

Partnership for Human Development

AUSTRALIA TIMOR-LESTE

SIX-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT: VOLUME I

July–December 2016



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Partnership for Human Development
Six-Monthly Progress Report: Volume I
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Cover photo: Junior doctor completing medical training through the Royal Australian College of Surgeons
Credit: Sara Hudson, Royal Australian College of Surgeons

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Human Development**
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency
ADTL	Asosiasaun Defisiensia Timor-Leste
ATLASS II	Australia-Timor-Leste Program of Assistance for Secondary Services Phase II
AUD	Australian Dollars
AVI	Australian Volunteers International
BESIK	Programa Bee, Saneamentu no Ijiene iha Komunidade Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Communities Program
CBM	Christian Blind Mission Australia
CBR	Community-based Rehabilitation [Program]
CLTS	Community-led Total Sanitation
CS WASH	Civil Society Water, Sanitation and Hygiene [Fund]
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CVTL	Cruz Vermelha Timor-Leste
CYP	Couple Years of Protection
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DNSA	National Directorate for Water Supply
EGRA	Early Grade Reading Assessment
EMBLI	Edukasaun Multilingue Bazia Lian Inan Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Program
GfD	Governance for Development [Program]
HAI	Health Alliance International
HMIS	Health Management Information System
ICFP	Instituto Católico para a Formação de Professores Baucau Catholic Teachers' College
ILO	International Labour Organization
INFORDEPE	Instituto Nacional de Formação de Docentes e Profissionais da Educação National Institute for the Training of Teachers and Educational Professionals
INS	Instituto Nacional de Saude
KONSSANTIL	Konsellu Nasionál Seguransa, Soberania Ai-han no Nutrisaun Timor-Leste National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition in Timor-Leste
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MECAS	Minister of State, Coordinator of Social Affairs
MELF	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework
MSTL	Marie Stopes Timor-Leste
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
ODF	Open Defecation Free
PFM	Public Financial Management
PHD	Australia Timor-Leste Partnership for Human Development
PLMP	Professional Learning and Mentoring Program
PLSF	Procurement and Logistics Support Facility
PRADET	Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor
RACS	Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
RHTO	Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

SIGAS	Social Assistance Management Information System
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
TLM	The Leprosy Mission [Timor-Leste]
TLNAS	Timor-Leste National Ambulance Service
TOMAK	To'os Ba Moris Diak Farming for Prosperity Program
TVTL	Televisão de Timor-Leste [Television channel in Timor-Leste]
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPMA	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Australia Timor-Leste Partnership for Human Development (PHD) is an Australian Government funded program that brings together individual Australian Government investments in health, education, water, sanitation, gender equality, disability, social protection, and nutrition under one program to achieve greater human development outcomes for the people and Government of Timor-Leste.

Within the first 6 months of program commencement – known as the Inception Phase (July to December 2016) – Abt Associates successfully novated or transitioned existing programs and activities under one program. During these first 6 months Abt Associates also established the corporate operational platform for the program and transitioned over 44 personnel from previous programs to PHD. Programs and activities have continued with minimal disruption, while PHD has engaged in a strategic planning exercise to deliver both its Annual Plan for 2017 and Five Year Strategic Plan for collaborative and innovative programming for the next 5 to 10 years. PHD has also maintained long-term relationships with key stakeholders, including government counterparts and implementing partners, by working closely with the Australian Embassy to ensure PHD supports the Australian Government's engagement with the Government of Timor-Leste.

Moving forward, PHD is focused on finalising and implementing its Annual Plan for 2017 and Five Year Strategic Plan, in consultation and cooperation with both governments. This will be underpinned by a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) that will ensure:

- accountability for the activities implemented by the program with the resources available;
- that efficiency and value for money is achieved through strong program and financial management;
- that attention is given to opportunities for learning and knowledge generation and sharing; and
- effective communication about PHD activities and outcomes to stakeholders to support evidence-based decision-making.

This volume of the Progress Report provides an account of the progress made in each sector by Abt Associates and PHD in the Inception Period, July to December 2016, in relation to its efforts to enhance human development in Timor-Leste.

Volume 2 of the Progress Report reflects on the operational progress made against the PHD Head Contract, Agreement no. 72505.

Key activities delivered during this reporting period include:

- Successful transition to PHD and continued delivery of existing Australian Government investments in Timor-Leste, including the Procurement and Logistics Support Facility (PLSF), Programa Bee, Saneamentu no Ijiene iha Komunitade (BESIK) and the Governance for Development (GfD) program.
- Transition of over 44 personnel from previous programs to PHD to ensure that strong relationships are maintained or established and existing program knowledge is retained.
- Successful transition of 11 grant agreements to Abt Associates, maintaining strong relationships with partners as reflected in the Partner's satisfaction survey results.
- A collaborative and informed annual planning and strategic planning process facilitated by external consultants, Jan Cossar and Linda Kelly.
- Launching of the PHD Facebook page, which has attracted over 9,800 followers.
- Supporting the launch of the Hamutuk program in September 2016.
- Establishment and implementation of the PHD Operations Manual, including training of program personnel in the processes and procedures detailed within.

INTRODUCTION

PHD's support to the Government of Timor-Leste reflects Australia's commitment to working in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste to enhance human development in Timor-Leste over the next 5 to 10 years, contributing to achieving the *Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030* priorities. This Australian Government investment (AUD 120 million over the first phase, July 2016 to May 2021) works towards Strategic Objective 2 of Australia's Timor-Leste Aid Investment Plan: *Enhancing Human Development*.

PHD brings together, under one program, what were previously 8 separate Australian Government investments in health, education, sanitation, water, nutrition, gender equality, disability, and social protection. By bringing these sectors together, the Government of Australia hopes to maximise the effectiveness, relevance, and performance of Australia's human development aid portfolio to better support the Government of Timor-Leste.

PHD's Five Year Strategic Plan will deliver greater coherence of PHD's programs and activities, enabling enhanced support to the Government of Timor-Leste to achieve its development priorities. PHD's MELF will support these efforts, providing a firm evidence base for decision-making, innovative interventions, and ongoing support. Furthermore, the MELF will allow PHD the ability to determine which of its programs and activities are achieving development impacts, and which need to be further reviewed and modified to better suit the needs of the Timorese Government.

PHD's goal is to support the people and Government of Timor-Leste to build and sustain healthy, educated, and prosperous individuals and communities, who live with dignity and determine their own future.

Working together under one program will enable previous Australian Government investments to deliver on the objectives identified in Figure 1 below.

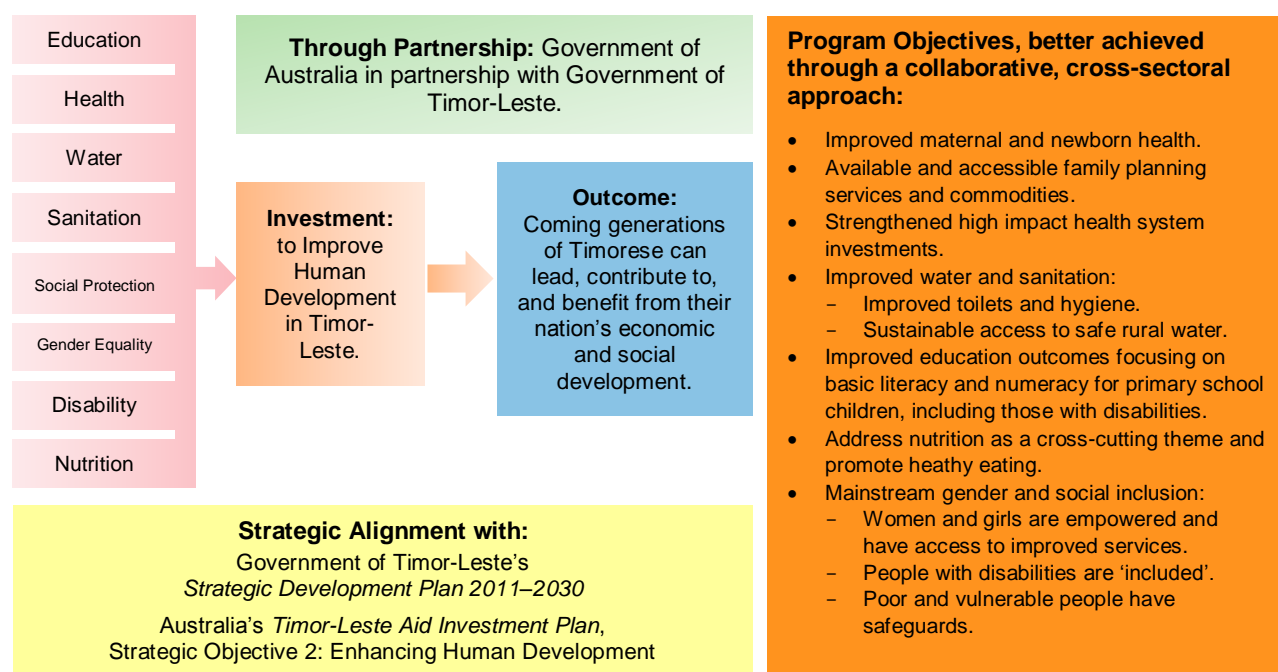


Figure 1: PHD's Overarching Framework

Since commencement, PHD has undergone a mobilisation period and inception period (July to December 2016) in which approximately 70 percent of existing programs that were either directly managed by the Australian Embassy or through other managing contractors (funded by the Australian Embassy) were novated to PHD. The focus of efforts during this period was on novating and transitioning these existing investments to PHD with minimum disruption to program implementation and activities, largely allowing these programs to continue on as they had been prior to PHD.

The Health and Education sectors were largely pre-committed, with programs being novated to PHD during this reporting period, and continued with program implementation. The Water, Sanitation, and Social Protection sectors did not have pre-commitments and began their planning process during this reporting period to commence full implementation in 2017. The Gender and Disability sectors novated existing partners to PHD and supported these partners to plan for their work in 2017. The Australian Embassy maintained management of the technical aspects of the nutrition programs, with PHD

providing operational support. The following sections provide a more in-depth account on the progress of work done in each sector during this 6-month reporting period, July to December 2016.

ACHIEVING GREATER DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

A key objective of the PHD design is to achieve better human development outcomes – those that directly impact on the people of Timor-Leste – through a more effective and efficient delivery approach that is able to offer a more complete response to complex development challenges. Ways of working more effectively in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste, other donors, and non-government organisations (NGOs) through a collaborative, cross-sectoral approach have been discussed through a series of strategic programming meetings, and continue to be developed. This approach will be trialled in coming years, linked to a robust MELF, to ensure that the most appropriate and effective modalities for program delivery are being applied to best deliver Australia's aid investments.

The design for PHD provides a strong rationale for why individual sectors should fall under the one program – that a consolidated human development program managed by a single contractor would provide a more effective and efficient approach to deliver Australia's support for the Government of Timor-Leste's human development priorities. PHD will now pilot collaborative, cross-sectoral ways in which the program can best achieve positive impacts on the wellbeing of Timorese people and capitalise on the following opportunities:

- Solving common problems and innovation across sectors.
- Cross-learning.
- Responsiveness, flexibility, and capacity to respond to opportunities.



HEALTH



2016–17 Budget: AUD 7,575,000

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

Focus: Maternal and newborn health.

Government Counterparts:

Ministry of Health
Instituto Nacional de Saude (INS)

Partners:

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

Key Achievements

- Increasing trend in services delivered monthly by MSTL, including small group sessions on family planning and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) to more than 27,000 people. MSTL achieved 17,920 couple years of protection (CYP), resulting in an estimated 1,743 unintended pregnancies being averted.
- 85 percent of MSTL's clients reported being satisfied with the family planning and SRH services received through the MSTL team.
- 87 midwives and 2 doctors completed a full Learning Laboratory cycle, including 66 midwives completing training on safe and clean delivery, and 21 midwives completing training for essential newborn care.
- 22 Timorese doctors were trained in anaesthesia, paediatrics, and surgery, and 24 first year Diploma and 8 Postgraduate Diploma trainees in Family Medicine (Foundation Year) successfully completed their rotations and exams.
- Over 14,000 expectant mothers are registered through the Liga Inan program, which means they will have regular interaction with healthcare providers, particularly midwives, during their pregnancy and a greater chance of delivering at a health facility.
- The Ambulance and Transport Project continues to provide support to the Timor-Leste National Ambulance Service (TLNAS), maintaining 100 percent ambulance coverage throughout Timor-Leste, and establishing their computer-aided dispatch system in the 24 hour call centre.

PHD's partners in the Health sector have continuously assisted the Ministry of Health to deliver services and provide health system support to improve maternal and newborn health, with some support provided directly through PHD to the Ministry of Health. Health partners (except HAI and Catalpa International) were novated to PHD during this reporting period and

have continued to implement activities under the management of the Australian Embassy, with operational support provided by PHD. From 2017 onwards, management of health partners will be directly through PHD.

A key focus of this reporting period was to ensure that health partners continued to receive support to implement their activities with minimal disruption as a result of the transition to PHD. During this reporting period, the PHD Health team worked collaboratively and consultatively with the Ministry of Health, the Australian Embassy and partners to improve quality maternal and child healthcare provision for the Timorese people in line with the priorities of the Government of Timor-Leste.

Improving Maternal and Newborn Health through Communication

Liga Inan



The innovative mHealth initiative, Liga Inan, is implemented in partnership between Catalpa International, HAI, and the Ministry of Health. Liga Inan uses simple mobile phone technology to foster communication between expectant mothers and health workers, delivering targeted notifications to influence behaviours, and reduce Timor-Leste's high maternal and child morbidity and mortality rates. Registration at a community health centre means that expectant mothers are more likely to benefit from professional care during pregnancy and after delivery of their baby. Additionally, the program's work in Manufahi demonstrated that women registered with Liga Inan were twice as likely to deliver with a skilled birth attendant and in a health facility compared to where Liga Inan was not implemented. They were also 5.5 times more likely to go for a follow-up postnatal

care check within 2 days of delivery.

During this reporting period, Liga Inan scaled-up in a further 2 municipalities, Ainaro and Covalima, to now operate in a total of 7 municipalities (Aileu, Ainaro, Covalima, Ermera, Liquica, Manatuto, and Manufahi). The management for work in Liquica was handed over to the Ministry of Health in November 2016. Preliminary work to launch in Baucau in mid-2017 has also been initiated. By December 2016 over 14,000 women were registered across 6 municipalities.

Outreach – Family Planning

PHD continues to support MSTL's work with the Ministry of Health in the provision of family planning and SRH services in 11 municipalities in Timor-Leste. MSTL operates in every sub-municipality of these 11 municipalities, supporting more than 140 community health centres and health posts to deliver a range of high quality family planning and SRH services and training.

During this reporting period, MSTL provided small group education sessions on family planning and SRH to more than 27,000 people.

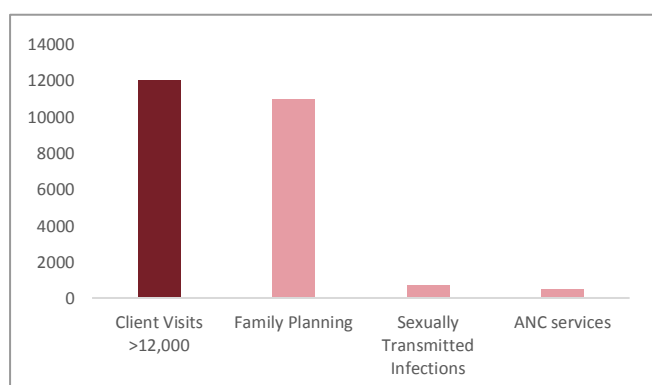


Figure 2: Types of Client Visits Attended by MSTL During This Reporting Period

The youth hotline (*Lina Foin-sa'e*) recorded a total of 12,469 calls, with an increase to 52 percent in female callers under 20 years of age. The MSTL clinic and outreach teams attended more than 12,400 client visits. Figure 2 illustrates the types of client visits attended by the MSTL clinic and outreach teams. Through MSTL's work, 17,920 CYP¹ were generated, resulting in an estimated 1,743 unintended pregnancies being averted.

As a result of MSTL's work, an increased proportion² of Timorese women are now using family planning methods,

¹ CYP is a measure that estimates the protection from pregnancy provided by contraceptive methods during a one-year period (Marie Stopes International).

² 42 percent of clients interviewed in the biennial Client Exit Interviews conducted in quarter 4 of 2016 by MSTL reported never having used family planning methods previously.

with an increase in those changing the methods being used. The percentage of intrauterine device and implant users have doubled and tripled respectively since 2010.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), family planning helps prevent closely-spaced and ill-timed pregnancies and births, which are directly linked to infant mortality rates. WHO's evidence also suggests that women who have more than 4 children are at increased risk of maternal mortality³.

With regard to client satisfaction towards the work done by MSTL, results from their biennial Client Exit interviews⁴ in quarter 4 of 2016 reported that 85 percent of clients were satisfied with the attitude and responsiveness of, and the advice and information provided on services through the MSTL team.

Health System Strengthening

Building Capacity through Training and Supervision of Healthcare Workers

MSTL and HAI have been working closely with the Ministry of Health to strengthen the competencies of Ministry of Health midwives in family planning, safe and clean delivery, and essential newborn care through Learning Laboratories, and coaching and mentoring of providers and their supervisors.

MSTL has been piloting a capacity facilitation model to work with the Ministry of Health to strengthen clinical competency of midwives using a holistic competency-development approach. This approach builds on pre-service training support and the INS's certification program by pairing newly trained and/or certified Ministry of Health midwives with MSTL providers through an in-service coaching model to improve competency. Through this, MSTL is supporting the improved knowledge, skills, and attitudes of clinical providers to deliver high quality, broad ranging family planning services to provide clients with a range of choices for family planning and SRH services. With greater competency of government midwives, the quality of family planning and SRH services is improving, more families are aware of the benefits of and are using these services, and more midwives are delivering safe and clean births and essential newborn care services.



In addition to supporting the Ministry of Health midwives, MSTL has supported the rotation of RACS junior doctors enrolled in the Family Medicine Program (Foundation Year). In 2016, 12 doctors completed 2-month rotations, each at the Dili Clinic and with the Dili outreach team.

HAI is delivering Learning Laboratories, facilitated by HAI's Senior Midwife Educators in partnership with INS. These Laboratories are a capacity building intervention for midwives that use active adult learning methods and problem-based, participatory action learning to develop core competencies in life-saving skills, strengthen capacities in the areas of safe and clean delivery and essential newborn care, and improve provider–client communication. The Learning Laboratory model responds to the gap in sufficient, systematic follow-up, to assure that after health providers participate in national training they receive support to gain and build confidence in their newly-acquired skills, and meet core competencies needed to deliver high quality maternal health services. HAI's Learning Laboratories have been implemented in Aileu, Ainaro, Dili, Ermera, Liquica, Manatuto, and Manufahi, and have assisted midwives to move from sub-competency skill levels to competent and proficient skill levels in safe and clean delivery and essential newborn care.

During this reporting period, a total of 87 midwives and 2 doctors completed a full Learning Laboratory cycle. This includes 66 midwives and 21 midwives for safe and clean delivery and essential newborn care, respectively. All healthcare providers completed their Laboratory cycle. Another 61 providers started a Laboratory cycle during the period and will complete their cycle in 2017.

³ See <<http://who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs351/en/>>.

⁴ 498 MSTL clients were interviewed. Detailed socio-demographic statistics and qualitative feedback was collected from these clients.



RACS has been providing secondary health services, such as Anaesthesia, Paediatrics, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine, through the Australia Timor-Leste Program of Assistance for Secondary Services Phase II (ATLASS II) in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Guido Valadares National Hospital, and the National University of Timor-Leste.

ATLASS II is delivered to produce a cadre of skilled doctors with clinical skills in Family Medicine, Anaesthesia, Paediatrics, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Emergency, and Internal Medicine.

During this reporting period, 22 Timorese doctors continued their Postgraduate Diploma studies and another 32 trainees completed their studies in Foundation Year or Postgraduate Diploma. The average pass rate has been 98.4 percent⁵. Through RACS's initiatives, more junior doctors expect to have increased basic clinical competencies, including in maternal and reproductive health, family planning, and paediatric services, which will contribute to improving health services, including maternal and child health services, in Timor-Leste.

22

Postgraduate Diploma
(Anaesthesia, Paediatrics, and Surgery)
Master of Medicine
(Paediatrics)

24

Foundation Year
(previously Family Medicine Program, Year 1)

8

Postgraduate Diploma (Family Medicine)

Informed Decision-Making and More Effective and Efficient Resource Allocation

PHD has supported the Ministry of Health's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Health Management Information System (HMIS) departments to better analyse and use health information from 5 municipalities that have been using and have made improvements to their HMIS. The HMIS is being expanded to two more municipalities, Aileu and Ermera. Feedback from the process to improve the HMIS was shared at the Joint Annual Health Sector Review and is being used by the WHO to feed into the National M&E Strategic Plan, and the program registers for maternal and child health, immunisation, family planning, outpatients, laboratory, and surveillance. PHD has also provided assistance to the Ministry of Health to implement the National M&E Strategic Plan. Stronger health systems provide scope for improving both access and health practices. As such, PHD will continue to provide support in this area.

Supporting Public Financial Management

PHD began providing public financial management (PFM) support to the Ministry of Health in October 2016. In collaboration with the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (UPMA), office of the Prime Minister, and the GfD program, PHD is supporting the Ministry of Health in implementing program-based budgeting. This has included supporting finance officials in preparation for the transition to the new program and activity structure in early 2017.

⁵ This pass rate, which exceeds the targeted 90 percent pass rate, is an average of the 60 junior doctors who successfully completed their Foundation Year in December 2016.

In addition to this, PHD has also provided support to the Ministry of Health in preparation for the decentralisation of the final approval of payments from the Ministry of Finance in early 2017. PHD has been providing support in preparation for the decentralisation of health budgets from the Ministry of Health to the 12 municipal administrations in 2017.

Service Delivery – Ambulance and Transport System

TLNAS is a free government-run service providing emergency response across all 13 municipalities in Timor-Leste. TLNAS has a fleet of 56 active vehicles (with a further 77 multi-function vehicles) and approximately 85 staff, including paramedics, doctors, and ambulance officers. PHD's support to TLNAS through the Ambulance and Transport Project supports the Ministry of Health to stabilise and maintain a health transport network, and covers training and competency, maintenance and equipment, and management.

Ambulance location coverage across Timor-Leste has been maintained at 100 percent, with vehicle availability at approximately 80 percent, compared to 56 percent at project commencement. However, the overall increasing age of the fleet is proving increasingly complex and difficult to maintain the high level of vehicle availability. The maintenance team undertake, on average, 9 service events per week – 35 percent of these are conducted in the municipalities at the vehicle's location by the mobile mechanic teams. There is a full service maintenance facility in Dili and 7 workshops in the municipalities, which the mobile mechanic team uses. The team covers all 13 municipalities through a rotating visit schedule. Through this mobile mechanic model the project has consistently maintained high-quality and low-cost maintenance services.

With staff from CVTL, the Ambulance and Transport Project has implemented a computer-aided dispatch system (developed by Catalpa International) that will improve the 24-hour operations centre response and dispatch services.

In October 2016, TLNAS team members travelled to Darwin, Australia, to gain exposure to a variety of aspects of emergency services. They participated in the WHO emergency medical team verification event, attended a disaster logistics course, and observed professionals at the St John Ambulance Operations Centre.

In November 2016, the team visited the Victorian Ambulance Service in Victoria, Australia, to learn about clinical leadership models on-road with David Natoli, a mobile intensive care paramedic and senior clinician. In exchange, Mr Natoli flew back to Dili to provide technical advice on the implementation of Clinical Practice Guidelines within TLNAS.

TLNAS is actively seeking to improve clinical outcomes and transport times for vulnerable and ill patients in Timor-Leste. The Ambulance and Transport Project works collaboratively with TLNAS to maintain resource availability and staff competency.

Improved Access to Health Services for People Living with a Disability

CBM has been providing services to ensure health programs are inclusive of and benefit people living with a disability, particularly women and children. CBM completed the research report: *Access to Maternal and Newborn Health Services for Women with Disabilities in Timor-Leste*, and disseminated the findings, which have been used to plan future positive action. CBM has been an advocate of disability awareness in Timor-Leste by providing training to key providers and NGOs in the Health sector. Improved disability awareness in the Health sector provides greater scope for everyone to access services.

Box 1 – Timor-Leste's Ambulance Service provides midwifery support for on-road retrievals in Dili and aeromedical transfers to the districts

TLNAS's first on-road midwife, Felismina dos Santos, delivered a healthy baby in Hera after being called to the home when the mother went into labour and there was not enough time to reach the nearest health facility.

This life-saving service is supported by the Ambulance and Transport Project, which works with the Ministry of Health to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality. Over a third of ambulance call-outs are obstetric-related.

The project also provides clinical support to the TLNAS, which includes an Australian paramedic adviser, a Timorese-trained midwife, and now 8 emergency medical dispatchers provided in collaboration with CVTL.

Every year over 200 Timorese nurses and doctors are trained in emergency ambulance care. This is delivered through professional development, as well as formal training provided by program partners.



EDUCATION



2016–17 Budget: AUD 3,443,611

Sector Goals: Improved basic education for all Timorese children for improved literacy and numeracy skills.

Focus: Children in Grades 1 to 6.

Government Counterparts:

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

Partners:

Catalpa International
Australian Volunteers International (AVI)
UNESCO National Commission
Alola Foundation
Instituto Católico para a Formação de Professores (ICFP) –
Baucau Catholic Teachers' College

Key Achievements

- Supported the Ministry of Education to distribute the new national curriculum materials for Grades 3 and 4 to 307 preschools and 1,334 Ensino Basico (primary) schools.
- Implemented Phase 1 and 2 of the Professional Learning and Mentoring Program (PLMP) in 5 municipalities, 148 schools in 26 clusters, involving 196 school leaders.
- Conducted Leadership training of approximately 196 school leaders in a series of leadership events, as well as mentoring of approximately 596 Grade 1 to 4 teachers within PLMP.
- 53 students graduated with a Bachelor of Basic Education from ICFP. There are 65 new enrolments for the pre-service teacher training for 2017.
- Designed interactive training materials for teachers and school leaders, including:
 - Set-up and delivery of training materials on tablets.
 - Design and development of mobile application for peer learning.
 - Design and deployment of data collection and assessment tool.
 - Design and development of mobile application for teacher classroom observations.
 - Creation of real-time program monitoring dashboard.
- Preparation for the monitoring and evaluation of PLMP and specialised teacher training.
- Supported the implementation of the EMBLI Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Program in Manatuto, Lautem, and Oecusse, demonstrating strong results and effectiveness in rural areas of Timor-Leste where educational results have been weak, as well as cost-effectiveness.

Working in a 'one team' approach with the Australian Embassy Education counterparts, the PHD Education team has continued to work collaboratively and consultatively with the Ministry of Education and INFORDEPE to deliver basic education activities in line with the priorities of the Government of Timor-Leste.

Throughout this reporting period, the Education team worked to ensure uninterrupted and ongoing support through PLMP to improve literacy and numeracy in the early years, and holistic learning outcomes through building school leadership capacity. The program also worked to improve Grades 1 to 4 teacher practice, and education sector policy and systems. A key focus in this reporting period was to support the distribution of the Ministry of Education's new child-centred basic education curriculum and training of teachers.

The priority areas for PHD work in the Education sector are:

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

The following activities implemented through the PHD Education sector work contribute to the priorities above.

Professional Learning and Mentoring Program

Partners

- **AVI** – recruit, mobilise, and provide in-country care to international mentors from Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, Portugal, and the United States.
- **Alola Foundation** – deliver PLMP in the Daisoli cluster in Aileu.
- **Catalpa International** – design interactive training materials, set up and deliver training materials on tablets, design and develop mobile app for peer learning, design and deploy data collection and assessment tool, design and develop mobile app for teacher classroom observations, and create a real-time program monitoring dashboard.
- **ICFP** – deliver pre-service teacher training.
- **World Bank⁶** – support the monitoring and evaluation of PLMP and specialised teacher training.
- **DFAT's Office of Development Effectiveness⁶** – plan for the evaluation of PLMP.

PLMP, partnered with the Ministry of Education and INFORDEPE, supports the implementation of the new basic education curriculum and its pedagogies by working with teachers and school leaders to build teacher capacity and leadership to improve teaching practices and student learning in Grades 1 to 6. This has been achieved through:

- **Leadership events** for school leaders involved in Grades 1 to 6. Two-day leadership training sessions for school leaders involved in Grades 1 to 6 are held 3 times per phase. Sessions cover topics such as school-based management, observation and feedback skills, provision of teacher support, literacy and numeracy assessment, teacher peer learning groups, and disability in schools.
- **Mentoring** to school leaders as they apply learning gained from the leadership events during implementation of each phase. International, national, and accompanier mentors work closely with school leaders and teachers to support teacher capacity through peer learning groups, providing classroom observations and feedback sessions, and conducting literacy and numeracy assessments.

Mentors have training and experience in basic education, and support school leaders to implement the new curriculum, build leadership skills, conduct classroom observations, and support school-based assessments.

23

Accompanier mentors

4

National mentors

5

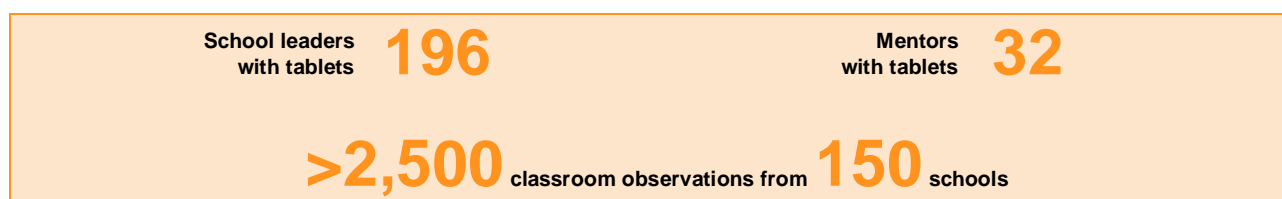
International mentors⁷

- **Peer learning groups** are held for school leaders and teachers who are teaching in the same year levels in a school cluster to meet and work together to learn from each other as they plan lessons together, provide feedback, discuss resources, and problem-solve issues in their teaching and learning. Peer learning groups occur at least bi-monthly within clusters.
- **Educational technology** to share information, monitor and evaluate progress, and engage in peer-to-peer networking. School leaders are provided with a tablet pre-programmed with a custom-built application and dashboard

⁶ Not funded through PHD.

⁷ Accompanier mentors are national staff who live locally and near the schools they work with. National mentors are Ministry of Education staff seconded to the PLMP. International mentors are international staff that oversee and provide technical support to the accompanier and national mentors.

to collect, store, and submit data about classroom observations, student literacy/numeracy results, and peer learning that can be later analysed. Each tablet is uploaded with the new national curriculum, lesson plans, and materials.



PLMP is implemented in phases. Each phase runs for 9 to 12 months and covers approximately 50 percent of school clusters of Grades 1 to 6 in each municipality. The aim is to have nationwide coverage within 5 years. The phases and municipalities covered are shown below in Table 1.

Table 1: PLMP Phases

Phase of PLMP	Locations	Scope
Phase 1 (Apr 2016 to Mar 2017)	Liquica and Manatuto	11 clusters, 58 schools (including parallel schools), 83 school leaders
Phase 2 (Aug 2016 to Jul 2017)	Dili (including Atauro), Aileu, and one cluster in Lacluta, Viqueque	15 clusters, 90 schools, 113 school leaders
Phase 3 (Feb 2017 to Dec 2017)	Baucau and Viqueque (25 percent of each municipality) and Bobonaro	

The improvements in teacher classroom practice have resulted in increased student literacy and numeracy test results by varying degrees, but usually by around 15 to 20 percent over a 4-month period. The World Bank plans to verify these results through testing in early 2017.

An observation checklist used in Liquica and Manatuto, has indicated an increase in teacher lesson preparation from approximately 75 percent to over 90 percent in this reporting period. Similarly, 80 to 90 percent of Grade 1 to 4 teachers have shown improvements in implementation of the lesson plans, classroom management, pedagogical skills, and participation in the reporting period⁸. It is expected that through these improvements higher student engagement will result and lead to improved literacy and numeracy outcomes.

Interviews were conducted with inspectors, directors, adjuntos, and coordinators of filial schools, who indicated the following improvements in teacher practices:

- Teachers remaining at school after hours to prepare lessons.
- Teachers being creative in using various resources to engage students better in the learning process.
- Better use of group work.
- Teacher use of an individual lesson plan reflecting the new curriculum.
- Increased punctuality of teachers and leaders.
- Greater use of active learning processes.
- More child-centred learning.

Considerable improvements in student literacy and numeracy results have been evident across each of the municipalities. Dili, Aileu, and Lacluta, with PLMP operating over 3 months, have done two cycles of literacy/numeracy testing. The majority of children in most schools were performing at a low level, but there are around 60 to 70 percent who scored above half marks in the second cycle of testing.

⁸ This is compared to 60 percent in May/June 2016.

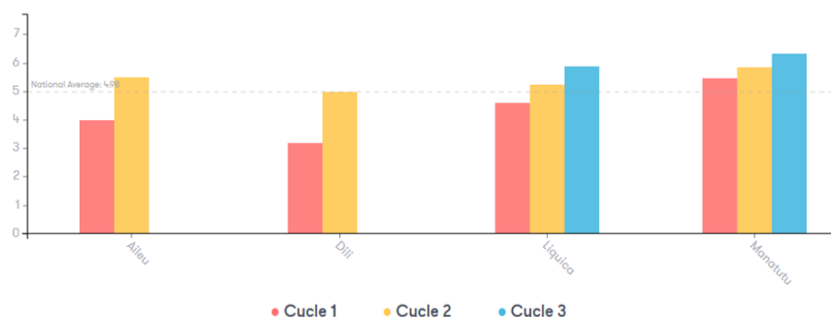


Figure 3: Grade 1 Literacy Improvement across Municipalities

PLMP will continue implementation of Phase 2, commence implementation of Phase 3, and discuss the possibility of a Phase 4 with the Ministry of Education in 2017. These discussions with the ministry will include consideration of other aspects of Phase 3 and 4, and budgeting and work-planning.

EMBLI Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Program

There has been a move towards using non-official national languages as languages of instruction in early basic education. The results of this have shown considerable improvement in student literacy rates, as demonstrated by the Endline Assessment carried out by the UNESCO National Commission through the EMBLI program.

The program has been piloted in schools in Manatuto, Lautem, and Oecusse – two preschools and two primary schools in each municipality. Teacher training has continued to focus on program principles and methodologies, classroom practices in teaching and learning using mother tongue, the progression of instructional language to Tetum and Portuguese, and various interactive and student-centred activities and role plays. Approximately 58 teachers have participated in the teacher training from across the 3 pilot municipalities.

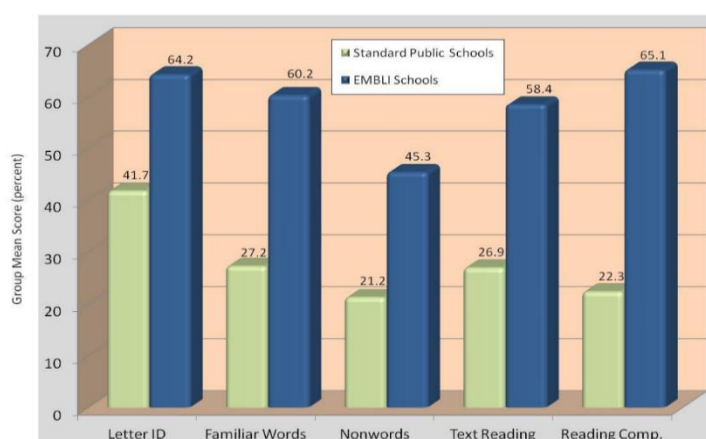


Figure 4: Performance of Grade 2 Children on the EGRA Subtests

Resource development in Galolen (Manatuto), Fataluku (Lautem), and Baikeno (Oecusse) languages has occurred. In addition, Grade 3 curriculum and instructional material has been developed in mother tongue and distributed to the pilot schools, while Grade 4 materials have been developed and are ready to be printed for distribution.

Program success is evident in the Endline Assessment results. Studies indicate that results in math, reading, and language are higher for students who studied in their mother tongue compared to those who studied in Tetum.

Figure 4 compares the performance of Grade 2 children on Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) in the EMBLI schools with those of standard

government schools. Results from the Endline Assessment demonstrate that academically the EMBLI program appears to accelerate children's academic development by 1.5 to 2 years.

The strong results produced from the EMBLI program – nearly doubling academic performance of children learning through this method, and the accelerated academic readiness of children to perform in higher grades – has demonstrated a model that appears to be an especially appropriate choice for Timor-Leste. It has demonstrated strong effectiveness in rural areas where educational results in Timor-Leste tend to be weak, and is cost-effective.

The program was due to be completed in December 2016, but is under consideration to be extended.

Scholarships

PHD has supported the Alola Foundation to provide scholarships for vulnerable female students to gain tertiary education. Timorese women who would otherwise not have the opportunity to go to university are provided access to a university education through these scholarships. To date, the Alola Foundation has offered 49 scholarships for Timorese women to attend local institutions, and has provided employment training and mentoring. In this reporting period 4 students have graduated.

After graduating, these students are given the opportunity to attend job-readiness training, with the objective of improving their capacity and encouraging them to determine their future goals, as well as learning how to prepare a resume and apply for relevant positions.

‘This training has provided me valuable information and guides me in searching for my future career; and this is as a reference for me in order to find a job.’

Following graduation, students are provided the opportunity to complete an internship at the Alola Foundation to improve their skills and knowledge. The Alola Foundation approaches NGOs and institutions to locate job opportunities. The scholarship has an impact on literacy, as well as providing financial support to allow girls to stay in school.

Distribution of the Ministry of Education’s National Curriculum Materials

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, PHD has supported the distribution of the new national curriculum materials for Grades 1 to 6 across Timor-Leste. In 2016, the national curriculum materials for Grades 3 and 4 were distributed to 307 preschools and 1,334 Ensino Basico schools across Timor-Leste. Distribution was followed by monitoring of 13 preschools and 140 Ensino Basico schools, led by the Ministry of Education, INFORDEPE, and PHD/PLMP, to review the availability of learning materials, such as lesson plans, and the use of the materials at schools after the INFORDEPE teacher training. This monitoring will feed into ministry planning for 2017 curriculum distribution. PHD provided technical support for improved warehouse management, packing, distribution, monitoring, reporting, and cross-learning.

PHD will continue to support the Ministry of Education in 2017 to distribute materials for Grades 5 and 6. Early communication and consideration is underway between the Ministry of Education, the Australian Embassy, and PHD.

- 90 and 84 percent of preschools and Ensino Basicos, respectively, reported receipt of all of their curriculum materials.
- Approximately 60 and 67 percent of preschools and Ensino Basico schools, respectively, indicated that the curriculum materials they received were directly from the Ministry of Education, while 40 and 33 percent, respectively, were received from another party or from the central school (for Ensino Basico filial schools).
- 80 percent of preschools indicated that materials were received in good condition. For Ensino Basico schools, 63 percent of schools indicated that materials were received in good condition.

Teacher Training

ICFP is contributing to improved primary school teacher quality through the provision of a Bachelor of Basic Education. Access to quality teacher training is significantly increasing in Timor-Leste, with up to 60 students graduating annually. Third-year specialist courses in English, science, and mathematics are provided at ICFP, as well as an expansion to provision of a fourth-year course to gain a Licenciatura (bachelor degree). Bachelor graduates at ICFP are also now able to gain further professional development through a Master of Education program, and have the opportunity to receive training in financial management, Portuguese language, and leadership and management provided through ICFP. In this reporting period 53 graduates⁹ completed a Bachelor of Basic Education, with another 4 graduating with a Master of Education.

The impact of improved teaching quality for primary students is that a child-centred teaching approach is becoming more widely used within Timor-Leste among teachers. This approach entices students to learn, resulting in higher attendance numbers, and leading to higher literacy and numeracy rates.

Technical Advice and Support

PHD has continued to provide advice to the Ministry of Education. During this reporting period, PHD’s Strategic Development Specialist – Education provided an education infrastructure analysis on ‘school demand and supply’¹⁰ to project demand and supply of schooling from 2015 to 2030 to support the Ministry of Education’s planning. The report maps the changing demand for education (primary and secondary school), and the classroom and teacher supply requirements. It provides the Ministry of Education with the evidence required to secure future funds for school facilities and supply of teachers. The Strategic Development Specialist – Education has worked with the Education Management Information System and Infrastructure Units in the Ministry of Education to provide capacity building support to conduct infrastructure projections, check datasets, and update the report. The report findings have been used in political party discussions in the lead-up to the elections and during the budget process. The report has also been submitted to the Ministry of Education’s Global Partnership for Education Secretariat to inform the Ministry of Education’s next sector analysis.

⁹ Graduation is scheduled for 25 February 2017, at ICFP in Baucau.

¹⁰ *School Demand and Supply – Focus on Infrastructure and Teachers* was provided by PHD’s Strategic Development Specialist – Education in response to a request by the Vice Minister to support the Ministry of Education’s planning and enable the ministry colleagues to argue an evidence-led case for additional funding for infrastructure and the teacher workforce to 2030.

PHD has continued to advise the Minister of State, Coordinator of Social Affairs (MECAS), and Minister of Education on two priorities: the development of the School Feeding Program pilot and e-Payment for teacher salaries.

The School Feeding Program pilot that gained traction in the last quarter of 2016 was implemented in 13 schools in Ermera. PHD provided technical advice and support to the design and implementation of the pilot. The 13 schools were monitored by MECAS on a weekly basis, including monitoring school attendance.

PHD supported the design of the e-Payment pilot, which would trial options for teachers and education staff in remote areas to access branchless banking. Access to branchless banking would reduce the time teachers spend away from their school to collect their salaries. The pilot did not go ahead as planned during this reporting period, and is scheduled to commence implementation in February 2017. PHD assisted in coordinating meetings between the Ministry of Education, MECAS, Banco Central de Timor-Leste (Central Bank of Timor-Leste), and branchless banking system providers. A provider for the pilot, should it go ahead in 2017, will be determined in January 2017.

WATER AND SANITATION



SANITATION

2016–17 Budget: AUD 890,000

Sector Goals: Improve sanitation through mobilising community action to end open defecation and supporting Open Defecation Free communities to advance to 'Hygienic' status.

Focus: Improve sanitation and maximise the practice of hygienic behaviours through education and access to information and materials, with a focus on toilet access, and hygiene information about handwashing with soap and improved sanitation practices.

Government Counterparts:

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Social Solidarity

Key Achievements

- Commitment of municipal leadership for the Open Defecation Free (ODF) Initiative in Aileu, Ainaro, Bobonaro, and Liquica. Manufahi and Viqueque Municipal Administration and Health Services have requested that the Ministry of Health implement the ODF Initiative in their communities.
- Development of the National Sanitation Roadmap, with Ministry of Health and NGO partner commitment to its achievement.
- Draft design for the Hygienic Initiative, with Bobonaro Municipality and Atabae Administrative Post leadership interested in its implementation.
- National Hospital and National Institute for Health leadership for Global Handwashing Day and World Toilet Day.
- Handwashing with Soap behaviour change campaign packages ready for use.
- Sanitation improvement indicators finalised with Ministry of Health and implementing partners.

The PHD Sanitation team initiated work in August 2016 under PHD, with a focus on:

- Developing its annual work plan for 2017.
- Looking at the longer 5-year strategy under which the team would implement over the next 5 to 10 years.
- Identifying specific implementation methodologies that would enable the team's efforts to work towards achieving the sector goals.

Other priorities for the team during this reporting period were engagement of municipal leadership and NGO partners for the ODF Initiative and establishment of a full Sanitation team.

Open Defecation Free Timor-Leste

The aim of the ODF Initiative is to increase demand and community ownership of household building of toilets and improve sanitation practices through the eradication of open defecation. ODF status is achieved through a municipality-led strategy that accelerates community action to end open defecation. This municipality-led approach has proven to be successful through motivational leadership and an institutional triggering¹¹ process, complemented by triggering community action and follow-up. Together these create a new social norm to achieve improved sanitation and ODF in Timor-Leste.

The ODF Initiative has been implemented in Bobonaro since 2015, and currently 38 out of 50 sucos in Bobonaro are ODF; 94 percent of all houses in Bobonaro have access to a toilet. During this reporting period, PHD met with the Bobonaro Municipal and Administrative Post authorities to discuss actions needed to move from 94 percent household toilet access to 100 percent.

An ODF Sustainability Study¹² was conducted in 2016 to investigate the sustainability of community ODF status and the motivations influencing the sustained use of household toilets and barriers influencing reversion to open defecation practice. Results of the study indicated that after aldeias (villages) declared ODF 2 years or more prior to the study, 18 percent of houses reverted back to open defecation practices. The majority of these houses had only had the resources to build basic pit latrines of questionable structural durability. Of the houses that sustained use of toilets, 75 percent were improved toilets. Results have been used to justify and design the Hygienic Initiative, which is aimed at supporting households in upgrading to improved toilets to optimise sustainability of sanitation improvements.

In December 2016, the Sanitation team initiated a competitive recruitment process to engage NGO partners to oversee and implement the ODF Initiative in Aileu, Ainaro, and Liquica. The selection process and design negotiation has been scheduled for early January 2017, with the aim to begin implementation within quarter 1 of 2017. Institutional triggering in the 3 target municipalities has been prepared and will take place in quarter 1 of 2017.

In the development of the Sanitation sector strategy, the Sanitation team actively collaborated with the Ministry of Health on the design of the strategy and initiated visits to the 3 municipalities to engage municipal and administrative post governments in the ODF Initiative. As part of the development of the Sanitation sector strategy, an assessment of the risks for the implementation of the ODF Initiative during the next year was also carried out.

The Ministry of Health, with support from PHD, has developed a National Sanitation Roadmap to achieve the National Basic Sanitation Policy improvement outcomes. Through the government's Sanitation Working Group, partners (key sector stakeholders including international NGOs and agencies, such as WaterAid, Plan International, UNICEF, World Vision, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), as well as national NGOs such as NTF, HTL, HealthNet, TimorAid, and HIM have committed to targeting sanitation programs to support the progress of the Roadmap activities.

These commitments include the following:

- PHD supported the completion of the ODF Initiative in Bobonaro, and in 2017 will trial a model to progress towards Hygienic status.
- Support implementation of the ODF Initiative in Aileu and Ainaro by Plan International in 2017–2018 (UNICEF is currently supporting community-led total sanitation [CLTS] implementation in 4 administrative posts in Ainaro, but plan to leave Ainaro in September 2017. PHD will support the completion of ODF achievement).
- Support implementation of the ODF Initiative in Liquica by WaterAid Timor-Leste in 2017.
- WaterAid initiation of a whole-of-municipality approach to achieving ODF in Manufahi in 2017 (Civil Society Water, Sanitation and Hygiene [CS WASH] Fund supported).
- UNICEF supported implementation of the ODF Initiative in Ermera targeting ODF by 2018.
- UNICEF will support initiation of the ODF Initiative in Cova Lima in 2017.
- ADRA is implementing CLTS in 1 suco in Viqueque and is seeking additional funding to expand geographic coverage.

Partners have agreed to work through the Ministry of Health to ensure that new municipal targets for sanitation improvements would be based on a whole-of-municipality approach and contribute to progressing the National Sanitation Roadmap.

Hygienic Initiative

PHD developed a Hygienic Initiative concept design to be trialled in the Atabae Administrative Post in Bobonaro, through consultations with the Ministry of Health; Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications; Ministry of Social Solidarity; municipal and administrative post leadership; the National Program for Suco Development; the Market Development Facility; and relevant NGOs. The Hygienic Initiative has been designed to address issues of reverting back

¹¹ Institutional triggering is mobilising municipality administrations, health services and local authorities to prioritise their commitment to ending ODF through raising awareness with community leaders about the sanitation problems in their communities and talk about ways to solve them, garnering support and commitment from the community leaders to bring about change in the community with regard to the sanitation situation, and developing an action plan for community-led total sanitation activities in their community.

¹² The ODF Sustainability Study was conducted in 2016 by the BESIK program.

to ODF status, to maximise the sustainability and impact of the public health benefit achieved with the ODF status. Results from the ODF Sustainability Study have also informed the concept design. Market research into community access to sanitation supplies through the private sector in Atabae Administrative Post to enable toilet upgrades is planned for early 2017.

The aim of the Hygienic Initiative, which will be implemented in 2017 and target 10,963 people in Atabae (which achieved ODF status in 2016), is to support communities to advance from ODF to Hygienic status. Hygienic status requires that ODF is maintained in the community, all houses have improved toilets, all toilets have handwashing facilities that are equipped with water and soap, and all schools and health facilities have improved sanitation. The goal of Hygienic status is based on the ODF Sustainability Study finding that approximately 18 percent of houses in ODF communities revert back to open defecation, because they are unable to access supplies or resources to upgrade their toilet. Financial support to houses that have already engaged in sanitation behaviour change by achieving ODF will focus on those that were otherwise unable to build durable, improved toilets, and will encourage improved sustained sanitation practices.

The private sector will be assessed for appropriate sanitation supplies and engaged in a voucher scheme to support houses to upgrade their household sanitation. Improving toilets will reduce environmental faeces exposure and optimise the sustainability and use of the toilets; thus contributing to better and more sustainable health outcomes.

Further, access to water emerged as both an enabler to building an improved toilet, as well as an enabler to maintaining the toilet. The PHD Water team will support the Sanitation team's efforts to achieve Hygienic status in Bobonaro.

WATER

2016–17 Budget:	AUD 1,000,000
Sector Goal:	Improving management of established water systems.
Focus:	Build on achievements of previous investments in the Water sector through working in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste, other donors, and NGOs.
Government Counterpart:	Partners:
National Directorate for Water Supply (DNSA)	WaterAid

The Ministry of Infrastructure, in partnership with the BESIK program, has implemented a number of water systems throughout Timor-Leste. To build on these achievements, PHD has begun work to develop a pilot that will be implemented in Bobonaro in 2017. PHD is proposing to improve service delivery through a two-pronged approach:

1. Improving community management of water systems.
2. Strengthening the responsiveness of municipal leadership to operations and maintenance needs.

This will be an integral part of the Hygienic Initiative that will be implemented in Bobonaro, and will contribute to the achievement of Hygienic status and its sustainability.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene will be integrated together under PHD to achieve greater development impacts. A rapid assessment carried out during this reporting period provided recommendations for the various actors in the Water and Sanitation sectors to collaborate for maximum effectiveness to advance water sustainability and access, as well as sanitation improvements to achieve greater hygiene levels at the household and community level. Consideration is also being given to collaboration at the municipal and national levels across key education and health facilities to ensure these facilities have access to sustainable and safe water, improved sanitation with toilets, and improved hygiene. Work in this area will commence in 2017.

Supporting Public Financial Management

In collaboration with the UPMA, office of the Prime Minister, and the GfD program, PHD is supporting the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications in implementing Program-based Budgeting. PHD provided technical support to the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications during the preparation of the 2017 budget, including mentoring planning and finance officials in the ministry through the more complex budget preparation processes, particularly in allocating funds to the new program and activity structures. This has resulted in more detailed plans and budgets for the ministry in 2017, which should ensure better quality execution.

In addition to this, PHD has also provided support to the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications in preparation for the decentralisation of the final approval of payments from the Ministry of Finance in early 2017. PHD has also been providing support in preparation for the decentralisation of water budgets to the 12 municipal administrations in 2017.

NUTRITION

2016–17 Budget:	AUD 1,200,000
Sector Goals:	Improve nutrition for all. Reduce stunting among children aged 0–23 months in Timor-Leste.
Focus:	The health and nutritional status of mothers and children.
Government Counterpart:	KONSSANTIL

Key Achievements

- Supported the Hamutuk Launch in Holarua, Manufahi in September 2016.
- Supported the LAUNCH Food Challenge incubator workshops in Lospalos in October 2016.
- Facilitated the President's Nutrition Awards on Independence Day, awarded by the President in Lospalos
- Commenced the recruitment of the Technical Nutrition Lead PHD.

PHD provides operational support to the Australian Embassy to manage its nutrition programs: Hamutuk and the President's Nutrition Award. The Nutrition and Food Security Specialist, funded through PHD, provides technical support and advice to other programs within the Australian Embassy's nutrition portfolio, including TOMAK, and to other nutrition stakeholders, including:

- The advisory board for the independent review of the food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture landscape in Timor-Leste chaired by Dr. Jose Ramos Horta, and supported by United Nation's World Food Programme.
- ANCP and other NGO partners working in nutrition.
- Sydney University Village Poultry Research.
- KONSSANTIL.

High-Level Advocacy and Promoting Best Nutrition Practice

World Food Day Activities and Regional LAUNCH Food Challenge Incubator Workshops

PHD supported the LAUNCH Food Challenge incubator workshops in Lospalos in October 2016. The workshops centred on a regional nutrition and food security dialogue. Through the event potential innovators from the region were supported to submit applications to the LAUNCH Food Revolution Challenge. Twelve Pacific Island representatives, colleagues from Second Muse and the Australian Government InnovationXchange attended. Support was provided to World Food Day (hosted by the Government of Timor-Leste) activities in Baucau, including a seminar and field trips.

The President's Nutrition Awards

The President's Nutrition Leadership Award was announced on Independence Day (28 November 2016) by H.E. the President of Timor-Leste. The award recognises best practice at the community level, raises awareness of the nutrition situation in Timor-Leste and motivates others to respond. Since its inception, the President's Nutrition Award has been sucos and groups in Timor-Leste to encourage communities to support best nutrition practises. The 2016 winnings were:

2016 National Leadership Nutrition Award

- Suco Caenlio, Iliomar, Lautem

2016 Healthy Family Nutrition Award

- Grupu Hikis kosar hadi'ak Moris (HIKMOR) suku Liura, Aileu

In this reporting period, the President's Nutrition Program book was drafted, and a video promoting the 2016 winners and shortlisted candidates was completed. Government of Timor-Leste's stakeholders have requested for additional copies of Mapping the Underlying Drivers of Malnutrition in Timor-Leste, which have been printed and circulated.

Addressing Poor Nutrition through a Multi-Sector Approach

Hamutuk

Hamutuk brings together over 20 government and non-government partners to pilot a multisector nutrition program to reduce the prevalence of stunting in children under two years of age. The first pilot site is Holarua Suco in Manufahi.

Utilising innovative technology and existing delivery platforms Hamutuk will improve the quality and coverage of nutrition promoting interventions and promote targeted social and behavioural change communication.

Hamutuk is led by the National Council for Food Security, Sovereignty and Nutrition in Timor-Leste (KONSSANTIL), the Australian Embassy and a Hamutuk Technical Support Hub.

The launch of Hamutuk took place in September 2016. The Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, the President's Office, the President of Manufahi Municipality and all Hamutuk partners, attended the launch which included a showcase of partner activities.

On request from the Hamutuk partners a five-day multi-sector nutrition training was conducted in Manufahi in November 2016. The training was supported by the Hamutuk Technical Support hub and facilitated by the National Institute of Health Sciences. Twenty-six participants attended from 15 partner organisations to receive training on the impact of different sectors on nutrition. Participants were tested before and after the training. There was a 50 percent point increase in scores between the pre-test and post-test (33 to 83 percent gain in knowledge) with five participants scoring 100 percent in the post-test.

In this reporting period, PHD provided operational support to the Hamutuk program, which is managed by the Australian Embassy.

Improving Maternal and Newborn Health

As part of the Hamutuk program, the Maternal and Child Health Program, implemented by the Alola Foundation, included ongoing cooking demonstrations, infant and young child feeding counselling, community discussion groups, counselling services, and home visits for pregnant and lactating women in the Manufahi municipality with a focus on Holarua. Members of the Mothers' Support Groups in Holarua also participated in Hamutuk multi-sector nutrition training. The impact of this was timely referrals to health facilities, as well as supported breastfeeding and complementary feeding for children under 2 years of age.

Box 2 – Working together to improve nutrition outcomes in Timor-Leste

The Australian Embassy's Hamutuk program aims to reduce the prevalence of stunting in children under 2 years of age in Timor-Leste through collective action across sectors. Through innovative design, Hamutuk is:

- Strengthening nutrition capacity across partners.
- Working to improve a range of nutrition-promoting behaviours.
- Using innovative technology to foster multi-sector collaboration.

Hamutuk commenced in Holarua suco, Manufahi. Holarua has 13 hamlets, half of which are not accessible from the main road. The total population is approximately 7,000 people.

Over the next 5 years, Hamutuk plans to expand to other villages in Timor-Leste.



SOCIAL PROTECTION



2016–17 Budget: AUD 390,000

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

Focus: Supporting the Government of Timor-Leste's *Bolsa da Mãe* social protection transfer system.

Government Counterpart:

Ministry of Social Solidarity

Key Achievements

- Provided technical assistance to the Minister of Social Solidarity in policy-making, policy reform advocacy, research, planning, and monitoring and evaluation.
- Provided technical advice to the Ministry of Social Solidarity *Bolsa da Mãe* department on system and payment method improvements, including advocacy for regular biannual payments and regular registration of new beneficiaries.
- Funded staff from the Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Social Solidarity to attend an international training course: Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes.
- Developed a Social Protection Costing Tool for the Government of Timor-Leste to support policy-making and budget decisions.
- Supported data clean-up of the Ministry of Social Solidarity's Social Assistance Management Information System (SIGAS), interface improvements, and staff training.

Technical Advice and Support

PHD provides technical support and advice to the Ministry of Social Solidarity and other Government of Timor-Leste agencies and ministries as requested, to build a solid social protection floor for the people of Timor-Leste. During this reporting period, PHD contributed to policy development and reform, including discussions on the Timor-Leste Social Protection Framework. PHD also supported the development of a concept paper on the priorities for investment in social protection in Timor-Leste and an evaluation paper on the Government of Timor-Leste's existing social protection programs, which was provided to the Minister of Social Solidarity and the Prime Minister's Office.

Technical support was provided to the development of the first Social Protection National Strategy. The government requested support from the International Labour Organization (ILO) to draft the strategy. National dialogues were held that involved participants from government agencies, CSOs, and development partners to participate in technical groups. PHD provided specific advice and input into the social protection measures for children and vulnerable households in Timor-Leste.

During this reporting period, PHD supported the clean-up of data stored in SIGAS. This management information system was developed in 2014, but to date has not been consistently used. PHD supported the redesign of the interface to be more user-friendly, as well as training of *Bolsa da Mãe* staff to encourage them to use the system.

A Social Protection Costing Tool was developed, together with the GfD team, to capture the broader benefits of social protection transfers and the benefits of the tool for the government in policy development and budget decisions. The tool is also useful in considering the sustainability of cash transfer systems, measuring the effects on poverty reduction, and forecasting future expenditure. The tool provides a more realistic idea of the sustainability of cash transfers. This has led to discussions on the Timor-Leste Social Protection Framework and how transfer expenditures can be improved. PHD, along with GfD, is currently advocating for its use by UPMA at the Prime Minister's Office.

In October 2016, staff from PHD, the Australian Embassy, the Prime Minister's Office, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity attended an international training course: Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes¹³. Following this, the Ministry of Social Solidarity Director General requested PHD support for providing training to *Bolsa da Mãe* staff to improve efficiency in the implementation of this program. The training is scheduled for the first quarter of 2017 to align with the *Bolsa da Mãe* registration process, expected to commence by March 2017.

Three Ministry of Social Solidarity staff were also provided with English language lessons, with the aim of widening their training options and access to policy information. The training will be completed in January 2017.

Cash Transfer System for the Poor

Bolsa da Mãe

Bolsa da Mãe cash transfers are provided for poor households with children that fit the following criteria:

- Low income.
- Single-headed household (households that are not single-headed are also entitled, but receive fewer points to qualify).
- Number of children (households with more children receive more points to qualify).
- Children living with a disability.

Poorer single-headed households with disabled children rank higher to qualify for *Bolsa da Mãe* payments. Payments for *Bolsa da Mãe* are made on a per child basis. Payments may be USD 5 to USD 15 per month for one year, based on the number of children. Families with 1 child receive USD 5, families with 2 children receive USD 10, and families that have 3 or more children receive USD 15. Payments are generally made as lump payments twice a year.

PHD has supported the advocacy and reform of the *Bolsa da Mãe* program, including advocating for 2 regular payments per year and aligning payments with the Elderly and Disabled Pension payments for cost efficiency.

PHD has provided technical advice and support to the *Bolsa da Mãe* department at the Ministry of Social Solidarity, which has led to improvements and efficiencies, such as smoother *Bolsa da Mãe* payments made during December 2016 and January 2017.

Another improvement was the redesign of the SIGAS database and the provision of training to the *Bolsa da Mãe* staff in using the system. Data input timelines have been set and existing data for *Bolsa da Mãe* registrations have been cross-checked against the Veteran's and Civil Service databases.

According to the law, registration for *Bolsa da Mãe* should be scheduled every 2 years. However, the last registration process was held in 2012. PHD is supporting the 2017 registration process to enable poor households who have not been previously registered to access the *Bolsa da Mãe* payments.

PHD supported the dissemination of *Bolsa da Mãe* information to communities across the country. The Ministry of Social Solidarity disseminated brochures and posters to Social Technicians in the municipalities to distribute to sucos and villages. The brochures and posters were also provided to health centres and health posts, PLMP target schools, and civil society organisations, including Asosiasaun Defisiensia Timor-Leste (ADTL), Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan (RHTO), Rede Feto, Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor (PRADET), and through The Asia Foundation, to improve the reach of the information sharing to poor households about their entitlements when registering for *Bolsa da Mãe*, especially those households with children with disabilities.

¹³ The Designing and Implementing Social Transfer Programmes course is offered by the Economic Policy Research Institute, together with HelpAge International in partnership with the United Nations University-Maastricht University (UNU-MERIT) in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

GENDER



2016–17 Budget: AUD 312,492

Sector Goals: Mainstream gender equality through all PHD programs, so that women and girls are more empowered and have better access to improved services.

Support women in leadership to build strong networks with each other and maximise their potential.

Reduce violence against women through behaviour change approaches and advocacy.

Focus: Mainstreaming gender equality across all Australian Embassy investments.

Government Counterpart:

Secretary of State for the Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women

Partner:

Ba Futuru

Key Achievements

- Introductory training workshop provided to PHD and Australian Embassy technical staff on Care International's Gender Empowerment Framework.
- Regular review and update of the Gender Action Plan during the Annual Gender Week.
- Supported International Day of the Girl, International Day of Rural Women, National Women's Day, and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence events.
- Supported gender mainstreaming into sectoral planning and activities.

Gender Empowerment Training

PHD engaged Care International to provide training to PHD and Australian Embassy technical staff on their Gender Empowerment Framework in October 2016. The Framework addresses 3 important overlapping dimensions to achieve women's empowerment: agency (a woman's own knowledge, skills and abilities); relations (power relationships through which she lives her life); and structures (social norms, customs, institutions, and policies that shape her choices in life). Care International's approach to achieving gender equality through these 3 dimensions is coupled with engaging men and boys to challenge social norms and stereotypes. The training Care International provided is a starting point for PHD to begin exploring ways in which gender can be incorporated into its programs and activities, and how gender norms can be considered and challenged in the context of Timor-Leste. It will enable PHD teams to work with partners to link gender equality and women's empowerment to key dimensions of social change.

Care International also provided an introduction to their gender marker, which ranks their own projects and activities to determine where gender mainstreaming improvements can be implemented.

Annual Gender Week

Annual Gender Week was held on 5 to 9 September 2016. During that week, the Gender Principal Specialist visited Timor-Leste to provide technical input to the Australian Embassy's and PHD's Gender team. The Specialist provided reassurance on progress of gender mainstreaming and activities in the sectors. Activities during the Annual Gender Week included a field visit to Baucau, during which the following meetings/visits were held:

- Meeting with female leaders, who were at the time candidates for Chefe Suco position.
- Visit with one of the Market Development Facility's livelihood support groups.
- Visit to a PLMP school in Leleia, Manatuto.

Gender Action Plan

The Australian Embassy's Gender Action Plan aims to ensure all sectors are accountable for gender mainstreaming and plan their activities through an appropriate gender lens. A review of the Gender Action Plan, which occurs on a quarterly basis, included collaborative discussions across various Australian Embassy programs, including the Market Development Facility, GfD, National Program for Suco Development, and Farming for Prosperity Timor-Leste. These regular collaborative discussions aim to achieve consistency in approach across these investments. The Gender Action Plan was reviewed and updated with contributions from PHD during Annual Gender Week, which fell in this reporting period. Key priorities were discussed, as well as progress, achievements, and challenges to mainstreaming gender equality through Australian Government investments. These priorities focus on ensuring all sectors implement activities that are gender-focused and have measures of accountability to safeguard their implementation.

Support to Gender Events

PHD supports a number of gender events throughout the year, including Annual Gender Week, which was held in September 2016. The PHD sector teams met with the DFAT Gender Principal Specialist and discussions resulted in contributions to the Gender Action Plan review and update.

The PHD Gender team also supported the following events:

- International Day of the Girl (11 October 2016).
- International Day of Rural Women (15 October 2016).
- National Women's Day (3 November 2016).
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November) during 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence (25 November to 10 December).

Promoting Respectful Relationships through Media

During this reporting period, the Australian Embassy submitted a proposal for the Gender Equality Fund. The proposal was to award Ba Futuru with funding to develop a 12 series television production that would challenge social norms or ending violence against women and children, and promote respectful relationships. While waiting on the results of the bid, Ba Futuru completed a scoping study in preparation of the series. Unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful. Due to the result, PHD worked with Ba Futuru to revise their grant work plan and instead develop a 3 episode television series (20 minutes per series with an accompanying 10 minute dialogue). The series will raise awareness of positive behaviours and the importance of respectful relationships, and empower women to reduce or eliminate their acceptance of violence to women and children.

DISABILITY



2016–17 Budget: AUD 1,053,091

Sector Goals: Improve disability-inclusive mainstreaming in PHD programs and activities, so that people living with disabilities benefit from improved opportunities, access to services and increase their participation in leadership.

Focus: Advocacy for people living with disabilities, particularly with regard to livelihood and employment.

Government Counterpart:
Ministry of Social Solidarity

Partners:
ADTL – peak body for disability organisations
RHTO – national disabled people’s organisation
PRADET
CBM
AVI

Key Achievements

- Provided support to disability awareness advocacy, and increasing access to education, health, and justice services for people with living with a disability through ADTL and RHTO.
- Provided technical advice and input to the Ministry of Social Solidarity Disability Advisers on the Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) program and to the Leprosy Mission (TLM) Timor-Leste, to support the nationalisation of TLM’s work to enable it to continue its operations.
- Supported PRADET to provide mental health services for clients, families, and prisoners through visitations, counselling, and education/recreation programs, with improved empowerment through skills training, including 13 clients (5 male; 8 female) to reintegrate into their home and community after intensive treatment and rehabilitation.
- Provided technical input to the Human Capital Development Survey in Timor-Leste to include data on disability. The survey was launched in mid-August 2016 and results will be published in 2017.

Supporting Improved Capacity of Disability Organisations

PHD is supporting key disability organisations in Timor-Leste to build their capacity to better advocate and increase access to services for people living with a disability. ADTL supported 16 students to undertake a Diploma I certification in Community Based Rehabilitation at National University of Timor-Leste. These students are expected to graduate in 2017 and will undergo a 1-month work placement as part of their course. Nine students, mostly from 2 organisations for the vision impaired, have registered for the 2017 intake.

Advocating for People Living with a Disability

ADTL implemented the Membership Empowerment Program for people living with a disability to raise awareness of their rights to access education, health, and social protection services. As part of the program, ADTL undertook a mapping exercise in 7 municipalities (Aileu, Baucau, Dili, Ermera, Lautem, Manufahi, and Viqueque) to identify the training needs for people living with a disability. A total of 111 people living with a disability were interviewed (49 female). The mapping exercise also identified issues that affected access to education services for people living with a disability and the types of livelihood activities or small-scale home businesses that people living with a disability were involved in, to link them with potential markets. ADTL assessed 20 beneficiaries (14 female) who qualified to receive small-scale funding support to start their small-scale business activities.

ADTL, with support and technical advice from PHD, continue to engage with the government to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The International Day of People with Disabilities (3 December 2016) was celebrated in 13 municipalities, increasing the awareness of disability and visibility of people with disability. A video message from the Prime Minister, the Australian Ambassador, and the Minister of Social Solidarity was aired, reaching people in Timor-Leste who have access to TVTL. The video message also provided messaging from other government bodies, donors, and people living with disabilities and their families.

Improving Access to and Provision of Services to People Living with a Disability

PHD supported RHTO to provide direct services to people living with a disability in communities throughout Timor-Leste. RHTO field officers have been working with the families of people living with a disability to raise awareness of the rights of people living with a disability, identify their needs for services, and support them with referrals to these services, especially for access to wheelchair services. RHTO currently employs 14 field officers – one for each municipality with the exception of Dili which has 2 officers. RHTO also provides support to people with different types of disabilities to volunteer at RHTO to gain employment and communication skills.

At the municipality level, RHTO delivers disability awareness training to local leaders and to schools identified within the municipal that have children with disabilities. PHD funding is provided to support one school per municipal.

RHTO also supports activities of self-help groups. These are groups of people with disabilities who come together to plan and start livelihood activities.

During this reporting period, PHD worked with RHTO to plan and budget for the Disability Inclusive Development Funds provided to support RHTO activities. PHD further supported RHTO to plan and recruit 13 new female field officers and identify gaps in support to existing field officers. PHD assisted RHTO to engage with municipal administrators to support the work of RHTO field officers, particularly by requesting office space for the officers to work in the field.

Support in Mental Health

PHD is providing funding support to PRADET for its Mental Health Support program, which is working closely with Timorese people facing mental health issues to improve their opportunities and determine avenues for access to services and family support. PRADET services include identification and referral of new clients to Laclubar Mental Health Intensive Care centre and running the psychosocial disability rehabilitation at the centre.

During this reporting period, PRADET supported 13 clients (5 male; 8 female) to reintegrate into their home and community after intensive treatment and rehabilitation at the centre in Laclubar.

Access to mental health services has improved through visits and individual counselling to around 160 clients from around Timor-Leste. In Dili, PRADET provided a Psychosocial Rehabilitation Service to train clients in cooking, hygiene practices, and daily living. Opportunities for dissemination of information on mental health and referral options were taken through mental health case managers and through a public forum to advocate for the rights of the mentally ill and their families.

Technical Support and Advice

In addition to the work being done by disability organisations in Timor-Leste, the PHD Disability team has provided support to PHD sector teams to ensure that disability-inclusive development is being incorporated in programs and activities. Further, technical support and advice has been provided by PHD to the independent mid-term review of the National Disability Policy. PHD has also provided support and advice to the Leprosy Mission Timor-Leste about nationalising TLM's work to enable it to continue operating, as well as the Ministry of Social Solidarity Disability Advisers on the Community Based Rehabilitation program in Timor-Leste to develop their activities.

During this reporting period, PHD also provided technical support to the Human Capital Development Survey to include data on disability in Timor-Leste. The survey was launched in mid-August 2016 and the results will be published in 2017.

CONCLUSION

In the first 6 months of implementation, PHD has successfully coalesced individual Australian Government investments in 8 sectors into one integrated program, bringing together government and non-government stakeholders to work together towards the common goal of enhancing human development in Timor-Leste. Partners have continued to actively engage and implement a variety of strong development initiatives to support the Timorese people and government to better lead and contribute to Timor-Leste's economic and social development.

As a result of strategic discussions and planning sessions held during this reporting period, PHD will move into full implementation of sector activities in 2017, trialling a collaborative cross-sectoral approach to more effectively and efficiently achieve the overall program goal of '...building and sustaining healthy, educated, and prosperous individuals and communities, who live with dignity and determine their own future'. PHD's multi-sector approach will aim to address complex problems in improving provision and access to key services, and enabling Timorese people access to information about what they are entitled to and can access.

PHD will implement the following strategies over the coming 12–18 months:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Strategy 1 | Geographic clustering of activities: In line with the Government of Timor-Leste policy for decentralisation, PHD will begin to work in deliberately-coordinated ways at the municipal level. |
| Strategy 2 | Existing programs will continue to be implemented and future activities developed, with attention to maximising efficiencies and opportunities for multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral cooperation with the Government of Timor-Leste, at the national and sub-national level. |
| Strategy 3 | Review and improvement: PHD will ensure its approach is underpinned by a rolling process of review and improvement. |
| Strategy 4 | Engage people in their own development, so development meets their needs and is sustainable. |
| Strategy 5 | Identify and address specific problems in the service delivery system in Timor-Leste procurement and distribution as well as PFM. |

These implementation strategies are one part of a phased transition for the program, and will be adjusted annually as relevant.

Further, PHD will:

- Be responsive to the Government of Timor-Leste's human development priorities.
- Address development challenges that require collaborative interventions across sectors.
- Contribute to sustainable and holistic development outcomes.
- Share lessons, analyse, plan, and implement approaches across sectors.

The objectives for the next two reporting periods (January to June 2017 and July to December 2017) are:

- Improvement in the well-being of people, in particular women, children and people with a disability.
- Increased multi-sectoral and cross-sectoral collaboration that maximises delivery of quality services and benefits for people, in particular women, children, and people with disability.
- Transparent and well-communicated research and evidence that provides PHD and the Government of Timor-Leste and others with sufficient information and knowledge for further effective implementation and innovation.

To track its overall contribution to achieving change, PHD will monitor, through the MELF:

1. Changes for people (especially women, children, and people living with a disability).
2. Changes in government commitment to service delivery.
3. Improvements in service delivery outcomes as a result of PHD's cross-sectoral and multi-sectoral approach.

The PHD Five Year Strategic Plan and MELF will be finalised in quarter 1 of 2017. This longer-term plan, together with the Annual Plan for 2017, will frame the work for the program in coming years and will be the basis for reporting progress in the next Six-Monthly Progress Reports. Once finalised, PHD will be well placed to provide technical and operational support to the Government of Timor-Leste in the years ahead.

