

Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2015

Analytical Report on Youth

Volume 14



Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2015
Thematic Report Volume 14
Analytical Report on Youth

Copyright © GDS and UNFPA 2018
General Directorate of Statistics (GDS)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Author: Ms. Jessica Gardner
Cover Photograph: UNFPA

Foreword

The 2015 Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census with the theme “**Census from people to people: Be part of it**” was conducted in July 2015 on a *de facto* basis by the General Directorate of Statistics, Minister of Finance. The 2015 Census is the third after those conducted in 2004 and 2010 (post independent Timor-Leste) and fifth after the 1980 and 1990 Censuses, both taken in Indonesian times. This Census was undertaken within the provision of the Statistics Decree Law No. 17/2003 and the 2015 Population and Housing Census Government Resolution no. 11/2014 of 9 April 2014.

The main objective of the 2015 Census was to collect, analyze and effectively disseminate demographic and socio-economic information required for policy and programme formulation, decision making in planning and administrative processes, and research. The Census preliminary results were published in Volume 1 on 21 October 2015 and were launched by His Excellency the Prime Minister of RDTL Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo. The 2015 Census priority tables were published in three volumes: 2, 3 and 4, and launched by the Vice Minister of Finance Eng. Helder Lopes on 17 November 2016. The ‘Sensus fo Fila fali’ (returning back the results of the Census) was launched by His Excellency Minister of State Dr. Deoniso Babo Soares on behalf of the Prime Minister of RDTL on 2 March 2017. After that an ambitious “Sensus Fo Fila Fali” project was undertaken by the General Directorate of Statistics, Ministry of Finance that culminated in a Census report for each of the 442 sucos in the country.

This fourth phase comprises drafting of analytical reports covering Census thematic topics including fertility, marriage, mortality, migration, population projections, education, labour force, housing, agriculture, gender, youth and an atlas. The preparation of these reports was a collaborative effort between the Government of Timor-Leste, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Drafting of the thematic reports involved local and international experts. The reports were authored under the supervision and guidance of the Census Technical Specialist from UNFPA. The authors were recruited on a competitive basis, ensuring that they had adequate knowledge of the topics they were to analyse.

All staff at the General Directorate of Statistics, Ministry of Finance and especially the Director General and the Director of System and Reports and his team are commended for their commitment and tireless efforts to successfully undertake all phases of the Census including the thematic analysis exercise.

The Government of Timor-Leste wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for providing technical, financial and administrative support throughout the Census process, and in particular acknowledges the contribution of the authors of each thematic report.

Last but not least, all Timorese people deserve special praise for their patience and willingness to provide the requisite information which forms the basis of these reports and hence benchmark information for development. We in the Ministry of Finance and Government as a whole hope that the data contained in these thematic reports will be fully utilized in the national development planning process by all stakeholders for the welfare of the Timorese people.


Sara Lobo Brites
Vice - Minister and Acting Minister of Finance



Executive Summary

The population and housing census is a valuable source of data on the people of Timor-Leste, their age, sex, education level, living conditions, and how they are contributing to the economy through paid and unpaid work. As the census collects information on every person in the country, it provides an opportunity for deeper analysis of small groups and areas, including young people.

This report makes use of data already published in other census reports on fertility and marriage, mortality, migration, education, labour force, housing, and gender. In addition, a range of special tabulations from the census are also used to provide more detailed information about the situation of young people in Timor-Leste.

This report goes beyond the scope of the population and housing census results by combining findings related to sexual and reproductive health from the recent 2016 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). By doing so this report provides an overview of the situation and range of issues faced by young people in Timor-Leste today.

The National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 provides the overarching framework for Timor-Leste's development, including accelerating economic growth and reducing poverty. It recognizes that young people are the future of the country and they must be supported to gain the education, skills and experience needed to participate in national development. In February 2016, the Council of Ministers approved the nation's second National Youth Policy. The National Youth Policy's vision is for young people to be "healthy, educated, competitive, active and responsible citizens, who are proud to be Timorese."

The Timor-Leste National Youth Policy defines 'youth' as those people aged 15-24 years old – the age range during which people transition from being a child to becoming an adult. This national definition is in line with international standards for defining youth.¹ This ten year age range is further disaggregated into two sub-groups: adolescents (aged 15 to 19 years) and young adults (aged 20-24 years).

Young people in the population

Timor-Leste has a young population. High birth rates and relatively low migration will ensure it will remain that way for the years to come. In 2015, youth comprise 20 per cent of the total population (20% of males are aged 15-24 and 21% of females). This poses significant challenges for policymakers and development practitioners in order to provide the education, skills and opportunities to engage young people in productive work.

To gauge the relative size of the youth population in order to predict their needs for services and employment opportunities, it is useful to look at the proportion of youth in the total adult population (aged 15 years and above). Nearly 40 per cent of Dili's adult population are young people. In Aileu, Ermera and Liquica, just over one third of the adult population are youth. The proportion is lower in Bobonaro and SAR Oecussi, but still more than a quarter of the adult population are aged 15-24 years.

A large proportion of young people are internal migrants, meaning they were born in one sub-district (suco) but, at the time of the 2015 census, now reside in another. Only a small proportion – around 5 per cent of boys and girls aged 10-14 years – have migrated into or within Timor-Leste at some point in their life. However, by the time women and men reach the age of 30, around one quarter have migrated for one reason or another (23.9% of men aged 25-29 and 25.5% of women aged 25-29).

¹ United Nations Statistics Division. 2017. Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3. New York.

Recent migrants are those who have migrated in the last five years, between the 2010 and 2015 censuses. The percentage of the population who are recent migrants by age group clearly show migration is more common among those in the age groups 15-19, 20-24 and 25-29.

Leaving home is an important transition point for young people. In Timor-Leste, where multigenerational families are commonplace (i.e. three or more generations living in the same household), maternal mortality is relatively high, and life expectancy short, the typical measure of leaving home – whether or not a person resides with their biological mother – may not reflect the level of independence a young person has achieved. By the age of 20 years old, less than half (43.7%) of women and 53 per cent of men are no longer living with their mother (Figure 6). The proportion declines steadily with age and at a slightly more rapid rate for women than for men.

The singulate mean age at marriage increased to 25.0 years for women and 28.4 years for men, narrowing the gap from 4.2 years to 3.4 years between the 2004 and 2015 censuses, demonstrating reducing gender disparities. There is a major difference between urban and rural areas with urban women marrying at an average age of 26.2 years compared to 24.1 years for rural women. Urban men marry at 29.4 years on average and rural men at age 27.7 years.

The legal age of marriage in Timor-Leste is 17 years old, although it is likely this will be raised to 18 years in the near future. Child marriage – before the age of 18 – typically puts an end to education for young people, especially girls, limiting their livelihood opportunities and impacting on the health and education of them and their families. It also leads to early childbearing, risking the health of mother and baby, and increasing the fertility rate as having children early usually leads to having more throughout their lifetime. There are a small number of girls and boys who are married or living with their partners during their teenage years. Of these, there are 1,000 boys and 1,900 girls in a child marriage – married or living together under the age of 18 (1.3% of boys aged 13-17 years and 2.7% of girls aged 13-17).

Teenage pregnancy can be a major risk to the life of the mother and baby. Adolescents under the age of 16 face four times the risk of maternal death compared with women over the age of 20. Adolescents who give birth when their own bodies are still developing have a higher chance of having low weight babies, resulting in higher risk of malnutrition, disease and death. The analytical report on mortality that is part of this series reveals that pregnancy-related deaths are well above average among women aged 15-19 years: 789 deaths per 100,000 live births for young women compared to 426 overall. Only women aged 45-49 have a higher mortality rate at 2,464 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Sexual and reproductive health

The population and housing census is not designed to gather information on the sexual and reproductive health of young people. Although, it does provide information on teenage fertility, maternal mortality, age and first marriage and other relevant statistics. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) was conducted in 2016, one year after the census. As a specially designed household survey, it provides unique data for producing national and municipality level statistics relevant to young people in Timor-Leste. This report presents information from both data sources.

Statistics on the sexual behaviour of young people is important for policymakers to design services and awareness campaigns to ensure good sexual and reproductive health of the population. The DHS results show the median age at first sexual intercourse is 20.5 years for women age 25-49 and 22.9 years for men, indicating that men wait longer than women - more than two years – before engaging in sexual intercourse for the first time. By age 25, 75 per cent of women have had sexual intercourse and 61 per cent of men.

Family planning provides women and men the option to choose when to have a child. The use of contraceptives is one way to control the timing and frequency of pregnancy. Male and female condoms are methods of contraception that also provide protection against sexually transmitted infections. Although few use contraceptives, most women and men have heard of some form of contraceptive

method (71.2% of all women aged 15-49 years and 79.1% of all men). Knowledge of modern contraceptive methods is higher among young men than women.

Very few women have the correct knowledge of their fertile period: 8.4 per cent of all women aged 15-49. This essential knowledge is even lower among young women with only 3.8 per cent of those aged 15-19 aware of when in their cycle they are likely to fall pregnant, and still less than one in ten (7.8%) of women aged 20-24 years.

Unmet need for family planning is a measure that indicates the proportion of women who should be using contraception because they want to (or medically need to) postpone or to stop having children, but are not currently using any. Overall, in 2016, a quarter (25.3%) of Timorese have an unmet need for family planning, down from 32 per cent in 2009-10. Unmet need is above average among young women with 26.4 per cent of currently married women aged 15-19 lacking needed access to contraception and 28.9 per cent of those aged 20-24 years.

Getting information about sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, ensures young women and men are informed about their bodies, their health and their choices. Young women and men are the least exposed to family planning messages on mainstream media compared to other age groups. On average, 25 per cent of women aged 15-49 years have received family planning messages through one form of media or another, and 38 per cent of men. Among youth, the proportion of women getting family planning messages are only one in five (20%) and 33 per cent of men.

Overall, 47 per cent of women and 66 per cent of Timorese men have heard of HIV or AIDS and 10 per cent of women have a comprehensive knowledge of HIV (how it is transmitted, etc.) and 16 per cent of men. The proportions who have heard of HIV or AIDS are similar among young people, with 51 per cent of women aged 15-24 having heard of the virus, and 64 per cent of young men.

The proportion of young women and men who reported having a sexually transmitted infection (STI), or the symptoms of one, were 8.6 per cent and 13.4 per cent respectively. Self-reported prevalence of STIs is at a similar level across age groups. A concerning finding from the DHS is that 65 per cent of all women who had or suspected they had an STI sought no advice or treatment and 45 per cent of men.

Young people with a disability

In 2015, there are just over 38,000 people in Timor-Leste with a disability representing 3.4 per cent of the male population and 3.1 per cent of the female population.² The most prevalent form of difficulty for both men and women is with their sight, followed by difficulties walking.

Disability is most commonly found among older age groups in Timor-Leste as the functional areas measured through the census are prone to deterioration with age. Among the youth population, less than one per cent reported some form of difficulty with walking, seeing, hearing or intellectual/mental condition (876 young men and 686 young women aged 15-24 years). This is a much lower estimate than was found through the 2010 population census, which identified around 2,400 young people aged 15-24 with some form of difficulty in one of more of the four domains – about 1,000 more young people than in 2015, despite population growth during those five years. The questions were the same in both censuses and so factors, such as interviewer training and quality control may have influenced the results.

Young men aged 15-24 are more likely to have some form of difficulty or disability than young women in all four of the functional areas measured. The most common form of difficulty is walking, impacting on 404 young men and 316 young women. Intellectual disabilities are the second most common form among young men and women with 365 and 277 respectively reporting difficulties.

² The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 15 per cent of the world's population lives with some form of disability and 2-4 per cent have significant difficulties in functioning (http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report/en/).

Disabled children and young people are disadvantaged when it comes to education. They are less likely to be attending school and far more likely to have never attended than the population who are not disabled. More than 70 per cent of girls and young women aged 5-24 years without a disability are still attending school compared to only one third (33%) of those with a disability. More than half (54.7%) of girls and young women who have a disability have never attended school compared to 14 per cent of girls and women with no disability. The situation is much the same for boys and young men. Disabled children are clearly not getting sufficient access to school or the special education they need.

Young people with and without a disability have a similar level of engagement in the labour force. Two in every five young women with and without a disability are in the labour force (employed or unemployed). The labour force participation rate is slightly higher for young men with a disability (26%) than for those without (20%). Most young people aged 15-24 without a disability are still students, however those with a disability are, as expected, more likely to have an economic status of ill or disabled, household work, or 'other' than those with no disability.

Education attainment and literacy of young people

The proportion of people attending school at each age for those aged 5 years to 34 years shows that around ten per cent of children never make it to the formal education system and young people start to leave school from around age 15. There is not much of a gender gap until age 20 years, when the proportion of young women attending school begins to decline at a faster rate than it does for young men. By age 30 years, nine in every ten women and men have finished schooling.

The youth population (ages 15-24 years) are at the stage of their life where they may be attending secondary school or undertaking a tertiary education, or have exited the education system to pursue employment or start a family. There are many secondary school and tertiary students outside of the youth age bracket.

Literacy has been rapidly improving in Timor-Leste. The adult literacy rate is 68.7 per cent for men and 60.2 per cent for women. By comparison, the youth literacy rate is much higher at 84.7 for young men and 84.1 for young women, illustrating the improvement as well as closure of the gender gap. Tetun is the most widely used of the four working languages for both adults and young people, followed by Bahasa Indonesia, Portuguese and then English. There is no gender gap in the youth literacy rate, a significant improvement over the adult literacy rate.

Young people in work

Most young men and women are not participating in the labour force (neither employed nor unemployed) because they are still in education or training. The labour force participation rate for young people is 25.9 per cent for men aged 15-24 and 21.7 per cent for women. These rates are much higher for the total working population, 67.9 per cent of men aged 15 and above are in the labour force compared to 46.2 per cent of women.

Unemployment is a major issue for young people, particularly men. There are more than 4,400 young men out of work who are seeking employment work, representing nearly 4 per cent of the male youth population and 14 per cent of the male youth labour force. There are 2,700 young women in the same situation, which is around 2 per cent of the female youth population.

Young people comprise about 14 percent of the total labour force, but they make up 27.1 percent of the total unemployed. According to the analytical census report on the labour force, youth unemployment stood at 12.3 percent. The unemployment rate for young males is slightly higher (14.0 per cent) than for young females (10.3 per cent).

People have a particular status in employment depending on who they work for and the type of conditions or employment contract. Young people in employment are mainly self-employed (own-account workers), most of them in subsistence production. The proportion of young people in each group who are paid employees is much smaller than for the total working age population.

The status in employment changes as young people reach their late 20s. Being an own account worker is still the most common status, but a much greater proportion are employees, which is a more secure form of employment. This is especially the case for young men aged 25-29 of which 26.2 per cent are employees, compared to 16.1 per cent of women in the same age group.

Working as an own-account worker or contributing family worker is considered to be a vulnerable form of employment. In urban areas, where most of the more reliable forms of salaried employment are, the vulnerable employment rate is 36.5 per cent for the working age population aged 15-64 years. The rate is higher among young people, particularly adolescents in urban areas (age 15-19 years) of which 91 per cent of those employed are in vulnerable employment with rates being similar for young women (91.5%) and men (90.6%).

The top twelve occupations among the 50,500 young men and women who are employed are dominated by agricultural related occupations. Many would be subsistence farmers producing food for themselves and their family. Other common occupations for young people are to work as housekeepers, retail sales workers, or as drivers.

Young people not engaged in education, employment or training

Young people may be still in education, already working, seeking work (unemployed), or not engaged in the labour force for other reasons, such as being a full-time homemaker. The NEET rate is an important measure for monitoring the situation of youth and is one of the SDG indicators under Goal 8 on Decent Work. As outlined in the analytical report on education, the percentage of youth (age 15-24) who are not in employment and not in education or training was 20.3 per cent, 16.8 for males and 23.7 per cent for females (Figure 36). This represents an improvement since the 2010 census, when the overall NEET rate for youth was 21.4 per cent. However, sex-disaggregated data reveal the improvement has been for young women, whereas the situation for young men has worsened. This may be due to more young women remaining in education, and an increasing proportion of young men being unemployed.

At around 10 per cent, the NEET rate is lowest among boys and girls aged 10 to 16 years old. However, this should be closer to zero as children of those ages should still be attending school. The NEET rate starts to climb from age 17, particularly for girls who are more likely to finish their education early and become full time homemakers rather than to go into employment. The gender gap increases with age and for those aged 29 years, 15 per cent of men are neither in employment, education or training compared to 40 per cent of women.

Contents

Foreword.....	ii
Executive Summary	iii
Young people in the population	iii
Sexual and reproductive health.....	iv
Young people with a disability	v
Education attainment and literacy of young people	vi
Young people in work.....	vi
Young people not engaged in education, employment or training	vii
List of Tables	x
List of Figures	xi
Acronyms.....	xiv
Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Purpose of the report.....	1
Definition of youth and young people	1
National priorities and strategies for youth.....	1
Sustainable Development Goals and young people	2
Challenges for young people in Timor-Leste.....	3
Outline of this report and how it can support policy and program development.....	3
Chapter 2: Young People in the Total Population	4
Differences between the sexes	5
Where do young people live?.....	5
Young people on the move	7
Becoming independent.....	8
Marriage and families	10
Early marriage.....	11
Early childbearing.....	11
Chapter 3: Young People’s Sexual and Reproductive Health (DHS).....	13
Age at first sexual intercourse.....	13
Knowledge and use of contraceptive methods.....	14
Need for family planning	15
Sources and delivery of family planning information and services	16
HIV/AIDS related knowledge, attitudes and behaviour	16
Sexually transmitted infections	17
Chapter 4: Young people with a Disability.....	18
Severity and causes of disability.....	18
Disability and education	21
Disability and work.....	22
Chapter 5: Education Attainment and Literacy of Young People.....	23

School attendance	23
Secondary and tertiary attendance ratios	24
Literacy and languages	25
Chapter 6: Young People in Work	27
How is work measured in the population and housing census?	27
What are young people doing with their time?	28
Youth unemployment.....	30
Who is most at risk of being unemployed?	31
Young people in employment	33
Occupations.....	35
Chapter 7: Young People Not Engaged in Education, Employment or Training	36
Chapter 8: Implications of Key Findings for Public Policy	39
Education	39
Healthy lives	39
Employment and employability	39
References.....	40

List of Tables

1: Priority groups and intervention areas identified in the 2016 National Youth Policy	2
2: Male and females in the youth and surrounding age groups and ratio of males to females, Timor-Leste 2015	5
3: Number and proportion of young people (aged 15-24) in the population aged 15 years and above, by municipality, Timor-Leste 2015	6
4: Administrative posts with the largest youth bulges: number and proportion of young people aged 15-24 years in the population aged 15 years and over, per cent, Timor-Leste 2015	7
5: Comparison of marriage and fertility-related indicators from the 2015 Population and Housing Census and the 2016 Demographic and Health Survey, Timor-Leste	13
6: Adult and youth literacy rates, by sex, Timor-Leste 2015	26
7: Key labour force participation indicators for the youth population (age 15-24) compared to the total working age population (15+), Timor-Leste, 2015	28
8: Status in employment for young people, by age group and sex, Timor-Leste 2015.....	33
9: Top twelve occupations of young people, Timor-Leste 2015.....	35

List of Figures

Figure 1: Population of Timor-Leste by age group and sex, 2015.....	4
Figure 2: Share of the youth population (aged 15-24 years) as a proportion of the total population, Timor-Leste 2004 – 2050.....	5
Figure 3: Map showing the youth population as percentage of total population by district, Timor-Leste 2015	6
Figure 4: Age profile of recent migrants, percent of total population, Timor-Leste 2015.....	7
Figure 5: Reasons for recent migration, by sex and age group, Timor-Leste 2015	8
Figure 6: Proportion of the population who reside in the same household as their biological mother, by age and sex, Timor-Leste 2015	8
Figure 7: Proportion (%) of the population who are household heads, by age group and sex, Timor-Leste 2015	9
Figure 8: Urban rural differences in the age of male household head, Timor-Leste 2015	10
Figure 9: Ever married (married, divorced separated or widowed) at the time of the census, by age and sex, Timor-Leste 2015	10
Figure 10: Number married or living together during teenage years, by age and sex, Timor-Leste 2015	11
Figure 11: Proportion (%) of women who have given birth, by age group, Timor-Leste 2015	12
Figure 12: Proportion (%) of women reporting a birth in the last year, by age group, Timor-Leste 2010 and 2015.....	12
Figure 13: Proportion (%) of currently married women and men aged 15-49 who know at least one modern contraceptive method, Timor-Leste 2016.....	14
Figure 14: Proportion (%) of currently married women and sexually active unmarried women aged 15-49 that currently use contraception, Timor-Leste 2016.....	15
Figure 15: Unmet need for family planning among currently married women aged 15-49, Timor-Leste 2016	15

Figure 16: Exposure to family planning messages among young people aged 15-24 years, by sex and type of media, Timor-Leste 2016.....	16
Figure 17: Self-reported prevalence of sexually transmitted infections, by sex and age, Timor-Leste 2016	17
Figure 18: Questions used in the census to identify people with a disability, Timor-Leste 2015	18
Figure 19: Form and severity of difficulty reported by the youth population (aged 15-24 years), Timor-Leste 2015.....	19
Figure 20: Cause of the most severe or main difficulty (number of people), by sex, Timor-Leste 2015	19
Figure 21: Young people (aged 15-24 years) with a disability, by municipality, Timor-Leste 2015 ...	20
Figure 22: School attendance by persons aged 5-24 years, by disability status and sex, Timor-Leste, 2015	21
Figure 23: Economic activity status of young women and men (aged 15-24 years) with a disability compared to those with no disabilities, Timor-Leste 2015	22
Figure 24: Population pyramid by percentage school attendance, Timor-Leste 2015.....	23
Figure 25: Percentage of persons 5-34 years of age who are currently attending school by sex and age, Timor-Leste 2015.....	24
Figure 26: Population pyramid showing the age and sex of people attending secondary and tertiary education, Timor-Leste 2015	25
Figure 27: Adult and youth literacy rates, Timor-Leste 2015.....	26
Figure 28: Proportion (%) of the population in education or training, employment, or neither in education, training or employment (NEET), by sex and age, Timor-Leste 2015	29
Figure 29: Age-specific unemployment rates among persons 15 - 24 years by sex, Timor-Leste, 2015	30
Figure 30: Youth unemployment rate by sex and literacy, Timor-Leste, 2015	30
Figure 31: Relative risk ratios for youth unemployment, persons 15 – 24 years of age, Timor-Leste, 2015	32

Figure 32: Youth unemployment rates, by urban/rural areas and age groups, Timor-Leste 2015.....	33
Figure 33: Status in employment for 20-24 year-old men and women, percent of each age group, Timor-Leste 2015.....	34
Figure 34: Types of employment for 25-29 year-old men and women, percent of each age group, Timor-Leste 2015.....	34
Figure 35: Proportion of young people in urban areas doing vulnerable work, Timor-Leste 2015.....	35
Figure 36: Proportion of youth neither in employment, education or training (NEET rate), Timor-Leste 2015.....	36
Figure 37: Percentage of persons 15 - 24, who are NEET by level of education they have finished are still following, Timor-Leste 2015	37
Figure 38: NEET rate by sex and age 10-29 years, Timor-Leste 2015.....	37
Figure 39: NEET rate (%) by administrative post, Timor-Leste 2015.....	38

Acronyms

DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
GAR	Gross Attendance Ratio
GDS	General Directorate of Statistics
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
NAR	Net Attendance Ratio
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training
WHO	World Health Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

Chapter 1: Introduction

Purpose of the report

The population and housing census is a valuable source of data on the people of Timor-Leste, their age, sex, education level, living conditions, and how they are contributing to the economy through paid and unpaid work. As the census collects information on every person in the country, it provides an opportunity for deeper analysis of small groups and areas, including young people.

This report makes use of data already published in other census reports on fertility and marriage, mortality, migration, education, labour force, housing, and gender. In addition, a range of special tabulations from the census are also used to provide more detailed information about the situation of young people in Timor-Leste.

This report goes beyond the scope of the population and housing census results by combining findings related to sexual and reproductive health from the recent 2016 Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). By doing so this report provides an overview of the situation and range of issues faced by young people in Timor-Leste today.

Definition of youth and young people

The Timor-Leste National Youth Policy defines ‘youth’ as those people aged 15-24 years old – the age range during which people transition from being a child to becoming an adult. This national definition is in line with international standards for defining youth.³ This ten year age range is further disaggregated into two sub-groups: adolescents (aged 15 to 19 years) and young adults (aged 20-24 years).

This report will focus analysis on those aged 15-24 years in line with national and international definitions. Where relevant, information on the surrounding age groups (i.e. 10-14 years; 25-29 years) will also be presented. In places, the term ‘young people’ is used in preference to the term ‘youth’ or ‘youths’, but all refer to the same age group of 15-24 years. The terms ‘adolescents’ and ‘young adults’ are used consistently with the national definitions described above.

National priorities and strategies for youth

The Constitution of Timor-Leste clearly defines the rights and responsibilities of Timorese citizens, including the rights of the child, rights to equal treatment, rights to health care, education, housing and a healthy environment. It emphasises that young people with disabilities should enjoy the same rights as others, and that young people have the right to education, health and vocational training.⁴

The National Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 provides the overarching framework for Timor-Leste’s development, including accelerating economic growth and reducing poverty. It recognizes that young people are the future of the country and they must be supported to gain the education, skills and experience needed to participate in national development.

In February 2016, the Council of Ministers approved the nation’s second National Youth Policy. The National Youth Policy’s vision is for young people to be “healthy, educated, competitive, active and responsible citizens, who are proud to be Timorese.”

The policy acts as a guideline, uniting government, civil society and international development partners in their efforts to address youth issues in a holistic and coordinated way. It promotes youth participation in the democratic process, reducing youth unemployment through self-employment, mobilizing resources for youth programmes, and the provision of psycho-social support and services for those in difficult circumstances and the most marginalized young people. It also supports strengthening of the enabling environment by promoting cooperation among the main actors, developing institutional

³ United Nations Statistics Division. 2017. Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 3. New York.

⁴ Timor-Leste constitution.

capacity of youth organizations, and ensuring that key youth-related issues are integrated into agendas and programmes across all sectors. The policy targets particular vulnerable groups and is structured around five priority areas, as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Priority groups and intervention areas identified in the 2016 National Youth Policy

Nine Priority Target Groups	Five Priority Intervention Areas
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Young women and men in rural areas 2. Out of school youth and school drop-outs 3. Youth with disability 4. Young people who earn a living in the streets 5. Young women 6. Young people who do not have enough opportunities to practice their skills and apply their knowledge 7. Illiterate youth 8. Unemployed youth 9. Most at risk youth 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education 2. Healthy lifestyle 3. Employment and employability 4. Civic participation 5. Violence and crime

A National Youth Action Plan will provide the mechanism for implementing the National Youth Policy. The State body responsible for Youth is responsible for establishing, assessing and revising the development of policies in the youth sector, designing and executing priority programmes, and issuing general guidelines on youth development. Coordination of all actors will be through the National Council for Youth Development – an inter-ministerial body led by the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste with members selected from the Council of Ministers.

Sustainable Development Goals and young people

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a priority for all countries, providing the targets and indicators needed to set the direction and monitor progress towards Agenda 2030. The goals and targets are structured around three areas: people, planet and prosperity. They are all interconnected and identifying and addressing issues relevant to vulnerable groups, such as young people, is central to ensuring no one is left behind.

There are 20 targets across six of the 17 SDGs that are directly relevant to youth: Goal 2 (hunger), Goal 4 (education); Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (decent work), Goal 10 (inequality), and Goal 13 (climate change).⁵ Timor-Leste’s Roadmap for the Implementation of the SDGs emphasises the importance of youth and engaging with the youth population, including them in processes to achieve sustainable development.⁶

⁵ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). 2017. *Youth as partners for the implementation of the SDGs: Fast Facts*. New York.

⁶ Government of Timor-Leste (2017) Timor-Leste’s Roadmap for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

Challenges for young people in Timor-Leste

The majority of Timor-Leste's population are below the age of 25, with young people aged 15-24 years accounting for 21 per cent of the population in 2015. As the seventh youngest country in the world, Timor-Leste has a considerable 'youth bulge' and careful policy making is needed to provide the services needed to support young people, and to be able to take advantage of this, ensuring the education system can respond to the demands of the future labour market.

The country has made significant progress since it reclaimed independence in 2001, however many challenges remain. Some of the issues facing young people are:

- **Barriers to completing secondary school education** – being able to overcome large distances between home and school in rural areas, poor transport infrastructure, bad weather, obligations to work at home and a lack of a safe and high-quality learning environment to finish secondary school education.
- **Getting the right knowledge and skills** – the education system is limited in its capacity to help young people build confidence, learn positive values, strengthen their leadership capacity and promote a healthy lifestyle.
- **Early marriage and teenage pregnancy** – entering into marriage before age 18 or starting childbearing whilst still a teenager has significant health and other implications on the lives of young women, including leaving school early.
- **Sexually transmitted infections and HIV** – lack of information and services related to sexual health leaves young people at risk of sexually transmitted infections and HIV.
- **Risks to health** – high rates of smoking, particularly among men, puts young people at risk of illness and premature death from non-communicable diseases. Traffic accidents are also a major cause of injury and death for young people.
- **Barriers to employment** – lack of suitable employment opportunities that are tailored to young people, lack of confidence to compete for jobs, low level of skills and limited experience to do well in employment.
- **Participating in public life and decisions** – limited engagement in democratic process, being represented in parliament and local government, and having a voice in the development and implementation of policies and programs designed to address youth issues.

Outline of this report and how it can support policy and program development

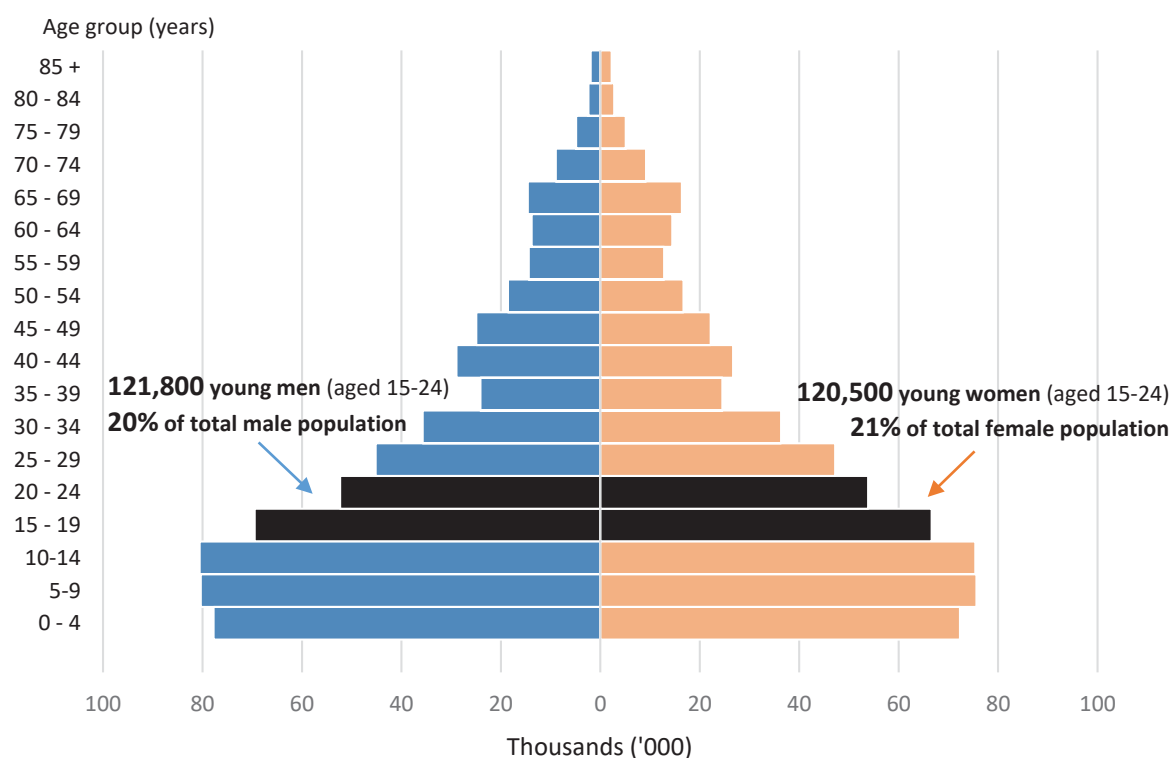
This is the second analytical report on youth based on the population and housing census results. The first was produced in 2012, before the latest National Youth Policy and SDGs were adopted. In order to respond to the latest policy priorities, this report is structured slightly differently to the 2010 census report, illustrating the connection between the data from the census and DHS to the areas for intervention identified in the national policy. Not all areas of intervention can be informed by the data from the census and DHS, as the census and DHS are designed to collect information on a specific range of topics.

Chapter 2: Young People in the Total Population

Timor-Leste has a young population. High birth rates and relatively low migration will ensure it will remain that way for the years to come. In 2015, youth comprise 20 per cent of the total population (20% of males are aged 15-24 and 21% of females). This poses significant challenges for policymakers and development practitioners in order to provide the education, skills and opportunities to engage young people in productive work.

One in every five Timorese is an adolescent or young adult

Figure 1: Population of Timor-Leste by age group and sex, 2015



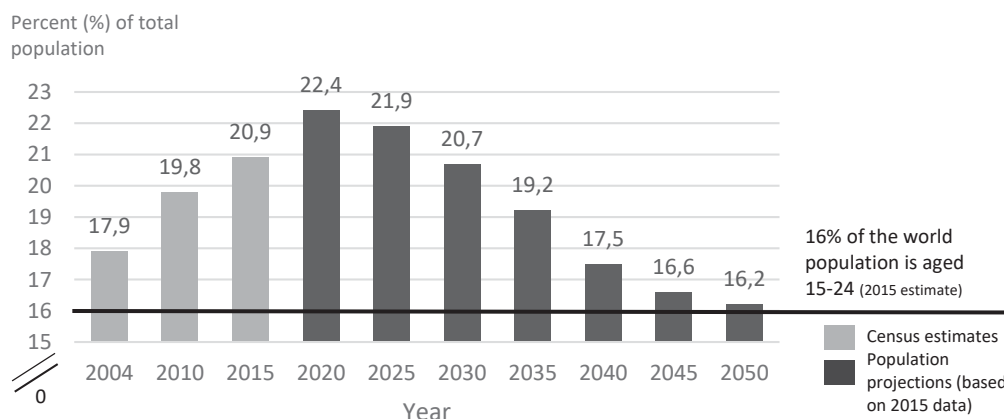
Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

The youth population (as a proportion of the total population) has been increasing over the last decade. In 2015, there were more than 242,000 young people (122,000 men and 121,000 women) comprising around 20 per cent of the total Timorese population. The youth population is estimated to initially rise and then decline to around 16 per cent of the total population (Figure 2). By comparison, youth currently make up 16 per cent of the global population and a much lower proportion – around 11 per cent – in the more developed regions.⁷

⁷ United Nations Population Division. World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision (File POP/8-1).

Youth population estimated to decline in the future

Figure 2: Share of the youth population (aged 15-24 years) as a proportion of the total population, Timor-Leste 2004 – 2050



Sources: 2004, 2010 and 2015 Population and Housing Censuses of Timor-Leste; 2015 Population Projections for Timor-Leste for 2020-2050 estimates; and United Nations Population Division for global estimates.

Differences between the sexes

It is a universal and naturally occurring phenomenon that more boy babies are born than girls (around 105 to 107 boys for every 100 girls). Boys are more vulnerable to dying under the age of five years and often take more risks during adolescence, therefore the balance in the numbers of girls and boys tends to even out by early adulthood. This is the case in Timor-Leste, when in 2015, there were 107 boys aged 10-14 for every 100 girls and among those aged 20-24 years, 97 young men for every 100 young women (Table 2). Quality checks suggest there may be some underreporting of girls aged 10-14 years relative to boys in the 2015 census.

Table 2: Male and females in the youth and surrounding age groups and ratio of males to females, Timor-Leste 2015

Age group (years)	Number of males	Number of females	Ratio of males to females
10-14	80,586	75,423	1.07
15-19	69,506	66,644	1.04
20-24	52,336	53,857	0.97
25-29	45,170	47,233	0.96

Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Where do young people live?

The highest concentration of young people is found in Dili, where 72,000 – almost a third (30%) – of the youth population reside. Almost half of them are in the Dom Alexio sub-district (35,000), followed by Cristo Rei (16,300), and Vera Cruz (9,400). There are more than 25,500 young people in the municipality of Ermera and almost 24,000 in Bacau (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Map showing the youth population as percentage of total population by district, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

To gauge the relative size of the youth population in order to predict their needs for services and employment opportunities, it is useful to look at the proportion of youth in the total adult population (aged 15 years and above). Nearly 40 per cent of Dili's adult population are young people (Table 3). In Aileu, Ermera and Liquica, just over one third of the adult population are youth. The proportion is lower in Bobonaro and SAR Oecussi, but still more than a quarter of the adult population are aged 15-24 years.

Table 3: Number and proportion of young people (aged 15-24) in the population aged 15 years and above, by municipality, Timor-Leste 2015

District	Number aged 15-24 years	% of population 15+	District	Number aged 15-24 years	% of population 15+
Dili	72,133	39.7	Lautem	11,730	31.8
Aileu	10,855	36.5	Covalima	12,715	31.6
Ermera	25,594	35.2	Manatuto	8,185	29.5
Liquica	14,559	33.4	Viqueque	12,955	28.8
Manufahi	10,629	32.7	Bobonaro	16,241	28.3
Ainaro	11,562	32.7	SAR Oecussi	11,249	28.0
Baucau	23,936	32.1	National	242,343	33.8

Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

The sub districts with the largest youth bulges are Dom Aleixo (41.0% of the adult population) and Cristo Rei (40.5%). Table 3 lists the 20 sub-districts with the highest proportion of youth among the adult population.

Top 20 sub-districts with the highest proportion of youth

Table 4: Administrative posts with the largest youth bulges: number and proportion of young people aged 15-24 years in the population aged 15 years and over, per cent, Timor-Leste 2015

Sub district	15 to 24 years	15+ years	Youth Population as % of total aged 15+	Sub district	15 to 24 years	15+ years	Youth Population as % of total aged 15+
Dom Aleixo	35,045	85,529	41.0	Lospalos	6,573	17,882	36.8
Cristo Rei	16,283	40,176	40.5	Letefoho	4,644	13,231	35.1
Vera Cruz	9,396	24,461	38.4	Bazartete	5,880	16,777	35.0
Railaco	2,753	7,190	38.3	Baucau	10,019	28,868	34.7
Ermera	7,964	20,929	38.1	Ainaro	3,173	9,154	34.7
Nain Feto	8,464	22,391	37.8	Hatolia	6,952	20,536	33.9
Turiscari	1,784	4,734	37.7	Liquica	4,550	13,477	33.8
Aileu Vila	5,621	14,954	37.6	Suai	5,449	16,160	33.7
Metinaro	1,279	3,450	37.1	Maliana	5,805	17,266	33.6
Laulara	1,571	4,249	37.0	Fatuberliu	1,453	4,512	32.2

Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Young people on the move

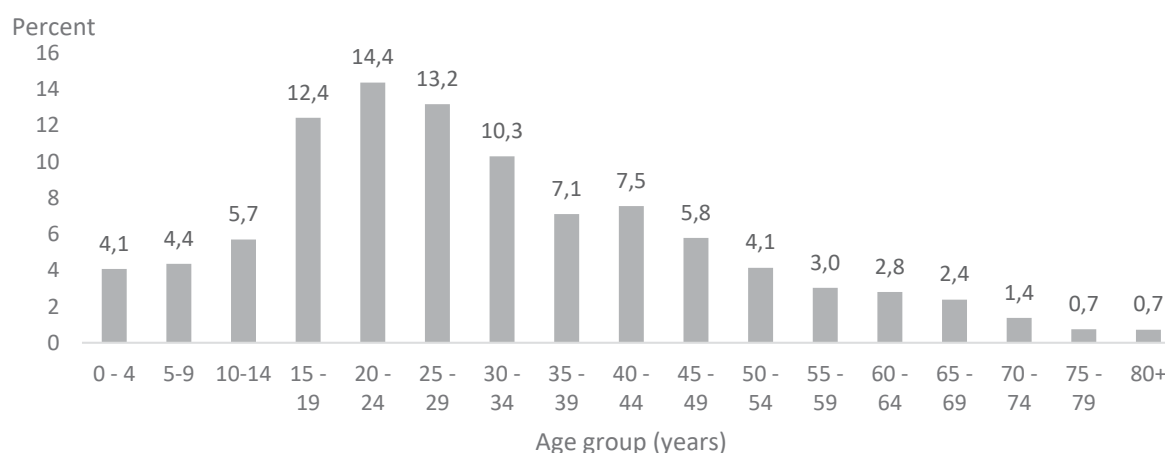
Migration within the country is an important factor for many young people who may move within and between sub-districts to seek education or employment opportunities, or due to marriage and other family reasons.

A large proportion of young people are internal migrants, meaning they were born in one sub-district (suco) but, at the time of the 2015 census, now reside in another. Only a small proportion – around 5 per cent of boys and girls aged 10-14 years – have migrated into or within Timor-Leste at some point in their life. However, by the time women and men reach the age of 30, around one quarter have migrated for one reason or another (23.9% of men aged 25-29 and 25.5% of women aged 25-29).

Recent migrants are those who have migrated in the last five years, between the 2010 and 2015 censuses. The percentage of the population who are recent migrants by age group clearly show migration is more common among those in the age groups 15-19, 20-24 and 25-29 (Figure 4).

Migration more common among adolescents and those aged in their 20s

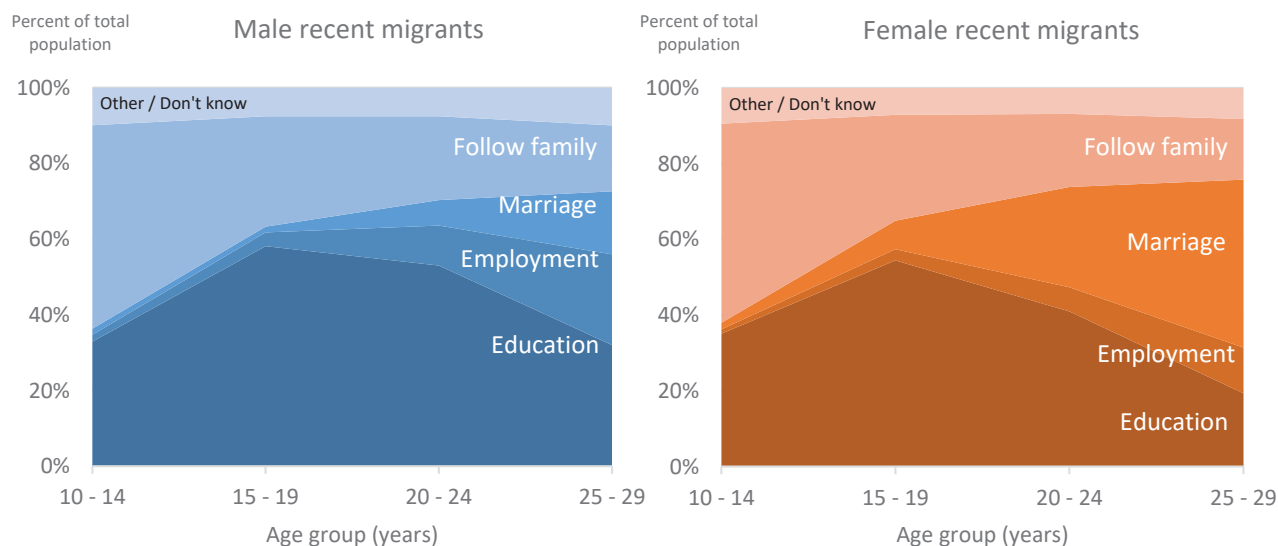
Figure 4: Age profile of recent migrants, percent of total population, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

The reasons for migrating vary considerably by age and between the sexes (Figure 5). At younger ages, the reasons are mainly to follow the family or for education. This is true for both boys and girls. As age increases, women are more likely to migrate for marriage, and men more likely to do so for education or employment.

Figure 5: Reasons for recent migration, by sex and age group, Timor-Leste 2015



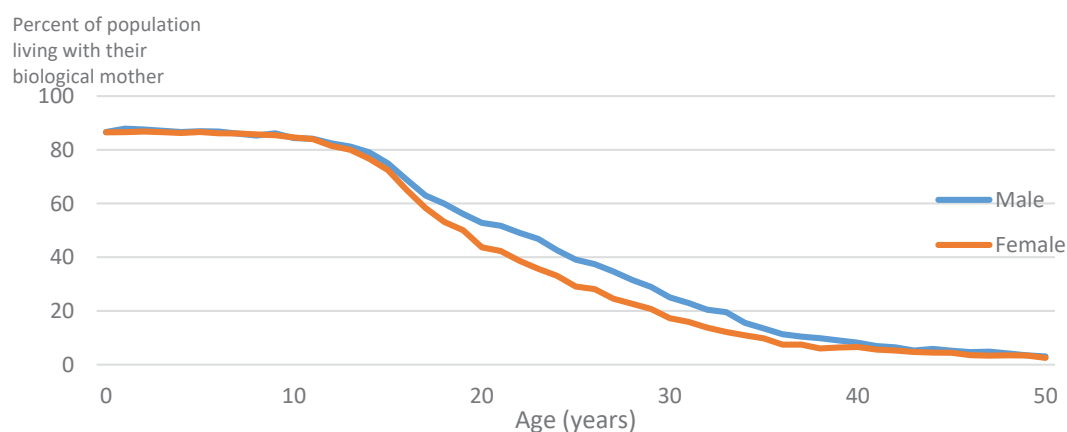
Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Becoming independent

Leaving home is an important transition point for young people. In Timor-Leste, where multigenerational families are commonplace (i.e. three or more generations living in the same household), maternal mortality is relatively high, and life expectancy short, the typical measure of leaving home – whether or not a person resides with their biological mother – may not reflect the level of independence a young person has achieved.

By the age of 20 years old, less than half (43.7%) of women and 53 per cent of men are no longer living with their mother (Figure 6). The proportion declines steadily with age and at a slightly more rapid rate for women than for men.

Figure 6: Proportion of the population who reside in the same household as their biological mother, by age and sex, Timor-Leste 2015



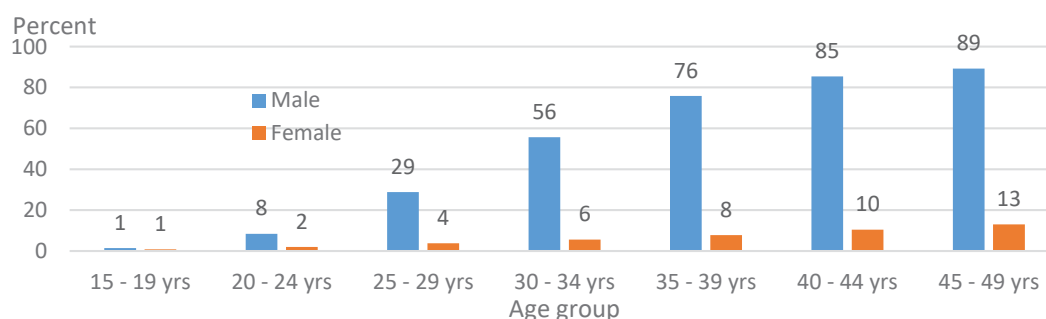
Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Being considered as ‘head of the household’ may be a better measure of independence and adult responsibility. However, due to traditional gender roles, this measure does not provide much insight into the situation of young women. As the roles of main breadwinner and decision maker is typically reserved for men in Timorese society, the vast majority of households are headed by men. Where women are household heads, it typically indicates an absence of adult men. This may be due to her being single, widowed, divorced/separated, or if the man has migrated to live elsewhere but still provides support through remittances.

By the ages of 30-34, more than half of men (56%) are household heads (Figure 7). By their late 30s, it is more than three quarters (76%). The highest rate for women under the age of 50 (after which widowhood is more likely) is among those aged in their late 40s, of which 13 per cent are household heads. This has reduced considerably since the 2010 census, when 22 per cent of women aged 45-49 years were household heads.

Men take over as household head in their 30s and 40s

Figure 7: Proportion (%) of the population who are household heads, by age group and sex, Timor-Leste 2015

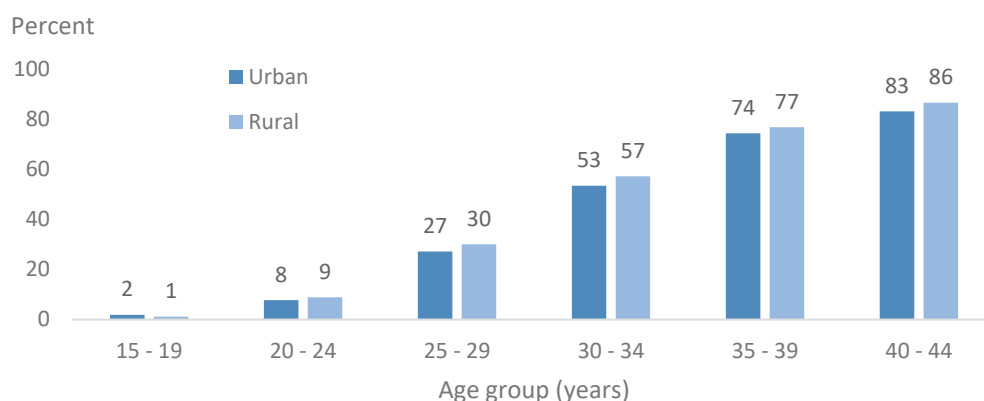


Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

There is little difference between urban and rural areas in the ages at which men assume responsibility as household head (Figure 8). Men in rural areas are taking on that role at a slightly younger age than those in urban areas. This may be a reflection of housing limitations in Dili that force young men to live with parents or other relatives for longer than they would in rural areas.

In 2010, the gap between men assuming household headship in urban and rural areas was greater (i.e. a gap of nine percentage points in favour of rural men for ages 30-44). The narrowing of this gap by 2015 to around three percentage point’s difference, may indicate it is becoming easier for men to set up their own household in an urban area and overcome the obstacles to achieving a reliable income, access to land and housing, which is more of a challenge in urban areas than in a person’s home village.

Figure 8: Urban rural differences in the age of male household head, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

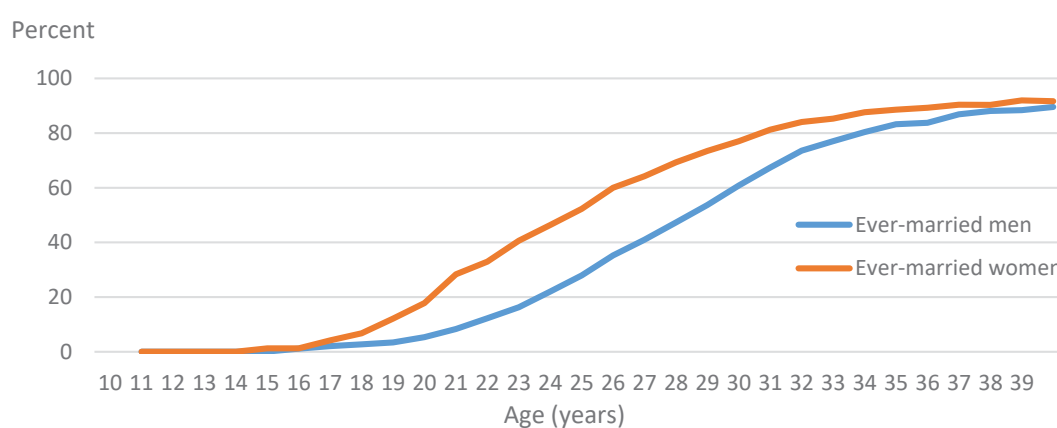
Marriage and families

A key marker of the transition to adult status for young people is getting married. The term ‘married’ used in the Timor-Leste census refers to legal, traditional or de facto unions. The categories for marital status used in the Timor-Leste 2015 census were: never married; married, widowed, divorced, separated, and living together. This was the first time ‘living together’ has been included as an option in the census questionnaire.

The singulate mean age at marriage increased to 25.0 years for women and 28.4 years for men, narrowing the gap from 4.2 years to 3.4 years between the 2004 and 2015 censuses, demonstrating reducing gender disparities. There is a major difference between urban and rural areas with urban women marrying at an average age of 26.2 years compared to 24.1 years for rural women. Urban men marry at 29.4 years on average and rural men at age 27.7 years.

Looking into the differences at each age, the time that women and men decide to get married varies considerably (Figure 9). At age 19 nearly 12 per cent of women are married but only 3 per cent of young men at this age are. By age 25, half of women are married, compared to only a quarter of men of the same age. The marriage gap starts to narrow as people reach their 30s, by which time more than 90 per cent of women and men are or have been married.

Figure 9: Ever married (married, divorced separated or widowed) at the time of the census, by age and sex, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

An analysis of marriage at all stages of life is provided in the analytical report on marital status that is also a part of this series.

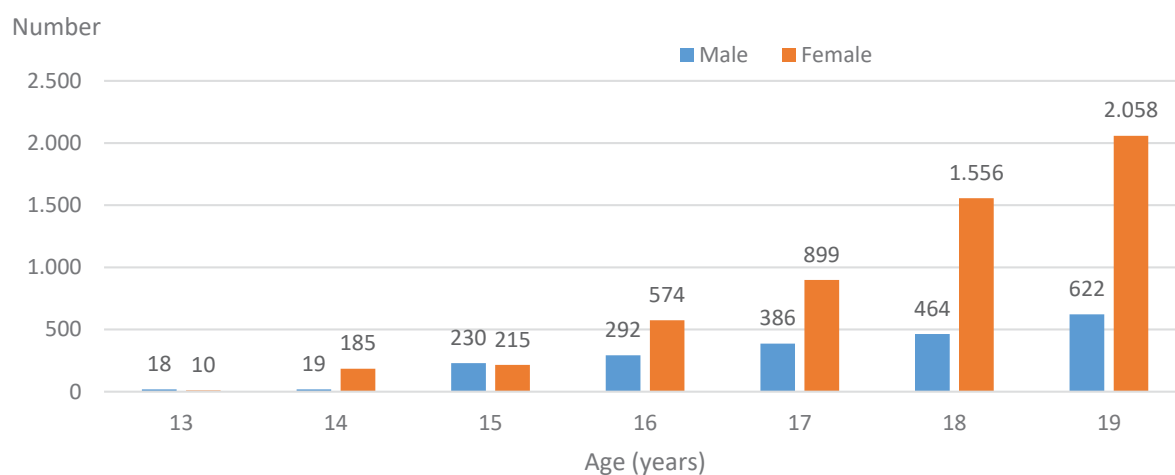
Early marriage

The legal age of marriage in Timor-Leste is 17 years old, although it is likely this will be raised to 18 years in the near future. Child marriage – before the age of 18 – typically puts an end to education for young people, especially girls, limiting their livelihood opportunities and impacting on the health and education of them and their families. It also leads to early childbearing, risking the health of mother and baby, and increasing the fertility rate as having children early usually leads to having more throughout their lifetime.

There are a small number of girls and boys who are married or living with their partners during their teenage years (Figure 10). Of these, there are 1,000 boys and 1,900 girls in a child marriage – married or living together under the age of 18 (1.3% of boys aged 13-17 years and 2.7% of girls aged 13-17).

Marrying during teenage years (13-19 inclusive) is more common for girls in SAR Oecussi (8.7% married or living together), Covalima (8.1%), Manatuto (7.4%) and Manufahi (6.8%). For boys, teenage marriage is more common in Covalima (4.0%) and Manatuto (3.3%) than in other municipalities.

Figure 10: Number married or living together during teenage years, by age and sex, Timor-Leste 2015



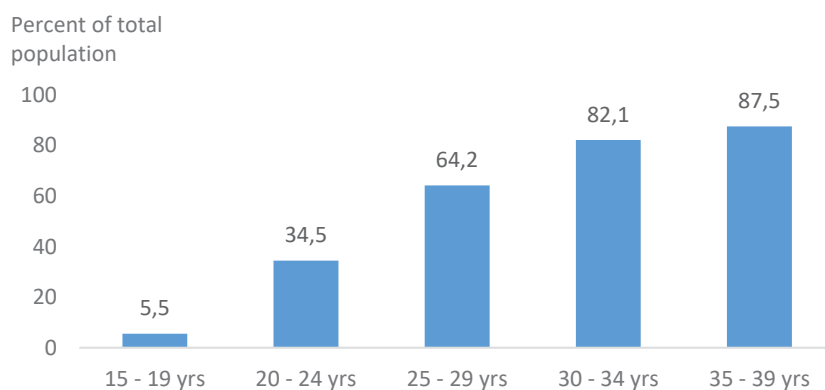
Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Early childbearing

Teenage pregnancy can be a major risk to the life of the mother and baby. Adolescents under the age of 16 face four times the risk of maternal death compared with women over the age of 20. Adolescents who give birth when their own bodies are still developing have a higher chance of having low weight babies, resulting in higher risk of malnutrition, disease and death. The analytical report on mortality that is part of this series reveals that pregnancy-related deaths are well above average among women aged 15-19 years: 789 deaths per 100,000 live births for young women compared to 426 overall. Only women aged 45-49 have a higher death rate at 2,464 deaths per 100,000 live births.

Few women aged 15-19 years have given birth – around 5 per cent, or one in every 20 women (Figure 11). This is down from 6.3 per cent at the time of the 2010 census. For women in their early 20s, more than a third (34.5%) have given birth, down from 41.5 per cent in 2010. This suggests more women are delaying the birth of their first child and is in line with increasing age at first marriage and a likely reflection of increased education opportunities for young people.

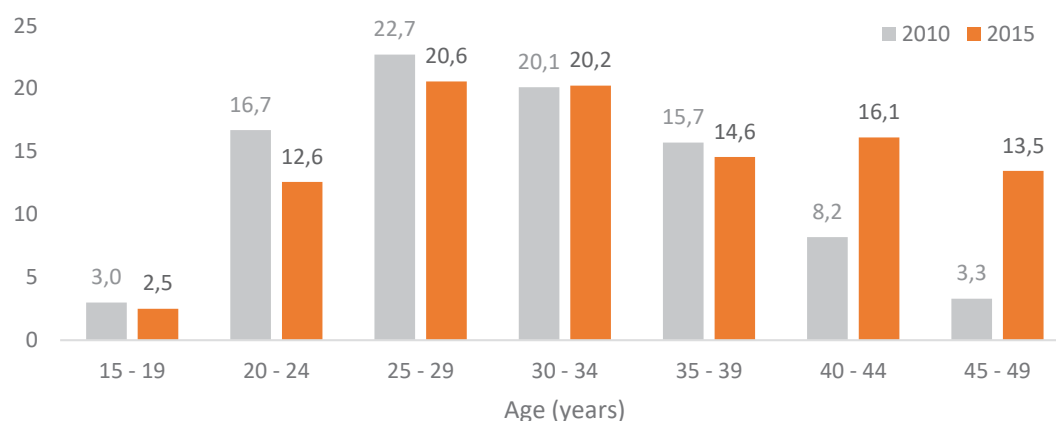
Figure 11: Proportion (%) of women who have given birth, by age group, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

The proportion of women giving birth in the last year suggests a trend towards later childbearing (Figure 12). There are few women aged 15-19 years (only 2.5%) who gave birth in the year prior to the 2015 census, down from 3.0 per cent in 2010. Around one in eight women (12.6%) aged 20-24 have given birth in the year prior to the census, rising to a peak of one in five (20.6%) of 25-29 year-old women.

Figure 12: Proportion (%) of women reporting a birth in the last year, by age group, Timor-Leste 2010 and 2015



Source: 2010 and 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

The population and housing census provides important information on demographic trends, such as births, deaths, marriage and migration. This provides insights into the health needs of the population and enables calculation of important health-related indicators, such as life expectancy, fertility rates and maternal mortality. However, the census is not designed to collect detailed information on the health status of young people. A better source of information is the Demographic and Health Survey, last conducted in Timor-Leste in 2016. That provides information pertinent to youth issues in Timor-Leste, such as the sexual and reproductive health of young people, which is explored in the next chapter.

Chapter 3: Young People’s Sexual and Reproductive Health (DHS)

The population and housing census is not designed to gather information on the sexual and reproductive health of young people. Although, it does provide information on teenage fertility, maternal mortality, age and first marriage and other relevant statistics. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) was conducted in 2016, one year after the census. As a specially designed household survey, it provides unique data for producing national and municipality level statistics relevant to young people in Timor-Leste.

The chapter above covers what the census reveals about age at first marriage and the birth of the first child. The DHS collects similar information, but it is designed to produce slightly different measures, which are not directly comparable.

As shown in Table 5, the census found a narrower gap between age at first marriage (men are 3.4 years older) than the DHS (men are 5.1 years older). The age at first sexual intercourse is discussed below, but as this is younger than the median age at first marriage, the results suggest men and women engage in sexual intercourse before marriage.

The adolescent fertility rate found by the census is slightly higher than the DHS at 54 live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19, compared to 42. The median age at first birth is 23 years.

Table 5: Comparison of marriage and fertility-related indicators from the 2015 Population and Housing Census and the 2016 Demographic and Health Survey, Timor-Leste

Indicator	Source	Male	Female
Singulate mean age at first marriage (years)	Census	28.4	25.0
Median age at first marriage (age in years by which half have been married)	DHS	26.8	21.7
Age at first sexual experience (median age in years among people aged 25-49)	DHS	22.9	20.5
Adolescent fertility rate (live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19)	Census		54
	DHS		42
Age at first birth (median age in years among women aged 25-49)	DHS		23

Age at first sexual intercourse

Statistics on the sexual behaviour of young people is important for policymakers to design services and awareness campaigns to ensure good sexual and reproductive health of the population. The DHS results show the median age at first sexual intercourse is 20.5 years for women age 25-49 and 22.9 years for men, indicating that men wait longer than women - more than two years – before engaging in sexual intercourse for the first time. By age 25, 75 per cent of women have had sexual intercourse and 61 per cent of men.

Comparing the median age at first intercourse with the median age at first marriage can be used as a measure of whether people are engaging in sex before marriage. The median age at first intercourse among women aged 25-49 is one year younger than the median age at first marriage (20.5 years versus 21.7 years). Trends show that the median age at first sexual intercourse for women has dropped from 20.9 years to 20.5, but has remained at 23 years old for men.

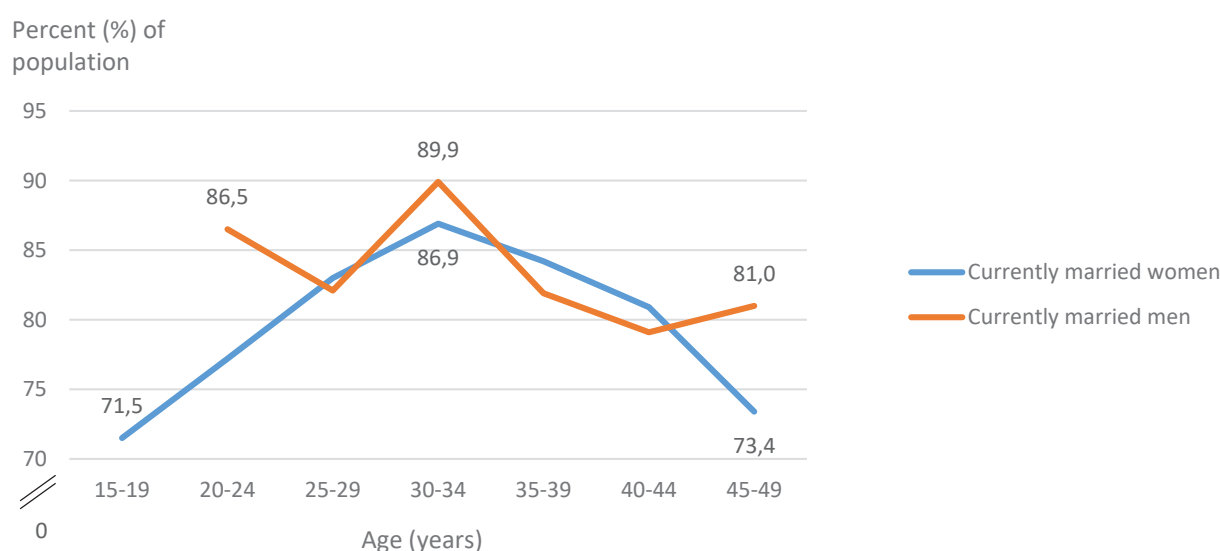
Knowledge and use of contraceptive methods

Family planning provides women and men the option to choose when to have a child. Delaying childbirth in young women and spacing births so they are not more frequent than every two years, increases the chance of positive health outcomes for women and their children.⁸ The use of contraceptives is one way to control the timing and frequency of pregnancy. Male and female condoms are methods of contraception that also provide protection against sexually transmitted infections.

The modern contraceptives available to Timorese women are injectables, implants, intrauterine devices (IUD), the pill, and female sterilization. Male and female condoms and traditional methods of contraception, such as the standards days and Billings methods, are also used. Although few use contraceptives, most women and men have heard of some form of contraceptive method (71.2% of all women aged 15-49 years and 79.1% of all men). Knowledge of modern contraceptive methods is higher among young men than women (Figure 13).

Knowledge of contraception is higher among young men than women

Figure 13: Proportion (%) of currently married women and men aged 15-49 who know at least one modern contraceptive method, Timor-Leste 2016



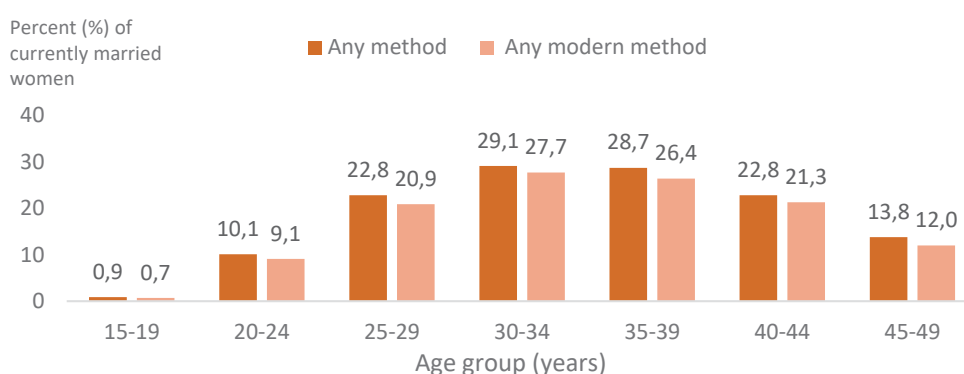
Note: There were too few male respondents aged 15-19 interviewed to produce a reliable estimate of contraceptive knowledge for that age group. Modern methods include female sterilization, IUD, injectables, implants, the pill, and male condom; natural methods of family planning including standard days method (SDM), the Billings method, and lactational amenorrhea method (LAM); and other methods including male sterilization, female condom, and emergency contraception.

Source: 2016 Demographic and Health Survey of Timor-Leste

Actual use of contraceptives is much lower among currently married women aged 15-24 than married women in older age groups (Figure 14). On average, 16.1 per cent of currently married and sexually active unmarried women aged 15-49 use some form of contraception, most being modern methods, which are used by 14.8 per cent of women. However, among adolescents and young women the use of modern methods is 0.7 per cent and 9.1 per cent respectively.

⁸ World Health Organization. 2014. Contraception (fact sheet).

Figure 14: Proportion (%) of currently married women and sexually active unmarried women aged 15-49 that currently use contraception, Timor-Leste 2016



Source: 2016 Demographic and Health Survey of Timor-Leste

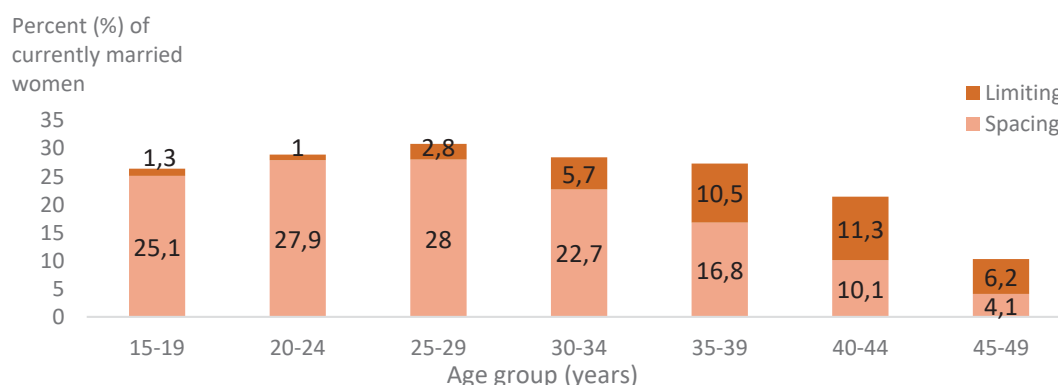
Need for family planning

The DHS asks women aged 15-49 a range of questions to gauge to what extent they wanted family planning and could access information and services. Very few women have the correct knowledge of their fertile period: 8.4 per cent of all women aged 15-49. This essential knowledge is even lower among young women with only 3.8 per cent of those aged 15-19 aware of when in their cycle they are likely to fall pregnant, and still less than one in ten (7.8%) of women aged 20-24 years.

Unmet need for family planning is a measure that indicates the proportion of women who should be using contraception because they want to (or medically need to) postpone or to stop having children, but are not currently using any. Overall, in 2016, a quarter (25.3%) of Timorese have an unmet need for family planning, down from 32 per cent in 2009-10. Unmet need is above average among young women with 26.4 per cent of currently married women aged 15-19 lacking needed access to contraception and 28.9 per cent of those aged 20-24 years (Figure 15).

Young people are the ones most in need of family planning

Figure 15: Unmet need for family planning among currently married women aged 15-49, Timor-Leste 2016



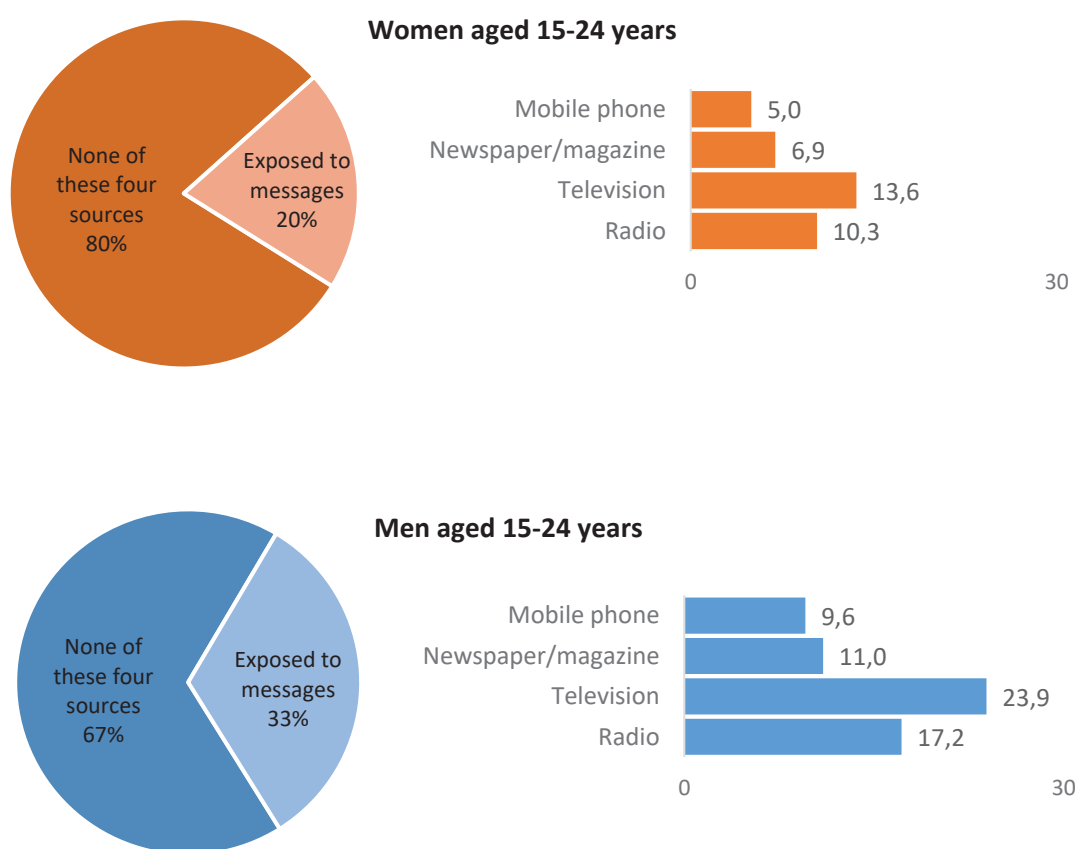
Note: spacing involves postponing the birth of the next child in order to leave adequate time between pregnancies; limiting is when a woman wishes to have no more children in the future.

Source: 2016 Demographic and Health Survey of Timor-Leste

Sources and delivery of family planning information and services

Getting information about sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, ensures young women and men are informed about their bodies, their health and their choices. Young women and men are the least exposed to family planning messages on mainstream media compared to other age groups. On average, 25 per cent of women aged 15-49 years have received family planning messages through one form of media or another, and 38 per cent of men. Among youth, the proportion of women getting family planning messages are only one in five (20%) and 33 per cent of men (Figure 16). Television and radio are the most common channels for receiving this information for both young women and young men, followed by newspaper and mobile phone.

Figure 16: Exposure to family planning messages among young people aged 15-24 years, by sex and type of media, Timor-Leste 2016



Note: respondents could select more than one source of media.
Source: 2016 Demographic and Health Survey of Timor-Leste

The DHS also found that few young women who are not already using contraception received a visit from a fieldworker who discussed family planning (5.4% of women aged 15-19 and 14.6% of those aged 20-24). An equally small proportion of women who visited a health facility in the past 12 months discussed family planning while there (4.8% of women aged 15-19 and 15.1% of those aged 20-24).

HIV/AIDS related knowledge, attitudes and behaviour

Overall, 47 per cent of women and 66 per cent of Timorese men have heard of HIV or AIDS and 10 per cent of women have a comprehensive knowledge of HIV (how it is transmitted, etc.) and 16 per cent of men. The proportions who have heard of HIV or AIDS are similar among young people, with 51 per

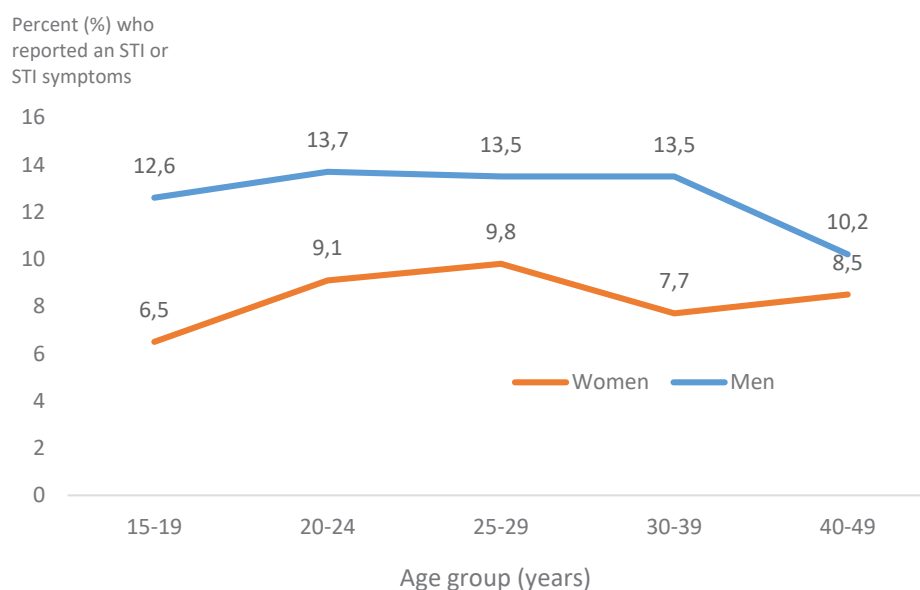
cent of women aged 15-24 having heard of the virus, and 64 per cent of young men. Comprehensive knowledge of HIV is low among young women. Less than one in ten (7.7%) understand a healthy looking person can have HIV and reject common misconceptions such as HIV can be transmitted by mosquito bites. Such knowledge is more evident among young men, although it is still only few (14.6%) that have comprehensive knowledge.

Discriminatory attitudes towards HIV are more prevalent among young women. Three quarters (74.6%) of women aged 15-24 years believe children with HIV should not be able to attend school with children who are HIV negative and/or they would not buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper who has HIV. Among young men, such discriminatory attitudes are also evident, but it is closer to half the population (53.8%) who hold such views. Discriminatory attitudes vary little by age and young women and men hold similar views to those in older age groups.

Sexually transmitted infections

The proportion of young women and men who reported having a sexually transmitted infection (STI), or the symptoms of one, were 8.6 per cent and 13.4 per cent respectively. Self-reported prevalence of STIs is at a similar level across age groups (Figure 17). A concerning finding from the DHS is that 65 per cent of all women who had or suspected they had an STI sought no advice or treatment and 45 per cent of men.

Figure 17: Self-reported prevalence of sexually transmitted infections, by sex and age, Timor-Leste 2016



Source: 2016 Demographic and Health Survey of Timor-Leste

Chapter 4: Young people with a Disability

Youth with a disability is one of the target groups of the National Youth Policy (2016) with specific interventions related to employment and civic participation. The population and housing census collects data that can be used to identify young people with a disability and compare their situation with the rest of the population. Information is collected based on adapted versions of the international standard Washington Group short set of questions on ability to function in four areas: walking, seeing, hearing, and intellectual/mental condition (Figure 18).⁹

In 2015, disability representing 3.4 per cent of the male population and 3.1 per cent of the female population.¹⁰ The most prevalent form of difficulty for both men and women is with their sight, followed by difficulties walking. there are just over 38,000 people in Timor-Leste with a disability.

Disability is most commonly found among older age groups in Timor-Leste as the functional areas measured through the census are prone to deterioration with age. Among the youth population, less than one per cent reported some form of difficulty with walking, seeing, hearing or intellectual/mental condition (876 young men and 686 young women aged 15-24 years). This is a much lower estimate than was found through the 2010 population census, which identified around 2,400 young people aged 15-24 with some form of difficulty in one of more of the four domains – about 1,000 more young people than in 2015, despite population growth during those five years). The questions were the same in both censuses and so factors, such as interviewer training and quality control may have influenced the results.

In the absence of a dedicated survey on disability, the census questions provide some useful information to guide policies. However, they have their limitations and it is likely the findings underestimate the prevalence of disability. For example, the questions often fail to identify disability among infants as they focus around mobility and babies do not walk. They do not identify physical differences and they fail to capture disabilities such as spinal tuberculosis where people might be living with a severe spinal deformity but can pass all of the questions asked around level of difficulty.

Severity and causes of disability

Disabilities vary in form and severity. A person could have one or more forms of disability and these may have started from birth, be the result of an illness or accident, or have occurred as a result of aging. Difficulty with each of the functional area is measured on a four point sliding scale: ‘no difficulty’; ‘some difficulty’; ‘a lot of difficulty’; and ‘cannot do at all’. People who report having ‘a lot of difficulty’, or ‘cannot do at all’ are usually considered severely disabled and may require particular tools, care or services to assist them.

Young men aged 15-24 are more likely to have some form of difficulty or disability than young women in all four of the functional areas measured (Figure 19). The most common form of difficulty is walking,

Figure 18: Questions used in the census to identify people with a disability, Timor-Leste 2015

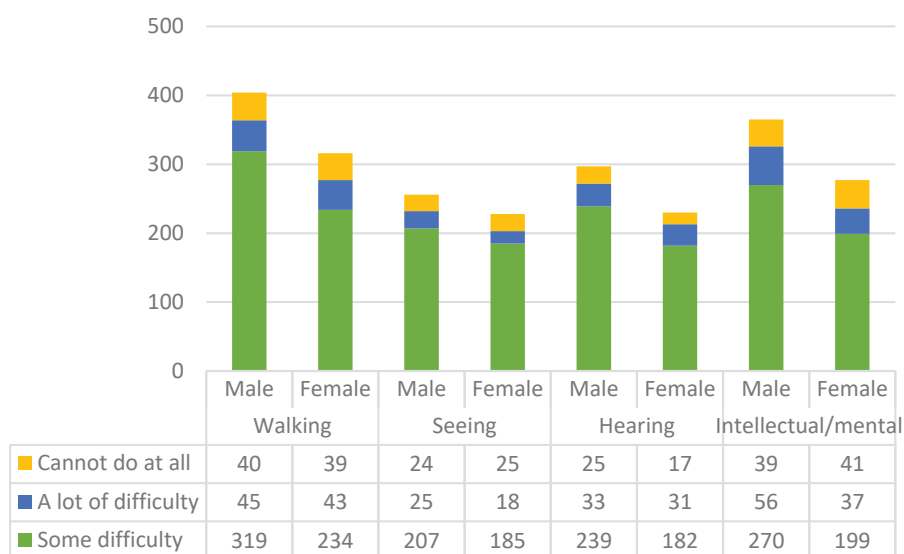
Disability				
How much difficulty does (NAME) have in				Cause of main difficulty
Walking	Seeing	Hearing	Intellectual/mental condition	
Codes are below	Codes are below	Codes are below	Codes are below	Codes are below
P12	P13	P14	P15	P16
P12 - P15 : Disability 1. No – no difficulty 2. Yes-some difficulty 3. Yes-a lot of difficulty 4. Yes-cannot do at all				
P16 : Cause of difficulty 1. Not Disabled 2. Congenital / at birth 3. Short term health condition (less than 6 months) 4. Long term health condition 5. Conflict 6. Transport accident 7. Occupational injury 8. Age 9. Other				

⁹ Washington Group on Disability Statistics: Short set of disability questions. <http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/short-set-of-disability-questions/>

¹⁰ The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 15 per cent of the world’s population lives with some form of disability and 2-4 per cent have significant difficulties in functioning (http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report/en/).

impacting on 404 young men and 316 young women. Intellectual disabilities are the second most common form among young men and women with 365 and 277 respectively reporting difficulties.

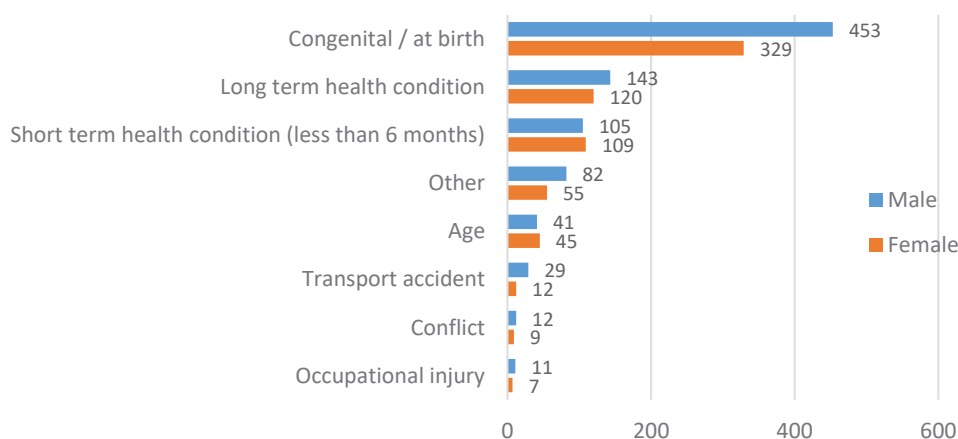
Figure 19: Form and severity of difficulty reported by the youth population (aged 15-24 years), Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

The cause of the most severe or main difficulty was gathered for each person with difficulty in one or more of the four domains. Around half of the young men and women have had difficulties since birth (Figure 20). This is especially the case among young men of which more than half (52%) have congenital conditions. Long and short term health conditions are also a major cause of difficulties.

Figure 20: Cause of the most severe or main difficulty (number of people), by sex, Timor-Leste 2015

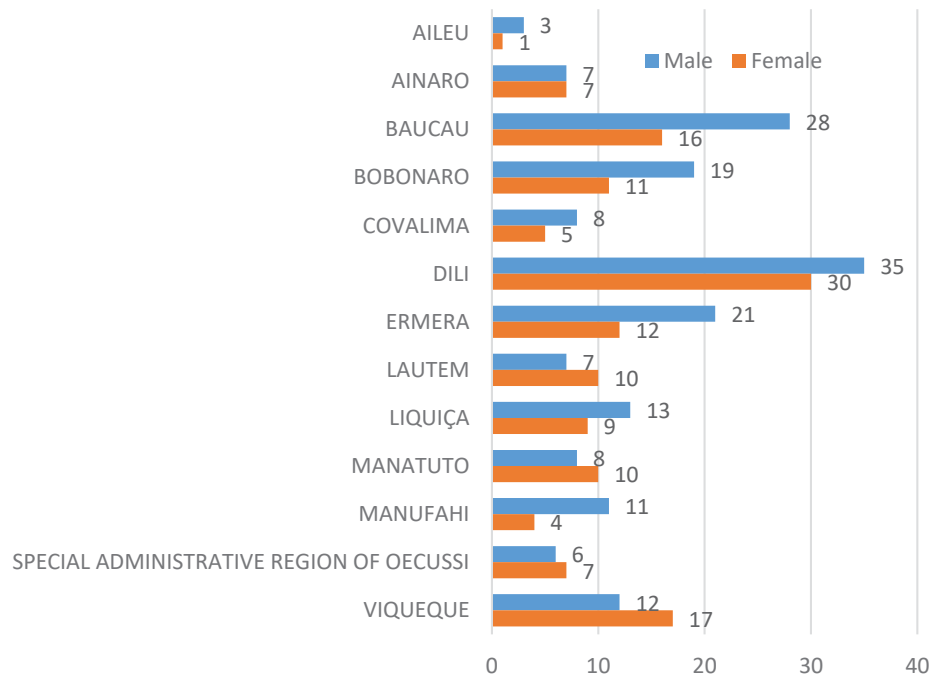


Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

In terms of severity of disability, those who are having ‘a lot of difficulty’ or ‘cannot do at all’ are considered to be severely disabled. The number of severely disabled youth is 178 young men and 139 young women.

Figure 21 shows where young people with a disability are located in the country. Most are in Dili (35 young men and 30 young women). There are a relatively large number of young men with a disability in Baucau (28) and Ermera (21), and a relatively large concentration of young women with a disability in Viqueque (17) and Baucau (16).

Figure 21: Young people (aged 15-24 years) with a disability, by municipality, Timor-Leste 2015



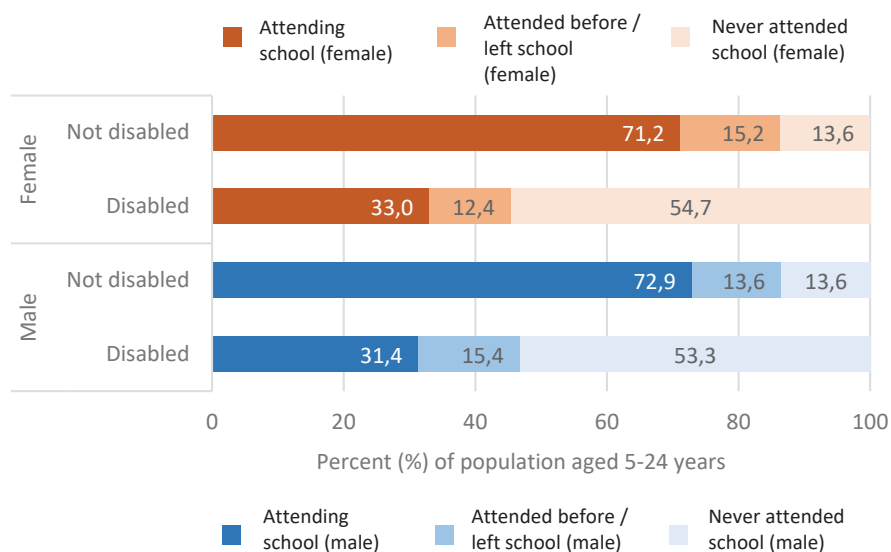
Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Although this is most likely a significant underestimate, the census data still provides the opportunity to compare the education and employment status of these young people with a disability to other young people.

Disability and education

Disabled children and young people are disadvantaged when it comes to education (Figure 22). They are less likely to be attending school and far more likely to have never attended than the population who are not disabled. More than 70 per cent of girls and young women aged 5-24 years without a disability are still attending school compared to only one third (33%) of those with a disability. More than half (54.7%) of girls and young women who have a disability have never attended school compared to 14 per cent of girls and women with no disability. The situation is much the same for boys and young men. Disabled children are clearly not getting sufficient access to school or the special education they need.

Figure 22: School attendance by persons aged 5-24 years, by disability status and sex, Timor-Leste, 2015



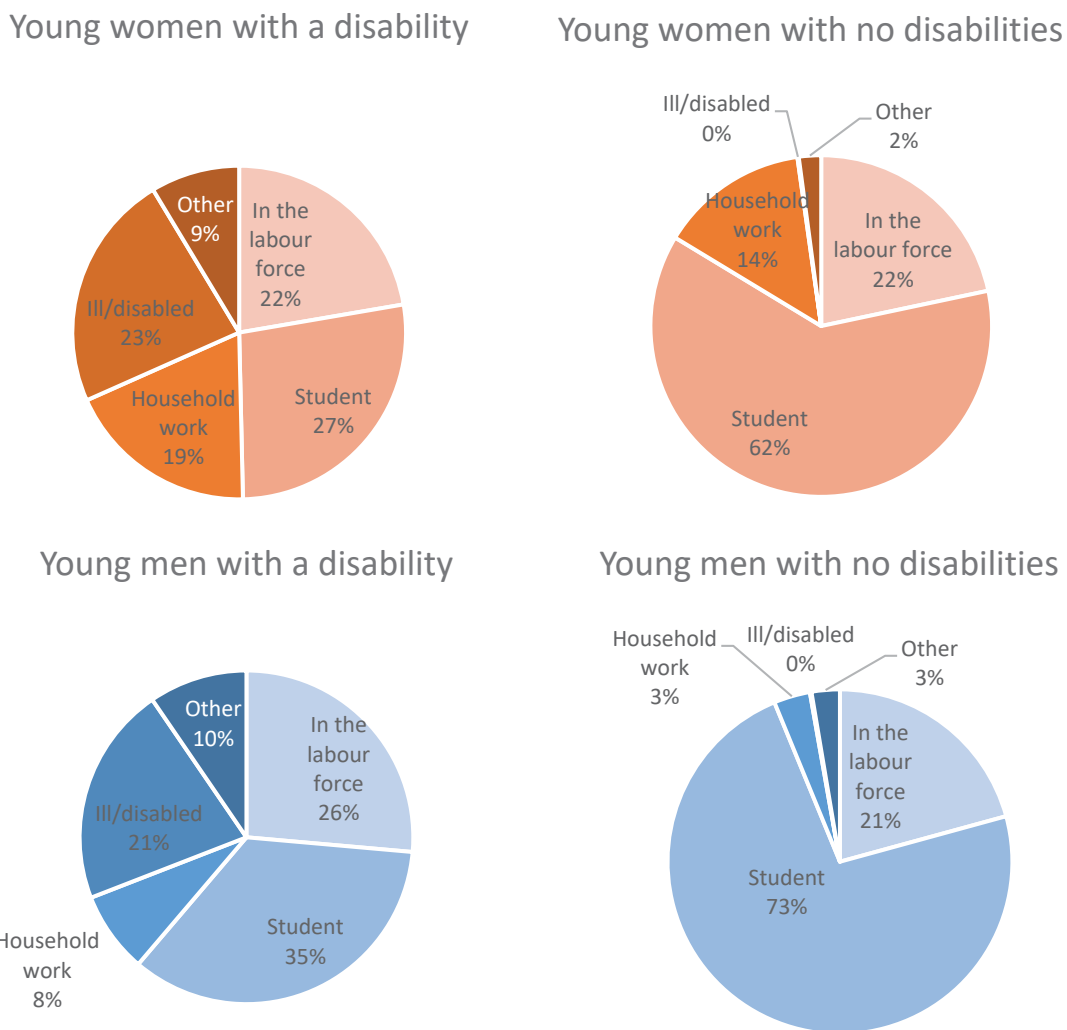
Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

It is not surprising then that literacy rates are much lower among the disabled population than for people with no disabilities. Only 21 per cent of disabled males aged five years and over, and 11 per cent of females are literate, compared to 67 per cent and 61 per cent respectively. However, it has to be taken into consideration that the majority of people with a disability are older persons, and literacy rates are lower among this group.

Disability and work

Young people with and without a disability have a similar level of engagement in the labour force (Figure 23). Two in every five young women with and without a disability are in the labour force (employed or unemployed). The labour force participation rate is slightly higher for young men with a disability (26%) than for those without (20%). Most young people aged 15-24 without a disability are still students, however those with a disability are, as expected, more likely to have an economic status of ill or disabled, household work, or 'other' than those with no disability.

Figure 23: Economic activity status of young women and men (aged 15-24 years) with a disability compared to those with no disabilities, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Chapter 5: Education Attainment and Literacy of Young People

The education system in Timor-Leste consists of four levels: a) Pre-School Education, b) Basic Education, c) Secondary Education and d) Higher Education. Pre-school education is for children from three to five years old to prepare them for basic education. Basic education starts at six and lasts nine years. According to the Strategic Plan for Education, it is universal, compulsory and free. After basic education, students may enrol in secondary education which has a three-year duration and is optional. Secondary education has two separate modalities: Secondary General Education and Technical-Vocational Secondary Education. Students who have finished secondary education successfully may enter higher education either in university or in higher technical education.

In the census, a distinction was made in basic education between primary/basic education and pre-secondary/basic education. This distinction was kept in the current report for the sake of comparability between the current census and the 2010 census and because internationally, primary education normally refers to the six-year cycle starting at 6 years of age. The specific ages which correspond to the educational levels are the following:

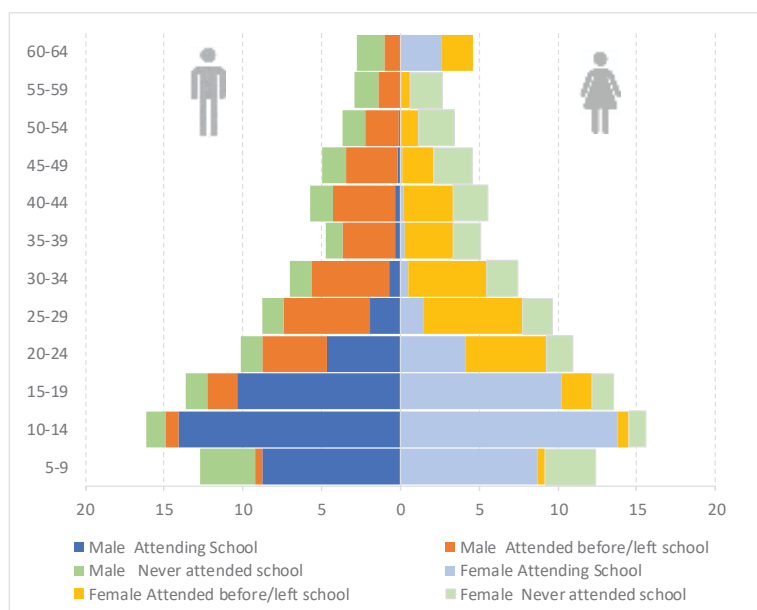
- Pre-primary school: 3-5 years
- Primary school: 6-11 years (Cycles 1 and 2 of Basic Education)
- Pre-secondary school: 12-14 years (Cycle 3 of Basic Education)
- Secondary school: 15-17 years (Cycle 3 of Basic Education)
- Tertiary (Polytechnic / Diploma and University): 18-23 years

This chapter examines the education attainment and literacy rates of young people. It draws from the analytical report on education that is part of this series, which provides a more comprehensive analysis of education in Timor-Leste.

School attendance

An important indicator for a country's performance in the field of education is the percentage of persons in each age group that are attending school (Figure 24). As could be expected, attendance is highest among those aged 10-14 years, although even for this age group attendance is not universal. The majority of adolescents (age 15-19 years) are still in the education system and about two in every five young adults (age 20-24) are still attending formal education.

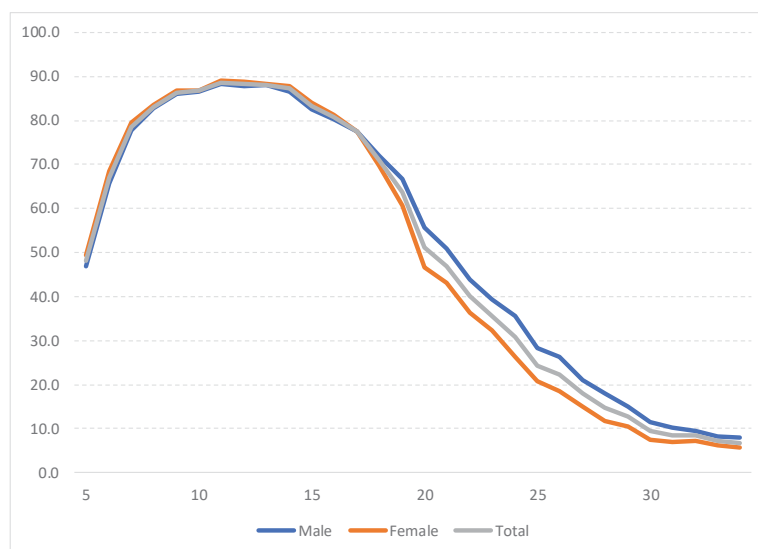
Figure 24: Population pyramid by percentage school attendance, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: Analytical Report on Education, 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

The proportion of people attending school at each age for those aged 5 years to 34 years shows that around ten per cent of children never make it to the formal education system and young people start to leave school from around age 15 (Figure 25). There is not much of a gender gap until age 20 years, when the proportion of young women attending school begins to decline at a faster rate than it does for young men. By age 30 years, nine in every ten women and men have finished schooling.

Figure 25: Percentage of persons 5-34 years of age who are currently attending school by sex and age, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: Analytical Report on Education, 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Secondary and tertiary attendance ratios

(excerpt from the education analytical report in this series)

During the 2015 census, 61,139 persons were following a secondary education, of which 31,652 males and 29,487 females. Although the appropriate age for secondary education is 15 to 17, in this analysis age 16 – 18 is used... because of the particular way the census questions were posed (retrospective rather than current). In this age bracket, 26,083 persons were in secondary school, of which 12,144 males and 13,939 females.

Key measures of attendance

The **Net Attendance Ratio (NAR)** is the percentage of children/young adults attending a particular level of schooling appropriate for their age. For example, the tertiary NAR is calculated as follows: Number of young adults of tertiary education age (18-23 years), who attend tertiary education divided by the number of children of tertiary education age in the population.

The **Gross Attendance Ratio (GAR)** is the total number of students attending a particular level of education, regardless of their age, expressed as a percentage of the total official school age population. For example, the secondary school GAR is calculated as the number of students of any particular age, who attend secondary school divided by the number of children of secondary school age (15-17 years) in the population. Therefore, if there are many students above or below the standard age range, the GAR can exceed 100 per cent.

The net attendance ratio of secondary school currently stands at 32.8 percent, with a higher percentage for females (35.9%) than for males (29.9%). This higher NAR results in a gender parity

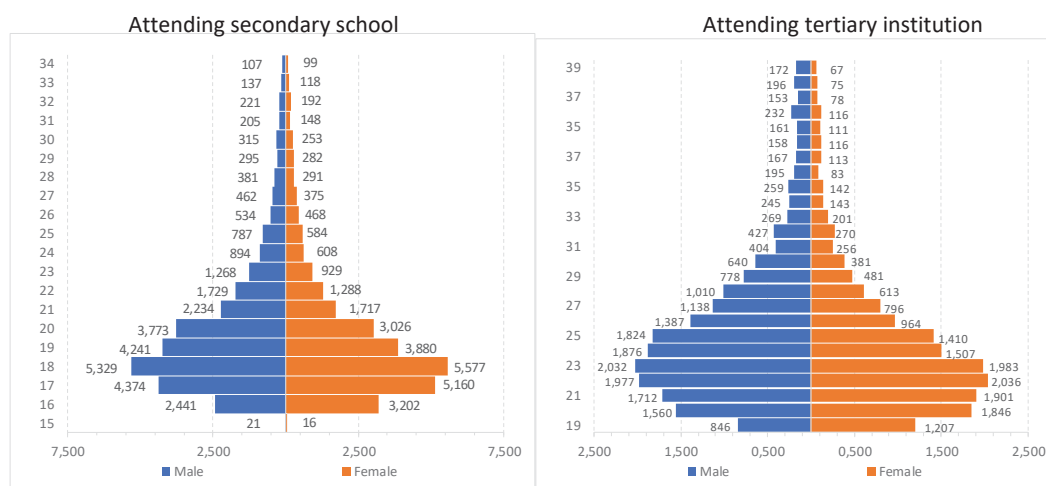
index of 1.20. It is difficult to ascertain what exactly causes the disparity between males and females in secondary education attendance. The assessment report by the Ministry of Education (2015), under auspices of UNESCO, assumes that the higher attendance of female students is most likely caused by the higher repetition rate of boys in the lower education levels. In addition, male students have the tendency to enter secondary education at a slightly lower rate than female students. The NAR on the basis of the census is slightly higher than the Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) for secondary education from the Education Management Information system (28.8 percent for both sexes; 24.7 percent for males and 33.2 percent for females).¹¹

The low net attendance ratio does not mean that the rest of young persons between the ages of 16 to 18 years old are out of school. Among the 79,475 persons in this age group, 7,836 never attended school (9.9%) and 10,646 attended school before or had left school prematurely (13.4%).

Gross attendance ratios for secondary education are more than twice as high as net attendance ratios, indicating that a large portion of secondary students fall outside the bracket of appropriate ages. The GAR based on the 2015 census equals 76.3 percent. It is interesting that the GPI based on the GAR, is below one (.98), indicating that overall, males have a somewhat higher gross attendance ratio (77.1) than females (75.5). The higher gender parity in the NAR may ... be due to a higher repetition rate of male students. Also in the 2010 census, the same differences in GPI's based on the net and gross attendance ratios were observed, suggesting that this is not a recent trend.

The youth population (ages 15-24 years) are at the stage of their life where they may be attending secondary school or undertaking a tertiary education, or have exited the education system to pursue employment or start a family. There are many secondary school and tertiary students outside of the youth age bracket, as shown in Figure 26 below.

Figure 26: Population pyramid showing the age and sex of people attending secondary and tertiary education, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: Analytical Report on Education, 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Literacy and languages

Literacy and numeracy are essential skills for functioning in society and the building blocks for realising the full potential of people both young and old. Illiterate youth – those who cannot read and write in

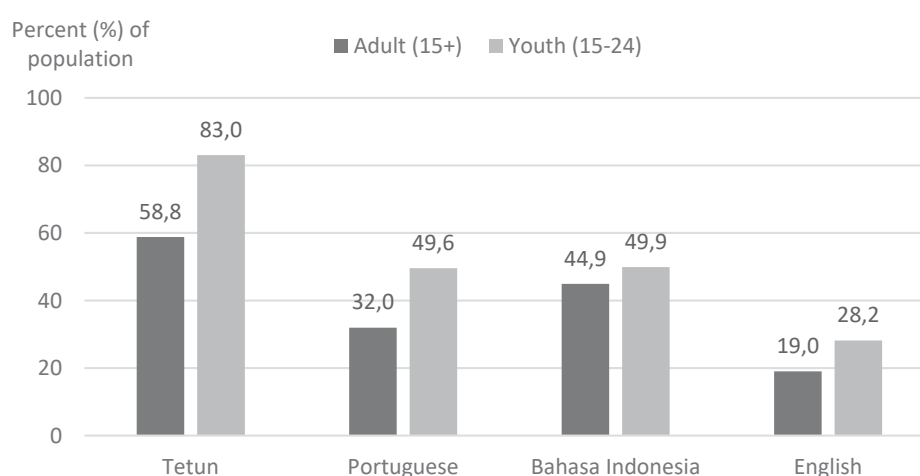
¹¹ The Net Enrolment Ratio is the number of children enrolled in a particular level of education (e.g. primary school) who belong to the age group that officially corresponds to that level of education, divided by the total population of the same age group.

any of the four working languages (Tetun, Bahasa Indonesia, Portuguese or English) – are one of the target groups of the National Youth Policy (2016) and ending illiteracy one of its aims.

Literacy is measured through the population census by asking if each person aged 5 and above can speak, read or write in Tetun, Bahasa Indonesia, Portuguese or English language? The possible answer categories were: ‘1. Do not speak, read or write’, ‘2. Speak only’, ‘3. Read only’, ‘4. Speak and read only’ and ‘5. Speak, read and write’. A person was considered literate in a language if he/she could speak, read and write in the language.

Literacy has been rapidly improving in Timor-Leste. The adult literacy rate is 68.7 per cent for men and 60.2 per cent for women. By comparison, the youth literacy rate is much higher at 84.7 for young men and 84.1 for young women, illustrating the improvement as well as closure of the gender gap. Tetun is the most widely used of the four working languages for both adults and young people, followed by Bahasa Indonesia, Portuguese and then English (Figure 27). There is no gender gap in the youth literacy rate, a significant improvement over the adult literacy rate (Table 6).

Figure 27: Adult and youth literacy rates, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Table 6: Adult and youth literacy rates, by sex, Timor-Leste 2015

	Sex	Literacy rate (%)			
		Tetun	Portuguese	Bahasa Indonesia	English
Adult (15+)	Male	67.2	35.4	48.6	21.2
	Female	58.8	28.6	41.2	16.9
Youth (15-24)	Male	83.6	49.7	49.2	28.2
	Female	83.0	49.4	50.6	28.2

Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Chapter 6: Young People in Work

Finding a job or a secure livelihood is a major goal of most young people. In places where jobs are scarce, many young people look to other sources of income. Some grow food for their own consumption, with little reliance on the cash economy. With improved access to higher levels of education, a growing number of young Timorese now expect to find a job in the formal sector. A failure to find work can lead job seekers to experience frustration and depression, increase their mistrust in others and cause them to not engage with their communities and the political system.¹² Frustration with the lack of jobs, in some cases, can lead to violence and crime.¹³

The purpose of this chapter is to make use of the information from the census on work, paid employment, and other activities, such as looking for work, to show how young people are faring in their search for work. It draws on the analysis done in the labour force analytical report but with the focus on all young people. This chapter also draws on the education analytical report to present findings on young people who are neither in education, training or employment (NEET rate), an important measure for identifying the number and characteristics of young people who are not in work or preparing themselves for work.

How is work measured in the population and housing census?

The 2010 census asked everyone aged 10 years and over about what work they do and what other activities they are doing if they are not working. This information was used to identify their occupation and the industry or sector they work in. The concept of work or employment covers all work undertaken for pay, profit or family gain, including own-use production, although the national definition used in the Labour Force Survey – the main source of information on employment and unemployment – excludes own-use production in accordance with international definitions.

Other information was sought on the person's main and secondary economic activity over the last 12 months. For the question about 'what kind of work or activity do you usually do' (main economic activity), those without work were asked whether they were available for work and if so, whether they were either seeking work or not (to determine unemployment). If they were not working and not available for work, they were asked why they are outside the labour force (e.g. student, doing household work).

When it comes to work and employment, the population of Timor-Leste, indeed any country, can be divided into three mutually exclusive categories:

- **'employed'**: persons aged 15 years and above who have undertaken work for pay, profit or family gain for at least one hour during the week (7 days) immediately prior to the census. This included people engaged in own-use production, although international standards consider this form of work to be different from paid employment.
- **'unemployed'**: persons aged 15 years and above who are not employed, are currently available for work and have been actively seeking work
- **'outside the labour force'**: people who are not participating in the labour force – that is they are neither employed or unemployed. There are a variety of reasons why someone may be outside the labour force: e.g. being a student, too young to work, retired, homemaker, an illness or disability prevents them from being able to work, or they choose not to work. To be considered outside of the labour force the person must not be engaged in any form of employment work (for one hour or more a week) or be actively seeking employment work.

¹² See Chapter Four: Jobs and Social Cohesion in World Development Report 2013: Jobs. World Bank, Washington DC, pp 126-144.

¹³ World Development Report 2013: Jobs. World Bank, Washington DC, p 132-33.

Most young men and women are not participating in the labour force (neither employed nor unemployed) because they are still in education or training. The labour force participation rate for young people is 25.9 per cent for men aged 15-24 and 21.7 per cent for women (Table 7). These rates are much higher for the total working population, 67.9 per cent of men aged 15 and above are in the labour force compared to 46.2 per cent of women.

Unemployment, which is discussed in detail below, is a major issue for young people, particularly men. There are more than 4,400 young men out of work who are seeking employment work, representing nearly 4 per cent of the male youth population and 14 per cent of the male youth labour force. There are 2,700 young women in the same situation, which is around 2 per cent of the female youth population. Of the 19,000 unemployed men, 23 per cent of them are young men; and of the 7,000 unemployed women, 39 per cent are young women.

Table 7: Key labour force participation indicators for the youth population (age 15-24) compared to the total working age population (15+), Timor-Leste, 2015

Youth population (15-24)				
	Men	Share of male population (%)	Women	Share of female population (%)
Total population	121,842	100.0	120,501	100.0
In the labour force	31,567	25.9	26,133	21.7
(1) Employed <i>(includes subsistence)</i>	27,145	22.3	23,436	19.4
(2) Unemployed <i>(looking for work)</i>	4,422	3.6	2,697	2.2
Not in the labour force	90,275	74.1	94,368	78.3
Unemployment rate		14.0		10.3

Total working age population (15+)				
	Men	Share of male population (%)	Women	Share of female population (%)
Total population	360,217	100.0	357,336	100.0
In the labour force	244,637	67.9	164,972	46.2
(1) Employed <i>(includes subsistence)</i>	225,304	62.5	158,027	44.2
(2) Unemployed <i>(looking for work)</i>	19,333	5.4	6,945	1.9
Not in the labour force	115,580	32.1	192,364	53.8
Unemployment rate		5.2		4.2

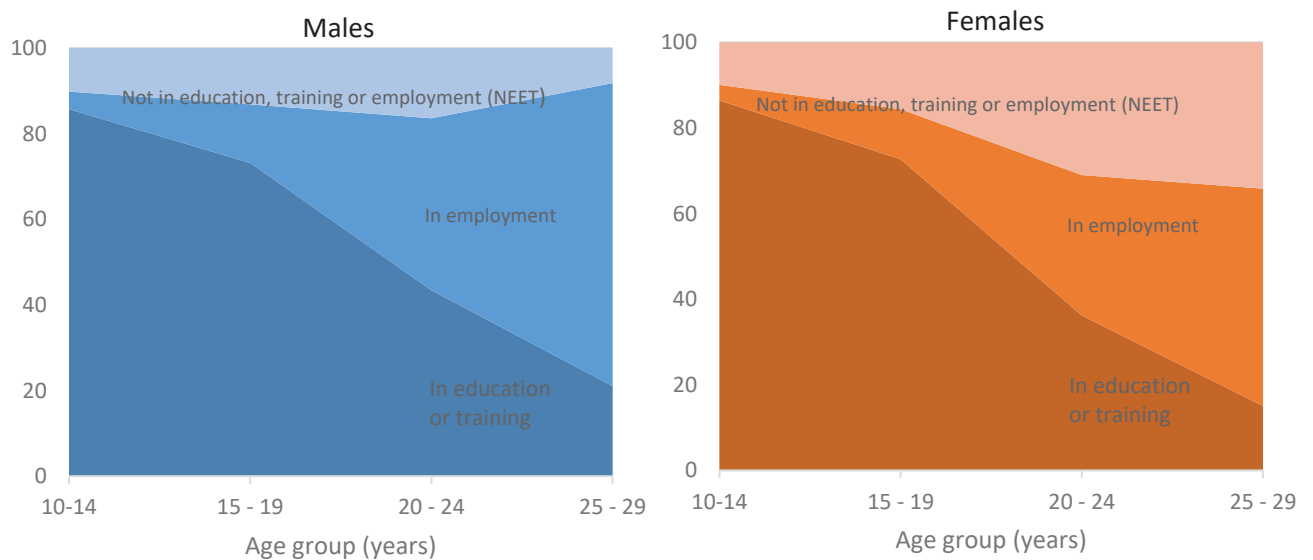
Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

What are young people doing with their time?

Young people may be still in education, already working, seeking work (unemployed), or not engaged in the labour force for other reasons, such as being a full-time homemaker. As illustrated in Figure 28 below, boys and girls aged 10-14 are predominantly still in education or training (86% of both boys and

girls), with a few already in employment (4%) and some who are not attending school or working (10%). In the older age groups, gender related patterns begin to emerge. The same proportion are in education or training (73% of adolescent boys and girls), but slightly more young men are in employment than women (14% and 12% respectively), and the reverse is true for those in neither education, training nor employment (NEET) with 13 per cent of adolescent men compared to 15 per cent of adolescent women.

Figure 28: Proportion (%) of the population in education or training, employment, or neither in education, training or employment (NEET), by sex and age, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

The NEET rate is an important measure for monitoring the situation of youth and is one of the SDG indicators under Goal 8 on Decent Work. It is explored further in Chapter 7 below.

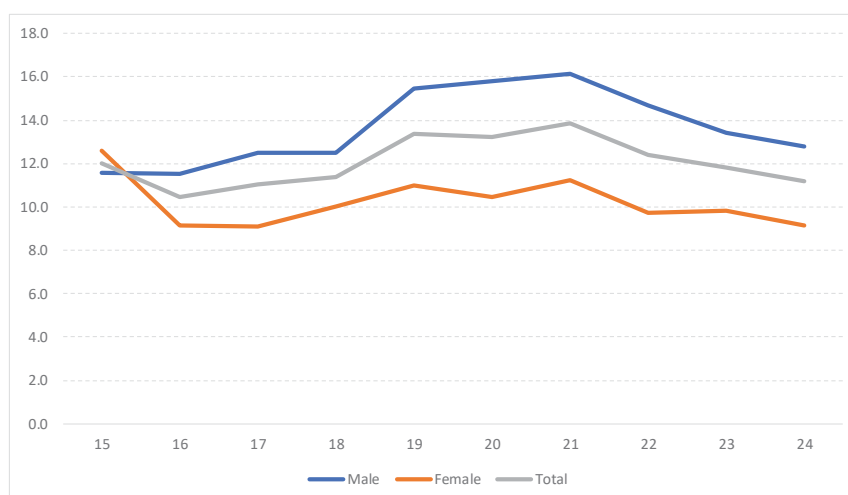
Youth unemployment

(excerpt from the education analytical report in this series)

Young people comprise about 14 percent of the total labour force, but they make up 27.1 percent of the total unemployed. According to the analytical census report on the labour force, youth unemployment stood at 12.3 percent. The unemployment rate for young males is slightly higher (14.0 per cent) than for young females (10.3 per cent).

Dili municipality has the highest youth unemployment (27.0 percent), with Lautem being the next highest (18.5 percent) followed by Baucau (12.7 percent). The lowest youth unemployment was in Oecussi, where slightly more than 5 percent of youth were unemployed. Figure 7.4 shows the age pattern of youth unemployment by sex. After age 15, unemployment is consistently higher for males than for females. Unemployment rates climb from age 16 till 21 and then gradually start declining.

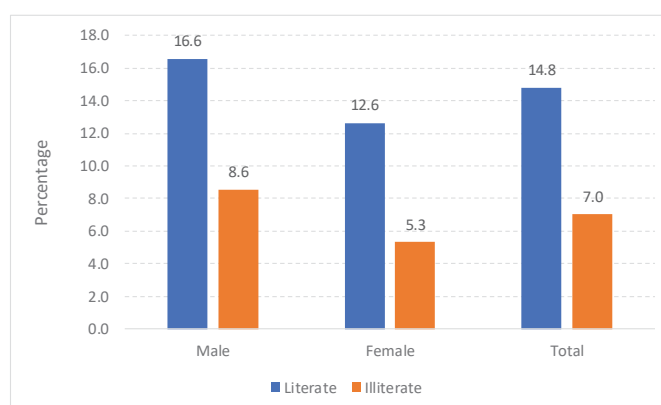
Figure 29: Age-specific unemployment rates among persons 15 - 24 years by sex, Timor-Leste, 2015



Source: Analytical Report on Education, 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

One would expect that youngsters who are illiterate would have more difficulties entering the labour market, but the results from the census show an opposite trend (Figure 30). Reported youth unemployment was found to be much higher for young persons who were literate than for those who were illiterate.

Figure 30: Youth unemployment rate by sex and literacy, Timor-Leste, 2015



Source: Analytical Report on Education, 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

The poorest segments of society in developing countries simply cannot afford to be fully unemployed for an extensive period of time and will engage in whatever work becomes available. Obviously, the pressure to accept any type of work will be much stronger among the poorest segments of society, to which illiterate youth normally belong. As such, it is highly probable that a selection process is operating in which people with no education will do anything and accept any form of work to earn any income at all. Moreover, illiterate youth belong more to the group of subsistence farmers, who – despite the low yields of their work – are working.

Who is most at risk of being unemployed?

The link between education and youth unemployment has been analysed using logistic regression. One of the advantages of a multivariate approach is that the net effect of each explanatory variable can be shown, after controlling for all other variables in the regression equation. The dependent variable in the logit model was whether a person in the age category 15 – 24 years old, who was in the labour force (i.e. either employed or unemployed) was unemployed at the time of the census.

The explanatory variables were sex, age (in single years)¹⁴, municipality, urban/rural place of residence, disability, and educational level.

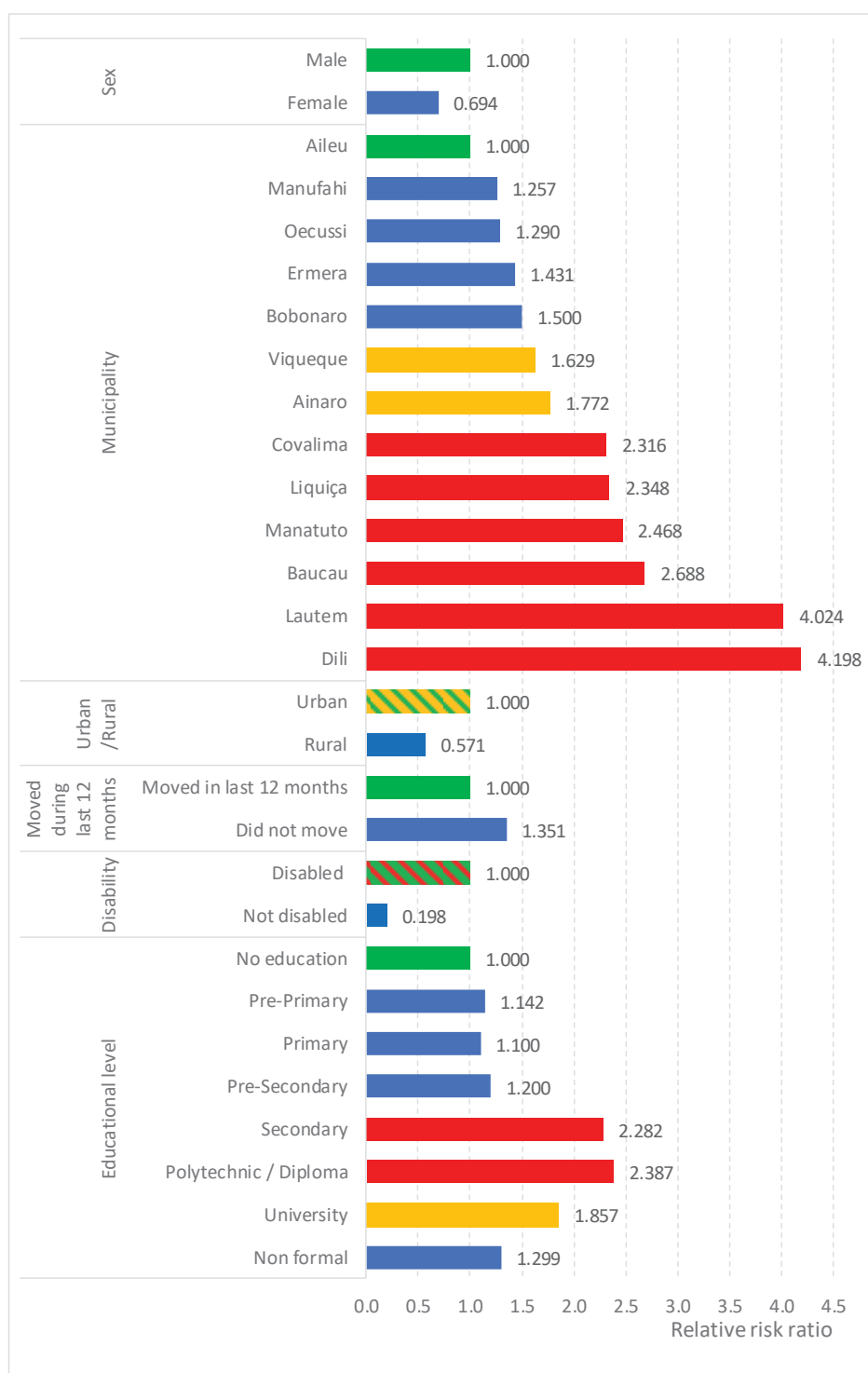
Figure 31 shows the relative risks, which are the exponentials of the regression coefficients in the regression model... the reference categories were given a green colour in the graph and the high and the medium risk categories red and orange colours. If a relative risk (RR) has a higher value than one, it means that persons belonging to that category are more likely to be unemployed than people belonging to the reference category of that particular explanatory variable.

After controlling for the other intervening factors, young females have a much lower risk of unemployment than young males (RR = .694). Dili is clearly the municipality where young people are most likely to be out of work. The relative risk means that young people residing in Dili are 4.2 times more likely to be unemployed than in Aileu. Lautem municipality comes second with a relative risk of 4.0. Note that after controlling for other factors Oecussi is no longer the municipality with the lowest youth unemployment as it has a higher relative risk than Aileu. The relative risk of .571 for rural areas shows that youth unemployment is considerably lower in rural areas than in urban areas. To consider this result, one must take into account the fundamentally different nature of unemployment between urban-industrialized and rural-agricultural areas.

Unemployment in urban areas is much more clear-cut than in rural areas. In rural areas unemployment is often masked by high levels of underemployment and seasonal low productivity. The disadvantaged position of those who are disabled is clearly shown by the fact that persons without disabilities' likelihood of being unemployed is five times smaller than persons with disabilities' chances. According to the census data, young people with no education are least likely to be unemployed. The highest chance of being unemployed is in the group of young people with a secondary or polytechnic / diploma education. Youth with a university diploma have a 1.9 times higher likelihood of being unemployed than persons with no education. However, probably the same factors as explained above may be at play, i.e. those with a university education operate in a different segment of the labour market with a much sharper division between employed and unemployed and they may be able to afford to stay longer out of work, looking for the most appropriate position, than persons with no education.

¹⁴ Age was not included in the graph as it is a continuous variable that was only introduced in the regression equation to control for age on the other independent variables.

Figure 31: Relative risk ratios for youth unemployment, persons 15 – 24 years of age, Timor-Leste, 2015

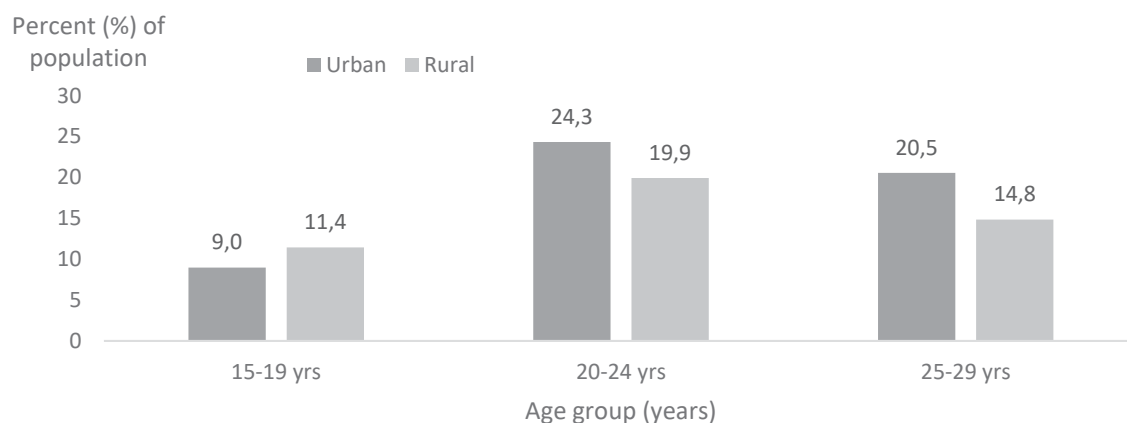


Color Code: Green = reference category, Red = high risk for youth unemployment (Relative risk > 2.0), Orange = medium risk for youth unemployment (RR > 1.5 and < 2.0), Green with red stripe = reference category where there is a high risk for youth unemployment (RR more than 2 times as high as other category), Green with orange stripe = reference category with medium risk for youth unemployment (RR 1.5 – 2.0 as high as other category), Blue = neutral.

Source: Analytical Report on Education, 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Unemployment is typically higher in urban than rural areas (Figure 32). Young adults (age 20-24 years) in urban areas have the highest unemployment rate at 24.3 per cent compared to 19.9 per cent in rural areas.

Figure 32: Youth unemployment rates, by urban/rural areas and age groups, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Young people in employment

People have a particular status in employment depending on who they work for and the type of conditions or employment contract (Table 8). Young people in employment are mainly self-employed (own-account workers), most of them in subsistence production. The proportion of young people in each group who are paid employees is much smaller than for the total working age population.

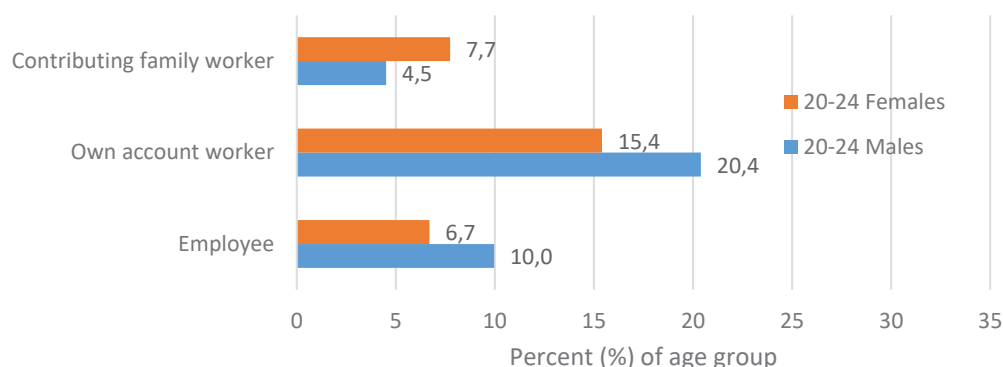
Table 8: Status in employment for young people, by age group and sex, Timor-Leste 2015

	Age	Employee	Employer	Own-account worker	Contributing family worker	Producers cooperative	Total Employed	Number
Males	15-19	0.3		12.0		0.1	12.4	69,506
	20-24	10.0	0.3	20.4	4.5	0.2	35.4	52,336
	25-29	26.2	0.6	32.9	5.0	0.5	65.2	45,170
Females	15-19	0.2		10.6			10.8	66,644
	20-24	6.7	0.1	15.4	7.7	0.1	30.1	53,857
	25-29	16.1	0.2	21.3	10.3	0.2	48.2	47,233

Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

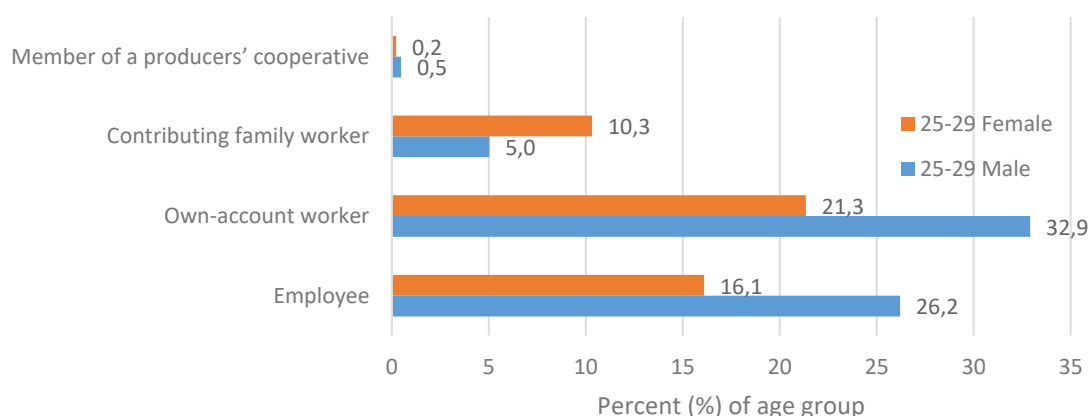
The status in employment changes as young people reach their late 20s (Figure 33 and Figure 34). Being an own account worker is still the most common status, but a much greater proportion are employees, which is a more secure form of employment. This is especially the case for young men aged 25-29 of which 26.2 per cent are employees, compared to 16.1 per cent of women in the same age group.

Figure 33: Status in employment for 20-24 year-old men and women, percent of each age group, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Figure 34: Types of employment for 25-29 year-old men and women, percent of each age group, Timor-Leste 2015

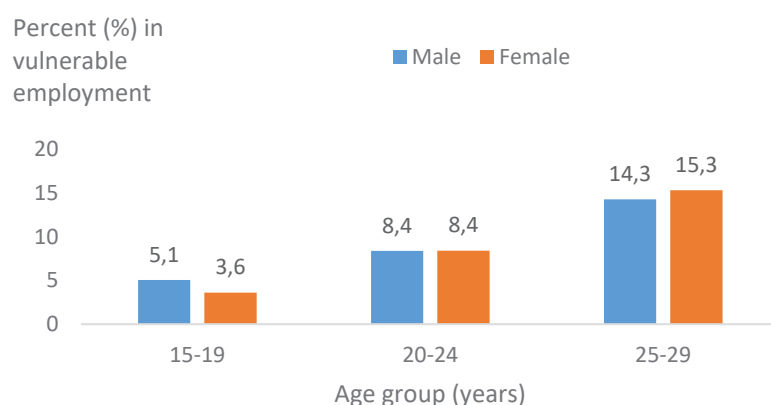


Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Working as an own-account worker or contributing family worker is considered to be a vulnerable form of employment. This is because income can be sporadic or the work unpaid, and there are no conditions in place to protect the worker when things go wrong, such as needing sick leave. In urban areas, where most of the more reliable forms of salaried employment are, the vulnerable employment rate is 36.5 per cent for the working age population aged 15-64 years. The rate is higher among young people, particularly adolescents in urban areas (age 15-19 years) of which 91 per cent of those employed are in vulnerable employment with rates being similar for young women (91.5%) and men (90.6%). The urban vulnerable employment rate declines to around 44 per cent for young adults (age 20-24 years) resulting in an overall urban youth vulnerable employment rate of 53.9 per cent (50.8% for young men and 57.8% for young women).

The proportion of young people in urban areas who are doing vulnerable work provides another perspective (Figure 35). As age increases and more people are leaving the education system for the workforce, the proportion of the total population in vulnerable work also increases. Among adolescents in urban areas, there are around 5 per cent of all males aged 15-19 and 4 per cent of females doing vulnerable work. That increases to around 14 per cent and 15 per cent respectively among men and women in aged in their late 20s.

Figure 35: Proportion of young people in urban areas doing vulnerable work, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Occupations

The top twelve occupations among the 50,500 young men and women who are employed are dominated by agricultural related occupations. Many would be subsistence farmers producing food for themselves and their family (Table 9). Other common occupations for young people are to work as housekeepers, retail sales workers, or as drivers.

Table 9: Top twelve occupations of young people, Timor-Leste 2015

Code	Occupation ISCO-88	Number of workers
-	Total	50,581
6113	Gardeners Horticultural and Nursery Growers	16,015
6111	Seasonal Agricultural Workers and Vegetables	8,020
5121	Housekeepers and related service	5,102
6112	Annual Crops Workers and Pulses	4,827
6114	Mixed Crop Growers	2,997
5230	Retail Sales Workers /Street Vendors	1,960
8322	Car Taxi and Light Trucks or Van Drivers	967
5133	Home-based Social Workers	698
9111	Street Vendors and Mobile Sellers (including foods)	540
5220	Salesperson and Demonstrators	493
4190	Other office clerks	435
9999	Other (not classified elsewhere)	287

Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

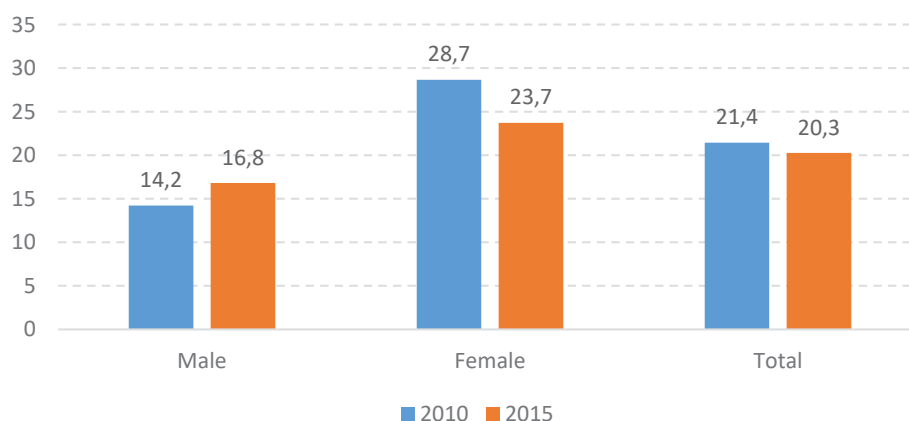
Chapter 7: Young People Not Engaged in Education, Employment or Training

A measure of development is the proportion of young people who are neither in employment, education or training, known as the NEET rate. The NEET rate for the youth population aged 15-24 years is one of the SDG indicators under Goal 8 on decent work.

Data gathered via the population and housing census makes it possible to produce this rate for all age levels and by different characteristics in order to identify where young people at risk are most concentrated.

The NEET rate is an important measure for monitoring the situation of youth and is one of the SDG indicators under Goal 8 on Decent Work. As outlined in the analytical report on education, the percentage of youth (age 15-24) who are not in employment and not in education or training was 20.3 percent, 16.8 for males and 23.7 percent for females (Figure 36). This represents an improvement since the 2010 census, when the overall NEET rate for youth was 21.4 per cent. However, sex-disaggregated data reveal the improvement has been for young women, whereas the situation for young men has worsened. This may be due to more young women remaining in education, and an increasing proportion of young men being unemployed.

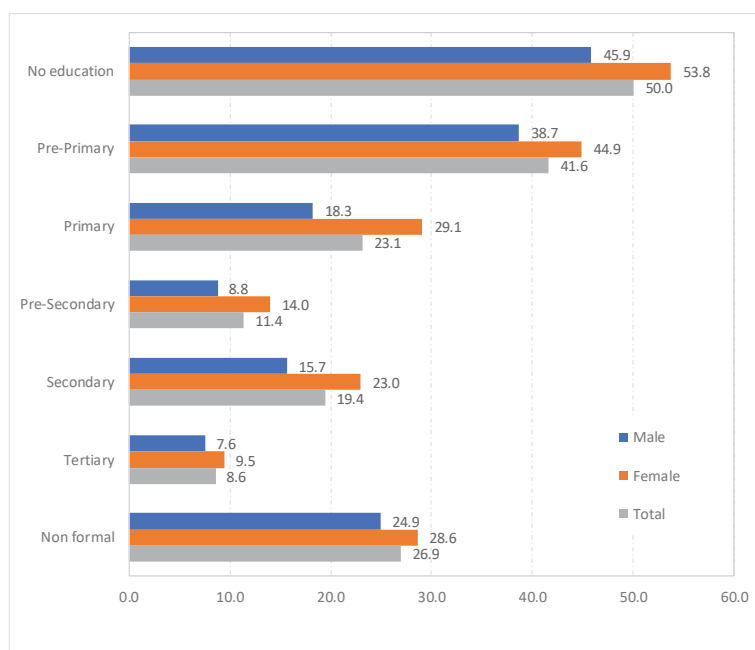
Figure 36: Proportion of youth neither in employment, education or training (NEET rate), Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

Analysis of the NEET rates by different characteristics reveals that young people who are illiterate have more than double the chance of not being in employment, education or training; 17.2 percent of literate are NEET versus 36.6 percent of illiterate youth. More than 41 per cent of young illiterate females are NEET. Young people with no schooling or pre-primary education have a much higher NEET rate than those with higher levels of education attainment (Figure 37).

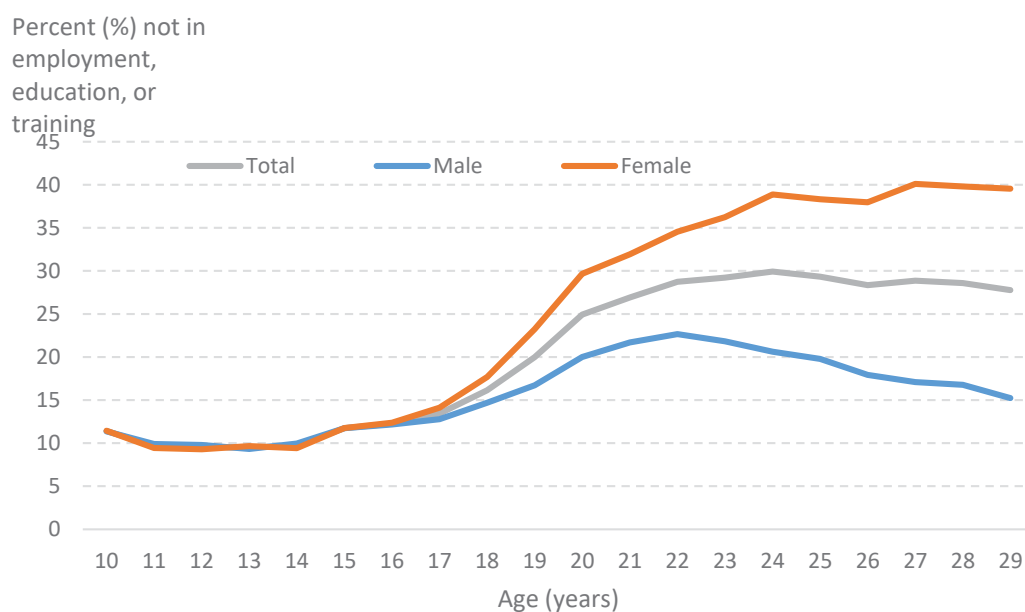
Figure 37: Percentage of persons 15 - 24, who are NEET by level of education they have finished are still following, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: Analytical Report on Education, 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

At around 10 per cent, the NEET rate is lowest among boys and girls aged 10 to 16 years old (Figure 38). However, this should be closer to zero as children of those ages should still be attending school. The NEET rate starts to climb from age 17, particularly for girls who are more likely to finish their education early and become full time homemakers rather than to go into employment. The gender gap increases with age and for those aged 29 years, 15 per cent of men are neither in employment, education or training compared to 40 per cent of women.

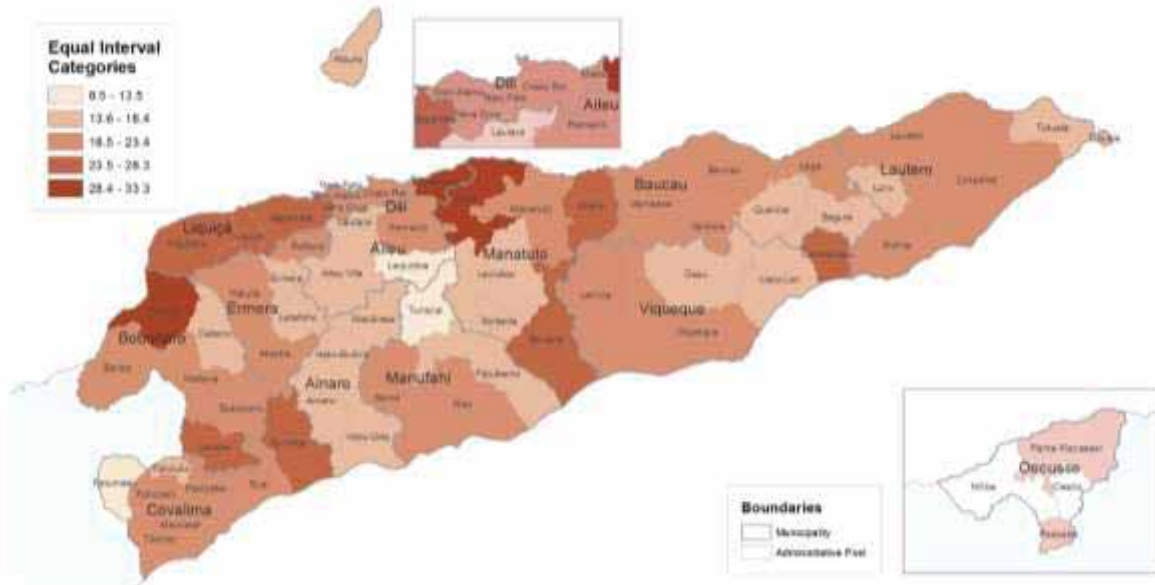
Figure 38: NEET rate by sex and age 10-29 years, Timor-Leste 2015



Source: 2015 Population and Housing Census of Timor-Leste

As shown in Figure 39, the NEET rate varies by administrative post with the highest concentrations of youths not in employment, education or training being in Metinaro, Dili (33.3%), Lacle, Manatuto (32.2%) and Atabae, Bobonaro (29.4%). The lowest NEET rates are found in Turisca, Manufahi (8.5%) and Fatumean, Covalima (8.6%).

Figure 39: NEET rate (%) by administrative post, Timor-Leste 2015



Chapter 8: Implications of Key Findings for Public Policy

The population and housing census provides important evidence for anyone working on youth and development issues in Timor-Leste. As a measure of key socio-demographic concerns, such as marriage, fertility, education, migration and mortality, the census gives policy and decision-makers data on the status of young people at a particular point in time. This can be used to compare the situation of youth between geographic regions and other characteristics.

The findings on the youth population from the census and the DHS show improvements in the situation of young people. However, significant gaps remain to ensure this critical group of the population have the education, health care and work opportunities they need as they transition from being children to adults.

Education

Improving youth literacy levels and a higher education attainment of the Timorese population show that access to education is improving for young people. However, one in five young people are illiterate and slightly more than one in ten (11.7%) have never attended school. More needs to be done to ensure the education system reaches all young Timorese people and that the quality of the education they receive is high and provides them with the functional skills and knowledge needed for their future. Employment oriented learning programs can help bridge the gap between formal education and paid work and provide young people with the confidence, skills and work experience to make them more marketable to employers.

Healthy lives

The sexual and reproductive health of young people is an important priority for the future. The findings in this report show women have a lack of knowledge about their own reproductive cycle. The unmet need for contraception is highest among young people and few of them, especially young women, are exposed to information about sexual health. Although rates of sexually transmitted infections are relatively low, young people are reluctant to seek advice or treatment for suspected STIs. These gaps in knowledge and service delivery put young people at risk of poor sexual and reproductive health at a time in their lives when they are embarking on their first sexual experiences and starting a family of their own.

Employment and employability

The education system provides the basis for ensuring young people have the functional literacy, numeracy, skills and knowledge to pursue employment opportunities. The data show that young people are concentrated in the most vulnerable forms of employment and that unemployment is a significant concern, particularly for young men. Programs should support young people to develop their skills in applying for jobs, being interviewed, creating their own businesses, and interacting appropriately with supervisors and other people in the work setting. They should be designed to target current and anticipated skills shortages in Timor-Leste.

References

General Directorate of Statistics (GDS) & United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (2018). Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2015. Thematic Report Volume 5. Analytical Report on Fertility.

General Directorate of Statistics (GDS) & United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (2018). Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2015. Thematic Report Volume 10 Analytical Report on Labour Force, Timor-Leste 2015.

General Directorate of Statistics (GDS) & United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (2018), Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2015. Thematic Report Volume 9. Population Projections by age and sex: National level (2015 – 2050) and Municipality level (2015 - 2030).

General Directorate of Statistics (GDS) & United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (2018), Timor-Leste Population and Housing Census 2015. Thematic Report Volume 11. Education Monograph.

United Nations. (2017). World Population Prospects, 2017 Revision. UNDESA, New York.
<https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>



Analytical Monograph on Youth



Timor-Leste



Directorate General of Statistics

Caicoli Street, Dili, Timor-Leste

Contact

Telephone: +670 333 9806

Email: dge@mof.gov.tl

Website: www.statistics.gov.tl