



Partnership for Human Development

AUSTRALIA TIMOR-LESTE

SECOND SIX-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

January–June 2017

Publication

Partnership for Human Development
Second Six-Monthly Progress Report
January-June 2017

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Cover photo: Alola Foundation staff member leads a mobile library session at a school in Metinaro
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CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
INTRODUCTION	6
HEALTH	13
EDUCATION	20
WATER AND SANITATION	27
NUTRITION.....	32
SOCIAL PROTECTION.....	36
GENDER	40
DISABILITY.....	45
CONCLUSION	51

Table 1: <i>Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030</i> Priorities and Links to the SDGs.....	7
--	---

Table 2: PLMP Phases and Coverage, January to June 2017.....	22
--	----

Figure 1: Number of women registered with <i>Liga Inan</i>	15
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Figure 2: Number of RACS Graduates, disaggregated by sex.....	17
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Figure 3: Total PLMP concepts, participants and outputs as at 30 June 2017.....	22
---	----

Figure 4: Comparison of classroom observations between previous and current reporting periods.....	23
--	----

Figure 5: Grade 1 literacy improvements across municipalities over three to four testing cycles.....	24
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADTL	Asosiasaun Defisiensia Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Disability Association)
ATLASS II	Australia Timor-Leste Program of Assistance for Secondary Services Phase II
AUD	Australian Dollar
AVI	Australian Volunteers International
CBM-Health	Community-Based Monitoring Model for Health
CBR	Community-Based Rehabilitation
CHC	Community Health Centre
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CVTL	Cruz Vermelha Timor-Leste
DNSA	National Directorate of Water Services
DPO	Disabled People's Organisation
EGMA	Early Grade Mathematics Assessment
EGRA	Early Grade Reading Assessment
Embassy	The Australian Embassy in Timor-Leste
EMBLI	Edukasaun Multilinge Bazeia ba Lian Inan (mother-tongue multilingual education program)
EMIS	Education Management Information System
ENBC	Essential Newborn Care
FPA	Fasilitador Posto Administrasaun (Administrative Post Facilitators)
GMF	Groupu Maneia Facilidade (Water Management Group)
HAI	Health Alliance International
H.E.	His Excellency
HILC	High Impact, Low Cost
IAG	Independent Advisory Group
ICFP	Instituto Católico para a Formação de Professores (Baucau Teachers' College)
ILO	International Labour Organization
INFORDEPE	National Institute for the Training of Teachers and Education Professionals
INS	Institute Nacional de Saude (National Health Institute)
KONSSANTIL	National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition in Timor-Leste
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MELF	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework
mHealth	Mobile health
MPWTC	Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications
MSTL	Marie Stopes Timor-Leste
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
ODF	Open Defecation Free

PFM	Public Financial Management
PHD	Australia Timor-Leste Partnership for Human Development
PLMP	Professional Learning and Mentoring Program
PNDS	Programa Nasional Dezenvolvimentu Suku (National Program for Village Development)
PRADET	Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor
RACS	The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
RHTO	Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan
SCDC	Safe and Clean Delivery Care
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SMASA	Municipal Water, Sanitation and Environmental Services
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
TAF	The Asia Foundation
TLHIS	Timor-Leste Health Information System
TSH	Technical Support Hub
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNTL	Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australia Timor-Leste Partnership for Human Development (PHD) works to advance human development for the people of Timor-Leste. PHD has made considerable gains through strengthening partnerships and increasing collaboration with the Government of Timor-Leste during this reporting period (January to June 2017). The 10-year initiative is designed to bring together what were individual investments in health, education, water and sanitation, nutrition, social protection, gender, and disability, under a single program to achieve greater development impacts.

PHD has strengthened partnerships with Government, at both the national and municipal level, and continued to support improved service delivery to better support and reach Timorese people.

Work in the health sector is focusing on assisting the Ministry of Health to better connect to health service seekers. PHD worked to improve maternal and child health by connecting midwives with pregnant women through the *Liga Inan* program. The program continues to prove its effectiveness in supporting women to improve their health seeking behaviour. *Liga Inan* expanded to Baucau, taking the program into eight municipalities and providing greater coverage so that pregnant women can access valuable messaging about the importance of delivering their baby with a skilled birth attendant. Greater coverage ensures that more women are supported through their pregnancy and have access to a skilled birth attendant at the time of delivery. Over 20,000 women are now registered with the program. PHD is working with the Ministry of Health to expand specialist medical skills. Twenty-nine junior doctors are completing postgraduate studies in specialised areas and 117 midwives are receiving on-the-job clinical training across four municipalities contributing to strengthened health care capacity. Additionally, women and men are more empowered to make decisions together about the size and composition of their family, including timing of pregnancies, as a result of having received information, counselling and family planning services, which have reached over 13,000 women and men. Dispatch of ambulance services to attend to emergency care has increased as a result of the improvements in call centre response rate from 15 percent in 2012 to over 90 percent in 2017.

In education, the Professional Learning and Mentoring Program (PLMP) continues to successfully support the Ministry of Education, with the program scaling up into an additional 85 schools in Baucau, Viqueque, and Bobonaro, reaching a total of 233 schools across Timor-Leste. The program's focus on classroom observations and mentoring support to school leaders and teachers has resulted in positive improvements in teaching practice, which aim to improve student learning outcomes. A notable increase in teachers' attendance has been reported through classroom observations. Education continues to be made more accessible in rural areas through the mother-tongue multilingual education program, currently being piloted in three municipalities (Lautem, Manatuto and Oecusse), and enabling children to gain early education through their local language. This is demonstrating benefits for children in subsequent years of learning. The mobile library has visited 10 schools and communities in Liquica and Manatuto to share story reading with children and parents, as well as key cross-sectoral messaging.

The ODF initiative was newly rolled-out under strong municipal leadership in Aileu, Ainaro, and Liquica, helping local governments drive community action to end open defecation. Working closely with the Bobonaro Municipal Administration, the design for the model for Hygienic Suco is underway. As part of this model, behaviour change approaches will gradually shift people's behaviour towards more frequent handwashing with soap. This work will advance Bobonaro from ODF to Hygienic status. In closely connected work, community-level Water Management Groups (*Groupu Maneja Facilidades* – GMFs) are looking at ways of improving management of rural water systems, including being trained in financial management.

Registration for new beneficiaries of the *Bolsa da Mãe* conditional cash transfer scheme re-opened in April 2017 after five years. This has allowed poor beneficiaries to access essential funding to support their families. Training was provided to over 90 Ministry of Social Solidarity and disability organisation staff on the *Bolsa da Mãe* program to facilitate the registration process.

To promote the status of women in Timor-Leste, and to recognise the important role they play in contributing to the development of the nation, a short film competition on rural women was inaugurated in March 2017. The three-part miniseries, *Domin Nakloke*, which presents themes that tackle gender-based violence, and aim to ignite discussion among young people around respectful relationships and gender equality, completed filming in late-June 2017. The miniseries will be launched in early July 2017.

The first Timorese sign language course for the hearing was successfully delivered. Additional female disability field officers from RHTO were recruited so that each municipality now has one male and one female officer working to ensure that people living with a disability are more included in both service delivery and policy development processes. Inclusion of women and people living with a disability was mainstreamed across the entire PHD program.

The President's Nutrition Program presented the 2017 Nutrition Leadership Award and Healthy Families Nutrition Award in April 2017 to Suku Bahamori and Grupu Hafuco, for promoting best nutrition practices, addressing malnutrition and food insecurity, and helping to raise nutrition as an issue of focus to a national level.

More broadly across PHD, many activities were implemented at the municipal level, with government representatives and implementing partners working directly with communities. This approach aligns with the government's decentralisation strategy. PHD is focusing in Bobonaro to investigate better ways for cross-sectoral collaboration. Geographic positioning has been integral to understanding how a program with multiple sectors can make an impact through strong engagement and collaboration with local authorities, partners and communities.

These key successes would not have been possible without a more direct relationship with the Government of Timor-Leste. In March 2017 the program was officially launched by the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, H.E. Dr Rui Maria de Araújo, and the Australian Ambassador, H.E. Mr Peter Doyle. This marked a turning point for PHD in terms of government engagement. At the same time, PHD supported the Australian Embassy to showcase the range of Australian development support to Timor-Leste through a public exhibition. The launch and showcase has strengthened ties with government counterparts and sharply increased the program's visibility. While the program has strengthened its relationship with key government stakeholders, there has been a level of uncertainty in sustainability and strategic direction due to the Parliamentary election, scheduled for 22 July 2017. Some sectoral activities are championed by government representatives, who may shift position or no longer be in office following the election.

As PHD marks a year since its inception in July 2016, the program is at a point where stakeholder engagement is strong, and sectoral activities are being implemented at the national and municipal levels, underpinned by robust systems and processes. PHD has implemented 100 percent of its program budget, delivered in every sector, begun to explore cross-sectoral opportunities and approaches, identified innovative solutions to address complex multi-sectoral development challenges, and commenced new programming in the water and sanitation sectors.

Looking forward, PHD will continue to deepen its approach to working cross-sectorally at the municipal level, and identify opportunities for cross-sectoral discussions that will, in the end, impact key priorities for human development in Timor-Leste. The program will, in the next six months, finalise the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF), which will provide greater focus, direction, and rigour to program delivery, enabling the program to demonstrate more effectively the impacts it is making on the lives of Timorese people.



Image 1: Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, H.E. Dr Rui Maria de Araújo, delivers the keynote address during the official launch of the PHD program in March 2017.



INTRODUCTION

Second Six-Monthly Progress Report

This document provides an overview of the work done by PHD over the past six months, from January to June 2017. It provides an account of the achievements made in each of the eight sectors, highlighting the work undertaken by our implementing partners, and demonstrating the way in which PHD is working in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste to enhance human development impacts for the Timorese people.

About the Partnership for Human Development

PHD is a 10 year program funded by the Australian Government with the goal to:

Support the people and Government of Timor-Leste to build and sustain healthy, educated, and prosperous individuals and communities that live with dignity and determine their own future.

The program focuses on improving the capacity of Timorese people to reach their potential, by supporting the Government of Timor-Leste's work across the areas of health, education, water, sanitation, social protection, gender, disability, and nutrition.

PHD reflects Australia's commitment to working in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste to enhance human development for the Timorese people over the next five to 10 years. This investment (AUD 120 million over the first phase, July 2016 to May 2021) is helping the government to implement key elements of its *Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030* and achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) priorities. PHD works towards Strategic Objective 2: Enhancing Human Development of Australia's *Aid Investment Plan: Timor-Leste*.



Image 2: A Marie Stopes Timor-Leste staff member tests the blood pressure of a woman at the Australian development cooperation showcase in March.

Table 1 shows the Government of Timor-Leste's strategic priorities that PHD is supporting and matches them with the SDGs that the government is aiming to achieve.

Table 1: *Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030* Priorities and Links to the SDGs.

PHD Sector (Annual Plan 2017)	Timor-Leste Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030	Sustainable Development Goals
Health Support improved quality healthcare for mothers and infants	High quality health services accessible to all Timorese people.	SDG 3 – Good health and wellbeing SDG 5 – Gender equality SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities
Education Support improved literacy and numeracy for all children	Basic education is universal, mandatory, and free for all children in Timor-Leste.	SDG 4 – Quality education SDG 5 – Gender equality SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities
Water and Sanitation Ensure sustainable access to safe rural water Improve household toilets	Access to clean, safe, reliable, and improved sanitation facilities.	SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation SDG 5 – Gender equality SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities
Nutrition Improve nutrition for all	Target malnutrition and stunting through improving nutritional status.	SDG 2 – Zero hunger SDG 5 – Gender equality SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities
Social Protection Advise on safeguards for the poor and vulnerable	Support the most poor and vulnerable people, and protect the rights and interests of the most vulnerable.	SDG 1 – No poverty SDG 5 – Gender equality SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions
Gender Support the empowerment of women and girls	Access for all and gender equality.	SDG 5 – Gender equality SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities
Disability Support the inclusion of people living with a disability	Access for all.	SDG 5 – Gender equality SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities

PHD offers a unique platform to assist the Government of Timor-Leste to attain its target SDGs. The SDGs highlight the need for approaches that work across sectors, rather than through sector-based lenses. PHD has the potential to collaborate across all human development sectors to better drive development outcomes. In this way, PHD is able to provide innovative solutions to address complex development problems.

The rationale for consolidating what were previously standalone sector investments under one program is to maximise the impact, efficiency, and effectiveness of these investments in Timor-Leste. This approach recognises that development problems, such as malnutrition and poor sanitation, or improving outcomes for people, such as those related to MCH, require effort and dedicated focus from multiple sectors to achieve an impact of positive change.

By coalescing individual human development sectors together, and encouraging cross-sectoral collaboration, PHD is aiming to resolve complex development problems that would otherwise require greater effort from multiple donors or would remain unresolved due to sectoral siloes. For example, the WASH, Education and Health Teams have been working together to address water and sanitation issues faced in schools and community health facilities. This in turn will impact on health and education outcomes for communities. By working collaboratively, the benefits are greater and impacts achieved more sustainable.

In the past six months, the collaboration between the Governments of Australia and Timor-Leste has been focused not only at the national level, but also at the municipal level, with joint discussions being held with relevant municipal-level government representatives. PHD is exploring a cross-sectoral approach to address service delivery challenges at the municipal level in Bobonaro. These efforts have progressed well, partly as

a result of more decision-making authority recently decentralised to the municipal level. PHD has been able to work effectively with Bobonaro Municipality and offer expert advice and guidance in water management and improved sanitation.

PHD aims to build on both its national and municipal level government relationships to strengthen partnerships, and in turn better support the Government of Timor-Leste to attain its SDGs.

Progress towards Objectives

Over the past six months, PHD made considerable gains in supporting the Government of Timor-Leste to progress towards achieving agreed outcomes. These are in line with PHD's Annual Plan 2017.

PHD's Key Achievements for the Period January to June 2017

- *Liga Inan* continued to expand, commencing program implementation in Baucau, and registering an additional 6,424 women, bringing the total of women now registered to over 20,000. This work is contributing to improving the quality of healthcare services available to women in Timor-Leste and encouraging their uptake.
- Continued to support improvements in the health workforce by supporting the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) to upskill doctors in specialised areas, as well as Health Alliance International (HAI) to provide on-the-job training to midwives through Learning Laboratories. In total, 29 doctors (55 percent female) graduated with Postgraduate Diplomas and 117 midwives completed Learning Laboratories.
- In total, 13,376 people used family planning services, indicating increasing demand for maternal and child health (MCH) services.
- PLMP expanded into an additional three municipalities in Baucau, Viqueque and Bobonaro, reaching another 85 schools. This takes the total number of schools implementing the program to 233. The program is focused on child-centred learning, and is contributing to improved teaching practices through mentoring and capacity building of school leaders to improve leadership and literacy and numeracy levels.
- Preliminary findings of the Early Grade Reading Assessments (EGRA) and Early Grade Mathematics Assessments (EGMA) conducted by the World Bank, suggest that a combination of support to curriculum delivery, improving teaching practice and leadership skills, and delivering early education in the child's native language contributes to greater improvements in literacy and numeracy outcomes in early grades.¹
- The ODF initiative commenced implementation in Aileu, Ainaro and Liquica. Strong engagement with government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to generate leadership from local authorities has been critical to driving community action to end open defecation. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Team commenced work to design a model for Hygienic Suco that will be implemented in Bobonaro. If successful, it will be handed over to the government for roll-out to other ODF communities.
- The Nutrition Leadership Award 2017 was presented to Suku Bahamori (Venilale, Baucau), and the Healthy Families Nutrition Award was presented to *Grupu Hafuco* (Suku Triloca, Baucau). The President's Nutrition Program Awards aim to recognise the achievements of communities in promoting improved nutrition and nutrition best practice.
- PHD supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity to open the registration process for *Bolsa da Mãe*, which had been closed for five years.
- *Ba Futuru* completed filming their television miniseries, *Domin Nakloke*, which will be launched in early July 2017. The series aims to influence behaviour change of young women and men in Timor-Leste to understand the importance of respectful relationships and to value gender equality.
- PHD has successfully mainstreamed disability through its programming. Each sector has worked closely with the Disability Team and received technical support from CBM Australia to ensure activities are disability-inclusive.
- Prime Minister, H.E. Dr Rui Maria de Araújo, and Australian Ambassador, H.E. Mr Peter Doyle, officially launched the program in March 2017. Over 200 invited guests attended the launch, with wide coverage in the media which increased the profile and visibility of the program.

¹ The results have not yet been fully disaggregated. However, changes in the way education is being delivered is driving improved literacy outcomes for students, indicating that good programming is driving better education outcomes for Timor-Leste.

PHD is investigating approaches to ensure better cross-sectoral collaboration. By working in a selected geographical location, the program is identifying linkages in programming whereby contributions from one sector may contribute to progressing sectoral outcomes of other sectors, increasing overall development impacts. PHD is focusing on Bobonaro as a number of existing programs are already in implementation in this location. By focusing geographically, PHD is working to strengthen partnerships at the municipal government level, taking into account the Government's decentralisation strategy.

PHD will look to establish criteria for future selection of focus municipalities in consultation with the Government of Timor-Leste. This will help guide the choice of the next municipalities where the program will work with government to achieve more cross-sectoral impacts.

There are indications that Timor-Leste has begun to make some key inroads to improve human development outcomes for its people. The decrease in the overall birth rate per woman in Timor-Leste demonstrates that the Government is successfully working to extend its health service provision. With this decrease, it is more likely that service delivery improvements, and general improvements to people's lives through increased income generation, can be more steadily achieved.

Innovation in PHD

Innovation lies at the core of PHD. The program sectors were brought together to explore the ways that a cross-sectoral approach could positively impact on some of the complex human development challenges. The WASH, Education and Health Teams have started to explore a cross-sectoral approach to program implementation in Bobonaro Municipality.

PHD also works with an innovation partner and program associate, Catalpa International, to mainstream innovative and technological solutions to achieve better development impacts. PHD is using behaviour change approaches in a number of activities to ensure efforts are geared towards targeted individuals and are easier for people to adopt.

Catalpa is working to establish a mechanism to modernise PHD's portfolio management, and standardise the way in which implementing partners report on activities and results. Through the Openly information management platform, PHD will be able to demonstrate its impact on the lives of Timorese people and show value for money from Australian Government investments. This platform will be based on PHD's robust and flexible MELF, which will be finalised in the next reporting period.



Image 3: A member of the public exploring a 360 degree video of a rural health clinic in Timor-Leste. The *Liga Inan* produced video portrays what a midwife sees in her clinic and explains the benefits of the program. The 360 degree video experience was made available to the public at the Health booth at the Australian development cooperation showcase following the official launch of the PHD program in March 2017.

Catalpa works closely with PHD's sector teams to establish innovative solutions to support work with government counterparts. These solutions will be transferrable to government for their use. For example, the Health Team established an Innovation Technologies working group with the Ministry of Health. This working group proposed a new hotline and issue tracking service to enable communities and health providers to submit a range of complaints concerning the quality of services provided at health facilities directly to the Ministry for consideration and action. Over the next six months, this initiative will be piloted in two locations and will track the quality and provision of services. Supporting the delivery of quality essential services and feedback mechanisms at the community level are key strategic goals of the program.

On behalf of PHD, Catalpa has also negotiated a public-private partnership for the education sector with a national mobile carrier to enable 3G data access for Ministry of Education users at a fixed cost. In coming months Catalpa plans to expand the use of this technology by focusing on improving teacher subject-matter knowledge through interactive training content and other institutional strengthening interventions.

Program Visibility and Profile

In March 2017, a key milestone was delivered – the program was officially launched by Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, H.E. Dr Rui Maria de Araújo, and Australian Ambassador, H.E. Mr Peter Doyle. The launch was a turning point for stakeholder engagement marking the beginning of PHD's formal relationship with the Government of Timor-Leste. Attended by more than 200 key stakeholders, including government counterparts, implementing partners, and the diplomatic community, the event led to positive publicity through social media and wide press coverage.

The launch was followed by a successful showcase of Australia's development cooperation in Timor-Leste, which attracted an estimated crowd of 10,000 people over two days (8 and 11 March 2017). The crowd was invited to express their vision for the future development of Timor-Leste on the 'Dream Wall'. Thousands of dreams were collected at the end of the two days.



Image 4: Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Minister Dr Rui Maria de Araújo, meets the PHD Water Team at the Australian development cooperation showcase following the official launch of the PHD program in March 2017.

In the lead-up to the event, a video was developed presenting PHD's sectoral objectives for the next five to 10 years. The Annual Plan 2017 was also finalised and endorsed by the Government prior to the launch.

PHD is communicating its work and achievements through a range of channels, including social media, website, video and print. Efforts in the communication space have helped raise the program's profile across the country, and supported increased collaboration with, and support to, government counterparts and

communities. Where existing relationships were already in place from previous investments, PHD has built on these to strengthen partnerships and networks to support ongoing programming. The Communications Team supported major campaigns linked to PHD's sectoral priorities, advocating messages on social media. Further, government events for World Day of Social Justice, International Women's Day, World Water Day, World Health Day, International Day of the Midwife, and Menstrual Hygiene Day were also supported.

The following sections of the report outline program achievements across PHD, looking at both 'in-sector' results and also areas where sectors are working together to solve complex problems.



Image 5: Sonia Soares da Cruz, registered with the Liga Inan program, received mobile phone messages through the program during her antenatal care and post-natal care periods, including targeted messages on breastfeeding practices to help her child grows healthy. The midwife further provided support and advice during Breastfeeding Week.

HEALTH

2016-2017 Budget: AUD 7,575,000

Sector Goal: Improve delivery and access to health services for the people of Timor-Leste, and promote better health, sanitation, and hygienic behaviours, so they adopt these practices.

Focus: Supporting the delivery of health care services, with a focus on MCH at the primary health care level, including inclusive service delivery; strengthening the health workforce; targeted support for health systems (including PFM, warehousing).

Government Counterparts:

- Ministry of Health (MoH)
- *Instituto Nacional Saúde* (INS)
- National Hospital of Guido Valadares (HNGV)
- *Universidade Nacional de Timor Lorosa'e* (UNTL)
- Ministry of Education (MoE)

Partners:

- Catalpa International
- CBM Australia
- *Cruz Vermelha Timor-Leste* (CVTL)
- Health Alliance International (HAI)
- Marie Stopes Timor-Leste (MSTL)
- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)

Where we work:	Dili and GoTL	Baucau	Manatuto	Ermera	Liquica	Manufahi	Covalima	Lautem	Oecusse	Bobonaro	Aileu	Ainaro	Viqueque
MSTL – family planning and SRH	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
HAI, Catalpa, MoH – <i>Liga Inan</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Ambulance and Transport Project, CVTL	✓												
RACS – ATLASS II	✓												
INS Support	✓												
HAI – Learning Laboratory	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
HMIS, M&E support	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		
PFM	✓												

Key Achievements

- *Liga Inan* expanded to Baucau, taking the program to a total of eight municipalities, and registering an additional 6,424 women to bring the total registered to over 20,000.
- 13,376 people used family planning services. It is estimated that over a one-year period 19,000 couples across 11 municipalities were able to better plan their families due to the use of contraceptive methods. The program is on track to reach 38,000 couples by the end of 2017.
- In May 2017, 29 doctors (16 female, 13 male) graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma and will soon be working in health facilities, including municipal community health centres (CHCs). By the end of 2018, 45-55 students will have graduated, increasing the number of skilled doctors.

- 117 midwives attended Learning Laboratories to receive on-the-job training and improve competency at CHCs across four municipalities (Ermera, Manatuto, Baucau, and Bobonaro). In conjunction, mHealth support to midwives was extended.
- The ambulance call centre response rate was greater than 90 percent (compared to only 15 percent in 2012), which has resulted in increased ambulance dispatch, better responsiveness, and improved emergency care being provided.
- 90 percent of life-threatening critical cases, and 40 percent of routine cases, were attended to by the ambulance service, with 58 percent of all cases women.
- CBM-Health, a community-based model for monitoring health service delivery, was initiated in Purugua, a village in Kailaku, Bobonaro, to support community engagement and participation by improving the understanding and demand for healthcare services.
- The Ministry of Health was supported to develop its SDG-related health indicators for the TLHIS, to facilitate better quality data collection for evidence-based policy development and decision-making.

PHD is helping the Government of Timor-Leste to improve the quality of, and access to, health care for its citizens. As one of its immediate commitments, the government is working towards achieving SDG 3 for good health and wellbeing for all Timorese people, during the first phase of its *Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030*.

In April, the Health Team coordinated a strategic briefing for the senior team at the Ministry of Health to provide an overview of the health, sanitation, water and nutrition activities. There was discussion about the focus and work of the teams, and agreement was reached to have regular meetings to connect PHD's work with the Government of Timor-Leste's priorities and ensure program alignment.



The main areas of focus for PHD's work in the health sector are:

1. Supporting the delivery of health care services, with a focus on MCH at the primary health care level, including inclusive service delivery.
2. Strengthening the health workforce.
3. Targeted support for health systems (including PFM and warehousing).

Progress has been made during this period to strengthen MCH and SRH services, resulting in increased uptake of those services. There is shared commitment to achieving the development outcomes outlined in the *National Health Sector Strategic Plan (2011-2030)*.

Supporting the Delivery of Healthcare Services, with a Focus on MCH at the Primary Health Care Level

Family Planning and Sexual Reproductive Health

The birth rate in Timor-Leste has dropped from 5.7 in 2009/2010 to 4.2 over the past five years.² A contributing factor driving this change is likely to be the availability of comprehensive family planning services provided by MSTL, now in 11 municipalities³, working in close collaboration with municipal health services.

MSTL provides quality, comprehensive, and non-judgmental SRH services, such as family planning, to women and men in Timor-Leste, allowing them to make informed decisions about the timing and composition of their families. These services have protected over 19,000 couples from unplanned pregnancies as a result of using contraceptive methods. MSTL is on track to reach 38,000 couples by the end of 2017. SRH services provided by MSTL are inclusive and equitable to all who require and receive services, including people living with a disability.

During this reporting period, MSTL provided SRH education to the disabled people's organisation, RHTO, which in turn is sensitising MSTL staff on basic disability inclusion. On average, MSTL is reaching more than 20,000 people annually, to provide family planning and SRH services.

² Timor-Leste Demographic Health Survey 2015.

³ MSTL operates in 11 municipalities: Ainaro, Aileu, Bobonaro, Baucau, Dili, Ermera, Lautem, Liquica, Manufahi, Oecusse, and Viqueque.

Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health

Liga Inan continues to prove its effectiveness in influencing women's health seeking behaviour. Research has shown that a *Liga Inan* mother is twice as likely to deliver with a skilled birth attendant and five times more likely to take her child for a post-partum check-up. The program is implemented by HAI and Catalpa, working closely with the Ministry of Health.

During this reporting period, 6,424 women were registered in the program, bringing the total number of women now registered to over 20,000. Through *Liga Inan*, trusting relationships are established between pregnant women and health service providers, particularly midwives, through regular mobile communication. This has resulted in positive changes in women's behaviour to seek health care for themselves and their family, especially during pregnancy, delivery, and the postnatal period.

Liga Inan began operating in Baucau in June 2017, taking the total number of municipalities now implementing the program to eight. The Ministry of Health has taken on management of the program in three municipalities (Aileu, Liquica, and Manufahi). PHD is supporting the Government of Timor-Leste to take on the responsibility of covering the program's recurring costs (such as mobile phone credit and SMS costs, and phone repair and replacement).

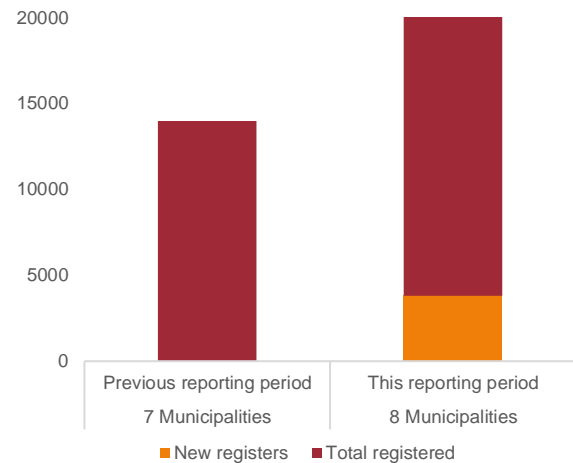


Figure 1: Number of women registered with *Liga Inan*.

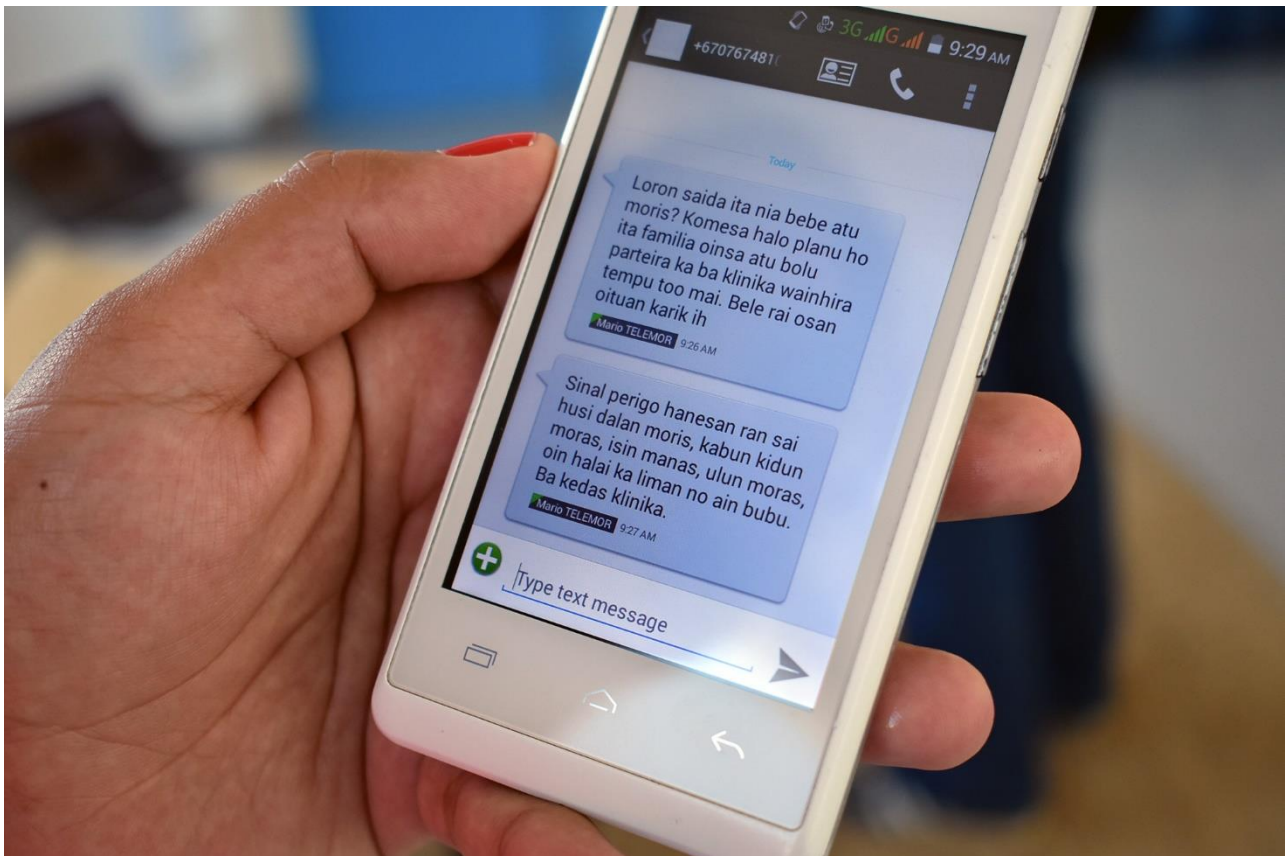


Image 6: Text message on health care received by a pregnant woman registered through the *Liga Inan* program.

Strengthening the Health Workforce

Midwifery Learning Laboratories

HAI and INS are working together to support health workforce strengthening, by delivering Learning Laboratory cycles. These Learning Laboratories continue to provide Ministry of Health service providers at

CHCs with appropriate training to upskill and maintain their competencies in Safe and Clean Delivery Care (SCDC) and Essential Newborn Care (ENBC).

A total of 117 midwives participated in Learning Laboratories in Ermera, Baucau, Bobonaro, and Manatuto during this reporting period.

Learning Laboratories for SCDC and ENBC were initiated in Baucau in December 2016, and Learning Laboratories for SCDC commenced in Bobonaro in May 2017. This one-year on-the-job monthly training program, held at CHCs, has successfully built the competence and confidence of midwives.

To demonstrate the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of competencies gained through the Learning Laboratory cycles, the HAI clinical team conducted a post-Learning Laboratory follow-up (12 months after the Learning Laboratory was completed) in Liquica and Aileu. The purpose of the follow-up was to assess the competency of midwives who completed the Learning Laboratory cycles in SCDC (21 midwives) and in ENBC (12 midwives), a year or more prior to the follow-up.

The results were very encouraging and demonstrated that all of the midwives had maintained their competence or proficiency levels. When compared to results of a post-Learning Laboratory assessment conducted a year before on midwives who had just completed their Learning Laboratory cycle, there was a slight decrease in competency levels. This emphasises the importance of continuous supportive supervision every six to 12 months to refresh and maintain knowledge and experience in SCDC and ENBC. HAI is advocating with INS to integrate regular refresher training for all service providers that undertake Learning Laboratory cycles into their work plan.



Image 7: HAI conducts a Learning Lab with midwives at Metinaro CHC.

Midwifery Coaching

Ministry of Health midwives in Ainaro received SRH coaching to increase their knowledge and skills in areas such as long-term family planning methods through a one-year capacity building pilot project conducted by MSTL. The pilot project has been operational since 2015. MSTL will continue to implement this pilot project, and will closely monitor the challenges and results. A formal review will be conducted in September 2017 to determine the most effective way forward.

In an evaluation of the pilot project, midwives expressed that the coaching received was useful, important, and needed. This was further echoed by MSTL and other stakeholders, who indicated that the capacity building project was both desired and required by Ministry of Health midwives.

MSTL is looking at a new mode of implementation for future coaching projects to increase the direct impacts on the community from this support.

Postgraduate Medical Training

RACS is delivering the Australia Timor-Leste Program of Assistance for Secondary Services Phase II (ATLASS II), with the aim of developing the national medical workforce, and developing the capacity within the national hospital, to enable it to become a teaching hospital. This program produces a cadre of skilled doctors with clinical skills in family medicine, anaesthesia, paediatrics, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology, emergency, and internal medicine.

ATLASS II continued to deliver postgraduate training, which resulted in 29 Timorese doctors (55 percent female) graduating with specialised skills. Figure 2 illustrates the number of graduates in each course.

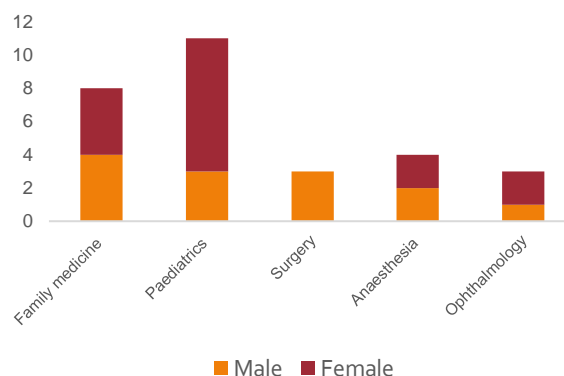


Figure 2: Number of RACS Graduates, disaggregated by sex.

These doctors are being posted to health facilities throughout Timor-Leste, and will make a significant contribution to the pool of appropriately trained medical personnel available to service the rural population. The target by June 2018 is to have 45 to 55 students complete their postgraduate studies in surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, emergency medicine, family medicine and/or internal medicine, demonstrating the competencies required to provide appropriate clinical services to work at CHCs and municipal referral hospitals.

The recent graduates bring the total number of Timorese doctors with these specialised qualifications to 38.

Targeted Support for Health Systems

Service Delivery through the Emergency Transportation and Ambulance Maintenance

The Ambulance and Transport Project continued to deliver results in the provision of emergency transportation, and delivery of patients from municipality centres to primary health care facilities. The call centre response rate was greater than 90 percent (compared to only 15 percent in 2012), which has resulted in increased ambulance dispatch, better responsiveness, and improved emergency care being provided. During this reporting period, 90 percent of life-threatening critical cases, and 40 percent of routine cases, were attended to by the ambulance service, with 58 percent of all cases women.

The number of obstetric-related transferrals, compared to the total number of transferrals, continues to fall.⁴ This shift reflects the increased use of the ambulance service overall, increased district referrals, and improved primary care with regard to referring medical complications (i.e. cardiac, stroke, and respiratory cases) for further management. System improvements to support better case management are in process, including case tracking, which records a detailed history for each case attended to.

In the next reporting period the project will focus on ensuring that people living with a disability can be identified within the system, enabling the response rate for these cases to be reported on.

A functioning ambulance maintenance system underpins the project, with maintenance services being delivered through the two central workshops in Dili (Comoro and Kaikoli); the seven ambulance station posts throughout Timor-Leste; or mobile mechanics, which service all 13 municipalities. During this reporting period a total of 297 maintenance activities were completed in-house. By avoiding outsourcing of maintenance activities, the Ministry of Health reduced the cost of fleet maintenance by one-third.

Despite the great achievements of the project, the ongoing increasing demand of ambulance services raises concerns about the age and condition of the ambulance fleet. It is likely that vehicle availability will decline significantly within the next one to two years, which would greatly impact on the functionality of ambulance

⁴ This does not imply that there is an overall reduction in the number of obstetric patients being attended to. Estimated ambulance patients transported 2016 overall: 15,859 of this 5,233 were obstetric patients. In the first six months of 2017 ambulance patients transported were: 8,722, of this 2,703 were obstetric patients.

services if urgent action is not taken to replace the old and damaged ambulance and multifunction vehicles. Thirty vehicles are due for replacement, however budget is yet to be identified. If these vehicles are not replaced it is unlikely present services can be maintained, and the impact on primary health care would be considerable.



Image 8: Ambulance Service vehicles are repaired and maintained under the Transport and Ambulance Project.

Warehousing and Supply Chain Management

Improved warehouse management and organisation of non-medical equipment and furniture at the Ministry of Health's warehouse in Bebora is due in part to the support PHD has provided through technical training in warehouse management and organisation of warehouse stock, even though this has been relatively limited. Fifteen Ministry of Health warehouse and logistics staff (including four from the municipalities) were also trained in first aid and occupational health and safety.

The PHD supply chain management team continued to work closely with the Bebora warehouse staff to provide streamlined support in the areas of registry and management of warehouse equipment, including establishment of a simple database system.

Public Financial Management

PHD provided ongoing advice and guidance to the Ministry of Health in contextualising program-based budgeting into the Ministry's PFM system. Additionally, assistance was provided to improve existing processes, particularly around tools for planning and executing a quality budget.

In supporting the Ministry of Health to strengthen financial management systems, PHD provided technical advice in budget planning (development of a detailed implementation plan), budget execution processes, and financial reporting.

As directed by the Office of the Prime Minister, support was provided for the implementation of program-based budgeting reform. The health sector budget analysis was presented to health development partners and the Australian Government's Governance for Development program supported the development of the Government of Timor-Leste's budget and planning templates for the 2018 budgeting cycle.

PHD will continue to support improvement of the Ministry of Health's financial management systems and processes to increase understanding of, and streamline, the budget reporting process for 2017, and to prepare for the 2018 budget planning process. PHD will also continue to support the implementation of

program-based budgeting within the health sector to ensure needs-based allocation of the health sector budget.

Health Management Information System, and Monitoring and Evaluation Strategic Plan

To support better data management for evidence-based decision-making and policy reform and/or development, PHD has been working closely with the Ministry of Health's Department of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Department of Health Management Information System (HMIS) to effectively implement the Ministry of Health's HMIS and M&E Strategic Plan. PHD is also supporting the development, roll-out, and implementation of the TLHIS. The combined effort has resulted in the government's health data reporting rate increasing to 90 percent (from 40 percent in 2016) in seven municipalities.

During this reporting period, PHD continued to provide advisory support to the Heads of the Departments of M&E and HMIS, undertook training and capacity building for Ministry of Health staff, and developed relevant materials and tools. A one-day workshop was conducted by the Ministry of Health, in partnership with PHD and the World Health Organization to sensitise ministry staff on the importance of the SDGs and initiate a review process to identify relevant SDG indicators for the health sector. These will be incorporated into the HMIS (Ministry of Health's routine data collection system) once complete. Further discussion will occur in the next reporting period to finalise the relevant indicators for the Ministry of Health's approval and incorporation into the Ministry's national key indicators.

Community-Based Monitoring Pilot

In an effort to improve the demand for healthcare services, and in particular to reach around 30 percent of the Timorese population who are yet to access essential healthcare services, the Ministry of Health has initiated a CBM-Health model in two villages, Caissido (Baucau) and Purugua (Bobonaro). PHD has been instrumental in providing continuous technical support to develop relevant materials and tools; sensitise the Municipal Administrator and Health Director to CBM-Health; support the selection of villages; conduct health post facility readiness assessments; and conduct an initial focus group discussion with healthcare providers and with communities.



Image 9: PHD's Principal M&E Adviser, Dr Murali Krishna, hands out survey forms to Purugua village members as part of a community-based monitoring pilot for health.

EDUCATION

2016-2017 Budget: AUD 3,143,611

Sector Goal: Improve basic education for all Timorese children in grades 1 to 6 to develop better literacy and numeracy skills, including girls and children with a disability.

Focus: Support the distribution and teaching of the new National Curriculum by promoting participatory pedagogy and school leadership. The focus is on children in grades 1 to 6.

Government Counterparts:

- Ministry of Education (MoE)
- National Institute for the Training of Teachers and Education Professionals (INFORDEPE)

Partners:

- Alola Foundation
- Australian Volunteers International (AVI)
- Catalpa International
- *Instituto Católico para Formação de Professores* (ICFP) | Baucau Teachers' College
- Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO

Where we work:	Dili and GoTL	Baucau	Manatuto	Ermera	Liquica	Manufahi	Covalima	Lautem	Oecusse	Bobonaro	Aileu	Ainaro	Viqueque
PLMP	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓		✓
Scholarships for Women – Alola Foundation	✓								✓		✓		
Mobile Library – Alola Foundation			✓		✓					✓	✓		
Preservice Teacher Training – ICFP		✓											

Key Achievements

- PLMP commenced in three new municipalities – Bobonaro, Baucau, and Viqueque - in partnership with the Alola Foundation and ICFP. This expansion to an additional 85 schools, took the total of PLMP schools to 233 (19 percent of schools in Timor-Leste) across seven municipalities.
- PLMP completed Phase 1 in 58 schools in Manatuto and Liquica. This included 81 school leaders. Early evidence is showing positive changes in teaching practice.
- The Ministry's Inspectorate General Department has committed to continuing mentoring and monitoring support in Manatuto and Liquica, and to further expand support to non-PLMP schools. This is important for transitioning management and oversight of PLMP practice to the Ministry.
- With the support provided to warehouse management, packing of all grade 1 to 4 curriculum learning materials was completed, and up to 71 percent distributed to 937 Ensino Basico schools around the country. Packing and distribution of grade 5 and 6 materials is underway.
- Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO successfully completed high-level advocacy to senior national level government officials to support the continuity of the mother-tongue multilingual education program, particularly in rural areas.
- Two female students who received scholarships from the Alola Foundation completed their bachelor's degree. The Alola Foundation continues to support vulnerable girls to stay in school through their scholarships.
- The Alola Foundation mobile library visited 10 schools and communities in Liquica and Manatuto.

- 156 pre-service teachers undertook teaching studies through ICFP, and 21 lecturers and tutors were supported to participate in various training programs to build their capacity, including a Masters of Education through the Australian Catholic University in Canberra.

PHD is collaborating with the Government of Timor-Leste to implement key reforms in basic education to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for Timorese children. Children who are educated gain the foundational skills necessary to prepare them for later learning, and for life, supporting them to reach their full potential.

Basic education reduces poverty and contributes to the wellbeing and economic development and growth of the nation by increasing productivity. Evidence indicates that when girls receive basic education they are more likely to have smaller families and provide better care for their children. They are also more likely to send their children to school. PHD's efforts to support the Government of Timor-Leste to improve basic education works towards achieving SDG 4 - Quality Education.



Current global education practices show that ongoing professional learning and support results in changes in teachers' teaching practices. Better teaching practice ultimately leads to improved student literacy and numeracy outcomes.

PHD continued to work in partnership with the Ministry of Education to implement PLMP and support the distribution of the national curriculum. As a result of this strong partnership, significant gains in teaching practices and learning outcomes were made.

In support of the Government of Timor-Leste to improve basic education for all Timorese children to develop better literacy and numeracy skills, PHD is focusing on the following areas:

1. Improving teaching practice through leadership capacity building and support for teachers.
2. Creating an equitable, safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment.
3. Increasing national advocacy and support to improve policies and systems.
4. Removing barriers for children with disabilities, so more children with disabilities can access and participate in education.



Image 10: Teacher taking part in the PHD Education Team's professional learning and mentoring program.

Improving Teaching Practice and Learning

PLMP is PHD's largest education component. It supports the Government of Timor-Leste to improve the literacy, numeracy and basic education outcomes for primary school children through four components: leadership events; mentoring (involving classroom observations and feedback); teacher peer learning groups; and the use of tablets (to share information on teacher classroom practices), and grade 1 and 2 student literacy and numeracy tests.

The program is currently being implemented in seven municipalities using a phased approach. Its aim is to build leadership and teacher capacity, share information and support improved classroom practice, to enable sustained improvements in teaching practice over time. The program has recently begun to transition its approach by developing the Ministry of Education Inspectorate General Directorate to take on a more active mentoring role in the future. Table 2 outlines the phases of PLMP and coverage across Timor-Leste.

Table 2: PLMP Phases and Coverage, January to June 2017.

Phase Period	Location	Coverage
Phase 1 Apr 2016 to Mar 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquica Manatuto 	11 clusters, 58 schools 82 school leaders
Phase 2 Aug 2016 to Jul 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dili (including Atauro) Aileu One cluster in Lacluta, Viqueque 	15 clusters, 90 schools 112 school leaders
Phase 3 Feb 2017 to Dec 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baucau Viqueque Bobonaro 	13 clusters, 85 schools 133 school leaders
TOTAL	7 municipalities	39 clusters, 233 schools 327 school leaders

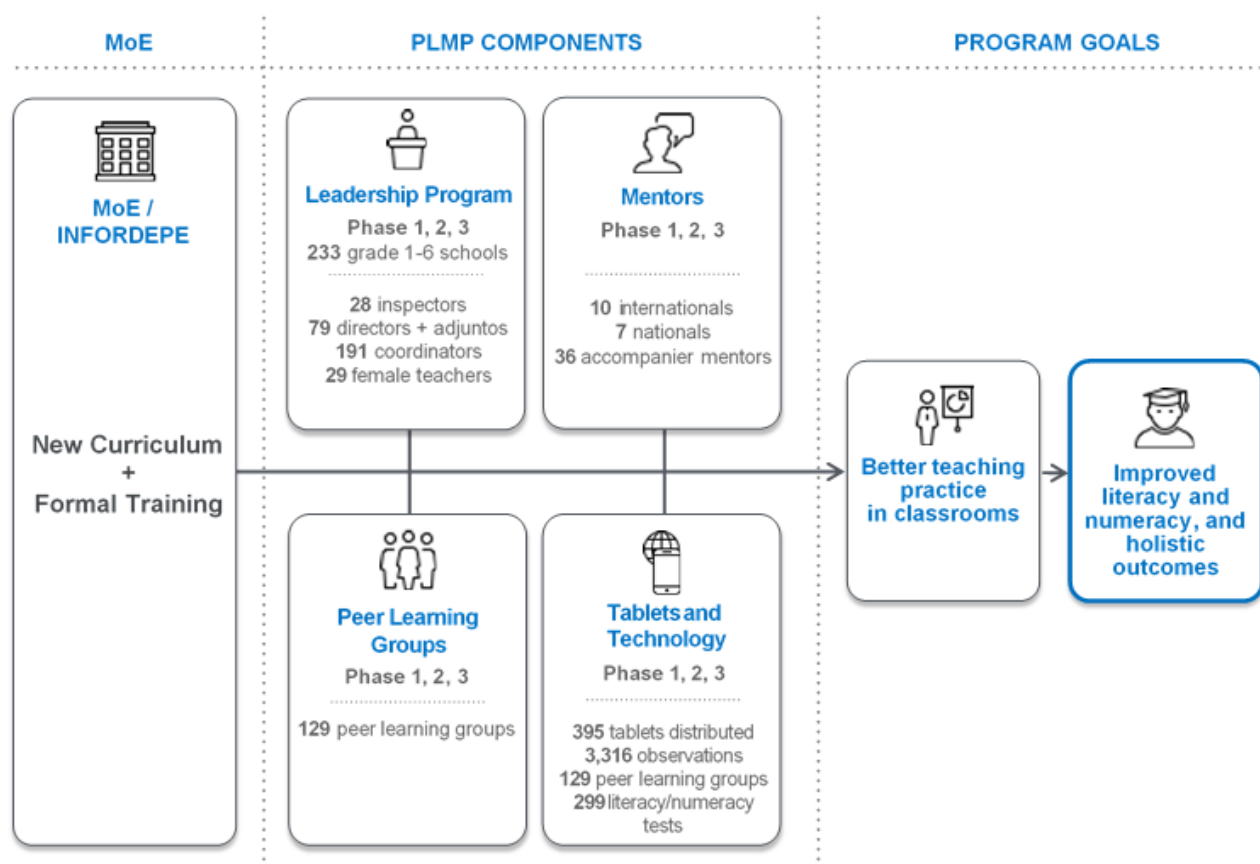


Figure 3: Total PLMP concepts, participants and outputs as at 30 June 2017.

PLMP Achievements in the Four Component Areas for this Reporting Period

Leadership Events Over 90 percent of school leaders involved in PLMP participated in five leadership events. Each school leader developed action plans for improving the learning environment in their own school, including improving parent participation and focusing on outcomes for children with disabilities.

Mentors 3,316 classroom observations were conducted across schools implementing PLMP by school leaders, which were discussed with teachers during feedback sessions to provide ideas about strategies for improvement. Mentors supported school leaders in the observation and feedback process. There were 13 new accompanier mentors (a total of 36), three new national mentors (total of seven), and five new international mentors (a total of 10).

36 Accompanier Mentors
7 National Mentors
10 International Mentors

Peer Learning Groups 129 peer learning groups were conducted in which school leaders and teachers in the same year level met monthly in clusters to discuss lesson planning, teaching and learning strategies, and student issues.

Tablets & Technology 395 tablets have been distributed to school leaders (327), mentors (53), PLMP personnel (eight) and Municipal Education Directors (seven) across 233 schools implementing PLMP. The tablets contain uploaded curriculum materials and tools for conducting lesson observations. Data from literacy and numeracy tests was also collated on the tablets. In comparison to the previous reporting period, classroom observations greatly increased as a result of the increased number of tablets distributed for making observations.

At the completion of Phase 1, the Ministry of Education conducted an evaluation of the program with school leaders in Liquica and Manatuto.

The evaluation reported that school leaders and teachers felt that PLMP contributions were significantly enhancing school leadership, classroom management, and student-centred teaching and learning.

Results showed improvements in teaching practice, including teachers participating in more in group work to support lesson preparation and delivery. The frequency of lesson preparation for 114 grade 1 to 4 teachers in Manatuto increased from 74 percent (May 2016) to 94 percent (November 2016), with this nearing 100 percent at the end of Phase 1 in April 2017.

Similar trends were observed in Aileu, with average scores rising from 66 percent (August 2016) to 94 percent (April 2017).

Further, teachers are more confident and engage more with children in their classes, calling on them, and increasingly calling on girls, to contribute and participate in classroom discussions and activities.

EGRA and EGMA are being conducted by the World Bank to assess the impact of the program on student learning and social skills. Preliminary results indicate there has been a significant increase in literacy skills, though results are yet to be disaggregated between PLMP and non-PLMP schools. PLMP's own testing is also indicating increases in literacy for students in PLMP target schools.

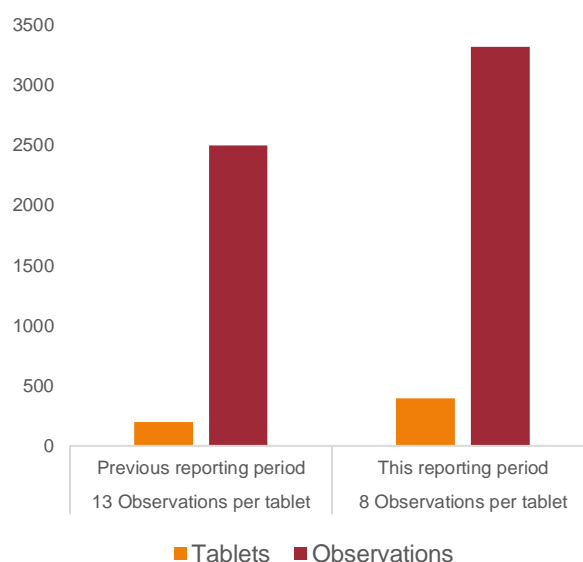


Figure 4: Comparison of classroom observations between previous and current reporting periods.

Improving Student Learning

Quarterly numeracy and literacy skills tests for grades 1 and 2 in PLMP schools have continued to demonstrate improvements in student learning with each cycle of testing.

Figure 5 illustrates improvements in literacy for grade 1 students in Aileu, Dili, Liquica, and Manatuto over three or four cycles of testing.

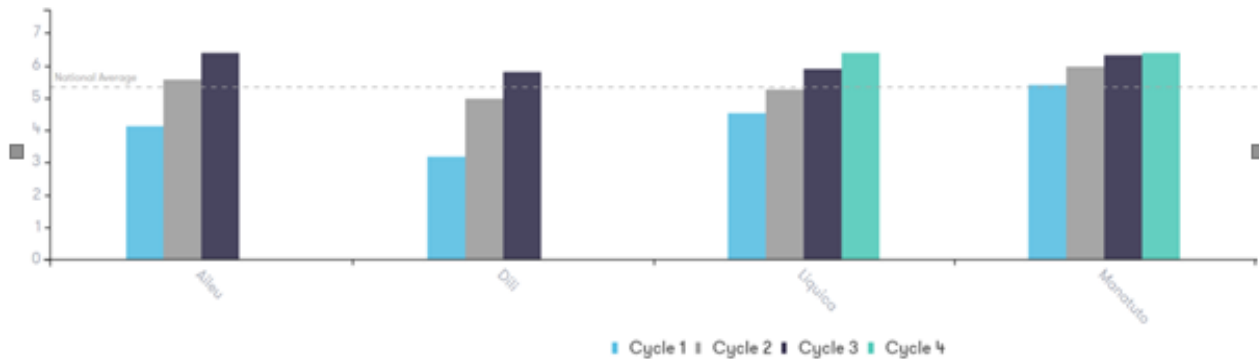


Figure 5: Grade 1 literacy improvements across municipalities over three to four testing cycles.

Teacher Training

PHD provides support to ICFP to deliver pre-service teacher training and capacity building to teachers. ICFP is a high quality institution that delivers a Bachelor of Basic Education course. In this reporting period, 65 new students enrolled in the course (total of 156 students).



Image 11: Sister Albina graduated top of her class with a Bachelor of Education from ICFP in Baucau.

Creating an Equitable, Safe, Healthy, and Supportive Learning Environment

The training of school leaders to improve parent engagement in schools was a key component of the final leadership learning event. Through better school leadership, school leaders and teachers are encouraging parents to participate more in creating safe, healthy and supportive learning environments for their children. School leaders have reported that parents actively participate in and are involved in school activities and ensuring their children attend school. Furthermore, teachers coordinated with parents to address absenteeism.

Mother-tongue Multilingual Education Program

Along with creating a more peaceful and inclusive learning environment, PHD is supporting work in other areas to ensure children are experiencing greater learning practices. This includes receiving early education in a native tongue for maximised learning. Research shows that the language spoken in a child's home is the best starting point for building basic literacy, and to prepare children to learn other languages. Global education learning has shown that the language of instruction in primary schools may be a critical element in determining how well a child learns and builds their literacy.

PHD has continued to support the *Edukasaun Multilinge Bazeia ba Lian Inan* (EMBLI) mother-tongue multilingual education program in Manatuto, Lautem and Oecusse.

The program delivered the national curriculum for early basic education in the children's local language. In this reporting period, the program taught the grade 4 national curriculum in the local language, and also promoted the development and preservation of local culture and tradition in schools.

The end line assessment conducted previously by the Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO has become a powerful tool for the program to advocate for the use of mother-tongue as the medium of instruction in classrooms, particularly in rural areas. This year the program encouraged the Ministry of Education to consider continuation of the EMBLI program in other municipalities, in order to support children in rural and remote areas in a more effective learning experience through education delivered in their mother-tongue.

Scholarships

Each additional year of schooling makes a positive difference to a woman's income, health and wellbeing. PHD continues to support the Alola Foundation in providing scholarships to girls to complete formal tertiary education, giving them an opportunity to enter into the workforce and become leaders.

Thirty-eight female students are currently studying at university funded through the program. Some of these students will complete their studies in education and are on track to become teachers. During this reporting period, two students completed their bachelor's degree. One graduated with the highest honours in her school and is now formally employed in a government ministry.



Image 12: Alola Foundation 'Scholarship for Girls' recipient, Candida da Silva, is studying a Bachelor of Education at UNTL.

Mobile Library

Children and teachers in rural areas of Timor-Leste have limited access to books and learning materials. The Alola Foundation took its mobile library service to 10 schools and communities in Liquica and Manatuto to promote reading and literacy through fun learning sessions. The mobile library also ran activities with parents, teachers, and members of the community to promote messages on sanitation, water, health, social protection, nutrition, gender, and disability. This initiative is part of PHD's commitment to cross-sectoral engagement with other program sectors.

Distribution of the Ministry of Education's National Curriculum Materials

PHD continued to directly support the Ministry of Education in rolling out the new national curriculum to pre-schools and primary schools across Timor-Leste. During this reporting period, PHD supported the distribution of grade 5 and 6 curriculum materials. Due to delays in the distribution of grade 1 to 4 materials in the previous reporting period, this distribution will be completed by the end of 2017.

As of June 2017, packing of all grade 1 to 4 learning materials was completed, and up to 71 percent distributed to 937 *Ensino Basico* schools around the country. Technical Vocational School materials have been distributed to 37 public schools and 13 private schools. Materials for preschools are also in transit.

In addition, PHD supported implementation of a warehouse management system, and provided technical advice on packing, distribution, monitoring, reporting, and cross-learning.

Removing Barriers for Children with Disabilities

All children have the right to an education. However, children living with a disability often face significant barriers. Children living with a disability often face challenges in school, particularly as a result of the family or teachers lacking the knowledge to identify a disability and refer the child to receive support. Inclusive education seeks to benefit all children by tailoring education to individual learning styles and needs. PHD engaged an international Disability Specialist and a national Disability Officer to provide disability advice based on international best practice, to ensure school environments are inclusive.

A mapping exercise was undertaken to identify and understand disability issues in schools that implement PLMP. Materials were developed and training delivered to PLMP mentors, so they could identify children living with a disability, and direct these children through referral pathways.



Image 13: Alola Foundation's mobile library service visits Manuleu Primary School in Metinaro.

WATER AND SANITATION

2016-2017 Budget: Water Budget: AUD 1,000,000 Sanitation Budget: AUD 890,000

Sector Goal: Improve use and sustainability of household and institutional sanitation through mobilising community action to end open defecation, support ODF communities to advance towards 'Hygienic' status, and improve the management of existing rural water supply systems.

Focus: Households, community and municipal level leadership to improve household and institutional sanitation and existing rural water systems.

Government Counterparts:

- Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications (MPWTC)
- Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Municipal Authority

Partners:

- CBM Australia
- HealthNet Timor-Leste
- Plan International
- Water Aid Timor-Leste

Where we work:	Dili and GoTL	Baucau	Manatuto	Ermera	Liquica	Manufahi	Covalima	Lautem	Oecusse	Bobonaro	Aileu	Ainaro	Viqueque
ODF Initiative and Water Service Sustainability – WaterAid	✓				✓	✓							
ODF Initiative and Water Service Sustainability – Plan International	✓										✓	✓	
Hygienic Suco – HealthNet	✓									✓			

Key Achievements

- Implementation of the ODF initiative in Aileu, Ainaro, and Liquica. Institutional triggering in these municipalities generated local authority leadership that has driven community action to end open defecation.
- Scope of work for the ODF initiative has been expanded to include a Water System Sustainability component to: (i) allow for innovation around water system sustainability; and (ii) maximise sustainable access to water in ODF communities, enabling advancement towards Hygienic status.
- Engagement of NGO partners, and ongoing consultative engagement of NGO and government partners, for the design of the Hygienic initiative, which is progressing and scheduled for completion by September 2017.
- Implementation and analysis of two assessments to understand: (i) demand and supply of sanitation in Bobonaro; and (ii) water system coverage, management, and functionality in Bobonaro. These assessments are currently being used to inform the implementation design of the sanitation and water elements of the Integrated WASH Program in Bobonaro.
- Development of an Investment Concept Note for PHD's work in the water sector. This will guide future water programming.

Clean, safe and accessible water facilities, improved sanitation practices and functioning water management are fundamental to good health and are a priority of the Government of Timor-Leste. Almost one tenth of the global disease burden could be prevented by increasing access to safe drinking water, improving sanitation and hygiene, and improving water management to reduce the risk of water-borne infectious disease.

PHD implements water and sanitation activities jointly through the WASH Team to achieve greater gains through cross-sectoral collaboration. PHD is supporting the Government to achieve SGD 6 – Clean water and sanitation.



In support of the Government of Timor-Leste, particularly at the municipal level, to improve sanitation and hygiene behaviours, and water access for the people of Timor-Leste, PHD is focusing on the following areas:

- Integrated WASH Program, to advance municipalities that have achieved and sustained ODF to Hygienic status through responsive municipal leadership, enhancing water access in schools and health facilities, and energising water management groups.
- ODF initiative.
- Water System Sustainability, focusing on operations and maintenance for water systems at the community level.

PHD Integrated WASH Program

Bobonaro WASH Program Focus

PHD is encouraging better use of existing rural water systems in Bobonaro by improving community-led management of water systems, and municipal leadership of rural water operation and maintenance (O&M).

Water is an enabler to improve sanitation and hygiene behaviours, and core activities will be linked to the Hygienic Suco initiative, initially focused on Bobonaro, and progressively rolled out nationally.

The WASH Team has developed a strategy to maximise development impacts through an integrated WASH approach at the municipal level. The work mobilises the Municipal Authority to support a community movement to end open defecation. The water sector work focusses on small-scale O&M, which supports rural communities to make the best use of their existing water assets, and create stronger links between community water supplies and access to water in schools and health facilities. Optimising sustainable community access to water will enable communities to improve sanitation and hygiene practices, and is also a benefit in its own right.

During this reporting period, the Integrated WASH program was designed in consultation with Municipal Water, Sanitation and Environmental Services (SMASA), municipal health services, the National Program for Village Development (PNDS), and the Municipal Authority. The concept and implementation plans were presented to the Bobonaro Municipal WASH Secretariat in June 2017, which included representation from the administrative posts, as well as relevant government sector entities.



Image 14: WASH enumerator interviews Bobonaro Municipality residents as part of behaviour change sanitation research.

The Bobonaro Municipal President is supportive of the WASH activities, which build on the achievement of municipality-wide ODF status. The WASH Team is now fully operational in Bobonaro, working alongside the Municipal Authority.

Work has continued to develop the Hygienic Suco initiative Design, and the Bobonaro WASH Secretariat has been re-established. The Sanitation Team is collaborating with HealthNet Timor-Leste and administrative post stakeholders to develop the implementation plan for the initiative. The Sanitation Supply and Demand Assessment was designed and led by the PHD Behaviour Change Adviser and a research specialist, together with a team of government stakeholders and *Universidade da Paz* enumerators in April. The results will be used to inform the Hygienic status brand marketing strategy that will drive household action to upgrade toilets through engagement with the private sector in Bobonaro.

Responsive Municipal Leadership

An essential element of the WASH strategy is municipal leadership of the initiatives. The successful implementation and outcomes for sanitation and water interventions owe much to motivational leadership and institutional engagement that is complemented by community interventions. The WASH Secretariat, which PHD assisted to establish in targeted municipalities, is led by the Municipal Authority. The Secretariat is supported technically by national and municipal health, and water and sanitation services, and implemented by local authorities and implementing partners.

During this reporting period secretariats were established in all PHD targeted municipalities (Aileu, Ainaro, Bobonaro, and Liquica) to lead community actions to end open defecation and strengthen the management of community water systems.

Municipal Authorities have also met once a month so Administrative Posts can report on community progress towards achieving ODF or Hygienic status, and on water system sustainability activities.



Image 15: More than 50 representatives came together from Laulara Administrative Post and local village councils in May to trigger action in communities and become open defecation free.

National level government counterparts from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications have provided technical support to the secretariats, and documented innovations and challenges encountered at the municipal level to inform programming and planning at the national level.

PHD is working collaboratively with SMASA to design a mechanism to allow municipal authorities to work with rural communities to plan, prioritise, and execute rural water supply improvements. The mechanism will provide SMASA with the means to design and manage high-impact, low-cost (HILC⁵) improvements to existing rural water supplies. This targets the gap between the minor maintenance that GMFs can fund themselves (for example, repairs up to USD 1,000) and major work carried out by national programs (which could include PNDS or PDIM projects costing more than USD 20,000). Activities that improve water access in health facilities and schools are being prioritised.

⁵ High-impact, low-cost activities are those in which a big change in access to water can be achieved with a small investment.

At the municipal level PHD facilitated an analysis workshop during which Administrative Post Facilitators (FPAs) and SMASA identified approximately 10 HILC activities per administrative post. During this reporting period, PHD designed the process and financial mechanism that FPAs can use at the administrative post to prioritise, plan, and implement up to USD 10,000 worth of HILC activities. PHD has designed two different financial mechanisms to trial during the next reporting period: (i) HILC funding directly to the GMF to manage and for which to account; and (ii) HILC funding using financial and procurement systems that mimic those the Municipal Authority would use. PHD is now setting evaluation questions that will facilitate reflection around the strengths and weaknesses of both models to support SMASA and the Municipal Authority to see the benefits of investing in funds for repairs in the future.



Image 16: GMF member taking part in financial management training to improve water system management in Bobonaro.

A Focus on Water Access at Education and Health Facilities

A critical piece of the Hygienic Suco initiative and the Bobonaro HILC activities is the prioritisation of schools and health facilities for improved WASH infrastructure and practice of hygienic behaviours. Small grants will be provided through both programs to communities to prioritise for WASH improvements. The WASH Team will then collaborate with Government of Timor-Leste stakeholders to develop a behaviour change strategy to target hygienic behaviours, which will be enabled by the improved water access.

Energising Water Management Groups

A further essential component of the strategy is active and responsive GMFs that regularly spend their maintenance funds to carry out small improvements and preventative maintenance. The FPAs are currently working to ensure that each rural water supply system has an active GMF. Three focus areas were identified from the Water System Assessment conducted by PHD in April 2017:

1. Water systems needing the establishment of a functioning GMF.
2. Water systems with a GMF that require strengthening and/or restructuring.
3. Water systems with a functioning GMF that require minor repairs to maximise sustainability and reach to the community and local institutions.

The WASH Team is working with the FPAs to collaborate with SMASA and PNDS to address these focus areas. They are also developing a training and mentoring package to strengthen GMFs to engage with and support their communities, and better engage education and health facility leadership in GMF activities. This

should encourage the use of community water systems for schools and health facilities. The training will enable GMFs to build their skills to better manage their affairs and finances, and carry out maintenance tasks.

PHD provided financial training to GMFs in Bobonaro during this reporting period, with the aim that GMFs would more sustainably manage their rural water systems. Refresher training was delivered to four staff (three women) from the National Training Team of the National Directorate of Water Services (DNSA) in May 2017. Training of trainers was then delivered to eight FPAs and three SMASA officials in Bobonaro in late May. PHD is also supporting FPAs to deliver the GMF Finance Training in the six administrative posts of Bobonaro to 42 GMFs (will be delivered to 84 participants).

Technical and training skills of the National Training Team are improving with PHD support and it is envisaged they will be able to support expansion of the training to other municipalities in the future.

Open Defecation Free Initiative

PHD is working with Plan International and Water Aid Timor-Leste to scale up the ODF initiative in Aileu, Ainaro, and Liquica. During this reporting period, triggering⁶ of municipal, administrative post, and village authorities to assume leadership for a whole-of-municipality approach to ending open defecation were implemented.

As a result of the triggering work, in Aileu and Liquica, this leadership is already directing NGO involvement to engage communities in community and household actions to end open defecation, and adopt the practice of toilet use. After only two months of implementation Remexio Administrative Post in the Aileu Municipality has officially requested the Ministry of Health conduct a verification of their ODF status.

Plan International is working with the Municipal Authority in Ainaro, Ministry of Health and sector partners to establish a Municipal ODF Secretariat that will coordinate the work that all partners are currently contributing.

Water System Sustainability

In addition to the approach that is being taken in Bobonaro to maximise the reach and sustainability of existing water infrastructure, there are also promising innovations being explored through PHD-funded partners, such as the community scorecard process that WaterAid Timor-Leste will pilot in eight communities across Timor-Leste; and the small repairs fund that Plan International has proposed to trial in Aileu. These approaches are being trialled in municipalities where the ODF Initiative is currently being implemented.

Improved water access is not only a way for communities to support themselves and grow food crops and animals, it is also an enabler to improving sanitation and hygiene outcomes. These approaches will support communities to advance towards Hygienic status after they achieve ODF status.

Linking the water system sustainability work closely to the ODF Initiative offers a chance to leverage the momentum that the ODF Initiative creates and will also drive change for sustainable water services, not just for household and communities, but also in institutions.

National Level Support

PHD is providing support to PFM at the national level; capacity building of pump technicians in water system pump repairs; and information management within the sanitation sector.

National Pump Training Program

Currently, there are only two service providers for water system pump repair, which cannot cover the national demand for water system repair and O&M. To address the needs of maintaining and repairing community water supplies across Timor-Leste, PHD is supporting DNSA to engage a pump repair service provider to provide training to Pump Technicians. The Pump Technicians will be located at regional bases to support communities in maintaining their water systems and repairing their water pumps.

⁶ Institutional triggering is when Municipality and Administrative Post leaders set an open defecation free (ODF) target and all levels of government are actively involved in implementation

NUTRITION

2016-2017 Budget: AUD 1,200,000

Sector Goal: Improve nutrition status for the people of Timor-Leste, particularly for women and children.

Focus: Support the Government of Timor-Leste to scale up multi-sector programming.

Government Counterparts:

- National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition in Timor-Leste (KONSSANTIL)
- Office of the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

Partners:

- *Hamutuk* partners (over 20)

Where we work:	Dili and GoTL	Baucau	Manatuto	Ermera	Liquica	Manufahi	Covalima	Lautem	Oecusse	Bobonaro	Aileu	Ainaro	Viqueque
<i>Hamutuk</i>						✓							
President's Nutrition Awards	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Technical Assistance	✓					✓							

Key Achievements

- *Hamutuk* Independent Advisory Group Mission 1 and 2 took place in May 2017, which included a site visit to Holarua, Manufahi to review progress of the program and identify further opportunities for collaborative work.
- President's Nutrition Program Awards presented by former President H.E Taur Matan Ruak in April 2107. The Nutrition Leadership Award was presented to Suku Bahamori (Venilale, Baucau) and the Healthy Families Nutrition Award to *Grupu Hafuco* (Suku Triloca, Baucau). These awards continue to promote best practice nutrition at the community level.
- Timor-Leste Food Innovators Exchange (mini trial) was held in May 2017.
- President's second Food Security and Nutrition Roundtable Dialogue was conducted in May 2017.
- Technical assistance provided to the Strategic Review of SDG 2 in Timor-Leste and other agencies.

Good nutrition is a catalyst for enhancing human development and improved economic growth. Preventing and controlling all types of malnutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies, has human, social and economic benefits across generations for individuals, households and communities.

The Government of Timor-Leste is committed to achieving SDG – 2 Zero Hunger and the Zero Hunger action plan by addressing malnutrition. Australian Government investments in nutrition are targeted at improving the nutritional status of Timorese people, with a focus on women and children.

Over the past six months, PHD, together with the Australian Embassy, continued to engage closely with KONSSANTIL to strengthen relationships at the national and municipal levels. One approach was to request KONSSANTIL's active involvement in the *Hamutuk* program's Technical Support Hub (TSB) to ensure that government is consulted on program decisions, and to seek its views and feedback on program implementation.



PHDs support is focused on:

- Advocacy and promotion of best nutrition practice.
- Innovative approaches to improving nutrition.
- Improving nutrition through multi-sector approaches.

Both of PHD's nutrition programs, *Hamutuk* and the President's Nutrition Awards Program, have worked closely with KONSSANTIL at the national and municipal level. This has meant close engagement with nine ministries – Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Social Solidarity; Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry; SEPFOP; and Ministry of State Administration. PHD further provides technical support and advice to KONSSANTIL on nutrition and food security, as well as to other programs within the Australian Embassy's nutrition portfolio.

Advocacy and Promotion of Best Nutrition Practice

President's Nutrition Program

The President's Nutrition Program commenced in 2014 under the former President H.E. Taur Matan Ruak. The program was established to recognise best practice nutrition programming in communities, raise awareness of the nutrition situation in Timor-Leste among Timorese leaders, and advocate for greater cross-sectoral investments that aim to improve nutrition and food security. During this reporting period, PHD continued to provide support to the Office of the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste through the President's Nutrition Awards.

As 2017 was the final year of office for H.E. Taur Matan Ruak, the President's Nutrition Awards for 2017 were presented in April, before the end of his final term in office. The 2017 Nutrition Leadership Award was presented to Suku Bahamori (Venilale, Baucau), and the 2017 Healthy Families Nutrition Award was presented to *Grupu Hafuco* (Suku Triloca, Baucau). The jury team comprised of representatives of the President's Office, KONSSANTIL, UNTL, NGO Forum and Rede Feto, who approved the key selection criteria, assessed proposals, participated in verification visits to communities, and decided on the award winners.



Image 17: Former President, H.E. Taur Matan Ruak, presents the Nutrition Leadership Award to Bahamori village in Baucau.

The awards were complemented by videos and a television talk show, which were produced and broadcast nationwide. Several villages and women's groups also received visits from national and international dignitaries, as well as stakeholders who were interested in learning more about best practice nutrition programs in Timor-Leste. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the program has received positive feedback and a recommendation has been put forward to continue the program with the new President. PHD supported the Australian Embassy to advocate for the continuation of the program.

PHD provided support to the President's second Food Security and Nutrition Roundtable Dialogue at Palacio de Nobre in May 2017. The event brought together over 100 participants from line ministries of KONSSANTIL, as well as Municipal Administrators, President's Nutrition Program award winners (past and present), NGOs, donors, and United Nations agencies to prioritise key actions to address national food insecurity and malnutrition against the backdrop of relevant national policies. Further consultations with government will take place in coming months.

Innovative Approaches to Improving Nutrition

PHD co-facilitated and participated in the implementation of a mini trial of the Timor-Leste Food Innovators Exchange in May. The trial brought together food innovators, including seven President's Nutrition Program award winners, and staff from Agora Food Studio, Delicious Timor, and Wide Vision, to exchange ideas, experiences, and skills about local foods and ways to promote the value of these important foods. A small film and photo diary was produced to showcase the event. The trial resulted in a funding offer from the Innovation Xchange to scale-up the model after an intensive participatory design period.



Image 18: Participants take part in the Timor-Leste Food Innovators Exchange in May at Agora Food Studio in Dili.

Improving Nutrition through Multi-Sector Approaches

Hamutuk

The *Hamutuk* program, which aims to reduce the prevalence of stunting in children under two years of age, continued to address malnutrition through an integrated multi-sectoral lens, bringing together over 20 existing partners, including KONSSANTIL, in Holarua, Manufahi.

The program's strategy is three-fold:

1. Strengthen nutrition capacity across partners, through training resource sharing and building collaboration to strengthen capacity to deliver nutrition promoting interventions.
2. Improve nutrition promoting behaviours, through behaviour change methods.
3. Use innovative technology, such as a mobile phone and online platform to collect information and results from partners and to foster multi-sectoral collaboration.

In an effort to strengthen relationships, *Hamutuk* requested the representation of KONSSANTIL on the *Hamutuk* TSH. The *Hamutuk* Program Coordinator played an active role in facilitating partnership coordination in Manufahi, including providing direct support to KONSSANTIL and assisting with regular meeting coordination.

During this reporting period, the *Hamutuk* Independent Advisory Group (IAG) met with representatives from KONSSANTIL and NGO partners in Manufahi to seek feedback on the progress of the program, and to explore opportunities for collaboration. The IAG concluded that the program was widely accepted and well-valued by various stakeholders, due to its multi-sectoral engagement with government. The IAG recommended that *Hamutuk* begin to think about aligning with KONSSANTIL's cross-sector programming in selected vulnerable sucos. Also as part of their work, the IAG members reviewed program components and provided technical inputs on key documents, including the *Hamutuk* Strategy and the design of formative research.

Additionally, *Hamutuk* partners participated in gender training and basic research training as part of the program's capacity building strategy, and in preparation for the baseline study and formative research.

Planning took place with M&E House to undertake a review of the Australian Embassy wide-nutrition program in 2017.



Image 19: PHD Nutrition display at the Australian development cooperation showcase.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

2016-2017 Budget: AUD 390,000

Sector Goal: Contribute towards building a solid social protection floor for all Timorese people.

Focus: Support policymaking, awareness raising, and capacity building to strengthen the implementation of social protection systems, with particular attention to *Bolsa da Mãe*.

Government Counterparts:

- Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS)
- Prime Minister's Office

Where we work:	Dili and GoTL	Baucau	Manatuto	Ermera	Liquica	Manufahi	Covalima	Lautem	Oecusse	Bobonaro	Aileu	Ainaro	Viqueque
Technical Assistance	✓												

Key Achievements

- Providing technical support and expertise on the discussions and finalisation of the draft National Strategy of Social Protection. Once approved by the Minister of Social Solidarity, the strategy is expected to be presented to the Council of Ministers.
- Successful advocacy for the registration of new beneficiaries of *Bolsa da Mãe* Conditional Cash Transfers. New registrations have not occurred since 2012, and are now open from April to August 2017. This will allow more vulnerable Timorese people to access this social protection financial support mechanism.
- Briefing sessions on *Bolsa da Mãe* Conditional Cash Transfers were held with civil society organisation (CSO) partners, including DPOs (members of ADTL) and Referral Network of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Service Providers (Nabilan partners) to raise awareness about the program.
- Formal training provided to all 78 of the Ministry of Social Solidarity's social technicians and all 13 RHTO field officers, along with both national teams (5 Ministry of Social Solidarity and 6 RHTO staff) on the *Bolsa da Mãe* program's legal and operational features, child protection, disability and domestic violence subjects.
- Successful advocacy and support to enrol two Ministry of Social Solidarity staff in the first accredited Social Services Certificate III course. Obtaining this certificate provides participants with additional tools, knowledge and case management capacity to improve their performance as social technicians and social services providers.

There is strong evidence that social protection support contributes directly to poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth. It has the potential to empower the most vulnerable, including single-headed households and people living with a disability, enabling them to make better decisions over the course of their life.

Building a social protection floor for the people of Timor-Leste, particularly for the most vulnerable, is key to reducing poverty and creating sustainable economic growth in Timor-Leste.

PHD is focused on providing support to the Government of Timor-Leste in three key areas to establish a universal functioning, accessible, and inclusive social protection system.

- Advocacy for evidence-based policy decision-making and reform.
- Strengthening government systems.
- Building community knowledge for action.

This support aims to achieve SDG 1 – No poverty, SDG 5 – Gender Equality, SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and strong institutions.

During this reporting period, PHD continued to provide support to the Ministry of Social Solidarity, particularly in work related to *Bolsa da Mãe*, and strategy and policy development. A major contribution to improving the lives of many poor people in Timor-Leste was the successful advocacy to open registration for *Bolsa da Mãe* in April for the first time in five years.

Advocacy for Evidence-Based Decision-Making and Reform

PHD continued to provide advocacy support and technical advice to the Ministry of Social Solidarity and other relevant Government of Timor-Leste agencies to strengthening the social protection systems.

The Social Protection Technical Lead provided technical assistance and support to the national dialogue process for the development of the Social Protection National Strategy Framework, which will guide the government approach into the future. This dialogue was led by the Ministry with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO). The national dialogue also included other relevant ministries and agencies within the United Nations. The final draft of the strategy is awaiting approval for submission to the Council of Ministers. Once approved by the Council of Ministers, this Strategy – the first for Timor-Leste – will link all social protection schemes together, and lead to better reform and policy-making. This framework is the start of a solid foundation being laid down for social protection for the people of Timor-Leste.

Strengthening Government Systems

Bolsa da Mãe Registration of New Beneficiaries

After being closed for five years, *Bolsa da Mãe* reopened for registry of new beneficiaries in April this year. The PHD Social Protection Technical Lead supported the successful advocacy for reopening of registrations and the development of guidelines to conduct the process in the municipalities. The registration of new beneficiaries will be open until the end of August 2017, which will allow more poor families to access some basic cash support and relieve poverty burden.

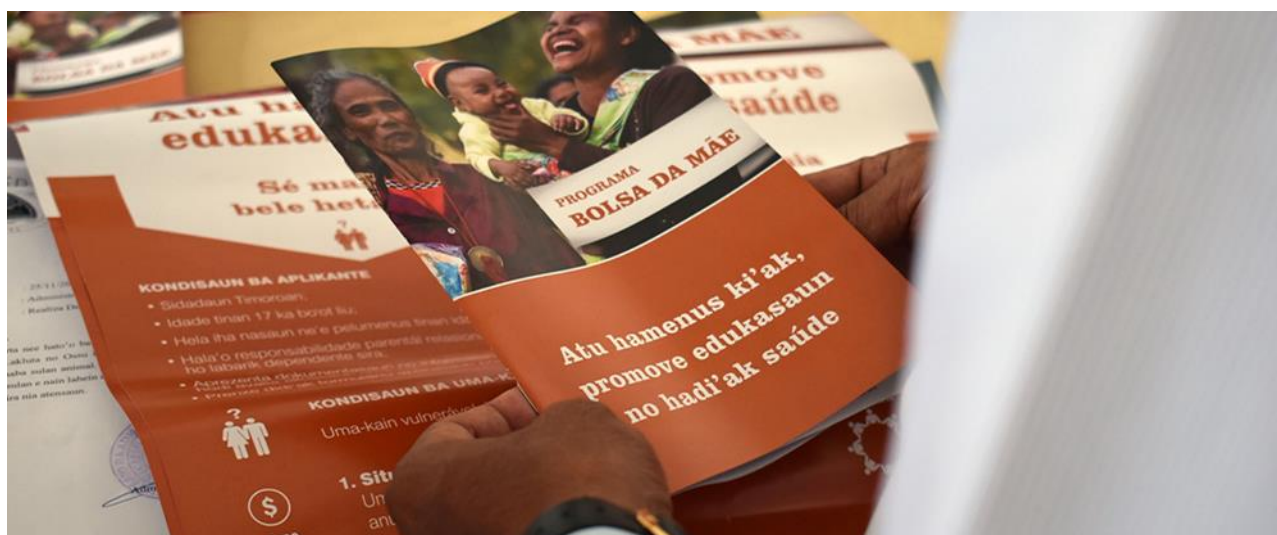


Image 20: *Bolsa da Mãe* brochures and posters are handed out to participants during training sessions.

Training, Mentoring, and Capacity Building

PHD, in collaboration with The Asia Foundation (TAF) and RHTO, provided training to the Ministry's social technicians, *Bolsa da Mãe* national team, and RHTO field officers to improve their knowledge and capacity on the *Bolsa da Mãe* framework, regulations, and operational procedures; child protection and disability related issues; as well as the referral network for vulnerable women and children. The Ministry's Director General of Corporate Services expressed his appreciation for the capacity building opportunity, and recognised the need for further training to be provided to social technicians.

The Director General requested support from PHD in developing a training plan for delivery of training at the municipal level. The main objectives of the training would be to enhance participants' knowledge about gender, disability, and child protection subjects, as well as social benefits and services provision, and establish the necessary linkages between government and CSO officers for better collaboration. Such training is key to successfully extending the benefits of *Bolsa da Mãe* to the poor of Timor-Leste. Pending discussions that will be held with the new government, PHD will start to consider developing a municipal training program.

PHD supported other training for Ministry of Social Solidarity staff, such as the recently accredited Certificate III Social Services Course. Two MSS staff enrolled in the course, which was designed by TAF with the collaboration of other partners and is accredited by INDMO (the official organization that certifies training in Timor-Leste). The first intake of this course was conducted from February to the end of May 2017, with attendees from the Ministry and a wide range of CSO members, most of them part of the Nabilan services providers referral network. The Social Protection Technical Lead conducted a session at the course on *Bolsa da Mãe* program and the role of Social Technicians and external social services providers in assisting people to access this benefit, particularly households with children living with a disability.

The Social Protection team assisted DFAT Canberra in organizing a two-day training on Poverty and Social Analysis held in Dili in May. Both the Director General of Corporate Services and Adviser for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation from the Ministry of Social Solidarity attended the full training, which they evaluated as very useful for their current roles.

Building Community Knowledge for Action

PHD delivered an awareness-raising presentation to the Nabilan CSO partners on *Bolsa da Mãe* program related subjects. The participants had the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues relating to *Bolsa da Mãe*, including eligibility criteria, registration procedures, payment mechanisms, and relevant documents required for registration. The role of the CSOs in the registration process was also discussed. Participants recognised the importance of the session in providing them with critical information and were made more aware of the proactive role they could play in supporting clients to access this benefit.



Image 21: PHD Access and Equality Technical Lead, Dulce da Cunha, shares *Bolsa da Mãe* brochures with Viqueque Municipal Administrator.

Mainstreaming Social Protection

The PHD Social Protection Team worked across the PHD Sectors to identify areas of cross-sectoral collaboration and increase the impact and effectiveness of sectoral activities in progressing towards achieving a social protection floor for the people of Timor-Leste. Some of the work done identified future opportunities for cross-sectoral collaboration.

Education

The PHD Social Protection Team worked with the Education Team and Alola Foundation to gather the necessary information and awareness raising material on the *Bolsa da Mãe* program, and disseminate social protection key messages to communities through the mobile library.

The Technical Lead also worked with the Education, Health, and Disability Teams on mapping services available for children living with a disability, and possible ways of improving communication and inter-sectoral linkages to ensure better support for this important target group.

Gender

Discussions were held with TOMAK and TAF about the potential impact of social cash transfers on women's economic empowerment and the need to investigate this linkages in more detail. These discussions provided relevant input to the research design to investigate the social and economic impact of social transfers.

Disability

The Social Protection Team supported the Disability Team in preparing a briefing session on the *Bolsa da Mãe* eligibility criteria and operational procedures to be delivered to all ADTL members at the Disability Organizations' Quarterly Meeting.

Water and Sanitation

The Social Protection Team worked with the WASH team on different targeting options to provide sanitation vouchers for households in selected villages in Bobonaro.

Health and Disability

PHD is identifying ways in which the Social Protection, the Disability and Health Teams can work together to address issues relating to medical certification of people with disabilities, so that they can better access their social protection entitlements.

Nutrition

Discussions were initiated with the Nutrition Team about CVTL current Cash Transfers for emergency response, and the possible trialling of linkages to monitored changes in maternal and child nutrition practices.

GENDER

2016-2017 Budget: AUD 245,000

Sector Goal: Improve the quality of life for women and girls, empower Timorese women and girls, and enhance women's leadership for the advancement of Gender Equality, to ensure a more gender-fair society where women and men, girls and boys (including those with disabilities) have equal rights, opportunities, participation, and access to services at all levels.

Focus: Mainstream gender across PHD's work and other Australian Embassy investments; support women's empowerment and leadership through prevention work to end violence against women and girls through behaviour change approaches and advocacy.

Government Counterparts:

- Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS)

Partners:

- Ba Futuru

Where we work:	Dili and GoTL	Baucau	Manatuto	Ermera	Liquica	Manufahi	Covalima	Lautem	Oecusse	Bobonaro	Aileu	Ainaro	Viqueque
Ba Futuru	✓												

Key Achievements

- Gender mainstreaming across all PHD sectors.
- Completed filming three episodes of the television miniseries, *Domin Nakloke*, for launch in early July 2017, which aims to create awareness of respectful relationships and gender equality.
- Inauguration of the first PHD Video Competition on Rural Women that recognises the importance of women in the development of Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste ranks 133 out of 187 countries in the Gender Inequality Index. The Government of Timor-Leste recognises the importance of gender equality and is committed to 'enhancing... gender equality between men and women in all spheres of life', and 'centralising gender equality in all government programs and decision-making'⁷. Furthermore, commitment to reaching SDG 5 - Gender Equality is key priority of the Government of Timor-Leste.

The Government of Timor-Leste's *Sixth Government Plan* calls for a gender fair society by 2030.⁸ PHD will support the Government in this work through mainstreaming gender equality through all PHD sector activities. In addition to maintaining a high level of gender sensitivity across other sectors, PHD also delivers specific gender-focused activities, including support to the production of a short television mini-series, *Domin Nakloke*. The locally-produced drama aims to change people's perceptions of gender roles, and reduce the normalisation and acceptance of gender-based violence. With the support of the Communications Team, the Gender Team also inaugurated the first video competition, as a celebration of International Day of Rural Women.



⁷ Program of the VI Constitutional Government 2015-17.

⁸ Program of the Sixth Constitutional Government 2015-2017

Mainstreaming Gender Equality

PHD maintains a strong focus on gender equality throughout all of its sectoral activities. The program is designed to ensure that when working on complex development problems PHD can develop solutions that range across a number of sectors. The following section highlights the efforts made to mainstream gender through PHD sectoral activities.

Health

- PHD is working with the Government of Timor-Leste and key health partners to mainstream gender sensitive approaches, promote women's leadership, and advance women's access to health services.
- PHD is focused on supporting women and children to better access reproductive, maternal, neonatal, infant and adolescent health services, and in doing so are looking to contribute to a decrease the number of women dying in childbirth and improved health outcomes for babies and children.
- The Ambulance and Transport program have recruited a female mechanic and a female paramedic/midwife. Women have also been recruited to management positions within MSTL's management team. This promotes women's leadership and ensures greater gender-balance and female representation at senior levels in the health sector.
- Steady progress is being made to support female doctors to gain specialized experience. RACS is regularly reporting gender-disaggregated data on their PGD training, as well as the grand rounds activities conducted within the hospital. Of the recent graduates, 55 percent were female.



Image 22: Female mechanic works to repair an Ambulance vehicle.

Education

- PLMP aims to achieve 50 percent participation of female mentors, teachers and school leaders in the program. Additionally the program encourages involvement of women from each cluster to provide them opportunities for leadership development. Of the 327 school leaders involved in PLMP, 60 are women, including 29 female teachers and 31 female school leaders (2 inspectors, 2 directors, 2 adjuntos and 25 school coordinators).
- The Education Team has also undertaken a curriculum mapping process to examine gender themes, disability and other sectoral issues. The Education Team has physically mapped toilets, water, and menstruation waste facilities in the 233 PLMP schools. The results will be used to deepen the inclusivity of both the curriculum and the facilities at the schools and positively impact on girls' experience of primary education.
- PHD supports the Alola Foundation to provide scholarships to girls that provides tuition and living allowances for tertiary level education. This reporting period, 39 girls received a scholarship. The Alola Foundation supports to girls to keep them in school, which has led to a retention rate of over 90 percent.

Water and Sanitation

- The WASH Team is aiming to empower and support women to increase their leadership in the management and maintenance of public water supplies, and in decision-making on sanitation facilities.

- The program has promoted the effective engagement of women in community action to end open defecation, improve sanitation, and manage community water facilities. Monitoring of household uptake of toilets will also track women living with a disability to ensure their special needs are being met.
- PHD aim to use a targeted Gender Module of training to optimise facilitator engagement with women and people living with a disability.
- Efforts are being made to improve WASH in schools and health facilities, with the aim of contributing to improving girls' attendance at school (private, safe toilets to use with consideration of menstrual hygiene management needs), and with the aim of improving rates of safe and clean births at healthcare facilities.
- PHD is exploring ways to make community-level water user groups more representative and effective by ensuring at least one woman plays a leadership role within the GMF, and to support women's engagement in WASH activities.

Nutrition

- A key gender outcome for PHD's nutrition programming is strengthened leadership of women which contributes to improved nutritional status of women and children.
- To date the President's Nutrition Program have awarded four women's groups for their efforts to promote better nutrition practices in the community.
- PHD and Alola Foundation have also been actively involving pregnant women, lactating mothers, and other caregivers to promote mother and child health through the Suku Hadome Inan na Oan program.

Social Protection

- The Government of Timor-Leste's social protection programs are already strongly aimed at positively impacting women.
 - Currently more than 94 percent of the recipients of *Bolsa da Mãe* are female-headed households.
 - 30 percent of veterans' pensions are directed to female beneficiaries.
- PHD will undertake research that will provide an explanation of the social, gender, and disability impacts of a number of social protection benefits, with a key focus on the impacts in the area of women's economic empowerment.

Disability

- PHD has been working with the disability sector partners to mainstream gender and promote women's leadership.
- Gender-based staff recruitment has been promoted in our partner DPOs. RHTO has 40 staff: 17 are female with a disability; 2 female without disability; 17 male staff with disability; and 4 male staff without disability. RHTO recruited 13 field officers (12 female and one male) during this period. Three female staff have been recruited for positions in the Dili office of RHTO.
- PHD will deepen support for women's leadership by providing professional development training on management, leadership, and mentoring support with specific support for female RHTO officers.
- In partnership with PRADET, the mental health program benefits 63 women out of a total of 147 participants.
- With ADTL, PHD supported advocacy on an inclusive election process, which integrated the needs of women with disabilities (including elderly and pregnant women) to increase their access to polling stations.
- PHD promoted education and developed the capacity of women in partnership with UNTL and ADTL. Nine women of a total of 18 students with disabilities have been enrolled at a course at UNTL. Two women with disabilities out of a group of five overall participated in an equivalence exam for the senior high school certificate in Kupang Indonesia, and seven women with visual impairment participated in the first equivalency exam for elementary grade in Timor-Leste, facilitated by the Ministry of Education.
- Six of the eight participants of Agape's recent sign language course are women.

Gender-Specific Service Delivery

In addition to its mainstreaming work, the Gender Team supported the implementation of a range of gender-targeted activities.

Building Gender Networks and Strengthening Collaboration

Networks and collaboration are essential to ensuring that efforts to promote gender equality are successful. The Gender Team met with the Ministry of Social Solidarity in May to brief Government of Timor-Leste counterparts on the current programming mix in Social Protection, Gender and Disability. The Ministry of Social Solidarity proposed joint work planning and collaborative activities between the Ministry and PHD.

A key focus area for the Gender Team is to support networks for women so that they can develop approaches to common challenges, strengthen leadership approaches and contribute to decision making. The Gender Team continues to support the strengthening of female participation in decision-making through its work with other PHD sectors. The WASH Team supports inclusive participation in GMFs and the Education Team is promoting greater numbers of female school leaders and teachers in schools. Further, the Team is strengthening partnerships with women's groups and local DPOs through the capacity building work that PRADET is doing. The Gender Team will capitalise on existing networks, particularly through their cross-sectoral collaboration with other sectors, to promote female leadership, and greater voice in decision-making and policy development.

Behaviour Change Advocacy to Address Violence Against Women

Ba Futuru completed the filming of their locally produced three-part television miniseries that is promoting zero tolerance towards violence against women and positive attitudes towards gender equality. The series aims to communicate carefully crafted messaging to young women and men, to trigger change in behaviours and positively influence young people through popular media.

The series was created based on stories from the local context in Timor-Leste and includes a short talk show after each episode, which examines the major themes presented and provides viewers with information on the relevant support services available. PHD intends to continue to support the production of further episodes, which will add new themes.

The *Ba Futuru* team are collecting data through Facebook on viewer's perceptions of the three episodes to analyse the potential impacts on behaviour change as a result of the messaging from the film series.

Video Competition on Rural Women

A video competition to celebrate the contributions of rural women to the development of Timor-Leste was inaugurated at the program launch in March 2017 (which also coincided with International Women's Day). The video competition will be an annual event throughout the life of the program that will aim to promote women's leadership by profiling rural women who make significant contributions to the development of Timor-Leste.



Image 23: Students from local universities take part in training as part of the video competition on rural women.

Twenty-seven journalism students (10 females and 17 males) from two universities, *Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e* and *Universidade Oriental Timor Lorosa'e*, and five staff from PHD and RHTO, participated in video storytelling training from 1 to 3 June 2017. The training had a dual aim of ensuring video competition entries are of a high standard and of building citizen journalism skills of young Timorese journalists.



Image 24: Students from local universities take part in training as part of the video competition on rural women.

Upon completion of video training, PHD provided the students with equipment and financial support to enable them to travel to the municipalities and interview the rural women who would feature in their short films (2 to 3 minutes in duration). The winner will be announced at an event in October 2017 to mark the International Day of Rural Women.

DISABILITY

2016-2017 Budget: AUD 1,053,091

Sector Goal: Improve disability-inclusive mainstreaming in PHD programs and activities, so people living with a disability may benefit from improved opportunities, access services, and increase their participation in leadership and decision-making.

Focus: Strengthen disability inclusion across all PHD sectors; strengthen disability-specific activities through support to disabled people's organisations and disability organisations on service delivery, advocacy, and capacity building; and advocate for people living with a disability, particularly with regard to livelihood and employment.

Government Counterparts:

- Ministry of Social Solidarity (MSS)
- Ministry of Education (particularly the Inclusive Education Department)

Partners:

- RHTO
- ADTL
- PRADET
- Agape School for the Deaf
- CBM Australia

Where we work:	Dili and GoTL	Baucau	Manatuto	Ermera	Liquica	Manufahi	Covalima	Lautem	Oecusse	Bobonaro	Aileu	Ainaro	Viqueque
ADTL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RHTO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PRADET	✓				✓								
Sign Language - Agape	✓												
CBM Australia	✓												

Key Achievements

- First intake of the Timorese Sign Language Course for the Hearing was facilitated by Agape School for the Deaf and completed in June 2017 (eight students in this first intake, six females and two males from the Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Education, PHD, RHTO, and the Australian Embassy).
- 50 percent of female RHTO field officers were recruited. Each municipality now has one male and one female RHTO field officer in place.
- First disability Inclusion training for PHD staff was held and facilitated by CBM Australia, with RHTO and Agape School for the Deaf co-facilitating sessions.
- All PHD sectors are disability inclusive. Each sector has its own disability activities and is working closely with the Disability Team for support, coordination and accountability. Most received technical support from both the Disability Team and CBM Australia.

The Government of Timor-Leste outlines its commitment to inclusive development in its *Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030*, and has committed to achieving SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities by 2020.

Disability affects a significant minority in Timor-Leste.⁹ The key barrier to disability inclusive development globally is social stigma. To counter this, PHD aims to grow understanding of disability issues across the broader community and positively impact on available support services for people living with a disability.

The Disability Team uses a twin-track approach – mainstreaming disability-inclusive approaches across all human development sectors and implementing a disability-specific program which focuses on ensuring that disabled people in Timor-Leste are appropriately supported with strong responsive partners and are included in all aspects of government service delivery and in society.



Mainstreaming Disability

The Disability Team is working closely and collaboratively with the other PHD sector teams to develop disability-inclusive development programming and implement disability-inclusive initiatives.

Health

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Health Team is currently implementing specific health-disability activities:

- Mapping of existing services and referral pathways for people living with a disability in all municipalities.
- Testing the option for registering people living with a disability at healthcare facilities and training staff members on the use of short version of Washington group questions and on the concept of disability inclusion.
- Supporting PHD health implementing partners to be disability-inclusive in their program implementation.
- Promoting Emergency Ambulance Services to people living with a disability.
- Discussing ways to incorporate a step for midwives to complete in the *Liga Inan* technology platform for disability identification of clients.
- PHD's health implementing partners are engaging directly with RHTO to sensitise on their disability-inclusive initiatives.

Education

An international Disability Specialist is working with the PLMP international mentors to deliver disability-inclusive training, mentoring, and support to PLMP school leaders, teachers, and mentors. To date the progress includes:

- Identification of disabilities and implementation of relevant educational strategies in the classroom. Ten common learning problems and 10 physical disabilities have been identified. Materials are being developed by the Disability Specialist.¹⁰
- A multi-sectoral workshop was held involving officials from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, disability organisations, and key persons from the Education, Health, Disability, and Social Protection Teams to develop clear processes and protocols for making necessary referrals to health and disability services. These processes have been utilised by Disability Specialist and links made to municipality health facilities, RHTO, and other relevant services.
- Sixteen mentors have been trained in disability-inclusive educational practices.
- A total of 228 school leaders have now undertaken the topic on inclusive education and disability.

⁹ The 2010 Census identified 48,243 people with a disability (4.53 per cent of the population). This is likely to be a significant underestimate. When global averages are applied, the figure is more likely to be close to 175,000 people.

¹⁰ Learning problems include reading/dyslexia and other learning disabilities associated with mathematics, language, memory, attention/behaviour, non-verbal issues, organisational skills, processing deficits, and executive functions. Physical disabilities include physically dependent, deafblind, deaf/hard of hearing, chronic health, visual impairment, autism spectrum disorder, intellectual developmental disorder (mild, moderate, and severe), Down syndrome, behaviour, and mental health issues.

- The training to date potentially impacts on over 15,000 students and about 600 year 1 to 4 teachers (and increasingly now on year 5 and 6 teachers).

Disability specialists, working together with the Disability Team, visited 15 schools to observe and interview children, and meet with parents and administrators to give them contact information to help referrals for children. Follow-up processes were undertaken to ensure principals had connected with parents. Twelve girls and 24 boys living with a disability have been visited to date.

The unintended positive outcome of school visits has been principals requesting that the PHD Disability Mentor discuss with all children the impacts of bullying for children with disabilities. More positive attitudes and use of less negative vocabulary describing children living with a disability are evident in some schools.

Water and Sanitation

- WASH and disability training manuals and the WaterAid Gender Dialogue Manual have undergone a review with the aim to develop a social inclusion training modules that could lead onto separate training activities for disability and gender.
 - The Gender Dialogue Manual is a transformative tool that promotes a change in the way women and men engage in WASH. It requires community dialogue, reflection, practice, further reflection and recognition of roles. It is a long term process that can be implemented with WASH activities or separately to support the management of an existing system.
 - The Disability training manuals and tools aim to equip facilitators to identify people with a disability and to enable people with disabilities to take an active part in decisions about WASH, including decision-making around appropriate technology.
- In June all key grant partners and their sub-partners and government partners from Atabae, Bobonaro (where the Hygienic Suco Initiative is being implemented) attended the training.
- PHD is supporting CBM Australia and WaterAid to develop a series of three flipbooks with illustrations and key messages to support facilitators in identifying households with people living with a disability, and to provide appropriate counselling about water collection, sanitation, and hygiene for people living with a disability.

Nutrition

- RHTO is a *Hamutuk* partner with a field officer based in Manufahi. RHTO supports joint *Hamutuk* activities, including planning meetings, gender and research training, and field visits. Through the CBM-PHD Partnership, CBM Australia is represented on the *Hamutuk* IAG and provides strategic guidance on disability inclusion to *Hamutuk*. CBM Australia participated in the first IAG mission in May 2017, which included a visit to the field and engaging directly with RHTO partners.

Gender

- PHD supported the recruitment of women living with a disability into RHTO field officer roles. There are plans to provide leadership and management training to all RHTO field officers, with particular focus on the female officers.
- RHTO, in partnership with TAF, conducted research on the experiences of women living with a disability with violence. Part of the Gender Team's work is to ensure that this component is integrated in the overall gender program.
- Gender mainstreaming across PHD has a particular focus on supporting and empowering women living with a disability.

Social Protection

- PHD supported the Ministry of Social Solidarity to organise a briefing session on *Bolsa da Mãe*, legal and operational procedures for disability sector organisations. Discussions were also held to identify ways in which the Ministry and the disability sector could work together to support the current *Bolsa da Mãe* registration process. Information, education, and communication materials were produced and distributed to disability organisations, who were encouraged to disseminate the information to beneficiaries in their areas of intervention.

Disability-Specific Service Delivery

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

This year the funding provided to Psychosocial Recovery & Development in East Timor (PRADET) allowed a focus on continuing the centre-based rehabilitation program for services for people with psychosocial disabilities. Rehabilitation programs at the centre include physical exercise, culinary activities, bakery, literacy, arts and music, dancing, table tennis, and basic self-care and home cleaning activities, as well as outdoor activities such as gardening. Currently there are 13 clients actively attending this program who also continue to receive counselling and psychiatric support.

Outreach for New Client Identification

PRADET focused their work in Dili and Liquica for this period. Fifteen new clients were identified (six males and nine females). All of them have been supported for treatment at health facilities in coordination with the Ministry of Health's Mental Health Case Manager.

Psychosocial Disability Follow-Up Support

The objective of this activity is to monitor how clients are progressing with their re-integration and level of family support. During the last six months, 30 clients (22 female and eight male) were followed-up. A significant majority are doing well, with the ability to live and run a regular daily routine. However, a small number stopped receiving medication due to limited medical supplies.



Image 25: PRADET staff provide follow-up support to a former mental health patient in her family home.

Psychosocial Support to Disabled Clients Who Are Living on the Street

PRADET has started a new activity called *Dalan Ninin Project*. A total of 36 people (23 male, 13 female) have been identified in Dili and supported with food provisions, clothing, medical assistance, and temporary shelter for those who visit the centre. Eight clients have been reintegrated into their families.

Access to Basic Services Support

RHTO, ADTL, and PRADET all have various levels of support for people with disabilities, in particular women and children living with a disability, to access general services and/or disability-specific services. RHTO field officers are working with communities and families to support people living with a disability into education, rehabilitation services with referral for specific services in Dili (such as for wheelchairs), livelihood activities, access to justice support on issues such as violence against women with disabilities, and access to MCH services.

Capacity Building and Skills Development

Community-Based Rehabilitation Course

A Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) course has been part of UNTL programming for the past three years. This course is taught by lecturers both from ADTL and from UNTL. This course is fully funded by PHD and provides opportunities for people with disabilities working at different organisations to complete their higher education. Forty-nine people with disabilities have graduated, with 25 of them employed in different disability organisations.



Image 26: Graduates of the Community-Based Rehabilitation course at UNTL in May 2017.

Equivalency Exams

ADTL in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the *Yayasan Bintang Timur* in Kupang, West Timor – Indonesia, organised an equivalency exam for eight people with disabilities to attain high school certificates in April this year. *Yayasan Bintang Timur* is an educational institution that has a complete program for equivalency exams, and numeracy and literacy packages, and has equivalency programs to allow people with disabilities to access senior high school equivalent certificates. For basic education an equivalent certificate is now available in country through the Ministry of Education's department of '*Ensino Recorrente*'.

In May 2017, the Ministry of Education, with the support from ADTL, conducted the first exams assessing the level of numeracy and literacy of 30 people (male: 16 female: 14; 26 with vision impairment, and 4 with physical disability). A six-month compulsory course (in-country) will be provided, including adapted teaching and learning materials to accommodate the needs of this group (particularly for people with vision impairment). The high commitment from the Ministry of Education is underscored by the recent approval of National Inclusive Education Policy.

Scholarship Support to Children with Disabilities

RHTO has been supporting students with disabilities to access and complete their education through scholarship support. Over this six-month period, RHTO has provided scholarships to 11 children with disabilities (six boys and five girls) to access primary schools, pre-secondary, and junior high schools in seven municipalities (Baucau, Dili, Ermera, Liquica, Lospalos, Manatuto, and Oecusse).

Strengthening National DPOs and Implementing Partners

Specific support was provided to RHTO following the recruitment of 12 female and one male RHTO field officers. PHD has been working closely with RHTO and the preferred training provider to deliver leadership and management professional training to all RHTO field officers. The topics to be delivered are based on the training needs analysis that RHTO has developed. A key focus for this training is mentoring support to RHTO field officers. Official training is expected to start in August 2017, following the election.

Economic Empowerment and Improving Livelihood

ADTL has now established an economic centre to facilitate the marketing of home-made products produced by people with disabilities. The centre was established by the government of Timor-Leste; with the running cost of this centre a part of PHD support. ADTL has also supported the establishment of a cooperative for people with disabilities.

RHTO provides small grants to support the livelihood activities of five self-help groups in five municipalities (Aileu, Baucau, Lautem, Manatutu and Oecusse), with the total membership of 49 people with disabilities (28 female and 21 male) running small businesses and home-based industries (kiosks, tailoring, tais handicraft, horticulture, and fish culture). These income-generating activities have contributed to the family economic improvement and support for children to attend school.



Image 27: A Lospalos based small grant recipient of RHTO, sewing on a machine upgraded with project support.

Strengthening Advocacy and Networking

Community-Level Awareness Raising

RHTO has been delivering community awareness-raising activities at municipal levels as part of the RHTO field officer roles. In addition, RHTO field officers are continuously working with other programs, community leaders, parents, and people with disabilities, to raise the importance of participation of people with disabilities.

ADTL has been working closely with its member organisations and the Ministry of Social Solidarity to support the establishment of the National Disability Council.

ADTL and its members also advocated for the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). ADTL has been actively engaged at national level to progress the UNCRPD ratification. The final draft of decree law (with input from ADTL and its members) for the establishment of the National Disability Council was approved by the Minister of Social Solidarity and is now ready to be presented to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Political participation of people with disabilities is important and therefore ADTL has promoted 11 people with disabilities to be trained and then act as observers during the recent presidential election. Recommendations have been made and submitted to National Election Commission to consider the electoral and political rights of people with disabilities and to make voting more accessible.

CONCLUSION

During the second reporting period (January to June 2017), PHD has continued to deepen the impact of Australian Government funding in support of the Government of Timor-Leste's development plan. Program activities are expanding to more municipalities, with geographic and cross-sectoral approaches being trialled to inform future interventions. Visibility of the program has also increased in Timor-Leste through active communication of program activities and positive media coverage.

The areas where the program has made the most significant impact over the past six months have been through its support to service delivery, systems and processes, capacity building, access and inclusion, and collaborative partnerships. Combined together, these areas are making a difference to the future development of Timor-Leste and the lives of Timorese people.

Making an Impact

In the past six months, PHD has ramped up activities to support the delivery of essential services with the Government of Timor-Leste and NGOs, particularly where there is limited capacity and resources. Providing basic human services involves developing core administrative and institutional capabilities. PHD is positively affecting the delivery of basic services across health, education, water, sanitation, social protection, and nutrition, and ensures that women and people living with a disability can have equal access. PHD also works with NGOs, such as RHTO, ADTL, and PRADET, to fund the delivery of services to vulnerable people.

Improved policies, systems, and processes increase efficiency and accountability in service delivery. Through PHD, better data is being collected and analysed to inform policy and decision-making in health, education, and social protection. There is improved warehousing and supply chain management for education and health. Financial system strengthening and budget reform has been delivered to ministries at the national level, and down to the community level through training to GMFs. Policymaking has been strengthened under social protection, particularly for *Bolsa da Mãe* and the draft national strategy. In line with the government's decentralisation approach, PHD has also worked with municipal authorities to improve water supply systems and health provision in conjunction with communities. Sectors have also been actively involved in supporting the government's implementation of the SDGs.

Capacity building across the program has been fundamental in the last six months. Expansion of mentoring and leadership for teachers and school leaders has aimed to improve student performance, while training for midwives and doctors will contribute to a lowered mortality rate for mothers and babies. The Water Team trained pump technicians in water system repairs to better support water system maintenance, and under social protection, formal training was delivered to social technicians working with vulnerable people. PHD continued to support disability training through the CBR course at UNTL, while inclusive and disability awareness training was provided by RHTO, ADTL, and PRADET.

In the past six months, there has been a concerted effort to integrate gender and disability mainstreaming across PHD to ensure program design is accessible and inclusive. A key component of this work has been programming of advocacy and behaviour change approaches. The Gender Team supported the development of a television series tackling gender-based violence. Education focused on increasing the number and participation of female teachers in schools, and providing scholarships for girls so they stay in school and finish their education. Assessments were also undertaken by education and health to understand where barriers to accessing services exist, particularly for people with disabilities. The Alola Foundation's mobile library service to remote areas, and the use of mother-tongue languages, are supported to address barriers to participation. Sanitation and Water partner facilitators were trained in how to actively engage women and people with disabilities. CBM Australia and other disability partners have been involved in strategy, planning, and research across the program to make program design more accessible and inclusive.

At its core, PHD is a program based on collaborative partnerships. The program collaborates with government, implementing partners, and communities. It is important these partnerships continue, so activities are owned by stakeholders and there is a vested interest in their sustainability. Partnerships with government have been enhanced at the national level through ongoing engagement and technical assistance. The PHD launch in March signified a positive shift in collaboration with and endorsement of program activities by the Government of Timor-Leste.

At the sub-national level, many programs were piloted with municipal authority involvement, particularly in health, water and sanitation. PHD is also driving collaborative approaches at the municipal level in Bobonaro, with the municipality being used as a test site for geographical approaches, in line with the government's decentralisation strategy. *Hamutuk* is one such example of a pilot involving over 20 partners working

together to address malnutrition. Although this cross-sectoral approach is not yet fully integrated across the program, these pilots will inform future interventions based on the lessons learned.

The integration of innovation has also been a strong differentiator in the early phase of the program. Tablets are being used by school leaders to hold electronic curriculum materials and tools for conducting lesson observations. Data from literacy and numeracy tests conducted in schools involved in the program has been collated on the tablets. Health data and mapping is being used to inform health service provision and *Liga Inan* is connecting pregnant mothers to healthcare providers using mobile phones. However, it is not just technology driving innovation across the program; innovative approaches and the sharing of ideas is also being advocated, as was evidenced by the Timor-Leste Food Innovator Exchange in May.



Image 28: Constantino Belo of PHD's Water and Sanitation Team meets with community members in Bobonaro.

Looking forward

At the end of this period, PHD is looking forward to seeing the results of the Parliamentary election and working to support the partnership between the new Government of Timor-Leste and the Government of Australia. In the past six months, the program has begun to deliver on its promise to be a platform from which key human development sectors can work together to resolve difficult development problems.

There is room to deepen the way in which sectors are working together at the municipal level and to think through how the program best interacts with the Government of Timor-Leste. This will allow space for cross-sectoral discussions that will, in the end, impact key priorities for human development in Timor-Leste. The program will, during the next six months, finalise the MELF, which will provide more focus, direction, and rigour to the delivery of the Partnership, and will enable the program to more effectively demonstrate the impacts it is making on the lives of Timorese people.

As a team we continue to support the strength in our senior Timorese leadership and look for ways to best engage the people of Timor-Leste – communities, individuals, those who have authority, and those who have none – in the process of driving better human development outcomes for this country.

