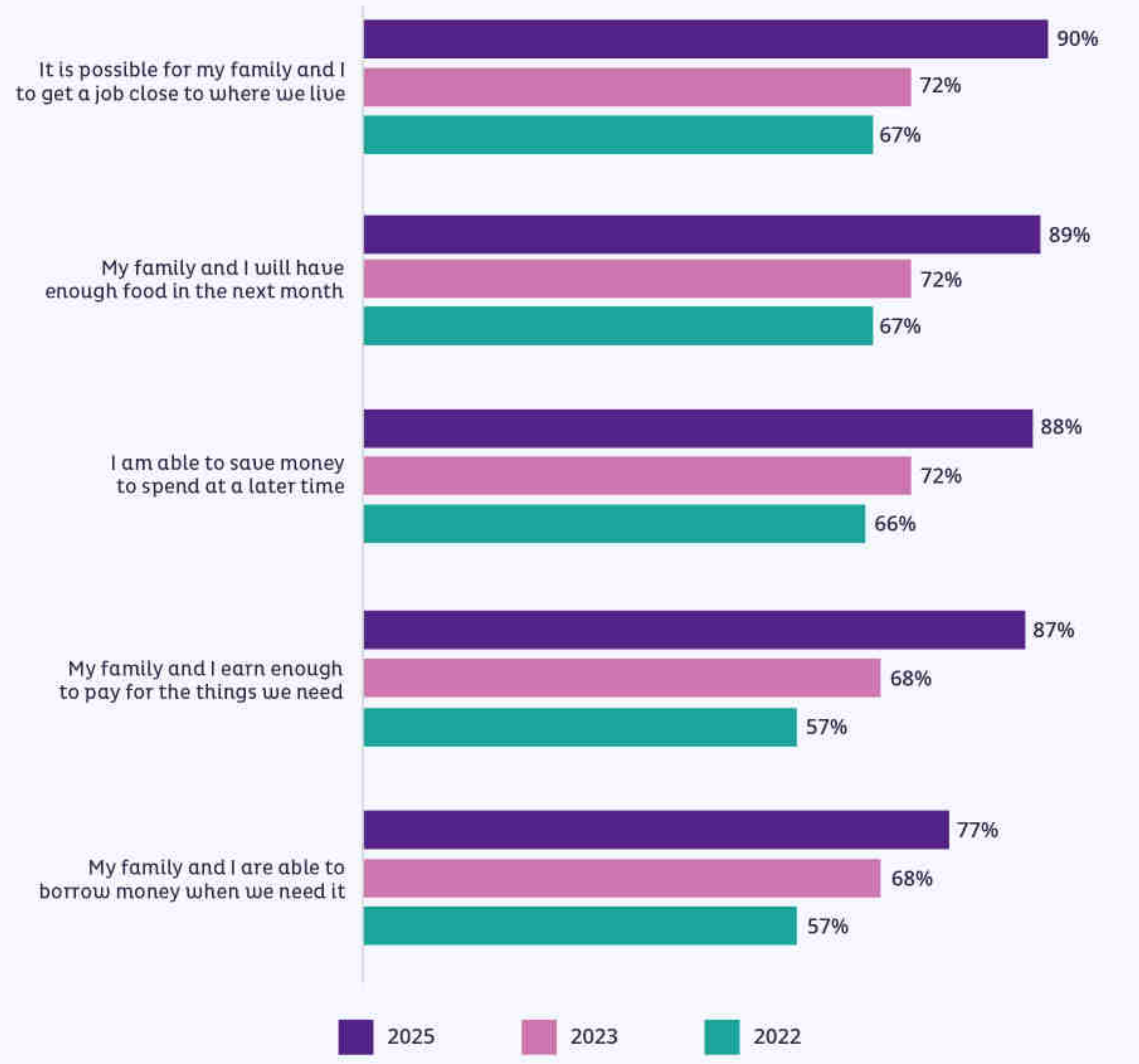
Although those living in rural areas had less positive perceptions of their overall household economic situation compared to those in urban areas, perceptions of specific aspects of their financial security were similar or slightly more positive.

Specifically, more respondents living in rural areas agreed that:

- It was possible for them to get a job close to where they lived (91%, compared to 86% of those in urban areas);
- They were able to make decisions about money in their family (92%, compared to 87%); and
- They were able to borrow money when they needed it (78%, compared to 73%).

PERCEPTIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND FINANCIAL SECURITY

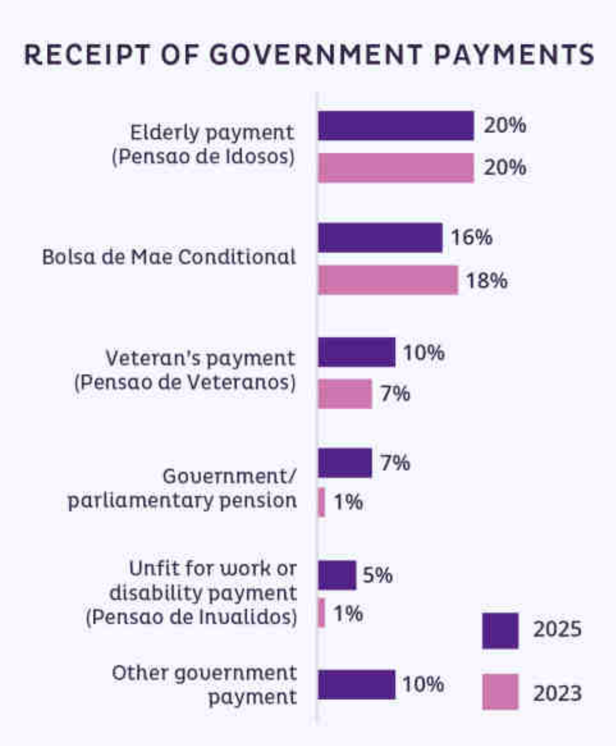
(% strongly agree and agree)



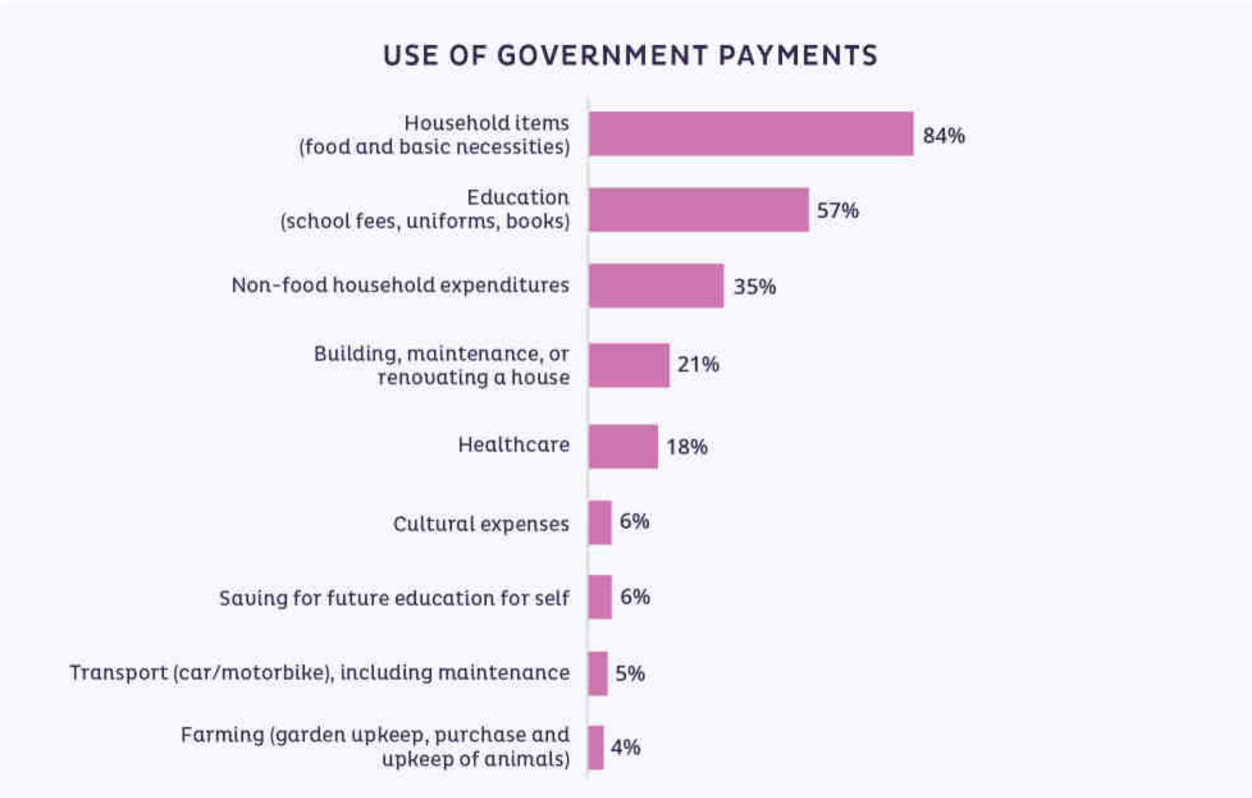
Social Assistance and Government Payments

Overall, just under half (45%, in line with 43% in 2023) of respondents were receiving some form of government payment, most commonly the elderly payment (20%, no change) and Bolsa de Mae Conditional (16%, in line with 18%).

More respondents living in rural areas (48%, compared to 38% in urban areas), aged 55+ (74%, compared to 35% of those aged 18-34), with no formal education (60%, compared to 39% with some formal education) and people with disabilities (72%, compared to 43% of people without disabilities) were receiving at least one government payment.



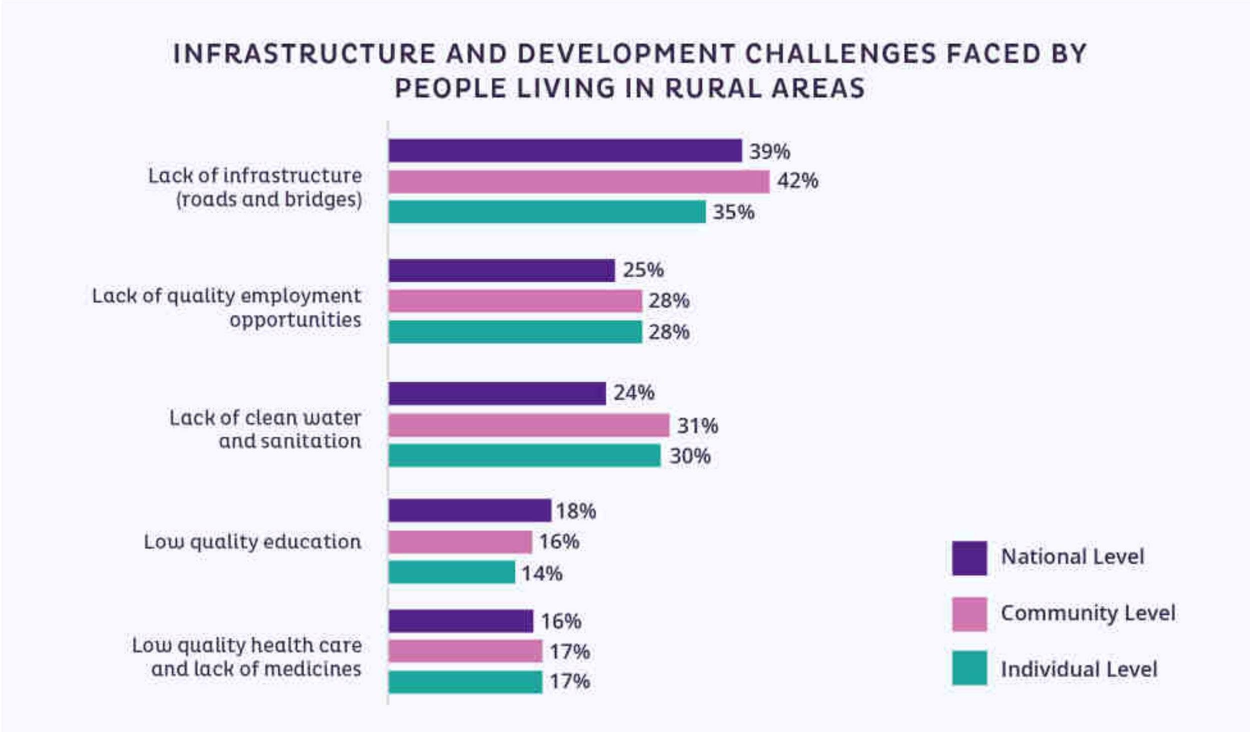
Among those who had received government payments, these payments were most commonly used on household items such as food/basic necessities (84%), education (57%) and non-food household expenditures such as furniture and other durable goods (35%).



Rural Development

When respondents were asked what they thought the government's top three priorities should be, roads (65%, compared to 43% in urban areas), water (25%, compared to 17%) and electricity (18%, compared to 8%) were reported as greater priorities among respondents from rural areas, compared to those from urban areas. Health (67%, compared to 76% in urban areas) and education (52%, compared to 74%) were also reported as two of the highest priorities among those living in rural areas, but to a lesser extent than for respondents from urban areas.

Lack of infrastructure (roads and bridges) also featured strongly when respondents from rural areas were asked to state the biggest challenges they faced at the national, community and individual levels. Many rural respondents also felt a lack of employment and education opportunities and lack of services such as clean water/sanitation and healthcare were challenges at the national, community and individual levels.



Agriculture

Only a small proportion of respondents (5%, down from 9% in 2023) felt agriculture (including irrigation) should be one of the government's top priorities. This finding was similar among both rural (5%) and urban (6%) respondents.

More than half (56%) of those respondents working in paid employment were working in agriculture either on their own farm (51%) or on someone else's farm (5%). More respondents living in rural areas (65%, compared to 13% in urban areas) and aged 55+ (70%, compared to 49% of those aged

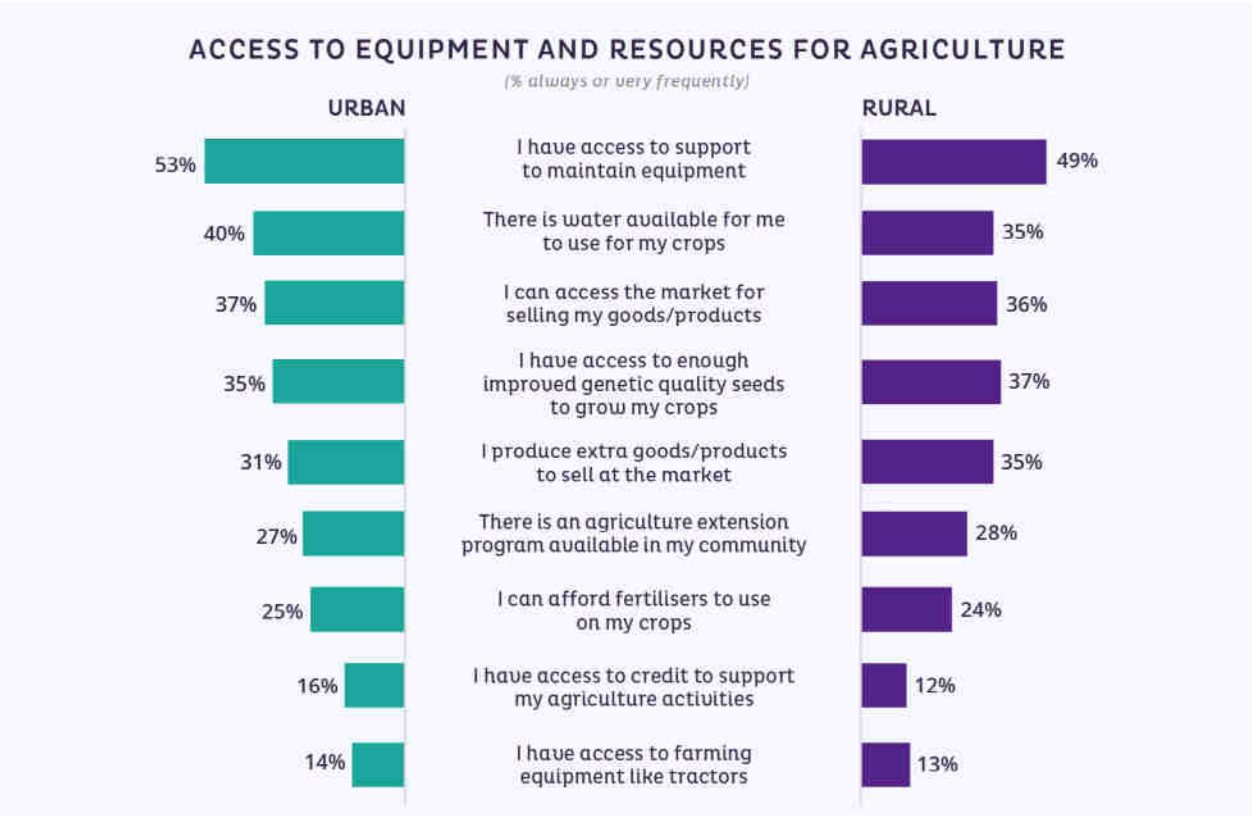
35-54 and 45% of those aged 18-34) were working on their own farm. The results also suggest more people aged 55+ (70%, up from 59%) and fewer people aged 18-34 (45%, down from 50%) were working on their own farm compared to 2023.[7]

Among those working on a farm, less than half reported they 'always' or 'very frequently' could access goods and services for farming, including:

- Improved quality (better genetic quality) seeds to grow their crops (37%, down from 71% in 2023);[8]
- Water available to use for their crops (36%, in line with 34%);
- Fertilisers to use on their crops (24%, in line with 26%);
- Credit to support their agriculture activities (13%, in line with 16%); and
- Access to farming equipment, like tractors (13%, new in 2025).

Only around one-third reported they produced extra goods/products to sell at the market (35%) and could access the market to sell their goods/products (37%, down from 42%).

As shown in the chart below, access to equipment and resources for agriculture was similar between rural and urban respondents for most aspects. However, those living in urban areas reported somewhat greater access to water and credit to support agricultural activities.



7 *Please note results for this question are not directly compared to 2023 due to changes in the response scale.*

8 *This question has been asked since 2016, but enumerators used a more detailed explanation of what was meant by higher quality seeds in 2025, which may have resulted in a significantly lower response rate.*

Remittances

Tatoli! 2025 captured information regarding remittances from overseas and intentions to work overseas.

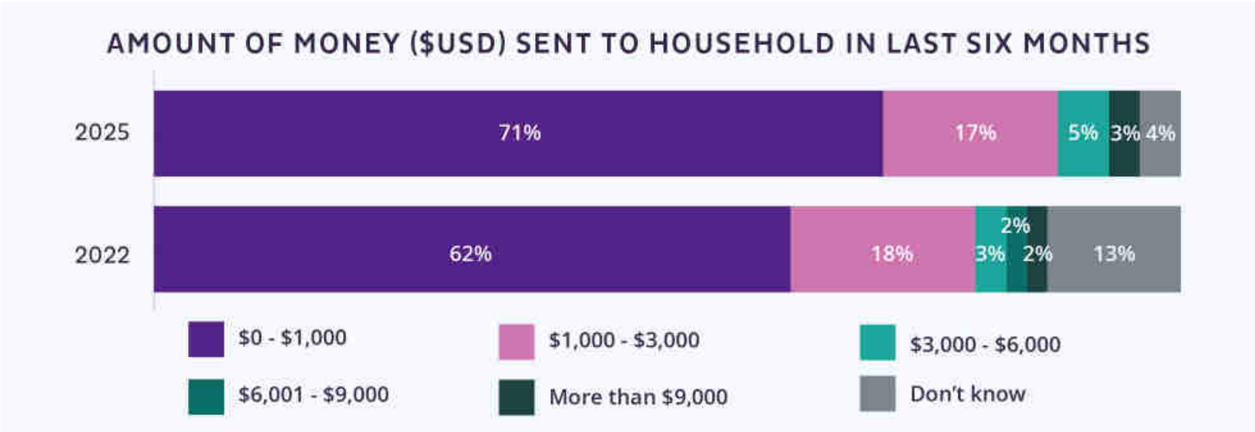
Key Insights:

- 17% of respondents had received money from overseas.
- More respondents living in urban areas, living in Dili and aged 18-34 had received money from overseas.
- There is a relationship between receiving remittances from abroad and engagement in farming – individuals engaged in farming were less likely to receive remittances and tended to receive smaller amounts when they did.
- Almost half of all urban residents and half of respondents aged 18-34 had plans to work overseas or expressed an interest in working overseas.
- Australia, the United Kingdom and South Korea were the main countries respondents were receiving money from and intending to work in.

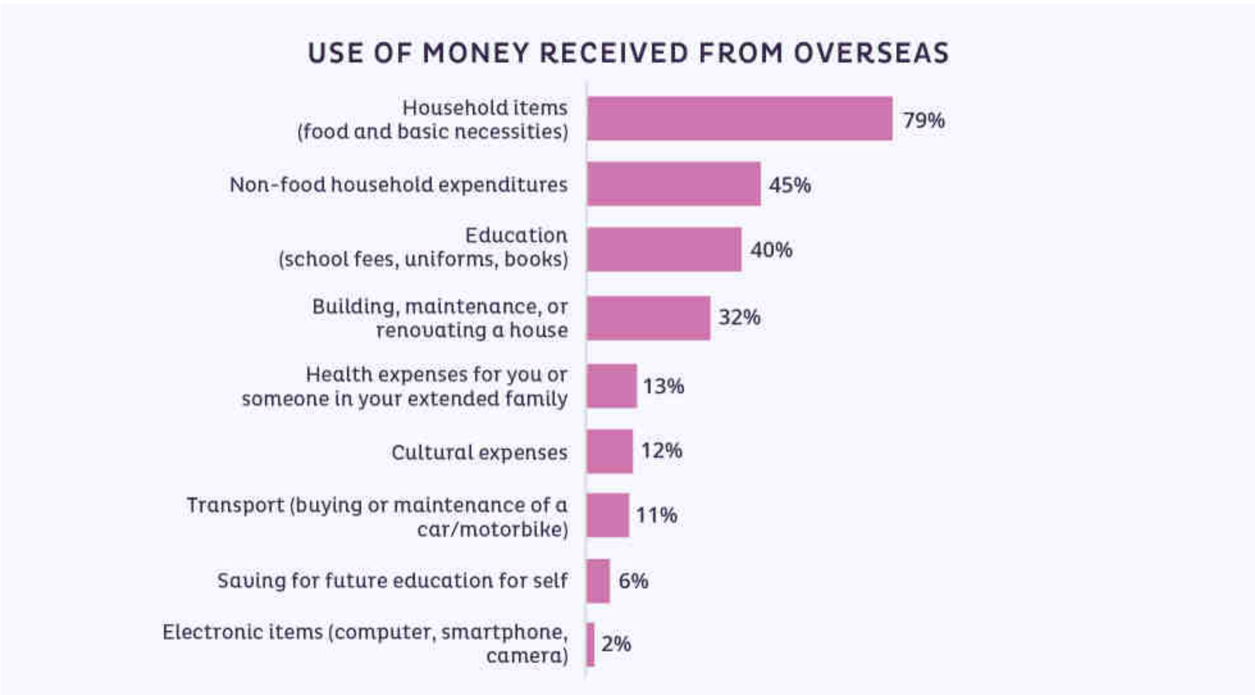
Remittances

Seventeen percent (slightly down from 20% in 2023) of respondents had received money from somebody living overseas in the past six months. More respondents living in urban areas (25%, compared to 14% of those in rural areas), living in Dili (29%, compared to 13% living outside Dili), aged 18-34 (19%, compared to 15% of those aged 55+). Respondents with higher incomes were also more likely to have received money from somebody overseas (36% of those with an average monthly income over $500, compared to 25% of those with a monthly income of $100-$500 and 13% of those with an income less than $100).

Among those who had received money from overseas, most of the people who had sent them money lived in Australia (44%), the United Kingdom (30%) or South Korea (27%). The majority of those who had received money received less than $1,000 (71%, up from 62% in 2023).

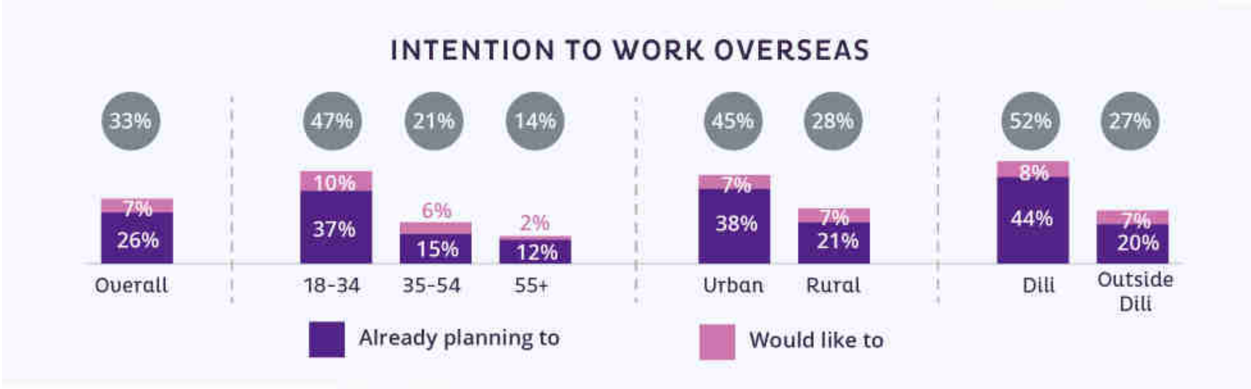


Those who had received money from overseas most commonly used this for household items (79%), followed by non-food household expenditures such as furniture and durable goods (45%) and education (40%).



Tatoli! 2025 identified a relationship between receiving remittances from abroad and engagement in farming. Fewer respondents working on a farm had received money from anyone living overseas in the past six months (12%) compared to those not working on farms (22%). Further, those working on farms who had received money from overseas were more likely to receive smaller amounts, with 77% of those working on farms receiving less than $1,000, compared to 67% of those not working on farms.

Working Overseas



About one-quarter (26%, in line with 24% in 2023) of respondents said they were already planning to work overseas in 2025, and a further 7% (down from 15%) wanted to but did not have a plan yet. Overall interest in working overseas (33%) was slightly lower than in 2023 (39%). The following groups of respondents were more likely to express an intention or interest in working overseas:

- Men (37% 'already planning' or 'would like to', compared to 29% of women);
- Younger respondents (47% of those aged 18-34, compared to 14% of those aged 55+);
- Respondents living in urban areas (46%, compared to 28% of those in rural areas);
- Respondents living in Dili (52%, compared to 27% outside Dili);
- Respondents with some formal education (38%, compared to 19% with no formal education).

Those who wanted to work overseas most commonly wanted to work in Australia (61%, up from 33% in 2023), followed by South Korea (18%, down from 24%) and the UK (13%, down from 37%). These results indicate a shift in sentiment from 2023 when the UK was the most popular prospective destination.

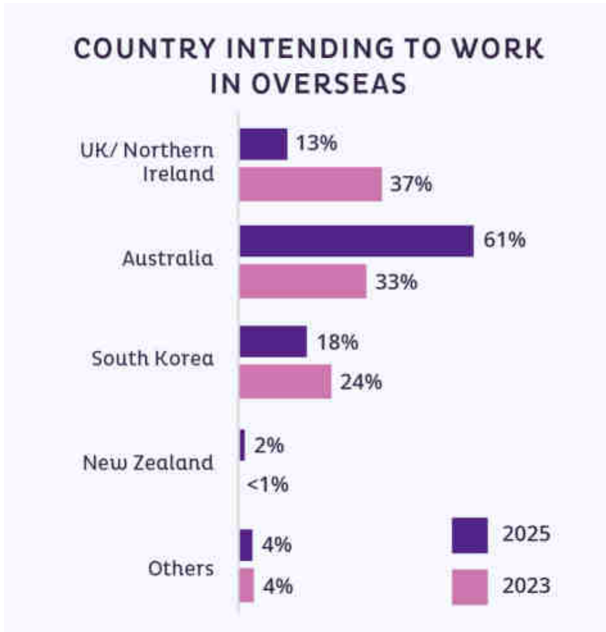


Photo by Mariano Goncalves.

Institutional Framework

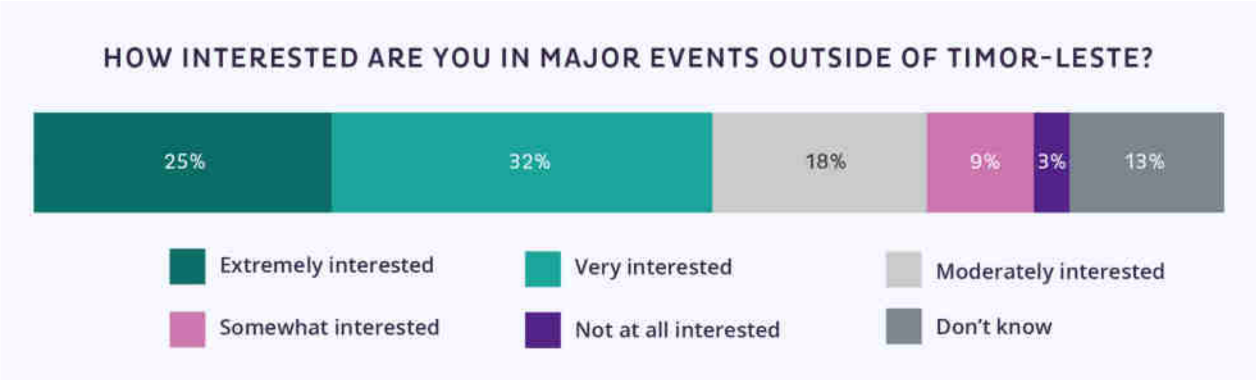
Tatoli! 2025 captured information about aspects related to foreign affairs, governance and safety, security and justice.

Key Insights:

- Among respondents who had heard of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), there was strong public support for Timor-Leste's accession to the regional body.
- Perceptions of the government's overall performance were slightly more positive than in previous years. However, satisfaction with specific aspects of government performance and government engagement with citizens was lower.
- Support for women, young people and people with disabilities being represented in politics and decision-making forums was higher than in previous years. While support for the increased representation of sexual and gender minorities was significantly lower, a majority of respondents still expressed support.
- Fighting, land disputes, domestic violence and issues related to animals (such as crop destruction) were considered the most serious security problems.

Foreign Affairs

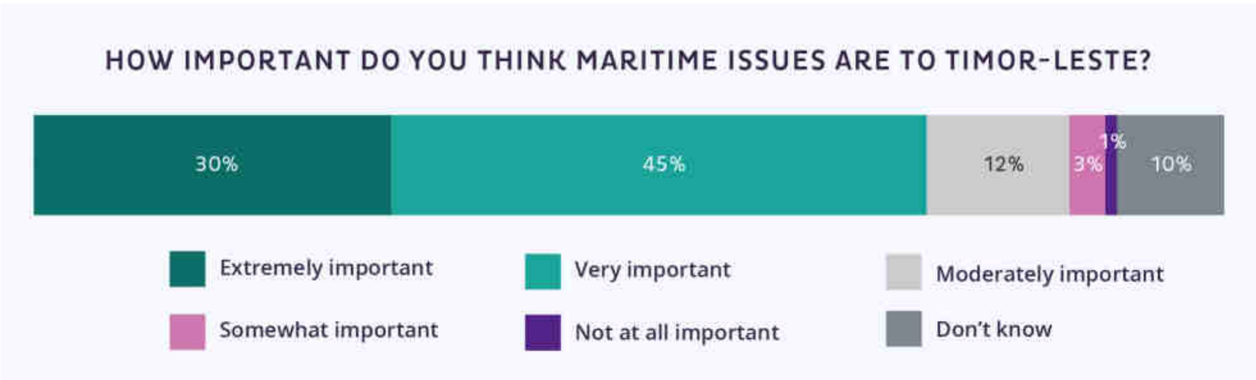
More than half (57%) of respondents said they were 'very' or 'extremely' interested in major events outside Timor-Leste. Interest in major foreign events was highest for those respondents aged 17-34 (60%, compared to 49% of those aged 55+), living in urban areas (66%, compared to 53%), with a monthly household income over $500 (76%, compared to 54% of those with less than $100) and with some formal education (60%, compared to 47% of those with no formal education).



Respondents reported the greatest interest in global health concerns (39%), followed by climate change or environmental issues (16%).

The majority (75%) of respondents believed that maritime issues were 'very' or 'extremely' important to Timor-Leste. More respondents aged 18-34 (78%, compared to 69% of those aged 55+), living in urban areas (80%, compared to 74% of those in rural areas), with a monthly household income over $500 (82%, compared to 74% of those with less than $100) and some formal education (78%, compared to 68% of those with no formal education) felt that maritime issues were important.

Respondents reported the greatest interest in illegal fishing (30%), followed by protection of the marine environment and biodiversity (20%), and maritime security (15%).

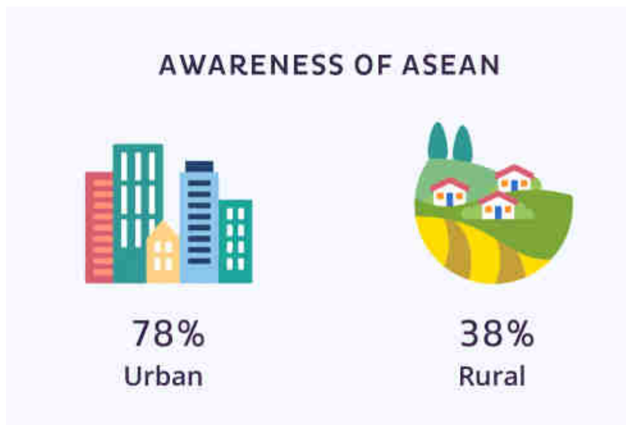


As shown in the table below, when asked which country was Timor-Leste's most important partner in a series of key fields, respondents nominated many different countries. Australia was considered the most important partner for diplomatic relations, defence and agriculture. China was considered the most important partner in trade and investment, and infrastructure. Cuba was considered the most important partner in health. About one out of ten respondents was unsure which country was most important to Timor-Leste across all areas examined.

Which country is Timor-Leste's most important partner in...

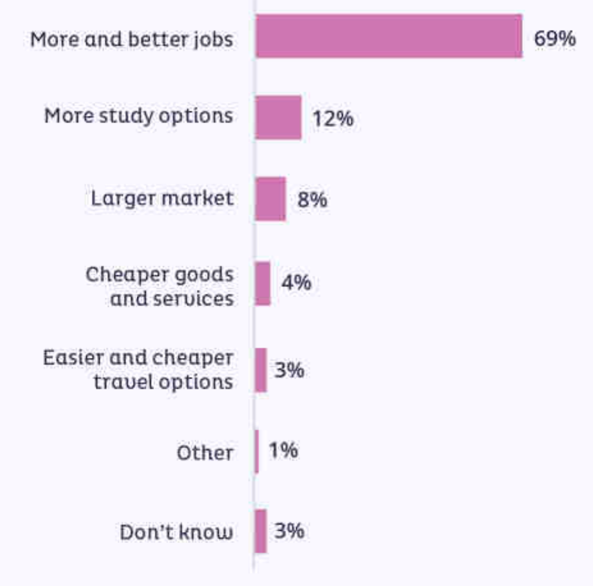
AREA	TOP 3 MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRIES	DON'T KNOW
Diplomatic relations	Australia (41%) Portugal (10%) United States (8%)	15%
Trade and investment	China (40%) Australia (15%) Indonesia (12%)	12%
Defence	Australia (34%) United States (28%) Indonesia (8%)	11%
Infrastructure	China (50%) Australia (10%) Japan (10%)	10%
Agriculture	Australia (36%) Indonesia (9%) Japan (8%)	13%
Health	Cuba (56%) Singapore (8%) Australia (7%)	10%
Education	Portugal (36%) Australia (14%) Indonesia (11%)	10%

Half (50%) of respondents had heard of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). More respondents living in urban areas (78%, compared to 38% in rural areas), aged 18-34 (58%, compared to 29% of those aged 55+) and with some formal education (59%, compared to 24% of those with no formal education) were aware of ASEAN.



Among those aware of ASEAN, almost all (89%) felt that Timor-Leste should join the association. Among those who felt Timor-Leste should join the association, the most important perceived benefit was more and better jobs (69%), followed by more study options (12%).

BENEFITS OF TIMOR-LESTE JOINING ASEAN

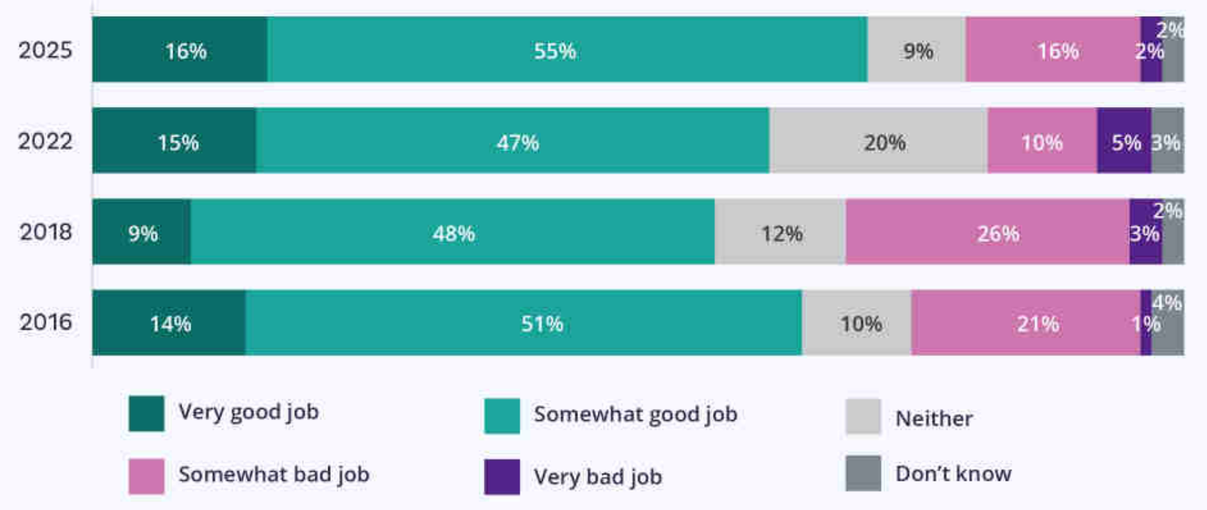


Public Sector Management and Good Governance

Perceptions of the Government

The majority (71%) of respondents felt the government was doing a 'somewhat' or 'very' good job carrying out its responsibilities, higher than in previous years (62% in 2022 and 57% in 2018). Perceptions of the government's performance were more positive among those living outside Dili (73%) compared to those living in Dili (66%).

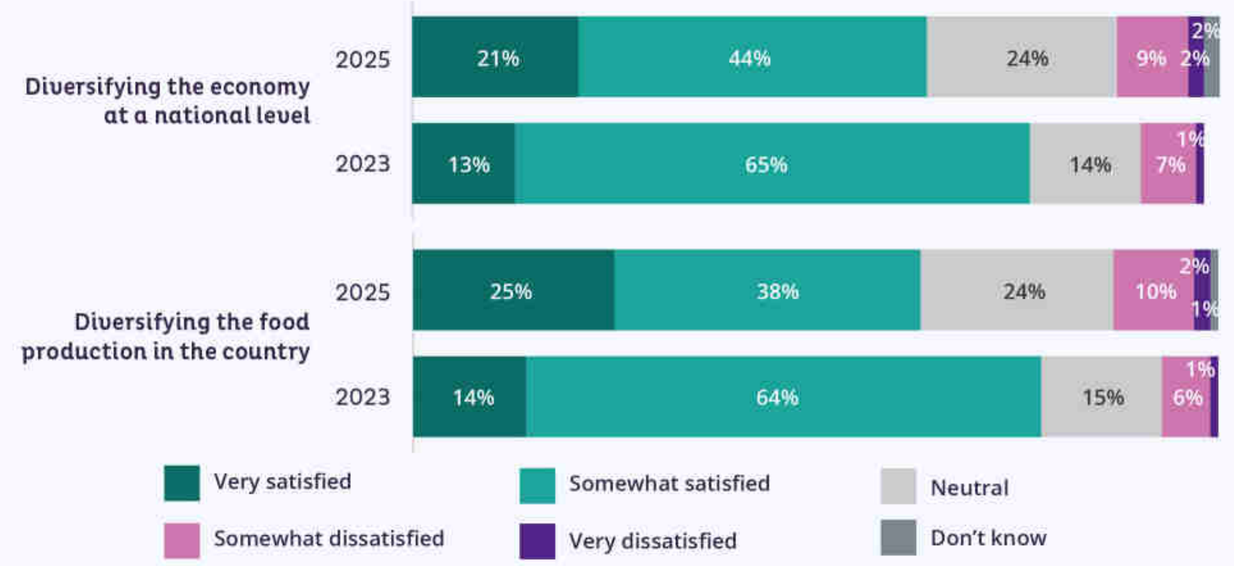
PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE



While overall satisfaction with the government's performance was a little higher than in previous years, satisfaction with specific aspects of government performance was actually a little lower. Almost two-thirds of all respondents were satisfied with the government's efforts in diversifying the economy at a national level (65%, down from 78% in 2023) and with food production in the country (63%, down from 78%). Satisfaction with both aspects was lower than in 2023.

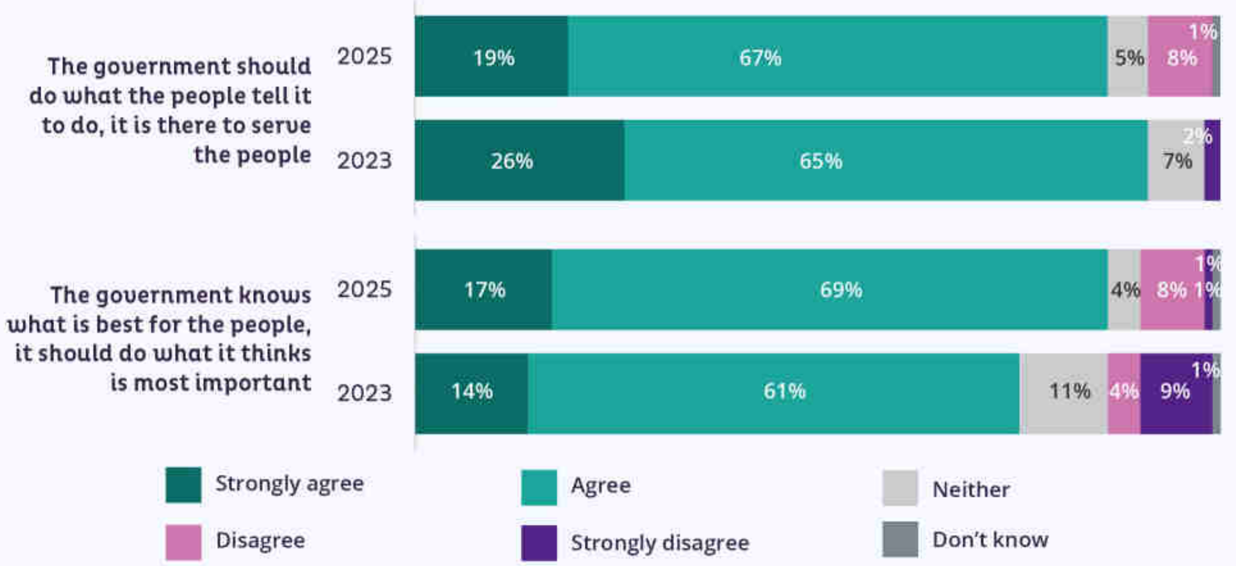
Satisfaction with the government's efforts to diversify the economy was higher among those with a monthly income over $500 (70%, compared to 63% of those with less than $100) and with some formal education (67%, compared to 58% with no formal education).

PERCEPTIONS OF GOVERNMENT DIVERSIFICATION



The majority (86%, down from 91%) of respondents agreed the government should do what the people tell it to do. However, again a strong majority (86%, up from 75%) also agreed the government knows what is best for the people. At the same time as recording these somewhat contradictory responses, the majority (79%) of respondents felt that people who disagreed with the government's actions should be able to publicly criticise the government (see page 53).

PERCEPTIONS OF THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT[9]

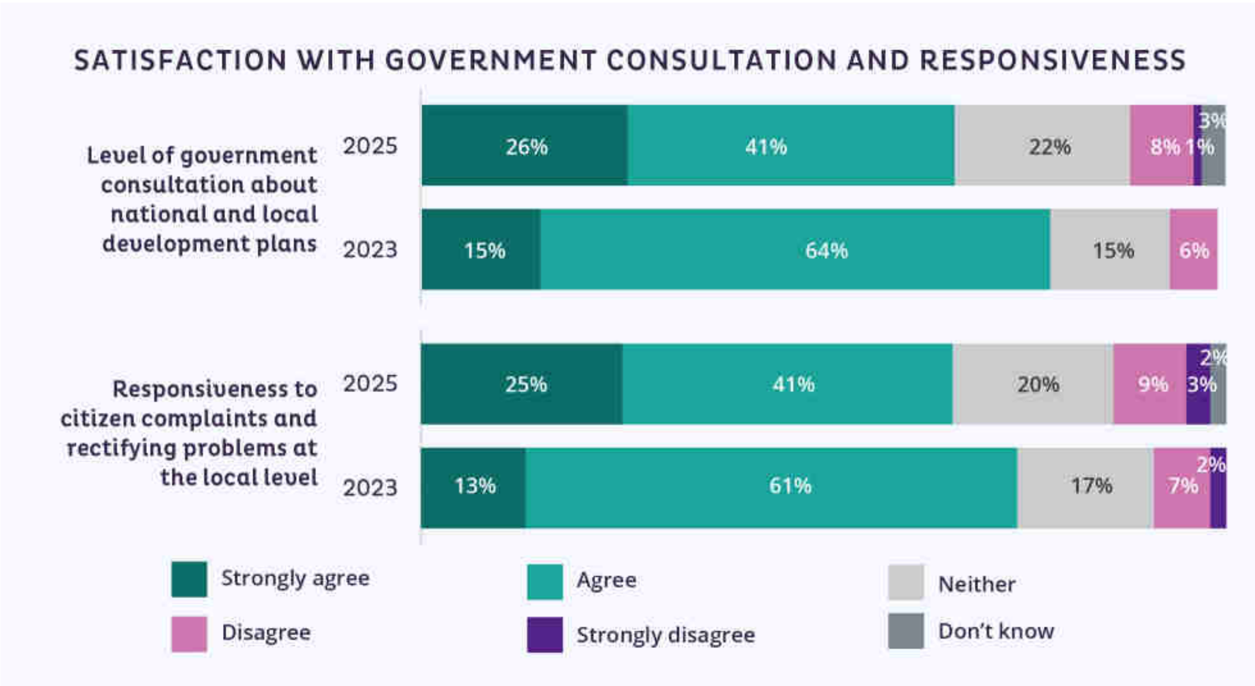


9 *Please note the scale for these questions changed from a 7-point scale in 2022 to a 5-point scale in 2025.*

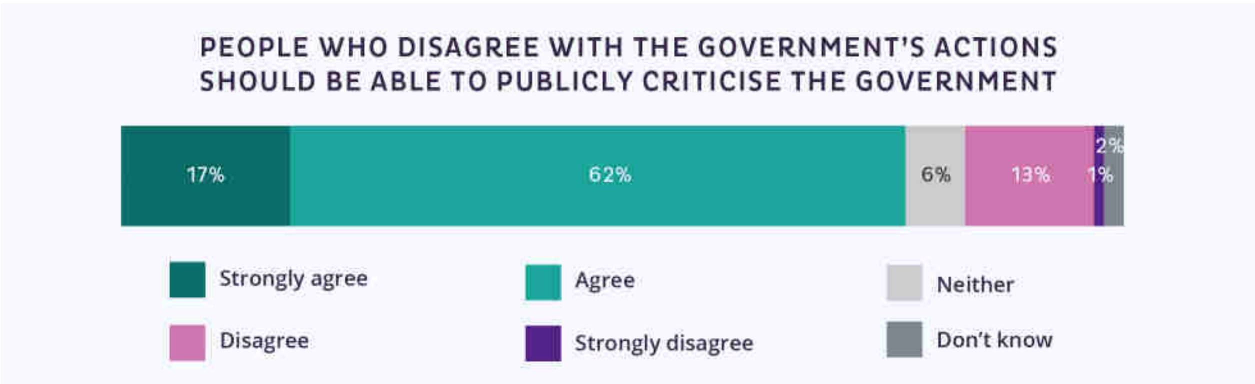
Civic Engagement

Although overall satisfaction with the government remained high, *Tatoli!* 2025 recorded a slight decline in overall satisfaction with how the government engages with citizens. Respondents' satisfaction with the government's level of consultation about national and local development plans decreased to 67% (from 79% in 2023), while satisfaction with its responsiveness to citizen complaints and rectifying problems at the local level dipped to 66% (down from 74% in 2023).

Satisfaction with both aspects was higher among respondents aged 18-34 (71% and 68%, respectively, compared to 62% and 63% of those aged 55+).



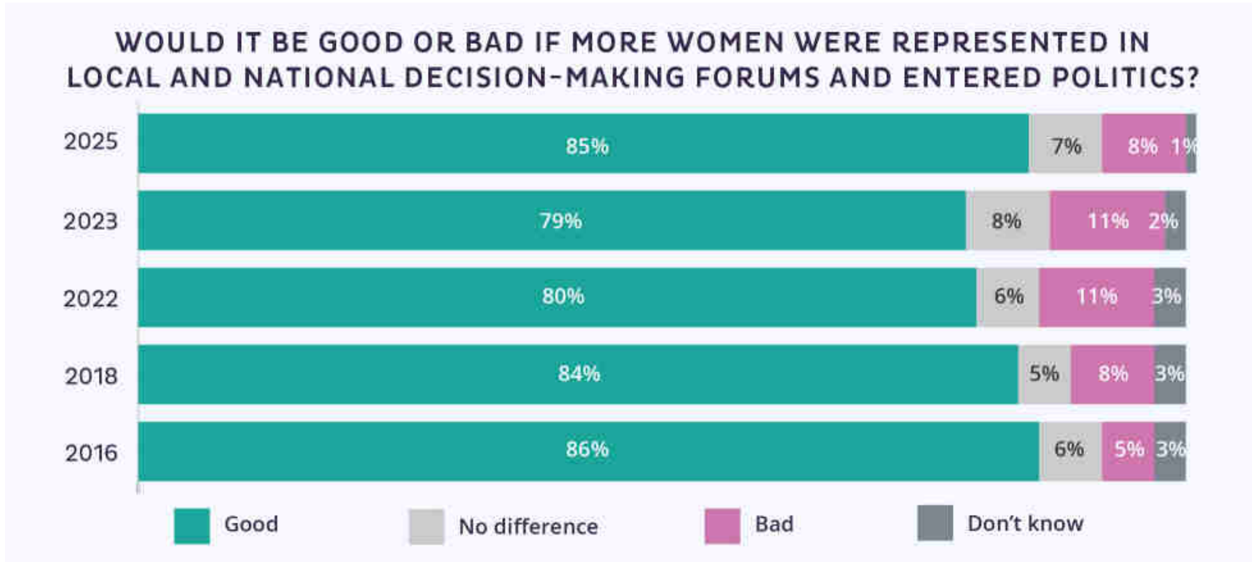
As stated, the majority (79%) of respondents felt that people who disagree with the government's actions should be able to publicly criticise the government. Responses to this question were similar for males and females, and across age and income groups. However, Dili-based respondents were slightly more critical (83% agreed).



Less than one-third (31%, down from 45% in 2023) of respondents had contacted local authorities or leaders in the past six months. More men (34%, compared to 28% of women), more of those living in Dili (38%, compared to 28% of those outside Dili), and more of those with some formal education (32%, compared to 26% with no formal education) had contacted local authorities or leaders. As shown in the chart below, those who contacted local authorities or leaders mainly did so to raise concerns about problems in their community or security and safety in their community. Among those who did not contact local authorities/leaders, the main reason respondents did not contact them was because they did not have any concerns (61%) or they did not have time (43%).

Support for Women and Minorities' Participation in Politics

Almost all (85%) respondents felt it would be 'good' for Timor-Leste if more women were represented in forums and entered politics, higher than in previous years (79% in 2023 and 80% in 2022). More respondents living in urban areas (90%, compared to 82% of those in rural areas), with a monthly income over $500 (94%, compared to 84% with less than $100) and with some formal education (86%, compared to 79% with no formal education) felt it would be good if more women were represented.



More respondents than in previous years felt it would be good if more young people (90%, up from 79% in 2023) and people with disabilities (77%, up from 65%) were represented in decision-making forums and politics. However, just over half (56%) felt it would be good if sexual and gender minorities were better represented in these forums.

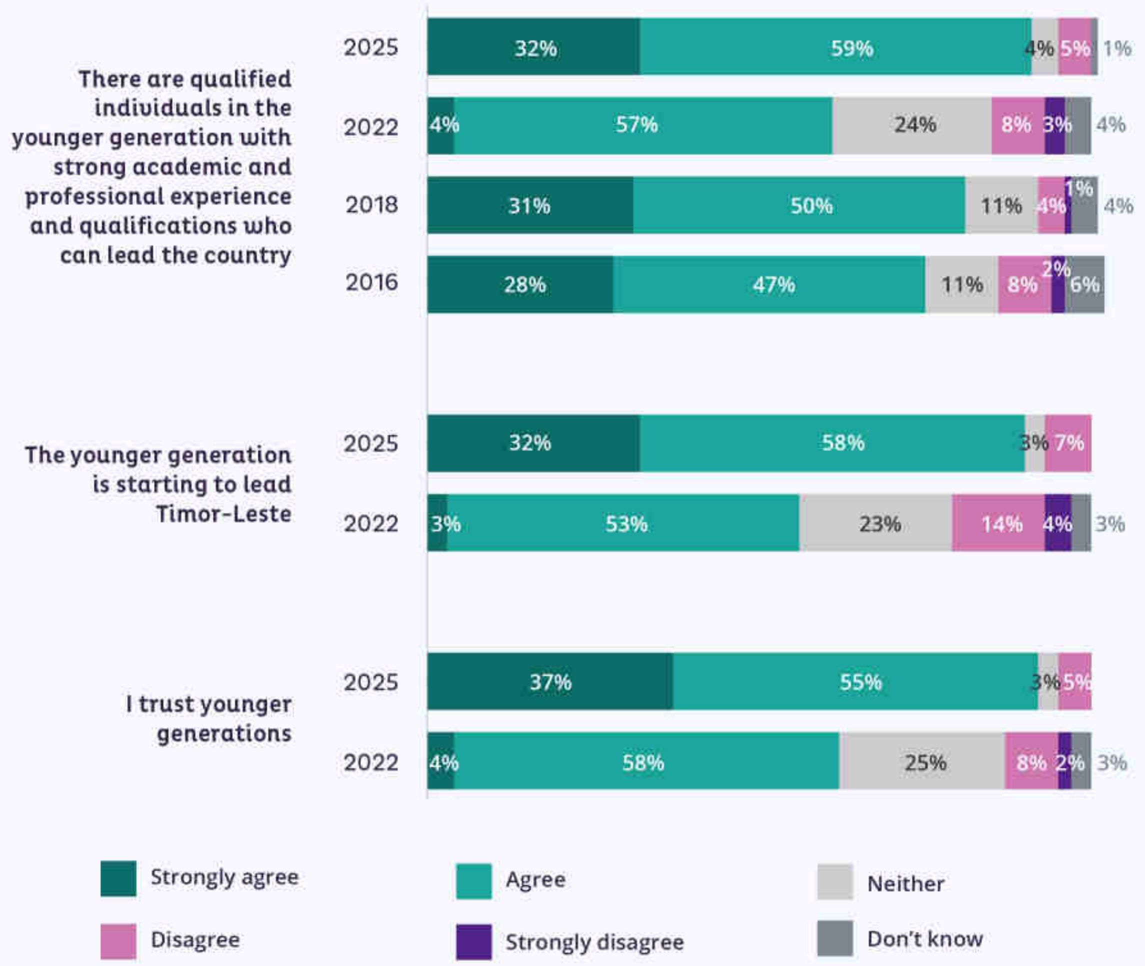
More respondents living in urban areas felt it would be good if all three groups were better represented in these forums compared to those in rural areas. More respondents with a monthly income over $500 felt it would be good for sexual and gender minorities to be represented (74%, compared to 57% with less than $100).

WOULD IT BE GOOD FOR TIMOR-LESTE IF MORE OF THE FOLLOWING GROUPS OF PEOPLE WERE REPRESENTED IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL DECISION-MAKING FORUMS AND ENTERED POLITICS?

Youth in Politics

Respondents had highly positive perceptions of youth involvement in politics. As shown in the chart below, perceptions were also more positive across all aspects compared to previous years, noting that 2022 appeared to be a period when confidence in the role of younger generations may have been unusually low. Those living in rural areas were more positive about all aspects compared to those living in urban areas.

PERCEPTIONS OF YOUTH IN POLITICS

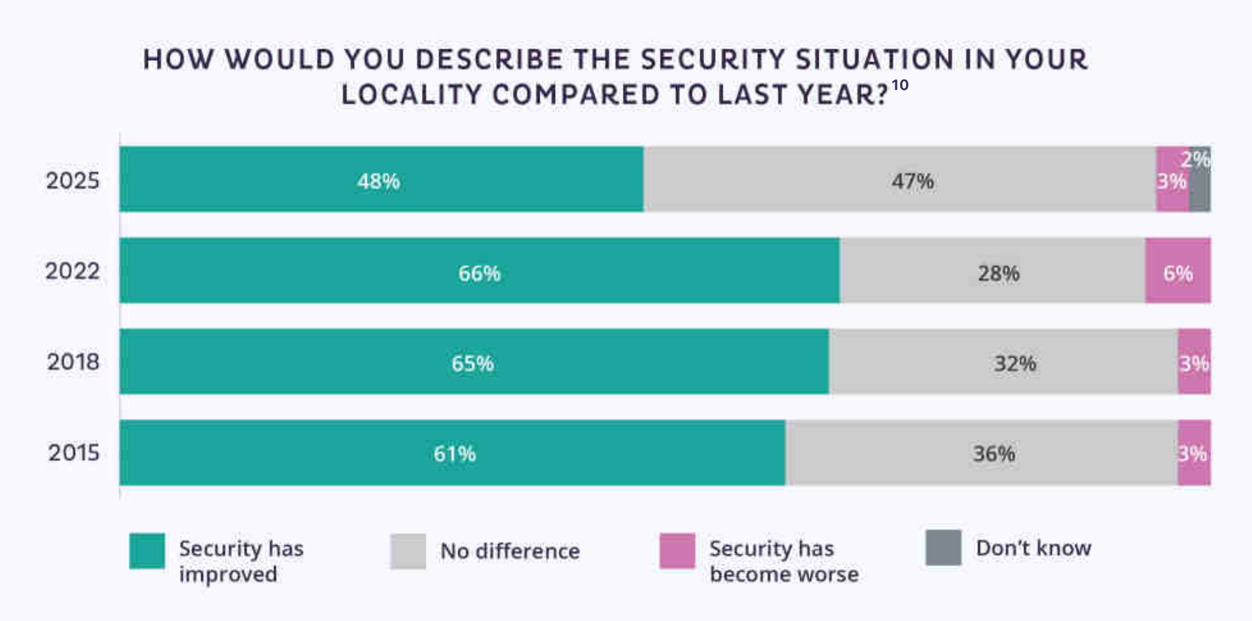


Justice and Security

Note: Questions in this section of the Tatoli! 2025 survey have previously been collected as part of other surveys, and the results therefore may not be perfectly comparable with previous results shown here.

About half of respondents (48%) felt security in their locality had improved compared to last year, while the other half mostly felt security had stayed the same (47%). The proportion who felt security had improved was lower than in previous years.

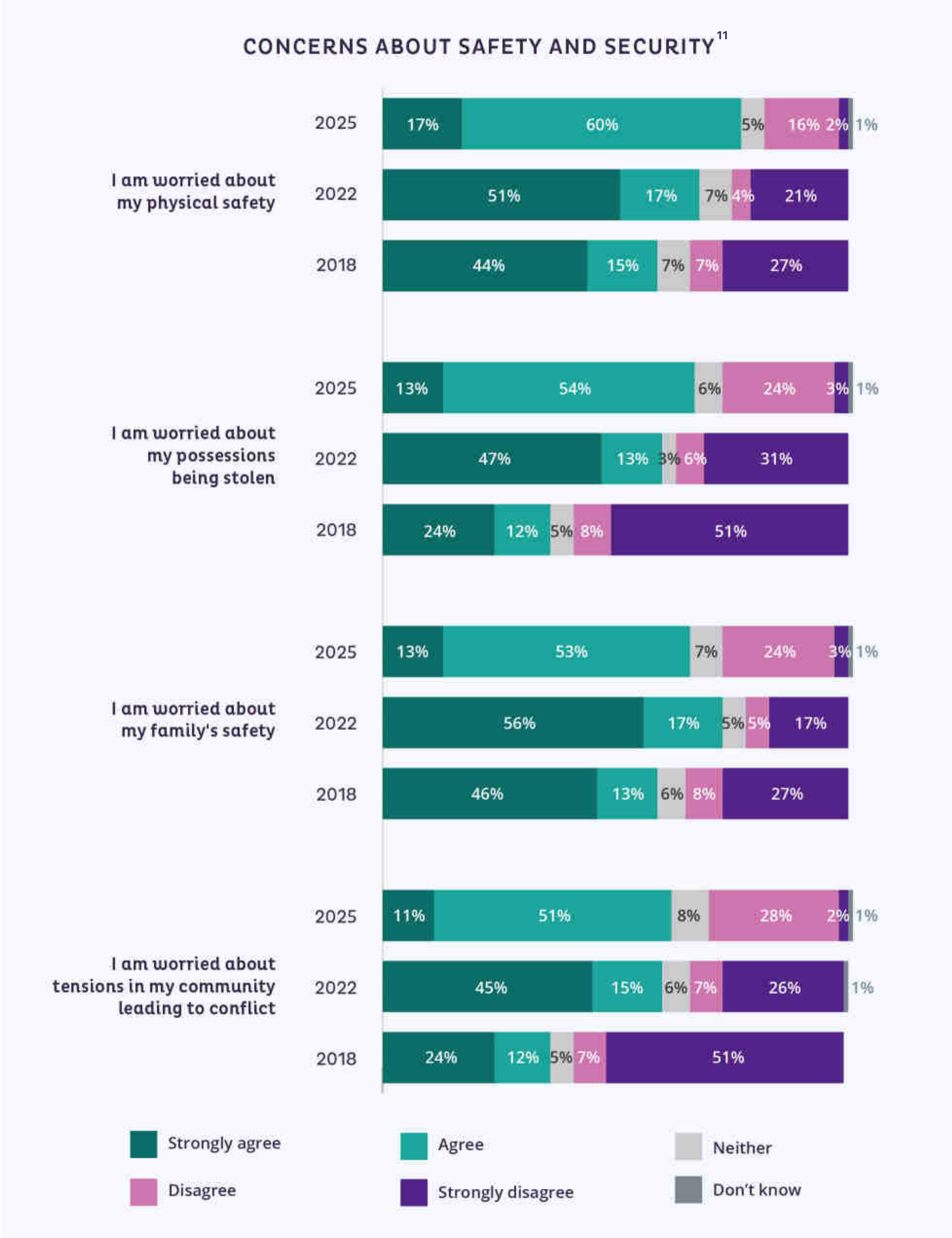
More respondents aged 18-34 (51%, compared to 43% of those aged 55+) felt the security situation in their locality had improved compared to last year.



As shown in the chart on the next page, the majority of respondents agreed they were concerned about their physical safety (77%, up from 68% in 2022), their possessions being stolen (67%, up from 60%), their family's safety (66%, down from 75%) and tensions in their community leading to conflict (62%, in line with 60%). Overall concern about each of these aspects was higher compared to 2022 (noting again that prior data was not collected as part of the Tatoli! survey and may not be perfectly comparable).

Concern about all security aspects was higher among those aged 18-34, those living in urban areas and those living in Dili.

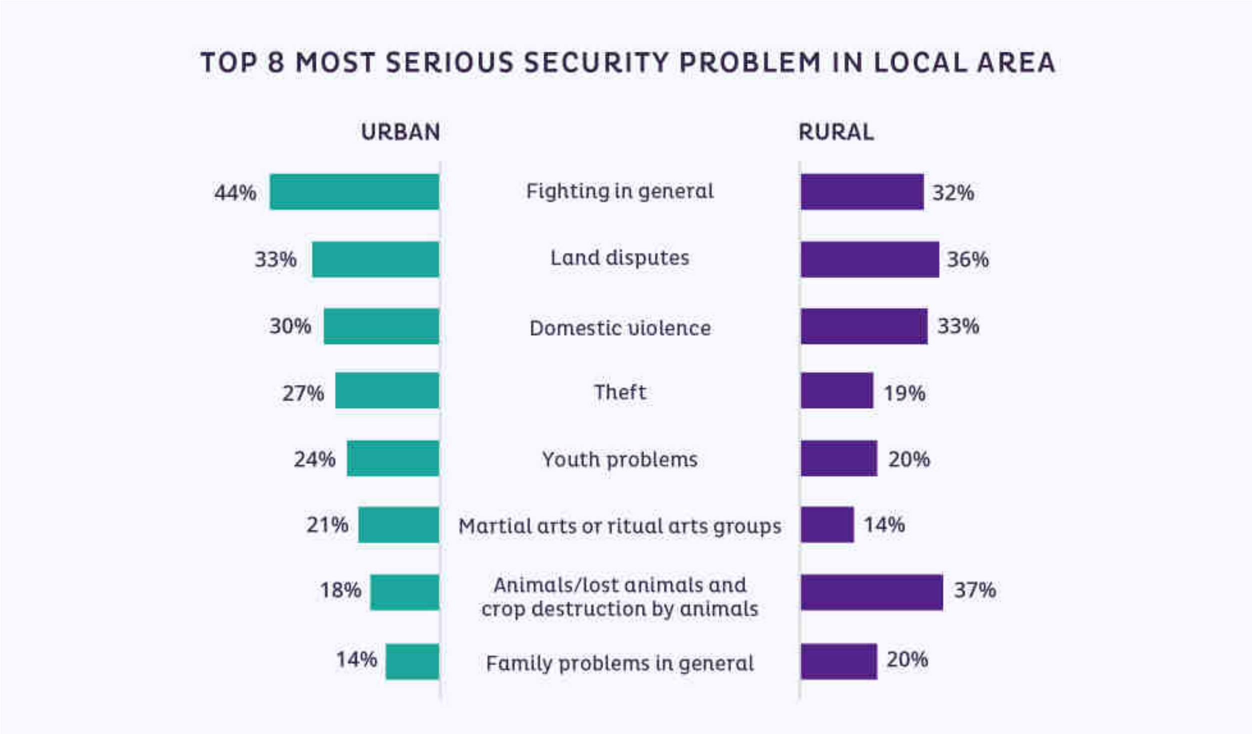
[10] *Data from 2022 and prior is from the Asia Foundation's Timor-Leste Safety, Security and Justice Perceptions Survey.*



[11] *Data from 2022 and prior is from the Asia Foundation's Timor-Leste Safety, Security and Justice Perceptions Survey.*

Fighting in general (36%), land disputes (35%), domestic violence (32%), animals/lost animals and crop destruction by animals (31%) were considered the most serious security problems. These were also considered four of the top five most serious security problems in 2022.[12]

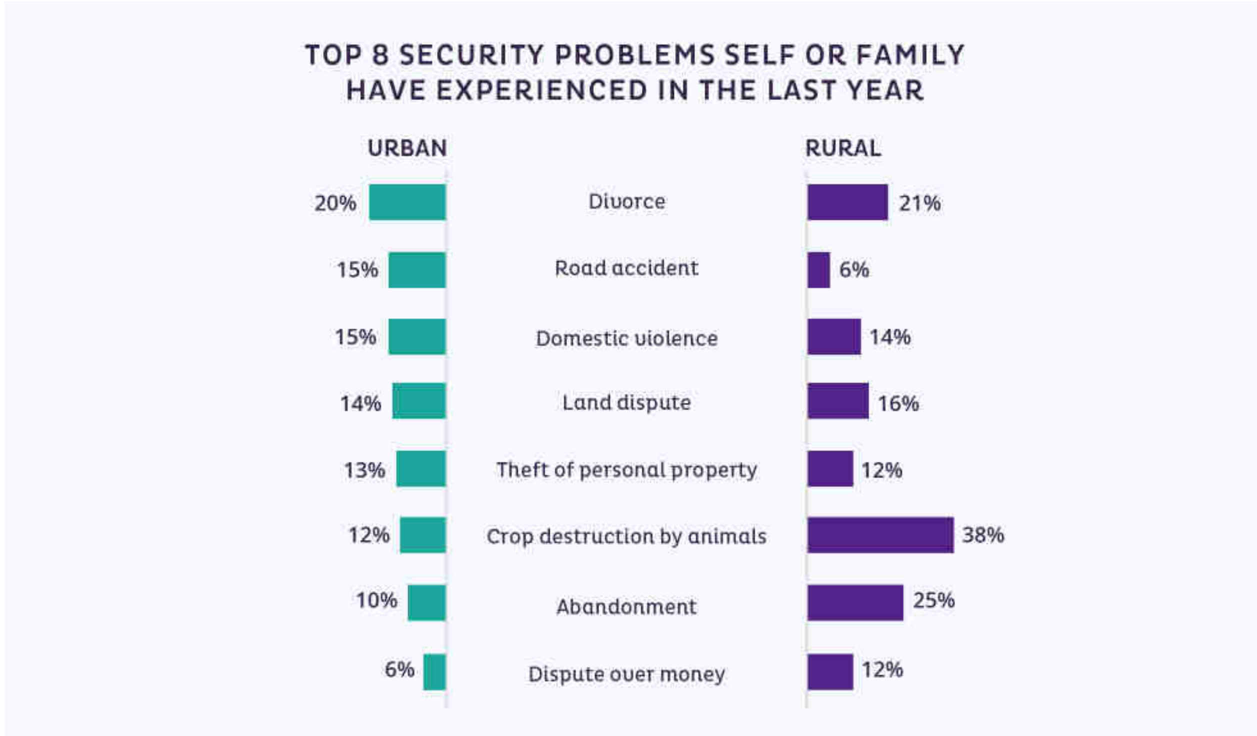
As shown in the chart below, fighting was considered a larger problem in urban areas, while issues related to animals were a larger problem in rural areas.



Crop destruction by animals (30%), divorce (21%) and abandonment (20%) were the most common security issues respondents had experienced in the last year. These three issues were also the most commonly experienced security issues reported in 2022.[13] As shown in the chart on the next page, more respondents living in rural areas had experienced crop destruction by animals (38%, compared to 12% in urban areas), abandonment (25%, compared to 10%) and disputes over money (12%, compared to 6%). Similarly, those living outside Dili were more likely to have experienced crop destruction by animals (38%, compared to 8% of those living in Dili), divorce (22%, compared to 16% of those living in Dili) and abandonment (25%, compared to 6%).

Experiences of security problems were similar by gender, except that more women reported experiencing divorce (24%, compared to 17% of men).

[12] *Data from 2022 and prior is from the Asia Foundation's Timor-Leste Safety, Security and Justice Perceptions Survey.*
[13] *Data from 2022 and prior is from the Asia Foundation's Timor-Leste Safety, Security and Justice Perceptions Survey.*



For the top five security problems experienced, respondents most commonly sought assistance for land disputes (64%). Fewer respondents sought assistance for abandonment (44%). For the top five security problems, the aldeia chief (27-54% of those who sought assistance) was most commonly the first person whose assistance was sought. The police (PNTL) were the second most commonly sought for domestic violence. Among those who reported their issue, satisfaction with the outcome was highest for land disputes (88%) and lowest for divorce (65%).

Justice Seeking Behaviour

	CROP DESTRUCTION BY ANIMALS	DIVORCE	ABANDONMENT	LAND DISPUTES	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
% experienced issue in the last year	30%	21%	20%	15%	14%
Sought assistance	52%	52%	44%	64%	54%
First person or organisation reported to (compared to PNTL)	Aldeia chief 54% (PNTL 3%)	Aldeia chief 31% (PNTL 6%)	Aldeia chief 39% (PNTL 11%)	Aldeia chief 39% (PNTL 9%)	Aldeia chief 27% (PNTL 25%)
Satisfaction with outcome (% satisfied or very satisfied)	77%	65%	76%	88%	73%

Photo by Gezer Amorim.

Media

Tatoli! 2025 asked respondents about how they access news and information, and what challenges they faced in accessing information.

Key Insights:

- Television continued to be the most commonly used source of information, although its use is in decline. Radio use also fell compared to previous years.
- Social media, particularly Facebook and YouTube, is becoming an increasingly important source of information.
- Those in rural areas relied more on word-of-mouth and informal channels such as Xefe Aldeia, Xefe Suco, church and friends, family, and neighbours compared to those in urban areas.
- Although social media use is growing, trust in these platforms remains low. Television remains by far the most trusted source of information.

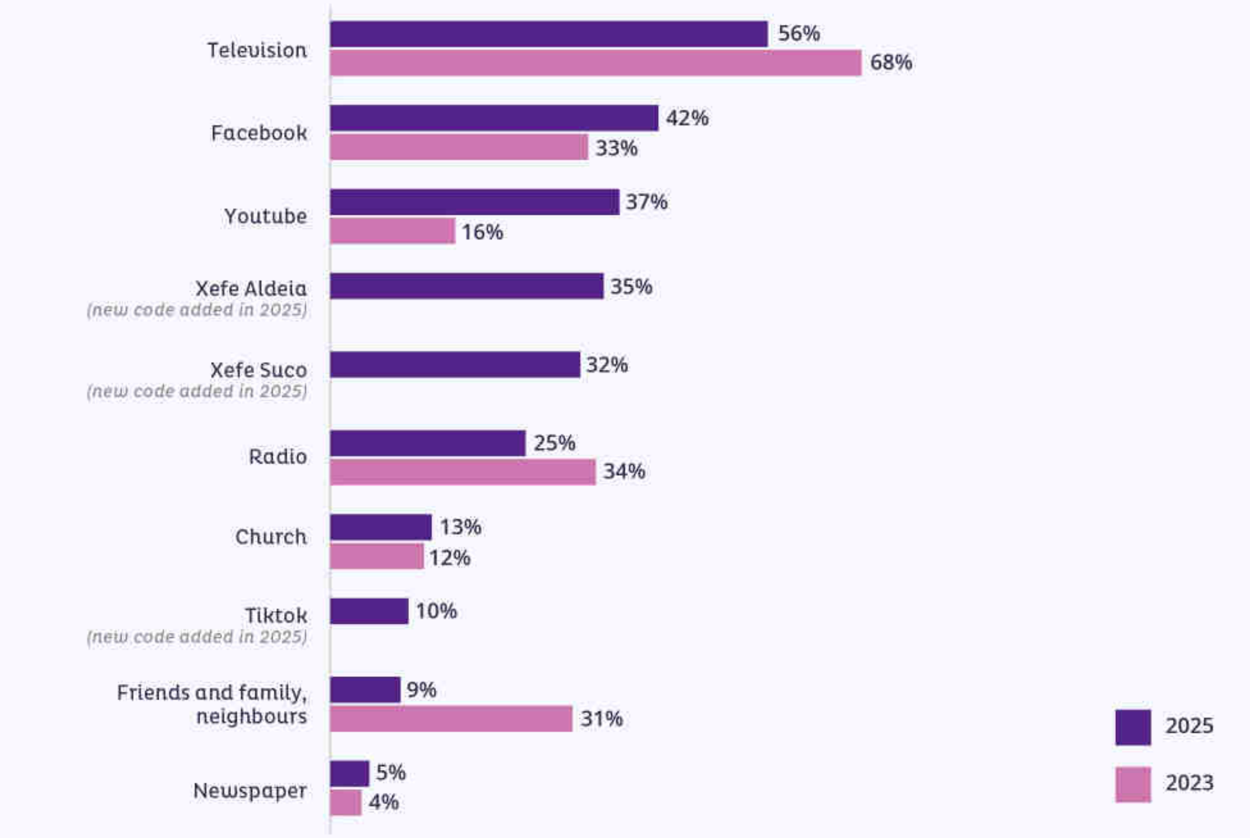
Accessing News and Information

Since 2023, *Tatoli!* has observed a decline in the use of traditional media and a growing use of social media for news and information. In 2025, television remained the most commonly used source for news and information, although use declined to 56% (down from 68% in 2023). Radio also saw a decline to 25% (down from 34% in 2023). Respondents reported significantly more use of social media channels for accessing news and information, with 42% of respondents commonly using Facebook (up from 33% in 2023) and 37% commonly using YouTube (up from 16% in 2023). Local leaders, such as Xefe Aldeia (35%) and Xefe Suco (32%), were also important sources of news and information.

While television was still the most common source of information for respondents living in rural areas, these respondents relied more on word-of-mouth and informal channels compared to those living in urban areas. These word-of-mouth and informal channels included Xefe Aldeia (43%, compared to 14% in urban areas), Xefe Suco (39%, compared to 13%), the church (18%, compared to 3%) and friends/family/neighbours (11%, compared to 5%). More rural respondents also continued to use radio (29%, compared to 14% for urban respondents).

More respondents living in urban areas used social media for news and information, including Facebook (68%, compared to 31% in rural areas), YouTube (56%, compared to 29%) and TikTok (23%, compared to 4%).

TOP 10 CHANNELS OF INFORMATION [14]



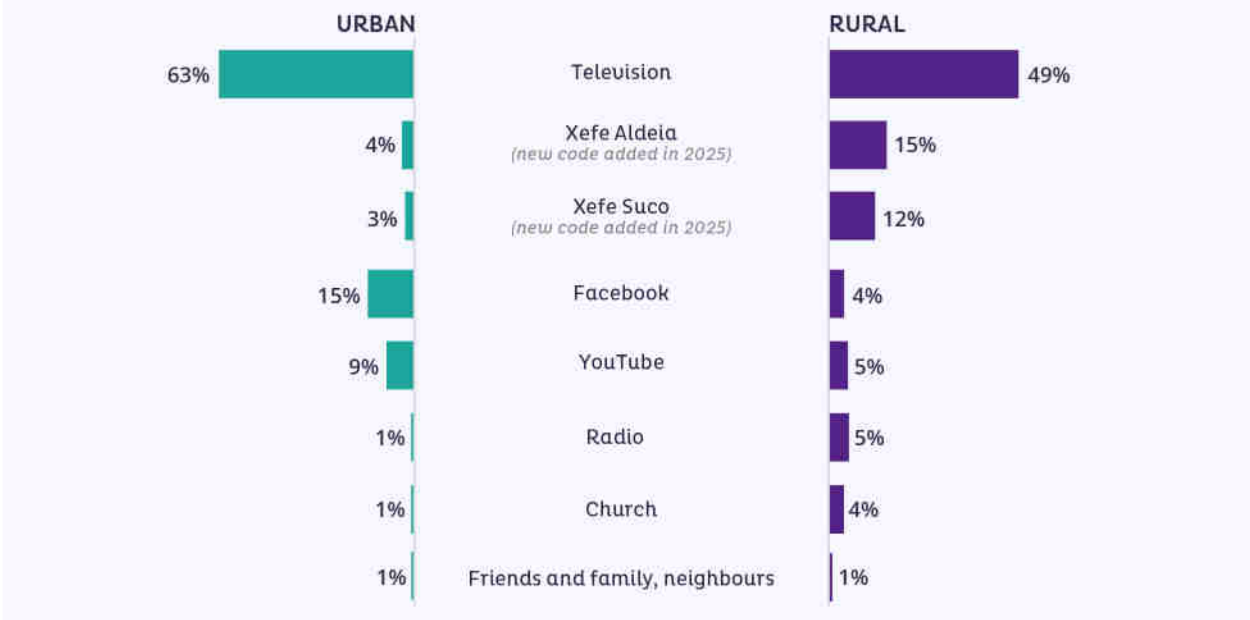
[14] *Results are not directly comparable to 2023 due to change in list of channels, including addition of Xefe Aldeia and Xefe Suco.*

Facebook was the most commonly used social media/messaging platform (66%), followed by WhatsApp (56%). Usage of most social media/messaging platforms was generally higher among younger respondents aged 18-34, those living in urban areas, those with an average monthly household income over $500 and those with some formal education. For example, 80% of urban respondents used Facebook, 74% used WhatsApp and 31% used TikTok.

TOP 5 TYPES OF SOCIAL MEDIA USED

As in previous years, television (53%, down slightly from 56% in 2023) was by far the most trusted source of news and information. While television was the most trusted source in both urban and rural areas, trust was higher in urban areas (63%, compared to 49% in rural areas). Higher proportions of respondents in urban areas also reported that Facebook (15%, compared to 4% in rural areas) and YouTube (9%, compared to 5% in rural areas) were their most trusted sources of information. By contrast, more respondents in rural areas reported that their Xefe Aldeia (15%, compared to 4% in urban areas) and Xefe Suco (12%, compared to 3%) was their most trusted source of information.

TOP 8 TRUST IN SOURCES OF INFORMATION [15]

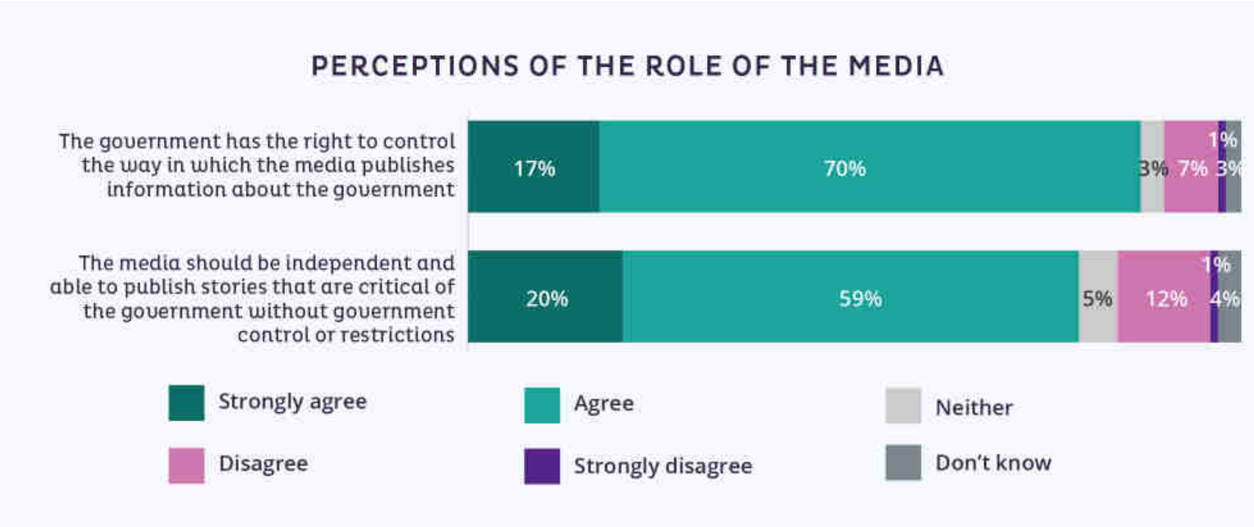


[15] *Results are not directly comparable to 2023 due to change in list of channels, including addition of Xefe Aldeia and Xefe Suco.*

Perceptions of the Media

Most respondents (87%) agreed the government had the right to control the way in which the media publishes information about it. While still high, agreement was slightly lower that the media should be able to publish stories that are critical of the government without government control or restrictions (79%). More respondents also disagreed with this statement (12%, compared to 7%). These apparently contradictory responses likely indicate that respondents would ideally like both things to be true.

In 2025, respondents who were more likely to agree that the media should be able to publish stories that are critical of the government without government control or restrictions included those living in urban areas (87%, compared to 76% in rural areas), those living in Dili (86%, compared to 77% outside Dili) and those aged 18-34 (82%, compared to 74% of those aged 55+).



In past years, when respondents were asked to select which of the two statements they agreed with the most, higher proportions favoured media independence. In 2023, for example, 47% felt the media should be independent, while 25% felt the government had the right to control the media. These past results may indicate that when forced to choose, respondents lean toward supporting media independence.

Challenges in Accessing Information

As in previous years, the main challenges respondents faced in accessing information in 2025 were limited funds or money to pay for connection (57%, in line with the 59% recorded in 2023) and no access due to limited reception/connection (52%, in line with 50%). These were reported as the main challenges among both urban and rural respondents.

More respondents living in rural areas reported the following challenges:

- Not knowing where to look (22%, compared to 9% in urban areas);
- Not understanding the language (12%, compared to 4%); and
- Low-quality information/content (12%, compared to 7%).

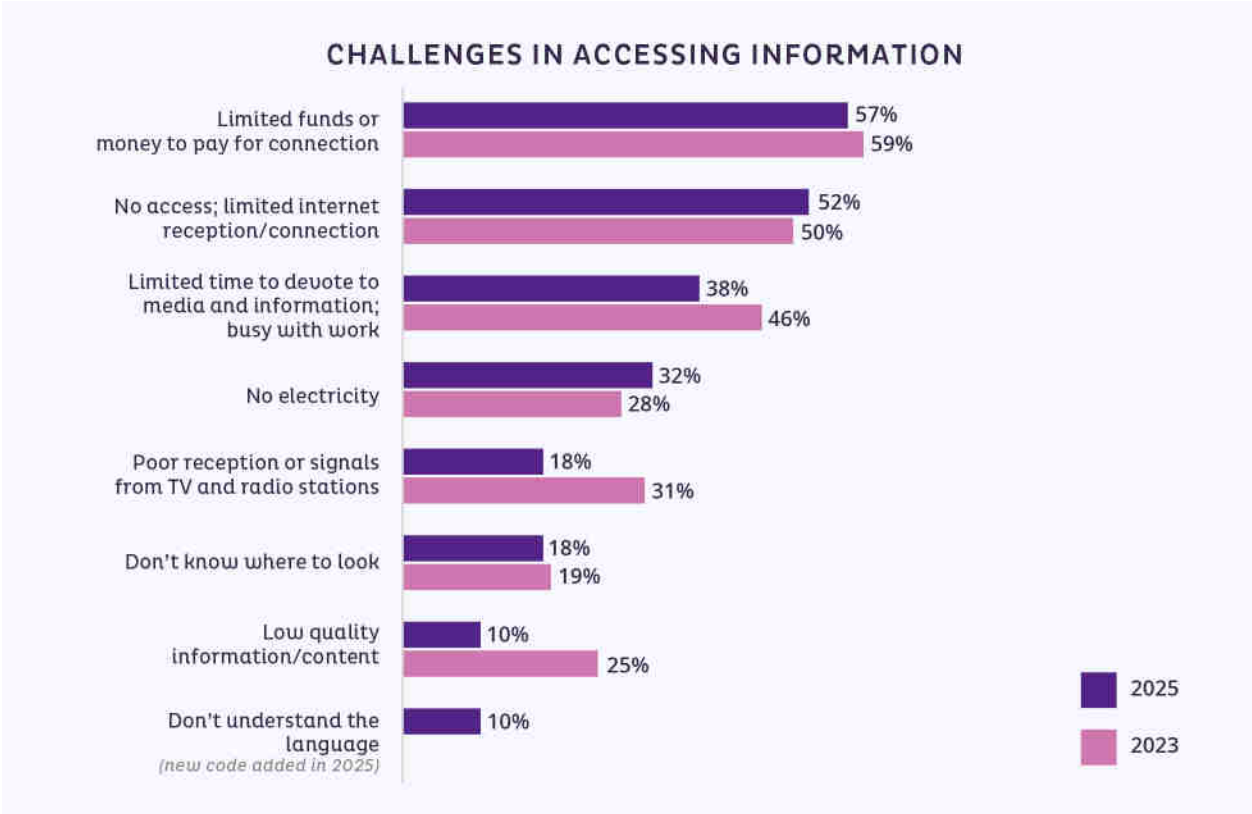


Photo by Simão Cardoso Pereira.

Special Section: Digitalisation

Timor-Leste's digital infrastructure is improving, with new satellite technology now accessible and the long-awaited fibre-optic internet cable expected to come online in 2025. In anticipation of a significant expansion in internet connectivity over the coming years, Tatoli! 2025 includes a comprehensive special section on digitalisation. This special section provides a snapshot of current patterns of internet access and use in Timor-Leste, and includes information about respondents' access to the internet, what they use it for, their digital skills and behaviour, and their experiences with online safety and security.

Key Insights:

- About half of respondents were connected to the internet. Less than half of respondents who used the internet said they had an email address.
- Younger respondents aged 18-34, those living in urban areas and with a higher average monthly income over $500 were more likely to use the internet overall and use the internet more frequently.
- Watching YouTube, using social media, and using messaging apps were the three most common activities among all internet users.
- Use of internet banking and e-wallets remained limited, and there was little experience in accessing government services online, aside from checking basic details such as opening hours.
- Respondents had high levels of confidence in their ability to identify false or misleading information, but smaller proportions reported encountering such information.
- While most respondents expressed basic confidence in their digital skills, few reported feeling confident enough to help others.
- In the past six months, 28% of internet users said they had encountered content that was hostile or degrading toward certain groups or individuals, while 20% reported personal experience of abuse or harassment.
- A majority of respondents (77%) expressed confidence in their ability to protect their information online, but their reported behaviours suggest significant gaps in digital safety and security practices.

Access and Use

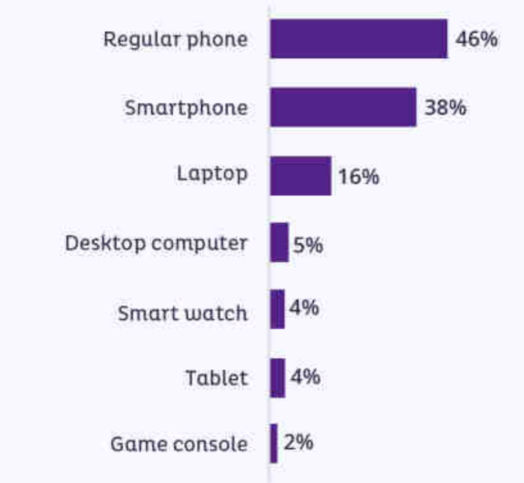
Around half (51%) of respondents used the internet. Internet usage was higher among younger respondents aged 18-34 (69%, compared to 11% of those aged 55+), those living in urban areas (76%, compared to 40%) and those with an average monthly income over $500 (87%, compared to 40% of those with less than $100). This demographic pattern was seen consistently in most aspects of digitalisation.

OVERALL INTERNET USAGE

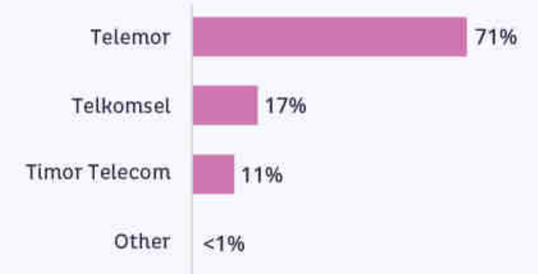
Under half of respondents owned a smartphone (38%). Smartphone ownership was higher among men (40%, compared to 35% of women), younger respondents aged 18-34 (48%, compared to 11% of those aged 55+), those living in urban areas (42%, compared to 36% in rural areas) and those with an average monthly income over $500 (65%, compared to 31% of those with less than $100).

Among respondents who used the internet, most (90%) could access a mobile phone data signal from their house, and most (90%) used their mobile phone data quota for access. By far the main challenges faced by those who used the internet were unstable network connection (71%), followed by being constrained by data package/quota costs (18%). Only a small proportion (9%) of respondents accessed the internet using wifi at home. Telemor (71%) was the most commonly used service provider used to access the internet.

TYPES OF DEVICES OWNED



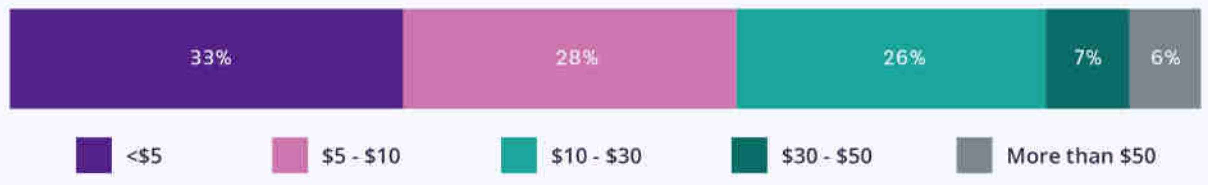
SIGNAL/SERVICE PROVIDER USED TO ACCESS THE INTERNET



Among those who used the internet, the majority (61%) of respondents spent less than $10 per month to access the internet. The following groups spent higher amounts on internet access:

- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (38% spent more than $10 per month, compared to 24% of those aged 55+);
- Respondents living in urban areas (51% spent more than $10 per month, compared to 27% in rural areas);
- Respondents with an average monthly income over $500 (76% spent more than $10 per month, compared to 27% with an income less than $100).

AMOUNT SPENT TO ACCESS THE INTERNET PER MONTH

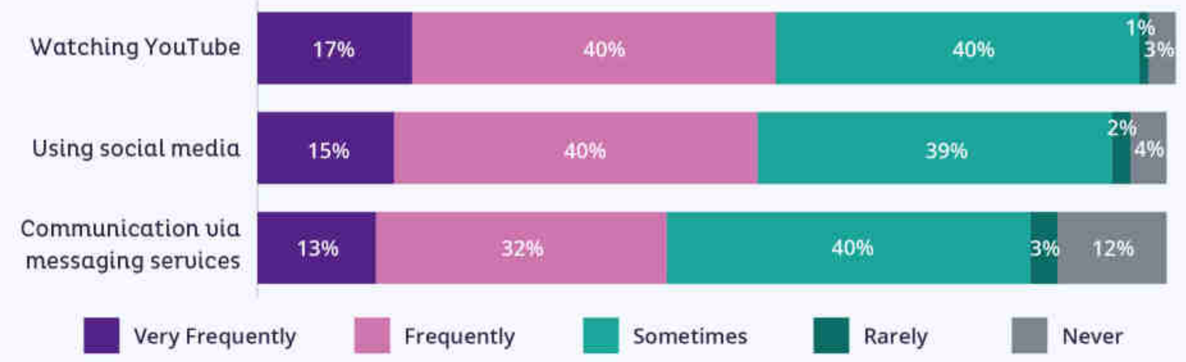


About one quarter (23%) of those who used the internet used it for less than one hour per day, while 30% used it for 1-2 hours per day, and 47% used it for more than 2 hours per day.

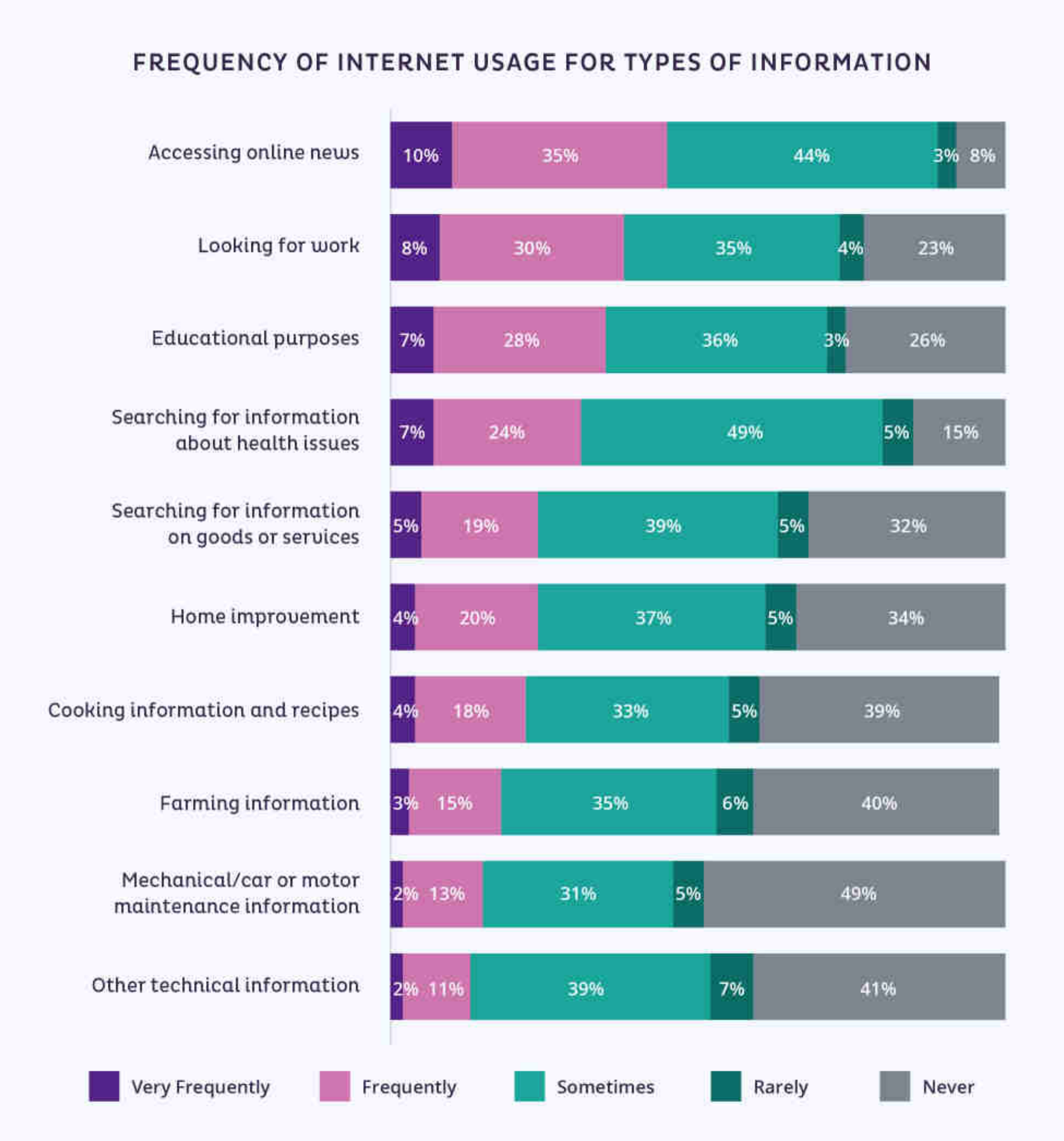
AVERAGE INTERNET USE PER DAY

Less than half (44%) of respondents who used the internet had an email address. Among those who used the internet, 57% said they used it to watch YouTube 'frequently' or 'very frequently', while 55% said they used it for social media 'frequently' or 'very frequently'. A slightly lower proportion used the internet for messaging apps or services 'frequently' or 'very frequently' (45%). Use of messaging services and social media was higher among respondents aged 18-34, those living in urban areas and those with an average monthly income over $500.

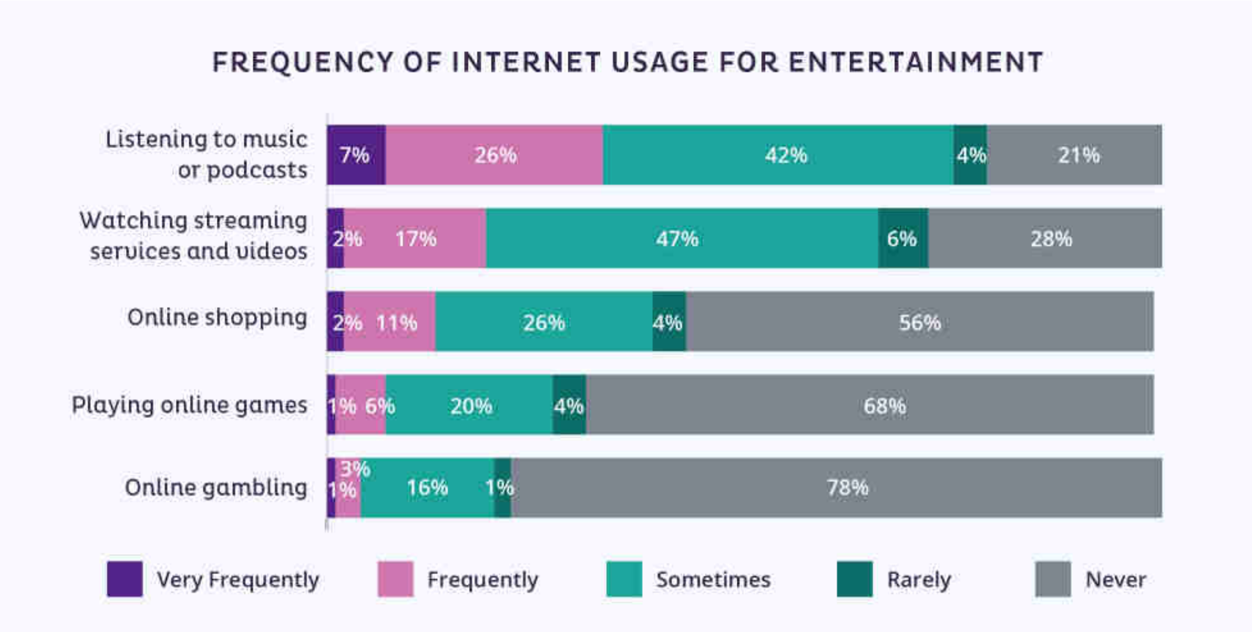
FREQUENCY OF COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE



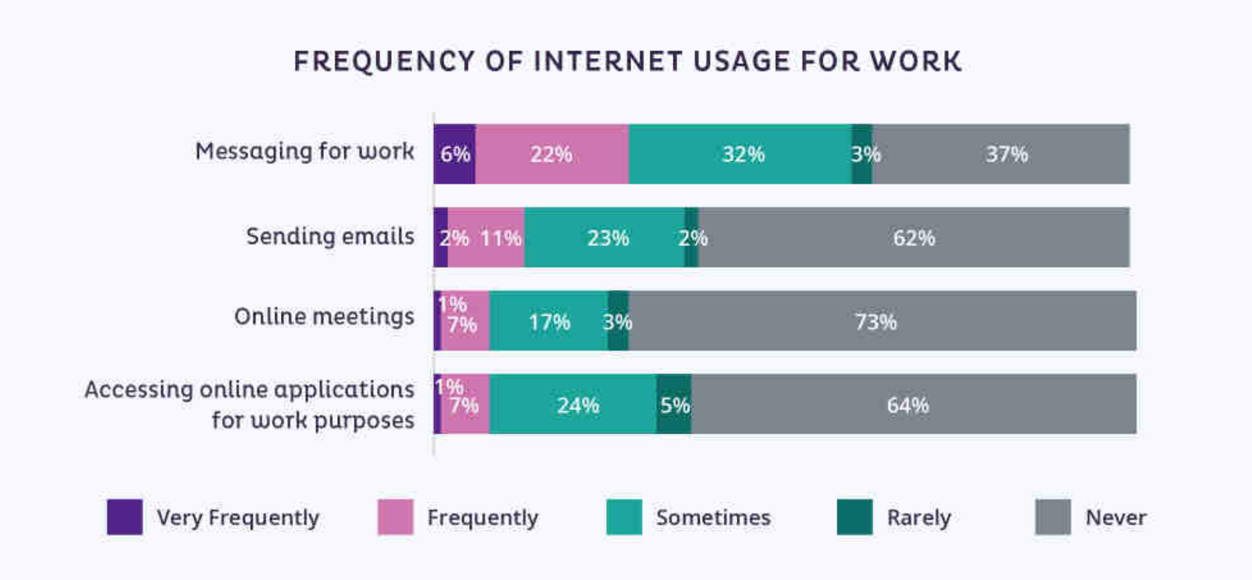
As shown in the chart below, the main types of information respondents looked for on the internet were online news (45% ‘frequently’ or ‘very frequently’), work opportunities (38%) and information for educational purposes (35%). Frequency of internet usage to look for most types of information was higher among younger respondents aged 18-34, those living in urban areas and those with an average monthly income over $500.



Most respondents who used the internet did not use it frequently for entertainment purposes. One-third (33%) of respondents frequently used the internet to listen to music or podcasts, while fewer used it to watch streaming services/videos (19%), shop online (13%) or play online games (6%). Use of the internet for all entertainment purposes was higher among respondents aged 18-34.



Internet usage for work purposes was somewhat limited among those who used the internet. Respondents most regularly used the internet for messaging at work (28% ‘frequently’ or ‘very frequently’). However, the majority of respondents never sent emails (62%), accessed online applications (64%) or attended online meetings (73%) for work.

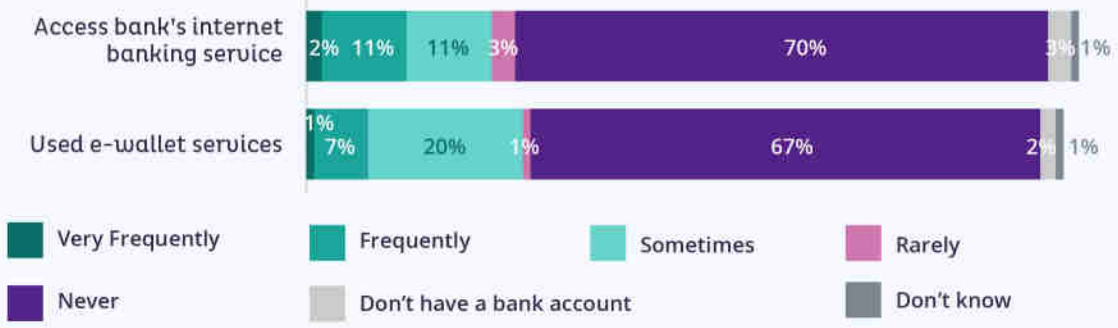


Financial Services/Fintech

Only a minority of those who used the internet used internet banking services (13%) or e-wallet services (7%) 'frequently' or 'very frequently'. Most of those who used the internet did not use internet banking services (73%) or e-wallet services (69%) at all. While usage levels remain low, the results of *Tatoli!* 2025 suggest that there may have been a significant increase in internet banking and e-wallet uptake compared to previous data from Banco Central de Timor-Leste (BCTL).[16]

Usage of online financial services was more common among those living in urban areas (19% reported using internet banking services and 12% reported using e-wallet services 'frequently' or 'very frequently', compared to 8% for internet banking and 6% for e-wallet services in rural areas). Those who used e-wallet services most commonly used Mosan (86%).

FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USAGE FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES

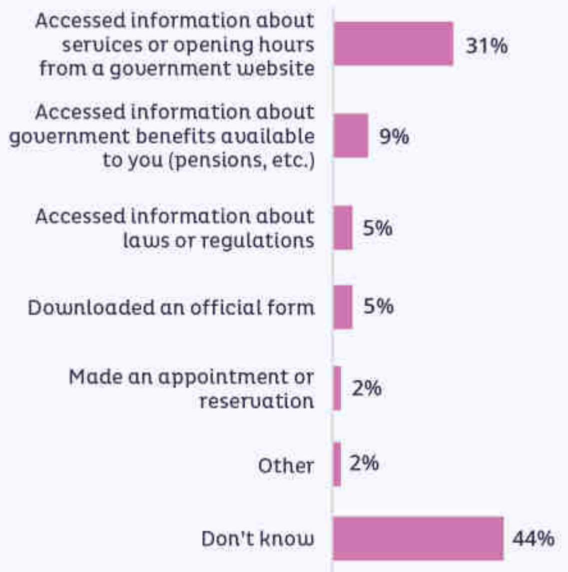


Government Services

Only one-third (33%) of respondents who used the internet were aware of digital government services available in Timor-Leste. Awareness was higher among those living in urban areas (42%, compared to 25% in rural areas) and with an average monthly household income over $500 (62%, compared to 29% with less than $100).

Only a minority of those who used the internet had used any government services via a website or app in the past six months – most commonly accessing information about services or opening hours from a government website (31%). The high proportion of respondents (44%) who answered 'don't know' likely reflects the absence of a 'did not access' option rather than uncertainty about their activity.

USAGE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES VIA A WEBSITE OR APP IN PAST SIX MONTHS



16 *According to Central Bank of Timor-Leste (BCTL) data, only 1.2% of bank customers were registered to use internet banking in 2022. Similarly, only 10-15% of registered e-wallet users were reported as making at least one transaction each quarter. It is important to recognise that this BCTL data is not directly comparable with Tatoli! 2025. See Banco Central de Timor-Leste (BCTL). 2023. Getting Ready for the Next Digital Breakthrough: Financial Inclusion Report 2022.*

Digital Literacy, Misinformation and Disinformation

The majority (64%) of those who used the internet were 'somewhat' or 'very' confident they could identify or recognise news or information that was wrong or a hoax. Confidence in identifying information that was wrong or a hoax was higher among respondents aged 18-34 (64%, compared to 56% of those aged 55+), those living in urban areas (77%, compared to 54%) and those with an average monthly income over $500 (79%, compared to 61% with less than $100).

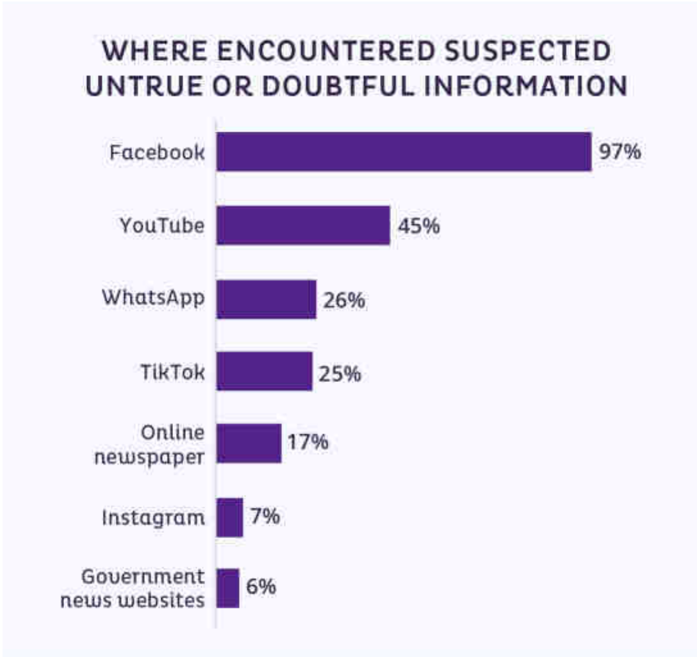
CONFIDENCE IDENTIFYING NEWS OR INFORMATION THAT IS WRONG OR A HOAX

Almost half (44%) of respondents who used the internet reported having seen online information or content they considered to be untrue or doubtful on internet news sites or social media. The following groups were much more likely to have seen untrue or doubtful information:

- Respondents aged 18-34 (46%, compared to 16% of those aged 55+);
- Respondents living in urban areas (54%, compared to 35% in rural areas);
- Respondents with an average monthly income over $500 (64%, compared to 38% with less than $100).

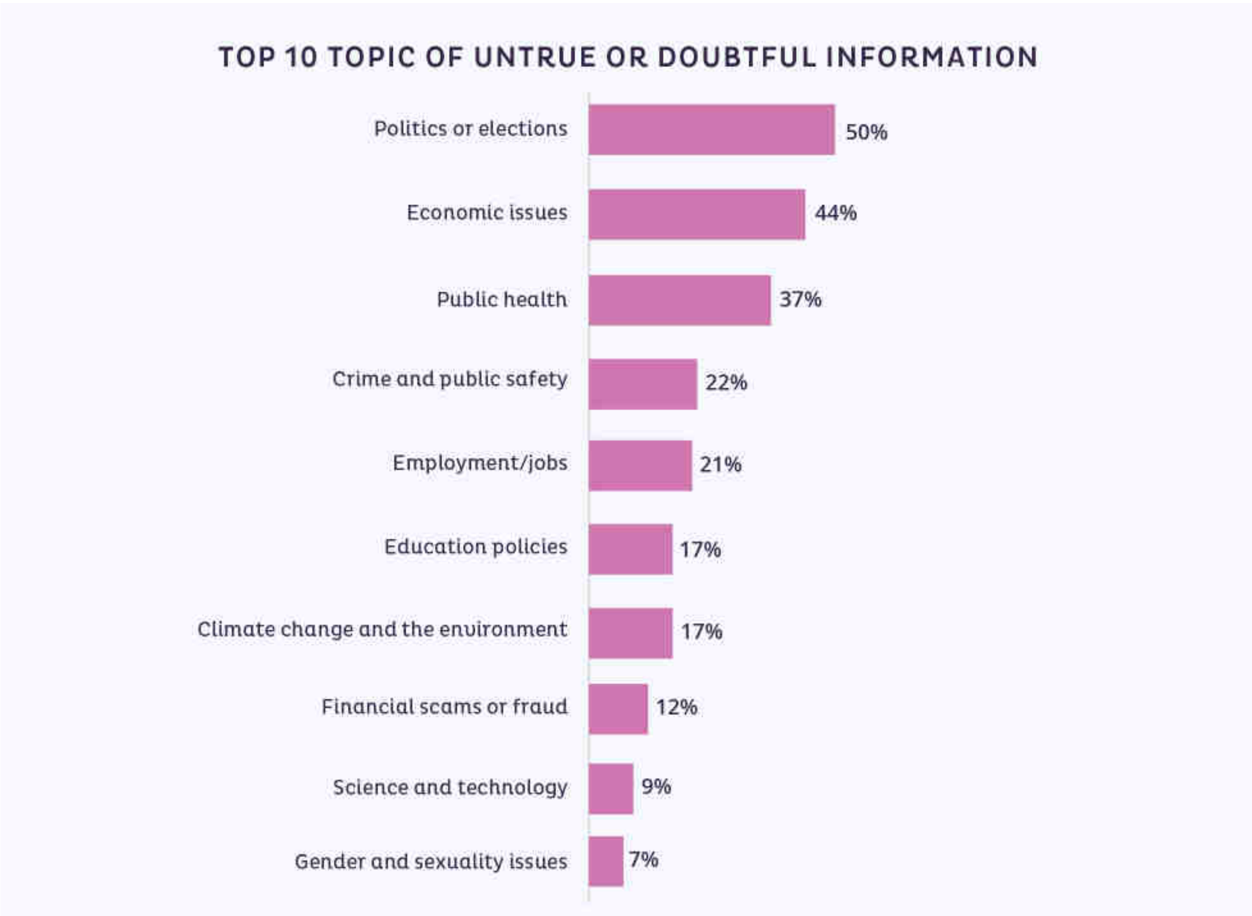
EXPOSURE TO UNTRUE OR DOUBTFUL INFORMATION ONLINE

Nearly all (97%) of those who said they had seen untrue or doubtful information encountered it on Facebook. As shown in the chart on the right, notable proportions also reported encountering untrue or doubtful information on YouTube, WhatsApp and TikTok.



Respondents most often encountered false or misleading information about politics or elections (50%), economic issues (44%), and public health (37%).

Around half (48%) of those who used the internet felt that the existence of online news or information that was wrong or hoaxes was a serious problem in Timor-Leste. However, only around one quarter (27%) had checked the truthfulness of information or content they found on internet sites or social media over the past six months.

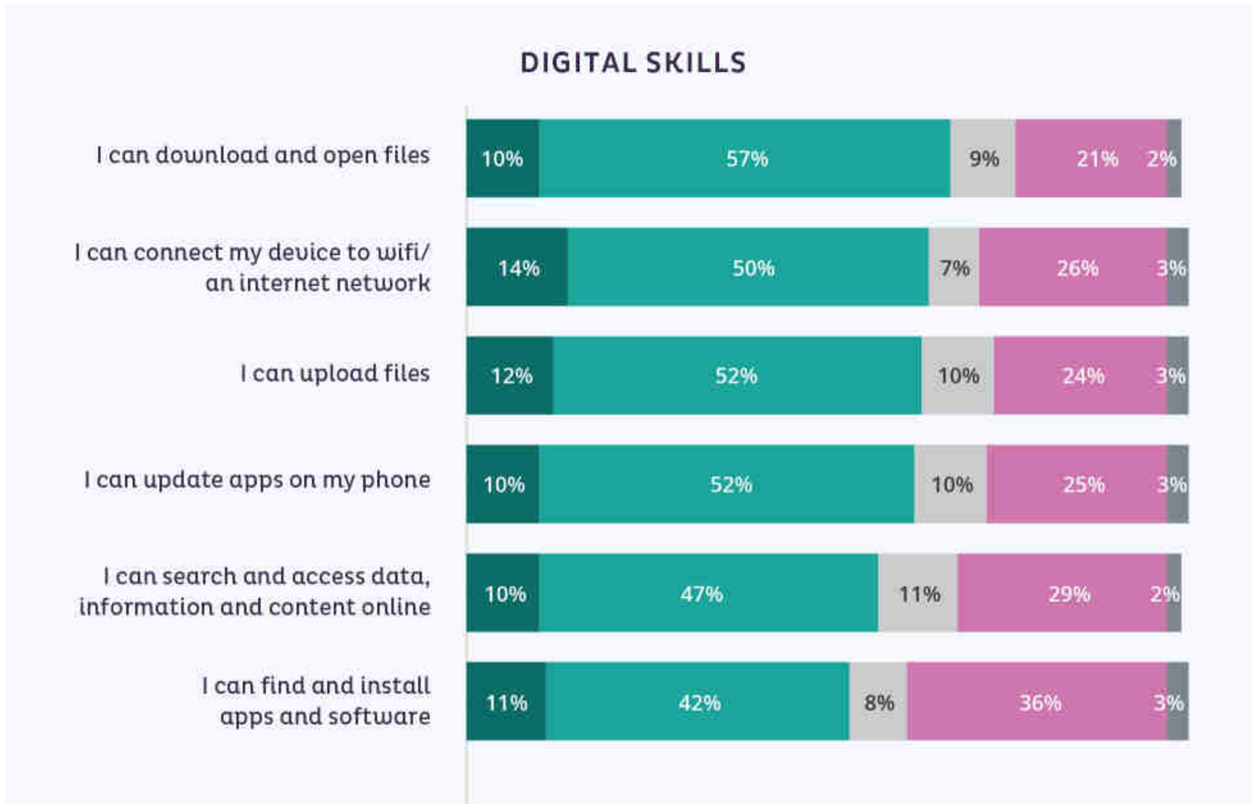


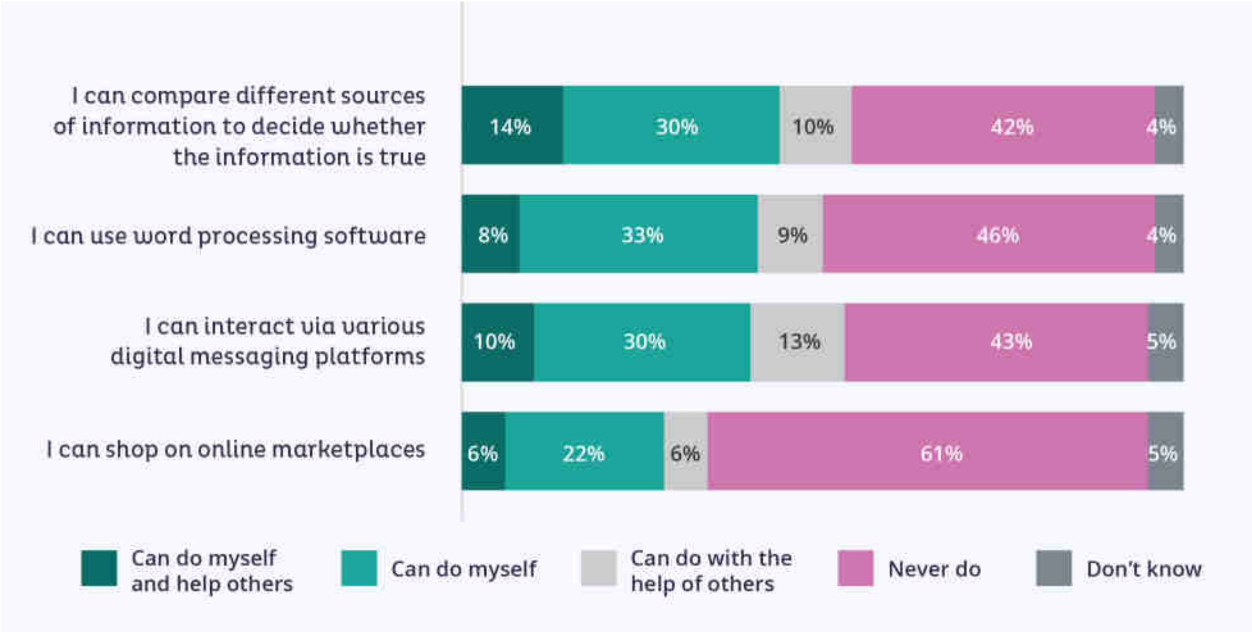
Those who checked the truthfulness of information most commonly checked it through social media (72%), by searching for information online (50%) or by discussing the matter offline with friends or other people (42%). Those who did not check the truthfulness of information did not do so because they felt they already knew the information, content or source was incorrect (48%), they did not think it was important to check (46%) or they did not know where to look to check (35%).

Only a minority (17%) of those who used the internet acknowledged that they had shared or spread news or information that later turned out to be a hoax or incorrect. More respondents living in urban areas (20%, compared to 14% in rural areas) and with an average monthly income over $500 (39%, compared to 11% with less than $100) had shared or spread incorrect information.

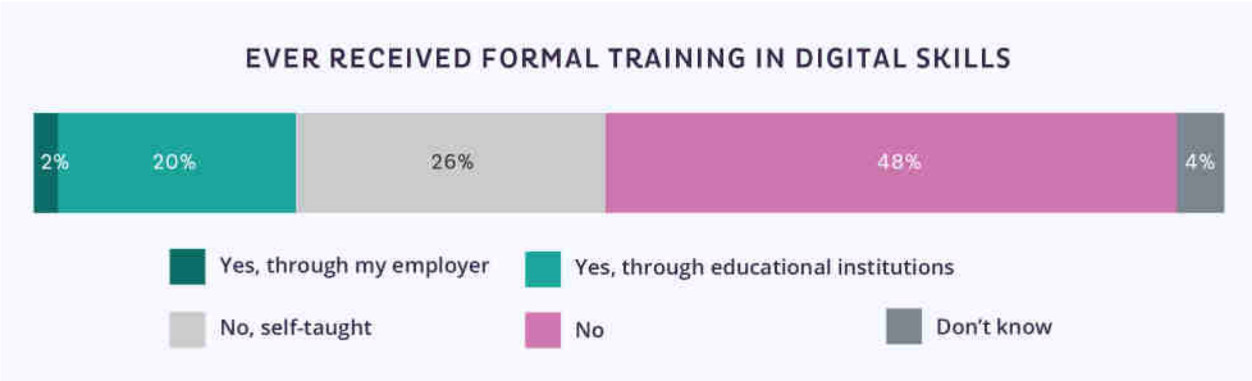
Digital Skills

As shown in the chart below, the digital tasks that respondents who used the internet were most confident performing included downloading and opening files (67% could do themselves), connecting their device to wifi/the internet (64%), uploading files (64%) and updating apps on their phone (62%). Younger respondents aged 18-34, those living in urban areas and those with an average monthly income over $500 reported greater confidence they could do each digital skill without assistance.





Only a minority (22%) of respondents had received any formal training in digital skills, most of whom (20%) had received training through educational institutions.

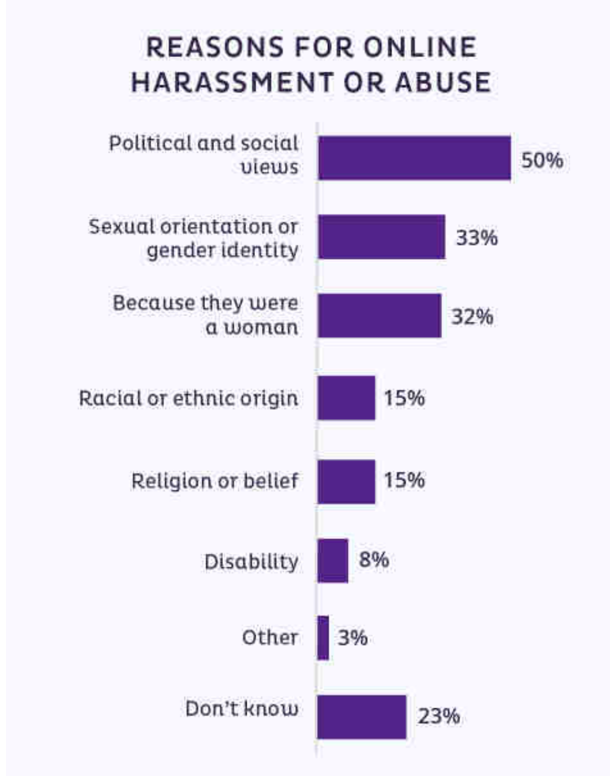


Digital Ethics and Culture

More than a quarter (28%) of those who used the internet had encountered messages online that they considered hostile or degrading towards groups of people or individuals in the last six months. Respondents aged 18-34 (31%, compared to 13% of those aged 55+), living in urban areas (39%, compared to 20%), living in Dili (47%, compared to 16% outside Dili) and with an average monthly income over $500 (54%, compared to 18% with less than $100) were more likely to report encountering these types of messages.

Respondents most commonly saw messages attacking individuals due to their political and social views (50%), sexual orientation or gender identity (33%) or because they were a woman (32%).

Personal experience of online harassment or abuse was also significant, with 20% of respondents who used the internet stating that they had personally experienced online harassment or abuse in the past six months. Younger respondents (23% of respondents aged 18-34, compared to 16% of those aged 55+), respondents living in urban areas (26%, compared to 14% in rural areas), respondents living in Dili (30%, compared to 12% outside Dili) and those with an average monthly income over $500 (35%, compared to 16% with less than $100) had experienced online harassment or abuse.



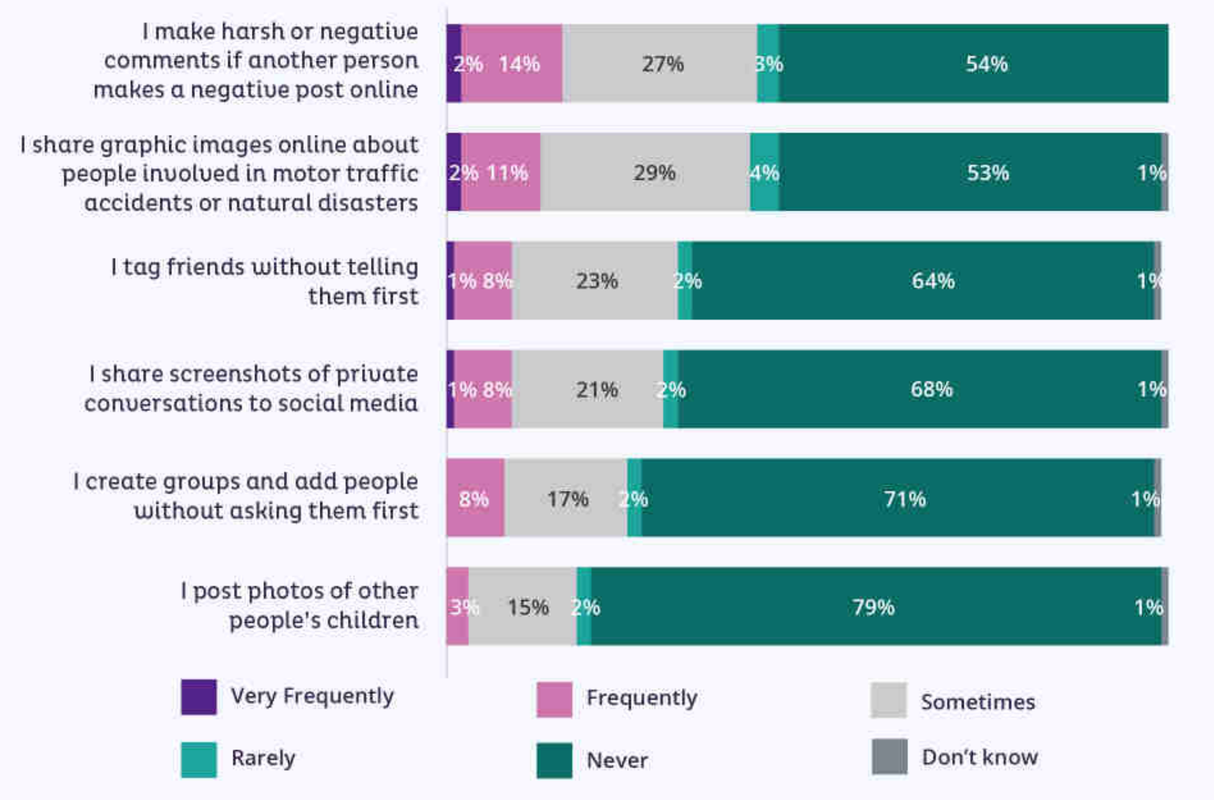
As shown in the chart below, those who had experienced online harassment or abuse most commonly experienced insulting or offensive language (79%), threats of physical or sexual violence (54%) or unwanted sexual advances or messages (22%).

The majority (76%) of respondents who used the internet were concerned about harassment or abuse when using online platforms. Concern was higher among respondents aged 18-34 (78%, compared to 69% of those aged 55+), those living in urban areas (85%, compared to 70% in rural areas) and those living in Dili (84%, compared to 71% outside Dili).

CONCERN ABOUT ONLINE HARASSMENT OR ABUSE WHEN USING ONLINE PLATFORMS

When prompted about their own engagement in unhealthy online behaviours, the majority of respondents who used the internet said they had never engaged in any of the behaviours examined. Of the behaviours listed, respondents most commonly reported making harsh or negative comments if another person made a negative post online (16% reported making such comments 'frequently' or 'very frequently') and sharing graphic images online about people involved in motor traffic accidents or natural disasters (with 13% reporting they frequently or very frequently engaged in such behaviour).

ENGAGEMENT IN UNHEALTHY ONLINE BEHAVIOURS



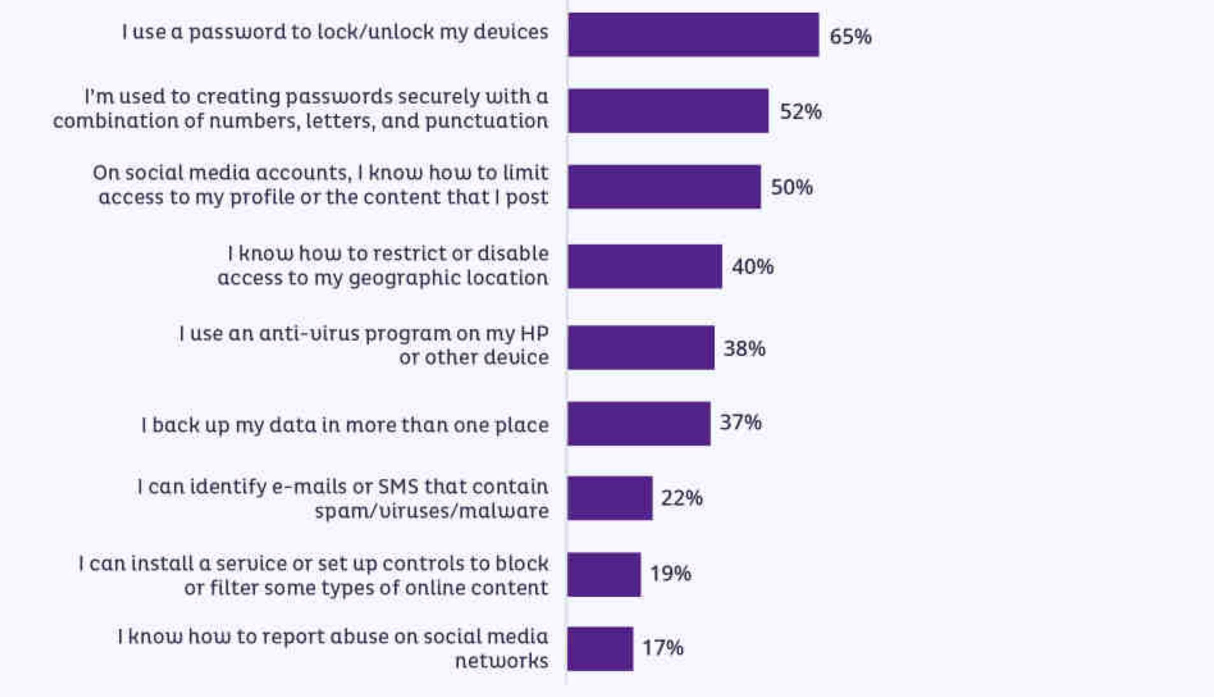
Security and Safety

The majority (77%) of those who used the internet were confident in their ability to protect their personal information online. Confidence was higher among younger respondents aged 18-34 (81%, compared to 63% of those aged 55+), those living in urban areas (83%, compared to 73% in rural areas), those living in Dili (87%, compared to 70% outside Dili) and those with an average monthly income over $500 (93%, compared to 76% with less than $100).

CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY TO PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION ONLINE

When asked about what safe online behaviours they do or are able to do, respondents most commonly reported they could use a password to lock and unlock their devices (65%), create secure passwords (52%) and limit access to their social media profiles or content (50%). However, much fewer respondents knew how to identify e-mails or SMS that contain spam, viruses or malware (22%), block or filter certain types of content online (19%) or report abuse on social media networks (17%).

TYPES OF SAFE ONLINE BEHAVIOURS USED/ABLE TO DO



When asked about unsafe online behaviours, just over one-third (37%) of respondents who used the internet had uploaded personal details, such as their address, phone number, or date of birth, to social media. Some 14% of respondents had posted photos of their passport or driver's licence to social media.

Eleven percent (11%) reported they or their family had been tricked into providing personal or financial information online. More women (14%, compared to 8% of men), those living in urban areas (16%, compared to 7% in rural areas) and those with an average monthly income over $500 (22%, compared to 8% with less than $100) reported that they had been tricked into providing personal or financial information.

TYPES OF UNSAFE ONLINE BEHAVIOURS DONE/EXPERIENCED

As shown in the chart below, those who had been tricked into providing personal or financial information online most commonly experienced money being taken from their account (49%) or suspicious or threatening communications (42%) as a result.

RESULT OF BEING TRICKED INTO PROVIDING PERSONAL OR FINANCIAL INFORMATION ONLINE

Children and the Internet

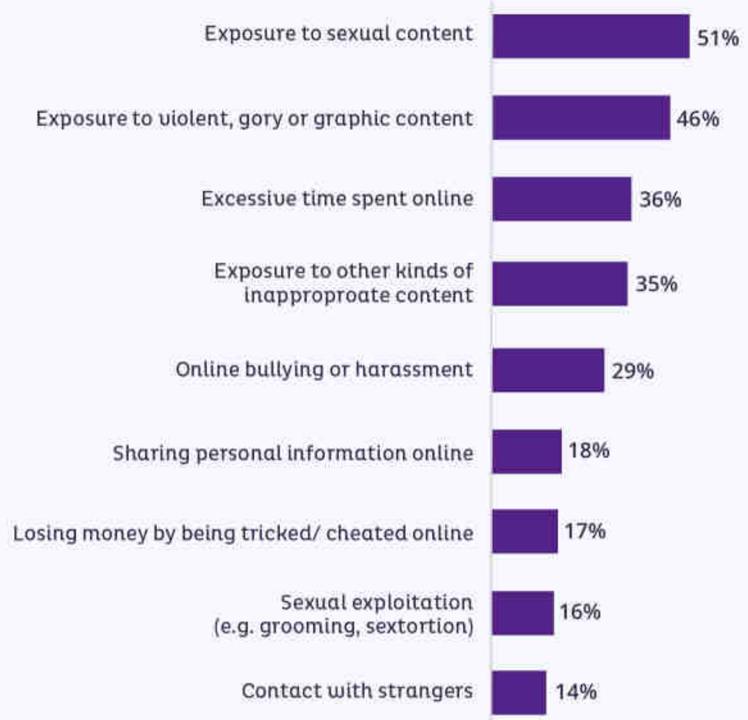
Among those who had children aged 18 and under in their household, about one-third (35%) reported their children used the internet. Children's internet usage was more common in urban areas (48%, compared to 29% in rural areas).

Concern about the risks of children using the internet was very high (97% 'concerned' or 'very concerned').

CONCERN ABOUT RISKS OF CHILDREN USING THE INTERNET

Respondents who used the internet felt that exposure to sexual content (51%) and violent, gory or graphic content (46%) were the biggest risks for children using the internet.

BIGGEST RISKS FOR CHILDREN USING THE INTERNET

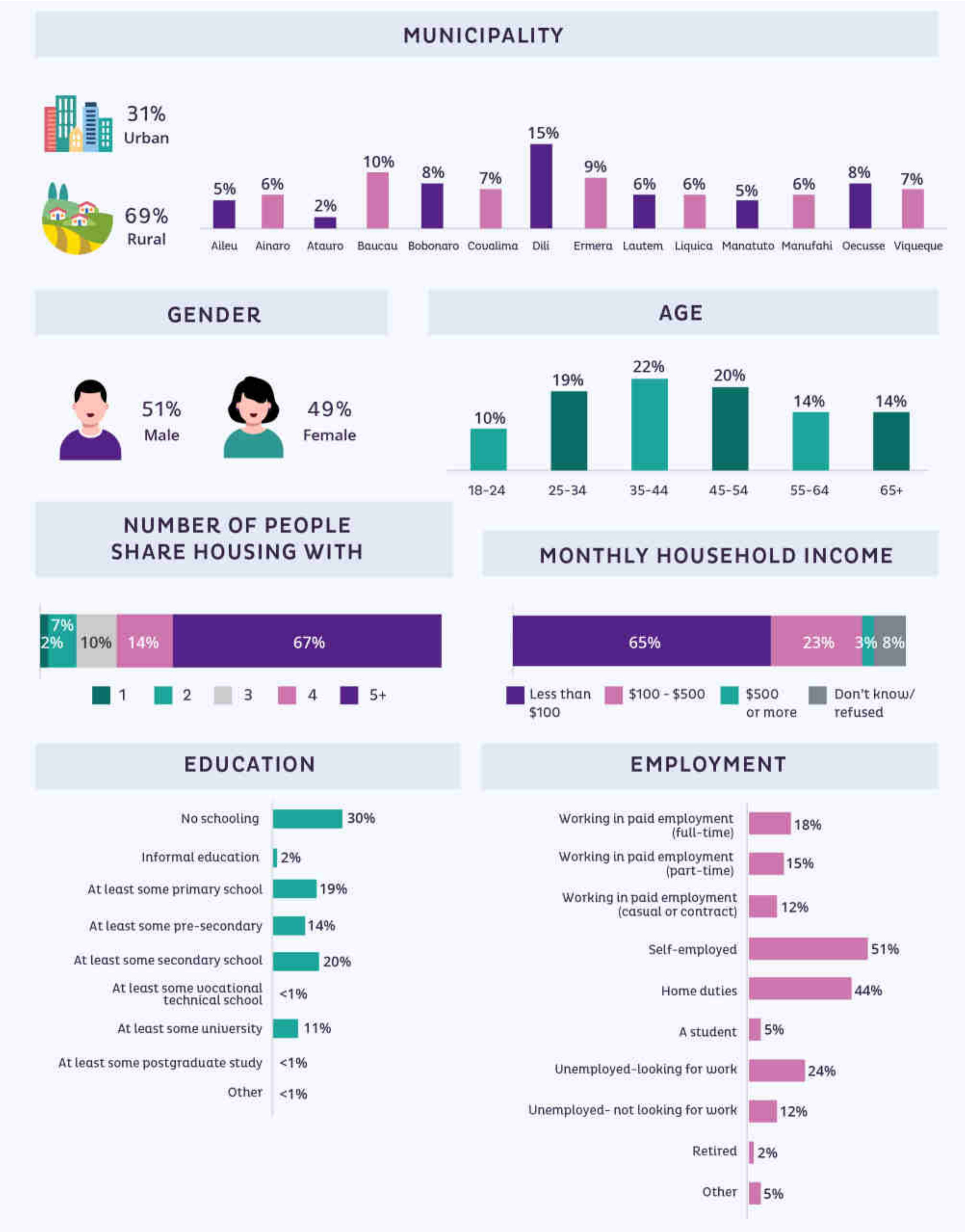


Among respondents who used the internet and had children, the majority (77%) said they felt confident discussing online safety with their children, including potential threats and ways to stay safe. Confidence in discussing online safety with children was higher among women (81%, compared to 74% of men), respondents aged 18-34 (79%, compared to 55% of those aged 55+), respondents living in urban areas (81%, compared to 74% in rural areas) and those with an average monthly income over $500 (88%, compared to 76% with less than $100).

Appendix

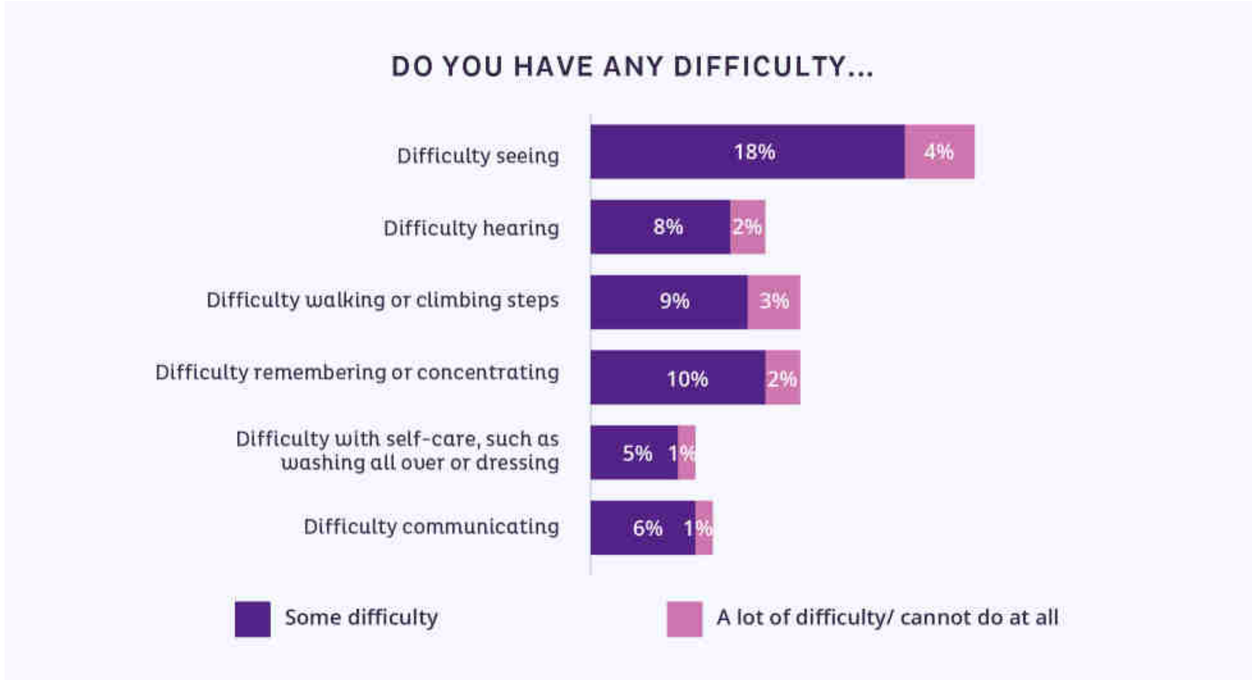
Appendix A: Respondent Profile

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, 8% of respondents were classified as having a disability.



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

Appendix B: Methodology

How was the questionnaire developed?

TAF led the development of the questionnaire, with ORIMA Research providing advice where appropriate. Questions were drawn from previous research conducted by TAF, including previous *Tatoli!* surveys and the Timor-Leste Safety, Security and Justice Perceptions Survey, and consultation with stakeholders and the community. TAF 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 2025, TAF collaborated with the Timor-Leste National Statistics Agency (INETL) to develop the sampling frame for *Tatoli!* 2025. The survey polled 1,503 adult (18+) respondents from all 14 municipalities. The sample was stratified by municipality and urban/rural location using enumeration areas from the 2022 Timor-Leste National Population and Housing Census as the basis for selecting respondents. Enumeration areas are small geographic areas defined based on population size.

This survey was conducted through face-to-face interviews at the enumeration area level. Enumeration areas were selected randomly within each municipality and by rural or urban location. Within each enumeration area, households were selected randomly using INETL's household listing. One adult was selected randomly from each household to participate.

How were the face-to-face interviews conducted?

To conduct the fieldwork, TAF partnered with members of the Timor-Leste Research and Advocacy Network (TRAIN). Many of the interviewers had previously worked on survey projects with TAF. A detailed list of participating TRAIN members is provided in Appendix C. Staff from TAF undertook callback recontact for validation purposes, with no major issues found. Monitoring was also conducted by staff from TAF.

SAMPLE LIST	1,526
REFUSALS	23
FINAL DATASET	1,503
RESPONSE RATE	100%
FIELDWORK START	3 Feb 2025
FIELDWORK END	27 Feb 2025
MEDIAN LENGTH OF INTERVIEW[18]	1h 8m
NUMBER OF INTERVIEWERS	68

Most surveys were conducted in Tetum (n=1,086), with the next most common languages including Baikenu (n=113), Mambae (n=92), Makasae (n=83), Tokodede (n=44), Bunak (n=35) and Fatuluku (n=18). The remaining surveys (n=31) were conducted in other languages.

[18] *Median length was calculated after excluding 236 cases where the interview duration was invalid or the length was over three 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 (18+) population of Timor-Leste as defined by the 2022 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 2022 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 TAF.

	POPULATION (n= 779,880)	TATOLI 2025 UW (n=1,503)
Age		
18-24	25%	10%
25-34	26%	19%
35-44	17%	22%
45-54	14%	20%
55-64	8%	14%
65 and over	10%	14%
Gender		
Male	50%	51%
Female	50%	49%
Location		
Rural	70%	69%
Urban	30%	31%
Municipality		
Aileu	4%	5%
Ainaro	5%	6%
Atauro	1%	2%
Baucau	10%	10%
Bobonaro	8%	8%
Covalima	6%	7%
Dili	26%	15%
Ermera	10%	9%
Lautem	5%	6%
Liquica	6%	6%
Manatuto	4%	5%
Manufahi	4%	6%
Oecussi	6%	8%
Viqueque	6%	7%

- "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.

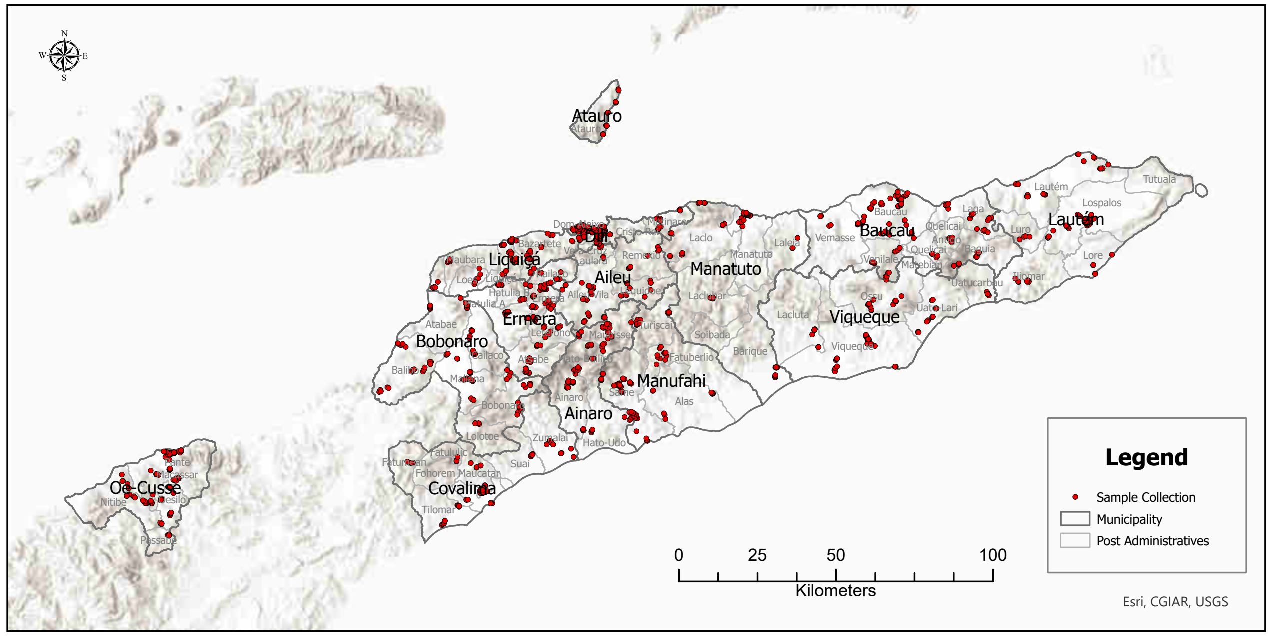
How confident can I be in the results?

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 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 among 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% confidence interval for each municipality

MUNICIPALITY	SAMPLE SIZE	MARGIN OF ERROR (95% CI)
National	1,503	2.5%
Aileu	78	11.1%
Ainaro	97	10.0%
Atauro	24	10.2%
Baucau	144	4.2%
Bobonaro	120	4.6%
Covalima	102	9.7%
Dili	231	6.4%
Ermera	132	8.5%
Lautem	96	5.1%
Liquica	96	5.1%
Manatuto	78	5.7%
Manufahi	89	5.3%
Oecusse	114	4.7%
Viqueque	102	5.0%

Survey sample locations



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 Tatoli! 2025 were:

Forum Tau Matan (FTM)

FTM is a registered non-governmental organisation (NGO) 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 labour, 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), eighth (2023) and ninth (2025) rounds of *Tatoli!*. Additionally, they participated in the Social Audit program on education implemented by TAF and FONGTIL in 2017-2018, the 2020 Financial Services Survey of the Central Bank of Timor-Leste, and TAF's 2022 Safety, Security and Justice survey.

Director: Eduarda Martins
Municipality: Aileu
Local Language: Mambae

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 TAF's Community Policing Perception Survey in 2015 and again in 2018. As a member of TRAIN, Maharu has conducted enumeration work for TAF's Tatoli! Public Perception Survey in the fifth (2016), sixth (2018), seventh (2022), eighth (2023) and ninth (2025) rounds. In addition, the organisation participated in the Central Bank of Timor-Leste's Financial Services Survey in 2020, PNDS survey in 2016, Land survey in 2017, and TAF's 2022 Safety, Security and Justice survey.

Director: Bonifacio Ralmalho
Municipality: Ainaro
Local Language: Mambae

Centro Feto Haburas Dezenvolvimentu (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 TAF's Community Policing Perception Survey in 2015 and 2018. As a member of TRAIN, CFHD has conducted enumeration work for TAF's Tatoli! Public Perception Survey in the fifth (2016), seventh (2022), eighth (2023) and ninth (2025) rounds. Additionally, the organisation participated in the Central Bank of Timor-Leste's Financial Services Survey in 2020, PNDS survey in 2016, and TAF's Safety, Security and Justice survey in 2022.

Director: Teresa Pereira
Municipality: Baucau
Local Language: Makasae

Hametin Asaun Dezenvolvimentu 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 TAF's Community Policing Perception Survey in 2018. As a member of TRAIN, HADEER has conducted enumeration work for TAF'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 program on agriculture implemented by TAF and FONGTIL, the PNDS survey in 2016, the Central Bank of Timor-Leste's Financial Services Survey in 2020, and TAF's Safety, Security and Justice survey in 2021.

Director: Abel Pereira Mau Reci
Municipality: Bobonaro
Local Language: Kemak and Bunak

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 TAF, including the Community Policing Perception Surveys in 2015 and 2018, Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys in 2016, 2018, 2022, 2023, and 2025, the Central Bank's Financial Services Survey in 2020, the PNDS survey in 2016, and the Safety, Security and Justice Survey in 2022.

Director: Alberto Barros de Jesus
Municipality: Covalima
Local Language: Tetum Terik and Bunak

Mata Dalan Institute (MDI)

MDI is a registered organisation 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 TAF'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 TAF 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

Matadalan Survey and Research Institute (M-SRI)

Matadalan Survey and Research Institute (M-SRI) is a survey and research institute established in 2023. M-SRI focuses on conducting surveys and research in various sectors to support both the Government of Timor-Leste and the private sector in addressing national development challenges. M-SRI collaborates with the government to identify societal problems and challenges and provides it with credible data and information to solve development issues in Timor-Leste. It participated in TAF's Socioeconomic and Wellbeing Survey in 2023 and Tatoli! in 2025. Additionally, the Institute has conducted political surveys and served as an observer in presidential and parliamentary elections.

Director: Jose Maria Guterres
Municipality: Dili
Local Language: Tetum

Timor-Leste Coalition for Education (TLCE)

TLCE is an umbrella organisation based in Dili that was established in 2009 to coordinate and support organisations 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 TAF, 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 implemented by TAF and FONGTIL (2017-2018), and Safety, Security and Justice Survey (2022).

Director: Jose Monteiro
Municipality: Dili
Local Language: Tetum

Institutu Matadalan Integradu (IMI)

IMI was established in 2008 as a registered organisation focused on education, agriculture and advocacy in Ermera. IMI has participated in TAF's data collection work since 2017, including the 2022 Safety, Security and Justice Perceptions Survey, Tatoli! In 2022, 2023, and 2025, Financial Services Survey for the Central Bank (2020) and the Social Audit program on education implemented by TAF and FONGTIL (2017-2018).

Director: Elias Oliveira
Municipality: Ermera
Local Language: Mambae

Fundasaun Amizade Tanba Amor (FUNDAMOR)

FUNDAMOR is a duly registered organisation 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 TAF's data collection efforts, including the Community Policing Perceptions Surveys (2018), Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys (2018, 2022, 2023, 2025), Financial Services Survey for the Central Bank (2020), the Social Audit program on education funded by the EU and implemented by TAF and FONGTIL in 2017-2018, and the Safety, Security and Justice Survey (2022).

Director: Angelina dos Santos
Municipality: Lautem
Local Language: Fataluku

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 TAF, including the Community Policing Perceptions Surveys (2015 and 2018), Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys (2016, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2025), Social Audit program on education funded by the EU and implemented by TAF and FONGTIL (2017-2018), Financial Services Survey for the Central Bank (2020), PNDS survey in 2016, and the Safety Security and Justice Survey (2022).

Director: Graciana da Silva
Municipality: Liquica
Local Language: Tokodede

Asosiasaun Feto ba Furutu (AFF)

AFF is a non-governmental organization established in 2009 that focuses on women's economic empowerment in the Municipality of Manatuto. The organisation is duly registered and has participated in TAF'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, 2023 and 2025), PNDS survey in 2016, Financial Services Survey for the Central Bank of Timor-Leste (2020), and the Safety, Security and Justice Survey (2022).

Director: Eugenia da Costa
Municipality: Manatuto
Local Language: Galolen

Asosiasaun Movimentu 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 TAF, including Tatoli! Public Perception Surveys (2022, 2023, 2025) and the Safety, Security and Justice Survey (2022).

Director: Vicente Sarmento
Municipality: Manufahi
Local Language: Tetum Terik and Mambae

Asosiasaun Futuru Foinsae ba Sustentabilidade (A-FFOS)

A-FFOS is a community-based organisation established in Oecusse Special Administrative Region in 2005 under the name *Youth in Action Towards Sustainability* (YACTS), and registered with FONGTIL and the Ministry of Justice in Timor-Leste in 2015. In 2018, the organisation adopted the Tetum name A-FFOS. Its programs focus on sustainable livelihoods (including agriculture, horticulture, microfinance, and livestock), environmental protection, water and sanitation, capacity building, and multisectoral research. Since joining the TRAIN network, it has participated in Community Policing Perception Surveys in 2015, 2016, and 2018, and the Tatoli! survey in 2025.

Director: Francisco Cato
Municipality: RAEOA
Local Language: Baikeno

Knua Haberan Komunidade (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 TAF 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, 2023, and 2025, and the Safety Security and Justice Survey in 2022.

Director: Agosto Pinto
Municipality: Viqueque
Local Language: Tetum Terik, Naueti and Makasae

Povu Nia Hanoin

TATOLI !

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