

Update on the MDG-F activities in Timor-Leste 01 July – 31 December 2012

The Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (RCO) is pleased to share with you the third update on activities of the two Joint Programmes and the Focus Country initiatives funded by the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Trust Fund (MDG-F) and implemented by the UN system in Timor-Leste. This update also includes information of key events related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Timor-Leste, including a schedule of upcoming MDG related meetings, as well as a snapshot of global MDG developments.

BACKGROUND

The Millennium Development Goals Achievement Trust Fund (MDG-F) was established in December 2006 with a contribution of €528 Million from the Government of Spain to the UN system with the aim of accelerating progress on the MDGs. An additional €90M was contributed by Spain in 2008 mainly towards child nutrition and food security, conflict prevention and private sector and development. The MDG-F supports national governments, local authorities and citizen organizations through the UN in its efforts to tackle poverty and inequality. All programmes are joint, bringing together an average of five UN Agencies in a collective effort to strength the UN system’s ability to “Deliver as One”.

With support from the MDG-F, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is implementing two Joint Programmes in Timor-Leste, one focusing on food security and nutrition (coordinated by UNICEF), and one on gender equality and women’s right (coordinated by UN Women), in line with MDGs 1 and 3. The country is also one of the nine MDG-F focus countries with additional support for monitoring and evaluation as well as advocacy and communication. These two initiatives are under the leadership of the RCO. In total, the MDG-F has contributed US\$8,965,000 to Timor-Leste.

MDG-F ADVOCACY AND COMMUNICATION



On Saturday 8 September, on the eve of the **Tour de Timor**, the RCO with the support of WFP, FAO, WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNV and UNPOL/GNR came together to organize MDG advocacy activities for children at the finish line of the Ride for Peace at Cristo Rei in Dili. Activities included the ‘Nutrition Wheel’ where children had the opportunity to learn about nutrition and were asked to answer a question about nutrition to win a prize. As well as ‘Drawing on Nutrition’ where children had the opportunity to create drawings of foods they believe provide good nutrition.

UN Day celebrations took place on 24 October with an afternoon of both women and men football games to celebrate the partnership between the PNTL and UN Police, particularly in the context of the UN mission closing down at the end of the year. Xanana Gusmão opened the event at Dili Municipal Stadium and added to the fun by joining in the game. The MDG-F National Advocacy Officer was the Master of Ceremony and kept the crowd informed and entertained.



A display of UN Agency activities was organised as part of the **UN Day** celebrations. It was well received by all in attendance and provided a wealth of information about the UN agencies and their work in Timor-Leste. ‘Drawing on Nutrition’ was again the main RCO activity at the event and the children were entertained by drawing colourful pictures of healthy foods following a series of guiding questions provided by the UN team.

The **MDG-F Advocacy** initiative funded an activity organised by OHCHR/UNMIT Human Rights Unit, a debate/competition on MDGs and Human Rights with Youth Human Rights Clubs. Four clubs were brought together in Dili to compete in the debates. The clubs were from the districts of Manatuto, Same, Baucau and Dili. It was inspiring to see the youth of the country debating issues so important with such passion and vigour.

The **MDG-F Advocacy Working Group’s** main focus throughout July, August and September was to develop a revised advocacy strategy based on existing possibilities for advocacy and outreach in Timor-Leste. After much effort and extensive consultation, a new Advocacy work plan and budget was endorsed by the working group and subsequently endorsed by the MDG-F Secretariat in New York.



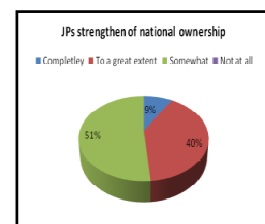
The final **MDG-F Advocacy activities** will take place between December 2012 and June 2013 and are being delivered in partnership with the following agencies: UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF UNV, and UNFPA. The activities include: Theatre performances on the prevention of domestic violence, briefings to NGO’s on aspects of the MDG’s, an exhibition called “Voices from the community”, a CSE stakeholders workshop, briefings to university students on the MDG’s and volunteering, forums with church leaders, media orientations and field visits regarding aspects of the MDGs and MDG activities as part of Dili Marathon 2013.

Since 1 July, the **MDG-F Advocacy Working Group** has convened five times, most recently on 9 October.

MDG-F MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In compliance with the MDG Achievement Fund’s monitoring and evaluation strategy, Timor-Leste is currently conducting a comprehensive participatory **Case Study Evaluation** (CSE). The case study evaluation has been conducted in four main stages: (1) a preliminary consultation with key stakeholders to decide the areas of study under the case study evaluation; (2) the design and implementation of the case study evaluation at national and sub-national levels; (3) communication and dissemination of the findings to development partners and the wider public at national and sub-national levels and; (4) a plan of action for the future based on the findings and recommendations.

The two first stages were concluded. A report with the main findings, conclusions and key recommendations was presented by the CSE Task Manager at the Evaluation Reference Group meeting on 20 November 2012 and was endorsed by its members.



In line with the Terms of Reference of the CSE and work plan, other activities will be carried out to complement the CSE and will aim at fostering communication and dialogue based on the CSE findings. They will also strive towards strengthening national monitoring and evaluation capacities.

An exhibition entitled ‘Voices from the Communities’ will complement the CSE report as it will display the case study evaluation key findings from the community level on the topic ‘changes in behaviour, attitudes and practices’ to programme partners and other national stakeholders, as well as to the general public.

A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) training session focusing on data collection, data management, and data analysis methods used during the CSE was held on 11 December to strengthen national M&E capacities. This training linked to the ongoing training initiative organized under the MDG-F Focus Country Initiative on Monitoring and Evaluation. Participants therefore included the UN M&E national trainers and M&E officers from MSS, SEPI and MoH.

The training materials developed and used for the training sessions have been distributed to the three Ministries and to all UN agencies to allow for broad ongoing M&E learning. The materials include a training manual in Tetum, and a CD-Rom which includes the training manual in both English and Tetum, and all the power point presentations that accompany the training modules.

A stakeholders’ workshop will be held in Dili to engage with all key stakeholders to discuss the findings and to review and discuss the CSE recommendations, and prepare a plan of action on how to address these recommendations through future programme interventions.

Since 15 July, the **MDG-F M&E Working Group** met four times, most recently on 7 December.

MDG-F JOINT PROGRAMME ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY



The MDG-F Secretariat approved a no cost extension of the **Joint Programme on Food and Nutrition Security** (Nutrition JP) until 31 March 2013. The request was based on the recommendation of the Programme Management Committee (PMC) and a formal request by the UN Resident Coordinator, to ensure complete implementation of all of the planned activities, achievement of all expected programme results and completion of all necessary steps for operational closing of the joint programme.

The final programme evaluation consultant visited Timor-Leste from 18 September to 9 October 2012 and conducted 35 meetings with the programme implementing partners and programme beneficiaries at the central level and in Manatuto and Oecusse districts. The debriefing meeting of the field mission was held on 8 October 2012.

The draft final evaluation report of the Nutrition JP was submitted on 31 October 2012 which was reviewed by the Evaluation Reference Group (ERG) and MDG-F Secretariat

and provided suggestions and comments to the evaluation consultant through the PMU for finalization of the evaluation report.

A joint monitoring visit was conducted in Oecusse district in the first week of September 2012 by the M&E Officer and representatives of the implementing UN Agencies and Government partners.



A representative (Yarlina Balarajan) from the **knowledge management team of the Children, Food Security and Nutrition thematic window** visited Timor-Leste from 24-28 September 2012 to assess and define the strategy for a case study on “Linking home-gardening and promotion of Infant and Young child Feeding (IYCF) practices through community-based mother support groups: Potential for scale-up and future programming” who subsequently finalized the guidelines for this case study and the ToR for the consultant.

The PMC members collectively responded to a questionnaire designed to be a tool for rapid assessment on the food and nutrition policies of Timor-Leste.

Five PMC meetings (10 Aug, 29 Sep, 23 Oct, 14 Nov and 14 December) and one ERG meeting (11 Sep) were conducted between 1 July and 31 December 2012.

MDG-F JOINT PROGRAMME ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS

The PMC Co-chairs and heads of the implementing UN agencies approved the final narrative report of the Joint Programme on Gender Equality and Women’s Rights (Gender JP) in the last week of August 2012. The UN Resident Coordinator as well as a representative of Spain in Timor-Leste approved the final report after which, the UN Resident Coordinator formally submitted the final report to MDG-F Secretariat. Thus, the Gender JP was operationally closed on 31 August 2012.

As at 31 August 2012, the estimated delivery rate of the Gender JP was 91% and the estimated commitment rate was 98%. All implementing UN agencies achieved a 100% delivery rate except UN Women who will return the unspent funds of US\$ 112,771 to the MDG-F Secretariat.

The Gender JP achieved most of the expected results and contributed significantly in strengthening the national capacity in the establishment of legal and policy frameworks and improving the conditions of women and girls by strengthening their rights and their empowerment.



This Gender JP established a strong network for the potential actors within the gender and women’s empowerment field in Timor-Leste and generated significant lessons learned for similar future programming.

It is hoped that the final narrative report, programme evaluation report and the documentation on the best practices and lessons learned will be used by the Government, UN agencies, other development partners and civil society organizations to sustain the Gender JP results and further strengthen gender and women’s empowerment issues in Timor-Leste.

GLOBAL MDG DEVELOPMENTS

In the [outcome document](#) of the [2010 MDG Summit](#), Member States requested the Secretary-General to initiate annual reporting on the activities, consultations and analytical work that needs to take place to inform the inter-governmental debate on the post-2015 UN development agenda. In this vein, the Secretary-General established a UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. The Task Team is led jointly by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and has been requested to lead system-wide preparations for the post-2015 UN development agenda with support from all UN agencies and in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

As the Secretary-General indicated in his first [annual report](#) on this subject, work on the post-2015 agenda should be grounded in a critical evaluation of how the MDGs have worked as a framework, identifying what has worked well and areas for improvement, especially in response to current development challenges. In this context, the UN System Task Team is evaluating the experience with the MDG framework, in terms of both contents and processes; reviewing recent development trends; and drawing out the implications for the formulation of a post-2015 UN development agenda.

The work of the Task Team will inform a High-level Panel of Eminent Persons that the Secretary-General appointed to advise him on the post-2015 UN development agenda. The reports of the Panel and the Secretary-General will support the ongoing deliberations on the post-2015 development framework and will then be conveyed to Member States and form the basis of the intergovernmental negotiations on a post-2015 framework.

MDG DEVELOPMENTS IN TIMOR-LESTE

Post-2015 development framework national consultations have begun in Timor-Leste. The consultations have been organized by the Ministry of Finance through the MDG Secretariat. The national consultations, which took place between 3 and 14 December 2012, involved a range of groups in the society, including focal points in various Ministries, civil society organizations, the private sector, the academia, vulnerable groups, the youth organizations, and an interactive talk show on the RTTL. These consultations will culminate with a global consultation, planned for 26-28 February 2013 in Dili, which will involve Ministers of the G7+, the Pacific Island States, CPLP, and world think tankers. The intention of the consultations is to amplify the voices of the people directly affected by poverty, to build a shared vision for the future both for people and for the planet, and to influence national governments.

The questions asked during the consultations were; What is important for you as a person in your country/community to live well? What are the main reasons why some people do not live well in the community/country? What can be done to achieve this? Time-lines? How are we going to measure the progress?

As of 20 November, 45 countries had submitted their framework reports to UNDP Headquarters, among which 23 have been approved.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

2013

January-February	MDG-F Advocacy Activity – Briefings to NGO Forum on MDG’s
25 Jan – 3 Feb	MDG-F M&E CSE Exhibition – “Voices from the community”
28 Jan – 8 Feb	MDG-F Nutrition JP - Field mission of evaluation consultant
Mid February	MDG-F M&E CSE stakeholders workshop (tbc)
1-15 March	MDG-F M&E CSE district field visits (tbc)
Mid March	MDG-F Advocacy Activity – Briefings to university students on MDG’s & volunteering (tbc)
Late March	MDG-F Nutrition JP - Final PMC meeting
March-May	MDG-F Advocacy Activity – MDG Forums with church leaders (tbc)
31 March	Closure of MDG-F Nutrition JP
April	MDG-F Advocacy Activity – Media briefing/field visits on MDG’s (tbc)
June	MDG-F Advocacy Activity – Kids activities at Dili Marathon (tbc)
30 June	Closure of the MDG-F Advocacy Initiative as well as Closure of the MDG-F M&E Initiative