



# 2024 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



## We strengthen healthcare in Timor-Leste

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

Maluk Timor Australia's office is c/- Thomson Geer, Level 14, 60 Martin Place, Sydney 2000.

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# From our Boards

This Annual Impact Report is an opportunity for us all to reflect on the work that Maluk Timor did in 2024 and on what we were able to achieve. At a time when peace and security are under threat in so many parts of the world, it is more important than ever to celebrate progress made in strengthening health care in Timor-Leste, the young and proud country that is Australia's near neighbour.

We are immensely proud of how we were able to expand the scope and reach of Maluk Timor's programs in 2024, demonstrating real improvements in the health care delivered to the people of Timor-Leste. As this Report details, this can be seen in specific interventions supported by Maluk Timor to treat preventable conditions such as Rheumatic Heart Disease, tuberculosis and HIV, but also in the upskilling of Timor's health workforce through our training collaborations with the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Public Health of Timor-Leste. We are also helping to build the next generation of health leaders to support Timor's health system into the future.

Maluk Timor has been doing this work since 2017, and with each year that passes, we can see signs of progress - in the skills and knowledge of the Timorese health workforce, in community trust in the health system in Timor, and in the confidence of our committed and enthusiastic Timorese staff to lead our programs to even greater success. There is still much to be done, but we believe Maluk Timor now has the foundation and the partnerships to continue to build on the achievements thus far.

We can only do this with the support of our many donors and partners. You all have our deepest thanks. Please take a moment to look at the financial information provided at the end of this Report which makes clear how much we are able to achieve with each dollar we receive. Our commitment to all our donors is that your money will result in real and tangible improvements in health care for the people of Timor-Leste. We are delighted to share this Report with you to bring the Maluk Timor story to life.

**Flora Baptista**  
President, Associação Maluk Timor



**Julie Hamblin**  
Chair, Maluk Timor Australia



# From our Leaders

In 2024, our efforts remained firmly rooted in delivering inclusive, community-driven healthcare that reached those who need it most. This year, we strengthened and diversified our programs, ensuring they respond not only to immediate health needs but also build long-term capacity across the national health system.

Our Tuberculosis program continued to focus on early detection and prevention, with a strong emphasis on family-based outreach and child-focused care. In parallel, the HIV program provided critical services through community-based testing, counselling, and linkage to treatment, helping to reduce stigma and improve access to care for key populations.

We expanded our Maternal and Child Health efforts by supporting antenatal care, safe delivery, and postnatal services, promoting healthy outcomes for mothers and newborns. The Oral Health program engaged schools and communities in preventive education, aiming to reduce dental disease and improve hygiene practices from an early age. Through our Rheumatic Heart Disease program, we worked to identify cases early and support long-term management, particularly in children and adolescents.

A key focus this year was the growth of the DISTaNCE program, developed with the National Institute of Public Health Timor-Leste (INSP-TL). This program aims to strengthen the skills of healthcare workers through digital training tools and systems. In 2024, we supported the creation of both clinical and non-clinical training, built digital platforms to manage learning, and delivered online coaching to enhance leadership and management in the health sector.

Across all programs, we continued to embed Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) principles—ensuring our services are accessible, inclusive, and respectful of every individual's rights. As we move forward, we remain committed to building a resilient and inclusive health system that reflects the needs and aspirations of all Timorese communities.

**Natarajan (Raj) Rajaraman**  
Executive Director, Associação Maluk Timor



**Michelle Wilson**  
Managing Director, Maluk Timor Australia



# 2024 Highlights



**50,616**

patients screened for tuberculosis.



**220**

new tuberculosis cases detected and confirmed.



**2,287**

consultations carried out for patients presenting with symptoms of sexually transmitted infections.



**529**

people living with HIV were enrolled in our program.



# 2024 Highlights



## 2,940

essential medicines and supplements were provided to pregnant women.



## 437

maternal and child health patient consultations were carried out at health posts and referral hospitals.



## 22

healthcare management staff completed the Leadership and Management Development Program.



## 4

training modules for healthcare workers were developed in consultation with 43 stakeholders.

# 2024 Highlights



**2,860**

children and adults received Silver Diamine Fluoride treatments.



**23**

dental health professionals completed training in using Silver Diamine Fluoride.



**505**

Rheumatic Heart Disease patients were cared for by Ministry of Health clinics.



**81**

healthcare workers trained to identify people affected by Rheumatic Heart Disease.



# DISTaNCE

## Digitising In-Service Training for Non-Clinical and Clinical Excellence

The Digitising In-Service Training for Non-Clinical and Clinical Excellence (DISTaNCE) program aims to strengthen the organisational capacity of healthcare workers in the National Institute of Public Health Timor-Leste (INSP-TL) to independently manage and deliver primary care training in Timor-Leste.

This year we focused building both clinical and non-clinical in-service training programs, establishing and supporting the development of digital infrastructure for Teacher Management Information System/Learning Management System, enabling the health workforce to deliver a high-quality and equitable Essential Services Package (ESP) and enhancing digital capabilities of health leaders so they are equipped to lead the health workforce to transition into digital systems.

We also facilitated online coaching sessions for healthcare management staff to enhance their skills in conducting effective workplace coaching.



## KEY ACTIVITIES

During the year we started the development of four core clinical training modules in consultation with specialists at Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares (HNGV), the National Ambulance and Emergency Medical Service (SNAEM), and National Institute of Public Health Timor-Leste (INSP-TL). The core training modules were:

1. Emergency Care
2. Infectious Diseases
3. Non-Communicable Diseases
5. Maternal and Infant Care

A major achievement was fully developing and piloting the Emergency Care training module. The four other training modules will be piloted in 2025.

Our team consulted with 43 stakeholders across the Ministry of Health and hospitals for content development of the training modules. This included engaging stakeholders to agree on the training curriculum and reviewing the content of each module.

4

training modules for healthcare workers were developed in consultation with 43 stakeholders.

22

healthcare management staff completed the Leadership and Management Development Program.

10

healthcare management staff participated in online coaching sessions to enhance their skills in conducting effective workplace coaching.



*The Digitising In-Service Training for Non-Clinical and Clinical Excellence (DISTaNCE) program is an initiative between the Governments of Timor-Leste and Australia, with support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through Partnership for Human Development (PHD) and the Ministry of Health.*

## ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

Healthcare management team leadership and commitment is vital to successfully implementing changes in healthcare settings. In partnership with St John of God, we delivered a Leadership and Management Development Program for healthcare management staff. The training program was completed by 22 staff (15 from Maluk Timor, 5 from the INSP-TL, and 1 from PHD).

Additionally, 10 healthcare management staff participated in online coaching sessions as part of an online course designed to enhance their skills in conducting effective workplace coaching.

Our team also:

- Assessed the INSP-TL's existing Training Management Information System and provided guidance on the evaluation and selection of a suitable new LMS.
- Delivered training to INSP-TL staff on essential IT skills, including proficiency in Google Workspace and teaching through simulation-based methods.
- Provided regular Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for INSP-TL staff to enhance staff capabilities in IT and training skills.
- Supported 6 participants to attend a Women's Health International Conference to gain insights from healthcare specialists from other countries.

The DISTaNCE program has taken important steps toward strengthening healthcare in Timor-Leste by building digital infrastructure, developing clinical training modules, and investing in leadership and workforce capacity. These efforts are helping INSP-TL deliver high-quality, locally relevant training and support a more skilled and connected health workforce. As we look ahead, continued collaboration and investment will be key to sustaining this progress and ensuring better, more equitable care for all.





## Sharing Knowledge on the Regional Stage: Maluk Timor at APMEC 2024

In January 2024, three Maluk Timor team members—Guerson Lopes Amaral, Dulcia Filomena Marcal Pierera, and Celita Maria Paula Trindade da Costa Freitas—had the opportunity to represent Timor-Leste at the Asia Pacific Medical Education Conference (APMEC), held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. With this year's theme, Artificial Intelligence in Health Professions Education, the conference brought together health professionals and educators from across the region to explore innovation in teaching, diagnosis, and care.

Each of our team members contributed to the conference by presenting abstracts grounded in their day-to-day work in Timor-Leste:

- Guerson, Deputy Program Manager for the Health Professions Development Program, presented on the use of Google Classroom as a practical tool for clinical education in resource-limited settings.
- Dulcia, Nurse Educator, shared insights into the communication barriers between nurses and patients, shaped by challenges such as multilingualism and varying health literacy.
- Celita, Pharmacist Educator, presented her research on pharmacy inventory management practices among Dili's primary care providers.

Beyond presenting their work, the team engaged with international peers, learned about emerging trends—including the growing role of AI in healthcare education—and reflected on how these can be adapted to benefit Timor-Leste's health system. As trainers and educators, Guerson, Dulcia, and Celita are excited to apply what they've learned to further upskill Timorese healthcare workers. Their experience at APMEC has sparked new ideas and strengthened their commitment to building a stronger, more capable health workforce at home.



# HIV



HIV, syphilis, and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are increasing in Timor-Leste, driven by poverty, geographic barriers, and stigma. Access to testing and treatment is limited, and even when care is reached, it is often of poor quality. Many healthcare workers lack the training and resources needed, leading to preventable deaths and continued transmission, including mother-to-child.

Since launching in 2018 with just 3 staff, Maluk Timor's HIV program has expanded to 12 team members and enrolled 529 people. In 2023, it relocated to the Formosa HIV/STI Integrated Care Centre in partnership with the Ministry of Health, enhancing efforts to prevent mother-to-child transmission. Now co-located with midwives, the integrated team provides comprehensive care to mothers and babies in a single visit, combining clinical services, healthcare worker training, advocacy, and community education.

Our HIV program aims to improve the capability of healthcare professionals to address the HIV epidemic and other sexually transmitted infections, thereby reducing new infections in the community, and maximising health and quality of life for affected people.

In 2024, our focus was on strengthening both our team and systems to improve the quality and reach of HIV and STI services. We successfully combined the Maluk Timor HIV team with the Formosa Ministry of Health STI team, creating a unified, collaborative group. Alongside this, we worked to enhance our digital and administrative systems to support more efficient service delivery.

A major priority was the development of the Triple Elimination (prevention of mother-to-child transmission) and DISTaNCE (infectious diseases) training packages, building the HIV/STI team's capacity to deliver these trainings to others. We also began collaborating closely with midwives at the Formosa Integrated Care Centre to roll out key Triple Elimination activities. The Triple Elimination project was carried out in partnership with ASHM (Australasian Society for HIV Medicine).

Beyond the clinic, we provided HIV-related training to healthcare workers at external sites and delivered health promotion and education to the broader community. Throughout the year, we continued to advocate on key issues alongside people living with HIV (PLHIV) and remained committed to expanding the clinical knowledge of every team member.

### IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

**2,287**

consultations carried out for patients presenting with STI symptoms.

**1,932**

point-of-care HIV tests plus counselling performed for STI patients.

**529**

people living with HIV were enrolled in our program.

**157**

healthcare workers participated in HIV/STI workshops across 4 municipalities.

**100%**

Close to 100% of newborns received the hepatitis B birth dose (up from 44% baseline).





## ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

During the year our team implemented strategies to tackle challenges head on. These included limited availability of Ministry of Health staff for training, frequent stock shortages of key tests and medications, and balancing focused work with unpredictable patient arrivals. Ongoing issues like re-engaging disengaged patients and managing advanced HIV cases without strong tertiary support added complexity. However, we used these challenges to drive improvements—such as developing a new digital patient tracking system, and overcoming limited access to diagnostic tests for HIV-exposed babies by using the heel prick method for blood collection.

### **We implemented point-of-care HIV/Syphilis testing in antenatal clinics, improving detection and treatment rates:**

- 2,287 consultations carried out for patients presenting with STI symptoms.
- 1,932 point-of-care HIV tests plus counselling performed for STI patients.
- 175 healthcare workers participated in HIV/STI workshops across 4 Timor-Leste municipalities.
- 82% of pregnant women with syphilis received adequate treatment (up from 0% baseline).
- Close to 100% of newborns received the hepatitis B birth dose (up from 44% baseline).
- 6 new patients with HIV were registered in our centre every month (average)
- 100% of pregnant mothers with HIV who registered during 2024 were started on treatment and retained in care at the end of the year.
- HIV viral load suppression achieved in 83% of patients (target  $\geq 90\%$  for 2024).
- HIV-exposed infants received timely antiviral prophylaxis in 30% of cases, with strategies in place to improve adherence.



## ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

### **We strengthened patient tracking systems, reducing loss-to-follow-up rates:**

- 29 patients whom we could not contact to follow up on their condition, successfully returned to care.
- Retention in care: 75% of registered patients remained under treatment.

### **We progressed advocacy and community engagement:**

- Conducted a 3-day workshop for 50 adolescents on sexual and reproductive health.
- Partnered with local NGOs and media to address stigma and misinformation about HIV.
- Engaged with policymakers to advocate for improved national HIV response and resource allocation.

### **We improved our clinic systems by shifting from paper based to electronic systems:**

In 2024, a major achievement was implementing a strengthened digital data system, streamlining appointment scheduling, patient tracking, and access to blood test results. With satellite internet and online lab access, staff no longer need to collect results in person, freeing up time and improving clinic efficiency—ultimately aiming to enhance patient outcomes.

In 2024, we made meaningful strides in improving HIV and STI care through expanded testing, better patient tracking, and the shift to digital systems. Despite ongoing challenges like staff shortages and resource gaps, our team remained adaptive—improving care delivery, strengthening community engagement, and reducing stigma. These achievements lay a strong foundation for continued progress toward accessible, high-quality care for all in Timor-Leste.





## PREVENTING MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF INFECTION

In 2024, our team was focused on the STEPT project, which supports the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B in Timor-Leste. The STEPT project was carried out in partnership with ASHM. A big part of this work has been creating and testing a training package that encourages hands-on, active learning. Team members each become experts in a topic, then teach their peers using a game to teach about HIV in children. This approach has been working well, and by early 2025, we expect all team members to be ready to train other healthcare workers, starting with midwives at our health centre.

We've worked closely with the HIV team and Ministry of Health midwives to make sure our materials are relevant and practical for the Timorese context. For example, before moving to the Formosa clinic, many women and babies with syphilis weren't getting treated, partly because staff were unsure how to prepare penicillin. To help, we created a simple dosing guide.

We also tackled low hepatitis B birth dose coverage. Initially, few babies at the clinic were vaccinated due to lack of midwife training and limited access to the vaccine after hours. With basic education, a small audit, and moving the fridge which stored the vaccine, nearly every baby now receives this life-saving dose at birth.

Testing was another challenge. Previously, women had to go back and forth between rooms for lab tests, often missing results or treatment. Now, midwives are doing rapid HIV/syphilis tests right in the antenatal clinic. This has already led to better detection and faster treatment for those who test positive.

These simple but meaningful changes are already making a big difference for mothers and babies. As we continue to learn and improve, we're excited to see this model grow—and to support midwives across Timor-Leste in delivering safer, more effective care.





# Maternal & Child Health



Maternal and newborn healthcare is a critical priority for Timor-Leste, where a combination of geographic, social, and systemic barriers continues to put mothers and infants at risk. Poor road infrastructure and extreme seasonal weather often make it difficult for pregnant women—particularly those in remote areas—to access health facilities.

Cultural beliefs, low levels of health literacy, and limited trust in formal healthcare further reduce attendance at antenatal care (ANC) visits and rates of facility-based deliveries. Compounding these challenges are weaknesses within the health system itself, including frequent staff shortages and unreliable government supply chains that disrupt essential services. Inconsistent and poor-quality data also hinder effective monitoring, planning, and response. These barriers exist alongside emerging health needs, including alarmingly high rates of child stunting (47%) and widespread malnutrition among pregnant women, highlighting the urgent need for strengthened, accessible, and responsive maternal and newborn care across the country.

The Community Approaches to Maternal and Newborn Health Equity in Rural Timor-Leste (CAMNHE) project, led by Maluk Timor, targets significant maternal and neonatal health disparities in five villages within the Railaco administrative post of Ermera municipality. The project aims to enhance antenatal care (ANC), increase skilled birth attendance, and improve obstetric referral acceptance by encouraging community participation and behaviour change, and strengthening health interventions.

CAMNHE project aims to improve maternal and newborn health (MNH) equity in rural Timor-Leste, specifically in five remote villages within the Railaco administrative post. By addressing both demand-side (community participation and behavior change) and supply-side (health system strengthening) interventions, the project seeks to enhance antenatal care (ANC), increase skilled birth attendance, and improve obstetric referral acceptance.



### IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

**2,940**

essential medicines and supplements were provided to pregnant women.

**437**

patient consultations were carried out at health posts and referral hospitals.

**342**

people attended community information sessions on maternal and child health.

**177**

pregnant women used antenatal care services.

**115**

people participated in community engagement sessions to identify key problems that needed to be addressed in their community,

**32**

babies were delivered in healthcare facilities.



## ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

### **We engaged the community in information and advocacy initiatives:**

- Conducted Participatory Action Research (PAR) to identify the key problems communities faced. 19 community engagement sessions were conducted with 115 participants (112 mothers, 3 fathers).
- Trained Community Health Volunteers in health promotion. Six out of 19 community health volunteers independently conducted health promotion activities, mobilizing communities and supporting clinic activities.
- Conducted 16 community information sessions on maternal and newborn health. These sessions reached 342 individuals across 15 small communities.

### **We provided mobile antenatal care clinics and malnutrition clinics to help strengthen health services:**

- Completed 437 patient consultations at health posts and referral hospitals. This was a 27% increase in ANC visits (target: 25%).
- Supported 177 pregnant women who used ANC services (baseline: 109, target: 240).
- Supported the delivery of 32 babies in healthcare facilities (a 200% increase from baseline).

### **Upskilled healthcare providers:**

- Identified the learning needs of midwives, nurses and community health volunteers: data literacy, patient-centered care, and clinical problem-solving.
- Provided on-the-job training for these healthcare providers.

### **Provided essential maternal and newborn health resources:**

- Distributed 2,940 essential medicines and supplements, including iron, folic acid, antibiotics, and prenatal vitamins, and addressed national procurement failures by safeguarding supply for pregnant women.

The CAMNHE project has made significant progress in improving maternal and newborn health care in Ermera Municipality, with notable increases in ANC attendance and facility-based births.





# Oral Health



Timor-Leste faces significant dental healthcare challenges due to limited infrastructure, a shortage of trained dental professionals, and low public awareness of oral hygiene. Access to dental care is especially difficult in rural and remote areas, where clinics are scarce and transportation is limited. Preventive dental services and education are minimal, leading to a high prevalence of untreated dental caries and gum disease, particularly among children. Additionally, the health system's focus on urgent and primary care often leaves oral health under-prioritised in national health planning.

Maluk Timor's Oral Health Program, supported by Lenity Australia, aims to improve dental care and oral health awareness in Timor-Leste, by focusing on training of dental professionals, outreach, and collaboration with the Ministry of Health to expand access to dental treatments, particularly Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) applications.

## ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2024 our program significantly improved oral health accessibility, particularly in rural areas, and strengthened the local health workforce. Our key achievements included:

- Delivered SDF treatments to 2,860 children and adults.
- Expanded SDF-training to dental professionals across 4 out of 13 municipalities.
- The Ministry of Health formally recognised SDF as a key intervention for school-based oral health programs.

### Training and Capacity Building

- Developed three training modules in collaboration with local specialists. The training modules cover SDF, Atraumatic Restorative Treatment, and Fissure Sealant. These modules are aligned with local oral health needs, meet national standards set by the Ministry of Health, and have been translated into Tetun-Dili. The pilot training is scheduled for 2025.
- Conducted two five-day training programs to increase skills and knowledge in applying SDF. 23 dental professionals from urban and rural areas completed the training.
- Increased the number of municipalities with trained SDF professionals from one to four – Dili, Aileu, Ainaro, and Manufahi.

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

**2,860**

children and adults received SDF treatments.

**23**

dental health professionals completed training in using SDF.

**21**

schools across Aileu and Liquica municipalities were visited through our community outreach service.



***“We’ve read about SDF in school but we’ve never been able to actually use it, until now.”***

A dental nurse who completed the SDF training.



## ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

### Community Outreach and Treatment

- Provided SDF treatment to 2,418 children in schools and 325 individuals in community settings.
- Reached 21 schools across Aileu and Liquica municipalities.
- Educated 78 parents about oral health practices.
- Extended SDF treatments to 301 schoolchildren and 24 adults in the remote Atauro Municipality during World Oral Health Day celebrations.

The Oral Health Program made significant strides in improving dental care in Timor-Leste through training, outreach, and collaboration.





# World Oral Health Day Celebration



On 20 March 2024, we celebrated World Oral Health Day in Atauro Municipality alongside the Ministry of Health, World Health Organisation, and other partners. It was a special day filled with purpose and connection, as we brought much-needed dental care to this remote island community, located 40km across the sea from the mainland.

With limited access to regular oral health services for most of Atauro's 10,000 residents, this was a wonderful opportunity to make a difference. In just one day, we provided Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) treatment to 301 schoolchildren and 24 adults, helping to prevent and manage tooth decay.

The event was more than just treatment—it was about education and empowerment too. Community members took part in fun and engaging activities that highlighted the importance of brushing, flossing, and regular check-ups. Our health team also ran interactive sessions to share practical tips for keeping smiles healthy and strong.

By reaching both children and adults, this initiative didn't just deliver dental care—it sparked conversations, raised awareness, and encouraged the community to take charge of their own oral health in a lasting way.

# Rheumatic Heart Disease



Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) remains a serious health issue in Timor-Leste due to the high prevalence of untreated streptococcal throat infections, which can lead to acute rheumatic fever and long-term heart damage. Contributing factors include limited access to primary healthcare, poor living conditions, and low awareness of the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of sore throats. The disease disproportionately affects children and young adults, leading to chronic illness, disability, and premature death. Strengthening prevention, early detection, and treatment services is critical to reducing the burden of RHD in the country.

Maluk Timor's RHD Program, in partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH), aims to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and management of RHD in Timor-Leste. We focus on capacity building for healthcare workers, transitioning the penicillin program to MoH clinics, and strengthening community engagement to improve patient adherence.



## ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2024 our core program activities included administering the penicillin program to RHD patients, screening people for RHD, training healthcare staff and engaging communities to raise awareness of RHD.

### Penicillin Program

- Provided hands-on mentoring to MoH healthcare staff across key municipalities, including Dili, Baucau, Ermera, and Maliana.
- Supported the transition of penicillin administration to MoH clinics, resulting in increased independent administration by MoH staff.
- Ensured adherence to standardised treatment protocols.
- 91% of penicillin injections were independently administered by MoH staff (up from 63% in 2023).
- 505 RHD patients managed by MoH clinics in 2024.

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

**505**

RHD patients cared for by MoH clinics.

**91%**

of penicillin injections were independently administered by MoH staff.

**81**

healthcare workers trained to identify people affected by RHD.

**33**

new RHD patients were registered through screenings and hospital presentations.





## ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

### Screening Activities

- Conducted screenings in Bobonaro and Ermera Municipalities to identify people who have RHD and need support:
  - Bobonaro (November 2024): Screened 4 children under 20 years.
  - Ermera (December 2024): Screened 67 individuals, identifying 1 RHD case who received immediate treatment.
- 33 new RHD patients were registered through screenings and hospital presentations.



### Community Engagement

- Visited and re-engaged 15 RHD patients through home visits to reinforce adherence to penicillin treatment.
- Planned community meetings to address barriers to follow-up care and increase awareness.



## ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

### RHD Training

- Collaborated with MoH to conduct capacity-building sessions and trained a total of 81 healthcare workers to identify people affected by RHD:
  - In Manufahi we trained 21 healthcare workers (14 female, 7 male); and identified 3 new RHD cases.
  - In Viqueque we trained 60 healthcare workers (25 female, 35 male); and initiated treatment for 7 RHD patients.
- Distributed the RHD guidelines across multiple municipalities.
- Trained healthcare staff on RHD clinical workflows, prevention, and treatment.

### Advocacy and systems change

In addition to our core program activities, we strengthened collaboration with key heart health stakeholders in Timor-Leste including the MoH, WHO, Timor-Leste Hearts Fund, St John of God, and Menzies to align efforts with national health priorities.

We also hosted a technical working group event with 46 participants, including cardiologists and partner organizations, to revise the national RHD guidelines.

The progress in 2024 highlights the success of collaborative efforts in combating RHD and ensuring long-term sustainability of treatment programs in Timor-Leste. We are committed to continuing to support the MoH in the full transition of the RHD program to be run by local healthcare workers nationally in future.





# Tuberculosis



Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be a major health concern in Timor-Leste, affecting thousands of people each year. Even though TB is both preventable and treatable, it remains widespread—especially in communities facing poverty, limited access to healthcare, or living in remote areas. In fact, Timor-Leste has one of the highest rates of TB in Southeast Asia.

There are many reasons why TB continues to be such a challenge. Issues like undernutrition, lack of awareness, difficulty accessing timely diagnosis and treatment, and stigma around the disease all play a role. And while TB is a serious illness, its impact goes even further—it affects families, stretches our health system, and slows down national progress. That's why tackling TB is so important.



## ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

Maluk Timor's TB program focuses targeting referral hospitals, municipality health services, and community-level interventions to improve TB detection, treatment, and prevention.

### Hospital-Level Interventions at Suai Referral Hospital

- Cough Triage: Implemented systematic screening for TB, resulting in 15,633 patients screened and 184 cases confirmed.
- Trained 50 healthcare workers (24 doctors, 26 radiographers) in TB detection, infection prevention, and case management.
- 170 patients were referred for further TB care, with 100% follow-up success ensuring treatment continuity.

### Municipality Health Services at Aileu Community Health Centers

- Cough Triage: Conducted TB screenings at 4 Community Health Centres (CHCs), screening 33,274 patients and confirming 33 TB cases.
- Trained 47 healthcare staff trained in TB prevention, infection control, and case management.

## IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

**50,616**

patients screened for TB.

**220**

new TB cases detected and confirmed.

**217**

individuals completed TB preventive therapy.

**170**

TB patients began treatment at Suai Referral Hospital.

**100%**

of referred patients received care from District TB Assistants.

**97**

97 healthcare workers trained in TB case detection and prevention.



## ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

### Community-Level Interventions in Aileu Municipality

- Reached 752 family members of TB patients through Household Contact Tracing, and identified 4 additional TB cases.
- Facilitated TB Preventive Treatment for 217 high-risk individuals, with an emphasis on children.

### Cross-Cutting Initiatives: Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)

- Developed and implemented a GEDSI action plan, integrating inclusive approaches into TB care to encourage inclusion of women and marginalised groups in the program.
- Conducted staff and partner training on equity and inclusion in healthcare services.



# Our Team



In 2024 Maluk Timor Australia had a total of 1 part time staff, 1 casual staff and 3 casual contractors. Associação Maluk Timor employed 65 staff in Timor-Leste .

Our organisation is strongly supported by volunteers who contribute their expertise in many areas including clinical and communications mentors and Board members. In 2024 we had a total of 30 volunteers.

Many of our volunteers are based in Australia and Timor-Leste while some volunteer remotely. Our volunteer Board in Australia consists of 11 people and the volunteer Board for Associação Maluk Timor is 6 people.



# Donations and Grants

**Our work in 2024 was supported by funding from the following organisations:**

## **Grants**

- Australian Government - The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through Partnership for Health Development in Timor Leste
- Lenity Australia
- The John Burge Trust
- Equity Initiative Community Building Fund
- China Medical Board
- The Atlantic Institute
- Perpetual Impact Philanthropy
- PlanetHumana
- ASHM
- Timor Leste Hearts Fund
- Hollywell Foundation

## **Donors**

Thank you to all our incredibly generous donors who contribute financial and in-kind support. Donors may provide support for a particular program or critically important unrestricted funding to cover expenses and supplement grant funding. Without these donations we could not continue or work.

## **Corporate Support**

Thank you to our corporate partners for their in-kind services and support.

- Thomson Geer
- HWL Ebsworth
- Da Silva Teixeira & Associados

# Our Partners

**Thank you to our partners supporting the implementation of our programs in Timor-Leste.**

## **General Program Partners:**

- Australian Volunteers International
- Menzies School of Health Research
- Timor-Leste Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Timor Leste Department of Policy Planning and Cooperation
- Timor Leste Department of General Director for Primary Health Care
- World Health Organisation
- FONGTIL, Rede ba Saude REBAS (Network for Health) Civil Society Organisations
- The Equity Initiative South East Asia
- SABEH
- Engineers Without Borders
- PRADET
- Centre for Medical Education (CenMED), Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore
- The Global Centre for Asian Women's Health (GloW) at the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore
- The Department of Biomedical Engineering Department, National University of Singapore
- Elisabeth Kübler-Ross Foundation, Singapore Charter
- National University Hospital System, Singapore
- St Luke's Hospital, Singapore
- KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH), Singapore
- Yishun Health, Singapore

## **RHD Program Partners:**

- Timor-Leste Hearts Fund
- St. John of God Health Care
- Menzies School of Health Research
- INSP-TL (National Institute of Health Research Timor-Leste)
- Ministry of Health - NCDC department
- Ministry of Health promotion Department
- Primary Health Care Dili municipality (CHC Comoro, Becora, Formosa, vera Cruz, Atauro & Metinaro) and HNGV
- Primary Health Care Baucau municipality and Referral Hospital Horex Baucau
- Primary Health Care Lospalos municipality
- Primary Health Care Viqueque municipality
- Primary Health Care Bobonaro municipality (CHC Cailaco, Palaca) & Referral Hospital Maliana
- Primary Health Care Ermera municipality (CHC Ermera Villa, Letefoho, Health Post Guololo, Health Post Era-Ulo, Health Post Ponilala, CHC Gleno, Railaco)
- Bairo Pite Clinic
- Ordem Malta Clinic
- Primary Health Care Ainaro municipality
- Primary Health Care Aileu municipality
- Clinic Kasait Irmaun Daniel Ornelas
- Health Promotion & education for community and authority local in Dili, Ermera, Bobonaro and Lospalos Municipality
- Youth Off The Streets
- Bakhita Center
- Marie Stopes



# Our Partners

**Thank you to our partners supporting the implementation of our programs in Timor-Leste.**

## **HIV Program Partners:**

- Timor-Leste Nasiona Aids Program
- SSM Dili
- Instituto Nacional Combate Ao HIV/SIDA (INCSIDA)
- CHC Formosa
- ASHM
- Estrela Plus
- Esperansa
- A-KP (Asosisaun Komunitade Progresu)
- Uma mahon Be Dois Becora
- ART Centre: Maliana, Baucau, Suai, Oecuse, BPCL, HNGV, Vera Crus, Likisa
- Satelit Centre: Becora, Comoro
- Laboratorio Nasional Bidau
- Menzies School of Health Research
- Caritas
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Codiva

## **Oral Health Program Partners:**

- Klibur Domin
- Ministry of Education, Aileu, Liquica (School program for dental Screening)
- MoH- National Oral Health Program
- Association of Dentist Timor Leste
- Institutu Nasional Saúde Pública Timor-Leste (INSP-TL)
- Pixelasia

## **Tuberculosis Program Partners:**

- Timor-Leste National TB Program
- Timor-Leste Department of Communicable Disease
- STAF CTE
- Covalima Referral Hospitals
- Municipal Health Service Aileu
- Bairro Pite Clinic
- Knua Habelar Siensia (KHS)
- HAMNASA

## **Maternal and Child Health Program Partners (formerly Women's Health & Social Care Program):**

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Marie Stopes

## **DISTaNCE Program Partners:**

- Ministry of Health
- National Service of Ambulance and Medical Emergency (SNAEM)
- Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares (HNGV)
- Institutu Nasional Saúde Pública Timor-Leste (INSP-TL)
- St John of God
- Menzies
- Association of Midwife Timor Leste
- Association of Dentist Timor Leste
- Abt-PHD

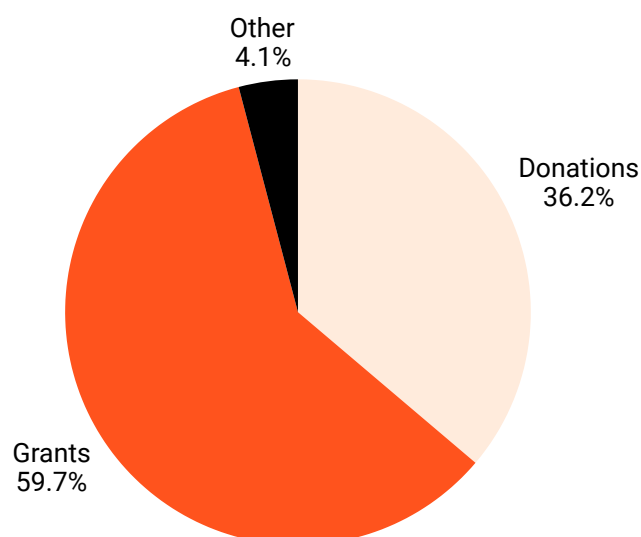
# Financial Report

Maluk Timor Australia raises and provides funds for its sister organisation Associação Maluk Timor to undertake the work in the Timor Leste primary health care sector. Associação Maluk Timor also receives funds in its own right from donations and grants. Donations provided directly to Associação Maluk Timor are non-tax deductible in Australia.

Key financial information is summarised for both entities here.

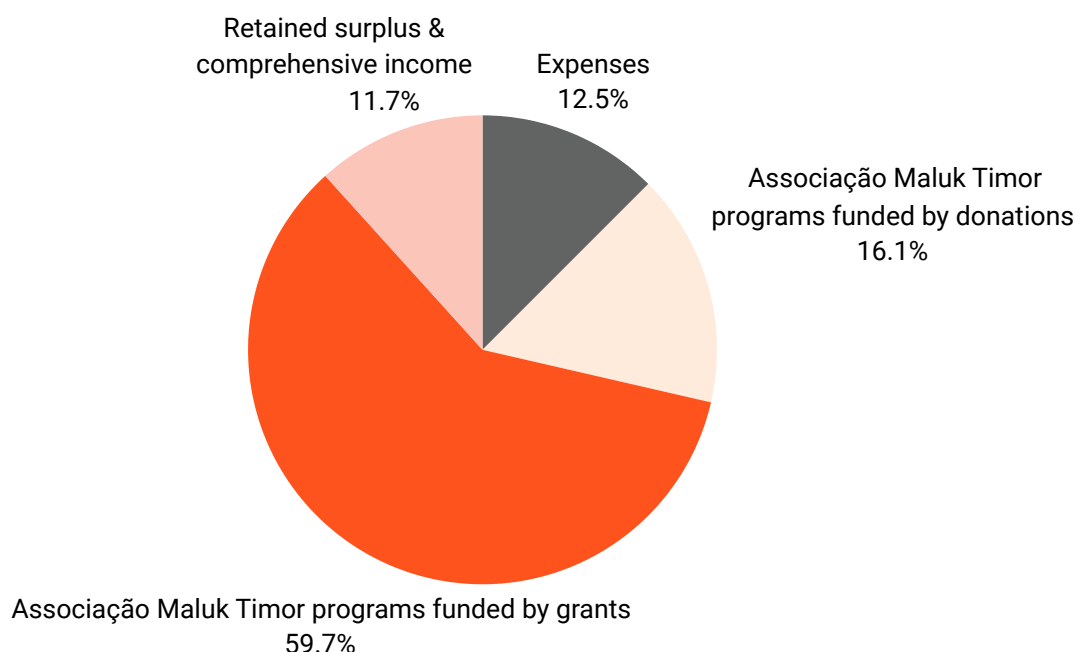
## Maluk Timor Australia - Income sources 2024

**AUD \$2.089m**



## Maluk Timor Australia - Expenditure 2024

**AUD \$2.089m**





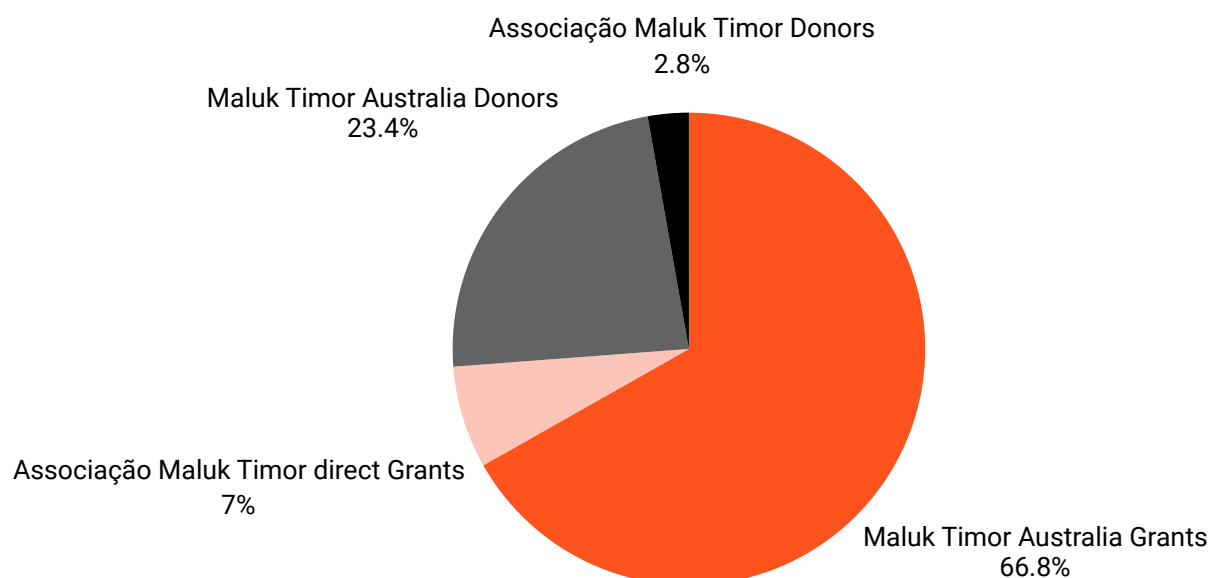
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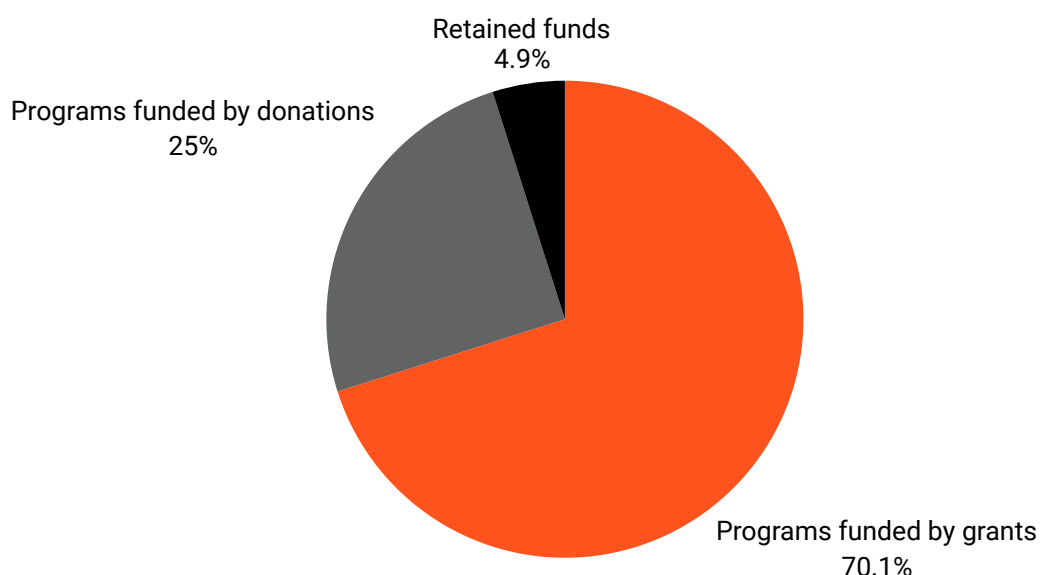
## Associação Maluk Timor - Income sources 2024

**USD \$1.423m**



## Associação Maluk Timor - Expenditure 2024

**USD \$1.423m**





**We partner with the Timorese government and healthcare workers to fight preventable diseases and build strong, sustainable healthcare**

**Maluk Timor**

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Australia

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

**Associação Maluk Timor**

Rua Aidak Nurak

Kampung Baru, Dili

Timor-Leste

