



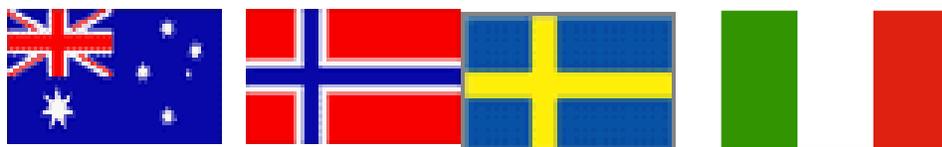
*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

**STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY  
DEMOCRACY IN TIMOR-LESTE  
(PARLIAMENT PROJECT 2010-2013)**

UNDP Project Code: 00073810

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2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Progress Report  
April– June 2014



## List of Acronyms:

AFPPD	Asian Forum for parliamentarians on Population and Development
APPC	Asian and Pacific Population Conference
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAVR	Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation
CD	Capacity Development
CEDAW	Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEGEN	Centro de Fomação e Informação sobre Igualdade de Géneros (Centre for Capacity Building and Information on Gender Equality)
CNE	National Commission for Elections
CPLP	Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries
DIPAL	Divisão de Património, Logística e Serviços Gerais (Division of Fixed Assets, Logistics and General Services)
DIPIT	Diracao de Pesquisa e Informação Técnica (Directorate of Research and Technical Information)
DIPLN	Divisão de Apoio ao Plenário (Division of Plenary Support)DIPFA Divisão do Plano, Finanças e Aprovisionamento (Division of Planning, Finance and Procurement)
DIRAT	Divisão de Redacção, Audiovisual, Transcrição e Documentação (Division of Drafting, Audiovisual, Transcription and Documentation)
DITIC	Divisão de Tecnologia de Informação e Comunicação (Division of Information Technology and Communication)
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GMPTL	Group of Parliamentarian Women of Timor-Leste
LOFAP	Parliamentary Administration and Service Law
MPs	Members of Parliament
NAP	National Action Plan
NP	National Parliament
NPST	National Parliament Strategic Plan
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RDTL	Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
RTL	Radio Timor-Leste
SEPI	Secretariat for Promotion of Gender Equality
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SO	Standing Orders
SOP	Standard Operational Procedure
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMIT	United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste
WTO	World Trade Organization

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## 1. Introduction:

During the Second Quarter of 2014, the Annual Work Plan has been implemented as per the following outputs: Output 1: *Parliament supported with legal expertise for scrutinizing, debating and amending bills, analysing and presenting policy implications, as well as initiating and drafting laws*; Output 2: *Oversight Support Consolidation of in-house legal sector-specific and, mainly, gender support systems and processes that enable MPs to analyze, debate and approve the national budget and provide continuous oversight of government policies and expenditures*; and Output 3: *Gender mainstreaming*. The activities were implemented with the support of the two main International Advisors recruited under the multi-donor funded project – i.e. the Economic Advisor for Committee D and Legal Gender Advisor for Committee F, GMPTL, and CEGEN. The advisors supported other relevant Committees and the Secretariat as needed.

The Parliament, with support of the project, recruited the Legal Gender Advisor on 25 May 2013. The Advisor has conducted a comprehensive needs assessment and developed the individual advisor work plan for the remaining months of the year, including the capacity development plan. These plans, which have been approved by the National Parliament, take into account priorities and immediate needs of the Committee F, GMPTL and CEGEN. The Parliament has requested the gender advisor to focus on activities which will yield concrete results and visible impact.

This report highlights the progress achieved towards expected outputs and results as well as challenges faced during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to June 2014.

The following are the key areas of progress during the quarter:

- ***Capacity of MPs to debate and analyze bills has been further strengthened:*** Forest Management and Census Law submitted by the government was discussed and analyzed from a socio-economic and gender perspective respectively and the Bills will be submitted to Plenary for further debate and approval.
- ***The Parliament has improved oversight and analytical capacities:*** for the first time government provided quarterly reports to the Parliament on the execution of the state budget 2014 from the respective government ministries. At least 16 oversight reports have been disseminated so far to the plenary and relevant government authorities. Members of Committee D (Economic and Development) and Committee F (Health, Education, Culture, Veteran and Gender Equality) conducted oversight visits to local areas to assess government budget expenditures and policy implementation.
- ***The technical capacity of the Secretariat has been strengthened in the area of economics and development:*** National technical staff members have shown improved aptitude to conduct research and analyze data – several background papers and briefing papers (e.g. research on the draft law of Forest Management) were prepared autonomously by national staff in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. National staff also provided support at plenary during the hearings of the relevant ministries on the quarterly reports of State Budget execution, in which the sectoral analysts provided briefing papers and questions for MPs. The technical staff prepared reports for public consultations which had been approved by the respective committees D and F.

## 2. Project Results by Output from April - June 2014

**Output 1: Parliament supported with legal expertise for scrutinizing, debating and amending bills, analysing and presenting policy implications, as well as initiating and drafting laws**

<i>OUTPUT 1: INDICATORS</i>	<i>PROGRESS 2014- Quarter 2</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of bills accepted by Parliament analyzed for potential impact including social, economic perspective</li> </ul>	Draft Bills of Forest Management and Census Law discussed and analyzed in the Committee D from a socio-economic perspective with active participation of MPs. The bills have been submitted to plenary for approval.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One national qualified Economist recruited to Committee D</li> </ul>	The Committee D has proposed to include this position in the Parliament's institutional Budget 2015.

### **Activity 1.1 Legislation Reviews and Drafting**

During the reporting period, the Committee D scrutinized and discussed the draft Bill on Forest Management that was initiated and proposed by Government with the technical and advisory support of the Economic Advisor. The main goal of the draft bill is to conduct a survey on the existing forests and their characteristics, ownerships and surfaces. The project supported the Committee D to analyze and discuss the draft law from a socio-economic perspective and in light of national priorities. Towards this end, with technical assistance and support from the international Economic Advisor and national technical staff, the Committee D analysed and discussed the policy on forest management and consequences for the national local economies regarding forest sustainability. It can be noted that the MPs had a good understanding of the legislative and policy implications of this bill as it had already been discussed during the international seminar on Public Private Partnership held in May with the support of the project. Three public hearings was also conducted by the Committee on the law, with government ministries (Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, Secretary of State for Natural Conservation and Forestry), and the NGO - Timorese Association of Forestry and Engineering. The Law was approved at the Committee level.

Committee F scrutinized and approved the Census Law, incorporating gender perspective with the support of the project's Gender Advisor. The Committee also conducted 13 public audience meetings on the Census Law with a broad range of interlocutors including government departments (Secretary of State of Parliament Affairs, Minister of State Administration, Ministry of Justice, Embossment Office) and civil society organizations (NGO-Belun, Luta Hamutuk, Lao Hamutuk and Yayasan Hak) as well as religious representatives (Church, Muslim, Protestant). The comments and recommendations were taken into account by the Committee F.

As mentioned above, an important event in increasing MPs' legislative capacity was the International Seminar on Public Private Partnership (PPP), held in Baucau district from 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014, with intensive support from the international Economic Advisor as well as other advisors. The Seminar involved 3 Committees – namely, Committee C (Public Finance), Committee D (Economy and Development) and Committee E (Infrastructure, Transport and Communication). The

committee D was the focal point in organizing the Seminar with supported from the project. The objective of the Seminar was to enrich the knowledge of MPs in the area of PPP within Timor-Leste context such as principles of economic issues, finance and legislation, and implementation process. Exposure to experiences from other countries and information exchange was facilitated through the engagement of two international experts from Portugal and the Philippines. The report and recommendations from the Seminar has been prepared and will be submitted to Plenary after the approval from Committee D.

During the reporting period, the Advisor conducted on-the-job training for MPs and technical staff including 2 Sector Analysts on national economic development and use of the statistical data, with use of the Internet and Excel. It has been observed by the Committees and the advisors that technical writing skills of national technical staff has improved, especially in preparing questions and reports in Tetun for the Committees, including questions and briefs for the public audience meetings.

**Output 2: Oversight Support Consolidation of in-house legal sector-specific and, mainly, gender support systems and processes that enable MPs to analyze, debate and approve the national budget and provide continuous oversight of government policies and expenditures.**

<i>INDICATORS</i>	<i>PROGRESS 2014 – Quarter 2</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of committees have quality plan for oversight reflecting gender-based research and analysis</li> </ul>	Gender analysis of oversight activities are planned for third quarter of the year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of oversight reports disseminated</li> </ul>	3 oversight visits were conducted by Committee F in the area of Health and Education (Salary delays, lack of medicine and management of distribution). The report of the 3 oversight visits was prepared and provided to Ministries of Health and Education

**Activity 2.1: Parliament supported in exercising its oversight function**

During the second quarter, Committee D conducted oversight visits to 3 districts - Bobonaro, Covalima (Suai) and Oe-Cusse. During the oversight visits, the Committee D had meetings with local authorities including Administrators, respective local government departments and local population concerning public services, public projects, and agriculture development. The oversight reports from the three districts were discussed during the quarterly reporting by Ministries on state budget execution 2014.

The quarterly reporting mentioned above, was also an opportunity for the Economic and Gender Advisors to provide technical support to MPs, specifically Committee D and Committee F, to exercise its oversight mandate with several of its key counterparts from respective government ministries namely Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of State Administration and Secretary of State of Professional Training and Employment (SEFOPE). Advisors prepared technical analysis and comments, questions, brief reports and other technical assistance

as needed. As a result, the second quarter discussions of budget execution monitoring between the Committees and the government representatives was well informed, interactive and constructive with substantive issues such as delayed salary payments for public civil servant in Ministry of Health, and the lack of medicine management and distribution being taken up. The respective ministries have accepted the recommendations from Parliament with commitment to follow up.

Sessions were also conducted for technical staff on the use of the finance portal of Ministry of Finance “Portal das Finanças” to obtain and analyse information on the State budget in order to monitor budget execution.

**Activity 2.2: Support operation of the Directorate and Research and Services**

Capacities and skills of 3 sector Analysts and 1 technical staff in Committee D and Committee F improved in carrying out their daily assignments. Since the Legal Gender Advisor was recruited in May, the Advisor conducted on-the-job training for 5 national staff of CEGEN including head of the Division and a Legal Analyst. On-the-job training was focused on increasing understanding of gender equality and domestic-violence.

**Activity 2.4: Parliament supported in comprehensive analysing and debating the State Budget from Gender Perspective**

During the quarterly reporting of state budget execution presented by government, the Legal Gender Advisor, along with the national technical staff provided technical support to review the reports from a gender perspective to support parliamentarians to ensure that the state budget implementation was gender sensitive and gender responsive - particularly in the areas of education, health, and SEFOPE. The advisor also provided feedback and recommendations on gender equality in recruitment of public civil servants.

The Legal Gender Advisor also supported the National Parliament in preparing its institutional budget for state budget 2015 specifically for Committee F in the area of gender equality, GMPTL and CEGEN programme activities.

Output 3: **Gender Mainstreaming**

INDICATORS	PROGRESS 2014 – Quarter 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of laws proposed by MPs analyzed from a gender perspective including state budget</li> <li>• Number of gender work plans prepared and implemented</li> <li>• Number of activities related to the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting conducted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 (The Census Law)</li> <li>• GMPTL work plan reviewed and revised, implementation ongoing</li> <li>• Training on gender-responsive budgeting planned for quarter 3</li> </ul>

***Activity 3.1: Supported Parliament in providing MPs and Parliamentary staff with access to gender-related analysis***

With technical support from the Legal Gender Advisor to Committee F, the draft Census Law was discussed and analyzed from a gender perspective with the active participation of all MPs from the Committee F. The Committee was provided support to conduct comparative analysis of the Bill drawing on examples from Portugal and Indonesia. It was identified that the draft law did not address the issue of applying reliable research (such as use of quality variables and statistical unity) to contextualize the draft law to suit the environment of Timor-Leste. These issues will be discussed at the Plenary.

***Activity 3.2 Support the function of GMPTL***

With support of Gender Legal Advisor, GMPTL's annual work plan has been revised in order to align with current issues and priorities, especially in preparing for the upcoming state budget 2015. Several activities of the work plan have been implemented during the second quarter of the year. For example, as part of the efforts to promote the work of GMPTL, including outreach to young women and men, the President of GMPTL delivered a speech on democracy and freedom in approximately 20 public secondary schools in Dili, Ermera and Baucau. In addition, with the project's support research and analyses were conducted on key areas including CEDAW and education. On-the-job training for members of GMPTL, as well as Committee F and technical staff of the Committee and CEGEN was conducted on techniques of assessing gender-mainstreaming within the legislative process

***Activity 3.3 Support operation of a gender division under the Research Directorate in the Secretariat, as per the LOFAP***

The Advisor will conduct trainings in areas of legal and gender issues that relate to health and fundamental rights of each Timorese in accordance to the National Constitution and the UN convention on human rights. The training is planned for the third quarter of the year. The Advisor conducted on-the-job training for CEGEN during the discussion and analysis of the draft of Census law. The training focused on the area of reliable research (such as primary evaluation variables) and privacy protection. The training aimed to increase the knowledge and skills of technical staff about the law and the practical everyday environment of the population from a gender perspective within the Timor-Leste context. The same training was provided to members of Committee F, technical staff and staff from other units.

### **3. Project Management**

The Project continued to focus on timely implementation of the project activities to ensure expected results. The Project held regular meetings (monthly and ad hoc as needed) with the Secretary General and direct national counterparts of each international advisor to update on project progress and flag any issues as they arise. Project also has closely coordinated with its counterparts to monitor and evaluate the training sessions conducted by advisors. At the end of each training session the Secretariat and project jointly conducted evaluations of both the trainer/advisor and trainees.

Since the Legal Gender Advisor was recruited in May, the project has been more able to respond to the needs of Committee F, GMPTL, CEGEN and other MPs in area of gender issues.

Efforts to strengthen coordination and communication have continued, including review of monthly logs by advisors, and project fortnightly meetings. Two project quarterly technical meetings were conducted to discuss and monitor the implementation of project activities to ensure the quality and results. Although these meetings were held under the EU project, key recommendations from the meetings were applied to all advisors and activities including the identification of one or two national staff for each advisor for targeted training and tracking progress of individuals' capacity development.

## **4. Issues/Challenges and Management Strategies**

- A continuing challenge is the limited number of qualified technical staff in the Secretariat of National Parliament which hinders technical capacity development and knowledge transfer from International Advisors to the national counterparts. With support from the EU funded project, recruitment has taken place for 11 heads of division, which provides an opportunity to ensure capacity transfer. In addition, continued targeted capacity development interventions have been provided to the 10 legal drafters and 3 sectoral analysts who are supporting the 7 Standing Committees.
- The Legal Gender Advisor came onboard in the last week of May 2014. Therefore, the month of June was mainly focused on familiarisation and preparatory work. Implementation of gender related activities continued to be slow in quarter two. However, with support from the project, the Gender Advisor selected key priority areas for immediate attention and was able to show progress in these areas such as gender analysis for the Census law and the institutional budget proposal of 2015.
- The recruitment of national technical staff (economist) for Committee D has been delayed. However, the Committee D as well as the Economic Advisor has recommended that the position be included in the institutional budget 2015 of the NP.
- Limited competency in Portuguese Language remains as a major challenge in building capacity in specific technical areas such as drafting laws, and conducting research and analysis. The project continues to support enhancing language skills through the legal Advisors and the Portuguese Language teacher.

## 5. Financial report for the period of April - June 2014

<b>OVERSIGHT SUPPORT</b>	<b>Amount in US\$</b>
International Consultant	33,000
Workshops	9,495
Miscellaneous	30
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>42,525</b>

<b>GENDER MAINTREAMING</b>	<b>Amount in US\$</b>
International Consultant	19,580
Miscellaneous	20
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>19,600</b>

<b>PROJECT MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>Amount in US\$</b>
International Programme Officer	3,722
National staff	11,052
Vehicle maintenance	3,320
Translation costs	7,908
Security	1,991
Communication costs	3,538
Office supplies	2,291
Miscellaneous	1,728
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>35,550</b>

<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	<b>97,675</b>
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