



Factsheet / Backgrounder

Programa Nasionál Dezenvolvimentu Suku (PNDS), is a Government program that enables communities to choose, design and build basic infrastructure in their *suku* (village).

Projects that communities can build include roads and bridges, water or irrigation systems, markets, community centers, sports facilities or the renovation of schools, health clinics and other public facilities on the allowable menu.

Every *suku* receives a grant of between US\$40,000–US\$70,000 directly from the Government, every year, for eight years. The exact value of the grant depends on *suku* population size and distance from the district capital.

PNDS aims to:

- Build basic infrastructure needed and used by the whole community, including women, the elderly and people with disabilities
- Create jobs in rural areas
- Build a foundation for local governance
- Increase communities' capacity to plan, build and maintain basic infrastructure
- Improve rural communities' access to basic services, such as health, education and transport
- Increase transparency and public confidence in governance system and decision making.

Every *suku* elects a community management team who implement PNDS in their *suku*.

These teams receive training in construction management, procurement and bookkeeping.

Community teams are supported by technical facilitators trained in financial management, engineering and social inclusion.

PNDS aims to involve women at every stage of the implementation cycle, and has set a 40% participation target for women. Women are represented on the elected community management teams, and each *suku* holds a women-only meeting to suggest, consider and rank project proposals.

The community can participate by voting for their community management team, voting for projects, working in constructing and helping with any ongoing maintenance of the new infrastructure.

The community is also encouraged to participate in accountability meetings in their *suku*, to verify the community management team used the grant money effectively and transparently.

By 2020 PNDS aims to have completed 3600 quality *suku* infrastructure projects, and to have trained 1300 *suku* structures (local governance structures).

PNDS is led by the Ministry of State Administration (MAE) and Ministry of Finance (MoF), in partnership with other ministries. National funding for PNDS will amount to approximately \$US 294.3 million over an eight-year period (2012-2020)

PNDS is supported by the Government of Australia who provide technical assistance, training and logistical support, plus assistance with monitoring and evaluation.