

Country Brief

Timor-Leste

The **ASEAN-UK Health Security Partnership (HSP)** programme is a five-year programme designed to strengthen ASEAN Member States' ability to prevent, detect, and respond to health threats, while supporting ASEAN Health Cluster priorities and ASEAN-UK collaboration. It focuses on preparedness and response, equitable health systems, and climate-health links. Using One Health approach, HSP provides demand-led grants to accelerate implementation of evidence-based priorities, and peer exchange awards to promote the exchange of knowledge and best practices.



Country Portfolio



Value up to:
£576,293



Peer Exchange
Awards: 4



Grants: 6



Partners: 29

Expected Outcomes for Timor-Leste:

- Stronger laboratory systems, leadership, and biosecurity standards through regional collaboration and peer learning.
- Improved food safety capacity including better monitoring of drug-resistant bacteria in imported frozen foods and pesticide residue, strengthened laboratories, whole-genome sequencing, and real-time surveillance, and data-sharing for policy recommendations, ensuring ASEAN-aligned standards ahead of the country's first food laboratory.
- Improved cross-border coordination and surveillance through training and regional data-sharing networks using the International Patient Summary approach.
- Great access to regionally procured, sustainably sourced vaccine supplies.
- Strengthened outbreak detection and responses through structured mentoring, training and regional exchanges.
- Greater access to regional knowledge and learning for sustainability studies, capacity building, and project design.
- Enhanced regional vaccine manufacturing workforce through hands-on biomanufacturing training and mentorship.

Strengthening Resilient Laboratory Systems in ASEAN through Regional Preparedness, Response, and Leadership Development (Multi-country Grant + Peer Exchange Award)

Duration: 36 months

Lead Grantee: Regional Public Health Laboratory Network

Consortium Partners: Department of Medical Sciences, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand; Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Philippines; National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Viet Nam; National Public Health Laboratory, Communicable Diseases Agency, Singapore

This initiative aims to build sustainable laboratory capacity and regional collaboration across ASEAN, including **Timor-Leste**, support National Laboratory Strategic Plans, strengthen leadership through peer learning and digital platforms, and harmonise standards for biosecurity and outbreak response, while fostering south-to-south knowledge exchange.

Supporting ASEAN Health Priorities:



- Prevention and control of diseases
- Regional preparedness & response
- Human resources for health



Photo credit:
Katherine Wise/ FHI 360

Timor-Leste AMR-Food Safety Nexus Initiative (Country Grant + Peer Exchange Award)

Duration: 24 months

Lead Grantee: Instituto de Ciências da Saúde

Consortium Partners: *Unit of Quarantine and Biosecurity, MALFF, Timor-Leste; National Institute of Public Health, MOH, Timor-Leste; Autoridade de Inspeção e Fiscalização das Atividades Económicas, Sanitárias e Alimentares; Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional (BRIN), Archipelago Biotechnology Indonesia; University of Northumbria at Newcastle; Research Center for Food Technology and Processing, National Research and Innovation Agency, Indonesia; UKHSA; Indonesian Quarantine Agency*

This project brings together human, animal, and environmental health systems to better monitor drug-resistant bacteria in imported frozen foods in [Timor-Leste](#), building national laboratory capacity, whole genome sequencing, and real-time surveillance.

ASEAN-LabConnect TL: Strengthening Food Laboratory & Inspection Capacity through Peer Exchange (Peer Exchange Award)

Duration: 12 months

Lead Grantee: Autoridade de Inspeção e Fiscalização das Atividades Económicas, Sanitárias e Alimentares

Consortium Partners: *BPOM Indonesia (Indonesian Food and Drug Authority); Food Safety and Quality Division (FSQD), Ministry of Health Malaysia*

Covering Indonesia, Malaysia, and [Timor-Leste](#), this project will build laboratory and inspection capacity through training, placements, and a Training-of-Trainers programme, strengthening food safety systems, AMR detection, and ASEAN-aligned standards ahead of the country's first food laboratory in 2026.

Strengthening Cross-Border Digital Health Interoperability & Surveillance in ASEAN through the International Patient Summary - SECURE (Peer Exchange Award)

Duration: 12 months

Lead Grantee: Center for Tropical Medicine, Universitas Gadjah Mada

Consortium Partners: *Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University; Instituto Nacional de Saude Publica de Timor-Leste (INSP-TL); UPM Silab; Asia eHealth Information Network*

This project for Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and [Timor-Leste](#) provides gap mapping, training on standards and interoperability, site visits and capstone projects to demonstrate cross-border surveillance data exchange using International Patient Summaries.

ASEAN Health Knowledge Management Platform Project (Direct Award)

Duration: 36 months

Proponent: Ministry of Health, Indonesia

Implementing Agency: Indonesia One Health University Network

Under an ASEAN-wide initiative, [Timor-Leste](#) will benefit from the ASEAN Health Knowledge Management Platform through access to sustainability studies, capacity building, focal point training, and phased integration, and contribute to it as ASEAN's core health knowledge tool.

Supporting ASEAN Health Priorities:



- Combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
- Ensuring food safety



- Prevention and control of diseases
- Strengthening laboratory capacity
- HR for health
- Ensuring food safety



- Digital health



- Digital health

Vaccine Manufacturing Training Programme for ASEAN Member States (Direct Award)

Duration: 24 months

Implementing Organisation: University of Sheffield

Consortium Partner: Hilleman Laboratories Singapore Pte Ltd

This project delivers hands-on biomanufacturing training and mentorship to strengthen vaccine manufacturing workforce across ASEAN, including [Timor-Leste](#), fostering regional collaboration and increasing vaccine access across Member States.

Monitoring of Dietary Exposure of Pesticide Residues from Leafy and Fruiting Vegetables among ASEAN Member States (Direct Award)

Duration: 36 months

Proponent: Singapore Food Agency

Co-Implementors: ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety; Vietnam Food Administration

For [Timor-Leste](#) and other ASEAN Member States, this three-year pilot aims to enhance national capacities for dietary exposure assessment of pesticide residues, boosting protection of 680 million consumers through harmonised laboratory methods, data exchange protocols, exposure assessments, and policy recommendations for food safety.

Enhancing Regional Field Epidemiology Collaboration Workforce Capacity (Direct Award)

Duration: 36 months

Proponent: ASEAN-Plus Field Epidemiology Training Network FETN Foundation

This project strengthens mentorship and supervisory capacity within the ASEAN+3 Field Epidemiology Training Programme, establishing a regional mechanism to identify, investigate, and assess public health threats of regional concern and building institutional capacity for outbreak investigation and response, benefiting all [ASEAN Member States](#). Critical components focus on governance for regional collaborative FETP projects – including a micro-grant mechanism – and Training of Trainers and supervisory skills workshops to build a cohort of mentors integrating One Health, GEDSI, and climate-sensitive approaches.

Supporting ASEAN Health Priorities:



- Pharmaceutical development
- Human resources for health



- Ensuring food safety



- Prevention and control of diseases
- Regional preparedness & response
- Combatting anti-microbial resistance
- Environmental health and health impact of climate change
- HR for health
- Ensuring food safety