The Demography of a New Nation: Timor Leste

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Introduction

• The demographic parameters of a new nation exhibit patterns and trends that have been influenced by the various factors prevailing before, during and after the unusual conditions brought about by the conflict or politically extreme situations
• These demographic parameters in turn have implications for the development of the country
• This presentation examines some the patterns and trends in some selected demographic variables and their implications for development
Current population

- As of the 2004 Census:
  - Total population: 923,198
  - Males: 469,919
  - Females: 453,279
  - Sex ratio: 104 males per 100 females

- In most populations there are more females than males

- The predominance of males in the population of Timor Leste suggests higher female mortality, or greater under-enumeration of females or both.

Population growth trends

![Population of Timor Leste 1985-2004](chart.png)
### Population growth trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Sex ratio (M/F)</th>
<th>Rate of growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>630,676</td>
<td>322,667</td>
<td>308,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>747,533</td>
<td>386,790</td>
<td>360,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>839,719</td>
<td>426,879</td>
<td>412,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>923,198</td>
<td>469,919</td>
<td>453,279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- It is estimated that between 1995 and 2005 Timor Leste has lost, due to out-migration, 57,823 males and 56,863 females aged 10 years and over.
- The current rate of natural increase (based on 2004 census) is 3.2%.

### Age-composition and the dependency burden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population by age</th>
<th>1985 (%)</th>
<th>1990 (%)</th>
<th>1995 (%)</th>
<th>2004 (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young (Under 15)</td>
<td>40.5</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>43.5</td>
<td>43.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working age (15-59)</td>
<td>55.6</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>51.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old (60+)</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependency ratio</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Young</td>
<td>73.1</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>81.9</td>
<td>84.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>79.9</td>
<td>82.3</td>
<td>88.4</td>
<td>95.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Age-sex structure

Source: National Statistics Directorate

Literacy and education (population aged 6+)

- Percentage literate in any language:
  - Male: 50%
  - Female: 42%
  - Total: 46%

- Schooling (percentage):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No schooling</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>29.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyond secondary</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education not stated</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>32.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Marital status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never married</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Widowed</th>
<th>Divorced/separated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Both sexes</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>58.7</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>60.3</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mean age at first marriage**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age-group</th>
<th>1985</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1995</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>26.6</td>
<td>25.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Proportions married males and females

![Proportions married males and females by age](chart.png)
Proportions widowed males and females

Proportions widowed males and females by age

Proportions divorced/separated males and females

Proportions divorced/separated males and females by age
Fertility and mortality

Total fertility rate 7.4 per woman
(Average for less developed countries: around 3)
Crude birth rate 48.2 per 1,000

Infant mortality rate 98 per 1,000 live births
(Average for less developed countries: 60 per 1,000)

Under 5 mortality rate 129 per 1,000 live births

Life expectancy at birth
57.4 for males
58.9 for females

Maternal mortality ratio 660 per 100,000 live births

Age specific fertility rates 1999-2004

Age specific fertility rates Timor Leste 1999-2004 (Brass Method 2004 Census). (Total fertility rate 7.4)
Labour force age 15+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In the labour force</th>
<th>Not in the labour force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and fishing</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-agriculture</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No work available (Discouraged workers)</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Males**:
  - Agriculture and fishing: 75%
  - Non-agriculture: 25%
  - No work available (Discouraged workers): 19%

- **Females**:
  - Agriculture and fishing: 78%
  - Non-agriculture: 22%
  - No work available (Discouraged workers): 6%

- **Both sexes**:
  - Agriculture and fishing: 76%
  - Non-agriculture: 24%
  - No work available (Discouraged workers): 11%

Heads of households

- **Overall**
  - Males aged 15+: 81%
  - Females aged 15+: 19%

- **By marital status (percentages)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Never married</th>
<th>Married</th>
<th>Widowed</th>
<th>Divorced/ separated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males aged 15+</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>88.2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females aged 15+</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Disproportionately high percentage of women heads are widowed, divorced or separated
Implications for development

- A major issue facing the government of Timor Leste is how to accommodate large increases in population size as implied by the high growth rate, and at the same time reduce poverty and sustain economic growth.
- How to increase investments in material and human resources to increase productivity and sustain economic development, and accomplish this on a per capita basis so as to reduce poverty while the population itself is growing.
- The large component of the under 15 population will have a lasting influence in the foreseeable future of the country in terms of education, human resource development, employment creation and population growth.

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Implications for development

- In view of the present low level of economic and human development and the weakness of many of its institutions, any appropriate development plan for the country need have two components:
  1) Sound human capital investments (education, training and healthcare), especially among the youth, and
  2) The establishment and development of economic areas with a high potential for growth and employment expansion. These areas should productively absorb the human capital and give sustainability to a process of diversification of economic growth (Neupert 2008. forthcoming).
### Implications for development

**High fertility**
- The high fertility of Timor Leste is detrimental to the health of mothers, especially as it is associated with a very high maternal mortality
- It is associated with women giving birth at very young and old ages, often with short birth intervals
- Women may also be pregnant when their other medical conditions may be unsafe for pregnancy
- High fertility contributes to high population growth, which is in turn an obstacle to poverty reduction and economic development
- Lower fertility would contribute to a healthier population and would help bring down the population growth rate

**High mortality**
- High mortality or low life expectancy prevents people from realising their full potential for human development and from enjoying their fundamental right to enjoy a long and healthy life
- High mortality results in a loss human capital and the associated low health conditions adversely affect productivity
- An overall high mortality is generally associated with high mortality of certain groups such as infants, children under 5 or pregnant mothers and of poorer socio-economic classes and therefore acts as a barrier to building an equitable and just society
Implications for development

Imbalances in the age-sex structure

- Timor Leste has a typical age-sex structure of a young population with high levels of fertility and mortality
- A closer look at the age-sex pyramid reveals an age-sex imbalance in the population
- Especially noteworthy is the indentation in the 25-29 year age category for both males and females - the populations in this age-group are survivors of the children born during 1975-1979, a turbulent period in Timor Leste’s history when the birth rate may have dropped heavily
- Also notable is the imbalance of the sexes in the Timor Leste’s population, with men outnumbering women in most age-groups

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Implications for development

Imbalances in the age-sex structure

- The shortage of women across most age-groups warrants separate studies into the causes of this imbalance – this is not due to higher female mortality except for maternal mortality, as the life expectancy for females is higher than that of males. Is it due to in-migration of males or is it due to out-migration of females?
- The other imbalance is in the sex differential in certain marital status groups. For example, why, in spite of a general shortage of females in the population, are the percentages of widowed and divorced women greater than those of men?
Implications for development

Female headed households

- About 20% of the private households are headed by women
- Of these, a disproportionately high percentage of women heads are widowed, divorced or separated, (which may be the reason why these women became heads of their households), but their marital status may also put them in vulnerable positions

Gender inequalities

- Women have less access to education and paid employment
- The percentage of women classified as literate is smaller than of men
- In every education category, there are proportionately fewer women than men
• These is a selected perspective on the
demography of Timor Leste and its implications
for development some selected

• Any questions?

THANK YOU