



Photo . Antoninho Bernadinho

SUMMARY OF SCOPING STUDY

TOWARDS TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES IN TIMOR-LESTE



Photo . Oxfam in Timor-Leste

Communities in Timor-Leste contribute very little to climate change, yet are already suffering severe impacts. Vulnerable groups, particularly women and people with disability are often disproportionately affected by climate breakdown, compounding existing inequalities. The effective disbursement of climate finance is critical to help these communities build resilience to climate impacts.

Finance is a key focus of this year's negotiations at the United Nations Climate Change Conference. Parties must negotiate a new finance goal to meet the needs of countries in the Global South – and the finance mobilized must reach the most vulnerable within those countries.

Timor-Leste's climate change policies set out how the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) supports vulnerable groups adapt to climate change, influencing climate finance allocation. Oxfam has analyzed Timor-Leste's climate change policies from the perspective of transparency, accountability and inclusivity in a new Scoping Study. Inclusivity refers to gender equity and inclusion of people with disability.

The policies analyzed are the Strategic Development Plan, National Adaptation Plan, Nationally Determined Contribution, National Climate Change Policy, Zero Draft Carbon Farming Policy and Guidelines and the Draft Climate Change Framework Law.

Oxfam's Scoping Study contributes to goals of the Kōtui Programme in Timor-Leste. The Kōtui Programme is a partnership between Oxfam Aotearoa and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade that aims to increase the resilience, wellbeing and agency of women in the face of climate breakdown and disasters.

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.

Transparency hinges on accessible climate change information and community engagement.

- All climate change policies should be available in Tetun on a Climate Change Information webpage.
- GoTL should expand its direct engagement with communities on climate change.

2.

Accountability requires action.

- While the policy framework is underpinned by provisions promoting accountability, implementation of these provisions is largely lacking.
- GoTL should implement the accountability measures in all climate change policies.
- As a starting point, the GoTL should develop a national monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning framework.

3.

Guidelines for mainstreaming gender equity urgently needed.

- Gender equity is an important element of the GoTL's climate crisis policy approach.
- But the intention needs to be supported by action. GoTL should implement all provisions promoting gender equity in Timor-Leste's climate change policies.
- As provided for in the National Adaptation Plan, the GoTL should urgently develop guidelines for mainstreaming gender into Timor-Leste's climate change response.

4.

Climate change policies must include people with disability.

- The policy framework doesn't specifically address the challenges faced by people with disability in relation to climate breakdown.
- All climate change policies should be updated to include provisions on the rights, needs and priorities of people with disability.

5.

Climate finance plan and mobilization strategy required.

- Implementing the climate change policy framework depends on dedicated financial resources.
- GoTL should develop a financing plan setting out how Timor-Leste's climate policies will be funded, along with a financial mobilization strategy to access essential international support required to implement climate action.

6.

Greater accountability and inclusivity crucial for future direction.

- All future climate change policies and laws, including the Draft Climate Change Framework Law should only be progressed with stronger provisions on gender equity and inclusion of people with disability.

TIMOR-LESTE'S APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE INFORMED BY THE NEED TO ENABLE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES THAT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE EMPOWERED WITHIN SOCIETY." TIMOR-LESTE NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION, PAGE 57

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