

# Official Report

## FPCD Mission to Timor-Leste

**Dates:** July 26 – August 2, 2025

**Prepared by:** Muriel Bubbio

**Delegation:**

- Claudia Abate – President, FPCD Global
  - Muriel Bubbio – Vice President, FPCD Global / President, FPCD Monaco
  - Alexandre Bubbio – Advisor to FPCD
  - Sacha Jouanne – Journalist, TV Monaco
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## Introduction

From July 26 to August 2, 2025, the Foundation for Post Conflict Development (FPCD) carried out a mission to Timor-Leste rooted in continuity, listening, and meaningful cooperation.

Four key objectives guided our work:

- Reaffirming FPCD's long-term solidarity with Timor-Leste
- Strengthening friendship with bilateral and multilateral partnerships
- Listening and learning from the visions of government partners, the g7+, and local stakeholders
- Sharing FPCD's strategy and programme evolution with national authorities

Our presence in rural areas— alongside institutional counterparts, community leaders, and frontline workers – reinforced a shared commitment to peace, equity, and locally led progress.

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## 1. High-Level and Strategic Meetings

### Meetings with the President of the Republic, H.E. José Ramos-Horta

A deeply inspiring 90-minute exchange where President Ramos-Horta:

- Welcomed the FPCD delegation at the Closing Ceremony of the CPLP Games and the XVI Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers of the CPLP
- Spoke powerfully about the fight against poverty, the role of education (especially for women), and economic independence as a tool to combat domestic violence
- Expressed hope for the expansion of maternity facilities like the one in Same

## Meeting with the Prime Minister, H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

A highlight of the mission, this official meeting marked the **reaffirmation of trust between the Government and FPCD**.

- The Prime Minister encouraged FPCD to **expand its reach across g7+ countries**, drawing on the Timorese experience
- He highlighted **maternal health, women's empowerment, and peacebuilding** as priority themes
- His leadership remains a source of inspiration to FPCD's work in fragile contexts

## Official Meeting with the Minister of Health, H.E. Élia dos Reis Amaral

This exchange laid the foundation for a new strategic partnership:

- The Minister expressed her intention to **sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with FPCD
- The MoU will support:
  - A **digital training programme for midwives and doctors**, to be co-developed and piloted starting in October
  - A dedicated focus on **postpartum mental health**, especially for young mothers in remote areas
  - Expansion of both FPCD supported Maternity Clinics with enhanced infrastructure through a third party partnership
- The Minister also confirmed her support for the **October training in the USA** for two midwives from Same, hosted at Holy Name Hospital (New Jersey)

## Dinner hosted by Minister of State, H.E. Mr. Agio Pereira and Mrs. Yeni Pereira

Held in a spirit of friendship and openness, this dinner allowed reflection on development challenges, civil society engagement, and the long-standing bond between Timor-Leste and FPCD.

## Working Dinner hosted by the g7+ Secretariat

Held at **Pro Ema**, a social enterprise supporting young women's employment in hospitality, this dinner:

- Reinforced the shared purpose behind the **MoU signed between FPCD and the g7+ in 2022**
- Advanced discussions on post-conflict development, maternal health, and peer learning across fragile states
- Celebrated joint efforts to turn **experience into progress**

## Meeting with Madre Guilhermina Marçal, Mother Superior of the Cannossian Sisters

A moment of profound inspiration. Madre Guilhermina – a **national icon of peace and women's dignity** – shared her vision for a **community center for women and girls on Atauro Island**, and requested FPCD's support to bring this vision to life.

Her lifelong commitment to post-conflict protection and social justice continues to inspire our work.

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## 2. Community Visits and Local Consultations

### Ermera

- FPCD visited the site of the **Reforestation and Family Income Programme**, originally funded by Monaco's Office of International Cooperation in 2008
- A visit to the **Saint Bakhita Center** reaffirmed the value of long-term, community-rooted development

### Passabe (Oecusse enclave)

A moving visit to the **Princess Grace Maternity Clinic**, following a challenging journey via land and 4x4:

- FPCD met with midwives and the generalist doctor
- They shared **critical needs**:
  - **Family housing with kitchen facilities** for women and relatives during childbirth
  - **An ambulance** to improve medical access in this mountainous region
- On behalf of H.S.H. Prince Albert II, FPCD presented **portraits of Princess Grace and Prince Rainier III** to the clinic, strengthening symbolic and programmatic ties

### Same (visited in 2024 – follow-up in 2025)

Although not part of this mission, Same remains a focus area.

- The need for **one ambulance** was reconfirmed in 2025 by health workers and national stakeholders
  - The need for expansion of the clinic to support more patients
  - FPCD will continue working to address these critical gaps
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### 3. Capacity Building and Institutional Cooperation

#### Midwife Exchange Programme (USA)

FPCD confirmed the launch of a **professional training programme in the United States** for two midwives from Same – Justa Pereira and Elizabeth da Costa Marchal.

- The visit will be hosted by **Holy Name Hospital (New Jersey)**
- The programme aims to enhance technical expertise and foster cross-cultural dialogue in complex birth care

#### MoU with the Ministry of Health – In Progress

- Will support **digital learning**, improve access to care, and address **maternal mental health**
  - Reinforces FPCD's investment in digital, scalable, and context-sensitive capacity building
  - Will include infrastructure expansion to meet community needs
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### 4. Strengthening the g7+ Partnership

FPCD's collaboration with the **g7+ Secretariat** was further deepened during this mission:

- Focus on **peer learning across fragile states**
  - FPCD reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to g7+ priority implementation
  - Shared goal: **transform experience into action**, and fragility into resilience
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### 5. Youth Employment – A Future Commitment

FPCD is preparing to:

- **Hire a young female graduate from Timor-Leste** under a 5-year contract
  - Her mission:
    - Coordinate FPCD field operations
    - Liaise with government and g7+
    - Track programme progress and mobilize communities
    - This project reflects FPCD's approach: **long-term investment in women, youth, and local leadership.**
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## 6. New Opportunity – Atauro Island Women’s Centre (in consideration)

In response to **Madre Guilhermina’s request**, FPCD is exploring how to support the **construction of a multi purpose community centre on Atauro Island**, dedicated to:

- The **dignity, protection and empowerment of women and girls**
  - Health, education, and peacebuilding services
  - Serving as a safe and inclusive space in a post-conflict context
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## Conclusion

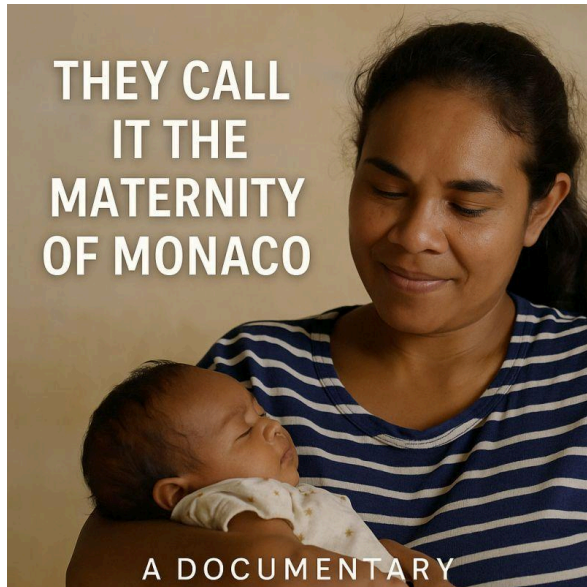
This mission reinforced FPCD’s strategy: listen first, build partnerships, and act with humility. From the halls of government to the most remote villages, each encounter reaffirmed the importance of presence, continuity, and respect.

We leave Timor-Leste with full hearts, deep gratitude, and a clear vision for the path ahead — rooted in trust, equity, and hope.

**With sincere thanks to:**

- H.E. President José Ramos-Horta
  - H.E. Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão
  - H.E. Minister Élia dos Reis Amaral
  - Minister Agio Pereira and Mrs. Yeni Pereira
  - **Madre Guilhermina Marçal**
  - The g7+ Secretariat
  - The midwives of Same and Passabe
  - The communities of Ermera
  - Our driver, Léo, and our protocol coordinator, Nazarinha Carvalho
  - And to **Sacha Jouanne**, for capturing this journey through the lens of peace and resilience
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## Travel Journal



**Date:** From Saturday 26 July to Saturday 2 August 2025

**Context:** The FPCD traveled to Oecusse to visit the Princess Grace Maternity Ward and deliver an official portrait of Princess Grace and Prince Rainier III, gifted to H.E. President José-Ramos Horta at the Palais Princier de Monaco by H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco during their recent meeting.

👤 TVMonaco journalist Sacha Jouanne will join the mission to produce the second episode of the inspiring documentary series: They Call It the Maternity of Monaco. This moving film tells the story of the Rainier III Maternity Ward in Same, Timor-Leste, and reflects the deep and lasting bond between Monaco and a nation shaped by resilience.

🔗 Watch the powerful documentary They Call It the Maternity of Monaco :  
<https://videos.tvmonaco.com/content/ils-l-appellent-la-maternite-de-monaco>

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The Post Conflict Development Association of Monaco, C/o The Office-17, Av. Albert II 98000 MONACO

## Day 1 in Timor-Leste



### Description:

On its first day, the FPCD delegation had the privilege of attending the final match of the XII CPLP Games, a thrilling football face-off between Angola and Cape Verde, with Cape Verde taking home the win after a nail-biting penalty shootout. For the very first time, Timor-Leste hosted the Games, and it did so brilliantly, welcoming 9 Portuguese speaking nations, hundreds of youth athletes, and a shared spirit of friendship and peace.

These Games reminded our delegation that sport is a language of hope, connection, and global youth leadership.

 More about the Games: <https://jogoscp2025.tl/>



## **Day 2 in Dili: a day of dialogue, partnership, and preparation**



### **Description:**

The second day in Timor-Leste began with an informal yet warm conversation with H.E. President José Ramos-Horta, who later graciously invited the FPCD delegation to attend the official lunch held in the context of the XVI Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers of the CPLP.



### **Description:**

In the afternoon, the FPCD delegation reconnected with the two midwives from the Rainier III Maternity Ward in Same, continuing the dialogue they began during their visit last year. This working session allowed the FPCD to review progress on current programmes and prepare for the next steps. The FPCD will sponsor a professional observation visit for these two midwives, Justa Pereira and Elizabeth da Costa Marchal, to a maternity ward in New Jersey (USA) Holy Name Medical Center. An opportunity they look forward to with enthusiasm, eager to exchange knowledge and enhance their approach to complex birth management.

## **Day 3 in Dili: Inspiration, dialogue, and shared purpose**



### **Description:**

The third day began with an official meeting with H.E. President José Ramos-Horta, who generously granted the FPCD delegation over 90 minutes of his time.

This meaningful exchange allowed the FPCD to present the objectives of their mission, provide updates on The Foundation for Post Conflict Development's current programmes, and listen to the President's deep reflections on Timor-Leste's development journey. He spoke with conviction about the country's fight against poverty, emphasizing how access to education, especially for women, is key to securing a decent income and achieving financial independence, which he sees as one of the strongest tools to combat domestic violence.

On this occasion, the FPCD delegation had the honour of offering President Ramos-Horta a special gift: a handcrafted backgammon set by the Monegasque brand Monoikos 1297, featuring Monaco's emblematic sailing boats. A symbolic gesture, as the President is a long-time admirer of sailing and the sea, a theme that resonates with his personal journey of navigating challenges, and steering his nation with calm, courage and foresight.

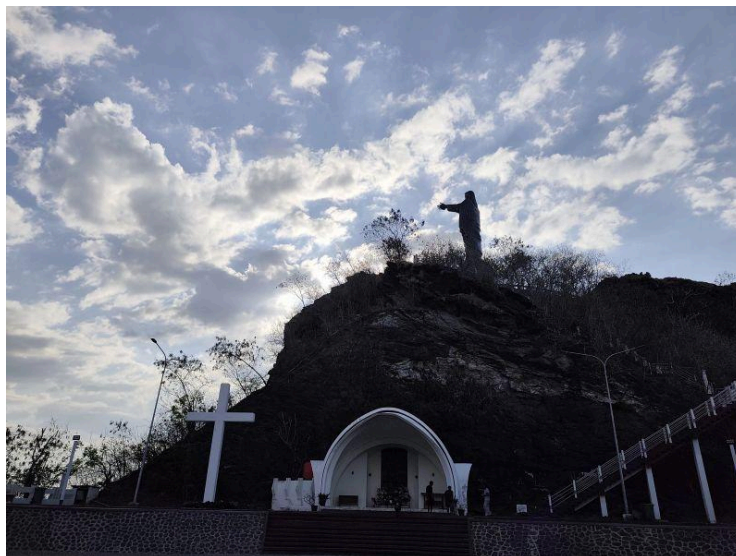
President Ramos-Horta also expressed hope that new maternity wards, like the one in Same, will be developed soon.

He entrusted the FPCD delegation with a portrait of Princess Grace, gifted by H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, to be delivered to the Princess Grace Maternity in Oecusse, a powerful token of enduring friendship.

 Learn about the Presidency of Timor-Leste coverage on our meeting:  
<https://lnkd.in/geMhEdPT>

 Watch our press conference on the meeting: <https://youtu.be/l1NlaaLbdvU>





**Description:**

In the afternoon, our delegation took a moment to visit the Cristo Rei of Dili, walking its symbolic Way of the Cross, a local landmark of serenity and reflection where families gather to end the day.



**Description:**

In the evening, the FPCD joined a working dinner with the g7+ (Group of Seven Plus) Secretariat at Pro Ema Restaurant School, a social enterprise that provides professional training to young women in hospitality and culinary skills. This dinner was an important milestone in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between FPCD and the g7+, advancing collaboration on post-conflict development, maternal health, and community resilience, both in Timor-Leste and beyond.

 More on Pro Ema: <https://lnkd.in/dU4mF3JY>

## Day 4 in Ermera: Honouring a legacy of impact in Ermera



### **Description:**

On the fourth day, the FPCD traveled 2 hours inland from Dili to the region of Ermera to visit the site of the Reforestation and Family Income Program, a project launched in 2008 and fully funded by Monaco's Office of International Cooperation.

More than a decade later, the impact is still tangible:

- 7 community water systems were built, providing clean, accessible water to over 4,500 people.
- 20 nurseries and 60 kitchen gardens were created, promoting reforestation, food security, and sustainable livelihoods.
- Farmer groups, vocational training programmes, demonstration plots, sanitation stations and solar-powered units helped empower local leadership and improve daily well-being.



### **Description:**

This project was led by the President's Anti-Poverty Task Force and implemented with the vital support of the Saint Bakhita Center and the communities of 4 sucos and 23 aldeias.

As part of their visit, the FPCD delegation had the pleasure of spending time at the Saint Bakhita Center, where hospitality, dedication and continuity remain at the heart of community progress.

The visit today was a moment to reflect on the long-standing friendship between Monaco and Timor-Leste, and the value of locally rooted development, built with trust, respect, and community ownership.

## **Day 5 in Passabe: Journey to Passabe - honouring legacy in the most remote reaches of Timor-Leste**



### **Description:**

The FPCD team undertook a land expedition, leaving Dili at sunrise for a 5-hour journey, hugging the stunning Timorese coast, passing through the Indonesian border zone, and re-entering Timor-Leste to reach Oecusse, the country's western enclave. From there, the FPCD switched to a 4x4 for another 2 hours of rugged terrain, finally arriving in Passabe, where the Princess Grace Maternity Clinic is located, remote, essential, and proudly standing.

The FPCD was warmly welcomed by the three midwives and the generalist doctor, who gave them a tour of the recently renovated facility and shared their needs and challenges in delivering care in such an isolated area.



### **Description:**

On this occasion, the FPCD had the privilege of presenting, on behalf of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, the portraits of Princess Grace and Prince Rainier III, offered to President José Ramos-Horta during his visit to Monaco on June 24. These portraits now have a place in the maternity clinic that bears her name, symbolizing a bridge of solidarity and remembrance.



## **Day 6 in Dili: A return to Dili, and a reaffirmed alliance**



### **Description:**

After several days in the field, today marked the FPCD return to Dili, and with it, one of the most important moments of the mission. The FPCD was honoured to be received by H.E. Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão for an official meeting that served to reaffirm the strong bond of friendship between Timor-Leste and the FPCD.

The Prime Minister encouraged the FPCD to not only continue their work in Timor-Leste, but to expand their outreach and actions across the g7+ countries, to help address the common challenges that fragile states face, particularly in areas such as maternal health, women's empowerment, access to basic services, and peacebuilding.

 Find more about our meeting on the Prime Minister's official Facebook page:  
<https://lnkd.in/dnnygvXj>



### **Description:**

The FPCD closed the day in a more personal and generous setting: a private family dinner with State Minister Agio Pereira and his wife Yeni Pereira, where they had the pleasure of exchanging thoughts, experiences and future perspectives in a spirit of openness and friendship.

## Day 7 in Timor-Leste



### **Description:**

The FPCD had the honour of meeting H.E. Élia dos Reis Amaral, Minister of Health of Timor-Leste. The discussion centered on the two maternity clinics supported by FPCD in Same and Passabe, and the upcoming training program in October for two midwives from Same, which will take place at Holy Name Hospital in New Jersey, USA.

Minister Amaral expressed her commitment to signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FPCD to co-develop an online training program for midwives and doctors, with a strong focus on mental health and support for young mothers.

 Official statement from the Ministry of Health Facebook post:

<https://www.facebook.com/MinisteriodaSaudeTL/posts/pfbid0HZTrTB4w7aqsRjDWa86WsZhbaDD5BuzMLuJ6ajJ2cK85mu1uYJaZqF7nSmGGmr4hl>



**Description:**

The FPCD then had a heartfelt meeting with Madre Guilhermina Marçal, a national icon of peace and social justice. Her tireless work for the dignity and protection of women and girls in post-conflict Timor-Leste is a profound source of inspiration for us all.



**Description:**

We concluded the day with a visit to the g7+ Secretariat Headquarters, where the FPCD was warmly welcomed by their team. Since the signing of an MoU between FPCD and the g7+ in 2022, our collaboration has focused on peer learning among fragile and conflict-affected states. The g7+ expressed their strong interest in having FPCD actively contribute to the implementation of this core priority, helping to turn shared experiences into tangible progress.



## Day 8: Farewell Timor-Leste



### Description:

As the FPCD returns to Bali, we close an incredible week filled with partnerships, learning, and shared purpose. We leave Timor-Leste with deep gratitude and renewed determination.



The Foundation for Post Conflict Development, 369 Lexington Ave, Suite 3104, New York, NY 10017

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## LOCAL PRESS

Learn about the final match  
of the XII CPLP Games



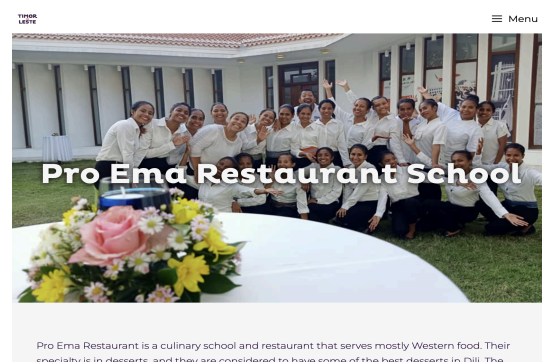
Read the Presidency of Timor-Leste's  
coverage on our meeting



Watch the press conference on  
our meeting with the President



Discover more on Pro Ema  
Restaurant School



Find more on our meeting on the  
Prime Minister's official Facebook



Read the official statement from the  
Ministry of Health Facebook post

