



Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

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Local Governance as the key to Development

LDP pilot districts identify 2010 investment priorities



Mrs. Marciana Gouveia Leite, member of the District Assembly in Bobonaro during District Integrated Workshop

During the third quarter of 2009 the Local Development Programme (LDP) team accompanied and provided support to a series of meetings and discussions regarding the priority projects for 2010 in the eight pilot districts where the LDP is currently being implemented.

Three important steps of the LDP cycle took place: the Planning and Implementation Committee (PIC) met to identify investment priorities, the District Assembly (DA) discussed and approved the PIC final report and the District Integration Workshop (DIW) discussed the integration of programmes from other government sectors and agencies, including NGOs as development partners in the districts.

Mr. José Pereira Vicente, Chief of Department of Local Development, who is one of the responsible persons for the LDP program stated: "The

importance of these meetings is to identify and approve the district investment priorities and to integrate the development programmes with other sectors".

In Bobonaro, the first LDP pilot district, fifteen investments plans were presented to the District Assembly and after careful review the DA members agreed on the approval of the following five projects (see table below). These five projects will

be take into consideration in the final quarterly meetings when the District Assembly approves all the investment priorities for 2010.

"As member of the Assembly we vote with consciousness because these proposals reflect the needs of the people, therefore this demands a certain attention in order to respond effectively to the community issues", affirmed Mr. Salomão da Cruz, Assembly Member from Bobonaro.

Originally started in 2005, the Local Development Programme has been fully funded by the State budget, through the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM) since 2008, while the Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP) has been providing the technical support to assist the District Development Officers (DDOs) and the District Finance Officers (DFOs).

These quarterly meeting took place in Covalima, Manufahi, Lautém and Manatuto, in addition to Bobonaro.

Project title and description	Beneficiary	Implementation site
Construction of water supply	1634	Suco Lahomea
Construction of irrigation and protection wall	52	Diruaben, Atabae
Market construction	563	Maliubu, Bobonaro
Construction of irrigation channels	113	Tapo Meak, Manapa, Cailaco
Construction of water canal and protection wall	150	Balibo Vila



UNCDF Executive Secretary reaffirms strong commitment to support local governance during visit to Timor-Leste

From 7 to 9 August, Mr. David Morrison, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), visited Timor-Leste for the first time since he joined UNCDF in July 2008.

The country is one of the 38 Least Developed Countries where UNCDF is striving to improve the lives of the people through innovative approaches.

In Timor-Leste, UNCDF has been supporting two joint programmes in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): the Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP) and the Inclusive Finance for the Under-Served Economy (INFUSE).

During his visit, Mr. David Morrison traveled to Manatuto, one of the eight pilot districts where UNCDF, through the LGSP, supports people's access to infrastructure and basic services, while building local capacities for public service provision and small-scale infrastructure projects preparing local authorities for decentralization.

Mr. Morrison's trip to Manatuto included a tour to a construction site of an irrigation canal, one of the infrastructure projects, which is being funded by the government of Timor-Leste and implemented with technical support of the LGSP, through the Local Development Programme (LDP).



Photo: Thaiza Castilho, UNCDF

Mr. Miguel de Carvalho, DNDLOT Director, Mr. David Jackson, UNCDF's Regional Technical Adviser from Bangkok and Mr. David Morrison, UNCDF Executive Secretary during the visit to Manatuto

The Executive Secretary, accompanied by Mr. David Jackson, Regional Technical Advisor from UNCDF in Bangkok, met with key stakeholders and counterparts from both UNCDF programmes including the Director of Local Development and Territorial Management (DNDLOT), Mr. Miguel Pereira de Carvalho, and the Minister of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM), Dr. Arcângelo Leite, who spoke about the progress in the process of the establishment of the municipalities in Timor-Leste. The Minister also took the opportunity to thank UNCDF for its support to the decentralization process.

"I would like to express my gratitude for the assistance

UNCDF has been providing to the government of Timor-Leste as our closest partner since 2003 and I hope that we can continue to work together, especially in this crucial moment, with the set-up of the municipalities", stated the Minister. During his visit, Mr. David Morrison reaffirmed UNCDF's strong commitment in supporting poverty reduction in Timor-Leste.

"The purpose of this visit was to learn about the progress made in local development and in micro finance and figure out ways to improve our support to both of programmes. I was very pleased with the results we saw and the prospects for the development of Timor-Leste", stated the Executive Secretary.



Ireland increases assistance to Local Governance

In a boost to the decentralization process in the country, the Government of Ireland signed additional contribution of EUR 360,000 to the Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP), implemented under the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM) with the joint support of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Mr Charles Lathrop, the Irish Aid Representative, and Mr Akbar Usmani, the UNDP Country Director, signed the agreement in a ceremony that took place on 31 July at the Irish Aid office, in Dili.

"The establishment of an effective local government is essential for the future of this country. With this additional contribution we would like to reinforce Ireland's commitment to support the decentralization process in order to improve the delivery of public goods and services to the people of Timor-

Leste and towards poverty reduction", said Mr. Lathrop.

"UNCDF and UNDP are grateful to the Government of Ireland for its valuable contribution which will enable our continued support to the decentralization process in the country. This contribution comes at a crucial time with establishment of new municipalities scheduled in 2010," said the UNDP Country Director, Mr Akbar Usmani.

The US \$ 7.75 million LGSP started in 2007 as a five-year project built upon two predecessor projects: Local Government Options Study (LGOS), and Local



Photo: Thaiza Castilho, UNCDF

Mr. Akbar Usmani, UNDP Country Director, and Mr. Charles Lathrop, Head of Irish Aid

Development Programme (LDP). Its aim is to contribute towards poverty reduction in Timor-Leste through support to the establishment of a decentralized, accountable and effective government. The LGSP is also funded by the Governments of Timor-Leste and Norway.

Name and Quotation

"The establishment of the municipalities is an great benefit for the people of Timor-Leste, specially for the population living in further rural areas. With the future development of the municipality they will not need to submit their requests and concerns, to the central government, instead,

they can address directly the President of the Municipal Assembly or the President of the Municipal Administration to resolve their most urgent needs. This initiative will bring the government closer to the people and will facilitate the resolution of small issues at local level", stated Mr. Ornai.

Mr. Bernardo Ornai is the District Development Officer of Baucau



Photo: Duarte Santos/MAEOT

Name and Quotation



Photo: Duarte Santos/MAEOT

"Since 2002 the government has been struggling for the well being of the people. The establishment of the municipalities is a big advantage for the people, especially in the rural areas, because it will not be necessary to seek the central government to resolve small issues. There will be the

Mr. Manuel Ramos is the District Development Officer of Ainaro

President of the Administration and the President of the Assembly to attend the needs of the community. The people will need familiarize and be aware of the decentralization process in order to be involved and participate in the local government", said Mr. Ramos.



CIVIC EDUCATION

Let's understand how the municipality will work

In our next Edition

In September:

- Local Government Law discussion at the National Parliament
- Launch of the Municipality Campaign

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its website on!



The Municipality will be the lowest level of government in Timor-Leste.

This means that there will be no sub-districts. Just as they are now, the suco chiefs and council will continue to be community authorities. They are not representatives of the government.

The Municipalities are a separate level of Government. When you elect the Municipal Assembly, they can make their own decisions about what happens in the Municipality. They do not have to get permission from Central government.

What will the municipality be responsible for?

The municipality will be responsible for delivering some government services to the people.

For example, the Ministry of Health is planning to give responsibility for the ambulances to the Municipalities. That means that the Municipality will manage the budget and staff to operate the service.



What will the Municipal Assembly do?

The Municipal Assembly is responsible for governing the Municipality.

That means that they represent the people's interests in making sure that the administration is working effectively and delivering services to the people.

The Municipal Assembly approves the budget and monitors spending and budget execution. The Municipal Administration executes the budget and is accountable to the Assembly who act as representatives of the people.

The Assembly also discusses issues facing its residents and makes recommendations to the mayor about how they can be resolved.

How will the people know what is happening in the Assembly?

Assembly meetings are open to the public to attend and listen to the discussion. The public can have access to all of the information about assembly meetings and what is discussed there. The Law proposal also says that the assembly will have regular public hearings and consultations.