



# A Newsletter on Timor-Leste's 4<sup>th</sup> National Human Development Report (NHDR) Project



## NHDR production is on schedule

Since the start of the project in March 2016, great milestones have been achieved towards the preparation of Timor-Leste's 4<sup>th</sup> National Human Development Report (NHDR). Human Development Reports are flagship products commissioned by the UNDP with the intention that they are produced independently and owned both nationally and regionally.

Since 1992 over 700 HDRs have been prepared at the global, regional, national and local levels in 135 countries.

These reports are aimed at generating policy debate and action toward directly enhancing human abilities and creating conditions for human development. Each report focuses on a highly relevant and topical theme and seeks to move from general goals to policy priorities in key sectors.

In this news article, we would like to update relevant stakeholders on the progress made in Timor-Leste's 4<sup>th</sup>

NHDR project with emphasis on the recent achievements in November 2016.

## Background of the Project

Timor-Leste's 4<sup>th</sup> NHDR is a collaborative project between the Government of Timor-Leste, UNDP and Flinders University, Australia. Its theme has a distinct focus on youth and well-being with a working title: *'Investing in Youth Well-Being and Transitioning to a Demographic Dividend: Planning Economic Opportunities for a Youthful Population'*.

### A PROJECT SUMMARY – TL'S 4<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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| <p>2002<br/>East Timor's first Human Development Report</p>  | <p>2006<br/>The Path out of Poverty</p>  | <p><b>Project Title:</b> Timor-Leste's 4th National Human Development Report</p> <p><b>Project Duration:</b> March 2016- March 2018</p> <p><b>Executing Entity:</b> Ministry of Finance, Government of Timor-Leste</p> <p><b>Implementation Agency:</b> UNDP, Timor-Leste</p> <p><b>Responsible Parties:</b> Flinders University, Australia &amp; National Statistics Department, Timor-Leste</p> <p><b>Total Project Cost:</b> US\$ 344,785</p> |
| <p>2011<br/>Managing Natural Resources for Human Development: Developing the Non-Oil Economy to achieve the MDGs</p> | <p><b>2016 – in progress</b><br/>A Collaborative Project between Government of Timor-Leste, UNDP and Flinders University Australia</p> |  |

The NHDR aims to promote public discussion and policy making around the realization of young age structures, investing in youth and their well-being to benefit from a potential demographic dividend.

As a part of the report preparation process, a series of consultative workshops were organised in Dili in May 2016 to contextualise the report theme and primary data collection tools including a ‘Youth Well-Being Survey’. The origin of this survey rests in quality of life/happiness type surveys which have been conducted in various countries such as Bhutan, Chile, India and Organisation for Economic Corporation and Development (OECD) countries including Portugal.

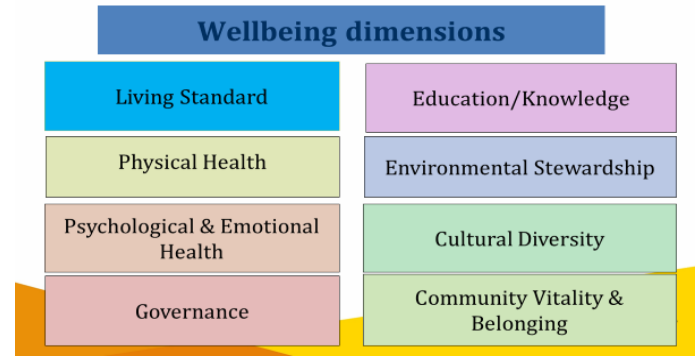
The well-being indices add further depth into the human development index which focus on measurement of advancements in health, education and living standards.

#### HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)

Devised and launched by Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq in 1990, Human Development Index (HDI) has been used for over 25 years as a credible measure of human development. HDI is a summary measure of average achievements in three areas: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and having a decent standard of living. It is a single measure as vulgar as GDP per capital but goes beyond the simplistic approach of only focusing on income per capita which is blind to broader aspects of human lives.

The well-being approach takes both objective and subjective measures into account, such as people’s values, aspirations and perceptions of their self, their community and environment. The preparation of reports with a well-being focus involves a survey that solicits and aggregates people’s perceptions on the quality of their lives and their society.

In August 2016, the General Statistics Directorate of Timor-Leste completed the ‘National Youth Well-Being Survey’ interviewing over 800 young people in the age group of 15 to 34 years. The survey provides rich data on eight aspects of well-being that is representative of youth at the national level as well as urban and rural areas of Timor-Leste.



The preliminary analysis has been undertaken by the NHDR team which was disseminated through a stakeholder workshop on November 23 following an intense training delivered to relevant stakeholders on the methodologies used to analyse Human Development and Well-Being among youth in Timor-Leste.

## An Intensive Training on Measurement of Human Development and Youth Well-Being in Timor-Leste



The two-day training on ‘Measurement of Human Development and Youth Well-Being in Timor-Leste’ was delivered by staff from Flinders University Australia on 21-22 November with support from the UNDP and the General Directorate of Statistics. This training targeted a small group of public servants and academics who are involved, in their respective roles, in strategic planning, statistical and policy analysis. Twenty-five participants attended the training with representation

from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Social Solidarity, National Youth Council, Secretary of State for Youth and Sports and academic institutions including National University of Timor-Leste (UNTL), Dili Institute of Technology (DIT) and Universidade Oriental Timor Lorosa'e (UNITAL).

The training equipped the participants with:

- A comprehensive understanding of 'Human Development', 'Demographic Dividend' and 'Youth Well-Being' concepts and their relevant policy implications
- Practical skills to measure and interpret Human Development Index, undertake Demographic Dividend and Youth Well-Being Analysis

For the hands-on sessions of the training, the most up-to-date data from the 2015 Census and 2016 Youth Well-Being Survey were used. Throughout the training, the participants acquired knowledge and skills to analyse and understand the survey results so that they can make use of this evidence for strategic planning, investments and policy making for advanced human development and youth well-being in Timor-Leste.

Participants raised their appreciation for this training particularly around their understanding of the Alkire-Foster method of deprivation analysis which is the core method for calculating Multi-Dimensional Poverty and Youth Well-Being Index. Participants from Timor-Leste's National Youth Council (CNJTL) raised their interest for receiving further training opportunities like this particularly around data entry and analysis.

The Director General of Statistics **Mr. Elias Dos Santos Ferreira**, in his speech, emphasized the value of this intensive training for capacity building for his staff and other key people in line ministries, civil society and academic institutions. Mr. Ferreira said *'the transfer of skills in well-being and human development analysis is key to inclusiveness and transparency of the NHDR preparation process'*. He emphasized the value of surveys like the Youth Well-Being Survey which has a specific mission for a targeted population group. He said they are useful tools for tracking national progress against global goals by providing complementary data to Timor-Leste's Census and Demographic Health Surveys.



**Mr Jose Marcelino Cabral Belo**, the head of Resilience Building Unit at UNDP said *'NHDR comes with its credibility. It is a report that many people first look into when they want to have a snapshot of the state of human development in a country. NHDR provides us the tools for development planning and policy formulation hence this training is very valuable and meaningful for all of us'*.

**Dr Udoj Saikia** from Flinders University concluded the training by thanking the participants for their enthusiasm and interest in the methodologies introduced. He also said *'Flinders University is prepared to support Timor-Leste's national government, academia and civil society to strengthen their abilities to collect, manage and analyze scientific data for strategic planning, programming and policy making.'*

## A Dissemination Workshop on 2016 National Youth Well-Being Survey in the framework of Timor-Leste's 4th National Human Development Report'





Following the 2-day training, a stakeholder workshop was held to disseminate preliminary findings of the 2016 Youth Well-Being Survey to a wide range of stakeholders. The workshop organized by the Government of Timor-Leste, UNDP and Flinders University took place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November at Timor Plaza in Dili. With participation over 80 stakeholders, the workshop engaged with a great number of relevant stakeholders to share information on survey findings and have the participant's input for the NHDR preparation process. The sessions aimed at generating debate on meaningful policies and programs needed to enhance human development and well-being among young people in Timor-Leste.



In his opening speech, **H.E. Dr. Avelino Coelho**, Secretary of State for the Council of Ministers stated that sustainable development of any nation state should be based on human development because all economic growth must serve the human being and quality of living for all. *'Physical development should never be seen as the real measurement of well-being'. One must not be happy by observing beautiful buildings in a country and ignoring children, youth, women or the elderly without quality and sufficient food, good health and social assistance.'*

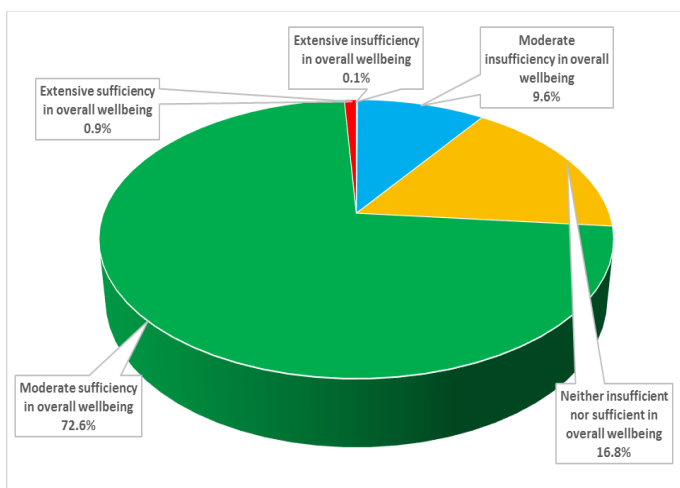
**H.E. Dr Avelino Coelho** continued his remarks by saying that *'I am certain that TL's 4<sup>th</sup> NHDR will contribute towards the implementation of TL's Strategic Development Plan, 2011-2030, in ways that will enable a clearer focus on human resources. I am sure that the report will capture the hopes and aspirations of young people in T-L. UNDP and General Directorate of Statistics deserve special appreciation for their contribution. They went to many villages to gather baseline data on the quality of living of our people.'*

*Therefore, we can trust that this process. The Report will enable us to move to the next step, proving reliable data for planning national development with the new paradigm, a people centered approach.'* He concluded his speech by reiterating one of H.E Xanana Gusmao's statements by saying that the real wealth of Timor-Leste is its people.

**Mr. Knut Ostby**, UN Resident Coordinator & UNDP Resident Representative in his opening speech stated that 4<sup>th</sup> NHDR shows an excellent collaboration between the Government of Timor-Leste, UNDP and academia through Flinders University by setting a good exemplar of science reaching out to policies and development practice. He concluded his remarks by suggesting that investing in the Timorese youth and their wellbeing also means we are investing in the sustained peace and development of Timor-Leste and hence UNDP would continue to do more in working with the youth to unlock their potential for a sustainable nation.

**Dr. Udo Saikia** from Flinders University, the main author of NHDR, expressed his thanks to UNDP, Ministry of Finance, General Directorate of Statistics, the Office of Council Ministers, Secretary State for Youth and Sports and the Timorese youth for their excellent support and cooperation provided to date. He concluded his speech by saying that *'we are quite hopeful that Timor-Leste's youth will have the opportunities and freedoms to achieve a high level of well-being in the near future'*.

According to the preliminary results presented at the dissemination workshop, a majority of young people in Timor-Leste, with approximately 74 per cent, have achieved sufficiency in overall well-being. The moderate sufficiency in overall well-being in Timor-Leste is driven by physical well-being and ecological stewardship followed by culture and psychological well-being and governance.



While the results seem encouraging the analysis also reveals that nearly 90 percent of young people have not achieved sufficiency in education and community vitality aspects of well-being. These results reflect poor levels of desired educational outcomes among young people (such as knowledge gained through civic education) and low levels of safety and voluntarism within their communities. The results also reflect eroded values among young people where they justify wrong doings in their communities such as creating conflict or using violence.

| Domain name                    | Achieved wellbeing | Not achieved wellbeing |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Physical health domain         | 94.9               | 5.1                    |
| Psychological domain           | 78.4               | 21.6                   |
| Knowledge and education domain | 12                 | 88                     |
| Cultural domain                | 78.7               | 21.3                   |
| Community vitality domain      | 9.7                | 90.3                   |
| Governance domain              | 77.4               | 22.6                   |
| Ecology domain                 | 97.7               | 2.3                    |
| Standard of living domain      | 67.3               | 32.7                   |

While the well-being results are preliminary at this stage, they will be complemented with Focus Group Discussions to be conducted in both urban and rural areas in Timor-Leste. The final report will include Human Development Index analysis which will be computed at the district level using 2015 Census results. The NHDR will also be tapping into four technical background papers commissioned to external authors who are experts in their fields. These papers will feed into the report chapters and highlight policy pathways for achieving a youth dividend in Timor-Leste.

At the closing ceremony of the dissemination workshop, **Mr. Claudio Providas** UNDP Country Director said “*We look forward to working with many of you as you know the human development report is a flagship product commissioned by UNDP but independent in its analysis and that we hope reflects the views and contributions of all development partners. We try to stretch as much as we can to be constructive and inclusive in our approach*”. He thanked everyone for making the preparation of NHDR a living and exciting process.

Timor-Leste’s 4<sup>th</sup> NHDR is expected to be launched in November 2017. Leading up to the final product, various consultative platforms will be arranged between March and June 2017. These will validate the main messages of the report and engage stakeholders for a constructive policy dialogue to help unlock youth’s potential for sustainable development.



**For more information about the NHDR project please contact:**

Dr. Merve Hosgelen,  
 NHDR Project Manager, UNDP  
 Email: [merve.hosgelen@undp.org](mailto:merve.hosgelen@undp.org)  
 Mobile: 7349 6408

Mr. Jose Marcelino Cabral Belo  
 Head of Resilience Building Program  
 Email: [Jose.belo@undp.org](mailto:Jose.belo@undp.org)  
 Mobile: 7723 1013