

Timor-Leste: Capacity-building for Inclusive Policy Design – Focus on Disability

The small post-conflict nation of Timor-Leste is currently in the early stages of setting up policy and legislative frameworks for the protection of vulnerable populations. In this small island and developing state, many groups have been identified as vulnerable, including persons with disabilities. Considering the emphasis on social inclusion in the post-2015 development agenda, it is vital that vulnerable groups are considered a priority in government policies and programmes aimed at meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNESCO Jakarta Office has launched a pioneering project that uses social science methodologies to empower policy makers to measure and improve the degree of inclusiveness of public policies. With funding from the Malaysian government, UNESCO is bringing a team of international policy experts into a hands-on engagement with national policy stakeholders in Timor-Leste. The project is implemented in three stages:

1. [Policy Initiation Workshop](#), organized to build policy assessment capacities by using innovative tools and methodologies, including the identification of data issues.
2. Policy assessment and revision, undertaken by the National Working Group to apply the policy assessment tools to measure and revise specific policies for greater inclusiveness; and
3. [National Policy Dialogue](#), organized to present the major outputs and results of the policy revision process to a broad audience of national stakeholders, policy makers, the academic establishment and the media.

The Inclusive Timor-Leste Project seeks to contribute to the social inclusion agenda. More specifically, it seeks to engage key stakeholders in a process of policy and data needs assessments in an effort to inform future policy revision processes. In Timor-Leste, *the National Policy for Inclusion and Promotion of the Rights of People with Disabilities* and the associated *National Action Plan for People with a Disability* were selected as the core documents for assessment.

The multi-stakeholder policy assessment process, involving the government (Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment, Secretariat of Youth and Sport, the National Bureau of Statistics), civil society, the UN system and a team of UNESCO experts led to the development of the analytical Report on Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Timor-Leste, and the evidence-based Policy Recommendations on improving the national policy environment in this area.

- [Report on the Assessment of National Disability Policy Framework in Timor-Leste](#)
- [List of Recommendations](#)
- [Annexes \(1-7\)](#)