



# Maluk Timor

Advancing Quality Healthcare Together



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# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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[maluktimor.org](http://maluktimor.org)

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## FROM THE GOVERNORS

It's probably fair to say that most of the world was relieved to see the end of 2020. For the Australian Board of Maluk Timor, however, we can look back on 2020 with a great sense of pride at what our team in Dili has been able to achieve. It was a difficult year on many fronts, but one in which Maluk Timor was nonetheless able to grow and flourish.

These achievements have been underpinned by two landmark developments in the evolution of Maluk Timor. The first of these was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Timorese Ministry of Health in late 2019. The second was the strengthening and expansion of our relationship with the Australian Government's development assistance program, with the signing of significant contracts for DFAT funding. We are grateful for the trust the Australian Government has placed in Maluk Timor, particularly for our work to support the response to COVID in Timor Leste, and we are optimistic that this partnership will consolidate and grow as we look to 2021 and beyond.

A commitment to close engagement with our Timorese counterparts has always been a guiding principle for Maluk Timor Australia, and we have been delighted to see the strengthening during 2020 of the relationship between Maluk Timor Australia and our sister organisation Associação Maluk Timor (AMT). While it has been frustrating for the Australian board members that we have not been able to travel to Dili for board meetings as we have done in the past, COVID has meant that we have all learnt ways of working more effectively in a virtual environment. We are excited by the prospect of engaging more closely with our AMT board colleagues in future, and know that the effectiveness of Maluk Timor's work will only improve as a result.

..CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Triage training with the COVID team on Atauro



Rheumatic heart disease session for  
Government health staff

Maluk Timor Australia provides funds and governance for its sister organisation Associação Maluk Timor, commonly referred to simply as 'Maluk Timor'.

Maluk Timor Australia office is Level 14, 60 Martin Place, Sydney 2000. Maluk Timor Australia (ABN 54 121 715 446) is an endorsed Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) as a Health Promotion Charity. Maluk Timor Australia is covered by Item 1 of the table in section 30-15 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and maintains appropriate fundraising licences in all states and territories. See web site for additional information.



## FROM THE GOVERNORS CONT.

2020 has also been a year of internal renewal for Maluk Timor Australia, with the transition to both a new Chair and CEO. Our deep thanks are due to the previous Chair, Ross Taylor, who led the board ably for many years, and to Chris Fenton, who was CEO from 2006 and who continues to contribute as a member of the board. We remain fortunate to have a wonderful board of wise, expert and dedicated people, all of whom volunteer an enormous amount of time to the cause. Their enthusiasm and commitment are remarkable. We also acknowledge and are grateful the exceptional work and time dedicated by the sub-committee members.

Finally, and most importantly, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our loyal supporters whose generosity keeps Maluk Timor in operation. The economic impact of the COVID pandemic has placed pressure on all philanthropic giving, and Maluk Timor has not been immune. However, our supporters have remained engaged and are a constant source of inspiration and encouragement. We hope that Maluk Timor's achievements during 2020 demonstrate that your trust in us has not been misplaced.

We begin 2021 with renewed optimism as we can start to imagine the post-pandemic world. Maluk Timor has emerged from 2020 as a stronger and more resilient organisation, able to have greater reach and impact in its mission to strengthen the provision of health care in Timor Leste. The potential for Maluk Timor to make a difference is greater than ever and we will be embracing the opportunity to the full.

**Julie Hamblin**, Board Chair of Maluk Timor  
Australia

**Michelle Wilson**, Director & CEO of Maluk Timor  
Australia



RHD Training in Baucau - well attended



Local team member providing antenatal care



Important counselling to an expecting mother



TB screening - wherever the people are

# ADVANCING QUALITY HEALTHCARE ... TOGETHER

# FROM THE LEADERS

2020 will be remembered for many things, but predictability won't be one of them. None of us could have imagined such a dramatic and calamitous year across the world, nor could have guessed that Timor-Leste would emerge from the chaos relatively unscathed.

The looming threat of COVID-19 obscured almost everything else and the gravity of this was not lost on us even though we felt quite shielded from it. For Maluku Timor it was a year of unexpected success but our joy was muted by our knowledge of the suffering of so many across the world.

Maluk Timor began the year as a fledgling NGO with a freshly signed MoU (with the Ministry of Health), an ambitious young team and an unproven reputation. We finished the year as a leading influence in the local COVID-19 response and one of the most respected partners in the health sector. The journey in between was terrifying and wonderful all at once.

The crescendo of action was the June quarter, during which Maluku Timor was able to throw a strong and capable team into action while so many others around us repatriated their international staff and wound back their operations. We were suddenly at the epicentre of COVID-19 protective measures, often leading the design of national training programs and delivering critical skills training to frontline staff. The Australian Government took note of our capability and harnessed Maluku Timor as a key partner in their support to the Timorese Government. The Timorese Ministry of Health increasingly reached out for our support, and we were delighted to respond.

We were fortunate: the threat was initially held at bay by effective border control and testing, so we resumed our normal programming from July. Some of it had never stopped as we had needed to sustain our continuity of care and support in areas such as HIV and rheumatic heart disease. Our many activities are detailed within this Annual Review.

**..CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**



**Dr Jeremy presenting essential medical equipment to Baucau Municipality**



**Checking blood pressure on Atauro Island**



**Hakbiit familia club (mum's club) on Atauro island**



**Monthly penicillin delivered by RHD team**

## FROM THE LEADERS CONT.

Through the year our team grew to almost eighty local staff and seventeen international volunteers. This formidable team worked with Maluk Timor's characteristic enthusiasm and dedication to encourage a bruised health sector, wearied by the prevailing storm of emergency that remained over the country in spite of the relative quiet: Family Medicine training, oral health, nutrition, and the training of community health workers on Atauro Island, along with our usual TB, HIV, rheumatic heart disease and continuing COVID-19 work. Now we stand a little taller, enjoying the newly-won respect of a year well spent. Sr José Ramos Horta singled us out on numerous occasions, thanking Maluk Timor for throwing our collective shoulder to the wheel through the darkest hours of the year.

2020 was also a year of renewed activity of our Associação Maluk Timor Board and General Assembly, who are taking an increasingly active role in the leadership and strategic planning for our future. We look forward to how this might take shape in 2021.

We're very grateful to our donors, supporters, staff and volunteers who continue to make Maluk Timor an exceptional NGO. We have high hopes for the future of our work here in Timor-Leste and are glad to have you on the journey with us.

**Dr Jeremy Beckett, CEO Maluk Timor**

**Sr Virgílio Guterres, President of the Board Associação Maluk Timor**



Household screening with the TB Team



The team travels by sea as much as they travel by road



On the move for a weekend teaching trip to Maliana



Household TB screening in Maubara

**MALUK TIMOR TRANSFORMS HEALTHCARE IN TIMOR-LESTE'S  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES, SO THAT PEOPLE GET GREAT QUALITY  
CARE, WHEN AND WHERE THEY NEED IT.**

# 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Some highlights of what donors and many key program partners have made possible in 2020.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

We are proud to have played our part in the COVID-19 response, standing alongside the Ministry of Health, the WHO and our other health partners. Remarkably, Timor-Leste successfully contained the COVID-19 pandemic - in a country with nearly 1.3 million people only 52 cases of COVID-19 occurred in 2020 and 49 of those have fully recovered.



We assisted in the COVID-19 response by:

- Delivering education to several thousand public and healthcare workers
- Coordinating the development of the training packages for Triage and for Case Management
- Distributing vast quantities of basic medical equipment and infection control supplies
- Becoming a major presence on social media in Timor-Leste, providing accurate information about COVID-19 in Tetun using video, interviews, infographics and adapted WHO releases. Over 50,000 viewers were regularly reached via Facebook.



## ASTEROID PROJECT



We launched our first smartphone app called HAROMAN with funding by DFAT in cooperation with Catalpa International. The app is the local language of Tetum, providing teaching modules, quick reference tools, and access to national guidelines, focusing on infection prevention and control (IPC), recognition, and management. The project aims to develop and deliver a package of critical training to more than 300 primary health care practitioners (HCPs) across the country. The app launched ahead of schedule in order to assist in combating COVID-19.



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

The signing of the MOU with the Timorese Ministry of Health in September 2019 was a crucial milestone in strengthening our partnership with the Ministry of Health to work together to putting an end to preventable death and disease and promoting lifelong wellbeing in Timor-Leste. Since the signing, our programs have continued to grow and we are proud of what we have accomplished in 2020.



## DOCTOR TRAINING

Medical training continues at a strong pace with full time supervision of 24 doctors continuing their Family Medicine Diploma, the largest program of its kind in the region. We also saw 34 doctors graduate from Maluk Timor's 3-month course in Medical English that aims to develop English skills to improve communication with peers and international doctors.



## PARTNERSHIPS

Strong votes of confidence in the team's work has come through further developing partnerships with the Partnership for Human Development, the Global Fund, US AID funds, the Tuberculosis National Technical Working Group and the Country Coordinating Mechanism (TB, HIV & Malaria).



## 2020 HIGHLIGHTS CONT..

### RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE

We have increased our RHD treatment register to 354 patients with rheumatic heart disease, with 90% remaining on regular penicillin treatment. 25 government health centres are now administering regular penicillin through the MT team and partners. Maluk Timor has supported delivery of more than 1,300 of penicillin injections for kids with Rheumatic Heart Disease throughout Timor-Leste in 2020.



We launched our Household Contact Tracing project to visit the households of people with TB to educate, detect new cases, and give preventative treatment to those at high risk. More than 100 households (around 1,000 people) were identified as close contacts of positive cases of tuberculosis resulting in an additional 152 people identified with symptoms. We recruited and trained a group of former patients with multi-drug resistance to TB to work as counsellors to support those currently undergoing MDR-TB treatment to maximise treatment success rates.

### TUBERCULOSIS

### WOMEN'S HEALTH

37 community health workers are being trained and supported on Atauro Island, connecting remote communities with government health services. A team of writers are contributing to content for the PSF training manual, which provides essential health training to community health workers across a range of topics. This manual may become a national standard.



### HIV

The HIV team has achieved genuinely astonishing results in very tough circumstances. 80 patients newly diagnosed with HIV commenced on life-saving treatment, achieving a 97% retention rate for treatment in the total patient group of 180. At 3% our mortality rate is substantially lower than that expected for people with HIV. We also delivered the national HIV training-of-trainers workshop.



A nice smile with good teeth on Atauro island

### NUTRITION

We supported the strengthening of nutrition services at five community health centres in dili District.



### ORAL HEALTH

More than 800 patients received oral health treatments at Klibur Domin, and a further 650 students received oral health assessments at school.



Toothpaste and new toothbrushes!

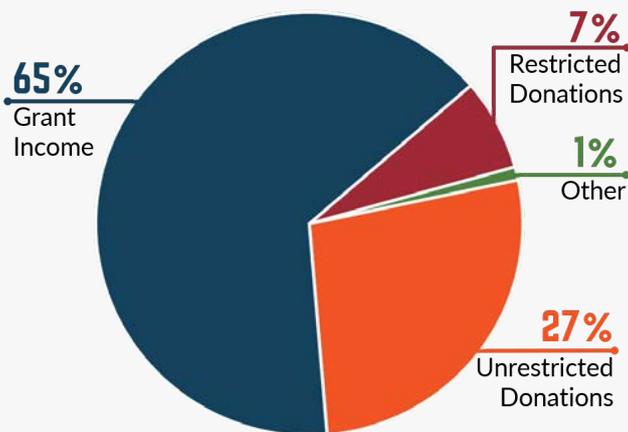
# OUR KEY NUMBERS

Maluk Timor Australia raises and provides funds for its sister organisation Associação Maluk Timor, commonly referred to simply as 'Maluk Timor'.

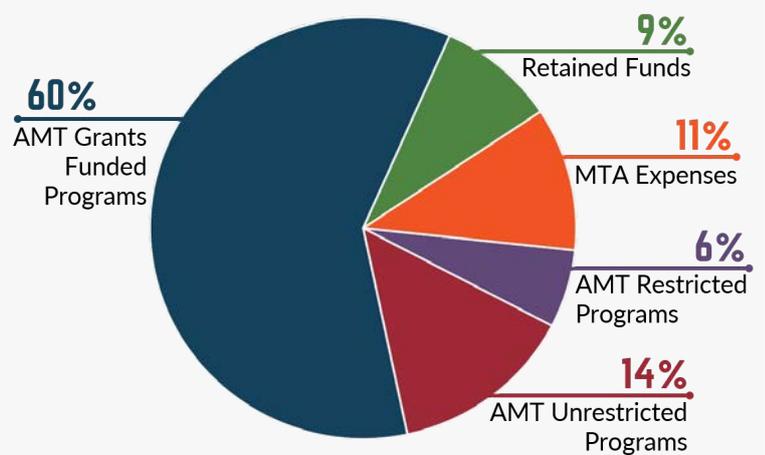
Key financial information is summarised for both entities below.

## MALUK TIMOR AUSTRALIA

**Income Sources 2020**  
AU\$ 1.945M\*



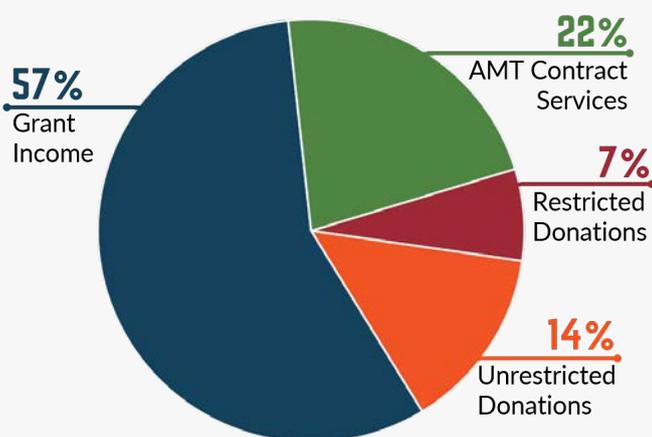
**Expenditure 2020**  
AU\$ 1.778M\*



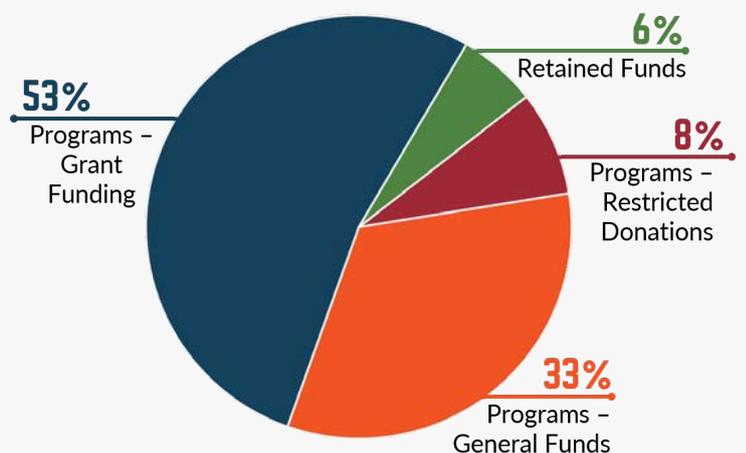
*\*Unaudited and rounded to nearest thousand at time of publication. Refer to ACNC web site for further information.*

## ASSOCIAÇÃO MALUK TIMOR

**Income Sources 2020**  
US\$ 1.212M\*



**Expenditure 2020**  
US\$ 1.141M\*



*\*Unaudited and rounded to nearest thousand at time of publication.*

# THANK YOU

## OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Maluk Timor would like to thank all of our 243 donors (individuals, trusts, foundations and other funds) who gave more than \$700,000 during very trying times in 2020 to continue the support of this important and worthwhile work.

**WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE KEY PARTNERS AND CORPORATE SUPPORTERS SHOWN BELOW FOR THEIR VITAL SUPPORT THAT ALSO MADE OUR WORK POSSIBLE IN 2020.**

## FUNDERS



**Australian Government**



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The ASTEROID project funded through the Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security, implemented by Maluk Timor on behalf of the Australian Government.

Our COVID 19 projects are supported by the Australian Government in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste.

Maluk Timor's work in the Family Medicine Program is in partnership with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and funded by the Australian Government.

Maluk Timor's COVID-19 project in Liquica is funded by USAID.

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## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



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## CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

