



Democratic Governance

Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP)



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Resilient nations.

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Objective

Since 2003, the Government of Timor Leste has been working on developing a framework for decentralization and local government. Based on clear provisions in the Timor-Leste Constitution and directives from the Council of Ministers, the overall vision of the Government is to establish a strong, democratic and efficient local governance system. The main objectives of the decentralization process are:

- To promote the institutions of a strong, legitimate and stable state across the territory of Timor-Leste;
- To promote opportunities for local democratic participation by all citizens;
- To promote a more effective, efficient and equitable public service delivery for the social and economic development in the country.

Location National	Partner Ministry of State Administration (MSA), UNCDF	Donors Irish Aid, Government of Norway, UNDP, UNCDF, Government of Timor-Leste
Duration January 2012 - December 2013	Total Budget US\$ 17,202,600 (2012-2013)	

Background

The Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP) was established in early 2007 to provide support to the Government's plan to begin implementing nationwide decentralization reform. LGSP was built on two predecessor programs, the Local Government Options Study and the Local Development Program, at the policy and at the local level. The LGSP provides direct technical support to the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM) and other line ministries involved with the decentralization process.

Key Outputs

Output 1: Improved capacity for local service delivery (ISD) by sub-national bodies with increased citizen participation.

Support the implementation of improved local governance and local development procedures and processes in order to ensure increased participation in local decision-making processes, effective and efficient local-level infrastructure and service delivery (ISD) through expanded capacity development support in Local Development Programme (LDP).

LGSP continues the work of the Local Development Programme (LDP), which from 2004-2006 established local assemblies as pilots of a local governance system.

The program started in 4 Districts and expanded to the whole country in 2010, piloting procedures in order to learn lessons on local planning, budgeting, procurement, implementation and decision-making on issues related to infrastructure and service delivery. An integrated capacity building approach enabled local assemblies

to be responsible for allocating and managing a small capital budget for local infrastructure programs called "Local Development Fund".

LGSP supports the Government of Timor-Leste in the implementation of an Integrated District Development Planning (PDID) for harmonizing local development system and procedures.



Photo courtesy of UNDP Timor-Leste

Output 2: Improved institutional, legal, and regulatory framework established in support of effective local governance.

Support further policy dialogue and direct technical assistance, with the objective of establishing an appropriate, comprehensive and gender-responsive institutional, legal, and regulatory framework for local government / local service delivery by the Government, with citizen participation in local decision-making processes and implementation of local development initiatives. These should be based on international best



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practice and on policy relevant lessons generated from the Timor-Leste context and experiences.

In order for the planned decentralization process to be effectively implemented, the Government of Timor-Leste needs appropriate, clear and obtainable laws and the subsidiary legislation, and other legal documents. LGSP supports this process through technical assistance in consultation, drafting and socialization of new or modified policy and legal documents. Key

policy activities that are supported by LGSP include: clarifying existing procedures and lessons learned from LDP; consulting broadly with stakeholders, including all relevant Line Ministries; developing a strategic framework as an action plan and timeline for the drafting of law proposals; supporting the process of drafting the law proposals, including reviewing existing legislation and other legal drafting assistance.

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