

## **Proposal for Production of Political Party Information for the Parliamentary Election in Timor-Leste**

Timor-Leste will hold its Parliamentary Election on 30 June 2007. The provision of information on political parties and coalitions that will be contesting the Parliamentary Election is essential if voters are to make informed choices when casting their ballots.

Funded by New Zealand Aid (NZAID), the UNDP Support to the Timorese Electoral Cycle Project in partnership with the International Republican Institute (IRI) – a USAID-funded NGO will produce information on the political parties and coalitions contesting the Parliamentary Election.

### **Objective**

The objective of this joint project is to provide voters in Timor-Leste's Parliamentary Election with information about their electoral choices.

### **Intervention logic**

There are several reasons in support of this initiative. There are a large number of parties and coalitions (14 parties and coalitions) contesting the election which is likely to give rise to voter confusion regarding the parties and their platforms. It is likely that parties and coalitions will lack the capacity to organize wide-reaching campaigns to deliver their messages. Considering the low media penetration in Timor-Leste where the range of national radio and television broadcast does not extend to most of the country and print media is limited largely to the capital, Dili, it is also likely that many voters will not become sufficiently aware of party and coalition platforms through the media.

This initiative will utilize existing voter education networks and channels to disseminate information about the parties and coalitions. It will also use current political party capacity-building activities and relationships to inform the parties about the initiative.

### **Intervention description**

The information material to be produced will be:

- A large format poster carrying the name, acronym and symbol of each party and coalition and a short message about each party or coalition. The message will be provided by the party or coalition.
- A smaller size hand-out with the same information and layout as above
- An audio CD with a recording of the above

## **Implementation**

This will be a NZAID funded project carried out by the UNDP Support to the Timorese Electoral Cycle Project in partnership with IRI, a USAID-funded NGO.

IRI which works with political parties in capacity-building will liaise with the parties to inform them of the project and obtain the necessary information from the parties and coalitions.

The UNDP Support to the Timorese Electoral Cycle Project will design and produce the material. It will draw on existing networks for distribution and dissemination of the material.

The quantities of the material to be produced are 10 000 copies of the large format poster, 20 000 copies of the hand-out and 100 copies of the audio CD.

The intention is for all the material to be produced and distributed by early June. Distribution of the material will be via existing voter education channels. These channels include UNMIT and STAE as well as NGOs. The audio CDs will be distributed to community radio stations to be broadcast as part of a separate arrangement between the Timor Leste Media Development Center and NZAID.

## **Risk management**

A clear description of the project will be provided to the parties and coalitions to minimize the risk that they may not wish to participate. In addition to providing information about the project and a mock-up of the intended poster parties and coalitions will also be clearly informed of the deadline for submitting their messages. They will be informed of the consequences of missing the deadline.

All material produced will carry a statement that the information contained was provided by the parties and coalitions.

The project will utilize existing relationships with parties and with the electoral authorities, UNMIT and NGOs to ensure that the risk of failure is minimized.