S.O.T. SYSTEMS OF TIMOR

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Rua de Ai Meti Laran, Comoro, Dom Aleixo, Dili

JOB PROFILE

Construction labourer

Traballadór konstrusaun

Construction & building trades · ISCO-08 9313 / 9312

Construction labourers do the basic physical work on building sites and on roads, bridges and drains: digging, carrying, mixing concrete and helping skilled workers. In 2017 employers named civil-engineering labourers among the five hardest jobs to fill, and among the five jobs they hired most people for.

TRAIN IN TIMOR	**Certificate I–II** INDMO General Construction
COURSE LENGTH	**To confirm** No published source yet
IN TIMOR	**Hard to fill** Enterprise survey 2017
ABROAD	**Japan · new route** Construction internships, agreement 2025
PAY IN TIMOR	**US$164 / month** Average for all workers in elementary jobs in Timor-Leste, not this job alone (Labour Force Survey 2021)

WHAT YOU DO

Prepare the site: Clear rubbish, plants and rocks from the site; Knock down old walls and take away the waste; Put up fences and safety signs.

Dig and fill: Dig trenches and holes with hand tools; Fill and flatten ground, gravel and sand; Help build roads, drains and small bridges.

Carry and mix: Load, unload and carry materials; Mix concrete and mortar by hand or machine; Use small machines such as compactors and drills.

Help the team: Help masons, carpenters and other trades; Keep tools clean and the site tidy; Follow safety rules and wear safety gear.

Based on the ILO descriptions of ISCO-08 unit groups 9313, Building construction labourers, and 9312, Civil engineering labourers.

WHERE YOU WORK

Building sites (Houses, schools, offices and shops); Roads, drains and bridges (Public works, often in the municipalities); Construction companies (Hired for each contract).

The work is hard and physical, outdoors in heat and rain. Many companies hire workers when they win a contract and let them go when it ends. Safety gear matters: building sites have heavy loads, machines and holes.

A skills study says the roads, drains and bridges planned for the next years will need mostly unskilled or semi-skilled workers, in the districts where the work is. Employers also reported skills gaps among construction labourers: some do not yet work at the level employers need, so training helps you stand out.

IS IT FOR ME?

You are good at: Hard physical work, Lifting and carrying, Following instructions, Teamwork, Working safely.

You like: Being outdoors, Working with your hands, Seeing what you built, Learning a trade.

This is a good first job in construction. Watch the skilled workers and ask questions: it is how many masons and carpenters start.

TRAIN FOR IT IN TIMOR-LESTE

- **Certificate I in General Construction** · INDMO national certificate
- **Certificate II in General Construction** · INDMO national certificate
- **CNEFP Tibar: General Construction** · Levels I and II. 123 people finished in 2025, and the centre opened enrolment for 2026.

Course length and fees: to confirm with INDMO and each centre. The directory never shows a number without a source.

WHERE IT LEADS

- **Construction labourer** · Entry job; Certificate I in General Construction
- **Mason or carpenter** · Masonry or Carpentry, Certificate I–IV (ISCO 7112 / 7115)
- **Civil-engineering technician** · Construção Civil, Diploma II, at the Betano polytechnic (IPB; new name IPTL to confirm) (ISCO 3112)
- **Your own building business** · Startups of Timor helps you start one

WORK ABROAD, SAFELY

- **Japan: Technical Intern Training** · In December 2025 SEFOPE signed an agreement with a business cooperative in Kagoshima, Japan, for Japan's Technical Intern Training programme. The cooperative will recruit interns mainly for construction and port services. This route is new.

Never pay a fixer. Join only through SEFOPE, the Timor-Leste government office for work abroad. No one can sell you a place, and a real overseas job never asks you for a recruitment fee.

SOURCES

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4. Tatoli, 251 young Timorese complete vocational training at CNEFP, 20 Nov 2025 https://en.tatoli.tl/?p=66213
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6. Tatoli, SEFOPE and Reimei Business Cooperative (Kagoshima) sign MoC on Japan's Technical Intern Training, 9 Dec 2025 https://en.tatoli.tl/?p=66579
7. Labour Force Survey 2021, Table 29: average monthly wage of employees by occupation group https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/%40asia/%40ro-bangkok/%40ilo-jakarta/documents/publication/wcms_863064.pdf

From the Servisu jobs directory. Every figure has a source; "to confirm" means none yet. http://servisu.oftimor.com/jobs-directory/construction-labourer/?lang=en