



UNDP Timor-Leste



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# Electoral Project - LEARN

Newsletter | March 2017 | Issue 5: Special Edition on Presidential Election 2017

## Timor-Leste holds Presidential Election

The people of Timor-Leste have voted for their next President on 20th March 2017. Since independence, this is the fourth time a Head of State has been elected. Eight candidates including one woman contested the election for the Asia's newest nation. The presidential election which is run on a direct election system witnessed a turnout of 71.16% of the registered voters of 743,150 with 48.30% voters being women and 51% youth. Even the invalid ballots were just merely accounted for 1.7%. There were no major incidents reported during the electoral periods and elections were conducted in a peaceful environment according to the reports from national and international observers and media.

The voters from 12 municipalities and special administrative region of Oé-Cusse and Timorese living in Australia and Portugal went to cast their ballot in 944 polling stations. Overseas voting was introduced for the first-time in Darwin, Sydney and Lisbon. Additionally, the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE) also organized mobile voting in 6 hospitals and 2 prisons of the country.

The provisional results were submitted by National Commission for Elections (CNE) to the Court of Appeal after the final national tabulation was completed. The President of Court of Appeal on 30<sup>th</sup> March declared the results with Francisco Guterres (Lu-Olo) receiving 57.10 % of the total



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votes electing him the next president of Timor-Leste.

This is the first time that the country organized this election without a massive presence of the United Nations since the UN mission departed in 2012. Nevertheless, UNDP through its Electoral Project "Leveraging Electoral Assistance for Regionalized Nation-Building (LEARN)" is technically providing support to EMBs aiming to strengthen their capacities throughout the electoral cycle. The project has supported in the areas of electoral legal framework, media in elections, voter education, capacity building, procurement for sensitive materials and national tabulation process and is funded by government of Japan and Korea for a period of two years.



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Electoral Project LEARN is funded by:




From  
the People of Japan




Republic of Korea

# FACTSHEET

## Presidential Election 2017, Timor-Leste


 **Election Date** 20 March 2017  
**Time** 07:00 - 15:00

 **Municipalities** 13

 **Polling Centres** 696


 **Polling Stations** 944




 **Total Polling Staff** 10102

 **Mobile Voting** **8 Locations**  
 Hospital 6  
 Prison 2

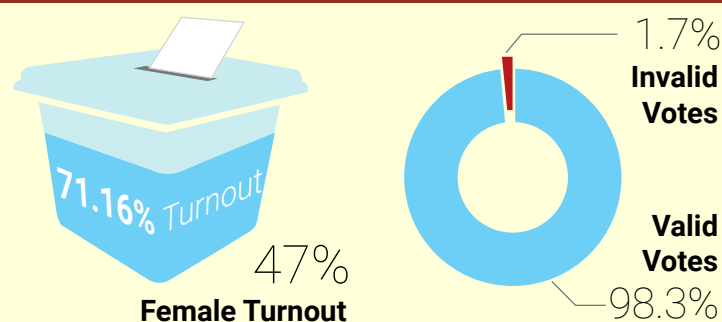
 **Out of Country Voting** **3 Locations**

 **Election Observers** **1607**  
 [ National: 1508 | International: 99 ]

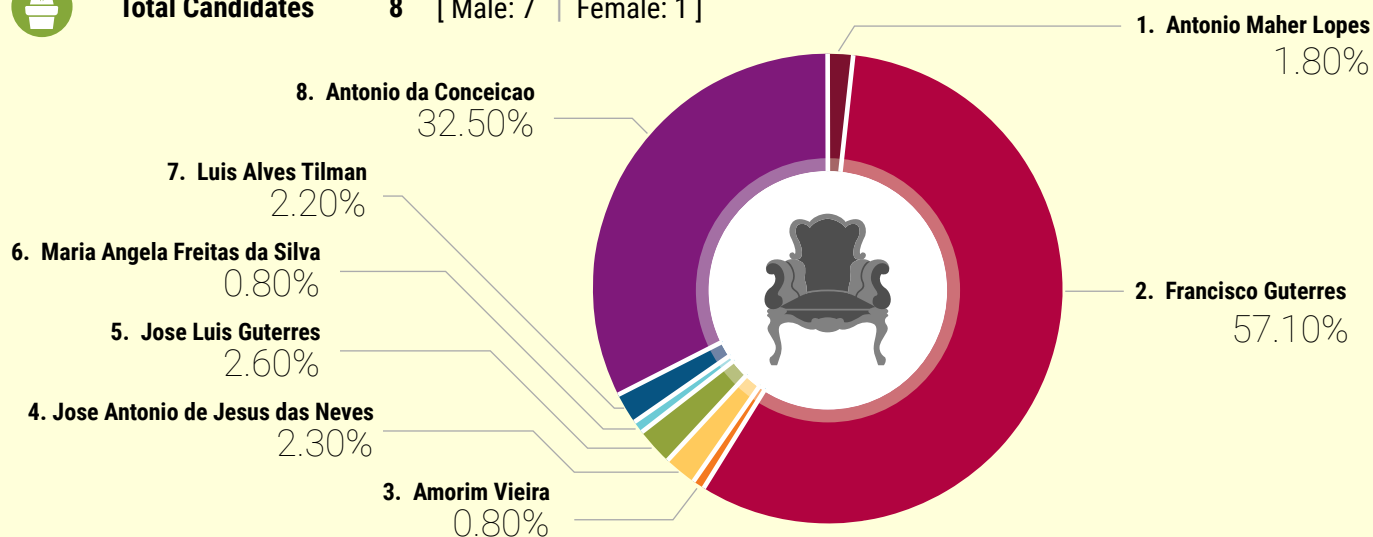
 **Accredited Media** **328**  
 [ National: 310 | International: 18 ]

 **Total Registered Voters** **743150**  
 **384136** (51.70%) Male  
 **359014** (48.30%) Female

**Total Youth Registered** **51%**



 **Total Candidates** **8** [ Male: 7 | Female: 1 ]



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**Electoral Project- LEARN**  
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Infographic design by Rochan Kadariya / UNDP Timor-Leste





# SUPPORT TO PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

## 1. Project Supports to the Procurement of Sensitive Material

The government of Timor-Leste requested UNDP to support in the procurement of indelible ink for 2017 general elections. UNDP through its Electoral Project- LEARN completed the procurement of 9000 bottles of indelible ink with the support from Procurement Services Unit of UNDP, Copenhagen. The semi-permanent ink is applied to the forefinger of voters during elections which will prevent election fraud such as multiple voting and identification theft.

The procurement was initiated with pre-selected suppliers having Long Term Agreements (LTA) with the United Nations, ensuring value for money and compliance with International Standards. Government of Timor-Leste signed a cost-sharing agreement with UNDP for the procurement of the indelible ink. The agreement was signed between H.E. Minister of State and Administration, Dr. Dionisio Babo and Resident Coordinator and Resident Representative Mr. Knut Ostby on 24th February. These bottles of ink after it arrived to Dili were handed over to Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE),



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the election management body established for the operation and logistical management of elections in Timor-Leste. The ink was used in the presidential election which proved to be effective on the Election-Day and subsequently, STAE plans to use it for the legislative-parliament election to be conducted later this year.



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## 2. Support to EMBs on Voter Education

UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN is supporting Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE) and Radio and Television of Timor-Leste (RTTL) in producing and broadcast of 16 episodes of TV programme as part of voter education for the 2017 general elections. Each episode of 10 minutes "Vota ba Futuru" (Vote for the Future) provides specific information about voting process, people's participation especially people with disabilities, women, youth and first time voters in the electoral processes. For broadcast of the episodes, the project signed a Memorandum of Understanding with RTTL to provide free air-time for the broadcast of all 16 episodes which will be produced until the legislative-parliament elections.



Link to the episode on Presidential Election 2017: <https://goo.gl/8YWP8u>



Several other videos and Public Service Announcements (PSAs) have been produced and broadcasted by the project while supporting STAE and CNE. A video about the electoral processes has been produced to support the training to polling staff for presidential election. Similarly, three PSAs for Jornada da Paz, Propaganda Ilisita and for women's participation in electoral processes were produced and broadcasted multiple times through national TV and different exposure LEDs around the city. All the videos and PSAs have been uploaded in social media for wider reach of the audience.



Link to the PSA: <https://goo.gl/rpEZm9>

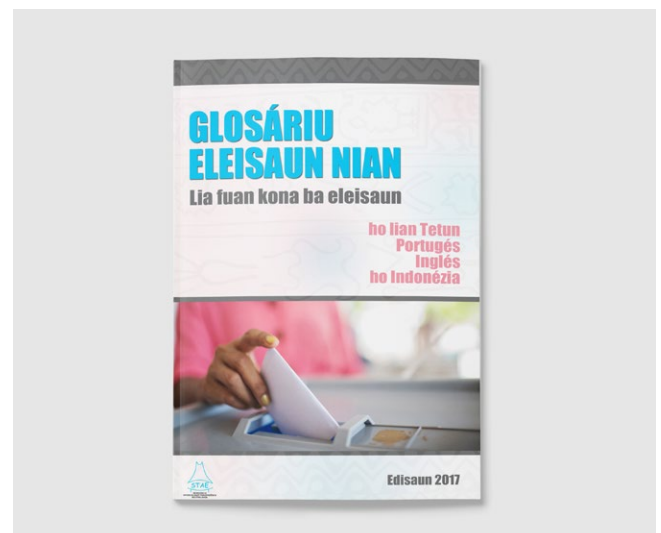
The project supported in other electoral materials for the training to the polling staff and observers in the presidential elections. Election materials like flip charts containing information about the electoral processes of presidential election was used for training more than 10,000 polling staff.



Similarly, support to developing glossary was also provided to STAE including election information booklet as a reference to all international observers before the elections. There were more than 1,600 national and international observers deployed for presidential election by different organizations. The information booklet contained profile of each municipality according to the number of voters, polling centers and its location and contact information of the designated polling officers deployed for elections. The glossary which was also used by domestic observers was developed in Tetum, Portuguese, English and Bahasa languages.



As part of voter education and information dissemination to voters, the project has supported in producing and displaying of banners through billboards in strategic locations. It has disseminated information through billboards to the voters about the Presidential Election-Day, Presidential debate, Peace March (Jornada da Paz) and many more during the pre-electoral period.





### 3. Project stands in solidarity with Jornada Da Paz

Justice and Peace Commission of Diocese of Dili organized a 123 days Peace Campaign event with theme "Change Your Heart Change Timor". The purpose of holding the event was to call for peace in preparation for, during and after elections in 2017. Timor-Leste already organized the presidential election whereas Legislative- Parliament election will be organized later this year. Electoral Project- LEARN supported the event with the production and broadcast of the Public Service Announcement (PSA) for the campaign. It also supported with the publication of communication materials like posters and banners for the promotion of the campaign. Entire staff of United Nations participated in the solidarity peace march including UNDP electoral project team.



Link to the PSA of the event: <https://goo.gl/EDgDHP>



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### 4. Orientation provided to observers and media

UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN was invited by STAE to provide an orientation to the international observer groups about the presidential elections. The group was briefed about the election with some important laws and experience of observation of elections in Timor-Leste in the past. Similarly, half a day orientation was also provided to the national and international media those covering the presidential elections. According to STAE, there were 310 national and 18 international media accredited for the coverage on Election-Day.



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## 5. Technical support provided to CNE for National Tabulation of Results and Legal Aspects

UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN supported Comissão Nacional de Eleições (CNE) for technically setting-up the national tabulation of results for the presidential election. The role of CNE is to tabulate votes at the national level before preparing and submitting the national provisional results to the Court of Appeals for validating and proclaiming the final results. Additionally, support was also provided to the election management body on the development of the website that provided the results of the presidential election after the national tabulation. The website also provides links and information to all the legislation pertaining to elections and forms for registering complaints during pre, during and post-election periods. The project provided advise in legal areas.



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## 6. Published the Code of Conduct and Ethics for Journalists

UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN supported Conselho de Imprensa (Press Council) in developing and publishing brochure on code of conduct and ethics for journalists for Presidential Elections. The brochure which is in Tetum and Portuguese languages helped journalists in Timor-Leste to follow the code of conduct and ethics during elections. It was circulated to all the journalists and media houses during the orientation to the media provided by STAE.



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## OTHER PROJECT ACTIVITIES

### Project Held its Board Meeting

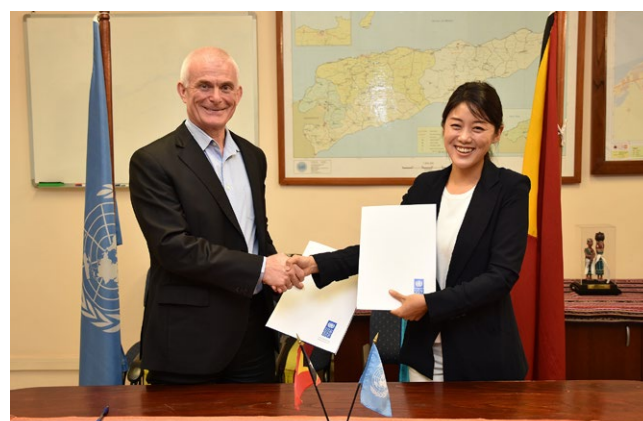
Electoral Project- LEARN convened its first Project Board Meeting presenting progress, achievements so far and the proposed activities for 2017. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary of Ministry of State and Administration Mr. Samuel Mendonca and UNDP Country Director Mr. Claudio Providas. Chief Technical Adviser of the project presented progress and proposed plan to the board members represented by Embassy of Japan and Korea, CNE and STAE.



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### Project signs an agreement with OPAC

UNDP through its Electoral Project- LEARN signed an agreement with Okinawa Peace Assistance Center (OPAC) for implementing activities for the Political Journalism Project. The agreement was signed by Mr. Knut Ostby from UNDP and Ms. Ai Konno from OPAC. The project will build the capacity of community radio journalists for encouraging political engagement and promoting voter education for the legislative-parliament election.



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# WELCOME TO THE PROJECT !



## Ms. Teresinha Maria Noronha Cardoso

Ms. Teresinha Maria Noronha Cardoso has joined Electoral Project- LEARN of UNDP in the capacity of Social Inclusion and Training National Adviser. Ms. Cardoso is a former Election Commissioner for Comissão Nacional de Eleições (CNE) and served for nine years (2007-2016). She is the founder of the Non-Government Organization CAUCUS having the main objective of women's participation in politics and advocacy and training to potential women as a political leader.

## Ms. Candida Moniz

Ms. Candida Moniz has joined Electoral Project- LEARN of UNDP as a National United Nations Volunteer in the capacity of Admin and Finance Assistant. Ms. Moniz has a background of public management and political science from National University of Timor-Leste. Previously, she has supported UNDP project in administration and finance for a short period. In addition, she has volunteered in the voter registration drive for Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE) and conducted several voter education training activities in the districts of Timor-Leste.



## Mr. Rochan Kadariya

Mr. Rochan Kadariya has joined Electoral Project- LEARN of UNDP in the capacity of Electoral Graphic Designer as an International UNV. Mr. Kadariya is a computer engineer and has been delivering innovative and engaging solutions to communication problems across brand identity, print and digital for past eight years including more than four years in electoral processes. He has been supporting in design and development of graphics and artworks for public outreach, civic and voter education, infographics, social media contents and materials for joint UNDP-donors' visibility strategy.

## Ms. Sangeun Yeo, Michelle

Ms. Sangeun Yeo, Michelle from Korea has joined Electoral Project- LEARN of UNDP as United Nations Youth Volunteer. Michelle will look after the Youth Engagement in electoral processes with previous experience of working for electoral assistance for developing countries through Association of World Election Bodies and support to civil society organization called National Endowment for Democracy in the US. She has a Master's Degree in International Relations from the US and focusing more on good governance and institutional development.



### UNDP Leveraging Electoral Assistance for Regionalized Nation-Building (LEARN)

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Graphic Design  
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### Project Team Members

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