



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Prepara Ami Ba Servisu Newsletter

Highlights:

- The PAS Program enrolled over 100 new participants and opened two new learning centers in Aileu and Ainaro
- More than half of the newly selected participants are women.
- The PAS program is preparing to launch new program sites in Aileu, Ainaro, and Covalima.

US Ambassador Visits Youth Participants in Baucau

On September 22, US Ambassador Hans Klemm visited the PAS program’s Baucau youth participants. In addition to visiting the training center and discussing the program with the participants, the Ambassador saw youth at work alongside the USAID-funded CRS candlenut processing site, where they are constructing a nursery and learning how to process candlenut.

Since August, youth have been working at the site, preparing the site for cultivation of candlenut.

Through their participation in work at a real worksite, youth learn about improved agricultural processes as well as apply lessons about teamwork and professionalism.

Ambassador Klemm was greeted with a reception in

the classroom and gave participants the opportunity to ask question and discuss the program.



US Ambassador Hans Klemm visits PAS youth participants receiving work-readiness training.

PAS Collaborates with Local Youth Media NGO

The local youth NGO, Timor-Leste Media Development Center (TLMDC) collaborated with the PAS program to produce a 10-minute film documenting the success of the PAS program in Baucau.

Filmed and produced by TLMDC, the brief documentary includes interviews with trainers, key community stakeholders and with the participants themselves. The short film about youth, produced by youth, was created for a documentary of all USAID EQUIP 3 funded pro-

jects to be shared internationally.

In the documentary, participants discuss the many ways the PAS program benefits them— from improved leadership skills to better prospects for employment. Father Justiniano, a local community priest, says of the PAS program, “This is our strategy, our response, to the problem of youth in our country.” For the youth participants, the PAS program offers an opportunity to find a livelihood potential that would have

been inaccessible without the skills they learn in the program.



TLMDC cameraman films an interview of a PAS participant. TLMDC is a formerly USAID-funded youth NGO.

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PAS Program Overview

The PAS program launched its first two programs in rural sub-districts of Baucau in July 2008. Local NGO partners collaborate with the PAS program to deliver an innovative curriculum designed to prepare rural, out-of-school youth with life and work-readiness skills necessary to succeed in life.

The curriculum covers four main skill areas— technical, leadership, entrepreneurship and work-readiness skills— geared towards rural men and women. Training partners also work with youth to offer on-the-job training through partnerships with private employers and community sponsors. Through this

cooperation, youth have the opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom at the work site and prepare themselves for independent livelihood opportunities upon completion of the program.

Recognizing the limited employment opportunities available in Timor-Leste's slow-growing economy, the PAS program emphasizes the development of entrepreneurial and financial skills that will allow youth to improve their livelihood in their own communities. As part of the PAS program, youth who successfully complete the first phase of classroom and work-site training receive

support, or accompaniment, from training partners to help them further their economic livelihood potential.



A youth participant introduces herself and her goals. The PAS program emphasizes leadership skills and character development to prepare youth to be good employees and responsible citizens.

Collaboration Opportunities

As the PAS program seeks to extend the benefits of its work-readiness program to more districts it is searching for new local NGO partners to collaborate in the effort. Finding these partners requires the help of stakeholders, including community leaders and international NGOs working in

these districts, to help identify reliable organizations capable of implementing the program.

In addition, the PAS program relies on private employers and international NGOs conducting projects in rural districts to provide work experience opportunities for the youth participants.

Organizations interested in collaborating with the PAS program to help bring meaningful work opportunities and skills training to youth, please contact the PAS program's Dili office.

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CENTER

USAID PAS Program
Rua Belarmino Lobo,
Akadiruhun - Bidau
Dili, Timor-Leste

For more information:
Office Phone: 670-331-0825
E-mail: ltimmermann@edc.org



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 nine 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 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.

To read more about the PAS program in Timor-Leste, please visit <http://www.equip123.net/webarticles//anviewer.asp?>