

UNDP Timor-Leste SSRI PROJECT

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Photo: Hipolito Amaral Ximenes / UNDP TL



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Photo: James Young / UNDP TL

Welcome to the second newsletter of the UNDP Timor-Leste SSRI (Strengthening the Resilience of Small Scale Rural Infrastructure) project.

Read this newsletter to learn more about the latest developments from the project and for more information, please visit SSRI Project page at: <http://www.tl.undp.org>

The UNDP Timor-Leste SSRI Project is working to strengthen the resilience of small scale rural infrastructure in the Municipalities of Ermera, Liquiça & Baucau. It is being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of State Administration (MSA) and the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment (MCIE). Since 2013, 20 climate resilient rural infrastructure projects have been implemented, benefiting over 100,000 people in the three municipalities.

Capacity Development Framework for MSA developed

In March 2017, the National Capacity Development Framework formulated to enhance MSA organisational, technical and functional capacity of municipalities was presented to stakeholders. The validation workshop held on March 16 in Dili was attended by representatives from several line ministries and municipalities, and development partners working in Timor-Leste.

“The process of decentralization functions as per Decree law 3/2016 has taken place and now four

municipalities have become municipal authorities. This means that they have to take on greater responsibilities. So the staff need to be well trained and the municipal authorities will need the capacity to function as well,” H.E. Mr. Samuel Mendonca, Secretary of State for MSA said in his opening remarks. “We are very pleased for the support from UNDP to help us in the capacity assessment and to develop this framework which will be used by the MSA to strengthen the capacity of the municipalities to deliver on their mandate.”

“Deconcentration and decentralization can only happen in an effective manner if we keep focusing on skill development,” said Mr. Claudio Providas, UNDP Country Director. He further highlighted the importance of skill development in Timor-Leste and UNDP’s support to develop expertise in the country. “We have several initiatives from SSRI Project working with communities and improving the capacity to respond to climate change.”

It is expected that this Framework would form the basis for future training and capacity development for municipalities.



Photos: Hipolito Amaral Ximenes / UNDP TL

Local NGOs and communities are working together to address climate risks

SSRI Project has awarded micro-capital grants to ten local NGOs to implement watershed management and complementary soil bioengineering interventions to strengthen and protect existing infrastructure, and improve rural livelihood in Liquiça Municipality and Baucau and Ermera Municipal Authorities. A total of 12 grants were awarded in two phases between 2015 and 2017.

NETIL, one of the local NGOs, rehabilitated a water supply system in Mota Ulun village, Liquiça Municipality, benefitting more than 180 households. Ms. Antonio Alves De Jesus, beneficiary of Aldeia Claso said that the water is used for cooking, washing and for their garden. “Before we didn’t get water and couldn’t plant, now that we get water we can plant our garden and also water for the animals,” she said.



Photo: Reinaldo Soares da Costa / UNDP TL



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NETIL also held an event in this village on April 28, 2017 to implement “Tara Bandu” or traditional laws to prohibit cutting of trees to protect approximately 15 hectares in the village, including Aldeia Claso, Mauluta and Mota Ulun.

Mr. Paulino Francisco, Director of NETIL said the challenges are that some of the community members are not aware nor understand how to protect the environment, so they cut trees and release their animals everywhere. Ms. Albertina da Onceicao from Aldeia Claso said, “As part of the community in Mota Ulun village, we are happy and it is very good to have this Tara Bandu to let us respect each other, respect environment and respect properties.”



Photo: Joanna Wong / UNDP TL



Photo: Joanna Wong / UNDP TL



Photo: Nelson Pereira Vicente / UNDP TL

Another NGO, Timor Verde, implemented activities in Osoala village, Baucau Municipal Authority, to help build resilience by planting along the riverside and roads and building check dams to protect rural infrastructure with the involvement of community. “We always involve man, women, youth and also some disabled people. They cannot see but they have hands to work. They cannot speak but they can work. We involve all of them,” said Director Ms. Eliza dos Santos.



Photo: Nelson Pereira Vicente / UNDP TL



Photo: Joanna Wong / UNDP TL



Photo: Nelson Pereira Vicente / UNDP TL

Better road benefits community in Buruma

The road rehabilitation project at Buruma village was officially commissioned by UNDP in partnership with the MSA and the MCIE, the Ministry of Public Works and International Labour Organization (ILO) Road for Development (R4D) Team on May 12, 2017.

“In the past, the road was not rehabilitated and we had to bring tomatoes to main road by foot. Now the road condition is good and we can sell our local products in the local market, because cars and motorbikes can enter, and this makes our work light,” said villager Mr. Timotio Ernesto da Silva.

The rehabilitation of 2.77 km of road from Wamutu to Afatalakai and Waimatame at the village will benefit more than 4700 people and improve economic activities such as agriculture including rice, cash crops and cattle, fishing and tourism in the community.

“This road is very important for our community because we can use the road to do our daily activities and work for

example bringing products to sell in the market, and then children will be able to access to the road and go to school,” said Mr. Antonio F. Belo, Chief of Buruma village.

The project includes construction of masonry retaining wall and drainage structures, concrete surfacing in the steep sections and gravelling, and bio-engineering intervention.

“In the next few years, this place will receive an income from tourism because of the good road access to the beach side. It is not only for tourism but also for improving livelihood and economy. As the road is fixed, it will attract tourists from Baucau and other municipalities to come, and eventually will increase income for the community,” H.E. Dr. Dionisio Babo Soares, Minister of State Administration said in his remarks.

Later this year, the Ministry of Public Works/ILO R4D program is expected to take over the road and provide routine maintenance.



Photo: Joanna Wong / UNDP TL



Photo: Hipolito Amaral Ximenes / UNDP TL

New water supply system brings clean water to Lauala community

Around 100 people gathered to celebrate the inauguration of the new water supply system commissioned by UNDP in partnership with the MSA and the MCIE on May 24, 2017.

“In the past, we used to go very far to get water, but now the clean water is near. We feel very happy that the authority has given us clean water. In the past we didn’t plant vegetables and we had to buy them because there was no water, now we are going to use the water to plant vegetables, to cook and drink,” said Ms. Bendita de Jesus Salsinha, one of the beneficiaries in the village.

With the construction of the intake structure water is transmitted from a distance of 3.5 km from the source to 80 cubic meters tank and then distributed to 16 public taps, providing clean and more efficient water supply for more than 1400 beneficiaries in the community.

Mr. Haoliang Xu, the UN Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia Pacific who participated in the

inauguration event, expressed his satisfaction that this successful project was not just done with help from UNDP, but in partnership with the government and importantly with the community.

Regarding selection of site and how the project should be designed and implemented, Mr. Xu said, “Many of these important consultations took place with the community, so I think that’s the main reason that this project is successful.”

The water supply system was officially handed over to the village’s Facility Maintenance Groups (GMFs) supported by the Project to build its capacity and will be responsible for maintenance and operation of the system.

“We will put our attention and thoughts so that this water can gain sustainability for the community’s daily lives,” Village Chief Mr. Cruz added. “We will give our contribution together to keep the water taps so that they may be used in long run.”

Stakeholders consultation for gender mainstreaming in PDIM

In March 2017, SSRI and DARDC Projects facilitated a workshop with about 30 participants from both national and local levels to formulate Gender Action Plans and roadmap for gender mainstreaming in Municipal Integrated Development Planning (PDIM). These plans are expected to contribute to effective and inclusive policies and programmes development, and promote wider involvement of women in planning, implementation and management of projects.



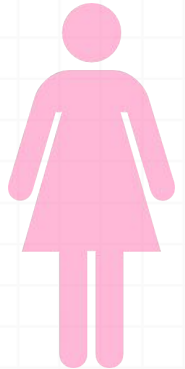
Photo: Marino Mouzinho / UNDP TL



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“This workshop is very important and I personally agree to integrate gender issues in all our activities and programs, because it is important that every activity should include the needs of women and men so this will benefit equally to all,” said Ms. Fatima Lourdes Alves, State Secretary of Women Focal Point in Municipality of Liquiça.

The gender assessment and analysis being conducted will help understand the impacts of climate resilient small scale rural infrastructure projects and community based disaster risk management (DRM) measures on the livelihood of men and women, and the role of women in contributing towards gender responsive planning and building community resilience.



GIS Training strengthens capacity for six municipalities' technical staff

GIS training workshops for project planning and management were conducted for key technical staff from Baucau and Ermera Municipal Authorities, Liquiça, Aileu, Viqueque and Lautem Municipalities. Over 35 staff participated the first phase on May 16-18, 2017 and 12 continued into the second phase on May 29-31.

This training aims to strengthen the capacity of technical staff in the municipalities so that they can apply the knowledge and skills to analyse and interpret data, and use geospatial technology to create and manage information about specific locations.

“GIS contribution is important to national development to inform decision makers to develop good planning and decision. Skills of technical staff from municipalities need to be enhanced in the area of GIS in order to analyse and provide better quality of data,” H.E. Mr. Samuel Mendonca, Secretary of State for MSA said in his opening remarks.

“It is my first time to learn about GIS. This training is a good opportunity for us and very important to implement in our jobs.” said Mr. Domingos da Silva, participant whose work is planning and designing water supply projects at Ministry of Public Work in Ermera.

“GIS can give full help for our work in the field, like planning on reforestation, agroforestry and road development,” said another participant Mr. Joao D.M. dos Reis, Chief of Department of Forestry at Ministry of Agriculture in Aliueu.



Photos: Joanna Wong / UNDP TL

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