



Australian Embassy
Timor-Leste

COVID-19



30 April 2021

A message from Australia's Ambassador to Timor-Leste, Peter Roberts



Welcome to our second Embassy newsletter for this year. As the flood recovery continues, we are also facing rapidly increasing COVID-19 cases. Australia is proud to be partnering with Timor-Leste during these unprecedented times.

You will probably have seen many of these updates on our Facebook page, but here is a summary of what's been achieved in the past fortnight.

In the past fortnight Australia has:

- 01 Brought in a further 29 tonnes of emergency supplies including PPE, tarpaulins, hygiene, kitchen and house repair kits, sludge pumps, blankets and solar lights on a Royal Australian Air Force C-130. In total, Australia has delivered more than 58 tonnes of humanitarian supplies since the flood.
- 02 Collaborated with Australian company Santos to support Timor-Leste's procurement of a helicopter to conduct aerial assessments and the transportation of supplies to flood-affected areas.
- 03 Deployed an additional four specialists as part of the Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) to work alongside the Ministry of Health on COVID-19 and the flood response.
- 04 Continued working with Bee Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Water) through our PARTISIPA program to ensure clean drinking water is available. Since the flood 69 tanks have been installed, and 2 million litres of water transported to evacuation centres and affected communities.
- 05 Through our Nabilan program we have worked with partners to improve the safety of evacuation centres for women and children, and provided essential goods including hygiene kits and bedding. Trained volunteers are providing psychosocial support, including play therapy for children.

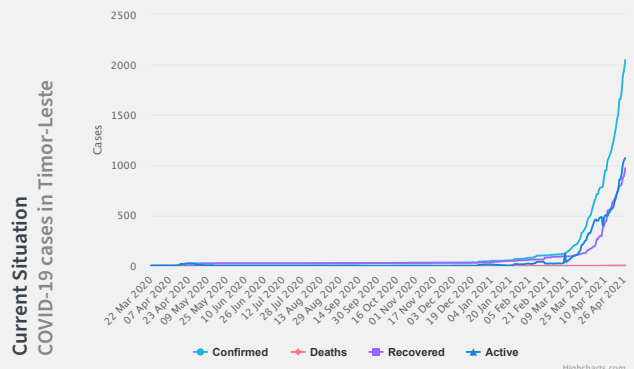




- 06 Supported the F-FDTL through our Defence Cooperation Program to clean-up and restore Port Hera Navy Base, and partnered with F-FDTL engineers on renovations for a new COVID-19 isolation facility in Baucau.
- 07 Contributed to security by providing flood lights for police checkpoints and restoring power at the Dili district headquarters. Our Police Development Program is also supporting PNTL operations including by relocating 46 investigations staff into new accommodation.
- 08 Supported the successful rollout of the first batch of COVAX COVID-19 vaccines in partnership with the Ministry of Health, World Health Organization and UNICEF. We are working to deliver Australian-manufactured vaccines shortly.

Once again our thanks go to frontline workers and everyone working to keep their communities safe. It was heartening to see Timor-Leste's initial supply of AstraZeneca vaccines distributed throughout the country. With further vaccines arriving soon, timely rollout remains key to recovery.

To stay up to date with developments follow our Facebook page 'Australia in Timor-Leste'. You can find past editions of this newsletter on our website.



- 09 Renewed our Partnership for Human Development program for a further 5 years – an AUD100 million investment across three priority sectors – health, education and social protection. This investment highlights the flexible nature of Australian support, which responds to immediate priorities such as COVID-19 and the floods, while developing longer-term capacity.
- 10 Extended the timeline for submission of Australia Awards Scholarship applications until 31 May and put in place additional support measures to help those affected by COVID-19 lockdowns or the floods to apply.