

Timor-Leste: Promoting youth empowerment and inclusion by expanding skills and opportunities for youth groups

Timor-Leste Youth Development Project



Approval Date: 1 July 2008

Closing Date: 31 December 2011

Total Project Cost: US\$2.12 million

Donors: World Bank (International Development Association)—US\$2.12 million

Implementing Agency: Timor-Leste Ministry of State and Administration and Territorial Management

Promote participation of youth in local development and social life.

- Maximise the participation of female youth by specifically facilitating their participation in community development efforts.
- Strengthen the capacity of government institutions, especially the State for Youth and Sports, in order to allow them to better support young people.

BACKGROUND

Youth played a seminal role in the violence that erupted in 2006 which saw hundreds of thousands people displaced, property worth thousands of dollars destroyed, hundreds injured, and dozens killed. In the absence of a concerted effort to provide opportunities for youth to engage meaningfully with communities and government in national recovery and development efforts, the risk of youth marginalisation from development and civic life will persist.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Youth Development Project will support the Government's efforts to address the social, economic and political factors that led to the involvement of youth in the crisis of 2006 and in the ongoing social instability present since then.

The opening paragraph of the National Youth Policy emphasises that "young people are key elements in the sustainable development of the country", and goes on to state that "the energetic and dynamic transition of young people to adult life is a valuable resource for the development and empowerment of the country".

The National Youth Policy sees young people as potential contributors to local and national development. The first of the six strategies specified in the National Youth Strategy is to mobilise young people to better serve their communities.

There are two components to the project:

The first component is Operationalising the National Youth Policy, implemented by the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports (SSYS). This component focuses on:

- Strengthening SSYS's ability to develop, implement and coordinate youth-related policies and programs, including the establishment of a unit to administer the National Youth Fund within SSYS; and
- Enhancing SSYS's ability to work with youth groups, organisations and youth centres, and support youth initiatives.

The second component is Youth for Local Development, implemented by the Ministry of State and Administration and Territorial Management. This includes:

- Facilitating the participation of rural youth in community development activities and local development processes.
- Supporting the Ministry to establish a mechanism to distribute small grants to youth in *sucos* (villages) and *aldeias* (hamlets).

LOCATION

The project initially takes place in Bobonaro and Lautem districts, and then gradually scales up to cover the rest of the districts.

RESOURCES

- ▣ [Project Details](#)
- ▣ [Project Documents](#)
- ▣ [Download Project Flier](#) (369kb pdf)

CONTACT

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