



# Local Governance Monthly Bulletin

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Local Governance as the Key to Development

## LOCAL ASSEMBLIES WILL SOON AWARD 144 LDP PROJECTS FOR 2011

During the months of May and June the joint team of the Local Development Programme (LDP), composed by staff from the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management and the UNDP/UNCDF Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP), supported the implementation of the procurement activities in all the 13 Local Assemblies for the 2011 LDP projects.

As part of the process, the Planning and Implementation Committee (PIC) of each District prepared the bid document based on the approved annual investment plan for 2011 (see *table below*). The PIC is composed by the District Development Officer, technical staff recruited by the Local Assembly and relevant line ministries sector staff at the District Level.

“Over the past six years we have witnessed a growing participation by local contractors at the District level, and an increased capacity by the Local Assemblies in managing local procurement process for almost 500 projects. – said Lucio Borromeo, DNDLOT Director. – This is a clear indication of the successful impact produced by a bottom-up, transparent and

participatory process in the area of local development. As a result of the completed procurement process, a total of 144 projects will be awarded by mid July. The projects are mostly focusing on small scale infrastructure, including construction of roads, rehabilitation of schools and clinics, water and sanitation plants.

According to the process, the bid document submitted by contractors will be evaluated by the Local Tender Board, which has the final responsibility to recommend the successful contractors. Projects over US\$ 15,000 can be approved directly at the local level, whilst the ones exceeding this amount need to be cleared by the MSATM National Director of Administration and Finance. The Local Tender Board is composed by MSATM staff based at the District and Sub-District level, two voting members of the Local Assembly, technical and relevant sector staff. Once completed, the bid evaluation will be submitted for approval to the Executive Secretary of the District Local Assemblies. The Executive Secretary will then have the primary responsibility, on behalf of the Local Assemblies, to sign the contract with the selected companies.

### Total LDP Projects to be awarded for 2011

| District     | Allocation       | Investment Budget US\$ | N. of Projects |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Bobonaro     | \$ 324,000.00    | \$ 324,000.00          | 12             |
| Lautem       | \$ 225,000.00    | \$ 225,000.00          | 14             |
| Aileu        | \$ 165,000.00    | \$ 165,000.00          | 8              |
| Manatuto     | \$ 157,000.00    | \$ 157,000.00          | 13             |
| Ainaro       | \$ 216,000.00    | \$ 216,000.00          | 9              |
| Baucau       | \$ 405,000.00    | \$ 405,000.00          | 16             |
| Covalima     | \$ 218,000.00    | \$ 218,000.00          | 9              |
| Manufahi     | \$ 183,000.00    | \$ 183,000.00          | 9              |
| Viqueque     | \$ 240,000.00    | \$ 240,000.00          | 8              |
| Ermera       | \$ 414,000.00    | \$ 414,000.00          | 14             |
| Oecusse      | \$ 236,000.00    | \$ 236,000.00          | 7              |
| Dili         | \$ 565,000.00    | \$ 565,000.00          | 18             |
| Liquisa      | \$ 152,000.00    | \$ 152,000.00          | 7              |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>3,500,000</b> | <b>\$ 3,500.00</b>     | <b>144</b>     |



## “A COUNTRY WITH NO EDUCATION IS A COUNTRY WITH NO FUTURE”

*A Suco Chief explains how the proposed construction of a secondary school became reality*

### In Brief

#### Activities in June:

- District Budget Coordination Workshop on 13-14 June
- Finalization of LDP Projects Procurement Process

**Vemasse, June 2011** - It's has been more than one year since the new secondary school in Vemasse, Baucau District, was completed and inaugurated through the support of the Local Development Fund. Until 2009 in the 11,000 people Sub-District students were facing many logistical problems to continue their studies, since the same old building was used for both primary and secondary school, resulting in complex rotations and often exclusion of students.



The new Secondary School in Aldeia Vemasse Tasi, Vemasse Sub-District, Baucau District

Members of the Suco's community were asked to recommend one project out of three proposals, before officially submitting it to the Sub-District Development Committee (SDDC) and, ultimately, the Baucau District Assembly. The Assembly endorsed the project, that was finally approved by the Ministry of State Administration at the end of 2009.

“I remember that the other 2 proposals were both on irrigation, - explains the Vemasse District Development Officer - but the day villages had to cast their vote, they had no hesitation to prioritize the school, because education was felt as more important and strategic”.

During the Portuguese and Indonesian occupation, as the community members still clearly remember, there were no opportunities for the Vemasse population to receive a secondary level education. Today, the school represents a reference for 7 Sucos, and it has more than 200 students.

“A country with no education and with no intellectuals is a country with no future , and now that we are independent we are fully responsible for this - strengthens the Suco Chief. The project, which only cost \$ US 36,000, had a major impact on the quality of the education provided. With the old buildings, there was an average of 55 students per class, which has now dropped to 22. In the past, this unsustainable situation had also led some teachers to leave and look for other opportunities in other Districts.

“There is no other secondary school in the area, and this is why our Suco decided to submit a specific project proposal to the Sub-District Committee. - says the Vemasse Suco Chief - Often families were forced to send their children to Baucau and Dili for alternative opportunities, but in many cases this was not sustainable, and students preferred to come back to their villages and become farmers instead”.



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### DISTRICT PROFILE: BAUCAU



Situated 129 kilometers East of Dili, Baucau covers 1,600 square kilometers of land and serves as a gateway for the neighboring districts of Lautem, Viqueque and Manatuto. The District is divided into six sub-districts: Baucau, Laga, and Vemasse with a coastal plain, while Venilale, Quelicai, and Baguia are located inland. Baucau is the third largest district in East Timor with a population of about 111,000 inhabitants, according to the 2000 Census.

Local languages spoken in Baucau include Makkasae for the majority, Waim'ua in Baho, Caibada, Bucoli and Vemasse Fo'ho villages, Midiki in Venilale and Naueti in Baguia. A number of people above 40 understand Portuguese and most of the others, including the younger population generally understand Bahasa Indonesia. Portuguese is being taught in all schools and some English in the secondary. There are currently 60 Sucos officially recognized in the District.