

# ELECTION PROJECT



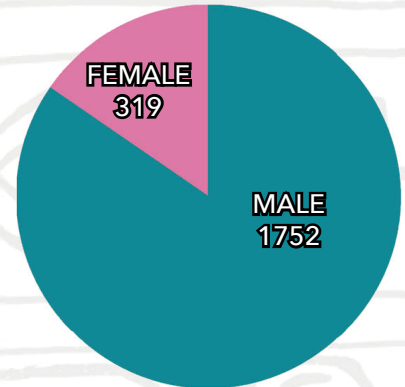
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## Numbers of Candidates for Upcoming Suco Elections

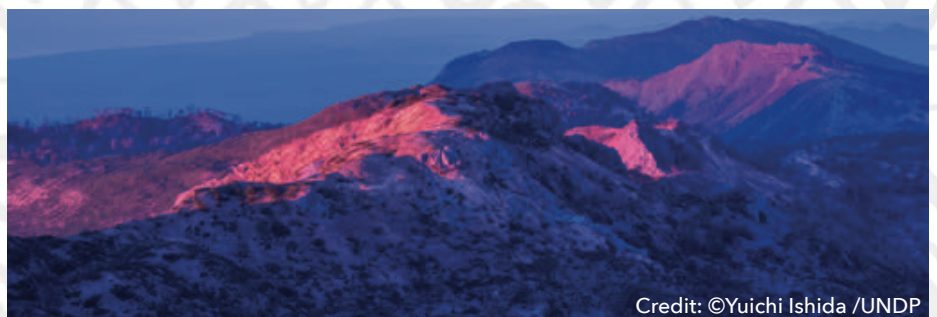
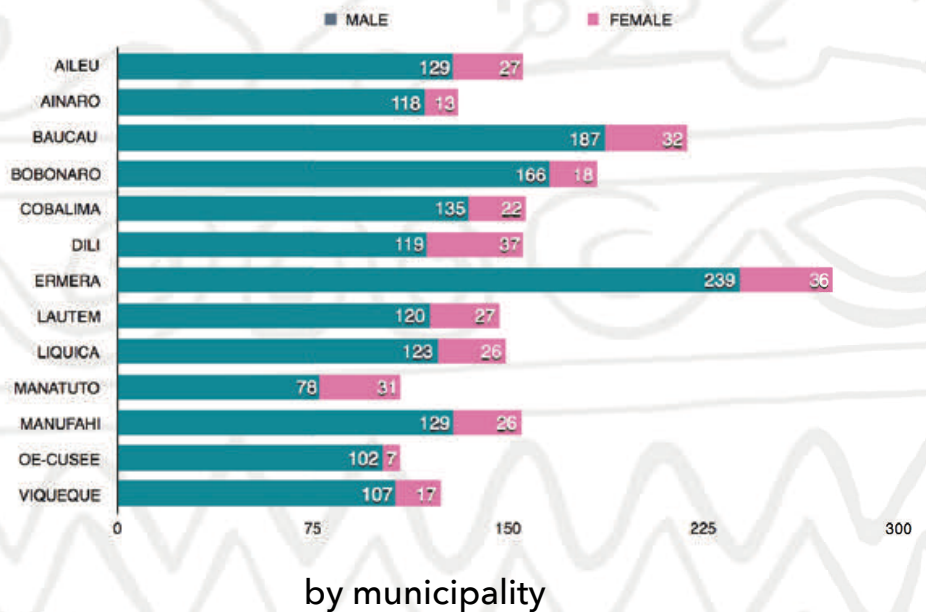


**442** total Sucos

**2071** total candidates

### UPCOMING SUCO ELECTIONS

On 29 October 2016 the third Suco elections will take place. The final number of registered candidates for the Suco Elections were announced to be 2071 candidates. These Suco Elections will take place with minimum UN or international assistance, with UNDP only providing technical support in specialized areas through a project entitled *Leveraging Electoral Assistance for Regionalized Nation-Building (LEARN)*, which is funded by the governments of Japan and Korea.



Credit: ©Yuichi Ishida /UNDP



Eleisaun Órgaun Suku

**VOTA**  
29.10.2016



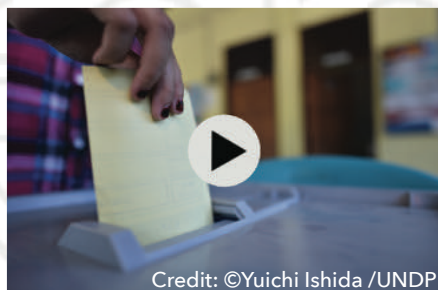
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## PROJECT SUMMARY

UNDP’s electoral programme builds on the achievements of current and recent projects in democratic governance and supports a variety of actors, including Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), civil society organizations, the media, the justice sector and the national police. The programme will include technical assistance to the EMBs as well as support to voter education, the political participation of women and youth, political journalism, electoral justice, and election security. This cross-cutting and multi-pronged assistance will enhance the institutional capacity of Timor-Leste’s state actors and will help consolidate local and national democracy in Timor-Leste.

## Public Information Campaign

UNDP supports the Electoral Management Bodies in their public information campaign to raise awareness of the Suco Election on 29 October 2016 through a variety of media such as TV, newspapers, social media, posters and a large billboard in the centre of Dili.



Credit: ©Yuichi Ishida /UNDP

*Promotional Film for the Suco Elections:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulfAOzQAn4s>

## Cost-sharing Agreement with Japan

UNDP and the Government of Japan signed a cost-sharing agreement on 12 August 2016 to formalize funding support of over US\$3.7 million (JPY 388,000,000) for an umbrella programme on “Electoral Assistance for Social Inclusion, Multi-Tier Governance, and Strengthening of Rule of Law in Timor-Leste (2016-2018).”



Credit: ©Yuichi Ishida /UNDP

*“...I hope that the upcoming elections will be conducted in a free and fair manner and without violence and political instability”*

*H.E. Mr. Eiji Yamamoto  
Ambassador of Japan*



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## Handover Ceremony of Polling Material

On 24 October 2016, STAE held a ceremony to hand over polling materials to the municipal representatives (ballot boxes, ballot paper, polling instructions and ID cards). The ceremony was led by the Director-General of STAE in the presence of the President of CNE, Secretary of State for the Ministry of State Administration, and the Third Comander of the PNTL.



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## UNDP's Support to the Suco Elections



Credit: ©Yuichi Ishida /UNDP

On the same day, UNDP also completed a handover of ID cards for polling staff, public information posters, and brochures featuring instructions on the Suco Elections to STAE. The production and printing of these materials were supported by UNDP and funded by the people of Japan and the Republic of Korea.

# Background to the Suco Elections

## First Suco Elections

In 2004-2005 the Suco Elections were the first elections conducted by Timor-Leste's electoral management bodies under an election law adopted by the Parliament of Timor-Leste after the restoration of independence in 2002. These elections were intended to help strengthen and disseminate the principles of democracy and good governance by enhancing citizens' participation in the electoral process, thereby contributing to political stabilization and the consolidation of peace and reconciliation in Timor-Leste. The Suco Elections of 2004-2005 marked the beginning



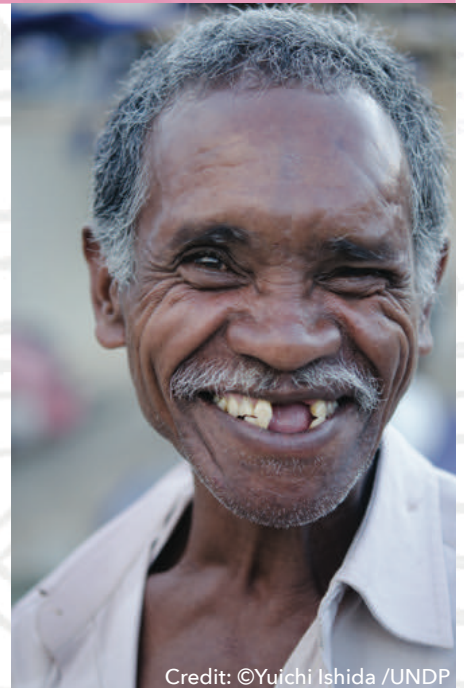
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of a process to decentralize government structures and help improve the transparency of local government, the accountability of local elected leaders as well as their democratic legitimacy. These elections saw, for the first time, the creation of a Voter Registration Database and the institutionalization of quotas for youth, elders and women. The legal framework was developed by STAE with support from UNDP. The

elections were conducted successfully following with international electoral standards.

## Second Suco Elections

In 2009 the second Suco Elections took place with strong UN support from the United Nations Electoral Support Team (UNEST). To defuse tensions, these elections were arranged so that the contest was between individual candidates. That is, the elections were contested by competing teams of 10 members to fill all the council positions, in the name of individuals rather than as members or candidates of political parties. Although some candidates were known for their political allegiances, the exclusion of political parties from directly participating in these elections generally enabled the elections to focus more on local issues and less on the relative popularity of one political party over another.



Credit: ©Yuichi Ishida / UNDP



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Republic of Korea



From the People of Japan



Empowering People  
Without Borders