

PROJECT FACT SHEET

United Nations Development Programme



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SITUATION

Communities all over Timor-Leste are at risk from the impacts of disasters caused by natural hazards. Around eighty percent of the country's population has already experienced the effects of a natural disaster in their lifetime. The country's geographical location which brings vulnerability to cyclic climatic events causes people to suffer from localized events including floods, landslides, strong winds and prolonged dry seasons. Timor-Leste is also prone to massive earthquakes and tsunamis, which could significantly affect the lives of people and have an enormous impact on economic and social infrastructure. Vulnerable communities affected by these natural hazards often experience food insecurity.

Reoccurring disasters also jeopardize ongoing efforts and investment in local development by devastating already poor infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water and sanitation systems, schools and hospitals. Prolonged dry seasons adversely affect water availability and quality, agricultural productivity and fire incidents. Intensified wet seasons and associate landslides and floods continuously impact livelihoods systems and essential services.



ACTION

The project builds on the achievements of the "Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in Timor-Leste" project (2011-2013). The project recently entered into its second phase (2014-2018). It is geared towards helping the Government of Timor-Leste to

Project Snapshot:

Strengthening Disaster Risk Management Programme in Timor-Leste (DRM Phase II)

Timeframe: 2014 - 2018

Implementing Partner: Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS), National Directorate for Disaster Management (NDMD)

Total Available Budget: US\$ 650,000

- UNDP regular resources: US\$ 150,000
- BCPR Trust Funds: US\$ 500,000

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strengthen its DRM capacity, enhance preparedness and reduce risks. The project aims to support the establishment of the institutional and legal systems for DRM. It has a sub-national focus and will support interventions at the district and sub-district levels to reduce community vulnerabilities and increase household resilience. Increasing community capacities for disaster preparedness and effective response is an important component of the project.

The project also supports the establishment and operationalization of an end-to-end early warning system. It envisages enhancing the capacities within the country for better early recovery planning. It also creates synergies with the UNDP Environment Portfolio, namely projects concerned with Climate change Adaptation and Environment Management.

IMPACT

The project assisted the Government of Timor-Leste with the development of a new DRM Policy which is awaiting presentation to and approval by the Council of Ministers. The new DRM Policy emphasizes the move from DRM to Disaster

Risk Reduction (DRR), integrates climate change adaptation into the DRM/DRR concept and stresses the particular needs of women and vulnerable groups in DRM/DRR. In addition, DRM Act has been drafted and is subject to stakeholder consultations. These processes have resulted in a thorough review of roles and responsibilities with regards to DRM. The project also supported government participation in the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), and the aforementioned DRM Policy and DRM Act have been aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Joint assessment teams from National Directorate for Disaster Management (NDMD) and UNDP conducted missions to the District Disaster Operation Center (DDOCs) in Maliana and Lautem. On the basis of their findings assistance to the further development of DDOCs will be developed and implemented.

Consultations are being held with several government agencies, in particular with SEPHOPE (Secretary of State for Vocational Training and Employment) and the Department of Meteorology for integration of DRM/DRR concepts in their work.

Key Results:

- Institutional & Legal System for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) strengthened and capacities of relevant stakeholders built at different levels for effective DRM
- Reduced community vulnerabilities and increased household resilience
- End-to-end Early Warning System
- Capacities for early recovery developed and early recovery and framework developed