

PRESS RELEASE



Timor-Leste

CIVIC EDUCATION CENTRE CELEBRATES 1 YEAR AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

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The success of last year's Baucau Small Grants Scheme (SGS) implemented by the Baucau Civic Education Centre was showcased today at a special celebration marking its 1-year anniversary. The celebration also featured performances by local musicians and drama groups.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) play an interesting and varied role to play in Timor-Leste society. They vary from having more formal structures, being registered with the Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Forum and being able to access donor funding; to informal groups with little to no external funding base. This latter group includes community based organisations such as farmers groups and youth groups; religious organisations such as prayer groups; sports organisations such as martial arts groups; cultural organisations and mass organisations.

The Strengthening Civil Society Organisation (CSO) project, funded by the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Volunteers, aims to enhance the capacity of CSOs in project monitoring and advocacy working towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the goals outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP).

One component of the CSO project helps to achieve this aim through facilitating information campaigns, training, and small grants. This year the Civic Education Centre in Baucau is managing a second Small Grants Scheme (SGS).

While the exhibition in Baucau will highlight the work of last years grant recipients, the Baucau center is now preparing to implement the 2005 SGS. This year the focus will be on supporting the partners they have been training over the past few months through funding workshops on gender, HIV, and Human Rights.

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For more information please contact:
Kym Smithies, UNDP Media Officer on +670 724 4987 or kym.smithies@undp.org