

MDG-F: Monitoring and Evaluation Action Plan of Timor Leste

With support from the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Trust Fund, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is implementing two joint UN programmes in Timor-Leste, one focusing on food security and nutrition and one on gender equality and women's rights, in line with MDGs 1 and 3. The country is also one of the nine MDG-F focus countries with additional support for monitoring and evaluation and advocacy on the MDGs and the joint programmes.

Strategic goal:

Following the global strategic framework, the overall goal of the initiative is to
Improve joint program quality outcomes, produce and exchange specific and general knowledge on MDGs.

Key outcomes :

1. Evidence based decision making improves the quality of the programmes;
2. Governments and donors comply with their accountability functions and transparency towards all partners.

Timeline: 2010 – 2012

Country context:

1. **Timor-Leste is a country in post crisis and transition period.** Timor-Leste is in a unique position as one of the newest nations in the world. It has had a history of violent struggle for independence and succeeded in restoring independence in 2002. The civil strife in 2006 negatively impacted on some of the progress achieved by this small nation state with just over a million citizens. Its currently fragile situation is that of harnessing efforts towards the nations' development while also addressing issues that caused the conflict and humanitarian crisis of 2006.

2. **The Government has expressed commitment to the MDGs, but concrete links to the MDG targets are not yet part of the national development priorities.** The broad challenge it faces is expressed by Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao. "As a latecomer, we are very much aware of and prepared for the daunting challenges we have to tackle to achieve the MDGs." In the absence of a national development plan, the annual National Priorities mechanism has served as the basis for national planning and budgeting, as well as guide to the international partners of Timor-Leste including the UN since 2007. However, there are no clear linkages between the MDGs and the national priorities yet. The country is in the process of articulating its national development strategy under the leadership of the Prime Minister. In his preface to the 2009 MDG Report of Timor-Leste, the Prime Minister tacitly committed to include the MDGs in the National Development Strategic Plan for the country, "the preparation of which will begin this year under my leadership."

3. **The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2009-2013)** was developed by the UN agencies with joint participation of UNMIT, the Government of Timor-Leste (RDTL), and NGOs/INGOs/CSOs. Under the overarching objective of supporting the consolidation of peace and stability, and in line with the MDGs, the UNDAF has three outcomes: UNDAF Outcome 1 on

democratization, outcome 2 on poverty reduction and disaster risk management, and outcome 3 on basic social services. The two MDG-F joint programmes are cross-cutting all three UNDAF outcomes with specific focuses on UNDAF outcome 3. It will contribute to the country's development efforts on MDGs.

4. UNDAF M&E working groups were established to support the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the UNDAF and MDGs in Timor-Leste. Based on UNDAF framework, three M&E working groups were established in early 2009. The main purpose of these M&E Groups is to provide technical oversight for the consolidation of the M&E reports relating to UNDAF outcomes and provide support for the implementation, M&E for the UNDAF outcomes, to facilitate collaboration among main partners, including UNCT agencies and others; and to build strong constituency of stakeholders around the issues concerned.

The UNDAF M&E working group will also provide inputs into the design of the MDG joint programming or monitoring strategy, including provision of technical input into the formulation and implementation of UN MDG joint programming or joint monitoring involving Government as well as facilitating linkages with Timor-Leste DevInfo. This proposed MDG-F M&E action plan will support the M&E working group to achieve this result.

5. M&E capacity in the Government is still very weak. Timor-Leste Devinfo, a national social and economic database managed by the National Statistics Directorate, was created, launched and introduced for use by sectoral ministries in December 2006, with the support of UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP. The database was then updated in 2008 with the data produced in the 2007 Timor-Leste Survey of Living Standards.

The overall capacity for monitoring and evaluation in Timor-Leste is still very weak. The government officials and other national development partners including NGOs and CSOs have neither knowledge of basic concepts and principles of M&E, nor the tools and technical skills to implement M&E policies.

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education are still developing systems for information and data collection with the support of the UN. Disaggregated data, especially by gender and by geographic areas, is insufficient. Use of data for evidence-based decision making is not yet systematic.

Proposed M&E activities:

This MDG-F Monitoring and Evaluation action plan will support the implementation of the two joint programmes in Timor-Leste, and generate good practices and lessons learned from the implementation. Apart from the mandatory global participatory evaluation with case study, the funds will support a baseline study to get information of key programme monitoring indicators, especially on Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) at household and facility level. The study will also support the Food security and Nutrition joint programme to develop detailed intervention activities based on assessment of the needs. The baseline information will be expected to feed into the global participatory case study evaluation on the joint programmes.

The MDG-F M&E action plan also includes activities to improve the capacity of government and NGOs on monitoring and evaluation of the development programmes at both national and district level. The training will address the challenges of limited knowledge and skills of the government officials with the focus on assessing progress towards the MDGs, including gender-disaggregated data collection and analysis, and how to use data (through DevInfo and conducting data analysis) for evidenced-based policy development and decision making. The target groups will be the national senior officials such as Ministry

of Finance, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, National Food Security Committees, Counter Trafficking working group, gender focal points in government ministries, National Statistical Directorate, etc.). Training for the partners of the six districts that are covered by the two joint programmes will be organized to assist the joint programmes and produce the district profiles.

In the basis of the existing Timor-Leste DevInfo, the fund will support further development of DevInfo with the inclusion of MDG indicators in the database. It will start from a study on identification and collection of existing data and sources, review of the data quality, as well as identification of data gaps for the MDG indicators. Recommendations will be provided on how to fill out the data gaps. The Timor-Leste DevInfo will be updated accordingly and prepared to support future national next MDG reports. Advocacy leaflets/brochures will be developed for MDGs with the focus on MDG 1 and MDG 3.

The key partners of the action plan will include those who are involved in the two joint programmes, as well as the Ministry of Finance, mainly the National Statistics Directorate.

<i>OVERALL GOAL</i>						
<i>Improve joint program quality outcomes, produce and exchange specific and general knowledge</i>						
Outcomes	Outputs	Indicative Activities	2010	2011	2012	total
I. Evidence based decision making improves the quality of programmes	1. Actionable knowledge and evidence is available to a wide array of stakeholders, specifically to decision makers and citizen's in partner countries, donors, HQ agencies and general public	1.1 Participatory impact evaluation with case study, conducted with MDG F Secretariat for each JP.			140,000	140,000
		1.2 Baseline study for the Food Security and Nutrition joint programme	40,000			40,000
II. Governments and donors comply with their accountability functions and transparency towards all partners	2. Individual and organizational learning is developed and/or improved within MDG-F Partners (Government, civil society, etc.)	2.1 Two Training workshop(s) on M&E at national level (40 beneficiaries).	5,000	5,000		10,000
		2.2 6 district-level Training workshops (120 beneficiaries) on M&E and Dev Info to assist in putting together the District profile.	8,000	16,000		24,000
		2.3 Updates of the Timor-Leste DevInfo with data of MDG indicators and production of the MDG statistical leaflets to support the MDG report (in cooperation with the MDG-F on advocacy)	15,000	6,000		21,000
		2.4 Regular technical meetings between national, district-level M&E groups and UN	5,000	5,000	5,000	15,000
		2.5 Technical assistants to the MDG-F M&E activities (Project officer or consultants)	25,000	25,000		50,000

Total budget (US\$)	98,000	57,000	145,000	300,000
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