



ROADS FOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



PROGRAM BRIEF: LAUNCH OF PHASE II OF THE R4D PROGRAM

Program Overview



Before

The **Roads for Development Program (R4D)** is the leading rural roads program in Timor-Leste, supporting the development of the rural roads sector in the country. R4D is aligned with the Government of Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan 2011-2030 and the Programs of the Constitutional Government.



After

R4D is implemented by the Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) through the National Directorate of Roads, Bridges and Flood Control (DRBFC) in the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications (MPWTC).

The first Phase of the Program from March 2012 to March 2017 was co-funded by Governments of Australia (GoA) and Government of Timor-Leste (GoTL) with technical assistance provided by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The overall goal of the program is that **women and men in rural Timor-Leste are deriving social and economic benefits from improved road access.**



To date, a total of 401km (approximately 25%) of core rural roads networks have been rehabilitated to high quality all-weather standards and placed under regular routine maintenance in 12 districts of the country. These improved rural roads connect rural communities with national and district roads to villages and are vital for people living in rural areas to be able to access markets, health and education services.



The R4D program also creates short-term employment opportunities for local labourers through the use of labour-based –and equipment supported- work methods and technologies. Labour for R4D projects is recruited locally, providing an opportunity for community members to build their skills in relation to road rehabilitation and maintenance. Labourers receive wages for their work on R4D that supplement their regular income and are used for a range of household expenditures, including: daily consumption, personal savings, and children’s education.

Inclusivity and equality are key components of the R4D program. Women and persons with disabilities are encouraged to work on all rehabilitation and maintenance projects. The R4D program has developed a comprehensive Social Safeguards Framework that includes guidelines for inclusion and mechanisms for monitoring compliance.

Capacity Building and Private Sector Development



Capacity building is a key component of the R4D program. The R4D technical support team works embedded in the MPWTC to provide ongoing technical support to Ministry staff at the national and municipal levels. Key capacity building activities included workshops, classroom training, and on-the-job training to MPWTC staff that support procurement, physical works implementation, and management activities. The

R4D program has also established five municipal laboratories for testing road construction materials, recruiting laboratory technicians, and providing a training course in laboratory testing. To date, 345 DRBFC officials have been trained in effective planning, design, and management of rural roads rehabilitation and maintenance using labour-based approaches.

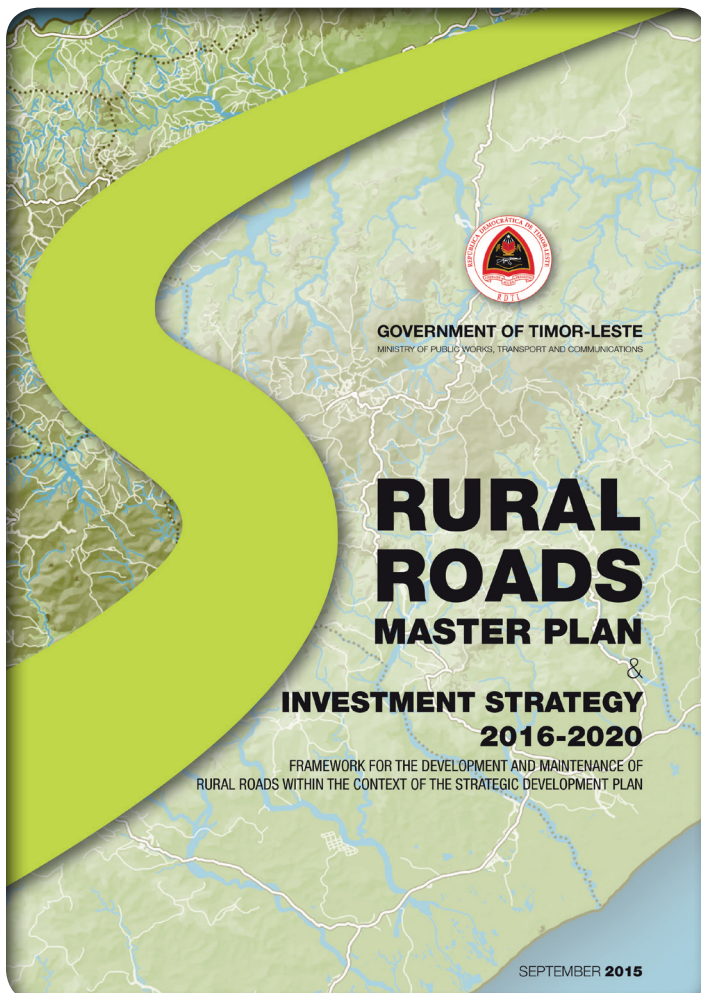
The R4D program also supports the development of guidelines and systems to support the work of the MPWTC and to standardize practices. Notable examples of these included:

- ➡ R4D Procedure Manual
- ➡ Rural Roads Rehabilitation Standards and Design Guide
- ➡ Manual for Methods of Sampling and Testing in Laboratory and Site
- ➡ R4D Pre-Bid Training Manual

The R4D program also supports private sector development in Timor-Leste by contracting its rehabilitation and routine maintenance projects out to locally-owned contractors. Contracts for R4D rehabilitation and routine maintenance are awarded through a transparent and competitive bidding process and contractors must complete pre-bid training to be eligible. Contractors who are awarded R4D contracts receive mentoring and coaching to develop their technical and business skills throughout the contract cycle. During Phase I, a total of 882 staff of private sector small scale contractors received training through the R4D program.



Rural Roads Master Plan and Investment Strategy



One of R4D's key strategic outputs has been the development of a comprehensive Rural Roads Master Plan & Investment Strategy (RRMPIS) for Timor-Leste, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in 2016.

The RRMPIS will provide the Government of Timor-Leste with a strategy that focuses on an optimum return on investments in improving the rural roads network and, associated with this, local economic development and employment generation.

The RRMPIS will also provide the Government of Timor-Leste with a roadmap on creating an enabling environment for private sector development (in particular for rural roads) and for the development of the necessary capacities and mechanisms within the Government for the effective planning and delivery of rural road investments.

R4D Phase 2:

Continued Success and New Ways of Working

Due to the success of Phase 1, Agreements have been signed for the implementation of a 4-year Phase 2 called Roads for Development Support Program (R4D-SP) from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2021. The Government of Australia will continue to support the technical assistance provided by the ILO, but all physical works will be funded by the Government of Timor-Leste.



The name “R4D” will now be used to refer to the program implementing physical works within the Ministry, while the ILO technical assistance team will be referred to as “R4D-SP”.



It is anticipated that continued success working in support of the development of the rural roads sector in Timor-Leste and helping to improve the daily lives of rural communities will continue in the next four years of R4D Phase 2.

