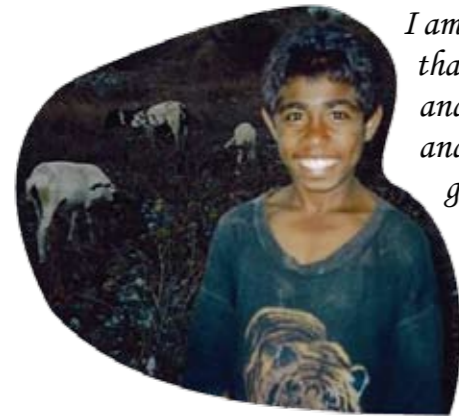


# East Timor



*I am a goat shepherd and I am a 14 year old East Timorese boy. My family live in a traditional thatched house in the hills about 10 kilometres from the town of Baucau. My name is Jose and during the day I look after 5 goats belonging to my family. Three of the goats are small and I need to watch them carefully so that they do not wander away from their parents and get killed by other animals or get lost. These goats I take to different parts of the open fields and the side of the road as my family does not own land to run a goat farm. Very few people in Timor are this lucky but we do have a small garden near the house and a small rice plot in the village community shared land. This food, except in the dry season, is the main source of our two meals a day. I enjoy these vegetables and rice and our family is not to be hungry as we have a tradition of being good farmers.*

*We all thought that my youngest sister would never be able to walk as she was born with bad legs. But she is being visited by the Katilosa workers who are teaching us kids and my parents how to help her do walking exercises. Next year she hopes to start school. Katilosa is supported by Australian Marists as a small Timorese organisation helping people with disabilities. They bring a lot of joy to my sister and village.*

*It is the hope of my parents, and myself too as I have not been to school since Grade 4, that we can raise the goats to be fat and healthy and sell them in the Baucau market. This will give us some US dollar cash for our family needs, especially the \$1/term fees for my younger brothers' and sisters' schooling. Last time I was down in the market I saw the signs for the new Marist Brothers' teacher training centre. This lead me to think about my future kids and I hope that they have good water proof school rooms as it is a warm tropical climate here and rains every day. I hope too our schools have well trained teachers. I am going to have six kids like mum and dad!*




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Capital City: Dili  
 Area: 15,007 sq km  
 Population: 998,000  
 Time Zone: GMT/UTC +9  
 Languages: Portuguese (Official)  
 Tetum (Official)  
 Other - Indonesian; English  
 Religions: Christian, Muslim,  
 Hindu, Buddhist, Animia  
 Currency: US Dollar (USD)  
 Exchange rate: AUD \$1 = USD .85c  
 Dialling Code: 670