**Annual Progress Report January – December 2014**

**Project Title: Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in Timor-Leste – Phase 2**

**Project Summary**

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| Project name | Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in Timor-Leste – Phase 2 |
| Duration | 2014 - 2017 |
| Total budget | Total resources required: US$ 2,450,000  Regular TRAC 1: US$ 150,000  UNDP BCPR: US$ 500,000  Unfunded: US$ 1,800,000 |
| Budget 2014 | Total resources required: US$ 585,000  Total allocated resources:  Regular TRAC (UNDP): US$ 183,634  UNDP BCPR US$ 190,600  Unfunded budget: US$ 210,766 |
| Expenditures 2014 | TRAC (UNDP) US$ 155,815.89 (85%)  UNDP BCPR US$ 159,167.51 (84%)  Total Balance US$ 59,250.60 |
| Target Beneficiary | Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) |
| Location | Timor-Leste |
| National Counterpart | Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS) |
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**Introduction and general issues**

This project builds on the achievements of the first phase of “Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in Timor-Leste” project (2011-2013). The project document was signed in February 2014.

The project is geared towards helping the Government of Timor-Leste to strengthen its DRM capacity, enhance preparedness and reduce risks. The project support the establishment of the institutional and legal systems for DRM. It has a national and a sub-national focus and supports interventions at the national, district and sub-district levels to reduce community vulnerabilities and increase household resilience. Increasing community capacities for disaster preparedness and effective response is an important component of the project. The project is being implemented in partnership with a range of stakeholders with the Ministry of Social Solidarity’s National Disaster Management Directorate playing an effective coordination role and pursuing the objectives of social inclusion and equality, women empowerment and dissemination of knowledge and skills.

**Project achievements**

**Output 1: Institutional & Legal System for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) strengthened and capacities of relevant stakeholders built at different levels for effective DRM**

*Activity 1: National DRM policy framework drafted and adopted*

An international consultant has been hired to assist NDMD with drafting a new National Disaster Risk Management Policy. The National DRM policy from2008 expires at the end of 2014 and needs to be replaced with a new policy. The new policy builds on the previous one and updates it on a number of critical issues, such as integrating climate change adaptation issues.

At the time of writing, the 3rd draft of the new National Disaster Risk Management Policy is available and awaits presentation and discussion at the Council of Ministers.

A second consultant has been hired to assist NDMD with the development of a Disaster Risk Reduction/Management Act. A first draft of the Act has been discussed with the Drafting Committee which was established as a technical advisory group consisting of legal experts from several Ministries. It is expected that the Act will be finalised by February 2015.

The project also supported MSS in organising regular inter-ministerial consultation and coordination meetings and will continue this practice.

*Activity 2: DRM information portal and disaster loss and accountability (beneficiary) data base strengthened with at least 30 active users*

A national consultant has been hired to review and improve selected components of the DRM information data base, including recording of disasters and responses by NDMD. A final report on the database has been received and is being assessed. In the scope of developing the database, all NDMD staff were trained in the use of the database and the database has been utilized by many staff. NDMD has an idea to create a new database oriented by the World Bank. Therefore, the accumulated data from the database could be transferred and integrated in the future.

Building on work conducted under the first phase of the DRM project, UNDP has agreed to pay AidIQ for another year for hosting the DRM information portal. During this time a long-term solution needs to be found for hosting the portal and for database management in general. In this respect, the DARDC project will fund a review of MSS databases and information systems and propose a long-term approach for maintenance and hosting of all relevant systems. This review will include database management options proposed by the World Bank.

*Activity 3: DRM integrated in the training curriculum of Civil Servants*

In 2014, a large number of materials were developed, with the help of an international consultant, for a training course on DRM to be held regularly at INAP. A review meeting was held to review all materials for the Disaster Risk Reduction Training Course on 22, 24, 25 April 2014 at INAP and all materials are now available for training. An action plan was developed and part of it is conducting a Training-of-Trainers course for resource persons to endorse the materials.

Under the DARDC project the work with INAP will continue, building on the work that has been accomplished under the DRM-2 project.

*Activity 4: Public finance system for DRM/DRR strengthened*

It was decided to conduct an analysis of all budgetary processes relevant for DRM/DRR to get a better understanding of the cost for disaster response by sectors. This analysis will be part of the 2015 Annual Work Plan.

*Activity 5. DRM education and awareness enhanced*

Print and electronic materials (DVDs) on DRR/DRM in Timor-Leste were produced in 2014 by the project and were disseminated to DRM focal points and other stakeholder groups for awareness raising and focussed information management.

In October 2014, the project produced T-Shirts for the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDRR), which was held on 13 October, to raise awareness on DRR. T-Shirts were distributed to staff members of MSS, UNDP and others.

**Output 2: Enhanced capacities and systems of national and local level institutions to manage disaster risks; including improved national and local level coordination mechanisms**

*Activity 1: DRM institutions and systems strengthened at the district level*

Under this activity, assistance was provided to MSS/NDMD to maintain infrastructure through renovation of NDOC office.

**Output 3: End-to-end early warning systems established and operational**

Funding proposals were developed for United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program under the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) addressing the development of early warning systems and other DRR/DRM issues. Both proposals advanced to the concept stage and a currently being assessed by the funding agencies. It is expected that these proposals will enable work under this Output in 2015. Furthermore, the DARDC project will conduct an assessment of EWS systems in the DRDC region and test pilot EWS systems. This will be closely coordinated with work in this area under this project.

**Output 5: General Project Management and Administration Support**

The CTA for the project, Ms Victoria Kianpour Atabaki, left in June 2014 since her contract ended. In October 2014, the newly arrived CTA for the DARDC project, took over CTA functions for this project as well. The project also is supported by one Admin and Finance Associate, one UNV specialist and one driver.

**Summary and the way forward**

Despite having only limited resources, the project made good progress in 2014 in particular in 4 areas:

- development of the DRM policy,

- development of the DRM Act,

- improving DRM databases and information systems at MSS, and

- development of training materials and provision of training on DRM at INAP.

Fund-raising has been initiated for a number of activities under this project:

- A proposal has been submitted to the UNV Programme aiming in particular to support DRM education and awareness (Output 1), build capacities of communities for reducing vulnerability of housing stock (Output 2), and strengthen community capacities for disaster preparedness and response in general (Output 2).

- Another proposal has been submitted to the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Programme. It is entitled “Strengthening capacities for local risk assessment and comprehensive early warning system in Timor-Leste” and would in particular address Outputs 2 and 3 of this project.

Several Outputs and planned activities under this project will be closely coordinated with the DARDC project which has now started implementation.