



Joint Press Release

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United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

Grant Aid by Government of Japan: Employment Creation Project in Timor-Leste

In response to a UN flash appeal announced on June 12 (Mon), the Government of Japan announced on July 7 (Fri) to provide US\$500,000 to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The grant aid will be used for the “Work for the Conflict Reduction and Meeting Basic Needs “Servi Nasaun (Work for the Nation)” Project which will be implemented by UNDP in collaboration with ILO to provide short-term employment mainly with IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons) in Timor-Leste. This emergency grant aid is to realize the announcement made by Japan on June 13 (Tue) to provide the assistance of US\$5 million in response to the UN flash appeal.

In Timor-Leste, especially in the capital of Dili, the security situation has deteriorated rapidly since the middle of April. Lootings and burning of houses, shops and government buildings have continued to date, and which has led to a significant increase of the numbers of IDPs. Approximately 151,000 people, which correspond to about 84% of the population of Dili's 180,000, have become IDPs. Of these, about 72,000 have taken refuge in the camps inside the capital and about 79,000 are in camps in local districts.

The “Work for the Nation” Project which will be implemented to address the needs to promote peace and stability by providing up to 93,000 man/days (3,100 x 30 days) short-term employment opportunities to vulnerable IDPs, particularly youth. The

project will implement short-term labour intensive activities, which will be taken place in and outside of IDP camps. Examples of the activities include: rubble and garbage clearing, clearing-up gutters and beaches. Through the implementation of the project, it is expected that unrest caused by unoccupied youth will decrease, contributing to the lowering of tension and enhanced stability. In addition, cash-injection will allow IDPs and other vulnerable members of the society to meet their immediate basic needs.

The project will be implemented by UNDP (Resource Mobilisation, Administration & Monitoring) and ILO (Project Execution), in partnership with the Division of Employment and Skills Development as well as District Employment Centers of the Ministry of Labour and Community Reinsertion. UNDP and ILO have been supporting Ministry of Labour and Community Reinsertion in the implementation of a vocational training and employment creation programme, "STAGE"; the Cash for Conflict Reduction and Meeting Basic Needs project will build on its experience.

The organization of these activities and the administration of wages will be subcontracted to local and/or international NGOs/organizations where relevant.

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