



UN Resident Coordinator

February 2005

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Re: 2004 Annual Report from UNCT Timor-Leste

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Timor-Leste continues to strengthen its coordination mechanism as a critical means to provide assistance to the Government of Timor-Leste in meeting the challenges of the National Development Plan and the Millennium Development Goals.

With UNMISSET's consolidation phase coming to its end in May 2005, the UNCT has started taking over more responsibilities in such areas as staff security and medical facilities, which will be withdrawn with the completion of the UNMISSET's mandate. In preparation for the transition, members of the UNCT have actively participated in the Working Groups that were set-up by UNMISSET to identify remaining challenges and to propose solutions and options for action to enable sustainable functioning of institutions concerned with the successful completion of the UNMISSET mandate.

Under the category of *Improved Support to the National Efforts to achieve the MDGs*, there were efforts to promote DevInfo software as a tool to monitor the Millennium Development Goals in Timor-Leste to the UNCT and the MDG Steering Committee. This was followed by a visit of an international consultant in May 2004 at the request of the Government of Timor-Leste to develop a Timor-Leste DevInfo database. Some progress has been when the consultant worked with national staff of the National Statistical Office to input data sources from several national surveys.

During the UN Day celebrations, four UN Development Awards were given out in three categories – education (primary education/literacy), women's health (reproductive health, safe motherhood), and youth (media/community service). The 2004 Awards sought to recognise, strengthen and support the contribution made by these selected individuals and organisations and to highlight the importance of their work in the context of the Millennium Development Goals. For the first time in Timor-Leste, UN Day was celebrated in project sites of some UN agencies. Further to the UN Day celebration, a nation-wide art competition for school children was organised. The art competition was to mobilise children and teachers to gather their perceptions of the UN in Timor-Leste.

Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

cc Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, Director, UN Development Group Office

Another major joint activity of the UN system as a whole, under this category was the promotion of a nationwide programme during the “Sixteen Days of Activism Against Violence”, the national theme for the campaign being “Stop Violence: Promote Women’s Health”. There was an effort to have the launch of the national campaign in the district and not in the capital of Dili. Various UN agencies and UNMISSET, working through the United Nations Consultative Group on Gender sponsored district-level events in each of 13 districts – the first time that the campaign had a truly national reach.

The challenging work of the UN agencies, funds and programmes also continued to be well recognized and acknowledged. In June this year, the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA requested a special presentation from the UN Country Team to showcase the excellent work that is being done in Timor-Leste, on the account of the unique challenges that the country and UN agencies have faced and the experience in moving from crisis to rebuilding and to developing a new country.

Under the category of *Improved Country Level Programme Coordination*, a retreat was held in March 2004 after the issuance of the Greentree Report by UNDG. The retreat served dual objectives of coming out with country-level actions in response to the Greentree Report and to assess progress made in joint programming after the UNDAF Prioritisation Retreat in July 2003. As a result of the Greentree Retreat and to harmonise with Timor-Leste’s National Development Planning cycle, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA agreed to extend their country programmes by two years from the present 2003 to 2005 to 2007.

Key Aspects of the Proposed 2005 Work Plan

The UNCT will focus its 2005 work plan on launching the Millennium Project Report in April 2005. The launch will provide the opportunity for the UNCT, the Government of Timor-Leste, civil society, the private sector and the development partners to identify ways in which all stakeholders can play a part in the achieving the MDGs in Timor-Leste. The event will focus on a country action plan to achieve the MDGs.

The launch will also be an opportunity for the UNCT and the Government of Timor-Leste to start a process of developing public awareness of the MDGs. UN Days like International Women’s Day, World Health Day, International Children’s Day, International Day of Literacy, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty; UN Day would be highlighted to continue promoting public awareness of the MDGs.

In addition, the UNCT would work towards implementing DevInfo as the monitoring software for MDGs in Timor-Leste. The software DevInfo will also be used to disseminate latest data sources like the Census, Demographic Health Service and other survey. A launch and orientation of the Timor-Leste DevInfo are planned for the 4th quarter of the year with participation from UNCT and Government officials.

With the extended programme of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, an UNDAF review has been planned in the 2Q of 2005 to take stock of progress and to review whether the indicators for monitoring outcomes are still relevant.

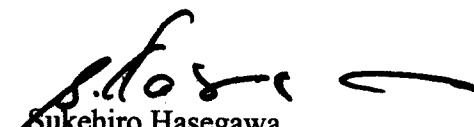
With the reactivation of the Inter-Agency Operations Management Group in late 2004, the UNCT will be focusing its efforts to find an alternative site to house most of the UN agencies, funds and programmes in Timor-Leste. Contact has been made with the UNDG Common Premises and Services and a feasibility mission is expected to come to Timor-Leste in April. The group will also work on finding alternative ways to provide health services for staff and strengthening security coordination in view of UNMISSET's withdrawal in May 2005.

Two UNCT trainings have been planned. One would be to organise a series of workshops on Living in a World with HIV/AIDS in the Workplace targeted for UNCT international and local staff members. A Workshop on Security Management and Stress Management is also planned, which would be organised in conjunction with UNMISSET in April 2005.

The year 2005 will be an opportunity for the UNCT to focus on providing support to the MDGs efforts in the country and to concentrate on strengthening common premises and services.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Sukehiro Hasegawa
UN Resident Coordinator and
Special Representative of the Secretary-General