

Press Release

14 January, 2009

USAID Programs Partner to Help Youth Build Livelihood Opportunities

On January 13, over 100 youth participating in the USAID Prepara Ami ba Servisu (PAS) program in Baucau planted tree seedlings donated by the USAID-funded Timor Economic Rehabilitation and Development Project (TERADP). The donation of over 2000 tree seedlings comes as a result of ongoing work by USAID in the Districts of Timor Leste.

The donation ceremony and planting of the trees took place in two training sites in Baucau, one in Triloka and one in Berkoli, where youth participants have spent the past six months developing work-readiness skills both through classroom training and through hands-on work experience. USAID PAS Program NGO training partners, LAHO and FSP, have worked with youth at both sites to assist youth in developing skills that will improve their opportunities in life. Specifically, technical work skills in various sectors have included improved agricultural practices in rural areas of the Districts. Planting the tree seedlings is part of on-going community improvement projects thanks to the support of USAID's TERADP program.



USAID PAS program youth participants plant donated seedlings in a community plot

PAS participants receive seedlings donated by USAID-funded TERADP program



The donation ceremony was attended by PAS participants, NGO training partners, and community leaders, as well as TERADP Agriculture Diversification Advisor, Shane McCarthy and PAS Chief of Party, Brenda Barrett. During the ceremony, participants planted the trees in community property and were given trees to use themselves, privately at home. USAID/TERADP staff in Baucau have met with youth participants to explain to them how to use and care for the trees and how to make use of the tree products to make them part of an income-generating activity.



PAS participants in Baucau are given two seedlings to use for an income-generating activity.