

PROJECT BRIEF

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EU-GIZ ACSE ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



PACIFIC ISLANDS
FORUM SECRETARIAT



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Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste: Securing Clean Water for a Climate Resilient Future (SCWCRF) Project

Background

The Republic Democratic of Timor-Leste (RDTL) is comprised of one main land area that lies on the eastern half of Timor Island. Timor Island is situated on the southernmost edge of the Indonesian archipelago of Nusatenggara, northwest of Australia. The total area of Timor-Leste is 14,874 km² (5,742 sq. mi.). It has mountainous terrain with tropical climate of hot, semi-arid, rainy and dry seasons. The total population of Timor Leste in 2015 was approximately 1.2 million.

In Timor-Leste more than half of the total rural population (57.1%) are accessing spring water to fulfil their daily drinking water needs due to the lack of other clean and safe water sources. The National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) found that many communities in Timor-Leste are vulnerable to climate change impact. The adverse effects include higher air and sea temperatures, increased wet season rainfall, decreased dry season rainfall, increased frequency of extremely hot and rainy days, increased sea-level rise, and increased ocean acidification. Most of these changes have already negatively impacted the availability of clean water in the country. The NAPA has identified water security as one of the main priority sectors for immediate action.

The three-community (suco) water supply systems selected for the project are located on the coast in the northern lowlands, and in the northern slopes and northern highlands. Those three locations are under administration of Postu Vemasse, Municipiu Baucau. The communities are:

- Vemasse Tasi- population of 3,000 (650 households),

Project Summary

Location: Posto Adimistratoin of Vemasse, Timor-Leste

Objective: To assist national and local authorities, water management groups and water users in vulnerable communities in Timor-Leste to achieve sustainable access to clean water taking into account projected climate change impacts.

Implementing Agency: National Directorate for Climate Change

Budget: € 465,372

Duration: 2017—2019

- Sucos Ostiko - population 1,647 (313 households), and
- Uatulari - population 1,234 (276 households)

The three sites were selected based on a number of criteria's, including agro-climatic zone, poor water security, low yields from the natural aquifers, opportunity to maximise water availability through development of untapped natural springs, and potential to benefit schools and neighbouring communities.

Project Objective

The overall objective of the project is **to assist national and local authorities, water management groups and water users to achieve sustainable access to clean water** taking into account projected climate change impacts. The proposed solutions focuses on the enabling environment such as national and local legislation, and awareness-raising as well as repair, upgrade and construction of water supply infrastructure.

Current situation

Analysis has shown that low rainfall is one of the factors contributing to the low availability of water in these Sucos. In addition, the water bores drilled to access the natural aquifers have proven to yield a limited supply of water.

The lack of access to clean water was a common findings from participatory stakeholder consultations conducted. Access to clean water is predicted to deteriorate with projected climate change impacts. The consultations have also identified that the lack of access to clean water has resulted in increased incidence of diarrhoea, typhoid, cholera and skin diseases.

What Is EU-GIZ ACSE Doing?

The EU-GIZ ACSE programme helps the people of fifteen Pacific island countries address two common challenges: adapting to climate change and reducing their dependence on fossil fuels.

The project is supporting the Government of Timor-Leste to improve three community water supply systems, increase water conservation awareness, including financial and management skills, and improve capacity to mainstream climate change consideration to achieve water security for 3 local communities within the Vemasse Administration.

This project outcomes will be achieved through the following 4 complementary components:

Component 1. Improve access to clean water for 3 local communities in Vemasse administration

Repair of existing water supply systems, construct a new 40,000L water reservoir, install a rainwater harvesting system at the school in Vemassi Tasi and provision of a new water supply to the communities in Betulale subvillage.

In Ostico and Uatolari, two spring water intakes will be constructed along with a pumping system connected to four water storage tanks (35,000L).

The project will protect spring water sources in Ostico and Uatolari villages through vetiver grass and tree planting.

Component 2. Increased awareness of the importance of water conservation techniques in the face of projected longer dry seasons

Tailored interactive workshops combined with posters and brochures will promote water security as a means of adapting to climate change. Communities will be encouraged to identify pos-

sible solutions which will be documented in their Village Development Plans.

Component 3. Improved financial and management skills of local Water Management Committees (GMF – Grupu Maneja Facilidade)

The project will undertake training for the GMF to improve the capacity of the GMF members to manage water tariffs in a transparent and accountable manner. Technical training on the operation and maintenance of the water supply infrastructure will also be delivered.

Component 4. Increased knowledge and capacity to mainstream climate change considerations in efforts to achieve water security.

To promote learning and sharing, a Best Practice Handbook and Case Study Report will be developed, documenting how target households became more resilient and water secure by implementing climate change adaptation measures.

Organisational Context

The Ministry of Finance is leading the project, which is implemented by the National Directorate for Climate Change in close partnership with National Directorate for Water Supply and National Directorate for Water Resources Management.

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