



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

"Promoting democracy through reform"

"Spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development."

Leaders of the World Millennium Summit 2000



Timor-Leste

Vision

The strategic objective of UNDP Timor-Leste in the area of Democratic Governance is to enable the state to create a system that promotes, supports and sustains human development.

Four Years of Partnerships

UNDP Timor-Leste has been working in the area of Democratic Governance for four years; working with national partners in establishing institutions, upholding line functions, introducing systems and processes, delivering training at different levels in different sectors, and providing necessary infrastructure and equipment to help the state bodies work better.



Governance Strategy

UNDP Timor-Leste's current strategy in the area of Governance is to continue to support institution-building in Timor-Leste through a series of projects.

At present, the emphasis is on the strengthening of the parliament and judiciary, so as to promote the separation of powers, and on the public administration reform and capacity building.

Project Methodology

UNDP has several projects that are aimed at promoting Democratic Governance through strengthening institutional capacity (systems and processes, skills and knowledge, ethics and behaviours) in specific Timor-Leste entities.

Every project consists of a sequence of concrete measures (mainly advice and training, infrastructure and equipment). Each measure is intended to strengthen the overall ability of the entity to deliver services. Human rights, gender equality, and introduction of ITC systems are interwoven into the projects as cross-cutting concerns.



National Support

Local support is imperative to the success of a project. Accordingly, all projects are designed in intimate partnership with national partners. A project is directed by a board, and every board comprises representatives of the relevant Timor-Leste bodies: sometimes UNDP holds no vote.

UNDP assists in designing the projects, mobilizing resources, implementing measures, and maintaining external contacts. While day-to-day financial management is handled by UNDP, project expenditure is approved by each project's Steering Committee. This division of labour balances national ownership with the protection of donor investment.

Realistic Expectations

Realistic expectations are a key to success. Timor-Leste will need decades to achieve its development objectives.

Democratic Governance projects aim at guiding development and minimising the risk of bad governance culture in the infancy of a new country. While projects have a life span of only a few years, UNDP expects to remain a development partner of Timor-Leste into the future. New projects will follow up where old projects end. This approach provides flexibility in shifting realities of a new country in its early years.



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