

Strengthening Civil Society to Promote Good Governance in Timor-Leste

KEY INFORMATION

SECTOR Democratic participation and civil society

LEAD PARTNER Oxfam Australia/ Oxfam in Timor Leste, Kdadalak Sulimutuk Institution (KSI), Mata Dalan Institute (MDI)

DURATION 36 Months

PROJECT LOCATION Timor-Leste

TOTAL BUDGET EU EUR 755,239

TOTAL BUDGET EUR 825,132

DATE 25 November 2025

Background

This Action strengthens Timor-Leste Civil Society Actors (CSAs) to promote inclusive governance and development by improving their capacity to influence land-related policies and programs.

It focuses on empowering women, youth, and people with disability through participatory approaches and through supporting the Rede Ba Rai (RbR) network to lead advocacy on land rights.

Addressing systemic challenges, such as weak institutional capacity, unresolved land disputes, and limited CSA resources, the Action enhances social inclusion and policy engagement.

By tackling land tenure insecurity, a critical development constraint, it aims to reduce conflict, protect vulnerable groups, and foster equitable access to land as a foundation for resilience and growth.



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Project Details

The project aims to strengthen civil society in Timor-Leste so that local organizations can play an active role in promoting good governance and inclusive development.

Its main objective is to build the capacity of civil society actors (especially those working on land rights) to influence policies and protect community interests. This includes empowering women, youth, and people with disabilities to participate in decision-making processes.

Key activities will focus on three areas:

1. **Advocacy and Awareness** – Supporting campaigns and dialogues to raise public understanding of land rights and related laws and encouraging constructive engagement between communities and government.
2. **Capacity Building** – Providing training, mentoring, and technical assistance to civil society organizations to improve their organizational systems, financial management, and advocacy skills.
3. **Inclusive Participation** – Creating opportunities for marginalized groups to engage in policy discussions, including through youth leadership programs and support for women-led and disability organizations.

The main beneficiaries are local civil society organizations, including members of the Rede Ba Rai (Land Network), and community groups across rural and urban areas who face insecure land tenure.

Ultimately, families at risk of losing land or property will benefit from stronger advocacy and improved policies that safeguard their rights.

By enhancing collaboration between civil society and government, the project seeks to reduce land-related conflicts and promote fair, transparent governance that supports sustainable development.

CONTACT DETAILS

Contact Person's Name: Micael Soares dos Santos Martins

E-mail: micaels@oxfam.org.au

Phone: +670 77922921/ 73207213

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: [oxfamtimorleste](https://www.facebook.com/oxfamtimorleste)

Website: <https://asia.oxfam.org/countries/oxfam-timor-leste-east-timor>

Youtube: [@oxfamintimor-leste1465](https://www.youtube.com/@oxfamintimor-leste1465)

Expected results

The project aims to achieve stronger, more inclusive civil society engagement in governance and land policy in Timor-Leste.

By the end of the implementation period, civil society organizations will have improved technical and organizational capacity, enabling them to advocate effectively for land rights and monitor government policies.

The Rede Ba Rai network will be strengthened as a leading platform for land-related advocacy, supported by better systems, research, and outreach tools.

Women, youth, and people with disabilities will gain greater voice and representation in policy discussions, reducing barriers to participation and promoting gender and social inclusion.

Communities at risk of losing land will have increased awareness of their rights and access to support services, contributing to reduced land disputes and more equitable solutions.

At a national level, the project will foster constructive dialogue between civil society and government, improving transparency and accountability in land governance. This will help create a more stable environment for development and investment, benefiting Timor-Leste's broader economic and social progress.

Ultimately, the action will contribute to stronger democratic processes, social cohesion, and sustainable development by ensuring that land policies protect vulnerable groups including women and reflect community needs.

PROJECT PARTNERS



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