

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT  
AREA OF THE WORLD  
COUNTRY**

**EAST TIMOR**

**Snapshot of East Timor**

**Country Name:** East Timor is officially known as Democratic Republic of Timor-Least.

**Country Founded in:** May 20, 2002

**Population:** 1,108,777

**Government Type:** Republic. East Timor consists of 4 regions having 3 districts of each region.

**Geography/location in the world:** East Timor is part of an island. Indonesia is the other half. Found in South Asia.



**Number of people groups:** 23

**Picture of flag:**



### **Religion Snapshot**

Major Religion and % of population:  
Roman Catholic 98%

All religions and % for each:  
Muslim 1%  
Protestant 1%

**Government interaction with religion:** The government is tolerant of all religions.

## Mission Atlas Project

### East Timor

#### Basic Facts

##### Country Name:

East Timor (Republic Democratic of Timor-Least)

##### Demographics:

As of July 2008 the population of East Timor was 1,108,777.

The population growth rate was 4.4% in 2006. The birth rate was 26.52 births per/1,000 population. The death rate was 6.02 deaths/1,000 population in 2008. The infant mortality rate was 41.98 deaths/1,000 live births. The life expectancy for men was 64.6 years, and 69.39 years for women. The total fertility rate was 3.36 children born/woman. The proportion of children in total population was 44.7% in 2006. The proportion of elderly in total population was 2.7%. The urbanization rate in total population was 26.9%. The population density was 75 per kilometer square. The migration rate was 21.2 people per/ 1,000 population. The inflow rate of migration in East-Timor is the highest in Asia and the Pacific.

East Timor has the most serious tuberculosis problems among the countries in South East Asia and Pacific as well as Cambodia.

In East Timor there are a small fraction of people who are not ethnically East Timorese. They are Chinese, Arab merchants, and Indonesians who married East Timorese.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

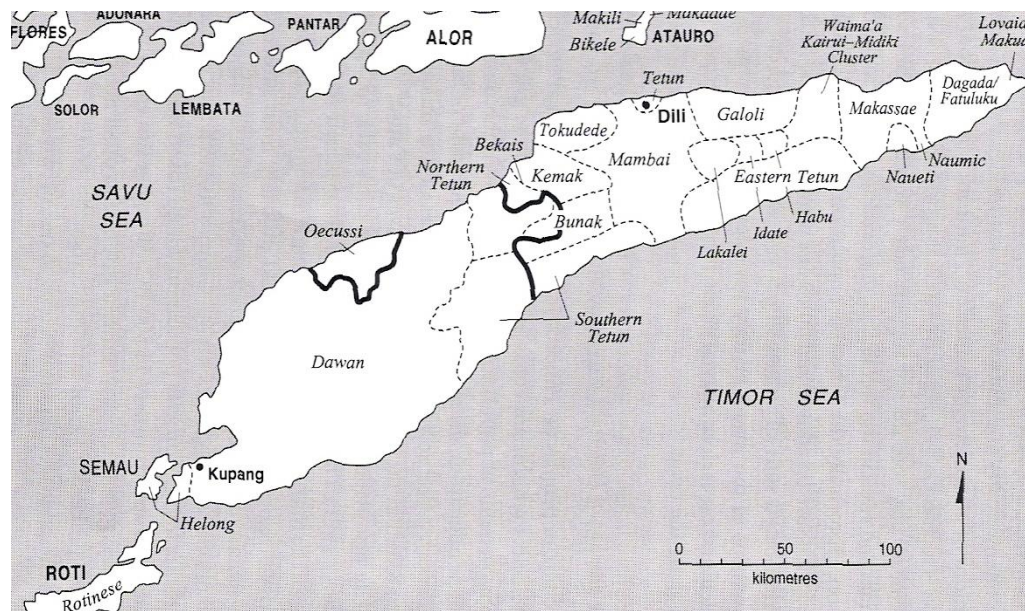
<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/easttimor/>

The United Nation, *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2007*, 2007

##### Language:

Tetum and Portuguese are the official languages in East Timor. Indonesian and English are also spoken in common. The young generation would speak Indonesian and Tetum rather than Portuguese.

Linguistic-cultural heterogeneity and complexity has been in using the Austronesian and Trans-New Guinea phylum language. The large languages in Austronesian are Tetum, Mambai, Galoli, Kemak, and Tokudede. Tetun and Kemak are also spoken in the eastern part of Indonesian Timor. The Kemak speaking group is spread in the Bobonaro, Ermera, and Ainaro districts in East Timor. Among Tans-New Guinea, about 16 indigenous languages such as Mambae and Tukudede are spoken.



**Figure 1 Language map In East Timor**

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>  
<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/easttimor/>

**Society/Culture:**

The culture of East Timor is the result of diverse cultural influences such as Portuguese, Roman Catholic, and Malay, with the indigenous Austronesian and Melanesian cultures of Timor. According to the legend, a giant crocodile was transformed into the island of Timor, which is called Crocodile Island. Mythology and legends are a rich oral tradition that tells about the pre-colonial period.

The East-Timorese celebrate Proclamation of Independence Day on November 28, which is the anniversary of the declaration of the independence from Portuguese in 1975, and Independence Restoration Day on May 20, which is the anniversary of transfer of sovereignty from the United Nations transitional government in 2002.

**Ethnicity**

The Tetum tribe is 40% of the East-Timor population and the East-Timorese consists of 30 different tribes. They are descendents of mixed Papuan, Malay, Polynesian, and Europeans.

Since 1975, Non-Timorese and Muslim Timorese from the western portion of the island have settled in East Timor. They were over 20% of the East-Timor population and were part of the popular vote in 1999.

**Religion**

The major religion of East-Timor is Roman Catholic which has been widespread since Portuguese occupation. Under the control of the Portuguese, the main religion was animism.

However, the number of conversion into Catholicism increased dramatically under the control of Indonesian administration. Roman Catholic played the important role to integrate East-Timorese and separate from the Muslim in Indonesia.

### **School and Education**

The enrolment rate of primary education is low and illiteracy rate is high in East Timor. Over 90% of school buildings were destroyed or damaged in the withdrawal of Indonesian forces. By the help of the UNICEF and international organizations, the East-Timor government established 420 new schools in 1999 and 273 schools in 2000. The education system consists of six years of elementary education and six year of secondary education. The National University of East Timor (Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosae-UNTL) opened in 2000 and had about 5,000 students in 2003. The university provides six majors: agriculture, political science, economics, education and teacher training, and engineering.

### **Music**

The music of East Timor was influenced by Portuguese and Indonesian while under the control of both countries. The music influenced by these is *gamelan* and *fado*. The most popular native folk music is the *likurai* dance, performed by women to welcome home men after war. They use a small drum and carry enemy heads, sometimes, entering a village.

In modern times, the music of East Timor has been associated with the independence movement. Some songs such as “Haotu Ba” are composed and sung to encourage people to register to vote in the referendum.

### **Literature**

There are traditional tales including “Legend of Crocodile.” “The Giant of Manufahi” is the story about the giant, Beileria. In addition, there are more stories such as “The Song of Fallen Warrior” and “The Voice of the Liurai of Ossu.”

In the present, although the rate of illiteracy is high, there is a strong tradition of poetry. For example, the Prime Minister, Xanana Gusmao, is an outstanding poet.

### **Tradition for women**

There is an interesting custom for women. It is the duty for adult women, from the age of 15, in East Timor, to remove all body hair except on their head.

### **Tradition of Marriage**

Named source houses, which are the origin houses of clans or lineages, are the basic place for marriage exchange. Marriage begins with the exchange of bride-wealth and counter gifts. Bride-wealth is goods provided by the family of the husband and counter gifts are goods provided by the family of the wife. The giving of bride-wealth is a heavy economic burden for many East

Timorese. Consequently, the legal standardization or even abolition the bride-wealth has been attempted.

The bride-wealth varies by groups. For instance, among the Kemak, the bride-wealth consists of buffalo and large male discs (these are part of the ritual attire worn by males). The counter gifts are pig and textiles. However, the amount of each depends on the family status. In the present, part of the bride-wealth can be substituted with equivalent money.

## **Food**

Rice is a common food in East Timor. Beside rice, people eat maize, cassava, sweet potatoes, and taro. Other vegetables such as beans, cowpeas, and cabbage are also eaten. Pigs and goats are used for many dishes. Fish is also eaten. The use of spices in number of recipes is common. They eat also fruits such as bananas, coconuts, mangoes, and papayas.

In Dili, the capital of East Timor, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Thai food is available.

James Minahan. *Encyclopedia of the Stateless Nations: Ethnic and National Groups around the World*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2002

The United Nation, *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific 2007*, 2007(?)

<http://www.easttimorgovernment.com/>

<http://www1.ci.uc.pt/timor/lendas.htm>

<http://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=EastTimor>

<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/EastTimor/indigenous.htm>

## **Government:**

East-Timor gained independence from Portugal on November 28, 1975. However, the official date of the independence from Indonesia is on May 20, 2002. The official name of the country is Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. The constitution of East-Timor was modeled on that of Portugal.

### *Executive Branch*

The chief of state of East-Timor is the president, whose role is largely symbolic. However, the president has veto power and is able to dissolve parliament, and call national elections. The presidential election is taken by popular vote for a five-year term. The current president in East-Timor is Jose Ramos-Horta (as of May 2007). In addition, the head of the government is the prime minister in East-Timor. The current prime minister is Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao.

### *Legislative Branch*

The parliament system of East-Timor is a unicameral National Parliament. The members of the National Parliament are elected to terms of up to five years. The seats of members can be various from 52 to 65.

### *Judicial Branch*

One judge appointed by Nation Parliament and rest appointed by Superior Council for Judiciary constitutes Supreme of Justice.

### *Political Parties*

East-Timor has 9 parties: (1) Revolutionary Front of Independent Timor-Least (FRETILIN) led by Mari Alkatir, (2) National Congress for Timorese Resistance (CNRT) led by Xanana Gusmao, (3) Social Democratic Association of Timor (ASDT) led by Fransis Xavier do Amaral), (4) Social Democratic Party (PSD) led by Mario Carrascalao), (5) Democratic Party (PD) led by Fernando de Araujo, (6) National Unity Party (PUN) led by Fernanda Borges, (7) Sons of the Mountain Warriors (KOTA) led by Manuel Tilman, which is also known as Association of Timorese Heroes, (8) People's Party of Timor (PPT) led by Jacob Xavier, and (9) National Democratic Union of Timorese Resistance (UNDERTIM) led by Cornelio Da Conceicao Gama.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

### **Economy:**

East-Timor's gross domestic product (GDP) of purchasing power parity in 2007 was \$ 2.608 billion. The GDP of official exchange rate in 2007 was \$ 459 billion. The GDP real growth rate is 19.8% (2007 est.) The GDP per capita is \$ 2,500 (2007 est.). The GDP composition by sector is following: 32.2% in agriculture, 12.8% in industry, and 55% in services (2005 est.)

Concerning the budget, East-Timor's revenues are \$ 733 million and expenditures are \$ 309 million (2006, 2007 est.) The inflation rate is 7.8% (2007 est.) The currency of East-Timor is US dollar in public.

East-Timor's exports excluding oil are \$ 10 million (2005 est.). Export commodities are coffee, sandalwood, and marble. Among them, coffee is the most significant export. East-Timor's main export partners are U.S., Germany, Portugal, Australia, and Indonesia. East-Timor's imports are \$ 202 million (2004 est.). Import commodities are food, gasoline, kerosene, and machinery. Around 97% of manufactured good are imported.

### *Natural resources*

East Timor has natural resources such as gold, petroleum, natural gas, manganese, and marble. Among them, the main resources in East Timor are oil and natural gas (petroleum).

The potential of oil for economic growth has been awarded by countries around East Timor. Portugal was negotiating about oil concessions with American oil companies in 1974. However, these agreements were delayed by the political lobby of Australia. Under the rule of Indonesia and during UN administering, Australia continued to negotiate with the Indonesian government for oil development in the East Timor Sea. After independence, East Timor renegotiated with Australia and reached an agreement. The East Timor government contracted with Australia to get 90% profit of the cooperative oil development area in 2002.



Oil production and supporting services would be a significant role for the economic growth. It is because exploitation of energy reserves requires skilled personnel. The government of East Timor has plans to train people for this job.

### *Agriculture*

Agriculture accounts for t 90% of the economy in East Timor. In 2003, only about 12.8% of the land area is arable. Most farming was at a subsistence level and the farming system was based on slash-and- burn. Over 90% of the population engaged in subsistence agriculture or barter. Rice is cultivated in lowlands with the help of irrigation systems.

Sandalwood is another important economic item along with pearl fishing. The other primary crops are maize, cassava, cowpeas, and sweet potatoes. Other products are soybeans, cabbage, mangoes, bananas, vanilla, taro, onions, peanuts, sago, coconuts, and tobacco. Agriculture accounted for about one-fourth of the GDP.

### *Unemployment rate of youth*

The United Nation reported that East-Timor is one of the least developed countries along the lines of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. In particular, the youth unemployment among the ages of 15-19 years, in Dili, is three times higher than the national average. According to the report of the World Bank, the labor force increases around 15,000 every year while the number of youth reaching adulthood without completing the primary education is 8,000.

East-Timor was one of the poorest regions in Indonesia. Moreover 80% of schools, hospitals, and clinics were destroyed during the violence in September, 1999. Almost 20% of the East Timor population was killed.

Though the East Timor government and international NGOs have established plans for education and employment, it is not enough, yet, for increase of the employment rate or for economic growth. Thus, East Timor people need more help, not only from the official government organizations, but also from outside of them. Attempts such as food distribution, English classes for youth, and medical assistance would be helpful for the people.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

<http://www.worldbank.org>

<http://compassionatealliance.org/EastTimor>

The World Bank, "Timor-Leste Youth Development and the Labor Market", 2007, The World Bank

### **Literacy:**

During the Portuguese colonial era, little effort for mass education had been pursued. Illiteracy was almost 90 % in 1975. Under the Indonesian occupation, public education was dramatically expanded. Today, approximately 58.6% of East Timor's total population 15 years of age and older can read and write (2002 est.).



<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

## **Land/Geography:**

East Timor is an island located in Southeastern Asia, northwest of Australia, east from Indonesia. East Timor is bounded by the Timor Sea on the south and the Banda Sea on the north. The Timor Sea means “female sea” and the Banda Sea means “male sea.” East-Timor’s total land is 15,007 square kilometers (49,235,000 feet). East Timor is slightly larger than Connecticut. East Timor’s territory includes the eastern half of Timor islands, the islands of Jaco and Atauro.

East-Timor has a narrow coastal plain and forested highland. Its mountainous backbone is up to 2963 meters (9,715 feet) at the Tata Mai Lau peak of the Ramelau ranges. Another mountainous backbone is the Bicaú peak of the mate, Bian, up to 2316 meters (7,598 feet).

East-Timor’s land border line is 228 kilometers (748,022 feet) and is bounded by Indonesia on the West. The coastline is 706 kilometers (2,316,224 feet) long. The forest area, as percentage of total area in East Timor, is 65.5% in 1990 and 53.7% in 2005.

East Timor is divided into 13 districts: including Lautem, Viqueque, Baucau, Manatuto, Aileu, Manufahi, Ainaro, Ermera, Liquiça, Dili, Bobonaro, Cova Lima and Oecussi (Ambeno). The capital is Dili, the largest city in East Timor. The population of Dili was 50,800 in 2003. Other large cities include Dare, outside Dili, and Baucau, the site of the main airport on the northeast coast.

The East-Timor’s climate is tropical, with a wet and dry season. It has heavy rain from December to March, and is dry with hot weather for the rest of the year. The average temperature is 80° in Fahrenheit all the year. There is variation between coastal areas (95F, 33C) and mountainous areas (70F, 23C). During the months of June and July, high mountainous places remain even cooler (36F, 5C) at night. During these months, mountains have rain steadily and the air tends to be damp and humid.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902237.html>

<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/easttimor/>

## **History**

### *Early History*

The original inhabitants in East Timor are from the Papuan tribe. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Malay people occupied the island and drove the Papuan into the mountainous interior. They started to settle the coastal area, then spread into all area and became the main ethnic group.

### *Portuguese colonization*

Portuguese came to the island in 1520. East-Timor was colonized by Portugal in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Portuguese occupied East-Timor and this island had been known as Portuguese Timor for 450 years. The rest of the islands became Indonesia, which had been colonized by the Dutch between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and were called as the Dutch East Indies. The Portuguese government sent political prisoners and ordinary criminals to East Timor during the colonial period.

During the Second World War, Australian and Dutch forces occupied Timor in December 1941. The Japanese occupied Timor in February 1942. During the occupation, the Japanese burned many villages and did not provide food supplies. Eventually, 40,000-70,000 of the Timorese people died. After the war, Portuguese regained Timor, but the Portuguese government seldom invested toward the infrastructure, education, and healthcare. In 1955 the Portuguese Republic declared the colony as an 'Overseas Province.' After the fall of the Portuguese fascist regime in 1974 the new democratic government of Portugal encouraged the independence of Timor.

In December 1975, Indonesian air and naval forces invaded East-Timor, which was known as "Operation Lotus." During the process Timor gained its independence from Portugal. In the early year of the invasion 200,000 Timorese, almost one-third of the population, were killed through murder, forced starvation, and other means. East Timorese were threatened with programs of forced sterilization, hunger, cultural annihilation, and massacres.

The new government, supported by the Indonesian government, was established in mid December. The next year, the 'People's Assembly,' supported by the Indonesian government, approved an 'Act of Integration.' As a result of the act, Indonesia integrated East-Timor officially as its 27<sup>th</sup> province on July 17, 1976.

### *Indonesian Occupation*

While Portugal administrated, in 1960, the United Nation (U.N.) recognized East-Timor as a Non-Self Governing territory. In addition, it was on the agenda of the U.N. long before Indonesia invaded, had been the subject of on and off negotiations, mediated by the U.N. Secretary-General between Portugal and Indonesia since 1983. These talks resulted in the tripartite agreement to allow a vote on an Indonesian plan to grant East-Timor a degree of autonomy. The Indonesia government agreed that if the East-Timorese rejected autonomy in the U.N. organization vote, it would repeal its annexation of East-Timor.

Under the control of the Indonesian government, several Timorese fought against Indonesia and for the independence of East Timor. In addition, outside of East Timor, some countries such as Portugal and Australia supported the independence of East Timor. Portugal raised the issue with the European Union members continually. On the other hand, the famous leaders for independence, Bishop Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo and Jose Ramos-Horta, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996. These pressure from outside and inside of East Timor made the Indonesian government decide to hold a referendum about the future.

Eventually, on August 30, 1999, the Indonesian government and UNAMET had a popular vote asking about independence. Almost 98% of the registered potential voters went to the polls. In the vote, 344,580 (78.5%) supported independence and reject Indonesian's alternative offer of

being an autonomous province in Indonesia, to be known as the Special Autonomous Region of East Timor (SARET). Following this result, anti-independence militias had a campaign with violence, looting, and arson throughout the entire territory. According to a report, before these militias and Indonesian soldiers withdrew from East Timor, they murdered almost 2,000 people, displaced three-quarters of the population, raped hundreds of women and girls, and destroyed 75% of the East Timor's infrastructure.

After this violation was gone, Indonesian Armed Forces and police began to leave the territory along with the Indonesian administrative officials. The UN Security Council established the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) who was responsible for administration during the transition to full independence on October 25, 1999. In addition, the UN decided to send in a multinational military force known as the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET). The troops were about 9,900 and contributed by 17 nations including Australia, New Zealand, England, and Korea. The troops landed in East Timor on September 20, 1999, led by Major-General Peter Cosgrove.

### *Independence*

The United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) had been in East Timor for 3 years and helped to establish the administration of East Timor. The Transitional Cabinet of East Timor was created in 2000 and worked with the UNTAET. Elections were held for a Constituent Assembly, whose members wrote the country's first constitution, with 91% of East-Timor's voters polled. As a result of the poll, the 88 members of the Constituent Assembly were elected. They prepared a new constitution and established the framework for future elections and a transition to full independence on August 30, 2001. The Constituent Assembly became the first parliament after independence.

East Timor received their independence officially on May 2002. Xanana Gusmao won by a landslide, and became the first president following the Presidential election on April 14, 2002. In this vote, 86.4% of the eligible population participated.

<http://www.un.org/peace>

<http://www.easttimorgovernment.com>

## **Christian History**

Roman Catholic is the primary religion of East-Timor in the present (90%). Catholicism has been mixed with the traditional religions, mainly animism.

The Portuguese introduced Catholicism in 1515. In 1556, Antonio Taveria, a Dominican friar, began the official missionary work. The East-Timor people had never been forced to convert, however, if the chief in a village converted, many people would convert. By 1640, there were 22 Catholic churches in East-Timor.

In spite of the effort of Roman Catholic to convert people, 72% of the total population was animist, before the Indonesian invasion in 1975. Under the Indonesian occupation, the

conversion to Catholicism increased steadily. During this period, the Catholic Church provided protection, protested with nonviolence, criticized brutalities, and rallied for the freedom fighting.

The history of the Protestant church is not long, dating back to the mid 1940s. A few families in the Baucau district, eastside of Dili, met with foreign tourists and received a couple of copies of the Bible. These families met regularly together for reading the Bible and praying and later more people joined them.

After the independence vote in 1999, Indonesian soldiers and pro-integrated militias killed at least 1,000 people and forced around 300,000 people to flee for their lives. After the Indonesians and their supporters left, there were only 4 among 40 Protestant ministers doing their ministries. All of the 60 church buildings of Portuguese for the Protestant Church of East Timor (IPTL) were destroyed. The church, known before the independence from Indonesia as Gereja Kristen Timor Timur (GKTT), was virtually bankrupt. The Church had lost one-third of its pre-independence membership of about 25,000.

This destroying of the Protestant churches was due to the close association with Indonesians. Many of the pastors were trained in theology schools in Indonesia and the Church belonged to the Indonesian Community of Churches (PGI) in 1988. The church leaders imitated the system of politics in Indonesian churches. The GKTT was perceived as pro-integration and anti-independence.

On the other hand, the Catholic Church was anti-integrated and supported the independence movement during the occupation of Indonesia. This was the most important reason why many East Timorese chose to convert to Catholicism. Since the independence, Protestants and Muslims have been violated, in particular, by Catholic mobs. In 2000, Catholics burned 3 Protestant churches in Aileu. In 2002, Catholic students attacked the mosque in Dili. In those cases, Catholic leaders apologized and helped them to reconstruct the churches and the mosque.

Late arriving evangelicals such as the Assemblies of God, the Bethel Community, and Pentecostal communities were the fastest growing Protestant churches with at least 10 new congregations in Dili in 2004.

## **Religion**

### **Non Christian**

#### *Islam*

The Muslims came to East Timor before the arrival of the Portuguese. Conversion to Islam rarely existed, and was not allowed by the local chiefs. The Muslims inhabited the island for the short period of time sufficient to cut the sandalwood and remove it.

Islam was introduced by an Indonesian trader and has gained a few converts in the coastal areas. According to the statistics of the Indonesian Administration in 1992, approximately 4.0% of the population officially registered as Muslim. Islam increased over 20% of the total population

because of immigrants from the western half of the island of Timor under the rule of Indonesia. Most Muslims are Indonesian.

Presently, Islam is the minority in East Timor. According to a local Muslim official, the number of Muslims is 2,452 in 2006. However, they were supposed to be 4% of the total population, which is approximately one million people.

### *Hinduism*

Only 0.2% of the total population in East Timor is Hindu in 2005.

### *Buddhism*

In the 1970s, approximately 1.0% of the total population was Buddhists. The number of the Buddhists has declined; consequently, only 0.1% of the East Timorese were Buddhists in 2005.

### *Traditional tribal religions (Animism)*

Animism was the main religion before the Indonesian invasion in 1975. Some places, such as Atsabe Kemak, practice animistic beliefs which are mixed with Catholicism. There is a concept called *lulik* which means sacred places, objects, and persons. Sacred places are linked to associations with founding ancestors, the creator god, and may include specific mountains, forests, rivers, and caves. Sacred objects might be ancestral heirlooms, in particular, significant objects from oral history of interaction with the sky god, mother earth, or battles with the lord of the sea.

### *Catholic/Orthodox*

Catholic is the primary religion in East-Timor. The Catholic Church was considered a symbol of resistance to the Indonesians.

The Roman Catholic Church was involved in politics, with its 2005 confrontations with the government over religious education in school. It supported the forgoing of war crimes trials for atrocities against East-Timorese by Indonesia.

Only about 35-40% of the total population was Catholic in 1975. In the present, about 900,000 people in East-Timor are Catholics. It is approximately 96% of the total population in East-Timor.

### **Christian/Evangelical**

There are no large scale organized Protestant churches in East Timor. There is a small work of the Assemblies of God, and the work of the strong Protestant churches in West Timor. The number of Christian missionary groups is very small. Around 20,000 Protestants live in Maliana, Aileu, Baucau, and Dili.

### *Protestant*

The denomination of the Protestant Church of East Timor was changed to the name of The Christian Church in East Timor during 2000. This is an independent church group, not based on the missionary work. The Christian Church in East Timor was established in 1988. During the occupation of Indonesia many people became Christians. The leaders of these Christian groups decided to form an organization, to facilitate their common ministry. In 1979 the leaders decided to found the coordinating body called the Protestant Church in East Timor, as a prototype of a synod. In 1988 the synod was established.

This church has been involved in leadership training for pastors through intensive biblical studies, theology, and ethics. This church is a member of the World Council of Churches (WCC) since 1991. This church joined the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC). This church has established relationships with Roman Catholics and churches in Indonesia, particularly West Timor and Tanah Papua. The number of members was 17,000 and 32 ordained pastors were in East Timor in 2006.

### *Evangelicals*

Approximately 0.4% of the total population in East Timor expressed being Evangelical Christian. This rate has not changed much; 0.6% of East Timorese were Evangelical Christians in 2005.

### *Pentecostals/ Charismatic*

Approximately 0.4% of the total population in East Timor is Pentecostal and Charismatic. This rate has inclined slightly every 6 years; 8.0% of East Timorese is Christian in these denominations.

Patrick Johnstone, Jason Mandryk, *Operation world*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed, 2006  
Barrett, David B., Kurian, George T., Johnson, Todd M., *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Oxford University Press, 2001

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2001/5749.htm>

<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/easttimor>

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/regions/asia/east-timor/protestant-church-in-timor-lorosae.html>

<http://www1.ci.uc.pt/timor/>

<http://etan.org/et/>

[http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/csrpl/RINVol3No1/east\\_timor.htm](http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/csrpl/RINVol3No1/east_timor.htm)

## **People Groups**

Some of major ethnic groups are the Mambai, Tetun (Tetum), Kemak, Bunaq (Bunak), Fataluku, and Galoli

<http://esasite.niu.edu/easttimor>

**23117**

**Adabe (4,000)**

The primary language of the Adabe is Adabe. The primary religion of the Adabe is Roman Catholic (60%). The Adabe live on Atauro Island and north of Dili on Timor Island. These people are called as Ataura, Atauro, Arauru, and Raklu-Un.

Some evangelical resources are available, but the Adabe are in need of Bible translations, the *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

**00000**

**Baikeno (29,000)**

The primary language of the Baikeno is Baikeno. The Baikeno is the affinity bloc with the Malay people. Many of the Baikeno are monolingual. The Baikeno dialects are following: Kais Metan (East Baikeno), Tai Boko (West Baikeno), and Uis Tasae (South Baikeno).

The primary religion of the Baikeno is Roman Catholic (98%). In 2004, the Bible translation was begun.

**00000**

**Bunak (93,000)**

The primary language of the Bunak is Bunak. They also speak Indonesian. The Bunak live in the central interior and south coast of Timor Island.

The primary religion of the Bunak is ethnic religion. Approximately 20% of the Bunak population practice Christianity. Active church planting has not occurred in the past 2 years.

**23118**

**Dagoda (50,000)**

The primary language of the Dagoda is Fataluku. They live in the east area around Los Palos in East Timor.

The primary religion of the Dagoda people is Roman Catholic. The Dagoda people have access to Gospel recording. Dagoda people are in need of Bible translations, the *Jesus* film, and radio broadcasts. Active church planting has not occurred in past 2 years. Approximately 0.33% of the Dagoda population practices Christianity.

**00000**

**Deaf (unknown)**

The primary language of the Deaf is unknown. The primary religion of the Deaf people is Roman Catholic. Approximately 7.26% of the Deaf population practices Christianity.

**23119**

**Galoli (102,000)**



The primary language of the Galoli is Galoli. They live on the north coast between Mambae and Makasae, regions of Laklo, Manatutu, Laeia, and We-Masin, Wetar Island in East Timor.

The primary religion of the Galoli people is Roman Catholic. Approximately 0.17% of the Galoli population practices Christianity.

### **23210**

#### **Habu (2,100)**

The primary language of the Habu is Habun. The language of Habu is similar with Makasae.

The primary religion of the Habu people is Roman Catholic. The Habu people are in need of Bible translations, the *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

### **00000**

#### **Han Chinese, Hakka (5,300)**

The Hakka Han Chinese people primarily speak Chinese, Hakka. They consider themselves Chinese. The historical root of the Hakka is not clear. Some insist that they are the first people coming from China. Others believe that the Hakka is the descendents of the Xiongnu tribe.

Many people fled for refuge because of the various wars from 4<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries in China. These refugees came to be known as Kejia, a Hakka, meaning “strangers” or “guest.”

In the past, many Hakka mothers killed their female babies since their daughters were sold into slavery or concubinage. The primary religion of the Hakka is unknown. Since the emergence of Communism, many Hakka could be described as nonreligious.

Rev. T.H. Hamburg and Rudolf Lechler were the first missionaries arriving to the Hakka in 1846. In 1916, they had translated the Bible into their language. The Hakka has access to the *Jesus* film.

<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/easttimor>

<http://www.jesusfilm.org/film-and-media/statistics/>

### **23211**

#### **Idate (10,000)**

The primary language of the Idate is Idate. They live in the central mountains which are part of the Laclubar area, surrounded by the Mambae, Galoli, Kairui, and Tentun. The language of Idate is close to Lakaei and Galoli.

The primary religion of the Idate is Roman Catholic (55%). Idate are in need of Bible translations, the *Jesus* film, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

### **00000**

#### **Indonesian (30,000)**

The primary language of the Indonesian is Indonesian. The primary religion of the Indonesian is Islam. The Bible translations were completed in 2000.

**00000**

**Javanese (18,000)**

The primary language of the Javanese is Javanese. The primary religion of the Javanese people group is Islam. The Bible translations were completed in 1994. The Javanese have access to the *Jesus* film.

<http://www.jesusteam.org/film-and-media/statistics/>

**23122**

**Kairui-Midik (3,200)**

The primary language of the Kairui-Midik is Kairui-Midiki. They live in the central, small mountainous area in East Timor.

The primary religion of the Kairui-Midi people group is Roman Catholic (70%). The number of evangelical Christian is unknown.

**23123**

**Kemak (102,000)**

The primary language of the Kemak is Kemak. The Kemak people live in the north central area in East Timor. They also speak Indonesian. The alternative name for the Kemak is Ema. The language of Kemak is close to Tetun, Mambae, and Tukudede.

The social organization of the Kemak people emphasizes the founding villages and founding ancestors. Their origin groups are associated with the specific founding villages. These origin groups consist of a number of named source houses (origin houses) which means clans and lineages. Source houses are social groups whose members are related with one another in such categories as descent, marriage alliance, and residence. However, there are variations among Kemak groups according to areas. For instance, the Marobo Kemak is referred to as a house society. While the Atsabe Kemak shows more complexity in forming a society.

The primary religion of the Kemak people group is Roman Catholic (96%). Approximately 0.17% of the Kemak population practices Christianity.

<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/easttimor>

**23124**

**Lakalei (10,000)**

The primary language of the Lakalei is Lakalei. They live in central and north area in East Timor. The language of Lakalei is close to Idate, Tetun, and Galoli.

Approximately 0.83% of the Lakalei population practices Christianity.

**23125****Makasai (116,000)**

The primary language of the Makasai is Makasae. They live in the eastern area around Baucau and west of Fataluku.

The primary religion of the Makasi people group is Roman Catholic (55%). Approximately 0.83% of the Makasai population practices Christianity.

The Makasai people group has access to Gospel recordings.

**00000****Maku'a (60)**

The primary language of the Maku'a is Makuv'a. The Maku'a people live in the northeast area in East Timor.

The primary religion of the Maku'a people group is ethnic religions. The rate of evangelical is less than 5%.

**23126****Mambai (164,000)**

The primary language of the Mambai is Mambae. They live in the central mountainous places in East Timor. The Mambai is one of the dominant groups among Timorese communities in Australia. They also speak Australian.

In the Mambai society, the hierarchical order named as source houses and social relationships are related to an orientation to both place and ancestors. The marriage alliances are made with inter-ethnic arrangements, at times with other people groups such as the Bunaq and Tetum groups of the western part of East Timor. These alliances are still strongly maintained.

The primary religion of the Mambai people group is Roman Catholic (60%). The rate of evangelical Christian is more than 0.01% but less than 2%. The Mambai people have access to Gospel recordings.

<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/easttimor>

**23127****Naueti (2,000)**

The primary language of the Naueti is Nauete. They live in along the south coast and eastern areas in East Timor. The main town of the Naueti is Uato Lari.

The primary religion of the Naueti people group is Roman Catholic (80%).

**00000**

## **Portuguese (1,100)**

The primary language of the Portuguese is Portuguese. The primary religion of the Portuguese people group is Christianity (93%).

They have had the translated Bible in their language since 1751. Other resources available to them are the *Jesus* film, tracts, and gospel recordings.

## **23128**

### **Tetum (300,000)**

The primary language of the Tetum is Tetun. The primary religion of the Tetum people group is Roman Catholic (99%).

Approximately 0.29% of the Tetum population is evangelical. There are church planting teams for these.

## **00000**

### **Tetum Prasa (70,000)**

The primary language of the Tetum Prasa is Tetun Dili. The first-language speakers of the Tetum Prasa live mainly in and around Dili. The second-language speakers live throughout the western part in East Timor.

The primary religion of the Tetum people group is Catholic (90%).

## **23129**

### **Tokode (104,000)**

The primary language of the Tokode is Tukudede. They live on the north coast in the regions of Maubara and Liquisa, from the banks of the Lois River to Dili.

The primary religion of the Tokode people group is Roman Catholic (60%). Approximately 0.20% of the Tokode population is evangelical.

## **23130**

### **Waimaha (5,300)**

The primary language of the Waimaha is Waima'a. They live on the northeast coast, within the Makasae-speaking area in East Timor. The language of the Waimaha is related to Habu and Kairui.

The primary religion of the Waimaha people group is Roman Catholic (80%).

All of the information on people groups has been gathered from two websites, unless noted. These two websites are [www.peoplesgroups.org](http://www.peoplesgroups.org), [www.joshuaproject.org](http://www.joshuaproject.org).

### **Missiological Implications**

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop methods to reach the 23 people groups who each speak in their own language even though East-Timor has 2 public languages. Gospel instruments such as *Jesus* films and Bible translations in each language are needed.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should strive to work directly with each people group and reach each people group, learning their traditions and customs. Each people group has its own language. Thus, for effective evangelism, mission organizations should prepare missionaries to learn their languages.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop methodologies to reach Roman Catholics and help local believers train in these methods. The people need to learn to hear and know the difference between Catholic and Protestant.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should provide training in church planting and development for the people of East Timor. These models should be introduced to the believers and Christians trained in their use. Small group methods might be especially effective in Timor.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to evangelize the Han Chinese, Tokode, Tetum, Tetum Prasa, Mambai, Makasai, Kemak, Galoli, Dagoda, and Bunak. These groups number at least 50,000 and are predominately Roman Catholic or Ethnic Religion.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should encourage partnership with the churches in neighbor countries such as Australia, Singapore, and Indonesia. This would help for church planting and evangelism.

## **Pictures**

[www.joshuaproject.org](http://www.joshuaproject.org)

<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/easttimor>

## **Links**

<http://www.easttimorgovernment.com/> : the official webpage of the East Timor government

[www.peoplegroups.org](http://www.peoplegroups.org)

[www.joshuaproject.org](http://www.joshuaproject.org)

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2001/5749.htm>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

<http://www.worldbank.org>

<http://www.seasite.niu.edu/easttimor>

<http://www1.ci.uc.pt/timor/>

<http://www.un.org/peace>

<http://worldinfozone.com/country.php?country=EastTimor>

<http://compassionatealliance.org/EastTimor>

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0902237.html>

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/regions/asia/east-timor/protestant-church-in-timor-lorosae.html>

<http://etan.org/et/>

[http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/csrpl/RINVol3No1/east\\_timor.htm](http://www.trincoll.edu/depts/csrpl/RINVol3No1/east_timor.htm)

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=TL](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=TL).