



# Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

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Local Government as the Key to Development

## LGSP Technical Assistance Mission in Bobonaro

### Exploring a LDP-DDP-SCD integrated approach

**Maliana, 17 September 2010**—As part of a Technical Assistance Mission, the LGSP team visited Maliana, in the Bobonaro District, from 16 to 17 September. The main purpose of the visit was to meet with local stakeholders in order to provide recommendations for an integrated approach for the Local Development Programme (LDP) and newly emerging Government initiatives, such as the Decentralization Development Package (DDP), and the Suco Development Plan (SDP). The objective is to make use of experience and Lessons Learned from the LDP for the development of a common approach at the district and suco level. For this reason, the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management requested LGSP to develop an integrated approach to be inspired by the LDP. The LDP was initially piloted in four districts and, since 2008 in eight pilot districts. Since January 2010, indeed, the LDP has been extended to five new districts, so becoming a nationwide local development program. Bobonaro was the first pilot district for the LDP in 2005, followed by Lautem, Aileu, and Manatuto and since then has benefited many people in the district through the construction and rehabilitation of schools, health posts and feeder roads. During the visit, the LGSP team met with the District Administrator and his team, representatives from the different sectors and the Suco Chiefs. The mission also had a chance to discuss with a large group of local contractors about the ongoing implementation of the projects under the LDP and DPP. Overall, the different groups strongly recommended identifying a simple and common mechanism able to integrate the different programs.

“Beneficiaries have particularly appreciated the level of participation and the bottom-up approach provided under the LDP platform—stated the District Administrator—, which is also perceived to have a transparent project selection process. For the future, we encourage a simplification and harmonization of the two systems and procedures for the best interest of the community”.



“I had the chance to directly experience the LDP process as a Local Assembly voter- said one of the Suco chiefs attending the meeting—and to personally witness the impact on the territory. I can say that initiatives such as new schools, clinics and roads significantly changed our life in the District, although much still remains to be planned and implemented”.

### “Our children will now go to school during the rainy season”

Interview with a Bobonaro LDP Project Beneficiary



“When the new road will be ready, finally our children will be able to go to school even during the rainy season—stated one member of the women beneficiaries, of a LDP project on road and transportation –, and the new road will also benefit farmers and people other Sucos. What is remarkable is that people from the whole community are contributing directly to the implementation of the project, donating material and constructing the road”.

The project, with a total cost of 8,777 \$ , has been implemented by contractor from Bobonaro district, is expected to be completed by the end of October, and is a concrete example of how small scale infrastructure can significantly improve life and labor conditions at the district level. In 2010 the main sectors covered under LDP system are agriculture (37%), Water and Sanitation (30%) and Market (15%).



Decentralization

## In Brief

### Activities in October:

- Final investment plan to be approved in 10 Districts
- District Integrated workshop signing the memorandum by the Local Assembly
- Finalization of the District Annual Action Plan for 2011



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## Liquiça District approves 2011 Final Investment Plan & Budget

### Water and Sanitation programs amongst top priorities

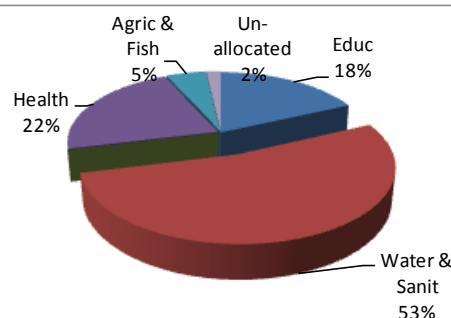
**Liquica, 13 September 2010**— The Liquica District Assembly (DA) unanimously approved the final investment plan for 2011, during its third annual meeting. The plan targets vital areas of intervention such as water and sanitation, education and health care. Liquica was one of the five new districts where LDP started to be implemented in 2010. The final plan was adopted through an integrated LDP planning process to identify priority projects to be funded under the Local Development Fund (LDF) fiscal year of 2011. The rationale is to better respond to the needs of the community through an unprecedented level of involvement of the sucos in the planning process. A total of eight project proposals were recommended by the Planning and Implementation Committee (PIC) to the Liquiça District Assembly, after an initial screening and verification process of thirty-eight proposals by three Sub-District Development Commission (SDDC). Out of the approved projects, six will be implemented at the sub-district level and two at the district level.

“It is very important for us to understand that people at the local level are experiencing a unique opportunity to learn how to participate in the project planning process, and how to identify their priorities based on their practical needs,” said Leonel de Jesus Martins, District Administrator of Liquiça, and this will be crucial in view of the future decentralization”. Mr. Martins also encouraged the community leaders and the local authorities to work hand in hand, in order to ensure a successful implementation of the LDP projects



Members of the Liquica Assembly unanimously approved the 2011 Final Investment Plan on 13 September 2010

Liquica Final Investment Plan 2011 per sector



Miguel Almeida de Jesus, Chief of Water and Sanitation Service (SAS) Liquiça District expressed his satisfaction for the final investment plan and committed to provide all the necessary technical support for the implementation of LDP projects.

## LDP Procurement Process conducted in 3 new districts

### Paving the way for higher citizens' participation

In August the districts of Viqueque, Ermera and Oecusse started implementing the LDP procurement process, as part of the LDP launch planned for 2010. “The District Administration Treasury (DAT), the Finance Team the Planning and Implementation Commission (PIC) and the Local Tender Boards are progressively familiarizing with the procurement process,” — stated Domingas Ferreira, LDP Finance Officer — applying principles of transparency and accountability in selecting and implementing the projects”. The Local Development Program (LDP) started as a national pilot program in 2004 with the objective of testing different models for decentralization and local governance and generating practical lessons for an effective and transparent local governance system, which is responsive to citizens' needs. “Procurement regulations entail an open competitive tender process. This is expected to lead to the best value-for-money for the use of government funds and a fair selection

of local contractors, where the best and most cost-effective contractor is awarded with a contract” explains Susanne Kuehn, LGSP Chief Technical Advisor. The LDP supports capacity development at the local level through the provision of block grants to local assemblies, enabling them to develop management skills through an integrated approach of “learning by doing”. The main objective is to identify local priorities in consultation with aldeias, sucos, and sub-districts, practicing participatory local planning, budgeting, procurement, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Since 2005 local assemblies have successfully managed local procurement processes applying the LDP approach, proven that they possess the required capacities. Over the years, the procurement system has benefited an increasing number of projects, for increasing budgets and with a significant total cost managed at the local level.