



United Nations and Youth in **Timor-Leste**

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We are the United Nations Inter-Agency Youth Results Group (YRG). Made up of all the UN agencies working in Timor-Leste, we coordinate the UN's interventions related to youth work, support the Government's efforts for young people and strive to respond to the needs of young men and women in Timor-Leste.

In this issue we will have a look at the youth relevant activities of UNDP, ILO, UNESCO, UNWomen, and WFP! These agencies have implemented activities on *Youth Employment and Employability, Youth and Education, Youth and Civic Participation, Youth and healthy lifestyle*, themes that are highlighted in the National Youth Policy, and are important to the well-being of Timor-Leste's youth .

I. Youth and Employment and Employability

Knua Juventude Fila-Liman (KJFL)

The United Nations in Timor-Leste envisions youth in Timor-Leste to be *empowered, engaged and employed*. The Knua Juventude for youth employment, entrepreneurship and voices provides the youth with: Training and Mentoring, Business Incubation, Networking opportunities, Information sharing, Advisory support, Access to online resources/youth portal.

The Knua Juventude Fila-Liman was inaugurated by the ex-Prime Minister on the 16th Of August. KJFL is a UNDP initiative in partnership with SEFPOPE, SEJD, IADE, BNCTL, MECAE-SERVE, the main government agencies with programs focused on employability, entrepreneurship and finance. Telemor is our private sector partner and is providing free internet at the center.

KJFL is a "One Stop Shop" for youths of Timor-Leste and it consists of two pillars: firstly, **Opportunities** (employment and entrepreneurship). The second pillar is **Youth Voices-Citizenship** (Youth participation in socioeconomic and political life).

The KJFL will deploy more innovative facilities, both online and offline. Presently the KJFL is actively guiding 4 Young Entrepreneurs to start their business in environmentally friendly products and commercial farming .



Photo by Roderick T.J. Buiscool/ UNFPA-TL

Youth with the ex-prime minister at the Opening ceremony of the KJ F-L



Photo by Roderick T.J. Buiscool/ UNFPA-TL



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With the ILO technical assistance, and through tripartite consultation, the Ministry of State Coordinator for Economic Affairs (MECAE), and the Secretariat of State for Employment Policy and Vocational Training (SEPFOP) formulated a National Employment Strategy (NES) that was approved by the Council of Ministers on 13 June 2017.



In the first week of December 2017, the Director of ILO Country Office for Jakarta and Indonesia and Timor-Leste Ms. Miyamoto, Michiko had a fruitful meeting on with the Secretary of State for Youth and Labour (SSYL) on the establishment of the Secretariat of the NES (SNES). The SNES will have responsibility for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the National Employment Strategy, and for reporting on the progress made. The SNES will be composed by MECAE and SEPFOP, and by an Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group that will integrate representatives from key ministries.



ILO has received additional funding from ROAP to be spent by end of this year to kick off the establishment of SNES (September – December 2017). With the newly revised National Employment Strategy (2017-2030) signed, now the aim is to address the country's triple employment challenges of creating new jobs to reduce unemployment and provide employment opportunities for the large population of young people entering the labour market in the next years; and increasing formal jobs and addressing current productivity.

Given that the main asset of Timor-Leste is its young people, responding to their employment challenges by creating decent work opportunities for them, remain a key window of opportunity for increasing economic growth and reducing poverty and vulnerability in the country.



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II. Youth and Education

Timor-Leste Quality Education - the 3rd Cycle of Mathematics and Science Curriculum

The Project aims to contribute to the development of the Math and Science Curriculum of the 3rd cycle level of basic education (pre-secondary schools –Grade 7, 8 & 9) in Timor-Leste managed and implemented by UNESCO Dili Antenna Office through partnership with the Timor-Leste National Commission for UNESCO and its SESIM Group (Science and Mathematics Study Group) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Culture. The project will be concluded by the end of 2017!



Photo by UNESCO/TL

The key project components included: First, establishment and creation of the Project National Steering Committee responsible for overseeing the delivery of the project outputs; Second, the development of the teaching-learning materials for math and science subjects in cycle 3 level; third, implementation of the national training package for math and science teachers using the newly developed teaching and learning materials; and lastly mentoring of the trained math and science teachers all over the country in the basic education cycle 3 schools.



Photo by UNESCO/TL

The ultimate aim of the curriculum revision project for math and science is to improve quality education in the country to be able to produce better-educated and smart citizens who will be able to compete in the global economy and to contribute to the nation-building and overall development of Timor-Leste.



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III. Youth and Civic Participation

UN DAY

UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being. October 24 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948, and in 2002, a unanimous General Assembly decision made Timor-Leste the UN's 191st member state among 193-member states.

On UN Day 2017, the UN and its agencies celebrated Timor-Leste's membership with the United Nations, by hosting an event inclusive of the people of Timor-Leste. This year's official theme was used to highlight concrete actions people can take to help achieve the sustainable development goals. The day focused on promoting current role of the UN and its agencies in Timor-Leste, whilst sharing relevant information with youth, and highlighting the 5 pillars of the National Youth Policy through the information booths of each UN agency.



Mr. Nivio Magalhães, the Secretary of Youth and Labour (SSYL), attended the UN Day event, and gave a speech about the close collaboration of the Government and the UN. He even donated blood at the blood donation booth of the Red Cross Timor-Leste! The attendants were predominantly youth particularly students from six major universities in Dili. Various local businesses such as *Pico-Leste*, and *Dilicious* provided local food and refreshments to visitors. The local businesses was a promotional opportunity and reflects the UN's support for up and coming entrepreneurs in Timor-Leste.

IV. Youth and Violence

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign which takes place each year and runs from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. It was originated by activists at the first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 and is coordinated each year by the Center for Women's Global Leadership. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

In support of this civil society initiative, each year, the United Nations Secretary-General's campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women (UNiTE) calls for global action to increase worldwide awareness and create opportunities for discussion about challenges and solutions, particularly discussions including young men and boys. In recent years, the UNiTE campaign has utilized the colour orange as a unifying theme official colour of the campaign which in the context of its global advocacy, is used as a symbol of a brighter future, free from violence against women and girls.



Themes of 2017:

- ◆ "Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls"
- ◆ LGBTI Dialogue
- ◆ Raising awareness (Sexual harassment is not acceptable)

For more info please visit the

 [website: http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/timor-leste](http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/timor-leste)

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V. Youth and Healthy Lifestyle

World Food Day 2017

The United Nations is committed to the health and nutrition of the youth in Timor-Leste so that they can unleash their full potential and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

During celebrations for **World Food Day 2017**, WFP partnered with Nutrition and Dietary Students from Timor-Leste National University (UNTL) to facilitate student cooking demonstrations and the promotion of nutritious and healthy local foods. WFP has also provided training on nutritional education for Juventude Dezevolvmentu National (JDN), an NGO focused on transforming communities through youth development.

In accordance with Government priorities and recommendations from the Strategic Review of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, WFP's Country Strategic Plan 2018-2020 highlights enhanced focus towards prevention of malnutrition in adolescent girls through social and behaviour change communication on nutrition. During the adolescent growth spurt phase, from ages 10 to 14, the body grows rapidly with significant behavioural and physiological changes, and during the adolescent growth and consolidation phase, from ages 15 to 19, the brain continues to restructure. Good nutrition during adolescence is critical to health and development.

WFP seeks to achieve improved nutrition in adolescent girls towards national targets by 2025 and the SDG 2.2 target to end all forms malnutrition by 2030.



WFP engages with youth and adolescents on nutrition through its partnership with local Universities and NGOs. In October 2017, Universidade da Paz (UNPAZ) students joined WFP and Cailaco Community Health Centre staff to deliver nutritional information and screen children for acute malnutrition at the Aldeia Maumela Mobile Clinic in Bobonaro.



For more info please visit the website:

<http://www1.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste>



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Youth Voices



Berta Tilman is a vocal young woman from Dili who founded Timor-Leste's first feminist discussion group, *Grupu Feminista iha Timor-Leste*.

Whilst waiting for our lunch at a traditional East-Timorese restaurant in Dili, the UNFPA youth program had a short chat with Berta about being a young person in Timor-Leste. Berta shared with us her experiences of growing up in Dili, Timor-Leste as a young woman. "Growing up in Timor-Leste means to grow up in a patriarchal society, where men are often seen as better than women," Berta said.

She expressed the need for the empowerment of young people, and specifically young women in her country. Due to this, Berta started the *Grupu Feminista iha Timor-Leste* last May.

"I wanted to create a forum for discussing issues related to female empowerment, gender, and feminism," said Berta.

The *Grupu Feminista* meets every month, discussing the challenges that many East Timorese women face.

"I have always been passionate about the empowerment of young people, specifically young women because I have always felt that as a young East Timorese woman, there are many challenges to achieve our dreams," Berta said during our chat. "Due to my education I feel empowered, and I feel the need to address the challenges and help raise awareness of the importance of challenging the patriarchy, and the status quo, amongst all young people in Timor-Leste, regardless of gender.

Berta firmly believes that if young Timorese women are not empowered and have no voice in their societies, it will stunt the growth of her young country. "The main challenges that young women face in Timor-Leste are that too often young women's voices are stifled by men, and many women are not empowered enough to speak up for themselves, and to make their own decisions." When asked about what she thinks the future holds for her country, Berta responded that she is "hopeful for the future of Timor-Leste because of its youthful and dynamic population, however, in order to improve our society both men and women need to be empowered and have access to the same opportunities and rights."