

FOR DEMOCRATIC AND INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS IN TIMOR-LESTE

KEY INFORMATION

SECTOR	Democratic participation for people with disabilities, women, and youth
LEAD PARTNER	Plan International Timor-Leste, Timor-Leste Disability Association (ADTL), Belun, Justiça, Paz e Integridade Criação (JPIC), Fundação Pátria, Young Women Movement (MOFFE-TL) and Caucus Foundation
DURATION	2 years (17 December 2022 to 16 December 2024)
PROJECT LOCATION	14 municipalities of Timor-Leste: Aileu, Ainaro, Ataúro, Baucau, Bobonaro, Covalima, Díli, Ermera, Lautém, Liquiçá, Manatuto, Manufahi, Oe-cusse, and Viqueque
TOTAL BUDGET EU	EUR 600,000.00
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DATE	14 November 2023

Background

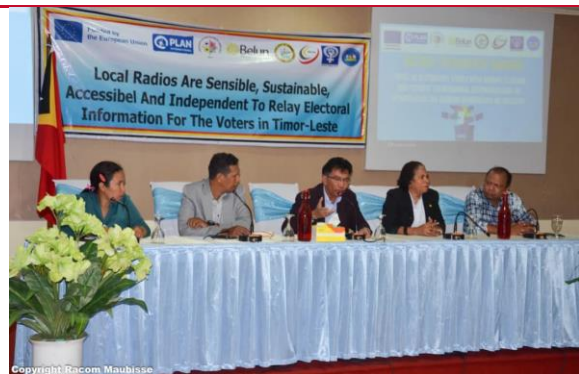
The political situation in Timor-Leste is mostly dominated by older men, who have been in power for a long time. Women, youth and young people especially young women, have very limited opportunity to express their opinions, advocate for their concerns and influence political issues that are important from their point of view.

Furthermore, people with disabilities (PwDs) are not well represented in elected bodies and their opinions are not adequately considered in policy decisions. Also, there were no specific measures to facilitate the participation of PwDs in the previous elections.

Although social media is the most important communication channel for young people, candidates did not fully utilize it to engage with young voters and involve them in the political landscape.

The project is implemented by Plan International Timor-Leste (PITL) and a number of civil society organizations (CSOs) it partners with, including the Timor-Leste Disability Association (ADTL), Belun, Justiça, Paz e Integridade Criação (JPIC), Fundação Pátria, Movimentu Feto Foin-sa'e (MOFFE-TL) and Caucus Foundation.

The aim is to empower marginalised groups in Timor-Leste, with a particular focus on young people, women, and people with disabilities, in order to promote their participation in Timorese elections in a meaningful way.



Project Details

The project aims to ensure and advance a democratic and inclusive electoral process that promotes the meaningful participation of all voters and in particular PwDs, women and youth.

It will also support local civil society efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and processes in Timor-Leste. The focus will be on promoting participatory democracy and engaging marginalised groups in society.

Moreover, it will advance advocacy efforts of the local CSOs and will enable action for the implementation of the recommendations made by the EU Election Observation Mission for the 2022 Presidential Elections in Timor-Leste (#1, 10, 13, 14, 15), which highlighted youth engagement on the democratic processes.

The project intends to address the challenges identified in the previous elections and will be implemented in all 14 municipalities in Timor-Leste.

During the project intervention, the implementing partners will work with various stakeholders including the government (particularly the National Elections Commission (CNE) and the Technical Secretariat for Election Administration (STAE)), as well as with community radios stations, people with disabilities, youth, women and politicians from the National Parliament.

To improve the conditions for inclusive participation in Timorese elections and protect against discrimination at the policy level, the following activities will take place: relevant training, coaching, mentoring and mutual learning with the involvement of PITL and its implementing partners and the wider CSO community focusing on PwDs and women and youth.

CONTACT DETAILS

Project Coordinator: Adriana Garcia
Contact Person's Name: Adriana Garcia
E-mail: Adriana.Garcia@plan-international.org
Phone: +670 78716707

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: Plan International Timor-Leste
Twitter: @PlanTimor
Website: [Plan International Timor-Leste \(plan-international.org\)](http://Plan International Timor-Leste (plan-international.org))
Youtube: @planinternationaltimor-leste

Expected results

The expected results under this project are the following:

1. The electoral laws and processes are strengthened and harmonized to ensure that all Timorese voters can participate meaningfully;
2. Local radio stations' programmes are sensitive, sustainable, accessible, independent, and provide reliable information to voters in Timor-Leste
3. Women and youth have improved capacity and opportunities to participate in the political decision-making process, and have increased representation in elected positions and executive bodies
4. PwDs and other marginalized groups are encouraged and supported to participate in all aspects of the election process and to ensure that their voice are heard

PROJECTS PARTNERS' LOGOS



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