Australia and Timor-Leste share longstanding and deep ties, as close neighbours and friends.

Strategic direction

Australia is Timor-Leste’s largest development partner, and we are committed to being an effective, responsive and long-term partner. Australia’s development assistance contributes to the shared goal of a prosperous and secure nation, supporting the people of Timor-Leste to overcome poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth. This is consistent with Timor-Leste’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Australia’s development assistance program contributes in three areas – economy, people and society. We support improving Timor-Leste’s economy by creating jobs and a stronger private sector, increasing rural incomes and expanding vocational training. Our support improves people’s lives by delivering higher quality frontline services, increasing the number of people that benefit from services and enabling more women and girls to be safe and empowered. We work to improve society, by making it easier for people to participate in decision-making and improve government decision-making.

Currently, 43 Timorese students are studying in Australia through the Australia Awards Scholarships.

Program highlights

- Since 2016, our work with 2,000 teachers and school leaders, and close to 35,000 students, is starting to improve learning outcomes – an essential foundation for skilled and engaged youth (SDG4).
- In 2018, we supported over 10,000 services for women and children who survived violence. Timely legal aid, shelter, and counselling is helping women access justice and re-establish themselves (SDG5).
- Our support for vocational training helps Timorese workers gain jobs locally as well as be competitive for offshore opportunities under the Seasonal Worker Program and the Pacific Labour Scheme (SDG4 and SDG8).

For more details:

Aid Investment Plan for Timor-Leste, 2015-16 to 2018-19
Aid Program Performance Report for Timor-Leste – 2017-18