



Poverty Reduction and Community Development

"Promoting national initiatives to empower the poor"



Timor-Leste

Poverty Reduction and Community Development (PRCD) in Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste is among the 20 poorest nations in the world, with the majority of the people living in rural areas. With limited formal jobs available, most of the rural population is engaged in subsistence agriculture. Unemployment is prevalent, particularly among youths and in urban areas. Lack of livelihood opportunities is compounded by low literacy rates and acute shortages of skilled human resources. Poor social infrastructure restricts people's access to basic services.

Poverty reduction and the uplifting of the poor are two key objectives outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP) which embraces the principles of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), an agreement among nations to work to reduce human poverty.

The two main goals in this programme are:

1. To aim for poverty reduction in all sectors and regions of the nation, and
2. To promote economic growth that is both equitable and sustainable, whilst improving the health, education and well-being of the people of Timor-Leste.

In support of NDP and MDGs, UNDP has elected to work on the following areas to combat poverty and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for community development:

- Pro-poor policy support for poverty reduction
- Rural development and employment generation
- Enhancing access to basic services



Pro-poor policy support for poverty reduction

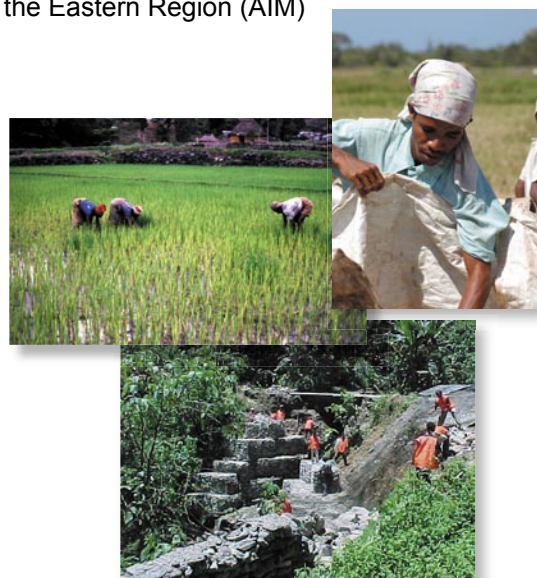
- Support for MDG's
- Coordination, Monitoring, and Planning Assistant for National Development Plan Implementation (COMPASS)
- National Human Development Report
- Policy Support for the Ministry of Development and Environment
- ASYCUDA Customs Automation Systems
- Development Service Advisory (DAS) II

Rural development and employment generation

- Local Development Programme (LDP)
- Ainaro-Manatuto Community Activation Project (AMCAP)
- Oecussi Ambeno Community Activation Program (OCAP)
- Skills Training for Gainful Employment Program (STAGE)

Enhancing access to basic services

- Programme for Access Improvements to Markets in the Eastern Region (AIM)



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