

1. Introduction

Over the past two and a half years, UNDP has been an important partner in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Timor-Leste; and in establishing the institutions and strengthening human capacities of the newest nation. As the transition of the country from a post-conflict situation to a stable development path continues, it is necessary to attune the interventions to better serve the emerging needs. UNDP's Country Programme Outline (CPO) for East Timor, 2003-2005 (see Annex 2) recognises this and proposes the realignment of UNDP assistance from emergency rehabilitation to institutional and individual capacity-building and upstream policy development in key governance areas aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of the population. The programme direction will lead towards achieving a balance between upstream and downstream strategies. The key objectives of the programme will be linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The strategic partnerships with key donors, Government agencies and civil society organisations established during the past two and a half years, will be strengthened.

This Programme Package Document operationalises the programme priorities and strategic directions in the CPO. It is prepared in consultation with the Government and other development partners and is intended to serve as a basis for continued dialogue between UNDP and its partners.

The document describes the development context of Timor-Leste, the challenges it faces, and its development priorities, as stated in the National Development Plan (NDP). It recapitulates the experiences of the UNDP in addressing the country's emergency rehabilitation and transition needs during the past two and a half years. It explains the rationale for the UNDP to move gradually from the post-conflict rehabilitation and transition interventions and focus its activities increasingly on niche areas, where it has a distinct comparative advantage.

Taking into account the overall needs presented in the Road Map¹ for implementation of the NDP over the next four years, the document puts forward priority programmes in three main areas: (i) Poverty Reduction and Community Development, (ii) Governance and Capacity Development, and (iii) Environment and Natural Resources Management. Gender dimensions are mainstreamed in the programmes with capacity development as the main focus.

The document provides brief descriptions about the programmes and projects that constitute the totality of UNDP's cooperation with the Government and other Timorese stakeholders over the next 3 to 5 years. The details of the programmes and projects are elaborated in the annexes. They provide information on the programme and project rationale and design, indicate the resource requirements and strategies for their mobilization, and detail the implementation and monitoring arrangements.

¹ The NDP and the Road Map for implementation of the NDP are available on the UNDP Country Office web site (www.undp.east-timor.org).