



Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste Round 2 (SEIA 2.0)

RESULTS FOR AILEU MUNICIPALITY





Aileu

12 July to 31 July 2021



14

Sucos



231

Households



74.5%

Agricultural activities



17.9% Households
Headed by women



1399

Individual members

48.3%
Female

51.7%
Male



5 Interviewers
from Aileu

2.4% of individuals aged above 15 years old had a disability.

Data presented in this report are not representative of Aileu. The results represent the households interviewed. Caution must be applied in interpreting data.

Data is reported only at the municipality level. For confidentiality purposes, suco and aldeias included in the survey are not mentioned in this factsheet. For the survey analysis, sample weights were calculated to address the unequal household selection probabilities, non-response and under-coverage. Separate weights were calculated for household-level data, individual-level data and respondent-level data.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR AILEU

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

WEALTH QUINTILES IN AILEU

POOREST QUINTILE **12.4%**

2ND POOREST QUINTILE **33.7%**

MIDDLE POOREST QUINTILE **30.1%**

2ND RICHEST QUINTILE **19.1%**

RICHEST QUINTILE **4.6%**

12.4% of households belong to poorest wealth group while 33.7% belong to second poorest wealth group. The proportion of the poorest wealth households was lower than the national average. However, the proportion of households in the second poorest households was higher than the national average.

Economic vulnerability of households was measured through a wealth index and making comparisons between the poorest (lowest wealth quintile) and relatively well-off (highest wealth quintiles) households. The wealth index was calculated based on households' assets, ownership, utilities, and dwelling characteristics.

VULNERABLE GROUPS IN AILEU

MOST VULNERABLE **20.7%**

MORE VULNERABLE **40.8%**

LESS VULNERABLE **38.5%**

The social vulnerability index measures the number of characteristics of persons in the household that place them at higher risk of economic deprivation, exclusion, and social isolation.

Households with members of older age, having a disability, female headship of the household and the number of children vis à vis persons in the working-age groups (the child dependency ratio) were measured. Households are divided into 3 groups – Most Vulnerable, More Vulnerable and Less Vulnerable.



20.7% most vulnerable
in Aileu Municipality



21.7% most vulnerable
households in the whole country



56.2%
of the persons living in MOST
VULNERABLE households are men



43.8%
of the persons living in MOST
VULNERABLE households are women

Majority of the people living in 'less' socially vulnerable households were men in Aileu. In contrast, the proportion of men and women living in 'more' vulnerable and 'most' vulnerable households were similar.

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Before the April 2021 Easter flood, did the household have or own one or more of the following items?



42.8%

national average 49.3%



12.8%

national average 30.4%



85.7%

national average 69.9%

Before the April 2021 Easter flood, did any member of this household have or own one or more of the following items?



3.0%

national average 16.8%



91.1%

national average 92.7%



46.4%

national average 40.3%

Digital technologies and private transportation have been heavily relied upon to mitigate the effects of physical distancing and movement restrictions. The percentage of households that own or have various digital assets is lower in Aileu than the national average.

WASH



93.7%

have water available
in the house



84.6%

national average



60.1%

used soap



75.7%

national average

The SEIA 2.0 observed that when households do not have water and soap, symptoms of COVID-19 were more common for these households. The proportion of households with water and soap available in the house was higher than the national average.

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE



37.3%

have some savings



29.6%

borrowed money



62.4%

member(s) with bank accounts

31.8%

national average

30.7%

national average

40.3%

national average

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN AILEU

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION



851

individuals aged 15+ years

The SEIA 2.0 asked about their employment situation during the COVID-19 pandemic.



54.1%

labour force participation rate



51.9%

national average

Labour force participation rate is slightly higher than the national average.

Proportion of Employed People in the Working-Age Population



47.2%

nationwide employment

41.7% for women



55.2%

nationwide employment

48.6% for men



51.4%

working-age population

were employed in Aileu



45.2%

national average

More men were employed than women. The employment rate of both women and men were slightly higher than the national average.

Employed – The ability of the economy to generate paid or for-profit jobs is the employment-to-population ratio, the proportion of the working-age population that is employed

Unemployment and Economically Inactive People in the Working-Age Population

UNEMPLOYED



1.1%



2.3%

INACTIVE



51.8%



42.3%

Unemployed - refers to persons not in employment in the reference month of the SEIA 2.0 (March 2020), and who, at that time, were seeking employment and were available to start working if an opportunity would have been offered.

Economically inactive - The persons not actively participating in the labour market include those who are not employed and not unemployed

Proportion of Employed Persons in Vulnerable Employment



93.9%

individuals in vulnerable employment

(national average 86.3%)

The percentage of those in vulnerable employment is higher than the national average.

More women are contributing family workers than men.



24.3%

self-employed (without employees)

68.1%

contributing family workers



15.7%

self-employed (without employees)

80.1%

contributing family workers

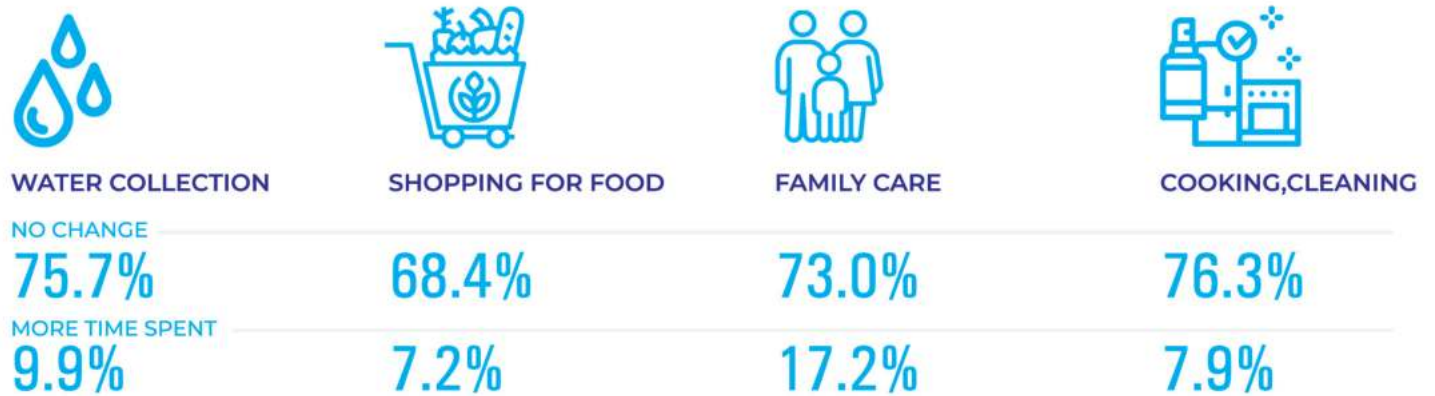
The categories of self-employed without employees and contributing family workers are considered as being in vulnerable employment.



There was no significant difference between women and men in losing a job.

In many, if not most cases, the recorded 'job loss' should be interpreted as a temporary suspension of work.

CHANGES IN TIME SPENT DOING HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19

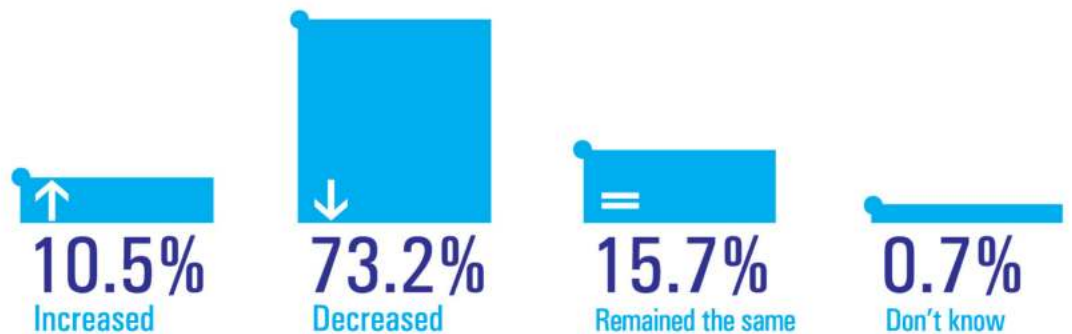


In contrast to other municipalities, for the majority of the households, there was no significant change in time spent doing domestic chores. More households reported time spent in doing household chores has reduced (not shown here). More women than men were the most affected household members in time spent (in this case, by decrease in time spent).

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Change in household expenditure as a result of COVID-19

Roughly three out of every four households (73.2%) reported that they had reduced their spending as a result of COVID-19. Poor and vulnerable households were more likely to reduce spending.



HOUSEHOLD SOURCES OF INCOME DURING COVID-19



The most common source of income was income from work or sale of products before and after the COVID-19 Emergency.



53.2% household members had an earning, said their income was affected by the COVID-19 (national average 24.6%)

Of those, 95.8% reported their income has decreased.

FOOD INSECURITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Was there a time during this last one month when you or others in your household [the corresponding experiences presented below] because of a lack of money or other resources?



41.4%
households in Aileu were affected by moderate or severe food insecurity

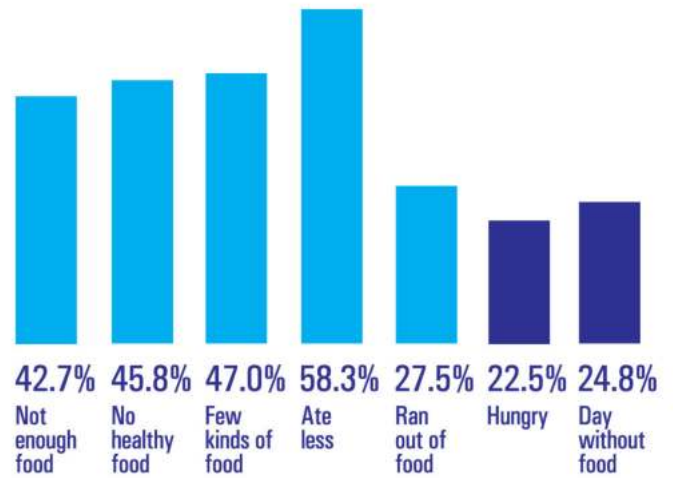
41.0%
national average



18.8%
households in Aileu were affected by severe food insecurity

19.3%
national average

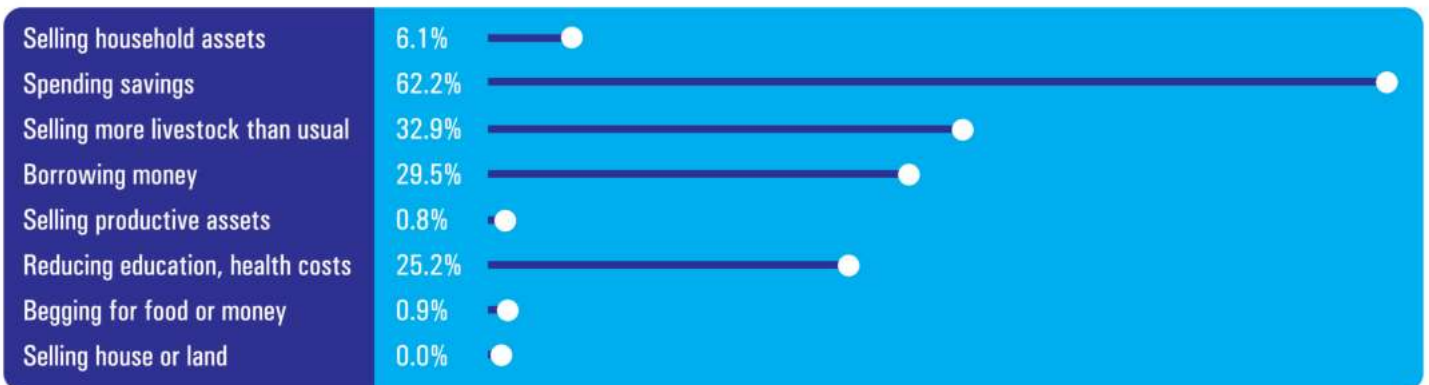
Food concerns experienced in the last one month



More than half of the households reported there was a time during the last one month someone in the household ate less than they should because of a lack of money or other resources.

LIVELIHOOD AND MAJOR DIFFICULTIES

Because of a lack of food or a lack of money to buy food, did your household in the last one month had to ...?



The most common coping strategies were spending savings, selling more livestock and reducing education and health costs. Households belonging to the poorest wealth quintiles used more coping mechanisms than those in the richest quintile. Due to their deprived economic position, they are more frequently forced to cope differently to put food on the table.



93.3%
of households mentioned they faced major difficulties or shocks affecting their lives since the COVID-19 State of Emergency



50.4%
households experienced serious illness and catastrophic health expenditure



24.4%
households reported fuel / transportation prices too expensive to afford



22.1%
could not sell or go to markets (limited access to market)



What is your main concern about COVID-19?

58.2% lack of money or food
31.4% health

Further 3.9% of the respondents were worried about the growing unsafety in the country. 3.3% did not have concerns related to COVID-19.

EASTER FLOOD

Over the Easter weekend in the beginning of April 2021, Timor-Leste suffered devastating floods and landslides. The combination of the pandemic and the Easter flood created a perilous situation that posed a direct threat to people's health and livelihood.



7.9%
households had their dwelling damaged by the Easter Flood



70.3%
agricultural households interviewed had their standing crops and harvest destroyed due to Easter flood

The proportion of agricultural households impacted by the Easter Flood was one of the highest in Timor-Leste



78.2%
persons who had an income indicated that their income had changed because of the Easter Flood (national average 62.8%)

SOCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN AILEU

HEALTH



90.8%
households interviewed needed medical treatment
national average 60.8%



57.2%
could access health services
ALWAYS



37.7%
could access
SOMETIMES



5.1%
household mentioned they are **NEVER** able to access health services

As a result of the COVID-19 situation, what has been the change in your household's utilization of health services?



18.7%
No change



71.9%
Increased



7.2%
Decreased

The proportion of households reporting there was an increase in their health services utilization due to COVID-19 situation was higher than the national average.

Have any of the children below age 10 in this household missed vaccinations (immunization) since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency?

Reason children missed vaccination was mainly due to the COVID-19 situation (81.5%).



4.3%
missed child vaccination (immunization)
national average 20.3%

Proportion of households reporting 'children missed vaccination' was significantly lower than the national average.



Did any female members of the household aged between 15-49 miss family planning or any other reproductive health service since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency?



15.0%
missed reproductive health services
national average 29.3%

68.2% said women missed reproductive health services because of the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Views on COVID-19 Vaccination

98.7%
have heard about COVID-19 vaccines
national average 91.7%

73.3%
had concerns about COVID-19 vaccines
national average 50.4%

69.7%
were worried COVID-19 vaccines could cause death or serious illness

16.2%
were worried about health side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines

This shows vaccine advocacy and socialization programmes should continue to keep the economy open and protect the people.

EDUCATION

The SEIA 2.0 tried to identify the impact of COVID-19 on education services in the country by looking at missed in-person learning opportunities and sources of distance learning. Education-related questions were asked to all household members aged between 4 and 25 years.



762

persons aged 4-25 years in the survey in Aileu



50.7%

male



49.3%

female

Educational attendance after school reopening in 2021



81.0%

students were attending schools regularly



16.5%

attending schools irregularly



2.5%

did not attend at all when schools reopened

21.1%

cited

'financial constraints' and 20.0% 'schools remained closed' as the main reasons for not attending schools



54.7%

students continued studying at home on a daily basis during school closures

national average 62.6%



11.4%

used student workbooks of the Ministry of Education

national average 48.6%



11.6%

used TV programme 'Eskola Ba Uma'

national average 10.4%



2.4%

used online material 'Learning Passport' of the Ministry of Education

national average 13.3%

The use of various distance learning materials was low in Aileu compared to the national average.

32.0%

studied irregularly

13.3%

did not continue studying at home during school closures

50.2%

mentioned Lack of printed materials at home

... as the main reasons for not continuing studying at home.

13.5%

No TV, mobile phone or internet connection

Support or guide materials for households in 'home schooling' should be strengthened. There is a need for the formal education system to encourage and monitor the progress of home schooling in communities. Messages for parents and caregivers on how they can support their children during home schooling should be strengthened.

There was no significant difference based on gender of the students.

TRUST AND SUPPORT



98.4%
strongly trust or trust others
in their community
national average 89.6%

There was no significant
difference between men
and women.



81.5%
of all respondents said
people's trust in each
other got better since the
start of the COVID-19
State of Emergency
national average 72.9%



61.8%
of the households
received help of
some kind
national average 68.1%

Less vulnerable and richest households tended to both receive
and provide more help.



50.6%
of the households
had given help of
some kind to others
national average 30.2%

Top 2 types of support for the households that had received help

Of households that received help



Food

93.0%



Cash

43.8%



Food

33.6%



Cash

15.8%

Nearly all households that received support had received it in the form of food support.

Of all households surveyed in Aileu

Top 2 support providers to the households



57.7%

National
government



37.0%

Non-governmental
organizations



Of the households that received help, majority had re-
ceived from the national government followed by NGOs

SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING

How people view their life and how they feel is important to understand the social conditions of the society. Therefore, the SEIA 2.0 asked how people evaluate various aspects of their lives and how they felt the day before the interview.

Overall, how satisfied
are you with life as a
whole these days?



male

94.4%



female

96.2%

In total, 95.4% of all
respondents said they are
satisfied with their life as
a whole these days.

Proportion of respondents saying they felt... yesterday



sad

52.2%

43.3%



worried

50.0%

46.7%



tired

67.8%

58.1%



felt happy

77.8%

86.5%

The proportion of those who felt negative feelings the day
before the interview was higher in Aileu than the national
average. More men than women indicated they felt sad,
worried and tired.

More women in Aileu
had felt happy the day
before the interview.

SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY MEASURES

The results show satisfaction of the people in Aileu with the government response and how the national and local Government worked closely with the communities to disseminate information about COVID-19 and to provide relevant support measures.



58.6%
found the information timely
national average 44.9%



32.9%
found the information somewhat timely
national average 36.8%



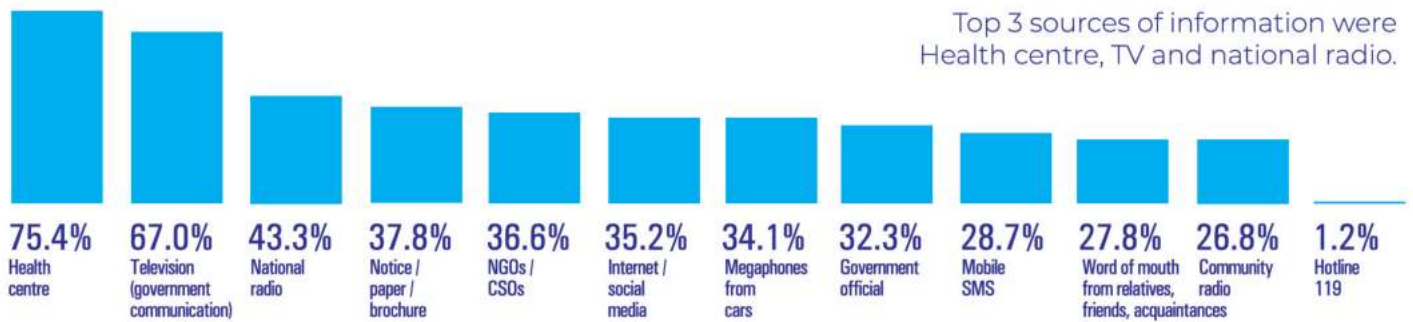
41.6%
found the information useful
national average 55.6%



54.4%
found the information somewhat useful
national average 40.9%

The majority of households had received information in a timely manner found the information useful

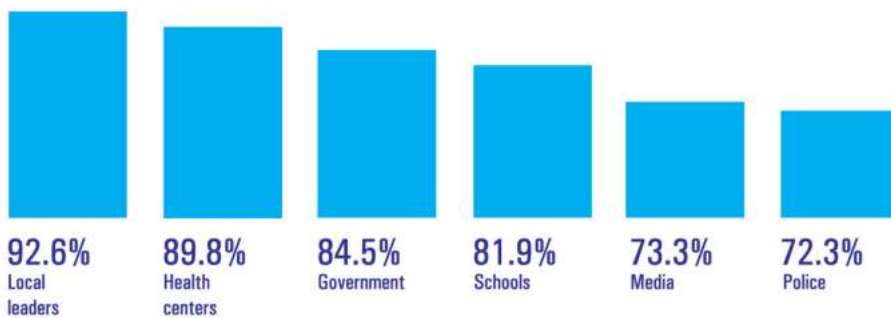
Households' sources of COVID-19 information



Households in Aileu received information about COVID-19 prevention and government response measures from multiple sources.

How satisfied are you with the response of the <following institutions> to COVID-19 in supporting citizens?

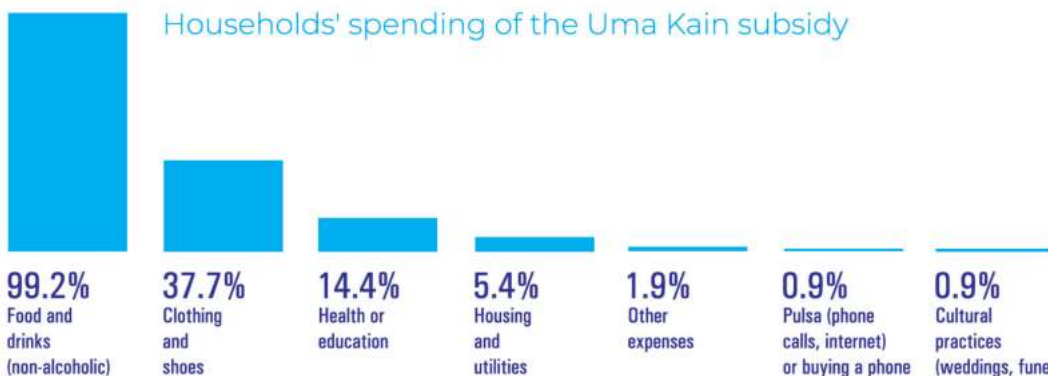
Proportion of respondents satisfied with institutions' responses to COVID-19



12.9% of the respondents were very satisfied and 71.6% were satisfied with the Government's COVID-19 response.

The SEIA 2.0 asked how the households used the Uma Kain subsidy. (One household can choose several options)

Households' spending of the Uma Kain subsidy



Nearly all households used the Uma Kain subsidy to buy food and non-alcoholic drinks.

Satisfaction with Cesta Básica was high both for women and men in Aeliu



In your opinion, what are the two most important measures the government should implement to support household livelihoods or micro businesses?

Top 3 preferred livelihood support measures



The study shows how the COVID-19 situation has exacerbated underlying issues within the country, including large gaps in development between different income groups, rural and urban settings, the effects of climate hazards, and limited access to education, health services, social protection programmes and markets.

To cope with the confluence of the pandemic, Easter Flood and major difficulties, households have employed coping strategies that hinder further improvement in their lives.

The study also finds resilience among communities, the important role of the national government in social support, and continued efforts of various government and civil society organisations to reduce these negative impacts.

During the entire COVID-19 pandemic period, the Government of Timor-Leste has taken proactive measures to protect the population from spread of the virus and has implemented concrete steps to counteract the worst socio-economic consequences of twin shocks.

Using the SEIA 2.0 findings, a series of recommendations for policymakers to consider in developing strategy for a robust socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are proposed in the full report.

ABOUT THE SEIA 2.0 PROJECT

This Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste, Round 2 (SEIA 2.0) was led by UNDP and UNFPA and conducted in collaboration with UN Women, UNICEF, UN Timor-Leste Resident Coordinator's Office, and the General Directorate of Statistics of the Ministry of Finance in Timor-Leste.

The nationwide SEIA 2.0 was conducted between April 2021 and October 2021 covering 4292 households with 23,362 members from 13 municipalities in Timor-Leste. The SEIA 2.0 seeks to inform what livelihood, healthcare, and other essential services are necessary to allow planners and practitioners from all sectors to target their responses to the needs of the population.

Full reports and executive summaries in English and Tetum can be accessed here:

https://www.tl.undp.org/content/timor_lemte/en/home/library/poverty/socio-economic-impact--assessment-of-covid-19--in-timor-lemte--r.html



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