



QUARTERLY BULLETIN UNDP TIMOR-LESTE DARDC PROJECT



1st EDITION

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We are delighted to present the first edition of bulletin of the project “strengthening community resilience to climate induced disasters in Dili Ainaro Road Development Corridor (UNDP-DARDC)”.

The purpose of the quarterly bulletin is to regularly inform and update stakeholders regarding project activities and progress.

The DARDC project is funded by GEF/LDCF and has been in operation since the beginning of 2015.

The aim of the project is to enhance resiliency of the local communities living along Dili to Ainaro road development corridor and to protect critical economic infrastructures from climate-induced natural hazards by reducing potential disaster risks and vulnerabilities.

In this issue, we bring you the latest updates and progress made since the beginning of the project. Despite slow start, the project is getting momentum to meet its target and objectives. Some of the important milestones that the project has achieved so far are; workshop on gender mainstreaming, afforestation for disaster risk reduction, and DARDC Project Profile.

We are committed to regularly publish next issues quarterly.

Your views and feedback are highly appreciated.





Photo by: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP



Photo by: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP

Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Resilience Building

Dili, 25 March 2017 – Women are not only vulnerable to natural disasters but also key actors in disaster recovery, thus their participation in building resilience against climate change is very essential. Therefore, UNDP organized a two-day gender mainstreaming workshop on 23 to 24 March 2017 to validate the findings of the field survey and identify key measures for enhancing gender equality and promoting women’s participation in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction initiatives. The findings and recommendations drawn from knowledge, experiences and best practices shared at the workshop will be used to develop a roadmap for a gender responsive action plans for the Dili to Ainaro Road Development Corridor (DARDC) and the Small Scale Rural Infrastructure (SSRI) projects.



Photo by: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP

Gender analyses would help to understand the impact of small scale climate resilient infrastructure and community based disaster risk management (CBDRM) measures on the livelihoods of men and women as well as their role and contribution in gender responsive planning for resilience building.

The workshop acknowledged the fact that the involvement of all stakeholders is important to identify the resources gaps, risks and challenges in legislation, policy and program both at national and municipality level for gender mainstreaming into development planning. The workshop also suggested to promote advocacy to influence the decision makers in national and municipality level so as to sensitize them for mainstreaming gender in policy, programs and investment plans.



Photo by: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP

Gender equality is a fundamental value of United Nations and gender mainstreaming is an important part of UNDP policy. UNDP is committed to strengthen gender mainstreaming in its all projects and programs.

Ms. Karabi Baruah, UNDP Gender Consultant met community members during Focus Group Discussion at Fatuk-hun-Aileu and Casa-Ainaro.

Afforestation for Disaster Risks Reduction

The Government of Timor-Leste together with the World Bank invested substantial funds for the construction of 110 km highway along Dili to Ainaro Corridor. The construction activities have triggered high risks to natural and anthropogenic disasters potentially affecting many local communities living along the corridor.

To reduce the risks posed by natural disasters along the Dili-Ainaro corridor, the DARDC Project in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) has implemented several integrated forestry and watershed management activities.

Among others, tree planting in degraded areas and community lands is one of the important activities of the project.

Afforestation in degraded areas and agro-forestry in community lands would not only protect lands and



A four hectares of reforestation area that has been planted at Suco Lahae, municipality Aileu

infrastructure from the possible natural disasters such as soil erosion and landslides, this would also contribute to support livelihoods of the local communities living in the corridor both in the short and long run.

By the end of April 2017, the project completed 16 hectares plantation in community lands with native multi-purpose species that can resist natural disasters and protect local water sources. Prior to plantation, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries had conducted site suitability studies and consulted with the local communities to select plantation sites and suitable species.

UNDP will continue to support MAF for reforestation and agroforestry activities to reduce the potential disaster risks and to build the resiliency of local communities along the Dili to Ainaro Road Development Corridor.



Trees at the nurseries center at Hohorai ki'ik - Ainaro are ready to be distributed to the reforestation area .

“We are happy with the project activities because in addition to planting trees we can also grow vegetables, potatoes, banana that we can produce in the short term, while the trees can provide benefits in the long term.”

Mr. Bernardino Magno, owner of the Casa-Ainaro reforestation area



Photo by: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP

DARDC Project Profile

The Dili to Ainaro Road comprises a joint investment by the Government of Timor-Leste and the World Bank aiming to upgrade the road infrastructure linking Dili to the district capitals of Aileu and Ainaro. The project document was signed by UNDP and the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) in October 2014.

The goal of the project is to protect critical economic infrastructure for sustained human development from climate induced natural hazards (flooding, landslides, wind damage) through better policies, strengthened local DRM institutions and investments in risk reduction measures within the Dili to Ainaro Road Development Corridor. The project has three components to achieve its goal:

Outcome 1: Knowledge and understanding of local drivers of climate induced natural disaster enhanced, and consequent impacts on economic infrastructure better understood and available to policy makers, planners and technical staff.



Capacity building of civil servants on DRR, DRM and CCA, in partnership with MSS

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Outcome 2: Subnational DRM institutions able to assess, plan, budget and deliver investment in climate change related disaster prevention, linked to critical economic infrastructure and assets in the Dili to Ainaro development corridor.



Training on Top up Grants mechanism of municipalities staff under Outcome 2, in partnership with MSA.

Outcome 3: Community driven investment implemented to reduce climate change and disaster induced losses to critical infrastructure assets and the wider economy.



Photo by: Marino Mouzinho/UNDP



Photo by: Leonel Bera/UNDP

Reforestation, Agroforestry and Terracing under Outcome 3, in partnership with MAF, Solerema and Aituto

