

Prepara Ami ba Servisu (PAS) Program Update

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 one year 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 work 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.

On September 22, US Ambassador Hans Klemm, along with local news media, visited the PAS youth in Baucau, observing classroom training, touring work-experience sites and meeting the participants. The visit included a trip to the classroom where PAS’ NGO training partner, FSP, conducted training for the participants and held a small reception for the Ambassador. Additionally, the Ambassador visited a candlenut processing site where PAS youth have been learning improved agricultural methods and nursery construction with the assistance of fellow USAID partner CRS. Having completed two months of training, participants were eager to share their experiences and hopes for the future with the Ambassador and the press.



US Ambassador Hans Klemm meets PAS participants at the candlenut processing site

Since August, PAS youth in Baucau, Berkoli and Triloka, have completed in-class training on a variety of subjects, including Human Rights, conflict resolution, and leadership. The PAS program’s participatory approach to training has met with success, as students are able to engage each other in discussions, in group activities and learn skills to work together to complete tasks. In parallel with teaching topics of importance in the lives of youth, PAS training partners are conducting basic literacy education, providing urgently needed skills to the 120 participants in Baucau.

In addition to in-class training, PAS youth have participated in work experience activities ranging from preparing soil for planting candlenut, building a nursery for candlenut cultivation and preparation, to laying the foundation of a new hospital in Baucau. Taking a value-added approach, the PAS program has partnered with local private-sector entities to provide participants with hands-on experience in construction. Participants have also begun several community enrichment projects, including rehabilitating a basketball court.



TLMDC c films and interview with Baucau participants

Partnering with local, youth-run NGO, Timor-Leste Media Development Center (TLMDC), the PAS program has created a short film for USAID documenting the success of the first two groups in Baucau. Produced and edited by TLMDC with support from PAS program staff, the film includes interviews with trainers, participants, and key community stakeholders, illustrating the impact the PAS program has had on the lives of its participants.

As the PAS youth participants in Baucau continue learning from the program’s innovative curriculum, and applying that knowledge on worksites, another two groups of youth participants have begun enrollment in the Aileu- Ainaro region. Over 140 youth applied to participate in the program, including nearly 80 females.