



Education Development Center Inc. (EDC), a US-based, non-profit education research and development organization, leads the USAID “Preparing us for Work” or Prepara Ami ba Servisu (PAS) program in Timor-Leste.

The PAS program provides minimally-educated rural men and women, ages 16-30, with a workforce preparation program that combines off-the-job instruction with on-the-job training. In groups of 50, youth participants work together for eight months in different locations around the country, outside the capital. The program strengthens skills of young people by providing in-classroom instruction based on a comprehensive work-readiness curriculum with community-based working and training experience. By the end of the three-year program, the USAID PAS program will have successfully trained at least 2,500 youth throughout the country.



*Opening of PAS Program in Aileu*

In December and January, 150 unemployed, rural youth participants began the Livelihood Preparation phase of the PAS program in Aileu, Maubisee and Salele. The launch of the Aileu and Maubisse programs was attended by participants, Training Partner staff, the PAS program Chief of Party, and USAID staff, local community leaders including a District Administrator, Chefes de Suco, the Regional Representative from the Ministry of Education and the event was covered by local television, radio and newspaper journalists. After completing an intensive one-week orientation to help participants decide and plan for what they want to achieve through the PAS program, participants began the 16-week Livelihood Preparation phase during which they will receive 11 weeks of classroom work-readiness instruction and five weeks of technical skills training. Technical specialists will deliver training in

masonry, electrical work, carpentry and a variety of other vocational areas. Over 50% of the participants who started the program were women, and most of the participants have not attended secondary school.



*PAS Youth Helping Distribute Tree Seedlings*

In Baucau, PAS participants at two sites entered their last month of Phase One. Over 100 youth have completed the innovative training program. In preparation for the Accompaniment phase of the program, participants selected which livelihood pathway they would pursue. Several participants formed groups to start small businesses or pay for further education in English and computer skills. In order to support these participants as they pursue options to improve their livelihood, the USAID TERADP program implemented by NCBA-CCT donated 2000 tree seedlings to participants to plant in community plots and to plant at home. PAS participants planted the seedlings in the community and were given two seedlings to plant at home. The ceremony was attended by local community leaders, PAS program Chief of Party Brenda Barrett, NCBA-CCT Cooperative Agribusiness Advisor Mr. Shane McCarthy and TERADP staff attended.



*Mr. Shane McCarthy and PAS Youth Planting Tree Seedlings*