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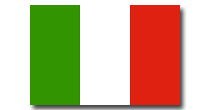
**STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY**

**DEMOCRACY IN** **Timor-Leste**

**(Parliament project 2010-2013)**

UNDP Project Code: 00073810

Annual Report 2014

NoruegaAustralia SWDN0001

# List of Acronyms:

AFPPD Asian Forum for parliamentarians on Population and Development

APPC Asian and Pacific Population Conference

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations

CAVR Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation

CD Capacity Development

CEDAW Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination

Against Women

CEGEN Centro de Fomação e Informação sobre Igualdade de Géneros (Centre for Capacity Building and Information on Gender Equality)

CNE National Commission for Elections

CPLP Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries

DIPAL Divisão de Património, Logistica e Serviços Gerais (Division of Fixed Assets, Logistics and General Services)

DIPIT Diracao de Pesquisa e Informação Técnica (Directorate of Research and Technical Information)

DIPLEN Divisão de Apoio ao Plenário (Division of Plenary Support)DIPFA Divisão do Plano, Finanças e Aprovisionamento (Division of Planning, Finance and Procurement)

DIRAT Divisão de Redacção, Audiovisual, Transcrição e Documentação (Division of Drafting, Audiovisual, Transcription and Documentation)

DITIC Divisão de Tecnologia de Informação e Comunicação (Division of Information Technology and Communication)

EC European Commission

EU European Union

ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific

ICT Information, Communication and Technology

ICPD International Conference on Population and Development

ILO International Lobour Organization

IPU Inter-Parliamentary Union

GBV Gender Based Violence

GMPTL Group of Parliamentarian Women of Timor-Leste

LOFAP Parliamentary Administration and Service Law

MPs Members of Parliament

NAP National Action Plan

NP National Parliament

NPST National Parliament Strategic Plan

PSC Project Steering Committee

RDTL Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

RTL Radio Timor-Leste

SEPI Secretariat for Promotion of Gender Equality

SGBV Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

SO Standing Orders

SOP Standard Operational Procedure

ToR Terms of Reference

ToT Training of Trainers

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNMIT United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

WTO World Trade Organization

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# Introduction:

The Annual Work Plan (AWP) activities 2014 have been implemented in a timely manner and with solid results. This was the final year of the project as the project had been extended until the end of 2014 by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) decision during the meeting held in December 2013. The AWP 2014 has been implemented according to the following Outputs: Output 1: *Parliament supported with legal expertise for scrutinizing, debating and amending bills, analysing and presenting policy implications, as well as initiating and drafting laws*; Output 2: *Oversight Support Consolidation of in-house legal sector-specific and, mainly, gender support systems and processes that enable MPs to analyze, debate and approve the national budget and provide continuous oversight of government policies and expenditures;* and Output 3: *Gender mainstreaming. Project along with its advisors also provided and supported line-functions to other relevant needs of National Parliament.*

The project has been implemented as a complementary project to the European Union (EU) funded project (2011 – 2015). As part of a team of 16 international advisors providing support to the parliament under the two projects, the Economic Advisor and Legal Gender Advisor contributed to achieving the above mentioned outputs during the year 2014.

The Economic Advisor was recruited in 2013 and is the key technical advisor to the National Parliament’s Committee D (Economy and Development). After a gap of several months, a Legal Gender Advisor was recruited in May 2014 and provided technical assistance to the Committee F (Education, Health, Veteran, Sports and Youth and Culture), the Group of Parliamentarian Women of Timor-Leste GMTPL, and the Centre for Capacity Building and Information on Gender Equality CEGEN.

This annual report captures the results achieved in line with planned outputs and challenges faced during the period of 1st January to 31 December 2014. Below are highlights of the key achievements during the year.

* ***The Parliament’s legislative process and drafting capacity improved:***  Several key bills were reviewed, scrutinised, debated and approved at the Committee and plenary level during 2014 (including Bill on Forest Management and Census Bill). The Bills were analysed from a socioeconomic and gender perspective, particularly by the Committees D and F. Two State Budgets (2014 and 2015) were approved with a high level of technical analysis, discussion and debate of the government’s budget proposals.
* ***The Parliament has improved oversight and analytical capacities:*** for the first time government provided quarterly reports to Parliament on the execution of state budget 2014 from the respective government ministries. At least 20 oversight reports have been disseminated (to plenary and relevant government authorities) during the year. Members of Committee D (Economic and Development) and Committee F (Health, Education, Culture, Veteran and Gender Equality) conducted oversight visits to local areas overseeing government budget expenditures and policies from the relevant ministries. Committee D conducted international Seminar on PPP which was aimed to enhance and strengthen the role of MPs in overseeing government on PPP issues. Committee F also conducted an international Seminar on “ Gender in Parliament” aimed to enrich the knowledge of MPs on gender-mainstreaming within legislative and oversight processes.
* ***The*** ***technical*** ***capacity of the Secretariat in research and analysis strengthened in the area of gender, economics and development*** National technical staff members have shown improved aptitude to conduct research and analyse data – several background paper and briefing papers (e.g. research on the draft law of Forest Management) have been prepared autonomously by national staff. Furthermore, the National technical staff provided support during the hearings at plenary by the relevant ministries on the quarterly reports of State Budget execution in which the sectoral analysts provided briefing papers and questions to MPs. The technical staff also prepared reports for public consultations which had been approved by the respective committees: Committee D and F. Furthermore, national Budget Analysts provided analysis and report during the State Budget 2015 discussion, debate and approval.
* ***Parliamentarians’ knowledge and understanding of specific issues increased:*** with the technical support from the Economic Advisor, and Legal Gender Advisor, Committee D and F conducted two comparative studies abroad to increase knowledge and understanding through exposure and analysis. Committee D visited Goa, India to study the tourism sector which is considered as one of the potential economic sectors for Timor-Leste. Committee F visited the Philippines and Indonesia to study various sectors -namely education, health, gender, youth and sport

# Project Results by Output from January - December 2014

## Output 1: Parliament supported with legal expertise for scrutinizing, debating and amending bills, analysing and presenting policy implications, as well as initiating and drafting laws

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *OUTPUT 1: INDICATORS* | *PROGRESS 2014- Quarter 4* |
| Percentage  of  bills  accepted  by  Parliament analysed for potential impact  including social, economic perspective | * 5 key pieces of legislation were analysed for impact from a socio-economic perspective by Committee D and F and approved at Committee level. They are:  1. State Budget 2014 2. State Budget 2015 3. Forest Management Bill 4. Census Law 5. International Labour Organization Conventions. |
| One national qualified Economic recruited to Committee D | * No progress in recruiting the national economist (the position was not included in the Parliament’s budget for 2015) |

***Activity 1.1 Legislation Reviews and Drafting***

Over the course of 2014, several significant opportunities were utilized by the project to build the capacity of Members of Parliament and secretariat staff in legislative drafting and review, under particularly working with Committees D and F under this project.

The following pieces of legislation were scrutinized and debated during the year:

*State Budget Laws 2014 and 2015*

Major support was provided to the National Parliament in scrutinising and approving two State Budgets during the year - State Budgets 2014 was approved in February and State Budget 2015 was approved in December 2014. The Advisors to Committee D and Committee F provided technical inputs, advisory support as well as training and mentoring in terms of analysing the budget from a socio-economic and gender perspective. The project also supported the Committees to conduct ‘public audiences’ or consultations with their respective counterparts from government miniseries. The Committees met with a wide range of stakeholders in order to consult, scrutinize budget proposals, questions and obtain feedback on both the budgets. The stakeholders include government agencies and state institutions such as relevant Ministries, Secretaries of State, special commissions, independent authorities, civil society organisations and academia. During the discussion and approval process of the State budgets, the Economic Advisor and the Gender Advisor conducted parallel briefing sessions and on-the-job training for MPs and technical staff of Committee D and Committee F on the process of the state budget. As the Gender Advisor came onboard in May 2014, she provided support only during the legislating process for State Bduget 2015.

The advisors also provided technical inputs, analytical reports and training on both economic areas (such as the evolution of the Timor-Leste economy, production, inflation, international trade, balance of payments and monetary and exchange rate) and gender issues. These inputs contributed to enhancing knowledge and understanding of the MPs and staff leading to increased active contribution by MPs during discussions and debate at the Committee and the plenary levels. The Economic Advisor also conducted targetted information sessions for MPs and staff members on the national economy and the use of statistics.

*Bill on Forest Management:*

During the year, the Committee D scrutinized and discussed the draft Bill on Forest Management that was initiated and proposed by Government with the technical and advisory support of the Economic Advisor .The main goal of the draft bill is to conduct a survey on the existing forest and its characteristics, ownerships and surfaces and the project supported the Committee D to analyse and discuss the draft law from a socio-economic perspective and in light of national priorities. Towards this end, with technical assistance and support from the international Economic Advisor and national technical staff, the Committee D analysed and discussed on the policy on forest management and consequences for the national local economies regarding forest sustainability of the Timor-Leste. A public hearing was also conducted by the Committee on the law, with government ministries (Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, Secretary of State for Natural Conservation and Forestry), and the NGO - Timorese Association of Forestry and Engineering. The Law was approved at the Committee level and is pending approval in the plenary.

*Census Bill:*

In the second half of the year, the Committee F scrutinized and approved the Census Bill, incorporating gender perspective with the support of the project’s Gender Advisor. The Committee also conducted 13 public audiences on the Census Bill with a broad range of interlocutors including government departments Secretary of State of Parliament Affairs, Minister of State Administration, Ministry of Justice, Embossment Office) and civil society organizations including NGO-Belun, Luta Hamutuk, Lao Hamutuk and Yayasan Hak as well as religious representatives: Church, Muslim, Protestant**.** The comments and recommendations were taken into account by the Committee F and the Bill submitted to plenary. However, it was sent back to the Committee F for further consideration during the quarter three. The committee has completed further analysis of the Bill is pending approval at plenary level.

Review of agreements between International Labour Organization (ILO) and Timor-Leste

Early in the year, with support from the International Advisor, Committee D prepared comments on two major agreements between International Labour Organization (ILO) and Timor-Leste on none gender discrimination on access to employment and equal pay – namely the Convention on Equal Remuneration and the Convention on Non-discrimination. The Committee analysed and discussed advantages and disadvantages of Timor-Leste’s adherence to the ILO standards and recommended to ratify the Conventions. The Conventions are pending ratification as of now.

International Seminar on Public Private Partnership (PPP)

An important event in increasing MPs’ legislative capacity Parliament was conducted the International Seminar on Public Private Partnership (PPP), held in Baucau district from 7th - 8th May 2014, with intensive support from the international Economic Advisor as well as other advisors and national technical staff. The Seminar involved 3 Committees, namely Committee C (Public Finance), Committee D (Economy and Development) and Committee E (Infrastructure, Transport and Communication). The Committee D was the focal point in organizing the Seminar with supported from project.

The objective of the Seminar was to enrich the knowledge of MPs in the area of PPP in the context of Timor-Leste, especially relating to economic issues, finance and legislation, and implementation process. Exposure to experiences from other countries and information exchange was facilitated through the engagement of two international experts from Portugal and the Philippines. The report and recommendations from the Seminar was submitted to the Plenary after the approval from Committee D. The recommendations were used as reference during the State Budget 2015 discussions in areas of economy and national development.

During the reporting period, the Advisors conducted on-the-job training for MPs and technical staff in the areas of economics and gender respectively. 2 Sector Analysts were further trained on national economic development and use of the statistical data, with use of the Internet and Excel. Training sessions were held for technical staff of Committee F on gender equality and gender sensitive budgeting. It has been observed by the Committees and the advisors that technical writing skills of national technical staff has improved, especially in preparing documents in Tetun for the Committees, including reports and questions and briefs for the public audience meetings.

In consultation with the Parliament and the international Economic Advisor, a TOR for the position of National Economic Advisor was prepared and shared with the Parliament with the recommendation to include the position in the State Budget 2015, however this recommendation was not taken up.

## Output 2: Oversight Support Consolidation of in-house legal sector-specific and, mainly, gender support systems and processes that enable MPs to analyse, debate and approve the national budget and provide continuous oversight of government policies and expenditures.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *INDICATORS* | *PROGRESS 2014* |
| Number of Committees have quality plan for oversight reflecting gender-based research and analysis. | * Gender was mainstreamed in committee level oversight activities including collection of gender related data during oversight visits to the districts by Committees D and F during the year |
| Number of oversight reports disseminated | * Reports of the six oversight visits conducted by Committee D and F to five districts (Covalima, Bobonaro, Ainaro, Los Palos and Oecussi) finalized and shared with relevant authorities. * Report of visit to Indonesia by Committee F which included issues raised/feedback from meeting with Timorese students was shared with relevant authorities |

***Activity 2.1: Parliament supported in exercising its oversight function***

In 2014, the parliament showed significant strengthening of its capacity to carry out the oversight role, particularly in the areas of budget discussion, monitoring of state budget execution,, conducting monitoring visits to the districts and knowledge and exposure gained through study visits.

Budget oversight:

The budget law approved in early 2014, made it mandatory, for the first time, for each relevant Ministry or Secretary of State to present a report on the execution of the state budget on a quarterly basis to the parliament plenary.

The project supported the initiative throughout the year with technical advisory support and training. Background papers were prepared and presented to Committees such as in the area of economic and gender perspectives related to legislative process. Briefings were also organised for the relevant committees. E.g. The latest developments in the national economy of Timor-Leste during 2014 including the monetary issues and inflation for the members of Committee D.

Training sessions and mentoring were conducted for both MPs and staff on analysing the use of the State Budget through the website of Ministry of Finance to increase understanding on the principle aspects of its implementation. This was also intended to enhance the knowledge and skills of MPs and staff to monitor government expenditure within the State Budget cycle. At the same time, training was conducted for technical staff on writing methods and methodology for preparing queries and responses for the questions addressed by MPs to the Ministers and Secretary of States during plenary hearings on the execution of quarterly State Budget implementation.

Furthermore, the Advisors conducted on-the-job training (coaching and mentoring) on a daily basis for MPs and technical staff - including 2 Sector Analysts, staff of CEGEN, and members of GMPTL aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of subject areas such as economy, gender and women’s empowerment as well as upgrading skills such as the use of statistical sources, use of Internet and Excel, as well as research and analysis. On-the-job coaching was provided to the Members of the Committee F and its technical staff on how to conduct research and find relevant information from the Transparency Portal within the website of Finance Ministry.

As a result of these interventions, it was observed that technical staff members were able to respond the needs of MPs, particularly in preparations for the quarterly budget oversight discussions.

The quarterly reporting mentioned above, was an opportunity for the Economic and Gender Advisors to provide technical support to MPs, specifically Committee D and Committee F, to exercise its oversight mandate with several of its key counterparts from respective government ministries namely Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of State Administration and Secretary of State of Professional Training and Employment (SEFOPE). Advisors prepared technical analysis and comments, questions, brief reports and other materials as needed to help improve the quality of this exercise.

As a result, the quarterly discussions of budget execution monitoring between the Committees and the government representatives were well informed, interactive and constructive with substantive issues such as delayed salary payments for public civil servants in Ministry of Health, and the lack of medicine management and distribution being taken up.

It is notable that even during the plenary hearing sessions, MPs addressed very specific issues and questions on the quarterly implementation of the State Budget. A number of recommendations from the Parliament during committee level meetings as well as in the plenary sessions were accepted by the relevant government ministries to improve the implementation of their budget according to the approved State Budget 2014.

Oversight visits

During the year, Committee D and Committee F conducted several oversight visits to the districts. Committee F visited all 13 districts and Committee D visited Lospalos, Bobonaro, Covalima, Ermera, Viqueque, and Oecusse.

During the visits the Committees had meetings with local authorities including Administrators, respective local government departments and the local community concerning public services, public projects, and agriculture development. The oversight reports from the were discussed during the quarterly reporting by Ministries on state budget execution. The reports of these oversight visits were submitted and approved in the plenary, and disseminated to relevant entities including government for further consideration.

The project, through the advisors, provided technical inputs and advisory support in preparing for the visits, strengthening the methodology and data collection during the visits, as well as in report writing and follow up.

Exposure and study visits

With support and technical assistance of international advisors along with national technical staff, Committee D successfully conducted an 8 day comparative study abroad to Goa (India) from 15-25 July 2014. The objective of the visit was to increase the awareness of the MPs in the areas of tourism development such as monument conservation which is considered a potential area of development for tourism in Timor-Leste. The report of the visit was submitted to Plenary and government for further consideration. The government provided feedback on the recommendations during the State Budget 2015 discussions.

With support of Legal Gender Advisor and National Technical staff, Committee F conducted exposure visits to the Philippines (Manila) and Indonesia (Bandung) (9 – 22 August 2014). The visits contributed to enrich the knowledge and understanding of social issues which would contribute towards exercise the oversight role of MPs, particularly in the areas of health, education, veterans, women, sports, culture and youth. In the Philippines the delegation had meetings with the President of National Parliament of the Philippine and the Committee of Women’s Affairs, representatives of the Ministry of Health and the Committee on Youth and Sports. The delegation also visited a public hospital.

During the visit to Indonesia, the delegation had a meeting with students of Timor-Leste, where several issues were discussed – among them the issue of providing allowances for Timorese students in Bandung was raised. The Committee F included this issue in its report of the visit which was submitted to and approved by the plenary and shared with relevant Government agencies for further consideration.

***Activity 2.2: Support operation of the Directorate and Research and Services***

As mentioned above, a key focus of support during the year 2014 was to strengthen the budget oversight process. This was also main area of focus for the advisors in supporting research directorate, particularly through on-the-job training for the national technical staff including the Sector Analysts. In addition, the Directorate staff’s skills on conducting research was enhanced, including identifying and citing various reliable information sources.

During the period of reporting, the Economic Advisor conducted 3 weeks of training sessions for national technical staff on several issues of the national economy (national accounts on production, inflation, international trade etc.), budget execution control and on economic strategies. According to the response from participants, the training was very useful and contributed to increased understanding of national economic issues and managing statistical information as well as understanding oversight of Budget execution.

Furthermore, the Legal Gender Advisor conducted on-the-job training for 5 national staff of Centre for Capacity Building and Information on Gender Equality (CEGEN) including the head of the Division and a Legal Analyst on gender equality, gender mainstreaming and gender sensitive budgeting. The training also focused on increasing understanding of domestic-violence.

The Legal Gender Advisor and the project management unit staff supported the CEGEN, along with technical staff of Committee F to organize and conduct a successful International Seminar on “Gender in Parliament” from the 23 – 24 October 2014. The Seminar’s main objective was to strengthen the capacity of analysis and knowledge of the members of the Parliament on gender mainstreaming, specifically regarding legislation, budgeting and political decision processes; as well as effective participation of women in the formulation and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and oversight of public spending. The Directorate staffs’ skills in logistical aspects and substantive aspects of planning and organising a seminar of this level was enhanced through this intervention.

**A*ctivity 2.4: Parliament supported in comprehensive analysing and debating the State Budget from Gender Perspective***

The Legal Gender Advisor provided technical and advisory support to the National Parliament, particularly to Committee F, CEGEN and GMPTL during the budget discussions and the quarterly budget execution oversight process over the course of 2014.

During the State Budget 2015 discussions in the last quarter of the year, the project provided extensive advisory and technical support to the relevant staff and MPs to review the budget proposals from the various state institutions and provide feedback and recommendations to ensure that the gender perspective was adequately reflected in the Budget. The Legal Gender Advisor supported staff and MPS in preparing technical notes, analysis and reports on gender sensitive budgeting and mainstreaming. In addition, support was provided to conduct public audiences with the relevant government, state and civil society organisations to highlight gender issues and ensure it is taken into account during the budgeting process. As a result, Parliament approved the generality of the State Budget, which has taken in to account key equality measures such as ensuring equality of access for male and female in all levels of education.

Furthermore, the Advisor also provided support to the Committee F and national technical staff to monitor budget execution over the year from a gender perspective – such as in the areas of education, health, and recruitment of public civil servants.

She also supported the National Parliament in preparing its institutional budget for 2015 specifically in identifying programme activities for Committee F, GMPTL and CEGEN and promotion of gender equality in general.

## Output 3: Gender Mainstreaming

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| --- | --- |
| *INDICATORS* | *PROGRESS 2014* |
| * Number of laws proposed by MPs analysed from a gender perspective including state budget * Number of gender work plans prepared and implemented * Number of activities related to the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting conducted | * 3 key laws - State Budget Laws 2014 and 2015, and the Census Law was analysed from a gender perspective. * GMPTL work plan 2014 reviewed, revised, and implemented * 3 key activities on gender-responsive budgeting implemented (Training for divisions and MPs on gender-sensitive budgeting , International Seminar on Gender in Parliament, training on CEDAW compliance in the budget) |

***Activity 3.1: Supported Parliament in providing MPs and Parliamentary staff with access to gender-related analysis***

As described in previous sections, the Legal Gender Advisor provided support to the Committee F, GMTPL and staff to access gender-related research through various modalities including through comparative research, such as in reviewing legislation, and in areas such health, education and domestic violence.

During the year, the Legal Gender Advisor supported the Working Group on Domestic Violence to examine the Law Against Domestic Violence and provide analysis and recommendations towards harmonization of laws in this area. Some of the recommendations of the Working Group include; the need to work with the courts to establish a safe space to separate the victims, witnesses and defendants (alleged offenders), as well as having a way to give testimony without direct contact between the victim and the aggressor in the courtroom, increase response time for new cases recommended to the Prosecutor General, courts and prisons; conduct a study on access to justice for women and understand the impact of the Law Against Domestic Violence, particularly in rural areas.

A key event that contributed to enhancing the access to gender related information and data was the International Seminar on “Gender in Parliament” successfully conducted from 23-24 October 2014 with support from Project. The Seminar, organised by the Committee F in collaboration with GMPTL, and CEGEN, focused on the areas of Cultural Rights and Education, Right to Health, Women in Politics, Domestic Violence and Laws Sensitive to Gender. The Seminar aimed to give a better perspective of gender mainstreaming in Parliament by strengthening capacity of MPs in discussing and analysing legislation as well as exercise oversight on the implementation of approved legislation and execution of the State Budget.

The seminar was opened by H.E. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste. International and national organizations including government agencies participated in the seminar. The Committee F invited international and national speakers to share their experience and knowledge during the two days. The Secretary of State for Gender Equality addressed the seminar on the issue of gender equality in the national development process. Two international guest Speakers from the Portuguese Parliament (MPs) shared their experience and knowledge in areas of Gender Equality in the Parliament, Domestic Violence in Europe and CEDAW. National and international NGOs and organisations such as Rede Feto and Caucus, Social Reinsertion, Fokupers, JSMP, Sharis Haburas Community, the Committee for AIDS, UN WOMEN, UNICEF and UNFPA also participated.

Recommendations from the seminar were submitted to the plenary and considered during the discussion, debate and approval of State Budget 2015. These recommendations will also become a very important reference for upcoming discussions on legislations and policy decisions (Recommendations provided in Annex I).

***Activity 3.2 Support the function of GMPTL***

GMPTL’s annual work plan was revised in order to align with current issues and priorities, especially in preparing for the state budget 2015 discussions.

A key area of advisory and technical support was in research and analysis on CEDAW and in the area of education. GMPTL, as well as Committee F members and technical staff and CEGEN enhanced their skills on techniques of assessing gender-mainstreaming within the legislative process.

The project supported GMPTL to conduct a discussion with its all members on the CEDAW with a focus on advocacy and monitoring of drafting and implementation of the budget and laws to ensure compliance CEDAW

Furthermore, the advisor supported the GMPTL on recommendations to the discussion of the 2015 State Budget for relevant government ministries such as recommending the Foreign Affairs Ministry to increase number of women working as ambassadors and provide training programs by Ministry to all its staff on gender issues.

Furthermore, GMPTL provided recommendations to the Ministry of Youth and Sports on recognizing the differences between women and men in the areas of sport, art and music and conducting an analysis to understand the situation better. . It was also recommended to include more activities for women and design a program to encourage women's participation in the activities that are traditionally considered masculine.

***Activity 3.3 Support operation of a gender division under the Research Directorate in the Secretariat, as per the LOFAP***

In addition to the various interventions that supported capacity development of the CEGEN, the Advisor conducted on-the-job training for CEGEN during the discussion and analysis of the draft of Census law. The training focused on the area of reliable research (such as primary evaluation variables) and privacy protection. The training aimed to increase the knowledge and skills of technical staff about the law and the practical everyday environment of the population from a gender perspective within the Timor-Leste context. The same training was provided to members of Committee F, technical staff and staff from other units.

The Legal Gender Advisor also supported CEGEN’s national staff to design and implement trainings for other divisions on gender equality, gender sensitive budgeting and CEDAW. CEGEN was also supported in playing a key role in documenting and drafting the report of the International Seminar on “Gender in Parliament”.

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# Project Management

Based on the needs of the Parliament, and with a significant amount of unspent balance of the contribution of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the end of 2013, in consultation with the donor, the project duration was extended till end of 2014, during the Project Steering Committee meeting in December 2013.

The Economic Advisor’s contract was continued until December 2014 and the Legal Gender Advisor was contracted from May – December 2014. The advisors conducted a needs assessment, and drafted a work plan as well as a capacity development plan which were approved by the Committees and the Secretary General.

The project held routine fortnightly meetings to share and discuss project activities and progress on implementation.

Efforts to strengthen coordination and communication continued, including review of monthly logs by advisors, and project fortnightly meetings. Two project steering committee meetings were held during the year to monitor progress. Two quarterly technical meetings were also conducted to discuss and monitor the implementation of project activities to ensure the quality and results. Although these meetings were held under the EU project, key recommendations from these meetings were applied to all advisors and activities including the identification of one or two national staff for each advisor for targeted training and tracking progress of capacity development.

The Project closely coordinated with its counterparts to monitor and evaluate the training sessions conducted by advisors. At the end of each training session the Secretariat and project jointly conducted evaluations of both the trainer/advisor and trainees. The results of the training evaluations show generally positive feedback from staff.

Within the framework of the EC-funded component of the project, two annual surveys (for 2013 and 2014) were conducted among the MPs and staff of the NP to learn whether the technical support is effective and identify the need and areas for further support. The surveys shows that in general the Parliamentarians and staff are satisfied with the technical knowledge and advisory support provided by the project as well as overall management of the project. Furthermore, the survey results show that there is a need for continued capacity development support to the NP.

# Issues/Challenges and Management Strategies

* The delay in the recruitment of a Legal Gender Advisor delayed the implementation of the project activities related to this area. The advisor came on board in May 2014 and the project supported the Advisor to provide intensive support to the Committee, Secretariat, GMPTL and CEGEN as needed in order to meet project objectives. The project provided logistical support in organizing activities and resource persons were brought in as needed to augment the work of the Gender Advisor in order to achieve as much as possible within the limited time period.
* Portuguese language barrier for the majority of Parliament Staff and MPs continues to be a major challenge in providing advisory services, particularly in understanding and interpreting laws as well as during daily work and technical discussions. Under the EU-funded project Portuguese classes are being provided which has gradually improved the competence levels in Portuguese. English language also becomes a barrier for majority of staff and MPs in participating international forums such as seminar, conference, workshop and training.
* A continuing challenge was the limited number of qualified technical staff in the Secretariat of National Parliament which hindered technical capacity development and knowledge transfer from International Advisors to the national counterparts. The recruitment of an economist as a national technical staff for Committee D was recommended by the project, but was not included in the institutional budget 2015 of the NP. However, with support from the EU funded project, 11 heads of division were recruited in 2014, which provided some opportunities for targeted capacity transfer.
* While the need for continued technical and advisory support in the areas of economics and gender were recognized, due to the funding limitations, these advisory positions were concluded in December 2014 under the multi-donor project funded by Norway and a decision made to close the EU-funded project in June 2015.

# Financial report for the period of January - December 2014

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **OVERSIGHT SUPPORT** | **Amount in US$** |
| International Advisor | $ 132,000.00 |
| Lumpsum | $ 7,310.00 |
| DSA International for Training and Workshop | $ 3,881.60 |
| Training and Workshop | $ 11,696.00 |
| Translation | $ 9,224.69 |
| Miscellaneous | $ 110.00 |
|  |  |
| **Subtotal:** | **164,222.29** |
| **GENDER MAINSTREAMING** | **Amount in US$** |
| International Advisor | $ 84,080.46 |
| Lumpsum | $ 8,374.00 |
| Training and Workshop | $ 8,253.88 |
| Translation | $ 18,551.58 |
| Printing and Publication | $ 20,842.00 |
| Miscellaneous | $ 510.89 |
| **Subtotal:** | **140,612.81** |
| **PROJECT MANAGEMENT** | **Amount in US$** |
| International Programme officer | $ 12,211.82 |
| Direct Project Costs | $ 14,522.90 |
| National personnel | $ 50,432.41 |
| office maintenance | $ 5,432.00 |
| Vehicle Maintenance | $ 8,443.60 |
| Translation | $ 3,045.92 |
| Miscellaneous | $ 37,295.45 |
| Project review and formulation Mission | $ 17,381.00 |
| GMS | $ 31,957.00 |
| **Subtotal:** | **180,722.10** |
| **TOTAL:** | **485,557.20** |

# Annex I: Recommendations from the International Seminar on “Gender in Parliament”

The Seminar, which was held from 23-24 October 2014 has produced the following recommendations for all state organs, departments and stakeholders within their policies and decisions:

General Recommendations

1. Ensure collaboration and coordination between all concerned actors, including the Parliament, Government Agencies, UN Agencies and Civil Society (especially at the grassroots level)
2. In order to ensure effective oversight of the national budget and in line with the obligations of the parliament, Committee F with GMPTL should ensure that the national budget is gender sensitive and where possible gender markers should be used.
3. The National Parliament should undergo training on how to analyze laws from a gender perspective
4. The National Parliament should ensure regular dialogue with government agencies and should ensure effective implementation of laws and polices relevant to gender equality and should be informed of the obstacles and genders for effective implementation
5. Committee F and GMPTL should hold regular dialogue with Un Agencies and Civil Society in order to gather relevant information and data on the progress and dissemination of laws and policies in relation to gender equality.
6. Committee F with the support of GMPTL should consider the introduction of a Gender Equality Law
7. Committee F with the support of GMPTL should hold a follow up conference on Reproductive Rights and Maternal Health in 2015, in order to monitor the progress since the 2012 Conference.
8. Committee F with the support of GMPTL should monitor closely the effective implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence
9. Committee F with the support of GMPTL should ensure adequate compliance of CEDAW recommendations as provided by the CEDAW Committee
10. Committee F with the support of GMPTL should ensure active participation and ensure adequate knowledge of international commitments including ICPD, Beijing + 20 and MDGs beyond 2015. (Committee F and GMPTL should appoint individual parliamentarians to take on this role and to develop expert knowledge on these issues)

Session One -

1. **Increase education sector budget allocation**
   1. Timor-Leste has one of the lowest education budget levels in the South-East Asia and the Pacific region – only 8.1% (against the international target 20%) of the state budget was allocated to the education sector in 2011.
   2. The education budget needs to expand from US$ 91 million in 2010 to **US$192 million in 2015** and up to **US$ 313 million** **in 2030** to meet the targets set by the National Education Strategic Plan 2011-2030.
2. **Invest more in pre-school education**
   1. Pre-school age (3-5 years old) is a critical time for children’s cognitive, language, emotional and social skills development.
   2. Investments for pre-school education produce greater returns than any other levels of education, especially for girls
   3. More investment for pre-school education in preparing boys and girls for primary school is critical – **Pre-school education contributes to** **reducing repetition and drop outs in primary grades, and thus enhancing efficiency**
3. **Improve the quality of teaching and the educational environments**
   1. Urgent needs to improve education quality, including teacher qualifications and teacher quality, school facilities, curriculum, learning materials, school safety etc.
   2. Important to make the education system more inclusive, and gender-sensitive and gender-responsive
4. **Targeted policies, budget allocation and interventions to address the specific needs of girls and boys**
5. Support the participation of girls in secondary education
6. Support to improve the low attendance of boys in basic education level
7. Support to reach out to the last 10% of out-of-school children (both boys and girls)
8. Enhance social protection measures (such as school grant, school feeding, Bolsa de Mae – conditional cash transfer) for children from poor households
9. **Strengthen the capacity in evidence-based, gender-sensitive and gender-responsive planning and management:**
10. Increase gender awareness and capacity of relevant government officials
11. Enhance Education Management Information System (EMIS) data and analytical skills
12. Promote gender responsive budgeting.

Session Two

**MATERNAL HEALTH**

1. With the commitment to ensure that “Every woman must have access to quality antenatal, intra-partum and post-partum care including, family planning, emergency obstetric care and referral when necessary”
   1. Advocate/ encourage the Government to increase state budget allocation to implement:
2. The new revised Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent health strategy 2014-2018; A comprehensive package of intervention should be promoted through a continuum of care across the life cycle from adolescence onwards, and such interventions must include adolescent and maternal nutrition.
3. Education, care and referral must be provided at the household and community level through strengthening of SISCa and mobilization of community health workers including the newly graduate medical doctors (Cuban Graduate) and volunteers to engage in home visits.
4. Continuing education for health providers (including the newly graduate medical doctors) to improve and update the basic skills and knowledge to ensure the provision of quality of care

**Parliament Members** should establish a policy to protect the right of youth, the right to education, and to protect them during pregnancy.

**Private sector** should cooperate with SEPFOPE, MoE & SEJD: to define which qualifications could link with industry/job opportunity for t drop out students due to IRS cases.

**Development Partners** ( UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, USAID, AUSAID those who support reproductive health program in Timor leste, to cooperate with Gov.TL : SEJD,MoE & MoH:

To conduct academic research and media report ( Media coverage) on teenage pregnancy in Timor Leste

Support programs like YFHS, LIFE SKILL ( LSBE, PEACE BUILDING, CIVIC EDUCATION) through Youth Centre and NGO.

Campaign about youth reproductive health at national level

**Religious Leaders, and rural community leaders, school leaders**, parent to work together in order to strengthen formal and non-formal education in Timor-Leste.

1. To incorporate age-appropriate sex education into the school curriculum including anatomy, physiology, sexuality and reproductive health. Initial education may begin at the pre-secondary level.
2. To develop sexual and reproductive health programs for youth and implement these in both the formal education system and in informal learning programs. These should be integrated into life skills-based education and be consistent across government and faith-based education.
3. To set in place mechanisms to support teenage mothers and pregnant students so that they can stay in school or continue with their education after delivery
4. Develop program or activities to reduce gender based violence ( GBV : Gender Based Violence) such as : domestic violence , child sexual abuse.
5. Establish active cooperation with health providers, and effective referral networks.
6. Integrate HIV awareness in the material on GBV
7. Availability of PEP – Post Exposure Prophylaxis for sexually abused victims should be available in all districts
8. Develop work place policy to protect women from sexual abuse.
9. HIV testing and secure PPTCT for women
10. Women and men involvement in ANC / HCT / PPTCT
11. Increase sustainability awareness for men and for adult people about HIV, HCT PPTCT and how to protect their baby from HIV infection.
12. Promote and train marital partner to have counselling and to take tests.
13. Facilitate men to attend their wife in ANC and during childbirth.
14. Create opportunity and mechanism support to have income on EMHIV
15. Provide support to women with HIV ( FHIV) which may have been rejected by her husband , or who depends on support or lost her rights, no job ,etc

Session Three

1. Ask parliament to establish and introduce the Gender Equality Law to secure balance of positions at all institutional levels
2. To remind the parliament to encourage the structure of female members and parties to have maximum participation and be active in training which is provided by the organization
3. Submission of a budget that needs to be allocated to women organizations to be used to improve their capacity.
4. Through the parliament representative unit, to establish good coordination links between the national and district level with regards to women delegates to participate in trainings
5. Ask for National Parliament to monitor the implementation of promulgated law and to review laws that are not gender sensitive
6. Ask the National Parliament to consider budget for GMPTL and provide autonomy in budget implementation

Session Four

1. National Parliament to intensify focus to secure the implementation of LAVD in a rigorous and consistent manner, as well as actively developing policy and develop budget which contain with gender balance at all ministries program.
2. SEPI to intensify socialization and insist gender policy implementation in workplace and in all government institution.
3. MSS to intensify the existing “referral network” to secure justice for victim, include humanitarian assistance.
4. Minister of justice to establish witness protection unit which estipulate in witness protection law, in order to guarantee justice process for victim.
5. Minister of education to develop teacher capacity to have awareness on gender equality, in order to prevent violence against women through education area.
6. Judicial authorities to priorities domestic violence case as drafted in LKVD, include apply specific process.

Session Five

1. Consider the CEDAW Committee’s Statement on the Role of the National Parliament in encouraging States to “ensure the full participation of Parliament and its members in the reporting process and the full implementation of the Convention and its Protocol” and consider proposing to the government, the inclusion of MPs in the delegation that will participate in the Constructive Dialogue with the Committee.
2. Encourage the government to adopt an action plan, with verifiable indicators and a monitoring and evaluation strategy and adequate budget for the implementation of the Committee’s next Concluding Observations on Timor-Leste’s 2&3rd Report.
3. Revise and amend the Penal & Civil Code to bring it in line with the Convention, especially with regards to Art 172 of Penal Code which refers to the girls sexual experience and the section on marriage of the Civil Code, in particular registration of traditional marriages and definition of de facto relationships.
4. Consider the establishment of a Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry on family and gender based violence, with a view to analyzing and understanding its root causes, such as the consequences of polygamous relations, as well as examining the policy and legal framework to address this area of great concern.
5. Re-consider the enactment of a Gender Equality Law, which allow for redress, including through reparation for victims of sexual and gender based violence, during the years of military occupation.
6. Consider the CEDAW Committee’s Statement on the Role of the National Parliament in encouraging States to “ensure the full participation of Parliament and its members in the reporting process and the full implementation of the Convention and its Protocol” and consider proposing to the government, the inclusion of MPs in the delegation that will participate in the Constructive Dialogue with the Committee.
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