



# Democratic Governance Unit

## UNDP Timor-Leste Newsletter

ISSUE 1 | JULY 2017

Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

The Democratic Governance Unit (DGU) is one of the three pillars of the UNDP's strategic involvement in Timor-Leste and supports human resource development initiatives as well as initiatives designed to strengthen the capacity of national government institutions.

The Democratic Governance Unit newsletter provides up-to-date information on the DGU's five programmes -- Sub-National Governance and Development Programme (SNGDP), Justice System Programme (JSP), Capacity Building Support to the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste Project (PNTL), Support for the Institutional Development of Oe-cusse Regional Administration and Special Zones for Social Market Economy (ZEESM) and Leveraging Electoral Assistance for Regionalized Nation-Building (LEARN) -- and recognizes the generous support and meaningful contributions provided by all donors and stakeholders.

## SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (SNGDP)



Credit: © Felisberta da Silva/ UNDP

In collaboration with the Government of Timor-Leste, UNDP has been working on a framework for decentralization and local government. This programme provides support to the Ministry of Planning and Strategic Investment (MPSI) with assistance from UNDP to achieve the Government's vision of a strong, democratic and efficient local governance system.

### SNGDP supporting the Major Project Secretariat

With contributions from UNDP, USD\$ 25,000 has been allocated towards a project supporting cooperation between UNDP and the Major Project Secretariat(MPS) under the MPSI. Through this cooperation with MPSI, UNDP will support technical assistance to MPSI through the work of Konstantin Borisov, an expert in economics, who has taken on the role of Major Project Officer at the MPSI. Alongside his duties as a Project Officer, Mr. Borisov is providing technical expertise towards the production of an appraisal report, together with the MPS national consultant team for MPSI, to outline the new projects to be covered by the infrastructure fund in 2017.



Credit: © Nicole Man /UNDP



# SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (SNGDP)

## Capacity Development for Government Staff

In partnership with MPSI, UNDP is supporting capacity development training within the staff of MPSI (in areas such as project appraisal, project management, procurement and contract management) through field visits and training in locations outside Timor-Leste. Last year, twelve MPSI staff participated in four training sessions held in Bangkok and Manilla, while three MPSI staff were sent to India to conduct a site visit at a UNDP station in February last year. In the coming months, MPSI staff will also participate in a study tour to Japan.



# ELECTORAL PROJECT-LEARN

The UNDP project entitled Leveraging Electoral Assistance for Regionalized Nation-Building (LEARN), funded by the Governments of Japan and Korea, provides technical assistance to Timorese Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) throughout the entire electoral cycle with a strong focus on civic and voter education.



## Promoting Women's Participation in the National Parliamentary Elections

A seminar on 'Promoting Women's Participation in the National Parliamentary Elections 2017' was jointly organized by Caucus, Patria, Mofe and Feto Distritu Dili Association with the support from UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN, EMBs, CNE and STAE in Dili on the 6th of July. United Nations Resident Coordinator Mr. Knut Ostby encouraged women to participate in the electoral and political process and stressed the importance of empowering women and girls as they have the obligation to fulfill the agenda "Planet 50-50" by 2030 to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. There were more than 200 women representatives from different organizations and individuals who attended alongside a large media presence.

# ELECTORAL PROJECT-LEARN

## ‘Political Parties meet the Press’ Telecast Live



Credit: © TWITTER UNDP Timor-Leste

With support from UNDP Electoral Project-LEARN, GMN TV and the Government of Japan, the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> round of ‘Political parties meet the Press’ was on telecast live before the election and was organized by the National Press Council. Political parties in the ballot paper structure participated and interacted with the media in Q&A sessions. It also provided them with the opportunity to present their agenda and vision for the National Parliamentary Elections.

## Encouraging Elder and Youth Participation in the National Parliamentary Elections

The Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE) and UNDP Electoral Project- LEARN recently launched campaigns to motivate senior citizens (60 years and above) and youth to participate in the National Parliamentary Elections. STAE data indicates that 764,858 people have already registered to vote for elections. Out of this number 15% and 51% of the total registered voters are elderly citizens and youth (aged 16-30), respectively. A special programme ‘Joven Vota’ (Youth Vote) with the slogan ‘Ami nia votu mak ami nia lian’ (Our Vote is Our Voice) has also been launched to introduce the voting process to young people. The programme included on-stage performances and other activities which attracted a large number of young voters to the Joven Vota event.

## Disability inclusion

UNDP Electoral Project and Ra’es Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO) signed an agreement in early July to monitor accessibility for people with disabilities to participate in the electoral process. In collaboration with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the UNDP Electoral Project has established a partnership with RHTO for the 2017 National Parliament Elections.



Credit: © FACEBOOK UNDP Timor-Leste

Credit: © FACEBOOK UNDP Timor-Leste



# JUSTICE SYSTEM PROGRAMME (JSP)

In the second decade since the launch of the Justice System Programme (JSP), it continues to make a difference towards providing fair, efficient and accessible justice services for everyone, especially the poor and disadvantaged.

## Providing Training for Legal Professionals

JSP is providing initial training as well as ongoing professional development for legal professionals through the Legal and Judicial Training Centre (LJTC). In June, the LJTC conducted an Electoral Justice workshop in Dili for legal professionals from various state institutions. The workshops focused on the constitutional principles and legal framework of the parliamentary elections and gave participants an opportunity to clarify points of confusion and to discuss with other legal professionals about the legal aspects of the electoral process. JSP has also provided the LJTC with the support of Mr. Alexandre Coelho, a Senior Pedagogical Adviser, who is contributing to the work of the LJTC in the design and development of training programmes in specialized courses for judges, prosecutors, public defenders and other legal professionals.



Credit: © Athena Rogers/UNDP



Credit: © Joao Crisostomo/UNDP

## Access to Justice Clinic Opens in Suai

JSP is also working towards the goal of bringing justice to the most vulnerable populations through providing legal services to remote and rural areas. The Access to Justice Clinic (AJC) in Suai has already begun providing legal assistance to citizens of the Suai Judicial District alongside the Public Defender's Office (PDO). The Suai AJC celebrated this achievement through an official inauguration ceremony in June. The AJC will help build upon and further develop the PDO's legal expertise and will offer legal information, mediation sessions, referrals and alternative dispute resolution services. The AJC is promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes in rural areas previously had little access to legal and judicial services. Between January to March of this year, the Suai AJC has mediated eight cases which included land disputes and a service contract violation.

## JSP's Mobile Court Initiative Travels to Maliana

In June, the JSP-supported Mobile Court initiative travelled to Maliana to hear several cases. The Mobile Courts are designed to make justice more accessible to the rural areas of Timor-Leste. Previously, formal courts had only operated in the municipal capitals of Dili, Baucau, Oecussi and Suai. Judges, public defenders and public prosecutors along with other legal support staff travelled from Dili and Suai to facilitate the Mobile Court sessions in Maliana which heard several criminal and civil cases over the course of four days.



Credit: © Joao Crisostomo/UNDP



Credit: © Athena Rogers/UNDP

# PNTL PROJECT

After the drawdown of the United Nations Integrated Mission in December 2012, the leadership of the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) requested UNDP's support to build police capacity in specific managerial and administrative areas which complemented the assistance provided by further international stake-holder assistance. This project aims to ensure that previous training and support has been both consolidated and put into practice. It builds upon the PNTL's first five-year strategic plan which was launched in 2014 to identify areas of reform within the administration.

## Security Workshops Supporting a Peaceful Parliamentary Election

In June, PNTL ran a series of Electoral Security Workshops aimed at promoting security during the National Parliamentary Election due to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. In the lead-up to the election, every Timorese political party will conduct a political campaign and present a manifesto of policies for the next parliamentary term. The PNTL, F-FDTL, CNE and other institutions involved in the security and management of the election process will be active during this period to ensure that all activities are conducted smoothly. The final in a series of six Electoral Security workshops was held in Dili on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June. Participants heard from the Dili PNTL Commander on general safety concerns, the President of the CNE, on relevant electoral laws for the parliamentary election, and the Director of STAE presented on the role of the organization in ensuring that the electoral process runs according to democratic principles and regulations. The Second Commander of Dili PNTL also informed participants about the recently issued Martial Arts Law which prohibits certain weapons and gang-related activities. With these measures in place, UNDP and PNTL are confident that the parliamentary election period will be as successful as the earlier presidential election of March this year.



Credit: © Sebastiao Freitas / UNDP



Credit: © Athena Rogers / UNDP

## Promoting Gender Awareness and Women's Empowerment

PNTL is actively promoting gender awareness, women's empowerment and health through a series of training workshops that were held from May to the beginning of June. The workshops covered topics including the terminology and concept of gender equality, issues related to gender-based violence, as well as women's health issues, with a focus on reproductive health, family planning, HIV prevention and sex education. The workshops also discussed the importance of the UN resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Timor-Leste. The workshops were conducted through collaboration with the PNTL Commander and Head of VPU of Baucau, the PNTL Gender Focal Point as well as the Secretary of State for the Support and Economic Promotion of Women alongside the National Aids Commission and Marie Stopes Timor-Leste.

Credit: © Athena Rogers / UNDP



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



The UNDP is working with authorities in Oe-Cusse to operationalize the Special Administrative Region (SAR) and the Special Zones for Social Market Economy (ZEESM) and to strengthen institutional capacity to deliver services to the people of Oe-Cusse.

## Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Oe-Cusse

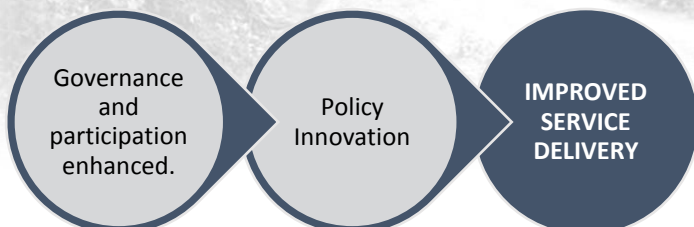
The ZEESM project is an integrated programme for transforming the lives and livelihoods of the people in Oé-Cusse. The framework for UNDP's support to the Oé-Cusse SAR and ZEESM is built around two components: 'governance' and 'sustainable and innovative development'. UNDP is providing strategic advice on how to deliver on the Authority's legal mandate as well as its positioning as an economic zone. The programme focuses on policy innovation to improve service delivery in key areas of development for the region: tourism, business development, agriculture and health.



Credit: © Anne Kennedy/ UNDP

### Reliable Health Data

UNDP is supporting the improvement of the regional health data collection system. This initiative will improve access to reliable data on health care for decision making processes of national and regional government and health officials. Procurement and communication offices in ZEESM are also supported by international skilled professionals.



Credit: © Anne Kennedy/ UNDP

### Oé-Cusse Business Incubator (OBI)

OBI is supporting new entrepreneurs and existing small businesses in Oé-Cusse, to improve their productive capacities with mentoring and training in business management, market access and innovative product development. Businesses will receive financial support by applying to the "Competition of Ideas". The objective is to promote new and innovative businesses in the region with a focus on young entrepreneurs.

### Agri-business Development Programme

This programme will foster sustainable livelihoods in Oé-Cusse through agri-business development. More than 300 local farmers will increase their production and regional specialization will be promoted. In addition, the agri-business management model for Oé-Cusse will be developed and implemented.

### Community-Based Tourism Development

Tourism is one of the driving forces of global economic growth, and currently accounts for 1 in 11 jobs worldwide. It is also one of the main sectors identified within the Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030. UNDP is supporting the Secretary of Tourism to promote community based tourism initiatives in two rural areas, as well as to improve the quality of the existing services in the region and promote new entrepreneurs with innovative ideas in the tourism sector.