



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

ABOUT IOM TIMOR-LESTE COUNTER-TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

IOM Timor-Leste operates within the context of counter-trafficking prevention, technical cooperation, direct assistance and research. Since 2016, counter-trafficking activities and trainings have been implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Timor-Leste National Police through funding from the United States Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (JTIP), as well as the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP).

IOM works closely with the Counter Trafficking Inter-agency Working Group that was officially inaugurated in April 2016 to coordinate policy to combat human trafficking. IOM has also supported the revision of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and provided technical assistance for the Government of Timor-Leste Trafficking in Persons Law adopted in November 2016.

To date, over 400 people including law enforcement officers, social services staff, NGO staff, judges and prosecutors have received training, with a further 18 government representatives having participated in data collection and monitoring workshops. IOM Timor-Leste's work with local NGOs has helped to identify hundreds of victims of human trafficking and provided much needed support including safe housing, counseling and medical treatment.

Currently, IOM is working with the Government and partners in counter-trafficking to establish an Anti-trafficking Commission to coordinate counter-trafficking socialization and data collection. While continuing to support local NGOs to provide direct assistance victims, building strong partnerships in counter-trafficking and strengthening the institutional capacity of the Government to combat human trafficking in Timor-Leste.

10 FACTS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN TIMOR-LESTE

10. In 2016, IOM found 187 potential TIP cases, 107 unconfirmed, 80 confirmed.

9. Domestic Trafficking within Timor-Leste primarily involves children under 18 years of age for the purpose of domestic servitude, labour and sexual exploitation.

8. Labour recruiters directly approach families and use heavy-handed recruitment tactics that promote the alleged benefits of labour migration.

7. Timorese women and girls are particularly vulnerable to being sent to Indonesia and other countries for the purpose of domestic servitude.

1. Three types of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) are prevalent in Timor-Leste; outward trafficking (70%), inward trafficking from other countries (20%) and internal trafficking (10%).

2. Although Timor-Leste is a destination country for men, women and children trafficked for the purpose of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation, the majority of victims of trafficking are women.

3. Victims trafficked to Timor-Leste have originated from China, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines.

4. Victims are often approached with promises of better employment and education prospects, opportunities to pay off debts or to earn large salaries in the US dollar economy.

5. Timor-Leste is also a source country for human trafficking. The primary type of TIP affecting Timor-Leste is associated with labour migration out of East Nusa Tenggara province in Indonesia.

6. The key drivers for outward labour migration are poverty and underemployment. This migration often occurs in the form of self-initiated irregular travel into Indonesia based on information from family, friends, neighbors and/or the community.



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