



Programa Nasional Dezenvolvimentu Suku

Secretariado PNDS,

Edifício Central do MAE (Ministerio
Administrasaun Estatal)
Rua Jacinto Cândido

Dili, Timor Leste. Tel. 331 0890



Together we develop the Nation

What is PNDS?

PNDS, the National Village Development Program, empowers communities to manage the development of their suku (village). The program aims to reduce poverty, provide employment opportunities and strengthen the community's capacity to develop their suku.

The program is led by the Ministry of State Administration, who work with communities, and district and sub-district level administrations, to plan and implement this program. PNDS is funded by the Government of Timor-Leste, with technical support from Australian Aid.

PNDS enables rural communities to develop basic infrastructure, such as roads, water supply, irrigation systems, markets, bridges, community halls, schools and health facilities.



What are the objectives of PNDS?

The main objective of PNDS is to improve communities' socio-economic conditions and local governance through community managed infrastructure.

Many rural communities lack basic infrastructure: they may not have a road to take their crops to market; they may lack the irrigation needed to produce more crops; or, their school may not have enough classrooms. Improving their infrastructure will help improve their quality of life – making it possible to sell their crops, get their kids into school, and improve their family's health through access to improved health facilities.

Building more infrastructure will improve people's access to basic services, and this in turn will lead to improved health and education, higher productivity and higher household incomes.

Communities not only lack infrastructure. They may also lack the organisation, leadership, skills or initiative needed to develop their own village. PNDS not only helps to improve infrastructure, but also strengthens community organisations and capacities.

How is PNDS different from other projects?



The main difference is that in PNDS the community plan and decide which projects to fund, and construct the infrastructure themselves. They also account for the funds used, the results, and maintain the infrastructure.

The community do not depend on contractors to construct the infrastructure, they build it themselves, using their own efforts and some of their own resources. The whole community plan and work together to develop the infrastructure – men and women and vulnerable groups.

Women play an important role in the process – they have equal say (to men) in the way projects are selected and managed. Women are elected to all management teams, and have the right to work on the projects and be paid the same as men.

The community receives a grant directly from the Government, which they use to construct, repair, renovate or rehabilitate infrastructure. They decide what is urgently needed – and then build it. Once the project is completed, they are responsible for maintenance and repairs.



COMMUNITY

**Decide
Plan
Implement
Maintain**

PNDS cycle

1. Socialise district and sub-district key stakeholders
2. Socialise suku and aldeia, form Suku Management Teams and select Suku Facilitators
3. Open suku bank account and disburse 100% of operational funds
4. Train Suku Management Teams and Suku Facilitators
5. Aldeia and suku choose priorities
6. Prepare and verify project description(s) / proposal(s)
7. Prepare detailed plan and project budget
8. Sign project implementation agreement and prepare to implement
9. Disburse infrastructure funds (1st Tranche 50%) and commence implementation/construction
10. Certify construction, hold accountability meeting and disburse remaining infrastructure funds (Tranche 2 50%)
11. Complete construction, and start Operations and Maintenance (O&M)
12. Final accountability meeting, audit and evaluation

What is the role of the District Administrator and District Development Commission in PNDS?

The District Development Commission (KDD) is headed by the District Administration (DA). Their role includes:

- Socialise PNDS principles and processes in the district.
- Ensure coordination and harmonisation among different programs under PDID, and with other local development initiatives
- Help address serious problems or complaints, including those involving transfer and use of funds, and escalate as appropriate to national authorities
- Coordinate with sectorial ministries for relevant development activities to ensure ongoing support for technical supervision and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs
- Review regular reports on PNDS implementation progress

What are suku management teams?

Each suku elects three teams to manage the development process on behalf of the community: the Planning and Accountability Commission (KPA) for annual planning and general oversight throughout the annual PNDS cycle; the Community Implementation

Team (EIP) for the design, planning and implementation of PNDS activities including reporting; and the Operations and Maintenance Team (EOM) for the operation and maintenance of the infrastructure.

The KPA is made up of the entire Suku Council and an additional member elected by each aldeia (neighbourhood), to ensure each aldeia has two representatives in the KPA, one of whom must be a woman. The suku also elects two Suku Facilitators, one of whom must be a woman, who will help organise meetings.

What Community training and support is provided by PNDS?



Communities are supported by a number of Sub-district Facilitators to help them plan and construct their infrastructure projects. Sub-district Facilitators help with technical issues, training and organization of community teams, and accounting for funds. The community management teams will receive training and support from PNDS. Sub District Facilitators who will also help each community to plan, construct and maintain their infrastructure. The facilitators, working with the Suku team for planning and accountability, will also ensure the rules and regulations of PNDS are adhered to.

What technical support is provided by PNDS?

In order to support broad and active community participation, transparency and accountability, as well as to build the skills and capacity of the community members. The Ministry of State Administration provides ongoing technical and field support to implement PNDS.

PNDS District staff: comprised of District Coordinator, district engineers, district accountants, and MIS officers. They oversee work across the Sub-Districts and suku.

They are primarily responsible for coordination, high level technical support, and monitoring to ensure transparent and accountable use of funds, plus the timely preparation of data and routine reports submitted to the National Secretariat.



PNDS Sub-District staff: comprised of sub-district social facilitators, sub-district technical facilitators and sub-district finance facilitators. They are closest to the community, and therefore, play a vital day-to-day role throughout the PNDS Program Cycle, from initial orientation, planning and design to technical assessment, construction supervision and financial accountability, as well as, ongoing mentoring.

How is the infrastructure funded?

The Government of Timor-Leste provides an annual grant to every suku, ranging from between \$40,000-\$70,000. The exact amount of the grant depends on the population of the suku and distance from the district capital. The grant will be deposited into a suku bank account, and the community will manage these funds.

The grant is made up of an Operational Grant and an Infrastructure Grant.

The Operational grant is allocated to subsidize community meetings, training, incentives, survey and design and other administration costs.

The infrastructure grant is allocated to purchase construction materials and pay incentives to labourers from the communities. Communities must be informed exactly how much their suku is getting, both for operational purposes and for the actual infrastructure projects.



Who is responsible for the maintenance?

The community is expected to maintain the infrastructure they build.

What is the annual cycle of activities?

Each suku receives an annual grant so they can plan and implement a project. The community meet to identify projects which they feel will make a real difference to everyone in the suku. They develop a detailed proposal, organise work teams to build the project, and arrange maintenance.

PNDS will provide a grant to the each suku each year for eight (8 years). In general, the size of the grant provided will get bigger in later years but a suku can have its grant reduced or even cancelled based on poor performance or if funds allocated cannot be properly accounted for.

What are the community's rights and responsibilities?

Community members have rights. They have the right to be fully informed about the project, the right to set priorities and make decisions on projects grants. They also have the right to question, comment and complain if the implementation is not based on core PNDS principles and agreed processes, and have these concerns addressed.

Community members also have responsibilities. They have the responsibility to help with the planning and implementation and make sure that the process produces good results.

Anyone who needs further information on PNDS, has a complaint or thinks funds may have been misused, can contact their suku KPA (Planning and Accountability Commission), the KDD (District Development Commission), or a facilitator they trust. Anonymity is guaranteed and all complaints will receive a response.

