



STRENGTHENING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN TIMOR-LESTE

“Vocational Training and Educational Opportunities for Inmates”



The Justice System Project - Overview

The “Strengthening the Justice System of Timor-Leste” project is a \$3.12m, three-to-five year project comprising a sequence of interventions in the main forms of advice and training, infrastructure and equipment, designed to strengthen the institutional capacity of the courts, prosecution and the justice ministry.

The Vocational Training Sub-component

In March 2004, the ministry of Justice approved a pilot sub-component of the Justice System project, known as, ‘Vocational Training and Educational Opportunities for Inmates’. It consists mainly of providing training for inmates at Dili’s Becora Prison, in basic literacy, Portuguese language, carpentry, construction, traditional weaving, sewing and anger management.



The Directorate of Prison Services, which falls under the Ministry of Justice, is responsible for promoting the social reintegration of inmates, through the coordination and fostering of economic activities in the prison and provision of education and professional training for inmates, as a means of giving them tools to become useful members of society upon their release

Accordingly, UNDP Timor-Leste works with the Prisons Service in implementing the multi-phased pilot project, which includes the rehabilitation of facilities within the Prison, as well as the creation of training packages, tools, and other training-related materials. The pilot approach allows the testing of the strategy and methodology, and will assess whether the component can be rolled out to other prisons in Timor-Leste in a sustainable way.

Development Objective

To strengthen the capacity of the prison service to facilitate the successful reintegration of ex-prisoners into society, and help to provide inmates with meaningful vocational and educational activities.

Immediate Objective 1

To introduce and consolidate training activities in the prisons system, for use as a correctional management tool that encourages inmates to use their time in a constructive manner. Also, to contribute to an increased number of skilled ex-prisoners with a view to their reintegration into society.

Immediate Objective 2

To provide education opportunities and anger management training, which can help inmates cope with their sentences, sharpen mental faculties, boost confidence levels and prepare them for release.



Immediate Objective 3

To establish and strengthen the capacity of a network of key actors in vocational training, educational opportunities and anger management for prisoners.



Achievements

The vocational training and work program for inmates is underway, with 42 inmates attending training activities in sewing, tais weaving, creating products from tais, rattan furniture production, carpentry and construction training.

70 inmates are attending literacy classes in Tetun and Portuguese and 35 are studying Portuguese language. A pilot tailor-made literacy manual in Tetun and Portuguese has been developed and 117 copies produced for illiterate adult inmates. The materials produced will also be used by the Non formal-education department under the MEYCS for wider dissemination.

Partnerships

The project, with a generous contribution from Denmark, is implemented by the Directorate of Prison Services with UNDP. Other partners include the Non-formal Education division of the Ministry of Education Youth Culture and Sports, the Division of Employment and Skills Development and the Centro Nacional de Emprego E Formação Profissional under the Secretariat of State for Labor and Solidarity, the Portuguese Embassy, Instituto Luís de Camões, UNICEF, the office for the Promotion of Equality and UNFPA.



For more information, please contact;
Governance Unit, UNDP Timor-Leste
registry.tp@undp.org

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