



Norwegian Embassy
Jakarta

CATALOGUE

STRENGTHENING

OUR SOCIETY

THROUGH

INCLUSIVE

COLLABORATION

TOWARDS A

PROSPEROUS

AND STRONG

NATION

CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE
PHASE 6 - DECEMBER 2021 TO DECEMBER 2023

HUMANIS FOUNDATION ●

FORUM KOMUNIKASAUN BA FETO TIMOR LORO SA'E (FOKUPERS) ●

INSTITUTO BA ANALIZA NO MONITOR DEZENVOLVIMENTO IHA TIMOR-LESTE
(LA'O HAMUTUK) ●

JUDICIAL SYSTEM MONITORING PROGRAM (JSMP) ●

Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita (ACbit) ●



CATALOGUE

Strengthening Our Society Through Inclusive Collaboration Towards A Prosperous and Strong Nation

Phase 6 – December 2021 to December 2023



Norwegian Embassy
Jakarta

The Norwegian Embassy for Indonesia and Timor Leste



HUMANIS Foundation



Forum Komunikaun Ba Feto
Timor Loro Sa'e (FOKUPERS)



Instituto ba Analiza no Monitor
Dezenvolvimento iha Timor-Leste
La'o Hamutuk)



Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita (ACbit)



PROGRAMA MONITORIZASAUN
SISTEMA JUDICIAL
JUDICIAL SYSTEM
MONITORING PROGRAM

Judicial System Monitoring
Program (JSMP)

CATALOGUE CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE TIMOR LESTE 2023

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Author

Ni Loh Gusti Madewanti

Editor

Tazia T. Darryanto

Graphic Designer

F.K. Samosir

Written and printed by :

HUMANIS Foundation

18 Office Park, 15th floor, Unit B

Jl. TB Simatupang No.18 Jakarta Selatan 12520 Indonesia

Telp : +62-21 27876233 Fax : +62-21 27876242

Website: <https://humanis.foundation>

Instagram: @humanisfoundation

Twitter: @hsi_foundation

Facebook Page: Humanis Foundation

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CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE – PHASE6 (DECEMBER 2021 – DECEMBER 2023)

The Civil Society and Governance Project (hereafter "CSG-TL") is the most recent iteration of a long-running support program for several CSOs advocating for good governance in Timor-Leste. The Norwegian Embassy in Jakarta generously funds the project, which is carried out by Yayasan Humanis dan Inovasi Sosial, abbreviated as "HUMANIS Foundation". Since 2017, the project has provided core funding to four partner CSOs in Dili, Timor-Leste, as well as a variety of training programs and occasional assistance to other partner organizations. FOKUPERS, La'o Hamutuk, ACbit and JSMP are four critical project partners for HUMANIS Foundation. They are well-established NGOs with solid reputations in Timor-Leste for their work on justice, human rights, gender, and economic empowerment.

The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the capacity of CSOs in Timor-Leste to advocate for citizens' rights more effectively. In pursuing this overarching goal, the project expects to achieve two main results:

1. Increased awareness of and commitment to the gender-based violence survivor groups and the promotion of women's leadership and good governance among communities and critical stakeholders;
2. Improved capability of local CSOs to deliver training to women survivors and victims of violence.



During phase 6, which has been running since December 2021, partners have demonstrated active involvement in increased networking and information-sharing activities between other CSOs, especially given the expertise each organization has in cross-cutting areas that are highly relevant to all partners' work.

As part of this project, I am very proud of all the achievements of my fellow partners, who are dedicated to continuing to increase their capacity, both individually and institutionally, to advocate for Timorese' rights more effectively. In this sixth phase, the project also succeeded in executing seed funding for six smaller CSOs that are expected to be led by rightsholders and have limited organizational capacity and human resources. Another achievement: The project was also successful in introducing the linking and learning method. This method enables the sharing of experiences and lessons from innovative initiatives and links among CSOs, particularly learned knowledge and strategy sharing and mentorship from more experienced and established CSOs to smaller and newer ones. This includes all activities, processes, and trajectories aimed at improving collaboration, exchange, learning, innovation, and the application of new knowledge to catalyse transformative change for marginalized and discriminatory groups.

“I am confident that we will achieve many more outcomes and impacts together after 2023. This is not the end of the project; these are new pages that document the history of long-term collaboration to ensure the capacity of CSOs in Timor-Leste is strengthened and Timorese rights are more effectively fulfilled.”

Ni Loh Gusti Madewanti
Project Manager GEDI – HUMANIS Foundation

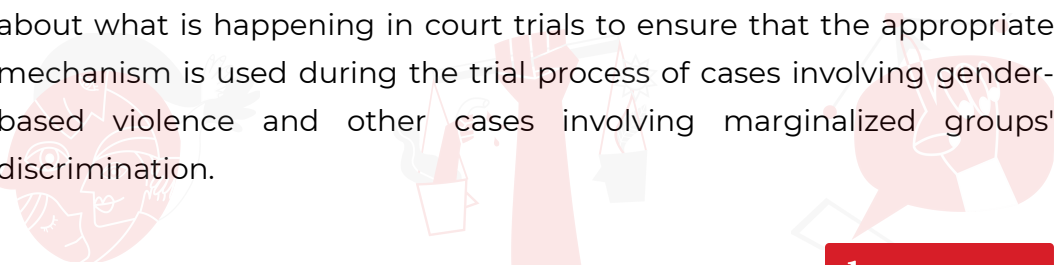


UNDERSTANDING THE TIMOR-LESTE CONTEXT THROUGH PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Despite the difficult circumstances, the four organizations have effectively maintained and grown their reputations, becoming critical advocates for human rights, justice, and equality while continuing to provide essential services, assistance, and training for vulnerable groups, albeit in a modified and somewhat reduced efficacy fashion. Each of the four partner NGOs is well-known among decision-makers and stakeholders, allowing their work to be highly effective in raising the issue of gender justice to the national level while also meeting the urgent needs of GBV survivors.

La'o Hamutuk, for example, sees a significant impact of their work in shaping public discourse around Timor-Leste's main developmental priorities and problems. As evidence of this impact, they noted that issues raised by La'o Hamutuk for years, most notably falling oil revenues, unsustainable reliance on the Petroleum Fund, and the need to develop non-oil economic sectors, are now part of everyday discussion among civil society, academics, and media, as well as some politicians and political parties.

To raise awareness and understanding in the broader community, JSMP disseminated information on accessing the formal justice system and trial court monitoring. JSMP continues to work with local newspapers and radio stations in Dili, Timor-Leste, to provide articles about what is happening in court trials to ensure that the appropriate mechanism is used during the trial process of cases involving gender-based violence and other cases involving marginalized groups' discrimination.



ACbit echoed this by suggesting joint training and activities, as well as joint research projects. FOKUPERS were also hopeful about potential collaboration between NGO partners in this project. They note that partners' different areas of expertise and shared interest in gender equality and justice offer fertile ground for collaborative activities that would benefit the human rights-related issues and development sector in Timor-Leste in the long run.

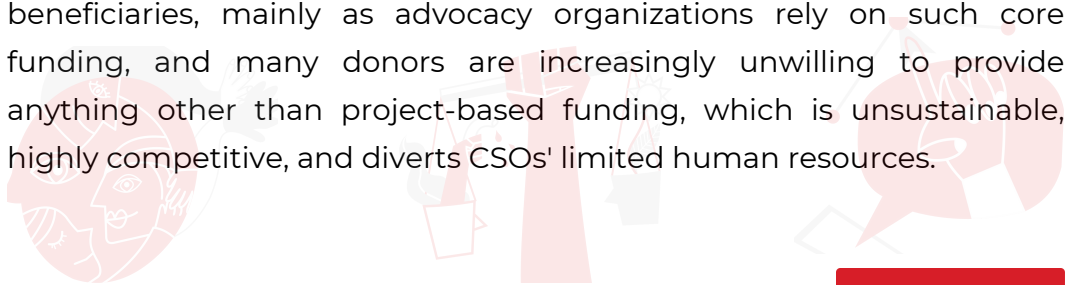
The interlinkages between the work of JSMP on justice and rights, La'o Hamutuk on equitable economic development and good governance, and FOKUPERS and ACbit on GBV and women's economic empowerment thus illustrate the project's relevance to Timor-Leste's specific developmental and gender needs.

And what about the role of HUMANIS Foundation?

HUMANIS Foundation, role in this project is to facilitate and guide the NGO partners to maximize the efforts of their work and its impact.

HUMANIS Foundation also strongly encourages collaboration among partner NGOs and external support as a critical component of improving knowledge and skills in research, advocacy strategies, monitoring and evaluation, and theoretical approaches, all leading to sustainability.

HUMANIS Foundation has played a crucial role in enabling this success by providing flexible core funding for these organizations over the long term. This is deeply appreciated by local partners and their beneficiaries, mainly as advocacy organizations rely on such core funding, and many donors are increasingly unwilling to provide anything other than project-based funding, which is unsustainable, highly competitive, and diverts CSOs' limited human resources.



While HUMANIS Foundation is already known as a flexible donor who understands very well the limitations and needs of its local partners, it is nevertheless essential that HUMANIS Foundation further explore ways to reduce reporting burdens on local organizations so that their limited human resources can be fully devoted to carrying out their primary mission of advocating for equality, justice, and rights.

Tazia T. Darryanto
Program Development Manager GEDI -
HUMANIS Foundation



NEVER-ENDING INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION TOWARDS A PROSPEROUS AND STRONG NATION

For approximately six years, the Civil Society and Governance-Timor Leste project's main partners collaborated through its various sub-programs, and HUMANIS Foundation unique approach as a 'partner-donor' is highly relevant to Timor-Leste's unique social context and responding to the specific needs of GBV survivors, and their local partners.

Women's contributions to Timor-Leste's independence struggle included both physical combat and extensive background support, both of which were critical in maintaining the armed guerrilla resistance and the clandestine front. Indonesian forces and their Timorese supporters committed numerous atrocities against women suspected of assisting the resistance, either as retaliation for the deaths of Indonesian soldiers or to reduce support for the resistance by instilling fear in the population. These acts have left a trauma that has largely gone unaddressed, while also contributing to a cycle of gendered violence that has persisted since independence.

While public narratives of the resistance struggle continue to be dominated by images and stories of male heroism and sacrifice, the work of four NGO partners (AHDMTL, ALFela, Alola Foundation, AJAR, Arcoiris, Ba Futuro, CASA VIDA, FUNDEF, Impreza Diak, KDT-TL, MHVF, PRADET, RHTO, STVJ) has directly addressed this problem by raising the visibility of women's struggles and its needs. The need for justice regarding GBV and past crimes against humanity.



The work of the project in promoting the gendered aspect of past crimes against humanity and connecting this issue with gender justice and GBV today is thus highly relevant to Timor-Leste's specific context and needs. Furthermore, addressing a multifaceted, systemic issue like gender inequality necessitates a multi-pronged approach that includes a variety of interventions that can address both long-term issues like policy change and network building as well as the immediate needs of vulnerable groups. The work of the four partner NGOs covers a wide range of issues, including the overall financial sustainability of the state, economic policies that address the needs of vulnerable groups, environmental protection that incorporates gender concerns, legal reform and vulnerable group protection, economic inequality and empowerment, women's political representation, and the creation of long-term government-supported GBV services.

“I congratulate everyone on their accomplishments during Phase 6 of this project and will continue to promote opportunities for mutual learning and growth for all of us. Salutation for our never-ending inclusive collaboration!”

Tunggal Pawestri

Executive Director of HUMANIS Foundation





**CSO NETWORK IS THE ONE WHO HAS THE
RESOURCE AND FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE
OF THE WHOLE DISCUSSION.
WE NEED YOUR INVESTMENT ON US.**

Coalition of Civil Society and Governance in Timor-Leste



UNDERSTANDING CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNANCE IN TIMOR-LESTE

Concerning the overall CSG-TL project phase-6 objective, it has successfully supported partner organizations to increase the impacts of their work and their ability to empower vulnerable groups by advocating for their rights. In particular, partner organizations related to their partnership.

HUMANIS Foundation has been vital in providing stable and flexible funding for the organizations, which has enabled them to successfully weather extremely challenging circumstances over the last few years, both in terms of the increasingly competitive donor landscape as well as external crises such as COVID-19, natural disasters, and domestic political instability. The highly adaptable and understanding approach taken by HUMANIS Foundation towards its partners is deeply appreciated, as it provides confidence and stability to the staff of local organizations, thereby motivating them to continue their essential work.

With regards to the external impacts of CSO partners' work, stakeholders and beneficiaries they have emphasized that partner organizations continued to be an essential source of support for vulnerable populations, as well as playing a pivotal role in informing the general public about gender issues and facilitating progressive policy changes through exerting continuous pressure on decision-makers. While the extraordinary circumstances of the last 24 months have somewhat hindered the normal functioning of civil society in general, especially conducting training and in-person meetings to lobby policymakers, partners could adapt their work to the situation by moving certain activities online and redirecting resources to other activities.



Progress in policy change post-COVID-19 has incrementally changed since Mr. Jose Ramos Horta was elected President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on May 20, 2022, to coincide with the 20th anniversary of independence. Ramos-Horta called for national unity between rival parties that have had tumultuous relations in recent years so that partner organizations could continue communicating with decision-makers on various policies and provide their input and advice, which was well-received.

Continuing from previous phases, a secondary goal of the project was to increase partner NGOs' capacity for independent income generation and overall financial sustainability. As with last year, success in achieving this goal has been mixed, owing in part to the inherent difficulties of fundraising by CSOs whose primary activities are research and advocacy rather than service delivery, which is more difficult to monetize. Furthermore, CSOs in Timor-Leste are increasingly involved in similar fundraising activities, implying that the market has become more competitive.

Human resource constraints make it difficult for CSO staff to devote more time to alternative fundraising initiatives, program activities, and donor reporting. As a result, CSO partners will most likely continue to rely on donor funding in the medium term. They are, however, acutely aware of the need to develop alternative revenue sources and are eager to continue working on this issue with HUMANIS Foundation and other partners.





Forum Komunikasaun Ba Feto Timor Loro Sa'e (FOKUPERS)



All staff of FOKUPERS during 16 days campaign anti violence against women



FOKUPERS was founded in 1997 to address gender-based violence and human rights violations against women and children, particularly during the Indonesian occupation of Timor-Leste. This community-based, non-profit organization has been operating for nearly two decades as Timor-Leste's first women's organization. Its service delivery has expanded to include victim services, non-gender based early childhood education, advocacy, and the empowerment of women in the community as well as Timor-Leste as a nation.

Given its experience, FOKUPERS is well-positioned to implement in phase 6 of the CSG-TL project, which is supported by the participation of survivors and women's groups from twelve municipalities and the Region Administrative Oecussi. It includes the operation of four shelters and one transitional house, as well as a child care centre or creche, legal assistance, economic empowerment, advocacy, and community awareness. FOKUPERS monitors its work on a regular basis and recently delivered a three-year evaluation report from 2013 to 2016.



Survivors and their families as Fokupers Benefecieries

Due to the COVID-19 restriction last year, the Assembly General Member decided to extend the Strategic Plan 2017-2021 and combine it with the actual Theory of Change that we developed until FOKUPERS have it on board. The Theory of Change prompts us to consider the larger socio-political context, such as gender differences, women's human rights and justice, and gender equality. It strives to educate the public about women's issues and to support and enable women to live a safer, more accessible, self-determined, and dignified life through its advocacy and community organizing programs.

Furthermore, FOKUPERS, as a coordinator of the National Action Plan on Gender Based Violence on the Protection Pillar, produced several essential reports in phase 6 of the CSG-TL project based on the internal organization's work on collecting, analysing, monitoring cases, and advocating. Annually, the summary and recommendations for the government, including those raised by the counsel minister, are published online.

What is the significance of the CSG-TL project in supporting FOKUPERS?

- **Training for survivors and marginalized groups.**

The training was conducted in two villages, Becora and Madohi, in Dili Municipality. This is a pilot project to initiate Suku Livre husi Violénsia no Diskriminasaun (SLVD), freeing the village from violence and discrimination. This program aims to introduce survivors and marginalized groups to human rights and gender-based approaches, such as those who have many children and financial problems in the household, are abandoned by husbands and partners, the LGBTIQ community, people with disabilities, the unemployed, young people who are in conflict with the law, early mothers, and GBV survivors, among others. The training will cover a variety of topics on the GBV and human rights agenda, such as EVAW, the GBV referral mechanism, the Law Against Domestic Violence, child protection, human trafficking, and other related information with a gender and human rights perspective

- **Play and Learning.**

The purpose of this activity is to encourage women and mothers to participate actively in the training without sending their kids to the neighbours or leaving them alone at home. In our observation, many women can't access information and participate in public spaces as they cannot leave their kids, along with the risk that may contribute to other violence. However, they can feel secure when their kids are safe and secure around them. Moreover, this activity is to create a safe and friendly space for the children in the community, as well as to promote the education of non-violence and gender equality.



- **Research on the Benefits and Gaps of the Law Against Domestic Violence.**

This research was conducted in six municipalities, which are Dili, Baucau, Manufahi, Ermera, Bobonaro, and Covalima. It involved civil society organizations, legal actors, key ministries of NAP-GBV, community leaders, victims, and witnesses. The results of the research were presented to the relevant institutions, including the National Parliament members and women caucus, to help FOKUPERS advocate and prioritize the needs of the community on the ground, in particular, about alternating the relevant law. As an advocate and initiator organization of law against domestic violence, conducting a specific study to hear from the ground what the community, in particular victims and survivors, feel and say about the benefits of the law against domestic violence during the eleven years of the eleventh year is exceptionally fundamental since FOKUPERS is an evidence-based advocacy organization.

What are the goals that FOKUPERS wants to achieve through the CSG-TL project?

- Training for survivors and marginalized groups aims to bring gender-based violence and human rights issues to the village agenda, specifically how to encourage and ensure their commitment to GBV issues in their village's next annual plan. The training will cover a variety of topics related to GBV and human rights, with the goal of increasing their knowledge and sensitivity to assist FOKUPERS and other service providers in handling cases in their village before referring them to the appropriate institutions. This is to reduce physical-based projects in villages that do not promote human rights and do not even contribute to the community's efforts to end violence against women and girls.



- The goal of Play and Learning Activities is to encourage women and mothers to actively participate in the training instead of sending their children to neighbors or leaving them alone at home. According to FOKUPERS observations, many women are unable to access information or participate in public spaces because they cannot leave their children, increasing their vulnerability to other forms of violence. They can feel safe, however, when their children are safe and secure around them. Furthermore, the goal of this activity is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for the community's children while also promoting nonviolence and gender equality education
- The research findings revealed some gaps that, whether intentionally or unintentionally, may contribute to the lack of law enforcement. Some legal actors continued to judge and victimize the victims through their language and decisions during the trial, which psychologically affected the victim's emotions and daily life. This also occurs because a weak monitoring system in the legal process itself can provide an opportunity for the perpetrator to commit a new crime. For example, in one case of FOKUPERS domestic violence client, the perpetrator received a penal suspension for serious offenses against physical integrity, but because there was no monitoring and controlling system during the penal suspension, he committed another crime, which was an incest case with her daughter and ended his wife's life.

Learn more about **FOKUPERS** here:

Forum Komunikaun ba Feto Timor-Leste

Rua dos Direitus Umanus No. 04 – Farol – Timor-Leste

Telephone +670-3321534 | PO.BOX 338 |

Website and Email :

Web : <https://www.fokupers.org>

Email: fokupers2003@yahoo.com

Social Media :

Facebook: **Fokupers Timor**



Instituto ba Analiza no Monitor Dezenvolvimento iha Timor-Leste (La'o Hamutuk)



La'o Hamutuk, founded in 2000, is an independent, non-partisan Timorese institution for development, monitoring, and analysis. La'o Hamutuk has focused on research, policy analysis, public education, and advocacy since its inception. La'o Hamutuk is a Tetum phrase that means 'walking together' on the journey to establish a new nation. What La'o Hamutuk is doing is critical, given that it is one of the oldest organizations in Timor-Leste committed to being a force for participation in equitable, sustainable, and evidence-based policies and practices.



Founder, Board, and Staff of La'o Hamutuk

HUMANIS Foundation has a long history of collaboration with La'o Hamutuk, who first supported both organizations over a decade ago. La'o Hamutuk is critical to Timor-Leste's development discourse. For more than a decade, La'o Hamutuk has been analyzing, educating, and advocating on Timor-Leste's unsustainable oil and gas dependency and lack of alternative economic development. Over the years, the government, members of parliament, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the general public have relied on La'o Hamutuk to provide factual data and analysis on issues of good governance. Their work has become a source of information for many key stakeholders.

La'o Hamutuk also works to educate and empower Timorese citizens to participate in and shape decisions, building connections between Timorese and international civil society. Over the last 13 years, La'o Hamutuk has achieved a reputation for reliable, fact-based, objective analysis, becoming a leading authority and advocate in Timor Leste and internationally on issues including Timor Leste's macroeconomics and budget policy, oil and gas development, environmental policy, land rights, and judicial accountability for crimes against humanity.

Gender perspectives are now being incorporated into La'o Hamutuk's analysis, which looks at how policies affect the lives of women and other vulnerable groups. La'o Hamutuk not only briefs diplomats and policymakers but also draws attention to issues through publications, articles, talks, seminars, and open forums. Their website gets thousands of views every week, and their materials are widely read.





La'o Hamutuk during the call for action

La'o Hamutuk has assembled a team that focuses on gender and marginalized groups, especially women and children, in the last few years. This additional component gives La'o Hamutuk's research and advocacy a new depth and perspective. For instance, this gender team studied the effects of various government initiatives on local women and children and published reports on their findings. By doing this, they were able to give their work a gender perspective and bring it before the relevant state institutions, raising their awareness of problems that might have gone unnoticed or unconsidered in the past.

What is the significance of the CSG-TL project in supporting La'o Hamutuk?

La'o Hamutuk has received funding because it is a unique center of independent research and analysis on development and governance issues in Timor-Leste. HUMANIS Foundation understands that only a few local organizations are operating in Timor-Leste that can produce quality research, and HUMANIS Foundation is very proud and sees supporting La'o Hamutuk ability to continue its work as an essential component of ensuring a strong, independent society.

- La'o Hamutuk collaborates closely with grassroots, smaller organizations to highlight local issues and raise awareness of them on a broader, national platform.
- The gender team at La'o Hamutuk make sure that a gender lens or perspective is present in their advocacy, lobbying, and research, with a particular emphasis on the effects on marginalized groups like women, children, individuals with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ people.

What are the goals that La’o Hamutuk wants to achieve through the CSG-TL project?

- Under these primary themes—governance, state budget, anti-corruption law, food security and agriculture, the Petroleum Fund, gender and marginalized groups, and large projects—La’o Hamutuk carried out continuous research and analysis to create policy papers and briefs.
- In order to give the relevant government ministries and institutions the input and recommendations they require, La’o Hamutuk must be able to carry out research and analysis on important issues pertaining to good governance. The data's findings will also educate interested parties—particularly CSOs—about Timor-Leste's governance-related concerns.

Learn more about **La’o Hamutuk** here:

The Timor-Leste Institute for Development Monitoring and Analysis (La’o Hamutuk) -- Institutu Timor-Leste ba Analiza no Monitor ba Dezenvolvimentu

Rua D. Alberto Ricardo, Bebora, Dili, Timor-Leste

P.O. Box 340, Dili, Timor-Leste.

Telephone: +670-3321040/+670-77234330

Website and Email

Web: <http://www.laohamutuk.org>

Email: laohamutuk@gmail.com

Social Media

Facebook: [La’o Hamutuk](#)

Blog: laohamutuk.blogspot.com



Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita (ACbit)



ACbit and survivors during the implementation of one of the CSG-TL activities

ACbit was founded in 2010 as a project of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) to act on the recommendations of the Commission for Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation (CAVR) regarding human rights violations of the Indonesian occupation. This includes campaigning for the recognition and support of women victims of violence during the independence struggle, which no other organization working on GBV in Timor-Leste focuses on. ACbit has been involved in a wide range of activities, both directly supporting survivors of violence and advocating for policies that increase state support for these groups.

ACbit's primary focus is on survivors of gender-based violence (SGBV), who are stigmatized and marginalized in their community. ACbit assists victims and veterans of the occupation with transitional justice issues such as rape, sexual exploitation, and other forms of GBV. Because there is a clear link between the lack of public discussion of past abuses and current violence against women, ACbit seeks to educate the general public (particularly youth), government officials, and civil society representatives about the fate of these women.

Among the activities are database management, story collection and dissemination, memorialization, and lobbying for a reparations program for the most vulnerable victims and survivors to assess basic needs. The organization also helps these women by establishing networks, providing training, and healing from trauma. The organization collaborates with the Ministry of Social Solidarity to provide assistance and services such as housing, counselling, healing workshops, and income generation support.

Innovative approaches to participatory action research are encouraged by ACbit in order to empower women, support the development of small communities, and enable more inclusive data collection. The most recent advancement raises concerns about the discrimination and suffering that rape-affected children may face. Through programs like Chega! Mobile and the founding of Centro Chega!, ACbit has also persisted in advancing the principles outlined in the CAVR report. Additionally, ACbit was a member of the drafting team for the Timor-Leste National Action Plan (RAN) for the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 in 2015 and has been actively involved in collaborating with other institutions to put the POA recommendations for UN Resolution 1325 into practice.



What is the significance of the CSG-TL project in supporting ACbit?

- ACbit able to carry out some of its usual activities, such as providing assistance and training to survivors, lobbying state and party decision-makers to ensure that victims' needs are included in policies and programs, and collaborating with civil society networks to develop strategies for empowering survivors and raising awareness of their needs and experiences.
- ACbit also reported that the project enabled them to strengthen their links with focal points in rural areas, as well as with service providers and government stakeholders at national and local levels. Notable joint activities with government agencies included ACbit and the Secretariat of State for Cooperatives (SECOP), which provided training on cooperatives to rural women. ACbit has also developed a strong relationship with SEII through working on many joint activities. Following the April flooding, ACbit delivered aid to flood victims provided by SEII.
- HUMANIS Foundation has provided funding for ACbit's training activities aimed at increasing women's economic empowerment, as well as advocacy campaigns and research into the conditions of women survivors. Therefore ACbit has 16 established survivors' groups in 7 districts that receive counselling, empowerment training, and income generation assistance as of 2014. It continues to assist the National Victims Association and helped organize its 2012 Congress. As part of ACbit's activity in Timor-Leste's second phase of Civil Society and Governance in 2017, they were able to successfully conduct a one-month-long campaign raising awareness about the contributions of survivors of gender-based violence to Timor-Leste's independence.



- Interventions carried out by ACbit include economic empowerment, capacity building through training, group discussions, and seminars. These have helped them become more courageous in their decision-making, confident in leading group activities at the center, able to assist other women survivors, and independent in running their small businesses.
- Continuing in this phase 6, which ACbit reported as a major success, was a 'pay-it-forward' loan scheme in which two groups of women entrepreneurs were given between \$1,500 and \$2000 to start a small business and then provided a loan for the same amount to another group once they had saved this amount. So far, the scheme has helped the women's groups establish successful businesses, and they hope to repay the loaned funds to other women's groups in their area soon.
- In Lautem and RAEOA districts, female survivors organized survivor groups that have demonstrated positive outcomes in terms of economic empowerment. These groups engage in a variety of businesses, including lending and savings, raising livestock, selling vegetables from plantations in the market, and making clothing. The women survivors who received support from ACbit, have evolved from their previous selves.

What are the goals that ACbit wants to achieve through the CSG-TL project?

- The objectives that ACbit hopes to accomplish through this project include deepening knowledge of organizations, victims' rights, transitional justice, gender justice, advocacy sustainability, and gender-based violence (GBV) among women survivors, members of the national victims association, and young people from the survivor community.



It is anticipated that the outcomes of these trainings will demonstrate that female survivors are capable of engaging more fully in community and victims' association meetings, as well as speaking out for themselves at national meetings to shape policies that support women who have experienced violence in the past and who are currently victims.

- ACbit stated that the central benefit of the CSG-TL project in supporting for organizational sustainability has been to create a strong understanding of the need for financial independence and resilience. As a result ACbit successfully opened a small restaurant in 2019, which began earning a good income. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, they were forced to shut down the restaurant temporarily and then could not reopen due to uncertainties about its financial sustainability and other organizational commitments.
- ACbit also help survivors sell goods they have made and have ideas for developing simple food processing activities to add value to basic food products. They also hope to reopen a restaurant in a different location, as another organization has already taken over the space in which ACbit's restaurant had been operating.

Learn more about **ACbit** here:

Strengthening women survivor victims in past and present violations by fulfil their rights **Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita (ACbit)**

Telephone: +670 7723 7267

Website and Email

Web: <https://chegabaita.org>

Email: manuela.pereira@chegabaita.org

Social Media

Facebook: [Assosiasaun Chega Ba Ita](#)



Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP)



The Judicial System Monitoring Program [JSMP] was established in 2001 to monitor the process of the Ad Hoc Human Rights Tribunal in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the Special Panels for Serious Crimes in Timor-Leste.

As a Timorese-led non-profit organization, JSMP advances legality, accountability, transparency, and the rule of law while enhancing Timor-Leste's legislative and judicial systems. The goals of JSMP are likewise centered on working together to advance human rights, democracy, and the rule of law via advocacy, legal education, and monitoring. A justice system that upholds and defends every citizen's rights in conformity with international human rights norms is the aim of the JSMP.

JSMP is well-placed to implement in phase 6 of the CSG-TL project given its experience with the formal justice sector in Timor-Leste, strong links with key stakeholders, and privileged knowledge regarding women and children's access to the legal justice system. JSMP has contributed to the enactment of several laws, such as the law against domestic violence, witness protection, and the Penal Code, and also provides case analysis through court monitoring.

Children's Access to Formal Justice in Timor-Leste: A Status Report is a comprehensive report produced by JSMP due to extensive research on children's access to formal justice under the previous project, Strengthening Children's Access to Justice. Concerning the problems influencing children's access to justice in Timor-Leste, this research has given JSMP exclusive knowledge

Furthermore, JSMP produced several important reports in phase 6 of the CSG-TL project, such as a report on cases of incest on the implementation of the Law Against Domestic Violence in Timor-Leste, a submission on the amendment of the Penal Code and the Law Against Domestic Violence, a report on abortion and the right to be silent, and many other critical thematic reports that require JSMP's further interventions. This research has allowed JSMP to acquire privileged knowledge regarding the issues affecting the realization of children's access to justice in Timor-Leste.



All JSMP staff during their organization activity

What is the significance of the CSG-TL project in supporting JSMP?

JSMP was committed to conducting four main activities:

- Providing legal assistance to the victims of gender-based violence in Dili, Ermera, Aileu and Likisa, Bobonaro, and Vikeke District.
- Monitoring of the trials of gender-based violence cases in district courts.
- Wrote the para ser, press release, case summaries, theme and annual reports, which were distributed and disseminated through newspapers, websites, blogs, radio programs, and social media to communities in 13 districts.
- Advocating for the amendment of the Penal Code to include incest cases, as well as urging the National Parliament to expedite the discussion of the draft Child Protection Law. For this advocacy, JSMP investigated the work and operation of the National Parliament. The 2022 annual report, JSMP, described the National Parliament's functioning in terms of timely presence of Members of Parliament. The final section contains the conclusion and recommendations that JSMP makes to the National Parliament and relevant institutions to consider in order to improve the functioning of state systems that JSMP has discovered and is recommended to improve.



The Director Executive, Program Manager and all staff of JSMP



What are the goals that JSMP wants to achieve through the CSG-TL project?

- Encouraging women and children to report abuses against their rights (such as the crimes of rape, incest, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and domestic violence) to the police and the court, as well as providing the necessary support throughout the legal process and referrals to other available services, are the goals that have to be accomplished.
- To increase the understanding of the broad community on how to access formal justice through outreach campaigns and the dissemination of information. These include empowering and improving access to justice for women and girls who experience violence, including domestic or intimate partner violence, by educating them about their rights as victims and the workings of the legal system.

Learn more about **JSMP** here:

Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP)

Rua Beco Lakateu, Aldeia Manu fuik,
Suku Colmera, Administrativu Vera Cruz

Dili Timor Leste, PoBox: 275

Telephone: **3323883 | 77040735**

Website : <https://jsmp.tl>

Social Media

Facebook: www.facebook.com/timorleste.jsmp





“Diversity is being invited to the party,
Inclusions is being asked to dance”

Verna Meyers

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE 6TH PHASE OF CSG-TL PROJECT

HUMANIS Foundation seeks to broaden the CSOs' reach in this sixth phase with respect to impact focus, beneficiaries, rightsholder groups, organization size, geographic coverage, and methodology. The ultimate objective is for the CSOs in Timor to form a powerful coalition in order to improve coordination and outcomes when it comes to promoting issues pertaining to human rights.

Beneficiaries, Rightsholder Groups, and Impact Focus

The CSG-TL works with other marginalized groups that are still not visible and engaged enough in the development sector in Timor-Leste, such as people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ groups, and youth, after extensively addressing issues pertaining to women survivors, past human rights violations, and the governance of the government of Timor-Leste. HUMANIS Foundation highlights the importance of intersectionality and strategic cooperation between these groups of rights holders in order to jointly refine the advocacy agenda, approach, and targeted impacts. In addition to political engagement and access to resources (both ecological and economic), the primary impact areas for these rightsholder groups would be access to social services (health and education).

Organization Size and Geographical Coverage

HUMANIS Foundation works with smaller CSOs that are expected to be led by rightsholders and have limited organizational capacity and human resources; thus, the CSG-TL project could be strengthened based on identified needs and structured capacity building, as well as a series of tailor-made training and workshops in areas such as leadership, organizational strategy, financial and project management, community engagement, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, campaigning, lobbying, and advocacy.

A small grant for direct implementation, known as a seed fund, may also be available, depending on the capacity and availability of funds of the CSO. HUMANIS Foundation is also looking for non-Dili-based CSOs to help it decentralize even further at the district level. The organizations receiving seed funding, as well as success stories and the impact of this project on the sustainability and activities of each, will be presented on the following page.



Name of seed funding receiver : **Foin Sa'e Unidade Dezenvolve Futuru [FUNDEF]**

Duration of support: **July – November 2022**

Area: **Comoro, Kampung Baru – Dili Timor Leste**

Website: <https://fundef.wixsite.com/timorleste>

Facebook: <https://web.facebook.com/fundefngo/>



Foin Sa'e Unidade Dezenvolve Futuru, or Young People United for Future Development (FUNDEF), was founded in 2010 by seven young Timorese students who wanted to make a difference in their community. FUNDEF helps the people of Timor-Leste move towards a more harmonious future by working on building peace and people's capacity. Young people and their communities in Timor-Leste are building a stronger future, with the assistance of FUNDEF, by resolving conflict without violence, promoting gender equity, preventing gender-based and domestic violence, and recognizing women's and children's rights.

FUNDEF's work also addresses other underlying issues for peace in the communities. Teaching basic work skills, protecting the environment, and building basic infrastructure is an essential part of what FUNDEF does. This ongoing work is carried out in close cooperation with the local communities and local and international NGOs.

In July 2022, the first seed funding was received by FUNDEF, a non-profit and non-partisan organization founded by a group of Timorese youths. This organization works at the grassroots to promote peace through capacity building and skills training for women victims of violence and other marginalized groups living below the poverty line, as well as those who have dropped out of school and are unemployed.

NATIONAL, DILI

HIVOS donates \$7,000 and six units of Laptop to FUNDEF

© 2022/11/07 2:58:44 PM DILI



Photo: Tatoli Cardeiro de Sousa

DILI, 07 november 2022 (TATOLI)– The Humanist Institute for Development Cooperation (HIVOS) donated US\$ 7,000 and six units of laptops to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Foinsae Unidade Desenvolve Future (FUNDEF) in Timor – Leste.

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U.S and TL-Ministry of Higher Education sign MoU to support...



KASAUN
11 NOVEMBRO 2022 **Timor Post**

FUNDEF Kapasita Juventude Na'in-50

DILI—Sentró Formasaun Futura Unidade Desenvolve Futuru (FUNDEF) kapasita juventude hamutuk na'in-50 iha area haat, komputador hual komputador, ilustrasaun, administrasaun no finansas.

"Ami fasilita formasaun ba juventude hamutuk 50 ho objeitu atu hasa'e sira nia koheimento klean li-san iha area komputador, ilustrasaun, administrasaun no finansas, sai hanesan bukae ida ba foin sa'e sira hodi prepara sira sia-an atu kompete iha futuru." Diretor FUNDEF Carlos Moniz Gonçalves, ba Timor Post iha ninla knasa, fatin Komoro, Segunda (07/11).

Diretor ne'e batete, formasaun ne'e hula'o durante fulan nees, teoria fulan tolu no pratika fulan tolu, ne'ebé koleka formandu sira ba iha instituisaun estadu nian no ONG privadu sira ne'ebé existe iha rai-laran. Nune'e bele eleva d'ak liutan juventude sira nia koheimento no abilidade. Formador na'in-tima mak fasilita formasaun ba juventude ho gratuita.

Nia espika, formasaun iha area ilustrasaun nian, oinsá mak atu aprende kona-ba kien rasik dezentu atu pinta fatin turizmu no sira teknologia oinsá atu usa internet ho sira oinsá.

Iha area komputador oinsá mak atu usa programa Microsoft Word, Power Point no Excel. Alende iha parte administrasaun oinsá mak atu jere fundu no halo servisu administrasaun iha office ninla, hahurek relatoriu no mós aprende kona-ba resepsionista.

Parte finansas nian oinsá mak atu rekeva oramento, halo relatoriu oramental no jere fundu ho d'ak iha futuru.

Portanto formasaun ne'e hetan fundu ne'ebé apoti husi Yayasan HIVOS ho montante 7,000 USD hodi fasilita formandu sira durante fulan o nia laran, tauba ne'e atu apoia juventude sira ne'ebé laia kbiit atu kontinua sira nia estudu iha universidade.

Tan ne'e mak FUNDEF kapasita formasaun area haat ba juventude sira, sai hanesan bukae ida ba sira, karik iha futuru iha abilidade ne'ebé d'ak ems seluk bele prezisa hodi fó servisu ba sira.

Aleinde kona-ba existénsia FUNDEF iha tinan 2013 mai to'o oinsá hama profusa ona membru na'in-7,000 mós servisu ona iha instituisaun estadu hanesan F-FDTL, PPTL, no balun ba servisu iha civil, NIA rekomenda ba formandu sira atu usa tempu no oportunidade ne'ebé iha hodi aprende d'ak liutan husi formador sira ne'ebé kapasita durante fulan e no bele aproveita hodi manan matenek no experéncia.

Juventude mak desenvolvimento nasau no sai autor prosesu ba desenvolvimento, prezisa ona ne'ebé kualidade iha setor edukasaun nian.

Iha fatin hanesan, jerente kualifikasaun no desenvolvimento rekursu umanu UN-DEMUP, Paulino dos Santos Albino, husi formadu sira atu aproveita oportunidade ho d'ak hodi aprende siasia, ne'ebé hetan no'udar bukae ida hodi prepara ba futuru.

Ba oin, nia promesa sei apoia FUNDEF liuhusi fundu ruma, atu bele fasilita juventude sira ne'ebé liuhusi formasaun oi-oin, atu hasa'e koheimento no abilidade ne'ebé d'ak hodi kompete iha terenu. (asb)

Source of news:
<https://en.tatoli.tl/2022/11/07/hivos-donates-7000-and-six-units-of-laptop-to-fundef/14/>

FUNDEF Fornese Formasaun Gratuita ba Joven Na'in-50

Mario da Costa - Edukasaun

7 November 2022

Consulta de Búzios por Chat

Reportajen : Estaziada Ermelinda Caet
Editor : Mario Da Costa

Comment

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Diretor FUNDEF Foto hamutuk ho formandu sira hahin halo abertura ba formasaun, Segunda (07/11). Imagen: TP/Ermelinda Caet





In contrast to earlier FUNDEF programs, HUMANIS Foundation and FUNDEF were able to collaborate on the design of a learning system prior to the start of the training in order to guarantee long-lasting program results after the activities were implemented. This was made possible with the help of the seed funding mechanism. In order for participants who are far from Dili to fully participate in the training, costs for it may technically be waived and even travel expenses may be reimbursed.

Since its founding, FUNDEF has actively involved trainers and former training alums in creating designs and writing modules for Microsoft Office 2007, Administration & Finance, and Illustration Design, depending on the necessary current context.



Modules of trainings on Computer training (Microsoft Office 2007), Administration & Finance, and Illustration Design



Advertisements and announcements related to this training were posted on several public notice boards, such as the bulletin board of the Office of the Secretary of State for Training of Employment Professionals in Timor-Leste, and circulated more widely through social media on the FUNDEF Timor-Leste Facebook Page.



Training announcements posted on one of the bulletin boards

As a result, 45 participants from Dili and surrounding districts participated in the training, 25 of whom were women, following a selection process carried out by FUNDEF. This decision is based on completing personal information forms and gathering essays from potential participants outlining their driving forces and aspirations for the future.



Process Computer Microsoft Word and Excel training





Process Computer
Microsoft Word and Excel
training



Final Evaluation Test.

Administrative and finance course trainees are taking a financial report writing exam. They were asked one by one to present the use of Microsoft Excel in financial reports. This final evaluation test is one of the criteria before apprenticeship or work practice 45 participants were involved in intensive training for each training subject with a frequency of 5 days per week and a duration of 4 hours per day. This training demonstrated that 17 participants could operate computers and use Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, and Publisher) for office administration work. In addition, 10 participants can design brochures, banners, and other forms of publication media. Furthermore, 18 people can create basic financial reports, daily activity reports, and budget requests





Some of the computer training participants took a photo together with the computer learning manual they received as a reference for learning

Not stopping after the training program, FUNDEF continues the continuity of this program by providing recommendations for participants to be able to do internships at the Timor Leste Ministry of Government office or other NGO offices. Of the 45 people who took part in the training, a total of 23 people were then selected to continue their work practice. Twenty of them have internships in government offices such as the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Secretary of State for Civil Protection, Comercio no Industria, and the Ministerio Estatal. In addition, three other people also interned at FORUM NGO Timor-Leste and the FUNDEF office.



Internships or work practices are carried out as follow-up activities to provide more comprehensive access for training alums by adding work experience and opening up opportunities to work to earn income afterward. Thus, the seed funding program provided to FUNDEF ensures that the process beneficiaries feel the impact from upstream to downstream. Starting from the design of the training program, the selection and evaluation of participants, and post-training work practices



Juvita Pereira



Eldina Soares

Alumnae of training on administration and finance who are apprentices in government offices at the Timor-Leste Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports





Geovanio Leo da Silva, Maria Fatima Leite do Santos



Two administration and finance alumnae training participants who were apprentices at FORUM NGO Timor-Leste were included in the Expo and Exhibition activities organized by the Secretary of State for Youth and Sports. The two alumnae took responsibility as recipients of important state guests and sales marketing.



“SUCCESS STORY FROM FUNDEF”



Eldina Soares

Eldina Soares was born on October 15, 1992, in Lauana – Timor-Leste. She did not attend college after graduating from high school due to a lack of funds. To assist her in applying for office jobs, she will need more than a high school diploma. Because she was jobless during COVID-19, her economic situation became more complicated. She withdrew from applying for a job because one of the criteria for working in the office was to have skills in operating computers or basic administration and finance. Her family couldn't financially support her desire to study; she couldn't even afford to take any courses. As a result, she was unemployed for a long time and required more confidence when interacting with others.



After Eldina read the information on the notice board of the FUNDEF Office that free courses were available for unemployed youth, she thought this was a golden opportunity! So she prepared criteria documents and enrolled in administration and finance training to support her desire to improve her skills and apply for jobs.

She feels fortunate because she got the opportunity to be selected as one of the participants who will take part in the training at FUNDEF.

"I am pleased and grateful. My self-confidence has increased drastically. This training is what I have wanted all this time," she said.

During this training, Eldina learned a lot about how to operate a computer well. *"I have come to understand how to work in administration, whether it's making letters, invitation letters, or procedural systems related to administration within an organization, and how to manage all administrative documents,"* she concluded.

Eldina was one of the training alumni recommended by FUNDEF to participate in work practices or internships at the Timor-Leste Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, particularly in the Administration and Finance department, due to her seriousness during the training process and good results after the final evaluation test. Eldina benefited from this experience. She was pleased because she not only fulfilled her desire to take the course, but she could immediately apply her skills when she interned at the Timor-Leste government office.

Every FUNDEF training alumni who will do practical work will be directed in advance about what activities must be carried out every day.



Eldina also experienced this. *"The internship gave me an idea of how to work in a real government office or institution. I understand much better how to work together in a team or alone while doing administrative work at the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports offices in terms of completing employee financial reports, making and controlling employee attendance lists, making invitation letters, and organizing documents. I experienced no obstacles during my practical work because my superiors and colleagues from the office always guided, helped, and directed us when we experienced difficulties or confusion. I also feel there is no difference between permanent employees and apprentices. Because I was treated the same as any other employee. After my internship at the Office of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports, I was more confident and motivated to become a young woman with the potential to get work opportunities and a broad outlook. I hope that the knowledge I get from the training and fieldwork practices can improve the quality of my life and benefit the people around me."*

Finally, as a result of her hard work and good results, Eldina was asked to work as a freelance worker at the ministry for four months starting in May 2023, after her internship ended. Eldina was rewarded this time with a fee incentive of USD 50 per month for her efforts.

Individual changes are clearly visible in this seed funding activity. FUNDEF is successful in gaining Eldina's self-esteem, which has grown significantly in tandem with her increased capacity. She is no longer the gloomy Eldina, but has transformed into someone who is confident and has even changed her destiny by starting to earn money and work. Eldina's success story inspired other women in her community. To not give up easily under pressure. Actively seek opportunities and continue to build capacity for a bright future.



Name of seed funding receiver: **Asosiasaun Halibur Dificiente Matan Timor-Leste [AHDMTL]**

Duration of support: **November 2022 – April 2023**

Area: **Maleuana – Dili Timor Leste**

Youtube channel: <https://fundef.wixsite.com/timorleste>

Facebook: <https://web.facebook.com/AHDMTL/>



Asosiasaun Halibur Dificiente Matan Timor-Leste, abbreviated as AHDMTL, is an organization that assists and advocates for the rights of people with visual disabilities. It was established in 2011 with the mission of promoting the rights of people with blindness and visual impairment, namely through access to education, health, justice, and employment. AHDMTL emphasizes that people with disabilities are also citizens. For this reason, the government and all policymakers must ensure that citizens disability rights are fulfilled as citizens in general. AHDMTL also encourages people with disabilities to be involved in any opportunity and not to be discriminated against or excluded because of their disability.

Gender, inclusiveness, and intersectional perspectives form the foundation for cooperation and collaboration carried out through the Seed Funding Mechanism under the project of Civil Society Governance in Timor Leste (CSG-TL), implemented by HUMANIS Foundation, including AHDMTL. Previously, mapping was carried out to understand the organizational needs left unanswered by past grant programs or in the absence of comprehensive government support.

One fundamental finding in the mapping is that sometimes the assistance programs provided to organizations for people with disabilities have not been based on the baseline data of the beneficiary needs assessment.



The assistance provided was not found in the risk mapping of the activities carried out, considering the conditions before, during, and after implementation.

From the results of interviews, it is known that AHDMTL has received printer and computer assistance grants. Still, there is no JAWS or NVDA software that will make it easier for people with visual disabilities to operate computers because they provide verbal instructions at each operational stage. As a result, the computer goods grant was not used optimally because there was no specific software for people with visual disabilities.

Not to mention the limited ability of the fellow visual disability to use computers due to the lack of computer training education. This situation is also exacerbated by the lack of trainers and computer trainers for people with visual disabilities who understand conditions and concerns when providing explanations and training for people with visual disabilities.

Executing the seed funding project for Civil Society Governance in Timor Leste is also continuous and reinforces the activities already carried out by AHDMTL. Initially, HUMANIS Foundation confirmed that AHDMTL has a network at the district level that conducts data collection and monitoring in each village to map whether there are families whose members are visual disabilities.



Through this data collection activity, the community finds someone with a visual disability. AHDMTL encourages the individual to have a critical awareness to be empowered and change the situation, including educating and encouraging their family to provide support so that people who are visual disabilities can live in the boarding room owned by AHDMTL. By accommodating people with visual disabilities to live in dormitories owned by AHDMTL, it makes it easier for those whose homes are far away to learn the basic ABC Braille letters and improve other skills in classes organized by AHDMTL.



A photo of computer course trainer who is also blind and disabled. He explained the material using modules written with Braille and in Tetum language.

Learning the basic ABC Braille letters are the first step towards being able to read and write. This ability is essential so visual disabilities people can absorb more information and other knowledge. As a result, their self-confidence also increases drastically. Those who feel helpless feel they can't do anything when they can read and express their ideas and feelings in Braille letters. For people with visual disabilities, they are more open-minded, more confident, and want to be more advanced by accessing further capacity-building education, such as computer training.



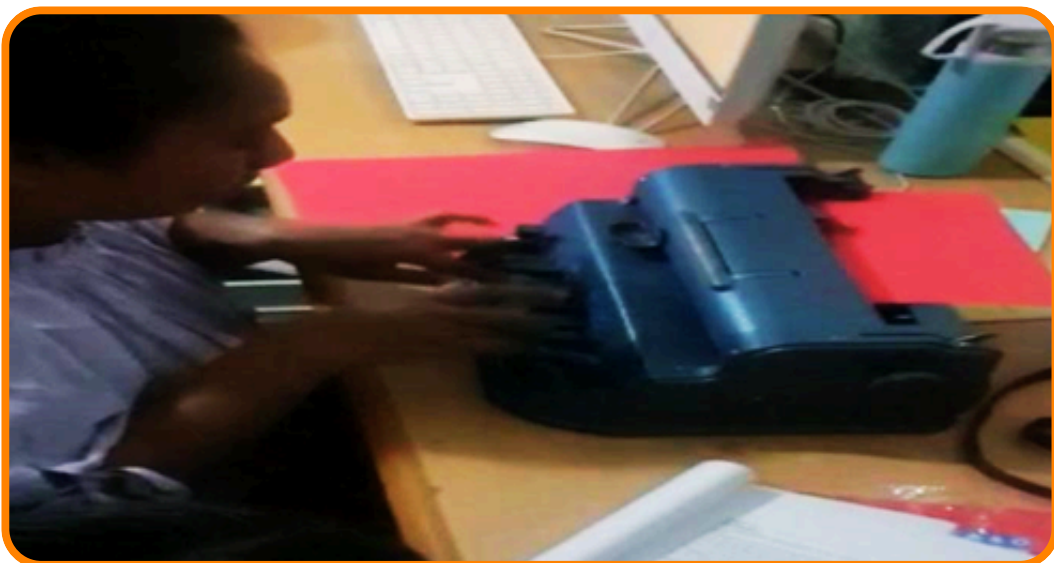


Photo showing the process of converting a computer training module typed in Braille and Tetum



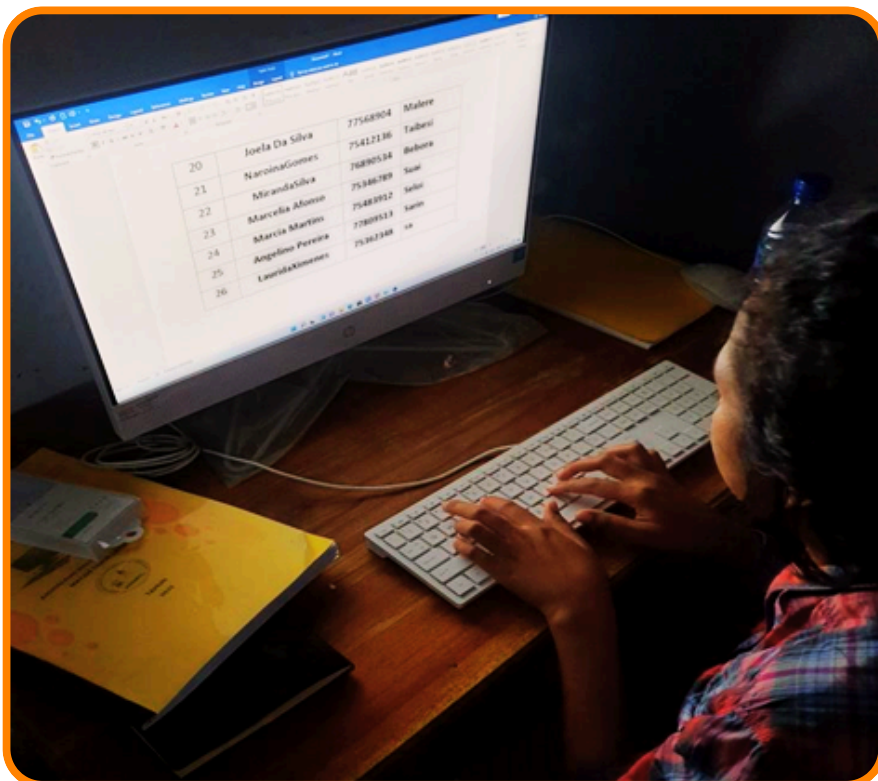


Photo of the process of training a computer course for the visually impaired using a special NVDA application software that can explain orally

For this reason, HUMANIS Foundation, with full support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through The Norwegian Embassy in Jakarta, supports AHDMTL in organizing computer training in December 2022. The computer training, facilitated by trainers from people with visual disabilities and using special software JAWS and NVDA, is an affirmative action that seeks to be responsive and transformative to change the situation because it does not only consider the specific needs of people with visual disabilities to access and engage in meaningful participation in capacity-building and empowerment programs—at the same time, addressing the root causes of gender inequality, social exclusion, and discrimination that have been experienced by people with visual disabilities in Timor-Leste.





Photo of the process of training a computer course for the visually impaired using a special NVDA application software that can explain orally

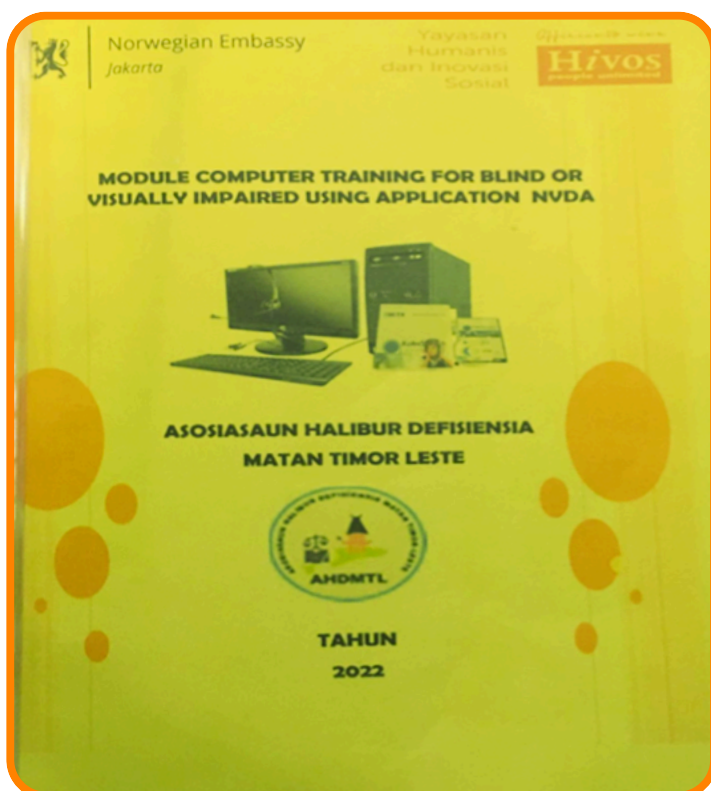


Photo Computer Training Module with Special NVDA Software for People with Visual Disabilities in Braille and Tetum language



The initial stage of computer training began with meetings and discussions of the organizational structure of AHDMTL as well as computer training trainers and facilitators, who jointly reviewed the basic computer training module owned by AHDMTL. Then modify it to the specific needs of people with visual disabilities using NVDA software and convert the basic module by retyping all the descriptions and instructions in Braille in the local Tetum language, making it easier for trainers, facilitators, and trainees to understand.

The existence of a module is fundamental, not only as a curriculum containing material that will be delivered during training but also as guidelines and references for trainers and facilitators, as well as a source of knowledge and a step-by-step guide for computer operation that can be read and understood by participants with visual disabilities.



Photo of the process of training a computer course for the visually impaired using a special NVDA application software that can explain orally for those who can't see



Because it was the first time AHDMTL organized it, this computer training was limited to six participants with low vision and total blind disabilities, ages 19–38, as a pilot project. The intensive ten-day computer training was dominated by five female participants (out of six). This is an affirmation action for women with visual disabilities, who are among the most vulnerable and underserved members of society.



Photo trainer practicing how to explain to blind participants. The instruction process refers to the training module

Six participants were very active and enthusiastic during the ten-day intensive computer training process because they were trying to operate a computer for the first time. All participants experienced significant changes as a result of the training. They can then confidently turn on and off their computers, type stories about their lives in Microsoft Word, and even write letters to Timor-Leste's President advocating for blind disability rights.





Photo of the Executive Director of AHDMTL and representatives of HUMANIS Foundation cutting the ribbon symbolizing that the training activities have been completed as well as launching the modules and life stories as well as letters made during the training process



Banner of Launching of the modules and life stories of AHDMTL



Following the training, AHDMTL released the modified and revised modules, as well as the publication of life stories and letters typed by training participants. The module's launch and training outcomes are significant as an advocacy effort for the rights of people with visual disabilities as well as a public awareness campaign to raise awareness that people with visual disabilities are Timorese citizens who face multi-layered discrimination. The launch, which took place in March 2023, was covered and published in local media.



Photo of the training participants in the module launching event, life stories and letters made by the training participants



“SUCCESS STORY FROM AHMDTL”



Teresa Fatima Martins

My name is Teresa Fatima Martins, and I come from Ermera district, Hatulia sub-district, Leimea Kraik village. I am the fourth child of six children from a poor farming family that lives by cultivating rice fields and raising livestock. When I was born, I was an average child. But when I was six years old, I had an accident while playing with my brothers and sisters. My left eye was punctured by a broom used to sweep horse manure. As a result of the incident, my eyes became bloody and injured. Unfortunately, both parents did not take Teresa to the hospital because they lived in a remote area far from the city. The treatment was carried out using only traditional medicine, but it was not successful and made his eyes one-sided blind.

In 2010, Teresa started attending elementary school but was often bullied and insulted by her friends as blind and useless (matan at, in Tetum language). Teresa was often ridiculed and discriminated within her family, school, and society. As a result, Teresa became a gloomy child. She also only attended junior high school and did not continue her higher education because of this discrimination.



"I was insulted as a blind and useless person. People often harassed me, and I even experienced violence. I was embarrassed, didn't want to leave the house, and was very sad...." said Teresa.

Around December 3, 2019, AHDMTL celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Teresa's village. For the first time, Teresa saw that people with physical disabilities could come to the remote village to share information and exercise sensibility on the rights of people with disabilities to access their lives like others. Teresa was amazed because, at that time, she realized that she was not the only one in this world with a physical condition with disabilities; other friends had the same fate as her.

"It turns out that I just realized there are other people in a condition like mine, even worse. But the people from AHDMTL are very confident, bring positive vibes, and are open-minded..." said Teresa. This realization made Teresa want to change fate and fight for other groups with disabilities.

With the momentum of celebrating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in 2019, Teresa was also recorded by AHDMTL and registered in the data on disabled people from the village of Leimea Kraik. Since then, Teresa has often been contacted by the AHDMTL focal point to become a member of AHDMTL and be involved in capacity-building activities.



Image of a Braille typewriter



Finally, on February 6, 2020, Teresa agreed to come to the AHDMTL office. The first time Teresa went to the AHDMTL office, she was terrified because everyone in AHDMTL had a total physical disability. Moreover, Teresa also heard that the director of AHDMTL and the trainers or assistants in the dormitory are all blind. She doubted how she could survive if everyone in the AHDMTL dormitory and office had limitations and disabilities. But with the motivation of her friends with disabilities, Teresa finally agreed to live in the AHDMTL dormitory and enthusiastically started learning Braille by learning the ABC Alphabet.



Teresa's computer course training certificate

"When I first joined the training at AHDMTL to learn ABC letters, I found it difficult. Because I've never studied Braille before. However, I tried every day. In the end, in just two weeks, I learned the Braille alphabet from A to Z. What was amazing was that I could read writing in Braille. I am pleased! Because by joining as a member of the AHDMTL organization, I can attend workshops, training, and seminars from national and international organizations, which gives me a lot of knowledge..." mentioned Teresa happily.





As a result of her computer course training, Teresa wrote her life story as a person with a blind disability



Teresa was very grateful when she was chosen as one of the participants in the Microsoft Word introductory computer training course with special software for the NVDA program for people with visual disabilities. Because opportunities like this are so rare, no single conventional course institution in Timor-Leste provides course opportunities for people with visual disabilities.

"I was delighted when I was selected as one of the participants who would take a computer course with the NVDA application software at AHDMTL. I have never studied computers because no courses provide training for people with visual disabilities. I am delighted I can operate a computer, let alone use Microsoft Word Basic for typing. I started by writing life stories to be able to inspire other people with disabilities not to get discouraged and to encourage public awareness that there should be no more humiliation and violence for people with disabilities. I also want to send my life story by letter to the President of Timor Leste so that the government pays attention to our disability rights as citizens..."



Name of seed funding receiver: **Asisténsia Legál ba Feto no Labarik [ALFeLa]**

Duration of support: **January 2023 – May 2023**

Area: **Villa Verde, iha Katedral nian Sorin – Dili Timor Leste**

Facebook: **<https://web.facebook.com/alfela.tl/>**



ALFeLa staff in front of their office

The high volume of reports of gender-based violence cases was one of the main findings of the assessment by HUMANIS Foundation conducted in 2022. An excellent lesson to learn from the data recorded, which shows an average of more than 40 women and children victims per month asking for help from Legal Aid, is how to reflect on and make changes to make the organization a safe and comfortable place for women and children who have been victims of violence.

Till 2023, it is a fact that no organization in Timor-Leste will give serious consideration to providing a secure and comfortable location for children of victims of violence to wait while their mother or sister is being accompanied in registering a chronology at the police station or legal aid office.

As a result, **Asisténsia Legál ba Feto no Labarik (ALFeLa)**, a fully independent organization, has been JSMP's sister organization since 2004. ALFeLa, a fully independent organization in Timor-Leste since 2012, has focused on providing legal assistance to women and children in civil law matters, including cases involving the Labour Code in collaboration with the HUMANIS Foundation and with the full support of the Norwegian Embassy in Jakarta, launched a special children's care section and play area on May 18, 2023, through the Seed Funding mechanism. The children of female victim clients at the ALFeLa office primarily use this special children's care area and play ground to pass the time while their mothers are still working on their case.



Photo during launching of Children Care and Play Ground

The effects on the women victims and their children are extraordinary, despite the fact that this launch activity appears small and insignificant. When submitting case complaints and their chronology to ALFeLa staff, women victims can feel more at ease, less rushed, and less stressed. They know the kids that they bring are safe and at ease because they enjoy playing and spending time with fun toys and games.

“SUCCESS STORY FROM ALFELA”



Photo of the General Public Prosecution,
Dr. Alfonso Lopes

The General Public Prosecution, Dr. Alfonso Lopes, expressed their extreme gratitude for this activity's initiative because Timor-Leste itself did not previously have any organization dedicated to creating safe and comfortable spaces for kids.

“I am very touched and grateful because women victims found this children's play area and daycare center to be very helpful in making them feel at ease so that their children wouldn't be bothered during the process of assistance. If there are young (still children) victims of violence, they can tell stories about their cases of violence more easily and without tension because they tell the story in a place where toys and games are available. Small actions like this have a big impact on mental health conditions and even the case assistance process for women and children. I want ALFeLa to become a role model for referral network members in the Baucau district jurisdiction. So that they can all learn from ALFeLa about effective responses to gender-based violence.”

The Police National Timor-Leste Vulnerable Police Unit (PNTL VPU) commander, Mr. Ricardo da Costa, stated that the children's play area and care area served as inspiration for the PNTL VPU and prosecution office to create a safe and comfortable area for women and children's victims. This will help victims feel more at ease and secure when they share their stories and lodge complaints about their cases.



Photo of The Police National Timor-Leste Vulnerable Police Unit (PNTL VPU) commander, Mr. Ricardo da Costa

“This has been a true affirmative action to meet the needs of the women victims. We had no idea there was such a need for women victims with children or even child victims, especially when they come to the police station to complain about their cases. The activity of establishing a children's care and play area at the ALFeLa office inspired me to establish similar facilities at several police stations in Timor-Leste; the closest one I will plan to establish is in Dili, Timor-Leste.”

Name of seed funding receiver: **Mane Ho Visaun Foun (MHVF)**

Duration of support: **July 2023 – November 2023**

Region/area: **Becora - Cristo Rei, Dili Timor Leste**

YouTube channel for MHVF jingle and video campaign:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60glzwioqOg>

Website: **<https://manevisaunfoun.wixsite.com/mane-ho-visaun-foun>**



MANE HO VIZAUN FOUN



A Timorese woman and children

Mane Ho Visaun Foun [MHVF] was founded in 2011 to work with local communities to change the social acceptance of violence against women and children and to raise awareness of the importance of gender equity. MHVF encourages boys and men to actively participate in domestic violence prevention and to be positive role models in their communities. We take a holistic approach to preventing violence against women by involving community leaders, women's groups, police, civil society, and schools, because ending violence against women is everyone's concern. The mission of MHVF is to engage men and boys in preventing violence against women and children and to create a society in which gender equity is the norm rather than the exception. MHVF's organization is founded on three values: equity, accountability, and responsibility, with the vision of a world free of violence for women and children.

MHVF aims to rewrite the dominant narrative of masculinity that accepts and normalizes violence against women. By educating boys and men about the importance of gender equity, MHVF creates positive role models within local communities. MHVF encourages all Timorese men to actively engage in preventing violence against women and children and ensuring they enjoy full access to their human rights. MHVF has three focus areas, all with the overarching objective of eradicating violence against women and children.

MHVF promotes children's rights as well as gender justice and equality in order to provide education to prevent violence from a young age. MHVF collaborates with parents, local professionals, and community actors to raise awareness of what constitutes child abuse and mobilize entire communities to prevent it. MHVF also works with children's groups in schools to teach them about child protection and how to exercise their rights, and with youth in universities to educate and raise awareness about anti-violence.



MHVF during their implementation to one of the school in Dili, Timor-Leste



MHVF collaborated with HUMANIS Foundation during CSG-TL phase 6 and changed the approach to be more exciting and creative, knowing that the target beneficiaries are children and youth (15-19 years old). MHVF also develops a module on advocacy and campaigns for the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV), which serves as a resource for those carrying out activities. MHVF also designs and prints campaign tools derived from the module, such as board games, which can be used as a more exciting and creative advocacy and campaign tool on the Prevention of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Timor Leste schools or universities.



Students took part in board games that included a campaign and raised awareness about anti-gender violence and bullying.

Aside from board games, MHVF also launched an anti-violence jingle, a song to campaign for the values of kindness, mutual respect, and nonviolence that are easily delivered via YouTube platforms and other social media, which will reach even more beneficiaries, both elderly and young people, in Dili and other remote districts.



Name of seed funding receiver: **Klibur Difisiensia Tilun Timor-Leste (KDT-TL)**

Duration of support: **July 2023 – November 2023**

Area: **Matadoru, Dili Timor-Leste Telephone : (+670) 7705 5231**

Facebook page: **<https://web.facebook.com/people/Klibur-Defisiensia-Tilun-Timor-Lestekdt-Tl/>**

Website: **<https://rkdtl.tl/profile-organizasaun-klibur-defisiensia-tilun-timor-leste-kdt-tl/>**

Youtube Channel: **<https://rkdtl.tl/profile-organizasaun-klibur-defisiensia-tilun-timor-leste-kdt-tl/>**



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities explicitly recognizes and protects the equal rights of people with disabilities and other humans. Meanwhile, Timor-Leste's conditions for the fulfilment of the rights of people with disabilities are fraught with complications. Until the end of 2020, more than 93% of people with disabilities, particularly persons with hearing disabilities, had difficulty accessing education, health, politics, infrastructure, and receiving information and treatment from a society that tended to intimidate them and assume that people with disabilities were helpless human beings.

The failure to fulfil the rights of people with disabilities is due to a lack of awareness in the Timor-Leste community, as well as a lack of action on the part of the Timor-Leste government, which has not provided significant training and accessible information for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Klibur Difisiensia Tilun Timor-Leste (KDT-TL) was founded in 2017 at the initiative of a person with disabilities with the goal of gathering people with hearing disabilities to access information, specifically by providing sign-language training to people with hearing disabilities. The AGAPE organization, through a foreign teacher in 2004, introduced and taught sign language to the organization. They also took the initiative to form their own organization to help train people with hearing impairments in Timor-Leste.

KDT-TL's vision and mission are to promote people with hearing disabilities in Timor-Leste and advocate for all governments and societies, particularly families, to take people with hearing disabilities into account. Also, assist all ministries, such as education and health, in ensuring that people with hearing disabilities have access to information.



Crecência Maderia de Deus

Crecência Maderia de Deus, the executive director of KDT-TL, stated that the KDT-TL program focuses on people with disabilities in terms of information and teaching language to people with disabilities because learning the language allows them to access the applicant's and the university's education.





Gender-based violence prevention training using sign language

By collaborating with HUMANIS Foundation and receiving seed funding start on 1 July 2023 until 30 November 2023, KDT-TL finally facilitates training for people with disabilities based on gender. For the first time in Timor-Leste, KDT-TL wrote its own Gender and Violence Prevention (GBV) Training Module to be used specifically for people with hearing disabilities in Timor-Leste. After successfully developing the module, KDT-TL carried out first Gender training involving at least 12 people with hearing disabilities in Timor-Leste. This is an extraordinary history because this is the first time it has been implemented in Timor-Leste, Gender Based Violence and Prevention (GBV) Training, which uses modules they wrote and developed themselves.



Gender-based violence prevention training using sign language



The process of cooperation and collaboration between KDT-TL and HUMANIS Foundation is one of learning and mitigation, so that when preparing modules, images, and words, it is truly inclusive, understandable, and impactful, allowing people with hearing disabilities in Timor-Leste to learn and understand more quickly.



Cover image of a module on the prevention of violence against women and other forms of gender-based violence

Despite the fact that seed funding is limited, it can only benefit people with disabilities in Dili. This module and training represent the organization's (KDT-TL) dream and ambition to replicate and facilitate the same training in other districts in the future. So that more people with hearing disabilities can join and benefit, and, most importantly, to raise awareness among families and communities that there should be no more discrimination and violence against people with hearing disabilities in Timor-Leste.



Name of seed funding receiver: **Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor (PRADET)**

Duration of support: **July 2023 – November 2023**

Area: **Rua DIT, Efacas Manleuana, Dili Timor-Leste**

Facebook page: **https://web.facebook.com/pradetoofficialpage/?_rdc=1&_rdr**

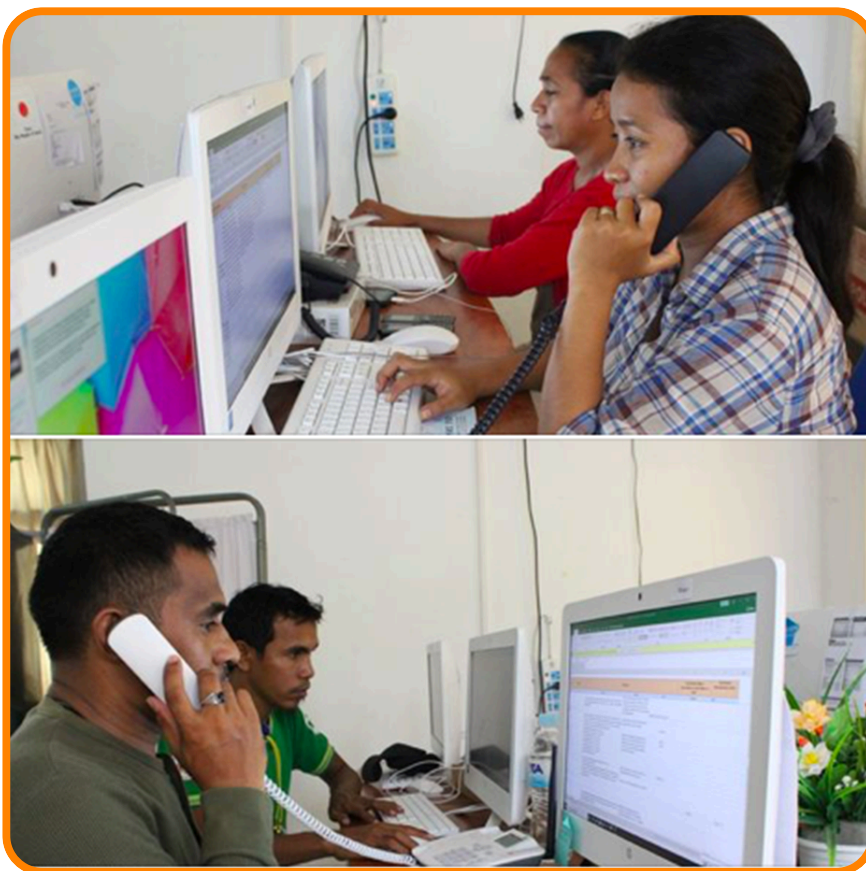
Website: **<http://www.pradet.org>**



PRADET staff in front of their office

Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor (PRADET) was started in 2000 as an Australian consortium with AUSAID funding (refer to the history of PRADET). PRADET was constituted as a national NGO in 2002 to provide a psychosocial service for people who are experiencing trauma, mental illness, and other psychosocial problems in Timor-Leste.

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PRADET personnel during the case-receiving process.

An individual with a mental health issue or trauma can live a purposeful life in a community of their choosing and work toward realizing their full potential through a process of healing and transformation known as mental health recovery. The service that PRADET offers is provided by nearby counsellors with a strong background in psychosocial health, with a focus on managing stress, trauma, grief, sexual assault, domestic abuse, and mental illness. In addition to providing advocacy, child protection, counselling, and the advancement of children's rights, PRADET also works to strengthen clients' rights within the community.





Recognizing the value of PRADET for its work in Timor-Leste, HUMANIS Foundation provides seed funding to support PRADET in its efforts to develop and disseminate more widely important information, including psychological first aid and referral systems, as part of Hope, the organization that serves as a catalyst for recovery.

It is hoped that by disseminating information, particularly through digital platforms such as website, social media and communication platform, Timorese people will become more aware that mental health and trauma recovery not only benefit individuals with mental health disabilities by encouraging them to live, work, learn, and fully participate in Timorese society, but they also enrich the texture of community life.

Timor-Leste can thus benefit from the contributions of from mental illnesses and trauma survivors, eventually becoming a more robust and healthier nation. PRADET hopes that by strengthening the working relationships with all relevant partners, new initiatives will be launched, and there will be collective encouragement to develop additional preventive programs, better treatment for all clients, and better services for the Timorese people.



WE ARE LINKED AND LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER

The main goal of the Civil Society and Governance in Timor-Leste (CSG-TL) project is to strengthen the capacity and alliance of Timorese civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for citizens' rights more effectively.

Meanwhile, objectively verifiable indicators are carried out through a collective advocacy agenda related to human rights, which has been discussed and agreed upon on the linking and learning platform and is pushed to the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL).



Assessment and observation conducted by HUMANIS Foundation

One of the program activities carried out by the HUMANIS Foundation under the Civil Society and Governance Timor-Leste (CSGTL) project with the full support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Norwegian Embassy is the provision of grants through a seed funding mechanism.

Before deciding on the seed funding receiver partners, HUMANIS Foundation assessed and observed over 14 local organizations in Timor-Leste in early beginning of the 6th phase, i.e., (in alphabetical order):

- AHDMTL
- ALFela
- Alola Foundation
- AJAR
- Arcoiris
- Ba Futuro
- CASA VIDA
- FUNDEF
- Impreza Diak
- KDT-TL
- MHVF
- PRADET
- RHTO
- STVJ

With a mapping of the roughly fourteen newly established or smaller CSOs in Timor-Leste, the goal of the mapping is to identify target small organizations or community-based organizations as candidates for seed funding recipients. These CSOs serve marginalized populations, including youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ groups, and indigenous people, and they work in the field of human rights and social inclusion. As part of a CSO alliance, capacity building, knowledge and experience sharing, and collective advocacy will be explored through a needs assessment in addition to mapping each CSO's strengths and weaknesses.

The target newly established or community-based organizations that received seed funding were chosen based on the potential for the sustainability activities they carried out after receiving seed funding. These are consistent with the role of HUMANIS Foundation, which identified and analyzed the needs of these smaller organizations in order to further capacitate them. HUMANIS Foundation also plays a significant role in implementing the series of capacity-building activities. HUMANIS Foundation hopes that the smaller CSOs and the more experienced ones will come to a mutual agreement on creating and sustaining a linking and learning platform and approach for them to be effectively connected in capacity mentorship and advocacy alliances. It entails selecting communication channels, agreeing on regular meetings, regular mentorship, knowledge-sharing activities, and working methods, and identifying urgent advocacy agendas to be collectively pushed to the Government of Timor-Leste.

Finally, all of this can be realized on September 6–7, 2023, with the success of bringing together 14 organizations under the Coalition of Civil Society and Governance in Timor-Leste (CSG-TL), which represents marginalized groups such as people with disabilities, survivors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), youth, and people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), to hold a strategic meeting with the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Mr. Jose Ramos Horta, and also with the representative of the President of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste.



Representative of CSG-TL coalition during the meeting
with Mr President Jose Ramos Horta, the President
of Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

This two important meetings aimed to express a joint statement as a collective commitment to advancing inclusive development in Timor-Leste.

The call for the joint statement focuses on:

1. Equal distribution of economic opportunities;
2. Accessible, quality education for all;
3. Universal and affordable healthcare for all;
4. Environmental sustainability;
5. Diverse voices are heard and valued;
6. Make justice closer for marginalized and vulnerable groups;
7. Collaboration across sectors.



A photo session the representative of CSG-TL coalition with Mr President
Jose Ramos Horta

Following this crucial meeting at the President Palace, there was a noticeable sense of fresh air and optimism. President Jose Ramos Horta expressed support for the Joint Statement and demonstrated his willingness to address CSO concerns by requesting that each community representative present a detailed fact sheet and their recommendations, which would be assessed and analysed by the minister and other government stakeholders. The President also prioritizes services to survivors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the work program he leads.

The President also stated his intention to appoint at least three women to ministries, to ensure more inclusive initiatives by bringing in experts from the SOGIESC and people with disabilities communities, and, most importantly, to replicate the initiatives in outside of Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste, where so far those regions have not yet been accommodated.



Meeting with the representative National Parliament of Timor-Leste

The paper of the Coalition CSG-TL's joint statement was submitted to the parliament during the meeting, and the substance consists of:

1. To ensure that all ministries implement the Disability National Action Plan (DNAP) for 2021–2030;
2. To ensure the budget is sufficiently allocated for the implementation of DNAP 2021-2030 through the Secretary of the Estate of Gender Equality and Inclusion and the Ministry of Justice, establish the National Council of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in accordance with the DNAP 2021-2030;
3. To integrate the rights of people with disabilities into the new National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence;
4. To amend Decree-Law No. 19/2008 on Living Allowances for the Elderly and the Disabled by replacing the 'invalidity' as subject to represent people with disabilities;
5. To amend the Penal Code Law and the Law Against Domestic Violence (LADV);
6. To implement the witness protection law specifically for victims of SGBV;
7. To allocate the budget to MSSI to support the victim-survivors specifically for trauma healing for survivors from past conflict;
8. To provide decent jobs for youth in all sectors;
9. To ensure meaningful participation of youth in all sectors for inclusive development;
10. To create a law on the protection of the existence of LGBTIQ+ communities in Timor-Leste and the law to end the discrimination of rape and sexual abuse and to enjoy it on the road



A photo session of the representative of CSG-TL coalition
in front of the national parliament building

JOINT STATEMENT OF CSG-TL COALITION :

<https://humanis.foundation/joint-statement-for-inclusive-development-towards-prosperous-and-strong-timor-leste/>

A THANK YOU NOTE

HUMANIS Foundation appreciates all forms of cooperation and assistance provided by various parties during the sixth phase of the CSG-TL project so that the Strengthening Our Society through Inclusive Collaboration Towards a Prosperous and Strong Nation 2023 catalogue can be published.

HUMANIS Foundation and all partner organizations involved in this project would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the Norwegian Embassy for its assistance up to the end of the sixth phase of the CSG-TL project.

Civil Society and Governance in Timor-Leste Phase 6 December 2021 to December 2023

HUMANIS Foundation
Forum Komunikasaun Ba Feto Timor Loro Sa'e (FOKUPERS)
Instituto ba Analiza no Monitor Dezenvolvimento iha Timor-Leste
(La'o Hamutuk)
Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita (ACbit)
Judicial System Monitoring Program (JSMP)
All CSG-TL grant recipients from December 2021 to December 2023.

Thank you to all parties who took the time to be interviewed by us during the project's assessment, observation, monitoring, and coordination meeting processes.

We apologize profusely if there are still things in project implementation that are unacceptable due to our limitations.



CSG-TL implementation team

Project Manager GEDI : Ni Loh Gusti Madewanti

Project Officer CSG-TL : Olinda de Jesus Rodrigues da Silva

Project support : Cristovão Da Silva



Written and developed by:

humanis
igniting agency. inspiring change

With support from:



Norwegian Embassy
Jakarta

