

PILOT



POLICY



IMPLEMENTATION

3 COMPONENTS OF LGSP

The Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP) was established in early 2007 to provide support to the current Government plan to begin implementing nation-wide decentralization reform in 2008-9. LGSP provides direct technical support to the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management and other line ministries involved with the decentralization process.

LGSP's main objective is to contribute towards poverty reduction in Timor-Leste through support to the establishment of a decentralized, accountable and effective local government. LGSP will do this through providing technical support in three main program areas: pilot local government assemblies, support to the development of an appropriate policy framework, and when the local government policies have been approved, supporting the government in implementing local government reforms.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE PILOT

LGSP continues the work of the Local Development Programme (LDP), which from 2004-2006 established local assemblies as pilots of a local governance system. The pilot program is testing procedures in order to learn lessons from local planning, decision-making, service delivery and financial management of local budgets. During the LDP pilot, Assemblies are responsible for allocating and managing a small capital budget for local infrastructure programs called the Local Development Fund. Throughout the program, training and mentoring is provided to government officials and assembly members on the implementation of the decentralization procedures, as well as addressing gender concerns in local government.

SUPPORT TO POLICY

In order for the decentralization process to be effectively executed, the Government of Timor-Leste needs appropriate, clear and obtainable laws or other legal documents. LGSP will support this process through technical assistance in appropriate consultation, drafting and socialization of new or modified policy and legal documents. Key policy activities that will be supported by LGSP include:

- Clarifying existing procedures and lessons learned from LDP;
- Consulting broadly with stakeholders, including all relevant Line Ministries;
- Developing a strategic framework as an action plan and timeline for the drafting of law proposals;
- Supporting the process of drafting the law proposals, including reviewing existing legislation and other legal drafting assistance.

The final outcome of the policy activities of the Government with LGSP support will be the submission of law proposals to the National Parliament for their review and consideration.

SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORMS

After the approval of the legal framework that will establish a local government in Timor-Leste, LGSP will support the Government during the implementation of decentralization. Based on the government plan, LGSP will assist with the creation and development of Municipal Assemblies and Administration that are capable of effective and sustainable planning, administering and executing their responsibilities through providing training assistance to local and central government officials and deputies, education and communication campaigns, and backstopping MSATM in its supervising role.

LDP Programme Coordinator Cristovao Miranda training in Baucau



LGSP'S METHOD

LGSP provides technical support in these three key areas through trainings, workshops, regular mentoring and technical advice to all levels of Government involved in the decentralization process. LGSP's staff works hand-in-hand with Government staff at both the central and local level in order to ensure that the Government will have the capacity, when the decentralization reforms are approved, to implement a new system of Government that can provide services for people in all areas of the country.

DECENTRALIZATION

Since 2003, the Government has been working on developing a framework for decentralization and local government. Based on clear provisions in the Timor-Leste Constitution and directives from the Council of Ministers, the overall vision of the Government is to establish a strong, democratic and efficient local governance system starting in 2009.

The main objectives of the decentralization process are to:

- Promote the institutions of a strong, legitimate and stable state across the territory of Timor-Leste;
- Promote opportunities for local democratic participation by all citizens;
- Promote more effective, efficient and equitable public service delivery for the social and economic development in the country.

In 2008, the Government will begin to draft two law proposals on the decentralization process: a Law on Administrative and Territorial Division and a Law on Local Government, as well as other legislative documents as needed. The legal drafting process is coordinated by the Ministry of State Administration and Territorial Management with the support of LGSP; however to ensure that the future local governance system is strong and democratic, the legal drafting will require input and participation from all Government Ministries, civil society and the community. The final decision on the law for decentralization and local government will be made by the National Parliament of Timor-Leste.

Members of the Manufahi District Assembly discuss their new responsibilities as community representatives during training held in February 2008



LGSP BY THE NUMBERS

8 districts participating in the pilot program for Local Government Assemblies

1,030 local assembly members

194 local infrastructure projects funded by the Local Development Fund between 2005 and 2008

2 models of local government piloted: one with Assemblies at the district and sub-district level and one with Assemblies at the district level only

\$1,894,000

total capital budget for the Local Development Fund allocated by the Government of Timor-Leste in 2008, allocated based on number of population in one area and a small equal share distribution. In 2008, \$4 is allocated per capita.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE SUPPORT PROGRAMME



UNCDF



NORWEGIAN EMBASSY
TIMOR-LESTE SECTION



The Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP) is a joint programme executed by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). LGSP is funded by Irish Aid, the Government of Norway, UNCDF and UNDP.

More information is available at the LGSP office and online.

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