**TIMOR-LESTE**

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| **Name of Program:** Programa Nasional Dezenvolvimentu Suku (PNDS), or National Program for Village Development |
| **Program Dates:**  2014 - 2020 |
| **Implementing Agency:** Government of Timor-Leste |
| **Geographical Coverage (# of provinces/states, municipalities, villages, which parts of the country):**Nationwide  |
| **Annual Program Budget (USD):** Total of US$300 million, funded by the Australian Government (DFAT); annual average US$37.5 million. |
| **Program Objective:** PNDS implements the Government of Timor-Leste’s commitment to improve people’s living standards, particularly in rural areas. PNDS will increase rural development by funding basic infrastructure, and provide jobs and training. Infrastructure is essential for providing people with access to the national transport system, health and education services, and opening local trade. |
| **Main Program Components:**PNDS enables communities to participate in and manage their own development; community ownership and leadership is central to the program. PNDS will channel funds, in the form of an annual grant, directly from the Government to communities which will plan, construct, and manage small-scale infrastructure projects in *sukus* (villages) in alignment with village development priorities; this can include water systems, local roads, community halls, and schools. Villages will begin by electing a community management team to implement the program.PNDS aims to create work opportunities in rural areas and build community members’ skills in areas like construction, procurement, and bookkeeping. Communities are supported by trained facilitators in the areas of financial management, engineering and construction, and social inclusion. A priority of the project is to build infrastructure needed and used by the whole community, including women, the elderly, and people with disabilities.There are two main objectives:1. Efficient disbursal of funds for development activities from Government directly to communities.
2. Construction by communities of basic infrastructure that will help increase their members’ access to markets and employment and to health, education, and agricultural services.
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