



# Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

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Local Government as the Key to Development

## NEW LDP TRAINING MODULE ON GENDER RESPONSIVE LOCAL GOVERNANCE

**Dili, January 2011** - The Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP) started in January a new training package on gender responsive local governance, which is directed to staff of the Ministry for the State Administration and Territorial Management (MSATM), Local Assemblies, local NGOs, District gender focal points, local journalists and UNMIT staff. The main purpose of the programme is to make sure that gender issues will be reflected as an integrated part of the Local Development Programme cycle. Moreover, it will sensitize government and local institutions leaders and civil servants on the importance of women's participation in the local governance decision making process. An additional key component is to encourage women active participation through capacity building on communication skills. This initiative further strengthens gender sensitivity within the LDP in addition to the affirmative action, which ensures a 50% women presence in the Suco Council members of the Sub-District Development Committees (SDCC), and a 30% women presence in the Suco Councils members of the District Assemblies.

The training, which is based on a UNIFEM module, was adapted to the specific needs of the Districts by Henriqueta Maria da Silva, from LGSP, to be conducted in 3 main phases. It started in Dili with a one week training of trainers: 13 gender focal points, 5 LGSP staff and 8 government staff, who will then be responsible to replicate and implement the training module at the district level throughout the year. In the second phase, the training will be provided to the Pilot Local Assemblies. Finally, the module will be extended to local NGOs and local journalists at the district level. As part

of this focus, this year the LGSP, with the support of Irish Aid, will appoint an international gender adviser who will work in close collaboration with the gender counterpart at MSATM. Over the past two years, the LGSP has regularly monitored and collected data on the actual attendance of women in the local assemblies.

Despite of the affirmative action, according to the data women participation is substantially low compared to men. In particular, women ability to actively participate resulted to be further limited by lack of experience, cultural views on the role of women and practical or logistical difficulties in reaching the meeting place.

"After a careful analysis, the LGSP decided to introduce this new gender training module, with the expectation to further strengthen gender sensitivity, inclusiveness and active participation of women in the local governance process. — said Susanne Kuehn, LGSP Chief Technical Advisor.

By the end of the module programme, more than 200 people are expected to have successfully completed the training.

The government of Timor Leste has expressed strong political will to address these disparities. Gender equality is guaranteed under the National Constitution and Government is a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). As stated in the Section 63 of the Constitution, the active participation by men and women in political life is a requirement of, and a fundamental instrument for, consolidating the democratic system, and the law shall promote equality in the exercise of civil and political rights.

## REVISED REGULATIONS WILL HARMONIZE LDP-DDP PROCEDURES

**Dili, January 2011**— MSATM and LGSP are currently finalizing the revision of the Local Development Plan and District Development Package Integrated Regulations. The initiative intends to better respond to the need expressed by the Districts, Sub-Districts communities to simplify and harmonize the current procedures. Last year, the parallel presence of two separate sets of regulations for the DDP and the LDP has indeed often created confusion amongst communities, contractors and beneficiaries of the projects.



The Minister Arcangelo Leite expressed its satisfaction for the progress made by the joint working group for the revision of the regulations, also announcing it in a public statement at the National Parliament in January. According to the plan, the revised LDP-DDP regulations will be completed by the end of February and then converted into a Decree Law to be approved by the Council of Ministers. Ultimately, the new package will be made accessible at the District and Sub-District level, guaranteeing a transparent and public access to the community and the contractors interested in submitting development project proposals for the current year.



## In Brief

### Activities in February:

- Minimum Condition Assessment of the Local Assemblies
- Announcement of 2011 Local Development Fund

## "OUR COFFEE PLANTATIONS ARE NOW SAFE FROM FLOODING"

The coordinator of a LDP supported project on water and sanitation explains how hundreds of families benefited from the construction of a water canalization in the Ermera District

**Ermera District, January 2011**— A water canalization project has been finalized in Ponilala, in the Ermera District last January, protecting the local coffee plantations from repeated flooding, which were seriously affecting the already modest production of the area. The LDP supported project, with an overall expenditure of 51,000 USD, was implemented in 2010 with the active participation of the whole community, which directly followed the planning and the construction process. After an open competitive selection process, contractors were identified mostly within the local Sucos. The water channel project benefited 4,000 people of the area, whose almost 50% is composed by women.

"The first time we heard about the LDP, we organized a meeting to sit together and discuss about what we could do"- said a member of the *aldeia* where the project was recently inaugurated -, and we all agreed to prioritize what really mattered for our economy, that is protecting our coffee plantations".



Every year, the coffee plantations are devastated during the raining season, determining high unemployment in a very remote region, which is already deeply affected by lack of proper infrastructure, roads and transportation.

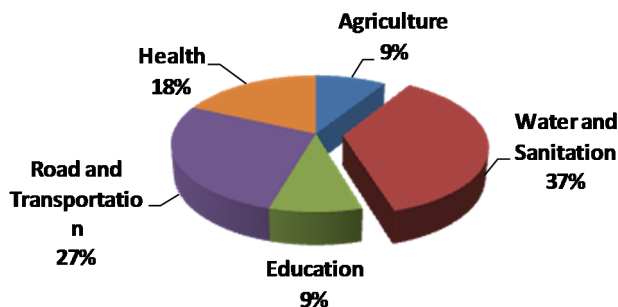
The Ermera District is East Timor's prime coffee growing area, with the country's principal export counting approximately 10,000 tons of beans each year, mostly high grade organic *Arabica*.



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% LDP Supported Project per Sector in the Fiscal Year 2010



### DISTRICT PROFILE : ERMERA



Spread over an area of 746 sq km, the Ermera district is divided administratively into five sub-districts: Atsabe , Ermera, Hatolia, Letefoho and Railako. Gleno, in Ermera sub-district, is the administrative center for the whole district. Ermera town is the administrative center for Ermera sub-district only. The district has 52 sucos.

### NEW COMMUNICATION STRATEGY TO BE APPROVED SOON

The new communication strategy for the LGSP and MSATM was presented during a workshop with MSATM and LGSP staff in Dili on 3 February. The main purpose of the workshop was to discuss about the new core messages, visual identity and outreach priorities to implement during the year, in line with current political and legislative process resulting from the delay of the municipal elections to 2013.

The workshop was officially opened by the Secretary of State, Mr. Florindo Pereira, and saw the active participations of different Directors, and Chief of Staff of DNDLOT, DNAL, DNAF, INAP, DNAAS and STAE.

As a result, by the end of February, the 2011 communication working plan will be officially approved and formalized by the Minister.

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